The History of
The Wallaby Club

Volume 4
1993 - 2015
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1993 ~ 2015

Edited by Chris Simpson

One hundred and twenty-one years of walking and talking
Acknowledgements

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And especially Len Edwards, who not only produced the treatise on Treasurers, but also kept the whole project in motion.

To borrow the words of Harold Attwood, Editor of the previous Wallaby History:
For any faults in taste and errors in fact, I accept all responsibilities.


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Cover Picture: “Look dear, more Wallabies” Mt. Cole 1978 is a scraper board sketch by former Wallaby John Stewart Turner, who produced many such sketches, twenty-nine of which adorn the front of Annual Dinner Cards between 1961 and 1991. This particular sketch features on the 1980 Card and also appears in the previous Wallaby History, together with four other sketches.
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PROLOGUE

Fitting in with the earlier Volumes
The original History of the Wallaby Club, by Alfred Hart, printed in 1944 by Anderson, Gowan Pty. Ltd. as a handsome green, hard covered, octo sized, bound book of 87 pages of text plus nineteen photographs. This we refer to now as Volume 1 of the Club history.

Volume 2 (or more correctly, Volume II) was written by J L F Woodburn and printed in 1954 by Anderson, Gowan Pty. Ltd. to mark the Club’s Diamond Jubilee. It was a slim, grey, soft-covered and stapled booklet of 32 pages of text and a few more photographs. It was designed as an appendage to Volume I.

The History of the Wallaby Club, 1894-1994 (hereafter referred to as Volume 3) was published in 1993 by Landscape Publications (Ralph Neale) and given the ISBN number 0 9590876 1 3. It was a magnificent A4 size, perfect-bound production, with 143 pages of text and numerous graphics including photographs, art-work and replicas of ancient walks cards, not to forget the cover, which featured a scraper-board picture by John Turner. It was intended as a stand-alone compendium of the entire history of the Club up to its Centenary, or as near as practical. It embodied faithful copies of Volume 1 and Volume 2 (re-sized to A4) and an account of the years 1955-1994 presented as a discrete section entitled The Centenary History of the Wallaby Club and began at page 85. The concluding List of Members included the earlier volumes’ lists and was expanded to include all members since inception, together with member information and any page number references to members in the text. All three Volumes (as they appear in the Centennial publication) have been digitised and appear on the Club’s website.

This is Volume 4 of the The History of the Wallaby Club and is intended to record Club history for the two decades following the Club Centenary in 1994. It is to be read in conjunction with Volume 3 (the Centennial publication), to which certain references are made. Volume 4 differs from earlier volumes in that there is a greater level of detail. Also, the full list of members and their mini-CVs has been omitted and expanded as a new publication in its own right that can be more frequently updated than the History.

Intent and Layout of this Volume
After these preliminary explanations, there is a brief section that returns to former years long enough to place in the history records some interesting earlier photographs, that so far had missed inclusion. Also included is a view of the Wallaby Club from outside eyes in the form of a newspaper article.

The Centenary has been highlighted as worthy of considerable detail and occupies a discrete section near the beginning of the Volume. 1993, the pre-centennial year, is also mentioned in many sections in order to segue into the latest two decades, and as the information is at hand, events in 2015 are also included. Some additional information relating to earlier years that is not included in earlier volumes has been included here, near the beginning. Occasional direct references to Volume 3 have also been made throughout.

The sections or chapters have been designated to various elements of Wallaby Club ethos and activities, the intent being that those which are date-related, such as regular activities may be easily expanded in future editions.
Iconic elements of Wallaby organisation and behaviour have been detailed, being positioned after the Centenary section. Then follow the various activities in headed sequences.
Many of the walks have been omitted from the commentaries in favour of the “labelled” walks (Presidents’, Ladies’ Day, etc), although some have been included due to their curiosity value. Centenary occasions have received more attention and been separated out. Most Dinners and Uncup weekends are mentioned.
Next come several sections relating to members of note and the various holders of Club offices. Wallabiana, that is, poetry, quips, cartoons and photos relating to events, has been scattered throughout the volume in relevant spots, or into the “Wallabiana” overflow section. These have been derived from
Annual Dinner Cards, Newsletters and the horse’s mouth, so to speak. A history would not be complete without recording some “extra-curricular” but relevant activities, and also a small selection from the many wonderful speeches by members.

From the Past

A few older photographs follow. The first (1947) is a clearer rendition of one that is already in Volume 3, but the others somehow escaped inclusion in that volume and are here with the intention to fill the gap:

Erskine House, Lorne, 1 November 1947

Second Row: G Bennett, Mrs Woodburn, Mrs Minifie, Mrs Woodruff, Mrs Bull, Mrs Boehme, W A Brennan, G Weigall, A E V Richardson, J L Jona, L S Latham.
Third Row: Mrs Serle, Mrs Sutherland, Mrs Burnet, Mrs Simpson, Mrs Latham, Mrs Richardson, Mrs Summons, Miss Brennan, Mrs Fullagar, Mrs Sproule, Mrs Vance, P Serle.

Six photographs by Tom Boehme circa 1953

Zoo keeper with koala, J L F Woodburn, G Simpson, H A Woodruff, E H Brownbill?

Seated: V M Trikojus, Mrs Boehme, Len Mitchell, J L F Woodburn (front), C Sutherland, ??, Mrs Bull?, T S Gregory, ??;
Standing: Mrs Simpson, G Simpson.

V M Trikojus,
Mrs Boehme,
J L F Woodburn,
Len Mitchell,
C Sutherland,
??,
Mrs Bull?,
T S Gregory.

Unknown, G Simpson, V M Trikojus?, Unknown, J E Minifie?,
Os Grayson.

Diamond Jubilee Dinner Card 1954

‘And now sir’, beamed our President
To noted guest and sage,
‘What most impresses in our club?’
And he replied, ‘Its age.’
Annual Dinner 24 June 1966

- In the Dinner Card:  Who’s Who in ’66

Now hear the call of the Wallaby Roll,
Aitchison, Attwood, Austin and Towl,
We talk and we walk, quite often we roost,
Baker and Bignell, Boehme and Buesst;
Some of us solemn, some of us wits,
Pressley and Focken, Simpson and Fitts.
Hereditary peripatetics — it runs
In Southby and Minifie, Bainbridge and Sons.
Walk at the weekend, never fall ill.
Garrod and Gordon, Garran and Gill.
If it’s too steep, then jump it or roll,
Chinnery, Donald, Mitchell and Sproule.
Surgeons, physicians, doctors galore,
Chenowyth, Penington, Summons and Moore.
Experts on railways or farming at need,
Reynolds and Brownbill, Grayson and Read.
Wadham’s renowned for his broadcasts on dairyin’.
Gregory, Bull are veterinarian.
Prof. Osborne — he joined before you were born —
Matheson, Turner, Trikojus and Thorn.
Dignified Lawyers, sporting old pants,
Hutchison, Horwill, Coppel and Vance.
Orders of Merit, actually two,
Dixon and Burnet are both in the crew.
Rivers and Waters, Bankers and Docs.,
Eight miles next Sunday — bring boots and thick socks.
Sanders and Thomson, Johnston and Day,
Exploring the Coombes round Port Phillip Bay.
Ain't got no Parsons, nary a saint.
But a Harper, a Hone and a Swan and a Feint;
Wishart and Woodruff, Walpole and Weaving
And many gone over, for whom we are grieving.
So on with your pack and give us the Billy,
The motorists passing all think we've gone silly.

- Presentation to J E Minifie

Members of the Club whose signatures are shown below presented this hand made presentation scroll to James E Minifie to celebrate the 34 years he spent in the role of Walks Secretary:

(A drawing of a kangaroo and a glass of wine with the text "A votre Sante"

The signatures listed above are those of:


An External View of the Club

Five days before the Centennial AGM and Dinner, Bob Millington of The Age newspaper wrote the following article, published on Friday 17th June 1994:

*Illustrious Wallabies line-up walks into Melbourne’s history*

The most remarkable club we have come across in Melbourne is the Wallaby Club, which will be 100 years old next Wednesday. It’s a walking and talking club which most people have never heard of. It has never had rooms, and its only assets are a walking stick, some wooden rests for the stick, a billy for boiling tea and a tripod for the billy.

And yet its membership has included some of the most illustrious names in Australian history. For a start, there were three prime ministers, Alfred Deakin, George Reid and Billy Hughes. There was that greatest of Australian warriors, Sir John Monash. There was that wonderful narrative painter, Fred McCubbin. There were High Court justices, professors, doctors, and men of the law, science and commerce.

And what did they do? They met a few times a year and they walked, and as they walked they talked. This is what the club was all about: companionship and conversation through walking. Nobody wanted to be athletic, nor did they go out and canvass new members. It was, and is, the kind of club into which men of goodwill simply sort of slipped after receiving an invitation from a friend to go walking. If he was a decent sort of chap – and he invariably was – and none of the other members objected, he could soon become a member himself.

Tomorrow, some of the club’s present members will meet at Flinders Street Station and try to re-create a walk around the city which will take in the rooms at 54 Collins Street of a well-known 19th Century Melbourne medico, Dr Louis Henry, the club’s founder. This is close to the Melbourne Club, and in fact the Melbourne Club is where the Wallabies will hold their centennial dinner on Wednesday because the site is handy.

You are probably wondering about the Wallabies’ sole assets of walking stick, stand, billy and tripod. When General Bridges was mortally wounded at Gallipoli, a Wallaby chap named General J.G. Legge replaced him, and on top of the general’s dugout he found a twisted shrub growing. He sent it back to Melbourne, where Professor A J Ewart – another Wallaby chap – scientifically straightened it, then made it into a walking stick.

It is now covered in gold bands, each denoting a Wallaby president from that time on. The billy, of course, is for making tea in the bush, for the Wallabies go far and wide on their walks. For many years their womenfolk have been allowed to accompany them, but this was not so at first. We can’t get over the amazing membership list for the past 100 years. There were names such as Sir Owen Dixon, Justice H B Higgins, Sir Frank Gavan Duffy, Theodore Fink, George Swinburne, Sir Robert Garran, Sir Henry Wrixon, Sir George Syme, Sir Macfarlane Burnet.

And there were a host of names slightly less well known: Otto Krome, first headmaster of Methodist Ladies College, and Thomas Palmer, who with Krome, was a founding head of University High School; Justice Theyre a’Beckett Weigall, a founder of the Australian Lawn Tennis Association; James Edward Neild, drama critic, doctor; and – look, we’ll run out of space at this rate. The membership list is "chocablock" with people who helped [to shape] Melbourne and the Commonwealth.

May they long walk on.
THE CENTENARY

Preparations

The forthcoming centenary of the club was addressed well in advance, when on 21 December 1988 in the lushous surroundings of the Melbourne Club, serious activity began with the first recorded meeting of a recently formed Centenary Committee. John Swan (chairman) and Geoff Stevens attended and noted Bert Bolton’s apology.

1994 was proposed as the centenary year, which spanned six months each of Wallaby years 1993/4 and 1994/5. An initial budget of $3,000 was known to be available for the envisaged major activities, which included dinners, centenary walk and publication of not only a history but also audio and video tapes.

A subcommittee was proposed for handling the Centenary History project, comprising Harold Attwood and Bert Bolton; another for sourcing tapes involved Bill Balding and Murray Littlejohn (audio) and Max Atkin and Hamish Russell (video). Yet another subcommittee to raise invitation lists for the Centenary Dinner would involve Mick Dexter. Each was to be endowed with its own formal terms of reference!

All these proposals were presented and approved by the club committee on 9 September 1989.

Mick Dexter recalls: John Swan was Chairman, Geoff Stevens and Harold Attwood members. I became an ex officio member after John asked me to try and locate descendants of past wallabies whom we might be able to invite to the Club Dinner. I found there was no complete list of members so one thing led to another and I managed to come up with a complete Club membership, office bearers and brief profile notes on each. I couldn’t have done it without the help of Rod Home who opened the secret doors in the Baillieu library and gave great advice – this was before he became a member. Once again, I was just so impressed with the membership over the last 100 years; with such members how could the Club not succeed? A further point – I believe Geoff Stevens, when Secretary, was instrumental in upping the Club subscriptions to provide a nest egg for the upcoming Centenary.

The decision to hold the Centenary Dinner at the Melbourne Club was made at the 12 November 1990 committee meeting, which also officially appointed Harold Attwood editor of the Centenary History publication. The minutes noted that “The modern section will include articles written about the roles and experiences of the executive officers of the club – to be written by selected members who have held these positions (Secretaries – Geoff Stevens, Presidents – Roy Simpson and Walks secretaries – Bill Balding). Poetry from the dinner cards for inclusion will be selected by Bob Vines. Norman Tulloh had agreed to collect photographs for the book...”. Further, existing audio tapes had been reported not to be of sufficient quality to proceed with them.

At the committee meeting of 12 August 1991, centenary arrangements were reported: “John Swan’s letter indicated that Mick Dexter has done a great job on the compilation of data about former and present members and office bearers, etc. Elizabeth Dexter has looked up the biographies of our early members and found that one of them was a leading educationalist who turned out to be an embezzler!...”.

By November 1991, Geoff Stocks and his artisan spouse Narelle had committed to prepare a limited edition of an earthenware Centenary Plate for sale to Wallabies and others. He proposed also to prepare a special print for the occasion. Mick remembers: It was decided that the Club should have some memento of the Centenary. So John Swan and I drove to Maldon to talk to Geoff and Narelle Stocks. As a result, Geoff produced a limited edition of a Wallaby poster, and Narelle a most beautiful plate. They were both gifted artists in their respective fields. We still treasure both items.

By May 1992, speakers for the centennial dinners (Annual, Ladies’ and Christmas) were being discussed and in August the centenary budget ceiling was raised to $7500.
Mick Dexter, by February 1993, had drawn from his impressive member records and considerable research, an extensive list of possible guests to centenary functions.

At that time, Ralph Neale reported the current position of the Centenary History project as being almost ready for obtaining quotes from printers. He had copied and was pasting up the photographic content, whilst the “modern text” by Harold Attwood, Roy Simpson, Geoff Stevens, Charles Proctor and Milton Warn had been largely written, and the text of the earlier two volumes had been digitised by Chris Simpson. Ralph Neale put it all together, as he was the actual publisher of The History of the Wallaby Club 1894 – 1994, under the banner of Landscape Publications, Mont Albert. He insists that it was a team effort: his wife Vivienne had a key role as proof reader, corrector of punctuation and so on, while some staff members of his small office also helped.

On 5 April 1993, the Club committee received a final report from the Centennial subcommittee (dated 27 February), which detailed the progress to date, proposed specific members to continue responsibility for each facet of the plans, and formally requested to be disbanded.

**Major Centenary Events**

Careful consideration was given to Centennial events to enhance their historical significance. For example, from Doug Hutchison’s list of all Wallaby walks, it was possible to select some of the most popular walks over the years, to repeat and celebrate in the best way possible. The most popular were dubbed “Centenary Walks“.

Likewise the Centennial AGM and Dinner was chosen to be held on the same day of the year and as close as possible to where the Club first met on 22 June 1894, in the founder Dr Henry’s rooms at 54 Collins Street. John Swan’s research found that apparently this land has since been incorporated into another title. Almost next door, the Melbourne Club (36 Collins Street) presented a splendid, contemporary and available alternative location.

**Ladies’ Day, 27 March 1994 – Parkville**

The venue for this ever-popular occasion was the Melbourne General Cemetery in Parkville, followed by afternoon tea in Ormond College. This certainly was an historical walk with a difference. Meeting at the main entrance of the Cemetery in College Crescent at 1.15pm, president Chris Simpson led the sizeable group of nicely dressed spouses and members on a circuitous route past the graves of as many former members as could be located by Chris and Jacci, who on their earlier reconnoitre discovered how poorly the records (and many graves) have been kept. Even so, the following graves were found:

- Dr Louis Hirsch Henry – Club Founder (member 1894-1924), medical practitioner;
- George Arthur Gibbs – (member 1895-1914), Secretary of Melbourne Board of Works;
- Sir Samuel Gillott – (member 1899-1906), Lawyer and politician, etc;
- Pietro PGE Baracchi – (member 1899-1926), Engineer and Government Astronomer;
- Harry Courtney Dix – (member 1901-1915), Commercial entrepreneur;
- Robert Lancelot Ievers – (member 1903-1910), Property, Hospital Boards, Co-founder of the Melbourne Beefsteak Club;
- William Cattanach, CMG – (member 1913-1932), Chairman of State Rivers & WSC

The walk was quite lengthy, but well-received, as was the subsequent afternoon tea in the stately refectory of Ormond College, complete with hot beverages, sandwiches, cakes and sticky buns.
Left and in front of obelisk:
Back:    David Stokes, Ian Johnson
Middle:  Dave Watson, Hamish Russell, Harold Attwood, Alan Gordon, Milton Warn, Ralph Segnit
Front:   Graham Mitchell, Ralph Neale, Murray Littlejohn

Line to right of obelisk (L to R):
Mick Dexter, George Doery, Peter Campbell,
John Bignell, Hari Sinha, Ray Garrod, Geoff Stocks,
Chris Simpson, Charles Proctor, Jack Catherall.
Uncup Weekend 15-17 April 1994 – Mt. Buffalo

Many of the fifty members, ladies and (three) guests had not been to Mt. Buffalo for quite some time; others had never been. In any case, Wallabies came in abundance – some as early as Thursday – to stay for the Uncup Weekend at the Mt. Buffalo Chalet, to drink in the mountain air, witness spectacular views and the sheer grandeur of this granite massif, and enjoy the fine food and accommodation of the recently restored chalet.

Originally the idea of Liz Dexter, the Mt. Buffalo location was enthusiastically endorsed by the committee after glowing first-hand reports from our scouts Gordon and Jean Rushman and through the clear links with Wallaby history. Gordon organised the weekend from start to finish, accepting a suggestion or two for walks.

Formalities began at dinner on Friday, followed by a talk and slides show by Gordon about European influences upon the architecture of Tianjin (China) – a fascinating surprise to all present.

Nearly everybody took the Saturday morning walk in perfect weather down past Lake Catani and on through Alpine Ash and Mountain Gum forest to View Point. Hitherto unseen cloud, rising from the depths below, gave a mysterious touch at View Point itself. After a sumptuous lunch at the chalet, some of the more energetic took an afternoon walk to the headland north of the chalet that embraces several lookouts (Manfield’s, Reed’s, Wilkinson’s and a steep drop towards Marriott’s).

A worthy Saturday roast dinner was interrupted by an unexpected, fine impromptu tribute to the Wallaby Club and its centenary, by the proprietor, Dean Bell and his wife Gillian. They summoned the chef, Steve, who came, bearing an enormous, exquisitely iced cake comprising “100”, a pair of (cake) walking boots, and a scaled-down staff. (Steve also made full-sized walking staves in his spare time). President Chris Simpson responded to this kind and imaginative gesture as best he could before all the Chalet patrons, who later shared portions of the masterpiece over coffee.

Another slide-show, well attended by Wallabies and other patrons, was given by Chris, the topic being his trip to Macquarie Island and year at Mawson Base (Antarctica) in the nineteen-sixties.

Fine weather with a breeze and a few clouds on Sunday morning still offered ideal conditions for forty-two out of our fifty to drive to nearby Tatra Inn and walk thence to Dickson’s Falls along a gently undulating alpine track that wound between giant granitic outcrops and mossy bogs in the lee of the Horn at the high end of the plateau. David Ashton surprised everyone including himself by completing the whole distance unassisted, having discovered how useful a second stick can be! (This was his first walk for five years – a courageous effort).

Another fine lunch heralded the end of formalities and a steady exodus of satisfied Wallabies, spouses and friends. Even so, thirteen stayed on to savour more of the ambience of this island in the sky.
Uncup Weekend – Mt Buffalo Revisited

Enthused by Hamish Russell,
We came to flex our our muscle
On Buffalo, with famed Chalet:
Gordon Rushman led the way.

Our bounding Wallabies made a dash
Through trees on many a granite butte:
The puntists called them Alpine Ash,
But weren’t they stands of Woolly-but?

One and all, fair trails we trudged
To look-outs famous for their view,

The weather kind, with skies of blue
For Jupiter Pluvius stayed away –
Scenes from Vitruvius, day by day,
No clouds the wide horizons smudged.

We left those waterfalls and streams
Renewed, with lasting memories born,
Glimpses of Nature in our dreams!
Did anybody climb The Horn?

[1994 Annual Dinner Card]

Centennial AGM and Dinner, 22 June 1994 – Melbourne Club

Several Wallabies were also members of the Melbourne Club, providing ready access to this splendid and particularly appropriate venue for the Centennial Dinner (see above, on p.12).

Members and Guests were first invited upstairs to mingle, sip drinks and momentarily endure our AGM, which took at about 4 minutes, a little longer than usual. It culminated with the announcement of the committee officers for the coming year: President: Jim Minifie, Vice-president: Norm Tulloh, Hon. Secretary: Hamish Russell, Hon. Treasurer: Hari Sinha, and Walks Secretary: Peter Campbell.

The 133-strong multitude re-assembled downstairs in the magnificent, chandelier-lit main dining room, where 14 round tables were most elegantly set, complemented with Melbourne Club menu cards, Wallaby Dinner Cards and pre-organised place-names.

The menu began with Smoked Salmon Terrine with autumn greens, followed by Baby Lamb Rack oven-roasted and served on a French vegetable ragout; then Vanilla Bavarois served on a raspberry coulis, and finally Coffee and hand-made chocolates. The raspberries were grown by the incoming president Jim Minifie and his son on their farm at Little Hampton. The wines served were Leasingham Bin 37 Chardonnay 1992 and Montrose Poets Corner dry red 1992.

The occasion was exceptional in various ways. Firstly, Ladies were present for the first time ever at an Annual Dinner. Secondly, a list of possible additional guests had been drawn up by contacting surviving relatives of bygone members, many of whom attended. Thirdly, a liberal sprinkling of current members’ close relatives were also present. Also, there was much more talking and ceremony than usual. President Chris Simpson was master of ceremonies.

Welcome ladies, ‘replies’, friends and guests!
Upon you all tonight our honour rests:
For nine and ninety years ‘twas a persuasion
That Annual Dinners be a male occasion.
Admitting ladies into this machinery?...
Simple! ...its our very first centenary!

Ralph Neale had been asked to take photographs. This was a challenge, as flashlight pictures were against the rules of the Melbourne Club. Fortunately he was able to obtain some very sensitive film, and the pictures, though not perfect, turned out quite well; most are in the Wallaby archive.

The longest serving members were given various verbal tasks during the evening. Bill Gronow (equal seventh with 33 years) said Grace, whereupon the Entrée was served. John Bignell (equal third with 37 years) proposed the toast to the Queen, preceded by a worthy speech. Hon. Secretary Hamish Russell gave the apologies and a few house arrangements. Next, Gordon Aitchison (equal ninth with 29 years) spoke about and then proposed a Toast to the Guests. Liz Dexter, not only wife of Mick, but also daughter of former Wallaby Mac Burnet, was an ideal Respondent on behalf of the Guests with a fine address. At this point, the Main Course was served. The next ceremonial job (after a short break) had
been saved for the longest serving Wallaby Ray Garrod (first with 44 years). He gave the traditional speech and Toast to the Club.

A special Centennial Ceremony came next. The exemplary efforts of John Swan, Harold Attwood and Geoff Stevens were to be recognised. This work had embraced history, celebration and the very essence of what the Wallaby Club held dear, particularly through their work on the Centennial Subcommittee and the fruits it bore. Each of these three distinguished Wallabies were to be awarded Honorary Life Membership in turn with a specially prepared Citation, read out and presented by an existing Life Member and then dubbed on the left shoulder with the Anzac Stick, with appropriate words, by outgoing President Chris Simpson. The first was Harold Attwood, presented by Roy Simpson (HLM; 36 years); next, Geoff Stevens, presented by Os Grayson (HLM; 36 years), and finally John Swan, presented by Alan Gordon (HLM; 33 years).

Chris continued his MC role with an explanation of Wallaby traditions and gave a series of thanks to other prime movers behind the Centennial scenes, recognised his fortune in this day’s role and his links to Wallaby history through his father Roy Simpson and grandfather Leonard Mitchell (both past presidents). He then talked about incoming president Jim Minifie, his strengths and his historical links through five family members: his father Jim E Minifie, grandfather C E Oliver, two uncles Dr C Sutherland and Fen Woodburn, and great-uncle W C Kernot.

This led straight into the Handing-Over-of-the-Stick Ceremony, a traditional...
verbatim recital of the story of the Anzac Stick followed by a calling out of all the presidents’ names on the Stick to date [see Volume 3, page 94]. Chris then invested Jim Minifie as the new President and presented him with the Stick, a word to “Wield it wisely!” and a hearty handshake.

Jim (equal third, 37 years) accepted the Stick, said his piece in response and then it was time for dessert and a recess. Next, it was Jim’s pleasure to introduce the Guest Speaker, who was already greatly in evidence, Harold Attwood. He spoke as only Harold could, with a deep, lugubrious but accurate Scottish burr, and an engaging choice of words, that was a delight to hear, as was the opportunity to absorb his wisdom.

The final task for Jim was to thank all and sundry: the speakers, the perpetrators of the incredible Dinner Card, the artists in residence, photographer Ralph Neale, sound recordist Murray Littlejohn, the staff, and importantly, Hamish Russell for organising the evening; then to wind up the proceedings.

Some Centenary commemorative memorabilia were brought for distribution by their makers Geoff and Narelle Stocks in the form of a beautiful green-grey ceramic plate with relief gum leaves, and a magnificent limited edition, sizeable Wallaby print called “À Votre Santé” for each member who had expressed interest – a gargantuan effort on their part.

Twenty-one years later, Stephan Brown relates: In August 2015 one of the commemorative limited edition prints (67/100) turned up in an Opportunity Shop. The sharp eyed proprietor of the shop, Grant Holland, grandson of noted engineer Sir John Holland, contacted his friend and Wallaby John Basarin. Grant felt that the print was part of the Wallaby’s history and kindly offered to donate it to the club. When the news reached Honorary Secretary Max Kennedy, he wasted no time in visiting the shop to take possession of the print in its handsome frame, which will become part of the club’s memorabilia collection. It has been suggested that the print be displayed at various club functions, where it could act as an appropriate backdrop to the wallaby sticks.

President’s Walk, 15 October 1994 – Emerald Lake

For this “open” walk, President Jim Minifie wished to follow the tradition of ancestral Wallabies and make the day a combination of train and walk. The muster point for the walk was at the Puffing Billy Lakeside train station. Members could choose to take a train from Flinders Street in the city, change to Puffing Billy at Belgrave and enjoy the ride via Emerald to Lakeside, or alternatively drive to Belgrave or Emerald and join Puffing Billy there. An anonymous member reported the event:

At 10.30am on Saturday at Belgrave, Puffing Billy waited for the bell, the whistle and the green flag, with two engines in series and three extra carriages reserved for Nippon Tours – not a seat was vacant! At last we moved off to the first stop, Menzies Creek, where Nippon Tours “nipped off” to the museum. One engine was shunted off, but
the three carriages remained! However, as we approached Emerald, a steep grade (1 in 30) almost overwhelmed the little engine. We ground to a halt and even started to slip back. Brakes were applied and sand dropped onto the rails and inch by inch, with engine protesting and groaning, we agonisingly reached the top of the incline.

The journey on to Lakeside was then uneventful. The fifty members and guests assembled in delightful confusion at the station, where greetings were exchanged before Peter Campbell led us along part of the ten kilometre uncompleted section of the line between Lakeside and Gembrook. Apparently the old rails had been sold for scrap in 1961 and bushfires had destroyed the original trestle bridges. Now, with the help of some 200 volunteers, restoration work is proceeding rapidly. Six kilometres of line from the Gembrook end has been completed but two bridges remain to be rebuilt. We were privileged to view work on one twenty-five metre span bridge that was being restored from scratch using salvaged timbers from NSW. One hundred metres further on, there needs to be an even more spectacular bridge across a deep gully. Apparently, even with volunteer labour, the price tag will be in the order of $300,000.

We then continued in a loop and re-joined the line, retracing our steps along the sleepers. We lunched at the pleasant and idyllic Emerald Lake picnic area before catching Puffing Billy back. Our return journey was highlighted by some children outside Emerald using the warm day to hone their skills with water pistols – very refreshing! We passed the Commissioners’ train resplendent with blue curtains, silver ties and black-tied attendants – champagne and an elite passenger list topped it off. Apparently the VIPs had lunched at the Noebius Packing Shed where the uniformed staff were now resting with their feet up and the appearance of having indeed had a “function”. On such a perfect day, who could have failed to enjoy the fellowship of the Club at its best?

**Ladies’ Dinner 24 October 1994 – University House**

The speaker was Agnes Bankier, a geneticist with the Murdoch Institute at the Royal Children’s Hospital. She gave an excellent and accessible account of human genetics.

**Christmas Dinner, 5 December 1994 – University House**

This was last official function of the Centenary Year. Guest speaker for the evening was our own Milton Warn, whose talk was about Professor William Charles Kernot, one of the Club’s early members and great-uncle of President Jim Minifie. It was a condensed version of Milton’s oration given earlier in the year, at which a few members were privileged to attend and who were so impressed that Milton was urged to enlighten us all at this dinner. Kernot was president of the Club in 1901. He was the foundation Professor of Engineering at Melbourne University and designed the Morell Bridge over the Yarra River. He was also President of many institutions such as the Working Men’s College, the Royal Society of Victoria, the Victorian Institute of Engineers and the Victorian Institute of Surveyors. The Dinner was a happy and memorable occasion, but also uncomfortably hot and stuffy. Opening the terrace doors barely made any difference on that steamy evening and it seemed strange that this splendid room, lined with rare glassware, should have no air-conditioning.

**“Centenary Walks” in 1994**

Some of the earliest and most popular walks over the years were selected from historical club walks records, to repeat and celebrate in the best way possible. These were dubbed “Centenary walks”, which interleaved with other scheduled walks. Of course one could not be certain of the exact routes and, in some cases, the walks passed through areas that were rural 90 to 100 years earlier and are now suburbia. Despite the suggestion that members might encounter the ghosts of earlier Wallabies, one would be able to visualise some of the changes over time by virtue of variations in architecture along the route.

Railways were used frequently in the early years, and in deference to this, so would some of the Centenary walks. For the first half of 1994, the Saturday afternoon walks followed the general direction of some of these earliest walks. They proved to be of particular interest to members in 1994.

**Clifton Hill – Heidelberg, 12 February (members and male guests)**

For the first Centenary walk, members met at 1.30pm in Clifton Hill on the South side of Darling Gardens. The route broadly followed the railway line, and wound across some parks, but mainly followed suburban streets through to Heidelberg Station, where members caught the train back again.
Belgrave – Lower Ferntree Gully, 12 March (members and male guests)
Members met at Belgrave Station at 1.30pm and strolled in a haze of conversation downhill along established tracks to Lower Ferntree Gully (now simply called Ferntree Gully). Nobody took the challenge to walk back up again, preferring instead to return to their cars by train.

Mentone – Mordialloc, 30 April (members and male guests)
The walks notice had given members permission to arrive by means of train, bicycle, horse and buggy, or any other suitable conveyance. In any case, Wallabies gathered obediently at 1.30pm in the parking area adjacent to Mentone Station. A ragged string of macropods were led through the Mentone civic area, sundry streets and parks to the seafront. This, they followed all the way to Mordialloc, from whence they returned to Mentone by train to collect their bicycles or whatever.

Greensborough – Rosanna, 21 May (members and male guests)
Nearby Greensborough Station, at 1.30pm again, members assembled as instructed and followed the leader in the general direction of the railway through sundry parks and streets, with the final stretch through the Rosanna parklands to Rosanna Station, some seven kilometres. That is, all except the less hardy, who had the opportunity to return by train earlier via McLeod Station. Another opportunity was for the more sprightly to continue the walk a further two kilometres to Heidelberg Station. All returned by train to Greensborough eventually, but not synchronously!

City of Melbourne, 18 June (members and male guests)
‘Meet under the clocks at Flinders Street Station’, a familiar Melbourne phrase, was uttered again – the Swanston Street entrance at 1.30pm of course. The walk, unlike earlier Wallaby gatherings, had nothing to do with trains. This time, it was to explore old Melbourne via Flinders Lane and Collins Street, including the opportunity to pay our respects to Club founder Dr Henry and also to Sir John Monash along the way. The informative stroll ended almost where we started, at Young and Jackson’s, which although warmly welcomed, has no proven link with the Wallaby Club.

Jell’s Park, 2 July (members and male guests)
Here was an opportunity to re-visit one of the favourite walks over the years, to see much of this splendid Melbourne Water Park. It encloses portion of the meandering Dandenong creek amid conservation areas of woodland and its overflow occasionally replenishes Jell’s Lake set in the middle of the Park. The straggle of members, heads down, deep in conversation, almost oblivious to the surroundings and bird-life, plunged on in a deliciously Wallabian dream.

Inner Melbourne Parks, 24 July (members and male guests)
Hon. Secretary Hamish Russell’s walks notice requested members to assemble at 1.30pm on the steps of the Old Treasury Building in Spring Street, opposite Collins Street. The walk began through the green and sumptuous Treasury and Fitzroy Gardens to Yarra Park and across Gosch’s Paddock to the Yarra River. Crossing at Morell Bridge, the route continued through the even more sumptuous Royal Botanic Gardens to the King’s Domain and thence through the Queen Victoria Gardens to Princes Bridge and back to Collins Street.

You Yangs, 13 August (open)
Members and friends met in front of the Ranger’s building just inside the entrance to the park for an early start at 10.30am. Recently, the You Yangs had been extensively replanted and restored despite the prodigious growth of boneseed. Views along the way were spectacular, over the bay, over Geelong and to the North and West, vistas to be enjoyed before foreshadowed industrial developments proceed at Point Wilson and Point Lillas. Wallabies returned exhausted, but happy.

Kew – Doncaster (almost), 28 August (members and male guests)
Members assembled near and wandered through Hay’s Paddock in Kew to and along the freeway until the track ended at the Doncaster Road/High Street intersection.
Box Hill – Doncaster and return, 12 November (members and male guests)
As for the earlier Centenary walks this year re-tracing old Wallaby tracks, this one also involved quite a bit of footpath bashing. The Box Hill of Heidelberg School times has long gone and the forest that covered this area has been replaced by suburbia. However the walk found several green bits and strips on the street map. Starting at Springfield Park in Kerrimuir, the route followed a green strip that ran down to Elgar Road and a new track in the Koonung Creek reserve alongside the (recent) Eastern Freeway to Middleborough Road. A zig zag walk through streets returned members to their cars.
DEVELOPMENT OF CLUB ETHOS OVER 20 YEARS

Outlook
What a wonderful “walking” club! said a recently returned member, whilst on long-term leave, subtly encapsulating the Club’s general ethos of elegant simplicity, understated expression and mild waggery.

He also observed: In my early years as a member I was acutely aware of the amazing backgrounds of our senior members – people like John Turner, Os Grayson, Roy Simpson, Geoff Stevens, John Swan and others, who carried the Club through lean times and who had a quiet passion for the objects of the Club. There has existed a wonderful eccentricity, based upon great confidence in our elected committee, exemplified by the extreme brevity of Annual General Meetings. Achieving a new record for brevity was a challenge to each President … when I endure other long-winded AGMs, I remember fondly the inherent trust and good will that pervades the Wallaby Club.

An intelligent group are the Wallabies,
Content as they talk with each other;
Many, who quietly conceal high degrees,
Impart knowledge as though not a bother. [2011 Annual Dinner Card]

According to Alma Pryor: We have had many happy experiences over the years and received many kindnesses. For example, at our first “Uncup weekend” at Hepburn Springs in 1995, a group of members and wives were gathered on the lawn outside the motel rooms before dinner and as we approached, the circle opened so that we could join the group, which was very welcoming. Then in 2001, a year after David had had his Stroke, we attended the Falls Creek Uncup week-end and David was keen to walk to Wallace’s Hut. He was very slow and we were last to arrive, but when we did, the group gave him a clap.

A viewpoint from the 2005 Annual Dinner Card...

The Club
While Saturn graced the evening skies, to break the planet’y drought,
And Jupiter climbed high to join the cosmic roundabout,
We’ve seen the Macropodial year of Polmear fast unfold –
With wondrous walks and learned talks and visions to behold;
With members new – more ears to chew – more stories to enjoy;
From members past, whose values last, much wisdom to employ.
For sound support, our fair cohort of wives deserve our grace:
Their keen-eyed care reminds us where traditions have their place.
A paradox – the Wallabies – a club outside its time;
An ageing corps, who walk no more, but stroll in mood sublime
On woodland track, both there and back engaged in endless matter;
(For some the news precludes the views – it doesn’t really matter!)
At dinners three, some straighten knee, to intersperse the mumbling
And clink of forks with witty talks of a quality truly humbling.
Tradition is strong and the lineage long: a hundred and eleven precisely;
Possessions are few – just a stick or two – and we’re leaping along quite nicely.

...And another from 2011:
Which of our traditions shall never die?
Some will survive the urge to pension or dispel –
Look around and take the outstretched hand,
Feel the cherished warmth and values strong.

... And one from 2012 that looks ahead:
Would Wallabies still walk and talk, and dine in 2084?
Shall we see them tote the billy, as two centuries before?
Will safety, health or legal things have deemed a need for bodyguards?
Dress

On walks, since the days of jacket, tie and hat, the standard of dress has deteriorated according to some, or become more practical according to others. In fact one or two of our Ladies have been known to describe us as ragged (or worse). However, as we nearly all remember to wear a name tag, we must keep face by being moderately tidy, especially as most walks are now “open” and hence ladies present. All, including ladies, wear an extraordinarily diverse range of odd hats, particularly when the sun is out. Men’s hats are always indescribable.

At dinners Wallabies “scrub up” quite well. Dinner attire expected is a lounge suit and tie. For the Ladies’ Dinner, tradition expects a Dinner Suit and black tie, although the Hon. Secretary has condoned a lounge suit for renegades in the last few years up to 2015. Most of our Ladies still love dressing up for this occasion.

In a letter of thanks to President Ralph Neale, following the 1997 Ladies Dinner at Victoria Barracks, Ruth Sanderson included this verse:

The Wallabies of Melbourne have this marvellous ability
To entertain and wine and dine with gracious civility
But unlike others of their kind, to guard their anonymity,
They change from grey to black and white with wonderful agility.

Sticks

Wallaby Club possessions are few; little more than a few walking sticks, a billy and tripod.

The Wallaby Anzac Stick

The most significant of the Club’s few artefacts is pictured both here and in Volume 3, page 101. The story of the Anzac Stick, given in full in Volume 3, page 94, is traditionally read at each Annual Dinner prior to it being handed over by the outgoing president to the incoming president as part of the Handing-Over-of-the-Stick Ceremony. Engraved upon its many gold bands are the names of all the Club’s presidents. The Anzac Stick and its rests have been the Club’s most treasured memorabilia, listing the names of all Past Presidents, a source of pride and honour, and very precious. It normally lives in a bank vault and is brought out by the Guardian-of-the-Anzac-Stick for dinners and special occasions. One former Hon. Secretary confessed: the numerous occasions, when I was Secretary and responsible for bringing the Anzac stick to Wallaby dinners, that the stick would reside for significant periods of time in the back of a wardrobe in our house. Luckily, no thief ever investigated. However, I sometimes wonder how I would have explained the loss if it had occurred!

Middle East, Dardanelles, Turkey,
Then Gallipoli, Lone Pine, the Nek
Who would have thought,
In nineteen fifteen,
Rhamnus oleoides,
Would have yielded our icon,
A walking stick,
Banded with gold,
Treasured with names,
And polished with memories.

[2004 Annual Dinner Card]
‘The Anzac Stick’ has been the subject of many poems, especially those to be found in the Annual Dinner Cards. Some even refer to the mystical disappearance for a year or so of the fine pair of ti-tree Stick-rests. In particular, Stephan Brown’s two poems *The Wallaby Club — a Monologue* and *The Rests Return (& other matters)* relate this misfortune and its resolution. Another poem (from the 1995 Annual Dinner Card) refers to the origin of some of the gold on the Anzac stick:

**The Apotheosis of a Golden Denture**

Lured by seductive cyanide from heaps of mining tailings,
Moulded by clever workmanship to cover dental failings,
For years I helped a Doctor kind to masticate his food,
And also to articulate — his speech was never rude.
Alas! Then I was laid aside, forgotten, in a drawer,
It seemed my usefulness was done, my happy days were o’er.
But while the foolish paper pound was losing all its worth,
Serenely and safe I held my ground, more precious than at birth.
At length there came a golden chance, the Doctor seized it quick,
And I, transfigured, now enhance the famous Anzac Stick.

**A Second Anzac Stick**

The future need for a new stick was first raised in print in the 1998 Annual Dinner Card through John Swan’s poem, in which the Anzac Stick speaks to us:

I really don’t like it, locked up in a vault,
It’s cold, and it’s dark, and it isn’t my fault
That I’m banded in gold.

At the dinners, it’s true, I enjoy all the talk,
But I know it’s unlikely I’ll go for a walk.
Yes, I’m now getting old.

Just look at my sinews, all twisted and knurled,
Could I go on display? — if I can’t see the world,
Let the world look at me.
Museum, the new one, would suit to a tee.

But wait — there is space for some Presidents still,
And the years will soon pass — you must think with a will,
What to do when the space left is nil.

So let me remind you — it’s Wallaby lore —
The buckthorn still grows on Gallipoli’s shore.
Could I visit my birthplace? — and see the Lone Pine?
Would you take me? You would! — just you watch my gold shine!

You might find my great grandson on dugout of old,
And with me as your passport a tale could be told,
That would see him migrate
To become my successor, to have and to hold
All those names in the future — how’s that for a fate?

Immediately following this poem was an editor’s note:

(The committee is giving serious consideration to the far-sighted ideas raised in this poem and would appreciate feedback from the members)

There followed silence upon the matter for thirteen years. John Swan, who by then had written several poems about the Anzac Stick, approached John Jenkin, the current Vice-President, stressing the Stick’s history, pointing out the limited number of blank places remaining on the backs of the gold bands for ongoing names, noting that they would eventually be used and that a new Stick would be needed whilst it was still
possible to obtain one. John Jenkin took up the challenge and foreshadowed in a prior dinner talk that his main ambition, as President in 2012, would be to return to Gallipoli and obtain a new Wallaby Anzac Stick. This he did, mounting an expedition of members and friends to Gallipoli, as the culmination of a tour of Turkey. [See also the section “Turkey Tour” under “Extra Curricular Activities” below, p.138]

At the 2013 Ladies’ Dinner, John and Hatice Basarin were guests of immediate past-president John Jenkin. John Basarin had guided the Wallaby Club expedition to Turkey and Gallipoli and through his expertise the new Wallaby Stick was obtained. The Basarins had previously only seen the stick in its original state and John Jenkin proudly displayed the straightened and polished stick, looking absolutely superb, with its new golden band recently organised by Murray Gillin. The words inscribed on the band read:

COLLECTED AT GALLIPOLI BY THE WALLABY CLUB TOURING PARTY. MAY 2013.

A swift calculation reveals that the last space on the original Anzac Stick would be used to record the president elected for Wallaby year 2046/7. This seems to be rather distant, but the Turkey touring party saw for themselves that Buckthorn has been almost totally eradicated from the Gallipoli Peninsula, and so the Club has been most fortunate to have found a suitable piece. In future, it would not be possible, so that justifies the Tour of 2013. Call it an investment, maturing when the Club has its 152nd birthday.

At the following Christmas Dinner (2013), Murray Gillin presented to the Club a beautifully constructed 100 year old cedar box to house the two Wallaby Anzac Sticks.
Yes, John Swan, it is due
To you
Who saw my banded spaces dwindle slowly to a few,
Who warned that to renew me various problems would accrue,
That from my home and of my species, I have now brother true
In species, origin and hierarch.
He is as yet untutored, but bears gold band
As bondage to his future task, at hand
When I am replete with presidential plaque.

Yes, John Jenkin, it is due
To you
and to your band of voyagers, who
came and wept in my land, my Gelibolu,
and found my brother, aided by my countrymen
John Basarin and friend, Akin Baran.
I am pleased the Turkey Tour endured:
My task as name-keeper is twice ensured,
We in fine wooden box can lay secured.

[Other Poems about the Anzac Stick(s) may be found elsewhere in this Volume, including in the “Wallabiana” section.]

The Minifie Stick
Stephan Brown reports: Jim E Minifie (senior), a Wallaby from 1926 until his death in 1968, was walks secretary from 1932 to 1966, a record that is not likely to be bettered. When he relinquished the position he was presented with a certificate signed by members and a fine slender walking stick of dark wood with a gold band inscribed “Jim Walks Secretary 1932 - 1966 From the Wallabies”. His son, Jim Minifie would regularly bring the stick along to walks but after leaving it behind on one walk and luckily remembering it, he decided that perhaps it would be safer back at the club. When Jim offered it to the then walks secretary Brian Harper, the committee respectfully declined the offer, resolving that the stick should rightfully stay with Jim.

The Y-stick
Long-time member David Churchill has some land in the hills behind Apollo Bay, on part of which he has established a botanical garden of rare plant species. From the wilder parts of adjoining forest, he found a tall, slim “Satinwood” sapling (Phebalium squameum [Labill.] Engl.) supporting a vigorous creeper (Billardiera scandens Sm.) which, growing up a short length of it, caused spiral constrictions where it wound dextrally around the host sapling. ‘This is curious’, thought our David, and when peeled apart, he immediately saw the potential for a novel walking stick or possibly a staff. ‘Aha!’ he thought, ‘This might suit the Wallaby Walks Leader’. So he saved the fork at the top, cut it to a length where the spiral deformation could offer a natural hand-hold. Next, knowing that Satinwood had white underwood, he peeled off the bark, cleaned it up and presented it to Murray Gillin, the newly appointed Walks Leader, with the suggestion that someone might finish it nicely and more appropriately. That someone was Chris Simpson, who sanded and varnished it, put a rubber foot on the base and returned it ceremoniously to Murray on the opening night of the 2006 Anglesea Uncup Dinner, with the following verse:
Presenting the “Y-STICK” to Walks Secretary Gillin, 1/4/2006

O Wallabies, this is the “Y-stick” I wish to present,
An offering from one of our members, D. Churchill by name,
Intended for none but the Walks Sec, to aid his ascent,
And mark all his paths and his person with visible fame.

And how has this Y-stick been fashioned, you’ll probably ask?
A sapling Phebalium squameum or “satinwood” tree
Was tackled by creeper Billiardiera scandens, a task
That left all these curlywig thrallings, so curious to see.

The Y-stick, you ask? It’s a ‘WHITE’ stick ...but minus a ‘T’;
But it does have a ‘Y’, so hence ‘WHY’! ...or just ‘Y’-with-a-dash.
It’s long, but its grip is selectable, as you can see;
And Simpson has tarted it up with a little pannage.

I call upon Murray the Gillin to come to the fore
To receive back the Y-stick that David saw fit to supply,
To treasure and hand-on for ages to come, and ensure
That every new Wallaby sees it, and then wonders Y-

Since this occasion, Walks Secretaries (Murray Gillin, Brian Harper and Stephan Brown) have been very good at adorning their personage with the Y-stick at walks, and proven that it is not only a useful aid to walking, but a startlingly good marker of where the leader is. No one has used it yet as a cattle-prod. Nine years on, in 2015, Bruce and Anne Sandie produced a rectangular (and hence not a pennant), white calico flag that slips over one arm of the stick’s fork. Wallaby insignias have been artistically applied to the flag in black, on one side the old backward-looking Wallaby, and on the other, the Geoff Stocks forward-looking Wallaby, probably symbolising that members look both ways. This proud addition makes the Y-stick even more visible. We can now walk with confidence into fogs or gathering twilight.

Walks Secretary’s Y-Stick

Walks Secretary’s stick is shining bright,
And now it sports another sight:
An artful Wallaby flag of white,
With Wallaby badges, old and new,
On either side – by the Sandie crew.

Sundry Personal Sticks

There have always been a few personal walking sticks to be seen; some quite notable staves also. One such, Gordon Rushman’s enormous strong hardwood rod with a spherical head, reminiscent of a shillelagh, is to be warily respected. It could certainly carry a man’s weight if used as a bridge over a chasm or creek. In fact it was crafted by fellow Wallaby Ian Johnson from Queensland black bean. In the first few years of the millennium, personal sticks flourished, mostly as a result of Brian Snape’s generous offer to purchase in bulk, on other members’ behalf, newly available sticks of a serious modern design for walkers — lightweight, adjustable length, complete with wrist strap, toughened spike and rubber mud-basket (presumably to stop it disappearing into a bog). Some even had spring loading built in!

Being somewhat revolutionary for Wallabies, the bristling of sticks inspired this poem in the 2002 Card:
Trick Stick or The Staff of Life

Alarm and confusion –
There are sticks in profusion!
(The Sorc’rer’s Apprentice revised.)
Multiple species
Of long thin protheses
Have sprouted at Wallabies’ sides.
Long held by tradition,
The only addition
To gold-banded buckthorn from war:
Is the modest affair
From the Minifie lair
That all our Walks Secretaries score.
But sad to relate
That tradition of late
Has suffered a terrible beating –

More sticks, poles and staves,
Borne by Wallaby braves,
Can be seen at each subsequent meeting.
Some carved, some too long,
Some adorned with a thong,
Some plain, some knotted and flesky;
But the ultimate passion
And last word in fashion –
Collapsible prodders by Leki.
Ah, where will it end?
I suppose we depend
On support as we stave off senility;
So, as Wallaby spring
Is built into this thing,
We’re assured of continued agility!

Committee

The Wallaby Club Committee of ten, with the Archive Officer and Immediate Past President also entitled to attend, is scheduled to meet at least four times per year. Meetings are normally held in various committee members’ homes; however it has been known in the past to meet, unscheduled, in the middle of a walk, possibly to ratify a new membership nomination on the spot. The 2013 Rules now require that all of the Committee vote regarding new members.

