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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

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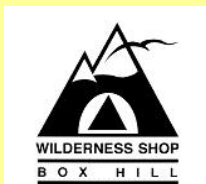
Edition 664 JUNE 2006

CONGRATULATIONS

Are extended to **Ray Thomas** on receiving the prestigious Dame Phyllis Frost Award for service to the environment with the Regent Honeyeater Project. Many Melbourne Bushies have assisted Ray with his fantastic habitat restoration weekends in the Lurg Hills, near Benalla. The tree planting weekends for 2006 are the 12-13 August (Club trip with Marika), 26-27 August (Club trip with Ray), 9-10 September and 23-24 September. Come along and plant some trees, enjoy the excellent country style evening meal and the Saturday evening bush dance.

Melbourne Bushwalkers Annual MEGA BUYING NIGHT

Tuesday 25th July
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm



The Wilderness Shop
969 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill Vic 3128

20% OFF OUTDOOR GEAR!

DOOR PRIZE: Donated by MONT!!

20% OFF REGULAR PRICES !!
5% OFF SALE ITEMS !!
SNACKS & DRINKS !!



Skiing Trips 2006

Are you interested in cross-country skiing? Now that we have insurance once again we can organise ski trips through the Club. These will range from one-day trips to weekend trips with accommodation, or snow camping trips of two or more days.

Most will only be suitable for those with some skiing experience but we plan to have a beginners' day in July, snow and weather permitting.

In particular, please let me know if you are interested or willing to lead any ski trips. This includes lodge trips or private accommodation or snow camping. I'd be very keen to hear from anyone prepared to lead an extended ski touring trip.

These ski trips are not on the Winter Walks Program but will be advertised either in The News, or via email to those people who want to be informed. So if you are interested, either in leading or coming along, then please send me an email.

I will be overseas from mid-May until early July so if the ski season gets off to an early start then contact Sylvia Ford.

Gina Hopkins
Skiing Co-ordinator

**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.**

Member of



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

Wine & Cheese Evening

Wednesday 28th June

in the
clubrooms.

7:00-9:00pm





SUNDAY BUS: Green's Bush – Cape Schanck

DATE Sunday 18 June 2006
 STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium
 DISTANCE 14km & 17km
 LEADER David Laing & Mark Heath
 TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blvd
 RETURN TIME 6:00 pm
 AREA Mornington Peninsula
 MAP REF NP Bay & River Notes-Two Bays Walking Track

This walk is part of the Two Bays Walking Track which runs between Arthurs Seat and Cape Schanck on the Mornington Peninsula.

The easy walk will start at Baldry's Crossing, passing through Greens Bush and Highfield Parks, across Boneo Rd. then past Bushrangers Bay to the Cape Schanck car park.

The easy/medium walk is basically the same route with a few detours to add hills distance or both and maybe a different starting point. All being well it will also finish at the Cape Schanck car park.

Time permitting either walk has the possibility of a detour to the beach at Bushrangers Bay and the boardwalk at Cape Schanck. Greens Bush is the largest remnant of bushland on the Peninsula with vegetation varying from eucalypt forests to fern gullies, heathlands and grasslands. It's a pleasant walk on good tracks.



SUNDAY BUS: Sugarloaf Reservoir Park

DATE Sunday 2 July 2006
 STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium
 DISTANCE 12 & 14 km
 LEADER Les Southwell & Max Casley
 TRANSPORT Bus - Southbank Blvd
 RETURN TIME 6:00 pm
 AREA Christmas Hills north-east of Melbourne
 MAP REF Parks Victoria pamphlet Melways map 273

Both walks circumnavigate the reservoir with the easy/medium group getting off the bus first and the easy group starting two kilometres further on at the Saddle Dam picnic area. The reservoir is surrounded by bushland with grassy areas which attract kangaroos which are often seen in this park.

The walking is almost entirely on tracks and there are good views along the way. Be prepared for winter weather. The area is close to Melbourne and so we should be back at Southbank at a reasonable time.

TOFS : Woodlands – Gellibrand Hill

DATE Thursday 6 July 2006
 STANDARD Easy
 LEADERS Janet Norman
 RETURN TIME 3:00 pm
 AREA Melways 177 and 178

We will begin the walk at the Woodlands Homestead carpark at 10.15 a.m. Melways 177 K8. Take the Tullamarine Freeway past the Airport, turn right into Oaklands Road and the entrance is approx.300 metres from the corner.

