



View of Cumberland River from Castle Rock
Photo: Peter Morgan, Geelong Bushwalking Club

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:

editor@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au
or
24 Moorhouse Street
Camberwell Victoria 3124

Deadline for the February edition:

Monday, 16 January 2012

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

Inside this issue...

| | |
|---|--|
| Walking and Talking with your President.....2 | Interactive Map for State Forests 6 |
| Online Trip Intentions Form.....2 | 1000 Steps & Lyrebird Track, Ferntree Gully NP 6 |
| Sun and Moon.....3 | Wilson's Promontory: |
| Bushwalking Environment: | Flood recovery effort 7 |
| Track clearing/conservation projects3 | Taking the pulse of the Prom 7 |
| Track work—Middle Creek to Cave Hill.....4 | Tracks closed over summer..... 8 |
| Working bee—St Pauls Track.....4 | Federation Walk—a Report..... 8 |
| Murrindindi Scenic Reserve4 | Bushwalking Tips: |
| BEC report4 | Airlines & stoves 9 |
| Walking Tracks Project 11 | When to use a PLB 9 |
| Natural Environment: | Emergency service numbers 10 |
| Proposed exemptions for Victorian loggers 5 | ICE 10 |
| Disease threat looms for Victorian trees 10 | Mosquitos..... 12 |
| | Bushwalking Victoria Profiles: |
| | Steve Robertson – Tracks and Conservation Project Officer 12 |
| | Dave Rimmer, Manager BEC 12 |
| | Who's Who at BWV 13 |

WALKING AND TALKING WITH YOUR PRESIDENT

Update on Future Walker Project: websites for clubs

In my column in the May issue of *Bushwalking News Victoria* I provided initial details about this project, funded by a state government grant, to provide a professionally designed a website to member clubs without a website or with a basic or out-dated website.

In early September, Bushwalking Victoria accepted a quote from ECWeb Development to undertake the development and installation of the websites. The websites are being developed using Joomla! a free open source Web Content Management System (WCMS).

Generally, open source software is free and widely available. A WCMS is a software system designed to simplify the publication of web content by allowing people without technical knowledge to create, submit and manage content. Another advantage is that no special software needs to be installed on the computer of the person/s maintaining the website because all that is required is a computer with an internet connection and a web browser (eg. Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari).

Three design templates, each with a number of colour, font and background options, have been developed and will shortly be offered to the clubs that have expressed interest in the project so they can choose their preferred design. Each website will have both public and members-only sections. The developer will install each new website, after which the club will be responsible for developing and publishing its own content and for managing its website.

Detailed instructions for managing the website and maintaining the content has also been developed and will be provided to each club.

In July we contacted the 40 clubs that were identified as meeting the criteria for inclusion in the project and, to date, 23 have responded positively.

As a result of the excellent deal negotiated with ECWeb Development, we will be able to extend participation in the project to more clubs. We expect that it will be of particular interest to clubs that are not currently using a WCMS to manage their website. Clubs will be contacted directly about this by the end of November.

Bushwalking Australia

Over the weekend of 19-20 November, I will be attending the annual face-to-face meeting of Bushwalking Australia Inc, the national body representing the interests of bushwalkers. Bushwalking Australia is a federation of the state-based peak-body organisations, ie. Bushwalking Queensland, Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW, Walking SA, Bushwalking Tasmania and Federation of Western Australian Bushwalkers and Bushwalking Victoria. We hold a quarterly teleconference, and each year a different state organises and hosts the face-to-face meeting: a day and half of workshop sessions and presentations and the AGM.

The 2011 meeting is being hosted by Tasmania at a venue near Port Arthur. Topics to be covered including the future of bushwalking organisations, possible changes to personal accident insurance cover, support for research into promoting youth participation in outdoor activities. Victoria will be represented by me and David Reid, who is also currently the president of Bushwalking Australia.

For more information on Bushwalking Australia, go to www.bushwalkingaustralia.org.au

Christmas and New Year greetings

As this is the last issue of *Bushwalking News Victoria* for 2011, I would like to extend to all bushwalkers my very best wishes for a merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year filled with great walking experiences.

Chris Towers

TRIP INTENTIONS FORM – NOW ONLINE

Letting someone know before you go is an essential risk management element for all bushwalkers, whether walking with a club, with family, with friends or alone.

www.tripintentions.org provides a facility for you to enter the details of any trip (walk, outback adventure, ski trip etc) and the email addresses of two people you nominate to act as your contacts.

When you complete the online form, the details you have entered are automatically emailed to these two contacts and copy is also sent to you.

You can also print out your completed Trip Intentions Form (just before you submit it), to distribute hard copies to relevant people and also so that you can leave copy in your vehicle.

You can send your Trip Intentions Form via email without creating an account on the tripintentions website. However, if you create an account you will be able to access any forms you have submitted previously.

The service is provided free of charge in the interests of improved safety for outdoors and wilderness trips and adventures.

Track work—Middle Creek to Cave Hill, October 2

Many thanks to all those who were able to come and help at Mt Buangor. I don't know how many hundred tonnes of herbage the 'trail crew' removed from the track, but we hope your bodies have recovered by now. The ranger, Tony Viet, was most impressed, and the report to his regional office below says it all.



