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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 cents

March 2012

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It's a great honour to be elected President of the Melbourne Bushwalkers and I am looking forward to the future challenges, the interesting times ahead and helping to shape our Club for an exciting future!

I want to thank Mark Heath, Susan Maughan, Michael Murray, Graham Hodgson, and particularly Margaret Curry, who are leaving the Committee, for their valued contributions. Margaret has been a great President over the last 3 years with energy, commitment, and professionalism; leading the reform of our policies and processes; and managing many difficult issues to ensure our Members and Visitors have an enjoyable time.

The new Committee Members elected at the AGM are Ian Mair, Cecily Hunter, Gillian Wainwright, Kerry McKeand, Tina Leeuwrik, and Stuart Hanham – see the full Committee List in this News.

Margaret and the succeeding Committees have left us with a strong club with active Social and Activity Programs, sound finances, and a stable membership which is a great base for the new Committee to build on.

Over the coming months we will introduce the new Committee in more detail, so please support your Committee and take the opportunity to talk to them!!

While at AGM time we focus on the Committee I also want to thank the more than 40 people who contribute through non-Committee positions as well as our Activity Leaders, all freely giving their time for our Club and its Members.

After our AGM, John Creaser, Vice President of Bushwalking Victoria (BWV), gave a presentation on their strategy planning for the future of bushwalking in Victoria. Our Club will be asked for its views and you will have your chance to contribute. There are a number of positions becoming vacant in BWV mid year so if you are interested have a look at the President's Report in their February Newsletter (www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au)

A few friendly reminders for this month:

- Read the Insurance notice in this News and promptly pay your membership fees which remain unchanged and are now due.
- Take your Green Health Details Card with you on Activities, and if you don't have one pick one up next time you are in the Clubrooms

Enjoy the wide range of social/walk/cycling activities on offer this autumn, and perhaps try a base-camp or pack-carry if you have not been on one before!

Mick Noonan

NO MORE COWS IN THE ALPINE NATIONAL PARK

On Tuesday 31st January, the Federal Minister for the Environment – Hon Tony Burke MP – announced that the cattle grazing will cease forever in the Alpine National Park based on federal environmental law. The newspapers reported 'Federal "no" to Alpine Grazing' in *The Age* 1/2/2012, page 3 and the Federal Minister stated 'A national park should not be used as a farm. It's there for nature and it's there for people to enjoy nature' in *The Herald-Sun* on 1/2/2012, page 17. The State Government said it was considering a legal challenge.

Many thanks to the Committee and members for ALL your help in sending letters in, contacting your local MPs and Federal Minister for Environment and attending the Community Meeting at Box Hill Town Hall in April. If you enjoy the cattle free Alpine National Park, then can you send a thank you email/card/letter to the Federal Minister for the Environment.

Many thanks for all your support.

Rod Novak

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 April News, the closing date is 21 March.

Advertisements should relate to bushwalking (e.g. gear, maps, trips, tours, health and fitness etc.). These may be published subject to space availability and Editor's discretion. For current advertising rates contact the Editor at news@mbw.org.au.

Please note:

Next committee meeting will take place on
MONDAY 2 APRIL 2012

NEW COMMITTEE

President	Mick Noonan
Vice-President	Ian Mair
Secretary	Howard Friend
Membership Officer	Roger Wyett
Treasurer	Alan Case
Social Secretary	Kerry McKeand
General Walks Secretary	Cecily Hunter
Sunday Walks Secretary	Halina Sarbinowski
General Committee	Carol Sisson
	Deb Shand
	Stuart Hanham
	Tina Leeuwrik
	Gillian Wainwright

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome the following new members to the Club:

Ken Waters
Mark Armstrong
Michael Hawthorne
Theresa Kelsall

ibextrex.com

This web site may be of interest to members contemplating walking in the Sierra Nevada, Spain. Barb and I used his services in 2009. We were not in a group but organised four days walking. Each day he took us to the start of a walk, provided map and GPS. One walk finished back at the hotel and on others we phoned him when we got to the end of the walk (In a village with a nice tavern) and he picked us up and took us back to the hotel. The walks could not be undertaken using public transport.

Michael Quinn

WEDNESDAY SOCIAL TENNIS

Would you like to play organised social doubles tennis each Wednesday from 10 am to noon this school term? Yarraville Tennis Club, corner Hyde and Harris Streets, Yarraville, is commencing this program from Wednesday 15 February 2012.

Enquiries: yarravilleday@iprimus.com.au

Peter McGrath

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE!

Payment can be via:

- EFT (ensure your name and 'subs' appear in the comments)
 - Cheque (post to the Membership Secretary)
 - In person on booking nights at the club rooms
- Please advise any changes to your contact details as well. Thanks in advance to all who pay on time.

