



THE NEWS OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

EDITION 623

JANUARY 2003

60 CENTS

Happy New Year to All!



Film Night

Friday 31 January

7.30 pm, Clubrooms

Our classic Australian film on the big screen this month will be *For The Term of His Natural Life*.

Adapted from Marcus Clarke's famous mid-Victorian novel about a young aristocrat who is transported to Van Dieman's land for a crime he did not commit, the film closely follows the book.

Made in 1927, it cost 60,000 pounds to make, which far exceeded that of any Australian movie to that time. This print, which incorporates a musical sound track, comes from the National Film Archive.

We shall also be screening a short film entitled *Gordon Splits* featuring Peter Dombrovskis, the famous wilderness photographer as he explores two spectacular gorges on Tasmania's Gordon River. He talks about his experiences and the threat of flooding.

A light supper will be served at interval.

At the end of the evening those attending will be invited to suggest future titles to screen at these sessions.

No need to book - just turn up on the night!

Stuart Hodgson

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 26 February

8.00 pm, Trades Hall,

Cnr of Lygon & Victoria Streets, Carlton

Come along and cast your vote (members).
Non-members also welcome to attend but may not vote.
New committee to be installed.

(All committee positions become vacant in February.)

**A form for the nomination of officers
and committee members is on page 11.)**

Congratulations

***Paul Beers,
Geoff Mattingley,
Rod Novak***

***and
Tracey Jamieson***

Winners of the Leaders' Draw
held at our Christmas party on 18 December 2002!
Paul Beers, Geoff Mattingley and Rod Novak
each won a \$50 spending voucher
kindly supplied by Bogong Equipment,
374 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne
and Tracey Jamieson won a radio
generously donated by Sak-Hong Wan.



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.
& is published monthly.
Editor: Vicki Scrivenger.

Walk previews & reviews, articles, poems, news items,
photographs of club events, reports of new gear,
book reviews, letters "to the Editor", advertisements, etc.
are always welcome.

The Editor reserves the right to edit contributions
where space, clarity or propriety dictate
& to maintain editorial consistency.

Contributions to *The News* may be sent to the Editor by:
★ Emailing to:
★ Placing diskette or hand written material
in the "Red Box" in the clubrooms
★ Posting diskette or hand written material to either:
The Editor, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.,
PO Box 1751Q, Melbourne, Vic., 3001
or V. Scrivenger, *News* Editor,

Electronic mail is preferred.

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

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

Advertising Rates (Artwork Ready) 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

FROM THE WALKS SECRETARY

Happy new year to everyone! Hope you all had a great Christmas break and are looking forward to walking off the plum pudding and other excesses. There are many good walks and activities to tempt you out and into the bush on the Summer Walks Programme. Also out with this *News* is the Autumn Walks Programme for March, April and May.

For the first few months of 2003 we still face a strong risk of bushfires here in Victoria. Sunday walk leaders and walkers please note that if we have a **total fire ban** on a day that the programmed walk is in a high fire-risk area then the walk may have to be re-located to another area, usually along the coast. So could all the Sunday walk leaders please check where they are walking and if necessary prepare themselves for an alternative walk at short notice. I have some suggestions and walk notes for these alternative walks. Please contact me if you would like more information. Weekend walks may also be impacted and may be re-located or postponed at the leader's discretion. We must all be extra careful with stoves and campfires.

In the autumn months we have three long weekends – **Labour Day, Easter and Anzac Day**. Time to try out a weekend pack carry – Doug Pocock is leading an *Introduction to Pack Carry* trip on the Bogong High Plains next month. Why not give it a go? If you need some equipment, we can help with that. Weekend walks are a great way to unwind and relax. If you're only interested in the day walks, we have tried to come up with a couple of new destinations this time. Hopefully, there's something for everyone.

Safe and happy walking in 2003!

WALKS STATISTICS

November '02	Trips	People	Average	Nov '01
Sunday Bus	4	135	34	25
Other day	3	46	15	12.5
Pack Carry	4	33	8	8
Base Camp	2	32	16	9
Cycle	1	15	15	-
Lodge	1	4	4	6
Cancelled	-			1
Total	15	265	-	192 / 14

GINA HOPKINS

THANK YOU

I would like to thank Maureen Hurley, Sue Upton, Rod Novak, Alister Rowe and Doug Pocock for leading one of the monthly Dandenongs Explorer walks in 2002. I am very grateful for their help.

