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# THE NEWS OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

EDITION 634

DECEMBER 2003

60 CENTS

## *Clubrooms Closed*

*Wednesday 24 December*

*and*

*Wednesday 31 December*

## *Tennis at Quentin's*

*Sunday 28 December*

*From 1 pm,*

*Lot 1, South Maddingley Road  
Bacchus Marsh*

There won't be any Sunday Bus walks this day so why not lob in at Quentin's place?

Please bring food and drinks for a barbeque.

Contact **Quentin Tibballs** if you are interested on



## *Christmas Party*

*Wednesday 17 December*

*From 7 pm, Trades Hall*

*Cnr of Lygon & Victoria Sts, Carlton*

Come one, come all and celebrate another year as part of the Melbourne Bushwalkers. Everyone welcome.

Please bring a plate to share. Drinks to be purchased at the bar.

There will be **awards for leaders** presented again this year on this night. If you have led a walk, etc. for the club in 2003 then you will be in our Leaders' Draw. The names of all leaders will go into a hat and three names will be drawn at random. Each of the three lucky leaders whose names are drawn will receive a \$50 spending voucher kindly supplied to us by **Bogong Equipment**, 374 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne.



ENQ.:

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

WEBSITE: [www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au](http://www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au)

EMAIL: [info@melbournebushwalkers.org.au](mailto: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.

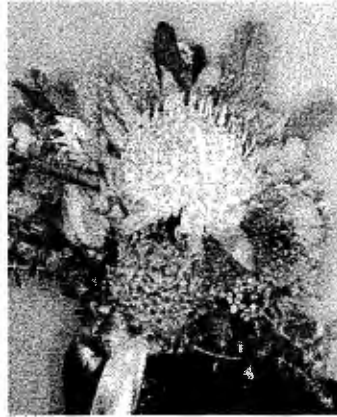
Advertisements in *The News*

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

## THE MARRIAGE OF WILLIAM AND VICKI



About forty people  
assembled on  
Saturday 15  
November 2003 at  
Sherbrooke Lodge,  
Sherbrooke, to  
witness the marriage  
of William Cone,  
our Secretary, to  
Vicki Scrivenger,  
our *News* Editor.  
The weather was fine  
and hot. Sherbrooke  
Forest cloaked some  
of the heat of the day,

due to its mountain and forest location.

William and Vicki both looked resplendent. There were  
many well-dressed people in the crowd. We were later to  
discover that many attendees were members of a dance  
group, and were therefore accustomed to dressing that  
way.

The ceremony took place in a very pleasant location.  
This was an outdoor pergola, which looked wonderful,  
given the fine day. The celebrant was generous with the  
quips, exhorting Vicki to stop shaking, and admonishing  
William for a lack of passion when asked to kiss the  
bride, and then proceeding to do a better job himself.

Getting to Sherbrooke Lodge, one passed O'Donohue's  
Picnic Ground. The thought occurred to me it was an  
excellent location for a Sunday bushwalk, with plenty of  
space to park the bus, with a nearby waterfall. A quip  
from Vicki's father, Ron, was that the bushwalkers in  
attendance were very fortunate, because they probably  
had the least trouble in finding the venue!

Trans-Tasman matters were on the agenda for William  
comes from New Zealand and the rugby World Cup  
match, Australia versus New Zealand, was played that  
day. No hakkas were noticed among the crowd.

The dancing was truly splendid, formal English style,  
with a magical quality enhanced by the forest location.  
The Irish jig was especially good. I wish I could do it,  
given my ancestry.

Doug Pocock, our President, was asked to perform the  
role of Master of Ceremonies. The highlight was when  
the master of the dancing for the day handed control  
over proceedings back to Doug. Doug had nothing to  
say. Despite this pitfall, Doug managed to excel himself  
on the day.

I hope you will join me in wishing William and Vicki  
every happiness.

Photo: G Ansell

PETER MCGRATH

# PREVIEWS OF DAY WALKS, ETC. - JANUARY 2004

## Sunday Bus: Lake Mountain alpine walk

<b>DATE</b>	Sunday 4 January
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy and Easy/Medium
<b>DISTANCE</b>	12 and 15 km
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	T.B.A. and Ian McPhee
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Bus-Southbank Blvd-8.30 am
<b>RETURN TIME</b>	7 pm
<b>AREA</b>	Marysville
<b>MAP REFERENCE</b>	Marysville-Lake Mountain Outdoor Leisure Map

Both groups will walk to the summit of Lake Mountain and through to Gerratys Car Park, enjoying sweeping views at several lookouts along the way. From Gerratys we'll explore the network of ski trails in the sub alpine forest, where gentle tracks wind among beautiful snow gums, their smooth barks summer-striped in earthy reds and olive-yellows.

