



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2008/2009



Bushwalking: a natural pace in a natural place



## **Representing the interests of all bushwalkers and recreational walkers since 1934 and still meeting the challenge.**

Bushwalking Victoria promotes bushwalking, engages in activities that add value to the community and proactively represents the interests of all recreational bushwalkers.

### **Key performance areas**

- Value to members and community
- Sphere of influence and representation
- Management and governance.

### **Benefits to members**

- Access to resources and information via a statewide club network
- Strong voice representing walkers' needs and interests direct to land managers and government regarding outdoor recreation policy, preservation of natural areas, management of and access to public land
- Monitors the operating environment to assess impact of changes; eg legislation and regulations to provide advice/guidelines to members
- Organises low cost liability and personal injury insurance for members
- Provides all members with a discount card
- Promotes to the community the benefits of joining a club.

### **Community contributions**

- Promoting bushwalking/recreational walking as an activity that assists health, wellbeing and social interaction
- Helping to keep walking tracks open for all
- Providing a volunteer specialist search and rescue group to assist Victoria Police
- Providing a referral service for members of the public wishing to join a club or get information about walking
- Facilitating the formation of new clubs
- Publishing free information about safe bushwalking and getting started.

Bushwalking Victoria is a signatory to and supports the principles of the Walk 21 International Charter for Walking [www.walk21.com](http://www.walk21.com)

Bushwalking Victoria acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government



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# PRESIDENT

As in previous years this report is focussed on the three key areas that comprise the main thrust of our current strategic plan. As we near the end of our seventy fifth years it also looks to the future direction of the organisation

## Value to members and community

Through the work of our salaried admin officer we continue to provide support services to our members and maintain a public contact and membership inquiry referral to our clubs. The value for money of our insurance scheme continues to improve and we are moving to more electronic communication to ensure clubs and members are informed quickly about those matters that may affect their activities. The discount scheme with various suppliers has been maintained.

Much of the value to our members is in the work going on in the background that ensures we have good bushwalking amenity for the future. Some of the activities that support this are noted below but there is considerably more detail in other sections of this annual report.

Our club network is one of the great strengths of the bushwalking community. The local contribution by our clubs adds great value to the community. During this last year a number of clubs continued to contribute to their local communities and some undertook new initiatives. Such things as relay for life, local conservation projects and introducing refugees to our wonderful natural areas are but a few of the activities in which our clubs have engaged. One of the highlights was our contribution to Seniors' week which was so successful that the Office of Seniors has asked us to help them again in 2009. It is also pleasing to see increasing interaction between clubs at such events as the Federation Walk and the conference of Club Presidents.

Bushwalking Victoria activities such as Search and Rescue, Track Maintenance, Track Development and Conservation Projects are other important ways that we in the bushwalking community continue to use our skills for the benefit of the community as a whole.

## Influence and Representation

We have continued to build influential relationships and partnerships and serve on various consultative groups where decisions affecting active recreation are made. These include community reference groups and a number of others that are detailed in the body of the report. We also became a signatory to the International Charter for Walking, This charter developed in the framework of the Walk21 international conference series is a significant indicator of our commitment to promoting walking.

These activities enable us to present the needs of our constituency but also to recognise the legitimate needs of others. We will continue to build our reputation as an organisation that lobbies vigorously for the needs of our members, is not narrow in its view and is mindful of the overall public good.

During the last year we have continued to work with Sport and Recreation Victoria to ensure that the important role of active recreation is properly understood by the agency and by the Minister's office.

## Management and Governance

The Board has concentrated on a number of projects to help make the organisation operate in a more businesslike manner. This included introducing a process to involve the membership in the

development of policy positions on important matters affecting bushwalking. Following the input from past President's conferences we developed our new Strategic Plan 2009 to 2013. By the time this report is published the plan will have been released. The Board's decision making has been facilitated by the work of our committees and working groups. They have investigated and discussed the details of issues and formulated recommendations for Board consideration and decision. These committees/groups (that include Board members) along with specialist volunteers are the executive arm of the organisation and they ensure that day to day operational activities occur. I thank all those involved for their important contribution.

The financial viability of the organisation has been maintained but for BWV to exert proper influence on behalf of our members we need to continue strengthening our financial resources. Some of this will continue to come from grants and in the past year we have actively pursued a number of grants with some success. However we need to increase activity in this area.

## Volunteers and Staff - thank you

Our need for resources is not just financial and we continue to rely on the generosity of our many volunteers. Once again the contribution of volunteers was in the order of 15,000 hours [a full time equivalent of 8 people] and a dollar value of approximately \$200,000.

The organisation could not function without these dedicated people and I thank you all for your contribution.

I thank our conveners/coordinators, honorary consultants, my fellow Board members and those that represented us on various bodies.

Again a special thanks to my partner Val Ford for her extensive voluntary personal assistant services to Board members. Thank you to our staff Jenny Sykes our Admin officer for maintaining our public contact service liaising with and assisting clubs and providing other administrative services and to Gina Mancuso who rejoined us in March as Project Officer for the "Walking Communities" project. We are also grateful for the work of our 16 volunteer Field Research Officers who help to keep us informed about what's happening in our walking areas. It is pleasing to note a number of these Officers are now from regional clubs; something that we wish to encourage

This year our Treasurer Carole Petchell is standing down and I thank Carole for her contribution in this exacting role.

## Looking forward

Our new strategic plan will guide us over the next four years. The key performance areas already identified remain valid. However the new plan articulates six broad objectives and suggested actions to achieve them. We need to keep lifting the profile of the bushwalking community and demonstrate the value we are contributing to the public good. There will be many challenges during this process and BWV needs your support in helping us with the task.

The following pages of the Annual Report set out details about our achievements during the last twelve months. Please spend some time reading about them.

David Reid

# STRATEGY CONSULTANT

## Overview

During 2008-9 the role of the Strategy Consultant has focussed assisting the BWV Executive in three key areas:

- i. Increasing BWVs visibility and influence in government – state and local
- ii. Working with the BWV executive to develop position papers and other material designed to position BWV as a 'thought leader' in areas of key interest to the organisation, such as the role and value of recreational walking, the conception and design of walking facilities and the value of recreational walking to the community
- iii. Assisting BWV in the formulation of long term objectives and the strategies needed to attain them, consistent with the overall objectives of BWV as set out in the President's report

## Increasing Visibility and Influence in Government

During 2007-08, the Strategy Consultant worked with BWV President and Vice President to prepare and present a proposal to Sports and Recreation Victoria (SRV) for them to fund a Walking Development Officer over 4 years, to advise and assist in the development of recreational walking facilities statewide. The Strategy Consultant has worked with the BWV executive to further develop the proposal, which was resubmitted to SRV. Whilst SRV have not agreed to fund the position, BWV has been able to make its views on the need for recreational walking facilities development clearly known to the state government.

