



AC00133X

THE NEWS OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

EDITION 636

FEBRUARY 2004

60 CENTS



Photo: Gavin Mascas

Accidental fire injures man and razes Wilkinson Lodge Members to meet to plan hut's future

Wilkinson Lodge, the club's much loved hut near Falls Creek in the Victorian High Country burned to the ground around 8 pm on Saturday 17 January following an accident involving a gas cooker. A leaking gas cylinder caught fire and a man in the kitchen at the time received burns to his face and hands as he tried, in vain, to extinguish the spreading fire. The injured man was taken and treated for first and second degree burns and smoke inhalation at Albury Base Hospital. He and the five others staying at the lodge for the weekend were not club members but people who had enjoyed staying there a number of times. The others got out of the burning hut safely but lost all their belongings.

Wilkinson Lodge, or Wilky for short, miraculously survived last summer's severe bushfires and the club celebrated the lodge's 70th birthday last year. Many members and others who have spent time there have fond memories of it. (Some members' memories of Wilky are included on page 7 inside.)

An information evening was held in the clubrooms on Tuesday 27 January. During the night there was a show of hands on starting the process in favour of rebuilding Wilkinson Lodge. All present were for rebuilding if possible.

A formal meeting will be held on Tuesday 17 February at 7 pm in the clubrooms for members interested in having input on the direction the club takes for the future of the hut. The planned agenda items are as follows: club approval, type of building, permission to build, finance, formation of working sub-groups and other business.

Parks Victoria have confirmed the presence of asbestos on the site and it is currently illegal to enter the roped off area.

David Laing and Doug Pocock

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 25 February 2004

8 pm, Trades Hall, Cnr of Lygon and Victoria Streets, Carlton

Come along and cast your vote (members). Non-members also welcome to attend but may not vote. All committee positions become vacant in February. New committee to be installed. (A form for nomination of committee members is on the back page.)

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

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

QUESTIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE

Sara Watson, Social Secretary answers some questions.

When did you join the club?

I joined the club in January 2001.

How did you first learn about the club?

Actually, I lived in Melbourne in 1993-4 and I joined up then!

What made you decide to join the club?

I decided it was time I stopped working so hard, got out of the house, met new people and got fit! I used to live in Tasmania, and enjoyed going bush walking there, and I had all the gear.

What do you like about the club?

I think the people are great, and it's always been a very welcoming club.

Which club activities do you do?

I'm the Social Secretary so my life depends upon remembering the days of the wine and cheese nights! I've just started in the last few months to lead walks, which I enjoy.

How often do you walk?

Probably once or twice a month on the Sunday walks.

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

I went to the Grampians on a base camp a year or so ago, and loved it.

When did you join the committee?

February 2003.

What made you first stand for committee?

I thought it would be good for me to give some of my time.

What skills/experiences do you believe you bring to the committee?

I've been told I'm a good chooser of cheese, which I take as a great compliment.

Will you stand for committee again next year?

No. I've been accepted on to a distance education course, so that will take up a lot of my time in 2004.

Where were you born?

In Yorkshire in the UK but now have Australian citizenship.

Where do you live now?

I live in Richmond with Nelson my cockerspaniel puppy, who some in the club may have met.

What other interests do you have besides bush walking?

Most of my time at the moment seems to be spent on seeing my money disappear in my renovations. Other than that, I love my garden, and have just taken up golf and tennis.

What music do you like?

I like Blues, and seeing live bands. If you're interested in Blues, Tony Joe White is appearing at the *Prince of Wales* in St Kilda in Feb. I saw him live last year, and he was excellent.

What do you like to read?

I like military history, but am currently reading *Master and Commander* by Patrick O'Brian, which so far I don't think is as good as the film.

What food/restaurants do you like?

Love going for an Indian.

Which films do you like?

For those of you who haven't seen *Master and Commander*, it's a superb action film, best I've seen for ages. And I saw *Love Actually* recently, which I thought was a lovely Saturday night film, a bit soppy.

DAY WALKS, ETC. - FEBRUARY / MARCH 2004

Dandenongs Exp.: Warrandyte State Park

DATE	Saturday 28 February
STANDARD	Easy / Medium
DISTANCE	8 - 9 km
LEADER	Warren Baker
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	1.30 pm
MAP REFERENCE	Melway 23 F1

This will only be a half day walk due to the possibility of high temperatures and bushfires. Please ring in as I wish to be able to cancel the walk if it proves necessary. We will meet at the Warrandyte River Reserve at 10 am. This is opposite the Blue Bicycle Café on the corner of Webb St. and Warrandyte Rd., Warrandyte. There is some parking in the reserve or behind the Community Centre opposite. The earlier time should cover the possibility of high temperatures.

We will walk along the river bank and enter the park at Masonic Avenue. A short climb will take us across Webb Road and we will then descend down to the site of the first gold discovered in Victoria on Anderson's Creek. Backtracking a little we will then climb again and pass the site of two mines. After we reach the summit we will then descend back to Warrandyte and have lunch at one of the many cafés there. The climbing is not onerous and is short lived.

P.S. Pam Westgate's name was omitted by mistake from the list of 2003 Walk leaders in the last News. Thanks to you too, Pam.

