



Beeches Track Maintenance Group (photo by Dave Rimmer)

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.

Editor: Joslin Guest

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WALKING AND TALKING WITH YOUR PRESIDENT

The Great Australian Cancer Bushwalk

On 5 May 2008, Michael Mitchell, a school teacher and member of Bushwalking Victoria, commenced his epic walk from Cape York to Wilsons Promontory. (For details of Michael's challenge, see below.)

There will be plenty of opportunity to support Michael when he gets to Victoria next year and we'll keep you posted. We will also be reporting Michael's progress on our website, where there will be a special link to the map of his journey. Please consider how you can help support the efforts of one of our members.

75th Anniversary Celebrations

Don't forget to check the pages about our 75th anniversary activities and how you can get involved, particularly WWW.

AGM

By now all members will have received an invitation to attend the AGM. AGMs tend to be regarded as something boring you have to have, but they are a good opportunity to review our achievements and look forward to the next 12 months.

This year after dealing with the formal business we will be able to enjoy a presentation by Monica and John Chapman. Don't miss this special opportunity to see an audio visual presentation of some great walking areas.

Recognition 1

During the month it was my pleasure to attend the AGM of Bayside Bushwalking Club. The club was formed 24 years ago and I was delighted to assist with the presentation of foundation-member and long-service badges.

The club also awarded certificates to members who had contributed in special ways to the success of its activities. This is an annual ceremony and helps all club members recognise and appreciate the extra work done by their fellow members.

Recognition 2

I think recognition of special contributions is important. During our 75th year we in Bushwalking Victoria would like to specially recognise individuals and clubs that have made a significant contribution to the promotion of bushwalking, the strength of the bushwalking community and a contribution to the general community through bushwalking activities.

We need to establish the criteria and process for such awards and establish a small working group to move this from idea to reality. If you would like to help with this project I would be delighted to hear from you as soon as possible. Please contact me at president@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au or on 0427369426.

David Reid



AN INVITATION TO BUSHWALKERS

Michael Mitchell, a Melbourne teacher, has commenced a bushwalk from Cape York, Queensland to Wilsons Promontory, Victoria. He departed the Cape on 5 May 2008 and is scheduled to reach Wilsons Prom 13 months and 6,000km later on 27 June 2009.



Michael's motivation is his aim to raise \$1m for the benefit of The Cancer Council.

Members of bushwalking clubs and bushwalkers in general are invited to join him along his trek through Queensland, NSW, ACT and Victoria.

He is completing 58 weekly sections along the Cape York Development Road, the Bicentennial National Trail and Australian Alps Walking Track. He is covering approximately 100 km per section, with Sundays designated as rest days.

Understandably, people who wish to accept this invitation and join Michael along sections of their choice will need to be suitably equipped and largely self sufficient.* Clubs wishing to show their support for Michael and The Cancer Council by joining him as part of a club walk are most welcome, remembering restrictions on walking party sizes do apply.*

Michael is being supported with an official support vehicle towing a new fully equipped off-road camper trailer supplied by Tru Blu Campers. This support crew will rendezvous with the walking party at designated points along each section. The 4x4 is fitted with all communication and navigation equipment expected of a true support vehicle.

Any persons interested in being part of this unique event or seeking further information should visit the website www.thegreatcancerwalk.com.au or contact michael@thegreatcancerwalk.com.au

We still have sections requiring support crew drivers for the support vehicle. This camping/touring opportunity is ideal for retired couples with camper trailer accommodation provided.

* All care but no responsibility is taken for people accompanying Michael.

TRACK MAINTENANCE

| | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|--|-----------|
| 5 October 2008 | Condons Track | Steve Robertson | srob7859@bigpond.net.au | 97625367 |
| 25–26 October 2008 | Stronachs Camp | Geoff Kelly | gp_kelly@bigpond.net.au | 9328 4228 |

