



Rocky Valley Creek Crossing, Crowsnest and the Fainters, Easter Walk, 22-26 April, 2011
(photo: John Van Gemert), The Geelong Walker, June 2011

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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Deadline for the August edition:
Monday, 11 July 2011

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

Editor: Joslin Guest

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WALKING AND TALKING WITH YOUR PRESIDENT

Leadership Forum and AGM

Bushwalking Victoria held its first Leadership Forum on Saturday 18 June. The day was a great success, with more than 60 people from 28 clubs attending to share ideas, opinions and experiences, hear updates on Bushwalking Victoria activities and initiatives, and to hear from our special guest speakers.

The first of our guest speakers was Stacy Giannini, Senior Communications Officer from Parks Victoria, who is currently leading a project to design a new Parks Victoria website. We were privileged to be the first people outside of the Parks Victoria web team to be given a preview of the new site, and to have the opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions to Stacy. The new site will include for the first time details of all of the parks and reserves managed by Parks Victoria. On the new site, users will not only be able to explore what these parks and reserves have to offer and but will be able to contribute and share their own experiences in them. The first phase of the new site is due for release in July.

Our second guest speaker was Michael Mitchell. Michael is a Victorian teacher, bushwalker and Bushwalking Victoria member who in 2008-09 undertook the Great Australian Cancer Bush Walk, an epic 6000km, 363-day walk from Cape York to Wilsons Prom to raise money for cancer research. Michael captivated and entertained us with anecdotes about the trials and tribulations of his walk and the wide range of 'characters' from towns, cities and properties he encountered along the way. To learn more of Michael's journey, go to www.michaelmitchell.com.au

New Board

The 2011 AGM was held after the forum. The Bushwalking Victoria Board of Management for the 2011-12 year is as follows: President, Chris Towers (CAEX Bushwalking Club); Vice President, John Creaser (Bayside Bushwalking Club); Treasurer, Fred Bover (Diamond Valley Bushwalking Club); Secretary, Vacant; Assistant Secretary, Val Wake (CAEX Bushwalking Club); Board members are David Reid (Waverley Bushwalking Club), Doug Kneen (Benalla Bushwalking Club), Dave Rimmer (VMTC), Terry Sydes (Benalla Bushwalking Club) and Megan Major (West Gippsland Bushwalking Club).

I am looking forward to continuing as President and working with both the returning and new members of the Board.

It is concerning that we have not yet been able recruit someone to the key role of Secretary. Val Wake, our immediate past Secretary, is remaining on the Board as Assistant Secretary and is willing and able to both train and assist an incoming Secretary. A role statement for this important position is available on the Bushwalking Victoria website at http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/forms/Secretary_Role_Statement.pdf

New Member Fees

The AGM approved the following member fee structure for 2011-12:

- Affiliates: \$9.75 per club member 16 years of age and over
- Individual member: \$19.50
- Associates: \$82.00 for up to 20 members
\$141 for 21 to 50 members
\$369 for over 50 members

Regrettably, the fee increase this year is more than the CPI rate. The main reason for this is that from 1 April 2011 BWV was required to register for GST and as a consequence we must charge the GST on member fees. While GST registration now allows us to claim a credit for GST we are charged, it is anticipated that only approximately 40% of the GST payable will be recovered through GST credits on items and services purchased.

Green Walks in the Park Project

After many months of negotiations and delays, I can now advise that our Green Walks in the Park Project is finally going ahead. Green Walks in the Park is an initiative of the Heart Foundation and Bushwalking Victoria funded by Parks Victoria and Go for Your Life. This project will build on our Green Walking initiative that grew from research asking why many community walking groups from the inner city were not walking in green areas and is aimed at getting more people walking more often in more places, preferably in green spaces.

Bushwalking Victoria has employed Erica Gurner as Green Walks in the Park Project Officer to manage the project for us. Erica commenced employment with us on 16 June. Her background includes experience outdoor education, outdoor adventure and mental health services. Bushwalking Victoria will be contacting clubs directly seeking volunteer walk leaders and co-leaders to work with Erica to identify walk locations, map and describe walks and lead walks.

Annual Report

Bushwalking Victoria's annual report for 2010-11 was distributed to clubs in early June and is available on the Bushwalking Victoria website at <http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/annualreport.htm>

Given the limited space that we have available for the report, one could be forgiven for thinking after reading it that there doesn't seem to be much to show there for all the time and effort individually and collectively contributed by Bushwalking Victoria officers, Board members, convenors, coordinators. The real situation is of course that we collectively contribute thousands of hours on behalf of Bushwalking Victoria, member clubs and the wider bushwalking community.