Sunday Bus: Lorne Waterfalls

DATE	Sunday 7 March
STANDARD	Easy and Easy / Medium
DISTANCE	13 and 16 km
LEADER(S)	Lynda Larkin and John Coe
TRANSPORT	Bus-Southbank Blvd-8.30 am
RETURN TIME	7 pm
AREA	Angahook - Lorne State Park

If you only do one walk this year, then this should be it! This outstanding walk in the Otways is truly one of the best that Victoria has to offer. Come and discover lush and cool fern gullies, majestic tall trees, delightful streams and imposing waterfalls.

The Easy walk will commence at the Sheoak Picnic Area and walk to Phantom Falls via Won Wondah Falls, Henderson Falls and The Canyon. From the Phantom Falls, we will walk to the Cora Lynn Cascades and finish at the Blanket Leaf Picnic Area. The E/M walk will start from the Sheoak Falls car park on the Great Ocean Road and proceed to the Sheoak Picnic Area via the Sheoak Falls and Swallow Cave. This walk will then follow the same track as the easier walk.

Plenty of water, sunscreen and a wide-brimmed hat are essential items.

Please note 8.30 am start.

Navigation Education Evening

DATE	Thursday 11 March
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER(S)	Quentin Tibballs

Please talk with Quentin Tibballs in the clubrooms or phone him on about this night. See also Navigation Exercise preview below.

Navigation Exercise: Autumn 6 hr Rogaine

DATE	Sat. 13 & Sun. 14 March
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER(S)	Trish Elmore
TRANSPORT	Private

This Victorian Rogaining Association (VRA) event is a perfect chance for club members to practice their navigational skills and be supported by other more experienced club members on the day. If you are a member and have participated in some of the training sessions offered by the club in the past or are planning to attend Quentin Tibballs evening for some instruction on 11 March then I encourage you to register your interest with me for the event or ask a fellow bushwalking friend to be your partner on the day and give it a go.

The plan is to have some more experienced Rogainers at the event to assist you in planning a route for the day and in finding the first 1-2 checkpoints. Then with a bit more confidence you will feel happy to continue on with your route independently. I ask members to phone me on if you are interested as we need to register teams by 3 March to enable the VRA to have all the administration and planning undertaken prior to the event. Looking forward to a fun day.

Sunday Bus: Coronet Bay, Corinella

DATE	Sunday 14 March
STANDARD	Easy and Easy / Medium
DISTANCE	15 and 18 km
LEADERS	Peter McGrath and William Cone
TRANSPORT	Bus-Southbank Blvd-9 am
RETURN TIME	7 pm
AREA	Bass Coast
MAP REFERENCE	Melway

This is a new walk to this club. It has been done before by VNPA. The walk recently won an award for the area in the Tidy Towns competition.

Corinella was the site of the first "bricks and mortar" settlement in the colony of Victoria in 1826. Fear of French occupation of the area led to the dispatch of 100 or so early colonists in two boats from Sydney, included 21 convicts and the explorer William Hovell. The decision to make the settlement at Corinella was an apparent mistake as Hume and Hovell, had mistaken Port Phillip Bay for Westernport Bay in their recent expedition. The colony was abandoned in 1828.

George Bass made the initial exploration of Victoria, landing at Bass Landing, just south of Corinella in 1798. Bass's voyage was remarkable, as he had sailed there by whaleboat. The Bass River provided an entrée to the early explorers into the Victorian heartland.

The area today teems with wildlife. It is a marine national park. Your visit to the area will long be remembered for the prolific quantity of sea birds. Our walk will be along the beach for the first 4 km, then up on the cliff-line over the area where the early sailors posted guns protecting the new colony, then along the coast line to Grantville. As well as the sea birds, the coast-line is remarkable for the mangroves, and the general "wilderness" feel. Come and explore a little of "wild" Victoria.

Wednesday Walk: Domino Trail, Trentham

DATE Wednesday 17 March
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE Probably 15 km with a 10 km option
LEADER(S) Sandra Mutimer
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME Before 4 pm
MAP REFERENCE VicMap: Trentham Wombat State Forest Touring Guide, The Domino Trail leaflet

We will meet at 10.15 am at the Old Railway Station and Information Centre, Trentham. This is in Market St., which you will be able to turn right into from either Victoria St. or the Kyneton - Trentham Rd.

The Domino Trail mainly follows the route of the old Trentham Railway which once linked Daylesford and Carlsruhe, bringing provisions to the region and taking out its produce of potatoes, cattle and timber. It also moves along old logging tracks.

We will travel south-westwards from the old station to Doctors Gully through part of the Wombat State Forest and a Special Protection Zone, proclaimed to protect the habitat of the endangered Powerful Owl and promote forest-based tourism following local community protests when it was discovered that the nearby forests were to be logged.

This walk has not been fully previewed yet and my intention is to build on the walk of the Domino Trail but return through the Wombat State Forest rather than returning on much the same route as the trail does. This will extend the walk to approximately 15 km but there is an option of returning along the Domino Trail, an easy walk of 10 km.

Please ring me on _____ for more details.

Sun. Bus: Mt. Donna Buang - Mt. Victoria

DATE Sunday 21 March
STANDARD Easy / Medium and Medium
DISTANCE 12 and 16 km
LEADERS Vik Dunis and Steve Axford
TRANSPORT Bus-Southbank Blvd-9 am
RETURN TIME 7 pm
AREA Donna Buang / Warburton

Neither of these walks have been previewed at the time of writing and the following description is of routes which are under consideration only. The actual routes on the day may differ substantially so please check with the leaders prior to booking.

