



AAWT Ghost Gully - Round Mountain Car Park Walk, Benalla Bushwalking Club Newsletter, Jan-Mar 2014 (Image: Adele Ritchie)



Hotham To Falls Creek Crossover Walk, Footprints, Feb 2014 (Image: Deb Kahn, Border Bushwalking Club)

Contributions

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

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

Editor: Joslin Guest

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WALKING AND TALKING WITH THE BUSHWALKING VICTORIA PRESIDENT

David Reid – OAM

It is with great pleasure that I inform you that David Reid, former President of Bushwalking Victoria and Bushwalking Australia, has been honoured in the Australia Day Honours List for his services to bushwalking.

As many of you know, David has been a tireless and passionate advocate for bushwalking. He drove the transformation of VicWalk to the new Bushwalking Victoria.

This was far more than a name change; it involved the restructuring of the entire organisation and the creation of the current board structure. Victoria was the first state to take this step, which has been emulated (or is being considered) by most other states.

David played a large part in making Bushwalking Victoria a more effective and purposeful organisation, outward looking and proactive in addressing the issues and opportunities that affect the wider bushwalking community.

As President of Bushwalking Australia, David worked very hard to establish and focus the organisation and to foster a sense of common purpose among the states.

So, congratulations to David on behalf of all members of Bushwalking Victoria. We, and the wider Victorian bushwalking community owe him a great deal.

A Reality Check—Bushwalking Victoria Financial Resources

One of the problems we face in Bushwalking Victoria is that we do not have a sufficient budget to enable us to hire long-term professional staff. As a result, we must rely on our volunteers to carry through nearly all our work. We are able to commission limited resources for specific purposes from outside, but because of constricted budgets, we are forced to accept a longer time frame than we would like on projects. In some cases, things we would like to do are simply beyond our reach.

Whilst we have had some Victorian Government support which has helped us, it would be rash and irresponsible to count on the supply of government money.

I reiterate what Chris Towers said in 2012: we have reached the limit of what we can achieve with purely volunteer resources.

In the real world of 2014 with competing interest groups all wanting access to tracks and trails, and despite limited public resources, we need to be able to make our voice heard in the same way and at the same level as (for example), the bicyclists and four-wheel drivers.

Essentially there are only four main sources of funds an organisation such as Bushwalking Victoria can access:

- Government grants and assistance
- Sponsorship or partnership arrangements with



external organisations (which may include some government agencies)

- Increased individual and club membership
- Increased membership fees.

Bushwalking Victoria is going to have to access all four of these to achieve the goals we set ourselves in our Strategic Plan of June 2013.

New Initiatives for 2014—Sponsorship and Partnership

In 2014, we have set ourselves a goal to lay the groundwork for a higher level of sponsorship and support than that we have had up to this time. This means that we have to define what we can offer sponsoring organisations, and who we will accept sponsorship from. This is not a simple process – many organisations have been badly burnt by associating themselves with inappropriate **partners or by offering what they can't deliver.**

Once that groundwork is completed, we can start to approach candidate sponsors or partners to look for support. We have a number of possible organisations in mind, but we need to do our preparations first.

This project will last for a number of years into the future.

'Selling' Bushwalking

In 2014, we are continuing with a project begun in 2013 to define a new clear, attractive organisational image and **'brand' for Bushwalking Victoria. This is not mere window dressing, but an essential part of presenting ourselves as an efficient, dynamic organisation, and bushwalking as an attractive recreation for all Victorians.**

Later in 2014, we will begin a project to tell Victorians more generally why bushwalking is a great thing to do – for health, wellbeing, social benefits and as part of learning to love the beautiful country we live in. We have a great **story to tell. It's time we told the world.**

The objective is closely related to the mission statement we set out in our Strategic Plan:

To inspire more people to walk in natural areas for enjoyment, health, wellbeing and appreciation of the Victorian environment.

The aim of this project is to get more people into bushwalking and to help Victorian bushwalking clubs grow and to gain more individual members – and thereby also improving our influence and financial base.

I hope that has given you a picture of what we are going to **try to achieve this year on your behalf. It's a big challenge, but one we must step up to.**

See you on the track.

Tony Walker
President, Bushwalking Victoria

DAVID REID, OAM

On Australia Day 2014, David Reid, former president of Bushwalking Victoria and Bushwalking Australia was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division, for service to the promotion of bushwalking, and to the community.

Congratulations David.