Walking & Talking with your President (cont)

I am also grateful for the work of our volunteer Field Research Officers who help to keep the Board and our club network informed about what's happening in our walking areas. Joslin Guest, editor of our newsletter, *Bushwalking News Victoria*, deserves a special mention for the quality publication she puts together each month. *Bushwalking News Victoria* plays a very important role for us in communicating to our member clubs, their members and the wider community the work undertaken by Bushwalking Victoria, issues and news of interest and importance to the bushwalking community and publicising

the activities of our members. I sincerely thank each and every one of our Bushwalking Victoria volunteers, not only for what they have done, but how they have done what they have done. I think we do a great job and can be justifiably proud of what we achieve. I also extend particular thanks to the board for their support over the past year while I have had (and still have) my presidential 'L' plates on.

Finally, many of us rely on direct or indirect support from partners and other family members while we devote ourselves to Bushwalking Victoria activities and they all deserve our thanks and appreciation too.

Chris Towers

TRACK MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Sunday 14 August 2011 Yarra Ranges NP	Yarra Ranges NP WE NEED YOU. PLEASE OFFER YOUR SUPPORT TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT (see also article in May edition of <i>Bushwalking News Victoria</i>) For all activities Contact Steve Robertson for details and if you want to attend srob7859@bigpond.net.au or 9762 5367
Sunday 14 August 2011 Yarra Ranges NP	
Sunday 14 August 2011 Yarra Ranges NP	

BUSHWALKING ENVIRONMENT

BEC Report

Field Officer Reports from Around the State

Grampians, report by Phil Brotchie

I attended a 'community tour' put on by Vic Roads' Grampians Coordinator, Brad Prior, on Wednesday 11 May. We were taken by bus to trouble spots on the Grampians and North Grampians Rds, so we could get a better idea of what they are up against, what they've achieved and what they still have to do. On the North Grampians Rd we saw the sites of three slips between the 1.38 and the 1.52 km marks and another at the 1.96km mark. Works required include replacing open drains with kerb and channel, building retaining walls to hold new road fill on the drop side and replacing existing culverts with larger ones. There is another slip at Epacris Falls (3.33km mark), which we didn't see, that will require a structural wall and associated pavement works to be constructed. The estimate for North Grampians Rd is five months to completion. On the Grampians Rd, we investigated the Fyans Creek Bridge No. 1 at the 34.13km mark and a major slip at the 39.02km mark. Remedial works still needed are rebuilding a section of road completely washed out to a width and depth of a couple of metres at the bridge (expected to take about six weeks)—there's a ford operating at present for work vehicles—and the installation this month of larger culverts at the slip. There is

a huge slip, 1.2km long, crossing the Grampians Rd at Mt Abrupt (82.04km mark), which we didn't see, but which requires larger culverts, kerb and channel and road repair. The shoulders between Halls Gap and Dunkeld need repair. Work on those has started. Bridge repairs at Bovine Creek are expected to start within a month. The estimate for Grampians Rd is three months to achieve a throughway between Halls Gap and Dunkeld detouring via Victoria Valley. The job for repairing the Silverband Falls Rd above the falls has been tendered, and works are expected to take 12 months from commencement.

Wilson's Prom, report by Ian McKellar

- Southern section of Wilson's Promontory and overnight walking tracks remain closed.
 - Wilson's Promontory Rd remains closed from the wildlife viewing area, which is located about 13km from the park entrance.
 - Parks aims to restore access to the Tidal River camp site area around mid July, subject to the completion of all VicRoads road repairs.
 - Mt Oberon, several walking tracks and all overnight walking tracks will remain closed until further notice.
- The Northern section of the park has been attracting a steady flow of visitors with over 2000 day visitors passing through the park entrance at Yanakie since

BEC Report (cont)

Easter to undertake walks and take in the sights of the north. Information Officers have been receiving some great feedback from visitors about the new Woodland Walk at the wildlife viewing area.

➤ Camping and accommodation:

All camping and other accommodation bookings for Tidal River and the outstations are suspended until further notice. An update will be provided shortly.