Roger Wyett

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2012

Membership subscriptions are due 1st March 2012. This year you are not required to sign an Acknowledgement of Risk form on renewal, however you are advised that payment of fees implies acceptance of the risks involved in any activity you may undertake as a member of Melbourne Bushwalkers. Members are asked to read the following wording regarding your insurance cover through Bushwalking Victoria.

'In voluntarily participating in activities of Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc., which are described to me by the activity leaders, I am aware that my participation in the activities may expose me to hazards and risks that could lead to injury, illness or death or to loss of or damage to my property. I also acknowledge that I may encounter weather conditions that could lead to heat stroke, hypothermia or being in locations where evacuation for medical treatment may take hours or days.

In particular when participating in abseiling or above the snowline activities I am aware that these activities could expose me to additional hazards and risks.

To minimize risks I will endeavour to ensure that:

- Each activity is within my capabilities
- I will carry food, water and equipment appropriate for the activity
- I will advise the activity leader if I am taking medication or have any physical or other limitation that might affect my participation in the activity
- I will make every effort to remain with the rest of the party during the activity
- I will advise the leader of any concerns I am having and
- I will comply with all reasonable instructions of club officers and the activity leader

I have read and understood these requirements. I will consider the risks before joining any activity of the Club.

I acknowledge that I will take responsibility for my own actions and that payment of my subscriptions will be deemed as full acceptance and understanding of the above conditions'.

Please refer to the Renewal Slip below for methods of paying your subscription. If paying by cheque please return the renewal slip to assist the Treasurer and Membership Secretary to identify you. If any of your personal details have changed, complete the relevant information and forward to the Membership Secretary. The Renewal Slip also appears on the back page of the newsletter.

RENEWAL SLIP

Payment to the Treasurer, together with completed form by one of the following methods:

- Cash or cheque on club night (cheques payable to Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.)
- Cheque and Renewal Slip posted to Treasurer, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc, P.O. Box 1751, Melbourne 3001
- EFT to the club account. (Account Name: Melbourne Bushwalkers, A/c No. 0058-46013, BSB: 013-006).

Please ensure your full name and 'SUBS' appear on the transfer.

Fees: **Single member:** \$45 or \$55* Concession: \$34 or \$44** (Proof required)
 (Please circle your **Couple/Family:** \$72 or \$82* Concession: \$50 or \$60** (Proof required)
 membership category) **News Subscribers:** \$20

Notes: * Additional \$10 charged to members who receive their copies of 'NEWS' via postal mail

** Does not refer to holders of a Seniors Card

Name:

*Indicate below if
you agree details
can go on Club
Membership list*

Name:

Fill in Address, Telephone number/s and Email address only if changed since last renewal:

Address:

YES/NO

Postcode: Tel: H) W) Mobile:

YES/NO

Email:

YES/NO

SOCIAL COLUMN

Wednesday, 21st March: **WARBURTON RAILWAY**

Michael J Foley has been invited to give a talk on the Warburton railway. We have enjoyed walking or cycling along it, and now Michael will fill us in on its history and glory days.

Wednesday, 28th March: **WALKING IN PERU**

Wine and cheese night, PLUS Ian Mair's presentation of Walking In Peru. The Talk commences at 8 p.m.

Friday, 30th March: **SUNSET BBQ**

Studley Park Boathouse, 1 Boathouse Road, Kew. Mel 2D G8
Bring something to share and BYO.
No need to book. Just show up.

Wednesday, 18th April **COASTAL WALKS IN THE BRITISH ISLES**

8 o'clock: Jopie's slide night of coastal walks in the British Isles. This is wine and cheese night, too. (It is one week early as the following week is Anzac Day).

Wednesday, 23rd May: **ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE**

8 o'clock: Maddie will give a workshop on applying the Alexander Technique for safe and efficient walking. PLUS wine and cheese night.

WATCH THIS SPACE

The Bushies' Auction will be back on the calendar mid-year (TBA). This is your chance to make a few bob from surplus gear and contribute to the recycling revolution.



LIBRARY NEWS

There is an updated list on the Club's website, of books available for loan from MBW's library.

Members are free to borrow on Wednesdays when the Club rooms are open between 7 and 9 pm.

Please note what book/s you have borrowed and the date in the exercise book. When you return a book note the date also.

There is no specific loan period but do return it within a reasonable period of time. If you find a particular book interesting, other people are also likely to be interested

A number of books have been culled from our collection. Most of them were published around the 1950s to the late 1970s because the information they offer about equipment and track notes is now outdated. The books are available to be distributed to members. If you are interested please contact Cecily Hunter for a list of titles.

Also, the following book has disappeared from the shelves. There is no record that it has been borrowed. Any information on its whereabouts would be greatly appreciated, as would its reappearance on the shelf:

Garth Hattingh, *Outdoor Survival: Read Maps, Cross Challenging Terrain, Find Shelter, Water and Food*, published by New Holland Publishers, London, 2004.

