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THE NEWS OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

EDITION 629

JULY 2003

PP No. 338888/00016

Motown and Atlantic Soul Special

Saturday 12 July

***8 pm, Paramount Cinema Club
43 Melville Road, Brunswick***

Details in June *News*. Call Sara Watson, Social Secretary
on for table bookings.



Special Buying Night

Tuesday 15 July

***6 - 9 pm, The Wilderness Shop
969 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill***

20% off regular prices & 5% off sale items! Snacks & drinks!

Wine and Cheese Evening

Wednesday 23 July

7 - 9 pm, Clubrooms

Adventures in the High Country

Wednesday 13 August

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

Congratulations Bill Metzenth:

Bushwalking Australia

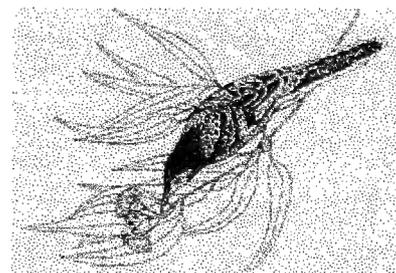
Bill Metzenth has made a significant contribution to the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs (VicWalk) serving as Secretary for two years, and then a further two years as President. On stepping down from this position, Bill continued his involvement with VicWalk, and has been instrumental in the establishment (after some years of discussion and negotiation!) of a national federation of bushwalking clubs. This federation is known as Bushwalking Australia and started on 15 May 2003. More information can be found on the VicWalk website: www.vicnet.net.au/~vicwalk

On behalf of all Melbourne Bushwalkers, thank you Bill for your enthusiasm and commitment to bush walking.

Rod Novak

HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 27 AUGUST



Regent Honeyeater Project

Come on a weekend of fun and good work to aid habitat restoration for the endangered Regent Honeyeater. Details on page 5.

Picture: Paul Peake

Rosemary Cotter

ENQ.:

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

WEB SITE: 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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

For those of you who remember news events of 1953, the name "The Snow Girl" will ring clearly in your mind. In August of that year Jenny Laycock and Kirk McLeod were lost for four days and nights on Mt. Donna Buang. Federation Search and Rescue was called out with members of MBW turning out in good numbers. One of our members, Bill Horton, was the searcher who actually found the couple. Both had frostbite, Jenny unfortunately lost the lower section of both legs.

There is a remembrance service planned for August and I have managed to track down some of the searchers to attend but so far am unsuccessful in reaching Bill Horton. Does anyone out there know his whereabouts? If anyone is interested in attending the service give me a call, I am planning to attend.

On a recent Sunday walk, we met the ubiquitous trail bikes. They slowed down to pass us but we still had the noise and the lingering smell of 2-stroke fumes. It was disturbing to see the amount of erosion on the official tracks and on the extra tracks made by the bikes "bush-bashing". Many of us hark back to "the good old days" when bushwalkers had the bush to themselves without the trail bikes and 4WDs. We have good people representing our interests in conservation matters trying to keep areas of the bush preserved for quiet enjoyment and not for exploitation. Many walkers take the high moral ground (and I am one of those) who believe there is very little place, if any, for trail bikes and 4WDs in the bush.

I have noticed that the 4WD lobby is being very active with regard to the Alpine N.P., pushing for more areas to be open to their activities. We have the VNPA and the Federation of Walking Clubs lobbying strongly on behalf of walking interests in all areas. Bill Metzenthen and Rod Novak represent MBW at the Federation. However, lobbying alone is not enough. We need to show that we are prepared to roll up our sleeves and help. On a recent call for help in the Alpine N.P. by Friends of Bogong there were three MBW members present. Still this seemed to represent 75% of those present who were not members of the Friends. At a work party at Lysterfield N.P. (where we frequently walk) I understand Rod Novak was the only MBW representative. On the positive side we had a good turnout at track-clearing, bribery with Marika Jagow's chocolate cake helped there. We also get good numbers at the Regent Honeyeater Project plantings.

Keep an eye on Rod Novak's reports in *The News* and if you can, please assist in the calls for help. The more we wave the flag on work parties, etc. the higher our profile will be when we want our voice heard in matters that affect our walking.

