



THE NEWS OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

EDITION 630

AUGUST 2003

60 CENTS

Slide Night: The High Country

Wednesday 13 August

8 pm, Clubrooms

John Trengrove and Bill Sharpe will show us slides of fly fishing and bush walking in Victoria's highlands.



The Beatnix

Friday 15 August

*7.30 pm, The Manningham
1 Thompsons Road, Bulleen*

Catch *The Beatnix* in their authentic costumes performing all your favourite *Beatles* hits.

Great time guaranteed! Dinner and show: \$39.50

Must book with Halina Sarbinowski on or by 11 August (7.30 pm) to ensure seating.

Email News

There is a new feature on our web site. You can now receive *The News* once a month by email. All you have to do is go to www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au and click on the link on the front page. Here you can fill in your details and once a month *The News* will arrive in your in-box. The file is in pdf format and looks exactly how the editor intended it to. Not only that, but all the graphics are in colour. So go to it! Help us to use less paper and preserve our bush walking locations.

*Debbie Henry
Web Site Manager*

Film Night

Friday 22 August

7.30 pm, Clubrooms

Join us for an old fashioned 16mm movie night on the big screen in the comfort of our own premises. After an entertaining short to warm you up, we'll screen *Lost in the Bush*, the true story of the struggle of three young children to survive in the outback and the search mounted by their families to find them. This will be followed, after interval, by a feature from New Zealand which illustrates in a very tense and dramatic way what can happen if you set off for a day's walk without being adequately prepared.

There'll be plenty of time to socialise between films and a light supper will be available. This is not a video or a dvd but an authentic cinematic projection. No need to book, just turn up. For details please ring Stuart Hodgson on

HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 27 AUGUST

8 PM, CLUBROOMS

Slide Night: Cattle in Alpine NP

Wednesday 10 September

Guest speaker Phil Ingamells, VNPA Alpine Campaign will show us some of the devastating effects of cattle grazing in the Alpine National Park.

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



Vale Ed Little

Members will recall Ed Little who was a member up to a couple of years ago. Ed was tragically killed in an accident whilst riding his bicycle on the Bulla - Diggers Rest Road on the weekend of 19/20 July 2003. Seven Bushies went to his funeral which was well attended. Ed was remembered for being good company though he was known to be moody sometimes. He was 74 when he died and leaves behind a daughter and two sons.

In his time in the Melbourne Bushwalkers Ed did many trips, especially longer touring type trips and he was a keen Wednesday Walker. He was also a member of the Essendon Bushwalkers. He had been a competition bicycle rider, racing interstate and internationally, and he let his walking lapse in favour of bike riding.

Doug Pocock

It was a great shock to learn that Ed had lost his life while riding his bicycle. Ed had been a keen member of our club taking part in many trips including weekend pack carries and extended trips. About ten members of our club attended his recent funeral.

Ed had a robust personality and when he was on a walk you really knew it – he had opinions on everything from politics to classical music. Around the campfire he would entertain us with recitals of *The Man from Snowy River*, *Mulga Bill's Bicycle* and *The Man from Ironbark* - delivered with great gusto. He would practice beforehand to be word perfect.

He took great pride in his cooking skills and many Bushies enjoyed hospitality at Ed's home. He had great practical skills which he was willing to share. Once he noticed an unframed photo in my lounge room and soon after he had it mounted in an excellent frame which I now see in front of me.

More recently he had returned to his life-time love of cycling with great enthusiasm. At the age of 74 he was extremely fit and getting great enjoyment from his favourite sport. It was on a training ride that the tragedy occurred.

He enjoyed walking with us and made many friends. We enjoyed his company and we will remember and miss him.

Max Casley

PREVIEWS OF DAY WALKS, ETC. - AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2003

Sunday Bus: Flagpole Hill - Flowerdale

DATE	Sunday 24 August
STANDARD	Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCE	14 and 17 km
LEADER(S)	Jerry Karbownik & Ches Volpato
TRANSPORT	Bus - Southbank Blvd - 9 am
RETURN TIME	6.30 pm
MAP REFERENCE	Flowerdale and Pheasant Ck 1:25,000

In the latter half of July there was a Sunday walk to Gum Creek and Mt. Robertson, north of Kinglake. Our walk this time is the northern extension of that walk... retracing a little of the way (for the Medium group)... continuing mainly on open forest side roads and taking in some wonderful views. Both groups conclude with the crossing of the legendary "three (low) hills of Flowerdale"... very Swiss-like scenery... (sorry, yodelling not encouraged!)