According to Len Edwards, President in 2014:

The Wallaby Committee

From the early days of the Club it was recognised that some form of management was needed to co-ordinate the activities of the Club. Reference to the earlier volumes of the Club history will provide many interesting anecdotes of differences of opinion and the slow development of a committee structure. Ultimately, the situation settled and published in the rules of the Club. “The affairs of the Club shall be administered by a Committee of eleven members, who shall be elected at the Annual general meeting of the Club, and who shall hold office until the election of their successors at the next Annual general meeting”. To ensure a turnover of members, the rules also state that “only the Vice-President and no more than eight other members shall be eligible for re-election”.

When the Government of Victoria passed the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012, it was intended to “establish a scheme for the incorporation and registration of voluntary associations” and to make provision for governance, accountability and other matters”. The Act required an association to adopt within twelve months the model rules set out in the legislation or alter the association’s own rules to comply with the Act (and thus include all of the model rules under the Act). This set a problem for the Committee of the day, because the model rules were voluminous and the old Club rules concise. It was decided to adopt the model rules with some modification and produce a concise set of Regulations for Walks and Functions. This took much of the Committee effort during 2014.

The new rules state that the Committee consists of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, a Walks Secretary and ordinary members up to a maximum of five, giving up to ten committee members. All positions are declared vacant at the Annual General Meeting. Committee positions will be filled from members who have nominated prior to or at the Annual General Meeting. However, “the outgoing President and Vice-President are not eligible for nomination to fill those respective positions”. The Committee must meet at least four times a year, and there are many requirements of the Act, including avoidance of conflict of interest. Notwithstanding the new rules, the Committee is not hindered in working for the betterment of the Club.
Communications

Mail, Notices and Newsletters

In 1994, Australia Post was being used exclusively for written communications, mainly the regular “Notices” – which for a long time was the correct terminology but will be referred to from here on as “Newsletters” – had been sent out between four and seven times per year up till then. These Newsletters contained announcements and forthcoming events instructions for the next month or two, and only very occasional function reviews. Newsletters were typed and duplicated on a copier, between one and three pages long.

The front sheet letterhead prior to 1994 had the backward-looking Wallaby (Kangaroo?) on the left side and to its right “WALLABY CLUB” in clarendon capitals between two triple line bars, under which was “Established 1894” in much smaller type. In 1994, Geoff Stocks redesigned it for the Centenary, his new forward-looking Wallaby going to the right side and the large “WALLABY CLUB” in a wide heavy serif style and the little “Established 1894” were encompassed within two thick bars to its left. In 1995, political correctness insisted upon adding the missing “THE”! Lastly, Incorporation exacted the need to further add “INC” from January 2002, so that the main banner then read “THE WALLABY CLUB INC”, and still does except that the INC has been demurely diminished in size and given a full-stop.

By 1998, Newsletters had become quite voluminous with up to 8 or 9 pages, as there were many offerings by members, so much so that the Hon. Secretary Hamish Russell pleaded for minimal, pre-typed contributions, which of course came in a plethora of styles, rather than Hamish’s neat fixed-width italic font. Some of the contributions contained pictures or graphics, which did not duplicate well in those days with home equipment. From mid-1999, David Pryor’s more emphatic Newsletters used Times variable-width font, more bolden, more underlined, and carried fewer attachments. Then, Ian Polmear’s Newsletters became more regular in timing, and although containing more succint messages, also introduced some anecdotal content, often adding one of Geoff Serpell’s “Wallabies of Yore” page-long essays.

A major format change was brought about by Jeff Wunderlich when he assumed the Hon. Secretary role in July 2003. Jeff pioneered the use of a computer to generate the Newsletter. He used a slightly smaller banner, and for a few notices, also included a footer showing the Club’s registration details. The content details were minimal but sufficient and had a fair sprinkling of bold type. However, the major difference was the use of two columns for the Newsletter content and a much larger font, either to suit those people who had extremely poor eyesight, or more likely, to suit those who owned computers and wished to receive Newsletters by email. Up to date they had all been posted. The larger font catered for small screens and for those wishing to print out their notices two pages per sheet.

An innovation in 2004/5 has been the publication, in the Newsletters, of photographs taken on walks and dinners. Members with email addresses received theirs in colour, otherwise as before, posted copies were printed in black and white. Although each was headed “NOTICE TO MEMBERS” (and still are in 2015), they were increasingly being informally referred to as “Newsletters”. In 2009/10, the number of notices issued rose to twelve and in 2011/12 there were sixteen!

Another innovation began in the second June 2012 Newsletter, being the first newsletter in the presidency of John Jenkin, in which he wrote the first of a series called “President’s Column”. The column included current issues that needed airing and sought members’ views. The column was well received by members. In the first, for example, John took up the topics “A Duty of Care”, Walks complaints, and “Welfare of absent members”.

Until 2012, Newsletter numbering finished at 30 April, that is, the end of the (then) Reporting Year. From the beginning of 2014, Newsletters were numbered according to the calendar year instead, No.1 being in January. To achieve this switch, it was preceded by a year and two thirds together, beginning May 2012, in which the numbering went up to No. 27 by December 2013!

From August 2013 new Walks Secretary Stephan Brown began to include attractive images and seductive descriptions of coming walks in the newsletters in an effort to entice larger attendances at walks. The jury is still out on the effectiveness of this endeavour. Suffice it to say that by 2015, the Newsletters have matured to a neat and colourful format containing: a nice banner section; instructions for the next event
or two, with colour photographs; accounts of previous events, again with relevant colour "action shots"; announcements and items of timely Wallaby news; and finally, any booking forms for members to complete, as needed.

**Wallaby Walks Card (and Calendar and Member List)**

A shirt-pocket-sized, folded card has been issued annually, for many decades, at or soon after the Annual Dinner. It superseded the early practice of individual walk invitation cards mailed prior to each walk. This essential document summarises important Club information such as current Club office bearers; a list of the full (Wallaby) year’s activities together with date, nature and location; a current list of members annotated with phone number, year of joining, a symbol if a Committee member or Life member, and wife’s or partner’s first name if appropriate; a separate list of wives/partners of deceased members (by agreement) and contact number; and since 2011, a separate list of mobile phone numbers of Club Officers.

For the hapless editor/printer of this compact card full of diverse, ever changing and exacting data, it has been a particularly frustrating annual task. Each editor in turn valiantly tackled tardy information sources, revised formats, computer vagaries and the need of printers. Printers were human beings when David Churchill took on this challenge a little before 1994, under the apprenticeship to Roy Simpson, who prepared the typography. As offset printing had become ever more expensive, David pioneered home printing. At the same time, electronic printers had become more accessible and eventually good enough for satisfactory results. Richard Kirchner relieved David in 2004 and still continues to produce the Walks Card as at 2015. Richard has, in his words: *streamlined the system a bit, generating a desktop published template [and also] introduced the pre-folded card, which makes life easier...We now print the card after the AGM in case the election results don’t turn out as planned!* Of course, rules of incorporation have enforced this approach. However, rules are afoot that would allow pre-printing if there is no need for an election at the AGM, that is if the number of nominations for the committee do not exceed the number of vacancies.

Curiously indicative of the Club’s way of thinking is the afore-mentioned list (on the card) of wives/partners of deceased members, in that, despite the Club’s maleness, it continues to care about "our Ladies" after a member’s demise. Further, the heading of the list has varied over time indicating the Club’s efforts to stay in tune with community perceptions:

- "Wives of Former Members" (before 1993 and until 2004);
- "Partners and Wives of Late Members" (2005-6);
- "Friends and Wives of Late Members" (2007);
- "Wives and Friends of Late Members" (2008-12); and
- "Wives and Friends of Past Members" (2013-).

Perhaps the next iteration might be "Wives/Partners of Deceased Members", but this is surmise and not historical fact.

**Communication Tree**

Established in mid-1997, having been proposed by Milton Warn, this proved to be an effective strategy for contacting all members of the Club as quickly as possible in case of emergency or, for example, the death of a member. Instead of the overworked President telephoning each member in turn, he would telephone the Vice-president, Hon. Secretary, and Hon. Treasurer, each of whom would telephone two members, as set out on an annually issued chart. Each of these members knew which member to ring next, who in turn would ring the next, and so on, eight or nine members being in each of the branches. There were slight modifications to the Communication Tree in ensuing years, but the idea was basically the same and it worked reasonably well, as long as a member could contact the next in line! If not, then the next member in line would have to be skipped and contacted later.

The system was still in use in 2004, but gradually fell out of favour as more members gained access to email. The September 2005 Newsletter reported:

*Communications Tree: For some years, Gordon Rushman has kept the Tree up-to-date. But despite his best efforts, it had become clear that it was not really working well. Recently, the Committee decided to try a new approach, where the responsibility would rest with Committee members only. Reliance is [now] based heavily on email, but*
also on the phone [where necessary]. So far, the new scheme seems to be working well, or at least better, but, for sure, a perfect system is far away.

In 2015, the “tree” concept has become unnecessary, as emailed Newsletters are issued monthly or even more frequently, as needs be, and the few remaining members without email may be easily and rapidly contacted by phone by one person.

Websites

A web resource, The Wallaby Club Inc., hosted through the eScholarship Research Centre at University of Melbourne (http://www.wallabyclub.org.au), was set up in 2011. The purpose of this resource was to be an authoritative reference that contained historical information about the Club and a guide to the club archives. The Club’s Archivist, Gavan McCarthy, who was also Associate Professor and Director of eScholarship Research Centre, established the resource using tools that met archival informatic standards. He established and has maintained the DNS registration (http://www.wallabyclub.org.au) for the Club and ensured that the annual fees are paid. The historical compendium section contains a register of all past members plus information on the roles and official positions, a register of past walks and the beginnings of a bibliography of publications about the club and its members including links to the Australian Dictionary of Biography Online for deceased members that were selected for that honour.

However, by late 2012 it was found that the resource did not meet the current news and activity needs of the members. At a meeting on 4th December 2012 attended by Stephan Brown, Richard Kirsner, Gavan McCarthy and Bruce Sandie it was agreed that a separate website would be the best solution. It was also agreed that the site should be able to be maintained by Club members, have a straight forward structure and be easily edited. It was further agreed that the Club Historian, Secretary, and Walks Secretary should have editing access. This led to the creation of the Wallaby Club Latest News website using an easily maintained and updated free 100MB service (https://sites.google.com/site/wallabyclubnews/) provided by Google. Copies of the three most recent newsletters are placed on the site as each becomes available. In addition the site has recent annual reports, the walks calendar and documents featuring Club memorabilia. Since 2012 Bruce Sandie has been particularly reliable in uploading selected photos from Wallaby walks. Both sites are freely available to the public and indexed by the major search engines. At the end of 2015 pdf copies of the three published histories of the club were uploaded to the site and it is planned that this history also be uploaded.

As a rule the Wallaby Club Latest News website is updated monthly or as new content is available and in November 2015 was at 88% of its free 100MB allocation. The Wallaby Club Inc. web resource is updated annually but has no such restriction on the amount of content. Some members of Club have occasionally questioned the need for both the web resource and the website and the risks associated with personal and walks information being placed in such a public and easily discoverable medium. To date there have not been any recorded negative incidents and the general feeling is that the benefits to the membership outweigh the risks.
Archives

[See also “Honorary Club Historian” under “Other Officers” below, p.127]

At the time of the Club centenary in 1994 the Wallaby Club archival collection was held by The University of Melbourne Archives in Barry Street, Carlton, in a somewhat disorganised group of boxes representing the various transfers to archives over the years. The University Archivist at that time, Frank Strachan, was pleased to help on occasions to locate particular documents from the ancient Wallabiana, for example various early annual dinner cards for Roy Simpson, who was searching for suitable poems for the Centenary AGM Dinner card. Frank was sent a personal copy of the Centenary card for his labours and in response (31/3/95) declared that it was a rich pleasure to be of such help. In 1999, Club archives were relocated to the University of Melbourne Archives’ new repository in Brunswick. Access to the collection was by prior arrangement through the University Library shopfront (the Archives and Special Collections Reading Room) at the Baillieu Library.

Subsequent forays into those archives proved to be often inconvenient and delayed, and hampered by a lack of documentation or guide to the collection. An alternative was discussed, particularly between long-standing Club Historian Harold Attwood and Rod Home, his successor from 1997, who was well acquainted with archives through his livelihood in History of Science. He recalls that: Eventually the Club allocated funding to the Archives to have a first-order finding aid to the Club’s records prepared by archivist Cecily Close. From time to time, additional sets of records, mostly comprising Secretary’s files but also including a significant number of photographs and miscellaneous other material, have been added to the collection. The last deposit he knew of personally was during Jeff Wunderlich’s term as Secretary.

In 2006, Rod handed the reigns over to Gavan McCarthy, whose career tasks at that time included the development of a computer-based and internet-friendly archival documentation system that was being used by many small archives across Australia and in the United Kingdom. It was felt that the Club collection could benefit from a general stock take and re-documentation using this system, the Heritage Documentation Management System or HDMS. From 2010, he (and others), with funds from the Club, spent much energy trying to make sense of the odd and occasional “accessions” or transfers of records from the club and its members to the collection. The documentation of the accessions, the creation of a “file inventory”, the grouping of files into “series” (such as: Establishment and Constitution; Annual Reports; Committee Minutes; etc.) and the registration of the source or “provenance” of the materials were the primary goals of this activity. Undertaking this work using the HDMS meant that we could easily produce a web guide to the collection and a working draft of this guide is available on the Wallaby Club Inc. web resource (http://www.wallabyclub.org.au/guide/wallabyguide.htm).

Archival work is never done and there is still much to do to improve the documentation of the existing collection and the creation of digital surrogates of selected materials. The long term goal is that Club members will have full and easy access to the records through the internet but it is unlikely that this will be achieved before 2020. Although the cost of digitizing paper records continues to fall and the quality of those surrogate images continues to improve, it is still an exercise that costs time and money. Furthermore, the technology to provide managed access to unpublished archival materials that contain information about third parties is not readily available or affordable for small non-commercial or non-government bodies such as the Wallaby Club. In the meantime our aim is to prepare the materials in a standardized manner so that we can utilize these managed access technologies when they become available.

With regards more recent records of the club’s activities, some of these, such as Newsletters, are being systematically accessioned by the club archivist as they are produced with the view that they will be formally added to the Wallaby Club archival collection at an appropriate point in the future. Digital technologies are enabling the Club to document its activities in ways not possible in the past. For example, we now have many more photographs, powerpoint presentations, audio records of talks and interviews with past presidents to name a few of the types of things that now comprise our emerging digital archive. There is much to be done but for the time being the Club Archivist is just trying to keep up with the above tasks until his retirement from his “day job” in 2020.
Incorporation

Gordon Rushman, his committee, with Mick Dexter as Vice-president and John Loutit as Honorary Treasurer, very quickly discovered that there was a significant problem to be addressed. For the previous couple of years, John Loutit had experienced some difficulty in obtaining public liability insurance for the Club. At mid-2000 it had become impossible, as insurers declined to provide cover to an unincorporated group.

Whereas the club had been advised by a barrister in 1987 that incorporation was ‘probably not necessary’, there was now a clear necessity that it be considered to enable the Club to become insured. Gordon, who had previously been through such an incorporation exercise, proposed to the committee that the Wallaby Club should follow this path. The committee could see no practical alternative and agreed that, whilst keeping an open mind on the matter, it should be investigated, and meanwhile draft amended Club rules to meet the State Government’s requirements.

Gordon took it upon himself to re-draft the Club’s very simple set of rules, but quickly found it to be extremely difficult, despite his long experience of report writing! Confessing this to the committee prompted Mick to suggest that they co-opt new member John Emmerson (Liz Dexter’s second cousin) and this led directly to the breakthrough that we needed.

Mick, John Loutit and myself met with John Emmerson several times, usually at his favourite restaurant in South Yarra for dinner. John Emmerson’s incisive barrister’s mind very quickly cut through the difficulties that I had encountered, like a hot knife through butter and we very soon had a new draft set of rules that seemed to meet Government requirements. The committee greatly appreciated having a good barrister on-side.

Gordon reported progress to Wallabies at the 2000 Christmas Dinner, adding that any firm decision about incorporation would be made by members at the next Annual Dinner. Gordon recalls John Lovering’s declaimation to all present that he would be unable to remain a Wallaby if the Club could not get insurance cover. Gordon also reassured the gathering that he did not see incorporation as greatly changing the Club – it was, simply, that the Club had to respond to an increasingly litigious society; insurance cover had become absolutely necessary.

Immediately following the AGM in June 2001, the matter of incorporation was the subject of an extraordinary general meeting. The resolution to proceed with incorporation was passed by an overwhelming majority with one vote against and one abstention.

Mick Dexter recalls that Gordon Rushman and his small sub-committee, including John Emmerson had looked at all the issues relating to Incorporation and facilitated the Club’s eventual decision early in 2000 to apply for incorporation. He reports:

I was President from mid 2001 and had the job of implementing the decision. The relevant Department sent us their standard wording which we couldn’t wear and so began a long process of negotiation mainly by letter. Finally, John Loutit, Treasurer, and I fronted Debbie, the responsible officer of the Department who seemed to have ultimate power and wording was agreed that maintained the original format of our Rules. We just got to Debbie in time, as she was about to go and give birth. We conceded a bit but won the argument on Dispute Resolution. John Loutit was able to waive the framed Certificate of Incorporation in front of members at the Christmas Dinner, reminiscent of Neville Chamberlain waving the document as he came back from being conned by Hitler “Peace in our Time”!

That is not, however, quite the end of the story. Mick Dexter, the new president and John Loutit had found it necessary to negotiate further with Corporate Affairs to compromise upon the new name for the Wallaby Club to be “The Wallaby Club Inc."

In the event, incorporation has made no perceptible change to the ethos of the Club. And needless to say, the Club has thereafter obtained insurance.
Insurance Matters

In the February 2009 Newsletter, Len Edwards writes:

During 2008, the committee gave further attention to the question of insurance for the Club. At the moment, our policy is for third party personal and property liability. This means that:
1. The Club and members are insured against injury or damage to third parties for a meeting organised by the Club from the time members set off from an organised starting point.
2. “Members” includes partners and guests.
3. Members are protected against litigation from third parties, that is, claims against the Club.
4. There is no cover for members or guests who suffer loss or injury at any meeting...

In short, members are therefore responsible for their own loss or injury. The committee continues to monitor the situation, but assume that members have personal accident and ambulance insurance cover.

Membership and Categories

In Volume 1 of the Club History, Chapter 1, is recorded the original 1894 Rule 2: that the Club should not exceed the limit of 21 members. Also recorded is how the limit was successively increased to 40 in 1895, to 50 in 1900 and to 75 in 1901. Proposals in 1904 and 1906 for an increase to 100 members were both rejected and the limit has remained at 75 to this day.

The membership tally has varied quite markedly over the years. Ralph Neale recalled that during my time as president, I learnt that the Club had been in serious decline in the past due to its failure to keep up with the times. It was John Bignell who convened a meeting held at the Melbourne Club, at which John Bignell, Geoff Stevens and John Swan decided to lead the moves, which changed the Club’s direction and thereby rescued it. Numbers built up towards the new millennium and beyond, until 2012 when the maximum was reached, whereupon John Jenkin’s committee “persuaded several long-absent members to resign in order for to allow new members to join the Club.” It could be argued that the purge went too far, as numbers in 2014–5 diminished to low sixties. The average age has been increasing, so it is natural that numbers might fall. In fact, five current members and two former members, who had recently resigned due to ill health, passed away in the year July 2014 to June 2015.

The table below shows as at 30 April each year the Ordinary, Emeritus (later, Associate), the total of these (which is a maximum of 75), and the Hon. Life Members (additional):

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Ordinary</th>
<th>Emeritus/Associate</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Hon. Life Members</th>
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<td>1994</td>
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<td>2015</td>
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Geoff Stevens was heard to say at the turn of the millennium that there was a crisis in the Club in the 1970’s as a result of the suggestion that women should become full members. Membership and walks attendances were down. There was a wonderful story of the walk when only the Walks Secretary (Jim Minifie’s father) turned up. So he religiously did the walk and then went home. Geoff was convinced that it was largely due to the skill of Gordon Aitchison and Os Grayson that the Club recovered [see also Volume 3, pages 97-8].

Indeed the numbers waxed again as, although women were not admitted as members, wives and partners of members were more and more frequently seen as the number of “Open” events increased. Consequently, the Ladies felt included on their own terms, and thereby offered valuable support.

Hamish Russell recently observed that a largely unspoken feature of the Club has been the restriction of membership to gentlemen. In recent decades it has become increasingly recognised that it is extremely important that men have other male friends just as women have always had women friends. In our modern society, it has become less common to have groups based on gender, yet the need remains for men to have opportunities to relate to other men. For those men who lack the camaraderie of sports participation or who do not ‘go down to the pub for a drink’, there may be limited opportunities for “the cultivation of good fellowship and friendly intercourse” and this is where the Wallaby Club may indeed be meeting a very modern need.
New let us with a gladsome mind
Praise the Lord for womankind
For their qualities endure
Ever faithful, ever sure,
They give the Club a new dimension
And this is not said with condescension.          [2000 Annual Dinner Card]

A new class of membership “Emeritus” was approved at the 1998 AGM. This was in deference to the rising average age of club membership and the consequent difficulties of mobility of some members, who felt unable to participate fully in the walks programme, but still occasionally chat at a meeting point, and could also enjoy the conviviality of dinners, all at a reduced subscription.

Gordon Aitchison was the first so elected, in 1999. Bob Dempster and David Ashton followed suit in 2000 along with Jack Catherall and Bill Gronow. In 2001, three more joined the “Emeritus” ranks: Ian Johnson, Ron Shaw and Charles Proctor.

In September 2013, the Emeritus class was renamed “Associate”, to meld better with the new Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. This class of membership could also embrace those who were by necessity absent for long periods, but still wished to maintain a link with the Club. Since April 2013, there were no longer any Emeritus members. Since the Associate category’s creation, there have been no candidates, as at November 2015.

**Honorary Life Members**

Before the 1994 Centennial AGM and Dinner, there were three Life Members: Alan Gordon, Os Grayson and Roy Simpson. All three were ceremoniously involved at this event with the induction of three new “Lifers”, Harold Attwood, Geoff Stevens and John Swan, thereby creating a record number of six at any one time in the Club’s history. Only three years on, in 1997, Roy Simpson passed away.

Life Membership has always been a rare honour in the Club. However, by the year 1998, the committee found itself with three meritorious candidates, all elderly and one seriously unwell. They were John Bignell, Ray Garrod and Ralph Segnit. This posed quite a dilemma for the committee. After lengthy discussion, the decision was made to nominate all three. They were elected unanimously with acclamation at the 1998 Ladies’ Dinner at the Australian Club, thus extending the tally record to eight.

Ralph Segnit was very ill at the time with a terminal condition and Nanice Segnit did a brave and determined job to get him there for the ceremony and swiftly spirit him home again before dinner was served. A few days later, president Ralph Neale created three certificates for the new Life Members that incorporated the citations and appropriate graphics, and mailed them to the recipients.

Inevitably, Ralph died soon afterwards; then Os Grayson followed in 2001. In 2005 both Harold Attwood and Geoff Stevens died, and so did John Bignell and Alan Gordon a year later. Ray Garrod died in 2009, leaving only one HLM (John Swan). In 2012, both Doug Hutchison and Jim Minifie were inducted as new Life Members, followed by Chris Simpson in 2014. When both Doug Hutchison and John Swan died in 2015, the HLM tally returned to two: Jim and Chris.

**Longest Serving Members**

W A Osborne (member 1904-1968) holds the record with 64 years;
John Swan (member 1953-2015) had secret hopes but managed 62 years;
Ray Garrod (member 1950-2009) served 59 years;
Jim Minifie (the younger – member from 1957) is still alive and well in 2015 with 58 years so far.

Several others notched up terms of more than 50 years in their lives. One, R McK F Southby (member from 1965), bears the distinction of having maintained a keen interest in the Club despite living and working in USA for many years, and he has made occasional appearances during brief return visits to Melbourne.

A full membership list is being maintained at the time of writing by David Plant. It is kept separately and available to members. The list contains membership years and mini CVs of all members since inception in 1894.
Occupations of Members over the Years

Thanks to Mick Dexter's research, it is possible to take any particular year in the life of the Wallaby Club and find out who were members in that year and what was their special interest or occupation. Mick thought it would be interesting to take 5 sample years in the Club's life at about 20 year intervals, to see how the Club has changed in regard to the occupation of members. He has omitted occupations in which there were only two or less members, in the following rough analysis:  [From the July 1998 Newsletter]

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<tr>
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<th>Occupation</th>
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TOTALS 83 56 48 45 62 67

* Many occupations unknown

Mick’s comment in 1998:
We learn from this that Medicine is still rather important, but nothing like as important as Science; the Law is now of no significance as also is Education of the general sort. Public servants have been given a package, and the Army and Navy have faded away.

Editor’s comment in 2015:
Please be aware that this assessment is fairly rough and ready, based on members’ CVs, some of which cross occupational boundaries, making categorisation slightly arbitrary! It is clear, however that in the latest twenty years, there has been a significant rise in the number of engineering-originated members, a smaller rise in scientists and fewer medics, but otherwise an interesting spread of occupation, as before.

By-Laws, Rules and Insignias

A far cry from the earliest Club rules (By-Laws), few enough to fit within a tiny booklet, both the rules and their manifestation have enlarged inexorably.

Forgive us, Sir Robert

In volume eight of the ADB
I’ve read of the feats of a Wallaby.
Robert Garran was his honoured name
And what he did gave him lasting fame
Deservedly, for Australian Federation
Depended on his rule formation.
He had the legal ability
To select words with such facility
That all could work out what he meant
To give the nation good government.
Tall and thin at six feet four,
Our first public servant, what is more,
The clarinet could play with skill
And sang in choirs in Canberra’s chill,
And helped to found the ANLI;
A more likeable chap you never knew.

When Wallaby rules were needed then,
They made Sir Rob pick up his pen;
The rules he wrote in the Garran way
Have served us well to the present day.
Now we’re adding words about incorporation
In the very year we celebrate Federation,
One hundred years of utter bliss;
Than you, Sir Rob, and forgive us this.
Your rules we change to avoid litigation,
But we’ll think of you with tonight’s libation.

[2001 Annual Dinner Card]

The battle for simplicity was entirely lost when, in 2002, the Club was incorporated. Government regulation took the booklet and blew it up like a balloon. It took the energy and sagacity of John
Emmerson to reduce it to a reasonable size and content, whilst maintaining a certain Wallaby-ness, for its adoption on 18 June 2001. Minor amendments were made in November 2001, and since then the only adjustments were mooted in September 2012 and passed in September 2013.

David Plant writes: John Jenkin’s year [2012] was eventful, culminating with the Rule Changes made necessary by Corporate Affairs. This involved much thought and activity by our small committee of which I led. Our proposed Rules were eventually agreed upon by the authorities and so I had great pleasure in chairing an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Wallaby Club on 11 September 2013 to ratify the adoption of the New Rules.

Hamish Russell recollects: I remember with great affection the little book of By-Laws as revised in 1957. The wee brown-covered booklet was the size of a dance card and the cover had the “kangaroo” image that always amused me. It wasn’t until our centenary that one of our members, Geoff Stocks, was commissioned to provide us with an image of a genuine wallaby! One of my treasures is the artist’s proof of this image.

One practice that has been adhered to since 1901, became enshrined as By-Law 8 in the 1988 revision of the By-Laws (appearing in a green-covered, slightly larger dance-card-sized booklet), that directly implies that the President is not eligible for re-election to the committee. That is, the President has a one-year term and may not be on the committee the following year. So each year sees a new President, who is able to lead in his own way, perhaps when Vice President having learned from his predecessor, but not subsequently influenced by him were he to stay in committee. It has proven a wise and fruitful policy. Another practice observed since 1901 is that no President has ever served twice. It just isn’t done! This observance is endorsed by Ralph Neale, who wrote: It was with a sigh of relief I handed the Wallaby Stick to Hari Sinha at the Annual Dinner in 1999. I had enjoyed my time as President, but the rules of the Club are sound, and one year for Presidents is just right.

It is interesting to peruse the latest update to the now voluminous Rules (no longer By-Laws), dated 11 September 2013. One recorded “intention” of the update was to clarify that “the positions of President and Vice President are for one year”, which of course is the desired situation, as noted above. However, what actually appears in Rule 43 (1) is stated as: “...The outgoing President and Vice-President are not eligible for nomination to fill those respective positions”. Oh, the vagaries of written Rules! The keen-eyed would see that it is possible for the President to become the Vice President! Moreover a second presidential term later on is still not specifically outlawed. So, although the elegantly stated “intention” of the update was not quite fulfilled, a future re-wording is always possible. Meanwhile, Wallaby spirit and tradition will be forever the best guide, and thereby sweetly forgive unfortunate corollaries!

Rule 12A (as it was in 1994) is on occasions repeated in newsletters. Nicely put in August of that year: RULE 12A: Over recent months several members have expressed concern about irregular participation in Club activities by some members. We are aware of the many competing demands on time and the frailty of the body! However the committee would like to gently remind members of the intent of Rule 12A and the tradition that members formally apologise in advance to the Walks Secretary if they cannot attend a walk and let the Hon. Secretary know if they cannot attend a dinner. Recent postcards from Switzerland, the United States and Ratonga have been evidence of the mobility and courtesy of Wallabies on the move!

**Insignias, Badges and Ties**

The original printed insignia more resembles a kangaroo, paused in a grassy patch, looking back over its shoulder and in small letters beneath, the motto À Votre Santé.

As time went by, the old wooden block that was used by the printers had become so worn that by the Club centenary, it seemed overdue for renewal. Geoff Stocks, artist extraordinaire, produced several art works for the centenary, including a possible replacement insignia, this time representing a Wallaby, looking forward, with its longer tail curled
around the motto in capitals upon a curved scroll. He suggested that it was more positive to look forward. It was adopted in 1994. Now with digital imagery, printing block wear is no longer an issue.

Jim Minifie, Life Member and very long-serving Wallaby, remained very attracted to the old insignia and preferred it to the new one, for various reasons, one being that it is important for a Wallaby to look back, particularly a Walks leader. He was also concerned about the straggling that takes place on walks, and combined these thoughts in Jim Minifie’s cartoon (see below in the “Walks” section, p.40). It depicts a new Wallaby leading out in front (on the left), looking forward, way ahead of older Wallabies (in the centre), who are looking back at yet others (on the right). One old Wallaby in the centre, looking back, says “We had better wait for them”, whereupon the other old Wallaby replies “Yes, but we will lose our leader!”

The early Club Badge shown here was recently given back to the Club by Mrs J H Harper. It originally belonged to Herbert R Harper, her father-in-law, who was a Wallaby from 1903 until his death in 1956. He was Club President in 1923 and Club Treasurer from 1913 to 1955, presumably with a short break whilst President. Known as HRH, he was an electrical engineer born in England and the first Chief Engineer of the SECV. This badge is blue and mottled grey-blue on gold. In view of the dates HRH was a member, this is probably the first version of a Wallaby Club badge. For those traditionalists who mourn the passing of the backward-looking Wallaby (or possibly kangaroo), on this early badge the macropod actually looks forward, unlike the former emblem used on stationery.

The current brass lapel badge has been in use for many decades and has red enamel filling and a forward-looking macropod emblem. There are various rectangular bars to augment the standard round badge with status labels such as President, Vice-President, Past President, Secretary, Treasurer or Life Member – seemingly at odds with typical Wallaby Club unpretentiousness.

The same sentiment could be levelled at club ties. Yet the particularly dynamic Hon. Secretary, Geoff Stevens, suddenly produced the first tie to stunned Wallabies in the mid nineteen-eighties. It was a conspicuous satin mid-blue, with a silver-grey thin diagonal double line and small backward-looking Wallaby emblem. It was not an instant hit, but enough acquiesced to carry it through.

I’m reluctant to wear my blue tie
Showing Wallaby, neck tail and thigh
   If a stranger should shout
       ‘Now what’s this about?’
   I’m not sure how I’d reply…

So I jolly well wear the Club tie
Though it’s brighter than the bluest blue sky
   And hope the Committee
Will read this short ditty
   And soon make a change to the dye. [1994 Annual Dinner Card]

Even these few loyal members were relieved when in mid 2015, Mike Williams with assistance from Bruce Sandie (with the OK from committee) produced an alternative in a reticent dark blue with lots of little muted grey Wallabies in a diagonal array. These were issued gratis much to the delight of all members.
Ties and badges are seldom to be seen outside Wallaby functions; one exception being at funerals of departed members, where the ties are most purposeful.
WALKS

Walks have always been great opportunities to talk (another fundamental Wallaby tradition) with a wide variety of interesting people and discover hidden depths of fellow members. Hamish Russell recollects: 
Os Grayson’s enquiring mind will always stay with me. He was intensely interested in all that was going on and was great company on walks.

Very few walks have been cancelled over the years. Some time ago, in July 1986, a walk was scheduled for the Organ Pipes National Park. The rain was so hard that day that driving was difficult. Even so, three cars turned up. Eventually, as there seemed little chance of the rain easing, by means of hand-waving from inside the cars, all agreed to go home again.

In the 2005 Annual Report was the sometimes reiterated admonition, or similar...

The simple raison d’être of the Club—walking and talking—has been pursued with enthusiasm. There are regular requests for the Club to broaden the walks programme so that it can satisfy the different needs of both vigorous walkers and less mobile members, and still provide opportunity for all to spend time together—talking. In this regard, the Walks Secretary has been experimenting with interlocked “A” and “B” walks. [Later known as “long” and “short” walks].

Another issue is the fact that some members who are still sprightly are rarely seen. Such absences used to be regarded as a hanging offence, but the Committee is more tolerant in these busy times. Nevertheless members need to be reminded that the warm companionship the Club has offered since 1894 stems from the varied contributions all can make.

Hot weather has also been an issue:
In February 2009, the Jawbone Sanctuary walk was cancelled because of extreme forecast weather conditions. In fact the temperature reached the middle 40’s. The following event, Ladies’ Day at Cloudehill, Olinda (changed from Ferny Creek), was postponed and reorganised due to high temperatures and bushfires in the district.

As a result of this, the committee declared in June 2009 that all scheduled Wallaby Club walks would be automatically cancelled when it is a day of total fire ban or the forecast temperature exceeds 35 degrees Celsius (degC) or dangerous weather conditions are forecast by the Weather Bureau.

The first occurrence under this system was in February 2014, when the temperature forecast was 42 degC for the South Melbourne walk, which was deferred until later in the year. Two consecutive walks suffered a similar fate in February 2015, when the temperature was predicted to reach 35 degC on the days scheduled for walks in Elwood and Geelong. Is this possible evidence of global warming that could ultimately influence the Wallaby walks programme?

With regard to straggling, “it is important for a Wallaby to look back”, says Jim Minifie, “particularly a Walks leader”. He has been concerned about the significant straggling that takes place on walks, inevitable given the ageing membership.
Blackburned

Tail-end Charlie has a job
As rearguard of the rambling mob
  Of strung-out Wallabies;
To note if one or two turn back
Along already trodden track
  Flanked by familiar trees;
Or monitor the slowing few
And pause if some would like a pew,
  To take their well-earned ease.

Convention says that every while
The forward band should halt and smile,
  Admiring what's to view;
And shun the urge again to surge
Until the groups together merge
  And salve the breathless few.

One glorious walk nearby a lake
The rearguard, paused for safety's sake,
  Mislaid those better blessed.
Not phased, a map and GPS
Were used to save them from the mess —
  Quite novel, 'tis confessed.
Imagine then the paradox,
That walk, when Charlie and his crotches
  Got back before the rest! [2011 Annual Dinner Card]
that has already evolved in some cases; that those who are keen on a serious, strongly paced walk will continue to be members of the Wallaby Club and attend our walks but will also belong to more conventional walking groups.

Not stopping regularly enough is another walks issue that has recurred frequently over the years. It can easily occur if a group, usually engaged heavily in discourse, unwittingly surge ahead of the Walk Leader, a cardinal sin, and if also unresponsive to yells to stop, would be most unfortunate! There is a need, nay, a rule to regularly pause long enough for the exhausted ones to catch up and to have a rest.

**Knees**

I wish that I may never be
A geriatric Wallaby;
A man once vigorous and fair,
A nest of cuckoos in his hair,
Striding the earth, feet swift and strong,
Pausing to help old mates along…

Alas, too soon I’m going to be
A withered leaf on ageing tree,
Joints stiffened now, by Life’s abuses,
Missing walks for lame excuses,

Poems are made by fools like us,
But Lord, please make a Wallabus! \[1994 and 2000 Annual Dinner Cards\]

Stephan Brown recalls:

*For my first Ladies’ Day walk as Walks Secretary [in 2013], I chose the national Rhododendron Gardens in Olinda in springtime. A small group attended including several family members as guests. The walk was most enjoyable among the multitude of flowering plants shrubs and trees in the Silvan setting. Along the way I was feeling quietly pleased that the day was turning out very well and turned to pass the time with Ben Chodziesner who was walking behind me. We had just arrived at the top of a long uphill section of the walk and Ben was looking a bit puffed. He was wearing a heart monitor on that day and when he checked, it was registering an alarmingly high rate. We immediately called a rest stop. It was a chastening wake up call to me that regular stops are most important during walks.*

**The Walks Card**

A small folded card, that contained (amongst other data) a schedule of the year’s walks and other events, has been revised and distributed annually for many decades. [Further details may be found on p.30 in the “Communications” section above.]

**The Billy**

Hamish Russell notes: *Jim Minifie was determined to resurrect the tradition of “boiling the billy” at a time when good wine and coffee were threatening to usurp the “cuppa” as the beverage of choice. The ceremony of swinging the billy was always greeted with enthusiasm even when the number of tea drinkers was [meagre] to put it kindly.*

Apart from a box of matches and the big, blackened billy, usually clothed majestically in newspaper, the paraphernalia included a nifty iron tripod, but this was used only on occasions when its bulk did not matter, or if Os Grayson was not around to scavenge a bit of wire netting, with which he could quickly construct a suitable billy support, useful also for cooking chops or sausages.

Since the “good old days”, several factors have rendered the brewing of billy tea somewhat less frequent, particularly fire-
bans and other regulations in most bushland reserves. A brave notion was to use a portable gas stove, but discarded quickly when it was discovered how heavy the gear was and how long it took to boil a gallon of water that way in the outdoors (when permitted).

John Jenkin in his presidential year was anxious to re-introduce the long-standing tradition of genuine Billy Tea on walks, which he did, wherever possible, to the delight of Jim Minifie. Stephan Brown in his role of Walks Secretary from 2013 has been most encouraging and has actively assisted Jim.

When Wallabies first roamed, a while back
There was something that they'd always do
A fire would be lit somewhere out on the track
And an old billy boiled for a brew
Everyone thought that this ritual, though small
When duly performed on each walk
Gave to the members and guests one and all
The chance for a rest and a talk
Nothing on earth has the taste to inspire
As that of a fresh cup of tea
From a billy that's boiled in the flames of a fire
Made of sticks from a eucalypt tree
There crept up a time though, it's sad to report
When this custom was no longer kept
Boiling the billy is old hat it was thought
And to history had surely been swept
To one older member this was not the right call
Indeed not according to Hoyle
To him it was just not a walk, not at all
Without pause for the billy to boil
Wallaby leaders they came and they went
But the old member Jim kept his passion
And he quietly put to each President
That billy tea should be the new fashion
Until one of them said “Jim let’s give it a trial”
Said Jim, “Good-oh that truly suits me,
We'll make billy tea on some walks for a while
And let members taste how good it can be”
So when next on a walk and all ‘round the fire
You’re standing enjoying your tea
Give thanks to the Wallaby who made it transpire
Three cheers for Jim Minifie!

The Bottle
A bottle suddenly appeared at a picnic lunch per courtesy of Hon. Sec. Geoff Stevens in 1980 [see Volume 3 page 99]. As noted above, on walks that involve a picnic lunch, a modest bottle frequently appears. “How civilised!” was the initial reaction of Roy Simpson in 1980. In 2015 it is still considered so.
Revival
[1993 AGM Dinner Card]
Some might say it's time for tea
And some would rather gin
And some would gasp – Oh no, not me,
For drinking is a sin…
Each to his own: my modest thirst
Prefers a slug of whisky first
And then perhaps a glass or two –
The Chateau Cardboard Red will do.
Thus fortified, I'll prudently
Decline the ritual billy tea.
Moderation is my line –
I hate to pay a speeding fine
And do my best to stay alive
By keeping under point-0-five…
Who knows? The billy's bitter mix
Might breathalise at point-0-six!

The Barbecue
One of the central features of picnics lunches used to be the barbecue. Members, arriving at the lunch spot, would immediately scout about finding or building a fire-place or finding firewood and organising a way for members' chops or slabs of meat to be arranged equitably for sizzling. Other members would get the billy involved in the blaze and it often boiled before all the meat-eaters had done their cooking. Other macropods would sit back, sip their drink and eat their sandwiches, amused by the carnivores at work. It was a mixed blessing to find a public barbecue, which was great for the meat, but useless for the billy. Gradually the fire-place opportunities reduced as fire regulations became more stringent. Public barbecues in turn became less popular as they aged and became less reliable or difficult to share with other picnickers. After 1994 or thereabouts, Wallabies gradually chose to have cold lunches and often bring vacuum flasks of hot soup or tea. The barbecue went the way of the billy: faded away. That is, until Jim Minifie found the billy again and took action! (see above). Nobody thinks about barbecues any more. Besides, the price of meat has escalated unashamedly.

The Dog
It is nearly true that there were no dogs at Wallaby walks prior to 2014. In other words, so rare was a dog to be present that the writer has scrabbled to recall only one instance, which was when Gordon Rushman’s beautiful black and white Border Collie accompanied a walk in the nineteen-nineties. Dog owners were never admonished but simply not encouraged, that is until June 2014, when revolutionary Walks Secretary Stephan Brown responded to some requests from dog-owning members, who thought that it would be a good idea to combine Wallaby walking with dog walking. He began to include special mention in the Newsletter walks notes as to whether it was appropriate for dogs to come along
“providing that they keep their handlers under control!” He claimed in 2015 that “it seems to be a success as some of the dogs have been on multiple walks and have always been well behaved”. Indeed, dogs have been accepted by the Wallabies, although their conversation is somewhat limited.

An all-male walk from Willsmere Park:
“Members only” plus two guests
Straggle along the river path,
Hoping to get somewhere, ‘twist rests.
One guest stood out: it wagged its tail,
Which a Wallaby can’t do.
Its not that it simply “isn’t done”
(Like using a fish-knife to butter a bun)
If a wallaby wagged it he’d come undone!
Would you like that to happen to you?
‘Woof’ says the guest and Gordon says –
‘I’ve brought my Border Collie.
Jessie really needs a run.
‘She finds the river jolly.’

‘SHE!’ says Os, ‘just look at this!
‘She thinks she’s a Member!
‘By all our rules she’s just not here…’
She leaps and licks his face with love
And Os responds with gentle shoe
When down the track, viewed from above,
They see the waters rising…

Jessie bounds to the torrent’s edge,
Sniffs, looks back and rolls her eyes –
‘Who’s for walking on the water?
Good trick, been done before,’ she cries.
Close behind comes Ralph our Leader:
‘Odd! The colour’s wrong,’ he said –
‘This water’s sort of frothy brown;
‘Old Moses’ sea was Red!’

[1993 Annual Dinner Card]
Memorable Walks and certain Hazards

The Pryors recall: After a regular walk some years ago, we drove Jack and Dawn Catherall home before we were to attend a family function. As David helped Dawn from the car, she noticed that David’s trousers were covered in blood and off we went inside to find the source of the problem. It was a leech! The next 15 minutes were spent with Jack removing the leech and Dawn sponging his trousers.

1995: A Gentle Walk at Jell’s Park, 4 March (reported by an anonymous member):
Twenty members attended this walk, led by Walks Secretary Peter Campbell. The weather forecast was inauspicious but fate played a trump card and it turned out to be a splendid mild afternoon. We heard about our Wallaby-in-residence in the Jordan Valley, Ian Edwards, whose postcards to the Club have presented a vivid account of the archaeological dig and the life of a modern day archaeologist. We look forward to hearing more in person when Ian returns to Melbourne.

The walk of seven kilometres was a gentle stroll of about two hours. It led through open, lightly wooded forest of Manna gums, Yellow box and Blackwoods. However, off the paths, the understory was a thick mass of introduced weeds, reflecting the farming history of the area over the last century. It is great that this land has been retained (bought back) as a reserve, as it is now surrounded by suburbia.

Jell’s Park proper is obviously very popular as a recreation area. While we were there, we saw various sports being played, runners, young and old on bikes, walkers (such as ourselves) and even a wedding.

We crossed Dandenong Creek (which was flowing swiftly) and proceeded North to Shepherd’s Bush Reserve and then retraced our footsteps in a wide loop. In true Wallaby fashion, when we came to a row of Hawthorn trees, the question was raised as to why some appeared laden with magnificent red berries, while others had only the odd one. A learned suggestion from a nameless Wallaby was that “the birds had ate them” on some trees and not others!

Why, we will probably never know.

It turned out to be a light training “run” for Hari Sinha, who was set to walk fourteen kilometres on the following day in the annual “Walk against Want”. He turns out to be a regular participant in this event and members wished him well and dug deep to sponsor him. We now await the Auditor’s report to be sure that he in fact completed the whole distance!

After the walk, most of us adjourned to Ray and Jill Garrod’s home for afternoon tea. After paying our respects to an honorary Wallaby (Ray and Jill’s dog), we topped off a splendid afternoon of Wallaby fellowship with lavish refreshments and more recounting of adventures from far and near.

1995: Little Hampton, 29 April – Mick Dexter recalls: One of our memorable walks was to Jim Minifie’s raspberry farm. We had a ball picking (and eating) raspberries and came home loaded with the fruit and with small jars of raspberry jam, which Libby Minifie had made. The sort of visit you remember.

Indeed, this Saturday “open” event attracted several Wallabies’ families to join in the picking and the BBQ. After lunch, President Jim conducted everyone through some bush tracks in the Wombat State Forest to view lightning-struck trees, mine shafts and the effects of tree felling. Jim reliably reported afterwards that Wallabies, spouses and friends picked over 45kg of raspberries on the day. He and his son Chris were thanked sincerely. It was mooted that they may want to keep our members in mind should they ever be short of expert pickers.

1995: Coranderrk (Healesville), 29 July – A Sunday “open” event, recorded by an anonymous member:
Twenty-two members and wives attended the Coranderrk walk, which our forecasters warned would be cursed with bad weather. Fortunately, it turned out to be blest (once again for the Wallabies) with weather for a rain forest walk! No rain, until after lunch, misty, moist and calm. We learnt that Coranderrk is the Koorie name for the tribe that lived in this beautiful area. Badger Creek weir is about 2km from the car park through tree ferns, giant mountain ash, sassafras and some huge redwoods near the weir.

The weir itself is small but impressive and delivers water to Healesville, Silvan Dam and eventually into Maroondah Reservoir through a concrete channel. The original weir, which had been built in 1909, can be seen on the return walk to the car park. Lyrebirds were sighted and bellbirds, whipbirds and sulphur-crested cockatoos were heard.

A leisurely lunch was taken in the rotunda, with former President Jim boiling the billy. Afterwards, some called into the Sanctuary. As always, it is well worth a visit — two hours are probably needed to do justice to this renowned
centre. Here you can brush up on your bird identification and native fauna with never an exotic to cross your path. Once again a big thank you to Peter and Helen Campbell for planning such an interesting walk.

1997: Melbourne University, 3 May – An “open walk” began at the Brownless Medical Library, where pathologist member Harold Attwood met and escorted the group up to the Medical History Museum on the second floor. The Museum contained an entire polished wood pharmacy – Savory & Moore Pharmacy, originally from London – and a current exhibition on the Queen Victoria Hospital of old. The pharmacy was a work of art, but not so pretty were the exhibits of old medical paraphernalia. Its impression was such upon one member, as to inspire this poem (and Ralph Neale’s sketches) for the 1997 Annual Dinner Card:

Harold’s Chamber of Horrors
The Wallabies came in two by two,
Full of health and eager to view
The Medical Museum.
Up the spiral stairs they sprang,
Hale and hearty, a lively gang,
To the Medical Museum.
An ancient chemist’s shop they saw –
But what are these? Instruments of gore!
Instruments for sawing and chopping!
“If only we’d stayed home or gone shopping”.
The sun stopped shining – gloom impended.
They all felt ill and soon descended
From the Medical Museum.
Where is Attwood?” – “What have you done?”
Harold only smiled as he walked out into the sun
From the Medical Museum.

Norm Tulloh then assumed leadership of the rest of the tour, which included picnic lunch in the System Garden located between the Botany School and the Agriculture & Forestry Building.

2001: Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne, 15 September – The second visit by the Club to the Cranbourne gardens revealed considerable progress with infrastructure, compared to our initial visit to a “green fields” project a few years before. The network of paths was improved and a viewing tower had been built on the highest point, from which David Churchill, the Gardens Director, pointed out where the future Australia Garden would be located within the large property. It was a lengthy walk, but most managed to climb the tower and pose for the group photo.
2002: Fern Tree Gully, 4 May – An anonymous member recalls vaguely that on this Saturday, during a “members” walk around One Tree Hill, lunch was planned to be at the Acacia Picnic Ground near the bottom of the Hill, halfway round the walk that had begun at the One Tree Hill car park near the top. Members, exhausted by the steep path down, arrived at the lunch spot where there were tables and a barbecue, which was in use by a family, who had been celebrating their daughter’s eighth birthday. Their welcome and kindness was such as to inspire a wee ditty for the 2002 Annual Dinner Card:

**Normal Generosity?**

A wispy-haired eight-year-old started the rot –
We met her and family, whilst on the trot
Around One Tree Hill.

