

# BUSHWALKING VICTORIA



## ANNUAL REPORT 2006/2007

Bushwalking Victoria Inc  
Formerly Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs (VicWalk)

A0002548Y ABN 88 344 633 037

# Bushwalking Victoria

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 represent the interests of all recreational bushwalkers.

## Key performance areas

- value to members and community
- sphere of influence and representation
- 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

## Contacting Bushwalking Victoria

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Bushwalking Victoria acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## Implementing our Strategic Plan

This year we have progressed with the action plans that flowed from our strategic plan. The major action was the restructure of our governance arrangements. These were approved at the special general meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2007 and the interim Board has been working through the implementation of the changes.

Importantly we continued to promote BWV as a key stakeholder in respect to sport and recreation policy and public land use. As part of this we presented a paper to the International Conference Walk 21 held in Melbourne October last year, giving our perspective on "Advocacy for Recreational Walkers." We have continued to build and strengthen relationships with important decision makers in government agencies and at the political level.

In addition we continue to closely monitor the operating environment looking for opportunities and to ensure we are prepared to lobby for bushwalking amenity for the future. As part of this, for the first time, we have begun researching experiences and trends in other countries to help us 'crystal ball' best direction and strategies.

## Our Clubs

The club network continues to be an important strength of the bushwalking community. The local contribution by our clubs adds great value to the community. It is pleasing to see increasing interaction between clubs at such events as the Federation Walk and the conference of Club Presidents. I look forward to visiting clubs again in the next 12 months and welcome any opportunity to interact with you.

## Volunteers and Thankyou

Once again the contribution of volunteers was in the order of 15,000 hours [an 8 full time staff equivalent]. The organisation could not function without these dedicated people and I thank you all for your contribution.

I thank our Conveners, my fellow office bearers and those that represented us on various bodies. Thank you to those who represented their clubs at the old council and in particular their diligence in contributing to the development of the revised constitution and new governing structure. Again a special thanks to Leora Robertson and Val Ford for their extensive voluntary personal assistant services to Board members. Thank you to Jenny Sykes our salaried Admin officer for maintaining our public contact service liaising with and assisting clubs and providing other administrative services.

This year we have two retirees. Claire Garrett is stepping down from the Publications Officer position. Claire contribution over ten years has been significant. It includes serving as an office bearer, representing us on the Alpine Advisory Council and of course creating and producing the range of wonderful publications that we now have. We wish you well and in particular every success with your environmental project in New Zealand.

After five years service as an office bearer and before that as a delegate, our Secretary Wayne Rice is taking a

break. Wayne's contribution has been particularly important as we have progressed through the recent changes. He has overseen the development of our new constitution and structure. This was in addition to his normal role of keeping us on track in the way we operate and as our Risk Management Convener. Thank you Wayne for your dedication to these tasks and for your contribution to the effective management of our organisation. Thank you also for the support and wise counsel you have provided to me.

## Looking forward

The main thrust of our activity over the last two years has been to

- Stop and see where we are.
- Look to where we want to be heading.
- Consider the operating environment.
- Evaluate whether we are meeting our obligations under our objectives.

Develop the structure and framework to help us meet those obligations better.

We are now moving to the next stage, which is, growing the organisation. Why do we want to grow?

To be effective BWV must be more influential, so that, amongst other things:

- We are recognised as a key stakeholder in the active recreation market.
- The integrity of the bushwalking amenity we enjoy today is maintained.
- We secure a proper bushwalking environment for recreational walkers in the future; the creation of national parks, better recreation strategies in local government areas, development of track networks, user friendly Government funding and policies for recreational walkers.
- We are alert to and resolve issues before they impact adversely on us

In short we need to expand our influence into every aspect of our operating environment. To do this we need all the help we can get.

At our recent meeting with Club Presidents we received some good ideas on how we, as your peak body, could exert more influence. Just as importantly there were some excellent suggestions on how clubs can support our efforts by building influential relationships at the local level. The input from this important meeting is reflected in our Business Plan for 2007-2008 which will be released at the AGM.

I continue to enjoy my role in the development of our organisation so that it can meet the challenges and remain a relevant, vital and influential advocate for recreational walkers into the future.

Please set aside some time to read about the achievements of the bushwalking community over this last year.

**David Reid**  
President

# SECRETARY'S REPORT

## The Year in Review

### June 2006

Council was formally advised that the executive has rejected the proposed merger with BMTAB due to Public Liability insurance concerns.

Memorandum of Cooperation between VicWalk and Parks Victoria - the signing of the document approved by the VicWalk Council.

Strategic plan tasks - research into Individual Membership and the secretary releases for comment changes to Statement of Purposes and Rules draft document.

First "face to face" meeting of BWA delegates in Melbourne attended by all states except Queensland.

### July 2006

Track Maintenance Group has a strong turn out at Freemans Mill, with Parks running a chainsaw accreditation course for some TMG members.