Would recommend walkers carry wind protection gear as it can get a little breezy on the ridges.

Note new leaders. Jerry Karbownik's phone no. is

Dandenongs Exp.: Grants-Baynes-Kallista

DATE	Saturday 30 August
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	13 km
LEADER(S)	Debbie Collie
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	3.30 pm
AREA	Sherbrooke Forest
MAP REFERENCE	Melway 75 K4 (Map 124)

Meet at the Kiosk at Grants Picnic Ground at 10.30 am. This circular walk begins at Lyrebird Track and the forest is ablaze with wattles. A road walk beside the "House and Gardens" of the Patch accompanied by barking dogs, heads down to Sassafras Creek. Tree ferns and bridges over the creek lead to lunch. Meander along the bubbling creek to Kallista and afternoon tea.

Please wear boots with a good grip for the bridges on the creek are slippery and pack your torches. Please phone me on to book.

BS&R Ski Skills Practice

DATE	Saturday 6 September
STANDARD	Medium
LEADER(S)	Gina Hopkins
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	8 pm
AREA	Mt. Stirling

This ski trip is open to members and prospective members of Bushwalkers Search and Rescue (BS&R). The aim of the day is to improve the skiing skills of searchers in the snow and to give members more confidence in their ability to participate in snow searches. Further details of the day's activities later.

The meeting point will be from 9 to 9.30 am at the day shelter, Telephone Box Junction. A full day is planned and the expected finish time at TBJ is 4.30 to 5 pm. If you would like to attend this practice, please let me know by Wed. 27 August on

Insurance note: BS&R members are covered by the Emergency Management Act which provides insurance cover for members involved in searches and practices.

Sunday Bus: Lost Children's Track

DATE	Sunday 7 September
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
LEADER(S)	Ralph Clayton & Mark Heath
TRANSPORT	Bus - Southbank Blvd - 9 am

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

Sunday Bus: Dandenong Ranges Tourist Tk

DATE	Sunday 14 September
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	15 and 17 km
LEADER(S)	Jerry Karbownik & Maureen Hurley
TRANSPORT	Bus - Southbank Blvd - 9 am
RETURN TIME	6 pm
AREA	Kallista / Sassafras
MAP REFERENCE	Dandenong Ranges Activities Map 1:20,000

Looks like it's time for something different for the Sunday groups. How many times have we all *driven* through our wonderful local scenery...but have never got out of the car to take a closer look? There's some beautiful country so close by... so we'll get out and take a long look.

At the time of writing our preview has not been completed, but we will be concentrating on the Sassafras Creek / Kallista areas... nothing too strenuous, so come along and enjoy the "green" before summer turns it brown!

Wed. Walk: Silvan Dam - Olinda Forest

DATE Wednesday 17 September
STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADER(S) Jan Llewelyn
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Dandenong Ranges
MAP REFERENCE Melway and Silvan 1:25,000

Meet at the Silvan Dam overflow car park (north side of Stoneyford Lane) at 10 am.

This will be a walk along tracks in the north end of the Dandenongs. There will be enough uphill stretches to make this more than just a stroll.

Sunday Bus: Angahook State Forest

DATE Sunday 21 September
STANDARD Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCE 17 and 19 km
LEADER(S) Nik Dow & Sibylle Holdheide
TRANSPORT Bus - Southbank Blvd - 9 am
RETURN TIME 7 pm

One of the best walks on the calendar, with views of the surf coast at the start and end of the day, walking through ironbark, peppermint and gum forests accommodating many birds, grass trees and wattles in bloom. A mixture of walking tracks and dirt roads, moderate climbing, fairly long distances to cover and a tour of the area's picnic grounds thrown in (but not at lunch time). The climbs are not too taxing and are long and steady rather than short and sharp. Apart from birds too numerous to list the only wildlife seen were horses and their riders, one group of trail bikes and a bright red rock lobster boat setting their pots.

There was some mud around on the preview so bring your change of shoes. The bus picks us up near the beach so a chance to get some sand between your toes if your group is back first - but you must wipe it all off before getting onto the bus! If the forecast is for wind or rain from the south west, note that parts of the walk are exposed to the coast so bring good windproof wet weather gear.

