



THE NEWS OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

EDITION 635

JANUARY 2004

60 CENTS

Annual General Meeting

*25 February 2004
8 pm, Trades Hall*

Slide Night: Willis's Walkabouts

*Wednesday 28 January
8 pm, Clubrooms*

Russell Willis from Willis's Walkabouts will show us slides from some of the wonderful tours he runs. Come and listen to Russell and view stunning pictures taken in exotic locations.

Bookings for walks to be made between 7 and 8 pm please.

Pack Carry: Eastern Arthurs Traverse, Tas.

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

The ultimate goal of walking the Eastern Arthurs in south-west Tasmania is to climb Federation Peak, and that is certainly my intention. This is a most spectacular peak which can be seen, in good weather, from many other parts of the south west, standing out as a challenge to any serious bushwalker. Federation Peak is surrounded by cliffs and the final 200m is a vertical climb. It is not for the faint-hearted. The weather is often appalling and it is said that only 50% of parties actually make it to the summit. The route along the Eastern Arthur traverse should be very rewarding in itself and even if we can't make the summit of Federation there are other gems like Hanging Lake to visit.

There is a limit of 6 people on this trip. It is only suitable for strong, fit and experienced bushwalkers. If interested please call me on _____ before the end of January.



Congratulations

Marika Jagow, Sylvia Ford and Max Casley were the three lucky winners of the Leaders' Draw held at our Christmas party on 17 December 2003. Each won a \$50 spending voucher kindly supplied to us by Bogong Equipment, 374 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne.

Peter McGrath was given a present of a bottle of wine for having led the most walks in 2003 too.

Sunday Bus Fee Increase

from 1 February 2004

	To 25 Jan '04	From 1 Feb '04
Bus Fee	\$17	\$20
Concession	\$11	\$15

After many years of keeping the bus hire rates the same, McKenzie's have increased their weekly rate effective from 1 January 2004. The extra amount works out at \$2 per walker per trip. However, even before this increase the committee was reviewing the Sunday bus fee because for some months the Sunday walks have been running at a loss. It is club policy that the cost of the Sunday bus hire be paid for by the Sunday walkers and that it should not be subsidised by club membership fees which are used to pay for the hire of the clubrooms, insurance, newsletters, etc.

So from 1 February 2004, the bus fee will go up to \$20. The concession fee is being increased from \$11 to \$15. (Just for interest, the last time the Sunday bus fee was changed, it was reduced from \$18 to \$17, from 1 September 2001.)

*Gina Hopkins
Walks Secretary*

ENQ.:

WEBSITE: www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au

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

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: vscrivenger@bigpond.com
- ★ 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,
Unit 1, 30 Lee Avenue, Mount Waverley, Vic., 3149.

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 EDITOR

As my three-year tenure as *News* Editor draws to a close
I would like to make several acknowledgements.

Conservation - high on the agenda

It has been an honour to publish (and hopefully promote)
VicWalk Conservation Committee club delegate,
Rod Novak's many and varied contributions on
conservation matters and a great delight to see victories
for some of the causes he has been involved with.

Introduction of a format for walk previews via email

I would like to thank Gina Hopkins, Walks Secretary for
introducing in 2002 a format to help the Editor to put
leaders' walk previews into *The News* by means of an
attachment to an email. Great idea Gina!

Introduction of *The News* on the club's website and emailing of same

Thanks to Website Manager, Debbie Henry for putting
the newsletter on the club's website in 2001 and for
enabling members (in 2003) to receive it via email each
month if they wish to. I believe Debbie is showing us the
way of the future with the emailing of *The News* and
that this takes a certain amount of courage.

Contributions by email and on floppy disks are strongly preferred

My predecessor, Clare Lonergan said: "Electronic mail
is preferred" and I'll perhaps add "with a document file
attached. Floppy disks are fine too." Warm thanks to all
those members who (have had access to a computer and)
have submitted items in either of these two ways over
the last three years.

VICKI SCRIVENGER

Walks Secretary Needed

The club is looking for a new Walks Secretary. This is a
key role with the main job being the organisation of the
walks programmes. This is not as hard as it may sound
as there is a large team of people to assist. The Assistant
Walks Secretary is responsible for the Sunday walks and
there are co-ordinators for the Wednesday and
Dandenong Explorer walks, plus there is the Walks
Planning Committee who help with the planning of each
programme. All the Walks Secretary has to do is
manage the overall process and make sure it happens on
time. Finding leaders for all the walks and maintaining
our valuable archive of walk reports is also part of the
Walks Secretary's job.

