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# THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 CENTS

EDITION 657 NOVEMBER 2005

## AUCTION

### PRE-LOVED BUSHWALKING & RELATED GEAR

**Wednesday 16 November in the Clubrooms**

Don't forget our upcoming fun-filled auction night. The auctioneer will be Derrick Brown assisted by Gina Hopkins & Jopie Bodegraven with Jan Palich organising the yummys. Bring along items to sell on the night preferably by 7pm. The actual auction starts at 8pm but come early to inspect the items and see what delights are being sold. Fuller details are on the cover of last months News. Whatever you do, don't miss out on this special night. See you there.

### HEAPHY TRACK PACK CARRY

There are a few remaining vacancies left for this not to be missed walk along the spectacular Heaphy Track in the South Island of New Zealand on 9th -22nd January 2006

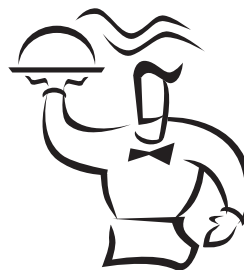
Contact Quentin

### Wednesday, 23 November

Join Susan and Stuart for lunch  
at the  
Graham Hotel,  
97 Graham Street, Port Melbourne.  
(Melways 2J F7)

Let's kick off early at 12.30  
Book by 20 November

### MELBOURNE BUSH WALKERS



## Dine Out

November 2005 venue:

### STRIKE BOWLING AND BAR

245 Little Lonsdale Street,  
Melbourne

Saturday 12th November at 7.30pm

Regina Pizzeria Cnr. Swanston &  
Lonsdale Streets.

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.

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:

- 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 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

*Wine & Cheese  
evening*



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

# Photogallery takes Satellite View

Ever wondered just how far that walk really was? Or perhaps you've thought it would be nice to see an elevation profile of the route? Once only available through specialist computer software, the answers to these questions and more are now being made available on the club's web site through the magic of "Google Maps" integrated with GPS (Global Positioning System) records and some clever programming. The image below from a recent club walk shows one of the views available.

The new functions are offered as an extension of the Photogallery, and allow you to see just where you have walked as an overlay on satellite images of the terrain, provided free from Google. Zoom in for a closer look or zoom out to get the bigger picture! Pass the mouse pointer over a thumbnail photograph or one of the map icons and see instantly where along the track the photograph was taken and how long it took to walk there. Or select the

(For those with a programming bent, the plots are based on Javascript routines which can be perused by accessing the web page source code.)

Of course, there is a catch! The magic can only be worked where GPS records and photographs are available. Initial experience has provided a few pointers on what to do and what not to do.

## The Walk – collecting the data

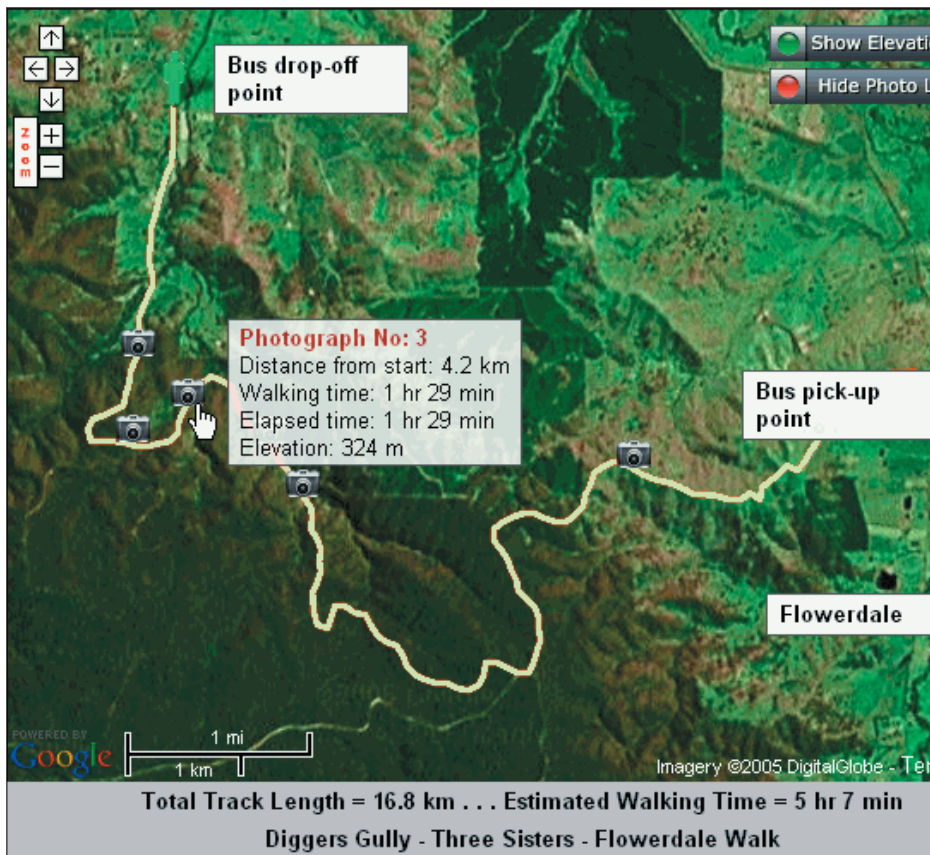
Many people already take photos on club walks, so the only additional equipment needed on the walk is a GPS receiver for collecting the location data. It must be a model with data capability for transferring the information to the computer once back at home.

