



Lerderderg Gorge between the North Razorback Track and the Ah Kow Track
 (Photo: Chris Ashe, 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:

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

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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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BUSHWALKING ENVIRONMENT

Track clearing/conservation projects

<p>Saturday 3 March and/ or Sunday 4 March 2012 Cathedral Ranges State Park VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED URGENTLY</p>	<p>Track clearing and some boardwalk construction Participants required: 16 Free camping for both Saturday and Sunday night at Cook's Mill Contact Steve Robertson (Bushwalking Victoria Conservation and Tracks Project Officer) via email at srob7859@bigpond.net.au or on 0438 267 129 or (03) 97625367 to register or request further information.</p>
<p>Sunday 22 April 2012 Bunyip State Park and Kurth Kiln Regional Park</p>	<p>The walking tracks in this area are used regularly by many walking clubs, and now it is time to give back and improve those tracks we walk on. In addition, we hope on this day to create a new walking track link between Bunyip State Park and Kurth Kiln. There will be many varied tasks, from an easy secateur stroll to more arduous work. A day for everyone - it will be fun!! We also hope to have other passive recreational user groups involved on the day but we need your support. Contact Steve Robertson (Bushwalking Victoria Conservation and Tracks Project Officer) via email at srob7859@bigpond.net.au or on 0438 267 129 or (03) 97625367 to register or to request further information.</p>

AAWT, Mt Wills–Sunnyside

Sixteen volunteers completed approximately 80% of the track over two days. There were many fallen trees to remove and much brush cutting to do, as well as the remarking of the track.

As a reward for their hard work, project leader David Miller provided participants with his now legendary culinary food: sausages one night and a gourmet lamb roast with plenty of trimmings on the other night.

Clubs involved were VMTC, Strzelecki and Maroondah.

Grey Sallow Willow removal – a weekend to remember- Up in the Bogong High Plains

Twenty-seven volunteers from a number of Victorian bushwalking clubs arrived at the beautiful ski village of Falls Creek for two days of field work out on the Bogong High Plains to assist Parks Victoria in the eradication of the noxious weed Grey Sallow Willow. I was lucky enough to join them. This was my first weekend trip away with other members of the Melbourne Bushwalking Club.

I arrived late Friday night, and feeling a little green behind the ears and perhaps a bit guilty of my fickle 'greeny' lifestyle, I took a deep breath and entered the lodge. Pleasantly surprised I was greeted and welcomed by a room full of warm and friendly faces. As I circulated the room it became evident that this group of volunteers, many of whom were returning for the third and fourth time, were not only truly passionate about eradicating this noxious weed, but had the same passion for regenerating the moss beds, replanting after fires and protecting the high plains from cattle and humans alike. In short the preservation of the Alpine National Park as a whole was what they were there for.



Cuts to Grey Sallow Willow

Day 1: After a comfortable night's sleep we all meet for the mandatory safety briefing and then a demonstration by the Parks Victoria ranger, Elaine Thomas, on how identify Grey Sallow Willow, how to cut back the weed and apply the deadly weedicide. The group was then split into three, with the first work party starting at Saddle Track working their way down the valley. Much to the

Cont on page 4

WALKING AND TALKING WITH THE BUSHWALKING VICTORIA PRESIDENT

Bushwalking Victoria strategic review

A Bushwalking Victoria project working group was established in January to undertake a comprehensive strategic review of Bushwalking Victoria and develop a new Strategic Plan. The working group has developed a high level project plan which was approved at the February 14 board meeting and the detailed work has now commenced.

Why does Bushwalking Victoria need a new plan?

Bushwalking Victoria's existing strategic plan covers the period 2009-2013, and would be due for review in early 2013. However, because of the factors outlined below it was decided that the review should commence immediately and consider a broad range of options that will help Bushwalking Victoria exert the influence necessary to achieve the best possible bushwalking, now and for the future, for our clubs, club members and for all Victorians who bushwalk.

