



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

VicWalk News

May 2006

No. 160

\$1.20

Calendar

VICWALK AGM & COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 6 June 2006
(AGM starts at 6pm)

Community Room, Powlett Reserve, East Melbourne
Melway Map 2G F2 (44 C7)

BUSHWALKERS SEARCH & RESCUE MEETING

Monday 22 May 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.

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 (see p4)

WALKING & TALKING WITH YOUR PRESIDENT

PLOTTING A ROUTE FOR THE FUTURE

It is with great pleasure that I announce the publication of the VicWalk Strategic Plan 2006–2008. This plan is the result of the review and discussion on the future direction of VicWalk.

The process has involved getting the views of our members, looking at our operating environment, clarifying our role, agreeing our key areas of performance and then establishing action plans for the next two years that will support our longer term vision for the bushwalking community. Thanks to all those who contributed.

This plan will help VicWalk's executive and council plan and operate in a strategic way, focussing on the important issues. Some of its principles may also apply to clubs: I therefore commend it to club committees as a starting point for determining your own club's long term plan. Copies have been sent to all clubs but additional copies are available.

CONSERVATION TRACKS AND HUTS COMMITTEE

This committee under the guidance of Steve Robertson deals with all land management issues affecting the integrity and bushwalking amenity of our natural areas. It provides input and consultation to land managers on track maintenance and track

development. It represents the interests of all bushwalkers with regard to potential conflict between users of public land.

The committee relies entirely on volunteers working as project officers. Thanks to all those clubs who are able to contribute volunteers directly, but we need more eyes and ears out there. The committee would like each club to nominate a contact person who can be kept informed about issues in the club's area. Likewise, the club contact can keep the committee informed of relevant developments in the field.

Please send your contact's details to Steve Robertson (contact details on page 2).

2006 AGM

The AGM is in June – see the calendar opposite for details. Consider whether you are able to take office. We need a new treasurer in particular.

2006-2008

The next couple of years will be an interesting and exciting time for our organisation and we will need a range of skills to ensure our executive team does a good job. If you would like more information please contact me directly and discuss the details. I will be nominating for office again and look forward to playing a part in the ongoing development of the bushwalking community.

DAVID REID

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 June:
Monday, 15 May

Editor: Eileen Kerlin
Design & Layout: Helen Rowley

inside this issue ...

Conservation	2
Bush Telegraph	2
Celestials	2
Clubs Initiate Track Clearing	3
Track Closures	3
BSAR	3
Bright & Beyond	4
Action for Clubs	5
Around the Federation	5-6

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

CONSERVATION

Well, what a month of volunteer activity – submissions and meetings. Members of VicWalk Conservation Committee have been active on behalf of all clubs and members.

River Red Gum Investigation: meetings continue and the discussion paper due out in a few months will be an important document for many clubs and Members to give their views on.

It was extremely pleasing to have some 23 very active members attend our last **Conservation Committee meeting**. Maybe the word is finally getting out that we need input from all clubs.

A major effort in March was to help/understand/push our views on what we consider must not happen on **Mt Stirling**. It must be retained as a natural mountain.

Track work continues on the **Freemans Mill area** in and near Bunyip State Park, with Dave Rimmer in recent weeks leading another team to do track survey work heading for Seven Acre Rock.

The **Track Maintenance Group** is up and clearing – with its next six months program to be published soon – remember, we need all clubs' support.

After feedback from people attending the **Mossbed Rehabilitation Weekend**, we can now confirm that VicWalk will organise another two Mossbed Rehabilitation Weekends in 2007, during the Australia Day long weekend in January and the Labour Day weekend in March. Details to follow.

Thanks to clubs who have already responded with their official **contact names** for conservation issues.

Discussions/meetings have been held with many land managers but one of particular importance is **Nature Based Tourism** with Tourism Victoria, PV & DSE to make sure an unattractive development process is not implemented in our walking areas.

Safe walking, though to do this I ask you all to keep VicWalk informed on matters that concern us all.

STEVEN ROBERTSON

Convenor,

VicWalk Conservation Committee

BUSH TELEGRAPH

Protect our bush

Call the **BUSH TELEGRAPH**
number on **13 2874**
to report suspicious activity

Pick up your sticker at participating
police stations or council offices.

Everybody witnesses incidents from time to time, such as driving in inappropriate areas or removing plants from national parks, that, although not criminal, they would like to report to someone, but not necessarily the police.

