



THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 cents

Edition 684 | FEBRUARY 2008

Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday
27 February 2008

Trades Hall
Victoria Street entrance, Carlton

at 8.00 pm



Breathtaking Panorama - Pack carry sunset "snapped" from Mt Thackeray camp at the Grampians, November 2007, by Bob Oxlade.

Members are invited to attend this important annual event. Non-members also are welcome, but not eligible to vote.

Agenda:

1. Confirmation of minutes of Half Yearly General Meeting 2007
2. President's report
3. Treasurer's report and determination of 2008 membership fees
4. Walks Secretaries' reports
5. Election of Committee and Office Bearers
6. Appointment of auditors
7. Motion that Sylvia Ford be made a Life Member of Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc
8. Honorary Members
9. General Business

At the AGM all Committee positions will become vacant by due process.

The following positions have, as yet, no nominations:

- General Walks Secretary
- News Editor

If you are interested in becoming more involved in your club, and would like to learn what keeps it going and how you can contribute to it in a valuable way with your energy and ideas, then consider joining Committee. For more information regarding this, please talk to Lynda Larkin or any Committee member.

Nomination forms and proxy voting forms are available in the clubrooms and may be returned to:

*The Secretary
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc
GPO Box 1751
Melbourne 3001*

or placed in the Secretary's pigeon hole in the club rooms.

Nomination form for the Committee of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc

Position: Name of Nominee:

Proposed by: Seconded by:

Signature of Nominee: Date:

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. **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:

February 13 Mark and Carol C
 February 20* John F and Peter
 February 27 David L and Halina
 March 5* Del and Ray
 (* Treasurer in attendance)

Next Committee Meeting:

Monday, March 3 2008

Bushwalking Victoria

TRACK MAINTENANCE GROUP

Track Maintenance and Conservation Activities. Bushwalkers are encouraged to assist with the following projects.

As provided by MBW member, Mark Heath.

2008 Activity Dates	Leader contact details
15-16 March Nest Box Placing, Benalla	Ray Thomas, (03) 57 611 515 raydavidthomas@hotmail.com
21 -24 March Alpine Mossbed Rehabilitation	Steve Robertson, 9762 5367 srob7859@bigpond.net.au
5 - 6 April Mt Buffalo	Jim Harker, 9547 1152 jnharker@netspace.net.au
5 - 6 April Nest Box Monitoring, Benalla	Ray Thomas, (03) 57 611 515 raydavidthomas@hotmail.com
5 - 6 April Federation Hut Cleanup	Bill Metzenthien billm@melbpc.org.au
20 April Cambarville	Steven Robertson, 9762 5367 srob7859@bigpond.net.au
2 - 4 May Grampians	Rod Novak, 9561 2407 rodrnovak@ozemail.com.au
3 - 4 May Nest Box Monitoring, Benalla	Ray Thomas, (03) 57 611 515 raydavidthomas@hotmail.com



Cheese and Wine Evening

Wednesday, February 27

Reports

PRESIDENT:



Dear Members

Already the Christmas holidays seem a distant memory as February 2008 rushes upon us and the demands of the present moment make themselves strongly felt. For Melbourne Bushies, the matter of trying to retain our club rooms is a matter of primary concern, a situation brought about by the threat of a proposed rental increase, which exceeded our wildest dreams, and which will require passion, determination and commitment to resolve.

Many members may not be familiar with the fact that our club rooms at Mackenzie St were secured for our use by way of a Gentleman's Agreement between Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. and the Trustee of Horticultural Hall back in September 1988, (during the reign of Sylvia the Magnificent), and have served our needs perfectly for the past 20 years. We do not want to let them go.

And so, a sub-committee was formed at the January Committee meeting to handle the matter, with an initial letter sent to the Mint Inc requesting a meeting with the Board of Management, in order to negotiate a lower rental increase than that proposed. It is doubtful that any voluntary community organization operating on a non-profit basis as we do would be able to meet such an exorbitant rental fee for their club rooms without it having a devastating effect on the club's membership, activities etcetera.

We feel fairly positive that although we are unable to defend our position on any legal grounds (due to the absence of a signed lease) we have a strong case on a number of other grounds, the most important being that of the building's Heritage listing and unique history as one of a large number of assembly halls which played an important social role in Melbourne as the venue for various clubs and societies, dating back to the 1850's.

It is possible that the Government policy which stipulates "sufficient funds be generated from the building to maintain costs in perpetuity as a minimum" has placed pressure on the Mint Inc to quote this drastic rental increase and it is unfortunate that the policy does not take into account the financial burden that would be placed on valuable social organizations such as ours, a financial burden which would inevitably render us unable to have access to what is essentially a community asset. We hope to present a good case to Mint Inc. if and when the Board agrees to meet with us. Should our bid for a sympathetic response be unsuccessful, the next measure we have considered will be to approach local and State MP's, the Dept of Planning and Community Development and Heritage Victoria.

Thanks to all those who have offered ideas and suggestions re alternative locations should we need to leave Mackenzie St. A number of these ideas have been explored, but have unfortunately proved unsatisfactory.

All this aside, our AGM is just around the corner. A good opportunity to be present and participate in discussion and decision-making with regard to club matters and the voting in of new Committee members.

Stepping down are MBW Secretary, Fay Dunn, General Walks Secretary, David Arnold and News Editor, Christine Salau, all of whom have been worth their weight in gold in their various roles and a wonderful support to me throughout the year, along with the rest of committee. My sincere thanks to you all.

By the end of February, when we have more of an idea about where we stand with the club rooms, we will be able to focus more on starting to organize First Aid, Navigation and Walk Leaders training. Also some excellent slide nights with a surprise guest whose collection is utterly awesome.

