



ADDRESS

THE NEWS OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

EDITION 626

APRIL 2003

60 CENTS

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The new committee year is well under way with portfolio responsibilities sorted out. Thanks to **Rod Novak** and **Quentin Tibballs** for accepting Conservation and Training portfolios respectively. Walks Secretary, **Gina Hopkins** has had to face great disruptions to the weekend walks program due to the recent fires in the alpine areas but is doing a wonderful job finding alternative walks. Vice-President, **Trish Elmore** is still keeping close tabs on the vexed problem of insurance. **David Laing** has inherited a rather blackened (and, at the time of writing, still inaccessible) situation but hopefully things will improve with Wilkinson Lodge.

Due to a mix-up **Sara Watson** was not nominated for Social Secretary at the AGM. However, she is willing to take that position and this can be ratified at the Half-yearly GM, welcome Sara. We are still short of a **Vice-President** so, if you think you have worth-while vices, please see me.

Also at the AGM we had did not have any **volunteers for auditors**. Are there two people out there who can volunteer? (we may resort to twisting arms!) these can also be ratified at the Half-yearly GM. It is important to fill these positions.

The committee meets on the first Monday of each month at 7 pm. These are not closed meetings and any member is entitled to be present to hear the learned deliberations that take place, except for any matters of a personal nature.

DOUG POCOCK



Talk and Slide Show

Wednesday 30 April

8 pm, Clubrooms

Beau Beza, Lecturer in Landscape Architecture, University of Melbourne, will talk and show pictures of the litter along the Mt. Everest trek.

It is estimated that along the Mt. Everest trek there are nearly 2 tonnes of rubbish per km of tourist trail and this increases to 12 tonnes in some sections. This has resulted in the development of waste management strategies and clean-up efforts in some of the most affected areas. Despite these efforts litter is still found along the trek in many forms: from little bits and pieces to overflowing rubbish pits.

Beau Beza will describe his research project, what people perceive to be the worst way to see litter in the landscape along the trek, the various forms of landscape perception research used by governments, the private sector and in the academic world and, of course, show photos of this landscape. Come along and have a look at this unique part of the world!

N.B. Bookings for walks, etc. are to be made between 7 and 8 pm on this night please.

ENQ.:

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

WEBSITE: www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au

EMAIL: info@melbournebushwalkers.org.au

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

Visitors are always welcome.



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

The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.
is the newsletter of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.
and 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
and 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 Editor's pigeon hole in the clubrooms
- ★ Posting diskette or hand written material to either:
The Editor, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.,
PO Box 1751Q, Melbourne, Vic., 3001
or V. Scrivenger, *News* Editor,

Electronic mail is preferred.

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

Advertisements in *The News*

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

Advertising Rates (Artwork Ready) in:
printed edition only: as below, or
printed & on-line editions: as below + 25% or
on-line edition only: as below + 25%.

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

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

*The Committee requests some members
to come forward to assist the club:*

- *two new members to act as representatives
to the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs
(Jan Palich and Trish Elmore will also continue
to be club representatives), and*
- *one member to co-ordinate
track clearing activities.*

*These roles are important for maintaining
the club's relationships with other organisations.*

*For details and to volunteer
please contact Doug Pocock.*

For Sale

1 new pair of skis (no binding), 178 cm (\$35)

1 racing bicycle, Peugeot, 12-speed (\$90)

*1 touring bicycle, Le Turbo, 18-speed,
with racks (\$80)*

1 pair of crampons (\$25)

*Assorted climbing gear -
boots, pegs, chocks, carabiners, etc.
(price on request)*

Prices are indicative, please make an offer.

For more information contact Helmar or Christine

Christine Zangerl

PREVIEWS OF DAY WALKS, ETC. - APRIL/MAY 2003

Sunday Bus: Daylesford Lake-The Blowhole

DATE	Sunday 20 April
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	16 km and 20 km
LEADER(S)	Steve Axford and Vik Dunis
TRANSPORT	Bus - Southbank Blvd - 9 am
RETURN TIME	6.30 pm

Walkers on both of these walks will enjoy a variety of vegetation types, animal and bird species and beautiful valley, gorge and creek vistas. Both walks visit Jacksons Lookout Tower from which there are extensive views over the Hepburn area. They also pass through historic gold mining areas and a point of particular interest will be the Blowhole, constructed to divert a creek so that the creek bed could be mined but, by whom and how, appears to be a mystery.

Several of the area's famous springs are visited too. At the time of the preview of the walk (mid-March) some of these were closed or yielded water of dubious quality due to the dry conditions, whilst others were still functioning well and were enjoyed by the previewers.

The easy walk starts at Hepburn Springs whilst the easy/medium walk starts at the northern end of Daylesford and traverses country perforated with deep mine shafts. Hint: Don't look up for koalas as you walk. Both walks are predominantly on constructed tracks and finish at Lake Daylesford.

