



# THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 cents

Edition 686

## SLIDESHOW

### The Pyrenees: As close to heaven as a bushwalker gets



## WALKING THE PYRENEES SLIDE SHOW

*Please join Jopie Bodegraven on Wednesday 21 May at 8 pm in the Clubrooms to share his account of walking the magnificent Pyrenean high route*

The Pyrenees are a major and spectacular mountain range on the border of Spain and France with many peaks over 3,000 metres.

The predominantly granite and limestone mountains have been heavily glaciated resulting in an abundance of beautiful lakes, waterfalls,

rocky crags and remnant glaciers.

Jopie Bodegraven spent 4 weeks there in 2006 walking his variation of a sizable section of the Pyrenean High Route, a long distance route that follows as close as practicable to the highest and most scenic

parts of the range.

Still hungry for more, he went back in 2007 with John Fritze to do another 11 day section.

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**Come and enjoy a heavily edited selection of the photos they took on their treks**

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](http://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: Catherine Cardinet

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:

● **The preferred method is emailing an unformatted text file to [news@mbw.org.au](mailto:news@mbw.org.au)**

**Closing date for receipt of material for The News is without fail the 2nd 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:**

<b>May 14</b>	<b>John Fritze &amp; Lynda</b>
<b>May 21</b>	<b>Carol S. &amp; John McCall</b>
<b>May 28</b>	<b>Carol C. &amp; Ray</b>
<b>June 4</b>	<b>Mick &amp; Del</b>

**Next Committee Meeting:**  
Monday, June 2 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
September 2008 Condons Track (exact date TBA)	Steve Robertson
25-26 October 2008 Stronachs camp	Geoff Kelly

## Subscription time

We are now in the 2008 Subscription period. There has been no change to last year's subs amounts.

Subs are payable within three months, that is before the end of May 2008. Earlier payment is much appreciated.

We do not have EFT. You can pay by cheque, postal order or directly cash any evening at the club rooms to the Membership Secretary, not the Treasurer.

We do not mail out receipts although they are always made out and can be collected when you see the Membership Secretary. The mailing label on your News will have a comment \*SubsDue\* until you have paid, then it comes off (that's the way you know your subs has been received).

E-mail News recipient are reminded about subs and are notified as practicable.

Concession rates are available to Centrelink Card holders and to full-time students.

## SOCIAL NIGHT



### CARRINGBUSH HOTEL

<b>WHEN</b>	<b>FRIDAY 20 JUNE, 6:30 FOR 7:00</b>
<b>WHERE</b>	<b>228 Langridge Street, Abbotsford</b>
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	<b>Private. Can be accessed by train - one block from Collingwood train station</b>
<b>AREA</b>	<b>MELWAYS 44 D6</b>

Book with Susan Maughan no later than June 19 please.

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## President's note

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Apologies for the absence of a March issue of the newsletter. Our previous News Editor, Christine Salau, had completed a generous two-year commitment and we were in the process of recruiting a replacement.

LARRIKIN LINES MAY 2008

This month, instead of my own lines, for your pleasure and interest I would like to share with you all a letter sent to me, and indirectly to the whole club, by Alma Strappazon, whose haunting poem, Jounama, appeared in the December edition of the newsletter.

Dear Lynda

It has recently been brought to my notice that my poem, "JOUNAMA" was presented in the Club's December '07 news sheet. It was one of my earlier published poems and nice to know you found pleasure in reading it after all these years

It brought back memories of the late Athol Schafer's 14 days walk in Kosciusko State Park, which was my first extended trip with the Club. I remember him as he told us creepy stories of the "HOBYAHS" when we camped overnight in an old cattleman's hut with the wind (and the dingoes) howling outside.

I am an old lady now and my walking days are over but I still recall my contemporaries of old and wonder what has become of them

I began walking in my early 40's, my son's were growing up and doing their own thing and the Walking Club gave me a new direction in life and years of happy wandering.

I will never forget "off the cuff" weekends at Wilson's Prom. In September with Spencer George, Art Terry, Tyrone Thomas, Joyce Dunne amongst others when Melbourne's winter was over and it was spring. (On the calendar at least)!

Nor will I forget walking down the long valley of a million flies to Wonongatta Station. In those days the old homestead was still standing, its interior walls papered with years' old newspapers which made interesting reading. There was a small grove of cherry trees, which though neglected and not pruned for years, still bore fruit. We eagerly devoured these after the long, hot walk up the valley. Now I wonder if the small family graveyard has been overgrown by bush.