Their lunchtime fire and firewood too
Was offered our ancient and knee-wobbly crew,
When we paused for our fill.

Rhiannon and family, when quite satiated,
Presented the surplus of cake celebrated,
In generous form:
For they had discovered, ten times her age,
One Wallaby just turned his eightieth page –
A Tulloch named Norm.

The return journey was long and harder than expected and one or two were in need of a break, if not a wheelbarrow, when a trail bike rider created an unusual diversion for a while. This inspired another poem for the 2002 Card:

**The Yellow Trail-Motor-Bike**

From One-Tree-Hill on the fifth of May
The Wallabies set off at peep-of-day,
Actually more like eleven a.m.,
Walking through the Phebalium.

Hours went by, the crocodile grew.
Some wilted, we won’t say who,
When along came a young man polite
On a yellow and noisy motor-bike.

“Are you in trouble?” sayeth he.
The dentist’s eyes lit up with glee.
“I’ve always thought I’d like to try
To ride behind on a seat up high”.

So up he was lifted on the pillion,
Where usually buxom girls in vermilion
Hang on tight to their Romeo,
It was then Laurie* shouted “Homey-oh!”

However, then the trail-bike stalled;
Unflattering names it then was called.
Machines like this are hard to start.
The cyclist said, “Now we must part”.

He meant from the Wallabies Ray and Mick,
For turning around and giving a kick;
He was off down the hill with nary a sound,
While Laurie hung on – for disaster bound?

Then the welcome sound of the motor was heard.
While Wallabies waited, their minds disturbed,
Our Laurie had gone with the man polite
On a yellow and noisy motor-bike.

Where had they gone, the speedy pair?
They had disappeared into very thin air?

The sound died away, the tension was grim.
“What will they say if we return without him?”
Then in the distance they heard a sound
Like a fly or mosquito buzzing around.
It gradually rose to become a roar
That shook them to the very core!

Up the hill came a yellow trail-bike
With two men aboard, what a welcome sight!
The man in front, young, debonaire,
And Laurie behind hanging on with a prayer.

Mick and Ray leapt back from the trail.
Blue smoke enveloped all in a veil
And into the distance on the yellow trail-bike
Roared our companion, with the man so polite.

Wallabies in the past have seen the lack
Of a Wallabbus to take us back.
But now I know what we really need!
Perhaps this wish the Committee will heed.

What we really require is young men, polite,
On yellow and noisy motor-bikes.
I’ve always thought I’d like to try
To ride behind on a seat up high!

[* Laurie Williams*]

Sketch from 2002 Card (Ralph Neale)
2004: Radical Melbourne, 15 August – [from the September 2004 Newsletter]  
New Member and former City of Melbourne Councillor, Peter Druce led this “open” walk. We met in front of the Victorian Parliament, where Peter pointed out the two gun slits intended for use to defend the Parliament against attack. Peter entertained us (and anyone else who cared to listen) with readings from the book by Jeff and Jill Sparrow, “Radical Melbourne – a secret history”. We heard about many eccentric characters and found ourselves in the most unsavoury little lanes. At RMIT University, Gordon Rushman exposed the ugly side of university politics during his time there. After what was a most interesting morning, we adjourned for lunch at the Elephant and Wheelbarrow hotel. [Corner of Bourke and Exhibition Streets – “English pub grub, Guinness & live music”.

2005: Williamstown Beach, 14 May – [from the July 2005 Newsletter]  
There has been some jocular controversy concerning the distance walked on what was a very pleasant Saturday afternoon along the foreshore, parks and Botanic Gardens…A “guestimate” of some 4-5km had been mentioned. Walks Leader Mike Williams made a later estimate of between 5.5 and 6km by scaling off the Melway Street Directory. Subsequently Len Edwards used his computer skills to “measure” the distance as being closer to 7km or, to be precise, 6.892km! Inspection of Len’s plotting on the map, however, shows that we walked across the beach and into the water before emerging at the life saving club! Actually, we ambled along very comfortably.

2006: Ian Edwards relates: During my presidential term (2006), I was asked at short notice by Walks Secretary Murray Gillin to lead a walk as he was unable to do so. Murray gave me the necessary instruction over the ‘phone and bithely off we all went. However, after leading the members in the same circuitous route for some time, and having no idea where we actually were, it was only Murray Littlejohn’s use of his hand held satellite equipment that brought us all safely home to our eagerly awaiting loved ones that evening in the failing twilight! Strangely, I seem to have a psychological blank as to where in fact that walk was held!  
Later, reflecting upon this catastrophe, I have realized just how Moses must have felt when the Children of Israel murmured against him on that famous occasion in the Wilderness, as they longed for the aromatic fleshpots of home! (ref: Exodus 16:2,3).

2007: Castlemaine Heritage Walk and Train Trip, 12 May – [from the May 2007 Newsletter], (famous for its ticketing saga or “pantomime”),  
Why Mick Dexter was not at Castlemaine:  
On the Castlemaine excursion, we heard the totally good reason why Mick Dexter had asked his charming daughter, Jenny, to stand in for him. Mick was at a celebratory lunch of “The Invincibles”, a group of Melbourne University footballers (not cricketers) from the 30’s and late 40’s. Invincible, because they had won their competition six years in a row. So this was a celebration not to be missed…

2010: Old Outer Circle Railway, Canterbury, 20 June  
Lunch prior to the walk was in the Canterbury Gardens under threat of showers. Question: How many Wallabies (and friends) can fit into the rotunda? Answer: Forty-six. Clearly, not all are in the photo:

Outer ring (clockwise): Graham Miller, Gordon Rushman, Ellie Barnes, Milton Warn, Stephan Brown, David Kaleski, Jan Harper, Margaret Hutchison, Doug Hutchison, Brian Kent, Brian Harper, Ian Edwards, Helen Kennedy, Margery Edwards, Jeff Wunderlich;  
2011: The E.L. Batchelor Centenary Walk, 8 October – O’Shannassy Aqueduct Trail, Yarra Ranges National Park, Warburton:

Background: On Sunday 8 October 1911, about an hour into a Wallaby Club walk to Mount Donna Buang, Club member Egerton Lee Batchelor collapsed and died of a heart attack. The Wallabies had travelled to Warburton by train on Saturday, stayed overnight in Warburton, and made an early start on Sunday morning. Batchelor, a South Australian politician, was the Federal Minister for External Affairs. He spent considerable time in Melbourne, the seat of Government before Canberra, and joined the club in 1910. More information about Batchelor can be found in earlier volumes of the History.

The memorial walk took 23 Wallabies and friends along the O’Shannassy Aqueduct Track in the Yarra Ranges National Park, at Warburton to the spot where E L Batchelor died.

As Batchelor was Foreign Minister at the time it was suggested that the present Foreign Minister, Kevin Rudd, be invited to attend. Affairs of state prevented Mr Rudd from attending, but he was ably represented by George Panagiotou, Visits Coordinator, Victoria State Office Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The walking was easy; the weather was fine. Upon reaching the place of Batchelor’s demise, Murray Gillin read from Wallaby Life Member, Dr Alfred Hart’s record [see Volume 3, Pp. 32 & 33] of what happened on that day and the aftermath. We then held a moment’s silence. Thanks must go to Gavan McCarthy who researched the history of the event and Bruce Sandie who reconnoitred the track as the route taken by bygone Wallabies was far more demanding than that taken today’s Wallabies. Murray Gillin’s eulogy for Batchelor read for the occasion is included in the “Some Notable Speeches” section below (p.150). The occasion inspired a poem in the 2012 Annual Dinner card:

**Warburton**

Water wound its peaceful, contoured course
Round steepened forest folds of mountainside,
With secret glistening gurgles, filtered light
Through fronded fern and towering timber tops,
Upon its limpid way to Silvan lake.

Crystal waters savour this way no more,
Yet still remains the path and glorious bush,
Enticing walkers to its depths by day,
Embraced by bush birds’ brilliant, busy song,
But in the quiet night, creep cervine* folk –
A herald twig-crack higher up the hill
Reveals a herd of deer’s descent to graze
Lush grass along the level waterway
And leave their many cloven calling cards
For Wallabies to notice and discuss.

* cervine is ‘of deer’

Immersed in talk, the walk abruptly paused,
A signpost pointing steeply ‘cross our path.
One hundred years slipped by, for at this point,
From down below an honoured Guest emerged,
But stumbled, staggered, fell and there he died.
’Twas here our Murray Gillin bade us pause:
Encircled there, he told the tale of woe,
Of E L Batchelor, so long ago.
2013: Marysville and Myrtle Beech Forest walk, 6 July – [from the July 2013 Newsletter]:

On a cold Saturday thirty-four Wallabies and partners and two guests met for lunch at a picnic shelter in Marysville. After lunch, Vice President Len Edwards welcomed guests and introduced Stephan Brown as our new Walks Leader. Stephan explained arrangements for getting to the start of the walk, which required a 14 km drive and some car-pooling.

The drive took us through a region seriously affected by the 2009 bushfires, with many dead mountain ash, their trunks still standing. Extensive regrowth has occurred and some young trees have now reached heights of three to four metres.

About 12 km towards our destination, we were brought to a complete stop by a large fallen tree trunk, not there when Stephan checked the walk a week earlier.

Since Ian Edwards had forgotten to bring his Swiss Army knife with saw blade, and no one else had a good solution, Stephen produced Plan B, as a good Walks Secretary should, and we parked our vehicles on the side of the track and proceeded on foot to The Beeches car park.

Stephan then led us on a track beside the Taggerty River, first to some falls, then through some green and picturesque scenery along the river valley. As can be seen from the accompanying photograph, the area near the river shows few signs of the recent bushfires, so presumably escaped relatively unscathed. Our walk was considerably aided by steps on the steep sections and several small bridges where the track changed river banks. Because of the extra walk to get to the car park, rather than complete the original planned circuit we turned back at a spot signed “The Meeting of the Waters” where Whitehouse Creek joins the Taggerty River. According to the local signage, the Taggerty joins the Stevenson River, which joins the Acheron River, which joins the Goulburn, which flows into the Murray.

We retraced our steps back to the cars.

Cheers to Stephen for providing a very interesting and scenic walk to open his period as our new Walks Secretary.

2014: Mount Dandenong/Kyeema Memorial walk, 26 July – [from the first August 2014 Newsletter]:

Rarely does weather upset well laid Wallaby walk plans but persistent rain made much of the proposed walking track to the Kyeema Memorial too difficult. Walks Secretary Stephan Brown swiftly changed to plan B.

As twenty-one Wallabies and a Guest gathered for lunch that Saturday, it started to rain. It tried to dampen the flames but not the enthusiasm of Jim Minifie as he coaxed a fire into life to boil the tilly. An umbrella in one hand and a soggy sandwich in the other we quickly finished lunch. Conversation was difficult as a large and very noisy group of Sulphur-crested Cockatoos swarmed around us.

Plan B involved taking a much less difficult walk, which at first, still required careful navigation down a quite steep slippery track. Here, we split into two groups with one taking a longer walk through the forest and the other a shorter and less strenuous walk back to the car park.

In spite of the rain the walk through soaring Mountain Ash and regrowth from past bush fires was invigorating although there were few signs of wildlife. Thanks are due to Walks Secretary Stephan’s quick thinking for a most interesting, alternative outing.

2015: Maroondah Reservoir Park, 12 July – [from the second July 2015 Newsletter]:

This walk was the first of President Brian Harper’s year and attendance this Sunday was badly affected by the weather prediction (very cold and very wet) and some members’ overseas travel plans, resulting in twenty apologies. Only nine intrepid Wallabies and four ladies braved the elements to show the true Wallaby spirit of walking in any weather (except extreme heat, because we are mindful of mad dogs and Englishmen). The day was cold but windless and those attending had dressed for the occasion. Fortunately the rain at Maroondah Park, a few kilometres east of Healesville, seems to have been less heavy than in Melbourne.

We lunched under roofed cover in a pretty park area in steady but not heavy rain, which eased somewhat by the time the walk started. In view of the conditions, Walks Secretary Stephan decided to abandon the long walk and shorten the short walk. His Y-stick flag got its first exposure to rain and was found to be unaffected. With umbrellas aloft we
followed mostly gravel paths across several small creeks, with some ups and downs, through attractive mountain ash, ferns and other understory, to a lookout giving a view over the dam wall. To improve the view, the rain stopped for a short period and umbrellas were folded.

Maroondah Dam was built in the 1920s on the Watts River to supply water to greater Melbourne and originally relied on its weight and curvature for stability. In 1989 the level of the dam wall was raised to increase the reservoir capacity and prestressing cables were run through holes drilled down through the dam wall down to ground anchors installed below the dam to stabilise the heightened structure.

From the lookout we descended to the dam crest and walked across the dam wall to a garden area planted with natives and exotics, then down the historic Rose Stairway to look at where discharge from the reservoir was put back into the river over a small waterfall, then back to the car park, where the President thanked Stephan and those attending.

Inspired (and concerned) for the discomforts of the intrepid few, including her spouse, a “Presidential Wallaby wife” (looking out of a window at home on that day) wrote:

The wind was up, the rain was down,
The Wallabies stood their ground,
“For a hundred years”, their leader said,
“We’ve been walking round and round.”

Never a turn-back, never a groan,
Did that hardy group propose.
“If we did we’d be letting our fathers down,”
Said Steve, as his fingers froze.

Their boots filled up, their noses ran,
Their eyes never left the ground.
They gripped their canes in the teeming rains
As their thoughts were car-ward bound.

“It’s good for the soul,” the Wallabies said,
“To test your courage thus.”
Their fathers had taught them, loud and clear,
Never to make a fuss.

Several of the earlier “normal” walks were at Williamstown, quite a favourite venue over the years, possibly because Max Atkin and his hospitable wife Cath often offered luscious refreshments after the walk. One such walk on 27 September 1997 was caught on camera, depicting Ralph Segnit, Norm Tulloh and Ian Edwards in the palm-strewn area between the Botanical Gardens and the foreshore...
Wednesday walks

The first Wednesday walk appears to be that scheduled in the July 1995 Newsletter thus:

**WESGATE PARK AND A PUNT ON THE YARRA – WEDNESDAY 9 August 1995**
(Members and Male Guests)

YES! It is the right day of the week. This is an experiment to see whether mid-week walks would be popular with our members. If no-one comes we will know they are not!

Westgate Park was opened in 1988 and consists of two lakes with surrounding landscaping. The bridge towers impressively overhead...We will walk to the river through the park and take the ferry ($5.00 return), which has been specially booked for us, to the Williamstown side to look at the memorial plaque on the bridge. We will return to complete the circuit of the park.

There was a good turnout, which was not surprising, as many members had retired from regular work commitments. This continues to be the case in 2015, and there have been two Wednesday walks per year since 1995 (except in 2004 and 2005, when there was only one each year).

**Another example...**

2006: Sherbrooke Forest walk, 12 April (Members and Male Guests) [from the May 2006 Newsletter]:

This mid-week outing attracted a small band of members who, all but one, met in time for a 1.30pm start. Because of a few dicky hipsters (gentlemen with bad hips), it was decided to conduct a cut down itinerary through the forest. The late starter was oblivious of this and did the full circuit. But that was fine – he stumbled upon a male lyrebird scratching on the track as though walkers were the commonest of events. And then he crossed a number of walkers who had not seen a group of predominantly grey-haired males. The penny slowly began to drop! Sure enough, the main party had taken a foreshortened itinerary. The advertised walk was indeed "challenging", even super-challenging, to use the Walks Secretary’s latest descriptor.

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Lilypad Bridge, Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne [See under "Ladies' Days"/“2012” below, (and also 2007)]
Ladies' Days

The tradition began decades ago. Ladies' Day, Ladies' Dinner and Cup (later Uncup) Weekends were almost the only opportunities for wives to participate in a scheduled Wallaby event until the advent of "open" walks in 1977. [See also Volume 3, Pages 92 & 126].

The first Ladies' Day occurred in 1895, one year after the Club's foundation. Ladies' Day traditionally involved a stroll followed by afternoon tea, complete with tea in china cups and lashings of cream-cakes in the high tea style. This form of wonderful indulgence slowly became more modest as "watching the waistline" became more important, and had virtually disappeared by 2000 in favour of thermos tea and a few home-made goodies, distributed in picnic style. Sometimes, a picnic lunch has been considered more appropriate for the day and any afternoon tea has been incidental. Yet, some presidents' wives have insisted upon a café afternoon tea, bless them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Ladies' Day Walk (Afternoon Tea)</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>1993 University of Melbourne Colleges (Queen's College)</td>
<td>[77]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>1994 Melbourne General Cemetery (Ormond College)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>1995 Hermitage, Narbethong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>1996 Rhododendron Gardens, Olinda (Café Vireya)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>1997 Coolart (picnic)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>1998 Loch (picnic and afternoon tea at the Henrys' property)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>1999 R.J. Hamer Forest Arboretum, Olinda (Kenloch)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>2000 Nicholas Gardens, Sherbrooke (picnic)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>2001 Castlemaine and Maldon (Stocks')</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>2002 Heathmont (Dexters')</td>
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<td>Feb</td>
<td>2003 Mornington (Bignells')</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>2004 Langwarrin (picnic)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>2005 Royal Botanic Gardens (Observatory Café)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun</td>
<td>2006 Docklands (coffee shops)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>2007 Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne (café)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>2008 WerribeePark (Mansion café)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>2009 Carlton Heritage Walk (Museum Café)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>2009 Cloudehill Gardens (picnic and café) [40] [note shift from May]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>2010 Kawarra, Kalorama (picnic) [43]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>2011 Duneira, Mt Macedon (-) [35]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>2012 Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne (café) [46]</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>2013 Rhododendron Gardens, Olinda (picnic) [30]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>2014 Lillydale Lake (-) [27]</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>2015 [none – now returning to May: – 22 May 2016]</td>
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Special Ladies' Day Memories

1993: A contingent of seventy-seven (members, their ladies and guests) assembled in the quadrangle of Queen’s College, University of Melbourne. The walk was planned to allow the company to appreciate the gardens of the colleges situated around College Crescent, Royal Parade and Swanston Street and included Queen’s, St. Hilda’s, Ormond, Trinity, St. Mary's and Newman. Gordon Rushman’s commentary on the architecture of the college buildings along the way was also greatly appreciated. Afternoon tea awaited the group back at Queen’s, in Eakin Hall.

1994: [See in “The Centenary” section above, p.13]

1995: The renowned Hermitage Guest House and gardens at Narbethong were built in 1894 by the eminent photographer, John William Lindt, and were famous especially in the period leading up to World War One. The gardens and buildings are classified and included in the National Trust register. It is believed that Baron von Mueller had something to do with the garden layout and both he and Lindt were
members of the Royal Geographic Society. Members, Ladies and guests met there at 2pm on Sunday 9 April, to stroll through the magnificent gardens and then partake in a fine afternoon tea.

1996: The intended venue, Chateau Yering, had suddenly changed ownership, so the committee wisely found an outstanding alternative. The National Rhododendron Garden at Olinda, which had only recently been taken over by Melbourne Parks & Waterways and described as the jewel in the crown of the Dandenong Ranges Gardens collection, was at its Autumn best with acres of ferns, azaleas, rhododendrons, camellias, cherries and many other fascinating trees and bushes. Although steep in parts, the paths were well made and there were magnificent views of the Yarra Valley and Healesville hills along most of the way. Afternoon tea was served at Café Vireya, which is within the grounds.

1997: Because of Edmondo Gui’s continuing illness, he could no longer host Ladies’ Day at Balnarring. Ron and Nancy Shaw came to the rescue and organised a picnic at Coolart, with walks and a visit to the bird hide. Following this, it was a short drive to the Shaw house in Somers for afternoon tea.

1998: The property of Gordon and Joan Henry near Loch contained a sixty-acre area of natural bushland, together with a wide range of native fauna properly protected by excellent fencing. It had been a long-term project also involving the community. Some of the messmate eucalypts are 400 years old and there was also a canoe tree. Lunch (BBQ available) was held at the substantial bird hide that overlooked a lake, from which one could view water birds and a platypus if extremely lucky. It was a most interesting day exploring the area. Welcome refreshments were provided by the Henrys.

Henry’s Creek Sanctuary

A Ladies’ Day is wont to bring
A gentle stroll with measured ring,
Fine sandwiches, cakes and such thing,
Best China, silver and glass for king.
But not this year, or so we hear.

A trip to Loch in Gippsland hills
Far from city grime and mills,
Live Wallabies and birds and bees
In special sanctuary in Henry’s trees.

A Wallaby walk, strong appetite to make
And lunch beside the shimmering lake.

A day for us to remember well
Good food, good company and freshest smell.

No pampered flowers and carpet deep
But peace and beauty for us to keep.

A Ladies’ Day of different pace
At Henry’s Sanctuary – a treasured place. [1998 Annual Dinner Card]

1999: President Ralph Neale remembered well the Ladies’ Day walk on Sunday 21 February 1999. The committee had approved that it should be based in Olinda: lunch and a short walk in the Hamer Aboretum, finishing with afternoon tea at the Almond Blossom Room at “Kenloch”, within a large garden established in the 1920s by Thomas Kennon, a distant relation. It was a nice day and Ralph thought that everyone enjoyed it.

2001: Partakers of Ladies’ Day drove up the Calder and Pyrenees Highways to Castlemaine for a rendezvous at 10.30am for refreshments in Victory Park. A visit was then made to the Art Gallery in Lyttleton Street, which had been recently refurbished by the State Government, and has a very good collection. The Director said a few words of orientation before the group toured both the Gallery and the Museum located in the basement below. Geoff and Narelle Stocks live at their marvellous bush retreat 5km from Maldon and they welcomed the group, who settled under the trees for a picnic lunch and informally wandered around the property.
A mid-afternoon call summoned the group to the cars again to return to Castlemaine to inspect the historic homestead and garden “Buda” on the corner of Hunter and Urquhart Streets and subsequently enjoy afternoon tea there. Then it was time to drive homewards.

The Stocks’ home near Maldon: Vita Neale, Ralph Neale, Narelle Stocks, Geoff Stocks, and Alma Prior

2002: Mick and Liz Dexter provided another memorable day at their home and forested property at Heathmont. Everyone enjoyed a good ramble (with commentary from the Dexters) to see what they had accomplished to restore the native flora of the district, and to gaze at Dandenong Creek just beyond the back fence. Afternoon tea was provided by Committee members and their wives, and savoured by all on their picnic chairs in the ample outside area beside (and under) the house.

2003: John and Dorothy Bignell opened their house at Mornington, where Wallabies parked under ti-tree or up and down the sandy street and assembled for a morning walk down to the beach and back up the hill. Picnic lunch was enjoyed in the shade of ti-tree or umbrella, or inside. Another walk was suggested, but most just sat and talked.

2004: McClelland Gallery and Sculpture Park, in Langwarrin, was the venue for Ladies’ Day this year. The morning walk was around the sculpture trail within the four-acre park and then an exploration of the gallery. A picnic lunch was followed by an optional walk around the nearby Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve.

2005: Melbourne’s Royal Botanic Gardens drew a good attendance on a warm, clear, sunny February afternoon. Meeting near the new Visitor Centre, next to the Observatory, our guides Ian and Margaret Polmear led us through the principal area of interest, the recent, wonderful Children’s Garden. The groups then moved on to view the Perennial Border and the Oak Lawn, admiring along the way the northern vistas towards the Ornamental Lake. Amongst the impressive wealth of information offered en route was an appreciation of the history and planning by the early gardeners, and of their vision for the subsequent development of the Gardens. Upon returning to the Visitor Centre, attentions turned to perusal of the Gardens Shop and, of course, afternoon tea at the Observatory Café.

Fly out of darkness; from long city shadows
Stream with the sun past the Governor’s tower
And — look! You hover in the gardens of Paradise:
Shimmering water, sword and bower…

Flowering, fragrant Paradise man-made
(Mueller’s system, Guilfoyles art)
Galaxies of birds proclaiming
Melbourne’s glory, lungs and heart.

Chill winds swirl through the city shadows
Buffeting, gusting, grit-filled, gray;
Who would believe it, huddling in the canyons –
Paradise only a walk away?

[2000 Annual Dinner Card]
2006: Murray and Patsy Littlejohn prepared a Docklands walk program that would work for either fine or wet weather. As it turned out fine, the starting point was at "The Hub", near tram stop D3. The walk proceeded southwards through Docklands Park to Webb Bridge, inspecting several modern sculptures and other artefacts along the way, all of which looked so much at home out of doors. Conditions were just right to make the mobile, called “Blowhole”, turn gracefully in the breeze. After reaching the south side of the river using the exciting new Webb pedestrian bridge, the party retraced their steps to the NAB headquarters, passing by the ruins of North wharf, then along the Harbour Esplanade to Central Pier to view a series of murals, and ending up with a choice of Docklands cafés for afternoon tea.

2007: Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne, still under development, provided a splendid venue for a picnic lunch, an inspection of the embryonic Australian Garden Area and afternoon tea in the café at the visitor's centre, the choice of President Ian Edwards' wife Margery. A friendly bandicoot was seen at the lunch spot.

2008: David Plant reported in the April 2008 Newsletter about the day at Werribee Park:

After a leisurely lunch we walked to the Rose Garden where we were greeted with a magnificent display of colour. We saw roses of almost every hue in the spectrum. (What colour are rose coloured glasses?) From there we strolled through parkland containing a diverse collection of heritage-listed trees and expansive lawns to the Werribee Park Mansion, built by Thomas and Andrew Chirnside between 1874 and 1877. The Italianate mansion contains sixty rooms and is set in a formal garden of ten hectares. A feature of the garden is the parterre, which is at present being replanted.

With so much to see, the Wallabies walked through the Sculpture Garden down to the Werribee River. Sculptures and installations come in many forms. Some are more easily understood than others.

The walk took us past the old farmhouse back to the Mansion. By this time our group was well spread out. Some explored the interior of the Mansion; others enjoyed coffee on the terrace and rumour has it that some visited the nearby Shadowfax Winery.

Many thanks to Walks Secretary, Murray Gillin for organising perfect walking weather and a most interesting venue.

2009 (May): Originally, Ladies' Day was scheduled to be in March at Ferny Creek (and then Cloudehill at Olinda) but, due to bushfires (possibly unprecedented for the Club), was reorganised to be in May in the form of a Carlton Heritage Walk, about which David Plant waxes lyrical in the June 2009 Newsletter:

To really see and understand a locality one should leave the car and walk, look and listen. It is even better if one has an annotated map and a knowledgeable guide. Wallabies and Ladies on their walk through Carlton had the benefit of both. After lunch in the Carlton Gardens our leader of the day, John Jenkin, handed around a map showing the location of historic or otherwise interesting places in the commercial precinct of Carlton. The notes, prepared by Murray and Loris Gillin, gave so much more meaning as we wandered past the exuberant “Benvenuta” in Drummond Street and splendid terraces flanked by more recent examples of architecture. We saw cafés, which in the past introduced such strange fare to Melbourne as pizza, pasta, scaloppine, unprocessed cheese, freshly ground coffee, gelati and dare it be said, garlic.

As we wandered down Lygon Street, the outdoor cafés were packed with people enjoying a leisurely lunch, conversation, a glass of wine or an espresso. At the conclusion of the walk we enjoyed coffee and cake at the Melbourne Museum Café…

2009 (October): Ladies' Day was switched from autumn to spring, so despite these being in successive Wallaby Years, the calendar year of 2009 witnessed two such events! Moreover, the gorgeous venue for the previous Ladies’ Day that had to be reorganised, was saved up for this time – Cloudehill Gardens.

The December 2009 Newsletter reports:

Forty Wallabies and friends met at the Woolrich Lookout picnic area overlooking the Hamer Arboretum for an enjoyable lunch in the sun.
After lunch we drove to the Cloudehill Gardens and Nursery. A row of superb Copper Beeches near the entrance presaged the other mature exotic trees growing on the slopes of this fascinating garden. The upper part contained a most interesting nursery and the formal garden room section, separated by clipped hedges or brick and dry-stone walls. The garden beds contained many unusual shrubs and flowers and two absolutely magnificent Japanese Weeping Maples. The lower garden, accessed by way of zigzagging paths to the bottom of the steep slope, contained many mature trees, shrubs, bulbs and flowering rhododendrons.

We ended the day enjoying afternoon refreshments on the sunny restaurant terrace.

2010: As reported in the November 2010 Newsletter: The Annual Ladies’ Day Walk was held at the Kawarra Australian Plant Garden at Kalorama. It was originally planned to hold the walk at a Mt. Macedon property but the visit had to be cancelled. The day was warm and sunny as forty-three Wallabies, Ladies and guests gathered for lunch. Birds called incessantly from the flowering eucalypts and frogs croaked from a nearby wetland. Diana Snape and a staff member from the Gardens conducted us through masses of flowering trees and shrubs and many orchids were making an appearance; even on the pathways. Walks Secretary Brian is to be congratulated upon finding such a delightful alternative to the original planned walk at such short notice.

2011: Duneira is a historic country house on Mount Macedon with a heritage garden established c.1875. It is owned and maintained by the S. R. Stoneman Foundation. David Plant reports:

We were promised a hot day by the weather bureau, but by the time we reached our lunch spot at Stanley Park near Mt Macedon, the temperature was in the pleasant mid 20s. Thirty-five Wallabies and Friends relaxed under the trees before heading up the mountain to the historic garden, Duneira.

The garden was open as part of the Open Garden Scheme. Set in a hilly 14.45 hectare site, visitors are greeted with a 400 metre driveway flanked by mature elms with an under planting of bluebells on one side and ivy on the other. Stunning! Towering trees and flowering plants ranging from aquilegias to wildflowers were a delight as we wandered through this immaculately kept heritage garden.

Many thanks to Margaret Polmear, who told us about the history of Duneira, and to Walks Secretary Brian for arranging this delightful outing.

Not many missed having a Ladies’ Day sticky bun tea as in former times!

2012: Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne: [from November 2012 Newsletter][see p.53 for another photo]

RGB Cranbourne Lake: (L to R): Ian Russell, guest, guest, Murray Littlejohn, Gabriella Stephenson and George Stephenson (behind), Max Kennedy, Mick Dexter, Margaret Polmear (behind), Liz Dexter, Marjorie Home (front), Rod Home, Colin Roberts (green hat), guest, Ann Roberts, Ian Polmear, Jaci Simpson.

Forty-six Wallabies and Friends met at the Stringy Bark Picnic Area for lunch. Our lunch spot was in a secluded bush setting abounding with spring wild flowers and bird song.
After lunch we drove to the Australian Garden where were met by our three guides. Work on this superb landscape project began in 2003 and was carried out in two stages with the first stage completed in 2006. The second stage started in 2009 and the official opening of the completed two stages occurred just one week before our walk. We split into three groups and our guides led us through this magnificent garden with many of the shrubs coming into flower and the trees showing new growth. As well as botanical part of the garden, landscaping features such as the Lily Pad Bridge, the Gondwana Garden and the Weird and Wonderful Garden were most dramatic. At the conclusion of our walk, a coffee and cake at the Visitor Centre was very welcome. Many thanks to Max and Helen Kennedy, who arranged this outing for Ladies’ Day.

A rollup worthy of the day;  
Our Ladies spruced up in a way  
That blended horticultural play.  

A wetland spawned a reeded creek  
That wound past birds with probing beak,  
Its lake and lily-pad bridge to seek.  

Astounding! brilliant! gasped the crew  
As first we gazed upon the view –  
“Australia Garden” – landscape coup.  

Orthrosanthus multiflorus  
Suddenly we saw before us;  
An unfamiliar pemelia…  
And even sillier dwarf grevillea…  

Guides emerged and bore us so  
Into the textured depths below,  
Besieged with all our needs to know.  

Wiling guides with thanks dispersed;  
Most Wallabies sought coffee first  
Before returning quite well versed.

Earthly red and smokey green  
Took patterned turn with details seen  
In native flowers bright between.

2013: National Rhododendron Gardens, Olinda.  [from the October 2013 Newsletter; edited]
The day was appropriately warm and sunny for the annual Ladies’ Day Walk. Thirty Wallabies, Ladies and guests met in the gardens overlooking masses of rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias providing a riot of colour. The many deciduous trees were coming into leaf with their early pastel green leaves contrasting with the colourful shrubs and dominating the whole scene were the soaring eucalypts in the background. The walk, on made pathways, provided views of lily ponds (upon one, a Black Duck showed off her free chicks), banks of colour, and far ranging panoramas of the Yarra Valley. Walks Secretary Stephan Brown deserves thanks for organising such a lovely Ladies’ Day outing.

2014: Lillydale Lake: [from the second October 2014 Newsletter, edited]
Twenty-seven Wallabies and guests attended the Ladies’ Day walk on a pleasant afternoon. Lunch was in an obviously very popular picnic area near the Lake. Our walk took us up a small hill to a lookout over the lake. Here a bronze plaque marks the location of a 1914 Militia Camp site, attended by over 3000 citizen soldiers for one week and commanded by Colonel (and eminent Wallaby) John Monash. Our next stop was to view the site of Cashin’s water powered flour-mill, marked by some remnant stonework and dating from the 1850s. We then completed an anti-clockwise circuit of the Lake, on the way temporarily leaving the park to pass by some very large houses overlooking the park. We circled a very pleasant wetland area with some extensive board walks where some of us saw a fascinating bird story enacted – a Brown Goshawk brought down a dove, only to be driven into nearby trees by three swooping magpies and the approach of our group, that allowed the dove to escape – then forged onwards to the car park. Thank you Stephan for another very interesting and enjoyable walk.
Memories from a Wallaby Wife – 2015 and well before – by Jacci Simpson

Despite being originally a men only Walking Club, Wallaby wives have been welcomed at specified walks and dinners and there are many photographs of the ladies enjoying themselves at weekends away in the original Wallaby History.

Ladies’ Day has been a continuing tradition from 1895, the year following foundation and for many years was a day for the ladies to dress up, enjoy a pleasant stroll followed by a delicious afternoon tea. The wife of the President usually chose the venue and some of the favourites have been visits to the RACV Club at Healesville, the University colleges and I will always remember Denny Proctor’s desire to visit Melbourne Zoo where we were given a splendid afternoon tea in the year Charles Proctor was President.

My husband Chris was nominated to become a member of the Club in 1986. He thus became a third generation Wallaby after his grandfather Leonard Mitchell and his father Roy Simpson both previous Presidents and Chris has followed in his father’s footsteps by eventually becoming Editor of the Annual Dinner Card.

When he joined, Chris was one the younger members in the Club, so we used to bring our daughter with us to the Open Days and occasionally our son also. We were always made very welcome and made a fuss of by those wonderful, gracious men of yore. Wallabies have always been generous with their talents and their time. A highlight for my son was when John Bignell invited the Wallabies to Moorabbin Airport, where he offered those brave enough – to have a ride in a glider. After his flight my son’s comment was ‘Mum that was awesome’. As well as being generous with his skills as a pilot, John Bignell also owned a ski lodge at Mount Buller, which we were privileged to enjoy when our daughter was younger. John’s wife Dorothy Bignell was a very special lady whose company on the Wallaby weekends I always enjoyed.

Our daughter still has fond memories of those early Open days and grew to love members like Os Grayson. At that time we had a house near Kyneton where Os and Helen had their farm and so we enjoyed many visits to the Grayson farm. Our daughter Anna loved horse riding and so a highlight for her was to see Helen’s horses. Os was very proud of his peacocks and we always came back with some peacock feathers, which I still treasure at our home in Kew.

Hosting the Wallabies at their home before a nearby walk has been part of the Wallaby tradition and we enjoyed walks along the beach when we visited with the Atkins at Port Melbourne. An interesting experience occurred when we were invited to have our lunch at a property near Woodend, which belonged to a daughter of the Atkins. There was something rather familiar about the house but it took us a while to realize that we had been taken to view the property ourselves when we had been looking to buy in the Woodend area. Having bought in nearby Fernhill we had much to talk about over the years especially about the new Freeway, which was being mooted at that time.

So many of those older members have gone now and I miss them all.

It was many years before we were able to attend the Uncup Weekend due to the children’s school commitments but this is something Chris and I now really look forward to. Time spent over a weekend, gives more opportunity to get to know new members and have quality time with old friends.

This bonding was particularly noticeable for those of us who were fortunate to go on the Turkey Tour and some of us have wished that it could be possible for another such venture to be considered.

Perhaps the highlight of my time as a Wallaby wife was during the Centenary Year of 1993/4 when Chris was President. The Centenary Dinner was held at the Melbourne Club with three new Life Members being announced, Harold Attwood, Geoff Stevens and John Swan. It was a pleasure to sit back and enjoy the responses of these erudite and entertaining men as they responded to the honour, which had been bestowed on them. I had my own issue to deal with, as at that time Ladies were expected to wear skirts when attending the Melbourne Club. Another much loved Wallaby Wife who is very much missed is Thea Kaleski. As she was mainly wheelchair bound at this stage she
asked me to request that she should be allowed to wear trousers to the Dinner. This caused much consternation but I was eventually able to persuade the Melbourne Club that the sky would not fall in if Thea wore trousers “under a rug”.

The President’s Walk at Flinders was another Centenary occasion of some angst for us as we had invited members to have their picnic in our garden. The week before the event we experienced a downpour of rain, day after day, so that our lawn was a flood area and we were wondering how we could fit everyone into the house. The night before the walk a miracle happened, the rain stopped and the water was soaked up into the sandy soil, the sun came out and the Wallabies were able to enjoy their picnic in our lovely garden.

I have particularly fond memories of the Centenary Uncup weekend at Mount Buffalo as this was the occasion I first got to know Dawn Catherall really well. Even after the loss of husband Jack, she was a familiar face at Walks, Dinners and Uncup Weekends and was always such good company – another Wallaby Wife that I really miss. The Centenary year also saw the Wallabies “hit the headlines” with a very favourable article about the Club in The Age [see above under “An External View of the Club”, p.11].

There have been so many wonderful and notable Wallabies we have known over nearly 30 years in the Club. Recent times have seen the loss of so many members and it is often only at the funeral that you truly learn of all that these men have achieved. This has been the Wallaby Way, as who you are or what you do is not part of the ethos of the Club.

A memorable funeral was that of John Emmerson who was so quiet and so modest but famous for always wearing his jacket, no matter what the weather. We arrived at Christ Church, South Yarra rather late but not too concerned, as it is such a large church. Imagine our surprise when we arrived and found that we had to sit on the extra chairs brought in at the back of the church. However this did give us a view of the number of the legal fraternity who had come to honour John and I have never seen so many men in suits. They were also very tall which made me wonder whether they became barristers as it is easier to be intimidating when you are so tall. We had always enjoyed John’s company but were filled with awe when we were told of his achievements in the legal world. We knew that he collected rare books, but had not realised how valuable his collection was, so it is pleasing that his library has now gone to the State Library. Chris’s stepmother Donne Simpson attended many functions after Roy died and I particularly remember the time she was driving John Emmerson to Marysville for a Wallaby Weekend. We were becoming rather alarmed as we had nearly finished dinner and still no sign of them. However they eventually appeared very late with Donne declaring that it was all John’s fault, as he had not guided them out of the city correctly. Poor John did not hear the end of it all weekend and neither did we, as we seemed to end up driving them around Marysville to the various walks.

Our most recent farewell was to Peter Campbell, which was another well-attended funeral, this time by the medical fraternity. Although we were aware of his love of music, once again we learnt many new things about Peter. We saw many faces we knew from other walks of life but a particular delight for us was to be introduced to the surgeon who saved the life of our five-day-old grandson. It was a miracle operation and we were so thrilled to meet him and be able to personally thank him for his skill.

Unfortunately I am no longer able to participate as fully in the walks as I would wish, but I can still enjoy the companionship over lunch and join in the shorter walks. The American poet Gary Snyder has written: “walking is the great adventure, the first meditation. Walking is the exact balance between spirit and humility”. I feel that this sums up the essence of the Wallaby Club and I am especially proud that the Club chose to honour Chris with Life Membership recently, his astonishment and pleasure as expressed to me, I feel, shows some of that “spirit and humility”. As I compose these memories, I realize that there are so many experiences I have had that I sometimes wonder if I should not write a book about the Club, but I am pleased to have this opportunity of recording some of the highlights of my time as a Wallaby Wife. For me it has always been an honour and a privilege to be included in some of the Club’s activities and I would like to thank the Wallabies for giving me such enriching experiences over the past 30 years.
## President’s Walks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Walk</th>
<th>(Lunch or a/tea)</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Oct</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Chris Simpson</td>
<td>Flinders (Simpsons’)</td>
<td></td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Oct</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Jim Minifie</td>
<td>Emerald Lake [see in the Centenary Section above, p.18]</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 Oct</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Norm Tulloh</td>
<td>Somers (Tullohs’)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Nov</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Bob Vines</td>
<td>Anglesea (Vines’)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Nov</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Hamish Russell</td>
<td>Silvan Reservoir Park</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>29 Nov</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Ralph Neale</td>
<td>Hawkestowe Park, South Morang</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Sep</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Hari Sinha</td>
<td>Studley Park, Macfarlane Burnet Trail (Kew Boat House) [85]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Sep</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Gordon Rushman</td>
<td>The New Melbourne, incl. Docklands (Southbank)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Sep</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Mick Dexter</td>
<td>Birds Land Reserve, Tecoma (picnic at Horatio Jones’ house)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Sep</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Peter Campbell</td>
<td>Barwon River, Geelong (Queens Park)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Sep</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>John Lovering</td>
<td>Merri Creek and Pentridge</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Sep</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Ian Polmear</td>
<td>“The Briars”, Mt. Martha</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Sep</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Murray Littlejohn</td>
<td>University of Melbourne: Architecture and Art</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Sep</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Ian Edwards</td>
<td>Yarra Walk and Bicycle Museum, with optional Ride</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Sep</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Rod Home</td>
<td>National Rhododendron Gardens, Olinda</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>28 Sep</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Jeff Wunderlich</td>
<td>Sorrento and museum</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Sep</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Brian Snape</td>
<td>Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne [20]</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Sep</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Murray Gillin</td>
<td>Melbourne City Golden Mile [30]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Sep</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Richard Kirsner</td>
<td>Balcombe Creek Reserve [28]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Sep</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>John Jenkin</td>
<td>Hurstbridge by train [38]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Aug</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>David Plant</td>
<td>Coolart Wetlands and Homestead, Bailnarring [31]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Sep</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Len Edwards</td>
<td>Emerald Hill, South Melbourne [44]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Sep</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Brian Harper</td>
<td>Malmsbury and Coliban Main Channel aqueduct [34]</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Specific President’s Walks

**1993 – Flinders, Victoria, Saturday 2 October.**


**GUESTS:** Elaine Barry (Harold Attwood), Elizabeth Campbell (Peter Campbell), Arthur Schwieger and Dorothy Schwieger (David Pryor).

**APOLOGIES:** Max Atkin, Chris Berry, John Bignell, David Churchill, Alex Dempster, Bob Dempster, Os Grayson, John Loutit, Ian Polmear, Charles Proctor, Gordon Rushman, Ralph Segnit, Geoff Serpell, Bob Vines.

Our newest Wallaby to attend a function, Ian Dickson, was welcomed. For Neale Bavington, although "newer", this was his second outing as a member.

As if by special order, foul weather evaporated for a single brilliant, balmy Saturday. A large turnout of fifty-one Wallabies, wives and guests motored down to Flinders on the Mornington Peninsula, passing azure views of French Island, Philip Island and the western head of Westernport Bay as the destination neared. Cars soon lined the normally quiet Bass Street as travellers arrived to a welcome cuppa at Chris and Jacci Simpson’s house.
Unburdened of picnic gear, the veritable crowd gathered, met and in fine, inimitable, conversational form began a protracted stroll down George's Street to the cliffs and then around the seaboard golf course, with its splendid views of the southern coastline in each direction. Coming down to the Westernport Bay beach, some members ventured to the end of the long jetty, whilst others basked in the sun. The return route went via Mick Dexter's holiday house, the caravan park, past the fire station and the village centre and thence back to the house.

Several BBQs roared and sizzled. The ubiquitous billy boiled. Satisfied lunchers nestled conversationally into drier corners of the garden. Many stayed there happily, feeling the adequacy of the morning exertions,
whilst a smaller group motored a few kilometres towards Cape Schanck to a walking track leading northwards into Green’s Bush. Twelve began, yet (due to an unforeseen dilemma of road-route and some fast walking) fourteen arrived at our nominal turning point at a beautiful, ferny, deep forest conjunction of a tributary with Main Creek. There, a male golden whistler [bird] sang a wonderful, conspicuous greeting and the bush itself had all but disguised evidence of recent flood rains. Retracing our steps through eucalypt forest, past giant coastal banksias and back to rolling open hillsides, we returned to the cars, parked beside Boneo Road near the start of Bushrangers’ Bay track. Many different routes home were taken to make the most of this enjoyable day out.

1995 – Somers, Victoria, Sunday 22 October
The meeting place was Ailsa Tulloch and President Norman Tulloch’s beach house at Somers at about 10.30am for a cup of tea or coffee before descending the cliff to the beach for a walk to the Somers Yacht Club. Return was via the “back blocks” of Somers. The walk down to the beach was not difficult and there was no steep climbing; altogether a pleasant, leisurely hour’s fresh air. After a typical extended lunch, Wallabies were invited to visit Coolart, quite close by, to see the birdlife in the wetlands and historic homestead.

1996 – Anglesea, Victoria, Saturday 16 November
Vera Vines and President Bob Vines invited members, wives and guests to their beach house at Anglesea, up the McMillan Street Hill, for an 11am start. The instructions advised: Bring a picnic lunch, chairs, etc. There is plenty of room inside and out, but the house is a bit cramped if it rains. Present information on tides suggests a short walk before lunch at Urquhart’s Bluff and in the afternoon we shall walk inland at Angahook Park.

1998: - Hawkestone Park, South Morang, Sunday 29 November
A recently declared park, it was still under development. Members met in the car park near the historic Le Page Homestead for a short walk before lunch and another afterwards. The Park extends into the Morang wetlands one way and is bounded by the Plenty River on the south side. Two lakes near the homestead had a good track around them.

1999 – Studley Park, Kew, Saturday 25 September
In spite of the Football Grand Final, eighty-five people turned up and enjoyed the afternoon. Before the walk started, the RAAF honoured the group with a fly-past. Three generations of Sir Macfarlane Burnet’s descendants were present. First generation – Mick and Liz Dexter; next, their three children and partners; and finally, their five children – thirteen in all, plus the infant great-granddaughter Alice. Mick recalls: Hari Sinha arranged the Presidents’ (note the apostrophe) walk, on 25 September 1999, to celebrate three presidents — himself, Mac Burnet (it was his centenary year) and Ian Clunies Ross (I think he probably also was born in 1899). We walked the recently constructed Burnet Bushland Circuit that Liz Dexter helped open [on 8 September]. Descendants of Mac Burnet and Clunies Ross also attended the walk.

All the walkers returned to the Kew Boat House for afternoon tea, where speeches were given: Mick Dexter’s celebrated Mac Burnet’s life and presidential centenary; and John Swan, who first recollected Sir Ian Clunies Ross as a Wallaby, then read a speech prepared by David Clunies Ross about Sir Ian as his father.

Baby Alice took her very first steps.
[Transcripts of Mick’s and David’s speeches and Liz’s speech of 8 September exist in the November 1999 Newsletter]

2000 – The New Melbourne, Saturday 30 September
From the new
Federation Square, still under construction,
President Gordon Rushman took the group via tram up to RMIT to see two recent architectural wonders.

Mick Dexter, Norm Tulloch, Ray Carroll, David Pryor, Doug Hutchison, Geoff Adams, Gordon Rushman.
Gordon then took us along La Trobe Street and over one of the new bridges to the newly completed Docklands stadium then called 'Colonial Stadium' and since changed names with the new sponsors to "Telstra Dome" and then to "Etihad Stadium". From there, the party wound their way to Southbank via the new Melbourne Aquarium and the walk ended in a Southbank café, for timely resuscitation and to rest sore feet.

Mike Williams, Mick Dexter, Norm Tulloh, David Pryor, Rod Home, Jim Minifie, Geoff Adams, Hari Sinha, Ray Garrod, Gordon Rushman, Laurie Williams, Geoff Stocks, guest, Ralph Segnit, George Doery, Bob Sanderson, Geoff Serpell.

On the east side of St. Paul’s Cathedral, looking South to the Concert Hall (L to R): Dave Watson, Laurie Williams, Alan Gordon (behind), Hari Sinha, Peter Campbell (behind), Geoff Stocks, Rod Home, Mick Dexter, ?(behind), John Swan, Ray Garrod (hidden), Doug Hutchison, Ian Johnson, Mike Williams, Gordon Rushman, Norm Tulloh (behind).
2001 – Tecoma: Birds Land Reserve and 16 Blackwood Street
The leisurely circular walk passed around two lakes that formed part of the Monbulk Creek Retarding Basin, which was set up in the 1970’s. Lunch was a short drive away, at 16 Blackwood Street in Tecoma. This is the place where Horatio Jones, a friend and supporter of Artists, built his home in the early 1900’s using flattened four-gallon kerosene drums, and where people such as C J Dennis and Arthur Streeton worked in small cottages nesting about the property. A picnic lunch was augmented by a fascinating talk by the proprietor about the property and its history.

2002 – Queens Park, Geelong
Queens Park is west of Geelong on the Barwon River. From the easternmost corner of the park, the walk route was along the river bank and back via the road, to lunch near the cars and the riverbank. After lunch Wallabies and guests were given various informal options to explore, particularly various amazing new developments in and around Geelong.

2003 – Merri Creek and Pentridge
A morning walk began at a car park off Newlands Road, went around Lake Reserve and beside the walls of Pentridge prison and then returned for lunch on the lawns beside the car park. No BBQs!

