



Serra Range, Southern Grampians, The Warrnambool Bushwalker, May 2012

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

Editor: Joslin Guest

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## WALKING AND TALKING WITH THE BUSHWALKING VICTORIA PRESIDENT



### New Board

Following the AGM on Saturday 16 June, Bushwalking Victoria has a new board of management. There was no nomination for the position of Assistant Secretary and we received only four nominations for the five general board member positions. In other

words, we commence the new membership year with two board vacancies.

The board of management for the coming year is as follows:

- Office bearers:
  - President, Chris Towers, CAEX Bushwalking Club
  - Vice President, Tony Walker, Waverley Bushwalking Club
  - Secretary, Fred Bover, Diamond Valley Bushwalking Club
  - Treasurer, Val Wake, CAEX Bushwalking Club
- General Board Members:
  - David Reid, Waverley Bushwalking Club
  - John Creaser, Bayside Bushwalking Club
  - Megan Major, West Gippsland Bushwalkers
  - Terry Sydes, Benalla Bushwalking Club.

The new board includes no new faces, as Tony Walker, the new Vice President, has been Strategy Consultant since 2007 and has attended many board meetings. Val Wake, who served as Secretary for the maximum three years allowed in our rules, followed by a year as Assistant Secretary (but effectively Secretary as we couldn't get anyone to take on that role last year), is now Treasurer. Fred Bover had also completed the maximum allowed three years as Treasurer, and is now Secretary. While we have a great and experienced team, I am extremely disappointed that amongst our 6,500 members in 64 clubs, that only eight people from six clubs are willing and able to join the board and thereby support our bushwalking clubs and contribute to the development of better bushwalking for all Victorians.

Anyone interested in nominating for one of the two remaining vacancies can contact me for more information at [president@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au](mailto:president@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au) or on 9802 4449.

### New Member Fees

The AGM approved the following membership structure and fees for the 2012-13 membership year:

- Affiliate Member — \$9.90 per club member 16 years of age and over
- Individual Member — \$14.50
- Associate Member — \$100.00
- Associate Member - Student Body — \$25.00

### Leadership Forum

More than 60 people representing 30 member clubs attended another very successful Leadership Forum on Saturday 16 June 2012.

The agenda for the day included two open forum sessions that provided the opportunity for clubs to raise questions and issues of concern them or of interest to the wider community of clubs. We also conducted discussions groups on three topics associated with the Bushwalking Victoria Strategic Review.



It was great to see so many enthusiastic and interested people, not only willing to sacrifice a day of their valuable time, but also willing to contribute actively to making the day a success. Templestowe Valley Primary School was an excellent venue, and the principal and staff were very accommodating and supportive.

Further information on issues raised in the open forum sessions and outcomes from the discussion groups will be sent to all clubs in the next week or so.

The 2013 Leadership Forum and AGM will be held on Saturday 15 June.

### Responsibilities and Obligations of Leaders

One of the topics raised in the open session of the Leadership Forum concerned the responsibilities and obligations of walk leaders, specifically in relation to legal liability. I am sure many of us remember the turmoil concerning insurance that engulfed Australia in 2001-2003. Insurance premiums rocketed, new conditions were placed on cover and it became quite difficult to obtain some forms of insurance. One of the areas affected was the not-for-profit and volunteers sectors, including sport and recreation. In response to this the Victorian Government passed the Wrongs and Other Acts (Public Liability Insurance Reform) Act 2002 that introduced into a new Volunteer Protection clause to help protect volunteers from being held personally liable for an accident that may lead to injury.

Under the provisions of the Act, a volunteer will not be held personally liable in any civil proceedings for anything done in relation to community work organised by a

community organisation where the volunteer acted in good faith, and within the boundaries of their roles and responsibilities. Community work includes that done for the purpose of sport, recreation or tourism or amusement.

Detailed information on the implications of the Act can be found on the VicSport website at

<http://www.vicsport.asn.au/Association-Club-Support/Volunteers/>

VicSport is the independent member-based organisation representing Victoria's sport and active recreation sector and Bushwalking Victoria is a member. The VicSport website has a range of resources that may be of interest and use to clubs covering areas such as risk management, volunteer recognition and recruitment, association and club support. Go to <http://www.vicsport.asn.au/Home/>

### **New Conservation Projects Coordinator and Tracks Maintenance Coordinator**

I am very pleased to announce that we have a new Tracks Maintenance Coordinator and Conservation Projects Coordinator. Charlie Ablitt from Bayside Bushwalking Club has volunteered to replace Steve Robertson who had announced his intention to stand aside from these two roles in June. Charlie has been an enthusiastic participant in tracks maintenance and conservation projects, and I hope that members will show the same support for Charlie as they showed for Steve.