I have an updated job description for the position, so if
you would like more information, please call me on

Gina Hopkins
Walks Secretary

PREVIEWS OF DAY WALKS, ETC. - JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2004

Sunday Bus: Werribee Gorge

DATE	Sunday 18 January
STANDARD	Easy/Medium and Medium
LEADER(S)	Lynda Larkin & Fiona Gallery
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd – 9 am
RETURN TIME	6 pm

This much-loved walk is located in the Werribee Gorge State Park, which lies to the west of Bacchus Marsh, about an hour from Melbourne along the Western Highway. Both walks will commence and finish at an eastern entrance to Werribee Gorge in the Quarry Picnic Area, closely following a well-established circuit that is not particularly long, but includes a number of moderately strenuous gradients...hence the classification Easy/Medium and Medium.

The longer of the two walks will be making a 5 km detour at Falcon's Lookout and later will re-enter the Gorge Circuit via Western Bluff Track. Great views are plentiful and the possibility of a swim at Needles Beach adds to the appeal of this walk. Needles Beach is a delightful oasis nestled in a quiet bend of the river, sheltered by a magnificent wall of volcanic rock. Should the weather turn out to be exceedingly hot, mercy will be shown by your soft-hearted leaders, who have planned for this contingency by arranging that the walks may be shortened and more time spent at the waterhole.

Please remember to bring the usual summer essentials...water, sunscreen, hats...oh, and gaiters or long trousers if you are at all sensitive to stinging nettle, sword grass or snakes! Also, a change of shoes for the return trip on the bus.

Cycle Trip: Merri Creek

DATE	Sat. 31 January
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	45 km
LEADER(S)	Derrick Brown
TRANSPORT	Private

We'll be on cycle paths the whole way (mixture of sealed/gravel/mud) and it's a gentle run with a coffee stop en route and another at the finish at Studley Park boathouse. We'll meet at 9 am at the Willsmere / Earl St roundabout in east Kew (Melway 45 D3). We join the Merri Ck path at Dwrights Falls, then follow the creek as it winds its way north. We'll check out the Ceres project before continuing up to Thomastown, crossing the creek a couple of times, and passing through several reserves. We return via the same route, finishing at the boathouse for coffee / lunch / boat-hire as required.

Note change of leader. Call Derrick Brown on

Sunday Bus: Cumberland River

DATE	Sunday 1 February
STANDARD	Easy and Medium
DISTANCE	13 and 15 km
LEADER(S)	Gina Hopkins & Jerry Karbownik
TRANSPORT	Bus-Southbank Blvd-8.30 am
RETURN TIME	7.30 pm

This walk is considered to be one of our club's perennial favourites. Start with the sound of waves crashing on the shore...meander along the Cumberland river in the shade of river gums...visit (hopefully) picturesque waterfalls...marvel at the swallow caves and surrounding geology...return to the sea. Been there, done that...but always want to do it again!

Those members joining us this time should be prepared to bring extra water... (yes, I know it says "river")...but this will be February and, who knows? Though most of the walk should be in protected situations, there will be some exposed hilltop sections...so, hat and sunscreen go into the packs as well. Also fill that "thermos" with cold drink and leave it on the bus for the return trip.

Note the 8.30 am start...we will need to get away on time.

Sun. Bus: Murchison Gap - Strath Ck Falls

DATE	Sunday 8 February
STANDARD	Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCE	14 and 16 km
LEADER(S)	Elizabeth Ingham & Halina Sarbinowski
TRANSPORT	Bus-Southbank Blvd-9 am
RETURN TIME	7 pm

The Medium group commences at the junction of Beaconsfield Rd and Murchinson Rd, passing gold workings, crossing bridges and doing a bit of cross-country off-track walking before reaching Strath Falls Rd. From this point both walks follow the same route.

From Strath Falls Rd the walks descend to about half way up the falls, cross them and then make their way up the east bank. A short stretch along roads is followed by a steep descent along a spur. The groups cross a "grassy" knoll and make their way to Diggers Gully. We'll follow the pebbled creek bed until we reach a lovely series of small waterfalls. Here the walks become steep and will involve some rock climbs along the falls and a great deal of rock hopping. When we reach the branch in the creek we'll climb a steep distinct spur to Allens Tk which we follow until we reach Flowerdale Rd and the bus.

This is a beautiful area to walk in. Although much of the walks are off-track this is not bush-bashing country with the steep descents and climbs offering the challenges. Lots of bird life seen on the preview plus some kangaroos and wallabies.

Bus: Red Bluff & Pyramid Rock, Phillip Is.

DATE	Sunday 15 February
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	12 and 16 km
LEADERS	Peter McGrath and Cherie Horne
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd – 9 am
RETURN TIME	7 pm

Who says the Bushies don't do difficult beach walks? This walk features a short section of rugged coastline, typical of this area of Phillip Island. It also features a nice section of beach, and a very nice coastal track along the cliff-tops overlooking the ocean. Be prepared for some rock-hopping on this walk. It is not just a gentle stroll along the beach. But come prepared, and you will be well rewarded.