- ABS data confirms that Bushwalking Victoria does not have the critical mass of bushwalkers membership needed for us to say that we credibly represent the bushwalking community. Therefore our influence is limited and it is highly unlikely that it will grow.
- The existence of a constituency of non-club bushwalkers (many times larger than our club membership) with whom we need to engage and seek their support in return for representing their interests.
- The board's belief that Bushwalking Victoria has reached the limit of what it can achieve for the benefit of clubs and bushwalkers using predominately volunteer resources. This inhibits our ability to influence decision makers, especially compared to organisations we compete with such as sporting shooters, 4WDers, bike riders etc, and is also a major roadblock to Bushwalking Victoria undertaking projects that are good for the development of bushwalking and supporting clubs.
- Recently announced changes by the Victorian Government to its funding arrangements for sport and active recreation.
- The increasing workload on board members who also hold key executive positions is not sustainable.

Review phases

The project will consist of a number of distinct phases which are expected to take approximately 12 months in total to complete (excluding implementation). Phase 1 will comprise background research and Phase 2 will comprise consultation with stakeholders, including clubs, and market research. I am planning to devote a significant part of the Bushwalking Victoria Leadership Forum to be held on Saturday 16 June to the review as it will provide

an opportunity for club leaders to be briefed and to contribute ideas and opinions.

Governance

A working group to manage the review was established in mid-January. The working group has already met several times and has made an excellent start in planning what needs to be done. Other volunteers will be needed to complete the work. The working group comprises:

- Tony Walker, Chair – Tony has been president of Waverley Bushwalking Club for the past three years and has been Bushwalking Victoria's Strategy Consultant for a number of years. Prior to retiring from the workforce, Tony had extensive experience as a consultant to large corporations and government agencies in Australia and internationally.
- David Reid – David has been a keen bushwalker for more than 50 years, was VicWalk/Bushwalking Victoria president from 2005 to 2010, is currently president of Bushwalking Australia and is a Bushwalking Victoria board member.
- John Creaser – John is currently the Vice President of Bushwalking Victoria and is a member of Bayside Bushwalking Club. He has extensive experience as a business owner/operator and is currently employed in senior position in a state government owned business.
- Elaine Towers – Yes, Elaine is my wife. She has been a bushwalker for more than 25 years, has held various officer bearer positions in CAEX Bushwalking Club and has experience in strategic planning in the Commonwealth Public Service.



Guiding principles

The Bushwalking Victoria strategic review process and the activities of the working group will be guided by the need to recognise:

- That the club network across Victoria has an important role in the delivery of bushwalking experiences. Therefore opportunities to strengthen and grow the club network need to be identified.
- Any proposed new direction or actions are to be consistent with the established values and ethics of Bushwalking Victoria.
- The value of recognising and engaging with the broader community of people who bushwalk.
- Consultation with stakeholders (internal & external) must be as wide as possible.
- The review process must be conducted in accordance with the established management and governance standards of Bushwalking Victoria.

Walking & Talking with the Bushwalking Victoria President (cont)

- During the review the current core activities of Bushwalking Victoria will be maintained to the best of the organisation's ability until the board approves any changes.

Communication

As the project develops, clubs and bushwalkers will be provided with a range of options and opportunities for contributing ideas and opinions to the review and regular updates will be provided in *Bushwalking News Victoria* and on the Bushwalking Victoria website.

Chris Towers
president@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES FOR RESPONDING TO AND RECOVERING FROM CRITICAL INCIDENTS

Late last year, one of Bushwalking Victoria's member clubs experienced the trauma of the death of a club member on a club activity. Although the club was able to manage the situation and its aftermath from within, the club suggested that Bushwalking Victoria develop a formal emergency plan document as a resource available to clubs of the appropriate actions to take in response to a range of emergency situations that could arise on a club activity.

The board of Bushwalking Victoria agreed that such a document was an excellent idea and board member, Megan Major, has volunteered to lead the development of this important initiative. If any club has emergency /crisis/critical or incident response/management/recovery plans that they are willing to share, Megan would be very pleased to receive them.