Both groups to start at the Cement Creek car park where a short circuit walk will take us along a boardwalk providing views of the rainforest from canopy height and also down at floor level. After this small detour the real walks begin and both follow the same route up walking tracks to the top of Donna Buang where, if the weather is clear, we will have outstanding views of the country around from the lookout tower. The vertical distance from the Cement Creek car park to the top is over 500 metres. The E/M group will then continue over Mt. Victoria possibly finishing at Ten Mile Turntable whilst the medium group put their legs to the test in a descent along ridges down to Warburton, over 1 kilometre in height below.

As stated earlier, this description is tentative only.

Dandenongs Exp.: Grants Picnic Ground

DATE Saturday 27 March
STANDARD Easy
LEADER(S) Warren Baker
TRANSPORT Private

Please phone Warren Baker on _____ about this walk.

Sunday Bus: Steavenson Falls, Marysville

DATE Sunday 28 March
STANDARD Easy and Easy / Medium
LEADERS Jerry Karbownik and Ian McPhee
TRANSPORT Bus-Southbank Blvd-8.30 am

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

N.B. 8.30 am start.

WEEKEND WALKS, ETC. - FEBRUARY / MARCH 2004

Base Camp: Great Ocean Track, Otways

DATE	Fri. 13 - Sun. 15 February
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER(S)	Sylvia Ford
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Late Afternoon Sunday

We will be walking the first part of the brand new Great Ocean Walk; Saturday being from Marengo to Blanket Bay, lovely contrasts, at 18 km and Sunday Blanket Bay to Cape Otway, 9.7 km. As the second day is shortish there will be three good value options to choose from afterwards.

The base camp is at Marengo, just beyond Apollo Bay. Being a conventional park it has hot showers, toilets and a ripper kitchen. A bush camp it is not, but being right beside the ocean it's pretty good. All this for \$9 per person, per night. Additional blurb in the clubrooms or phone me on

N.B. A few nibbles for pre-dinner Sat. night.
Clean boots please (cinamon fungus problems).
All Valentine cards will be gratefully received.

Pack Carry: Eastern Arthurs Traverse, Tas.

DATE	Thurs. 4 - Mon. 15 March
STANDARD	Hard (85 - 100 km)
LEADER(S)	Gina Hopkins
TRANSPORT	Private

Please refer to preview on front page of January *News*.

Base Camp: Moroka Gorge & Mt. Wellington

DATE	Labour Day Long Weekend: Friday 5 - Monday 8 March
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	30 - 40 km
LEADER	Pearson Cresswell
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Late Monday
MAP REFERENCE	Howitt & Maffra 1:100,000

This base camp is an opportunity to explore some terrific country at the southern end of the Alpine region. We planned to go there last year but could not because of the closure of the mountains following the fires.

On Friday night we shall camp at Breakfast Ck. on the Wellington River north of Licola. On Saturday we will drive on to McFarlane's Saddle for a day walk over Mt. Wellington, Spion Kopje and surrounding areas. Expect fantastic views. Then on to our Base Camp at the Horseyards on the Moroka River. On Sunday we will walk in to the spectacular Moroka Gorge. Monday will be a half day walk, possibly Trapyard Hill or Crolls Gorge, before starting the drive home.

Pray for pleasant autumn weather - and no fires.

Pack Carry: Mt. Darling - Dry River

DATE	Labour Day Long Weekend: Friday 5 - Monday 8 March
STANDARD	Medium
LEADER	Ralph Blake
TRANSPORT	Private

Please talk with Ralph Blake in the clubrooms or phone him on about this pack carry.

Cycle Trip: North Geelong - Queenscliff

DATE	Sat. 13 - Sun. 14 March
STANDARD	Easy / Medium
DISTANCE	80 km + (over 2 days)
LEADER(S)	Stephen Rowlands
TRANSPORT	Train (V-Line)
RETURN TIME	Sunday Afternoon
AREA	Bellarine Peninsula

We will be catching the train from Werribee to Nth Geelong on Saturday morning. We then follow the local bike paths to the Baron River, until we join the rail trail, which makes it way to Queenscliff. We will camp that night at a local caravan park and eat out somewhere. Sunday we retrace our tracks back to Geelong and then follow another bike path around the bay to Lara, then catch a train back to Werribee. Your gear will be brought down to Queenscliff by car.

For more information please give telephone me on but not after 9.30 pm.

Base Camp: Black Range

DATE	Friday 19 - Sunday 21 March
STANDARD	Easy / Medium
DISTANCE	16 km Sat. and several small walks at different spots - Sun.
LEADER(S)	Rosemary Cotter
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	7 pm Sunday Evening
AREA	Range parallel to and west of the Grampians
MAP REFERENCE	Mt, Talbot 1:25,000, Black Range 1:25,000

The Black Range, west of the Grampians, is a little known area although the Bushies have put on at least 4 trips in the last ten years. My first exploration of the area was in March 1994. At least there is now an information sheet on the Parks website.

Walking along the top of the rugged sandstone cliffs of the Black Range affords views of the length of the Grampians. Wedge-tail eagles can sometimes be seen

gliding past at a similar height. On the Saturday we'll walk along these cliff tops, drop down to the Muirfoot Track, and visit Mt. Byron and/or the 'wild man's' cave before returning for the car shuffle back to camp. On the Sunday we'll walk through the bush to an adjacent minor peak and visit Mt. Talbot.

