



THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 CENTS

EDITION 637 MARCH 2004

Federation Weekend 2004

Saturday 9th – Sunday 10th October

The Federation Weekend this year is being run by the Melbourne Bushwalkers in conjunction with the Strzelecki and Ben Cruachan Walking clubs. Even though the event is still six months away considerable planning and effort has already taken place. A planning and coordination team consisting of members of all three clubs has been working behind the scenes since May last year, setting up the framework for a successful weekend. The team comprises – Trish Elmore (MBW), Brian Crouch (MBW), Robert Bentvelzen (SBWC), Brett Jarvis (BCWC), and myself.

The weekend will be in the Walhalla area, with a range of walks from bludge to hard, around Walhalla and the Baw Baw plateau. There will be plenty of opportunities to visit Walhalla township should people want to. The administration and accommodation will actually be centred around Rawson, a small town about fifteen minutes before you get to Walhalla itself. This is because Walhalla itself does not have the facilities for the numbers of people that will be involved, but also has the advantage of a shorter drive, and with the Hallam bypass now open the trip is even shorter.

The Coranderrk Bunkhouse (36 beds) at Rawson Village has been booked for the Melbourne Bushies. Many members will be familiar with this accommodation, the scene of several visits over the last few years. Because we are making this the admin centre and are encouraging other clubs to use this facility, the Village proprietors are giving everyone a good deal for the weekend. Those wishing to use other accommodation should obviously make their own arrangements.

It goes without saying that for the weekend to be successful, the clubs will need a number of volunteers to help out. Apart from the obvious need for walk leaders, we will need administration people, some catering (tea/coffee), a booklet editor, and general dogsbodies – all important. We will be approaching people in the next few weeks to arrange who may be prepared to do what. Even though the event is six months away, its important to start putting people into the frame. If anyone has a job that they would particularly like to do, please let me know!

We will let you know more details as we get closer to the weekend.

Alan Clarke

It's on again!!

EASTER CANOE TRIP Friday 9–Monday 12 April

Once again a chance to canoe the wonderful lower Glenelg River.

The first day will be very short and will allow plenty of time for beginners to adjust to their canoes. The canoes and campsites have been booked. This is a truly beautiful river and we have got the best camp spots. The trip will finish at Donovans to reduce the risk of a slog for the last few kilometres and also give us a chance to get home at a reasonable time.

MELBOURNE COLONIAL DANCERS INC.

presents a

BUSH DANCE

2 pm – 5 pm

Sunday March 21 2004

St Alban's Church Hall

Cnr. Reynard and Gordon Streets

West Coburg

Melways 29D2 (enter from Reynard Street)

Enquiries to Robin Simpson

Easy dances! All dances taught and called!

Print Post Approved PP No 338888/00016

ENQ:

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

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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
 or
 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

MARCH 2004

VACANCY

VicWalk will soon need a State-level insurance convener. NSW is providing the national convener, who will negotiate the policy renewal, which has been the hardest part of the job in previous years. But we need a State convener to do the local work, in particular to take questions from clubs and refer them to the insurer.



From the Secretary

New club from Omeo, The Great Alpine Walkers Club was accepted as a member of VicWalk at the February council meeting. The club is based in Omeo and I welcome them to the VicWalk community. I am sure that VicWalk members will gain from the sharing of bushwalking knowledge and activities with members of this club.



Snippets from VICWALK Mags & People

Stuart Brookes of Bush Maps Victoria has let us know of a new edition of his Brisbane Ranges National Park map, Issue No 5, 2004. It's been checked by the rangers to show tracks that are closed due to cinnamon fungus.

Collated by Phil Brotchie



There is now a section of the Parks Victoria website which lists park management plans currently being prepared and invites people to comment. See 'Park Headlines' at www.parkweb.vic.gov.au



MUMC 60th

Carys Evans, Melbourne University Mountaineering Club President, recently wrote to VicWalk on behalf of MUMC saying that they are having their 60th anniversary dinner in August and are trying to get the word out to their thousands of ex-members and associates. Those interested in being on the mailing list for the event should get in touch with Jim Newlands,

Alpine Ecology Course, 2004

I recently spent a week on the Bogong High Plains participating in an Alpine Ecology Course, and I offer a few comments which may be of interest to Club members.

The Course has been an annual event for about 15 years and is convened by LaTrobe University. Its aim is to give an introduction to the natural systems of the Victorian Alpine Areas (meaning the treeless zone and, to a lesser extent, the adjacent subalpine Snow Gum woodland) and how to study them. It brings together scientists from around Australia who collectively have expertise in all the relevant disciplines and a passion for the high country: for example Dick Williams, a plant ecologist who has done much of the scientific work supporting the case against cattle grazing in the high country (Dick is now based in Darwin and is burning parts of the Top End in the interests of science); Keith McDougall and Neville Walsh who between them have surveyed and mapped the vegetation over all of our Alpine country; Neville Rosengren, a geomorphologist who has extensively studied the landforms of the Australian Alps; Ken Rowe, a soil scientist with 40 years experience of Victorian high country soils; Ian Mansergh, the zoologist who conducted the definitive study of the 'recently-snatched-from-the-jaws-of-extinction' Mountain Pygmy Possum; plus many others. With such a high-powered team the Course had to offer something special.

I'm fortunate to have done the Course in 2004, just a year after the fires that burnt so much of our high country. Not having been to the Bogong High Plains since the fires, I wasn't sure what to expect. The drive up the hill from Mount Beauty to Falls Creek through the various vegetation zones showed almost total burn and also much evidence of recovery after only a year. Snow Gums are resprouting from the base and Alpine Ash seedlings are progressing well, as are the grasses and herbs. The top of the high plains appears to have been less severely burnt than the tree-covered areas lower down, and in fact much of the grass-tussock vegetation did not burn. However the closed heathland was largely burnt, and in the open heathland (this term referring to intermittent shrubby species up to about a metre high interspersed with grasses) the fires had evidently spread from shrub to shrub without much impact on the grasses. The all-important Sphagnum bog communities, which are so vital for their water storage capacity, were partly burnt, and in places the underlying peat soil has been either burnt or removed by subsequent erosion. Most of the Snow Gums on the tops were burnt although many of the Snow Gum 'islands' were untouched. Throughout the week of the Course it was fascinating to see how the various vegetation communities and species have responded to the fires, and how the spread of the fires was to some extent controlled by the spatial patterns of vegetation. And it was powerful to see, at this stage of the fire cycle, such compelling

evidence of the inevitable cycle of burning and regeneration which has been an integral feature of the Australian environment for millions of years.

