



Federation of Victorian
Walking Clubs Inc
A2548 ABN 88 344 633 037

VicWalk News

February 2006

No. 157

\$1.20

Calendar

VicWalk Council Meeting

Tuesday 7 February 2006

Holy Trinity Church Hall,
Hotham St, East Melbourne
Melway Map 2G D3

Bushwalkers Search & Rescue Section Meeting

Monday 6 February 2006 at 6pm.

Carlton Community Room,
216 Rathdowne Street, Carlton
(next to the baths). Most nearby
parking, eg Neill St. has a 2-
hour limit but no meter. Longer
parking can be found further
away, ie Newry St to the north.

Bushwalkers Search & Rescue Practice including Rogaine

8-9 April 2006

Conservation Committee Meetings

4th Wednesday each month except

December at 7.30pm

St Martins Anglican Church
27 Cromwell Rd (cnr Wilson St)
South Yarra

Melway Map 58 F4

Federation Weekend

17-19 November 2006

Bright & Beyond

SECRETARIAL RAMBLINGS

Council Meetings

This year we will only hold full council meetings bi-monthly, with the first meeting in February, freeing up the executive for more productive meetings. The goal is to include those conveners that are able to attend at our executive meetings, thus giving your executive team more people expressing ideas to help on day-to-day functions and shape future direction.

With the amount of documentation from the executive and conveners regularly published we believe that every council member will be just as well informed on subjects of interest to clubs.

BMTAB

BMTAB (Bushwalking & Mountaineering Training Advisory Board Inc) voted at its December AGM to amalgamate with VicWalk. This will make it easier for BMTAB to complete their winding up

process. VicWalk presented to council on the integration of the two organisations, and in the end the same result is achieved, but to satisfy government incorporation regulations it requires some additional work from our side. David Reid and I have started work on the amalgamation with discussions and a meeting during January with BMTAB's executive officer.

Risk Management in the Club Program

I urge clubs to revisit our VicWalk Risk Management Guidelines document and apply duty of care practices to your clubs' schedules of activities.

Our VicWalk Track Maintenance Group has produced a set of work guidelines for their track clearing activities, which is currently being vetted by Parks Victoria's Health and Safety team.

WAYNE RICE

QUEST FOR WATERFALL INFORMATION

VicWalk has been approached by Phillip Larkin on behalf of Darren McKinty, Senior Project Officer, Victorian Lands Information Group, requesting information on Victorian waterfalls. The group's aim is to update the current Land Victoria Hydrology database for all waterfalls in the state and to include the information in a series of publications which will be available to the general public.

Any member who can supply waterfall details such as name, origin, coordinates, walking access information, history and photographs is encouraged to do so by mailing Phillip at Unit 2, 3 Highclere Ave Mt Waverley 3149, phone him on 8801 9359 or email Ray Barber at raybar@yahoo.com.

Full acknowledgment will be made in any future publication, and if you mention your walking club details, a publication will be donated to your club.

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 ekerlin@optusnet.com.au or 2 Glenwerri Court, Vermont South 3133.

Deadline for March:

Monday, 13 February

Editor: Eileen Kerlin
Design & Layout: Helen Rowley

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Who's Who at VicWalk

Administration Office

Jenny Sykes
Phone 9455 1876
Fax 9457 5438
vicwalk@vicnet.net.au
www.vicnet.net.au/~vicwalk

Monday 12 noon–3pm
Tues, Thur & Fri 10am–3pm
Not open Wednesdays

Office Bearers

President: David Reid
5984 0039
valdavid@alphalink.com.au

Vice-President: Nick Brown
9509 1112
camnix@optusnet.com.au

Secretary: Wayne Rice
9842 2817
longgrain2@bigpond.com

Treasurer: Greg Weston
9399 9592
greg@ttcc.com.au

Assistant Secretary: Barbara Guerin
bjg123@bigpond.com

Convenors

Bushwalkers Search & Rescue:
Monica Chapman
9859 8464
convenor@bsar.org

Conservation, Tracks & Huts:
Steven Robertson
9762 5367
srob7859@bigpond.net.au

Track Clearing: Jim Harker, 9547 1152
jnharker@netspace.net.au

For other project officers please contact Conservation Convenor, Steven Robertson, as above

Insurance: David Gordon
02 6051 2602W or 02 6040 9599H
david.gordon@fmg.co.nz
Publicity/Promotions: vacant

Publications: Claire Garrett
9598 4854

Risk Management: Wayne Rice
see details above

Skills: vacant

Representatives on Other Organisations

Bushwalking Australia: Marianne Watt
9328 4228

BMTAB: Peter Conroy
9596 2639

ORC: Kyle Matheson
9890 6094
mathesonkyle@hotmail.com

STROKE RECOGNITION EARLY & LIFE SAVING

Scenario: A barbecue guest stumbles and has a minor fall, drops her plate of food. Says she is OK and refuses offers to call ambulance. Blames it on tripping over a brick because of her new shoes. Appears a bit shaken up. Dies in hospital later that evening. Had a stroke at the barbecue.

Strokes are common and serious. Although most strokes occur in older people, strokes can happen in people of all ages.

