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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 Cents

Edition 667 SEPTEMBER 2006



Happy 40th
Birthday !

**WINTER
GROUP**

1966-2006+



Come along and help us celebrate this momentous occasion with a special

SUNDAY LUNCH

- When: Sunday, 8th October 2006, 12.30 pm
- Where: Fairfield Park Boathouse,
Fairfield Park Drive, Fairfield.
(Melway 30J12 – Off Heidelberg Road
at Panther Place).
- Cost expected to be around \$20

All those members, and especially those many
former members and kindred spirits

- all those memories
- all that lovely snow in times gone by!!

(Where has it all gone?!)

We'd love you to come!

It would be great if you had any special photos, jokes, memorabilia, etc. to share.

RSVP

by September Pub Night (Tuesday 26th September)
Loch or Jan or Becky

SEE YOU THERE!

**Members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.
Meet on Wednesday evenings
Between 7:00 & 9:00 pm in the Clubrooms,
Victorian Horticultural Society Hall,
48 MacKenzie Street, Melbourne.
Visitors are always welcome.**



General correspondence should be directed to:
The Secretary
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.
PO Box 1751
Melbourne Vic 3001

The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. is the newsletter of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. and is published monthly.

Editor: To Be Advised

Walk previews & reviews, articles, poems, news items, photographs of club events, reports of new gear, book reviews, letters to the Editor, advertisements, etc. are always welcome. The editor reserves the right to edit contributions where space, clarity or propriety dictate and to maintain editorial consistency.

Contributions to The News may be sent to The Editor by:

- Emailing to: news@melbournebushwalkers.org.au
- Placing diskette or hand written material in the Editor's pigeon hole in the clubrooms
- Posting diskette or hand written material to either:

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

Electronic mail is preferred.

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

Advertisements in The News
Only advertisements directly relating to bushwalking will be accepted (e.g. gear, maps, trips, tours, etc.).
Members' ads are free.

Advertising Rates (Artwork Ready)

In: printed edition only: as below, or printed & on-line editions: as below + 25% or on-line edition only: as below +25%.

Size	1 Issue	3 Issues	12 Issues (1 Year)
¼ Page	\$35	\$90	\$330
½ Page	\$55	\$150	\$550
Full Page	\$100	\$250	\$900

Melbourne Bush Walkers

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Friday 15th September at 7:30pm

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

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



**Cheese &
Wine
evening**

**Wednesday 20 September in the Clubrooms.
7:00 – 9:00pm**

Proposed Changes to VicWalk (Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs)

The Melbourne Bushwalking Committee needs your views.

Melbourne Bushwalking Club has been advised by VicWalk that they are reviewing their constitution and have given all clubs the opportunity to make comments. As a Club we have until the October VicWalk meeting to give feedback. The VicWalk Executive Committee plans to invite Presidents and Secretary's of all interested clubs to attend their December Council meeting to discuss and approve the changes, providing that the proposed changes meet with approval.

Please send your comments on VicWalk's proposed changes to the email address (below) and your Committee will then prepare a response to send on to VicWalk.

Detailed below are the main changes to the constitution, with additional detail on the section that will have an effect on you as members. To obtain a copy of the VicWalk Draft Constitution and Proposed Changes send an email to vicwalk.comment@melbournebushwalkers.org.au

Why is VicWalk reviewing their Constitution?

The VicWalk Strategic Plan 2006-2008 calls for a review of the organisation structure to provide for faster action on matters affecting bushwalkers; improve and speed up decision making processes; bring it into line with current practice in not for profit organizations; preserve ultimate democratic control by the membership and provide for individual membership

There are four (4) main changes to the Constitution

1. The present Council is replaced by an elected Board of Management.
2. Provision for individual/supporter membership.
3. New Rule 4(2) (d) access to Club member details.
4. Change of the name of the Organisation to "Bushwalking Victoria".