Will also circulate information regarding Federation Weekend, which is to be hosted by the Ballarat Bushwalking and Outdoor Club on the weekend of 18 and 19 October 2008. So jot that down in your diaries now! It will be based at Beaufort and focus on the Mt Cole area and will include Mt Cole, Mt Buangor and Langi Ghiran State Parks.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM. We may possibly retire to the Trades Hall Main Bar for "refreshments" after the meeting.

Lynda Larkin



Lynda and Elenora, Dry Diggings Track Pack Carry, September 2007

Reports

GENERAL WALKS SECRETARY:

2007 Wrap-up from the General Walks Secretary

Firstly I congratulate all of our coordinators and leaders for their ongoing effort in creating the all-important quarterly activities programs, without which we would not function as a club at all.

The past year has been a trial of the new system which saw the introduction of the activity coordinators who generate the program content, and the formal handing over of all the back-office administration of the Sunday bus operations to the Sunday Walks Secretary. These changes have reduced the load on the "General" Walks Secretary.

My aim in taking up the General Walks Secretary committee position after it became vacant in the first half of 2007, was to develop a resource which would provide leaders with ready access, online, to walk reports and other leader documentation. This facility has now been in operation for a number of months, and has received positive feedback on the ease of access to walk reports. With time, I hope leaders will also find the online repository of standard documents and templates useful. By allowing leaders to select documentation appropriate to their type of trip, the General Walks Secretary is saved the repetitive task of preparing individual emails tailored to each trip. The walks secretaries are already kept busy enough processing walk reports, maintaining statistics, and generating new procedures and By-Laws to keep on top of changing needs and statutory requirements.

I have decided not to stand for re-election to this position in 2008, as I am not actively participating in many of the club's activities at the current time, and

feel the position could suit someone who is more involved. I will continue to maintain the leaders' online resource for a further six months, after which hopefully someone will be ready to take over (its mechanics are already well documented), or the club would revert to the former system of paper-only walk reports and manually emailed documents.

A summary of trip statistics for 2007 in comparison with the two previous years accompanies this report.

I wish everyone a fruitful 2008.



David Arnold

Trip statistics 2007 compared with previous years:

ACTIVITY	NUMBER OF TRIPS			AVERAGE ATTENDANCE		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
Wednesday	12	12	12	17.7	13.1	13.4
TOFs/MOFs	10	12	13	9.6	15.1	16.9
Dand Expl	10	10	10	16.5	16.4	14.6
Pack Carry	24	20	20	7.8	9.4	10.8
Base Camp	19	16	11	11.6	10.9	15.3
Lodge	3	3	3	12.7	12.3	9.0
Cycle w/end	2	2	1	21.0	15.0	17.0
Cycle day	4	9	8	18.0	8.0	7.4
Canoeing	2	1	0	18.5	7.0	
Liloiing	0	0	1			7.0
Tracks & Planting	3	2	1	9.7	6.0	5.0
Nav Training	1	1	1	7.0	6.0	15.0
Other day walks	1	4			9.0	

EQUIPMENT OFFICER

Condensation in tents

Condensation can be a nuisance, or even a safety hazard in extreme conditions, so it pays to be prepared. Start with a double skin tent, preferably with high and low level ventilation, doors that can be left open in the rain and a taught fly that pitches well clear of the inner and sheds drips to the sides. Select your campsite in a breezy location away from damp hollows and, where safe to do so, under foliage. Reduce moisture by not cooking or storing damp equipment inside or under the fly. Most importantly maximise ventilation by propping open vents and under flies and by leaving doors (including insect netting ones) open. If all this fails put the toe of your sleeping bag into your pack and wipe as much condensation from the inside of the tent as you can.

Rain gear

You could be forgiven for thinking that a \$600 raincoat will outperform a \$35 model but this is not necessarily so. The expensive model may be hobbled by its weight and bulk and, while it will perform better in some conditions, the little guy could win in the end. In any



case there's no point in throwing money away so, if you are new to pack carrying, start with a cheap, light, unlined, 100% waterproof, proofed nylon hooded jacket, preferably long enough to cover your shorts (as made by firms such as Rainbird or Husky) and defer any future purchase to if and when you

find the need. If you have a 600 gram monster welded on you could, at the very least, prolong its life by taking a cheap coat on trips where you are not expecting rain. Who knows you may discover that it finds its way into your pack more often than you care to mention.

If your coat is not long enough to cover your shorts you will need a pair of over pants or a rain skirt. You can make a stylish number by slitting the bottom of a garbag and inserting a more substantial drawstring. You can even replace the need for a drawstring altogether by gathering the surplus around your waist, twisting, bending and securing with a rubber band. You should find the rainskirt satisfactory in mild conditions even when wearing long synthetic trousers. They don't tend to be a nuisance when wet and will dry quickly when the rain stops.

John Fritze

Noticeboard

NAVIGATION DAY (AND EVENING)

DATE Saturday 29 March
(and Thursday evening 27 March)

STANDARD Easy

LEADER Jopie Bodegraven

AREA Kinglake National Park

MAP REF Kinglake National Park Outdoor Leisure Map
1:25,000

Being able to navigate using a contour map is essential for safe bushwalking and luckily, it is basically quite easy to learn.

The course will consist of Thursday evening in the clubrooms, starting at 7.30pm, learning the basic theory, and then a day in the bush to put it all into practice. The day will involve firstly going to 3 vantage points by car to identify topographic features and relate them to the map, and then navigating a 10km circuit in the National Park.