'On October 2nd, 15 members of The Ballarat Bushwalking and Outdoors Club kindly donated their day to assist with track clearing the Bukkertillible (The Cave) Walk in the Mt Buangor State Park after flood and storm damage...The track has been closed for nine months, so there was a lot of work to do with trees and limbs down across the track...Heavy bracken and grass growth was cleared using brushcutters and then raked off. Over a kilometre of the track up to The Cave was cleared and it was quite steep for the last few hundred metres. Those that made it that far were rewarded with a great view out towards Langi Ghiran and the Grampians, and were awestruck with the geological formation of the massive rock overhang.

Most of the machinery and tools used on the day was purchased through a recent HPHP grant to the club. The club has also done good walking track work at the Grampians NP and Langi Ghiran. The work done last Sunday will contribute greatly to the re-opening of this walking track.'

Tony Veit, Ranger, Parks Victoria
Rat Tales, Nov 2011, newsletter of BBOC

Working Bee – St Pauls Track, 2 October

Leader: Max (Ranger, Parks Victoria)

Five members, Richard, Ray, Yvonne, Julie H and Fiona gathered at the Diamond Bay car park by 9.30 ready for some work on the St Pauls track. Max, from Parks Victoria, arrived shortly afterwards and gave us our instructions.

Pruning so the track was 1½-2m wide was one task undertaken by two of us. Others raked and swept the track, exposing some of the original limestone track, which I think Max said was constructed in the late 1800s. Excess dirt from this track was shovelled into wheelbarrows and

moved to a section of the track that leads to the Diamond Bay Lookout. The Diamond Bay lookout track did not have limestone through it, so we raked the deposited dirt to make the track look neat and tidy.



We took a morning tea break at the Diamond Bay lookout; and Max pointed out the yellow Coast Bush-pea (*Putanea canaliculata*) on the side of the track, which he said was rare.

The day was cool, making it ideal for working. We swapped duties after morning tea and continued with our hard work. There weren't many tools available so five workers was probably an ideal number. We ate lunch at the St Paul's lookout. What a view! After lunch we worked until 2.30pm and then headed home.

Next time, I would suggest some sharper tools for pruning, including a pruning saw for the thicker trees. Nevertheless it is always rewarding to see the results.

Fiona, Peninsula Bushwalking Club
Boots 'n' All, Nov 2011, Iss 361

Murrindindi Scenic Reserve

Boroondara Bushwalkers will assess four tracks in the Toolangi State Forest in the Murrindindi area on the 20 November, 2011 in conjunction with the DSE. DSE will provide us with a barbecue lunch when we finish this work.

One of the tracks—the Boroondara Walk—is named after our club, and the club has planted many trees in the area since 2000. This area suffered from the 2009 bushfires and then the floods which came this year.

DSE has bulldozed the tracks and wants us to do the track assessments to help them in reopening the tracks.

Sandra Thwaites (BBI Conservation Officer)

BEC Report

BEC activities Sept-Oct

- Survey of Goldfields Track, east Warburton
- Freemans Mill Track clearing
- Meeting with Paul Dartnell at Parks Victoria head office
- Survey of Freemans Mill
- Briefing by DSE at Powelltown on The walk into History
- Grand Strzelecki Track meeting

Field reports

Alpine, report by Jim Harker

- Minor traffic delays may be encountered on sections of Tamboritha Rd north of Licola from 12 October 2011 onwards due to scheduled maintenance works. Heavy machinery will be in operation during this time.
- Minor traffic delays may be encountered on sections of McMillans Rd (Grant Historic Area) north of Dargo from 7 November 2011 due to maintenance works. Heavy machinery will be in operation during this time.
- The Heathy Spur Track is being re-aligned. It will now start at the Ropers Lookout car park at the end of the dam.
- On 19 November, Parks Victoria will open a new walking track from Cope Hut to Wallaces Hut in response to the increased visitor number in the area following putting bitumen on the High Plains Rd.
- The Bogong Alpine Way visitor facilities has been opened and the rebuild of Westons Hut is complete.

Mt Buffalo, report by Pauline McLaughlin

I was at work bee at Mt Buffalo with a group of Border Bushwalkers for a weekend. This work bee was quite different from what we usually do as we were weeding, mulching and clipping plants in the garden at the Chalet.

I had a good talk with a ranger. Here's my report about the tracks.

- The Big Walk has recently been cleared and there is a new bridge at the start.
- South Buffalo track has many fallen logs, but will be cleared very soon.
- The track from Eagle Point to Mollisons Galleries is heavily overgrown, but has been taped ready for clearing.
- All other tracks are clear.

Grampians, report by Phil Brotchie

Parks Victoria has announced that they are opening eight seasonal 4WD tracks:

- Goat Track
- Victoria Range Track
- Link Track
- Flagstaff Track
- Briggs Track
- Bellfield Track
- Muirfoot Track
- Burnt Hut Creek Track.

Some other seasonal roads will, however, stay closed due to flood damage.

