

# THE NEWS OF THE

# Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 cents

Edition 681 | NOVEMBER 2007

Expressions of interest required

# TASMANIA FREYCINET NATIONAL PARK EASTER 2008

If you are interested, it is possible for Bob Oxlade to arrange a pack carry walk in Freycinet NP, on the east coast of Tasmania, with its beaches, peaks and famous Wineglass Bay.

The walk would be graded easy medium, with medium options. Anticipated departure would be from Melbourne on Thursday pm March 20 2008, and return to Melbourne on Monday pm March 24 2008.

Approximate cost of the trip would be \$130 which includes: Hobart accommodation; coach to park and return to airport; parks pass; and camping; plus your return air fare and shuttle.

If you are interested in this walk please contact Bob promptly as early bookings are essential.

**Bob Oxlade** 





# WALKING IN THE FRENCH ALPS 8 pm Wednesday 14 November

In June and July of this year, four club members, Gina, Derrick, John and Jopie spent a month in the French Alps doing day walks and two multi-day refuge to refuge treks. They all reckon that it was pretty sensational stuff so come along and see some of the spectacular scenery they encountered and find out what via ferratas are.

# 8 pm Wendesday 12 December

Slides and demonstrations of the equipment and technique required for liloing. (See page 6).



# MELBOURNE BUSHIES CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wednesday, 19 December 2007 Trades Hall, Main Ball Room 7.00 -10.00 pm

byo plate to share and byo drinks

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 Melhourne

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. Note - photographs should be sent as separate files which are capable of being edited.

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

- Posting a diskette or hand written material to The Editor at 16 Carinya Road, East Bentleigh 3165.
- The most preferred method is emailing an unformatted text file to news@mbw.org.au

Closing date for receipt of material for The News is without fail the last Wednesday of the month.

Only advertisements that directly relate to bushwalking (eg gear, maps, trips, tours etc) can be accepted. For current advertising rates please contact the editor.

## Club rooms Duty Roster:

November 14 Del, Mark November 21\* Peter, John Mc November 28 Fay, Carol C December 5\* John F, Ray (\* Treasurer in attendance)

## **Next Committee Meeting:**

Monday, December 3 2007

#### SOCIAL SECRETARY: John McCall

# Great things to do ...

### Social events

# 1. Concert - Mike McClellan (remember the 1974 hit "Song and Danceman")



The Song and Dance Man is back doing what he does best, 40 years a singer, writer and guitarist. With special guest Christie Heart and her blend of contemporary, acoustic, Celtic and country

When:- Saturday Nov 10 show starts at 2pm and costs \$25 (lunch is available at 12noon for an extra \$25)

Where:- At Harmony Row Vineyard near

These directions are best to get to the vineyard grom Melbourne..

- » Take Calder Freeway
- Turn off at the first Heathcote exit sign which is quickly followed by a Wineries Lake Eppalock sign.
- This takes you to a roundabout on Edgecombe Street.
- Go 270 degrees around the roundabout and over the freeway bridge.
- 200 metres after the bridge turn RIGHT into Pipers Creek Road.
- 200 metres later turn LEFT into Baynton
- 10k down Baynton Road turn right into Pipers Creek- Pastoria Road. You will see the Harmony Row Vineyard sign and we are about 500 metres on that road to the left.

To book email me on michaelpmann@ optusnet.com.au or phone 94974674

Michael Mann

# 2. Walking in the French Alps

Wednesday, 14 November, 8.00 pm Slide night in the clubrooms.



# **Reports**

## PRESIDENT:



Greetings all,

How the month has fled with the usual splendid array of day walks, overnight trips and cycling adventures on offer to members. Thanks to all our dedicated leaders. See some excellent photos of Jan P's Geelong cycling trip in the Photogallery on our terrific website, (Thanks Tony R.) along with all the rest submitted by our enthusiastic paparazzi. Certainly whets the appetite for participating in the broad spectrum of club activities.

### **FEDERATION WALK**

This year's Federation Walk saw 205 walkers from various clubs and 39 Walk Leaders gather at Healesville to enjoy a great selection of forest, river and mountain walks in the surrounding area, not forgetting the Launching Place to Warburton cycling trip included in the program.

It is amazing to think that these events have been run every year since 1935, with only one break during World War 2. Our 2007 hosts, the Diamond Valley and Koonung Bushwalking Clubs did a great job with the variety of walks on offer and welcome afternoon tea at the end of the day, which was much appreciated. This annual event provides a valuable opportunity to mingle and link socially with the broader bushwalking community, exchange ideas and stories and broaden our outlook in a healthy, enjoyable and interesting way.

Eighteen Melbourne Bushies attended the day, including myself. I enjoyed immensely the 18km Tanglefoot Track Circuit skirting the base of Mt Tanglefoot and incorporating Wirrawilla Rainforest and the Myrtle Gully Track. We passed through huge stands of mountain ash, manna gums and 200 year old myrtle beech trees interspersed with beautiful fern gullies. To add to this we were delighted by a number of sightings of the world's tallest moss, Dawsonia Superba, which was quite special. The main leader of our walk, Noel Adams, looked after us beautifully and epitomized for us the "perfect leader" by the way in which he had designed the walk, (which proved to be extremely aesthetically and aerobically pleasing), shepherded the group along, carried several extra litres of water in case it was needed and treated us to confectionery and evil chokky biscuits to maintain our blood sugar levels for some of the more strenuous stretches of the walk. It was a great day and I encourage more Bushies to come along next year

# **HYGIENE**

I refer here to an excellent article on Page 11 of the VicWalk News, Sept'07, courtesy of Carolyn Edwards, titled "Good Hygiene Practices for Bushwalkers", which opens with the lines "No, I don't mean washing your hands or not sharing drink bottles. Good hygiene in terms of bushwalking relates to limiting the spread of pathogens, weed seeds and other nasties that are unknowingly picked up and spread by people in natural areas". This was brought home to me quite dramatically when I was in the Grampians recently and sadly observed the serious effect over wide areas of the notorious Cinnamon Fungus

(Phytopthora cinnamon (PC)), to which plants such as Grass Trees are particularly vulnerable. So a gentle reminder to all members that cleaning your boots and equipment at the end of every walk is an excellent habit to acquire for helping to prevent the spread of PC and other soil pathogens and also for preventing the dispersal of weed seeds.