Bush Telegraph was launched on Anzac Day long weekend to enable Victorians to report suspicious activity through a single, easy to remember number, 13 2874 or 13BUSH on your keypad. The number can be used anonymously if you wish. The report is noted then forwarded on to the appropriate authority. PV will provide the reporting facility through its seven day a week information centre.

Stickers and further information about the Bush Telegraph service are available from the PV Information Centre on 13 1963.

Full Moons

Saturday 13 May; Monday 12 June;
Tuesday 11 July; Wednesday 9 August;
Friday 8 September; Saturday October 7

Sunrise & Sunset

Friday, 12 May7.10am5.21pm
Friday, 26 May7.22am5.11pm
Friday, 9 June7.31am5.07pm
Friday, 23 June7.36am5.08pm
Friday, 14 July7.33am5.18pm
Friday, 28 July7.23am5.29pm
Friday, 11 August7.09am5.40pm
Friday, 25 August6.51am5.52pm
Friday, 8 Sept6.31am6.04pm
Friday, 22 Sept6.09am6.16pm
Friday, 6 Oct5.48am6.28pm
Friday, 20 Oct5.28am6.42pm

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

CLUBS INITIATE TRACK CLEARING

Moroka Gorge track was cleared on 18–19 March by VNPA Bushwalkers led by Margarita Chetcuti, with some help from VicWalk members. Jim Harker reports ...

Seven VicWalk members met at Horseyard Flat to join this VNPA track clearing. We all started out with ranger Andy Wolstenholme clearing the track into the Moroka Gorge. There was a lot of fallen timber from storms last year. Students from Wollongara had done some track clearing but there was still quite a bit to finish off and the chainsaw was busy. At lunchtime four of us went back to meet another ranger, Wayne McCallum. Our job was to repair a bridge over the Moroka River near the camp. This bridge was in a sad state and seemed likely to fall any time. Wayne told us that this year's budget didn't allow for a new bridge so the plan was to prop it up, and hopefully next year's budget will have more money.

First Wayne cut a prop (he called it a 'Tommy') then he created a homemade jack in the river bed. This was done by cutting a variety of pieces of log and creating two columns, one under the bridge and another close to it. Wayne used the column outside the bridge as a fulcrum for a crow bar to raise the level of the bridge. When it had been raised sufficiently high we would place another section of log on the column under the bridge. This process continued until the bridge was high enough to place the Tommy underneath. I should mention that this required us to stand in knee deep water. After placing the first Tommy we tested the bridge and found that we needed a second one. Luckily this was quite quick and we had finished. Wayne said that this would hold the bridge until the next flood. It's been nine years since the last flood. We headed back to camp to warm up after two hours in the river. When the others came back we had a great barbecue. On Sunday we had a bit of rough driving to Castle Hill to clear the walking track there. This was so little visited that we had to clear the route into the car park. In parts we found it quite difficult to work out where this track was supposed to go. Eventually we managed to clear all but the last 500 metres. We checked out the magnificent view from the top and then it was time to go.

If your club is doing some track work why not write it up for VicWalk News? To learn more about how your club can get into track maintenance contact Jim Harker or Steve Robertson. It's a great way for bushwalkers to put something back in return for our enjoyment of the "Bush". [Ed]

TRACK CLOSURES

DSE and Hepburn Shire recently noted that pathway closures will operate during the Lake Daylesford dam wall safety works. These were programmed to commence in March and to be completed by June. During this time:

- Pedestrian access to the mineral springs area directly from the lake will not be possible.
- Pedestrian access to the mineral springs area will be available via Fulcher Street carpark.

For up-to-date information on all current track closures, bushwalkers are advised to go to the PV website at www.park-web.vic.gov.au and then to the link 'Check for fire updates & closures'.

BUSHWALKERS SEARCH AND RESCUE

2006 PRACTICE WEEKEND 8-9 APRIL: WOMBAT STATE FOREST

BSAR's annual practice was once again combined with a VRA 12-hour rogaine. Despite a somewhat lower attendance, this practice was very successful with skills workshops conducted on the Sunday.

The format provided an opportunity for BSAR members and potential members to:

- familiarise themselves with SAR procedures
- have intensive day and night navigation practice
- become familiar with the use of radios
- enhance navigation abilities using GPS units, and
- practice line searching.

Twenty-nine participants including four from Police SAR attended, with university clubs making up most of the eight clubs represented.

