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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 cents

Edition 669 | NOVEMBER 2006

MBW Club Long Weekend Trip's

Absolutely the Best

Have you ever taken the opportunity to head off with Melbourne Bushies on a long weekend??

The November Cup Weekend is just around the corner, when you can get out and about walking with the Club for more than just a few hours. There are three great trips on the programme (refer to last month's Newsletter page 7), so check them out and book now!

Occasionally these weekend destinations require car travelling that takes a few hours, but from past experience these can be the absolute best times. I am sure you have memories of trips that have remained in your mind. Some memorable times that I have had with the club during long weekends were at the Little Desert near Wyperfeld which was Australia's first Mallee National Park and at Hattah Lake in June 2002. The Hattah group is shown sharing morning tea as we followed our leader Doug Pocock past the emus and the biggest (and I mean big) roos I have ever seen. Prior to these trips I had no idea that the so called "desert areas" could be full of such beautiful plants, bird life and even a semi-serious hill or two.

The club usually programmes "longer" weekend trips in January, March, June, November and Christmas, not to mention the usual weekends away that are prepared by our trusty Walks Committee all year. I must admit going with a group, there is always someone with knowledge either of the bird life or botanical info to share, which adds to the enjoyment.

If you haven't taken advantage of these longer trips yet, then check out what the club has planned during the November Cup Weekend, Christmas and the January Australia Day weekend. Our equipment officer, John Fritze has just developed a full equipment package for someone who has no equipment at all, not to mention the usual (tents, packs and sleeping bags) equipment the club hires out for a very reasonable rate.

Now is the time to look at your diary for the Christmas holiday break and get yourself out to the Snowy Mountains - with Jerry, Wongungurra River with Jopie, or Tasmania with Peter.

Let me know your best destination, best weekend walk, best base camp, best of anything the club has organised. Then if possible, we can make sure these trips are put on the programme again.

("Best" is described as greatest, unsurpassed, most excellent, finest, top or terrific.)

Safe Walking - Jan Palich



... reminder...

Melbourne Bushwalkers
Christmas break-up party
Wednesday, 20 December 2006
7 pm to 10 pm
Trades Hall
Cnr Russell & Victoria Sts

Procrastinating Day Walkers

If you have been putting off your first pack carry because you have no fitness, no equipment, no experience, no transport and no idea what to pack; please take note, these are just excuses and they can no longer apply!

Melbourne Bushies now have a wide range of pack carries to suit most fitness levels, a complete set of lightweight gear for hire, helpful leaders, fellow walkers who can help you with your transport and an advice sheet on what to pack and how to use it.

We look forward to your company on our next pack carry.



Members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc meet on Wednesday evenings between 7.00 and 9.00 pm in the club rooms at:

**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

www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au



The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc (**The News**) is published monthly, and is the official newsletter of Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

Editor: Christine Salau

Walk previews, walk reviews, articles, poems, news items, photographs of club events, reports of new gear, book/movie reviews, letters to the editor, advertisements, etcetera are always welcome. However, 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 club rooms
- Posting a diskette or hand written material to The Editor at the club address noted above.
- **The most preferred method is via email to news@melbournebushwalkers.org.au**

Closing date for receipt of material for The News is the last Wednesday of the month.

Only advertisements that directly relate to bushwalking (eg gear, maps, trips, tours etc) are accepted.

Advertising rates (artwork ready)

Size:	1 Issue	3 Issues	12 Issues
1/4 page	\$35	\$90	\$330
1/2 page	\$55	\$150	\$550
Full page	\$100	\$250	\$900

(Members advertisements are accepted free of charge)

Club rooms Duty Roster

08 November	Peter Havlicek and Jan Palich
15 November	Lynda Larkin and Fay Dunn
22 November	Charlotte Bradly and John Fritze
29 November	Peter McGrath and Carol Sisson
06 December	Paul Logsdon and Jan Palich

Next Committee Meeting

Monday 4 December 2006, 7.00 pm, in the club rooms

Navigation Lesson

WHICH NORTH IS NORTH?

Here's a quick quiz question.

Question: Which of the below options is north? Is it -

- 1 The point where polar explorers aim to stick their national flag?
- 2 What the red end of the compass needle points to?
- 3 The direction of the up and down grid lines on contour or topographical map?
- 4 The direction of the vertical edge of a contour map?

Answer: The answer is all of the above. There are in fact three norths. (Options 1 & 4 are the same)

The first is True or Geographical North. The earth spins on its axis and the North and South Geographical Poles are where the axis meets the surface and their location never changes. It is also where polar explorers hope to plant their flags and have their pictures taken. True north is the direction to the north geographical pole from wherever you are.

The second is Magnetic North. The earth is partially molten inside and movement of the molten core sets up a magnetic field with a north and south magnetic pole. The red end of the compass needle always points to the north magnetic pole. Unfortunately the north magnetic pole doesn't coincide with the Geographical pole. The north magnetic pole is somewhere in northern Canada and wanders around over time. Its position slowly changes.

Map makers have long had a problem trying to depict the curved surface of the earth on a flat map. The edges of topographical maps are normally along lines of latitude (the lines parallel to the equator which run east-west) and longitude (the lines joining the true north and south poles which run north-south) but these lines are not parallel. The lines of longitude converge as you approach the poles and the lines of latitude get more and more curvy as you approach the poles. To overcome the problem so that we can measure compass bearings, the map makers superimpose a rectangular grid (lines spaced 1 km apart on the 1:25, 1:50 and 1:100,000 scale maps that we use for bushwalking) so that all the lines are parallel, not converging or curving. This causes other problems which we don't need to concern ourselves with. This brings us to the third north which is Grid North, the direction of the up and down grid lines on the map. Compare the direction of the grid lines to the direction of the edge of the map. In the Alps around Howitt and Hotham they are almost the same, but at Marysville they differ by 0.8 degrees and in the Brisbane Ranges by 1.7 degrees.

For bushwalking, we can forget about true north. We are only concerned with grid north and the grid lines on the map because they are what we measure bearings (or directions) from, and the direction our compass needle points to (magnetic north). The difference between the two is called the grid magnetic angle. In Victoria magnetic north is always to the east, or clockwise from grid north, and varies from about 12 degrees at Mt Hotham to 11 in most of our day walking areas north and east of Melbourne to 9.5 in the Brisbane Ranges. In WA magnetic north is to the west of grid north!

If you would like to read more about using topographical maps, interpreting contours, using a compass etc, there's an excellent publication called "Map Reading Guide – How to Use Topographical Maps" available to read or download for free from the Geoscience Australia website at http://www.ga.gov.au/image_cache/GA7194.pdf. I found it very good. End of lesson

Joipie Bodegraven



Sunday bus

LYSTERFIELD LAKE PLUS BBQ

DATE	Sunday 5 November 2006
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
LEADERS	Peter McGrath and Lance Mobbs
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd
RETURN TIME	6.30 pm
AREA	South East
MAP REFERENCE	Vic – Lysterfield Lake Park & Churchill NP

A pleasant ramble thru two of Melbourne historical parks nestled in the picturesque Lysterfield Hills. 172 species of birds have been recorded in the parks and echidnas may be spotted during the day. Trig Point has spectacular 360° views of Melbourne.



