



At Rest: Strzelecki Bushwalking Club Photographic Competition
Strzelecki Bushwalking Club Newsletter, June 2013, Vol 22, Issue 11

Contributions

Email or post news, views, club profiles, articles, photographs, sketches and letters on any subject of interest to bushwalkers (subject to editorial approval) to:

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The statements and opinions expressed in articles are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views or position of Bushwalking Victoria.

Editor: Joslin Guest

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WALKING AND TALKING WITH THE BUSHWALKING VICTORIA PRESIDENT

This is my first column as the new President of Bushwalking Victoria, and I want to begin with a short review of the past year, during which I was Bushwalking Victoria's Vice President and focussed almost exclusively on the strategic review the Board had authorised.



During the year, I became more and more aware of the immense amount of work being done by Chris Towers. Chris worked long and hard for the cause of bushwalking, in which he believes passionately. He did far more than would normally be expected of an unpaid president, and we all owe him a great deal. Without seeming boastful, Bushwalking Victoria is seen as a national leader in Australian bushwalking, and the initiatives and projects Chris (ably assisted by his wife Elaine) has driven and delivered are a major contributor to this perception.

I am extremely fortunate to have Chris continuing to serve on the Board as Vice President, and knowing that he will be there as a guide and mentor while I have training wheels on is a great comfort.

Bushwalking Victoria Board

David Reid, a long-standing member of the Bushwalking Victoria Board did not renominate for 2013. David has made an enormous contribution to Bushwalking Victoria over the years. As many of you know, he has been unwell recently, but we hope and expect David will continue to be involved – as a consultant in the many areas in which he has strong expertise.

There are two new Board members. Charlie Ablitt is known to many of you through his work on tracks and trails. Last year he was appointed the Conservation and Track Maintenance Project Officer, in which role he continues. He brings his expertise and knowledge about bushwalking infrastructure and his interest in tracks and trails development to the Board. Robyn Shingles hails from the LaTrobe Valley. She is an accountant by profession, and has been a keen bushwalker for over 25 years. She is a member of the Strzelecki Bushwalking Club.

I am very pleased that Megan Major, Fred Bover, John Creaser, Val Wake, Terry Sydes and Chris Towers will continue on the Board in 2013. All of them were valuable and valued Board members in 2012-13. On the executive, Fred Bover will continue as Secretary; John Creaser has become Treasurer, replacing Val Wake; and Chris Towers has become Vice President.

Non-Board Positions

Dave Rimmer has stepped down as Manager, Bushwalking Environment (BEC). Dave has made a huge contribution to Bushwalking Victoria over the years in many roles (including Federation President). I am very pleased that Dave will continue to help us with his knowledge and skills. Megan Major, a Board member, will be the new BEC Manager.

In two other important non-Board positions, Elaine Towers, who had already taken on the role of Strategic Consultant, has agreed to continue in that role in 2013-14; Peter Campbell will also continue as BSAR Convenor.

All of these people have given excellent service to Bushwalking Victoria already, and I think we have a very strong team going into 2013-14.

Strategic Plan

At the Leadership Forum, which was held at Templestowe Valley Primary School on July 15, we discussed the Bushwalking Victoria Strategic Plan for the next 5+ years. The Plan is the result of 18 months of research and work by a team of four people – Elaine Towers, David Reid, John Creaser and myself. The Board assisted and encouraged us throughout, and Chris Towers in particular has been deeply involved in creating the final product.

The word 'strategic' tends to put many people off – it smacks of corporate 'business speak', but to me it means looking ahead beyond the next hill to see where we ultimately want to be. Unless we have a long-term goal clearly in mind, we can't plot a course to get there.

When we looked at where we are now and where we'd like to be, three things stood out right away.

➤ Bushwalking

We need to tell the world why bushwalking is a good thing to do. Bushwalking has a lot of things going for it that are obvious to us but which the wider community doesn't really 'get'. We know it's healthy, fun, socially positive, promotes wellbeing and combats depression. You can do it at any age, and (mostly) whenever you like. It is inclusive – virtually everybody in Victoria can participate. It has also a lot of positive 'doesn'ts'. It doesn't need sportsgrounds or elaborate infrastructure, it doesn't involve fixed commitments to a competition or league, and it doesn't require expensive equipment.

In a society where obesity is an ongoing and ever growing problem, bushwalking is a great way of improving lifestyle.

But, bushwalking has a peculiarly mixed image in Australia. For many people, it is seen as being out in the wilderness for 10 days carrying a huge pack with a group of elderly men with checked shirts, beards and of dubious hygiene!

The fact that most bushwalking is done through day walks, in our beautiful parks and reserves and within 150kms of Melbourne or one of Victoria's regional centres is not well enough known.

The great opportunities provided by our bushwalking clubs is also not well enough known. Many times I have heard the comment 'I just didn't realise what the bushwalking club could offer me' or 'I wish I had joined 10 years earlier.'

In short we need to tell the world that bushwalking is a great and enjoyable activity, and that our clubs are a great way (although not the only way) to experience it. Over the next few years, Bushwalking Victoria plans to spend quite a bit of time and effort on conveying these messages as widely as we can.

➤ **Bushwalking Environment**

We need to convince Victorian land managers (predominantly Victorian Government instrumentalities) that bushwalking is an important and popular pastime. We need to be able to show a vision of what tracks, trails and facilities we would like to see developed, and why. We want to be in a position to respond clearly and positively, and at a strategic level, when a Victorian land manager asks us what track development should occur in a given region. We do have some potential allies. The Victorian Tracks and Trails (Parliamentary) Committee is working on a strategy designed to increase walking tourism (particularly from overseas and interstate). They want visitors from Europe, America, Asia and elsewhere to come to Victoria to walk – as they do to New Zealand. To achieve this, they need an increased focus on walking tracks and trails; and that focus can only benefit us as bushwalkers, too.