To expand on the New Rule

3. New Rule 4(2) (d) access to Club member details.

WHY

- To communicate directly to club members as well as non club individual members.
- To enable information to be communicated to members more efficiently.
- To be able to recruit candidates for office and other volunteer roles.
- To be in line with other organizations eg. Bicycle Victoria, Scouts/Guides etc.
- To ensure that members of multiple clubs pay only one insurance cost.

Communication methods to be used would be - monthly "E" letter; quarterly higher quality publication; email alerts regarding new information on the BWV website; email contact regarding important matters requiring member involvement.

Privacy

Information of members will be controlled by the BWV Secretary in accordance with the relevant privacy laws, the association's privacy policy and the association's by laws.

However, one point in the "Proposed Changes" states that:

- Conveners and others will not have access to the membership details. If such persons wish to communicate direct to members other than through the regular newsletter system they will require special approval of the Board. "

There are many questions on VicWalk's changes and the impact on you as members and I am sure you will think of them. Some are:

Question - Do you wish your personal details to be given to VicWalk?

Question - Do you agree to be contacted by VicWalk?

Question - Do you wish the VicWalk Board of Management to give your details to a third party ie. VicWalk Convenor via "special approval of the Board"?

Tell your Committee how you feel... have a say... send your comments... now!

Send to : vicwalk.comment@melbournebushwalkers.org.au



SUNDAY BUS: Tooboorac – Mollisons Creek

DATE Sunday 10 September 2006
 STANDARD Easy/ Easy Medium
 DISTANCE 15/17 km
 LEADER Doug Langton & Nik Dow
 TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blvd
 AREA 6:30 pm
 MAP REFERENCE Pyalong 1:50,000

We first climb Hawkes Hill where expansive views to the east towards the Goulburn valley are seen. The granite ridge extending from this hill is followed by both groups for approximately three kms where the shorter walk cuts down to the Lancefield road whilst the longer walk continues along the ridge line and climbs an extension of Hawkes Hill further south. They too then cut down and cross the Lancefield road at the site of two separate ruins and the old Sandy Creek bridge. Both groups then follow the same course across rolling paddocks with sheep. The first creek crossed is Sandy Creek and then Deep Creek which is flowing at the present time but simple to cross. This is followed until it runs into Mollisons Creek. The walk then follows upstream along this sandy but clear running tributary of the Goulburn River until it takes a sharp turn to the west into what is called "The Gorge". This is still in granite country but the quietly running water with occasional large pools plus some substantial gums makes for a delightful walk. We then climb out of the creek valley and cross open paddocks to the Hillview homestead. The walk is a wonderful combination of high and creek country and is mainly across fairly open country.



SUNDAY BUS: Mt Caroline – Break O’Day

DATE Sunday 1 October 2006
 STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium
 DISTANCE
 LEADER Les Southwell & Hans Edlinger
 TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blvd via Canterbury Rd & Lilydale
 RETURN TIME 6:00 – 6:30 pm
 AREA Yea area – Minto Hills, west of Melba Hwy
 MAP REFERENCE Mt Caroline, Flowerdale 1: 25,000

This walk is across open pastoral country and includes several hills and ridges with fine views in all directions. We start off near the Melba Highway and climb the summit of Mt Caroline (280 m climb) and then west along an undulating ridge, descending to the valley of the Tea Creek. The last part of the walk climbs a further 110 m along a fire access track among the trees.

TOFS: Blackhill Reserve (Kyneton)

DATE Thursday 5 October 2006
 STANDARD Easy
 DISTANCE 10 km
 LEADER Jean Giese
 TRANSPORT Private
 AREA Near Kyneton
 MAP REFERENCE Edgecombe 1:25:000

Black hill rises above the surrounding basalt plain and is largely composed of large granite outcrops. We trust its variety of spring flowers will be out by the time of our visit.

We plan walking through the adjacent Kyneton Ridge Winery which is prepared to provide a light lunch (Salmon Quicke & Salad, coffee/tea & small cake plus a choice of a glass of their wine) for a cost of \$20. Please book with leader by Friday 29 Sept if you would like to have lunch.