To assist Charlie with identifying potential projects, members are encouraged to report track problems using the Track Report Form available from the Bushwalking Victoria web site at

<http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/forms/Track%20Report%20Form.doc>

### **Club Surveys - Using Survey Monkey**

SurveyMonkey is an online survey tool used around the world by hundreds of thousands of organisations, from large multi-national corporations, to universities, governments, large and small businesses and even bushwalking clubs. Basic SurveyMonkey functionality is available free with the paid versions providing more sophisticated surveys, analysis and reporting.

Bushwalking Victoria has purchased a SurveyMonkey subscription and is able to make use of this available to any club wishing to conduct a survey of members. Interested clubs can contact me for further information.

### **Parks Victoria Website**

In September last year, Parks Victoria launched its new upgraded website. It seems that many people are unhappy with it, saying it is now more difficult to find the information they are looking for, and/or find it slow due to the time it takes for the map showing park locations to load. Parks Victoria manages in excess of 4m hectares across 2,953 parks and due to technical limitations the old site couldn't include many of these parks and the search function was basic to say the least, and it needed an upgrade.

I can't do anything about the slowness of the new site, but I actually find locating the information I need to be easier than on the old site. Mostly I am looking for a Park Visitor Guide/Park Note and any change of conditions that might affect my visit. I start using the *Explore* option (which is really the Search option) which is the first menu item in the top menu bar of the site, and then select *Parks*. This opens a search box where if I need to, I can quickly get a list of all national parks (just type in national parks and click Search) and all state parks. Alternatively, I just type in the name of the park I am looking for in the search box. Once my search result is displayed, clicking the name of the park I am interested in opens the page that has all the information relevant to the park. Any changed conditions affecting the park will be listed first. For all parks, the Park Visitor Guide/Park Note will be in the list of related publications near the bottom of the page.

### **Trip Intentions**

Bushwalkers visiting New Zealand and undertaking walking (tramping) are advised that since 1 March 2012 the NZ Department of Conservation (DOC) has stopped collecting paper-based trip intention forms from visitor centres. Instead of the paper-based forms, DOC is supporting the introduction of a nationally consistent online trip intentions system - [www.adventuresmart.co.nz](http://www.adventuresmart.co.nz)

While looking into this a little further, I came across the a site that can be used for trip organisation and planning, including trip intentions: <http://www.roughplan.com/> The trip intentions facility offered by this site includes entering a Panic Alert that sends an emergency alert by either SMS, email or both to your emergency contacts if you are not back on time. Although it is based in NZ, it will work anywhere in the world.

Also, our 'own' Peter Campbell, Convener of Bush Search and Rescue last year developed an online trip intentions web site. This can be accessed at

<http://www.tripintentions.org/>

**Chris Towers**

[president@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au](mailto:president@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au)

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## **SUNRISE & SUNSET - MELB GPO**

Fri 29 Jun	0736 1711 EST	Fri 13 Jul	0733 1718 EST
Fri 27 Jul	0725 1729 EST	Fri 10 Aug	0711 1740 EST
Fri 24 Aug	0653 1752 EST	Fri 7 Sep	0632 1804 EST
Fri 21 Sep	0611 1826 EST	Fri 5 Oct	0549 1828 EST

### **EDST starts Sunday 7 October**

Fri 19 Oct	0629 1941 EDST	Fri 2 Nov	1612 1956 EDST
Fri 16 Nov	0559 2012 EDST	Fri 30 Nov	0552 2025 EDST
Fri 14 Dec	0552 2037 EDST	Fri 21 Dec	0554 2042 EDST

### **Full Moons**

Sun 6 July, Mon 4 Jun, Wed 4 Jul, Thu 2 Aug, Fri 31 Aug, Sun 30 Sep, Tue 30 Oct, Thu 29 Nov, Fri 28 Dec

Source: [www.ga.gov.au](http://www.ga.gov.au)

**FEDERATION WALKS 2012, SUNDAY 14TH OCTOBER, 2012**

**INTRODUCTION**

The 2012 Federation Walks will be held in the Marysville area, with headquarters located at the Marysville Community Centre. A variety of walks will be available with gradings from easy to medium-hard, including walks for those interested in geocache and photography. All registrants will receive a walk booklet containing the 21 walks, this will include a map and detailed walk description, a useful reference for the future. Afternoon tea will be provided. A BBQ on the Saturday evening will be available for those staying in the area, the cost of this should be paid on the Saturday evening.

**LOCATION**

The Community Centre is located adjacent to the town centre at the sports oval. Directions and parking will be provided by the local SES.

Registration will be at the Community Centre, with some walks commencing at that location and other walks will be via carpooling.

**REGISTRATION AND BOOKING PROCEDURES**

Registrations open on 1 August and close on 14 September 2012. The registration fee for the event is \$22. A BBQ will be provided on Saturday evening at an additional \$10 per person.