In 2003 I hope to have more walks which are more readily accessible by public transport.

WARREN BAKER
CO-ORDINATOR
DANDENONGS EXPLORER WALKS

DAY ACTIVITIES IN JANUARY/FEBRUARY



Sunday Bus: Breamlea - Ocean Grove

DATE Sunday 26 January
STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE Approx. 13 and 16 km
LEADER(S) Peter McGrath and Cherie Horne
TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 9.00 am
RETURN TIME Approx. 7.00 pm
MAP REFERENCE UBD, Melway & tourist info. notes

This walk is in three sections. The Easy Walk will commence at Bell's Beach and walk to Breamlea. The Easy/Medium Walk will walk from Point Addis to Bell's Beach before following the same path as the Easy Walk.

Point Addis, the start of the Easy/Medium Walk, offers one of the best views at the beginning of a walk. From there, the Walk will proceed via a cliff-top walk to Bell's Beach. There are many fine views to be enjoyed on this section.

Bell's Beach is the home of the Australian surfing championships. It was also the location for the final scene of the movie "Point Break" which starred Martin Sheen(?). The beach is a genuine Australian icon, and should not be missed.

The walk from Torquay to Breamlea offered some of the best beaches we, your leaders for the day, had seen in a long time. There was much talk about "Oh I wish I had my bathers" and of episodes of "Sea-change". The beaches were so good, I felt like selling my house at Mornington, and transporting myself to the area, to experience what so many people talk about.



Cycle Trip: Capital City Trail

DATE Saturday 1 February
STANDARD Easy
LEADER(S) Jan Palich
TRANSPORT Private

Please phone Jan Palich on about this day of cycling.



Sunday Bus: Starling Gap - The Bump

DATE Sunday 2 February
STANDARD Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCE Approx. 15 and 17 km
LEADER(S) Ralph Clayton and Tracey Jamieson
TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 9.00 am
RETURN TIME Approx. 6.30 pm

This walk is in the Powelltown area. It is through forest country which is very pretty, especially if the sun is shining. The walks are basically down hill, following narrow tracks, with a number of log bridges spanning the creeks.

The walk has not been previewed yet (it will be) but both leaders did the walk in June 2001. At that time it was quite wet and muddy, the log crossings were mossy and slippery and leeches were about. However, it is expected to be a different walk this time with the creeks probably dry, the logs certainly dry, and the snakes warming themselves in the sunshine.

Even if the weather is hot, it should be cooler here as we are at a higher altitude and mainly under a canopy of trees. Nevertheless, make sure you bring lots of water and a hat.

Speak to the leaders in the clubrooms when you book on the walk if you want more information as the preview will have been done by then.



Sunday Bus: Inverloch - Cape Patterson

DATE Sunday 9 February
STANDARD Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE Approx. 14 and 18 km
LEADER(S) Peter McGrath & Halina Sarbinowski
TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 8.30 am
RETURN TIME Approx. 7.00 pm
AREA Phillip Island/Gippsland

Are lovely unspoilt beaches your thing? Do you love seabirds and waves crashing over rocks. If you do, this is the right walk for you.

The Easy Walk is set to commence at Williamsons Beach and the Easy/Medium at the Powlett River. At this stage, both walks are set to finish at Cape Patterson, although this may change as we are yet to finalise bus entry, and turning arrangements, at each of our intended drop offs and pick ups.

The walk is not the advertised walk, as this proved undoable. However, you won't be disappointed with the walks we have arranged for you.

N.B. 8.30 am start.



Sunday Bus: Bostock Reservoir - Ballan

DATE Sunday 16 February
STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE Approx. 14 & 17 km
LEADER(S) Jean Woodger and Vik Dunis
TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 9.00 am
RETURN TIME Approx. 6.30 pm

Bostock Reservoir is part of the Moorabool water supply system for Geelong. It is in a picturesque setting surrounded by 100 hectares of pine trees. The Moorabool is a big river, with branches to the east and west.