The ‘Third’ Grampians Track Weekend, 2-4 May 2008

We woke at dawn on the Saturday to the sound of Kookaburras and Gang Gangs waking the bush and with steady drizzle on the tents. The light rain lifted after an hour and the Bushies emerged from their tents to a beautiful rainbow and a warm fire (thanks Russell). We had camped at the Plantation Campground and the morning sunlight was spectacular on the nearby cliffs of the Mt Difficult range. We met David Witham [Grampians Walking Tracks Support group] for our 9am safety briefing, and then set off for the Tilwinda Nature Walk (near Troopers Creek). We split into three groups, with the first group repositioning signposts, the second group using branch loppers to clear the track; and the third group used wheelbarrows and a big pile of clay to build and backfill steps on the badly eroded track. Parks Victoria Ranger David Handscombe joined us for several hours and gave advice on where to place the drainage lines. A hard days work but all agreed it was very satisfying. After a pleasant evening around the campfire exchanging walking tips about Patagonia, Appalachian Trail and Smoky Mountains, Corsica, Switzerland, Nepal and Tassie we then discussed options for our ‘local’ walk. Sunday was a beautiful sunny day, just perfect for a day walk up to Beehive Falls and Briggs Bluff, which we shared with a soaring wedge-tailed eagle.

Many thanks to all who contributed: **Sunraysia BWC** – Roger, Barb, Karl, Meryl, Russell and Sandra; **Grampians BWC** – Jenny and Greg; **VMTC** – Jim; **Melbourne BWC** – Rod, Lynda, Howard and Rosemary; **Warrnambool Walkers** – Marg, Peter and Rosalie. A very enjoyable and worthwhile weekend.

Rod Novak
Bushwalking Victoria Track Maintenance Group

**CONSERVATION — APLINE NATIONAL PARK WEED SURVEY
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We are asking for interested people or clubs to volunteer to map weed locations in the Alpine National Park over the period of November to April. Initially this will be in the Alpine area adjacent to Mansfield, but may extend into all Alpine areas.

What is required?

During your normal back pack as a club or as individuals you will be asked to note weeds you see. We will give you details beforehand on how to record the location and type of weed found. No off track work will be needed as you we are asking you to record weeds along the actual track itself.

The recording of weeds will take you very little time, so you can complete your walk with only minimal time spent on the project. And you will have the satisfaction of finding those pest weeds with the opportunity to put in a track condition report that Parks can take into consideration.

Survey location

The first areas to be covered will be in the big sweep from King River to Cobbler to Mt Speculation to Mt Howitt to the Bluff, and also include Howqua River and the likes of Eagles Peak.

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|---|----------|
| 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. | |

Registering your interest

If you plan to walk in these areas and would like to participate, please contact me. Or, why not plan a club trip in the area where you can walk, enjoy the Alps and do something for conservation for the area.

Although this is a Parks Victoria activity, I ask you to contact me for further details and register your interest.

If you read this and decide that you are unable to participate yourself, then PLEASE tell someone who might be interested about this activity. On a two-night backpack it would only amount to one hour of work for the group.

Let's help create weed free tracks.

Contact me on 9762 5367 or email me at srob7859@bigpond.net.au

Steve Robertson
Coordinator Conservation Projects

BUSHWALKING VICTORIA 75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

SPOTLIGHT ON A VOLUNTEER

The spotlight in this issue falls on the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs' first President, its first female President and those who saw fit to come back for more!

Walter Briggs, Lin Stephens and those who came back for more

The inaugural meeting, held on 15 May 1934, decided that a Victorian Federation of Walking Clubs be formed. The meeting elected as President, **Walter Briggs**, who was at the time President of the Melbourne Amateur Walking and Touring Club. He was re-elected at the AGM the following year and served for another year as President before resigning. From 1937 to 1938, he served as one of three Vice Presidents.

It took over 30 years before a woman headed up the organisation, and is notable given that it has only happened once since!

Lin Stephens, a member of the Walking Club of Victoria, led the organisation from 1969 to 1971. However, this was not the only office Lin held. She took on the Treasurer's role from 1972 to 1974 and was also Secretary from 1979 to 1984 along with one or two others as was customary for Council at that time. Lin is the only person in our history to have contributed across all three executive positions and no doubt had a thorough knowledge of the organisation.

Apart from her years in office, Lin was an invaluable, behind-the-scenes supporter for two decades before bowing out in 1989.

From the end of Lin's presidency, it would be another twenty years before the next, and so far, only other woman, Monica Chapman, stepped up.

