



**THE HISTORY OF THE  
KOONUNG BUSHWALKING  
CLUB Inc.  
2005-2015**

**By Keith Lierse**

**July 2015.**

# Contents

<b>Preface</b>	
<b>Chapter 1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>
<b>Chapter 2</b>	<b>2005/2006</b>
<b>Chapter 3</b>	<b>2006/2007</b>
<b>Chapter 4</b>	<b>2007/2008</b>
<b>Chapter 5</b>	<b>2008/2009</b>
<b>Chapter 6</b>	<b>2009/2010</b>
<b>Chapter 7</b>	<b>2010/2011</b>
<b>Chapter 8</b>	<b>2011/2012</b>
<b>Chapter 9</b>	<b>2012/2013</b>
<b>Chapter 10</b>	<b>2013/2014</b>
<b>Chapter 11</b>	<b>2014/2015</b>
<b>Appendix A</b>	<b>Foundation Members 2005-2015</b>
<b>Appendix B</b>	<b>Life Members of the Club</b>
<b>Appendix C</b>	<b>Deceased Club Members</b>
<b>Appendix D</b>	<b>Annual Membership Fees 2005-2015</b>
<b>Appendix E</b>	<b>Membership List as at 2015</b>
<b>Appendix F</b>	<b>Committee Members 2005-2015</b>
<b>Appendix G</b>	<b>Walk Leaders 2005-2015</b>
<b>Appendix H</b>	<b>Guest Speakers of the Club 2005-2015</b>
<b>Appendix I</b>	<b>About the Author and Acknowledgements</b>

**This publication is copyright to Keith Lierse.**

# Preface

This preface indicates that you are about to read the club's history over the past 10 years. The events and walks are recorded for historical purposes, but I would include the aspects of the future as being equally important.

The location and duration of walks has changed from the more distant day walks and less backpacks to urban day walks and fewer backpacks and base camps.

The gender of the club membership has swung slightly to more female members, and likewise the leadership numbers have swung to more female leaders.

The one thing that has remained steady is the attendance at the monthly meetings, which remains high, year after year. The speaker schedule and the social aspect of the gathering of friends proves the truth in the club motto "The Friendly Club". Enlisting speakers who can deal with environmental matters, parks and walk trails is a difficult task and needs the ongoing input of all members.

As always, the leader training program needs regular attention, otherwise standards can fall and accidents can happen. A full weekend of leadership training should be a future aim of the club.

Demographic changes to the city boundaries from 60 to 130 kms is an indication of Melbourne's population sprawl which results in longer travel times to our favourite destinations. This, and the increase costs of fuel, has caused an increase in urban walks. A solution is to have more weekend base camps to make the additional travel worthwhile, which would require more effort and input from the club's leaders.

The future stability of the Koonung Bushwalking Club seems assured based on the previous 30 years, but the future requires a constant vigilance of all members to safeguard our existing high standards of excellence and professionalism.

Our founder, foundation member and life member Keith Lierse deserves thanks and praise for the arduous task of recording our history.

**Kevin Wilson, Life Member, Koonung Bushwalking Club.**

## CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION

This history covers 10 years of the club's activities from 2005 to 2015, up to its 30<sup>th</sup> year. The history of the club from 1985 to 1995 and 1995 to 2005 is covered in separate history publications previously distributed to all then current members.

When the club was formed in 1985, 30 years ago, the world was a totally different place. Telex and FAX machines were the backbone of business communications, desk top PC's were rare and expensive, mobile phones were just becoming available, although of brick size, TAA and Ansett were our airlines, we had four analogue TV channels, the Eastern Freeway terminated at Bulleen, heavy film cameras were the go, Gortex and Fibre pile had just been invented and Bob Hawke was Prime Minister.

Today we have digital mobile phones, digital cameras, LED torches, digital TV with 16 free channels, 99% of homes have internet access with a PC and/or iPad complete with the ubiquitous email address. The Pines shopping centre has been built, Qantas replaces TAA, Ansett collapsed in 2001 and Virgin filled the gap. The Atheneum Hall in Doncaster Road, where the club had the public meeting to form the club has long been demolished, and is now an upmarket new car outlet. The Eastern Freeway now joins up with Eastlink at Springvale Road with a contiguous road link via Peninsula Link to the Mornington Peninsula.

However with all this change the Koonung Bushwalking Club has continued to thrive, always maintaining a membership over 130, always having a keen and dedicated committee to run the club, and an imaginative activity programme to cater for all the members. The club is renowned as one of the premier walking clubs in Victoria.

The club was severely impacted by bushfires, particularly the Black Saturday fires in 2009, which meant that a majority of the preferred walking areas had been destroyed until regeneration could take place.

The types of activities the club undertakes has altered dramatically compared to the previous years. Cross country skiing and overnight backpacks are now rarely undertaken, as are canoeing and bike riding. Mid week walks were not generally popular, but in the last two years they have made a significant resurgence. Day walks and base camps continue as the most popular events. Expeditions within Australia and overseas ran by commercial operators are well supported, but expeditions organized totally by a club leader at very low cost, as was commonly done in the early days of the club, is rarely offered. This situation is not unique to Koonung, but is common to all walking clubs in Victoria.

The club has continued with a very active social program catering for the needs of most members. The annual Christmas BBQ of the club has been held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of December at the same venue every year without fail. The club magazine, Walktalk, has always been published eleven times a year, and in recent years has been updated to include photographs and colour, and is now available either by email or post. The consistent high editorial standards are a tribute to the incumbent editors. An amazing fact is that the club has always had a surplus every year since its formation from \$4,000 to \$6,000, which indicates that the various committees have been excellent administrators.

Several members have served with Bushwalking Victoria over the past ten years. The club, in this ten year period co-hosted the Federation Day Walks with Diamond Valley at Healesville on 21 October 2007.

There are very few voluntary organizations that have lasted 30 years, and with the continuing distractions of modern life, Koonung Bushwalking Club is still thriving. There are many reasons for this state of affairs, but the common thread is that it is a really friendly community based organization that cares about its members, that everyone is treated as an equal, members are supported through good and bad times, and the club offers an active and vibrant programme. The monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of the month are always well attended with 60-80 members. There is usually a guest speaker, with a wide range of topics covered over the years. At the conclusion of the meeting, a light supper is always served.

It is also interesting to note that club members have travelled all over Australia from north to south, east to west, and they have travelled widely overseas, including Europe, Turkey, UK, Russia, Mongolia, China, Central Asia, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Africa, USA, South America and many more destinations.

An interesting by-product of the clubs activities is that some members run private trips within Australia and overseas, and are also members of other community organizations such as U3A, which have activity programmes such as fitness regimes, tennis, golf and walking.

In the following chapters, the highlights of the past ten years from 2005 to 2015 are condensed as seen by the author. Unfortunately, not every event or member will be mentioned because that is not possible. Likewise, even though the events of the past ten years were researched to the best of the author's ability, errors or omissions may have been made, and apologies are tendered in advance.

Finally, as you read the following chapters and appendices, please ponder on how such a diverse group of people in a suburban Melbourne environment could achieve so much, contribute so much and be part of one of the most successful voluntary organizations in Manningham, all for a membership cost of \$40 a year or 11 cents a day.

## CHAPTER 2 2005/2006

The 21<sup>st</sup> year of the club kicked off at the AGM held on Thursday, 16 June 2005 at the Templestowe Memorial hall. That evening was also a celebration dinner of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club. There was a sit down three course dinner, a quick AGM, and a lot of fraternising. Jan Gray took over as President from Kevin Wilson. Elaine Turnbull became the Social Events person, taking over from Jeannine Desailly, and Ian Barr made his debut on the club executive as Vice President.

Sadly, one of the stalwarts of the club, David Wetherall died at the end of June after a short illness. David in conjunction with his wife Ann were both popular leaders of the club, and David served as club Treasurer for three years.

These 12 months turned out to be one of the most active times of the club because of the diversity of activities undertaken. There were expeditions within and outside Australia, base camps, day walks, back packs, cross country skiing, bike rides and social events. The walks coordinator Alan Brown summarized the activities at the end of the year as follows. A total of 64 day walks and 796 attendees, 4 bike rides with 24 riders, 4 back packs with 25 walkers and 6 major extended trips and a total of only one minor injury.

There was a major expedition to Western Australia in early November when 9 ladies of the club completed a 7 day Cape to Cape walk in the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park. There were also many successful base camps organized by club leaders and well attended. Alan Brown ran a southern Grampians base camp from 29 September to the 4 October with 30 happy campers. Ken O'Sullivan had a successful base camp at Mt. Buffalo on 2-5 December which attracted 13 members. The annual pilgrimage to Howmans Gap camp during the Christmas break saw 14 members enjoy the Bogong High Plains and environs at a cost of \$50 a day, including all meals, hot shower and a bed.

The annual Federation Day Walk was held at Blackwood on 16 October which was supported by 29 members with a choice of over 20 walks.

A total of 42 members successfully completed first aid courses during the year. These courses were subsidised by the Federation of Victorian Walking clubs and were run by Elvie McInerney who was so impressed by the attendees that Elvie joined the club and is still an active member of the club.

There were backpacks to the Bogong High Plains and the Wonnangatta led by Keith Lierse. Philip Tewksbury led a backpack in March from the Howqa valley to Mt Buller that encountered logistical problems, which caused Lyverne Newson to quip in a Walktalk article that nobody has ever completed one of Philips walks, including Philip. Ian Barr led a 3 day backpack to Wilsons Promontory at the end of April that was well supported.

Philip Tewksbury led several day walks during the year including trips to the Cathedrals, Kinglake and other destinations that were definitely above easy grading. As a result, Philip embarked on a day walk in June to the Lerdererg Gorge flagged as a "no guts, no glory" walk of only 5 hours. The result was that 5 attended, the walk was 18Kms, with 1200 metres of uphill and a mere 7 hours, which Alan Marshall wrote in Walktalk was well within the abilities of the average member.

The club completed a huge programme of day walks visiting areas ranging from the Lerdererg Gorge, Greens Bush, Phillip Island, Kinglake, Flowerdale, Lake Mountain, Hepburn Spa, Bullarto reservoir, Murrindindi, Yea Rock, Mt Worth, Tarra Valley and Emerald to mention a few. The day walk leaders did a magnificent job selecting interesting destinations, and in general were well supported. In hindsight, it is interesting to note that about 80% of our favourite day walk areas would

be burnt out in the February 2009 Black Saturday fires. One of our new leaders, Jan Falconer, led her first walk in September to Blacks Flat along the Yarra River where they met up with some disconsolate rangers who only had 2 volunteers for tree planting that day. Jan's party pitched in and helped and were rewarded with a BBQ lunch.

The club had its usual Christmas BBQ with good weather, and Ian Barr celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday in some style.

There were a few bike rides during the year. Karen Sheedy led 7 members on 19 March on a ride from Pascoe Vale to Woodlands, Ian Barr did 35 Kms to Panton Hills in August and in September Bruce Ford did a circuit ride of the Maribynong River. Tom Patton planned a bike ride to Point Nepean in May, but this was altered to a day walk due to logistical problems.

The cross country skier numbers had decreased to seven, but Val Lierse led trips to Lake Mountain, Mt. Stirling and Falls Creek during the winter months. The snow cover was only fair due to the ongoing drought in Victoria.

Keiths Klues still gave out monthly tips on walking, and two examples were on article on not splitting the party and how to prevent and cope with foot blisters. In November, Alan Brown published a ready reckoner of how to calculate the car costs associated with travelling to walks.

There were several successful social events including the Manningham Concert Band recital in August, Fountains Restaurant in October costing \$20 PP for a 3 course meal, Doncaster Playhouse at the end of October to see "Key for Two", the Zest Restaurant at Glen Waverley in early May costing \$25 PP, a YHA bush dance at the Collingwood Town Hall in early May and the Three Tenors concert on 25 May costing \$25 PP.

During the year Barbara and Barry Blount and Pam Longley were among some of the new members of the club.

## Chapter 3 2006/2007

At the AGM in June Julie Marshall took over as Vice President from Ian Barr, Liz Turner took over the reins as Secretary from Dawn Pratley, and George Turner took over the task as Walktalk Editor from Robyn Buttlings in September. The AGM was held at the Templestowe Memorial Hall on 21 June 2006, and everyone present helped celebrate the clubs 21<sup>st</sup> birthday with a large cake, finger food, door prizes and lots of fun. Two Life Memberships were awarded on the night to Val Lierse and Don McKelvie in recognition of their sterling service to the club.

A summary of the clubs activities during the year were that the club had 25 active leaders, over 103 day walks were programmed, 4 bike rides, 5 backpacks, 5 cross country ski weekends, 7 weekend trips and 7 extended expeditions. There were no canoe trips.

The year was very dry as the drought deepened in Victoria, and the ski trips were badly affected by little or no snow, and many walks were curtailed or cancelled due to high temperatures. (The club policy is that if the forecast temperature is over 30 degrees C, and/or a Total Fire Ban is declared, then the walk should be cancelled).

Overall, this year was one of the busiest of the club to date with a full programme of activities allowing all members to participate. As usual, the monthly meetings were very well attended, with average attendances from 60 to 80.

The club began an excellent website, (<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~koonung/>), with Ian Barr serving as Webmaster.

The social programme for the year included “Busy Body” in July and “Dear Charles” in November at the Doncaster Playhouse at \$18 each. In February, a dinner was held at Sammys Restaurant, Templestowe, and a visit to the Sherbrooke Theatre Company in February to see “Goodbye Mrs Blore”, and the Three Tenors Concert on Sunday 3 June at \$25 each, supporting Eastern Palliative Care.

The September 2006 Walktalk had a two page flyer called ‘Guidelines for Members’ where the clubs rules and directions were laid down for all to obey, ranging from how to sign up for a walk, and cancel if required, to the late return contact system.

The December 2006 Walktalk was a milestone edition with two photographs published. The first was a photo of 6 Past Presidents of the club at Alan Brown’s November Rubicon camp, and the second was a photo of Ann Wetherall’s Relay for Life fund raiser on 11/12 November for the Cancer Council of Victoria when they raised \$3,000.

For 15 years Bill Ling had looked after the clubs hire gear and maps, which had taken up a large part of his garage. In September, Marjorie Dowd took over the hire gear and Alan Brown took over the task of being custodian of the maps.

In December the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs, known as the Federation since 1934, ceased to exist and was renamed Bushwalking Victoria. The Vicwalk name was retained. Amongst the changes, Bushwalking Victoria will be governed by ten elected members, as opposed to club delegates under the Federation model, and individual people could now join as non-voting members.

In November Jan Gray led an expedition to East Africa with 13 members for a period of 3 weeks. They travelled from Melbourne to Zambia, visiting places such as the Zambesi River resort and Lusaka, South Luangwa NP, Malawi, Kende and Lake Malawi. Karen Sheedy and Mick celebrated

their second wedding anniversary at Kande Beach on a very hot day. They then travelled on to Tanzania, Dar es Salaam, down the famous rift valley to Nairobi, then home via Mauritius. Overall it was an interesting tour with a few hiccups, some upset tummies and breathtaking scenery.

Ian Barr co-ordinated the Federation day walk held at Bright with 17 members attending.

The annual club base camp at Howmans Gap was cancelled due to alpine fires.

