

**VicWalk**



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2005/2006**



CLYDE MITCHELL

**Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs (VicWalk) Inc. A0002548Y**



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

### **VicWalk's Role**

Proactively represent the interests of all recreational bushwalkers, promote bushwalking and engage in activities that add value to the community.

### **Strategic objectives / key performance areas**

- enhance value to members and community
- proactive representation and sphere of influence
- improved management and governance

### **Benefits to member clubs**

- access to resources and information via the 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 our operating environment to assess impact of changes; eg legislation and regulations to provide advice/guidelines to member clubs
- 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

### **VicWalk community contributions**

- promotes bushwalking/recreational walking as an activity that promotes health, wellbeing and social interaction
- helps keep walking tracks open for all
- provides a volunteer specialist search and rescue group to assist Victoria Police
- referral service for members of the public wishing to join a club
- facilitates the formation of new clubs
- publishes free information about safe bushwalking and getting started

Office & postal address  
332 Banyule Road  
Viewbank 3084

Phone: 9455 1876  
Fax: 9457 5438  
Email: [vicwalk@vicnet.net.au](mailto:vicwalk@vicnet.net.au)  
Web: [www.vicnet.net.au/~vicwalk](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~vicwalk)

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VicWalk acknowledges the support  
of the Victorian Government



# President's Report

## Strategic Plan

This year has seen the culmination of discussions about our future direction. This has been directed at making VicWalk a more effective advocacy body for the bushwalking community and I thank all those who contributed. The work, commenced in June 2004, has resulted in a clarification of the organisation's role and the release of our strategic plan for the next 2 years. The plan is important because it details actions that will take the organisation forward in a proactive way.

More important however is the change of attitude and approach that the plan process has initiated. It has made us focus on the need to be proactive and to think strategically. This enables us to direct our resources to performing our advocacy role in the best interests of the whole bushwalking community and respond to a changing environment so that bushwalkers have greater control over their own destiny. As many community based organisations are finding we need to be flexible and prepared for change

## Building relationships.

We have commenced building multi level relationships with organisations such as Parks Victoria and the Dept of Sustainability and Environment. These strategic relationships help to establish us as a key stakeholder in the management of public land. This is very important for the future success of our advocacy efforts.

## Volunteers

Like other community organisations we always have a shortage of resources both money and manpower. Currently VicWalk enjoys a generous contribution of time by volunteers (some of them also working in full time day jobs). In the last year this was in the order of 15,000 hours (equivalent to 8 fulltime staff) contributing to the important range of VicWalk activities. In addition to the executive team who are responsible for the day to day management of the organisation there are the specialist areas of Search and Rescue and Conservation Tracks and Huts. Both of these groups contribute great value to the general community through their activities.

How we maintain volunteer involvement and build resources for the future is a matter that needs our constant attention. Increasingly we need professional management skills which we currently are fortunate enough to receive from some of our volunteer force. However it is unrealistic to expect that we can always sustain that professional level from volunteers. We will need to make some careful decisions about how we provide these skills in the future and deal with the obvious financial implications.

Clubs are the source of VicWalk's volunteer base. I urge all clubs to encourage their members to contribute to the needs of the wider bushwalking community by assisting with VicWalk working groups/committees or taking office. We need you now.

## Clubs

The club network is one of our strengths and clubs provide a valuable contribution to their local communities. It is important that we grow the club network and maintain its integrity. However we need to understand that there are many bushwalkers outside the club network and we need to find ways of engaging with those walkers to legitimately represent them and involve them to expand our resources.

It has been my pleasure to visit 12 clubs during the year. Executive need to better understand the issues and challenges faced by clubs and in turn communicate to clubs the changes in the operating environment that may have implications for them. These visits certainly help in that regard.

## Communication

A high priority is the enhancement of our internal and external communication.

The website is our "shop window". Following a review of the aims and objectives of our Web presence a new site has been constructed and is currently being tested before going online in the near future.

More of our clubs have established a dedicated club email address which makes for faster more efficient contact. I encourage those that haven't to consider doing so. In that regard we are considering an electronic newsletter to all club secretaries with essential information and updates.

We are also discussing the nature of VicWalk News and examining ways to enhance the quality and distribute it to all club members.

## Thank you

I thank all those who have provided support during the year. Delegates, conveners, my executive colleagues and those who served on various working groups/committees, carried out various tasks or represented VicWalk on other organisations. There are also individuals that need special mention. Leora Robertson and Val Ford who contributed voluntary personal assistant services to executive members and Jenny Sykes our salaried Administration Officer who maintains our public contact facility and keeps the office and administrative functions running smoothly. Greg Weston is not seeking re-election and I thank him for his contribution as treasurer and to the management of the organisation.

