

VicWalk News

October 2007

Issue No. 176

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Serendip Sanctuary (You Yangs/Lara area) - photograph by Coralie Ginn of Warrnambool Walkers Inc

Contributions

Email or post news, views, club profiles, articles, photographs, sketches and letters on any subject of interest to bushwalkers (subject to editorial approval) to:

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The statements and opinions expressed in articles are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views or position of Bushwalking Victoria.

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Bushwalking Victoria

WALKING AND TALKING WITH YOUR PRESIDENT

Our Club Network

One of the interesting tasks I undertake each month is to read those club newsletters that are available electronically. I am always encouraged by the vitality of club life and diversity of activities. The spread of our clubs right across Victoria is a wonderful community resource and perhaps we don't always fully understand the value it contributes to local communities.

Our clubs offer a range of activities that not only help to keep people healthy in a friendly non threatening environment but also provide opportunity for people to engage in and feel part of a community. Because we walk in natural areas it also helps our members understand, feel part of and value the natural environment. Research continues to build the evidence about the health and wellbeing benefit of exercise in the natural environment. Bushwalking clubs are a valuable community resource in that regard.

We at BWV have recently been having discussion with the State Government about the importance of the bushwalking community in contributing to the government policy objectives, particularly better health and stronger communities. The important role played by our club network in this regard is something we have emphasised strongly.

You can reinforce this message by your actions in your local community. Some simple things you can do include making your local councillors aware of your activities. Ensure your club, and the nature of its activities, are listed on the Council organisations and clubs data base. Send a copy of your club newsletter to your local Member of Parliament. Use the opportunity to print free articles in your local paper.

If you are already doing these sorts of things then please share your experiences with us. It may help others to start the same process.

Sharing and Cooperation

Our club network has great potential for this. A couple of examples. Recently Melbourne Bushwalkers President Lynda Larkin organised first aid courses and offered places to other clubs which were taken up. This enabled the base number to be achieved so that the course could

be designed specifically for the needs of bushwalkers. It also meant that two courses could be arranged thus offering a choice of dates.

Paul Chamings, the training officer at Maroondah, has for some time run regular basic training courses for bushwalking leaders. A number of clubs have taken advantage of this opportunity to encourage members to become leaders. Congratulations to both clubs for their initiative in running courses and for sharing them with others.

Grants

I mentioned in the August edition that one of our Board Members, Catherine Guli, was investigating grants that clubs could apply for. By now Club Presidents should

have received a letter outlining the nature of grants available and how you can get details. Please contact Catherine or Barbara Guerin if you need further information.

Walktober

A special month to promote walking. Walktober was born out of the Walk 21 international walking conference held in Melbourne last year and is an initiative of Kinect Australia [VicFit]. We are currently contributing information about recreational walking to a walking strategy for Victoria which Kinect is developing to draw attention to the importance and benefits of walking in all its forms. We hope that in 2008 Bushwalking Victoria will be actively involved in Walktober by adding recreational walking events to the program. This year there are a number of special events associated with Walktober that you may wish to participate in such as walk to work day, walk to school and the world's greatest pram stroll. It is possible to register public walking events and badge them as part of Walktober, so if your club has a public event during October you may wish to consider registration. More information is available at www.walktober.com.au

Federation Walk

The hosts for this year, Koonung and Diamond Valley, have planned a great series of walks and I look forward to catching up with as many of you as possible on the day.

David Reid

VicWalk News Advertising Rates

1/6 page advertisement	\$25.00
1/4 page advertisement	\$40.00
1/3 page advertisement	\$50.00
1/2 page advertisement	\$75.00
Full page advertisement	\$150.00
Address list of affiliate clubs	\$50.00
Insert for Newsletter*	\$50.00

Note: Advertisements must be artwork ready

* Advertiser to supply 300 printed inserts each edition.

Advertising is welcome but insertion is subject to the Editor's discretion. Products or services advertised in this publication are not endorsed or recommended in any way by Bushwalking Victoria.