Clubs are requested to appoint a Coordinator. Their role will be to coordinate all registrations for their club and to be responsible for sending the forms and payment to the Maroondah Bushwalking Club. Details are provided below. Club members are requested to direct their registration through their clubs coordinator. To avoid delaying registration, bookings will be accepted in two batches if necessary.

**WALK PREFERENCES**

Each person is to nominate their first, second, third and fourth preferences on part A of the registration form. Every attempt will be made to meet walkers preferences; however the principle of first come, first served will apply.

**LODGING REGISTRATIONS**

The club's coordinator may lodge registrations electronically or by mail using forms A and B as applicable. These can be downloaded from our website at [www.mbw.org.au](http://www.mbw.org.au) Each registration batch from clubs should be accompanied by a single cheque from the club. If the registration is lodged electronically, attach a copy of this to the cheque. Registration will only be accepted when full payment has been made.

Completed forms and cheques, payable to MBWC, and mailed to the Federation Walk Coordinator c/o Maroondah Bushwalking Club, PO Box 575, Ringwood Vic. 3135

**REFUNDS**

No refunds will be made after the close of registrations on Friday, 14 September 2012.

**OTHER MATTERS**

**Carpooling:** Transport to and from the walk start/finish will be via carpooling. A number of walks will commence from the Community Centre and car pooling on those walks will not apply.

**Personal first aid:** Walkers must provide their own first aid kit.

**Accommodation:** Participants should make their own arrangements. A list of available accommodation is provided in the information package sent to the clubs.

**KEY DATES**

**1 June:** Clubs to commence publicity and registration procedures, appoint club coordinator.

**1 August:** Registration opens.

**14 September:** Registrations close.

**1 October:** Feedback to club coordinators re allocation of walks.

**14 October:** Registration available from 8am at the Marysville Community Centre. Registration must be completed no later than 15 minutes prior to walk departure as indicated on the registration form. Late walkers may not be accommodated.

**HOW TO CONTACT US**

All information regarding the event is provided via links on the websites of Bushwalking Victoria (BWV) or the Maroondah Bushwalking Club (MBWC)

BWV: [www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au](http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au)

MBWC: [www.mbw.org.au](http://www.mbw.org.au)

Email : [cri45278@bigpond.net.au](mailto:cri45278@bigpond.net.au) for general enquires only; please put **Federation walk 2012** in the subject line)

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**OTWAY RANGES WALKING TRACK ASSOCIATION**

Otway Ranges Walking Track Association has changed its address to P.O. Box 25, Apollo Bay, 3233.

They have also produced a promotional video as part of their application for funding for the Apollo Bay walks which you can view at <http://vimeo.com/38484000>

## CELEBRATING THE WARBIES

21-24 September (Friday to Monday)

### INTRODUCING VICTORIA'S NEWEST NATIONAL PARK

This program is open to bushwalkers across the state, and aims to show off the beauties of the Warby Range near Wangaratta. It is being organised by the Warby Range Bushwalkers, and coincides with biodiversity month in Victoria.

Walks programmed are:

- The Warbies, North to South - a major three-day walk over Saturday, Sunday and Monday, and finishing mid afternoon on the last day. Individual sections are possible.
- Other short and longer walks of various grades on each of the three days. The walks are the:
  - Friends Track
  - Killawarra Forest
  - Mt Glenrowan/Chick Hill
  - Pangerang Lookout
  - Pine Gully
  - Salisbury Falls/Alpine Views
  - Salisbury Falls/Friends Track
  - Sunrise Track
  - Wenhams to Booths
  - Ovens River walks.

These walks cover different eco-systems in the park, which is usually at its best in late September when waterfalls are cascading and wild flowers are to be seen in abundance. The park embraces a great variety of tree and shrub species, and bird and animal life. From the escarpments and its granite outcrops, there are spectacular views easterly across the Ovens Valley to the Victorian Alps and westerly across spreading fertile plains.

Contact Adrian Twitt 5721 5327 or Bob Shaw 5766 2773 before Friday 21 September to register (\$5 registration fee payable on arrival).

All interested walkers invited, including children accompanied by parents.

Brochure with details available by post or on our website [www.warbybushwalkers.org.au](http://www.warbybushwalkers.org.au) from late July.

#### Warby Ranges Bushwalkers

## HIKE4HUNGER

The Hunger Project Australia supports community development programs in Asia and Africa with the goal of eliminating hunger and extreme poverty. In support of World Food Day on October 16, we run a campaign called **hike4hunger** and I'd like to invite the members of Bushwalking Victoria to be involved.

hike4hunger aims to raise awareness about the global hunger crisis and to inspire people to take a small yet effective step towards ending global hunger.

Our concept is simple. We ask people to create and lead a hike, and get their friends, family, colleagues and like-minded hikers on board. The hikes can be as long or short as you like and can be wherever you like. We have also planned two long hikes, which we call pilgrimages, from Canberra to Mount Kosciuszko and along the Kokoda Track, which are open to anyone who wishes to join. To be involved, all you have to do is register your interest with us, and be prepared to do a little fundraising.

