

THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

February 2013

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Melbourne Bushwalkers (Incorporated) will be held on Wednesday, 20 February, 2013, 8:00 pm at The Clubrooms, Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Corner of A'Beckett Street & William Street, Melbourne

> Members are invited to attend. Non-members are welcome but are not eligible to vote.

Business:

Apologies Confirmation of minutes from the 2012 Annual General Meeting President's report Treasurer's report Determination of the annual subscription fee for 2013 Walks Secretaries' reports Election of Office Bearers and Committee members Appointment of Auditors Conferral of Honorary Memberships Award of Spoons General Business

Nomination forms and Appointment of Proxy forms are available at the clubrooms.



Wine and cheese will be provided.

The meeting will be followed by one of the first viewings of the archive photos being collected by Ian Mair and Derrick Brown.



March 1949 – Federation weekend – Stonyford Creek



August 1965 - Dinner table at Wilky

Due date for contributions to March News: Wednesday 20 February

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: Merilyn 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 March *News*, the closing date is 20 February.

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 <u>news@mbw.org.au</u>.

Please note: Next committee meeting will take place on Monday 4 March 2013

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

An article in 'The Age' of 22 January on the effects of climate change included parts of a submission from Bushwalking Victoria to the Senate inquiry on extreme weather events. This mentioned that walking trails would suffer. I can report that they already have. On a recent Christmas-New Year walk in the Victorian high country including Mt Speculation, the Razor, Viking our group encountered very thick regrowth and fallen trees which made walking on established tracks all but impossible in many places. The Alps Walking Track at Barry Saddle was extremely difficult to push through and disappeared altogether at times. Blackberry growth also covered the track making it impassable in places. The 4 WD track up to Barry saddle where in 2009 we encountered a 4WD would now need a bulldozer to get through. Trees burnt in bushfires are now falling over and present formidable blockages across tracks. Track walking now takes much longer, takes more energy and is very much slower, requiring more water to be carried. Off-track? For masochists only, think 500 metres an hour. The tops, e.g. Mt Howitt, the Crosscut Saw and Speculation are still delightful but getting there and back is something else. Walk planning in these areas should now take these factors into account.

Derrick Brown



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IS DUE BY 1 MAR 2013!

There is no membership fee increase this year, (yeah!) so you have no excuse not to pay on time.

- 1 Please ensure you advise any change of contact details to <u>rwyett1@gmail.com</u> or
- 2 If sending a cheque use the renewal slip on the last page of the newsletter.
- 3 If you EFT then put your surname and 'subs' in the comments (yes we have had payments without names in the past and my crystal ball is worn out)
- 4 Concession, family and hard copy fee details are on the last page of the Newsletter

Don't be late, as no News will not be good news

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I am very happy to be able to say that we now have nominations for all Committee positions! In the end a few people were good enough to consider the Treasurer role and we also got an extra General Committee nomination, so this year it looks like we will have 6 General Committee people.

Trying to find a Treasurer made me think not only of the many people who volunteer but also the value to the vitality of our Club when members do things for the benefit of others, whether it's going out of their way to make a stranger welcome or putting on an activity for the enjoyment of others.

At the January Committee Meeting we worked through the plans for the AGM, looked at the options for the date of the Committee 'Thank You' dinner, reviewed the finances for 2012 and assigned the actions from the Leaders' Night. We also reviewed more Incident Reports to see what we could learn, discussed how to fill the Treasurer's position, and discussed the first steps on our Club's Future Directions that I mentioned last month.

With all the fires in January across south eastern Australia it's a good time to make sure you know how to check for fire bans in the areas you will be travelling and/or walking in, whether with the Club or privately. So check out the Club's policy on walking and fire risk under Downloads on the Website, and check the CFA link on the homepage.

Some things to remember for safe and enjoyable walking:

- All day activities are automatically cancelled if the temperature in the activity area is 38 degrees or more. The leader has the discretion to also cancel it if they consider that although the forecast temperature is less than 38° it is still too hot for the activity
- Take those AM Radios to check with the Emergency Radio Station the status of any fires that may break out
- Find an activity that 'stretches' you!

The Annual General Meeting will be on Wednesday 20th March, so come along to the AGM and have a chat with friends over a wine and cheese, and be amazed at those historical photos!– see the advert on page 1 of *News*.

Towards the end of the year there will be a Special General Meeting to consider the rule changes that will be needed to comply with the new Consumer Affairs requirements.

Mick Noonan

GETTING TO THE CLUBROOMS

Walk, Cycle

Tram: 23, 24, 30, 34 on La Trobe Street, 55 on William Street

Train: Flagstaff Gardens Underground on the Loop, opposite the Club

Car Parking: Around Flagstaff Gardens area generally – \$4/hr metered to 8:30 Batman St (other side of Gardens) – \$1.30/hr, 4hr parking metered to 6:30! North of Dudley St – \$1.30–\$2.40/hr metered to 6:30, e.g Walsh, Milton, William

Car Parks: in A'Beckett St, near clubrooms \$6 Flat Rate 4 pm-10 pm

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This has been my first year as President and it has been a very busy year from both a personal and a club perspective. Two of my lasting impressions are the deeper understanding I have of the generosity of all those who contribute to the Club and the tireless work of our previous Club Presidents!

