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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 cents

Edition 696

BUSHFIRE UPDATE

BUSHWALKING VICTORIA 75TH ANNIVERSARY WALK DAY CANCELLED

It is with deep shock that we continue to be informed through the media, many of us also by word of mouth accounts, of the terrible devastation and loss of life caused by the bushfires currently raging through parts Victoria.

Our hearts go out to those who have suffered great losses including loved ones and property, to those who have been injured in any way and to those valiant people who continue to try and bring the fires under control.

Our sincerest sympathy to all those directly affected

It is sad to think of whole townships and vast areas of our beautiful natural environment, along with all the creatures that inhabit those areas, falling victim to this dreadful, overwhelming force of Nature

In the face of this disaster, it is amazing to observe the inspiring efforts of those involved in the emergency response and uplifting to see the way so many people, government agencies, voluntary organizations and media groups from across the state have rallied to bring aid and comfort to affected individuals and communities in their darkest hour.

On February 10, all bushwalking clubs received an update from Bushwalking Victoria President, David Reid, notifying us that many walking areas will be inaccessible or unsafe for walkers, including Mt Disappointment State Forest. Accordingly the 75th Anniversary Walk set for April 5, 2009 will not go ahead as planned, but an alternative function for that day is being considered, so we will keep that date reserved on our activity program. Ideas are currently being discussed for a function or activity to be held on that day, which will contribute in some way to the local community in the Mount Disappointment area. Members will be informed as soon as we have been advised of the alternative plans.

Continued on Page 16

HAPPY 75TH BIRTHDAY !!

BUSHWALKING VICTORIA CELEBRATES 75 YEARS

The History of The Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs (Now Bushwalking Victoria)

'For all the progress and today's dazzling technology, many Victorians turn from it to spend their recreational hours "in the bush". From the time of our early explorers, men and women were drawn to the natural environment and walked the wild country and sea side. Then came miners, timber getters and cattlemen, and their tracks served the walkers well.

Australians did not escape the world-wide obsession to walk, the "hiking boom" of the 1930s, and clubs sprang up everywhere. The fad had hardly caught hold before it waned, but curiously, in 1934, as its popularity kept fading, eight walking clubs in Melbourne founded a Federation, to promote the activity as a reasonable form of recreation, and to lobby for political recognition. In 1939, World War 2 demanded everybody's efforts, and along with a million others, the young

walkers of the country joined the Armed Forces. The Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs fell into decline, but at the Wars end, it fired up again to become the active, present-day representative of some 80 walking clubs.

Today Bushwalking Victoria (the successor to the Federation) continues to promote the benefits of bushwalking, is concerned with environmental issues essential to the survival of natural areas as a source of recreation and maintains a strong commitment to contributing value to the community through its activities.'

Congratulations to David Reid and all at Bushwalking Victoria for doing such a great job as the peak body representing the interests of all Victorian bushwalking clubs. The efforts and commitment of this dedicated team ensures for us a constructive and meaningful position in these complex, highly-regulated times, reaching out, as BWV does, into many corners of the community, building goodwill and constructive partnership between the bushwalking community, government agencies and land managers.

A big 'THANKYOU' from all at Melbourne Bushwalkers.

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

Royal Historical Society of Victoria

**239 A'Beckett Street
Melbourne**

Visitors are always welcome!

General correspondence should be directed to:

The Secretary
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc

MEMBER OF



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: 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.

Please send your contributions as unformatted text files by email to 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.

Please note:

Next committee meeting will take place on

MONDAY 6 APRIL 2009

TRACK MAINTENANCE GROUP

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

As provided by MBW member, Mark Heath.

2009 Activity Dates	Leader contact details
Date TBA Grampians	Rod Novak Rodnovak@ozemail.com.au 95612407

Club rooms Duty Roster: Treasurer present:

Mar 18	Mark Heath, Mick Noonan	Yes
Mar 25	John McCall, Lynda Larkin	
Apr 1	Margaret Curry, Ray Spooner	Yes
Apr 8	Jane Williams, Carol Sisson	

SOCIAL NIGHT



WEDNESDAY, 18TH MARCH

**GAMES NIGHT IN
FLAFSTAFF GARDENS.**

This special social event commences at 8:15.

Earn kudos with your peers.
Become a legend in your own mind.
Set new PBs
Be a star on the night.
Bring along your daypack/walking boots/
billycan holder/walking stick.
Bring also a sense of adventure and your
inner-child.
Leave your inhibitions at home.

For further details (or reassurance) contact Susan.

Reports

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

At the AGM, the members approved the new Subscriptions for calendar year 2009.

These are:

Single members (ordinary):	\$45.00	Concession*:	\$34.00
Couples (ordinary):	\$72.00	Concession*:	\$50.00 (if both eligible)

Subscriptions are now due and payable before 31st May 2009.

If you are receiving a printed mailed copy of the News, the address label will be marked “* SubsDue*” in the top right hand corner. When your Subs have been received, this notice will no longer appear.

Recipients of e-mail News will be reminded when their News are e-mailed.

I would like to remind members that when paying their Subs (by post or in person to the Membership Sec, in the Clubrooms every Wednesday) that that is an ideal time to bring their contact details up-to-date.

Also, that e-mail News reach you earlier than the snail-mail copy and contain photographs in colour!

Past members of the Club may ask for News to be mailed to them with an annual contribution of \$15.00 towards printing and postage.

Concession* subscription = not a Seniors card!!

Another change in new membership subscription:

The “Visitor’s Fee”, which up to now has been rebate-able against first year Membership Subs will cease to be so for Visitor’s Fees paid after 1st June 2009.

New members joining after 1st September 2009 will pay a half-year subscription of one-half of a whole year Sub.