Recognising a stroke: Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer brain damage when people nearby fail to recognise the symptoms of a stroke. Now doctors say a bystander can recognise a stroke by asking three simple questions:

- 1 Ask the person to **smile**;
- 2 Ask them to **raise both arms**;

- 3 Ask the person to **repeat a simple sentence** (coherently), ie "It is sunny out today"

If the person has **any** difficulty with any of these tasks, **call 000 immediately** and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

The above test was found to be the simplest way for a bystander to identify facial weakness, arm weakness and speech problems (three early warning signs) exhibited by a stroke victim.

PRESENTED AT THE
**AMERICAN STROKE
ASSOCIATION'S
ANNUAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 2005**

[A similar article was reproduced in the Diamond Valley Bushwalking Club's December newsletter – thanks for bringing this to our attention: Ed.]

LONG DISTANCE WALKING TRAILS

"Walk quietly, they're all in bed..."

"Never seen so many people on the bus," says the local character at St David's at eight in the morning. Many walkers were catching the shuttle buses which traverse the length of the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path of 288km, from Amroth to Poppit Sands.

The whole coastal path can be walked by using these shuttles, staying at hostels, bunkhouses, backpackers and B&Bs.

We stayed near the magnificent beach at Marloes Hostel, a B&B in Pembroke, the hostel at the historic cathedral town of St Davids, a Celtic bunkhouse, where we tucked into huge meals of potatoes, the Pwll Deri hostel which must have the most beautiful views of any hostel in Britain and a very welcoming backpackers at Fishguard.

It need only cost you A\$50 per day (excluding transport) with prudent eating, a pint of beer and a hostel bed, but it is advisable to pre-book all accommodation. The entire route can be walked with a day pack over 20 days or less.

Britain is riddled with such long distance walking paths. Sherpa services are provided on many paths ferrying your gear from one accommodation to the next.

In Victoria, it is hoped that this alternate to day walking, overnighing with a tent, or base camping, will become available, as is being seen with the establishment of the GDT Goldfields trails, the Great Southwest Walk, Tidal River to the Lighthouse and the Otways trails.

More and more individuals and groups are showing interest in establishing this style of walking. It makes commercial and recreational sense. Why should we have to go overseas? Victoria is compact and ideal for such walks to be established.

IAN BELL

VICWALK PROJECT OFFICER
LONG DISTANCE WALKING TRAILS

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

WALKING AND TALKING WITH YOUR PRESIDENT

At the December council meeting we had presidents from 14 clubs as our guests and it was a good opportunity to discuss informally some of the issues facing clubs and the bushwalking community generally. I continue to welcome any opportunity to speak with club presidents, committees and club members.

Since the last issue it's been a busy but interesting time. On 11 December I attended the official opening of the Great Otway NP by the Premier, Steve Bracks and Minister for Environment, John Thwaites, held at Triplet Falls. It was pleasing that VicWalk members' ongoing contribution to such things as track maintenance was acknowledged.

The extension of the park has brought with it additional on-ground management resources, which is good news. The challenge for us is to give input to the management plan for this park and the adjoining forest park. Forest park is a new category and we are all keen to understand how it fits into the reserve system. If you have ideas for walking routes etc please get in touch with Steve Robertson, Conservation Convener, or Don Hutton, our project officer for the Otway area. Don is currently working with the Otway Ranges Walking Track Association (ORTWA), whose members have considerable knowledge about the area. See article and walks program on page 5.

On 9 January I attended the official opening of the Great Ocean Walk (GOW) by the Acting Premier and Minister for the Environment John Thwaites. This walk starts at Marengo near Apollo Bay and finishes at Glenample Homestead near the Twelve Apostles. Geelong Bushwalking Club did much of the pioneering work and route alignment. Sadly this was not acknowledged at the opening. Nevertheless the GOW provides an opportunity for local, interstate and overseas visitors to experience some of the most varied and spectacular scenery in the world. It truly is a world-class walk. Some may see it as a tourist walk, particularly as there are some formalities (similar to those at Wilsons Prom) associated with doing the overnight version, but it does offer some wonderful walking. If we locals are smart we will walk it off-season.

The opening of this walk and the proclamation of Great Otway NP opens up the opportunity for the Trans Otway Waterfalls Walk which is being planned and developed by ORTWA to link the

Surf Coast Track with the GOW creating a continuous walk from Torquay to Port Campbell.

Over the Christmas New Year period Val and I spent some time on the Bogong High Plains and saw some of the work being done to restore alpine moss beds damaged by cattle and more recently the bushfires. A number of clubs have already committed to do some of this work, which is a good hands-on way for walkers to contribute to the long term health of the park. As well as moss bed rehabilitation there are other fire recovery tasks with which we can help. If your club would like to be involved, please contact Steve Robertson.