Cecily Hunter

EQUIPMENT REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31/12/11

The club provides equipment for use by members and visitors at nominal hire rates and for use by leaders and the club generally at no charge. Items are selected to improve club facilities, contribute to safety, encourage beginners and assist members in the acquisition of appropriate gear. All purchases are justified on a cost benefit basis with income producing items meeting the additional requirement of being self-funding.

During the year we hired out 23 tents, 22 packs, 8 sleeping bags, 15 sleeping mats, 5 stoves, 3 food dryers and a few sundry items for a total net profit of \$345 (\$540 hire income less \$195 depreciation), sold 4 heat shields for \$7 and one of our Aarn packs for \$60. No additional items were purchased or expenses incurred. Unfortunately our Luxe Firefly tent is missing and has been written off, but we still hope it will find its way back to the equipment store!

We lent 3 personal locator beacons, first aid kits, GPS, projector, compasses and radios (only some of which were accounted for in the hire book!). The GPS unit and compasses are missing and have been written off. We also hope they will find their way back to the equipment store! Until then the GPS will be replaced with a donated unit.

This year we will continue to keep an eye on developments in light weight gear, provide advice and send out spasmodic 'Gear Tips' emails.

John Fritze

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

Trails... Who Needs Them?

No Trails But Lots of Treasures

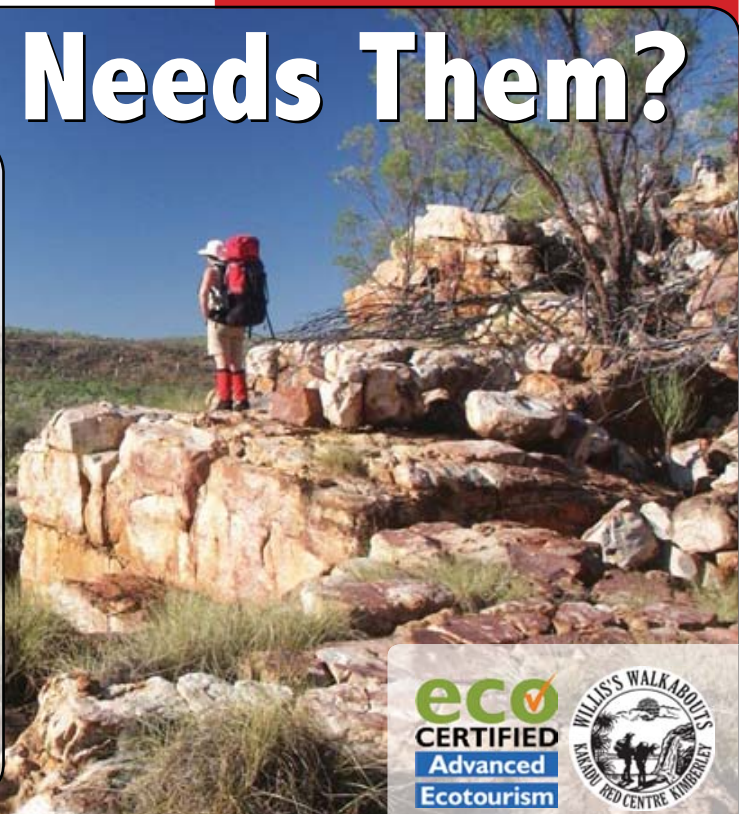
Swim in pristine tropical pools, gaze up at sheer waterfalls, get up close to the walls of rock shelters covered in authentic Aboriginal art... and maybe even have a go at a natural waterslide.

Experience all of this and more with your small group of walking companions.

We know Kakadu, the Kimberley and Red Centre like no one else and we have permission to go into areas you cannot visit on your own. No one else can offer you what we can.

Let us show you a world of no faxes, no phones and no worries. Let us help you...

TAKE A JOURNEY THAT MOST ONLY DREAM ABOUT



rrwillis@internode.on.net
www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au

08 8985 2134

BENALLA NEST BOXING WEEKENDS CLIMBING TREES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT 24–25 MARCH AND 21–22 APRIL 2012



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 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.

