



ADDEX

THE NEWS OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

EDITION 625

MARCH 2003

60 CENTS

Club Barbeque this Month

Wednesday 26 March

7 - 9 pm, Clubrooms

Members and visitors welcome.

B.Y.O. meat and a plate to share.

Wine, soft drinks and hot beverages available.



Thank You

Graham Wills-Johnson

***for putting the Wilkinson Lodge log books
(1950 - 1992) on to CDs***

These two CDs are now available
for sale at \$5 each
or for borrowing from the club's library.

Graham would like a volunteer
to copy ("burn"), label and package more cds.
Details are on the notice board in the clubrooms.
Please phone Graham or Doug Pocock
if you would like to volunteer.

Combo!

***Federation Sunday Walks
and/or Base Camp***

28 - 30 March, Warburton

The Federation of Walking Clubs walks start running from 8.30 am onwards, ie. early. So either: contact **Jan Palich** for car sharing for the Sunday only (remember no bus this day) or contact me, **Sylvia Ford** for accommodation at the Warburton camping ground.

Lowdown on accommodation: cabins - different sizes*, lodge - share 9* (\$12 approx.) and camp sites - lots of space (\$6 per person). * Sheets and doona hire available. All beside the Yarra River and it's smashing!

Best of all is dinner together on Saturday night at the **Wild Thyme Cafe** with drinks and nibbles to share on the lawns before hand.

Book early!

Sylvia Ford



New Membership Fees

Single: \$45

Single conc.: \$30

Couple: \$70

Couple conc.: \$38

The News subscribers: \$20

ENQ.:

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

WEBSITE: www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au

EMAIL: info@melbournebushwalkers.org.au

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

Visitors are always welcome.



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

The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.
is the newsletter of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.
and is published monthly.
Editor: Vicki Scrivenger.

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

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

Contributions to *The News* may be sent to the Editor by:

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

Electronic mail is preferred.

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

Advertisements in *The News*

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

Members' ads are free.

Advertising Rates (Artwork Ready) in:

printed edition only: as below, or
printed & on-line editions: as below + 25% or
on-line edition only: as below + 25%.

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

Vacant Position:

Federation Conservation Convenor

Are you committed to the environment and want to
preserve what we have for the enjoyment and
appreciation of future generations? Do you care that
Bushwalking Clubs have a voice in the policy direction
of our government? Can I interest you in applying for
the position of Federation Conservation Convenor?

"What is required?" you may ask. Well, there is a
position description available from the Federation
office. However, the main function of the Conservation
Convenor is to convene the monthly meetings of the
Conservation Committee. In addition, the convenor is
automatically a member of the Federation's Council and
is required to attend its monthly meeting and report
upon the activities of the Conservation Committee.
Hence the desirable skills are an understanding of the
political process and committee procedure, good
communication and interpersonal skills and the ability to
delegate duties to other Conservation representatives
according to their expertise or area of interest.

What do you get out of it? Well, the satisfaction that
you are in a position to effect changes on the
conservation front that will preserve our environment
for the benefit of future generations and the
opportunity to work as part of a team with fellow
walkers who share your values and commitment to the
environment. I feel confident that there is a Bushie out
there who is willing to take up the challenge of this
position, so please give me a call to discuss how we can
introduce you to the Federation Executive and get you
on the job a.s.a.p.

Trish Elmore

Federation Representative

PREVIEWS OF DAY WALKS, ETC. - APRIL 2003

Sunday Bus: French Island

DATE	Sunday 6 April
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	14 & 18 km
LEADER(S)	John Coe & Elizabeth Ingham
TRANSPORT	Bus-Southbank Blvd-8.30 am
RETURN TIME	7 pm
MAP REFERENCE	Parks Victoria publication, Vicmaps Barrallier & Rhyll

And now for something different – a ferry ride to fascinating and historic French Island, located in Westernport Bay, to the south-east of Melbourne. There will be two walks, during which we will explore the western side of the island and enjoy its varied habitats. The many natural attractions of French Island have been preserved, as it has escaped major development over the years and recently two-thirds of the land mass was declared a National Park.

French Island has a population of around 65 people and encompasses some 21,800 ha, making it more than twice the size of Phillip Island. The island's coastline is predominately salt marsh with flourishing mangroves on the mudflats. The interior is mostly heathland with magnificent wildflower displays in spring.

There are around 600 plant species and a great diversity of birdlife (234 species), including the white-breasted sea eagle, as well as mutton-bird, pelican and ibis rookeries. There are short-tailed shearwater colonies at Tankerton and Tortoise Head. French Island supports Australia's largest koala community, so much so that it now exports to the mainland and to international zoos. The koalas can be seen throughout the island, including the recreation hall and post office at Tankerton where the ferries dock. The rare potoroo has also found a niche on French Island as there have been no incursions by foxes, their main predator. They can be seen in bushy areas throughout the island.

Plenty of water, a hat and sunscreen, as well as insect repellent should be carried.

