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THE NEWS OF THE

Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 cents

November 2011

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

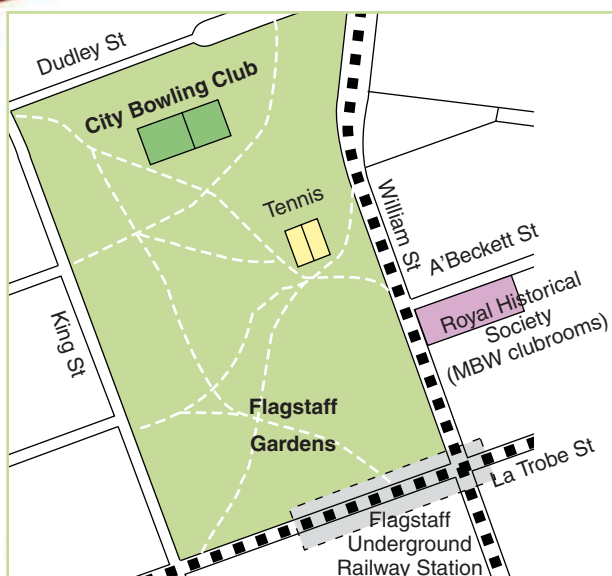
Tuesday 6 December – from 7:00 pm
Melbourne Lawn Bowls Club, Flagstaff Gardens,
Cnr Dudley and William Streets (Melways 2E, A1)



Bring a plate to share.

NOTE: This is a licensed venue.

Please **do not** bring alcohol or soft drinks.



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

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

Closing date for receipt of material for *The News* is the 2nd last Wednesday of the month. So for December News, the closing date is 23 November.

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 at news@mbw.org.au.

Please note:
Next committee meeting will take place on
MONDAY 5 DECEMBER

WILSONS PROM TRACK MAINTENANCE WEEKEND 19-20 NOVEMBER

Details from Steve Robertson of Bushwalking Victoria:

'We will be camping at Stockyard camp on the Friday night with a planned meeting at 7:30 am on the Saturday, and exit from the camp at 8:00 am. We will be pack carrying and camp at Lower Barry Camp on the Saturday night.

Works will be undertaken through to the campsite on the Saturday and then Sunday as much of the track as possible through the Chinamens swamp area. Then a quick march out.'

Please contact Mark Heath if you are interested.

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome the following new members to the Club:

DANIELLE HALSTEAD
MELLISSA BURKE
ADRIANA FORLENZA
TAPASYA ARYA
ELIZABETH RUMLER
DAVID HOLDER
JANE OLDFIELD
ROGER PALMER
RACHEL PATRICK

EARLY BOOKINGS REQUIRED – BUSHWALKING VICTORIA ALPINE WORK PARTY 26-29 JANUARY 2012

Bushwalking Victoria have organised an Alpine Work Party for the Bogong High Plains. We assist Parks Victoria Rangers and scientists with weed mapping and removal (invasive weeds such as willow & hawkweed). Based at Falls Creek with accommodation and one evening BBQ provided. This very popular Bushwalking Victoria activity has limited spots available. If interested, then please contact Rod Novak at 0413 433 206 or rodrnovak@gmail.com by the 30 November 2011.

SOCIAL COLUMN

During the month of November MBW will be on display at the East Malvern Library. We have been invited to use their display case at the Rob Roy Road location. 'Do drop in.'

TUESDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER

A FREE tour, exclusively for the Bushies, has been organised at Maranoa Gardens, Balwyn, to be followed by a picnic.

Started in 1901 as a private garden it was unusual in its day as it was devoted entirely to Australasian plants. Located at Parring Road (Melways 46 G7), the adjoining Beckett Park is the site of our picnic. The tour commences at midday.

WEDNESDAY, 23RD NOVEMBER

Barry Menzies has been invited to give a talk on the subject of bushrangers. This promises to be very informative and entertaining, as our guest is quite the Thespian.

Also wine and cheese night.