Megan's email address is
megan@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

Grey Sallow Willow removal (cont from page 1)

delight of the Parks Victoria rangers, not many Grey Sallow Willows were found in this area. It's a good thing not to find any because that means that the willows have been effectively removed by past teams. But if you don't find any or find very few, you can't helping feeling that you haven't been doing your job effectively. Team 2 started at Cope Saddle Hut and worked their way down the valley and back. A fair few Grey Sallow Willow were found there, destroyed and documented. My group, team 3, headed up the valley towards Mount Cope. Using GPS coordinates we returned to where previous years' groups had seen, removed and marked the Grey Sallow Willow. My group found large numbers of the weed (and the odd white lipped snake), mainly along the streams edges and damp wet beds.

In the past, volunteers have pulled out each plant found and taken the cuttings and roots away. However, the root system can be 10 times the size of the out-of-ground plant itself, so this method was not always successful because with such an extensive root system it is impossible to pull out every bit of root. And any bit left will regrow. The latest method is to cut all the branches at the base of the plant and apply roundup at each cut. This is proving more successful. We now also apply the weedicide to the cut off branch. (I was just glad we didn't have to lug bags of branches back with us considering the amount we found!)

We ended our productive first day with a delicious BBQ back at the lodge, organised by Steve and Leora Robertson, which was provided courtesy of Parks Victoria, and which was washed down with much deserved wine.

Day 2: If day 1 was anything to go by, we knew we were up for another full day cutting and dabbing. The three groups again went their separate ways in the Pretty Valley area. One of the groups set off to find an extensive area of Grey Sallow Willow not previously located but found and reported by some bushwalkers the previous week.

Overall, we removed and GPSed more than 400 plants.



The Grey Sallow Willow removal team—rangers and volunteers

Grey Sallow Willow removal (cont)

Rounding off my day was a trip up Mt McKay with Parks Victoria staff for the breath-taking 360° views of the Bogong High Plains and the valley down to Mt Beauty township.

The Alpine National Park is one of the most stunning landscapes I've seen. It's hard to imagine that in winter this landscape changes to endless white with snow. That's a sight I'm sure going to see.

Una Maybin
Melbourne Bushwalkers

Leora and I would like to acknowledge the participation of all members from the following clubs and non-club visitors who participated in this event: Maroondah BWC x 5, Melbourne Bushwalkers x 7, Border BWC x 5, Bendigo Outdoor BWC x 2, Boroondara BWC x 1, VNPA x 1, Bushwalking Victoria x 1, Bayside BWC x 2; and visitors to bushwalking clubs x 3.

Also a thanks to Chris Towers, President of Bushwalking Victoria, for taking the time out of his schedule to speak to us on Saturday evening, and also Rod Novak, in his capacity with Friends of Bogong High Plains, in explaining FOB's endeavours in this special area.

Steve Robertson, Bushwalking Victoria Conservation Convener

Friends of Bogong work weekend 24-25 March

If you wish to attend the work party on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 March, contact Dawn Kneen on 9817 1398 or email at mkneen@gmail.com from 1 March.

We meet at the Mt Beauty Parks Victoria Office / Works Depot at 8.20am on the Saturday.

Bring a day pack with snacks, lunch, water bottle, rain gear, sun hat, sun glasses, sun cream, and fly veil. Work gloves and strong boots are strongly recommended. A thermos and a picnic chair would be handy for our lunch break.

There is limited bunkhouse accommodation at Happy Larry's for the Friday evening. It is essential to reserve a spot with Dawn - fee of \$10 for non-members. Happy Larry's is on the corner of Wonnangatta Avenue and Young Street, Mt Beauty. For those who haven't been there before, turn right into Wonnangatta Avenue (opposite the Bogong Moth Motel). Young Street is the second up the hill and the house is top left of the intersection. Please try to arrive by 11pm at the latest. Note: You need to BYO sheets, pillow case and towel for Happy Larry's accommodation.

Free camping is available at the Mountain Creek picnic ground. We usually bush camp (next to cars) on the Saturday night. Other alternatives (at your own expense) are to pitch a tent or arrange a Yurt at the Mt Beauty Caravan Park (phone 5754 4396). BYO camping and meals.

Petrol rebate – We ask our carpooling drivers to keep their petrol receipts for travel to and from the March work party. The FOB committee has funding from the Commonwealth Government's Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs for a partial petrol rebate. Carpooling passengers will also need to make a small contribution to the travel costs. No petrol rebate available for single drivers.

