



Tent city at Dibbins Hut during a storm
 Photo: Terry Sydes, Benalla Bushwalking Club newsletter, March-May 2012

Contributions

Email or post news, views, club profiles, articles, photographs, sketches and letters on any subject of interest to bushwalkers (subject to editorial approval) to:

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

Editor: Joslin Guest

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WALKING AND TALKING WITH THE BUSHWALKING VICTORIA PRESIDENT

Future Walker Project update

Websites for clubs

The principal initiative of our Future Walker Project was the provision of websites to clubs without a website or with a basic or out-of-date site. Due to the excellent deal we negotiated with our developer (ECWeb Development), late last year we were able to extend the offer to all clubs not currently using a Web Content Management System to maintain their website.

To date 23 clubs have accepted the offer and six of these have launched their new website. Of the newly launched websites, four were developed by people with no previous web development or web management experience, and who also developed their website with little or no assistance from the developer or Bushwalking Victoria.

A disappointing aspect of the project is that 15 of clubs invited to participate did not respond to the two invitations sent to them. However, it is not too late for a club to participate, even if previously they have declined our invitation or did not respond.

Sites that have already been launched include the:

- www.sunbushwalk.net.au
- www.caexbushwalkingclub.org.au
- www.echucamoamabushwalkers.org.au
- www.walkingclubvic.org.au
- www.waywardwomenwalkers.org.au

New Bushwalking Victoria website

Work is now underway to design and implement a new Bushwalking Victoria website. The existing site has been in place for five years and its design, navigation and site management elements are overdue for an upgrade. The content of the site is reasonably comprehensive and up-to-date and does not require much updating, but sometimes finding the information you need can be a bit challenging. We will endeavour to address this through an improved menu structure.

One of the glaring deficiencies of the existing site is the lack of information about walking opportunities across the state. We actually have details on approximately 200 walks on the site in the form of the walks booklets from the Federation Walks. However the booklets are quite hard to find and are not presented in a particularly useful format. So this is another aspect we will be concentrating on.

The existing site requires a degree of technical expertise to manage and to update content, and does not provide the functionality required to limit access to specific users or groups of users such as members, Board members, employees etc. The new site will be developed using the Joomla Web Content Management System (the same as used to develop the club websites), which will not only address the shortcomings of the existing arrangements but introduce new functions which will allow activities such as

subscribing to news, a blog and/or forum.

It is anticipated that the new website will be launched around mid-year.

Green Walks in the Park Project

We recently received official confirmation from Parks Victoria

that they are extending funding for a further 12 months for the Green Walks in the Park Project that we have been running jointly with the Heart Foundation since mid-2011. This is great news for our Project Officer, Erica Gurner, and her dedicated team of volunteers, who can now plan the schedule of walks for the remainder of 2012 and also develop some new walks.

During 2011, which was the development and establishment phase of the project, Erica, her team and the Heart Foundation Project Officer worked really hard to identify suitable walk locations, recruit and train volunteers and organise and conduct a range of walks. Initially we were somewhat disappointed by the number of walkers turning up. But since the start of this year our approach has changed and we now work closely with councils in our target areas to organise and promote walks. As a result recent walks have been much better attended and a recent walk at Point Cook was the best attended so far, which is really good news given the health problems associated with the lack of recreation facilities in the City of Wyndham as highlighted in a feature article in *The Age* on 15 March.

Walk venues to date have included Brimbank Park, Woodlands Historic Park, Tirhatuan Park, Braeside Park, Maribyrnong Parklands and Geelong. Additional venues being considered for 2012 include Cranbourne Botanic Gardens, Karkarook Park and Shepparton.

For more information or to volunteer as a walk leader or assistant leader, contact Erica on 0487 804 321 or via email at gw@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

Chris Towers, President
president@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au



IMPORTANT DATES FOR CLUB & INDIVIDUAL DIARIES — 2012

- **Bushwalking Victoria Leaders Forum**, Saturday 16 June, Parks Victoria office situated in Westerfolds Park, Templestowe (see opposite page)
- **Bushwalking Victoria AGM**, Saturday 16 June, Parks Victoria office situated in Westerfolds Park, Templestowe
- **Federation Day 2012**: Maroondah Bushwalking Club will be hosting the 2012 Federation Walk at Marysville on Sunday 14 October

NEW BOARD MEMBERS WANTED

Make a difference Become Involved

A number of current Board members will not be seeking re-election at the AGM in June and as a result Bushwalking Victoria is now looking for nominations to fill these vacancies.