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

To the Waverley Bushwalking Club for thinking "Outside the Square" with their brilliant initiative for reaching out beyond those we know, to those in our community who have not had many of the opportunities we take for granted, especially that of the immense pleasure we experience bushwalking and being able to access our beautiful natural environment. I have included in this newsletter an article from "Waverley Lines" by Waverley Bushwalkers' Secretary, Catherine Guli, to give readers an idea of creative and constructive ways of promoting bushwalking in the community. Please read Catherine's compelling article and I hope that the time will come when Melbourne Bushwalkers will perhaps also follow Waverley's example.

Best Wishes to All Lynda Larkin

Reproduced article: "Walklines" Waverley Bushwalking Club newsletter, Vol 21

### **OUTSIDE THE SQUARE**

All of us love to walk, love the Australian bush and love the company of others of like mind, hence the success of our regular walks programme. Sharing our joy in this pastime and introducing others to it, seeing their enjoyment, also increases our pleasure. So let us think outside the square, beyond people we already know, and reach out to those in our community who have not had many of the opportunities that we take for granted. Recently arrived refugees have had experiences we cannot begin to imagine and their lives since arriving in Australia are filled with learning a new language and adjusting to different customs as well as the usual problems besetting all families – money, housing, schooling, food, all the difficulties associated with settling in a new country. To offer at least temporary relief from these preoccupations we are planning on running a series of special WBC day walks over the coming months to introduce another side of Australian life – recreation and relaxation in the great outdoors amongst friendly supportive people. At our November meeting Heidi Zwick of the Migrant Resource Centre will talk to us briefly about the cultural background of the people likely to come initially and also sketch some of the experiences they may have had in refugee camps before arriving in Australia. The first walk will be on Sunday, 2 December, going to Grant's Picnic Ground. The idea is that a group of WBC walkers will take a group of recently arrived refugees, which may include children, into the bush with several walks of varying degrees of difficulty on offer, and we will all have a picnic lunch. More details later but please support the walk, come and enjoy for there is lots for us to learn. Catherine Guli

# **Reports**

## **EQUIPMENT OFFICER:**

# **Choosing gear**

Before you consider a purchase you need to condition your brain to the effects of weight. Weight is evil! It is the enemy! You don't want to let it onto your back! It slows you down, tires you out, causes accidents and injuries and could even terminate your walking career altogether.

So, start by looking at the lightest items that meet your basic need. Talk to experienced walkers and look at their gear, read the mags, check out the bushwalking shops and even if you don't intend to buy online, search the net. It can provide a wealth of useful information including products you might not otherwise see, prices, reviews and discussions and will even help you while away your hours in the office.

Evaluate what you find against your wish list of wants. You probably won't find them all in any one item so you will need to prioritise. Consider the importance of each feature, how often you are likely to need it, whether it can be met in some other way and whether it comes at the expense of other features. It pays to be objective. Your Equipment Manager (recently promoted from "Officer") will not accept any woolly-headed excuses for overweight gear!

### **TENTS**

We've been scouring the web for a new super light three season, double skin one man tent and have come up with a short list of two, the Terra Nova Laser Competition (940g) and the Big Sky Evolution 1P 1V1D (1050g). We thought we might buy the Terra Nova and tracked down a good price of \$350 but couldn't quite swallow the \$177 delivery cost! The Big Sky

looked attractive at \$282 plus \$53 delivery but by the time we added in all the optional weight saving features and essential items, like pegs, the total price skyrocketed to \$639! (Other options were \$498/1140g and \$398/1240g). We are feeling a lot happier with our old tent now.

### **STOVES**

We think that buying a stove is a piece of cake. If you are a perfectionist go for the Snow Peak GST-100A (\$149). Otherwise buy the Kovea Titanium (\$70) and put up with the occasional loose screw and rotating pot supports.

## **EMERGENCY BEACONS**

Spot (www.findmespot.com) is about to release the "Spot Satellite Messenger" which, from anywhere in the world, will enable you to dispatch emergency responders to your exact location, send your location to friends with a request for help, let contacts know where you are and that you are OK and/or allow your contacts to track your progress using Google maps. All this from a device that weighs 7.37 ounces and costs \$150 US. The only downside seems to be the \$100 US annual service fee. If it turns out to be as good as it sounds we will be lobbying the committee for one.

John Fritze

# **GENERAL WALKS SECRETARY:**

Following are trip attendance numbers received from leaders since the previous summary in July News.