Thanks to Police SAR and the VRA for their support of the training and to the practice organisers and workshop leaders for ensuring a successful exercise.

MONICA CHAPMAN
BSAR Convenor



BSAR practice participants receive a briefing from Police SAR on the use of radios



Field Organiser Duncan Brookes gives a relaxed briefing on line searching before BSAR practice participants head into the thick of things in the scrub

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BRIGHT AND BEYOND FEDERATION WEEKEND 17-19 NOVEMBER 2006

Hi all and welcome to the first communication for Bright and Beyond. This year's Federation Weekend is being hosted by Benalla Bushwalking, Wangaratta Out and About, Warby Walkers and Border Bushwalking Clubs.

Planning is well advanced and we hope for a very successful event. Accommodation booked at Bright Caravan Park includes powered and un-powered sites, cabins, and lodge accommodation which can sleep up to 40. The caravan park will also be used as the staging area for the start of all the activities, so it's a very convenient place to stay. See www.brightcaravanpark.com.au for more details.

There are plenty of other accommodation options available in Bright: see www.brightescapes.com.au. All this information and a lot more will soon be available on VicWalk's website.

The walks we have planned are shown opposite. Some will only be available on the Saturday but some you will be able to do on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

There are also lots of other activities around Bright so I hope you all are thinking of staying a while longer and enjoying the hospitality of the Border North East.

We will be contacting all clubs soon (via VicWalk) to set up an email contact list to speed up communication. Please decide who you want as your club's contact person.

That's all from me for now - see you all in November.

DAVID GORDON

Buffalo

Big Walk Crossover Up
Big Walk Crossover Down
Back Wall
South Buffalo - morning
South Buffalo - afternoon
Eagle Point via Og Gog Magog
Mt McLeod from reservoir
Buffalo short walks - morning
Buffalo short walks - afternoon
Mollison's Gallery
Eurobin Creek to Rolliston Falls
Dickson Falls
The Corral
Mac's Point/Mt Dunn
Buckland Valley via Back Wall
Helena Point Catani Loop

Hotham

Dibbins Hut Circuit 18km return
Mt Loch
The Twins (out of Hotham)
Hotham to Spargo Hut
Dinner Plain to Tabletop

Bright

Bright to Wandiligong
Cherry Walk (gorge walk out of Bright)
Bright Lookout
Canyon Walk - 3km 1½ hours, easy

Others:

Falls Creek
Feathertop via Razorback
Kelly & Fitzgerald Huts
Mt Jim (maybe to Youngs Hut)

Other Activities:

Cycle on the rail trail to Myrtleford
Cycle from Bright to Harrierville
Paddle Lake Catani

Other Activities (self-organised)

Underground River exploration
Abseiling
Hang gliding

VicWalk News

Advertising Rates

1/6 page advertisement.....	\$25.00
¼ page advertisement.....	\$40.00
1/3 page advertisement.....	\$50.00
½ 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

AROUND THE TRACKS

Waverley Bushwalking Club proclaimed not only Sunday 5 March a clean up day, but at every walk undertaken by the club during March, participants carried plastic bags to collect any rubbish found along the way. Unfortunately, or fortunately, depending on which way you look at it, most of these bags seem to be quite full! Well done Waverley.

Relay for Life

Warrnambool Walkers and the **Geelong Bushwalking Club** entered teams in the Relay for Life, which is an overnight team event to raise funds for cancer research, education and patient support programs for the National Cancer Council of Victoria (www.relayforlife.org.au). It sounds like both clubs had lots of fun, doing

something we can all do, ie walk, and at the same time contributing once again to the community. Well done.

Some Things Never Change

In their March newsletter, **Border Bushwalking Club** reprinted the following from "An Introduction to Bushwalking, Federation of Bushwalking Clubs, 1939" ... "The bushwalker may justly claim that this pastime is one of the very few that develops both the mind and the body. It takes him far away from the hustle and bustle of the modern city, and he may tread in places where no white man has trodden before. He learns to appreciate the strange, peaceful charm of the Australian bush, known only to those who seek its virgin

Action for Clubs

- **Advertise VicWalk's AGM and elections in June (p1)**
- **Nominate club contacts for Conservation, Tracks & Huts (p1) and the Federation Weekend (p4)**

spots, and he realizes that man and his civilisation form a small part only of a wonderful creation." I'm sure many of us believe that this statement is as true today as it was some 67 years ago! Thanks for this gentle reminder, Border.