There was an article in the October Walktalk that Deidre Gilham, a long time member of the club had been attacked by a pitbull cross whilst holidaying in Tweed Heads. She suffered deep gashes and puncture wounds to her lower right thigh, and required treatment at Tweed Heads hospital. The dog was surrendered by the owner to the local council ranger, and was put down. Deidre, who is made of stern walking grit, made a full recovery.

Ian Barr led a party of 5 backpackers in March along the famous Overland Track in Tasmania. Not to be outdone, Elaine Turnbull headed up a party of 10 members who completed the Overland Track by the fluffy pillow method. Both parties thoroughly enjoyed their trips.

Keith's Klues were published each month with articles as diverse as dehydration, LED torches and boots.

In September 6 members endured a wet and windy weekend walking from Kilcunda to Cape Patterson, overnighiting at a B&B in Wonthaggi. Unfortunately, some one was locked out of their room, or was it they were locked in, until they were rescued. A similar overnight walk was completed in June which was just as windy and wild.

Jan Gray took a party of 14 to a base camp at the Little Desert Lodge (near Nhill) in October where it was very hot, +39 one day, with a Total Fire Ban. The other days were a little cooler, but were indicative of the very hot weather to come.

Alan Brown on 24-27 November guided 15 members on a 4 day base camp around Rubicon, exploring Royston dam, a 13MW hydro power station, old aqueducts and a walk up Mt Torbrek. This weekend was the Victorian State election, and all participants had to make an absentee vote.

Doug Brewer led an expedition of 12 members to Robe in South Australia in May 2007 which was reported as very successful.

The bike rides during the year included 8 riders in May cycling the Warburton rail trail with Bruce Ford and Tom Patton led a 52Km ride from Mitcham to Dandenong return along parts of Eastlink. On the 15/16 April, Tom Patton and Dick Beton combined to run a walking and bike riding weekend around the Mornington Peninsula based on their McCrae homes.

The number of cross country skiers had diminished to 6, and even though snow conditions were below par, sometimes sparse. There were 4 weekends spent skiing Mt Stirling, staying at the cottage at Barwite, and 5 days in September at the USC Falls Creek, all led by Val Lierse.

There were several backpacks during the year led by Keith Lierse including 2 weekends at the Bogong High Plains, and a weekend spent at Mt Baw Baw camped near Mt StPhillack, with a 10km trek through overgrown scrub to Skegg's hut which took 7 hours. This walk was done in lieu of a long weekend programmed for the Snowy Plains, but due to extreme flooding at Licola the roads were impassable beyond Licola due to landslides and washaways, and the destruction of the bridge at Licola over the McAlister River. Another backpack to Mt Baw Baw on Melbourne Cup weekend in

early November, ended up with the party caught in thick fog and drizzle when camped on the south side of Mustering Flat. The next day the conditions were unchanged, and the walk out on day 3 in dense fog was notable due to the fall back on the GPS to find the exit track.

There were a large number of day walks during the year including destinations such as The Cathedrals, Sugarloaf dam, Bunyip SP, Powelltown, Flowerdale, Warburton, Lerderberg Gorge and the Brisbane Ranges to mention only a few. The club had 3 new female leaders with Jan Falconer, Barbara Quinert and Patsy Borton. Jan Falconer took several members to her Highlands shack near Yea which is set in 300 acres of forest.

Therefore, because of space, only some day walks have been highlighted. Alan Brown ran an interesting walk on the 20 August, which was the anniversary of the Burke and Wills expedition departure from Melbourne on their ill fated trek to cross Australia from south to north. Thirteen members followed their route from the CBD, lunch at Queens Park on to Moonee Ponds.

After a day walk on the 11 November to The Cathedrals, the write up described it as “a walk with Philip Tewksbury, another near death experience, a unique walk, a never to be repeated experience.”

Barbara Quinert led a chocoholic tour around the Melbourne CBD on 25 November with 12 members. They sampled chocolate in the Block Arcade, had lunch at the Pancake Parlour and finishing up at the Grand Hyatt hotel kitchen, and closing off with a sumptuous afternoon tea in the Hyatt Plane Tree Restaurant.

On 25 February Ann Wetherall led her classic walk from Royal Park to St Kilda, a 16 km walk taking in Melbourne Uni, Myer Music Bowl, Albert Park and the St Kilda foreshore, with a return tram trip. In the old days, Ann used to arrange morning tea at Government House ball room.

On Sunday, 4 March, Bruce Ford led a community walk as part of the Manningham Healthy Lifestyle Week from Currawong to Mullum circuit walk. Four attended from the club, and a total of 23 completed the walk.

In walking folklore there are many past stories around what went wrong when attempting to do walks with two parties from opposite ends of the route, and exchanging car keys half way. The risks are many, including not meeting half way, if at all, losing car keys, and delays due to illness or injury and navigation errors. On Monday 12 March such a walk was done from Dom Dom Saddle to Donna Buang with Ian Barr and Alan Marshall being the leader of each party. The walk was deemed to be experimental. A cursory look at a map shows that the distance is the same for both parties, but there is a large height differential. The Dom Dom party had a 1300 metre climb compared to only 500 metres for those starting at Mt Donna Buang. Ian Barr scarred his knees early at Dom Dom, Philip Tewksbury collided with a branch near Mt Donna Buang which caused much bleeding, and further delays for Ian. The third casualty for the day was a split tyre on Alan Marshall's car returning from Dom Dom to the Healesville bakery. Total distance estimated as 21kms, actual distance 25 kms. All 14 members survived with comments such as adventurous, brave, scenic and heroic.

Mention was made during the year of the work of BSAR (Bushwalking Search and Rescue). Mary Atkins is the clubs call out representative, Tom Patton the clubs BSAR convenor and James Patton, an honorary member of the club is an active member. Ann Wetherall has also served as the membership secretary of BSAR. Wayne Rice and Des Bain were our Federation delegates. Christine Galloway commenced this year being the supper co-ordinator, and Christine continued in this role for many years until she returned to Scotland.

Some new members during the year were Heather and John Oldfield, and Audrey and Ron Karlstrom who rejoined the club.

The club membership at the end of the year was 139.

At the end of the year the clubs finances were \$4,431.20 in the black.

## Chapter 4 2007/2008

At the AGM held on 16 June 2007 at the Templestowe Memorial hall Julie Marshall took over as President from Jan Gray, Ian Barr stepped up as Vice President in lieu of Julie Marshall, Claire Harris took over as Treasurer from Marjorie Dowd and Alan Marshall took up the reins as Walks Coordinator from Alan Brown.

The club was committed to sharing the running of the Federation Day Walk at Healesville with Diamond Valley on 21 October 2007. This required at least five club members to help at base camp for the day, and Koonung supplied 26 leaders for 13 walks and Diamond Valley led the other 9 walks. This was the third time in Koonung's history that the club was involved in running a Federation Day Walk. The first time was on 23 March 1986 when the venue was Starlings Gap, and the second time was on 9 April 1995 at Powelltown, which was memorable because of the heavy rain that fell all day, a total of 6 inches.

Traka reported in the February 2008 Walktalk that according to official records, 2007 was the hottest calendar year on record in Victoria, and everyone should take care with hydration on walks. This article underlined the extremely hot and dry conditions in Victoria, the widespread drought in the state, the devastating alpine fires that had caused catastrophic damage, the restricted river flows, water restrictions and dead or dying gardens. In hindsight we all didn't realise just how bad it would get before the drought broke.

Bushwalking Victoria Search and Rescue (BSAR) gained two new members from the club, namely Patsy Borton and John Scales, which was due to the ongoing encouragement of Tom Patton. Indeed, John Scales answered the second call out on 26 March 2008 to search the Dom Dom area for a missing man, and stayed on site for 3 days. The search was called off by the police on 29 March without the man being found.

During the year Vicmap decided to cease publishing 1:25000 maps in hard copy. However, software has been made available to download these maps, of which the club has a copy.

Bushwalking Victoria launched a photo competition during April for a 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary calendar.

During the year George Keyte, who was a foundation member and past President of the club, resigned due to prolonged ill health. George had participated in most club activities and had led day walks, ski trips and several base camps within Victoria and interstate.

Janis Joy Lok, a very enthusiastic walker for a couple of years was forced to resign from the club due to her being relocated to Sydney with her work, and she wrote an article that she would miss the involvement she had with Koonung.

During the year there were several new members including Alex and Margaret Stirkul, Lyn Barber, Maureen McDermott, Michael Dewar and Margaret Noonan.

On the social front there were three theatre nights and one ristorante night at Carlucci's, Templestowe.

The committee published an updated petrol cost reckoner in the September Walktalk, and in February the committee implored those writing up reviews of overseas expeditions to reduce the epistles to a précis, please.

In early 2008 there was a request from Austin Health in Walktalk for males over 65 years of age to volunteer in a study of Osteoporosis by means of a randomised, double placebo, controlled study. If

certain drugs were being taken, then people would be excluded, but others who remained interested would be feted at a morning tea at the Austin on 19 March 2008 with free parking. There is no record of anyone taking up this offer.

The club undertook two fundraisers during the year. The first was the sale of environmentally friendly light bulbs using 80% less energy at only \$6 each, with the profits going to the purchase of an overhead projector.

The second was a massive Christmas hamper and prizes, with tickets \$2 or 3 for \$5 to be drawn at the annual Christmas BBQ. Apparently there were a few queries of why we needed a raffle, when the club has a surplus each year of about \$4-5,000. Ian Barr penned a letter in November Walktalk that the money was to be directed to the purchase of new hire equipment. The winners were Neil Maling, Bruce Ford, Jan Falconer, Deidre Jones, Pam Longley, Jan Brown, Liz Turner and Peter Goodwin. The total money raised from the raffle and globes was \$1,405.95.

Keith's Klues was published monthly with topics ranging from snake bite to plastic bags. There were a series of 3 articles in 3 issues of Walktalk written by Keith Lierse tracing a short history of bushwalking in Victoria. The first article was titled "The Golden Years of Bushwalking, 1960-1970", the second article was called "Boom, Bust and Tears, the 1980's", and the final article about the period 1990 to 2000 was headed "Are You Insured?"

Lesley Uren, a long time member and an expert embroiderer, exhibited some of her fantastic work at the Bundoora Homestead arts centre on 1-2 November.

The overseas tours undertaken were a China trip led by Doug Brewer in September, a Lord Howe Island expedition led by Jan Falconer at the end of October with 8 members, and the Brown's led a trip to Norfolk Island at the end of April with 9 members.

Ken O'Sullivan led a bike ride around the Craigieburn area on 1 September with 5 members.

Val Lierse led 3 overnight trips to Mt. Stirling, staying at the cottage for an unchanged \$20 a night. The snow was good to poor, and there was a 2km walk to the snowline on two days. The whole of the mountain was severely affected by the alpine fires. The 5 days of skiing at Falls Creek USC in September was good with a fair cover of snow on the back country.

Alan Brown led a very successful base camp at Cape Otway from 23-27 November, with 31 members staying at the Bimbi caravan park. Each day there was a major walk to places of interest in the area. The memorable parts of this base camp were that Kev 07 won the federal election, that there was a plague of koalas in the park grounds and the owner insisted on cooking us huge meals such as slabs of salmon for breakfast. The annual trip to Howmans Gap took place after Christmas with the cost still only \$265, all found for 5 days.

Terry O'Callaghan came up with the idea of a base camp, walking around part of Sydney Harbour from 30 March-5 April, staying at the Woolbrokers Hotel near Darling Harbour at a daily rate of \$47.50 a night, including breakfast. A total of 37 members attended, spending 4 days walking 55kms around part of the harbour. Terry organized the party into 3 groups with a group leader to facilitate loading on to buses, trains and ferries. The Wednesday was a rest day and members were scattered far and wide around Sydney on their cheap Seniors travel card. The local Pyrmont Hotel was well patronised because of a \$7 steak dinner special each evening. This was the fore runner of three more trips to Sydney to complete the entire Sydney Harbour circumnavigation.

There were two overnight backpacks. On cup weekend 7 brave souls ventured on to the Bogong High Plains for a 4 day walk. The first day was very wet, and camp was made inside Ryder's Hut. The next day, in heavy rain, a walk was undertaken to Mt. Jim and return. The next morning there was 20cms of snow, and a quick exit was made, albeit with dry tents. We all thought we were in a major drought, but the mountains are different. The other back pack was a Labour Day weekend to Mt. Howitt and the Crosscut Saw. The weather was hot, the area was dry and on the descent down Stanley Name spur to the camp site, two members had falls resulting in bruising, aches and pains. The camp site was reached just on dark, and there was a good water supply. The next day was a lay day for the injured to recover, and on the third day all walked out to McAlister Springs. We made camp because another member was unwell, and walked out the next day.

The club had 24 leaders in the year, and there were 97 day walks programmed, of which 5 were cancelled due to hot weather, and several other walks cancelled due to lack of interest. There were many day walks that were dry runs for the Federation day walk, and it is impossible to mention them all in such a busy year. Therefore, the following are some of the highlights.

The Marshalls continued to explore Lerderberg Gorge, with its tantalising scenery and difficult terrain for some. Jenny Keamy led a walk to Glenlyon and the Loddon River falls on a cold and crisp day in August, and a visit to Sugarloaf reservoir by Karen Sheedy with 18 members found very low water, trees down over the tracks and the observation shelter closed and ready for demolition. Kevin Wilson led 19 members on 13 October around the south side of the Eastern Freeway, and returned to his home for a BBQ.

Ann Wetherall led a walk around Williamstown with 13 members on a very hot day on the 2 December, seeing where Phar Lap raced, and not one hill all day. Keith Lierse led a walk with 12 members on 15 December from Wright to Gembrook and a return trip on Puffing Billy to Wright station on a wet and misty day.

Bruce Ford explored the coastal arts trail from Brighton to Sandringham and on to Beaumaris over two walks on 23 January and 2 April. Bruce also led the Manningham Healthy Lifestyle walk on 2 March with a total of 25 walkers. Patsy Borton led a beach walk from Bells beach to Point Addis with 18 walkers. Ann Wetherall on 24 February travelled by train to Belgrave with 14 members, walked Sherbrooke forest, One Tree Hill and down, amid rain, to Upper Ferntree Gully station, and caught a train home. Barbara Quinert took 10 members on a relaxed walk with 10 members to Watsons Creek for coffee, then a walk to the Panton Hills hotel for lunch. Jenny Keamy led a walk in the Toolangi area on the 27 April when disaster struck with one walker falling over and having what was found later to be a broken arm.

At the end of the year a plea went out for a member to take over the reins as Webmaster of the clubs web site. The April Walktalk gave out the news that the committee, after long and careful deliberation had decided to have a two tier membership fee structure, and after 4 years, the fees had to go up to cover costs. The new tiered fee structure was either you received Walktalk by mail or email. The new annual membership fees were;

Singles \$50 by post, \$40 by email. Previously \$35. Couples \$75 by post, \$65 by email. Previously \$55.

At the end of the year the club had a surplus of \$4,079.99.

## Chapter 5 2008/2009

At the AGM held at the Templestowe Memorial Hall on Wednesday 18 June there were only small changes to the committee. Trish Renfree took over from Elaine Turnbull as Social Events Coordinator. Jan Gray and Alan Brown were awarded Life memberships for their long and meritorious service to the club.

The meeting format was changed this year with the guest speaker always, if possible, being the first business of the evening.