By creating a hike you are choosing to walk in solidarity with the women, men and children who are fighting to end their own hunger. The money raised will be used to support The Hunger Project programs in Africa that have been proven to be effective and sustainable in reducing poverty and hunger.

In the past, we have raised over \$120,000 for our programs in Malawi and Mozambique. This year, we hope to raise over \$150,000. We would like to invite you and your members to join us in achieving this goal by creating a hike or joining one of our existing hikes.

For more information about the project and who we are and what we do, visit [The Hunger Project](http://TheHungerProject.org) and [hike4hunger](http://hike4hunger.org). If you prefer to contact us directly, please email me at [cyra.patel@thp.org](mailto:cyra.patel@thp.org) or call us at 02 9222 9088. If you would like for us to meet with your members to tell them about the campaign or the work we do, please contact us and we would be happy to set up a time.

We hope you will share our message and consider partnering with us to end global hunger.

**Cyra Patel**

The Hunger Project

Level 1, 1 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, NSW 2000

## WINTER IMAGES

Left: Annette Bover, Diamond Valley BWC. Centre: Anne-Maree Crosby, Echuca Moama BWC. Right: John Roth, Peninsula BWC



## AROUND THE TRACKS

### Urgent notice for all track users: Lerderderg track closure

DSE have advised that the Lerderderg Track between Whalebone Road and the Blackwood Caravan Park will be closed, effective immediately.

The track width and vegetation growth has potential for trip and fall hazards, especially where there is a mine opening immediately adjacent to the track.

Track Closure signs will be placed at both ends of this section until DSE clears the vegetation and improves the track width.

A possible diversion is down Golden Point Road to the Springs Reserve.

Please see the GDTA website at [www.gdt.org.au](http://www.gdt.org.au) for further details.

**Alison Lanigan**

President, Great Dividing Trail Association

### State Forest Walking Track upgrades

- Work has commenced on the Walk into History track in the Powelltown area, with the Ada No 2 Mill Site camping area upgraded and log crossing installed on the track approaches.
- I attended the official opening the La La Falls walking track near Warburton on June 4. Although the track to the falls is only 1.7km, the falls are well worth visiting and longer walks can be devised with a little imagination.

### Bunyip State Park

- The Bench Rest Track, which is the link between Bunyip State Park and Kurth Kiln Regional Park, has been completed by Parks Victoria. This is the track originally surveyed and marked by Bushwalking Victoria and partly cleared in the April working bee.
- The Freemans Mill Track southern loop has also been cleared by Parks Victoria, and subject to resources the Northern section is planned for this year.
- We will be discussing with Parks arrangements for future ongoing maintenance.

### Wilson's Prom

Chris Towers, Ian McKellar and I attended a meeting with Parks Victoria at Tidal River to discuss a strategy for walking tracks.

In late May, a team of bushwalkers from various clubs started work on marking and redefining the route between Chinamans Long Beach to Lighthouse Point in northern Wilson's Prom. See the article on page 9. Bushwalking Victoria volunteers will be going back in late July to complete the clearing so that it can be declared open.

### Goldfields Track

The Goldfields Track walking Guide is now available for purchase via the GDTA website [www.gdt.org.au](http://www.gdt.org.au). It contains 36 maps and detailed track notes and is a valuable addition to a bushwalkers library. See the review on page 8.

**Dave Rimmer**

Manager, Bushwalking Environment Committee

### Cathedral Ranges

John and I attended the opening of Messmate Track in the Cathedral Ranges State Park on a chilly Sunday 3 June.

The bus transported the group from Cooks Mill to Sugarloaf Saddle for the official opening by Cindy McLeish, MLA for Seymour. There were speeches from representatives from Parks Victoria and others ahead of the cutting of a novel 'ribbon' in the form of a string of boots across the track.



After a light lunch at the new picnic shelter, we set off on an easy downhill walk of about 4km back to Cooks Mill.

The new Messmate Track provides an off-road walking option to complete a circuit walk around the southern Cathedral Range. While there is little printed material showing the track, it is marked on signposts at either end.

**Monica Chapman**

### Great South West Walk

#### Campsite upgrade

The new (Dec 2011) shelter at Battersbys is now an official GSWW campsite along the Glenelg River.

There are also Parks Victoria campsites adjoining this area that require payment of a fee for camping. The current walkers' campsites at Post and Rail and Murrells on either side of Battersbys will eventually be decommissioned. This change will effectively reduce the total number of walkers' campsites from 16 to 15.

Note: Publications will not be updated with this information until stock is sufficiently low to warrant a new print run.

**Boardwalks**

Construction of several boardwalks in the Cobboboonee Forest and Lower Glenelg National Park over wet areas has been completed to make access all year round.