N.B. Nick Dow's new phone no.:

Dandenongs Explorer: Birdlands Reserve

DATE Saturday 27 September
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 8 km
LEADER(S) Warren Baker
TRANSPORT Private

Meet at 10 am at Birdlands Reserve Picnic Ground (84 B2). The entrance is about 100 m on the right after Apsley Rd. The picnic ground is about 1 km inside the park. Some people may want to watch the grand final so I have made this a half day walk with an earlier than usual start.

We will walk through the Birdlands Reserve past the two lakes and observe the behaviour of the birds. Then we will move into Lysterfield Lake NP and walk southwards via the Dargon Track. We will return to the Reserve by a judicious mixture of the Gully Break, Granite, Abraham and Ballarat tracks and return to the cars on the other side of the lakes to the outwards journey. The trip should take about two and a half hours and we will have coffee/lunch in Ferntree Gully.

N.B. Elizabeth and Phillip Woods will be unable to lead the October walk. I will lead one with a base at Grants Picnic Reserve. I will provide more details later.

Sunday Bus: Organ Pipes - Campaspe River

DATE Sunday 28 September
STANDARD Easy and Easy/Medium
LEADER(S) Ches Volpato and Anna Anson
TRANSPORT Bus - Southbank Blvd - 9 am

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

For Sale: Sleeping Bag

J & H Winterlite, as new, perfect condition.

Snow season rating. Ideal for ski touring, snow camping or mountaineering.

Mummy shape, 900 gms of down, weighs 1.7 kg, neck muff, slant wall construction, side zip with draft tube, vertical cross baffle system.

Price: \$420 o.n.o.

Please call Kerry Tabor on if interested.

PREVIEWS OF WEEKEND WALKS, ETC. - SEPTEMBER 2003

Tree Planting, BBQ & Bush Dance, Benalla

DATE	Sat. 6 and Sun. 7 September
STANDARD	Depends how hard you work!
DISTANCE	500 m
LEADER(S)	Alan Clarke
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Sunday Afternoon
AREA	Lurg Hills, Benalla

Please see the informative item by Rosemary Cotter in the July *News*. This will be a repeat of that weekend for those that couldn't make the last one or who want to do two! Please note that, being four weeks later than Rosemary's, this weekend will have much more daylight, and be much warmer! (Sorry Rosemary but all's fair in love and tree planting.)

Pack Carry: Mt. Moliagul - Bealiba Range

DATE	Fri. 12 - Sun. 14 September
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER(S)	Max Casley
TRANSPORT	Private

Please talk with Max Casley in the clubrooms about this pack carry.

Base Camp: Birding & Botanisng, Borung

DATE	Fri. 19 - Sun. 21 September
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	Various
LEADER(S)	Doug Pocock
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Wedderburn
MAP REFERENCE	Wedderburn - Kinypanial 1: 50,000

Where on earth is Borung? I also wondered this when I first found this conservation property for sale. It turned out to be near Wedderburn bordering on part of the Wychitella flora reserve. I bought the place as a practical conservation exercise. It consists of mainly Mallee eucalypt bush with some Box-Ironbark forest and some cleared area. We have found some interesting plant species and our bird list is over 70 species. It is of high conservation value and includes an active Mallee Fowl nest. The camp will be on this 300 acre property which is convenient to explore the area as there is no camping in the flora reserve.

I propose a walk to Mt. Kerang (car pooling to get there) on Saturday to explore the interestingly named Orchid Garden and Glossodia Hill. Hopefully with the recent rains we will find plenty of orchids and other

plants. Those more ornithologically inclined may stay behind and increase the bird list. On Saturday night I suggest a barbecue and an evening of jollity and frivolity. Sunday will be a morning walk around the camp area and after lunch pack up and leave for an exploration of Mt. Korong in the afternoon before heading back to Melbourne.

We will probably be going up on Thursday, so anyone who would like to go up early will be welcome. If anyone wants to stay there on Sunday night and return on Monday there would be no problems. See me in the clubrooms for details.

Cycle Base Camp: Clunes

DATE	Sat. 27 & Sun. 28 September
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER(S)	Jopie Bodegraven
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Early Sunday Evening

We are trialling a new concept. It consists of a weekend based in a country town with camping and other accommodation options, Sat. night meal option at a restaurant or pub and two one-day bike rides using, as much as possible, little used bitumen roads. There are lots of suitable country towns, so if there is sufficient interest we'll certainly programme more, say one in autumn and one in spring.

I have chosen Clunes for a number of reasons. Chief is that it has lots of quiet minor bitumen roads. It is a nice small historical gold fields town, has a caravan park and a promising looking restaurant with pub prices and it is only 2 hrs drive from Melb.