By a number of measures we have had a great, active year with:

- sound finances (Alan's Treasurer Report is to be handed out at the AGM; we can send you a copy if you let me know)
- a good mix of pack carries, base camps, cycling and other activities, including more snow activities in 2012 (see Cecily's Report)
- the new format for Sunday walks with a mix of bus and car pools continuing to be a great success with good numbers and a healthy surplus (see Halina's Report)
- a varied and popular social program with on occasions over 50 people in the Clubrooms sharing wine and cheese while looking at great photos, getting carried away with auction bids, etc
- membership numbers remaining stable for the last 3 years (427 at the end of Dec 2012, 423 Dec 2011, 422 Dec 2010, 442 Dec 2009)

We have:

- launched our Facebook Page; people now even 'like' us!
- added great new features such as preview photos to the Website
- started to collect, scan and publish historical photos and newsletters for everyone to see on the website
- updated some of our hire equipment with the latest light weight gear (see John Fritze's Equipment Report), bought a new projector, and put 'snake bandages' into our first aid kits
- continued our annual donations to promote the environment and bushwalking with \$300 to the Victorian National Parks Association, \$300 to Great South Western Walk, \$400 to the Trust for Nature.

None of this would be possible without our members volunteering their time, energy and skills to make our Club what it is.

People contribute in many ways, through being on Committee, leading activities, being a whip, taking on one of the over 40 non-Committee roles, working as a member of Bush Search and Rescue (BSAR), creating new walks, etc.

I want to extend my thanks to all those who volunteer and to the members who often, through simple things like making a visitor feel welcome, help make the Bushies a great bushwalking club.

We continue to promote safety so people can enjoy the great outdoors. Sometimes it's up front, e.g. a minimum party size of 4 on activities, subsidised first aid training, cancelling day activities in areas with a total fire ban, etc. Other times it's integral to the things we do such as the Leaders' Training Night, Navigation Training, reminders on our policies in the *News* or reviewing Incident Reports at Committee Meetings.

One of the less obvious aspects of operating an efficient club is 'Governance', i.e. complying with our legal and regulatory requirements as an incorporated organisation. Late last year Consumer Affairs issued their 'model rules' for volunteer organisations. We have until November 2013 to comply, so there will be a Special General Meeting in the second half of the year to vote to accept our new rules.

I am sure the year ahead will be challenging and enjoyable. We need to set a vision for what we want our Club to be in 2–3 years' time (our Future Directions), make our programs even better with more choices and challenges, encourage more people to try pack carrying/base camps/conservation activities, rewrite our Rules, and continue to efficiently operate the Club.

Mick Noonan

FOR SALE - AS NEW BOOTS (ONLY WORN ONCE)

Vasque wide fitting UK size 12 men's leather uppers Vibram sole. New \$249, sell for \$55

Columbia UK 11 men's Vibram sole, Omni Tech upper. New \$199, sell for \$45

Both pairs will be in the clubrooms at the AGM 20 February 2013

Roger Wyett rwyett1@gmail.com

		2011			2012		
	Trips	Average	Ave Visitors	Trips	Average	Ave Visitors	
DAY WALKS			•		•		
MOFS	12	12.6	1.2	12	12.5	1.2	
TOFS	12	10.7	0.5	12	10.3	0.3	
Sat/Dand Expl	6	8.8	0.4	8	8.0	0.4	
Sunday bus	27	38.8	8.6	27	42.6	9.6	
Sunday car pool	22	15.6	4.0	23	16.4	3.7	
Wednesday	12	11.7	0.5	12	12.7	0.8	
OTHER ACTIVITIE	S						
Conservation	6	4.5	-	8	7.3	-	
Nav Training	1	8.0	-	-	-	-	
Track Maintenance	_	-	-	2	3.5	-	
*Training	2	4.0	-	1	-	-	
Skiing	2	11.5	0.5	2	6.5	-	
Base Camp	9	9.6	0.9	6	8.4	1.0	
Lodge	-	-	-	1	17.0	4.0	
Canoe	1	17.0	1.0	_	-	-	
Pack Carry	23	7.2	0.4	17	9.5	0.1	
Cycling	12	8.9	_	13	8.1	0.1	

Trip numbers are based on total trips.

Average numbers based on information provided from leaders (i.e. excludes trips where numbers have not been provided)

* Number of participicants not advised for 2012.

EQUIPMENT REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31/12/12

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 11 tents, 5 packs, 5 sleeping bags, 4 sleeping mats, 1 stove, 1 food dryer and a few sundry items for a total net profit of \$126 (\$321 hire income less \$195 depreciation) and sold 2 heat shields for \$4. We purchased a Terra Nova Solar Competition one person tent and floor protector for \$325 to replace the Luxe Firefly that was lost last year (anybody interested in acquiring an extremely light, easy-to-use tent is welcome try it out before buying).

We lent 6 personal locator beacons, first aid kits, GPS, projector, compasses and radios (only some of which were accounted for in the hire book!).

