

Bushwalking News Victoria



March 2015 Issue 255

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Walking and Talking with the Bushwalking Victoria President

Most clubs are now well into the swing of their 2015 bushwalking activities. But since we are still near the start of the year, **I'd like to make a few requests** to all Bushwalking Victoria affiliated clubs.

During 2015, I'd like to see clubs consider doing four things:

- Think seriously about where you want your club to be in **5-10 years'** time. The bushwalking environment is changing and so is our society. I would encourage all clubs to think about where they will get new members, how they can broaden their appeal and how they should relate to their local community.
- Consider getting more involved with Bushwalking Victoria. Bushwalking Victoria does all it can to further the cause of bushwalking in Victoria and, given we have a much smaller budget than many of our peer groups, we probably punch above our weight. But there are many clubs and club members who have skills and knowledge we could all benefit from. This need not involve becoming a board member – your skills may be of help in one of our key projects.
- Adopt a track. We would like to see more clubs involved. Parks Victoria needs all the help it can get to keep tracks and trails in good condition. Many of our regional clubs already do a very good job in their local areas, but some metropolitan clubs could do more. Your Bushwalking Victoria board contact would be happy to explain what is involved.
- Keep your Bushwalking Victoria board member contact informed of initiatives your club is taking and issues you encounter. Bushwalking Victoria will help where it can.

Submissions to Government

In the last 18 months, Bushwalking Victoria has been very active in putting the interests of the bushwalking community forward wherever public comment or input is requested. Below is a list of submissions we have made on behalf of bushwalkers in that period:

- Arthurs Seat State Park Mountain Bike Trail Proposal
- Draft Alpine Sphagnum Bogs and Associated Fens EC National Recovery Plan
- Grampians Peaks Trail Draft Master Plan
- Greater Alpine National Parks Draft Management Plan
- High Conservation Strategy and Draft Forests Management Plan
- Mt Buller-Mt Stirling Link Road
- Ngootyoong Gunditj Ngootyoong Mara South West Draft Management Plan
- Parks Victoria Victorian Alps Wild Horse Management Plan
- VEAC Historic Places Investigation
- Victorian Trails Strategy 2014-2024 (two rounds of submissions)
- VNP Camping and Accommodation Fees Regulatory Impact Statement.

All the plans, except the *High Conservation Strategy and Draft Forests Management Plan*, which is still being worked on, are available on the Bushwalking Victoria website at

<http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/bushwalking-victoria-publications.html?highlight=YToxOntpOjA7czoxMTtoic3VibWlzc2lvbnMiO30=>.

The analysis of the often voluminous and complex material presented and preparation of our response, often done in a very short timeframe, represents a very big effort and is carried out by Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation volunteers, in particular by our Land Management and Environmental Consultant, Phil Brotchie.

New Victorian Government

Bushwalking Victoria is in the process of arranging meetings with the key government ministers for the areas of key interest to us – mainly the Minister for Sport and the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water. We will discuss with them how they see the key issues around management, conservation and access to our protected areas, and how and where the bushwalking community can help government agencies achieve their objectives. We want to put forward a positive vision of active, involved, community oriented people with a love for our natural areas.

Bushwalking Victoria has been and will continue to be the strongest voice it can for the Victorian bushwalking community.

See you on the track.
Tony Walker

'Tip Sheets' on the Bushwalking Victoria Website

There are a number of ways in which a bushwalking club can get publicity and make itself well known in its community that do not involve a significant expenditure of money. To help clubs with this, the board of Bushwalking Victoria has developed three short papers:

- [Engaging with the media](#) – how get publicity for your club and for local bushwalking issues
- [Influencing decision makers](#) – how to build relationships with members of parliament, local government and land managers
- [Membership and recruitment](#) – how to recruit new members and retaining existing ones.

As promised last month, these 'tip sheets' are now available on the Bushwalking Victoria website at <http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/club-development.html>.

Extended Walks Leadership Course

Calling applicants

Bushwalking Victoria has worked with some of the bigger clubs to develop courses that help clubs identify and train activity leaders.

The first course covered leadership skills, planning and conducting a walk, basic navigation and risk management.