I joined Ballarat Bushwalking and Outdoor Club on a Mt Buangor track-clearing exercise on Sunday 2 October which saw the Cave Hill Track opened through to the amazing Bukkertillible rock overhang, a splendid geological formation. (See also p4.)

Walk Into History Track, report by Dave Rimmer

A briefing was held at Powelltown on 28 October to discuss various sections of the proposed 3-days:2-nights Big Pats Creek to Powelltown upgrade. We discussed and reviewed:

- Money available and quotes received
- Consultants / contractors report
- Suggestions made for low cost long lasting solutions
- The Ada Tree to New Ada Mill site, with regard to the action required to remark the track over the next 12 months. (Volunteers are required for this.)

Grand Strzelecki Track

This new track runs from Morwell National Park to Tarra Bulga. It is 85km long, but includes loop walks to enable day walks without a car shuffle. Construction of the track was scheduled to commence on Monday, 14 November and tentative dates for finishing the various sections have been set.

Churchill National Park re-opens, report by Dave Rimmer

Churchill National Park and all of its nine tracks and trails have re-opened to the public following storm damage in February 2011, which caused significant damage to the park and resulted in the majority of the tracks and trails being closed to ensure visitor safety. Following the hard work of Parks Victoria staff, Contractors Services South East and the thorough insurance assessment process, the park is now fully accessible again. A large amount of work was carried out to repair the storm damage. This included \$60,000 spent to undertake drainage, road and track reconstruction.

Compiled by **Dave Rimmer, Manager, Bushwalking Environment**

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Proposed exemptions for Victorian loggers

In response to a ruling in the Supreme Court in September 2010 banning VicForests from logging old-growth forest at Brown Mountain in East Gippsland where an endangered long-footed potoroo was filmed during logging, the state government is proposing to introduce amendments to enable loggers to seek exemptions from Victorian environment laws protecting endangered species to 'ensure certainty of supply to Victoria's native forest timber industry'. The power to grant exemptions from the requirements of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act will be given to the Secretary of the DSE.

The changes will be made to the timber code under the Conservation, Forests and Lands Act, which is not a legislative instrument (and therefore does not require a vote in parliament). In addition, Parliamentary Secretary for forestry, Gary Blackwood, said the government intended to 'revisit or review' the way the law applied to

Cont on page 11

INTERACTIVE MAP FOR STATE FORESTS



DSE has launched a new interactive map called Public Access Map.

During the year, various State Forest vehicle tracks, recreation sites and non-motorised recreational tracks (such as walking tracks and mountain bike tracks) may temporarily close (or partially close with access restrictions) to the public for a range of reasons, including:

- Fire damage
- Flood or storm damage
- Maintenance
- Seasonal factors (ie. roads closed over winter).

The Public Access Map interactive map will:

- Provide information on current State Forest road, track and site closures
- Provide information on planned closures (roads, tracks or sites planned for future temporary closure due to maintenance or repair works)

- Enable you to zoom in and out of to view your area of interest
- Let you click on closed roads or sites for more detailed information about why they are closed
- Enable you to search by place name, site or road name
- Let you create and print out a PDF closure report with maps and text describing what roads, tracks and sites are closed or planned to be closed.

The link is:

<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/forests/public-access-map>

This site will be the best source of current information on State Forest road and site closures and use of it will enable walkers check on road and track closures before they go bush.

At present the website does not include Park Victoria road, site and track information. But DSE hope it will later in 2012.

1000 STEPS & LYREBIRD TRACK, FERNTREE GULLY NP

The State Government has announced a \$1m overhaul of the 1000 Steps memorial to Kokoda Track Diggers. The Lyrebird Track, which runs parallel to 1000 Steps, will be converted into 600 steps for people who now run up and down the 1000 Steps. Runners will not be banned from the 1000 Steps, but will be 'encouraged' to use the other steps.

Rest stops will be added the 1000 Steps for the convenience of slower walkers. A new shelter with seats, information panels and ceremonial space will be built at the base of the 1000 Steps.

Parks Victoria's Melbourne Region Manager, Chris Hardman, said the steps drew about 50,000 sightseers a year 15 years ago, but now had 50,000 visitors a month.

He estimated that more than 80% used them for exercise. This had led to 'conflict' between requirements of joggers and sightseers squeezing up the narrow stairs.

Veterans have complained that it was difficult with joggers around to preserve the steps' role as a memorial.

Work is due to be completed by August next year to mark the 70th anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign.

Extracted from an article by **Carolyn Webb**

The Age, November 4, 2011, p5;

<http://www.theage.com.au/national/kokoda-memorial-to-get-1m-facelift-20111103-1mxvj.html>

A quick search of DSE website did not enable me to find the date on which work is due to commence. **Editor**

WILSONS PROMONTORY



Mt Oberon Rd

Wilson's Prom flood recovery effort

Recovery program is now focused on popular areas in the southern area of the park such as Mt Oberon, the Light Station and Refuge Cove.

Parks Victoria Chief Ranger, Wilson's Promontory, Helen Dixon, says that works have been progressing well on Mt Oberon Rd and that they hope to have the road cleared by Christmas to enable a small people-mover vehicle to ferry hikers to the Telegraph Saddle car park. Private vehicles will not be permitted on the road.