Over the past 12 months we have been reviewing VicWalk's future directions, gathering information and input from our members, council, the executive team and various outside bodies. We have changed the emphasis in our Statement of Purposes and also examined how other peak bodies operate. It has become clear that members who provided input see our role as a peak body to *proactively represent the interests of all bushwalkers, promote bushwalking and engage in other activities that add value to the community.*

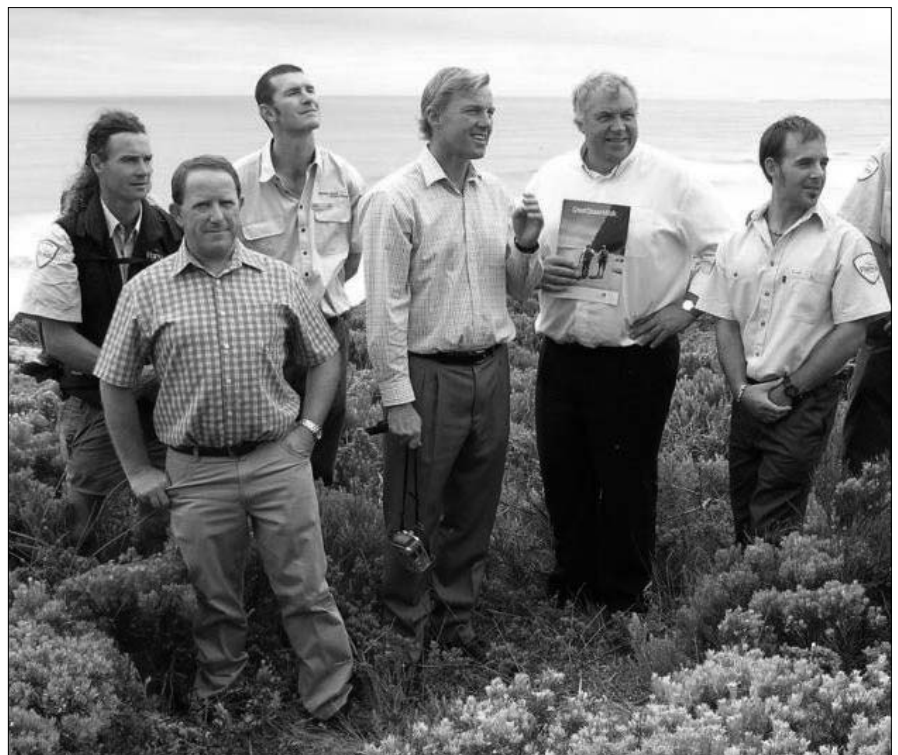
Three strategic objectives have been identified for the next two years:

- **Enhance** value to members and community;
- **Proactive** representation and **wider** sphere of influence;
- **Improved** management and governance of VicWalk.

The executive, conveners and council members will meet this month to plan how to achieve our objectives. Each plan will have a manager and the plan will be regularly reviewed. This work is all being done by volunteers and once the plans are agreed we will be looking for additional volunteer resources to help implement them. I will be detailing our needs in the near future so that we can tap into the pool of skills that exists within our club network.

This is all about making sure that bushwalkers are recognised for what they contribute to the community, and that VicWalk provides support services to its members and effectively represents the interests of all of us who want to walk, enjoy and preserve our wonderful natural areas.

DAVID REID



Official opening of the Great Ocean Walk on 9 January. The Minister for Environment, John Thwaites (centre), with some of the parks staff involved in the track building and in the left foreground Peter Maurer, President of Geelong Bushwalking Club.

ENVIRONMENT EAST GIPPSLAND

In August 2005 we reported in VicWalk News that a donation of \$1000 would be made to the Environment East Gippsland (EGG) group. The following update was recently received from Jill Redwood, Coordinator of EEG:

"Our appeal reached its target and even beyond it a bit. This was good because we'll also need to resource Luke for his

work. He's as keen as mustard to get started in the new year. Currently he's employed by TWS on the Gunns Roadshow which is touring the country, but his real passion is East Gippsland forests. We'll be writing up a campaign strategy next month or early January taking into account the political scene and where things look like going.

You may have also seen we held a film night and launch of the new EEG campaign at the Nova in Carlton. It was very successful – sold out in fact. So that's added to our ability to give Luke proper resources, cover travel costs etc.

On 12 November there was a Forest Alliance meeting in Bairnsdale where all groups fed into a combined strategy for next year, talked about threats to forest, the industry plan, the economic trends that will help us along, regional updates etc. It's great to have a combined forest campaign as it prevents [the government] trying to pick off one environmental group and give less on the forests (as was done last election) than if we were not a united front.

We really appreciate the fantastic support we've received and considering there are only two full time paid Victorian forest campaigners, Luke will make a huge difference to our ability to influence a decent forest outcome in the lead up to the election."

"Expression of Interest"

Trip leaders are you looking to add some spice to your walks?

Nepal awaits – April and/ or October 2006.

Fully escorted easy paced "tea-house/lodge" or camping treks into the majestic Himalaya.

Nine or 14 days trek to the Annapurnas or Everest region.

An add-on side trip to the Indian Golden Triangle can also be arranged for your group.

Contact Everest Trekking, phone 9482 5455 or email lobsang@everesttrekking.com.au

COMBINED GIPPSLAND CLUBS WEEKEND

18–20 November saw the Gippsland tradition of an annual Combined Clubs Weekend continued, hosted this year by the Strzelecki Club. The locality for this event was nearby Walhalla and environs, including the Baw Baw Plateau.

The weekend began with a Friday afternoon historic stroll through Walhalla, led by local historian and Strzelecki member John Aldersea. John's long association with Walhalla and his extensive research over many years enabled a detailed on-the-spot account of the discovery, growth and decline of Walhalla and its gold.

As with the Federation weekend 12 months before, the Rawson Resort was an ideal venue for a relaxed weekend. Many took advantage of the accommodation, generous evening meals and cooked breakfasts.

