



Crossing a fallen tree—how it's done
 (Photo: Barbara Hohmann, Boroondara Bushwalkers)

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 YOUR PRESIDENT

Kakadu Bushwalking Review

Clubs will have recently received an email from Russell Willis of Willis' Walkabouts in Darwin concerning a survey being conducted as part of the bushwalking review of Kakadu. Russell is a member of the project steering committee for the review, as is Bushwalking Australia president (and former Bushwalking Victoria president), David Reid. They have developed the survey to obtain the views of bushwalkers who have been to Kakadu or who have planned trips there.

Bushwalking in Kakadu has very special memories for me. I was one of 12 members of my club, CAEX, who in June 1987 were among the first groups that did one of Russell's Kakadu circle trips, a 16-day walk from Koolpin Gorge to Twin Falls, Jim Jim Falls, Graveside Gorge, the escarpment and finishing at Gunlom Falls. This, my first trip to the North, sparked not only a love affair with the Top End but also one of the heart, as it was on this trip that my now wife and I became 'an item'.

As it happens, I am writing this column in Darwin where I am visiting one of my brothers; and a couple of days back I visited Russell to reminisce about our 1987 trip (and two subsequent trips into the Kimberley with Russell) and discuss the survey and the Kakadu review. As Russell's email states, the review is an extremely important opportunity for bushwalkers to influence the development of policy concerning bushwalking opportunities in Kakadu, and decisions made here are likely also likely to influence decisions in other parts of the country.

I strongly encourage anyone with an interest in bushwalking in Kakadu to complete the survey. If the survey doesn't provide the space or opportunity to say all that you want, please email Russell directly at walkabout@bushwalkingholidays.com.au

Bushwalking Victoria Bushfire Recovery Fund Project

I am pleased to announce that Bushwalking Victoria has entered into an arrangement with Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) to fund from our Bushfire Recovery Fund a project in the Kinglake National Park, 98% of which was burnt in the Black Saturday bushfires. The project is to construct a new section of the Shelley Harris Track linking Jehoshaphat Gully picnic area to Jerusalem Track. The new section will be outside the stand of Mountain Ash that was killed by the intense fire. If resources permit, a new alignment of a section of the Bundy Track that links Everard Track to Old Kinglake Road will also be construct-

ed. These two tracks are priority tracks, to be opened as part of the 22km Everard Circuit Walk.

Our money will fund up to 12 days of works in September and October led by a CVA team leader in partnership with Parks Victoria. Volunteers working under the team leader will contribute a maximum of 132 volunteer days to the project. Bushwalking Victoria members will be welcome to participate as volunteers in the project without needing to pay the usual volunteers' fee on CVA projects. For more information or to participate as a volunteer, go to www.conservationvolunteers.com.au

The Bushfire Recovery Fund was established by Bushwalking Victoria in the aftermath of the devastating Black Saturday bushfires in February 2009. Bushwalking Victoria and some member clubs contributed to the fund, and proceeds from the sale of the 2010 Bushwalking Victoria calendar were also put into the fund.

Bushfire Recovery Fund proceeds were used for the very successful Project 2000 organised by Bushwalking Victoria's indefatigable Conservation Projects Officer, Steve Robertson, in the Yarra Ranges National Park in November 2009. A contribution from the fund was also made to the Marysville Triangle Heritage Association for the cost of signage on the Marysville Trail Project.

How much bushwalking is worth to you?

My last column outlined some of the issues faced by Bushwalking Victoria and bushwalking generally, and our ability to attract both financial and volunteer support to represent the specific interests of bushwalkers. I closed my column with an invitation for feedback and suggestions on the issues and ideas I canvassed. In the three and a half weeks since the August edition of *Bushwalking News Victoria* was published online (distribution by email and mail was a little later) I have received only two responses, one from an individual and one from a club.

Hopefully this lack of response doesn't indicate a lack of interest and concern by Bushwalking Victoria members, but rather that they are discussing the issues raised and drafting responses.

A PDF version of my column from the August edition of *Bushwalking News Victoria* is available at www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/forms/BWV_Support.pdf

Chris Towers

GREEN WALKS IN THE PARK: VOLUNTEER LEADERS WANTED

Green Walks in the Park aims to get more people walking, more often, in more local, state parks and bushland reserves. The first Green Walk was held at Pipemakers Park in Maribyrnong on Thursday 11 August.

The program urgently needs volunteers who are able to assist us with programs beginning in September. To find out more and to assist as a walk leader or assistant leader, contact Bushwalking Victoria. Leaders and assistant leaders need to be bushwalking club members and have the ability to adapt their communication to suit a broad audience. Most walks would be considered Easy grade and cover about 4km.

BUSHWALKING ENVIRONMENT

Track clearing/conservation projects

Please contact Steve Robertson (Bushwalking Victoria Conservation and Tracks Project Officer) on 0438 267 129 or via email at srob7859@bigpond.net.au to register your support or for any further information.

