

# Annual Report

2021-22



Bushwalking Victoria

# Representing Bushwalkers since 1934

Bushwalking Victoria (BWV) is the state bushwalking peak body that represents the interests of bushwalkers and all who walk in natural areas in Victoria. We proactively advocate on behalf of all bushwalkers, support our members, contribute to track maintenance and conservation activities and provide highly-skilled bushwalkers to assist Victoria Police with bush search and rescue.

**Our Vision:** Better Bushwalking for Victoria - with a large and diverse bushwalking community enjoying world class walking opportunities across a wide range of Victorian landscapes.

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

BWV is a not-for-profit incorporated association run mainly by volunteers. It was established in 1934 as the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs. The name was changed to Bushwalking Victoria in 2006. BWV relies on member fees and government grants to fund its activities including:

- Safeguarding and advancing the common interests of all bushwalkers.
- Promoting safe and environmentally responsible recreational bushwalking and its benefits to the community.
- Providing a volunteer specialist search and rescue group to assist in land-based searches for persons lost in Victoria, for the benefit of the community.
- Promoting and actively working for the conservation and effective management of the environment including National and State parks, wilderness and other public land areas to enhance their bushwalking value to the community.
- Working with other organisations having like interests; to assist with the development, maintenance and protection of the integrity and accessibility of walking tracks to enhance their recreational bushwalking value for all.
- Publishing information regarding safety, preservation of the environment, walking routes and other subjects of interest to all bushwalkers in the community.

Bushwalking Victoria represents:

- 60 affiliated clubs
- 12 associated organisations
- 160 individual supporter members
- 6,271 affiliated club members collectively
- An estimated 266,000 bushwalkers actively engaged in bushwalking as an outdoor recreation.

*Front Page Image: Descending the Crinoline, Kerry Williams, Strzelecki Bushwalking Club*

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*Image: Mt Reynard ascent, Helmut Tracksdorf Ben Cruachan WC*



*Image: Wellington Plains, Rowena Scott, Melb Womens Walking Club*

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## **Governance & Management**

BWV is a Not-for-Profit Incorporated Association, governed by a Board of Management comprising four elected officers and six elected general Board members. The volunteer office bearers, conveners of standing committees and other specialist officers and one staff member carry out the strategic direction and operations of the organization.

There are three categories of membership:

**Affiliated Members** - Clubs whose main activity is bushwalking. These clubs have full voting rights, and their members are eligible to hold office.

**Associate Members** - Organisations or clubs whose activities include bushwalking, but they are constituted primarily for other purposes. Associate members do not have voting rights, but their members are able to participate in many BWV volunteer services and activities.

**Individual Supporter Members** - Individuals who are not members of clubs but wish to support BWV. Individual members have a collective vote at the AGM, are eligible to hold office and may participate in volunteer services and activities.

# Reports

## President

Welcome to the Bushwalking Victoria (BWV) Annual Report covering the financial year of 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

This report covers the activities of the Board and its standing committees in a year highly impacted by uncertainty.

### The Pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic continued to have a major impact on the lives of all Victorians, including those involved in organised bushwalking. BWV kept members and the community informed about the impact of restrictions on bushwalking and continued its peak body and member support activities as usual. Advice was provided on the interpretation of government mandated restrictions that included gatherings, social distancing, car pooling and vaccination requirements.

Many planned events, including volunteer activities such as track maintenance and walk leader training, were cancelled or postponed. The 2020 FedWalks event finally went ahead at Licola in March 2022.

Over the year Board meetings continued to be held online and whilst effective and valuable, in that regional members have the opportunity to attend, the use of a mix of online and face to face engagements in future is considered desirable.

The pandemic lock downs appear to have increased Victorians' interest in spending active time in nature which has led again this year to an increase in enquiries. Coming out of lockdown some clubs have reported growth in member numbers, others unfortunately have declined. Reopening in December 2021 was warmly welcomed across the bushwalking community.

### The Board

The AGM was held in June 2021 and conducted online. An online version of the Leadership forum was held although this proved marginally successful due to technical issues. Two of the six general Board members elected at the 2021 AGM were new to the Board and three of the four executive committee members, whilst having previous Board experience were new to their roles.

Based on feedback from the previous Board, over the year Board members were encouraged to provide hands on leadership in significant functions aside from that undertaken by Standing Committees, these included Club Development, Risk Management and Marketing and are a work in progress.

During the year we lost the services of our Secretary, which required the Vice President and other Board members to absorb these functions whilst a new secretary was recruited. Unfortunately, this did not eventuate due in all likelihood to the inability of member clubs to supply, based in part on the Covid-19 impact on their own clubs. The work of all Board members in helping is acknowledged and appreciated.

### Strategic Plan

During the period of numerous and extended lockdowns from April thru to November 2021 the Board continued the work arising from the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan. Despite progress being restrained by resource availability, action has continued on major projects.

The website redevelopment project has progressed to the point where:

- The four major sites have been consolidated onto a common host provider utilising the WordPress platform.
- The FedWalks site has been redeveloped and was successfully utilised by the organising committee for Fedwalks 2021 (Licola).
- The main BWV website which also contains the Membership management function is in the final approach to roll out.