A few hardy soles have seen fit to tackle the role of President a second time. Bill Bewsher was President from 1953 to 1955 and again from 1961 to 1962. George O'Brien held the position from 1955 to 1957 and again from 1959 to 1961. Ken McInnes stepped into presidential boots from 1972 to 1973 and again for a year from 1977. In 1984, Keith Lierse took office for a maximum three-year term, returning again from 1990 to 1992.

Once was enough for me!

Monica Chapman

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

A series of articles titled *From our Archives* will briefly highlight some of the activities from the early years and continuing by decade through to the present. The full versions of these articles will be produced in the history booklet affectionately titled *Beyond the Scroggin Eaters – a continuing history of Bushwalking Victoria*.

Due to a lack of minutes of the organisation's beginnings, the authors of these articles, Monica Chapman and Wayne Rice, acknowledge drawing heavily from the excellent Federation publication *The Scroggin Eaters A History of Bushwalking in Victoria, to 1989* by Graeme Wheeler, 1991. We thank Graeme for his permission to use his extensive research for our review, particularly for the organisation's early development. Graeme also kindly supplied the photo of Eric Quinlan which appeared in the May issue of *Bushwalking News Victoria*.

From the 1960s, the organisation's records provided further insight into the complexities and events that unfolded and helped shape its direction. We hope you enjoy reminiscing.

Monica Chapman
Chair, 75th Anniversary Committee

The Early Years

- In the 1920s, a walking craze swept the world. Clubs sprang up everywhere and thousands of walkers were out walking each weekend.
- Walter Briggs from the Melbourne Amateur Walking and Touring Club (MAWTC) suggested the growth of recreational walking be marked in Victoria's centenary year. Centenary Hikes Committee was established.
- Interest in walking declined in the 1930s. Nevertheless, the idea of forming a federation was taking shape. At a meeting on 1 May 1934, clubs gave unqualified support to formation of such an organisation.
- Growing population was making demands on forest resources and frequent bushfires were taking their toll on Victoria's landscape. Walkers began to see that they had an obligation to protect walking areas.
- A deputation to the Minister for Public Works requested money for cutting new walking tracks and re-opening old ones.
- On October 1935, the MAWTC hosted the first Federation Day Walk.

BUSHWALKING VICTORIA 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The Early Years (cont)

- An Nature Exhibition and Traders Display was held late 1937 at the Lower Town Hall in Melbourne. Short talks on subjects pertaining to walking were given, a public photo competition was conducted, and clubs and traders had stalls. Public admission was by silver coin.
(During the 75th Anniversary year we have another photographic competition with the aim of producing a calendar. So get your entries in.)
- An attempt was made to lobby for a long-term policy for Victoria's public open spaces by means of appropriate reserves. It was over a year before a deputation was finally granted a meeting with the Minister.
- In September 1938, the Federation enthusiastically supported the proposal to the form the Youth Hostels Association.

Researched by **Monica Chapman**

 **REMINDER** 

Previously Announced Activities

- **Tree Planting with Ray Thomas** — Regent Honeyeater Project — August 16-17
- **Photo Competition for the 2009 Bushwalking Victoria Calendar**
The competition closes on 30 June 2008
- **WWW — Where We Walked**
A list of all the places and the distance walked by BWV members during the anniversary year
- **Beyond The Scroggin Eaters**
Information about years between 1989 when *The Scroggin Eaters* ends and 2009

See *Bushwalking News Victoria* April and May editions for details.



WALK CHOICES FOR 75TH ANNIVERSARY WALK AT MT DISAPPOINTMENT

Attention Club Presidents, Walks Secretaries/Coordinators and Leaders

It has become apparent that many clubs have not submitted a walk for our 75th Anniversary joint event booked for April 2009. We believe that it is not that clubs are unwilling to participate but rather that many are unfamiliar with the area. Therefore the planning committee has decided to help by providing ideas of various walk routes either from the venue complex or within a close drive.

We are working towards getting these to you as soon as possible so that the process of reconnoitering can begin. We are happy to assist with this too if necessary.

Thank you to all the clubs who have made submitted a walk, or offered to lead a walk or two or assist in some way.

The popular Strath Falls area

There has been lots of walk bids from clubs for a walk in the popular Strath Falls area. We now consider that this particular area has been oversubscribed and we don't feel that we can accept another walk around the Strath Falls area unless it takes a quite different and original slant on the area.