Much preparation had gone into the planning of the walks programme. Organisers Denis Nagle, Robert Bentvelzen and Ed Dyt worked with John Aldersea to come up with an interesting mix of walks, only one of which was on the Federation program last year. On Friday evening John and co-author Barbara Hood gave an overview of the 10 planned walks, illustrated with many historical photos from their 2003 publication "Walhalla – Valley of Gold".

Most of the walks went ahead as planned, including an overnight camp at Mushroom Rocks below Mt Erica. There was much to choose from and much positive feedback about each walk, some quite challenging, some easier, lots of points of interest and beautiful scenery. There was even a fish or two caught by one keen Strzelecki angler as the party waded up the Aberfeldy River to the site of an old wooden dam at Macgregors Gold Mine!

While the Strzelecki Bushwalking Club might have hoped for a larger turnout from the other Gippsland clubs, those that joined us fitted in extremely well and seemed to thoroughly enjoy the weekend. For the host club there are many benefits: contact with 'neighbours', the teamwork of planning such an event, a great social occasion, and above all an active walking weekend for a large number of members.

Full Moons

Monday, 13 February; Wednesday 15 March;
Friday 14 April; Saturday 13 May; Monday
12 June; Tuesday 11 July

Sunrise & Sunset

Friday, 10 February 6.43am 8.24pm
Friday, 24 February 6.58am 8.06pm
Friday, 10 March 7.13am 7.46pm
Friday, 24 March 7.26am 7.25pm

Daylight saving ends on

Sunday, April 2, at 3:00 am

Friday, 7 April 6.39am 6.04pm
Friday, 21 April 6.51am 5.45pm
Friday, 12 May 7.10am 5.21pm
Friday, 26 May 7.22am 5.11pm
Friday, 9 June 7.31am 5.07pm
Friday, 23 June 7.36am 5.08pm

Sources: www.museum.vic.gov.au/planetarium
www.timeanddate.com/worldclock

RON CANN
SECRETARY,

STRZELECKI BUSHWALKING CLUB

OTWAY RANGES WALKING TRACK ASSOCIATION

ORWTA is working towards the establishment of the Trans Otway Waterfalls Walk (TOWW), which will provide walkers with unique opportunities for experiencing the Otway Ranges' outstanding natural beauty with secluded fern gullies, waterfalls, crystal streams and diversity of forests.

The TOWW will provide a wonderful adventure experience, with access to these areas helping people to understand the special nature of our environment and the importance of preserving it for the future. It will link the Surf Coast Walk with the Great Ocean Walk, making it possible to

walk all the way from Torquay to Port Campbell.

ORWTA currently schedules the following activities, and all clubs and individuals are invited to participate, by arrangement with the relevant ORWTA contact person:

Activity	Date	Destination	Contact	Phone
Track Clearing	Friday 3 February	Wild Dog Track	Les	0417 526 070
Walk	Sunday 5 February	Allanbee Beek Circuit	Ed	5289 2107
Track Clearing	Sunday 19 February	Sabine Falls Grand Circuit	John Don	9853 4663 5263 3009
Walk	Sunday 5 March	Sabine Falls Grand Circuit	Les	0417 526 070
Track Clearing	Sunday 17 March	Wye River	Ed	5289 2107
Walk	Sunday 2 April	Wye River Falls & Gorge	Les	0417 526 070
Walk	Sunday 7 May	GOW Elliott River to Apollo Bay	Les	0417 526 070

MAP REVIEW – MT KOSCIUSZKO 1:40,000

In my files I have a pre-war pre-SMA Lands Department sketch map of the Kossie region (price 1/-), the Mt Jagungal and the Brassy Mountains sketch map at 2"=1mi (but it does not actually cover Mt K), a 1:63,360 (1"=1mi) topo, a 1:100,000 topo, the old standard 1:50,000 topo map of Mt Kosciusko, a CMA Snowy Kosciusko National Park map, and the new 1:25,000 topo/photomap.

If all those were not enough, now I have a SutMap topo map of the area too. What is SutMap? It started off as a producer of orienteering and special purpose maps in the UK, but its founder/owner/cartographer, Jon Sutcliffe, has recently moved to Australia.

The map covers an area similar to the Kosciusko 1:50,000 topo map, plus the extension down to Cascade Hut. At the top edge it cuts off a bit of the 1:50,000 version, but has an extension for Mt Tate and Guthega River to compensate. It also has a street map of Jindabyne.

The topo map part looks very similar to a standard topo map (on which it is based), but with some extra surface information about rock areas and cliffs, which I gather were added by Jon Sutcliffe from field surveys done in February and March of 2005. Thus it reflects the post-fire state of the area.

It also has the current ski tows, access roads for them and current pole lines on it. I noticed that some of the pole lines and tracks I remembered were missing, but apparently some of them disappeared in the fires of 2003 and have not been replaced. This is understandable.

Some well-known tracks are not shown. I was told that the NPWS did not want them shown, and Jon complied. I think this was a very bad mistake, but one I blame on the NPWS Area Management. Imagine that you are in a total whiteout somewhere on the Main Range (a common occurrence!) and come across a 4WD track. You look at the map, only to find nothing in the general area of where you think you are. Now what?

In addition to the actual topo mapping, the sheet includes travel info, weather report sources, a few notes on accommodation, plus some of the usual safety sorts of things. Production of the map has been supported by a number of commercial organizations in the Jindabyne area, so there are some little adverts scattered around for these companies. One would have to say 'all the usual suspects' are there. It is printed on both sides, and on slightly heavier paper than the CMA map.