The Living Links program is an important initiative by the Port Philip and Westernport Bay Catchment Management Authority (PPWCMA) involving 15 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Melbourne's South East. The program will run until 2030 and is focussed on linking the recreational assets of the Dandenong Valley with tracks, trails and pathways, improving water quality and the environment generally, and improving community amenities. Living Links has now progressed to stage one of the preparation of a Master Plan – involving the identification of key assets prior to defining the corridors which need to be established or developed to link them. The Strategy Consultant has continued to represent BWV on the Steering Committee, and has attended the public consultation sessions on BWV's behalf. During 2008, the concept of an icon walking trail from Belgrave to the Bay was presented to Living Links, and gained support from several LGAs, and the local (Boonerwung) aboriginal land council. This initiative will be progressed further during stages 2 and 3 of development of the Master Plan.

SRV have mandated that organisations seeking funds from them, need to be able to demonstrate that they have a strategic vision

## ADMINISTRATION

This year has proved to be busy with increased correspondence in and out, especially by email. It's BWV's preference to communicate with clubs electronically and I encourage clubs to notify me of any changes of email addresses.

I've appreciated the assistance received with mailouts from the office by volunteers from Koonung Bushwalking Club. My special

and some form of strategic planning in place. Along with BWVs President and Vice President, the Strategy Consultant attended a series of workshops in late 2008, and assisted in the development of a 4 year strategy for BWV covering the period 2009-2013.

During 2008 the Strategy Consultant represented BWV on a project sponsored by the Office of Seniors to organise bush walks led by our member clubs in their local areas. This proved to be a very successful program – 16 walks were held throughout Victoria, and the Office of Seniors expressed their thanks and appreciation of BWV's efforts and those of our member clubs. Office of Seniors have invited us to participate again in 2009, and we are working with them on a plan of action.

## Thought Leadership

The Strategy Consultant assisted in the preparation of material supporting the formulation of the policy on Shared Trails developed by BWV during 2008. This (draft) policy was also used as the basis of communication with the Frankston Bypass Development Authority carried out with BWV President setting out our views on future provision of walker friendly trails in future developments.

BWV has agreed to be involved in the 'Healthy Parks Healthy People' conference in 2010, and planning has begun on our contribution. This is likely to include delivery of one or more papers, facilitation of workshops, and possibly co-leadership of a field trip.

## Long Term Objectives and Strategies

As noted above, the Strategy Consultant has assisted in the development of BWV's 4 year Strategy Plan. Although this was mandated by SRV, the plan is an important aspect of BWV's long term planning, and reflects considerable thought and deliberations by the BWV Executive. Throughout 2009 and beyond, the Strategy Consultant will assist in the systematic mapping down of the Strategy Plan to Operational Plans, and the periodic review of the Strategy Plan to ensure it continues to reflect BWV's long term objectives.

The Strategy Consultant has continued our dialogue with Kinect, authors of an outline high level 'Walking Strategy' for Victoria. We have developed through discussions with Kinect our role in such a Walking Strategy, and the areas in which we can add value. As a result of these discussions, Kinect has indicated that it would look to BWV to play an important role in the development of those parts of the Walking Strategy that focus on recreational walking. This is a long-term project, which will require lobbying and influencing a number of government departments over a considerable period of time

Tony Walker

thanks go to Bushwalking Victoria secretary, Val Wake, for her assistance and advice as well as to all Board members and Conveners.

Jenny Sykes  
Administration Officer

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## Comments on 2008/09 Annual Accounts

### SPECIFIC POINTS

- The financial report has been prepared for use by the members of Bushwalking Victoria and is a special purpose financial report. It has been prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1981. The report is prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs.
- Bushwalking Victoria has a surplus of \$21,739 for the period reported. This surplus will be transferred to the equity accounts as indicated in the statement of income and expenditure.
- A grant of \$15,000 is received annually from the Department of Victorian Communities but is subject to approval by the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs. This grant assists Bushwalking Victoria to operate in an efficient manner and develop effective administration and operational systems for the future. It also helps to meet some of the costs associated with skill development through such things as the first aid qualification subsidy. Unspent grant funds must be returned to the Department unless the Minister specifically authorises otherwise.
- On 7th April 2009 The Board approved an amount of \$33,000 to remain as the contingency reserve to cover such situations as unexpected increase in insurance costs, loss of low cost rental for office premises and loss of funding from Sport and Recreation Victoria.

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS AS AT MARCH 31, 2009

- Interest income of \$8,490 has been apportioned between the General Fund and the Search and Rescue Fund. Search and Rescue donations were from the Meyer family.
- These funds were received as donations and as grants from the Department of Victorian Communities.
- Sundry income includes sale of calendars and Parks Victoria and DSE support for various activities.
- This includes reimbursements for first aid training.
- The depreciation of equipment has been calculated on a straight line basis/method at rates to match the cost of each item of equipment over its economic life. I have only included items that had a book value at the start of the year.
- The difference in salary costs is due to completion of the contract with the part time project officer linked to the Go Further Project.

### Equipment List

	Cost \$	Book Value 2009 \$
<b>Search and Rescue Equipment</b>		
Snow Shoes, purchased 5/2006	1,425	117
Radios, purchased 6/6/07	1,970	1,150
Carry bags	705	411
GPS	3,608	2,814
GPS extrex Vista HCx & Mapping	4,236	3,188
Emergency Shelters	965	673
GPS	4,868	4,734
Bothy Shelters	1,353	1,204
Tranceivers	4,792	4,001
<b>Office equipment</b>		
Computer monitor, purchased 12/2005	349	27
Furniture (purchased Mar 07)	2080	694
MYOB, purchased 1/5/07	595	199
Computer 6/1/08	1525	509

### 7. Sundry Creditors:

Australian Taxation Office	-\$311
Health Super	\$562
Vic Super	\$ 84
CGU Workers Compensation	\$489

### 8. Other Liabilities

Provision for Leave	\$12,810
Unspent Grant funds	\$26,275
Unresolved telephone bill via the Outdoor Recreation Centre	\$ 4,000

### 9. Members Equity

<b>2009 \$</b>	
Members equity at beginning of year	142,190
Plus Net Surplus/ (loss) for the current year	21,739
Member's equity at the end of the financial year	163,929
Current year surplus will be apportioned to Search and Rescue Fund, and Future Projects Fund.	

### DISCUSSION

A review of the chart of accounts was undertaken at the beginning of the year to ensure better reporting for the future. Therefore some comparisons with 2008 are approximate only. Reducing interest rates occurred towards the end of the year and have had minimal impact during the reporting period.

Carole Petchell

## AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BUSHWALKING VICTORIA INC

I have audited the financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Bushwalking Victoria Inc for the year ended 31 March 2009 as set out in the above pages.