The Training committee has made significant progress in developing the online Beginner Bushwalking learning modules, on track for release later in 2022. The team is also progressing the online BWV leader training materials which will be available later this year.

A review was undertaken of the Working for Victoria initiative and the Board decided not to continue with the proposal due to resource limitations and downstream implications on BWV's ability to deliver.

### **Governance**

A process to review the governance of BWV, that includes a review of the Articles of Association and the By-laws, has continued under the guidance of Board member, Bruce Moore. Resource restraints and other priorities have limited this review. It is expected that the new Board will continue this work.

### **BSAR and BTAC**

These two operational standing committees of BWV will report on their activities in separate reports, but I must acknowledge the significant contribution that both committees make and want to thank conveners, Peter Maffei (BTAC) and Monica Chapman and Rod Costigan (BSAR) for their contributions to BWV.

### **Training**

Despite the lockdowns Training has continued to be an important focus for BWV. Face-to-face Walk Leader training, coordinated by Judy Hunter, will be further enhanced via an online platform currently under development. Also, as indicated above, this training focus will be expanded via online learning aimed at beginner bushwalkers and available on the new BWV website. The online training development project is being managed by Training Convener, Lyn Atkinson. My thanks to Lyn and her team for progressing these important initiatives,

### **Bushwalking Manual**

The online Bushwalking Manual was completed in October 2020 and, now in maintenance mode, is being updated regularly by Monica Chapman and Duncan Brookes. As a national resource it has been adopted by other states in particular Bushwalking NSW.

### **Bushwalking Advisory Committee (BWAC)**

The BWAC comprises members of BWV, Parks Victoria and DELWP who meet on a quarterly basis to discuss issues relevant to bushwalking. This has enabled BWV to contribute to government strategies such as Volunteering and walking track/asset development and utilisation.

### **Club Contact**

The Board continues to invite affiliated club presidents to attend board meetings - whilst this has declined due to the Covid-19 impact it continues to be valuable in keeping clubs informed of the Board activities and priorities.

BWV also provides Clubs presidents with a bi-monthly emailed Club Update on Board matters and issues of importance relevant to clubs. There is scope in future to improve this important communications channel.

### **Our Volunteers**

BWV has an estimated 500 active volunteers. These encompass members of the Board, BSAR, BTAC, Training, Safety and club members running the annual Federation Walks or contributing to BWV projects. I would like to thank all of them for giving their time, energy and skills.

### **The Future**

Looking forward there are a number of important areas where BWV can focus in future:

#### *Helping our clubs develop*

Much has been said about living with Covid-19 which may involve further restrictions. However, on a positive note it may also have created a higher and perhaps sustained demand for outdoor pursuits such as bushwalking. As a result clubs may see or want to pursue an increase in members. BWV needs to assist clubs where possible to take advantage of opportunities and share or promote ways to get more people walking at club level.

#### *Increase our Conservation focus*

BWV needs to enforce its status as a peak body with subject-matter experts who can contribute significantly to government and other organisation forums particularly on conservation issues or where access to or quality of the walking amenity is challenged.

### *BWV Resource availability*

For all volunteer organisations the availability of resources to conduct their activities can be cyclical and difficult to access. BWV needs to put in place a process with its member clubs that provides an effective channel to gather consensus on initiatives to pursue and the commitment to provide appropriate resources. This includes staffing the Board, Convener positions and key projects.

### **Thank You**

I want to thank everyone who has contributed to the success of Bushwalking Victoria over the past year in what has been a challenging time for us all.

And in particular, special thanks to the Executive members Robyn Shingles, Cheng Khoo and Lynda Maddison, to the general board members Liz Robinson, Bruce Moore, Simon Mullumby, Michael Burke, Louise Williams and Robert Bicknell for their enthusiasm and support and to the standing committee conveners Monica Chapman, Rod Costigan, Peter Maffei, Lyn Atkinson and Bob Peterson for their leadership and dedication to their portfolios, and teams.

For those Board Members and Conveners retiring or not continuing on to 2022-23: Bruce, Louise, Liz, Peter and Bob, thanks again on behalf of us all.

Mike Grant  
President



*Image: Lake Tali Karng, Lynda Maddison, Melton Bushwalking Club*

## Secretary

As a member of the Board of Management, and Public Officer of BWV, the Secretary has specific legal responsibilities as well as general administrative functions. The Secretary is registered with Consumer Affairs Victoria, the Australian Business Register and the Australian Tax Office, to carry out the functions associated with this role.

### Membership

Affiliated member clubs remain steady at 60. The Otway Ranges Walking Track Association ceased operation during the year, however we welcomed a new club in February 2022, with 'The Great Aussie Hikers' joining our membership.

Overall club membership numbers have decreased from the last financial year, from 6,382 to 6,271, with pandemic restrictions still having an impact. Generally, our regional clubs have reported an increase in numbers while some metropolitan clubs have declined. Associated member clubs are 12. Individual Supporter members total 160.