We will explore various places of interest around the Park including the billabongs, Gellibrand Hill, Hume and Hovell's Memorial Cairn.

Book with the leader.



SUNDAY BUS: Barwon Heads - Queenscliff

DATE Sunday 9 July 2006
 STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium
 DISTANCE 14 & 18 km
 LEADER Mick Noonan & Dion Marriott
 TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blvd 9am
 RETURN TIME 6:15 pm
 AREA Bellarine Peninsula
 MAP REF Melways 233 to 236

The longer walk starts at Barwon Heads (famous for its use in *SeaChange*) with a look around Barwon heads and the spectacular views around to Pt Lonsdale & Pt Nepean. From there it's off to Ocean Grove where the easier groups starts up at the Lookout.

Then it's off the Pt Lonsdale for a look at the Lighthouse and lunch (yes! there are café's and coffee shops!). William Buckley lived in a cave near here on and off between 1803 and 1835.

Then there's more waves, seabirds, people and their dogs, and sand till be get to Queenscliff where there should be plenty of time for another coffee or a visit to the local historical sites before heading back to Melbourne.

I last did this walk in November 2004 when the leader suggested bringing bathers! This time I suspect the Gortex and warm winter woollies are the best bet! Hope to see you on the beach in July!

Latest on WILKY

We have sent a letter of complaint regarding the handling of the request to rebuild Wilky by Parks Victoria. We have highlighted a number of issues of poor communications, inconsistencies and unresolved issues over many years. We have had acknowledgement of receipt of the letter but at this stage no information on how it will be considered.

David Laing
 Wilky Manager.

CYCLE TRIP:

Koonung & Mullum Mullum Creeks

DATE Saturday 15 July 2006
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 45 km
LEADER Mark Heath

The ride leaves from Darebin station at 10.15 and proceeds thru Ivanhoe to the main Yarra trail and then up the Koonung creek trail to Templestowe. More backstreets and (some steepish) hills to the Mullum Mullum creek trail then back along the main Yarra trail to Ivanhoe & Darebin.

The 9.48 Hurstbridge train from Flinders St arrives at Darebin at 10.11.



SUNDAY BUS:

Daylesford – Wombat Creek Dam

DATE Sunday 16 July 2006
STANDARD Easy & Medium
DISTANCE provided on the booking nights
LEADER Lesley Hale & Hans Edlinger
TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blvd
AREA Daylesford
MAP REF Meridian 1:50,000:
"Wombat State Forest Touring Guide"

As this NEWS item is ahead of the leaders' pre-walk, the walk distances and bus return time will be provided on the booking nights.

It will be a circular walk, south-east of Daylesford, between Jubilee Lake and Wombat Creek Dam. The Dam was constructed in 1967 as a water supply for the township, replacing the former supply from the Lake. Jubilee Lake, dating from 1860, is now a popular park for boating and fishing.

The route takes us along tracks, country lanes, and a section of the old Daylesford-Creswick railway easement. You will see evidence of mining, sluicing, and associated activities from the gold rush days, together with fine stands of eucalypts (messmate and candlebark). Our undulations are not more than 100m, but a couple are steepish.

WEDNESDAY WALK: Long Forest Nature Consevation Reserve

DATE Wed 19 July 2006
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE Approx 14 km
LEADER Sandra Mutimer
AREA Bacchus Marsh
MAP REFERENCE Melway Reference [with my recent
but not the latest edition]: Maps
335, 329 & 328
Lerderderg & Melton 1:25,000

We will meet at 10:15 am at the Happy Valley car park on the left of Long Forest Rd. just over 2 km from the Western Highway turn off [Map 335, E 3]. Be aware that you will need to be in the right hand lane to turn off the highway into Long Forest Rd [and Merrimu Reservoir] at the crest of the hill while travelling through Anthonys Cutting.

If you haven't been to Long Forest Nature Conservation Reserve you will be surprised to discover this area of high biogeographical significance 50 km west of the city and tucked in bushland housing developments at the outskirts of Melbourne between Melton and Bacchus Marsh. This reserve contains an area of remnant mallee vegetation but there is also an amazing diversity of flora and fauna species. More information can be found in the Long Forest Conservation Reserve Management Plan [http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au/resourcesd/07_1088.pdf] or the CSIRO publication 'Wild Places of Greater Melbourne'.