We will drive up on Sat. morning to the town of Learmonth (about 2 hrs from Melb. via the Ballarat bypass), meeting by the lake at 9.30 am. Turn left just past an 80 speed sign into Queens Rd as you enter town and go 1 km to the Learmonth Ski & Power Boat Club. Our circuit ride around Mts Misery and Ercildoune will be about 55 km, all on bitumen roads, with an option of an extra 7 km for the energetic.

We then drive on to Clunes Caravan Park, get settled in and have dinner at Clementine's Restaurant. You can, of course, cook your own meal at camp if you wish. As well as tenting, the caravan park has one cabin and 2 on-site vans. There is also a motel (ph.: 5345 3092) and several B&Bs in town.

On Sun. we will do a 47 km ride (incl. about 5 - 6 km on relatively smooth gravel) with the option of more, and if anyone wishes and time permitting, a walk up Mt. Beckworth (1 - 1½ hr return).

The area should look lovely in September. Join us for a fun weekend of cycling and socialising in Bonnie Clunes. I will try to rationalise transport but that will depend on how many people have the means of carrying how many bikes. I hope lots of people have bike racks! Ring me on _____ or see me in the clubrooms.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The committee recently discussed the issue of people turning up for bus trips without booking in. As part of their duties leaders are in attendance in the clubrooms for two weeks prior to the walk to take bookings. This also gives members opportunity to discuss the walk. However, from time to time people may find at the last minute that they can attend a walk and turn up at the bus unbooked. If there is space on the bus (and we do like to get bums on seats) then leaders may accept "turn ups".

However, we do charge a late fee of \$3 under these circumstances. This is to discourage the practice from becoming a habit and, more importantly, to allow the leaders to have a round figure of \$20 and not have to worry about change. There have been some cases of members turning up and wanting to pay with a \$100 note. If this happens I suggest leaders accept the \$100 and organise the change to be available in clubrooms the following Wednesday.

Please remember that our leaders do a great job in organising the walks for you. They do not need any hassles. If you are a "turn up" have the correct money and accept the leaders decisions regarding any places on the bus.

DOUG POCOCK

VicWalk



Volunteer Needed

Urgent volunteer required for VicWalk Executive - "Minutes Secretary". Please contact **Jenny Sykes, Administration Officer** if you can help.

Rod Novak

WALKS STATISTICS

June 2003	Trips	Walkers	Average	June 2002
Sunday Bus	5	165	33	27
Other Day	4	52	13	16.5
Pack Carry	1	8	8	9
Base Camp	2	37	18.5	13
Cancelled	-	-	-	1
Total	12	262	-	11 / 207

Treasurer's News

After some very enjoyable years as your **Treasurer**, **Jan Palich** will be resigning at next years AGM which is held in February. We need a replacement for this role.

The task is not arduous, but very rewarding, and a great way to be part of the club. If you are interested and/or would like more information, please contact Jan on

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.

WALKS SECRETARY'S REPORT

Summer Walks Program: Suggestions welcome for the upcoming summer walks program. Please contact Gina Hopkins for weekend and extended trips and Peter McGrath for Sunday Bus destinations.

Sunday Bus: No leaders = no trips! Dear Sunday Bus walkers, please help and volunteer to become an assistant walk leader for the summer walks program. Training, coaching and mentoring are available. Give it a go and help your club and fellow walkers. Ask Peter McGrath for more information.

ROD NOVAK

ACTING WALKS SECRETARY

QUESTIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE

This month *News* Editor, Vicki Scrivenger answers some questions.

When did you join the club?

The winter of 1996.

How did you first learn about the club?

Through the *Yellow Pages*.

What made you decide to join the club?

I loved bushwalking and wanted to meet people. Back then I was learning to drive and so I really liked the independence the Sunday Bus offered me.

What do you like about the club?

I like the people - the range of occupations and ages, the culture, eg. the newsletter, the variety of activities and the bushwalking and related knowledge inside the club.

Which club activities do you do?

Day walks mostly, the odd base camp and some cross-country skiing in the winter and spring.

How often do you walk?

Not as much as I'd like, I'm afraid. *The News* takes up at least one weekend a month and I do like to do other things as well as bushwalking in my spare time.

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

I always find "favourites" difficult but I like walking amongst gum trees, mountain ash, tree ferns, ferns, bracken, etc. I prefer mountains, lakes and rivers to the beach and the sea.

When did you join the committee?

In 2001.

What do you like about being *News* Editor?