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Personally I have derived great enjoyment and satisfaction from my role. I have with Val's support committed to contribute to the bushwalking community for 3 years and will subject to re-election continue directing my efforts to helping lead the organisation through this critical period of review and change.

Please take the time to read about our achievements which are detailed on the following pages.

**David Reid**  
President

# Secretary's Report

## The Year in Review

### June 2005

VicWalk's Walking Track Maintenance Group has a successful work party up in the Wonnangatta Valley. Memo of Understanding prepared for discussion between BMTAB and VicWalk on their "integration" with VicWalk. BSAR group receive Peer Support Training last month on Critical Incident Stress Management.

### July 2005

Clubs are informed that the final draft of the Bushwalking AAS has been published. VicWalk and Springvale B.C stalwart Hugh Carrigan dies. Incoming VW President David Reid outlines his vision for the Federation. Ian Bell investigating Long Distance Walking Tracks that can be walked only carrying a day pack. BWA confirm this years insurance now covers skiing and abseiling, but a waiver is required. Ben Cruachan Walking Club celebrates 40 years.

### August 2005

Changes to the governments "Walking with Children" Legislation, which over all has little impact on our clubs. Nick Brown VP proposes an external contact database for VicWalk.

### September 2005

BWA struggling to get member States to provide people for its executive. Revised VicWalk Strategic Objectives document published. Nick Brown publishes the VicWalk Website Working Group Findings for comment. Changes to the Federation's claim entitlement formulae.

### October 2005

VicWalk's Track Maintenance Group Guidelines sent out to clubs. President and Secretary meet with the CEO of Parks Victoria's Mark Stone to set up meeting protocols. Parks Vic invites Steven Robertson Conservation Convener and other walkers to first hand discuss the restoration of walking tracks effected by Easter 2005 bushfire at Wilson's Promontory. Essendon Bushwalking Club runs a very successful Federation Day Walk at Blackwood attended by some 245 walkers.

### November 2005

VicWalk's "Privacy Policy" released. A new editor for VicWalk News, Eileen Kerlin - our appreciation for our outgoing editor Phil Brotchie who retired after 3 years at the helm. 'Parks Vic / VicWalk Joint Working Group meetings now underway. Revised "Walking Clubs of Victoria" directory now out.

### December 2005

Proposal put to Council that in the council year 2006 we reduce the number of council meetings to 6 a year. Club Presidents invited to the December meeting to hear the Presidents "State of the Nation" address and to get an understanding of challenges facing VicWalk.

### January/February 2006

Insurance Questionnaire sent to clubs. BMTAB change the wording of the joint agreement to "amalgamation" not integration with VicWalk. Twenty two attendees at VicWalk's "Action Day" think tank --- held to plan VicWalk's future direction Melbourne Bushwalker's Alan Clarke, prepares a Federation Walks Manual and accepts the role of Federation Walks Coordinator.

### March 2006

Inaugural combined Executive and Conveners meeting. VicWalk's challenge to the Tour Operators Licence Reform document - discussions with DSE's Policy Officer.

### April 2006

VicWalk's Strategic Plan mailed out to clubs. Discussion about the Great Ocean Walk. During the "due diligence" process reference BMTAB amalgamation with VicWalk reveals concerns about Public Liability insurance issues - with BMTAB formally withdrawing from the discussions.

### May 2006

Strategic planning continues, search for new executive officers to replace retiring members.

**Wayne Rice**  
Secretary



"Parks Vic invites Steven Robertson Conservation Convener and other walkers to first hand discuss the restoration of walking tracks effected by Easter 2005 bushfire at Wilson's Promontory"

# Treasurer's Report

## Comments on 2005/06 Annual Accounts

### Specific Points

1. The Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs (VicWalk) was incorporated on October 5, 1984 under the provisions of the Associations Incorporations Act 1981 (Victoria).
2. The financial report has been prepared for use by the members of the Federation and is a special purpose financial report. It has been prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act 1981 (Victoria). The Executive has determined that the Federation is not a reporting entity. The report is prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs.
3. The Federation made a loss of \$3026.
4. The Executive has discussed membership fees, and we recommend an increase of \$0.50 person. The Executive would like at least to maintain revenue to a level that will meet all expenses, and to therefore maintain our current funds balance. In any case in real terms this balance is decreasing as a percentage of our turnover as the organisation grows, and as the value of money drops.
5. The \$15,000 we receive annually from the Department of Victorian Communities is to be spent on projects that help develop a future direction for our organisation. This report has not defined how that money has been spent but as a comment it is quite clear that we have been putting significant resources into such projects. We include in this expenditure the first aid subsidy (used to further skills), much of our President's time (and expenses) in developing management plans, some of our Administrative Assistant's time in related expenses and many other expenses.
6. A significant proportion of our reserves should be left untouched as a contingency for unexpected events. A plan for contingency reserves was passed by Council on November 14, 2000. Recommended reserves were suggested for extra office rental costs, a higher than expected insurance premium and loss of funding from the Department of Victorian Communities. The total amount is \$33,000.

