



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

VicWalk News

August 2006

No. 163

\$1.20

Calendar

EXECUTIVE MEETING

Tuesday 8 August & 5 September
Community Room, Powlett
Reserve, East Melbourne
Melway Map 2G F2 (44 C7)

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 1 August & 3 October
Address as above

BUSHWALKERS SEARCH & RESCUE MEETING

Monday 11 September at 6pm
Carlton Community Room,
216 Rathdowne Street,
Carlton (next to the baths).

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

WALKING & TALKING WITH YOUR PRESIDENT

Strategic Plan - Review of Constitution

Part of our strategic plan is a review of the organisation structure, which involves a complete overhaul of our rules/constitution. This review has been managed by our secretary Wayne Rice with the help of a consultation group. The objective is to become a well-managed, responsive peak body representing the interests of all bushwalkers.

The draft proposed constitution is being sent to all clubs, accompanied by detailed explanation for some significant changes. It will be available for comment for two months. Please examine and discuss it within your club, and contact Wayne, Jan Clark our vice president, or me if you have any questions.

Please send feedback to the secretary by the deadline. After all comments have been discussed, a final version will be issued and a special general meeting called to approve the new constitution.

Bushwalking Australia Conference

Bushwalking Australia (BWA) was formed a few years ago to represent the interests of bushwalkers at a national level, and members from each State federation recently met in Melbourne. Acting BWA Secretary and VicWalk's delegate, Marianne Watt, reports on page 5.

Bushwalkers Contributing to the Community

Last month's *VicWalk News* contained several articles about bushwalkers contributing to the wider community:

- A number of clubs assisted the Grampians track support group with bushfire recovery work. Grampians Bushwalking Club has set maintenance in the Grampians as a higher priority than their own walks program.
- A number of clubs have assisted Friends of Baw Baw NP with their sallow willow removal program.
- Clubs have been involved with tree planting, Bayside with nest boxing and others with restoration of degraded bushland, ie CAEX's involvement at Dunmoochin.
- Waverley has initiated a charity walk to raise money for spinal injury research.
- Many clubs are encouraging members to undertake first aid training, increasing the number of first aiders in the community.

There are plenty of opportunities to put something back into the community and the bush for future generations. For ideas on how to get involved, contact Steve Robertson or me. If your club has recently contributed to the community or has an ongoing project, write about it for and share it with all of us.

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 September:

Monday, 14 August

Editor: Eileen Kerlin
Design & Layout: Helen Rowley

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Who's Who at VicWalk

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Not open Wednesdays

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see details above
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FROM OUR NEW VICE PRESIDENT

During the course of the Future Directions workshops conducted by VicWalk, one of the issues identified by clubs as being important to VicWalk's role was providing support and access to resources. More and more often, clubs are expected to develop good risk management policies and put into place protocols that will reduce the likelihood of adverse events. To support clubs, VicWalk developed and distributed risk management guidelines.

Many clubs, particularly some of the smaller ones, still seem to be struggling with this process. Instead of each club working through this process from scratch, it would be much more productive and supportive if we pool our resources. If clubs are prepared to provide their individual policies to VicWalk, we could then distribute this material to those clubs looking for support.

We are all volunteers committed to safe and responsible bushwalking and the protection of the environment we enjoy. By sharing our skills and expertise in different areas, we can each contribute towards the implementation of the various objectives identified in our strategic plan.

An area in which we need your expertise is maintenance of our new website. The Web

CONSERVATION

The Conservation Committee continues to have a very active approach on various matters for the benefit of all members. Our monthly meetings attract good numbers and many issues continue to have positive input from project officers and club delegates. Communication is important for all member clubs as our involvement with land managers strengthens each month.

It is important that clubs remember to use the Track Report Form (see VicWalk website) if they have track condition concerns. A recent report by Diamond Valley Bushwalking Club was attended to within ten days of receipt. Although answers are not always favourable, at least project officers are informed, and contact can be made to rectify problems with land managers. Please use the web-based reporting system or email me directly.

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

Working Group has finalised its review and the new website will be launched soon. Bill Metzenthien is willing to continue as our webmaster, but would like someone to assist him. If you have skills in this area and you are willing to help, please contact David Reid or me.

Some of our clubs conduct training programs and share their skills with other clubs in the areas of navigation, leadership and first aid. We are always in need of the various skills our membership has to offer and would be very pleased to hear from any of you who may like to contribute your expertise towards the implementation of our strategic plan.

JAN CLARK

TRACK MAINTENANCE GROUP

A very successful track clearing event was held on 2 July in Bunyip State Park (see page 3). Thanks to all who attended.

