

THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 CENTS

EDITION 641 JULY 2004

PHYTOPTHERA HOW CLEAN IS MY GEAR?

Ever noticed banksia leaves going yellow, grass trees that have collapsed, and eucalypts dying back slowly from the tips, during a walk? If so, you are probably walking through an area that has been affected by phytopthera fungus. These sights diminish the enjoyment of bushwalking, and there is a need to prevent the spread of the fungus.

How to tackle phytopthera was recently raised in the April 2004 edition of the VicWalk News, the newsletter of the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs. The fungus spreads through carrying affected soil from one place to another. Thus four wheel drivers carry the fungus from place to place on their vehicles, and bushwalkers carry the fungus on their boots, tents and packs.

The Federation is urging walkers to take responsibility for preventing the spread of the fungus by exhorting them to clean their boots after walking in affected areas. Walkers are encouraged to carry:

- A hard brush to clean footwear
- A bottle of disinfectant: either methylated spirits (undiluted) or household bleach (one part bleach with four parts water), and

• A spray bottle to spray disinfectant on to footwear. Leaders are urged not to walk off trail in affected areas. The affected areas identified so far are: the Otways, south and east Gippsland, Glenelg, Brisbane Ranges, Kinglake, Point Nepean (Greens Bush), Wilsons Promontory, Croajinglong National Park, Angahook-Lorne and Lake Tyers. Campers should pay attention to cleaning tent pegs, tent floor or toilet trowel before moving off.

The club will provide a wash down station at the end of walks in affected areas. However, walkers and leaders are encouraged to take personal responsibility for not spreading the fungus

> Peter McGrath Assistant Walks Secretary

Half-yearly General Meeting Wednesday, 25 August, 2004 8 pm, Clubrooms

CLUBROOM FRIDAY FLICKS

THE SENTIMENTAL BLOKE

You may have heard all the fuss in the media recently about the discovery in America of a long lost Australian silent film, 'The Setimental Bloke'. Well it was a beat-up. A copy already exists, and to prove it we're going to have a screening on Friday 23rd July. Made in 1919 this wonderful adaptation of C.J. Dennis' classic poem centres on the romance and marriage of 'The Bloke' and his, Doreen. It was filmed around Woolloomooloo and Hornsby and was way ahead of its time in terms of the naturalness of the performances and comedy routines. And it comes complete with piano accompaniment, just like the good old days!

THE GREAT COASTAL DUNE SHOW

We'll also be showing an amusing short feature about the importance of preserving our coastal ecosystems. The presentation is satirical and the message is sharp, because, as you'll see, building on sand is insecure in more ways than one.

There's an interval, and refreshments will be available. No need to book, just turn up, but for any further information please ring Stuart Note this is not a video or DVD but a genuine cinematic projection.

> Venue: The Clubrooms Date: Friday July 23rd 7.30 pm

Print Post Approved PP No 338888/00016

ENQ:

www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au info@melbournebushwalkers.org.au

Members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. meet on Wednesday evenings between 7.00 & 9.00 pm in the Clubrooms, Victorian Horticultural Society Hall, 48 MacKenzie Street, Melbourne. Visitors are always welcome.



General correspondence should be directed to: The Secretary, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc., PO Box 1751Q, Melbourne, Vic., 3001. The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. is the newsletter of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. and is published monthly. Editor: Ron Hampton.

Walk previews & reviews, articles, poems, news items, photographs of club events, reports of new gear, book reviews, letters to the Editor, advertisements, etc. are always welcome. The Editor reserves the right to edit contributions where space, clarity or propriety dictate and to maintain editorial consistency.

Contributions to *The News* may be sent to the Editor by: • Emailing to:

- Placing diskette or hand written material in the Editor's
 pigeon hole in the clubrooms
 - Posting diskette or hand written material to either: The Editor, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc., PO Box 1751Q, Melbourne, Vic, 3001

R. Hampton, The News Editor,

Electronic mail is preferred.