Meet at gate into reserve at 10:15. Take Edgecombe/Redesdale Road from the Calder Highway and travel north for 8+ kms, taking a turn east into Ennis Road.



CYCLE TRIP: Craigieburn Bypass

DATE Saturday 7 October 2006
 STANDARD Medium
 DISTANCE 50 km
 LEADER Mark Heath
 AREA Glenroy - Craigieburn

The ride will start from Glenroy station at 10.00 am (catch the 9.29 Broadmeadows from Flinders St if coming by train) and follow cycle paths along the Moonee Ponds and Yuroke creeks to Craigieburn then return on cycle paths alongside the Craigieburn Bypass and Ring Road to Glenroy. An interesting ride with some good views of the city.



SUNDAY BUS: Brisbane Ranges – Burchell Track North

DATE Sunday 8 October 2006
 STANDARD Easy & Medium
 DISTANCE 13 & 18 km
 LEADER Tom Wilanowski & Hans Blom
 TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blvd at 9 am
 RETURN TIME 7 pm
 AREA Brisbane Ranges National Park
 MAP REF Staughton Vale 7722-2-4

As many of you might remember, earlier this year devastating bushfires ravaged the Brisbane Ranges. The extensive damage that they caused resulted in closure of many roads and tracks, including most of the Burchell Trail. As the trail remains closed, we had to come up with alternative walk ideas. Both walks will start and finish at the Boar Gully Camping Area in the northern part of the Brisbane Ranges National Park. There will be several ups and downs, often quite steep, especially on the longer walk. You will be rewarded with surprisingly spectacular scenery, which may impress even those who visited this area before. Other attractions will include countless grass trees and abundant wildlife: kangaroos, wallabies, and perhaps even a koala or two. On the preview we saw a few wildflowers, and they should become more prolific by October.

Alas, this section of Brisbane Ranges is infected with cinnamon fungus (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*). Therefore we are required to comply with the quarantine regulations, keep to walking tracks and avoid muddy or wet areas. Also, in addition to boots change for the bus, all bushwalkers must wash their boots thoroughly after the walk to prevent the spread of this disease.

Note: Change of grade of the longer walk to that advised on the Spring Walks program.



SUNDAY BUS: Yea Spur

DATE	Sunday 15 October 2006
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/medium
DISTANCE	
LEADER	Dion Marriott & Mohammad
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd
RETURN TIME	
AREA	

Please contact the Leader

WEDNESDAY WALK: Mt Macedon Circuit

DATE	Wednesday 18 October 2006
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	17.5km
LEADER	Ian Mair
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Mt Macedon Regional Park
MAP REFERENCE	Woodend and Macedon 1:25000s

The area around Mt Macedon is an enchanted attraction close to Melbourne and is a frequent part of the club's program. (Photographs from the Sunday Bus walk on 4th June 2006 are available on the web site.) The circuit walk itself is varied over its distance of 17.5km and 400m vertical climb and offers a good workout for a day's walk. Going clockwise from Macedon township it takes in the highlights of the Memorial Cross Reserve, the Camel's Hump rock formation, the Sanatorium Lake Forest Eco-Tourism Trail, and Mount Towrong as well as some challenging climbs and easygoing mountain trails. From the Memorial Cross the views across to Woodend and the surrounding area on a nice day are worth the visit.

The walk will start and finish in the Mt Macedon township, hopefully with time to share a hot drink before heading back home. Snow is always possible if the weather is cold so check the forecast and be prepared. We will meet at the corner of Mt Macedon Road (C322) and Douglas Road at 10:30am. To get there follow the Calder Highway for 57km and exit onto the Mt Macedon Road which will take you a further 7km to the Mt Macedon township. Douglas Road is on the left after the shopping centre.

Please contact Ian Mair if you are planning to come or want further information.