The club started the year with 24 walks leaders. Unbeknown to us all at the time, the coming year was to have a large number of exciting and interesting events that the leaders had devised, but there was to be major problems associated with the ongoing drought gripping Victoria, which culminated in the tragic, disastrous bush fires on Black Saturday, 7 February 2009. Besides the horrific loss of life and infrastructure, (the complete township of Marysville was burnt out), the club lost about 70% of the day walk areas around Melbourne that would remain unusable for many years into the future.

On the social scene there was a varied treat for all tastes with 5 theatre nights and 3 dinners.

In October 2008 the club changed its monthly meeting venue from the Templestowe Memorial Hall to The Pines Leisure and Activity Centre at 520 Blackburn Road, Doncaster East. The Templestowe Memorial Hall had been continuously used by the club since its founding in 1985, except for a few meetings whilst the hall was being refurbished. The hall had major problems with heating and cooling, the acoustics were poor and had few modern facilities, where-as The Pines venue was brand new, offered air-conditioning, carpeted floors, a mini kitchen and an overhead projector. The clubs secretary, Liz Turner was responsible for negotiating with the Manningham Council the details of this change of venue.

During the year the club ran two first aid courses for leaders and members on 25 October and 20 June to either acquire or update their first aid qualifications. These courses were heavily subsidised by BWV, and the nett cost to each of the 20 members attending each course was \$27.50.

The club had reversible vests and polo shirts made in several sizes with the club logo at a cost of \$35 for the vest and \$18 for the polo shirt.

There was a club photo competition in September. The winners were Ken O'Sullivan (panorama), Julie Marshall (flora and fauna), Barbara Blount (members in action), and the open section was won by Susan Peterson. Members were reminded, again, to include their personal details in a film container in their pack. In March there was an article explaining the ICE campaign, which is to store phone numbers under the name ice in a mobile phone for emergency contacts. The ICE acronym stands for 'In Case of Emergency'.

Bushwalking Victoria marketed a 2009 calendar at \$10 each, with Alan Marshall's picture of the Crosscut Saw one of the monthly pictures.

Liz Turner spied ladies hats for bushwalking in a shop in Shopping Town for a mere \$35 each with a choice of 10 colours. Apparently, there were no hats available for men.

The clubs information stall at the Manningham Spring Festival on 30 November had 35 recruiting enquiries about the clubs activities.

One of our long time members, Connie Beton died 20 November 2008. There was a large attendance of club members at her funeral, and Tom and Pat Patton wrote a half page tribute to Connie in the December Walktalk.

Alan Marshall, the Walks Coordinator, wrote a prescient article in the February Walktalk about the dangers of bushfires and the risks of walking in fire prone areas. Black Saturday was 7 February 2009.

In the May Walktalk there was a new transport cost ready reckoner, pleas for new leaders to come forward because of the retirement of some leaders, and an article reminding all members that the club policy is a minimum of four on any club walk.

During the year the club purchased an array of equipment after getting a \$1,487 grant from the Manningham Council. The equipment included 1x 1man tent, 1x 2man tent, 1 male and 1 female lightweight backpack, 2x thermarests', 2x billy and dish sets and 2x gas burners. All were photographed and displayed in the April Walktalk.

The Bushwalking Victoria 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary walks in the Mt Disappointment area on 5 April, with 22 walks planned, was cancelled due to the whole area being burnt out by the Black Saturday bush fires.

Our Walks coordinator, Alan Marshall, asked all members to carefully wash their boots to prevent the spread of the plant disease Phytophthora Cinnamoni in walking areas, and to take care when washing your boots at home not to spread the disease into your own garden.

Keith's Klues was still being published, with topics ranging from ambulance membership, summer clothing, water hydration and protecting cameras from dust and moisture.' This year was the last in the long Keiths Klues series.

There was a club leaders' training walk on Sunday 6 July at Kinglake, with topics such as navigation, use of a GPS, how to cope with emergencies, first aid practice for broken bones and snakebite, etc. In all, 21 members attended, Alan Marshall directed the training sessions and the cold weather was a reminder of hypothermia in the bush can be dangerous to your health.

There was an article asking for volunteers to help at the Regent Honeyeater Project at Lurg Hills near Benalla run by Ray Thomas on 16/17 August, but there is no record of any member attending.

Excellent snow falls in July and August, even though Victoria was in the midst of the worst drought in memory, saw snow depths of 1-2 metres in the Alps. The cottage was not available until August because the owner, Col Reynolds died in July. Col's wife allowed us to continue to use the cottage, still \$20 pp per night. Val Lierse led 3 trips to Lake Mountain, 3 weekends at Mt Stirling with only 5 members attending.

It was a very popular year for base camps. Terry O'Callaghan led a base camp to Kingscliff, walking the Tweed Valley from 19-26 July. There was walking up to Mt Warning, The Cougals and the Springbrook National Park. The last 2 days were washed out due to heavy rain. Ten members of Koonung led by Alan Marshall, plus 2 Essendon walkers undertook the Warrumbungles base camp from 31 August -5 September. There were bitterly cold nights, periods of heavy rain, but many rewarding walks including the walk up Mt Exmouth, a 1,000 metre climb. Walking one day near Siding Springs was not possible in that area due to the shooting of goats from helicopters. Jan Gray led 9 walkers on a base camp to Apollo Bay from 7 to 10 November with beach walks and fairly good weather.

The Federation Day Walk was held at Beaufort on the weekend of 18-19 October, but there is no record of how many Koonung members attended.

The annual Howmans Gap pilgrimage over the Christmas New Year period saw 16 members from Koonung, with the Waverley and Diamond Valley clubs, and the usual walks over the Bogong High Plains. The cost had now gone up to \$286, all found, for the 5 days.

Terry O'Callaghan led a 6 day tour to Canberra and Thredbo from 9-14 February. The drive to Canberra on the 9<sup>th</sup> was delayed for 24 hours due to the Hume Highway being blocked by the horrendous Black Saturday fires. They spent 3 days in Canberra, including a walk around the grounds of Government House and Parliament House, the Botanic Gardens and the Australian War Memorial. They then travelled to Thredbo where the weather turned nasty with rain, fog and white outs on the high ranges before returning to Melbourne.

Alan Marshall led a very successful expedition to Tasmania from 21-29 March, based on Hobart. The 10 participants walked Mt Field, Mt Wellington, Cape Raoul, Bruny Island, the very wet Hartz Mountain and Cape Huay.

The only backpack for the year was led by Ian Barr to Wilsons Prom on 23-25 May. A total of 5 members attended, camping at Roaring Meg on the first night, then on to Little Waterloo Bay for the next camp site, and walked out the next day, stopping at the Fish Creek hotel on the way home for beef supplements.

Alan and Jan Brown led a very successful base camp for 14 members at Licola from 1-4 May, staying in houses at the Lions Club village costing \$40 pp per night. There were walks to Glencairn and Barkly River, then down a steep spur to Licola. Unfortunately, Kevin and Myra Wilson waited in vain at the bottom of the spur for a lift home, and they walked back after dark to camp. That night the camp dining room was shared with a bikie group, and the camp staff had some problems scraping up meat and sweets for the Koonung group as the bikkies lined up for seconds and thirds. The next day was a drive up to Violet Hill, some local walks and a return to camp. Overall, the weather was fine and mild.

Because of the Global Financial Crisis (GFC), the Editor and Secretary in the March Walktalk agreed to forego their \$2.8M annual bonus. Liz Turner in the February Walktalk published a menu for Danish brown biscuits. Doug Brewer was still asking for used stamps, bottle corks and screw tops for charity.

There were many day walks during the year, too many to mention them all. There were major restrictions on walks after the Black Saturday fires on 9th February. Some of the interesting day walks are as follows. Alan Marshall led a walk on 7 August to the Tallarook forest where they encountered a fair bit of snow, and on the 4 October Alan Marshall deputised for Peter Goodwin who was ill, and took 10 members on a walk around Marysville, the last club walk there before the town was destroyed by fire. Doug Brewer led a walk on 13 September with 18 members to the Cranbourne gardens which were described as wonderful in their spring growth.

Bruce Ford led 2 walks around the new Eastlink, the first on 8<sup>th</sup> November and the second on the 6<sup>th</sup> December around Jells Park area and Eastlink. Kevin Wilson led 17 members on 9<sup>th</sup> November to the famous Ada tree, our tallest mountain ash, whilst Wayne Rice on 7<sup>th</sup> December took 19 up and down Mt Little Joe, which some found a little steep. Jan Gray led her favourite Flinders to Somers walk on 21 February in perfect weather, meeting up with Alan and Jan Brown for lunch.

Ian Barr and Alan Marshall did the Two Bays walk of 27kms on 8<sup>th</sup> March, again tempting fate by having two parties, leaving at opposite ends and swapping car keys at lunch, which worked, but it was a long, tiring walk. During a Lerderderg Gorge walk led by Philip Tewksbury on 21<sup>st</sup> March, Terry O'Callaghan became somewhat unwell, and the walk was cut short. It was found later that Terry's condition was caused by Atrial Fibrillation. Jenny Keamy led a gorgeous walk in the Wombat State Park with 19 walkers on 13 April on a perfect warm day.

Peter Goodwin led a walk to Johns Hill near Emerald on Anzac Day and finally Jan Gray led a rare mid week walk on Wednesday, 6th May from St Kilda to Westgate Bridge.

At the end of the year Tom Patton retired as BSAR delegate after serving in that position for 20 years. The club had 142 members at the end of the year, 21 had joined and 16 had departed. The club had 25 walks leaders. At the end of the year the club was \$4,783.18 in the black.

Some new members who joined during the year include Julia Marshall, David Cretney, Elvie McInerney, Tom Tierney, John Baulch and Anna Wright.

## Chapter 6 2009/2010

At the AGM in June there were major changes with the committee membership. Ian Barr took over as President from Julie Marshall, Terry O'Callaghan became Vice President in lieu of Ian Barr, Liz Turner retired as Secretary and handed over to Jan Falconer and John Oldfield took over as Editor from George Turner.

At the end of this year the club had 25 Walk Leaders, 103 walks were scheduled, with a significant number cancelled due to bad weather and/or fire danger. The number of known completed walks was 72, with an average of 11.9 walkers per walk, with the Walks Coordinator pointing out that more walkers were favouring easier walks. There were 10 extended walking trips and base camps, but only 3 backpacks, of which 2 were cancelled, one due to fire danger, the other due to lack of numbers. There were 2 bike rides. There were also a number of private overseas trips undertaken by members, including a large group that undertook the Machu Picchu trek in Peru. The year was extremely busy with a large range of activities.

There were four theatre nights during the year in July, August, October and May and a game of golf followed by a dinner on 26 November.

The major social event of the year was the clubs 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner held on Wednesday 21 April 2010 at the Box Hill RSL, part subsidised by the club, at a cost of \$20 per person. A total of 95 members and past members attended. There was a display of old photographs, 10 and 20 year Leader badges, Life member badges and LED torches handed out to some leaders, probably to find their way on their next walk. There was a bushwalking quiz which made for a real fun night.

There were member profiles during the year in Walktalk for Committee members Ian Barr, Terry O'Callaghan, Claire Harris and Jan Falconer, which gave an insight to their interests inside and outside of the club.

In July 2009 the club became aware that our meeting place for walks at the council office car park in Doncaster Road would be unavailable due to building works, and the club began using the JJ Tully Drive car park from that date.

A long time past member, Derek Hancock died on 26 July 2009, and a large contingent of members attended his funeral. Bruce Ford wrote an item in Walktalk recounting Derek's time with the club.

In the September Walktalk there was an article about the problems of drinking too much water when competing in extreme events. A new member, Arthur Koo, was a member of a team in the annual Oxfam walk, and became very ill. Indeed, he spent 4 days in a coma in hospital, another 10 days in hospital, 3 weeks of rehab and a total of 6 weeks off work. Older walkers have learnt that it is best to take frequent drinks of water and food intake, and take rests as required.

There were two updates on transport costs during the year in September and February.

Patsy Borton attended a BSAR training weekend on 10/11 October, and weeks later was called out on a search at Point Nepean for a lost lady with a mental condition, who was quickly found. Tom Patton retired as the clubs BSAR delegate, having served in that position for 20 years.

Wayne Rice co-ordinated the clubs response to the Bushwalking Victoria bushfire recovery on 24/25 October with a total of 19 members assisting at Morleys track and McMahons Creek.

Ian Barr and Alex Stirkul were photographed in France by Terry O'Callaghan at Puy en Velay when they were on a pilgrims walk, and the photo published in November Walktalk.

In December the club produced a membership list of all members, and for the first time, included email addresses.

There were ongoing pleas during the year for a person to replace Claire Harris as Treasurer, a directive from the committee not to make use of the Koonung Bushwalking Club name for private expeditions, and an article from Alan Marshall extolling the benefits of walking, with recent studies saying it is good for your health, including reduced risk of coronary heart disease, dementia, falls and prevents obesity. There was also an article stressing the importance of the clubs emergency contact drill for overdue walks.

The December Walktalk gave the results of a membership survey of their support of expeditions within and outside Australia. Backpacking scored low, as did high altitude treks, but commercial fluffy pillow trips had high support. What did they expect?

There were red faces during the year. The 2010 BWV calendar had the Queens Birthday as 7 June instead of 14 June. The Big Pats Creek anniversary walk saw more red faces when some walkers did not stop at a 3 way junction, added 2kms to their walk, and further, they rejoined the party from the wrong direction.

Foundation member Mary Atkins reminisced about her first walk with the club on 21 April 1985, when she wore desert boots, cotton socks and sported long painted red toenails. Mary says she hobbled home after the walk, raw and tender, and over the ensuing days lost many toenails.

Jan Falconer published 25th anniversary afternoon tea recipes for Chocolate Zucchini cake and My Mums Anzac biscuits. The March Walktalk had several photos of members over 20 years ago on club walks.

Tom Patton took issue with Alan Marshall about the record number of walkers attending a Lerderberg Gorge walk. Tom claimed, rightly, that on 14 May 1989, 33 members attended a gorge walk, and on 25 October 1987 there were more than the record of 14 claimed by Alan. Indeed, it is remarkable that all of these walkers survived at all.

Ian Barr led the first ever President's Walk on the 30 May around the Warramate Hills, near Woori Yallock, with 29 members attending. After the walk lunch was held at the local hotel, although swamped by the walkers, plus a power blackout, everyone was eventually fed.

Elvie McNerney kept up the clubs knowledge on first aid by having quizzes on topics including hyperthermia to hypoglycaemia.

At the end of the year, the proposal to establish an eco tourism facility at the Hamer Arboretum was stopped after a long lobbying campaign by local residents, politicians and walkers. Ian Barr attended a Bushwalking Victoria Presidents' conference on 29 May which gave Ian a valuable insight into the workings and other problems facing walking clubs in Victoria.

Ann Wetherall called for support in June for a fun run on 18 July 2010 to raise funds for the GI Cancer Institute as a tribute to her late husband, David Wetherall, a past member and treasurer of the club, on the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death from pancreatic cancer.

On the snow scene, this was a poor season with 5 days skiing at Mt Stirling and a week at the Falls Creek USC in September.

Patsy Borton led a backpack to Wilson's Promontory on 6-8 March with 4 club members. They trudged 47 Kms in total and encountered wet weather for the last 2 days.

Kevin Wilson ran a very successful trip to the Blue Mountains from 1-9 September, visiting Wentworth Falls, the Zig Zag railway, Jenolan Caves and Mt Piddington and other destinations. Kevin rated this trip as amongst the best and most spectacular he has ever led.