If our group is too large, we will split up into a Saturday and a Sunday group so that everyone can still get personalised attention. Everyone will need to have either a copy of the above map, which can be purchased from Mapland in Little Bourke St or a colour A3 copy of the relevant section, which I can organise for you for \$2. You will also need a compass. The club has a small number for hire.

Book your place by ringing me on 9482 4691.

EXTRA LILO TRIP

If you have a suitable lilo and have missed out on this summer's liloing season, or would like to have one last fling, here's an opportunity.



An easy trip down the Yarra River from Wittons Reserve, Wonga Park to Bouchiers Lane (or Jumping Creek Reserve if we are feeling fit). We have cobbled it into the program on Saturday 16 February. Register your interest by contacting John Fritze (phone 9347 6483).

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY, *Peter Havlicek*

Additions and alterations to member addresses are provided on page 13.

Membership stats:

Life Members	12	
Honorary Members	11	
Single memberships	337	
Family memberships	106	(= 2x 53)
Total membership	466	
This time last year	488	

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Steve on 041 934 9391.

Offer closes 18 February 2008.

Notice board

THANK YOU

Dear Club Members

I'd like to convey a very special thank you to Carol Corrigan, Eleanor Floyd and fellow walkers who were so wonderful when I unfortunately fell and broke my ankle during the walk on 16 December at Mount Macedon.

One does not plan on including such dramas on a pleasant Sunday walk. Unfortunately it happened so quickly.

I ended up in hospital for a couple of days but some of those that helped carry me out probably needed to be admitted also. It was an enormous responsibility carrying out an injured lead weight and my fellow walkers were so gracious about the pain I was causing them.

Thank you so much to everyone involved and for the good wishes conveyed to me by club members.

I did not realise what a long recovery process and incredible inconvenience a broken ankle is but I take heart that it is a finite injury and eventually one gets to walk again.

Thank again to all involved and I look forward to returning to the fold.

Helena Higginbottom



PACK CARRIES for the WINTER PROGRAM

Leaders and Trips Needed

It's time to start thinking about what trips you may like to lead in the winter. We have the Queen's Birthday long weekend on 6-9 June as a start. Then it would be good to have at least one pack carry trip in each of July and August. Let me know the name and date of the trip you would like to lead by emailing me at jopiebodegraven@iprimus.com.au or ringing me on 94824691 and I will compose the pack carry trip list to forward on to our General Walks Secretary by the end of March. to be included in the Winter Program I will be in Tasmania from 10 Feb till 15 March but email me anyway and on my return I will endeavour to put it all together.

Any offers for Base Camps or Lodge Trips, please contact Katrina Murphy, our base camp coordinator. These trips are a bit scarce in Autumn so if you would like to see some on the program in winter, please give Katrina a call



Jopie Bodegraven - Pack Carry Coordinator

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

Kakadu

Kakadu is bushwalking at its best. It is Australia's largest national park. It contains thousands of rock art sites, dozens of beautiful gorges and spectacular waterfalls, uncountable swimming holes you need share with no one but your walking companions.

The dry season weather is as near to perfect as you can find anywhere in the world – **it's paradise!**

I've been running bushwalking tours in Kakadu since 1984. Unlike many tour operators, I spend as much time as possible out bush, leading trips myself. Why? Someone else put it better than I can.

"What we get from this adventure is just sheer joy. And joy is, after all, the end of life. We do not live to eat and make money. We eat and make money to be able to enjoy life. That is what life means and what life is for."

George Mallory, 1922

Join us and share that joy.

Russell Willis

www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au

12 Carrington St Millner NT 0810 Email: walkabout@ais.net.au

Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355



Do it yourself or with a guide? If you do it with a guide:

- We handle the hassles of organising permits and transport.
- You relax and enjoy while we cook you three course meals.
- You see rock art sites you'd be unlikely to find on your own.
- You get the best possible camp sites and swimming holes.
- You get a walking reference to explain things about the art, flora, fauna and environment.
- In a small group, you may spend little more than you'd pay to hire transport and prepare all your own meals.



Nest box placement weekend

15-16 March 2008

I am writing to invite you to join with us in placing our 240 new nest boxes out in the Lurg Hills. We put up 26 in a day in early 2007 with a couple of small groups, and 58 in a weekend last December, so the task is quite feasible.

But firstly, why do we need extras when we've already got 200 placed around the district? Obviously the Squirrel Gliders and Phascogales can always use more hollows for breeding, but there is also a more subtle need to help the animals migrate into and out of Lurg, so the gene pools can stay diverse in the long term!

The isolation of the Lurg population (and indeed the various sub populations within Lurg itself) places them at risk of inbreeding, and increasingly so as the populations get smaller. In fact genetic work on Lurg Squirrel Gliders has already shown a declining population trend and a reduced genetic diversity. The time to act is now, before the problem gets worse.

Strategic placement criteria

To ensure the new boxes will have the best long-term effects, we've developed the following principles to guide our choice of placement sites.