Our next organised clearing activity will be with PV on Sunday 17 September on the popular Condons Walking Track (near Healesville). General clearing work and track marking will be done. This track has been adopted by the VicWalk Conservation Committee.

Numbers for this activity are growing but we still need extra help. Come along and do as much or as little work as you feel comfortable with.

Contact me on email srob7859@bigpond.net.au for further details.

STEVEN ROBERTSON
Convener
VicWalk Conservation Committee

FREEMANS MILL TRACK

An important outcome of the recently approved Recreation Framework for Bunyip Public Lands is the recognition that the walking track network needs to be expanded and improved. VicWalk has been and will continue to work with Bunyip State Park ranger to identify possible new tracks and upgrade existing ones. One such track is the Freemans Mill Track which runs south from the Bunyip Weir roughly along the alignment of the original tram track to Freemans timber mill. Over the past year we have been clearing sections of this track and on the 2 July VicWalk organised another clearing.

We were delighted that 19 members from seven clubs turned up to assist with this project. As a result of some very enthusiastic work we have now cleared the track between Tea Tree Road and Bunyip Weir (about 4km) to an excellent standard. The next stages will involve defining and clearing a route from the weir up to Seven Acre Rock near Powelltown, and completing the connection between Tea Tree Road to the Bunyip River Road in the south.

I thank all participants for their great support and enthusiasm. The breakdown of members and clubs was: Dandenong Valley (eight), Waverley (three), Diamond Valley (three), VMTC (two), Maroondah (one), Nomads (one), and UM Alumni (one).

GRAEME KIDD
Training Officer
Maroondah Bushwalking Club



Freemans Mill Track clearing team

TRACK CLEARING ON THE FREEMANS MILL TRACK

I was aware of the track clearing project that was proposed for Sunday 2nd July. My hesitation was, will it interfere with seeing the Western Bulldogs play football in Perth. I then received an email from Barbara Johnson encouraging me and others to join her and Joyce Dayment on the excursion. I told Barbara I would attend as long as I could be back by 4.30pm to see the footy on the television.

We met with the other volunteers at Gembrook. I made it quite clear to the leader of the group I had to see the footy.

After arriving at the site, we split up into three groups; six in our group, armed with a variety of tools from hedge trimmers to fire rakes and a slasher. After taking a little time to familiarise ourselves with the fire rake, another volunteer (Peter) and I followed Barbara and Joyce who were

armed with hedge clippers, and we cleared all sorts of plants and vines as well sticks and small logs that we attacked with bow saws. We even had trouble stopping Joyce for lunch at midday.

After lunch we advanced further along the track and when it came time to start thinking about the football, I looked at what we had done, and realised we had cleared a considerable amount of track, and when you consider we were part of a group of 14 volunteers, the combined clearing we did certainly helped to prepare a track that Waverley Bushwalking Club members will be able to use in the future.

While I hesitated to volunteer, I feel a large degree of satisfaction having taken myself out of my comfort zone and getting out and doing my bit for the benefit of all bushwalkers. Thank you Barbara for your encouragement.

By the way I saw my Bulldogs win.

JIM "CLIPPERS" RAY
Waverley Bushwalking Club

Full Moons

Wednesday 9 August; Friday 8 September;
Saturday 7 October; Sunday 5 November;
Tuesday 5 December; Wednesday 3
January

Sunrise & Sunset

Friday, 11 Aug.....7.09am.....5.40pm
Friday, 25 Aug.....6.51am.....5.52pm
Friday, 8 Sept.....6.31am.....6.04pm
Friday, 22 Sept.....6.09am.....6.16pm
Friday, 6 Oct.....5.48am.....6.28pm
Friday, 20 Oct.....5.28am.....6.42pm
Daylight saving starts Sun 29 Oct at 2am
Friday, 3 Nov.....6.11am.....7.56pm
Friday, 17 Nov.....5.58am.....8.12pm
Friday, 1 Dec.....5.51am.....8.26pm
Friday, 15 Dec.....5.52am.....8.38pm
Friday, 29 Dec.....5.59am.....8.44pm
Friday, 12 Jan.....6.11am.....8.44pm
Friday, 26 Jan.....6.26am.....8.37pm

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

TRACK CLEARING PROGRAM

Track clearing continues and although the program for the next six months has not been completely finalised, following are some details of confirmed activities. Please support where you can as these are enjoyable activities. No previous experience necessary and all welcome.

Sunday 17 September: Condons Track – Yarra Ranges. Phone Steven Robertson on 9762 5367 or email srob7859@bigpond.net.au.

Saturday 2 & Sunday 3 December: Bogong High Plains, Alpine National Park. Phone Bill Metzenthon on 9578 1062 or email billm@melbpc.org.au.