Who's Who at Bushwalking Victoria

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 Please contact via the office

BUSHWALKING ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The winter months (although not wet enough) have seen Bushwalking Environment Committee remain focussed on protecting our Bushwalking surrounds. Both indoors and out in the bush, we continue to focus on current issues that are relevant to all Bushwalkers. Recently we have been involved in the following:

Submissions

Bastion Point Boat Ramp - Objection
 VEAC RIVER RED GUM DRAFT - Approval submission

Meetings

EPA Review of future logging audit process
 Nature Based Tourism Draft Release
 DSE Trailbike Project Workshop
 VEAC River Red Gum CRG Workshop
 DSE Proposed Cobboboonee National Park and Forest Park boundaries

Our active group remains focussed and in contact with many organisations in addition to the above. Examples of this would include Track Development, Track Maintenance, and many other sensitive issues that come to our attention that are raised by members or land managers.

I am extremely pleased to have noticed an increase in communications from members with myself over the last few months, both Metro and Country people. Thanks and I ask all to continue with that vital communication link.

An extremely rewarding track clearing day was held near Marysville at the end of August. Refer to article elsewhere in VicWalk news. TMG activities will continue on almost a monthly basis and I ask you all to be involved in at least one activity per year. A small price to pay in return for walking all those great tracks for the rest of the year.

Please watch out for the next edition of VicWalk news for details on the Mossbed Rehabilitation dates and incentives to attend in early 2008. It is definitely an activity that clubs should promote. It is a cheap social weekend, with work that all ages of people can attend in comfort, and work within their own limits. (Incentives will include some fuel, food and lodge accommodation.)

Steven Robertson

Calendar

BUSHWALKING SEARCH & RESCUE MEETING

To be advised
 Community Room, Powlett Reserve, crn Grey & Simpson
 Sts
 East Melbourne

BUSHWALKING ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

4th Wednesday of each month except December at 7.30pm
 St Martins Anglican Church
 27 Cromwell Rd (cnr Wilson St) South Yarra
 Melway Map 58 F4

TRACKS MAINTENANCE GROUP

Note that not all dates are confirmed yet. Please advertise these within your clubs.

Condons Track Clearing

Description: Condons Track clearing will be held on **Sunday 30 September 2007**. This day will involve a total sweep of the track with pruning and chain-sawing, but with the main concentration being on benching and steps about one third of the way up. Transportation into management vehicle only zones will be organised on the day. Meeting time is 9.00am at Parks Victoria office at Maroondah Reservoir Park. Leader contact is Steve Robertson, phone (03) 9762 5367 or email srob7859@bigpond.net.au

Stronach's Camp Track Clearing (Baw Baws)

Description: A Bushwalking Victoria TMG event. Clearing a new route for the Australian Alps Walking track at Stronach's camp, at the north end of the Baw Baw National Park. Open to all Bushwalking Victoria members. **27 October 2007 – 28 October 2007**

Contact: Geoff Kelly on phone(03) 9328 4228 or email: gp_kelly@bigpond.net.au

Freemans Mill - 18 November 2007

Contact Graeme Kidd phone 5629 8515 or email gandjkidd@gobushmail.com.au (Note new email address)

Date	Activity	Leader	Contact Details
26 – 28 January 2008	Alpine Mossbed Rehabilitation	Steve Robertson	9762 5367 srob7859@bigpond.net.au
Feb 2008 Date TBA	Two Bays Track	Bev Williams	9802 9169 bevway@nex.net.au
March 2008 Date TBA	Alpine Mossbed Rehabilitation	Steve Robertson	9762 5367 srob7859@bigpond.net.au
April 2008	Mt Buffalo	Jim Harker	9547 1152 jnharker@netspace.net.au
2 – 4 or 9 – 11 May 2008	Grampians	Rod Novak	9561 2407 Rodnovak@ozemail.com.au

BOOK REVIEW

Weekend Walks Around Melbourne by Glen Tempest

Published in 2003 by Open Spaces, Moonee Ponds, Victoria.