Cobberas by Billycart!

Yes, that's right, by billycart. As this edition of the VicWalk News goes to print, some members of the Bendigo Outdoor Club are hiking into the Cobberas towing billycarts. Bill Clark "has permission from the PV ranger to take my/our billycart into the Cobberas only using it on the formed 4WD track. So, too easy, the pack is towed in, not carried in for the 14kms approx." Bill reports that his "cart uses bicycle wheels, with a spare, and can carry four normal packs. (No more than 20kg each)." His most important missions for the trip are: "to see brumbies, to find/see the start of the Murray. Other natural features are around, like the Pilot, Cobberas No. 2, Cleft Peak...". Can't wait for the next issue of the BOG Paper to see how this all goes Bill.



A group of dedicated Waverley Bushwalking Club 'garbos' with their collections during one of their March walks

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Enquiries should be directed to the Secretary.

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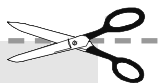
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_____ copy/copies of... _____ at \$1.70 each posted (individual issues).



AROUND THE TRACKS

Walking in Hong Kong

One doesn't usually associate the high rise, commercial city state of Hong Kong with bushwalking, but several members of **Diamond Valley Bushwalking Club** spent seven days in February doing just that. They were obviously fortunate enough to have an 'inside' contact and were hosted by fellow Hong Kong Bushwalkers. Walks included Lantau Island - a walk around the uninhabited south corner of the island; the village of Tai O where they "inspected the local market and the old fishing houses built in fairly rickety fashion on stilts over the tidal river"; the island of Cheung Chau where no-one owns a car and everyone walks, as did the DVBC group on a 12km circuit of the island taking in views over the coastline, and the Pak Tai temple and more views over the China Sea.

It would be interesting to hear from other clubs of walks they may have done in unexpected places.

And finally, to make you smile, lifted from the **Basically Bushwalking Club's** March newsletter:

"Mahatma Gandhi, as you know, walked barefoot most of the time, which produced an impressive set of callouses on his feet. He also ate very little, which made him rather frail and, with his odd diet, he suffered from bad breath. This made him a super calloused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis."

New Publications

A new walk book titled "**COME FOR A WALK! Exploring Phillip Island**" was released at the end of February. The compact, well-illustrated book is an easy-to-use and comprehensive guide of 20 walks that invites the visitor to explore the island's unique landscape and historical past. It includes specific mapping guides, illustrated photographs, line drawings and relevant historical notation and a grading for each walk. Few of the walks are demanding, and most can be completed in one to three hours. As the walks appear sequentially around Phillip Island, walkers wishing to undertake a longer day walk could quite easily join walks together.

Production of the book has been a community effort. Most of the work on the book was done by volunteers. The book has been compiled from contributions from various community groups and individuals, including five members of local bushwalking club, Peregrine Club Inc, based in Bass Coast Shire. Peregrine Club member, Penny Manning, was a member of the volunteer editorial committee.

Project support and assistance was received from Phillip Island Landcare with funding made available through grants from the Bass Coast Shire. All proceeds from the sale of this book will be given to local not-for-profit environmental and historical organisations. The book costs \$17.95, and is available from the Phillip Island Information Centre, the Cowes and San Remo newsagen-

cies, the Rhyll and Newhaven Stores, Phillip Island Nature Park outlets, Out There Adventures at Newhaven and the Anchorage Store at Ventnor.

Mail orders are available from Cathie Roby, 64 York Street, Eltham 3095, phone 9439 9527. Payment by cheque or money order. Price (including postage and handling) is: one book, \$21; two books, \$40; three or more books, cost depends on number and destination.

CSIRO Publishing has also released a new publication: "**Exposing Nature: A Guide to Wildlife Photography**" by Frank Greenaway. This new book is for all photographers, amateur or professional, who would like to learn more about how to capture images of wildlife and the environment. Aspiring nature photographers and naturalists will discover strategies for understanding their subjects and how to take accurate photographs in even the most challenging conditions. Frank Greenaway has distilled the insights and skills gained over years of work in the field and studio to produce the definitive guide to natural history photography with film and digital cameras.

Further information can be obtained from the Sales & Marketing Coordinator, CSIRO Publishing, PO Box 1139 Collingwood VIC 3066. Phone 9662 7601, FAX 9662 7600, www.publish.csiro.au/nid/21/pid/5206



VicWalk News

Print Post Approved
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