Friday 26 – Sunday 28 January 2007: Alpine Mossbed Rehabilitation, Bogong High Plains. Phone Steven Robertson on 9762 5367 or email srob7859@bigpond.net.au.

OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE (ORC) REPRESENTATIVE

Today I have been notified that my nomination to represent VicWalk on the ORC Adventure Activity Standards (AAS) review committee has been accepted.

All clubs should look at the AAS (available on the ORC website at www.orc.org.au/aas/view_standards.htm#) then contact me with any ideas that would improve it in the eyes of walking clubs.

I can be contacted by either email for enquiries or by post for your written submissions.

My email address is paul.chamings@bigpond.com.au while my address for the snail mail is 2 Aurea Court, Narre Warren Vic, 3805.

PAUL CHAMINGS
Maroondah Bushwalking Club

Action for Clubs

- Check out and comment on the draft proposed new constitution (p1) and the ORC's AAS (p4)
- Consider providing a copy of your risk management policy to VicWalk (p2)
- Request volunteers for an assistant webmaster (p2), a VicWalk News layout designer (p4) and BWA team members (p5)
- Advertise the track clearing program (p3), Maroondah's leader and navigation courses (p4) and Waverley's Spinal injury Research walk (p4)

TAKING STEPS TOWARDS SPINAL INJURY RESEARCH

The Waverley Bushwalking Club, as part of the celebration of our 20th anniversary, invites you and your members to participate in the following walk to help us raise money for spinal injury research.

- Sunday 15th October
- Jells Park in Glen Waverley
- Walk three or five (or more) kilometres
- Flexible start times (10am to 3pm)
- Donation \$5 per adult, \$1 per child, \$10 per family
- All money raised goes to Austin Health Spinal Injury Research

- The invitation is open to all members of the general public

Regional clubs may be unable to come to Jells Park but could participate by organising a walk on that day at a venue closer to their base. We may be able to help you get the required publicity.

For more detailed information phone Jim Ray on 9802 6197 or email homedec@bigpond.com

We hope to see you and representatives of your club on October 15th!

MAROONDAH BUSHWALKING CLUB TRAINING PROGRAM

DAYWALK LEADER COURSES

First Course: Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 September

Second Course: Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 November

Day One of each course will be theory for the course held at the home of Paul Chamings, a limit of five persons attending. Day Two will be held in the Olinda State Forest and will be a reccie of the walk planned on Day One.

NAVIGATION FOR BEGINNERS COURSE

Saturdays 7 and 21 October and 4 November

Day One will be theory, held at the home of Paul Chamings, with a limit of five persons attending. Day Two will be held in the Olinda State Forest, navigating by the use of contours. Day three will again be in the Olinda State Forest, using the compass to find our way.

For bookings contact Paul Chamings on phone 97057601.

VICWALK NEWS LAYOUT DESIGNER

Sadly, after four years on the job, our VicWalk News layout designer, Helen Rowley, is retiring after the September issue. If you have:

- A flair for layout;
- Intermediate to advanced Microsoft Word skills or desktop publishing experience; and
- Up to 14 hours free per month

then I'd like to hear from you. VicWalk News is currently published monthly, February through to December and all material is compiled by the editor and sent to the layout designer by email.

If you, or someone you know, has a flair for layout and a willingness to 'give it a go' please contact me on 9803 5426 (after hours) or by email at ekerlin@optusnet.com.au, or feel free to contact Helen direct to discuss the job role in more detail, at hrowley@melbpc.org.au.

EILEEN KERLIN
VicWalk News Editor

BWA CONFERENCE

The first "face to face" conference for Bush Walking Australia (BWA) was hosted by Victoria on 17-18 June at the Yarra Valley Country Club. All States except Queensland had at least one representative attending in person. The Queensland president participated using VOIP (see below). Tony Walker from Waverley BWC was our very capable facilitator.

A detailed report will be put on the BWA website, www.bushwalkingaustralia.org.

The main aim for the meeting was to agree on the short and long term objectives for BWA.

Saturday was occupied having a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis. On Sunday participants discussed other issues specific to their States, followed by a wrap up and summary of decisions. These were:

- The States agreed that there is a role for BWA and to support BWA.
- Short and long-term actions were agreed. Key actions were:
 - Develop a communication plan with a focus on the website.
 - Build relationships with other national bodies.
 - Develop risk management guidelines.

It was also recognised that obtaining resources for the above will be an ongoing issue and that BWA is only as good as the support provided by its member State bodies.



VOIP

VOIP (voice over internet protocol) on SKYPE was used to allow the Queensland president to participate. This had limited success. A report on its use is available.