Cycling Trip: Southern Suburbs/Beach Ride

DATE	Saturday 3 May
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	30 km
LEADER(S)	Jan Palich
TRANSPORT	Train to Oakleigh (meeting point)

This varied ride provides the opportunity to explore the inner southern suburbs, and to visit a number of major attractions - St. Kilda Beach, the Gasworks Arts Park, Albert Park Lake and Botanic Gardens. The ride is almost entirely flat, half on tracks, half on roads, but only quiet streets.

Transport - by train to Oakleigh Station, which is on the Pakenham & Cranbourne lines. Ride starts at Oakleigh Station and finishes at Richmond Station. Timing will be advised when you talk to Jan.

As with all bike rides, if totally inclement weather, ie. pouring with rain at departure time, then the ride will be postponed and all participants need to ring Jan prior to leaving home on the Saturday.

Refreshments - many opportunities to purchase these along the way and many good picnic spots. As usual, there will be one or two coffee stops on the way.

Sunday Bus: Keppel Falls - Whitehouse Ck

DATE	Sunday 4 May
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	12 km and 15 km
LEADER(S)	Jerry Karbownik & Halina Sarbinowski
TRANSPORT	Bus-Southbank Blvd- 8.30 am
RETURN TIME	6.30 - 7 pm
MAP REFERENCE	Marysville - Lake Mountain Leisure Map

The Easy walk will commence with a short but steep climb to Phantom Falls followed by a wander along Lady Talbot Drive to the magical Beeches circuit with an "enchanted forest" appeal. This group will complete its walk with the majestic Keppel Falls.

The E/M walk will commence with some strenuous climbing up Sands Road then along the Cameron Cascade Track (part of the Bicentennial National Trail which stretches from Healesville to Cooktown) till it meets Lady Talbot Drive. This walk will explore Keppel Falls before following the easy walk's path to the Beeches circuit.

On the preview we were surprised and delighted with the amount of water flowing in the area. The waterfalls and Beeches circuit were brilliant.

N.B. 8.30 am start.

Sunday Bus: Masons Falls, Kinglake NP

DATE	Sunday 11 May
STANDARD	Easy/Medium and Medium
LEADER(S)	Nick Dow and Sibylle Holdheide
TRANSPORT	Bus - Southbank Blvd - 9 am

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

EPIRBs

Mansfield Police have Electronic Position Indicating Radio Beacons for loan to bushwalkers.

Sunday Bus: Phillip Island, Churchill Island and Rhyll Wetlands

DATE	Sunday 18 May
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	13 and 15 km
LEADER(S)	William Cone and Peter McGrath
TRANSPORT	Bus - Southbank Blvd - 9 am
RETURN TIME	7 pm
MAP REFERENCE	Phillip Island 1:25,000

This walk has the lot:

- coastal walking and bushland
- historical sites and unspoilt natural vegetation.

First we will walk around the coast of Churchill Island and have lunch in the gardens next to the historic houses. Churchill Island has played an important role in the history of Victoria:

- The island is the first place European crops were grown in Victoria.
- Later Churchill Island was owned by a Lord Mayor of Melbourne as his seaside retreat.
- It is within sight of a very early colony attempt at Corinella.
- The island has 500 year old Moonah trees.

The island is very peaceful, and the climate is warm and sheltered. The old houses and gardens are very attractive. Like the mayor, I wouldn't mind if this was my holiday house!

After lunch we will walk through the Oswin Roberts Koala Reserve – the largest area of remaining bushland on Phillip Island. Then on past Rhyll Inlet. The Inlet has unspoilt mangrove flats on all sides. The stretches of clean green mangroves against the blue sea are striking. The walk ends at the small town of Ryhill.

They say "variety is the spice of life". Escape the city and experience variety for a day on Phillip Island.

There is a \$5.20 charge for entry to Churchill Island. (Please add this to your walk fee for mail bookings.)

Wed. Walk: Hanging Rock - Mt. Towrong

DATE	Wednesday 21 May
STANDARD	Easy - Easy/Medium (wet tracks could increase the difficulty)
DISTANCE	12 km
LEADER(S)	Sandra Mutimer
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	To Corsham Pk: before 3.30 pm
AREA	Mt. Macedon
MAP REFERENCE	Lancefield 1:50,000 or Parks Victoria, Macedon Regional Park Walking Trails.

This walk will be in two parts and will involve a car shuffle connecting these. The first part will begin at the wonderfully atmospheric Hanging Rock (aka Mt. Diogenes). Although it will probably be a misty, moisty morning (read cold and drizzly) you might like to join in on the leader's indulgence of Breakfast at Hanging Rock. I will provide this but you can help prepare it and also bring your own eating and drinking utensils. The gates

at Hanging Rock open at 9 am and I plan to be there around this time. Entrance to the Hanging Rock Reserve is \$8 and if you're travelling alone you might like to wait for some one else to share this cost.