<p>Sunday 16 October 2011 Freemans Mill Walking Track, Bunyip State Park</p>	<p>To clear 2009 post-fire re-growth from the 6.5km track. Activity will also include re-aligning a section of track, track marking and step placement. NOTE: This activity replaces the Cora Lyn Big Tree event previously advertised.</p>
<p>Saturday 19 November - Sunday 20 November 2011 Wilsons Promontory</p>	<p>Northern walking tracks — in partnership with Parks Victoria and Friends of the Prom — we will improve walking tracks in the northern section of the park. Complimentary camping for both Friday and Saturday nights will be available at Stockyard at the entrance to the park.</p>
<p>Sunday 11 December 2011 Condons Walking Track, Yarra Ranges National Park</p>	<p>TEN volunteers required to complete the annual sweep of the track from the top (the easy way). This track was adopted by Bushwalking Victoria (Vicwalk) for annual maintenance.</p>
<p>Friday 27 January - Sunday 29 January 2012 Alpine Restoration in the Alpine National Park</p>	<p>This ever popular annual weekend for 30 volunteers should be on again in 2012. Stay tuned for final confirmation of this event — and then get in quick! (The weekend involves staying at Falls Creek and enjoying the mission of search and destroy willows.)</p>

Goldfields track maintenance day, Sun 14 August

Volunteers came from VMTC (4), Maroondah (3), Melbourne Bushies (2), Essendon (2), West Gippsland Walkers (1) Boroondara (1), Waverley (1) and a fabulous 9 from Koonung.

The Big Peninsula loop section of the Goldfields Track has been closed for two years as a result of the 2009 fires and subsequent storm damage. It is a very beautiful loop, only a few kilometres from Warburton. Near the track start is the picturesque and historic Big Peninsula Tunnel, a small river diversion tunnel dug in 1864 on the upper Yarra River by alluvial gold miners to provide access to the bed of the Yarra River. The site is listed in the Victorian Heritage Inventory. It is only one of the walk's attractions.

Our aim was to clear, clean up and mark the closed part of the track, and to assess the rest of the track. Steve divided us into 4 groups: the first group GPSed and photographed the track, waypointing and documenting the location and condition track signage and other infrastructure, major changes in direction and altitude, and hazard points on the track (partly with a view to updating the loop's walk notes); another two groups cleared a track through regrowth, including chain sawing steps over some of the very large trees down over the track; the fourth group put up orange track markers.

We did a lot of work, with great camaraderie, but didn't finish clearing or marking the final sections of the loop because we ran out of time. A number of big and smaller



trees still need to be removed or will need to be negotiated around.

Steve will attend to the final sections by himself, doing all the necessary chain sawing, track clearing and track marking. He promises that the

track will be clearly marked by mid September, at which time it will be officially open to the public again.

Steve says 'Well done, group' and greatly appreciates the huge effort everyone made on this activity: a TOTAL of 218.5 volunteer hours.

Like all board and convener positions at Bushwalking Victoria, Steve Robertson is himself a volunteer. We bushwalkers are lucky that he organises activities like this, without which our bushwalking environment would be much poorer than it is. It takes a lot of time, effort and organisation to arrange the number track and other environment activities Steve does. We bushwalkers owe a great deal to his enthusiasm and dedication. (This appreciation also extends to other members of BEC and also to various 'friends' groups.) Being able to participate in this work is a privilege. It's ALSO VERY, VERY, VERY ENJOYABLE AND REWARDING. And a great opportunity to get to know members of other clubs.

Joslin Guest, Boroondara Bushwalkers

BEC Report

Tracks and track work in Mt Buangor/Mt Cole/Langhi Ghiran Parks and Creswick State Forest, report by John Petheram

The walking track in Langhi Ghiran State Park and the Beeripmo Track (Mt Cole State Forest) are open. There are still several road and walking track closures around Mt Buangor, the result of storms over the past year.

Ballarat Bushwalkers have helped clear and open the Langhi Ghiran Trail.

They also assisted Parks Victoria on lower reaches of trails above Middle Creek at Mt Buangor on Sunday 7 August. Only the short walk to Ferntree Waterfalls is open at present.

In Creswick State Forest, there are diversions on the Great Dividing Trail. Slatey Creek picnic areas 2 and 3 are closed. The track below St Georges Lake near Creswick is also closed for upgrades to the dam wall.

Grampians, report by Phil Brotchie

The latest I have from Parks Victoria in terms of road access is that the Grampians Rd (Halls Gap to Dunkeld) via Victoria Valley Rd will be opening in late August; the Northern Grampians Rd (Mt Victoria Rd) in November (although sections may be opened before this); and the Silverband Falls Rd above the Falls in May 2012; with a weather permitting proviso in all cases.

In the Western Victoria Range area, they hope to open the Glenelg Rd, Harrop Track and Lodge Rd in August. However, Syphon Rd and all seasonal roads such as Victoria Range Track and Goats Track will stay closed for now.

