

Bridging the Mount Hollow Chasm
Photo: Dean Jeffrey, VMTC

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

Inside this issue...

| | |
|---|---|
| Walking and Talking with the Bushwalking Victoria President | 2 |
| VHCHA— Photographs needed for 2014 Calendar | 3 |
| Nest Box Monitoring in Kelly Country | 4 |
| Club Anniversaries | 4 |
| Get Well, David Reid | 4 |
| Cover Photo | 4 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Around the Tracks: | |
| BEC Field Officer Reports | 5 |
| Track Maintenance Reports1 | 6 |
| News from Land Managers | 8 |
| Equipment— Bothy Shelter | 9 |
| Who's Who at BWV | 10 |
| Advertisement: | |
| Oz Satellite Hire | 4 |

Editor: Joslin Guest

WALKING AND TALKING WITH THE BUSHWALKING VICTORIA PRESIDENT

In this, my final column as President of Bushwalking Victoria, I want to outline what I see as some of the challenges and opportunities facing bushwalking, Bushwalking Victoria and bushwalking clubs over the next few years.

Bushwalking

Climate change, with increasing severe weather events and the increasing severity and occurrence of destructive bushfires, has the very real potential to have a negative impact, not just on where we can bushwalk, but on when we can bushwalk. Many clubs and individual bushwalkers have a policy of not walking when temperatures are considered to be too hot for safety; and with global warming it can be expected that there will be an increase the number of walks cancelled due to hot weather.

As we have seen since the election of conservative governments in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, government policies have become less sympathetic to the values traditionally held by bushwalkers, and we are seeing activities antithetical to the conservation and enjoyment of natural areas being introduced into national parks. It seems likely that, come September, we will have a conservative Federal government too, making these attitudes and policies more likely at all levels of government in our country.

Competition for access to what might be regarded as traditional bushwalking areas and facilities is becoming increasingly prevalent. The explosion in cycling in recent years, including mountain biking, is perhaps the most obvious of these. Shooting, hunting, prospecting, commercial activities, alpine grazing and forestry are others that come to mind.

Population growth, particularly in the outer Melbourne growth areas and coastal regions, is already affecting the enjoyment of some of our traditional walking areas such as the Dandenong Ranges, the Mornington and Bellarine Peninsulas, the Otways and the Gippsland coast.

On the opportunity side for bushwalking, a lot of people are due to retire in the next couple of decades and they will probably have the time, money and motivation (?) to keep fit, active and socially engaged. Governments across the country are starting to recognise that active recreations such as bushwalking have much to offer in the battle against the so-called obesity epidemic and that spending lots of money on organised sport often just increases the number of spectators rather than participation.

Organised sport is increasingly suffering a poor reputation due to issues such as conflict between officials, participants and supporters, and alcohol and drug use.

The traditional model of membership and teams is making it increasingly difficult for time-challenged families and working people to participate in organised activities. The casualisation of the workplace means fewer people have a

traditional Saturday-Sunday weekend, meaning that is difficult to pursue team type sporting interests.

Bushwalking Clubs

As we know, the recreation of bushwalking is much more flexible than most sports—there are no teams for example and club members can usually walk with the club as frequently or seldom as they wish.

Bushwalking can also be a family activity in which parents and children can participate together. This provides great opportunities to promote not just bushwalking, but club membership too.

As mentioned above, there will be lots more retired people, with time and money on their hands and wanting to keep fit, active and engaged. Highlighting the social aspects of bushwalking and bushwalking clubs, along with the health and wellbeing benefits of bushwalking are opportunities for clubs to attract new walkers and members. However, increasingly, people are less willing and interested in traditional membership models and clubs that are willing to change and be more flexible have the opportunity to take advantage of the opportunities such people offer.

Bushwalking Victoria

There is nothing that Bushwalking Victoria can do to reduce the impacts of climate change or global warming. However when it comes to the other issues mentioned above, a strong and resourceful bushwalking peak body, with a large and engaged member and supporter base that is willing to contribute financial and other resources can have an impact. Our traditional structure and support base of bushwalking clubs has served us extremely well for much of the almost 80 years, first as the Federation of Victoria Walking Clubs and since 2006 as Bushwalking Victoria. However the world has changed, and while Bushwalking Victoria has already made significant changes, more needs to be done. Staying as we are is not an option. 95% or more of people who bushwalk do not belong to bushwalking clubs, never have done, and never will.