The first walk, exploring Hanging Rock and around its base will start at 10.30 am but those who come early will have time to visit the Hanging Rock Information Centre. After a car shuffle the next part of the walk will start at McGregors Picnic Ground off Cameron Drive. From here we will walk to the Camels Hump, Sanatorium Lake and Mt. Towrong to Corsham Park, where we will have a look around its impressive garden and have afternoon tea there. Please bring along something to share for afternoon tea.

I would appreciate knowing in advance who will be coming on this walk but you may have difficulty contacting me so it would be a good idea to allow plenty of time to do this. Please contact me on _____ or, if all else fails, try _____. I will be able to give more details about the walk and email or send you this if you wish.

Dandenongs Explorer: By the Creek

DATE	Saturday 24 May
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER(S)	Rod Novak
TRANSPORT	Public (train and bus)
RETURN TIME	5.30 pm
MAP REFERENCE	Melway: p.48, 63, 71 & 72

Our walk will be along the Dandenong Creek 'green belt' offering good views of the Dandenong Ranges. The walk will feature the Winton wetlands, Koomba Park (lake and bird hide), Bushy Park wetlands, Shepherds Bush, Jells Park (lake and bird hide) and a climb up Wheelers Hill for a grand view of the Dandenong Valley and Ranges. This steep climb will be well rewarded with a coffee and cake/afternoon tea at the top of the hill!

We will be using public transport to access the start of the walk - Mitcham railway station (10.20 am), and from the end – bus from Wheelers Hill to Glen Waverley train station. If travelling by train from the city you need to catch the 9.49 am train from Flinders Street Station getting off at Mitcham railway station (Zone 1 & 2 all day ticket). Alternatively, you can drive to Mitcham railway station and at the end of the walk take a bus from Glen Waverley back to Mitcham railway station (a 2 hour zone 2 & 3 ticket).

Please ring the leader on _____ to book.

Sunday Bus: Pyrites Creek, Gisborne

DATE	Sunday 25 May
STANDARD	Easy/Medium and Medium
LEADER(S)	Alan Miller and Howard Friend
TRANSPORT	Bus - Southbank Blvd - 9 am

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

PREVIEWS OF WEEKEND WALKS, ETC. - APRIL/MAY 2003

Base Camp: Native Dog Flat, Alpine N.P.

DATE	Easter Weekend: 17 - 21 April
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	Various
LEADER(S)	Geoff Mattingley & Bob Steel
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Choice: Mon. or Tues. Night
AREA	Melway 523 C.10 / D.10
MAP REFERENCE	NSW 1:50,000 Suggan Buggan 8524-2 & 3

See March *News* for walk description.

At present it is not clear if we will be able to do this base camp. Updated information from the Rangers indicates that although the access road is now open, the Native Dog Flat campsite is closed (like most others in the Alpine NP). Some parts of it were burnt and even though most of it is untouched, until the trees have been checked for safety the campsite will remain closed. For the same reason all the access tracks in the area are currently closed. Work is proceeding and Parks Victoria are hoping to have as much as possible done before Easter, but we will not know whether our trip can proceed until about a week before Easter.

If you are interested in the trip please register your name with Bob () or Geoff () or in the clubrooms on 9 April so that you can be contacted on the weekend 12 - 13 April, which is when we will decide whether the trip goes ahead or not.

Pack Carry: Lerderderg Gorge

DATE	Friday 9 - Sunday 11 May
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER(S)	Roger Wyett
TRANSPORT	Private
MAP REFERENCE	Lerderderg & Werribee Gorges, 2 nd Ed, Meridian Productions '01 1:35,000

Day one will be an 8 am start from Bacchus Marsh (one hour west of Melbourne), as we have some 18 km to cover, mainly along 4WD tracks following the Great Dividing Trail along ridge tops via Blackwood Ranges & Foxy Gully Tracks, to Mt Blackwood for lunch. Then a short road "bash" back into the forest, and a 120 m dip for Whisky Creek (not drinkable), before descending a steep 210 m on the Kenworthy Track to cross the Lerderderg River to our camp site.

Day two will be a more leisurely 12 km, on tracks to the Tunnel via O'Briens Crossing, and then following an old water race to Blackwood for a relaxing afternoon tea. This will be a nice autumn walk without travelling miles from Melbourne, with an early return on the Sunday.

Base Camp: Tidal River, Wilson's Prom. NP

DATE	Friday 16 - Sunday 18 May
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER(S)	Rod Novak
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	7 pm Sunday Night
MAP REFERENCE	VicMap Wilson's Prom.

Wilson's Prom. is the southernmost point of the Australian mainland with fantastic coastal scenery. This will be a base camp at Tidal River camping ground - with hot showers and Saturday papers! Two day walks are planned - with a walk across to Sealers Cove on Saturday and Sunday will be a walk up Mt. Bishop and the Lilly Pilly Gully and, if time permits, to Tongue Point and Darby Beach.