Two types of information are being collected – a track log which keeps a "breadcrumb trail" of the whole

route, and waypoint data giving the location of each photo (each waypoint corresponds to one of the camera icons overlaid on the map).

To ensure the reliability of GPS data collected on the walk, the GPS must be carried in a position where it will have a good view of the satellites. For the track log only, one option is in the top pouch, or a pocket near the top of the pack, but in this position it is not easy to mark the photo locations as it is not reachable without taking the pack off. A better option is to carry the GPS in a small pouch attached to one of the front straps of the pack, where it is more accessible for marking the waypoints. Keeping the GPS in a pocket of your clothing, or anywhere that it is below shoulder height is not recommended as it will

most likely result in a number of satellites being obscured by the body, leading to loss of position fix or at the very least an inaccurate fix. Remember also to give the GPS a minute or two of warm-up time before setting off, in order for it to obtain an accurate fix at the start of the walk. The GPS can be turned off during rest breaks to conserve batteries. Less warm-up time is needed after a



elevation profile button and marvel at the hills you have conquered.

But the technology is not just useful for recording where you have been. It has a place too in preparing for your next walk. Linked to Walk Previews on the club web site you can see just where the next trip is planned to go. Check out the Swindlers Creek-Cobungra River-Anglers Rest Pack Carry in the December program and see what is now possible. Follow the route on the satellite images and see photographs of camping sites and points of interest.



break as the unit is waking up in its last known location and with recent satellite data.

Track logging options will vary according to the model of GPS receiver, but a 50 metre interval is recommended if possible. This gives good track resolution without recording large numbers of trackpoints unnecessarily. Setting it to "auto" can result in too many points being logged, with small loops in the track and other unexpected artefacts, but the data can usually be filtered later by the web site software. It doesn't matter which map datum is selected, as all data is stored and transferred to the computer in Lat/Lon, however if the GPS is also being used in conjunction with a map on the walk, the map datum in the GPS should of course be set to match the map.

The GPS requires batteries sufficient to last the whole trip. If this involves a change of batteries part way through a walk or a trip, it should not cause data loss as many GPS receivers have a lithium battery or other means of memory backup, but it is advisable to test this beforehand.

### Back at Home

The data collected by the GPS receiver needs to be extracted, saved, and emailed to accompany the trip photos. There is a wide range of GPS software available, but for anyone not requiring a full commercial mapping package, the "GPS Utility" Freeware Edition <[www.gpsu.co.uk](http://www.gpsu.co.uk)> was found to be very easy to use and quite

adequate for the task. This software will retrieve the waypoints and track log from the GPS, and can save them as GPX (GPS exchange) files, suitable for use on the website to link with the Google maps.

Sometimes a small amount of editing may be needed, e.g. to eliminate unwanted points if you forgot to reset the track log at the start of the trip(!), or to split individual walks out of the complete track log, in the case of a trip involving multiple walks such as a base camp. This is quite easily done using either the GPS software, or even a text editor such as Notepad if you know what you are doing! But don't be put off if this all seems too hard as either of the authors will probably be able to help.

### The Possibilities

How the new information is used depends on how useful members find it. If you have a great idea of what you would like to see, why not let the web site administrator know. If it is possible, it could well be done!

*By Ian Mair (Web Site Administrator) and David Arnold*

## WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

# Kakadu & Nitmiluk

Photographic Special: January 1-14, 2006



**Our first trip designed specifically for keen photographers.**

- > led by photo pro Paul Benjafield. See [www.wildprint.com.au](http://www.wildprint.com.au) for samples of his work.
- > two easy, accommodated acclimatisation days at the start
- > by walking into the wilderness and camping away from campgrounds, you will be able to get the best possible early morning and evening light for your photographs.

- > expert advice as to how to take the best possible photos in conditions which are both exceptionally scenic and exceptionally challenging.
- > digital, prints or slides — you'll finish with some truly exceptional shots.

A small ad like this can only hint at what's involved. **Please see the trip list on our website or call us for full details.**

[www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au](http://www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au)



Willis's Walkabouts 12 Carrington St Millner NT 0810 Email: [walkabout@ais.net.au](mailto:walkabout@ais.net.au)

Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355

# Kooyoora State Park

## Base Camp 7-9 October 2005

Being at another base camp near Bendigo only two weeks earlier, I hadn't given much attention to this trip in the program. However Jopie assured me that Kooyoora was quite different to Whipstick & Kamarooka, so I decided to take a look for myself and to visit another park I hadn't been to before. Not to mention that there would most likely be a whole different bunch of people to share the trip with.

There were patches of rain as we drove out the Calder Highway on Friday, but we optimistically suggested that the rain would be confined to the south, and that even if it did rain at least the cloud cover would keep it from getting too cold. That evening we had dinner in damp and very chilly conditions, and went straight to bed! Others arrived later in the evening, and in the morning told us of the terrific meal they'd had at the Inglewood pub the night before.