"This is a sequel to Glen's book *Day Walks Around Melbourne*, the 2nd edition of which was reviewed in our [Strzelecki Bushwalking Club] May Newsletter. As in the previous work, it is clearly set out, starting with an amusing disclaimer, then the index of 17 walks (eight of which are within easy driving distance to Warragul). The walks range from 2 to 4 days, with grades of easy, medium and difficult (distances of 25 kms to 75 kms).

The map legend indicates all the necessary info to help with navigation. It also lists amenities and accommodation provided along the way should you like some creature comforts! An interesting definition is given on the meaning of TRUE Left and Right bank of a river/creek – looking down stream the true left is on the left and the true right is on the right. Simple!

Glen gives us an insight into what he calls one of the greatest joys a walker can experience; spending a comfortable night in a tent, far away from the city crowds. Even after many years of trekking around the world, he says he still gets a kick out of snuggling into a cosy sleeping bag after a long day on the trail. He adds that "to the uninitiated, carrying everything on your back must seem like a lot of hard work, but with modern lightweight gear, the key to exploring a world that would otherwise be off limits is opened".

Some very useful advice is offered on: Minimal Impact Bushwalking (MIB), footwear, packs, sleeping bags, tents, clothing, food, water and stoves. Also tips on map reading, the weather and tides, first aid and other hazard prevention."

Denis Nagle

Strzelecki Bushwalking Club Newsletter Sep 2007

TRACK MAINTENANCE—THE BEECHES

Report by Maroondah Bushwalking Club

On Sunday 18 August 18 enthusiastic walkers, mostly from Maroondah, assembled near Marysville ready to work on the Beeches track. The day had been organised by Steve Robertson on behalf of Bushwalking Victoria. We were greeted by Steve and issued with protective clothing – hard hats, colourful vests and gloves. The chain saw operator was also equipped with bullet-proof trousers and earmuffs. We were then offered a choice from an extensive range of tools, from 'rake-hoes' to formidable geared loppers. Finally we were briefed by the entire Parks Victoria ranger staff responsible for this and other nearby tracks. He explained that the lower portion of the track had only recently been re-opened after some bridges had been washed out about two years ago. As a result the maintenance of this section had been allowed to lapse so that now there was so much work it would have taken him, working alone, years to complete.



Groups were sent in from either end of this section, at the Taggerty River end it was primarily a matter of removing encroaching vegetation and re-levelling what had been a well constructed track 30 or 40 years ago but now covered with topsoil and leaf litter by courtesy of the local lyrebirds. Deep underneath it we found a layer of crushed rock and the remains of some ancient steps. Meanwhile, in the adjacent bush, we could hear the constant mocking calls of the invisible lyrebirds reminding us that they will soon be back.

At the Whitehouse Creek end new steps were constructed and muddy sections were stabilised with fresh crushed rock. The latter was no easy task as it all had to be carted in from the road – up and down steps – with builder's wheelbarrows. It would have been an impossible task for the lone ranger.

A sumptuous barbecue lunch was provided by Bushwalking Victoria – sausages and salad – not lyrebird as some would have liked! Miles, the ranger, explained how the rainforest had developed and why the Myrtle Beech trees, which give the track its name have survived in this area. Core samples prove that some have been there for over 600 years. The two smart new steel and timber bridges have been constructed under contract all parts being carried in with wheel barrows or by hand.

After lunch the two groups again went off into the scrub, this time to work along the upper section. Part of this had been a 1940s vintage logging road but this also was now in dire need of vegetation removal. As well the steep section near the Taggerty River required new steps and more crushed rock. Here the barrow pushers had to negotiate a twisting track between rocks with many steps – all uphill.



At the end of the day we were pleased and proud to see this iconic track is now open again. Our only regret was that such a small proportion of the affiliated club members turned out to ensure that one of the outstanding walks in Victoria is enjoyable and again available for all.