Closing date for receipt of material for *The News* is the last Wednesday of the month.

Advertisements in *The News* Only advertisements directly relating to bushwalking will be accepted (e.g. gear, maps, trips, tours, etc.). Members' ads are free.

Advertising Rates (Artwork Ready) in: printed edition only: as below, or printed & on-line editions: as below + 25% or on-line edition only: as below + 25%.

Size:	1 issue	3 Issues	12 Issues (1 Year)
1/4 Page	\$35	\$90	\$330
1/2 Page	\$55	\$150	\$550
Full Page	\$100	\$250	\$900

VICWALK NEWS SUMMARY

First Aid Subsidy

The VicWalk Council has approved a \$40 per head subsidy for any clubs'member who completes a first aid course. This is on top of the existing subsidy for BSAR members.

Jim Harker

Otway Ranges

The Victorian Environmental Assessment Council released the draft proposals paper on 27 May.

This focuses on

- Proposed boundaries for a single national park in the Otways
- Land use categories for other public land usage in the study area.

A 60-day formal submission period closes on Monday 26 July. There have been 1100 submissions received to date.

There has been no progress on the Trans-Otway Walk yet, although second-hand information seems to indicate the government wants to implement the Otway Tourism Strategy which is in no way walker-friendly, and has no tourism vision.

A letter has been sent to the Minister stating our support for the track, outlining the community's support and the economic benefits to be gained, and pointing out misleading information in the Otway Tourism Strategy. It states that we expect them to honour their policy, announced prior to the last election, to develop key features such as the Trans-Otway Walk. Letters to the Minister are still required and are one of the most effective ways to get the message across.

The Otway Ranges Walking Track Association (ORWTA) met with Steve Gartland from the Minister's office. He thought all negative references contained in the tourism strategy should be removed to leave options open for the future. However, he made it clear that under management

there would be closure of sites due to budgetary commitments.

Geoff Kelly





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Trekking Kakadu since 1986

Join Susan Maughan & Stuart Hodgson for lunch in the Yarra Valley on Tuesday 27 July, 11.00 am

Meet at Domaine Chandon, Maroondah Highway, Coldstream (Me 276 C7) in time for the FREE 11.00 am tour and learn how they make their champagne. Aftterwards we can retire for a glass (approx. \$5).

Then, a short drive through the back roads to Yarra Glen for lunch at CHEESE FREAKS. They serve yummy, reasonably priced meals and excellent desserts!

I'll try and reserve a table by the open fire, nonetheless, please book with SUSAN or STUART on by Sunday 25 July.

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

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There are many tour operators who go to Kakadu, but **there is only one** who offers tours where

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- you share your campsites with no one but your walking companions
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PREVIEWS OF DAY WALKS JULY/AUGUST 2004

SUNDAY BUS: Yea Spur

DATE	Sunday 25 July
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	12 km & 18 km
LEADERS	Sue Ralston & Paul Logsdon
TRANSPORT	Bus — Southbank Blvd. 9 am
RETURN TIME	7 pm
AREA	Yea
MAP REFERENCE	Flowerdale 1: 25,000 and Homewood 1:25,000

This is a lovely peaceful walk along the ridgetops, with spectacular views of the surrounding farmland and ranges. Both walks will be on open farmland or 4WD

tracks and will involve a short but steep climb to the ridge, and then a few minor undulations.

It could be useful to hone your cattle mustering skills – which were called on by one of the local farmers when we pre-viewed the area!