On Saturday morning we set out on a circuit that would take us to Mt Kooyoora. We hadn't travelled too far before someone made the first significant wildflower find – a pair of spider orchids in full flower. The remainder of the weekend would also prove to be rewarding for wildflower enthusiasts, and even the wattle was still looking very attractive, against a landscape filled with clusters of granite boulders.

We were soon donning our rain jackets and over-trousers as showers swept through, but the scenery and landscape were so impressive that the rain was hardly noticed, and by lunch we were in shirts again, having warmed up with the exertion of climbing Mt Kooyoora. From the summit and during the descent there were great views in most directions, including the plains to the north. Within the park itself, there was a good deal of dead timber about, so that the forest had an unspoilt and ancient feel about it.

By evening the rain had returned and we had to decide between moving down the road to the picnic area, where there was a large shelter, or going into Inglewood where we could have a pub meal by an open fire. Being bushies we decided to rough it at the picnic area (but still had an open fire that was a match for any open fire at a pub).

Two shorter walks on marked tracks were done on Sunday, again with magnificent scenery, and including some of the more touristy spots accessible from the picnic area, such as Melville Caves. In the granite outcrops there were interesting rock pools, some of which were natural and some we thought could have been made in the rock surfaces years ago by indigenous inhabitants of the area.

We were lucky to be well supplied with bird and plant experts on the trip, which included Jenny and Jopie, Gina and Derrick, and thanks especially to leader David and Michelle for previewing and organising the weekend.

*David Arnold*



### Bushwalking in Special Areas of the Grampians

In an effort to maintain the attraction of camping in remote locations and the integrity and health of the surrounding environment, a current registration system has been introduced into two remote areas in the Grampians NP. This registration system also includes a 'fuel stove only' policy. That means no campfires in the places mentioned below.

'For a number of years the Major Mitchell Plateau, Mt Difficult and the Fortress areas in the Grampians NP have experienced increased visitation, especially from large groups,' said Ranger-in-Charge Graham Parkes. 'These areas are of considerable conservation significance, and have been recognised in the Grampians NP Management Plan' Mr Parkes said. Over the last ten years, park staff have monitored these areas and have noted a considerable impact on surrounding vegetation, especially from the increased visitation in the area. A registration system will assist Parks Victoria (PV) to manage these very special areas, aiming to reduce environmental impacts while greatly improving the camping experience for remote bushwalkers, and indeed all visitors to these areas. 'This registration system has proved successful for the Major Mitchell Plateau reducing impacts in and around the area, improving the health of the surrounding area and has increased the experience for remote walkers,' Mr Parkes continued. Groups are now required to lodge their registration at Brambuk NP & Cultural Centre, in Halls Gap. Group sizes for camping are set for 12 people. Please remember that fuel stoves can only be used in these areas and campfires are not permitted.

'The Grampians is a special place for all visitors. It is essential we all work together to conserve the Grampians biodiversity and ensure a healthy and strong future for our native plants and animals, and in turn our communities', Mr Parkes concluded.

For any further information on registration and campsites in remote areas of the Grampians NP please contact Parks Victoria on 13 1963 or visit <[www.parkweb.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.parks.vic.gov.au)>.

*David Newton. Media Liaison  
Phone 5336 6820, Mobile 0409 212 869*

### Mobile Phone Remote Area Coverage

PV states in some of their park brochures that 'you may not be in network range in some areas of the park. To be connected to police, ambulance or CFA, key in 112 then press the "yes" key'.

However, [in the White Pages] under Digital Mobile Phone Emergency Services, it is stated: 'In a life-threatening or time-critical emergency, always dial 000. You should only dial 112 as an alternative to 000 if

you have a GSM digital mobile phone and you are outside your own provider's GSM network coverage area. You may not be able to access 112 from your CDMA phone or if you are outside of all network coverage areas'.

*Article from the October edition of  
Waverley BWC's Walklines*

## VICWALK CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

### Wednesday 26th October meeting report.

**Alpine National Park:** alpine grazing licences will not be renewed. The Federal Minister for Environment & Heritage will now seek heritage listing for the NSW, ACT and Victorian alpine national parks, the first step for world heritage nomination.

**Bunyip SP.** Community Advisory Group to report to Minister in November. VicWalk are seeking more 'walker only' tracks and to restrict trail bikes in the southern area of the park.

**Grampians NP.** Major Mitchell Plateau, the Fortress and Mt Difficult walking tracks are now fuel stove only areas and campsites have to be booked with the Park registration system.

**Regent Honeyeater project.** 14,300 seedlings planted by 300 volunteers over the four planting weekends.

**River Red Gum Campaign.** Please send a pre-written E-lobby letter to Premier Bracks and cabinet in Victoria and Premier Iemma in NSW to call for new River Red Gum National Parks on the River Murray. For Victoria the link is: <<http://www.npansw.org.au/web/conservation/western/redgum/elobbyVIC.htm>>. For NSW the link is: <<http://www.npansw.org.au/web/conservation/western/redgum/elobbyNSW.htm>>.