➤ Walking track update:

- Northern section:
 - The Millers Landing and Vereker Outlook tracks are open for visitor use following flood damage repairs.
 - Five Mile Road remains closed.
 - The Tongue Point walking track is due to open by mid July after boardwalk extensions and slashing and drainage works are completed.
- Beach Access tracks:
 - All beach access tracks remain closed.
 - Darby Beach, Squeaky Beach and Whisky Bay require re-alignment works. Cotters Beach is still inaccessible from Promontory Rd as sections of the management vehicle track remain underwater.
- Tidal River precinct:
 - Repair works to the South Norman/Biddy's track are nearly complete and the track will be accessible when the Tidal River area is reopened.
 - The Lilly Pilly Gully track and boardwalk sustained minor damage and it is anticipated this popular walk will reopen soon.
 - Parks Victoria is working with engineers to develop plans for repair works to the Mt Bishop Circuit walk and Pillar Point walk. Detailed assessments of the Tidal Overlook circuit track are currently being undertaken.
- Southern Walks:
 - Mount Oberon Rd, Telegraph Track and the Sealers Cove, Oberon Bay and Waterloo Bay to Telegraph Track overnight walking tracks have sustained significant damage. Major repair works and possible realignments will be required before these roads and tracks reopen to visitors.
 - South East Track, South Point Track and the track from Sealers Cove to Waterloo Bay via Refuge Cove sustained minimal damage. However further assessments are required before these tracks are reopened.

Powelltown area, report by Venloe Scott (DSE)

The Ada Tree and boardwalk is now open to the public.

Goldfields Track, report by Barbara Guerin

The revamped Goldfields Track was launched by the Minister Assisting on Tourism, Senator Nick Sherry on 17

May. The launch was held at the Fryerstown old school, a new entry point for the upgraded Goldfields Track. About 50 people attended the ceremony which included a Smoking Ceremony led by Brien Nelson, Traditional Aboriginal Elder.

The walker and mountain biker sign-off process includes checking of signage from both directions for location and visibility. The first phase of the mountain biker sign-off has begun and the mountain bikers who are currently riding the track will provide a detailed report to the Goldfields Track Project Committee after they complete their ride. Issues will then be addressed and the walker sign-off will begin after that.

The new Goldfields Track website is live, although still being populated. See <http://www.goldfieldstrack.com.au>

A copy of the Minister's media release is at <http://minister.innovation.gov.au/Sherry/MediaReleases/Pages/TRACKREVAMPSTRENGTHENSGOLDFIELDSTOURISM.aspx>

New Walking Trails near Mt Hotham

The Cobungra Ditch Walk (formerly know as the Aqueduct Trail) is a new 12.5km track that traverses through Mt Hotham's spectacular alpine scenery whilst taking you on a journey through Mt Hotham's rich mining and cultural history, weaving your way past 125 year old dry stone walls, stunning waterfalls, gullies and alpine flora and fauna. The walk can be done as 12.5kms in and 12.5kms out or as an 18km circuit leaving from the Great Alpine Road 1 km from the resort entry, to Dinner Plain. Walk notes and maps are available online. This trail will put Mt Hotham on the map as the premier hiking destination in the high country, and aims to educate visitors on the lesser known side to Hotham: the fascinating history of the pioneers who traversed this land long before it became a ski resort. For example, one of the stories that the walking trail will reveal goes back to November 1884, when 'great excitement was caused' down towards the Brandy Creek mine when over 50 men who had been working on the construction of the Cobungra Gold Mining Co's water race were suddenly dismissed.

Two years earlier the Cobungra Gold Mining Co was formed to work the Brandy Creek deep lead claims that formed part of the Cobungra Diggings. The company made an £11,000 investment in the mine and workings, the biggest component of which was the construction of a 7½ mile long water race from the head of Swindler Creek to the Brandy Creek mine through some of the harshest and most rugged country in Australia. In today's terms, the £11,000 investment by the Cobungra Gold Mining Co was the equivalent of a \$35 to \$40 million investment!

This is only one of many stories to be discovered along the trail. The second walking trail to be completed is The Huts Walk which will take visitors on a fascinating journey on Hotham's hut history links three of the resorts' uniquely different huts, including the historic Spargo's Hut, the picturesque Silver Brumby and the winter refuge shelter known as Derrick Hut. This walk was opened in April 2011.

State Forest Walking Tracks, report by Dave Rimmer

Walking track to be upgrades	Description of works
Walk into History (main track)	Track improvements, stream crossings, track signs
Erica Thomson Rail trail	Improvements to boggy sections, track construction and installation of viewpoints - complete last section into Thomson - realign steep section to northern end of Horseshoe Tunnel
La La Falls	Track improvements, realignments and trail signs
Eastern Tyers Walk	Install crossings (6) and clear track
Noojee trestle bridge	Track improvements, signs and interpretive
Toorong Falls walk	Track improvements
South Cascades and Tanjil Bren Tramway walks	Consultant track investigation/report on feasibility and costings
Mountain Monarch walk	Extend walking track and install signs
Ralph Cornwall Tramway walk	Track improvements and track signs

David Rimmer
Manager, Bushwalking Environment

BSAR 2010-11 Annual Report (cont from page 11)

Costigan and Peter Campbell were appointed to the Executive as inaugural members.