Despite the greater distance from Melbourne than is usual for most walks, a large number of Wallabies and wives travelled to Mount Martha to enjoy “The Briars” homestead and its surrounds. Most arrived in the morning and inspected the historic house and its Napoleonic memorabilia, some, surely, of dubious authenticity. But there were some fine pieces of Empire (French, that is) furniture and much interesting information. Groups then settled down for lunch, after which the long and the short walkers made off into the woodlands. The wetlands were wet enough but there were not too many birds to be seen. The sun was shining brightly and everyone was in good spirits – a fine President’s walk.

2005 – University of Melbourne: Architecture and Art
The afternoon walk began in the North Court of the Student Union Building under “The Sunshade” (a kind of huge inverted umbrella or the underside of a hot-air balloon). The group wandered in an anticlockwise circuit (to the west, then south), past ancient and modern examples of architecture and associated objects d’art. On the south side Grattan Street was the recently developed University Square. East and north took the thirsting group up Swanston Street towards the north-east corner of the campus, to the Ian Potter Museum of Art, where the current exhibition was perused, and the Ian Potter Espresso Bar put to welcome use.

2006 – Yarra Walk and Bicycle Museum, with optional Ride
Paul Farren’s Bicycle Museum was the ultimate destination, followed by a “bring-a-plate” afternoon tea. To get to the museum’s Richmond address, members either drove from the Yarra walk car park, or cycled back to the museum, having cycled down for the walk. The walk, for everyone, was a return stroll along the river bank, beginning and ending near the north end of Williams Road – a somewhat unusual event!

2007 – Rhododendron Gardens and Vireya Café, Olinda
At about noon, a leisurely picnic lunch was enjoyed in the higher part of the Gardens not far from the entrance. The afternoon walk took the more energetic walkers down and down past magnificent garden displays and views over to the Healesville hills and back up and up on a circuitous route past a laburnum arbour, fern gully, a very pretty lake, and cherry forest back at the top level, a round trip of about 5km. There they met the other walkers, who had preferred to stay on the flatter area there, where the Vireya Café salvaged many a thirst.

2008 – Sorrento and Museum
A morning walk went from Portsea SLSC, westwards along the cliff to London Bridge and back via the beach. Lunch was a drive away at Sorrento Park. Another drive away was the Sorrento Museum. Some walkers stayed in town for a coffee before wending homewards.
2009 – Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne  [from October 2009 Newsletter]
It was cold and windy. It was wet. It was Grand Final day. Yet twenty Wallabies and friends met at the picnic area at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne for The President’s Walk.
We had the picnic area to ourselves until a bandicoot arrived to check us out. It was quite tame and clambered over our feet to gather up any dropped crumbs.
The bush was white with wildflowers such as the Common Cassina and Ricinocarpus pinifolius or Wedding Bush with an occasional golden hibbertia and purple climbing hardenbergia for contrast. Not surprisingly, there were few birds to be seen or heard except of course, the ever-present wattlebirds.
The Gardens offer a variety of walks so President Brian Snape led the Manna Walk and Walks Secretary Brian Harper led the Wylie’s Creek Wetlands walk. At the end of the walks, a few Wallabies drove to the Visitor Centre café and had a warming coffee and cake, while surveying an unusually wet Australian Garden; then home through the rain…

2010 – Melbourne’s Golden Mile  [edited from October 2010 Newsletter]
Walks Secretary, Brian Harper organised a beautiful warm sunny day for the annual President’s Walk. Thirty Wallabies and friends gathered at the Carlton North Gardens beside the Melbourne Museum for lunch before setting off. Wallabies followed the Golden Mile Historical Walking Trail, noting the brass markers set in the footpath. The plaques were numbered and the details set out in a booklet from which Brian had prepared excellent notes, providing much to learn about the history of the city east of Swanston Street.
Time had slipped by upon reaching Howey Place, once the site of the “Coles Book Arcade”, so it was decided to call a halt. Fortunately there was, close by, an excellent coffee shop adjacent to a well-known bookseller. There was a sudden surge of patronage. Much was learnt about the City of Melbourne and all warmly anticipated walking the western half on another occasion.

2011 – Balcombe Estuary  [edited from Notice No.10 October (2) 2011/12]
On a fine sunny Spring day, twenty-eight Wallabies and friends gathered at the Rotunda in the Balcombe Estuary Reserve at Mount Martha. We were welcomed by Richard Kirsner, who talked about the history of the area and the Balcombe Estuary. After this detailed introduction, we walked along the boardwalk, observing the regeneration in one area that followed a controlled burn six years ago, and another area that had been cleared about three years ago but not burned. We then had lunch on the lawns in Angela and Richard’s large garden nearby.

2012 – Hurstbridge by Train  [From October 2012 Newsletter]
Thirty-eight Wallabies and Friends attended the annual President’s Walk, many of whom joined President John Jenkin and his wife Constance Jenkin on the train from Southern Cross Station to the end of the Hurstbridge line, which was extended from Eltham exactly 100 years ago to transport apples and apple cider to Melbourne and opened June 1912. The trains move slowly beyond Eltham through the lovely bushland scenery and the large gum trees towering over the meandering creeks.
The call from our President to Members who cannot walk any longer, but would like to attend the pre-walk lunch, had been heeded by Jim Morrison, who joined the Wallabies in 1968 and Bill Balding, a member since 1980. Loud applause greeted John’s introduction of Jim and Bill, both of whom have contributed so much to the Club over many years.
Our walk took us along a bushland track beside the banks of Diamond Creek in an area known as Ferguson’s Paddock. Familiar bush sounds surrounded us as we walked. Birds singing, frogs calling, the wind high up in the trees and the loud “ooiring” sound of the wings of Bronze-winged Pigeons as they flew off as we approached.
We visited the grave of Henry Hurst who, in 1865 built a log bridge across the Diamond Creek and was known locally as “Hurst’s Bridge”. This bridge was replaced years later by a concrete bridge designed by former Wallaby, John Monash. Many found time for coffee and cake before catching the train back to Melbourne.
It was an excellent President’s Walk. Thank you John.
2013 – Coolart Wetlands [Edited from the August (2) 2013 Newsletter]

After very strong winds the previous night it was quite tranquil as thirty-one Wallabies and Friends lunched under the trees at Coolart. Before the start of the walk President David handed to Murray Gillin the new (second) Wallaby Anzac Stick, somewhat straightened and polished. Murray has offered to have a light weight storage box made to hold both the Wallaby Sticks in our bank safe deposit. Further, Jim Minifie has fashioned two, beautiful Casuarina wood stands to accompany the new Wallaby Stick.

It was unfortunate that the Coolart Homestead was closed due to staff shortages. We walked first to the lagoon and from the Minsmere Bird Hide (named after the RSPB reserve in Suffolk) and saw thirteen species of birds including six different ducks and raft of nesting White and Straw-necked Ibis very close to the hide. The walk then wound through wetlands and woodlands with occasional Coast Wattle and Coastal Banksia providing some colour, ending up at the beach on Westernport Bay where some sharp eyes found a family of four Red-capped Plovers beautifully camouflaged in the Marram Grass and beach wrack.

Many thanks are due to Walks Secretary Stephan Brown for organising a most interesting and enjoyable outing.

2014 – South Melbourne – Emerald Hill [From the August 2014 Newsletter; edited]

Forty Wallabies and Friends gathered in the St Vincent Gardens with the sun shining and many of the trees coming into bud before setting off on the “President’s Walk”. Walks Secretary, Stephan Brown, distributed details of the history of South Melbourne and a brief description of twenty-four of the buildings seen on the walk.

The superb “Rochester Terrace” in St Vincent Place was the first of the many interesting and historic buildings seen and admired. Residences, churches, offices, shops and the unique See Yup Society Temple all contributed to this intriguing walk. The South Melbourne Town Hall, now on the Victorian Heritage Register, is home to the Australian National Academy of Music.

Thank you Steve for putting together and researching such a fascinating walk.

2015 – Malsmbury and Coliban Main Channel (Aqueduct) [From the September 2015 Newsletter]

Thirty-four Wallabies and Friends met in the Malsmbury Botanic Gardens for lunch. The Gardens were permanently reserved in 1863. The initial design is attributed to a local councillor, under the influence of Dr Ferdinand von Mueller. Many of the trees were showing the first signs of spring and two species of birds were observed gathering nesting material and a Nankeen Night Heron was seen in a willow in full breeding plumage. A short walk away was the huge Malsmbury rail viaduct.

After lunch we all drove to a point on the Coliban Main Channel from where we started our walk.

The walk, being President Brian’s walk, we could be certain that he would have carefully researched the history and other pertinent details of this engineering enterprise. He didn’t disappoint us.

We followed the course of the Coliban Main Channel northwards passing a brick lined tunnel following the channel to Fryerstown-Taradale Road before retracing our steps back to the starting point. Signs of spring were even more apparent along the track with wattles in bloom and a great variety of wildflowers of all colours. As occasionally happens, a wallaby and several kangaroos were spotted as we strolled and surprisingly, an orchid species was seen growing in the rubble beside the track.

Completed in 1877, the water supply system has been delivering water to Castlemaine and Bendigo in a system of open channels, flumes, syphons, tunnels, horseshoe jumps and overshoes for over 130 years. Designed by the brilliant engineer Joseph Bradley, the channel route extends from Malsmbury Reservoir to Sandhurst and Spring Gully reservoirs in Bendigo.

Thank you Brian for taking us on a splendid walk full of history, geology and engineering.
Views of Some Walks Secretaries

Walks Secretaries between 1993 and 2015 were:

Until the 1950’s (and sometimes later), “Walks Leaders” were known as “Guides”.

Expectations of a Walks Secretary are enormous. These are hinted at in the “Walks” chapter above.

Here is a perspective from Mike Williams regarding his Walks Leadership (2001-5):

I think we all have difficulties in resolving the physical aspects of walks - gradients, length and attractiveness. There is also the problem of distances to be travelled to the start points. Fitter members grumble about the pace and length of walks, while others enjoy the talk-fest and would not be too sure where they had been during the walk.

I took several risks when organising alternative walks, when the leaders of the alternative walks lost their way - even if they had maps and had done the pre walk “recce” with me. During the Beechworth Uncup weekend I failed to properly explore the alternative walk I lead myself, so could not fully respond to questions about ‘How much further?’... Granted it was an unexpectedly hotter day than expected and the steep downhill track presented granite gravel resembling ball bearings. Not so good for the unsure of foot. This was the walk when one member had to be virtually carried for several hundred metres, including the negotiation of a stile.

I remember a similar incident when Peter Campbell had to drive, illegally, into the Ferntree Gully park to rescue another member on a One Tree Hill walk. Also the complete disruption of my plans at the Apollo Bay weekend as the tree planting organised for a short stop just blew out and out while I almost resorted to nail chewing.

However, as John Levering used to say, it was good just to get people away from the city, and participating in some physical and mental activity. There were also personal rewards such as the delight expressed by Margaret Hutchison on entering the fairytale of the beech forest near Marysville. Another couple of Park incidents occurred when the gate was not open at Doongalla. I had to ask a very wary lady, talking across a chained door, to eventually allow me to ‘phone the rangers to let us in. She may have been frightened by the look of our active, elderly group. At Eaglehawk, we did not have so far to start walking, so we just parked at the gate.

Stephan Brown has been the very model of a modern Walks Leader, having researched carefully the routes and facilities, including parking, shelters and toilets, for a most interesting series of walks, and walking them himself ahead of time, in some cases twice. Moreover each walk has been two walks: a long walk and a short walk with lesser gradients for the less firm of our number. His bardic skill at re-wording famous songs has emboldened him to write his 2013-14 Walks Report in verse:

This Wallaby year started off last July
The reason for this, well I've never asked why
And after a vote by our wise committee
The Walks Secretary's job was now vested in me
For old mate Brian Harper who held the post last
As well as the many fine guides from the past
I hope that the walks have, in my first year
To members and guests brought friendship and cheer

For the first walk I thought that I ought to be bold
Up in the hills though the weather had turned cold
At Marysville I'd read of a walk called "The Beeches"
And was fully prepared to put up with some leeches
But en route to our walk we nearly were pipped
A big mountain ash 'cross the roadway had slipped
We weren't deterred, we walked under the tree
To the damp ferny valley of the old Taggerty

Again in July our footsteps did take
A leisurely lap around Lysterfield Lake
Our walk, for the most part under the gaze
Of mobs of the resident 'roos eastern greys
Who lounged in the grass quite close to the track
That led us through forests, and eventually back
To where for a coffee some later did stop
In the café that's part of the bicycle shop

Then down to the peninsula next we all went
This walk was the choice of our new President
The wetlands at Coolart was a very fine pick
'T was here we first saw the new Wallaby stick
And ibises, ducks, and the odd waterhen
As we ambled around the lagoons, and then
To the beach where the keen twitcher chaps
Spotted several plovers with jaunty red caps
North towards Greenvale our next venture led
To the grounds of historic Woodlands homestead
A pioneering kit house along with its sheds
Providing a refuge for old thoroughbreds
Among glorious red gums we wandered that day
There long before Batman sailed into the bay
The view from the crest was as good as it gets
Of Tullamarine airport and its thunderous jets

We'd been told by those that govern our nation
"All clubs must change Rules of Incorporation"
The pres. and committee all worked with a passion
To ensure that our statutes fulfilled the new fashion
Their labours, when published for all to behold
And because they maintained our traditions of old
Were promptly accepted by every club member
At that meeting extraordinary held in September

Later that month we were down by the bay
Some caught the train on that sunny Wednesday
The small band was guided by Vice President Len
Via the sands of the beach to Red Bluff, and then
Up onto the cliff tops, ti-trees left and right
And below, the old Cerberus, a sad looking sight
Until Len with a well-deserved sense of elation
Delivered the group safely back to the station

For the ladies we went on a spring Saturday
In October to Olinda to behold the display
At the Rhododendron Gardens the colourful blooms
Of the shrubs and the trees with their heady perfumes
The magnolias, azaleas, and a few daffodils
With Camellias all flowering there in the hills
The variety of 'rhodies' was dazzling to see
A day that will live long in each memory

In early November we drove Ballarat way
To view Lal Lal falls on that cold cloudy day
For the Kulin a part of their tale of creation
But we walked to the dam amid precipitation
Then found an old smelter hidden out in the bush
That made iron for the gold mines during the rush
Some later sipped coffee at old Buninyong
In the original country of tribe Wautherong

Later that month Heathmont was my pick
To visit the Dexter's, both Lizzie and Mick
And enjoy in their backyard some nice billy tea
A tradition much favoured by Jim Minifie
Then a walk by the creek through remnants of bush
Saved by keen residents from developers' push
For the Dexters along with Bushcare volunteers
We Wallabies give them all three hearty cheers

In December we met again, a dinner the reason
To celebrate together the Christ-enmass season
We were given a talk and a slide show most slick
Of the trip made to Turkey for a new ANZAC stick
Then, when you thought it couldn't get worse
You had to listen to more of my comical verse
After our dinner and full of good cheer
We all wished each other a Happy New Year

The New Year's first walk was at Emerald Hill
To marvel and wonder at the architects' skill
Starting with lunch near St Vincent Place
Among beautiful terraces and Victorian grace
But the temp was predicted to reach forty two
To call the walk off was all we could do
But this wonderful walk won't be wasted, no fear
We've made it the President's walk for next year

In March we then went to take in the sights
Up the Maribyrnong River at Avondale Heights
Near the old tea gardens, a place of romance
Where couples once came in a boat for a dance
In the buildings and sheds on the far bank we saw
Explosives and ammo were made during the war
Yet down on the river 'twas tranquil and still
In the lee of mac-mansions up there on the hill

Later in March we then all went to see
The interesting graves at Melbourne Cemetery
Huge columns and obelisks and crosses, all which
Mark the last resting places of famous and rich,
Pioneers, politicians, and sports stars of their day
Sadly the older memorials are crumbling away
There was one grave, alas, that was not on my list
Our founder Louis Henry's was one that we missed

In April the next of our Uncup Weekends
Was at Lorne, down the road with the twists and the bends
On Saturday there were some walks for us all
Along ferny creeks to a superb waterfall
That evening as Wallabies mustered for dinner
All felt that the day had indeed been a winner
Then on Sunday a walk to lookout o'er the sea
Before lunch and a song with some hot billy tea

In May we went back to Olinda once more
For a picnic together, and then to explore
The forest arboretum, its valleys and glades
And deciduous trees in autumnal shades
Through rain-dampened forest our footsteps were led
With the risk of a leech dropping down on one's head
For twitchers as well there was much to amuse
Including a lyrebird and black cockatoos
Later in May came a walk quite unique
A visit to the diggings at old Forest Creek
In Chewton's small park we met for our meal
Then drove to the site of a big water wheel
We hiked up the course of the wheel's water race
Past mine sites and shafts that remain in this place
And following the trail both uphill and down
Encountered sad ruins at ghostly Welsh Town
In June we journeyed all the way to Noojee
The Latrobe River bank, was the place to be
For the ultimate lunch on this year's itinerary
Starting from the old loco' number J five-fifty

We followed the railway line back into history
A huge wooden trestle-bridge the object to see
After the walk, some went cold but happy
To the pub or the cafe for a hot cup of tea
Now AGM time, one more year has slipped by
I hope that these walks have been well worth the try
The walks that we seem to remember the best
Are those when some members bring with them a guest
It's not just for fitness that Wallabies walk
We also delight in good nature and talk
The programme for next year I think is sublime
So come along, stroll with us and have a good time

This epic report was delivered by Stephan Brown at the 2014 Annual Dinner, accompanied by a dazzling, synchronised sequence of relevant photographs shown on the large screen next to him, and was received with well-deserved acclamation.

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Mt. Sturgeon from Dunkeld [See "2000 Dunkeld, Grampians (7-8 April)" under "UNCUP WEEKENDS" below]
UNCUP WEEKENDS

1993 Laver’s Hill (26-28 March) [An extract from the Annual Report 30 April 1993]
Thirty-one Wallabies ascended Laver’s Hill, either via the Great Ocean Road (oh, what a lovely but slow trip with an Autumn sunset) or via Colac, and most had dinner at the Otway Junction Motel. Afterwards, Jim Morrison showed us a video of a visit that he and Christine had made to Poland during 1992. Next day at 10am, we set off for Melba Gully where we walked through a beautiful fern gully and saw evidence of huge trees, which had been harvested earlier this century. In this park area, the forest is now regenerating. Afterwards, we drove to the entrance of the Morrison’s property, where we parked and then walked down a steep track to their home where the view across the timbered ranges towards the sea is magnificent. There we had a barbecue lunch for which Christine had prepared lots of plates of lovely food and where our President Milton dispensed some of the vintage wines which he had made at Maldon. After lunch, some of us, led by Jim, walked (30 min down, 45 min up) down to the beach – a beautiful place. The walk was through damp scrub and most of us collected our fair share of leeches. Afternoon tea and then the long walk up the track to our cars (a few lucky ones had a ride in a 4-wheel drive). Thank you Jim and Christine for a lovely day. During the evening, we all had dinner at the Blackwood Gully Restaurant in Laver’s Hill and, as there was no TV on which to show Geoff Steven’s video of Wallaby outings of earlier years, each Wallaby told a story.

It was raining hard on Sunday morning and the forecast was that it would continue. After a “council of war” at 10am, most of the group set off for home. A few hardy and optimistic members proceeded, under Jim Morrison’s guidance, to visit the Californian Redwood plantation near Beech Forest after which, formal activities ended.

1994 Mt. Buffalo (15-17 April) [A full report is under “Uncup Weekend...” see “Centenary” Section above, p.15]
Ralph Neale mused: I particularly remember this Uncup, as Mt. Buffalo Chalet was for me a favourite place, but is now lost to us [closed].

1995 Hepburn Springs (3-5 March)
Accommodation was arranged at the Springs Hotel in this historic spa town. A poem from the 1995 Annual Dinner Card, “UN-CUP WEEKEND”, says it all:

Oh to be in Hepburn Springs
Now we’re no longer there; —
As pair by pair, in forests fair,
Led by the trusty Campbells,
‘Neath skies of blue, midst green trees too,
We’d set forth on our rambles.

Full well I dream of Springs Hotel
With Wallabies full-bursting,
All rooms complete, and us replete—
(For booze no longer thirsting).

Yes I remember Springs Hotel:
A great weekend, we all did spend.

And then my heart with pleasure sings,
And dances with the Mineral Springs.

1996 Rawson (15-17 March)
Rawson is close to Walhalla and Erica in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range and 35km north of Moe. Rawson Village Resort is in the bush, down Pinnacle Drive. It has been the location for former Uncup weekends and memories lingered about its somewhat primitive facilities. But the chilly old M&MBW camp, built for workers constructing the Thomson Reservoir, had been improved to supposed “motel accommodation” standards, or rather, 20 rooms had been.

Saturday activities planned included a full day expedition with a picnic lunch to Mushroom Rocks for
those up to it, or a range of less strenuous suggestions to choose from. Dinner was followed by series of father-oriented reminiscences in the Conference Room, together with drinks and conviviality. On Sunday there was a short trip to the historic mining village of Walhalla.

At Rawson each day the Wallabies did trudge
O'er mountain track, through mud and sludge.
Then one by one you heard them screech
"Oh my gosh, I've got a leech!"

As Dawn gazed upwards at the sky,
One of these critters fell past her eye
Into her nostril (for just a 'no')
But soon was dislodged by a hearty blow.

Next morn as husband Jack got dressed
He noticed his sock had got all messed
With lifeflows from a wounded calf.
Another victim — like his other half.

[from the 1996 Annual Dinner Card]

1997 Beechworth (4-6 April)
Fifty-six attended the weekend, most staying in two motels. People gathered on the balcony of Tanswell's Commercial Hotel after dinner on Friday, some having eaten in the good bistro downstairs, ascending with drinks in hand. Soon the convivial crush was such that balcony vibrations heralded the possibility of a catastrophic spillage of Wallabies into Ford Street, but all was well and obliviously enjoyed. Perhaps the advice that Beechworth tap-water should not be drunk unless boiled had something to do with it.
A drive to Fletcher Dam was organised for Saturday morning. From there was a walk to the Wallaby Mine and nearby battery, then motored back to the starting point for a picnic lunch. How? The famous Wallaby trick of leaving half the cars at each end of the five kilometre walk. In the early evening, everyone gathered in the historic Beechworth Courthouse, where guest speaker Dr. Ian Jones gave a fascinating pre-dinner talk, in a most appropriate place, about Ned Kelly, the subject of his recent book Ned Kelly — A short life.
So impressed was one member as to inspire the following piece for the 1997 Annual Dinner Card:

On a misty Autumn weekend in the old town of Beechworth, the spirit of Ned Kelly arose and became tangible as the Wallabies filed into the historic Court House one evening.
There they sat in the box which once held twelve good men and true, as Ian Jones led them through the pages of the life of Australia’s most famous outlaw, bringing to all, the circumstances and events which can cause a life to end in such tragedy.
Maybe they paused and reflected as they later slowly inspected many of the grim reminders of crime and punishment in days past, on comparisons with today’s treatment of society’s “outlaws”.
Or maybe they sighed and thought “Such is Life”.

Nearby, the complete Lantern Room Restaurant at the Carriage Motor Inn had been exclusively booked for a splendid, traditional Wallaby Uncup Dinner following the talk.
On Sunday morning was scheduled the well known Gully Walk from Golden Horseshoes monument, past the Powder Magazine and ending at the historic stone bridge at the south end of the town, a distance of about 5km and which offered some splendid views along the way.

1998 Buninyong, Ballarat (3-5 April)  [no report found]

1999 Port Fairy (9-11 April)
Most attendees stayed at Seacombe House Motor Inn, while a few stayed in a lovely Victorian B&B next door. Ralph Neale reported that the weekend went well. He wrote: I remember walking with the Club’s oldest member at that time, Ray Garrod, who had joined 35 years before me when he was a research scientist. His last appointment, I think, was as Director of the Antarctic Division. We talked about that.
Saturday walks included one around the mutton bird sanctuary of Griffiths Island and to the lighthouse, and in the afternoon, followed the heritage trail around Port Fairy including a visit to the Historical Society’s display. Prior to the Saturday Dinner at the Four Seasons Restaurant, Janet Race, wife of member Peter Race gave a fascinating talk about the lives of some of her forebears in Port Fairy during the
nineteenth century. On Sunday morning, having packed up, a short drive took everyone to Tower Hill, an
ancient volcano with an unusual and charming crater lake.

2000 Dunkeld, Grampians (7-9 April) [see also photo on p.71]
Fifty-four members, guests and two wives of former
members had a most enjoyable time at Dunkeld. At the
briefing on Friday night there was a great deal of
interest in a video of Wallaby functions dating from
1981 to 1985 taken by Geoff Stevens and drawn to the
attention of members by Norm Tulloh. On Saturday,
George Doery and Mike Williams led walks to the
Woolshed and around the Chimney Pots respectively.
Many who went to the Woolshed visited the Pear Tree
Cottage in the afternoon, as arranged President Hari’s
wife, Ann Sinha. Saturday night dinner was
exceedingly slow and the conference room not made
available for Mike Williams’ excellent illustrated talk
until very late. On the other hand it was a good
opportunity to socialise. On Sunday, George again led
a walk, this time up Picanninny, and Gordon Rushman
led another one to the top of Mt. Sturgeon. Both parties
met up at Jimmy’s Creek for lunch and some went on to the Bambrook centre at Hall’s Gap before
dispersing.

Three “happenings” were remembered by Mick Dexter:
Mike Williams was to speak at the dinner about the geology of the Grampians. The talk was scheduled for after dinner
but access into the lecture hall was denied until very late, being most unfair to Mike, as some had gone to bed, whilst
others were somnolent.

Another involved Ron Shaw, who was not at all well. He made it to the end of one of the flat walks, but corked out
and could barely move. I wandered back over the paddocks surveying the location of the gates and then did some cross-
country driving in our little car to rescue him. We filled him up with tea and he recovered.

Thirdly, John Bignell was determined to get to the top of the mountain that overlooks Dunkeld, despite being affected
by his medical condition. He made it, but had a real problem on the way down when he started falling backwards. So
he grabbed my hand while Chris Simpson kept close behind to catch him if he fell and we slowly made it down. Chris
then drove him in his (John’s) car to the picnic spot, after which John, in typical fashion, got into his car and drove home.

2001 Falls Creek (6-8 April)
Fifty-six Wallabies, wives and guests took the five-hour drive of nearly 400km to the alpine village of Falls
Creek. Accommodation was provided by the Falls Creek Motel/Lodge, and a few stayed at Mogul Ski Club
nearby. Hon. Secretary had advised everyone to bring clothing for both warm and cold conditions. The
Friday rendezvous was at 6pm in the Falls Creek Motel/Lodge for pre-dinner drinks.
A memorable achievement delighted everyone when, only a year after David Pryor had suffered his stroke,
he joined the group on the scheduled walk to Wallace’s Hut and back. He was particularly keen to give it a
go. He was very slow and he and Alma Pryor were last to arrive back, but when they did, the group gave
David rousing cheers and applause.

2002 Marysville (5-7 April)
Mick Dexter recalls: we stayed in the lovely old pub there, which was completely destroyed in the 2009 fires.
Remembering the fracas in 2000, I was determined to have Murray Littlejohn’s talk on Frogs before the dinner, and
this worked very well. The “pub” was “The Cumberland Restaurant and Country Retreat”, which is a large
hotel/guest house and extensive garden grounds dating from Edwardian times. It had been renovated
about ten years previously and was iconic in Marysville and familiar to many Wallabies.
About seventy attended the weekend, gathering on Friday evening for pre-dinner drinks and four-course
dinner at the Cumberland. On Saturday, armed with packed lunches, the group went for two walks, both
four to five kilometres in length. The first began and finished at Cambarville, seventeen kilometres east of Marysville on the Cumberland Lake Mountain Road. After lunch there, the convoy resumed to Lake Mountain for the second circuitous walk. In the evening, another more formal dinner was enjoyed at the Cumberland, preceded by Murray’s fascinating, but somewhat alarming talk about The Disappearing Frogs.

**The Voices of the Night**

*Some Wallabies are fond of singing*
*And sing with all their might,*
*But one we know is listening*
*To the voices of the night.*

*Murray Littlejohn by name,*
*After sunset he’s inclined*
*To play the waiting game,*
*New frog species to find.*

*Crawling about in waters murky*
*In weather that’s far from hot,*

*He’s listening for frog calls quirky.***
*Handel’s Water Music it’s not!*
*It’s ork-ek-ork or ek-ork-eks,*
*Murray memorises each croak*
*And by spotlight’s beam detects*
*The tiny frog which spoke.*
*Murray’s purpose is not frivolous.*
*“What’s the use of them?” you ask.*
*Why, bless them, they’re insectivorous.*
*That’s their appointed task.*

[2002 Annual Dinner Card]

Sunday activities were optional and informal, many choosing to drive up the Taggerty River Valley to The Beeches and others walking more locally to Keppell’s Falls or on other nearby tracks and perhaps visiting the impressive Steavenson Falls.

**2003 Echuca (11-13 April 2003)**

Uncup weekend at Echuca was enjoyed by fifty-three members and guests, most of whom were accommodated in the Nirebo Motel that has entrances from both High and Hare Streets, nice and close to “Old Echuca”. Many assembled for Friday dinner at the famous Oscar W Restaurant, which was at the river port wharf and occupied under-cover rooms and an outdoor area, quaintly lit and covered by awnings. It was considered a tourist “must”. Lightning, thunder and extremely heavy rain and hail occurred during dinner. This Uncup incident was reported in the 2003 Annual Dinner Card:

[Ralph Neale’s] cartoon [opposite] recalls an hilarious incident that occurred at the Wallaby dinner on Friday night at the Oscar W Restaurant, which is ideally sited on the wharf at Echuca. As the dinner progressed, a frightening storm developed. It was accompanied by excessive hail, lightning and thunder and produced an enormous volume of water. It burst through the roof of the restaurant and showered the tables, resulting in momentary chaos, startling Wallabies into protecting their food and wine and of course themselves. A spontaneous “three cheers” for the staff was proposed by the dinner’s organiser, Peter Campbell, and an enthusiastic response was given, showing waiters and waitresses how much we appreciated the calm and professional manner in which they restored the situation.

In contrast, Saturday was a nice day to inspect the port area and then drive to the Barmah Forest for a picnic lunch and walk in the afternoon. The more formal dinner was at Radcliffe’s restaurant, close to the motel. John Lovering enlightened the group about the thorny issues of Water Management in the Murray-Darling Basin.

On Sunday morning, the second excursion involved a Murray River cruise on the historic paddle steamer *Pevensy*, followed by picnic lunch in a pleasant river-bank park close to the port. President Peter Campbell and his wife Helen were thanked for their careful preparations for the weekend. A small number stayed on for another night.
2004 Beechworth (2-4 April)

Arrangements were complete for Uncup to be held at Bellinznora Grange Country Retreat at Hepburn Springs near Daylesford, when in mid November 2003, startling news revealed that Bellinzona existed no more, as it had been burnt to the ground. Not only had this upset Wallaby Club preparations, but more significantly, had robbed Victoria of one of its heritage gems...[Special Notice 1 2003/4].

The committee rapidly met and came up with an intriguing alternative for the same dates: “La Trobe at Beechworth”. As Mick Dexter succinctly remembers: *John Lovering had organised the Uncup weekend to be at Hepburn Springs, but at the last moment (almost literally) the hotel burnt down. Somehow, John very quickly arranged accommodation at Beechworth at the old asylum (now a Uni) and a good time was had by all. The “old asylum” used to be the old Mayday Hills Hospital, and the site overlooks Beechworth. It had become La Trobe University’s Conference Centre with two dormitories upgraded to en-suite: the “International Hotel” and “Continental Hotel”, along with Sambell’s Bar and Bistro, meeting rooms, gymnasium, sauna, outdoor pool, tennis court and business centre, but no full-sized billiard table (as at Bellinzonal). As the journey took several hours, Friday evening was deemed to be purely informal, dinner being available for those who could make it in time.

Saturday walks included various options from sequences such as the White Box walking track in the Chiltern Box - Iron Bark National Park, Mount Pilot, Woolshed Falls; or Beechworth powder magazine, past the Cascades to Woolshed Falls. In any case, lunch and water were to be carried!

Sunday’s “shortish” walk was along the track between Lake Sambell and Lake Kerford. The notes mentioned: *It does contain some short, sharpish bits of up and down hill through attractive bush and many mine shafts – well fenced in – along the banks of the Spring and Hurdle Creeks...*

During Saturday night’s more formal dinner on campus at the “International Hotel School Function Room 23”, Peter Campbell, assisted with considerable spirit by his wife Helen, spoke of their intrepid trip that they made *Along the Silk Road in Asia*. The eastern half was so absorbing that western half had to be left for some other time.

Mike Williams offered in his summary of the weekend: *...[It happened] successfully, with a range of walks,*
good food and the usual Wallaby good company. For some walkers, daytime temperatures were about two degrees higher than we would have liked, and the loose gravel on the descent beside the cascades was a hazard. Fortunately, we lost no one [there] or down any of the many old mine shafts we came across. Unfortunately, and despite the goodly number of potential prospectors, fifty-four in all, no one found any gold (or so they say)...

**The 5km Shorter Walk**

(A slightly exaggerated account)

"5 k’s only" was the cheerful cry,  
We’ll do it in a flash.  
With Mike as leader, never fear  
It’ll be a gentle dash.

**HOWEVER**

A further 15 k’s were walked  
But smiles had left our faces.  
The finishing post was not in sight  
Not even any traces.

**HOWEVER**

The first 10 k’s were calmly done  
Whilst climbing steep terrain.  
We guessed that in no time at all  
Downhill would cause no pain.

At last we reached our journey’s end  
Was that the short walk, brother?  
If so, we’d like to here record —  
We NEVER want another!

[2004 Annual Dinner Card]

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**2005 Apollo Bay** (18-20 March) [From the March 2005 Newsletter; edited]

Fifty members and others descended upon Apollo Bay, most meeting informally on Friday evening for drinks at the pub and then going in small groups to eat in various local restaurants. Accommodation was in various nearby locations.

Saturday morning saw the group motoring to Paradise Valley and then walking amongst the tree ferns and hopping from stone to stone across the creek to arrive at a freely flowing Marriners Falls. A rain forest walk at Mait’s Rest had to be abandoned as the recent storms had forced the road to be closed. Instead, we went to David and Sylvia Churchill’s arboretum, where President Ian Polmear used his “royal spade” to ceremoniously plant a rare Araucaria Laubenfelsii. [See also “The Wallaby Tree” under “Extra Curricular Activities”, p.136]. After lunch, some went to the Cape Otway Lighthouse and associated buildings, while others chose a “real” walk. Saturday Dinner was held at the “Blue Olive” restaurant, overlooking the beach and ocean. Ted Stuckey, a retired forester and President of the Apollo Bay and District Historical Society was our guest speaker. He outlined the history of Apollo Bay from the early 1800s, a very isolated place in those days.

On Sunday morning was a visit to the local Museum, which had been specially opened for us by Ted. The museum had been the telegraph station where the telephone cable joining Tasmania to the mainland dived underground and onto the ocean floor. Mick Dexter also informed the group that his Great-Great Grandfather, William Roadnight had opened the track between Forrest and Apollo Bay and then to Cape Otway to allow the lighthouse to be built. Finally, the motorcade travelled to the “Otway Fly Treetop Walk”, where we walked on a sturdy but swaying steel walkway among the thirty metre treetops, a daunting but memorable experience.

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**2006 Hall's Gap, Grampians** (31 March – 2 April)

It was luck that preserved Hall's Gap from the devastating Grampians fires in January that came within half a kilometre of the town, having burnt out tens of miles to the south. The Pinnacle Holiday Lodge accommodated the group, and provided continental breakfasts, cut lunches and a venue for the illustrated pre-Dinner talk, given on Saturday by our own Margaret Polmear on regrowth of bushland after fire damage – rather topical. Saturday Dinner itself was at The Quarry Restaurant. Before that, morning walks were either "Easy" or "Challenge", both a good drive north from Hall's Creek, away from any fire damage, and both finished at the Mt. zero picnic area for lunch. On the way back, two stops were made for short walks at Hollow Mountain and Heatherlie Quarry.

On Sunday, there was a short trip up Victory Road to Reeds Lookout, where the full horror of the fire damage was spread out below as far as one could see, confirmed by a quick walk around the balconies. In some areas there were hopeful signs of regrowth. Further exploration towards McKenzie Falls was not possible as the road had been temporarily closed. Picnic lunch was in the Hall's Creek car park, prior to departure homewards via various suggested pit-stops.

During the weekend, Walks Secretary Murray Gillin was given custodianship of the new Y-Stick [see above in “Y-Stick”, under the “Sticks” section, p.26], which may have supported Murray’s poise, as Murray and
Hon. Secretary Jeff Wunderlich both earned hearty congratulations for coping with unexpected changes of plan and even so, creating a successful Uncup weekend.

**2007 Hepburn Springs** (16-18 March 2007)  [From the April 2007 Newsletter; edited]

Sixty-one Wallabies and Partners descended upon Hepburn Springs for the annual Uncup Weekend in mild and sunny weather after chilly sunrises. Most stayed at the rambling old-style Chalet, while others stayed at the Motor Inn or privately. Lucini’s pasta café, site of the old macaroni factory was the favoured Friday evening meal venue (along with a noisy wedding party in the next room).

“The Blowhole” was the destination of the Saturday morning walk. This is a short man-made tunnel in the rock to divert creek water away from old gold mining works. Picnic lunch was close to the Springs Bathhouse and followed by a springs tour, each spring inviting various reactions ranging from philosophic comment to explosive rejection.

*The springs have sprung so fill the cup  
With fluids from the spa,  
On waters still or sparkling sup!  
Its cost? Well, free so far.*

Saturday Dinner was at Bellinzona Guest House, recently reconstructed after the 2003 fires. Milton Warn entertained one and all with a pre-dinner address on historical aspects of the mining days in Maldon and surrounding areas. His well-researched accounts of yesteryear were riveting – how the early squatters who found nuggets kept it quiet so as not to alert the former convicts from Tasmania; how Melbourne lost its police force, its tradesmen, indeed, everybody who could make it into the goldfields; the relocation of indigenous people; the Italian-speaking immigrants from Ticino Canton of Switzerland; and much more. Dinner was a very fine meal.

Sunday’s exodus went via Mt. Franklin, the nearby extinct volcano, where all wandered and lunched near the pine-forested rim of the crater, before going homewards. *That ended a great weekend – an annual occasion for Members and Partners to get to know each other so much better than is possible during half-day walks.*

**2008 Tarra Valley** (29 February – 2 March 2008)  [From the March 2008 Newsletter; edited]

The 2008 Uncup Weekend was based at the Quality Inn in Traralgon from Friday 29 February to Sunday 2 March. Fifty-three Wallabies and friends attended.

On Saturday morning, we drove to the Tarra–Bulga National Park under the eagle eye of Walks Secretary Murray Gillin. Wallabies could elect to go on a long or a short walk through spectacular fern gullies, returning to the Parking Area for lunch. *It was foolish to play truant here as most people’s cut lunches were in Murray’s car!*. In the evening, we gathered in the quality Inn dining room to hear an inspiring and excellently presented talk by Diana Snape on Australian Garden Design, followed by the Uncup Dinner.

On Sunday morning, we drove to Walhalla, inspected the town and the restored railway station and finished with lunch. Many of the Wallabies completed the weekend with a ride on the narrow gauge train before returning to Melbourne.

Stephan Brown recalls: *It was my first Uncup weekend and after the Saturday dinner I gathered with a few other Wallabies and partners in one of the rooms to chat about the day’s activities and other matters over a night cap and some cheese and bickies. The time slipped by and our chatter and laughter had become a little raucous. There was a sudden knock on the door and a loud, unmistakable Wallaby voice: ‘Keep the noise down! Some of us want to get some sleep!’ We all crept away to our beds shortly afterwards.*

**2009 Anglesea** (March 27-29)  Jeff Wunderlich writes:

Uncup was based at the Surfcoast Resort Conference Centre and enjoyed the most wonderful weather imaginable, though there was some concern regarding the smoke from a somewhat out-of-control back-burning operation not far away.

On Saturday, after a hearty breakfast at our accommodation, we set out along the newly developed path along the cliff top between Anglesea surf beach and at Point Roadknight, [named after one of Mick Dexter’s ancestors]. Partial clearing of the scrub allowed great views onto the ocean and coast, but enough had been left for us to enjoy some interesting flora like the Yate, a Eucalypt, native of WA, with its beautiful yellow flowers and exotic fruit, shaped like a mediaeval mace.
Lunch at the Distillery Creek (Aireys Inlet) picnic ground was followed by a solid, climbing walk for some or an easier nature trail for others. Before going to the Anglesea Golf Club for dinner, we were treated to a very interesting talk by Nick Williams on the impact of the Oertling beam balance in assaying gold on the Victorian goldfields. The many slides of these beautifully crafted balances were enhanced by the “heritage” style of the Powerpoint presentation. On Sunday, many took the opportunity to inspect the replica of the bark clad timber frame hut at Aireys Inlet. The original hut had been built in the 1860’s by Thomas and Martha Pearse, ancestors of Margery Edwards. It complements the cairn that marks their grave below the majestic Split Point lighthouse.

A wonderful weekend ended with a walk in Coogoorah Park on the Anglesea River and a final picnic lunch. Full credit for the whole weekend must go to Murray Gillin for the program and Richard Kirsner for the administrative aspects.

2010 San Remo/Phillip Island: (26-28 March) David Plant wrote:

Phillip Island was the venue for this year’s Uncup Weekend. Most Wallabies stayed at the newly built Silverwater Resort at San Remo. A few stayed privately on the Island but 48 in all enjoyed the fine walking weather over the weekend. Walks Secretary, Brian Harper deserved thanks for all his work and planning for this event; ensuring that we had excellent accommodation and both variety and interest in the walks.

The walk on Saturday started with a stroll along the Cape Woolamai beach before we followed an inland track to the metal framework of the old long disused kerosene fuelled beacon on the top of the Cape. The track took us through Wedge-tailed Shearwater (mutton bird) rookeries with the occasional unfortunate view of Pacific Gulls taking shearwater chicks which had strayed too close to the entrance of the nest burrow. Several of our group saw a snake scuttling across the track. The coastal views were spectacular and the flora changed as we walked away from the windswept Bass Strait side of the Cape to the more sheltered Westernport side. We then proceeded to Churchill Island where we had lunch. We passed a large flock of Cape Barren Geese as we approached the historic homestead. After lunch we circumnavigated the island. Before dinner at the resort, John Swan presented a talk entitled “Plants, Insects, Microbes and Food”. John has had a long association with Phillip Island and so his talk was authoritative, personal and fascinating. [The full text is in the “Some Notable Speeches” section, p. 143, and in the April 2010 Newsletter.]

On Sunday, our scheduled visit to the Koala Reserve was cancelled owing to an environmental burn. Instead, we walked from Conservation Hill to Rhyll. The walk took us through scrub country and along boardwalk through mangroves, a home to an amazing number of creatures both large and small. The weekend concluded with lunch at the Rhyll Reserve.
(Standing L to R): Gordon Rushman, Constance Jenkins, Davon Catherall, Ian Harper, Jean Rushman, Anne Kienl Serpell, Colin Roberts, Jeff Wanderlich (behind), Jim Chapman (front), Andrew Serpell, Helen Kennedy, John Jenkins, David Pryor, Graham Miller, Jim Minifie, Murray Gillin, Bill Denholme, Loris Gillin, Chris Simpson, David Plant, Len Edwards, David Kaleski, Margaret Polmear, Mike Williams, Ben Chodziezner,
2011 Inverloch: (1-3 April) at the RACV Resort [From the April 2011 Newsletter; edited]
The Uncup Weekend for 2011 was an outstanding success! Fifty-eight Wallabies and partners gathered for a relaxing weekend at Inverloch. The resort nestles in a bushland setting and our rooms looked out onto native scrub with sea views beyond. The accommodation was excellent and the walks organised by Walks Secretary Brian Harper were varied and most interesting.
The Saturday morning walk was along a disused railway reserve ending at Meeniyan. The track was level and wide, perfect for strolling and talking. The bandstand at Meeniyan was a great spot to have our lunch. After a drive back to Inverloch via Screw Creek, where another walk went through coastal scrub affording views across Venus Bay.
On Saturday night an excellent dinner was enjoyed, during which Hon. Secretary David Plant spoke about a ten day Kimberley coastal trip from Darwin to Broome “The Kimberley Coast”.
The walk on Sunday required a drive to Kilcunda, from where the route followed a picturesque old railway reserve for some kilometres. Lunch was enjoyed on the foreshore before the majority left for home, while some Wallabies elected to spend another night at the Resort.
Congratulations must go to Walks Secretary Brian Harper for organising a first class Uncup Weekend and also to Jan Harper for making certain we were well fed at lunch time.

2012 Bendigo: (16-18 March) at the Four Seasons Resort Hotel [From the April 2012 Newsletter; edited]
Sixty-three Wallabies and Partners attended the Uncup Weekend, possibly a record attendance. Most gathered at the hotel on Friday for dinner.
For the first walk on Saturday, the weather was kind, contrasting with the very heavy showers on the previous day. This rain caused the scheduled walk to become somewhat damp underfoot so our Walks Secretary Brian Harper changed to “plan B” enabling us to arrive with dry feet at the Expedition Pass Reservoir as planned.
All then drove to the Botanical Gardens at Castlemaine for a lakeside lunch organised by Jan Harper.
Returning to Bendigo everyone gathered at the Kennington Reservoir. Natural bushland surrounded this large lake and revealed an excellent walk before we returned to the motel to relax before the Uncup Dinner. In a room well apart from the noise and bustle of the packed bistro area, Wallabies enjoyed an excellent dinner and camaraderie. The guest speaker was Jan Harper, who gave us a most interesting and instructive talk about the Thylacine or Tasmanian Tiger. This long extinct animal still causes the occasional alleged sighting to be reported and some still believe it exists.
The Sunday walk was along the ridge of Mount Alexander, which was the landmark used by diggers heading for the goldfields at Castlemaine and Bendigo. It was a most interesting walk with large granite outcrops and affording excellent distant views. Lunch was enjoyed in the picnic ground of the Mount Alexander Regional Park before our return home.
Congratulations must go first to Jan Harper for not only providing our delicious lunches, but presenting such an interesting dinner talk. Sincere thanks also to Brian Harper for the planning, surveying and thought put into organising such a successful Uncup weekend.
Kerry and Liz MacManus were so impressed that they were moved to verse:

Wallabies In Action At Uncup 2012

“Wallabies!” came the stentorian shout;
Some of the crowd turned quickly about.
“Wallabies!” was the repeated cry
The mob decided it was time to pry.
The morning’s instructions were summarily made
In great detail, to the group in the shade.
“Say again-I missed that!” was the sound
As bewildered scribes gathered around;
To be told later that hard copy was found
And no hand written notes were needed around.

Marching orders! (L to R): David Kaleski, Kerry McManus, Russell Brown, Dale Campkin-Smith (hidden), Marjorie Campkin-Smith, Ros Jenkins, Graham Miller, Jim Minifie, Alan Sercombe, Steve Jenkins.
A convoy formed, with the orders “mount up!” “My dears,”
One member said sadly “I haven’t heard that in years!”
The orders for the convoy were mercifully brief
“Follow me!” was the resounding call of the chief.
The cars snaked in line to the appointed place,
Where a narrow track lead to a bush-lined space.

The Wallabies and companions gathered to follow the “stick”.
“It wasn’t like this last time” was the cry, surveying the “crick”.
The band gallantly pushed on through the mud and the water;
“It was dry up to now” was heard, as the party did falter.

Some pushed on and some turned back;
Some found an alternative track.
All eventually found the dam at the back
And the cairn of Mitchell’s famous track.

Refreshments were organised at park Castlemaine;
An event of rest to soothe bodily strain,
Where embellished tales were happily told
Of similar former walks by Wallabies bold.
But it was widely agreed that this famous walk
Would always be held special in Wallaby talk.

2013 Ballarat: (19-21 April) at the Ballarat Lodge, Golden Point  [From the April 2013 Newsletter; edited]
Fifty Wallabies and friends stayed at the very comfortable Ballarat Lodge during Uncup weekend. The weather was
kind with fine days, but low temperatures.
On Saturday morning we drove in convoy to Creswick, north of Ballarat to the La Gerche forest plantings. In 1890
John La Gerche planted 19,000 conifers, pines and deciduous trees to reclaim land degraded by mining and
experiment with those trees together with eucalypts to assess their value for commercial use. At the conclusion of the
walk we drove to the nearby St George Lake Reserve where we had morning tea.
For some time, Life Member Jim Minifie has advocated the return of the old Wallaby tradition of “The Billy Tea”.
The boiling of the billy has not taken place in recent years owing to bush fire concerns and inappropriate locations.
This time the location, weather and opportunity was perfect. Thirsty Wallabies on arrival at the reserve were delighted
to find Jim and Stephan Brown ready with steaming billies of tea. At the conclusion of the hour long walk around the
lake it was time for lunch before returning to Ballarat.
For an afternoon heritage walk along Lydiard Street, we parked our cars at the rear of the railway stone goods sheds
before proceeding down Lydiard Street with its many historic buildings; Her Majesty’s Theatre, Craig’s Hotel, The
Ballarat University, (Murray Gillin’s old Alma Mater), the Art Gallery and many others with links to the days of the
gold rush, which transformed Ballarat from a collection of tents to the prosperous city we know today.
The Uncup Dinner was held at Ballarat Lodge. The Guest Speaker was Dr Anne Beggs-Sunter, a historian at the
University of Ballarat. We learnt that the area was first settled in 1851 by a squatter named Archibald Yuille, who
named the area Ballarat, adapting the local aborigine names, balla arat meaning resting place. Gold was discovered in
1851 resulting in a rush of “diggers” from around the world. Heavy-handed officialdom resulted in the famous
Eureka Rebellion in December 1854 and the site of the stockade is a favoured tourist destination today.
On Sunday morning we gathered at Lake Wendouree. One group walked around the lake while the rest had a
conducted tour through the Botanical Gardens. A keen wind blew across the lake and numerous water birds were seen.
On the tour the garden walkers saw a collection of busts of Australian prime ministers and many enormous trees
planted in the 1850s and 1860s. Begonias were in full bloom in the architecturally unusual hot house and the
flowerbeds were being readied for the winter planting.
We had lunch in the lakeside shelter shed after which some Wallabies had a tour of the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery.
Our thanks must go to Walks Secretary, Brian Harper who organised the excellent accommodation, the interesting
and varied walks and the Uncup Dinner. Thanks also to Jan Harper who organised the lunches.
Stephan Brown recalls that Walks Secretary Brian Harper had chosen for Saturday morning a gentle 40 minute stroll around Lake St George near Creswick. As assistant to Brian I had volunteered to boil the billy for morning tea at a picnic area about half way along the walk. I had Len Edwards to help me along with Jim Minifie to supervise proceedings. We found our spot and after collecting what we thought was enough firewood we got a fire going and put on three billies which soon began to boil. We laid out the sugar and milk and some tasty biscuits and waited...and waited...and waited. The supply of firewood soon ran out so we scoured the surrounding forest for more to ensure a nice hot cup of tea for the walkers. The billies also needed to be topped up a couple of times as the water boiled away while we waited. Eventually Wallabies began to emerge from the forest in dribs and drabs led by Brian, who had somehow managed to take the group on a more scenic route that was not on his map. The freshly brewed tea and biscuits were much appreciated by the walkers as they rested before completing the walk.