### Board Activities

Members of the Board are responsible for governance and strategy for BWV. Board members are also asked to volunteer additional time to participate in operational activities, projects and events.

Board members for 2021/22:

Name	Position	Membership
Mike Grant	President	Bayside Bushwalking Club
Vacant	Vice-President	
Lynda Maddison	Secretary	Melton Bushwalking Club
Robyn Shingles	Secretary	Strzelecki Bushwalking Club
Cheng Khoo	Treasurer	Melbourne Uni & Alumni Bushwalkers
Bruce Moore	General Board Member	Individual Supporter Member
Louise Williams	General Board Member	Essendon Bushwalking Club
Liz Robinson	General Board Member	Individual Supporter Member
Simon Mullumby	General Board Member	Border Bushwalking Club
Michael Burke	General Board Member	Individual Supporter Member
Robert Bicknell	General Board Member	Individual Supporter Member

Conveners of standing committees are invited to and regularly attend the monthly Board meetings:

Monica Chapman	BSAR Convener	Maroondah Bushwalking Club
Rod Costigan	BSAR Convener	Melbourne Uni Mountaineering Club
Peter Maffei	BTAC Convener	Strzelecki Bushwalking Club
Lyn Atkinson	Training Convener	Boroondara Bushwalking Club
Bob Peterson	Safety Convener	Maroondah Bushwalking Club

Club presidents are welcome to attend BWV Board meetings as guests - eight presidents attended Board meetings during the year.

### Operations

The office at Westerfolds has been unmanned for some time due to Covid-19, and a review of the requirement for maintaining the physical office was carried out. While recognising the need to retain access to the facilities for meetings and training, including activities for club activities, some cost savings on overheads were identified and implemented.

Following the departure of Izolde Bensch in November, leading into a relatively quiet time for BWV, it was prudent to wait until after Christmas to find a new administrative support person. This meant a call for assistance from our Board members, with Liz Robinson taking on the editorial duties for the monthly bulletin and sourcing social media posts - a challenge that she has carried out exceptionally well. Robert Bicknell assisted with a review of our documentation management system and meeting procedures, and Board members were given more hands-on access in the documentation and management process at Board meetings.

Alan Abrahams joined BWV as Administration Officer in February, just in time to pick up the administration of the time-consuming annual insurance process.

Thanks to all who supported me in the unfamiliar secretarial role during the year.

Robyn Shingles  
Secretary

## Treasurer

### **Financial Results for 2021-2022**

The Financial year ended 31 March 2022 reported a surplus of \$5,270 against a budget deficit of \$16,757.

Employment expenses being BWV's major fixed expense were \$32,699 below budget. This was due to a period where no paid administrative support was provided.

As the financial year reported lower than budgeted expenditure, the Board approved a 31% rebate of \$5.50 (including GST) per member on affiliation fees based on 2021 membership numbers.

Total expenditure for the last two years has been 29% lower compared to prior years. We expect 2022/23 expenditure to return to normal levels.

### **Financial Position**

Overall, the financial position remains good with Members' Funds at \$214,988.

The Board has determined Reserves are sufficient to fund unexpected shortfalls in grant revenues, contingency costs and any unexpected increases in operating expenditure.

### **Search and Rescue Fund**

From time to time, we receive donations from volunteers, clubs and individuals. These donations are used to fund BSAR's ongoing activities. During the year, Ramblers Walking Club donated \$2,000 to BSAR. Given this is a sizable donation, the Board has determined this donation will be transferred to the Search and Rescue Fund.

### **Membership Fees 2022-23**

Given the adequacy of Reserves for the year ending 31 March 2022, the Board has determined that the fees for the year ending 31 March 2022 for Member Clubs will remain at \$17.60 (incl. GST) per club member.

Individual Supporter Member fees shall remain at \$20.00 (incl. GST) and Associate Membership fees at \$25.00 (incl. GST) per club.

### **Acknowledgments and thanks**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board, conveners and many volunteers who continue to put in their time to support bushwalking in Victoria. In particular Mike Grant, BWV President for his leadership and guidance. Thank you to Robyn Shingles, Secretary, for assuming most of the Office Manager's duties with assistance from Liz Robinson. And special thanks to our Honorary Reviewer, Keith Talty.

Cheng Khoo  
Treasurer

# Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation Committee (BTAC)

Again, a busy program for BTAC volunteers during the 2021-22 reporting period. In total 3,264 volunteer hours were contributed to maintaining and conserving our walking tracks.