We want a situation where Victoria has world-class walking opportunities in a variety of environments being enjoyed by more people.

The Victorian Government has a stated commitment to fostering active participation in sport and recreation as part of a healthy society, and we have an opportunity to tell them clearly how we fit in to that picture.

➤ **Bushwalking Victoria and its member clubs**

Thirdly, but not least, we need to work towards helping ourselves and our clubs to grow and evolve. This does not mean Bushwalking Victoria telling clubs what to do, but it does mean developing facilities and ‘enablers’ to help clubs be what they want to be. As an example, some clubs have very well developed leader training courses and materials; other clubs struggle with leadership training. Bushwalking Victoria should develop/source material to help those clubs that are having difficulty to training leaders. This doesn’t imply any move to force clubs to undertake training they don’t want or any move towards formal accreditation of leaders (to lay to rest a very old and hoary furphy!). Other areas – such as interacting with the media, and membership recruitment and growth – may be of interest to some clubs.

Other parts of the Strategic Plan focus on trying to get sponsorship/support from new sources; our valuable contribution towards community good through BSAR; walking safety information and walking etiquette; and our interaction with other bushwalking and outdoor activities peak bodies.

We have had a strong and positive reaction to Where2Walk from government and non-club bushwalkers. And we need to continue to develop this great initiative for the benefit of all bushwalkers, particularly those in our clubs. We want to work with other organisations towards a ‘one-stop-shop’ for bushwalking information.

There’s much more I could say but a copy of the Strategic Plan has been made available to all affiliated clubs and is available for download from the Governance page of the Bushwalking Victoria website at

<http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/governance.html>

You are very welcome to read and comment on it and give us feedback.

What Happens Next

We are now working on the process of turning the Strategic Plan into actual initiatives and actions. To make this happen, we are making some changes to how the Bushwalking Victoria Board works. Basically, we will start moving towards a ‘portfolio’ approach, where each Board member will have a specific set of activities to focus on, and will develop the plans, actions and resources needed to make them happen.

In next month’s article, I will ask each Board member to introduce themselves and explain what they will be doing to implement the Strategic Plan.

Achievement Awards

For me, the high point of the Leadership Forum and AGM was the presentation of Bushwalking Victoria awards to eight wonderful people – Duncan Brookes, Monica Chapman, John Petheram, Richard Piesse, David Reid, John Retchford, Dave Rimmer, and Merv Trease, all whom have done great work on behalf of bushwalking over many years. Seeing these people and hearing of their accomplishments made me feel rather humble. Congratulations and thanks to them all from the whole bushwalking community. See also page 7.

Tony Walker
President, Bushwalking Victoria



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SWING TO THE BEAT OF BUSHWAHZEE

Bushwalking and bush dancing have more in common than a connection with the bush. Both appeal to the young at heart, and what better way to get the heart pumping and keep out the winter chills than to swing to the beat of Melbourne's renowned bush band, Bushwahzee.

Talk with your friends and join with Melbourne Bushwalkers for a great night of music, dancing and convivial company at its semi-regular bush dance:

Saturday 7 September
St Oswald's Hall
96 High Street
Glen Iris.

Members of all Bushwalking Victoria affiliated clubs are welcome.

Ticket cost: \$20 per person.

BYO plate to share & drinks.



Enquiries and bookings can be directed to bushdance@mbw.org.au

FURTHER REDUNDANCIES AT PARKS VICTORIA

The Victorian Government will shed 60 further Parks Victoria personnel, after last year's round of redundancy failed to achieve its target of 120 redundancies. This cut is on top of the recently announced job cuts at the Department of Sustainability and Environment and the Department of Primary Industries. It seems that the cuts will affect rangers and field personnel in the regions rather than managers at head office.

A spokesman for the Community and Public Sector Union, Julian Kennelly, said the cuts could see many parks without staff and that some parks may be closed to the public.

It is unclear how the cuts will affect access, invasive weed and pest control programs, fire responsiveness or the availability of various park services, with claims and counter-claims from the Government, the Opposition and the affected union.

Either way, staff reductions that affect rangers, field officers or planners adversely affect land managers' ability to maintain, let alone improve, track and park facilities and amenity. It seems a perverse decision when a stated aim of the Victorian government is to increase tourism in Victoria's parks and regions.

Editor

FIRST AID TRAINING

All bushwalkers, and particularly leaders, are encouraged to undertake training in First Aid. Melbourne Bushwalkers extend an invitation to members of all bushwalking clubs to join us in an 'Outdoor Special Course' conducted by the First Aid Management & Training Centre (<http://www.firstaidmanagement.com.au/>).

Saturday 3rd August 2013, 8:30 am to 4:40 pm
First Aid Management & Training Centre
Suite 6, 476 Canterbury Rd, Forest Hill (near Brentford Square Shopping Centre)

Specially designed to suit the needs of bushwalkers and other outdoor activity groups, this full day course is a great opportunity to gain a First Aid Certificate at little cost.

The course includes:

- performing CPR
- care of the unconscious casualty
- infection control
- asthma, choking, heart attack
- bleeding, shock, allergic reaction
- burns, eye injuries
- extremes of heat and cold
- bites and stings (including use of snake bandages)
- lifting techniques
- bandaging procedures.



Full cost is \$85. However, members of affiliated bushwalking clubs are eligible for a Bushwalking Victoria subsidy which can be arranged through their own club.

Numbers are limited and bookings are essential. Enquiries and bookings: firstaid@mbw.org.au

FEDERATION DAY WALK 2013, SUNDAY 13 OCTOBER

What is Federation Day?

Clubs affiliated with Bushwalking Victoria hold an annual Federation Walks Day or Weekend. Each year a different club takes responsibility for organising the event. This year Boroondara Bushwalkers Inc (BBI) is the host.