Planning Committee Update

At our last meeting, it became more obvious as to who was suited to what and ,therefore, we had a minor 'cabinet reshuffle'. As a result, John Blackman has taken on Treasurer position aided by Fred Bover, Treasurer of Diamond Valley.

Fred will still deal with publicity and communication. Meanwhile John will assist Sylvia McLean who has swapped from Treasurer to Walks Coordinator.

Sylvia, is also being assisted by some Essendon members who have a very good knowledge of Mt. Disappointment and its secrets to research and design walk routes where needed. Wayne Rice from Koonung is still keeping us 'in line' at our meetings as the Coordinator and Monica Chapman from Maroondah is eagerly awaiting your refined walk routes to construct our anniversary walk booklet.

A budget has been developed and a float loan has been secured from Bushwalking Victoria to assist with any initial costs incurred

Keeping Up to Date

Stay tuned to *Bushwalking News Victoria* for more updates. We should have something on the Bushwalking Victoria website soon.

Sylvia McLean
75th Anniversary Working Group

AROUND THE TRACKS

A Visitor to Australia Walks with Benalla Bushwalkers

I didn't really know what to expect when I took the offer to go up to Mt Buffalo with the Benalla Bushwalking Club. I didn't even know it is the Benalla Bushwalking Club I'm going with.

I got picked up by Doug and Laurice Kneen and supplied as well. As a 21-year old and very inexperienced walker from Germany, I had no idea what problems you face on a trip in the mountains. 5 degree Celsius at night gave me a hard time, but the members of the club helped me out with gear I didn't bring. Same for food. Totally unorganized and lost I had trouble feeding myself. But Doug and Laurice didn't expect anything different from that and had enough to generously supply me as well.

The walks were great! Don't ask me where we went, I couldn't keep everything in mind, but we had an extraordinary view over the mountains and I learned where Mt Cobbler is and how you find it (beside many more I forgot). We watched the sunset and the rise of the full moon with a glass of wine and frozen hands. It was cold, but fun!

I also learned many things about bushfires. How the fire fighters create spaces to stop the fires and how people stay at their houses to protect them. I learned about the snowgums and how they grow from the root if the top is severely damaged. And about Alpine Ash, the so respected high mountain tree that grows straight as a light beam and gives a beautiful and useful timber wood. I got introduced to red robins, everlasting flowers and got a taste of mountain pepper. I experienced bindies and saw a wolf spider and a huntsman spider. Both really nice and big. (I'm scared of spiders.)

The second trip to the High Plains behind Falls Creek was much better organized from my side. But again I learned something important. Do not use your torch as a hammer! The torch survived, but the batteries in the torch broke and started heating up! I learned about the stars and found with the help of the club members a group of stars I was looking for since I arrived in Australia; the Paladies.

We visited huts hidden in the forests of the High Plains and got a special tour around the hut of the Rovers Scouts. I had a really good time with the Benalla Bushwalkers and I'm looking forward to see more!

And the best thing is, even though most of the members are much older compared to me, I certainly had fun! So if you hold this letter in your hands and think 'they start their memberships at the age of 25, what does that mean?' don't worry, give it a go! A club is like what its members make it like, and the Benalla Bushwalking Club is anything but boring, even for young people!

Max

Visitor, Benalla Bushwalking Club

Max Metzmacher is a GAP student from Germany currently working at Cathedral College in Wangaratta.

Kokoda Track Memorial Walk — Temporary Closure

On Tuesday 20 May, the Kokoda Track Memorial Walk in the Dandenong Ranges NP will be temporarily closed for maintenance works. Works will be undertaken to the top section of the walk that incorporates the 1000 steps. The works include replacement of steps and handrails, general track surfacing, installation of seating and drainage works and are expected to take up to three months to complete.

For more information contact the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 131963 or visit www.parkweb.vic.gov.au or visit the MC2 site.

Cathedral Ranges Update

The harvesting of the pine plantation has been delayed. Little River Road will be closed between Neds Gully and Cooks Mill as follows:

- Monday 5 May to Friday 9 May
- Monday 12 May to Friday 16 May

These dates and times may be altered without notice. Parks Victoria apologises for any inconvenience.