I like making the newsletter - working with texts and pictures. I also like liaising with members concerning contributions.

What don't you like about this job?

I don't like receiving items after the deadline, getting multiple emails from members for the one newsletter, etc.

What made you first stand for committee?

I wanted to contribute to the club and thought I could do the job of newsletter editor and would like it.

Will you stand for committee again next year?

No, I have some other plans for next year. I'll miss it. (If any member is interested in being the next Editor please phone me on .)

SATURDAY PAPERS, GOURMET ENTRÉES AND WOMBATS

BASE CAMP: TIDAL RIVER, WILSON'S PROM NP, 16 - 18 MAY 2003

This was a Base Camp of the more luxurious kind, as we were camping at a site with real toilets, hot showers, shop, café, etc. I expect the Prom will be familiar to most people reading this, but it was Liz's and my first visit, and we were quite blown away! Not literally, though, as the weather was unusually kind - no wind to speak of and just an hour's rain shower on the Sunday, to remind us where we were!

The sixteen of us arrived at various times on Friday afternoon and evening, and were able to enjoy a beach walk in the light of the full moon. We were up with the larks on Saturday for an interesting walk across the Prom to Sealer's Cove and back (19 km). A bit fresh over that side, but one hardy soul (aka lunatic!) did go in for a brief dip. Unfortunately high tide coincided with our arrival so we weren't able to appreciate fully the beautiful beach, but never mind - we'll be back!

Back at Tidal River in the evening and we shared a superb spread of Gourmet Entrées contributed by the group (no camp fire, though, as the shelter had been appropriated by smokers, but it was quite warm enough for us to sit out by the tents). The entrées were enough for some of us not to need a main course, although Bob and Mick treated us to a highly professional demonstration of how to turn a perfectly innocent steak into something you could easily have re-soled your boots with!

After dinner people were gradually drifting off to their tents, when the post-prandial peace and quiet were rent by unearthly screams from the direction of Gina's tent. "There's a wombat in my tent!" Sure enough, a huge (or at least it seemed huge to Liz and me, never having seen a full-grown one before) wombat was investigating Gina's bread. Bob bravely removed it (I think he might have hit it with his steak) and Gina was able to sleep in peace. Actually it did come back briefly later to see if there was anything left, but all food had by then been disposed of.

Sunday, up with the larks again, after Rod had put down an attempted mutiny with ruthless efficiency, for a walk to Lilly Pilly Gully and up Mount Bishop. Most of the group then continued on to Tidal Lookout and Squeaky Beach (for a swim), but a few of us wimped out at that point, as it was raining, and returned to the camp site. Liz and I, as we were staying till Monday morning, in our Mobile Hilton, did the walk in the afternoon, by which time the sun had come out and we were able to appreciate the magnificent beach and headland views at sunset.

Thanks to Rod for making the arrangements and leading the weekend (with the smack of firm government tempered with his customary lucky dips) and to the rest of the group: Liz, Liz and Liz, Gina, Halina (got the spelling right!), Denise, Bob, Mick, David (visitor), Neil, Michelle, Barry, Mark, and Max - for the good company.

PHILIP WOOD

GREETINGS FROM AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

5 JUNE 2003

I settled in quite well in Auckland, found immediately a room and a cabinet making job. However, summer seemed to pass me somehow without noticing probably because I didn't have such a pleasant bayside ride to work and no chances to hop in for a swim, even though I had terrific Manukau harbour views with sunrise and sunset.

Beautiful natural NZ bushland was just around the corner leading to the water (unfortunately, very muddy and tidal) which was a bit of a substitute for the missing bay.

Even more I missed the weekend bushwalks. I had to concentrate on the ironman preparation which I successfully finished in Taupo in March, which left no spare weekends for walks.

I caught up on the missed out outdoors activities when my sister came to visit me in March and had a great time on the South Island after we both were happy to drop off the rental car in Wellington. (We both were of the same opinion, rental car travel is unexciting.)

Sea-kayaking in Abel Tasman Park challenged us to the extreme with high waves and only a short introduction. I was so relieved to reach the calm water of Torrent Bay after the challenging first day. The two following days we planned it smarter and used the calm morning hours, which was a pure pleasure. Even doing the trip independently we didn't regret not to be in one of the guided noisy, cool, backpacker bunches and enjoyed our tramp back to the start.