And speaking of walking, which we do in this club, we can only continue if we have leaders. Please do not leave it to just a few members to lead the walks, look at the walks program and if your name is not down to lead a walk then see Peter McGrath or Gina Hopkins and volunteer. If you have not done it before you will get lots of backup. Promise. Trust me, I'm a bushwalker.

DOUG POCKOCK

PREVIEWS OF DAY WALKS, ETC. - AUGUST 2003

Leaders' Training Day: Sugarloaf Reservoir

DATE	Saturday 2 August
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	Approx. 10 - 15 km
LEADER(S)	Derrick Brown and Quentin Tibballs
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Approx. 6 pm
AREA	Sugarloaf Reservoir Park
MAP REFERENCE	Christmas Hills 1:25,000

The activities on this day are designed to teach walk leadership skills. Initially there will be a talk by Bruce Key from the Albury Wodonga Bushwalking Club, a professional surveyor, who will be able to answer difficult navigation questions, eg. behaviour of compasses in the vicinity of magnetic fields or the grid anomalies in the Otways but also on more everyday navigation problems.

We will then divide ourselves into small groups with an appointed leader, sub-leader, observer and other participants. The leader, with help from the sub-leader, will be required to navigate the group to certain predetermined grid points. However, during the course of this exercise certain events may occur which will mimic possible problems on a normal or extended bushwalk. These will involve the other members of the group and will require the leader to alter his or her current plans to deal with the situation which has just arisen. The conclusion of this incident will be indicated by the observer. All members of a group will have a turn as a leader and there will be a debrief afterwards.

The country around Sugarloaf Reservoir is delightful open rolling hills and there should be more information about this day on my website – please email me at for the address.

Sunday Bus: Bunyip State Park

DATE	Sunday 3 August
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	14 and 17 km
LEADERS	Jean Woodger & Tom Wilanowski
TRANSPORT	Bus-Southbank Blvd - 9 am
RETURN TIME	6.30 pm
AREA	Gembrook

Mountain ash grow on the steep southern slopes of Bunyip State Park, and in the foothill forests, silvertop and messmate. Below in the heathy woodland, correa and pink heath are flowering now, and a few pink-bells have made an early start. We should see more natives flowering by August.

We'll start at Mortimore Picnic Area and walk along Silvertop Ridge Track, where on the preview, we startled some wood ducks into taking flight from a mist

enshrouded water-hole. Then over a little bridge which crosses Triangle Creek, with mossy boulders and ferns on either side, and possible sightings of bunyips. A steady climb up Nichols Hut Track, and at the top we'll visit Four Brothers Rocks, a group of granitic rocks with views across the park (well, sometimes), then it's back down Lyrebird Track and along the beautiful Tree Fern Track, with some of the biggest tree ferns you are ever likely to see. There's a choice of tracks to lead us south again, finishing with a delightful nature walk that will take us back to the bus.

The route is undulating throughout on varied terrain of forest tracks, heathy woodland and fern gullies. The Easy/Medium walk involves a steeper climb and longer distance, whereas the Easy group although climbing less, will descend a steepish track after lunch. Footwear with a good grip is advisable. A good winter walk, but beware of the Bunyip!

Sunday Bus: Dom Dom Saddle - Fernshaw

DATE	Sunday 10 August
STANDARD	Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCE	16 km with 300m climbing & 18 km with 600m climbing
LEADER(S)	Brian Crouch and Paul Beers
TRANSPORT	Bus - Southbank Blvd - 9 am
RETURN TIME	6 pm
AREA	Healesville / Marysville

Both walks start at Dom Dom Saddle and conclude at Fernshaw Picnic area so we have toilets at both places. These are areas of lush forest with lots of Mountain Ash, tree ferns and a variety of bird life. There are many lyrebirds in the area and we saw one on the preview.

The Easy/Medium will start walking north from Dom Dom Saddle picnic area, then walk east along a pleasant walking track before completing a loop around Mt. Dom Dom. We then enter part of Melbourne's water catchment area walking through open forest to reach Carters Gap. From here we take a walking track through tree ferns and follow the Watts River to finish at Fernshaw.