The advocacy and lobbying that Bushwalking Victoria undertakes, and needs to do much more of, is aimed at achieving better bushwalking for all people who bushwalk in Victoria. As things stand, it is only bushwalking club members who are contributing to these efforts and this situation should not be allowed to continue. We need to not only continue to do what we have traditionally done to support clubs, but need to do even more and with the additional financial resources that would flow from increased individual members and supporters we can do this, plus allow us to do what is needed to promote bushwalking and the particular needs and interests of bushwalkers.

Walking & Talking...cont from page 2

Other recreational activities, such as cycling, four-wheel driving, shooting, hunting, fishing and prospecting have been much better organised, better resourced and more willing to adapt to the changing environment in which they operate and, in fact, to work to create the opportunities and future that they want. As a result they have managed to achieve significant concessions for not only their members and supporters but also for anyone that participates in their activities.

Bushwalking Victoria's new strategic plan sets out what the current Bushwalking Victoria Board believes needs to be done in the coming few years, and the resources we need to obtain to do so, for the benefit of all who bushwalk. It will be up to the new Board and led by incoming president, Tony Walker, to implement the plan. Given the support of clubs, members and bushwalkers I have very confidence in the future of not just bushwalking, but Bushwalking Victoria too.

Chris Towers
Outgoing President, Bushwalking Victoria

Victorian High Country Huts Association
PHOTOGRAPHS NEEDED FOR 2014 CALENDAR

The Huts Association 2013 Calendar, in full colour, was a great success and was fully sold out. Now we are looking for more quality photos to publish in the **2014 VHCHA Calendar**.

If your photo is selected, it will be published in a popular calendar that gets purchased Australia wide, and even internationally. But most importantly, you will be helping us to preserve the huts through funds raised by the calendar sales.

This year's theme is **'MY FAVOURITE HUT'**. The photograph should capture the elements of the hut that you feel most endear the hut or its landscape setting.

REWARDS

Each photographer who has a photo that selected for inclusion in the 2014 VHCHA Calendar will receive **2 free copies** of the calendar.

CONDITIONS

- All photos must have be taken by the person who is submitting them
- Photos submitted by VHCHA members, or members of affiliated member organisations such as 4WD Clubs, Ski clubs etc will be assessed first. If there are not enough suitable photos, then photos submitted by non members will be considered.
- You may submit as many photos as you like, as long as they fit the theme.
- The VHCHA committee has exclusive selection rights for photos to include in the calendar.
- If selected, you will be contacted by email, and may need to send a high resolution version suitable for printing at A4 size to the Secretary.
- As a the condition of submission, photographers agree to a non-exclusive transfer of worldwide rights allowing the Victorian High Country Huts Association the following uses: publishing the image(s) in the VHCHA 2013 Calendar, the VHCHA Newsletter, and displaying the image(s) on the VHCHA website. Non-exclusive use allows the photographer to continue to market the image as they choose.
- **Submissions close on 15th June 2013.**

HOW TO SUBMIT PHOTOS

Please email your photos to secretary@hutsvictoria.org.au, and include your name and contact number.

Photos should be at least 1200 X 800 pixels.

OTHER ENQUIRIES

Please contact the association secretary at secretary@hutsvictoria.org.au or the president at president@hutsvictoria.org.au

NEST BOX MONITORING IN KELLY COUNTRY

In spite of our comprehensive safety briefing, the ladder looked precarious as it stretched upwards to rest against the side of the tree way above. Dale, our group leader, gave me the nod and up I went, rung by trembling rung. At the top of the ladder was my goal: a small green wooden nest box. I fumbled with the latch, trying not to lean too far over and overbalance, and also trying not to make any noise in case I disturbed the resident. Gently I raised the lid, and there, looking up at me with bright round eyes, was the furry grey face of a Squirrel Glider. What a beautiful little animal! I was hooked!