Rod Lawlor is leading the strategic review working group which is progressing with developing our strategic plan. The priority areas identified so far are membership, search effectiveness, budget and finance, the function of the BSAR committee and risk management. The strategic plan will be important for guiding future directions and priorities for Bush Search and Rescue.

Chris Jarvis retired as Equipment Officer early in 2011 after several years in this role. His dedication and attention to detail on all equipment matters has been greatly appreciated. I thank Chris on behalf of Bush Search and Rescue for ensuring that our equipment was well organised, serviced and available for searches. John Baillie and Rod Lawlor have taken over as Equipment Officers.

Rod Costigan has recently implemented improvements to our vitally important call-out systems, including new SMS, email and automated telephony features.

Anne Casey, as Membership Secretary, continues to improve the management of the membership and SMS lists and is preparing a detailed database of training and search activities.

Senior Sergeant Barry Gibson, Sergeant Greg Paul and Ren Millsom, as Editor, has again ably produced *Behind the Log* (BTL), our regular newsletter.

other members of the Police Search and Rescue Squad have provided significant ongoing support for Bush Search and Rescue activities.

Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) continues to provide funds to Bushwalking Victoria for Bush Search and Rescue administration and operations.

Bushwalking Victoria also continues to provide ongoing support for our activities.

On Australia Day, 26 January 2011, Rik Head, a long-serving Bush Search and Rescue member and Field Organiser, was awarded the Emergency Service Medal for his lifetime commitment to search, rescue and safety in the bush and mountains. This medal is very significant recognition for Rik's tireless commitment and effort dedicated to providing volunteer search and rescue services for over 4 decades.

There are now 281 dedicated people actively involved with Bush Search and Rescue from over 20 clubs. We are also steadily recruiting individual members, a process now managed by Monica Chapman.

I would like to thank all Bush Search and Rescue members for their contributions and support over the last year that enables Bush Search and Rescue to continue to provide effective and specialised volunteer search and rescue services to the Victorian community.

Peter Campbell, BSAR Convener
Behind the Log, May 2011

FEDERATION DAY WALK 2011
Mornington Peninsula - Sunday 23 October



Peninsula Bushwalking Club Inc



Catholic Walking Club of Victoria Inc

Event and Contact Details

Peninsula Bushwalking Club (PBC) and Catholic Walking Club of Victoria (CWCV) are hosting Federation Day Walk 2011.

All information regarding the event is provided via links on the web sites of Bushwalking Victoria (BWV) and the two host clubs. The websites are:

Bushwalking Victoria <http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au>

PBC <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~pbcinc/welcome.html>

CWCV <http://www.catholicwalkingclubvic.org.au>

Email info@catholicwalkingclubvic.org.au - [Please ensure 'Federation Walk 2011' is in the Subject line]

Full details of this event and Registration Forms can be downloaded directly from the web sites of the host clubs

How to Register

The registration fee for the event is **\$20 per person**.

Individual club members should register through their club coordinator who will forward completed registration forms and the collected registration fees to the Catholic Walking Club of Victoria Inc.

Key Dates

- 1 June Clubs to step up publicity and commence registration procedures for club members.
- 1 August Registration opens
- 23 September Close of registration
- 7 October Feedback to club co-ordinators re allocation of walks.
- 23 October Registration from 8:00 am onwards at the Rosebud Memorial Hall, 994 Point Nepean Road, Rosebud – Melway reference 158 D12

Accommodation

Any participants wanting accommodation on the Peninsula either before or after the walk are advised to contact Mornington Peninsula Tourism.

Mornington Peninsula Tourism Inc
Peninsula Visitor Information Centre
359B Point Nepean Rd, Dromana VIC 3936
Telephone toll free within Aust 1800 804 009
Email info@tourism.mornpen.vic.gov.au
Internet <http://www.visitmorningtonpeninsula.org>

REGENT HONEYEATER PROJECT

Planting weekends for 2011

6-7 Aug 20-21 Aug 3-4 Sept 17-18 Sept

Note the dates and try to include a least one week end on your club program.

Please contact Ray Thomas a few days prior to the event to inform him of your group's attendance, and numbers for catering and accommodation purposes.

Phone: 57 611 515

Email: ray@regenthoneyeater.org.au

Firstly, a huge vote of thanks to the hundreds of hardy souls, especially bushwalkers from various Bushwalking Victoria clubs who came far and wide (even from Tasmania) to help with our planting days in the winter and spring of 2010. It was a highly successful year with 350 volunteers involved in the community planting events held over 4 weekends. Planting 15,600 seedlings contributed significantly to the grand total of 35,657 seedlings planted within the Project for the last year.