Clubs sent insurance and membership accounts.

Some clubs report difficulties in implementing their risk management strategies due to entrenched ideas of their older members.

### August 2006

New club Solo Grads BWC joins VicWalk.

Vigorous discussion by Council on the Statement of Purposes and Rules draft - with much discussion on the proposed name change Walking Victoria against Bushwalking Victoria.

Our new website development continues.

### September 2006

Conservation Committee honours Elizabeth Doery as she retires after 30 years of service to VicWalk in many roles.

A committee is established to undertake a review of the Conservation Committees structure and role, as part of our ongoing Strategic Plan.

AAS Technical Committee at ORC - VicWalk appoints a representative to participate and monitor the review.

### October 2006

Building of "Recreation House" at Westerfolds Park well underway - our new proposed office location.

Helen Rowley retires after 4 years service as the layout editor for VicWalk News.

Secretary acts as facilitator at Council meeting on changes to the constitution - complete agreement achieved on the name change to Bushwalking Victoria.

SRV host a stakeholders meeting / forum at the MCG where it was announced that a number of grants were available to community recreational organizations.

Our new website is up and running and the Conservation Committee is awarded an Envirofund Grant to assist with Alpine Mossbed Rehabilitation work.

### November 2008

VicWalk executive appoints a Strategic Planning Consultant - Tony Walker to analyse securing future amenities for recreational walkers.

Many suggestions from clubs result in key amendments to Constitution draft -- the document to be presented to a Special General Meeting in December.

Benalla - Wangaratta-Warby and Border clubs host a very successful Federation Weekend "Bright and Beyond" with some 440 walkers attending.

### December 2006

A very brief Council meeting held due to the SG Meeting being held immediately after, in fact, this becomes the last Council meeting under the rules of our old constitution.

A vote of thanks was extended to Bill Metzenthon for his work in starting and maintaining the original VicWalk website.

Bushfires continue to burn all over Victoria, seriously curtailing walking activities - many clubs opt out for seaside beach walks.

At the Special General Meeting the 6 Special Resolutions were approved and on an historic night - Bushwalking Victoria Inc was born.

First meeting of the Interim Board of the newly created Bushwalking Victoria, comprising members of the old Federation Executive and Conveners of the various standing committees.

### January/February 2007

BSAR Funding submissions to the Emergency Services Management Paper.

Also flagged, was SRV Funding changes in the future.

Secretary acts as facilitator at the Conservation Committee's review of its role & structure - a new structure is to be approved at the March meeting after more detail is provided to the committee.

Discussed and endorsed is the Conservation Committee's new name - Bushwalking Environment Committee or BEC reflecting its role in today's sphere of operations.

Consumer Affairs confirms acceptance of our new name and Statement of Purposes and Rules.

### March 2007

Presidents' workshop takes place at the Yarra Valley Country Club, enthusiastic representatives from 22 clubs attending together with Conveners and members of the BWV Interim Board.

Many subjects were canvassed including items for inclusion in the Business Plan under the guidance of our skilful facilitator Tony Walker.

Discussion also occurred this month via the web, on forming a new club that would run more challenging overnight walks, cross country ski trips, snow walks etc. - it will be

interesting to see what eventuates.  
 Diamond Valley & Koonung Clubs report plans are well underway for Octobers Federation Day walk at Healesville.

**April 2007**

Delays continue preventing our move to our new proposed Westerfold's office.  
 Waverley BWC celebrates 20years of walking.  
 Work continues on developing the design and look of our corporate BWV image.  
 Bushfire Recovery Information from Parks released in the form of a Draft Access Reopening Strategy - talk of finally opening the very popular "the Beeches" walking track near Marysville after 2 years of closure.

**May 2007**

Move takes place finally to our new office at "Recreation House" Westerfolds Park Templestowe.  
 Discussions start on how we can celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2009.

This is my last report after 5 years of being on the executive team and part of the exciting changes to the structure and image of the "Federation" - it has been a great honour to have been a part of history! It's a changing landscape out there and all clubs need to support and get behind the BWV Board and Committee Conveners by promoting a greater awareness of Bushwalking Victoria to their club membership.

On a personal note, it has given me great satisfaction in following, even though it is many years later, in the footsteps of a great Rover Scout - Bill Waters who contributed much to the "Federation" and bushwalking in Victoria over many years.

And finally to David Reid and the incoming team – I wish you all every success in your future endeavours.

**Wayne Rice**  
 Secretary



**Bushwalking Victoria Inc A0002548Y**

**Statement by Members of the Board of Management**

The Board has determined that Bushwalking Victoria Inc is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in "Notes to 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 view of the financial position of Bushwalking Victoria Inc as at 31 March 2007 and its 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.