**New stairs at Hillus Horribilus**

Due to King Neptune taking sand away from the beach at the bottom of Hillus Horribilus a new set of stairs, 8.4m long, has been constructed to get walkers from the beach. The new stairs are located approximately 50m past the old exit from the beach

**Replacement steps**

Two lengthy sets of steps have been constructed to replace those that had become unsafe on a section of track between The Springs and Whites Beach.

**Erosion Blow-out**

Students from Wesley College have helped to control an erosion 'blow-out' that threatens to collapse a section of track near Cape Bridgewater.

The Wesley College students have been doing brush spreading with coastal wattle under the guidance of two GSWT stalwarts, Daryl Alexander and Bill Golding.

**GSWW Friends Newsletter, March 2012**

**VALE - BILL BEWSHER**

Former VicWalk President and Search & Rescue Convenor passed away in Tasmania recently.

Bill was VicWalk President on two occasions, from 1953 to 1955 and again in 1961-62. However, it was his 35 years of service to the Federation of Victorian Walking Club's Search & Rescue Section that he will be best remembered. Involved from the outset, he was its first convenor and first field organiser, a position he held for some 20 years. After that he was police liaison officer until the mid-1980s.

Bill joined Melbourne University Mountaineering Club in 1947 and for almost 40 years vigorously promoted bushwalking, bushwalking leadership and skills training, safety, and search and rescue. Bill helped establish the Bushwalking and Mountaineering Leadership course and his involvement included being director of training courses and chairman of the Bushwalking and Mountaineering Training Advisory Board from 1969 to 1982. He was involved with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Outward Bound and the Education Department's school camps branch. Bill was also a life member, Melbourne University Mountaineering Club.



Bill Bewsher and BMLC course member a young Steve Bracks sharing a joke

**Chris Towers**  
President, Bushwalking Victoria

**APPLY FIRST AID (LEVEL 2)**

- Emergency action principals, CPR (one and two person CPR)
- Bleeding, bandaging, hygiene, burns, fractures, poisons, bites and stings heart problems, breathing problems, stroke, epilepsy, diabetes, extremes of temperature and practical decision making



**Course accredited by Swinburne University**

**To be held Sunday 15 and 29 July, 2012**

9 am - 5 pm

**at Frankston**

Tea and coffee provided



Participants from Bushwalking Victoria clubs welcome. Alternatively, clubs can arrange for the course to be held on their own dates at a specified venue.

Contact **Lynton Spencer** on **0423 912 842** for further details



**Project Hindmarsh**  
Community Planting Weekend  
17 - 19 August, 2012

Celebrating our 15th year establishing biolinks between the Big and Little Desert National Parks, we invite you to get involved in something big! Come for the weekend and help us celebrate our 15 years Australia's longest-running tree planting weekend.

**REGISTER ONLINE**  
[www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au](http://www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au)  
Go to Environment > Hindmarsh Landcare, click on Community Planting Weekend.

Meals and camping provided free of charge.  
Bus travel available from Melbourne \$30 return.

Further info: Contact our Network Facilitator on 0419 001 916.



**Grow West Community Planting Day**



Help us plant 6,000 trees for a better, greener future.

This annual event is run in partnership with the Grow West Project, Victorian National Parks Association, Friends of Werribee Gorge and Long Forest Mallee and Pentland Hills Landcare Group. This year's project is supported by Computershare Pepper eTree, DSE - Vision for Werribee Plains and Melbourne Water.

**Register online at**  
[www.growwest.com.au](http://www.growwest.com.au)  
**Closes 10<sup>th</sup> July 2012**

**When:** Sunday 15th July 2012, 9:30am – 4pm  
**What:** You will join a volunteer force to plant seedlings, make up and install tree guards and then join us for lunch.  
**Where:** David Muir's Property, Morrisons Lane, Korobeit (VicRoad 77 G3)  
For further details and site location map, visit [www.growwest.com.au](http://www.growwest.com.au)  
**Bring:** Warm clothes, hat, gloves and sturdy footwear. To minimize waste, please bring your own water bottle, cup, plate and cutlery for lunch. Lunch & afternoon tea will be supplied.  
**Details:** Helena Lindorff ph: 9971 6502 / mob. 0437 195 511  
[www.growwest.com.au](http://www.growwest.com.au)



**GOLDFIELDS TRACK WALKING GUIDE**

The *Goldfields Guide Walking Guide* By Gib Wettenall was launched on 1 June. It has 160 pages, with 33 full-colour, large-scale contour maps, track notes and beautiful photographs. Its dimensions are 210 x 150mm and it weighs 350gm. Its production qualities are excellent—good paper; good maps on which features are clearly delineated; small but still easy-to-read font for walk notes; and ring binding that makes the guide easy to hold open.