Since 1997, a grand total of 456,425 seedlings have been planted by the Regent Honeyeater Project, all by volunteers!

In 2010, 110½ ha of habitat was restored on 24 sites.

With superb rains since planting, all the plants are growing beautifully. New growth with tips 2cm long, were observed just a few days after planting!!

In addition to planting, the project ensures ongoing success by collecting and propagation of local seed species, pruning mistletoe from pre existing fine remnant trees, monitoring older planting sites, trials with threatened plants, ongoing research projects and nest box monitoring.

The good news is not just the success of the planting process, it's what it leads to...return of and increased numbers of birds, flora and fauna; the benefits to the landowners and the community at large.

Some of the good news is that the Grey-Crowned Babbler families are doing exceptionally well. After a long run of dry years and poor breeding success, we are finally seeing extremely positive signs that our planting sites are making a difference! Babblers are now nesting in scores of our planting sites, typically 5 or 6 years after planting. An increasing trend in recent years, is to find family groups in new territories that are several km from any previous records. The birds are clearly using our planting sites as stepping stones and corridors to seek out new home ranges!! This usually involves a whole family group shifting away from marginal foothill habitat to reach more productive habitat on the flats where the food resources are richer. We've also seen several cases where young birds have clearly split off from their parents'

territories to form new family groups.

We've even found Babblers crossing the Hume Freeway, which gives the possibility of connecting to other neighbouring populations. This is extremely good news for long-term genetic interchange.

The typical Babbler family group size is now around 5 or 6 birds rather than the skeletal 3 or 4 that it was. This gives the extended family unit a better chance of gathering enough food to feed the young, so the breeding success rate goes up even more!! So it's hardly surprising that the total district population has risen sharply over recent years, from around 50 to more than 100 individuals. This is a real success story!!

You can see we've been very busy, so thank you sincerely to all those who came to make the jobs easier!! I hope to see you on some of these activities. The work is rewarding, you'll make many good friends in the process, and it's a fantastic experience to look back at what you've achieved in a weekend!!

Ray Thomas
Regent Honeyeater Project

Exciting Sighting of Regent Honeyeaters in the Lurg

Ray Thomas has told us of wonderful news.

'The copious Ironbark blossom this year has attracted hordes of honeyeaters, so it was really just a matter of time before someone spotted a Regent.

'There have been two more Regent Honeyeater sightings in the Lurg Hills, one near the Quarries and the other a few km south of Greta West. An earlier Regent sighting was during Easter near Kelly Gap, where it stayed for a week on the Ironbark blossom once again.

'So there are surely others out there in the hills, no doubt hiding from the more aggressive honeyeaters. And that's where our denser plantings really help, by giving these shy birds the cover they need to get a fair share of the honey.'



WALKING (AND EATING) IN FRANCE'S BUECH VALLEY

Walking in a region of France called the Hautes Alpes (High Alps) may sound like a gruelling endeavour, conjuring up images of treacherous mountain passes and snow-capped peaks, to be walked only the fittest and most experienced walkers. Au contraire! The name of the region is somewhat misleading: not all the region is not alpine, parts are accessible to walkers of all levels.

One such accessible area is the Buech Valley, a region jealously protected from the hordes of tourists who visit France every year. The Buech Valley ranges from 480m to 2700m above sea-level, and lies on the verge of Provence and the Southern Alps. From here you can get the best of both worlds, while being only an hour or two by car from both areas and better known locations such as Avignon. Its location between the mountains and the vineyards means the temperature is ideal for walking. The region is sparsely populated, and the hillside villages have remained the same for centuries (provided you discount the automobiles and satellite dishes).

In the Buech Valley, I stayed at a charming little guesthouse in the pre-alpine foothills, Les Planious, near L'Epine, run by Geraldine and Emmanuel Arnoldi. This inn, which has been accepting guests since 2003, marries sustainability and comfort. It is entirely off the grid; solar is their principal source of energy. Geraldine and Emmanuel treat guests as friends rather than clients. Geraldine is by birth an Australian. (Her nickname is 'the Australian'; because she is the only Australian for kilometres around.) Her husband, Emmanuel, is a retired social worker and a native to the region, and is connected with the land. He is both an agriculturalist and a mountain guide. His knowledge of local flora and fauna is impressive.

After every walk you know that you will return to wonderful food, and to culture, history and comfort. I challenge anyone to find a more authentic French culinary experience than that at Les Planious. The chef, Régine, is local celebrity with the skills of a master chef. She cooks uses local ingredients. Régine's infectious laugh and



Above: Les Planious guesthouse
Below: Bonnet Rouge not far from Les Planious



ingredients. Régine's infectious laugh and willingness to share her abilities made the kitchen and the dining room two treasured memories of my stay in the area.