Ian McKellar

AROUND THE TRACKS

Bushwalking Victoria clubs do their bit:

Peregrines Volunteer at Rifle Range Planting on July 28

"Twelve Peregrines, led by Jenny and Anna, were part of a group of 103 people who planted 1412 plants in the Wonthaggi Rifle Range site. Mel, Heather, Cathy, Anna, Sue, Monica, Helen W, Margaret, John, Rosemary, Carole and Alan turned up in boots and wet weather gear, to join volunteers from many groups, several people over 80, and children. After a busy morning, we enjoyed a BBQ lunch and an interesting walk and talk with Terri.

Jenny, Carole and Rosemary had gathered local seed and grown plants for the Project. Kathy is convenor of the seed bank, and dries, sorts, weighs and packs the seed for storage. Kathy was away up north for the planting day, but, like the rest of us, will look forward to watching the latest plantings thrive as well as areas planted in previous years have.

Jenny Rejske, with Terri Allen and Dan Drummond, were presented with a Victorian Coastal Award for Excellence at a dinner in Melbourne."

Excerpted from Peregrine's Spring 2007 Newsletter

Melbourne Bushies help out at Benalla (Regent Honeyeater Project) - 11-12 August

"Ten club members went tree planting in the Benalla area In total more than 50 people took part and we planted more than 2,500 trees and shrubs. Ray Thomas (also a member of our club) had done a magnificent job organizing the supplies of seedlings, tools and locations for the re-vegetation. This was part of his continuing project to enhance the habitat for the protection of the wildlife in the area, such as the Regent Honeyeaters and sugar gliders. Mark, Bob and Del joined the group digging the holes for the plants. The rest of us were kept busy keeping up with them, planting the seedlings. These were quite fragile and we had to be careful not to damage them in the process. To protect the plants from grazing wallabies we positioned cardboard containers like milk cartons over the plants. There was a great variety of plant species with expert selection of suitable plants for each location. On Saturday night a school parents' association provided an excellent dinner with many choices. After this there was a bush dance with an instructor to explain steps and on Sunday afternoon there was a BBQ meal. It was a satisfying weekend."

Excerpted from The News of Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. Sep 2007

VMTC also at Benalla (Regent Honeyeater Project) - 25-26 August

"To say that the weekend was the same as usual is to give it the highest praise. Over several years now, Trampalong has published many articles about this great effort to restore eco-systems in the Lurg Hills outside Benalla, and we have been privileged to have Ray Thomas attend our clubrooms to tell us about it. Once again, we planted a few thousand seedlings consisting this time of 41 species of eucalypts, wattles, shrubs and ground covers. While sipping morning tea, Ray and Andrew gave us more information about the success of past efforts including the return of bird and animal species. Club members who have not yet taken part are urged to consider doing so on future occasions.

David Davies

Excerpted from "Trampalong", newsletter of the VMTC

Basically Bushwalking Inc - Hindmarsh Tree Planting Weekend, 17-19 August

"Friday (Ros). Seven BB's headed for Little Desert Lodge near Nhil for the Hindmarsh Landcare Bio Link Tree Planting Weekend

Saturday (Anne). There was an option for half-day and full-day bus tours to view the work done in previous years. All of us (except Ros who planted all day) took advantage of this and viewed two very impressive sites. The first one had been planted out in 2001 and the growth on the trees was approximately 1-1/2 metres tall. The second site was only planted out last year on sandy ground with no cover and the plants were growing well, and there was some grass cover where there had been none. We were then bussed to our planting site for the afternoon; this site was next to Lake Hindmarsh where the area planted out was 70 metres wide and stretched for approx 2kms. After lunch we began planting, working in small groups as either hole diggers, adding tree guards or watering. At the end of the afternoon we were bussed back to the Little Desert Lodge for our evening meal with talented young man singing as we lined up and enjoyed our meal. There was also a slide presentation of the progress of this project which was very informative.

Sunday (Ros). After another hearty breakfast prepared and served by the Dimboola Lions Club, we headed off for a few more hours of tree planting, this time along a roadside. Everyone busied themselves collecting tree guards, hole diggers, plants and water. Then in teams we started planting along the long stretch of roadside, which had been scarified some months before in preparation. The long grass which had grown with recent rains made this soggy work. Within hours the stretch started to take on a very different appearance with many trees planted and tree guards in place. Come lunchtime we were bussed back to the Lodge for lunch of soup and salad rolls and final thank you speeches and goodbyes.

