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# THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 cents

APRIL 2011

## LEADERS' NIGHT

MONDAY 11TH APRIL, 2011  
7:00 pm in the Clubrooms

The Bushies have not held a Leaders' Night for a while. This is an opportunity for current, previous and potential leaders to take the opportunity to have input in the way that activities are conducted, problems that arise and suggestions to improve member and visitor experience. Suggestions for the agenda are welcome.

Topics: Club's Risk Plan and Emergency Guidelines, Leading a day walk, Grading of walks, How to say 'No', Dealing with issues on walks, Role of Whip, Navigation/Maps, Emergency equipment, and Reading weather conditions, amongst many others.

Food and drinks provided!!!!

Keep this night free.

An agenda is currently being compiled of matters that members wish to raise. Input is welcome. Please contact Michael Murray at [michaeljmurray1@optusnet.com.au](mailto:michaeljmurray1@optusnet.com.au)

Michael Murray  
General Walks Secretary

## CONSERVATION REPORT

### ALPINE GRAZING HALTED BY FEDERAL MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

On Friday 18th March the Federal Minister for the Environment requested the Victorian Government to remove all cattle from the Alpine National Park by the 8th April 2011. The six 'trial sites' plus the maverick farmer who also had his cattle up in the national park with authorisation. For more information go to [www.vnpa.org.au](http://www.vnpa.org.au).

Thank you to all the letter writers and petition signers.

Rod Novak  
BV Environment – Club delegate

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**  
**362 William Street**  
**(Cnr William and A'Beckett Streets)**  
**Melbourne**  
**Vic 3001**

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: Marilyn Whimpey

Walk previews, walk reviews, articles, poems, news items, photographs of club events, reports of new gear, book/movie reviews, letters to the editor, advertisements, *et cetera* 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](mailto:news@mbw.org.au)**

**Closing date for receipt of material for The News is the 2nd last Wednesday of the month.**

Only advertisements that directly relate to bushwalking (e.g. 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 2 MAY**

### **BASE CAMP/LODGE CO-ORDINATOR**

Michael Mann, who has been our Base Camp/Lodge Co-ordinator for approximately 3 years, would like to relinquish this role. We are therefore seeking an enthusiastic member who could take on this position. Enquiries can be directed either to Michael direct, to Margaret Curry or to Mick Noonan.

### **TRACK MAINTENANCE GROUP**

Bushwalkers are encouraged to assist with the following projects.

As provided by MBW member, Mark Heath.

<b>2011 Activity Dates</b>	<b>Leader contact details</b>
17 April – Morleys Track	Steve Robertson <a href="mailto:srob7859@bigpond.net.au">srob7859@bigpond.net.au</a> 9762 5367
16 October – Big Tree/Cora Lynn	Steve Robertson <a href="mailto:srob7859@bigpond.net.au">srob7859@bigpond.net.au</a> 9762 5367

### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

As you all know, bushwalking is an 'adventure' activity. Members need to be aware of the risk and take responsibility for their own actions. The Club's green Personal Health Details Card should be carried with you at all times, in a readily accessible place in your pack, when participating in any Club activity. If you have misplaced your card or need to update the details, spare copies are available in the clubrooms at any time.

### **LIBRARY**

Cecily Hunter, a member, has been busy itemising and categorising the books in our small library in the clubrooms. Lists of these books are now available by 'Author' and also by 'Topic'. They can be accessed on the website from 'What's New' on the Home Page or from the 'About' page at the bottom. Any of these books may be borrowed by completing borrower details in the book available in the cabinet. Members are encouraged to utilise this resource.

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Our Autumn program of activities has now commenced and there is plenty of variety to suit everyone. This is a great time of year for walking so I encourage everyone to get out there and participate in as much as possible.

Member subscriptions were due on 1st March and rates remain the same as for the last 12 months. A reminder that this year all members are required to sign an Acknowledgement of Risk Form in conjunction with their membership renewal. The appropriate form was forwarded to those receiving NEWS via email and hard copies posted out or are available in the clubrooms. This is to conform to our insurance arrangements through Bushwalking Victoria.

A Leaders' Information Night is being held on Monday 11th April at 7.00pm in the clubrooms. Drinks, nibbles and pizzas will be provided by the Club. All leaders and potential leaders are encouraged to attend. Please diarise the date and advise

Michael Murray, General Walks Co-ordinator of your attendance.

A big thank you to Cecily Hunter who has been itemizing all the books in our small library in the clubrooms. These lists are now available on the website and I encourage all members to review these and use these reference books as much as possible. Items borrowed need to be recorded as for any equipment hire.

Some advance notice is given that Federation Day this year will be held on Sunday 23rd October on the southern half of Mornington Peninsula with the Administration Centre being based in Rosebud. The event will be co-hosted by Peninsula Bushwalking Club and Catholic Walking Club of Victoria. Please diarise this date now.

Happy Walking!