Why am I writing this? The answer is that I lived there for a month and loved it, and want others to share my experience. I hope to return one day, and savour it all again.

Ian McNichol

SUNRISE & SUNSET—MELBOURNE GPO

2011

Fri 1 Jul	0836	1811	EST	Fri 15 Jul	0833	1819	EST
Fri 29 Jul	0824	1811	EST	Fri 12 Aug	0809	1841	EST
Fri 26 Aug	0751	1853	EST	Fri 9 Sep	0730	1905	EST
Fri 23 Sep	0709	1916	EST	EDST starts Sunday 2 October			
Fri 7 Oct	0647	1929	EDST	Fri 21 Oct	0627	1942	EDST
Fri 4 Nov	0610	1957	EDST	Fri 18 Nov	0558	2012	EDST
Fri 3 Dec	0552	2026	EDST	Fri 17 Dec	0553	2038	EDST
Fri 31 Dec	0600	2045	EDST				

2012

Fri 13 Jan	0612	2045	EDST	Fri 27 Jan	0627	2038	EDST
Fri 10 Feb	0643	2025	EDST	Fri 24 Feb	0658	2008	EDST
Fri 9 Mar	0712	1948	EDST	Fri 23 Mar	0726	1927	EDST
EST starts Sunday 1 April				Fri 6 Apr	0639	1806	EST
Fri 20 Apr	0651	1747	EST	Fri 4 May	0704	1730	EST
Fri 18 May	0716	1717	EST	Fri 1 Jun	0727	1709	EST

Full Moons

Thur 16 June, Fri 15 July, Sun 14 Aug, Mon 12 Sept,
Wed 12 Oct, Fri 11 Nov, Sun 11 Dec
Source: www.ga.gov.au

Bushwalking News Victoria Advertising Rates

1/6 page advertisement	\$26.25	* Advertiser to supply 300 printed inserts each edition. Advertising is welcome but insertion is subject to the Editor's discretion. Products or services advertised in this publication are not endorsed or recommended in any way by Bushwalking Victoria.
1/4 page advertisement	\$42.00	
1/3 page advertisement	\$52.50	
1/2 page advertisement	\$78.75	
Full page advertisement	\$157.50	
Address list of affiliate clubs	\$52.50	
Insert for Newsletter*	\$52.50	
Note: Advertisements must be artwork ready		

THANK YOU, JOANNA OBRIEN, FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO BUSHWALKING

Jo has been the auditor for the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs and Bushwalking Victoria since 1994. She has provided valuable advice and assistance to numerous Treasurers during that time. Jo recently retired and moved interstate to be closer to her family. Join me in thanking Jo for a job well done and in wishing her a happy and active retirement.

I asked Jo to provide a few details regarding her involvement with bushwalking. You will see that her response, below, says it all.

Fred Bover
Treasurer, Bushwalking Victoria

Bushwalking Involvement

- Joined Adelaide Bushwalkers April 1959, the moment I turned 17. my first bushwalk was helping to mark the route up St Mary's Peak at Wilpena Pound that Easter; the second was a week through Flinders Chase on Kangaroo Island. I was inexperienced but strong.
- Regular walking in the Flinders, Grampians, Kosciusko and locally over next 4 years. spent some time on the committee of Adelaide Bushies.
- In the mid 70s, I helped lead school groups in Melbourne in both day and overnight walks.
- Was an inaugural member of Maroondah Bushwalking Club in 1981. In 1986, I spent some time on the committee and led walks. Walks with the club included the Tassie Overland Track, Kosciusko, Bogong, canoeing, skiing, High Plains, Grampians, Cobberas, Kosci to Kiandra, Wonnangatta, Warbies, Sth West Cape, Hattah, Wyperfeld. In fact, if it was more than a day long I was often on it. And the longer the better. Took several of my kids too, sometimes.
- In 1987 I walked in the Jade Dragon Mountains and climbed Emei Shan (3,500m) in China.
- In 1989, did my first walk with VNPA, though I had been a member for many years. Did many walks over the next years, led some, went canoeing and skiing with them, did cattle counts, planted trees every year in the Wimmera (still do), and planted for Grow West.
- In 1990, I started serious walking with Monica and John Chapman: West coast of Tassie, Precipitous Bluff, Walls of Jerusalem, Frankland Range, South West Cape, Kosci High Plains, Rodger River, Etrema Creek, and many others.
- In 1991, I joined Bushwalking Search and Rescue.
- In 1994, I joined VNPA Bushwalking and Activities Group Committee as Treasurer. Convened the Group for three years. Continued to do a lot of overnight walking, canoeing, skiing, and some leading.
- In 1994 I was appointed Auditor of Federation of Victorian Bushwalking Clubs Inc.
- In 1995 I was Chair of the BMTAB's Day Walk Leadership Certificate Course, which I helped design, set up and run.
- 1996-2000 I was on the Board of BMTAB Board (Treasurer) and became involved in BMLC Training at Howmans for several years.
- In 1997 I became involved in leadership training for VNPA. I ran beginners overnight walks training and navigation courses for a number of years.

