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# THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 Cents

Edition 666 **AUGUST 2006**

## NOTICE OF HALF YEARLY GENERAL MEETING

The Half Year General Meeting of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc

will be held on  
Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2006  
at  
the Clubrooms,  
48 McKenzie Street Melbourne  
8.00 pm

All welcome

"Appointment of Proxy" forms are available from the clubrooms. Please give these to the Secretary prior to the meeting.

### Items of Business:

**Notice of Motion:** Change to the Statement of Purpose.

That Clause 2 (1) of the Statement of Purposes be amended with the following wording. That the word "walk / walks" be replaced by the word "activity / activities".

**Election of Vice President** - A position for Vice President has become available due to a recent resignation from the Committee. Nomination forms for Vice President are available from the clubrooms.

**Election of Auditors** (deferred from AGM held in February 2006)

**Ratification of co-opted Committee Member** - Following the AGM in February 2006, there was a general Committee position still available. Club member Carole Sisson expressed an interest in joining the Committee and was co-opted as a Committee member following the AGM.

**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: Ana-Silvia Rivera*

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)
¼ Page	\$35	\$90	\$330
½ Page	\$55	\$150	\$550
Full Page	\$100	\$250	\$900

Melbourne Bush Walkers

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**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30pm**

**No 3 Station Pier Restaurant**  
**Port Melbourne**  
**Ph 9646 6299**

If you would like to attend please phone Charlotte and you can also take the opportunity to let her know your favourite restaurants.





**SUNDAY BUS: Creswick State Forest**

DATE Sunday 27 August 2006  
 STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium  
 DISTANCE 12 & 15 km  
 LEADER John Fritze & Sam Weaner  
 TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blvd 9:00 am  
 RETURN TIME 6:00 pm  
 AREA Creswick State Forest  
 MAP REF Melways 609 A10

This walk continues the Bushies gold fever tour as we explore historic Creswick State Forest. We start off at St Georges Lake and work our way toward the La Gerche Forest Walk. After following some rolling logging roads we explore the Congrove Reservoir and Eatons Dam. If your luck doesn't pan out searching for gold, you may be able to spot some elusive wildlife as we explore the Koala Park on our return to the lake.



**SUNDAY BUS: Lerderderg River - Blackwood**

DATE Sunday 3 September 2006  
 STANDARD Easy/Medium & Medium  
 DISTANCE 14.5 & 18 kms  
 LEADER Halina Sarbinowski & Keith McKenry  
 TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blvd  
 RETURN TIME 7:00 pm  
 AREA Lerderderg Gorge  
 MAP REF Meridian Wombat State Forest Touring Guide 1:50,000

Although these walks are fairly easy some steep sections and the distances have given these walks their grading of E/M and Medium.

The E/M group will be dropped off first at Blackwood and will follow the track clockwise. The first part of the walk is along a number of four wheel drive tracks but as we move towards Lerderderg River we follow a narrow and steep track down to the river. We will have an opportunity to view the tunnel dug out by miners to divert the course of the river before following the river till we reach Ambler Lane. After a short but steep climb we will meet the Bryers Back Track which we will follow until reaching the waiting bus near Golden Point township.

The Medium group will commence their walk at Golden Point and follow the main track anticlockwise. It will cover the same tracks as the E/M group however will continue onto O'Briens Crossing. The Medium group will complete their walk in Blackwood township where the E/M group will be waiting whilst enjoying a café latte, a beer or a wine.

Both walks will include walking along the river and also high tracks which take advantage of views into the gorge. Be prepared for a few river crossings and some steep tracks. A walking pole will be an advantage for some sections of each of the walks.