The 210km Goldfields Track linking Ballarat (from Mt Buninyong) to Bendigo is the longest shared-use track in Victoria and the guide is designed for use by both walkers and cyclists. The introduction includes the usual information, but also includes information about how to access major points along the track by train.

There is a very interesting section called *Reading the Landscape* that provides background information about the Goldfields Track: the history of the area, including mining; geology; and plants and animals. Towards the back is another section called *Cultural Heritage*. Both sections are succinct and worth reading because they will help you understand and appreciate what you are walking or riding through and seeing.

The overall/key map is on the verso of the front cover and clearly shows the relationship between the 33 individual details maps. It is repeated at the beginning of the detailed map and walk notes section.

The *Map Spread* section is colour coded for the three

Major tracks that make up the Goldfield Track. The notes and maps follow the track from south (Buninyong) to north (Bendigo)

Each colour-coded section starts with a brief introduction to that section of the track. It summarises the maps sections; provides an elevation profile for the track; and shows a truncated version overall map to give perspective. Then come detailed notes and maps. The Wallaby Track section (brown) has 5 maps/notes covering 90km from Mt Buninyong to Daylesford. The Dry diggings Track section (blue) has four maps/notes covering the 60km from Daylesford to Castlemaine. The Leanganook Track section (orange) has four maps/notes the covering 60km from Castlemaine to Bendigo. The map scale is 1:25,000.

The tracks you are to follow are colour coded according to their shared use status: GOLD for shared walkers and cyclists; ORANGE for walkers only; and RED for bike only. The notes are not in the 'recipe' format, but discursive, and reading them gives you a feel for what you will experience.

My chief quibble with the guide is that the individual maps do not contain grid references. But then that may not be a bad thing, because it reinforces the message that maps in walks guides a no substitute for official maps.

The RRP is \$29.95. This guide is a very worthwhile addition to a personal or club library.

Joslin Guest

## TIN MINE TRACK (WILSONS PROM) MAINTENANCE WEEKEND

19-20 May 2012

Eleven volunteers, members from Maroondah Bushwalking Club, Melbourne Bushies, Bayside Bushwalking Club and Boroondara Bushwalkers, answered to call to join a track clearing weekend in the northern part of Wilsons Promontory. The plan was to mark and clear the Tin Mine Track between Chinaman Long Beach on the western side and Lighthouse Point on the eastern side so that the track could be declared open. The track was overgrown from regrowth after bushfires. The organiser and original leader, Steve Robertson, was an apology for the weekend due to work commitments. Joslin Guest was the substitute leader for the weekend.

We all met up Friday night at a Port Welshpool caravan park. Before heading off Saturday morning, we were treated to a filling breakfast of cereal, eggs and bacon on muffins. Thank you our great cooks, Chris and Lee-ann.



The team from left to right:

Back row: Ian McKeller, Charles Ablitt, Chris Schrillinger, Lee-ann Wright, George Scott, Mark Heath, Richard Hume  
Front row: Andrew Elam, Sigrid Ablitt, Joslin Guest, Di Hebard

Parks ferried us in two trips to Tin Mine cove in the Parks launch. Unfortunately we didn't have much of a view on the trip across as it was a drizzly morning. I'm not sure what the outside temperature was, but the water was 12°C. Being tough outdoor people that we are, the few meters of wading to the beach in the chilly water did not daunt us. In fact it was fun.

First job for the weekend for the first boatload was to find the campground. The track to it was hidden by dense regrowth. But we found the track to it after some searching and scrabbling through dense regrowth. Second job was to clear the campground which was completely covered by fallen tea trees so we could start putting up tents. While we waited for the second boatload of volunteers to arrive, the track clearing commenced, ie, we started clearing the track into the campground.

After all had arrived and the camp had been established, we headed off along the 1.8km track to Chinaman Long Beach. That track was quite overgrown in places, so we cleared as we proceeded along it.

So although the first boat load set off at 7.30am and arrived at Tin Mine Cove some 20 minutes later, we only got to Long Chinaman Beach at 1pm. After a short lunch break, the work commenced on the track leading to the Lighthouse Point.

However, as oft happens when fires have gone through, the regrowth made it virtually impossible to find the original track. So, we cut a new track and made our way through the deep overgrown bushes, to more open country. The jeep track was eventually found, just before yet another dense bit of bush leading towards some swampy ground. We had progressed only half a kilometer from the beach after more than two hours work. As it looked like rain and it would get dark early, we stopped work and made our way back to camp, about an hour's walk back the way we had come.

There was a bit of rain during the walk back, but it soon cleared. The mild evening enabled us to sit around and socialise that night. We did a spot of star gazing and debated about a lit object passing across the sky, until it was confirmed by a mobile phone app to be a space station. A shooting star was also sighted.