TYPE	DATE	TRIP	GRADE	NOS
Base camp	16 Mar	Prom in a Day	Н	11
	18 May	Mt Cole	E/M	8
	7 Sep	Northern Grampians	E/M	12
Pack carry	7 Jul	Brisbane Ranges	Е	12
	3 Aug	Wirilda Track	Е	3
	1 Sep	Dry Diggings Track	E/M	5
	5 Oct	Grampains Mt Gar-Troopers	E/M	15
Ski	5 Aug	Mt Stirling (Barjarg Lodge)	E/M	11
Wed	Wed 18 Jul Vaughan Spr/Gldn Gullie		Е	10
	15 Aug	Arthurs Seat - King Falls	Е	18
	19 Sep	Ingliston Gorge etc	E/M	20
TOFS	5 Jul	Banyule Parklands	Е	14
	2 Aug	Jumping Ck - Warrrdyte SP	Е	22
	6 Sep	Cranbourne Botanic Gdns	Е	31
	4 Oct	Brimbank Park	Е	22
Dand Expl	30 Jun	Middle Pk to Sandringham	E	12
	25 Aug	Fairfield - Studley Park	Е	14
	29 Sep	Silvan - Olinda Cascades	Е	15
Cycling	24 Mar	Capital City Trail	Е	5
	14 Jul	City-Blackburn Lake	E/M	3
	15 Sep	Corio cycling tracks	Е	9

## **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:**

### **New members:**

• Details deliberately deleted for web version.

### **MEMBERSHIP STATS:**

Life Members	13	
Honorary Members	11	
Single memberships	320	
Family memberships	104	(= 2x52)
Total membership	448	
This time last year	467	

# **Notice board**

# WEDNESDAY WALK 20TH ANNIVERSARY (ADVANCE NOTICE)

A 20th Anniversary Celebration of Wednesday Walks will be held on Wednesday 23rd April, 2008 at Ruffey Lake Park, Doncaster at 10.30am. All past and present Wednesday walkers are especially invited to attend, but all members will be welcome to help celebrate this occasion. Please diarise the date. Full details will appear in The News closer to the time.

Enquiries to Margaret Curry.

# WEDNESDAY WALK FAIRHAVEN BEACH HOUSE BREAK (ADVANCE NOTICE)

It's on again ... the Fairhaven Beach House Break

You have probably heard about how much fun we have so if you don't want to miss out in 2008, be sure to book in early. If we fill the house there is flat camping ground in the spacious garden.

Note, this is the third year we have been running this social event. So, diarise Monday 18th and Tuesday 19 February. Margaret's Wednesday Walk is in this area on the 20th, so come and join us to avoid the morning drive!

Susan Maughan and Stuart Hodgson.

# AUTUMN PACK CARRY TRIPS TRIPS AND LEADERS WANTED

Between now and our Xmas breakup night I will be, with your input, compiling a list of pack carry trips for David, our General Walks Secretary to put onto the Autumn Program. If you would like to lead a trip, let me know the venue (name) and the preferred date and I will slot it in. If we have date clashes with other trips, including base camps (being co-ordinated by Katrina Murphy) I may ask if you are able to alter the date.

I will not be approaching anyone directly but will rely solely on offers so only what is volunteered will go onto the program.

So get your pack carry trips to me by email, by phone, or in person when you see me.

If you would like to lead a base camp, please contact Katrina.

Jopie Bodegraven Pack Carry Co-ordinator



# WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

# Call for our brochure or see our

trip list on our website

# Win a trip to the value of \$3000

Or two trips to the value of \$1500

Times are changing. Our clients are changing. Perhaps our trips need to change as well. Without lots of feedback we'll never know for sure. The best way for us to get the feedback we need is with a questionnaire.

Filling in that questionnaire will take time. We want to make it worth your while so all questionnaires returned before 31 December will go into a draw for a voucher or vouchers worth up to \$3000.

Email or phone us for details.

www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au

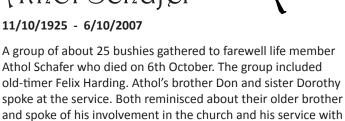
Willis's Walkabouts 12 Carrington St Millner NT 0810 Email: walkabout@ais.net.au

Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355

# **Notice** board

Vale - Life Member

# Athol Schafer



I met Athol on my first walk with MBW in 1961. He was leader of the walk Killara to Tarrawarra. I remember we got to Tarrawarra station (this was a train trip) in the evening and as we sat waiting for the train Athol entertained us by reciting "The Hunting of the Snark" Athol was News editor at the time, a position he held for four years. He had his own idiosyncratic editorial style. A heading in the April News read "Oh hearken, ye avant-couriers: put aside this day thy Seven-League-Boots", a reminder to people not to race ahead of the leader.

the RAAF in the war. They also stressed the importance of

Melbourne Bushwalkers in Athol's life. He joined MBW in 1952.

Athol was also editor for six years of "WALK", the club magazine, as well as being a general committee member for several years. In all he served on committee for 14 years.

Athol was a very active walker and led many walks. For many years he led Christmas trips and many club members were introduced to extended walking by Athol. The 1961 walk he led in the Nadgee area used a map produced by Athol.

I had the privilege of nominating Athol to Life Membership in 1969. In later years, due to illness Athol was not able to continue leading long walks but still contributed to the club with his very popular historical walks. These were well researched and Athol was a mine of information, which he shared freely. Goodbye Athol.

Doug Pocock



# LILOING ON THE SUMMER **PROGRAM**

We have an active lilo program this summer and we hope that some of you will be tempted to give this novel and fun activity a go. It basically involves paddling/floating down river sitting in an upright position on an airmattress (or lilo) with your back supported by your pack. It is great fun and good for hot weather. You must have your own lilo (you need the right sort) but the club has a few buoyancy vests and paddles for hire.

There are three trips on the programme. The first on Saturday 22nd December is a beginners paddle on the Yarra led by John Fritze (see the preview in this News). The second is an easy beginners overnight trip on the Avon River on 5-6 January led by Jopie Bodegraven (see the preview in the December News). Then for those who are keen there is a more serious harder weekend trip on the Thomson River 18-20 January led by Geoff Kelly. This is a joint trip with VMTC.

There will be two information evenings. The one you should definitely attend if considering coming will be on Wednesday clubnight evening 12 December at 8pm. It will consist of some slides and demonstrations of the equipment and technique and John and Jopie will endeavour to answer any questions or doubts you may have.