N.B.: The bus will leave Southbank Blvd at 8.30 am sharp. The return trip on the ferry to French Island is \$17.

Wednesday Walk: Cathedral Range

DATE	Wednesday 9 April
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	7 km (but steep)
LEADER(S)	Max Casley
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	4.30 pm to cars
AREA	Buxton, Maroondah Highway

Meet at Cooks Mill at 10 am. To get there go along the

Maroondah Highway to about 10 km north of Buxton and turn right into Cathedral Lane. Continue for 2.5 km and turn right into Little River Road. Go along this road for a bit more than 5 km to Cooks Mill which is our meeting place.

This will be an opportunity to walk at the Mt. Sugarloaf end of the range for the first time for quite awhile. We will start walking at the southern end of the range and climb to Sugarloaf Peak for magnificent views. Then we will continue north along the ridge, going slowly and carefully over the slightly tricky rocky sections along to The Farmyard - so called because of the animal noises heard from the farms below. If time and energy allows, we will go to the Jawbones for views to the valley below. Then we will descend steeply and finish at Cooks Mill and afternoon tea. There will be a short car shuffle at the end.

Note that Susan and Stuart are leading a mid-week base camp at Cooks Mill in March. Depending on the walks they do, the above arrangements may be modified. If you let me know that you are coming () I can tell you of this and try to arrange car pooling.

Track Maintenance Day

DATE	Saturday 12 April
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER(S)	Marika Jagow
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	5.30 pm
AREA	Yarra Ranges National Park

This is a track maintenance Saturday with a difference. I have been in contact with the ranger at the Yarra Ranges National Park, one of the closest parks to Melbourne and Federation of Walking Clubs to select the most needy track. But due to the bushfire fighting, people have been preoccupied. I hope the mystery of the track will inspire people to join in on this day of 'gardening work'. I considered the Richard's Tramline Track which was noted to be overgrown on a walk organised by the club. I have since learnt that the Victorian Walking Club have cleared this track.

I have spoken with Parks Victoria to organise a speaker in April to talk about the partnership between us, the Melbourne Bushies, and the rangers to work on track maintenance. Again due to the bushfires the speaker may not be available until later in the year. If the speaker is not available I will give a briefing on the Wednesday night before the track maintenance. I will also place a flyer on the track maintenance details on the noticeboard and see you in the clubrooms. Look forward to seeing you.

Sunday Bus: Quo Vadis - Beech Creek - Myrtle Valley (Healesville area)

DATE Sunday 13 April
STANDARD Easy and Medium
LEADER(S) Ralph Clayton and Tracey Jamieson
TRANSPORT Bus - Southbank Blvd - 9 am

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

Sunday Bus: Daylesford Lake-The Blowhole

DATE Sunday 20 April
STANDARD Easy and Easy/Medium
LEADER(S) Steve Axford and Vic Dunis
TRANSPORT Bus - Southbank Blvd - 9 am

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

Dandenongs: Harman's Saddle to Emerald

DATE Saturday 26 April
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 12.5 km
LEADER(S) Sue Upton
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME 4 pm
MAP REFERENCE VICMAP 1:25000 Cardinia Ck

Meet at 10.30 am at Harmon's Saddle Reserve (Melway 124 E.10).

This is a repeat of last year's Johns Hill walk (*Day Walks of Victoria*) but in autumn rather than winter. There should be an abundance of autumn tones to greet us.

It's an E/M walk as there is a little bit of climbing but well worth the effort being rewarded with great views of Cardinia reservoir and surrounds and Silvan Dam and Kinglake National Park at Johns Hill lookout. We will continue along Ridge Rd and after lunch will walk a section of Menzies Ck and then climb the steps to Telopea Road. On our return to the cars we will walk along side the Puffing Billy track from Clematis until we cross the Belgrave/Gembrook Rd.

Please carry water and bring a ground sheet or something similar to sit on as the lunch stop has limited seating.

Arrangements can be made to pick up any train travellers at Upper Ferntree Gully Railway station. Please ring me on after 7.30 pm weekdays to arrange.

Sunday Bus: Arthurs Seat - Cape Schanck

DATE Sunday 27 April
STANDARD Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 15 km and 19 km
LEADER(S) Lynda Larkin and Alan Miller
TRANSPORT Bus - Southbank Blvd - 9 am
RETURN TIME 6.30 pm
MAP REFERENCE 7821-2-1/2 & tourist maps from Parks Victoria.

The Easy/Medium walk commences at Dromana passing through some moderately steep terrain on the north-eastern slopes of Arthurs Seat State Park to Arthurs Seat, which commands a splendid view of the Port Phillip side of the peninsula coast line. At this point the bus will pick up the E/M group for transfer to the beginning of the second part of their walk at Baldry Crossing, south of Arthur's Seat.