An extended course has been developed for leaders of day walks who would like to extend their knowledge to include base camps and overnight walks (pack carries). The course will also help leaders improve their navigation skills.

When: Saturday 16 May to Sunday 17 May, 2015.
Time: 9am-4.30pm both days.
Where: Conference Room, Parks Office, Westerfolds Park (Melway 33 F1).

Cost: FREE
A light lunch and morning and afternoon tea will be provided on both days.

Eligible applicants: The course is open to all members of clubs affiliated and associated with Bushwalking Victoria and to individual members of Bushwalking Victoria. The course numbers are limited. Preference will be given to applicants who have attended the initial course and are now leading day walks OR applicants who have significant day walk leadership experience.

To register contact: Sally Walker (email preferred) at training@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au or telephone 03 9807 5576.

Deadline for applications: Friday 1 May.

Notification date: Successful applicants will be notified by 8 May.

When applying, provide the following information:

Name:			
Club name / Individual member:			
Telephone:			
Mobile phone:			
Email address:			
Leadership experience:			
Did you attend the first course?	Yes	No	
If you did not attend the first course, indicate your level of navigation skills:			
• Map craft	Understanding contour lines and landforms	None	Basic High
• Navigation	Using grid references	None	Basic High
• Map scales	Estimating distance	None	Basic High
• Using a compass	Grid bearings	None	Basic High
	Magnetic bearings	None	Basic High
	Walking on a bearing	None	Basic High

Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation Report

During February, the Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation (BTAC) committee has been busy finalising documents, contacting clubs through our field officers and planning training for our volunteers.

BTAC operational procedures, 2015

This document is a revision of the 2005 guidelines for volunteers. The new version includes guidelines for project leaders, crew leaders and volunteer track workers.

The document clarifies the processes and requirements for working with land managers to enhance bushwalking opportunities in Victoria.

While the document is intended primarily for BTAC projects, we hope that the information will encourage clubs to consider adapting the forms in the appendices for their own track and conservation activities.

I will be sending a copy of the operational guidelines to all club presidents. It is also available on the Bushwalking Victoria website at http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/files/BTAC/2015_01_16_BTAC_Operational_Procedures_V1.pdf.

On behalf of the BTAC committee, I thank Val Wake for her considerable input and advice in the preparation of the operational procedures.

Tread softly, 2015

This brochure will be printed in the coming weeks. It is a revision of the May 2003 VicWalk brochure. We hope we have achieved our aim, which is to strengthen the understanding of 'minimum impact'.

Make tracks for conservation, second issue

In December, the Bushwalking Victoria board approved an additional print run of this brochure so that we could distribute it more widely. With the change of DEPI to DELWP (see *Bushwalking News Victoria*, February 2015), we realised it is unwise to name government departments, given that some departments are subject to frequent restructure and name change. The new brochure uses the generic term 'land manager' instead of specifically naming departments such as Parks Victoria, DEPI or DELWP.

Adopt a track

A big thank you to:

- Warrnambool Walkers Inc for adopting Mt Abrupt in the Grampians National Park and
- West Gippsland Bushwalkers Inc for adopting Lawson Falls Discovery Track in Bunyip State Park.

Volunteer hours

I ask all clubs that work on tracks to report the activities, the number of volunteers and hours worked to Charlie Ablitt, BTAC Projects Coordinator, at conservation@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au. Such information helps Bushwalking Victoria build its case with government and decision making.

Operate and maintain chainsaws accreditation training

9 May 2015

We will offer a one-day accredited course AHCARB205A to our volunteer track workers on Saturday 9 May, to be held at Drouin. The cost is \$130 per person. We will cover the cost of the course for any volunteer who has worked on two or more BTAC activities in the last three years. We will refund the cost to others on the completion of three BTAC activities. The number of participants is capped at 10 and we will give preference to people who already know how to use a chainsaw, but do not have a certificate.

If you are interested, please contact Charlie Ablitt, BTAC Projects Coordinator, at conservation@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au.