SUNDAY BUS: Taradale - Fryerstown

DATE	Sunday 22 October 2006
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	13 km & 15 km
LEADER	Mick Noonan & David Laing
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd
AREA	6 to 6:30 pm

Both walks start at Taradale on the Calder Highway about 15 km south east of Castlemaine.

This walk is through the Fryers Ranges State Forest which is very hilly, its criss-crossed with walking and 4 wheel drive tracks, creek beds, telecom cables, gullies, and remnants of old mining areas. The tree cover is fairly dense (although the miners did not leave many of the original box trees) and with all the hills, gullies etc provides good opportunities to practice navigation and map reading especially on the off track sections of the longer walk (extra maps provided if you are interested!)

Both walks share the first 5-6 km and both have some off track. The off track is over ground with lots of forest debris and a few rocky outcrops. The easy walk has about a km up and over a hill then it's on 4 wheel drive tracks to Fryerstown. The harder walk has about 5 km of walking along the hill tops, spurs, Nuggetty Creek etc and visits two open cut rock/shale mines before descending into Fryerstown to see the cemetery and water race. Both walks finish at the Fryerstown Oval. Hard to believe Fryerstown once had 15000 people during the peak of the 19th century goldrush!

Both walks have some good views of the countryside and forests, particularly the harder walk with the views from the various hilltops.

On the preview we saw a number of kangaroos, birds and a range of domestic animals around Fryerstown. It was very dry when we did the preview, so you will need to carry extra water if its hot and dry in October. Hopefully it won't be as dry and there will be lots of flowers out. Bring good walking shoes and be prepared for the sections of off-track on both walks.

This walk has not been done since April 1998, so come along, enjoy the off track experience, the views, and time permitting a coffee at the Malmsbury before returning to Melbourne.



SUNDAY BUS: Hughes Creek

DATE	Sunday 29 October 2006
STANDARD	Easy/Medium & Medium
DISTANCE	13 & 21 km
LEADER	Sylvia Ford & David Elias
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd
RETURN TIME	7:00 pm
AREA	North of Seymour, east of Hume Hwy
MAP REF	Mt Stewart, Mt Bernard

It's on again: a bisit to the Mightty Hugues Creek! Here we have two varied and quite challenging walks. The hills are high and rolling, and afford terrific views. The valleys are wooded but mostly open. Hugues Creek is the havitat of the Regent Honey Eater and somewhere on the slopes is an orchid reserve. We have seen Peregrin Falcos, echidnas and platypus here in the past.

Last time we come through the water was very low but we can not rely on that so EXPECT to get your feet wet and do some wading. Therefore shorts and walking sticks, if you have one, are a thought. And a complete change when you get back to the bus in case you fall in.

DANDENONGS EXPLORER: Mornington Beachwalk

DATE	Saturday 28th October 2006
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	15km
LEADER	Alan Hall
TRANSPORT	Private
MAP REFERENCE	Mel 104 D10

You are invited to join Alan on the second non-Dandenongs Dandenongs explorer walk of the year to explore some of the delightful coastal and riparian areas of Mornington.

The meeting place is in the carpark at the north-east corner of the Esplanade and Main Street (behind the 15 men memorial) at 10:30am (Melways reference 104 D10 marked with a blue "P"). It takes about 50 minutes to get there from where Blackburn Rd leaves the South Eastern freeway. From Blackburn Rd, I suggest going down Westall Rd to Springvale Rd, later left down the Frankston Fwy, then right into Frankston onto the Nepean Hwy.

The walk is a bit longer than most Dandenong Explorers but fairly level with a few sandy bits to negotiate. Suntan cream may be helpful and comfortable joggers should be OK. We expect to finish around 3:30-4:00 pm. If you know of a good optional local cafe, please let me know.

CYCLE TRIP: Lilydale - Warburton (and return)

DATE	Sat 25 & Sunday 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 4:00 pm Sunday
AREA	Dandenongs (east of Melbourne)
MAP REF	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" which 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 - 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.