The Easy walk begins at Baldry Crossing, covering the same course as the second part of the E/M walk, through Greens Bush to Bushrangers Bay and along the cliff tops to Cape Schanck, with both groups finishing at the Cape Schanck light house. Greens Bush was listed as classified landscape in 1974 by the National Trust and is a link in the proposed 30 km bush corridor from Dromana to Cape Schanck. Highlights along the trail include eucalypt forest mixed with spectacular stands of grass trees (the taller grass trees may be 200 years old), pockets of tea tree thicket, fern tree gullies and open grasslands.

A good day is guaranteed. Remember sunscreen, water and change of shoes.

Wollangarra Appeal

I am sure that there are plenty of Bushies with some spare gear that you are no longer using but just can't face the thought of parting with it... well now you have a reason! Federation is supporting an appeal for "Woolangarra" for pre-loved wet weather jackets, overpants and walking boots (that are in good nick please).

Woolangarra is a pioneer-style homestead, situated in the Licola area. It serves as a base camp for young people to experience a "back to basics" lifestyle and to discover the heart of the Victorian high country in small supervised walking groups, with the emphasis on the environment and self-reliance. The project is self-funding and relies very much on the generosity of its supporters.

What better reason could you have for donating any of the gear that you have "out grown or upgraded" knowing that you are assisting the next generation of bushwalkers? Just bring them along to the clubrooms and I shall make sure they make the journey to Woolangarra and thank you on behalf of the recipients.

Trish Elmore
Federation Representative

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

Bicycle Base Camp: Bucolic Barfold via Kyneton

DATE	Sat. 15 - Sun. 16 March
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER(S)	Sue McInnes
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	6 pm Sunday

Two days of bike riding with side walks through a drought declared rural environment. The campsite is on farmland 20 k north of Kyneton with views to Mt. Ida and Mt. Macedon. The pace will be leisurely with 10 am starts to allow for those who would prefer to drive up in the morning for a day ride.

The first day will include a 30 k ride along the gravel roads of Barfold to Black Hill Reserve via Turpins Falls on the Campaspe River. These popular falls are unlikely to be running but there will be an opportunity to swim in the deep hole at the foot of the falls. There will be a 3 k walk around Black Hill Reserve. By mid-afternoon we will have retraced our tracks back to the Barfold Hall to view the salinity project, then on to set up camp with options to walk on hilly farmland with plenty of opportunities to see lots of wildlife or feed the horses.

The second day will be about 30 k on gravel roads including the rough Goldfields Road passing Metcalfe Flora and Fauna Reserve and Green Hill to Metcalfe where we will visit the Cascades on the Coliban River (likely to be rock pools at this time of year). Returning via bitumen road and gravel track to our starting point by mid-afternoon.

Weather conditions could vary from hot and sunny (we will have to carry water on the rides) to wet and cold. Be prepared for all variations.

Bogong National Park Work Party

DATE	Friday 4 - Sunday 6 April
STANDARD	Hard Work
DISTANCE	Not Far
LEADER(S)	Doug Pocock
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	8.43 pm Sunday
AREA	Bogong National Park
MAP REFERENCE	Bogong High Plains 1:50,000

At the time of writing it is unknown whether Wilky is still standing or if there will be a work party. Please assume that all will be well and come to show your support for the National Park and for the rangers. See me in clubrooms for details.

Pack Carry: Square Head Jinny-Mt. Howitt

DATE	Friday 4 - Sunday 6 April
STANDARD	Medium
LEADER(S)	Mike Low
TRANSPORT	Private

Please see Mike Low in the clubrooms about this pack carry or phone him on

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

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

This will be the third year that we have been to this beautiful alpine campsite at 1200m altitude, only 15 km from the source of the Murray River. It has plenty of camping space, fireplaces, running water in the Buchan River, a composting toilet, and great views from the nearby peaks. It's a fair distance to get there, but well worth it.

In previous years there have been plenty of other people around the area, but we have had the camping area mostly to ourselves. To try and ensure that the same applies this year, at least one of the leaders will arrive at the campsite a day early. The ranger for the area advises that the campsite has not been burnt by the recent fires and is available for use, but that the roads in are currently closed by the local shire. This preview is written on the assumption that the roads will be re-opened by Easter. An update will be published in the *April News*, and one or other of the leaders will be in the clubrooms on Weds prior to Easter to provide the latest information, as well as details of how to get there and what to take.

We will camp by the cars, so for those who haven't camped before this is a good opportunity to try it without having to carry a heavy pack. As always, the club has tents and other equipment for hire.

Pack Carry: Cobberas No. 2 – The Pilot

DATE	Easter Weekend: 17 - 21 April
STANDARD	Hard
DISTANCE	47 km (32 km with pack)
LEADER(S)	Leo Lynch
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	10 pm Sunday
AREA	N-E of Omeo
MAP REFERENCE	Suggan Buggan 1:50,000

This walk will start and end at Native Dog Flat. On Friday we have a 16 km walk, mostly off track, involving a lot of uphill and downhill walking with a full pack. The intended route is to follow Cowombat Flat Track for about 4 km before leaving the track to head up the spur leading to Moscow Peak, from Moscow Peak we will go to Mount Cobberas No. 2 and then follow the spur to the right of Mountain Trout Creek down to Cowombat Flat, where we will camp for the next two nights.