Leadership training for project and crew leaders – advance notice

We are planning a two-day course to be held at Gembrook on Saturday 18 July and Sunday 19 July. The first day will be a modified version of relevant units from the Bushwalking Victoria Leadership Course. The second day will include a simulated, hands-on track maintenance exercise in the bush.

Megan Major
Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation Convener

Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation (BTAC) Program

Australian Alpine Walking Track clearing – Omeo area

6-9 March 2015

We will again be working with Parks Victoria to keep this section of track open in an area of vigorous regrowth of vegetation.

We are looking for people willing to camp out and trim regrowth vegetation using loppers and motorised tools. We will provide training to those willing to learn how to use these tools, so previous experience is not mandatory.

There will be jobs to suit volunteers who do not wish to use these tools, including removing cut materials from the track and clearing of the run-off channels.

We are looking to put on the traditional pot roast!

For more information or to register an expression of interest, contact Charlie Ablitt at: conservation@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au.

Charlie Ablitt, Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation Projects
Coordinator

Australian Alps Walking Track clearing – Rock Shelter to Talbot Peak

20-23 March 2015

Bushwalking clubs and individuals are invited to join local Parks Victoria staff, Friends of Baw Baw National Park and the Strzelecki Bushwalking Club over a four day track clearing activity on the Baw Baw Plateau (Baw Baw National Park) between Friday 20 March and Monday 23 March 2015.

The activity will focus on clearing the Australian Alps Walking Track between the Rock Shelter and Talbot Peak. This will further enhance walking opportunities in Baw Baw National Park following the completion of track works in the remote Mt Whitelaw area of the park in 2012.

Parks Victoria will establish a base camp for the activity at Jeep Track Flat from early Friday 20 March. Access to the base camp is via the St Gwinear car park or Baw Baw Village. Parks Victoria will supply fresh fruit, general consumables, energy food and meals for participants who register an interest in attending. Ample water will be available at the base camp.

Volunteers will need to bring camping gear, sturdy footwear and wet weather clothing.

Participants are welcome for whatever time they can spare and there will be a variety of tasks to complete from very easy to arduous. All safety gear will be provided by Parks Victoria.

For further information or to register your interest in the activity, contact the Parks Victoria Latrobe Ranger in Charge, Andy Gillham, on 5172 2186, mobile 0428 333 464 or email agillham@parks.vic.gov.au.

NOTE: The activity leader may cancel or postpone the activity at short notice due to extreme weather conditions.

Andy Gillham, Parks Victoria Latrobe Ranger-in-Charge

Boneseed weeding, Arthurs Seat

2 May 2015

Bayside Bushwalking Club, the Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) and the [South Peninsula Indigenous Flora and Fauna Association \(SPIFFA\)](#) will hold a Boneseed weeding day on Saturday 2 May at Arthurs Seat. Other clubs with Boneseed-weeding blocks might like to add the weeding their blocks to the day's activity. Any bushwalker who would like to join us is welcome to come and help us keep this weed under control.

For more information or to indicate whether you or your club would like to join the activity, contact Charlie Ablitt at conservation@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au.



Kids Adventure Outdoors Weekend

11-12 April 2015

Once again Bushwalking Victoria will support the Kids Adventure Outdoors weekend. This year, the event will be held at Anglesea. The activity is primarily focused on children aged 5-12.

Members of bushwalking clubs and Individual members of Bushwalking Victoria who are current or former teachers and others who have Working With Children accreditation are invited to register an expression of interest in helping lead walks. Different walks will cater for very young and for older children. There may be a distance walk for the more fit children, depending on the number of registrations.

If you are interested in helping during this weekend, please contact me at conservation@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au. Include a phone number so I can telephone you and discuss the activity and opportunities for participation.

Charlie Ablitt, Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation Projects
Coordinator



Invitation to Participate in Nest Boxing Weekends, 2015

21-22 March 18-19 April 16-17 May

The nest box program has been in operation for over 13 years. 381 boxes are in place, with Squirrel Gliders and Sugar Gliders nesting in about two-thirds of them. An increasing number of boxes contain the Stringybark nests of the rare Brush-tailed Phascogale.