Tracks Seminar

A seminar, *Creating Tracks & Trails that work*, giving an insight into trail development and management will be held at: The Capital Theatre

50 View St, Bendigo

Friday 23 May 2008, 10am to 4pm

The seminar is organised by Parks & Leisure Australia and sponsored by Parks Victoria. For information and booking, contact Alan Bull on 03 9893 4095.

Bibbulmun Track 10th Anniversary

Saturday 13 September is the 10th anniversary of the Bibbulmun Track. At time of publication, a very limited number of places were still available to walk some sections. A virtual walk (via Walking With Attitude) is also part of the celebrations. For more information about 10th anniversary celebrations, activities and participation costs, visit the following sites:

Eco eNews - Issue #51 Online — http://www.ecovoice.com.au/enews/enews-51/EVE_bibb.php

Bibbulmun Track — <http://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/Events/10th-Anniversary.aspx>

Walking With Attitude — http://www.walkingwithattitude.com/articles_public.php?section=article&id=334

Draft Otways Management Plan and Surfcoast Feasibility Study

The following summarises an Bernard Jordan's article in the Geelong Walkers, May newsletter. (ed)

Otways Management Plan

For walkers: Very little development of new tracks or facilities. Essentially the only incremental improvements are to the Great Ocean Walk (GOW) and the (cont page 8)

Peninsula Bushwalkers Tour Huts of the High Plains

The Peninsula Bushwalkers went on a three-day high plains base camp on 8-10 June. Fine Weather, excellent location and great company. The high plains hut tour members rated the huts visited they visited; no scientific formula was applied, only how they felt at that time on that day. Below are the ratings.

June Ticknell
Peninsula Bushwalking Club

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p>Tawonga Huts</p>  | <p>Historical significance Cattlemen Location/Setting ☺ ☺ ☺ Appearance ☺ ☺ Interior ☺ ☺</p> | <p>Cope Saddle Hut</p>  | <p>Historical significance SEC Location/Setting ☺ ☺ Appearance ☺ Interior ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺</p> |
| <p>Ryders' Yards Huts</p>  | <p>Historical significance Cattlemen Location/Setting ☺ ☺ ☺ Appearance ☺ ☺ Interior ☺</p> | <p>Pretty Valley Hut</p>  | <p>Historical significance SEC Location/Setting ☺ ☺ Appearance ☺ ☺ ☺ Interior ☺ ☺ ☺</p> |
| <p>Wallace's Hut</p>  | <p>Historical significance Cattlemen Location/Setting ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ Appearance ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ Interior ☺</p> | <p>Langford's Gap SEC Hut</p>  | <p>Historical significance SEC Location/Setting ☺ Appearance ☺ Interior ☺ ☺ ☺</p> |
| <p>Fitzgerald's Hut</p>  | <p>Historical significance Cattlemen Location/Setting ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ Appearance ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ Interior ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺</p> | <p>Kelly's Hut</p>  | <p>Historical significance Cattlemen Location/Setting ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ Appearance ☺ ☺ ☺ Interior ☺ ☺ ☺</p> |
| <p>Johnson's Hut</p>  | <p>Historical significance ?Cattlemen Location/Setting ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ Appearance ☺ ☺ Interior ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺</p> | <p>Edmondson's Hut</p>  | <p>Historical significance Cattlemen Location/Setting ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ Appearance ☺ ☺ ☺ Interior ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺</p> |
| <p>Cope Hut</p>  | <p>Historical significance Tourist committee Location/Setting ☺ ☺ Appearance ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ Interior ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺</p> | <p>Rover Lodge</p>  | <p>Historical significance Scouting movement Location/Setting ☺ ☺ Appearance ☺ ☺ Interior (Backpackers) ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺</p> |
| <p>Faithful's Hut</p>  | <p>Historical significance Cattlemen Location/Setting ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ Appearance ☺ ☺ ☺ Interior ☺ ☺ ☺</p> | <p>Wilkinson's Lodge ruin</p>  | <p>Historical significance SEC Location/Setting N/A Appearance N/A Interior N/A</p> |

WALKING WITH DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

Walkers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds have expanded their walking experiences and gone further. Bushwalking Victoria, funded \$40,000 by Sport and Recreation Victoria to implement the *Go Further* project, has been working to increase bushwalking participation in the community by developing and implementing a plan to engage with local community walking groups to provide support and expertise and to encourage them to 'go further'. *Go Further* has been engaging and consulting with local community walking groups across Victoria to implement a series of pilot bushwalks with groups who do not currently walk in the bush.