The highlight followed with the Milford Track after two days in the bus (but great southern Alp views) with every day sunshine! That was a big surprise and I remembered Bill's words to do Mc Kinnon Pass in the evening of the second day, because of the fog in the morning. Christine wasn't too pleased with that idea but followed because she didn't want to be stuck in between smelly shoes and socks in the hut. The reward was indeed breath-taking and dinner tasted awesome that night.

It was a bit of an anticlimax getting to Sandfly Point and hearing the helicopters and scenic flights around the sound, we definitely were back in the modern world.

Even without getting all the adrenalin rush seeking activities in Queenstown we liked the place with its mountain scenery. I had the pleasure to be back there four weeks later and see the place in its autumn colors.

My sister flew home, I rearranged gear and met an Aussie cycling friend for further 3 weeks travel along the west coast. We soon shipped the camping gear home realizing hostels were more sensible to stay in. It was as well an awesome trip (Christchurch - Greymouth - Haast - Wanaka - Queenstown).

I was the lucky girl and send one friend home to continue with an other Aussie cycle friend for another two weeks. We started in the north, Blenheim and rode the Marlborough country and Farewellsplit. Autumn had definitely arrived and we were back to camping with zero degree nights (I wanted to keep the weight down and had very chilly nights in the summerbag).

I definitely recommend the Marlborough Sounds, can't say much about the tracks but there are plenty. This time I had to leave and my cycling companion was in the fortunate position to cycle on for another three weeks. We met in Auckland and I showed him the beautiful Waitakere Ranges west of Auckland.

Now I am back in the factory and wait for the weekends. Joined the Auckland tramping club on a Sunday walk and felt immediately at home. They have got a four wheel drive bus which converts into a comfortable overnight home for 20 people. In Jan. - Feb. they take the bus down to the South Island and it stays the 2 months with changing walking parties!

This weekend I will test the Alpine Sport Club and join them on their trip to Mount Ruapehu, where they have a hut.

My visa will expire in November but I am uncertain what to do. There is lots of work here, however, the German summer sounds tempting too.

Cheers from Auckland.

DAGMAR SCHADE



CAPE CONRAN COASTAL PARK

BASE CAMP: QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND, 7 - 9 JUNE 2003

“ Oh I do love to be beside the seaside...”

A wild and woolly Friday night in Melbourne with blustery, stormy weather left those of us still in Melbourne snuggled up in cosy beds to dream of camping out.

After our first meeting on Saturday, at Lakes Entrance, we forged into a headwind along a stretch of the Ninety-Mile Beach. Deserted by the summer crowds the beach was quite beautiful. Turning back and returning along the inland waterway we began to sight the varied bird-life including serene pelicans and a few seagulls!

On arrival at the Marlo Camping Ground, with due discussion, we sighted our tents in the very best spot. We enjoyed a delicious meal in a party atmosphere at the Marlo Pub with live music and lively dancing for those who stayed on. I fell over in the gutter before having a drink, not after, and there was a rumour that someone was lost coming home but we all were all there for breakfast!

Sunday was a grand day at Cape Conran Coastal Park. Swans floated on still water of an inlet as we headed towards the beach. It was fine walking on firm sand along a pristine beach with a shelf of sand stretching the length of the beach. We turned in for lunch at Dock Inlet and enjoyed the view of the lake. Walking through coastal scrub was an enjoyable contrast to the morning walk. With energy to spare we also walked in the late afternoon along boardwalks at an aboriginal heritage sight.

That evening we ate heartily around the open fire with tasty entrees to share and tucked in for a warm night... notably for those who had brought super warm sleepwear and extra doonas.

On Monday we walked to the mouth of the Snowy River with treacherous looking water swirling in at French's Narrows. Many seabirds were spotted here including the wobbly bottomed, long-legged, orange beaked something or other. Jenny with her keen eye spotted black-capped plovers and double banded plovers. During summer there was a semi beach closure along from Sorrento to protect the black-capped variety. They have quite a distinctive way of moving and it was a surprise to see more of them racing about on the sand.

Homeward bound, some of us visited the Hospital Creek Timber Trestle Railway Bridge. We enjoyed our final rendezvous for afternoon tea.

Highlights of the trip were the great company, reminiscing about our favourite walks around the world with inspirational ideas for “the next trip”, the bird-life and especially walking with magnificent beach scenery.

It was a fantastic weekend. Thanks Rod from all of us: Liz, Liz, Bill, Max (pictured above at Cape Conran), Gina, Mali, Ben, Jopie, Jenny, Liz, Barry, Keith, Russell, Coralie and me.