On Saturday we will do a 16 km round trip from the campsite to The Pilot. Most of this walk will be on a 4WD track. Sunday will be a 16 km walk along Cowombat Flat track back to the cars.

I have rated this walk hard because the off-track section on the first day will require making our way down a steep spur with relatively thick vegetation. With a full pack and extreme weather this could be a long and difficult day. All other sections of the walk would be Medium. (Part of this walk is reviewed in the spring 2002 edition of *Wild Magazine*.)

Pack Carry: Victoria Range, Grampians

DATE	Easter Weekend: 17 - 21 April
STANDARD	Medium - Medium/Hard
LEADER(S)	Gina Hopkins
TRANSPORT	Private

The programmed walk Mt. Feathertop – The Fainters is postponed until next year because this area has been extensively burned. So instead I am planning to go to the Grampians' Victoria Range.

This will be a four-day pack carry visiting places such as The Fortress and Mt. Thackeray, and possibly the Cave of Hands. Some of the walking will be off-track, and there will be rock hopping and possibly steep gullies and gorges to explore. This will be mainly exploratory and there will be a limit of 8 due to the uncertain nature of the available campsites.

Base Camp: Port Campbell coast

DATE	Anzac Day Long Weekend: Friday 25 - Sunday 27 April
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER(S)	Paul Beers
TRANSPORT	Private

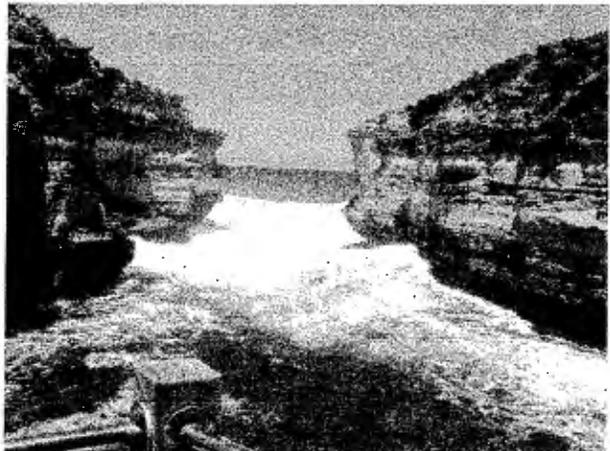
This promises to be a weekend of easy but interesting walks, plus a bit of fun.

Fri.: Take A1 to Cobden, then south to Port Campbell to arrive at the camp ground at noon. Afternoon 3-hour Discovery Walk at 1.30 pm. 6 pm evening entrees and barbeque - B.Y.O. meat and drinks.

Sat.: Leave camp grounds at 8.30 am, drive west, stopping to sightsee at London Bridge, The Arch and The Grotto. Then on through Petersborough to Three Mile Beach (approx. 30 km). Walk total: 10 - 12 km. Bring lunch. Swims optional. Dinner at P.C. pub at 6.30 - 7 pm.

Sun.: Loch Ard Gorge carpark for several interesting walks - including Loch Ard shipwreck site, Gorge Beach walk, Geology Walk, the old cemetery, The Blowhole, The Thunder Cave, Mutton Bird Island, Broken Head and Sherbrook Beach. Total: approx. 5 - 6 km. Then 12 Apostles lookout, followed by Gibson's Steps for an easy 4 - 5 km beachwalk. Return to Melb. continuing east via the scenic drive through Lavers Hill, Gellibrand and Colac.

Total: 600 km, incl. side trips (\$48 car sharing). More info. and pictures at www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au



Pack Carry: Mt. Speculation – Crosscut Saw

DATE	Anzac Day Long Weekend: Friday 25 - Sunday 27 April
STANDARD	Medium
LEADER(S)	Alan Clarke
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Sunday Evening
AREA	Mt. Howitt

As I write this we are still in the (hopefully final) throes of the major bushfires. By the end of April things should be long cleared up and the only threat will be from all the bushwalkers with nowhere else to go!

I have not decided on the final route yet but we will almost certainly start and finish on the Howqua River (western) side of the walk. A possible route will be up the Howitt Spur to Mt. Howitt with a side-trip to Mt. Magdala and camp at McAlister Springs. Day 2: across the Crosscut Saw to Mt. Speculation (camp) with a side trip to Mt. Koonika. Day 3: back to Mt. Buggery and down Queen Spur back to the cars.

What will almost certainly be guaranteed is good weather (autumn), stunning views, great campsites and at least one good climb.

