



If undelivered, please return to PO Box 264, Shepparton 3632

SHEPPARTON ADVENTURE CLUB inc. A0002706S

NEWSLETTER Dec 2011- Jan 2012

www.vicnet.net.au/~sac1

Affiliated member of



Barmah Forest, beside Broken Creek

Next meeting **Tuesday 28 Feb** 2012 - BBQ at SAC shed beside Victoria Lake
From 6pm, a chance to paddle a canoe or kayak. **BRING A FRIEND**
BBQ available, byo food & drink. (Tom Collins Drive past Aquamoves pool)

Newsletter Printing:

Our newsletter printing is kindly sponsored by Wendy Lovell, Member for Northern Victoria

The Hon. Wendy Lovell MP
Minister for Housing and
Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development

138 Welsford Street
Shepparton Victoria 3630
Phone 03 5821 0055
Fax 03 5831 1062

The SHEPPARTON ADVENTURE CLUB Inc.

General Meeting: 4th Tuesday of the months: February, April, June, August, October
usually: 7:30 pm at the Mechanics Institute, Wyndham St, Shepparton.
Committee Meeting: Monthly at 8pm.
Correspondence to: The Secretary SAC, PO Box 264, Shepparton 3632
Email: sacvicau@yahoo.com.au

OFFICE BEARERS

President	Chris Halpin	0417 516703	
Vice President	Richard Graves	5824 2929	
Secretary	Cathy O'Brien	5831 5068	
Treasurer	Scott Birchall	5831 6063	scottbirchall@aapt.net.au (for email distribution to members)
Committee Members	Richard Cameron	0428 486402	
	Bruce Gill	5824 2548	

CO-OPTED POSITIONS

Newsletter Editor	Greg Smith	5824 1143	gregs@g-mwater.com.au
Equipment Officer	Maartje Heuperman	5824 1543	
Publicity Officer	Maartje Heuperman	5824 1543	
Calendar Coordinator	vacant		
Mid-week coordinator	Robyn Fennell	5824 1724	
Web Master	Greg Smith	5824 1143	

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Initial Club Joining Fee	\$5
Single Club Membership	\$25
Family Club Membership	\$40 plus \$5 per nominated child aged 5 to 16 years
Concession – Single Membership	\$20 - Pensioner/Senior/Student Cardholders
Concession – Family Membership	\$35 - Pensioner/Senior/Student Cardholders

Membership benefits

Your Bushwalking Vic membership card enables you to obtain discounts at a number of retailers including Ajays (Heathmont), Bogong (Melb), Bushwackers (Essendon), EMC (Deepdene), Melb Map Centre (Malvern East), The Wilderness Shop (Box Hill), Outsports (Moorabbin), Paddy Pallin, Pinnacle, Snowgum, Escape 2 (South Wharf DFO).

You can also become a member of Anaconda, Columbia, Ray's Outdoors and Snowgum for free and thereafter obtain discounts.

Sunrise & Sunset (Melbourne GPO)

Fri 13 Jan	0612	2045	EDST	Fri 27 Jan	0627	2038	EDST
Fri 10 Feb	0643	2025	EDST	Fri 24 Feb	0658	2008	EDST

Full Moons

2012 Sun 8 Jan, Wed 8 Feb, Thu 8 Mar, Sat 7 Apr, Sun 6 May

Source: www.ga.gov.au

President's Report

Hi members,

Happy New Year to all and I hope you have enjoyed a restful Christmas full of good tidings. It was so pleasing to see such a great crowd enjoying the annual Adventure Club Christmas Dinner at the newly renovated Shepp Mechanics Institute hall. The meal was excellent and the company even better.

Congratulations to the prize winners of our photo competition, which was this year judged very professionally by members Greg Smith and Rae Rodgers. Di Hanna, Bruce Gill and Richard Cameron took home the valuable prizes for their outstanding exhibits – thanks to all participants for going to so much trouble and providing happy memories and endless subjects for reminiscing.

We look forward to seeing you all participating in upcoming events and activities – some new canoe and bike tours have been added to our 2012 calendar so have a good look through the list and grab the phone to book your spot. We will accept no excuses for not joining the canoe trips – Richard Graves and I have installed new seats in the old Canadians to make them more 'comfy' (see photo). Please let us know if you have any further suggestions – we are always looking for new ideas.

Cheers for now,
Chris



Working with photos workshops

At the Christmas break up there was some interest in Dianne Hanna's folio of photos and the workshops she was offering.

Dianne is offering these workshops during January at times to suit the participants.....so if anyone would like to follow this up could they get in touch with her?