About 80 people had assembled on a sunny Saturday morning outside the Benalla DSE offices to take part in Ray Thomas' Nest Box Monitoring for Threatened Species weekend. Many were university students keen to get involved in environmental projects, others were bushwalkers or local people wanting to help preserve our native fauna and flora. Some, like myself, were newcomers to the experience; others were old hands.

With the help of models and photos, Ray Thomas, the Regent Honeyeater Project's convener*, introduced us to the different animals we might find in the nest boxes. Then we were divided into many small groups with ladders and vehicles to share, and sent out to find nest boxes in designated areas and record our findings. We were lucky to have a perfect Autumn weekend to enjoy the countryside once frequented by Ned Kelly and friends.

In the evening, after our tiring but rewarding day of ladder carrying and climbing, we shared a barbeque and swapped true and tall stories. As we gathered around the fire under a starry sky, the glasses of wine seemed to magnify our memories - one eminent leader even claimed he had found a very rare blue whale in one of the boxes!

Most people bedded down in the Benalla Scout hall or in tents outside. Then on Sunday morning we set out to do it all again.

It often wasn't easy to distinguish whether the nest box residents were threatened Squirrel Gliders or the more widespread Sugar Gliders, particularly when all we could see in the nest box were mounds of sleepy fur. Frequently the creatures weren't at home, and we could only surmise who might have been living there by the shape or building materials of the nest. Nevertheless, by the time we finished on Sunday afternoon we all had a good appreciation of the success of the project in providing safe nesting habitats for these beautiful and endangered little bushland dwellers.

Deb Shand
Melbourne Bushwalkers

* The Regent Honeyeater Project is not just about the Regent Honeyeater and other endangered birds, but also seeks to improve the environment for endangered mammals in the Lurg Hills near Benalla. (Editor)

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Echuca Moama—20 years



Congratulations Echuca Moama Bushwalkers who are celebrating 20 years. Their first walk was at Mt Terrick Sate Park Sunday on May 23 1993. To celebrate the anniversary they once again walked to Mt Terrick.

DAVID REID

Best Wishes for a Speedy and Full Recovery



David Reid, current Bushwalking Victoria Board member and former president of both Bushwalking Victoria and Bushwalking Australia, has been seriously ill in hospital since 11 April.

David is expected to recover, however progress has been slow to date.

I am sure all Bushwalking members will join me in wishing David a full and quick recovery so he can be back out enjoying his beloved bush again soon.

Chris and Elaine Towers

COVER PHOTO

The leader of a recent VMTC trip to the Grampians, Damien Walters, had the members of his party running in the opposite direction when they saw him bridging the Mount Hollow chasm.

Fortunately Damien, an experienced canyoner who is well used to such precarious perches, did not encourage his party to follow.

Sandra Bucovaz
Victorian Mountain Tramping Club

Oz Satellite Rentals

Australia
Wide

Outdoor Equipment Hire

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Satellite Phone | Snow Shoes |
| UHF Handheld Radio | GPS Units |
| PLB, Epirbs | Trangia Stoves |
| Spot Messenger | Packs |
| Hike Tent | InReach |

AROUND THE TRACKS

BEC Field Officer Reports

Mt Buffalo, report by Pauline McLaughlin

Work is to start on the Chalet with \$7million to refurbish it to become a day visitor centre and a café. See also page 8.

Alps, report by Jim Harker

➤ Bogong High Plains:

- Stepping stones have been installed on the AAWT where it crosses boggy ground near Mt Jim.
- Parks Victoria has advised that the following tracks, closed as a result of the summer bushfires in the Harrierville and Mt Feathertop area, will be re-opened after winter:
 - Bon Accord walking track
 - Champion Spur (Management Vehicles Only)
 - East Ovens track/ Bon Accord fire trail.

➤ Mansfield region

The re-building of Lovick's Hut is nearing completion. (The re-building is being done privately.)

➤ Australian Alps Walking Track

- Parks Victoria planned to have cleared the AAWT in the Razor-Viking area, as well as High Cone-Nobs-Mt McDonald-Mt Sunday cleared by 6 May. Before walking in the areas, check tract status with Parks Victoria.
- The attempt to clear the Mt Clear area was abandoned when the road was too difficult for the ranger's vehicle to access.