The Walks

BBI is offering 23 walks in the beautiful Western Gorges area, about 70 to 100km west of Melbourne. The nearest large town is Bacchus Marsh. The hub for the event will be the Community Hall in the hamlet of Myrning. Check-in for the walks will be at the hub.

There will be 4 Easy grade, 4 Easy-Medium, 12 Medium and 3 Medium-Hard walks spread over 5 parks.



Descriptions of these walks are available from the [BBI website](#), as well as an insert to this issue of *Bushwalking News Victoria*.

Registration

Registration opens on 1 August and closes on 13 September 2013.

Clubs are requested to appoint an Event Coordinator. The coordinator's role is to coordinate all registrations for their club and to be responsible for sending the forms and payment to Boroondara Bushwalkers. Club members must direct their registration through their club's coordinator. To avoid delaying registration, bookings will be accepted in two batches if necessary.

Individual members of Bushwalking Victoria need to complete the relevant forms (see also *Lodging Registration*) and quote their Bushwalking Victoria member number.

Registration Fee

The registration fee is \$20 per person. It covers the cost of carpooling, a detailed walk description with full-colour map, and afternoon tea.

Walk Preferences

Each person is to nominate a first, second, third and fourth preferences on Part A of the Registration Form. Every

attempt will be made to meet walkers' preferences; however the principle of 'first-come, first-processed' will apply.

Lodging Registrations

The Event Coordinator may lodge registrations electronically or by mail using Forms A and B as applicable. The forms can be downloaded from the BBI website at <http://www.boroondarabushwalkers.org.au/>

Each registration batch from clubs should be accompanied by a single cheque from the club. If the registration is lodged electronically, attach a copy of the email to the cheque. Registration will only be accepted when full payment has been made.

Mail completed forms and cheques (payable to Boroondara Bushwalkers Inc) to:

Federation Walk 2013 Coordinator
Boroondara Bushwalkers Inc
PO Box 355 Kew 3101

The email address for electronic registration is

Federationdaywalk2013@gmail.com

Refunds

No refunds will be made after the close of registration on Friday, 13 September 2013.

Confirmation of Walk Allocations

Club Event Coordinators will receive written confirmation of walk allocations, including confirmation of check-in times, walk departure times and other relevant information. This information will be provided by email a few days after close of registration.

Other Matters

Carpooling: Transport to and from the walk start/finish will be via carpooling. Drivers will be reimbursed at a set rate.

Personal first aid: Walkers must carry a first aid kit.

Accommodation: Participants should make their own arrangements. Information about available accommodation is available from the [BBI website](#).

Contact Information

All information regarding the event is provided via links on the Boroondara Bushwalkers and Bushwalking Victoria (BWV) websites.

BBI: <http://www.boroondarabushwalkers.org.au/> and click on the menu item **Federation Day Walk 2013**. The site will be updated progressively.

Email : Federationdaywalk2013@gmail.com



BRIEF WALK DESCRIPTIONS

EASY GRADE WALKS

Walk #1

Lerderderg Gorge Sketchers Walk

Walk name:- 1. Lerderderg Gorge Sketchers Walk	Park:- Lerderderg State Park
This walk from Mackenzies Flat to Grahams Dam is designed specifically for walkers interested in sketching, and will be led by an experienced artist. It provides an opportunity to sketch magnificent trees, rocky outcrops, cliff faces and river pools.	
Sketchers are to supply their own art materials. All art material must fit into your pack.	
Items required: A4 to A3 sketchbook (220 gsm preferable), charcoal (thick and thin), Staedtler Mars plastic eraser, pencils--sketch and wash graphic pencil with small brush--and a plastic water container. Optional items: watercolours, pens, kneadable eraser.	
Leader will supply charcoal fixative.	
1.5hrs of walking, not including breaks or sketching time.	
Grade:- Easy	Walk check-in closes at:- 10.00am
Walk type:- Return	Departs hub at:- 10.30am
Walk start/end:- McKenzies Flat	Distance from hub:- 20km
	Car shuffle distance:- Nil

Walk #2

Lerderderg River Heritage Walk

Walk name:- 2. Lerderderg River Heritage Walk	Park:- Wombat State Forest
A pretty walk, mainly on old water races beside the upper reaches of the Lerderderg River to the site of the old Crown Dam. The return is along a slightly different route on the same side of the river. There are some great views of the river and nearby hills. There will be time to admire the beautiful forest and lovely stonework on the races. Crosses several small creeks via bridges; otherwise an easy hop. Walking poles useful. 100m change in elevation.	
3hrs of walking, not including breaks.	
Grade:- Easy	Walk check-in closes at:- 10.00am
Walk type:- Circuit	Departs hub at:- 10.30am
Walk start/end:- Jack Cann Reserve, Blackwood	Distance from hub:- 20km
	Car shuffle distance:- Nil

Walk #3

Mt Blackwood-Lohs Lane Circuit Photographers Walk

Walk name:- 3. Mt Blackwood-Lohs Lane Circuit	Park:- Lerderderg State Park
This walk is led by a keen photographer and showcases the delights of Lerderderg, but with none of the steep climbs. It is based around a circuit of Mount Blackwood, an extinct volcano that overlooks the Lerderderg Gorge. There are side-trips to explore the easy sections of Chadwick Tk (return) and Ah Kow Tk (return). Highlights are the extensive views to Melbourne and You Yangs etc and into the gorge, old growth manna gums, old farm buildings/equipment and wildflowers. Bring your camera.	
On track except for the easy descent of Mt Blackwood and a flat walk along Grassy Easement, a fence line is followed through a paddock. Some road walking. 150m change in elevation.	
2.5hrs of walking, not including breaks.	
Grade:- Easy	Walk check-in closes at:- 10.15am
Walk type:- Circuit	Departs hub at:- 10.45am
Walk start/end:- Junction of Mt Blackwood Rd and Tower Tk	Distance from hub:- 10km
	Car shuffle distance:- Nil