Sunday bus

MT DONNA BUANG – CEMENT CREEK

DATE	Sunday 12 November 2006
STANDARD	Easy/Medium and Medium+
DISTANCE	13 & 17 km approx.
LEADERS	Max Casley and Dion Marriott
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd
RETURN TIME	7 pm
AREA	Warburton
MAP REFERENCE	Juliet South 1:25,000

The Medium+ walk will start at Martyr Road in Warburton and will ascend approx 900m on the steep walking track to Mt Victoria (1106m) then a fairly easy climb to Mt Donna Buang (1250m) This will not only give you excellent aerobic exercise but well-earned magnificent views from the lookout tower at the top. The return is shorter as we avoid Mt Victoria and follow the summit road a small way from Ten Mile Turntable to the top of the steep track. Descending back to Warburton will be fast and exciting, and will test your knees.

The Easy/Medium walk will start at Cement Creek and begin with a stroll around the Rainforest Gallery treetop platform. Then a climb 470m up a very steep track to the saddle between Mt Donna Buang (1250m) and Mt Boobyalla (1224m) and then on to Mt Donna Buang. We will have a break here and there will be opportunity to climb the lookout tower providing (hopefully) magnificent 360° views. The walk will then proceed to Mt Victoria (1106m) and finally descend the steep track down to Warburton and the waiting bus.

Note: this walk was originally programmed for May. Due to severely cold weather at that time it was rescheduled to November when it is hoped the weather will be good.



Wednesday walk

LAKE MOUNTAIN

DATE	Wednesday 15 November 2006
STANDARD	Easy / Medium
DISTANCE	12 km
LEADER	Susan Maughan
AREA	Lake Mountain
MAP REFERENCE	Marysville-Lake Mountain

You may wish to join Susan and Stuart on the preceding day (Tuesday 14 November) at Marysville camping ground as we plan to do an afternoon stroll along Michaeldene Track and on to the Island Hop circuit. This takes us through the remnants of a myrtle beech forest. It is only 6 Kms so a nice warm up and will give us an appetite for a pub dinner that evening.

Next day we will car pool from the camping ground (right in town at the Marysville - Buxton turnoff) departing at 10.30 am. The Wednesday walk commences at Gerratys car park. We will follow the Snowgum walk to Mt Bullfight with hopefully views to The Bluff. Lunch will be at Keppels Hut. If you are familiar with this area as a x-country skier, it is quite an interesting experience to see it without all that snow! Book with Susan.



Sunday bus

CHUM CREEK - DIXONS CREEK

DATE	19 November 2006
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	14 and 17 km
LEADERS	Cameron Durrant and John Fritze
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd - 9 am
RETURN TIME	6 pm
AREA	North of Healsville
MAP REFERENCE	Toolangi 7922-1-1

All we can say at this stage, having not yet previewed the walk, is that it will be through open forest, mostly on tracks and will involve the crossing of at least two significant ridges (the reason for the standard upgrade). If you would like to know more have a chat to the leaders a little closer to the walk date.



Dandenong explorer

FERN TREE GULLY FOREST WALK PLUS BBQ

DATE	Saturday 25 November 2006
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	12 km
LEADER	Liz Telford
AREA	Ferntree Gully
MAP REFERENCE	Melways 74

The plan is to walk most of the walking tracks in the Ferntree Gully Forest. We will start at One Tree Hill Picnic Ground, commencing along Tyson Track, Hansen Track, climbing Chandlers Hill before descending down the Macedon track, Bellview Terrace before the challenging climb up the 1000 steps. The walk will be at a relaxed pace and all be on defined tracks but be prepared for some short steep climbs and descents, and the final climb up the 1000 steps will take approx 30 minutes.

We should arrive back to the cars around 1:00 pm for a pleasant BBQ lunch. Please byo food, drinks, and a chair may be useful. This will be our last walk for 2006, so please come along for an enjoyable walk and a relaxing lunch. Newcomers to the Dandenong Explorer walks are most welcome, as well as our regular walkers. .../..



Cheese and Wine Evening

Wednesday

22nd November 2006

in the Club rooms

7.00 to 9.00pm

Dandenong Explorer ... continued ... FERNTREE GULLY FOREST WALK PLUS BBQ

DATE Saturday 25 November 2006

The starting point is the One Tree Hill Picnic Ground (Map 74 H1 in the Melways), please be there by 9:45 am, to commence walking at 10:00 am. If you have any queries contact me, but generally there is no need to book on this walk.

Sunday bus SWITZERLAND RANGE

DATE Sunday 26 November 2006

STANDARD Easy and Medium

LEADERS Lesley Hale and Paul Logsdon

TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blus

**** 8.30 am departure ****

AREA North of Yea

MAP REFERENCE Dropmore, Yea and Molesworth 1:25 000

The Easy walk is on track and mostly downhill, with views if the day is clear. It starts east of Highlands to finish near Molesworth, passing through native forest in the Switzerland Ranges Flora Reserve and open farmland.

The Medium walk starts with a 450m climb to the summit of Mt Broughton before joining the route through the Flora Reserve to finish with the other group near Molesworth and the Goulburn. Below are pictures that were taken on the preview walk.



Sunday bus CUMBERLAND RIVER - LORNE

DATE Sunday 3 December 2006

STANDARD Easy and Easy/Medium

DISTANCE 15 km and 18 km

LEADERS Lynda Larkin and Hans Edlinger

TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blvd

**** 8.30 am departure ****

Both walks will commence at the mouth of the Cumberland River 7 kms southwest of Lorne on the Great Ocean Road. We head inland making several fairly easy river crossings, then follow a steep track away from the Cumberland River towards Kalimna Creek and the Upper and Lower Kalimna Falls. The track continues through rainforest alongside Sheoak Creek, then through a deep valley to where a natural amphitheatre has been fashioned into the hillside rock. A little further on we will visit Swallow Cave, another geological wonder.

The final stretch includes an easy river crossing near Sheoak Falls and splendid ocean views from the board walk which leads back to the coast to where both walks finish at Sheoak Carpark. The medium walk will include side trips to Cumberland Falls and the Canyon. We recommend arm and leg covering for the stinging nettles noted along the first section of the walk, also the usual sun protection, adequate drinking water, & change of shoes for the bus.

TOFS EDITHVALE SEAFORD WETLANDS

DATE Thursday 7 December 2006

STANDARD Easy

LEADER Alister Rowe

TRANSPORT Private

Telephone Alister Rowe for further information about this walk.

Cycling SOUTHBANK TO WILLIAMSTOWN & BEYOND

DATE Saturday 9 December 2006

STANDARD Easy and delightful

DISTANCE 40-50 km

LEADER Lynda Larkin

TRANSPORT Train/car

Meeting at Southbank at 10am, we will pass through the Docklands and head along Footscray Road to pick up the coastal trail into Williamstown. We will visit wetlands, which are home for pelicans, herons and other water birds, and ride on to Truganina Park.

A feature of the park is the 100 Steps to Federation, a stone staircase of basalt rock recycled from when the area was a clean-fill tip. At the summit of the Steps is a sculpture, the Time Beacon, by artist Cameron Robbins. Panoramic views of the Bay can be enjoyed from this vantage point.