The Course was based at Howmans Gap and consisted of lectures or discussion groups (about 25% of the time) with the remaining time 'in the field'. The latter included general sessions on (a) plant communities and their ecology, (b) geomorphology and landforms etc., (c) alpine soils and (d) fauna, also specific field projects in all these areas, and excursions demonstrating land-use practices and conflicts in the high country. Perhaps the most valuable aspect of the whole exercise was that experts with local knowledge were on hand to interpret and discuss. For me some of the highlights were vegetation survey work in a partly burnt bog, collecting data from the Rocky Knobs area for a project on spatial burning patterns and vegetation response to fire, and actually seeing a Pygmy Possum.

Please feel free to approach me if you want more information on the Course.

Jerry Grandage

Walks Secretary Report

January 2004 Walk Statistics:

January 2004	Trips	People	Average	January 2003
Sunday Bus	4	133	33	29
Other day	2	12	6	18
Pack Carry	4	24	6	-
Base Camp	2	33	16.5	17.5
Canoe	1	24	24	19
Cancelled	-	-	-	2
Total	13	226	-	9/201

We had a good start to the new year with reasonable attendances on the Sunday walks and all 13 programmed trips running, with the canoe trip and base camps being very popular. It is disappointing that the pack carry trips are only attracting few people in spite of our efforts to offer some easy ones to encourage a few more beginners to give it a go. The Club does have backpacking equipment to hire out to its members, so even if you don't have all the gear don't let that put you off. Pack carry walks give you that chance to get back to nature and to enjoy the great scenery in our National Parks all over Victoria (and beyond). We'd love to see a few more of you trying it out.

Gina Hopkins

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.
TREASURERS ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD
1 JANUARY 2003 TO 31 DECEMBER 2003



Receipts and payments are divided into the following four sub-accounts.

<u>Sub Account</u>	<u>Opening Balance</u>	<u>Closing Balance (year end)</u>	<u>Profit/(Loss)</u>
Admin	462.67	3,573.15	3,110.48
Special	20,837.85	20,967.85	130.00
Walks	7,799.19	5,971.79	-1,827.40
Wilky	12,299.18	14,778.02	2,478.84
Total	41,398.89	45,290.81	3,891.92

The 2003 end of year result was a profit of \$3892 which compared to a loss of -\$3,954 in 31 December 2002. This result was due to the increase in membership fees and no undue increase in expenditure.

Investments during 2003 - The Club's investments are held in the following accounts at the ANZ Bank, Melbourne.

\$20,000 - As mentioned at the last AGM, this Term Deposit came up for renewal during 2002, and following a review of the rates at that time, and given the uncertain economic situation, it was decided to re-invest the \$20,000 for a period of 48 months from 11/11/2002 to 11/11/2006 at a rate of 4.65% which gave \$930 for the year.

\$10,000 is still in a four month rollover account and is re-assessed at the end of each investment period. This investment generated \$340 which was credited to the "Admin" account and has assisted with running costs.

\$11,000 - "V2 Plus" ("at call" account) had an average interest rate of 3.74% to 3.95% with interest of \$418 has been credited to the "Admin" account.

As mentioned at the last AGM, an amount of \$5000 was transferred from the "V2 Plus" to the Cheque Account in November 1999 to assist in cash flow. This amount has still not been returned to the investment as cash flow has not increased.

Membership - Given the 2003 end of year result is more positive than in the previous five years the Committee is recommending that the Annual Membership Fees for 2004 remain the same as 2003.

Post Balance Day Event - Following the unfortunate demise of Wilkinson Lodge during January, there will be an expense of \$10,438 during 2004 being the write-off of Wilkinson Lodge assets.

Treasurers Role - Finally after five years as being your Treasurer, a role I found very rewarding, I advise that I will be resigning at the February 2004 AGM. These five years by the way have gone very quickly and must mean that I have enjoyed myself.

At the time I took over the Treasurers role, the net revenue after expenses was a negative -\$6,779, so I am very pleased that 2003 ended with a positive net revenue of \$3,892.

In summary the "Admin" account since last December changed from -\$2,563 negative to a positive \$3,110 at end of Dec 2003. The "Walks" account made a loss last year due in part to the decrease on Sunday bus attendees. Another impact to this account is the increased bus charge that McKenzies have introduced. Following discussion late last year, the Committee agreed to increase the bus charge that commenced this month. "Wilky" account had no major expenses during the year and most of the income was unspent.

I would like to thank all those who have made my task as Treasurer easier, to our great leaders for being so understanding when they made the effort on a Wednesday evening to give me the Sunday bus money, only to find that I had been unable to get into the club rooms. To my fellow Committee Members who over the five years have assisted and given me encouragement, thank you.

Finally I would like to welcome our new Treasurer into the position and wish this person well. I am sure you will give our new Treasurer all the support as you did with me.

Thank you - Jan Palich
Treasurer - 31 December 2003

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
(INCOME AND EXPENDITURE)
as at 31 December 2003

SUB ACCOUNT SUMMARY

Sub Account	Opening Balance	Closing Balance	Result for Year
Admin	462.67	3,573.15	3,110.48
Special	20,837.85	20,967.85	130.00
Walks	7,799.19	5,971.79	-1,827.40
Wilky	12,299.18	14,778.02	2,478.84
Total	41,398.89	45,290.81	3,891.92

Administration Account

	2003	2002
Opening Balance	\$3,025.44	\$462.67
INCOME		
Advertising	\$2,025.00	\$794.50
Catering Income	\$850.70	\$889.15
Equipment Hire	\$201.00	\$526.00
Interest	\$772.57	\$781.61
Membership Fees	\$13,087.00	\$17,191.00
Visitors Fees	\$3,612.00	\$3,608.00
Other	\$1,129.70	\$292.50
TOTAL INCOME	\$21,677.97	\$24,082.76
EXPENDITURE		
Admin club Room Equipment	\$1,422.52	\$132.22
Catering / Entertainment	\$959.90	\$910.35
Equipment	\$889.00	\$0.00
Federation Insurance	\$6,222.50	\$7,185.00
News - postage	\$2,036.15	\$1,969.15
News - printing	\$3,026.11	\$3,387.81
News - programmes	\$444.25	\$297.00
General postage	\$276.30	\$219.70
General printing / photocopying	\$553.34	\$436.50
Rent - Premises / POBox	\$3,684.00	\$3,724.00
Telephone	\$394.65	\$586.86
Training	\$0.00	\$0.00
Utilities - Water/Electricity/Gas	\$1,091.95	\$716.34
Other	\$3,240.07	\$1,407.35
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$24,240.74	\$20,972.28
Result for the Year	(\$2,562.77)	\$3,110.48
CLOSING BALANCE	\$462.67	\$3,573.15

