

# Special Recognition Award

## Chris Baxter OAM

Presented to *Chris Baxter OAM* founder and editor of *Wild* magazine in recognition of his significant contribution to the development of recreational bushwalking in Victoria.

Chris Baxter OAM founded *Wild* magazine in Victoria in 1981. When Chris retired in 2005 due to illness, *Wild* had published its 25th anniversary issue, number 100.

Under Chris' leadership *Wild* provided details on walking destinations, information and surveys on equipment, news on conservation issues impacting on the bushwalking amenity and many other features of interest to bushwalkers. *Wild* magazine also promoted the endeavours of many adventurers thereby instilling enthusiasm into upcoming generations.

*Wild* also supported conservation and not-for-profit organisations and from the outset recognized its duty to support the responsible preservation of our distressingly scarce wild places. *Wild's* active support for the environment included fearless and significant editorial coverage and considerable financial support. Chris ensured "only advertising relevant to *Wild's* specialist publications and which conforms with *Wild's* ethical guidelines is accepted." *Wild* donated many thousands of dollars to conservation, Christian and humanitarian organisations. This stance afforded opportunities for organisations such as Bushwalking Victoria to access advertising options that they could not otherwise afford.

From 1991 *Wild* published *Wild* GUIDES, small booklets, many of which relate to Victoria, that provide valuable information for bushwalkers.

## Bill Brand QPM

Presented to *Bill Brand* of Victoria Police (retired) in recognition of his significant contribution to the development of recreational bushwalking in Victoria.

Bill Brand was a foundation member of Police Search and Rescue Squad when it was established in 1957. Through his efforts this branch of Victoria Police built strong ties with the bushwalking fraternity, in particular with the Federation's Bush Search and Rescue Section (BSAR). Bill retired as Officer in Charge of Search and Rescue in 1987.

Bill was also the Police representative on the Bushwalking and

Mountaincraft Leadership Training Advisory Board and ensured that police officers wishing to join the Search and Rescue Squad had the necessary bush experience by completing the Bushwalking and Mountaincraft Leadership Certificate Course and later the Ski and Snow Safety Course. A strong advocate of safety in the bush, he spoke at functions and to groups about outdoor activities.

Bill was on the Expedition Advisory Panel of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, helping to ensure the young participants were properly equipped to organise and undertake their outdoor activity.

## John Chapman

Presented to *John Chapman* in recognition of his significant contribution to the development of recreational bushwalking in Victoria.

John has produced bushwalking guidebooks and track notes over many years that have increased awareness of the quality and abundance of bushwalking opportunities in Victoria and other parts of Australia and made bushwalking accessible to a wide audience.

John has also regularly written equipment surveys which have helped to create a greater understanding of bushwalking and the equipment necessary to enjoy the activity in safety and comfort. His photography of wild places has further promoted interest in bushwalking in Victoria and encouraged overseas walkers to seek out the walking opportunities available in Victoria.

John's website helps to ensure that up-to-date information is available for bushwalkers. He is always generous with his advice on walking tracks. John is a life member of Melbourne University Mountaineering Club, a member of Maroondah Bushwalking Club and is an active searcher with Bush Search and Rescue Victoria.

## Greg Young

Presented to *Greg Young* of Parks Victoria in recognition of his significant contribution to the development of recreational bushwalking in Victoria.

Greg, in his role as Ranger in Charge, Bunyip State Park, has been an excellent ambassador for Parks Victoria and an outstanding supporter of bushwalking and bushwalkers. Over a number of years Greg has supported and assisted Bushwalking Victoria's track development group. Greg ensured that bushwalking was properly considered in the development of the Bunyip Recreation Strategy. He has always listened to Bushwalking Victoria's views and in response to advice from the Bushwalking Victoria's Track Development Group has arranged

infrastructure installation on various walking tracks. He and his staff have facilitated track clearing projects, supplying tools and fuel and providing chain saw accreditation training. He has walked the new tracks developed by Bushwalking Victoria, and recently took time out of his normal duties to explore and mark a new walking track in the south of the Park.