Need to take water. Maps and further details about camp at booking nights in the clubrooms (the previously used area is no longer available for camping).

Mid-week: Western Grampians

DATE Mon. 22 - Fri. 26 March
STANDARD Easy / Medium
LEADER(S) Greame Thornton
TRANSPORT Private

Please speak with Greame Thornton in the clubrooms or phone him on about this mid-week walk.

Pack Carry: Terrible Hollow-Devil's Staircase

DATE Friday 26 - Sunday 28 March
STANDARD Medium / Hard
LEADER(S) Geoff Kelly
TRANSPORT Private

This is the walk for you if you would like something a bit more challenging in the beautiful area around Mt. Howitt and the Crosscut Saw. There will be a limit of 8 on this trip and you will need to be competent on rocks and prepared for some difficult and steep terrain.

For details about the planned route please see me in the clubrooms in the two weeks before the walk or call me

Please note change of leader from the Walks Program.

WALKS STATISTICS

December 2003	Trips	People	Average	Dec. 2002
Sunday Bus	3	90	30	27
Other Day	1	16	16	17
Pack Carry	3	25	8	7
Base Camp	2	22	11	16
Lodge	-	-	-	6
Cancelled	1	-	-	-
Total	9	153	-	11 / 186

The extended trips over Christmas to New Year were all very well attended, particularly the two trips to Tasmania. As usual, there was no Sunday walk after Christmas.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Twelve months ago we were rejoicing that Wilky had survived the fires. Now we are mourning its loss by an accident. Many of us have wonderful memories of happy times there. We do not know what the future holds, whether we can rebuild but we will be looking at all options. David Laing will keep everyone informed of developments.

The AGM is almost upon us. I urge all members to attend and exercise their rights. Who knows, you might even be able to fill any vacant position!

I would like to thank those committee members who are standing down this year. Trish Elmore, William Cone, Gina Hopkins, Sara Watson, Vicki Scrivenger, Paul Beers and Marika Jagow have all given lots to the club. I look forward to welcoming members to replace them next committee.

DOUG POCOCK

Winter Booking for the Chalet

As there will be no winter weeks at Wilky we have been in touch with the Rovers and can hire the Chalet for a week. The week they have available is 28 August to 4 September. If you are interested get in touch with me a.s.a.p. so that we can confirm it.

Doug Pocock

GINA HOPKINS
WALKS SECRETARY

Members Remember Wilky

"No fire can take away our happy memories of 13 Christmas holidays at Wilky, when between 2 and 25 Bushies joined our family of 5 for Christmas dinners, games at night, day walks and extended trips. Wilky had that wonderful cosy atmosphere!"

Graham and Marijke Mascas

"First visit in 1967, arriving before everyone else, as I was coming from Bandiana, and driving down the track past Wallaces, as you could then, missing the Wilky turn-off and ending up on the aqueduct track and being startled by a wombat nosing around... Building the kitchen extension with Darrel Sullivan, Rex Filson, John Brownlie and others, the first kitchen stove being a second-hand Esse... I went with Darrel into Falls Creek to scrounge a length of 2" pipe for water supply modifications, the water at that time coming into the lodge via the store room. We found a parking sign that had been knocked over in the gutter that was the right size so we quickly tied that on the roof and set off back to Wilky, Darrel worried about being caught. Just past the dam wall, on the back of a truck, in a light drizzle, was the local MP officially opening the High Plains Road... Installing the next kitchen stove, an Everhot, with the hot water storage tank, the Filson's old gas hot water service... The Warmray heater being installed in the open fireplace in the lounge, with Robin Mitchell, Marion Siseman et al writing a letter, carefully claret stained, to John and Sue Brownlie in Mt. Isa. (John Brownlie wanted to keep the open fire, so they waited till he was away)... Cladding Wilky with the Colorbond sheets with Peter Carlyon and Geoff Kenafacke. Peter building the store room cupboards and the seat/storage at the far end of the lounge room... Merv Scott and Fly (the dog) who erected the fence all around Wilky and the water supply... Renovating the shower, and before the work was finished, having a shower late in the day outside with the shower rose stuck out the window on a length of hose. Strangely, the girls decided they didn't need a shower that night!... Installing the Stanley stove, and starting the demolition with Bob and Rosa."

Rod Mattingly

"Certainly some of my good memories centre around taking visitors to the High Plains for the first time. Their pleasure in finding that the hut they were staying in was so comfortable. How wonderful were the walks in the area, the freedom of walking wherever we wanted, such a surprise to overseas visitors used to walking on tracks... Hillsides covered in yellow kunzeas or phebaliums or purple with hovea... After a good walk, especially if the weather was crook, the warmth and cosiness of Wilky."

Doug Pocock

"I first visited Wilky in 1964, on a work party. There was still a lot of bits and pieces - timber, pipes, iron, a work bench, furniture, etc, lying around left over from the SEC construction camps. We collected much of this and utilised it to repair and renovate the lodge. The workbench was discovered in the quarry at Basalt Hill, and was carted around to the lodge, and set up in the living room. This bench was under the window and had the Tilley lamps on it as well as other bits and pieces.