This is critically important, so please forward this message to friends, colleagues and anyone else who can help. If you have trouble with the links, visit <[www.redgum.org.au](http://www.redgum.org.au)> and click on 'get involved'. A few seconds of your time can help progress this and stop the senseless destruction of these internationally significant wetlands.

**Tasmania.** Cradle Mountain track – now has a \$100 walker's fee and must be walked north to south from November to March.

**Wilson's Prom NP.** All southern walking tracks open from 29th October.

*Rod Novak, VicWalk Conservation delegate*



## **VicWalk Track Maintenance Group:**

Volunteers required to help with the following projects:

**12–13 November Mt Buffalo NP.** Track clearing on the Back Wall track near the Horn. Will involve camping out. Contact Jim Harker on 0402 099 476

<jnharker@netspace.net.au>.

**19–20 November. Bogong High Plains** with Friends of Bogong weekend. Contact Dawn Kneen <dmkneen@pacific.net.au>.

**3–4 December. Howqua Hills, Alpine NP.** Contact Margarita Chetcuti <xanadu\_fan@bigpond.com>, 9634 8699.

**11 December. Yarra Ranges NP – Upper Yarra track.** Contact Steve Robertson on 9762 5367

**11–12 February 2006. Baw Baw NP** with Friends of Baw Baw. Track clearing around Mt St Phillack. Contact Robert Pratt at <r.pratt@bigpond.net.au>.

**25–26 February Grampians NP.** Track clearing on the Fortress and Mt Thackeray. Contact Rod Novak on 9561 2407.

**18–19 March Alpine National Park** – Wonnangatta-Moroka area. Contact Margarita Chetcuti <xanadu\_fan@bigpond.com> 9634 8699

**1–2 April Alpine NP.** Riggalls Spur-Lake Tarli Karng. Contact Jim Harker on 0402 099 476

For further information about the VicWalk Track Group speak to Rod Novak in the clubrooms.

*Rod Novak,  
VicWalk Tracks Group delegate*

# **Mt Stapylton – Golton Gorge – Potters Creek**

## **Pack Carry, 30 September – 2 October 2005**

Bert and I met Bob, Gerry, Alan, Bill, Trish, Claire, Kerry, Jan and Andreas at the Mt Zero picnic area on a perfect Saturday morning.

We warmed up with a short walk without packs up Mt Zero where we had great views across the Wimmera plains on one side, with Mt Arapiles and Mitre Rock clearly visible in the distance, and to Hollow Mountain/Mt Stapylton on the other. Returning to the picnic area we put on our packs and climbed over Flat Rock (it may be flat but is definitely not horizontal!) and up alongside the towering Taipan Walls, with more beautiful views of the rugged range and the sheer red cliffs. Off-loading our packs a bit further on we made the ascent past a huge wind cave to the top of Mt Stapylton for more great views and a leisurely lunch.

Back with our packs the onward track took us over and around rock slabs to the top of the plateau and with a final, easy section to our well grassed camping area above Golton Gorge. We arrived quite early so we put up tents and then completed a circuit walk of the Gorge where there was just a meagre trickle of water. Fortunately Bob had, with foresight, organised to leave 4 litre of water per person, brought from Plantation campground, at the bottom. The gorge is quite steep in places and the afternoon sun brought out the beautiful colours in the sandstone of the cliffs.

The following morning we awoke to cloud and a little mist which soon cleared. After a short stroll along Polners Road we struck out off track through open woodland to a rocky outcrop at the edge of the plateau. After enjoying more views a short scramble down the rocks took us into dramatically different vegetation of Potters Creek catchment, with taller trees and thicker scrub. Picking our way along and a little above the creek we picked up an old track which became more definite as we neared Mt Stapylton campground, where we had yet another leisurely lunch after checking out the adjacent Cave of Ghosts.

Meanwhile the clouds had cleared altogether, leaving us to make our way back to Mt Zero picnic area across the open sandy plain and over Flat Rock in the full blaze of afternoon sun.

The park was a profusion of wildflowers and bird life was also plentiful. We were grateful to our knowledgeable companions such as Alan, Gerry and Kerry for spotting and identifying so many of the varieties of flowers, orchids and birds we encountered.

Thank you Bob for putting on an excellent walk at the perfect time and with just about perfect weather (how do you do it?). It brought back fond memories for Bert and I. Thanks also to all who came – we really enjoyed your company.

*Joycelyn Nesvold*

# Packing your pack

People are often surprised how much difference a well-packed rucksack can make. It can mean the difference between a comfortable walk and a trip from hell, affecting such things as walking gait and efficiency.

Those who think it is as simple as packing heavy gear close to your back would only be partly right. It is not so much *heavy* gear, but *dense* equipment we should be worried about. For example, a sleeping bag is often one of the heavier items in your pack, but takes up more room than say your water bladder, food or stoves and pots. So it is these denser items we should be carrying both close to our backs, and high up in the pack. The higher up the weight is in the pack, the less we have to lean forward to bring our centre of gravity over our feet.

On the other hand, having the weight centred high in our pack leads to a reduction in overall balance, so if walking on difficult terrain, it is advantageous to move the dense items a bit lower down, hugging your back. Women tend to like carrying the weight a little bit lower in the pack as well.