The Prom. can be very cold, very wet and very windy so you need to be properly equipped. As we are car camping you can bring some luxuries eg. a pillow, extra blanket, deck chair and a gourmet entrée to share with the group.

A trip meeting will be held in the clubrooms on Wednesday 14 May at 8 pm to discuss car pooling, check equipment, and advise of expected costs (camp fees, petrol money, dinner arrangements for Friday night etc.)

Pack Carry: Mt. Warwick - Paradise Falls

DATE	Friday 23 - Sunday 25 May
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	25 km
LEADER(S)	Max Casley
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	9 - 10 pm Sunday
AREA	Mansfield - Whitfield
MAP REFERENCE	Wabonga Plateau 1:50 000 Whitfield, Mt. Typo & Lake William Hovell 1:25 000

We will start by the Rose River near Bennies and follow a road through private property towards Mt. Typo. This will be climbed without packs for views from the rocky summit. Then cross country to a 4WD track which we will follow to a good campsite near the Wabonga Block.

On Sunday morning we will go to Mt. Warrick as a side trip and return to our packs for lunch. After lunch we will go through light scrub to Mt. View and on to tracks to end the walk at Paradise Falls. Depending on the finish time, we may stop for pizzas at the Whitfield Hotel.

Friday night camp will be at Cheshunt by the King River. This should be a good trip at a reasonably leisurely pace.

TO MEMBERS OLD AND NEW

We are now in the subscription period. You have until the end of May to pay, but early payment is appreciated. Until you have paid, your mailing label will say “* Subs Due *”. Use the slip on the bottom third of the last page of *The News* or see me in the clubrooms. If mailing your subs, this is a good opportunity to update your details. So far 133 (out of 466 eligible) members have paid (28%).

PETER HAVLICEK
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

WILKINSON LODGE

Update as of 27 March 2003: Pending final signing off by the Head Ranger, the Wallaces Hut Track has been declared safe and we now have access to Wilky.

Walking access to the High Plains is unclear as walking tracks are still closed but who walks on tracks around there anyway?

The lease of Wilky is being finalised and should be signed soon.

DOUG POCOCK
PRESIDENT

CLUBROOMS DUTY ROSTER

Wednesday 16 April: D Laing and V Scrivenger
Wednesday 23 April: D Pocock and S Watson
Wednesday 30 April: T Elmore and H Friend
Wednesday 7 May: D Henry and M Jagow
*J Palich, Treasurer present

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 5 May at 7 pm in the clubrooms

WALKS STATISTICS

Feb 2003	Trips	People	Average	Feb 2002
Sunday Bus	4	135	34	37
Other Day	3	56	19	16
Pack Carry	1	4	4	7
Base Camp	1	9	9	13
Cancelled	3	-	-	-
Total	9	204	-	215 / 9

ACCOUNTS

December 2002	\$
Opening Balance	41,398.89
Income	2,348.71
Expenditure	4,863.80
Closing Balance	41,398.89

January 2003	\$
Opening Balance	41,398.89
Income	2,973.55
Expenditure	3,023.59
Closing Balance	41,348.81

February 2003	\$
Opening Balance	41,348.81
Income	2,553.50
Expenditure	3,414.45
Closing Balance	40,487.86

JAN PALICH
TREASURER

CREDIT VOUCHERS FOR BUS WALKS

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

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

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

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

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

GINA HOPKINS
WALKS SECRETARY

QUESTIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE

This is the first in a series on current club committee members. **Deborah Henry, Website Manager** is the first committee member to answer some questions:

When did you join the club?

1995.

How did you first learn about the club?

Through Alan Clarke.

What made you decide to join the club?

I was hoping to find some good overnight walks.

Which club activities do you do?

Overnight and extended pack carries.

How often do you walk?

I like to make it once every two weeks, but that almost never happens.

Do you have a favourite walk/s or walking area/s?

The High Plains.

When did you join the committee?

1999, I think.

What have been your areas of responsibility on committee in previous years?

Equipment and the web site.

What is/are your area/s of responsibility this year?

As Web Manager I am responsible for updating the website, moderating the bulletin board, putting up the newsletter, answering all the club email and dealing with all the technical questions that people have. I designed the site and do all the necessary programming. At the moment I am writing an email subscription program for *The News*.

What do you like about this/these job/s?

The new web site has had over 9,000 visitors in its year. It's very gratifying to know that people are using the site.

What are your plans for 2003 as Website Manager?

To get as many people as possible to receive *The News* by email so that we won't have to keep bothering trees for the paper.

What skills/experiences do you believe you bring to the committee?

I think that being the only person on the committee with a physical disability serves as a reminder to others that all types of people have a life.

What don't you like about the club?