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 24th to 25th March and 21st to 22nd April. Either myself (Chris Schirlinger) or Michael Murray will be available in the clubrooms for two Wednesdays prior to the March and April weekends 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

TRIP REVIEW: BUSHWALKING VICTORIA ALPINE NATIONAL PARK WORK PARTY 27–29 JANUARY 2012

We had perfect weather for the work party. We were lucky with sunny days and the rain pelted down on Saturday evening when we were inside a very comfortable ski lodge at Falls Creek. Seven Melbourne Bushies attended with a group total of 27 from the various Bushwalking clubs from around Victoria. Bushwalking Victoria organised the work party with the Parks Victoria Rangers [Elaine and Anthony] and we divided into three groups to tackle



Photo by Una Maybin

the Sallow (grey) Willow weed problem. After our safety briefing we then travelled to Pretty Valley and identified the weed, used GPS to map its spread, and then cut and poisoned it. We had great views and lots of wildflowers and many commented on how the wildflowers were recovering with the end of cattle grazing. We enjoyed a BBQ on the Saturday evening and a guest speaker: Chris Towers (President of Bushwalking Victoria) giving us an update of BV's strategic direction and the Rangers gave a Q and A session on the Bogong High Plains (eg feral horse trapping program, Hawkweed eradication program, 18,000 willow weeds destroyed in 2011, etc.).

Melbourne Bushies attending were; Rod, Claire, Angela, Chris, Leanne, Andy and Una.

Rod Novak

AN AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND AT MT HOTHAM – BASE CAMPING IN SHANGRI LA



Relaxing with entrées before dinner

Four days of convivial company, ideal weather, intimate accommodation and great walks in a natural bushland setting add up to a vision of a modern day Shangri La. For 17 Melbourne Bushies and family it became a reality over the Australia Day extended weekend as we enjoyed a home-away-from-home at the Austen Alpine Club lodge on Mt Hotham.

Mt Hotham is best known today as one of Victoria's major ski resorts. As the highest point on the Great Alpine Road it is readily accessed from both the Bright and Omeo sides. Historically, though, it was an interest in other endeavours, predominantly cattle grazing and gold mining, that drew visitors to its upper slopes. The legacy of those days is a network of tracks and huts that now draw bushwalkers to the area forming part of the Alpine National Park.

The private Austen Alpine Club lodge, located in the Davenport Village on Mt Hotham, is a small, well appointed facility set up for comfortable shared living and great mountaintop views. We had exclusive use of the lodge, which provided an ideal base for a diversity of day walks with minimal need for the use of cars, and a relaxing place to settle back at the end of the day to enjoy fine food and drinks. Trip organizer, Halina, had developed a flexible walks program to suit our mood and capabilities, whilst a pre-arranged meals roster with participants allocated specific meals to prepare in advance ensured that time in cooking was minimised and time for relaxing and socialising was maximised.

With everybody deciding to arrive at the lodge on the Wednesday night it gave us three full days for extended walks and a shorter walk on the Sunday before departing for those that were keen to do so. After careful consideration, facilitated by an impromptu meal at the local pub on the Wednesday night, the final selection of walks was: (a) Mt Tabletop and return from J. B. Plain (11 km) followed by a visit to Dinner Plain Village; (b) Mt Feathertop and return along the Razorback from Diamantina Hut (21.5 km); (c) The Cobungra Ditch walking Track and Brandy Creek Mine (13 km); and (d) Mt Hotham summit from Austen Alpine Club lodge via Mt Higginbotham and return (8 km).



Following the Razorback track out to Mt Feathertop.



Flowers along the Cobungra Ditch Walking Track

For most the highlight of the walks program was the trip out to Mt Feathertop. The weather conditions could not have been better which made the exposed ridge-top track a joy to follow, and the views across to the adjacent mountain ranges and into the valleys far below were stunningly clear. Presenting a very different type of walk, the recently opened Cobungra Ditch Walking Track along the old water race from the upper reaches of Swindlers Creek to the 1880s gold sluice mining operations at Brandy Creek Mine, was also well received. This predominantly level route is conveniently set up with informative notice boards outlining the history and technology of the former mining activities. Catching walkers' attention too are the intermittent views back and up to the Mt Hotham Alpine village as the former water race snakes its way around the contour of the steeply inclined hillside.

The weekend drew to a close with unanimous praise for the location, the facilities and the organisation. Many alternative walks had to be left undone and many more brilliant sunsets would go unseen – for this year at least! For those of us that were fortunate enough to have shared in the experience our thanks go to Halina for making it happen.

Ian Mair



The Australian Open tennis was on.

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

**CUT OFF TIME FOR SUNDAY BUS ONLINE BOOKINGS
 4:00 PM THURSDAY PRIOR TO THE WALK.**

Bookings notified to busbookings@mbw.org.au after the cut off time will not be processed and a credit will be issued.

Payment to the leader of the full bus fee and late fee of \$5.00 will have to be made on the day if your booking has not been confirmed prior to the walk.