**Next Committee Meeting**

**September 4<sup>th</sup> 2006 - 7:00pm in the clubrooms.**

**TOFS: Tomahawk Creek – Kurth Kiln**

DATE Thursday 7 September 2006  
 STANDARD Easy  
 DISTANCE 11 km  
 LEADER Jean Giese  
 TRANSPORT Private  
 AREA Western edge of Bunyip State Park  
 MAP REF Gembrook South 1:25 000

An old charcoal kiln-kurth-kiln provides historical interest to this 11 km walk beside Tomahawk Creek and through sometimes light and sometimes dense forest. If taking the Warburton Highway, turn south into Lusatia Park Road or Gembrook - Launching Place Road then southwest into Beenak Road (Melways touring map page 10). If on the Princes Highway, turn north into Pakenham - Gembrook Road then Beenak Road (Melways touring map page 14). We will meet in the picnic area near the corner of Beenak Road and Soldier Road (map page 14) at 10:15 am. Book with leader.



**SUNDAY BUS: Tooboorac – Mollisons Creek**

DATE Sunday 10 September 2006  
 STANDARD Easy/ Easy Medium  
 DISTANCE  
 LEADER Doug Langton & Nik Dow  
 TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blvd  
 AREA  
 MAP REFERENCE

Please contact the leaders Doug Langton & Nik Dow



**SUNDAY BUS: Flinders - Somers**

DATE Sunday 17 September 2006  
 STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium  
 DISTANCE 12 & 18 km  
 LEADER Mark Heath & Jackie McGrath  
 TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blvd  
 RETURN TIME 7:00 pm  
 AREA Mornington Peninsula  
 MAP REF Melways 250 & 261

An atmospheric beach walk with great views of Westernport & Phillip Island plus an opportunity to explore the historic Coolart homestead & wetlands.

**CLUBROOMS DUTY ROSTER**

**August 16 Carol Sisson & Mark Heath**  
**August 23 Charlotte Bradly & John Fritze**  
**August 30 Peter Havlicek & Paul Logsdon**  
**September 6 Lance Mobbs & Jan Palich**

## WEDNESDAY WALK: Goldie Flora Reserve

DATE	Wednesday 20 September 2006
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	Unknown at this stage, approximately 12km
LEADER	Sandra Mutimer
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	North west of Kilmore and north east of Lancefield
MAP REFERENCE	Vicmap Goldie North & Moranding 1:25 000

This walk will not be in the Mt Piper area as indicated in the Walks Program but will be in Goldie Flora Reserve. This is an area surrounded by private properties, north-west of Kilmore and north-east of Lancefield and we are fortunate to have access from one of these properties into a pristine area where very few people have had the opportunity to walk. You will be able to get a good idea of where this Reserve is and where we'll meet on the very useful Rooftop Toolangi – Macedon Adventure Map.

We will meet at 10:15 am at the property at 815 Forbes – Moranding Rd. [ Rooftop's Toolangi - Macedon Adventure Map reference 03123 58792 ]. There is a Floodway sign just before the gate of this property, a big 815, Land for Wildlife sign and Willowmavin Land Care sign on the gate and a Puggle Hill sign on a big tree nearby. To reach here you can either travel out from Kilmore or from Lancefield.

I have not previewed this walk yet as I think it would be better to do this when the weather is better and the days are longer. We will not be travelling on tracks and will be making our way through dry sclerophyll forest mainly following the ridge line from where we will have good views of the surrounding area. There is also a pocket of snowgums that I would like to find. To reach the ridge line may involve a bit of a climb but there is the possibility of doing this by 4-wheel drive, depending on who will be coming on the walk.

You find out more details from me beforehand but please do not leave it until the night before as I will not be home.