The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act (Victoria).

In my opinion the financial report presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Bushwalking Victoria Inc as at March 31 2009 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in the Notes to the financial statements.

Joanna OBrien, BBus (Accounting), TSTC  
31 May 2009, Melbourne

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009

	Notes	2009 \$	2008 \$
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
Membership fees		57,853	46,842
Interest	1	5,660	2,206
Donations and grants	2	22,945	47,633
<u>Sundry income</u>	3	<u>13,205</u>	<u>2,746</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Communications (includes newsletter)		4,495	3,052
General administration		29,832	23,727
Staff costs	6	44,083	53,984
Training	4	5,180	2,320
Promotions		4,284	28
Affiliations		3,815	395
Bushwalking Environment Group		1,756	4,978
<u>Depreciation</u>	5	<u>1,515</u>	<u>1,515</u>
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		<u>4,703</u>	<u>9,428</u>
[Transferred to Future Projects fund See note 9]			
<b>SEARCH AND RESCUE FUND</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
Donations and Interest	1	14,826	2,806
<u>Grants</u> (Emergency Management Australia)		<u>12,975</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
General administration and operations		4,982	2,711
Emergency Management Grant		1,962	0
<u>Depreciation</u>		<u>4,226</u>	<u>1109</u>
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		<u>16,631</u>	<u>(1014)</u>
[Transferred to Search and Rescue Fund See note 9]			
<b>INSURANCE FUND</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
Insurance contributions by members		59,469	61,435
Interest		0	4,855
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Insurance payments on behalf of members		<u>59,064</u>	<u>58,105</u>
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		<u>405</u>	<u>8,185</u>
[Transferred to Future Projects fund See note 9]			

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH, 2009**

	Notes	2009 \$	2008 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Bendigo Bank Cash Management Trading Account		186,004	157,201
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Sundry creditors	7	824	3,556
Other liabilities	8	<u>43,085</u>	<u>19,208</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>142,095</u>	<u>134,437</u>
<b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Equipment		61,664	41,842
Less provision for depreciation		(39,830)	(34,089)
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<u>163,929</u>	<u>142,190</u>
<b>MEMBERS EQUITY</b>			
General Fund		15,000	15,000
Search and Rescue Fund		30,631	14,000
Contingency Fund		33,000	33,000
Future Projects Fund		80,298	80,190
Bushfire Recovery Fund		5,000	0
		<u>163,929</u>	<u>142,190</u>

*The accompanying notes form an integral part of this report.*

**Bushwalking Victoria Inc A0002548Y****Statement by Members of the Board of Management**

The Board has determined by means of the Australian Taxation Office self assessment system that Bushwalking Victoria Inc. is an exempt entity for income tax purposes and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the notes accompanying the financial statements. Bushwalking Victoria Inc does not have any mortgages, charges or securities; and is not a trustee of any trust nor does it have any trusts held on its behalf. In the opinion of the Board the financial report as set out in this document presents a true and fair statement of the financial position of Bushwalking Victoria Inc. as at the 31st of March 2009 and its financial performance for the year ended on that date.

At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Bushwalking Victoria Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due during the next twelve months.

31st May 2009

Signed, David Reid  
President

Signed, Carole Petchell  
Treasurer

# BUSHWALKING ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

## BUSHWALKING ENVIRONMENT MANAGER

The Bushwalking Environment Committee consists of a Manager and four Group Coordinators. This report summarises my activities. Reports from the group coordinators follow.

Events I was involved with during the year include:

- Guest at launch of Yarra Ranges Shire New Map brochure which describes 41 walks
- Meeting with Parks Victoria fire recovery team
- Attended Tracks and Trails Conference
- Presidents Meeting
- Bushwalking Victoria Board meetings
- Attended Parks Victoria field trip to Wilsons Prom to inspect proposed fire recovery works
- Response to re-building of King River Hut.

Other events of note that we have had previous involvement in:

- Cobboboonee National Park declared
- Australian Alps placed on National Heritage list
- River Red Gum Parks declared.

### Field/Research Officers:

- Attended opening of Ropers Hut
- Active in Burchell Trail re-alignment in Brisbane Ranges
- Exploration of walking routes in Bunyip State Park
- A.A.W.T. Involved in Steering Committee Meeting in Kosciusko National Park
- Represent BWV at Australian Alps National Landscape meeting at Beechworth
- Organised Track Work on A.A.W.T. at Stronachs Camp
- Field survey on Bluff Hut restoration

- Representing BWV on Coast and Otways Track Group.
- Attendance at Barwon South West Trails Plan Community Forum
- Field Trip to inspect proposed route of new track from Tidal River to Telegraph Saddle.

### Track Maintenance:

Refer separate report.

### Land Management Submissions:

Refer separate report.

### Conservation Projects:

Refer separate report.

### Special Projects

Several members from BWV and BEC volunteered for these projects

- Trail Bike Project (David Rimmer, Steve Robertson, Phil Brotchie)
- Walking Track Classification Project (David Reid)
- Alps National Landscape Project (Rick Pickering, Pauline McLaughlin)
- Living Links (Tony Walker, David Rimmer)
- River Red Gums Investigation (Phil Brotchie)
- Nature Based Tourism Reference Group (Steve Robertson)

Dave Rimmer



## TRACK MAINTENANCE

Six events, including Mt Buffalo, Yarra Ranges, AAWT Upper Thomson and Bunyip State Park, were held and a total of 39 members took part. The recent bushfires have devastated many popular walking areas. Parks Victoria have indicated that repair of damaged walking tracks will be behind recovery of damaged towns and other human infrastructure. Thanks to all those who took part in the TMG events, and especially the leaders.

I would also like to thank those clubs who undertake their own track maintenance activities. Strezlecki support Friends of Baw Baw, Border Bushwalkers maintain Young's Hut and Ben Cruachan maintain the McMillan's walking track. Peninsula walking club are beginning to organize their own activities on the Mornington Peninsula. If any club wants assistance with track maintenance activities please contact me and we'll advertise it to Bushwalking Victoria members.

Jim Harker



## LAND MANAGEMENT SUBMISSIONS

### Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) River Red Gum Forests Investigation Community Reference Group (CRG)

No meetings of the CRG were held during the reporting period. The final Proposals Paper was provided to the Minister for Water, Environment and Climate on 18 July 2008, released to the public on 25 July 2008, and tabled in Parliament on 9 September 2008. The Government shortly thereafter appointed a committee (without environmental representation) to recommend on VEAC's findings. Felicitously, on 30 December 2008, the Government came down with decisions largely supporting VEAC's recommendations. Outside of Parliament, the war of words over VEAC's recommendations waged unabated in the Murray-Goulburn press between conservationists and logging, pastoral and hunting interests. VNPA kept us regularly informed of happenings in this sphere. BWV is committed to keeping a watching brief on this issue.