MARGARET CURRY

### PUBLIC MEETING INVITATION

Organised by the Victorian National Parks Association

**Cattle don't belong  
in national parks!**

WHEN: 6 April 2011, 7pm start  
WHERE: Box Hill Town Hall

Authorised by Matt Ruchel, VNPA, Carlton



Victoria's Alpine National Park had a win recently with Federal Environment Minister Tony Burke ordering cattle out of the park by April 8.

Cattle have been grazing in the Alpine National Park since earlier this year, when the Baillieu Government reintroduced grazing to the area under the guise of researching fire management.

Cattle were banned from the park in 2005, and their reintroduction has been damaging threatened species, trampling wetlands and spreading weeds. National parks are for nature, not cattle.

To reflect community support for Minister Burke's positive action, Victorian National Parks Association, The Wilderness Society and other environment groups are hosting a public meeting in Box Hill on Wednesday 6th April. **A large turnout will send a strong message to Minister Burke that the public widely supports his announcement, and will encourage him to take further decisive and positive action for our environment.**

**Guest speakers** at the meeting will present on the scientific, cultural and political issues surrounding cattle grazing in the park, and will include:

- Federal Environment Minister Tony Burke
- Victorian National Parks Association's Phil Ingamels
- University of Melbourne's Dr Greg Moore and Dr Libby Rumpff

- The Wilderness Society's National Campaigns Director Lyndon Schneiders
- Traditional owners and the Victorian State Government have been invited

**What:** PUBLIC MEETING – CATTLE OUT OF THE HIGH COUNTRY

**When:** WEDNESDAY 6TH APRIL, ARRIVING 6:30PM FOR A 7PM START

**Where:** BOX HILL TOWN HALL, 1022 WHITEHORSE RD (Melway Ref: Map 47, E9). The town hall is a six minute walk from Box Hill Station (Lilydale and Belgrave lines), or a three minute walk from the last tram stop on Route 109.

**Bring:** Feel free to bring your waterproof jacket and bushwalking gear to show your support for national parks.

**Cost:** Free. Donations welcome.

## SOCIAL COLUMN

Hi everyone ... I hope you find something that suits you! Note there was a muddle over Ian/Iain in the News re their respective slide nights.

This, and the website, is correct.

Susan.

### WEDNESDAY 6TH APRIL – SLIDE SHOW NIGHT

Club member Ian Mair will present a slide show of a recent trip to South Africa.

Slides will cover the highlights and general points of interest from an eight week walking/touring trip to South Africa as a member of a Willis's Walkabouts group last September–October. Areas covered will include Cape of Good Hope, Cedarberg National Park, De Hoop Nature Reserve, Harkerville Coastal trail, and Kruger National Park.

Note: an 8 o'clock start.

### WEDNESDAY 20TH APRIL – LUNCH AT THE MINT ON BURKE

1144 Burke Road, Balwyn North for midday.

This is a proven favourite with Bushies, and we are very lucky to have a private room booked for our exclusive use.

Book with Susan by 19th April, please.

### WEDNESDAY 27TH APRIL – WINE AND CHEESE NIGHT

7:00pm in the clubrooms

Come along and get to know other club members over a pleasant glass of wine and a choice of excellent cheeses.

Hosted by Graham Hodgson.

### WEDNESDAY 25TH MAY – WINE AND CHEESE NIGHT

This month's wine and cheese night will again be hosted by Graham.



### FRIDAY 17TH JUNE – A DINNER DATE

Dinner at the Tower Hotel, 686 Burwood Road, Hawthorn East.

### WED 22 JUNE – A TALK ON COMMUNITY PROJECT TRAVEL

Scott Pinnegar of World Expeditions has been invited to give a Talk on Community Project Travel.

A number of Bushies have been involved with these trips, in which they have an opportunity to work with local communities to build schools, medical facilities and bridges. Combined with a remote adventure travel experience, this adds up to a rare opportunity to contribute in a meaningful way.

Destinations include Nepal, Tanzania, Argentina, Laos and Kenya.

Note: 8 o'clock start.

### WEDNESDAY 27TH JULY – SLIDE SHOW OF SOUTH WEST TASSIE

Club member Ian Langford will present a slide show of: Beaches and Fiords of South-West Tasmania.

Some lovely slides of a party of seven on the Club Christmas trip: a moving base camp at Cox's Bight and Bathurst Narrows.

Note: 8 o'clock start.

### ADVANCE NOTICE:

Tuesday, 6th December – Christmas Party!!



## THE WILDERNESS SHOP MEGA BUYING NIGHT

**WHEN:** Tuesday 10th 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, Beer & Softdrink

## **BENALLA NEST BOXING WEEKENDS CLIMBING TREES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT 9-10 APRIL 2011**



one or two noses poking out of a bowl of leaves when you check the boxes, and everyone has an opportunity to have a look! We count for most of Saturday (after a brief talk by Ray Thomas, the region co-ordinator, on safety and anything particular to look for) and on Sunday till just after lunch to allow time for the return trip to Melbourne. You will need to provide lunch for yourself for both days, and accommodation on Saturday night is offered in the local scout hall, mattresses provided, bring your own sleeping bag! For Saturday night, bring your own goodies for a barbeque and meet up with your fellow counters. Benalla has a few good supermarkets to resupply from and a really nice bakery where most people go for Sunday breakfast.