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
(INCOME AND EXPENDITURE)
as at 31 December 2003

Special Account	2003	2002
Opening Balance	\$20,937.85	\$20,837.85
INCOME		
Interest	\$920.00	\$930.00
Other	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$920.00	\$930.00
EXPENDITURE		
Donations	\$1,020.00	\$800.00
Other	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$1,020.00	\$800.00
Result for the Year	(\$100.00)	\$130.00
CLOSING BALANCE	\$20,837.85	\$20,967.85

Walks Account	2003	2002
Opening Balance	\$7,131.69	\$7,799.19
INCOME		
Sunday Bus	\$28,449.00	\$25,566.80
Other	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$28,449.00	\$25,566.80
EXPENDITURE		
Bus Hire	\$27,769.50	\$27,225.00
Other	\$12.00	\$169.20
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$27,781.50	\$27,394.20
Result for the Year	\$667.50	(\$1,827.40)
CLOSING BALANCE	\$7,799.19	\$5,971.79

Walks on Food Account	2003	2002
Opening Balance	\$14,258.12	\$12,299.18
INCOME		
Accommodation	\$4,465.00	\$4,424.50
Other Income	\$64.00	\$605.90
TOTAL INCOME	\$4,529.00	\$5,030.40
EXPENDITURE		
Club Room Refurbishment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Insurance	\$1,651.06	\$0.00
Petrol - working bees	\$512.00	\$320.00
Repairs / maintenance	\$2,514.20	\$1,133.90
Supplies	\$561.68	\$447.66
Wood	\$1,200.00	\$650.00
Other Expenditure	\$49.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$6,487.94	\$2,551.56
Result for the Year	(\$1,958.94)	\$2,478.84
CLOSING BALANCE	\$12,299.18	\$14,778.02

**MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
(BALANCE SHEET)**

as at 31 December 2003

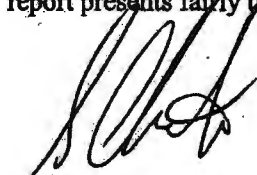
	2003	2002
ASSETS		
Bank Accounts		
Cheque Account	\$398.89	\$4,290.81
Reserves Account	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00
Fixed Term Deposit	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
Bank Account Total	\$41,398.89	\$45,290.81
Postage Float	\$500.00	\$500.00
Equipment		
Camping Equipment	\$3,746.00	\$2,801.00
Other Equipment	\$3,834.23	\$3,834.23
Maps & Books	\$1,354.00	\$913.00
Wilky Lodge Contents	\$10,849.00	\$11,294.00
Total Equipment	\$19,783.23	\$18,842.23
TOTAL ASSETS	\$61,682.12	\$64,633.04
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	\$0.00	\$0.00
CURRENT NET WORTH	\$61,682.12	\$64,633.04

**To the Members
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.**

2003 Audit Statement

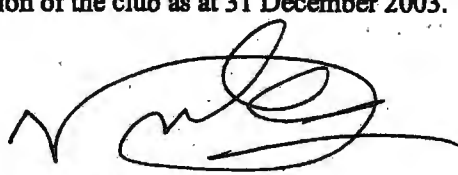
We have audited the financial report, being the Statement of Financial Position, and Statement of Financial Performance, of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Incorporated for the year ended 31 December 2003. The Treasurer and Committee are responsible for the financial report, and we have conducted an audit of that report in order to express an opinion to the members.

Having conducted a check of the transactions during the year, their recording in the ledger, and their subsequent presentation in the financial report, in our opinion the report presents fairly the financial position of the club as at 31 December 2003.



Stephen Chenoweth
Auditor

Feb 2004



Vik Dunis
Auditor

Feb 2004

Tracks, Huts And Conservation

Notes from the 28 January 2004 VicWalk Conservation Committee meeting

Cattle Grazing: government decision of banning cattle for the next two years from the alpine national park with areas that had an 80+ % burnt ratio. This issue is getting a lot of press coverage in newspapers. Bushwalkers please continue writing letters supporting the removal of cattle from the alpine NP.

Bunyip State Park/Bunyip Bushwalker Action Group: Trail bike noise/damage and a letter writing campaign by bushwalkers on the poor state of the walking tracks prompted Parks Victoria to re-consider the management plan. Bunyip Bushwalker Action Group has been formed to raise the profile of bushwalking in this popular park close to Melbourne. A Regional Recreational Framework should be completed in late 2004 with a new management plan ready by mid 2005. VicWalk Conservation policy states:

"The use of trail bikes and 4WD vehicles is incompatible with quiet enjoyment of the bush. They should not be permitted to go off-road or to use walking tracks, and they should comply with requirements for registration. In their legitimate use of bush roads they should be driven in a manner sensitive to the environment: they should not cause erosion or pollution, and they should not exceed permitted noise levels"

(1994, page 5).

East Gippsland: The Mallacoota Bar is completely closed in at present (late January) so bushwalkers wishing to walk the Croajingalong Wilderness coast need not hire a boat to get across the inlet.

Grampians: Tracks strategy – this is to be developed over next year and Parks Victoria welcomes clubs' suggestions. Eg. PV thinking of a possible link track from Plantation campground to Boroka.

Point Nepean: In December the Federal Government caved in to community pressure and announced it had abandoned the commercial development plan, and accepted a \$10 million donation to fund the site under a trust for 5 years, after which it will be included in the National Park.

Mount Stirling Volunteer Weekend – 14 and 15 February 2004: This annual event is for all users of Mr Stirling to help with various jobs. Any bushwalker wanting to go can contact Elizabeth Doery for details 9859 3738. Take all food, camping gear, etc for the weekend.

Snowy Mountains: A pro horse group is lobbying for more access at Kosciusko National Park, called BUGS Snowy Mountains. They are circulating a petition asking for more horse rider areas/access (eg re-routing the Bicentennial Trail into the Park), more horse camping areas, bike access, better 4WD access.

Tasmania – Maria Island NP: The campaign against the building of a convention centre/hotel has been successful. Thank you to all bushwalkers who submitted letters on

this issue. **Western Arthurs:** VicWalk contributed to the survey about walking tracks and walker impact. It is believed a permit system for bushwalking parties will be introduced in the future. **Styx Valley:** Still under threat from logging. Recent survey: 80% of Australians against logging old growth forests.

Upper Bunyip Action Group: logging coupe in the 350 forestry block is 'operational'. DSE will hold an inspection day in mid to late February. If you would like to attend then contact Kelly on 0428 427 005.