The lack of commitment to environmental issues. As we expect that all the places which we visit and use will be available to us, we need to support efforts to protect these areas. Unfortunately, there seems to be a great deal of apathy in the club with regards to getting involved in these issues.

SNOWY MOUNTAINS PACK CARRY

26 DEC. 2002 - 1 JAN. 2003

Leader: Jopie Bodegraven with Gina and Derrick, Rosemary and Bert, Trish, Diane, Kerry (visitor), Max, Quentin, Geoff, Leo and me.

Thurs.: 13 of us met at Thredbo Diggings on this fire ban day to camp the night. We had been concerned about bushfires but were advised a small one was contained in the south of the park.

Fri.: After leaving some cars at Guthega Power Station we began from Charlotte Pass in ideal weather and lots of snow drifts on nearby slopes. A short distance to the small stream of the Snowy River, then off track over grassy plains to North Rams Head and on to camp at 2050 m just below Lake Cootapatamba.

Sat.: A short climb of 120 m and we were approx. one and a half km from the rounded summit of Mt. Kosciuszko 2228 m. There were many day walkers there and half of our group decided to go around while the remainder went to the top and viewed some of the peaks on our itinerary. With tents pitched at 1948 m in a valley by Wilkinsons Creek we had lunch and set off to conquer Abbott Peak and a very impressive Mt. Townsend 2209 m. A few returned to camp and the others couldn't resist doing nearby Rawson Peak. Incidentally, there is some conjecture that explorer Count Strezlecki was actually at Mt. Townsend and not Kosci. when reaching the top in 1840.

Sun.: a short climb again to begin with saw us above Abina Lake amidst carpets of daisies. On our descent we passed a perfect coffin-like rock complete with 100 cm lid. Quentin was very enthusiastic with his interest in geology and advised us of the styles of glacial rock. We came onto our first track for a while, then a side trip to Carruthers Peak. Lunch at Club Lake, then camp at 2042 m near a beautiful creek in which most enjoyed a dip in the rock pools. The trees we saw about 1 km away today were the first we had seen since beginning.

Mon.: Past Headley Tarn on Blue Lake Creek, then the outstanding Blue Lake, with quite a lot of snow drifts still around it. We explored the small waterfalls above the lake and enjoyed the views from the cliffs. A side trip to the rugged Watsons Crags was one of our longest, then over Mt. Twynam to a nice sheltered campsite at 2042 m.

Tues.: When one member rolled an ankle this morning they were fortunate to have Physio Geoff and Dr. Quentin on the spot to assist. Most did a side trip to Mt. Anderson and the weather was deteriorating with wind and rain. One person was blown over as we crouched down traversing a grassy slope. Our last side trip to Dicky Cooper Bogong was cancelled due to the weather and as it was approx. 6 km down a thickly forested spur to the cars we decided to camp on the Rolling Plains at 1968 m for New Year's Eve. Some donations of chocolates including liqueur chocs and a sip of Whiskey Mac was a welcome celebration after pitching tents in the wind and rain. One tent surrendered in the wind and the occupants used Diane's tent as she shared with Trish. I estimated the gusts during the night at 60-70 kph. Until now the weather had been good with 4 - 5 degrees min. and 14 - 20 max.

Wed.: Misty rain and poor visibility as our skilful navigator compared his accurate positions with Max's GPS on the descent to the cars to end a memorable walk, fortunately prior to the main fires. Thanks to Jopie for sharing his knowledge of the park with us and to everyone for their great company.

BOB OXLADE

MBW CANOING ADVENTURE ON THE MURRAY

AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND: 24 - 27 JAN. 2003

Venue: Morgans Beach and Morgans Mill Road 18 km west of Strathmerton off Murray Valley Highway – Melway 621 J4. Enter from Haynes Road to Morgans Beach Road, turn west for 5 km. Final Destination :- Millewa and Moira State Forests (NSW) and red gum forest fringes (Victoria) at Barmah.

Captain - George Zamora. Lieutenant -David Laing {the Whip} and 1st Mate -Judy Lee. Crew – David Coster, Brenda Miller, Russell and Coral Lee Keep, Tim and Sharlene Adams, Kathleen Kerr, Patsy Robertson, Charles Cutler, Steve Murphy, Iris Curran, Dzung Nguyen, Susan Mackinnon, Martine Blankenstein, Janet Crowe, Rod Novak and Liz Moore {non participants} and me. (Photos below from Steve Murphy and Iris Curran.)

Weather – Friday hot (38° C measured), Saturday and Sunday estimated 26 - 34°, Monday estimated 22 - 26° on the water. Distance as per markers on the Bank – from 1842 to 1764 = 78 km. Time without stops estimated 22 hours for the duration.