## DANDENONGS EXPLORER: National Rhododendron Gardens – Olinda

DATE	Saturday 23 September 2006
STANDARD	Easy / Medium
DISTANCE	14 km
LEADER	Maureen Hurley
TRANSPORT	Private
MAP REFERENCE	Mel 122 A7 & 66 K4

We will meet at 10.30am in the Car Park of the OlindaSwimming Pool (Mel 122A7)

Following Mathias Track via the Olinda Golf Course and the National Rhododendron Gardens we may see some Rhododendrons in bloom. We'll spend some time checking out the Olinda Falls which is a pretty area, then resuming down Bartletts Road to Rifle Range Track and around the R. J. Hamer Arboretum back to the finish of the walk. The walk provides varying scenery - the Silvan Dam, mountain views over Healesville and Warburton, and tall ferns around the Falls area. Of interest are the many trees from overseas planted in the Arboretum. Some of the tracks are undulating. Coffee will follow.



## SUNDAY BUS: Daylesford – Jubilee Lake – Sailors Falls

DATE	Sunday 24 September 2006
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	15 & 18 Km
LEADER	Graeme Walkden & Roger Browne
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd
RETURN TIME	6:30 pm
MAP REF	Meridian 1:50,000 Wombat State Forest Touring Guide

This is an enjoyable walk in the goldfields country south of Daylesford. It offers great variety – two beautiful lakes set in parks, the ambience of Daylesford, remnants of the gold diggings, open eucalypt forest, a spectacular waterfall (provided we get enough rain!) and a dismantled railway.

Sailors Creek is one of the major streams near Daylesford. It was named after the many sailors who jumped ship during the gold rush to dig for gold. At Sailors Falls, the creek tumbles over an old lava flow with basalt columns below.

The walk is on tracks and roads through undulating terrain, with a few moderate hills and one short steep climb. The easy/medium walk begins at Sailors Falls Picnic Ground. The easy walk begins about a kilometer south of Jubilee Lake.

Both walks follow part of the dismantled Ballarat – Daylesford railway and pass through Jubilee Lake Picnic Ground. After a short section in Daylesford, we walk along the north shore of Lake Daylesford, then down the valley below Lake Daylesford. Next we enter the Hepburn Regional Park (west of Daylesford) and head south to Sailors Falls. Both walks finish with a short steep climb to Sailors Falls Picnic Ground.

Be sure to leave a change of footwear on the bus – if the water level is higher than the trickle seen on the preview, two creek crossing towards the end of the walk could result in wet feet.



## Skiing Mt Hotham *rescheduled* date 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> September

The date for the cross country ski trip to Mt Hotham is now on the weekend of the 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> Sept. Please note the original date 8-10<sup>th</sup> Sept is **cancelled**. We have the entire 22 beds available to us on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> and the cost for visitors is \$60. If there is insufficient snow for skiing we will do some walking. Please phone Dianne if you are interested in this trip.

 **PACK CARRY: Tasmania: Freycinet & Maria Island**

DATE	2-11 September 2006
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	50 km and 54 km including side trips.
LEADER	Bob Oxlade
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	East Coast of Tasmania
MAP REF	TasMaps 1:50,000 Freycinet National Park and Maria Island National Park

Wineglass bay etc. in Freycinet NP and also historic Maria Island NP are both outstanding walks that I have been keen to do for some time.

The reason for these dates is that it's the only time I am available except for Xmas, which would be very busy there, and also to avoid a clash with other Xmas walks. I have planned on flying to Hobart on Saturday and travelling by bus to Freycinet NP on Sunday to begin with an afternoon walk. On Monday we begin the Pack Carry, returning on Wednesday to travel by connecting bus to Triabunna for overnight accommodation. On Thursday am we get the Ferry to Maria Island to begin again with an afternoon walk, then bunk accommodation that night. On Friday we begin the Pack Carry and return to Hobart by bus on Sunday.

Alternative transport arrangements can be made if preferred. If interested please see me in the clubrooms or ring me for further details.