FRIDAY, 25TH NOVEMBER

A social walk through our wonderful Royal Botanic Gardens followed by dinner at Tandoor Restaurant, 50 Commercial Road, Prahran. We depart from the steps at Flinders Street Station promptly at 6:30 pm. We will meander through the Botanic Gardens, visit Guilfoyle's volcano, and cross Fawkner Park. Involves a quiz!

When booking, let me know if you are just doing the walk, dining, or both. Book no later than Wednesday 23rd November, please.

FRIDAY, 2ND DECEMBER

MOFs, TOFS and Wednesday Walkers, et al are invited to an end-of-year lunch at the Mt Dandenong Hotel. You might want to combine this with a visit to the highly recommended Cloudehill Gardens, Olinda, which are open 10 am till 5 pm. Entry is \$7.50 or \$5.00 concession.

Lunch is at 1 o'clock. Book no later than Wednesday 30th November, please. (Seniors' menu available.)

TUESDAY, 6TH DECEMBER THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Bring a plate to share and pocket money for drinks from the bar. (NOTE: NO BYO of any kind, including soft drinks.)

Commences at 7 pm at The City of Melbourne Lawn Bowls Club, Flagstaff Gardens, Dudley Street. It is located near the corner of William Street, with parking available at Vic Market.

Should it be a warm night there is an outdoor area for our use, too.

You are invited to display your photos of club walks or the bush. We are allowed to blue tac them to the walls. Give me a call!

SUNDAY, 1ST JANUARY 2012

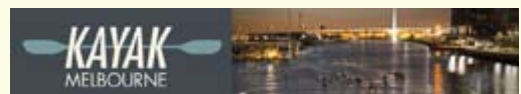
NEW YEAR'S DAY B.B.Q at Birdland Reserve, Tecoma.

Bring everything. Options: Bring some walking shoes, bike, or bat and ball. Definitely bring a wrapped gift for the 'Lucky Dip' which is now a tradition for our New Year's Day celebration.

No need to book, just come along and enjoy yourself.

SATURDAY, 14TH JANUARY

Kayak up the Yarra to Herring Island. Depart at 9 am, finishing at the Casino at 12 o'clock. A different way of looking at our city.



PLEASE MAKE ALL BOOKINGS WITH SUSAN MAUGHAN
ON 9754-7443 OR susanmaughanoz@hotmail.com

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Over 300 walkers enrolled to walk in Federation Day walks on 23rd October at the Mornington Peninsula. Melbourne Bushwalkers was represented by 11 people. A great day and a wonderful experience for all those who participated.

The Club has participated in two Tree Planting weekends recently as part of the Regent Honeyeater Project and it is pleasing that 16 members assisted with this worthwhile community activity.

Please diarise the date of our Christmas Party – Tuesday 6th December. Members need to bring along a plate of food to share. Drinks can be purchased at the venue. This is a new venue so please check out full details in the newsletter. Entry is free and we hope that as many members as possible will attend this end-of-year function.

Advance notice is given that our clubrooms will be closed on Wednesday 21st and Wednesday 28th December due to the Christmas/New Year holiday season. All walk/activity bookings should be made well in advance. Contributions for the January Newsletter should reach the Editor by Wednesday 21st December.

The Melbourne Walking Club – Pioneers of Bushwalking exhibition at our clubrooms (entrance from A'Beckett Street) is well worth a visit. The Club was formed in 1894 as a competitive race walking club but by the 1900's was involved in bushwalking. There are some great photos, memorabilia and anecdotes relating to the history of bushwalking in general. Open 10 am – 4 pm Monday to Thursday and 10 am – 3 pm Friday until 9th December.

A reminder to members that the Victoria Night Market resumes again on Wednesday 16th November and runs through until Wednesday 29th February. It is open from 5:30 pm until 10:00 pm and is a great place to wander through and have something to eat before our evening meeting. With daylight saving, you are encouraged to come to the clubrooms by train on these nights.

Enjoy your walking!