Billimina, Manja and Chimney Pots walking tracks should also be opening in August. However, the Fortress Walking Track and the area including Mt Thackeray will remain closed for now.

Wilsons Promontory, report by Ian Mckellar

The recent meeting of the Advisory Committee was very much concerned with the recovery from the March floods. It was joined by the new Chief Ranger, Helen Dixon. Helen has many years experience with Parks Victoria and has a strong background on environmental and rehabilitation projects. She is particularly interested in our thoughts on strategic directions for the park—eg, do bushwalkers value the walking track for its views and features as much or more than the campsite at the end of it?.

We travelled to Tidal River to appreciate the amount of work now under way to get the whole park open again. No outstation camping is currently available; but the north-eastern area is being promoted to visitors, where there are many interesting tracks to explore. Visitors can camp at the Stockyard at Yanakie, a pleasant site not far from the entrance and the historic Yanakie Cemetery.

The priorities are to re-open walks near Tidal River simultaneously with camping and cabin accommodation at Tidal River so that visitors will be able to enjoy their exper-

ience there.

Other southern tracks and campsites will be re-opened progressively, subject to repairs to the tracks involved. A timetable is to be announced shortly.

The scale of the damage to the main road was massive, but much has already been repaired.

Some of the walking tracks will take many months and great expenditure to fix. In the interim alternative routes are being considered. We walked the Whisky Bay Track to where a landslip carried away about 50m of it and washed it down the adjacent creek. Similarly, the track from the Darby Bridge to the coast has washaways. We were told that the Sealers Track has many similar washaways.

Within the Tidal River area, we learned of several remarkable escapes when the water rose 2m in a few minutes and later drained away with equal rapidity. Such was the strength of the current that parts of the Loo-Ern Boardwalk were lifted out of the ground and deposited several metres away. An example of the problems facing the track repairers can be seen across the river from the campsite where a landslip has carried away part of the Tidal Overlook Track, leaving several huge boulders perched precariously above the track. Any attempt to cut the track back into the hillside would probably dislodge these on to the workers.

See also page 11 for information about the re-opening of Wilsons Prom.

State Forest Walking Tracks Upgrades Project

➤ Walk Into History (WIH)

Bushwalking Victoria attended a stakeholders meeting at Powelltown to discuss the master plan proposals. This is one of the most important walking track networks in Victoria, and certainly with Melbourne-based walkers.

This upgrade, which involves several historic tramways, is also the most expensive. There is insufficient funding to do everything we want. The estimated cost of the proposed upgrade of the Ada No 2 Mill and campsite and the track from Big Pats Creek to Powelltown is well over the budget for the upgrade. Therefore and unfortunately the proposed new track from Ada Tree to New Ada Mill will not go ahead at this stage .

An amount of money has been set aside for a future Bushwalking Victoria project. After some discussion, we proposed that this money be used to complete the WIH upgrade. This was welcomed by DSE, so there is no impediment to the funds being used for this purpose. There is also the possibility of some funding from Public Safety funds.

Bushwalking Victoria could consider a further project if any money is left from the WIH upgrade.

- **Noojee Trestle Bridge** upgrade is nearly completed.
- **La La Falls Track** is nearly completed.

Alpine, report by Katie Bowker, Events Manager Mt Buller

- The ski trail access to the Mt Stirling Summit is now open via Stirling Trail, Bluff Spur and West Summit.
- Trails that remain closed are Clear Hills and Howqua Gap Trail.
- Wombat Trail and Race Loops should be near completion by the end of August.
- Australian Alps:

The Federal Tourism Minister has announced funding for a wide range of tourism projects that highlight the value of the Australian Alps national landscape. Of interest to Bushwalking Victoria and walkers in general is:

- \$30,140 for the Long Tunnel Extended Mine in the Baw Baws for an outdoor interpretive display and new amenities
- \$100,000 towards the finalisation of the Alpine Crossing along the Australian Alps Walking Track between Mt Hotham and Falls Creek.

Tasmanian Forests

The Federal Government and the Tasmanian Government have signed a Heads of Agreement for Tasmania's forests. Logging will stop straight away in 572,000 hectares of forests while verification processes take place. Over the next 6-12 months, these forests will be protected using various measures, including creating national parks and world heritage areas.

Proposed Guided Canopy Tour for the Toolangi State Forest

Australian ZipLine Canopy Tours is proposing a new tourism attraction in the Toolangi State Forest. The proposed education and adventure Guided Canopy Tour is in a small area of the forest where visitors would traverse the forest canopy on ziplines or 'flying fox' style rides built high in the forest canopy.

Parks Victoria is seeking public comment on the proposed Guided Canopy Tour. Interested people were invited to attend a public consultation session at the Toolangi Forest Discovery Centre on Thursday 4 August to discuss the proposal with the operator (Australian Zipline Canopy Tours) and staff from Parks Victoria and the DSE.

For those unable to attend, information on the proposed tour, including an online feedback form is available at the 'Have Your Say' section of www.parks.vic.gov.au or by calling Parks Victoria on 13 1963 for a copy.