All that aside, who might be interested in this SutMap? I think it would be a good choice for a newcomer to walking in the

area as it does have lots of ancillary detail, and it covers the area most people might start with.

The map, published in July 2005 (ISBN 0 9757734 0 2), sells for \$12.95 and can be obtained from jon@sutmap.com or SutMap, 4/6 Gregory St, Toowong, Qld, 4066. I imagine it could also be obtained in Jindabyne from 'the usual suspects'.

ROGER CAFFIN
REPRINTED, WITH PERMISSION, FROM "THE BUSHWALKER" VOL 30, ISSUE 5 (OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CONFEDERATION OF BUSHWALKING CLUBS NSW)

"Walking The Otways" Edition 3 Amendment

Geelong Bushwalking Club has announced that an amendment sheet will soon be available to anyone who has purchased Edition 3 of this brilliant publication. Email geelong.bushwalkingclub@hotmail.com, or send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Geelong Bushwalking Club, PO Box 675 Geelong Victoria 3220

TRACK MAINTENANCE GROUP

Upper Yarra Track

Another successful track clearing day was held by the Track Maintenance Group on Sunday 11 December. Thirteen people attended; five from Maroondah, three from Nomads, one from VNPA, one from WCV, one from EV and two from VMTC.

Dave Rimmer and Steve Robertson were in charge with Mark Barrile from DSE, where all enjoyed the spectacular weather and scenery and cleared approximately three kilometres of track in both east and west directions from Starling Gap. This is a magnificent area close to both Warburton and Powelltown, where long day walks or backpacks are possible following the old timber tramlines that are part of our history. If you have not been to this area, then put it on your priority list as a must do.

If you have not done any track clearing – then try it. You can do as little or as much as you like on the day. Many people have actually said they enjoy it more than bushwalking. Why? Well, they still get to walk, to be part of the bush and get heaps of self-satisfaction from helping with our tracks and the environment.

Go for it in 2006.

STEVEN ROBERTSON



Two members of the Nomad Club at work on the Upper Yarra Track

Howqua Hills – December 2005

Members from VMTC joined together with VNPA members for a VNPA track clearing weekend.

The first day involved sections of the Upper Yarra Track where scrub was cleared, re-benching and filling and clearing track drainage.

The Sunday was spent clearing fallen trees from the track leading to Eagles Peak. Severe wind damage in the area from the August–September storms had left a tangle of trees.

The Parks Victoria ranger for the weekend was happy to point out that the koala population is

increasing in the area with their re-introduction from both Phillip and French Islands.

It's pleasing to note that as well as VicWalk track clearing activities, both clubs and the VNPA continue to improve our tracks. It's even more special when groups combine.

Email Jim Harker on jnharker@netspace.net.au or Steve Robertson on srob7859@bigpond.net.au, to find out how you or your club can become involved.

Track Maintenance Forms

The Track Maintenance Form is available for download from the VicWalk website. There is also an on-line submission version.

Track Maintenance Calendar

Date	Details	Contact
12 Feb	Bunyip State Park – this will be the continuation of forming a new track near Freeman's Mill (near Gembrook)	Graeme Kidd email gandjkidd@nex.com.au or Dave Rimmer email fayanddave@optusnet.com.au
24 – 26 Feb	Grampians – Fortress Track	Rod Novak phone 9561 2407
11 – 13 March	Bogong High Plains moss bed rehabilitation. VicWalk Track Maintenance Group is organizing a weekend in conjunction with Parks Victoria to help rehabilitate the moss bed/bog systems. We need 40 people, with 20 camping out on the High Plains and 20 staying at a lodge at Falls Creek in subsidized accommodation.	Steve Robertson, phone 9762 5367 or email srob7859@bigpond.net.au for information or to register your support.

Recycling Redundant Computers

Business 2 Community Recyclers is a 'social enterprise' providing business and the community with the opportunity to responsibly recycle their redundant office supplies and computer equipment. Our recycle process ensures we reduce waste by enabling the re-use of as many products as possible providing benefit to local and overseas communities in need. All funds raised through the project are utilized towards furthering the project's major goals:

- To reduce the amount of office and IT waste ending up in landfill through environmentally responsible recycling procedures;
- To assist local and overseas communities by providing refurbished IT equipment; and
- To provide re-training programs in a live work environment to those disadvantaged in the labour market.

For further information see www.b2crecyclers.com.au.

Extracted from
Environment Victoria Bulletin
December 2005

Action for Clubs

- Revisit VicWalk's risk management guidelines (p1)
- Advertise waterfalls information request (p1)
- Advertise ORWTA (p5), track maintenance (p6) & community (p7) activities
- Advertise Greening Australia courses (p7)

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Sunday 5 March

Unfortunately, the following two community activities are being held in Victoria on the same day – Sunday 5 March. However, choice being the great dame of democracy means that clubs and/or individuals have the opportunity to decide which activity they might like to be involved with.

Clean Up Australia Day

Every year hundreds of thousands of Australians help clean up their environment on Clean Up Australia Day. It's easy, it's fun and everyone can take part. You can register a site or find a site in your local area where you can volunteer. To register or get more information go to www.cleanup.com.au or phone 02 9552 6177.