SUNDAY BUS

WOMBAT STATION – SAILORS CREEK

DATE Sunday 1 April 2012
STANDARDS Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCES 15 and 20 km
ELEVATIONS No major climbs, gain about 100 m
LEADERS Mick Noonan and Steve Venturin
TRANSPORT BUS – LEAVING CLUB ROOMS AT 8:45 AM
AREA Wombat State Forest, Daylesford
MAP REF Wombat State Forest – Touring Map 1:50,000; Barkstead 1:25,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Ballarat

The Barkstead to Sailors Falls walk is part of the Wallaby track from Mt Buninyong to Daylesford (previously called the Federation Track), which itself is part of the 300 km Great Dividing Trail (GDT). The Wallaby track is made up of several shorter walks that meander through the beautiful Wombat State Forest, taking in strands of white trunked manna gums, a variety of wildlife, fertile open farmland and relics from the gold rush era.

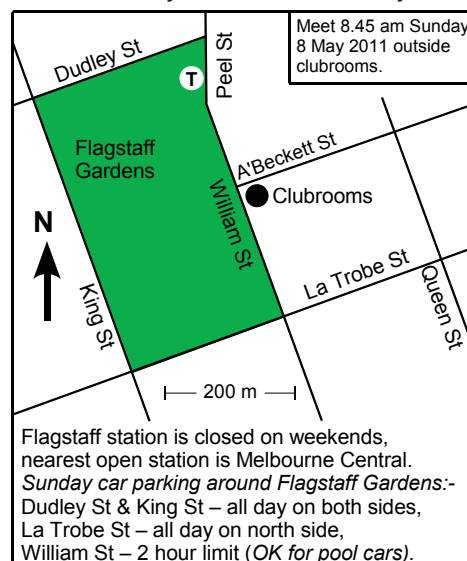
The Medium group will start near Barkstead and pass Mullins Dam and a disused mine before reaching Wombat Station platform, where a grassed outline of the station platform can still be seen. The Easy/Medium group will begin their walk here. The railway built in 1888 was used to transport firewood, timber and potatoes 27 km between Daylesford and North Creswick. Around one kilometre of the track runs through the original cutting of the railway line. Several wallabies and parrots were seen on the preview on the way to Sailors Falls and the mineral springs.

On the day of the preview an active koala was sighted close to the track shortly after leaving Sailors Falls. This provided a perfect photo opportunity of one of our national treasures. Both walks conclude where the ‘three lost children walk’ finishes just before Daylesford (a walk that commemorates the tragic loss of three young children that went missing in Daylesford in June 1867). Some walkers may wish to return and do this interesting and challenging walk in the future.

Both walks ratings are based on distance rather than terrain difficulty. The track is well marked and wide enough in many places for walkers to walk abreast and have a social chat. All going well we should have time for coffee in Daylesford before heading back to Melbourne.

**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.



BASE CAMP

COBBERAS – NATIVE DOG FLAT

DATE 5–9 April 2012 (Easter)
STANDARD Medium, Medium/hard (all optional as this is a Base Camp)
DISTANCE various
LEADERS Wendy Fortington and Geoff Mattingley
TRANSPORT Private

RETURN TIME Monday evening
AREA Melway ed. 29 and above: map 623 C10/ D10. Also VicRoads Country Directory map 52 C8/D8
MAP REFERENCE NSW 1:50,000 Suggan Buggan 8524-S second edition
FIRE BAN DISTRICT East Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Falls Creek

After a break last year, this great base camp is back on the program. The location is Victoria's Alpine National Park, close to the NSW border and Kosciuszko National Park. Native Dog Flat is a beautiful sub-alpine campsite at 1200 m altitude, only 15 km from the source of the Murray River, with plenty of camping space, fireplaces and table, a Parks Victoria toilet, and superb views from the nearby peaks. The upper Buchan River runs right through the campsite – there will be plenty of water in it this year. The day walks in past years have been Mt Cobberas No.1, Mt Stradbroke, and Ram's Horn (Buchan Rock) – all of these have clear rocky tops with superb views. There are some marked tracks, some scrub and steepish climbs. Of course you can just enjoy the mountain air from the campsite – since you don't have to carry anything (we camp beside our cars), you can take luxuries such as a folding chair, gas lamp, extra food etc. You can arrive at the campsite any time from the Thursday onwards and stay for as long or short a time as you wish. It's a fair distance to get there, including some gravel roads, but they are quite OK for ordinary cars. For those who haven't been camping before this is a good opportunity to try it without having to carry a heavy pack. As always, the club has tents and a wide range of other equipment for hire from the clubrooms.

Directions for how to get there and information on road conditions will be available in the clubrooms on Wednesdays 28th March and 4th April.



PACK CARRY

MT SELDOM SEEN – BUCHAN RIVER – TULLOCH ARD GORGE (SNOWY RIVER NP IN THE PROGRAM)

DATE 5 April to 9 or 10 April 2012
STANDARD Easy Medium
DISTANCE 40 km plus side trips
LEADER Bob Oxlade
TRANSPORT Private
AREA East Gippsland
MAP REF Vicmap Deddick 8523-N 1:50,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT East Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Bairnsdale

Still in the same area of East Gippsland and also new for the Club, I consider this walk will allow more walkers to participate.