MARGARET CURRY

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

Going places most people only dream about

Off Track Walking

We don't do anything else

How could we? There are no tracks in almost all of the areas we walk

You have to experience it to believe it!
Explore hidden waterfalls, ancient rock art, flowing streams and deep pools of pure, clean water with experienced guides leading the way.

If you like bushwalking you will LOVE a Willis's Walkabouts trip

We offer a range of walks to suit different budgets and different levels of experience.



12 Carrington St Millner NT 0810

rrwillis@internode.on.net

www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au

Phone 08 8985 2134

Fax 08 8985 2355

WHEN TO USE A PLB – NEW CLUB GUIDELINES

Personal Locator Beacons (PLB's) can be used to issue a distress alert including the GPS location via a special global satellite system in the event that an emergency occurs. They also provide a beacon for search aircraft. The distress signal is received by the country's Mission Control Centre usually within minutes. In Australia it's the **Australian Maritime Safety Council** who initiate the search and rescue. PLB's:

- Can save lives, although they may not be completely reliable in all circumstances
 - Are a **last resort** in cases of grave and immediate risk to life – not a first resort.
 - Are not a substitute for sound leadership and party strength.
- In 2010, with the use of a State Government Small Equipment Grant, our Club obtained 2 Kannad 406G's, each with an inbuilt GPS.



They are recommended for extended, overnight and day activities in remote areas where there is no readily accessible mobile reception. Our PLB's are available 'free' for Club activities and a number of our extended activity leaders have their own.

PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACONS SHOULD ONLY BE USED WHEN THERE IS A THREAT OF GRAVE AND IMMEDIATE DANGER TO LIFE.

- Typical examples of where a PLB could be used would be if a person on an activity had a heart attack, stroke, severe anaphylactic shock (to a jumping jack ant bite, bee sting, food allergy etc), severe hypothermia, serious injury that required urgent medical attention. etc., AND access to the Emergency 000 service was not readily available. Each situation is different and ultimately it is the leader's decision.
- In such an emergency, communication should first be attempted using mobile phones, e.g. from a nearby high point, and other suitable means of communication if available.
 - Activating a PLB will result in a Search & Rescue Activity involving many people and expensive resources e.g. helicopters, ambulances etc.
 - Inappropriate or irresponsible use of a PLB may result in action by authorities.



- **Distress Beacons are a one-way device.** The flashing red light when activated indicates the beacon is transmitting *but does not confirm the signal has been received.*
- **Distress Beacons are registered with the Australian Maritime Safety Council.** If activated incorrectly or if the emergency is over then advise AMSR on **1800 406 329** or **+612 9332 6323** as soon as possible
- Similar guidelines should apply to personal or hired PLB's and to the SOS feature on messaging devices such as the SPOT 2, SPOT Connect etc.

A copy of the new Guidelines is provided with each of our PLB's and it will also be available via the Website Downloads Page.

MELBOURNE WALKING CLUB – PIONEERS OF BUSHWALKING

**An exhibition at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria
From 12 October to 9 December 2011**

The first real bushwalking club in Australia started in 1894 as the Melbourne Amateur Walking and Touring Club that later became the Melbourne Walking Club. The club still exists and a few years ago it donated some of its archives to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. This exhibition draws on that material to show the history of the Melbourne Walking Club and some of the remarkable achievements of its members. Although not a comprehensive history of bushwalking, it also shows the development of bushwalking in Victoria.

Over its history the club has included many bushwalking enthusiasts and the exhibition demonstrates this enthusiasm.

They walked in the Victorian Alps when there were no maps for walkers – so they made their own hand drawn maps. These show long gone places such as McVeigh's Hotel on Walsh's Creek and the sawmills near Warburton.

For over 60 years they published *The Melbourne Walker* each year. It is a fascinating collection of articles about long forgotten places, bush personalities and the history of bushwalking.

Other publications include a booklet on map making, notes on equipment and food to take on walks and a booklet on walks near Melbourne.

The archives include a fascinating set of photo albums and lantern slides showing people and places going back to the early 20th century. These will illustrate the various themes of the exhibition.