Evenly distributed weight also gives the pack a better *feel* on your back, so give a little consideration before just throwing everything in with abandon.

Take into consideration the necessity of easy access to certain items (like rain jacket or fleece) and packing becomes a near art form. All it takes, however, is a little consideration and you can enjoy your hiking to the full.

*Article by Simon in Wildside, the Wilderness Shop newsletter*

# When backpacking, go for comfort

As an ill-fitting backpack can take the fun out of any hiking experience, it is worth spending some time to adjust your pack to suit your particular body shape.

- o Pack your bag so heavier [ie denser – see above] items are closer to your spine and the load is evenly balanced.
- o While standing, slip your arms through the shoulder straps and rest the pack along your back.
- o Set the hip belt and tighten to comfort.
- o The top of the belt should lie just above your hip-bones – females have wider hips and will tend to wear their packs slightly higher than males.
- o Adjust the shoulder straps so they fit snugly and follow the shape of your shoulders.
- o Check that the top of the bag is just below shoulder height and most of the weight is carried around the hips.

- o And remember – the simplest way to take the weight off your shoulders and back is to carry a smaller load. Choose carefully and only carry what you genuinely need... there are no prizes for treating yourself like a pack horse.

*Reprinted by permission of Dr Bruce Scott of Norwood Chiropractic Centre*

## Wilderness Shop Annual Sale

Melbourne Bushwalkers will wish to know The Wilderness Shop is having its annual sale for one weekend only this year, Friday 11th to Sunday 13th November. This is the only opportunity this year for members to purchase quality brands and goods at genuine discounts. All shop stock is between 20% and 50% off.

## ADVANCE WARNING

*All those bushies who are not going away over the festive season – don't despair! Susan and Stuart are again opening up their mountain retreat for a wild New Year's Eve party. Those who came last year will remember what a great night it turned out to be – so let's do it again. Location is Selby, just out of Belgrave on the edge of Sherbrook Forest. Plenty of room if you want to stay overnight. Full details in next month's newsletter.*

**Watch this space!**

## NAVIGATION AND LEADER TRAINING DAY: Mt Disappointment

DATE	Saturday 19 November 05
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	Approx. 10 to 15km
LEADER	Quentin Tibballs
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	5.30pm approx
AREA	Mt Disappointment (Kilmore area)
MAP REFERENCE	Reedy Creek 1:25,000

This Training Day will be conducted on the Victorian Rogaining course at Mt Disappointment near Kilmore. This day will be suitable for beginners and intermediate standard participants (or experts who just want some practice). We will have a preliminary education session on navigation in the clubrooms on Monday 14 November (7.30pm to 9.00pm) and I would like those intending to do the course on the following Saturday to attend this if they can.

The day will be divided into morning and afternoon sessions of about 2 hours each, beginning at 11.00 am and 1.30 pm. Those attending will be divided into small groups and each person will take a turn as leader and be required to navigate their party between predetermined grid points. However, whilst doing this the other members of the group will be given instructions at a time, not of your choosing, to play act a misadventure for which you as leader will be required to manage.

Gear to be taken will be your usual for a day walk ie please bring your own lunch and a compass if you have one (however there will be spare if you don't) Also maps of the area will be provided. The day will finish early (4.00pm and you will be able to make it back to town by 6.00pm)

Please phone or email me for further details – thanks Quentin.

## SUNDAY BUS: Walhalla (8.30am start)

DATE	Sunday 20 November 2005
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	12 km and 16 km approx.
LEADERS	David Arnold & John Coe
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd <b>leaving 8.30am</b>
RETURN TIME	7pm
AREA	30 km NE of Moe (Gippsland)
MAP REFERENCE	Walhalla 1:25000

Walhalla is some distance from Melbourne (and note the 8.30 start!), but the extra bit of travel should be well rewarded. Both walks will include a section of the famed Australian Alps Walking Track, and will offer great views over this historic gold mining town. For those wanting to take it easy, we plan to include in the shorter walk a trip on the Walhalla Goldfields Railway (cost approx \$10). Those needing more of a challenge can opt for the longer walk, to see more of the surrounding area and to enjoy the thrill of fording the Thomson River.

## DANDENONG EXPLORER: Bunyip State forest

DATE	Saturday 26 November 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	about 12 km
LEADER	Warren Baker
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	3.30–4 pm
AREA	Bunyip State Forest
MAP REFERENCE	Mortimer Reserve. Melway Key map 14 14538 or Gembrook South 76509480 Link Road off Gembrook Tonimbuk Road.

Meet at 10.30 at Mortimer Reserve. The easiest way is probably through Gembrook to East Beenak Road. Then take the Gembrook –Tonimbuk Road (unsealed) for about 6 km which passes Mortimer Reserve.

A delightful walk with a very gentle but prolonged climb before lunch. We then take the Fern Tree Track and cross the little valley. This track is a bit steep and if it is wet we will take an alternative route. We continue on after crossing triangle road and continue on to our lunch spot. Lunch may be a bit late. It would be advisable to carry water. As I wouldn't trust the water supply there. After lunch we work our way back to the cars via Ferres track. This also involves a short gentle climb and a bit of ridge walking but the country is delightful.