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

Date 25/5/07

.....Signed, David Reid...  
 President

.....Signed, Carole Petchell.....  
 Treasurer

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## Comments on 2006/07 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. The name was officially changed to Bushwalking Victoria at a Special General Meeting on 5 December 2006.
2. 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 Incorporations Act 1981. The Board has determined that the Bushwalking Victoria is not a reporting entity. The report is prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs.
3. Bushwalking Victoria made a profit of \$12,397
4. The \$15,000 received annually from the Department of Victorian Communities is to be spent on projects that help develop a future direction for our organisation. We include in this expenditure the first aid subsidy (used to further skills), costs associated with developing management plans, some of our Administrative Officer's time and related expenses and many other expenses.
5. In November 2000 recommended reserves were set at \$33,000. In April 2007 the Board approved this amount to remain in the Contingency Fund as the reserve.

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS AS AT MARCH 31, 2007

1. Interest of \$6,546.28 received has been apportioned between the General Fund and Search and Rescue Fund
2. This money was received as a grant from the Department of Victorian Communities.
3. This is entirely made up of reimbursements for first aid training.
4. 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.

### Equipment List

	Cost \$	Book Value \$
<b>Search &amp; Rescue Equipment</b>		
Ski carry bags, purchased 1/2/2006	663	0
Snow shoes, purchased 6/2/2004	2,400	0
Ski bindings, purchased 6/2/2004	1,188	0
Snow Shoes, purchased 5/2/2006	1,425	1,098
<b>Office equipment</b>		
Computer monitor, purchased Dec 2005	349	289
Furniture, purchased March 2007	2,080	2,080

5. The difference in salary costs is mostly due to the change in leave provision amount.
6. Sundry Creditors:
  - Australian Taxation Department \$318
  - Health Super \$904
7. Provisions:
  - Provision for Leave \$14,720
8. The presentation of Funds Accounts has been changed. The Insurance Fund now being called the Contingency Fund.
9. A Future Projects Fund has been created and adjustments made to funds.

	Was \$	Now \$
General Fund	77,450	15,000
Search and Rescue	14,674	14,000
Contingency Fund	33,466	33,000
Future Projects Fund	0	63,592

10. Membership Funds	2007 \$
Retained Profits at beginning of year	113,195
Plus Net Surplus/(loss) attributable to members of the Federation	12,397
Retained profits at the end of the financial year	125,592

### DISCUSSION

During this year the accounts were streamlined to one single account with Bendigo Bank. The interest rate remains competitive.

**Carole Petchell**  
Treasurer

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

	Notes	2007 \$	2006 \$
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
Membership fees		47,222	43,870
Interest	1	3,273	2,130
Donations and grants	2	17,000	15,972
Newsletter subscriptions		390	495
Advertising		510	575
Federation Day & weekend		1,598	0
Sundry income		<u>875</u>	<u>164</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Training	3	3,000	2,080
Newsletter		2,623	3,111
General administration		20,717	16,611
Promotions		2,178	8,217
BWA		3,314	536
Conservation [Bushwalking Environment Committee]		5,453	4,143
Depreciation	4	30	632
Salary and on costs	5	<u>24,738</u>	<u>23,304</u>
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		<u>8,814</u>	<u>4,572</u>
Add opening balance April 1, 2006		<u>68,637</u>	<u>64,065</u>
Closing balance March 31, 2007		<u><u>77,450</u></u>	<u><u>68,637</u></u>
<b>SEARCH AND RESCUE FUND</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
Interest	1	3,273	711
Donations, grants and equipment sales		<u>412</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
General administration (including travel)		2,001	6,552
Depreciation		<u>1,390</u>	<u>927</u>
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		<u>294</u>	<u>(6,768)</u>
Add opening balance April 1, 2006		<u>14,380</u>	<u>21,148</u>
Closing balance March 31, 2007		<u><u>14,674</u></u>	<u><u>14,380</u></u>
<b>CONTINGENCY FUND</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
Insurance contributions		58,230	62,410
Interest	1	<u>0</u>	<u>1,020</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Insurance payments		54,942	64,258
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		<u>3,288</u>	<u>(828)</u>
Add opening balance April 1, 2006		<u>30,178</u>	<u>31,006</u>
Closing balance March 31, 2007		<u><u>33,466</u></u>	<u><u>30,178</u></u>

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH, 2007

	Notes	2007 \$	2006 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Bendigo Bank Cash Management Trading Account		135,951	0
Cheque account - Commonwealth Bank		0	14,650
Deposit account - Commonwealth Bank		0	43,884
Deposit account - ANZ V2 Plus		<u>0</u>	<u>65,195</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Sundry creditors	6	1,222	1,076
Other liabilities	7	<u>14,720</u>	<u>12,955</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>120,009</u>	109,698
<b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Equipment		37,047	33,542
Less provision for depreciation		(31,465)	(30,045)
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<u>125,592</u>	<u>113,195</u>
<b>MEMBERSHIP FUNDS</b>			
General Fund	10	15,000	68,637
Search and Rescue Fund		14,000	14,380
Contingency Fund	8	33,000	30,178
Future Projects Fund	9	63,592	0
		<u>125,592</u>	<u>113,195</u>

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

### 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 2007 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 2007 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  
21 May 2007  
Melbourne

## INSURANCE

It has been a pretty uneventful year with no issues such as temporary membership raising its head.