But all this was later when I had a fair experience of pack carrying. My first pack carry weekend as greenhorn went straight up through the scrub on Lake

Mountain and was a foretaste of what was to come in subsequent years. I had read Paddy Palin's book, was carrying everything but the kitchen sink on my back and would never have reached camp but for our legendary light weight walker, Felix Harding, who swapped packs with me. (Where are you now, Felix?) He had made his own pack with a bamboo frame and nylon body and would carry only 26 lbs (14 kilos) for a 7 day walk. I learned a lot from him about light weight walking and joined several of his extended walks in the Alps. He introduced me to extended trips in Tasmania though I had vowed never to walk there until the climate had changed! I was finally convinced to go there to see the doomed Lake Peddar before it was drowned. Needless to say, I fell completely in love with Tasmania's rugged wilderness after seeing that jewel of perfection, that glorious lake lying like an opal in its magnificent setting of Rocky Mountains, a unique natural treasure which would, in the following year, be inundated, betrayed by bureaucratic lack of foresight and imagination. Can such desecration be forgiven or forgotten?

For years I spent summers returning like a migrating bird to tramp through mud, button grass, cold and rain in the fabulous South West. Eventually I moved to live there for 15 wonderful years.

Bushwalking has changed a lot since those early days when we ate "Farmhouse Stews" - yuck! (We had a more descriptive name for them!) And struggled to light a fire with wet wood in the days when fires were allowed. I did my cooking with solid fuel tablets which had the advantage of lessening the weight of the pack as they were consumed. My diet was based mostly on rice flavoured with dry herbs and instant soups. Little wonder that after 14 days on this diet, once back home, for several days I would find myself quite unconsciously staring at the refrigerator like a half starved cat! Now of course, one can buy or make one's own nutritious dehydrated meals needing only a few minutes to cook on a Trangia, regardless of the weather. Any true bushwalker will identify with my obsession with the refrigerator!

Plastic bags, being waterproof and weightless were a boon. Not as cheap and plentiful then as now, we took good care of them till they fell apart. Does anyone do that these days of our throw away society?

Tents were made of sturdy material but these became very heavy and unwieldy when rain-soaked, so eventually I made my own light weight nylon tent, which served me for many years of rough and rugged camping. Though it flapped madly in the wind in high places, it let me down only once, whereupon

Larrikin Lines

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## President's note

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I wrapped myself in the collapsed tent and slept soundly till dawn. Towards the end of its life it was held together with masking tape in strategic places. Inevitably I finally had to make another and I still have that one, can't bear to throw it away for it would be like irrevocably closing a door on the past. It too owes its longevity to bits of masking tape in the right places. It still gets used for car camping when cabin fever gets the better of me! This sort of getaway is a poor substitute for bush camping but better than virtual reality on TV

How fortunate walkers are to know the best of our country and have the freedom to wander where we please. We must continue the fight to preserve it for others yet to come.

My years of walking are over but I have a bag full of memories of grand companions and places of unforgettable beauty. Not only the long weeks of walking, the formidable terrain, the unpredictable weather, the get-there-at-all-costs mind set stay with me, but also many of the smaller priceless treasures. Frosty night on the high plains, the air so clear and pure the very stars seem to crackle.

Camps in silent forests where unknown creatures scuttled around the tent on their nightly forays. The thrill of finding secret (to us) caves on exploratory in the Grampians. How long ago did the Aborigines use them?

The spell-binding beauty of little Tasmanian alpine tarns set amongst green, green cushion plants studded with tiny white flowers.

The solitude and ineffable serenity of the wilderness. These natural gifts are ours, and yes, we are the lucky ones.

Dear Lynda, Hope I have not bored you to tears- but my memories have "stirred up the possums" and oh, - how I wish I could do it all again.

Best Wishes to you and the Melbourne Bushwalkers, long may they wander!

Alma Strappazon

Lynda Larkin

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## MEMBERS' WALK

### EASTER PACK CARRY: WATCHBED CREEK – GREY HILLS – TIMMS LOOKOUT

Two car loads of Bushies met for lunch at midday at Bogong Village on Good Friday before driving to Watchbed Creek a little past Falls Creek. After a short car shuffle, we started our Easter trek and soon noticed a chill in the air.

We arrived at Roper's Hut (currently being rebuilt) 2 and a half hours later, grateful for the fireplace with ready to burn wood (off cuts from the building site – some of which made excellent seats!) Roper's is a lovely campsite nestled in the snow gums. The night was cold and a few campers felt this more than others.

**Day 2:** We headed off around 9-ish for our trek across the Grey Hills – up & down, up & down, up & down, down, down to the Bogong Saddle. Although some of us were a little tired after a long day and pleased to arrive at camp, we were very glad to have made the trip. We were rewarded with superb views from Bogong Saddle across to Buffalo and enjoyed a beautiful sunset - soon followed by the rising of a full moon.

**Day 3:** We left Bogong Saddle for a 500 metre climb to Timm's Lookout. The views back across to Grey Hills and the

clear view of our previous day's achievements were admired. As we were making good time, Bill wisely chose to continue onto Edmonson Hut for our final night. This was another lovely campsite set amongst the snow gums and we enjoyed another warming fire.