### Notes to the Accounts as at March 31, 2006

1. Interest received has been apportioned according to the average of opening and closing balances in each respective account. Interest revenue was

lower partly because the period reported for the CBA deposit account was 300 days. This is a timing issue. The interest rate for one of the two 150 day term periods was lower than usual at 2%.

2. Of this money \$15,250 is the annual grant we receive from the Department of Victorian Communities. Because I accidentally allocated a greater than agreed amount to the Search and Rescue account in previous years, there is no amount to be allocated to that account this year. The correct amount to be allocated to the Search and Rescue account is normally \$3500 per year.
3. This is entirely made up of reimbursements of \$40 for first aid training.
4. Of this amount, \$7,931 was for reprinting of the Walksafe booklet.
5. The main conservation expenditure categories are approximately as follows:
 

Donation to Environment East Gippsland	\$1000
Travel costs	\$892
General administration	\$875
Safety equipment (many small items)	\$484
6. The depreciation of equipment has been calculated on a straight line at rates to match the cost of each item of equipment over its economic life. In a change from last years report I have only included items that had a book value at the start of the year.

	Cost	Book Value
	\$	\$
<b>Search and Rescue Equipment</b>		
Ski carry bags, purchased 1/2006	663	633
Snow shoes, purchased 6/2004	2,400	1,300
Ski bindings, purchased 6/2004	1,188	653
<b>Office equipment</b>		
Computer monitor, purchased 12/2005	349	319
Answering machine, purchased 2003	99	0
MYOB Accounting plus, V.13, purchased 2003	269	0
Personal computer, purchased 2003	1435	0
		2,905

7. The difference in salary costs is mostly due to the number of pay periods that occurred during each year. There was also an expense for staff training of \$433 in the previous year.
8. A loss was made on insurance because a number of the estimates by clubs provided for membership numbers were above the actual membership numbers that they paid for. The insurance premium is based on the estimate, and revenue received is based on the figure given by clubs at the time of payment of the premium.
9. Sundry Creditors: PAYG Liability \$586 and superannuation liability of \$490.
10. Provisions:
 

Provision for Holiday Pay	\$3,089
Provision for Sick Leave	\$5,824
Provision for Long Service Leave	\$4,042
11. Membership Funds
 

Retained Profits at beginning of year	116,222
Plus Net Surplus/(loss) attributable to members of the Federation	(3026)
Retained profits at the end of the financial year	113,196

should point out that the Executive and Convenors are extremely active and are being very successful in furthering the aims of our organisation. Some of the themes that will be developed in future are outlined by the President and others elsewhere in this report. Thus although the loss we made this year was small I have no doubt it could increase if we don't increase our revenue. An example of the types of cost increases we may expect is expenditure on travel. Council this year voted to approve increased travel allowances, not just for conservation field trips but also for convenors and Executive members attending more than two meetings per month, and for our Administrative Assistant to attend meetings.

I am in the process of streamlining our bank accounts. I am not happy with the current arrangement because it is difficult to keep on top of three different accounts, particularly the CBA term deposit which needs to be renewed on the day of maturity to prevent a default to a low interest rate. I am quite happy with an offer from Community Sector Banking. They offer a single account which pays a competitive interest rate, is also a cheque account and has low enough fees. It can also be operated electronically if we wish. I like the fact that it is part owned by some of the larger not for profit organisations and is backed by Bendigo Bank.

I think the issue of registration for GST should be investigated again. We now pay over \$8000 per year in GST. Even if we to absorb the GST that would have to be charged on membership fees we should save a net of over \$4000 per year. (This is a very brief analysis, and a more detailed examination should be made.) Registration for GST is compulsory once turnover exceeds \$100,000 per year, although we have a private ruling from the ATO that exempts income we receive for insurance.

## Discussion

This is my last year as treasurer, and I would like to thank the Council and Executive for their support. In one respect I am disappointed that I won't have the time or commitment to continue the position because this is an exciting time to be on the Executive. There are some challenges being presented to this role at the moment, and I would like to make some comments and suggestions.

In my view there is no doubt that our expenses will rise. While this will present a challenge to the future treasurer, I

**Greg Weston**  
Treasurer

## Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs (VicWalk) Inc Statement by Members of the Executive

The Executive has determined that the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs (VicWalk) Inc is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 of the financial statements.

The Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs (VicWalk) 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 executive the financial report as set out in this document:

- Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs (VicWalk) Inc as at 31 March 2006 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
- At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs (VicWalk) Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Executive and is signed on behalf of the Executive by:

signed David Reid

signed Greg Weston

14/5/2006

.....

.....

President

Treasurer

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2006

	Notes	2006 \$	2005 \$
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
Membership fees		43,870	45,436
Interest	1	2,310	2,397
Donations and grants	2	15,972	11,390
Newsletter subscriptions		495	555
Advertising		575	264
Sundry income		<u>164</u>	<u>1,309</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Training	3	2,080	3,395
Newsletter		3,111	3,366
General administration		16,611	15,169
Promotions	4	8,217	71
Affiliations		536	1,720
Conservation	5	4,143	597
Depreciation	6	632	600
Salary and on costs	7	<u>23,304</u>	<u>25,109</u>
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		4,572	7,459
Add opening balance April 1, 2005		<u>64,065</u>	<u>56,606</u>
Closing balance March 31, 2006		<u><u>68,637</u></u>	<u><u>64,065</u></u>
<b>SEARCH AND RESCUE FUND</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
Interest	1	711	703
Donations, grants and equipment sales	2		<u>13,178</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
General administration (including travel)		6,552	4,003
Depreciation	5	<u>927</u>	<u>1,868</u>
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(6,768)	8,010
Add opening balance April 1, 2005		<u>21,148</u>	<u>13,138</u>
Closing balance March 31, 2006		<u><u>14,380</u></u>	<u><u>21,148</u></u>
<b>INSURANCE FUND</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
Insurance contributions		62,410	63,420
Interest	1	<u>1,020</u>	<u>1,233</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Insurance payments	8	64,258	64,029
General administration			<u>260</u>
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(828)	364
Add opening balance April 1, 2005		<u>31,006</u>	<u>30,642</u>
Closing balance March 31, 2006		<u><u>30,178</u></u>	<u><u>31,006</u></u>



## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH, 2006

	Notes	2006 \$	2005 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cheque account - Commonwealth Bank		14,650	5,001
Deposit account - Commonwealth Bank		43,884	42,562
Deposit account - ANZ V2 Plus		<u>65,195</u>	<u>77,680</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Sundry creditors	9	1,076	1,232
Other liabilities	10	<u>12,955</u>	<u>11,833</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
		<u>109,698</u>	<u>112,178</u>
<b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Equipment		33,542	32,530
Less provision for depreciation		(30,045)	(28,486)
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>			
		<u>113,195</u>	<u>116,222</u>
<b>MEMBERSHIP FUNDS</b>			
General fund	11	68,637	64,066
Search and Rescue fund		14,380	21,149
Insurance fund		<u>30,178</u>	<u>31,007</u>
		<u>113,195</u>	<u>116,222</u>

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

## Auditor's Report to the Members of the Federation of Victorian Clubs (VicWalk) Inc

I have audited the financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs (VicWalk) Inc for the year ended 31 March 2006 as set out in the above pages.

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

In my opinion the financial report presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Federation as at March 31 2006 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  
14 May 2006  
Melbourne

# Bushwalkers Search and Rescue

## BUSHWALKERS



## SEARCH & RESCUE

Bushwalkers Search and Rescue (BSAR) had a fairly quiet year with only one search involving four BSAR members from the Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2005. The search was for a missing light aircraft overdue at Dinner Plain. The crashed aircraft was found from the air a few days later.

A Peer Support training weekend was held on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May involving retraining for nine current peer supporters and the training of three new members. This was made possible through the very generous donations received by the Wang family and G Chen in appreciation for the efforts of searchers in the Grampians when Marian Wang was missing. Police SAR also assisted by providing the venue for the training. Peer Support processes and documentation was also reviewed and updated during the year.

The annual practice was held in the Mt Buffalo National Park from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> July, which incorporated "Operation Seek", the activation of the Mt Buffalo Emergency Management Plan. The practice was attended by 50 BSAR and potential BSAR members. Training began on the bus on Friday evening with presentations and discussion on searcher safety, expectations of searchers and group leaders, and peer support. Saturday consisted of a series of workshops: evacuation techniques/communications/use of GPS, hypothermia scenario, snow mobility/line searching and snow shelters. Sunday's search scenario involved Police SAR and local police, Bright SES, Parks Victoria, Mt Buffalo Ski Patrol, The Chalet, Red Cross and BSAR in a search for four missing skiers.