We will retrace our steps back to Williamstown, catch the punt across the river under Westgate Bridge and ride back to the city via Fishermans Bend and Port Melbourne.

Bring lunch if you like, but there are plenty of really good "waterholes" along the way. Lunch in Williamstown is a treat and great views of the City from a western viewpoint as you ride into Williamstown.

Sunday bus DANDENONG RANGES TRACK (SASSAFRAS CK)

DATE Sunday 10 December 2006

STANDARD Easy and Easy/Medium

DISTANCE 16 km and 12 km

LEADERS Les Southwell and Phil Geschke

TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blvd

RETURN TIME 5.30 pm

AREA Dandenong Ranges National Park, Southern area

The E/M walk starts at Sassafras village, and follows the Dandenong Ranges Tourist Track along the Sassafras Creek, via Beagley's Bridge and Grant's Picnic Ground, where the E walk starts. It continues on to Baynes Park and Menzies Ck to rejoin the bus at Emerald township, and finishes up at one of the outdoor cafes if time permits.

There is little climbing involved, and the track is generally sheltered among the tall eucalypts and ferns.



Wednesday walk MARIBYRNONG RIVER MEANDER

DATE	Wednesday 13 December 2006
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	15 km, which can be reduced
LEADER	Sandra Mutimer
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Before 4.00 pm
AREA	Along the Maribyrnong River, through Aberfeldie, Maribyrnong, Footscray, Kensington, Flemington, Ascot Vale West, Moonee Ponds, Essendon West, Avondale Heights, Braybrook
MAP REFERENCE	Melway Maps 28, 42, 27

*****Please note, this Wednesday walk will be on the 2nd Wednesday of December not the usual 3rd Wednesday for these walks.*****

We will meet at 10:15 am at the relatively new carpark in Afton St, Aberfeldie/Moonee Ponds, just around the corner from The Boulevard, where the footbridge is. [Melway Map 28, A5]

Formerly known as Saltwater Creek the Maribyrnong River has an interesting history. Much of this relates to the industrial development of Melbourne - bluestone quarries, foundries, stock saleyards and abattoirs, meat canning works, an ordinance factory, pipe making works and other industries which caused major pollution to the river. At the same time the parkland alongside the river attracted people to places such as Scotchman's Hill overlooking Flemington Racecourse in Footscray Gardens, a wine hall, Riverview Tea Gardens, a dance hall, the Anglers' Hotel, swimming holes, motor launch trips and row boat hire amongst these. The Maribyrnong River could be described as an ugly duckling but it's interesting to see it - the good, bad and ugly - in context with its history.

On our Maribyrnong River Meander we will be walking downstream and then return to where the cars are parked early afternoon before travelling upstream and once again returning to the cars. Access to both sides of the river is not always possible but we will try to do this as much as possible along the way.

I would have liked to have included a cruise along the river on the Somerville family's Blackbird and will try to arrange one some time in the future, it's thoroughly recommended.

Some might like to meet for breakfast before the walk at Poyntons Nursery in The Boulevard, Aberfeldie/Moonee Ponds [Melway Map 28, C6] from 8:30 am onwards. Please notify me beforehand, Monday at the latest.

At the end of the walk we will have the opportunity to have a bit of a get together but you will need to find out more details about this from me.

For anyone who would like to try to reach the meeting point by not so easy, but I will be able to meet them at some point nearby if the arrangements fit in with my plans.

Please contact me, Sandra Mutimer, via the Club if you would like more details about this walk, but do not leave it until the Tuesday beforehand because I will be difficult to contact then.



Sunday bus CAPE SCHANK - RYE OCEAN BEACH

DATE	Sunday 17 December 2006
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	15 and 17 km approx.
LEADERS	Liz Moore and Jacky McGrath
TRANSPORT	Bus - Southbank Blvd

This walk is a very interesting beach walk with great coastal vistas, slices of coastal Ti-tree and beach. Both walks commence at Cape Schanck, the Easy/Medium walk visiting the boardwalk, the Easy beginning at the Pines Picnic Area.

The track is through beautiful coastal forest. The Ti-tree gives way to beach. St Andrews, and Gunnammatta beckon, before arriving at Rye Back Beach, a most beautiful beach to finish the walk. Both walks get to experience first hand an interesting sight - Boag Rock - Melbourne Water pumps close to 70% of Melbourne's sewage into the water here each day.

This walk is an interesting slice of coastal Victoria, giving an insight into the marvellous and beautiful back beach areas of the peninsula. You will enjoy it. We hope you can come along on the day.



CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP PARTY - TRADES HALL

DATE	Wednesday 20 December 2006
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	Not far
LEADER	Charlotte Bradly
TRANSPORT	Private or Public
TIME	7.00 pm
AREA	Trades Hall, Cnr Russell & Victoria Sts

The main bar will be open exclusively for Melbourne Bushwalkers members to purchase drinks ... please bring a plate of your favourite food to share.



TOFS KALORAMA, MT DANDENONG

DATE	Thursday 4 January 2007
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	10 km
LEADER	Bob Steel - 9725 6171
TRANSPORT	Private
MAP REFERENCE	Melway, maps 52 and 66

We will start walking at the Kalorama Five Ways. Easiest route is along Canterbury Road to Montrose then up the Mt Dandenong Tourist Road to Kalorama. Meet at 10.15 outside the café. Get there early if you want a coffee before starting the walk.

We will walk along tracks to the Mt Dandenong Observatory and Bistro where we can have morning tea. Very nice bistro, I had a lovely lunch there recently. There will be time to wander around the gardens near the Observatory. They were developing a Hedge Maze when I last visited, which may be open by January. There is also an English Garden and a Wishing Tree!

We will continue past the TV towers to Burkes Lookout Reserve where we will have lunch. We continue down the Channel 10 track, to pick up Dactite track and Fireline track to return to Kalorama. Lets hope it is a clear day for views over the city and the Bay.

Carry plenty of water as it could be HOT! Afternoon tea will be in the café at Kalorama. Phone me to let me know you are coming so I will know to wait if you are running late.

A few words from the Walks Secretary



Walks Secretaries to be abolished!

We won't actually be physically terminating them, but, both the Walks Secretary and the Assistant Walks Secretary positions will be abolished at the AGM in February and replaced by a new system.

Why are we doing this?: It has been obvious for some years that the walks secretary position is too onerous for one person. The club risks not being able to find a suitable person to take on the position and it's workload. Without a walks secretary there is no walks program and hence no club. In addition there has been ambiguity and overlap in the area of Sunday walks between the two existing roles. In order to make the roles less onerous, spread the workload among more people and therefore make it easier to attract people to the roles, the two existing positions will be abolished and replaced by four or five new ones, all more specific in their duties and hence easier. The position names used are not necessarily final and we may come up with better ones. Only the first two positions will be official committee positions. The other position holders could of course still be on committee as "general committee or any other position. The new positions will be:

General Walks Secretary (Committee position): Will be primarily an administrative role and will not involve coming up with walk ideas or finding leaders. We will have separate coordinators for those roles. He/she will therefore not need to be an experienced walker with a good knowledge of walk areas. He will coordinate the compilation of the activities program, receiving lists of trips and leaders from the Sunday walks secretary and the other coordinators, endeavouring to avoid any undesirable date clashes between trips. He may have to remind them of deadlines. He will email or post the required paperwork to all leaders except Sunday bus leaders, receive and file walk reports, keep stats and prepare an annual report.