- In 1998 I helped organise VNPA's Federation Day Walk weekend at Mt Buffalo.
- Private group – six of us nicknamed 'The Ratpack' – started doing longer walks: Snowy River, Cowmung, Bogong, Wonnangatta, Croajalingalong, Kosci and many others.
- In 2000-2003, I worked part time as the accountant for the VNPA .
- Was one of the co-editors of the 2nd edition of the *BMTAB Search and Rescue Manual* and a contributor to 2nd edition of the *BMTAB Leadership Training Manual* .
- In 2004 I resigned from VNPA committee and as their Search & Rescue delegate, as well as from navigation training and beginners overnight training.
- In 2004 I walked in New Zealand – Milford, Routeburn – and did sea kayaking.
- In 2006 I visited Alaska and Canada national parks – walking, canoeing and cycling.
- Came home to have both knees replaced!!!
- In 2007 I provided truck/gear support to a VNPA group walking the Larapinta Trail.
- In 2008, My final overnight walk was a solo overnight trip up the Piccaninny Creek in the Bungle Bungles. Since then I have only managed short day walks.
- In 2009 I celebrated 50 years involvement in club walking at a VNPA Easter base camp at Lindsay Island. Now I am very experienced, but no longer strong.
- In 2011 I did my final audit for VicWalk/Bushwalking Victoria.



Have now had to replace walking with camping and explore all the other places I didn't get to walk to. Being interstate, I now have a whole new state to explore!!!

Joanna O'Brien

Photo was taken January 1993 in south-west Tasmania at the foot of the Western Arthurs and was supplied by Monica

BUSHWALKING TIPS FROM BSAR

Source of articles below: <http://bsar.org>

Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs)

Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) can be carried and used to issue a distress alert via satellite and overhead aircraft in the event an emergency occurs in the field. They are sometimes referred to as Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs), though this type of beacon is intended for marine use.

Bush Search and Rescue do not use PLBs during searches, but they are recommended for bushwalking and other trips into remote areas, noting that they:

- Can save lives, although they may not be completely reliable in all circumstances
- Are a last resort in cases of grave and immediate risk to life – not a first resort
- Are not a substitute for sound leadership and party strength.

Features

- Beacons are waterproof and have long-life batteries which last 5 to 7 years.
- Beacons without GPS have an accuracy of 5km. With a GPS (recommended) the accuracy is generally within 100m.
- Beacons with non-HAZMAT type batteries can be safely carried on commercial airliners

Usage

- Distress beacons should only be used when there is a threat of grave and imminent danger. In an emergency, communication should first be attempted using radios, phones, SPOT devices and other communications devices available.
- Ensure you are in a clear open area and as high as possible to increase your visible area of sky for satellites. Steep, narrow gorges or overhanging foliage can affect performance.
- Distress Beacons are a one-way device. The flashing red light when activated indicates the beacon is transmitting but does not confirm your activation has been received.
- Distress Beacons must now be registered. Information on registering them is available at [406 Beacon information](#).
- Distress Beacons can be hired from a number of outlets including some GPS suppliers and police stations. Check the internet.
- If you borrow or hire a PLB, make sure that the registered owner is aware of your route and timetable as they will be contacted by the Rescue Command Centre if the PLB is activated.
- Use test mode prior to a trip to confirm the beacon is operational. They should not be activated for testing.

Types

406MHz

406MHz beacons transmit a unique identification, including the country of origin. Without a GPS they have an accuracy of 5km. With a GPS the accuracy is generally within 100m. It is recommended to purchase a beacon with GPS.



121.5 MHz

- The older 243/121.5MHz beacons are no longer being monitored by satellites. This shutdown occurred on 1 February 2009. Their accuracy was about 20km.
- These devices should no longer be used. They should be returned for recycling and safe disposal.



See <http://beacons.amsa.gov.au/batteries-disposal.html>

Where to buy

- Specialist bushwalking and outdoors shops
- Marine suppliers
- Specialist GPS shops such as [Johnny Appleseed GPS](#)

Links

- More information [COMMUNICATIONS FOR BUSHWALKERS](#) (PDF)
- [406 Beacon information](#), Australian Maritime Safety Authority

Mobile phones for communications in the bush

Mobile phones can often be used for communications in the bush and other remote areas. It is recommended that parties carry at least one mobile phone.