The most important attributes for a Bushwalking Victoria Board member are:

- A passion for bushwalking
- A desire to make a difference
- Enthusiasm
- Ideas
- A willingness to devote time and energy to promoting bushwalking and representing the interests of all recreational bushwalkers.

While there are no specific skills, knowledge or experience required, people with experience and skills in areas such as business, management, marketing, education, training,

IT or conservation are encouraged to consider joining our dedicated and hard-working Board.

The Board meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 5pm at Westerfolds Park in Templestowe. Anyone considering nominating is encouraged to attend a Board meeting or two.

More information on the role of the Bushwalking Victoria Board of Management and details of the current Board are available on the following page of the Bushwalking Victoria website

<http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/governance.htm>

If any of this appeals, or you know of someone in your club with the skills and experience we are seeking, I'd love to hear from you. Email or phone

president@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au or 9802 4449.

Chris Towers
President, Bushwalking Victoria

2012 Leadership Forum



The leadership team (ie. President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) of each club is invited to attend the 2012 Bushwalking Victoria Leadership Forum on Saturday 16 June.

The Forum will comprise a number of presentation and workshop sessions devoted to the recently announced Bushwalking Victoria Strategic Review (see the March 2012 Bushwalking News).

Make sure your club is represented.

Further details, including the venue will be sent to clubs in May.

FOR CLUB COMMITTEES—NEW COMPLIANCE SUPPORT WEBSITE

The Office of the Community Sector has launched a Not-For-Profit (NFP) Compliance Support Centre website, a one-stop shop for Victorian NFP organisations to help them comply with all levels of government regulations.

It is the first government web portal of its kind in Australia and is a single entry point for all regulatory information, licences, forms and related support materials, aiming to reduce the regulatory burden for community sector organisations. Over 160 community organisations were consulted in the process, to ensure that it is user-friendly and is tailored to the volunteer-based sector.

There is a page dedicated to sport and recreation organisations that deals with compliance requirements and concerns specific to that sector. These include things

like insurance, safety responsibilities related to an increased potential risk of injury, leasing sporting venues, disputes, grievances, discrimination, protecting children, ANZAC day, fundraising and events.

It's now live and available for use. It's easy to navigate. So please do take a look. Follow this link to the home page: <http://www.nfpcompliance.vic.gov.au/>

The page for sport and recreation organisations is under 'Your Not For Profit'.

Happy browsing!

Claire Millar,
Sport Programs, Sport and Recreation Victoria
Department of Planning and Community Development

BUSHWALKING ENVIRONMENT

Track clearing/conservation projects

<p>Sunday 22 April 2012 Bunyip State Park and Kurth Kiln Regional Park</p>	<p>The walking tracks in this area are used regularly by many walking clubs, and now it is time to give back and improve those tracks we walk on. In addition, we hope on this day to create a new walking track link between Bunyip State Park and Kurth Kiln and in preparation for this, BEC has marked the proposed new walking track. A number of other tracks also need attention.</p> <p>There will be a variety of tasks, from an easy work with secateurs and loppers to the harder chainsaw and brushcutting jobs.</p> <p>Please consider participating in this this most important event. We also hope to have other passive recreational user groups involved on the day but we need your support. It will be a day for everyone - it will be fun!!</p> <p>Contact Steve Robertson (Bushwalking Victoria Conservation and Tracks Project Officer) via email at srob7859@bigpond.net.au or on 0438 267 129 or (03) 97625367 to register or to request further information.</p>
<p>Sat 19 to Sun 20 May 2012 Northern Wilsons Prom</p>	<p>A track maintenance project is planned for 19-20 May weekend for Lighthouse Point to Chinaman's Long Beach, south of Tin Mine Cove. There will be about 5km of track to form/clear.</p> <p>Transport arrangements are yet to be decided, but could be by boat to Tin Mine Cove, depending on the weather, or by 4WD out to end of Five Mile Rd.</p>

... and in the pipeline: discussions involving BEC

State Forest Walking Track Project

BEC in conjunction with DSE will explore and remark the Eastern Tyers Walking Track.

Wilson's Promontory

Parks Victoria is currently in the process of developing a trails strategy for the park, and will be discussing the draft plan with Bushwalking Victoria sometime in May.

Cathedral Ranges State Park

People and Parks Foundation, Green Connections Projects, is working with Parks Victoria to construct a new walking track in the Cathedral Range SP that will link Sugarloaf Saddle area to Cooks Mill camping area.

See also next column.

Dave Rimmer, Manager BEC

What the clubs are doing

Warrnambool Walkers continue their grand efforts maintaining the Port Fairy-Warrnambool Rail Trail, with a work bee on the last Sunday of each month (except perhaps December (ed)).