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. Unfortunately Howard is stepping down this year and I wish him luck with his future endeavours. I look forward to working with his replacement.

### 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.

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 \$5.25 per member, a decrease of 60 cents on the 05/06 year. 6,601 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.

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 \$3.90 per member, an increase of 10 cents on the 05/06 year. 6,128 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. This policy also covers property owned by interstate federations and clubs. Bushwalking Victoria's share of the premium was \$677.44.

### Professional Indemnity Cover

Bushwalking Victoria has been investigating this form of cover throughout the year. They have sourced a product designed specifically for incorporated non profit organisations but at this stage no final decision has been made.

### Claims 2006- 07

**P&PL** - No claims notified so far.

#### PA - Claims 2006

5 claims were lodged for Victorian clubs this year:

- Fractured wrist – Cost \$8.00 – Now closed
- Fractured wrist – Cost \$0.00 – Now closed
- Torn ligament – Cost \$100.00 – Now closed
- Sore knee – Cost \$450.00 – Still Open
- DVT - Cost \$2,000.00 – Still Open

**Property** – No claims notified so far.

**David Gordon**  
Insurance Convener

## PUBLICATIONS

The publication committee's flagship, the *Walksafe* booklet continues to be in strong demand. Hopefully this means that more and more people who set out to enjoy the bush are better equipped to do so.

7000 copies of the revised *Bushwalking Make a Start* pamphlet are now available. Member clubs are welcome to use the blank space on the back of the pamphlet to stamp their club contact details for distribution in their local "catchment" areas.

At the 2006 Federation Walk *Bright and Beyond* we took the opportunity to publish a flier promoting recent VicWalk achievements to individual members of clubs.

Along with the recent restructure of the *Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs* to the new *Bushwalking Victoria*, the

standing committees have also taken the opportunity to revisit their operation and role within the organisation. In this light, the board and the publications committee are considering replacing the current format of the monthly newsletter with a more generally appealing quarterly magazine, plus an electronic/mail bulletin for quick and concise dissemination of information and relevant news to member clubs.

I have enjoyed my years working with VicWalk, beginning as a club delegate, then as the inaugural vice president and more recently as convener of the publications committee. I wish my successor and the new Board an equally rewarding time in the years to come.

**Claire Garrett**  
Publications Convener

# BUSHWALKERS SEARCH & RESCUE



Bushwalkers Search and Rescue (BSAR) had another very quiet year. While there were no searches, specialist skills were honed on the practices.

John Retchford retired from BSAR in November 2006 after more than 45 years of service as a searcher, Field Organiser (for 28 years), Police Liaison Officer and more recently Membership Secretary. John contributed to the BSAR Manuals and helped organise a number of practices. BSAR is indebted to John for his longstanding and outstanding contributions.

BSAR lost another of its long serving members when Peter Dunbar passed away on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2007. Peter's involvement in search and rescue began in the mid-1950's and continued for 45 years to his retirement at BSAR's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He served as searcher, practice organiser and Field Organiser, but is probably best remembered for his contribution as Police Liaison Officer, a position he held for over twenty years.

BSAR held a successful autumn practice at Wombat State Forest on 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> April 2006. Twenty-three members and potential members attended from Melbourne, Ballarat and Bendigo. Four members of Police SAR participated and three members of the Police Communications section manned communications on the Saturday. Saturday's activity was participation in the Clearwater Capers 12 hour Rogaine organised by the Victorian Rogaining Association (VRA). Sunday's training was a little less strenuous with workshops, on stretcher building, line searching and use of GPS, just near the camp.

BSAR's Steep Snow and Ice and Ski Skills training weekend for 2006 was held at Mount Hotham on the 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> September. Twelve BSAR members, of which three were from the Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club, together with one member from SES participated in a successful practice. The main goals of revising and practicing both steep snow and ice and skiing techniques were covered. Hospitality and assistance of the Mount Hotham Ski Patrol and support from Mount Hotham Skiing Company and Mount Hotham Resort Management were important contributions to the success of the practice. Police SAR members, Tim James and Don McConnell, provided the ice instruction.

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

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

*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 John Retchford and Jenny Sykes. Thanks to Ren, John and Jenny for their commitment to ensuring that BTL kept BSAR members informed.

John Retchford undertook the important role of Membership Secretary and made some improvements to the layout of the call out list. The task of keeping the list current is key in ensuring the effectiveness of a call-out. To ensure call-outs are conducted efficiently and effectively, Delegates provided the Membership Secretary with regular updates. John managed the task of coordinating and updating the list despite personal circumstances that made this task difficult and BSAR is extremely grateful for his perseverance. John stepped down from the role in November 2006 and Rik Head volunteered to act as Interim Membership Secretary pending discussions with the Bushwalking Victoria Board seeking this role to be undertaken in a paid capacity.