We arose to a fine day and headed back along our nicely cleared track, back to where we had finished the day before. We moved along the track, chain-sawing and cutting back the scrub enough to create a foot pad. The track markers in the team nailed triangle markers (chevrons) to trees and tied pink marking ribbon to bushes intermittently. The aim was to have markers show the way, especially when the track became indistinct.

By 1pm we had cleared and marked another 1½-2km of track, but had to stop and head back or we would miss our boat. We had lunch again at the sheltered entry at Chinaman Long Beach (which we thought might make a suitable, albeit tight, campsite for a future clearing weekend). Then we walked back to Tin Mine Cove and had a very short wait on the beach for our water transport. We again travelled across the water in two groups. This time the fine weather provided us with good views back onto the Prom. My group, in the last boatload, finished with a coffee at a café in Port Welshpool before the drive back home.

Although we did not have time to clear and mark the track across to Lighthouse Point, it was a successful and satisfying way to spend an autumn weekend in the outdoors.

**Di Hebard**

Member of Bayside Bushwalking Club

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## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

### Northern Pacific Seastar found in Tidal River

On 6 May, the invasive Northern Pacific Seastar (*Asterias amurensis*) was found in Tidal River just 1km from Victoria's largest Marine National Park - the pristine Wilsons Promontory Marine National Park. Since the discovery, Parks Victoria divers have removed at least 165 specimens from the river.

In response to the discovery, Parks Victoria promptly deployed an incident control team to monitor the spread, with a comprehensive search effort in Tidal River, Darby River, Norman Bay, Squeaky Beach, Picnic Bay, Whisky Bay, Sealers Cove and Growlers Creek and Fraser Creek at Oberon Bay. 'So far, the searches have only uncovered the Northern Pacific Seastars within Tidal River itself. We are hoping it may be an isolated event, though we are not taking any chances', said Matthew Hoskins, the Incident Controller.

The initial searches involved daily scuba-diving, snorkelling and rock pool inspections, to be followed up by sonar analysis of the riverbed at Tidal River to determine where the marine pests are hiding. Towed underwater video surveys will also commence in bays and sheltered waterways at Wilsons Promontory National Park and volunteer divers will assist with sweeps of Tidal River. In a first for Northern Pacific Seastar management, the incident control team will also be trialling submerged cage traps to target the species.

Native to the coastal waters of Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Russia and China, the Northern Pacific Seastar is a voracious predator that can consume a wide range of native marine species. As an introduced species it has no known effective predators, and with females producing up to 20 million eggs in a single season, the Seastar has the potential to rapidly establish large populations in new areas. First detected in Victoria in 1995, populations of Northern Pacific Seastars in Port Phillip Bay reached an estimated 12 million in just two years.

### Mother nature helps us strike back

Heavy rainfall on 3 and 4 June 2012 provided 160mm of rain over the Tidal River catchment area. This rain resulted in a large flush of freshwater flowing into Tidal River. This decreased the salinity of the river very rapidly and has resulted in a significant impact on the fauna of the river bed, including the death of Seastars. Subsequent dive searches have failed to find any live Northern Pacific Seastars. This is very encouraging

### Recreational use at Tidal River

Tidal River is closed to all water craft.

Fishing and swimming in the Tidal River watercourse is permitted, but Parks Victoria requests that visitors follow the hygiene procedures before entering and on exiting the river.

### Why take special precautions

Northern Pacific Seastars are prolific breeders with females producing up to 20 million eggs per season. The microscopic eggs can survive in water for up to 120 days. Boats, kayaks, canoes, clothing, water toys, shoes, fishing gear, wetsuits and other equipment used in Seastar infested waters can easily spread fertilised eggs, larvae or small animals to new locations if the items remain wet after use.

With spawning due to start in July/August it is critical the following procedures are followed to prevent the spread of this serious marine pest.

### Precautions you can take

- Ensure that shoes, clothing, towels and any equipment (including fishing gear, wetsuits and water toys) to be used in the Tidal River watercourse are clean and dry **before** entering the river.
- This is particularly important for clothing and equipment previously used in Seastar infested waters including Port Phillip Bay as it will kill any attached eggs or larvae.
- Repeat the process of washing and drying **after** being in Tidal River.
- Clean and wash any fish/shellfish obtained from the Tidal River watercourse before leaving Tidal River campground.

### How to identify the Northern Pacific Seastar

The Northern Pacific Seastar is easily identified by the following features:

- 5 broad arms with upturned pointed ends
- spines on upper surface are pointed and irregularly arranged down arms
- spines in grooves on underside of arms have rough tips
- diameter 10 to 50 cm (from tip to tip)
- main colour ranges from yellow through to orange, often with purple markings
- Native seastars have rounded rather than pointed tips at the end of each arm.



Northern Pacific Seastars (*Asterias amurensis*)



Native Seastars left to right: Ocellate Seastar (*Nectria ocellata*), Zig zag Seastar (*Uniphora granifera*), Cushion Seastar (*Potirrellia calcar*) and Eleven-armed Seastar (*Coscinasterias muricata*).