Transport will be transported to and from the Lilydale Station

Details of what you need to take - ie. Sleeping bags (or hire sheets/doonas) will be available at the clubrooms when you book, or give me a call at home. Bookings are essential.



Skiing Mt Hotham *rescheduled* date 23rd & 24th September

The date for the cross country ski trip to Mt Hotham is now on the weekend of the 23rd-24th Sept. Please note the original date 8-10th Sept is **cancelled**. We have the entire 22 beds available to us on Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd and the cost for visitors is \$60. If there is insufficient snow for skiing we will do some walking. Please phone Dianne on 94899325 if you are interested in this trip.

CLUBROOMS DUTY ROSTER

September 13 Jan Palich & Peter Havlicek
September 20 Fay Dunn & David Laing
September 27 Mark Heath & Charlotte Bradly
October 4 Paul Logsdon & Lance Mobbs

Next Committee Meeting

**October 2nd 2006 - 7:00pm in the
clubrooms.**

and

**October 30th 2006 - 7:00pm in the
clubrooms.**



BASE CAMP: Cathedral Ranges

(Cook's Mill)

DATE	16-17 September 2006
STANDARD	Easy/ Medium
DISTANCE	2 x 120 km
LEADER	Les Southwell
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Buxton (via Maroondah Hwy)
MAP REF	Outdoor Leisure map Cathedral Range, 1:100 k Alexandra

We'll drive up Saturday morning to our sheltered campsite by the clearwater stream at Ned's Gully. In the afternoon we'll climb Ned's Gully to the Cathedral Peak and Little Cathedral. If you prefer, you can come up to our Saturday night campfire.

On Sunday morning we'll climb the steep track to the Farmyard, ascend the North and South Jawbone peaks, then scramble along The Razorback track to Sugarloaf Peak – a summit rarely visited on MBW daywalks – and returning by the Cerberus Track to the cars. This is an opportunity for beginners to practice camping skills.



BASE CAMP: Warby Ranges

DATE	13-15 October 2006
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	27 km (approx.)
LEADER	David Elias
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Sunday 6-7pm
MAP REF	East of Wangaratta

The Warby Ranges is an escarpment just east of Wangaratta, with excellent views towards Mount Buffalo and the Alps. The highest point is Mount Glenrowan, from where Ned Kelly observed the comings and goings in the small town of Glenrowan. The walking will be fairly easy, approximately 13-14 km per day with no significant climbs, allowing plenty of time to enjoy the prolific birdlife and wildflowers (which will hopefully be in full bloom during our visit). We will camp at Wenhams Camp, where we will be able to enjoy a campfire in the evening. All in all, an excellent location for a Base Camp – first timers are warmly encouraged to attend.

Note: Leader's phone number listed in the Spring Walks program is incorrect: please use 0422 499 149.



PACK CARRY: Grampians – Mt Gar (Mt Difficult) loop from Troopers Creek

DATE	6-8 October
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	24km
LEADER	John Fritze
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Northern Grampians
MAP REF	Northern Grampians Outdoor Leisure Map 1:50,000 Mt Stapylton & Mt Difficult 1:25,000

This walk replaces the badly singed Asses Ears walk listed in the spring program. It is one of the most spectacular in the Grampians with fascinating geological formations, great views, excellent campsites, a profusion of wild flowers at this time of year and in an area that is large and remote enough to completely envelope you with its magic. The track we follow is very rugged and rocky with some steep sections but the walk's short distance (10km/day) and availability of side trips should broaden its appeal.



BASE CAMP: Buandik, Grampians

DATE	3-7 November 2006
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	Varied
LEADER	Ken MacMahon
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Tuesday evening
MAP REF	Far Western Victoria

Buandik is a wonderfully relaxing camping place on the western side of the Grampians. It has every modern convenience including pit toilets, fireplaces and a creek with waterfall. By the way, ParksVic applies a small camping fee.