Wednesday Walk: Plenty River Gorge

DATE	Wednesday 18 February
STANDARD	Medium (one-way), Medium/Hard (two-way)
DISTANCE	13 - 22 km (see options)
LEADER(S)	Graeme Thornton
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	3 pm to cars (see options)

About the 1960s the then Melb. Metro. Board of Works instigated a policy of developing "linear parks" as a means to slow the alienation and degradation of Melbourne's streams. Restrictions were placed on private development and the MMBW purchased properties where and when they could as they came up for sale. This process is still going on and not all subject property owners are/were happy with the restrictions on development. Parks Vic. now administer the process and the land. Alienation still continues, but there are also some magnificent legacies, only just saved in the nick of time. This walk is through one of them.

We will be visiting the middle Plenty River along what is known as the "Plenty Gorge". I have done the trip piecemeal over the years with guides Nikki and Clancy on one side or the other (but not both) of the river. I would like to go up and then back on both sides from Janefield to Yarrambat, but this may not be possible. I'll decide on the day based on the whether: whether the weather is kind; whether I feel like it. A car-shuffle will be necessary if one-way.

We will meet at 9 am "under the elms" just before the Janefield community proper, 1 km east from Plenty Rd along Janefield Drive (Melway 10 D7). Tram route 86, stop no. 70 is at Janefield Drive.

The gorge is very rugged in places and either side may become impassable thus necessitating river crossings. I do not recommend this walk for the inexperienced due to its experimental nature and possible double length. I plan to stay as high as possible as often as possible but it might end up being hot, rocky, steep, scratchy and difficult in places. Bring plenty of water, sun protection and patience. Is it possible to have a Medium-Medium/Hard - tricky walk cheek by jowl with rampant suburbia and back fences? I can guarantee surprises, one way or the other, on this trip. This will be the Nikki - Noo memorial walk.

Cycle Trip: Williamstown

DATE	Saturday 21 February
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER(S)	Liz Telford
TRANSPORT	Private

Please phone Liz Telford on about this cycling trip.

Sun. Bus: Macedon Ranges Walking Trail

DATE	Sunday 22 February
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	13 and 16 km
LEADER(S)	Di McKinley and Howard Friend
TRANSPORT	Bus - Southbank Blvd - 9 am
RETURN TIME	Sunday evening

This is a circuit walk mostly within the Macedon Regional Park which has undergone prolific regeneration since the 1983 Ash Wednesday fires.

Both groups will walk a route that includes the attractions of the Memorial Cross Reserve, the Sanatorium Lake Forest Eco-Tourism Trail, and a short diversion up Mount Towrong providing good views over the township of Mount Macedon. The scenic Camel's Hump rock formation will be within easy view, and accessible for the energetic. From the top of the Cross there are splendid views of Woodend and the surrounding area. Lunch and tea breaks will be among the many green grassy picnic grounds in the area.

The two groups will undertake the circuit in opposite directions, with the easy group having a later commencing point at the Cross. Much of the walk is on the Macedon Ranges Walking Trail and the climbs are to altitudes of 800 - 980 metres, making this an extremely interesting and picturesque walk.

Dandenongs Exp.: Warrandyte State Park

DATE	Saturday 28 February
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER(S)	Warren Baker
TRANSPORT	Private

Please phone Warren Baker on about this walk.

Sunday Bus: Breamlea - Ocean Grove

DATE	Sunday 29 February
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	12 and 14 km
LEADERS	John Coe and John Mc Call
TRANSPORT	Bus - Southbank Blvd - 9 am
RETURN TIME	7 pm

For the trivia buffs, a walk such as this comes around once every 28 years. "How can this be?" you ask. Well, the observant among us would have noticed that it is February 29 (what might be called Leap Year's Day) and the last time February 29 fell on a Sunday was 1976. The next time this will occur will be 2032.

So come along and enjoy this pleasant part of the Surf Coast and have your own mini "Sea Change", if only for a day, as we explore Barwon Heads, which has long since shed its image of a sleepy holiday village. This walk, to the best of my knowledge, has never been done by the Sunday walkers.

The E/M group will commence at Breamlea, a beach a few kilometres east of Torquay, while the Easy group will start walking at Bancoora Beach. The beach walking should be quite pleasant as it will be done either side of low tide, when the sand will be compacted. On our jaunt to Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove we will pass through some of the lesser known beaches of the Surf Coast, namely Bancoora and Thirteenth Beach, as well as some interestingly named seascapes such as Noble Rocks, Black Rocks and Blue Rocks. At the end of the walk, there should be ample time for refreshments.