Date	Location	Track	Status
8-11 April 2021	Baw Baw NP, Stronachs Camp	AAWT Stronachs to Phillack Saddle	Complete
29-30 April 2021	Alpine National Park, Upper Howqua	Eight Mile Gap to Eagle Peak	Complete
8-10 May 2021	Upper Goulburn State Forest	Lazarini Spur to Black River	Complete
26-27 June 2021	Gariwerd/Grampians National Park	Wonderland Range Sundial to the Pinnacle	Complete
31 July-1 Aug 2021	Alpine National Park	Mt Eliza Walking Track and to The Crinoline	Cancelled COVID
12 August 2021	Erica State Forest	East Tyers Walking Track - Damage Assessment	Complete
28-29 August 2021	Alpine National Park	Mt Eliza Walking Track and to The Crinoline	Cancelled COVID
9-12 September 2021	Alpine National Park	Wellington River to Tali Karng	Cancelled COVID
20-24 October 2021	Alpine National Park	AAWT, Taylors Crossing to Benambra-Corryong Rd	Complete
18-21 November 2021	Alpine National Park	AAWT, Taylors Crossing to Benambra-Corryong Rd	Complete
10-12 December 2021	Tanjil State Forest	Upper Yarra Walking Track	Cancelled
26-30 January 2022	Alpine National Park, Licola	Various FedWalks Tracks	Complete
18-20 February 2022	Erica State Forest	East Tyers Walking Track	Complete
12-14 March 2022	Alpine National Park	McMillan Walking Track, Talbotville	Complete

## Major Focus

A number of BTAC projects were specifically aimed at supporting the efforts of the Gippsland based clubs hosting the 2021 FedWalks event. BTAC offers this support to any club considering hosting the FedWalks event.

Another milestone project completed over two separate visitations was the re-routing of the Australian Alps Walking Track between Taylors Crossing and Benambra-Corryong Rd.

Prior to achieving this milestone hikers had to walk a significant portion of this section of the AAWT along gravel roads. With the re-routing back to the original alignment hikers now enjoy river views and a bushwalk track, walk along and at times high above the Mitta Mitta River.



## ParkConnect and Working with Children

A major change occurred in 2021 in the way we manage and organise our volunteer activities, that being the adoption of the Parks Victoria volunteer management system ParkConnect. ParkConnect is the mechanism via which our projects are listed, approved and through which volunteers join. Throughout the year our volunteers have been contacted to register as a volunteer on ParkConnect. BTAC now has 210 volunteers registered on the ParkConnect volunteer portal.

Linked to the volunteer management portal ParkConnect, is Parks Victoria's requirement that all volunteers wishing to volunteer in the park estate must hold a valid Working with Children Check. This requirement has also been communicated to our volunteers. Parks Victoria indicated that after 30 June 2022 volunteers without a valid Working with Children Check will no longer be able to participate in volunteer activities on lands managed by Parks Victoria. Obtaining a Working with Children Check is free for volunteers.

## Acknowledgements and Donations

The work of our volunteers receives frequent thanks and appreciation posts on social media. Many of our newer volunteers are individuals that have recently completed one of the state's more remote long distance walking tracks such as the Australian Alps Walking Track or the McMillan Walking Track and are looking to give something back. Some hikers show their appreciation in a more direct manner by making cash donations to Bushwalking Victoria to assist in the funding of BTAC activities.

BTAC thanks all its volunteers and contributors.

Peter Maffei  
Convener: BTAC



## Bush Search and Rescue Committee (BSAR)

Bush Search and Rescue Victoria members contributed a total of 140 search and training days from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 including 57 search person-days and 83 training person-days. BSAR had 209 members available for callout on 31 March 2022.

### Searches

Bush Search and Rescue Victoria participated in the following three search and rescue operations from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022:

- **Bendoc, April 2021.** 9 members attended for 2 days.
- **Goongerah, July 2021.** 8 members attended 2 days.
- **Scarsdale, October 2021.** 20 members responded to attend a search that was called off

For more details see: <http://www.bsar.org/searches/>

### Training

COVID-19 restrictions continued to have an impact on BSAR training activities.

The BSAR annual training weekend happened to be scheduled in a break between COVID lockdowns in May and was conducted successfully at Lyonville with 42 members attending.

Steep Snow and Ice training and Snow Skills were cancelled again this year



## Equipment

The Victorian Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP) provided funds for the purchase of BSAR safety clothing for members. Other equipment is operating routinely with VESEP funding one replacement avalanche transceiver in 2021.

## COVID-19

This has been an especially disrupted year because of COVID-19.

Considerable effort has been put into COVID-19 compliance: maintaining a COVIDSafe Plan as CHO/Ministerial Orders evolved, informing members of the compliance required of an emergency service, establishing and maintaining a register of compliance requirements as they have evolved. Despite concerted efforts in this regard, the number of members available for callout has notionally fallen substantially due to non-compliance. We are yet to ascertain whether these are simply members whose active involvement has lapsed for other reasons.

## Membership Systems

It was reported in the previous annual report that BSAR was looking at an alternative membership system, D4H. This has been adopted. The Membership Secretary, Chris Jarvis, has begun the substantial project of adapting D4H with an MS Access utility to carry on the functions that are outside D4H capabilities.

## Summary

Operationally, this was a quiet year for BSAR with only three searches, although the contributions of those who were able to attend those searches should not be discounted, nor the considerable continuous contributions of those who maintain BSAR's readiness, not knowing whether or not BSAR will be called out in the days, weeks or months ahead.

We thank all BSAR volunteers including searchers, Committee, Executive, Police Liaison Officers, Field Organisers, Group Leaders, Peer Supporters and Club Delegates for their ongoing contributions to Bush Search and Rescue Victoria.