DANDENONGS EXPLORER: Rhododendron Gardens area

DATE	Saturday 31 July	
STANDARD	Easy	
DISTANCE	12 km	
LEADER	Stuart Hodgson	
TRANSPORT	Private	
AREA	Dandenong Ranges National Park (Northern end).	
MAP REFERENCE	Melways 66 and 122	

I haven't previewed this walk yet, but plan to meet/park somewhere along Falls Road and then follow a circular route skirting the Rhododendron Gardens and golf course, through the R.J. Hamer Forest Arboretum and then exploring some of the multitude of forest tracks that exist between here and Olinda Creek Road to the north. After the walk we'll probably retire to one of the delectable coffee and cake shops in Olinda village to discuss the walk and solve the world's problems. Note change of advertised leader:- book with Stuart on

SUNDAY BUS: Grass Tree Walk, Brisbane Ranges

DATE	Sunday 1 August
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	12 & 16 km
LEADERS	Sylvia Ford & Linda Wilkinson
TRANSPORT	Bus Southbank Blvd. at 9 am
RETURN TIME	Approx. 7 pm

A very pleasant, undulating walk littered with thousands of grass trees. The walk offers good views, and passes an old slate quarry and some attractive little valleys. Many species of birds have been recorded in the area and a large, grey, Eastern Kangaroo was observed on the drive back from the walk preview. Cinnamon fungus causing plants to die is a problem in the park so, to limit the spread of the fungus it is important to obey all park management signs.

Remember to bring a torch in case it is dusk at the end of the walk.

THURSDAY TOFS: Plenty River – Janefield

DATE	Thursday 5 August
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	About 13 km
LEADER	Alister Rowe
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	3.30 pm
AREA	Greensborough / Mill Park
MAP REFERENCE	Melway 10 J12

Meet at 10.15 am sharp in Kalparrin Avenue, Greensborough, Melway Ref 10 J12. The walk will include suburban parkland and the very scenic Plenty River, then west through varied bushland to the derelict and rather sinister old Janefield Mental Institution buildings. Back again by a different route. Ring me on

SUNDAY BUS: Mt Hickey, Tallarook State Forest

DATE	Sunday 8 August
STANDARD	Easy/Medium & Medium
DISTANCE	15 & 18 kms
LEADERS	John McCall and Chris Hunter
TRANSPORT	Bus - Southbank Blvd. 9 am
RETURN TIME	7.00 pm
AREA	Tallarook
MAP REFERENCE	Vicmap 1:25,000 series

This walk includes a steep climb over Mt Hickey for the Medium walk, and will commence with a more gentle stroll over the summit for the Easy Medium walk.

The distances are fairly long in keeping with these walks' rating. There are also a couple of big hills along the way.

The highlights of the walk will be wattles along the way and the beautiful view to be gained over the Goulburn Valley from Warragul Rocks. Both walks will then descend via farming property to the highway near the lovely little township of Trawool.

Come and enjoy this walk for its northern bush hinterland experience.

SUNDAY BUS: Ironbark Gorge – Ottway State Forest

DATE	Sunday 15 August
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCES:	11 km & 18 km
LEADERS:	Lynda Larkin & John Coe
TRANSPORT	Bus - Southbank Blvd. at 8.30 am

Prepare yourselves for some good exercise and wonderful views in this coastal heartland located two hours southwest of Melbourne via the Great Ocean Road. Our two walks in the drier northern section of the Ottway State Forest will be traversing moderately steep, forested ridges, stands of wattle, ironbark and grass trees and sandy heathlands. When the preview walk was done the heathlands and wattle trees were already showing early signs of Spring and many birds were heard in the forest. You are promised fine views of the ocean and surrounding country from the top of the gorge and the tracks are all wellmaintained.

Please note that this walk was accidentally recorded as being located in Torquay in the Winter Walks Program, for which we apologize. Accordingly we will have to change to an 8.30 am start.

WEDNESDAY WALK: Kinglake National Park

DATE	Wednesday 18 August
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	15 km
LEADER	Jan Llewelyn
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	4.30 pm
AREA	Kinglake National Park
MAP REFERENCE	Strathewan 1:25000

In this walk we will explore some of the lesser visited tracks in the south end of the park. Typically Kinglake country, there will be some short and sharp ups and downs. Depending on the day we may do some cunning cross country navigation.