Driving up to Wilky in those days involved calling in at the SEC office in Mt. Beauty to check in and say where we were going. the whole area was under SEC control and they liked to know who was in the area. The road past Mt. Beauty was narrow, gravel, and quite rough in places. There were posts in the middle of the road on some of the corners to ensure that traffic kept left. Works vehicles could be encountered at any time. Falls Creek Ski village was in its infancy in those days - there were quite a few lodges but nothing like the development and luxury seen today.

Wilky was painted a bright orange, because we thought it would be hard to find in bad weather. As a result of the lodge being buried in 1946, we erected a tall pole with an old kerosene tin on top so we could find Wilky if it were buried by snow! It never has, although in 1981 I experienced the most snow I've seen up there. The snow was level with the upstairs windows and we had to dig out the lower windows to let light in. There were about 7 or 8 steps down to the front door. In those days we drove right down to Wilky, even to the lodge itself. We had a key to the barrier. Now only the Lodge Manager has a key and it is only used when heavy things need to be taken in, such as firewood, or a new stove, or the new roof.

My first winter visit was in 1969, for a long weekend. At that stage I was a bit nervous as I was unfamiliar with the High Plains under snow, and also unsure how I would handle bad weather. Since then I have walked and skied all over the High Plains and have experienced just about every extreme of weather, from sublime sunny, windless days to howling blizzards.

Over the years many changes and improvements have been made to Wilky. The early hot water system was a briquette boiler in the storeroom. There was a bath and a toilet with an old septic tank. Eventually we got a good wood stove, which provided hot water as well as cooking facilities, and a shower was installed. Lockers were installed in the storeroom for parties to store the winter food. The wood stove has been replaced a few times, with Rod and I installing the latest Stanley stove. I had the honour of lighting the first fire in the new stove. I worked on the installation of the new septic tank, which was a large undertaking, involving a backhoe to dig the hole, and lower the tank in. Then there was the plumbing to be done (we had a licensed plumber to do the work). The drainage line was installed and back filled during a thunderstorm - so we all got rather muddy! The vestibule was used to store firewood, kerosene, cleaning equipment, rubbish bins, skis, etc. etc. It was vary dark and pokey. Later, when National Parks required us to provide a public refuge, we built a separate woodshed and cleared out the vestibule to make the refuge. This was much more useful for us, even though it was seldom used as a refuge (as far as we know).

I have made my contributions to Wilky over time - things such as painting windows, cleaning out the dam, putting up shelves, helping with fencing, helping dig the hole for the toilet at Wallaces, carting and splitting firewood, cleaning out the flues, replacing the firebricks in the stove, replacing the floor in the vestibule, etc.

I have had many happy times in Wilky, in summer and winter. Christmas dinners, cosy winter evenings playing games, lots of good food, all sorts of weather. Snow at all times of the year. I estimated recently that over the years I must have slept in Wilky about 500 nights! An average of 12 nights a year for nearly 40 years. Some years would have been more like 20 nights. I am very distressed by the loss of Wilky, as it has such good memories for me. A little bit of paradise. A beacon, a fixed point of calm in a busy and sometimes stressful world. We are all the poorer for Wilky's passing."

Bob Steel

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - 2003

2003 will go down as a sad year due to the loss of Wilkinson Lodge. However, looking back the club has had another successful year. The increase in subscriptions has put the club administration account back onto a sound financial footing. A rise in bus costs has meant we had to increase the walk fees. We hope the new fee structure will prove successful in keeping the walks account revenue neutral.

Insurance has been an ongoing issue for much of the year. Your committee and especially Federation have spent much time sorting out these problems. However, it looks fairly stable in its status at present and is workable.

The club functions with many people in many diverse roles. I would like to thank everyone, those obvious and those not so obvious, but all are necessary in the smooth running of the club:

The committee, who have worked well during the year keeping the club running smoothly.

All of our leaders without whom we would not be a walking club.

The club contacts, a vital role in our safety system.

Margaret Borden who has continued as our phone contact.

Susan McInnes who keeps our clubrooms clean and tidy.

The auditors, Stephen Chenoweth and Vic Dunis.

Geoff Mattingley, our public officer since incorporation.

Sandra Mutimer, the Wednesday Walks Co-ordinator.

Warren Baker, the Saturday Walks Co-ordinator.

Deb Henry who maintains the club website, increasingly important in attracting new members.

Finally, all of the club members who have been part of a great organization.

DOUG POCOCK

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

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.

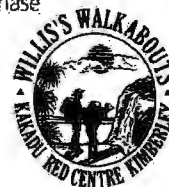
Come in June and enjoy clear skies and ideal temperatures.

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.

Book now to take advantage of our advance purchase discounts.