Walk #4

Whipstick Loop Walk

Walk name:- 4. Whipstick Loop Walk	Park:- Wombat State Forest
A very enjoyable undulating walk through forest, with only minor climbing. The walk follows old water races near Back and Whipstick Cks between the old gold towns of Blackwood and Simmonds Reef. The area's mining history is visible: water races, old mine shafts etc. Over this short walk, the forest varies between dry open forest, tall eucalypts and tree ferns, and manna gums candlebarks and blackwoods. All on track. Some road walking. 100m change in elevation. Four easy creek crossings.	
3hrs of walking, not including breaks.	
Grade:- Easy	Walk check-in closes at:- 10.00am
Walk type:- Circuit	Departs hub at:- 10.30am
Walk start/end:- Blackwood township	Distance from hub:- 20km
	Car shuffle distance:- Nil

EASY MEDIUM GRADE WALKS

Walk #5

Blackwood and Shaws Lake Historical Walk

Walk name:- 5. Blackwood and Shaws Lake Historical Walk	Park:- Lerderderg State Park
This interesting walk visits many of the features of the historic gold mining township of Blackwood. The walk passes the site of the Chinese village, Blackwood cemetery, churches, the pub and shops. On the outskirts, the walk passes through the Blackwood mineral springs on the Lerderderg River, and loops around Shaws Lake before returning to the start point.	
4hrs of walking, not including breaks. All on track.	
Grade:- Easy Medium	Walk check-in closes at:- 10.00am
Walk type:- Circuit	Departs hub at:- 10.30am
Walk start/end:- Blackwood Recreation Reserve	Distance from hub:- 20km
	Car shuffle distance:- Nil

Walk #6

Sugarloaf and Antimony Mines

Walk name:- 6. Sugarloaf and Antimony Mine	Park:- Pyrete Range, Lerderderg State Park
This walk starts with the ascent and return descent of Mt Sugarloaf. A pretty creek is followed to the site of an old antimony mine. During the walk a gully is crossed on a wide wire-mesh 4WD bridge (which, however, can be avoided). At the historic mine there are lots of artifacts to explore. All on track. The return to the start point is by a slightly different path.	
All on track. One ascent and descent. 200m change in elevation.	
4.5hrs of walking, not including breaks.	
Grade:- Easy Medium	Walk check-in closes at:- 8:30am
Walk type:- Circuit	Walk distance:- 12km
Walk start/endi:- Antimony Mine Road, Coimadai	Departs hub at:- 9:00am
	Distance from hub:- 26km
	Car shuffle distance:- Nil

Walk #7

Ted Errey Nature Circuit

Walk name:- 7. Ted Errey Nature Circuit	Park:- Brisbane Ranges National Park
An interesting walk with a little climbing. This walk has only recently re-opened after the flood damage two years ago. The Ted Errey nature circuit includes interpretive signs about the rich flora along the route. Four lookouts provide views over the flat plains to Port Phillip Bay and to the rugged hills of the goldfields. Part of the walk follows the Stony Ck through scenic and twisting Anakie Gorge. Mostly on clearly defined tracks. 150m change in elevation. A number of easy crossings of Stony Ck.	
4hrs of walking, not including breaks.	
Grade:- Easy Medium	Walk check-in closes at:- 9:00am
Walk type:- Circuit	Walk distance:- 12.2km
Walk start/endi:- Anakie Gorge picnic area	Departs hub at:- 9:30am
	Distance from hub:- 55km
	Car shuffle distance:- Nil

Walk #8

Werribee Gorge Lookouts

Walk name:- 8. Werribee Gorge Lookouts	Park:- Werribee Gorge State Park
This short walk takes in three of Werribee Gorge's best lookouts, with views into the gorge and across the surrounding countryside. The walk descends into the valley to include a section of the aqueduct track at the base of the spectacular Werribee Gorge. There will be ample time to enjoy the views and to get an appreciation of some of the geological processes that have been at work in the area. All on track, some rough surfaces and narrow footpads. There are a few short steep ascents and descents. 150m change in elevation. 3hrs of walking, not including stops to admire the views and other breaks.	
Grade:- Easy Medium	Walk check-in closes at:- 10:00am
Walk type:- Car shuffle	Walk distance:- 7km
Walk start:- Quarry car park	Departs hub at:- 10:30am
Walk end:- Meikles Point picnic area	Distance from hub:- 10km
	Car shuffle distance:- 2km

MEDIUM GRADE WALKS

Walk #9

Centenary Walk and The Island

Walk name:- 9. Centenary Walk and The Island	Park:- Werribee Gorge State Park
A walk through attractive yellow gum woodland to an isolated volcanic hill between Myrmiong Ck and the Werribee River. The walk starts at Meikles Point picnic area, goes up to Quarry picnic area, and along the Centenary Tk west to the junction of Werribee River and Myrmiong Ck. Then a steep climb up to The Island Lookout. The return is along the Centenary Tk and the Short Circuit Walk. All on formed tracks. Four steep ascents and descents. 230m change in elevation. Need to cross Myrmiong Ck near Junction Pool. Walking poles useful.	
4hrs of walking, not including breaks.	
Grade:- Medium	Walk check-in closes at:- 9:00am
Walk type:- Circuit	Walk distance:- 10.8km
Walk start/endi:- Meikles Point car park	Departs hub at:- 9:30am
	Distance from hub:- 10km
	Car shuffle distance:- Nil