Bring plenty of water, a wide-brimmed hat, sunscreen and sunglasses. For walkers who want to have their tired muscles massaged by the surf, bring bathers for a swim at the end of the day.

PREVIEWS OF WEEKEND WALKS, ETC. - JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2004

Base Camp: Howqua River 8 Mile Flat

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

Please see detailed preview in December's newsletter. Just a note that we'll be doing a traditional base camp without a 200m walk from the cars to the campsite. Decided creature comforts were a tad heavy. Camped in the area on the last weekend in December and the wildflowers were absolutely fabulous, there were continual sightings of a variety of birds and we spotted a black kangaroo.

Also for those who enjoy a lilo trip along a river this is the place for you. For others - lots of opportunities for swimming or just lazing in the sun after our days of walking. Hope you join us.

Pack Carry: Mt. Tabletop, Alpine Nat. Park

DATE	Friday 6 - Sunday 8 February
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	16 km
LEADER(S)	Merilyn Whimpey
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	10 pm Sunday

I haven't been to Mount Tabletop for several years now. As it's a lovely mountain, I jumped at the chance of leading a walk in the area.

After a car shuffle, leaving some cars at JB Plain on the Alpine Road, we'll start from the Dargo High Plains Road and take the Tuckalong Spur down to China Flat for our Saturday night camp. On Sunday we'll go over Mt. Tabletop back to the cars. There'll probably be no track until the top of Tabletop. (I don't know what parts of the walk have been burnt in last year's bushfires.)

This is an alpine area, so be prepared for hot sun, rain, snow, wind, scrub, whatever.

Base Camp: Great Ocean Track, Otways

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

Needless to say end-of-year activities took precedence over previewing this walk but I hope to get the blurb into the next *News*. I also suspect the part of the Great Ocean Track I wanted to use might well have not been constructed yet, and even the camp ground might in fact be a picnic area, notices will say: No Camping. Rest assured all will be sorted. Expect a base camp with nice easyish walks somewhere in the Otways, but we'll probably have to forgo the coffee shops and pub meals. Oh dear. Waylay me in the clubrooms or telephone on or after 21 January for the low down.

Pack Carry: Mt. Wellington

DATE	Friday 20 - Sunday 22 February
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	16 km each day
LEADER	Rod Novak
TRANSPORT	Private (cost approx. \$50)
RETURN TIME	9 pm Sunday evening
AREA	North-east of Licola
MAP	VMTC Snowy Bluff, VicMap: Tali Karnig

This will be a circuit pack carry commencing from McFarlanes Saddle, across the Wellington Plains to a campsite near Nigothoruk Creek. On Sunday we will climb Mt. Wellington (1634m), descend down to the Moroka River, then climb up Trapyard Hill (1585m) and return to McFarlanes Saddle. Good views of the surrounding alpine peaks including Snowy Bluff, Moroka Gorge and even Bass Strait (some 80 km distant).

Walkers need to be prepared for "really hot" and/or "very cold and wet" conditions in this alpine area. We will have a group "gourmet entrée" on the Saturday evening, and a group dinner on the journey home. See the leader in the clubrooms on Wed. 11 and/or 18 February for an information sheet.

Please note: change of destination as the Mt. Buffalo pack carry cannot go, as rangers have kept closed the Rocky Creek remote campground, due to their bushfire recovery plans.

Base Camp: Wilsons Prom in a day circuit

DATE	Fri. 27 - Sun. 29 February
STANDARD	Hard
DISTANCE	45 km on Saturday
LEADER(S)	Derrick Brown
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Sunday late afternoon

Camp at Tidal River on Friday night, ready for an early-morning start Saturday. We walk up to Mount Oberon Car Park, across to Sealers Cove, then to Refuge Cove, Kersop Peak, Waterloo Bay, back across to Oberon Bay, Little Oberon Bay, finally collapsing at Tidal River. We swim at all beaches (bathers optional).

On Sunday we usually lie in, then try to stand up. If everything is in working order, we may stagger to Pillar Point or do another stroll, before finding a coffee shop and a lunch stop, and a leisurely drive home. A great classic walk.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Christmas break up was well attended and enjoyed by all. One of the problems with a gathering of that size is that it is impossible to get around and speak to everyone! However, one important task was done, namely, to thank our leaders, all 82 of them. Gina Hopkins, Walks Secretary prepared the statistics and all the name slips to go in the hat. Each leader got a slip for every walk they had led. Congratulations to those whose names were drawn and received a gift voucher. The vouchers were generously made available by Bogong Equipment. Please support Bogong when you next require some bushwalking gear. There is a list of the leaders of 2003 printed on page 7. Speak to Gina Hopkins or Peter McGrath, Assistant Walks Secretary and make sure your name appears in the list for 2004.