It's that time of the year again, and the call has once more gone out for volunteers for the nest box weekend in Benalla. Every year for two weekends, a check needs to be made of the various nest boxes scattered around the region as well as a count of the animals using the sites. This data is collated over the year and used to determine the path of conservation in the area, as well checking which boxes may need to be fixed or replaced. Last year's count showed some nice growth in Squirrel Glider populations and promising signs that the local juvenile Squirrel Gliders are using the tree planting corridors to disperse when their parents kick them out of home.

The weekend offers a wonderful opportunity to get close to the animals, you are almost guaranteed to see

All ages are welcome, the walks are usually short, a few hundred metres between sites then back to the cars to drive to the next cluster. Some ladder work is required to get up to the boxes but safety is always a primary concern, and if we get there early, we can grab a light ladder!

This year the weekends are the 12th to 13th of March (already gone) and 9th to 10th April. Either myself (Chris Schirlinger) or Michael Murray will be available in the clubrooms for two Wednesdays prior to the April weekend to answer any questions or sign you up! Transport will be via car-pooling, so please sign up early so we can help with arrangements for cars and drivers.

*Chris Schirlinger*



## **CROSS COUNTRY SKIING – BOGONG HIGH PLAINS – AUGUST 13-20**

For the last few years the Club has had access to the Rover Chalet for a week's cross-country skiing. The Rover Chalet, situated about 12 kilometres from Falls Creek, is a comfortable lodge with well-equipped kitchen, showers, flush toilets and washroom, laundry and drying room. Sleeping is dormitory style with mattresses and pillows provided. On the Friday night we sleep at Tawonga Hall and catch the bus to Falls Creek on Saturday morning. This is included in the cost.

Food is provided by the Rovers on a set menu basis. Much of the food is put into the Chalet before winter and each group carries in fresh meat and veg for the week. Cooking and housekeeping are done on a volunteer roster basis; we have this down to a fine art to allow the maximum time for skiing. We try to go out for a full day's skiing each day, usually in a couple of groups with shorter and longer options. For a booking application form go to [www.bogongroverchalet.org.au](http://www.bogongroverchalet.org.au) This site gives further information.

If you are interested give me a ring if you want further information. For those who have been in with us before, if you book direct please let me know so I can keep track of numbers.

*Doug Pocock*

## NEW ZEALAND ADVENTURE 2011



On Saturday Feb 19th Bushies Roger (our leader), Ray, Richard, Mick and Sylvia from Essendon Bushwalkers gathered together in Queenstown before our big 10 day adventure walking the Routeburn, Greenstone, Rees and Dart Tracks covering 150 km and climbing 2.8 km.

**Routeburn:** This 'great walk' straddles the Mt. Aspiring and Fiordland National Parks and can have really adverse weather rising from the Tasman Sea. Predictions for our first 24 hours were over 200 mm of rain! We made the short 8.8 km trip to the fantastic Routeburn Falls Hut just as the rain arrived. The second day is continuous subalpine rooftop walking with extensive views of the Hollyford Valley – if you are lucky! We got 60 mm in a hour and far too much for the day! But we did see magnificent waterfalls plummeting and spraying from enormous heights and thundering past as the force of nature rolled and rubbed boulders against each other. We ploughed forward with water steaming 6–12 inches deep down and along the track. That night everyone in the hut was soaked! The ranger who has been there for 19 years says no-one stays dry when it really rains. Next morning we saw the impressive Routeburn Falls Cascade (176 m) at full force.

On day 3 the weather had settled and Lake McKenzie's perfect reflection enticed us to bring out our cameras. Finally some reasonable views, in fact some great views down into the Hollyford Valley, out to Martins Bay on the coast about 20 km away, and the continuous snow-capped

*continued on page 7*



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**SALE STARTS 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

MELBOURNE - 215 Elizabeth St, Ph (03) 9670 4133 • CHAPEL ST - 312 Chapel St, Prahran, Ph (03) 9533 6964  
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# Along the Track

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## New Zealand Adventure *continued from page 6*

peaks. We were having lunch at McKenzie hut when the earthquake hit Christchurch. We felt nothing and only found out about it 3 days later when we met some people starting the Greenstone. *(Sylvia/Mick)*