**The Warrnambool Bushwalker,
 March 2012**

Green Connections
 Connecting People with Nature

We Need Your Help

- This is a great opportunity to learn the skill of trail making, while taking in the beauty of Cathedral Range State Park
- No experience is needed as there will be qualified trail builders on hand to show you how
- Trail building will begin mid March and continue through April.
- If you are interested in helping please contact Amanda Daw on 0429 346 814 or email amanda.daw@peopleandparks.org

Green Connections and Parks Victoria are looking for groups who are interested in helping construct a trail in Cathedral Range State Park.

Currently, walkers use the main narrow access road through the park to connect Sugarloaf Saddle to Cooks Mill camping area. This project will create a new and safer walker only trail between these two areas.

For more information on People and Parks Foundation and Green Connections Programs please visit <http://www.peopleandparks.org>

Parks VICTORIA Healthy Parks Healthy People® PEOPLE & PARKS foundation

AROUND THE TRACKS

Grand Strzelecki Track official opening

The official opening by the Deputy Premier, the Hon. Peter Ryan is planned for Sunday, 6 May 2012. It will probably take place at Balook, at the Tarra Bulga Information Centre. Buses will take walkers and guides to the starting points for walks. 'Show bags' of brochures and other 'goodies' will be available for participants.

Dave Rimmer, Manager BEC

Event timetable

Day	Time	Activities	Responsibilities	Other information
Saturday 5 May	Showcase Billys Creek section of the Grand Strzelecki Track			
	7.00am	Set up Morwell National (Jeeralang Junction)		Volunteers display, marque WSC
	7.30	Start bus run to Jumbuk	Ian Southall	
	7.30	Registration for the walkers		Sample bags, clothing, footwear
	8.00	First walkers start	(To be announced)	
	10.00	Set up entertainment		
	11.00	Entertainment commences		Bands, indigenous dance troupe, bush poets
	12.00	BBQ		
	1.00	Registrations closes		
Sunday 6 May	6.00	Last bus from Jumbuk		
	Showcase Balook sections of the Grand Strzelecki Track			
	7.00am	Set up Visitors Centre		Displays
	7.30	Start bus run to Macks Creek, Tarra Valley, Mt Tassie		Breakfast, morning tea
	7.30	Registration for the walkers commences		
	8.00	Walkers to Macks Creek started		
	8.30	Walkers to Tarra Valley		
	9.00	Walkers to Mt Tassie		
	10.00	Set up entertainment		
	11.00	Entertainment commences		Bands, indigenous dance troupe, bush poets
	12.00	Official opening Welcome to guest MC Welcome to country		
	12.05	Mayor of Latrobe City		
	12.10	Mayor of Wellington		
	12.15	GST President		
	12.20	Peter Ryan opens track		
	12.30	Guests invited to lunch BBQ lunch for attendees		
	1.00	Walkers are invited to complete walks to Mt Tassie, Macks Creek and Tarra Valley		
5.00	Start of pack up			
6.00	Last bus from sites			

Grampians NP

- Hollow Mountain Walking Track reopened on Tuesday 5 March.
- Bullaces Glen Walking track reopened on Friday 9 March.
- Venus Baths walk:
 - There is access to a small section of the Venus Baths walking track as part of the Bullaces Glen walk. However the walk to Venus Baths remains closed.
 - Concept planning for realignments around land slips and bridge replacement is underway.
- Coppermine Rd has been reopened. Road crews have repaired the large washout on the road between Coppermine bush camp and Mt Zero Rd.
- The Parks Victoria Southern Grampians walking map has been updated and is now available for sale.

Phil Brochie, BEC Field Officer

Alpine NP road & track closure report (by area) as at 9 March 2012

Dargo High Plains

- Long Spur Track

Eastern Alps

- Snowy River Rd (or Barry Way) between Wulgulmerang and Jindabyne, NSW, and access to the Willis area on the Snowy River and the Ingeegoodbie/MacFarlanes track network until further notice due to washout of Suggan Buggan River bridge at Suggan Buggan
- Macs Creek Rd
- Cobberas Trail
- MacFarlane Flat Track
- Ingeegoodbee Track
- Wombat Creek Track
- Four Mile Creek Track
- JP Track
- Kellys Track
- Davies Plain 4WD circuit
- Limestone Creek Track
- McCarthys Track
- Buckwong Track
- Kings Plain Track
- Tom Groggin Track
- Nine Mile Creek Track - bridge works underway by DSE Mansfield
- Bluff Link Rd from 16 Mile jeep track to Howqua River
- Upper Howqua camping area

Mount Beauty

- Dungey's Track (DSE estate)
- West Kiewa logging road (DSE estate) – closed from intersection with Dungey's Track

Oriental Claims historic area

- Pedestrian bridge closed
- Ah Fong Loop walking track closed

Upper Murray

- Blue Gum Ridge and Surveyors Creek 4WD tracks until further notice
- Visitors are advised to avoid the Indi River camps

Whitfield

(King Hut, Pineapple and Top Crossing tracks **are open**, but please use caution due to high river levels at crossings.)