Walk #10

East Walk

Walk name:- 10. East Walk	Park:- Lerderderg State Park
This is one of the Lerderderg's most popular walks. The walks starts with a steep climb up and then ??? down Shortcut Track, and then along O'Briens Rd to Cowan Tk. The descent of Cowan Tk becomes increasingly steeper the closer it gets to Lerderderg River. The final section follows the scenic East Tk back to O'Briens Crossing. East Tk is a footpad with frequent rocky sections; there are many obstacles—fallen trees and log jams—to negotiate, the evidence of serious and dramatic floods. All on track, except for the need to detour around obstacles across the track. Some road walking. 250m change in elevation. A steep ascent and two steep descents. Walking poles useful.	
5.25hrs of walking, not including breaks.	
Grade:- Medium	Walk check-in closes at:- 8:15am
Walk type:- Circuit	Walk distance:- 13.4km
Walk start/endi:- O'Briens Crossing	Departs hub at:- 8:30am
	Distance from hub:- 20km
	Car shuffle distance:- Nil

Walk #11

Geocache Walk

Walk name:- 11. Geocache Walk	Park:- Lerderderg State Park
This walk, combines bushwalking with 'treasure hunting'. GPS and other navigational techniques will be used to find hidden trinkets or other items of little value. The aim is to find, not to keep; when a 'cache' is found the log is signed and the item placed back exactly where it was found.	
The geocache walk is based around the Whiskey Creek Circuit Walk. 5-6 geocaches to be found.	
Mainly on track, which include footpads. Some off-track. 250m change in elevation. River crossing; expect wet feet.	
5hrs walking, not including breaks and time needed to find the caches.	
Grade:- Medium	Walk check-in closes at:- 8:15am
Walk type:- Circuit	Walk distance:- 12km
Walk start/endi:- Square Bottle Tk	Departs hub at:- 8:30am
	Distance from hub:- 10km
	Car shuffle distance:- Nil

Walk #12

Grass Tree Walk

Walk name:- 12. Grass Tree Walk	Park:- Brisbane Ranges National Park
Part of this interesting walk is a section of the 3-day Burchell Trail. Most of the walk is on quiet vehicle tracks through undulating woodland with an understorey of grass trees. Of interest are old slate quarries, good views and a little gorge. All on track. There is a short steep descent into the gorge and then a climb out. The river crossing is via a bridge. 100m change of elevation and a series of small ascents and descents toward the end of the walk. Walking poles useful.	
5hrs of walking, not including breaks.	
Grade:- Medium	Walk check-in closes at:- 8:30am
Walk type:- Circuit	Departs hub at:- 8:45am
Walk start/endi:- Boar Gully camping ground	Distance from hub:- 30km
	Car shuffle distance:- Nil

Walk #13

Green Gully Walk

Walk name:- 13. Green Gully Walk	Park:- Wombat State Forest
This walk samples the varied scenery and mining relics of the upper reaches of the Lerderderg River. The walk includes a climb to Fosters Lookout. After descending to the Lerderderg River, there is a pleasant stroll along a water race above the river.	
5.25hrs of walking, not including breaks. All on track. 325m change in elevation. River crossing.	
Grade:- Medium	Walk check-in closes at:- 8:30am
Walk type:- Circuit	Departs hub at:- 8:45am
Walk start/endi:- Blackwood Recreation Reserve	Distance from hub:- 20km
	Car shuffle distance:- Nil

Walk #14

Razorback and Lower Chadwick Tracks

Walk name:- 14. Razorback and Lower Chadwick Tracks	Park:- Lerderderg State Park
A walk in one of the more remote sections of Lerderderg Gorge. Razorback Tk is a pretty spur down to the Lerderderg River. The Lerderderg River is then followed with several crossings from side to side to McKenzie Camp. There is then a climb out of the gorge via McKenzie and Lower Chadwick Tks with lovely views into the gorge from these attractive tracks. After a crossing a stile, Mt Blackwood is ascended—giving with 360° views from the top—before returning to Square Bottle Tk. Route includes formed tracks, footpads, river walking and a paddock; some road walking at end. A steep descent to the river, with a steep ascent out of the gorge and another to Mt Blackwood. 400m change in elevation. Numerous river crossings; expect wet feet.	
6hrs of walking, not including breaks.	
Grade:- Medium	Walk check-in closes at:- 8:15am
Walk type:- Circuit	Departs hub at:- 8:30am
Walk start/endi:- Square Bottle Tk	Distance from hub:- 10km
	Car shuffle distance:- Nil

Walk #15

Sardine and Clear Water Creeks and The Tunnel

Walk name:- 15. Sardine and Clear-water Creeks and The Tunnel	Park:- Lerderderg State Park
A picturesque walk in typical Lerderderg Gorge country, taking in a range of historic mining features, including water races, a stone chimney and a tunnel diverting the river, and valley views. The walk descends steeply into Sardine Ck valley and returns along Byers water race perched high above the river and its gorge. Mainly on track; includes a 4WD track. Some off-track walking. Some short but steep ascents and descents. 160m change in elevation. Likely to get wet feet crossing the river. Walking poles useful.	
5hrs of walking, not including breaks.	
Grade:- Medium	Walk check-in closes at:- 8:30am
Walk type:- Circuit	Departs hub at:- 8:45am
Walk start/endi:- O'Briens Crossing	Distance from hub:- 20km
	Car shuffle distance:- Nil

Walk #16

Shaws Lake to Tunnel Point

Walk name:- 16. Shaws Lake to Tunnel Point	Park:- Lerderderg State Park
A very pleasant walk through the dry open forest typical of central Victoria. The outward bound section from Shaws Lake takes in the Golden Point Rd before meeting the Lerderderg River at the Blackwood Tunnel which was constructed by early gold miners to divert the river. The return trip follows water races through fern gullies and crosses the river on stepping stones at the end of Byers Back Tk. All on track; includes some road walking. There are a couple steep but short climbs and some steep descents which may be slippery when wet. 220m change in elevation. Walking poles useful.	
4.5hrs of walking, not including breaks.	
Grade:- Medium	Walk check-in closes at:- 8:45am
Walk type:- Circuit	Departs hub at:- 9:15am
Walk start/endi:- Blackwood picnic ground	Distance from hub:- 20km
	Car shuffle distance:- Nil