As we paddled down the Murray on the Australia Day Weekend we observed the swampy red gums on both sides of the river. We were fortunate enough to have good weather, minimum motor boat traffic, including fishermen that were hoping to catch “a big one” - cod or yellowbelly - that may fit into their stretched fry pans {Joke!} and tossing it down with liquid amber juice.

The amount of bird life around the edges was somewhat disappointing – odd white ibis, some wood ducks and a couple of sulphur-crested cockatoos. I was fortunate to see a brown snake swimming upstream from Picnic Point.

We had numerous breaks along our journey, and took advantage of having a splash or swim. Our ‘smokes’ were just long enough as George would say 5 minutes was up, and continue on our merry way. We camped overnight on either side of the riverbank, pitch up our tents, having a good substantial meal in preparation for the next leg. We all blended well, by sharing our experiences and adventures with each other with the odd “dirty ditty”.

A highlight of the adventure were the most suitable dressed canoeists: Russell and Coral Lee, and George. Although not a pyjama party, but attire suited conditions of covering up from the hot sun during the day. The rest of us put on our war paint with 30+ every day in preparation for our wonderful journey along the Murray.

Finally, we all must compliment each other for performing as a team, helping each other during the exhilarating adventure down the Murray in 2003. A great experience.

George, David {Laing} and Judy, thank you, from the rest of the crew.

WILLIAM SHARPE



SIX DAYS ON THE SOUTH WEST TRACK, TASMANIA

COCKLE CREEK TO MELALEUCA, 12 - 17 FEB. 2003

Four Bushies (Bill Donald, Max Casley, Howard Friend and me) set off from Cockle Creek, under threatening skies across button grass plains and through tee tree scrub, on a well defined track (a lot of board walks) to South Cape Bay. Then along the beach to Lion Rock, where we then opted for the rock scramble (with some cliff negotiation) around Coal Bluff, to finish the day at the South Coast Rivulet campsite.

The next day was fine but very overcast, and with Surprise Bay some 13 km away being the objective we set off through rainforest to tackle the hills and mud, on what turned out to be a tiring day, as we were constantly gaining and losing height. The initial gain from sea level was 160 m, to lose 40 m, and then back up to 240 m, back to 160 m, prior to the main ascent of the 440 m feature. We pressed on, down into the mud again (past a Tas Expeditions group of 12) to ascend back up to the 429 m hill for a rainy lunch stop. Then a steep descent into Granite Beach (with a short cliff scramble beside the waterfall onto the granite boulders below). Another beach walk (after 500 m of boulders) in the rain, to tackle the relatively easy 160 m hop over the headland to Surprise Bay campsite. While rain threatened again, tents were erected, water gathered (from the Surprise Rivulet some 200 m upstream from the tidal surge), and dinner was around one of only two camps where fires are permitted in the heritage area. We settled in to watch the local inhabitants, the welcome bird life, and the not so welcome tiger snake in camp.

Day Three was a lot less undulating as we headed towards New River Lagoon, with a 1 km (return) side trip to Osmiridium Beach. Precipitous Bluff (PB) loomed over us, and Bill took the quick option of wading across the mouth of the New River lagoon at low tide, (definitely not recommended) while the remaining three opted for the safer (but time consuming) row boat shuffle across the lagoon. After lunch the 5 km of Prion Beach was a pleasant change from the hills, but the change caused a few blisters and hot feet, before heading back uphill around Menzies Bluff (and our 2nd snake for the trip) and down to Deadman's Beach. Then it was back to the rainforest, with small river crossing before a short, but very muddy section of button grass, and the camp at Little Deadman's Bay.

Day Four was a 7.30 am start for the 1000 m climb up to the Iron Bound Range. The rainforest, with vivid orange and red fungi was beautiful, but we were all too exhausted to appreciate this, (except for our lad scout, Howard who never ran out of energy), with constant mud, tree roots and rocks to overcome. Lunch on top of the Range (in the only sheltered spot by a stream) was without any views of PB or Federation Peak, as we were in misty cloud. After a 2 km traverse of the range, we descended down the rocky exposed western slope, with the misty cloud clearing occasionally to provide views as far as the New Harbour Range. After 8.5 hours (but only 12 km) we reached the Louisa River (a knee deep wade with rope assistance) campsite.

Day Five was 14 km back to the coast after crossing Louisa Creek (wading is safer than the "tree bridge"), several button grass plains, Faraway Creek and the Red Point Hills (a 280 m climb). Most of this was on white quartz tracks, with views back to the Ironbounds constantly behind us, although it would be a "daunting" view if you were going the other way and knowing that you were crossing the mountains in front of you. Bouy Creek was right on the beach, next to the water supply and sheltered in the tea tree, as again the wind & rain made continued walking unpleasant.

Day Six was a 16 km (mostly flat) walk along beaches to Freney Lagoon, then inland along the base of the New Harbour Range, until we hit the button grass plains surrounding Melaleuca, and then board walks for a 2 pm finish to the walk. The rain then set in, but there was walker's hut to shelter in, until the plane arrived the following day to fly us back to Hobart, which was a bumpy 45 min. trip due to the weather.