Sunday Walks Secretary (Committee position): Will need to be someone actively doing Sunday walks with a reasonable working knowledge of day walking areas and be able to work with leaders. He will be responsible for all aspects of the Sunday bus walks, including convening a planning meeting each quarter to draw up a program, finding leaders and giving the general walks secretary a list of walks and leaders by the deadline date, emailing or posting out paperwork to leaders, receiving and filing walk reports, issuing credit notes, keeping stats and preparing an annual report. He will be assisted by an assistant Sunday walks secretary

Assistant Sunday Walks Secretary: An active Sunday walker who will assist the Sunday walks secretary in various ways including by standing in for him when he is on holidays or cannot be at clubnights, being on the walks planning committee, issuing credit notes etc. Would be ideal for a newer member who could take over as Sunday walks sec in some future year

Co-ordinators

- Pack Carry Coordinator
- Base Camp & Lodge Coordinator

These two positions involve coming up with trips and leaders for the quarterly program and generally dealing with any issues involving trips and leaders. The two would try to work in together, probably having a joint planning meeting to avoid date clashes. The general walks secretary will advise of deadline dates and the coordinators will give him a list of walks and leaders for inclusion in the program. Coordinators do not get involved in the paperwork or stats side of things. The General Walks Secretary does that.

We already have the positions of coordinators for Wednesday walks, Dandenongs Explorer walks, TOFS walks and Skiing. Any types of trips not covered by these categories eg canoeing, cycling, special Saturday day walks etc can still go onto the program at the initiative of the leader by simply giving the activity name and dates to the general walks secretary. He will not be actively canvassing for these trips. That is not his job. We could also have a cycling coordinator if there is a demand and a volunteer.

There is of course nothing to stop one person taking on more than one role, eg combined pack carry and base camp/lodge coordinator. The general walks secretary could even take a coordinator role if he felt he could deal with both roles properly.



By making these changes we will spread the workload involved in running the activities program among more people, clarify the roles' responsibilities and accommodate people's preferences for a particular type of work such as admin or planning and dealing with leaders. This should make it easier to get members to take on the roles and ensure the longterm future of our club.

So now we will need candidates for these positions in February. Think about whether you would like to nominate. The outgoing walks secretary will not be taking up any of the new positions but will be happy to talk to you about the positions and will continue to be available for mentoring and advice after the AGM.

That's it from me - till next month.

Jopie Bodegraven

MEMBERSHIP STATS:

Life Members	13	
Honorary Members	11	
Single memberships	333	
Family memberships	110	(2 x 55)
Total membership	467	
This time last year	460	



Base camp OTWAYS COASTAL EXPLORATORY

DATE 13-16 November 2006
LEADER Jopie Bedegraven
As advised last month, this walk has been cancelled.



Base camp FEDERATION WEEKEND - BRIGHT

DATE 17-19 November 2006
ORGANISER Max Casley
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME Sunday evening

The preview for this event was in News last month but here is the latest information. There are a lot of different walks offered. On the Friday around Bright there are 4 walks. On the Saturday there are 10 walks at Buffalo, 2 at Falls Creek and 5 at Mt Hotham. On the Sunday there are 7 walks around Buffalo and 4 around Bright. Other activities offered are cycling, underground river exploration, abseiling and hand gliding.

So far 26 people from our Club have booked in and you are most welcome to join us.

Event registration is from 1 pm to 10:30 pm Friday and re-opens 7:00 am Saturday at the River Lodge (Bright Caravan Park).

The costs are - \$15 registration fee (including bus transport and booklet describing the walks); \$10 optional BBQ Saturday night (vegie burgers available); \$25 optional "Bright & Beyond" Polo shirt.

Payments should be made in advance and they will be sent on as a group booking from Melbourne Bushwalkers.

Note, water needs to be carried on all the walks. Be prepared for cold and wet weather on Mt Buffalo. A fold-up chair would be handy for Saturday evening. Bring a name badge if you have one. Pre-packed lunches can be ordered from Mt Buffalo Chalet (1800 037 038) and the café is open during the day.

Most of us will be staying at Alpine Cabins Holiday Park, 1 Mountbatten Avenue, Bright tel 1800 033188. Tent spaces are \$10 per night and there is a big under-cover kitchen & communal area for our use.

Enquiries: Max Casley via the Club.

Federation of Victoria Walking Club



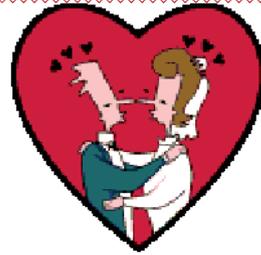
FVWC CONSERVATION & TRACK MAINTENANCE

Steve Robertson (FVWC Conservation Convenor) has announced that the Federation's application to Envirofund has been successful and that \$32,968

has been allocated for Mossbed Rehabilitation over the next eighteen months.

The following work days have been scheduled. Please contact Mark Heath if you are interested in attending.

- 26 November 2006 Freemans Mill
- 2/3 December 2006 Bogong High Plains
- 26-28 January 2007 Mossbed Rehabilitation
- 26 November 2006 Freemans Mill



Wedding Bells

*Congratulations to
Mark Tischler and
Therese Pollard
on their recent marriage*



Pack carry

MT HOWITT VIA TWO DIFFERENT SPURS

DATE 24-26 November 2006
STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADER Gerry Grandage
TRANSPORT Private
MAP REFERENCE Howitt-Selwyn

This walk will go up Mt. Howitt from the Upper Howqua via the Howitt Spur, returning down the Stanley Name Spur. The Howitt Spur is the most straightforward of the four spurs leading to the Howitt/Speculation area and offers a relatively painless entry to one of the more spectacular regions of Victoria's high country. Saturday night's campsite will be in an inspiring location overlooking the Terrible Hollow with great views of the Viking and Razor etc.



Cycling

WARBURTON RAIL TRAIL

DATE 25-26 November 2006
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE Approx 40 km each day
LEADER Jan Palich
TRANSPORT Car or Train to Lilydale Station
RETURN TIME Approx 4 pm Sunday
AREA Dandenongs (east of Melbourne)
MAP REFERENCE Warburton Rail trail

Saturday - cycling Lilydale to Warburton - departing 9.30 am from Lilydale Station. Sunday - returning from Warburton to Lilydale - departing 9.30'ish from Warburton.

This is one of Australia's best recreation trails - the "Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail" is a lovely ride through varied countryside - forests, farms, beside rivers, through sleepy country towns. We will be commencing from Lilydale Station on Saturday morning and stopping for a "surprise" morning tea and then a picnic lunch on the way. Sunday for those that wish will include a visit to a local bakery for lunch. Expect a few hills, we will be cycling on gravel tracks along the old train line from Lilydale to Warburton, so experience with cycling is necessary.

Could you bring either a nibbly contribution for "Happy Hour" on Saturday night, or something for a late night coffee; and in between, we will be going to a local restaurant for dinner.

Accommodation is at the Warburton Caravan Park where I have booked a lodge that caters for 9 people (all bikes outside). There is no limit to the group, as those that are unable to located inside can bring tents. This is very pretty area with lots of trees.