Neil Weatherill continued his diligent support to the BSAR Committee in minuting its meetings and Rik Head regularly updated the BSAR website. BSAR Equipment Officer, Chris Jarvis, completed the review of storage requirements, in consultation with the BSAR Committee, and made several recommendations that have now been implemented.

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 involvement at practices contributes to maintaining the good working relationships between the organisations. We look forward to the ongoing collaboration and mutual support.

The 292 dedicated people involved in BSAR are what make it unique. Twenty-five clubs contributed 220 searchers and 66 club contacts to help maintain this specialised, volunteer community service and are to be congratulated. Estimated volunteer hours contributed to the running of BSAR totalled 1,629 for the year. Despite being substantially lower than last year as there were no searches, it still a significant contribution the BSAR makes to the community.

I'd like to thank everyone in the BSAR community: the searchers, club contacts, PLOs and FOs, for their contributions over the past year and especially the Committee that provides such wonderful support.

**Monica Chapman**  
Convener



# BUSHWALKING ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

(Formerly VicWalk Conservation Tracks & Huts Committee)

We saw in late 2006 the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs Inc (VicWalk) change its name to Bushwalking Victoria and we similarly followed after some discussion to change the name of our committee to Bushwalking Environment Committee. The name change more suitably reflects what we have been about in the past and what our direction is for the future.

Our monthly meetings in South Yarra have averaged approximately 15 participants who eagerly discuss and debate many relevant issues.

Several submissions have been made to Parks Victoria in response to Draft Management Plans and Management Plans issued, and to the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and Environment Protection Authority (EPA) on matters appropriate to our committee. Mount Hotham's proposed redevelopment was also represented by us to protect bushwalker's amenities.

We have also been actively involved in many Community Group meetings of which an important ongoing issue is the Trail Bike issue state-wide.

Bushwalking Victoria Conservation Policy – small changes have been made during the past year with a full review to be completed shortly.

Track Maintenance Group has been an area with good attendances at events with another activity – Mossbed Rehabilitation on the Bogong High Plains being popular and which will continue as an important event.

Grants – An area not previously visited by the committee was applying for Community Grants. In the last year we

applied for five grants to assist in maintaining our walking areas and were successful in obtaining four. Three of these were provided by Parks Victoria with the fourth one being an extremely important Federal Government grant of \$ 33,000 for Mossbed Rehabilitation Works to be carried out in the period 2007 – October 2008.

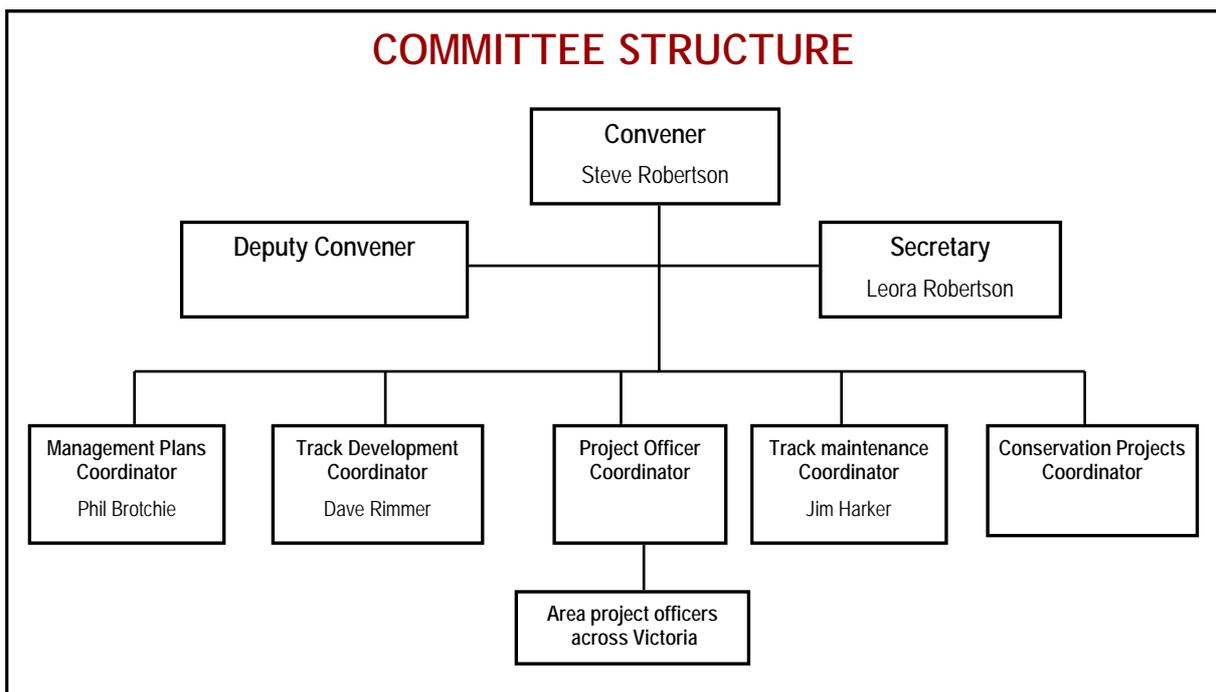
Club Help – it has been encouraging and pleasing to note an increasing support from Clubs on the information they provide to us, and their attendances at numerous meetings with appropriate feedback then forwarded onto us.