There will probably be some of the early blooming orchids and heaths showing.

Meet at the car park corner Heidelberg-Kinglake Rd and Old Kinglake Rd. for 10.15 am start. Map ref 531421 Ring me on for further info.

SUNDAY BUS: Bungal State Forest

DATE	Sunday 22 August
STANDARD	Easy/Medium & Medium
LEADERS	Les Southwell & Mark Heath
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd. at 9 am

Please talk to the leaders in the clubrooms about this walk.

DANDENONGS EXPLORER: Kallista

DATE	Saturday 28 August
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	14 km
LEADER	Eleanor Weekes (Ph. 9803 3060)
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	3.45 pm approx.
AREA	Kallista
MAP REFERENCE	Melway 124 J10

Meet at John's Hill Reserve (Melways 124 J10) Ridge Rd., Kallista at 10.30 am. We will walk down Ridge Road in an easterly direction to join the track running besides Menzies Creek and follow this track northwards to Butterfield wildlife reserve for lunch.

After lunch we follow the pathway beside Woori Yallock Creek to Moxham's reserve for a short refreshment stop. There may be a bit of scrub bashing along this area and a few crossings of the creek.

The last part of the walk involves an uphill gradient in returning to John's Hill reserve via Priors Rd., Portman Road, William Rd., and finally along Ridge Rd. After that a well earned cup of coffee and refreshments.

🚔 SUNDAY BUS: Burgan Track, Northern Kingslake

DATE	Sunday 29 August
STANDARD	Easy//Medium & Medium
DISTANCE	13 & 16 km
LEADERS	Nik Dow & Fiona Jarman
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd. at 9 am
RETURN TIME	Approx. 7 pm

These two walks will take in most of the northern section of the dissected Kinglake National Park. The walks are not long but there are hills all the way. Most of the time we are under the messmate and peppermint Eucalypts, coming out into the open to admire the power lines that cut a gash through the park. The other noticable inhabitants are trail bikes, including all the places where there are meant to be none. On our first preview we had a good look at a male lyrebird perched in a tree branch going through an extensive repertoire of imitations. There might be a kilometer or so of off-track walking for the Medium group but most of the walking is on roads including even a short section of main road. There will be a fair bit of mud around if there has been rain so wear boots with deep tread and bring clean shoes to change into at the bus.

PREVIEWS OF WEEKEND WALKS JULY/AUGUST 2004

TREE PLANTING & Box-Ironbark Forest Tour near Benaila

DATE	7–8 September	
LEADER	Marika Jagow	
AREA	Near Benalla 2 hours from Melbourne	
TRANSPORT	Private	
RETURN TIME	Approx. 5pm Sunday	

Ray Thomas, one of our club members coordinates these tree planting weekends and I think this is the 4th year the Bushies are participating. This weekend is an enjoyable day and a half of tree planting to support the regrowth of plant life for the endangered Regent Honeyeater. Join us this year for tree planting and a tour of the Box-Iron Forest and at the same time enjoy some healthy bushland. Free accommodation (or bring your tent), BBQ and bush dance provided as well. Come on the Saturday or both days. See the leader in the clubrooms to confirm numbers for the accommodation and meeting point details. BYO gardening gloves & gum boots.

BASE CAMP: Grampians. Track work with Park rangers

DATE	Friday 13 — Sunday 15 August
GRADE	Easy
LEADER	Rod Novak
AREA	Grampians National Park
RETURN TIME	8 pm Sunday evening
MAP	Grampians National Park

Melbourne Bushies have supported Parks Victoria with a weekend work party at the Alpine National Park every year for a good number of years. This year we helped restore Blairs Hut (see The NEWS - June edition). Now it is time to help Parks Victoria at another favourite destination of the club - the Grampians. We will base camp at Buandik Campground on the western side of the Grampians, a lovely campsite with grand views. Remember to bring those luxuries such as a pillow and camp chair as well as your camping gear. On Saturday we will assist Ranger David Handscombe with some track work and then enjoy a BBQ (bring your own meat, salads, and wine). On Sunday we will have a walk hopefully with some wildflowers and bird watching. Please come along and help Parks Victoria rangers in maintaining the majestic Grampians National Park and its wonderful walking tracks. See the leader at Clubnight on Wednesday 4th and 11th July for an Information Sheet.