We thank Bushwalking Victoria, Victoria Police Search and Rescue Squad and Emergency Management Victoria for their much-valued support of Bush Search and Rescue Victoria.

Monica Chapman and Rod Costigan  
Conveners: BSAR



## Safety Committee

Walker safety is an important focus for the BWV Board. Whilst the Covid-19 restrictions reduced some of bushwalking club activities during the past 12 months, the main issues for the committee were:

- The W3W (what 3 words) and its function was outlined in the monthly BWV Bulletin. This update explained how it functions, what it actually means and provided a worthwhile note to clubs.
- A review of the safety material in conjunction with the website update. This allowed the data to be loaded onto the staging site. The aim is to make the linkage to the Bushwalking Manual more attractive.
- An area of focus during the past 12 months concerned the obligation of a club having a qualified first aider on activities. BWV has sought legal advice on this issue and is currently in the process of developing a guideline.

### Incident Reports Summary

This year the Safety Committee received and reviewed only four club incident reports. These were all related to falls with no further action taken. Clubs are encouraged to submit all incident reports to Bushwalking Victoria whether or not injuries are sustained or an insurance claim lodged. This enables us to share knowledge with our club community.

Bob Peterson  
Convener: Safety Committee



*Image: View from Mt Eliza, Wendy Cartledge, Strzelecki BWC*

# Training

## **Together More Active (TMA) Foundation Funding Training Project**

Bushwalking Victoria is being funded by the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (incorporating Sports and Recreation), for a project with two main foci:

1. Development of online material to promote bushwalking as an activity to new groups (including key priority areas specified by Active Victoria). This will be accessed by the public via the new BWV website.
2. Development of curriculum and resources to allow a train-the-trainer model for bushwalking leadership both within existing clubs and with emerging groups. The content will be located on a members-only section of the new BWV website.

## **Progress since last annual report**

The volunteer project team has continued to meet regularly online. The contracted BWV website developers have worked on this project under separate contracts, but allowing for integration with the new main website.

One module from each section was developed as a prototype. Extensive external review and feedback was sought on overall content, structure, language and graphic style. This resulted in substantial changes to the Begin Bushwalking page. Minor changes were made to the planned module structure for the leadership training, as well as clarification of language around the purpose and intended use of the material.

The Begin Bushwalking page is now ready for final review and editing before going live with the main BWV website.

The Leader Training modules are still under development. It is expected that a first draft will be complete and available for trial with clubs by late 2022. Review, evaluation and final report should be completed as scheduled by May 2023.

## **Walk Leader and Smartphone Navigation Training**

Ongoing pandemic restrictions limited the amount of training conducted.

The BWV training team, led by Judy Hunter, conducted two face-to-face Walk Leader training sessions, one held in Westerfolds Park and open to all clubs, and one specifically for the Peninsula Club.

Andrew Robinson and Liz Robinson conducted two smartphone navigation workshops for BWV.

The demand for both training workshops remains very high amongst metropolitan clubs and from regional areas.

Lyn Atkinson

Convener: Training Committee



*Image: Kelly Hut, Judy van Beek, Ben Cruachan WC*

## Federation Walks

The past year has been a challenging and rewarding time for the clubs involved in hosting the annual Bushwalking Victoria's popular Federation Walks event. Covid-19 continued to dominate the planning and the organising committee's discussions. A consequence of the ongoing disruption from Covid-19 was that we had planning for the Licola and Warby Ranges events happening concurrently.

The Licola Federation Walks event finally came to fruition on the weekend of 25-28th of March. It was an overwhelming success with over 200 participants enjoying a wonderful weekend of walks and social activities with perfect weather held in the remote Southern Alps of Gippsland. Originally planned for November 2020, the event had to be rescheduled twice due to Covid-19 restrictions. An experienced team of activity leaders and co-leaders guided the groups, sharing their local knowledge and love of the area.

Participants from 32 BWV member clubs selected walks from an events program that included some classic walks in the area. The Crinoline, Kelly's Hut, Mt Tamboritha, Mt Howitt and Bryce's Gorge were among the popular choices. Special overnight walks to Lake Tali Karng, Wonnangatta Valley and Bryces Gorge were very popular and were achieved with the assistance of the local 4WD club providing logistical support.

Mike Dower, Parks Victoria Area Chief Ranger, welcomed participants to Gippsland's Foothills and Southern Alps, and Councillor Carmel Ripper welcomed walkers to the Wellington Shire on Friday evening. Entertainment was provided by guest speaker Beau Miles, a Gippsland local, on Saturday evening. While walkers relaxed outside on Sunday afternoon/evening they were treated to local wines and produce and listened to local singer Courtney Jane. The Licola Lions Village accommodated all attendees and provided excellent facilities in a spectacular location.

Bushwalking Victoria would like to thank the organising committee, comprising members from the Ben Cruachan and Strzelecki Bushwalking Clubs, for their diligence and persistence in delivering a successful event. Thanks also extended to the Wellington Shire for their generous support.