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

WALKS SECRETARY'S REPORT - 2003

Yearly Attendance Totals for the 5 Years 1999 - 2003

Year	Total	Day	W/E Total	Pack Carry	Members	Visitors	No. of Trips
2003	2,621	2,089	532	137	2,142	479	128
2002	2,756	2,200	556	226	2,062	694	132
2001	2,613	2,011	602	208	1,999	614	137
2000	2,552	2,047	505	189	2,098	454	134
1999	2,734	2,230	499	213	2,208	526	139

Walks Statistics 2003 v 2002

Activity	No. of Trips		Av. Attendance	
	2003	2002	2003	2002
Sunday Bus	50	51	32.5	34.4
Wednesday	12	12	17.3	15.3
Dand.Exp.	10	10	15.5	19.7
Training	2	3	16	11.7
Other	7	3	10.3	9.7
Cycle W/E	3	1	10.7	15
Pack Carry	18	27	7.6	7.8
Base Camp	20	15	14.2	14.3
Lodge	4	6	12.3	10.7
Canoe	2	2	15	18
Lilo	-	-	-	-
Cancelled	11	14	-	-

In 2003: •We had 2,621 people involved in 128 trips. •Sunday Bus attendances were down from last year and below the break-even point. (The bus hire cost has been increased this year and hence bus fees have been raised.) •Pack carry trips were significantly down in number. •Base camps and lodge weekends continue to attract good numbers. •The bushfires of January 2003 affected a number of weekend trips with many being cancelled or postponed. •The percentage of visitors, 18%, was down from last year's 25%. •Ski trips were again omitted from the program because of the lack of insurance cover.

A huge *thank you* to the 82 walk leaders in 2003, especially those leading for the first time. We would have no walks and no club without the efforts of the relatively few. If you haven't yet volunteered to lead a walk, then please consider doing so in 2004 – we would love to hear from you.

Many thanks to the team who help put together the Walks Programs – Peter McGrath, Assistant Walks Secretary and a keen Sunday walker, has contributed lots of good ideas for new Sunday walks; Sandra Mutimer our Wednesday Walks Co-ordinator, in charge of a keen and growing band of (mainly retired) walkers; Warren Baker who co-ordinates and leads many of the Dandenong Explorers, another well-supported monthly activity. In addition to the wide choice of different standards of walks, we have included more bicycle trips, canoe trips and a new activity – Conservation Days, introduced by our Conservation delegate, Rod Novak. We have also offered members opportunities to improve their navigation and leadership skills, thanks to Quentin Tibballs, our Training Co-ordinator. We will continue to program more leadership training days in 2004 and hope that many of you will take advantage of this.

Happy and safe walking in 2004.

GINA HOPKINS

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT - 2003

The Membership Secretary's regular duties include: the maintenance of the register of members' particulars (address, telephone, subscription status), the collection of subscriptions, giving advice about membership to potential or new members, assisting in the preparation of membership lists and in mailing *The News*.

As at the beginning of February 2004, the membership of the club was 478 (February 2003: 472) including 10 Life and 10 Honorary Members.

The number of members increased very slightly during 2003 with 70 (2002: 64) new members joining and 63 (2002: 64) members relinquishing their memberships.

PETER HAVLICEK

EDITOR'S REPORT - 2003

A warm thank you to everyone who contributed to *The News* in 2003. Particular thanks to **Rod Novak** for his regular column: "Tracks, Huts and Conservation" and for his large number of other conservation related entries, **Quentin Tibballs** for his occasional articles on first aid treatments, **Jan Palich** for her idea of running a series on current committee members and their duties and to the **2003 committee** for answering my probing questions, to all the **newsletter folding folk** and to **Peter Havlicek** for skilfully managing these folks and for posting the finished products. (Peter turns up every "News night" even when he is not a well Membership Secretary.)

This issue is my last after three years as Editor and not one I'll forget in a hurry.

VICKI SCRIVENGER

CONSERVATION REPORT - 2003

Rod Novak and Bill Metzenthien attended the monthly *VicWalk Conservation* meetings in 2003. Bill is also an active member of the *VNPA Alpine Committee*. Rod wrote the monthly 'Tracks, Huts and Conservation' in *The News* keeping everyone up-to-date with the key projects. Significant issues in 2003 include the 'Cows in the Alpine National Park' campaign, Alpine Huts re-building policy, submission and workshop with Parks Victoria, consulting with PV on the proposed track marker change with the Australian Alps Walking Track, celebrating a win for Box-Ironbark National Park, submission for the Otway Ranges National Park and Trans Otway walk to link the Surf Coast walk with the Great Ocean Walk, protesting about the trail bike impact in Bunyip State Park, submission on the Western Arthurs (Tas.) options paper, and contributing to the Kosciuszko National Park management plan and bushfire recovery.

In 2003, the club gave donations to the Victorian National Parks Association (alpine grazing campaign) and the Regent Honeyeater Project. Voluntary work included a track maintenance day in the Yarra Ranges (thanks to Marika Jagow), assisted Conservation Volunteers Australia with habitat restoration at Yellingbo Nature Reserve (Helmeted Honeyeater Project), assisted the Friends of the Bogong National Park – track work on the Razorback and Mt. Feathertop, habitat restoration at Lysterfield National Park, and two tree planting weekends with the Regent Honeyeater Project (at Lurg Hills, near Benalla). Also, William Cone organised a successful letter writing campaign in November for the 'Cows in the Alpine National Park' issue.

In 2003, the committee released a Campfire Policy based on minimal impact bushwalking guidelines.

Thanks go to all members for their keen interest in bushwalking and contribution to tracks, huts and conservation.