ROGER WYETT

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO... SANDRA BARDWELL?

Long-standing members might wonder where Sandra Bardwell is these days. She's a contributor to the new edition of Lonely Planet's Walking in Britain. There's a brief biographical sketch, mentioning that she and her husband, Hal retired to the Highlands of Scotland to a village near Loch Ness.

SUSAN MAUGHAN

NEW MEMBERS

SHARLENE D CONNLEY

CHRIS MADDY

MARIE ORMONDE

KERRY TABOR

GIDIA TIMMERMAN

MARGARET CURRY

ELIZABETH INGHAM

STEFANIE PEARCE

GUDRUN SCHELL

FRANK SHEW

ALEX STIRKUL

ALTERED ADDRESS/PHONE

MAX CASLEY

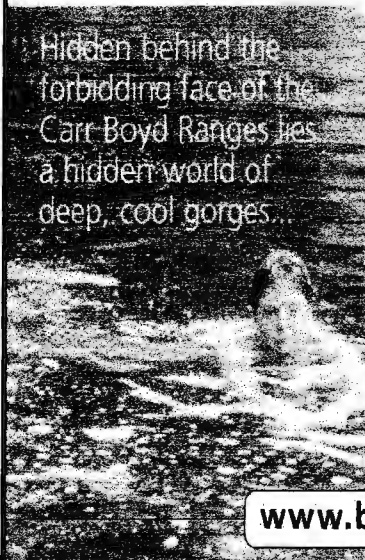
MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Life Members	10
Honorary Members	10
Single Memberships	358
Family Memberships	108 (= 2 x 54)
Total Membership	486
This Time Last Year	483

PETER HAVLICEK
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

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May 25 – June 7, 2003



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TRACKS, HUTS AND CONSERVATION

Here are some notes from the VicWalk Conservation Committee meeting held on 26 March 2003:

Alpine National Park - To date Parks Victoria have preferred to use commercial contractors in the alpine fire clean up. Parks Victoria has been apprised of bushwalker volunteers willing to help - but are yet to request assistance from VicWalk. Bill Metzthen is seeking help with the position of re-building/not re-building the mountain huts. See last month's issue of *The News*. If you have a view/opinion with reasons stated then e-mail billm@melbpc.com.au The response rate from Melbourne Bushies to date has been somewhat disappointing!

Baw Baw - A report of new tourism infrastructure at Mt Baw Baw with an estimated cost of \$3 million with new picnic tables and walking track to the summit.

Bunyip State Park The Action Group will begin an audit of walking tracks in the park. They will also investigate the possibility of a long distance walking track. Parks Victoria are keen on developing Freeman's Mill walking track from Bunyip Weir to 7 Acre Rock.

Central Highlands - The alternative track to the Ada Tree (due to logging operations in the area) is now open. Also, Parks Victoria are not maintaining the more 'remote' tracks such as the Boy's Camp Fireline. This can be an issue for bushwalkers relying on marked tracks on a map but on the ground will be very difficult to navigate / push through.

East Gippsland - The main issues of concern in East Gippsland relate to fire/forest. There is concern about the size of the fire break along the National park side of the Yalmly Road, and that these trees were being taken by loggers. Pressure is growing for salvage logging of burnt Alpine Ash areas. At least its obvious to all that the RFA is obsolete and a new deal will need to be negotiated. Lack of water is a concern in some areas - the Mallecoota to Wonboyn area is still closed due to water shortage. Some streams in bushfire-affected areas are not drinkable, so availability of suitable water would need to be checked when planning walks in any areas that might be affected. There is some conflict between eco scientists that say the cattle need to be withdrawn early from the high plains to protect the fragile ecosystem, and Graziers who are drought and fire affected and have a lot of public sympathy at present.

Grampians - The Minister will launch the new Grampians National Park Management Plan at the Brambuk Centre at Halls Gap on Friday, the 21st March. A Grampians Bushwalking Club delegate attended as a representative of VicWalk.

Mallee Parks - A Vicwalk representative attended the Mallee Parks Consultative Committee on the 17th March. Issues include feral bee nuisances at the campground. The feral bees are taking over nesting hollows in the River Red Gums impacting on Regent Parrot habitat. Many campers reporting bee stings and some tourism impacts eg tourists not returning. Rangers have poisoned some feral bee nests but it is slow, time consuming and expensive. One approach may be to declare the feral bees as a 'threatening species' but there will be opposition from apiarists.

Mornington Peninsula - A VicWalk representative attended a tour of the Port Nepean National Park (representing VicWalk). Parks Victoria were 'showcasing' the features of the area eg Commandant's House, Police Point and the controversy with the 90-hectare block. [The Commonwealth Government wants the state government to purchase bit at commercial rates. There is a threat to sell the land to a resort operator. Action - Bushwalkers are encouraged to write to your local federal member asking for the 90 hectares of land to be given to the Port Nepean National Park.