**Day 4:** A very quick walk back to the cars just as the rain began and then off to Myrtleford for brunch.

We thank Bill Donald for his skilled leadership and all the participants (Tracey, Shirley, Rowena, Robert, David and myself, Fiona).

# Noticeboard

## EQUIPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

### Buying equipment

If you want the best lightweight gear it's worth considering the Internet for some of your purchases. It's the easiest way to obtain equipment not available in Australia and for large discounts on some locally stocked items. If you know what you want, a Google search will take you directly to the item in the sites that list it. Look for those with extensive catalogues and user friendly features such as comparison charts, reviews, technical information, interactive stock levels and helpful links (eg [www.backcountrygear.com](http://www.backcountrygear.com)); but don't overlook the specialists who may have interesting items not found elsewhere. Consider bookmarking the best sites, but not until you have established that they cater for international customers and have reasonable postage rates. Postage is a major component of most Internet purchases and can vary widely between sites. You usually find the details when you enter your address in the sales process but occasionally you may need to send off an email. Once you have found what you want consider adding a few more items to the order to defray the postage cost, but be sure to keep the total below \$1000 to avoid import duties and GST. Expect to pay about US \$30 postage for a 1 kg parcel and have stocked items delivered within about two weeks.

### Packing

With Golite packs now breeding like rabbits we think it's time for a pre-emptive packing alert. There must be no voids behind the foam stiffening panel. Even a small void will cause the pack to crumple and ruin its structural integrity. If you feel a depression when you run your hand down the panel be sure to stuff something in to fill it out. You can usually do this without unpacking.

### Emergency beacons

We have been umming and aching over whether or not to recommend the club purchase a Spot Personal Messenger ([www.findmespot.com](http://www.findmespot.com)). It only costs US \$150 yet can send messages with your GPS coordinates requesting emergency assistance, assistance from a nominated contact or simply let your contact know that you are OK. At an extra ongoing cost it can even let your contact follow your progress in real time on Google maps. The downside is that it requires a US \$100 annual subscription and, from the hiring perspective, would have issues with the changing of contact details. We decided against the purchase but still think that it would be ideal for the solo walker or for small groups in remote areas.

John Fritze

## WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

# Finke Gorge

## and Watarrka National Parks



Descending into Kings Canyon

**Finke Gorge – Much more than Palm Valley.** We walk through the wide, sculptured gorges of the oldest river in the world, the Finke. We camp near some of the few permanent waterholes in this arid land. We cross the park via one of the most scenic 4WD tracks in the Centre.

**Watarrka – Much more than Kings Canyon.** This is the richest area for plant diversity in the whole of central Australia. We walk through deep gorges, across red dunes and enjoy spectacular views from the tops of the steep cliffs on the edge of the range. We camp near some of the few permanent waterholes in the region.

**This is the only Red Centre trip where we use 4WDs to get to some of the harder to reach walking areas.**

See our website or give us a call for details.

[www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au](http://www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au)



Willis's Walkabouts 12 Carrington St Millner NT 0810 Email: [walkabout@ais.net.au](mailto:walkabout@ais.net.au)

Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355

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# Noticeboard

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## BUSHWALKING SEARCH AND RESCUE (BSAR)

### SEARCHING FOR NEW MEMBERS

Many of you will be aware that Bushwalkers Search and Rescue (BSAR) has been actively serving the community since 1949 by providing assistance to Victoria Police Search and Rescue Squad in bush and snow searches.

Most recently, BSAR was involved in a four-day search in the Mt Dom Dom area. Forty-four BSAR members, from various clubs, combed the often dense, damp understorey of the tall forests looking for any signs of the missing person. Unfortunately none were found.

BSAR is continually looking for new members and I would encourage anyone who has the appropriate skills to join. For those who have the skills, but are unsure of what is involved, I'd encourage you to attend a practice (next one is in September). Being a BSAR member is sometimes hard work, but it is also a very rewarding to be helping the bushwalking community provide this important community service.

### BSAR FAQs:

**Is there an age limit?** You're almost never too old to join, but you must be at least 18. Our oldest members are very fit and capable 70-somethings!

**What skills do I need for bush searches?** Experience in overnight bushwalking and the ability to navigate off-track.

**What skills do I need for snow searches?** Most winter searches are in the snowfields, so previous snow camping experience is essential. The ability to use snowshoes and/or skis is highly desirable.

**What gear do I need?** Come equipped with your own bushwalking gear to spend two nights in the bush. However, most searching is undertaken as day searches returning to base to camp. Some extra equipment is required for snow conditions.

**When do I go?** Callouts can happen at any time, generally late in the evening. BSAR's SMS alert system

gives early warning of the possibility of a search callout allowing searchers to consider their availability and make arrangements in case a Club Contact calls them.

**How do I get to the search area?** From the departure point, Police provide bus transport.

**Is there training?** Annual practices teach search and rescue techniques, and hone navigation skills. There's the opportunity to meet and work with fellow BSAR members from different Clubs.