NEW ECOLOGICAL RESERVE—A NEW PARK FOR WALKERS

After three years of work, one of Victoria's biggest ever ecological restoration initiatives is now complete on the Victorian Desalination Project (VDP) plant site at Wonthaggi with the creation of a new 225ha coastal park. The restoration work involved the planting of millions of shrubs and trees (125 different species), the creation of a series of dunes from 1.45 million cubic metres of soil and the installation of 8km of walking, cycling and horse trails. The new park will be officially opened at 2pm on Sunday 2 February by Ken Smith, the MLA for Bass.

BUSHWALKING TRACKS & CONSERVATION CALENDAR

Activity	Details
<p>AAWT and Baw Baw feeder track clearing Fri 14 - Mon 17 Mar 2014 Sponsors: Parks Victoria, Friends of Baw Baw NP, Strzelecki Bushwalking Club</p>	<p>Bushwalking clubs and individuals are invited to join local Parks Victoria staff, Friends of Baw Baw National Park and the Strzelecki Bushwalking Club over a 4-day track clearing activity on the Baw Baw Plateau (Baw Baw National Park).</p> <p>The activity will focus on clearing the walking track network between Jeep Track Flat and the Baw Baw Alpine Resort, including a section of the AAWT across Mt St Phillack. This will further enhance walking opportunities in Baw Baw National Park following the completion of track works in the remote Mt Whitelaw area of the park in 2012 and the Cascades Trail in 2013.</p> <p>Parks Victoria will establish a base camp for this activity at Jeep Track Flat from early Friday 14 March 2014. Access to the base camp is via the St Gwinear car park or Baw Baw Village. <u>Parks Victoria will supply fresh fruit, general consumables, energy food and all evening meals for participants who register an interest in attending with ample water also available at base camp.</u> Volunteers will need to bring camping gear, sturdy footwear and wet weather clothing.</p> <p>Participants are welcome for whatever time they can spare and there will be a variety of tasks to complete from very easy to arduous. All safety gear will be provided by Parks Victoria.</p> <p>For further information or to register your interest in this activity, please contact the Parks Victoria Latrobe Ranger in Charge, Andy Gillham, at agillham@parks.vic.gov.au or 5172 2186 or 0428 333 464.</p>
<p>Cathedral Ranges track clearing Sat 15 - Sun 16 Mar 2014 Sponsors: Boroondara Bushwalkers Inc, Parks Victoria</p>	<p>Boroondara Bushwalkers Inc has agreed to be a support group for the Cathedral Ranges State Park under the auspice of Parks Victoria and ranger Rhyl Shaw. Our first project will be track clearing (lopper work) on the southern ridgeline between Farnyard and Mt Sugarloaf. (Location may be subject to change.) Parks Victoria will provide training, tools, PPE, etc and insurance cover. We will work on the Saturday and bushwalk on the Sunday. We will have a base camp (tents) on Saturday night. BYO everything, including water.</p> <p>Members of other bushwalking clubs and individual members of Bushwalking Victoria are invited to participate. To register interest, contact Joslin Guest at president@boroondarabushwalkers.org.au or 9882 7629 or 0400 988 668.</p>

TRACK ACTIVITY REPORTS

Friends of Bogong Work Party, Bungalow Spur Track, 23-24 November 2013

A ranger was not available to come out with us, but Ranger Kevin Cosgriff gave us a briefing about the work to be done on the Bungalow Spur Track to Mt Feathertop at the Parks office in Mt Beauty before we set off. The track had been affected by bushfires in February 2013 and flooding rains, so there were a number of tasks to do:

- The sign at the start of track had been affected by a flood from the nearby creek and several inches of rocks had been deposited around the sign. We were to return the surrounds to the original flat shape. The rocks would be piled into a barrier in front of the creek.
- There was a problem with some mountain bike riders (and even trail bike riders) using the walking track. We were to install three wooden barriers at the start of the track.
- A wooden bridge about 500m along the track had been covered with about 10cm of rocks and soil by the flood. We were to remove the rock and soil to stop them rotting the bridge timbers.
- We were to clear the drains along the track to prevent erosion. They had become full due to the flooding rains.
- We were to install a bench seat at Picnic Point, approximately 2km along the track.



We completed all the tasks except the bench seat. The location for that was solid rock and we were not able to install it with the tools we had.

We did an extra task. At about 1.5km along the track, where it crossed a creek at a lovely shady spot, there were numerous thistles growing there. We uprooted all of them.

Our campsite was at Mountain Creek. Before return home on Sunday we returned our tools to Parks Victoria.