BSAR also conducted a Steep Snow and Ice and Ski Skills training weekend on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> September. Eleven BSAR members attended this specialist training exercise to sharpen rescue techniques and procedures in this more difficult terrain. It has been agreed to hold this training on an annual basis with Mt Hotham suggested as the next venue.

Four BSAR members undertook the ASPA Advanced Emergency Care course during the year and three others undertook other recognised first aid courses to update their skills.

Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) continued to provide funding to the VicWalk for BSAR administration and training. The department's continued financial support is greatly appreciated.

Additional MSR snowshoes were ordered primarily for use by members located in the northeast region. Additional ski carry bags were purchased to hold the remainder of the bushwhacker skis and safety vests were obtained and labelled to identify FOs at search base. Stocks of gloves were replenished by Police SAR together with 30 pairs of safety glasses.

An extensive review of the PLO/FO Manual was undertaken during the year. Thanks to Duncan Brookes, Jim Grelis and Merv Trease for their work on this project. The new edition was published in March 2006.

La Trobe Mountaineering Club and the Bushwalking and Mountaincraft Training Advisory Board groups folded in late 2005 and members were encouraged to join other clubs to continue their involvement with BSAR.

Behind the Log (BTL) continued to be a key mechanism by which valuable information is provided to each BSAR member and to clubs. Ren Millsom capably produced and edited the two issues of BTL during the year. Distribution of the newsletter was a joint effort between Ann Wetherall and Jenny Sykes. Thanks to Ren, Ann and Jenny for their commitment to ensuring that BTL reached our members.

The effectiveness of the call-out list is reliant upon its accuracy. To ensure call-outs are conducted efficiently and effectively, Delegates provided the Membership Secretary with regular updates. Ann Wetherall managed the task of coordinating and updating the list under exceptionally difficult personal circumstances and BSAR is extremely grateful to her for her contribution and commitment in this role. In December 2005, John Retchford kindly volunteered to take over the Membership Secretary position.

Neil Weatherill is thanked for his ongoing support in minuting the BSAR Committee meetings and Rik Head for regularly updating the BSAR website. Thanks also to Chris Jarvis, BSAR Equipment Officer, for ensuring all the equipment is maintained appropriately and audited annually.

The Police SAR Squad continues to have regular representation at Committee meetings and our November meeting was held at their premises in Williamstown. The attendance of a member of the Squad at meetings and their involvement at practices greatly contributes to the good working relationships between the organisations and we look forward to this continuing collaboration.

There are now twenty-six clubs that contributed 219 searchers and 67 club contacts to maintain this specialised community service are to be congratulated. These people are the core of our unique organisation and they are especially thanked for their contributions.

Personally, I'd like to thank the BSAR Committee who contribute substantially to the running of our volunteer emergency service group. Thanks to the searchers who make themselves available for call outs, and Club Contacts, PLOs and FOs who assist to get searchers into the field.

Our dedicated volunteers contribute so much and I'm proud to be part of this team.

**Monica Chapman**  
Convener, Bushwalkers Search and Rescue Group

## Conservation Tracks and Huts

The Conservation Committee's activities have, as usual, been across a wide range of issues related to conservation of our natural areas for bushwalking.

The Committee has made many submissions to Draft Management Plans – Code of Practices for DSE and other management bodies. We have also been actively involved with the River Red Gum investigation.

We have strengthened our communication links with all, and meetings of our committee (which are open to all) are well attended.

The following are the main issues attended to by the committee during the year:

**Alpine:** Many areas have been addressed throughout the year – track maintenance, illegal huts, logging issues and unnecessary commercial development projects.

**Bunyip State Park:** Communication continued regarding the Recreational Framework for the area with a final decision due soon. Track survey work has also been implemented in this area for new walking tracks.

**Otway Ranges:** With pressure from our committee and others the Great Otway National Park was passed through Parliament and the official opening of this and the Great Ocean Walk were held.



ANTIA INFANTI

Rebuilding the Jawbones Track  
October 2005

**Mornington Peninsula:** After much campaigning Devil-bend Reservoir area is now secure as Parkland for the future.



DAVID REID

Mossbed rehabilitation  
March 2006

**Walking Track Maintenance Group:** During the early part of the year this group was formed to coordinate track clearing activities. Safety equipment was purchased and an operating guidelines manual established. The program of events is ongoing. The group also actively participated in Mossbed Rehabilitation work on the Bogong High Plains.

**Committees:** Members of the committee have attended many meetings and workshops and have substantially improved our networking. Some of these were with the Department of Sustainability & Environment, Parks Victoria, Environment Victoria, Environment Protection Authority and Tourism Victoria on matters ranging from trail bikes, Nature Based Tourism, environmental meetings as well as site visits to areas in connection with walking track development.