- Provide much needed shelter in young regrowth forest patches that have very few old trees and therefore few natural hollows. Our nest box habitation records suggest that hollows are a limiting factor on population growth. The implication is that we should boost the local population to a robust level so that Lurg can become a "net source" of animals for dispersal into neighbouring districts that are not faring so well. eg Glenrowan.
- Provide protective shelter on the likely migration routes into and out of the Lurg district. Many of these routes have serious gaps in the habitat, and are dominated by young trees without hollows. These fragmented dispersal routes may well be systematic "sinks" in the population dynamics. To increase the exchange of genetic material over the broader landscape, these routes could be made safer simply by providing nest boxes for this precarious, vulnerable time in an animal's life.
- Provide shelter in gullies and creeks where the fertile soils and extra moisture provide enough food for breeding. In fact our nest box records show that these are the only places where Gliders can raise young!
- Provide boxes in strategic corridors linking the dry hills to the moister creeks and gullies. Our nest box records show that gliders certainly use the hill country in the cooler months, but move to refuges along gullies and creeks during summer and extended drought periods.
- Provide deliberate "litmus test" boxes to check the presence of gliders in our older planted corridors. We have much evidence of Gliders eating sap from wattles in our planting sites, but have no idea how old the seedlings need to be to allow gliders to migrate long distances.
- From detailed study of aerial photographs, identify new placement zones in roadsides, creek lines, bush blocks and planted corridors all across Lurg and surrounding districts. Allocate several boxes 150-200 m apart in each zone, to allow family groups to occupy multiple nests just as in nature.



Training weekend

To get the process rolling, we'd like to offer some "on the job" training

in how to do the task safely and with optimal results for the animals of course. A very important factor is selecting the best trees!! Volunteers who have helped with our nest box checking in the past, will obviously have an idea about that, but there are some tricks of the trade and safety factors to consider, so it's best to have some practical training in the field.

Time, place, what to bring

Meet at Benalla DSE offices, Sydney Rd, Benalla, 9 am both days

Come prepared for being out at Lurg all day. BYO lunch, a drink, sun protection, and grass-seed protectors for your socks!! Roof rack or tow bar to carry a ladder would be good (if you have one.)

RSVP before the event, to help us plan group sizes, equipment, maps etc.

Ray Thomas, ph (03) 57 611 515, or email raydavidthomas@hotmail.com





Base camp ANGLESEA

DATE	15-17 February 2008
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	About 14-16 km each day
LEADER(S)	Del Franks
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Anglesea
MAP REF	Anglesea 1:25,000

You will experience beautiful coastal scenery and bush on this part of the "Surf Coast Walk". Hopefully the weather will also provide for some great swimming opportunities as well so please bring your bathers.

Both walks that I have planned are circular walks starting in Anglesea. From the coastline, beach and clifftops, to the heathland, swampy gullies and light forests, these walks take in all that is Anglesea. Also the walks go through Coogoorah Park, an Aboriginal name meaning Swampy Reedy Creek. This is an adventure park set amongst bushland on the west bank of Anglesea Rive. It combines unique waterways, natural bushland islands, a network of bridges and boardwalks. I plan on camping at the Anglesea Family Caravan Park.



Lilo YARRA RIVER

DATE	16 February 2008
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER	John Fritze

An easy trip down the Yarra River from Wittons Reserve, Wonga Park to Bouchiers Lane (or Jumping Creek Reserve if we are feeling fit). Register your interest by contacting John Fritze (Phone 9347 6483).



Sunday Bus POWLETT RIVER - CAPE PATERSON

DATE	17 February 2008
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	19kms & 15kms
LEADER(S)	Halina Sarbinowski and Tracey Jamieson
TRANSPORT	Bus from Southbank Blvd
AREA	Phillip Island/Gippsland
MAP REF	Park Notes – Bass Coast Parks and Reserves

The E/M walk will commence just before the bridge over the Powlett River and follow the river to the beach. It will walk along the beach till it reaches Baxters' Beach. The Easy walk will follow Campbell Road through Wonthaggi wetlands, past the wind turbines before going through a tea-tree forest as it makes its way onto Baxters' Beach. From this point both walks will follow the same route. Most walking will be along the beach, however, at Cutlers Beach we'll move inland and follow the tracks through Wonthaggi Heathland. This small oasis of natural heathland is in stark contrast to the fields that had

Sunday Bus, Powlett River ... continued

been cleared by farmers. At some points the scrub is so dense beside the track that it is difficult to image how a track was ever cleared. We'll make our way back onto the beach at Harmers Haven. Both walks will finish at Cape Paterson where we can enjoy a quick dip and a well deserved ice-cream or for some a much needed caffeine fix.

The walking on the day will be easy, either on hard sand at low tide or along the many rock ledges along this magnificent strip of coast line. These are lovely beaches with lots of rock pools to explore, sea birds to sight and crashing waves to listen to. These are walks that you will enjoy.

Please note change of leader.



Wednesday Walk BELLS BEACH AND IRONBARK FOREST

DATE	20 February 2008
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	14.5km
LEADER	Margaret Curry
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Torquay/Bells Beach/Point Addis
MAP REF	VicMap Torquay and Point Addis 1:25,000

This is an interesting and varied circuit. We start by walking through coastal scrub, pass the site of the old Jarosite mine (paint pigment from here used on the 'red rattler' Melbourne trains), and then through the beautiful Ironbark Forest Reserve, before heading to the clifftops with superb coastal views. The track leads us onto the Koori Cultural trail and there is also time to explore Point Addis before descending to the beach. Pleasant sand walking along Addiscott Beach (designated optional clothing area) backed by towering red cliffs, before crossing a rocky platform around the headland to reach the renowned Bells Beach and our cars. Bring bathers for a swim or 'bare all' at Addiscott Beach.

Drive through Geelong and then a further 22km to Torquay. Continue west along the Great Ocean Road for 3km, turn left onto Bells Beach Road then left again at the T- intersection. Turn into the second parking area on your left signposted "Bells Beach Surfing and Recreation Reserve". Drive to the lower end of the carpark near the brightly painted toilet block. We will meet here at 10.15am for a 10.30am start. The walk will form part of the Fairhaven sojourn organised by Susan Maughan. Bookings for the Wednesday walk to be made to Margaret after 4th February on 9500 0664, mobile 0408 664 565 or email mycurry@alphalink.com.au.