Oxfam Australia Walk Against Want

Oxfam Australia is calling on you and your workmates, club members and friends to take steps against poverty by joining in the 2006 Walk Against Want. On Sunday 5 March, more than 10,000 people around Australia will help Oxfam Australia raise vital funds to reduce poverty and injustice around the world and in Indigenous Australia, through our long-term development programs.

2006 is the 40th anniversary of the Walk Against Want, so come and celebrate four decades of life-changing work and help to make a positive difference to the lives of people in poor communities around the world.

Register with the group's coordinator on 9289 9339 or email waw-vic@oxfam.org.au.

Melbourne Walk Against Want 9.30am (for a 10am walk start) – 1.30pm at Princes Park, North Carlton. Enjoy the music, children's entertainers, food and beverages, and general festivities in celebration of 40 years of community participation.

There are walks scheduled in over 13 other locations across Victoria: Bayside, Bendigo, Castlemaine, Dandenong Ranges, Diamond Valley, Blackburn (Lake Sanctuary area), Geelong, Ocean Grove, Traralgon, Wangaratta, Warrnambool, Williamstown/Essendon. For more details on these locations and how to register go to www.oxfam.org.au/walk/.

GREENING AUSTRALIA

Greening Australia runs a number of training events throughout the year, which are of interest to community groups, conservation, Landcare, volunteer groups etc. Some of their upcoming events are tabled below.

Further details and registration forms for each event can be obtained by logging onto the Greening Australia Victoria website www.greeningaustralia.org.au/GA/VIC/ and following the links to the calendar of events, by contacting Rebecca Passlow at Greening Australia Victoria, PO Box 525 Heidelberg 3084, or email rpasslow@havic.org.au, fax 9457 3687 or phone 9450 5328.

Date	Course Description	Cost
Feb 10	Benefits of Native Vegetation in Agriculture – introduction to water plants, vegetation filter systems and their benefit to production and soil health	\$50
Feb 17	Dollar returns for managing native vegetation on private property – exploring covenants, bush tender and carbon tender programs as alternative income sources on rural properties	\$50
Feb 6–May 31	Habitat Conservation and Management 2006 – includes plant identification, bush ecology, weed identification, invertebrates, fire ecology, regeneration strategies, assessment and planning, water resources, site assessment and planning	\$880 (15 week course)

Around the Tracks

Victorian Icons part of the Walking Canon

While scanning through the various club newsletters, it was pleasing to see so many clubs getting back to the Prom, and recording their sightings of the regeneration of one of Victoria's iconic walking areas.

The Grampians, another Victorian favourite, has also seen a resurgence of visits in 2005 and it is also great to see the collaborative efforts of VicWalk member clubs, some combining their walking with some track maintenance work. This is a great idea, and one which we hope to see many other clubs take up in the future.

The Great Ocean Walk will surely rapidly become another 'must do' walk for most clubs – in fact despite the very recent opening (Jan 06 – see David Reid's article on page 3), I notice several clubs have already put the new tracks to the test.

BBC Adopts Peninsula Tracks

The Bayside Bushwalking Club committee has decided to adopt two tracks close to home and next year will be clearing two areas on the Mornington Peninsula. This will be an ongoing commitment to:

- 1 Ostlers Lane – an old road reserve which is rarely used. It is a lovely piece of bushland but difficult to find because it is so badly signed, and
- 2 The Two Bays Track. BBC will be looking after the part of the track which runs between Browns Road and Duells Road and includes the Stephanie Rennick Memorial.

Well done Bayside.

A Peek at Times Past

From the "News" of the Melbourne Bushwalkers:

Go Heavy...

One Henry rifle, one Winchester, one double-barrel shotgun, one elephant rifle, one Starr's breach loader, one Jackelyn rifle, 24 muskets, six pistols, one battle-axe, two swords, two daggers, one boar spear, two American axes, 24 hatchets, 24 butchers' knives – HM Stanley's armoury for his expedition to find Livingstone.

60 bottles of vin ordinaire, 10 bottles of St George, 15 bottles of St Jean, three bottles of brandy, one bottle of cassis, six bottles of lemonade and two bottles of champagne – Albert Smith's drinks list for his ascent of Mont Blanc in 1851.

25,000 cigarettes, 284 boxes of matches, 1290 batteries, 100 candles, 100 bulbs, 100 tool kits, 30 torches, 16lbs of tobacco, six hurricane lamps, three spring balances, two altimeters, two pair of binoculars, one hairdressing set – miscellaneous items taken on British expedition to Kanchenjunga in 1955.

Thankfully things have changed a bit since then, but one wonders whether Albert Smith was sharing his drinks rations?

Exotic Fauna

Reported by David Crocker of Bendigo Bushwalkers "on the Friday night driving up after dark near Bogong Village, we were very surprised to see a large deer standing on the roadway. A magnificent beast with antlers spanning at least 2m. He stood for a while in our headlights before disappearing into the darkness." Although feral, one can still appreciate what a magnificent sight it must have been.