George Turner ran a trip to the Budawangs at the end of October with 7 members attending.

Jan Gray led a base camp to Apollo Bay on 16-19 October with 6 members attending, and Howmans Gap was on the calendar again at a cost of \$303 led by Karen Sheedy and Jan Gray.

Terry O'Callaghan ran the next stage of his walk around Sydney Harbour base camps, based at the Woolbrokers Hotel near Darling Harbour on 14-19 March. The cost was \$49 per person per night. A total of 34 members participated, with perfect weather for the whole week. The trip had been booked out very early with a waiting list. Bill Orme, the person who was the driving force behind the Sydney Harbour walk met the group on day one. Day 1 was a walk to Middle Harbour, day 2 North Head, day 3 a free day to explore Sydney and environs, day 4 Manly to Spit Bridge and day 5 Rose Bay to South Head. The transport used was train, bus, ferry and light rail. This was the second of 4 visits to Sydney led by Terry O'Callaghan before the entire circumnavigation of Sydney Harbour was completed.

Jan Gray led a base camp to Gellibrand River on Queens Birthday weekend in June with walks of 18 Kms each day and pub meals at night.

Alan Brown had his regular annual base camp at Point Leo on 12-14 February with 9 camping and a total of 13 doing walks.

Bruce Ford led 2 bike rides, the first on 3 April with 5 riders along the northern part of Eastlink to Dandenong Creek, a total of 43 kms. The second ride was along the southern part of Eastlink with 10 riders travelling 36 kms.

The following is a sample of the many day walks. Karen Sheedy led a walk to Sugarloaf Reservoir on 25 July with a party of 9 and was concerned at the damage caused by the pipeline project, general neglect and a large number of kangaroos. A Werribee gorge walk was described as a "wussy" walk without any explanation, and Barbara Quinert led a walk around Warrandyte with 12 members in heavy rain, and a blocked bridge, so they retired for coffee and went home.

On the 18 October the leader could not take the walk advertised, so Jenny Keamy stepped up and took 13 walkers on a mystery walk around the Sherbrooke area with Kevin Wilson pointing out the various birds in the area. Wayne Rice led a walk to Shepherds Flat, leaving a hot Melbourne on 28 November, and walking around a cool, wet Daylesford. Keith Lierse took 15 members to Powelltown on 13 December, walking up and back to Seven Acre Rock with mist, leeches and the remains of fire damage on the southern areas of the walk.

Peter Mainwaring led his first walk on 23 January with 28 walkers in the Warrandyte area. Patsy Borton completed a walk from Jan Juc to Bells Beach on 7 February with 18 walkers covering 21 kms as a training walk for the Oxfam walk group the "Sisters of Silly Walks". George Turner took 17 up to Olinda on 28 February, but due to the hot weather, finished at 2pm.

There were two 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary club walks. The first was on 24 April around Westerfolds Park led by Bruce Ford and Jan Gray with 30 walkers who all ended up at a huge afternoon tea at the end of the walk organized by Jan Falconer. The second was Big Pats Creek to Starlings Gap led by Alan Brown and Don McKelvie on 25 April with all 32 walkers enduring leeches, rain and some confusion at track junctions. Alan Marshall returned to the Kinglake fire ravaged area on 1 May, walking around 14 kms around the Mt Everard, Mt Jerusalem area in 6 hours, noting the signs of regrowth. On the 2 May Jenny Keamy had 14 women and one man on a walk to Shepherds Bush, ending up at the Jells Park cafe for a coffee and a chat.

Jan Falconer led a wet and misty walk around Mt Evelyn on 20 June with 19 walkers slipping and sliding 13 kms. Alan Brown, on Wednesday 23 June completed his annual Winter Solstice mystery walk around the Plenty River area, and after a long lunch for all 24 walkers at the Greensborough RSL, they all walked back to their cars and went home.

Among the new members for the year were Diana Bell, Margaret Matters, Arthur Koo, Ruth Fox, Ros Huggins, Anne Keegan and Anne Grant.

At the end of the year the club had a surplus of \$405.91 and a working capital of \$5,647.68.

## Chapter 7 2010/2011

This year began with Tom Tierney taking over as Treasurer from Claire Harris and Wayne Rice took over the Walks Coordinators role from Alan Marshall.

The Walktalk front page was displaying large photographs of club activities, mostly members pretending to walk and enjoying the occasion, and smaller photos on later pages.

At the end of this year the club had a membership of 152, but there were only 18 active leaders, with 5 not available due to various reasons and 3 leaders in training. Hence there were ongoing calls throughout the year for more members to step up to the leadership role. Two new Personal Locator Beacons (PLB's), working on the new 406 MHz band were purchased with a \$1,000 grant from the Manningham Council. The old PLB was redundant as that frequency was no longer surveyed, and was returned to the supplier to scrap.

In July the Melbourne Weekly (Eastern) paper had a 3 page spread of an article on bushwalking and the Koonung Club including a whole front page photo featuring Claire Harris and Keith Lierse in full walking gear. Not to be outdone, Tom Tierney had a photo and a half page article in the Whitehorse Leader later in the year promoting the Oxfam walk.

The clubs website was 8 years old, and the Webmaster was Ian Barr, and with great reluctance Ian handed the task over to Alan Marshall. This year saw the introduction of time saver walks by Kevin Wilson. The idea being that each walk will be reasonably close to home, and finish at or about lunch time, thus freeing up the remainder of the day for personal activities. This activity became very popular in ensuing years.

On the social scene there were two theatre nights, two dinners, a golf day and a trip to the city to view the Johnston Collection on 13 January.

Cross country skiing, led by Val Lierse, had a topsy turvy year. There were 3 weekends at the cottage skiing Mt. Stirling. The week booked at the USC in early September at \$47 a night had to be cancelled as heavy rains had closed the Falls Creek road indefinitely with landslides. Plan B was to go to the cottage for a week, but the roads around Mansfield and all the creeks were in flood. The final result was that all the participants packed up and spent a week at Jan Falconer's shack at Highlands. An interesting historical perspective was that during this winter the Maindample hotel was burnt to the ground, and never rebuilt, and the Mansfield hotel had a serious fire that closed it for over 6 months due to rebuilding works.

One of our recent members Barrie Blount died on 19 July after a freak road accident. Barrie was a leader of the club, and was well regarded in the short time he was with the club. The son of Alex and Margaret Stirkul, Tim, died on 24 January after a battle with cancer, and the club sent their condolences and support.

Elvie McInerney wrote several first aid hints and question and answer articles during the year to make members aware of the latest first aid procedures, including a CPR update and the ICE feature on mobile phones. There was also an article describing the use of 000 and 112 on mobile phones, with 000 tried first, and if the mobile phone is a pre 2002 GSM, try 112. The committee asked that all members wear name tags at our monthly meetings and when we invite friends to come as visitors on walks we should always vet their abilities and inform the leader before the walk.

Christine Galloway had co-ordinated the clubs supper for over 8 years, and during the year she returned to her native Scotland to live. The club initiated a petition with 265 signatures opposing the trial to re-introduce cattle grazing in the Alpine National Park. The petition was presented to the State parliament on 3 March by MLA Colin Brookes.

BWV had a 2011 calendar for \$10 each. The clubs personal injury insurer gave notice that from 1 July 2011 that the insurance would only cover Australia and New Zealand. There was a snippet in Walktalk that every public toilet in Australia could be located on the web site [w.w.w.toiletmap.gov.au](http://w.w.w.toiletmap.gov.au).

Keith Lierse had an article describing a 3 day backpack in 1955 over Mt. Stirling and Mt. Buller, and a table of the 12 highest mountains in Victoria, from Mt. Bogong being the highest at 1986 metres to number 12, Mt. Jim at 1818 metres.

There was an article on the care of Goretex clothing, because the patent had expired and there was expected to be more Goretex cloth used. Val Lierse wrote a very interesting article on a recent trip where she watched emus swimming in Mt. Billy Creek in the Flinders Ranges.

The Federation day walk was at Anglesea on 9/10 October. Kevin Wilson ran a successful expedition to Mungo, Kinchega and Mutawintji National Parks from 11 to 26 October. Alan Brown ran a base camp in the southern Grampians from 5-9 November, and his annual Pt. Leo camp on 18-20 February with 4 camping and 3 day trippers, all having to endure wet and windy conditions.

Jan Falconer led a successful expedition to the south island of New Zealand in March and April. Overall, 19 members participated in part or in total undertaking walks along the Milford track, the Routeburn Track, the Abel Tasman Walk and the Queen Charlotte walk, plus all the other touristy things to do when in New Zealand.

The backpack events were beset by storms and wet weather. A backpack to be led by Keith Lierse to the Bogong High Plains was on 3-6 December was cancelled due to ongoing rain over 10 days. The backpack on 21-24 January to the western Bogong High Plains attracted 14 members with mainly good weather. The backpack to the eastern Bogong High Plains on 11-14 March with 7 members attending was dogged with rain and mist with the trip cut short a day early. The drive home was punctuated with violent storms and heavy rain all the way down the Hume Highway.

Tom Patton ran a bike ride from Safety Beach to Rye on 29 August. On the 7<sup>th</sup> August Tom took a large number of walkers from Settlers Cove, the Portsea surf beach and Coppins Lookout back to Tom and Pat's house at McCrae for a sumptuous afternoon tea.

Kevin Wilson's time saver walks were very popular, with one on the 5<sup>th</sup> March along the Yarra Flats visiting the historic artist display and viewing the recent flood damage along the track. Another on the 4<sup>th</sup> June had 27 members walking from Nortons Park to Jells Park on a fine winter's day.

The day walks were affected, in general, by a wet year and the devastation of many popular areas by the 2009 bushfires. Wayne Rice visited the Kinglake area on 3 July in misty, wet and cold conditions with the DSE clean up nearly complete and forest regrowth evident. Peter Goodwin walked the Tanglefoot Range on 17 July with 8 members for a 17 kms stroll, whilst Des Bain showed the utmost flexibility as a leader on 1 August when, due to bad weather, he abandoned the advertised You Yangs walk, considered other options, and then took his group to the Warrandyte State Park.

Alan Brown led a re-enactment of the Burke and Wills expedition on 22 August with 30 members, and they were thankfully a little late for the speeches in Royal Park. On Grand Final day, 25th

September, Alan led 10 anti football walkers through the mud and water of the Trentham Domino Trail described as quite flat, quite wet, indeed flooded.

Wayne Rice took 11 members on the Montrose circuit on 18 September amongst a sea of blooming wattles and, believe it or not, the rain held off until the end of the walk. However, when Wayne took his party up Mt. Little Joe on 23 October it was wet, very wet, very muddy, and they went up, and then came straight down for lunch and a coffee. The next day Ian Barr led a group of 24 around the Yellingbo Reserve, the habitat of the yellow Helmeted Honeyeater, where Ian and everyone else found that it was untracked and unmapped, but all had an enjoyable day.

Patsy Borton cancelled her Kinglake walk on 16 October due to heavy snow, and Jenny Keamy did a recce around Kinglake on 27 October and found all but one track re-opened after the fires. Ann Wetherall braved the Werribee Gorge on 12 December with 10 members with dire warnings of many snakes and lots of water, but all survived the day.

On 2 February Jan Gray led a walk around historic Williamstown using only public transport, and Wayne Rice took his group from Federation Square to Gardenvale, a 14 kms stroll, again using public transport. On 13 March Terry O'Callaghan led the last of the drain series of walks with 19 members attempting to find the source of the Dandenong Creek.

Tom Patton led 14 walkers around the extreme end of Point Nepean on 12 March, a total of 14 kms. Bruce Ford led a bike ride from Diamond Creek to Collingwood on 26 March with 5 riders and described as a perfect day for bike riding. Susan Peterson took 13 members on a walk from Eltham to Pettys Orchard and return on 7 May as an information day on outdoor photography.

Some new members joining the club during the year included Dianne Robertson, Emily Wu, Katy Brown, Neil Brown, Sandra Miall, Ros Bischoff and Dominic Chan.

At the end of the year the club had a surplus of \$498-16 and working capital of \$6,917-18.

## Chapter 8 2011/2012

At the AGM on 15 June, chaired by Terry O'Callaghan because President Ian Barr was overseas, the only change in the committee was that Trish Renfree bowed out of the Social Events position and the position became vacant until October when Marjorie Dowd took over the role.

There were a plethora of awards presented that evening. There were four 20 year walk leader awards, nine 10 year awards, 37 20 year membership awards and certificates of appreciation to Mary Atkins for her 20 plus years work with the BSAR callout role and Christine Galloway for her long term supper duties. The golden butterfly award was shared by Elaine Turnbull and John Baulch with 30 walks each. In the August Walktalk there is a full page article on the protocol and procedures regarding the clubs award system.

At the end of 2012 there were 21 leaders including three new leaders namely Diana Bell, Elvie McInerney and Tom Tierney. The overall participation during this year was lower being 1,221 person days compared to 1,367 the year before. The reasons were weather related and the sickness of leaders and cancellation of walks. There were several accidents including falls, sprains and a ruptured finger tendon due to a ski accident.

Wayne Rice introduced in Walktalk the Walk Leaders Notice Board, which gave regular updates of pertinent information to all leaders and club members in general.

Patti Hall ran a successful gear trading table at the July meeting. Items included parkas, boots, overpants, packs, etc. Margaret Maxwell, one of the original club members, was appointed the club rep for BSAR. Wayne Rice introduced the innovation of a leader's notice board in the monthly Walktalks bringing leaders, and members, up to date with the latest information.

The clubs website was upgraded by the Webmaster Alan Marshall with a fresh green theme. There is a large article in August giving the technical and operational details of the clubs two new PLB's.

There were regular first aid hints in Walktalk ranging from heart attack, blisters, leeches and brain health. There was a level 1 first aid course on 26 November at a subsidized cost of \$20 per member. There was an article in August about an ABC radio report that snake bite could be successfully treated with nitric oxide ointment. No more information was forthcoming.

Louise Lamont, a long time member of the club died in August, and 37 club members attended her funeral.

The Great Walks magazine had an article naming the Koonung BWC trip to Mongolia as "the go anywhere club", and "have boots will travel". The upshot is that we already know! There was a gourmet sandwich competition with 7 entries from Ian Barr, Terry O'Callaghan, Lynn Lam, Margaret Stirkul, George Turner, Ann Wetherall and Jan Gray. There was a prize of a \$50 voucher, but no record of who won.

There was an article during the year on the sunscreen debate. Australian Standards approved 15+ in 1983, 30+ in 1998 and 50+ in 2010. How much sunscreen you need was debatable (it seemed to be a lot), and to be effective sunscreen should be re-applied every 2 hours.

The club bought new gear to hire including a one man tent, 2 sets of walking poles, LED BBQ lights and a PA system. The February Walktalk had a comprehensive list of the club equipment for hire. There was a new car cost table, remedies for jet lag travelling east or west, a new mapping app called AVENZA which does almost everything but the walking if you have reception, another app giving

you all the details of your destination, care of Goretex clothing and boots. In the November Walktalk the President gave a reminder to all members re the procedures for booking, personal information, track etiquette, the clubs emergency contact system and to keep always the leader informed of any injuries.

The March Walktalk has a complete membership list. Jan Falconer had a summary of the January members' forum, and a check list of websites to check for fires, floods, weather, track closures, diversions and burn offs. There are a few photos of wry signs seen by members that have a humorous twist. Myrtle rust has been found at 23 sites in Victoria, and there is a concern that it will spread. Walkers are advised to clean boots and cars after visiting forest areas.