### Submissions

During the reporting year, BWV submitted several substantial representations, drafted by me, which commented on the following government environmental papers:

- Kooyoora State Park Draft Management Plan
- Warrandyte-Kinglake NCP planning process
- "Caring for Country – The Otways and You – Draft Management Plan", "Draft Recreation and Tourism Access Plan", and "Draft Heritage Plan". Additionally, preparation of a one-page summary, requested by BWV, of the salient points in the Otways submission
- Land and Biodiversity at a Time of Climate Change Green Paper
- Whittlesea Green Wedge Management Plan Community Views Paper
- VEAC Metropolitan Melbourne Investigation
- Devilbend Natural Features Reserve Draft Management Plan
- VEAC Remnant Native Vegetation Investigation (draft only – to go forward in the next BWV reporting year when finalised).

## CONSERVATION PROJECTS

A rewarding year for Bushwalking Victoria as we slowly increase our range of activities in the Conservation area. Although attempts were made with no results to obtain a conservation representative at each club, our response by members continues to grow.

1. Alpine Restoration – This annual weekend event on the Bogong High Plains continues to be popular with over 30 participants for each of the two days. The activity this year was focussed on locating and removal of Grey Sallow Willow. The activity was made possible by a Community Grant from Parks Victoria.
2. Weed Spotting Program – This new initiative organised together with Parks Victoria in the King Howqua Unit of the Alpine National Park focussed on Clubs recording specific weeds (with the help of an identification kit) whilst undertaking their own backpack activity in remote areas. The activity has proved to be successful with five clubs participating and will be continued for the 2009/10 period, and will hopefully be rolled out to other areas of the Alpine National Park.

### Articles

- "Effect of Native Title on Bushwalking" (*BWV News*, November 2008)
- "Local Government Land Management Plans That Could Affect Bushwalkers" (*BWV News*, November 2008)
- "Track to Fainter Falls" (*BWV News*, November 2008)
- "CVA in Europe - Up Close and Personal" (*BWV News*, December 2008.)

### Input

Input to the BWV brochure, "Track Maintenance and Conservation Days" distributed, in addition to at other times and in other places, at the 5 October 2008 Condon's Track clearing day  
Input to the Parks Victoria-commissioned University of South Australia research into visitor experiences in the Alpine National Park.

### Extramural Meetings

Attendance at the 30 May 2008 Community Workshop on the "Land and Biodiversity at a Time of Climate Change Green Paper", inputting into group discussions with facilitators and other attendees, and write-up of proceedings  
Attendance at the ACF AGM on 22 November 2008, making contact with the President and Executive Director, and write-up of proceedings  
Arranging to attend the Visions for Victoria Forum scheduled for 19 February 2009 that was unfortunately eventually cancelled  
Attendance at The Wilderness Society's Wild Places - Forests and Climate Change Photographic Exhibition and Information Evening at Carnegie on 23 March 2009, making contact with speakers and others, contributing to discussions, and write-up of proceedings.

### In-house Meetings

Attendance at BEC and TMG meetings and BEC Coordinator meetings.

### Events

Participation in all BWV alpine restoration and a number of track maintenance projects

Dr Phil Brotchie

3. Track Erosion Works – Yarra Ranges National Park. A Parks Victoria Community Grant was obtained for steps and erosion control on Condons Track. Due to the February fires this activity will not be implemented until later this year.
4. Snake Island Revegetation Works – A Parks Victoria Community Grant was obtained for the installation of tree guards and planting of trees on Snake Island. This activity should be undertaken by the end of June.

With the support of clubs both in participation and communication, the area of conservation will continue to grow in coming years. This is an important area to help protect some parts of our bushwalking environment although the key point is for us all to be putting something back into our Parks System in Victoria.

Steve Robertson

# BUSH SEARCH & RESCUE VICTORIA



The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year marks my last as Convener and I have thoroughly enjoyed my years in this role. Many changes have challenged our team this year. We have a new name, Bush Search and Rescue Victoria, and a new logo, rapid response/limited numbers and cold case callout policies and our first handful of individual members.

The new name was approved in July 2008 followed by a New Name Usage Protocol adopted in September, with the new logo selected in February 2009.

In September 2008 came the exciting announcement of a successful application through Emergency Management Australia for federal funding from the National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund. We received \$31,087.10 for our recruitment and training project.

Since then the Committee has busied itself in utilising the funding. New GPS units, avalanche beacons and emergency shelters have been purchased, training in the use of this equipment has been undertaken and additional activities are planned, a new recruitment brochure, advertisements and banners have been obtained, and first aid subsidies have been allocated. Purchase of caps and vests are in progress.

We gratefully received a number of donations this year. From Melbourne Bushwalkers and CAEX clubs were donations of \$500 and \$260 respectively. The largest donation ever to be received came from family and friends of Warren Meyer in Australia and Canada. They generously gave over \$11,000 which allowed a major purchase of the bulk of the new GPS units and all our CB radios.

David Kneen stepped down from his Field Organiser role in December 2008 and thanked for his contribution to BSAR in that capacity over the past few years.

From 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> March, members scoured the often dense, damp understorey of the tall forests in the large-scale search for 57yo Warren Meyer who went missing from a four-hour bushwalk in the Dom Dom saddle area. A total of forty-four members, from various clubs, responded to three callouts over the four days of the BSAR commitment. Members line-searched the area looking for any signs of the missing person. In the later days of the search BSAR leaders managed combined BSAR/SES or BSAR/CFA line-search groups.

On 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> April, BSAR were again requested to assist to search for Mr Meyer's body. This was our first "Cold Case" callout. As it happened, Police had raised the possibility of cold case callouts earlier in the year with the BSAR committee, and there was in-principle agreement for it to occur, but procedures for cold case callouts had not yet been finalised and were fine tuned as a result of this callout. Nine members assisted with further searching, but again, no trace was found.

Most recently, on the weekend of 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> October, 12 members carried out further searching for some trace of Mr Meyer, but again no sign. This callout was the first time our new model GPS units were used intensively. They proved their worth in the fine navigation required when line searching in difficult terrain.

Seven members from BNSC, WOA and AlpineSAR participated in the evacuation of an injured kayaker on a rugged and isolated section of the West Kiewa River on 15<sup>th</sup> September. The group left Mount Beauty early to begin the descent from Dungeys Track to the river in daylight. The kayaker was successfully evacuated by heli-

copter a few hours later and the group returned to Mount Beauty. Had the stronger winds forecast for later in the day come early, helicopter evacuation would not have been possible and a long stretcher carry would have been required.