Otway Ranges, report by Bernard Jordan

Joint meeting of Rail Trail Committees

In late March the Camperdown Timboon Rail Trail Committee held a joint meeting with committee members of the Port Fairy-Warrnambool Rail Trail, the Old Beechy Line and the Tiger Trail.

In the afternoon, participants walked from Merretts Road, Glenfyne to the Curdies Bridge and back to inspect the newly erected shelter at Glenfyne Siding.

At the later barbeque meal, there was much discussion about our similarities and differences. We shared lots of experiences, and the committee certainly all learnt some new and innovative ideas. Despite being in the same area of the State's South West, our experiences with local government authorities, DSE and adjoining landowners varied significantly.

- The Tiger Rail Trail presently goes for some 6km north of Forrest. Eventually it is hoped to go to Barwon Downs and Birregurra.
- The Old Beechy Rail Trail is open for 44km from Colac to Beech Forest. The section of most interest to walkers goes some 17km downhill from Beech Forest to Gellibrand.

- The Camperdown to Timboon trail is open for some 40km. The section of most interest to walkers is some 12km from Glenfyne to Timboon.
- The Port Fairy to Warrnambool trail is 37km. (I haven't walked it.)

Vandalism on Goldfields Track, report by Alison Lanigan

The Goldfields Track signage adjacent to the Wombat Station rotunda has been unbolted and removed. The GDTA entry station map is still in place and intact.

Walkers may find it difficult to decide which way to go from the rotunda towards Ballarat because now the first post is out of sight, across the road and up the hill.

We have reported the vandalism and requested that one or two new posts be planted to direct people across the road from the rotunda.

Wilson's Prom, report by Ian McKeller

➤ Sealers Cove Track

Works are nearing completion. All of the repair works to Windy Saddle has been completed and the repairs to the boardwalk are nearing completion. Works are continuing on the re-alignment at Ferny Glade. The track should re-open on Queen's Birthday Weekend (with the official re-opening scheduled for Friday 8 June).

➤ Johnny Souey Cove

Track re-alignment at Johnny Souey Cove by Parks Victoria away from the sensitive Aboriginal Cultural Site has been completed. The new camping area has been completed and open to the public on the Queen's Birthday Long Weekend. See also page 7.

➤ Martins Hill to Roaring Meg

Repair works are scheduled for June / July. This will complete all flood recovery works resulting from the March 2011 flood event.

Central Victoria, report by John Petheram

Work restarted on closed Bukkertillible Track, Mt Buangor

Sixteen Ballarat Bushwalking and Outdoor Club (BBOC) members worked in Mt Buangor State Park on 20-21 April and have made a big impact on the Bukkertillible Track.

The track had been declared permanently closed by Parks Victoria because Parks lacked the funds to repair major fire and storm damage. BBOC had objected vigorously against the decision to close the track.

BBOC's work is still supposed to be a 'trial' of its ability to clear the thick growth of blue-gun seedlings, but it is plain now that there is no stopping club volunteers from completing the track over the next few months if allowed to go ahead.

BEC Field Officer Reports cont

There is some talk of the club needing to commit to maintenance for the next few years – but enthusiasm for the track (and a level of ownership) is strong enough for even that. BBOC feels that the public use of this loop track will be high once it's opened. This work has kept BBOC members away from its usual program of work in the Grampians this year, and also from the Bushwalking Victoria track maintenance work in Alps

Grampians road report**➤ Closed roads**

The following roads have been closed due to fire damage incurred during the recent bushfires in Victoria Valley and Victoria Range:

- Glenelg River Rd between Greens Creek Rd and the Henty Hwy
- Boundary Rd
- Redhill Rd
- Jensen's Rd
- Bullawin Rd
- Harrop's Tk
- Billywing Rd
- Redrock Rd
- Goat Tk
- Victoria Range Rd
- Matthews Tk
- Syphon Rd
- Henham Tk between Glenelg River Rd and Serra Rd

It is unknown how long these roads will be closed for.