Overall 6,500 trees were planted over the weekend, which made a significant contribution to this project, which has been going for 10 years and will continue. Greening Australia's vision is to now link many of the Biolinks, like the Hindmarsh one, to create an extensive Biolink from Broken Hill to Portland. Ten years ago when Hindmarsh Biolink project began, 2 farmers in the shire were interested in relinquishing land. In 2007, over 200 farmers requested to be included in the program."

Excerpted from Basically Bushwalking Inc's October Newsletter.

I realize that many other Bushwalking Victoria clubs attend the Regent Honeyeater Project weekends (held annually during August & September), plus other local projects, and all are to be congratulated for their community participation. Ed.

AROUND THE TRACKS (Cont'd)

Boroondara Bushwalkers are starting a year of celebrations for their 20th anniversary. The club was started by a public meeting in September 1987 by Fritz Schaumburg. He expected a few people to come to the initial meeting; instead so many turned up that they could not fit in the room at the Kew Community House and had to listen from outside. Fritz, other foundation members, plus Monica Chapman and David Reid will be guests of honour at the 20th anniversary meeting on 19 September. The year of celebrations will include repeats of the first club day walk, to Murrindindi, and the first pack carry, to Mustering Flat. Both will be led by a foundation member, Mark Dwyer. Boroondara Bushwalkers has a special relationship with Murrindindi, as 'custodian' of the Boroondara Track.

The Ballarat Bushwalking & Outdoor Club has received a local community grant from the Ballarat City Council. The grant is for the purchase of safety equipment to aid in improving safety on the BAD Ride (Ballarat Autumn Day Ride), an event the club runs on the first Sunday in May each year.

Maroondah Bushwalking Club runs a family walk in Sherbrooke Falls

"Sunday 5 August saw 5 adults and 5 children brave the showers & cold to tackle the 4km walk to Sherbrooke Falls.

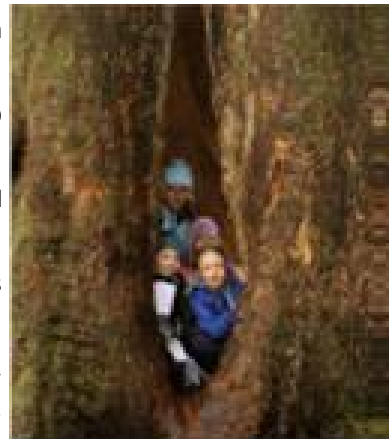
There was a Rosella show before the walk to entertain us. Then there was lots of mud to squelch through and fallen tree to heave out of the way.

Recent rains put quite a good flow of water over the falls. After the falls the pace slowed down a bit as it was all uphill back to the carpark.

On the way back, we had a photo shoot at some hollow trees. We managed to get four kids into one tree as in the photo." ...

Story & photo by Steve Weeks.

Congratulations Steve, what a great way to encourage the next generation of bushwalkers. Ed.



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Candlelight Lodge

Thredbo outside of the ski season is a walker's paradise offering a wide range of gradients and distances. The air is fresh and the temperatures comfortable.

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If you decide to have a walk-free day, the village also offers golf, tennis, bobsled, heated olympic pool, trout fishing, water slide, cafés and restaurants, squash and nearby horse-riding and white water rafting.



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Email bookings@candlelightlodge.com.au www.candlelightlodge.com.au

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2007—Full Moons

Sun 25 November, Mon 24 December

Sunrise & Sunset

Friday 5 Oct.....	5.50am	6.27pm	Friday 30 Nov	4.53am	7.24pm
Friday 19 Oct.....	5.29am	6.40pm	Friday 14 Dec	4.51am	7.37pm
Friday 2 Nov.....	5.12am	6.54pm	Friday 28 Dec	4.58am	7.44pm
Friday 16 Nov.....	4.59am	7.09pm			

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Bushwalking Victoria

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