We shall walk along one section of the East Moorabool, which is a different area from other walks mentioned in our current program. For bird watchers, bird life along the river is a delight. We sat silently and were soon visited by many birds, including fairy wrens and red-browed firetails.

Starting at the reservoir, we'll do a 3 km circuit, passing the Ballan mineral springs on the way. Unfortunately on the preview we found the springs to be dry, and the reservoir level to be very low. However, the Moorabool always has water in it, as does the creek, beside which we had a very close encounter with a koala - there are quite a few to be seen in this area, but generally you have to look carefully. Back at the reservoir, we'll walk along the shore line, or through a pine forest if we need more shade. From here on, it's bush tracks and open forest. *continued over page*

The easy/medium group will follow the course of the Moora-bool, where it may be necessary to cross or climb higher in order to negotiate some of the steep sides. A final crossing and a walk through some more pines will lead back to the bus. The easy group will head through open bush to follow a short section of the river back to the spillway.

Be sure to bring plenty of water, hat and sunscreen - it could be very hot, and if it's not, be thankful if it rains!



**Wednesday Walk:
Dandenong Traverse, Kalorama**

DATE Wednesday 19 February
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE Approx. 15 km
LEADER(S) Susan Maughan
TRANSPORT Private or Train
 (will pick up from station)
AREA Dandenong Ranges
MAP REFERENCE Melway p. 66, 83 & 84

1999 Susan – “Jerry, we should organise a walk across the Dandenongs”.
 Jerry – “We could have morning tea at my place and afternoon tea in Ferntree Gully”.
 2000 Jerry – “Must get round to doing that walk”.
 2001 Susan – “Remember talking about our grand traverse?”
 2002 Jerry – “I wonder if we’ll ever get round to doing our Dandenongs walk, it was a good idea”.
 2003 It’s happening – The Dandenongs Traverse:
 Commencing in Mt. Dandenong, at the Arboretum, we’ll

descend past the TV towers, skirt around Doongalla Forest, cross the Basin-Olinda Road, wiggle past Sassafras, bush-bash up to the Mountain Hwy, bypass One Tree Hill, continue downhill to Ferntree Gully in time for afternoon tea. Lots of shade, minimal climbing. Yes, a car shuffle is necessary, so you must phone to book and get directions.

Alternative suggestion in case of total fire ban: Spend the day at the beautiful outdoor pool in Belgrave (p. 84 F11).



**Dandenongs Explorer:
Sherbrooke Forest**

DATE Saturday 22 February
STANDARD Easy
LEADER(S) Warren Baker
TRANSPORT Private

Please phone Warren Baker on about this walk.



**Sunday Bus: Blowhard Spur,
Fraser National Park**

DATE Sunday 23 February
STANDARD Easy/Medium and Medium
LEADER(S) Lloyd Young and Alan Miller
TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 8.30 am

Please talk with the leaders in the club about these walks.

N.B. 8.30 am start.

TALK TO THE EXPERTS

- RIGHT GEAR
- RIGHT ADVICE
- RIGHT PRICE



EQUIPMENT
bogong

Bogong people walk - a lot, here and overseas. We really use the gear we sell. We talk to hundreds of people each week about their walking and their gear. What we learn we pass on to you.

So if you want your equipment to best match your needs and budget, seek out the specialists - come talk walking with Bogong people.



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WEEKEND ACTIVITIES IN JANUARY/FEBRUARY



Canoe Trip: Barmah Forest (Murray River)

DATE Australia Day Long Weekend:
Friday 24 - Monday 27 January
STANDARD Easy (suitable for beginners)
LEADER(S) George Zamora
TRANSPORT Private

Come and explore with me the most beautiful scenery that the Barmah Forest Park has to offer. On Fri. night we will camp at Morgan Beach (nice swimming beach). On Sat. morning we start our paddle downstream to Barmah township. The next two nights we will camp along the river, wherever we see a nice beach (plenty on this trip) and should arrive at Barmah township on Monday afternoon after smooth water paddling all the way.