There are some great day walks to be done starting right from camp. Depending on how many people come along and the levels of enthusiasm, I will try to organise walks of differing standards using sub-leaders. I am keen to do some exploratory walks off tracks in the vicinity. The wildflowers should still be plentiful and the weather ideal at this time of year.

We wish to extend an invitation to all our wonderful members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers to this years

Christmas Breakup Party

Date: Wednesday 20th December 2006

Time: 7pm to 10pm

Venue: Trades Hall

**Corner of Russell & Victoria Streets
Melbourne**



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

Ski Trips



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

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

Gina Hopkins

September

1-4	Ski tour (3 days): Fainters via Bogong Jack
8-10	Ski tour: Razorback - Mt Feathertop
15-17	Bogong High Plains - Rocky Knobs
22-24	Ski Lodge - Mt Hotham

Gina Hopkins
Bill Metzenthén

Diane McKinley

PREVIEW OF GOLDIE FLORA RESERVE WALK WEDNESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER, AFTER IT HAS ACTUALLY BEEN PREVIEWED

I'm able to give a more accurate outline of this walk now that I've been able to preview it.

The directions I gave for reaching this property in the previous newsletter should provide you with the necessary information to do so. It is approximately 21 km from Lancefield and 15 km from Kilmore depending on which route you take. Be aware that the road gets a little rough, but not difficult, further north along Forbes – Moranding Rd before you reach the property. The number 815 on the gate will assist you to find it. Go inside the gate and I'll let you know or will indicate where to park.

The owners of this property are very involved in maintaining and restoring this bush retreat so that it reflects their environmental values. It borders the Goldie Flora Reserve which can only be reached from private properties. It is beautiful country with wonderful views from the ridge top that we will be travelling along for part of the way. The walk will be mainly through dry sclerophyll forest but there are other interesting pockets of remnant vegetation including snow gums.

Most of the time we will be walking through bushland without any tracks and there will be a bit of uphill and a bit of downhill, some steep and a little loose under foot, but nothing I consider particularly arduous if you are an experienced walker. I would like people to be prepared to be flexible about the route we will follow but I certainly won't be leading you into anything particularly challenging. I anticipate that we will be covering approximately 12 km but it may be a little more.

I think this is a good opportunity to walk in a very pleasant area we would not have access to otherwise and I thank the generosity of Geoff and Jenny Brunton or providing us with this opportunity.

Sandra Mutimer

For Sale

Macpac Glissade size 3 (75 litres) in excellent condition for sale for \$250. The price new was \$369 (now selling for \$479) and it has been used on less than 10 weekend trips with the club. It's a very roomy and comfortable pack but I'm now looking for something smaller because of knee problems.

Contact Andreas Ludwig.

2007 Treasurer's Position open

After three years of keeping track of the club's finances, the present Treasurer will not be nominating for a further year. Anyone who has an interest in this committee position should contact Doug Langton. If an interested party has some book-keeping or even accounting background, the position is very simple. The present Treasurer had none and yet has found the position quite straightforward. The job requires the maintenance of a journal and the completion of the Club's books using Quicken Personal software. An interesting means of being part of the workings of this club.

Watta Ride



Four enthusiastic riders (Jan Palich, Lynda Larkin, Art Terry and Ray Spooner), led by Lynda, who stepped into the leader's role when the designated leader Cameron Durrant had to withdraw due to work commitments, left the Eltham Station at 10.15 AM in cool and overcast conditions.

Eltham was just starting to bustle as shoppers were converging on the shopping strip, however within minutes we were on the Diamond Creek trail. The first attraction was the Edendale Community Farm where fresh farm produce maybe purchased and a large number of fat black hens were lazily scratching in the field. On approaching Eltham North we were amazed at the magnificence of the landscape as the trail followed the Diamond Creek, which was lined with wattle trees in full bloom and lofty river red gums, yellow box and red ironbarks. The trail also had replicas of paintings of the local area painted by members of the Heidelberg School such as Walter Withers. Approaching, Diamond Creek township, Jan stopped to take a photo of teams of young girls playing netball, on the other side of the road boys were involved in a football match.