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

GENERAL WALKS SECRETARY'S REPORT

In the September *News*, MBW president Mick Noonan presented a set of activity statistics in which the first half of 2012 was compared to the same period in 2011. He noted that in the first half of the year there had been an increase in base camps/lodges and that pack carry attendance had been steady. This trend has continued into the second half of the year. However, two base camps and two pack carries were cancelled because of low numbers, perhaps reinforcing Mick's point that people are under more pressure now than a decade or so ago, and there are more options in recreational activities. The excellent snow season provided an opportunity to put on a skiing and a snow-shoe pack carry in addition to a snow-shoe walk. The last two, if reports published in the News are any guide, were greatly enjoyed by a small but enthusiastic group eager to experience winter conditions in Baw Baw National Park. Ian and Halina organised the first of what promises to be a popular annual summer event, a lodge weekend at Mount Hotham. MOFs and TOFs, Wednesday walks and Saturday/ Dandenong Explorer outings have attracted similar numbers to those reported by the General Walks Secretary for 2011. Cycling also continues to be well supported. Statistics for the second half of the year confirm what Mick noted in September, a decline in interest in track maintenance and conservation activities. There has been one navigation training day during 2012 and one first-aid training session.

In concluding my first annual report as General Walks Secretary I would like to, first, commend the leaders who have submitted the information which is vital for compiling a statistical view of the Club's activities. I also want to thank the activity coordinators – Ross Berner, Jopie Bodegraven, Jean Giese, Maureen Hurley, Ed Neff, and Wendy Fortington – for their wholehearted cooperation in the preparation of the quarterly program. I thank Halina for her generosity in helping me come to grips with this role, and acknowledge with thanks the help of other members of the committee.

Cecily Hunter

SUNDAY WALKS SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Sunday walks program was very successful in 2012, with average numbers up from 2011. One bus walk was cancelled due to a Total Fire Ban in the area.

Some medium/hard walks are now being offered on the Sunday program through car-pooling and are proving popular with walkers who want a challenge.

We introduced mentors for new leaders who were happy to lead carpool walks. Mentors previewed and also walked with new leaders on the day.

78 walks were covered by 32 leaders and 1 mentor, ranging from 10 leaders leading 1 walk to 1 leader leading 8 walks. (11 - 2 walks, 5 - 3 walks, 4 - 4 walks and 1 - 5 walks).

6 leaders led their first walks with the club.

The committee changed its policy for low numbers for bus walks (under 25 by Thursday 4 pm) from converting to car-pooling to hiring a smaller bus.

Both secretaries would like to thank all leaders ... without you there would not be a club.

Halina Sarbinowski

AUSTRALIA DAY HONOUR TO FORMER MELBOURNE BUSHWALKER

Melbourne Bushwalkers endorses the recognition of Geoff Law for his commitment to preservation of the environment and Australia's natural heritage. Geoff was an active member of Melbourne Bushwalkers in the 1970s and 1980s.



Geoff in the early days. Photo by John Fritze

CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL

No not at St Paul's or St Patrick's but at a naturally occurring magnificent construction called the Cathedral Range about 120 km north east of Melbourne.

Susan had the great idea of having a bush Christmas so that we could all escape from the stresses of the big day. Cooks Mill was selected as the base camp, and Christmas eve was spent luxuriating on a flat well-grassed campsite sipping mulled wine and eating numerous savoury and sweet delights.

Christmas Day dawned and much muttering was heard with regards to Santa's navigational ineptitude in failing to locate at least three of the tents so prominently pitched and displaying such brightly coloured stockings. After the initial sobbing at receiving no gifts, Susan thought a trip up to the Jawbone and along the ridge to the Cathedral was in order so after a short car shuffle the walk commenced from the Jawbone carpark. Rather than the snow being deep and crisp and even, the track proved to be slow and steep and decidedly uneven. The Farmyard was eventually reached and we were told the naming was not due to any animals ever being held there but rather the resident lyrebirds being heard imitating farm animals.

After a short break we were off again and up onto the ridge which traverses the full length of the range from the Sugarloaf to the Cathedral itself. The going was extremely slow due to the rugged nature of the track, it being composed of boulders and loose smaller rocks; however as the going was slow we were able to take in the fantastic views to be seen to the east and west. Bloodletting was a common occurrence as everyone at some stage either fell over, scraped themselves on a sharp rock or was given an injection by the resident very prickly scrub.

Christmas lunch on the ridge was not exactly ham and turkey but rather boiled eggs, nuts and cracker biscuits but hey, who cares when you are in such a beautiful location. After lunch the remainder of the ridge track was completed and a quick side trip to the top of the Cathedral was undertaken. Upon reaching the

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Willis's Walkabouts Overseas Expeditions

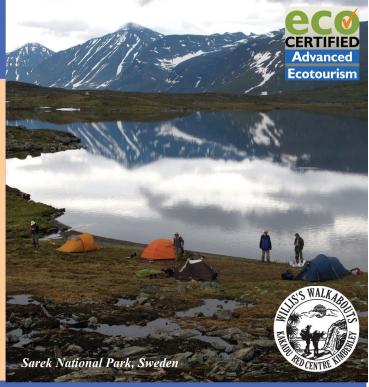
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Along the Track

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summit some people were surprised that there was no cairn, just a flat rock. However Stuart kissed the rock and said blimey or was it blarney?

The track down to Ned's Gully seemed interminable but considering it was all downhill there was little huffing and puffing but more – 'I think I have just mutilated my toenails by burrowing them into the front of my boot.' Much discussion followed regarding feet sliding towards the toe of the boot in steep downhill situations.

Safely back at the campsite with people attending to their various wounds, Christmas dinner was prepared with lashings of couscous, ham, examples of wine from what seemed like every vineyard in Australia and of course the mandatory chocolate indulgence. Wow I think we all added to the obesity statistics that night.