LEE MULLANY

BARJARG WEEKEND

BARJARG BUNKHOUSE, MT. SAMARIA / STRATHBOGIES, 27 - 29 JUNE 2003

21 people signed up for a cosy weekend at the Barjarg school house. Saturday's walk began with a short sharp climb up Wild Dog Ridge with a few of us taking the easier option of walking along the ridge. We were all rewarded with good views down the valley. We then went off-track to find an elusive covered wagon before walking up to Mt. Samuri for lunch. We made our way back home via an off-track ramble down a big hill. Nancy had stayed home and welcomed us with home-made borsch soup which was delicious.

Saturday night was a barbecue round a suprisingly warm bonfire with lots of delectable food to share. There was plenty of room to spread out in the schoolhouse which had a big living area and about 48 bunk beds. We woke to steady rain on Sunday morning so the more challenging walk was cancelled and we all set off together on an easier walk. Bill came to the rescue with axe/saw when the car convoy was halted by a big tree across the road. After a group effort with encouragement and photographs from onlookers the road was clear. The rain cleared for a pleasant stroll up Mt. Strathbogie. We then did a car shuffle and had a peaceful walk through beautiful forest with two waterfalls thrown in. Jopie rated the rainfalls 3 or 4 out of 10 but I reckon the last one was more like a 5 out of 10. The rain held off all day and we got back to the cars muddy but happy. Dinner at Eurora and back to Melbourne after a fun, relaxing weekend. Thanks Sylvia for all your organization.

Walkers: Sylvia, Nancy, Jerry G, Max, Marisa, Mark, Denise, Julie, Mike, Elizabeth, Barry, Emmanuel, Neil, Halina, Jopie, Mali, Ben, Bill, David Laing, Judy and me.

LIZ MOORE

DANDENONGS EXPLORER: FIVE WAYS

SATURDAY 28 JUNE 2003

Photo of the group taken at Mt. Dandenong lookout.



BEERIPMO WALK

PACK CARRY: MT. COLE STATE FOREST, 12 - 13 JULY 2003

With most of us having made an early start from home on Saturday morning, we gathered at the Richards camping and picnic ground at 9.30 am. We donned packs and our warm clothes and headed up the boulder strewn valley with quite a gentle climb past Raglan falls, the hut at Ditchfields Camp to the top of Cave Hill. Over to the west a few kilometres away, an array of wind generators were conspicuous features of the view. From the chilling wind that we were experiencing, they should do quite well.

We took the side trip down the hill to view "The Cave" - a great slash of a cave a few hundred metres long, but impossible to enter because of the steeply sloping floor.

Climbing through the eucalypt forest, we reached Beeripmo camping ground at a civilized 3.30 pm. After some effort with the wet wood, a welcome fire was lit. The camping area was of the very organised type: prepared areas for tents, three fire-places, toilets and a water tank.

Next day included the summit of Mt. Buangor with its magnificent stone cairn 2 metres in diameter (what race of alien stone masons built the beautifully constructed little conical track marking cairns frequently sighted along the way?) and mossy snow gums.

Descending through eucalypt forest (manna gums, peppermint gums, blue gums and snow gums) back to Richards, completed the 21 km walk by 2.30 pm.

Thanks to Bob Oxlade for leading us on this very pleasant but relatively easy weekend walk. The party was: Bob, Jopie, Jenny, Max, Roger W., Bill D., Gerry, myself and two of my children, Craig and Bridget.

DNRE has notes on the Mt. Cole State Forest (FS0048) and on the Beeripmo walk (FS0049).

STUART MATTINGLEY

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

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Includes a one week
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NEW MEMBERS

THERESE AMAD

MARGARET CARSTAIRS

CHRISTINE HUNTER

CHRIS KEATING

MICHAEL & MASSY MOKHTARANI

ADD TO MEMBERSHIP LIST

HEATH ALLISON

JULIA ANTICH

MELISSA BEDFORD

BRIAN CROUCH

BRENDAN ENGLEFIELD

VIRGINIA HEAVER

TOBY HORROCKS

EDWARD RAYMENT

GRAEME WALKDEN (Apologies for missing his name on the list)

ALTERED ADDRESS / PHONE

CRAIG CARPENTER

JANET NORMAN

NATALIA & PAUL PHOTIOS

AMANDA SMITH

GEORGE ZAMORA

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Life Members	10
Honorary Members	10
Single Memberships	329
Family Memberships	92 (= 2 x 46)
Total Membership	441