The easy group will walk at a more leisurely pace, and not as far, as the easy/medium. Be sure to bring sunhat, water, sunscreen and repellent – the March flies don't know the difference between January and March. Always bring a raincoat – who knows?

The clubrooms will be closed on the two Wednesdays prior to the walk. Walk bookings can be made from 7 to 8pm in the clubrooms on Wed. 17 December, the evening of our Christmas break-up, alternatively turn up at Southbank Blvd on the day, no late fees will apply.

**The bus will leave at 8.30 am**, so come early to pay – it will be a great help and time-saver if you can bring the correct money.

## Sunday Bus: Big Pats Creek - Starling Gap

<b>DATE</b>	Sunday 11 January
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy and Easy/Medium
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	David Laing & Doug Pocock
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Bus – Southbank Blvd – 9 am

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

## Sunday Bus: Werribee Gorge

<b>DATE</b>	Sunday 18 January
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy/Medium and Medium
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	Lynda Larkin & Fiona Gallery
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Bus – Southbank Blvd – 9 am

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

## Wednesday Walk: Mt. St. Leonard

<b>DATE</b>	Wednesday 21 January
<b>STANDARD</b>	Medium
<b>DISTANCE</b>	22 km
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	Jerry Grandage
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Private
<b>RETURN TIME</b>	5.30 pm

We start at Donnelly's Weir which is about 100m above sea level and go up Mt. St. Leonard which is at just over 1000m altitude: in other words you're in for a 900 m climb. You will be rewarded with magnificent views. We then go along towards Mt. Monda and down Condon's track. You will see superb mountain ash forest and plenty of myrtle beech rainforest, and of course the company will be as scintillating as it always is for the club's Wednesday walks.

## Sun. Bus: Dimmicks Beach - London Bridge

<b>DATE</b>	Sunday 25 January
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy and Easy/Medium
<b>DISTANCE</b>	15 and 18 km
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	Peter McGrath & Roger Browne
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Bus – Southbank Blvd – 9 am
<b>RETURN TIME</b>	7 pm

This walk has always been my favourite. The combination of ti-tree, beach, rocks, water and history always fascinates me. The E/M walk begins at Rye Back Beach, which surely has the best view at the start of any walk. The walk continues along the beach to No. 16, where the Easy Walk commences. Note that there is hill on this section that we will need to determine if we can go over, if the tide is too high. From No. 16 to Sorrento Back Beach, the walk meanders along the coast, occasionally among the dunes, sometimes among the ti-tree.

Along the way, there are splendid vistas of amazing rock formations, surrounded by sparkling blue water. This type of scenery is the motif for the Mornington Peninsula NP. The 360 degree view of the Heads, the Bay, the Ocean and Arthurs Seat is amazing. Lt. Collins posted a lookout here, when Victoria's first settlement was established nearby in 1815. If we arrive at Sorrento Back beach before 3.30pm, there is a chance to have a coffee at Coppins coffee shop. Otherwise, we can buy an ice-cream. From Sorrento Back Beach, the walk continues along the beach to London Bridge.

Come and enjoy what I consider to be the best walk I've done.

## Cycle Trip: Merri Creek

<b>DATE</b>	Sat. 31 January
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	Jan Palich
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Private

Please call Jan Palich on \_\_\_\_\_ about this trip.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

At last we have had some **summer days**, some very warm reminders of what we can look forward to. Remember to take your broad brimmed hat and plenty of sunscreen on your walks. Also take plenty of water with you, even if you don't drink it all you may want to use some for cooling yourself. But don't forget your warm clothes, this is Melbourne!

There will be lovely days ahead. The **Sunday Bus walks** program has lots of beaut walks so why not book on the bus for some very pleasant days in the bush. If you have any ideas for Sunday walks **Peter McGrath, Assistant Walks Secretary**, is always interested to hear from you.

Don't forget the **Christmas break up** on 17 December. A good time to catch up with all your Bushie friends.

**DOUG POCOCK**

## CLUB POLICIES

The committee has recently approved a *Camp Fire Policy* following the publication of the draft document that appeared in the *June News*. In order that club members have easy access to official policies the committee has decided that there will be a designated area in the filing cabinet labelled "**Club Policies**". This is where the document will reside for future reference by both new and existing members when they need to refresh or familiarise themselves with official club policies that relate to our activities.