The walk has excellent views and is near the Buchan Headwaters Wilderness Zone which is part of the Alpine National Park and adjoins the Snowy River NP.

We will drive down on Thursday night and camp just prior to the walk start.

On Friday we will walk along the Wombargo Track and descend to camp at the junction of Reedy Creek and the Buchan River. 16 km and 500 m overall descent today.

Saturday. After one or two side trips to see more views we then have an easy 2 km walk along and downstream the Buchan River, which could be 30 cm deep in parts, to camp at the foot of our exit spur. We may have an option to explore

a little here. The river section is the easiest route for us but nothing to be concerned about and plenty of time to do it.

Sunday. A 500 m gentle climb up an untracked spur to the Wombargo Track and return to our cars is about 10 km. We then drive to camp by our cars near the start of the Gorge walk.

Monday. A short walk to Tulloch Ard Gorge Lookout for spectacular views over the Snowy River and options of other walks before returning home at a reasonable time.

A further option is available to camp on Monday night and return on Tuesday after a 5–6 hour return walk to Raymond Creek Falls and the Snowy River near Orbost.

If interested in coming along please see me in the Clubroom on 21 or 28 March.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

YOU YANGS

DATE Sunday 8 April 2012
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 11.3 km
ELEVATION 380 m
LEADER Halina Sarbinowski
TRANSPORT Carpool from Southbank Blvd
AREA You Yang Regional Park
MAP REF You Yang 1:25,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT CN
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Geelong
TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON) \$10.00

The You Yangs, a series of granite peaks, named by the local Aboriginal inhabitants Ude Youang or Wurdi Youang, meaning 'big hill on the plain' is a feature which we see on our way to various locations either in the south-west or west of the state. Those fortunate enough to have enjoyed a ride on the Arthurs Seat chair lift will savour the memory of seeing the peaks across the bay.

Although small in area, the You Yang Regional Park does have a special charm. Distinctive in the area, its large granite tors are scattered among the trees and features of the area.

Our walk will explore the best this small regional park has to offer. We will climb the Flinders Peak, the highest point in the area, explore the West and East Track though this granite outcrop to and from 'The Saddle' and explore the plains surrounding the peak.

I hope that you will join me in exploring this park and the flora and fauna in the area which includes river red gum, yellow gum, manna gum and a variety of wattles plus more than 200 species of birds that have been recorded in the area. We may be fortunate to see the kangaroos common in the area, or the brushtail and ringtail possums or sugar gliders and if very fortunate the occasional koala.



WEDNESDAY WALK

UPPER PLENTY EXPLORER

DATE Wednesday 11 April 2012
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE Probably about 12 km (for Plan B)
LEADER Graeme Thornton
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Upper Plenty River
MAP REF Mt Disappointment
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

I've been wanting to fill in a gap on the Upper Plenty of my Plenty River explorations and have often thought it would be good to walk from the Plenty River up to Mt Disappointment – so this walk will be it. The Plenty rises in the Disappointment ranges so Mt Disappointment is the source of the Plenty.

The fires of Black Saturday have left a lot of the area inaccessible and access to my preferred route from the SE is current locked out (Plan A). Fortunately, the Plenty River divides into an East branch and a West branch above Whittlesea, and I've sussed out a way to still go from the Plenty River up to Mt Disappointment via the West branch (Plan B).

Please note that this is an exploratory trip – I've investigated the access point and part the way up the track but not all the way (it was too hot and too late by the time I'd found an interesting starting point down by the river). I've graded this as medium rather than E/M because there is a total climb of about 600 m and it's steepish in places. Most of the walk will be on 4WD fire access trails and we will return via the same route. The return will look different though as we'll be pointed the other way around.

This area was severely affected by the fires so what was once shaded by trees is now very open and exposed to the elements. But a partial compensation is the views are good.

It is tricky to describe the starting point so to avoid me confusing everyone please meet in the car park of the Whittlesea pub at 10 am. The pub is on the RHS (East) of Plenty Rd when travelling from the city – just before the turn off to the town centre.

Meeting there also keeps the option of Plan A open 'til the last minute (plan A is about 2–3 km longer and about 100m higher climb).

Please leave contact details when booking.



SUNDAY BUS

COLLIBAN FALLS WALK

DATE Sunday 15 April 2012
STANDARD Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 13 km; 16 km
LEADERS Phillip Geschke and Allan Martin
TRANSPORT Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Kyneton
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Seymour

NB. Afternoon tea and coffee with scones and cake is provided at the end of the walk for \$10 – please ensure you bring cash on the day. See details below.

This is a pleasant and quite different walk on a private farm property. It tracks several rivers and then some open farmland.