The other information night is being run by Geoff Kelly of VMTC on their clubnight on Thursday 22 November and will include slides also. The venue is the Community Meeting Rooms, corner of Grey & Simpson Streets in East Melbourne, starting at about 8.30pm.

So there you are. The summer of 2007/08 is the summer to try out liloing. Are you interested?

# **Bushwalking by the Stars ... by Geoff Crapper**

# SCORPIO - October 24 - November 22



Scorpio males will usually be found on the toughest walks, pushing themselves the hardest or carrying the heaviest packs. They have strong masochistic tendencies and love to punish themselves. Scorpios are by far the most misunderstood people in the Zodiac. They are jealous, strong willed, prone to sudden attachments and separations, deeply passionate, with a well developed love of power. Phew!

Best Match Pisces, Cancer (or anyone who'll put up with them)

Scorpio women are almost as complex as their male counterparts. They find it hard when it comes to personal relationships, are hypersensitive and it is very difficult for anyone to find out what makes them tick. Despite all this they are passionate, sensual with a large capacity for love. They are very strong walkers and are usually going two to everyone else's one at the head of the group. Any male endeavouring to tame the wild Scorpio spirit will be in for a rude surprise.

Best match: Pisces and Cancer (or anyone with great patience)

# **Member reviews**

# PC: Northern Grampians 5-7 October - Led by John Fritze

We met at Troopers Creek on the Friday night and the bushies showed excellent form by erecting all their tents in the dark in five minutes flat. Mohammad arrived next morning just as we finished breakfast and 15 hopefuls took off bright and bushytailed to tackle Mount Difficult. We were soon treated to massive cliffs and craggy peaks in reds and browns. Our quads were punished as we struggled (well the ones with small legs did) up and over and around boulders and through narrow crevices. It was exhilarating to tackle the summit of the mount, where we were had the privilege of amazing 350-degree views of Wartook Basin and surrounding landscape. When we returned to our packs we found that some clever creature (bird? animal?) had opened one pack and systematically disintegrated some food packets. We finally reached our campsite and then traversed to the Bluff for more amazing views. Along the way we were lucky to see pockets of Drosera rotundifolia (Carnivorous Sundew) in flower. The spring weather also gave us Spider orchids, Acacia, Heath and more. During our evening meal there was a spirited discussion on the comparison of cost and nourishment value between two-minute noodles and packaged freeze-dried meals. Sunday, it was a quick breakfast and then we continued around the horseshoe where some of the most spectacular cliffline views can be had for free. We crossed lots of small watercourses and several waterfalls that almost seem rare in this current drought. On the way back some energetic souls did some extra exploring and clambered up the cliffs for a closer view of the geology and the falls, while the rest of us staggered onwards towards the waiting cars and the promise of coffee. The highlights: Amazing rock formations, fantastic views, wildflowers, and reaching the summit, What a fantastic trip! Thanks John for organising this one.

The group: Susan and Michael, Angela, Bill, Bob, Derrick, Evan (visitor), Fiona, Jan C, Jenny, John, Jopie, Mohammad, Vibeke (visitor) and Wendy.

Wendy Fortington





# Track maintenance 30 September - Condon's track clearing

In November 2005 the Melbourne Bushwalkers Sunday bus took the usual suspects to the vicinity of Maroondah Dam just beyond Healesville for a walk which was to include Condon's Track. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the leader had not been able to fully preview the walk and assumed from the map that Condon's Track would be very easy to find and follow on the day as it was depicted as a major walking track. Unfortunately this was not the case as the entrance to the track was obscured by shrubs etc. and when it was eventually located, sections of the track were found to be quite overgrown and difficult to negotiate. However, the party did arrive back at the bus safely, albeit a little late at the end of the day.

Subsequent to that I was keen to be part of the work party involved with clearing Condon's Track on September 30 under the direction of Steve Robertson, who has recently stepped down from his position as Convener of the Bushwalking Victoria Environment Committee, a position he has occupied with great motivation and energy for a number of years and we thank him for his tremendous contribution in this respect. Victoria Parks Ranger, Graham Covington, was also in attendance for this collaborative exercise with Bushwalking Victoria, as well as eighteen or so dedicated people from various bushwalking clubs.

It was a very rewarding track clearing day involving skilful wielding of chainsaws, pruning shears, shovels... and BBQ utensils at the end of the day. Thanks to Parks Victoria, Graham C for providing us with such a great feast when work was over. The company was most enjoyable as well.

It would be great if everyone was involved with track clearing days at least once a year. As Steve R. says "A small price to pay for walking all those great tracks the rest of the year."

And on behalf of Melbourne Bushwalkers, I would like to wish Steve Robertson all the best for the future and with his ongoing involvement with caring for the environment as Project Officer for the Yarra Ranges NP, Cathedral Ranges State Park, Buller/Sterling, EPA logging Audits and most importantly the Mossbed Rehabilitation Project, dates and incentives for which will be in the December edition of Vicwalk News. Incentives will include some fuel, food and lodge accommodation

Lynda Larkin



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# **Previews of Day Walks/Activities**

# November 2007



Sunday 11 November **STANDARD** Easy and Easy/Medium **LEADERS** Lance Mobbs and Paul Beers **TRANSPORT** Bus from Southbank Blvd

There will be two walks leaving Dom Dom Saddle, An easy and easy-medium. The easy medium will go to Mt Vinegar and then Fernshaw while the easy walk will go up to Mt Dom Dom and then onto Fernshaw. There will be a vew up and down sections but generally not to strenuous. November should be a nice time of year to visit the area just north of Healsville so come and enjoy yourselves.