On Tuesday 1 April, Bushwalking Victoria in partnership with Citylink Creek Connections and Moonee Valley City Council supported four multicultural walking groups to pilot a walk in the bush at Woodlands Historical Park. The groups, including a Vietnamese walking group and Horn of Africa women's walking group, walked along the Spiritual Path at Woodlands and later enjoyed a picnic lunch. A total of 76 participants joined in on the pilot bushwalk.

For many of the participants and their children, this was their first experience walking in a natural setting since arriving in Australia. Many people, particularly those recently arrived in Australia, talked about being fearful of their new environment and limiting their physical activity outside their homes to a minimum. As a consequence,

some have been suffering from health problems including vitamin D deficiency, thyroid dysfunction, obesity and depression as a result of feelings of isolation. The walking groups were positive about the benefits of bushwalking and were keen to explore the Australian bush in a supported and social way. Volunteers from various bushwalking clubs joined in the pilot bushwalk to provide assistance and expertise and Victoria Police donated the use of a bus for transport.

For further information about promoting bushwalking to community walking groups contact Gina Mancuso on (03) 8846 4130 or gofurther@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

Gina Mancuso

Bushwalking Victoria Go Further Project
Photo provided by Gina Mancuso

Around the Tracks (cont from page 6)

Surf Coast Walk. The proposed multi-day Trans Otway Waterfalls walk is not mentioned even as a possibility.

For cyclists: There are proposals (a wish list?) for tracks in the Anglesea Heath and Eumarella/Iron Bark areas, an 'Epic Track' from Anglesea to Apollo Bay and a connection between Beech forest and existing trails at Dinmont.

The plans are available on www.parkweb.vic.au

Surfcoast Feasibility Study (released April 2008)

The study recommends the extension of the Surf Coast Walk from Breamelea to the Cumberland River, improvements such as replacing the inland route behind Anglesea with a coastal walk and linking the walk to the GOW.

The study also states that Tourism Victoria's focus in the short term will be on the GOW, Wild Grampians, Wild Alpine, Wild East Gippsland walks.

Good News from the Grampians

Parks Victoria has now opened up all the Wonderland walks, apart from the Grampians Garden walk.

Recently my family and I walked to Rosea summit and back to the Rosea carpark (site of the defunct Rosea campground) via the Burma Track and Delley's Dell. The routes were all clearly signposted. There are no intrusive track works like those found on the Pinnacle route. A new, bigger, steel bridge has been built in one area to maximize the views and replace a walkway destroyed by the fire.

It was interesting to study the ruins of the Burma Hut on the way down and speculate on the fate of the Rupert, the renowned resident rat.

Walkers must note that the Silverband Road is only two-way up to the new falls car-parking area. The area above that, which provides access to Sundial area walks and Rosea, is only accessible via the Mount Victory Road out of Halls Gap.

What's more, they intend to build a hikers-only campsite in the Wonderland range. This will allow walkers to put together some interesting overnight walks in this area of fascinating rock formations. For example, you could walk from Halls Gap to the Pinnacle via Venus Baths and Splitters Falls, then on to the Sundial turntable area, camping somewhere in between at the new campsite. The next day would take you over to Mount Rosea and down to Borough Huts, along tracks that are all open.

And there's even more!! Parks are currently reconstructing the boardwalk section on the Major Mitchell Plateau with new back steel walkway (apparently it will not burn and lacks the visual impact of shiny steel) and hope that this walk will be open in about three months, depending on the weather.

But, as yet the Fortress and the Briggs Bluff/Mount Difficult areas are the only ones currently opened for overnight walks. Keep an eye on the Parkweb and the Brambuk websites for up-to-date information.