Dandenongs Explorer YARRA RANGES EXPLORER AND OVERNIGHT CAMPING

DATE	23 February 2008
STANDARD	Easy (with some steady climbs)
DISTANCE	10km
LEADER	Maureen Hurley (9482 6954)
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Warburton
MAP REF	Melways 289K4

On this walk we will explore the picturesque area of Warburton. And Please note there is the option of having dinner after the walk and staying overnight at the beautiful Warburton Caravan Park, 30 Woods Point Rd, Warburton.

We will meet at 10.15 at the Patchwork Tea House, which is the first tea House as you come in to Warburton from Melbourne (just after the bridge).

Parking is either in front of the tea house or across the Road in Scotchman's Creek Road, where the walk begins.

We will walk from the car park at Scotchman's Creek Road up the Backstairs

Track, which is a beautiful shady ferny track. This is a steady climb. We then Walk along the Old Warburton Highway for about 40 minutes (this is a quiet Road). The group will then complete the La La Falls circuit and wind our way

Back to town along the river, where the mandatory afternoon tea stop will be Decided upon. This is a great walk for a hot day because most of the walk is In shade.

If you would like to join me for dinner at the Wild Thyme Cafe give me a ring so I can book. If your interested in staying overnight just show up at the Caravan Park and ask where our group is staying (there is no need to book).

Look forward to seeing you there.



Sunday Bus DYERS CREEK – BUNYIP RIVER

DATE	24 February 2008
STANDARD	Easy/Medium & Medium
DISTANCE	14kms & 17kms
LEADER(S)	Nik Dow and Halina Sarbinowski
TRANSPORT	Bus from Southbank Blvd
AREA	Gembrook
MAP REF	Gembrook South 1:25,000

This walk has not been on the club program since 1999 and unfortunately the leaders have not been able to preview as yet so relying on the previous walk report to provide information. The walks were found to be "good and pleasurable through attractive forest – the tree ferns and the mountain ash here are really good." Both walks included ascents of 440 meters so a few hills involved. A fire-tower at Egg Rock affords lovely views over the treetops.

Both leaders enjoyed their walks deeming them "worthwhile and attractive".

More information regarding the walks will be available from the leaders when booking.



Sunday Bus GUNNAMATTA - SORRENTO

DATE	2 March 2008
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	14kms & 18kms
LEADER(S)	Maddy Lock & Halina Sarbinowski
TRANSPORT	Bus from Southbank Blvd
AREA	Mornington Peninsula Ocean Coast
MAP REF	Melways Map Refs: 156 166 167 and 251

The stretch of coast between Gunnamatta and Sorrento must be one of Victoria's most picturesque offering stunning views, beautiful beaches, and fascinating rock formations. The Easy/Medium group starts just south of Gunnamatta and the Easy Group from Rye Back Beach. The first part of both walks is along the sandy shoreline, however, once we reach Number Sixteen Beach we will follow the track mainly along the cliff-tops to Sorrento. This track passes through a number of delightful but little known beaches, such as, Bay of Islands, Diamond Bay and St Pauls Beach with its lookout built in the early 1900s to ensure that Australia was not attacked by the Russians. After exploring Coppins Lookout we might, if time permits, enjoy a coffee or ice-cream before boarding the bus to travel back home.

This is a delightful walk so we hope that you will join us. Please remember to bring the hat, the sunscreen, the insect repellent and plenty of water.



TOFS WILLIAMSTOWN - ALTONA

DATE	6 March 2008
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	11 km
LEADER	Janet Norman
TRANSPORT	Private
START TIME	10.30 am
RETURN TIME	3.00 p.m
MAP REF	Melway 54 J 9

The walk will begin at the car park at Cherry Lake off Millers Road Altona. Take the Millers Road exit if you are coming over West Gate Bridge. The car park is on the southern side of the lake. We will walk around Cherry Lake then head off for the sea through the Altona Coastal Park and along the Esplanade. Not a hill in sight but the chance of a sea breeze and the odd sea bird – perfect for a warm day. The length of the walk will be adjusted in accordance with the temperature and the sea breezes.



Sunday Bus UPPER YARRA GOLDFIELDS

DATE	9 March 2008
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
LEADERS	Doug Langton and Phil Geschke
See the leaders in the clubroom for details.	



Cycling

OUTER CIRCLE RAILWAY

DATE 15 March 2008
LEADER Jan Palich
Contact the leader for details



Wednesday Walk

TALLAROOK STATE FOREST - WARRAGUL ROCKS

DATE 19 March 2008
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 15 km
LEADER Graeme Walkden
RETURN TIME 3.30 pm to cars
AREA Tallarook, Strath Creek
MAP REF Rooftop Tallarook Forest Activities 1:50,000

Most of this walk is on forestry tracks in the Tallarook State Forest. The highlight is the superb view of the Goulburn Valley from Warragul Rocks. This lookout is on private property near the north-east boundary of the state forest. An 11 km option requires a car shuffle.

We walk north along East Falls Road to Warragul Rocks. Continuing northward, we descend to Falls Creek Reservoir. After skirting the reservoir, we walk south along Reservoir Track and Falls Creek Road. The latter has a gradual climb that takes us back to East Falls Road and the cars.