**TRISH ELMORE**  
**VICE-PRESIDENT**

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### *Boots For Sale*

Scarpa Litetrek Lady Gtx Boots  
Blue suede and Goretex  
Size 42 Hardly worn  
\$150 or offer (\$300 new)

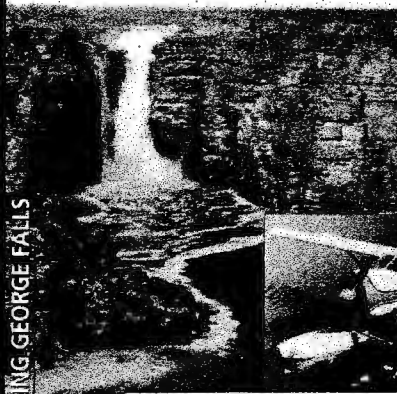
Please telephone **Marie Ormonde**  
on (Healesville)

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## WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

# Kimberley Coast Explorer

**21 March – 1 May**



For the first time since 2000, the Kimberley Coast Explorer is a **guaranteed departure**. This will be the first time we have visited the area east of the Berkeley River, the first time we have walked all the way through to Kalumburu, the first time we have done the full six weeks.

Too long? The trip is divided into four sections any of which can be done on its own.

This could be **your trip of a lifetime**. Put it off and you may miss out. We can't be sure when we'll again have the bookings we need to guarantee departure, nor continue to obtain all the necessary permissions.

[www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au](http://www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au)



Willis's Walkabouts 12 Carrington St Millner NT 0810 Email: [walkabout@ais.net.au](mailto:walkabout@ais.net.au)

Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355

***Change to Snowy Mountains Xmas Trip***

The Snowy Mountains were devastated by the bushfires last summer with probably over 70 % of Kosciusko NP burnt out. With much of the proposed route of this Christmas pack carry out of bounds entirely or restricted to walking only on firetrails it has become impracticable to do the trip. However, it has been replaced by a 6 or 7 day walk in the Moroka - Snowy Bluff area. Details below.

**Pack Carry: Moroka River - Snowy Bluff - Neilson Crag**

<b>DATE</b>	Fri. 26 Dec. - Thur. 1 Jan.
<b>STANDARD</b>	Medium
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	Jopie Bodegraven
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Private

This trip replaces the Snowy Mountains trip which has become impracticable due to last summer's bushfire devastation. It consists of following the Moroka River downstream for 2 to 3 days from a point just below the main gorge, doing 2 side trips with day packs firstly into the gorge and later up Snowy Bluff and finishing at Doolans Plain with an optional climb with packs over Neilson Crag. There will be plenty of good swimming opportunities on this trip.

We will travel from Melb. on Boxing Day morning, do the car shuffle and have lunch before the 6 km half day walk into our campsite on a bend in the Moroka downstream of the main gorge. This avoids the difficult traverse through the gorge with packs. Day 2 is an optional side trip to explore upstream into the main gorge.

Day 3 will be an early start to give us plenty of time to get through the lower gorge at a leisurely pace with swims and find somewhere to camp. Some of this section will be slow and rocky, with numerous wades and some interesting rocky bits to negotiate, but it is a beautiful and rarely visited section, well worth the effort. Day 4 has us following the now wider river valley and day 5 is an optional all day side trip up Snowy Bluff, a great mountain. On Day 6 we have a choice of a straight forward 900 m climb up a vehicle track or a medium hard climb over Neilson Crag.

Our last night will be New Year's Eve at Doolans Plain with the cars close enough hopefully that we can retrieve any goodies from them. Then a leisurely daylight return to Melbourne on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

There will be light scrub on many of the days, even possibly on the section of the MacMillans track, along the lower section of the Moroka, but hopefully nothing too daunting. There will, however, be quite a lot of rock-hopping on days 3 and 4 and a few slightly tricky bits going through the lower gorge but we will take our time and pass packs if necessary.

I will be away from Melbourne from 13 December for about a week, so let me know before then on \_\_\_\_\_ 1 if you want to come.

**Pack Carry: Frenchman's Cap, Tasmania**

<b>DATE</b>	Mon. 5 - Sun. 11 January
<b>STANDARD</b>	Medium
<b>DISTANCE</b>	50 or 60 km
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	Quentin Tibballs
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Private

The white quartzite dome of Frenchman's Cap dominates this area of the west coast of Tasmania. The walk to get there includes traversing the notorious "Sodden Loddens" where one may sink knee deep (or more) in mud and some extended uphill grinds. However, the rewards are magnificent views from Barron Pass and the "Cap" and passing through interesting geological glacial erosional features not seen on the mainland. Camping will be at Lakes Vera and Tahune (we have permission to use the helipad at Tahune if the hut is occupied) and a side-trip to the Irenabyss will be considered on the third day. We should be prepared for adverse weather conditions which may cause us to modify our trip plans but I think this walk is the best I've done and let's hope for sunny days.