Long Forest Nature Conservation Reserve is a really good location for a walk on a mid-winter's day but also worth a visit in spring when the orchids are out.

A brief car shuttle will be necessary to start our walk in the northern section of the reserve off Canopus Circuit. We will walk westwards to Long Point then southwards along the Coimadai Creek to the south-western section of this reserve and on to the south-eastern section and the river flats of the Djerriwarrh Creek.

I would like to invite people back to my place for dinner after this walk.

Please contact me, Sandra Mutimer to find out more about this walk or to book on it.

DANDENONGS EXPLORER: Mt Evelyn Area

DATE Saturday 29 July 2006
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 12 km
LEADER Doug Pocock
AREA Mt Evelyn
MAP REFERENCE Melways 38 & 118

This is a continuation of the Mt Evelyn aqueduct which we explored last year. Meet at 10.30 at the Mt Evelyn Railway Station, Wray Cres. Mt Evelyn.

The walk commences on the aqueduct at York Rd and will follow it to the end at Swansea Rd. Glimpses of distant views through the trees. Crossing Swansea Rd we will try to follow Olinda Ck., depending on how wet and muddy it is. There are plans for a walking track to be constructed along this section but nothing at this stage. We will get to Lilydale lakes area and follow tracks through the wetlands. Lots of birds to be seen in this area. Lunch here, we may even have civilised picnic shelters if the weather is crook (and there are toilets).

After lunch we will walk through Lilydale to the start of the Warburton Rail Trail and follow this back to Mt Evelyn.

This will be a relatively short walk suitable for a winters day, though if the weather is nice we may linger a while at the Lilydale Lake. There is a choice of afternoon tea venues after the walk.



SUNDAY BUS: Mt Dandenong - Western Trail

DATE	Sunday 30 July 2006
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/Medium
LEADER	Mohammad Akbari & David Elias
TRANSPORT	Bus – South Blvd. at 9:00am
RETURN TIME	6:00 pm
AREA	Dandenong Ranges National Park
MAP REF	Melway 74 H4

This is one of the prettiest and wonderful walks in the Dandenong National Park. I have done this walk twice with the club and this is one of my favorite walk close to Melbourne. The Easy/Medium walk commences at the Ferntree Gully picnic ground area. Easy/Medium walkers will first climb the 732 steps to the One Tree Hill, picnic ground where the Easy walk begins. We will be walking through a very beautiful forest and bush land which provide some great views of Mount Dandenong, City of Melbourne and Surrounding areas. Please be prepared for a possible winter climate and bring with you proper weather gear and clothes. After the walk we may spend some time in Mt Dandenong café. This is a walk not to be missed see you on the walk.

PREVIEWS OF WEEKEND WALKS July 2006



PACK CARRY: The Pinnacle – Rocky Peak

DATE	22-23 July 2006
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	28 km
LEADER	Bob Oxlade
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	6:00pm
AREA	Eildon State Park
MAP REF	Lake Eildon Outdoor Leisure Map. 1:50,000 Rooftop's Big River-Rubicon-Lake Eildon Forest Activities Map. 1:50,000

After much searching, I think this could be a Pack Carry that hasn't been done by the Club before, and a good area for this time of year.

We can drive up on Saturday morning and begin from Jerusalem Creek Inlet. The first 6km is on track, and a 600 metre climb to The Pinnacle at 900 metres. From there it's only another 2km to the similar height Rocky Peak for nice views. We then descend with some Off Track walking to a nice campsite at 450 metres, near the Eildon-Jamieson Rd.

On Sunday, with a mixture of Track and Off Track walking, we cross Jerusalem Creek, then along what appears to be an interesting ridge as we make our way back to the cars.

This is a good opportunity to explore the area. Be prepared for the bit of Off Track, and our July weather of course, which we hope will be good. Come along and check out this area.

LODGE: Apollo Bay YHA Eco-Lodge

DATE	7-9 July 2006
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	Various
LEADER	Halina Sarbinowski
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	8:00pm

We'll be staying at the newly opened YHA Eco-Lodge at Apollo Bay. Accommodation costs per person for the two nights will be \$63.00 (4 person dorm) or \$77.00 (twin/double share). A discount of \$3.50 per night is available for YHA members. Great value for this luxury back-packer accommodation.