We will meet at 10.15 am in the Tallarook State Forest, at the junction of East Falls Road and Main Road. To get there, take the Hume Freeway to the off-ramp near Broadford. Turn right onto the C382. At Strath Creek township, turn left onto King Parrot Creek Road. Turn left onto Fairview Road (a gravel road) 8 km beyond the township. The road curves left after the bridge. After a short flat section, the road climbs steeply. On entering the state forest, the road changes its name to Main Road. Stay on this road until you reach East Falls Road. This is sign-posted and forms a triangular junction on the right 6.7 km from King Parrot Creek Road.

For bookings, please phone Graeme on 9836 6014.



Sunday Bus

PT ADDIS - PT IMPOSSIBLE

DATE 16 March 2008
STANDARD Easy and Easy/Medium
LEADERS David Laing and Fay Dunn
TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blvd
RETURN TIME 7pm
AREA Anglesea
MAP REF Melway

At this stage the walk has not been previewed and the actual route is still to be determined.

It is a beach walk under the cliffs of the Great Ocean Rd. You can expect some pristine beaches and maybe an “optional dress” beach along the way.



MOFs

YARRA BEND PARK – GOAT TRACK

DATE 17 March 2008
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 10 km
LEADER Jean Giese
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Yarra Bend Park
MAP REF Melway map 2D

Our trial run of a MOFs walk (Monday Old Fogies) was a great success with 14 walkers turning out. As will have been seen from the Autumn Programme, we have prepared walks for March, April & May. At present we have had to schedule these for the 3rd Monday of each month. Here is the preview for 17 March.

Planned so we can walk in the shade most of the time, this walk around the Yarra’s banks should be a nice way to spend a summer’s day for those lucky enough to be retired from working.

We will make our way to Dickinson Reserve then take the goat track around the river bends, avoiding the bicycle paths.

Meet in the first carpark in Studley Park Mel. 2D F8, to start walking at 10:15. Book with leader on 9890 2189.



Sunday Bus

SUTHERLAND CREEK – BEARDS GULLY

DATE 23 March 2008
STANDARD Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE Approx. 10kms and 13kms
LEADER(S) Roger Browne and Dale MacKenzie
TRANSPORT Bus from Southbank Blvd
AREA Brisbane Ranges
MAP REF Brisbane Ranges N.P. 1:50,000

This walk was last on our program in 2002 – so a good opportunity for a visit. Both groups begin their walks from the old Steiglitz Courthouse, travelling south to Sailor’s Track on mostly open forest roads. Then comes the really interesting part – following the Sutherland Creek north as it meanders through old gold diggings and associated history. Though all of this is done “off track” the going is not considered difficult. The E/M group adds a few more kilometres at the end.

Please note change of leader (Contact no: 9802 3140)



Sunday Bus

LORNE WATERFALLS

DATE	30 March 2008
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	13kms and 16kms
LEADER(S)	Andrew Francis & Hans Baer
TRANSPORT	Bus from Southbank Blvd
AREA	Otways Ranges – Back of Lorne
MAP REF	Lorne 7620-1-1 (1:25,000)

If you only do one walk this year, then this should be it! This outstanding walk in the Otways is truly one of the best that Victoria has to offer. Come and discover lush and cool fern gullies, majestic tall trees, delightful streams and imposing waterfalls.

The Easy walk will commence at the Sheoak Picnic Area and walk to Phantom Falls via Won Wondah Falls, Henderson Falls and The Canyon. From the Phantom Falls, we will walk to the Cora Lynn Cascades and finish at Blanket Leaf Picnic Area. The E/M walk will start from Sheoak Falls car park on the Great Ocean Road and proceed to the Sheoak Picnic Area via the Sheoak Falls and Swallow Cave. This walk will then follow the same track as the easier walk.

Plenty of water, sunscreen and a wide brimmed hat are essential items. Please note 8:30am start and change to main leader (Andrew Francis, Contact no: 9850 3966)



Training

NAVIGATION DAY (AND EVENING)

DATE	29 March 2008 (and Thursday evening 27 March)
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER	Jopie Bodegraven
AREA	Kinglake National Park
MAP REF	Kinglake National Park Outdoor Leisure Map 1:25,000

Being able to navigate using a contour map is essential for safe bushwalking and luckily, it is basically quite easy to learn.

The course will consist of Thursday evening in the clubrooms, starting at 7.30pm, learning the basic theory, and then a day in the bush to put it all into practice. The day will involve firstly going to 3 vantage points by car to identify topographic features and relate them to the map, and then navigating a 10km circuit in the National Park.

If our group is too large, we will split up into a Saturday and a Sunday group so that everyone can still get personalised attention. Everyone will need to have either a copy of the above map, which can be purchased from Mapland in Little Bourke St or a colour A3 copy of the relevant section, which I can organise for you for \$2. You will also need a compass. The club has a small number for hire.

Book your place by telephoning Jopie on 9482 4691.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT:

New members:

- JULIE BONARIUS
11 / 23 TIVOLI ROAD, SOUTH YARRA 3141 VIC
Ph W) 0414 083 334, e-mail: juliebonarius@hotmail.com
- PAUL BRAND
15 PETTER STREET, GLEN WAVERLEY 3150 VIC
Ph H) 9560 8938, e-mail: paul_brand9@hotmail.com
- DAVID & FIONA MORRIS
135 GREYTHORN ROAD, BALWYN NORTH 3104 VIC
Ph H) 9857 3780 Ph W) 8687 8358 (DAVID) Ph W2) 0422 987 196 (FIONA), e-mail: david.morris@consultant.com
- RICHARD SEAR
631 ORRONG ROAD, TOORAK 3142 VIC
Ph H) 9827 3595, e-mail: rickhsear@aol.com

Altered Address/Phone:

- CATHERINE CARDINET
Ph W) 9657 8400, e-mail: cardinet@inet.net.au
- LIZ TELFORD
PO BOX 1083, BENTLEY 6102 WA, Ph H) 0434 410 672

(Membership stats on page 5.)