Once past Diamond Creek, we headed towards Wattle Glen and turned off the Main Hurstbridge Rd into Wilson Rd and our first challenge, a hillclimb. Having successfully completed the climb we rested briefly at the top of the ridge and proceeded north to be confronted by another hill this time a little gentler, but longer. At the top we headed east towards Hurstbridge- at last a downhill run of about 3kms past more stands of bright yellow silver wattles (*Acacia dealbata*) and even brighter *Acacia decurrens* into Hurstbridge township.

We had lunch in the tiny reserve in the heart of the town, which is largely unchanged since it was established in 1912 when the rail line from Melbourne was established. The station was named after Henry Hurst, a notable landowner in the district.

Henry was ambushed and killed by the bushranger Robert Bourke on 24th October, 1866. Directly across the reserve was a small one-roomed building, which was a branch of the Commercial Bank Of Australia –alas, it sadly was a victim of progress and was closed in the late 1980's. Another relic of the past was the local Health Foods shop, which resembled one of those general stores seen in 'B'grade western movies. No "Check out Chicks" here. The long wooden counter was tended by two elderly gents. The store itself was stocked with items not seen in a supermarket – bulk grains of many types, creaming seeds and various old fashioned herbal remedies.

After lunch the sun was shining warmly and we headed further north to Nutfield where the landscape changed dramatically, no longer dense bush, but land cleared for agriculture, which I later found out was an important apple and pear growing area in the 1850's. We did see remnants of old apple trees in one property. We continued our journey towards Arthur's Creek and turned east to head back to Hurstbridge on reaching the Strathewen-Hurstbridge Road. Here we encountered a very steep hill and on reaching the top Art and I paused to wait for the "girls", who on reaching the top were quick to explain that they were not slow, but had stopped to view a mob of kangaroos. The most exciting part of the ride was ahead of us, a 3km steep decline where speeds of up to 50kph were achieved. This time we approached Hurstbridge from the north side, past the row of shops with verandahs and raised boardwalks. On the way out on the southern side of the town we noticed the buildings were more modern including the Community Bendigo Bank, no doubt a recent replacement for the old CBA bank we saw earlier.

The journey along the main drag back to Diamond Creek was quick with pristine bush being replaced with residential development. Passing through Nillumbik Reserve we saw a 'blast from the past' a football oval surrounded around the perimeter by cars, it was a football match between Diamond Creek and Lalor –no Telstra Dome and 'charddy' drinking here, the local lads were in their Utes drinking their Foster's 'stubbies'.

As we headed back towards Eltham station we retraced our earlier steps along the wattle strewn Diamond Creek and arrived back at Eltham around 2.40 pm. It had been a very enjoyable ride (55km), no doubt due to the good planning of Cameron and Lynda, those fantastic wattle trees and the rich history of the Diamond Valley area.

Congratulations to Art Terry on reaching his 83rd birthday on Monday 14 August .

Ray Spooner

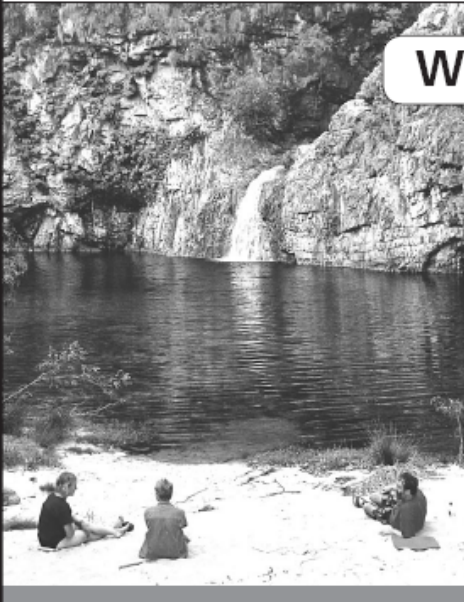
HOUSE SITTING OPPORTUNITY

Our house is in need of a sitter for all or part of the period end September to end November. Close to Kew junction and convenient position for transport, parks, shops & gymn.

