

Bushwalking News Victoria



October 2014 Issue 251

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Walking and Talking with the Bushwalking Victoria Vice President

Tony and his wife Sally (after her good work with our bushwalking leadership training program) are travelling in south Spain and other areas, so I am writing this month's *Walking and Talking*...

I read in club newsletters that many of you are out enjoying the various walks offered on your club's walk programs. This time of year, there is usually good weather and lovely floral displays, which bushwalkers appreciate, as I know from talking to some of you. For me, the orchids are a highlight

2014 Outdoors Policy Agenda

Before he left on his overseas travels, Tony and I joined other stakeholders at the launch of Outdoors Victoria's 2014 *Outdoors Policy Agenda* at Victoria's Parliament House.

The Minister for Sport and Recreation, Damien Drum, was there as was an Opposition representative, Jaala Pulford.

Chuck Berger, the Chief Executive Officer of Outdoors Victoria, outlined the priorities:

- Help kids get outdoors

- Invest in the regional outdoor economy
- Unlock the potential of the outdoor economy.

You can view the full policy agenda at <http://www.outdoorsvictoriaelection2014.com.au/> under 2014 Victorian Election Policies.

They would 'love to have your feedback' and later in the year will hold regional forums to work through the community's most promising ideas.

Federation Walks Weekend 2014

Peter Conroy, one of our general board members, is busy with meetings of the Fed14 organising committee, which is now added to his responsibilities.

Matching Board Members with Clubs

Peter Conroy has also taken on the task of matching board members with clubs so that each board member will have a number of clubs to visit and work with.

Bushwalking Victoria and Land Managers

Megan Major, Chris Towers (two board members) and I met with Kate Millar, the new General Manager, Planning and Support Services Division and Chris Rose, General Manager Regional Services of Parks Victoria to discuss their relationship with Bushwalking Victoria and how we might help each other meet our respective aims. Bushwalking Victoria's volunteer contributions to help Parks Victoria in maintaining various walking tracks were part of the discussions. See also *Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation Report*.

Club Anniversary

I would like to thank the Benalla Bushwalking Club for inviting my partner Sigrid and me to their 30th anniversary celebrations out on the King River. The celebrations included a Dutch-oven roast, a slide show of club walks and a special anniversary cake, cooked and decorated by a member of the club. We all camped out. Their set up was amazing, and the food preparation was executed with professional precision. See also, *Club Anniversaries – Benalla Bushwalking Club, 30 Years*.

Many thanks to everyone.

Charlie Ablitt
Vice President

BTAC Tracks and Conservation Program

Oct 26 - Condons Track, Healesville

The meeting time is 8.30am at the Parks Victoria office at Maroondah Reservoir, Healesville. Melway 270 K10. Expect to start work at 9am.

BYO morning tea, snacks and lunch. Tools, gloves and PPE will be provided. Easy jobs for all with some bending involved.

Nov 1-4 (Melbourne Cup Weekend) - Barry Mountains area, Victorian Alps

We will place track markers and clear the track from Barry's Saddle to Mt St Bernard. There will be a base camp. A 4WD club will transport workers to and from the work sites. A Parks Victoria ranger will be in attendance.

Nov 29-30 - Upper Howqua

This is a very enjoyable location. We will base camp at the upper Howqua River campsite, and clear overgrowth from the nearby track(s). A reasonable level of fitness is required as we will need to climb up tracks. A Parks Victoria ranger will be in attendance.

Contact Charlie Ablitt at conservation@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au for more information and to register interest in joining an activity.

Let Charlie know if you can operate a brush cutter or hedge trimmer or have a Chainsaw Licence or an Agricultural Chemical Users Permit.

Please note: An expression of interest to participate in a BTAC activity or project does not necessarily guarantee an invitation to participate as sometimes we need to assemble a team with particular skills, or there is a logistical limit to the number of participants. New willing hands will always be considered. In all instances we will keep you informed.

Charlie Ablitt
Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation Projects Coordinator

Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation Report

On the Tracks Newsletter

The third issue of the Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation newsletter, *On the Tracks*, has been emailed to everyone on the BTAC database. You can also download it from the Bushwalking Victoria website at <http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/newsletter-archive.html>.

If you want to receive the BTAC newsletter or bulletins, please contact the Bushwalking Victoria Office Manager, Patsy Scales, at admin@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au.