For those people who has been on previous canoeing trips, these areas are completely different to other parts of the Murray River, the river in the Barmah Forest Park has lower banks, so not big walls but plenty of beautiful sandy beaches. You will see magnificent river red gums (the park contains the largest natural red gum forest in the world). You also will see grey kangaroos and joeys, ducks and other type of birds (more than 200 bird species inhabit the park), beautiful campsites, in short, a trip to remember. Don't forget to bring your camera. It will be an easy trip with lots of swim stops, lunch & afternoon breaks. Warning: it will be hot - old pyjamas, plenty of 15+ sun cream & a hat.

We will hire the canoes at Barmah. The two person Canadian canoes are supplied with life jackets & compasses. A non-refundable deposit of \$20 per person is required for canoe allocation as this time of the year is the busiest.

As a lot people like to come on this canoe trip you must book early. Please book at the clubrooms or

On Sunday we shall return to the cars with maybe a couple of side trips, getting back at a reasonable time to leave for home. Merilyn led a walk similar to this a couple of years ago which inspired me to lead this one.

If you are interested in trying this walk talk to me in club-rooms & remember the club has equipment for hire for this type of trip.



Base Camp: Lake Catani, Mt. Buffalo National Park

DATE Friday 14 - Sunday 16 February
STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADER(S) Rod Novak
TRANSPORT Private
MAP REFERENCE Eurobin & VNPA guidebook

Mount Buffalo is one of Victoria's oldest national parks being established in 1898. It is one of my favourite areas and has lots of interesting rock formations and great walks along the plateau.

We will be camping at the Lake Catani campground so pack your bathers for a swim in the lake. Bring your base camp equipment, a gourmet entrée to share with the group, your own catering for 2 days, sun protection (hat, cream, sun glasses) and day walk equipment including 2 water bottles for the hot weather (carry 2 litres).

See the leader on club night on Wed. 5 and/or 12 February for an information sheet and campsite directions / arrangements. Anticipated costs are \$10 per person camping fee, \$55 per person for car transport; and a group dinner on the way home - allow \$20 for this. Note: limit of 12 people.



Pack Carry: Bogong High Plains - Timms Lookout

DATE Friday 7 - Sunday 9 February
STANDARD Easy - suitable for beginners
DISTANCE Approx. 20 km
LEADER(S) Doug Pocock
TRANSPORT Private
AREA North-east Alps
MAP REFERENCE Bogong High Plains 1:50,000

Pack carrying trips are the ultimate in freedom in bush-walking. There is great joy in feeling self sufficient and being able to get to areas beyond the reach of day walkers.

This walk is designed to introduce people to weekend walking in an easy manner. Leaving the cars at 9.30 am we will walk 10 km to our camp spot arriving for lunch. If the weather is fine we will camp on the ridge with stunning views from the tent door. If not so fine we will camp a bit lower in the shelter of the snow gums.

In the afternoon there may be a walk organised towards Spion Kopje or people can just do their own thing (eg. laze around enjoying the views). Bring some nibbles to share before dinner.



Pack Carry: The Crinoline - Caledonia R

DATE Friday 21 - Sunday 23 February
STANDARD Medium
LEADER(S) Mike Low
TRANSPORT Private

Please phone Mike Low on about this pack carry.



Base Camp: Wilson's Promontory in a Day

DATE Fri. 28 February - Sun. 2 March
STANDARD Hard (45 km on Sat.)
LEADER(S) Merilyn Whimpey
TRANSPORT Private

The usual - camp at Tidal River, walk up to Oberon Car Park, Sealers' Cove, Refuge Cove, Waterloo Bay, across the Prom to Oberon Bay, Little Oberon Bay, Norman Bay and back to Tidal River. Stop at all the beaches for a swim (bathers optional).

Sunday nothing planned - I usually spend Sunday recovering, though sometimes people like to go for less challenging walks.

LAKE DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK, ENGLAND

OCTOBER 2002

I can highly recommend an independent two-week walking holiday in the Lake District National Park. This beautiful area is located in the north-west of England, and has very good access by train and a great bus service perfect for 'ramblers'. The Lake District is very popular with tourists and I suggest you go to the less visited northern and western areas for the best walks. The busy tourist season is the European summer and beyond, usually from May to September. I went in early October when it is slightly less busy! and enjoyed a very unusual sunny and warm autumn.