Work on the South East Track is scheduled to commence soon to provide access to the Roaring Meg camp site and the South Point Track, the Light Station, Little Waterloo Bay, Refuge Cove and Sealers Cove. Again, it is hoped the work will be completed in time for Christmas-New Year. It will be a major achievement to re-open this iconic section of the park.

However, walkers will still not be able to undertake the full circuit walk track out to Sealers Cove (between Telegraph Saddle Car Park and Sealers Cove) due to the extensive flood damage. Sealers Cove will be accessible only from the South East Track for some time yet while Parks continue the major repair works in consultation with its engineers and contractor.

The northern section of the park which incurred only minor flood damage continues to feature in the flood-recovery program with works commencing on the 5 Mile Road Track and other wilderness walks located in the northern end of the park.

This program of repair works is being supported by Bushwalking Victoria and the Friends of the Prom, with a number of volunteer activities taking place during November. It is anticipated that the Northern Wilderness hikes will also be open by Christmas, although at this stage Johnny Souey Cove will remain closed.

For further information, contact the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963 or visit www.parks.vic.gov.au

Taking the pulse of the Prom

A team of scientists and rangers have completed a major wildlife health check of Victoria's Wilson's Promontory National Park.

Over a two-week period more than 50 scientists from Museum Victoria and 20 Parks Victoria rangers examined the most remote corners of Wilson's Promontory, both on land and in the surrounding ocean, to discover the impacts on the wildlife of the massive storm that hit the Prom earlier this year and wildlife recovery from the major bushfires in 2005 and 2009.

The survey team found a wide diversity of animals and healthy populations across all the surveyed habitats. Over 700 animal species were recorded—birds, mammals, reptiles, frogs, fishes, insects, spiders and land snails.



Entering Paradise Valley

The most remote place surveyed was Paradise Valley, a wilderness area not scientifically surveyed for over 30 years. Helicopters flying over the region had reported major land slips and washouts from the tsunami-like rainfall in March this year (370mm in 24 hours), so a specialist team hiked in to assess the impacts.

'It was a rare privilege to visit this area with its ancient myrtle beech forests,' said Parks Victoria's Dr Mark Antos. 'Despite the dramatic storm it has bounced back remarkably.'



Top: Researchers setting up monitoring equipment; L: remote cameras; C: moth light stations; R: small mammal traps
 Bottom: L: Red Velvet-fish; C: Dusky Antechinus; R: Helena Gum Moth



'In the whole survey, we've covered the Prom from top to bottom, from the mountain tops and valleys to the seafloor of the surrounding marine park,' said Museum Victoria's Head of Sciences Dr Mark Norman. 'We were very impressed by the diversity and resilience of the Prom wildlife and habitats.'

Funding for this survey was provided by the State Government Flood Recovery Fund. 'The survey results will be a huge help in making the best decisions about future recovery work and environmental projects,' said project initiator Roger Fenwick, Chief Ranger for West Gippsland. 'It's helped us build a picture of how healthy the Prom is at the moment and its current level of resilience to the challenges of a changing climate.'

Sources: Parks Victoria-Museum Victoria Press Release, 9 Nov 2011; Wilsons Prom Stakeholders Update No 10, Nov 2011

Tracks that will remain closed over summer

The following tracks will remain closed until scheduled repair works are undertaken to ensure that tracks are safely accessible:

- Loo-Ern boardwalk and fishing platforms
- Whisky Bay car park and beach access track,
- Cotters Lake
- Picnic Point
- Telegraph Saddle to Sealers Cove; Telegraph Saddle to Oberon Bay
- Little Oberon Bay to Oberon Bay
- Five Mile Beach to Johnny Souey Cove; Johnny Souey Cove to Tin Mine Cove; Tin Mine Cove to Lower Barry Creek; Lower Barry Creek to Five Mile Road junction walking tracks.

FEDERATION WALK, MORNINGTON PENINSULA, SUNDAY 23 OCTOBER

I was my club's only representative on this year's Federation of Bushwalking Clubs walk. The Catholic Walking Club and the Peninsula Bushwalking Club had combined to organise 22 walks of varying grades in the Mornington Peninsula area.

I chose a medium graded walk in the Nepean National Park. It was a lovely sunny day and not too hot. Fifteen of us started from the Visitors Centre, walked along well-made paths as well as beaches taking in the famous sights – London Bridge, the Quarantine Station, observation points including Cheviot Hill lookout, Monash Light and the old Defence Firing Range area. Our leaders, Joan and Shirley from the Catholic Walking club, were extremely knowledgeable on the history of all the sights and gave us quite detailed explanations. The scenery was magnificent, and it was interesting to meet a group of bushwalkers from other clubs.

We were entertained with coffee and cake back at the Rosebud Hall at the end of the walk. I could certainly recommend the Federation Walk to members of my club. The only downside for me was the 2½ hour drive from Newham.

Next year's walk will be held at Marysville and run by the Maroondah Bushwalking Club.

