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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 CENTS

EDITION 652 JUNE 2005

Alpine Grazing Decision

On the 24th May 2005 the Victorian Government announced the end to licensed private cattle grazing in the Alpine National Park. 61 licenses will not be renewed with 57 of these ending in August 2005, with a further 4 licences not being renewed in June 2006. Of note, grazing will still be permitted in the adjacent state forests. The decision made front page news in *The Australian* and *The Age* on Wednesday 25th May. It appears the Federal Government may intervene as the Federal Minister for the Environment, Senator Campbell has asked for more information (and with news footage of meeting the mountain cattlemen in Canberra and riding one of their horses!)

A very special thank you to all the bushwalkers who have sent many letters, telephone calls and e-mails to politicians on this very important issue. The campaign to end cattle grazing in the Alpine National Park has been a long 14 year marathon. Thank you to all who have participated and made a contribution. You can now enjoy a cow poo free Alpine National Park. The next stage of the campaign will focus on nominating the Australian Alps for world heritage. This will be Victoria's first ever natural world heritage nomination.

Rod Novak, Club Delegate, VicWalk Conservation Committee

Trekking with Teresa

Talk and slides on
Wednesday 29 June, 8.30 pm
in the clubrooms



Teresa will chat about a new concept of 'Slow Trekking' in the Himalayas. Suits older walkers or anyone who wants to slow down and take it all in. Easier program with lodge and monastery accommodation. Fully escorted with individual porters – a better way to go. See you there. T.

CLUBROOM FRIDAY FLICKS

June 24th, 7.30pm

We've had a few requests for one or two slightly more modern Australian films, so, ever happy to oblige, we've selected the truly hilarious **DEATH IN BRUNSWICK** (1991). The story concerns Carl, (Sam Neill), a dissolute and wayward chef who begins an affair with sexy Sophie (Zoe Carides) after starting a new job with a seedy Brunswick night club. Carl is suffering from mid-life crisis and really offers little more than light-hearted amusement for Sophie, but Carl doesn't see it that way. They are indulged by an abundance of other characters including Carl's disapproving mother, a neurotic Turkish kitchen hand, a vicious bouncer, and of course Carl's loyal and sardonic mate, played by the totally inimitable John Clarke. The famous graveyard scene is probably as funny as anything ever produced in this country. You'll enjoy recognising all the inner-city Melbourne locations together with its multicultural resonances. I'm sure this helped account for the film's impressive box-office performance in its home town.

Our preceding short is called **DARE THE WILDEST RIVER** and conveys the excitement and adventure of a Colorado River white water rapids trip down the Grand Canyon. Thrills, and spills for all!!

A light supper will be provided at interval and there will be a small charge to cover the hire of the film. No need to book – just rock up. If you need any further information ring Stuart.

Note: this is not a video or DVD but an authentic cinematic projection.

P R E S I D E N T ' S C O R N E R

**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 1751,
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: pagination@bigpond.com.au
- Placing diskette or hand written material in the Editor's
pigeon hole in the clubrooms
- Posting diskette or hand written material to:

The Editor,
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.,
PO Box 1751, Melbourne, Vic, 3001

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

We recently received a gift to the clubroom library of
copies of *Melbourne Bushwalkers Newsletters* and *Walks*
Magazines dating from 1953–1999. These publications
have been bound by Athol Schafer, a life member and
long time walker of the Club. Refer to the article in this
Newsletter plus photo of the books being unpacked by
Doug Langton and Peter Havlicek.

The other terrific good news story is the result on the
decision to ban grazing in the Alpine National Parks. On
the 24 May the Victorian Government announced that it
will not renew the 61 private grazing licences in the
Alpine Park for scientific and ecological reasons. A total
of 57 licences will not be renewed in August 2005 and
another 4 licences will expire in June 2006. Alpine
grazing will still be permitted in the adjacent alpine state
forest. I would like to say a very big thank you to our
conservation lobbyists, in particular to Rod Novak for his
commitment to ensure that Melbourne Bushwalking
members were aware of the need to put our protests into
writing. Many thanks Rod.

Safe Walking

Jan Palich

Wine & Cheese evening



**4th week
of every
month
in the
clubrooms,
7–9 pm**

Mt Buffalo National Park

Work party, May 2005

ON FRIDAY Rod N, Mark H, Ralph B, John F, Max C, and Diana G travelled up to Mt Buffalo and stayed either at Lake Catani or in one of the rangers' houses. Iris had travelled up earlier in the day and we met her there.

It was a frosty morning and an early start on Saturday. We met rangers Ross and Matthew at the park office. After getting acquainted we gathered up our equipment and headed off to the start of Le Seouf Plateau walking track. Our task for the weekend was to do track maintenance further on up the hill.

We had to carry all the tools and equipment up the hill and it was very heavy going. Ross did not seem to have any trouble carrying a whole pack load of shovels, picks, saws and crowbars up the hill. It was turning into a lovely autumn day as we hauled everything up the steep track.

Our task was to do some major work on a section of track that goes through a sphagnum bog, as it was badly eroded. We were instructed on how to lay matting on the

track and to position some stepping rocks through the wettest bit of track. Ross said, 'I'm in favour of using big rocks'. Some of us worked on laying the mats and others went off to find some (big) rocks in the immediate area. Sounds easy, but try shifting those large granite boulders! We used large iron crowbars to lever, push and roll the rocks from their resting place onto the track. For the largest ones it took three of us many minutes to move them the few metres required. Then the track had to be excavated and the rocks positioned to provide convenient stepping stones. More back breaking work, I thought. At least I was getting more of a work out than by going to the gym.