Peter Havlicek

EQUIPMENT

DIY

One bright spot at this time of escalating equipment prices is the emergence of highly functional DIY designs and the high tech materials from which to make them. We think that Melbourne Bushies should be benefiting from this so have tracked down a few promising patterns and can combine materials orders to save on postage. To date we have found some simple step by step instructions and sewing tips to make the very best of storage bags, pack liners and the like and two patterns for ingenious garments that combine the best of the poncho, parker and pack cover. The latter cost about \$70 to make and at about 200g are an excellent way of reducing pack weight. They are very convenient to use, accommodate most weather and walking conditions, are not prone to excessive condensation, cover your pack completely, allow easy access to your pockets, can be tailored to your exact needs and make you irresistible to the opposite sex. We haven’t seen any made up examples to date so we can’t fully substantiate all this but we are hoping that a sewing serge will soon confirm its accuracy.

Backpacking crime

Unlike dieting reducing pack weight is not an ongoing battle. Once you have bought your lightweight gear it remains light. You only have to spend a little extra time making the initial purchase to reap the rewards for ever after. It’s a crime against your body to do otherwise

John Fritze.



Reports

2009 COMMITTEE

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC

President	Margaret Curry
Vice President	Mick Noonan
Secretary	Howard Friend
Treasurer	Ray Spooner
Membership Secretary	Peter Havlicek
General Walks Secretary	Jane Williams
Assistant Walks Secretary	Halina Sarbinowski
Newsletter Editor	Catherine Cardinet
Social Secretary	Susan Maughan
General Committee	Carol Sisson Mark Heath Rod Novak Bernadette Prunty Marilyn Lock

PHOTOS FOR WEBSITE

We would like more members to submit photographs for the Photogallery on the club's website.

If several people on a trip wish to have their photos put on the website, one person only should be nominated to take responsibility for collecting and preparing photos before submitting to the webmaster.

Guidelines for submitting photos are on the Club's website under "Quick Picks" - "Frequent Questions" - "How do I get photos published on the website" ;Appendix 'D' of these Guidelines contains a detailed worked example using Windows XP.

If you have any problems in following the guidelines to prepare photographs for forwarding to the webmaster, please contact Max Casley.

A worked example using Apple Mac will be advised as soon as possible.

GENERAL WALKS SECRETARY'S REPORT

The statistics below represent attendance numbers and distances walked for most trips between August and December 2008.

The statistics are not entirely accurate, as a few walk leaders' reports have not yet been received.

Jane William

NOS. OF WALKERS AUG-DEC 08		
TYPE	TOTAL NOS	VISITORS
BASE CAMP	67	5
CYCLING	28	2
MOFS	40	2
PACK CARRY	58	2
SATURDAY	34	5
SUNDAY BUS	700	183
TOFS	75	7
WEDNESDAY	67	3
TOTAL	1069	209

Noticeboard

HOUSE SITTING

Loch and Jan are looking for a housesitter from 16 May 2009 to approximately 19 July 2009. We live in a 2 bedroom house in Northcote centrally located close to Fairfield shops and train and buses. Off street parking.

Please ring Jan

THANK YOU FROM PAUL & VAL BEERS

Thanks to all bushies who contacted us to ask after our safety after the recent fires at our property at Kinglake West. This was very touching and appreciated - nice to have such a big extended family. We survived by evacuating early, saved the house & buildings with a rooftop sprinkler system and just lost fencing, pasture and a trailer. Very lucky considering others' tragic losses.

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

ANNUAL MEGA BUYING NIGHT ON AT THE WILDERNESS SHOP

One Night Only!

WHEN: Tuesday 12th May 6.00pm - 9.00pm

WHERE: The Wilderness Shop, 969 Whitehorse Rd, Box Hill.

WHAT:

20% OFF ALL OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT including bushwalking, rockclimbing & XC skis, 5% OFF SALE ITEMS

DOOR PRIZE: Just be there for a chance to Win a door prize!

OTHER GOODIES: Snacks, Pizza, Drinks, Beer & Softdrink

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

Great

September-October 2009

From the fynbos wildflowers of the Cape in the west to a guided walk in a game park in the east, we'll show you some of the best walks that South Africa has to offer.

Highlights include

- a luxury isolated cottage and day walks on the Cape of Good Hope
- Namaqualand wildflowers
- watching the whales at De Hoop
- mountain views in the Cedarberg, Drakensberg and more
- seeing the wildlife up close, on foot.

Visit our website or ask us for the trip notes.

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

walks of South Africa



www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au

Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355

Noticeboard

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST INVITED: PACK CARRY ON CUP WEEKEND.(30/10 - 3/11)

ROYAL N.P. AND HEATHCOTE N.P. N.S.W.

Although graded E/Medium Saturday has a 20 km walk and Sunday 17 km all on track with few hills. Victoria is a great State for bushwalking but lots of us have done many of the walks available. This is an opportunity to visit the world's second oldest N.P. having been established in 1879. Although it's only 30 km from Central Sydney there are some remote sections in this beautiful park. A 28 km walk along the coast has only two places with road access. The Hacking River flows through the park and the inland is rugged. Last spring the flowers far surpassed the Grampians.

- Friday. Train from the Airport to Cronulla for overnight accommodation.
- Saturday. Ferry across Port Hacking to the Park and walk south along the coast.
- Sunday. Continue along the coast, a 20 minute train ride, and then walk to camp at a waterfall.
- Monday. West to Heathcote N.P. and camp by a pool.
- Tuesday. Beautiful walk to Waterfall Train Station and return to the Airport.

Cost for accommodation Friday night, Ferry, Camp fees, and all train fares could be \$90.00.plus airfares, some available at time of writing for \$187.00 return including check in bags. There will be a Party limit and early bookings are essential. Please call Bob Oxlade

Congratulations go to long time club member, very keen photographer and occasional bushwalker - Lloyd Young - on having one of his photo's published in the prestigious Wilderness Calender (2009). Lloyd has a stunning photo of 'The Castle' (sunset) Mt Buffalo National Park for September.
Many Congrats. *Rod Novak*

THE UK'S BEST FEMALE DUO *CHRIS WHILE AND JULIE MATTHEWS*

AND MELBOURNE'S OWN *BLUEHOUSE* IN CONCERT

Chris and Julie won the Best Duo category at this year's BBC Folk Awards. This is a once-off event. Australia's most powerful female duo share the bill with the UK and one of the World's most powerful female duos. Four of the best musicians and songwriters around today and Harmony Row is privileged to be able to stage them. Check out the two web sites.