Rod Novak
Friends of Bogong newsletter

MT BOGONG CONQUESTATHON
RUN, WALK, JOG
Sunday 11 March

Run, walk or jog on Mt Bogong, Victoria's highest peak (1986 metres), on Sunday 11 March, Victoria's Labour Day weekend.

Starting time: 6.30-8.30 am

Start & finish: Mountain Creek picnic area

Fee: Adults (16 years and over) \$15; Juniors (under 16 years) \$10; & Family \$40.

Distance: The total distance is approximately 20km with 1,300m of vertical climb

All finishers receive a commemorative medallion.

With radio-controlled and manned checkpoints along the way, this is an activity suitable for those with a healthy level of fitness. Young children must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the event.

This is not a race. However you might be interested to know that the fastest time ever recorded is by local DSE employee Andy Kromar with a time of 1 hr and 51 mins.

Entry forms and information available from the Mt Beauty Visitor Information Centre or by emailing Steve Short at tawsthna@mtbbeauty.albury.net.au

Mail your entry form to: UKV Lions Club, PO Box 77, TAWONGA SOUTH 3698 or phone 03 5754 4002.

If your members are interested in participating, we'd love to see you on the 11th.

With thanks, and best wishes
Bill Sutton
Secretary
UKV Lions Club Inc
PO Box 61, MOUNT BEAUTY 3699
03 5754 4128 / 0438 575 441

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

AROUND THE TRACKS

Track development

The Grand Strzelecki Track

The Grand Strzelecki Track is a 110km network of walking tracks in the Eastern Strzelecki Ranges connecting the Morwell National Park (Jeeralang Junction) in the west to Macks Creek in east and Mt Tassie in the north to Tarra Valley in the south and encompassing the Tarra Bulga National Park and the small community of Balook which is the centre point for five looped day-walks. The track is a project undertaken jointly by Latrobe City and the Wellington Shire and is funded by a \$500,000 grant from Bushfire Recovery Community Infrastructure Program.

It is anticipated that the track and associated works will be completed by April 2012. To showcase the full extent of the track and to encourage maximum community participation, a weekend of activity is proposed culminating in the official opening of track on the Sunday at Mt Tassie. (More details later.) The formal handover to Grand Strzelecki Track Inc will be on 1 May 2012.

Walk into History

At a meeting held at the DSE Powelltown Office on 14 February, input was sought from Bushwalking Victoria regarding providing good interpretive signs at sites that are part of this walk as well as along the track itself. The aim is to ensure that all the important aspects of the walk into history are covered.

Dave Rimmer, Manager, BEC

Wilsons Prom

Northern Prom

Parks Victoria has requested some comment about track slashing in the wilderness route on the northern prom.

Brett Mitchell, the Ranger in Charge wrote:

Parks Victoria would be very keen for Bushwalking Victoria to continue the good work that has been started. Our tracks team have since completed a little more work in the northern section. I will liaise with Ben Robertson who is the Ranger in Charge but the section from Lighthouse Point through to Chinamen's Longbeach is badly overgrown. As far as track maintenance standards are concerned, I believe a half metre is not too obtrusive but provides enough clearance for walkers to safely navigate. Given the long period the track has been closed, the fallen teatree and other debris from the 2009 fire and flood impacts I believe we should at least get the track up to that standard and flagged and monitor the track condition for a period of 12 months. If you are willing to undertake the section from Lighthouse Point through to Chinamen's Longbeach please advise. We can get 4WDs out to the end of Five Mile Road now as the road has fully been repaired.

Our response is that BEC is not keen on any clearing or slashing in wilderness areas. If it is necessary, it should be kept to a minimum, no more than .half a metre or just clearing fallen trees

A tentative date for Bushwalking Victoria volunteers to return to the Northern Prom is sometime in May, to do some more track maintenance eg. Marking and clearing fallen trees.