Many of their extended Christmas and Easter trips were done with packhorses and were guided by local cattlemen. One trip went from Mansfield to Bright via Mt Buller, Mt Howitt, Dargo High Plains and Mt Hotham.

Club members helped found the Victorian Federation of Walking Clubs (now Bushwalking Victoria), were active in search and rescue efforts for lost walkers and were advocates for conservation issues.

The exhibition is highly recommended for bushwalkers of all levels of experience.



The clean up – photographed during an excursion of the Melbourne Walking Club, 1914 (RHSV Collection: GS-MWC-0101)

THE COST OF PACK CARRYING

With a set of the best light weight gear (tent, pack, sleeping bag, mat and cooking equipment) costing around \$1000, and even a cheap set running to several hundred, equipping for pack carrying might seem like an unjustifiable expense. Here are a few points to bear in mind before making a decision.

- 1 Over its life a good set of gear can provide years of holiday accommodation for as little as \$2 per night. It only takes a few trips to break even with commercial alternatives and, even if you can't manage those, recommended gear can always be sold to club members.
- 2 Pack carry food and its preparation costs about \$10 per day (home prepared).
- 3 Walks are organised by our leaders for nothing.
- 4 Most pack carrying travel costs 8–10 cents per km (per passenger in a shared car)
- 5 There is no need for expenditure on additional activities or entertainment and absolutely no way of frittering away money when out of shopping range.

If you calculate how much you might otherwise have spent against these categories you are bound to conclude that pack carrying is an extremely cost effective holiday alternative, but you need to be careful. Because it is such a healthy activity it could cripple you with debt, by prolonging your life!

John Fritze

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT TO STOP CATTLE RETURNING TO THE ALPINE NATIONAL PARK

Recent news items on the Alpine Cattle grazing issue:

On Saturday 15th October 2011, the *Herald Sun* newspaper had 'Cattle trial report shows little'. It summarised the DSE report as 'cattle like to gather around watering holes and they cannot walk up steep mountain terrain'. It also stated 'serious concerns cattle can trample on sensitive ... habitats'. *The Age* newspaper (15th October 2011) reported the Victorian Environment Minister Ryan Smith as saying that cattle grazing will continue this coming summer. On Tuesday 18th October 2011 *The Age* newspaper had a front page headline 'Baillieu shuns green summit'. It stated 'The Baillieu government has given up the right to host a global conservation conference [World Parks Congress in Melbourne], prompting accusations that it feared unfavourable international scrutiny of its environment policies, including the release of cattle into the Alpine National Park'.

Read more: <http://www.theage.com.au/environment/conservation/baillieu-shuns-green-summit-20111017-11ten.html#ixzz1bJEDRdBa>

On Thursday 20th October, *The Age* State Political reporter wrote a fascinating article on the behind the scenes politics of alpine grazing titled 'Say no to Policy cowboys'. Go to <http://www.theage.com.au/opinion/politics/say-no-to-policy-cowboys-20111019-1m80w.html>

On Friday 21st October, the Federal Environment Minister announced he would legislate stop the cattle returning to the Alpine National Park.

For more information go to <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/canberra-moves-to-stop-alpine-grazing-in-victoria-20111020-1madd.htm>

Many thanks to the Melbourne Bushies Committee and members for their continued support in stopping the cattle going back into the Alpine National Park

Rod Novak

SUNDAY STATISTICS

Quarter 3 - 2010 & 2011

Week	SUNDAY WALKS				
	2010		2011		
	Total	Visitors	Total	Visitors	Total
1	44	6	35	2	2
2	*	16	1	*	14
3	47	14	40	4	4
4	*	27	6	*	15
5	42	5	46	12	12
6	*	12	0	*	18
7	45	14	28	6	6
8	*	17	1	*	9
9	42	5	50	16	16
10	*	15	3	*	16
11	43	8	35	5	5
12	*	11	4	*	14
13	39	15	47	9	9
Total	400	82	367	82	82
Bus	302	67	281	54	54
Car Pool	*	98	15	*	86
Average	30.77	6.31	28.23	6.31	6.31
Visitor %		21%			22%

* indicate car pool walks.