Bushwalking Area protected – with another election, more areas have been added to our Parks System. This is great news with over 17% of our state now in our Parks System.

Restructure of committee – At our March meeting a decision was made to restructure our committee with specific new roles created to make us more effective for our Clubs' members in the future. This restructure will benefit on the spreading of roles rather than the possible reliance on the Convener of its operating capacity which in turn will ensure the committee's maximum ongoing involvement. This process is currently underway with appropriate people being placed in available positions.

I thank all my committee members and clubs as well as the Bushwalking Victoria Board for their contribution and support to me. In particular, I thank Dave Rimmer, Phil Brotchie, Jim Harker, Bill Metzenthien and the many others for their invaluable help.

**Steven Robertson**  
Convener



# FEDERATION WALKS

## General

Over the last 3 years efforts have been made to improve both the information available to clubs organising this annual event, and the resultant quality of the event. Specifically, a detailed manual has been made available, and direct input from previous organisers has been made available to subsequent organising committees.

## 2006 Federation Walk

2006 saw the holding of the 68<sup>th</sup> event since the first in 1936. It was attended by the largest number of people in recent years, and the location, walks, facilities, and activities were all well received. Good fortune also smiled on the event in that it was held in between snow and fires on either side of the event. The organising clubs included Border Bushwalking Club, Wangaratta Out and About Club, Benalla Bushwalking Club, and Warby Range Bushwalkers.

## 2007 Federation Walk

The Diamond Valley and Koonung Bushwalking clubs are well into the throes of organising this year's event which will be a day event based at Healesville. A range of interesting walks from a good base area can be expected.

## Recent Events

Records have only been kept for a short time in regards to attendances at recent events, and they are as follows -

YEAR	DAY / W/E	LOCATION	PARTICIPANTS	CLUBS
2003	Day	Warburton	300	22
2004	W/E	Walhalla	290	25
2005	Day	Blackwood	280	34
2006	W/E	Bright	435	35

While the apparent trend in increasing numbers is pleasing, this does have some significant ramifications for how future events may be organised.

## Effort involved in Organising each Federation Walk

The amount of effort that is needed to organise each Federation Walk depends on a number of factors including the location, facilities, and standards applied. A reasonable calculation, based on recent events, is -

Day Event – 1300 hours  
Weekend Event – 1500 hours

Federation walks are therefore well within the capacity of a large club (over 200 members) or a couple of smaller clubs together.

**Alan Clarke**  
Federation Walks Coordinator



# ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

Relocation to the new office was put on hold as completion details were put back. Finally the move took place in early May 2007. Some furniture has been purchased for the new premises.

With the move, a new VicWalk News distribution team will be formed. Till now the cheerful volunteers from the Ramblers Walking Club, Elsie Fuller, Mary Sammut and Gwen Semler, have ensured that the monthly newsletter was posted on time. My heartfelt thanks go to them for their friendship and efforts over many years.

The day to day running of the office has been maintained. However, non-compliance by some clubs to the one-off deadlines we ask for, with payment of fees, attendance at meetings and completing the questionnaires as requested by our insurance underwriters, is detrimental to the smooth running of the office.

Club committees need to review their mail/email/and gen-

eral communications coverage to allow for people not always being around to clear the clubs email and mail boxes.

Our new name, constitution, by-laws and direction for the organisation has made for a busy workload in the office. Currently we are working on a new data base to increase efficiency in handling the information we receive and to assist in our communications to you the clubs.

As well as my thanks to all who contribute to the running of the organization, I'd like to give a special mention to the outgoing Publications Convener, Claire Garrett, and secretary, Wayne Rice who have put in great efforts to promote and improve the bushwalking community. I'll miss their assistance and thank them for their input.

**Jenny Sykes**  
Administration Officer

## WEB SITE

This year we created a new web site under two domain names: vicwalk.org.au and bushwalkingvictoria.org.au. The site was professionally built and we have received favourable comments about its design and graphics including the photo gallery and banner of changing images of bushwalking in Victoria. The site is intended to provide information about Bushwalking Victoria; to be a resource for our member bushwalking clubs and individual bushwalkers in Victoria; and to provide a conduit to bushwalking clubs including their web sites.