There was no New Year partying for 15 members who brought in the new year with a trip to the forests near Lorne in search of two young men on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008. Four teams were deployed late afternoon and camped out overnight. After an early start New Year's Day, one team located a campsite and found them roughly 300m away at their second campsite. The missing men were both in remarkably good condition having taken the advice from local Police during an earlier mobile phone conversation to stay in one place. They had also constructed a good shelter. After sharing some food and drink, three BSAR teams walked them through the bush navigating back to the Sabine Falls Road to meet their waiting parents and the media.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> November an alert was sent advising of two missing walkers at Wilsons Promontory. The missing pair were found shortly thereafter.

A successful Police Liaison Officer/Field Organiser training workshop was held on 10<sup>th</sup> May.

The Steep Snow and Ice Practice, held on 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> July on Mt Buller's West Ridge was attended by 13 members. The group walked up the West Ridge in knee-deep snow, camped out and continued in very wet conditions next day. The dryland session on procedures and expectations of gear and briefing from Police SAR ahead of the weekend was well worthwhile.

Margaret Maxwell and John Baillie attended parts of the Emergency Management Conference - Rescue 08, held on 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> July and the Lost Persons Workshop 31<sup>st</sup> July.

The training in the Brisbane Ranges on 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> September was attended by 52 people with over 20 new members coming along. It incorporated a 12-hour rogaine and VRA gave great support with our participation as did the Police SAR Squad who contributed to sessions on Sunday.

Six members updated or upgraded their first aid qualifications during the year.

The Police SAR Squad had regular representation at Committee meetings and the November meeting was held at the Squad's premises in Williamstown. Meeting attendance by a member of the Squad and their contributions to our training activities plays a valuable role in maintaining the good working relationships between the organisations. They also provided 12 pairs of scrub gloves and safety glasses for our members in the north-east as well as additional numbers for use by Melbourne-based searchers.

The Police Bands Complex in Northcote has proven to be a good departure point for searches and training activities.

Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) continued to provide funds to Bushwalking Victoria for BSAR administration and operations.

*Behind the Log* (BTL), our main communication means with each member, has again been ably produced by Editor, Ren Millsom. Ensuring our newsletter reaches members has continued to be a joint effort between Cheryl Walker and Jenny Sykes.

After many years in Rik Head's capable hands, the new BSAR website went "live" in September. Constructed and mainly kept updated by Peter Campbell since then, it has the capacity for others to have authorised access so as to spread the workload in future.

Membership Secretary, Cheryl Walker continued to improve the management of the membership and SMS lists. Cheryl stepped down as Minute Secretary in September and Committee agreed the task would be done on a rotation basis from November, unless another person volunteered.

Equipment Officers, Chris Jarvis and John Baillie, had a busy time with the significant amount of new equipment obtained during the year and equipment management was identified as requiring improvement. Equipment stored at Northcote was insured for theft due to security concerns at this site.

The 279 dedicated people involved in BSAR make it a truly unique volunteer group. The support from 23 clubs and 3 individual members contributed 222 searches and 61 club contacts to help maintain our specialised service.

The estimated number of volunteer hours contributed to BSAR operations totalled 5,314 for the year, significantly higher than last year due to the number of searches, additional training activities, new policy development and significant administration activity with respect to our new name, logo and EMA grant management. This highlights the substantial contribution made by all involved.

The first two individual members of BSAR were approved at the May 2008 meeting and the total number currently stands at three with another two applications currently in being processed. It is hoped that the new brochure and advertisements, increased visibility at searches, through banners, caps and vests, will lift our profile to increase membership.

Rik Head was approached by Bushwalking Victoria to prepare a document covering various communication systems for bushwalkers. The document entitled "Communications for Bushwalkers" was released in February 2009 on the BWV website and has been very well received.

An application was submitted to the National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund for 2009/2010 for purchase of radios, conduct of radio training and for digitising BSAR records.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Bushwalking Victoria and a number of individual clubs are working together with a variety of community organisations to encourage the wider community to 'green' walk – to walk in the natural environment.

In October, at short notice, Bushwalking Victoria worked with the Office of Seniors, Kinect Australia and Parks Victoria to implement a programme of green walks during Seniors' Week. Sixteen of our clubs from both regional and metropolitan areas designed and lead these walks, each club working closely with their local government authority and often with Parks Victoria. The programme was so successful that plans are already under way for an expanded version in 2009.

Another successful collaboration was with Ray Thomas on the Regent Honeyeater Project. Ray addressed the Presidents' Meeting in June and described this regional programme of habitat restora-

I sincerely thank everyone involved in the BSAR team, especially the Committee, for their great support over the past year (and the decade before). It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have served as Convener with such a supportive group of people. I would long ago have left the role had it not been for your encouragement, understanding, shared wisdom, generous advice and friendship.

I also take this opportunity to thank Senior Sergeant Barry Gibson and members of the Squad (past and present) for their tremendous support during my time as Convener.

I leave the Convener role in the good hands of Frank Zgoznic and I wish him the very best for the remainder of our 60<sup>th</sup> year and into the future. I look forward to my continued involvement as a Field Organiser and Delegate.

As always, BSAR benefits from the efforts of many who enable the provision of this unique community service. Keep up the good work.

Monica Chapman



tion in the Lurg Hills with such enthusiasm that BWV promoted to our clubs one of his springtime planting weekends. More than 100 bushwalkers from different clubs participated, planting thousands of seedlings. The enjoyment and satisfaction was so heartfelt that this project will again be promoted by BWV in 2009.

Bushwalking Victoria is developing new relationships too. We are currently working with the Heart Foundation to encourage the existing Heart Walk groups to expand their walking horizons into green walking. Options such as mentoring groups, providing information and leading walks in local parks are amongst the plans being discussed.

Our overall aim with all these collaborations is to share with as many people as possible our joy of walking and working in the natural environment.

Catherine Guli

## FEDERATION EVENTS

### General

Following a request at reasonably short notice, Ballarat and Outdoor Club (BBOC) competently organized this event for 2008. BBOC needed to utilize all their club members who put in many hours of unseen work. Technology continues to aid and improve the efficiency of the event. Pre registration and pre selection of walks with provision of information on the website and BWNV continue to enable efficiency and reduce congestion at the event. However, dedicated and patient volunteers are still required on the ground to deal with day to day issues such as changes of walk choices, first aid etc.

More club innovations enhanced this event in 2008. Car congestion and confusion was eliminated by the use of mini buses and four wheel drive vehicles to ferry walkers directly to and back from walks.

However, a future increase in the registration costs may be necessary to cover the financial burden.

### 2008 Federation Weekend

Perfect weather saw 238 walkers from 33 BWV clubs attending the Beaufort weekend. BBOC's extensive and careful planning ensured an extensive program offering 21 choices to suit everyone's needs from family walks through to overnight hikes. A long ten hour, 24 km day walk could proceed over the Pyrenees Walking Trail with the provision of afternoon tea delivered on site, allowing a late return and enabling the walk to be completed.