I flew into Manchester International Airport and then spent two days walking around the central city area recovering from the jet lag. Manchester is an old Industrial Revolution town with lots of heritage museums and has recently been beautified for the Commonwealth Games. There is a direct train service from Manchester to Windermere (2 hours) which is located at the southern end of the Lake District. Windermere is a tourist town on the lake of the same name and was very crowded with tourist buses, so I went on to Ambleside, then to Keswick, Borrowdale, Buttermere, Grasmere and returned from Coniston.

The currency exchange was really bad with one Aussie dollar returning 33 pence. As accommodation and eating out was going to be so expensive, I decided to stay at Youth Hostels. Most of these were stately manor houses, and were very comfortable, with lots of ambience, and realistically priced from 11 to 18 pounds per night [\$33 - \$54 for a dorm. bed]. The Youth Hostels were fantastic for local knowledge and all were competing with each other for the best meals reputation. Each hostel provided a full cooked breakfast at three pounds and fifty p. and this would last you all day. Dinner was only five pounds (\$15) and you would struggle through three full courses eg. home made soup, main course and a desert such as spotted dick! (pudding with currants). Many hostels have a table licence for BYO grog.

You can walk from one hostel to the next – choosing an easy ramble along a lake shore or the more challenging up and over the mountain top routes. The Cumbrian mountains are not that high - all under 1000 metres – but do have fantastic views of the many lakes, villages and the surrounding mountains. There are excellent maps of 1:25,000 scale which show all the footpaths, public rights of way and bridle paths.

It's really a walkers paradise but do not expect any "bush" as most of the walks are on national trust land which run highland sheep farms. My favourite villages were Keswick (with great outdoor equipment shops) and located on the Derwentwater (of Derwent pencils fame) and Coniston. Coniston village has a great pub brewery worth visiting at the end of a long day's ramble. My favourite walks were Skidaw, Hevellyn (Striding Edge), Great Gable, Langdale Pikes and the Old Man of Coniston. Feel free to ask me for more details (I have the maps, train and bus timetables too!).

ROD NOVAK

DID YOU KNOW...?

Someone asked me recently if our current clubrooms had been our longest home. I looked up the records for interest.

1945 - 1967:	Room 110, VRI building	22 years
1967 - 1970:	161 Flinders Lane	3 years
1970 - 1981:	Hosier Lane	11 years
1981 - 1988:	Bushgear, Lt. Bourke Street	9 years
1988 - :	MacKenzie Street	14 years

DOUG POCOCK

BOOK REVIEW

Victoria's Box-Ironbark Country – A Field Guide by Malcolm and Jane Calder (\$29.95).

The Victorian National Parks Association have published this new title in their popular field book series. This is a popular area for Sunday bus trips, Wednesday walks and weekend base camps.

I highly recommend this new guide.

ROD NOVAK

LILYDALE TO WARBURTON (AND RETURN) BIKE RIDE

16 - 17 NOVEMBER 2002

The ride began at the Lilydale railway station where rail & car travelers gathered at 9.30 am for the ride through the town to the rail-trail. A warm day and an excellent track made for a pleasant ride up to Mt. Evelyn then on to Doug Pocock's nursery at Wandin for morning tea featuring Jan's delicious lamingtons! Lunch further down the trail at a pleasant country spot beside a creek.

The trip continued on through Launching Place and a beautiful countryside to the Lodge in the caravan park at Warburton. A 2 km walk into town for an enjoyable meal and evening at the *Wild Thyme* restaurant followed by a pleasant walk along the Yarra river in the dark back to a comfortable night at the Lodge.

The first day was obviously a warm up as the pace was a "cracker" on the return trip on day 2. A morning stop at a market at Launching Place on the way to an early lunch at Woori Yallock and a first class bakery. After lunch a solid gradient up to Doug's place for a cuppa prior to the final climb to Mt. Evelyn and the finish at Lilydale. An unfortunate accident at the departure from Doug's place saw a nasty gash and bruising to the leg of first-time visitor Lorraine Roche (ex Brisbane working in Melbourne).

The 16 (including 6 visitors) had an enjoyable weekend. Thanks to Jan Palich for her planning and leadership.