<http://www.whileandmatthews.co.uk/>

<http://bluehouse.net/>

When:- Sunday March 22 show starts at 2pm and costs \$35 (lunch is available at 12noon for an extra \$24)

Where:- At Harmony Row Vineyard near Kyneton

Directions from Melbourne..

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

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

Noticeboard

NEST BOXES FOR RARE SPECIES

21/22 MARCH & 25/26 APRIL 2009

Perhaps you'd like to see some of these beautiful little creatures that we're working to protect up here at Lurg.

Our nest box program has been in operation for 11 years now and we'd love to invite you to join us as we do our annual monitoring work.

We have 200 boxes already in place, with Squirrel Gliders and Sugar Gliders nesting in just about all of them! We're even starting to find the distinctive nests of rare Brush Tailed Phascogales, so we're likely to see some of them face to face when we go checking this year!

We'll also be placing some new boxes to help the animals move around the district more easily. The basic problem is an extreme shortage of natural tree hollows because the old trees were heavily cleared decades ago, and the regrowth forests are still far too young to have many hollows.

These extra boxes will provide crucial shelter and breeding sites that are absolutely the bottom line to support a growing population.

After dark we'll be spotlighting to search for wildlife in several of our oldest planting sites. With binoculars at the ready we get delightful views of the nightlife as they forage through the tree tops, and sometimes we are lucky enough to see the rare Squirrel Gliders in action.

Do come and join us. You'll be helping the wildlife for sure, and it's a first rate opportunity to enjoy some close contact with nature. It's also a good opportunity for you and your friends to meet some new people, while you're all having some fun together in the great outdoors.

Why do we need nest boxes?

It's pretty simple really; much of the regrowth bush in Lurg is still too young to have hollow branches, so the wildlife don't have enough holes for shelter and breeding. Rare species like Squirrel Gliders and Brush Tailed Phascogales need all the help they can get!

Why check them every year?

Regular checking is important so that we can find the extent of local populations, the habitats they prefer, the breeding success of particular colonies, and barriers to their movement across the landscape. We also need to get accurate reports of unwanted species (such as feral bees) taking over our boxes, so that we can remove them at a later date.

How do we use the results?

Results from several years have given conclusive evidence that gliders need the fertile soils along creeks to breed successfully. Our records also show that gliders move out of the dry hills down to the creeks every summer, and they absolutely need continuous corridors to do this safely.

So any major breaks in the tree cover along roadsides or creeks, become serious barriers to glider populations. Isolated 'islands' of habitat have proven empty, because the gliders have

been hunted out and they haven't replaced themselves! Solid information like this makes it possible to know what needs doing and also where to act in order to make the most difference with our efforts.

Bush navigation

These weekends provide an excellent opportunity for bush walkers to practise their map reading and navigation skills while looking for the nest boxes. The sites are all mapped carefully on 1:25,000 contour maps, with AMG references and brief location descriptions.

GPS fixes

Most of the box locations have been recorded by GPS, so future groups can find the boxes more easily. If you can bring a GPS unit, it will help confirm some locations that are a bit uncertain. We will be using the GDA 1994 co-ordinate system from now on, to better utilise the new digital maps available.

Meeting: 9.30 am Sat & Sun Dept Sustain & Envir, Benalla
5.30 pm Sat Old Lurg
School BYO picnic tea

Activities: Checking nest boxes to see the wildlife at home
Recording observations for our ongoing research efforts
Placing some new nest boxes in likely habitat areas
Possible stag-watching at dusk to see gliders emerging
Spotlighting after dark to survey some old planting sites
BBQ tea at the old Lurg School House (BYO)

What to bring: Sun screen, hat, sturdy shoes, long trousers
Roof rack/ropes (if you have them) to help carry ladders
We have 4 extension ladders of our own, but let me know if you have one, in case we need extras
GPS unit if you wish, to help with easy location of boxes

Meals: BYO lunch & drinks for Sat & Sun, as we are out all day
BYO food for Saturday night BBQ at Old Lurg School

Accomm: Free accommodation at the Benalla Scout Hall if needed
Mattresses supplied
BYO sleeping bag & pillow
Minor kitchen facilities available
BYO tent if you prefer to camp outside

Bookings: Please let us know numbers expected, to assist planning

Contact: Ray Thomas

Reviews

LADY NORTHCOTES CANYON

(KOSCIUSKO AREA OF NSW)

January 1- 5 2009

The group met up at the Swampy Plains picnic area on the Geehi River on January 1st after a pleasant drive up from Melbourne.

Next morning we left two cars at Olsens Lookout before setting off from Swampy Plains bridge to climb Hannells Spur - the longest spur in Australia - which rises about 1500 metres. The climb was relentless and took us all day. The track began as a clear 4WD and rapidly deteriorated. We were soon in thick bush on very steep terrain. Despite (or because of?) the extra helpings of Christmas pud I was running out of puff as we neared the top. We emerged suddenly from the tree line and we were at Byatts Camp (we think there is some dispute where this actually is). We soon found a good camping spot with water close by and had a pleasant evening and a good sleep. Next morning in fine weather we moved camp a few kilometers to just under Mt Townsend, and we spent the afternoon exploring Mt Townsend itself (2209m), where in September last some of us had skied off the peak, Alice Rawson, Meullers Peak and Mt Kosciusko (2228m). This was a 'first time' for Philip, Fiona and John, and they were suitably impressed. Jenny was suffering from a knee problem, so next morning Jopie escorted her to the track that lead to Thredbo and she made her way back slowly, to the cars and back to Melbourne. (Jen had an arthroscopy on her knee in late January and is recovering as I write). Jopie caught up the rest of us at Lake Albina where we were lazing in the sunshine.