Closed:

- Basin Track
- Burnt Top Track from Basin Track (Wild Horse to Basin Rd)
- Long Spur Track
- Sandy Flat Track
- McMillans Track
- Stockyard Track
- Wabonga Track
- Top Crossing Track

Wonnangatta-Moroka

- Dry River Walking Track/Bicentennial National Trail – Howitt Rd to Wonnangatta Valley and Guys Hut to Wonnangatta Valley
- Wonnangatta access tracks from Dargo and Myrtleford are currently impassable due to high river levels on the Wonnangatta and Crooked Rivers; access is only available via Zeka Spur
- The Macalister, Caledonia and Dargo River catchments tracks should be avoided until river levels recede

Parks Victoria

Wilson's Prom

Works on the Sealers Cove track from Telegraph Saddle

Mt Oberon Rd and Telegraph Saddle will remain closed due to ongoing flood repair work. Sealers Cove will only be accessible from Refuge Cove. However, Brett Mitchell, Ranger in Charge, Wilsons Prom NP, reports that works on the Sealers Cove Track from Telegraph Saddle will begin in late March/April; The works involve major engineering solutions.

Ian McKellar, BEC Field Officer

Southern Prom overnight hikes will be open from Easter

The majority of overnight hiking tracks in the southern prom will reopen on 30 March 2012 giving hikers the following access to southern prom hikes:

- Norman Bay to Oberon Bay
- Oberon Bay to Telegraph Junction
- Telegraph Junction to Waterloo Bay
- Waterloo Bay to Refuge Cove
- Refuge Cove to Sealers Cove
- South Point Track
- Halfway Hut and Roaring Meg via the Oberon Track and Telegraph Track
- Lightstation via Telegraph Track and the South East Track
- Waterloo Bay via the South East Track.

The campsites, including Sealers Cove, Refuge Cove, Halfway Hut, Roaring Meg, Waterloo Bay and Oberon Bay, have a two night maximum stay. Accommodation at the lightstation is for a maximum of two consecutive nights. No camping is permitted at the lightstation. Bookings for all campsites and the lightstation are essential and must be made in advance; they can be made by phoning 13 1963.

All sections in the northern prom are now open with the exception of the Lighthouse Point to Tin Mine Cove walking track and the Johnny Souey Cove camp.

The following conditions apply to the Barry Creek, Lower Barry Creek, Tin Mine Cove and Five Mile Beach overnight camp areas:

- Hikers must fill out a *Hiker Self Assessment Form* before a hiking permit is issued; call 13 1963 for further information.
- Some track sections are marked with flagging tape. However hikers need to be self sufficient and proficient in navigation with a map and compass.
- Overnight camping is permitted for two consecutive nights only at each camp area throughout the year.
- Maximum group size at any one campsite is six.
- Toilets are generally not provided. Bury all faecal waste and paper at least 15cm deep and at least 100 metres from campsites and watercourses. Mix waste with soil to aid decomposition and discourage animals.

Hikers must obtain a permit before commencing their walk and carry it with them at all times. After completing hike, you need to return your permit to the Tidal River Visitor Centre. There are permit boxes at the Five Mile car park, outside the Park Entrance Station and outside the Tidal River Visitor Centre.

Visitors are reminded that they will be walking through a highly altered environment and that some tracks are not

fully repaired and, therefore, it is requested that they follow the new signage for their own safety, as well as ensuring that they do not enter areas that are closed to the public.

Based on **Wilson's Prom NP Stakeholder Flood Recovery Update No 12, March 2012** and **WPNP Hikers Guide, valid as March 2011**

Ian McKellar, BEC Field Officer

What remains closed at Wilsons Prom

The following roads, tracks, visitor facilities and natural features at Wilsons Prom NP remain closed until necessary flood repair works are completed.