Walk #17

Spanish Onion-Cowan Tracks

Walk name:- 17. Spanish Onion-Cowan Tracks	Park:- Lerderderg State Park
A walk through dry open forest in typical Lerderderg country. Involves a comfortable undulating ascent to the top the pretty Spanish Onion Tk before descending steeply to the Lerderderg River. At the river, there will be a short detour to Cowan Bluff for the view. The return leg is a steep climb up Cowan Tk. All on track. Includes a section of road walking along O'Briens Rd from the junction with Cowan Tk to the junction with Lerderderg Tk. Need to cross the Cowan Ck, which is usually dry. 340m change in elevation.	
4hrs of walking, not including breaks.	
Grade:- Medium	Walk check-in closes at:- 8:45am
Walk type:- Medium	Departs hub at:- 9:15am
Walk start/endi:- Junction of O'Briens Rd and Cowan Tk	Distance from hub:- 23km
	Car shuffle distance:- Nil

Walk #18

Werribee Gorge Circuit

Walk name:- 18. Werribee Gorge Circuit	Park:- Werribee Gorge State Park
A spectacular gorge walk with rugged terrain, grand views and amazing rock formations. The walk starts with a steep ascent to Quarry Picnic Area. It takes in Eastern Viewpoint, Picture Point and Western Viewpoint with their wonderful views, including that of Blackwood Pool. Blackwood Pool is the largest pool in the gorge and is home to platypus. The track goes south along the Werribee River back to the start point at Miekles Point. Initial section is all on track. Along the river the position of the trail depends on the river height. Some rock scrambling along the river. In places, fixed steel cables help you sidle around rocks. Unlikely to get wet feet unless the river level is high. 200m change in elevation, with a steep ascent at the beginning of the walk and a steep descent to the river. Walking poles useful.	
Grade:- Medium	Walk check-in closes at:- 9.00am
Walk type:- Circuit	Walk distance:- 10.5km
Walk start/end:- Meikles Point picnic area	Departs hub at:- 9.30am
	Distance from hub:- 10km
	Car shuffle distance:- Nil

Walk #19

Whiskey Creek to Ambler Lane

Walk name:- 19. Whiskey Creek to Ambler Lane Circuit	Park:- Lerderderg State Park
This walk into the Lerderderg Gorge takes in bush roads and foot trails, with a steep climb out of the gorge up Cowan Tk. It includes a scenic walk along Byers water race perched high above the river and its gorge. All on track. 200m change in elevation. A river crossing; wet feet likely. Walking poles useful.	
Grade:- Medium	Walk check-in closes at:- 8.45am
Walk type:- Car shuffle	Walk distance:- 14.2km
Walk start:- Junction of O'Briens Rd and Whiskey Tk	Departs hub at:- 9.15am
Walk end:- Junction of O'Briens Rd and Ambler La	Distance from hub:- 20km
	Car shuffle distance:- 2.5km

Walk #20

Yankee Creek Circuit

Walk name:- 20. Yankee Creek Circuit	Park:- Wombat State Forest
A delightfully varied walk starting in historic Blackwood and visits the mineral springs, Shaws Lake, the Yankee Gully water race and historic mining works, and stone retaining walls along Yankee Ck. A small amount of road walking, then on tracks, footpads and water races. River crossing; chance of wet feet. Part of the walk follows a usually dry rocky creek bed. One short and very steep climb. 125m change in elevation. Walking poles useful.	
Grade:- Medium	Walk check-in closes at:- 8.45am
Walk type:- Circuit	Walk distance:- 8km
Walk start/end:- Blackwood township	Departs hub at:- 9.15am
	Distance from hub:- 20km
	Car shuffle distance:- Nil

MEDIUM HARD GRADE WALKS

Walk #21

The Scenic Rim

Walk name:- 21. The Scenic Rim	Park:- Lerderderg State Park
The classic, challenging and scenic walk in the southern part of the Lerderderg Gorge. The walk takes in the Lerderderg River, steep spur tracks out of and back into the gorge up Link Tk and down Long Spur Tk, with spectacular views of the river and its gorge. Some scrambling involved. Some forest road walking. 400m change in elevation. Two river crossings; wet feet likely.	
Grade:- Medium Hard	Walk check-in closes at:- 8.15am
Walk type:- Circuit	Walk distance:- 15km
Walk start/end:- McKenzies Flat	Departs hub at:- 8.30am
	Distance from hub:- 20km
	Car shuffle distance:- Nil

Walk #22

Western Bluff and Falcons Lookout

Walk name:- 22. Western Bluff and Falcons Lookout	Park:- Werribee Gorge State Park
A challenging short walk with spectacular views of the Werribee Gorge, ramparts, river and falcon nesting sites. There is a steep descent into the gorge along Needles Spur Tk and out via Falcon Tk, which involves some scrambling. 250m change in elevation. Two river crossings; wet feet likely. Walking poles useful.	
Grade:- Medium Hard	Walk check-in closes at:- 8.15am
Walk type:- Circuit	Walk distance:- 8km
Walk start/end:- Western Bluff car park	Departs hub at:- 8.30am
	Distance from hub:- 20km
	Car shuffle distance:- Nil

Walk #23

Whiskey Creek Circuit

Walk name:- 23. Whiskey Creek Circuit	Park:- Lerderderg State Park
An interesting, challenging and varied walk into Lerderderg Gorge and return. The walk takes in the delightful Whiskey Ck at the bottom of the steep and lovely North Razorback Tk. There is a scramble up to East Tk, which is followed to Mine Camp—with its evidence of past mining activity— where the Lerderderg River is crossed. Finally the steep Kenworthy Tk is climbed. Spectacular views of the river and its gorge. Mostly on track; wide gravel track and footpads. 400m change in elevation. Two river crossings; wet feet likely.	
Grade:- Medium Hard	Walk check-in closes at:- 8.15am
Walk type:- Circuit	Walk distance:- 10.6km
Walk start/end:- Square Bottle Tk	Departs hub at:- 8.30am
	Distance from hub:- 10km
	Car shuffle distance:- Nil

REGENT HONEYEATER PLANTING 2013

Aug 10-11 Aug 24-25 Sept 7-8 Sept 21-22 Oct 5-6



Meeting Places:

- 9.00 am Benalla Ceramic Mural (beside the bridge over Lake Benalla) **OR**
- 9.00 am in the township of Winton (large car park near the CFA shed)

Schedule:

- 9.15 am Welcome for all our volunteers at Winton.
- 9.30 am Travel in convoy to the planting site.
- 9.45 am Registration at the planting site and start planting.