Along with such walk choices which were competently researched and led, a small registration fee of \$20 provided walkers with 2 days of free bus service from Beaufort to the walks start and return, 2 days of gourmet afternoon teas, Saturday night entertainment, suitably qualified first aid backup and of course the skilfully produced and new look Beaufort souvenir walk booklet.

Unfortunately, these wonderful extras were enjoyed by fewer participants than anticipated and saw a considerable and unexpected financial loss following the event. BWV supported the host club in funding this loss. At future events, consideration may need to be given to the registration fee to maintain participant standard and expectations of this high class event.

### 2009 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Walk

Initially, 2009 almost had two Federation walk events but due to the horrific bushfires at Mt. Disappointment and lack of club support neither eventuated. Except for the war period between 1942 and 1946, this will be the only year without a Federation Walk since 1935. The irony being that the Mt. Disappointment event almost fully arranged, booked for April, a mere eight weeks after Black Saturday, was to be the culminating event of BWV's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. In bringing all BWV members together to celebrate, it was to be hosted by all BWV clubs as they each organized to host a walk in the Mt. Disappointment area.

However, in lieu of this, to ensure the opportunity for all clubs to work collaboratively, celebrate 75 years of BWV and off set bushfire devastation, a tree planting weekend with the Regent Honeyeater Project will occur on 8/9 August 2009 at the Lurg near Benalla involving all BWV Clubs.

### 2010 Federation Weekend

Currently, enthusiastic planning is underway by Waverley Bushwalking Club for a Federation weekend event in 2010 in the Otways National Park.

### 2011 Day event

A host club/s is currently being sought to undertake this.

Sylvia McLean



## WALKING COMMUNITIES PROJECT

In 2007 Bushwalking Victoria was funded \$40,000 by Sport and Recreation Victoria to implement the Go Further Project. Go Further aimed 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'.

Walking groups across Melbourne took part in consultations and pilot bushwalks aimed to inform Bushwalking Victoria about the issues and barriers preventing local community walking groups from taking up bushwalking. Data from the consultations revealed that participants were aware of the health and well-being benefits of walking and the particular benefits of walking in the natural environment but the findings also suggested that a lack of confidence and concerns about safety are two of the major factors stopping people from walking in the bush. Participants reported feeling more comfortable starting their bush walking experience locally in nearby parklands, creeks and bushlands. These local 'green walks' were

seen to be more accessible and a good way to start walking in the natural environment.

As a result of findings from the Go Further Project, Bushwalking Victoria applied for and was funded \$25,000 by The Department of Planning and Community Development in 2008 to implement the Walking Communities Project. Gina Mancuso was appointed Walking Communities Project Officer in March 2009 to complete the activities.

The Walking Communities Project will develop products to enable community walking groups, with the support of local bushwalking clubs, to implement walks in their local area and build up to walks in the bush. The products, including a 'How To Green Walk Guide', will be designed to provide information about bushwalking, provide support for groups to lead their own walks and work together with local bushwalking clubs.

Gina Mancuso

## INSURANCE

Well what a year, first I am Bushwalking Victoria's insurance conveyor, then I'm not, then I am again (well helping out whilst the search goes on for my replacement).

For anyone thinking of taking over this role it is not a hard job. On average I get two to four queries a month from different clubs.

The queries range from needing a certificate of currency to explanations on specific clauses in the contracts.

I do also arrange to have cover extended for special events such as the annual BAD Bike ride for the Ballarat Bushwalking & Outdoor Club.

### Bushwalking Australia

Howard Tooth stepped down as Insurance Officer for Bushwalking Australia this year. Howard has done an excellent job in setting up and maintaining a robust and affordable insurance program for all affiliated Australian clubs.

I accepted the role of Howard's replacement at the AGM of Bushwalking Australia, hence the need for me to pass on the responsibilities for Victoria. I would like to personally thank Howard for his help over the years and for his continued support.

Bushwalking Australia (well – me) are in discussions with our Broker now to negotiate terms for the 2009-2010 renewal period. Hopefully as part of this process we can achieve some reduction in the paper work clubs currently have to attend to.

### Public & Products (P&PL) Insurance

This product continues to be underwritten by Liberty International Underwriters. There have been no significant changes in the cover since last year, except for an increase in the sum insured from \$10 mil to \$20 mil.

The total annual cost of P&PL cover, including the insurer's premium, GST, stamp duty and the broker's fees for managing the policy worked out at \$4.00 per member, a decrease of 1.25 cents on the 08/09 year.

6,499 Victorian members are covered under the national policy.

### Personal Accident (PA) Cover

This policy continues to be underwritten by Accident & Health International Underwriting Pty Ltd.

There have been no significant changes in the cover since last year, except for an increase in the age limit from 85 to 95 (albeit at reduced sums insured).

The total annual cost of PA cover, including the insurer's premium, GST, stamp duty and the broker's commission for managing claims worked out at \$5.30 per member, the same price as last year.

6,257 Victorian members are covered under the national policy.

### Property Cover

Our Business Pack insurance covering Bushwalking Victoria property at various locations was renewed at a similar cost to last year.

During the year theft cover was added for Northcote property at a cost of \$461.80.

This policy also covers property owned by interstate federations and clubs. Bushwalking Victoria's share of the premium was \$1486.86 including the Northcote charge above.

### Associations Liability Cover

Bushwalking Victoria investigated this form of cover during the year with the help of the BWA insurance officer. A product designed specifically for incorporated non profit organizations has been sourced and a policy is now in place to protect Board members, conveners, employees and other volunteers.

The cost of this cover is \$1527.90

### Leisure Travel Insurance

As more clubs expand their programs to include overseas walking tours it has been recognized that there is a need to offer leisure travel insurance.

Since October last year this has now been available to all clubs at special rates.

### Claims 2008-09

P&PL – No claims notified so far.

PA - 7 claims were lodged for Victorian clubs this year:

Injured Shoulder	Cost \$184.00	Settled
Fractured wrist	Cost \$200.00	Settled
Right arm muscle strain	Cost \$166.40	Settled
Fractured humerus	Cost \$200.00	Settled
Fractured fibula	Cost \$1,653.66	Settled
Injured Shoulder	Cost \$151.54	Settled
Death	Cost \$50,000.00	Settled

Property – No claims notified so far.

David Gordon.

## OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE (ORC)

So far this has been a hard year for the ORC. Resources have been stretched and little more than responses to real and metaphorical bushfires have been achieved. ORC is involved with several working parties which have been formed in response to Black Saturday. Standard procedures for dealing with extreme weather conditions have been drafted and are out for public discussion.

One positive achievement is that, thanks to Don MacDowell, the Australian Adventure Standards have been redrafted and are now much more readable. The new format means that the new extreme weather advice can be easily incorporated into all the AASs.