Boxing Day and we were off to the Messmate track and up to Sugarloaf Saddle. For some reason a previous walker had decided to try out the 'how long is a piece of string?' expression as in our case a length of cotton strung out along the track accompanied us for most of the climb to the Sugarloaf saddle. The spool must have been of somewhat oversize proportions. The next version of the Guinness book of records may have at least one interesting entry.

Nobody was inclined to climb to the top of the Sugarloaf so we returned to camp and set off for the Buxton pub where much hearty eating and merriment transpired.

One Christmas present that Santa did deliver and one that caused much amusement and activity was an insect zapper in the shape of a tennis racquet. One just waved it around like a crazed John McEnroe and any annoying insect that had the misfortune to come in contact with it just evaporated in a bright flash. The effect of night time use was better than any Christmas lights.

During the time we were lounging around at the campsite we were entertained by Mr and Mrs Bowerbird, hubby being very excited about the blue ribbon which was placed in front of the tree where the elegant couple were spending their honeymoon or was he perhaps trying to regain her attention after they had just had their first blue!!!

To sum up, it was a terrific variation on Christmas and Susan is to be congratulated on yet another very successful base camp. All are now looking forward to next Christmas, all being Jerry Grandage, Faye Dunn, Stuart Hodgson, Susan Maughan, Tina Leeuwrik, Janet Hodgson and me.

Graham Hodgson

BOGONG AND NEW YEAR – WHAT MORE!?

Mt. Bogong proudly carries its status as Victoria's highest mountain at 1896 m elevation. As such, it is a perennial destination of walkers and skiers accessing the Bogong High Plains of the Victorian Alps. Little question then as to why Roger selected it as the destination for his 4-day walk to usher in the New Year. Work and other life demands on our itinerary, however, meant that we would not actually be at the peak on New Year's Eve, but that was no deterrent for Roger's enthusiastic team of ten others .

Whilst the route selected for our homage is not the most demanding or challenging of the numerous ways blazed up the mountain, it is perhaps one of the most scenic. Even so, the 50 km covered with a cumulative vertical climb of over 2500 m in hot summer conditions, was enough to stretch even experienced bushwalkers and provide a memorable and enjoyable introduction to 2013.

Our starting point on Day 1 near the banks of the Rocky Valley Storage along the Big River Firetrail provided an easy takeoff as we adjusted to the unintended excesses of the Christmas past. Fresh mountain air, clear blue skies and packs bearing the tell tale signatures of the club's lightweight advocates and we were ready for anything. Panoramic views of our destination and haze-free vistas to our left and right drew us on with an enthusiasm reserved for the young-at-heart. Seemingly in the blink of an eye we had coursed our way past Mt Nelse and on to the Spion Kopje Spur headed for Crowsnest at the head of the Grey Hills as our place for lunch. Bristling with energy, or was it the ants that inhabit every square millimetre of the high plains, we wasted no time on lunch, keen to take the next step. The roller-coaster ride across the Grey hills in breathless conditions and a sun unimpeded by the skeletal remains of fire-ravaged snowgums soon brought a reminder that Mt Bogong is not a place that one visits for a casual picnic. As we reached our first day's destination at

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Along the Track

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Bogong Creek Saddle there was more than one sigh of relief and a collective gratitude that cool water was close at hand.

Day 2 awoke with another sharp reminder born of bitter experience that the Alps are no place for complacency in preparation. Contrary to the heat of the day before, and forecasts of more to come, we emerged from our tents into a cloudy mist and chilly gusts as a bitter breeze found its way across the saddle on its way to the valley on the other side. There was no regret that we had carried what seemed like excess gear on Day 1. Soon though, the sun's intensity and the demands of picking our way up Quartz Ridge had cleared the skies again and relegated our outer layers to the depths of the cornucopia on our backs. More magnificent views as we emerged above the tree-line and the weariness developing in our legs from the over 550 m climb was soon forgotten as an abundant spread of wildflowers paved our way over gentler slopes to the summit of Mt Bogong itself.

It was not a time to hurry. The views from the summit cairn across the adjacent peaks were crystal clear and a solitary glider soared overhead as it captured the drift of the thermal currents from the sun-parched plains in the Kiewa Valley below. Lunch was a thing to savour. Did I mention those damn ants? In our own good time we saddled up again and unhurriedly walked the final 4 km to our night's campsite beside Cleve Cole Memorial Hut. A side trip to Howman Falls after setting up our tents capped off a great day. Except! Shriek! Halina nearly stepped on a snake making its way towards Antheea's tent and set the scene for the next best seller, 'The Antics of Antheea'.

Day 3 was anticipated with some trepidation. Between us and our destination of Roper Hut at the other end of T Spur and Duane Spur lay the bottomless gulf of the Big River valley. A parachute may have been more use than a walking pole on the way down, but the river was benign and an uneventful crossing soon saw us weaving our way uphill again. What a way to spend New Year's Eve! It was with undoubted relief that we actually made it to the hut in the early afternoon and had more than enough time for the card-sharps to convert the recently rebuilt Roper Hut into a '500' card game parlour to while away the remaining hours of 2012. By unanimous declaration it wasn't long before it was 2013 in some part of the world and bed jumped to the top of the priority list.