Now came the tough bit! We began the rock/boulder hop that would take us all the way down Lady Northcotes Canyon. This was fun but we needed to focus all the way. The rocks often seemed to have been placed in just the right position for the next step and you could get up a good rhythm. Much of this area had been severely burnt in 2003 and is recovering slowly. We encountered the Upper Canyon Falls towards the end of the day - a most spectacular waterfall, but difficult to photograph. We climbed down the side of these and soon arrived at an intake that took the water into a tunnel and thence to the Snowy Mountains Scheme. We left the now-dry creek here, passing the Opera House hut recently renovated with a new roof, but a complete shambles inside and unusable and made camp in a clearing along a service track. Fiona and I enjoyed a rest while the others fetched water by climbing 80 metres up another track to the Strezlecki Creek and (another) water intake. We drank our tea watching a beautiful sunset with the nearby hills bathed in an orange glow.

Next morning we followed the Strezlecki Creek back to Lady Northcotes Creek and continued our descent. The Lower Canyon Falls we soon found were even

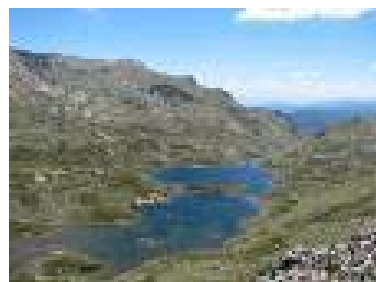
higher than those of yesterday - perhaps 50 metres v 30 metres - and very pretty. It was hotter today and we were pleased to find a couple of excellent swim holes. This was a most attractive part of the creek with large boulders, clean rock and many rapids and pools. After lunch we reached the Geehi River where we swam again. I stretched out in the water wearing nothing but my hat, and relaxed - wonderful! However, my hat took off down the river, I took off after it but could not move fast enough on the stones with bare feet. Jopie quickly put on his shoes and also chased the hat, almost reaching it several times but on each occasion the hat would tantalisingly move out of reach. It seemed to enjoy its freedom and was last seen in the main current on its way to Lake Eucumbene. The rest of the team were having a good laugh at two naked men, one in boots, shouting and prancing around in the creek!

All that remained now was a short climb up to Olsens Lookout to our cars. However, this was a one-in-one 400 metre climb and took over an hour! At the top we gathered our breath and took in the views before driving down to the road. This had been a most enjoyable pack-carry, marred only by Jen's knee problem and other minor issues - see below. Thank you Jopie for yet another spiffing adventure!

Participants:

Jopie Bodegraven (leader) with Jenny Flood, Fiona Kelly, John Fritze, Philip Brown, Gina Hopkins and yours truly,

Derrick Brown.



P.S. I managed to leave my walking stick at Olses Lookout, most annoying! However, the next day I found another perfectly good one in a rubbish bin at Jindabyne!

P.P.S. Gina also left her hat at the swimming pool at Jindabyne! She was able to collect it a week later, after we had completed a seven-day lilo trip down the Snowy River!

P.P.P.S. At the end of the lilo trip I went down with a severe tummy bug. It was thought at first to be Giardia, but proved not to be, but it was probably caught on this trip. All OK now.

Reviews

NEW ZEALAND TRIP WEEK 2

This is part II of the review published in the February 2009 edition of Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc

As we left Lake Taupo for the start of the Tongariro Northern Circuit it began to rain as we approached the Mangatepopo Road. It rained some more, again and again. It belted down; we lunched in the buses before completing a half hour walk through the mists to the Mangatepopo Hut. The carefully partitioned camp sites had been turned into swimming pools so we all set up camp in the hut. Most people then set out with Brian to walk the first section of the circuit from Whakapapa village back to the hut. The four hour walk through mud and slush found the tracks turned into knee high streams. Everyone was soaked through; that is except for Mohammad who rock hopped the whole way, returning with dry boots. He



had to hide them for the rest of the evening as people threatened to soak them! Fortunately, for the rest of the pack carry we were blessed with perfect sunny weather.

The following morning we commenced the long climb out of the alpine moors across stark black lava flows onto the Tongariro crossing. After two days of bad weather so did over forty bus loads of tourists with day packs. They jostled with us for footing much of the way as the track resembled a main street. We all reached our lunch spot at the central crater from which there were magnificent views of Mt Ngauruhoe (the archetypal volcano which even though it is taller it's actually just a secondary vent for Mt Tongariro) and the Red Crater. Many of us took a side trip up Mt Tongariro for further stunning views. We then made our way down a steep spree slope, with steaming hot sands beneath us, towards the Emerald Lakes (water filled explosion pits). At this point we departed the Tongariro crossing for the Oturere Hut via the Rangipo Desert. It was reminiscent of a Moroccan landscape with areas of pink, green and red rock formations. More vegetation began to take grip as we approached the hut.

The following day was a short walk across lava flows to the Waihothonu Hut. We walked the desert until we reached young beech forest, a fertile area that had escaped the lava flows. The group enjoyed a day walk to the Old Waihothonu Hut; segregated into two sections the male side had a fireplace and the female quarters only a mirror! Brave people then went for a swim in the freezing Ohinepango Springs with Helen winning the endurance prize for a five minute dip.

On the final day we had a steady walk through alpine grasslands with the Mt Whakapapa ski fields in sight. We lunched at lower Toma Lake before a surprise meeting with Pat and Jan who had walked up from the car park. Together we completed the track and had celebratory drinks at the Chalet.

For the next few days we enjoyed the full program of tourism that Brian had planned for us; the best of everything. We enjoyed the thermal spas at De Bretts, wine tasting, Wai-O-Tapu Thermal wonderland, a pod ride up a mountain and Luge race down and my favorite the Humarana Springs walk. It went through a Redwood forest to the source of the crystal clear springs. You could watch the trout chasing each other in circles. On our last day we went on a walk through the Kiamias Ranges to view the remains of some old Kauri trees and an array of fungus before taking a cruise around the harbor with views of Mt Manganui. Then we headed for the harbor utilities block to freshen up before a meal in a local restaurant. It was here that Fang, usually a peaceful sort, had her day! There came sudden screaming from a shower block with water flying in every direction as a tap came off a faucet. Brian, freshly showered in his best lavender shirt, was called to the rescue. Fang whipped a towel around her at the speed of light. Brian managed to fix the tap, a task well beyond the call of duty, but he was soaked in the process. I'm sure he couldn't wait to get us back on the plane!