For lunch we climbed up to a nearby rocky outcrop to enjoy the view. 'Oh mate, Je suis tres fatigued!', Ralph said as he hungrily devoured his lunch. The view was fantastic, but in no time it was back to rock hauling and mat laying. By about 4 o'clock the track was looking pretty good, with the mats securely laid on a sloping section and flat rocks at regular intervals through the bog. We tidied the site



PHOTO: IRIS CURRAN

The Mt Buffalo track work party. From left to right: Mark Heath, Rod Novak, PV Ranger Ross Grant, Diana Gomez, Max Casley, John Fritze, Ralph Blake, Quentin Tibballs, PV Ranger Matt Moylan and Iris Curran.

up, re-planting the grass that was dug out and filling in the holes left by extracting the rocks. Then back to Lake Catani camping area for a hot shower.

It was a very cold evening. Ross came over to visit our camp site and generously provided some wood for the fire. We enjoyed entrees and dinner under a brilliant star lit sky. Quentin T arrived just as main courses were being dished up and was quite pleased to take up Ralph's offer of left over risotto primavera.

After a good night's rest it was another early start and back up the hill to our track. Today it was more track building. Diana and Matthew continued work on the mat laying and cleared some over-hanging branches. Rod, Max, and Quentin had formed one track building team. John, Mark and Ralph were in another. Our task was to build steps and run-off channels along a section of the track that goes right down a gully. More rock shifting was done, except this time on a steep hill side. At least it was easier to push the boulders down the hill. A friendly rivalry developed between our teams. 'Hey, you can't have that rock. That's ours, we're having that one!', was heard amongst other banter.

It was quite tricky to get the right shaped rocks to build a channel and provide the right shaped steps. John's enthusiasm for building the most perfect set of steps had no limits. After several goes at pulling, pushing and almost having a large rock roll over him he was satisfied that it provided the ultimate stepping experience. And that any errant water would be directed along the stone paved

channel. Ross and Iris had also built an intricate set of steps, with a little curve in them midway along. Rod, Max and Quentin seemed to be having some trouble finding the right shaped rocks to line their run off channel, but still a worthy effort.

At lunchtime we walked up to another hill top to rest while taking in the view. After lunch we decided to finish up and go for a walk during the afternoon. Ross and Matthew were extremely pleased with our efforts and thanked us for a job well done. We carried all the tools and equipment back down the hill and returned them to Ross's truck. After saying goodbye to the rangers we did a walk up to 'The Hump'. Ross had told us that this track had been constructed by the famous Tasmanian track builders. It was an amazing track. Massive stone steps of the right size and length, numerous run off channels and gutters, and even a small stone bridge. Wow, these Tassie track builders must be the world champions, we thought as we wearily trudged up the hill. We sat on the top for quite a while enjoying the magnificent scenery in the late afternoon sun. Then it was back down and a long trip home.

It was a great weekend and we thank our friends at Mt Buffalo National Park for allowing us to do some much valued work. So, the next time you're out walking and you think 'What a quaint looking track. It has these rocks that just happened to be in the right position for stepping on', remember that someone had to do some very hard labour to provide you with a pleasant walking experience.

Ralph Blake

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

Kakadu



Trekking Kakadu since 1986

too special ... two specials

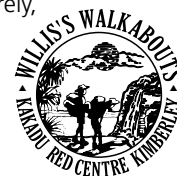
I've spent 30 years walking in Kakadu. No one knows it better.

I know the best places, the easiest routes and the nicest waterholes. I can even take you to a few places you can't get a permit to visit on your own.

Special 1. The recent *Kakadu – Shared Visions* document proposes a new vision for the park. I'm helping the promotion by offering an extra 5% discount to anyone booking one of our 2005 Kakadu trips and quoting this ad within a month of when it appears.

Special 2. May 2006 will be the 20th anniversary of my first trip as Willis's Walkabouts. To mark the occasion, I am offering a special, leisurely, three week Kakadu Circle which I'd like to share with people from the clubs who have provided so many of my clients and friends over the years. **Ask for details.** Russell Willis

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

TRACKS, HUTS, & CONSERVATION

Bunyip SP Recreation feedback. Parks Victoria are requesting community feedback on the recreation conflict in the Bunyip SP between passive activities (bushwalking, bird watching, nature walks) and motorised recreation (trail bikes and 4WD vehicles). Please send a response to buntipframework@parks.vic.gov.au, or by post to Bunyip Recreation Framework Feedback, Parks Victoria, PO Box 1260, Glen Waverley, 3150.

In your submission can you emphasize the following points: the current off road vehicle use in the Bunyip State Park is threatening the environmental values of the fauna, flora and cultural sites; trail bikes drive out passive users; of the three options in the Discussion Paper, the preferred approach is Option 3 as it removes conflict between vehicle users and passive recreation users; it will rehabilitate the extensive damage done by vehicles; the current high trail bike use is unsustainable; the new walking track network proposed will better promote the State Park to passive recreation users.

Rod Novak, VicWalk Conservation delegate

Wilkinson update

By now, most members who put in a submission for rebuilding Wilky should have had a reply from a Kevin Love of DSE. We do not know why he has replied as letters were sent to the Board of management of Parks Vic. The letter has merely restated the original refusal and has not addressed our appeal. We are trying to get our letters to the Board for consideration but if this does not work we may go to the Ombudsman. Remember this worked in our favour when the EPA was so ridiculous over the Wilky septic system.

If there is anyone who sent a letter or e-mail and has NOT received a Love letter in return would you please let me know.

Doug Pocock

VicWalk walking track support group

VicWalk are setting up a track support group (similar to BSAR) which can respond to call outs for track clearing and/or track maintenance projects for walking tracks. If you are interested in being a member then contact the Convener – Jim Harker on 0402 099 476, or jnharker@netspace.net.au

Rod Novak, VicWalk Conservation delegate

The Wilderness Shop

969 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill
Ph (03) 9898 3742 Fax (03) 9899 5398
Email: wildshop@ozemail.com.au



The **Equipment Specialists** for
Bushwalking, Adventure Travel,
Cross Country Skiing, Rockclimbing

As an Independent Store we have a **Huge Range from Many Leading Brands**

10% Discount to Melb Bushies (sale items excluded)

UK'S COAST TO COAST WALKING TRACK

Expressions of Interest requested

for walking Wainright's 'Coast to Coast'
in the UK from the Irish Sea to the North Sea
approx. May – June 2006.