TRACKS

Ben Cruachan BWC require assistance from clubs for maintenance of the **McMillan Track.**

Enfield SP: Essendon BWC member wrote to PV re park conditions. Positive response from ranger.

Aust. Alps Walking Track: Parks Victoria request for bushwalker assistance with the snow pole line was very successful. Four bushwalkers walked the line and reported little damage by the 2003 bushfires – few replacement poles required.

Great Divide Trail: Track work is continuing on the Lerderberg Track between Blackwood and Bacchus Marsh. Extra funding is required to complete a safe Track into the Whisky Creek Valley, and mapping a route from Blackwood to Mt. Macedon. GDT is now 260 km in length.

Vaughan Springs: "no camping signs". Bushwalker camping requires prior approval from the ranger.

Trans Otway Ranges Walking Track: VEAC submissions closed on the 5/12, we await their deliberations. The consultant hired by DS&E to look at recreation in the Otway state forest has recommended that recreation opportunities 'be de-marketed and no infrastructure occur at all', apart from Triplet Falls, Melba Gully and the Sabine Falls walking track be closed. Bushwalkers prefer a Trans – Otways walking track to link the Surf Coast ~~track to the Otways.~~

Riggalls Spur Track to Tali Karng: Report of the track being badly overgrown and hard to navigate. VicWalk will follow up with park ranger.

Rod Novak

FREE ACCOMMODATION!

Expressions of interest sought for house-sitting – Kew
We may be seeking a non-smoking house-sitter for the period May – October.

Gina Hopkins / Derrick Brown

Mount Wellington Pack Carry

20-22 February 2004

This walk was in the Alpine National Park, adjacent to the Avon Wilderness. Our Friday night camp was on the Wellington River, in a horse camping area. There were no horses, but they'd left a little something behind to remind us of them. We met up with our leader at McFarlane's Saddle, where we began the walk shortly after 9 am on a fine day. The walking was easy-going, passing some hut ruins and crossing open plains with a small climb to Spion Kopje – our first viewpoint, and morning tea number two. Our track descended to a junction near Gillios track (leading down to Lake Tali Karng), but we turned left, to Nigothoruk creek – and camp – at midday!! What was this? Had the leader taken leave of his senses? But what a delightful campsite – creek water a few metres away, good tent sites set among snow gums, just the right place for a cup of tea and a sit down. After lunch, just as my eyes were closing...we were off again, with day packs, on the afternoon excursion. Off to Gable End, where we had a magnificent panorama of misty mountain ranges stretching to the horizon. From here we walked to the Sentinels, overlooking Lake Tali Karng. The last couple of hundred metres involved some rock hopping and scrambling, until we found ourselves on a rock ledge, looking down to the lake and the Valley of Destruction. We sauntered back to camp, where the fire was lit, the hors d'oeuvres came out, the wine flowed...the

usual pack carry stuff. We had a little light rain, but nothing to detract from the serious business of cooking, eating, drinking and yarning.

We were off at 8.30 am next morning, on a track that was unmarked on my maps – a delightful route through grassy flowering meadows, past snow gums, following the line of the creek to Moroka Gap. There were several excellent potential campsites here. We were soon on Mt Wellington summit, at 1635 m (my GPS gave 1623), and morning tea number one. Again, great views, (including Bass Strait, 80 km away, but it eluded me), but mountains in all directions as far as the eye could see. Then we followed the 4WD track down to the Moroka River for morning tea number two. Our next destination was Trapyard Hill. The sensible ones followed the 4WD track, then took an old cattlemens' route up the hill. Gina and Ken took a short-cut – through thick bush and up a steep incline! They got there first, by a whisker. We enjoyed a leisurely lunch and a brew-up in the sun on the summit, before scrambling down to re-join the track back to the cars. Ice creams at Licola, to be followed by dinner at the Trafalgar Hotel.

A delightful weekend – we hadn't seen another soul on the track, and there had been no 4WDs, and no trail bikes! This was an easy pack carry weekend, quite suitable for beginners. Where were you?

Rod Novak (leader) with Alan Clarke, Bob Oxlade, Ken McMahon, Max Casley, Gina Hopkins, and Derrick Brown

Derrick Brown

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

Sleep under a blanket of stars

on a Northern Australia Bushwalking Holiday

Leave the stress of the city behind and wander through a wilderness where no vehicle will ever go.

Imagine yourself walking through a land where

- the only signs of man are Aboriginal rock paintings
- you enjoy daily swims in clear, tropical pools
- you camp in beautiful places shared by no one but your walking companions
- you relax by the campfire while your guide prepares you a delicious three course meal

- the weather is so perfect that you can sleep under the stars with no need for a tent.

Heavy pack? Not unless you want one. You need no more than 8 kg on any of our shorter walks. If you don't have the lightweight gear, we can provide it for you.

Want more info about our piece of paradise? Visit our website or call and ask for our brochure.

www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au



Willis's Walkabouts 12 Carrington St Millner NT 0810 Email: walkabout@ais.net.au

Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355

Mitchell River National Park Pack Carry:

23 - 26 January 2004

Friday night's camp was at "Echo Bend" (I think I've remembered the name right – I didn't write it down), a camping area at the end of Dunbar's Road, about 1 km from the Den of Nargun. Being a commercial operation, it had showers and toilets, but its charges were very reasonable and it offered a safe place to leave our cars.

Saturday morning was cloudy, and in fact the weather stayed cloudy with mild temperatures for most of the weekend. About 1 km walk from the camp ground brought us to Bluff Lookout, which overlooks the junction of Woolshed Creek with the Mitchell River. A paved track leads down to river level with a side track up Woolshed Creek to the tourist attraction Den of Nargun, through one of several pockets of remnant Warm Temperate Rainforest that feature in this National Park. The home of the mythical Nargun (half-human/animal and half-stone) is an undercut waterfall in Woolshed Creek that used to have stalactites hanging from the roof, but most of these have been vandalised. Back on the Mitchell River Walking Track (originally made for gold-mining access) we headed upstream through the Mitchell River Gorge, which has high sandstone cliffs on both sides. I had not visited here for many years and had forgotten how spectacular it is. Having several sets of rapids, the river is popular with canoeists, but the water level must have been too low as we didn't see any of them for the whole weekend. We were the only group using the track and it was very pleasant walking, with ever-changing views of the river. Our pleasant campsite was on a bend of the river just north of Jurgenson Point.