The lodge has outside doors into the kitchen and 2 bathrooms, as well as the main room. Cost - camping is approx \$8 p/p and lodge approx \$15 p/p. Details of what you need to take - ie Sleeping bags (or hire sheets/doonas) will be available at the club rooms when you book. Bookings are essential.



Work Party BOGONG NATIONAL PARK

DATE	1-3 December 2006
LEADER	Bill Metzenthén
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Mt Beauty – Alpine National Park
MAP REFERENCE	Bogong Alpine Area Outdoor Leisure Map

We often walk in the Alpine National Park. This is not a walk but is an opportunity for you to give something back to the park.

We will be working under the supervision of Parks Victoria rangers.

The tasks we will perform are still being planned but they will be simple and not require any particular skills apart from a willingness to contribute. Some of the things which you might be doing include pruning, raking, and digging the shallow drainage channels you see on tracks. Some of us might also be cleaning up in and around a hut or two.

The current plan is to camp at Mountain Creek. Parks Victoria will provide a barbecue dinner on the Saturday night.

The attractions of the weekend include being in the mountains, the wildflowers at this time of the year, and the warm inner glow from a job well done.



Pack carry MT McDONALD - THE NOBS

DATE	8-10 December 2006
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	30 km
LEADER	Lesley Hale
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Late Sunday
AREA	Great Dividing Range, Alpine National Park
MAP REFERENCE	A bit of the area is in lots of maps: NatMap 1:100 000 Howitt; Mansfield VicMap 1: 50,000 Tamboritha-Moroka VicMap 1: 25 000 Skene North VMTC 1: 50 000 Watersheds of King, Howqua, Jamieson Rivers

This high ridge walk offers an opportunity to experience the dramatic scenery of the Victorian Alps: extensive views, deep valleys, snowgum forests, and snow grass meadows above the tree line. Bring gear for all weathers; water-divining skills might also be useful.

We start travelling on Friday: 220k northeast to Jamieson (at least 3 hours); then a further slow 60k to the start of the walk at Low Saddle (900m), on the Alpine Walking Track.

The circuit takes us to Mt MacDonald (1620m) and along the ridge to camp at the Nobs (1490m) where we hope to find water nearby (but may have to descend to fetch it from the creek further below). On Sunday we descend the Nobs Spur to Barkly River (East Branch) and back up to the cars at the Saddle.

We start the walk with another 8 or so folk who are walking a further week along the Alpine Walking Track with Gina Hopkins. They are hoping that our group can assist in transporting them here to the start of their "through" walk. 4WD vehicles will be most welcome for the last sector of our travel to the Saddle.

For more information see me in the Club rooms.



Pack carry AAWT - MT McDONALD - MT HOTHAM

DATE	8-17 December 2006
STANDARD	Medium/Hard
DISTANCE	110km (including side trips)
LEADER	Gina Hopkins
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Alpine National Park
MAP REFERENCE	Vicmap 1:25,000 Skene North; Vicmap 1:50,000 Tamboritha-Moroka, Howitt- Selwyn, Dargo Plains-Cobungra

This section of the Australian Alps Walking Track covers some of the best parts of the Victorian high country - Mt McDonald, Mt Howitt, Razor - Viking, to name a few. It is possible to visit this area in several weekend trips, and the Club has done this, but this walk will link all the bits together.

We'll begin from Low Saddle, 8 km south of Mt McDonald, and for the first day we will have the company of the weekend walkers. We say farewell to them at the Nobs, and then continue on to Mt Clear, Mt Magdala, Crosscut Saw, the Viking, Mt Selwyn, Mt Murray and onto Hotham. Water may be difficult to find in some places given the dry conditions we have had, but hopefully we'll get some more rain by then. Some days will be fairly short with optional side trips, like to the Razor.

This is a joint walk with the VMTC walking club. We will meet up with their weekend walkers at the end of the walk at Mt Murray and the Twins. Transport logistics are by no means certain at this stage and will depend on final numbers, but I expect that petrol costs will be in the order of \$90 to \$100 per person (more than my initial estimate!).

Number of walkers will be limited to 10. I have already received expressions of interest from that number, but if you are interested I will put your name on a waiting list. Contact me via the Club.



Base camp RUBICON RIVER AND MT TORBRECK

DATE	1-3 December 2006
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER	Jopie Bodegraven
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Between Marysville and Eildon
MAP REF	Rooftops Marysville-Lake Eildon Adventure Map. Also 4 of the 1:25,000 maps.

This will be a weekend of camping in a lovely camping area by a river not too far from Melbourne with walks through tall eucalypt forest along swiftly flowing aqueducts and to the summit of the closest 5,000 ft mountain to Melbourne

On the Saturday we walk the Rubicon Tramline, built to service the aqueduct which it follows. The aqueduct supplies water to the Rubicon-Royston hydroelectric scheme, possibly Victoria's oldest hydropower scheme and one of the smallest. The route crosses some old trestle bridges and passes through beautiful tall eucalypt forest. The walk is 17km with about 140m of climbing, but can be shortened to 10km by leaving out a there and back side trip, or extended by 3 km to visit another small dam and aqueduct.

On Sunday we drive around to climb Mt Torbreck, a walk of 9km return with a climb of 625 metres. The summit is at 1516 metres, so is subalpine with snow gums and views. There will be the option



Base camp ... continued ...

RUBICON RIVER AND MT TORBRECK

DATE 1-3 December 2006

of descending by a different route involving an extra 2 ½ km of which 2 km is off track, recommended for the more adventurous in the group. Then we will have a brief stop at Snobs Creek Falls on the way out

We will be camping at Kendalls Camping area next to the Rubicon River. To get there travel to Taggerty, take the Thornton Rd (towards Eildon) and after about 9 to 11 km, just before the road crosses the Rubicon River, turn right into the Rubicon Road. The bitumen finishes after about 5 km and after a further half a km or so, turn left into Kendalls Camping area. In the unlikely event that it has rained a lot, we may relocate to the second Kendalls Camping area, about half a km further along the gravel road.

Come along for a most enjoyable weekend.



CHRISTMAS TRIPS



Pack carry

BLUE RAG RA-WONGUNGURRA RIVER



DATE 26 December to 1 January 2007
 STANDARD Hard
 LEADER Jopie Bodegraven
 TRANSPORT Private cars
 RETURN TIME Afternoon on New Years Day
 AREA Alps south west of Mt Hotham
 MAP REFERENCE Dargo Plains – Cobungra 1:50,000

There is a range south west of Mt Hotham called the Blue Rag Range which is a quite spectacular ridge walk with a high point of 1718 metres. Draining the basin between this and the main divide to the north is one of Victoria's true wilderness rivers, the Wongungurra.

Our plan is to spend a day walking out on this spectacular range and dropping down a steep spur into the Wongungurra headwaters, then following the river downstream for 3 days, and finally on day 5 with light packs, climbing back up onto the Blue Rag Range and walking along its length back to the cars. It is a circuit walk so no car shuffle is required.