We are coming up to the AGM in February when all committee positions become vacant. The committee is responsible for the running of the club. There are the 11 officers positions and 5 general committee positions to be filled. The officers elected have specific responsibilities, ie. Walks Secretary looks after walks, Membership Secretary looks after members, Treasurer looks after our treasures and Vice-Presidents have a good time. There are various other portfolios handled by committee members such as Federation delegate, Conservation, Maps, Equipment, etc. Committee considers any issues that may arise and all members vote equally on issues. Committee meets once a month (the first Monday at 7pm) and meetings usually take two hours incl. coffee break. Members are also rostered for clubroom duty which involves opening the clubrooms and meeting and greeting visitors. Committee members tend to get great satisfaction from putting a little extra back into the club. There has been quite a bit of interest shown and it looks like we should have a good committee in 2003. However, there are still a couple of vacancies which need to be filled. (A form for the nomination of committee members is on the back page of this *News*.) Also at the AGM we will be looking for two auditors.

DOUG POCOCK

WALKS STATISTICS

October 2003	Trips	People	Average	Oct. 2002
Sunday Bus	4	113	28	35
Other Day	2	25	12.5	14
Pack Carry	2	12	6	9
Base Camp	2	19	9.5	20
Interstate (LHI)	1	21	21	-
Cancelled	0			3
Total	11	190	-	9 / 210

For the first month in a long time, there were no cancelled trips in October. The "interstate" trip to Lord Howe Island was very popular and a great success. The average number of Sunday walkers continued on the low side for the third month running, well below the break-even number of 35 to pay for the bus hire.

November 2003	Trips	People	Average	Nov. 2002
Sunday Bus	5	180	36	34
Other Day	3	31	10	15
Pack Carry	2	20	10	8
Base Camp	1	18	18	16
Lodge	1	8	8	4
Canoe	1	10	10	-
Cancelled	2			-
Total	13	267	-	15 / 265

With the finer weather in November the average number of Sunday walkers has picked up. Or maybe it was the attraction of the bbq and winery walks. Whatever the reason, it was good to see so many members and visitors back on the track again. Some alpine areas are still closed because of the bushfire damage of last summer so some programmed trips have had to be cancelled or changed at short notice.

GINA HOPKINS

Are the Kilometres Getting Longer?

They are for me, and the hills are getting steeper and the pace hotter - and it's not the Bushies who are cranking up the standard. It's me getting older and somewhat slower, but I still have a few good bushwalks left in me. Are there any senior members or friends who would like a walk of, say, 10 km, taking the hills at a slightly slower pace on, maybe, the first Wednesday of each month? The proposed walks would not be of a standard to qualify for membership so no visitor's fee would be payable. I've a proven record as an organiser so would be happy to arrange a programme. Please ring me or with expressions of interest and/or suggestions.

Jean Giese, Life Member and past President



WALK LEADERS - 2003

The committee would like to thank the following 82 members for leading club walks or other activities in 2003:

Peter McGrath	8	Tracey Jamieson	3	Lance Mobbs	1
Jan Palich	5	Alan Clarke	2	Leo Lynch	1
Max Casley	5	Cherie Horne	2	Leslie Hale	1
Ralph Clayton	5	Ches Volpato	2	Liz Moore	1
Rod Novak	5	David Arnold	2	Liz Telford	1
Bill Donald	4	Di McKinley	2	Lloyd Young	1
Bob Steel	4	George Zamora	2	Maria Baker	1
Doug Pocock	4	Lynda Larkin	2	Marika Jagow	1
Geoff Mattingley	4	Mark Heath	2	Mary de Salis	1
Halina Sarbinowski	4	Mike Low	2	Maureen Peck	1
Hans Edlinger	4	Pearson Cresswell	2	Merilyn Whimpey	1
Howard Friend	4	Rosemary Cotter	2	Michael Cronin	1
John Coe	4	Sandra Mutimer	2	Millicent Henry	1
Quentin Tibballs	4	Steve Axford	2	Pam Rosso	1
Vik Dunis	4	Sybille Holdheide	2	Ralph Blake	1
Warren Baker	4	Alan Miller	1	Rod Mattingley	1
Bob Oxlade	3	Alister Rowe	1	Sara Watson	1
Elizabeth Ingham	3	Anna Anson	1	Steve Bentley	1
Gina Hopkins	3	Brian Crouch	1	Stuart Hodgson	1
Jean Woodger	3	Bruce Campbell	1	Sue Ralston	1
Jerry Karbownik	3	David Laing	1	Sue Upton	1
Jopie Bodegraven	3	Debbie Collie	1	Susan Maughan	1
Maureen Hurley	3	Derrick Brown	1	Susan McInnes	1
Nik Dow	3	Fiona Gallery	1	Tom Wilanowski	1
Paul Beers	3	Jan Llewelyn	1	Trevor Thomson	1
Peter Havlicek	3	John Tolmie	1	Trish Elmore	1
Roger Wyett	3	Joy Grinham	1	William Cone	1
Sylvia Ford	3				

TALK TO THE EXPERTS

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QUESTIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE

This month **David Laing, Wilkinson Lodge Manager** answers some questions.