Volunteer Management Workshop

I attended a workshop presented by Tony Goodrow entitled *Relative Impact- Volunteer Management ROI Model*. (ROI is the acronym for Return on Investment.) This highlighted the need for organisations to put an economic value on the contribution of volunteers, rather than just count and report the number of hours contributed. This has implications for how BTAC might value volunteer input into our projects in the future. You can read about volunteer ROI at <http://www.betterimpact.com/roi/>.

Point Nepean Quarantine Station

Bushwalking Victoria was alerted by a club member that only a short time was available to put in a submission about the appointment of the Point Leisure Group as preferred proponent for the Point Nepean Quarantine Station. Given that other groups had already submitted lengthy and comprehensive responses, we decided that ours should be short and reinforce the areas of concern already submitted by others. The process demonstrated the value of our [Commercial Activities in Protected Areas Policy](#). Our submission will be posted on the Bushwalking Victoria website soon. All the information about the proposed development at Point Nepean National Park is available at <http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/forestry-and-land-use/visiting-parks-and-forests/point-nepean-national-park>.

Shipwreck Coast Master Plan

Bushwalking Victoria received a copy the draft *Shipwreck Coast Master Plan* for review and consideration with an invitation to comment by 19th October. Bernard Jordan, our Field Officer for the Otway ranges, will prepare our response.

For information about the draft master plan and the consultation process, go to <http://shipwreckcoastyourplan.com.au/>.

Meeting with Bushwalking Victoria

As Charlie Ablitt reported in *Walking and Talking with the Bushwalking Victoria Vice President*, he, Chris Towers and I met with Kate Millar and Chris Rose from Parks Victoria. The aim of the meeting was to re-establish consultation and communication given the recent restructuring and changing focus of Parks Victoria. We identified some areas where exchange of information would be useful and some issues we need to work through in the future. The meeting highlighted the fact that bushwalkers have a huge pool of experience to contribute to planning future development. It also highlighted that the current tracks and facilities cannot be sustained without a significant contribution by volunteers.

Reporting Illegal Activities in the Bush

We have developed an *Illegal Activity in the Bush Report Form* for bushwalkers to use to report illegal activities, vandalism or rubbish dumping in the bush. It can be downloaded from the Bushwalking Victoria website at <http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/forms.html>, under Other.

The next meeting of the BTAC committee is on the 20 October. If you have issues that you want BTAC to address, please let me know at tracks@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au.

Megan Major
Manager Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation Convener

Bushwalking Victoria Car Stickers



By now all clubs would have received some Bushwalking Victoria car stickers along with Bushwalking Victoria membership cards. The number of stickers sent to each club is based on club membership numbers.

More car stickers can be ordered using the order form available at <http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/forms.html>, under Other. Alternatively, contact Patsy Scales, Bushwalking Victoria's Office Manager, by email or phone. Stickers are available in packs of 10 at a cost of \$20 per packet, inclusive of postage.

Email: admin@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au
Phone: (03) 8846 4131 (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday)
Address: PO Box 1007, Templestowe VIC 3106

New GPX Files for the Great Dividing Trail (Goldfields Track)

The Great Dividing Trail Association (GDTA) has just published on its web site GPX files for the following sections of Great Dividing Trail/Goldfields Track (GDT/GT):

- Wallaby Track (Mt Buninyong to Ballarat), (Ballarat to Creswick), (Creswick

- to Daylesford)
- Dry Diggings Track (Daylesford to Castlemaine), (Hepburn Springs Connection), (The Monk to Chewton Connection)
- Leanganook Track (Castlemaine to Bendigo), (Connections to Leanganook Camp Ground, Mt Alexander).

Each file can be downloaded for free from <http://www.gdt.org.au> (follow the link on the home page) and loaded into your GPS-enabled device. With these files, plus a copy of our award-winning *Goldfields Track Walking Guide* and the relevant GDT map (all available from the GDTA Online Shop), you should have all the navigation tools you need to find your way along the GDT/GT.

Happy walking.

Alison Lanigan
Secretary, GDTA



Federation Walks Weekend, Rawson, 8-9 November 2014

Registrations closed for the 2014 Federation Walks Weekend on Friday 10 October. 291 people have registered.

In the two weeks after the close of registrations, the Organising Committee will be contacting all registrants concerning their walk allocations and any last minute details.

As advised on our website we have a change in guest speaker. Tim Cope a Gippsland adventurer is our guest speaker. Details about Tim and his exploits can be found at <http://www.fedwalks.org.au/tim.html> and <http://www.timcopejourneys.com/>.

As there will not be another information bulletin, please refer to previous bulletins for information such as dining and arrival arrangements for Friday night.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in November.