I attended the Advisory Group meeting on 13 February and will report more news next month

Ian McKellar, BEC field officer

Completed works / works in progress

- **South Norman to Little Oberon Bay:**
This track is mostly complete, and contractors are currently working on construction of some steps near Little Oberon Bay where minor landslips have occurred.
- Works on the **South East Track** are completed. Works included slashing, drainage and tree clearing.
- Works on the **Pillar Point Track** are now completed and the track is open.
- **Little Oberon Bay to Oberon Bay:**
Works have commenced, and the slashing of this track is now completed. Major remediation works are required as there is extensive damage to this track.
- Works on **Mt Oberon Road and Telegraph Track** continue.

Scheduled works

- **Oberon Bay camping area:**
Works to reconstruct the track into the camping area and also tidy up works in the camping area were scheduled to commence in February.
When this area re-opens, hikers need to be aware that the track leading to the water supply has been extensively damaged and that a new Aboriginal Cultural Site has been discovered. So the although the track to the campsite will be open, the track to the water supply will remain closed.
- **Sealers Cove Track:**
Works will start on the eastern end of the track in mid-March, working towards Ferny Glade. Planning is underway to design engineering solutions/options for Ferny Glade and some of the major slips.
Works from Telegraph Saddle to Ferny Glade will commence once the Oberon Bay Track is completed.
- **Whisky Bay / Picnic Link Track:**
Planning is complete for the new track the works will be tendered in March.
- **Loo-Ern Boardwalk:**
Tender documentation is being finalised, The tender likely to be advertised in coming weeks with procurement of works likely in late March/April

- Tree-risk works at outstation camping areas will be undertaken in March by contractors.

Brett Mitchell, Ranger in Charge, Willsons Prom NP

Otway Ranges

After 16 years, we are at an exciting stage with the Apollo Bay Trails Feasibility Study now having been endorsed by the Colac Otway Shire and placed on public exhibition. See the Colac Otway Shire page

http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/Page/page.asp?Page_Id=3854&h=0

The study is on public exhibition for six weeks. We would like people to look at the Colac Otway Shire webpage or call Andrew Nixon on 0417699611 to find out more or to obtain a CD.

It is vitally important now that the Shire gets some positive feedback before 9 March, so that these two walks can become a reality.

We have been working closely with Parks Victoria and the Colac Otway Shire since last March when the Feasibility Project Officer, Andrew Nixon, was appointed. The study, which investigated several Apollo Bay area walks, has recommended that two Otway Ranges Walking Track Association (ORWTA) walking tracks – the Les Nosedea Highview Track and the Wild Dog Trail – are achievable. We are presently producing a short promotional video which highlights these two walks that can be used to gain funding as well as for marketing.

Every long walk starts with a few steps.

Alan Dow
ORWTA President

Re-openings

Grand Ridge Rail Trail

The Minister for the Environment, Ryan Smith, officially re-opened this trail on 10 February. Helen Timbury a VMTC member did the signage for the rail trail.

The Grand Ridge Rail Trail links Mirboo North and Boolarra in the Strzelecki Ranges in Gippsland. It takes three hours to complete the walk one way. The trail was closed after the fires at Mirboo North in 2009. Re-opening the trail required the rebuilding of two bridges.

Dave Rimmer, Manager BEC

Mount Richmond National Park walks re-open

Many of the walking tracks in the Mount Richmond National Park in the state's west are open again after a fire burnt through a significant area of the park last year.

Ranger in Charge, Don Tumney, says rehabilitation has gone smoothly and inspections of walking tracks have now deemed Alec's Walk, part of West Walk, Benwerrin Nature Walk, and Ocean View walk as safe to re-open.

'The Great South West Walk had been re-routed around the burnt area and we are gradually re-opening the main walk,' Mr Tumney said. 'Part of West Walk (and the Great

South West Walk) will remain closed due to wet and slippery footing, possibly until February when conditions have dried.'

Facility replacement is ongoing. The Ocean View Lookout which was destroyed in the fire is expected to be rebuilt early in 2012.

'The park has recovered very well after the fire,' said Mr Tumney. 'This was reflected in the wildflowers the park is known for, which put on fantastic display this year.'

Parks Victoria

BUSHWALING TIPS

Battery packs for mobile phones

Mobile phones can be very useful for communications on [bushwalking] trips and on searches. However, many phone batteries will go flat after a day or two of use. Small battery packs are available that can be used to recharge a mobile phone using either AA or AAA batteries. They can also double up as a charging device when connected via USB lead to a computer or USB wall charger.