### **FedWalks 2022: Warby Ranges 1-2 October 2022**

Covid-19 again has interfered with the planning for the next Bushwalking Victoria's Federation Walks, forming a committee via Zoom has had its problems. However, members from three North East Victorian Bushwalking clubs, Warby Ranges, Benalla and representatives from the Border Bushwalking club have come together to form an organising committee for the second FedWalks this year. After initially planning to hold the event in and around the Mt. Hotham and Falls Creek alpine areas, the committee decided to relocate the event to the rural City of Wangaratta

Wangaratta offers proximity to the Warby Ranges, Chiltern and Mt. Buffalo National Parks and will be able to host the administration, registration and social activities associated with FedWalks at the Wangaratta Show Grounds.

The Warby FedWalks committee is planning to run approximately 20 walks with almost half the walks scheduled in and around the historic Warby Ranges, 15km west of the Northeast Victorian City of Wangaratta. Other walks are scheduled for the Mt. Buffalo Plateau and the Beechworth and Chiltern State and National Parks.

Bushwalking Victoria would like to thank the three North East Victorian member clubs for their commitment to host the FedWalks event.

Simon Mullumby  
FedWalks Liaison

## Bushwalking Australia Inc (BAI)

Bushwalking Victoria was represented on the Bushwalking Australia Council in 2021/22 by President Mike Grant and Secretary Robyn Shingles. Chris Towers (former CAEX Bushwalking Club President) is BAI's webmaster, assisting in the management of this important function.

A scaled-down version of the annual conference was held prior to the online AGM. The key outcomes were:

- Kirsten Mayer from Bushwalking NSW was appointed as the new president of Bushwalking Australia.
- The Executive Officer is to become a paid position following resignation of the volunteer EO.
- Mike Grant stepped down as insurance contract manager and Alan Sauran (NSW) was appointed.
- The insurance year was a challenging one with four fatalities and the handling of enquiries regarding refunds due to Covid-19 protocols restricting activities.



*Image: View from Bennisons Lookout, Cheng Khoo, MUAB*

# Financial Report for 2021-2022

## Bushwalking Victoria Inc

### Income & Expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Income</b>			
Membership Fees		72,779	51,668
Grants/Funding	1	29,736	50,330
Donations		3,050	500
Interest Received		475	2,527
Sundry Income		100	130
		<u>106,140</u>	<u>105,155</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Bush Search & Rescue Support		13,279	10,092
Bushwalking Tracks & Conservation Support		3,770	3,997
Funded Projects		25,249	27,124
Website Upgrade		-	22,500
Subscriptions		611	96
Employee costs		27,300	59,272
General Administration		15,197	13,610
Communications/IT		7,311	5,835
Training/ First aid subsidies		6,690	1,663
Equipment		-	-
Event Costs/Other		1,463	-
Total		<u>100,870</u>	<u>144,189</u>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>		<b><u>\$5,270</u></b>	<b><u>(\$39,034)</u></b>

Movement Of Funds	General Fund \$	Search & Rescue \$	Future Projects \$	Contingency \$
<b>Fund Balance at 1 April 2021</b>	65,537	15,000	96,181	33,000
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	3,270	2,000	-	-
<b>Fund Balance at 31 March 2022</b>	<b>\$ 68,807</b>	<b>\$ 17,000</b>	<b>\$ 96,181</b>	<b>\$ 33,000</b>

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<b>Bushwalking Victoria Inc</b>			
<b>Balance Sheet at 31 March 2022</b>			
	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash Operating Account		114,137	98,180
Paypal		769	1,908
Federation Event Advance		5,000	5,000
Term Deposits		213,167	212,704
Accrued Revenue	2	-	3,206
Sundry Debtors	3	125	4,607
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<u>333,198</u>	<u>325,605</u>
<b>Non Current Assets</b>			
Equipment	4	79,909	79,909
Less Accumulated Depreciation		<u>(79,909)</u>	<u>(79,909)</u>
<b>Total Non Current Assets</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>333,198</b>	<b>325,605</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Sundry Creditors	5	5,097	12,582
Other Liabilities	6	41,338	18,279
Grant Revenues Deferred	7	71,775	77,665
Employee Leave Provisions		-	7,361
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<u>118,210</u>	<u>115,887</u>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>		<u><b>\$214,988</b></u>	<u><b>\$209,718</b></u>
<b>Members Equity</b>			
General Fund		68,807	65,537
Search & Rescue		17,000	15,000
Contingency		33,000	33,000
Future Projects		96,181	96,181
<b>Total Equity</b>		<u><b>\$214,988</b></u>	<u><b>\$209,718</b></u>

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## Notes to the financial statements

### Basis of preparation

The financial report has been prepared for use by the members of Bushwalking Victoria and is a special purpose financial report. It has been prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Association Incorporation Reform Act 2012. The same accounting policies have been applied for the year ended 31 March 2022, except for recharges to members which has no impact on the financial results.

Bushwalking Victoria as a GST registered entity recovers GST from the Australian Taxation Office.

For the year ended 31 March 2022, Bushwalking Victoria has a net operating surplus of \$5,270.