A PACK CARRY: Langi Ghiran

DATE	20–22 August
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	20 km
LEADER	Bob Oxlade
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Approx. 8 pm
AREA	Western Victoria via Ballarat and Beaufort
MAP REFERENCE	VicMap Buangor North 1:25000

A nice camp site Friday night at Langi Ghiran picnic area. Saturday: We will walk on track 7 km, then off track over Mt Gorrin 737 m and another peak with good views before descending to a track for another 2 km to camp. Sunday: Off track from camp with some steep rock climbing to the summit of Mt Langi Ghiran 950 m. We then descend passing large granite slabs and rocks to a track that takes us 3 km via a look-out point back to our cars with nice views of Mt Langi Ghiran en route. Be prepared for cold weather, wet scrub and to carry water for the weekend. Graded E/M due to low kms.

BASE CAMP: Warby Ranges

DATE	27 – 29 August
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	25 km
LEADER	Bob Steel
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	1900 Sunday
AREA	Near Wangaratta
MAP REFERENCE	Rooftop's Warby Ranges – Wangaratta Forest
	Activities Map (GDA94); Warby Ranges
	1:25 000 (GDA66)

Base camp will be at Wenhams Camp, on Booth Road, in the Warby Ranges. Toilets available. Bring own water. GR 284777 (GDA66) or 282782 (GDA94) – Confusing isn't it! Campsite is clearly marked on Rooftop map as are walking tracks. Anyway, it is easy to find. Take the Yarrawonga Road out of Wangaratta, then Wangandary Road up onto the Range. Turn left into Gerret Road, then left into Booth Road. National Park camping area is signposted, on left. About 20 kms from Wangaratta. Walks will not be too strenuous – some waterfalls & cascades, wildflowers, views, pleasant walking on tracks and through open forest. Longer walk on Saturday, shorter walk on Sunday.

Could be a bit cool, so bring warm clothing. See me in the Clubroom for more info & directions.

ROYAL NATIONAL PARK Sydney Cup Weekend, November 2004

The Royal National Park is Australia's oldest national Park, and is a beautiful area of spectacular coastal cliffs, beaches, rainforests, woodlands and quiet streams and pools, all within coo-ee of Sydney (there are views of both Sydney City and Wollongong from in the park).

Cheap airfares, trains, and ferries make this park quite do-able in a four day weekend from Melbourne. From Sydney airport it is less than an hour to and from both ends of the park. I know, I've done it! I am delighted to say that it is now a new walk on the Melbourne Bushies walks calendar.

There are a couple of spaces on this walk which, because of small campsites (a good thing for us) will be necessarily limited in participants. Previous packcarry experience will be desirable, but not essential. The desire to explore new places with a small group of likeminded friends is the essential criteria here.

Total cost, including all fares and accommodation for Friday night, will be less than \$250. This is of course dependant upon flight availability, and so anyone interested in going should contact me to discuss the trip sooner rather than later.

Alan Clarke

AUSSIE SIXTIES LEGENDS – UPTIGHT/GO – SHOW SPECIAL

ORIGINAL FILM of TV teen shows 1960's-70's legends

THE TWILIGHTS, EASYBEATS, MAX MERRETT, JOHNNY YOUNG, NORMIE ROWE, BILLIE THORPE, BOBBIE & LAURIE, MERV BENTON, LYN RANDELL & MANY OTHERS.