 **BASE CAMP: Cooks Mill**


DATE	15-17 September 2006
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER	Les Southwell
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	
AREA	
MAP REF	

Please contact the leader Les Southwell

 **Ski Lodge - Mt Hotham**

DATE	23-24 September 2006
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER	Diane McKinley
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	
AREA	Mt Hotham
Trip Description	

**Re-Schedule from 8-10 Sept to 23-24 Sept.**  
Please contact the leader Diane McKinley

 **PACK CARRY: Leanganook Track**

DATE	22-24 September 2006
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	33km
LEADER	Bob Oxlade
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	7pm
MAP REF	Central Vic. Between Castlemaine & Bendigo

The Leanganook Track, completed in 2003, is one of the four Great Dividing Trail tracks. We can drive up Saturday morning and begin near Castlemaine, or those who prefer can camp on Friday night. Part of Saturday will be through the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park, a reminder of the 1850s, gold rush days. Then onto Mount Alexander Regional Park to camp. On Sunday, as we move through this lovely forest with its tall trees and rocky outcrops, we have panoramic views from the highest point of 746 metres. We descend to walk along the Coliban Water System. This is an engineering gem with some extraordinary features for us to view as we continue towards Bendigo. This is an interesting walk with a good variety of terrain and features. Come along and explore the area.

 **BASE CAMP: Grampians - Plantation Camping**

DATE	29 September - 1 October 2006
STANDARD	All
LEADER	Halina Sarbinowski & David Laing
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	8:00pm
AREA	Northern Grampians
MAP REF	Northern Grampians 1:25,000

The northern Grampians offer breathtaking natural beauty on a grand scale. Massive sandstone outcrops and eucalypt-covered slopes tower above the surrounding Wimmera Plains, sheltering moist gullies and heathlands.

The remarkable area, rich in Aboriginal culture and European history, provides plenty of opportunities to explore rugged and remote peaks.

There are a great number of walks in the area. Ranging from short walks Ngamadjidj Shelter, Tilwinda Falls Loop, Golton Gorge Loop Mt Zero, Mt Wudjub-Guyan (Hollow Mountain), Gulgurn Manja Shelter of only a few hundred meters to a few kilometres to longer walks such as Briggs Bluff, Mt Stapylton Loop or Mt Gar (Mt Difficult). So I am sure that there will be walks to suit everyone. Final choices will be made closer to the weekend.

# Africa in 2007



Two great trips!

## Namibia, Botswana and northern South Africa: March-April 2007

After six trips to southern Africa, we know how to get off the beaten track. With 4WD we access difficult to reach country for some spectacular walking.

## South Africa's Great Walks: September-October 2007

The Whale Trail, the Otter Trail, a fantastic Kruger Wilderness walk and more! Places are strictly limited on all these trails. They are so popular that they often book out ten or even twelve months in advance. Bookings essential by mid December 2006.

Want more information? See our website or ask for our brochure.



[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

### Walks Secretary Report for May 2006

Activity	Date	Trip	Grade	Nos
Sunday Bus	7	Mt Alexander *	E/M&M	32
	14	Torquay - Pt Addis - Anglesea	E&E/M	34
	21	Myrtle Creek, Toolangi SF *	E&E/M	44
	28	Olinda Forest Trail	E&E/M	42
TOFS	4	Bellbird Dell Res - Dandenong Ck	E	15
Cycle Day	6	Darebin & Merri Creeks	E/M	6
Wednesday	17	Mt Worth	E/M	9
Dand. Expl.	27	Wicks Reserve - Doongalla	E	19
Exploratory	27	Middle Lerderderg	M	9
Base Camp	19-21	Beechworth	E&M	14
Pack Carry	5-7	Mt Buller from the Howqua	M/H	6