The two walks that I have chosen reflect the highlights of the area. The first will be along the coastline from Apollo Bay to Elliot River incorporating beach and cliff top walking. The second which passes through private farm land gives spectacular views over Apollo Bay. I also hope to visit some of the shorter walks in the area including Mariner's Lookout and some of the waterfalls.

Dinner on Saturday night will be a communal affair with everyone contributing either to entrees, main meal or desserts. As books need to be confirmed with YHA I would like to finalise numbers by June 28 (2 Wednesdays before the walk). If interested please see me in the clubrooms or contact me.

CLUBROOMS DUTY ROSTER

June 14 Fay Dunn & Lance Mobbs
June 21 Peter Havlicek & Mark Heath
June 28 Charlotte Bradly & David Laing
July 5 Lynda Larkin & John Fritze

Next Committee Meeting

July 3rd 2006 - 7:00pm in the clubrooms.

Flinders Frolics

Easter, 2006

Flinders Island is an extension of the Prom, sort of, being part of the land bridge that connected Tasmania to the mainland during the last ice age. The attractions are similar – lonely beaches, curvy coves, great granite boulders, mountains and some interesting flora. The island has a population of about 1000, with two small townships, Whitemark and Lady Barron. The economy is based on cattle and sheep grazing, wool and fishing. Tourism is a fairly small element, it seems. Gina and I flew into Whitemark in a ten-seater aircraft for a week's exploration.

We were met by Gerard, the very friendly car-hire man who also runs the cabin park near Whitemark. We used the car for three days to see the east and north parts of the island, using public camp sites maintained by the islanders. We saw very few people and no other campers. Large numbers of Cape Barren geese were everywhere. These are culled each year as are the Bennett's wallabies and pademelons. The cull of the latter is 50,000 per year! The road toll alone is huge and a night drive gave us the reason.

On returning the car, Gerard drove us to the start of our next walk – a climb of Pillingers Peak and a two-

night pack carry. Pillingers Peak looked interesting having a sharp column-like peak and was called the Gin Bottle by the locals. The recommended route was up to a saddle then around the back. We did it the unorthodox way – a frontal assault. This route presented us with some obstacles - large boulders, deep holes and a narrow ledge. Interesting! We eventually found the knotted rope that gave us access to the peak, and the all-round views of the island. We followed the recommended route down – an easy stroll! The 'Flinders Trail' - a long-planned, part-completed, 100km trail took us north from here through the Darling Range and to a fine isolated bush camp that night.

We walked down from Walkers Lookout the next morning to our pre-arranged taxi rendezvous. Jimmy the Greek runs the taxi service, 'Flinders executive tours', the school bus service and the ambulance service as well as supplying the aviation fuel at the airport! He dropped us off at the foot of our next objective – Strzelecki Peak in the south of the island. This was a lovely climb, quite steep and strenuous, providing us with magnificent views over the island, the Franklin Sound and Cape Barren Island. That evening we camped at

Trousers Point, warmed by a cosy campfire. We spent the next two days walking around the south coast, beach walking, rock hopping, and some scrub bashing where we had to, all the while totally isolated from people. We had beautiful weather, it was even warm enough for a swim. Despite slapping on loads of sun block, my nose had turned bright red and was dry and sore. Slapping on yet more, I complained to Gina that this new sun block wasn't working very well. On closer inspection it turned out to be – shampoo!! My nose was peeling, sore – and very clean! Jimmy met us and took us back to Whitemark where we camped the final night at the cabin park, eating at the Interstate pub. Friendly locals ferried us to and from the pub. Waiting at the airport the next morning a local even loaned me his car to drive the five kms to town to collect a coffee (the terminal having no facilities)! How's that for friendliness! On the return flight I sat with the pilot and had great views of the string of islands and rocks that litter the route to the Prom. No wonder there were all those shipwrecks!

Flinders Island is a great place for a short break – we recommend it to all bushies.