N.B. Bus/Car Pool Walks are not run on alternate weeks
It is important to check the walks program.

Dear folks,

I thought you might be interested in some comparisons between our March and April nestbox monitoring.

We've been able to check things like:

- where the gliders prefer to live in the warmer months,
- where they shift to when it cools off in Autumn,
- what size family groups they have in the different seasons,
- and if the rare Squirrel Gliders and the common Sugar Gliders have the same preferences!

It's interesting stuff and helps us fine-tune the way we can help them survive.

I hope you enjoy the reading and the graphs!

Visit our Website: www.regenthoneyeater.org.au.

*Cheers from Ray Thomas
Regent Honeyeater Project*



JOINING THE DOTS THROUGH HISTORY LEANGANOOK TRACK, 30 SEPTEMBER – 2 OCTOBER



Setting off Sunday morning.
L-R: Anthea, Leila, Deb, Matt, Alwin, Janette, Bob, Ian.

The Great Dividing Trail is steeped in history. Winding its way from Bacchus Marsh to Bendigo via Ballarat and Daylesford, it encompasses a rich tapestry of the hopes, disappointments and great ingenuity of our predecessors in their pursuit of gold and all it has to offer. In contemporary terms it is an engaging walk through a diversity of Victorian bushland, river trails and mountain top views. Little wonder then that it is a regular destination for the club's day walks and weekend pack-carries.

The Leanganook Track, completed in 2003, is one of four track sections making up the Great Dividing Trail, and provides the anchor at the Bendigo end. Bob Oxlade chose the leg between the summit of Mt Alexander and the Langdon Gold Diggings on the outskirts of Bendigo, a distance of 31 km, for an easy 2-day pack carry. Following hot on the heels of an introductory lecture to pack-carry walks at the club room on the 14th September it presented an ideal opportunity for those keen to try out new ideas in light weight equipment selection. In addition, it was a section of the Great Dividing Trail that had not previously been walked as a pack-carry by the club – a 'joining up of the dots' as they say.

After a gradual descent over 2 km from the 730 m summit of Mt Alexander to the management track some 330 m below along the route of the Coliban Main Channel feeding into the Sandhurst Reservoir near Bendigo, the route drops just another 100 m in the remaining 29 km. For those interested only in walking and well disciplined in light weight packing the route on predominantly well formed and flat 4WD roads beside the water channel may be regarded as just a warm-up exercise and easily managed in the time allowed. However, Bob, in his usual manner, had done his research and came equipped with notes and maps chosen to add new life to the region's history, as well as the diverse vegetation along the way. Did you know that the channel, completed in 1877, diverts water from the Coliban River south of Malmsbury, to serve Bendigo? Or that there are over 20 reservoirs and more than 500 km of channel in the larger system which is registered under the Victorian Heritage Act?

As one of the eight walkers making up the group it was a rewarding experience – a chance to see a part of the Great Dividing Trail not previously walked and a time to share in the enthusiasm of fellow members preparing for a lifetime of adventure and excitement reserved only for those prepared to step beyond the regular tourist routes. Thank you Bob for taking the time to make it happen.

And for those who would like a glimpse of what was missed, check out the Photogallery on the club's web site.

Ian Mair

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



SUNDAY BUS

LYONVILLE SPRINGS – BABBINGTON HILL

DATE 27 November 2011
STANDARDS Easy/Medium & Medium
DISTANCES 15 km & 20 km
ELEVATIONS 100 m climb
LEADERS Deb Shand & John Fritze
TRANSPORT Bus – Leaving Southbank Boulevard at 8:45 am
AREA East of Daylesford
MAP REF Babbington Hill 1:25 000, Wheatsheaf 1:25 000

FIRE BAN DISTRICT NC
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE ba

This walk follows undulating walking and four-wheel drive tracks through bushland. We visit the pretty Bullarto Reservoir, and have a good climb up and over Babbington Hill with views to reward us if the weather is clear. We pass by Lyonville Springs where walkers can sample the mineral water, and later can view a rustic cottage ruin nestled in the forest. We also come across a huge pile of sawdust, and there may be an opportunity to get your feet wet while crossing the Loddon River if there has been recent rain.