Afternoon tea at Charlottes cafe in Gembrook. It is the first cafe on the left hand side on the way back. There is parking outside the bakery a short way further on.

## SUNDAY BUS: The Nobbies-Pyramid Rock

DATE	Sunday 27th November 2005
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	11 km and 14 km
LEADERS	David Elias and Dion Marriott
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd at 9 am.
RETURN TIME	Approx. 6.30 pm
AREA	Phillip Island
MAP REFERENCE	VICMAP 1:25000 Phillip Island Special

A beautiful walk on the rugged south coast of Phillip Island. Plenty of variety, including pristine deserted beaches, towering cliffs, sparkling rock-pools, and even a 100 year old shipwreck. Although most of the walk is fairly flat and easy, there are one or two tricky spots where we will need to navigate around rocks, and possibly through some shallow water, so you will need footwear with a good grip that you do not mind getting sandy and wet. There will be time to explore the boardwalks at both The Nobbies and at Pyramid Rock, plus the opportunity for a swim if the day is warm.

Note: Leader's phone number listed in the Spring Walks program is incorrect.

## TOFs: Mt Evelyn Aqueduct

DATE	Thursday 1st December 2005
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	12 km
LEADER	Jean Giese
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	2.30–3.00 pm
MAP REFERENCE	Melways 120

It appears the Dandenongs Explorers and the TOF's scouts have been sussing out the same areas, i.e. the disused OShannassy Aqueduct – see Doug Pocock's potted history in the September *News*.

We will be covering some of the same ground in our December walk but going in a clockwise direction. No coffee shops at lunch time for us but you can have a slide or swing in the Mt Evelyn recreation reserve or catch some yabbies in the Olinda Creek.

Meet at the corner of Lilydale–Monbulk Road and Hunter Road (Melways 120 G6) to start walking at 10.15am. Book with the leader.



## SUNDAY BUS: Monda track to Maroondah Dam

DATE	4 December 2005
STANDARD	Easy and Medium
LEADERS	Paul Logsdon and Linda Wilkinson
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd. at 9am
AREA	NE of Healesville
MAP REFERENCE	Marysville & Monda 1:25,000 Rooftops Yarra Valley West

Lovely walking in tall mountain forest with tree ferns in the Yarra Ranges NE of Melbourne. The medium walk goes from Dom Dom Saddle along the crest of the Great Dividing Range and down Condons Track to Maroondah Dam, a fairly long walk. The easy will be much shorter.



## Sunday Bus: Lyonville Springs – Babbington Hill

DATE	Sunday 11 December 2005
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	To be advised when booking
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd at 9 am.
LEADERS	Mohammad Akbari and Hans Edlinger
AREA	Wombat State Forest – Daylesford
MAP REFERENCES	Daylesford 1:25000, Coliban 1:25000 and Trentham 1:25000

This walk takes us through varieties of forest vegetation and we will be seeing relics from Victoria's gold rush era as well as the impact of heavy logging in the area on the environment. There will be some small up and down hill activity for which you will be rewarded with a good surrounding view and taste of the heavy metal spring water. Although the walk is in summer be equipped with all season's weather gear and plenty of water. See you on the walk.

## WEDNESDAY WALK: Belgrave–Clematis plus more

DATE	Wednesday 14th December 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	13 km
LEADER	Susan Maughan
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Belgrave–Menzies Creek–Clematis
MAP REFERENCE	Melways 75/124–5/127

The Hot and Steamy December Walk.

Meet at the Puffing Billy ticket office, Belgrave for a 10.15 am start.

You may wish to catch the train up to Belgrave, one gets in at 9.56 am. Just follow the directions at the end of the platform to Puffing Billy.

We will walk adjacent to the track through to Menzies Creek Station. There's lots of birdsong along here with glimpses through to Cardinia Dam. We'll have a mini break at the Station, including loo stops, then walk alongside a re-vegetated area of the Creek up to our lunch spot. This will be at a frog pond; we'll hear them before they hear us! Then up the back paddock, past the llamas and Shetland ponies, to Trumpington Grove. Although it's on-road, it's unlikely we'll meet any traffic. Great views up here. We'll continue down to Avard picnic ground and circle round to Clematis, finishing up at Menzies Creek Station. Then, ALL ABOARD the 2.55 steam train back to Belgrave.

The fare is \$13 or \$10.50 concession. Must show Seniors Card.

We'll get back to Belgrave for 3.28. There should be time for a cuppa. Unfortunately I can't hang around too long as I've a party to go to.

NOTE: should you not want to come back on Puffing Billy, you can start and end the walk at Menzies Creek Station (Melways 126 G1). I anticipate reaching there for midday. Must book in no later than 12 December. Please indicate if you will be joining us on the steam train so I can glue the Fat Controller passenger numbers.

## CYCLING: Frankston to Melbourne

DATE	Saturday 10 December 05
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	Approx 45–50 km
LEADER	Jan Palich
TRANSPORT	Car or Train to Frankston Station
RETURN TIME	Approx 4 pm
AREA	South of Melbourne – Beach
MAP REFERENCE	Part road, part bay trail

We will be meeting at Frankston station ready to start cycling. So for those that would like a coffee prior to starting, you will need to arrive at Frankston earlier. There is a lovely coffee spot at the "Daze End" café near the station. Timing for meeting will be given when you book on the ride.