At the moment the trip is full (numbers restricted to 10 because of camp sites) but please contact me if interested on \_\_\_\_\_

**Pack Carry: Square Head Jinny-Mt. Howitt**

<b>DATE</b>	Fri. 9 - Sun. 11 January
<b>STANDARD</b>	Medium
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	Jerry Grandage
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Private

Please call Jerry Grandage on \_\_\_\_\_ about this trip.

**Base Camp: Neds Gully, Cathedral Range**

<b>DATE</b>	Fri. 9 - Sun. 11 January
<b>STANDARD</b>	Medium
<b>DISTANCE</b>	13 and 6 km
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	Elizabeth Ingham
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Private

The Cathedral Range covers about 3600h of forested ridges, open bush and rocky escarpments. It lies about 110 km north east of Melbourne. We'll camp at Ned's Gully, walking out from camp on Saturday and car pooling for Sunday's shorter walk. Both walks involve quite steep ascents and descents. On Saturday we'll visit Cathedral and Little Cathedral Peaks via Neds Saddle, returning by way of the Farmyard and a lovely walk up Little River Walking Track. Sunday's walk sees us climbing Sugar Loaf Peak via the Canyon Track and following the rocky ridge, detouring to South Jawbone Peak, before again passing through the Farmyard and down the steep gully to Jawbone Carpark.

I will be in the club on 7 Jan. or book by phone on \_\_\_\_\_

## Canoe: Goulburn River

<b>DATE</b>	Fri. 16 - Sun. 18 January
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy/Medium
<b>DISTANCE</b>	30 - 40 km
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	Quentin Tibballs
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Private
<b>RETURN TIME</b>	8 pm Sunday

The stretch of the Goulburn River we intend to canoe is between Yea and Seymour. The current can be quite strong and the water is usually cold even in mid-summer as it is taken from the lower levels of the Eildon Weir. (It is used for irrigation further downstream.)

There will be 2 days of canoeing (Sat. and Sun.) with car shuffles for each day to transport bulky goods so we will only need carry a daypack. There will be a communal bbq at our camp on Sat. night which will be at Caroline and Gerhard Braun's property at Trawool, our halfway point.

It is anticipated that the pace will be easy - about 20 km per day (4 hours with breaks) allowing time to appreciate the abundant birdlife and scenery as the river winds between the Cherry Tree and Switzerland Ranges to the north and uplands south. This length of the river can be tricky for a canoeist so it is desirable that participants have had some experience and be competent swimmers, however, if you would like to come and are unsure of your skills please get in touch with me so we can chat. (You may be placed in a canoe with someone experienced.)

I have been able to hire canoes from Nagambie Scouts at a cost to be agreed (it will be reasonable and will include jackets and paddles).

Please contact me if interested on

(Note that I will be in Tasmania 2 to 11 Jan.) Looking forward to hearing from you.

## Base Camp: Howqua River 8 Mile Flat

<b>DATE</b>	Fri. 23 - Mon. 26 January
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy/Medium
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	Halina Sarbinowski
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Private
<b>RETURN TIME</b>	7pm Monday night in Melb.

We'll be camping at Eight Mile Flat with a 200m walk from the cars to the campsite. This site has the advantage of a large waterhole and if we get there early enough and stake our claim we will definitely be on a winner.

Saturday's walk, 12 km, will involve a steep climb affording fantastic views but with the shorter distance will allow plenty of time, on return to camp, for a swim. This walk can be easily shortened or lengthened to take advantage of weather conditions. Nibbles to share on Saturday night.

Sunday's walk will follow the picturesque Howqua River, a longer but easier walk, allowing for plenty of swimming and also visits to huts in the area.

After packing up, Monday's walk will incorporate the popular Sheeppark Flat, The Tunnel and the river again. This will be a shorter walk giving plenty of time for a stop for afternoon tea or dinner on our way back to Melbourne.

## Pack Carry: Mitchell River National Park

<b>DATE</b>	Fri. 23 - Mon. 26 January
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy/Medium
<b>DISTANCE</b>	42 km
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	Bob Oxlade
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Private
<b>RETURN TIME</b>	9.30 pm Monday
<b>AREA</b>	East Gippsland

Although this walk could be done in 2 days, I considered if the weather was hot it would prevent many walkers from enjoying the river and views. So decided 3 days would enable more people to participate. The Mitchell River is said to be the only Victorian river to flow wild from its source in the alps to the sea. Friday night camp is at the delightful Bark Inn camping park and a safe place to leave cars.

Saturday: a 1 km bush track to the NP and we will view several features including the Aboriginal legendary Den of Nargun. Heading north upstream we follow the river and gorge with some spectacular scenery until leaving the track for our campsite at the river for Sat. and Sun. nights. Approx. 14 km today.