Last Easter we crossed the Wongungurra part way along the section I intend exploring. It was beautiful and made me want to see more. In addition we exited along the Blue Rag Range cramped up in the back of a Land Cruiser stuffed full of people and we couldn't appreciate the beautiful scenery that we were getting tantalising glimpses of. I longed to come back and walk it so I could drink it all in properly. I also have an article from a Wild Magazine describing a descent down the river and it sounded both challenging and very interesting.

But be warned. This is not a trip for the faint hearted. It is thoroughly exploratory The river sections are only about 5 ½, 6 and 4km a day but it will be slow and rough with much wading in possibly cold water with the chance of falling in. Good rock-hopping skills are essential. The second and third campsites on the river are OK but the first night's camp on the river is a totally unknown quantity.

Contact me via the Club if you want to join me on this adventure.



Pack carry

SNOWY MOUNTAINS (Kosciusko – Jagungal area)



DATE 23 December to 1 January 2007
 STANDARD Medium
 LEADER Jerry Grandage
 TRANSPORT Private
 AREA Snow Mountains, NSW
 MAP REFERENCE 1:25,000 Perisher V Valley, Geehi Dam, Jagungal (3 maps, all available in Melbourne)

This is a trip for people who like to spend Christmas Day on the track. The overall format will be similar to Ralph Blake's trip last Christmas. Following the drive up to Charlotte's Pass on 23 Dec., the first three days will involve day walks in the Main Range from a fixed base located a few kilometres from the roadhead. We will then do a five day pack-carry which will hopefully take in Jagungal, but the precise route will depend on the number of cars that we have and also on whether a certain key section of the track has been opened by management after being severely burnt in the January 2003 bushfires. Whatever we do, you will see a section of Australia's highest land at its magnificent best and you will also witness the post-fire recovery.

If you think you might be interested please let me know as soon as possible, preferably by the end of November – this will assist in planning the trip. Also let me know if you're interested only in the pack-carry, commencing the morning of Dec. 27, and not for the first three days.



Base camp

CONGLOMERATE CREEK-BRYCE'S GORGE(Walk-in)



DATE 26 December to 3 January 2007
 STANDARD Easy Medium
 LEADER Lance Mobbs
 TRANSPORT Private cars
 AREA Alps north of Licola
 MAP REFERENCE Tamboritha-Moroka 1:50,000

The Snowy Plains is a wonderful place to visit during the warmer months with an abundance of alpine flowers blooming. This walk will suit everybody from the novice bushwalker who has just joined and wishes to experience camping to the more experienced walkers, so for those who have not experienced camping before, I will be more than happy to help with any enquires.

This is a walk in base camp where we will go in and set up camp along the Conglomerate creek approximately 3.5 kms from Guy's Hut car park. It is an easy walk in and we will have a day to get our gear in to camp and a day to leave. The Campsite is well sheltered and there should be plenty of water.

We will be doing day walks which will entail some travel by cars to the starting points. Most of the walks will be graded easy with an occasional easy/medium walk.

Note: Even though the dates stated on the walks list is Dec. 26th-Jan 1st, I am extending it to the 3rd of Jan as usual.

For anyone who is interested in the camp I will be in the Club rooms on Wednesday nights and the chrispy party.



Base camp
DAY WALKS IN TASMANIA



Base camp
CANOEING UPPER MURRAY RIVER



DATE 26 December to 6 January 2007
 STANDARD Easy Medium
 LEADER Peter McGrath
 DISTANCE 15-17 kms each day
 TRANSPORT Spirit of Tasmania
 MAP REFERENCE Tasmania, Dept of Primary Industries Water & Environment: Cradle Mountain (Day Walk Map & Notes), Mount Field National Park (Map & Notes), Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair National Park (Map & Notes)

Tasmania is a splendid place at Christmas time - full of romance, and just that bit cooler than the mainland.

We will visit Cradle Mountain, Lake St Clair and Mt Field National Parks. We will enjoy 6 day walks. Accommodation will be cabin style (approximate cost \$40 per night).

It is planned we will depart 7:00 pm Tuesday 26 Dec 06 and travel overnight on the Spirit of Tasmania, returning 7:00 am Saturday 6 Jan 07. Travel will be via car, with car groups allocated. Numbers are limited to 15. We are encouraging people to travel by Spirit of Tasmania, as we need cars once we are over there.

This walk will close on 1 December 2006 as we need to finalise accommodation by then. Please, if you would like to come see me in the Club rooms.

DATE 26 - 30 December 2006
 STANDARD Medium
 DISTANCE 3 day trips 20-35 kms
 LEADER Joy Grinham
 TRANSPORT Private - 450 from Melbourne to Tintalra
 Three days on the Upper Murray. Paddling round the bends with Mt. Kosci silhouetted on the skyline, meeting with pastoral scenes as we meander along a river full of exciting challenges. Not for the faint-hearted. You will need to have the confidence to handle strong currents, be wary of the willows and a sense of fun. Some experience is required. Check in with the leader if you have any doubts.

As it is summer, we will be base camping at a local pub, doing day trips that vary in distance from 20 to 35 kms a day. Emphasis is on enjoying what the river has to offer, rather than rushing from one point to another. Limited supplies can be bought at Walwa 20 kms from Tintalra where we will be based. A visit to each of the three historic pubs for dinner will bring the day to a relaxing finish.

*Non-paddlers may like to holiday at the Upper Murray Holiday Resort for a relaxing high country holiday. A group booking can be made for a cottage if 6 people are interested and paddlers can stop over to celebrate the New Year if they wish to extend their stay. If interested, look at www.umhr.com.au for details.

Costs: canoe hire and transport (\$100 for 3 days) per person.

Free camping in pub grounds, hot showers (\$2), meals and ice available (cash only – no EFTPOS)

Contact: Joy Grinham via the Club.

Canoeing is a dry sport.....

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

Bushwalking in Kakadu



Have your say!

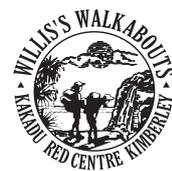
Many members of the **Melbourne Bushwalkers** have done walks in Kakadu. Many more may wish to do so in the future.

Where they will or will not be permitted to walk and what they will or will not be permitted to do will be determined by a major review of bushwalking in the park.

Most of Kakadu is out of bounds. Bushwalkers are restricted to certain approved routes, the number of which has been dropping. New restrictions have been placed on day walks. Carrying a satellite phone might become a requirement on long walks. Penalties may apply to those who ignore these restrictions. What next?

I (Russell Willis) was recently appointed to the Kakadu Tourism Consultative Committee as the first and only representative of the bushwalking community. As a founder, past president and life member of the Darwin Bushwalking Club and as the sole bushwalking tour operator in the park, I want to see better conditions for all bushwalkers. Comments from **Melbourne Bushwalkers**, either as a club or as individuals, would help me ensure that things get better rather than worse.

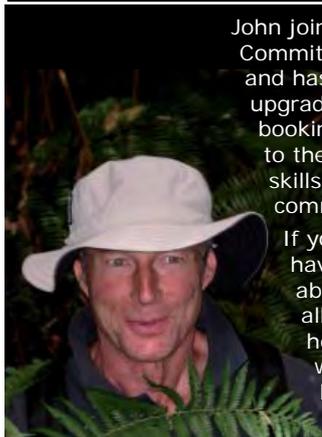
www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au



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

Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355

**committee member profile:
equipment officer - John Fritze**



John joined the Melbourne Bushwalkers Committee in February this year and has enthusiastically set about upgrading the club's equipment and booking processes. He has brought to the committee great analytical skills and is an extremely dedicated committee member.