**Greenstone:** The scenery changed completely. Gone were the rugged cliffs as we walked through silver beech forests and grassy plains with grazing cattle, to our next stop, McKellar Hut. Our scout had secured the bottom bunks, and, thinking we were the only occupants, the fire was lit to dry out some still damp clothing. Suddenly a group of 9 Auckland ladies arrived from the opposite direction. We were getting along fine until they demanded the sleeping arrangements be changed and the fire put out. Mattresses were moved to join ours on the bottom. When they asked whether we snored we emphatically said yes, I had never seen a middle aged lady move so fast to return her mattress, she said earlier she couldn't climb the ladder. The fire still remained an issue until the Israeli Army (4 guys) arrived late and needed the fire to cook their evening meal. So we bedded down for the night with the fire burning and all the windows opened. We left early in the morning hut with the Auckland ladies preening themselves for their next battle. The track continued through pristine beech forest and moss covered rocks with numerous waterfalls to Greenstone Hut. The following morning we walked 13 km to catch the bus at 11 am for a night's R&R in Glenorchy. *(Ray)*

**Rees:** Walked cow paddocks up the Rees River valley, fording a nice river at 25 Mile Hut. We enjoyed the company of a Kiwi tramping group as we tramped all morning up the Rees Valley toward fabulous snow covered peaks. Final

ascent to the Rees saddle was 100 metres and quite steep. Nice weather all day with great views, especially from the hill top next to the saddle where we experienced 320 degree views up the Rees and Dart Rivers. Fabulous walk down from the saddle alongside Snowy Creek. Spectacular fall by Richard into what Roger called full prayer position. No damage to report. Thanks to all for great walking. *(Richard)*

**Dart:** We got to spend 2 nights at Dart Hut (32 beds, 930 m) when we took a day trip to the Dart Glacier 7.5 km up the valley before the tougher climb to Cascade Saddle at 1530 m. This trip was one of the highlights and we were rewarded by fantastic views of the Glacier, Mt Aspiring, and the sheer drop down to West Matukituki Valley below. We shared lunch with our Kiwi friends and a group of inquisitive keas in their natural home. (Lunch was interrupted for a while by a loud nearly rock fall.). Roger got to touch the glacier and enjoy a cool ice cube! That night everyone at the hut wondered whether the forecast heavy rain would stay west of us as the track along the Cattle Flat (no cattle!) to Daleys Flat Hut and eventually Chinamans Bluff Car Park would be delayed by numerous flooded creeks. Luckily, thanks to Roger's influence, the worst we got were light sun showers; however at Daleys Flat the sandflies nearly carried us away! *(Mick)*

We all had a rest day at Queenstown before Ray, Richard, Mick and Sylvia headed home, while Roger stayed on for more touring and walking. Thanks to Roger for organising everything, bringing the cards along (they came in handy over the 10 days) and taking us to such a bushwalker's 'heaven'.

*Mick Noonan*

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## PACK CARRY 26/3/11 TO 27/3/11 SWINDLERS AND DIAMANTINA SPURS – THE RAZORBACK

This pack carry started with the most beautiful clear, sunny morning, with our group of 13 walkers meeting at Diamantina Hut car park, stunning views to begin our day, all feeling enthusiastic.

We walked towards Mount Loch, visiting Derrick Hut, via Swindlers Spur, then descending to the Cobungra River where we walked over a fallen tree to cross the river, some of us shimmying on our back sides. It was fun.

We had lunch at Dibbin Hut, sitting in the sun on beautiful soft native grass. It was truly beautiful. Being my third pack carry, I enjoy listening to the sharing of food ideas. It's amazing what foods can be carried in but kept light weight. After lunch we continued onto Blair Hut, which was fascinating, and you could appreciate the function of huts in the winter months.

We set up camp at Diamantina Horse Yard area, which was close to the river with a beautiful clearing for our tents. Again meal times were wonderful sharing ideas. We did all enjoy Bob's new lightweight camp chair.

We started off early Sunday morning for the climb up

Diamantina Spur via the Razorback. This was a stunning and quite challenging ascent. It rained most of the day, we could not see the views, but we could still appreciate the beauty and ruggedness of the area.

We would all like to thank Agajan for his very organised, informative leadership.

Also thanks to Bert, Max, Ralph and Janette for whipping.

*Carol Ward*



### THE GRAND RIDGE WITH WARTS

*The saga of Phillip Brown's Grand Ridge Road cycle trip 12–14 March with 6 participants or How a magnificent 3 day cycle trip goes pear-shaped but finally comes good again. Names have been omitted to protect the embarrassed.*

Phil's trip started off brilliantly. The route took us along ridgetops with great views over rolling green farmland and the Latrobe Valley far below. The weather was fab. We took it in turns to drive the support vehicle for half a day; a great idea which worked well. The ups were challenging but OK and the downs were exhilarating. We found a nice secluded campsite in Mirboo North and enjoyed our dinner at the pub.

Next day we had more of the same and the weather and views were great. But then we hit the gravel and the forest. The views more or less disappeared and the road got rough and slow but still OK with care. Then trouble struck.