**VicWalk Conservation Policy:** A few changes have been discussed but due to their sensitive nature have not been implemented as yet.

**New Members:** During the year we welcomed four new Project Officers as well as several new Club Delegates.

The past year has been a challenging period as the new Convener. In addition we had a change of Secretary for our Committee. With the strength of our group as well as new members we will endeavour to continue to protect and enhance the areas we love to walk in. I thank you all for your support.

**Steven Robertson**

Convener Conservation Tracks and Hut Committee

## Insurance

I have now been in this job for 18 months and I can report that all is running smoothly. 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

The relationship with Bushwalking Australia is an excellent one. Howard Tooth of BWA has proven to be a great resource of knowledge and a good contact with the insurance broker.

### Public & Products Liability [P & PL] Insurance

This product continues to be underwritten by Liberty International Underwriters.

We had a major victory this year with the re-inclusion of above the snowline activities including skiing, albeit that all participants are required to complete an acknowledgment of risk form. A small ask considering the advantages of again having coverage for this winter time activity.

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 the same as for 2004-05 at \$5.85 per member. 6,593 Victorian members are covered under the national policy.

### Temporary Membership

The issue of temporary membership has died down from last year. This area would still be the reason for at least 40-50% of my queries from clubs. By now most clubs should have amended their constitutions to allow for this class of membership and it may be beneficial for VicWalk to survey it's membership to ensure that clubs have made these amendments.

### Personal Accident [PA] Cover

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

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 the same as for 2004-05 at \$3.80 per member. 6,126 Victorian members are covered under the national policy.

### Property cover

Our Business Pack insurance covering Vicwalk property at various locations was renewed at a similar cost to last year. This policy also covers property owned by interstate federations and clubs. Vicwalk's share of the premium was \$715.27.

### Claims 2004-05

#### Public & Personal Liability Insurance

No claims notified so far.

#### Personal Accident Cover

Claims 2004 as at 24 April 2006. No. of Claims 18. Amount Paid \$26221 Amount outstanding \$500. Total Cost \$26721

The above includes the claim submitted by a member of Werribee B&O Club which was finalised at a total cost of \$20791.

Claims 2005 as at 24 April 2006. No of Claims 7. Amount Paid \$1593 Amount Outstanding \$17807. Total Cost \$19400

All claims are currently Open with the largest Claim having an estimate of \$10000 which is a NSW claim. However this claim is not expected to materialise.

#### Property

No claims notified so far.

**David Gordon**  
Insurance Convener



TONY WALKER

## Publications

VicWalk's safety booklet *Walksafe* continues to be in strong demand across Victoria. This financial year marks our third 10,000 print run of *Walksafe*, now its second edition, with only minor revision and updating required of the original 2002 publication. Since dissemination of such information is part of VicWalk's Statement of Purposes, it would now appear that in the absence of a similar free publication available in the bushwalking community, the council should be budgeting on 5000 copies per year. A two year time frame for reprint is reasonable with respect to updating information and efficiency for printing costs.

Revision of the pamphlet *Bushwalking Make a Start* 2001 edition has now been completed and 5000 copies will be printed before existing stocks are totally depleted.

As with the pamphlet *Are you going walking in the mountains?*, Council has decided that the content of the pamphlet *Hut Etiquette* is covered sufficiently in *Walksafe* that no further editions are required at this stage. However, the publishing committee is interested in the potential for a new VicWalk publication on more general conservation issues than those currently in *Walksafe* or *Tread Softly* publications. We look forward to feedback on this or other areas of interest to our committee.

**Claire Garrett**  
Publications Convener

## Bushwalking Australia (National Body)

Bushwalking Australia (BWA) completed its second year of operation on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2005.

2005 was a fairly "stand still" year for BWA. The president was absent overseas for most of 2005, the Secretary resigned and a replacement has yet to be found. Very little communication between all state members occurred. The 2005 AGM will not be held until June 2006.

On the plus side:

The 2005 subscriptions were received from all states albeit fairly slowly and with some states having vigorous discussion on the need for and cost of a national body.

The Insurance Convener from NSW, Howard Tooth, capably renewed the national insurance scheme.

2006 is shaping up to be a more active year.

The first face-to-face meeting for presidents and delegates from all states will be held in Melbourne in June.

BWA was represented at an Executive meeting of Outdoor Council of Australia in March, and will be represented at the Tracks and Trails conference in May and at the Walk21 Conference in October by Victorian representatives

**Marianne Watt**  
Delegate to Bushwalking Australia and currently  
Treasurer and Acting Secretary of BWA

## Administration Officer

VicWalk continues to maintain an office at the Outdoor Recreation Centre (ORC), at Viewbank where we share facilities with other recreational organizations. A lot of support is gained from being alongside people working in a similar environment and sharing common concerns.