2014 Lorne: (4-6 April) at “Mantra Lorne”  [From the April 2014 Newsletter (edited)]

At Lower Kalimna Falls: (L to R): Guest and ? (back), Loris Gillin and Murray Gillin (front), Steve Jenkins, David Plant, Wendy Chuck, Diana Plant, Ben Chodzieszner (hidden), John Suan, Anne Sandie, Christine Martin, Constance Jenkin, Colin Smith (seated), Margery Edwards, Margaret Polynomial (hidden), Andrew Serpell and Anne Kiern Serpell, Sylvia Churchill.

The Uncup weekend at Lorne was a great success. Fifty-two Wallabies and Friends stayed at the recently renovated Erskine House, now called Mantra Lorne. Erskine House has been the most popular destination for Wallaby Club Uncup Weekends over the years. Walks Secretary Stephan Brown researched and organised six excellent walks; three long walks and three shorter
walks each different in habitat and all most enjoyable.
On Saturday we all met at the Sheoak Picnic Area with the long walkers heading to the Sheoak Falls and the short
walkers taking a loop on either side of Sheoak Creek. The forest was lovely with very tall eucalypts and impressive tree
ferns dominating and the calls of cockatoos and currawongs drowning out the calls of the smaller birds.
After lunch at the Picnic Area the long walkers travelled to the Lower Kalimna Falls returning along an old logging
tramway with some of the old timber sleepers still to be seen.
The shorter walkers strolled up to the Henderson Falls set in a very pretty fernery.
David Churchill was our speaker at the dinner. David and Sylvia live at Apollo Bay, so he knows the area very well.
He spoke about the research by Wallabies Edmond Gill and Ralph Segnit, into past changes to the rocky shoreline
platforms and erosion of local cliff faces on the Surf Coast as the sea levels gradually changed. He spoke about his own
continuing studies of these changes. David also spoke about the variation of water levels in some of the lakes in the
area and the microscopic algal life therein. Steve Jenkins thanked David for presenting a most interesting talk.
On Sunday morning we drove to the Moggs Creek Picnic Area, a most attractive area containing Ironbark eucalypts
where the bush was more open. The longer walkers went to the Ocean View lookout for superb views of the coast and
saw Grey Kangaroos along the way. The shorter group walked a loop on either side of Moggs Creek seeing many birds
with the highlight being the sighting of a Pink Robin. As we boiled the billy at lunchtime we thought of Jim Minifie
who was unable to be with us as he is recovering from an operation.
Stephan is to be congratulated for organising such an interesting, varied and enjoyable weekend.

Stephan himself recollects: After a couple of wonderful Sunday morning walks; either to look out over the
impressive coast line between Lorne and Airleys Inlet or along the ferny valley of Moggs Creek, the Wallabies gathered
in the picnic area. The lunches were being laid out and a billy was beginning to boil. Margery Edwards brought out
her harmonica and soon everyone was singing heartily along to Waltzing Matilda. A magical and memorable moment.

2015 Echuca – Murray River – Barmah Forest: (March 20-22) at Mercure, Port of Echuca.
[From the March 2015 Newsletter]
The historical port of Echuca, home to Australia’s largest collection of paddle steamers was the venue for this year’s
Uncup Weekend. The weather was perfect and Walks Secretary Stephan Brown organised a most interesting and
varied program. Most Wallabies stayed at The Mercure Port of Echuca motel, the venue for our dinner. 45 Wallabies
and Friends attended.
by the Yorta Yorta people to teach visitors about the region’s ecology, culture and history. The Park is a haven for wildlife and since white settlement the predominant River Red Gum Forest has been cleared of much of its valuable timber with only a few old growth trees remaining. There has been much regrowth with many young trees spurred on by the irregular flooding of the forest.

The walk skirted the Barmah Lake and Broken Creek where there is a weir with a fish ladder which allows fish to go back upstream past the weir.

After lunch we returned to Echuca for a Heritage Walk which took in the many historic sites and buildings of the town. The Echuca Historical Society has done a sterling job of researching the history of the old buildings and placing appropriate plaques on the front of each one.

Before our Guest Speaker was introduced, Life Member Chris Simpson invited Wallabies to join in singing the chorus of his amusing ditty, the words of which were displayed on a very large sheet of cardboard. It related to an incident during the previous Uncup weekend at Lorne:

**The Perils of Sheoke Creek Track** (to the well known tune…)

**Refrain:**
Oh dear, what can the matter be?
One Wallabette slipped into a cavity!
She had been captured, a victim of gravity,
Arms and her legs in the air.

It happened soon after a deluge of rain
When the track was all muddy in steepish terrain
‘Cause a fallen old tree left a hole like a drain –
One could hardly approach but beware.

* refrain *
They rushed round the plighted to help her, to save her
They gushed round with platitudes for her to savour
Then one or two slipped down to offer their favour,
But found the conditions contraire.

* refrain *
A Dexter-ous fellow soon came to her rescue
And Gillin the innovateur gave the best clue;
They struggled (with others) and heaved with the best, who
Extracted the lass with due care!

* refrain.

* BY PERMISSION OF THE LASS HERSELF

The Guest Speaker was Heather Rendle from the Echuca Historical Society. Her theme was “The Historical Beginnings of Echuca and Moama”. The founder of Echuca was an ex-convict named Henry Hopwood whose punt was the only way across the Murray River at that point. Echuca (Yorta Yorta word –meeting of the water) was the closest point on the Murray River to Melbourne.

The coming of a rail link between Echuca and Melbourne meant that Echuca was the most efficient location for riverboats transporting wool from the Riverina plains and timber, especially railway sleepers, from the Barmah Forest for shipment to Melbourne. Echuca boomed as a result with riverboats pouring in and out of the busy wharfs.

The discovery of gold led to a marked drop in population in the district and the gradual spread in the rail network led to a deterioration in the river trade. This led to a decline in the town which fortunately has, in the last 30 years, picked up with a surge in tourist numbers attracted by the splendid climate and ease of access from Melbourne and good accommodation. Riverboat cruisers (sic) on the Murray River are very popular and together with an excellent Port of Discovery Centre Echuca is now a booming tourist destination.

Brian Harper thanked Heather for presenting a most informative and interesting address.

Sunday morning saw us drive down to the Discovery Centre for a detailed look at the exhibits on display before boarding the Paddle Boat “Canberra” for a one hour cruise on the Mighty Murray. The Captain provided an interesting commentary whilst we enjoyed the scenery and our lunch.

Our thanks must go to our Walks Secretary Stephan for organising a most enjoyable and interesting Uncup Weekend. The weather, the accommodation and the planning was excellent. Well done Steve.
DINNERS

Changing Aspects

Location:
Various locations have been used for Club Dinners and listed appropriately in their categories below. In these latest two decades, the choice has moved from an almost total dependence upon Union House at the University of Melbourne, to a variety of venues, one of which, the Lyceum Club became regular for Ladies’ Dinners. Another, Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club, seems to be claiming our total devotion now in 2015, less claustrophobic and more amenable than the previous favourites and with a spectacular outlook over the courts, and built in visual aids which work well.

Speakers:
The Club has enjoyed a wonderful catalogue of speakers (members) and guest speakers. Traditionally one of our own speaks at the Christmas dinner. These are all listed appropriately below. The quality has not wavered from excellent over these twenty-one years since the Centenary!

Grace:
For each dinner between 1993 and 1999 (and a long time before then), Grace was said by any member who was so invited. He would follow a basically Christian format, although each member, including two ministers, had his own style. Once it was spoken in Latin and on a couple of occasions chanted in Latin plainsong or sung as a duet. In 2000, Christian Graces were called into question by Hari Sinha, who felt that a non-sectarian “Reflection” would be more appropriate for members of different faiths. After some valiant attempts, Milton Warn, a Baptist minister, in 2003 came up with a beautiful and completely inoffensive Reflection, which has been used universally thereafter by him or a deputy. Milton has passed on now, but his Grace is still used in 2015 and has usually been spoken by the President:

In a world where many are lonely,
we are thankful for friendship and community;
In a world where many are fearful and despairing,
we are thankful for hope;
In a world where many are weak and suffering,
we are thankful for health and strength;
In a world where many are hungry,
we are thankful for food and drink;
May we be numbered among those who contribute to the needs of others.
So be it.

Menu Cards:
In 2015, there are menu cards for each dinner, giving basics of location and the menu, which have developed to “pleasantly artistic” from rather patchy beginnings at the start of the millennium. At the Annual Dinner is issued, in addition to any menu card, the traditional Annual Dinner Card, an elaboration of “Wallabiana”, an order of events and a menu, as described under “Annual Dinners” below.

Music:
Seldom talked about is music in the Wallaby Club context. It has happened! For example, there was singing at an 1894 “Musical Smoke Night” held at the German Club. More recently as noted above, Grace was sung on a few occasions at dinners. At the Ladies’ Dinner in 1998, in lieu of a guest speaker, member Ian Dickson and his wife Lisa gave a recital of well known opera arias and songs from musical shows. At the 2014 Uncup Dinner, a ditty was sung by Chris Simpson that required audience refrains. It proved popular, so Stephen Brown tried a longer song (with refrains) at the 2015 Annual Dinner and got away with it! These events are detailed in their respective places below.

Costs and Quality:
“Costs of Dinners” [From the April 2007 Newsletter]
There have been some grumbles about the costs of dinners. They are understandable because there was a period after the Centenary celebrations when dinners were very cheap. That is because they were heavily subsidised from surplus
funds accrued for the celebrations. Those surplus funds have been ALL SPENT (eaten and sipped!) some time ago. Costs to Members are now realistic. Functions are costed to not return a negative result and Members are asked to pay between $2-$5 over the cost of their own meal. The surcharge pays for the guest speaker (and Partner at the Ladies’ Dinner) as well as for hiring audio-visual equipment, if required.

Editor’s note: In the space of eight years since the above lament, dinner prices have more than doubled! But I hasten to add that the quality has improved and is very good in 2015.

**Annual Dinners**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Annual Dinner – Speaker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>University House, UoM – Rev Kevin Green</td>
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<td>1994</td>
<td>Melbourne Club – Harold Attwood</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>University House, UoM – Prof Weston Bate</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>University House, UoM – Mr David Packham</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>University House, UoM – Ian Edwards</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>University House, UoM – Prof David Yencken</td>
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<td>1999</td>
<td>University House, UoM – John Swan</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>University House, UoM – Dr Miles Lewis</td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>University House, UoM – John Lovering</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>University House, UoM – Mr Michael (Mick) Fendley</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>University House, UoM – Dr Michael Looker</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>University House, UoM – Prof Roger Short</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>University House, UoM – Dr Tony Lee</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>University House, UoM – Dr Paul Farren</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>University House, UoM – Dr John Millman</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>University House, UoM – Dr Philip Moors</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>University House, UoM – Prof John Wiseman</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Kooyong L.T.C. – Dr John Edgar</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Kooyong L.T.C. – Gavan McCarthy</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>Kooyong L.T.C. – Mr Hamish Lyon</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Kooyong L.T.C. – Prof Richard Broome</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Kooyong L.T.C. – Prof Graeme Davison</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Kooyong L.T.C. – Prof Andrew Peele</td>
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**Annual Dinner Cards**  
[for Editors and more information, see below under “Other Officers”, p.127]

According to Hamish Russell: John Turner’s wonderful annual sketches that graced the annual card were eagerly awaited each year and remain extraordinarily evocative. Geoff Stocks continued this tradition for several years; the Club has been undoubtedly blessed with extraordinary talents.

There has always been a need to call for contributions of Wallabiana from members for the next Dinner Card. In the January 2000 Newsletter, for example, was this plea from the editor:

> Please try, ye men of erudition  
> To keep alive our great tradition,  
> And write, O Macropodian Bards  
> Material for our dinner cards.

Response from “A Graceful Muse”, recorded in the 2007 Annual Dinner Card:

> A cry for help – some verses please.  
> This Wallaby could scarce refuse  
> To waken his poetic muse  
> (If such exist).  
> And answer editorial pleas,  
> And not desist.
Until such time as, armed with pen and paper,
Through lonely midnight, lit by flickering taper,
Such words as these come into light of day
And maybe grace the Card – hooray, hooray!

Another response from a fan (clearly) is:

**The Card**  [from he 2005 Annual Dinner Card]

1901 saw the first dinner card,
And it must have been awfully, awfully hard
For the pestering editor of the said card
To encourage more bards he could then disregard.

To write about walks, also talks, and things real,
Of birds and the bees and of odd bits of steel,
Of booze and of foods and of trips quite surreal,
And how one might strike up a really good deal!

Held as it is in quite lofty regard,
By many a budding young Wallaby bard,
There’s clearly no need to mount much of a guard
To protect our extraordinary Wallaby card!

**Specific Occasions**

1993: At the University of Melbourne’s Union House, the lower function room that we have used so often was rather compact, but unique in its extensive exotic glassware displays around the walls.

There has usually been a small clear area between the entrance and the array of dinner tables, where the milling crowd could with difficulty obtain a drink and shuffle, shoulder past shoulder, into one handshaking group or another and join in whatever animated conversation into which one emerged. The din was wonderfully punctuated by raucous laughter. All too soon, a spate of glass-tinkling and yells of ‘Wallabies!’ brought the mass to a reluctant and incomplete silence, whereupon the stopwatches came out to check if the imminent 99th AGM might be dealt with in record time. President Milton Warn did his best, not a record, but under 4 minutes or so. The new committee was soon announced, as there was no election needed, which was quite normal. The new Vice President was revealed to be Jim Minifie. Great applause and cheers dissolved into a rapid dispersal to the tables, guests and hosts first of course (in theory).

Once the forty-eight attendees settled, Peter Campbell said Grace. Following the Entrée, Jim Minifie rose and with a wee embellishment, gave the Loyal Toast to the Queen. Then followed some apologies and announcements from the new Hon. Secretary Hamish Russell, who informed us that Geoff Stevens and Alex Dempster had apologised, and that there were six guests. Each guest, apart from the guest speaker, was introduced in turn with some words of elucidation and sometimes jest by their hosts: John Barry (by Harold Attwood), Neale Bavington (by Bill Balding), Paul Smith (by Gordon Rushman), George Scott (by Keith Woodruff) and Brian Walters (by Ian Polmear). Now introduced, our guests were Toasted by Chris Berry, who added some words of wisdom. Main Course followed swiftly. When the clanking of forks had subsided, much tinkling of glasses sought silence and heralded The Handing-Over-The-Stick Ceremony, which had been recited verbatim for many years, relating the story of the Anzac Sick and calling the names of each president engraved on it up to date [see Volume 3, page 94]. It took a while, but it was always interesting! Then the Stick was held aloft and presented to Chris Simpson, the incoming President. Milton sat down, swapping places with Chris, his job done, and done well. Chris brandished the Stick aloft again and proceeded to misquote Milton, the poet, and malign Milton the Wallaby:

> At last, at last all captains fall!
> At least, at last dear Milton’s gown
> And trumpets sound against the wall;
> We’re going to miss our Reverend Warn
> Yet, mighty staff new hands will seize
> Presiding with such skill and ease
> To guard the ancient Wall-o’-bees.
> O’er all us smaller Wallabies.
Chris apologised to Milton, thanked him profusely, vowed to do his best (with the help of all) and handed the Anzac Stick to be passed around all the tables for members and guests to admire, touch and reflect upon. Then Chris’s father Life Member Roy Simpson was called upon to give the Toast to the Club, preceded by an imaginative speech. Dessert was served, followed by a response on behalf of the Guests by Neale Bavington (who later became a Wallaby). After a recess, coffee and mints, Chris introduced his Guest Speaker, Rev. Kevin Green, minister at Wesley Church, Lonsdale Street and Superintendent at the Wesley Central Parish Mission. Entitled Changing Lives, Changing Communities, Kevin’s talk was spell-binding. Norm Tulloh told him so in his own words in a vote of thanks. Then Chris closed official proceedings and the evening drew pleasantly to its end.

1994: A full report is given in “The Centenary” section (above).

1995: An interesting evening at Union House included the presentation by Harold Attwood of a wooden gavel and block to the president for future use at dinners to obtain the notice and attention of members indulging in their most favourite pastimes, drinking and talking. Rapid tapping on a wine glass with a knife, the practice to date, had led to a disaster or two in the past, and was not always sufficient to the task. The said gavel was put to the test and immediately its head flew off! Undeterred, the president assured members that this would be soon remedied.

The Toast to the Club was proposed by Gordon Rushman, whose preliminary musings were of such interest as to be recorded in full in the next newsletter:

In pondering what I might say about the Wallaby Club, I found myself thinking about the essence of what the Wallabies are about. My thoughts turned to one quality that I have not heard mentioned in Club circles and which I do not think is mentioned in the Club’s history either.

Something that I greatly appreciate is that Wallabies are collectively a Hassle-Free zone. This [club] is one of the few places that I know where one can congregate with one’s fellow men without finding areas of concern, snobbery, internal politics, cliques or striving for power and influence. At 101 years of age this is, surely, a sign of maturity as a club and is in marked contrast to an age increasingly marked by regulation as well as deregulation, competitiveness, ambition and greed as well as the flowering of bureaucrats with their own ambitions and agendas.

This attribute which I claim to have identified is, of course, partly due to the personalities of the members and their wives; partly, I think, to our having a rule book not much larger than a postage stamp; and partly to the Club having chosen, long ago, to travel light without acquiring city centre real estate or a fine art collection or an investment portfolio. Consequently, there are no material prizes to be gained within the Club and therefore no reason for competition or struggle.

Long may the Club flourish in its present form, adapting only slowly as circumstances demand, and long may it continue to be a hassle-free zone!

The eminent and wonderful guest speaker of the evening was Professor Weston Bate, who talked about the protection of historic buildings in Victoria.

1996: David Packham AO was the guest speaker. He had a key role in bushfire research conducted by CSIRO (and in league with member David Ashton), and has also been involved with civil defence and the work of the Bureau of Meteorology. He spoke about bushfires, the need to restrict the amount of fuel in forests, and various means of fire control.

1997: At the “last minute” our invited speaker, Jeff Floyd, chief executive of Parks Victoria, was unable to attend. In his stead, ever-reliable member Ian Edwards enthralled all present with tales about his recent archaeological expedition in Jordan.
1998: Ralph Neale wrote: At the end of Hamish’s term as president, and my election to office, for the Annual Dinner, I invited Professor David Yencken AO to address the Club. A polymath, he is a man with global connections in many spheres and was, I think, then Elisabeth Murdoch Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Melbourne. I had, in the past, published material that he provided for my journal Landscape Australia, when he was Secretary of the Victorian Ministry of Planning and Environment. He was previously the first Chairman of the National Heritage Commission. He accepted my invitation, but then I had to explain that there would be no ladies present, which he found rather peculiar. His talk on the night I was elected President was [upon the state of the Australian environment and], as far as I can remember, reassuring. I think he told us that worldwide, big companies were cleaning up their impact on the environment. The talk was supposed to be recorded, but the machine refused to operate. He spoke “off the cuff” and his words that night are now lost to history. The other notable speech that night was by Ray Garrod, our oldest member, who in proposing the toast to the Wallaby Club, spoke most warmly about his feelings for the Club: how he joined as a young man in awe of the giants (he named nine), and how what mattered was not who you are, but what you are. [Full text is included in the “Some Notable Speeches” section, p.142]

David Rimmer, President of the Victorian Federation of Walking Clubs, responded to the toast to The Guests, thus putting the Club back in touch with the wider walking movement in Victoria.

2001: Mick Dexter remembers that John Lovering gave a fascinating talk entitled “Water” and which referred to the Murray-Darling Basin System. He had recently stood down as President of the Murray-Darling Basin Commission (1994-99) and hence was very well versed. Most of the statistics he quoted were both surprising and alarming. [Refer to the July 2001 Newsletter]. John Swan had been asked to move a vote of thanks and, being John Swan, in so doing he gave us an amazing impromptu lecture on the chemical and physical properties of water.

2002: Mr Michael (Mick) Fendley, Director of the Victorian National Parks Association, was the guest speaker and his topic was Conservation and the Role of VNPA.


2004: [From the September 2004 Newsletter]: Forty-two Members assembled at University House on 28 June for the Club’s 110th AGM and Dinner. Despite having only recently undergone an operation, Retiring President, John Lovering was able to preside over the event and later hand over the Wallaby [Anzac] Stick to Incoming President, Ian Polmear. The evening’s guest speaker was Professor Roger Short FRS, who spoke on his campaign to minimise the impact of the A.I.D.S. epidemic, especially in the third world. He has found that both semen and the virus are very rapidly destroyed by lemon juice, an age-old contraceptive in certain cultures. Shortly after the Dinner, he flew to Thailand for a mega-conference on A.I.D.S.

2005: Dr Tony Lee was the Guest Speaker. He talked about Searching for Pandas in Western China.

2006: Forty-nine attended, including four guests and the Guest Speaker, Dr Paul Farren, whose address The Discovery of the Safety Cycle was much more than that, as he came armed with a small sample of his mammoth collection of early bicycles. He displayed a number of “Penny-farthings”, as well as other ingenious devices on two wheels. Paul also had a box of extremely odd objects, the function of which
members were supposed to work out – not very brilliantly, as it turned out, although it was fun and interesting. [It has been planned to visit his museum during the President’s Walk later in the year].

2007: Among the fifty-two present were three guests and the guest speaker, Dr John quilman AO, FTSE. His talk Global Warming: Why does the Debate Rage on? was excellent and informative. He discussed the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which produced, in summary form, periodic syntheses of published science on climate change. The latest of these estimated that there was less than a one in three chance that the observed global warming over the past century was entirely natural in origin. Needless to say, the talk was followed by a lively question time!

2008: David Plant records that: the Guest Speaker, Dr Philip Moors was Director & CEO Royal Botanic Gardens. Philip’s talk was entitled “Not a drop to waste: water at the Royal Botanic Gardens” – an extremely relevant topic given the drought conditions plaguing us all at the moment. Visitors to the Gardens have been surprised to see the lawns so green and the garden beds looking so healthy, and this possibly prompted the most asked question of the Garden Guides: ‘Why?’ Phil reminded us just how much the rainfall has dropped in recent years. The average inflow into the four main reservoirs supplying Melbourne was 615 GL/year from 1913 to 1996, 387 GL/year from 1997 to 2006 with no improvement up to the present. He then talked about current and likely future changes to the climate in Melbourne.

2009: After Milton Warn’s Grace and preliminary presidential announcements, the guests were introduced by their respective hosts and then “toasted” with a speech in verse by Chris Simpson:

**Toast to Our Guests**

Mr. President Jeff
Mr. Secretary too –
Yes – Wallaby Fellows
And goodness knows who...

Let us truly amaze
And avoid recent trends,
As, deserving of praise
Are our visiting friends!

If glasses have run dry,
Then now’s a good time
To fill one and sundry
And list to my rhyme.

Dear Guests, we are certainly
Glad you are here,
And more so for avidly
Bending the ear,

There’s been a report,
Which in essence suggests
We should keep things quite short
For a toast to the guests.

And bending the elbow
In Wallaby style,
With witty rejoinder
And interested smile.

But what of tradition?
In th’ Wallaby way
It’s a vital condition
To have a good say!

We are bless’d by your presence –
(Refer to the “Card”) –
And its not just an essence
That comes from the bard.

And here too’s a tension –
Good manners would deem:
Quite a moderate mention
Be made of esteem.

A traditional toast
To whate’er, in the past,
With keen whimsy foremost
Would adorn our repast.

Shaggy dogs and tales tall –
That’s how it would go;
When a Wallaby starts
Just try stopping the flow!!...

Yet, my list has run dry,
As the task’s almost done;
And the time has span by –
Yes, but wasn’t it fun?!

As each Wallaby’s cup
Should be ready to flow,
Would you kindly rise up
And approval bestow:

Here’s to our vis’lors!
(Let’s catch them by stealth)
To our Guests!! (not inquisitors)
Your wealth and your health!!..

...Our Guests...!!

Ian Russell gave the toast to The Club and, following the main course, incoming president Brian Snape received the Anzac Stick from outgoing president Jeff Wunderlich, with traditional ceremony. (It must be noted that the ceremony seems to be shrinking over the years!). The Guest Speaker, Professor John Wiseman regaled those present with an excellent exposition entitled Maps and Pathways to a Safe Climate.

2010: A change of venue has been unprecedented since 1969 with only one exception: the Centenary Annual Dinner in 1994 at The Melbourne Club. Furthermore, between 1945 and 1962, there was only one exception from Union House at Melbourne University. Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club was the venue this time! From the July 2010 Newsletter: The new venue proved a great success and many of the forty-eight Wallabies who attended spoke highly of the menu and the service. The acoustics were excellent and our Guest Speaker was clearly heard by all. Ample car parking was a
further plus.
Following tradition, outgoing President Brian Snape passed the Anzac Stick to incoming President Murray Gillin. The excellent Guest Speaker was Dr John Edgar. John’s PhD in Organic Chemistry was from the University of Adelaide, and he had been a long-term employee of CSIRO: as a Chief Research Scientist, leader of their Plant-associated Toxicant Program in Victoria, and from retirement, an Honorary Fellow at CSIRO Food and Nutritional Sciences in Sydney and an expert of the WHO/FAO Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives, Contaminants and Natural Toxicants. The title of his talk was “One man’s meat is another man’s poison”.
As an example of a lifetime’s work on food safety, John focused on pyrrolizidine alkaloids (PAs), widespread natural toxicants in plants such as Paterson’s Curse (Salvation Jane) and Common Heliotrope (Potato Weed). He began with a summary of the role of plant poisons in nature: how plants have evolved to produce them to deter herbivores, how insects that develop immunity to them then have a rich, uncontested food source, how insects in turn then protect themselves with the same poisons... Domesticated animals eating PA plants can pass on the poisons in meat, milk and eggs. Cereals, honey, bee pollen and foods derived from them can also be dangerous...
It was a fascinating and informative talk on a topic few of us are familiar with; the highlight of an excellent evening.

2011: The Annual Dinner was held again at Kooyong LTC. Milton Warn recited his own, Wallaby-adopted Grace; John Lovering spoke and gave the Toast to the Club; the Anzac Stick was passed ceremoniously from Murray Gillin to Richard Kirsner and John Jenkin introduced the speaker (hardly a guest) Club Historian and Archivist Gavan McCarthy. Gavan’s address was Walking in the Information Jungle: Finding Wallabies in the Scrub, for which he was thanked by past-Historian Rod Home.

2012: Forty-seven Wallabies and guests gathered in the “Davis Cup Room” at the Kooyong Tennis Club for good cheer and the election of office bearers for the coming Wallaby year.
It was great to see John Lovering and John De Ravin as well as past Wallaby, Hamish Russell who was the guest of Chris Simpson. The Hon. Secretary mentioned special greetings from Jim Morrison who was unable to attend and Richard Southby from Washington D.C.
In-coming President John Jenkin thanked out-going President Richard Kirsner for guiding the Club through another active and prosperous year in which the Club membership reached the maximum number of members (seventy-five).
Our Guest Speaker, Hamish Lyon, gave a most interesting and informative address entitled “Why do buildings look like they do?” With the growing popularity of Google Earth, Hamish explained why the view from above is so important for many public buildings. He quoted the Myer building in Bourke Street with its distinctive roof pattern as an example.

2013: [From the July 2013 Newsletter]
Fifty-two Wallabies and guests gathered in the “Davis Cup Room” at the Kooyong Tennis Club for the 119th Annual Dinner and the election of office bearers for the coming Wallaby year.

After the AGM, Immediate Past President John Jenkin presented to the Club a new Wallaby Stick which will in years to come, be adorned with gold bands upon which President’s names will be recorded. John obtained the new stick whilst on a trip, with a group of Wallabies, to Turkey and Gallipoli, the source of the original Wallaby Stick. John also presented to the Club a beautiful book, superbly illustrated, and entitled “Endemic Plants of Turkey”. The book was given to John by the local guide for the group, who located the new stick.

The stick in its original form required some work as illustrated in the photograph on page 25. After some initial problems John managed to locate a craftsman who fashioned the stick into its graceful final shape.

A toast to the Club was given by David Churchill, and the original Anzac stick ceremoniously passed from John to David Plant, the incoming president.

The Guest Speaker was Emeritus Professor Richard Broome, retired professor of history at La Trobe University. His subject was “Aboriginal Activism: the creation of the Aboriginal Advancement League, Victoria”. Richard had been preparing a book on the history of the League, and in his talk he outlined the long background story leading up to the founding of the League. He focused on several Aboriginal elders who, from the early 19th century, tried valiantly to come to terms with the new white world while maintaining their Aboriginal heritage and customs. Eventually the baton passed to Sir Douglas Nicholls, outstanding Aboriginal footballer and community leader, who led his people to found the League. Richard concluded with a brief outline of the League’s subsequent successful efforts to carry out its mission of advancement and social welfare for Aboriginal people.

Asked in question time about the reported nasty battles between Aboriginals and white settlers, Richard agreed that some had taken place, but emphasized that he wanted to focus on the other side of the story, when Aboriginal people sought to come to terms with the new settlers in a peaceful and cooperative way. With some delightfully chosen and penetrating words, Ben Chodziesner thanked the speaker, who was presented with a copy of the Club history and a bottle of the best.

2014: [Partly from the July 2014 Newsletter]
Fifty two Wallabies and guests gathered in the “Davis Cup Room” at the Kooyong Tennis Club for the 120th Annual Dinner preceded by the AGM and election of office bearers for the coming Wallaby year. The excellent attendance, especially of our more senior members, such as Geoff Serpell, John Swan, David Pryor and John Lovering was good to see. This was due to the efforts of those who provide lifts for some of these members, who would not otherwise have been able to attend. A notable absentee was Milton Warn who was not well.

Milton’s Wallaby Grace was read by President David Plant, who then welcomed the Guests and personally introduced his son Simon Plant. The Toast to the Club was proposed by Richard Kirsner at the conclusion of his excellent speech that highlighted some interesting elements of Wallaby history. Then came a surprise.

David Plant recalls: I had great pleasure in conferring Honorary Life Membership on Chris Simpson. Chris joined the Club in 1986 and was elected President in 1993. He has edited the Dinner Card since 2005 and was very much involved in the production of the “Centenary History of the Wallaby Club”. Chris was also the editor of the “Diary of a Turkish Tour” in 2013.

David then handed the Anzac stick over to Incoming President Len Edwards, with some ceremony (only a vestige of what traditionally occurred in earlier times!).

There followed another surprise: A Review of the year’s Walks Programme was given by Walks Secretary Stephan Brown …in verse! [Included above in the “Views of Some Walks Secretaries” section, p.69]

The Guest Speaker was Professor Graeme Davison. Graeme is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences and the Academy of the Humanities at the ANU.

The subject of his address was: The Past and Future of the Australian Suburb.

“Living in the suburbs is an Australian trait”, he said, and elaborated considerably, following up with the question: “Should we continue to expand or could the suburban sprawl be reversed?” He suggested that
one of the largest problems is the lack of infrastructure in the outer and newer suburbs. Providing transport and schools puts huge strains on State budgets.

Graeme was thanked by Rod Home and presented with a Club History and bottle of the best by President Len. We must have liked his talk, as Graeme was invited to become a Wallaby shortly afterwards.

2015: [Extract from the first July 2015 Newsletter]

The Wallaby Club’s 121st AGM and Annual Dinner were held on Monday 29 June 2015 at the Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club attended by forty members and guests. The AGM itself was dealt with in the usual speedy fashion and the members happily moved on to Dinner. After the retiring President read the late Milton Warn’s grace, an entree of beetroot confit ocean trout was served, during which a welcome number of guests and new members were introduced by their hosts.

Mick Dexter proposed the toast to the Club in his inimitable fashion, not omitting to regret the loss of the old Wallaby Club Rules in the face of the government’s new, imposed and greatly extended Rules! Len Edwards then rose to read from the Anzac Stick the names of recent Presidents, and handed it to the new President, Brian Harper, who promised to keep the Club walking and talking in the smiling way that is so characteristic of him.

Walks Secretary, Stephan Brown, then entertained us with a poem portraying his introduction into the Club, set to music and accompanied by the audience singing the chorus. [see “When I was a Lad” in “Wallabiana”, p.134].

A delicious main course of Angus beef fillet, baby spinach and potato fondant followed.

After the usual break John Jenkin introduced our guest speaker, Professor Andrew Peele, the Director of the Australian Synchrotron, noting his Ballarat origins, his legal and scientific background, his rapid rise to a major position in Australian science, and his courageous plea for adequate government funding. Andrew entertained and enthralled members with his delightful tour of the synchrotron, its function, and its many and varied achievements. A desert of chocolate pudding and vanilla ice-cream, with tea and coffee, concluded a successful and most enjoyable evening.
Ladies' Dinners

Oct. Ladies' Dinner – Speaker {Attendance} (UoM = University of Melbourne)

1993 University House, UoM – Ms Beverley Dunn
1994 University House, UoM – Dr Agnes Bankier
1995 Student Union Buffet, UoM – Sister Jane Kelly
1996 University House, UoM – Vera Vines
1997 Victoria Barracks – Air Vice-Marshall E M “Mac” Weller
1998 Australian Club – Ian Dickson (songs)
1999 Melbourne Club – Dr Janet McCalman {86}
2000 Victorian Club – Mr Mike Cusack
2001 Lyceum Club – Prof Suzanne Cory {79}
2002 Ormond College – Mr Alan Attwood
2003 Boulevard Restaurant – Prof Pat Vickers-Rich
2004 Lyceum Club – Ms Anne Sarr {67}
2005 Lyceum Club – Mrs Dianne Weidner {79}
2006 Lyceum Club – Fiona Adler
2007 Lyceum Club – Prof Nancy Millis {58}
2008 Lyceum Club – Janet Davey {58}
2009 Lyceum Club – Prof Diane Kirkby {58}
2010 Lyceum Club – Prof Bronwyn Kingwell {41}
2011 Lyceum Club – Dr Sara Maroske {58}
2012 Lyceum Club – Mrs Maria Myers {77}
2013 Lyceum Club – Prof Melissa Southey {63}
2014 Lyceum Club – Dr Heather Sebo {68}
2015 Kooyong L.T.C. – Dr Anthea Hyslop

In the late 1990s, after becoming “tired” of the Ladies’ Dinner being held in the function room of the Union building at the University of Melbourne, successive Club presidents took to holding the Ladies’ Dinner at a variety of venues including Victoria Barracks, The Australian Club, The Melbourne Club, The Victoria Club, Ormond College and the Boulevard Restaurant in Kew. It seemed to have established a new tradition of variety for the Wallaby Ladies. But an apt opportunity arose to frequent the Lyceum Club, which has since been booked in 2001 and regularly between 2004 and 2014, per courtesy of Liz Dexter, Margaret Polmear or Angela Kirsner, all being Lyceum Club members.

A Spouse-pouch View

I think that I shall never see
Ungentlemanly Wallaby,
They bounce ahead to open doors,
And courtesy of “not mine – yours”
Is moral code though oft unspoken
Of every Wallaby-ing bloke.

At dinner they’re a special treat,
Proudly escorting to your seat.
With trembling fingers end of pin,
They’ll even plunge your corsage in.

They’ll ease your chair – they’ll find your bread.
They’ll fill your glass before it’s said,
The choice is yours – valour not dead.
(Unless of course they’re short of red!)

When clambering down a mountain track
There’s always one who lingers back.
At risk of death he’ll leap aside
To usher down some trembling bride!

Fragile ladies – that we’re not!
We’ve shared their lives – we’ve lived a lot.
But don’t you think our luck is in
To have a Wallaby as kin!  

[1997 Annual Dinner Card]

The Ladies’ Dinner is the only event in the year for which formal attire is preferred. The Ladies still dress up and most men look fine if not a little awkward in their dinner suits. As it always has been a popular opportunity for the Ladies to look their best, for several successive years from 1989, orchid corsages were made for the occasion for each of the Ladies by Veda and Alex Dempster, who grew the orchids in their garden. In 1998, Ralph Neale provided flowers "as was the custom" (see 1998: below) and in 2001, it was Mick Dexter’s turn (he says more under 2001: below) and he claims that this the last time the custom was followed.

[From the April 2004 Newsletter] Corsages at Ladies’ Dinner
At its March Meeting, the Committee discussed the matter of corsages for ladies at the Ladies’ Dinner. This practice arose some years ago and has become a "tradition". However, unless the President can grow his own blooms, the cost is quite considerable. Perhaps a more compelling reason to consider not continuing with the practice is that many lady guests do not like spoiling their tops and simply do not wear them. In favour of the corsage is the expression of respect and affection for our lady partners and friends. On balance, the Committee decided to end the practice and have advised the incoming Presidential candidate to that effect.
This belated tradition was sweet (and appreciated) in its time.

Specific Occasions
1993: The Dinner was held at Union House, University of Melbourne. Milton Warn said Grace, and with customary prelimudes, Bill Balding gave the Loyal Toast to the Queen and Peter Campbell the Toast to the Ladies. Chris Simpson, as president, introduced the guest speaker Beverley Dunn. She had a distinguished career both in broadcasting and drama on air and in the theatre. She had a profound interest in Australian writers, culminating with the creation of a one-woman presentation of the life of Dame Mary Gilmore called To Botany Bay on a Bondi Tram which was played here and overseas. She talked about this and her active participation with dramatic literature in Victorian schools. Beverley came from stout stock, worthy of Wallaby interest, in that her great great-grandfather John Dunn, a pioneer immigrant, landed in 1840 by barge in a feet-wetting exercise off Glenelg, South Australia, to begin a pioneering existence near Mt Barker. Frequently John Dunn walked the entire distance of 20 miles to Adelaide in one day, carrying produce on his back to sell, and returned the next, bearing supplies. John went on to prosper and establish several flour mills in South Australia.

1994: A report is given in the Centenary Section [above, p.19].

1995: Unusually, the dinner was held in the Grand Buffet Hall in the Student Union of the University of Melbourne. The Guest Speaker was Sister Jane Kelly, Principal of St. Mary’s College, who related her experiences as Head of a residential college within the University precinct.

1996: Returning to the North Dining Room of University House, University of Melbourne, the dinner was embellished by Vera Vines, wife of President Bob Vines. She spoke of her doctoral research on illuminated manuscripts in Australia and New Zealand.

1997: Hamish Russell recalls – A highlight in my Presidential year was the opportunity to hold Ladies Dinner in the historic Victoria Barracks, built in 1860. The links to our celebrated member John Monash were almost certainly the reason that we were granted the rare privilege of dining in the Officers’ Mess. In Mick Dexter’s words: by far the best Ladies’ Dinner was the one at Victoria Barracks that Hamish organised...Damask table linen, silver service, top of the range glassware, highly trained waiters dressed in white coats – and the food was excellent. 'Them wot had em' wore medals with John Bignell even showing off his father’s DSO as well as his own jangles. The response to the guest speaker was given by Bob Sanderson, and who better? Squadron Leader, DFC, magnificent Mustang reconnaissance pilot, who flew alone over Germany taking photos. And they even showed us the "War Room" where the WWII decisions were taken. Many enjoyed an optional conducted tour of the Barracks before Dinner.
Ralph Neale was official photographer and produced an eight page folder recording the event and he also proposed the Loyal Toast. He felt it was a memorable evening: The officers' mess with its mahogany beams and rafters and historic memorabilia made an unusual setting for the dinner. My friend, Bob Sanderson...had arranged the booking. Former servicemen wore their medals, and the Ladies were in their finery.
Ralph also reports that a photograph of the very handsome Lieutenant-General James Gordon Legge looked down upon the diners. He was a Wallaby from 1908 to 1923 and progenitor of the Wallaby Anzac stick. The address was given by Air Vice Marshal Elliot Macleod “Mac” Weller who, according to Ralph, began by referring to our former President John Monash in not very complimentary terms, (Wallabies are too polite to boo!), but he did acknowledge his contribution in France. “Mac” Weller talked about past campaigns and, as a student of military history, pointed out some glaring misjudgements made in World War II and that today’s leaders are more professional and make more dispassionate decisions. All present were shocked to hear that the Australian armed forces currently numbered so few, but as Mac said, they do have some very powerful weapons at their disposal. After Dinner, our president Hamish Russell thanked the catering staff for their splendid service, and everyone seemed to agree that it had been a very enjoyable Ladies’ Dinner.

1998: Ralph Neale writes: A member, Professor Ian Dickson, approached me earlier in the year and proposed a musical Ladies’ Dinner. He had been singing with the Victorian Opera Company for ten years until it was disbanded about a year earlier. His wife Lisa was also a fine singer. He was a member of the Australian Club, and suggested we book the Ellis Rowan room at the Club. It was certainly a lovely room with Rowan’s Australian flora paintings on all walls, not just pictures – whole walls. But as it turned out, it was already booked. We had to accept the President’s Room, but that was a wonderful space with crystal chandeliers... The committee decided to subsidise the cost of the event from the balance remaining from the Centennial Fund ... I enjoyed that night. It began in the mezzanine level where drinks were served. As was the custom at the time, I provided flowers for the Ladies to wear... There was the usual roar of Wallaby laughter and animated conversation. A retiring sort of Wallaby, I felt a little out of my depth. I had to induct three new Life Members: John Bignell, Ray Garrod and Ralph Segnit. But – where were they? And how could I be heard above the din? Eventually they arrived and it all went well. John Swan prepared and read the citation for John Bignell, Ian Edwards for Ralph Segnit and Harold Attwood for Ray Garrod. Ralph Segnit, who was not at all well, was very happy with the recognition of his service to the Club with Life Membership. He showed me some cufflinks he was wearing that had been given to him by Sir Douglas Mawson, the great polar explorer.

Ian Dickson had arranged for a pianist friend to provide the accompaniment. The choice of music was apt: well known opera arias, and songs from musical shows of the past. One clear memory is the song “I Remember it Well” from “Gigi”, in which Ian imitated Maurice Chevalier and Lisa took the part played by Hermione Gingold. I said my presidential piece, which I think was about a musical smoke night in the early days of the Wallaby Club, held at the German Club. It must have been about 100 years earlier. No women, and blue smoke from cigars and pipes filling the air, and probably German marching (or walking) songs! I had done my research. [See also “Music” under “Changing Aspects” under the “Dinners” heading above, p.86].

A few days before the Ladies’ Dinner there had been a fatal explosion in Gippsland at the Esso Plant, and Melbourne was without gas supplies. But as I remember it there was nothing wrong with our dinner in 1998.

The Wallaby Club is steeped in tradition
And its members are not without erudition,
But it seems as if our reigning president
Had created a musical precedent.

Amid fear of freezing from want of gas
The Ladies’ Dinner proceeded. Alas,
No speaker was hooked in usual fashion!
Instead Ian Dickson sang of love, with passion.

“Surely this musical treat is a first,”
Said Wallaby guests as they slaked their thirst
And heartily showed their appreciation
At what seemed to be an innovation.

“Not so” said a learned club historian,
A “Smoke Night” was held in days Victorian.
Two and one hundred years in the past
There was singing during a Wallaby repast.

Now let us reflect on the changes there’ve been.
Today not a member a’smoking is seen
And we can all bring a lady partner along.
We’ve got it all – Wine Women and Song!

[Ralph Neale’s cartoon is from the 1999 Annual Dinner Card, as is the poem alongside.]
1999: Eighty-six people attended the Melbourne Club, venue for Ladies' Dinner this year. The establishment had requested that name tags not be worn when entering the Club. Formal dress was expected which, being the norm for our Ladies’ Dinners, presented no problems. The speaker for the evening was Dr Janet McCalman, whose most recent book *Sex and Suffering* had been listed for a literary prize. Her talk was entitled *Medical History, Womens’ History – Unhappy Bedfellows*. Staff at the Melbourne Club attended to our needs very well and commented what a pleasure it was to deal with members and guests of the Wallaby Club.

2000: Gordon Rushman chose Victorian Club, a restaurant situated on an upper floor of the Rialto towers, with a marvellous range of nocturnal views through the floor-to-ceiling windows. The joint speakers were Mr. Mike Csukas and his wife, who had responded to an advertisement by Dick Smith the electronics entrepreneur seeking a couple to spend a year in total isolation in a very remote spot inland from the Kimberley coast of W.A. The couple were estranged at the time and were looking for a way to get their marriage going again. They applied and were selected for Dick Smith’s experiment, which involved all sorts of harrowing hazards, after which they were reconciled; a fascinating account. The meal, as Gordon recalls, was something of a disappointment; it was “not bad” rather than memorable.

2001: In Mick Dexter’s year as president, Ladies Dinner was held at the Lyceum Club for the first time, with Liz Dexter as official hostess. All the ladies were given an orchid shoulder spray using orchids from the Dexters’ garden, continuing the practice started by Veda Dempster, but this was the last time it occurred. The speaker was Prof. Suzanne Cory, Director of the “Wally and Liz” (Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research). Mick made certain that her wonderful talk *The Long Fight Against Cancer* was before dinner. At dinner, by invitation of Hon. Secretary Ian Polmear, Chris and Jacci Simpson together sang grace. Seventy-nine in all attended.

2002: A new venue for the Ladies’ Dinner was Ormond College Dining Hall, quaint in its traditional style, but a bit draughty around the Ladies’ legs. The speaker was Alan Attwood, well known journalist with The Age newspaper and son of Life Member Harold Attwood, whose excellent address was *A New Look at History: A Novel in Progress*.

2003: Next in the quest for a good venue for the Ladies’ Dinner was The Boulevard Restaurant in Walmer Street, Kew, directly opposite Villa Alba and just off Studley Park Road. An added attraction for the evening was a pre-dinner tour of the historic Villa Alba, conducted by noted expert on Victorian period interiors, Suzie Forge, especially for the occasion. It was a rare opportunity to admire the restoration work carried out by a group of dedicated heritage lovers. Across the road at the restaurant, canapes and pre-dinner drinks were served before settling down to tables for an exotic roast-style main course (two choices) followed by a fancy crème caramel and coffee or tea. Hon. Secretary Jeff Wunderlich had prepared a rather nice dinner card for the occasion. It notes that President John Lovering welcomed everyone and read the apologies, then Grace was said by Milton Warn; Margaret Polmear responded to the toast to the Ladies and other guests, given by Murray Gillin; and that after main course, Brian Snape thanked the guest speaker, Professor Pat Vickers-Rich, Director of the Monash Science Centre, who had fascinated all present with her talk *Dinosaurs on Ice*.

2004: [From the November 2004 Newsletter]
*It was good to return to the gracious surrounds of the Lyceum Club. We were last there in 2001, Mick and Liz Dexter’s year. We numbered sixty-seven including our Guest Speaker, Ms Anne Sarr and her partner [future Wallaby] Jim Warren. Before dinner, Anne Sarr talked to us about her many years of work as a nurse, supporting the US Peace Corps volunteers in remote areas of Africa, the Philippines and the Solomon Islands. She showed on a world map where the Peace Corps have been or are active, including the whole of South America, all of Africa (except Algeria and Namibia) and most of the former USSR. Volunteers were not just fresh-faced young Americans, but also a range of indigenous people, all of varying ages. Life for the volunteers could be dangerous and lonely, but was always interesting and rewarding as they saw their missions come to fruition. There were happy times, but constant funerals brought home the terrible ravages caused by HIV/AIDS. Then followed dinner, artistically presented and served with distinction – a gourmet treat. Finally, coffee was served in the lounge area and little groups gathered for relaxed chats until it was time to go home to bed.*
2005: [From the October 2005 Newsletter]
This year, again, the dinner was held at The Lyceum Club. Wallabies and partners, having come to appreciate the surroundings of the Club and the caring hospitality of its staff, took the opportunity again this year in near-record numbers—seventy-nine in all.

Our pre-dinner Guest Speaker on the night was Mrs Dianne Weidner, also a member and Chair of the National Trust (Victoria). In her talk “Custodian Battles”, Dianne’s main message was that property owners are much more than that—they are the custodians of the land and what is on it for future generations. Owning a property is a privilege and a responsibility. All around us we can see where owners have scarred their neighbourhood or gone out of their way to preserve and improve it.