If you do Sunday walks you may have been surprised by John's ability to be take pictures endlessly all day from all sorts of angles and heights; and if you do weekend walks with John you may have heard from him the virtues of "packing light".

THE NEWS OF THE EQUIPMENT STORE

This is the first of what we hope will become a regular spot for the sharing of bushwalking tips. This month the focus is on cheap gear.

Cheap gas: You can buy 230g propane gas canisters from Anaconda in Bayswater for \$2.99 each – a worthwhile saving on the usual price of at least \$7.

Cheap packs: We were going to recommend the Macpac "Ravine" as a great buy at \$200 but its just gone up to \$230 (less your 10% club discount). Still if you like the idea of a simple, strong and light traditional pack of about 65L you will be hard pushed to find anything better. But don't delay. It's part of a dying breed that is succumbing to relentless consumer pressure for bells and whistles at the expense of durability and weight.

Cheap containers: We don't know where to get them but if you do, let us know. We would like to build up a collection of the small lightweight variety (like the ones pictured) for on-selling to club members. We would also like to be able to provide those tiny tubes of toothpaste that the airlines hand out, particularly the plastic variety that can be refilled. Let us know if you can find a source.

Cheap stove windshields: You can buy a suitable piece of aluminium flashing from the equipment store for \$2 .

Cheap gear discounts: You can get a 10% discount at specialist bushwalking shops simply by producing your VicWalk card.

If you have tips, queries or information send an email to John at equipment@melbournebushwalkers.org.au



WALK SECRETARY'S REPORT

What the club did in September (trip stats):

Activity	Date	Trip	Grade	People
Sunday Bus	3	Lerderderg River – Blackwood	E/M M	40
	10	Hawkes Hill – Mollisons Creek	E E/M	39
	20	Flinders – Somers	E E/M	46
	24	Daylesford-Jubilee Lake-Sailors Falls	E/M M	45
TOFS	7	Tomahawk Creek (Kurth Kiln)	E	9
Wednesday		Goldie Flora Reserve (nr Kilmore)	E/M	12
Dand Expl	20	National Rhododendron Garden	E	18
Base Camp	15-17	Cooks Mill - cancelled		
	29-1	Grampians - Stapylton Camp Grd	E/M	11
Pack Carry	22-24	Leanganook Track (Castlemaine)	E	14
Ski Lodge	22-24	Hotham - cancelled, no snow		



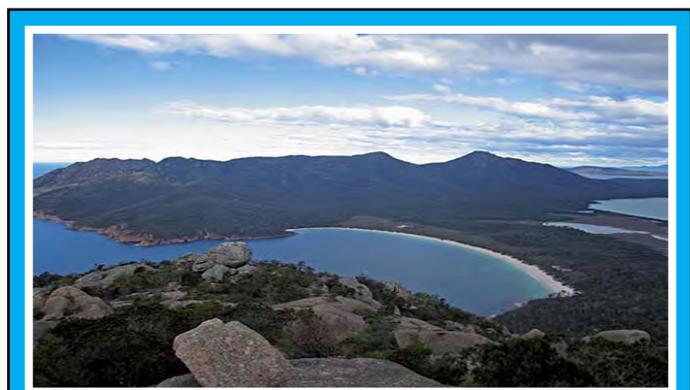
Committee positions becoming vacant

Committee members who hold the following positions will be stepping down at the next AGM (February 2007). Give some consideration to whether you may like to take a turn in on the committee next year in one of these positions.

Treasurer: Doug Langton has for the last three years kept track of the club's finances, and will not be nominating for a further year. Anyone who has an interest in this committee position please speak to Doug. If you have some book-keeping or accounting background the position is very simple. Even if you don't have that experience, as Doug didn't, the position is straightforward. The Treasurer is required to maintain a journal and complete the Club's books using Quicken Personal software. This is an interesting position and simple means of being part of the workings of the club.

Social Secretary:

Charlotte Bradly has for the past two years held the position of social secretary, but has decided to step down at the next AGM. We therefore need someone else to take over this position, who has the energy and passion to create and plan social activities for fellow bushies, including keeping those ever popular cheese'n wine nights regularly happening. Telephone Charlotte to discuss what's involved.



Walking the two parks - Tasmania

Expressions of interest for Tasmania next Easter requested.

In response to interest on a recent trip to Freycinet National Park and Maria Island National Park we are planning another trip. A full review of the trip is in this Newsletter in the member review section.

It is possible to arrange a walk on Maria Island, which we consider the best option with its peaks, coastal features and history.

Grading would be easy/medium with medium options.

Planned departure date is leave Melbourne Thursday pm 5 April and return Monday pm 9 April 2007. Approximate costs: airfare \$200 return; airport shuttle and Hobart accommodation \$40; coach to ferry and return to airport \$110 (or less if more than 6 persons); ferry \$25 return; parks pass \$30; a total of around \$405.

If you're interested, contact Bob Oxlade via the Club (before December) as early bookings are essential.

Member Reviews

Walking the “Two Parks”

Freycinet and Maria Island National Parks, Tasmania

2-10 September, 2006



The Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania starts its Freycinet National Park pamphlet with high praise: “Freycinet National Park offers visitors a range of wonderful opportunities to enjoy spectacular coastal scenery, colourful wildflowers and a variety of Tasmania’s animal life.” It was all of that and more! As the first stage of an eight day trip, which also included the absorbing Maria Island National Park, our 128km walk along coastal tracks, through diverse inland forests, up rugged mountain peaks and amongst historic settlements left us wholly satisfied but thirsting for more.

Our itinerary painstakingly put together by Bob Oxlade left no detail to chance and ensured that we could make the most of our time to explore all of the significant attractions. And if we had any concerns that our bus connections were a bit tight the ever-helpful locals anticipated our needs and put our minds at rest. It was only up to us to meet the challenges of the terrain.

In characteristic form Bob had proposed we commence our first day’s walk from the Freycinet Walking Tracks Carpark to the campsite at Hazards Beach with a “short” side trip up Mt Amos, an imposing granite peak (422m) set amongst The Hazards mountain cluster. The name of the cluster itself invokes a sense of awe! The steeply climbing track over sheets of bare rock commands respect. Once at the peak, however, the panoramic views across the heralded Wineglass Bay and down the peninsula made the effort well worthwhile. It was at this early stage that Bob displayed the special relationship he has with the weather man. An onset of rain which would have made our descent slow and more demanding was delayed until we were safely on flatter paths, an uncanny ability which let us enjoy ideal walking conditions for most of the week.

An easier second day on the track saw us move camp a further 12km to Cooks Corner campsite before setting out on another side trip to Bryans Corner, at a cove on the southern end of the peninsula. Erosion of the coastal dunes caused by heavy seas had exposed a fascinating collection of oyster and scallop shells, long buried in deep layers along the new sea wall – possibly the site of long-lost Aboriginal visitation?