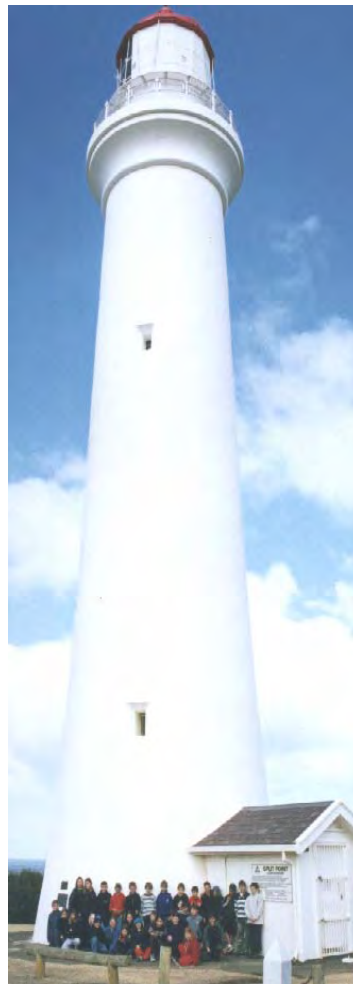
\* changed from programmed walks

### Walks Secretary Report for June 2006

Activity	Date	Trip	Grade	Nos
Sunday Bus	4	Macedon Walking Trail	E&E/M	48
	11	Pyrites Creek (Lerderderg SP)	E&E/M	35
	18	Green's Bush - Cape Schank	E&E/M	40
	25	You Yangs	E&E/M	47
TOFS	1	Fairfield Park - Yarra Bend Park	E	19
Cycle Day	17	Werribee to the City	E/M	17
Wednesday	21	Werribee Gorge	E/M	17
Dand. Expl.	24	O'Donahues Cct, Sherbrooke For	E/M	25
Base Camp	10-12	Gunbower Isl, Terrick Terrick	var	35

The winter weather hasn't affected the numbers of people out walking. Far from it – the high numbers in June seem to show that people prefer the cooler weather. The base camp on the Queen's Birthday weekend attracted a record crowd.

## Angahook Holiday Camp



### The Best of Both Worlds Bush & Beach

### GREAT OCEAN ROAD, AIREYS INLET

Located in Aireys Inlet and nestled on 10 acres of pristine bushland opposite the newly created Great Otway National Park.

Angahook Camp offers a simple yet comfortable place to stay and relax after a rewarding day of bushwalking. We can accommodate groups from 15 to 75 in size on both a catered and self-catered basis.

Stays can be from one to seven nights.

Please contact:  
Angahook Holiday Camp  
10 Distillery Creek Road  
Aireys Inlet  
Vic 3231  
Tel: 03 5289 6774  
Fax: 03 5289 6774  
email: [angahook@bigpond.com](mailto:angahook@bigpond.com)  
website: [www.angahook.com.au](http://www.angahook.com.au)

# Expressions of Interest

## Days Walks in Tasmania at Christmas

It's on again! Tasmania is a splendid place at Christmas time - full of romance, and just that bit cooler than the mainland. You will return revived, full of vigour, and ready to face the New Year.

We will visit Cradle Mountain, Walls of Jerusalem, Lake St Clair and Mt Field National Parks. The first three are among the premiere tourist destinations in Australia. Mount Field was Tasmania's first National Park, and is a local favourite. We will be enjoy day walks in each place, and return to our accommodation each night.

At this stage, it is planned we will depart 7:00 pm Tuesday 26 Dec 06 and travel overnight on the Spirit of Tasmania, returning 7 am Saturday 6 Jan 07. Travel will be via car, with car groups allocated after expressions of interest. Numbers will be limited to 15.

Accommodation options include: YHA, caravan park, cabins, cabins with spas, hotels and camping. This will be discussed at the meeting. Attendees will be expected to nominate their preference, and we will attempt to accommodate the preferences.

Travel will be via car. We can either take our own on the Spirit, or hire them over there if we fly. An alternative would be to organize shuttles, however I suspect these will be more expensive. Again, attendees are requested to nominate their preference, and we will attempt to accommodate these.

Expressions of Interest are required by 1 September 2006 to Peter McGrath. This will be followed by a meeting in the clubrooms at 8 pm on 14 September 2006. Come along for that special Tasmanian walking experience.