Sunday: with day packs we continue along the river to the site of former settlement Angusvale. A detour across the river to a ridge top track will return us to the river opposite our camp. Approx. 14 km today.

Monday: we return to our cars via Saturday's track but will be viewing the scenery from the north this time with its contrasting effects.

## Pack Carry: Mt. Cope-Mt. Jim-Mt. Fainter

<b>DATE</b>	Fri. 23 - Mon. 26 January
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy/Medium
<b>DISTANCE</b>	16 km per day, some with day packs
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	Max Casley
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Private (\$55 p.p.- transport)
<b>RETURN TIME</b>	Late Monday
<b>AREA</b>	Falls Creek - Mt. Beauty

The area listed on the program is still closed to walkers after the fires. Most routes down to the main valleys are closed. However, the replacement walk will be wonderful. It covers some of our favourite areas in the southern part of the Bogong High Plains.

We will start near Pretty Valley Pondage and walk to Cope Saddle Hut, and visit Mt. Cope, Ryders Yards and the falls on High Plains Creek. Our first camp will be near Mt. Jim or Mt. Bundara. Next morning I suggest we walk with day packs along the spur to Young's Hut. We then take our main packs to Tawonga Huts and follow the track around Mt. Niggerhead to camp on Little Plain where there are lovely camp sites. On Monday morning there will be a side trip with day packs to Mt. Fainters South and North. After lunch we will return via the Causeway to our cars. We will find a nice place to eat on the way home.

**Note change of route due to damage caused by last summer's fires.**

# QUESTIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE

This month Marika Jagow, General Committee Member, answers some questions.

**When did you join the club?**

August 1995.

**How did you first learn about the club?**

*Yellow Pages.*

**What made you decide to join the club?**

To meet new people who enjoy bushwalking and to make new friends and after the 3 qualifying walks I was hooked.

**What do you like about the club?**

At first I thought everyone was older than me, then I got to know people and I came to realise the club members shared my interests in the outdoors and environment and that was exactly what I was looking for. I also like the walks, the leaders and Wilkinson Lodge.

**Which club activities do you do?**

I like weekend walks. Carrying all I need in a pack gives a sense of freedom.

**How often do you walk?**

Ideally once per month.

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

Bogong High Plains – Victoria Alps. Switzerland is great too!

**When did you join the committee?**

2000.

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

I started as general committee, then Vice-President.

**What is your area of responsibility this year?**

General committee. I dabbled in a bit of track maintenance.

**What do you like about this job?**

I like being on duty, meeting new people - engaging them to walk with the club.

**What don't you like about this job?**

The insurance discussions are a challenge, as we are not experts in the field. Maybe we need a legal person on the committee.

**What made you first stand for committee?**

I decided you can't expect a club to operate for you if you don't chip in whenever you can.

**Will you stand for committee again next year?**

I am handing on the baton to someone else to have a go on committee.

**What other interests do you have besides bushwalking?**

I am also interested in the future of the environment, so I enjoy tree planting and my garden.

**What do you like to read?**

I like to read *The Age*, particularly people's letters to the editor and comments about what is happening in our society.

**What food/restaurants do you like?**

Asian restaurants are my favourite.

**Which films do you like?**

Anything that makes me laugh.

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## Free XC Skis

Having provided much pleasure and fun, these cross-country skis have been replaced with younger models. We'd like to find them a new home, as there's life left in them yet.

1. Karhu, 170 cm, NNN (New Nordic Norm) bindings
2. Karhu, 180 cm, 3-pin bindings
3. Morotto, 195 cm, 3-pin bindings

Please call **Derrick Brown** or **Gina Hopkins**

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## BUSH ETIQUETTE

**to protect our water resources as recommended in Tread Softly (VicWalk publication)**

We need to conserve our often scarce water resources in the bush and in popular, heavily used areas water quality can be degraded by careless practices. It is recommended you boil water for at least 3 minutes prior to consumption if you are using water from a grazing area, if there is low water flow or if there are a large number of campers. If you wash do so at least 50 metres away from streams and scatter the used washing water so that it will be filtered on its way back into the watercourse. Avoid using soap to wash dishes or billies. Sand, grass or a commercial scourer are ideal to help clean utensils.

**TRISH ELMORE**  
**VICE-PRESIDENT**

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# A VOLCANIC VARIETY WEEKEND

BASE CAMP: MT. ELEPHANT AND DRYSTONE WALLS: 24 - 26 OCT. 2003

We've got some amazing volcanic scenery in the Western District. On the last weekend in October, an intrepid band of Bushies and friends led by able Captain Sylvia set out to check it out.