Around Tidal River

- Loo-Ern Boardwalk and fishing platforms
- Tidal River boat ramp (closed to motorised vehicles and powered boats)
- Mt Oberon Rd
- Telegraph Saddle car park
- Picnic Point
- Whisky Bay car park and beach access track

Southern Prom

- Telegraph Saddle to Sealers Cove Track
- Telegraph Track between Telegraph Saddle & Telegraph Junction
- Telegraph walking track (Martins Hill to Telegraph Track)

Northern Prom

- Cotters Lake and Cotters Lake track
- Johnny Souey Camp
- Lighthouse Point to Tin Mine Track

WPNP Visitors Guide, valid as March 2011

Alps

- A landslide left massive rocks on the Mount Buffalo Rd on 1 March. The road has now been cleared but care is needed when driving on the road.
- The walking track from Eagle Point to Mollison's Galleries is heavily overgrown and the track may be difficult to find. Independent navigation is essential.

Pauline McLaughlin, BEC Field Officer

- The road from the Howitt car park to King Billy has been opened for the first time in three years.
- Access to Pinnacles fire tower (Moroka River area) is 4WD only due to flood damage.

Jim Harker, BEC Field Officer

See also *Alpine Road Closures* on the previous page.

PV SALUTES ITS WOMEN RANGERS AND FIELD OFFICERS

Parks Victoria, as part of the International Women's Day (March 8) celebrations, acknowledged the contribution that the women in Parks Victoria make in the management and care of Victoria's parks and waterways.

Across all regions of Parks Victoria, women are employed in a variety of roles, ranging from Rangers, Project Fire Fighters, Field Services, Project Management, Events, Finance, Administration and Visitor Services. Parks Victoria has always provided opportunities for women to challenge themselves and take on roles that were traditionally thought of as men's jobs, such as Park Rangers and Field Service Officers.

There are currently 109 women employed in various ranger and field service officer positions across Victoria, and about 22% of park rangers with Parks Victoria are women. It's a continuation of the long tradition in Victoria of women in park ranger roles; such as the legendary naturalist Mrs Karamoana Healey, who became the first woman caretaker of a national park in Victoria in 1952, the Tarra Bulga National Park in South Gippsland.

Based on **Parks Victoria Media Release, Thursday 8 March 2012**



CFA **Career Firefighting**
Womens Information Session

Are you interested in learning about the Career Firefighting opportunity available at CFA? Come along to our information session to be held at:

Outer Metro - South East Melbourne
24th April 2012

During the session you will:

- Listen to presentations from CFA Career Firefighters
- Learn about the role and recruitment process
- Learn training and preparation techniques
- Have the opportunity to participate in physical activities (Optional)



Registration is required, to reserve your seat please phone (03) 9262 8968 during business hours.

For details of General Information Sessions held around Victoria, please visit our website **cfa.vic.gov.au**

Advertisement

WILDFLOWER WONDER ON THE BIBBULMUN TRACK

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation has opened bookings for their popular 8-day Highlights Tour. This all-inclusive guided walking tour is limited to 16 places and showcases the very 'Best of the Bibbulmun'. The tour departs Perth on 10 September 2012 in the midst of WA's wildflower season. All inclusive cost: \$2,450 (twin share)

Lead Guide, Steve Sertis, who has walked the length of the track many times and knows it 'inside-out' said 'The pace of this tour is ideal to appreciate the spectacular wildflowers and diverse landscapes of the south-west.' This tour combines full and half-day walks. A private bus provides transport to and from the track each day. Each evening the group returns to comfortable accommodation in the rural towns and villages along the track. Participants need carry only a small daypack. The flexible itinerary caters for all levels of experience.

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation is a not-for-profit, community-based organisation established to provide support for the management, maintenance and marketing of the Bibbulmun Track. All proceeds from this trip support the ongoing sustainability of the Bibbulmun Track.

For more information call (08) 9481 0551, send an email to events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au or go to www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au

CHALLENGE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO GET ACTIVE IN 2012

The 2012 Premier's Active Families Challenge provides a great opportunity for all Victorian families to get fit and enjoy the benefits of an active lifestyle.

So grab your family and friends and register today to do 30 minutes of physical activity a day for 30 days between 19 March to 30 April.

It's free to participate, and you'll get:

- 20 free YMCA passes per family or team
- 15% discount at Rebel Sport
- 1 free child entry to the Melbourne Aquarium
- 1 free child entry to the National Sports Museum.

You'll also:

- Have a chance to win heaps of great prizes, including iPads, Rebel Sport vouchers and coaching clinics with high profile athletes!
- Get regular tips and ideas on ways to keep your family active throughout the Challenge
- Nominate your school to receive prizes as part of the new Challenge School Reward Program.