All mobiles are not equal. Do some research to determine which mobile phone will be the best for the places you are likely to use it.

Some points to consider are:

- Check the rating for good reception (eg. Telstra's 'blue tick')
- A phone that can take an external antenna (there are a few) can get improved reception
- Check the rated battery life of the phone - both standby and talk time. A phone battery that only lasts a day is a major limitation Choose a phone with inbuilt GPS and/or location services. These can be used for

location, and in some cases for emergency services to track your phone.

- A waterproof or splash-proof phone is desirable for outdoors use. Some examples are a Sonim (GSM) and a Motorola Defy (Next G).
- Phones with resistive touch screens can be difficult to operate if your fingers get sweaty.

Networks and carriers

- A phone without network coverage is useless. Several network operators service mainly cities and urban areas and have poor or non-existent coverage in remote areas.
- In general, the Telstra NextG network has the best coverage, although call rates and data charges are often higher than competitors.
- Some operators such as Three (now merged with Vodafone) have roaming agreements with Telstra. However they may not get the full coverage or services offered by Telstra's NextG network.

Phone usage

- Keep the phone turned off when it's not needed. Mobiles operating outside of network coverage will keep 'polling' for a base station and will use more power. You can also put the phone into 'flight mode' which turns off the network connection.
- Store the phone in a waterproof pouch that it can be also be used in, or buy a waterproof phone.
- Turn off Bluetooth, WiFi and GPS functions if they are not needed - they consume extra power.
- The GPS in some phones relies on the mobile network to render maps, while some phones have maps stored inside them.
- Most maps in phones are not ideal for bushwalking as they don't have enough detail.
- You can often get reception from high ground. If you don't have reception, it is worth walking onto a ridge, or further onto a summit.
- SMS messages use much less power than talking; if you are running low send information via SMS.
- If you are lost or in an emergency situation, call 000 and ask for the Police.

Smart phone applications

While smart phones such as iPhones and Android-based phones often use more power and are more bulky than conventional mobile phones, they can run useful applications. Some applications that may be useful include:

- Insetry (Android): Insert current GPS coordinates in an SMS
- My Tracks (Android): Record track logs and upload to Google maps
- CoordTransform (Android): Convert between Lat Lon to UTM coordinates

- GPS Tracker (Android): Track the location of the phone (requires network coverage).

In summary

Remember, there is no guarantee that a mobile phone will work, so they should not be relied upon for safety or communications. They are no substitute for navigation skills, a map, compass, GPS and Personal Locator Beacon. However, with network coverage they can be a useful addition to your safety gear.

2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORT, BUSH SEARCH AND RESCUE VICTORIA

Bush Search and Rescue participated in several successful searches over the last year, including:

- A search for a missing woman at Lake Mountain on 12 July 2010, who was located safe and well.
- The rescue and evacuation by Air Ambulance of an injured walker at Eagles Peaks on 4 December 2010.
- The search and rescue of a missing man at Combiobar, East Gippsland from 5 to 8 December 2010 with 29 members participating. A Bush Search and Rescue team found the missing man after he had been lost for three days and assisted on the ground with his evacuation by an Air Ambulance helicopter.
- A search for a missing boy who was found near Buninyong on 19 March 2011 just before Bush Search and Rescue members arrived by bus at the search location.

Articles, photographs and some video footage of recent searches and training activities have been published on our website.

The Bush Search and Rescue Manual is also now available online on our website. We are updating and adding content to this online version to reflect changes and new search processes, techniques and equipment.

A winter skills training weekend was held on 24-25 July 2010 at Mount Hotham. Fifty-one members, including twenty-one new members, participated in activities including navigation, GPS and radio usage, snow skills, steep snow and ice rescue.

Frank Zgoznic stepped down as Bush Search and Rescue Convener in December 2010. Frank presided over a busy period at Bush Search and Rescue which included the high-profile search for Minister Tim Holding at Mount Feathertop in August 2009 and commencement of a strategic plan for guiding Bush Search and Rescue's future directions.

Peter Campbell was appointed Convener in early 2011.

Bush Search and Rescue formed an Executive in February 2011 to assist with ongoing support, administration and development of the organisation.

Duncan Brookes, Monica Chapman, Eric Krista, Rod

Continued on page 5

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Representatives on Other Organisations

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Organisations where BWV Members Provide a Bushwalking Perspective

Metropolitan Melbourne Reference Group: Phil Brotchie
 Outdoor Recreation Centre Committee of Management: Chris Towers
 Adventure Activity Standards (AAS) Technical committee: Paul Chamings
 Living Links Steering Committee: Tony Walker



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