If you're interested but can't do January then still let Dianne know as she is willing to run more workshops later.

Note there are no charges for these workshops... just an opportunity to explore together.

Dianne Hanna
Ph: 58 289281
Mob: 0437 289281
email: dhanna3@bigpond.com



Calendar of Activities

Date	Activity	Location & details	Grade	Leader	Contact
Sun 22 Jan	Canoeing	Goulburn River paddle near Shepparton, suitable for beginners & families, followed by a BBQ lunch at our shed beside the lake.	Easy	Richard Graves	5824 2929
Wed 25 Jan	Mid-week walk	Moira Park, Shepparton	Easy	Robyn F	5824 1724
22 Feb	Mid-week walk	Lake Sambell, Beechworth	E 5km	Maartje H	5824 1543
14-18 March	Great Ocean Walk , Otways. We will do 3 sections of the walk with day packs. Bunkhouse accommodation at Bimbi Park Caravan Park, Cape Otway. Further details closer to the date, but expressions of interest would be appreciated to allow early booking of accommodation transport, etc. Participant numbers will be limited to 8 persons & will be accepted on a first in basis. Costs will depend on the number attending, but as a rough indication, past trips have cost approx. \$30/head/day plus mileage		E/M	Richard Graves	5824 2929
28 March	Mid-week walk	Barmah	E	Dianne	58 289 281
11 April	Mid-week cycle	Section of the Mansfield to Tallarook Rail Trail . Approx 30 km/day. More details and map at http://www.railtrails.net.au/vic/goulburn_river_high_country/index.htm Participant numbers may need to be limited to available bike trailer capacity. More sections on 9 May and 13 June.	M	Chris Halpin	58313446
20-22 April	Canoeing	Paddle the Edwards River (not suitable for beginners)	E-M	Chris Halpin & Richard Graves	58313446 5824 2929
25 April	Mid-week walk	Strathbogies	E 5.2km	Maartje H	58 241 543
9 May	Mid-week cycle	Section of the Mansfield to Tallarook Rail Trail. Approx 30 km.	M	Chris Halpin	58313446
23 May	Mid-week walk	Reef Hills Park, Benalla	E 9km	Maartje H	58 241 543
13 June	Mid-week cycle	Section of the Mansfield to Tallarook Rail Trail. Approx 30 km.	M	Chris Halpin	58313446
27 June	Mid-week walk	Mt Black, Rushworth	M	Chris Halpin	0417 516703
25 July	Mid-week walk	Echuca	E	Cathie M	0434343327
11-16 August	Jatbula Walk - 5 days Katherine Gorge to Edith Falls, Northern Territory. Early starts and swimming by lunch time. Participant numbers limited to 5 remaining pre-booked spaces on a first in basis. Cost will depend on numbers confirming and travel arrangements to the departure point. Please provide expression of interest by 29 Feb 2012. For Info Sheet and Trail Map email: nitmiluknationalpark@nt.gov.au.		M (contingent on weather)	Justin Halpin	0488 040444
22 August	Mid-week walk	Whipstick Forest	E 6km	Richard G	58 242 929
26 Sept	Mid-week walk	Warby's Salisbury Walk	E/M 4.6km	Robyn F	58 241 724

Date	Activity	Location & details	Grade	Leader	Contact
24 Oct	Mid-week walk	Chiltern Whitebox Walk	E 8.5km	Maartje H	58 241 543
28 Nov	Mid-week walk	Dookie Bushland Reserve	E	Howard	58 289 281

PLEASE RING LEADER OF TRIP TO MAKE SURE IT IS WITHIN YOUR CAPABILITY

Benalla Bushwalking Club trips

21 Jan - Murrindindi River Walk
 28 Jan - High Country Rail Trail ride
 More trips and booking information at <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~benbwclub/index.htm>

26-29 Jan - 4 day Alpine overnight walk
 4-5 Feb - Mt Buffalo

OTHER CLUBS' ACTIVITIES

Border Bushwalking Club (Albury & Wodonga) - www.borderbushwalkingclub.com.au

Wangaratta Out and About Club - <http://members.westnet.com.au/wangoutandabout>

Bendigo Bushwalking and Outdoor Club - <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~gobush/>

And see other club's newsletters at our meetings including Echuca-Moama Bushwalkers.

If you are interested in overnight hikes check out www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

Just follow the step-by-step instructions for access to the site called **Packcarry Vic**

TOTAL FIRE BAN

If a day of TOTAL FIRE BAN is declared please contact the Activity Leader for confirmation whether the activity will go ahead or not.