Accommodation:

- Sleeping quarters at Benalla Scout and Guide Halls.
 - Mattresses supplied.
 - BYO sleeping bag and pillow.
 - Small kitchen facilities available.
- Hot showers at Benalla Leisure Caravan Park, \$3.

What to Bring: Sun-screen, hat, boots or sturdy shoes, long trousers, gloves, rain jacket, hand-trowel.

Meals:

- BYO lunch for Saturday, as we will be out in the field all day.
- Hot cuppa supplied for morning and afternoon tea.
- Sumptuous meal supplied on Saturday evening.
- BYO breakfast for Sunday, or sample the delights of the local bakeries.
- Free BBQ lunch in the bush on Sunday after planting.

Additional Activities:

- Bush dance on Saturday night for the energetic.
- Wildflower and ecology walk on Sunday afternoon, in some of our best bush remnants.
- See the fantastic growth in some of our older sites, a decade or more after planting.

Numbers Expected: Please let us know in advance the number of people who will be coming, so we can cater appropriately.

Contact: Ray Thomas (03) 57 611 515 or email_ray@regenthoneyeater.org.au

BUSHWALKING VICTORIA RECOGNITION & SERVICE AWARDS

Bushwalking Victoria's Awards Scheme recognises outstanding contributions made by individuals or clubs to the development of recreational walking in Victoria, and/or furthering the objectives of Bushwalking Victoria and/or adding value to the wider Victorian community. These awards acknowledge the dedication of those whose special efforts have made a difference. The scheme was instituted in 2009 as part of Bushwalking Victoria's 75th Anniversary celebrations with nominations being sought every three or four years.

2013 Awards

The 2013 awards were presented to recipients at a special ceremony following the Leadership Forum on Saturday 15 July.

Distinguished Service Awards - Individual

Presented in recognition of a significant contribution to the enhancement and development of recreational bushwalking in Victoria, furthering the objectives of Bushwalking Victoria and adding value to the wider Victorian community:

- Duncan Brookes, Victorian Mountain Tramping Club
- Monica Chapman, Maroondah Bushwalking Club
- Richard Piesse, Great Dividing Trail Association
- David Reid, Waverley Bushwalking Club
- John Retchford, Melbourne University Mountaineering Club
- Dave Rimmer, Victorian Mountain Tramping Club
- Merv Trease, YHA Bushwalkers.

For full details of each of the above awards, download the citations [2013 Award Citations380.03 KB](#).

Special Recognition Award — Person or Organisation

Presented in recognition of a significant contribution to the advancement and recognition of recreational walking in Victoria:

- John Petheram, Ballarat Bushwalking and Outdoor Club. (John was overseas so his award was accepted on his behalf by a BBOC committee member.)

For more information on Bushwalking Victoria Awards ,go to <http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/awards.html>

While nobody who volunteers, whether for a club, Bushwalking Victoria or Bush Search and Rescue does so for the accolades or recognition, it is important to celebrate and recognise their contributions. Recognition stems from genuinely valuing volunteers and their efforts within your club, and can play an important part in the retention of club volunteers. There are a variety of ways that recognition can be shown and giving out awards is just one. For more ideas, go to <http://www.clubhelp.org.au/volunteers/rewarding-volunteers>



L to R: John Retchford, Dave Rimmer, Richard Piesse, David Reid, Monica Chapman, Merv Trease, Duncan Brookes (not shown, John Petheram)

TRANSPORT FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WALKS

I would like to share a handy transport tip with you all. I found a particular South Australian bus service very handy but underutilised and overlooked by bushwalkers. The unfortunate thing is that the service may be compromised due to poor demand, and the lack of government grants and passenger concessions which are generally enjoyed by other larger bus lines in SA.

This bus service should be of particular interest to walkers planning a pack carry in the Gammon Ranges, any of the northern section of the Heyson Trail north of Wirrabara (ie the majority of trail described in the *Heyson Trail Book 2, Northern Guide*) and the Arkaroola Conservation Reserve. It would be equally useful for walkers participating in a base camp at Arkaroola or Wilpena Pound, or in a mobile base camp in a combination of these areas.

The bus company, Genesis Tour & Charter, is based in Victor Harbour and so may well service sections of the southern sections of the Heyson Trail as well.

My experience was on a trip from Adelaide through to Arkaroola Village, from which I completed two pack carries (8 days and 3 days). The bus departs at an early hour from the central bus depot, right behind the YHA in Adelaide. From Arkaroola I was able to bus down to Hawker to do a 7-day section of the Heyson Trail terminating at Quorn, from which I was able to pick up the bus to get back to Adelaide.

For an extra \$10, the bus took me right to the airport.

The bus drivers who do the route are good tour guides, explaining everything along the way.

I also observed that part of their charter is picking up and dropping off parcels. They routinely deliver refrigerated dairy products along the way, and pick up plants and soiled linen on the return route, as well as transporting and delivering personal parcels.

During my trip, the bus also carried riders and their mountain bikes to Parachilna so that they could ride the Mawson Trail (a bike trail) all the way back to Adelaide.

The drivers are extremely obliging. They will drop into caravan parks etc and will make minor detours. So you can pre-arrange for parcels to be dropped along the bus route for resupply your walk at various locations or collection at the end of the walk.