GEOFF HUGHES

THE CAPITAL CITY TRAIL MOONEE PONDS CREEK / DRAIN SECTION AND AROUND DOCKLANDS

This is an area I regularly ride my bike along and, surprisingly, the area close to Macaulay Station is an area where the growth of Pacific Black Duck and Chestnut Teal ducklings can provide a point of interest as well as other water birds that can be sighted along the way.

I also ride around the Docklands area because I'm interested in the many changes that are going on there and how quickly they are occurring. The Moonee Ponds Creek bike track now crosses Footscray Road and continues along the Moonee Ponds Creek to Victoria Dock with the warehouses and sheds along there being demolished, no doubt in readiness for future development. At the moment, crossing the Yarra is not easy and involves waiting for a considerable amount of time at a series of lights in a busy road junction but there are plans for the disused Webb Dock Rail Bridge to become a pedestrian and cycle bridge and, possibly, for it to be ready for use by the end of 2002. The design for this has been described as a tunnel of steel lattice inspired by the basket-weave eel traps used by aborigines.

I would suggest that in the Docklands area people keep an eye out for New Quay, Victoria Harbour, the National Bank headquarters, the Collins Street extension and the artwork of Bunjil the eagle, the Wurunderji people's creator spirit but since I haven't been there for a little while, no doubt, there will be other changes to check out. Like it or not, it's interesting to keep an eye on.

SANDRA MUTIMER

CONCRETE SKIING

Missing the feeling of swooshing down the slopes this time of the year? Melbourne has an extensive network of rollerblade friendly tracks that provide possible long tours of the city environs. A few practice tries on your new or rented blades and you could be liberated from the drudgery of walking on hard surfaces and instead be gliding effortlessly on flat trails around Melbourne.

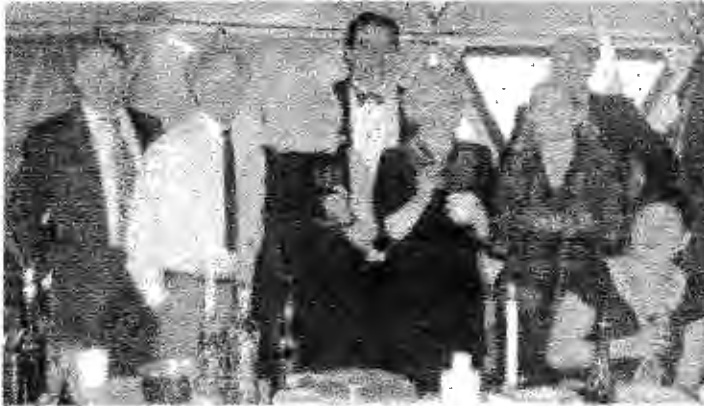
Lessons can be had for skill improvement. As you gain confidence and skill with practice small slopes can be mastered and slalomed or vedelled. Long tours of 50-60 km can be made in 4 hours for those fit enough or a day can be made of it with plentiful latte stops along the way. Small groups of friends and maybe tolerant cycling friends are an ideal way of filling in a Saturday or other non-walking day.

So think about getting a group of friends interested in blading and have a fun day but beware concrete is a lot harder and less forgiving than snow so safety gear (pads) should be worn. You could be enjoying the summer freedom of swooshing along tracks and maybe even getting a great cardio workout against a stiff breeze.

MARK TISCHLER

MBW FORMAL DINNER MT. FEATHERTOP PACK CARRY 29 NOVEMBER - 1 DECEMBER 2002

Nine party goers braved dismal wind and rain trekking across both The Razorback and North West Spur trails to reach MUMC Hut by early Sat. afternoon, Nov 30th. Formal festivities began at 6pm, and a dazzling array of fine foods, wines and delightfully colourful female attire presented themselves. The night was a great success and a lot of fun. Prizes were awarded for best dressed lady and gent and a quiz on the MBW website.



The group, minus photographer, Mark Heath, before festivities really got underway



Nguyem Dzung, winner of the ladies best dressed prize. Caught here in her fleecy, shortly before revealing her winning ensemble of a full indian print, skirt topped with a black, scoop-necked top. Max Casley is the interested onlooker.



Lance Mobbs, winner of the gent's best dressed prize. Caught here in a rare moment with collar & tie, seriously lobbying Deb Henry shortly before taking out the award.