Jim Harker, Friends of Bogong

BTAC Australia Day Activities, Australia Day Long Weekend, 25-26 January 2013

Three activities were scheduled and will be reported in the next issue of *Bushwalking News Victoria*. Two were successfully undertaken. One was cancelled because of the fire danger situation in Gippsland.

FUNGIMAP PROJECT

Knowledge about Australian fungi is quite patchy, with more unknown than known species. Even for the named species, knowledge about their distribution is fairly limited. Only a small number of mycologists are employed in Australia, so amateur fungi enthusiasts have an important role if we want to know more.

The Fungimap Project encourages anyone interested in fungi to help map their distribution in Australia. The accurate identification of a great many fungal species relies on microscopic examination of specimens. However, there are also species that are distinctive enough to be accurately identifiable by the naked eye, even by a non-expert if he or she can take a good picture.

The Fungimap Project aims to use non-experts to help map the distribution of the 100 easily recognisable fungi. Many of these are illustrated in good quality field guides to

Australian fungi or can be viewed on the Fungimap website at <http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/fungimap>

No fungal knowledge is necessary to contribute to the project and you are NOT required to collect or mail specimens. Fungimap asks only for sight records.

If you see any interesting looking fungi anywhere, take a detailed photograph of it and send the image to the project. To submit a image, go to <https://www.fungimap.org.au/index.php/submit-a-record>

The Fungimap website has many tools to help you **participate in this project**. Even if you don't want to contribute, if you are just interested in fungi you will find it a very interesting site.

Sources: <http://fungimap.org.au/>
<http://www.anbg.gov.au/fungi/fungimap.html>



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Bogong



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LEARN ABOUT VICTORIA'S WORST WEEDS

Do you need a speaker for your meetings? Would you like to find out about Victoria's worst weeds? Do you want to know how you can easily be involved in protecting Victoria's natural environment from these weeds?

The Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) is offering 30-60 minute presentations to Bushwalking groups in the identification of State prohibited weeds.

State prohibited weeds are the highest category of declared noxious weeds in Victoria. DEPI removes and treats these weeds to eradicate them on private and public land. If left uncontrolled, State prohibited weeds have the ability to out compete native vegetation and threaten native fauna.



Japanese Knotweed

Bushwalkers are considered valuable in the care of Victoria's environment and have the ability to assist in detecting State prohibited weeds. State prohibited weed detection simply involves keeping an eye out for and reporting suspect plants while visiting different areas of Victoria.

During this 30-60 minute information session, you will:

- Be introduced to declared weeds in Victoria
- Learn about the State prohibited weeds you may encounter and find out where these plants have been found in the past
- Get to see and touch the State prohibited weed samples
- Find out the best way to report any State prohibited weed sightings to DEPI.

To book a speaker, email weed.spotters@depi.vic.gov.au or call 9217 4404.



Water hyacinth flowers



Horsetail

NEWS OF BUSHFIRE-AFFECTED PARKS

Northern Grampians Complex Fire Update – 28 January

Parks Victoria have reopened the Wonderland area this morning again for walking. Silverband, Wonderland, Sundial and Mt Victory Roads (from Halls Gap) to Silverband Road have also reopened.

The fire in the northern part of the Grampians National Park was ignited by lightning on 15 January is now contained through back burning along the full length of the southern boundary of the fire at Mt Difficult Range, near Halls Gap. More consolidation work is being carried out to ensure that the fire can be kept within its containment lines.

The areas that have been significantly affected by fire remain closed. These include MacKenzie Falls, Zumsteins picnic ground and the Hollow Mountain area. Chatauqua Peak, Bullaces Glen and the Watchtower climbing area are also closed.

Parks Victoria understands how important these popular sites are to the local community and local economy. We will reopen these affected as soon as it is safe to do so, but this may take some time as there has been significant damage.

If you have any questions or concerns about visits to the Grampians NP, feel free to contact Prue Daley, Parks Victoria, at T 03 53 614005 | M 0409 563 868 | F 03 9678 9807 | E prue.daley@parks.vic.gov.au

Gippsland Fires—28 January

Thirteen fires are still listed as 'going' in parts of East Gippsland, including Club Terrace, Goongerah, Tamboritha, Gelantipy and Danes Track north of Bairnsdale.

People who are intending visiting parks or forests in East Gippsland any time during summer should check DEPI website www.depi.vic.gov.au/forestry-and-land-use/forestry-management/public-safety-zones to see if a Public Safety Zone has been implemented in the area they intend to visit. A Public Safety Zone means that the particular area of public land is closed to all visitors.