Be prepared for some hills on this pleasantly varied walk, and be sure to carry sufficient water and sun protection as the weather might be hot at this time of year.



TOFS WALK

'THE BEECHES', TAGGERTY RIVER

DATE Thursday 1 December 2011
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 10 km
LEADER Alister Rowe
TRANSPORT Private
STARTING TIME 10:30 am
MAP REF Marysville Melway 610 T11

Drive through Marysville, cross Steavensons River and bear right then left into Lady Talbots Drive. Proceed about 12 km to the Taggerty River crossing and picnic area. We will walk 'The Beeches' circuit which is very beautiful and not to be missed. I suggest protection against leeches! There will be a short walk nearer to Marysville before afternoon tea in the town.



BASE CAMP

MT STIRLING AND ENVIRONS

DATE 3–4 December 2011
STANDARD Easy Medium
DISTANCE 12.5 km day 1; approx 17 km day 2
ELEVATION 1200 to 1749 m
LEADER(S) Roger Wyett 0409 692 005
TRANSPORT Car Pool
AREA Mt Stirling Alpine Area
MAP REF Mt Buller & Stirling 1:25,000 leisure series
TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON) APPROX \$40

We will meet at 9:30 am on the Saturday morning at Telephone Box Junction (take the Mt Stirling Road from Mirimbah (45 minutes east of Mansfield) and do a 12.5 km circuit along the ski trails to Mt Buller and back to the cars. We will then either camp at Howqua Gap or back down at Mirimbah (subject to space). Sunday will be out to the old site of Craig's Hut (burnt down) via Mt Stirling and returning along the same route.



SUNDAY BUS

CORA LYNN CASCADES – ERSKINE FALLS

DATE 4 December 2011
STANDARDS Easy/Medium & Medium
DISTANCES 15 km and 19 km
LEADERS Del Franks & Alwin Loubser
TRANSPORT Bus – Leaving Southbank Boulevard at 8:45 am
AREA Back of Lorne
MAP REF Lorne 7620-1-1 (1:25 000)
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Central

Be prepared to get your feet wet on these walks. There are 22 creek crossings of the Cora Lynn Creek in the first part of the walks.

The Easy/Medium group will be bussed from the Blanket Leaf Car Park to the top of Erskine Falls, while the Medium group will follow the Lemonade Creek Track that connects the two sections of this walk. The Erskine Falls Track follows Erskine River down to the caravan park in Lorne and involves still more rock hopping and creek crossings.

Both sections of the walks are challenging but lots of fun. Although much of the walks follow waterways, the flora is quite diverse. This is a beautiful area to visit so please join us and enjoy these walks.



PACK CARRY

GREAT OCEAN WALK: SHELLEY BEACH-AIRE RIVER

DATE	December 9-11 2011
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	34 km
LEADER(S)	Bob Oxlade
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Great Otway National Park, south west from Melbourne
MAP REF	Great Ocean Walk Parks Vic Brochure

This should be a good walk for this time of year with a variety of scenery at this famous spectacular coast and the first time I have done a coastal pack carry with the club in summer.

As the GOW (Great Ocean Walk) itinerary appears to have short days on this section we will have the slight challenge of doing 3 days' walk over 2 days and camping half way between the GOW campsites.

We will drive down Friday night to Shelley Beach and after a car shuffle on Saturday morning will walk through the Otway National Park forest, with a 200 m climb, which could be graded Medium, before descending to the coast at Blanket Bay and along to our campsite. 17 km today.

On Sunday we have another 17 km, with only 100 m elevation gain, in and out along the coast and past Cape Otway to Aire River.

If interested in coming along on this walk please see me in the club room or ring on 9887 8701. Bob Oxlade.