**What do I tell the Boss?** Support of your Employer in advance, for the two-day commitment, is essential. It is the same support employers provide for CFA or SES members.

**Can I decline a callout?** Yes, of course. Family, work or other commitments often prevent individual members from responding to a callout. A callout must be declined if you are not 100% fit or your gear is not adequate.

**Am I covered by insurance?** On a search or search practice you are covered under the Emergency Management Act 1986.

**How do I join?** Contact your BSAR Delegate, email the BSAR Convener on [convener@bsar.org](mailto:convener@bsar.org) or visit the BSAR website [www.bsar.org](http://www.bsar.org) for more information and an application form.

Better still; get a group from your Club together. When search groups are organised, club members are put together.

It would be great to see more members involved in Bushwalkers Search and Rescue and I encourage you to consider participating in this very worthwhile, volunteer community service.

**Monica Chapman,**  
Convener, Bushwalkers Search and Rescue



MELBOURNE BUSHIES  
KUNGSLEDEN SKI TOUR  
EASTER 2009  
A 200 KM ARCTIC SKI TOUR FROM  
VALLEY TO VALLEY, HUT TO HUT,  
COMPLETING HALF THE FAMOUS  
SCANDINAVIAN KUNGSLEDEN TRAIL,  
CARRYING ONLY A DAY PACK.  
AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLETE THE  
TROPHY SKI TOUR ASPIRATION OF MOST  
SCANDINAVIAN SKIERS

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT THE  
TOUR WEBSITE  
[WWW.KIEWAVIEW.COM/OCKER/  
KUNGSLEDEN.HTM](http://WWW.KIEWAVIEW.COM/OCKER/KUNGSLEDEN.HTM)

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# Noticeboard

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## WILKY – THE FUTURE

My previous article (The News, December 2007) told the sad tale of the demise of our hut on the Bogong High Plains in January 2004. Within a few weeks the Club held a general meeting where it was decided to press for the rebuilding of Wilky and several committees were formed to cover the areas of the rebuilding itself, finance, and the political process. Of these, only the latter has had any activity, as without rebuilding permission there was no point in the others beginning any work. This is a summary of the work of the political committee.

Our initial application to rebuild Wilky was turned down by Parks Victoria. The reply was firstly a verbal communication, and it was only after several requests did we receive a written, rather feeble, response. We replied asking for a more comprehensive and sensible reply. There was a loud silence for some months, and it was only after we sent

three solicitor's letters did we receive a reply. The reply made little sense to us and after some further unsatisfactory correspondence we began an appeal campaign. Club members were urged to write and email Parks Victoria Board asking for the rebuilding decision to be reviewed. This became a fiasco as the email address we were given (by PV) turned out to be a dead address, the person we were told to address turned out to have left, and our attempts to have the emails and letters re-directed were thwarted with the response that PV couldn't re-direct the messages on account of 'privacy' reasons!

By now we were well into 2006 and our next step was to go to the Victorian Ombudsman to make the claim that we were being given the runaround and that the appeal decision by PV was not consistent with other decisions. This claim was turned down and we had some correspondence with the Ombudsman's office but got nowhere. Essentially he said that they could not deal with the decision, only with the

process, and that had been followed, he said.

Now we were into 2007, and we had got nowhere. We considered our options: further appeals, going to law. In looking at the legal options, we were fortunate to obtain the help of a QC, Will Houghton who was willing to work for us pro bono. Will, a member of the VMTC, had been into Wilky a number of times and was very pleased to do what he could. We also obtained the help of Peter Cope, a solicitor, who had met his wife in Wilky when he went in with his family as a young man.

And this is where we are at. We are working with Will and Peter to work through the legal options. It is complex and may at some point require a Club decision to go to court. The process outlined here that we have been through has been frustrating and painfully slow. We believe that Wilky is well-worth fighting for every inch of the way, doing whatever we can, following every lead. Wilky was unique and immensely valuable to us. We want it back.

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## MEGA BUYING NIGHT



COME ALONG !

**THE WILDERNESS SHOP**  
969 WHITEHORSE ROAD - BOX HILL

TUESDAY 13 MAY 2008  
6 PM TO 9 PM

DISCOUNTS

20% OFF REGULAR PRICES  
5% OFF SALE ITEMS

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED  
FREE NIBBLES, DRINKS AND PIZZA.

YOU MAYBE LUCKY ENOUGH TO WIN A  
DOOR PRIZE

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# Noticeboard

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## EARLY WARNING!

### KANGAROO ISLAND EXTENDED TRIP MOVING BASE CAMP

Leave Melbourne Sat, September 20; return  
Wed October 1, 2008.

- Approximately seven days on Island
- Move around at least 3 scenic camps – interesting walks from each.
- BYO everything.
- But decent coffee breaks a feature
- Taking as few cars as possible as is the want of good bushies.
- Limited numbers. Register interest ASAP.

