

Melbourne Walking Club Inc.

REG. No. A657P

2017 Annual Report



Founded 1894

*For the promotion and encouragement
of recreational walking in congenial
company and to foster the
conservation
of our natural heritage*

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President's Report

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This is my third annual report as President of the Melbourne Walking Club. Initiatives taken over the last two years to renew the Club and to attract new members have been successful but more work needs to be done. Although the total number of Club members is largely unchanged at 270 the composition of the membership has gradually started to change. This is essential for the future development of the Club as a significant number of members are no longer active walkers.

At the time of writing (August 2017) the Club now has sixteen female members and more are completing their qualifying walks. This has had a positive effect on the Club and for the first time in the Club's one hundred and twenty three year history a number of female members are expected to nominate this year to join the Club Executive. Again this is a most welcome development and reflects the fact that the Club has moved with the times and now has a broader membership base.

The other successful initiative taken over the last year has been the establishment of the new Club website. This was a long process and it took a lot of work from a very small number of people but the website now attracts a significant number of visitors and new membership enquiries.

The last year has again been busy for the Club with a full and varied walks programme. The week day walks continue to be popular and the numbers coming on the Sunday bush walks are starting to increase. Planning and finding members to lead these walks takes some time but the attraction of walking in the bush remains as strong as ever. We are always looking for new walk leaders for the Sunday walks and trips further afield.

The President's Walk and Bus Trip in September 2016 was held at Marysville and Steavenson Falls. Unfortunately at the last minute I was unable to attend this event but it was a great success nonetheless. We look forward to an equally successful President's Walk and Bus Trip on 6 September 2017 which this year will be based at Leongatha.

The annual Combined Walk with the Melbourne Women's Walking Club at the Toolangi State Forest in May 2017 was also successful but unfortunately the number of members from our Club was disproportionately low compared to the numbers from our sister club and the number of visitors. Another highlight was a long weekend in April 2017 based in cabins at Tawonga South near Mt Beauty with a spectacular walk in the High Country beyond Falls Creek.

The Club intends to offer more events of this nature in the future but they

Archives Sub Committee Report

The Walking Club archives have been collected for many years initially by Ian Lesley and a small group.

In the early 1980's the then President decided that the Club did not need archives so the collected material was distributed among members.

In the 1990's the Archives were reactivated and most material was recovered and deposited in the manuscripts section of the State library of Victoria for manuscript material and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria for the photographic material. Effectively all archival material has been deposited in these Institutions and the need for a separate sub committee was considered unnecessary as the only Club material to be archived in future is the Circular which is automatically deposited in the State Library; the other material will be the Minutes of the Executive Meetings which will be deposited by the Secretary, so this will be the last report on the Club Archives.

Of interest to members is that most of the photographic albums in the Royal Historical Society has been digitised and can be examined on line in the Club's web site, it has photographs dating back to the early days of the Club.

Those present members of the Club most active in the Archives have been John Moore, John Horan and Robin Bailey.

Robin Bailey - Archives Convenor

need to be supported by more members if they are to be a success. I particularly encourage younger members to become involved. A base undercover trip to Mallacoota and the Croajingolong National Park is being planned for next March and an overnight camping trip is also being planned during the summer.

During the year I represented the Club at the annual Bushwalking Victoria Leadership Forum and AGM at which many important issues were discussed including the planned introduction of an Australian Adventure Activities Standard. I have also engaged with Parks Victoria during the year in relation to the Walter Briggs Hut at Mt Donna Buang and I attended a meeting of Presidents of Victorian Bushwalking Clubs.

I thank all of the members of the Executive for their work during the year. They consist of Michael Corrigan (Secretary), Charlie Freedman (Junior Vice President, Circular Editor and Website Administrator), Jim Thurlby (Treasurer), Alan Hosking (Activities Officer), John Rankin (Membership Secretary), John Moore (Archives), David Jones (Convenor of the Mt Buller Lodge), David Kerferd (Convenor of the Walter Briggs Hut) and Denis Ward.

A very special thank you to David Ikin who is retiring from the Executive this year after many years of service to the Club most notably in his capacity as Circular Editor for the last eighteen years.