At dinner, President Murray Littlejohn called on Chris Simpson to offer the toast to the “Ladies and Other Guests”. And this is what we heard:

Revered President, Beloved Ladies,
Honoured Guests and Fellow Wallaby(e)s:

Before the toast, I put to you a little introspection
Regarding old and valued ways—of delicate complexion;
Although it might raise awkward issues to avoid (or perish)—
I ask you when you last felt put upon by one you cherish…

Perhaps upon retirement there’s a case that one may find—
Getting under spouse’s feet at home soon springs to mind!
Its true both men and ladies like to gather with their kind
To indulge in special businesses and dialogues without bind.

The Wallaby Club has cherished this for 111 years
And Wallaby Wives endorsed it—they have wisdom ‘tween their ears!
Our host, the Lyceum Club, supports Ladies of all persuasions,
Yet both these clubs enjoy their guests and spouses on occasions.

And this is one! Ladies and guests, we welcome you here tonight,
Please understand—we need you and salute you with delight.

Wallabies! Rise and grasp a glass to drink this gracious toast:
“To our Ladies and to our Guests”, whom we choose to value most!

2006: [Edited from the October 2006 Newsletter]
For the third successive year, the Ladies’ Dinner was held at the Lyceum Club. It has been unquestionably a very comfortable venue—central location, easy parking, up-market technology for speakers and great spaces for arrival drinks, pre-dinner talk, dining and relaxing with coffee afterwards. The highlight of the evening was of course, Fiona Adler’s talk on her ascent, with her husband Paul, of Mt. Everest (8848m).

Not surprisingly, they were veteran mountaineers, having had experiences in the Himalayas, Africa, Kazakhstan and Argentina behind them before attempting this daring venture. Fiona was only the third woman to reach the summit of Mt. Everest.

David Kaleski deputised for Hon Secretary Jeff Wunderlich who had apologised and reported that he and his wife Beth were in Switzerland, and had ascended Mt. Pilatus … by funicular railway!

2007: Jim Chapman reported in the November 2007 Newsletter:
The 2007 Ladies’ Dinner was held at the Lyceum Club on 1 October. Our guest speaker was Professor Nancy Millis, who spoke on the subject of water…a most timely issue: “Water—Can we just go on using it just once?”
She covered a wide range of aspects, including the background of water usage in Australia and the relative proportions of use by agriculture, industry and residences. While she stressed the importance of increasing the proportion of water that is recycled, she at the same time identified some problems with its satisfactory implementation. Nancy was an excellent speaker who enriched an excellent occasion.
She was duly thanked by Ian Polmear.

2008: [From the October 2008 Newsletter]
Another highly successful Ladies’ Dinner was held at The Lyceum Club. Again, as last year, fifty-eight members, wives, partners and widows of late members attended.

Drinks in the foyer were followed by a talk on Forensic Egyptology by researcher Janet Davey. She described her work
at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine using non-invasive imaging equipment that ensures that the 2000-3000 year old mummified bodies remain undisturbed in their wrapping. The information obtained enables researchers to determine the age, the likely cause of death, evidence of disease and many other facts about the body.

After the lecture, we processed to the main dining room for an excellent meal followed by coffee and tea in the Club Room. David Churchill offered the toast to the ladies and guests with a well thought out address and Patsy Littlejohn responded on their behalf in equal measure. The Wallaby Stick was, as usual, navigated from table to table. All up, a very convivial evening.

2009: Loris Gillin writes [edited from the November 2009 Newsletter]:
The Ladies’ Dinner was a great success. The setting was the Lyceum Club looking under the boughs of the giant plane tree in the Melbourne Club courtyard. Fifty-eight members and guests attended the gathering for a most successful evening. The Guests were welcomed by Chris Simpson, with a poem of welcome and a toast.

Prior to dinner, upstairs in the Nina Bagot room, Professor Diane Kirkby introduced her talk “Barmaid, Turtles and Ships: A Life in History” by drawing attention to the social structure of the Middle Ages being built on war and the feat of warriors; whereupon she likened herself to a History Warrior. This led her to question the place of change in society: ‘Why do some things change and others stay the same?’ She spoke of Joan of Arc and what she was prepared to die for. She spoke also of Alice Henry and Miles Franklin and referred to the suffragettes and the temperance movement, which won women the right to vote and to combat the influence of alcohol on families and society. Diane argued that masculinity is conferred by other men and that as recently as 1966, the place of career women at sea was unthinkable. Yet in 1972 the first female cadet officer was appointed. By the 1980s, expectations of equality becoming desirable were in evidence at sea. Diane’s talk kept us alert and thinking about the place of change. At least her “barmaid were not head-over-turtle with seamen”, nor “did the seamen of her research become drunk on turtle soup!”

2010: [From the October 2010 Newsletter; edited]
The annual Ladies’ Dinner was once again a great success. Held as usual at the Lyceum Club, forty-one members and guests attended, with the notable absence of our President, Murray Gillin, who was in hospital recovering from an operation. As a consequence Vice-president, Richard Kirsner chaired the evening.

The pre-dinner Guest Speaker was Professor Bronwyn Kingwell, Executive Director, Science Policy at the Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute. The title of her talk was “Protection from Pathophysiological Problems by Perambulatory Past-times” or “Why Walking Works”.

Professor Kingwell spoke about how our modern lifestyle is conducive to our being less active than in the past. Labour saving devices, television, greater consumption of food and alcohol all contribute to an overall increase in weight and the alarming number of people now deemed obese. We were shown diagrams of how arteries become clogged and the resultant consequences of heart and diabetes problems...

We were shown just how beneficial exercise is to our overall health with special emphasis on walking as we get older. The overall message was for us all to keep mentally and physically active.

At the subsequent dinner, the Toast to the Guests was proposed by John Jenkin and Loris Gillin replied on their behalf.

2011: [From the second October 2011 Newsletter]
The Lyceum Club was again the venue for this annual event with fifty-eight Wallabies and Friends in attendance. Our Guest Speaker was, Dr Sara Maroske. The title of her address was: “A Taste for Botanical Science. Baron Ferdinand von Mueller’s Women Collectors”.

In an age when women, especially those in remote areas, had little opportunity for mental stimulation, botany was one of the few occupations deemed suitable. Von Mueller recognised that, given the opportunity, such women were particularly apt at identifying, collecting and processing botanical specimens.

Sara spoke particularly about six such women, one from each state of Australia, and the legacy they left to Australian botany. Von Mueller would have never never had the number of botanical specimens to classify if it were not for the efforts of the many women, whilst occupying their minds, were doing something useful and constructive.

2012: [From the October 2012 Newsletter; edited]
A wonderful attendance of seventy-seven Wallabies and Friends attended this annual event at the Lyceum Club. It was great to see so many of our colleagues at this special Wallaby event.
The Guest Speaker, Maria Myers AO, who is Chair of the Kimberley Foundation Australia, presented a scintillating address: “The Rock Art of the Kimberley”.

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This sparsely populated part of Australia contains spectacular scenery and in the sandstone country, Aboriginal rock art. This art form is worldwide and in Australia unique in style. It was first recorded in 1838 by the explorer George Grey. A particular form of the art was found by Joseph Bradshaw in 1891 and is now known as “Bradshaw Figures”. The age of the paintings is unknown but the diversity of style suggests a period of centuries. Maria’s knowledge and indeed love of the Kimberley and Aboriginal rock art was certainly demonstrated by her excellent talk and was appreciated by us all. Thank you Maria. Jan Harper gave the vote of thanks. The meal and the service was up to the usual very high standard. Milton said Grace, Mick Dexter toasted the ‘Ladies and other Guests’ and Constance Jenkin responded.

2013: [From the October 2013 Newsletter; edited]
The Lyceum Club was again the venue for the Ladies’ Dinner with sixty-three members and guests attending. Our Guest Speaker was Professor Melissa Southey and her talk was entitled: “New genetic technology and new insights into breast cancer predisposition”. Melissa leads a large research team based in the Department of Pathology at The University of Melbourne with a primary interest in cancer predisposition. Using breast cancer as an example, her presentation outlined the current spectrum of genetic factors associated with disease susceptibility, some recent breakthroughs in identifying some of the challenges and advances this new genetic data provides for personalized breast cancer risk estimation and prevention. Melissa was thanked by Anne Sandie. John and Hatice Basarin were guests of John Jenkin. The Basarins guided the Wallaby Club expedition to Turkey and Gallipoli and it was through John Basarin’s expertise that the new Wallaby Stick was obtained. Prior to this Dinner, they had previously only seen the stick in its original state, so John Jenkin was able to proudly display to them and assembled Wallabies the somewhat straightened and beautifully polished stick with its new golden band. Len Edwards presented to the Club’s “billy tea supremo”, Jim Minifie, a large framed photo of Jim standing behind a roaring fire boiling the billy.
The Toast to the Ladies was proposed by Rod Home and Jan Harper replied on behalf of the Ladies.

2014: [From the second October 2014 Newsletter; edited]
Sixty-eight Wallabies, Friends and Guests gathered for the Annual Ladies’ Dinner at the Lyceum Club [for the twelfth time and, in retrospect, the last time for a while at Lyceum – who have always been very good to us]. The pre-dinner speaker was introduced by Brian Harper: Dr Heather Sebo, a scholar of the Classics, who looked back to ancient Athenian society in her address: “The Violence of Words: Aristophanes and Athenian Comedy”. Dr Sebo outlined the nature of the Athenian democracy around 400 BCE and that society’s views on defamation in comparison with our own. In contrast to our system, Athenian society provided an opportunity for a period of “misrule”, allowing the defamation rules to be broken in the plays produced for the Athenian drama festivals. Heather illustrated the extent of the licence to criticise given by Athenian society to the playwrights, with examples of the outrageous and slanderous language used by the comic dramatist Aristophanes against the politician Cleon. Heather was thanked by Andrew Serpell.
The Toast to the Ladies was proposed by the whimsical Wallaby, Chris Simpson in his usual delightful poetic style. Not to be outdone, Jacc Simpson replied beautifully on behalf of the Ladies.

**Toast To The Ladies** (Ladies' Dinner, Tuesday 14 Oct 2014)

President Len, Lords and our Ladies, Honoured Guests, and good-natured rabble, Please charge your phones, turn off your glasses, attend good and proper and cease any babble...

Were it not for our Ladies, we would not be here...
Oh yes, Ladies’ Dinners occur every year,
But, isn’t it taking as read, members dear,
That our Ladies still wish to dress-up and ...come here?
Bless’d are we that they do, looking great in their finery,
Escorted or no to the auspicious dinery
Within art-filled halls of this Lyceum treasure –
A haven for Ladies, bespoke for our pleasure.

......

Another good reason exists, ’twould appear...
(Were it not for our Ladies, we would not be here)...

Back in the seventies membership dwindled –
The committee had tried, but the spark never kindled
Until Geoffrey Stevens in his sovereign year
Saw that our Ladies should “feel rather freer
To come to much more than one stroll and a tea.” (Er...)

This Dinner augmented the (then) austere year
For our Ladies. And whilst Alex Dempster was here,
With home-cultured orchids (and fern, I suppose)
Made corsages for all – Len, what’s happened to those?...
I think that the last time corsages were given
Was when Mick and Liz Dexter had earnestly striven
In their leadership year to perpetuate
That elegance by Alex and Veda of late.

......

“Open Days” were invented and what do you think?
Membership grew almost quick as a wink.
Such family days drew a new bumper crowd, who
Brought picnic rugs, hampers and some children too.
No children or dogs have been seen for a while,
But I’m sure they’d be welcomed with widening smile.

Most walks are “Open” now; membership’s high;
Many Ladies attend or they jolly well try
And we’re grateful, ...but mindful that what we expect
Might exceed a good friendship in a certain respect.
Our dear Ladies’ loyalty is easy to take,
But there’s many a Lady who’d relish a break
Every now and then; ...hence with regard to activity
A well-crafted balance should preserve objectivity.

......

So,
When it’s all said and done, it is patently clear, (all together now...)  
**Were it not for our Ladies, we would not be here!**
Splendid!...
Tonight's pomp and glitter is wondrous to witness
Our numbers attest to the evening's fitness
To keep the ball rolling - we thank all our dears -
Men! ...stand up and toast them with wine and with cheers:

To all of our guests, we salute you - it's clear -
To Our Ladies, God bless you, we're grateful you're here! ...Our Ladies and honoured guests!...

2015: A new venue, Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club, follows more than a decade of occasions held at the Lyceum Club! A toast to The Ladies (and guests) was given by Bruce Sandie, who included in his speech: Earlier Ladies' days walks have been described as "an annual stroll followed by an afternoon tea", obviously less strenuous than the hikes favoured at that time by the men, some exceeding fifteen miles. It appears that the strolls of early Ladies' Days changed with the times, resulting in the following lines that appear in both the 1931 and 1994 Annual Dinner Cards:

'This', said the Wallaby, 'is a creek. It is running strong.
The log is slippery and the stones are treacherous. Can you ....'
'Certainly', she replied, 'Take you this hand and fear not.'

The guest speaker was Dr Anthea Hyslop, whose address Pandemic Perspectives: Spanish Influenza in Australia, 1918-1919 was both informative and fascinating, being little to do with Spain, but a lot about returned servicemen and how little was achieved politically or scientifically to prevent the epidemic.

Christmas Dinners

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Christmas Dinner - Speaker</th>
<th>(attendance)</th>
<th>(UoM = University of Melbourne; L.T.C. = Lawn Tennis Club)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>University House, UoM - Dr Davis McCaughhey</td>
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<td>1994</td>
<td>University House, UoM - Milton Warn</td>
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<td>1995</td>
<td>University House, UoM - Prof Derek Tribe</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>University House, UoM - Ian Johnson</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>University House, UoM - Dr Ian Gunn</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>University House, UoM - Prof Don Garden</td>
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<td>1999</td>
<td>University House, UoM - (President) Hari Sinha</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>University House, UoM - (Acting Hon. Secretary) Ian Polmear</td>
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<td>University House, UoM - Prof Stephen Cordner</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>University House, UoM - Prof Ian Plimer</td>
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<td>University House, UoM - Dr Max Lay</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>University House, UoM - Brian Harper</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>University House, UoM - (President) Ian Edwards</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>University House, UoM - Graham Mitchell</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>University House, UoM - John Jenkin</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>University House, UoM - Gavan McCarthy</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Kooyong L.T.C. - Brian Snape</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Kooyong L.T.C. - John Jenkin</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>Kooyong L.T.C. - Ian Edwards (and troupe)</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Kooyong L.T.C. - John Jenkin and Chris Simpson</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Kooyong L.T.C. - David Harper</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Kooyong L.T.C. - Roger Holloway</td>
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During WWII, venues for dinners were hard to find. So for one Christmas Dinner, Charles Sutherland, a member from 1931 to 1963 and uncle to Jim Minifie, offered his home for the occasion. The wives, acting as caterers, cooked and served the meal to members.
Specific Occasions

1993: Union House within the University of Melbourne was again the venue for this year’s Christmas Dinner. The Guest Speaker was Dr J Davis McCaughey and there were seven other guests. President Chris Simpson called the milling multitude from their pre-prandial drinks and convivial roar to table and some form of order. Chris Berry said Grace. After Entrée had been cleared away, Jim Minifie gave the Loyal Toast to the Queen and HON. Secretary Hamish Russell read the apologies and announcements. Gordon Rushman welcomed the Guests and called upon each host in turn to introduce and say something about their guest: Ray Garrod for Donald Anderson, Bill Balding for Alan Day, Alan Gordon for his son Dr Andrew Gordon, Jim Morrison for his son Richard Morrison, Geoff Stevens for John Parker and REV. Mervyn Himbury, and Harold Attwood for Mike Williams (who later became a Wallaby). Once this impressive parade was complete, Gordon gave the Toast to the Guests. After Main Course, REV. Mervyn Himbury responded to the toast on behalf of all guests. Dessert, a recess, coffee and mints preceded the introduction of the Guest Speaker by Milton Wann and the magnificent oration given by Davis McCaughey: “Searching for Your Predecessors”, which referred to the tribulations and revelations of researching the public and private lives of 19th Century Governors of Victoria to achieve the publication of his book “Victoria’s Colonial Governors”. President Chris gave a heart-felt vote of thanks to Dr McCaughey, and then closed proceedings with thanks to all helpers and a reference the proximity of the Wallaby Centennial year and the coming Christmas, adding:

Ah! ...Wallabies, forsooth, the lengthening year
Stirs reflections, yet some rippled, yet some clear -
Of walks and talks, and macropodian cheer
That spurs us to the next, that is so near.

Unique, this timely genesis appears,
For now reflections span a hundred years.
In macropod a micropod gestates
And for the second century awaits.

New beginnings surge from what is old:
The oldest Child of all, from what I’m told,
Will soon be here; and festive dinners mime
The joy of care and love at Christmas time.

1995: Professor Derek Tribe DAgSc PhD, international specialist on animal production, spoke about his concept of “tribalism” (no pun intended) in understanding recent history.
Included in a prior Newsletter’s notice for the dinner had been: We are assured that the rooms in University house have been air-conditioned so we are confident that the 1994 “sauna” will not be repeated! Yes, it was better.

1996: Ian Johnson spoke of his work in the area of furniture design and fine woodworking.

1997: In the Lower East Dining Room at University House, as usual, the speaker for the evening was Dr Ian Gunn, veterinary scientist, whose topic was The Frozen Zoo, a nickname for the Animal Gene Storage and Resource Centre of Australia (AGS RCA), which he helped establish in 1995 as a joint venture between Monash University and the ecological Parks Board of New South Wales. Maintained by volunteers, it was the world’s first animal gene bank, which seeks to ensure the survival of endangered animal species.

1998: Professor Don Garden, who had recently published a book about former Wallaby Theodore Fink, spoke about Theodore Fink – Not a Good Wallaby.

1999: President Hari Sinha spoke about his working career (in CSIRO) and the changes he had seen in that time.

2000: Ian Polmear’s talk was entitled Baubles, Bells, Ballistics and a Bridge: A Potted History of Metal Casting.

2001: John Emmerson spoke about The Chalet, a spot where he and his fellows went for their holidays in Europe.
2002: Guest Speaker was Professor Stephen Cordner, who held the Chair of Forensic Pathology at Monash University and was Director of the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine. His talk was entitled *International Forensic Medicine*.

2003: Professor of Geology at the University of Melbourne, Professor Ian Plimer was the guest speaker upon the topic *A Short History of the Planet Earth*.

2004: President Ian Polmear invited Dr Max Lay to be the after-dinner guest speaker. Max, a former President of RACV, was the author of a recent book *Melbourne Miles* on the history of roads and walking tracks in Melbourne, which was also the subject of his talk. 51 members and 8 other guests listened in rapt attention to his witty and informative discourse. Murray Gillin in thanking the speaker, summarised how the group had been both educated and entertained.

Max became a Wallaby in 2010.

2005: From the January 2006 Newsletter: The 2005 Christmas Dinner was enjoyed by a near-record fifty-nine participants, including six guests. President Murray Littlejohn also welcomed Richard Southby to his first Wallaby event in sixteen years. Richard has been, and still is, at George Washington University, Washington DC. The after-dinner speaker was our own Brian Harper, who regaled us with [“The Genesis of the Victorian Railway System”, involving] the intricacies of rail gauges and the arrogance of the engineers of the mid-1800s, who all thought that their gauge was the best. Posternity inevitably paid the price of rationalising the rail system.

2006: Forty-five attended, including three guests, and found that seating had been revised from the accustomed U-shaped arrangements of long tables to an array of smaller circular tables. President Ian Edwards gave an after-dinner talk entitled *Thoughts from below Sea Level*, in which he spoke of his experiences as an archaeologist/mineralogist in Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Uzbekistan. With the help of Brian Kent, Ian made a regular headress change in accordance with the location he was talking about. It finished with the modelling by Peter Campbell and an unsuspecting University House waitress of a pair of brilliant Uzbek ceremonial gowns.

2007: Graham Mitchell, who spoke on *Innovation – getting beyond the jargon* was aptly thanked by Murray Gillin, who is also well versed in the topic.

2008: Forty-two members and guests attended the 2008 Christmas Dinner at University House. President Jeff Wunderlich welcomed Wallabies and guests.

John Jenkin was the speaker, his topic: *William and Laurence Bragg: an exceptional, human story in science*. These were two internationally acclaimed but little-known physicists with Australian connections, Sir William Henry Bragg and his son Sir William Lawrence Bragg. They shared the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1915, but their remarkable joint honours list no more than hints at their huge contributions to knowledge. It was a truly memorable talk. [See January 2009 Newsletter for more, or better, John Jenkin’s book!]

2009: John Jenkin writes in the December 2009 Newsletter:
The Wallaby Club Christmas Dinner for 2009 was held at our usual location, University House at the University of Melbourne. President Brian Snape welcomed members and one guest (Roger Parish), and after pre-dinner drinks, apologies, and Milton Warn’s wonderful Wallaby grace, we sat down to an enjoyable meal of smoked salmon, char-grilled chicken breast, hedgehog ice cream and pleasant wines.

Gavan McCarthy was the Guest Speaker, continuing an occasional practice when one of our own members addresses us. Introduced by Rod Home, an early mentor, Gavan’s theme was “Connecting up our Cultural Heritage”, which explained how best to gather information, store and archive it, interlink it, make it readily available, and finally preserve it into the future.

*We have all done these various things;- consulted card catalogues and library holdings, searched through archival records, written copious notes on paper, and then finally wondered what to do with a life-time’s accumulation.*

*By using a variety of examples, Gavan showed us just how dramatically these things have changed!*

*Beginning with the “Australian Science Archives Project” – to save from the fire or the rubbish-tip the papers of notable Australian scientists – Gavan has developed a process that is revolutionising the field of information science.*

*Extended into “Bright Sparcs” – the web-based historic register of people, archives and published material relating to Australian science, technology and medicine – Gavan’s scheme was further refined for the “Australian Women’s Archive Project”, which has gathered together a huge amount of information related to the history of women’s issues in Australia. His team also worked with the ANU to provide free and on-line for everyone, the many intriguing*
volumes of the "Australian Dictionary of Biography". 
Respective Governors-General have launched these last two projects!
Gavan’s most recent undertaking, "Pathways" — to gather and preserve the disparate records of Victoria’s out-of-home care for orphans and abandoned children — has brought him face-to-face with trauma and tragedy and the need
to treat the archival process with even greater understanding and compassion.
Brief excursions to the National Library’s Australian Newspapers web site and to the Wallaby Club archives concluded a fascinating address. Some penetrating questions followed, until the arrival of dessert finally allowed the
speaker some respite!
The evening concluded with another sparkling poem from Chris Simpson and the President’s Christmas wishes for
everyone. A big ‘thank you’ is due to Secretary Richard Kirsner, who oversaw another very pleasant evening.

2010: As for the Annual Dinner this year, the venue switched from a very long sequence at Union House at
University of Melbourne to the Kooyong LTC. As recorded in the December 2010 Newsletter:
The Club’s Christmas Dinner was held at The Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club. Daylight Saving allowed Wallabies to
enjoy scenic views across the many courts in the early part of the evening. Among the guests was our Washington
based Wallaby, Richard Southby, who was in Australia on a brief visit. Richard altered his departure time back to
Washington by twenty-four hours in order to attend the dinner.

Poet Laureate Chris Simpson delivered a Christmas message in verse ("the Bus"), and the guest speaker was our
Immediate Past President, Brian Snape. His talk was entitled "Changing perspectives on conservation over the past
fifty years". A most thought provoking address. [The full text may be found in the “Some Notable Speeches” section
below on p.146, and also in the December 2010 Newsletter.]

The Bus

Dear Wallabies at Christmas table,  “It’s all our fault” one group is crying,
With your permission and if able The other says it’s not worth trying
I’ll put to you an observation To patch things up – just grin and bear –
About a global consternation: Fend for yourself, if not to care...
A potent and perplexing riddle And so on; one almighty fuss
That’s splitting humans down the middle. Encircles us this Christ-e-mass.

To make a start we might be focused But whether rights or whether wrongs,
On rains and floods and swarming locusts, The erstwhile Christmas offers songs
That follow years of drought and toil. Of hope that we can work together
New record harvests quell and spoil. In pestilence and any weather.
Chaotic weather round the world We Wallabies can catch the bus –
Has frozen Europe; storms unfurled... Perceive anew – this Christ-e-mass*.

*Old English pronunciation

2011: [From the December 2011 Newsletter; edited]
The Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club was again the venue for Christmas Dinner. Forty-two Wallabies and two guests
attended the dinner, which turned out to be memorable in many respects.
The two guests had each attended a walk and their hosts proposed and had seconds for them to be elected to
membership of the Club. The Committee met before the dinner and unanimously agreed to the
nominations; so when the respective hosts introduced their guests, President Richard Kirsner
had much pleasure in announcing that Terry Heazlewood and Steve Jenkins were elected
members of the Wallaby Club.
Further welcome surprises followed when
President Richard announced that the Committee
had agreed that Doug Hutchison and Jim Minifie
be made Hon. Life Members [HLMs] of the
Wallaby Club. Great applause! Following the
confering of HLM on Roy Simpson in 1989,
President Alex Dempster tapped Roy on the left shoulder with the Wallaby Stick. Richard did likewise to both Douglas and Jim. They were presented with a framed citation.

The Speaker was Vice President John Jenkin. The title of his address was “Bridges, Legge and the Wallaby Stick”. All Wallabies are familiar with the story of the Wallaby Stick and its origin and John vividly told the story of Gallipoli; the incompetence and stupidity at the highest level, the confusion and the waste of human life balanced with the bravery, ingenuity and good leadership in the field of battle.

John then proposed that, during his forthcoming Presidency, a Club visit could be made to the Gallipoli Peninsula. During the visit John envisaged the obtaining another piece of Buckthorn similar to the present Wallaby Stick to be used, when at some time in the future, there is no room for any more gold bands on the present stick.

2012: [From the December 2012 Newsletter]
The Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club was once again the venue for our annual Christmas celebration. Fifty-two Wallabies and three guests attended. It is a tradition that the speaker for our Christmas dinner be a Club member and over the years we have been entertained, informed and delighted by our colleagues with a wide range of presentations.

This year, after an excellent dinner, Ian Edwards presented a Magic Lantern Show. Ian was ably assisted by Margery Edwards, who played appropriate music from the period on a harmonica, Chris Simpson provided sound effects and Ian’s guest Tony Catrice operated the mammoth brass projector. Using glass slides, the images were from the period of the late 19th century to about 1920, and included images of visiting royalty, the United States “White Fleet” invasion of Melbourne, the Boer war and the First World War and Gallipoli.

In the past, this projector provided news weeks and months after the event, contrasting with today, where one can take a much smaller projector from one’s pocket and watch live, an event occurring on the other side of the world. What wonders will our grandchildren witness in the future?

Thank you Ian, Margery, Chris and Tony for a most delightful and entertaining presentation.

2013: [From the December 2013 Newsletter]
The Wallaby Club Christmas dinner was again held at the Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club with Forty-one members attending. A special welcome was extended to member David Harper, who as Chief Judge of the Court of Appeal of the Supreme Court of Victoria, has been unable to attend Club functions for some time.

When Murray Gillin arrived with the Wallaby Sticks members were delighted to see that they were both contained in a timber box, which Murray has donated to the Club. Beautifully constructed and fashioned from 100 year-old cedar, it is the perfect repository for the Club’s most important artefacts.

Our speaker was John Jenkin who, assisted by Chris Simpson, recounted from the diaries the daily events from those who took part in the Turkish expedition: “We spoke softly, we carried a big stick, and we went far: Turkey 2013”. It was a fascinating talk accompanied by excellent photos of this most interesting country. Of special interest was the day spent at Gallipoli. The party arrived by boat just before dawn, as did the Australian troops in 1915. It was poignant time for some in the group as they had relatives who were at Gallipoli so long ago. John and Chris were thanked by Max Kennedy on the Club’s behalf.

[See also “Turkish Tour” under “Extra-Curricular Activities” chapter below, on p.138].
The evening ended on a light note when Stephan Brown recited his latest poem; “The Rests Return (and Other Matters)”. The poem is printed in the “Wallabiana” section below.
2014: [From the December 2014 Newsletter]
The Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club was again the venue for our Christmas dinner. Forty Wallabies attended. Max Lay and Kerry McManus were congratulated on receiving awards, the details of which are detailed in the December Newsletter. Chris Simpson reported on the progress of the Club History Project. Chris urged those Wallabies who had not as yet contributed to do so as soon as possible.

Max Lay reported on his Future of the Club project and thanked members who had made constructive suggestions. He also urged our younger members to consider friends and colleagues who might be future members of the Club. Our speaker was David Harper, who was a Court of Appeals justice at the Supreme Court of Victoria, who is very qualified to speak upon his subject: “Bedfellows for democracy or the best of enemies? The media and the courts”.

The courts need the media and vice versa. The public need to be informed about cases before the courts, both civil and criminal. The media, especially the tabloids, naturally give publicity to the more prominent cases but do not always print the whole story thus presenting an unbalanced report. This can and does lead to controversy when it is felt by the media and the public that the sentence is either too harsh or too lenient.

David said that in many cases the thought of going to prison doesn’t deter habitual criminals and attempts at rehabilitation are rarely successful.

He expressed strong views regarding the high rate of incarceration of aborigines compared with the rest of the community adding, that given the very high prison population in Victoria and the enormous cost involved, the authorities should give more emphasis to education rather than incarceration.

The vote of thanks was given by Ben Chodziesner.

2015: At Kooyong LTC again; the speaker was Roger Holloway and his topic: Wind Farms – Blight or Blessing?
DISCUSSION GROUPS

In the October 2007 Newsletter was the following notice: *Our immediate past President, Ian Edwards, had a wish to institute an informal occasional Discussion Group to inform members generally on topics of interest and to provide fellowship, especially for those members who are no longer able to participate in the walks program. Bearing in mind the depth of knowledge that resides in our club, it is intended to ask one (or more) of our members to lead the discussion where this is appropriate.*

The first discussion, held on Tuesday **30 October 2007** from 2.30-4.30pm at the home of Brian and Diana Snape, was entitled: *The future of Irrigated Agriculture in Australia* and led by John Lovering. By way of contrast, Ian Edwards also briefly presented the current situation in the Central Asia Aral Sea region, where irrigation has been practised since the Late Bronze Age.

The second, on Wednesday **9 April 2008**, was again at the Snape’s home. People had been reminded to bring “brown-bag” lunches. The theme was *Future Energy Supplies*, ably kicked off by Ian Polmear, who started with *The Nuclear Option*. Fifteen attended.

More discussions followed, at the Snapes’ home (Wednesdays):

**23 July 2008**: *Something in the Air* (Air quality over Melbourne), led by Professor Ian Rae.

**22 April 2009**: *Groundwater in Victoria* presented by Mr Robin Friday, a civil engineer.

In June 2009, Hon. Secretary Richard Kirner sent out a questionnaire in the Newsletter. It stated that the Discussion Group was instigated so that members who find it difficult to walk might continue to participate in Wallaby Club activities, and that whilst the Group provided very interesting and varied speakers, there was a distinct lack of the “target” Wallabies attending the talks. A number of pertinent questions were put, seeking answers and comments.

The discussion venue then changed to the Phyllis Hore Room at Kew Library (Wednesdays 10am-12noon) and if the weather was clement, paper bag lunches were enjoyed in the adjoining Alexandra Gardens:

**10 Mar 2010**: *Melbourne’s Infrastructure – Development Long Overdue*, led by Dr. Max Lay:

Twenty-two Wallabies and wives attended this meeting and there were five apologies.

Murray Gillin introduced Max who is a civil engineer with expertise in road and bridge infrastructure especially in relation to public transport and arterial roads. [Max later became a Wallaby.]

Max felt that although Melbourne’s traffic signal system is first class the rail service suffers from poor maintenance, very little long term planning, inferior customer service and no vision for the future.

On the matter of Melbourne’s water supply Max felt that the Government took too much notice of interest groups with their conflicting agendas.

After some general remarks concerning infrastructure in Melbourne Max opened the meeting for discussion. This produced many excellent comments and questions.

In conclusion Max presented some images of motoring in the past by way of cartoons and humorous photos. President Brian thanked Max for his first rate presentation. [Extracted from the March 2010 Newsletter]

**9 Jun 2010**: The geology of the Melbourne region: our place in a plate-tectonic world, led by Dr Andrew Gleadow, School of Earth Sciences, University of Melbourne. John Jenkin reported: *… On a cold and wet Melbourne day, thirty Wallabies and their partners followed Andy from the time of the earth’s formation all the way to the present day; from the whole globe and its moving continents to Melbourne and its suburbs; and from colliding and separating plates, with volcanoes, mountain ranges, fracturing continents and intruding seas, to garden clay too hard to dig and sand next door. It was an amazing sweep in time and place, but done in a way that left us feeling that we had kept up with this extraordinary yet understandable journey…* [see also July 2010 Newsletter]

**8 September 2010**: Where there’s smoke, there should not be fire: using technology for fire prevention through early warning – again from 10am-12noon at the Kew Library – led by Dr Martin Cole, a successful electronics inventor and entrepreneur. The talk and discussion was about the role of technology in early warning systems for fire and in particular, solutions for the “Bushfire Royal Commission”.

In the October 2010 Newsletter, John Jenkin reports:

A goodly group of Wallabies turned up on a chilly day to hear Dr Cole.

He began by emphasising that there was often a time of smouldering smoke before the eruption of flames in the rapid
acceleration phase of a fire, and that this provided a window for early detection, offering the chance to extinguish the problem before major personal and property damage. The trick was to detect, at an early stage, the very small amounts of tiny smoke particles in the air. Martin described a brilliant system that, developed over a number of years and initially inspired by CSIRO research, continuously sucks air from rooms and subjects it to immediate analysis...

Question time revealed uses of the technology in a wide variety of situations, and it was also suggested that such a delightful example should appear more often in educational contexts. Convervial discussion continued over bag lunches of soup, sandwiches, cakes and coffee.

9 March 2011: Living Therapies and the Promise of Stem Cells, led by Professor Bruce Holloway, held at Kew Library again. It was reported in the April 2011 Newsletter:

Not all human diseases can be treated by pharmaceutical means and the use of living tissues is seen as the most likely alternative for the future. It is hoped that stem cells, which are natural cells involved in the differentiation from embryonic cells into the more than 200 types of cells found in adults, can be manipulated in the laboratory so as to provide cures for many diseases including Alzheimer's and spinal cord damage. It is also hoped that whole organs can be regenerated from embryonic stem cells to replace organ donation. It was a most stimulating discussion.

29 June 2011: Intuition, Intentionality and Holistic Decision Making, led by Murray Gillin, held again at Kew. From the July 2011 Newsletter:

Murray, using a Power Point presentation described how we make certain decisions. That complex organism, our brain and autonomic nervous system, has to make countless decisions each day and we are rarely aware that this is happening. Murray explained how this is so...

Murray cited summarised results of a research project, undertaken in association with colleagues at Cambridge University, to investigate the decision making process of a number of very successful British entrepreneurs.

14 September 2011: [From the October 2011 Newsletter; edited]. Venue: Kew Library.

Our planned speaker was indisposed with a nasty attack of influenza, and so his talk had to be postponed. By chance, just two days before, John Swan very kindly agreed to step into the breach. His talk “Four f’s: food, famine, fecundity and phosphorus” concerned the problems faced by our planet because of the central importance of phosphorus (and its derivative phosphates) to the survival of all forms of life and the explosion in the world’s population. As Ian Edwards noted over lunch, it is a feature of the Wallaby Club that it has learned and erudite members who regularly enchant us with their insights.

14 March 2012: In the Kew Library, twenty-five Wallabies and friends listened to a most interesting talk by Dr Vecchi (John) Basarin: Turkey, Gallipoli and the Western Front. John was born in Istanbul and hosts tours of Turkey, especially Gallipoli. He began with a brief history of the Ottoman Empire up to the time of the First World War. Winston Churchill saw the need for Britain to change from coal-burning warships to oil, and to prevent Germany from gaining prominence in the Arabian Peninsula, Turkey had to be conquered. An attempt by sea was a disaster, so a landing on the Gallipoli Peninsula was made. The rest is history.

John then briefly talked about the Western Front. Possible tour itineraries were presented and interest sought from attendees who might take part in a Wallaby tour to Turkey, partly to seek another buckthorn stick.

13 June 2012: Dr Robert Young led the discussion on “Medically Assisted Death”, at the Kew Library. He first raised the issue of whether human life is intrinsically valuable. Next, he took up the suggestion that legalisation of voluntary medically assisted dying would lead down a slippery slope to the practice of non-voluntary euthanasia. Finally he raised the issue of withdrawal of life-sustaining medical treatment, including artificial nutrition and hydration. Discussion was animated and productive, and it was considered by all a very special morning.

Conclusion of Discussion Sessions:

It was found that the target lesser-abled group of Wallabies were not in fact making use of these mid-week daytime sessions, indeed those attending were the same core group who attended most things. So this experimental activity faded away naturally and quietly.
MEMBERS IN RETROSPECT – a few comments

Gordon Aitchison

Mick Dexter observed: He was more interested in members as he found them rather than in their background and achievements.

Harold Attwood

The July 2005 Newsletter to Members contained: Harold Attwood died on 8 June 2005, at the age of almost 77. He became a Wallaby in 1965 and was made a Life Member in 1994. He was President in 1978, the Club’s Historian from 1989 to 1997 and was a prominent member of the committee that worked on the 1994 centenary history project. Many members will remember Harold for his wit and fluency with the English language. It was significant that among the small number of memorabilia items placed on Harold’s coffin was his Life Membership badge.

Chris Simpson recalls: Harold stood tall and thin and his whole frame rocked when he laughed. His deep and guttural Scottish brogue was understandable and warm, delivered always in a slow deliberate way, which was utterly bewitching. His command of the language and subtle wit were chief delights during his speeches, which were always interesting. His care and attention on the individual level were most supportive, particularly when he and his Centenary Committee were grooming me towards presidency in the first half of the centenary year and all the extras it would entail. He was not afraid of hard work and was a superlative role model.

Harold’s son Alan included in his eulogy to his father: My father was a member of the Wallaby Club, a walking club for gentlemen that celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1994. I was honoured to be in attendance when he was awarded Life Membership of the Wallaby Club, an award he particularly cherished. However, I recall that he protested loudly when the award was announced. Apparently the club historian had not been asked to review the award. This oversight was obviously intentional as my father was the club historian at the time, and no doubt his modesty would have led him to veto the award.

My father thought that Australian University graduations were very dull affairs. Apparently for graduating at St. Andrew’s the academic procession was accompanied by the students all singing songs such as “The animals came in two by two”. At graduations my father wore his MD hat from St. Andrews and his MD gown from Melbourne. However, at the last graduation ceremony at the University of Melbourne prior to my father’s retirement he wore a biretta, a hat often worn by priests and at least one member of staff complained that he was making fun of the church. In fact he had borrowed the hat from a colleague who had a MD from the University of Malta.

Mick Dexter

Mick confessed that the 1997 Ladies’ dinner was the second time he had been to Victoria Barracks: When I was 12 or 13, Dad conned me into applying to become a naval cadet so I could be brain washed into becoming a naval officer in the permanent navy – just as his father had sent him to sea at 14. I got to the final stage, which was an interview in a room full of gold braid. Short pants, knees knocking, I then made the greatest wrong answer in my life and was saved.

Forever the story-teller, Mick told of an interesting trip to Ballarat in 2001 during his presidency to attend Os Grayson’s funeral, at which he was to deliver a eulogy:

In the front was Harold Attwood, who was rather ill and was wearing a gorgeous cashmere overcoat. He didn’t have much to say. Alan Gordon sat in the back seat with David Watson and was pretty quiet. So David and I had a good old talk fest. We had a picnic lunch at Lake Wendouree, a visit to the Men’s and so to the Crematorium. Suddenly realised that Harold wasn’t wearing his coat. So back to the toilets, but of course, the overcoat had developed legs. Felt awful that I hadn’t noticed he wasn’t wearing it.

Also, this was the last time I saw Max Atkin, who was at the funeral and who died shortly afterwards.

Ray Garrod

Mick Dexter recalls: Ray hadn’t been seen at the Club for some time. I called on him and he gave me very good information verbally and then in writing. After this, he seemed to get interested in the Club again and realised that someone loved him. We became great friends and I even made a walking staff for him when he started to feel the pace.
Alan Gordon

The October 2005 Newsletter noted that: *It was with great sadness that Wallabies learnt of the death of Alan Gordon. He had been a member since 1961 and, in 1976, was made a Life Member. Many will recall how walks became that much more interesting when Alan would point out the types of trees along the way or explain the role of some fungus on the ground or on a tree. In latter years, we would marvel as Alan would come back from yet another hip replacement, and keep up with the best of the walkers.*

Os (Oswald) Grayson

Mick Dexter reported that Os joined the Club in 1958 and was a Member for 43 years, one of our longest serving Members. He was our President in 1977 and became a Life Member in 1992. His fascinating earlier connections with the Club are well documented in Volume 3, pages 89-91. Os’s father-in-law was Sir Ernest Wreford, Chief Manager and Director of the National Bank – and a Member of the Wallaby Club of which he was President in 1928.

The Club meant a lot to Os and, until his last year or two, attended most of the walks and functions. He would drive down from Kyneton in his big and greatly loved Mercedes, walk all afternoon and then happily drive back to Kyneton, often in the dark. In his last years at Kyneton, he would hitch a lift with a fellow Wallaby who lived at Maldon. We only saw him once after his move to Hall’s Gap – that was at our Annual Dinner on his 93rd birthday in June 2001. He came down on his own by train.

Members enjoyed Os Grayson’s enquiring mind. He was intensely interested in all that was going on and was great company on walks. In Mick’s words: *I developed a great affection and respect for Os. To me, he was the Club’s conscience and he would certainly vent his displeasure if something upset him. For example: when I was doing that work for the Centenary Sub Committee, I went to see Os at his farm near Kyneton to see what he could tell me about past Wallabies and to show him progress I was making to date. He saw a small number of entries that he didn’t like. ‘You can’t leave those in, Mick’, he said; so I removed them and now can’t remember who they were.*

Once, Os was heard to grumble that SIDS was not a suitable subject for a Ladies’ Dinner. Yet Os was loved and respected by all in the Club and he made a huge contribution over the years to the Club’s success.

Louis Henry

*Some aspects of his medical career*  [by Geoff Serpell, from his *Wallabies of Yore Volume One*, (2007)]

The founder of the Wallaby Club was a physician, LOUIS HENRY (1894-1924) and his career as a Wallaby is well documented in the History of the Club. The following is an account of some details of his medical career which is not devoid of interest.

LOUIS HENRY (1854-1924) appears to have been of German Jewish origin, graduating M.D. (Würzburg) in 1876 and spent some time on the staff of Queen Augusta Hospital, Berlin. In 1878 he qualified Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians (London) and migrated to Australia where he was registered by the Medical Board of Victoria (whose name now, to be in the fashion of name change, has been altered to the Medical Practitioners’ Board of Victorian) on 4th April, 1879. He commenced practice and had two separate periods of association as Honorary Physician to the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne. Appointed Outpatient Physician (OP) in 1879 and Inpatient Physician (IP) in 1881, he resigned in 1882. A second period began in 1902 as OP Physician and IP Physician in 1908, followed by his resignation in 1910. In 1888 he took the M.D. (Melb.)

He was a well-known advocate of nurse training and shortly after his first Alfred Hospital appointment
OP, indirect evidence suggests that curricula details were drafted by Dr Louis Henry! (when nurses were more adequately trained at Hospital clinical schools).

HENRY’S career and activities in medico-political affairs of the Colony were not devoid of colour (has anything changed to this day?). At the time of his arrival the only professional body was the Medical Society of Victoria (MSV), of which J E NEILD (a Wallaby 1894) was an all powerful member and President on several occasions. At a meeting of the MSV on 7th May 1879, two names were put forward for membership but the cultured Jewish doctor, Louis Henry was not approved. (Of interest to me was the fact that Henry’s seconder was Andrew Gray, co-founder of the (Royal) Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital). At a later committee meeting on 30th May, the reason for the black-ball of Henry was that a member of his family had suffered a social disgrace through the recent imprisonment of a relative, David Henry, for embracery! Neild was sympathetic to Henry, who was probably not too fussed as he had brought with him from London an authority to establish a branch of the British Medical Association in Melbourne and on 14th September 1879, Neild (who had a finger in many pies) and Henry did just that! The B.M.A. (Vic) and the M.S.V. later united in 1907 and much later, in 1962, the Australian Medical Association was formed from the numerous state professional bodies. A member of the founding council of the B.M.A. (Vic), Henry stood down from office in 1894.

To illustrate his humanity, Louis Henry was a dissenter in a case of a leading gynaecologist being expelled from the B.M.A. because of connection with a company producing a birth control device consisting of a spermicidal powder and syringe. This affair resulted in numerous resignations including three women doctors and two prestigious members, both Wallabies. (G A Syme and J Springthorpe): they must have rejoined later. Apparently quite successful in medical practice, Louis Henry was described as a well to do physician, punctilious about etiquette (a far cry from some of the antics of some younger practitioners today) formal and precise in speech, courteous and of generally dignified demeanour. He had all the attributes of a good doctor.

* embracery – an attempt to influence judges or jurors

Doug Hutchison

It was reported in the July 2005 Newsletter, that: Doug Hutchison has listed all the walks, which have been documented since 1894 (and that is not a typo!).

Steve Brown writes in 2015: I worked with Doug Hutchison at John Holland from 1980 and found him to be an erudite and thoughtful person more than willing pass on his considerable knowledge of technical and other matters to a young mechanical engineer. He first exposed me to the Wallaby club in 1985 when he invited David Kaleski, who also worked at John Holland, and me to a midweek walk around the Royal Botanic Gardens where another Wallaby David Churchill was the last resident Director. I can’t remember who I met there but I must have been impressed. David Kaleski became a Wallaby later in that year. After leaving John Holland in 1990 I maintained contact with Doug and David through the annual gatherings of ex John Holland engineers. In 2006 Doug asked me along as his guest to a Wallaby walk at Docklands and invited me to consider membership. My membership was accepted at the AGM of that year. Since that time I enjoyed Doug’s company and conversation on many walks and was deeply saddened when illness gradually prevented his attendance. As Walks Secretary I have come to appreciate his mighty effort in compiling the Wallaby Walks in Three Centuries data base and constantly refer to it for inspiration or to check that we are not returning to walk location too soon.

Jim Minifie

Hamish Russell recalled: Jim Minifie was determined to resurrect the tradition of “boiling the billy” at a time when good wine and coffee were threatening to usurp the “cuppa” as the beverage of choice. The ceremony of billy-swinging was always greeted with enthusiasm.

His ingenuity has extended from flour-milling equipment to raspberry farming and he is a master of invention. Even now, he has a fully kitted workshop at home, complete with metal lathe, which allegedly belonged to his great-uncle (William C Kernot). [See photo opposite]
Roy Simpson

Mick Dexter admitted: I was in awe of Roy, as he seemed another generation to me. Liz (Dexter) and I had some links with him. First, he and Mac Burnet were fellow Boobooks. Secondly was Roy’s relationship with my brother David, when LaTrobe University was being designed and built. Later, David took on the job of a Deputy Registrar at ANU looking after everything to do with property and again had much to do with Roy. When David died, I rang Roy, who wrote a great letter of condolence to David’s widow.

Geoff Serpell

Geoff Serpell was an Honorary Consultant Ophthalmologist, who was so interested in medical people in Melbourne’s history that he began to write about past Wallaby medicos, one page for each. Over a period of some years he had amassed quite a folder, because he had also traced and included the histories of various other early Wallabies as well. Many of these pages were posted to members one at a time as an enclosure with the old-style Notices (newsletters). He headed each one as a series called “Wallabies of Yore”. These have all been collected together into a Wallaby Club compendium: Wallabies of Yore, Volume One (2007). It is available as a pdf file. One of the short essays, about Louis Henry, is contained within this section.

Geoff was a quiet man of impeccable manner, intellect and ready wit, who took part in many activities, but in his latter years found dinners easiest to attend.

Geoff Stevens

Ralph Neale wrote: I have to thank the late Geoffrey Stevens for introducing me to the Wallaby Club [in 1985]. I had accepted his invitation to walk with the Wallabies at Mornington. I think it may have been Ladies’ Day. Geoff and Norma called for us. Feeling rather posh in the back of the Bentley, we enjoyed being driven to John Bignell’s holiday house on Beleura Hill.

Impeccably mannered, generous and supportive are adjectives used by Chris Simpson, who was graciously nominated by Geoff for membership to the Club in 1986. Chris remembers well his dynamism and meticulous ability to innovate and organise Club activities and welfare.

The July 2005 Newsletter reported: Geoff Stevens OAM died on 26 May 2005 aged 84. Geoff was a most active Wallaby, serving as Hon. Treasurer in 1977, Walks Secretary from 1978 to 1980, Hon. Secretary for four years and President in 1982. He became a Life Member in 1994. Geoff worked hard in those years to help build up the membership from a low of thirty-six to over sixty, campaigning for the then revolutionary concept of “Open” walks. The re-born Wallaby Club owes him a great debt.

John Swan

Vale: John Melvin Swan (1924 - 2015) Prof, AO, FAA, FRACI, FTSE, MRSC.

John had a spectacular career in organic chemistry first in industry at ICIA at and CSIRO and then in academia at Monash University, where he became Foundation Professor of Organic Chemistry, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the Faculty of Science and thereafter Emeritus Professor. His list of awards and external responsibilities was prodigious, but let us concentrate on his Wallaby exploits:

Wallaby Club Member 1953-2015, which equals 62 years, only 2 years less than WA Osborne’s record of 64!
President July 1984 – June 1985
Honorary Life Member 1994-2015

John Swan was loved and respected by all Wallaby Club members, who at the same time were in awe of his energy, wisdom and ability to engage enthusiastically with a person or task with apparent ease and efficacy.
It was John Swan who convened and chaired the Wallaby Club Centenary committee (1988-1993) and spearheaded many complex features of the celebrations. According to Hamish Russell, John and others carried the Club through lean times and had a quiet passion for the objects of the Club.