There are several small hills with steep sections. Half the walk is off track. Some large granite boulders present a bit of rock hopping and there are some sections of long grass. Good views and some nice scenery, but mostly a rural farm setting. There are one or two fences to cross, but mostly gates to go through. Several good views are seen from the high points.

The longer (E/M) walk does an additional loop of farmland walking on reasonably flat land.

Afternoon tea in your Shearers Shed Dining room

Jess and Duncan, the owners of the sheep farm that we are walking on, will be providing afternoon tea for a cost of \$10. This will be 'a cup of tea/coffee for the walkers along with a selection of homemade cakes, slices and scones'. Duncan may also give a short talk about the farm. With the afternoon tea option, there is no need to pay the \$5 fee for each of us to visit their farm for the day.



MOFS WALK

LYSTERFIELD PARK

DATE Monday 16 April 2012
STANDARD Easy
LEADER Jenny Monaghan
TRANSPORT Private
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Dandenong

Details of this walk will be published in April News.



PACK CARRY

MT BUFFALO – ROCKY CREEK

DATE 20–22 April 2012
STANDARD Easy Medium
LEADER John Fritze
TRANSPORT Private
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North East
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Falls Creek

For details of this walk, please contact the leader.



SATURDAY WALK

MT MACEDON

DATE Saturday 21 April 2012
STANDARD Easy/Medium (sustained uphill and 2 steep descents)
DISTANCE Approx 12 km
ELEVATION Approx 500 metres
LEADER Ian Hoad
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Melbourne's Outer North-West
MAP REF Melway 609 G10
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

Meet at 9:45 am for a 10:00 am start, at the 'Trading Post' (coffee shop) in the main street of Mt Macedon.

The walk will be on the eastern part of Mt Macedon. It will be a slightly different route from my previous walks in the area, but the same beautiful forest (generally in good shape, although still recovering from Ash Wednesday).

Remember that Mt Macedon is exposed, and vulnerable to extremes of weather. There may or may not be rain or snow, but there will almost certainly be lots of wind. Dress accordingly.



WORK PARTY

NEST BOX SURVEY – LURG HILLS (BENALLA)

DATE 21–22 April 2012
CO-ORDINATOR Michael Muray

Details of this activity are on page 6.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

GRASS TREE WALK (BRISBANE RANGES)

DATE	Sunday 22 April 2012
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	13 km
LEADER	Theo Mertzandis (Andrew Francis)
TRANSPORT	Car – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA	Brisbane Ranges
MAP REF	Walk 22 – <i>Daywalks around Melbourne</i> by Glen Tempest
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Geelong

Grass Tree Walk in the Brisbane Ranges not far from Melbourne is an interesting walk, which follows the initial section of the 3-day Burchell Trail. The walk commences at the Boar Gully Camping Ground and is mainly along quiet management vehicle tracks through undulating woodland with an understorey of grass trees. Old slate quarries, good views and a little gorge add to its appeal. There may be time for a coffee in Bacchus Marsh on the way home.



SOCIAL WALK

LILYDALE LAKE AND WETLANDS

DATE	Thursday 26 April 2012
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	5 km
ELEVATION	Pretty flat
LEADER	Jean Giese
TRANSPORT	Train
AREA	Lilydale
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Melbourne

Join me for a pleasant walk around the Lilydale Lake and Wetlands by meeting on the east side of the railway station (Melway 38D5) at 10:30 am.



BASE CAMP

CAPE SCHANCK LIGHTHOUSE

DATE	27–29 April 2012
STANDARD	Medium
LEADER	Angela Vetsicas
TRANSPORT	Private
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Frankston

Since this base camp is close to Melbourne, we will use the Cape Schanck Lighthouse as the base on Saturday night. One cottage accommodating 8 people has been booked and paid for, staying at the lighthouse. So there are limited places. An option is to camp or stay at other accommodation places along the Peninsula and meet the group just for the walks. On Saturday morning we will meet at 10 am at the lighthouse carpark and leave our cars there for a shuffle to walk from Flinders back to the lighthouse, 13 km. Sunday we will again car shuffle to begin our walk from the lighthouse and end at Gunnamatta, 13 km. The highest coastal features on the Mornington Peninsula are Cape Schanck and the areas surrounding the lighthouse.



CYCLING

MACEDON MOSTLY DOWNHILL CIRCUIT

DATE	Saturday 28 April 2012
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	63 km
LEADER	Jopie Bodegraven
MAP REF	Kilmore 1:50,000 (2007)
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Melbourne

On this ride we start 450 vertical metres higher than we finish, hence mostly downhill. Being the hilly Macedon area there is however still about 440 vertical metres of climbing, hence medium, but it is spread out in manageable bites and we can have extra rest stops as required. It's mostly bitumen, with about 4 km that I'm not sure of but if it's not sealed it should be good gravel.