DATE Monday 12 November

**STANDARD** Easy DISTANCE 10 km LEADER(S) Jean Giese **TRANSPORT** Private RETURN TIME To cars 2:45pm

Sherbrooke, Dandenong Ranges AREA

MAP REF Melway map 75

It's always pleasant walking in the Sherbrooke Forest and of special interest will be the opportunity we have been given to wander around Ferny Creek Horticultural Society's garden which is usually only open to the public on special gala days. Great views from here too. Meet to start walking at 10:15 near corner of Belgrave – Ferny Creek Rd and Sandells Rd, Melway 75 E6. Book with leader.

# Sunday Bus ANAKIE GORGE - STEIGLITZ

Sunday 18 November DATE **STANDARD** Easy and Easy/Medium DISTANCE 14 and 18 km (approx)

**LEADERS** David Laing and Elizabeth Ingham

**TRANSPORT** Bus from Southbank Blvd

The easy walk starts at Anakie Gorge with the E/M walk starting up a significant hill (but good views) and adding a few km before arriving at the start of the Gorge.

Both walks go through the gorge to a picnic ground then on walking tracks up to a lookout.

From there along a combination of road & 4WD tracks for a few km then the walks separate again with the harder walk adding a little more distance. They rejoin again near Steiglitz where the bus will be waiting near the old court house.

There are a variety of ups and downs with no significant long steep sections except for the start of the E/M walk. The area is very dry so do not expect running water even in the gorge. There are a large number of grass trees in the area which is recovering from the early 2006 bush fire.



DATE Wednesday 21 November

**STANDARD** Easy/Medium DISTANCE 18.5 km

**LEADER** Graeme Walkden

**TRANSPORT** Private START TIME 10.15 am

RETURN TIME Back to cars by 4.00 pm

MAP REF Meridian 1:40,000 Wombat St Forest T. Guide

This is an enjoyable walk in the goldfields country south of Daylesford. It offers great variety - two beautiful lakes set in parks, the ambience of Daylesford, open eucalypt forest, a spectacular waterfall (provided we get enought rain!) and a dismantled railway. A highlight is the panoramic view of south Daylesford from a lookout on the edge of Daylesford.

The walk is on tracks and roads though undulating terrain, with a few moderate hills and one short steep climb. The start is at Sailors Falls Picnic Ground, We follow part of the dismantled Ballarat to Daylesford railway and pass though Jubilee Lake Picnic Ground. After a short section in Daylesford, we walk along the north shore of Lake Daylesford then head west beside the creek in Central Springs Rserve. Next, we walk south through Hepburn Regional Parks to Sailors Falls. The walk finishes with a short steep climb to Sailors Falls Picnic Ground.

There is a 13 km option requiring a car shuffle. We will meet at 10.15 am at Sailors Falls Picnic Ground. To get there, take the Western Freeway to the second Ballan off ramp. Turn right onto Ballan - Daylesford Road (C141). About 3 km past Leonards Hill, turn left into Sailors Falls Picnic Ground (on the corner of Telegraph Road). For further details and bookings, please phone Graeme.

# Dandenongs Explorer FERNY CREEK CIRCUIT AND BBQ

Saturday 24 November (Federal election day) DATE

**STANDARD** 

LEADER(S) Jan Brooksbank

**TRANSPORT** Private **AREA Dandenongs** 

MAP REF Melway map 66 E12

Note start time is now 11am to allow people to vote beforehand.

We will meet at Ferny Creek Reserve at 11am (Melway 66 E12). After a short walk by the tourist road we come to Sassafras Creek. This is a delightful track meandering through fern gullies and forest. Apart from a hillclimb near the end of the walk there's not too much up & down.

A lovely walk to whet your appetite prior to the Christmas BBQ at Ferny Creek approx 2pm. Bring snacks for the track, and all your BBQ needs (including chair) which you can leave in the cars. If you can, bring some Chrissy fare to share.

Any queries phone Jan Brooksbank.



DATE Sunday 25 November
STANDARD Eeasy/Medium and Medium

DISTANCE 14 km and 18 km

LEADERS Jan Colquhoun and John Fritze
TRANSPORT Bus from Clubrooms, 8:30 start

AREA Eildon

MAP REF Coller Bay 1:25,000

\*\*Note change to depature \*\*

Pick-up for the bus will be at the clubrooms (not Southbank) and it will be departing at 8.30am

From our starting point at Wallaby Bay we will follow a pleasant walking track around the shore of the much-receded Lake Eildon to Aird Inlet. The medium group will then climb off track through open forest, about 320M up the Jack of Clubs Spur before descending back to the bus on a track down the Blowhard and Keg Spurs. The E/M group will do a shorter, on track, climb and descent of about 240M. Both groups will be able to enjoy some good views over the lake and surrounding countryside.



DATE Thursday, 6 December

STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 10.4 km
LEADER Keith White
TRANSPORT Private

AREA Long Forest Flora Reserve

MAP REF Melways 335 E3

Long Forest Flora Reserve is the only naturally occuring patch of mallee south of the Great Dividing Range. The walk will follow the course of Coimadai Creek through attractive stands of bull mallee, manna gum and blue box. Not much flora around in the dry conditions, but some water in the creek and we saw a big koala on the preview.

From Melbourne follow the Western Freeway (towards Ballarat) for 46km to cross Djerriwarrh Creek. Continue a further 1 km to the top of the hill and turn right into Long Forest Road (sign posted to Merrimu). After 2 km turn left into the Long Forest Carpark (Melways 335 E3) Meet to start the walk at 10.30 am. Walk will finish by 3.00pm. Contact leader.