Contact **Sylvia Ford**

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## A REFRESHER ON THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS CLUB HISTORY

Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. (est. 1941) is one of Australia's largest and longest established bushwalking and hiking clubs, with around 450 members and over 60 years of walking history. For those with a keen interest in history, the first fifty years of the club have been documented in an excellent book which has been reproduced on this site. (See: The Melbourne Bushies - Fifty years along the track) Copies of the bound volume are available at the club rooms for \$5 per copy.

The club offers a full programme of activities throughout the year ranging from our regular easy-graded Sunday Walks with bus transport throughout Victoria, to week long pack-carry trips. Our activities programme is not limited to walking and includes base camps, canoeing and bicycling in Summer, with social events all year round. During 2005 a total of 139 trips were held with 2535 "member participants" along with 490 "visitor participants". One-day walks continue to be the most popular, including the Sunday Walks, held every Sunday. A total of 81 different club members contributed their time, effort and expertise to leading the trips for which the club is very appreciative. The club holds regular First Aid and navigation training sessions for leaders and members.

The club is actively engaged in relevant conservation activities throughout Victoria. Significant highlights and achievements have included: submission to the Alpine Cattle Grazing Taskforce asking for the cattle licences to be stopped, submission to the Shire of Yarra Ranges Forests Policy, submission to VEAC for a greater Otways National Park and Trans-Otway long distance walking track, and a submission to the Grampians Walking Tracks Strategy. The club donates annually the interest earned from its Investment Account to worthy conservation projects. In 2005 this went to the Victorian National Parks Association and The Wilderness Society. Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. is a member of the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs (VicWalk).

The club has a small but interesting selection of books available for use by members. These fall into the broad categories:

Guide books - Victorian walks, other-State walks and international walks.

Natural history books - there are some useful, compact, area-specific flower guides that members may borrow for use on trips.

Books of general interest to bushwalkers

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## Members' Walks

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### CAPE LIPTRAP TO VENUS BAY – APRIL 12-13

Bob Oxlade saw we got more than our money's worth on this pack carry with a geological field trip thrown in. We left from Cape Liptrap lighthouse as the tide was out. The first day provided lots of variety of terrain, including shingle beaches and sand dunes scattered with fossils.

The morning took us over rock platforms that look like jagged teeth ready to bite into any ship unfortunate enough to run aground there. The layered and wave worn cliffs also provide beauty and interest. We were a little slower than the tide, so had to climb the dunes to round a couple of points.

Back on the beach there was not enough space to give a seal a wide berth and Sue was snarled at in

### COBBERAS AT EASTER

The car wound its way along the dusty road. Down Limestone Creek Road and over the Buchan River towards the campsite. It had been a long journey, and the sight of the wooden sign with MBW pointing to the campsite was welcome relief. An Easter weekend at Native Dog flat would be just the remedy to allow some fresh air and walking to stretch those leg muscles.

Our leader Geoff Mattingley had arrived early on Thursday to reserve the best places in the picturesque camping zone. Others who arrived on Thursday were later all employed in erecting the strange tent borrowed by a German visitor. Though it proved to be a composite of more than one tent, the intrepid Bushies improvised with sticks and rubber bands and Regina was able to sleep inside.

For those who arrived on the Friday, the first walk was up the Rams Horn. The rocky outcrop could be seen protruding on the horizon from the campsite and it was difficult to imagine that it was only a two hour walk to the top. From there a view



passing. We walked in the soft sand chased by waves as we made it to Five Mile camp around sunset. Sunday morning brought showers during breakfast but fined up beautifully as we continued our walk on what seemed to be never ending pristine sandy beach.

(Detailed track notes and maps in 'Weekend Walks around Melbourne' by Glenn Tempest)

We were pleased to welcome by prospective members Sue Clarke, Derek Whitehead, and German exchange student Johanna Beckmann on their first pack carry. Other attendees were Max Casley, Michael, Susan, Callum, and Bryony Stringer.

Thank you to Bob!

Susan Stringer

of Mt Cobberras No 1 and No 2 could be seen. The Saturday walk to Cobberas Number 2 was well attended, and the views rewarded us. Geoff led us upward again on Sunday, and our ascension of Mt Stradbroke again provided wonderful Alpine views. We were able to soak them in as the weather was temperate. We were all amazed when a family group joined us at the top, having scrambled up a steeper face, with one walker carrying his toddler in a back-pack. We learned that they had ridden horses part of the way.

We were free to take the walks on offer or not, and some of us explored other areas. Peter led Sandra deep into the Limestone Caves, and found names of other visitors there dated as early as 1937.

Camp-fires blazing at night, the Buchan River burbling, full moons rising,

good company, robust conversation, this was the perfect Easter Camp.

Thank you to all who camped with me at Easter: Geoff, Janet, Keith, Bill, Marilyn, Ed, Mary, David, Cheryl, Max, Peter, Maddy, Margaret, Sandra, Rosemary, Regina.