There was a leaders' training day at Westerfolds Park on 19 May. Mike Robinson who has been the clubs auditor for over 12 years retired due to ill health.

On the social scene there are two theatre nights and two dinners.

It was a frustrating year for the skiers because of the odd winter weather with lots of rain, but a freezing level consistently above 1,400 metres meant that snowfalls were washed away at lower levels. The club spent three weekends at the cottage, still only \$20 a night, but it was very cold with icy conditions on Mt. Stirling. Five members were the only occupants of the Falls Creek USC for 5 days during early September, with the snow melting fast. On the last day Val Lierse fell on the dam wall and ruptured a tendon in a finger resulting in a costly visit to the Falls Creek medical centre.

There was a base camp at the Snowy Plains on Cup weekend with 9 members led by Keith Lierse. The weather was good, the camp site comfortable and there were 3 spectacular walks and fine weather.

Alan and Jan Brown ran a base camp at the Charnwood school camp at East Lima in November at a cost of \$260 for 4 nights. It was well attended with 28 members, and the walks were interesting and challenging. One night there was a birthday party with three women dressed as serenading sirens and waving boa feathers over a birthday boy. Ruth Fox declared it the best birthday party ever.

Terry O'Callaghan led the third week of the walk around Sydney Harbour from 21-31 March, staying at the Woolbrokers Hotel, still \$50 per night, with an attendance of 37 members. The walks included were South Head to Bondi and Bondi to La Parouse (2 days). The weather was fine all week.

The annual Howmans Gap base camp, now costing \$334 for 5 nights, attracted 21 members who had good weather and good walks. On 10-12 February, 21 members travelled to Sheeppyard Flat for a base camp led by Keith Lierse. Those that arrived on Thursday night endured a wild thunderstorm, but the weather abated for the rest of the camp until the last day when it started raining as everyone departed the camp site. There were walks to Fry's hut, 8 Mile Gap and along the Howqa River to Ritchies hut, disturbing many snakes.

There was a base camp at Halls Gap from the 8-12 June led by Jan Gray with Neil Brown given his first leaders gig. Of the 11 members attending, Neil was the only man, so he was coerced into leading all the walks for the entire weekend.

The day walk scene was varied and interesting. On 6 July Jan Gray led a walk in the city of the arcades, gardens and of course coffee shops, whilst Diana Bell led her first walk with 11 members from Westerfolds to Lenister farm. Alan Brown took 26 walkers on a 12 km circuit of the Darebin Parklands. This walk started poorly, because when the party arrived at the Rosanna Railway Station there were no trains running, so all had to bus it to the start. Wayne Rice on 31 July dared to go to Mt.

Little Joe again, but an interesting incident happened when an SES volunteer they met remembered that the club had cleared the Millgrove track in 1987, and it was now badly overgrown.

The club participated in track clearing on 14 August with 9 members on the Upper Goldfields track and Jan Falconer on 27 August revisited Andrews Hill near Kinglake with 13 members and found that most of the infrastructure had been restored. On 17 September Jenny Keamy had a perfect spring day with 18 walkers to explore the Glenlyon area, and the next day Ann Wetherall took 20 walkers on a beautiful fine day from Belgrave through the Sherbrooke Forest back to Belgrave using public transport.

Alex Stirkul took 6 members on what was called a real bushwalk on 2 October along the Pyrete Range with steep, short climbs and a maze of gullies. Peter Goodwin returned to Marysville on the 29 October, and it turned out to be a wet, muddy, misty day with a few snakes here and there having their photos taken as they basked in the sun. The Marysville re-construction was still ongoing, but some enjoyed afternoon tea at the bakery. Peter returned to the Bunyip SP with 12 walkers on 19 November amid leeches and rain, and Ann Wetherall braved the area south of Powelltown to visit 7 acre rock, walking 21 kms, and after the recent heavy rains, shared the tracks with lots of leeches.

Bruce Ford led an interesting urban walk around Eaglemont on 30 November. This area has a residential development of Walter Burley Griffin fame, and most of the Heidelberg School artist colony resided in the area.

Tom Patton reminded everyone in an article in Walktalk that the name of Main Creek, which enters Bushrangers Bay on the Mornington Peninsula, and is the longest creek on the peninsula, will revert, with the approval of the local shire, to its original name of Wallermeriyong Creek.

Wayne Rice tackled the difficult Strath Creek Falls area on 18 December with 7 men only. The walk was hard with overgrown sections, rain and some scrambles in parts.

Come the New Year, Jan Falconer took 19 walkers around the Fairfield circuit on 22 January on a hot and muggy day, whilst Tom Tierney took over a walk from Federation Square to Gardenvale on 29 January described as “a bloody hot day”. Jenny Keamy returned to Murrindindi for the first time since the fires on 11 February with 12 members on an overcast day, to find that most of the major infrastructure had been repaired or replaced.

Keith Lierse and Neil Brown did a 3 day recce of the Wonnangatta Valley from Guy’s Hut to the Dry Creek, and found parts of the ridge track severely overgrown. Unfortunately, due to a bad fall Keith injured his back, and the walkout took 8 hours instead of five.

Alan Marshall visited Anakie Gorge with 12 walkers on 18 March rambling up to Cattle Gully which was described as a satisfying walk. Tom Patton took a walk along the old Red Hill railway line on 21 April with 15 walkers. Our own Terry succumbed to a stomach wog and was left at the CFA station with a carer, and was recovered fit and well at the end of the walk. Finally, Jenny Keamy led a walk on a cold and chilly winter’s day from Wandin North to Seville and return, warming up with a well earned coffee at Wandin North.

Some new members for the year included Francis Hui, Joan McMahon, Dorothy Li and Laurence Li, Brenda Humphreys and Deborah Kelly.

At the end of the year the club made a surplus of \$807.10, and had accumulated funds of \$9,455.80.

## Chapter 9 2012/2013

At the AGM in June 2012 the only change of the committee was that Jo Leyman took over the position of Social Events from Marjorie Dowd. At the AGM there were two Golden Butterfly awards. Kevin Wilson was awarded his for leading 12 time saver walks over 12 months, and Dominic Chan for attending 30 club events.

At the end of the 2012/13 year the Walks Coordinator, Wayne Rice, reported that the club had 31 leaders, there were 8 base camps, one ski camp, one interstate tour to the Flinders Ranges and no back packs were undertaken. There were 94 day walks attended by 1,325 people at an average of 14 people per walk. There were only 41 visitors during the year, and there were 7 incidents ranging from cramps, falls and bee stings.

During December, January and February Melbourne had an extreme heatwave which resulted in many walks being cancelled.

Elvie McInerney published several first aid articles during the year on topics ranging from water salt balance to overseas travel sickness. The committee approved a grant of up to \$200 for leaders to provide special treats on tours and base camps, but any grant must be approved before the event.

As it turned out, 2013 was the last winter that the club participated in cross country skiing. The season was fair to good, with a few days at Lake Mountain culminating with a 5 day trip to the Bogong High Plains in early September, based at Howmans Gap and led by Val Lierse. On the last day there was a dump of 60cms of snow necessitating snow chains to depart Howmans Gap.

Kevin Wilson in September Walktalk drew attention to the more lenient laws proposed for juveniles to use firearms, the possible increased deer hunting on public lands, and the possibility of 5 star hotels and golf courses in Victorian National Parks.

An article in September Walktalk that it had been decided to cease mail out of Walktalk on December 2013. At that time 27 receive mail outs, and 12 members do not have internet. This decision was to be reviewed at a later date. The distribution "crew" of hard copy Walktalk was Elvie McInerney, Marcia Green and Claire Harris.

The Federation day walk was held at Marysville on 14 October, and was poorly supported by the club. On the social scene there were theatre nights on 2 August, 18 October, and 18 April, a dinner at Fountains Restaurant on 6 September, a bowls/dinner at the Yarra Valley Country Club scheduled for 24 January, but due to very hot weather was moved to 7 March, and a dinner on 9 May at the Vibrante Restaurant.

Alan and Jan Brown led a very successful base camp on 20-22 July at Cave Hill, near Mt Cole near Beaufort. There were 34 Koonung attendees and 4 from the Diamond Valley club. This was an excellent attendance because it was in the middle of a very cold winter. There was a 9km walk on Friday, 3 walks on Saturday ranging from a hard 12 km, a medium 10 km and a short and easy 9km stroll. After decamping on Sunday the party drove to Ditchfields to explore the Beeripmo track.

Jan Falconer took many club members to her shack at Highlands, and Neil Brown dug out several level tent sites around the shack for future use.

In the August Walktalk there was an article about the Wrongs Act, (a state statute), detailing the protection of volunteers being held responsible for accidents leading to injury. This is very pertinent

to all walks leaders and first aiders. Wayne Rice emphasized the right of a leader to refuse to take a member on a walk which was considered beyond that person's capability.

In August the idea was floated for a September 2014 trip to Halifax, Nova Scotia, but this was dropped by the club later in the year due to lack of support.

Neil Brown led a base camp to Wilsons Promontory on 12-14 October where he was given the title of the whistle blower. There were 16 attendees, and the new club gazebo was used at Tidal River. There was a short 9 km walk on Friday to Mt Bishop, and on Saturday a 14 km walk was completed from Darby Saddle to Darby River, with one member losing the sole of one of her new boots which required emergency field repairs. On Sunday the party packed up and did some local walks around Tidal River before returning home via the Fish Creek Hotel.

November Walktalk advertised that 10 entries had been received for the best easy meal after a bushwalk. The winner was Judi Millar with a cheese, mushroom and ham recipe.

Ian Barr led a bike ride on 7-9 December from Ballarat to Bendigo covering 72 kms on day 1, 61 kms on day 2 and 58 kms on day 3 with no support. Apparently three riders started and two finished at Bendigo, and it was described as an interesting ride, with no information about the missing rider.

The annual club BBQ had a silly hat competition and many members took part, with prizes awarded to the 7 winners.

The Howmans Gap Christmas camp still cost \$351 for 5 nights, including all meals. Three clubs participated with 16 Koonung members, led by Karen Sheedy, 24 from Diamond Valley and 30 from Waverley and a wide variety of walks around the Bogong High Plains.

Elvie McInerney ran a new club initiative with a New Years Eve moonlight meander event with a local walk in her area, and returning to her house to ring in the New Year.

Jeannine Desailly and Patti Hall had a display of their artworks at Bridges Restaurant in Hurstbridge during October and November.

A former respected member of the club, Lesly Uren was awarded an OAM in the Australia Day honours for her work in the arts and crafts, her embroidery skills and as an educator. Lesly opened her house to club members on 3 & 4 May to display her magnificent work.

A Bogong High Plains backpack led by Keith Lierse in January to the park was attended by 7 members, and was dogged by wet weather which resulted in an early departure on day 3.

In early March on a visit to the Snowy Plains, Keith and Val Lierse came across a brand new toilet at McAlister Springs, which had its official opening the next day.

Ian Barr ran the last of his President's walks on 24 March, ending up at the Pig and Whistle Tavern in Mt Evelyn. The previous walks were 2010 in the Warramate hills, and the Woori Yallock Hotel: 2011 in the Toolangi area and the Toolangi Tavern: 2012 in the Kinglake area ending up at the Panton Hills Hotel.

Ian Barr ran an expedition to the Flinders Ranges from 3 -13 April of which 19 members attended. The trip was led by Ian Ransom of Exploranges. The two OKA trucks were the transport mode. A highlight of the trip was a long day walk up and down the rugged Arcoona Bluff, which is part of the Gammon Ranges. Other places visited included Weetootla Gorge, Bath Tub Creek, Bunyeroo Gorge

Aroona Valley, Mt. Brown and Alligator Gorge, and the historic places including Arkaroola, Wilpena Pound and Quorn. The trip was described as having good weather, good food and good scenery.

Elvie McInerney ran a Base Camp to Phillip Island on 11-14 April, but only 5 members attended due to other club activities. The walks to The Nobbies and Pyramid Rock in fine weather were described as superb and spectacular.

In April the club began using a modified walks grading system using descriptive terms. It was claimed that it doesn't make the walk easier, but it helps members to understand the grading better. In addition, Wayne Rice asked all day walkers to check the contents of their day packs because some members are obviously carrying too much gear for the conditions.

Tom Tierney had a photo in his local paper on 5 May showing his support for the future Oxfam walk. Tom was able to coerce 16 members to join him on the clubs charity walk.

Neil Brown tempted the Rain Gods with a base camp at Warrnambool from 17 – 19 May with 22 members attending, 3 stayed in tents and the remainder used cabins. There were walks each day, the highlight being the extended walk around the Tower Hill crater on the Saturday followed by a dinner at the local RSL. The weather turned out to be ideal for walking with no rain.

Walk elevation profiles were shown for the first time in the May Walktalk which may have deterred some from attending after seeing the very wriggly ups and downs. True to form, there was a review of car costs at the end of the year.

The following is a selection of day walks during the year. Jenny Keamy led a walk to Little Hampton on a cool day on 8 July with icy puddles and a creek crossing that turned out to be the very wet Loddon River. Ann Wetherall led 16 members to Lysterfield Lake on 14 July in the cold and light rain, and the walk was described as brave. Not to be outdone, Elvie McInerney led a walk to Romsey with 13 members amid cold, rain, hail and wind, and Elvie supplied afternoon tea.

On 11 August Wayne Rice took 14 members to the Lysterfield/Churchill Parks, climbing the 224 metre trig point on a very, very cold day. On 25 August Karen Sheedy took a party along the Domino Trail at Trentham on a cold day, retiring to Lyonville for hot drinks by an open fire. On 9 September Dominic Chan led his first walk of 14 kms from The Basin to Sherbrooke with 25 members under the watchful eye of our Walks Leader Wayne Rice. On 6 October Elvie McInerney had a whopping 29 members on a walk to Badger Creek weir in heavy rain. Next day, 7 October, Kevin Wilson led a walk around the Koonung Reserve, followed up by a BBQ lunch in the garden of Myra and Kevin's home.

Bill Kerr led a midweek walk on 10 October around Westerfolds Park with 10 members. Alan Marshall on 21 October took 12 members to the Pyrete Range, and during an off track event it took 2 hours to travel 1 km! The overall walk was 15 kms, including a visit to an antimony mine.

On 17 November Jack de Bruijne led 7 members on a 7-7 walk to the Werribee Gorge in fine weather, 14 kms, a river crossing, lots of water and 700 metres uphill. On 21 November Jan Gray took a group from Westerfolds to Montsalvat, visit an art exhibition and return. On 2 December Neil Brown took 18 members to Bunyip State Park up to The Rocks amid rain, leeches and good views.

Wayne Rice did a combined walk with Diamond Valley on 16 December, a total of 11 walkers to the Strath Creek Falls. The walk was described as challenging with no track from the start due to regrowth, creek crossings, and 2km rock hopping along Diggers Gully. Overall, it was described as a testing and rewarding walk.

The first months of 2013 were dogged by an extended extreme heat wave. Jenny Keamy took 6 members for a walk in the Sassafras area, but cut the walk to 8 kms due to the heat. On 10 February Jan Gray led a walk from Flinders to Somers meeting up with the Brown's at their fixed camp site at Point Leo for lunch. Two of Jan's party were caught by rogue waves and received a thorough wetting. In addition, Jan forgot her lunch and had to accept the hospitality of the Brown's.