Back at Cooks Corner the partially restored hut provided a welcome shelter for a hearty evening meal in preparation for the pending ascent to Freycinet Saddle (381m) and Mt Graham (579m) on our way back to Wineglass Bay. Anticipating a long day we chose to set out early and were well on our way by 7:00am. Favoured again by fair weather we made better than expected progress which saw us at the saddle before 9:15am and ready for our next side trip to

the peak of Mt Freycinet (620m). The panoramic views from the top were stunning, covering the lower peninsula and Bryans Corner as well as the upper peninsula back across Wineglass Bay to the Hazards and beyond. Listed as an optional side leg of the standard circuit walk it is another climb well worth the effort. The adjacent and more accessible Mt Graham too provides breathtaking views that complement those from Mt Freycinet.

Wineglass Bay features prominently in the tourist literature and from our brief visit it is easy to understand why. A sheltered bay with a broad expanse of white sands within easy reach of the Park entrance makes it a popular place to visit. Notably, given our Winter schedule, it was the first place we met other walkers since we set foot on Hazards Beach on the other side of the isthmus two days earlier.

Returning on the morning of the fourth day to the Park access point at Coles Bay, followed by a quick cold shower, we were on our way to the next stage at the Maria Island National Park.

Boasting many of the same natural features as the Freycinet National Park, Maria Island is also an archive of European settlement of the east coast of Tasmania. Remnants of penal architecture, agricultural occupation and failed industrial enterprise have all left their mark. The old Coffee Palace become museum located within the former Darlington Township is a “must visit” for those interested in knowing more.

Two prominent high points form part of the course of serious walkers to the island – Bishop and Clerk on the northern end near the remaining settlement and Park entry at Darlington and Mt Maria (709m) further south. Indeed we set off for the former not long after our arrival on our fifth walking day.

Within comfortable reach of Darlington along well marked paths across cleared meadows, skirting precipitous coastal cliff tops, and through she-oak and stringybark forests, the walk belies the challenge of its final ascent, a scramble across dolerite scree slopes before nerve-wrenching scaling of exposed rock faces to the flat table-top pinnacle with sheer drops all around. The exhilaration of the views from the top was matched by the joy of having made the ascent.

Our efforts that night were rewarded by a stay in one of the former penitentiary cells converted into bunk accommodation. A slow combustion stove bordered on luxury compared with our stay the night before at the Triabunna backpackers where the room temperature plummeted to just 1°C.



View from Bishop and Clerk

Member Reviews

Walking the “Two Parks” ... continued ...

With Tasmanian Pademelon (rufous wallaby) and Cape Barren Geese to see us off from the penitentiary quadrangle we started day six with a brisk 3.5km walk to the Mt Maria turnoff where we dropped our packs before commencing our next side trip. The highest peak of our trip proved to be as demanding as the others and equally as rewarding. Often shrouded in cloud we called on Bob's special relationship with the weather man to give us almost unhindered views of the whole island before making our way down. Camp for the next two nights was at Frenchs Farm where the old farmhouse maintained with the help of the Hobart Walking Club was transformed into a gourmet kitchen as we dined in style.

A 30km day walk to Haunted Bay at the southern end of the island and then around to Robeys Farm almost completed our trip. There remained only the coastal walk from Frenchs Farm back to Darlington and we were on our way home. But it would be remiss to understate the emotional impact of a visit to Robeys Farm. Isolated from other habitation the partially restored residence is a poignant reminder of the joys and hardships that were met to make Moria Island what it is today.

The “two Parks” trip is one of the best I have done, with thanks to Bob's thorough planning. I strongly recommend that it should appear on the program again. For those that missed it this time the club's website photogallery lets you share some of what we saw and did.

Ian Mair

Cathedral Ranges

8-9 October 2006

John Fritz's original plan was to walk in the Grampians, but the recent bushfires put an end to that idea. After untold phone calls and discussion, John decided that the Cathedral ranges would be a safer place for the weekend. We met at Little River and ten intrepid souls started off from the Little River car park with a spring in their step. We made our way through stringybark forest where the first wildlife of the weekend was spotted. There was some discussion whether this was a yellow bellied black snake or a brown snake, but it had slithered away so it remains a mystery, and I am not sure if there is such a creature. At this stage we also spotted the only fungi of the weekend, and this was a strange protuberance halfway up a tree.

The track kept on up and up through the forest where there we were treated to spectacular displays of native mint, heath, gorse, orchids and other unidentified flora in full bloom. It was a perfect time to walk in this area.

The Cathedral Ranges feature a 7km rocky ridge of upturned sedimentary rock - very impressive and very steep, reaching 850m. By midmorning we found ourselves facing quite a challenge. How do we get to the top? While John nimbly scrambled up the side of the cliff, the rest of us clambered, pulled, pushed and heaved until we got to the top of this magnificent formation. The rocks have been thrust sideways from an enormous pressure and the result is a great place for climbing and exploring. Once we reached the top we had exhilarating views along the narrow ridge and the surrounding country side. We took our time to savour the views and then slowly but surely made our way along the ridge. We headed to the “Farmyard”, where we set up our overnight camp. This location is not actually a farmyard but is named so because of the lyrebirds that imitate the calls of farm animals. I was hoping to hear some of their repertoire but I didn't hear one “farm” animal all night.



The rocky ridge and Kyffin Lewis

The only water available at this camp was a spring 20 minutes away, but when we found the spring we discovered that it was no longer a spring, but more correctly a trickle, and there was a queue of other campers patiently waiting to fill their bottles. (It was here that one person who will remain un-named tripped and split two containers of water that had taken 15 minutes to fill!).

Open fires were banned so we sat around Dell's red headlamp (for effect) while we ate our dinner and swapped food and stories.

Everybody turned in early - but this was Harvest Moon night and around one a.m. our tents were ablaze with brilliant moonlight. Only one soul sat there and toasted the moon – while everybody else snoozed on.

We awoke the next day to light drizzle, so we packed up quickly and after some exploration to the north peak and the south peak we continued on towards little cathedral. As we climbed, the weather changed from sunny to cold to windy to rainy to sunny, and we spent the whole time putting on and taking off wet weather gear.

At the top of little cathedral we were given another spectacular view of where we had been along the ridge. Then it was slipping and sliding down the saddle. Some very keen people went up yet another summit while the rest of us kept on towards Ned's Gully to get the kettle boiling. It was on the way to Ned's gully that we saw our first lyre birds strutting through the trees. The sun was shining as we had our lunch and then we followed the trail through fragrant pine forest and back to the cars at Little River. Then it was onto afternoon tea at Lilydale for coffee and scones.

For some of us this trip was quite an achievement, as it was supposed to be an “easy” walk in the Grampians it had morphed into a “challenging” climb up the side of a mountain range! Especially challenging because we discovered that the guidebooks state this walk is not suitable for pack carrying!

Thanks John for all your efforts into making this a very successful trip. Thanks to everybody for your great company and making the whole weekend such a great time. Special things: Spectacular ghost gums, magnificent views, mind-blowing harvest moon, glorious wildflowers, amazing sedimentary geology, lyre birds.

The group: Dell Franks, Richard Hanson, Eleonora Axelsson, Christine Salau, Katrina Murphy, Bob Oxdale, Kyffin Lewis, John Fritz, Leader and myself, Wendy Fortington.

Wendy Fortington