## ***Ski Trips***



We haven't had a good start to the ski season, with no snow except on the highest peaks. The following weekends are some proposed trips if we do get some more snow.

At this stage, the Barjarg weekend is more likely to involve bushwalking in the Strathbogies than skiing at Mt Stirling. As for future day trips or weekend trips, we'll just have to wait and see. The proposed trips may change at short notice so if you are interested in skiing and haven't yet registered your email address with me please do so.

Gina Hopkins

### **August**

4-6

Barjarg Bunk House - Mt Stirling

Sylvia Ford

Sat 12

Lake Mountain hoon

18-20

Rawson Lodge - Mt St Gwinnear

Gina Hopkins

(not suitable for beginners)

### **September**

1-4

Ski tour (3 days): Fainters via Bogong Jack

Gina Hopkins

8-10

Ski tour: Razorback - Mt Feathertop

Bill Metzenthén

15-17

Bogong High Plains - Rocky Knobs

22-24

Ski Lodge - Mt Hotham

Diane McKinley

## What is the “Federation” I hear people talk about?

This is a question that may be asked especially by our newer members, but it won't hurt for the rest of us to have a reminder!

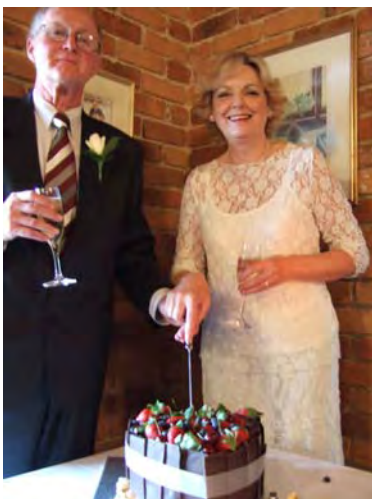
The Federation, full name “Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs (VicWalk) Inc.”, is an incorporated association which provides services for the benefit of bushwalking clubs in Victoria. The Federation is also known as “VicWalk”.

A comprehensive list of VicWalk's objectives, and the services provided to walking clubs, can be found on their website. (The address is deliberately not given here, as you will find it in the Helpful Links section of our own club's website – have a look around while you're there!)

In short, VicWalk:

- Produces the monthly newsletter “VicWalk News”, to help clubs keep abreast of current issues relating to our recreational pastime. The newsletter is available from their website, and there are some printed copies on the newsletter board in our clubrooms.
- Negotiates bushwalkers' insurance on behalf of member clubs.
- Promotes conservation values in National Parks and other bushwalking areas, and liaises with the managers of these assets.
- Distributes information relating to safety, walking routes, and other subjects of interest to the bushwalking community.
- Sponsors an annual bushwalking event in which walkers from all member clubs may participate. This alternates between a day event one year, and a weekend event the next.

The **Federation Weekend** this year is on **17-19 November**, less than 4 months away! It is based in Bright, and will offer many walks for club members to choose from, in and around Bright in north-eastern Victoria. A great weekend of walking and an opportunity to meet bushwalkers from many other clubs.



## Congratulations

Congratulations are extended to Doug & Norma on their wedding day celebrated at The Vines Restaurant Warrenwood on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2006.

All members extend their good wishes to the happy couple.



# Great Ocean Walk

## 3-7 November 2006

### Expressions of Interest

The Great Ocean Walk from Apollo Bay to Glenample Homestead, a distance of 91km, has been getting plenty of publicity recently. Newly prepared camp sites and route markers are part of a push to make it a popular destination for walkers. In recent years the route has been covered in sections on trips led by Sylvia Ford. This time it is planned to cover the eastern end, Apollo Bay to Glenaire, over four consecutive days. Possibly the more interesting half of the route, the walk promises to be a blend of coastal hills, isolated beaches and spectacular views.