➤ Unsealed roads

- The open roads within the park are becoming corrugated in some areas. A 4WD is recommended for travelling on unsealed roads around the park.
- The Mt Zero Rd is becoming very dusty and corrugated in places. Please slow down and take care along this road.

➤ Re-opened roads

- Redman and Mitchell Rds
- Picnic Ground road is open to Mitchell road but is **still closed up to Kalymna Picnic Ground.**
- Most of the seasonally closed 4WD tracks have been opened, **The tracks that are still closed are under reconstruction and will be opened as the works are completed.**
- Mafeking Rd is open to Mafeking picnic ground..
- Lodge Rd and the Southern end of Asses Ears Rd have now been patched and graded. These areas may be slippery after rain.
- Some road works have been undertaken on Glenelg River Rd near Boreang campground. The road may be slippery after rain.

Yarra Ranges**McMahons Creek Goldfields Walking Track**

Parks Victoria advised that the 300m section of the walking track that includes the boardwalk and mineshafts is closed until further notice. Parks Victoria has inspected the area and repair work has commenced.

Track Maintenance Reports**Track Clearing on the Baw Baw**

This activity is the major annual track work on the plateau organised by the Friends of Baw Baw and Parks Victoria, and it was great that members of the Strzelecki Bushwalking Club, along with a few from other clubs, were willing to give their support once again. Some came for the full 4 days, others for a shorter time.

On the Friday morning, we met at the Parks Victoria depot at Rawson and then travelled in convoy to Mt St Gwinear car park. Private vehicles were left there, and the Parks trucks continued on with all the equipment, camping gear, food and our packs (and us).

At Jeep Track Flat (about 2km up the main track) we set up camp, had morning tea, and began work.

The first section to be tackled was the Yellow Pole Line, which curves around Mt St Gwinear from Jeep Track Flat to St Gwinear Flat. This is an alternative route to avoid crossing the summit. It is used by some walkers, but its major use is in winter by tired or inexperienced cross-country skiers. For this reason the track had to be cut wide – about 3m wherever possible. Because it had become very heavily overgrown, it was slow going and needed all the 'hands' we had. Two chainsaws led the way, then 2 large petrol brush-cutters, then up to 4 lighter brush-cutters. Between each of these groups were people with rake-hoes or pitchforks, tossing the cut vegetation and fallen debris off the track. Some people stuck to one task, while others swapped fairly frequently. By knock-off time we had made a good start, but there were still lots to do.

Saturday saw some fresh workers appear, and we continued on with renewed enthusiasm.

Early on Sunday, we rejoined the main trail coming down off Mt St Gwinear, and continued to cut a slightly narrower track towards the Rock Shelter at Camp Saddle. By the afternoon we reached a creek about half a kilometre from the shelter, but our progress was slowed by thick and prickly vegetation.

Because many of the helpers had to leave on Sunday evening, it was decided not to continue on this track on Monday, but to work on a section referred to as 'the cut-out', which is a short section of alternative track that bypasses a steep drop (mainly for skiers). We were able to complete this section by lunch time, after which we packed up the camp and departed.

Track Maintenance Reports cont

Parks Victoria supplied all the food. The evenings spent in camp were very pleasant. At the end of each day we were all glad to avail ourselves of the hot shower set up beside a truck. The weather threatened quite often, but remained generally fine.

Michael Haynes, BEC field officer

Northern Wilsons Prom—4th Work Session

Six Bushwalking Victoria volunteers were at Port Welshpool on Saturday 4 May in anticipation of an early departure by launch to Johnny Souey Cove, where we were intending to work on tracks and a new campsite.

However when we reached the jetty in the pre-dawn light we found that the winds were gusting at 30 knots, which made conditions too hazardous to get out of the harbour. The alternatives were to delay the departure by several hours or to drive to the end of Five Mile Rd and start work on the track from there to Johnny Souey Cove. As we did not relish 3-4 hours of sightseeing around Port Welshpool in blustery weather, we chose the latter.. So we drove to the National Park. led by rangers Steve and 'Swampy', and along the recently upgraded Five Mile Rd (maintenance vehicles only) to near the beach where we set up camp.

We then carried our equipment – chainsaws, brush cutter, loppers and fuel – for 2km down to and along the beach to Miranda Creek.