Gina Hopkins & Derrick Brown

Good Better Best Food Guide

Austral Hotel - Korumburra. We stopped here for dinner on the way home from the 4 day Wilsons Prom - Lighthouse bushwalk. Very good country pub fare in the 'ladies lounge'. Meal prices range from \$12 to \$23. Many opted for a good feed of beef after the 4 days in the bush. I had the home made rissoles and bacon and

it was truly superb. However, one vegetarian asked for a plate of vegies and for \$5 it was overflowing with freshly roasted vegetables. All meals reported as tasty and delicious. Coffee and cake available at \$7. Well worth a visit on the way home from 'the Prom.'

Rod Novak

Patagonian Perambulations

... No one else will offer you trips like these



Willis's Walkabouts' first Patagonia trip was in 1990. We've been back almost every year since. This year, we are offering two trips, long or short – your choice.

Bruce Swain, whose first Patagonia trip with us was in 1995, will lead a 6-8 week beginning at the end of November. Russell Willis, whose first trip to Patagonia was in 1977, will lead a 4-5 week trip beginning in mid to late December. Both speak Spanish. They handle the hassles leaving you free to enjoy the trip. Both trips will include our latest find, the **Condor Circuit** – no tourists, just some of the most spectacular scenery in South America.

Interested? A small ad like this has no space for details. See our website or ask for the trip notes.



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

Angahook Holiday Camp



**The Best of Both Worlds
Bush & Beach**

**GREAT OCEAN ROAD,
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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:
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Aireys Inlet
Vic 3231
Tel: 03 5289 6774
Fax: 03 5289 6774
email: angahook@bigpond.com
website: www.angahook.com.au

WALKS SECRETARY ARRANGEMENTS OVER WINTER

(Walks Secretary Flees Country)

I will be overseas from mid June till late September. Gina Hopkins, a previous walk secretary has kindly agreed to take over my most essential duties in my absence. I don't expect her to process walk reports or collate stats but she will empty my pigeonhole for me so keep on putting those completed booking sheets and walk reports into my pigeonhole and I will bring those up to date soon after I get back. Gina is herself overseas until the start of July so any walks secretary issues (not Sunday walks) during the second half of June will need to wait till then. Peter McGrath is of course around to deal with any Sunday walks related issues. For Sunday walk credit notes see Peter or whoever he may have deputised to handle these

**Jopie Bodegraven
Walks Secretary**

Reimbursement Policy for Previewing Trips Other Than Sunday Bus.

The question of reimbursement for previewing trips other than Sunday bus trips has been raised by several people. The committee has looked into the issue and decided on the following policy:

- Day trips other than Sunday Bus:** No reimbursement
Pack carry trips: No reimbursement
Base camps: Generally no reimbursement. However the committee can approve reimbursement in special cases for key base camps.

Factors considered include that other than Sunday Bus trips, the trips do not generate any income to pay for reimbursements and traditionally the club has not reimbursed leaders for previewing these trips. Other factors include:

TOFS, Dandenongs Explorer & day cycle trips are generally close to Melbourne so that preview costs are small.

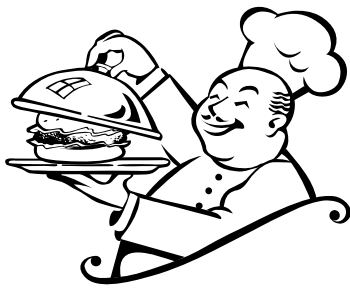
Wednesday walks are often further from Melbourne, but often closer than Sunday walks. They have fewer new or inexperienced participants and better sharing of the leader role. In 2005, one leader led 2 walks, the rest led only 1.

Ski trips have limited destinations which should be known to potential leaders and previewing is not considered necessary.

Pack carry trips tend to be further from Melbourne and have relatively small numbers (average 8 in 2005). Mostly leaders' knowledge, previous walk reports and other sources of information make previews unnecessary. Often the trip is the preview. Reimbursement for the numbers involved would be too expensive for the club to tolerate and, except in very exceptional circumstances, if a walk can't be done without a requirement for reimbursement, it should not be programmed

Base Camps are a special case. They generally attract more inexperienced and newer members and members unwilling to lead. Some attract large numbers, with therefore more responsibility on the leader. Sometimes campsite and road condition information is crucial. It seems undesirable to not have base camps at least on key long weekends. Traditionally the club has relied on leaders treating any previews as a "weekend away" with no reimbursement. Sometimes however the walks secretary or co-ordinator may only be able to get a leader who needs or insists on previewing and requests reimbursement. If it is for an important base camp, say a long weekend, reimbursement may be warranted. Any reimbursement however will be capped, will be at the discretion of the committee and must be approved by a committee majority vote, generally before a preview is done and preferably before it goes on the programme.