You rarely get it all your own way and Huey tested us out on Saturday by sending us mist and rain and wind but we prevailed. The major departure from the planned script was having morning tea in a lovely warm and dry café in the main street of Camperdown instead of in the pouring rain. Top marks for the contingency plan Captain! The minor one was driving up Mt. Leura Lookout instead of slogging up it through long wet grass in the rain. Again top marks Captain!

Camperdown was our base. It is close to three wonderful examples of maars. These are wide circular crater structures with a raised rim formed of stuff ejected from a central eruption point. Two of them contained quite large lakes, Bullen Merri and Gnotuk. The third had Mt. Leura on its rim, towering over the town and another volcanic scoria cone, Mt. Sugarloaf, within it. After walking part way around Lake Bullen Merri in the rain, morning teeing in the warm and driving up Mt. Leura, it had stopped raining so we valiantly scaled Mt. Sugarloaf (through the long wet grass - they had had a lot of rain and growth at Camperdown) and down again. That earned us lunch finally. Boy she's a tough taskmaster is our captain.

That afternoon saw us out at Mt. Elephant, peering out through the misted windscreens at the cloud-shrouded mount. After finally rendezvousing with our local guide we climbed up it and what a magnificent mountain it is. It is the biggest extinct volcanic cone in Victoria rising nearly 300m above the plains and it has a magnificent crater which we were able to circumnavigate. The clouds had cleared by now and the views were magnificent. I was cursing myself for not having my camera with me. The meal at the pub that evening was a fitting finale to a partly wet, but great day.

Sunday saw us at Mt. Noorat near Terang to the west. Mt. Noorat is world famous as a scoria cone with a perfect crater 159m deep. The weather was great now and as we walked around the rim enjoying the expansive views in all directions we were also able to peer through binoculars down into the crater at a wedge-tailed eagle's nest complete with two chicks whilst the parents circled observantly high overhead. Heading east now, we drove on a back road through the tortured rocky landscape of the Stony Rises where lava flows have solidified in a jumble of outcrops, depressions and collapsed tunnels - really quite intriguing. Then it was the Floating Islands Reserve and on to Red Rock north of Colac where another scoria cone gave us superb views of crater lakes, salt lakes, more volcanoes and the vast Western Plains. One notable feature not yet mentioned was the interesting drystone walls, common wherever abundant basalt rocks litter the paddocks.

Thanks Sylvia for taking us on such a fun and interesting exploration of this fascinating volcanic part of Victoria. Group consisted of Sylvia (captain), Doug (our in-house geologist), Eve (from Finland), Canadian Nancy, Mick, Lance, Mark, Howard, Dianne, Jenny, Greta (our 91 year old special guest who climbed up to the crater rim of Mt. Noorat!) and me.



**JOPIE BODEGRAVEN**

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# SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS VICTORIA RANGE

PACK CARRY: 1 - 4 NOVEMBER 2003

Leader - Jopie Bodegraven, with Jenny Flood, Rod Novak, Alan Clarke, Howard Friend, Di McKinley, Alex Stirkul, Tim Stirkul, Gina Hopkins and me.

The weather wasn't too promising when we met at Buandik campsite Friday night – light rain and quite cool. Jenny and Jopie were already cooking tea. A little later, sitting under a tarp shelter, outside a bottle of wine, things looked better until, in the dark, I walked into one of those little posts, especially designed by someone to back your car into or to do damage to one's shins.

After a short car shuffle on Saturday morning, we were soon on the track towards the Fortress. However, not for us the easy way up, oh no, we turned off, following the track up Billywing gorge, getting scrubbiest as it went. In fact, the track disappeared. Deep Creek, flowing through this gorge, was flowing well, and may have been covering the track. Morning tea was at some waterfalls (unmarked) that bubbled and foamed as if someone had emptied bottles of washing-up liquid in them. We soon left the creek, swinging south west across country towards the Fortress. Here was the famous Grampians scrub, where long pants and/or good gaiters were essential. We had lunch on a rocky outcrop, looking at the Fortress looming up, a huge, sandstone lump. Later in the afternoon we reached the lower cliffs, following the cliff wall around until we met the track (the one that sensible people follow), and followed this to the cave at the south east end – there's another at the north-west end. The cave is really an overhang, with a few spaces for tents. A small group was already in residence, so we had to scratch around to find suitable flat spaces for our seven tents. (Too late we found a lovely dry, flat spot and a small cave suitable for sleeping). The evening proved to be rather wet, so we were grateful for the cover that the overhang provided. The other bushwalking group proved to be locals, who bemoaned the fact that they had no bushwalking club there! Gina and I spent the night listening to the irregular explosive noise of water dripping from the overhang onto the tent.