John could talk about practically anything (at little or no notice) and it would be both engaging and informative. His breadth of interest and knowledge was breathtaking. His keen and generous enthusiasm was infectious if not overwhelming and absolutely never dismissive. His responses were quick, clear and complete.

It is possible that our dear John was not completely infallible! Gordon Rushman recalls being told by John in 2000 that he was in for a very easy-going time as president and that he should sit back and enjoy it. Gordon did not know whether John said that with tongue in cheek, but it could hardly have been further from what transpired, as Gordon soon found himself heavily immersed in the process of Club incorporation.

John was capable of producing an impromptu lecture at any time. For example, whilst giving the vote of thanks to John Lovering for his fascinating talk “Water” (about the Murray-Darling System) at the 2001 Annual Dinner, John Swan, being John Swan, also expounded in captivating detail the properties of water!

In 2010, as speaker at the San Remo Uncup Dinner, John’s topic was *Plants, Insects, Microbes and Food*. All present – members, ladies and guests – were enthralled at his crystal clear delivery of a well reasoned explanation of how these entities interact and are suffering from human interference to the detriment of sustainable life on this planet. [Full text is in the “Some Notable Speeches” section below, on p.143; also in the April 2010 Newsletter]

He loved poetry and was an excellent poet himself. When called upon to contribute to the Annual Dinner card, he would eagerly respond not only with something of wit and quality, but also within a day or two. He willingly contributed to many a card.

In his eighties, John realised a passionate interest in lawn bowls and became heavily involved at the MCC Bowls Section. Not content with just playing the game, he set about designing, proving and manufacturing an extension arm appliance for disabled bowlers, who could no longer bend down to bowl. In 2006, he wrote an elegiac poem relating to this:

_Elegy for an Old Wallaby_  
(Now a Lawn Bowls Addict at the MCC Bowls Section)

The clubhouse tolls a bell at end of play, The winning bowlers pack their bags with glee, The losers homeward plod their weary way, Another glorious win for M.C.C.

Full many a bowl is sent down on the green As “resting toucher” by his chosen team. Opponent’s winning bowls are rarely seen, Too long, too short – their win a hopeless dream.

Our addict often, of past outings, thinks Of stick, the billy, and the friendly talk. Now see him pacing up and down the rinks, A bowling Wallaby, bereft of walk.

Think kindly, if you can, on such a fate A member to remember from the past. Farewell, farewell, redemption can but wait, This sad addiction surely cannot last!

For an octogenarian, he had enormous vitality. His interest in bowls was complemented by his revelation of cycling. In his own words (2007):

Why don’t we see him? Does he walk no more? Take his turn with billy (That custom famed of yore). First it was bowls, then cycling came to view, Those spinning wheels, the speed, The special clothing, Lycra-new.

And all the years Since last he rode a bicycle, Just vanished in a trice - if not a tricycle. Now see him riding, riding, riding, No highwayman, no ‘up to the old inn door’, But gliding, gliding, gliding, The glorious Melbourne bike paths to explore.

His commitment to the Club was invigorating and always positive. He respected the sanctity of our tradition and in 2013 wrote amusingly in the voice of the Wallaby Anzac Stick:
I hear a rumour - is it really true,
That I may soon be partnered by another?
Yes, a brother
Rhamnus oleoides,
Not yet gold-banded,
But young, and trim, and new,
Born and raised in my home soil
Straitened this time by Turkish hands,
And careful and respectful Turkish toil.

Some ninety-eight years younger than myself,
We soon will partners be;
And I will teach my sibling
All he needs to know
Of Wallaby lore and legend, walks and talks
And friendship’s wondrous ebb and flow.

Of the Club, John wrote in 2014:

‘Victoria’s Oldest Walking Club,’
Our Wallaby crew.
Historians all say it’s so,
But is it true?
It all depends on what you mean by ‘walking’.
We wallabies are good at starting, stopping,
Billy-can carrying - and avoiding the week-end shopping,
More given to talking,
Than to walking,
Or setting records for the time it took
To get from where they were, to Tallarook.

The Wallabies themselves agree
That ‘social club that meets while walking’,
Suits us to a T.

We will miss John in all our respective ways, and remember with gratitude what he has given us – with breezy ease and a glint in his eye.

Milton Warn

Mick Dexter reflected: One night on a trip with some Wallabies in the Gooler Ranges, I tackled Milton to explain a thing or two. We had a lovely time, sitting by the campfire, all on our own and talking religion as we worked our way through a cask of port. We never did finish that discussion (or the port) and for years we said to each other we should find time to continue the discussion (with the port of course). And we never did. He was the most broad-minded priest I have ever met.

From the February 2015 Newsletter: Wallabies will miss Milton Warn’s warmth and wisdom. A Wallaby since 1984 and always engaging and interested, he contributed much to the Club. He was Treasurer from 1988-1990, President in 1992, the Club’s honorary auditor for some years, and a regular attendee at walks and dinners.

In particular, we will remember him at every dinner when the Wallaby Grace, composed by Milton for our multi-faith Club is recited by the President.
Milton’s professional life was within the Baptist Church. He trained as a Baptist Minister and was Registrar of Whitley College and Bursar of St Hilda’s College at the University of Melbourne.
PRESIDENTS

Chris Simpson (93), Jim Minifie (94), Norman Tulloh (95), Bob Vines (96), Hamish Russell (97), Ralph Neale (98), Hari Sinha (99), Gordon Rushman (00), Mick Dexter (01), Peter Campbell (02), John Lovering (03), Ian Polmear (04), Murray Littlejohn (05), Ian Edwards (06), Rod Home (07), Jeff Wunderlich (08), Brian Snape (09), Murray Gillin (10), Richard Kirsner (11), John Jenkin (12), David Plant (13), Len Edwards (14), Brian Harper (15).

Some Presidential Recollections

Collected below are some specific presidential essays, in chronological order. What a president is expected to do is partially answered in all of these, but particularly in Len Edwards’ light-hearted treatise below (year 2014). Preceding all is one from Geoff Stevens, president in 1982, in the form of a welcoming letter to Richard and Angela Kirsner in August, 1998. [The letter is also in the August 2008 Newsletter]. A portion of it is extracted below.

Geoff Stevens (1982)

Dear Richard and Angela, ... I thought I might send you both a written welcome to what Norma and I consider a great club. It has a little way to go before our ladies may feel more part of it, but it has come a long way the since it was formed in the late Victorian era when that was not a consideration.

In its first history I remember reading that walking in the athletic sense was anathema to its projectors. I was lucky enough to be invited to join 25 years ago [1974]. In my view, it has majored on eating, drinking, talking and listening — in that order. Our first son in law thought I had flipped when I joined at 54 years of age. In his view it had a majority of geriatrics. His late father Edmund Gill (palentologist) was an honoured member.

In any club, age catches up with older members unwilling or unable to nominate younger fellows to help to bring the average age down to what is needed to bring in fresh ideas and keep relevant to the times. It has no service objectives. It is remarkable that it lasted so long. It is now a good deal stronger and its members younger, than two decades ago. It split when a subcommittee recommended more ladies functions. A former president said it was time to hand its records to the University of Melbourne archives and let it sink. Sheep farmer Os Grayson helped it to turn the corner after the late Tom Pressley (of the burn unit fame) and two others had tried. Harold Attwood was president when I was about to take the chair in 1981. I invited Pres Harold, John Bignell to follow me, and John Swan to follow him to lunch to consider what we could do to promote younger nominations. Some members left. It may be judgmental to say that the club did not suffer as a result of their departure.

We made a few mistakes. Club membership has grown since then from high twenties to over 60. We have a limit of 75. We scheduled more ladies functions. We made them feel welcome instead of tolerated as some older members had done. When I joined, one member described it as a club with a stack of doctors, not many of whom were any good if you broke a leg! My wife Norma was taken aback when at our first Ladies’ Day, she was seated next to an elderly lady in advanced stages of Alzheimer’s disease. One member was on crutches after having what was then called a “Charnley” hip operation. Our dermatologist member had difficulty getting anyone to ride with him in his Jaguar. His method of backing was to go until he hit something then get out and have a look.

Sociologists and theologians pontificate about preparing for retirement. It comes quicker than we think. We all need suitable pursuits to help us. We cannot fool ourselves that we can continue in top or even second gear in our chosen vocations. It is worse to sit and rock. When the man with the stick comes for us he may find us, already dead. Our club also provides a helpful forum for our ladies, many of whom have important vocations.

You are obviously very heavily into other activities. May I suggest some exposure to walking, dining, talking, and listening in the company of Wallabies may help prepare for some change in your present patterns of work and leisure? It also may provide a haven as you find that men and women in different vocations who have “been there and done that” can be very pleasant and helpful companions. It does not have many young members still in the “upwardly mobile” category. Most of them have achieved something in one or other fields of human endeavour and are not out to prove anything.

AVS and welcome to you both. HGS. Aug 22 98. [Ed: Geoff died in 2005].
Chris Simpson (1993)
Chris joined the Club in 1986, having been kindly invited by Geoff Stevens. Occasional
prior exposure to the Club had happened by virtue of his father’s and grandfather’s
involvement and the odd invitation as guest, all of which made him aware of some of
the senior members of the time.
He was asked to join the Club committee in 1989 and then the expanded Centenary
Sub-committee in 1992. In retrospect, he writes:
I cannot understand the motivations of my venerable mentors in the Centenary Sub-committee,
except perhaps to tap my relative youth at the time and assumed boundless energy (despite a young family), but it
became my task as a youngster of 51 years to lead the Club into the first half of the Centenary calendar year of 1994,
which included several Centennial events and culminated in the Centennial 1994 Annual Dinner held in all its
pompous glory at the Melbourne Club. Most of these events are covered in “The Centenary” section above, which
probably displays well enough my biases. My worst sin was total adoration of the Club’s traditions and decorum
displayed so marvellously by the senior gentlemen of the time and from which I have never quite recovered. Twenty-
two years on, this History Volume is testament to my witness of the Club’s progress, which to me has been a
delightful dichotomy of anxiety and love.

Ralph Neale (1998)
Ralph joined the Club in 1985. He was most grateful to Geoffrey Stevens for
introducing him to the Wallaby Club and driving him down to Mornington for the
walk centred around John Bignell’s house on Beleura Hill. He wrote: There among the
Wallabies I renewed acquaintance with Val Brown, who once taught me bookkeeping at
Wesley College. (I’m probably the only Wallaby who ever mastered this art! He was by then
like Mr Chips, quite frail, and of course couldn’t remember me; after all, fifty years had
passed. Val Brown, who had joined the Wallabies in 1978 and been a member for seven years,
died two years later. I remember “Mr Brown” for his good nature. The Wallabies have had many educators in their
history, notably Adamson and Tate. Of headmasters there have been many. I was impressed with the friendly nature
of everyone present at Mornington, and accepted the offer of membership. I was perhaps not a good Wallaby from then
on, because I was a busy writer and small publisher until my late seventies. I think back with pleasure on those times
that I did attend walks and of course, Uncup Weekends.

Ralph was very involved with printing and producing the Annual Dinner Card [see also “Editor of the
Annual Dinner Card” within the “Other Officers” section, p.127] and was the publisher of the centennial
history The History of the Wallaby Club 1894 – 1994 under the banner of Landscape Publications, Mont
Albert. He was official photographer at the Centennial AGM and Dinner and at the 1997 Ladies’ Dinner.
At the latter, he was to propose the Loyal Toast, but in the wake of a recent depression felt nervous; yet he
quickly recognised that Wallabies are kind, so there was no reason to feel that way!
To begin his term as president in June 1998, Ralph had invited Professor David Yencken AO as guest
speaker at the Annual Dinner at Union House in the University of Melbourne. As a prelude to proposing
the toast to The Club that night, Ray Garrod also gave a memorable speech. [See under “Some Notable
Speeches”, p.142]
Ralph’s 1998 Ladies’ Dinner followed a suggestion by Ian Dickson to be at the Australian Club, at which
Ian and his wife Lisa serenaded the assembled well-dressed gathering. The whole occasion was very fancy,
deserving a subsidy from the Centennial Fund, whilst Ralph provided the flowers for the Ladies. He also
inducted three new Life Members: John Bignell, Ray Garrod and Ralph Segnit, and later created and
provided printed versions of the citations. [More information is under “Ladies’ Dinners” and “Life Members”].
The Uncup weekend in March 1999 was at Port Fairy, which went well. Altogether, Ralph Neale’s year as
president was made easier through Gordon Rushman’s efficient work as Hon. Secretary, George Doery’s
work as Walks Secretary and Hari Sinha’s help as Vice President. It was with a sigh of relief I handed the
Wallaby Stick to Hari Sinha at the Annual Dinner in 1999. I had enjoyed my time as President, but the rules of the
Club are sound, and one year for Presidents is just right.
[Ed: Ralph died in 2013]
Gordon Rushman (2000)
He writes: After serving the club committee for several years in the 1990s and including three years as honorary secretary and a year as vice-president under President Hari Sinha, I was inducted as president of the Wallaby Club immediately following the AGM in 2000. On that evening at University House I recall being told by John Swan that I was in for a very easy-going time as president and that I should sit back and enjoy it. I don’t know whether he said that with his tongue in his cheek, but he could hardly have been further from what transpired!...

In fact, Gordon found himself heavily immersed in the process of Club incorporation [see above under “Incorporation”, p.33].

He organised Ladies’ Dinner to be at a new venue, the Victorian Club, with its incredible views from an upper floor of the Rialto towers.

Ian Edwards (2006)
Ian Edwards, President in 2006/7, apart from relics from his archaeological career, has an extraordinary collection of antique equipment, artefacts, books and more, all related to the presentation of images to large audiences: to entertain, to educate, to proselytise, to advertise and to amuse. He has Magic Lanterns of every description, with numerous methods of illumination, a large collection of antique slides, which can perform amazing tricks, and other devices that take this long story right up to the introduction of movies. Ian believes that a Magic Lantern Show should recreate the performance that captivated our grandparents; that it should be a re-enactment of what might have happened 100 years ago. And so, when asked if he would put on a Magic Lantern Show at the 2012 Christmas Dinner, Ian not only agreed but also suggested that it should include images from the period 1900-1920, highlighting the Wallaby Club’s Gallipoli theme for that year.

John Jenkin (2012)
John was born, raised and educated first in Adelaide, and then in Canberra at the ANU. After post-doctoral years overseas, he assisted with the building of the new La Trobe University in Melbourne and its physics department.

He and three others collaborated to pursue research into the electrical properties of materials, using an old technique that they thought could offer exciting new information using modern instrumentation. They were successful for more than a decade before John diverged into the history of science and the scientists involved. During this last phase of his career he was able to join Rod Home’s “apprenticeship” classes in the history of science at the University of Melbourne.

John and his wife Constance built their family home in Melbourne and watched their children grow and develop. Constance developed her career as a teacher and family-therapist. They travelled. John retired in 2000, pleased to be able to continue writing in a more relaxed environment.

John writes: In 2005, Rod Home asked me if I would like to join the Wallaby Club. I was not a clubman, content with my work, my home and my family. Surprisingly, my wife Constance thought it was a good idea: it would get me out of the house, widen my horizon, and allow some healthy exercise! Secretary Jeff Wunderlich welcomed me to the Club on behalf of President Ian Polmear, following a walk at Balmarring and my nomination by Rod and Gavan McCarthy. It has been one of the best decisions I ever made.

Two years later I was asked if I would accept nomination to the Wallaby Club Committee. I agreed reluctantly. I was a “new boy”; I knew little of the history and traditions of the Club, I didn’t know the membership well, and I knew little of the Committee’s work. But I was elected. I filled in as leader of a few walks when Walks Secretary Murray Gillin was away. Murray guided me in checking out the walks ahead of time and the importance of a toilet near the lunch spot! Whilst I led one such walk, Hari Sinha noticed I was unsure of the protocol and quietly advised me that no one should walk in front of the leader, there needed to be a tail-end Charlie and that regular stops would permit rest and time for stragglers to catch up. I helped with contributions for the new Newsletter, and I spoke at dinners first about Australia’s first Nobel Prize winners and later about “Bridges, Legge and the Wallaby Stick”.

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During his Presidential year, 2011, Murray Gillin invited me to be Vice-President, and now I really did hesitate. I could hear members saying, "Who does he think he is; he's only been a member for the blink of an eye; and what has he done for the Club? And they were right, it was unusual; and yet you only get one chance to hold this honourable yet daunting position and I did have things I could do. The Club was ageing and there was a need to recruit younger members and to take better care of our oldest members. Here I largely failed and the problems fell to my successors.

Under guidance from Jim Minifie, I was anxious to reintroduce the long-standing tradition of Billy Tea on walks. This has been done, whenever possible, to Jim’s great delight (and mine). I began a regular President’s Column in our Newsletter and, when our membership reached its maximum (75), we persuaded several long-absent members to resign in order to allow new members to join the Club. Early in 2013, a second Wallaby Club website was set up to cater for the Club’s everyday needs and provide the latest Club news (https://sites.google.com/site/wallabyclubnews/news).

But as I foreshadowed in a dinner talk, my main ambition was to return to Gallipoli and obtain a new Wallaby Anzac Stick. The Stick and its rests were the Club’s most treasured memorabilia, listing the names of all Past Presidents, a source of pride and honour, and very precious. John Swan had written a poem about it, and he now approached me as Vice-President, stressing the Stick’s history, pointing out the backs of the gold bands for ongoing names, and noting the coming completion of even this space. We need a new Stick, he suggested; I can still see the scene in my mind!

Even though initially it proved quite difficult to implement, John Jenkin mounted the expedition to Turkey and found a new stick. [Also see under “Turkey Tour” in the Extra-Curricular Events section, p.138; and under “Sticks” in the “Club Ethos” section, p.24].

John concludes: But nothing happened during my Presidential year without the dedicated work and ever-present help of the Committee and its executive, particularly David Plant as Secretary, Len Edwards as Treasurer, and Brian Harper as Walks Secretary. The Club has since rightly acknowledged each in turn with its Presidency.

A passionate fellow, John encapsulated his experience in a poem for the 2013 Annual Dinner Card:

They said it would be fun…
Hon Sec. would see things done,
Hon Treas. would keep the books,
Walks Sec. explore the nooks
And Vice-Pres. keep you straight,
…Until the next June date…

…When John hands power to David,
Len gives to Alan what's saoëd,
Stephan gets maps from Brian,
Gavan's files keep multiplyin'.
There still isn't much to sell –
Just so - all will be well.

It's not so simple, I've found,
When many tasks compound:
Meetings and dinners to chair,
Other things too, if you dare.
Speakers and menus to choose,
Uncup and Turkey – no snooze!

Some ventures have been won:
- A welter of walks in the sun.
- Plenty of smiles on the faces,
- Lots of chatter in places.
...Most rewarding and fun…
But now, but now it is done!

David Plant (2013)

David recollects: In February 2012 whilst walking with John Jenkin around Cherry Lake, I was asked if I would be his Vice President in the coming Wallaby year. The question took me quite by surprise and I hesitated as the implications of the question sank in. I was deeply moved.

He was instrumental in the rules update of 2013, receiving the new Wallaby stick from Gallipoli, conferring a new Life Member, finding three fine dinner speakers (more information in the relevant sections).

Len Edwards (2014)

A request to be vice-president always comes as a surprise, raising feelings of self-doubt on the one hand and the honour of the request on the other. But the circumstances of the request (being on a walk in my case) do not allow for lengthy thought and my response was a squeaky “yes, I would be honoured”.

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The questions to myself follow. Question after question. What are the full duties of the President? How much effort will be involved? I decided a year as Vice-President gives the opportunity to study the role closely. So, enough worry, let us move on. The following AGM gave the opportunity to see how the system works. Those at the Committee table were given a full run sheet (prepared by the Honorary Secretary) setting out every role, participant and timing (to a minute). The only omissions were what we should say, but then the Secretary would have done everything. The first AGM followed the script to the letter. The next year followed similarly, without a problem other than I had to speak (apparently for too long). Other functions during the year passed equally successfully provided the directions of the Honorary Secretary were followed to the letter.

The President chairs the Committee. Fortunately the Honorary Secretary obliges with a complete agenda guiding Committee members to a correct conclusion. Who am I to disagree? Occasionally a Committee member expresses an original thought. If not on the agenda and a “bouncer”, the Secretary (or other knowledgeable member) indicates that the suggestion is against the new rules, or old rules, or both, or that the older members of the Club will disagree with such a change in precedent. Sometimes, however, the original suggestion seems not only original, but a good idea. Of course it is not done for the Committee to agree immediately, and so a long discussion takes place subjecting the proposer to the rigours of an inquisition. Then the Honorary Secretary will say: ‘I think this suggestion will solve the problem with the modifications we have discussed’. At this point the President will sense the mood and ask the Honorary Secretary to move the motion. All will agree and the Secretary has authority to document in the minutes whatever he thinks fit.

The President is responsible for the orderly progress of our walks. The President does this by allowing the Honorary Secretary to take charge. After lunch is partaken, members and visitors are welcomed, and the Walks Secretary takes control, all in an orderly fashion. During walks, members may take an opportunity to make suggestions to the President. For example, suggestions for the future (more morning walks, fewer mountain walks, more pub walks), criticism regarding the websites, newsletters, speakers at functions. The solution for the President is simple; refer all suggestions to the Honorary Secretary. At the end of the walk the President will formally close the activities of the day. That is if most walkers are together. Normally, most fast walkers would have already gone home and the remainder still struggling in or perhaps lost forever in the bushy scrub. Then a formal close may be an insult to those still enjoying the walk and therefore unnecessary.

Each President would like to mark his Presidential year with some outstanding achievement. It would be impossible in my case to match those of recent Presidents. I mean who could better John Jenkin leading the Club through Turkey and returning with a new Wallaby stick? Not worth the effort to improve on this, I say in farewell to an interesting year.

[Editor’s note: Although he would never admit it himself, it was Len Edwards who finally motivated the development of this History Supplement.]

Brian Harper (2015)

Brian is President as this Volume is published. He is a man of experience, grit and determination and smiles a lot. We are in good hands. The 2015 Annual Dinner card heralded his election:

Brian is a Civil man, another engineer,
Within the I.E.Aust he is esteemed for his career;
This Fellow is a kindly fellow: grins from ear to ear,
Unless debate historical spurs quite a change of gear:
It’s then he summons serious views, attention to evoke,
Quite hard to get an oar in – but he’s not a bad ol’ bloke!
Brian’s planned with public services – a spirited tableau –
He’s had a go at CEO of Doncaster and ‘Stowe.
His able planning led to Wallaby Walks of eminence,
But now, it’s clear, he’ll reappear as Wallaby President.

This he has done to date with eminence.
HONORARY SECRETARIES


This section is inevitably short, perhaps because Honorary Secretaries are extremely busy people. They are certainly worth their weight in gold. In the past there have been “Hon. Secs”, who assumed so many duties, that the Presidents of their time “had it easy” fulfilling their role as figurehead. By the same token, such Hon. Secs assumed enviable power, but fortunately were wise enough to wield it well.

One such man was Geoff Stevens, Hon. Sec in 1981 and 1985-1988. He brought about much worthwhile innovation, being a really active, generous and public-spirited gentleman. He had previously been Treasurer for one year and Walks Secretary for three and President in 1982, so he was particularly well informed. He was always on the lookout for new Wallabies and extremely gracious in his approach to them. He was the one who delved into the bowels of his Bentley on one walk’s picnic to produce the famed bottle and to be greeted with ‘How civilised!’.

On page 103 of Volume 3 begins a chapter The Honorary Secretary. It describes the job with much poignancy. It also mentions Dr Allen Robertson (“Robbie”), who held the post from 1909 to 1954, not only record of 45 years, but disproving the adage that a position can be held for too long, as “Robbie” had a wonderful way of getting things done, but always quietly and with no fuss or force, or arousing any resentment [Volume 3, p. 83].

Times have changed since then. The rapid onset of computers changed the nature of the job, especially in communications, allowing for less letter-writing and more rapid responses. More frequent and more glorious Newsletters became possible – not just the four or five per year, which needed to be carefully crafted and minimised for postage, yet cover up to three month’s activities at a time. Producing copies of anything was a chore then too. Do you remember spirit duplicators and roneo machines?

Most recent terms have been three to four years, as being Hon. Sec intrudes markedly upon family life. These men shared their duties wisely and deputised where necessary for sanity’s sake. All brought to the Club the benefit of their unique skills. Hamish Russell (Hon. Sec 1993-1996), managed to move mountains in preparation for the Centenary, an enormous task, and simultaneously did all of this based in the mountains, or should we say, Dandenongs.

Bruce Sandie (Hon. Sec 2012-2015) found his main secretarial duties arose from: Committee Meetings (Agendas, Minutes, correspondence arising, approval of new members, etc.), annual subscriptions and reminders, updating members’ profiles and addresses, and organising dinners. Trying to finalise dinner numbers was often a problem and some members are very cavalier with their bookings. Fortunately Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club, our venue for recent dinners, has been very tolerant of late number changes, because we often have had last minute bookings or withdrawals. Perhaps as a consequence of an ageing membership, in recent years there have often been a few members who forget to book, or to sign their cheques, or to pay their subscriptions or for dinners by the due date. Email has greatly simplified the timely distribution of information and reminders to members and the Committee.

David Pryor

Bruce Sandie (joking)

Max Kennedy

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HONORARY TREASURERS


Since the previous Wallaby history (1994) there have been six Treasure, namely (July to June):

1991 to 1996 Hari Sinha (Chemist)
1996 to 1999 Ron Shaw (Fashion Designer)
1999 to 2002 John Loutit (Engineer)
2002 to 2008 David Kaleski (Engineer)
2008 to 2013 Len Edwards (Engineer)
2013 Alan Chuck (Engineer)

The Treasurer comes to the position as a “volunteer” to a request from the Committee when the incumbent wishes to retire having done his duty. Why should a Treasurer wish to retire from such a prominent position? Most likely because he has reached a stage of complete exhaustion and a need to spend at least six months under sedation at a health resort. The position is one requiring stamina, patience and application.

Note the lack of accountants. Perhaps they know better? In my case, in 2007 David Kaleski suggested to me that he needed a rest. I know David well from University of Sydney days both as Engineering undergraduate and Sydney University Regiment officer. A man I could trust. With a promise of the use of his spread-sheets, I agreed and was confirmed in the position by the Committee. I cannot speak for all previous treasurers but I have noted my experiences as a warning to others.

We found them here, we found them there,
Engineers with quite a flair,
With figures right but minds so tight
They never knew to avoid the stew.

Blood Out Of A Stone

The first introduction to the treasury role is the handling of subscriptions. They normally become due around the time of the Annual Dinner, just as the new Treasurer takes over. Soon the incoming mail rises as the subscription cheques roll in, to be collated, checked, posted and banked. It seems somewhat old-fashioned in this computer age. Some are paid by direct transfer, but it is surprisingly few, probably because our members are set in their ways. Some of the problems handled by the treasurer include:

- Combined payments (subscription, dinner and even a donation) but not advised by the member (I know now, but not then),
- Insufficient identification of the member paying direct (who do I ring?),
- A member states that payment has been made but nothing to show in the bank statement; usually a miss-type of the account number.

Of course, the Hon Secretary needs a day-to-day update as to who has not paid so that harassment proceedings may begin. (Do these include midnight phone calls and threats of being struck off)? Do we have many late payments? Some statistics may be of interest. Averaging the last 7 years, 62% of members paid immediately, 21% a month later, 5% after three months, 7% after 4 months and would you believe it, 5% after five or more months. When I advised the Hon Secretary the names of those who had not paid after six months, he could name the names, but I shall not. Suffice to say, only those professions who expect immediate payment from their clients were on the list, so few engineers are recalcitrant.

This situation is not new, apparently. In our history Volume 3, page 112 it is recorded: “Throughout the Club history each treasurer has had one besetting problem— how tactfully to get otherwise upright and
responsible gentlemen to forward their annual membership feel” and that in 1942 of 50 members eleven were in arrears. In defence of our members they are all busy gentlemen.

It was subscription time again, with payments due from many men.
But did they know or did they care for the struggling Treasurer in his lair?
Most did, and jumped to pay on time and by percentage it was fine.
But a wayward few caused actions grave and called our hero at worst, a knave.

**When Dinner Becomes A Nightmare**

After subscriptions the work load is light until a dinner is due. Then the flood of cheques starts again. The problems for the Treasurer relate mainly to guests coming or not coming. A member may invite a guest and pay, but the member or guest then apologises. Most dinners also have at least one member who omits to book and then arrives to enjoy the festivities. Fortunately, once the cheque has been seized by the Treasurer, the organisational problems revert to the Hon Secretary.

Few dinners make a profit for the Club. Over a seven-year period, Annual Dinners lost 7%, Ladies Dinners lost 2% and Christmas Dinners lost 4%. As the food bill is a fixed amount per head, the loss results from refreshment consumed, and only conclusion I can reach is that the ladies restrict the quantities of alcoholic beverages consumed at their function. The men are kept in order.

* Dinner planned with utmost flair, members asked to take good care.
* Advise Hon Secretary the names you bring and all their needs for a merry fling.
* On the day I hate to say, the count is down but we must still pay,
* But joy, members wake from hibernation, arriving unadvised cuts consternation!

**The Perils Of Uncup**

Uncup is another period of anxiety. The logistics of Uncup can become complex with dinners, accommodation, lunches and walks expenses. Over 5 years the Club has lost 7% on expenses. How can this be? It is due to the arrangements made by the Walks Secretary of course (no names). In most cases members attending pay their own costs and the Club has no outlay at all. But wherever Uncup is held there may be some member who has local accommodation and who uses the venue for meals only. This can lead to misunderstanding and the Club then pays.

Worse may occur. On one occasion a-la-carte breakfast was available to be billed to rooms. The exact cost was not recorded by the venue to each room and a number of “home stay” members came for breakfast. It cost us hundreds of dollars! On another occasion the venue undercharged members and billed the Club over $1,000 in a situation where we had little room to argue and the amicable solution was to pay up.

A Treasurer prefers a situation where our members deal directly with the venue. This does not always suit the Walks Secretary.

Uncup time may bring more woes, with Walks Secretary on his toes.
But Wallabies care not for details or the effort it entails,
They have come for walks, and talks and joy with forks.

And the venue wins with extra cost and leaves the treasury badly lost.

**The Treasurer’s Treasury**

As can be seen, the Treasurer, in guarding the meagre funds of the Club, must fight well and truly against the Hon Secretary and Walks Secretary who may take a more light-hearted or perhaps unheeding attitude to Club funds. Earlier historical records of the Club suggest that this situation has been going on for over 100 years. Volume 1 of our history [page 19] explains that in 1897 “a credit balance of £9/11s/1d shows that the Club’s financial position was good”. By 1956 the balance was £40, “and by 1988 had risen to $5370” and to cover the centenary celebrations had reached $9,158 [Volume 3, page 114].

Much of the accumulated funds were expended on the lavish centenary celebration in 1994. By 2004 the funds were $3,004. The treasury task was to replenish the coffers to enable younger members celebrate appropriately at a later time. Sadly, this time has not yet arrived. By 2011 the funds exceeded $10,000. At the Committee meeting in August 2011 the Committee was apparently aghast at the accumulated wealth.
According to the minutes, “the matter of investing the Wallaby Club’s excess funds was discussed”. As a result, Murray Gillin seconded by Bruce Sandie successfully moved that: “The Hon Treasurer should table a proposal of how to invest a proportion of the Club’s funds and recommend the amount to be invested”. At the Committee meeting in November 2011, a two account plan was presented with a “trading” account with sufficient funds for current expenses, the balance to be held in a “savings” account. Proposed by Max Kennedy, seconded Richard Kirsner that this suggestion be adopted, passed.

At the end of the 2013 financial year, funds were $13,248 with $10,379 in the savings account. Total interest was $130.

The money grows as does inflation, which will bring us woes, elation?
Inflation means a higher spend but when should subscriptions rise to mend?
No real answer comes to mind, for none predicts the world unwind.
We care not now but wish good luck, for the new Treasurer, Alan Chuck!

Musing about things growing, the 2006 Annual Dinner Card’s cover depicts re-growth. Geoff Stocks explains inside the card:

The cover...was to have been one of the many picturesque vistas to be encountered on our walks during the Uncup Weekend in the Grampian Ranges. However, after the outstanding talk given by Margaret Polmear to the Wallaby Club members, partners and guests, a decision was made to change the design.

Margaret’s presentation included graphic slides of the ability of nature, ravaged by bushfires, to quickly respond and survive. One of these survival options is depicted.
OTHER OFFICERS

Public Officer

When the Club incorporated in 2002, a Public Officer was required by law. It fell to the Hon. Treasurer to
fulfil this task. In 2012, the State Government’s revised incorporation rules specified that the Hon. Secretary
assume the role of Public Officer. He is required to:
- provide Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) with an annual return for the Club accompanied by a fee,
- to certify that an Annual General Meeting has taken place, at which the Club’s financial statement was
  approved,
- to provide extracts from this statement and other Club information, and
- to submit any rule changes for CAV approval.
From 2015 onwards, annual returns should be submitted electronically.

Honorary Auditor
2013), Barry Norton (2013-). Auditors for the Club are viewed as very special people.

Honorary Club Historian

Harold Attwood was editor-in-chief of Volume 3 of the History of the Wallaby Club. Rod Home was largely
responsible for a major round-up and review of the Club Archives, which were somewhat scattered before
he began, and Gavan McCarthy took on the massive task to digitise the entire collection into a
sophisticated computer database. Many Wallabies have yet to find out how to use this wonderful facility.

Guardian of the Anzac Stick
In 1996 Milton Warn handed the task to David Pryor, who for nine years made the journeys to the bank
vault each time the Stick was needed, principally for dinners and rarely for other reasons. Murray Gillin
then took over from David in 2005.

Editor of the Annual Dinner Card

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Editor(s)</th>
<th>Cover Art</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Bob Vines and Roy Simpson</td>
<td>Geoff Stocks (scraper-board)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994-5</td>
<td>Bob Vines, Roy Simpson and Ralph Neale</td>
<td>Geoff Stocks (scraper-board)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996-9</td>
<td>David Pryor and Ralph Neale</td>
<td>Geoff Stocks (scraper-board, pen &amp; ink)</td>
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<td>2000-3</td>
<td>Ralph Neale</td>
<td>Geoff Stocks (colour painting)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Ralph Neale and Chris Simpson</td>
<td>Geoff Stocks (colour painting)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Chris Simpson and Laurie Martinelli</td>
<td>Geoff Stocks (colour painting)</td>
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<td>2006-15</td>
<td>Chris Simpson</td>
<td>Photo – trifold format</td>
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Editors’ Errors
Poor old Dr F J Clendinnen, President in 1912, Alfred Hart, President in 1930 and Editor of Volume 1 of this
History, and Dr T B o war, President in 1933, became erroneously referred to as F W Clendinnen, S Hart
and B T o war respectively in all Annual Dinner Cards from 2001 to 2014(5), due to a single typing error
that was faithfully and blindly copied by computer from one card to the next! Sincere apologies are due to
the memories of Drs Clendinnen, Hart and o war from the relevant card editors. An original 2015 error was
to declare that the sum of the years of membership of John Swan and Jim Minifie was then 126 rather than
120; oh dear!
Editors' Reflections

Ralph Neale remembers discussions in 1994 about the forthcoming Centennial Dinner and the format of the Card in which he became involved from then on for a number of years, first as printer. Later David Pryor became editor, until he became ill, and then for a few years Ralph did both editing and printing. His experience was that a few Wallabies tried hard to write contributions, including himself, and he did a few little sketches as well, but the best versifier, Ralph felt, was John Swan. He also felt that the cover illustrations by Geoff Stocks would enter history, as have John Turner’s in the previous generation. When an image of our founder Dr Louis Henry was found inside a biography about James Edward Neild (a founding member), Ralph began a lasting tradition to add to each card the images of both Louis and the current (outgoing) President, along with a list of all presidents since 1894.

When Ralph Neale retired and hence unavailable as a private printer, printing costs became embarrassingly significant. Soon afterwards, Geoff Stocks also retired, so a new strategy was adopted by the next editor Chris Simpson to use a cover photograph on a twice folded A4 card, printed in colour one side and black and white on the other to keep the price in check. Another benefit of this format has been that the folded card would fit easily into the inside pocket of one’s jacket. The disadvantage was that space was more limited than before for “Wallabiana” and supplementary photographs. On the other hand, contributions had been steadily dwindling and the editor found that as he was progressively writing more of the content, it was a practical compromise. John Swan had contributed regularly for decades and wrote his last Wallaby poem for the 2014 Card. [For this and some more of his poems, see “John Swan” under “Members in Retrospect”, p.115].

Random Gallery of Note (or notoriety)
WALLABIANA (more poems and assorted items)

[Almost in date order...]

From the 1986 and 2005 Annual Dinner Cards:

**The Club**

Sometimes, sometimes I think in truth
The world is a profanity,
Desperately poised upon
The fringes of insanity;

And other times I think the world
She’s old and surely wiser
When Wallabies meet and graze
In truth, can I despise her?

A poem in the 1993 Annual Dinner Card recognises the Club’s first Mayor:

*It gives your scribe a pleasant kick
To note that Jeffrey Wunderlich
Has other arrows to his bow
Than crystal gazing in cissiro.
Who else among the flock was born
To serve as Mayor of old Hawthorn?
With this and that, you must agree
We’ve won a Wunder-Wallaby.

It was revealed in the 2001 Annual Dinner Card that the Club founder, Dr. Louis Henry, had earlier founded the optimistic but ill-fated ‘Kalizoic Society’. One of the interesting references in that Card is:

**Louis’ First Effort**

In days of old, in Melbourne Town,
Louis Henry was a man of renown,
A member of the BMA*,
And a composer in his day.
Quite by chance, we’ve learnt that he
Founded the KALIZOIC SOCIETY,
Whose aim was to beautify the town.
Alas! The members were shouted down,
In the newspapers they were mocked
And all their fine ideas were knocked.
But Louis Henry liked to talk
And even more he liked to walk.
At last he had an idea which would please;
That’s when he founded the WALLABIES!  [*BMA: British Medical Association]

The Anzac Stick has been revered in verse many times over the years and such verses appear in various parts of this Volume. Here is one from the 2003 Annual Dinner Card:

**The Wallaby Stick. A stunted shrub turned gold,**
Banded, treasured, its story told,
At annual festive meeting.
Yes, once a year* released to light of day,
This Wallaby Stick can grace our board and say,
Should it have voice:

—“Yes, I was at Gallipoli,
I grew and flourished there
Alongside several Anzac men,
Whose hands
Transported me with love and care.
Look proudly on my golden bands,
These are my memories, rich and rare.”
These three short bush poems in haiku form come from the 2005 Annual Dinner Card:

**Australian View**
Mountains in blue mist
evoke the wildness we love.
Trees in pungent leaf.

**Grampian Descent**
From blackened summits
Charred valleys, then to find
Green trees, silver streams.

**Mountain Views**
Tree ferns trembling,
pebbles shine in dappled light.
Mossy Dandenongs.

From the 2007 Annual Dinner Card:

> How simply grand it is to be  
> A venerating Wallaby.
> A quiet suggestion of mental transgression is nudging the truth;  
> But any confessing delusions of youth are quite plainly uncouth.

"The Club" has evoked many a poem. Here is one from 2008’s Card:

> The marvellous mural of Wallaby stories  
> Illumined by great Men of Yore through their glories  
> And woven together by quieter peers  
> Now spans a hundred and fourteen years!  
> 'Tis told by historians (club resident)  
> Of its tenuous birth, when its first president  
> (Doc) Louis Henry held very tight reign  
> By remaining the top dog again and again.  
> (He was tough, as is shown by his professional sway  
> To assert independence from old BMA.)  
> But the club has endured and traditions evolved –  
> Be president once, then not quite so involved!  
> Yet curiously, over the years, it appears  
> That some secretaries ruled for inordinate years!

Good travel news (also from 2008)...

**To all Wandering Wallabies**

> Of medical problems, why here is a list  
> Especially of those that we say 'pre-exist';  
> It's important for travel abroad, don't you see –  
> These attract no additional premium fee!

> There's Acne, Bell's palsy, Congenital Blindness,  
> Asthma, providing you're sixty or less;  
> Bunions, Hay Fever, Congenital Deafness,  
> And nocturnal cramps you might just confess.

> Coeliac and Dry Eye and Hiatus Hernia,  
> Goitre, Glaucome and Osteoporosis,  
> Pernicious and iron-less types of anaemia  
> And possibly hyper-cholesterol-aemia.

> Diabetes Mellitus and Plantar fasciitis  
> And allergies: Eczema and maybe Rhinitis;  
> Positional Vertigo (must be benign),  
> Cataracts and Migraine both seem to be fine.

> Folate and vitamin B12 deficiency,  
> Trigeminal Neuralgia (an elegant sufficiency);  
> Reynaud's and Moliere's and, yes, Graves' Diseases --  
> The list seems to cover whomever it pleases!

> We've just scratched the surface, I'm happy to say,  
> And there's more from where these came -- you won't  
> have to pay  
> Any more premium! -- Fly out today!...

> ...If for two years from hospital you've kept well away!
A song of longing (likewise from 2008)...

_Wish Dreams_

Refrain: I am not a very good Wallaby
- Not that I don’t want to be.

1. How many meetings have I missed?
   How could I still be on the list?
   Apologies, hand over fist,
   Can’t rectify my mess. Refrain

2. I’m getting old, I’m not as well,
   I really need a respite spell,
   The family functions clash like hell –
   I might as well confess. Refrain

3. The emails flood and bills arrive;
   Computer systems take a dive;
   And house repairs I must contrive
   To minimise distress. Refrain

4. But when it is all said and done,
   My life has only just begun,
   As Wallabies are lots of fun
   And willing to redress...
   ...I can be a very good Wallaby
   – As long as I care and I want to be.

Three poems and two quips from 2009:

_Anzac Stick_

Forlorn
Gallipoli-born
buckthorn:
war-torn,
straight-drawn...
historic dawn!
Gold to be borne:
tradition spawn,
ethic forsworn.
With message unworn,
for many a morn
may dinners adorn.

_Guests_

Where would we be without our friends...
Our guests in particular?
Blessed is the fellow who condescends
To meet us at the bar;
Twice bless’d is a guest when our meal he attends
And thrice blessed if he drives the car.

_Toast to the Club_

(haiku)
Venerable toast
Spoken over wine and roast
Deferrential boast

Our illustrious incoming president [Brian Snape] has had the unusual experience of watching the sun rise in the West. By way of explanation, he is by no means backward. Quite to the contrary, he was in Concorde with Nature.

Voracious kookaburras, highly trained in terrorist tactics, last July took control of the picnic ground at Olinda Falls, seizing sizeable portions of lunch from the hands of both Bill Denholm and Len Edwards. (...Baked lizard sandwiches??)

In the 2010 Card is a rhyming history of the longest-serving members in that year:

_Wallaparade (as distinct from Canalcade)_

According to Mick, who began Dexterously,
Thence Gawen, refining McCarthy-rousely –
The pageant of members continues unquenched...

At present the one who’s most deeply entrenched,
Who carries the torch (and at bows has a fling)
Is John Swan, dearest Doctor of Everything!
'Twas the year ‘fifty-three when he came to the fold
Now his macropod wisdom accrued is untold;
Through all of these years been the life of the show –
There seems nought he can’t do and still less he don’t know.

Following closely in year ’fifty-seven
Bringing raspberries, flour (either plain or with leaven),
Millers’ tales and wry stories with gleam in his eyes
Is Young Jim of the Minifite tribe, who supplies
Fifty-three of the total two hundred and two
That his clan has accrued (by all six, yes its true!*)

Next in line, Richard Southby, who lives in the States,
Who for forty-five years keenly paid all his rates.
He’d like to be here, but unable to travel;
His history too would be good to unravel.
Jim Morrison joined back in year ‘sixty-eight;
He still likes our dinners and seldom comes late,
Except when his Chemistry takes him to Utah:
Such ventures may not be as pressing in future.

With thirty-nine years in the fold is John Loevinger
Year ‘seventy-one saw this bright fellow hovering
‘Twee Melbourne and Adelaide, on geology bent;
And it only got worse when to chancellery sent!

Bill Balding, Doug Hutchison, Proctor (Charles R.)
All came in year ‘eighty, thus younger by far,
Pipping Murray, the Littlejohn, just by one year,
And the list just goes on, mind, and never you fear...

Both Churchill and Warn joined in year ‘eighty-four;
Kaleski, Neale, Sinha, and Tulloh, one more;
Then Dexter and Rushman and Simpson and Vines
And Serpell in ‘eighty-six fronted the lines.

There is one more eighties man, Campbell, I’m told,
But we’d better stop here, ere our dinner gets cold.

[*Jim Minifie (senior) 42, Sutherland (uncle) 32, Woodburn (uncle)
36, Oliver (grandfather) 30, Kerner (Great uncle) 9.]

Stephan Brown produced (and recited) an epic poem regarding the missing Anzac Stick-rests that was included in the 2013 Annual Dinner Card:

The Wallaby Club – a monologue
with apologies to Marriot Edgar’s The Lion and Albert
(To be read with a broad Lancashire accent!)

There’s a famous walking club called Wallabies
That’s noted for fresh air and fun
Old Jim Minifie, a past member
Inducted young Jim M. his son.

A grand little club is the Wallabies
With links to Gallipoli as well
Through fancy old stick with gold bands on
It’s only real asset to sell.

Each year they hold a big meeting
All the members can come - quite a crew
To set up a brand new committee
Pres, Treas’rer...Hon. Secretary too.

At t’meeting the stick with gold bands on
Is lain upon two wooden rests
Made of ti tree from the Peninsula
Admired by members and guests.

To transport the stick with gold bands on
The Wallabies use member’s cars
So that in between annual meetings
The stick can be locked behind bars.

Last year the stick rests went missing
They vanished as into thin air
And every one present was questioned
But no-one located the pair.

When Murray G spotted the crisis
He didn’t know what to do next
So he told Richard Kirchner about it
And Richard said “Eeh I am vexed!”

New Richard and Murray together
Quite rightly, when all’s said and done
Complained to the Club Secretary
That both of the stick rests had gone!

The Hon. Sec. was quite nice about it
He said “What a nasty mishap
Are you sure that you both cannot find them?”
They said “Are we sure? There’s the gap!”

So the Treasurer had to be sent for
He came and he said “What’s to do?”
Hon. Sec. said “A stick rest is missing
Along with the other one too!”

Then Murray said “Right’s right young feller
I think it’s a shame and a sin
For the stick rests to vanish from car boot
As I’m sure I put both of them in!”

The Treasurer wanted no trouble
He took out his purse right away
He wanted to settle the matter
But he weren’t sure how much to pay.

But the members had got a bit awkward
When they learned that the stick rests had gone
They said “A meeting is called for”
So that were decided upon.

The Committee all gathered together
In front of the President chap
They told him what had happened to stick rests
And to prove it they showed him the gap.

The President gave his opinion
That no one was really to blame
He said that he hoped young Jim Minifie
Would make further rests, “Just the same.”

At this Jim got proper blazing
“And thank you, sir, kindly,” said he
“What, waste all my life making stick rests
For the Wallaby Club? Not me!”

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At the 2013 Christmas Dinner, Stephan Brown recited his second poem about Anzac Sticks and Stick-rests. He again apologises to Marriot Edgar and his Albert’s Return and recommends a broad Lancashire accent:

The Rests’ Return (And Other Matters)

You’ve probably ’eard ’oe a walking club
Whose members all think it’s the best
Has got an old stick with gold bands on
But they’d gone and mislaid both its rests

The name of the club is t’ Wallabies
And the stick they think of as grand
Because the names of past Presidents
Are engraved on each golden band

Now the club has been going for
More than a century, here or about
And as Presidents reign only one year
Soon space on the bands would run out

One of the more recent Presidents
John Jenkin they call him by name
Thought up a cunning proposal
To get a new stick was his aim

He asked all of the Wallaby members
Or those who could hear what he said
To join him on trip back to Turkey
The plan seemed quite clear in his head

But he weren’t sure how to go ’bout it
So looked ’round for somebody who knew
He tracked down a chap called John Basarin
And a fine travel agency too

Soon after itinerary was posted
All interested Wallabies had paid
Including a couple of extras
To ensure that the trip could be made

Meantime a separate tourist
Prepared for his own little trip

And when opening his faithful old suitcase
An expletive suddenly let slip
For there in t’ bottom of luggage
Nestling as if in their bed
Lay the above mentioned stick-rests
Not lost, but misplaced instead

News of the find spread quite quickly
The members were very relieved
And sent thanks to old Murray Gillin
For the fabulous feat he’d achieved

The touring group went off to Turkey
Around Anzac Day they’d all flown
To meet up in Constantinople
Or Istanbul, now as it’s known

For three weeks the Wallabies wandered
Savouring sights strange and new
They all of them got on quite nicely
And had fun on the way, as you do

At last they got to Gallipoli
Site now of pain and regret
They shed tears at the grave stones of loved ones
For all the slain, lest we forget

They heard the tale of a brave Aussie Padre
Who was there for all but day one
A story made even more moving
As ’twas told by Mick Dexter, his son

That night at a big formal dinner
John Jenkin fulfilled all his plans
When a resident scholarly gentleman
Placed a new Buckthorn stick in his hands
While the Wallaby group was a travelling
From the branch of a Casuarina tree
Two new stick-RESTs were fashioned
By a member called Jim Minifie

When John Jenkin saw the new stick-RESTs
'Er' laughed and 'e kept laughin' so
Jim said "'Ere, wot's there to laugh at?"
John said "You'll laugh an' all when you know"

"Excuse 'im for laughing," said the Hon Sec
"But really things happen so queer
The old stick-RESTs have been located
So those there brand new ones are spare"

Said Jim, "Well it just goes to show yer
That the future is not to be known;
If I'd thought that we was goin' to find 'em,
I'd have not bloomin' cut the tree down!"