Chris Philbrick, Gisborne Bushwalking Club
 Walk Talk320, Nov 2011

BUSHWALKING TIPS

Airlines & stoves

Information for bushwalkers travelling on commercial aircraft

Bushwalkers who are preparing to travel interstate or overseas with their equipment should be extra careful to avoid their gear being impounded or even confiscated by Security or Quarantine. Bushwalking gear can carry seeds and plant or soil borne disease. Fuel is a potential hazard on aircraft and is prohibited on them. Any bottle of fluid is increasingly seen as a security threat, even if it is not flammable.

A bit of planning and a few simple precautions may save hassles and perhaps an unwelcome entanglement with authorities.

Some actions to consider

- Plan to buy fuel after you arrive, and dispose of it before you return.
- Don't leave traces of fuel in stoves and bottles when you travel.
- Take a stove without a fuel container and purchase a container when you reach your destination. A gas stove may be the most practical type for this arrangement.
- Make arrangements to hire a stove when you arrive.
- Don't carry camping gear in hand luggage.
- Do not have matches or a cigarette lighter in either your hand luggage or checked-in baggage.

A special note regarding fuel containers & camping stoves

There are certain items that must be declared and that require the explicit approval of the airline or aircraft operator before they can be carried on an aircraft. This includes camping stoves and fuel containers.

For further details and information about the packing of such items please visit the Civil Aviation Safety Authority website at <http://www.casa.gov.au/dg/luggage/dgtable.htm>

Check with your airline

The guidelines for camping stoves seem explicit and reasonable, but the airline still has the right to refuse to carry them or require additional packing or preparation. Therefore it is a good idea to check with the airline before you leave home.

Bushwalking Australia

<http://www.bushwalkingaustralia.org/walkers-info/airlines.html>

| Bushwalking News Victoria Advertising Rates | |
|---|----------|
| 1/6 page advertisement | \$26.25 |
| 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. * 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.

When to use a PLB

During an emergency, Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) can be used to issue a distress alert including the GPS location via a special global satellite system. They also provide a beacon for search aircraft.

In Australia, the distress signal is received by Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) within minutes. They initiate the search and rescue activity.

PLBs:

- Can save lives, although they may not be completely reliable in all circumstances
- Are a **last resort** in cases of grave and immediate risk to life – **not a first resort**
- Are not a substitute for sound leadership and party strength.

PLBs should only be used when there is a threat of grave and imminent danger to life **and** where access to the 000 service is not readily available via other means—radios, phones and other signalling devices.

Distress beacons

Distress beacons are a one-way device. The flashing red light when activated indicates the beacon is transmitting, but does not confirm the signal has been received.

Search and rescue involves the use of scarce and expensive resource—Police Search & Rescue (who may call in BSAR), aircraft and ambulances etc. So if you activate the device incorrectly or if the emergency is over advise AMSA on 1800 406 329 or +612 9332 6323 ASAP. Inappropriate or irresponsible use of a PLB may result in action by authorities.

Adapted from **The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers**

Some more information

Since 1 February 2010, 121.5MHz devices are no longer licenced or detectable by satellite. Do not risk your life by relying them; switch to a 406MHz distress beacon ASAP.

Registering your PLB with AMSA is strongly recommended. Registration is free and can result in a more efficient search and rescue effort. Registration is valid for two years.

Distress beacons are battery operated. To ensure the beacon operates and can send a signal for an appropriate period during an emergency, always replace the battery before its expiry date. Batteries should be replaced by the manufacturer or their Australian agent.

Businesses hiring out distress beacons are required to keep a register of hirers.

Notify AMSA if you sell, lose or otherwise dispose of your 406MHz beacon. Until you do you are responsible for its use. A purchaser cannot register the device until you have cancelled your registration.

Visit <http://beacons.amsa.gov.au/>

Editor

Emergency Services Numbers

Triple Zero (000)

If you are lost or in an emergency situation in the bush, call 000 and ask for the police, **even if it is a medical emergency**. The special roaming capabilities of most mobile phones mean that when you are out of your service provider's coverage area but are in another carrier's network coverage area, your call to 000 will be carried on the other carrier's network.

However, if there is no coverage by any network you will be unable to reach 000 and alternative devices, such as a personal location beacon need to be used. Personal location beacons send a distress signal with location details to Search & Rescue operators via satellite.

You can call 000 from most modern mobiles without having to unlock the keypad or key-in a security-protection PIN. However, you should check your handset's manual to conform this.

Mobile phones provide only limited locational information. So when calling 000 from a mobile phone be prepared to provide as much information as possible to emergency service operators about the location of the emergency.

If you are unable to identify your whereabouts, mobile carriers may be able provide emergency services with location information. However the accuracy of this information is affected by the number of mobile phone towers nearby and obstructions to mobile reception.

112

112 is the international standard emergency number which can only be dialled on a digital mobile phone. It is the secondary emergency number that can be dialled from mobile phones in Australia.

It is important to realise that if there is no mobile coverage on any network, you will not be able to reach the emergency call service via a mobile phone regardless of which number you dial.

If there is no mobile phone coverage 112 will not be carried by satellite. Mobile phones cannot access a satellite network. Satellite phones use a technology different from that used by mobile phones.