The basic problem facing all of these animals is an extreme shortage of natural tree hollows because the old trees were heavily cleared decades ago and the regrowth forests are still far too young to have hollows. Nest boxes help fill this need.



Regular checking of the nest boxes helps us to discover preferred habitats in different seasons, the breeding success of particular colonies, barriers to wildlife movement across the landscape and determine areas in which to place additional boxes. It also enables us to monitor unwanted species (eg, starlings, feral bees or rats) that might be taking over the boxes.

The box locations have been accurately mapped on 1:25,000 contour maps, and **there are careful descriptions to help people 'home in' on the exact location.**

GPS fixes: **It's critical to use the GDA 1994 mapping** co-ordinates to ensure you are at the correct nest box. (UTM/UTS WGS 84 in the GPS menu.)

Activities

- Checking nest boxes to see the wildlife at home
- Recording data for our ongoing research investigations
- Sharing insights from our day's observations
- BBQ tea (BYO food and drink)

Accommodation

- Own arrangements
- OR
- Free accommodation at Benalla Scout Hall
 - Mattresses supplied
 - BYO sleeping bag and pillow
 - Minor kitchen facilities available
 - BYO tent if you prefer to camp outside

Meals

- BYO lunch and drinks for Saturday and Sunday as we are out all day
- BYO food and drink for the Saturday night BBQ

Personal gear

- Sun screen, hat, sturdy shoes, long trousers
- Sock protectors to keep out grass seeds

Group gear

Please let me know if you can bring any group equipment, eg:

- 5-6m extension ladder
- Roof rack and rope to carry ladder
- Tow bar to carry a ladder on one of our trailers
- A compass for map reading
- GPS unit for easy location of boxes

Meeting

- 9.30 am Saturday; 9.00am Sunday
- Regent Honeyeater Nursery, Sydney Rd, Benalla
Located at the Yooralla Community Farm, about 1km past the Mitre 10 store
Look for the steel gates and cattle grid
We're behind the buildings at the end of the long drive

Bookings

- Please let me know the number of people expected
- And any of the extra group equipment you can supply

Contact

Ray Thomas:

- Business hours (03) 5761 1515
- email ray@regenthoneyeater.org.au

Ray Thomas, Coordinator, Regent Honeyeater Project

Australia Day Honours for Parks Victoria Rangers

Two Parks Victoria Staff have been awarded Australia Day 2105 Honours.

- Andy Gillham, Ranger in Charge, Fire and Emergency Operations, Central Gippsland – Australian Fire Service Medal

Andy has been awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal for his contribution to reducing the risk and impact of bushfires on Victorian communities. Andy has provided more than 30 years of service in fire and emergency management, and has led operations as a level three incident controller. **Andy is one of the South East region's most experienced fire planning officers.** He has worked on countless fires in Victoria including the Alpine Fires 2002-03, Wilsons Promontory 2005, Great Divide Fire 2006-07, Black Saturday 2009 and the Gippsland Fires 2014.

Bushwalkers know Andy best as Latrobe Ranger-in-Charge and from many track maintenance activities he has organised in the Baw Baw National Park. Andy has been a great supporter of bushwalking and Bushwalking Victoria for many years. His interest and support of BTAC and its predecessor, BEC, has directly benefited all bushwalkers in the parks in which he has worked. So recognition of his contribution, even if not in activities that directly benefit bushwalking, is especially welcomed by the bushwalking community.

- Cam Beardsell, Ranger, North East Melbourne District – Order of Australia Medal

Cam received an Order of Australia Medal for his service to conservation and the environment in Victoria. Cam has worked for Parks Victoria for the past 10 years and in the management of the environment for almost 40 years. Since the Black Saturday Fires in 2009, Cam's work has included the understanding and monitoring of the effects of the unprecedented fires on the flora in the Kinglake National Park.

Congratulations to Andy and Cam for their contributions to our community.

Source: <http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/about-us/news/australia-day-honours>

Bushfires and Planned Burns

Before setting off on a bushwalk, it is advisable to check the location of bushfires, other emergencies and planned burns.

