



Conservation Activity

On Sunday 16th March YHA Bushwalking is running a conservation day in conjunction with Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA). This is something we have been wanting to do for a while and now we are finally meeting people's requests!

The location will be on the Lilydale-Warburton rail trail. The track requires weeding and clearing in order to make way for a new planting, which is planned for the near future. Our job will be to help with the weeding and clearing. CVA has some innovative ways to clear weeds - it's not just hard yakka! CVA is supporting the "Friends" group of this area with equipment and human power. Last week 27 enthusiastic people turned out to help with the project.

If you have used the rail trail you will undoubtedly understand its value to cyclists and walkers and have an understanding of the amount of use it gets. Come along on this social, energetic and very worthwhile event. All fitness levels catered for!

The meeting place is Spencer St station as usual, but likely to be at 8:15am instead of the usual 8:45. CVA will provide transport out to the trail in their minibus where we start getting to know our fellow conservation workers. Otherwise, bring everything you would normally bring on a day walk, especially food, water and sun protection.

CVA would like to know by **1st March** in order to coordinate transport and have enough equipment.

If you are interested in joining us, please e-mail yhabush@wildmail.com or call Jean Braakhuis on 9598 8619. Jean will be unable to reply to any calls or e-mails until 1st March, but if you leave your name and number, she will get back to you as soon as she can. If you don't hear from her over that w/e (1st-2nd March) please contact her again as the message machine may have been full when you called.

Upcoming Weekend Trips

Formal Dinner Walk, 5th – 6th April

This walk has been re-located and now re-scheduled due the still-burning fires. Hopefully the fire risk will be gone by April, but the final location will remain a mystery until closer to the date. If you've ever longed to sip cocktails on a mountaintop, while dressed in an evening frock or dinner suit, then this walk is for you. But please be sure you're fit enough to carry the backpack full of formal-wear, food and booze up the mountain. To book, enquire at Clubnight or phone David Ford (cocktail-maker extraordinaire) on 9571 3179.

Wandiligong, Easter weekend 18th – 21st April

This is a base camp weekend at Camp Wandiligong, just a few kilometres out of Bright. Accommodation is in dorm-style rooms and there is a large communal kitchen and dining room. There will be numerous day walk options, as well as the many other things you can see and do in the area. Don't be put off by the recent bushfires - the locals need you to pump some money into their depleted economy. You can start by buying a slice of giant sponge cake at Wandiligong Maze! Transport to and from Wandiligong will be by car-pooling.

To book, enquire at Clubnight or phone Ron Bell on 9338 4057.

Mount Disappointment, 17th – 18th May, arriving Friday evening.

Cost is \$55 for YHA members, \$59 for non-members. Rooms may be booked for 2 to 4 people at \$60-\$64 each. To find out what great fun they had on last year's trip to Mt Disappointment, turn to page 3.

To book onto this year's trip, enquire at Clubnight or phone Ron Bell on 9338 4057.

YHA BUSHWALKING COMMITTEE 2002/03

Chairman	David Ford	9571 3179
Secretary	Jean Braakhuis	9598 8619
Treasurer	Linda Butcher	0411536338
Walks Sec.	vacant	
Social Sec.	Simon Wallis	9867 6902
S & R	Ken Sussex	9853 1017
Committee	Rob Adams	9376 2694
	Ron Bell	9338 4057
Equipment	Stephen Smith	9387 6481
	Andrew Brown	9484 5273
	Jeff James	9847 8046
	David Pawley	9690 5715
	Neil Warden	8790 3519
Newsletter	Jane Harding	9525 6462

YHA Bushwalking emergency mobile phone (For emergency contact on walks) 0428 313 880 (not always in range)

Enquiry phone 0500 500 272 (for info on club)

It is important to the committee that walks and activities run smoothly and are enjoyable and safe. If there is any aspect of a walk, including the behaviour of other walkers that causes concern, please contact the Chairman. All matters will be treated confidentially.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO YETI

Contributions to YETI are welcome subject to editorial approval. You may send news, articles, gossip, letters etc relating to bushwalking to YETI, GPO Box 25 Melbourne 3001, or via e-mail to neiljane@bigpond.com (jane harding). If you do not have the time to write, please contact Jane with details of your contribution.

TRIP LEADERS

If you wish to have a brief description of your upcoming trip printed here in YETI please contact the editor with the details.

TRIP CARD

YHA Bushwalking trip card is available at clubnight. A single payment of \$30 (\$25 concession) covers all trip fees for the year. Purchasers must be current financial members of YHA Victoria.

YHA ACTIVITIES CLUBNIGHT

Is held on Monday nights at the YWCA building, 489 Elizabeth Street in the city, from 8pm to approx. 9:30pm. New members welcome.