Texting emergency services

It is not possible to contact 000 or 112 using the SMS text facility on your mobile phone.

Satellite phones

Satellite-based networks are generally designed to provide coverage throughout Australia and, in particular, to places outside the coverage areas of land-based mobile phone networks. But you need a satellite phone to access them.

Not all satellite phones can access 000 or 112 emergency numbers so confirm before you hire or buy one that it can. Telstra satellite phones do and according to a website I looked at, Optus and Globalstar probably do.

More information:

For more information on emergency communications try the following web sites:

- [Bush Search and Rescue \(BSAR\)](#) - information specifically for bushwalkers
- [Australian Maritime Safety Authority \(AMSA\)](#) - information on distress beacons
- [Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority \(ESTA\)](#) - information on the 000 process

ICE

If you carry a mobile phone, don't forget to put **ICE** in as a contact.

ICE stands for In **C**ase of **E**mergency. This is the person to be contacted if you are injured or something bad happens and you cannot contact your overdue contact yourself. You can have more than one ICE contact. Police and other emergency service personnel will look for ICE information in your mobile.

If you don't carry a mobile phone, carry an emergency information form detailing relevant information in your pack. And not hidden in the bottom or randomly placed among other stuff, but in easily identifiable container in an obvious place in one of the outside pockets.

DISEASE THREAT LOOMS FOR VICTORIAN TREES

Victorians are being urged to keep watch for a fungal disease which poses a serious threat to forests in the Otway and Gippsland regions.

Myrtle rust, which affects plants of the Myrtaceae family, was first found in Australia on a cut flower property on the central coast of New South Wales in 2010. It has since been found on over 100 Myrtaceae species in the natural environment.

Plants at risk include gum trees, bottlebrush, tea tree, lilly pilly, paperbark, myrtle, guava, midyim, rose apple, brush box and New Zealand Christmas bush.

Wendy Coombes from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Biosecurity Victoria division said myrtle rust had not yet been detected in Victoria but could be found in commercial plant nurseries, public gardens, parks, streetscapes and bushland in other states.

'Myrtle rust poses a threat to Victorian trees because, under the right conditions, it could slow regeneration of the state's native forests after harvesting or bushfire and even change the biodiversity of our forests,' Miss Coombes said.

'All members of the Myrtaceae plant family are potential hosts. It attacks young, soft, growing leaves, shoot tips and stems, as well as the fruits and flowers of susceptible plants.'

'The first signs of myrtle rust infection are tiny raised spots that are brown to grey, often with red-purple haloes. Up to 14 days after infection, the spots produce masses of distinctive yellow or orange spores.

'Plants not in the Myrtaceae family and therefore not affected by myrtle rust include roses, fruit trees, vegetables, camellias, grevilleas, crepe myrtle and wattles.

'Myrtle rust can be spread by the movement of infected plant material such as cuttings and contaminated equipment such as chainsaws, as well as by animals, wind, water, vehicles, clothing, shoes and jewellery.'

DPI must be notified without delay of any plants in Victoria suspected of being infected.

Reports can be made by:

- Calling the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline 1800 084 881, or
- Emailing photos of the suspect material, together with a contact phone number and the plant's location, to plant.protection@dpi.vic.gov.au

To avoid spreading the disease, do not touch, move or collect samples of the suspect plant.

Victoria has imposed restrictions on the movement of myrtle rust host materials into the state.

Further information about these restrictions and myrtle rust can be found on the DPI website www.dpi.vic.gov.au/psb or by calling 136 186.

Media Release, 17 Nov 17, 2011
Department of Primary Industry

Proposed exemptions for Victorian loggers, cont from p5

the management of threatened species. A spokeswoman said there would be sufficient time for public comments on the proposed changes to the code due in February.

Logging is already exempt from review under the Federal government's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act. It seems that now logging will also be exempt from Victorian state laws.

Senator Lee Rhiannon, Greens spokesperson for forests in Federal parliament, called on the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to stop the Victorian government changing the timber code. Senator Ludwig said that under the Regional Forestry Agreement his role is to 'ensure that the timber industry remains competitive...If there are areas which require significant protection they would generally fall under [Federal Environment] Minister Burke's requirement to act'. Asked about the balance between industry protection and environmental protection, Senator Ludwig said 'This government and the Victorian government and the other states and territories highly value regional forestry agreements as a means of ensuring we strike the appropriate balance.'

Sources: [Tom Arup, The Age, November 3, 2011, p5](#)
[Wilderness Society](#)
[Senator Rhiannon's website](#)

WALKING TRACKS PROJECT (2010–14)

In 2010, DSE secured funding for the next four years to the total of \$3.5 million for the Walking Tracks Project. The objectives of the project are to reduce access barriers to State Forest walking tracks and encourage increased physical activity to a broader segment of the Victorian public through upgrades to key State Forest walking tracks the development of a national standard for walking track grading.