Organising Committee
Federation Walks Weekend 2014



Fire Risk

Victoria has already experienced its first bushfire. We are entering our Fire Danger Period, so it is essential for the safety of your bushwalks to check the fire danger before you set off on any walk in the bush or outer metropolitan area.

Fire Danger Period

CFA declares the Fire Danger Period for each country and outer metropolitan municipality in the lead up to the fire season, depending on the amount of rain, grassland curing rate and other local conditions. The Fire Danger Period may be declared as early as October in some municipalities, and typically remains in place until the fire danger lessens, which could be as late as May.

Local municipalities may have their own local laws in relation to lighting fires. These local laws may be in place throughout the year. Contact the local council to find out what local laws may be in place.

Once the Fire Danger Period has been declared, fire restrictions come into force. This means you cannot light a fire, including a camp fire, in the open air unless you have a permit or comply with certain requirements.

Check whether a Fire Danger Period has been declared at <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/restrictions-during-the-fire-danger-period/>.

Victoria's parks and forests in bushfire prone areas are closed to the public on Code Red days. For more information, go to http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/192766/Code_red_park_and_forest_closures_factsheet_Nov2010.pdf.

Total Fire Ban days

Total Fire Bans are different to the Fire Danger Period. A Total Fire Ban Day can be declared at any time during the year. No fires are to be lit in the open air on Total Fire Ban Days unless you have a special permit.

Check Total Fire Bans for Victoria at <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/total-fire-bans-and-ratings/>.

Fire Danger Ratings

The Fire Danger Rating predicts how a fire is likely to behave once started and how difficult it would be to put out. The higher the rating, the more dangerous the conditions. For information about Fire Danger Ratings, go to http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/fm_files/attachments/warnings_and_restrictions/fire_danger_rating.pdf.

Two components of the Fire Danger Rating are the Forest Fire Danger Index (FFDI) and Grass Fire Danger Index (GFDI). The FFDI is calculated using a Drought Factor Value calculated by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) based on either the Keetch Byram Drought Index or the Mount Soil Dryness Index. The GFDI is calculated using grass curing and fuel load data supplied by the Fire Authority.

You can view maps of the FFDI and GFDI at <http://www.bom.gov.au/vic/forecasts/fire-map.shtml>. These maps are updated twice a day at approximately 6am and 6pm during the fire season. (The maps are not available outside the fire season.) The maps may not reflect the latest official forecasts which can be updated at any time. The maps must never be used as your sole source of information. Always use these maps **together with the BoM's warnings and weather forecasts** and with Fire Danger Ratings issued by the CFA.

Local Warnings

The CFA publishes a map showing the location of warnings and incidents of fires of all types and of burn-offs (together with other emergencies) at <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/warnings-and-incidents/>

Planned Burns

DEPI and Parks Victoria do planned burns in parks and forests, both near communities and in remote areas. The CFA helps and does planned burns on private land.

DEPI publishes information about planned burns for a 10-day period at <http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/fire-and-emergencies/planned-burns>

Sources:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/vic/>

<http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au>

<http://www.depi.vic.gov.au>

Drinking Water

Staying appropriately hydrated on walks, especially in hot weather, is important for our health, safety and enjoyment.

Catalyst, ABC television's science program, screened on Thursday, 25 September 2014, cast doubt on the general belief that an adult needs to drink eight glasses of water a

day, saying that there is really no evidence to support this.

A study by [Dr Michael Farrell](#) of Melbourne University looked at how the brain responds when people drink water when they are thirsty compared when they are not. The conclusion seems to be that thirst may be a better guide to hydration needs than drinking to a set plan, particularly for people under the age of 70. The way you drink is also important. Excessive drinking during or after intense exercise can endanger your health. Gulping large quantities of water in a single hit can lead to something called 'water intoxication'. You should drink slowly.

The program also pointed out that there is a difference between quenching thirst and being adequately rehydrated. So in hot weather or on a walk, drinking only sufficient to quench your thirst may not be enough.

All good stuff to think about. To find out more go to the *Catalyst* home page or <http://www.abc.net.au/catalyst/stories/4094066.htm>.

Joslin Guest, Editor



Club Anniversaries – Benalla Bushwalking Club, 30 Years

Congratulations Benalla Bushwalkers for 30 years of bushwalking and conviviality.



Charlie Ablitt, Bushwalking Victoria's Vice President (left), Sigrid, Charlie's partner (centre) and Bob Shaw, President of the Benalla Bushwalking Club (right)



*Cutting the cake
Images by Charlie Ablitt*



Bogong Alpine Area Outdoor Recreation App



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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:

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.

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