We, of course, thank Brian and Pat immensely for their fabulous organization and hospitality. We enjoyed everything including the camaraderie as we shared laughs, tips and squirms.

Jan Colquhoun

MT McDONALD - THE NOBS

MT. MAGDALA AND THE BLUFF

16-20 January 2008

Sheepyard Flat is a familiar rendezvous point for walkers accessing the spectacular terrain of the Victorian Alps adjacent to the Howqua and Jamieson River valleys. The weather for the trip had been forecast to be hot so water access was a critical consideration.

Our party of six assembled at 7:45am ready to undertake the 75 minute car-shuffle before regrouping at the foot of a long spur leading up to the top of Mt McDonald and onto the Australian Alps Walking Track (AAWT). Signs of devastated bushland struggling to recover were everywhere. Re-growth made the old walking tracks harder to find but an hour and a half into the walk we had a clear view of our first objective and planned lunch spot. The peak of Mt McDonald lay directly ahead and only 800 meters up.

What a climb it was! Following the crest of the spur made it easier to know where to walk but the occasional rocky outcrop added to the challenge. I took my lead from our Leader and dragged myself over rock faces clearly designed for people with longer legs and arms. Before we knew it we were congratulating each other beside the cairn that marked the top. We had wonderful views in all directions as we settled down to nibble our lunch – at 2:30pm! It was a comfort to know that we were now about half way to our campsite and that most of the climbing had been done. There was time to check out the route of the AAWT in the opposite direction before heading off around 3:45pm.

The sun was at our back as we headed towards The Nobs to camp just below them. Uninterrupted views of the surrounding ranges outlined the intended route for some of us, passing by High Cone, Mt Clear and the King Billies then around to The Bluff from where we would descend. The walking was now relatively easy, made even easier when we joined The Nobs Track, a 4WD track that partly traverses the ridge for about 2km. Not long after 6:00pm we were at the point where the AAWT leaves the 4WD track. First though, we needed to collect water for the night and following day. There would not be another water point before we reached camp the following night.

Our Leader had checked the area 10 days before and had located a good rock pool nearby. "We should be back at our packs in around 30 minutes." Alas, the rock pool was nowhere to be seen, just a moist rock face, leaving us to scramble down the overgrown creek bed to find where it had gone! Fifty minutes later with our spirits lifted we prepared to head back, up slopes as steep as anything we had climbed that day and a realization that we had dropped around 200m down. It was a welcome relief to arrive at our campsite by 8:15pm with just enough daylight left.

Day 2 started early. Half of our party was scheduled to depart around lunch time and follow a spur back down, making it a weekend walk. The temperature was predicted to be higher than the day before as we headed for the top of The Nobs around 100 meters above our camp site, then on to High Cone. There is nothing like a few early hills to get the legs working again! From the tops the views in the morning light were captivating but we were soon on our way heading for our lunch spot. The saddle

in between was lush with grass and wild flowers making a peaceful carpet under our feet. It didn't last long though as we fell into the rhythm of climbing once again.

Lunchtime arrived with the temperature rising and the decision was made to descend down the spur to Clear Creek together, cutting short the planned ridge line circuit. Steep and exposed scree slopes made for an exciting 600 meter descent.

After the weekend group had departed we set up base camp by the Upper Jamieson Hut from where we did walks along the King Billies and out to Mt Magdala, Eagle Peaks and The Bluff, essentially covering the best features and more of the shortened circuit walk. Not only that, we had access to cool deep water holes where we could relax after the days of exertion.

It was a great four days – a solid pack-carry with challenging sections and unsurpassed views, followed by a more leisurely base camp. Not least was the company of experienced friendly walkers – our Leader Bert, Jopie, Leslie, Sharyn, Ian and myself (Halina).



Halina Sarbinowski

Reviews

BUSHWALKING MT BULLER: BASE CAMP

JAN 30 – FEB 1

This weekend's Base Camp was not. Not really a Base Camp that is, in that we stayed at the very comfortable Royal Childrens' Lodge courtesy leader Di McKinley – so all amenities laid on. And the walking was great. On Saturday, we got underway at around 9.15am with temperatures feeling like around 35C. We walked up the grassy ski runs under the chairlifts up to the Summit car park. From there we traversed up and across to the Grimus Snowrun Ridge – actually the upper continuation of the Merimbah Spur and McLaughlins Shoulder Spur. From here the majestic views are panoramic and a major photo opportunity. The track down from here is steep, rocky and faint, at times non-existent as it seems to be rarely used. We followed it down to the junction area of the Merimbah and McLaughlins Shoulder Spurs, finding a shady, grassy spot for a break and morning tea.

Then it was on to locate a track down McLaughlins Shoulder, soon discovering a couple of old track markers fairly close together. We took these as a start point and headed down on a N E bearing, now and again picking up an old faint track. This spur differed to what we had walked earlier - grassier, firmer, shadier and less steep – a very enjoyable bushwalk.

At about noon, we reached Thank Christ Corner – a point on the Klingsporn Track at roughly the half way point to Mt Buller Village. Too early for lunch, we pressed on another 1.5 kms up the Klingsporn Tk to the footbridge at Boggy Creek where we enjoyed cool, mountain fresh water and a shady lunch spot. Excellent.



From here, it's a short hop to the 4WD road which leads under the Burnt Spur Chairlift, but rather than follow it, we turned right and went directly up the ski run, re-joining the road near the top. This then leads around to the top of the Horse Hill Chairlift and a gentle stroll back into the village. This walk is a good 5-6 hour circular walk with magnificent scenery and features.