Jopie Bodegraven
Walks Secretary



Friday 16th June -7.30pm

**Venue: The Cedar Tree Restaurant
198 Bay Street, Brighton
Mel.Ref: 67F9 Phone 9596 1838**

Authentic Lebanese Cuisine and Belly Dancer –
Fully Licensed and BYO Wine only.

If you would like to attend please contact Charlotte.

SLIDE NIGHT

ANTARCTICA

FRIDAY 23RD JUNE 2006

7:30PM

IN THE CLUBROOMS

Jan and I recently did a tour to the Ross Sea region of Antarctica. We started at Bluff in N.Z. and sailed south via the N.Z. sub –Antarctic Islands. Crossing the Antarctic Circle we made landfall at Cape Adair and then continued south. Passing through pack ice and icebergs the trip got into McMurdo Sound for a visit to Shackleton’s and Scott’s Huts. Unfortunately, only a few of us (Jan and me included) got to Shackleton’s Hut before the weather closed in. We then cruised along the Ross Sea Ice Shelf before heading north and home via Macquarie Island.

I recently showed these slides in the club on the wrong night and some members asked if I could repeat to give them a chance to see them.

Grampians NP 12-14 May 2006 Track Weekend

Five Melbourne Bushies – Ken and Joan MacMahon, Derrick Brown, Rod Novak and Mark Heath - attended the VicWalk organised Track Weekend at the Grampians NP. There were 33 bushwalkers involved from eight clubs (Sunraysia BWC, Bayside BWC, Warnambool Walkers, Wimmera BWC, Bendigo Bushwalkers, VNPA BWAG, Melbourne Women’s Walking Club and the Melbourne Bushies) at this weekend event. We base camped at the Buandik Camping Area and there were three different activities organised for each day assisting the Park Rangers of Dylan, Tony and Emily. We worked on the upper part of The Fortress Track (Saturday), the Hut Creek Track (both Saturday and Sunday), and a link track for the Chimney Pots (Sunday). Also, we assisted with

the Brush Tail Wallaby Project – conducting a search with the Project Ranger at The Fortress (Saturday) and Red Cave (Sunday) – alas no evidence of this endangered marsupial. All agreed it was a very satisfying weekend assisting the Parks staff with the walking tracks in the Victoria Range of the Grampians National Park. Photo of a well earned morning tea.



Photo by Derrick Brown.

Web Site Enhancements

The club's website has become an important part of the way we share experiences and communicate with each other and represents a growing archive of recent activities. Previews of walks, trip write-ups and photographic records keep us in touch with what is coming up and how it went. There are now over 2200 pages of content available to visitors. A core of 20 or so photographers have contributed their impressions of recent trips and the photo-gallery holds over 1000 images from around 90 outings. On any single day we average 70 visitors browsing in excess of 400 pages. In the past 14 months visitors have downloaded 650 membership application forms and over 700 copies of the club's "Introduction to Melbourne Bushwalkers". And the site continues to evolve as a service to members.

Changes made in the past month include:

- Addition of a search capability for walk previews to assist leaders in planning future walks. This will grow in usefulness as the archive of past trips expands;
- Addition of a search capability to the Photogallery. Users can now effortlessly search the club history, trip notes (write-ups), walk previews and the photogallery to find out if there is any information on a given location or event;
- Addition of a new regional index to the Photogallery to complement the current chronological index and mirror the off-line index for walks maintained by the Walks Secretary. Walk leaders and other users can now check photo records by region;
- Redesign of the Photogallery page template to improve user interaction;
- Addition of a panorama viewing capability to the Photogallery. 360-degree and partial-circle panoramas frequently enhance the appreciation of the area being walked (see image);
- Addition of an advice page for overnight walks based on the current club information pamphlet;
- Updated the advice page providing tips for new (day) walkers to be consistent with the latest hard-copy information pamphlet.



View from Mt Feathertop peak.