Note from the editor

Keeping up-to-date

Any day or period of hot and windy weather will exacerbate the current fire-danger situation and may create dangers in other areas. Grassed areas are no safer than forested areas in these conditions.

On any day of Code Red Fire Danger Rating, all parks and reserves identified as being of 'high bushfire risk' will be closed for public safety by Parks Victoria. Before deciding whether to go on a bushwalk, go to the CFA website <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/total-fire-bans-and-ratings/> to check the fire-danger rating for the walk area. For information about forest road and track closures and national park and state forest closures, go to the Parks Victoria website <http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/park-management/bushfire-management/code-red-park-closures>. To check the Public Access Map on the DEPI website go to www.depi.vic.gov.au/forestry-and-land-use/visiting-parks-and-forests

For further information on fires or planned burns in Victoria and general fire safety, contact the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on freecall 1800 240 667.

Risk of dehydration and heat stress/stroke

On days of High, Severe or Extreme Fire Danger Ratings, be aware of the increased risk of dehydration and heat stress/stroke.

BTAC NEWS—ON THE TRACKS

The first issue of the new Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation (BTAC) newsletter, *On the Tracks*, has been distributed to club committees and conservation officers.

If you are a club committee or conservation officer and did not receive an emailed version of *On the Tracks*, contact **Patsy Scales, Bushwalking Victoria's Office Manager** to update your details.

On the Tracks is also available from the Bushwalking Victoria website at:

<http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/newsletter-archive.html>

The next edition of *On the Tracks* is due in March. If your club is intending to undertake a tracks or conservation activity, let us know at editor@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

Also please send reports of what you undertake—it is of interest to a broader range of people than just those in your club.

NEW WATER TANK ON AAWT

In late November 2013, a new water tank was installed by Parks Victoria 100m west of East Riley Rd, Barry Mountains. The grid reference is 55 0484701 E, 5896590 N.

Parks Victoria has also located a tank in The Twins area, about 100m to the east of the saddle. They hope to replace the Barry Saddle tank some time in 2014.

Kevin Cosgriff, Ranger - Team Leader
Bogong Unit - Alpine National Park, Parks Victoria



Coastal guide to nature and history Port Phillip Bay



There are more walking opportunities around Port Phillip than you might think!

Coastal guide to nature and history: Port Phillip Bay takes the 260km trip around the Bay from Point Lonsdale to Point Nepean, and looks at local history, plants, animals **and landforms along the way. It's not a book of track notes, but there are plenty of ideas here so you can design your own walk.**

With 172 pages in full colour and many maps and photos (including historical pictures), it's great value at \$30.00 post free.

To get more of an idea about the book you can go to www.coastalguidebooks.net.au. There are sample pages, a mail order form and a list of stockists who have the book.

The author is available to speak to groups. Phone 9432 0163 or email info@coastalguidebooks.net.au.

It's hard to think of a better present than this attractive new book for any friend or family member who loves walking and finding out more about the natural and human history of our very own Bay.
(Review by Michael Howes in *Park Watch*, Vic National Parks Association)

GEELONG BUSHWALKERS CELEBRATE THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Great Ocean Walk – 108km in a day!

To celebrate its 40th anniversary, 73 members of the Geelong Bushwalking Club completed the Great Ocean Walk (GOW) end to end on Saturday 9 November 2013. We believe we are the first group to do this. The walk was broken into eight stages and eight separate groups of walkers.

Stage 1 - Apollo Bay to Shelley Beach, 8km: A lovely easy walk at the start of the GOW on a good walking track past farmland, forest and beaches. The steep climb to Bald Hill was a little challenging but rewarded by great views of the ocean.

Stage 2 - Shelley Beach to Blanket Bay, 16km: After an initial descent to Elliot River and steep climb out, the groups followed a good gently undulating track through thick forest all the way to Blanket Bay.

Stage 3 - Blanket Bay to Cape Otway, 10.5km: A gentle climb on tracks through coastal forests to the coast at Parker River and Inlet and on to the Cape Otway Lighthouse.

Stage 4 - Cape Otway to Aire River, approximately 13km: Walkers enjoyed seeing many birds and animals, including two echidnas, a blue tongue lizard, black wallabies, and birds such as a restless flycatcher, grey shrike-thrush, silveryeye and crimson rosella.