Inca battery pack

- LED torch included
- Charge batteries via USB lead from computer or wall charger
- Charge phone via USB lead supplied with phone
- 4 X AAA batteries



Varta battery pack

- Charge batteries via USB lead from computer or wall charger
- Charge phone via USB lead supplied with phone
- 2 X AA or 2 X AAA batteries
- Includes a variety of adapter plugs for different mobile phone connections



Source: Bush Search & Rescue website
<http://www.bsar.org/batterypacks>

Mobile phones for communications in the bush

Mobile phones can often be used for communications in the bush and other remote areas. It is recommended that parties carry at least one mobile phone.

All mobiles are not equal. Do some research to determine which mobile phone will be the best for the places you are likely to use it.

Some points to consider are:

- Check the **rating for good reception** (eg. Telstra's 'blue tick')
- A phone that can take an **external antenna** (there are a few) can improve reception
- Check the **rated battery life** of the phone - both standby and talk time. A phone battery that only lasts a day is a major limitation
- Choose a phone with **inbuilt GPS and/or location services**. These can be used for reporting your location, and in some cases for emergency services to track your phone.
- A **waterproof or splashproof** phone is desirable for outdoors use. Some example are a Sonim (GSM) and a Motorola Defy (Next G).
- Phones with resistive touch screens can be difficult to operate if your fingers get sweaty.

Networks and carriers

- **A phone without network coverage is useless.** Several network operators service mainly cities and urban areas and have poor or non-existent coverage in remote areas.
- In general, the Telstra NextG network has the best coverage, although call rates and data charges are often higher than competitors
- Some operators such as Three (now merged with Vodafone) have roaming agreements with Telstra, however they may not get the full coverage or services offered by Telstra's NextG network.

Phone usage

- **Keep the phone turned off when it is not needed.** Mobiles operating outside of network coverage will keep 'polling' for a base station and will use more power. You can also put the phone into 'flight mode' which turns off the network connection.
- **Store the phone in a waterproof pouch** that it can be also be used in, or buy a waterproof phone.
- **Turn off Bluetooth, WiFi and GPS functions if they are not needed** - they consume extra power. The GPS in some phones relies on the mobile network to render maps, while some phones have maps stored inside them.
- **You can often get reception from high ground.** If you don't have reception, it is worth walking onto a ridge or further onto a summit.

- Most maps in phones are not ideal for bushwalking as they don't have enough detail.
- **SMS messages use much less power than talking;** if you are running low send information via SMS
- **If you are lost or in an emergency situation, call 000 and ask for Police.**

Smart phone applications

While smart phones such as iPhones and Android-based phones often use more power and are more bulky than conventional mobile phones, [they] can run useful applications. Some applications that may be useful include:

- Insetry (Android): Insert current GPS coordinates in an SMS
- My Tracks (Android): Record track logs and upload to Google maps
- CoordTransform (Android): Convert between Lat Lon to UTM coordinates
- GPS Tracker (Android): Track the location of the phone (requires network coverage)
- Avenza PDF Map: interact with geo referenced PDFs such as Vicmap Topo 1:30 000 map series. Currently available only for Apple iOS devices.

In summary

Remember, there is no guarantee that a mobile phone will work, so they should not be relied upon for safety or communications. They are no substitute for navigation skills, a map, compass, GPS and Personal Locator Beacon. However, with network coverage they can be a useful addition to your safety gear.

Source: **Bush Search & Rescue website**
<http://bsar.org/phones>

PROFILES - BUSHWALKING VICTORIA BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICE HOLDER

Megan Major, general board member

What bushwalking club(s) do you belong to? West Gippsland Bush Walkers and Strzelecki Bush Walking Club.

How long have you been a member? About four years.

Do you or have you held a committee position in your club(s)? Secretary of WGBWC since July last year.