Kyle Matheson

## HTTP://PACKCARRYVIC.PBWIKI.COM

A new program to encourage Bushwalking Victoria clubs and individual members of Bushwalking Victoria, to take part in overnight hikes.

Early 2008 bushwalking clubs affiliated with Bushwalking Victoria were asked if they, their members and / or their leaders, were interested in starting a webpage for bushwalkers interested in overnight hikes. Due to many clubs having an aging membership, some club leaders were advertising overnight hikes and then finding insufficient interest in their club to make the trip possible. The aim of the website would be that leaders, who found insufficient interest within their own clubs, could also advertise their trip on a website, which would only be available to members of clubs or individual members of Bushwalking Victoria.

20 clubs initially indicated their in principle willingness to participate, but the calendar to be available to all leaders and club members. A website was then set up using the wiki format. Of course this started a trail of paper warfare: all the usual legal liabilities, privacy policies etc. Then we had to ensure that everyone was informed as to how to access the site; that leaders were familiar with how to add trips to the calendar etc. Checks had to be made that those wishing to access the wiki site were individual members or members of a BWV club. To date 48 members have access to the wiki site and 24

are pending verification of membership. All of this so that a few frustrated bushwalking leaders can have a better chance of their overnight walk going ahead. All was ready by the start of February 2009, thanks to Sally Walker, Chris Towers, David Reid, Darren McClelland and Ed Gregory.

Two walks have been advertised on the site so far. A weekend trip to the Fainters in February was withdrawn from the calendar due to bushfire risks. The second trip – a three day bushwalk on the Great South West walk near Portland in March – went ahead with 4 participants; the leader and one other member from Waverley, one from Boroondara and one from Warrnambool Bushwalking club. It is hoped that more leaders will advertise trips on the calendar, and members will avail themselves of this new opportunity. It has been a slow start, but it will possibly take 2 years for word of mouth, advertising and positive feedback, to really generate use of the site. It should be noted that this is NOT a new club, but for individual and club members of Bushwalking Victoria to be able to continue overnight pack carries with other BWV club members.

Carla Miller



## BUSHWALKING AUSTRALIA INC (BAI)

(Note: To avoid confusion with the acronym BWA for Bushwalking Western Australia Bushwalking Australia has changed its acronym to BAI).

BAI completed its fifth year of operation on 30th September 2008.

The following is a list of key achievements and activities of BAI since my 2008 annual report to BWV .

- Stage 1 of the new website was completed ([www.bushwalkingaustralia.org](http://www.bushwalkingaustralia.org)).
- A "Google Group" has been set up for BAI council members. This is to provide a forum for discussion and a central location point for all finalised and draft policy documents.
- In November 2008 Qld hosted the 3rd face-to-face meeting attended by representatives from all states except Tasmania. David Reid and I attended as Victorian representatives. It was pleasing to see that a number of members of Queensland clubs participated in the event. The 2008 meeting was more of a forum, discussing many of the issues relating to bushwalking rather than looking at the role of BAI as had been the focus in previous annual meetings. The 2009 face-to-face meeting will be hosted by South Australia in October.
- The Insurance Convenor from NSW, Howard Tooth, capably renewed the 2008-9 national insurance scheme.
- A Policy on Shared Trails is being prepared. This is still in the draft stage but there has been considerable input and discussion from most states.
- A submission was made to House of Representatives Inquiry into Obesity in Australia. A copy is available from the BAI website.
- BAI became a signatory to the International Charter for Walking, This is a document developed in the framework of the WALK21 international conference series held in October 2006.
- BAI became a member of the Outdoor Council Of Australia and had two representatives attending the OCA Summit in August 2008. John Marshall from QLD has been nominated by BAI to become a member of the OCA board.
- The council members elected for 2008-2009 are:  
Ian MacDonald, Western Australia, remains BWA President.  
Bill Gehling, South Australia, remains BWA Vice President.  
Hecate Jay, Western Australia, remains in the Secretary's role.  
Maurice Smith, NSW, is the new Treasurer.  
David Gordon, Victoria, is the new national Insurance Officer.

Marianne Watt

# GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Bushwalking Victoria is an Incorporated Association and the peak body representing bushwalkers and other recreational walkers in Victoria.

There are 3 categories of membership.

- **Affiliated members** - 68 clubs, where the main activity is bushwalking. These clubs have full voting rights and their members are eligible to hold office.
- **Associate members** - 10 organisations or clubs whose activities include bushwalking but they are constituted primarily for other purposes. Associate members do not have voting rights but their members are able to participate in many Bushwalking Victoria committees and activities.

- **Individual supporter members** - may also participate in committees and activities.

The organisation is governed by a Board of Management comprising

- Five elected Officers
- Five elected general Board Members

The Board currently meets up to 11 times each year to review performance, make policy decisions and develop strategic direction.

The day to day management of the organisation is carried out by the office bearers, conveners of standing committees and other specialist officers.

## Board of Management - Office Bearers

President	David Reid	Waverley Bushwalking Club
Vice President	Barbara Guerin	Locksley Bushwalking Club
Secretary	Val Wake	CAEX Bushwalking Club
Treasurer	Carole Petchell	Bushrangers Women's Walking Club

## Board of Management - General Board Members

Sylvia McLean	Essendon Bushwalking Club
Catherine Guli	Waverley Bushwalking Club
Monica Chapman	Maroondah Bushwalking Club
Chris Towers	CAEX Bushwalking Club
Dave Rimmer	Victorian Mountain Tramping Club

## Staff

Administration Officer	Jenny Sykes
Walking Communities project officer	Gina Mancuso

## Other

Honorary Auditor	Jo OBrien	VNPA Bushwalking Activities Group
Public Officer	Val Wake	CAEX Bushwalking Club

## Standing Committee Chairpersons and Working Group Coordinators

Bushwalkers Search & Rescue	Monica Chapman	Maroondah Bushwalking Club
Bushwalking Environment Committee	Dave Rimmer	Victorian Mountain Tramping Club
Track Development	Vacant	
Track Maintenance	Jim Harker	Victorian Mountain Tramping Club
Conservation Projects	Steve Robertson	Maroondah Bushwalking Club
Field Officer coordinator	Dave Rimmer	Victorian Mountain Tramping Club
Insurance	David Gordon	Border Bushwalking Club
Publications/Editor	Joslin Guest	Boroondara Bushwalking Club
Finance Committee	Carole Petchell	Bushrangers Women's Walking Club
Communications Committee	Chris Towers	CAEX Bushwalking Club
Walking Communities Steering Committee	Darren McClelland	Essendon Bushwalking Club