In 2008 in conjunction with Bushwalking Victoria, Greg helped organise a Seniors Week walk in the Park. He has always kept the Bushwalking Victoria's Track Development Group informed of issues arising that impact on bushwalkers use and enjoyment of the Park.

# Distinguished Service Award

## Graeme Allen

### Geelong Bushwalking Club

Presented to *Graeme Allen* in recognition of his contribution to the enhancement and development of recreational bushwalking in Victoria, furthering the objectives of Bushwalking Victoria and adding value to the wider Victorian community.

Graeme is a foundation member of the Geelong Bushwalking Club and has been a committee member for 20 years, including three years as President and nine years as Secretary. He has been Editor of the club newsletter for 29 years.

Graeme was the editor/coordinator of the first edition of 'Walking the Otways'. This very professional and successful publication, now in its third edition, helped promote the Otways as a bushwalking destination in Victoria and contributed to making bushwalking more accessible to the public.

Graeme participated in Bush Search and Rescue (BSAR) for 15 years and acted as an assessor over ten years for the Bushwalking and Mountaincraft Leadership course.

## Bill Bewsher

### Life Member, Melbourne University Mountaineering Club

Presented to *Bill Bewsher* in recognition of his contribution to the enhancement and development of recreational bushwalking in Victoria, furthering the objectives of Bushwalking Victoria and adding value to the wider Victorian community.

Bill joined MUMC in 1947. For almost 40 years he has vigorously promoted bushwalking, bushwalking leadership and skills training, safety and search and rescue. Bill gave 35 years of dedicated service to the Federation's Search and Rescue Section. Involved from its establishment he was its first convenor and first field organiser, a position he held for some 20 years, then served as a police liaison officer until the mid-1980s.

Bill helped establish the Bushwalking and Mountaineering Leadership course and his involvement included director of training courses and chairman of the Bushwalking and Mountaineering Training Advisory Board 1969 – 1982. Bill's significant contribution to the Federation included terms as president and vice president in the 1950s and 60s. He was also involved with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Outward Bound and the Education Department's school camps branch.

## **Stuart Brookes OAM**

### **Life Member, Victorian Mountain Tramping Club**

Presented to *Stuart Brookes OAM* in recognition of his contribution to the enhancement and development of recreational bushwalking in Victoria, furthering the objectives of Bushwalking Victoria and adding value to the wider Victorian community.

From the 1950s up to 2000 Stuart produced maps of Victoria's Alpine Area and other popular bushwalking destinations. The maps were regularly updated and provided reliable and detailed information tailored to the needs of bushwalkers.

Stuart was director of Initial Training with the Bushwalking and Mountaineering Leadership course from 1973 - 77 and chairman of the Bushwalking and Mountaineering Training Advisory Board 1982 - 85. Stuart has had a long involvement with Bush Search and Rescue (BSAR), including as police liaison officer. He has actively lobbied government for the development and maintenance of bushwalking tracks and facilities.

Stuart was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 1988 for services to bushwalking.

## **John Van Gemert**

### **Life Member, Geelong Bushwalking Club**

Presented to *John Van Gemert* in recognition of his contribution to the enhancement and development of recreational bushwalking in Victoria, furthering the objectives of Bushwalking Victoria and adding value to the wider Victorian community.

John was a major contributor to 'Walking the Otways', preparing maps, scouting walks and writing up track notes. This very professional and successful publication, now in its third edition, helped promote the Otways

as a bushwalking destination in Victoria and contributed to making bushwalking more accessible to the public. His photography has also promoted and enhanced appreciation of bushwalking in Victoria.

John was president of the Federation for three years from 1987 - 1990 and also participated for many years in Bush Search and Rescue (BSAR). John volunteered in the Bushwalking and Mountaineering Training Advisory Board's leadership courses as an assessor and advisor; some of his images appear in the Handbook.

