

# CAMPING

C O N N E C T I O N S

NEWSLETTER OF THE CAMPING ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC.  
INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTERS OF THE CAMPING ASSOCIATIONS OF  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA, TASMANIA AND QUEENSLAND.

July 1999

## Southern Cross Award

**T**he Camping Association of Victoria is pleased to award Bill Bowker the inaugural Southern Cross Award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to camping and outdoor education.

Bill was presented with his award at the 1998 Joint Conference and Don MacDowall recalled some of Bill's contribution to camping and outdoor education.

Bill Bowker was there when we made big decisions - shifting to View Bank, starting People Outdoors and Project Adventure Australia, creating accreditation - the first and the second time! Bill was there we devised our first logo and our second and our third and....

Bill was there when we produced our first Directory, when we met with the Minister for Education and the Minister for Sport and Recreation

Bill welcomed the President of the American Camping Association to Australia and, years later hosted the International Camping Fellowship in Australia.

Bill was there when we formed the Camping Association in 1983 and has been an active, involved executive member of the Committee of Management ever since, serving fifteen consecutive years.

Bill has actively encouraged people with disabilities to use camping facilities - long before it was government policy, long before it was fashionable.



Significantly, Bill walks the talk. He provides leadership in what he says and what he does. A plaque to

Christopher Wren in St Paul's Cathedral says "If you would see his work, look around you." So it is for Bill Bowker. His work is camping in Victoria, in Australia and across the world.

Almost automatically, when we think of Bill, we think of Kangarooobie. Bill means Kangarooobie and Kangarooobie means Bill. But it also means Jenny and Matt and Kezia because Kangarooobie is a supreme team effort. While Bill has been supporting camping, Jenny has been very active in Host Farms and tourism.

In his own time and at his own expense, Bill gives enormously to camping across the world. Here some of his international friends pay tribute to this.

*Dear Willy,*

*It is with the deepest respect that we add our best wishes to a tribute to you and your contributions to camping in Victoria, in Australia and around the world.*

*For over 10 years, we have travelled the world with you. In your beautiful country, we have been hosted by you and*

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## Southern Cross Award

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*Jenny in your wonderful Kangaroo setting - we have seen the glow worms, we have learned about the southern constellations, we have seen the history and culture, and through you, we have met fabulous camping leaders who are giving so much to the children of Australia.....*

*In Russia, we have walked together in ancient places of history, we have stood together at the shore of the Neva River listening to our national anthems being played by enthusiastic streetside musicians, we have taken train rides together.....(we'll let you or Bill Oakley tell the folks THOSE details!!)....and we have taken part in meetings that helped bring the world together at Nevsky Forum 1997.....*

*In Belgium, we waited while your lost luggage arrived four days after you...each day we waited at a more respectful distance from you and Don.....we walked across the border into France, and we took part in the 20th anniversary of the camping program in that country.....*

*In Caracas, we danced and played and ate, and somewhere in there, we had a meeting of the International Camping Fellowship Steering Committee.....*

*In the United States, our friendship continued to flourish at the American Camping Association Conferences in Boston and Orlando.....*

*And, in Canada, we have laughed together at Camp Tawingo....tried winter sports in weather of minus 26 degrees Celsius, learned to drive a snow machine.....hosted the world at KUMBAYAH 1994, hidden shoelaces to fool Don MacDowall, stolen raingear from Jack's cottage...*

*Bill, words cannot describe what your friendship means to us. We love our dedication to the camping movement worldwide.....we love your commitment to camping in Victoria and Australia.....we love that you are being honoured by your peers for your commitment.....but most of all, we love you. We are so proud to be your friends.*

*The whole world of worldwide camping stands to salute you*

*With our deepest respect and love*

*The 3 J's.....  
Jack, Jorgi and Jane*