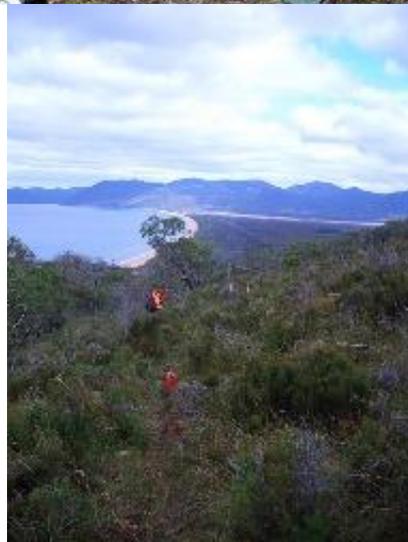
The route to Johnny Souey starts on the northern side the creek from where the track rises steeply. It had been marked with tape some time ago and has been used a little bit, but was partially overgrown and covered by a lot of fallen timber, remnants of the 2009 bushfires. Our immediate task was to clear and mark this 3km track. By the end of the first day we had only managed to mark and clear about half a kilometre.

Next day the weather improved and we managed to join up with the 200m of broad track already cleared by the Prom staff at the Johnny Souey end of the route. We also reached the area for the new campsite on which the rangers 'Swampy' and Luke were working hard.

Because of the steep rise from Miranda Creek (100m change in elevation in the first 250m of distance) we decided to re-route the track by adding some extra zig zags, both to make the climb easier and to reduce the threat of erosion in the steepest section.

With our previous work in the area, we can now look forward to the re-opening of this link in the northern wilderness of Wilsons Promontory. Walkers will be able to walk from Tin Mine Cove, via the Chinaman Beach/Lighthouse track, Three Mile Beach, Johnny Souey camp, Five Mile Beach and back to Five Mile Gate. More intrepid walkers will be able to get to Tin Mine Cove via the idyllic Lower Barry Creek camp, across the Wilderness area and Chinaman Long Beach.

Charlie Ablitt & Dave Rimmer



Above: Northern Wilsons Prom Track Maintenance
Photos by Charlie Ablitt

NEWS FROM LAND MANAGERS

Department of Sustainability & Environment

Merger

The Victorian Government announced changes to the Victorian Public Service that included the Department of Sustainability and Environment and the Department of Primary Industries to form a single new department, by 1 July 2013, a new entity, the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI).

The impacts of the merger will have on land management for environmental and sustainability planning and practice have yet to manifest.



At the time of publication, the DSE website remains unchanged, expect for the banner which is headed 'Department of Environment and Primary Industries'. The website is closed for maintenance on Saturday 26. Other changes to the website might be obvious after Saturday.

Mount Buffalo Chalet

The Mount Buffalo chalet has been closed since 2007. After extensive public consultation process and market testing, the Victorian Governments in May 2013 announced plans to develop a day visitor facility at the Mount Buffalo chalet, comprising an information centre, activity centre and cafe space.

The redevelopment involves removing some more recent additions at the rear of the chalet building and refurbishing the remaining buildings to develop the facility.

The government is providing \$7 million to this redevelopment. The government's aim is to make the site operational, open to visitors and ready for future investment when the opportunity arises.

Future investment opportunities will include any viable solution that is supported by the market and local community and meets the requirements of the government's *Guidelines for Tourism Investment Opportunities of Significance in National Parks*. This could include eco-tourism activities, a restaurant or accommodation. Any future use of the chalet will also have to complement its setting within a national park. The *National Parks Act 1975* protects the park and its values.

See also: [Guidelines for tourism investment opportunities in National Parks](#)

Parks Victoria

Invitation to provide feedback

➤ Greater Alpine National Parks

The draft *Greater Alpine National Parks Management Plan* is due to be released 'soon', but no date is given.

The planning area includes Alpine, Baw Baw, Errinundra, Mt Buffalo and Snowy River national parks, Tara Range Park, Avon Wilderness Park and Walhalla, Howqua Hills, Grant, Mt Wills and Mt Murphy historic areas.

The discussion papers from the 2009 review and the public comments received, fact sheets and maps and other information that has been developed are available from the Parks Victoria [Resources](#) page.