The Medium group will head straight along the spur to Carters Gap and then continue climbing via the Helicopter Landing area to reach Mt. Vinegar and take in spectacular views of the Cathedral Ranges along the way. On the return they then follow the same route as the E/M group from Carters Gap through rich forest to finish at Fernshaw.

Both walks will be enjoyable and take in some beautiful country. Be prepared for slippery tracks in places and a thermos and warm clothes on return to the bus will be welcomed, particularly by the leaders.

Sunday Bus: Mt. Alexander Regional Park

DATE Sunday 17 August
STANDARD Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCE 16 and 19 km
LEADER(S) Peter Havlicek and Jan Palich
TRANSPORT Bus - Southbank Blvd - 9 am
RETURN TIME 6.30 pm
AREA Harcourt, near Bendigo
MAP REFERENCE Barker 1:25,000 and
Chewton 1:25,000

Mt. Alexander Regional Park is close to Harcourt, on the Calder Highway, a centre of apple orchards and wineries close to the Coliban River. The Medium walk shall start from the Highway going about 7 km along the course of an aqueduct constructed for agriculture or gold production. We shall climb up to the Leanganook Koala Park around lunch time, then follow the easier group which started there.

The walk continues along the Ridge Track, past the interesting Dog Rocks towards Mount Alexander and, weather permitting, be rewarded with some very good views from Langs Lookout. From there we descend to the bus waiting for us at the back of Harcourt. On the way we should see some koalas, particularly at Leanganook, and wallabies in any case.

Wed. Walk: Currawong Falls, Angahook

DATE Wednesday 20 August
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 12 km
LEADER(S) Alister Rowe
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME 5 pm to Melbourne
AREA Aireys Inlet

Walk will commence at 10.30 am sharp from the Distillery Creek Picnic Area Lower carpark. From Aireys Inlet turn right into Bambra Road and follow signs for approx. 4 km. Lower carpark is on the right. Alternatively, I will be at the Westgate Bridge carpark at 8.15 am where we could do a car consolidation.

The walk is an easy and very pleasant 3.5 hour stroll through ever-changing vegetation. The falls will not be a feature unless we get heavy rain. If time permits we could do the ocean view trail from the Moggs Creek Picnic Ground (4.5 km). This would be optional. Details of both walks are in *Day Walks around Melbourne*.

Dandenongs Exp: Grants - Baynes - Kallista

DATE Saturday 30 August
STANDARD Easy
LEADER(S) Debbie Collie
TRANSPORT Private

Please phone Debbie Collie on about this walk in the Dandenongs.

Sunday Bus: Flagpole Hill - Flowerdale

DATE Sunday 24 August
STANDARD Easy/Medium and Medium
LEADER(S) Jerry Karbownik & Ches Volpato
TRANSPORT Bus - Southbank Blvd - 9 am

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

N.B. New leaders are Jerry Karbownik (ph.) and Ches Volpato.

Sunday: Mt. Ida - McIvor Range, Heathcote

DATE Sunday 31 August
STANDARD Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 12 and 17 km
LEADER(S) David Arnold and John Tolmie
TRANSPORT Bus - Southbank Blvd - 9 am
RETURN TIME 6.30 pm
AREA Heathcote (110 km north of Melb.)
MAP REFERENCE Heathcote and Ladys Pass
1:25,000

If the weather is clear we will have good views from the top of Mt. Ida, which is quite close to the township of Heathcote. The walks are mostly within the Heathcote - Graytown NP, a new National Park created from areas of box-ironbark State Forest. For those with an interest in conservation, the park brochure states that "It includes some of the most significant environmental, cultural and recreational values in the largest remaining Box-Ironbark forest in Victoria."

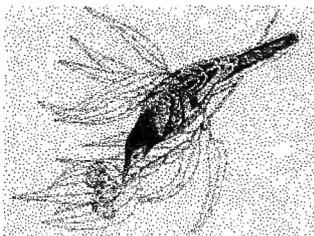
N.B. New leader is David Arnold.