## Tom Buykx

### Catholic Walking Club of Victoria

Presented to *Tom Buykx* in recognition of his contribution to the enhancement and development of recreational bushwalking in Victoria, furthering the objectives of Bushwalking Victoria and adding value to the wider Victorian community.

For 50 years Tom has been an active member and the public contact for the Catholic Walking Club of Victoria and has served in every committee position.

Tom was President and Treasurer of the Federation in the 1960s and again in the 1980s. Tom was on the Federation Hut Committee and Officer-in-Charge of work parties to the hut site during its construction and in 1972 was Hut Warden . He was convenor of the Track Clearing Group from 1965 to 1971, and represented the Federation on the League of Youth of Australia, Sports Council of Victoria; Ski Tour Association of Victoria and Sports Federation.

Tom helped produce bushwalking information and promotional material and many submissions on conservation issues and management plans. He is still an active participant in Bush Search and Rescue (BSAR) and represents his club as Delegate on the Search and Rescue Committee.

# Distinguished Service Award

## CAEX Bushwalking Club

Presented to *CAEX Bushwalking Club* in recognition of the contribution of the club to the enhancement and development of recreational bushwalking in Victoria, furthering the objectives of Bushwalking Victoria and adding value to the wider Victorian community.

CAEX Bushwalking Club was formed in 1982 by ex-members of a 'Bushwalking for Pleasure' course conducted by the Council of Adult Education (CAE). When the CAE stopped offering the course in 1985, an offer by the club to take over the courses was accepted by the CAE. For 13 years CAEX conducted eight-week and three-week bushwalking skills courses twice a year, training over 1,000 Victorians to enjoy bushwalking in a safe and informed manner. Over two dozen club members contributed to the training which included day walks, base camping, overnight walking and classroom sessions on topics such as equipment, clothing, navigation, first aid, trip planning and food.

Since the mid-1980s CAEX has actively supported the Federation and Bushwalking Victoria. CAEX members have been president, secretary, treasurer, assistant secretary, conservation convenor and were active supporters of the Federation Conservation Committee. CAEX ran the Federation Day Walk in 1988, in the Castlemaine area. Two CAEX members have also served as Police Liaison Officer with Bush Search and Rescue Victoria.

## Melbourne Bushwalkers

Presented to the *Melbourne Bushwalkers* in recognition of the contribution of the club to the enhancement and development of recreational bushwalking in Victoria, furthering the objectives of Bushwalking Victoria and adding value to the wider Victorian community.

The Melbourne "Bushies" were established in 1940. Since 1946 they have provided group transport for members going on walks, first using a furniture van and later a bus. This enabled many students and other young people to go bushwalking, which otherwise would have been beyond their means. In the 1940s and 1950s young people, especially students, generally did not own their own car. More recently the regular bus trips provided by Melbourne Bushies has enabled many overseas students to enjoy Victoria's bushwalking opportunities.

From 1949 to 1987 Melbourne Bushies actively promoted bushwalking in

Victoria by publishing an annual magazine 'Walk' that included track notes that were a popular source of information about bushwalks for the general public. Walk also included articles on current conservation issues and natural history. In 1973 a special edition of collected and updated track notes, accompanied by bush safety, equipment and navigation information, was published as Track Notes '73.

Over the years, Melbourne Bushwalkers provided many office bearers and convenors to the Federation, now Bushwalking Victoria.

## Melbourne University Mountaineering Club

Presented to the *Melbourne University Mountaineering Club* in recognition of the clubs' contribution to the enhancement and development of recreational bushwalking in Victoria, furthering the objectives of Bushwalking Victoria and adding value to the wider Victorian community.

MUMC was formed in 1944. In the 1950s and 1960s the club produced bushwalking maps, mainly for the alpine areas of Victoria and Tasmania. In 1961 the club first published 'Equipment for Mountaineering', which later came to be known as 'Equipment for Bushwalking and Mountaineering'. In 1962 MUMC published a Bushwalking Map Index and in 1979 published the 'Guide to the Victorian Alps'.