Ian Mair
Web Site Administrator

Walks Secretary Report for April 2006

	Date	Trip	Grade	Numbers
Sunday Bus	2	Paradise Mill Circuit	E&E/M	35
	9	Breamlea – Barwon Heads	E&E/M	33
	16	Creswick Miners Track	E&E/M	33
	23	Warburton Rail Trail	E&E/M	34
	30	Bamganie State Forest	E&E/M	43
TOFS	6	Smiths Fully – St Andrews	E	13
Wednesday	29	Garden of St Erth – Simmons Reef	E/M	14
Dand Expl	25	Olinda Falls to Mt Evelyn	E	9
Cycle Day	22	Gellibrand Hill – Moonee Ponds Ck	E/M	11
Pack Carry	31-2	Sugarloaf-Macalister River-Brunis Knob	M	9
	13-17	Lake Cobbler-Speculation-St Name Spur	E/M	11
	13-17	Twins-Mt Murray-Blue Rag Range	M/H	7
	21-25	Wilson's Prom-Sealers-Lighthouse Cct	E/M	8
Base Camp	7-9	Great Ocean Walk Finale	E/M	9
	13-17	Native Dog Flat (Cobberas)	E/M	11
Lodge	28-30	Barjarg Postponed till next year due to dates clash with social event		

Everything seems to be bubbling along nicely as per normal. Sunday numbers are down slightly. We'll see how numbers go with the colder weather approaching.

Jopie Bodegraven
Walks Secretary

The Twins - Mt Murray - Blue Rag Range

,Jopie Bodegraven



short side trip to the mist covered Mt Murray and had tea the sky had cleared and the temperature had dropped to -2°C. Although we had a fire to toast our fronts a cold wind on our backs ensured another early night.

In the morning it was cold but tranquil with a heavy frost over our tents, ice in our water and several frozen boots. We did another side trip to Mt Murray, this time with clear views in all directions, broke camp, and headed off along the track down Blowfly Spur. When the track veered off we continued our 900 metre descent off track towards what we hoped would be a campsite at an amazing goose neck in the Wongungarra River. The long spur was covered in dense regrowth with dead Alpine

Our two cars converged on Mt St Bernard almost simultaneously and stood in the rain while six of us summoned the will to get out. Eventually Jenny, Trish, Claire, Tony, Bob and I trudged off into the rain along Twins Road while our cunning leader, Jopie, drove to our campsite under the guise of making water drops for our two "dry" nights. After a short walk we reached the designated saddle to the east of The Twins, pitched our tents in the continuing rain, crawled in, and, apart from a little light hearted banter remained in solitude until the next morning.

We awoke to find dense banks of grey and white clouds but no rain! After breakfast Jopie and Bob

set off in the Saburu to arrange the car shuffle while the rest of us did a side trip to The Twins. This was a truly enchanting walk. A light dusting of snow crunched under foot and sparkled like diamonds on the alpine grass and snow gums. Above us the sky was a seething cauldron of activity with bright blue patches appearing then dissolving and crystal clear vistas of our campsite and the distant ranges opening up and closing as the clouds churned all around us. It was one of those rare and transient moments that make bush walking a delight. (Don't forget to check out the web for photos) On returning to camp we packed up, walked a short distance along the road then branched off onto the Alpine Walking Track. The weather was perfect and we enjoyed

excellent views from the track as it undulated through alpine grasses and snow gums. After a few kilometres we passed through a large green field of bleached snow gum skeletons before rejoining the road. At this point we collected our water drop and climbed the hill to our campsite at the end of the road. By the time we had pitched our tents, made the



Ash towering above in the upper section, tall trees of other species vigorously sprouting from their trunks in the middle and stunted growth as the spur became steeper and rockier towards the bottom. Underfoot loose rocky outcrops projected through the sparse topsoil and combined with long strips of bark and other debris to hide numerous crevices and snare the unwary foot. Perfect walking conditions for Skippy 1 and Skippy 2!

At this point a call from Claire indicated that all was not well. She had fallen on her ankle and was in pain. Although taping and bandaging helped she was still unable to walk but somehow managed to slither down the remaining few hundred metres to our campsite and gain a little more relief by soaking her ankle in the cold river.

It was a wonderful wild and remote campsite with just enough room for three tents on a ledge overhanging the river and another two on top of a small rocky ridge in the

crook of the goose neck. This remoteness, however, was not a help when it came to planning Claire's evacuation and we soon concluded that the rugged 920 metre climb to the nearest 4WD track would be out of the question and a helicopter the only realistic



option. We decided that, barring a miraculous improvement in her condition overnight, Jopie and I would climb to the nearest area of mobile phone coverage and dial "000".