On the Sunday, with day packs, we continued along the walking track to Angusvale, a large cleared area once the site of a small township and later a cattle run. Where the Rock Creek Track comes down to the river, just before Angusvale, we were rudely reminded that it was a long weekend and the last weekend of school holidays. In contrast to the quietness of the walking track were people camped everywhere possible along the river, with some of them tearing around on trail bikes. Although Angusvale is a very large area, the river frontage was well populated with campers – 4WD groups and even ordinary cars and caravans. The road into here is apparently fairly good – it was constructed in the 1970's to provide access for construction of the proposed Mitchell River Dam, thankfully never proceeded with. The map showed Calvi track as terminating just across the river from our campsite, and Bob had considered returning to camp that way, but we decided to stay on the same side of the river and return along the walking track. Relaxing back at camp in the early afternoon, Bob was considering whether to wade across the river and see if the track was really there when a group of 4WDs arrived at the end of the track, proving that it did exist! As we watched, a group of about a dozen people walked down to the river then waded across to our

side for a swim. They said that they were camped at Angusvale, but reckoned that the little beach in front of our campsite was much better for swimming, and worth the drive and the wade across. They didn't stay long, and soon we had the campsite and the river to ourselves again for our second night's camp. Just after nightfall there was some heavy rain at camp, with thunderstorms further up the river. This freshened things up, but there wasn't enough rain to get the side creeks flowing again.

On Monday we headed back to the starting point along the walking track, reaching the cars in the early afternoon.

Thanks, Bob, for a very pleasant walk amongst some great scenery. The party: Bob (leader) with Jerry, Frances (visitor) and me.

Geoff Mattingley

Cradle Mountain NP Overland Track

26th December to 4th January

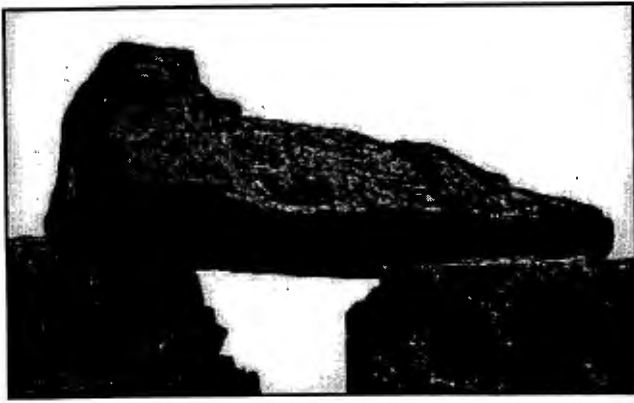
Most of the group of 11 did a daylight crossing on the *Spirit of Tasmania* on Boxing Day and spent the night at Devonport.

DAY 1, Saturday: A bus to the NP and shuttle to Ronny Creek to begin walking at 11.30 am with an overcast sky and light drizzle. With rain falling on an average of 275 days a year and sunny on average of 32 days we were extremely fortunate to have fine weather from here on. This enabled those interested to do side trips every day.

The climb to Marions Lookout was a good test with heavy packs and the 80 km to Cynthia Bay is probably as hard a climb as any to come. About half of us did the side trip to Cradle Mountain summit and its imposing rocks in intermittent mist, a 300m climb. Crossing Cradle Cirque was a struggle in the cold wind arriving to camp at Waterfall Valley after 5pm.

DAY 2: A morning of indecision for some whether to back track 11/2 km for the 5 km return, 360 m climb of formidable looking Barn Bluff and four did this. On return to camp I had the first encounter with wildlife stealing food from packs. My pack was hidden under some bushes and I presume a wallaby had undone a stiff zipper and devoured a days nibbles. Possums were the culprits at night time. We then met our group at Lake Windermere camp where a swim was enjoyed.





Rocks near top of Cradle Mountain

DAY 3: To Pelican Hut. We had agreed to begin each day all together and those interested in side trips could do so and others just walk to camp. Three did the 8 km return 480m climb of Mt Oakleigh, a steep forest climb with beautiful flowers nearing the summit. Several went swimming again.

DAY 4: To Kia Ora Hut. With several doing the 5km return, 500 m climb of Tasmania's highest peak, Mt Ossa on the way. Very rugged with several snowdrifts to walk through. Nice swimming again at the base of the waterfall 100 m from camp.

DAY 5: To Windy Ridge Hut with everyone visiting three lovely waterfalls on the way. A singalong in the hut celebrated New Years Eve.

DAY 6: As we had made good progress in the fine weather most agreed to turn off to Pine Valley and some completed the walk to Cynthia Bay. After the most beautiful walk to Pine Valley Hut we had lunch and some chose a 6 km return, 300 m climb to The Labyrinth, a plateau of lakes and others did 6 km return, 630 m climb of the Acropolis with its huge mass of dolerite rocks and columns. It had been misty at the tops in the morning but cleared in the afternoon. We had been using our tents until now but as rain was about we slept in the huts for the night.

DAY 7, Friday: As Liz D, Susan and myself were staying on for Frenchmans Cap we did the Labyrinth in the morning for some misty views then walked to camp at Echo Point at Lake St Clair. The remainder left in the morning to return to Cynthia Bay and complete a most memorable walk of which a great deal more could be said.

Of course the views are magnificent all the way, especially from the peaks and almost half way across Tasmania from Mt Ossa (1617 m) on a fine day. On Day 4, Pelion Gap at 1113 m provides the last grandstand view from the overland track itself. The many walkers on the track didn't inconvenience us and I was surprised to see in the returning visitors book at Labyrinth Bay that on the peak returning day – Friday – when we were at Pine Valley, 97 signed in and approx. 35 to 50 on other days.

The group: Cherie (leader), with Debbie, Linda, Paul, Liz D, Liz J, Sylvia, Susan, Wendy, Keith, Oliver and myself. Everyone contributed in some way and thanks to Cherie for organising a great experience.

Bob Oxlade

Birdwatching on a hard-ish Wednesday walk with GT

Plenty Gorge from Janfield to Yarrambat

Despite his dire warnings, Graeme managed to attract eleven walkers to his Wednesday walk for February, half the usual number, but twice the number on the previous Wednesday walk due to Jerry's warnings. It was a warm day and the area was very dry, the Plenty River being nearly empty; however we enjoyed the shade of magnificent river red gums and yellow gums. The standard was medium with a few reasonable ups and downs – Jean could never say we have let the standard of Wednesday walks drop – and we made slower progress than Graeme had hoped. We stopped for lunch in a shady spot by a small dam and watched the wood ducks sleep in the midday sun. Some of the walk was past suburban back yards of new estates, guarded by barking dogs, some closer to the river. At afternoon tea time we stopped at a delightful old homestead which dated from goldrush times and has been restored by the local council. We sat and watched birds on two dams below the house.