COMMITTEE - 2003

President
Doug Pocock

Vice President
Trish Elmore

Secretary
William Cone

Treasurer
Jan Palich

Walks Secretary
Gina Hopkins

**Assistant Walks Secretary
(Sunday Walks)**
Peter McGrath

Membership Secretary
Peter Havlicek

Social Secretary
Vacant

Wilkinson Lodge Manager
David Laing

The News Editor
Vicki Scrivenger

General Committee
Paul Beers
John Coe
Howard Friend
Deborah Henry
Marika Jagow

CLUBROOMS DUTY ROSTER

Wednesday 5 March: W Cone and V Scrivenger*
Wednesday 12 March: D Henry and D Pocock
Wednesday 19 March: T Elmore*
Wednesday 26 March: J Coe and D Pocock
Wednesday 2 April: W Cone and M Jagow
Wednesday 9 April: H Friend and V Scrivenger

*J Palich, Treasurer present

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 7 April at 7 pm in the clubrooms

TO MEMBERS OLD AND NEW

We are now in the subscription period. You have until the end of May to pay, but early payment is appreciated. Until you have paid, your mailing label will say "Subs Due". Use the slip at the bottom of the back page of *The News* or see the Membership Secretary in the clubrooms. If mailing your subs, this is a good opportunity to update your details.

PETER HAVLICEK
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

WALKS STATISTICS

The number of Sunday walkers in January continued to be lower than usual. We have analysed the highs and lows of Sunday walk attendances in the past, and have come to very little conclusion. It appears to be quite random! If you haven't done a Sunday walk for a while, why not consider it now. March is a very pleasant time to be out walking in the bush.

The high risk of fires in the Alpine National Park was the reason for the two cancelled pack carry trips in January, and unfortunately the fire risk and burnt out areas will continue to affect a number of the weekend base camps and pack carry trips on the summer and autumn programs.

Jan 2003	Trips	People	Average	Jan 2002
Sunday Bus	4	116	29	36.25
Other day	1	18	18	14.5
Pack Carry	-	-	-	6
Base Camp	2	35	17.5	-
Cycle B/Camp	1	13	13	-
Canoe	1	19	19	24
Cancel.	2			-
Total	9	201	-	266 / 14

GINA HOPKINS
WALKS SECRETARY

Volunteers Needed
Alpine National Park Work Parties
from mid-March onwards

VicWalk is co-ordinating work parties to help the Alps recover from the recent severe bushfires (over and above our Bogong National Park Work Party on 4 - 6 April).

Please contact **Doug Pocock** on _____ if you would like to volunteer.

Mt. Stirling Volunteers' Working Day

Saturday 22 March

Commencing at 10 am on the summit - there will be marking and laying of a new walking track.

A barbeque lunch will be provided.

For more details contact **Elizabeth Doery** from VicWalk on _____

***Regent Honeyeater Project:
Nest-Box Monitoring Weekend***

Sat. 5 and Sun. 6 April

Contact **Regent Honeyeater Project Co-ordinator, Ray Thomas** on _____

On the right is a photograph of what you can meet on this weekend (sugar gliders).



Lysterfield Park & Churchill National Park Restoration Project

Saturday 5 April

A one day working bee is being organised to assist **Parks Victoria** in the recovery of Lysterfield Park/Churchill National Park following the January bushfires.

The work consists of returning temporary fire access tracks to their natural state prior to the recent bushfires. "Bulldozed tracks were created within the area in order to contain and control further spread of fire. This area of the park is of high conservation value for flora and fauna, with species such as wombats (now locally rare) inhabiting this area."

Parks Victoria would appreciate and welcome our assistance to restore these tracks and prevent erosion, by moving branches onto the tracks and possibly to install signage. Physically, it is light work, suitable for all age groups, and is a great opportunity to contribute to all park users and the general community.

Although initiated by Pakenham and Berwick Bushwalking Clubs, members from all community groups are encouraged to attend.

Time: 10 am

Place: Main car park, Lysterfield Lake picnic area (Melway 108 D.2)

Bring: Gardening gloves, work clothes. A b.y.o. picnic style lunch will be held at 1pm.

For details contact **Haydn Foster** on _____

Rod Novak

TREASURER'S REPORT - 2002

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET)

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2002

	2001	2002
<u>ASSETS</u>		
<u>Bank Accounts</u>		
Cheque Account	\$4,353.10	\$398.89
Reserves Account	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00
Fixed Term Deposit	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
Bank Account Total	\$45,353.10	\$41,398.89
Postage Float	\$500.00	\$500.00
<u>Equipment</u>		
Camping Equipment	\$2,948.00	\$3,746.00
Other Equipment	\$1,056.40	\$3,834.23
Maps & Books	\$1,166.00	\$1,354.00
Wilky Lodge Contents	\$8,122.00	\$10,849.00
Total Equipment	\$13,292.40	\$19,783.23
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	\$59,145.50	\$61,682.12
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
Accounts Payable	\$0.00	\$0.00
<u>CURRENT NET WORTH</u>	\$59,145.50	\$61,682.12

JAN PALICH

TREASURER'S REPORT - 2002

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE (INCOME & EXPENDITURE)