The group caught up to the support car but someone was missing. In fact two were missing. Members X and Y who were ahead had not arrived! Oh dear! A bit of headscratching reminded us that the Grand Ridge Road did a sharp right hand turn at a junction where there was a straight through option. Had they taken that? Oh bum! Surely they'll realise their mistake, turn around and be along soon. Then we got a phone call. 'I'm at Boolarra' said X into the phone. 'But that's over 20 km the wrong way' said we. 'I'm too tired to ride back up that big long rough hill' said X. So Saint Phil, halo over his head but a frown on his face, drove off to retrieve the prodigal pair.

We found an ideal free campsite on the edge of Tarra-Bulga National Park and before pitching tents and while Phil was off on his errand of mercy, the remaining three of us left our gear, including for two of us our raincoats because the weather had been dry and hey, why carry something we won't need, and hooned off down the winding fernlined descent to the Tarra Valley picnic ground to have a wash and fill up with water before the long grind back up the hill. Unfortunately the weather suddenly changed and the skies opened up and the thunder clapped. Oh dear again! The brave one set off and got totally drenched for his bravado. The smart one had her raincoat and set off and was sort of OK. The cautious hydrophobic one waited till the storm reduced to a drizzle, stripped down to his nicks and shoes and rode up smugly, only to find that the other two had at least been able to pitch their tents in the light drizzle whereas smarty pants, or should I say smarty nicks, had to pitch his tent in the rain which was now pelting down again. And to top it off we had to fight off the voracious leeches and mozzies as well. Ah the pleasures of camping in rainforest in the wet? Phil slept in the back of his van; his reward for putting up with the rest of us. He was dry and leech free but had a van full of mozzies to fight off. I'm not

*continued on page 9*

### WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

## Central Australia... It's green again

### Another magic year to bushwalk the Centre

The amazing rains of 2010 have continued into 2011 making this another great year to visit the Centre. Waterholes are full and wildflowers are spectacular.

**The Larapinta Trail is easy**, spectacular, and full of people. Our trips get you away from the crowds and take you to the best places we've found in over 20 years of walking there.

We go off-trail in the **Macdonnells** to get to some amazing places that couldn't be included on the Larapinta Trail.

We cross **Finke Gorge NP** (contains Palm Valley) via one of the most scenic 4WD tracks in Australia, stopping to do some of the best day and multi-day walks the park has to offer.

In **Watarrka** (contains King's Canyon), we do a single walk through deep gorges and across red dunes. We enjoy spectacular cliff-top views and camp near lovely waterholes unknown to the general public.



12 Carrington St Millner NT 0810

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

[rrwillis@internode.on.net](mailto:rrwillis@internode.on.net)



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# ALONG THE TRACK

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## The Grand Ridge Road with Warts *continued from page 8*

sure who won! Oh and we briefly got bogged next morning too!

One member had stayed in a retreat at Tarra Valley with his wife who had driven up to join him there. (Don't you hate people who don't suffer with the rest of us like they should!). Next day he caught up with us again, took his bike out of the car, kissed his wife goodbye and off we rode. 15 km further, a different car screamed to a halt and out jumped said wife. I don't have the car key! Oops! This time Saint Phil didn't do the mercy drive back to the keyless car but the member did in Saint Phil's car and then drove all the way on to the ride finish in Traralgon while the rest of us whizzed ecstatically

down the mostly downhill run to the finish, once again in brilliant weather.

In summary we had a fabulous long weekend. The ride, except for the rough unsealed section on day two which I will probably never do again, was magnificent, with wonderful views and a real buzz. Taking a backup car to carry our camping gear and sharing the driving of it worked well. And the pear shaped bits? They're the memories that we'll remember and retell in years to come. I can't wait to do more rides in Gippsland's green rolling hills.

*Jopie Bodegraven*

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## BOOK REVIEWS by Susan Maughan

**Food, wine and walking along the Camino through Southern France and the North of Spain**, by Dee Nolan. Published by Penguin, \$100.00. ISBN 9781920989910.

**Eucalypts, a celebration**, by Murray Fagg and John Wrigley. Published by Allen and Unwin, \$65.00. ISBN 9781741759242.

A superbly illustrated celebration of the beauty and diversity of Australia's most iconic and best-known trees. 'The tallest and most stately trees I ever saw in any nobleman's ground in England cannot excel in beauty those which nature presented to our view.' First Fleet surgeon Arthur Bowes.

**Twenty-five years of Australian Geographic**. Published by Woodslane, \$59.95. ISBN 9781921683336

Dick Smith engaged the finest photographers to illustrate the words of our best writers. They have crisscrossed the country to document our land, its geography, geology, history, industry, agriculture, wildlife and most powerfully, its people. This book is a celebration of those journeys – a pictorial showcase of the stories that have engaged, informed and entertained for 25 years.

**Australia's Remarkable Trees**. Published by Macmillan, \$44.99. ISBN 9780522857887.

*Australia's Remarkable Trees* explores the extraordinary lives of 50 of Australia's oldest, largest and most unusual trees. Richly illustrated with more than 500 photographs, writer Richard Allen and photographer Kimbal Baker went to the far reaches of Australia – travelling more than 60,000 kilometres – to photograph them and tell their stories.

## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

### MT HOTHAM LODGE LONG WEEKEND – JANUARY 25-29, 2012

Austen Ski Lodge at Mt Hotham is a small intimate lodge with 8 bedrooms. I fell in love with this lodge after spending a four day weekend there recently and would love to share the experience with other keen bushwalkers. We have the opportunity to have use of this lodge at a cost of \$34/\$16 per adult/child per night over summer. If we have 16 people booked we will have exclusive use of the lodge. I hope to book the lodge over the Australia Day Long Weekend (4 nights).

Walks may include the Razorback to Mt Feathertop, Dibbins–Mt Loch Circuit and the recently opened Cobungra Ditch Walk. Although each of these walks is quite strenuous there are a number of shorter walks in the area. For those who want a lay-back holiday, the ambience of the lodge is lovely, with superb views of the surrounding mountains from the balconies. We have the option of self-catering using the well-appointed kitchen, or enjoying the nearby mountain restaurants.

For further information please contact me, Halina Sarbinowski. If you are interested please advise me by the end of June, with final numbers (limited to 16) and deposits required by the end of September.



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](http://www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au/activities/Walks/MBW_walks_program.htm)



**SUNDAY WALK**

**SILVAN RESERVOIR – OLINDA FALLS**

**DATE** Sunday 24 April  
**STANDARD** Easy-Medium  
**DISTANCE** 14 km  
**LEADER** Stuart Hanham  
**TRANSPORT** Car (\$4)  
**AREA** Dandenong Ranges National Park  
**MAP REF** Melway maps 122, 66, 120  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Mt Dandenong

Starting at Silvan Reservoir, the walk follows the Olinda Creek track through medium forest in the Melbourne Water Reserve, before climbing through an area of beautiful, tall, straight timbers, then descending to the valley of the Olinda Creek. A steady climb through thick bush leads to the lush area of the Olinda Falls. The return journey follows the Olinda Creek, which features many tree ferns. Wallabies may be spotted along the way. This is a very picturesque walk.



**SUNDAY BUS**

**O'SHANNASSY AQUEDUCT TRAIL**

**DATE** Sunday 1 May 2011  
**STANDARD** Easy and Easy-Medium  
**LEADERS** Roger Wyett and John McCall  
**TRANSPORT** Bus

For details of this walk, please contact the leaders.



**TOFS WALK**

**BOX HILL AND BLACKBURN PARKS**

**DATE** Thursday 5 May  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** 11 km  
**LEADER** Jean Giese  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Box Hill South and Blackburn  
**MAP REF** Melway 47 and 61

A pleasant walk linking the parks of Box Hill South and Blackburn Lake. We'll include the area beside Gardiner's Creek where some artists (later known as belonging to the Heidelberg School) first set up camp to explore painting in the open (or plain) air.

Meet in the parking area of RHL Sparks Reserve, entering from Albion Road (Melway 47 G11) to start walking at 10.30 am. Book with Jean.



**PACK CARRY**

**JUBILEE LAKE – BLACKWOOD**

**DATE** 7–9 May  
**STANDARD** Easy-Medium  
**LEADER** Agajan Akbari  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Wombat State Forest  
**MAP REF** Great Dividing Trail – Lerderderg Track Bacchus Marsh to Daylesford

The Great Dividing Trail (280k) consists of four linked tracks stretching from Bacchus Marsh to Bendigo in the north and in the south west to Mt Buninyong (Ballarat).

We mainly are doing a part of the Lerderderg track from Jubilee Lake (5 minutes drive from Daylesford) to Simmons, west of Blackwood. After a car shuffle the walk starts on Saturday through a wonderful forest which is almost recovered from the 2009 bushfire. We also enjoy admiring some of the goldfields heritage places on the way.

It is planned to camp Saturday night at the historical Two Chimneys Balt Camp area.

On Sunday we break camp and walk through the forest and via Nolan's picnic area. We finish the walk at Simmons (tea house) west of Blackwood.

It is expected to be cold at this time of the year, so warm and wet gear is essential. This is a beautiful and secluded secret forests walk and therefore is recommended.

If interested contact me or see me in the clubrooms on the two Wednesdays before the walk.



**SUNDAY WALK**

**EAST MT MACEDON (ALTERNATIVE DEPARTURE POINT)**

**DATE** Sunday 8 May 2011  
**STANDARD** Easy-Medium  
**DISTANCE** 13 km with 310 m net climb  
**LEADER** Max Casley  
**TRANSPORT** Car pooling  
**AREA** 65 km NW of Melbourne  
**MAP REF** Macedon & Woodend 1:25,000; Park pamphlet.