On 3 March Diana Bell led 16 members from Warrandyte to Blue Tongue Bend, but the day was hot and the walk was shortened. Bruce Ford led a walk around the Currawong Mullum Mullum Circuit Walk for the Manningham Healthy Lifestyles Week. It was a hot day, 22 registered, 15 attended including 8 non members, and there was a BBQ and food supplied at the end of the walk.

On a walk to The Cathedrals via Neds Saddle on the 28 April led by Wayne Rice, George Turner wrote "no wonder we were struggling with 791 metres of climbing and all that rock scrambling".

On 18 May Jack de Bruijne took 10 members on a three creeks 14 km walk in the Brisbane Ranges, visiting a couple of old mine sites and finding the area pretty dry. Karen Sheedy took 13 members on her favourite walk in the Christmas Hills with lunch at the Sugarloaf reservoir. On 22 June Karen took 13 members to the Kinglake, Mt Everard Jerusalem area. The Mt Everard track was just re-opened after the 2009 fires, and some other tracks were still closed, and there was dense regrowth off track. The weather was kind, and it was good to see the bush recovering.

At the June 2013 AGM Life Memberships were awarded to Ann Wetherall and Peter Goodwin in recognition of their meritorious service to the club. Ann joined the club in 1990, has been a leader for 20 years, and has been a club committee member and assisted Bushwalking Search and Rescue for many years. Peter joined the club in 1994, and has been a very active leader for 15 years, and has been a club committee member.

Golden Butterfly awards were presented to Jean Stone for attending the most walks during the year, and Tom Tierney for his willingness to organize and lead an exceptional number of walks, some at short notice.

Ann Wetherall received a 20 year Leader Award. Alan Marshall and Ian Barr received 10 Year Leader Awards.

At the June 2013 AGM, the Associations Incorporation Reform Act, 2012 was accepted by the membership of the club, and the old rules of the club were no longer valid. A new set of model rules came into effect, and the Koonung committee wisely were able to modify the new rules that are distinctive to the Koonung Bushwalking Club, and therefore make them our own rules.

At the end of the year the club had \$9,407.40 in the accumulation account. There were new rules this year that due to the clubs accounts being under the threshold, there was no need to officially audit the accounts as long as one committee member and the Treasurer signed off on the annual accounts.

Some new members who joined during the year included Marcia Kamenar, Alida De Ingeniis, Terry Hart, Rhonda Constantinou, Christa Ryan, Andrew and Liz Robinson and Ray Perich.

## Chapter 10 2013/2014

At the AGM there were major changes in the make-up of the clubs committee. Terry O'Callaghan took over as President from Ian Barr, Mary Zekan took over from Terry as Vice President, Diana Bell took over as Secretary from Jan Falconer, Dick Beton took on the role of Walks Co-ordinator from Wayne Rice and Marianne Gardner took over as Editor of Walktalk from John Oldfield. Jo Leyman continued as Social Events Co-ordinator until the end of the year, and later, Elvie McInerney took over that role in early 2014.

During the year there were 91 day walks, 8 base camps, no back packs, no cross country ski trips, one joint walk with Diamond Valley and one overseas trip to Turkey. There were 809 members and 78 visitor at events. During the year there were 4 major and 3 minor injuries reported. The club now boasted 31 leaders including 5 new leaders. The new leaders were Neil Mounsher, Wilma Waters, Liz Robinson, Anne Van Loon and Mary Zekan.

The annual club subscriptions remained unchanged. The club membership remained unchanged at about 150.

On the social scene there were theatre nights on 8 August, 21 November and 15 May. There were dinners on 3 September and 7 November.

Elvie McInerney continued her first aid articles in Walktalk, with a full page of tips on overseas travel.

In September Walktalk there is a plea from the Secretary not to force the concertina doors at The Pines venue of our monthly meeting, because any damage to the doors is very expensive to rectify.

Jan Falconer had camps at her Highlands shack on 13-15 September and 14-16 March where participants enjoyed the remote area in a large bush setting.

The club committee was disappointed in that very few attended the Federation Walk on 13 October even though no walks were programmed by the club on that day to encourage participation.

The Howmans Gap base camp from 27 December to 1 January was a joint camp with the Waverley and Diamond Valley clubs and was led by Jan Gray and leaders from the other clubs.

As from January 2014 the Victorian government no longer hosted the vic.net website, which was free to organizations like Koonung. The outcome was that Alan Marshall and Ian Barr had to develop a new club website which involved a lot of effort, and it became available on line in late March.

The new website is [koonungbushwalkingclub.org.au](http://koonungbushwalkingclub.org.au)

In March the club instituted a supper roster on meeting nights.

Terry O'Callaghan led the fourth and final week of the walk around Sydney Harbour, completing all the walks remaining to be done which were the Parramatta and North Sydney areas. The accommodation was, as usual, at the Woolbrokers Hotel in Darling Point from Sunday 30 March to Saturday 5 April 2014. The 35 members who attended enjoyed good weather for the entire week. The clubs thanks go to Bill Orme and his committee of volunteers in Sydney who designed and implemented the concept of walking around the entire harbour. Thanks were extended to Karen Sheedy, Keith Lierse and Tom Tierney who acted as Group Leaders on this trip, their primary task being to usher their parties on and off buses, trains, trams and ferries. The 4 visits over the past 6

years had seen a total of 138 participants, which is about half the club membership, having made at least one of the trips. The 14 club members who attended all 4 weeks over the 4 years, (2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014), now have the distinction of having completely walked around Sydney harbour.

Neil Brown led a backpack to the Wilsons Promontory lighthouse from 15-18 August with 10 members. On day 2 the party walked via Little Oberon Bay, Halfway Hut on to the lighthouse, a total of 24 kms. There were ongoing problems with some not coping well with the larger packs. On day 3 the party enjoyed a sunny rest day exploring the area around the lighthouse. On day 4 the party set out for Waterloo Bay in windy conditions, then back on to the Telegraph Track, taking them back to the car park, a total of 20.5 kms. One person sustained a knee injury on the way out that reduced the overall pace of the party. It was described as a wonderful trip, with 9 members not having been to the lighthouse before.

Neil also led a successful 3 day base camp to Wilsons Promontory on 23-25 May with walks to Mt. Oberon, Sealers Cove and Oberon Bay with 14 members attending and enjoying the Prom in fine autumn weather.

Graeme Munro and Carol Hopkins led a base camp to Anglesea on 25-27 October, although there are not any details available.

Neil Brown led a 3 day base camp to The Cathedrals from 29 November to 1 December with 8 happy campers. On day 1 they did a short walk up the river to Little River Falls, returning to the camp site at Cooks Mill. On day 2, in fine weather, they did a ridge walk via Ned's Gully described as a tough walk of 9.5 kms. On day 3 they walked up to the Farmyard, then over North and South Jawbone peaks and back to the camp site in fine and warm conditions.

The club's annual Christmas BBQ was held on 18 December at Ruffey Lake Park in fine weather with a treasure hunt, reindeer antlers, Christmas cake and a balloon race.

There was the usual Howmans Gap base camp from 27 December to 1 January exploring the Bogong High Plains led by Jan Gray and shared with Waverley and Diamond Valley clubs.

The January club meeting was a members' forum from which the committee later drafted a 3 year strategic plan.

The weather was very hot in December and January which led to fewer members walking.

Bruce Ford led the Manningham Healthy Lifestyles walk on 1 March which was attended by 28 people (17 non members), and after the walk there was a free BBQ. In March, Bruce received a certificate of appreciation from the Manningham Council for his involvement in this annual project.

In March Walktalk there was a gentle reminder to all members that if you sign on for a walk or activity and find that you cannot attend, you must inform the leader.

Ann Wetherall led an overseas trip to Turkey from 26 April to 13 May with 16 Koonung members and 4 others on a Fairy Chimneys tour. They visited all the amazing places in Turkey, including Istanbul, Cappadocia, Olympos National Park, the Temple of Arternis, Ephesus, Canakkale and Gallipoli. It was voted by all who attended a most memorable and enjoyable trip.

Tom Tierney ran his annual Oxfam walk on 18 May.

In August Walktalk there was a full page of the equipment the club has for hire.

Mike Robinson, a long time member of the club, and the clubs honorary auditor for over 10 years, died on 23 April 2014. There was a good contingent of club members at his funeral. Mikes wife Joan, also a long time member of the club, was forced to resign during the year due to failing health.

Betty Ling, a foundation member of the club, resigned during the year. Betty, is the wife of Bill Ling, who is a Foundation Member and Life Member of the club. Both Betty and Bill have not enjoyed the best of health in recent times. Bill and Betty ran several club expeditions and day walks in the early years of the club.

On the 14 June, 20 members successfully completed a Level 2 First aid course at the BWV conference room at Westerfolds Park conducted by our own Elvie McNerney. On 28, 29 June there was a free leader training course conducted by Bushwalking Victoria, which was attended by Mary Zekan, Liz Robinson and Anne Van Loon all of whom successfully passed.

Listed here are a few of the day walks for the year.

Kevin Wilson kicked off the year with one of his popular time saver day walks which involves a walk close to Melbourne and a return home after lunch. On 6 July Kevin led a party to Norton, Shepherds and Jells Park. Alan Marshall returned to his favourite area, the Lerderberg Gorge leading 13 members on an M 5 6 graded walk that was described as being difficult to navigate in a few spots. Neil Brown had only 4 walkers on a brisk 17 km walk to St Johns Hill and Emerald on 21 July.

Carol Hopkins and Graeme Munro, two new leaders, explored the Smith's Gully goldfields with 19 followers, with Ian Barr constantly quipping, "its time for lunch". Terry O'Callaghan led an unusual walk, based on the Dandenong Creek on 18 August with 11 starters, starting at Bunnings on the Burwood Highway, morning tea at Campbells, lunch at Croft wetlands on to Chandlers Road for daffodils. Ros Huggins took 10 members on an interesting 150th anniversary historic walk around North Fitzroy viewing historic homes, the old Fitzroy Football Club ground, an old railway line and a visit to the Fitzroy Arms Hotel.

Keith Lierse took 14 walkers on 29 September to Powelltown for an 18 km northern circuit walk along Monets Road, Fitzgeralds Road and down the Big Bertha Track, where the party came across a biodynamic farm, but nobody knew what they farmed. Carol Hopkins and Graeme Munro led a walk on 24 November to the Rokeby area exploring the old rail trail of the Warragul to Noojee railway line, enduring typical Gippsland weather of a cold wind and showers.

Mary Zekan, on 1 December, under the watchful eye of Kevin Wilson, led her first walk of 10 kms with 10 members at Braeside Park. Ros Huggins took 8 members on an interesting 12 km jaunt along the Merri Creek on 11 December from East Brunswick to Coburg visiting the Ceres Environmental Park and a Russian Orthodox Church. Alex Stirkul led the last walk before Christmas, a classic Mornington Penninsular walk from Main Ridge through to Greens Bush in fine weather. A large mob of over a hundred kangaroos were seen on the walk. Elvie McNerney again led a New Years Eve meander walk, and a return to her home to ring in the New Year.

In the new year Tom Tierney led a walk on Australia Day, 26 January, with 15 members, sang the national anthem at Lilydale Lake (girt by lake, not sea), then walking to Mt Evelyn and return with a bit of bush thrown in. Jenny Keamy visited Mt. Bunninyong on 22 February with 27 walkers who enjoyed a cool day after the long hot spell. The walk was described as all up in the morning and down

after lunch. Ros Huggins showed 8 members the street art of the city and Fitzroy on 26 February, which was interesting, because where is the line drawn between vandalism and art?

Kevin Wilson led a time saver walk from Stanebrae Park, Jumping Creek on to Blue Tongue Point with 18 walkers on 2 March in good weather. On 15 March Jack de Bruijne led a walk in the Mt. Macedon area on a hot day with 15 attendees who had to contend with religious chants in the morning and a group of hot rods at lunch.

Alan Marshall took 21 members on a beginners walk to the Lerderderg Gorge on 9 April on a very warm and dry day. All were pleased with the walk and no one owned up to it being too hard. On 23 April Jenny Keamy led a Wandin Ramble along the rail trail with 12 members on a cool misty day and the colour of beautiful autumn leaves. Karen Sheedy led a Mothers' day walk on 11 May to the Christmas Hills via One Tree Hill, and had lunch at the Sugarloaf Reservoir. This arrangement allowed the walkers to rejoin their families early in the afternoon.

Liz Robinson led her first walk on 7 June around Cape Schank with 11 members. There was rain after lunch, many kangaroos and all agreed that Liz did a great job of leading.

To close off the year Ian Barr led one of his favourite walks in the Warramate Hills on 22 June. There were 12 members who braved a cold day with frost and mist, but they were all rewarded with great views from Mt. Steele.

Some new members during the year included Ann Van Loon, Marilyn Yemn, Mary Duggan, Karen Power, Sue Hale, Lyn Wilson and Jenny Hume.

At the 2014 AGM Jenny Keamy and Karen Sheedy received awards for 20 years service as a Walk Leader.

Jan Falconer received an award for 10 years service as a Walks Leader.

Golden Butterfly Awards were presented to the following members:

Elaine Turnbull for the most walks done in the year, and for supplying and organizing supper.

Neil Brown for organizing Club Base Camps and leading walks at other Base Camps.

Ros Huggins for leading historical walks around Melbourne.

At the end of the year the club had \$9004.46 in the accumulation account.

## Chapter 11 2014/2015

At the AGM the only committee change was Alex Stirkul taking over the Walks Coordinator role from Dick Beton.

This year was the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club, and the committee undertook detailed planning to celebrate the event. The anniversary was celebrated with a dinner in the Garden Room of the Yarra Valley Country Club, Bulleen on Wednesday 15 April 2015. The theme of the night was pearls, as pearls are the token of a 30 year event. The cost was \$25 per person for a two course meal, buy your own drinks. The low price was due to a subsidy by the club. A total of 110 persons attended, with the clubs oldest member, Life Member Tom Patton cutting the birthday cake. There was a continuous slide show of historic pictures which was organized by Val Margulius. There was a speech by Keith Lierse, the clubs founder, commenting on the formation of the club, the history of the club, the reasons for its success and its probable future directions.

There were many prizes handed out during the night by the MC, President Terry O'Callaghan. All present received an anniversary pen. Each table was asked to compile pearls of wisdom heard around the club. The outstanding pearl was "has anybody seen the leader?" That table received a large box of chocolates. There were 11 prizes relating to pearls ranging from the most pearls worn by a lady (Lyverne Newson), and a man (Wayne Rice), the longest string (Diane Ford) and the shortest string (Katie Brown) of pearls. The most unusual pearl (Joan O'Flynn), the best pearl headwear (Trish Renfree), the best mans pearl dress wear (Tom Tierney), the most valuable pearl (Marie Spowart), the best black pearls (Rosa Marguccio), the largest pearl (Jacquie Kim), and the best pearl accessory (Jeannine Desailly). Elvie McInerney, Diana Bell and Kevin Wilson provided the prizes, and Arthur Koo donated the printing of the membership pamphlet.

Overall, it was a happy night enjoyed by all those in attendance, which celebrated 30 years of great walking experiences and friendship.

During the year there were three social outings to the Playhouse on 14 August, 20 November and 21 May.