With Parks Victoria, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) manages fire on Victoria's 7.6 million hectares of public land (about one third of the state). Visit the *Fire and Emergencies* page of the DELWP website at <http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/fire-and-emergencies> for the latest information about:

- [Current Warnings, bushfires and incidents](#)
- [Planned burns now and the next 10 days](#)
- [Managing bushfire risk](#)
- [Closures of parks and forests.](#)

The webpages include pertinent and comprehensive information that will help our understanding of fire danger and its control.

Managing risk

The DELWP's *Managing bushfire risk* page explains how land managers manage risk. Managing the risks of being in an area of potential or actual bushfire or adverse weather conditions is also the responsibility of clubs, walk leaders and walkers, all of whom to varying degrees, should be familiar with **the information in Outdoor Victoria's *Management of Outdoor Activities for Severe Weather Conditions*** available at

http://outdoorsvictoria.org.au/activity_standards_resources.php.

Bushfires Take Heavy Toll on the Bibbulmun Track

The recent bushfires in the south west of Western Australia have affected a number of Bibbulmun Track campsites and a significant amount of infrastructure. You can see images of the damage when you visit the Bibbulmun Track Foundation website at <https://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/>.

The following sections are closed and may remain closed for many months:

1. From [Mt Dale to Randall Rd](#)
2. From [Dwellingup to Collie](#)
3. Between [Pemberton and Northcliffe](#)
4. Between [Northcliffe and Walpole](#).

If you are planning an end-to-end walk in 2015, you will have to postpone your walk until the fire-affected sections are assessed, declared safe and reopened.

Source: Bibbulmun Track Foundation

<https://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/news/latest/bushfires-close-track>



Thin Green Line

Every day, in many developing countries and conflict zones, park rangers risk their lives to protect wildlife and habitats from poaching and other threats. **Sadly, it's estimated that over 1,000 park rangers have been killed in the line of duty over the past 10 years, 75% by commercial poachers and armed militia groups.**

The park rangers are generally under-equipped, underpaid and under-appreciated. But they are heroes and the Thin Green Line Foundation works to provide them with the support they need to continue to protect threatened species around the world.

The Thin Green Line Foundation protects Nature's Protectors by providing vital support to park rangers and their communities who are the front-line of conservation. It provides rangers on the front-line of conservation with essential anti-poaching equipment and training, and financial support to the widows and orphans of park rangers killed in the line of duty.

Through its work, the Thin Green Line aims to ensure that:

- Park rangers are valued for their vital role at the front line of conservation
- Park rangers have the ability to defend themselves when in contact situations with poachers
- Park rangers are provided with decent working conditions and a living wage
- Park rangers are provided with the skills and tools they need
- Park rangers' families and communities have on-going support when rangers are injured or killed in the line of duty.

The Thin Green Line Foundation was founded by conservationist, documentary filmmaker and Park Ranger, Sean Willmore. Sean Willmore and the Thin Green Line Foundation have been recognised globally for their conservation efforts, including:

- [Banksia International Award \(2014\)](#)
- [Pride of Australia Medal \(2013\)](#)
- [Melbourne Award for Contribution to Sustainability \(2013\)](#)
- [United Nations Association of Australia Environment Award \(2009\)](#)

To find out more or to donate, visit the Thin Green Line website at <http://www.thingreenline.org.au/>, Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/thethinggreenlinefoundation?ref=stream&fref=nf>, Twitter at <https://twitter.com/thinggreenline1> or YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/user/ThinGreenLineFoundation>.

To get involved, go to <http://thinggreenline.org.au/get-involved/>.

Contact information:

The Thin Green Line Foundation C/O Parks Victoria HQ
Level 10, 535 Bourke Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
Ph: 03 8680 2103
Email: info@thinggreenline.org.au

Online Booking of Camp Sites

Making complaints

Bushwalking Victoria has received a number of complaints from club members about the difficulty of using Parks Victoria's **campsite booking system**.

If you have experienced issues using the online system, notify your complaints, feedback and suggestions to Parks Victoria via the [Contact Us Form](#) on its website or by phoning the Information Centre on 13 1963.