Closing date for feedback is Friday 2 September 2011.

More information:
Description and map at http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au/resources/mresources/Toolangi_community_update_July2011.pdf

WILDERNESS FIRST AID COURSE

14-16 October 2011

VNPA have arranged Wilderness First Aid training through Equip Wilderness First Aid Institute.

The three-day (Fri-Sun) residential course will be held at Anglesea and offers a well-rounded introduction to wilderness first aid for bushwalkers, climbers, paddlers and those who find themselves out and about. The course includes a mixture of theory and scenario-based teaching and leads to a Certificate in Wilderness First Aid valid for three years and a CPR Certificate valid for one year.

The cost is \$575, which includes tuition, accommodation and all meals.

The course is open to non-VNPA members and can be booked directly with Equip. For details of the course and to book online see:

<http://www.equip.com.au/training/Calendar/showCalendar.asp?CalendarID=574>

DISCOUNT FOR BUSHWALKING VICTORIA MEMBERS

Discovery Holiday Parks, Cradle Mountain is offering members of Bushwalking Victoria 20% off rates during their shoulder and low season times (16 April to 21 December). The accommodation is directly across the road from the Visitor Centre, just outside the boundaries of the World Heritage Area.

To make a booking please call Claire Walsh on (03) 6492 1395.

Discovery Holiday Parks - Cradle Mountain
PO Box 10, Wilmot, Tasmania 7310
Phone: 03 6492 1289, 1800 068 574 Fax: 03 6492 1438
www.discoveryholidayparks.com.au

Phillip Island Nature Parks is offering discounts to Bushwalking Victoria members.

10% discount for applies to the 3 Park Pass ticket which includes entry to the Penguin Parade, Churchill Island and the Koala Conservation Centre. The tickets are valid for 6 months.

Bushwalking News Victoria Advertising Rates

1/6 page advertisement	\$26.25	* Advertiser to supply 300 printed inserts each edition. Advertising is welcome but insertion is subject to the Editor's discretion. Products or services advertised in this publication are not endorsed or recommended in any way by Bushwalking Victoria.
1/4 page advertisement	\$42.00	
1/3 page advertisement	\$52.50	
1/2 page advertisement	\$78.75	
Full page advertisement	\$157.50	
Address list of affiliate clubs	\$52.50	
Insert for Newsletter*	\$52.50	
Note: Advertisements must be artwork ready		

BUSHWALKING TIPS

Australian scientists in snakebite ointment breakthrough

Rubbing snakebites with an ointment that slows the functioning of lymph glands could boost survival times by 50% according to new research by Australian scientists.

In experiments on humans and mice, researchers showed a class of compounds called nitric oxide (NO) donors delays the entry of toxins from potentially deadly snakebites into the blood stream. Nitric oxide, a molecule involved in regulation of blood pressure and the control of brain activity, has been shown to lower blood pressure in patients who suffer acute strokes.

The new finding is of more than academic interest: every year, 100,000 people worldwide die from snakebites, and another 400,000 must amputate limbs that have been injected with poison. It has long been known that many snake venoms contain large molecules that transit the human body's lymphatic system before entering the bloodstream.

Separately, scientists have also established that NO slows down a pumping mechanism within the lymphatic system, a part of the body's immune system that carries a clear fluid – called lymph – toward the heart.

Dirk van Helden, a researcher at the University of Newcastle, put these two facts together to suggest a possible treatment for snakebites. 'We hypothesised that a nitric-oxide-releasing agent applied topically would slow lymphatic transit time and entry of the venom into the circulation, delaying onset of toxicity,' he and his colleagues wrote in the study.

To test their theory, the researchers injected a venom-like substance into one foot of 15 volunteers, and measured the time it took for the toxin substitute to reach lymph nodes in the groin. The experiment was later repeated, except this time the drug-laced ointment was spread around the puncture within one minute of the injection.

The transit time dropped from an average of 13 minutes to 54 minutes, four times slower.

Further experiments using real toxins in rats yielded roughly the same results.

Finally, the researchers compared the survival time in rats injected with venom that were treated with the ointment against those that were not, and found the nitric oxide rats kept breathing 50% longer.

'These results point to a new method of snakebite first aid that may also be useful for bites to the torso or head,' the researchers concluded.

Currently, the most common treatment is to immobilise the patient and restrict blood flow as much as possible until medical assistance is available

Source: ABC News, June 27, 2011

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-06-27/australian-scientists-in-snakebite-ointment/2772856>

More reading:

ABC Science at

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2011/06/27/3252702.htm>

'A pharmacological approach to first aid treatment for snakebite', Nature Medicine (subscription only) at

<http://www.nature.com/nm/journal/v17/n7/full/nm.2382.html>

Looking after gortex

Many of us wear your Gortex or other 'breathable' garments. If they start leaking, then they need to be washed. Just like any other item you wear, your wet-weather gear and your gortex boots need to be kept clean. Below are some tips. Before applying them, remember to read the manufacturer's instructions and always follow the instructions on the item.