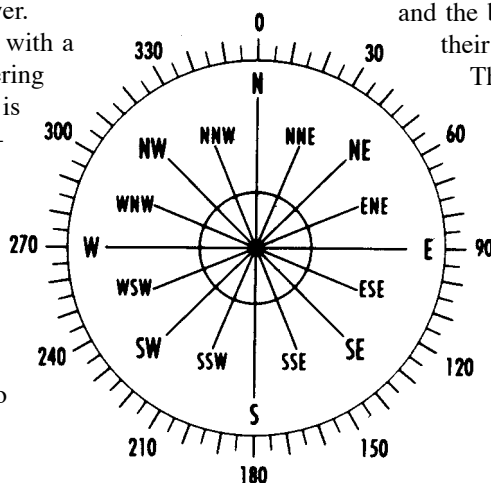
Intermediate standard with long days
Contact Jan Palich

Why not try ROGAINING?

A fun way to practice your navigation skills

You've learnt how to read a contour map and use a compass but don't get the chance much to practice your skills. Maybe you're new to navigating and are thinking of doing Quentin's navigation course and wondering how to get more practice. Rogaining is the answer.

At a rogaine you are presented with a map with lots of checkpoints of differing points values marked on it. Your job is to accumulate as many points as possible in the allotted time. To do this you first design your own route and then navigate your way around it. It's loads of fun and really sharpens up your map reading and compass skills. You also get to walk through lots of great areas that you may normally have trouble getting access to because of private property.



You participate in a team of 2 or more and the event duration can be 6, 8, 12 or 24 hours. The charges are modest because the whole thing is run by volunteers. The events are run by the Victorian Rogaining Association or VRA and the best way to find out more is to go to their website at www.vra.rogaine.asn.au

There you will find out all about it including a programme of events, membership details etc. There are several active rogainers in Melbourne Bushies including myself who would be happy to answer any questions you may have. If you don't have a partner to team up with, the VRA has a partner finding service. There's nothing stopping you now! See ya on a rogaine.

Jopie Bodegraven

SEARCH & RESCUE PRACTICE

22-24 July 2005

Venue

Mt Buffalo National Park. This location allows BSAR groups in NE Victoria an opportunity to participate and familiarises other members with Buffalo plateau area. In addition, this practice will be coordinated with Parks Victoria.

Who should attend

BSAR section members and potential members who are club members and experienced in snow camping and either in cross country skiing and/or snow walking using snowshoes. Experienced members are needed to help train new members.

Transport

Expected to depart from the Mt Waverley Police Training Academy on Friday night at approximately 1900hrs (exact time to be confirmed) and proceed via Yara Glen and Benalla to Mt Buffalo. We will return to Mt Waverley at approximately 1800 hours Sunday. Any pick-up enroute will be arranged with the individual. Please let the organisers know if you need a pick up.

What to bring

Bring normal equipment and food for snow camping. Numbers of bushwhacker skis and snowshoes will be available. Bring your copy of the Search & Rescue manual and map of the area if you have one. Map copies will be supplied. Bring your skis or snowshoes if you have them. Please note that no gear can be left on the bus and therefore all gear will need to be carried to the camp site.

Activities

There will be an on-snow base camp and practice of search and rescue skills. A more detailed program will be released once all details are finalized. Check www.bsar.org for updates.

Inquiries and Bookings

David Laing

Names required by 5th July to forward to BSAR organisers.

Mitchell River National Park

Pack Carry 22–25 April

Most of us spent the Friday night at the Bark Inn camping park within walking distance of the National Park, approx 300 km east of Melbourne – a great place to leave the cars, have a hot shower and even enjoy an ice cream!

On Saturday morning our fearless leader Bob Oxlade, Alan, Andreas, Carol, Clare, Katrina, Keith, Kerry, Mick, Ralph & Tom (in Australia for under a week!) set out for the approx 14 km track to our walk-in river campsite.

The Mitchell River is the last wild river in Victoria, flowing through a magnificent gorge eco-system featuring rare trees & plants in the warm temperate rainforests near the river and the drier forests of the ridges e.g. kanooka trees, lilly-pilly, yellow wood etc. – spectacular scenery! The gorge also has a number of Aboriginal sites including the famous Den of Nargun which we visited on Monday's return trip, a magnificent cliff amphitheatre at Billy Goat Bend, fantastic rocks to relax on while watching the waters flow and birds fly by.

We set up our campsite on the edge of the river and settled in for the night, dinner, a roaring campfire, rock skinning, various treats (the chocolate coated oranges were my favorite), joke telling etc. Ralph and Tom got the awards for the most creative meals, Andreas for literally having breakfast on the waters edge, with Tom for amusing us with the look on his Swedish face as he described the first wombat he has seen while spot lighted.

On Sunday we set off with day packs for the former settlement of Angusvale, once again through magnificent scenery of the gorge, river rapids etc. Morning tea was spent relaxing in the sun on rocks in the river

with fantastic 360 degree scenery – Bob had to drag us away.

Lunch was at a river crossing where we split into 2 with the serious walkers lead by Keith (who has a special low gear so he can climb anything!) heading up the 300m climb to the ridge across the river with the sensible walkers returning early to camp and some swimming and relaxing. This was also the first sighting of the rare 'purple water wader' whose mission was to keep its feet dry while crossing rivers – even Kerry



who did a great job of explaining her identification of the various birds and plants we came across was unable to identify this rare creature (recorded in Katrina's picture attached – a full color version of which will appear on the Clubs Web Photo Album)

Oh yes, Bob announced to the whole world (at least those on the walk!) that he had just retired – good practice for telling his wife and family later!