2004/2005 AGM

The 2004-2005 AGM was also held over Saturday and Sunday, at which it was agreed that the annual fee for 2005-2006 would be 50c capitation. However, because it is so late in the 2005-2006 year there will be no fee for the 2006-2007 year.

ACTIONS FOR VICTORIAN CLUBS

- Ask your members if they have expertise in website development and/or electronic

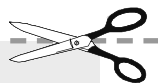
communication and would be willing to join the BWA communications committee.

- Ask your members if they would be willing to become either secretary or treasurer for BWA.
- Advantages of joining the management team of BWA.
 - Putting something back into the bushwalking community.
 - No travelling to meetings (communication is done electronically);
 - Meetings are held less frequently than monthly.
 - Get to know interstate bushwalkers.

For more information please contact me.

MARIANNE WATT
BWA Delegate

VicWalk News Subscription



When your subscription is due, a red dot will appear on the address label of this newsletter. If your subscription has already been paid, please ignore the red dot.

To renew, use this subscription form, or copy it if you prefer to keep the newsletter intact. Make cheques payable to the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs, and send to 332 Banyule Road, Viewbank 3084.

Enquiries should be directed to the Secretary.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Email _____

Club _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ being for

_____ years subscription to *VicWalk News* at \$15 per year posted (11 issues).

_____ copy/copies of _____

at \$1.70 each posted (individual issues).

AROUND THE TRACKS

NEWS AND ARTICLES FROM CLUBS

Bayside Bushwalking Club has copies of their Daylesford Federation Booklet available, by email only: bbcbush@vicnet.net.au.

VMTC visits the Mallee Country

VMTC's Laurie Bingham took his troops on a two-day tour of the Pink Lakes. This is a fascinating area and Laurie obviously shared his passion for it with his fellow walkers, according to David Davies write up in their July *Trampalong* newsletter.

"Our base camp was set up on the shore of the pinkish Lake Crosbie, with tents varying in size from a canvas coffin to something on the scale of Uluru. There was some talk of the entire party moving in. On the first morning 18 of us gathered for Laurie's introductory remarks on the natural and historic features of the area, including the pink of the lakes being due to the presence of beta-carotene, which is excreted by an alga. We set out on a loop in a generally westerly direction, crossing several salty flats with the dominant ground covers being spinifex and glass-worts. Mallee scrub of various species dominated the dunes, with the occasional Cypress Pine.

Our aim on the second day was to walk around or cross three of the lakes: Crosbie, Becking and Kenyon. A cold breeze had us seeking the lee of dunes and lake margins.

The seepage which feeds water to the salt lakes was at a low ebb, so most of their surface was covered with a crunchy crust of crystals with water depth less than the thickness of the soles of our boots. This relieved us of the need to wade, and the need to choose between wet boots, thongs or socks, or bare feet like those of the fakirs who walk across beds of nails. It was strange to see emus strutting across the lakes with scarcely a splash.

We stopped to inspect the historic salt harvesting area which dates back to 1916. There are still relics of the machinery and tramways, and several big piles of gathered salt which have not yet been dissolved by rain water in the 25 years since salt mining ceased.

I am sure that anyone who may not have shared Laurie's enthusiasm for the mallee country at the start of the trip would have been inspired by it during our two walks. Thanks to him for an excellent long weekend."

The pictures were great too, even in the black and white version that I saw. Ed.

Metro and Regional Combine

Bayside Bushwalking Club will join **Warrnambool Walkers** for a two day pack carry on the Mt Difficult circuit in October. The spring wildflowers should be spectacular by then, so I hope one or

more of you will send some pictures and words to *VicWalk News* to share with the rest of us.

Western Arthurs - in Typical Tasmanian Weather

Ian Gardner reported in *Bush Telegraph (Diamond Valley Bushwalking Club newsletter)* how plans often go awry in Tasmania. The Western Arthurs is one of the more challenging walks in Tasmania, and so it proved on this occasion also. Ian reports "The latest track notes said the walk had been tamed somewhat and I would have to agree to some extent in that there was less scrub and the tracks are easy to follow for the most part due to the extensive track work done to reduce the erosion. They have done a mighty job given the challenging location and if there is a heaven, then the track workers will go there. However, it has to be said there is extensive erosion and it is quite dangerous in certain areas. Some of the downhill sections are actually cliffs. It may be rugged but it is also a very fragile area ... approximately 100 walkers a year [traverse] the ranges ... an annual rainfall of two metres ... only adds to its vulnerability to further erosion and destruction of its fragile eco system." A reminder of the fragility of the lands we all like to walk, and the need for circumspection when considering where, when and indeed, if we walk.

Collated by Eileen Kerlin



VicWalk News

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AUSTRALIA

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