Stage 5 - Aire River to Johanna Beach, 14.5km: There were great views of the Aire River mouth, the coast and a sparkling turquoise ocean. Heavy sands along Johanna Beach made the last stretch of the walk hard for tired legs. Surprisingly, the groups saw only one other group of walkers all day.

Stage 6 - **Ryan's Den to Johanna Beach, 16.5km:** John Holman, the founder of the Geelong Bushwalking Club in 1973 and member for all 40 years, led this part of the walk. This is a special section of the GOW for Geelong Bushwalking Club, as members had been involved in track construction work from Ryan Den to Milanesia Beach years before. Those involved in the construction were pleased to see that much of the original track benching and all steps and bridges were still there and that their tree propagation and planting had produced a stand of mature trees at Bowker Point.

Stage 7 - Ryans Den Track to Wreck Beach Car Park, 14km: This part of the walk, led by the current president, Paul Byrnes, was considered to be the most demanding section because of the steep climbs

and long sections of steps and stairs. The reward was the views over Cape Volney, Point Reginald, Moonlight Head and The Gables Lookout.

Stage 8 - Wreck Beach Car Park to The Twelve Apostles Visitors Centre, 16km: The groups started at the appropriately named Wreck Beach, where anchors **from two lost ships are visible, then on over Devil's Kitchen** to the Gellibrand River to Princetown. The new section of the GOW, passing Clifton Beach, provided a first glimpse of the Apostles and our ultimate goal, the end of the GOW.

The GOW track is in very good condition, and Parks Victoria have provided new boards and stepping stones that made navigating difficult spots much easier.

As Geelong Bushwalking Club offers other outdoor activities such as canoeing, cycling and cross-country skiing, it was appropriate that another founder member, Graeme Allen, led a cycling tour around the Cape Otway area at the same time. At the beginning of their ride, around Cape Otway Lighthouse, cyclists had to contend with heavy showers, hills and lots of campervans, but by the outlook over Parker Inlet they soaked in this jewel of a view in warm sunshine without (well, almost without) tourists.

After our special anniversary walk we had celebratory lunch at Apollo Bay and viewed an extensive historical display of our club photo boards and photo albums from the 1970s until September, 2013. Many past members attended the lunch, so long-lost friends were reunited. A great weekend was had by all.

Irene McGinnigle, Geelong Bushwalking Club



Cutting the cake. Foundation members (left to right: Graeme Allen, Tony Gerum, Gerry O'Byrne, Jean Vlahovic, and John Holman

STRZELECKI BUSHIES COMPLETE THE AUSTRALIAN ALPS WALKING TRACK

Walkers: Cathy Almond, Rob Bentvelzen, Wendy Cartledge, Ed Buller and Alan Eade.

On Friday 17 January, five members of the Strzelecki Bushwalking Club completed a 54-day (including eight rest days) 660km walk from Canberra to Walhalla.

Some days they walked only 10km. The longest day was 26km. There were days of tough climbing. There were times when the track was non-existent and good navigation skills were required to keep on route.

'It's great to finish, but it's been an awesome trip. It was a challenge,' Alan Eagle said. The weather had added to the challenge, with snowstorms, the track ahead closed by bushfires and 40°C heat.



Strzelecki Bushies arrive at Walhalla
Image: Tom Morrison, Latrobe Valley Express

Rob Bentvelzen said that when they were compiling the walk program, they discovered that the total of 'ups and downs' measured in metres is equivalent to climbing Mount Everest three times from sea level.

Cathy Almond, the walk leader, said the walkers proved you could be fit at any age.

Other members of Strzelecki Bushwalking Club participated in sections of the expedition and club members and family supported the bushwalkers by dropped off dehydrated food, water and other supplies once a week.

Sources: Farrah Plummer, Epic journey ends, Latrobe Valley Express, 20 January, 2014
<http://www.latrobevalleyexpress.com.au/story/2029993/epic-journey-ends/?cs=1462>
Carol Turner, A walk to remember, Warragul and Drouin Gazette, 26 January, 2014

Seven-day camel safaris
from Coward Springs in Outback South Australia
2014: June 10th - 16th; June 24th - 30th; July 9th - 15th

If you can see yourself in this picture, phone Prue (08)8559 6144; (08)8675 8336
 or contact us at www.cowardsprings.com.au

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Please contact via the office

Organisations where BWV Members Provide a Bushwalking Perspective

Grampians Peak Trail Task Force: Phil Brotchie

Living Links Steering Committee: Tony Walker



Bushwalking News Victoria

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