Due to campsite limitations the walk will be limited to eight people. We have been able to book four tent sites for our walking party and we may need to share tents, however, some of the sites are probably large enough to hold to one-person tents. If you are possibly interested can you please let me know early as I expect there will be a bit of discussion required to finalise the party. If the interest level is high enough there is also the possibility of a second group starting from a different location with another leader.

Let me know by email if you are interested or have any questions. I will be away until 21st August and will not be able to reply until I get back but please send your emails now.

Ian Mair

# Wilson's Promontory

## Southern Circuit Pack Carry

22 – 25 April 2006

The lure of the amazing views that I had heard about when walking the Prom had finally "forced" the transition from day walker/base camper to a pack carrier. Despite fears that a four day pack carry may not have been a wise choice for this transition I commenced this thoroughly enjoyable walk.

Just before midday eight bushies led by Rod Novak set out from Telegraph Saddle to Sealers Cove, our first night's campsite. Bill's choice for lunch at Fern Gully was a winner, with everyone appreciating the picturesque surrounds while enjoying their first meal of the walk.

This was followed by boardwalk walking through a variety of vegetation until we walked onto the beach. With ankles exposed we crossed the creek at Sealers to reach our first campsite. With light but steady rain our tent sites were chosen quickly and our make shift homes erected. Once settled we had our first (and most pleasant) feathered visitor. A



rosella had taken a shine to Bill. Not all our experiences with the plentiful bird life were as pleasant and we were on constant guard against the ever present thieving crows. Still full of energy we set out for a pre-dinner exploration of Sealers Cove. On our return, with the incoming tide, not only were ankles exposed but thighs too while crossing the now freezing waters of the creek. After dinner and shared treats I retreated to my tent and slept the sleep of the contented.

Our second day's walking was to Little Waterloo Camp via Refuge Cove. The pretty and isolated campsite invited exploration. Wonderful views of some of the islands that lie between the mainland and Tasmania could be seen from the high vantage point of Kersops Peak. At the campsite of Little Waterloo the first of our mishaps occurred. My head torch would not work (thank you Bill for the loan for a mini torch) and Bill's cup was stolen by an animal in the night. Some of us heard a dog howl during the night and decided that Bill's cup which had previously housed an instant chocolate drink was not meeting expectations of taste. Torches and cups were repeated problems during the walk with spare batteries and learning to drink from a bowl Japanese style being the solutions.

Moving on from Little Waterloo via the lighthouse we made our way to Roaring Meg. By this time I was a seasoned back packer. We dropped our packs to make a detour and photo-shoot at the lighthouse. Returning to our packs we

appreciated our blessings that those thieving crows had stolen nothing. A walker, not from our group, had his pack contents scattered around the junction. Our only casualty was Ian. The crows on opening a pocket on his pack had found nothing of interest accessible and left their calling card as retribution.

The views along the track to the lighthouse were magnificent. From a rocky outcrop we were close enough to watch a freighter change course while passing the lighthouse. On reaching our campsite at Roaring Meg we still had energy to walk (pack-less) to South Point. On our return we sighted a wombat. At camp several people were staked out to view the elusive wombat but alas our one was long gone.

Each night we had shared treats but this night was the ultimate. Richard had carried a pancake mix for three days. Tonight was his night to share a treat. With helpers he created pikelets that were thoroughly enjoyed by all. Absolutely yummy ... with maple syrup in the mix. Our last dram of port carried in by Rod and religiously distributed each night was alas depleted on this our last night.

Walking from Roaring Meg to Tidal River was the last stretch of our four days of walking. The half-way hut was not explored as we each did not want to disturb the tiger snake a sign had informed us had taken residence! A walk along Oberon Beach at low tide, a hot shower at Tidal River and a great counter dinner at Korumburra ended our fantastic walk. Thank you to my co-walkers Bill, Max, Ian, Richard, Debbie, Liz and especially Rod who shared so many treats...port, chocolate biscuits and a mini chocolate bar each day ...

and for making this wonderful experience possible.