On Monday we retraced our path to cars, visiting the Amphitheatre again for lunch. With a few hours to go Clare got to practice her first aid when Carol decided walking was too easy and took a tumble, pack and all – the initial verdict? Two very grazed and cut knees and a sore wrist but otherwise OK.

Geoff Mattingley who was hoping to come on the walk met us just near the end of the trip, caught up with some friends and went to the Glen of Nargun with those of us who took the side trip.

After a hot shower at the campsite and ice creams etc at the kiosk it was back to Melbourne with most people stopping for dinner at Traralgon at one of the places Alan recommends for those lucky enough to have a copy of his eatery book.

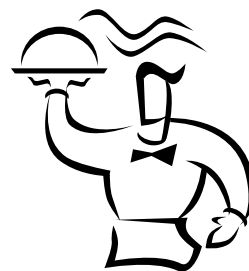
PS: a hint for beginners at pack carrying like me – check the fine print to see if there are river crossings (wet!) involved and bring something suitable.

If you have not seen the Mitchell River Gorge and National Park then make it a 'must see' for 2006 whether you base camp, pack carry or use one of the access roads and do a day walk. All up a fantastic weekend!!!!

Update on Carol Corrigan's wrist! Yes, a clean break. Sentence? Six weeks in a cast.

Mick Noonan (.....that makes it 2 Pack Carries!)

MELBOURNE BUSH WALKERS



Dine Out

July 2005 venue:

No 3 Station Pier Restaurant

Port Melbourne

Phone 9646 6299

Licensed

Friday 8th July at 7pm

If you would like to attend please phone Charlotte at least a week before for reservations and you can also take the opportunity to let her know your favourite restaurants.

Federation Day Walk

The 2005 Federation Day Walk will be hosted by Essendon Bushwalking Club on Sunday 16 October at the picturesque town of Blackwood, about an hour's drive west of Melbourne.

There will be approximately 20 walks of varying grades in and around the town, the Lerderderg SP and Wombat SF. The walks will be restricted to members of VicWalk affiliated clubs.

BYO chair, cup, plate and enough water for the duration of the walk. Individual clubs must organise their own accommodation. Caravan parks in the area include:

- Blackwood Caravan Park
- Kyneton Caravan Park
- Bacchus Marsh Caravan Park
- Ballan Caledonian Caravan Park
- Cross Roads Caravan Park

Also Barry Reef Scout Camp – camping & budget accommodation – phone David after 6.30pm

For further information phone Frank or Ian.

Trans Otway Walking Track

The Otway Ranges Walking Track Association has asked for help from Federation clubs. It proposes dividing the track into 16 sections. The idea is that a club will look after one or maybe two sections. Each section is approximately 4km long. If this can be achieved then representations from ORWTA, local government, and VicWalk could have more impact with the Minister and gain acceptance for the track. Maintenance is one major obstacle for the establishment of the track.

Interested clubs and individuals can contact me or John Spencer, ORWTA Secretary .

David Rimmer

Celestials

Full Moons

Wednesday 22 June; Thursday 21 July; Saturday 20 August; Sunday 18 September; Monday 17 October

Sunrise & Sunset

3 June	7.27am	5.08pm
17 June	7.34am	5.07pm
1 July	7.36am	5.11pm
15 July	7.32am	5.19pm
29 July	7.22am	5.30pm
12 August	7.08am	5.41pm
26 August	6.50am	5.53pm
9 September	6.29am	6.05pm
23 September	6.07am	6.17pm
7 October	5.46am	6.29pm
21 October	5.26am	6.43pm

Sources: www.museum.vic.gov.au/planetarium
www.timeanddate.com/worldclock

Community Planting Weekends and Box-Ironbark

Ecology Tour

Celebrating 11 years of habitat restoration for the endangered Regent Honeyeater. This year's planting is part of the 2006 Commonwealth Games Environment Program, supported by the Victorian government. Join with landholders, local schools and scores of other volunteers in this nationally significant project where everybody wins.

- Habitat restoration
- Preserving big old trees
- Salinity control
- Better water quality
- Better stock shelter
- Sustainable agriculture

Share a weekend or two planting with friends, enjoy the spring wildflowers and gain some fascinating ecological insights.

- Aug 13/14; Aug 27/28; Sept 10/11; Sept 24/25
- Near Benalla, 2 1/2 hours from Melbourne
- Free accommodation, BBQ and bushdance
- Contact Ray Thomas

Wednesday 29 June

**Join Susan and Stuart for lunch
at 12.30 at**

MECCA BAH

55a New Quay Promenade, Docklands.

**This is Moroccan style cuisine and
situated on a pontoon positioned over
the water at Victoria Harbour.**

Licensed and BYO.

NEW ZEALAND WALK

Expressions of Interest requested

**for walking the Heaphy or Abel Tasman track
in the north of the South Island**

9–15 January 2006

**then touring around the northern South Island in the third
week returning to Australia on 22 January**

Contact Quentin Tibballs

Trekking in Nepal



I am organising a group to trek in Nepal in April, 2006.

Discover the beauty of the Himalaya on this introductory trek. This great adventure will incorporate the two most popular trekking areas in Nepal, the Annapurna and Everest regions.

22 days trek per person land package all-inclusive US\$1,500.00.

For more detailed information please contact Julie

Rover Lodge

Just a reminder that the Rover Lodge on the Bogong High Plains has open weeks that visitors can use, both summer and winter. Last year some former Wilky users – Maroon-dah, Strezlecki, Melbourne Bushies, Winter Group and Nordic Ski Group members plus some Booroondara club members made up a group of 24 in week 10 – the last week of August and first week of September – and had an excellent week of great weather, great snow and good company. This year only 10 have booked for this week (August 27 – 3 September), the minimum number for running a group, so there are many places available in the Rover's large comfortable lodge. The cost is just under \$400 and you have to be able to ski in 2–3 hours to the lodge with a pack for your week's needs – clothes, sleeping bag and your share of the fresh food. The cost covers meals for the week, accommodation, the bus up to Falls Creek and very basic accommodation for the night before we ski in. Some Rovers come in with us to organize the food (which we cook), run the generator etc. The lodge is heated, has an excellent drying room, washing machine, flushing toilets and hot showers. Application forms are available on the Rovers website – www.bogongroverchalet.org.au Please note that this is not a Club trip – the Rovers themselves lead it.