Overseas Adventures

Nine lucky members of Benalla Bushwalking and Shepparton Adventure clubs spent three weeks in October 2005 with the Ottawa Outing Club in the Laurentian Mountains, Great Canadian Shield areas of Eastern Canada and in the Appalachian Mountains on the east coast of the USA. Jan Andrews' write up (in both newsletters) talks of "a wilderness of mountains covered in a blaze of deciduous maples, spectacular gorges, clear lakes and rivers, the small picturesque villages an added bonus... the grand finale was Watkins Glen, a huge series of spectacular gorges in full flood in up state New York (followed by the even bigger Niagara Falls on the way to Toronto for our flight (home))".

Interstate Escapades

Border Bushwalkers combined some day walking with a three-day overnight walk in the Budawangs (NSW). Day walking included Mt Bushwalker where "views from the lookout were impressive, and the walk in was through heath and low scrub that was covered in wildflowers" and Mt Durras "where many of us experienced first-hand the tenacity and downright cunning of the Australian leech." The following excerpt describes a challenging but rewarding three day outing: "On Thursday we started our three-day walk to the Castle, Monolith Valley and beyond. The weather was hot again, and with heavy packs we struggled up the Kalianna Ridge trail for about four hours, taking frequent rests as we went up

and down over rocks and roots, and up and down steep slopes as we detoured around the larger rock faces. We climbed over Meakins Pass, and descended quite a steep track to our campsite at Cooyoyo Creek... which is a lovely place with a small stream and a rock balcony some 50m from the tents, which had spectacular views... On Friday we set off early for Monolith Valley with daypacks. We found our way into and up the Nibelung Pass, which we negotiated with the assistance of a length of fixed chain. This led us into Monolith Valley itself, which consists of rocky tors of sandstone/aggregate, which have been rounded by erosion, interspersed with gullies of temperate rainforest. The most spectacular of these rainforest areas is known as the Green Room, and we spent some time there enjoying the trees, the mosses and the ferns... Saturday was the day we had to walk out and it was also our last chance to climb the Castle. We returned up to Meakins Pass and, after hiding our main packs, put on our daypacks to climb the mountain. It was rough going, involving clambering over rocks, sometimes using ropes that were fixed there, sometimes relying on hand and foot holds. In one spot a narrow chimney had to be climbed... eventually four of us got to the top and enjoyed some stunning views, and a real sense of accomplishment. The return was uneventful, though tiring." Well done Border, and a great write-up from Rick Pickering, unfortunately abridged here.

Nine Koonung Bushwalking Club ladies visited WA in November to do the Cape to Cape Walk, Leeuwin Naturaliste NP. Highlights of their trip were reported by all participants and included "Day 1 – Cape Naturaliste lighthouse for an early lunch before setting out on our first day's walk. On this afternoon we were introduced to the superb scenery we were to enjoy all week – clifftop track overlooking an aquamarine ocean, coastal heath, bright with flowers, wheeling seabirds and our first sighting of whales and dolphins (not to mention our first snake)... Day 2 – Smiths Beach to Moses Rock, led by Jane Scott, author of the Cape to Cape Track Guidebook... Day 3 – Moses Rock to Gracetown, following the track past a great mob of very inquisitive kangaroos, to Moses Rock lookout, which afforded us spectacular coastal views in all directions. This entire day we walked on the cliff tops, able to fully enjoy the beauty of the wildflowers, especially the pimeleas among the rocks, with the spectacular turquoise sea as a backdrop... the next

Around the Tracks

stretch of the walk was filled with sightings of various wildlife including kites, goannas and stumpy tailed lizards. Day 4... onwards through a forested walk where we found numerous native orchids, hyacinths, lilies and other flowers we hadn't previously found on the coastal/cliff walks. The whales had gone out to deeper water, but we spotted many birds; oystercatchers, Red-capped Plovers and Nankeen Kestrels to name a few... Day 5 – Margaret River to Boranup Forest... was to be our longest walk and once again we were fortunate to have Jane Scott with us... After descending over 300 steps we found ourselves in a delightful wooded area beside the brook – a perfect spot for a short break for our poor knees. We then followed the brook until we were once again on the beach. Quite a bit of rock scrambling was required, as well as dodging rogue waves and surprise soakings from blowholes... Day 6... on the track at ten past six!... we continued our walk through a valley lined with Southern Yates (*Eucalyptus cornuta*) trees. We then climbed up to Boranup (trig) Hill lookout, Boranup forest was well alight with the sun shining on wet Karrie trees... Day 7 – Cloudy and sunny. Our first sighting of Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse was at 7.30 and it did look very small indeed, but grew as the day progressed... We were all very pleased to see Maria holding bottles of champagne and after charging our glasses we proceeded up to touch the Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse, which formally ended our Cape to Cape Walk. Very

challenging, and exhausting for some, but we did it!" Congratulations ladies.

The Geelong Walker's December edition reported on "the three Johns" in their club (John Holman, John Van Gemert and John Bell) who made an epic 15-day trek to Vanishing Falls, Tasmania. John Holman first mooted the idea of visiting this remote and trackless area in 1991 and he and John van Gemert, with a different third person each year, made attempts to reach the feature in 1992, 1993 and 1994 from different directions but with the same result – they were forced back each time by weather, time, physical condition of party members, high river flow or toughness of the going. The two Johns were joined by another John, John Bell, in February this year in another 16-day attempt. Carrying an inflatable dinghy which they used occasionally whenever possible, they scrub-bashed beside, and waded/rock hopped in, the New and Salisbury Rivers, often making only a few hundred metres an hour. Eventually the water in the Salisbury River disappeared completely and they knew they were close to their objective. 2.5km later they were at the spectacular Vanishing Falls – water pouring over but disappearing underground from the pool at the bottom of the falls. Spending some 15 minutes at the falls, they made a dash to extricate themselves before food, energy etc, ran out. Some measure of the difficulties was shown in the fact that they each lost about 5kg in the attempt." This is

a precis of a presentation the Johns made to their November club meeting. Sounds like an exciting, but very challenging adventure.