Sunday morning dawned cold and wet. Muffled up, with beanies, gloves and parkas, a sub-group set off to explore the Fortress. We climbed up, crossing the grain of the rocks, to an almost impossible rock that some climbed for magnificent views. With the weather brightening, we returned to camp, packed up and set off. An easy walk to the road, then through bush to a cliff edge for lunch and further magnificent views. It was here that we wondered whether the Grampians undulations could be described as meretricious? (Look it up!). Then it was on to... what else – a creek, that held promise of not only a waterfall, but a cave for tonight's camp. However, this creek turned out to be very scrubby, and the cave was elusive. With much map-scrutiny and head scratching we searched... and searched ... to no avail. Jopie had slept in this cave, earlier this year. Was he sure that it wasn't a dream, we asked. Had it included a cascading waterfall, a sandy campsite, perhaps some dancing girls? He assured us that it was real. We couldn't find it but fortunately we came across a suitable campsite for two tents that with a little clearing and squeezing in sufficed for six. A campfire warmed us, and gave us a cosy site, alongside the creek, nestling between the gorge walls. Next morning, we explored the cliffs behind the camp, climbing the wonderful Grampians rock, now dry and offering excellent grip. Di spotted a koala, in the usual inactive position, but in a cypress tree, instead of the usual gum. We could see down to the creek and imagine where the cave might be, but we couldn't be sure. We never found the cave. Maybe it was a dream...

Then it was more scrub bashing, somewhat easier today, and a short easy climb to the peak of Mt. Thackeray – where we lunched. The weather now was improving by the hour. Then a gentle walk down the track to the dirt road that we followed for several kilometres, avoiding a snake (an Eastern Brown?) basking in the afternoon sunshine, until afternoon tea at the cliff edge with great views over to Mt. William and the Major Mitchell plateau. Tim's question: 'How far away are those mountains?' elicited answers varying from 3 kilometres to 10+. It was 23 kilometres in a straight line to Mt. William!

We camped early in light bush, spread out in small clearings by a good creek. With a cup of tea in hand, relaxing in dappled sunlight, we watched the birds and chatted about the day. It was a good evening to sit around the fire with our boots off.

Next morning, bright and sunny, we found our way to the Red Cave – a huge cave with two holes through which we climbed out to the top. Then a kilometre or so to the Hollow Mountain (not the one at Mt. Staplyton). This is another huge cave, again with two entrances, and a way up to the top. It was obvious that people slept here. As we made our way back to Buandik camping ground we stepped around two shingleback lizards, that bravely stood their ground and showed us their blue tongues in defiant silent hisses.

Along the way we had seen many birds, including wedge-tailed eagles, peregrine falcons and red-headed gang-gang cockatoos that seemed to follow us around. The flowers and shrubs were at their best and we saw several orchids, including the sun, donkey, and wax-lip, various peas, mintbush and pinkbells.

We had time for ice-creams at Dunkeld before dinner at Craigs hotel at Ballarat. Thank you Jopie, for a very well-led walk, with all manner of variations and the best views in the Grampians. We'll find that cave another time!

**DERRICK BROWN**



## TRACK MAINTENANCE DAY / CONSERVATION PROJECT SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2003

The scheduled track maintenance day was held at Yellingbo Nature Reserve - a habitat restoration project for the endangered Helmeted Honeyeater - the endangered species emblem for Victoria. We joined with Conservation Volunteers Australia and a Japanese work experience ranger and planted 300 understorey seedlings. This was our first encounter with the 'Hamilton' planter, which is a magical hole digger, with no bending / back strain at all. On a sad note, it appears the colony of Helmeted Honeyeaters is on the decline. Hopefully, our contribution will assist the recovery program.

Thanks to Derrick Brown, Dianne McKinley, Howard Friend, Ralph Blake, Rosemary Cotter and Sandra Mutimer. Julia (CVA Trip Leader), 'Mikey' a work experience ranger from Japan and me are also in the photo.