Derrick and Gina.



New Year at the Top



New Year 2006

Wet, wild and wonderful

Local bushwalkers know that summer is the best time to enjoy the **wild rivers, gentle creeks, thundering waterfalls, carpets of flowers and spectacular storms** for which our region is famous. They know that warm rain and cosy rock shelters mean that comfort is never far away.

Click the **photo galleries** link on our website and see what it's really like. See how we saw in the last New Year. See what our wet season accommodated trips are like. **Browse through our photo galleries for great trip ideas at any time of year.**

We love it and we want to take you there. We offer everything from trips with full accommodation to major expeditions. We give you the tropical summer the way it was meant to be experienced — on foot.

Visit our website or ask us for more information.

www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au



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Walks Secretary Report for July 2006

Activity	Date	Trip	Grade	Nos
Sunday Bus	2	Sugarloaf Reservoir	E&E/M	38
	9	Barwon Heads - Queenscliff	E&E/M	42
	16	Daylesford - Wombat Creek Dam	E/M&M	38
	23	North Brisbane Ranges - Spring Ck	E/M&M	34
	30	Mt Dandenong - Western Trail	E/M&M	37
TOFS	6	Woodlands - Gellibrand Hill	E	21
Cycle Day	15	Koonung & Mullum Mullum Cks	E/M	7
Wednesday	19	Long Forest Flora Reserve	E/M	16
Dand. Expl.	29	Mt Evelyn area	E	14
Lodge	7-9	Apollo Bay YHA Eco-Lodge	E	19
Pack Carry	22-23	The Pinnacle-Rocky Peak (s.Eildon)	M	10

Sunday walks continue to be well attended, as are the mid-week and Saturday walks. Lodge weekends are always popular with members, and the July pack carry attracted a good number of walkers. The lack of snow led to the cancellation of the beginners ski trip to Lake Mountain.

The Summer Program is nearing completion. If you haven't yet led a Sunday walk but are considering giving it a go, please contact Peter McGrath. I'm sure he can find a suitable walk for you to lead, and an experienced co-leader to help you plan and preview it if it's your first walk.

Due to other commitments Quentin Tibballs is unable to run the Navigation Training in November. However that weekend 11-12 November, on both Saturday and Sunday, there is a 6 hour Rogaine - a cross-country navigation event. This provides a great opportunity to learn or improve your navigational skills. More information will be provided next month when it becomes available.

Gina Hopkins
Acting Walks Secretary

Urgent!

A new Editor is required.

Want to be part of the Melbourne Bush Walkers committee and contribute with the monthly newsletter using your creativity & word processing skills.

Please contact Jan Palich.

Australian Alps Walking Track

Mt McDonald to Mt Hotham

8-17 December 2006

Expressions of Interest

The Australian Alps Walking Track stretches 765km from Walhalla in Victoria to Honeysuckle Creek near Canberra. Over the years the Club has done various sections of this track, including both ends of the walk. In this section, of around 110km, the walk will cover some of the best parts of the Victorian high country - Mt Magdala, Crosscut Saw, the 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.

The walk will begin from Low Saddle, 8km south of Mt McDonald, and end at Mt Hotham (or Mt St Bernard). Some days will be fairly short with optional side trips, like to the Razor. We may encounter problems with obtaining water given the exceptionally dry winter we have just had. 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 \$75 to \$90 per person.

This is a joint walk with the VMTC walking club. Number of walkers will be limited to 10.

If you are interested, please email me or ring me before 23 September; or call my mobile after that date as I shall be away from home until the end of November.

Gina Hopkins