Over the next four years, DSE aims to:

- Upgrade 25 key State Forest walking tracks to improve their accessibility and the quality of the walking experience.
- Apply the new Australian Walking Track Grading System to all DSE's online forest walks information as well as install new trackhead and directional signs across 25 key walking tracks.
- Improve the quality and availability of information on State forest walks.
- Undertake a promotion and marketing campaign which improves public awareness of State forest walking opportunities.

Progress to date

In 2010, nominations for tracks to be upgraded were sought from the local walking clubs, community groups, local councils and other government agencies via an online survey. Over 130 nominations were received. The nominations were reviewed and shortlisted by a joint committee of DSE, Bushwalking Victoria and local council representatives from each DSE region.

The majority of shortlisted tracks have now been field checked and, where required, survey work completed, to resolve any realignments required.

Detailed field reviews have been completed for 14 tracks (6 in Gippsland, 6 in North East, 2 in Port Phillip) that require major realignment or infrastructure (to improve track accessibility and the walking experience). These reports will help DSE to ensure the best possible design principles are being applied to the walk upgrades.

Further community consultation and field survey work is required on some of the shortlisted tracks where more detailed investigations are required, with opportunities for further input into assessment process..

Some track construction work was undertaken in 2010/11. A significant upgrade of the walking track into La La Falls Walk (near Warburton) is well underway and is expected to be completed by the end of 2011. Some minor track upgrade works were also completed on the following tracks: Toorong Falls Walk; Noojee Trestle Bridge; and Ralph Cornwall Walk

Source: Walking Tracks Enews, Iss 1 Oct 2011
Department of Sustainability and Environment

BUSHWALKING VICTORIA COMMITTEE AND OFFICE HOLDERS—PROFILES

Steve Robertson – Tracks and Conservation Project Officer

What bushwalking club/s do you belong to?

Maroon d a h Bushwalking Club

How long have you been a member?

Over 10 years

Do you or have you held a committee position in your club/s



Soon after joining I was Secretary for approximately two years, and during this time I was also Club Representative on VicWalk’s Environment Committee. I still hold the latter position today.

How long have you been bushwalking?

It is often hard to define what ‘bushwalking’ actually stands for, but I can recall my first overnight backpack which was done in the Cathedral Ranges as a scout with one other companion back in 1967.

What got you started bushwalking?

As a member of the Scouting Association I very soon developed a love for the outdoors – for its beauty, its terror, it’s challenges. Over the years I have had many varied aspects and exposure to walking through individual pursuits at any time of the year, family camping and even the whole family backpacking when my youngest was three years old, to leading a group of scouts on day and overnight walks and also including a challenge given to me by my son to climb Mt Elbrus (Europe’s highest peak), which I successfully summited in 2004.

How often do you manage to bushwalk?

In the last few years very, very little as my bushwalking time seems to be devoted to organising and leading track clearings events, conservation and revegetation programs for Bushwalking Victoria.

What sort of bushwalking do you like best?

I must confess I have never done a day walk with my club as I love all aspects of an overnight backpack from two to 10 day trips. I also thoroughly enjoyed my first break for two years when I spent in July, 10 days in the Bungle Bungles volunteering with Conservation Volunteers Australia on track maintenance and a type of spin on

bushwalking. As I write this profile I am preparing for my first backpack in a couple of years where I will lead 20+ bushwalking club members on a track clearing and marking exercise in the Northern part of Wilson’s Promontory for a weekend.

Do you have a favourite walk?

I used to consider my favourite area as Mt Speculation and surrounds, but these days my most favourite spot (preferably in winter) is the Overland Track in Tasmania and some of the peaks that the area offers nearby. Also one that is close to my heart is when I took my wife Leora on her first and only backpack to Lake Tarli Karng and the Valley of Destruction – photos that were taken proved that I looked like a ‘Sherpa’ carrying 70 kilograms in a pack that extended half a metre above my head.

Are you a member of a conservation or friends group?

My current role as Bushwalking Victoria’s Track and Conservation Projects Officer occupies much of my time. However I am a member of the Friends of Leadbeater’s Possum group.

Do you participate in conservation activities? If so what, where and how often?

All the time through my Bushwalking Victoria volunteer activities that I organise as well as considerable projects with Parks Victoria on endangered species monitoring, predator control and revegetation projects. In this year of July 2011 to June 2012 I will personally lead at least three weekend activities and five-day activities involving conservation and track projects around Victoria on behalf of Bushwalking Victoria.

What do you do when you are not bushwalking?

Since leaving my previous profession in management in manufacturing I have pursued a career in the outdoors. This has led to many contracts with Parks Victoria and DSE in varying capacities and lengths. I have broadened my knowledge by completing a Certificate IV in Conservation and Land Management. Then in my spare time I tend to various volunteer activities, and spend time in the garden and with family and friends.

How long have you been on the BWV committee or been an office holder?

I took over as Convenor of VicWalk’s Environment Committee in approximately mid 2005 where I actively participated with 20 or more other people on my committee looking after track and environment issues, including many submissions to government departments. Following a restructure of VicWalk to Bushwalking Victoria and subsequent Environment Committee changes, I have maintained the position for Conservation and Projects and have recently added to the role as Track Maintenance Officer.

What do you bring to this position?