Source: Gortex Care Centre, <http://www.gore-tex.com/remote/Satellite/content/care-center/washing-instructions>

Gortex outerwear	
Wash	Machine-wash warm (40°C). Powder or liquid detergent. No fabric softener. Follow manufacturer's instructions.
Dry clean	If professionally dry-cleaned, request clear distilled solvent rinse and spray repellent. Follow manufacturer's instructions.
Iron	Steam-iron warm, placing a towel or cloth between the garment and the iron. No need to iron the garment until it is completely dry.
Bleach	No chlorine bleach. It may damage your garment.
Dry	Tumble-dry warm. The heat from the dryer will help to reactivate the durable water repellent (DWR) treatment on your garment's outer fabric.
Water repellent treatment	Gore recommends applying a topical water repellency restorative (DWR treatment) for outdoor fabrics, available at your local outdoor retailer. We do not recommend wash-in treatments as they can affect the garment's breathability.
Strain removal	Use a pre-wash treatment such as Shout® or Spray 'n Wash®, following its manufacturer's instructions. Rinse well.

Gortex footwear	
Wash	Clean the exterior with a cloth or brush and lukewarm water. The manufacturer may recommend leather treatment or preservation. Shake out sand, gravel, and dirt from inside the footwear. Remove and shake out the foot bed if applicable.
Bleach	No chlorine bleach. It may damage your footwear.
Dry	Dry naturally at moderate temperatures. Avoid direct heat. Convection-style boot
Water repellent treatment	We do not recommend the use of waterproofing waxes or greases as they can affect the footwear's breathability. Apply only treatments, polishes, conditioners, and dressings recommended by the manufacturer.
Stain removal	Follow the footwear manufacturer's instructions.
Gortex gloves	
Wash	Follow the manufacturer's instructions. Machine or hand wash in warm water. Gently squeeze glove from fingertips to wrist to remove excess water. Do not twist.
Bleach	No chlorine bleach. It may damage your glove.
Dry	Drip-dry with the fingers facing upwards.
Water repellent treatment	Gore recommends applying a topical water repellency restorative (DWR treatment) for outdoor fabrics, available at your local outdoor retailer. We do not recommend
Stain removal	Use a pre-wash treatment such as Shout® or Spray 'n Wash®, following its manufacturer's instructions. Rinse well.

Wind chill equivalent temperature

Wind speed vs air temperature (°C)

Wind speed makes quite a difference to the actual temperature. Beware of underestimating how cold it is.

											Wind speed km/hr
-51	-42	-35	-27	-19	-11	-3	5	12	20		100
-50	-42	-35	-27	-19	-11	-3	5	13	20		70
-47	-40	-32	-25	-17	-9	-2	6	13	21		50
-46	-39	-31	-24	-16	-9	-1	6	14	21		45
-45	-37	-30	-23	-15	-8	-1	7	14	21		40
-43	-36	-29	-21	-14	-7	0	7	14	22		35
-41	-34	-27	-20	-13	-6	1	8	15	22		30
-38	-31	-25	-18	-11	-5	2	9	16	22		25
-35	-28	-22	-16	-9	-3	4	10	16	23		20
-31	-25	-19	-13	-7	-1	5	11	17	23		15
-25	-20	-14	-9	-3	2	8	13	19	24		10
Air temp (°C)	-20	-15	-10	-5	0	5	10	15	20	25	

The Geelong Walker, August 2011

SUNRISE & SUNSET—MELBOURNE GPO

2011															
Fri 26 Aug	0751	1853	EST	Fri 9 Sep	0730	1905	EST	Fri 23 Sep	0709	1916	EST	EDST starts Sunday 2 October			
Fri 7 Oct	0647	1929	EDST	Fri 21 Oct	0627	1942	EDST	Fri 4 Nov	0610	1957	EDST	Fri 18 Nov	0558	2012	EDST
Fri 3 Dec	0552	2026	EDST	Fri 17 Dec	0553	2038	EDST	Fri 31 Dec	0600	2045	EDST				
2012															
Fri 13 Jan	0612	2045	EDST	Fri 27 Jan	0627	2038	EDST	Fri 10 Feb	0643	2025	EDST	Fri 24 Feb	0658	2008	EDST
Fri 9 Mar	0712	1948	EDST	Fri 23 Mar	0726	1927	EDST	EST starts Sunday 1 April				Fri 6 Apr	0639	1806	EST
Fri 20 Apr	0651	1747	EST	Fri 4 May	0704	1730	EST	Fri 18 May	0716	1717	EST	Fri 1 Jun	0727	1709	EST
Fri 15 Jun	073	1707	EST	Fri 29 Jun	0736	1711	EST								

Full Moons

Mon 12 Sept, Wed 12 Oct, Fri 11 Nov, Sun 11 Dec

Source: www.ga.gov.au

CHALLENGES



Upstream 50km Challenge 2011

The Upstream Challenge is a great opportunity to get together, have some fun and raise much needed funds to support local and international projects. The Upstream 50km Challenge is an annual 50km walk/run, scheduled this year for **Saturday 19th November**, starting at Docklands following the Yarra River and concluding in the eastern suburb of Donvale.