**What else you can do**

While visiting the Prom you can help to eradicate this serious marine pest in the following ways.

- Record the location and report any suspected sightings of the Northern Pacific Seastar to the Tidal River Visitor Centre during opening hours (8.30am-4.30pm) or telephone 5680 9555. A clear photograph will help with identification.
- Do not attempt to collect the Seastar yourself. While Northern Pacific Seastars are safe for humans to touch and handle, a number of our native species have been removed from the water after being mistaken for this introduced Seastar. Native seastars are protected by law and some species have been known to eat the Northern Pacific Seastar.
- Abide by closures put in place for the Tidal River watercourse.

Sightings of suspected Northern Pacific Seastars outside of Wilsons Promontory National Park or Port Phillip Bay can be reported to the DSE customer service centre on 136 186.

**Wilsons Promontory National Park Stakeholder  
Updates No 13, May 2012 & No 14 June 2012  
NPS Information Flyer**

**Wombats**

The greatest threat to wombats is human settlement. Agriculture and the destruction of the wombat's grassland habitat has meant that the wombat has had to move to more mountainous, less settled areas where they are less able to dig effective burrows. As a result they are more likely to fall prey to dingoes and feral dogs. Stock animals and rabbits have degraded wombat's natural food source, which are mostly grasses and shrubs. Foxes are another danger because they can pass on the potentially fatal sarcoptic mange mite. Then there is the widespread negative attitude to wombats. In parts of Victoria, wombats are treated as vermin and no permit is required to shoot them. Many drivers regard wombats as a road hazard. But an analysis of 10 years of data from the NSW traffic and accident database by Dr Erin Rogers, a biologist at the Australian Wetlands and Rivers Centre, shows only one human fatality attributed to a wombat, when a driver swerved to avoid one.

Wombats have a fairly slow reproduction rate. They do not mate until they are at least two years old, and the young stays in its mother's pouch for 7-10 months. This means populations are slow to recover if adult wombat numbers are reduced.

Reserves are an important refuge, but do not necessarily offer protection. Dr Roger's study of wombat roadkill estimates that each year cars and trucks run over 13.6% of the common wombat population living in NSW's protected reserves. Eco tourism, which usually involves introducing more roads in parks and reserves, may actually further endanger wombat viability rather than enhance it.

This year a new threat to the wombat's survival has been identified. The consumption of non-native grasses instead of native grasses is causing liver disease in the southern hairy-nosed wombat. This has been particularly evident around the Murraylands in eastern South Australia, where noxious introduced weeds such as onion weed have all but replaced native grasses.

Brigitte Stevens from the Wombat Awareness Organisation, who has documented findings for about 2,800 sick wombats in the region, says wombats that eat the non-native grasses become very skinny, are bald and can't walk. Dr Wayne Boardman and Dr Lucy Woolford of Adelaide University have done post-mortem examinations on six wombats and discovered that the sick wombats do not just have a skin disease but instead have a liver disease. The wombats' severely scarred livers were a consequence of eating these non-native plants. Rescued animals feed on native grasses have a good chance of recovery. But few have been rescued because wombats scurry into their burrow when approached.

**Sources:**

- [http://wiki.answers.com/Q/What\\_threats\\_are\\_wombats\\_facing#ixzz1uzoPvRIY](http://wiki.answers.com/Q/What_threats_are_wombats_facing#ixzz1uzoPvRIY)
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**Logging at Mt St Leonard**

Locals and conservationists are protesting against the clear-felling that is going on at Mt St Leonards, an area that fortunately was not burnt in the 2009 fires.

Locals are protesting against the loss of visual amenity. Clear-felled areas are visible from Healesville, Yarra Glen and other parts of the Yarra Ranges. Also it seems that VicForests is no longer adhering to the guidelines of its *Code of Forest Practice* to 'soften' the visual impact of clear-felling by leaving buffer zones along major tourist roads to retain the visual amenity of the forest environment. Locals believe removal of the buffers will affect tourism in the area.

Environmentalists are concerned about the destruction of habitat of already endangered species such as Leadbeater's Possum, Sooty Owl and Tiger Quoll, whose habitat was already severely impacted by the 2009 fires. In addition, they believe that clear-felling is contributing to increased wind damage to trees in uncleared adjacent forest.

There is also the prospect that the public—and that includes us bushwalkers—may be locked out of the areas to be logged. In the past Mt St Leonard area and the Monda Track have been popular with bushwalkers. The National Trail also starts near Healesville.

According to an article in *The Age*, Bob Brown, formerly leader of The Greens in Federal Parliament, cannot understand why Melbourne and Victorians generally seem indifferent to the destruction of beautiful forest and important wildlife habitat.

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