ROD NOVAK



Visit Nepal with the Melbourne Sherpas



the soaring Aussie dollar makes 2004 the year to trek Nepal

Contact Mingmar & Marilynne Sherpa of Om Trek

on 03 9781 1280 for more information

<http://travel.to/kathmandu>

5% discount to members of Bushwalking Clubs

WEDNESDAY WALKS REPORT - 2003

I would like to thank those people who led Wednesday Walks during 2003 : Geoff Mattingley, Susan Maughan, Trevor Thomson, Max Casley, Stuart Hodgson, Rod Mattingley, Alister Rowe, Jan Llewelyn, Bruce Campbell, as well as me. Susan Maughan and Stuart Hodgson also organised a mid-week base camp. Along with other Wednesday walkers I appreciate the time and effort that leaders have put into the walks and their contribution to the success of Wednesday walks. I look forward to the continued support of these leaders and to the addition of other leaders this year plus some more volunteers for future walks. A special thank you to Trevor Thomson, whose walks in the Daylesford and Hepburn Springs areas and nearby have been a feature on the walks program, and I'm certainly not alone in my appreciation of these and in recognising how fortunate we have been to have benefited from Trevor's considerable local knowledge and well-planned walks.

There are several mid-week activities that could be considered in the future and these include easier walks in suburban or closer country areas, special interest walks such as historical or environmental ones, twilight walks, bike rides along city bike tracks or rail trails, mid-week base camps, mid-week pack carries, longer stays with camping and / or cabin options, camps in areas where our country members would be able to become involved and also work on conservation projects. Interest has been shown, some of these are beginning to happen and others look as if they will in the future but will depend on support being given and willing leaders who are prepared to organise or help with any of these activities. Jean Giese, who initiated the Wednesday Walks program, would like to hear from you if you are interested in participating in walks of a more relaxed standard and pace and the Walks Secretary and I would be interested in hearing from anyone who would like to be involved in any of the other activities.

I would recommend that those walkers who have not already done so, and are able to, consider coming on Wednesday walks which take place on the third Wednesday of the month (except for the December one that takes place on the second Wednesday of the month).



SANDRA MUTIMER

TALK TO THE EXPERTS

- RIGHT GEAR
- RIGHT ADVICE
- RIGHT PRICE

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.



BOGONG EQUIPMENT
374 Little Bourke St. Melbourne 3000
Tel: 9600 0599 Fax: 9602 1997
email: bogong@bogong.com.au

Join the Bogong Club for a 10% discount

MOROKA GORGE - SNOWY BLUFF

PACK CARRY: 26 - 31 DEC. 2003

The Moroka Gorge is one of those locations in the high country that 'pulls you back for another visit'. We were a group of nine and the fact that several of us had already been to the Moroka many times says much about the inherent attractiveness of the area. Or were we attracted by the charismatic leadership? The fact that the Snowy Bluff and Nielson's Crags were on the agenda was also something of a draw-card.

We drove to the Horse-Yards on Boxing Day and walked in to the campsite at Fitzpatrick Creek the same afternoon. The weather was hot enough for us to feel glad that we were to spend much of the six-day walk actually on the river. The first evening at the campsite provided us with a welcome opportunity for swimming as well as some fine river scenery and more than the usual quota of flies, mosquitoes and bull-ants. On the following day most of the group explored the main gorge with its inspiring cliffs and waterfalls, returning to Fitzpatrick Creek for the night.

The next two days saw us walking downstream through the 'lower gorge', which involved several short gorge-like sections as well as much typical off-track river walking with the usual mixture of rock-hopping, river crossing, scrub-bashing and rock-scrambling. Route-finding was part of the challenge and the heat persisted, but swimming provided a welcome relief. This section of the Moroka is not often visited. Although it lacks such a concentration of spectacular scenery as the main gorge, it deserves more attention. We established camp for two nights below the spur which is generally used as the route up the Snowy Bluff. On the next day the four more energetic members of the group enjoyed a full day's side-trip up this peak while the rest of us spent most of the day in the cool waters of the Moroka. Next day we walked up the jeep-track to Doolan's Plain and enjoyed a side-trip to Nielson's Crags which offers great views of the Moroka, Carey Creek and Snowy Bluff, not to mention 'range-upon-range' of hills stretching into the distance in all directions. New Year's Eve was celebrated that evening.

Many of us in the club have enjoyed trips led by Jopie over the years and this one gave us the rewards that we have come to expect. The scenery was great. The vegetation was often colourful and it was particularly good to have someone with Ray's expertise in the group. Of course the walking was challenging, but it was good to have the option to opt out of the side-trips and laze around in the river. Thank you Jopie.

The group was Jopie (leader), Jenny, Ray, Joan, Alan, Bert, Jeroen, David and me.

JERRY GRANDAGE

MURRAY RIVER MARATHON CANOE AND KAYAK RACE 2003

27 - 31 DECEMBER

This race which covers 404 km of the river over five days is a tough challenge both physically and mentally, so it is well worth mentioning the incredible efforts of (a) two club members, (b) a friend and crewmate of one and (c) the daughter of another.

Firstly, Janette Mattingley and her friend and crewmate, Jan Palmer crewed a twin kayak (TK2) in the women's 40+ years section and covered the distance in the magnificent time of 34 hours 57 minutes, gaining 2nd place in their section and only ½ hour behind the winners. I saw these two ladies many times paddling along over the five days and it was a treat to see them, seemingly to me, without much effort.

Secondly, Stuart Mattingley's daughter, Katrina was a member of a relay team from Strathcona College and their team gained 6th place, a fine performance for a youngster.

Thirdly, we come to the 2nd member of the Bushies, Ken Baird of Templestowe, a bushwalking, cycling and kayaking friend of mine over the past 50 years. Ken decided he would attempt the Marathon and, at 75½ years of age, it was no light decision. However, he acquitted himself extremely well and finished the course in 49 hours and in excellent condition. He is a tough fellow and is a very experienced canoeist and kayaker.