Day 4, New Year's Day, was a breeze. Less than 10 km and we were back into the cars and on our way to the Mount Beauty Bakery for a well-earned feast. Refreshed and relaxed, the praise for Roger's well planned outing were forthcoming from Di, Antheea, Rosemary, Sylvia, Heather, Halina, Deborah, Bob, Philip and Ian.

Ian Mair



Big River was benign.



Crossing the Grey Hills big dipper on the way to Mt Bogong.

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: <u>http://www.mbw.org.au/mbw_activities/MBW_activities_program.php</u>

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

Bookings notified to <u>busbookings@mbw.org.au</u> 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.

SORRENTO AND PORTSEA FRONT AND BACK BEACHES

DATE STANDARD	Wednesday 13 February 2013 Easy/ Medium
DISTANCE	16 km approx.
ELEVATION	Mostly flat, a few short climbs up cliffs.
LEADER	Max Casley
TRANSPORT	Private Car pool
AREA	Mornington Peninsula
MAP REF	Melways maps 156 and 157
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFE	
TRANSPORT COSTS	(PER PERSON) \$20 suggested.

NOTE: CHANGE OF LOCATION FOR THIS WALK.

The original plan for this walk was for it to be at Mt Macedon. However, the thought of bush fires in the heat of February caused a rethink. Now a seaside walk is planned on the Mornington Peninsula. High tide is about 3 pm but the preview showed that the walk will be an excellent one.

We will meet in Sorrento in the carpark near where St Pauls Road meets the Nepean Highway at 10:15 am for a 10:30 am start. There are toilets here.

Come along and enjoy the fresh air blowing in from Bass Strait, the magnificent views of coastal scenery, historic buildings and artist's viewpoints. We cross to the back beach and London Bridge arch via Wilson's Folly Track. If the weather is very warm the walk can be shortened with a stop for a swim to cool off.



AIREY'S INLET BASE CAMP

DATE 15-17 February 2013 STANDARD Easy/Easy Medium DISTANCE 12 x 2 LEADER **Del Franks** TRANSPORT Private Airey's Inlet and Anglesea Heathland AREA MAP REF The Otways and Shipweak Coast 1:5000 FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Central

The plan for this weekend is to stay at the Airey's Inlet Holiday Park and centre our walks from there.

I have a few ideas about where we will be walking; however I will be adapting them according to the temperature on the days. The walks will include both the beach and the heathland, so come prepared for both. I personally will be swimming if the weather is right.

Dinner on Saturday night will be at one of the local hotels. As I need to book the camp accommodation, can you please contact me asap if you are interested in coming down and joining me on this weekend.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions as I will be able to provide more information closer to the weekend.

SUNDAY CAR POOL

STUDLEY PARK - MERRI CREEK - FAIRFIELD PARK

•••••	
DATE	Sunday 24 February 2013
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	16 to 17 km
ELEVATIONS	Mostly flat with a few short hills
LEADER	Diane Woodcroft
TRANSPORT	Car Pool – Leaving Southbank Blvd at
	8:45 am
MAP REF	Yarra Bend Park (Parks Victoria) and
	Melways 45 F1
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central

FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne



This walk starts from East Kew (Willow Grove Car Park, Kew (Melways 45 F1) and will travel along/through the Yarra River, Fairfield, Merri Creek, Studley Park and back (about 16 km). As there is only a single toilet at the start, it is best to use the toilets at Southbank well before our car pool departs at 8:45 am.

This is a gentle, rolling amble that follows the Yarra river for most of our walk. There will be a number of old historical bridges, boat houses, and even a large bat colony. In the morning, we are likely to see Willy Wagtails, Lorikeets and other bird life. Depending on the group's timing, I hope to have a break at one of two boathouses during our walk.

The walk is partly shaded by trees which will be welcome as the weather could be hot in February - bring plenty of water and sun protection.



CATHEDRAL RANGE

DATE Sunday 3 March 2013 **STANDARD** Easy/Medium and Medium LEADERS Kerry McKeand and Marilia Cipolloni TRANSPORT Bus - Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Central TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Yarra Glen

For details of this walk please contact the leaders.



BRAESIDE PARK – WATERWAYS.

DATE	Thursday 7 March 2013
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	10 km
ELEVATION	Flat
LEADER	Michael Porter
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Mordialloc
MAP REF	Melways 93 F2 and 88 D8
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFE	RENCE SITE Melbourne

Meet at 10:30 am at Red Gum Picnic Area of Braeside Park. Enter from Governor Rd and drive 500 metres. This picnic area will be start, lunch and finish point. The walk is a figure 8 loop, though only separated by Governor Rd. Waterways and Braeside Park are an interesting contrast. Waterways is a suburb/estate developed around a series of manmade lakes, resulting in residential 40%, parkland 20% and water 40%. The parks are attractively landscaped, though the young trees, as yet, offer little shade. Open views across the waters present good bird watching prospects. Braeside Park has three distinct environments; redgum woodlands, heath and wetlands. This bush area has been revitalised over many years of native replanting. Braeside is a healthy and beatiful park providing habitat for native flora and fauna.



TASMANIA: OVERLAND TRACK 7-17 March 2013

DATE

This walk is fully booked.