Over the past six years the event has raised over \$865,000 with 100% of funds being passed on and donations over \$2 tax deductible. The 2011 event is supporting Camp Quality, Disability Sport & Recreation, and Entrust Foundation.

Participants can enter as an individual, team or as part of a relay team. If walking 50km isn't your style, there are plenty of volunteer opportunities!

For more information visit www.upstreamfoundation.org or contact Sharon Hoen on 9272 2334.



Get ready for Australia's biggest walking challenge – the Walktober Challenge is coming in October 2011!

The challenge is open to anyone. All you need to do is walk throughout the month – anytime, anywhere.

You choose the place and pace that suits you. Take a relaxing stroll by yourself around local neighbourhood streets, get together with colleagues at work and go for a walk at lunchtime, or once around the block for some fresh air, take the dog for a walk, or enjoy a bush walk with the family.

Record each of your walks lasting more than 15 minutes on the challenge website and see the difference your walking makes – how far you have walked, the kilojoules you've burned, the total minutes walked and the CO2 (greenhouse gas) you've saved by leaving your car at home. Workplaces, community groups and individuals are all welcome.

Registrations open in September.

Why not give it a go and watch your walks add up?

Or take part in other great events held in Walktober.

The Sunday Stroll is another new and exciting project we've launched. Walking is the perfect way to spend time with people that are important to you – friends and family. Take a relaxing stroll on a Sunday with a good friend. Walk, have a chat, catch a bit of fresh air. Walking gives you uninterrupted time together, time to reconnect and celebrate the little things, and doing what feels good. Share your walking stories and/or photos on the Walktober website.

Victoria Walks to School day - Wednesday 19 October. Schools can encourage students to host a walk on *Victoria Walk to School* day and can also take part in the month-long Walktober Challenge.

The Walktober website also provides a national resource of walks. You can add your own walk – renew interest in your walking group, or kick off a new walk, or look for a walk in your area.

Visit www.walktober.com.au today!

**FEDERATION DAY WALK 2011—
Morrington Peninsula - Sun 23 Oct**



Hosted by Peninsula Bushwalking Club and the Catholic Walking Club of Victoria.

**DON'T MISS OUT
FEDERATION WALKS ARE
ALWAYS GREAT FUN**

Key Dates

- 23 September Close of registration
- 7 October Feedback to club coordinators re allocation of walks
- 23 October Registration from 8:00 am onwards at the Rosebud Memorial Hall, 994 Point Nepean Road, Rosebud – Melway reference 158 D12



MELBOURNE WALKING CLUB PIONEERS OF BUSHWALKING

An exhibition at the Royal Historical Society of
Victoria
12 October to 9 December 2011

The first real bushwalking club in Australia started in 1894 as the Melbourne Amateur Walking and Touring Club that later became the Melbourne Walking Club. The club still exists and a few years ago it donated some of its archives to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. This exhibition draws on that material to show the history of the Melbourne Walking Club and some of the remarkable achievements of its members. Although not a comprehensive history of bushwalking, it shows the development of bushwalking in Victoria.

Over its history the club has included many bushwalking enthusiasts and the exhibition demonstrates this enthusiasm.

They walked in the Victorian Alps when there were no maps for walkers – so they made their own hand drawn maps. These show long gone places such as McVeigh’s Hotel on Walsh’s Creek and the sawmills near Warburton.

For over 60 years they published *The Melbourne Walker* each year. It is a fascinating collection of articles about long forgotten places, bush personalities and the history of bushwalking. Other publications include a booklet on map making, notes on equipment and food to take on walks and a booklet on walks near Melbourne.

The archives include a fascinating set of photo albums and lantern slides showing people and places going back to the early 20th century. These will illustrate the various themes of the exhibition.

Many of their extended Christmas and Easter trips were done with packhorses and were guided by local cattlemen. One trip went from Mansfield to Bright via Mt Buller, Mt Howitt, Dargo High Plains and Mt Hotham.

Club members helped found the Victorian Federation of Walking Clubs (now Bushwalking Victoria) were active in search and rescue efforts for lost walkers and were advocates for conservation issues.

The exhibition is highly recommended for bushwalkers of all levels of experience.



Centrally heated tent, Stizelecki
Bushwalking Club, August 2011
Vol 21, Iss 1

BBI BUSHWALKERS HELP FIND MISSING SCHOOLGIRL ON MT ERICA

All of us watching the news over the weekend 6-7 August were happy to see the rescue of a schoolgirl lost on the slopes of Mt Erica. The story behind the news...is that BBI bushwalkers were instrumental in finding the missing teenager. Five BBI walkers were on Bernie Keating’s pack carry snow walk at Mt Erica, including Bernie, Jim Dhaeze, Robyn Teed, Steve Brown and Ken Serls. After setting up camp on the top of Mt Erica about midday Saturday, the walkers were visited by the scoutmaster from the Mushroom Rocks Scout Lodge who told them that the teenager was recently missing. After returning from a walk towards Mt Saint Phillack on Saturday afternoon, it became evident that the girl was still missing and that a full search was underway from the helicopter activity in the area.