I also thank all the other people who have served on Sub-Committees during the year especially the Mt Buller Lodge Sub-Committee, the Mt Donna Buang Hut Sub-Committee, the Website Sub-Committee. Many other members of the Club have of course helped in the background in an unofficial capacity and their assistance is also most appreciated.

Trevor Rosen - President Melbourne Walking Club Inc.

Activities Officer Report

A summary of attendances is printed below. The stats have been provided by David Watkins. There were 106 attendances and they were spread over the following events: Metro Wednesday, Metro Monday, Easy Metro, 3rd Wednesday, Country Sunday, Peninsula, Base Undercover, President's Walk and the Combined Walk with the Women's Club.

Overall, there is a slight but definite decrease in numbers walking over the past 5 years. It is considered that this is because of the members ageing and illnesses.

There were not all negatives. Some 3 walks need to be mentioned. The President's Walk was held at Marysville. Unfortunately Trevor has not

yet retired and so suddenly found he had to work that day. Fortunately, Kim Rosen was able to take over and led the long walk. Jenny Hosking helped by leading the shorter walk. Both did an excellent job. Fortunately, there was regular rainfalls early and we saw the Steavensons Fall with a large amount of water overflowing.

The Combined Walk with the Women's Club is an activity which has been taking place for over 90 years. Our club was the host this year. The venue was the Tanglefoot Circuit. One of the members from the Women's Club commented on how lucky we were to have a real bushwalk so close to Melbourne.

The club also had a Base under Cover. This occurred around Mount Beauty and Falls Creek. It was organised by Ian Smith, a previous President of the club. Only 8 members attended.

Now the Breakdown of Members Attendances. There were 106 attendances and 117 members attended up to four walks. 22 members

| Activity | Total Events | Total Attendances 2016 to 2017 | | Average | Past Averages | | | |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|----------|----------|---------------|----------|----------|----------|
| | | Members | Visitors | 16 to 17 | 15 to 16 | 14 to 15 | 13 to 14 | 12 to 13 |
| 3rd Wednesday | 11 | 144 | 50 | 18 | 18 | 21 | 21 | 20 |
| Monday Metro | 8 | 111 | 11 | 15 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Wednesday Metro | 39 | 613 | 26 | 16 | 17 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| Easy Metro | 10 | 146 | 7 | 15 | 15 | 17 | 16 | 16 |
| Sunday Country | 18 | 127 | 70 | 11 | 14 | 13 | 10 | 9 |
| Monday Peninsula | 11 | 98 | 12 | 10 | 12 | 12 | 10 | 10 |
| O/N pack carry | Nil | | 0 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Base Tents | Nil | | | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Base Undercover | 1 | 7 | 2 | 9 | Nil | 6 | 8 | 5 |
| Extended Tour | 0 | 0 | | Nil | 6 | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Club Hut | 4 | 20 | 2 | 6 | 11 | 1 | 6 | 5 |
| Bike Ride | 2 | 12 | 0 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 7 |
| Presidents Walk | 1 | 27 | 10 | 37 | | Cancel'd | 41 | 39 |
| Com With MWWC | 1 | 12 | 20 | 32 | 27 | 29 | 30 | 27 |

Web Site Report

Last year the Club implemented a new website with help from Bushwalking Victoria. The website sub-committee, consisting of Charlie Freedman, Trevor Rosen, David Ikin and Ian Fillis, migrated most of the old website's functionality to the new website, which went live around the beginning of this year, replacing the old website. The URL for the website remained the same.

Since then, the website has been fine-tuned, and it is now in a stable state. The monthly circulars and the activities programs are now available on the website, along with the Constitution. The new By-Laws will be added when they are approved.

A notable addition this year was the uploading of a large number of historical photos provided by Robin Bailey. These had been digitised from various photo albums in the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. As there was not enough space on the Club's website, they were placed on Google Drive, a website with up to 15 Gbytes of free storage, with links from the Club's website (via **Gallery**, **Archives**). Any Club member can view, print or upload these images.