COMMIT ENDURE ACHIEVE

Oxfam TRAILWALKER

100 kms - teams of 4 - 48 hours

Thank you!

Melbourne Trailwalker Event
11-13 April 2008
Jells Park to Wesburn Park

Please sponsor Christine Salau and her team on their 100km walk and help overcome poverty and injustice!

Oxfam Australia invites sponsorship tax deductible donations to the team via the web:
<http://www.oxfam.org.au/trailwalker/team/234>



Pack Carry

BUNGALOW SPUR - FEATHERTOP - RAZORBACK

DATE	22 - 24 February 2008
STANDARD	Medium
LEADER	Mohammad Akbari
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Sunday evening
AREA	Mt Bogong
MAP REF	Bogong Alpine Area Leisure Series 1:50,000 and Rooftop's Mt Feathertop – Hotham Forest Activities Map 1:30000

Depending on participants' preferences, we will choose from two options available for this spectacular walk.

1- Easy Medium option: walk start from Harrierville via Bungalow Spur - Mt Feathertop - Razorback and finished at Diamantina hut West of Mt Hotham. This walk follows an old bridle track that is even graded and makes for easy walking. However this route will provide gentle climbs through the different levels of mixed forest, alpine ash and snow gum.

2- Easy option: walk start from Diamantina hut via Razorback, Mt Feathertop, Bungalow Spur and finish at Harrierville. The extensive panoramic views are the main attraction of this trek, heightened in this case by the narrowness of the ridge and precipitous fall to the Ovens and Kiewa valleys on either side.



Pack Carry

MT LOCH – PALING SPUR – YOUNGS SPUR

DATE	7 - 10 March 2008, LABOR DAY WEEKEND
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	36 km approximately
LEADER	Max Casley
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Late Monday evening
AREA	Mt Hotham, north-east Victoria
MAP REF	Bogong Alpine Area 1:50,000

This walk starts and finishes at the Mt Loch Car Park near the Mt Hotham resort. On Saturday morning we will go along the Alps Walking Track to Derrick Hut and if time allows do side trips to Spargo's Hut and the site of Quintet Huts which were destroyed in the fires of 2003. We will turn off the track and go down to Swindlers Gap where we will join Dungey's Track which is sometimes used by horse-riding groups and it can get a bit overgrown. This track follows Swindlers Creek down to where it flows into the Cobungra River – we will camp near here and swim in the river if we wish.

Next day we climb up Paling Spur towards the High Plains, where it should be somewhat cooler, and camp near Young's Hut (8 km) or near Mt Jim (12 km).

On Sunday we will rejoin the Alps Walking Track passing Basalt Temple and Dibbins Hut. We could consider returning via Dibbins Divide and Mt Loch on the way back to our cars.

Transport cost would be about \$70 per passenger. This is an attractive area and it should be an enjoyable walk.



Base Camp

MT BUFFALO

DATE	7 - 10 March 2008 - LABOR DAY WEEKEND
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER	Jan Colquhoun
RETURN TIME	Optional
AREA	NE Victoria
MAP REF	Mt Buffalo Plateau 1:30,000 Eurobin & Buckland 1:25,000

This base camp aims to explore many of the highlights of the Mt Buffalo Plateau. I aim to start walking a little later than usual to give those who need a sleep in after the drive a chance to do so, or alternatively people may prefer to drive up on Saturday morning. On Saturday we car pool from our campsite at Lake Catani to The Reservoir picnic area. From here we have the option of exploring Og, Gog and Magog and Eagles Point before returning to the car park to ascend Mt. Dunn, which offers some of the best views of the plateau itself. We shall then walk back to the campsite via the Giants Causeway, Stanley Rocks and the picturesque Long Plain. On Saturday evening we can have drinks and nibbles at the lookout on "The Horn" for a stunning 360° sunset. On Sunday there is the option of doing "The Big Walk", or perhaps some shorter walks depending on the needs of the group. On Monday we shall explore The Corral, The Castle, Mahomets Tomb, the Cathedral and the Hump. This area was burnt in fires 2 years ago but has regenerated since. The many twisted and windswept dead trees give this area has an eerie atmosphere. On our way out of the park we have the option of taking a short hike to Rollisons Falls before heading back to Melbourne. For those who are interested, we could go for coffee or a meal in Bright on our way home. The campsite at Lake Catani is well facilitated with toilets and hot showers and the lake is suitable for swimming. The proposed walks are flexible depending on the needs of the group, the weather and any subsequent fire damage to the park. I will be in the clubrooms for the 2 Wednesdays preceding the walk.

The aim of the weekend is to walk hard, enjoy stunning scenery, eat and socialize well! The full cost for campsites is \$30.75 each for the whole weekend, but it may be less depending on the number of people per site. As this base camp is being held over a long weekend the campsites will book out fast, and if interested please contact me ASAP so as to give me a rough idea of how many sites to book. Email me at jancolquhounoz@hotmail.com or phone 9387 6938 or mobile 0410 212 140

Nesting Box Weekend

LURG HILLS, BENALLA

15-16 March 2008

See article earlier this newsletter.