**Justine Siedle**

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# Members' Walks

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## EASTER TRIP TO FREYCINET

On our first day our group of 23 made an early start from Hobart. Our obliging bus driver gave us a coffee stop at the bakery in Triabunna assisting us to wake up before commencing the pack carry. On arrival in Freycinet National Park we walked to the base of Mt Amos dropping our packs before making the steep ascent. With a few slips and slides we all managed it to the summit to be rewarded by some picture postcard views of Wineglass Bay. After some lunch and much posing for photographs we commenced the descent, continuing along the road to our beach front campsite. Many took advantage of the warm weather by taking a swim around 'Shag Rock'; a buoy with a shag on top.

As Bob went around all the campsites to organize our group cooking spot Mohammad pointed out, though the bushes, a most amazing geographical feature perched on a nearby cliff, commonly referred to as 'the bistro'. Curious, we decided to investigate. With several rounds of drinks behind us, yoga demonstrations from Richard and Angela and a 'push-ups' competition between Peter and Mohammad we, as well all the other guests, in the Bistro we kept thoroughly entertained. Many people decided to cast aside their 'Back Country' in favour of the a la carte menu. Bob Oxlade's pack carries have never been so good!

On returning to the campsite, with a little more wine, it became apparent that there was a party going on in Brian's tent. After some firm words from Bob they (from then on referred to as 'the partygoers'-who wish to remain anonymous) were moved on to the beach. However speculation the following day suggested that Brian had some six or seven women in his tent!

On Saturday we awoke to a full moon rising over Great Oyster Bay and thus began our hike following along the

Hazards Beach Track, a coastal track with stunning views of the water and sounds of speed boats slicing through calm waters. Only one small casualty, who was quickly attended to though ended up with Angelina Jolie lips, interrupted the easy days hiking with plenty of opportunities to stop at little coves to explore or dodge waves. We enjoyed the trail along Hazards Beach in Promise Bay, where we thought a seafood dinner would have been terrific with the million crabs littering the seashore; however we did not identify them, instead devoured our dehydrated delights. We set up camp early afternoon at Cookes Beach and while some of us relaxed amongst the rock pools others extended their day of hiking by 2 hours to Bryans Beach, where they swam amongst sailing boats and many mosquitoes. The sunset and sound of waves was a delightful end to the day.

On Sunday Bob split the group into three- one group would get to Wineglass Bay via Hazards Beach and the Isthmus Track (no climbs) while the other two groups would take the Mt Graham Track. One group on the Mt Graham Track would include a side trip to Mt Freycinet (620m). The track started with a gentle climb through eucalyptus forests before a 200m climb to the top of Mt. Graham (579m). The weather was fine so the views from both Mt Graham and Mt Freycinet were spectacular. From Mt Graham we made our down to the campsite on Wineglass Bay.

On Monday we had a one and half hour walk to the car park along Wineglass Bay and then up over the saddle between Mt Mayson and Mt Amos, where the lookout allowed one last panorama of Wineglass Bay.

Thanks to Bob for all his work organising a fantastic trip to a stunning part of Tasmania.!

**Report by Jan Colquhoun, Angela Vetsicas & Leo Lynch**





**SATURDAY WALK**

DANDENONGS EXPLORER -KALORAMA TO DOONGALLA RETURN

DATE Saturday 24 May 2008  
 STANDARD Easy/Medium  
 DISTANCE 13 km  
 LEADER Fiona Gallery  
 TRANSPORT Private  
 AREA Dandenongs  
 MAP REF Melways 52, 66

The walk begins at 10:00 am at Five Ways in Kalorama Melways 52 J9. This is on the Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd overlooking the Silvan Dam, where Ridge, Barbers and The Old Coach Roads intersect. We will walk to the Doongalla Homestead Site picnic area for lunch along fairly good tracks in front of Mt Dandenong. This is a walk that has a lot of steep ups and downs and may be slippery in places if wet. I expect to be back at the cars about 4:00.



**SUNDAY WALK**

DAYLESFORD - TABLE HILL

DATE Sunday 1 June 2008  
 STANDARD Easy Medium/Medium  
 DISTANCE 14kms & 17kms  
 LEADERS Paul Beers and Elizabeth Ingham  
 TRANSPORT Bus from Southbank Boulevard  
 RETURN TIME Approximately 7 PM  
 MAP REFERENCE Eganstown, Daylesford, Bullarot & Barkstead 125,000

Sometime last century, on a day in July, 3 children aged 4, 6 and 7 set out from Daylesford on an adventure. They were never seen alive again. Several months later their bodies were found near Wheelers Hill Road (S/E of Daylesford) about 20kms from where they had set off. Our medium-easy walk retraces their route and rest assured, we will be doing our best to avoid their fate! The easier walk takes a short cut past Jubilee Lake. Both walks start at the Lost Children's Memorial on Table Hill. The easy-medium walk heads south to Musk Vale and Sailors Falls (lunch); then on to and along the dismantled Daylesford-Ballarot rail line before heading east past Specimen Dam towards the Lost Children's Monument. Both walks are mainly on tracks/forest roads through regrowth forests and with moderate only terrain.