After a visit to the adjacent Nioka bush camp, we were given the option of being picked up an hour later by the drivers involved in the car shuffle, as there was road access to the Le Page homestead. Three of us stayed behind and I indulged myself by continuing to birdwatch – on the dams were Pacific black and maned (wood) ducks, hardheads, a female musk duck, a white-necked heron, a purple swamp hen, Eurasian coots, dusky moor hens, hoary headed grebes and young, Australasian grebes with breeding plumage and young, and black fronted dotterels. Of particular interest was the floating but stable nest of water weeds near the middle of the dam, with two Australasian grebes alternating sitting on it. At times it was unattended and we could not see any eggs. When the birds were on it they seemed to be building it up with more water weed. On looking up Michael Morcombe's "Field Guide to Australian Birds" at home I discovered that grebes drag wet nest edge debris over their eggs when the incubating bird leaves the nest – the eggs sit in a shallow depression in water or damp and are gradually stained brown by the wet nest vegetation. The nest therefore appears empty. In the full sun the eggs are warm and moist and can be left for some time

Apart from all these water birds, I also saw blue wrens, willie wagtails, sulphur crested cockatoos, the inevitable nosy miners, eastern rosellas, and (possibly) a brown falcon and heard bell miners (bellbirds) – walking precluded the opportunity to get a better look at anything else heard or flitting by.

So not only did I get some exercise, enjoy catching up with some old friends and exploring a new area, but I managed to indulge the new interest of my retirement as well. Thanks Graeme (Rod M., David H., Jerry G., Sandra M., Merilyn, Marion S., Doug W., Max, Brian – a visitor on his third and therefore qualifying walk).

Jan Llewelyn

PREVIEWS OF DAY WALKS MARCH/APRIL 2004

DANDENONGS EXPLORER Warrandyte State Park

DATE	Saturday 27 March 2004
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	About 12–13 Km
LEADER	Warren Baker
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	About 3.30 pm
AREA	Kallista. Meet Grant's Picnic Reserve at 10.30 am
MAP REFERENCE	Melways 75 K4

A circular walk going anti-clockwise from Grants along Cole Ridge Track and Welch Track to Selby. We will make our way through some of the back streets of Selby to Black Hill Road and along to Harmon's Saddle Reserve for lunch. After lunch we will move up the hill at Jackson Hill Road, Ridge Road, Grantulla Road and back into Sherbrooke Forest. We will return to Grant's along Neumann Track and Lyrebird Track – hopefully seeing an obliging lyrebird or two. Coffee afterwards at Kallista.



SUNDAY BUS

Steavenson Falls and Marysville Lookouts

DATE	Sunday 28 March
LEADERS	Jerry Karbownik & Ian McPhee
STANDARD	Easy Medium & Medium
DISTANCE	14km / 17km
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd

Enjoy the beautiful mystic mountains, mountain ash and King Parrots. Both groups will start at the Marysville Oval. However, the medium group will do an initial loop on the Michaeldene and Trestle Tracks from Lady Talbot Drive. Both groups will follow the Tree Fern Gully Track along the picturesque Steavenson River up to Steavenson Falls. We will take time-out to explore the falls then climb the Keppel Track and enjoy the wonderful views from the four Lookouts. We then follow the Robertson Gully Walking Track and the flatter section of the Oxlee Climb back to the bus. If the weather is warm, please make sure to carry extra water.

Please note 8:30 am start



SUNDAY BUS:

Creswick Miners Walk (Ballarat – Creswick)

DATE	Sunday, 4 April 2004
STANDARD	Easy Medium, Easy
DISTANCE	19km, 15km
LEADERS	Howard Friend & Jean Woodger
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd
RETURN TIME	7:00pm
AREA	Ballarat, Creswick
MAP REFERENCE	Creswick & Warrenheip 1:25000

The Walks Secretary has advised that the Creswick Miners Walk is a new walk for the club. It is the southern section of the Federation Track (which runs between

Daylesford & Ballarat) and is part of the Great Dividing Trail. The walk follows much of the route used by the miners joining the Eureka rebellion in December 1854.

We will walk in the opposite direction to the miners, i.e. from Ballarat towards Creswick. Both groups will start at different points on the outskirts of Ballarat. The finishing point will be at St Georges Lake, on the outskirts of Creswick. The terrain is undulating & easy going. Most of the route is in eucalypt forest including some bushfire regeneration. Evidence of mining activity includes dry water races & mounds of quartz rock.

THURSDAY 'TOFS' Birdsland Reserve

DATE	Thursday 11 April
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	10 km
LEADER	Jean Giese
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN	4pm
MAP REFERENCE	Melways 83 & 84

This walk will be the third walk for the TOFS (Thursday Old Fogeys). The walks planned are of 10 or 11 km with a few rests along the way and taking the hills at a slightly slower pace than the usual MBW standard – but a good pace nevertheless – on the first Thursday of each month.

On the slopes of the Dandenong Ranges, Birdsland offers lakes formed as part of the Monbulk Creek Retarding Basin, pleasant forest, grassy inclines, good views and abundant birdlife.

Meet in the carpark Melways 84 C2 10am. Book with leader on

CONSERVATION DAY with CVA at Merri Creek

DATE	Saturday 17 April 2004
STANDARD	Easy and fun
LEADER	Rod Novak
DISTANCE	1 to 2 kms
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Late afternoon
AREA	Melbourne – northern suburbs
MAP REFERENCE	Melways

We will team up with Conservation Volunteers Australia for their Merri Creek project. CVA says "Merri Creek provides significant riparian habitat for several rare and endangered plant species, including the Kingfisher. This rehabilitation project will include re-mulching areas after the flood, control of exotic plant species, and walking track maintenance." Please see the leader at Clubnight on Wednesday 7th or 14th April for more information and to complete the CVA 'Volunteer Registration Form.' Note: trip limit of 10 due to CVA requirement (they use a mini bus between the sites). For more information on CVA go to their website at www.conservationvolunteers.com.au.

SUNDAY BUS Red Hill Winery Walk

DATE Sunday 18 April 2004
STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 13 and 16 km
LEADERS Tom Wilanowski & Paul Logsdon
TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blvd at 9 am
RETURN TIME 7 pm
AREA Mornington Peninsula
MAP REFERENCE Dromana 7821-2-1, Balcombe 7921-3-4,
Flinders 7921-3-3

They say one shouldn't change a winning formula; nevertheless I'm going to change it. This walk will be similar to one led by Peter and Quentin last year, but not exactly the same. This time the Easy group will start at the Paringa Estate, and then walk across a bushland to Red Hill Estate. The Easy-Medium walk will climb the Arthur's Seat via the OT Dam trail and visit the Eldridge Estate. Both groups will subsequently follow the Red Hill – Merricks rail trail to Merricks and finish at the Stonier winery.