CLUBNIGHT SPECIAL EVENTS

All welcome. Come along for an enjoyable evening. Proceedings start at 8:15pm sharp!

Before clubnights that feature a talk or slide show, walkers meet at La Porchetta near the Vic Market from 7pm for pizza or pasta. If you wish to join us please check with one of the committee members before attending.

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

If you recognise an article in this newsletter it is probably because it has been plagiarised from another source. This is the only way we can bring you this newsletter. YETI makes no apology for any offence caused.

Chairman's Report

This is my last report as chairman after serving for two years. The AGM is at 8pm, Monday 31st March 2003 at the YWCA, and I wish the new chairman all the best (the position is still vacant). I would like to thank all the committee members for their support and involvement. Special thanks go to Jean Braakhuis (secretary), Linda Butcher (treasurer), Simon Wallis (social and Monday night coordinator), Jane Harding (Yeti Editor) and all the walks committee: particularly Rob Adams, Stephen Smith and David Sisson. Rob Adams deserves a repeat mention for his many years of service, as he is not standing for election to the new committee. Thanks Rob. All the committee members are listed on the back of the program. Please give a thought to their time, effort and dedication. Thanks also to all the leaders. Well done.

We still do not have a walks secretary. So if anyone is interested, please contact me. The last three programs have been organised by the walks committee with one person coordinating the overall program. Those coordinators have been, Rob Adams, Stephen Smith and myself. David Sisson has been coordinating the weekend trips. Thanks.

In order for the club to continue to be successful it needs a diverse range of people and skills on the committee. Diverse includes people who like to do easy walks, medium walks, challenging walks, and social nights. It means people who participate in walks or those who lead walks. So it means you! Please make the effort to come to the AGM. If you are interested in standing for the committee or helping in other ways, please contact me or any member of the committee.

I mentioned this last time, but it needs mentioning again. On weekend trips the booking form information regarding transport is particularly important. Without it the leader has to chase people to obtain information before they can arrange car-pooling. Please ensure you provide the information requested (it only takes a minute) and make the leader's job that little bit easier.

Ron Bell did a splendid job organising the bush dance in 2002. It's on again in 2003 on 2 May at Collingwood Town Hall. Monday night 14 July 2003: the YWCA club meeting room will not be available, as the whole conference centre has been booked out for the week. We will be at the Stork Hotel, entrance via Therry street.

Bushfires have caused much devastation in the last five months. We are now in Autumn but the risk of fire is still high. All walkers should consider very carefully where and when they are going. There are many sources of information by phone or on the web. Some are: Bureau of Meteorology, Parks Victoria, Department of Sustainability and the Environment. Please also think of the support you can give to country towns that are also struggling with drought as well.

As a bushwalking club we use the environment, how about you give something back? YHA Bushwalking has organised with Conservation Volunteers Australia to do some weeding and clearing on the Lilydale - Warburton rail trail on 16 March. See story on front page for more details.

David Ford (Chairman YHA Bushwalking)

Mt Disappointment weekend, May 2002

By Neville Hesketh

Mt Disappointment's name is attributed to the C19 explorers Hume and Hovell, who were unable to see the long anticipated Melbourne coastline when they reached a summit near King Lake in the mid 1800's.

However, the ten Essendon bushwalkers who attended Ron Bell's weekend at Mt Disappointment in May 2002 were far from disappointed as the excellent facilities, generosity of the hosts, the unique big tree rainforests in this area, and the friendship of the forty YHA members who joined us there made it a really special weekend.

A large open fire place, freshly picked apples from the nearby orchard, an endless supply of tea and coffee and freshly baked fruit cake set the tone for our Friday evening arrival.

After a hearty breakfast on Saturday morning, we had a choice of walking with Ron Bell, or experiencing navigational training with Colin Cody.

With the sole supply of our own lunch on Saturday, the whole weekend's catering was efficiently arranged on schedule by our hosts, and included little treats like fruit scones, jam and cream for supper on Saturday, and an apple crumble dessert to supplement our chicken and kangaroo roast with Sunday's lunch.

While walking in this forested area is memorable and invigorating, the evening's spontaneous social events around the log fire also provided many happy moments for all visitors too.

Sunday morning, and another hearty breakfast, offered horse riding or further walks in the King Lake forests, with a memorable highlight of seventeen walkers with arms fully extended required to "hug" the base of one of the largest mountain ashes Ron has discovered in this area.

Ron continues to discover and share his food and accommodation packages with great enthusiasm, and we consider, at a mere \$40/head, that this is one weekend trip you should not miss.

We'll certainly be attending again, and we hope that Club members will provide greater support to Ron next time he arranges a trip to Mt Disappointment.

(This article originally appeared in the newsletter of the Essendon Bushwalking Club, August 2002.)