The ORC, with the input of VicWalk, has published a new edition of the *Walking Clubs of Victoria Directory*. The request to our clubs to assist with distribution of the directory and VicWalk's *Walksafe* was taken up by quite a few of our clubs and these two booklets are now available in many relevant outlets throughout the state.

The day to day running of the office has been maintained in a timely way and the monthly deadlines have been met. Unfortunately, due to the extreme tardiness of some clubs in meeting the one-off deadlines of submitting fees and, in the case of affiliate clubs, premiums and answers to the insurance questionnaire, processing of these were well

behind schedule. The resultant follow up required with these is not an appropriate use of time. I urge clubs to address this problem to ensure due dates are adhered to in the future.

The trend of the past few years of increasing use of electronic mail continues. It certainly has assisted in communication between the office and our hardworking executive and conveners. I'd like to thank them all for their support with a special mention to Greg Weston who will be standing down as treasurer. I'd also like to thank the editorial team, Phil Brothie the previous editor and Helen Rowley whose layout skills have made VicWalk News so readable and especially the volunteers who assist with the VicWalk News mailout each month.

**Jenny Sykes**  
Administration Officer

# VicWalk Governance & Management Structure

VicWalk is a federation of 78 bushwalking clubs across Victoria with 2 categories of membership.

Affiliated members, of which there are 68, are clubs where the main activity is bushwalking. These clubs have full voting rights and their members are eligible to hold office.

Associate members are 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 VicWalk committees and activities.

The organisation is governed by a council comprising

- delegates nominated by clubs
- elected office bearers
- Conveners
- Representatives on other bodies

The council currently meets 6 times each year to review activities and make policy decisions.

The day to day management of the organisation is carried out by the executive and conveners.

## VicWalk Management Team 2005/2006

### Executive

President	David Reid	Waverley Bushwalking Club
Vice President	Nick Brown	Bayside Bushwalking Club
Secretary	Wayne Rice	Koonung Bushwalking Club
Treasurer	Greg Weston	Victorian Mountain Tramping Club
Assistant Secretary	Barbara Guerin	Locksley Bushwalking Club

### Conveners

Bushwalkers Search & Rescue	Monica Chapman	Maroondah Bushwalking Club
Conservation, Tracks & Huts	Steve Robertson	Maroondah Bushwalking Club
Insurance	David Gordon	Border Bushwalking Club
Publications	Claire Garrett	Victorian Mountain Tramping Club
Risk Management	Wayne Rice	Koonung Bushwalking Club
VicWalk News Editor [July to Nov]	Phil Brotchie	Walking Club of Victoria
[from Dec]	Eileen Kerlin	Waverley Bushwalking Club
Publicity / Promotions	vacant	
Skills	vacant	

### Others

Admin Officer	Jenny Sykes	Victorian Mountain Tramping Club
Public Officer	Wayne Rice	Koonung Bushwalking Club
Auditor	Jo OBrien	VNPA Bushwalking Group
Website maintainer	Bill Metzenthon	Melbourne Bushwalkers

### Representatives on Other Organisations

Bushwalking Australia	Marianne Watt	Victorian Mountain Tramping Club
Outdoor Recreation Centre	Kyle Matheson	VNPA Bushwalking Group
BMTAB	Peter Conroy	Victorian Mountain Tramping Club
Alpine Advisory Council	Claire Garrett	Victorian Mountain Tramping Club

## VicWalk is also a member of:

Bushwalking Australia  
 Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF)  
 Australian Ski Patrol Association  
 Outdoor Recreation Centre (ORC)  
 Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA)  
 VicSport