Jan Llewelyn

A web resource for trip leaders

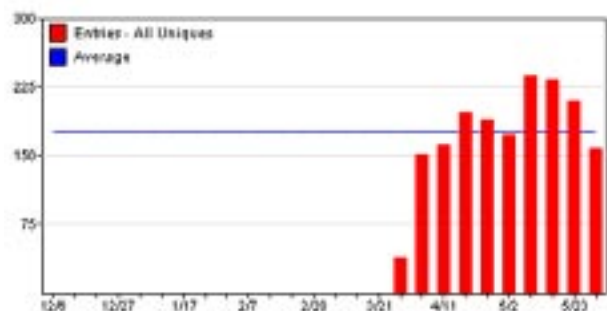
Over the years the pages of *The News* provide an invaluable resource for trip leaders and complement the detailed trip files and reports held by the club. Make a quick scan of back copies and you will find contributions in trip notes from members of their personal experiences on some of the many events held each year or ideas on places to stop and eat in the 'Good Food Guide'. Now these regular features of *The News* can be quickly searched on-line on the club's web site. Participants and trip leaders alike can now refresh their memories about some of the memorable features of past trips to an area they may be thinking of visiting again. While you are at it follow the links from the trip notes to the photo-gallery to add to the shared experience.

And remember, if you too have an experience you would like to share in a note in *The News* or photos on the web site the club would like to hear from you.

New visitors finding the club's web site helpful

A part of the extension of the club's web site at the start of April has been the inclusion of a more detailed statistics gathering capability enabling us to more accurately gauge the interest in bushwalking and the club's activities. On average there are around 160 individuals making at least one visit to the site each week, around 120 of whom are visiting the site for the first time. The information they are looking for varies widely from something as general as 'bushwalking clubs Melbourne' to unusual topics like 'trains 1940'. With an expanding wealth of information on the site it is becoming a valuable resource for those with a shared interest in the bush, its enjoyment and its preservation. Importantly about two thirds of them stop to look around the site whilst they are there, learn about the club and what it stands for and in about 10% of cases download a club application form.

Weekly total of visitors to the web site (month/day)



Valuable donation to Club library

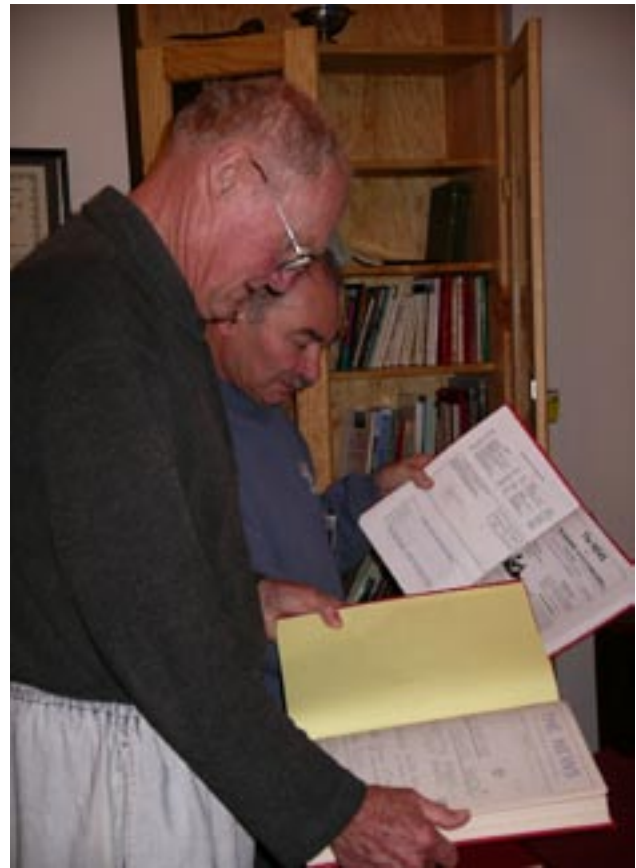
THE CLUB was recently the recipient of a project that one of our members put together in recent years. Athol Schafer (life member) has bound a huge number of the club's past Newsletters and Walks Magazines and donated these to the club. The volumes include copies of Melbourne Bushwalkers Newsletters 1953–1999; *Walks Magazines* 1949–1987; Melbourne *Walker Magazines* 1951–1999 and some Vicwalk Newsletters 1989–1994

These volumes of past walks and club activities are a fascinating read and give an insight into the types of activities that previous club members undertook. The volumes are located in our library and you are most welcome to sit and go through the books on a Wednesday evening. Please be careful when handling and only read in the club room, as, due to their historical importance the books cannot be taken home.

Athol Schafer joined the club in 1952, was on the Committee in various roles for over 14 years, led many day walks and weekend trips, and until recently was responsible for the most interesting historical walks around Melbourne.

I am sure you will join with me in saying a very big thank you to Athol for entrusting these treasures to the club.

Jan Palich



Club Librarian Doug Langton and Membership Secretary Peter Havlicek perusing these fascinating insights into the Melbourne Bushwalking Club History.

Book Reviews



A guide to plants of inland Australia

Philip Moore
1876 33486 X
\$49.95

This beautifully presented handbook has been made to the highest productive values. It lists the major and distinctive plant groups, and then has the common name, botanical name, and sometimes an alternative name. Best of all, each is illustrated by a clear, colour photograph.

All the National Parks and Reserves, as featured in the book, are pinpointed on a map – so what are you waiting for?

An appendix is devoted to the wildflowers along the coast from Shark bay to Kalbarri. At the end of the book you'll find an index of both common names and scientific names.