Much of the former site's content was transferred to the

new site. New content includes "Frequently Asked Questions" and the full text of "Walk Safe" which was made screen friendly so that this very useful document can be referred to on-line as well as downloaded in booklet format.

Next year we hope to construct the Calendar and a Members Sign-in area, as well as refine and build on the work so far, including improving links and references.

**Barbara Guerin**  
Web Content Manager



## BUSHWALKING AUSTRALIA

BWA completed its third year of operation on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

### Achievements

- The Insurance Convenor from NSW, Howard Tooth, capably renewed the national insurance scheme.
- VicWalk hosted the first face-to-face meeting for presidents and delegates from all states, in June 2006. All participants agreed that the meeting has been a worthwhile exercise and that there is a role for a peak Australian body.

The key outcomes from this were:

- ◆ A clear role for BWA was identified of supporting on national issues by undertaking tasks that require a national approach or national coordination.
- ◆ Identifying desirable actions for the future for BWA and ways to fulfil them particularly in areas of communication.
- ◆ Acknowledgement that there is a problem with obtaining resources.
- ◆ Recognising that achievements have been made.

- Victorian representatives represented BWA at the Walk21 Conference in October 2006 and presented a paper on Advocacy for Recreational Walkers.
- The 2006 AGM was held via teleconferencing in March 2007.

The Council changes were:

- ◆ Wilf Hilder from NSW is the new BWA President.
- ◆ Hecate Jay from Western Australia has taken on the Secretary's role.

Marianne Watt continues as Treasurer.

Other issues arising in the AGM were

- ◆ The need for a position of Vice president.

- The communications sub committee is in the process of taking over and revamping the Website. Hecate Jay and Bill Gehling both have some experience in this area. The website is currently out of action since the move from the previous web master.

**Marianne Watt**  
BWV delegate to Bushwalking  
Australia & BWA Treasurer

# MEMBERSHIP

## Affiliate Members

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

## Associate Members

Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club Inc	Scout Bushwalkers	Victorian Rogaining Association
Cowombat Walking Club	VNPA Bushwalking Group	Victorian Rovers (Scout Association)
Melbourne University Mountaineering Club	Alpine Search & Rescue Victoria Inc	YHA Bushwalking Club
Monash Bushwalking Club Inc.	[previously Victorian Nordic Rescue Service]	

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## CLUB DELEGATES

<b>Bayside Bushwalking Club</b> Rob Berry, Susanne Clarke, David Patston	<b>Diamond Valley BWC &amp; Koonung BWC</b> Des Bain	<b>Melbourne Womens Walking Club</b> Beryl Haile, Heather Main
<b>Boroondara Bushwalkers</b> Jan Clark	<b>Great Dividing Trail Association</b> Neil Campbell	<b>Otway Ranges Walking Track Assoc</b> John Piesse
<b>Bushrangers Womens Walking Club</b> Sue Wilson, Carol Petchell	<b>Locksley Bushwalking Club</b> Barbara Guerin	<b>Rosebud Ramblers</b> Val Ford
<b>Catholic Walking Club of Victoria</b> Rob Giebels, Nick van Ewijk	<b>Maroondah Bushwalking Club</b> Steve Robertson, Syd Maddigan	<b>Victorian Mountain Tramping Club</b> Melissa Harcourt, Peter Conroy
<b>Dandenong Valley BWC</b> John Freeman	<b>Melbourne Bushwalkers</b> Fay Dunn, John Brister Bill Metzenthien	<b>Waverley Bushwalking Club</b> Don Hutton, Eileen Kerlin, Catherine Guli
<b>Essendon Bushwalking Club</b> Darren McClelland, Ron Bell, Sylvia McLean	<b>Melbourne walking Club</b> Ken Rofe	

# GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Bushwalking Victoria is an Incorporated Association and the peak body representing bushwalkers 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 general Board Members

The Board currently meets 11 times each year to review activities and make policy decisions.

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

## MANAGEMENT TEAM 2006/2007

### Office Bearers

President	David Reid	Waverley Bushwalking Club
Vice President	Jan Clark	Boroondara Bushwalking Club
Secretary	Wayne Rice	Koonung Bushwalking Club
Treasurer	Carole Petchell	Bushrangers Womens Walking Club
Assistant Secretary	Barbara Guerin	Locksley Bushwalking Club

### Conveners and Interim Board Members

Bushwalkers Search & Rescue	Monica Chapman	Maroondah Bushwalking Club
Bushwalking Environment Committee	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	Eileen Kerlin	Waverley Bushwalking Club

### Consultants

Strategy	Tony Walker	Waverley Bushwalking Club
Federation Walks	Alan Clarke	Melbourne Bushwalkers