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**Bushwalking Victoria****Notes to the Accounts as at March 31, 2022**

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
1 Grants/Funding		
Federal Government - COVID19 funding	-	20,000
Volunteer Emergency Services Equip Program (VESEP)	3,845	3,206
Sports & Recreation Victoria - Together More Active - Project	18,952	4,021
Parks Victoria - Volunteering Innovation Fund - Project	3,490	630
Bushwalking Advisory Committee Funding - Project	3,449	22,473
	<u>29,736</u>	<u>50,330</u>
Funds for grants are reported as income when the funds have been spent on the stated purpose		
2 Accrued Revenue		
Emergency Management Victoria - VESEP Funding	-	3,206
3 Sundry Debtors		
Monash Bushwalking & Outdoor Club	75	50
Scout Bushwalkers	-	25
Parks Victoria	-	4,532
Swinburne Explorers Club	25	-
Victorian Rogaining Association	25	-
	<u>125</u>	<u>4,607</u>
4 Equipment		
Office Equipment	14,430	14,430
Search & Rescue Equipment	51,399	51,399
Track Maintenance Equipment	14,080	14,080
	<u>79,909</u>	<u>79,909</u>
All equipment has been fully depreciated		
5 Sundry Creditors		
Trade creditors	5,032	11,460
Amounts due to staff and volunteers	65	1,122
	<u>5,097</u>	<u>12,582</u>
6 Other Liabilities		
PAYG/GST payable	(1,519)	911
Accrual for rebate to affiliation fees	31,565	-
Bushwalking Australia affiliation fees accrual	6,292	5,987
Website project accrual	5,000	10,000
Superannuation payable	-	1,381
	<u>41,338</u>	<u>18,279</u>
7 Grant Revenues Deferred (Project Funding Unspent)		
Bushwalking Advisory Committee	15,747	19,196
SRV Together More Active	56,028	54,979
Parks Vic Volunteering Innovation Fund	-	3,490
	<u>71,775</u>	<u>77,665</u>
These are funds received for grants that remain available.		
8 Recharges to members		
Insurance & BA affiliation fees charged to members	55,449	51,782
Expenses for :		
BA affiliation fees	(6,292)	(5,896)
Insurance for Members	(49,157)	(45,886)
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Recharges to members constitute a reimbursement of insurance costs and Bushwalking Australia affiliation fees paid by Bushwalking Victoria on behalf of members.

**Statement by Members of the Board of Management, Bushwalking Victoria Inc. A0002548Y**

The Board has determined by means of the Australian Taxation Office self-assessment system that Bushwalking Victoria Inc. is an exempt entity for income tax purposes and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the notes accompanying the financial statements.

Bushwalking Victoria Inc. does not have any mortgages, charges or securities; and is not a trustee of any trust nor does it have any trusts held on its behalf. In the opinion of the Board, the financial report as set out in this document presents a true and fair statement of the financial position of Bushwalking Victoria Inc. as at 31 March 2022 and its financial performance for the year ended on that date.

At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Bushwalking Victoria Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due during the next twelve months.

Mike Grant - President  
Cheng Khoo - Treasurer

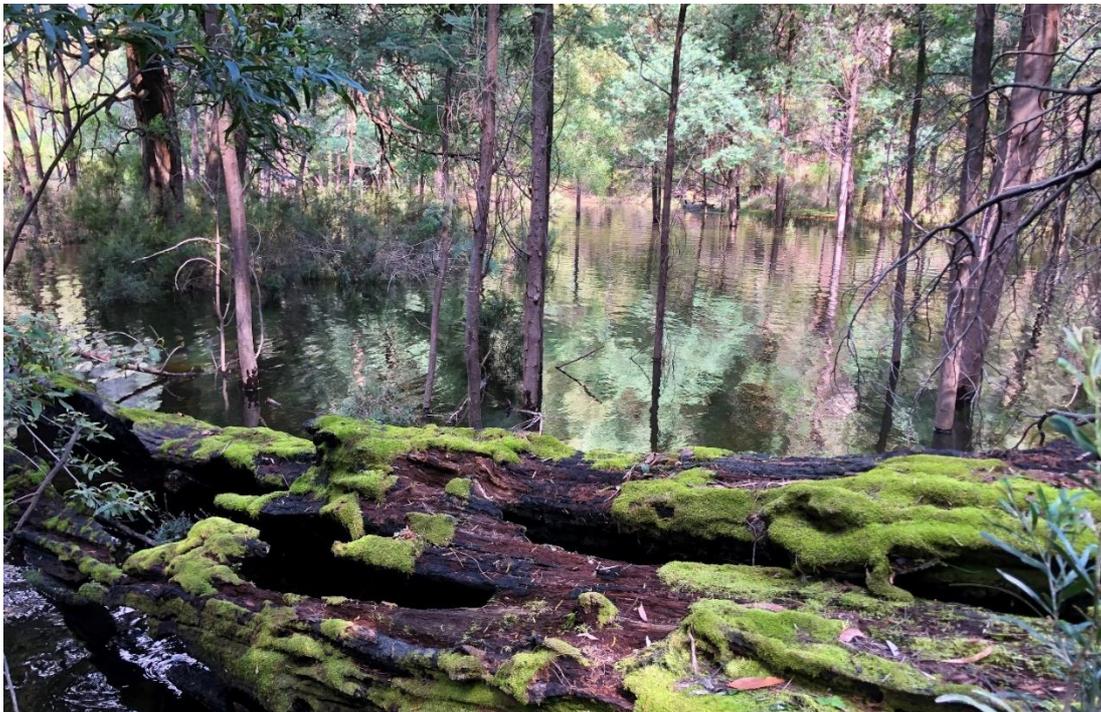
**Review of the Annual Accounts for Members of Bushwalking Victoria Inc.**