# Sunday Bus WERRIBEE and IRONBARK GORGES and INGLISTON GRANITES

DATE Sunday 2 December
STANDARD Easy/Medium and Medium

DISTANCE 11 and 13 kms START 9.00am (no pickups)

LEADER(S) Phillip Geschke and Jan Colquhoun

AREA Werribee Gorge

This is one of my favourite walking areas close to Melbourne. It has magnificent views with rugged and varying terrain and cool rockpools. We previewed it when it was 35 degrees – this made the walk very challenging, because it can heat up so much in the gorge – definitely two litres of water. If it is an 18C day some may say its only Easy and Easy/Medium – we will have to wait to see what December delivers. If its hot, bring your bathers – both leaders will try to let you have a swim. The slopes we walk through are always sparsely vegetated with dry stunted open forests. Its rather ironic as this kept the farmers out and left the park for us to enjoy.

The Walks start at the old Quarry. We follow clear tracks as we climb 80 m and pass several viewpoints. A gradual descent takes us down 140 metres to the gorge with its various rockpools. Skirting Werribee Gorge creek for a km we leave it and head up ironbark gorge. This eventually meets the middle of 'the carpark – falcons lookout track. The harder group turn left going back to Werribee gorge via the spectacular and challenging western bluff, continuing along the creek and taking a spur to climb up to Falcons Lookout. The other group have a pleasant undulating walk to Falcons Lookout. There are bound to be rockclimbers swinging off the edge of the cliff face. Both groups share the remaining part of the walk which visits the pretty Ingleston marbles.

# Cycling PAKENHAM-GEMBROOK CIRCUIT

DATE Saturday 8 December

STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 50 km
LEADER Philip Brown
TRANSPORT Train/car

Leave the suburbs and head into farmland on a backroads adventure through the hills beetween Pakenham and Gembrook. This ride starts at Pakenham train station and takes quite roads up through the Toomuc Valley to Gembrook and returns to Pakenham via a different route. At least half of the ride is on unsealed roads of varying quality and it is quite hilly too. Lunch at Gembrook BYO or buy your own at the shops.

Gembrook is significantly higher than Pakenham so we will have some fantastic downhill runs in the afternoon. It isn't all downhill though and there still some tough climbs to negotiate. however we will get back to Pakenham a lot quicker than we rode up to Gembrook earlier. For start time and the best train to catch call me on.

# **Previews of Day Walks/Activities**

# December 2007



DATE Sunday 9 December
STANDARD Easy/Medium and Medium

DISTANCE 15km and 18 km

LEADER(S) Del Franks and Les Southwell TRANSPORT Bus – Leaves at 8.30 am

AREA Gippsland

MAP REF Rooftops 1:100,000 Walhalla Woods Point

Adventure Map

Vicmaps 1:25,000 Morwell & Rintoul Creek

This walk is in the Tyers Regional Park which covers 1810 hectares of forest in the foothills of the north Latrobe Valley. Much of the walk follows beside the Tyers Gorge where the river has carved a winding course between the steep forested slopes.

Starting at the end of the Moondarra Reservoir, this track winds through open forests and along the course of the meandering Tyers River. The open forests are dominated by Yertchuk and Silvertop with an under-story of wattles, tea tress, sedges and grasses. With its diversity of wildflowers, the abundance of birdlife and open forests this is a very picturesque walk not to be missed.

# Wednesday Walk FROM GLEN TO GLEN IN MELBOURNE AND CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA

An urban stroll from Glen Waverley Station to Glen Iris Station via Scotchmans Creek and Gardeners Creek Pathways. Non-walkers, especially former Wednesday Wanderers, are invited to join us for Afternoon Tea at the conclusion of our walk, at about 3.15pm, at the George Pepperell Gazebo, High Street, Glen Iris. (Melway 59 K8)

DATE Wednesday 12 December

STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 14 km
LEADER Mary Daley

DEPART TIME 10.20 am at Glen Iris Station
AREA Metropolitan Melbourne
MAP REF Melway, 59, 60, 69, 70, 71

We will meet at Glen Iris Station at 10.20 am, and catch the 10.34 am train to Glen Waverley. Glen Iris station is not staffed so the leader will pre-purchase the train tickets.

Drivers will readily find parking in the car-park adjacent to the T.H. King Oval and Gardiners Creek picnic area, located on the south side of High Street. Toilet available in the T.H. King Pavilion, but not at Glen Iris Station.

This walk is easy, but hard walking surfaces make suitable footwear necessary. Cream brick-veneer, mock Georgian, Californian Bungalows, golf fairways, wetlands, birdsong, traffic noise, and even frog choruses all combine to offer a fascinating picture of Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs.

Please bring a small plate of something seasonal to share at Afternoon Tea. Please call Mary to book this walk.



DATE Sunday 16 December
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 14km and 18 km

LEADER(S) Eleonora Axelsson and Carol Corrigan

TRANSPORT Bus from Southbank Blvd
AREA Macedon Regional Park
MAP REF Melway ref: 609 G10

A walk through tall eucalypt forest and fern gullies of an extinct volcano. Mt Macedon rises to 1010 metres from Memorial Cross, Camel's Hump and the western face of Mount Towrong sweeping views are enjoyed. A brilliant stand of Manna gums reflect in the waters of Sanatorium Lake. The trail continues to a local winery – there are some great wines in this area!



DATE Wednesday 19 December

TIME 7.00 pm

AREA Trades Hall, Cnr Lygon & Victoria Sts
The "Main ballroom" (was the main bar) will be available for
the Annual Christmas party. BYO plate of something yummy to
share and we will also have to bring our own drinks.



DATE Saturday 22 December

STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 5km
LEADER John Fritze
TRANSPORT Private

AREA Yarra River, Wonga Park MAP REF Melways 279 B4–A6

Liloing is a great way of exploring our rivers in summer (in some conditions the only practical means) and can be as gentle or adventurous as you care to make it.