Our third morning looked like the start of another beautiful day and to our amazement Claire felt fit enough to tackle the climb to the top of the Blue Rag Range. We quickly packed and headed off up the steep rocky section of the spur, through the dense regrowth and before long were well above the half way mark. At this point we were confident that Claire could

complete the climb and decided that Jopie, Tony and I should push ahead to walk the 10 km to fetch the Saburu, if the track proved suitable, or better still flag down a passing 4WD. If these options failed we would phone for help.

We were in luck and literally within a minute of arriving at the track were able to flag down the last pair of 4WD's to leave the range. Stefan and Christie in the rear vehicle were not only prepared to wait the hour or two it might take Claire to reach the track but to take all seven of us and our gear back to our cars. Meanwhile Claire continued to make good time and within an hour we had all climbed into the back of the Landcruiser and set off. Some of us were a little apprehensive at first but soon gained confidence in the well prepared vehicle and its driver and relaxed back to

enjoy an amazing ridge top ride. Much of the ridge was a razor's edge with precipitous drops on each side and many steep hills that resembled those of Luna Park's "big dipper". There were magnificent uninterrupted views in both directions

over range after range of burnt forest that Bob thought were the best he had ever seen. Almost too soon we were back at our cars and on our way home.

PS On her return to Melbourne it was found that Claire had broken two bones in her ankle!

John Fritze

Some of us were a little apprehensive at first but after noting the well prepared vehicle and the skill of the driver, we relaxed and enjoyed an amazing ridge top ride.

King River – Mt Cobbler – Mt Speculation – Crosscut Saw – Mt Thorn

Easter 4-day pack carry walk 13-17 April 2006

We all drove from Melbourne on Thursday and pitched our tents at Howqua Gap on the side of Mt Stirling except for two who stayed in a Mansfield Motel. On Friday morning we drove on and left Brian's car at Stanleys Name Gap which was to be our finishing point. We all drove on to the start of the walk beside the King River. We met two men who were having difficulty finding the start of the track up King Spur and we also had to search diligently before we found our track up Muesli Spur. This climbed nearly 600 metres up to the Cobbler Plateau and was steep in places but never really difficult.

After lunch the forecast strong winds and rain arrived. The start of the track across to Mt Cobbler proved elusive so we decided to go to Lake Cobbler to camp there. One consideration was water availability because despite the rain the area was still very dry and we could be sure of water at the Lake. We found space among the car campers and there was a small shelter with a fire alight which was a bonus when the rain got heavier.

Next morning the weather seemed a bit brighter and we headed up towards Mt Cobbler. When we were within 1 km of the summit disappeared in the clouds and it started snowing and we turned away and went south along a walking track. After a while the track disappeared and we battled through the scrub for a ½ hour before stopping for a rest. According to the map we were close to where the track was marked. Suddenly there was a cry of joy from Janty who had found the track 10 metres away – proving female

superiority according to Frances. The rain and sleet continued and we discussed our options which included abandoning the trip because the next day's forecast was for more snow and we would be up high and exposed for most of the day. Les had some weather charts and was more optimistic. We decided to continue and see what the next day brought – it was a fortunate decision! We set up our tents near Camp Creek below Mt Speculation where there was a couple waiting for the weather to improve before going on to The Razor-Viking wilderness area. Once again because it was so cold it was an early night for all of us.

On Sunday morning the tents were frozen and covered with light snow but the sun was shining from a blue sky. We climbed up to Mt Speculation and walked up and down the teeth of the Crosscut Saw enjoying some of Victoria's best views. We turned down Stanley's Name Spur. At one point Jan's pack rolled away downhill and was valiantly retrieved by Ron. The campsite was a good one with a reliable water supply in the creek nearby. We enjoyed being together around the campfire at last. Next morning we continued along the ridge over Mt Thorn enjoying the views and the good weather. We finished soon after lunch and got together again for afternoon tea at Mansfield. There were 11 of us in the group: Mark Heath, Dzung Nguyen, Janty Taylor, Simon Barwick, Frances Moloney, Brian Aldridge, Anita Rigoni, Ron Hampton, Jan Colquhoun, Les Southwell and Max Casley.