On Sunday morning, as they walked towards the search area with the intention of offering their help, the group noticed a single footprint in the snow not far from the summit that they knew was not one of theirs. This was about 3km from the then search area.

After following the prints down hill and away from the track they came to the realisation that this was likely to be the missing girl. They then reported this to the search commander at Mushroom Rocks and returned to the area of prints. With Steve Brown leading the tracking, they followed the prints for some kilometres, in some instances round in circles (it appears the girl was walking to keep warm) and in some instances out of the snow line, arriving finally at an area back near the top of the mountain where the girl appeared to have spent some time.

By this stage the police had taken charge and two teams of Bush Search and Rescue members had arrived, splitting into two groups searching both sides of the track and calling out the girl’s name. After a relatively short time, one of the teams had a response – the missing teenager was found at around 4.30pm, about an hour before nightfall!

Although the BBI walkers were not in the party that found the girl, they were instrumental in her safe rescue by noticing the foot print and their diligence in tracking her prints. The formal search party were looking in a different location to the footprints found by the BBI walkers and without the mix of luck of the BBI walkers being already on location, it is probable the girl may have had to spend a second freezing night out on the slopes of Mount Erica with possible dire consequences.

The Vagabond, August 2011, Vol 23, No1
Newsletter of the Boroondara Bushwalkers

CRUISES, HOTELS AND HUTS: PUSH TO ALLOW DEVELOPMENT IN STATE'S NATIONAL PARKS

Reprinted from The Age

VICTORIA'S prized national parks, including Wilsons Promontory, Port Campbell and Point Nepean, could soon be opened to private development of new facilities to boost international tourism under changes being considered by the Baillieu government.

Treasurer Kim Wells is considering a report from the Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission on 'unlocking Victorian tourism'.

Recommendations in the commission's draft report included the government remove 'regulatory obstacles to private sector investment in tourism infrastructure in Victoria's national parks'.

The report said from 2012 the private sector should be allowed to 'propose developments in national parks provided there is a net public benefit and they complement environmental, heritage and other values'.

It also called on the government to 'increase the maximum duration of leases on land' in national parks.

The Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry is lobbying for new private tourism opportunities, including boat cruises at Wilsons Promontory and Port Campbell, new hotel accommodation at Point Nepean and privately operated tourist walking huts on the Great Ocean Walk from Apollo Bay to the 12 Apostles.

The chamber's chief executive, Mark Stone - who also sits on the board of Tourism Australia - said it was inevitable there would be changes in what is permitted in Victoria's national parks. 'I don't think we can expect government to cover all the costs of investment on public land,' he said.

Mr Stone, who previously headed Parks Victoria and Tourism Victoria, said rules and regulations governing private tourism operators in national parks should be liberalised.

'We have a whole bunch of rules and regulations that we apply after we get private sector interest that really limits their ability to realistically amortise whatever investment they have got,' he said.

Mr Stone said Point Nepean National Park was ideal for private investment, including a new 'boutique hotel, not too dissimilar to what was achieved at Werribee Mansion'. He said the hotel would not be grandiose 'but contemporary and serving that sort of conference, convention and weekend market'.

A draft Parks Victoria master plan for Point Nepean has included recommendations for a lodge/boutique hotel and backpacker lodges and camps.

Mr Stone said there were also tourism opportunities at Wilsons Promontory. 'One of the untapped features in Victoria is wildlife viewing and the wildlife viewing offshore

from a place like Tidal River as well as the scenic aspects are just second to none.'

He said the proposals were of a 'different scale' to the hotel accommodation proposed for Wilsons Promontory during the Kennett government. 'All of what I am talking about could occur within the current footprint with some minor use of some of the current facilities,' he said.

Matt Ruchel, executive director of the Victorian National Parks Association, said 'we certainly don't support new large-scale infrastructure for tourism in national parks'.

He said Victoria's national parks were often only a short drive from existing services.

'There are not many places in Victoria that are remote in comparison to other parts of the world where you would be justified in having large-scale accommodation or new infrastructure inside a park,' he said. 'I think there is huge potential for increased tourism investment, done in sensitive ways outside of the national park system on private land.'

[Some of the proposals]

Point Nepean: New accommodation facilities similar to Werribee Mansion Hotel [,Victoria] or Fort Baker in San Francisco, where the government and private-sector funded a refurbishment to provide accommodation, conference and convention centre facilities.

Great Ocean Walk: Private sector provided huts for walkers similar to Cradle Mountain, Tasmania, where [a] private operator provides cabin for end-of-day rest for walkers, with non-perishable food, sustainable water, bed and shower.