To sign up for the Challenge, visit www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/challenge or call 1300 463 684.

BUSHWALKING VICTORIA BOARD MEMBER & OFFICE HOLDER PROFILE

Sylvia McLean

What bushwalking club(s) do you belong to? Primarily Essendon BWC, but have been a long time member of the GDTA, VPNA, Gisborne BWC and more recently Melbourne Bushies and YHA. Also, I have been on many outings with other clubs, including Koonung, Boroondara and Maroondah (especially pack carries and base camps). A friend of mine once described me as the prostitute of bushwalkers—ie. ‘walk anywhere, at any time and with any one!’

I have made many, many acquaintances in bushwalking circles. It is always great to see people I know, especially when you run into them on the track in the middle of nowhere.

How long have you been a member?

Since 1989 with Essendon. Currently into my 23rd year there.

Do you or have you held a committee position in your club(s) Currently back on the committee as ordinary member after a break of a few years; prior to that a 2-year stint as secretary after a prolonged period as ordinary committee member. I also suggested and was involved in organising the 2005 Federation Day Event at Blackwood hosted by Essendon Bushwalking Club.

How long have you been bushwalking? Since childhood on family outings but, regrettably, that stopped with higher education and career building. My passion re-ignited into my thirties and this time even parenthood was no barrier to bushwalking. Breastfeeding, 3-wheeler prams and baby-carrier packs being the catalyst for continuous bushwalking. Mind you one has to be keen, dedicated and highly organised, but you can certainly make it happen and keep happening.

What got you started bushwalking? Enjoying the bush and all associated with it on family outings as a child. Then, later in life, walking the dog led to longer and longer walks until I thought that I needed and wanted to join a walking group. So I automatically sought out my most local bushwalking group and instantly felt at home. I’m not sure if it is the euphoria created by the endorphins during physical exercise but it just makes you feel good. There is a combination of mental, physical and emotional/social wellness associated with walking in the bush, especially with like-minded friends. The essentials and priorities in life change for ever when you bushwalk: health, mobility, safety, shelter, food and some knowledge; the basic needs in life become appreciably the essentials. There are times when it can be challenging but there are rewards. There are times when it gets tough but then there is an interdependence and trust that develops within the group that pulls everyone together so we all get to our goal safely.



How often do you manage to bushwalk? As often as possible! At least once or twice a week. I try to walk at least 5km a day.

What sort of bushwalking do you like best? Remote, overnight or extended pack carries. I really enjoy summer Alpine walking.

Do you have a favourite walk? All of them! The ones I remember as being not so good stand out due to really adverse weather conditions.

I recently led my first overnight walk (should have done this years ago) over the 3-day New Year long weekend over the Wellington Plains to Lake Tarni Karng, the Sentinels, Gable End and home via Mt. Wellington. That was really special, especially as everything just went so well.

Are you a member of a conservation or friends group? VNPA, local Landcare and greening groups and, of course, a strong advocate for Ray Thomas and the Regent Honey Eater Project held over four fortnightly weekends in August and September each year in the Lurg Hills north east of Benalla.

Do you participate in conservation activities? If so what, where and how often? Predominantly tree planting with the above groups, but weeding is also a big part of it. I always enjoy any information events which Landcare always seems to be so good at arranging eg. wildflower walks, bat or bird talks and slides. Of course these events are usually with experts in their field of knowledge. In the hills behind Riddells Creek where I live, new species of flowers are still being found by our local Landcare members. It is surprising how much you can note when you bushwalk.

What do you do when you are not bushwalking? If I’m not bushwalking then I am reading about it! I can stick my head in a bushwalking book or ponder over a map for hours. I really enjoy creating and improving walk routes. I

enjoy navigation and undertake the odd Rogaine. Geocaching is starting to take up a lot of time in our household and can easily be combined with bushwalking. Other than that there doesn't seem to be much time for anything else apart from family life and, unfortunately, working. I am a midwife and getting out into the bush or even just going for a daily walk around home is great 'time out' from the hectic world we live in. I do enjoy and recommend Pilates, particularly if you regularly carry a heavy pack or suffer from any back or other ailments.

How long have you been on the BWV committee/been an office holder/been involved with BWV? I was on the Board as an ordinary member for three years from July 2007-2010. Since 2008 I have continued as the coordinator of the annual Federation Walk event.