I congratulate these athletes for their remarkable and successful efforts and I'm sure other members will extend congratulations to these people too after reading this article.

ART TERRY

RECIPES

Dairy-Free Trail Mix Muffins

155g wholemeal flour 1 tbsp baking powder
1 tsp ground cardamom 350g trail mix (fruit & nuts)
90g honey 125ml light olive oil
125ml soy milk 1 tbsp grated orange zest

Pre-heat oven to 180° C. Grease muffin cups. Sift flour, powder and cardamom. Stir in trail mix. In another bowl, mix honey, oil, soy milk and zest. Add to dry ingredients and stir till just combined. Batter should be slightly lumpy. Fill cup ¾ full. Bake 20-25 mins. Cool, remove from tin. Serve warm or room temp. (Makes 8)

Seven Grain Muffins

155g seven grain cereal 375ml boiling water
235g pl. flour 60g packed brown sugar
1 tbsp baking powder ½ tsp salt
1 egg 80ml veg. oil

Place cereal in a lg. bowl. Add boiling water. Cover and let stand till water is absorbed (about 30 mins). Drain. Strain mixture and discard remaining water. Pre-heat oven to 180° C. Grease 12 muffin cups. Sift flour, sugar, baking powder and salt in a lg. bowl. In another bowl, beat egg, oil and grain mixture until blended. Add dry ingredients and stir until combined. (Batter should be slightly lumpy.) Fill muffin cups till ¾ full. Bake 20-25 mins. Cool in pan for 1-2 mins and transfer to cooling rack. Serve warm or room temp. (Makes 12)

Chocolate Marbled Energy Bars (Delia Smith)

150g dk choc. (small pcs) 50g white choc.
110g pecan nuts 110g dried apricots
150g oats 25g rice crispies
25g Bran flakes 75g raisins
1 tsp. molasses syrup 150g condensed milk

Will need a 25 x 15cm tin (2.5cm deep). Toast pecans. Chop into sm. pieces. Chop apricots, same size as pecans. Mix pecans, apricots, rice crispies, bran and raisins. In a sm. saucepan heat molasses and condensed milk till warm. Thoroughly combine. Pour into bran mix. Mix well with a wooden spoon. Pour into tin, press down evenly. Bake in centre of oven for 25 mins, till golden brown, at 180° C / 350° F. Allow to cool. When cold, turn out upside down on to a board. Meanwhile, melt dark and white chocolate, separately. Using a tbsp., pour spoonfuls of plain choc. over top of cereal cake, leaving space in between. Then do the same with the white choc., filling up the gaps. Take a small palette knife and, using a zig-zag motion, swirl the two chocolates together to give a marbled effect. Then lift the board and gently tap it down on to the work surface to create a smooth finish. Chill in fridge for about 1 hr, then use a sharp knife to cut into 16 bars. (Makes 16)

SUSAN MAUGHAN

NEW MEMBERS

ELEONORA AXELSSON

NIGEL BIANCHIN

DAVID CARTER

ALTERED ADDRESS / PHONE

JOY D PHILLIPS

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Life Members	10
Honorary Members	10
Single Memberships	364
Family Memberships	94 (= 2 x 47)
Total Membership	478
This Time Last Year	472

PETER HAVLICEK
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

ACCOUNTS

December 2003	\$
Opening Balance	47,437.63
Income	2664.90
Expenditure	4811.72
Closing Balance	45290.81

JAN PALICH
TREASURER

CLUBROOMS DUTY ROSTER

Wednesday 11 February: J Coe and D Pocock
Wednesday 18 February: T Elmore and D Laing*
Wednesday 25 February: H Friend and M Jagow
Wednesday 3 March: D Henry and J Palich*

*J Palich, Treasurer present

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 1 March at 7 pm in the clubrooms

**Seniors' Group: Maroondah Reservoir Park -
Donnellys Weir**

Easter Weekend
8 - 12 April 2004

DATE Thursday 11 March
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 9 km
LEADER(S) Jean Giese
TRANSPORT Private

This group has made a start! There'll be a walk each month, whether on a Wednesday or Thursday has yet to be decided.

For our first walk meet at the parking area near the kiosk at 10 am (Melway 270 K.10).

Please book with the leader on _____ if you intend to come.

Easter is rapidly approaching and those members of the club wanting an exciting break should join us in Portland on the **Lower Glenelg National Park weekend**, exploring part of the Great South West Walk.

Historic Portland is the centre of a district which boasts interesting landscapes. These include "extinct" volcanoes, soaring cliffs, extensive heathland and manna gum forest (a favourite of koalas) and a diverse range of birdlife.

Most will want to camp out, but those intending to come and require on-site cabins or the like, should contact me on **as soon as possible.**

John Coe

The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers
Print Post Approved. PP No 338888/00016
If undelivered please return to:
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.
GPO Box 1751Q, Melbourne 3001

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID**

**NOMINATION FORM FOR THE COMMITTEE
OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.**

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

Name of Nominee:.....

Proposed by:.....

Seconded by:.....

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

***Return to: The Secretary, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc., GPO Box 1751Q, Melbourne, Vic. 3001,
or drop in the Secretary's pigeon hole in the clubrooms***