Australia's volcanoes

Russell Ferrett
1877 069094
\$29.95

Russell Ferrett is a high school geography teacher with a passion for volcanoes. Bemoaning the lack of information on Australia's volcanoes, he decided to write his own book to address this gap. The end result is a very handsome production and highly accessible. Although Australia's volcanoes are currently resting, numerous landforms created by past volcanic activity exist. The book focuses on the best examples from eastern Australia, as this represents the concentration of relatively recent activity. The first part of the book explains the technical stuff, with dead-easy-to-follow diagrams, and then the author works through each state, illustrating the finest examples with his own, terrific photos.

Out favourites are included: Organ Pipes, Camperdown District, Tower Hill, Mt. Eccles, Mt. Gambier and Lord Howe island. A very handy pocket reference – highly recommended.

HISTORICAL WALK:

Elster Creek – St Kilda Botanic Gardens

DATE	Monday 13 June 2005
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER	Nigel Holmes
TRANSPORT	Train. Meet 'under the clocks' at Flinders Street Station before 10.00am. Depart on a Frankston line train around 10.15 to McKinnon station.

Beginning at McKinnon station we follow the route of the Elster Creek through Ormond, McKinnon, Brighton, Elsternwick and Elwood. Pre-settlement River Red Gums, a lagoon and the hotel where Thomas Bent was bailed up by bushrangers and tied to a tree will be points of interest on this walk. The route is about 8 km long, we finish at the St Kilda Botanical Gardens and you can catch a bus or tram back to the city. Ring Nigel anytime to book on the walk or ask questions about it.



SUNDAY BUS:

Woodlands (Gellibrand) Historic Park

DATE	Sunday 26 June 2005
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium (By courtesy)
DISTANCE	11 and 13+ km
LEADERS	Peter Havlicek and David Arnold
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd at 9 am
RETURN TIME	6.00 pm or before
AREA	Near Tullamarine Airport
MAP REFERENCE	Melways 6

This walk will be on the shortest Sunday of the year (winter solstice 23 June!). We walk through the back paddocks where there are the remnants of two old homesteads, frequented by numerous 'roos and a conservation area dedicated to the preservation of the Eastern Barred Bandicoot (an elusive little beastie). The aboriginals lived there and still have a cemetery which we shall visit.

The highlight is a visit to Woodlands, a well maintained homestead originally imported from England (in a knocked-down form), later extensively added to. We reach Woodlands about 3 pm and visit there for at least 40 mins with the availability of a Devonshire tea. The longer walk detours for a stroll along the upper reaches of Moonee Ponds Creek. Proximity to Melbourne means an early return to Southbank.



SUNDAY BUS: Tallarook Plateau – Mill Creek

DATE	Sunday 3 July 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium & Medium
DISTANCE	13 km and 15 km
LEADERS	Max Casley and Hans Edlinger
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd. 8.30 am
RETURN TIME	6.30 pm approx
AREA	South-east of Seymour, south of Goulburn River
MAP REFERENCE	Seymour 1:25,000

This walk is on a plateau with good views across the Goulburn Valley below. We start and finish close to the river and this means ascending in the morning and descending in the afternoon. We walk up beside Mill Creek and cross it over some huge flat rock – the creek was dry on the preview. Then we climb up to a disused road which has dry stone retaining walls of high quality. After following this we climb to Pulpit Rock for excellent views. The walk continues across farmland and through forest to Meadows Hill, our highest point. On a clear July day snow on Mt Buller may be seen. We then descend a spur back to the river again and the finish.

Both walks follow the same basic route, but the medium group will do some extra bits and take some steeper and perhaps more interesting variations. Both walks have steep ascents and descents, some rocky ground and some not-very-thick scrub. It is a beautiful area – come and enjoy this walk. **Note: 8.30 am start.**

TOFS: Maribyrnong River – Avondale Heights

DATE	Thursday 7 July 2005
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER	Jean Giese
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	2.30 pm
MAP REFERENCE	Melway page 27

A good winter walk with views of the Maribyrnong River Valley, some walking beside the river, and a short section through a residential area of Avondale Heights, to make it a round trip. Some hills but we take our time on them.

Meet at 10.15am at the end of Lily Street (off Buckley Rd, Essendon West) or proceed to the parking area inside the park if the gates are open. Melway ref 27J4.

Book with leader.

Note: the August walk will be led by Judith Hall, not Alister Rowe. See next *News* for preview.




SUNDAY BUS: Werribee Gorge

DATE	Sunday 10 July 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCE	15 km / 9 km
LEADERS	Lynda Larkin and Paul Logsdon
TRANSPORT	Bus. Southbank Blvd. at 9 am
RETURN TIME	6 pm

Due to unsuitable terrain and private property issues in Parwan Valley, our walk will be confined to the Werribee Gorge area.

Werribee Gorge, which lies 8 km west of Bacchus Marsh, was created about one million years ago by the uplifting of land along the Rowsley Fault and the subsequent down-cutting action of the Werribee River.

This process led to the formation of a deep incision, which has exposed the ancient underlying siltstones, 

sandstone and slate previously subjected to powerful oceanic, glacial and volcanic forces. The result is a complex terrain full of interesting geological features with massive cliffs and rock bars. Our two walks will traverse the gorge in an anti-clockwise direction with a sidetrip to Falcons Lookout for both walks and the longer walk doing a south-easterly diversion from the Lookout to Western Bluff Track. The walks will include an easy river crossing, a couple of steep stretches and some splendid views. A rewarding walk.

SUNDAY BUS: Kilcunda – Churchill Island

DATE	Sunday 17 July 2005
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	Not yet finalized.
LEADERS	Doug Langton; Not Finalized
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd. at 9 am
RETURN TIME	7 pm
AREA	Phillip Island, Kilcunda.
MAP REFERENCE	Parks Victoria, George Bass Coastal Walk.