Charlie Freedman - Web Site Convenor

Membership Report

This is my first report as Membership Officer. I took over from Michael Collins in October last year after Michael expressed a wish to retire after many years. Now after doing the role now for a year I can appreciate the effort Michael had put into ensuring a good system for monitoring Visitors, inviting new applications and responding to the various inquiries received. David Watkins continues to record the walks of Members (from the blue sheets) and David Ikin continues to maintain the Member register. Their contribution is greatly appreciated.

Membership was again steady for the year with a total of 273 at 30 June (compared with 270 this time last year).

The change of the Club's Constitution in late 2015 to allow female membership has continued to see more women join the Club. As at 30 June, there were 14 women members and two more have joined since. Of the 27 new members who have joined since the Club became mixed 16 are women. Details of membership changes are as follows:

New Members

Marilyn Forsythe, Stacey Freedman, Hamish Purcell (July 2016), Kerry-Lee Cranage, Susan Cranage, Louise Lavender, Alan Manzoori (October 2016), Stephen Cherny, Jill Scobie (December 2016), Marie Revill (February 2017), Emma Colson, Ben Johnson, Iain Penman (April 2017).

Resignations

Martin Bonwick, Stuart Brookes, Peter Brown, Ken Eltham, Tony Heyes, Cor Peters, Hilbert Stielow.

Deceased

Kevin Bourne (joined 1997), Dan Condon (joined 1999), Dudley Gross (joined 1942), Geoff Winston (1978)

I would like to thank all Leaders for sending me their Blue Sheets promptly or handing them to me on walks. It is from the Visitors list on the Blue sheet that we identify potential new members to whom I send information about the Club.

John Rankin - Membership Officer

attended 20 or more events. The club has about 277 members and only 117 walked. 57.6% did not walk at all.

Now, I wish to mention, and thank, all those who are members of the Activities Sub committee and who organise the events. They are David Ellis for the Bus trips; David Watkins for the Metro walks, Bike rides and keeping the Stats; Travis Clark for the 3rd Wednesday walks; Hugh Gibson for the Easy Metro walks; Ron Anderson for the Peninsula walks; Oliver Lucas for assisting David Watkins with the Metro walks; Graeme Barker takes the money for the Bus Trips; Denis Ward helps with the Sundays walks; Brett Hayton taking care of the Donna Buang Hut (he has retired and is replaced by David Kerferd); and finally, but not least, Lance Cranage. If there are icons in the club, Lance is up there with the highest group.

Finally, again special thanks to all the leaders of walks.

Alan Hosking - Activities Officer

Treasurer's Report

The overall result for the year to 30 June 2017 was a \$3,612 surplus as detailed in the following summary and commentary.

| | | 2017 | 2016 |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| | | \$ | \$ |
| Surplus / (Deficit) | - General Fund | 1,018 | 1,293 |
| | - Mount Buller | <u>2,594</u> | <u>18,073</u> |
| | | <u>3,612</u> | <u>19,366</u> |

Mt Buller

The \$2,594 surplus for Mt Buller Lodge was substantially below last year's result. This was mainly due to lower tariff revenue. Winter and summer tariff revenues were down 28.0% and 35.1% respectively.

Although gas and electricity costs were lower, total running costs were 11.8%% higher than in 2016 due to installation of new ovens. The Buller Lodge was in surplus for 2017 but the total cash held at 30 June 2017 (\$60,587) was \$5,581 lower than at 30 June 2016, due mainly to advance bookings for 2018 being \$8,155 lower.

General

The General account showed a moderate \$1,018 surplus for the year, slightly down on 2016.

The General account funds at 30 June 2017 totalled \$37,986.

Jim Thurlby - (Treasurer)

MELBOURNE WALKING CLUB INC
GENERAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2017