I have reviewed the financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Bushwalking Victoria Inc for the year ended 31 March 2022 as set out in the attached pages.

The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of the Associations Incorporations Reform Act 2012.

In my opinion the financial report presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Bushwalking Victoria Inc as at 31 March 2022 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in the Notes to the financial statements.

Keith Talty, CPA  
Honorary Reviewer  
14 June 2022



*Image: Lake Tali Karng, Helmut Tracksdorf Ben Cruachan WC*

## Appendix 1: Member Clubs

<b>Affiliate Members (60 Clubs)</b>	
Ballarat Bushwalking & Outdoor Club Inc	Happy When I am Hiking Inc
Basically Bushwalking Inc	Iranian Bushwalking Club Inc
Bass Coast Strollers Inc	Keilor Bushwalking Club Inc
Bayside Bushwalking Club Inc	Koonung Bushwalking Club Inc
Benalla Bushwalking Club Inc	Maroondah Bushwalking Club Inc
Ben Cruachan Walking Club Inc	Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc
Bendigo Bushwalking & Outdoor Club Inc	Melbourne University & Alumni Bushwalkers Inc
Berwick & District Bushwalking Club Inc	Melbourne Walking Club Inc
B'Nai B'rith Ramblers Inc	Melbourne Women's Walking Club Inc
Border Bushwalking Club Inc	Melbourne Young Hikers Inc
Boroondara Bushwalkers Inc	Melton Bushwalkers Inc
Bunarong Bushwalking Club Inc	Mitchell Bushwalking Group Inc
Bushranger Women's Walking Club Inc	Pakenham Bushwalking Club Inc
CAEX Bushwalking Club Inc	Peninsula Bushwalking Club Inc
Camperdown Bushwalking Club Inc	Peregrine Club Inc
Catholic Walking Club of Victoria Inc	Shepparton Adventure Club Inc Inc
Cobram Bushwalking Club Inc	South Gippsland Walking & Adventure Club
Croydon Bushwalking Club Inc	Strzelecki Bushwalking Club Inc
Dandenong Valley Bushwalking Club Inc	Sunraysia Bushwalkers Inc
Diamond Valley Bushwalking Club Inc	Taradale and District Walking Group Inc
Echuca Moama Bushwalkers Inc	The Ramblers Walking Club Inc
Eltham & Environs Walking Group Inc	Victorian Mountain Tramping Club Inc
Escaping Your Comfort Zone Inc	Walking Club of Victoria Inc
Essendon Bushwalking Club Inc	Warby Range Bushwalkers Inc
Friends of the Great South West Walk Inc	Warrnambool Bushwalkers Inc
Geelong Bushwalking Club Inc	Waverley Bushwalking Club Inc
Gisborne Bushwalking Club Inc	Werribee Bushwalking & Outdoor Club Inc
Grampians Bushwalking Club Inc	West Gippsland Bush Walkers Inc
The Great Aussie Hikers Inc	Wimmera Bushwalking Club Inc
Great Dividing Trail Association Inc	Wonthaggi Bush & Beach Walking Club
<b>Associate Members (12 Clubs)</b>	
Alpenverein Melbourne	RMIT Outdoors Club
Alpine Search and Rescue	Swinburne University Explorers
Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club Inc	U3A Ballarat Hiking Group
La Trobe University Mountaineering Club	Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA)
Melbourne University Mountaineering Club	Victorian Rogaining Association
Monash Bushwalking & Outdoors Club	YHA Bushwalking Club

## Appendix 2: Other Key Roles

Role / Project		
Federation Walks Liaison	Simon Mullumby	BWV Board
Website and Member Management System Upgrade	Mike Grant	BWV President
Together More Active Online Learning Project	Lyn Atkinson	BWV Board
Together More Active Increasing Participation Project	Robyn Shingles	BWV Secretary
Administration Officer	Alan Abrahams	Individual Supporter Member
Honorary Reviewer	Keith Talty	CPA
Representatives on Other Bodies		
Bushwalking Australia	Mike Grant Robyn Shingles	BWV President BWV Secretary
Bushwalking Advisory Committee (BWAC)	Mike Grant Peter Maffei	BWV President BTAC Convener
Alpine Walking Track Stakeholder Group	Joe van Beek John Green	BTAC BTAC
Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing Proposal	Chris Towers Eileen Clark	CAEX Bushwalking Club Border Bushwalking Club



Images: Susan Cock, West Gippsland Bushwalkers