Twilight Walks

By Jane Harding

Last weekend I took part in my first YHA Bushwalk since the birth of my daughter 13 months ago. And I took the whole family along. How was I able to do this? Well, it was a Friday night twilight walk. Colin and Christine (C & C) have been running these walks in Spring and Summer for a few years now, and they are a perfect way to start your weekend. The walks usually start at an inner-suburban railway station at 6:30pm. Last week it was at Royal Park, just outside the Melbourne Zoo, and a few weeks ago it was Williamstown.

C & C pick out an 'urban bushwalk' route of about five kilometres, so the walk is usually finished by 8pm. The terrain is fairly gentle, perfect for pushing the three-wheeler pram. Then it's off to a nearby café for a late dinner. C & C are also experts at finding good, cheap places to eat. Those baked potatoes were sensational.

If you haven't done a bushwalk for a while, I can recommend doing a twilight walk. It's a nice way to warm up for longer walks and also a good way to 'get a walk in' if your weekend is already busy. I caught up with some friends recently who had done the Williamstown walk. It was their first YHA walk in a long time and they were delighted to find that many other 'old YHAers' were also on the walk. Amongst this group was a former YHA Bushwalking Chairman with his wife and toddler. This got me thinking that those of us in YHA who have become parents in recent years should maybe get together for some family-friendly walks. If you are interested, or know someone who might be interested, please e-mail me on neiljane@bigpond.com or phone me on 9525 6462.

Sadly there are no more twilight walks on the Autumn program. But watch out for them starting up again in Spring.

The Booted Chefs

by David Lewis and Sheridan Meagher

Episode 2 - 'Nelson Lakes St.Arnaud Range'

Late March was a trip to New Zealand and our first overseas walking trip. The foodie side of the trip started in the Riccarton Market. This Sunday morning summer market in the racecourse on the outskirts of Christchurch has some 500 stalls and is a brilliant place to get fresh produce. Being apple season we collected some fresh apples, the cheese man provided good advice on what would keep without refrigeration for a few days (hard cheeses will generally keep better), there are stalls selling seed mixes (ideal scroggin), and homemade muesli bars (more variety of ingredients and lower fat than the shop variety - and they taste good). We had our bushwalking lunch.

The actual bushwalking was in Nelson Lakes, which is a fabulous place. Bare mountain tops with beech forest going down to the edge of the lake. We started at lunch by boiling up some green lip mussels bought for \$3/kg. An excellent way to start a bush walk, but remember if they don't open up while boiling, don't eat them.

The walk started at the Mt.Robert ski-field car park. The ascent is a mixture of open tussock and then beech forest until you hit the top of the ridge. At this stage we were behind schedule and as we headed up the ridge the mist became thicker and thicker until we couldn't see from one snow pole to another. It was time to turn back as the route became snow polls only a kilometre on.

We headed down the mountain on an alternate route past the Bushline Hut (nice hut this- with a wood stove, 16 bunks and unbeatable views) back down to the lakeside. We then turned right along the lakeshore and started toward Coldwater Hut. This is a very nice track with a few stream crossings, but nothing to get our feet wet. We arrived in the dark at Coldwater Hut (don't always believe the times on the sign board).

The meal was quite simple here. We boiled some water with a small quantity of dehydrated peas. When cooked we added instant mashed potato and tinned salmon. The brine from the salmon tin is good to add to as we've found we prefer our food salty when walking to compensate for what we've lost. We then fried the mixture (the little sealed olive oil container from Air New Zealand worked a treat) to make fish cakes, the key to these being to add enough potato for a dry mixture.

This was the second time with the fish cakes. Our previous experience was on Mt.Buller when we had chocolate pudding with them. Cottee's instant chocolate pudding sets reasonably well in quite warm conditions, and we threw in some marshmallows for variety on Mt.Buller. At Coldwater we had hard goat's cheese, an Italian style hard cheese, some grapes, and some herbed bread rolls. Next morning we woke up to a splendid view of the lake and mountains. We didn't even have to leave our bunks.

In case you didn't know: To stay in a hut in New Zealand you need hut tickets (available from the Department of Conservation). It's an honesty system but the tickets only cost \$5 NZ. Coldwater Hut is the cheapest type of hut and costs one ticket per person (best view of the trip for \$4.15 AUD). Most other huts in this national park cost no more than two tickets, but too many tourists use these great facilities and don't pay. Such behaviour is undermining the hut system in New Zealand, which is there for all bushwalkers to enjoy. So please make sure that whoever goes to New Zealand pays their way (and rip a few strips off those who don't).

Articles Wanted

YETI is always on the lookout for stories about recent bushwalks, or articles about general bushwalking issues. So if you've been meaning to put pen to paper, or have found a good article, please let the YETI editor (Jane Harding) know. Jane can be contacted by e-mail on neiljane@bigpond.com or by phone on 9525 6462.