Plus dancing to

LIVE MUSIC BY A LEGENDARY 60'S ACT

8pm Saturday 7th August Ormond Hall 557 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne \$28 ea or \$25.20 group of min 8 Table Seating Contact Carol at Clubrooms – leave message Pay by 21st July at Clubrooms

NEW MEMBERS

Marjie Courtis Stephanie A Hughes Maria Lake John Sloan Loch Wilson

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Life Members	10
Honorary Members	10
Single Memberships	295
Family Memberships	104 (= 2 x 52)
Total Membership	419
This time last year	429

Peter Havlicek, Memberhip Secretary

Walks Secretary Report

June 2004 Walk Statistics

June 2004	Trips	People	Average	June 2003
Sunday Bus	4	156	39	28.5
Other day	4	34	. 9	18
Pack Carry	2	14	7	7.5
Base Camp	1	11	11	16
Cancelled	0	-	-	-
Total	11	215	-	11/207

What a beautiful set of numbers! It is good to see lots of people walking to keep fit and warm despite the wintry weather.

Please get those walk reports in promptly as I can't produce these reports without them. By the way, I apologise to Gina for wrongly besmirching her good name in last month's report.

The Spring program is now complete, so it is time to start thinking about Summer already.

Ken MacMahon, Walks secretary

Clubrooms Duty Roster

July	14	Ron	Hampton,	Peter	Havlicek
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- July 21 David Laing, Carol Criddle
- July 28 Mark Heath, John Coe
- Aug 4 Fay Dunn, Howard Friend

Next committee meeting

Monday 2 Aug, 7 pm in the clubrooms

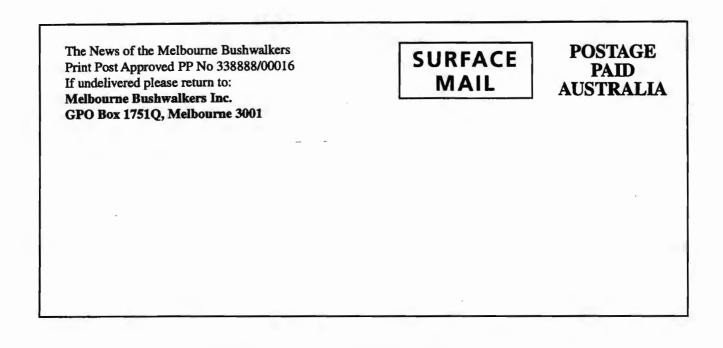
WALKS PROGRAM JULY 2004

Thu 1	Thursday TOFS: Blacks Walk, Blackburn Lake	Private	Easy	Warren Baker
2-4	Base camp: Aberfeldy River Goldmines	Private	Easy	Ken MacMahon
Sun 4	Cobaw Ranges, Kyneton	BUS	E & E/M	Jerry Karbownik & Keith McKenry
Sat 10	Cycle trip: Elwood – Ricketts Point	Private	E/M	Liz Telford
Sun 11		BUS	E/M & M	Maureen Hurley & Ralph Clayton
16-18		Private	E/M	Diane McKinley
* Sun 18		BUS	E/M & M	Tom Wilanowski & Steve Axford
Wed 21	Wednesday Walk: You Yangs	Private	E/M	Margaret Curry
Sat 24	BSAR Ski Skills Training Day	Private	E/M	David Laing
Sun 25	Yea Spur	BUS	E/M & M	Sue Raiston & Paul Logsdon
Sat 31	Dandenongs Exp: Rhododendron Gardens	Private	Easy	Warren Baker

Bus transport: meet in Southbank Boulevard, south side of the Arts Centre, before 9am. The leader or deputy will be there rain, hail or shine. Fees must be paid to reserve a seat on the bus. Bookings are made on Club Night. Telephone bookings are not accepted.

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ALTERATION TO PARTICULARS / SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

4....

		ADDRESS		
	Bus	PHONE Home Bus		
SUBSCRIPTION FEES:	FAMILY/COUPLE – membership \$70.00 New members joining on/after 1st O	to Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.' and post to:		