| | <u>2017</u> | <u>2016</u> |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| INCOME | | |
| Subscriptions | 12,080 | 12,315 |
| Interest received | 431 | 465 |
| Annual lunch - receipts | 0 | 0 |
| Sale of badges | 40 | 50 |
| Donations received | 440 | 735 |
| * Walks/tours - receipts | 1,245 | 4,050 |
| Other | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |
| Total Income | <u>14,236</u> | <u>17,615</u> |
| EXPENDITURE | | |
| Affiliation fees | 5,074 | 4,511 |
| Annual General Meeting | 400 | 500 |
| Annual lunch - paid | 0 | 0 |
| Badges | 40 | 50 |
| Circular printing & postage | 2,517 | 2,716 |
| Donations paid | 100 | 0 |
| Insurance-Personal/Public liability | 2,390 | 2,592 |
| Postage, telephone, copying etc | 391 | 105 |
| Rent - for Circular preparation | 0 | 495 |
| * Walks/tours - expenses | 1,657 | 3,651 |
| Walter Briggs hut | 164 | 440 |
| Sundry expenses | <u>485</u> | <u>1,261</u> |
| Total Expenditure | <u>13,218</u> | <u>16,321</u> |
| NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) | | |
| Transferred to Accumulated Funds | <u>1,018</u> | <u>1,293</u> |
| * Walks/tours - Net surplus (deficit) | (412) | 399 |

Walter Briggs Hut Report

The sub-committee comprises: -

Convenor – David Kerferd,

Trevor Rosen, Barry Revill, Robin Bailey, Denis Ward, Lance Cranage, Michael Blackett, Brett Hayton.

Firstly, I would like to thank Trevor Rosen for his support and help during my transition as convenor of the hut and Barry Revill for mentoring me and his continued interest in the hut since retiring as convenor in December 2016.

There have been several working bees at the hut in the last 12 months. These have focused on removing vegetation which is overgrowing the native species and needs to be cut and poisoned. This will be an ongoing job. A meeting with the Parks Victoria ranger has identified 6 trees for removal for safety around the hut.

Lance and Denis have worked on the creek crossing on the new track to the hut together with improvements made to the approach to the creek from the hut for use in the wetter times of the year. Lance and Kim retagged the track heading from the hut to the second car park to ensure that it is well marked for any members wanting to take the scenic walk through the bush from the hut to the top of Mt Donna Buang.

Work identified for the hut in the coming year includes ensuring the roof is secure and leak free, replacing foundation stumps and painting the outside of the hut. We have now removed the mattresses from the hut to reduce rodent infestations. Overnight campers will be advised to bring their own inflatable mattress together with their sleeping bags.

We also welcome members to participate in working bees at the hut. Please contact me to include your name to receive notification for upcoming working bees. The hut remains an important asset of the club and is an ideal base away from Melbourne for a few days walking in the local area or a family camp.

David Kerferd Convenor

Mount Buller Lodge Report

Working Bee in April: cleared away growing bushes near the entry gangway, repaired a damaged vent cover, and fixed up minor issues. We removed the old stoves and installed 2 new stoves at cost of around \$4,500. We replaced the old lounges for a modular system, purchased from eBay for \$500. This cost was defrayed by the sale of an old fire place which was under the basement and never removed. All other facilities in the lodge seems to be working well.

Bunk ladders will be replaced in all bunk rooms for next season. The current design has been welcomed and is successful.

The old store / work room near the entrance has been working much better now the area is clear for incoming patrons to store their gear whilst waiting for the out going patrons to leave. This has always been difficult over the years gone by when the entry was full of bags, food boxes, skis, boards, etc. A new fridge and freezer in the store make it easy for the incoming people to store perishables.

The sub-committee has recorded that the winter and summer bookings are down by about 15%. As time has progressed and the winter season has become one of the best in many, many years, the bookings will have gone up. So, we are expecting a better result by the end of the season. The financials at the end of the June 2016 year was \$61,100 cash in the bank.

Insurance, gas and electricity, bed rates, fees and charges are all big cost items which doesn't leave the club with a lot of available funds. We do have to review the visitor and member rates regularly as costs go up. We are still one of the cheapest lodges on Mt Buller.

The new addition of the TV Lounge and new ski store continues to be a great asset to the lodge.

We wish to report that we do need Club Members and their guests to use the facility. As a walking club, there should be more patronage since there are so many beautiful walking areas around the Buller / Stirling Mountains. This lodge is not for the exclusive use of skiers, but available for everyone in the Club.

We are in the process of getting a building valuation for insurance purposes.

All members should be proud of their facility and it is in a prime and enviable location on the mountain.