The more feedback - both complaints and suggestions - Park Victoria gets, the greater chance that it might change the booking system. If you know people who have had problems, please ask them to provide comment to Parks Victoria. Note: if Bushwalking Victoria puts in a complaint on behalf of members, it is likely that it will be counted as a single instance of complaint.

Telephone booking fee

If you experience problems booking online and need to book via the telephone, the booking fee for overnight hikes is \$10 for each booking for up to 8 people and \$15 for a group booking for more than 8 people.

There is no phone booking fee for means tested concession card holders and Victorian Seniors card holders.

Draft Walking Strategy for Kakadu National Park Released

The draft *Walking Strategy for Kakadu* has been produced for Kakadu has been released for comment.

The purpose of the Walking Strategy for Kakadu National Park is to identify new bushwalking opportunities, track upgrades for visitors with physical impairments, ensure management and protection of cultural sites, look at unique business and employment opportunities for local Indigenous people (guided walks), and investigate new systems for permitting systems for overnight bushwalking and methods for providing pre-visit and on-site information.

Strategy documents:

- [Kakadu walking strategy - Summary \(PDF - 5.21 MB\)](#)
- [Kakadu walking strategy \(PDF - 2.49 MB\)](#)

Comments are invited. Send comments to kakadu.permits@environment.gov.au.

Deadline for comments: COB Friday 20 March 2015.

For queries, please contact Tracey Diddams, Manager, Tourism & Visitor Services, Kakadu National Park at Tracey.diddams@environment.gov.au or phone 08 8938 1107.

It is intended that the final Walking Strategy for Kakadu will be endorsed by the Kakadu Board and Management and ready for implementation mid-2015.

Australian Government, Department of Environment
<http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/walking-strategy>

Long-distance Walks in Australia

We all know about the AAWT (Victoria-NSW-ACT), the Bibbulman (WA) and the Heysen Trail (SA), the wonderful long-distance walks in Australia. Here are two more long-distance walks you may not be aware of.

Federation Track, NSW-ACT-Victoria-SA

The Federation Track is a 3,000km bushwalking route from Circular Quay in Sydney to Adelaide, with a 200km spur to Canberra.



The track traverses coastal areas, native bushland, alpine plateaus, eucalyptus forests, open plains, rainforests, farmland and towns. The track caters for walkers doing day walks along shorter sections, walkers completing the entire route in a series of shortish walking holidays and experienced long-distance backpackers.

Two guides are available:

- Bill Avery, *Circular Quay to Stanwell Park*, Kangaroo Press, 1996 (160 pages) AU\$15, available from bill@federationtrack.com.au
- Bill Avery, *Melbourne to Twelve Apostles*, Australian Ebook Publisher, 2013 (489 pages) US\$4.99, available from Amazon, iTunes and Kobo.

You can also download GPS and waypoints for each of the four sections:

- [Federation Track South](#)
- [Federation Track West](#)
- [Federation Track Capital](#)
- [Federation Track North](#).

Source: <http://federationtrack.com.au/>

Aussie Camino, Victoria-SA

The Camino Australia - MacKillop-Woods Way is a pilgrimage route running from Portland in Victoria to Penola in South Australia inspired by the life and journeys of Australia's Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Based on the

traditions of the Camino de

Santiago de Compostela, pilgrims receive passports, scallop shells and stay in the local hotels in towns along the way. Although the Aussie Camino is designed to be self-guided for groups of around 20-30 participants, it can also be done by individuals with the assistance of a guidebook.

Visit the Aussie Camino website at <http://www.aussiecamino.org/g/wordpress/> to find out

more. There are also a number of informative blogs about the walk.



Source: <http://www.aussiecamino.org/wordpress/>

A Rant from the Editor

Bushwalking, the 2nd most popular outdoor activity! So what?



Sources - club numbers: Outdoors Victoria data, 2015.
 participation: Australian Sport Commission, "Participation in Exercise, Recreation and Sport, 2010"

Source: **Outdoors Victoria, Victoria's outdoor recreation community, February 2015**
<https://www.facebook.com/outdoorsvictoria?fref=ts>

Bushwalking is the second most popular outdoor activity according to a survey carried out by Outdoor Victoria. Cycling is the most popular. Outdoor Victoria estimates that 200,000 Victorians bushwalked in 2010 and 555,000 cycled. So the question is: why doesn't bushwalking get a commensurate level of government support? Why do four-wheel drivers and shooters and hunters, whose participant numbers are only 40% of bushwalker numbers, have the ear of government? The answer: because they demand it.