# VicWalk Membership

## Affiliate Members

Bairnsdale Bushwalking Club Inc.	Essendon Bushwalking Club Inc.	Rosebud Ramblers
Ballarat Bushwalking & Outdoor Club	Friends of the Great South West Walk Inc.	Seymour Bushwalking Group Inc.
Basically Bushwalking Inc.	Geelong Bushwalking Club Inc.	Shepparton Adventure Club Inc.
Bass Coast Strollers Inc.	Gisborne Bushwalking Club Inc.	South Gippsland Walking & Adventure Club
Bayside Bushwalking Club Inc.	Grampians Bushwalking Club Inc.	Springvale Bushwalking & Cycling Club Inc.
Ben Cruachan Walking Club Inc.	Great Alpine Walkers Club Inc.	Stonnington Walking Club
Benalla Bushwalking Club Inc.	Great Dividing Trail Association Inc.	Strzelecki Bushwalking Club Inc.
Bendigo Bushwalkers Inc.	Heathcote Walkers	Sunraysia Bushwalkers Inc.
Bendigo Outdoor Club Inc.	Keilor Bushwalking Club Inc.	The Nomads Outdoors Group Inc.
Berwick & District Bushwalking Club Inc.	Koonung Bushwalking Club Inc.	The Wednesday Walkers
B'nai B'rith Ramblers	Locksley Bushwalking Club Inc.	University of Melbourne Alumni Bushwalkers
Border Bushwalking Club Inc.	Maroondah Bushwalking Club Inc.	Victorian Mountain Tramping Club Inc.
Boroondara Bushwalkers Inc.	Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.	Walking Club of Victoria Inc.
Bunarong Bushwalking Club Inc.	Melbourne Walking Club Inc.	Wangaratta Out & About Inc.
Bushrangers Womens Walking Club	Melbourne Womens Walking Club Inc.	Warby Range Bushwalkers Inc.
CAEX Bushwalking Club Inc.	Melton Bushwalkers Inc.	Warrnambool Walkers Inc.
Camperdown Bushwalking Club	Orion Bushwalking Club Inc.	Waverley Bushwalking Club Inc.
Catholic Walking Club of Victoria Inc.	Otway Ranges Walking Track Assoc Inc.	Wayward Women Walkers
Cobram Bushwalking Club Inc.	Pakenham Bushwalking Club Inc.	Werribee Bushwalking & Outdoor Club Inc.
Dandenong Valley Bushwalking Club Inc.	Peninsula Bushwalking Club Inc.	West Gippsland Bush Walkers Inc.
Diamond Valley Bushwalking Club Inc.	Peregrine Club Inc.	Wimmera Bushwalking Club Inc.
Echuca Moama Bushwalking Club	Ramblers Walking Club Inc.	Wonthaggi Bush Beach Walking Club
Eltham and Environs Walking Group	Red Hill Ramblers Bushwalking Club Inc.	

## Associate Members

Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club Inc	Monash Bushwalking Club Inc.	Victorian Rogaining Association
Cowombat Walking Club	Scout Bushwalkers	Victorian Rovers (Scout Association)
Melbourne University Mountaineering Club	VNPA Bushwalking Group	YHA Bushwalking Club
	Victorian Nordic Rescue Service	

## Club Delegates to VicWalk Council April 05 - March 06

<b>Ballarat Bushwalking &amp; Outdoor Club</b> Rob Hutchison	<b>Maroondah Bushwalking Club</b> Steve Robertson
<b>Bayside Bushwalking Club</b> Rob Berry, Susanne Clarke, Lesley Hale, David Patston	<b>Melbourne Bushwalkers</b> Carol Criddle, Linda Larkin, Bill Metzenthien
<b>Boroondara Bushwalkers</b> Tom Orange, Jan Clark	<b>Melbourne walking Club</b> Ken Rofe
<b>Bushrangers Womens Walking Club</b> Sue Wilson, Carol Petchel	<b>Melbourne Womens Walking Club</b> Beryl Haille, Heather Main
<b>Catholic Walking Club of Victoria</b> Rob Giebels, Nick van Ewijk	<b>Otway Ranges Walking Track Assoc</b> John Piesse
<b>Dandenong Valley BWC</b> John Freeman	<b>Rosebud Ramblers</b> Val Ford
<b>Essendon Bushwalking Club</b> Darren McClelland, Ron Bell, Sylvia McLean	<b>Victorian Mountain Tramping Club</b> Melissa Harcourt
<b>Essendon &amp; GDTA</b> Neil Campbell	<b>Waverley Bushwalking Club</b> Don Hutton, Eileen Kerlin, Catherine Guli
<b>Diamond Valley BWC &amp; Koonung BWC</b> Des Bain	

	Club Statistics		
	Affiliates		Associates
	Clubs	Members	Clubs
1992/93	45	4,957	9
1993/94	49	5,207	9
1994/95	51	5,148	10
1995/96	56	5,424	11
1996/97	60	5,608	13
1997/98	67	5,725	13
1998/99	66	5,992	13
1999/2000	67	5,962	13
2000/01	67	5,969	12
2001/02	68	5,951	12
2002/03	69	6,158	12
2003/04	71	6,310	11
2004/05	70	6,610	12
2005/06	68	6,335	10



JACK WINTERBOTTOM

Ben Cruachan Walking Club celebrates 40 years



DON HUTTON

Peter Mauer (front left), Geelong Bushwalking Club President, at the opening of the Great Ocean Walk by John Thwaites