David Jones Convenor

MOUNT BULLER LODGE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2017

| | <u>2017</u> | <u>2016</u> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| INCOME | | |
| Winter tariffs received | 35,540 | 49,342 |
| less refunds | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |
| Net winter tariffs | 35,540 | 49,342 |
| Net summer tariffs | <u>4,720</u> | <u>7,275</u> |
| Total tariffs | 40,260 | 56,617 |
| Locker fees | 385 | 245 |
| Interest and donations received | <u>377</u> | <u>576</u> |
| Total Income | <u>41,022</u> | <u>57,437</u> |
| EXPENDITURE | | |
| Site rental | 12,505 | 12,332 |
| Service charge | 6,414 | 6,393 |
| Insurance | 6,206 | 6,112 |
| Liquor licence | <u>210</u> | <u>205</u> |
| Total Fixed Costs | <u>25,335</u> | <u>25,042</u> |
| Gas | 4,180 | 4,965 |
| Electricity | 2,200 | 2,487 |
| Telephone | 502 | 480 |
| Repairs & maintenance | 6,041 | 2,661 |
| Cleaning | 0 | 0 |
| Stores | 0 | 764 |
| Honorarium | 0 | 0 |
| Sundry expenses | <u>170</u> | <u>351</u> |
| Total Running Costs | <u>13,093</u> | <u>11,708</u> |
| Total Operating Costs | 38,428 | 36,749 |
| Depreciation-Furniture & fittings | <u>0</u> | <u>2,615</u> |
| Total Expenses | <u>38,428</u> | <u>39,364</u> |
| NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) | | |
| Transferred to Accumulated Funds | <u>2,594</u> | <u>18,073</u> |

MELBOURNE WALKING CLUB INC
FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30TH JUNE

| | <u>2017</u> | <u>2016</u> |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| CURRENT ASSETS | \$ | \$ |
| Cash at bank - General a/c | 18,603 | 17,376 |
| - Mt Buller a/c | <u>60,587</u> | <u>66,168</u> |
| | 79,189 | 83,544 |
| Fixed Term Deposits CBA - General | 19,383 | 18,954 |
| Fixed Term Deposits CBA - Mt Buller | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |
| Total cash and deposits | <u>98,572</u> | <u>102,498</u> |
| Debtors and Stocks: | | |
| General debtors | 700 | 300 |
| Prepayments - Insurance | 5,135 | 5,115 |
| Stocks - Badges & "Footsteps" | <u>272</u> | <u>312</u> |
| | <u>6,107</u> | <u>5,727</u> |
| Total Current Assets | <u>104,679</u> | <u>108,224</u> |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | |
| Advance tariffs - Mt Buller | 16,475 | 24,630 |
| Advance subscriptions | 8,045 | 7,565 |
| Creditors & expense accruals | <u>4,406</u> | <u>3,888</u> |
| | <u>28,926</u> | <u>36,083</u> |
| Net Current Assets | <u>75,754</u> | <u>72,141</u> |
| FIXED ASSETS | | |
| Mt Buller Lodge - at cost | 263,720 | 263,720 |
| Lodge Extensions - at cost | 175,234 | 175,234 |
| Mt Buller Furniture & Fittings - at cost | <u>55,516</u> | <u>55,516</u> |
| | 494,470 | 494,470 |
| less- Provision for depreciation (F & F) | <u>55,516</u> | <u>55,516</u> |
| Total Fixed Assets | <u>438,954</u> | <u>438,954</u> |
| NET ASSETS | <u>514,708</u> | <u>511,096</u> |
| CLUB FUNDS (representing Net Assets as above) | | |
| Accumulated Funds - General | 52,746 | 51,728 |
| - Mt Buller | <u>248,436</u> | <u>245,842</u> |
| | 301,183 | 297,571 |
| Bequest Fund | 7,525 | 7,525 |
| Revaluation Reserve | <u>206,000</u> | <u>206,000</u> |
| TOTAL FUNDS | <u>514,708</u> | <u>511,096</u> |

REVIEWER'S REPORT

I have examined the accounts of Melbourne Walking Club Incorporated, and from the information available and the explanations received, I am of the opinion that the accompanying financial statements are properly drawn up so as to present a true and fair view of the operations of the Club for the year ended 30th June 2017 and of the financial position of the Club at that date.



C R Denovan
Honorary Reviewer
17th August 2017