Sunday, we set off again around 9am and explored the village backroads and ski run access roads to eventually walk out to Little Mt Buller Summit. Again conditions were very hot and sunny, so the top here was fairly exposed although again,

the views across to The Bluff, Eagles Peaks and the Howqua Valley were superb and well worth the trip.

From here, we intended to go on to “bag” the Mt Buller proper Summit, which we had deliberately saved from the previous day. However, half way along the access road, we were forced to turn back as this section of road has been quarantined

because of a weed control program. So we retraced our steps and took an alternative road leading into the Wombat Ski Run, lunching by the side of this track and regrouping at the top of Federation Run. By then, the afternoon heat and exposure had won the day so we turned down the slopes and found solace in cool, refreshing drinks at the Cattleman's Hut café at around 2pm. We were heading home by around 3.30pm.



Thanks Di for organizing the lodge and sunny weather.

From the MB members –
Maureen, Margaret , Tina, Bill & Merlyn, Val and yours truly

Paul Beers

Reviews

MITCHELL RIVER NATIONAL PARK

PACK CARRY

23-26 JANUARY 2009

Leader Bob Oxlade

The group camped at the Echo Bend Bark Hut camping park on the Friday night, for some it was a little difficult to find. After a diversion to Lindenow we managed to get directions from some very happy locals at the Lindenow pub.

The group numbering 20 assembled on the beautiful manicured lawns of the Park at 8.30 am. on Saturday, where Bob checked our packs for weight and outlined the days walk. Immediately leaving the park we were on the Mitchell River Walking track and headed towards our campsite a distance of 14 kms. The magnificent scenery soon became apparent. The track was heavily wooded passing through Red Rock Gorge (grade 3 rapids), wild flowers and a rainforest section. The terrain was very undulating with quite a few steep and rocky sections.

We continued to marvel at the vistas of the river as it flowed through rapids and the sheer beauty of the surrounding hills. We stopped for lunch at the Amphitheatre picnic and camping ground and replenished our dwindling water supplies. There was a bit of excitement when a large goanna appeared close to our eating place, after an initial scurry into the surrounding scrub, it happily posed for photo graphs. After lunch we continued along the track, Bob leading at a good pace when he spotted an insignificant marker along the side of the track, this heads to the camping area he stated. The track, which was fairly undefined at one stage petered out completely. However Bob persisted and through the bush we came upon a bend in the river, which was to become our campsite for the next 2 nights. There was a scramble to obtain the best piece of real estate. Some chose to pitch tents on the river bank others the grassed area adjacent to the bank the remainder chose the treed area 50 metres from the river. Once sites were selected we all enjoyed a swim before preparing the evening meal.

The next morning we started out with daypacks and headed towards Angusvale, Again there were steep section of the track, which offered great views of the river and the gorge. We reached the camping area at Slalom Raids and envied the elaborate

camp of the base campers. After a brief rest we continued our walk to Angusvale. The area was a former early settlement and although we couldn't find the remnants of any buildings there were strands of European trees and the largest olive tree I have ever seen. It was large enough for the whole gang to lunch under in complete comfort. After lunch we explored the section of the Mitchell River, which is very popular with campers and kayakers.

We then headed back to Slalom Rapids where we split into two uneven groups. The smaller group opted to head back to camp along the Hortons track which involved fording the river. Much to the delight of the 'stay at home group' a couple of river crossers (including myself) took the wrong path and were swept off their feet by the strong current and received a drenching. The larger group went back the same way as the morning walk. The Hortons track group (7) followed the north ridge which involved ascending a very steep section to the top of the ridge and a equally steep descent to the river on the north side of the camp site. This necessitated another water crossing and a small group gathered on the bank on the other side to see who was in for a dunking. Luckily they were disappointed.

That night we all assembled for tea and were given a treat with Susan making pikelets for everyone accompanied by dried bananas and chocolate sauce. Thank you Susan.

The following morning we had an early start at 7.15 to head back to Echo Bend once we reached the Mitchell River Track we split into 2 groups with one group going ahead of the other. The idea being that the earlier group could be showered and changed before the later group arrived at the camping park. On the way back we stopped for lunch at the Den Of Nargun which a mythical female creature which lived in a cave in a shallow waterfall above the Mitchell River. According to Koorie folklore the creature would seize any children who wandered away from camp. It is also thought the site was used for women's initiation and secret women's business.

On behalf of the group I would like to thank Bob for leading a great walk and showing us some of the most spectacular scenery I have seen. I would also like thank my fellow backpackers Bob, Mohammad, Michael, Susan, Briony, Callum, Ryk, Jerry, Faye, Cheryl, Angela, Rodger, Max, Chris, Fran, Bernadette, Wendy, Rodney and Deb for their company over the weekend.

Ray Spooner

A reminder that to view all available previews and any notifications of changes to walks, just log on to the walks program and previews pages on the MBW website:
http://www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au/activities/Walks/MBW_walks_program.htm



PACK CARRY

WILSONS PROM - SEALERS - REFUGE CIRCUIT

DATE	27-29 March 2009
STANDARD	Easy Medium
DISTANCE	35.5 km with packs plus an optional 6.8km without packs
LEADER(S)	Richard Hanson
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Wilson's Promontory
MAP REF	Wilson's Promontory Outdoor Leisure Map

Saturday (18.9km) the walk starts at Telegraph Saddle car park at 9.00am. Walking south and then east past Mussolini Rocks to Waterloo Bay where with luck we will be rewarded with a swim on an absolutely pristine beach. We then walk along the coast and up to Kersops Peak where we will enjoy spectacular views of the lighthouse and Rodondo Island. We'll descend into Refugee Cove to a great camp site which has toilets and water.

Sunday (16.6km) we'll walk along beautiful coastline to Sealers Cove and complete the circuit along a section of boardwalk and track back to Telegraph Saddle. As an optional extra (6.8km) and if time permits, some might like to climb Mt Oberon to round out an excellent weekend walking.