**TRANSPORT COSTS (per person)** \$10

**Note: we will meet at 8:45 am at the alternative departure point in William Street outside the clubrooms (because of a Mother's Day fun run). (See map on next page.)**

This is a circuit walk along pleasant tracks through the forests of Mt Macedon (an extinct volcano) with good views of the surrounding country – north to Hanging Rock, south to Port Phillip Bay. We will visit Camel's Hump, Sanatorium Lake, The Cross and possibly the Tea Rooms at the top. There are snow gums on the higher peaks and this fact tells us to be prepared for cold weather. This is a bit shorter than our usual walk at Mt Macedon with 100 m less ascent, so we will have more time to appreciate this beautiful area and perhaps meet for a hot drink after the walk. Come along for a good walk.



## WEDNESDAY WALK

### MARYSVILLE RAINFORESTS

<b>DATE</b>	Wednesday 11 May
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy
<b>DISTANCE</b>	Up to 10 km
<b>LEADER</b>	Jerry Grandage
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Private
<b>AREA</b>	Central Highlands

The May Wednesday walk was to have been at Phillip Island and led by Susan Maughan. Venue and leader are now the Marysville rainforests and Jerry Grandage.

The cool temperate rainforests around Marysville were partially burnt in the Black Saturday bushfire. Some areas were unburnt and have an ambience unchanged from before the fire, while others have been transformed. Now that the track system has been partially reopened we have the opportunity to witness the post-fire recovery. We will first look at the Keppel's Falls area and then move on to The Beeches, which is probably the largest rainforest area that is easily accessible.

The walking is very easy, a distance of 8 to 10 km depending on how much of the track is open.



## SUNDAY BUS

### CRESWICK MINERS' TRACK

<b>DATE</b>	Sunday 15 May
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy & Easy-Medium
<b>DISTANCE</b>	15 and 19 km
<b>LEADERS</b>	Del Franks and Deb Shand
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Bus
<b>AREA</b>	Ballarat – Creswick
<b>MAP REF</b>	The Great Dividing Trail – Federation Track

The famous Eureka rebellion took place in late 1854 in Ballarat. On December 1, 1854, some 200 Creswick miners set out on foot to join their brothers in arms in Ballarat. It was a hot and thirsty march. Raffaello Carboni, one of the rebellion leaders, recorded in his journal that the Creswick miners arrived 'helpless, grog worn, and proved to be the greatest nuisance'. Later in history the artistic Lindsay family roamed these hills.

We will walk in the opposite direction to the miners, which should help us avoid becoming as grog worn as they were. Both groups will start at different points on the outskirts of Ballarat and finish at the beautiful St. Georges Lake in Creswick. The walk follows a marked trail; the terrain is undulating and easy going. The vegetation is mostly eucalypt forest. There is ample evidence of mining activity in the area.

### ALTERNATIVE DEPARTURE POINT FOR SUNDAY WALKS OPPOSITE CLUBROOM

When advised, the alternative departure point for Sunday walks noted on the walks program and in previews will be at the bus stop on the northern corner of A'Beckett Street and William Street, opposite the clubrooms at the Royal Historical Society building.



## MOFS WALK

### CARDINIA RESERVOIR

<b>DATE</b>	Monday 16 May
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy
<b>DISTANCE</b>	9 km
<b>LEADER</b>	Alister Rowe
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Private
<b>AREA</b>	Emerald
<b>MAP REF</b>	Melway 126 E12

Meet at 10.30 am in the Observation Car Park. Enter via Cardinia Creek Road off Wellington Road. We will visit Duffys Lookout and Crystal Brook Picnic Area. The walk is easy and fairly short but it has good scenic values.

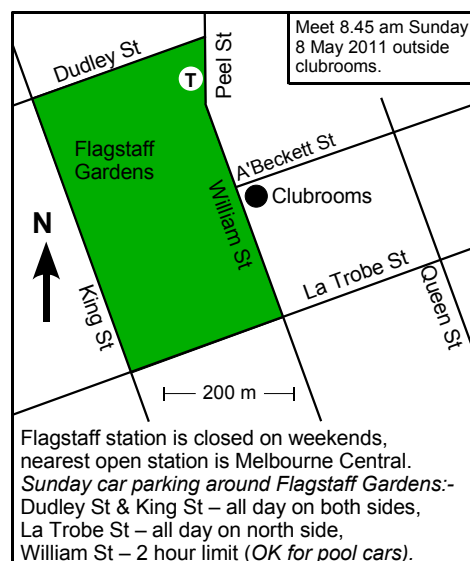


## CYCLING

### WOODEND

<b>DATE</b>	21 May
<b>LEADER</b>	Howard Friend
<b>STANDARD</b>	Hard & Medium Hard
<b>DISTANCE</b>	77 & 57 km
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Private
<b>AREA</b>	Lancefield, Baynton, Kyneton, Carlsruhe

This is an excellent road cycle ride within close proximity to Melbourne. The route forms part of the annual 110 km MAD ride run by the Melbourne Bicycle Touring Club. The roads are sealed and there is little traffic. The hard ride will start at Lancefield, climb up to Baynton and turn off to Kyneton. This road is undulating, we'll have coffee at Kyneton (those who wish to may purchase lunch), then head to Carlsruhe and back to Lancefield. The easier group will start at Baynton and finish at Lancefield. I anticipate both groups meeting at Kyneton and riding together from there. Riders should be fit and capable of keeping up with their group. We will meet in the main street of Lancefield at 9.00 am. I'll organise the car shuffle from there.