We will meet at the Camels Hump Carpark at 9:30 am. Morning tea (self catered) will be at the Kerrie Hall, lunch will be in the park in Riddells Creek with cafés and shops close by and afternoon tea will probably be in Mt Macedon township after the ride.

So come along on a lovely ride in lovely countryside, specially designed to have some lovely downhill runs.



SUNDAY BUS

CORA LYNN CASCADES

DATE	Sunday 29 April 2012
STANDARD	Easy and Medium
LEADERS	Kerry McKeand and John McCall
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Geelong

If you enjoy rock hopping your way across creeks and you do not mind getting your feet wet, then come along on this walk. We will make our way from the Blanket Leaf Picnic area through a tall eucalypt forest and a magnificent fern grove to Cora Lynn Cascades. The easy group will finish the walk at Lorne and the harder group will finish the walk near the mouth of the Saint George River. The walk is mostly downhill but there will be a lot of creek crossings.



X-C SKIING

BOGONG HIGH PLAINS, 11–18 AUGUST 2012

Once again we will be having a week at the Bogong Rover Chalet. This involves a 12 km ski in with packs and then a week of trips with only a day pack. Much of the food is stored before winter but we carry in fresh meat and vegetables.

The chalet is comfortable with a full kitchen, showers, toilets, washing machine, drying room and sleeping dormitories. Mattresses and pillows are provided but we use our own sleeping bags and pillow slips. For the smooth running of the chalet a work roster is drawn up to cover cooking, wood chopping, cleaning, washing up etc. Cooking is done to a fixed menu with variations at the cooks' discretion. Bread is baked every day.

Day trips are organised according to the weather and people's inclinations and vary from a few km to masochistic. Many club members have been before and know the ropes but if you are new and would like to come ring me for a chat.

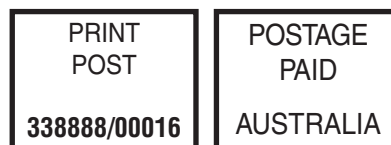
Leader: Doug Pocock (or if you can't get me Marilyn Whimpey).

Bus transport meets at Southbank Boulevard, south side of the Arts Centre, before 8:45 am. Leader or deputy will be there rain, hail or shine!

APRIL 2012

Sun 1	Wombat Station – Sailors Falls – Twin Bridges	Bus	E/M & M	Mick Noonan and Steve Venturin
5–9	Base Camp: Cobberas/Native Dog Flat	Private	Medium	Geoff Mattingley and Wendy Fortington
5–9	PC: Mt Seldom Seen – Buchan River – Tulloch Ard Gorge	Private	E/M	Bob Oxlade
Sun 8	You Yangs	Car	Easy	Halina Sarbinowski
Wed 11	Upper Plenty Explorer	Private	Medium	Graeme Thornton
Sun 15	Coliban Falls – Granite Creek	Bus	E/M & M	Phil Geschke and Allan Martin
Mon 16	MOFS: Listerfield Park	Private	Easy	Jenny Monaghan
20–22	PC: Mt Buffalo – Rocky Creek	Private	E/M	John Fritze
Sat 21	Macedon Area	Private	E/M	Ian Hoad
21–22	Nest Box Survey – Lurg Hills (Benalla)	Private	Easy	Michael Murray
Sun 22	Grass Tree Walk (Brisbane Ranges)	Car	E/M	Theo Mertzandis (Andrew Francis)
Thu 26	Lilydale Lake and Wetlands (Social)	Car	Easy	Jean Giese
27–29	Base Camp: Cape Schanck Lighthouse	Private	Medium	Angela Vetsicas
Sat 28	Cycling: Macedon – mostly downhill circuit (car)	Private	Medium	Jopie Bodegraven
Sun 29	Cora Lynn Cascades	Bus	E & M	Kerry McKeand and John McCall

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RENEWAL SLIP

Payment to the Treasurer, together with completed form by one of the following methods:

- Cash or cheque on club night (cheques payable to Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.)
- Cheque and Renewal Slip posted to Treasurer, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc, P.O. Box 1751, Melbourne 3001
- EFT to the club account. (Account Name: Melbourne Bushwalkers, A/c No. 0058-46013, BSB: 013-006).

Please ensure your full name and 'SUBS' appear on the transfer.

Fees:
 (Please circle your membership category)

Single member: \$45 or \$55*	Concession: \$34 or \$44** (Proof required)
Couple/Family: \$72 or \$82*	Concession: \$50 or \$60** (Proof required)
News Subscribers: \$20	

Notes: * Additional \$10 charged to members who receive their copies of 'NEWS' via postal mail

** Does not refer to holders of a Seniors Card

Name:

Indicate below if you agree details can go on Club Membership list

Name:

Fill in Address, Telephone number/s and Email address only if changed since last renewal:

Address: YES/NO

Postcode: Tel: H) W) Mobile: YES/NO

Email: YES/NO