PACK CARRY

WILSON'S PROM AREA

DATE STANDARD DISTANCE **ELEVATION** LEADER TRANSPORT AREA MAP REF

8-11 March 2013 Easy/Medium Day 1: 11 km; Day 2: 17 km; Day 3: 11 km Fluctuating from sea level to 400 m **Roger Wyett** Car Pool Wilson's Prom Wilson's Prom Vic Map Leisure Series 2nd Ed May 1991 1:50,000 TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON) Approx \$40

FIRE BAN DISTRICT West Gippsland TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Wonthaggi

Plan on camping overnight at Tidal River (subject to availability) and after a short car shuffle to Oberon Car Park we will walk down the 4WD track and turn off to Waterloo Bay. Will establish camp at Little Waterloo and then a side trip to Kersop Peak 214 m (8 km return). Day 2 will be heading south to the Lighthouse, then onto Roaring Meg (possible side trip to South Point 5 km return) and then overnight at Half Way Hut. Day 3 will be shorter with a return to Tidal River via Oberon Bay, undo the car shuffle and then an early return to Melbourne. As I have to pre book the camp sites I am limiting the walk to 6 people and require site payment in advance.



PORT FAIRY (KOROIT) CYCLE BASE CAMP

	/
DATE	9–11 March
STANDARD	Easy/Easy Medium
DISTANCE	about 50–60 km each day
LEADER	Del Franks
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Airey's Inlet and Anglesea Heathland
MAP REF	Warnambool/Port Fairy Rail Trail
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	South West
TEMPERATURE REF	ERENCE SITE South West

The plan for this weekend is to stay at the central town of Koroit in their caravan park. Koroit is a friendly little town sitting on the rim of the extinct Tower Hill Vocano. Staying here will give us a number of rides for the weekend, including riding down to Port Fairy and investigating the historical port town.

We also have the opportunity to ride into the Tower Hill crater and investigate some of the walking trails there, where there is a good chance that you get to see koalas and emus. The hardy hill climbers of the group can test themselves out by cycling out of the crater.

On the last day some may choose to leave early while others can choose to cycle into Warnambool. Hopefully we can organise some people to meet us at the end to do a car shuffle.

Hope you will join me in this beautiful area for some fairly easy riding.

NB: This ride is suitable for all types of bikes.



KINGLAKE REDISCOVERY

LEADERS DATES **CAMP LOCATION** RATING MAPS

Paul and Val Beers Labour Day Weekend March 9, 10, 11 144 Kestrel Lane, Kinglake West Easy – Easy/Medium Kinglake National Park Map (parkweb.vic. gov.au), 1:50k Glenburn 7923-S, Yarra Glen 7922-N

This will be a fairly easy 3-day base camp but will re-introduce some of the club's past Sunday Bus walk favorites which have been closed since the 2009 bushfires - particularly Mason's Falls and Jehosophat Gully area.

Saturday March 9 at 10 am

Sugarloaf Lookout and Mason's Falls Distance approx 13-14 km

Meet at 9 am, 144 Kestrel Lane, Kinglake West. Car pool to Blackwood Picnic area car park (not lower car park at Mason's Falls) at the end of National Park Road, Pheasant Creek. Circuit walk takes in Mt Sugarloaf lookout, then across to Running Creek Track. Lunch mid-track. Finish walk via Lyrebird Circuit – Boundary Track and return to cars. Return to 144 Kestrel Lane and set up camp. NOTE: Bring food/drinks for BBQ Sat night. Refrigerator for same will be available to store.)

Sunday March 10 at 9 am

Mt. Jerusalem circuit Distance approx 13-14 km

9 am car pool and drive east to Kinglake township - go through Kinglake township and turn right at roundabout - go approx 2.5 km down Heidelberg-Kinglake Rd to start of Old Kinglake Rd parking area. Clockwise circuit walk via Cookson Track then Mt Jerusalem Track down to Steele's Creek Picnic Ground for lunch. Return via Old Kinglake Rd to cars.

Casual dinner at 6:30 pm Royal Mail Hotel Whittlesea or optionally cook your own at tents.

Monday March 11 at 10 am

Wombelano Circuit Distance approx 11 km

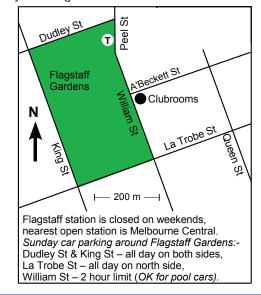
After packing up tents and gear, drive east to Kinglake township, left at Kinglake Hotel then 8.2 km along Glenburn-Eucalvstus Rd. turn left at Captains Creek Rd. over bridge 300 m and right into Burgan Rd, go to end and park. Circuit walk follows Burgan Track, Perimeter Track, Candlebark Track and return to cars. Optional return to Flying Tarts Bakery for coffee then return Melbourne, etc.

Camping Notes

Contact Paul Beers for info/bookings. No limitation on numbers but as we are on tank water and small septic system, a small fee (+/-\$5) may apply to hire a portaloo if numbers require. Showers may also be available again depending on numbers. This Base Camp subject to cancellation if Total Fire Ban is in place.

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.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

MAROONDAH RESERVOIR-DONNELLY'S WEIR (ALTERNATIVE DEPARTURE POINT)

DATE	
STANDARD	
LEADER	
TRANSPORT	

Sunday 10 March 2013 Easy/Medium Chris Schirlinger Car - Leaving William Street Clubrooms at 8:45 am FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central

TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Yarra Glen

For details of this walk please contact the leader.