**ROD NOVAK**

### NEW MEMBERS

OLGA ALIEVA

JOHN HOUGH

SARAH DEVINE

BILL DONALD

MICHELLE HEALEY

STUART HODGSON

### ADD TO MEMBERSHIP LIST

STEPHEN AXFORD

JEROEN KRAMER

CHRISTINE HUNTER

ANNE MATTHEY

CAROLE PATTERSON

### ALTERED ADDRESS / PHONE

DEIDRE & GEOFFREY S CHESTNEY

DARRELL ROLFE

# TRACKS, HUTS AND CONSERVATION

**Conservation Volunteers Australia** - This non-profit association needs bushwalker support for their mid-week, week-long, week-end, Saturday and/or Sunday projects. Habitat restoration, walking track maintenance, weed removal, and heritage work projects are available close to Melbourne or throughout country Victoria, Australia and even overseas. For further information, go to their website at [www.conservationvolunteers.com.au](http://www.conservationvolunteers.com.au)

**Australian Alps Walking Track** - VicWalk Conservation Committee met with Gill Anderson, Ranger in Charge of the AAWT. Discussion was on the AAWT track marker, with some bushwalkers believing the blue markers and small posts are difficult to see – especially in snow conditions.

**Cows in the Alpine National Park** - Hooray! The Alpine National Park has a temporary reprieve with cattle being excluded in bushfire areas with more than 80% burnt vegetation. However, not good enough. We want the cattle out completely and forever. Please write a letter to the Premier requesting this action. Also, the VNPA have released an A4 sized poster on this issue. It shows some dramatic pictures of the damage by cattle on the fragile alpine environment. Pick up your copy at club night.

**Otway Ranges** - A brief letter/submission to The Chief Executive Officer, Victorian Environmental Assessment Council, Level 3, 250 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne, VIC., 3002 (or via email: [veac@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:veac@dse.vic.gov.au) or fax: 9412 5153) is required asking for a National Park in the Otway Ranges. Please mention the following points:

- All public land in the study area (South of the Princes Highway and from Anglesea to Princetown) containing native vegetation should be included in a National Park or reserve. There is little native vegetation remaining in Western Victoria and the Otways contain remnant natural landscapes that are too precious to destroy.
- The National Park should encompass all significant natural landscapes such as: Cumberland River, Wye River, Wilddog Creek, Aire River, Sabine Falls, Lake Elizabeth, Riley's Ridge and Pennyroyal Forest.
- To protect endangered species such as the Powerful Owl and Spot Tailed Quoll, all old growth habitat trees, rainforests and sites of significance need to be within National Park boundaries.
- All sections of the newly created National Park should be substantially linked in order to preserve wildlife habitats and to avoid fragmentation.
- Mention also support for the Trans Otway Walking Track from Lorne to Apollo Bay, the route of which encompasses rarely seen waterfalls, untouched rivers, historic sites and magnificent forests. This track if linked to the Surf Coast Walk and the Great Ocean Walk has the potential to become one of the world's great walks.

*Deadline: submissions due by 5 December 2003.*

**ROD NOVAK, CLUB DELEGATE**  
**VICWALK CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

## MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Life Members	10
Honorary Members	10
Single Memberships	355
Family Memberships	94 (= 2 x 47)
Total Membership	469
This Time Last Year	463

**PETER HAVLICEK**  
**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

## ACCOUNTS

<b>September 2003</b>		<b>\$</b>
Opening Balance		48,723.76
Income		2,990.66
Expenditure		3,183.08
Closing Balance		48,531.34

<b>October 2003</b>		<b>\$</b>
Opening Balance		48,531.34
Income		3,709.23
Expenditure		4,559.85
Closing Balance		47,680.72

## CLUBROOMS DUTY ROSTER

Wed. 10 December: W Cone and H Friend  
Wed. 17 December: M Jagow and D Laing\*  
Wed. 7 January: V Scrivenger and S Watson

\*J Palich, Treasurer present

<b>November 2003</b>		<b>\$</b>
Opening Balance		47,680.72
Income		3,851.21
Expenditure		4,094.00
Closing Balance		47,437.63

## NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 5 January at 7 pm in the clubrooms

**JAN PALICH**  
**TREASURER**

## VicWalk News

The monthly magazine of the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs has lots of information on bushwalking, the bushwalking clubs and Federation projects. If you would like to access a free electronic copy, then go to <http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/index.html> and register for the bushwalkers' forum. Alternatively, there is a link at <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~vicwalk>

## IT Support for VicWalk

Can any Bushie help? VicWalk and its administration officer would like to be able to tap into the IT skills of VicWalk members. The office pc is using a Microsoft XP operating system, the suite in Microsoft Office for documents, Eudora Pro for email and a "special" database program (developed by Bill Metzthen) for membership data and mailing lists.

Generally the computer system is hassle free but just occasionally some expert assistance is required. At times this help might require a visit to the office if assistance cannot be given over the phone. If you can help in this area please contact Jenny Sykes in the VicWalk office.

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## ALTERATION TO PARTICULARS

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.....

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

Email .....

### Subscription Fees:

**Ordinary** – single membership \$45.00

**Concession** – single membership \$30.00 (proof required)

**Family/Couple** - membership \$70.00

**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**