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2002

SUB ACCOUNT SUMMARY			
Sub Account	Opening Balance	Closing Balance	Result for Year
Admin	3,025.44	462.67	-2,562.77
Special	20,937.85	20,837.85	-100.00
Walks	7,131.69	7,799.19	667.50
Wilky	14,258.12	12,299.18	-1,958.94
Total	45,353.10	41,398.89	-3,954.21

Administration Account	2001	2002
Opening Balance	\$2,214.18	\$3,025.44
INCOME		
Advertising	\$0.00	\$2,025.00
Catering Income	\$0.00	\$850.70
Equipment Hire	\$129.00	\$201.00
Interest	\$1,462.70	\$772.57
Membership Fees	\$13,058.00	\$13,087.00
Visitors Fees	\$3,165.00	\$3,612.00
Other	\$858.70	\$1,129.70
TOTAL INCOME	\$18,671.40	\$21,677.97
EXPENDITURE		
Admin club Room Equipment	\$0.00	\$1,422.52
Catering / Entertainment	\$455.90	\$959.90
Equipment	\$463.90	\$889.00
Federation Insurance	\$4,937.70	\$6,222.50
News - postage	\$1,971.90	\$2,036.15
News - printing	\$3,703.87	\$3,026.11
News - programmes	\$357.50	\$444.25
General postage	\$122.65	\$276.30
General printing / photocopying	\$306.80	\$553.34
Rent - Premises / POBox	\$2,182.50	\$3,684.00
Telephone	\$364.03	\$394.65
Training	\$300.00	\$0.00
Utilities - Water/Electricity/Gas	\$0.00	\$1,091.95
Other	\$2,693.39	\$3,240.07
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$17,860.14	\$24,240.74
Result for the Year	\$811.26	(\$2,562.77)
CLOSING BALANCE	\$3,025.44	\$462.67

Special Account	2001	2002
Opening Balance	\$20,937.85	\$20,937.85
INCOME		
Interest	\$920.00	\$920.00
Other	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$920.00	\$920.00
EXPENDITURE		
Donations	\$920.00	\$1,020.00
Other	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$920.00	\$1,020.00
Result for the Year	\$0.00	(\$100.00)
CLOSING BALANCE	\$20,937.85	\$20,837.85
Walks Account	2001	2002
Opening Balance	\$6,698.29	\$7,131.69
INCOME		
Sunday Bus	\$27,211.00	\$28,449.00
Other	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$27,211.00	\$28,449.00
EXPENDITURE		
Bus Hire	\$26,762.60	\$27,769.50
Other	\$15.00	\$12.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$26,777.60	\$27,781.50
Result for the Year	\$433.40	\$667.50
CLOSING BALANCE	\$7,131.69	\$7,799.19

Wilkinson Lodge Account	2001	2002
Opening Balance	\$16,167.31	\$14,258.12
INCOME		
Accommodation	\$4,264.00	\$4,465.00
Other Income	\$0.00	\$64.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$4,264.00	\$4,529.00
EXPENDITURE		
Club Room Refurbishment	\$1,795.40	\$0.00
Insurance	\$1,479.50	\$1,651.06
Petrol - working bees	\$384.00	\$512.00
Repairs / maintenance	\$874.24	\$2,514.20
Supplies	\$440.05	\$561.68
Wood	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Other Expenditure	\$0.00	\$49.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$6,173.19	\$6,487.94
Result for the Year	(\$1,909.19)	(\$1,958.94)
CLOSING BALANCE	\$14,258.12	\$12,299.18

JAN PALICH

ON CYCLING

CYCLE BASE CAMP: MYRTLEFORD RAIL TRAIL (17 - 19 JAN. 2003) AND CYCLE TRIP: CAPITAL CITY TRAIL (SAT. 1 FEB. 2003)

Apart from a couple of short trips on borrowed bikes of doubtful reliability while on holiday I've done no cycling since I was a kid, when I had a bike without any gears. Part of my retirement plan was to get back into cycling so I took up an offer recently to try out a cycle path, again on a borrowed bike. This clinched the idea, so soon after Christmas I was in a cycle shop making my decision. The technology had moved on since my day and the high-tech, 27 geared super-sprung model that I ended up with made my old bike look like a model T Ford against today's Ferrari. I was going for a cheaper model until the salesman had me try the next one in the range. I was sold!

17 - 19 Jan.: The day after collecting the bikes (!) I was on my way to Myrtleford to join a club ride to Beechworth. As we approached the Ovens valley we watched in awe as Mount Buffalo burned furiously, the flames leaping into the night sky like a volcano erupting. Both ends of the plateau were burning. Firefighters were encamped at the Myrtleford caravan park but we saw little of them as they came and went in the small hours.