When did you join the club?

About mid 1980s.

How did you first learn about the club?

From a friend.

What do you like about the club?

The interesting and diverse range of people and activities.

What don't you like about the club?

The attitude from some that they have paid for a guided tour rather than just paying their share of the running costs and receiving free preparation and guidance on walks.

Which club activities do you do?

Day, weekend and extended walks, base camping, skiing, canoeing, liloing and social activities.

How often do you walk?

Varied over the years but currently, too infrequently, due to other constraints.

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

Grampians, Mt. Buffalo, High Plains, Wonnangatta/Moroka area, The Prom., etc., etc., etc.

When did you join the committee?

2003.

What do you like about being Wilkinson Lodge Manager?

Wilky is such a unique club asset, it is a privilege to manage it.

What don't you like about this/these job/s?

Although I am fairly familiar with Wilky there is still a lot to learn in managing it. I think after about three years apprenticeship I will be ready to manage it competently!

What made you first stand for committee?

Well and truly time to put something back into the club.

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

Nothing special, just me! Maybe others know something I don't!

What are your plans for 2004 as Wilkinson Lodge Manager?

Pending re-election, just more of the same! I consider my role as manager on behalf of club members, not to do just what I want. But a new lounge room heater is in hand and I would like to see higher club usage of the lodge outside the traditional winter period.

Will you stand for committee again in 2005?

I'd like to complete my Wilky Manager apprenticeship.

What other interests do you have besides bush walking?

Judy! Dancing (occasionally), Tai Chi, Windsurfing (occasionally). Don't tell the Bushies but I also enjoy the few 4WD trips I have done.

What music do you like?

Only whatever fits between classical and rock.

What food/restaurants do you like?

Haven't found food I don't like yet (excluding my own cooking). I particularly like Judy's cooking.

Which films do you like?

I can watch most things but a good comedy is hard to beat.

THE LAKE IN SPRING

PACK CARRY: TARLI KARNG

(17 - 19 OCT. 2003)

A surprisingly mild zephyr wafts across the water and insinuates itself through the campsite, as we raise our tents on the flat, semi-grassed earth. A calm serenity settles around us as we rest, gear sorted out, and partake of late afternoon refreshments. We have battled rocks and overgrown tracks for several hours to reach this isolated lake and now we savour the rewards of our labours, in the fading hours of the day.

A huge old eucalyptus with a massive trunk spreads its long, thick branches out over half the campsite, and part of the lake. Smaller wattles of a variety of shades of yellow surround us as we relax and absorb the sights and sounds. Chris sends a stream of melodious piped notes floating across the surface, silently appreciated by campers on the far side. A honeyeater in the tree egypt to the sky and another responds from somewhere up the hill, while a whip-bird pair whistle and crack in perfect unison from a nearby gully. The sound of an unseen waterfall at the far end of the lake echoes across the waters and slips into camp, underscoring several other birds that quietly add to the gentle cacophony.

As the sun steadily lowers, it highlights and intensifies the many pale tree trunks scattered up the steep hills on the other side of the lake. As it sinks lower still, the vegetation turns amber, and the surface of the water takes on an orange hue, broken only by small ripples from the gentle breezes. Slowly, the shadows from the hills behind us advance across the water, and up the far side, until dusk overtakes us and the day perceptibly cools. It's a day's walk to get here but it is definitely worth it!

The early evening is blissful, save for one thing - several of our party took off for a long side-trip in mid-afternoon, and they have not yet arrived. We make and consume welcome dinners in growing trepidation as to their non-appearance. Darkness comes and we know that there has been a problem, but of course know not what. The inevitable speculation encroaches on to our otherwise idyllic circumstance - what has happened? Will they turn up? What will we do if they don't? We are helpless to do anything until at least the next morning, and so retire ignorant of their fate, seven hours after they went for a two to three hour trip.

Later in the night, after more than four hours of darkness, three of the party stumble into camp. They return for the rest of the party that they have left behind, and return with them nearly another hour later. They sound amazed to find us. It is after midnight and they have not eaten, and barely paused all day - 14 hours in all - through scrub and rocks, down very steep terrain. No wonder they retire immediately. Next morning brings the news that they were never lost - just in an area of bush so steep and rocky that progress was painfully slow, and there was nowhere to stop to camp until the bottom of the hill.