This trip is aimed at beginners interested in one of our more adventurous overnight trips scheduled for later this summer, those curious as to how a lilo can form the basis of a comfortable and efficient means of river transport and anybody who might enjoy a few relaxing hours on the water.

We will paddle down a picturesque loop in the river around Warrandyte State Park. This section is mostly flat but there will be an easy rapid every few hundred meters.

You will need to bring a box sided cotton/rubber lilo (the type where a strip of fabric separates the top from the bottom), double ended paddle, buoyancy vest, canoe or bike helmet and a pack to act as a backrest and ballast (If you book in time you can hire the paddle and buoyancy vest from the equipment store for \$8).

There will be a liloing equipment demonstration evening and slide show at 8:00pm in the clubroom on Wednesday 12 December. Beginners are encouraged to attend.



DATE 16-18 November

STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 30 km
LEADER Bob Oxlade
TRANSPORT Private

AREA Southern Grampians Victoria Range

MAP REF Southern Grampians Outdoor Leisure Map 1:

50,000: Vicmap 1:25,000 Victoria Range

The Fortress at 875 m is a most impressive peak in a rugged rock climbing area of the Southern Grampians with great views. After climbing 650 metres and viewing the area on Saturday and we will walk on to the base of Mount Thackeray to camp.

On Sunday morning we will have a side trip to the summit of Mount Thackeray for more views before departing with packs. We continue along the top of the Victoria Range for 7 km before beginning the descent to the cars.

The walk is all on tracks with some steep rocky climbs, especially to The Fortress area.



DATE Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 November

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 REF Warburton Rail trail

Saturday - cycling Lilydale to Warburton - depart from Lilydale Station (contact Jan for timing). Sunday - returning from Warburton to Lilydale - departing 9'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 relaxing and beautifully charismatic 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 some experience in cycling is an advantage. As is enjoying a coffee on the way.

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. There is no limit to the group, so those that are unable to be inside can bring tents. The lodge has outside doors into the kitchen and two bathrooms, as well as the main room. Cost - camping is approx \$10 p/p and lodge approx \$20 p/p.

Details of what you need to take will be available at the clubrooms when you book, or give me a call at home. Bookings are essential.

Jan Palich (Leader)



DATE 23-25 November
STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADER Mick Noonan
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME Sunday 6pm
AREA South Gippsland

MAP REF Carrajung 8221-3-S, 1:25, 000

Its on again! If you were thinking of trying a base camp, have never seen Tarra-Bulga National Park, or had a great time when the club went there last then this is the walk for you! The park features in the first issue of Parks Victoria's new "Parks Discovery " magazine

Secluded 200km East of Melbourne away in Gippsland is Tarra-Bulga, the nearest 'town' is Balook close to the eastern end of the Grand Ridge Road. This park is one of the best temperate rain forests in Gippsland with real trees (giant Mountain Ash, Messmate, ancient Myrtle Beech and Blackwood), huge lush ferns, cool rainforest gullies, the famous Corrigans suspension bridge, Cyathea Falls, epiphytes growing on the trunks of tree ferns, etc. There's also wombats (dangerous for night driving!), possums, owls, lyrebirds, wallaby's, etc etc.

On the Saturday (15km) we will see the Information Centre, historic Balook (... yes there is a tea room...), the suspension bridge, fern gullies, Wild Cherry Track, with a long steep climb after lunch, lots of views, and (new!) climb the spectacular fern hill behind the caravan park etc.

On the Sunday (14km) we check out Cyathea Falls, Diaper track, Lyrebird track or the Duff Sawmill Heritage Trail (NEW!). The Duff Sawmill trail is a 4 km walk through 100 years of logging history and will take you to some of the huge mountain ash stumps of the giants that once dominated the Strezlecki Ranges.

There is no camping in the National Park so we are staying at the Tarra Valley Caravan Park. There is a choice of camping or cabins (up to 6 in a cabin), gas fired BBQ's, wood for a fire, a sheltered eating area, toilets, electricity!, water and a fridge in the Cabin we can share!... camping luxury remote from nearby towns and relatively immune from the weather ...!!! Bring something to share for the Saturday night.

Give me a ring for more info or see me at the Club on the two Wednesdays before. You can either drive down on Saturday morning (via Traralgon & Balook) or the Friday night (via Gippsland Highway & Yarrum if arriving after daylight to avoid the roos and wombats!). I'll have lots of maps and more info at the Club.

So if your new to base camping or have not been to Tarra-Bulga or have seen the real Gippsland and want go come back then mark this trip in your calendar! If your coming remember to apply for a postal vote!!!!!

# **Previews of Weekend Walks/Activities**

# Nov/Dec 2007



DATE 30 November – 2 December

STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 25 km
LEADER Max Casley
TRANSPORT Private cars

AREA Baw Baw plateau north of Moe

MAP REF Baw Baw National Park (VMTC) 1:50,000

This is a fairly easy walk with some optional side trips for those with extra energy. It will be an excellent introductory walk for anyone considering trying out weekend pack carrying. On Saturday we will start at Stronachs Camp and walk along the Alps Walking Track up to the beautiful Baw Baw plateau to a good camp area near the site of a hut ruin close to Mt Whitelaw. On Sunday we go over Mt St Phillack to Mustering Flat and finish at Mt St Gwinear car park. Options are side trips to Mt Whitelaw and looking for Staggs Hut. No camp fires are allowed in this park so bring or share a stove – the Club has some for hire. Bring candles and we can imagine a camp fire. We will meet on Saturday morning at Mt St Gwinear car park. Nearby there are good camping sites for Friday night. Some may prefer to drive from Melbourne on Saturday morning (2-3 hours drive). I suggest a transport cost of \$45 per passenger. Let me know if you are interested in this walk.