"Let's look on the bright side," said John Jenkin
"Wot can't be 'elped shan't make us sick;
Each cloud has a silvery lining,
'Cos we've now an additional stick"

Then giving young Jim a big hand-shake
John said, "I know wot we can do,
We'll gladly take shiny new stick-RESTs,
They'll be perfect for stick number two!"

From the 2014 Annual Dinner Card:
Heard recently:
"Today's walk is all downhill
..except the other bits".

At the 2015 Annual Dinner, Stephan Brown sang the following song he composed. Stephan duly apologised to Gilbert and Sullivan. His references to "Hutch(y)" are amplified in the article "Doug Hutchison" in the "Members in Retrospect" section. Italicised chorus lines were eagerly roared by all diners on the night.

When I was a lad I served a term
As an engineer with a contracting firm
I designed my conveyors so carefully
I came under the eye of Doug Hutchy
(Chorus) He came under the eye of Doug Hutchy
I made such a mark on old Hutchy
That now I am a member of the Wallabies
(Chorus) He made such a mark on old Hutchy
That now he is a member of the Wallabies

I stayed with that firm a number of years
With Dave Kaleski as one of my peers
Doug, Dave and I were part of a bunch
Who enjoyed every Friday a curry lunch
Who enjoyed every Friday a curry lunch
In time old Hutch inducted Dave Kaleski
And now he is a member of the Wallabies
In time old Hutch inducted Dave Kaleski
And now he is a member of the Wallabies

The years went by I'd retired as such
When I took a call from old Doug Hutch

I came to a walk as a keen beginner
And after that to an annual dinner
And after that to an annual dinner
And at that dinner a surprise for me
Elected as a member of the Wallabies
And at that dinner a surprise for he
Elected as a member of the Wallabies

The other members were mostly benign
And all enjoy a glass of good red wine
On later walks I met Prof John Swan
As well as Jim Minifie 'n Chris Simpson
As well as Jim Minifie 'n Chris Simpson
These old timers are I think you'll agree
All worthy life members of the Wallabies
These old timers are we certainly agree
All worthy life members of the Wallabies

I'd no experience as a bureaucrat
But on the Club Committee soon I sat
As walks assistant I served at the side
Of Brian Harper then intrepid guide
Of Brian Harper then intrepid guide
When Brian stepped down they rewarded me
By making me Walks Leader of the Wallabies
When Brian stepped down they rewarded he
By making him Walks Leader of the Wallabies

Now members and guests whoever you may be
If you're easily bored by what's on TV
If you enjoy a stroll and a chinwag too
Be careful or they'll soon be coming after you

Be careful or they'll soon be coming after you
Stick close to the group, never make billy tea
Or you will become Walks Leader of the Wallabies
Stick close to the group, never make billy tea
Or you will become Walks Leader of the Wallabies

In the 2015 Annual Dinner Card, both the Club and the Anzac Stick(s) are again saluted:

The Club
Enigmatic – useful word –
But seldom is it ever heard:
Could it quite describe this Club?
Venerable, certainly –
Well above the century;
Its artifact: part of a shrub!
Unusual and small you say?
"With only men? That's not the way:
It's politically incorrect."
In fact our Ladies take a bow
More than their comfort might allow –
In this there is mutual respect.

Administration is low key
So voting's an anomaly –
It works with mutual trust and care.
There's little heed to rank or station,
Just a willing integration,
With whatever skills we bear.
Conversation is the key,
Whether walking, dining or over tea
A plethora of topics heard:
No drums to beat nor hobbyhorses
But many riveting discourses,
A sense of humour and the absurd.

The Anzac Stick Speaks
A century ago it was when I
Was wrenched from troubled Turkish soil
By an ancient General, a Wallaby.
He sought to preserve my ragged coil
From the senseless war-borne desecration
Of my homeland's tortured gullies.

Behold me now, all bathed in gold,
One hundred years old!
My infant sibling now sits at my feet:
Who waits and learns the stories told
And sees the presidents' names unfold
Until my banded belly is replete.

In the 2015 card were some other oddments, the first recounting a repeat of the Centenary Eltham Walk and the second relating to the (then) current committee:

Centenary Walk
The train to Eltham the Wallabies took,
And walked to Hurstbridge to talk and look;
It's about twelve K, or so they say…
A hundred years later we'll try again,
Abandoning cars and going by train.

Not nearly as young and not so strong,
Twelve K is definitely far too long.
We'll settle for six, and that we'll fix…
We'll stop at last at Diamond Creek,
And a coffee shop we'll surely seek.

Maxed Out
No wonder the Club's in good tune –
Three Max's elected last June:
Names like Kennedy, say,
Also Richards and Lay
Infer knowledge and produce and boon!
EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The Wallaby Tree

David Churchill, botanist of note, was the last resident Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Government Botanist of Victoria. He has also been President of the Royal Society of Victoria, of which he is also a Trustee alongside fellow Wallaby, Jim Warren.

Also, he has been a reputed collector of rare specimens and has created a wonderful botanical garden of his own near Apollo Bay. He has a reputation as collector and describer of rare plant specimens (such as The Wonderland Range, Grampians Borya mirabilis) and has created a wonderful botanical arboretum, and Borya collection of his own near Apollo Bay. As a dedicated Wallaby would, he has dedicated one such specimen to be “The Wallaby Tree” and recruited Wallaby help to plant the tree with due ceremony:

On Saturday 19 March 2005, the Wallaby Club celebrated its Uncup Weekend by planting a rare tree.

Using the President’s ceremonial “Platinumium spade”, each member tipped soil into the hole prepared for a rare specimen of Araucaria laubenfelsii grown from seed collected by Alistair Watt from New Caledonia and reared in a container for four to five years by David Churchill until ready to plant out.

Each member listed below signed the visitors book after participating with the spade:

Jan Polmear (President)  Norman Tulloh  Brian Snape
Margaret Polmear  Andrew Serpell  Dawn Catherall
John Lovering  Anne Kieni Serpell  Rod Home
Len Edwards  George Doery  Jocelyn Dexter
Jim Morrison  Ben Chadziehner  David Kaleski
Nancy Shaw  Loris and Murray Gillin  Shirley Walpole
Alma Pryor  Bob Sanderson  Bob Vines
David Pryor  Jan and Brian Harper  David Ashton
Ruth Sanderson  Kerry Lovering  Jeff Wunderlich
Ann and Hari Sinha  Margery and Ian Edwards  Thea Kaleski
Mick Dexter  Ray and Jill Garrod  Nick Williams
Jim and Margaret Chapman  Liz Dexter
Beth Wunderlich  Mike Williams

A heavy duty guard was placed around the staked tree to prevent grazing by the endemic Wallabia bicolor and proved to be effective. This tree, Araucaria laubenfelsii, is a rare one of thirteen endemic species from New Caledonia and in 2013, it was listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as rare and endangered by mining and dump activities in its native habitat. Tree ring counts in its native habitat show that it can live for 380 years! In 2015 The Wallaby Tree produced it’s first cone, immature at the time of writing, and visible in the photograph below.

(Note that some more common Araucarias include the Bunya-Bunya and the Norfolk Island Pine).
Wallabies have been invited back to inspect the tree at Apollo Bay from time to time, and have been able to report favourably about the tree's progress and also the fine hospitality offered by David and Sylvia.

Campervan Capers

Mick Dexter reflects: John Bignell invited me into the Wallaby Club in 1986 – he had been our family ophthalmologist since 1957. I'm sure one of the reasons was that he knew we had a pop-top campervan, as did he and so did some other Club members. This group would head off at irregular intervals with Bill Balding as leader, within Victoria, NSW and SA. So I walked straight into this group, a great collection of Wallabies – Bill Balding, John Bignell, Alex Dempster, Geoff Stevens, George Doery and now Mick Dexter. Other Wallabies, for example John Turner, would also come along in their cars and stay in motels. It was great fun and an ideal way for me to ‘get into’ the Club. Liz and I organised the last of these trips in 1992 to the Gawler Ranges. There were 17 in the party. On one occasion there was a bit of drama when many of us got stuck in wet spongy soil while camping, but Bill Balding, who had the only 4WD vehicle, pulled us all out.

Ode to the Gawler Ranges  [1993 Annual Dinner Card]

Balding Bill and others too
Set forth Lake Gairdner for to view:
Bignell, Campbell got all bogged;
Before they started they were dogg’d.
The Wallabies they pitched their homes
Midst Gawler Ranges' granite domes.
Camp ovens served to cook their grub,
Warm showers too, from heated tub.
Up hills and dales, how they did strive,
Walking all day by four-wheel drive.
As evening fell they did aspire

To learned converse around the fire
And then in darkness did repair
To tents and beds assembled there.
At times, persistent cries of “Ouch!
You fool, you’re treading on my pouch…”
Came forth from many a crowded tent
And dreadful cursing rent the air...
But let me say, to end this rhyme,
We spent a super swinging time.
Such is the way with Wallabies –
Why don’t we learn to live in trees?

Major Hikes

Ian and Margaret Polmear organised a number of serious hikes over the years, inviting members to join in. The first “Polmear Trip” was in February 1999: Early in February, Peter and Helen Campbell, Mick and Liz Dexter, and Ian and Margaret Polmear, together with friends John and Barbara Bannister, joined forces for a five day walking holiday at the northern end of the Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair National Park in Tasmania. They stayed in very comfortable, self-catering lodges at Cradle Mountain Lodge, from which they did day walks, returning each evening in good time for a happy hour and dinner at the Lodge. Despite variations in temperature ranging from 30 to
5 degC, 100mm of rain one day and a blizzard that brought snow to the peaks, they saw much of the local scenery and vegetation.
The lodge is situated at the edge of the National Park and close to mossy beech forests and open button grass plains, which the group explored on foot and Mick and Liz did in part on horseback. Both Dove and Crater Lakes were visited and a highlight was a climb up to the Cradle Mountain Plateau to cover the first stage of the famous Overland Track. They saw the leatherwood, lemon scented boronia and gentians in flower, as well as the huge heath known locally as Pandani. Several endemic birds were also identified.
Good fun and companionship was enjoyed by all, and the group was keen to do a similar trip next year.
The intrepid Peter and Janet Race, in late February 1999, walked the entire Overland Track from Cradle Mountain to Lake St Clair in six days with a guided party in rather less comfort than the Polmear group: Reports of near death experiences are true. We were not prepared for the mental and physical trauma of the first day. We decided that we were 10-20 years too old and should have done more day walks of 10-15km in the high country, wearing a 10kg pack. [A full account is in the April 1999 Newsletter.]
The second “Polmear Trip” was to Lamington National Park, Southern Queensland, in mid-August 2000. They stayed at the secluded Binna Burra Lodge, and were rewarded after each day’s walk with fine wining and dining. Some managed to walk up to 100kms in total! Since the Binna Burra trip, there has been a continuing series of similar annual expeditions hosted by the Polmears.

A Turkish Tour
John Jenkin writes: ...my main ambition was to return to Gallipoli and obtain a new Wallaby Anzac Stick. Our late member, Paul Grundy, introduced me to Dr John Basarin, a local expert on the Gallipoli campaign, who came with us as Tour Leader and later became a Wallaby, and Fairy Chimneys Travel Agency that specialised in Turkey touring. Numbers were low, so two “friends” were recruited to make up the party. Thereafter, however, things went wonderfully well. It was soon decided that a tour of western Turkey should precede our visit to Gallipoli, creating a three-week trip during April/May 2013. A comfortable coach was provided, complete with expert driver and a charming guide. John Basarin and his wife were our travelling companions, as we visited Istanbul, Ankara, Cappadocia, Konya, Antalya, Ephesus, Troy and more, before Gallipoli and finally back to Istanbul.

The trip also revealed a new Wallaby Bard, Stephan Brown, a new Treasurer, Alan Chuck, and a marvellous Editor for our Diary of a Turkish Tour, Chris Simpson.

All the travellers had their own favourite observations; here are mine. The country is prospering, the population confident, the countryside ever changing, the food delicious. Turkey is extraordinarily rich in history, having endured periods of control by numerous invading groups: Hittite, Persian, Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Seljuk, Ottoman, and finally Greek again. Islamic and Christian religions have struggled for supremacy. We visited many sites that illustrated all these periods. We walked in deep, cool valleys and stood on high, warm mountaintops. We explored tiny, early-Christian churches that were carved into soft hillsides and decorated with frescoes. We marvelled at Greco-Roman agora, theatres and stadia, and we were stunned by the archaeological gem, Sagalassos, which we had to ourselves. We stayed in two amazing hotels: one built into caves in the volcanic rock, the other coloured totally white throughout, with only its totally red restaurant to skew the discomfort!

Gallipoli was, as always, very moving, the battlefields littered with small cemeteries, the many headstones overwhelmingly for young Australians aged between eighteen and the early twenties; a lost generation. We paused before the graves of the uncles of Helen Campbell and Brian Harper, and also paid tribute to Colin Smith’s half-uncle. We heard the Gallipoli stories about John Swan’s and Mick Dexter’s fathers. New to previous visitors were the many Turkish memorial sites and the presence of many Turkish visitors, eager to learn their history here.

Gallipoli was a watershed for Turkey and for Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the father of modern Turkey. He not only led the troops that won the Gallipoli war and the wars of independence that followed, but he also established modern Turkey as a secular, European, nation-state as well as reforming many of its institutions, political, economic and cultural. He used education to foster the equality of men and women. He abolished the Caliphate, and he replaced the Arabic script with a new written language based on the Latin alphabet. Statues of him dominate almost every town we visited.

In Çanakkale we were presented with five new Wallaby sticks that John Basarin’s friend, Akin Baran, had obtained for us; two much too thick, two too skinny, but the one selected sailed through Melbourne Customs on our return. After being straightened, smoothed, stained and polished, it has joined our original Stick in a splendid new wooden case provided by Murray Gillin. In summary, it was a marvellous trip!

**The Tour**  [From the 2014 Annual Dinner Card]

In Turkey, Wallabies hereto
remained within a zoo or two,
That is ‘til April just last year when
a tour bus-load appeared, and then
They gazed amazed for 18 days,
while luscious local food they grazed,
And soaked up ancient history:
ten thousand years of mystery;
First and last was Istanbul,
so huge and strange yet purposeful.

Encircling Turkey’s western side,
they saw salt lakes and plains so wide,
Unreal swathes of fairy cones –
weathered ash from volcanoes thrown,
High snow-capped mountain, forest range,
beach resort with hotel strange,
Archaeological? High Sagalassos;
Ephesus, Troy, Aphrodisias, Aspendos…
More indeed and museums to view,
Ataturk Mausoleum too;
The final focus was Gallipoli,
and New Stick received at Çanakkale.
Another Gallipoli link: by John Jenkin  [from the May 2014 Newsletter]

Memories of the 2013 Wallaby Club trip to Turkey and Gallipoli remain strong and continue to resonate with those lucky enough to have participated. Another connection emerged recently.

At 3am on our first morning at Çanakkale, a small and hardy group boarded the ferry to the Gallipoli peninsula. A tiny motorboat greeted us there and took us, in the darkness, to Anzac Cove, just as the first troops had done nearly 100 years before.

Mick Dexter described the scene:

It was a starry night, windless, quiet and eerie. As we waited for dawn, the steep mountains slowly became visible in silhouette and took form. It was light at 6am, with sunrise over the mountains at 6.30am. We identified North Beach, The Sphinx, Anzac Cove, Brighton Beach, Plugge’s Plateau, Ari Burnu with Lone Pine in the distance, the commemorating site, and the cemeteries ...at the exact time of day of the landing, and our thoughts were with those young men who went ashore.

One man was especially in Mick’s mind: his father, the “Pinching Padre”, Senior Chaplain, Lieutenant-Colonel Walter Ernest Dexter, DSO, MC, DCM, MID (1873-1950). Mick’s father ministered to the troops throughout the Gallipoli campaign. Later the same day we paid simple tributes at the grave of Helen Campbell’s uncle, David John (“Jack”) Anderson, in Shrapnel Gully, and at the grave of Brian Harper’s uncle, where we also honoured Colin Smith’s half-uncle. “Jack” Anderson, aged only 18 and a sergeant in the 8th Battalion, was killed only four days after arriving at Gallipoli.

Mick understands that his father’s dugout was in Shrapnel Gully, just above Anzac Cove, and at the time wondered whether his father had buried Jack. At the Lorne Uncup weekend (2014), Helen and Mick read through his father’s war diary of that time, and it became clear that Padre Dexter did indeed officiate at the burial of Helen’s uncle. She is delighted: another Wallaby connection made, another story’s final chapter written, and welcome closure on another tragedy.

Colin Smith adds retrospectively: In the case of my father’s half-brother, Percival Thorn Smith, there is no grave at Lone Pine - just his name on one of the rolls of those killed. He got caught by a sniper as he was making a leap across an exposed point, and was evacuated, but died of his wounds on the hospital ship en route to Malta - so was buried at sea, somewhere in the middle of the Mediterranean.

Mick Dexter has also reflected upon John Swan’s links with Gallipoli: John Swan was very sorry not to come with us to Turkey, as he was the one who, some years ago, mused that we would need another Anzac Sticker at some time in the future.

Before we left for Turkey, John told me of his father’s Gallipoli service.
Early onto the beaches, his unit was sent south to reinforce British troops who were at a standstill. On the orders of a mindless British senior officer late in the day, the Australian troops charged over an open area into Turkish machine gun fire and there was carnage. John’s father was seriously wounded and left for dead, but later found and removed to a safe area in an olive grove at the rear. Then he was sent to a hospital ship, England and finally home again, to be discharged by the end of 1915.

John Basarin took us to the site of this battle – the Second Battle of Krithia. We could see the terrain, the old British trenches, the olive grove and wild iris. I wrote up this visit for John and sent it to him together with photos; he was delighted and the report went right around his family.

John was very amused when, after telling someone of his father’s serious injuries he was asked: “And did your father survive?” (John was born on ANZAC Day 1924, a good year!).

Back in Australia, another interesting walk...
SOME NOTABLE SPEECHES

Ray Garrod, Annual Dinner 1998

Toast to “THE CLUB”
[From the July 1998 Newsletter]

Mr President, Fellow Members, Our Guests

I rise with mixed emotions of penance and privilege. Penance because clearly there are others here whose silver tongues and gifts of eloquence far exceed my own. However the die has now been cast and all I can do is to remind you that whilst many old men are foolish, some of us insist on proving it.

I must warn you at the outset that years ago when I had given an address, one eminent gentleman came up to me and said politely that he was sure I had given an interesting talk but that he had not heard a single word of it. I didn’t congratulate him on his good luck, but it reminded me of two elderly friends who had not seen each other for some time. On meeting, one remarked to the other on how well he looked, to which his friend replied ‘Yes, I’m feeling great – I have a new hearing aid and it’s marvellous: I can now hear every word. Mark you – it was expensive – it cost me $10,000.’ His friend was both interested and impressed and asked ‘What kind is it?’ The other said ‘Oh about half past seven!’

Anyway Mr President, if any here do want to listen, I hope they can hear me, with or without a hearing aid.

So much for a penance. As for a privilege – unquestionably it is an honour and a privilege to be given the opportunity to invite all here to rise and toast this Club. Before doing so however, may I, in this context, try to articulate briefly what the Club means to me and what I believe is common to all our members.

It is now almost 50 years since I was first introduced to the Club as a guest by Charles Sutherland – that quietly spoken, always courteous and imperturbable member. At the time, as I recall, Jim E Minifie (senior) was President: a gentle self-effacing man who for so many years was an example to us all in his dedication as Walks Secretary to the ideals of the Club. As has always been the custom, I went on a number of walks before being honoured with membership in 1950. I remember with pleasure the names and companionship of men who were regular walkers around those times – Jim E Minifie, Charles Sutherland, Mac Burnet, Ian Clunies Ross, Lionel Bull, Tom Boehme, Joe Burke, Walter Summons, Owen Dixon and many others – most of them giants in their professions, all of them eminent and some with international reputations. And somewhere in this galaxy of talent was me – young and active, but with no reputation, no eminence, and, by the grace of God, no black marks – at least as far as I was aware. I think that, – not surprisingly – at first I held these giants in awe, but as initially I listened to the discussions on the walks, and then began to participate in them, I came to realise the first essential truth of being a Wallaby. Here was a group of luminaries with a wide spectrum of scholarship and professional attainment, — but what really mattered was not WHO YOU ARE but WHAT YOU ARE. Provided that you enjoyed outdoor exercise, good companionship and compatible relationships and could take pleasure in discussion over a wide variety of interests — these were the essential requirements for admission to the fraternity of membership. So whilst I lost my virginity of awe, I gained more and more respect for my fellow members, and so it has been for me ever since.

As the years have rolled on, inevitably there have been changes. New men of eminence and goodwill have replaced their illustrious predecessors of yesteryear: age and infirmities, dare I say it, are starting to take their toll of some of my generation. A few of us stroll (somewhat haltingly) rather than walk, with the less vigorous at the tail of the pack. And of course our Ladies now grace some of our activities. This innovation has added a new dimension, new interests and additional enthusiasm to our activities. What a wise and invigorating reform!
Mr President, I know full well that in carrying out the task you have set me, I must do so within the constraints of the two elements of a miniskirt – Short enough to be interesting, long enough to cover the essentials. In closing however, I must refer briefly to that icon of the Club – the Annual Dinner Card. The wit, the spontaneity, the humour and the scholarship of its contents make it a source of delight and a rich legacy to be preserved among our possessions – may it always continue.

Gentlemen – please rise: I give you the toast – “THE WALLABY CLUB”.

John Swan, Uncup 2010

Plants, Insects, Microbes and Food
[From the April 2010 Newsletter]

I was once involved in planning a graduate program in Environmental Science at Monash University. We quickly agreed that the course would be open to graduates of all disciplines, not just to scientists, engineers, architects and planners. We especially welcomed historians – knowledge of the past is always required for any investigation of current or future environmental change. That was certainly the case for studies done on Western Port and its catchment. History there was of paramount importance. Western Port will be the starting point for this talk on plants, insects, microbes and food.

Melbourne was founded by a group of Tasmanians in 1834. They sailed across Bass Strait from Launceston. For the next 60 years the only easy access from Melbourne to the fertile plains of Gippsland was also by ship – the Koo Wee Rup swamp was a near impassable barrier, stretching from the northern coast of Western Port to the Great Dividing Range. There is a place name on the map of the eastern shore of Western Port – Queensferry. No trace of this once-thriving town remains.

When the vast forests of South Gippsland were cleared for agriculture, the timber was shipped from Queensferry to Melbourne - timber was the fuel that baked the bread, heated the water and warmed the houses of Melbourne. There was no Princes Highway, no train line to Bairnsdale and Sale until the Koo Wee Rup swamp was drained – the work finally ended in the late 1890’s. It was done without any knowledge or understanding of risk management.

The current, extensive swamp drainage system, now managed by Melbourne Water, takes all the water from a very large catchment, straight into Western Port via a network of drains and streams. The Koo Wee Rup land area is now the richest and most productive agricultural land in Victoria. Koo Wee Rup is the asparagus capital of the world, with most being exported.

But there is a down side resulting from the swamp drainage, which nobody predicted. The run-off water now contains large quantities of sediment – some 70,000 tonnes per year, which enters the Estuary and drop out in the salty water. The soil particles also bear witness to their origin – with sometimes adsorbed nutrients, pesticides and the like. And hydrocarbons from car exhaust – the suburbs of Melbourne now extend eastwards along the Casey-Cardinia corridor. Cranbourne, Beaconsfield, Officer, Pakenham - a developer’s paradise.

And in addition to the swamp drainage and land clearance, many stands of mangroves in Western Port, those wonderful trees that can thrive in salt water, were cut down and burnt to provide a strongly alkaline ash for soap making. Mangroves can absorb wave energy and when present, protect the coast from erosion. The two-metre high cliffs extending several kilometres to the north and south of the Lang Lang river mouth, the border of the former swamp, are now eroding at 1-2 metres per year, and contributing a further 30,000 tonnes of annual sediment.

The northern waters of Western Port are now permanently turbid with this 100,000 tonnes of annual sediment. Turbidity cuts out light, and almost certainly, has been the major causative factor in the extensive dieback of the huge Western Port seagrass meadows. Thirty years ago, if you stood at the mouth
of the Lang Lang river and looked westward at low tide, it was green, green, seagrass to the horizon, interspersed by narrow salt water channels. The view is now black mud. History is important – Western Port is not a pristine environment.

Interestingly, the mud is now home for millions of ghost shrimps. When a dominant species (such as seagrass) disappears, the space vacated is usually quickly occupied by another life form. The ghost shrimps now increase the muddiness of the northern waters of Western Port – the shrimps dig burrows 15-30 centimetres in length and this constant digging keeps a lot of sediment in suspension. If the seagrass can be reinstated, the shrimps will be excluded. They cannot dig through the grass beds.

It would be good to restore the seagrass beds - they are a wonderful fish nursery and habitat. Over the last thirty years, commercial fishing in Western Port has declined, from 10-15 operators down to one.

At this point, my message is that biology is complicated, natural systems are hard to predict, the environmental consequences of human activity will always be uncertain, and often deleterious. This brings me now to plants, insects, microbes and food. And especially the eco-services they provide.

I start with Professor E O Wilson, of Harvard University. He is a very famous scientist, a world authority on insects. He is seriously concerned about the destruction of natural ecosystems, and the loss, in recent times, of many, many species of insects, plants and animals. Here is Wilson’s Law: ‘If you can save the living environment you will automatically save the physical environment. If you try to save only the physical environment, you will lose them both’.

Wilson points out that most people see Nature, the living environment, as trees, plants and vertebrates, with the important vertebrates being ourselves, our pets, and some charismatic birds and animals (tigers, eagles, polar bears, gorillas, pandas and whales). Yet these are a very small part of the living biota, which is overwhelmingly dominated by microscopic creatures such as bacteria, fungi, the planktonic life of the oceans and the vast numbers of very small insects.

Wilson points out that the most abundant land animals are the tiny oribatid mites which are the size of a pinhead, and look like a cross between a turtle and a spider. The many species of these mites are present in their countless millions; they are found almost everywhere, and yet no one really knows what they do.

J B S Haldane, the great 20th century biologist, was once asked what one could conclude about the Creator from studying his work. Haldane replied: ‘The Lord had an inordinate fondness for beetles’. There are some 350,000 described species of beetle, comprising about 40% of all known insects. Insect numbers are truly enormous, but even these are utterly dwarfed by the bacteria. For example, each person has a characteristic set of oral microbes, and each part of the mouth – tongue, soft palate, gums, teeth – shows a different composition. In each human mouth there are many millions of microbes, comprising about 700 different species. Almost all of these are bacteria, but there are also archaea, fungi, amoebas and viruses. Speak to your dentist.

Wilson is working with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature to protect species – all species. There are at least 1.8 million separate and distinct species of living creatures on our planet, ranging from viruses and bacteria to us and the elephants. Some 4,300 species of mammal have been described and 10,000 species of birds. And here is the important point. Collectively, many of these species, especially the very small microbes, provide essential eco-services for the others.

Birds (and bats) provide a remarkable service to larger animals by controlling the insect populations. The microscopic phytoplankton in the ocean continually renews the oxygen in the air via photosynthesis. Like land plants, the phytoplankton absorb carbon dioxide and water and give off oxygen. It is a happy miracle that the oxygen content of the air remains at a steady 21%, and most of this oxygen comes from the ocean, not from land plants.

Fungi and bacteria recycle all wastes; the bacteria are largely responsible for cleaning up the water in lakes, rivers and soils. Chemicals that can poison us – arsenic, mercury, nicotine, strychnine and dieldrin – can be food for different species of bacteria. The bacteria are arguably the most important organisms on earth. Bacterial enzymes ultimately drive all the earth’s biochemical and geochemical cycles.
In recent years bacteria have been found living not only on the surface but deep within the earth - in cracks in the rocks where water can accumulate. These deep-living bacteria are anaerobes - they can live only in the absence of oxygen - but they have discovered means for extracting nutrients from the rock - including phosphate. Some of this phosphate, and also important trace metals such as iron, cobalt, zinc, copper, manganese and molybdenum, are subsequently captured by tree roots, and in this way get to the surface.

E O Wilson has written a foreword to an important recent book “Sustaining Life” - How Human Health Depends on Biodiversity’. This book presents a comprehensive overview of how human medicines, biomedical research, the emergence and spread of infectious diseases, and the production food, all depend on biodiversity. He points out that most people understand the effect of toxic pollution on their health. They know that the ozone hole in the upper atmosphere, a problem most definitely caused by man, is not a good thing. They know that destruction of forests, the depletion of water reserves, and global warming are serious threats.

What has been harder to grasp, by scientists as well as by the general public, is the profound influence that biodiversity has on human well-being. The mismanagement and destruction of species and ecosystems around the world lowers the quality of the planet’s natural resources, destabilize the physical environment and can hasten the spread of human and plant disease.

And it is not only a question of the avoidance of illnesses. It is true that a few thousand insect species can and do afflict us as pests and disease carriers - think of flies and mosquitoes. But we depend on all the other insects for our very lives. There are thought to be more than 100,000 different pollinating insect species on Earth. Decline in their numbers, reaching 70% in some places, have been reported in every country except Antarctica. If the beneficial insects (such as bees) were to disappear, most of the land ecosystems of the world would collapse and a good part of humanity would perish with them.

While many important foodstuffs, such as wheat, rice, maize, potatoes, yams and cassavas can be wind-pollinated, or self-pollinated, or can be propagated via cuttings, many other agricultural species rely exclusively on pollinators - insects and birds. There are 264 plant species grown for food in Europe, and eighty percent of these are dependent on pollinators. For a start, think fruit trees.

This brings me to the planting of trees. I start with the good news - surveys have shown that the more intensive the farming, the more trees the farmers tend to plant - for fruit, medicines, fodder crops, shade for animals, windbreaks, fuel. There are 22 million square kilometres of farmed land worldwide, and this currently has 10% tree cover. Much more can be done - some 7% of land classified as agricultural has greater than 50% tree cover. Australia, in 200 years, has cleared 90% of the original forests. The bare hills of the Scottish Highlands - 1.5 million hectares - were once covered by Scottish Pines - the country was named Caledonia for that reason by the Roman conquerors of Britain. Since then, land clearing for fuel, industry, and cattle grazing has resulted in 99% loss of tree cover.

Tree growth, especially on degraded land, is an undisputed ecological service. The growing tree will absorb and fix lots of carbon, and in addition the deep tree roots will bring phosphate and trace elements from underlying rocks to the surface, as already mentioned. With more time I could list another seven or eight important ecoservices.

Virgil, the great Latin poet, was born in Lombardy. It was the custom of rural women in Lombardy to plant a poplar tree following the birth of a child. They planted one for Virgil. It would be good to revive this custom for the whole world. We are told that the world population will increase by a further 2 billion people over the next 40 years. That would mean a further 2 billion trees. And these “birthday” trees could not just poplars and other useful timber trees, but fruit trees such as apples, pears, olives, figs, quinces, date palms, depending on the local climate and, of course, water availability. Why not?

This suggestion of world-wide tree plantings requires mention of current deforestation. Tropical deforestation presently accounts for around 20% of annual greenhouse gas emissions, and is the largest source of such emissions in the developing world. The best response to this would be to get the rich countries to simply PAY the poor countries to NOT destroy their forests and to adopt sustainable forest management practices. The emphasis should always be to encourage biodiversity. Only ecoservices from all the huge diversity of living creatures can save our world.
Here now is some good news. I heard a talk recently from Michael Taylor, the new Chairman of the Murray Darling Basin Authority. He informed us that the new regulations relating to water flow through the Basin must now give first priority to ecological services. The environment is to take precedence over all other users or claimants, including the irrigators. The government now accepts that in the past, water has been seriously over-allocated, and with a twelve-year drought, the situation is critical. We have to save the lower lake system – Lake Alexandrina and the Coorong. If these dry out – and they are close to it – huge areas of acid-sulphate soils will be exposed to air. The consequent release of sulphuric acid will be disastrous – a monstrous calamity.

At last we have government recognition that if we first fix the ailing natural system, we can then restore the ailing physical environment – in the Murray-Darling case this will include the necessary repair and maintenance of the barrages, the many reservoir retaining walls, and the pumps and pipes that deliver water to the users. If we ignore the environmental needs and try only to fix the physical infrastructure we will, as Professor Wilson maintains, lose both.

There is no doubt that a major extinction of the Earth’s organisms is now under way, and the principal cause is we humans. My title is Plants, Insects, Microbes and Food. I think I should have included “People” in that list. This was certainly implied by the word “Food”. Food production for a growing population has lead, over 2000 years, to intensive agriculture and consequent land clearance. Plus the harvesting of wild animals, a major cause of animal extinctions in the past.

Today, more than 300 of the 4000 or so present mammal species are threatened with extinction, to say nothing of the birds, fish and insects. In 2004, the Australian Government reported that some 3000 whole bushland ecosystems were disappearing, taking more than 1,500 species with them. While land clearing is seen as the greatest threat, others include salinity, overgrazing, feral pests, poor fire regimes, and firewood collection. This loss of species, and the consequent likely loss of ecoservices, is a problem we must address.

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**Brian Snape, Christmas Dinner 2010**

*Changing perspectives on conservation over the past 50 years*

*[From the December 2010 Newsletter]*

I was born and bred in Cronulla, Sydney’s southernmost beach suburb, analogous to Frankston - at the end of the suburban rail network. In those days, the forties and early fifties, my home was surrounded by natural bush - mainly low eucalyptus and angophora trees and associated scrubby plants. In the housing boom in the early fifties, this bushland and all its wonderful plants began to disappear and by the time I left to get married in 1960 it was all gone. When, in my early teens, I questioned my parents on this destruction, I was told that ‘you can’t stop progress’. I often wonder whether the driving forces behind the community’s attitude to the environment have changed over the sixty years since.

During our courting years, Diana and I spent a lot of our spare time bushwalking and photographing the beautiful countryside around Sydney. The richness of the sandstone flora and the associated birdlife had a profound influence on both of us. We bought our first books on plants and birds at that time and began to be able to identify most of the interesting things we found. After our marriage, we planted many of our favourite local plants in our first garden - a modest affair in an unfashionable but convenient suburb. By then, our appreciation of the natural world was very entrenched.

As a young industrial chemist, I was really influenced by Rachel Carson’s book “Silent Spring” when it was published in 1962. Many of you will remember it told the story of the effect of DDT on the environment and especially the impact on bird populations. It led, eventually, to the banning of the use of
DDT. I think this was the first instance of a widespread, and very useful, industrial chemical being banned on environmental grounds. Many say it was the beginning of the "environment movement" - it was certainly an awaking.

I look back on the "swinging sixties" as a time of the general questioning of authority; a result of the social freedom unleashed with the introduction of "The Pill", the Vietnam protests and The Beatles. The publication of "Silent Spring" was the beginning of the widespread appreciation and concern for the environment.

So the sixties was the decade of AWARENESS.

When Diana and I moved to Melbourne in 1967, we rented an apartment in Armadale and found we had a lot of spare time on our hands - time to make many new friends away from family, school and university circles. We also had weekends to explore the wonderful diversity of natural areas within a day’s drive from home. Unlike Sydney, where a day’s drive would have you always on Hawkesbury sandstone, wonderful but always much the same, from Melbourne we could be in the forests of the Otways, the basalt plains of the Western District, the Grampians or the Little Desert, the Goldfields, The Whipstick mallee north of Bendigo, The High Country with its unique alpine flora, the tall forests of the Highlands, Gippsland or, of course, the Prom.

What a smorgasbord of wonders! We joined many organizations to help us appreciate this wonderland; the local branch of the Society for Growing Australian Plants (now the Australian Plants Society), the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria, the Bird Observers' Club and the Victorian National Parks Association. From our involvement with these activities and interests, we made many new friends who were also concerned about the environment. In the late sixties, we were heavily engaged in the battle to stop the senseless destruction of a large part of The Little Desert to produce marginal grazing land. At this time we joined the new Australian Conservation Foundation and found ourselves being labelled "greenies" - a label we carried with some pride. The "Little Desert Agricultural Settlement Scheme" was shelved in December 1969 and Sir William McDonald, the Minister for Lands and Conservation and the major proponent for the scheme, lost his seat at the May 1970 elections. The Premier, Sir Henry Bolte, smarting from an electoral rebuff, was clever enough to appoint Bill Borthwick as the new Minister for Lands and Conservation. Borthwick was known as being sympathetic towards the environment and set up the Land Conservation Council (LCC) to assess the value of all unoccupied Crown Land for suitability for National Parks. Minister Borthwick told the LCC to 'set about planning as if for a thousand years'. No politician talks like that these days. So the new decade began with a great deal of hope for conservationists.

Paul Ehrlich published his seminal book on the world’s population; “The Population Bomb” in 1971. We left for London at the end of that year and did not return until 1974. During that time we saw very little untouched natural scenery and came to appreciate our Australian legacy even more. While we were away there were great changes in Victoria. Dick (later Sir Rupert) Hamer took over as Premier in 1972 and Minister Borthwick set up the Environment Protection Authority to monitor the environment, especially pollution. He also set up the Victorian Conservation Trust in 1972 to encourage conservation of natural habitat on private land and to purchase suitable land identified by the LCC studies for inclusion in the National Parks system. These were momentous changes and Premier Hamer and Minister Borthwick, who changed the name of his department to the Ministry for Conservation in 1973, deserve everlasting credit. On our return in May 1974, we were amazed at the changes in attitudes and general awareness of conservation issues. It was becoming mainstream to talk openly about protection of our best natural areas for future generations to study and enjoy. However, progress was slow and the Victorian National Parks Association continued campaigning for a bigger and more comprehensive National Parks system.

I think it is fair to say that the seventies was the decade of PROTECTION. This was through the National Parks system and the activities of the VCT which purchased many important properties, some of which it retained but many were given to the park system. In 1978, the Trust introduced a covenantsing process, whereby private owners could voluntarily enter into a Conservation Covenant with the Trust. These covenants are registered on the property title and are legally binding. All future owners of such properties have to protect defined natural aspects of the property, and the Trust undertakes to monitor the property in perpetuity to ensure that this is done. A big job, but a very worthwhile innovation. The Trust (which is
now known as the “Trust for Nature”) is about to sign its one thousandth conservation covenant. This will protect about 40,000 hectares in Victoria forever, a remarkable achievement by both the Trust and the community.

For me, the nineteen eighties were marked by a growing awareness that many environmental problems were global and to address them needed co-ordinated international action by all governments. The problems were being discovered by both increased environmental monitoring, through new equipment becoming available, and increasing numbers of environmental scientists working in the field. When I did science in the mid fifties, there were no environmental studies available. The closest areas were Botany or Zoology - both academic subjects, not very appealing to a young student wanting to study the natural world. During the seventies, many new courses were developed to cater for the demand for environmental studies, particularly at the newer universities.

Monitoring of the atmosphere was a growing area of interest and Australia played a leading role through CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology. The first area of major concern was the “ozone hole” which was discovered in 1985 and thought to be caused by emissions of chloro-fluorocarbons (CFCs). Despite the loud protests from Du Pont, the major manufacturer of CFCs, this lead to the Montreal Protocol in 1987 which banned these chemicals because of the widespread use they were rapidly gaining. This was the world’s first international treaty concerning the environment. At the same time, there was increasing concern about rising levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and the impact this was having on global temperatures. This became a major issue for the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.

There was also a growing awareness of the finite resources of the planet. Some of you may remember the “Club of Rome” and their study titled “The Limits to Growth” published in 1972. This book caused a sensation and sold 12 million copies in 30 translations. It was the best selling environmental book in history. (As far as I know, it still is.) I was working for BP in a strategic planning role in the late sixties, when BP started looking at alternatives to petroleum as a major energy source. We realized that conventional oil was finite and were doing some work on oil sands in Canada. However, it was clear that exploiting this potentially huge reserve could have dubious viability and would cause massive environmental damage. Coal was seen as the most likely major energy alternative and BP Australia took a very active role in developing this. Initially, we settled on exploring for steaming coal in Queensland and one of my major projects in my time in the London headquarters in the early seventies was to get Board approval to apply for permission to prospect in the Bowen Basin. For various local political reasons this didn’t progress, so we commenced purchasing existing mines to form BP Coal. In the early eighties, as concerns about carbon dioxide emissions and global warming emerged, BP’s interest in alternatives extended to solar photo-voltaics and we purchased a small solar panel manufacturer in Sydney to learn about this industry. This lead to a partnership with the research unit at University of NSW where many useful discoveries in photo-voltaic technology were made. BP Solar became the major manufacturer of photo-voltaics in Australia, with much of the production being exported as there was limited demand in Australia. I was Chairman of BP Solar until my retirement in 1992. It was during this time that I learned at first hand about the power and political influence of the coal lobby. But that is another story!

So the eighties was the decade of INTERNATIONAL AWAKENING.

Environmentally, the nineties really started when, in 1992, more than 100 Heads of State met in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for the first international Earth Summit. This was convened to address urgent problems of environmental protection and socio-economic development. The assembled leaders signed the Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, endorsed the Rio Declaration and the Forest Principles, and adopted Agenda 21, a 300 page plan for achieving sustainable development in the 21st century. The Convention on Climate change led to the Kyoto Protocol, which was adopted in Kyoto, Japan, on 11 December 1997 and entered into force on 16 February 2005. The Protocol was a mechanism to limit emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs), with each country negotiating a target level of GHG emissions by 2012, based on actual emissions in 1990. There is currently a major international effort to negotiate the next phase of this essential program.

Back home, things were moving rapidly, largely in the wake of the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. Biodiversity became a new focus for environmental protection and the Federal Environment Protection and
Biodiversity Conservation Act (the EPBC Act) was passed in 1999. Biodiversity is based on the principle that it is essential to protect whole systems rather than concentrate of individual species. The same principle became the basis for approaching landscape restoration - look at whole areas rather than individual properties. The Victorian Conservation Trust, which changed its name to Trust for Nature in 1995, was a leader in promoting "connectivity" and later "landscape scale conservation", as it was clear that many of the individual reserves we had were not sustainable in the long term, because of the so-called "island effect" - islands are well known to have less diversity than a similar area of connected country. Small reserves also suffer from the "edge effect" which means that a surprising amount of land around the boundaries with alienated land are of much reduced value to biodiversity because of impacts from outside.

The Wallabies have a connection with the Trust. I was Chairman from 1992 until 2002 and John Swan was one of my illustrious predecessors in the early eighties. As you can imagine, my ten years was a time of great expansion - very exciting and rewarding!

Also, during this period, other conservation organizations began purchasing and managing important conservation areas. The Australian Bush Heritage Fund (now known as Bush Heritage Australia) was set up by Dr Bob Brown (now Senator Bob) in 1990 with the purchase of 2 forested properties at Liffey, outside Launceston. The deposit was his money from the Goldman Environmental Prize and the balance was borrowed until donations from the public could be accepted. Bush Heritage was also involved with Greening Australia and others in establishing the Gwonedana Link project in the SW of WA. Gwonedana Link aims to ‘Reconnect country across SW Australia, from the karri forests of the SW corner to the woodlands and mallee bordering the Nullarbor Plain, in which ecosystem function and biodiversity are restored and maintained’. In other words, from Margaret River on the SW coast to Kalgoorlie, about 1,000 km - some vision and it is already well underway.

BHA now own and manage 32 reserves covering almost one million ha.

The Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) bought its first sanctuary at Karakamia just outside Perth in 1991. AWC has an emphasis on protection of our unique small animals and conducts an active research program to support this. They now own and manage 21 sanctuaries covering 2.5 million ha. This includes some previously owned by John Wamsley's "Earth Sanctuaries" and purchased when this company ran into serious financial problems.

Birds Australia purchased "Gluepot", a marvellous reserve in the Murray Mallee just north of Waikerie in South Australia. This 54,390 ha area of virgin mallee scrub contains no less than 18 nationally threatened bird species, 53 species of reptiles and 12 species of bats (some of which are also nationally threatened). It is still run entirely by volunteers. So the nineties was the decade of ACTION.

The new century started with a lot of hope that the action would continue - that climate change would be addressed by a major shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy. However this has been thwarted by vigorous and effective lobbying from the established fossil fuel industry and the lack of concentration on the benefits of renewables. Despite this, work has continued on development of renewable energy sources, particularly in California and China. The tragedy is that they are largely using Australian technology and personnel - because these are so neglected at home.

The UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in 2009 made some progress, but overall it was a disappointment for most people. As we speak, the follow-up conference in Cancun, Mexico, is taking place but progress is difficult as many key nations are unable to commit to significant change because of local domestic politics. This does not bode well for our future.

I think the so-called "noughties" has to be called the decade of DENIAL. So what can we make of all this?

Firstly, during the period of this story, the world population has risen from 2.1 billion in 1936 to 3.7 billion at the time of Ehrlich's book "Population Bomb" in 1972. His warning was ignored and today the population is 6.8 billion and is expected to be 9.3 billion in 2050. So, in my lifetime it has more than tripled. You don't have to be a Nobel Prize winner in biology to know that this is not sustainable. Not only has the demand on our natural systems more than tripled in this period because of population growth, but the per capita usage has also increased. Still we hear the business lobby calling for more growth. How long do they want the growth to continue, as today we are already using the sustainable resources of 1.5 planets?
Secondly, are we any happier because of all this consumption? Australians are now three times richer than their parents or grandparents, yet we are no happier. The slavish worshipping of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as our only measurable national goal is not making us happier. Some countries are looking at other better indicators of national wellbeing. For example, the mighty kingdom of Bhutan has a “Gross National Happiness” index, King Jigme Singye Wangchuck said ‘Gross National Happiness is more important than “Gross Domestic Product”’. Our Australian Bureau of Statistics has been looking at measuring “wellbeing” since 2001 but it has generated little attention. Clearly, our business (and therefore our political) leaders are wedded to the concept of growth. But it is not making us happier and it is destroying the planet as we knew it.

Thirdly, we are experiencing the problems of making a fundamental change. Vested interests always resist change as they perceive that their current positions of power and wealth generation are under threat. However, as Professor Tim Flannery has said recently in his latest book “Here on Earth”:-

*We stand at a crossroads, where comprehension of our place in nature - of our true abilities and of our history - is supremely important. We have formed a global civilization of unprecedented might, driven forward by the power of our minds - a civilization which is transforming our Earth. We are masters of technology, and of comprehension, but it’s what we believe that may, from now on, determine our fate.*

Let’s hope that we rise to this challenge.

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**Murray Gillin, E.L. Batchelor Centenary Walk, 8 October 2011**

**Memorial Eulogy:**

*From the second October Newsletter 2011*

On 8 October 1911, Egerton Lee Batchelor, aged 46, died on a Wallaby walk that left Warburton with the intention of climbing Mt Donna Buang.

Egerton Lee Batchelor was born 10 April 1865 in Adelaide, South Australia. He joined the Wallaby Club in 1910 and his death is the only one recorded whilst on a Wallaby excursion in the 117 years of the Club. He was the Federal Minister for External Affairs at the time.

This tragic event occurred during the presidency of Professor Ernest Skeats 1905-1953 who was a life member and Professor of Geology and Mineralogy at University of Melbourne. Batchelor, a South Australian, is described as a vigorous, wiry-looking abstemious man, however never robust. As a young man, he held office in several South Australian Governments, and was at the time of his death Minister for External Affairs in the Fisher Ministry. His introduction to the Club was as Chief Guest of the Club at the Annual Dinner in June, 1910. Walter Gale CMG, the then President, invited Batchelor to be his guest at the next outing, and during the progress of the walk both Batchelor and Mr Justice Theyre a'B Weigall were elected members. Batchelor usually attended the all-day outings on Sundays.

A weekend excursion had been arranged for Saturday and Sunday, October 7-8, 1911, to climb Mount Donna Buang in the Warburton District. Members left Melbourne on Saturday, stayed at Warburton over night, and on Sunday morning made an early start to ascend the mountain. Dr Alfred Hart records “we had been steadily climbing for about an hour in single file and had reached a small piece of flat-ish ground when I and Frank Clapin, who were five or six paces behind Batchelor, noticed him begin to stumble and, after staggering a few yards, fall down and lie motionless on the ground. Drs Syme and Hornabrook, who were with the party, examined him, and tried to revive him, but found that he was beyond all human help.
Hart records: we abandoned the walk at once, sent for assistance, improvised a stretcher, and members carried the body of their comrade down the mountain to Warburton. During their progress downwards, while Mr Justice Higgins was helping carry his dead friend, he stumbled and was struck on the ankle by the stretcher-pole and had to be assisted himself. The sad news was telegraphed, and a special train, carrying two Cabinet Ministers, conveyed the party to Melbourne. On arrival at Melbourne, we all went with the cortege to the Queen’s Hall, Parliament House, where the Prime Minister, Mr Fisher, thanked us for paying the respects due to his colleague and our friend. He was only forty-six years of age, and his death was a severe loss, not merely to his friends and his party, but to Australia. It was a very bad weekend for the Club, as Sir John Hoad had died two days earlier.

After a memorial service in Melbourne, his body was returned to Adelaide for burial in West Terrace cemetery. He was survived by his wife and six children, and his estate was valued for probate at $3200. A locality near Darwin was later named after him.

May we observe one minute’s silence in respect of Egerton Lee Batchelor.

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The Wallabies will keep on walking and talking ...
EPILOGUE

Traditionally this is where one makes a wise and wonderful wind-up of Wallaby wanderings over the past twenty or more years. Breaking this tradition (which is amazing for the writer who is so imbued with tradition) is simply to say that the work is incomplete. More can always be said. Stories worthy of record will always emerge. Years will continue to unfold and reveal more quirks and delights for Wallaby minds. May these be many happy years of walking, talking, dining, sharing and caring for each other and for the world around us.

À votre santé!
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