**SUNDAY WALK**

**NEW: ANGLESEA HEATH CIRCUIT**

**DATE** Sunday 22 May 2011  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCE** 13 km  
**LEADER** Halina Sarbinowski (note new leader)  
**TRANSPORT** Car Pool – from Southbank Blvd @ 8:45am  
**AREA** Anglesea  
**MAP REF** 1:50,000 Anglesea  
**CAR POOL COST** \$19.00

This walk which starts and finishes at the Alcoa Coal Mine/ Power Station north of Anglesea (bet you didn't even know that this existed) follows 4WD and foot tracks. The sandy sections of the first two stages of the walk will give the calf muscles a work-out and the last section, especially in the gullies, can be very wet in winter so be prepared.

The walk passes through light forest and open heathland with views south and southwest across Swampy Creek to Mount Ingoldsby. Kangaroos and wallabies inhabit this area, with abundant bird life in and around Swampy Creek.

A coffee at Anglesea is always an enjoyed treat before heading home to Melbourne.



**SOCIAL WALK**

**BRAESIDE PARK**

**DATE** Thursday 26 May  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** 5 km  
**LEADER** Jean Giese  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Braeside  
**MAP REF** Melway 88 and 93

I hadn't explored this park before and found it quite delightful with its wetlands, old trees and reminders of when it was a farming property. Lunch in the nearby Garden World café on Springvale Road.

Meet in the parking area (Melway 93 F1) at 10.30 am after entering from Springvale Road. Book with Jean.



**DANDENONGS EXPLORER**

**KALORAMA TO DOONGALLA RETURN**

Please note that the date of this walk has been changed to 4th June, and the preview will appear in May News.



**SUNDAY BUS**

**SAN REMO – CAPE WOOLAMAI**

**DATE** Sunday 29 May  
**STANDARD** Easy & Easy/Medium  
**LEADERS** Michael Murray and Fiona Kelly  
**TRANSPORT** Bus

For details of this walk, please contact the leaders.



**ADVANCE NOTICE – JUNE 2011  
 BASE CAMP/CABIN TRIP**

**BEECHWORTH**

**DATE** 10 – 13 June  
**STANDARD** Easy & Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCE** 10 – 16km  
**LEADER** Margaret Curry  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** North East Victoria (Historic Beechworth)

Beechworth, a former gold mining town, has many natural and historic attractions. The surrounding countryside provides spectacular views of granite outcrops, the Victorian Alps and forest areas. Tracks lead to many points of interest, including the Woolshed Falls, Spring Cascades, Powder Magazine, One Tree Hill, Ingrams Rock and Lake Kerford. Time to explore nearby Chiltern–Mt Pilot National Park with its Aboriginal rock art, Mt Pilot with its 360 degree view and on the way home Mount Glenrowan in the Warby Ranges used by Ned Kelly and his fellow bushrangers. Generally the walking is along defined tracks but there will also be some steep hills and rock hopping. Full day walks are planned for the Saturday and Sunday, with a half day walk on the Monday.

Cabins have been reserved and total cost for the 3 nights will range from \$80–\$110. Couples/singles can be accommodated. A camping option is also available (unpowered site for 2 people \$28 per night). Deposit of \$50 per person required for cabins. Those camping should make reservations direct. For further information and bookings phone Margaret.

Bus transport meets at Southbank Boulevard, south side of the Arts Centre, before 8:30 am. Leader or deputy will be there rain, hail or shine!

MAY 2011				
Sun 1	O'Shannassy Aqueduct Trail	Bus	E & E/M	Roger Wyatt and John McCall
Thu 5	Box Hill and Blackburn Parks	Private	Easy	Jean Giese
7-9	Pack Carry: Jubilee Lake – Blackwood	Private	E/M	Agajan Akbari
Sun 8	East Macedon Ranges (Alternative departure point)	Car	E/M	Max Casley
Wed 11	Marysville Rainforests	Private	Easy	Jerry Grandage
Sun 15	Creswick Miners Walk (Great Dividing Trail)	Bus	E & E/M	Del Franks and Deb Shand
Mon 16	Cardinia Reservoir	Private	Easy	Alistair Rowe
21-22	Cycling: Baynton–Kyneton–Carlsruhe–Lancefield	Private	M/H	Howard Friend
Sun 22	NEW: Anglesea Heath Walk	Car	E/M	David Laing
Thu 26	Braeside Park (Social)	Private	Easy	Jean Giese
Sun 29	San Remo – Cape Woolamai	Bus	E & E/M	Michael Murray & Fiona Kelly

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