My personal favourite is the Red Hill Estate winery: the views are spectacular, and so is the wine. Paringa Estate, which we didn't visit last year but which I chose to include this time, produces high quality shiraz and pinot noir. Eldridge Estate and Stonier are more traditional in their offerings, and many people like their products.

All the wineries charge a \$2 tasting fee, which is refundable if you buy.

Please keep in mind that this is a bushwalk, not a winery tour, so you need to bring a sunhat, sunscreen and plenty of water in case it is hot, and the usual bushwalking gear including wet weather clothes in case it is wet. Also, don't forget shoe change for the bus for the way home. Last year the seats on this walk filled very quickly, so it is advisable to book early.

WED WALK: Sugarloaf Reservoir, Christmas Hills

DATE Wednesday, 21 April
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 18 km
LEADERS Alister Rowe
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN 4.30 pm
AREA Christmas Hills
MAP REFERENCE Parks Victoria

Meet at the main entrance car park at 10.15am. Melway 273 B2. We will walk around the reservoir in a clock wise direction. The walk is easy but it is at least 18km right around. Given a nice day this is a very picturesque experience. Not to be missed.

DANDENONGS EXPLORER One Tree Hill

DATE Saturday 24 April 2004
STANDARD Easy
LEADER Warren Baker
TRANSPORT Private

Please phone Warren Baker on about this walk

SUNDAY BUS Elphinstone Tunnel – Irishtown Track

DATE Sunday 25 April 2004
STANDARD Easy Medium & Medium
DISTANCE 15 & 18 km
LEADERS Nik Dow & Doug Pocock
TRANSPORT Bus – Clubrooms McKenzie St. 9 am
RETURN TIME 18:30
AREA Fryers Ranges
MAP REFERENCE Drummond & Chewton 1:25000

North of the divide the weather is usually warmer and sunnier than in Melbourne, welcome by April, although this pleasant walk through the Box-Ironbark forest will be mostly shaded. Both walks cover dirt roads and some off-track, with the Medium group going off track 50% of the way and the easier walk only 20%. Plenty of birds to see and maybe some other wildlife. The area shows its history in mining especially on the route taken by the longer walk.

Note: The bus leaves from the Clubrooms owing to Anzac Day Parade

New Members:

JAN COLQUHON

JANE FEGAN

GILFORD BRIAN LANTZ

DION MARRIOTT

HELEN SMITH

Membership Statistics

Life Members	10
Honorary Members	10
Single Memberships	370
Family Memberships	94 (= 2 x 47)
Total Membership	484
This time last year	472

Peter Havlicek, Membership Secretary

PREVIEWS OF WEEKEND WALKS MARCH/APRIL 2004

MID-WEEK: Western Grampians

DATE	22-26 March 2004
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	Highly unpredictable
LEADER(S)	Graeme Thornton
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Late Friday afternoon
AREA	Western Grampians
MAP REF.	Vicmap 1:50,000 Grampians Leisure Map Series

I've always liked the western part of the Grampians. Articles in The Club magazine, Walk, by the late Fred Halls inspired me to explore the area for aboriginal caves and other nooks and crannies. It is a spectacular and mysterious area, full of hidden things and surrounded by coloured and sculptured sandstone crags. It is a land of dreaming.

The Plan is to arrive about noon on the Mon and leave mid-afternoon on the Fri. In between what I would like to do is spend 2 or 3 days re-exploring the area from a base-camp, and, if there is some really curious and enticing remoter place(s) beckoning, spend 2 days (1 night) walking with overnight packs to check it out. This will be determined at the time.

Base camp is intended to be along the meandering Cultivation Creek in the Billywing, but things might have changed a bit since my last visit, so please check with me a few days beforehand for final details. We can (almost) guarantee that we will have the area to ourselves at this lovely early-autumn time of the year. Rosemary Cotter is leading a walk the previous Fri-Sun in the magnificent Black Range just the other side of the Henty Hwy. It would be very easy to cross the road and join us for the Mon-Fri.

Please bring water for at least a couple of days until we establish what the water situation is like there. Allow for the possibility of a fire-ban day or two.



PACK CARRY Terrible Hollow – Devil's Staircase

DATE	26-28 March 2004
STANDARD	Medium/Hard
LEADER	Geoff Kelly
TRANSPORT	Private

This is the walk for you if you would like something a bit more challenging in the beautiful area around Mt Howitt and the Crosscut Saw. There will be a limit of 8 on this trip and you will need to be competent on rocks and be prepared for some difficult and steep terrain.

For details about the planned route please see me in the clubrooms in the two weeks before the walk or call me on

Please note change of leader from the Walks Program.

Bogong NP Work Party

DATE	26-28 March 2004
LEADER(S)	David Laing
TRANSPORT	Private

We are programmed to work on Blair's Hut, plugging gaps in the log walls and moving the BBQ.

We can camp at the hut but will need 4WD transport. There will be several seats available in the Rangers vehicles and I expect we can leave cars at the Parks Victoria office. The higher ground clearance Subaru such as Outback and Forrester should be OK, but we will try to rationalise to keep vehicles to a minimum. I'm told there should be fish in the river for those wanting a fresh meal. As we will not be staying at Wilky, due to temporary unavailability, we are not so limited with numbers.

We need to get through a locked gate and I have been advised that daylight is desirable to get into the hut site. We can arrange entry on Friday but only if arriving by late afternoon, otherwise it will be meeting at the Mt Beauty Parks office at 0800 Saturday morning.

I should have more accurate details closer to the event.



PACK CARRY:

Square Head Jinny/Howitt/Stanley Name Spur

DATE	8-12 April
STANDARD	Medium
LEADER	Jerry Grandage
TRANSPORT	Private
DISTANCE	About 60 km, including optional side trips
MAPS	1:50,000 Howitt/Selwyn, also VMTC King/Howqua/Jamieson

We will ascend from Bindaree up Square Head Jinny (I'm told this is 'interesting' and may involve some rock-scrambling in exposed situations) to Mt. Lovick and continue to Mts. Magdala and Howitt, Stanley Name Spur as far as Mt. Thorn, then down to Bindaree. Optional side trips will include the King Billies, Macalister Springs, the Crosscut Saw and Mt. Buggery, plus whatever else. Given good conditions the views each day should be great, but at this time of year the weather could do anything – be prepared for snow or sunshine.