At the end of the walk I was surprised - no shocked - that four days walking was no more draining than Sunday walks. Thank you to everyone who had advised me on the food and clothing to take because this was fun and at no time did I feel that I couldn't cope. I have learnt one thing ... the key to successful pack carrying is to keep it 'light'. This was a great experience and I have already bought a new pack to replace the one I borrowed because this is 'fun'.



Halina Sarbinowski

# An exploratory weekend in Eildon State Park

The frost lay thickly on the paddocks and vines as we drove out of Melbourne through the Victorian wineries on Saturday morning, on the way to our 9a.m. rendezvous at Jerusalem creek in Eildon State Park. This was to be a new walk for us, with the advantage of a short travel time and no car shuffle.

22-23 July 2006

Rugged up against the chill morning we hopped across the ford at Jerusalem Creek but we soon warmed up as we began our first ascent of many over the weekend. Following the Pinnacle walking track we climbed steadily up the spur through light timber. Morning tea was at a knoll with some views, then we were soon at the Pinnacle – a rocky knoll on the spur. We continued climbing towards Rocky Peak and had lunch just beneath the peak where it was more sheltered. While photographing the view toward Eildon Dam John dropped his digital camera. Checking it over he found it was dented and not working but after some adjustments – happiness!

On the descent we came across a number of tree plate fungi and an unusual orange fern-like fungi. We then plunged down a very steep cliff to a road, thence to camp at O'Tooles Flat, soon after 4 p.m. You really do have to be in camp around this time in winter, as it was dark by 5.30-ish. The campsite was somewhat degraded with car-campers rubbish, but we found a clean area with plenty

of space. Water was from a good creek close by. Sitting around the fire the nibbles came out and we had a very sociable evening. Intermittent cloud cover meant that the night wasn't too cold. Bob found that his torch was in fact a radio so he had to feel his way around. With perfect timing it began to lightly rain just as we were tucked up. How very pleasant it is to be snug and warm and to hear the rain pattering on the tent! Andreas, in his bivvy bag, didn't look so comfortable but he assured me that he had a comfortable and dry night. Gina and I, now into lightweight camping, shared one sleeping bag, doona style, and we were perfectly warm.

We awoke on Sunday morning to find a heavy ethereal mist laying across the bush, reminding me of that poster of the East Gippsland Roger Wilderness that used to hang on the loo door in Wilky (sob). Starting through a lightly forested area, we crossed a number of creeks as we followed a bearing with the aid of the GPS now and again. A very steep descent then a steep climb took us to

a high point for a well-deserved lunch. Then north, still off-track on a spur, steadily descending to Blue Gum Creek while John danced around like a demented mountain goat, taking photos from all angles. Just as I was feeling a little tired (we'd been going up and down all day, it seemed) we found a marked track, and this made the last couple of kilometres somewhat easier. Unfortunately the track was obviously a favourite with the trail bikers and they had done a good job of chewing it up. In the wet it would have been all but impassable. And soon we were back to the cars. A good walk, good company, a good workout, crisp weather, a good leader – an excellent weekend! Thank you Bob for being a bit adventurous and finding a new walk. And thank for your company my walking friends - Bert Reeh, Bill Donald, Andreas Ludwig, Leslie Hale, John Fritze, Max Casley, Paul Beers, Gina Hopkins, and leader Bob Oxlade.

Derrick Brown

## Web Site Discussion Forum Changes

The web site Discussion Forums provide a convenient way for members (and non-members) to communicate items of interest to the membership at large. Recent changes have been made in response to member interest.

A new Forum has been added for members to advertise items of pre-loved equipment or to list any items they are looking to buy. Check out the "Pre-Loved Equipment" Forum if this is of interest to you.

The "About Bushwalking" Forum has been retitled to "Walks Program Announcements" Forum and covers announcements or questions on walks that are coming up. Look here to see if the Leader has posted details of any late changes to the Preview published on the web site.

Ian Mair  
Web Site Administrator