There were no cross country ski weekends, only private day trips due to lack of interest. There was only one backpack for the year, which was a 3 day trip, 19 -21 March to the Baw Baws by Neil Brown and Keith Lierse. This trip was memorable due to a severe 2 hour thunderstorm on the first night, and a Parks Victoria working party of 20 the next day clearing a very overgrown track from Mt St Phillack to Mt. Whitelaw. The walk out was blessed with fine weather.

There was an overseas trip from 11-16 November to Hong Kong led by Dominic Chan, and assisted by Susan Peterson with 23 members attending. They visited Lamma Island, Lantau Island, and completed the Dragon Back walk on Hong Kong Island. There was also a walk in the New Territories where the Koonung group teamed up with some 100 locals from the Hong Kong BWC for a very hot and long walk due to the weather and the steep terrain.

Jan Falconer had several members at her Highland retreat on 30-31 August in time for Spring, and in March.

Neil Brown revisited Wilsons Promontory for a 3 day walk from 18-21 September with 12 members, again visiting the lighthouse in very good weather.

Elvie McInerney took 20 members to Woods Point on 24-26 October, exploring this old historic gold mining town, staying at the local Commercial hotel. On the way home they stopped off at Matlock, Cambarville and the Cora Lynn falls. Bill Kerr experienced a significant internal bleeding event on the way home, and the party delivered Bill to the Maroondah Hospital, and he made a full recovery.

Neil Brown led a group of 12 members to Mt Stirling from 13-16 November staying at a very comfortable pole house at Sawmill Settlement. Several walks over two days were done along the well graded Mt Stirling ski trails.

Elvie McInerney had 8 members attend a base camp at Phillip Island, 13-15 March. The weather was good, and everyone walked at least 14 kms each day exploring the area and enjoying the abundant bird life.

Alan Rose, a past member of the club and committee member, died the night before the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner. Alan was keen to attend the dinner, but it was not to be.

Two of our members, Anne Van Loon and Jenny Hume were walking in Nepal when the disastrous earthquake struck on 25 April 2015. They were able to return to Lukla airport, and returned safely to Melbourne on 1 May. Bill Chambers completed his 20<sup>th</sup> Canberra International Walk in April, and was awarded a special medallion by the organizers.

The Howmans Gap post Christmas base camp was attended by only 9 members with a total of 60 attendees from other clubs. The cost was \$387 per person.

Neil Brown led a very successful base camp to Port Fairy from 14-17 May with 30 members staying at a local caravan park. On the second day there were walks around the local port. The next day, after a pancake breakfast, the highlight of the trip was an entire day exploring the picturesque Mt. Eccles National Park, which is based on a dormant volcano with a water filled lake in the main crater. On the last day some people on the drive home visited Tower Hill.

There were several interesting first aid articles in Walktalk during the year ranging from hypothermia, hypoglycaemia, the effects of water loss and the proper way to rehydrate.

Andrew Robinson wrote a very interesting article on compasses, pointing out that there are 5 earth zones used by compass makers, and you need to get the correct zone or the compass can drag and the readings become unreliable. This does not apply to a GPS.

On the 24 August Kevin Wilson led a group excursion to the You Yangs State Park with 20 members to practice their photographic skills, and enter a competition for the best photo. At the September meeting the results were announced with Mary Zekan winning the landscape section, and Ian Barr the runner up. Val Margulius won the fauna category with Marie Spowart the runner up.

The annual President's Walk was held on 30 August, which had the option of a M 1 1 walk of 10 kms, or a 1km stroll around Blackburn Lake, with a limit of 45 attendees. Unfortunately Terry's brother in Queensland became ill and passed away on the 18 August and Tom Tierney took over the planning and the organization of the walk.

Kevin Wilson led his 40<sup>th</sup> half day time saver walk to the Plenty Gorge in September with 23 members attending. Amongst the walkers there were 6 Life Members, 4 Past Presidents and all of the current club committee. At the end of the walk Margaret Stirkul surprised all with a magnificent spread of scones and cream for all.

Irene Port donated some of her used bushwalking gear to the club. After the talk to the club at the October meeting by Pam O'Donnell-Parris from the Eastern Emergency Relief Network, (EERN) donations were collected on the night, and several members cleared out their cupboards at home and made substantial donations to the EERN depot. The club obtained a group YHA membership for use on club trips who stay at YHA hostels.

The annual club Christmas BBQ on 17 December at Ruffey Park was very well attended with 80 members enjoying the fine weather and good company. The club has met every year since its inception in 1985 at Ruffey Park on the third Wednesday of December regardless of the weather.

Tom Tierney led the third New Years Eve walk around Blackburn Lake, finishing at Tom's residence to ring in the New Year, with a total of 26 members.

On Melbourne Cup day, 4 November there was a walk ending at the Panton Hills hotel with 17 attending. There was a cup sweep and the ladies wore fashion hats that were judged by Arthur Koo. There were 10 fashion hat entrants, and Roselyn Huggins was judged the winner.

The 24 November issue of the Manningham Leader had a large article and a group photograph of 12 club members, with Terry O'Callaghan the only man. The article covered the activities of the club and many anecdotes of the club members.

Audrey Karlstrom, who was a club member for over 20 years died on 2 December after a battle with cancer. She was the brother of Ron Karlstrom, who also was a club member for 20 years. Audrey was very petite, but was a very strong walker and went on countless walks and some expeditions.

Chris Patton, an Honorary Member of the club, and son of Foundation Members Tom and Pat Patton, was awarded an Emergency Services Medal in the 2015 Queens Birthday honours. Chris had participated in several bush searches with BWV, and is a volunteer with the SES.

The 30<sup>th</sup> year of the club saw an interesting diversity and range of day walks, and several new leaders adding to the overall mix. The following is just a small sample of the day walks for the year.

Alan Marshall led a walk to his favourite location, the Lerderderg Gorge on 8 July walking the Spanish Onion Track. The ascent of this track after lunch caused some eyes to water, or weep, due to the steepness, but at the end, all seemed to enjoy the walk. Jenny Keamy led a mid week walk on 9 July with 18 hearty souls on the coldest day of the year around Jells Park, ending at a cafe as the heavens opened up with heavy rain.

Elvie McInerney took 12 members mid week on 18 July to the Aztecs Exhibition at the Melbourne Museum. The relics dated from 1320 -1519 and were excavated in 1978. Jack de Bruijne led 5 members on 26 July on a very strenuous walk in the Kinglake area, walking the Bundy and Everard tracks. The weather was cold, with rain in the afternoon, and a total of 16 kms were walked including 680 metres of climbing. Diana Bell led 15 walkers around Woodlands on 9 August, exploring this magnificent area close to the city and next to the airport, with numerous kangaroos and other wildlife.

Ros Huggins led another mid week walk on Wednesday 13 August in the Trawool Valley. The group traversed the picturesque Goulburn River valley, walking about 16 kms. Alex Stirkul visited the McIvor Range near Heathcote on 31 August with 14 walkers seeing an old powder magazine constructed in the 1860's, and a scenic traverse of the McIvor Range. John Baulch celebrated his 200<sup>th</sup> walk with the club at the end of the walk. Mary Zekan led her inaugural walk as leader with 15 members on 6 September in the Bunyip State Forest, whilst Jack de Bruijne on Father's Day, 7 September, led a walk with 6 members in the Sherbrooke/ Kallista area.

Liz Robinson, another new leader, led 14 members around the Grass Tree Circuit in the Brisbane Ranges on 19 October, admiring the Spring flowers and the old disused quarries from years gone by, a total distance of 14 kms and an overall ascent of 492 metres.

Ros Huggins took a mid week walk on 24 September attended by 14 walkers around the Fitzroy and Burnley Gardens using public transport, whilst Elvie McInerney led 19 travellers to Bendigo to visit two exhibitions, “The Body Beautiful in Ancient Greece” and “350 Years of Underwear in Fashion”. There was much confusion with V Line because of seats had been double and triple booked, but eventually all was sorted out for an enjoyable day. Not to be fazed, Elvie took 18 walkers up to Kinglake North on 5 October where they traversed Little Boggy Track, Boggy Creek Road and Boggy Spur Track which lived up to their name, but no one fell in. An iPhone was also found on the walk.

Ros Huggins took 8 members along the O’Shannassy Aqueduct on Wednesday 26 November, ending up at the Launching Place Hotel after the 15 km walk. Diana Bell had planned a walk to the Blackwood Tunnel on Sunday 30 November, but cancelled that destination due to very hot weather and did a short walk around the Jumping Creek Park. Diana had better luck on Sunday 18 January leading a walk of 15 members around the Cherry Lake and Point Cook Coastal Park in mild weather.

Jan Gray took 20 walkers on Wednesday 31 January along a Flinders to Somers beach walk, visiting the Brown’s Point Leo camp site for refreshments. Blackberries were found and eaten along the way, and an afternoon tea was partaken at Jan Gray’s holiday house. Ros Huggins had a walk to the You Yangs on Sunday 21 December, but changed it to the Yarra Bend Park due to very hot weather, with 6 walkers enjoyed the stroll. On Wednesday 4 March Ros had 13 members touring the Merri Creek and East Brunswick, starting at the CERES environment Park, touring a coffee factory and the Islamic Museum and Art Gallery of Australia and many other points of interest. On Saturday 7 March Elvie McInerney took 20 members to the historic Dame Nellie Melba’s Coombe Cottage at Coldstream ending up with a delicious and stylish afternoon tea. Our President, Terry O’Callaghan did the classic Scotchmans Creek, Gardiners Creek walk on 8 March with 12 walkers using public transport.

On 22 March Ann Wetherall took 4 enthusiastic bike riders along the Woori Yallock to Warburton bike trail on a lovely, calm sunny day. It took 2 hours to make Warburton, with lunch beside the Yarra River, and half an hour less for the downhill return trip.

On Saturday 28 March, Anne van Loon led her first walk in the Happy Valley Smiths Gully area with lots of little ascents and descents. Her walk was described as a very good day with Anne guiding the group extremely well. Claire Harris led her first walk to the Mount Worth State Park on Saturday 4th April. The 22 walkers did a total of 12 kms, with 7 walkers in training for an upcoming trip to Austria.

Karen Sheedy took 10 walkers around Christmas Hills on Sunday 11 May, which was advertised as a Mothers’ Day walk. After a picnic lunch at Sugarloaf Reservoir, some were able to return home to spend time with their families.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> May Liz Robinson took 8 members down to Arthurs Seat who joined 20 others to help remove the noxious Boneseed plant in the State Park. Parks Victoria provided a “yummy” lunch at Seawinds, and all had helped prevent this plant menace taking hold on the Mornington Penninsular. On Saturday 7 June Liz led her first walk from Fingal Beach to Cape Schank and her leadership on the day was rated as pretty good. Jenny Keamy returned to the Murrundindi River on Saturday May 24 with 21 members, and the area was noted as recovering well after the 2009 fires.

During the year there were 91 day walks, with 1,212 attendees, 6 base camps and one overseas trip. There were no backpacks or ski trips. The total participation during the year was 1,417 members. There were 3 major and 5 minor injuries reported.

There were two awards at the June AGM. Jean Stone and Tom Tierney received Golden Butterfly awards, both for the second time. Twenty year service award badges were given to Bruce Ford and Jan Gray.

At the end of the year the club had \$6,358.99 in the Member Accumulation Account. The total membership at the end of the year was 155, including Life Members.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **FOUNDATION MEMBERS 2005-2015**

Mary Atkins

Alan Brown

Jan Brown

Keith Lierse

Bill Ling

Tom Patton

Pat Patton

Don Stewart

Laurel Stewart

# **APPENDIX B**

## **LIFE MEMBERS OF THE CLUB**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>YEAR AWARDED</b>
Michael King	1995 (deceased)
Keith Lierse	2000
Bill Ling	2003
Don O'Flynn	2003
Tom Patton	2003
Kevin Wilson	2005
Val Lierse	2007
Don McKelvie	2007
Alan Brown	2008
Jan Gray	2008
Peter Goodwin	2013
Ann Wetherall	2013

## APPENDIX C

### DECEASED CLUB MEMBERS

John Noordzy	September 1996
Keith Simms	May 1997. Died on a walk in the Cathedral Ranges
John Whitney	October 1998
Michael King	August 2000 Life Member
Mark Owen	October 2001
Maurie Myles	May 2002 Honorary Member
Heather Pratt	November 2003 Foundation Member
David Wetherall	June 2005
Connie Beton	November 2008
Barrie Blount	July 2010
Louise Lamont	August 2011
Mike Robinson	April 2014

## APPENDIX D

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

YEAR		SINGLE	FAMILY
1985/86		\$15	\$25
1995/96		\$28	\$40
2005/06		\$35	\$55
2006/07		\$35	\$55
2007/08		\$35	\$55
2008/09	Post	\$50	\$75
	Email	\$40	\$65
2009/10		ditto	ditto
2010/11		ditto	ditto
2011/12	Post	\$60	\$85
	Email	\$40	\$65
2012/13		ditto	ditto
2013/14		ditto	ditto
2014/15		ditto	ditto

**Note 1:** Life members and honorary members do not pay membership fees.

**Note 2:** There is a once only joining fee of \$20.

**Note 3:** Visitors at club events pay \$5 per person per event.

## APPENDIX E

### MEMBERSHIP LIST 2015

**LM is a Life Member:**

**FM is a Foundation Member:**

**HM is an Honorary Member**

Archibald Marie	Astruc Josian	Atkins Mary (FM)
Bain Desmond	Barber Lyn	Barr Ian
Baulch John	Baulch Margaret	Bell Diana
Bennett Sylvia	Beringer Colleen	Beton Dick
Blount Barbara	Bresky Elisabeth	Bresky Karl
Broome Geoffrey	Brown Alan (FM, LM)	Brown Jan (FM)
Brown Elizabeth	Brown Katy	Brown Neil
Buttling Robyn	Chambers William (Bill)	Chan Dominic
Chan Eddie	De Bruijne Jack	De Bruijne Kay
De Ingenis Alida	Dowd Majorie	Falconer Janece
Feeney Virginia	Fitzsimons Lynne	Ford Bruce
Ford Diane	Fournaris Carol	Fox Ruth
Francis Rob	Gardner Marianne	Garro Gaetana
Gilham Deidre	Glover Roberta	Glover William (Bill)
Goodwin Heather	Goodwin Peter (LM)	Grant Anne
Gray Jan (LM)	Green Marcia	Griffiths Jacinta
Hale Sue	Hall Patricia (Patti)	Harris Claire
Hart Terry	Hosking Bernadette	Hudson Sue
Huggins Roselyn	Hui Francis	Hume Jenny
Kamenar Marica	Keamy Jennifer	Keegan Anne
Kerr William (Bill)	Killey Audrey	Kim Jacqueline
Kirilow Sylvia	Koo Arthur	Lam Lyn
Laurie Margaret	Leyman Josephine	Li Dorothy
Li Laurence	Lierse Keith (FM, LM)	Lierse Valerie (Val) (LM)