But mine's smaller! Quiz winners Mark Heath, Val Baird and Allan Clark - proudly showing off their Chuppa Chup prizes. Looks like Allan's not convinced his is regulation size!



Group revellers tuck into the gourmet courses - beef curry with rice & condiments, turkey breasts, baked snapper, fresh prawn coleslaw, cheeses, and yummy desserts & cakes, including Deb's spectacular chocolate ripple cake made on the premises, with fresh whipped cream...



... and not forgetting the fine wines, liqueurs and port.

PAUL BEERS

LOST BUSHWALKER

SUNDAY BUS WALK

DECEMBER 2002

On a recent Sunday Bus walk, one of our group 'went missing' and we found ourselves putting into practice some of the procedures which we have been taught for just such a situation. The following could be of interest.

At lunch time we found a big log for us all to sit on. There was time to eat lunch, and to visit a nearby scenic viewing point, which we did in groups of two or three. There are two well signposted tracks to this, which converge further down to become a single track. Time to leave, but one pack remained ownerless, resting against the log. We assumed someone had popped behind a tree, but the leader remembered having seen this person going off for that purpose at least half an hour earlier. We looked and called in that direction, but to no avail. After discussions with the leader, we then checked the tracks to the viewing point, with two people on each track, and two others in each direction along the road, to return in ten minutes. No sign of anyone.

The leader rang our bus driver, but had to leave a message, asking him to inform a contact of the situation, also giving our grid reference, but could not be sure that he would pick up the message. Six of us were organised to do a line search, sweeping through the area where person was last seen. We endeavoured to stay in line, and keep people each side in sight, with one of the experienced walkers spreading further down and along the creek. Some of the bush here was almost impenetrable, and it was hard going in some spots. We all finally emerged at a road, and returned to base where the rest of the group was waiting. It was now nearly 3 pm, and we were discussing our next course of action. We had been reluctant to call emergency services needlessly, but knew we could not leave that action too late.

At this point the other group appeared and said they had seen a ranger not long before. We fortunately found the phone number to the ranger's office on an Outdoor Leisure Map, so rang and gave details and description of missing person, and our whereabouts. Ten to fifteen minutes later, two rangers in separate well-equipped vehicles appeared from either direction. One of them filled out a report on who we were and what had happened so far. He felt that the two of them together with some of our experienced walkers could continue the search before calling the police. We told him about our bus, and he suggested the other ranger would drive a couple of us there, showing us the route by which we could return with the bus. It was a long way round, but it meant we could all be together with some warmth and shelter. Two of us hopped in with map, and noted route carefully. Just as we arrived at the bus, the ranger received a call to say that missing person had been found and was at police station. We collected our once missing/now found person on the way back, with great relief all round. It was now after 4 pm, and there was a chill in the air as the sun disappeared.

Our found person had indeed 'gone behind a tree', had become totally disorientated, called out several times, but no-one heard. Instead of heading back towards us as they thought, went in opposite direction until arriving at farmland, and eventually a house, and was driven to police station. The police and rangers made contact, and we all agreed it was a happy ending. Congratulations to our leader, who organised us all so competently.

JEAN WOODGER

P.S. **Parks Victoria** phone no. is: 131 963 (24 hours). Read **Quentin's Quiz** in *The News* (Dec. 2002).

NEW MEMBERS

MICHELLE HEALEY

TONY STEVENSON

JOYCE WANG

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Life Members	10
Honorary Members	10
Single Memberships	342
Family Memberships	104 (= 2 x 52)
Total Membership	466
This Time Last Year	466

PETER HAVLICEK
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

ALTERED ADDRESS/PHONE NO.

SYLVIA FORD

DZUNG NGUYEN

CLUBROOMS DUTY ROSTER

8 Jan.*: W Cone & V Scrivenger 15 Jan.: T Elmore & C Lee
22 Jan.*: P Beers & M Jagow 29 Jan.*: C Criddle & Q Tibballs
5 Feb.*: P Cresswell & D Henry

*J Palich, Treasurer present.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 3 February at 7.00 pm in the clubrooms.

Come to Karijini

in the Pilbara

Our Karijini trips take you into some of the most spectacular gorge country in Australia.

We show you far more than any one else will ever do.