*Note: TRIP LEADERS – it is imperative for every trip that **temporary members/visitors** sign the "Acknowledgement of Risk Form". These completed forms must be forwarded to the SAC Secretary for filing as soon as possible after the trip – otherwise, in the case of a claim, the insurer will not acknowledge the risk.*

Form can be downloaded from www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au, in http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/forms/Risk_Management_Guidelines.pdf

Emergency Contact Procedures

All enquiries about the return of participants from club activities should first be directed to the activity leader, and then to the Emergency Contact Person (ECP) for the activity if the leader cannot be found.

It is the activity leader's responsibility to organise an ECP and advise him/her (in writing) of trip & participant details and what to do if contact is not made by the nominated time.

Travel Cost Reimbursement

Option 1: Preferred. Fuel Cost per car plus 5 cents per km per car to be split equally between the numbers of people in the car including the driver. If appropriate, the cost of running all vehicles should be shared equally amongst all trip participants.

Option 2: 25 cents per km per car split between all trip participants.

Summary of Public Liability insurance coverage effective from 30 June 2009

Bushwalking, Recreational Walking, Walking, Track/Hut Construction and Maintenance, Caving, Canyoning, Liloing, Abseiling, Alpine Walking (Summer and Winter), Snow Skiing, Canoeing, Kayaking, Boating, Rafting, Swimming, Cycling, Rock Scouring and use of hand held ropes as part of a Bushwalk, Orienteering, Rogaining, Leader Training, Rescue Training and other related instructions where no fee is charged other than to recoup expenses (Errors & Omissions), Voluntary Work for various Charities and not- for-profit organisations.

Activities NOT COVERED include Rock Climbing, Mountaineering, Water Skiing and Animal Riding

WALKSAFE Route Planning - Times (from Walksafe booklet, by VicWalk/BWV)

When planning a route, take the terrain into consideration and estimate the time for completion of each section of the walk. As a rough guide for the average party allow 1 hour for every:

3-4 km on a smooth flat track

1-2 km in rough terrain

plus an additional hour for every:

500m ascent

1000m descent

These times are approximate and need to be modified for fitness, tiredness, pack weight, size and age of party, extreme weather and overgrown or untracked walking. These times do not include rest stops.

Read more at http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/walk_safe.htm

Trip Reports

Mt Howitt hike - Nov 2011

Arriving about nine-ish at the Upper Howqua campsite, Barb, Ian, Kaitlyn and Bruce found John and Alison and Lynne, Chris, Kyle and Ryan had arrived earlier in daylight. Feeling a few spots of rain and seeing lightning in the distance, torchlight introductions were soon curtailed by the need to set up tents and retreat from the heavier rain, which then set in for much of the night.

On Saturday morning, one of the younger starters had been unwell during the night, so our walking party was depleted to only 6. Fortunately we only had to contend with light rain showers as we packed up and hoisted our packs for the first river crossing. Our fearless leader took the lead on the first crossing of the Howqua river, but in a scene reminiscent of the Bike Lesson, the slippery rocks soon had him turned turtle, with heavy pack and cold water giving us all a few seconds of mild panic. However, for the rest of the group, this was a good lesson in how not to cross the river, especially highlighting the benefit of releasing hip and chest straps on our packs before starting each crossing. Fortunately, only pride was injured, and the six or so subsequent river crossings were completed without incident. It was also at this time that the benefits of having a sturdy stick to help one find balance on the often wobbly or slippery stepping stones was recognised. In fact a recurring theme for the walk were the many benefits of a stick, so much so that some of the very many uses of a stick are listed at the end of this report.

We soon left the river (and some of the leeches) to ascend Queens Spur logging road, where high humidity and unpredictable rain showers meant even those of us who hadn't taken an unplanned dip in the river were soaked by the time we made a lunch stop at the Stanley Name Spur track junction. By this time, the rain had largely stopped (and the rest of the leeches left behind), so our walk up to the campsite below the south end of the Crosscut Saw became a lot more pleasant as the views opened up and the breeze took some of the humidity away.

In respect to leeches, normally one would have salt in one's first aid kit to remove them. However, having forgotten to put any in, we found there was sufficient salt on salted peanuts to make the little blighters stop what they were doing and detach themselves!

After setting up camp, Barb, Bruce, Kaitlyn, Alison and John decided that the added spring in our steps (from not carrying packs) would make the 400 metre climb up to the Crosscut saw a worthwhile way to spend the rest of the afternoon. We were amply rewarded for our efforts with magnificent views back east towards Mt Buller, Stirling and the Bluff, to the east down into the Wonnangatta Valley and with the views north along the Saw to Mt Buggery and Mt Speculation.