So bushwalkers – as clubs and as individuals - contact your local member of parliament, state and federal as relevant, and demand due government consideration, recognition and funding. Write to newspapers, tweet, blog, agitate! We need to tread softly in the environment, but not with decision makers and decision influencers. We need to leave a strong trace with government and land managers. Whinging among ourselves alters nothing. Signing petitions is not enough. To decision makers the number of signatories is immaterial. A petition, whether it has one signature or 10,000, is considered a single representaion. Sign them, but back them up by making an individual effort.

The Board of Bushwalking Victoria works hard to achieve better bushwalking for Victorians. But it is only one voice and until it is actively and vocally backed by bushwalkers and bushwalking clubs its voice is not heard as loudly as better financed organisations with a more politically active membership.

Joslin Guest, Editor, Bushwalking News Victoria

Contributions

Email or post news, views, club profiles, articles, photographs, sketches and letters on any topic of interest to bushwalkers (publication is subject to editorial approval) to: editor@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au or
24 Moorhouse Street
Camberwell Victoria 3124

Deadline for the April 2015 edition: Monday 16 March 2015.

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

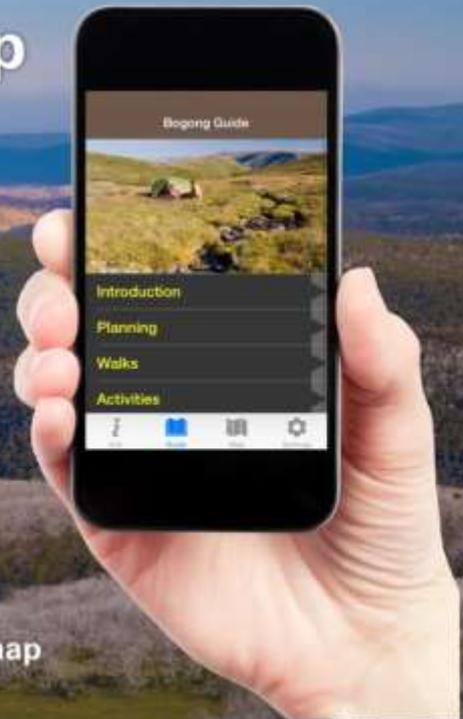
Advertisements

Seven-day camel safaris
from Coward Springs in Outback South Australia
2015: June 10th - 16th; June 24th - 30th; July 8th - 14th

A safe outback adventure - phone Prue (08)8675 8336; (08)8559 6144
Details at www.cowardsprings.com.au



Bogong Alpine Area Outdoor Recreation App



Take Spatial Vision's award-winning SVmaps with you on your iPhone with the latest ORG map of the Bogong Alpine Area.

Discover the remarkable history of the area as you travel through the region on foot or by car. Find the best location to set up camp, have a picnic or go on a bushwalk whilst storing all of your favourite walks in the App.

Download the latest ORG iPhone Apps



Bogong



Buller Howitt



Wilsons Prom

www.svmaps.com.au

Who's Who at Bushwalking Victoria Bushwalking Victoria

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ABN: 88344 633 037

Office:

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Charles Ablitt Vice-President VP@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au 0400 967 054

Fred Bover Secretary secretary@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au 0439 002 844

John Creaser Treasurer treasurer@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au 0498 654 091

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Robyn Shingles robyn@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au 0419 501 666

Chris Towers chris@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au 0427 358 869

Standing Committees:

Peter Campbell Bush Search & Rescue Victoria
Convener convener@bsar.org

Megan Major Bushwalking Tracks & Conservation
Convener tracks@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

Charles Ablitt Bushwalking Tracks & Conservation
Projects Coordinator conservation@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

Phil Brotchie Land Management Submissions land@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

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