Janice
Warrnambool Bushwalker

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Representatives on Other Organisations

Bushwalking Australia:
Victorian Delegate: Marianne Watt
Victorian Deputy Delegate: David Reid
Please contact via the office

Organisations where BWV Members Provide a Bushwalking Perspective

Walking Trails Classification Project Control Board: David Reid
River Red Gum reference group: Phil Brotchie
Outdoor Recreation Centre Committee of Management:
Kyle Matheson
Nature Based Tourism reference group: Steve Robertson
Mt Buffalo reference group: Pauline McLaughlin
AAS Technical committee: Paul Chamings
Coast and Otways Tracks group: Bernard Jordan
Living Links Steering committee: Tony Walker

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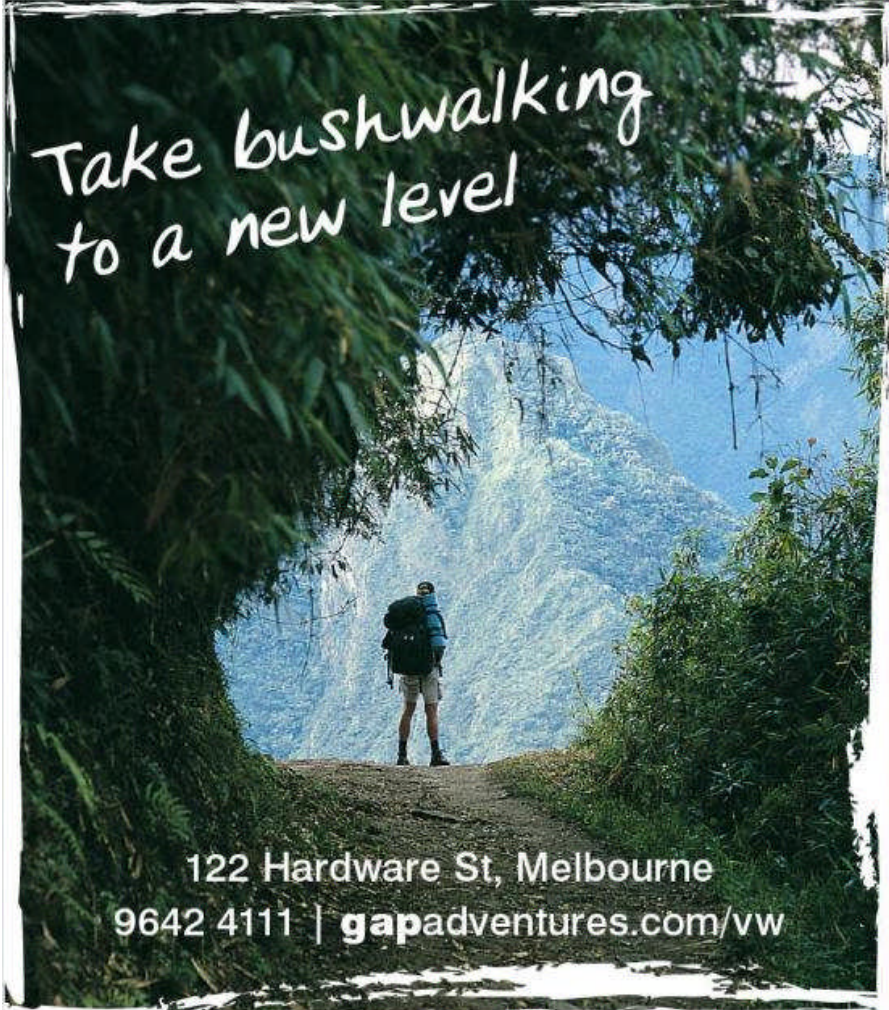
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Sunrise & Sunset—2008

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Friday 30 May 7.25am 5.10pm EST | Friday 13 June 7.33am 5.07pm EST | Friday 27 June 7.36am 5.10am EST |
| Friday 11 July 7.34am 5.17pm EST | Friday 25 July 7.26am 7.27pm EST | Friday 8 Aug 7.13am 7.39pm EST |
| Friday 22 Aug 6.56am 5.50pm EST | Friday 5 Sept 6.34am 6.02pm EST | Friday 19 Sept 6.14am 6.14pm EST |
| Friday 3 Oct 5.52am 6.26pm EST | Daylight Saving starts in Victoria on Sunday 5 October 2008 | |

Full Moons—2008

Tue 20 May, Thu 19 Jun, Fri 18 July, Sun 17 Aug, Mon 15 Sept, Wed 15 Oct; Thu 13 Nov, Sat 13 Dec

Sources: www.ga.gov.au; museumvictoria.com.au



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