CYCLING

BEACH RIDE TO MORDIALLOC, BACK ROADS RETURN TO CAULFIELD

DATE	Saturday 10 December, 2011
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	56 km
LEADER(S)	Ed Neff
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	S & SE Suburbs
MAP REF	Melway Maps 68, 67, 76, 85-87, 78, 69
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	CN
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	me

We will meet at Caulfield station, northern entrance (Sir John Monash Drive), at 9:30 am. We will connect with the Rosstown Rail Trail to Elsternwick and then join the Beach Road trail (not Beach Road) to Mordialloc. We can stop for a coffee at the North Point Café on the way. Lunch will probably be at Mordialloc. We then navigate quiet back roads through Heatherton and Oakleigh South, passing through the interesting Karkarook Park, winding our way back to Caulfield. This is a relatively flat ride.

We will maintain an easy pace, so come and enjoy this interesting ride. Bring your lunch, a repair kit with spare tube and a water bottle. Ring me on 0419 644 818 to register for this ride, or for any questions.



Walkers in Anakie Gorge in September 2010. Photo by Chris Schirlinger.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

ANAKIE GORGE CIRCUIT

DATE	Sunday 11 December 2011
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	13 km
ELEVATION	Moderate
LEADER(S)	Meg Morris
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Brisbane Ranges
MAP REF	Brisbane Ranges National Park 1:50 000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Geelong
TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON)	\$13.60

The Brisbane Ranges National Park rises from the flat landscape that is so typical of the area. The Brisbane Ranges are bounded by the same geological fault that runs through nearby Lerderderg and Werribee Gorges, which has created a landscape that is always enjoyed by bushwalkers. The park's lightly wooded hills are criss-crossed with numerous small gorges and narrow valleys. The area is also of great scientific interest, since it is home to over 600 plant species (about one fifth of Victoria's total) and some 170 species of native birds.

Due to flood damage earlier in the year we are unable to follow the entire Anakie Gorge walk, part of which is still closed. However, starting from Ballan Road, the walk will follow the Ted Errey Nature Circuit, which not only visits the Gorge but also two lookouts with the best views of the park. Once reaching Stony Creek Picnic area we will be able to explore the new alignment of the Burchell Track (the longest walk throughout the Park) and enjoy lunch on the shores of the Lower Stony Creek Reservoir. After lunch we will explore the Waddawurong Walk before following the final sections of the Ted Errey Nature Circuit which climbs steadily up through open forest, over a spur before descending down into a small valley. The creek and surrounding swamp land is crossed by a boardwalk. The final section of the walk will be along the Outlook Track which follows the ridge line with fine views over the area and finally along Redbeak track for our return to our cars.

The diversity of the flora ensures that the Brisbane Ranges is always a delight to explore. The Ted Errey Track has been in the past overlooked. However, with recent closures it has come to the fore and has been a delight with its lookouts, boardwalks and views. I hope that you will decide to come and explore this delightful area.



WEDNESDAY WALK

DANDENONG VALLEY PARKLANDS AND CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA

DATE Wednesday 14 December
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 11 km
LEADER Mary Daley
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Eastern Suburbs
MAP REF Parks Victoria, Park Note – Dandenong Valley Parklands Melway Maps 72, 71, 62 & 63
FIRE BAN DISTRICT CN
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE me

An easy and pleasant walk through some of the Dandenong Valley Parklands. Some parts are unprotected – sun protection will be required. A short section of the walk is along the shared Eastlink bike trail in order to cross Burwood Highway. Bushy Park Wetlands offers a treat for bird watchers, with a bird hide.

We will meet at Nortons Park at 10:30 am. The Park entrance is off Nortons Lane which runs south off High Street Road (Melway 72 A2).

Bring a plate and we will have the opportunity to share some Christmas cheer at afternoon tea. Anyone who does not wish to do the walk is most welcome to join us for afternoon tea at around 2:30 pm.

You can telephone me on 9572 2382 to book, or for further information.