**TOFS**

FAIRFIELD/YARRA BEND PARKS

DATE Thursday 5 June 2008  
 STANDARD Easy  
 DISTANCE 11-12 kms  
 LEADER Rosemary Cotter  
 TRANSPORT Private  
 AREA Yarra Bend Park  
 MAP REF Melway 30, 44/45

Our walk meanders along the Yarra River only 5km from the city and takes in some historical sites of early Melbourne as well as two well known boat houses. Be surprised by the views of the city and further afield. There will be a mixture of paths (gravel, bush, manmade). We will finish by 3pm and should be able to enjoy a hot drink at the kiosk at the Studley Park Boathouse in winter sunshine (hopefully).

Meet to start walking on the southern side of Kane's Bridge at 10.30am. Melway 44 H4 or 2D F8.

**SUNDAY WALK**



MASONS FALLS - MT SUGARLOAF (KINGLAKE NP)

DATE Sunday 8 June 2008  
 STANDARD Easy and Easy-Medium  
 DISTANCE 13.5 kms and 17kms  
 LEADERS Phillip Geschke and Allan Martin  
 TRANSPORT Bus from Southbank Blvd  
 AREA Kinglake  
 MAP REF VICMAP 1:25000 Outdoor leisure map Kinglake NP

A pleasant walk, close to Melbourne, well suited for winter. The walk consists of a loop, passing through Masons Falls and Mt Sugarloaf. The Easy group does it clockwise - but not the other group, who also do a 3.3k inner loop at then end. The walk travels through messmate forests on the higher aspects and cool shaded fern gullies along the lower Running Creek. Lyrebirds can be seen quite easily on the 'Lyrebird Circuit'. Hopefully the Falls will have more water in them than on the preview.

Mt Sugarloaf offers views of Melbourne through a narrow window in the tree foliage. Tracks are well formed and not difficult, however we ensure the harder group has to walk up the steeper slope of some 200 metres rise. Kookaburras and other birdlife may also be seen.

We won't be home late!



**SUNDAY WALK**

DANDENONG TOURIST TRACK

DATE Sunday 15 June 2008  
 STANDARD Easy Medium/Medium  
 LEADERS David Laing and Max Casley  
 TRANSPORT Bus from Southbank Blvd

Details will be available from the leaders when booking in for the walks on Wednesdays in the club rooms



**SUNDAY WALK**

CAMEL HUMP – MT CHARLIE

DATE Sunday 22 June 2008  
 STANDARD Easy Medium/Medium  
 LEADERS Tom Wilanowski and Peter Leech  
 TRANSPORT Bus from Southbank Blvd

Details will be available from the leaders when booking in for the walks on Wednesdays in the club rooms



**WEDNESDAY WALK**

KURTH KILN REGIONAL PARK

DATE Wednesday 18 June 2008  
 STANDARD Easy/Medium  
 DISTANCE 12 km  
 LEADER Max Casley  
 TRANSPORT Private  
 AREA Gembrook  
 MAP REF Gembrook South 1:25,000

We will start, finish and have lunch at the Kurth Kiln Picnic Ground which has picnic tables and toilets. There is an interesting historical display for the old charcoal kiln built for the petrol shortage of World War 2. In the morning we will walk to the north following Possum Trap Track and Monkhouse Track to Shepherd Creek. We will follow a road beside this creek and then walk along a delightful track beside Tomahawk Creek back to the Picnic Ground. After lunch we will walk south from the picnic ground to the forests which are known for brilliant wattle flowers - however we may be a bit early for these. We then walk to Tomahawk Creek upstream of the kiln and then go to the picnic ground via Thornton Track which is another delightful track along Tomahawk Creek.

Meet at 10:15 am at Kurth Kiln Picnic Ground which is at the intersection of Beenak Road and Soldiers Road. From Gembrook: go north-east 8.5 km toward Launching Place then turn left (west) into Soldiers Road. Continue 1.8 km and the picnic ground will be on the left. From Launching Place: from the Warburton Highway go south 17 km towards Gembrook and turn right (west) into Soldiers Road. Continue 1.8 km and the picnic ground will be on your left. If you would like to come on this walk please contact me: telephone 9527 3111 or email maxcasley@iprimus.com.au.



**SUNDAY BUS**

BOSTOCK RESERVOIR – BALLAN

DATE Sunday 29 June 2008  
 STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium  
 DISTANCE approx 14 & 17 kms  
 LEADERS Del Franks and Jan Colquhoun  
 TRANSPORT Bus from Southbank Blvd at 9:00am

Bostock Reservoir is part of the Moorabool water supply system for Geelong. It is in a picturesque setting surrounded by 100 hectares of pine trees. The Moorabool is a big river, with branches to the east and west.