As bushwalkers learn fairly quickly - that's the way that Australia is - eminently beautiful - but treat it lightly and it will turn around and bite you.

Party: Mike, Jopie, Paul, Ron, Kerry, Chris, Bill and me.

ALAN CLARKE

THE VITREOUS BLUE ENAMEL POT MYSTERY

BASE CAMP: NATIVE DOG FLAT, COBBERAS (31 OCT. - 4 NOV. 2003)

We arrived Saturday afternoon at the campsite and were greeted by many other Bushies who had arrived the day before. As we were setting up our tent it began to rain. It rained continuously that night. Cold and wet we huddled under a communal tarp. We accommodated three 4WDers who enjoyed our hospitality and used up all of our firewood trying to keep warm during the night!

In the morning a few people decided to leave as the rain continued and was forecast for the rest of the weekend. Again seeking the comfort of the communal tarp (thanks Bob) we gathered to chat and attempt the crosswords from the newspaper. (Why are the Brits so good at em?) The weather cleared enough so a few of us set off to repeat the walk from the day before. We hiked to the nearby 'Ram's Horn' approximately three hours return trip. It involved a fairly steep ascent culminating in an easy rock climb with 360 degree views of the surrounding county. We passed through bushland scarred from the devastating bush fires. It was uplifting to see resilient Australian vegetation bravely asserting its right to life. There was a sprinkling of small bush orchids and wild flowers colouring the ground. Although a short walk we experienced hail, sleet, snow, rain, sunshine and strong cold winds in rapid succession. After living in Melbourne for just over two years I am still amazed at the changeability of the weather here.

We returned to our campsite happy to have explored the countryside. Many were talking of returning to Melbourne the next day due to the rainfall. During the night (unbeknownst to the writer) we were stampeded by a herd of brumbies. In the morning many of the Bushies shared stories of lying awake listening to the brumbies frighteningly close to their tents, pawing the ground and making those horsey noises. Evidence of their occupation was left as hoof prints in the damp earth.

It became apparent later that morning that the brumbies had been drawn to our campsite by rumours, carried in the wind, of the existence of *The Sacred Vitreous Blue Enamel Pot*. One of the brumbies located the pot and left its mark (or was it the result of the heat of the campfire?... the true story will never be known!)

Although shadowed by the terror of the previous night (ie. brumbies), it was a glorious sunny day with an expansive blue sky. Delighted at the change we set off on our second hike to Cobberas No 2. The walk took 6 - 7 hours to complete. We drove along a 4WD track, parked the cars and continued walking along the track. At the designated point we were led through the snow gum forest and upwards to the top of Cobberas No 2. At the top we were rewarded with breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains and ranges. Mt. Kosciuszko and the Bogong High Plains were snow capped and magnificent to look at. We discovered a book kept dry in a Tupperware container and added the names of the Melbourne Bushies to the list of hikers. That night we enjoyed sitting around the campfire sharing goodies and endeavouring to warm our bodies during the cold, (thankfully) clear night.

It was a picturesque, grassy campsite divided by a flowing, clear stream. We even had the luxury of a composting toilet...no digging required! There was also the opportunity to learn the gentle art of fly-fishing from our expert, Bill. What had began a little dismally (due to the rain and sleet) ended as a wonderful weekend away from Melbourne with a good bunch of people (too numerous to list). The leaders Bob Steel and Geoff Mattingley did a great job. Many thanks for enabling us to explore this part of Victoria.

BRENDA MILLAR AND DAVID CARTER (VISITOR)

To all Bushwalkers Visiting the High Plains this Summer

If cattle return to the High Plains this summer it would be to the advantage of bushwalkers to have documented observations of cattle in areas where the cattlemen will have agreed that they shouldn't be. They shouldn't be in burnt areas, but they will be attracted by the new growth there. They shouldn't be in the alpine peat bogs either. Ideally, documentation should consist of: 1) The time and date of the observation, 2) A GPS reading of the position of the cattle (or an accurate grid reference from a suitable map) and 3) A photograph of them in the forbidden area. The documentation should be sent to the Alpine (Nr 1) Project Officer at the VicWalk office, 332 Banyule Road, Viewbank, 3084. It would also be a good opportunity to send a copy of the observations with a letter stating your opposition to grazing on the High Plains to the Minister for DSE (currently Mr. Thwaites).