The ride is "one way" mostly along bike tracks, inland to Mordialloc, where we pick up the Bay trail and head into Melbourne. For those who would like a shorter ride, you can pull out on the way – at Mordialloc, Black Rock, Sandringham, or



Brighton. But really you won't notice the distance, because as usual, we will stop on the way for a cool drink, picnic lunch, and visit a couple of lovely patisseries.

As we leave Frankston, we cycle through a very private area, which is like a sleepy forgotten fishing village. You wouldn't know that the highway was one street away.

Brink your kites out, small ones that will fit on your bike, as the beach is a lovely place to test out the wind. I noticed quite a few up in the sky near our lunch stop.

At St. Kilda for those of you who would like a chocolate experience, we have another coffee or chocolate stop and then back into Melbourne and home.

I look forward to your company on the ride. Please let me know you are coming by seeing me in the clubrooms – week before, or ring me at home. Jan Palich



## **SUNDAY BUS: Masons Falls – Mt Sugarloaf Xmas Walk**

DATE	Sunday 18 December 2005
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	14 km and 16 km
LEADERS	David Arnold and Peter McGrath
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd at 9 am.
RETURN TIME	6pm
AREA	Kinglake area north of Melbourne
MAP REFERENCE	Kinglake National Park 1:25,000

As this is the last Sunday walk before Christmas, bring something to share (and don something Christmassy!) for afternoon tea at the picnic area. We will plan an early finish to the walks so that there is time to relax and party!

Kinglake National Park is the largest national park close to Melbourne. It consists of over 20,000 hectares of tall forests, fern gullies, and rolling hills, and has an extensive network of walking tracks.



## **Canoe Trip, Upper Murray**

Expressions of interest invited for canoeing on the Upper Murray between Christmas and New Year

Phone Quentin 0408 144265

## BASE CAMP:

### Otways Waterfalls Weekend – Stevensons Falls

DATE	25–27 November 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium and Medium/Hard
LEADERS	Jopie Bodegraven and Paul Logsdon
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Reasonably early Sunday evening
AREA	Otways via Forrest
MAP REFERENCE	The Otways and Shipwreck Coast 1:50,000

This weekend has it all, a lovely forest campsite by a river, two leaders so that we have walks to suit everyone and best of all, a host of lovely waterfalls to photograph. This weekend was going to be programmed for December but due to Sylvia no longer being available to lead her Great Ocean Walk weekend on this last weekend in November, we have swapped the two weekends so that she will now lead her weekend on the 9–11 December.

The walks we will be doing are walks from the great little booklet produced for the Federation Weekend held in the Otways in October 2002. Some of us will have done some of these walks but there were too many on offer and some booked out early so this is our chance to do some of the ones we missed out on. Paul will be leading the easier ones, graded from easy to medium. They will include Stevensons Falls Circuit 3–4 hours easy, Sabine Falls Circuit 2 hours medium (due to the 240m climb out), Allambee Beek Falls 3 hours easy to medium and Lake Elizabeth Circuit 3–4 hrs easy to medium with an easier option. Jopie will be leading the harder walks including Four Falls Circuit (Upper Cumberland River) 6 hours medium to hard, Wild Dog Falls 4 hours medium to difficult, Allambee Beek Falls 3 hours easy to medium and probably Stevensons Falls short walk 1 hr easy.

Camp is about 2 hours from Melbourne so you could come up early Saturday morning if Friday night is difficult. Bring all your usual basecamp chairs, goodies, lights, good cheer etc. plus if you can, some firewood for our campfire as I'm not sure how easy wood will be to find around camp. Water is available from the river but bring a bit for drinking cold if you want to be absolutely sure. I'll do my best to organise good weather. Join us for a great fun weekend.



### PACK CARRY: Mt Bogong

DATE	2–4 December 2005
STANDARD	Medium
LEADER	Rod Novak
TRANSPORT	Private
MAP	Bogong High Plains

A classic pack carry walk with an elevation gain of 1400 metres – perfect training for the summer trips. Our route is up the 'Staircase' to the summit cairn and then across to west peak (without packs) for some great views. We then retrace our steps to the summit and walk along the ridge and camp near Cleve Cole Hut. On Sunday morning we visit Howman's Falls, then walk back up

to Eskdale Point and down the Eskdale Spur. Expect very hot and/or possible snow conditions for this alpine area. Also, try to keep your pack light – consider sharing your stove, tent etc. Expected transport cost is \$75 (to be confirmed).

### BASE CAMP: Great Ocean Walk – Princetown

DATE	9–11 December 2005
STANDARD	Easyish
LEADER	Sylvia Ford
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Otways
MAP REFERENCE	The Otways and Shipwreck Coast Outdoor Leisure Map

We've been on three base camps along the brand new Great Ocean Walk. This fourth leg continues from where we left off last time i.e. Milanesia Beach, east of Moonlight Head. A separate detour will be needed to take in Moonlight Head, its a spectacular landmark complete with an up-turned anchor from an ancient wreck. Next day we follow an inland 4WD track that we might do detours off down to interesting caves and headlands. Pebble Point, for example, is of particular geological interest. However, we'll take a rope for the descents, on the preview they looked hairy from above. Our campsite is at Princetown, its fairly open and exposed, and is surrounded on almost four sides by marsh – mossie heaven – be warned! Also I will be limiting the numbers as the terrain is not suitable for a big group. More details on application. p.s. the sad news is that McDuffs Bakery (10/10 no less!) at Lavers Hill is no more. the good news, such as it is, is that we weren't going that way.