Eight Wimmera Bushwalkers enjoyed eight days of walking in the Flinders Ranges, SA, taking in Trezona, Bunyeroo Gorge, Wilco Creek, Eddieowie Gorge, Blinman Pools, Wilka Willina Walk, St Marys Peak and Sacred Canyon.

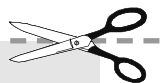
Local Endeavours

Seven Bendigo Outdoor Club members enjoyed coastal waterfalls walking at Skenes Creek in early November, with one of their walks taking in four waterfalls – Brunswick, Galliebarinda, Upper Cumberland and Yannathan. Apparently they had a little difficulty following the track at times. Perhaps anyone wanting to walk the waterfalls should contact ORWTA to find out more about their proposed Trans Otway Waterfalls Walk (see ORWTA's program of activities on p5).

Camperdown Bushwalking Club members enjoyed a flora and fauna spectacular in two days of walking on the Great South West Walk tracks in late November, which included seeing hundreds of gannets nesting on the rocky cliffs, a pod of dolphins, a walaby tempting fate by running out in front of their car, a kangaroo, a koala, a couple of black and gold butterflies and two snakes, plus a rainbow of wildflowers!

Ten Echuca Moama YMCA Bushwalking Club walkers tackled Mt Tabletop in late November with the following excerpts from

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Around the Tracks

a very descriptive report from Peter: "It was eerie walking through the snow gum forest, with the mist blanketing the twisted old snow gums. The silence was frequently broken with the sound of birds chirping to each other. Bright red and blue parrots kept an inquisitive eye on us as we walked through the snow gum forest. The mist lifted as we descended onto a small snow grass plain at the head of Tabletop Creek. From the look of the track, the local wombats had been very active during the night. A steady climb through open snow gum forest brought us up to the flat plateau of Mt Tabletop. It was very pleasant walking across the grassy plateau in the warm morning sun. Steep cliffs surrounded much of the plateau. There were magnificent views over the surrounding valleys and ranges. This was a really interesting walk through a variety of terrain and vegetation."

The Grampians came up trumps again for wildflowers, as attested to by the **Melbourne Women's Walking Club** visit in early November, reported by Jenny Smith. "On the first afternoon six of us walked up Mount Sturgeon where we had our first taste of the Grampians wildflowers (41 species, especially the Flame Grevillea) and views over Dunkeld and surrounding district... The following day... a longer walk up the Jimmy Creek Track (Bird Orchids and Dwarf Wedge-pea). We lunched amid flowering bushes of Fringe Myrtle and three species of tea tree... The next day was warmer but

the walking was easier — about 11km along 4WD roads from Boreang camp ground to a spectacular view over the Moora Moora gorge and falls with the Moora Moora Reservoir and Victoria and Serra Ranges in the background. Flowers of note included Beard Orchids (purplish, red or copper, we couldn't be sure)... On Wednesday it was even warmer so we did a creek walk along Deep Creek to the start of Billywing Gorge in the Victoria Range. The track was overgrown and somewhat challenging, although no big climbs were required. It took us 2½ hours to do 2.5km to the destination where we were able to swim in a pool below a waterfall. The route took us over a couple of creek crossings, through a cave and up to rocks overlooking the gorge with views of the distant Fortress... thanks to Margaret Atchison who identified at least 140 species of wildflowers...".

Local Knowledge brings Life to Local Walks

Ballarat Bushwalking & Outdoor Club members got a very detailed and personal tour of Lal Lal Falls and town when fellow member, Mary, led the way armed not only with a book on the history of the town, but also with personal family photographs identifying local churches and other buildings.

And several **Benalla Bushwalking Club** walkers were treated to some local expert knowledge on their recent visit to the **Lima Creek Falls, Boho East** as Vaughan Cowan

reports: "This was our second visit to the property of Olwyn and Ben Brook situated on the Bonnie Doon road, not far from Too Rour. Half the area is natural bushland, which they are preserving. They are also busy maintaining and improving corridors for wildlife, and have a magnificent large garden including native and exotic plants and trees. The property borders natural bushland and we walked along old logging tracks enjoying the wildflowers before joining the walking track from Too Rour to the Lima Creek Falls. It was a short distance from here to the falls, where the water cascades over a broad expanse of granite before falling into the ferny creek bed. We returned via the E1 road, where Ben kindly provided a vehicle for anyone that didn't wish to climb back to the homestead."

Cup Day with a Difference

Whilst many clubs traditionally take advantage of an extra leave day to make a four-day weekend of walking, **Benalla Bushwalking Club** got into the race day spirit with a lively Cup Day Picnic "on the emerald green lawns of **Lake Benalla**." The fashion in the field prize went to a well-known club member who was apparently a "picture of sartorial elegance in an outfit that was retro early 1980s: a large straw hat, dark red floral shirt with black bow tie, dark grey checked drainpipe trousers and shoes to match!"



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