Base Camp COBBERAS - NATIVE DOG FLAT

DATE	20 - 24 March 2008, EASTER
STANDARD	Easy , Medium, Medium/Hard
DISTANCE	Various
LEADER	Geoff Mattingley
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Monday evening
AREA	Melway ed.29 and above: map 623 C10/D10 & VicRoads Country Directory map 52 C8/D8.
MAP REF	NSW 1:50,000 Suggan Buggan 8524-II & III

This great base camp is on the program for its sixth year running. The location is Victoria's Alpine National Park, close to the NSW border and Kosciuszko National Park. It offers a beautiful sub-alpine campsite at 1200m altitude, only 15 km from the source of the Murray River, with plenty of camping space, fireplaces & tables, a Parks Victoria toilet, and superb views from the nearby peaks. The Buchan River runs through the campsite - and there should be plenty of water in it this year. There will be walks of various standards, which may include Mt Cobberas No.1, Mt Cobberas No. 2, Mt Stradbroke, or Ram's Horn (Buchan Rock) - all of these have clear rocky tops with superb views. Another possibility is for a long day's walk to the source of the Murray and the recently restored cairn that marks the start of the straight-line part of the Vic-NSW border. If you prefer you can just enjoy the mountain air from the campsite - since you don't have to carry anything you can take luxuries such as a folding chair, gas lamp, extra food etc. You can arrive at the campsite any time from the Thursday onwards and stay for as long or short a time as you wish.

It's a fair distance to get there, including some gravel roads, but on previous trips they have been quite OK for ordinary cars. For those who haven't been camping before this is a good opportunity to try it without having to carry a heavy pack. As always, the club has tents and a wide range of other equipment for hire from the clubrooms.



Pack Carry WATCHBED CREEK/GREY HILLS/TIMMS LOOKOUT

DATE	20 - 24 March 2008 - EASTER
STANDARD	E/M
DISTANCE	45 kms approx
LEADER(S)	Bill Donald
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Mt Bogong
MAP REF	Bogong Alpine Area Leisure Series 1:50,000

We will leave on Friday morning and have lunch at Bogong Village.

After lunch we will drive to the start of the walk at Watchbed Creek and head off to our first night's camp site at Ropers Hut. On Saturday we have a long day walking to Bogong Creek saddle via the Grey Hills.

The following day we head back to Ropers Hut this time via Timms Spur taking in views of the Grey Hills. Monday is a short walk back to the cars at Watchbed Creek and an early lunch stop in Mt Beauty on the way home.

Please come prepared for extremes in weather.



Pack carry FREYCINET NATIONAL PARK, TASMANIA

DATE	20 - 24-March 2008 - EASTER
STANDARD	E/M with M and M/H options
DISTANCE	36km plus 16km options
LEADER	Bob Oxlade
TRANSPORT	Private to Hobart then Charter Coach
AREA	Tasmania East Coast
MAP REF	Tasmap Freycinet NP

The Freycinet circuit is rated as one of the best five walks in Tasmania and features beaches, peaks and the world famous Wineglass Bay. Everything is confirmed for the walk and now is the time to arrange travel.

This walk is currently fully booked.

Bob Oxlade



Pack Carry CAPE LIPTRAP - VENUS BAY

DATE	12-13 April 2008
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	25 km
LEADER(S)	Bob Oxlade
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Cape Liptrap Coastal Park. 160 km south east of Melbourne
MAP REF	Anderson Inlet, Walkerville, Maitland Beach 1:25,000 Vicmap

This is one of the few sections of coastline close to Melbourne where a two day walk can be done without passing through developed beachfront facilities. There is only one public access to the coast from our start to the finish, and this is by a rough 4wd track. The first day features rugged coastline, isolated pebble coves, rock platforms and sandy beaches. The second day has mostly wide beaches by the sand dunes.

We will travel down Saturday morning and, after leaving some cars at Venus Bay, will continue on to start the walk at Cape Liptrap. The morning low tide is essential for the first section, then, after a mixture of beach, cliff and inland track we have a pleasant grassy campsite.

On Sunday we continue on to Venus Bay and while our drivers are retrieving the cars the remainder can stroll along to a nice beach for pick up. We could stop at Inverloch for refreshments etc and still be home in time for dinner.

This interesting walk should appeal to both experienced and newer overnight walkers.

Please see Bob Oxlade in the clubrooms or ring for further details.

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			Leader	Phone (H)
FEBRUARY					
15-17	BC: Anglesea	Private	E	Del Franks	9398 6365
16	Lilo: Yarra River	Private	E	John Fritze	9347 6483
17	Bus: Powlett River - Cape Patterson	Bus	E, E/M	Halina Sarbinowski & Tracey Jamieson	9646 1235
20	WW: Bells Beach and Ironbark Forest	Private	E/M	Margaret Curry	9500 0664
22-24	PC: Bungalow Spur-Feathertop-Razorback	Private	M	Mohammad Akbari	9480 4694
23	Dandeongs Explorer	Private	TBA	Maureen Hurley	9482 6954
24	Bus: Dyers Creek - Bunyip River	Bus	E & M	Nik Dow and Halina Sarbinowski	9650 0136
MARCH					
2	Bus: Gunnamatta - Sorrento	Bus	E & E/M	Maddy Lock and Halina Sarbinowski	9415 8812
6	T: Williamstown - Altona	Private	E	Janet Norman	9534 7439
7-10	BC: Buffalo Plateau	Private	E/M	Jan Colquhoun	9387 6938
7-10	PC: Mt Loch-Swindlers Gap-Paling & Young Spurs	Private	M	Max Casley	9527 3111
9	Bus: Upper Yarra Goldfields	Bus	E & E/M	Doug Langton and Phil Geschke	9727 0345
15-16	Nesting Box Weekend: Putting in new boxes	Private	E	Ray Thomas	5795 1559
15	Cycling: Outer Circle Railway	Private		Jan Palich	9428 3639

The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers

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