Mount Stirling - The working bee held in March was attended by the four-wheel drive clubs (no bushwalkers attended!) and they built a new walking track to the summit.

Yarra Ranges - a current issue is the many overgrown tracks in the region. Apparently Parks Victoria do not have the funding / manpower to keep the more 'remote tracks' open. Liz cautions bushwalkers that tracks as marked on the maps may be overgrown.

State Forest Track Survey - DSE are conducting a Recreational Assets survey of walking tracks, camping grounds, picnic facilities and other assets in state forests. They believe the state forest recreational assets are poorly mapped and classified. They will also complete a risk assessment and classify the assets. A Community Reference Group has been established to assist in this process and a VicWalk rep. has been appointed. The Powelltown area will be a pilot study. We have been requested to share the results of our walking track survey with DSE.

Action - Could Bushwalking leaders on trips to state forests submit the survey form to the VicWalk Office. Forms can be downloaded from the VicWalk website.

Regent Honeyeater Project - the Nest Box monitoring weekend on the 1 & 2 March and reports 96 boxes inspected, 19 with no signs of life, 71 with signs of life, 6 with bees, 21 Squirrel Gliders, 37 Sugar Gliders, 2 with Antechinus nests, and one Ringtailed Possum. A letter of support for this conservation project to be considered for the prestigious Banksia Award.

Upper Bunyip Action Group (350 forestry block campaign):

-Logging operations commenced in the Chancellor Spur coup in March. UBAG and the Wilderness Society organised a "walk in" to stop the forestry operations. This was cancelled at the last moment due to the local Koori group requesting Commonwealth intervention. The C'wealth Inspector stopped logging as Koori heritage sites were threatened and because an earlier promised heritage survey did not eventuate.

-Unfortunately in the January bushfire in Bunyip State Park the Fishers Loop walking track had been bulldozed as a firebreak.

Trans OtwayWalk

Reports of proposed logging operations threatening Sabine Falls. There is strong local opposition to this development. Midway Corporation (forestry operator) has agreed to place buffer zones along the Carisbrook River. It is believed The Midway Corporation will be approached to sell the land adjacent to Sabine Falls.

Merrill Jusuf reported of vandalism at triplet Falls (50 trees damaged by a chain-saw).

Angahook-Otway Investigation: The Victorian Environment Assessment Council have amended the terms of reference for the Angahook Area. Now the Otway Region will be included and the investigation area will cover bells Beach to Cape Otway and public land in the Otways. Public submissions invited and will close on the 24th April. For more information go to www.veac.vic.gov.au

4 Wheel Drive Lobby An article in *The Age* Saturday 22nd March 2003 focusing on a new push by the four wheel drive to lobby for track access in parks. Apparently they will collect \$20 from every member to build a campaign fund to pressure land managers to open more tracks for their use.

Bushwalker Assistance / Volunteers required:-Volunteers required for a "Friends of Bogong" working bee with Rangers at the Alpine National Park on 17 - 18 May. Contact Dawn Kneen on for more information/booking on dmkneen@pacific.net.au

ROD NOVAK
CLUB DELEGATE, VICWALK CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

WALKS PROGRAM - APRIL 2003

4 - 6	Bogong National Park Work Party	Private	E/M	Doug Pocock	
4 - 6	Pack carry: Square Head Jinny - Mt Howitt	Private	Medium	Mike Low	
Sun 6	French Island	BUS	E & E/M	John Coe & Elizabeth Ingham	#
Wed 9	Cathedral Range	Private	E/M	Max Casley	
Sat 12	Track Maintenance Day	Private		Marika Jagow	
Sun 13	Quo Vadis - Beech Ck - Myrtle Valley	BUS	E & M	Ralph Clayton & Tracey Jamieson	#
17 - 21	Base camp: Alpine National Park	Private	E/M	Geoff Mattingley & Bob Steel	
17 - 21	Pack carry: Cobberas - The Pilot	Private	E/M	Leo Lynch	
17 - 21	Pack carry: Mt Feathertop - The Fainters	Private	Medium	Gina Hopkins	
Sun 20	Daylesford Lake - The Blowhole	BUS	E & E/M	Steve Axford & Vic Dunis	#
25 - 27	Base camp: Port Campbell coast	Private	Easy	Paul Beers	
25 - 27	Pack carry: Crosscut Saw - Mt Speculation	Private	Medium	Alan Clarke	
Sat 26	Dand. Exp.: Harman's Saddle to Emerald	Private	Easy	Sue Upton	
Sun 27	Arthurs Seat - Greens Bush - Cape Schanck	BUS	E/M & M	Lynda Larkin & Alan Miller	#

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