What do you get from your contribution? One of the things I really enjoyed during the time I was a committee member was being actively involved in Bushwalking Victoria's 75th anniversary organising committee alongside Monica Chapman and Chris and Elaine Towers. This was when Chris set up the *Where We Walk* data for all our clubs, the photographic calendar competition commenced and the 2009 Federation event was to be hosted as a combined clubs event at Mt. Disappointment. When the Black Saturday Fires prevented that, a fantastic effort was held instead, as a record number of trees were planted in the Regent Honeyeater Project that Spring, in lieu of the Federation walk. Since I have been the Federation Walk event coordinator, I have encouraged and assisted Ballarat B&OC, Waverley, Peninsula/Catholic bushwalking clubs to host successful day and week end events at Beaufort, Anglesea and Rosebud. I am currently enjoying planning meetings with the Maroondah BWC who are capably organising this year's day event at Marysville.

I really enjoy meeting and working with like-minded people who appreciate and share my passion for the bush and everything associated with it. I guess that I just want to learn as much as possible and share my small amount of knowledge and ensure that others who are interested can gain as much pleasure as I do. There is a lot of satisfaction in giving and sharing, particularly about one's own passion.

SUNRISE & SUNSET—MELBOURNE GPO

EST starts Sunday 1 April	Fri 6 Apr 0639 1806 EST
Fri 20 Apr 0651 1747 EST	Fri 4 May 0704 1730 EST
Fri 8 May 0716 1717 EST	Fri 1 Jun 0727 1709 EST
Fri 15 Jun 0734 1707 EST	Fri 29 Jun 0736 1711 EST
Fri 13 Jul 0733 1718 EST	Fri 27 Jul 0725 1729 EST
Fri 10 Aug 0711 1740 EST	Fri 24 Aug 0653 1752 EST
Fri 7 Sep 0632 1804 EST	Fri 21 Sep 0611 1826 EST
Fri 5 Oct 0549 1828 EST	EDST starts Sunday 7 October
Fri 19 Oct 0629 1941 EDST	Fri 2 Nov 1612 1956 EDST
Fri 16 Nov 0559 2012 EDST	Fri 30 Nov 0552 2025 EDST
Fri 14 Dec 0552 2037 EDST	Fri 21 Dec 0554 2042 EDST

Full Moons

Sat 7 Apr, Sun 6 May, Mon 4 Jun, Wed 4 Jul, Thu 2 Aug, Fri 31 Aug, Sun 30 Sep, Tue 30 Oct, Thu 29 Nov, Fri 28 Dec

Source: www.ga.gov.au

THE NATURAL ENVIROMENT

Australia-wide wildlife corridor plan

Eight wildlife corridors have been identified for funding from the proposed Carbon Tax. Two of them are in Victoria—the Great Eastern Ranges initiative, listed as Continental in scale, covering Victoria, NSW, ACT, Queensland; and the Habitat 141° / 'Outback to Ocean' initiative, listed as Regional in scale, covering Victoria, South Australia. The targeted areas for the Great Eastern Ranges initiative are Slopes to Summit, Kosciusko to Coast, Southern Highlands Link, Hunter Valley and Border Ranges. The targeted area for Habitat 141 initiative stretches 700km along the 141st meridian of longitude.

The criteria for assessing areas for inclusion are: biodiversity value; threat, intact vegetation; connectivity; % preserved. 'Institutional capacity' was also a criterion. Visit the papers to see just what these criteria involve.

Unfortunately for many bushwalkers who contribute to the Regent Honeyeater Project in the Lurg Hills near Benalla, this area is not included. A search of the two major planning documents did not give any matches for Regent Honeyeater.

To view the Draft *National Wildlife Corridors Plan*, go to <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/wildlife-corridors/index.html>

The Advisory Group is seeking public comments before preparing a final plan for consideration by the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. Comments close on 20 April 2012. To make a submission go to <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/wildlife-corridors/consultation/index.html>

Regent Honeyeater Project—Lurg Hills near Benalla

It's that exciting time of year again. The Regent Honeyeater Project is not just about a single endangered bird or only endangered birds, it's also about endangered native mammals. So it's time to assess how the populations of Sugar Gliders, Squirrel Gliders and Phascogales are doing in the Lurg Hills near Benalla. The first nest box weekend was on 24-25 March, so as you are reading this it is probably too late to join in for that weekend, but there is a second weekend on 21-22 April.

What is involved? Over each weekend, we check nest boxes attached to trees to identify and count the types animal using them and to assess the condition of the boxes.

This data is collated and used to assess the endangered animals are faring and to make decisions about how their conservation should progress. Last year's count showed some nice growth in Squirrel Glider populations and promising signs that the local juvenile Squirrel Gliders are using the tree planting corridors to disperse when their parents kick them out of home.