Saturday dawned bright and warm. It was soon rather hot as we pedalled along the sealed track following the old railway line that originally ran from Bowser, near Wangaratta to Beechworth, with a branch line to Bright via Myrtleford. The last train to Beechworth ran in 1977 and the branch line closed in 1987. Our run was to the junction point at Everton, then to follow the line to Beechworth. Apart from being fascinated by the new experience of cycling, I was busy for the first hour or so trying to master the gear changing, whilst not running into my companions or sundry stationary objects – like bollards, that indicated a road crossing. The rail trail took us past forgotten stations that had serviced tiny communities and we crossed the Great Alpine Road at Taylors Gap where the original cutting had been filled in – most unreasonably, I thought, as we had to cycle up and down a considerable incline to cross the road. I was a little surprised to find that this rail trail actually had any inclines at all – I'd always thought that trains ran on level tracks! Not so, as I established on the 15 km incline approaching Beechworth. The temperature rose, and we needed the water thoughtfully provided at water points.

By the time we arrived in the Beechworth main street we were more than ready for ice-cold drinks, and we spent some considerable time at the bakery, eating and drinking. Now for that 15 km down-hill bit! But what was this? A sneaky headwind had appeared that slowed us down just a bit, but nevertheless we were soon at Everton again. A short side trip took us to the pub, where we relaxed in the beer garden for a glass or two, before we headed back to Myrtleford. After having cycled some 84 km on my first outing I was pleased to ease my bum from the saddle and head for the showers.

We dined at the Myrtleford hotel by candlelight – someone had dug through the power cable and half of the town was in darkness! However, the chef managed to cook by candlelight and my steak and vegies were most welcome. I slept well.

The Bright road was closed on Sunday due to the fire danger, so instead on cycling to Bright as planned we went to Milawa instead. A sensible plan, as several of us didn't feel like doing too much. A smoke haze shielded us from the sun for a while, but by the time we hit Milawa it was extremely hot. Diving into the Milawa air-conditioned bakery was bliss! The tucker was good too. The cars arrived (not everyone cycled this bit) and we headed for home. My last view of Buffalo was a sad sight – it was burning from end-to-end of the plateau. Thanks to Di McKinley and Howard Friend for running this delightful trip and especially for me – my very first cycle ride in many years.

Sat. 1 Feb.: Another opportunity to check out more cycle paths within two weeks! This time Jan Palich was leading a ride around the city. We had a gorgeous day and twenty of us set off from Princess bridge on the north shore to avoid the bike-mounted rowing coaches, shouting through megaphones at their sweating rowing eights. Following the Yarra we passed the site of a ferry at Burnley, then to Dights Falls at Kew, where the ruins of the watermill have been cleaned up and exposed and where a volunteer group were cleaning up the litter. We stopped for coffee at Clifton Hill, where Pearson, our President, joined us. The donuts, cakes and chocolate sour-dough bread went down well! Then around the north of the city, following part of the inner-city rail line, with great views of the city sky-line, another coffee and lunch stop at Kensington, then through the old Royal Park Psychiatric Hospital which is planned to become the Commonwealth Games village. I hope that the best of the old buildings with their Federation paintwork are retained.

I hadn't been to Docklands for some time so it was a bit of a surprise to find that it looked like the Costa del Sol, with new high rise apartment blocks, palm trees and, today, a line of swish boats – it was the boat show! We nosed around and found that for a mere \$60,000 we could buy a small classy speed boat. Around at Victoria dock we found another boat moored – Greg Norman's 'Aussie Rules', valued at \$70 million. I thought it was a bit ostentatious and anyway, it wouldn't fit in the drive. Cycling on we were soon at Station Pier. Again, it's all changed so much recently. Then back to Southgate and... Chinese New Year! Great festivities were in progress, celebrating the Year of the Goat with all manner of Chinese food on sale at numerous stalls and various attractions. We completed the ride with welcome ice-creams.

A most enjoyable ride (45 km, I'm told). Thank you Jan for showing me some of Melbourne's great bike tracks. I'm definitely sold on this cycling business. However, for anyone contemplating doing this to lose weight, think again! I believe that the calorie intake far exceeded the calories burned up!

DERRICK BROWN

NEW MEMBERS

VINCENT CALLAGHAN

MARIAN COLLIER

SARAH DUNIS

JOSEPH GIORGIO

GEOFF GREENWOOD

JUDITH HALL

ED NEFF

NORM WOODS

ALTERED ADDRESS/PHONE

KEN & JOAN MAC MAHON

BRADLEY R QUINN

JULIE TU

ADD TO MEMBERSHIP LIST

PETER NAUGHTIN

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Life Members	10
Honorary Members	10
Single Memberships	355
Family Memberships	104 (= 2 x 52)
Total Membership	479
This Time Last Year	474

PETER HAVLICEK
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

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June 29 to
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A personal
message from
Russell Willis...

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TRACKS, HUTS AND CONSERVATION

At the VicWalk Conservation meeting held on 26 February 2003, the Committee agreed on the following position:

Alpine Huts Policy - The Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs Inc. recommends that no new huts be built in the Alpine National Park.