Envisaged prior to the preview is that both groups will leave from Kilcunda to enjoy the spectacular, rugged coastline of the George Bass Coastal Walk to Punchbowl Road and its 'IMAX' type view of Western Port and beyond. Private land ownership forces a temporary deviation from the cliff face but the rocky coastline seen by ship's surgeon George Bass in 1798 as he and his crew rowed west will return and the cliff and/or beach will be followed into San Remo. Both groups will cross the bridge onto Phillip Island and again walk into history to Churchill Island. Planted with a wide range of seeds by Lieutenant Grant of the 'Lady Nelson' in 1799 and therefore Victoria's first 'farm'. The group doing the longer walk will circumnavigate the island by foot. The history as well as the present day significance of Churchill Islands surrounding Marine National Park will be reviewed as can be the island's historic homestead and its surrounding working farm where a reduced visiting rate of \$5.40 has been agreed if participants wish to view the homestead. Wonderful coastal scenery and historical significance should make up for what is not a particularly rigorous walk.

WEDNESDAY WALK: Yarra Ranges – McMahons Creek Goldfields

DATE	Wednesday 20 July 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER	Stuart Hodgson
TRANSPORT	Private

Full details of this walk will appear in the *July News*.

SUNDAY BUS: Red Hill Rail Trail & Winery

DATE	Sunday 24 July 2005
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	13 km and 17 km.
LEADERS	John Coe and Mick Noonan
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd. at 9.00 am
RETURN TIME	Approx 7pm
AREA	Mornington Peninsula
MAP REFERENCE	Dromana, Balcombe and Flinders 1:25000

Ready for a ramble round the rolling hills of Red Hill on the Mornington Peninsula? It's not quite a ramble really, as we know (?) where we are going. Maybe, after the wine tasting we may not know where we are going. The alliteration aside, both walks will use the old Red Hill to Merricks railway for some of the journey.

To get the heart pumping, as is their wont, the Easy/Medium group will climb Arthur's seat via the OT Dam trail and then proceed to the rail trail, where the views over Western Port Bay are marvellous. The Easy group, will commence walking closer to Red Hill South and see the same spectacular views over Western Port. Both walks will finish at the popular Stonier winery at Merricks. At this stage, the choice for the second winery for the two groups is still to be made. As there are nearly 30 wineries on the peninsula, the choice is difficult.

Tasting fees will apply at the wineries.

This walk has been well attended in the past and anyone wishing to attend, should book early to avoid disappointment.

DANDENONG EXPLORER: Anakie Gorge

DATE	Saturday 30 July 2005
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	12 km
TRANSPORT	Private
LEADER	Maureen Hurley
TIME	Meeting time at Bacchus Marsh 10 am to carpool to Anakie Gorge for 10.30 am

Anakie Gorge is half an hours drive from Bacchus Marsh. This area may be drier than the Dandenongs at this time of year. Anakie Gorge is part of the Brisbane Ranges with a sandstone environment, situated near Stony Creek. Golden Wattle, Ironbark, Stringbark and Hakeas will abound. Pomaderria (grass trees) are also plentiful.

We will meet in Main Street, Bacchus Marsh at 10 am at the Flowerpot Café to organise car pooling to drive to Anakie Gorge Picnic Ground where the walk begins. We walk along Nelson's Track, Redbeck Track and Outlook Track to Stony Creek Picnic Ground and return via the Gorge Track. We spotted two koalas on the preview and had great views of Stony Creek at Nelson's Lookout. A lovely walk, see you there! A coffee rendezvous has been previewed!

SUNDAY BUS: Anakie Gorge – Steiglitz

DATE	Sunday 31 July 2005
STANDARD	Easy and Medium
LEADERS	Nick Dow and Fiona Jarman
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd. at 9.00 am

Please see the leaders in the clubrooms about this walk.

PACK CARRY & BASE CAMP: Pink Lakes

DATE	10-13 June 2005
STANDARD	Easy/medium
DISTANCE	45 km approx
LEADERS	Max Casley
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Monday evening
AREA	Mallee, west of Ouyen
MAP REFERENCE	Park Leaflets. Underbool & Sunset 1:100,000

The Pink Lakes are in the Mallee to the west of Ouyen and we don't go there often. The distance is about 550 km each way and a car fare of about \$90 is suggested. In winter, saline ground water enters the lakes from the surrounding country. Low atmospheric can also raise the level of the ground water. In the past salt was harvested from these lakes and piles of salt and old machinery still remain.

I plan to camp at Pink Lakes beside the cars on Friday and Saturday and explore the area around the Lakes with day packs on Saturday. Then we will do a 2 day pack carry on the Sunset Remote Walking Track camping out on Sunday and returning Monday. This requires a car shuttle on sandy 4wd tracks. The roads at Pink Lakes are OK for normal cars.

We can expect sunny days and cold nights. Fires are permitted only at Pink Lakes so bring a stove for the Remote Track. Water is available at the remote campsites and at Pink Lakes, but do bring plenty of water in the car. Bring some fire wood if you can.

BASE CAMP: Pink Lakes and Doug's Place

DATE	10-13 June 2005 (Queens Birthday Weekend)
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	Varied
LEADER	Doug Pocock
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Monday pm. or Tuesday
AREA	NW Victoria
MAP REFERENCE	National Park Notes

Friday night campspot will be at Pink Lakes, Jan and I will go up earlier to 'bags' a good campspot. Those who wish to break the journey may want to camp at Wedderburn and arrive Saturday. There are fireplaces at the campspots, bring some firewood with you. Water was available at the preview but bring some to be on the safe side.

Saturday morning will be a short walk around one of the lakes, in the afternoon we will do a longer, but still very shortwalk. On Sunday we will take lunch and do a longer circuit of most of the lakes. Returning to camp we will pack up and head off to Wyperfeld Nat Park. 4WD vehicles can take a short cut but 2WD vehicles will go via Patchewollock to Casuarina camp ground. It would be possible to pick up some supplies at Walpeup or Patchewollock.