Dedication; but a word used recently by both the President of Bushwalking Victoria and Editor of *Bushwalking News Victoria* was 'Steve the indefatigable!'

What do you get from your contribution?

After organising and leading the activities I gain immense satisfaction seeing the smiles of achievement and enjoyment from fellow participants on the events I that I lead. It is always then gratifying to report back to the Land Manager in relation to the completion of a project that ultimately will benefit our bushwalking fraternity. One project that will always be at the top of my achievement list would have to be Target 2000 where over four days working on the recovery of walking tracks post 2009 fires I helped achieve the reopening of tracks in the Yarra Ranges National Park by initiating and organising an event where a staggering 2065 volunteer hours was contributed by Bushwalking Victoria club members.

Dave Rimmer, Manager BEC

What bushwalking clubs do you belong to?

The Victorian Mountain Tramping Club (VMTC)

How long have you been a member?

38 years

Do you or have you held a committee position in your club?

I am currently the president and have had previous roles as president, walks secretary, membership secretary.

How long have you been bushwalking?

About 43 years, but only seriously since joining the VMTC.

What got you started bushwalking

I walked casually with friends, then my wife, then with the VMTC through a work contact

How often do you manage to bushwalk?

Until recently I managed about 20 club walks a year plus a number of exploration trips and private trips to other parts of Australia and overseas.

What sort of bushwalking do you like best?

I like mainly weekend and multi-day trips, the more remote the better.

Do you have a favourite walk?

I don't have a favourite walk, but some of my favourite areas are Wilsons Prom, the Alpine National Park and, close to home, the Bunyip State Park.

Are you a member of a conservation or friends group?

I am a member of the VNPA, the Wilderness Society East Gippsland Environment Group, the Knox Environment Society and the Friends of Blind Creek.



Do you participate in conservation activities? If so what, where, and how often

In my role as manager of the Bushwalking Environment Committee, I regularly participate and organize track clearing and conservation projects, I am also actively involved at a local level.

What do you do when you are not bushwalking?

My bushwalking activities take up most of my time, but recently I have started doing my family tree.

How long have you been on the Bushwalking Victoria Committee or been an office holder

I joined the Bushwalking Victoria Board in 2007. From 1991 was Bushwalking Environment Committee convener/ Manager until 2003, then resumed in this role in 2008.

What do you bring to this position?

During my years bushwalking I have developed a store of knowledge relating to walking tracks and a passionate interest in the environment also developed many contacts and friends in other like-minded groups and with Parks Victoria and DSE staff.

What do you get from your contribution?

I have really enjoy working with a group of bright, dedicated and passionate people involved in bushwalking; bushwalking is a way of life for my wife and me.

MOSQUITOS

There is no scientific evidence to support claims that Vitamin B, bananas or garlic will protect you from mosquito bites. Alas!

Also, it's not necessarily a good idea to use combined sunscreen-insect repellent. Sunscreen should be applied generously; insect repellent should be applied sparingly.

When using sunscreen and insect repellent separately, apply the sunscreen first and then the insect repellent.

The most effective mosquito protection use products containing N,N-diethyl-3-methylbenzamide (DEET). Unhappily plant based repellents are not nearly as effective.

Editor

Who's Who at Bushwalking Victoria

Reg No A0002548Y ABN 88 344 633 037

Office

Administration Officer: Jenny Sykes
 PO Box 1007 Templestowe Vic 3106
 Phone: 8846 4131 Fax: 9846 7473
admin@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au
www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au
 Office Hours: 9.30-3.30
 Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

Office Bearers

President: Chris Towers
president@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au 9802 4449
 Skype: ec.towers
 Vice President: John Creaser
vp@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au
 Secretary (Vacant)
secretary@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au
 Assistant Secretary Val Wake
as@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au
 Treasurer: Fred Bover
 9439 7092 0439 002 844
treasurer@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

General Board Members

Doug Kneen doug@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au
 Megan Major megan@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au
 David Reid david@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au
 Dave Rimmer tracks@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au
 Terry Sydes terry@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

Standing Committees

Bush Search and Rescue Victoria: Peter Campbell
convener@bsar.org
 Manager Bushwalking Environment: Dave Rimmer
tracks@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au 0458 998 872
 Conservation and Track Maintenance Project Officer:
 Steven Robertson
conservation@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au 9762 5367

Specialist Officers

Insurance:
insurance@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au
 Publications and News Editor: Joslin Guest
editor@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au
 Federation Walks Coordinator Sylvia McLean
sylvia@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

Consultants

Strategy Consultant: Tony Walker
strategy@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au
 Honorary Auditor and Accounting Consultant:
 Stephen Skaleskog
 Land Management Submissions: Phil Brotchie
land@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au 5356 2459

Representatives on Other Organisations

Bushwalking Australia:
 Victorian Delegate: Chris Towers
 Victorian Deputy Delegate: David Reid
 Please contact via the office

Organisations where BWV Members Provide a Bushwalking Perspective

Walking Trails Classification Project Control Board: David Reid
 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



Bushwalking News Victoria

If undeliverable
 please return to

Bushwalking Victoria Inc.
 PO Box 1007
 Templestowe 3106
 Victoria