While a few of us were hoping to 'go to Buggery', it was a fair distance and climb down and up along the x-cut saw to get there, so as well as getting late in the day, we decided Mt Buggery could go to buggery instead. Truly, the track along the top of the Crosscut saw would have been one of the most spectacular walks in Victoria.

On getting back down to base camp at about 6:30, we hoped Ian might have cooked us something spectacular for dinner, but alas, he had only got a fire ready. Nevertheless, we all appreciated our food after the day's significant amounts of activity and enjoyed the fire's warmth as the evening became cool. Craig and Camilla made it in to camp at about 8:00, so we were then all able to relax and prepare for the next day's climb up the ridge again, but this time with packs.

Sunday morning dawned fine and clear, so expectations were good that the views would be even better at the top today. With sun on our backs, we were going by 9:00 and by 10:30 were at the top of the Great Dividing Range. Unfortunately, just as we arrived at the top, so too did a cold change, so re-affirming our knowledge that the weather can change rapidly in the alpine areas. Soon the views were gone and drizzle, wind and possibly sleet were our new companions. We left our packs near the Mt Howitt track junction and took our lunches down to the Vallejo Gantner hut at Macallister Springs, a two kilometre side trip. A unique mountain hut, it was great to be able to have lunch out of the wind and rain, and the 'loo with a view' was apparently also a highlight of the visit for some of our team. On returning to our packs, the weather hadn't improved, so the views of the Devils staircase and from Mt Howitt were

not what they could have been. A short stop on the top of Mt Howitt to recover from the climb was not rewarded with much in the way of views, but I did find another use for a stick - holding my pack up on top of a rock, which made it much easier to put on again not having to bend down and lift it.

With energy levels flagging, spirits were a little daunted by the need to get over 'Big Hill' before we got to our next camp site, but fortunately it did not live up to its name and the track actually traversed around it anyway. A pleasant campsite was arrived at in the saddle below Mt Magdala around 4:30 (well, it would have been more pleasant if not for the 40 knot wind and the rain showers all night) After a short walk to a creek for water, tents were pitched, fallen timber collected and dinners cooked before a game of 500 was played by some of the younger members of the team (and one older member, who was reminded that sitting cross legged in a tent after a big days walk could be quite painful!).

Next morning was a crisp, fine morning - crisp being the operative word, as our tents had been frozen by the night's wind and rain. However, the sun was shining and we still had fuel for our cookers, so after a few hot cups, gear was packed and we were ready for our ascent up Mt Magdala. Magnificent views across the Howqua valley to Mt Buller and Stirling awaited us through Hell's window, and the climb up Mt Magdala was just beautiful in the sunshine. We spent some time admiring the scenery (never enough time though) before heading down to leave the Alpine walking track and seek out civilisation again. We found the Bluff 4wd track and stopped for lunch at Picnic Point, before starting our descent down Helicopter spur, which would take us back to our vehicles and our starting point. This was perhaps the most challenging part of the walk, as the track is ill-defined and the cliffs quite hazardous. Not a route for the faint hearted! After a few false leads, we managed to find a way down, but now being out of the wind and in full sun, the dry and open north facing slopes made for quite a hot afternoons walking. Still, the scenery is spectacular and to see the recovery of the bush after the last decades fires was also quite interesting. At the lower slopes, we found an old logging track (and a spare left hand mirror for the Stansfield's Patrol) to arrive back at the cars around 4.



A fantastic walk through a truly spectacular and beautiful part of the Victorian Alps. Thanks Barb and Ian for organising it and thanks to my fellow hikers for great company.

(Not quite) 101 uses for a stick:

Walking	support when crossing rivers	Holding up a pack on a rock
Poking a fire	moving wet vegetation away from the track	poking down holes
hitting other sticks	losing	poking a fire
digging holes	keeping your balance	regaining balance
taking weight off a dicky knee	pushing things into holes	getting a billy off a fire
pointing at things	supporting a tent fly	pointing at the view
putting dirt back in holes	stirring your tea	cooking marsh-mallows
digging foot holds	a camera rest	a climbing aid
talking about	making fun of	checking depth of puddles
stirring your coffee	burning	levelling your Trangia ...

by Bruce Gill

Mid-week walk Barmah Forest Nov 2011

Our November walk took on some new dimensions....historical and cultural as well as physical and ecological. Our first stop was the new Barmah National Park Heritage centre in Nathalia where the display was particularly interesting and the staff most helpful.... organising for the G.R.A.I.N Store art gallery to be opened especially for us, after our walk and giving us 2 for 1 coffee vouchers for the local bakery.