Lim Teresa	Ling Bill (FM, LM)	Lithoxopoulos Jane
Longley Pamela	McInerney Elvie	McKelvie Donald (LM)
McKelvie Hilary	Mainwaring Peter	Maling Jan
Maling Neil	Marguccio Rosa	Margulius Valentin
Marshall Alan	Marshall Julie	Marzooghi Reza
Matters Margaret	Maxwell Margaret	Merrigan Sooi
Millar Judi	Mossop Alita	Mounsher Marg
Mounsher Neil	Munro Roberta	Newson Lyverne
Nillsen Deb	O'Callaghan Terrence	O'Flynn Donald (LM)
O'Flynn Joan	Oldfield John	O'Sullivan Ken
O'Sullivan Linda	Patton Chris (HM)	Patton Patricia (FM)
Patton Tom (FM, LM)	Perich Raymond	Perry Alison
Peterson Susan	Power Karen	Pratley Dawn
Quinert Barbara	Ramsden Jane	Renfree Patricia
Rice Wayne	Robertson Dianne	Robinson Andrew
Robinson Elizabeth	Ryan Christa	Ryan Fergus
Ryan Judy	Schwartz Sharon	Scicluna Lila May
Sheedy Karen	Smyth Sheelagh	Spowart Marie
Stewart Donald (FM)	Stewart Laurel (FM)	Stirkul Alex
Stirkul Margaret	Stomann Patricia	Stone Jean
Strudwick Ivan	Taines Carla	Tewksbury Philip
Thake Heather	Tierney Tom	Tomlin Karlene
Turnbull Elaine	Turner Elizabeth	Turner George
Van Loon Anne	Vines Maree	Wain Lesley
Waters Wilma	Wetherall Ann (LM)	White Moira
Wilson Kevin (LM)	Wilson Myra	Wilson Lynne
Winter Gwenneth	Winter John	Wright Anna
Yemm Merilyn	Zekan Mary	

## APPENDIX F

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2005-2015

#### 2005/06

President	Jan Gray	Vice President	Ian Barr
Secretary	Dawn Pratley	Treasurer	Majorie Dowd
Editor	Robyn Buttling	Social Events	Elaine Turnbull
		Walks Coordinator	Alan Brown

#### 2006/07

President	Jan Gray	Vice President	Ian Barr
Secretary	Dawn Pratley	Treasurer	Majorie Dowd
Editor	Robyn Buttling until September 2006, then George Turner.		
Social Events	Elaine Turnbull	Walks Coordinator	Alan Brown
Equipment Hire	Majorie Dowd		

#### 2007/08

President	Julie Marshall	Vice President	Ian Barr
Secretary	Liz Turner	Treasurer	Claire Harris
Editor	George Turner	Social Events	Elaine Turnbull
Equipment Hire	Majorie Dowd	Walks Coordinator	Alan Marshall

#### 2008/09

President	Julie Marshall	Vice President	Ian Barr
Secretary	Liz Turner	Treasurer	Claire Harris
Editor	George Turner	Social Events	Trish Renfree
Equipment Hire	Majorie Dowd	Walks Coordinator	Alan Marshall

#### 2009/10

President	Ian Barr	Vice President	Terry O'Callaghan
Secretary	Jan Falconer	Treasurer	Claire Harris
Editor	John Oldfield	Social Events	Trish Renfree

Equipment Hire Vacant                      Walks Coordinator                      Alan Marshall

### **2010/11**

President                      Ian Barr                      Vice President                      Terry O'Callaghan

Secretary                      Jan Falconer                      Treasurer                      Tom Tierney

Editor                      John Oldfield                      Social Events                      Trish Renfree

Equipment Hire Ian Barr                      Walks Coordinator                      Wayne Rice

### **2011/12**

President                      Ian Barr                      Vice President                      Terry O'Callaghan

Secretary                      Jan Falconer                      Treasurer                      Tom Tierney

Editor                      John Oldfield                      Walks Coordinator                      Wayne Rice

Equipment Hire Ian Barr

Social Events                      Vacant June to November. Marjorie Dowd from November.

### **2012/13**

President                      Ian Barr                      Vice President                      Terry O'Callaghan

Secretary                      Jan Falconer                      Treasurer                      Tom Tierney

Editor                      John Oldfield                      Social Events                      Jo Leyman

Equipment Hire Ian Barr                      Walks Coordinator                      Wayne Rice

### **2013/14**

President                      Terry O'Callaghan                      Vice President                      Mary Zehan

Secretary                      Diana Bell                      Treasurer                      Tom Tierney

Editor                      Marianne Gardner                      Social Events                      Jo Leyman

Equipment Hire Ian Barr                      Walks Coordinator                      Dick Beton

## **2014/15**

President	Terry O'Callaghan	Vice President	Mary Zehan
Secretary	Diana Bell	Treasurer	Tom Tierney
Editor	Marianne Gardner	Walks Coordinator	Alex Stirkul
Social Events	Elvie McInerney		

## APPENDIX G

### WALK LEADERS 2005-2015

<b>Name</b>	<b>Total Years</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Bain Des	13	Retired 2012
Barr Ian	13	
Bell Diana	5	
Beton Dick	11	Retired 2005
Brown Alan	22	Retired 2012
Brown Neil	4	
Chan Dominic	4	
De Bruijne Jack	4	
Falconer Jan	11	
Ford Bruce	20	
Goodwin Peter	20	
Gray Jan	20	
Harris Claire	1	
Huggins Ros	3	
Keamy Jenny	21	
Kerr Bill	3	
Lierse Keith	31	
Lierse Val	24	Retired 2014
Koo Arthur	2	
McInerney Elvie	5	
Mainwaring Peter	6	
McKelvie Don	22	Retired 2010
Marshall Alan	13	
O'Callaghan Terry	8	
O'Sullivan Ken	20	Retired 2007

Patton Tom	28	Retired 2012
Tewksbury Philip	6	Retired 2009
Quinert Barbara	6	Retired 2009
Rice Wayne	16	
Robinson Elizabeth	2	
Sheedy Karen	21	
Stirkul Alex	8	
Turner George	8	
Tierney Tom	4	
Van Loon Ann	1	
Wetherall Ann	22	
Wilson Kevin	26	
Waters Wilma	1	
Zekan Mary	2	

## APPENDIX H

### GUEST SPEAKERS OF THE CLUB 2005-2015

**Note:** The December meeting is always a BBQ held in the Doncaster Municipal Gardens, Ruffey Lake Park, on the third Wednesday in December commencing at 6PM.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>2005</b>		
July	Gwen and John Winter	Life and customs in Oman.
August	Alan Brown	Alan's work and experiences in Antarctic.
September	Monica and John Chapman	Latest walking books for Victoria and Australia.
October	Julie Marshall	Trekking in Yunnan Province, China.
November	Ann and Ted Boucher Diamond Valley BWC	Talk on their trip to Madagascar.
<b>2006</b>		
February	David Reid	Overview of the role of the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs (our umbrella organization).
March		No guest speaker due to the TV coverage of the opening Of the Commonwealth Games.
April	George and Liz Turner	Talk on their recent trip to Antarctica.
May	Ian Barr	Talk on bird flu and other pandemics.
June	AGM	
July	Kevin Tory, BOM	Interpretation of weather maps and forecasts.
August	Terry O'Callaghan	Talk on KBWC trip to Mongolia and Russia.
September	Alan Brown Alan Marshall	What to pack in your backpack.
October	Evan Thomas CFA	Bushwalking in the fire season.
November	Kevin Wilson	Talk on the KBWC trip to the Little Desert.

## 2007

January	Julie Marshall	Talk on her recent trip to Turkey.
February	Alan Fenner	Talk on his commercial trips in northern Australia.
March	Ilan Abrahams	Talk and poems of the “Long Yarra Walk”.
April	Brett Mifsud	Talk on his work of documenting large Australian trees.
May	Dr Lindy Lumsden	Talk on insectivorous bats.
June	AGM	
July	Dawn Pratley	Talk on KBWC East Africa trip.
August	Max Garner	Talk on his walks along the pilgrim paths of Europe.
September	Alan Marshall	Talk on corals, coral reefs and climate change.
October	Julie/Alan Marshall	Talk on their recent trip to Western Mongolia.
November	George Turner	Talk on the KBWC Overland Track walk.

## 2008

January	Neil Bundy	Talk on his 97 day walk with his son in Italy and France.
February	Patsy Borton and John Scales	Talk on their walking trip in northern Greece.
March	Jodie Kimpton	Talk on the Young Australian 2000 trip to Nepal.
April	Karen Sheedy and Jeannie Suttie	Talk on the Diamond Valley club trip to the Pilbara.
May	Ian Barr	How to get maps from the Vic map DVD, etc.
June	AGM	
July	Prof. Graham Mitchell	Talk on his past role as Director of the Melbourne Zoo.
August	Fred Bover	Talk on the ghost net project in the Northern Territory.
September		Photographic competition.
October	Kevin Wilson	Talk on the KBWC 2008 Sydney Harbour walk.
November	Julie Marshall	Talk on the KBWC trip to the Galapagos Islands.

## 2009

January		Members slide night.
---------	--	----------------------

February	Ian Barr/Alan Marshall	Display of clubs latest gear and how to use it.
March	Paul Pfeifer	Talk on his trip to Mt. Rinjani in Indonesia.
April	Simon Wallis	Talk on the life of Heinrich Harrer in Tibet.
May	George/Liz Turner	Talk on the KBWC trip to South America.
June	AGM	
July		Member discussion night.
August	Bill Incoll	Talk on forestry development in Bhutan.
September	Linda Rogan	Talk on the natural history of Lord Howe Island.
October	Julie Marshall	Talk on a recent trip from Lhasa to Chengdu.
November	Kevin Wilson	Talk on the Blue Mountains National Park.
<b>2010</b>		
January		Members forum.
February	Jackie/Mick Parsons	Talk on their commercial trips in Italy and Australia.
March	Alan Marshall	Talk on the KBWC trip to the Warrumbungle's.
April	KBWC 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner at the Box Hill RSL.	
May	Ian Barr	Talk of his recent trip along part of the Camino de Santiago Pilgrims route.
June	AGM	
July	Ken O'Sullivan	Talk on a trip to the Kimberley's.
August	Kaya Kelic Carrie Fletcher	Talk on how the Oxfam 100Kms walk is conducted.
September	Jan Falconer	Talk of a recent club walk by 4 members along the 152 Km West Highland Way in Scotland.
October	Chris Tower	Talk by the President of Bushwalking Victoria.
November	George Turner	Talk on a KBWC trip to the Budawangs.
<b>2011</b>		
February	Bill Orme	Founder of the walk around Sydney Harbour and a renowned European long distant walker.

March	Julie Marshall	Walking in the Dolomites and Cinque Terre, Italy.
April	Richard Wadsworth	Mapping walking tracks in Victorian parks.
May	George Turner	Talk on his recent tour of Iceland.
June	AGM	
July	Kevin Wilson	Talk on the best national parks in Australia.
August	Rod Ingham	Talk on the Yarra River Keepers Association.
September	Wayne Rice et al.	Talk on what should be taken on a walk.
October	Julie Marshall	Talk on the Antarctic Peninsula and islands.
November	Jan Falconer	Talk on the KBWC trip to the South Island, NZ.

## **2012**

February	Guest speaker unable to attend.	
March	Paul D'Andrea	Commercial walking tours in Spain.
April	Ian Ransom	Commercial trips to Kakadu and Flinders Ranges.
May	Lindsay Morgan	Talk on brain health and dementia.
June	AGM	
July	Terry O'Callaghan	Talk on the latest Sydney Harbour walks.
August	Scott Pinnegar	Great world treks undertaken by World Expeditions.
September	Jan Falconer	Talk on the Canning Stock Route, WA.
October	Ray Barber/Ian Nacey	Talk on their book, 250 Waterfalls in Victoria.
November	Julie Marshall	Talk on Bhutan.

## **2013**

January	Members forum	
February	Julie Munday	Talk on her many walking guide books.
March	Julie Fechner	Talk on dingoes and the Dingo Care Network.
April	Dr Andrew McDonald	Travel medicine and vaccinations.
May	Arthur Koo	Financial planning management
June	AGM	
July	Chris McQuillen	Hobart to Melbourne on the Endeavour.

August	Neil Mounsher	Talk on the KBWC trip to the Flinders Ranges.
September	Marcus Falay	Commercial walking tours in Turkey for 2014.
October	Ken Birch	Talk on Victorian high country huts.
November	Ken Birch	Restoration of Victorian bush huts.
<b>2014</b>		
January	Members forum.	
February	Colin Abbott	Cycling 17,000 Kms around Australia.
March	Dr Jim Poulter	Aboriginal culture in Manningham.
April	Sonja Ross	Bird photography and bird life around Melbourne.
May	Liz/Andrew Robinson	Walking, whales and wildflowers walking west in 2012.
June	AGM	
July	Mark Squirrel	From Arafat to Everest.
August	Kevin Wilson	How to judge photographs.
September	Graham Patterson	A guide and history of Port Phillip Bay.
October	Pam O'Donnell-Parris	Talk on the Eastern Emergency Relief Network.
November	Howard Shell CFA	Fire safety information and discussion.
<b>2015</b>		
January	Alan Marshall	Walking poles, day pack contents and first aid kits.
	Elvie McInerney	
February	Shane Ringin	Fraud prevention and why good people go bad.
March	Heather Chappell	West Papua's People of the Trees.
April	The clubs 30 <sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner at the Yarra Valley Country Club	
May	Julie Marshall	Talk on her recent trip to Madagascar.
June	Annual General Meeting.	

## **Appendix I**

### **About the Author**

Keith Lierse was born in Greensborough and reared on a dairy farm at Plenty. He started work as a Technician in Training with the then PMG, and after years of study at night school obtained a cadetship to study full time and qualify as a Communications Engineer. As an engineer, Keith was always at the cutting edge of technology, installing crossbar automatic exchanges all over Victoria, introducing STD, and operating a state wide 24 hour repair facility for transmission equipment. At this stage Keith was deeply involved in the introduction of digital transmission, particularly the 1987 Sydney to Melbourne optical fibre project. Keith then undertook a 5 year period in Forward Planning, assessing the future needs of the evolving Telstra network in terms of infrastructure, buildings and finance. Keith retired as the National Manager of Telstra's major buildings. Throughout his working life he travelled widely around Australia.

Keith first commenced bushwalking and skiing with the Rover Scouts in 1954, and has continued enjoying these activities up to the present time. During the 1980's he was President of the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs for 5 years, and during this tenure Keith introduced a paid staff and an office for the Federation, formed four new walking clubs in the Melbourne metro area, of which Koonung was the first, and increased the overall membership of the Federation.

Keith's other interests have included the founding of a local Jaycee Chapter in Templestowe, Life Member of Jaycees International, 7 years as a member of the Ski Rescue Service, Founding member of the Nordic Rescue Service and the Outdoor Recreation Centre. Keith was an advisor, assessor and staff member of the Victorian Bushwalking and Mountaineering Training Course and the Ski Tour Leaders Course. Keith had a 1928 Armstrong Siddeley vintage car for 20 years that he drove to many rallies, including the 1988 Bi-Centennial vintage and veteran car rally held in Canberra. The last 18 years has seen Keith volunteering on the Puffing Billy Railway as a guard, signaller and trolley driver. He is also a member of the Manningham U3A, which enables him to play tennis twice week at the Donvale Tennis Club.

Keith has travelled widely within Australia, and has led 8 major overseas Koonung Club expeditions. He has also travelled extensively overseas from the Arctic to the Antarctic, South America to Alaska, Europe and Asia.

Keith is married to Val who is a Life Member of the Koonung Club, and is an active outdoor person. They reside in Templestowe.

### **Acknowledgements**

The author would like to thank all those people who encouraged me to continue and complete the project especially when it all seemed too hard. My thanks to my wife Val who endured the hundreds of hours amid a flurry of documents in the "office" at home researching, checking, assembling and typing the manuscript. Special thanks to all those club members who gave advice and loaned material.