Bill Metzenthien
VicWalk Project Officer for Alpine Nr 1

BOOK REVIEWS

Diary of a Wombat by Jackie French (\$24.95)

In this children's picture book, Mothball is a very special wombat. Not only is she co-habiting with humans and training them to be pets, but she also keeps a diary! Sure, to us "ate", "slept" and "played in dustbath" might not sound so exciting, but this is such an endearing, determined character, you'll be charmed... you'll never look at carrots in quite the same way again!

I Saw Nothing: The Extinction of the Thylacine by Gary Crew and Mark Wilson (\$26.95)

In this children's picture book, Rosie, a child of the Depression, sees a "tiger-wolf" caught in the wild and later learns it has been taken to the Hobart Zoo. She visits the zoo some years later and recognises "her" tiger-wolf, only to subsequently read in the paper of its death, in 1936. This gentle story is told with a growing sense of futility and impotence, and is beautifully complemented with evocative illustrations.

Gardening with Australian Rainforest Plants by Ralph Bailey and Julie Lake (\$32.95)

This gardening book features lovely photos including rainforest species from Tasmania flourishing in Canberra, and how they can perfectly complement a contemporary Australian home design. Various chapters suggest how to create a rainforest garden, covering planning and planting ideas. In case you're daunted, there are plants for small gardens, courtyards, and by the sea. There's one chapter you won't be able to resist - bush tucker! This bit comes with warnings re. the toxic plants.

SUSAN MAUGHAN

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

Jawoyn Explorer

16 May – 5 June

Arnhem Land Success!

For the first time since 2000, we have permission to do a walk into Arnhem Land. The route takes us to the headwaters of the Katherine River in southwest Kakadu and southeast Arnhem Land.

This trip is special!

- This area is normally out of bounds to bushwalkers. You can't do this walk on your own.
- We will be accompanied by one or two local Aboriginal guides.

- This is the only Top End walk where we can have a helicopter food drop.
- Beautiful campsites and great scenery including the other Katherine Gorge that tourists never see.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Where else can you spend three weeks bushwalking with an Aboriginal guide?

Too long? The trip is in two sections, either of which can be done on its own.

See our website or ask us for more information.

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

MBW GOOD FOOD GUIDE

Ballarat

Update on the club favourites of **The Golden City and Craig's Hotels** often visited en route to the Grampians and western Victoria walks. GCs is now very busy on Friday evenings and prices are up! Our last visit (Jopie's 4 day Grampians walk) in November 2003 had us waiting for a table and some of the meals ordered were just so and so. An adjacent table had huge steaks, which we drooled over. At least the sweets are enormous (recommend the pavlova).

On the return trip we decided to re-try Craig's in Lydiurn Street. This menu is now very upmarket and artistic eg. Tempura Zucchini Flowers for an entrée! and cubed root vegetables with the roast. Also, their prices have skyrocketed with mains now costing \$18 to \$24. Time to find some other venues - suggestions welcome.

ROD NOVAK

Traralgon

PJ's Café at 22 Church Street - this is just off the main road in the centre of town. It has a good menu, and they were very happy to accommodate different requests. Food quality and décor were both very good too. Prices were \$15 to \$20 and they stay open late. Fully licensed, wine was from \$4.50 per glass. (April 2003)

Rosedale

The Pizza Hotel on the corner of the Princes' Highway where it turns in the middle of town. It actually serves more than pizzas and the décor and service were very good. The pizzas were tasty and quick. Prices very reasonable. Licensed. (April 2003)

ALAN CLARKE

NEW MEMBERS

SHEENA BURGESS

ELIZABETH DEVLIN

SALLY DOE

DEREK HOPPER

CATHERINE STANKO

ASHA ZIDIKHERI

ALTERED ADDRESS / PHONE

JOHN ELLIS

DAVID LAING

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Life Members	10
Honorary Members	10
Single Memberships	361
Family Memberships	94 (= 2 x 47)
Total Membership	475
This Time Last Year	465

PETER HAVLICEK
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

CLUBROOMS DUTY ROSTER

Wednesday 14 January: M Jagow and D Pocock
Wednesday 21 January: T Elmore and D Laing*
Wednesday 28 January: J Coe and V Scrivenger
Wednesday 4 February: P Havlicek and D Henry*
*J Palich, Treasurer present

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 2 February at 7 pm in the clubrooms

Get Your News by Email in 2004

Why not receive *The News* via email in 2004? 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. Help us to use less paper and preserve our bush walking locations.

Debbie Henry
Website Manager

Insurance Convenor Needed - VicWalk

VicWalk (Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs) - requires a volunteer to be the Insurance Convenor in 2004. Would suit a Melbourne Bushie with 'insurance know-how / skills' and who would like to help bushwalking in Victoria. Please contact Jenny Sykes at VicWalk on for more information.

Rod Novak

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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**