The VicWalk Conservation Committee refers to the Alpine National Park – Bogong Planning Unit, Management Plan 1992, as published by the Department of Conservation and Environment, which states the following:- (page 218). 3.25.6 (111) New huts - There is no perceived need for any new huts for refuge, management or licenced purposes in the Bogong unit ...

The Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs recommends that the decision to replace or not to replace a hut (eg. damaged by the 2003 alpine fires) needs to be on a case-by-case basis, with careful consideration of all the environmental, safety and heritage issues. The VicWalk Conservation Committee refers to the Alpine National Park – Bogong Planning Unit Management Plan (1992, page 219):-

3.25.6 (iv) Replacement huts - If a hut is destroyed or falls into disrepair, a decision may have to be made on its replacement.

* A proposed replacement hut would have to fulfil an essential need for licensed grazing or management purposes or refuge. It would be designed to fulfil its primary purpose only.

* If a proposal is made to replace an existing hut in poor condition: - Preference will be given to refurbishing the existing hut if possible. – If this is not possible, and the hut is to be replaced, HPS will be consulted as to whether the original hut should be retained for its historic values. If not, it will be completely removed.

NB: HPS – Historic Places Section

The VicWalk Conservation Committee invites bushwalkers to comment on the replacement of burnt and/or fire-damaged huts in the Alpine National Park. Please refer to the following list and indicate your opinion, eg. “yes – to be replaced” and support this with your reasons, or “no – not to be replaced” again supported by your reasons. It is very important to clearly state your reasons. Please forward your comments in writing via e-mail to Bill Metzthen, Alpine Project Officer, at billm@melbpc.org.au

Huts believed to be affected by the 2003 alpine bushfires include: (note: not a definitive list due to lack of ‘on ground surveys’ as fire control operations are still in progress). Also, reference is made to Table 25 of the Alpine National Park – Bogong Planning Unit (1992, pages 222-225) which has a classification system of refuge value with A = very high, B = high, C = moderate, D = low value and E = nil. Other important considerations are historical significance or used for licensed purposes.

Comments invited on...

Batty’s Hut on New Country spur – apparently burnt ? Refuge status “D” low value,
Bivouac Hut on Mt. Bogong staircase – apparently burnt ? Refuge status “B” high value,
Bogong Jack’s Hut on Bogong Jack saddle apparently burnt ? Refuge status “C” moderate (and possibly redundant if no prior right established in the 1992 Management Plan 3.25.5),
Briggs Logging Camp on West Kiewa River – apparently burnt ? not listed in Table 25,
Bon Accord Hut on Bon Accord spur – apparently burnt ? Refuge status “B” high value,
Federation Hut on Mt. Feathertop – apparently burnt ? Refuge status “A” very high value,
Kelly’s Hut on Cemetery Spur – apparently burnt ? Refuge status “C” moderate value,
MUMC hut on north-west spur of Feathertop – fire damaged ? Refuge status “A” very high value,
McNamara’s Hut on Buckety Plain – apparently burnt ? Refuge status “D” low value,
Red Hut on Rocky Valley Creek – apparently burnt ? Refuge status “D” low value,
Ropers Hut on Duane spur – apparently burnt ? Refuge status “B” high value

Note: this is not a complete list. There are 57+ huts and some are believed ‘safe’ and some are ‘unknown’ at this stage. If you require further information, eg. the 1992 Alpine National Park – Bogong Planning Unit - Management Plan can be accessed from the www.parks.vic.gov.au website.

ROD NOVAK
CLUB DELEGATE
VICWALK CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

WALKS PROGRAM - MARCH 2003

Sun 2	Castella - Victoria Range - Toolangi	BUS	E & E/M	Hans Edlinger & Max Casley	9754 2948	#
7 - 10	Pack carry: Mt Clear - Mt McDonald	Private	Medium	Jopie Bodegraven	9482 4691	
7 - 10	Base camp: Moroka Gorge & Mt Wellington	Private	E/M	Pearson Crosswell	9481 3451	
Sun 9	Red Hill Winery Walking Tour	BUS	E/M & M	Peter McGrath & Quentin Tibbals	5975 1030	#
15 - 16	Bicycle Base camp: Bucolic Barfold	Private	E/M	Susan McInnes	9376 8475	
Sun 16	Wombat State Forest - Jim Crow Range	BUS	E & E/M	Gina Hopkins & Derrick Brown	9853 3788	#
Wed 19	Lyonville Springs, Bullarto Reservoir	Private	E/M	Trevor Thomson	5348 7686	
21 - 23	P/carry: Crooked River- Grant Historic Area	Private	E/M	Bob Oxlade	9887 8701	
Sun 23	8.30 am start Mt Worth State Park	BUS	E/M & M	Tracey Jamieson & Hans Edlinger	9457 3317	#
28 - 30	Base camp: Warburton area	Private	Various	Sylvia Ford	9329 7816	
Sat 29	Dandenongs Explorer: Doongalla	Private	Easy	Warren Baker	9890 3498	
Sun 30	Federation Day: Warburton area	Private	Various	Jan Palich	9428 3639	#

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