PETER HAVLICEK
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

ACCOUNTS

May 2003	\$
Opening Balance	45,297.57
Income	8,994.00
Expenditure	2,297.01
Closing Balance	51,994.56

JAN PALICH
TREASURER

CLUBROOMS DUTY ROSTER

Wednesday 6 August: D Henry and D Laing*
Wednesday 13 August: H Friend and P McGrath
Wednesday 20 August: D Laing and D Pocock*
Wednesday 27 August: P Beers and P Havlicek
Wednesday 3 September: T Elmore and D Henry*

*J Palich, Treasurer present

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 1 September at 7 pm in the clubrooms

TRACKS, HUTS AND CONSERVATION

Here are some notes from the VicWalk Conservation Committee meeting of 23 July 2003.

Cattle in the Alpine National Park - it is estimated 3,000 cattle graze on the Bogong High Plains over the summer period. The alpine national park has been seriously affected by the summer bushfires. The current seven-year grazing licences expire in August 2005, and notification of non-renewal should be given by August 2004 – a condition of the license. The Victorian National Parks Association [VNPA] has commenced a public awareness campaign of 'cows in the alpine national park'. The VNPA requires bushwalkers help, by writing letters to state politicians asking for an end to the cattle grazing in the Alpine national park. Some points to make are: - grazing is an inappropriate activity for a national park; causes trampling of fragile streams and alpine bogs; spreads weeds; pollutes mountain streams – making them unsafe sources for drinking waters for bushwalkers and other park visitors; and costs the public more money to manage than is returned in licence fees.

In September the club we will have a slide presentation from Phil Ingamells [VNPA alpine campaigner] who will show some of the devastating effects of cattle grazing in the alpine national park.

Alpine Huts - Parks Victoria will conduct a one-day seminar for interested parties on Wednesday 5th August. VicWalk will attend to present their Alpine Huts Rebuilding policy. It is believed the newly formed Victorian Alpine Huts Association will lobby for more huts to be rebuilt.

Bunyip State Park - the Parks Victoria timeline for the new Bunyip State Park management plan. An 'Environmental and Cultural Heritage analysis' with a 'Regional recreational strategy' will commence from July 2003 with a completion date of June 2004. This is followed by "Issues Papers" with public consultation in July 2004. A draft Management Plan will call for public comments closing on March 2005. The Final Plan is to be released in July 2005. The Bunyip Bushwalking Group have strong concerns with the length of time for the final report to deliver positive outcomes eg still at least three years away.

Strzeleckis - there will be a SoS. "Save our Strzeleckis" Forest Rally for Wednesday, August 27, at midday, Parliament House steps, Spring Street, Melbourne. More details at <http://members.dcsi.net.au/kimjulie>

Snowy Mountains - Destroyed or damaged huts in Kosciuszko National Park (update received from NSWPS):

Boltons	Brooks	Stockwhip	Grey Hill Café	O'Keefe's
Boltons Hill	Burrungubuggee Shelter	Dr Forbes	Happy Jack 3 and 4	Old Geehi (YHA)
Boobee	Delaneys	Geehi	Linesmans 2	Opera House
Orange (Diane)	Patons	Pretty Plain		

ROD NOVAK
CLUB DELEGATE
VICWALK CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Thank You

from Michael Bishop of the Wollangarra, Licola group who received the used bushwalking gear from walking clubs (including the Bushies):

“Just want to pass on a huge thank you to you and the very generous members who have donated to the “gear drive” that you undertook. We were astounded by what has been passed on and will be putting to use every single item that we received. The high quality and great condition was a pleasant surprise. So it’s going to be put to use by some very grateful young people who pass through Wollangarra.”

Trish Elmore
Vice President

Are you Creative?

Like to draw? Make designs? Well, have we got the job for you! The Melbourne Bushwalkers are co-hosting the 2004 Federation Weekend, and we’d love to find someone with an artistic bent to design a logo for us. Joanne Murray did a great job for the 1999 day that we ran at Stieglitz, but she is unfortunately no longer a member. There is lots of time in which to do it, and we’d love to have another good design to put on T-Shirts, booklets, promotional material, etc.

If you are interested in helping out with this please phone Alan Clarke on

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Concession – couple \$38.00 (proof required)

New members joining on/after 1 October 2003 \$24.00 less visitor fees

The News – \$20.00

Make cheques or money orders payable to ‘Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.’ and post to:

Membership Secretary, GPO Box 1751Q, Melbourne, 3001