Currently there are 2 bus services each week, with the bus stopping at Arkaroola overnight prior to returning to Adelaide. So when planning your trip you will need to be mindful of the bus schedule. The bus needs to be booked in advance.

En route to Arkaroola, which is approximately 600km from Adelaide, the bus stops include 3 good breaks for morning and afternoon tea and lunch at places where food can be purchased and amenities are available.

Arrangements can also be made to go to Wilpena Pound; but this must be pre-arranged.

The folk at Arkaroola are more than happy to look after your bag of clean clothes etc until your return.

We also found that caravan park operators and tour operators are more than happy to 'ferry' walkers up the road a few kilometres or to look after a vehicle, for a period of time....at a small cost of course. Most of the time this cost was donated to the Flying Doctor service.

For more information contact Genesis Tour & Charter on 08 85524000 or at genesis@granite.net.au

Sylvia McLean
Essendon Bushwalkers

GRAMPIANS NATIONAL PARK UPDATE

Reopening of the Wonderland Loop Walk

Parks Victoria is proud to announce that the Wonderland Loop Walk, linking spectacular and much loved locations such as Venus Baths, Splitters Falls, Wonderland car park, the Grand Canyon and the Pinnacle, has re-opened following the completion of flood recovery works. The Venus Baths Loop Walk has also been completed.

The Wonderland Loop Walk suffered significant damage from the January 2011 flood event that devastated the Grampians National Park, with many sections closed for almost two and a half years. This walk is especially popular as it provides visitors with a 4 to 5 hour loop walking experience from Halls Gap.

Flood waters caused destruction along the entire length of the walk which has led to the lengthy recovery program. Two footbridges have been replaced, another footbridge has required extensive repairs, two large landslides have required the construction of new walking track alignments, and almost the entire length of the walking track has required repairs, ranging from complete realignments, to the reconstruction of stone staircases and retaining walls.

Eight contractors, a Landmate crew from the Ararat Prison, up to 25 locally employed staff and Parks Victoria staff have completed works on the loop walk across the recovery program.

HELP SAVE VICTORIAN PARKS

The Victorian National Parks Association has written to bushwalking clubs, asking clubs and club members either jointly or severally to contribute the VNPA's campaign to raise \$100,000 to help protect our national parks from commercial development.

If you have not been advised about this request by your club, speak to your club's secretary.

The VNPA fears that the Victorian Government proposal to grant 99-year commercial leases for large-scale tourism development will degrade the environmental value of the affected national parks.

It believes that large scale hotels and other infrastructure developments in national parks are inimical to the primary purpose of national parks: conservation of nature on behalf of all Victorians, now and in the future.

For this reason, the VNPA is hoping that bushwalkers will give generously to its campaign, so that it can:

1. Create a well researched and compelling case against large-scale commercial development in national parks.
2. Put pressure on each Victorian state and federal politician and candidate to commit to protecting national parks.
3. To make the decision-makers sit up and take notice:
 - Plaster the state with 'Hands off our parks' and 'I love national parks' stickers to demonstrate the huge groundswell of support. You can purchase these stickers and posters from the VNPA.

- Flood the media (including social media) with advertising and actions calling on the people of Victoria to declare their support for the proper protection of our national parks.
- Take the fight to the media so that no person in Victoria is left in the dark about just what commercial development in the park actually means for park values, and every politician or candidate hears that the voters really care about conservation and are serious about protecting our national parks from development.

- 4 Mobilise local communities and give them the tools and the information they need to rally against damage to parks in their areas.

Donate to the Protect Our Park Appeal at http://vnpa.org.au/page/join_donate/donate-now/protect-our-parks-appeal-donation

Email the Victorian Premier at <http://vnpa.org.au/eletter/major-commercial-development-in-national-parks>

View VNPA action campaigns: at <http://vnpa.org.au/page/nature-conservation/take-action>

Editor

The above views are those of the VNPA, not Bushwalking Victoria. The position of Bushwalking Victoria is available at <http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/Blog/commercial-development-in-national-parks-2.html>

Chris Towers, Vice President

NEWS FROM LAND MANAGERS

Illegal activity in Alpine National Park over the Queen's Birthday weekend

Visitor safety and park protection have been the aim of recent compliance activity between Parks Victoria and Victoria Police in the Alpine National Park, north of Licola.

Authorised officers have been undertaking regular patrols, targeting illegal behaviour throughout Gippsland's remote high country, resulting in a high number of infringement notices and prosecutions pending for more serious offences.

The patrols conducted over the Queen's Birthday long weekend included the seizure of several firearms. Other offences detected included illegal campfires, off road driving, taking vehicles behind seasonally closed gates, and bringing dogs into the park. Significant criminal damage to national park assets also occurred over the weekend.

Parks Victoria Ranger in Charge of the Wonnangatta Moroka area of the Alpine National Park, Mike Dower, said

park visitors should be able to explore parks safely and without encountering this level of illegal activity.

'Rangers will continue to conduct targeted compliance operations in four wheel drives and on trail bikes across the entire Alpine National Park for a range of illegal activities that have been reported.

Mr Dower said of most concern was the destruction of timber posts and fences outside the heritage-listed Moroka Hut.

'The fence was cut up with a chainsaw for firewood and transported to a nearby campground. The offender was interviewed by a Parks Victoria Authorised Officer. The matter will now be transferred to Victoria Police for follow up,' he said.

Parks Victoria will continue to run compliance operations on a regular basis in the remote areas of the Gippsland High Country.

Source: [Parks Victoria website](#)

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Standing committees (cont)

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 Victorian Deputy Delegate: Tony Walker
 Please contact via the office

Organisations where BWV Members Provide a Bushwalking Perspective

Grampians Peak Trail Task Force: Phil Brotchie
 Living Links Steering Committee: Tony Walker



Bushwalking News Victoria

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