### Others

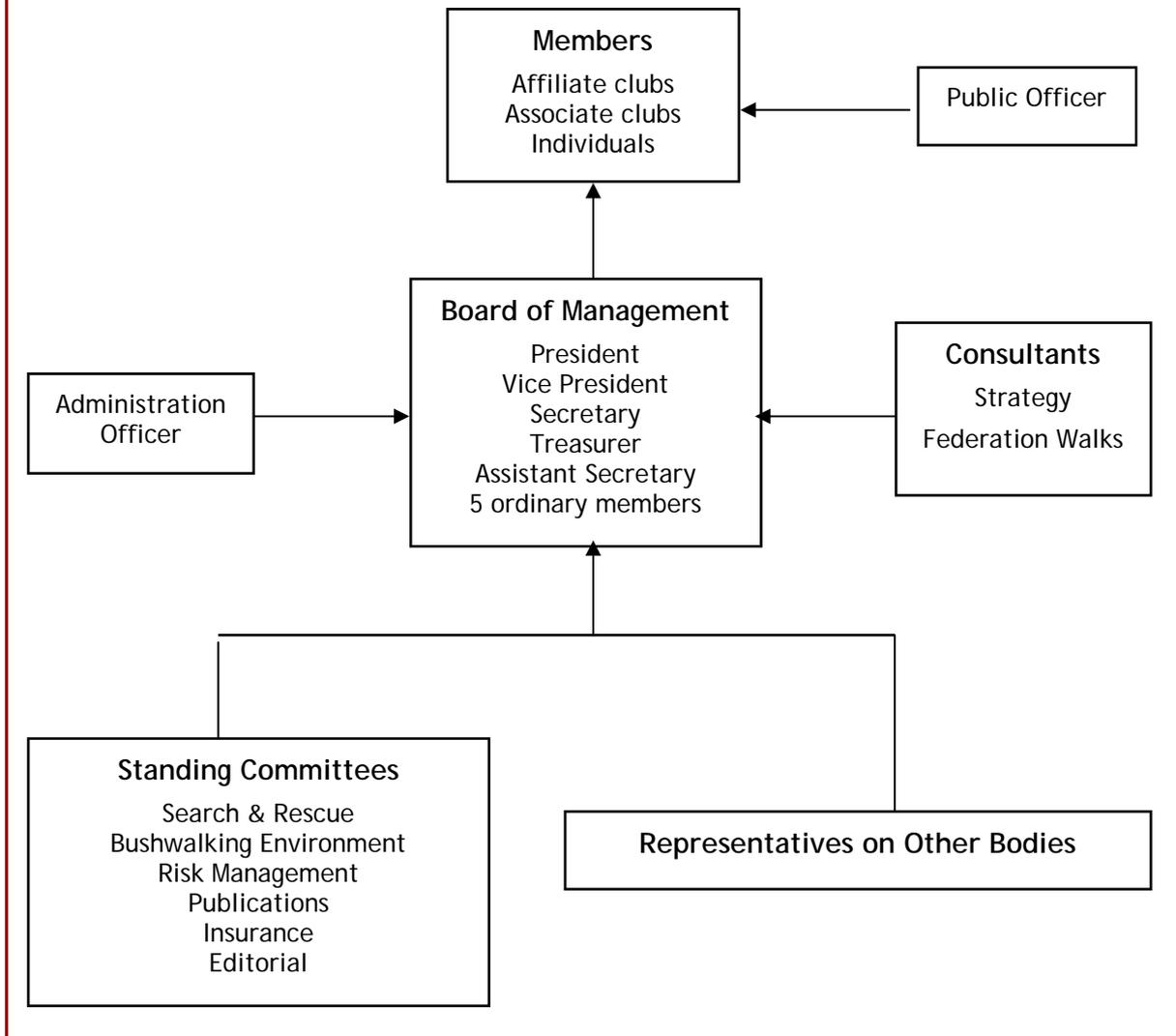
Administration Officer	Jenny Sykes	Victorian Mountain Tramping Club
Public Officer	Wayne Rice	Koonung Bushwalking Club
Auditor	Jo O'Brien	VNPA Bushwalking Group

### Representatives on Other Bodies

Bushwalking Australia	Marianne Watt	Victorian Mountain Tramping Club
Outdoor Recreation Centre	Kyle Matheson	VNPA Bushwalking Group
Nature Based Tourism Reference Group	Steve Robertson	Maroondah Bushwalking Club
Trails Classification Project Control Board	David Reid	Waverley Bushwalking Club
River Red Gum Project Reference Group	Phil Brotchie	Melbourne Walking Club
Living Links project	Tony Walker	Waverley Bushwalking Club
Otways Walking Track Strategy Group	Bernard Jordan	Geelong Bushwalking Club
AAS Technical Committee	Paul Chamings	Maroondah Bushwalking Club
Trail Bike Initiative Reference Group	Steve Robertson	Maroondah Bushwalking Club

# BUSHWALKING VICTORIA INC

## STRUCTURE AND RELATIONSHIPS



### **Bushwalking Victoria is a member of:**

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