### PACK CARRY: Snowy Mountains

DATE	23 December 2005 to 1 January 2006
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	100 km
LEADER	Ralph Blake
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Snowy Mountains
MAP REFERENCE	Khancoban and Kosciusko 1:50,000

We will commence walking on Xmas Eve at Charlottes Pass heading towards the North Rams Head then to Mt Kosciusko and beyond along the Great Dividing Range. Several more days will be spent in the Mt Jagungal area. There will be about 2 days of base camping, one near Mt Kosciusko and the other near Mt Jagungal. The last day walking will be on New Years day and we will finish at Munyang.

Presently there are still large areas on our intended route that are closed. If these areas are still closed at the time of our walk then an alternative trip, of similar duration to another alpine area, will be arranged. More details will be in the next news letter.

## CANOEING: Upper Murray

DATE	27 December 05 to 1 January 06
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	80km
CONTACT	Quentin Tibballs
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	1 January late pm
AREA	Upper Murray River
MAP REFERENCE	Melways Page 523

This canoe trip will be over 4 days and begin at the Bungenbong Bridge over the upper Murray River just out of Corryong on Wednesday 28th and end at Walwa on New Years eve. It will be dependent on adequate numbers and availability of canoes for hire. Car shuffles are planned for the first 2 days. This will enable the group to stay at Towong on the first night and at Tintaldra on the second. The Tintaldra pub is just by the river where we will be camping and serves fine meals. For the last 2 days however we will be required to take provisions for overnight riverbank camping and we will probably spend New Years eve at the Jingelic pub. Please ring to discuss with me – Quentin 0408 144265.



## PACK CARRY: Swindlers Creek via Cobungra River to Anglers Rest (with Base Camp alternative)

DATE	26 December 2005–1 January 2006
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	60 km approx.
LEADER	Paul Beers
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	1 January, pm
AREA	Mt Hotham–Omeo
MAP	Dargo Plains–Cobungra 8328-N

This is truly beautiful country and I have encountered deer, been gatecrashed by roos at breakfast, seen trout leaping from the river at dusk, enjoyed the company of wombats, birdlife, heard a wild dog baying at the moon and been snowed on in summer. But this walk is meant to be fairly leisurely, with short days and plenty of time to enjoy the river for swims, etc.

The walk starts Boxing Day after car shuffling (see below)\*, beginning at the top of the Brandy Creek Mine Track on the Alpine Road, 3–4 km west of Dinner Plain. Once down on the Cobungra, we walk upstream to the Swindlers Creek junction area. This is a lovely grassy area worth visiting and only 2–3 km from the Mine Track, so it should be a short day but we'll stay here also day 2. Days 3–6 will be easy, short days down the river and on day 6, New Years Eve, we cross the river and climb 1 km up a steep spur that runs down slightly west from the junction at McCoys and Greys 4WD Tracks. From here, it's a simple 10–12 km walk along 4WD track/s to a cold refreshing drink at the historic Anglers Rest Pub on the banks of the Cobungra. Camp night 6 across the road in the council campsite by the river. Celebrate New Years Eve with a BBQ at the old pub. Day 7, Jan 1st: Return a.m. car shuffle to Dinner Plain, return to Melbourne.

**BASE CAMPING Option:** This walk requires a long car shuffle from Dinner Plain through Omeo to Anglers Rest – about two hours – so a four hours return trip. However, this is also an opportunity for people who may not want to do the walk but

would like to camp (in the shire campgrounds along the river) then meet up with the walking party for a New Years Eve BBQ at The Blue Duck Inn. There are plenty of lovely day walks, great fishing, canoeing and swimming in the Anglers Rest area. If there are base campers, this might then avoid a car shuffle as cars could be driven on from Dinner Plain at the walk start. So there are lots of options for everyone.

Call me for info.

## BASE CAMP: Bogong High Plains

DATE	26 December 2005–3 January 2006
STANDARD	Easy to medium
LEADER	Lance Mobbs
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Bogong National Park, Bogong Alpine Area 1:50,000 Lesuire Map

Once again, I will be holding another base camp at the old tennis courts just below Wallace's Hut on the Bogong High Plains. It will be an easy 750 metre walk-in base camp. Most of the walks will be easy and we will visit such highlights as the huts and peaks of the high country. There will also be an abundance of alpine wildflowers on display. Everyone is welcome to come, especially anyone new to the club who wish to experience camping without having to carry a heavy pack long distances. This walk is designed so that people can either come along for the whole trip or come for a couple of days, depending on circumstances. Please note: the weather up in the alpine area is unpredictable, even in summer, so bring both summer and winter gear. If interested, please contact me on the phone no. above, see me in the club rooms.