➤ Ngootyoong Gunditj Ngootyoong Mara - South West Management Plan

This project is a partnership between Parks Victoria, DEPI, and the Gunditjmara Traditional Owners.

The planning area includes national, state and forest parks, conservation reserves and Indigenous Protected Areas in South West Victoria.

Download the [discussion papers](#), fact sheets, maps and references are available from the Parks Victoria [Resources](#) page

wePlan Parks Victoria



wePlan is an interactive tool to help you get involved in planning earlier and more directly.

When you register as a wePlan user, you will receive emailed updates on what is happening and can comment on plans as they are being developed.

To find out more, visit; <http://203.19.59.184/node/14>



Snow gums
Footnotes, Vol 33 No 4, May 2013

EQUIPMENT—BOTHY SHELTERS

A **Bothy shelter** is a very simple rectangular tent with no poles or floor, made of lightweight nylon. It can be pulled over the heads of a group standing together. The group then sits down tucking the lower edge of the walls under their backsides, effectively creating a tent with 'human poles'

Its main use would be for sheltering a group in severe weather or an emergency situation.

Pros:

- Because it's very simple, it requires minimal training (with no poles/pegs to lose or break)
- It's an almost instant, temporary emergency shelter with high visibility
- No physical exertion required, unlike the digging snow shelter
- Capacity to shelter quite a number of people (depends on the version you are using)
- Very quickly removes the wind-chill factor to create a warm air atmosphere
- Unlike a tent, there is no need to remove wet weather gear or footwear as there is no floor
- Compact and lightweight (the 6 person option is little more than a standard bivvy bag in size & weight - ie approx 600-900g)

Cons

- Unless in calm conditions (where packs or skipoles can be used, or where it can hang from a tree) it relies on people to act as 'internal poles' thereby restricting movement during use
- Can flap around a bit in high winds, particularly if only a few people are available to act as 'internal poles' on the windward side
- Being lightweight material there is potential for damage from sharp objects
- Not suitable for cooking inside due to the enclosed environment (only fitted with very small air vents)
- Primarily designed as a short-term option and doesn't replace the need for carrying a suitable tent (there is no capacity for sleeping inside)

Source:

Adapted from the BSAR website, <http://www.bsar.org/bothyshelters>
Original authors: Mark and Andy Oates, 2007

Other Emergency Shelters

Below are some thoughts if you don't plan on camping but want to carry some sort of emergency shelter in case things go wrong (weather closes in or you get delayed).

- For very temporary and not very serious conditions, but which can be carried on every walk:



How many will it fit: inside a Bothy - source: BSAR website

- A **space blanket** is more a way of preserving heat, so these very compact sheets of coated plastic are not much use except as a very temporary measure before getting to real shelter or assistance.
- A **survival bag** is a large, strong and usually high visibility orange bag, large enough for you to get right inside of to be out of the wind and rain. They lack any seal to the open end, do not breathe and are uncomfortable to be in, but are still much better than nothing.
- For more serious situations, but on walks where you would not normally carry a tent:
 - The **bothy bag** takes its name from the network of simple shelters scattered throughout the Scottish highlands. It may also be called a Kisu (Karrimor Instructor Survival Unit). It is a large waterproof envelope, and is usually carried as group equipment.
 - The fabric stops wind and rain from getting in, and stops a certain amount of heat from getting out. It is usually brightly coloured, and has one or more windows and air vents.
It comes in 2, 4, 8 and 12 occupant sizes. The sizes assume adults and are quite generous. You can normally put bags and other equipment in the middle and all sit around the inside perimeter. Or if you leave the bags outside, there is room for more people,
 - The **bivy bag** (derived from the word bivouac) is a personal shelter that can be used instead of a tent. Bivy bags are much lighter than even the lightest tent, but do not allow for much more than a sleeping space.

Source:

<http://tent-review.co.uk/best-tents/best-bothy-bag/>
<http://aditl.com/hike/gear/bothy-bag/>
<http://www.backpacking-lite.co.uk/lightweight-shelter/bothy%20bags.htm>

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 Living Links Steering Committee: Tony Walker



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