SUNDAY BUS

PORTARLINGTON – INDENTED HEADS (PLUS WINERY)

DATE Sunday, 18th December 2011
STANDARDS Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCES 12 km & 15 km
ELEVATIONS 0
LEADERS Chris Schirlinger and Kerry McKeand
TRANSPORT Bus – Leaving Southbank Boulevard at 8:45 am
AREA Bellarine Peninsula
MAP REF Melways: 473–4, 460, 446–5, 458
FIRE BAN DISTRICT South West
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Geelong

The last Sunday walk of the year, as normal we take it easy with a short walk down the beach between Portarlington and St. Leonards. The walk is almost entirely flat along the beach, with plenty of shady spots for a nice lunch before finishing up early and moving onto a winery for a bit of Christmas cheer.

There will be special treats for all good girls and boys on the bus and I'll probably have to wear a silly hat!



MOFS

TO BE ADVISED

DATE Monday, 19 December 2011
STANDARD Easy
LEADER Peter Green
TRANSPORT Private

The general location will be along the Maribyrnong River in the vicinity of the Flemington racecourse.

For details of this walk, please contact the leader.



MT KOSCIUSZKO PACK CARRY – CHRISTMAS

I am planning to lead a walk leaving Melbourne on Monday 26 December 2011 and driving to Thedbo, followed by five days walking and then home again on Sunday 1 January 2012.

I expect to do a three day pack carry around the Main Range, which would include Blue Lake, Mt Kosciuszko, Mt Twynam, North Rams Head and Mt Townsend. This is the largest truly alpine country in Australia which means that while it is terrific, it is also very exposed and can experience snow at any time of year so you need weatherproof gear. I am also looking at doing some day walks possibly before and after the pack carry.

If you are a club member and have some recent pack carry experience please contact Richard Hanson on 0408 537 426 or at rhanson@vsk.org.au.

AUTUMN SUNDAY WALKS PROGRAM

Firstly I would like to welcome Kerry McKeand as Assistant Sunday Walks Secretary. Thank you, Kerry, for volunteering for this position.

The summer program has been finalised and we are already working on the autumn program. Recent years have been highly challenging, with many of our walking areas closed due to the 2009 bushfires and recent floods. Any ideas for Sunday walks for the autumn program will be greatly appreciated. These might be walks that you enjoyed in the past, or something new that you have heard about or possibly the reopening of a walk in an area such as Marysville which used to be a favorite in autumn.

If you have any ideas please contact me on Halina.Sarbinowski@bigpond.com

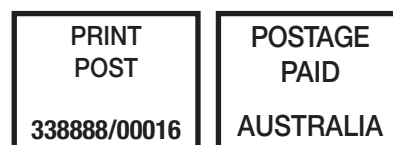
Thank you.

Halina (Sunday Walks Secretary)

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!

DECEMBER 2011				
Thurs 1	TOFS: 'The Beeches' Taggerty River	Private	Easy	Alistair Rowe
3-4	Base Camp: Mt Stirling and Environs	Private	E/M	Roger Wyatt
Sun 4	Cora Lynn Cascades – Erskine Falls	Bus	E & E/M	Del Franks and Alwin Loubser
9-11	Pack Carry: Great Ocean Walk: Shelley Beach–Aire River	Private	E/M	Bob Oxlade
Sat 10	Cycling: Caulfield to Mordialloc and return by Mentone	Private	E/M	Ed Neff
Sun 11	Anakie Gorge Circuit	Car	Easy	Meg Morris (Halina Sarbinowski)
Wed 14	Dandenong Valley Parklands/Christmas Tea	Private	Easy	Mary Daley
Sun 18	Portarlinton – Indented Head (plus winery)	Bus	E & E/M	Chris Schirlinger & Kerry McKeand
Mon 19	MOFS: Maribyrnong River near Flemington Racecourse	Private		Peter Green
Sun 25	MERRY CHRISTMAS – No Sunday walk			
26-1 Jan	Pack Carry: Kosciuszko Main Range	Private	E/M	Richard Hanson

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	Mobile:	Mobile:
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