The club has always taken a very active role in Bush Search and Rescue, with club member Bill Bewsher being the first convenor and a field organiser until 1970. The club continues to provide many dedicated Bush Search and Rescue participants.

MUMC affiliated with the Federation in 1947 and club member David Hogg instigated the Federation Newsletter in 1966 and edited it until 1969. He also headed the steering committee that established Federation Hut at Mt Feathertop and MUMC members helped in its construction. MUMC members were also actively involved in establishing the Australian Alps Walking Track from 1970 to 1974.

Many MUMC members were leaders or facilitators of the Bushwalking and Mountaincraft Leadership course, ensuring its success over many years.

## Melbourne Walking Club

Presented to the *Melbourne Walking Club* in recognition of the contribution of the club to the enhancement and development of recreational bushwalking in Victoria, furthering the objectives of Bushwalking Victoria and adding value to the wider Victorian community.



The Melbourne Walking Club (formerly the Melbourne Amateur Walking and Touring Club) has existed for over 100 years. In 1929 the MWC created a publication titled 'The Melbourne Walker' (later to become 'The Walker'). Initially for the benefit of members, it was published annually as a record of the clubs activities and history. In 1931 it went on public sale and was published continuously for sixty years. It was a source of detailed information that enabled people planning a trip to assess the nature of many walks and gain important information about the more remote areas of Victoria.

'The Walker', like its sister publication 'Walk' was particularly effective in the post second-world-war period when there was an increase in interest in bushwalking but little information available about the best places to walk, the interesting features of walking areas and the associated history, how to access these areas and route descriptions.

## Melbourne Women's Walking Club

Presented to the *Melbourne Women's Walking Club (MWWC)* in recognition of the contribution of the club to the enhancement and development of recreational bushwalking in Victoria, furthering the objectives of Bushwalking Victoria and adding value to the wider Victorian community.

The formation of the MWWC in 1922 created the opportunity for women to go bushwalking which until then had been almost exclusively a male activity. Not content with just easy walks in 'settled' country the MWWC ran a wide range of trips that included day walks, weekend trips, and even extended trips into the mountains supported by packhorse. At a time when even recreational walking by men was seen as unusual, many of the early trips undertaken by MWWC members pioneered the way forward for generations of women bushwalkers. Just one example is the first traverse by a group of four women of the Barry Mountains.

The MWWC also played an active role in the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs, now Bushwalking Victoria, from the start. The diligent minute taking and record keeping of MWWC has provided the details of the establishment and early activities that we have today. Over many years members of MWWC have contributed their time, energy, expertise and enthusiasm to the cause of bushwalking in Victoria. Since the 1930s the MWWC have run at least eight Federation Walks/Weekends.

# Foundation Member

At a meeting on 15 May 1934, representatives from eight clubs approved the formation of a Victorian Federation of Walking Clubs (known as Bushwalking Victoria since 2007) with the following objectives:

1. Unite all Victorian Walking Clubs for the protection and advancement of mutual interests, to promote the pastime of tour walking and encourage good fellowship amongst affiliated bodies
2. Develop amongst walkers an interest in native flora and fauna and Victorian history
3. Assist in preventing vandalism and bush fires in national parks and bush areas
4. Promote the opening and maintenance of tourist tracks and the construction of tourist huts
5. Collate and distribute information regarding walking tour routes and other subjects of interest to walkers
6. Cooperate with tourist leagues, progress associations and other bodies to further the above objectives

Certificates were presented to the following clubs in recognition of their status as a foundation member and in appreciation for 75 years of dedicated service to the above objectives and the bushwalkers of Victoria.

## Ramblers Walking Club

Formerly the Cheerio Club

## Victorian Rovers - Scout Association

## Melbourne Walking Club

Formerly the Melbourne Amateur Walking and Touring Club

## Melbourne Women's Walking Club