How long have you been bushwalking? On and off 50+ years

What got you started bushwalking? I grew up in Tasmania close to the Western Tiers, Mt Roland and the Mersey and Meander valleys. My father took us exploring at weekends. My biology teacher loved taking us on

excursions to the alpine plateaus. We even conned our matriculation English teacher to supervise a girls' end of year camping weekend at Waterfall Valley Hut on the Overland. Not many teachers would do that now – but I strongly believe it all starts when you are young.

How often do you manage to bushwalk? Once a week on a club walk or a reccie for the club. Every day for about five weeks of the year as well.

What sort of bushwalking do you like best? Base camping for weeks away in mountains of Tassie or NZ.

Do you have a favourite walk? Western Tiers - Higgs track to Lady Lake and onto Lake Nameless

Are you a member of a conservation or friends group? Friends of Baw Baw.

Do you participate in conservation activities? If so what, where and how often? Track maintenance and blackberry control probably three times a year. Also annual track work on AAWT.

What do you do when you are not bushwalking? I try but fail to keep up with my one-acre garden. Volunteer work gets in the way: SES heaps of storm and flood in the past year; Interchange - respite for disabled child; Alzheimer's Victoria - chair their consumer advisory committee

How long have you been on the Bushwalking Victoria board member or office holder? Board member since July last year. Still trying to answer the question 'what do clubs and members want from the board?'

What do you bring to this position? Passion for bushwalking, experience with land management – had a farm for 35 years; no nonsense, adventurous spirit; analytical mind; and experience with administration and bureaucracy

What do you get from your contribution? Sense that I am doing my part; opportunity to learn about and identify issues facing bushwalkers; and opportunity to make a difference.

Phil Brotchie, land management submission consultant

What bushwalking club(s) do you belong to? Walking Club of Victoria, Grampians Bushwalking Club, Wimmera Bushwalking Club. I also do track-clearing and occasional walks with Ballarat Bushwalking and Outdoor Club.

How long have you been a member? WCV 30 years, GBC and WBC 6 months, although I've walked with the latter two and BBOC for some 9 months.

Do you or have you held a committee position in your club(s)? Yes. I am Assistant Secretary and Complaints Officer GBC.

How long have you been bushwalking? Since I was a young boy.

What got you started bushwalking? Our Kennington (Bendigo) house backed onto bushland and my two brothers and I felt moved to explore it.

How often do you manage to bushwalk? I do a walk about every 10 days on average, sometimes alone, sometimes with a club.

What sort of bushwalking do you like best? I like bushwalks that take me to waterfalls or to the tops of mountains or cliffs that provide extensive views.

Do you have a favourite walk? Yes. That was to the top of Half Dome in California's astonishing Yosemite NP.

Are you a member of a conservation or friends group? Yes. I belong to the Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater.

Do you participate in conservation activities? If so what, where and how often? Yes. I join Steve Robertson in annual Snake Island (Wilson's Prom) and Alpine Restoration (Falls Creek-based) conservation exercises.

What do you do when you are not bushwalking? I play tennis, read, do cryptic crosswords, entertain visitors, wine and dine socially, cut firewood and do work around my 10-acre Great Western property.

How long have you been a Bushwalking Victoria board member or office holder? I've been involved with Bushwalking Victoria since September 2002, as editor of *VicWalk News* for three years and thenceforth as a submissions writer, member of the Bushwalking Environment Committee and, more recently, also as Grampians Field Officer.

What do you bring to these positions? I bring a love of the bush; extensive tertiary qualifications. including a PhD, many years of involvement with a variety of conservation groups, decades of walking experience, and a wealth of administrative expertise acquired in a plethora of government departments including most recently 21 years in the Bureau of Meteorology's Management Branch as an Executive Level officer.

What do you get from your contribution? Fun. I get a real buzz when my submissions go forward to government, I enjoy the camaraderie and the feeling of achievement in helping make an effective contribution to the environment that comes from participation in conservation projects, and I am enjoying learning more and more about the Grampians from further exploring them on foot, and liaising with Parks Victoria and others in relation to them.



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

Metropolitan Melbourne Reference Group: Phil Brotchie
 Outdoor Recreation Centre Committee of Management:
 Chris Towers
 Living Links Steering Committee: Tony Walker



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Bushwalking Victoria Inc.
 PO Box 1007
 Templestowe 3106
 Victoria