BASE CAMP: Lower Glenelg National Park

DATE	Easter Weekend 8-12 April 2004
STANDARD	Various
LEADER	John Coe
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Monday evening
AREA	Portland
MAP REFERENCE	Chaucer & Cape Bridgewater Vic Map 1:25,000



This is a weekend for flora and fauna fiends, and those interested in anything geological. With some fabulous friends to share the experience, this becomes a trip with the lot.

During our stay in the South West we will not be able to experience all the many delights of the area, but will endeavour to explore the highlights.

Close to the top of the list of local attractions is the Mt Eccles National Park.

Mt Eccles itself is a not quite extinct volcano, since the last volcanic activity was only 6,500 years ago. It is possible to walk around the rim of the crater, into laval caves and follow the path of a laval canal.

Lake Surprise, also part of the National Park is aptly named as it is one of the hidden wonders of the park. The woodlands surrounding the park are home to some 85 species of birds, enough to delight any bird lover. The Manna Gums in the park should excite koala fanciers.

And now for something different, as we enjoy more of Victoria's finest natural settings along part of the Great South West Walk. These include the sweeping ocean beaches of Discovery Bay and the soaring cliffs and the azure seas of Descartes Bay and Bridgewater Bay.

We intend to visit another local attraction – the Mt Richmond National Park. It is another volcanic area, formed from volcanic ash and not basalt of the area around Mt Eccles. It features fabulous views and the open heathland and forest support an abundant array of plants and wildlife.

I am open to suggestions on how we should occupy what little spare time we may have.

Please contact the leader for more information on

PACK CARRY: Glenelg River Gorge – Discovery Bay

DATE	Easter Weekend 9–12 April 2004
STANDARD	E/M
DISTANCE	75 kms
LEADERS	Rod Novak
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	9 pm Monday evening
AREA	Western Victoria
MAP REFERENCE	Great South West Walk tracknotes/map

Note: early Good Friday morning departure from Melbourne. This pack carry is along the Great South West Walk, visiting Glenelg River gorge and the wild beaches of Discovery Bay Coastal Park. Be prepared for long walk days up to 25 km, however there are no big hills as the terrain is relatively flat!! The beach walking can be hard going with soft sand. See the leader at Club night on Wednesday 31st March for an information sheet. Petrol money estimate at \$72.

Note: Trip limit of 10 due to small campsites.

PACK CARRY Mount Buller & South West Spur

DATE	23–25 April 2004
STANDARD	Easy & Medium/Hard
DISTANCE	25 & 30 km
LEADER(S)	Di McKinley
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Late Sunday
AREA	Mt Buller
MAP REFERENCE	Buller South

The medium/hard group will camp on Friday night at Timbertop Saddle or Sheeppark Flat and on Saturday will walk approximately 16 km up the West Ridge from Timbertop Saddle. On Sunday this group will do a medium grade walk down via Mount Sterling with multiple crossings of the Delatite River.

The easy group will drive directly to the Lodge and on Saturday will walk to Mt Sterling via Howqua Gap. This is a 16 km return journey. On Sunday there will be various trips around the Summit and Little Buller.

Both groups will spend Saturday night at the Royal Children's Hospital Lodge. The cost is \$20 per night. You need to bring a towel and sleeping sheet (no sleeping bags). The accommodation consists of bunk-style rooms with full cooking facilities. There will be a shared group dinner on Saturday night. Everybody will assist in tidying the lodge prior to departure. Please ring Dianne on or see her in the club rooms, if interested.

PACK CARRY: Major Mitchell Plateau, Grampians

DATE	30 April – 2 May 2004
STANDARD	Easy/ Medium
DISTANCE	Approx 28 kms
LEADERS	Bill Donald
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Sunday Evening
AREA	Southern Grampians
MAP REFERENCE	Southern Grampians Leisure Series 1:50,000

Starting from Jimmy Creek camping ground we have a steady climb following part of the Major Mitchell track in the southern Grampians. Saturday night has us camping on the First Wannon Creek. Sunday morning after some more up and down we reach the top of Mt William and then have a steady descent to finish the walk.

Please come prepared for wet, cold and windy weather.

Clubrooms Duty Roster

March 10	Rod Novak, John Coe
March 17	Ron Hampton, Doug Pocock
March 24	Mark Heath, Howard Friend
March 31	Fay Dunn, Carol Criddle
April 7	Deborah Henry, Rod Novak

Next committee meeting

Monday 5 April, 7 pm in the clubrooms

WALKS PROGRAM MARCH 2004

4-15	Pack Carry: Eastern Arthurs, Tasmania	Private	Hard	Gina Hopkins
Labour Day long weekend				
5-8	Base Camp: Moroka Gorge & Mt Wellington	Private	E/M	Pearson Cresswell
5-8	Pack Carry: Mt Darling – Wonnangatta – Dry River	Private	M	Ralph Blake
Sun 7	Lorne Waterfalls *8.30am start	Bus	E & E/M	Lynda Larkin & John Coe
Thu 11	Navigation education evening	Private	E/M	Quentin Tibballs
13 & 14	Navigation exercise: Autumn 6 hr Rogaine	Private	E/M	Trish Elmore
13-14	Cycle trip: North Geelong – Queenscliff	Private	E/M	Stephen Rowlands
Sun 14	Coronet Bay, Corinella	Bus	E/M & M	Peter McGrath & William Cone
Wed 17	Weds Walk: Domino Trail, Trentham	Private	E/M	Sandra Mutimer
19-21	Base Camp: Black Range	Private	E/M	Rosemary Cotter
Sun 21	Mt Donna Buang – Mt Victoria	Bus	E/M & M	Vik Dunnis & Steve Axford
22-26	Mid-week: Western Grampians	Private	E/M	Graeme Thornton
26-28	Wilky Lodge: Bogong NP Work Party	Private	E	David Laing
26-28	Pack Carry: Terrible Hollow – Devils Staircase	Private	M/H	Jerry Grandage
Sat 27	Dandenongs Explorer: Grants Picnic Ground	Private	E	Warren Baker
Sun 28	Steavenson Falls, Marysville *8.30am start	Bus	E & E/M	Jerry Karbownik & Ian McPhee

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NAME (new) _____ NAME (old) _____

ADDRESS _____ ADDRESS _____

PHONE Home _____ Bus. _____ PHONE Home _____ Bus. _____

EMAIL _____

SUBSCRIPTION FEES: ORDINARY – single membership \$45.00 CONCESSION – single membership \$30.00 (proof required)
 FAMILY/COUPLE – membership \$70.00 CONCESSION – couple \$38.00 (proof required)
 New members joining on/after 1st October 2003 \$24.00 less visitor fees *The News* – \$20.00
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