Housesitter Needed

1st Week of Aug. to 19 Sept. 2003

For details please ring Sak Hong on

PREVIEWS OF WEEKEND WALKS, ETC. - AUGUST 2003



Tree Planting, BBQ & Bush Dance, Benalla

DATE	Sat. 9 - Sun. 10 August
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER(S)	Rosemary Cotter
TRANSPORT	Private

Do you fancy a weekend of aerobic exercise? Do you fancy lungsful of fresh, fresh air? Would you like to take part in restoration of wildlife corridors so that native species of birds and mammals can thrive rather than be slowly wiped out? Would you like to be part of a community activity benefitting the country area?

How would you like to do all the above and also enjoy a sumptuous dinner on the Saturday evening, free bbq lunch in the bush on the Sunday, go on a wildflower walk on the Sunday afternoon... and enjoy a bush dance or go spotlighting for possums and gliders on the Saturday evening to shake down the dinner? Melbourne Bushies have organised groups of members to go and assist this project for a number of years. Other weekends have been organised where members go up and check the glider nesting boxes for inhabitants, etc.

All you'll need to organise is your sleeping arrangements for the Saturday night (and Friday if you go up then). This can be basic sleeping quarters in the Scout/Guide Hall, camping by the nearby creek (free hot showers are provided) or share a room with friends in a motel. You'll also need to organise lunch for the Saturday and b.y.o. breakfast for the Sunday.

Where is all this happening? In the Benalla area and organised by Ray Thomas the local Landcare/DNRE person who has organised this activity since 1996 including getting the local schools to grow the seedlings (typically some two dozen different species of natives are planted for the wildlife corridors).

It's steady work but a **great feeling**, when between some 50-60 people, you plant over 4,500 trees/shrubs in a weekend. And you'll be able to view the fruits of your labours in the years to come as they steadily grow.

Two weekends are being organised for the Melbourne Bushies to go and help with this terrific project. The weekends are 9 - 10 August (being organised by me), and 6 - 7 September (being organised by Alan Clarke). Please contact either Alan on or me on depending on which weekend you're interested in. We have fliers and can send the latest newsletter on this project.

Picture: Paul Peake

Rawson Lodge: Walhalla Walks

DATE	Friday 15 - Sunday 17 August
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	13 km each day
LEADER(S)	Max Casley
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Sunday Evening
AREA	North of Moe - 2½ hr drive east of Melb.
MAP REFERENCE	Baw Baw VMTC 1:50,000

We will be staying at the Rawson Holiday Village in the scenic township of Rawson among the foothills of nearby Mt. Erica and Mt. St. Gwinear and close to the Thompson Dam. Indeed, the lodge where we will stay was built for the dam's construction workers. The area is noted for bushwalking and cross-country skiing. We will walk in the Walhalla area and the Thompson Valley. However, no skiing will be organised due to insurance constraints. Nevertheless, people can organise their own activities such as, skiing or horse-riding.

Accommodation cost for two nights will be 2 x \$54 = \$108 twin share, 2 x \$63 = \$126 single. This includes breakfasts of cereals, juice, toast and a hot selection. Linen, towels and electric blankets are provided. In the evening we will get together for a pub meal and drinks around an open fire. Please let me know early if you would like to come (ph. 9527 3111) so I can let Rawson know of likely numbers.

Some motel accommodation is available if you prefer: 2 x \$64.50 = \$129 twin share, 2 x \$87.50 = \$175 single. Book this yourself (ph.) and mention that you are with the Melbourne Bushwalkers.

P/Carry: Kamarooka, Greater Bendigo NP

DATE	Friday 22 - Sunday 24 August
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	22 - 28 km approx.
LEADER(S)	Roger Wyatt
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	7 pm
AREA	30 km north of Bendigo
MAP REFERENCE	Summerfield & Epsom 1:25,000

The Kamarooka State Park has recently been included in the Greater Bendigo National Park, along with Whipstick State Park. The area is the start of the mallee country and is very flat, with a mixture of Yellow Gum & Grey Box woodlands, with areas of Kamarooka Mallee scrub. The area is still a gold fossicking area with old mine ruins scattered throughout.