## Consultants

Strategy	Tony Walker	Waverley Bushwalking Club
Land Management Submissions	Phil Brotchie	Walking Club of Victoria
Federation Walks	Sylvia McLean	Essendon Bushwalking Club
Accounting	Jo OBrien	VNPA Bushwalking Activities Group

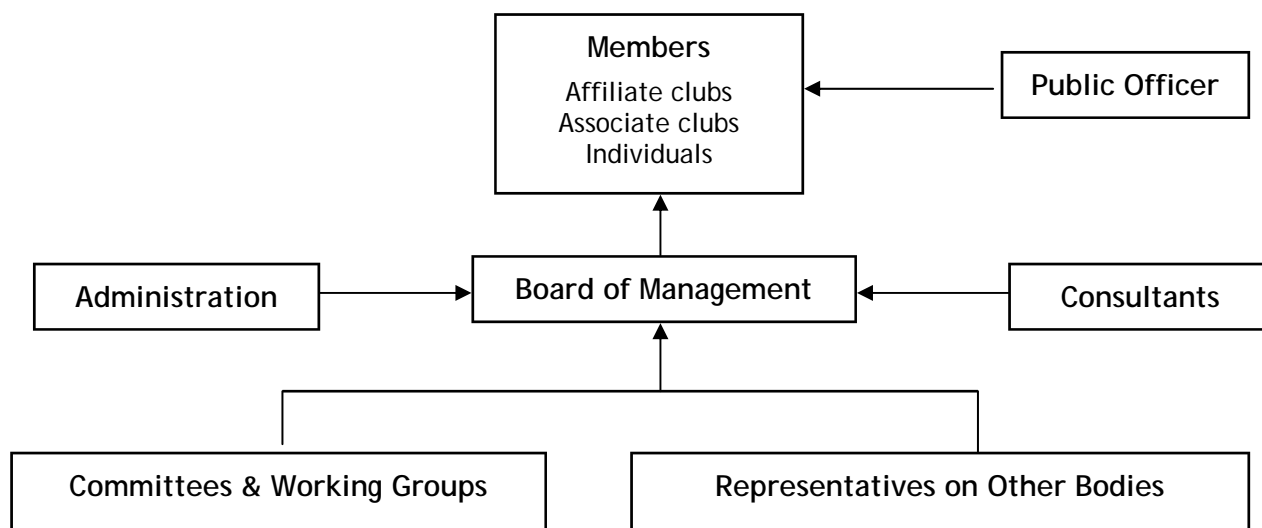
## Representatives on Other Bodies

Bushwalking Australia	Marianne Watt	Victorian Mountain Tramping Club
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## Organisations where BWV Members Provide a Bushwalking Perspective

Walking Trails Classification Project Control Board	David Reid	Waverley Bushwalking Club
River Red Gum Reference Group	Phil Brotchie	Walking Club of Victoria
Outdoor Recreation Centre Committee of Management	Kyle Matheson	VNPA Bushwalking Activities Group
Mt Buffalo Reference Group	Pauline McLaughlin	Border Bushwalking Club
AAS Technical committee	Paul Chamings	Maroondah Bushwalking Club
Living Links Steering committee	Tony Walker	Waverley Bushwalking Club

## BUSHWALKING VICTORIA INC ORGANISATION STRUCTURE



## MEMBERSHIP

### Affiliate Members

Bairnsdale Bushwalking Club Inc.  
Ballarat Bushwalking & Outdoor Club  
Basically Bushwalking Inc.  
Bass Coast Strollers Inc.  
Bayside Bushwalking Club Inc.  
Ben Cruachan Walking Club Inc.  
Benalla Bushwalking Club Inc.  
Bendigo Bushwalkers Inc.  
Bendigo Outdoor Club Inc.  
Berwick & District Bushwalking Club Inc.  
B'nai B'rith Ramblers  
Border Bushwalking Club Inc.  
Boroondara Bushwalkers Inc.  
Bunarong Bushwalking Club Inc.  
Bushrangers Womens Walking Club  
CAEX Bushwalking Club Inc.  
Camperdown Bushwalking Club  
Catholic Walking Club of Victoria Inc.  
Cobram Bushwalking Club Inc.  
Dandenong Valley Bushwalking Club Inc.  
Diamond Valley Bushwalking Club Inc.  
Echuca Moama Bushwalking Club  
Eltham and Environs Walking Group  
Essendon Bushwalking Club Inc.

Friends of the Great South West Walk Inc.  
Geelong Bushwalking Club Inc.  
Gisborne Bushwalking Club Inc.  
Good Companions Walking Club  
Grampians Bushwalking Club Inc.  
Great Alpine Walkers Club Inc.  
Great Dividing Trail Association Inc.  
Heathcote Walkers  
Keilor Bushwalking Club Inc.  
Koonung Bushwalking Club Inc.  
Locksley Bushwalking Club Inc.  
Maroondah Bushwalking Club Inc.  
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.  
Melbourne Walking Club Inc.  
Melbourne Womens Walking Club Inc.  
Melton Bushwalkers Inc.  
Orion Bushwalking Club Inc.  
Otway Ranges Walking Track Assoc. Inc.  
Pakenham Bushwalking Club Inc.  
Peninsula Bushwalking Club Inc.  
Peregrine Club Inc.  
Ramblers Walking Club Inc.  
Rosebud Ramblers  
Seymour Bushwalking Group Inc.

Shepparton Adventure Club Inc.  
Solo Grads Bushwalking Club  
South Gippsland Walking & Adventure Club  
Springvale Bushwalking & Cycling Club Inc.  
Stonnington Walking Club  
Strzelecki Bushwalking Club Inc.  
Sunraysia Bushwalkers Inc.  
Taradale and District Walking Group Inc.  
The Nomads Outdoors Group Inc.  
The Wednesday Walkers  
University of Melbourne Alumni Bushwalkers  
Victorian Mountain Tramping Club Inc.  
Walking Club of Victoria Inc.  
Wangaratta Out & About Inc.  
Warby Range Bushwalkers Inc.  
Warrnambool Walkers Inc.  
Waverley Bushwalking Club Inc.  
Wayward Women Walkers  
Werribee Bushwalking & Outdoor Club Inc.  
West Gippsland Bush Walkers Inc.  
Wimmera Bushwalking Club Inc.  
Wonthaggi Bush Beach Walking Club

### Associate Members

Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club Inc  
Cowombat Walking Club  
Melbourne University Mountaineering Club  
Monash Bushwalking Club Inc.

Scout Bushwalkers  
VNPA Bushwalking Group  
Alpine Search & Rescue Victoria Inc  
Victorian Rogaining Association

Victorian Rovers (Scout Association)  
YHA Bushwalking Club

### Bushwalking Victoria is a member of:

Bushwalking Australia, Australian Conservation Foundation, Australian Ski Patrol Association, Outdoor Recreation Centre, Victorian National Parks Association and VicSport.