WEDNESDAY WALK

DANDENONGS WALK FOLLOWED BY PICNIC IN HISTORIC HOMESTEAD

DATE Wednesday 13 March 2013 **STANDARD** Easy/Medium LEADER Susan Maughan Private (I can pick up from FTG station) TRANSPORT **Dandenong Ranges** AREA MAP REFERENCE Melways 74 and 65 FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Dandenong

Previews of walks and activities

March 2013

Meet at the entrance of Ambleside Homestead, Melways 74 D1, Olivebank Road, Ferntree Gully (just off Forest Road). We depart at 10:30. The walk will be up into the forest, following a circular route so that we return to Ambleside mid-afternoon for our picnic. Bring a rug or chair, something for yourself and a little something to share. The volunteers are opening the grounds **especially** for us and will provide free tea and coffee. They are opening the museum, too, which has a \$5.00 entry fee.

It is essential that you book by 10 March.



WIRILDA TRAIL

DATE STANDARDS DISTANCES	Sunday 17 March 2013 Easy (to easy/medium) and Easy/Medium 13.5 km and 17 km
LEADERS	Del Franks and John McCall Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA MAP REF	Tyers Reigional Park and Boola state forest Rooftops 1:100,000 Walhalla Woods Point Adventure

FIRE BAN DISTRICT West and South Gippsland TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Central Gippsland

This walk is in the Tyers Regional Park which covers 1810 hectares of forest in the foothills of the north Latrobe Valley. Much of the walk follows beside the Tyers Gorge where the river has carved a winding course between the steep forested slopes.

The track winds through open forests and along the course of the meandering Tyers River. The open forests are dominated by Yertchuk and Silvertop with an under-storey of wattles, tea trees, sedges and grasses. With its diversity of wildflowers, the abundance of birdlife and open forests, this is a very picturesque walk not to be missed.

The Club has not done this walk for a while, so this will give our newer members a chance to walk this beautiful track and the ones that have been around a bit longer to renew their experience

The easy walk will initially follow the pipeline track before crossing the creek at a shallow ford to join the Wirilda Track, this way ensuring that everyone enjoys the best scenery on offer. Although they will have time to ascend the track at a more leisurely pace, the easier of the two walks will be rated more to the Easy/Medium side of Easy. The harder group will follow the full length of The Wirilda Track from Wirilda Environmental Centre to the Moondara Dam where both groups will finish.



SANDRINGHAM CLIFFTOP WALK

DATE	Monday 18 March 2013
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	10 km more or less
ELEVATION	negligible
LEADER	Janet Norman
TRANSPORT	Train
AREA	Bayside
MAP REF	Melways 76 and 67
LEADER	Janet Norman
TRANSPORT	Private
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFE	RENCE SITE Melbourne

The walk will begin outside the Sandringham Railway Station on the West side on Station Street at 10:30 am. From there we will walk down to the bay and follow the walking path along the coast, passing Picnic Point, Hampton, Brighton Beach, Middle Brighton to Elwood Park and then back to the railway line at either Elsternwick or Balaclava Station depending on how we feel. Then a train ride back to Sandringham if you came by car so your trusty Myki card will be needed.

Please note if the forecast is for over 30 degrees the walk will be cancelled.



BRYCE'S GORGE (WITH PEREGRINE WC)

DATE	18-22 March 2013
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER	David Laing and Cathy McLeod
TRANSPORT	Private
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	East Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFE	RENCE SITE Wonthaggi

This camp is a Monday to Friday camp (Monday and Friday are travel days) run in conjunction with the Peregrines Club from The Bass Coast.

The plan is to camp a few kms before Bryces Gorge with walks to Bryces Gorge, Mt Howitt and a third to be decided.

Due to the fires I cannot do the detailed preview for the February News, but hope to have something in March News.

SOCIAL WALK

MERRI CREEK AND 'CERES'

Thursday 21 March 2013
Easy
5.5 km
Flat
Jean Giese
Private
Brunswick East and Coburg
Melway 30
Central
RENCE SITE Melbourne

Note: The walk is on the 3rd Thursday to avoid a clash with Faster.

We will follow the Merri Creek upstream to a footbridge and return on the other side of the creek for lunch at the 'Ceres' café and a walk around the garden.

Meet in the Ceres Community Environment Park carpark Melways 30B7 at 10:30.

If the weather forecast is for 30° or above, the walk will be cancelled.

DANDENONGS EXPLORER

DATE **STANDARD** LEADER TRANSPORT FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mount Dandenong

Saturday 23 March 2013 Easv/Medium Jan Brooksbank Private

For details of this walk please contact the leader.



DAGILE FOREST WALK (ALTERNATIVE DEPARTURE POINT)

DATE	Sunday 24 March 2013
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	16 km
ELEVATION	Some steep climbs e.g. Mt Ida 220 m
LEADER	Michael Noonan
TRANSPORT	Car Pool
AREA	Heathcote
MAP REF	1:25,000 Lady's Pass; 1:25,000 Mount Ida
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	North Country
TEMPERATURE REFE	ERENCE SITE Seymour
TRANSPORT COSTS	(PER PERSON) Approx \$18

The walk is based on Walk 54 of *Daywalks Around Melbourne* by Glenn Tempest. The Mt Ida–Dargile Forest Walk is in the Heathcote–Graytown National Park just north of Heathcote.