Come in April and enjoy flowing creeks and warm pools.

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Come anytime and walk through a timeless landscape where you camp next to beautiful pools and visit Aboriginal art sites which will remain forever unknown to 4WD tourists.

Each trip consists of two walks. You can choose either or both. Fresh supplies come in at the end of the first. For an impartial opinion, go to the trip report section on our website and see what one of our clients wrote about our last trip.

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

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

TRACKS, HUTS AND CONSERVATION



Happy new year to all from your correspondent! After a merry Christmas, it's time to focus on our new year's resolutions. Hopefully there is room on the wish list to preserve and protect our fantastic walking areas here in Victoria. And the question is 'What can I do to help and further enhance my walking experiences?' My response is to get more involved with this wonderful activity of bushwalking. Yes, it is a great social event and a walk in the bush certainly helps our fitness. But you can do more! For example, you can volunteer and help on a track maintenance day, or help to plant seedlings on a tree-planting weekend. We schedule these popular activities each year and many hands make for light work and more fun. Perhaps you could purchase a field study guide to learn more about the butterflies, birds, trees and our superb wildflowers. Bring it along on the next day trip or base camp.

Also, you could join one of the organisations that try to preserve and protect our natural areas, which are also our prime walking areas. There is the Australian Conservation Foundation at www.acfonline.com.au, the Victorian National Parks Association at www.vnpa.org.au, The Wilderness Society on 1800 030 641, Bird Observers Club at www.birdobservers.org.au, Otway Ranges Environment Network at www.oren.org.au, Kosciuszko Huts Association, etc. You could even also consider the Trust for Nature and the Bush Heritage Fund. Ask me for details. Enjoy your walking in the bush in 2003!

ROD NOVAK
CLUB DELEGATE
VICWALK CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Walks Secretary, Assistant Walks Secretary, Membership Secretary, Social Secretary, Wilkinson Lodge Manager, *News* Editor or General Committee

Nomination

Name of Nominee..... Position.....

Proposed by..... Seconded by.....

Acceptance of Nomination

I,.....agree to stand for this position.

Signature of Nominee..... Date.....

Enter names & position as appropriate & return to:
The Secretary, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc., GPO Box 1751Q, Melbourne, 3001.

JANUARY 2003

<p>Sun 5 8:30 am start Phantom Falls, Lorne</p> <p>10 – 12 Base camp: Avon River</p> <p>Sun 12 Moorabool River Gorge & Lilo Derby</p> <p>Wed 15 Fryers State Forest, Malmsbury</p> <p>17 – 19 Cycle base camp: Myrtleford Rail Trail</p> <p>Sun 19 Karratha – Lyonsville Spring</p> <p>24 – 27 Base camp: Bryces Gorge</p> <p>24 – 27 Pack carry: Mt Clear – Mt McDonald</p> <p>24 – 27 Pack carry: Long Spur – Mt Wills</p> <p>24 – 27 Canoe: Murray River</p> <p>Sun 26 Breamlea – Ocean Grove</p>	<p>BUS E & M John Coe & Bill Donald</p> <p>Private Easy Fiona Gallery</p> <p>BUS E/M & M Nick Dow & ChesVolpato</p> <p>Bludge & Sylvia Ford</p> <p>Private E/M Geoff Mattingley</p> <p>Private Easy Di McKinley & Howard Friend</p> <p>BUS E & M Hans Edlinger & Maureen Peck</p> <p>Private E/M Bob Steel</p> <p>Private Medium Jopie Bodegraven</p> <p>Private Medium Max Casley</p> <p>Private Easy George Zamora</p> <p>BUS E & E/M Peter McGrath & Cherie Horne</p>	<p>#</p> <p></p> <p>#</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>#</p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>*</p> <p>#</p>
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ALTERATION TO PARTICULARS

Name (new)	Name (old)
Address
.....
Phone h)..... w).....	h)..... w)
Email	

Subscription Fees: **Ordinary** – single membership \$35.00 **Concession** – single membership \$24.00 (proof required)
 Family/Couple -membership \$50.00 **Concession** – couple \$28.00 (proof required)
 New members joining on/after 1 October 2002 \$21.00 less visitor fees *The News* – \$18.00

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