We will walk from Mulga Dam south for some 14 km to Black Rock, which is a new track developed by Parks Vic., and then a further 2 km to our camp at Loeser Picnic Area. Day two will be shorter with some 6-7 km to Shadbolt Picnic Area for lunch with an option in the afternoon of the 5.3 km Old Tom Mine walk or the shorter Flagstaff Hill walk with an early return to Melb.

Contact me on rwytet@kraftasia.com or in the clubrooms for an info. flier and map.

Base Camp: Kara Kara State Park

DATE	Friday 29 - Sunday 31 August
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER	Ian Langford
TRANSPORT	Private (400 km - \$32)
RETURN TIME	8 pm Sunday

A top camping spot at this park north of Ballarat. Both walks are circuits and feature ridge walking - Saturday north of camp and Sunday south of camp. Saturday will be 13 km and pass some lakes and gold diggings to summit at a fire-tower. Sunday will be 8 km.

Expect superb flowers, birds, views and a sighting of Mars near the earth and dominating the night sky. There is very good camping, no fees, flush toilets, fire-places and tables. It's only 500 metres elevation so we may be spared the deep frosts of the mountains. Dinner on Saturday will be communal and cost \$7.50 payable on registration.

It's forty years, this year, since I first set out on a walk with the Gisborne Canoe and Tramping Club (New Zealand), beginning a life-long passion. Miraculously I survived a rough apprenticeship tramping and climbing in the Southern Alps to leave home and spend time walking in corners of the world. I will yarn about those times.

NEW MEMBERS

JANE A GRANT	PETER KNIGHTON
KEVIN B KORB	MARIA SPITERI

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Life Members	10
Honorary Members	10
Single Memberships	319
Family Memberships	90 (= 2 x 45)
Total Membership	429
This Time Last Year	415

PETER HAVLICEK
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

WALKS STATISTICS

May 2003	Trips	People	Average	May 2002
Sunday Bus	4	114	28.5	38
Other Day	2	36	18	22
Pack Carry	2	15	7.5	9.5
Base Camp	1	16	16	13
Cycle	1	12	12	-
Total	10	193	-	249/10

After a bumper April on the Sunday Bus the month of May has seen plenty of spare seats. So come on Melbourne Bushies, get on the Sunday Bus and have a great day walk. Also, with the approaching colder and wetter months remember to pack a good rain jacket, thermals and a torch for the shorter days.

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

CLUBROOMS DUTY ROSTER

16 July: D Pocock and V Scrivenger*
23 July: W Cone and H Friend
30 July: J Coe and T Elmore*
6 August: D Henry and D Laing*

*J Palich, Treasurer present

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 4 August at 7 pm in the clubrooms

ACCOUNTS

April 2003	\$
Opening Balance	45,408.20
Income	6,272.62
Expenditure	6,383.25
Closing Balance	45,297.57

JAN PALICH
TREASURER

ROD NOVAK
ACTING WALKS SECRETARY

QUESTIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE

This month John Coe, Equipment Officer, answers some questions.

When did you join the club?

Late 1998.

How did you first learn about the club?

Through the *Yellow Pages*.

What made you decide to join the club?

No other club has the ubiquitous Sunday Bus.

What do you like about the club?

The friendly people and the Sunday Bus.

How often do you walk?

At least once a month, sometimes more.

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

I particularly love the Lorne area, closely followed by Marysville and the Dandenongs.

When did you join the committee?

This year.

What do you like about being the Equipment Officer?

I get to meet the really hardy types who hire equipment for their pack carry weekends.

What made you first stand for committee?

My first response is: "I thought it was a good idea at the time". On reflection, I suppose I wanted to have some minor input on the future direction of the club.

Will you stand for committee again next year?

Yes.

Where were you born?

Nothing exotic about me - I am Melbourne born and bred.

Where do you live now?

Currently in the Eastern suburbs.

What other interests do you have besides bush walking?

Cycling, swimming and reading.

What music do you like?

I have an almost universal taste in music - I like rock, pop, jazz, classical, etc. However, I cannot bring myself to listen to rap and other similar music.

What do you like to read?

I read newspapers for current affairs and when time permits, books on history.