We then followed the Broken Creek south side car trail to Barmah, noting the old bridges, weirs, remains of earlier thriving settlements of Narioka and Moira and evidence of old farming practices.

At this point the tourism ended and we reverted to our raison d'être and set off on our walk. We started at the Darnya centre and headed south following the Broken Creek loop walk before crossing the Sand ridge Road, passing an aboriginal oven mound and onto the Lakes loop track. We lunched beside the Barmah Lake before meandering along the lake and then retracing our steps and heading back along the vehicular track to the Darnya Centre.

The weather was magic and the abundance of birdlife, old trees and historical debris was a photographer's paradise as evidenced by some of the photos at our Christmas break up. Conversation went to what a truly wonderful place it was, so close to home and so ideal as a camping base for canoeing on the lakes and along the Broken Creek. Hopefully watch this space and something may eventuate for 2012.

We took the direct route back to Nathalia for our mandatory coffee stop before keeping our appointment at the G.R.A.I.N Store. Chris thought we could stir the locals with our choice of partners for the coffee vouchers but eventually used his voucher quite discreetly!! The bakery proved to be another to add to our list of favoured places.

Again Chris' skills were to the fore as he gently wound up the very exuberant and enthusiastic Veronica as she explained the amazing community art project based in the G.R.A.I.N Store. After browsing the impressive work of local artists in the current Barmah National Park exhibition, the eight of us headed back to Shepparton and Tatura, all agreeing it had had been a most enjoyable outing.

If you haven't explored this area or have visitors we can recommend it as a really enjoyable day trip.

by Dianne Hanna



PO Box 1007 Templestowe Vic. 3106
Phone: (03) 8846 4131
Fax: (03) 9846 7473
admin@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au
www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

For overnight hikes check: www.packcarryvic.pbwiki.com

Several brochures on walking safely & softly are available at: www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/brochures.htm

Interactive Map For State Forests

DSE has launched a new interactive map called Public Access Map. During the year, various State Forest vehicle tracks, recreation sites and non-motorised recreational tracks (such as walking tracks and mountain bike tracks) may temporarily close (or partially close with access restrictions) to the public for a range of reasons, including • Fire damage • Flood or storm damage • Maintenance • Seasonal factors (ie. roads closed over winter).

The Public Access Map interactive map will:

- Provide information on current State Forest road, track and site closures
- Provide information on planned closures (roads, tracks or sites planned for future temporary closure due to maintenance or repair works)
- Let you click on closed roads or sites for more detailed information about why they are closed
- Enable you to search by place name, site or road name
- Let you create and print out a PDF closure report with maps and text describing what roads, tracks and sites are closed or planned to be closed.

The link is <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/forests/public-accessmap>

This site will be the best source of current information on State Forest road and site closures and use of it will enable walkers check on road and track closures before they go bush.

At present the website does not include Parks Victoria roads, site and track information. But DSE hope it will later in 2012.

Airlines & stoves - Information for bushwalkers travelling on commercial aircraft

Bushwalkers who are preparing to travel interstate or overseas with their equipment should be extra careful to avoid their gear being impounded or even confiscated by Security or Quarantine. Bushwalking gear can carry seeds and plant or soil borne disease. Fuel is a potential hazard on aircraft and is prohibited on them. Any bottle of fluid is increasingly seen as a security threat, even if it is not flammable.

A bit of planning and a few simple precautions may save hassles and perhaps an unwelcome entanglement with authorities.

Some actions to consider:

- Plan to buy fuel after you arrive, and dispose of it before you return.
- Don't leave traces of fuel in stoves and bottles when you travel.
- Take a stove without a fuel container and purchase a container when you reach your destination. A gas stove may be the most practical type for this arrangement.
- Make arrangements to hire a stove when you arrive.
- Don't carry camping gear in hand luggage.
- Do not have matches or a cigarette lighter in either your hand luggage or checked-in baggage.

There are certain items that must be declared and that require the explicit approval of the airline or aircraft operator before they can be carried on an aircraft. This includes camping stoves and fuel containers.

For further details and information about the packing of such items visit the Civil Aviation Safety Authority website at <http://www.casa.gov.au/dg/luggage/dgtable.htm>

The guidelines for camping stoves seem explicit and reasonable, but the airline still has the right to refuse to carry them or require additional packing or preparation. Therefore it is a good idea to check with the airline before you leave home.

from Bushwalking Australia

http://www.bushwalkingaustralia.org/walkers-info_airlines.html