Port Campbell and Wilsons Promontory: Bruny Island style nature cruises.

Jason Dowling

The Saturday Age, August 20, 2011, page 6

<http://www.theage.com.au/travel/travel-news/cruises-hotels-and-huts-push-to-allow-development-in-states-national-parks-20110819-1j2ho.html>

Some links

Point Nepean NP Draft Master Plan

- Summary brochure:
[http://weplan.parks.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/PtNepean_A3_Flyer\[1\]_0.pdf](http://weplan.parks.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/PtNepean_A3_Flyer[1]_0.pdf)
- Comprehensive report:
http://weplan.parks.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/PNNP_Draft%20MP%20Report.pdf

Fort Baker: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Baker
(Like Point Nepean, Fort Baker is on a bay, close to a major city (San Francisco) and is an ex-Army base.)

REOPENING OF WILSONS PROMONTORY

Tidal River set to reopen

At a press conference held at Tidal River, Deputy Premier and Member for Gippsland South, the Hon. Peter Ryan MP, announced that Tidal River would reopen to the public on Friday, 23 September.

Short Walks and Beach Access

Visitors will be able to access Norman Beach, Tongue Point and Fairy Cove and some favourite walking tracks in the Tidal River precinct including:

- Lilly Pilly Gully Nature Walk
- South Norman beach
- Squeaky Beach (via Picnic Bay or Lilly Pilly Gully car park and Tidal Overlook)
- Picnic Bay.

Walks in the northern prom will also be open.

Camping and accommodation

➤ Camping:

- Avenues 1-6 will be available for bookings providing 250 campsites.
- All other campsites within Tidal River will be available from 28 October.

➤ Accommodation:

The Group Lodges, Eco cabins, Wilderness Retreats and Motorhuts will be available from 23 September until the summer ballot period commences on 24 December. All current bookings for roofed accommodation will remain in place with the exception of the Lorikeet Units, which need to be relocated.

➤ New bookings:

- Camping and accommodation bookings from 23 September to 23 December (with the exception of the Melbourne Cup weekend) can be made from 9am on Monday 22 August.
- Bookings for the Melbourne Cup Weekend will open on 21 September in line with the usual Peak Season Applications Process.

What remains closed?

- Walking tracks in the southern Prom, all overnight hiking tracks, Squeaky Beach and Whisky Bay car parks and beach access tracks, Darby River beach access track, Cotters Lake, Pillar Point, Picnic Point, Mt Bishop and Mt Oberon will remain closed until scheduled repair works are undertaken to ensure that tracks are safely accessible.
- Mt Oberon Rd also remains closed until necessary road repairs have been carried out.

See also Ian Mckellar BEC field officer's report on page 4.

Tidal River Watercourse

Due to changed river conditions, in the interests of public safety, access to the Tidal River watercourse will not be permitted until further notice. The closure includes the river, river mouth, river access tracks, Tidal River Bridge, Tidal River boat ramp, Loo-Ern boardwalk and fishing platforms and all walks departing from Tidal River Bridge.

Source: Wilsons Promontory NP Stakeholders Flood Recovery Update No 8, August.2011

REGENT HONEYEATER PROJECT

Bushwalking Victoria, many bushwalking clubs and individual bushwalkers support the Regent Honeyeater Project.

There have been two planting weekends so far this Winter-Spring. If you haven't participated in one of these weekends in the Lurg Hills near Benalla, there is still time to do so this season. Two more weekends are planned: 3-4 and 17-18 September.

If you haven't time for a full weekend, come for a day.

Just contact Ray Thomas to let him know you are coming at Ray@regenthoneyeater.org.au. If you have never been and want to find out more. visit <http://regenthoneyeater.org.au/index.php>.

Sightings of Regent Honeyeater

Seventeen years of effort is really paying off. At Easter, a Regent Honeyeater was sighted in the Lurg Hills. This was not a banded bird, so we know it was not one of the birds from the captive bird breeding program released at Chilt-

ern. With the Ironbarks flowering, he (or she) was spotted in one of the fertile little gullies where the richer soils are found. In May, two more were sighted, and in early August yet another was sighted.

A fantastic sign. Let's hope many more will be sighted during this exceptionally good season.

Grey Crowned Babblers

The recent survey of Grey-crowned Babblers in the Lurg Hills has shown a remarkable population rise for the first time in many decades.

There have been several cases where young birds have clearly split off from their parents' territories to form new family groups.

Babblers have been found crossing the Hume Freeway, raising the possibility of connecting to other neighbouring populations. This is extremely good news for long-term genetic interchange, which is very essential to improve genetic diversity as well as wonderful news in itself.

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 Please contact via the office

Organisations where BWV Members Provide a Bushwalking Perspective

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 Metropolitan Melbourne Reference Group: Phil Brotchie
 Outdoor Recreation Centre Committee of Management:
 Chris Towers
 Adventure Activity Standards (AAS) Technical committee:
 Paul Chamings
 Living Links Steering Committee: Tony Walker



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