The area is primarily ironbark and box forests. We may be late for the wildflower display which can be sensational with gold-dust wattle, astroloma, tea-tree, guinea Flower, grevillea alpina and heath myrtle. We get to climb Mt Ida (442 m above sea level) for the summit views. Apparently from its summit there is no higher hill all the way north to New Guinea!

The walk is graded Easy/Medium based on distance, the steep climbs and rocky sections. If we make good time then there should be an opportunity for a coffee on the way back.

I believe this is a new walk for the Club, so even if you have been a member for a while why not come out for a look. Hope to see you there!

Please note: We will be using the alternative departure point opposite the Clubrooms. Departure is still 8:45.



RODGER RIVER GORGE-SNOWY RIVER NATIONAL PARK

DATE	March 28 to April 1 2013 (Easter)	
STANDARD	Medium	
DISTANCE	50 km	
ELEVATION	900–150–500 m	
LEADER	Bob Oxlade	
TRANSPORT	Private	
AREA	East Gippsland	
MAP REF	Vicmap Yalmy 8523-S 1:50,000	
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	East Gippsland	
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Orbost		
TRANSPORT COSTS	(PER PERSON) Approx 850 km return	

The Rodger River Gorge is situated 35 km north from Orbost. It is about 2 km long and just before the river's confluence with the Snowy River.

Thursday night camp will be at Raymond Creek Falls Picnic Area which is about 400 km from Melbourne. On Friday morning we will do a 3 km return walk to the Falls before driving back 10 km to Yalmy road. This will enable anyone leaving late on Thursday to maybe stop on the way and meet us at Yalmy road on Friday morning.

We then drive to Rodger River Track (leaving a car(s) on the way) for a 10 km walk to the river camp. This includes a total of 330 m ups and two drops of steep descent totalling 500 m to the river. An overall descent of 300 m.

Saturday. 18 km walk on Moonkan Track with a few minor ups and overall 300 m descent to camp at the Rodger River again. The track is mostly along the crest of a narrow ridge

between the Snowy and Rodger Rivers which are only 1 km apart in one spot and 300 m below to the Snowy.

Sunday. A 9 km return walk with day packs. This is on track to an old homestead site, then along banks of the river, maybe through thick scrub and slippery rocks to the Gorge and cliffs above.

Monday. We have just 7 km and 350 m climb to the car(s). We then have to retrieve the car(s) from our beginning at Rodger River Track before heading home.

The Gorge is described as spectacular with walls only 2 m apart in some places and sounds like it will be well worth the visit.

I hope you are interested to come along to this different area for the club. If so, please see me in the clubrooms.



COBBERAS - NATIVE DOG FLAT

DATE	28 March – 1 April 2013 (Easter)					
STANDARD	Medium, Medium/Hard					
	(all optional as this is a base camp)					
DISTANCE	various					
LEADER	Geoff Mattingley and assistant					
	Wendy Fortington					
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, OR Vicmap 1:50,000 Willis					
	8524-S					
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	East Gippsland					
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Gelantipy						

After a successful trip last year, this great base camp returns to 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 - hopefully 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 uninterrupted views. Most walking is on 4WD tracks or marked foot tracks, but there is some through the bush following a marked route. 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.

Detailed information about the walks, directions for how to get there, and information on road conditions will be available in the clubrooms on Wednesdays 20th and 27th March.

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!

March 2013										
Sun 3	Cathedral Range	Bus	E/M & M	NC:yg	Kerry McKeand & Marilia Cipolloni					
Thu 7	Braeside Park–Waterways	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Michael Porter					
7–17	PC: Tasmania: Overland Track	Pvt	Med		Ian Mair					
8–11	PC: Wilsons Prom–South Pt–Waterloo–Sealers	Pvt	E/M	WG:wn	Roger Wyett					
9–11	Cycling: Port Fairy (Base Camp)	Pvt	Med	SW:wb	Del Franks					
9–11	BC: Kinglake West	Pvt	E/M	NC:yg	Paul Beers					
Sun 10	Maroondah Reservoir–Donnelly's Weir (Alt Dept)	Car	E/M	CN:yg	Chris Schirlinger					
Wed 13	Dandenong Ranges	Pvt	E/M	CN:md	Susan Maughan					
Sun 17	Wirilda Track	Bus	E & E/M	WG:lv	Del Franks & John McCall					
Mon 18	Sandringham Cliff Top Walk	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Janet Norman					
18–22	BC: Bryce's Gorge (with Peregrine WC)	Pvt	E/M	EG:wn	David Laing					
Thu 21	Merri Creek – Ceres	Car	Easy	CN:me	Jean Giese					
Sat 23	Dandenongs Explorer	Pvt	E/M	CN:md	Jan Brooksbank					
Sun 24	Dagile Forest Walk (Alt Dept Point)	Car	E/M	NY:se	Mick Noonan					
29–1 Apr	BC: Cobberas – Native Dog Flat	Pvt	Med & M/H		Geoff Mattingley & Wendy Fortington					
29–1 Apr	PC: Rodger River Gorge–Snowy River Nat. Park	Pvt	Med	EG:or	Bob Oxlade					
Sun 31	Switzerland Range	Bus	E/M & M	NC:se	Halina Sarbinowski & Theo Mertzanidis					

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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:		Concession: \$	34 or \$44**	(Proof required)	
(Please circle your	Couple/Family:	\$72 or \$82*	Concession: \$	50 or \$60**	(Proof required)	
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