DATE 14-16 December

STANDARDS Medium (possible Medium/hard)

DISTANCE 26 km

LEADER Mohammad Akbari

TRANSPORT Private

AREA Mt Buffalo (The Chalet- Lake Catani)
MAP REF Map 1:25000, VICMAP, Eurobin 8224-1-3,

Zone 55 and Map 1:3000 Mt Buffalo forest activities published by rooftop mapping

services

This is a quite spectacular walk specifically surrounding views from Mt Buffalo Chalet.

Walk starts at the foot of Mt Buffalo before the Gatehouse. After crossing Eurobin creek the track climbs steeply for 2 km through pleasant tall forest. There are a few road crossings and Mackey's lookout, which offers excellent views, is near the fourth road crossing. The walk continues across the face of open granite and Buffalo Gorge, also with great views. Walk offers many lookouts and views, with a total climb of 1040m. We visit Bebt's lookout near the Chalet car park and stop for refreshment in the Chalet main building café. We will camp overnight at Lake Catani camp site and return to the cars on Sunday. We also can visit Bright before heading home.

This is a good work-out walk and is therefore recommended. Contact me if you are interested in participating.



# Base Camp BOGONG HIGH PLAINS

DATE 26 December - 3 January

STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADER Lance Mobbs
TRANSPORT Private

Further details to be contained in the December newsletter

If you are looking for equipment, don't forget about the sale that was advertised in last month's newsletter:

THE WILDERNESS SHOP'S FAMOUS ANNUAL SALE runs Friday 9th to Sunday 11 November

All stock and brands 20% to 50% off

The Wilderness Shop 969 Whitehorse Road Box Hill www.wildernessshop.com.au

## **POSITION VACANT 2008**

# **Newsletter editor**

- Are you interested in the future of the club
- Do you have a computer
- Do you like communicating to a wider audience
- Are you interested in desktop publishing

Our current editor is coming to the end of her tenure and the club needs to start looking for a replacement. As the editor is a committee position the person taking on the role would be in a position to be directly involved in the future of the club.

If interested please speak to any committee member or email the editor at news@mbw.org.au

# **NAVIGATION LESSONS**

# Repeat Article

Jopie Bodegraven produced four articles for the October, November, December 2006 and January 2007 newsletters on Navigation lessons. As there is a little room left in this edition we are repeating two of those lessons. All four lessons will be available on the web.

### Lesson 1

# The easy way to navigate

Think you can't navigate or it's all beyond you? Bearings make your head spin? Here's a simple three step process that will have you navigating effectively in five minutes. Grab your 1:25,000 scale map and your compass and away we go. This is what you do.

- Set the compass dial to minus 12 degrees (or 348 degrees which is the same)
- Place the edge of the compass along one of the North-South grid lines on your map. Hold the compass down firmly with the thumb of the hand holding the map so that map and compass are stuck together as one unit.
- Rotate map and compass together until the red end of the compass needle is inside the hollow arrow on the dial

That's all there is to it. Your map is now oriented, which means that the direction of things around you on the ground are the same as the direction of those things on the map from your location on the map. It's all lined up. The track you are standing on runs in the same direction on the map as it does on the ground. You can see on the map which direction you want to go. Simply head in that same direction on the ground under your feet.

Orienting the map like this I regard as the single most important and effective navigation technique. You can navigate anywhere simply by orienting your map repeatedly. I often navigate by walking with my compass held on my map and repeatedly and quickly orienting them so I can easily identify the features around me. No need to take bearings. Simply remember to set the dial to minus the magnetic variation which in most of our Victorian walking areas is 12 degrees.

This works because you have made the magnetic north on the map line up with magnetic north on the ground (which is what the red end of your compass needle points to)

Bearings are useful in featureless terrain or fog but not essential. The rest of navigation is interpreting what you see on the map (contours etc) and correlating that with what you see on the ground around you. This of course only makes sense if the map is oriented and comes with practice, for which rogaining and orienteering are very good.

Please ask me if you have any questions about this. End of lesson.

# Lesson 2 Which North is North

Here's a quick quiz question. Which of the following options is north?

- 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.

Bus transport meets at Southbank Boulevard, south side of the Arts Centre, before 9.00am.Leader or deputy will be there rain, hail or shine!

Date	Activity/Location		Standard	Leader	Phone (H)
NOVEM	BER				
11	Mt Vinegar - Fernshaw	Bus	E & E/M	Lance Mobbs & Paul Beers	
12	MOFS: Ferny Creek Horticultural Gardens	Private	E	Jean Giese	
16-18	PC: Fortress-Mt Thackeray(Grampians)	Private	М	Bob Oxlade	
17-18	Cycle: Warburton Rail Trail	Private	E	Jan Palich	
18	Anakie Gorge - Steiglitz	Bus	E & E/M	David Laing & Elizabeth Ingham	
21	Daylesford-Jubilee Lake-Sailors Falls	Private	E/M	Graeme Walkden	
23-25	BC:Tarra-Bulga National Park	Private	E/M	Mick Noonan	
24	Dand Expl: Ferny Creek circuit & BBQ	Private	Easy	Jan Brooksbank	
25	Blowhard Spur(Eildon) 8.30 start from Clubrooms	Bus	E/M & M	John Fritze & Jan Colquhoun	
30-2	PC:Baw Baw: Stronaachs Camp-Mt Erica	Private	E/M	Max Casley	
DECEME	BER		•		
2	Werribee Gorge area	Bus	E/M & M	Phil Geschke & Jan Colquhoun	
6	TOFS: Long Forest Flora Reserve	Private	Е	Keith White	
8	Cycle: Pakenham to Gembrook and return	Private	М	Phillip Brown	

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