On Monday morning we will do a walk to Bracky Well returning to the cars for a reasonably early departure.

Those with no time constraints can go to Wedderburn to camp and, following a walk in the morning, will return to Melbourne on Tuesday.

We were most impressed by the birds, especially at Casuarina. A long list from splendid wrens to emus, plenty of raptors and parrots, Major Mitchell cockatoos and mulga parrots in the camp ground. The botany was greatly varied. Saltbush and glassworts at Pink Lakes, Mallee forests, Buloke and Native Pine at Casuarina and Black Box woodland in the creeklines. Those who wish may just do short walks enjoying the wonderful bird watching available in these two parks.



PACK CARRY: Lerderderg Gorge Traverse

DATE	25-26 June 2005
STANDARD	Medium
LEADERS	Jopie Bodegraven
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Sunday late afternoon
MAP REFERENCE	Lerderderg & Werribee Gorges 1:35,000

This walk will be an adventure and the ideal walk for winter. It is in a wilderness area very close to Melbourne, a rare combination. The Lerderderg River flows through Blackwood and quickly enters a gorge. There are walking tracks along or close to it until you get to a tributary called Whisky Creek. Twice in recent years the club has done overnight walks in this area of the Lerderderg upstream of here. This weekend we are going to explore the section of the gorge downstream of here to where it emerges out of its gorge at Mackenzie Flat and we will do this as much as possible at river level. The upper two thirds of this section have not been done by the club for a very long time as far as I can gather and have no recognised track.

We will start at the bottom end at Mackenzies Flat. The first 7km is either a track or fairly often walked and hopefully reasonably easy, albeit rocky in parts with river crossings. The remaining 11 or 12km will be much wilder with the possibility of delightful river scenery, scrub and wet feet. If the going gets too difficult we should be able to easily leave the river up one of the relatively open spurs or via one of the 5 tracks that come down to or close to the river on our exit side. If we do make it to Whisky Creek we will have another 4km to walk out to our cars. I'm sure we'll find a good Saturday night campsite somewhere in the gorge because an older map I have actually marks some likely spots.

We begin 8.30am on Saturday morning in Bacchus Marsh. If the river levels are too high or the forecast is for abysmal weather we will postpone the walk because the gorge is not the place to be under those conditions.

If you're after a bit of exploratory adventure in a great wild area close to Melbourne and are prepared to put up with a bit of scrub, rocks and wet feet then this is the walk for you.



PACK CARRY: Langi Ghiran

DATE 15–17 July
 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.

SEARCH & RESCUE PRACTICE: Mt Buffalo

DATE 22–24 July 2005
 CONTACT David Laing
 TRANSPORT Private Mt Waverley Police Training Academy
 DEPART TIME 1900 hrs on Friday night.
 RETURN TIME 1800hrs Sunday at Mt Waverley

This event is open to financial MBW members who are also members of Search & Rescue or are interested in joining the Search & Rescue group. This will include snow camping and snow search and rescue skills training and requires equipment and food for snow camping. I need to inform the organisers of numbers & names attending before Friday 12th July so I would like any interested to contact me by Friday 5th July, as I am likely to be interstate for the week 8–12 July.

This is an excellent opportunity to receive free instruction and I expect free entry for this weekend. The club has some equipment for hire (tents, sleeping bags, mats, cookers etc.) if you need it.

See Search & Rescue Practice flier on noticeboard or in this copy of NEWS for more details.

BASE CAMP: Grampians (Hall's Gap) Lodge weekend

DATE 22–24 July 2005
 STANDARD Easy/Medium
 DISTANCE 20–30 km
 LEADER Halina Sarbinowski
 TRANSPORT Private
 RETURN TIME 8 pm Sunday
 AREA Grampians (Hall's Gap)

We'll be staying at the YHA Eco-Lodge at Hall's Gap which has excellent facilities for a social/walking weekend. Accommodation costs per person for the two nights will be \$56.00 (4 person dorm) or \$67.00 (twin/double share).

Walks will be in the Hall's Gap area and are still to be finalised. Ideas at the moment are Wonderland Loop, Mt Rosea, McKenzie Falls to Zumstein. Even if you have walked in the area before locals have advised that walking in winter is a very different (and wonderful) experience. So hopefully you will join me in experiencing the magic of the area on this weekend.

I will be in the clubrooms finalising details on Wednesdays 6th and 20th July. Unfortunately I will not be able to take bookings on the 13th as I will be away in Kakadu (yeah!!!!)

Walks Secretary report

Trip figures for April 2005

	April 2005			April 2004	
	Trips	People	Average	Trips	Average
Sunday Bus	4	160	40	4	37
Other Day	4	76	19	4	15
Pack Carry	3	24	8	2	12
Base Camp	1	17	17	1	16
Cycle Base Camp	1	22	22		
Canoe				1	14
Lodge				1	19
Cancelled	1				
TOTAL	14	299			

Numbers have picked up on the Sunday Bus trips. The Dandenongs Explorers, Wednesday Walks and Thursday TOFs walks are all popular. There were 7 participants on Quentin's Navigation day. The Cycle Weekend at Beaufort was successful and popular. The low average numbers on the pack carries were due to 2 of the 3 trips being at the Prom with low number limits. One pack carry was cancelled due to insufficient numbers.

Jopie Bodegraven, Walks Secretary

Don't Forget Your Capsule

Koonung BWC's April *Koonung Walk Talk* reminds its readers to 'carry your capsule with emergency information in your pack at all times'. It should contain your contact person's name and phone number, any relevant medical conditions and the name of any medication you are taking. This is an excellent idea, worth emulating by other clubs if it is not already being done.

Melbourne Bushwalkers will be pleased to know that the Club will be implementing this wise procedure in the near future with the introduction of Health Detail cards for all walkers. Look out for more information in the July *News*.