If you are interested in one of Victoria's classic walks please contact me on 9804 6233(w) or see me in the clubroom on Wednesday 18 or 25 March. I have a booking for only 8 people.



TOFS

MORDIALLOC TO SANDRINGHAM

DATE	Thursday 2 April
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	12 kms
LEADERS	Pam Rosso
TRANSPORT	Train
AREA	Bayside
MAP REF	Melway 87>86>85>76

We will walk from Mordialloc Station along the Artists Trail past Ricketts point & Black Rock to Sandringham. Some beach walking but mostly on the coastal walkways, some sandy some paved. Toilets are available along the way, as is a tea house at Ricketts Point and an excellent fish and chip shop in Black Rock. There are also some drinking water fountains along the trail.

We plan on starting walking at 10:30 am from Mordialloc

station with morning tea before we hit the beach. (Continued)

Trains from Flinders Street (platform 8) at 0908 (0945 at Mordialloc), 0923 (1000); 0938 (1015). These trains leave Richmond station (platform 4) 3 minutes later.(continued).

If travelling by car you will need to arrange a car shuffle or else catch the train to South Yarra station then back to Mordialloc to collect your car!

To book and more information, phone Pam or Bob Steel or

NAVIGATION TRAINING & DAY WALK

WERRIBEE GORGE

DATE	Saturday 4 April
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	8km
LEADER	Jopie Bodegraven
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	1 hour west of Melbourne
MAP REF	Meridian Lerderderg & Werribee Gorges 1:50k and 1:20k

The aim of today is to show you how easy basic navigation really is. To this end I will try to strip away all the unnecessary and advanced stuff and just show you the basics.

We will stop our cars at 2 lookout points at Toolern Vale and Werribee Gorge where we will cover the basics of map reading and correlating features on the map with what we see on the ground. We then do a leisurely 8km circuit at Werribee Gorge with the emphasis on frequent stops to orient our maps, identify features, ensure that we know at all times where we are and generally practice our navigation skills.

We will meet at 8am at the carpark overlooking Brimbamk Park at Melway Ref 15B9 from where we will rationalise transport. To get to the car park from the Calder Fwy westbound, make sure you exit at the Ring Road exit and follow the signs to get on to Keilor Park Drive.

There will be a limit of 8 to ensure that everyone gets sufficient personal attention. If we have greater demand, I will also organise a group for Sunday

You will need a compass (the club has some available) and an A4 clipboard. You can purchase the map if you wish but I can easily organise some photocopies of the relevant areas.

Also of course bring morning and afternoon tea and lunch

So come and learn the basics of navigation.

See me in the clubrooms the 2 Wednesdays prior.

NO SUNDAY BUS

75TH ANNIVERSARY – BUSHWALKING VICTORIA

DATE Sunday 05 April 2009
TRANSPORT Private

On Black Saturday the first reports of the devastating effects of the bushfires were coming from the Mt Disappointment State Forest...the area chosen for the walks for Bushwalking Victoria's 75th Anniversary. Unfortunately these walks have been cancelled, however, BWV has asked us to keep the day available so that bushwalking clubs throughout Victoria will have the opportunity to meet and mingle.

Watch the notice board on our website for any updates relating to the 75th Anniversary celebrations.



PACK CARRY

TASMAN COASTAL TRAIL

DATE Easter Weekend 9-13 April
STANDARD E/M
DISTANCE 55KM (includes 24km with Day Packs)
LEADER Bob Oxlade
TRANSPORT Charter coach from Hobart
AREA South East Coast Tasmania
MAP REF ap Tasman National Park

This spectacular coastal walk is currently fully booked.



WEDNESDAY WALK

WOODLANDS HISTORIC PARK

DATE Wednesday 8 April
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 13km
LEADER Margaret Curry
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Greenvale
MAP REF Melways Map 178:C6

Come and explore an interesting area close to Melbourne and loosen up for those longer Easter walks. We start by walking along the Murrup Gurrong Yan (Spiritual Creek Walk) then head to the west of the park, wander through the aboriginal cemetery, then walk to the top of Gellibrand Hill with 360 degree views of the city and the bay. We pass through the fenced off 'Back Paddock' area to manage and restore the 1840's landscape, and view the ruins of two 19th century homesteads, before reaching Woodlands Homestead, erected in 1843. Time to view the homestead before heading back to our cars. Many kangaroos, rabbits, birds and wildflowers in season.

We will meet at the Somerton Road Picnic Area, (Melways 178:C6). After entering the gate turn right immediately and park just past the toilet block. Meet at 10.15am for a 10.30am start. For information and bookings phone Margaret



BASE CAMP

GRAMPIANS

DATE Easter Weekend 10 – 13 April
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 20-30 kms
LEADERS Michael Mann & Bob Steel
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Grampians
MAP REF Outdoor Leisure Map – Northern Grampians

We plan on camping at the Plantation (Pines) camp ground, which is off the Halls Gap – Flat Rock Road (map reference Vicroads Country Street Directory map 56 A2). At time of writing the Plantation campground was closed for redevelopment. National Parks are endeavouring to have it open by Easter but if it isn't we will have to go elsewhere, possibly Troopers Creek or Mt Stapylton campground.

This will be an easy base camp – walks will be easy-medium at most. Walks will mostly require car shuffles. Bring your luxuries as we will be camping by the cars. Bring your own water as water supplies are unreliable in most parts of the Grampians.

Contact Michael or Bob for more information.

DO YOU WANT LEAD A BIKE RIDE?

We are looking for rides for later this year.

If you have an idea for a ride please call



SUNDAY BUS

CAMEL'S HUMP – MT CHARLIE

DATE Sunday 12 April
 STANDARD Easy/Medium & Medium
 DISTANCE Approx 15km & 19km
 LEADERS Lesley Hale & Halina Sarbinowski
 TRANSPORT Bus from Southbank Blvd at 8:45am
 AREA Macedon
 MAP REF Macedon, Woodend, Romsey and Riddells Creek

Unfortunately due to the recent Victorian bushfires our planned walks in the Bunyip State Forest have had to be relocated.