This is a pleasant walk which offers a diverse range of scenery. We will start by walking around and perhaps cutting across some of the dried out areas of the reservoir; this is visually interesting in itself. Despite the droughts there is still plenty of water and birdlife in the reservoir. For bird watchers, bird life along the river is a delight. We sat silently and were soon visited by many birds, including fairy wrens and red-browed firetails.

With both groups starting at the reservoir, the E/M group will start with a 3 km circuit, passing the Ballan mineral springs on the way. The Moorabool always has water in it, as does the creek. On previous walks people have spotted koalas in this area; there are quite a few to be seen, but generally you have to look carefully. Back at the reservoir, we'll walk along the shore line, before passing through a pine forest. From here on, it's bush tracks and open forest until we reach the relatively shallow river.

Both groups will follow the course of the Moorabool, where it may be necessary to cross or climb higher in order to negotiate some of the steep sides. We shall explore the meanders of the river with some stunning scenery from the steeper ridges. Much of this section of the walk shall be off track. We will visit 'Neanderthal hut' an ingenious shelter built from local material that we came across by chance on our preview. A final crossing through some more pines will lead back to the bus.



**BASE CAMP**

BARJARG BUNKHOUSE WEEKEND 23-25 MAY 2008

**Date** 23-25 May 2008  
**DISTANCE** APROX. 12 KM EACH DAY  
**MAPS** Benalla- Mansfield Adventure Map Rooftop  
 Mt Strathbogie 1: 25,000  
 Mt Sameri. 1:25,000  
 Nillahcootie 1: 25,000

Barjarg is a school camp about 15 km north of Mansfield. Posh it is not but cheap and comfortable approx. \$20 per night per person. for a passable bunk bed 2 to 6 persons per room, a big warm living room and kitchen. That's the old village school. It is only 1km off the Midland Hwy. Therefore very accessible, but you feel in the country.

BYO everything including a pillow and warm sleeping gear. Friday dinner in a terrific pub in Yea, or early birds get to go to Marmalade. Swoon Swoon.

Walking to the west of Barjarg is the Srathbogies and to the east is Mt. Sameria

Bring footwear with good grip



**BASE CAMP**

EIGHT MIL

E FLAT (HOWQUA RIVER)

**Date** 6-9 June 2008  
**Standard** Easy/Easy Medium  
**Leader** Lance Mobbs MOB 0428572124  
**Transport** Private  
**Area** Upper Howqua Valley

Hopefully if the road in is not to wet, we will be able to drive in to Eight Mile Flat where there is a nice camping area where you can drive to and pitch camp. We will most likely do two river walks and go up to the Bluff. The river walks are quite easy with the Bluff circuit an easy/medium one. Hopefully we can drive up to the Bluff car to start that walk. This walk will suit everybody, especially people who have not tried camping and bushwalking at the same time and would like to try it out without having to carry a heavy pack all weekend. Be warned, the weather up there in June could be cool to chilly so bring along warm clothing and sleeping equipment. I will check with the local Parks Vic people closer to the date to check on road conditions. If we cannot drive to Eight Mile we will camp at Sheepridge Flat



**PACK CARRY**

GREAT SOUTH WEST WALK

**DATE** Queens Birthday weekend - 6 - 9 June 2008  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** 52 km (includes 9 km with day packs)  
**LEADER** Bob Oxlade  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** South West Coast  
**MAP REF** Vic map 1:25,000 Cape Bridgewater 7121-2 N&S

This will be a very interesting section of the Great South West Walk beginning from near Portland. We will drive down Friday and camp just past Port Fairy to shorten the drive.

On Saturday we will continue to Portland and after leaving some cars at Bridgewater Lakes, will drive a short distance to the Blow Holes. We then walk about 9km with day packs viewing the many coastal features on the way back to the cars for lunch and maybe retrieve the cars from the Blow Holes. After inspecting some Limestone Caves it is just 6km with packs to Tarragal Campsite.

On Sunday we go through Mount Richmond N.P. (229 metres).and views of Discovery Bay. We continue on the inland track to camp at Swan Lake. There will be about 20km of mostly level walking on this day.

On Monday we have about 16km to the cars. It is 1km walk to the beach, and fortunately the tide will be out for our walk along it and then 1km to the cars at a reasonable time for our return home.

We can look forward to both coastal and inland features on this circuit walk.



**BASE CAMP**

SNAKE ISLAND

**DATE** 14 - 15 June 2008  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** 16 kms  
**LEADER** Susan Maughan  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Snake Island – Port Welshpool  
**MAP REF** Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park

We will meet at Port Welshpool at 08:00 on Saturday morning for and 08:15 departure by boat to the western side of the islands. This means we will be dropped off next to the cattlemen's huts and this will allow a prompt and early start to our walk. We will explore the southern end of the island but will need to be mindful that the days are very short. Should the weather or tide prevent us from landing in the appointed spot,