What food do you like?

I especially like Turkish on Friday and Saturday nights and Greek, Thai, Vietnamese and Chinese any time.

Which films do you like?

Any movie with a modicum of action, drama, suspense or comedy.

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

Swimming

in paradise!



On a high country walk in Kakadu or the Kimberley, every break brings yet another clear, cool pool, perfect for swimming and pure enough to drink. This is the most comfortable wilderness in the world.

Crocs! What crocs? The big, dangerous estuarine (saltwater) crocs ripn't climb waterfalls! If, as we do, you restrict your swimming to the escarpment country, there is no chance you'll meet one. Better still, the vast majority of the mosquitos stay down in the lowlands with the big crocs.

Walk the wilderness plateaus or stay with the tourists, crocodiles, mosquitos and vehicles in the lowlands. Come north and the choice is yours. Visit our website or ask for our brochure and see why our clients come back to our paradise again and again.

www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au



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

Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355

TRACKS, HUTS AND CONSERVATION

Here are some notes from the VicWalk Conservation Committee meeting on 28 May 2003.

Tracks - *The Frangipani Track* is very overgrown. Letter sent to DSE on this issue. Central Highlands *Boys Fireline* will not be maintained due to a lack of DSE funds for remote tracks. *Great Divide Trail* - The GDTA is considering bike access to the walking track. This will be a conflict as VicWalk insists on walking tracks as "walkers and management vehicles only." *The Great Ocean Walk* is expected to open in September of 2003. The route is from Apollo Bay to Port Campbell. *George Bass Walking Track* - VicWalk has sent a letter to the Bass Shire Council concerning proposed housing development on the edge of the track. The landscape has a national trust classification.

Environment Victoria - Executive Director, Marcus Godinho gave the following overview. Environment Victoria is a peak non-government environment group representing over 100 affiliated associations and many individual members. It prefers to focus on key campaigns - climate change (Victoria is the biggest greenhouse emitter per capita in the developed world - "brown coal" and E.V. promotes public transport), the 'healthy rivers' water campaign and native vegetation (eg. green wedges). A topical and current issue is the Point Nepean campaign and Marcus gave his insights into the current debate and the reasons why they prefer the Latrobe University project as compared to other mooted resort development. Other topics discussed include plastic shopping bags, wind farms, Devilbend Reservoir and the recent Victorian bushfires. *Environment Victoria is seeking new members.* For information ring 9341 8199 or email admin@envict.org.au *Continued below*

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Alpine National Park - The Committee discussed Bogong Creek Huts (located between Bogong Creek Saddle and Clover Power Station) and agreed they have zero refuge value to bushwalkers. Recommended not be re-built. Also, it is believed the rebuilding of Federation Hut is of key interest to Rangers and they may have access to State Government bushfire funds. VicWalk may be approached for volunteers to help with the rebuilding (no official request has been received to date).

Bunyip State Park - There is some interest from DSE on the walking track proposal along the Bunyip River to 7 Acre Rock with future links to the Bunyip State Park track network. The walking route needs a ground survey by VicWalk with a written feasibility study. *UBAG Forest Watch Initiative* volunteers required to join the UBAG's 'Forest Watch' to monitor DSE's activities in the 350 Block. If you can help then contact Jonathon Ricciardello on

Eastern Strezleckis - recent closure of the Lyrebird Walk (a 6 km short walk) popular with day visitors to the Strezleckis due to a lack of maintenance funds.

Mount Stirling - the Easter/Anzac weekends' traffic count on the Summit Road with 3500 four-wheel drive vehicles. The Summit Rd and Howqua Gap track will be closed from 1 May. There were 24 recorded cattle callouts this summer with a better response from local graziers. Concerns remain with funding for this alpine resort with little money for ski trails and facilities.

Snowy Mountains - most of Kosciuszko National Park has restricted and/or no access due to the park managers being over-cautious post-bushfires. Check the park website for up-to-date information.

Tasmania - proposed resort development at Darlington on Maria Island. Letters opposing this development are required. For more information contact Lana at

ROD NOVAK, VICWALK CONSERVATION COMMITTEE