The weekend offers a wonderful opportunity to get close to gliders. You are almost guaranteed to see one or two noses poking out of a bowl of leaves when you check the boxes, and everyone has an opportunity to have a look. We count for most of Saturday (after a brief talk by Ray Thomas, the coordinator, on safety and anything particular to look for) and on Sunday until just after lunch to allow time for the return trip to Melbourne.

All ages are welcome. The walks to the nest boxes are usually short (a few hundred metres between sites) and then back to the cars to drive to the next cluster. You need to climb a ladder to get up to the boxes, but not so very high, and if you are nervous about climbing ladders don't be because safety is always a primary concern and we are shown how to place and climb the ladders safely. And if you don't want to climb, you don't have to.

You will need to provide lunch, snacks and drinks for yourself for both days. On Saturday night there is a BBQ where you meet up with your fellow counters; bring your own goodies for a barbeque. (Benalla has good supermarkets to resupply from and a number of nice bakeries where most people go for Sunday breakfast.) Free accommodation on Saturday night is available in the local scout hall; only mattresses are provided, so bring your own sleeping bag. Otherwise you can stay at the caravan park or at a motel.

If you want to attend or want more information, contact Ray Thomas at ray@regenthoneyeater.org.au

Freely adapted from **Chris Schirlinger**,
The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc, Mar 2012

BUSHWALKING RESOURCES

Great Dividing Trail—Goldfields Track walking guide is on its way

The Goldfields Track walking guide will be published in the next couple of months. It is designed to complement the GDTA's three existing maps for the Goldfields Track. The guide will have 1:25,000 scale maps of the whole of the 210km track between Mt Buninyong and Bendigo. Gib Wettenhall, the GDTA's publications officer, is writing and producing the guide, and he has now walked or ridden its whole length as part of the 'ground truthing' process. GDTA surveyor Bill Casey has GPSed the whole track. DSE's Customised Mapping Unit in Ballarat is producing standard VicMap style contour maps.

The maps with track notes and large numbers of photos will be sandwiched between essays by local experts on landscape features from geology to plants and animals, as well as essays on the goldfields' rich cultural heritage and some of the area's historical characters.

We'll keep you posted.

GDTA POST, Vol 2012, Issue 1, March 2012
Newsletter of the Great Dividing Trail Association

Melbourne's Best Bush, Bay and City Walks—book review

This new walking guide is primarily for the non-bushwalker. It covers lots of interesting urban walks in the Melbourne city and suburbs and along Port Phillip Bay, and a few more 'bushy' walks including Kokoda Memorial Track at Ferntree Gully and the Hamer Arboretum on Melbourne's outskirts or a little further afield in the You Yangs and Long Forest. Most of the walks described are short—the longest is the 10.7km Williamstown maritime history walk. The given walk times are generous—geared to the pace of non-bushwalkers and sightseers. But 'distance' walkers can of course combine different walks and walk faster to make a walk more 'challenging'.

The production qualities of the book are excellent: comfortable size for carrying in your bag or holding in the hand; good paper; colour-coded by area for easy reference; clear walk summaries; clear maps; clear walk descriptions; lovely and enticing images; interesting snippets of additional information about history or points of interest.

Nearly all Melbourne-based bushwalking clubs do urban and local park walks as part of their Easy grade walking program. This book is an excellent resource for planning such walks. And for planning activities during the hot summer months when some of us prefer to do easier or shorter walkers or walks with more opportunities for refreshments stops and respite from the heat. It is also an excellent resource for clubs that offer walks as part of local community participation programs.

It is an valuable book for encouraging non-walkers to get out there and walk without fear of being outside their comfort zone, and to do walks of interest to family and friends. It should also tempt bushwalkers to explore urban Melbourne and Port Philip Bay. If you have interstate or overseas visitors, you will find in it lots of walks that show off Melbourne.

This is the first of Julie's walking books. She plans to supplement it with three other titles: *Best Walks of Geelong*, *The Bellarine and the Surf Coast*, *Best Walks of the Great Ocean Road & The Otways* and *Best Walks of Ballarat and The Goldfields*, which are due out later this year. That is something to look forward to.

Author: Julie Mundy
Title: Melbourne's Best Bush, Bay & City Walks
Publisher: Woodslane Press Pty Ltd
Edition: First (2011)
Pages: 238
Size: 13cm x 32cm
Weight: 410g
RRP: \$29.95

Editor

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 Outdoor Recreation Centre Committee of Management:
 Chris Towers
 Living Links Steering Committee: Tony Walker



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