The walks chosen traverse the less explored areas of the south-east section of Macedon State Park. They include a variety of enjoyable features...the climbs at Camel's Hump and Mt Charlie are inevitably rewarded with fine views...the easy walking is through picturesque open farm country and beautiful sections of tall eucalyptus and beech forest.

There will be opportunity to explore the quaint township of Mt Macedon and to enjoy a coffee or a wine...



SUNDAY BUS

MULLUM MULLUM CREEK – RINGWOOD NORTH AREA

DATE 19 April
 STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium
 DISTANCE 12kms/15kms
 LEADERS Hans Edlinger & Meark Heath
 TRANSPORT Bus from South Bank Blvd 8:45am
 AREA Ringwood North
 MAP REF Mel UBD Ref 248

Medium will start at Baronía Rd following Dandenong Creek until it meets with the east link trail. Easy group will start at Canterbury Rd. Both groups will follow the Eastlink trial towards Ringwood, just before the shopping centre we will cross the freeway via the foot bridge. From there we head west along the track towards the Eastlink Tunnel and the parkland that follows the freeway. We will follow this track to Park road where we will cross the free and head back east along the Mullum Mullum creek.

This walk is along a shared bicycle and footpath so care must be taken when walking.

Both groups finish in Ringwood Coach and Horse Pub for a well-earned drink.



SATURDAY WALK

SUGARLOAF RESERVOIR

DATE Saturday 18 April
 DISTANCE 13km
 LEADER Michal Mann
 TRANSPORT Private
 MAP REF Mel 273B2

At the time of writing this preview the park is closed indefinitely due to the threat of bushfire, so ring me (or preferably email me nearer the time to see if we will be walking here or elsewhere.



MOFS

WOODLANDS - GELLIBRAND HILL

DATE Monday 20 April
 STANDARD Easy
 DISTANCE 10km
 LEADERS Keith White (ph 95347439)
 TRANSPORT private
 AREA Greenvale
 MAP REF Melways 177 K9

The walk will begin at 10.30 at the Woodlands Historic Homestead carpark. Enter the park at the gate off Oaklands Road and travel approx. 800metres from the entrance. We will do a return walk through the woodlands with lunch and some plane spotting on Gellibrand Hill.



CYCLING

BIRDLANDS - LYSTERFIELD PARK

DATE Saturday 18 April
 STANDARD Easy/Medium
 DISTANCE TBA
 LEADER Ross Berner
 TRANSPORT Private

Please discuss this walk with the leader on the relevant booking nights and also check the Club's website.



PARK CARRY

LANGI GHIRAN

DATE	Anzac Day Weekend 24-26 APRIL
STANDARD	EASY
DISTANCE	20 KM
LEADER(S)	Del Franks
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Western Victoria Via Ballarat & Beaufort
MAP REF	VicMap Buangor North 1:25000

For those planning on going do on Friday night there is a nice camp site at Langi Ghiran picnic area. We will be starting & finishing our walk at this point.

Saturday: we will walk on track for about 7 km, then off track over Mt Gorrin 737 m and another peak with good views before descending to a track for another 2 km to camp.

Sunday: off track from camp with some steep rock climbing to the summit of Mt Langi Ghiran 950 m. We then descend passing large granite slabs and rocks to a track that takes us 3 km via a look-out point back to our cars with nice views of Mt Langi Ghiran en route.

Be prepared for to carry water for the weekend, as it is doubtful if there will be any available en route. If you are interested in doing this walk then please contact me or see me in the club rooms.



SUNDAY BUS

MT ALEXANDER

DATE	Sunday 26 April
STANDARD	E/M & M
DISTANCE	14 & 19 Km
LEADERS	David Laing & Jan Colquhoun
TRANSPORT	Bus from Southbank Blvd at 08:45
AREA	26
MAP REF	Chewton 1:25,000 & Barker 1:25,000

Preview not done yet, will see if effected by fires. The plan is for easy/medium walk to follow a few roads and a water channel from Ellerys Rd/Calder Hwy intersection to the start of easy walk on Chewton/Sutton Grange Rd.

Then both walks follow same route up to the new koala park (~200m climb) where we will have lunch. Then via the old koala park a walking track takes us to dog rocks, then on past Mt Alexander peak (~150m climb) to Langs Lookout where good views are had to the Coliban River valley. Then a descent from the Mt down to the Oaks picnic ground for the finish. I will update the website entry after the preview.

Continued from Page 1

So as to keep you all informed as to what measures Bushwalking Victoria is taking in the current situation and how we can be guided as a club to participate in the recovery program, the following notice is an excerpt from a message forwarded to us from David Reid.

The BWV Board has had urgent consultation by email and taken the following initial actions.

1. An immediate donation of \$500 to the public appeal was made on 9/2/2009 with consideration being given to a further donation including money that would otherwise have been spent on the 75th walk activities.
2. Victoria Police Search & Rescue have been contacted to establish whether there is any activity that our search and rescue and other specialist volunteers can assist with.
3. Ideas are being discussed for a function or activity on 5th April that in some way will contribute to the local community in the Mt Disappointment area.
4. In the longer term. Liaison with Parks Vic and DSE re assistance with recovery activities eg helping with assessment of areas.

How can you help? I have been receiving a steady flow of information about the ways that many of our members are already helping via family or through their local community.

However some other ways you may be able to assist include:

1. Donating money directly to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund at www.redcross.org.au or call the toll free number 1800 811 700.
2. Donating clothing, blankets, sleeping bags or household items to your nearest [Salvation Army](#) or other charity collection point.
3. Providing assistance through your local community or local Council which no doubt many of you will have already initiated.
4. Emailing me with ideas for the alternative function to be held on 5th April.
5. Have your club committee or members discuss the idea of setting aside some dates on your walks program to assist one of the affected communities and in the longer term help with rehabilitating bush areas and tracks.

Regards

David Reid
President - **Bushwalking Victoria**

