



A000133X

THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

May 2013

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

At the **April Committee Meeting** we discussed subsidies for this year's First Aid Training; agreed to put in a Volunteers Grants Application for GPS's and Training Funding for 2014; discussed a leaders' training (and walking!) weekend located close to Melbourne on November 23–24 where you can come to either or both days; agreed to change the submission time for *News* items to the 21st of the month; discussed how to manage the changes to our Club Rules (see below); and progressed work on our Club's Future Directions (see below).

We now have **Wifi in the Clubrooms**, so we can run demonstrations, e.g. of the Leaders Database etc. while doing walk bookings. Also you might like to access the internet to do some work in quiet times when in the clubrooms.

Regarding our **Future Directions** work, we are starting to get replies from the requests we sent to our Past Presidents, Life Members, Activity Coordinators and 40 of our other members for their views on the strengths of our Club, its weaknesses, the opportunities and external threats we face. A summary of the top items in each area will be published in a forthcoming *News*. We have started to develop the high level objectives that will describe what we want our Club to be like in 2–4 years' time. We are also considering if we should have a 'mission statement' (our reason for existence, embodying our philosophies, goals, ambitions and mores).

Federation Day is on October 13th this year. It is being organised by Boroondara BushWalkers and the theme is '**Lerderberg and beyond**'. Bookings open August 1st and generally close in early September. Our coordinator will be Michael Murray and he will be providing information on where to find the walks details, how and when to book etc. These are great days for meeting like-minded people from other Clubs and just having a good time.

With recent changes to Victorian Legislation and the publication of **New Model Rules** governing incorporated groups such as ours we must change our Rules (Constitution) before the end of November this year. After considering the various options **we have decided to make a few changes to the New Model Rules so that we retain the unique aspects of our Club Rules that make us a bushwalking club.** Whether we modified the New Model Rules or modified our own Club Rules to comply with the Act and other recommendations, there will be many changes to our current Club Rules. The rules we will retain include those covering Life and Honorary Membership, qualifying for membership, our Committee Officer Positions, etc. Depending on progress we will target a Special General Meeting in September to approve the rule changes.

Reminders for this month:

- 1 **Membership fees are now due** and must be paid by the end of May to maintain your membership, so please renew early!
- 2 Fill out the **Bushwalking Victoria online survey** (www.wherewewalk.org.au) with details of any walks you have done privately this year up to the end of May – there are regular prizes to be won!
- 3 While the Winter Program has just been published **it's a good time for thinking about leading extended weekend activities for spring.** If you lead base camps and/or pack carries then please consider leading one in spring, or if you have been leading day walks so far, now is a good time to take the leap and commit to leading a base camp or pack carry this spring. Our coordinators Jopie and Wendy can recommend some good activities if that helps to encourage you!
- 4 **Our next Navigation Training is on July 6th** so if you want to improve your skills or develop new ones give Roger Wyett a ring
- 5 **If you were one of the people we asked to respond** with your views on our Future Directions, then please reply. (It's not too late)!

Carol Corrigan and I are away in Europe walking the Camino trail from Arles in southern France to Puente la Reina in Spain, a journey of around 960 km. So Ian Mair, our Vice President, will be acting President until the end of June.

Check out the Winter Program and enjoy walking, cycling, skiing etc in the cooler weather.

Mick Noonan

Due date for contributions to June News: 21 May

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 21st of the month.

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 3 June 2013

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Club:

Robyn Gordon
So Jung Moon
Sandra Wing
Julie Mason

Going Walking?

Looking for information on where to walk?



Information on 100 + walks all around Victoria at...

www.where2walk.org.au

More being added all the time

www.where2walk.org.au
Detailed walk information from your desktop or smartphone

Find new places to explore for enjoyment and adventure!



www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

LEADERS' RESPONSIBILITIES AND LIABILITIES

At the recent Leaders' Training Night the topic came up as to what are the legal responsibilities (or liabilities) of a leader. We all know that bushwalking has inherent risk, so on some occasions things may go wrong or situations arise that need to be addressed quickly.

Leaders have a 'duty of care', as do all members on an activity. Due to their leadership role, the leader's 'duty of care' is higher than that of a normal member.

Leaders should be reasonable and responsible, act in 'good faith' (i.e. act honestly and without fraud), be accountable, adhere to applicable Club policies and practices, etc.

Similarly our Club, like other organisations with volunteers, has responsibilities to its members and its volunteers including leaders. We carry this out via rules, by-laws, processes including safety related processes and practices, various forms of training and information, **and having appropriate insurance.**

This topic is largely a legal one so you can read the information below and check out the references or just go straight to the summary!

There are two levels of protection for leaders and other volunteers. Firstly every State Government has legislation that addresses protections for volunteers. Secondly clubs take out Public Liability Insurance.

State Volunteer Protection Legislation

'In Victoria, there are laws which provide that some volunteers are not personally liable for anything done (or not done) in good faith while doing community work that is organised by a community organisation.

These laws provide that any liability (legal responsibility) resulting from the actions of these volunteers may transfer to the community organisation, and the community organisation will be held liable for compensation to people who are injured, instead of the volunteer.

*These laws were introduced in Victoria in 2002 and are set out in the **Wrongs Act 1958 (Vic).**' (Ref 3)*

These laws make it much harder to sue volunteers. The government's policy aim is to not let the fear of liability discourage people from volunteering. The Wrongs Act also gives protection from claims for damages for personal injury to '**good Samaritans**' helping at emergencies or accidents.

A volunteer will not be protected if they do not act in good faith, they act illegally, they act outside the scope of the community work or contrary to instruction given by the community organisation, or their ability to carry out the work was impaired by alcohol or recreational drugs.

These protections apply to our Club and other 'incorporated associations'. All other States have similar laws.

Public Liability Insurance

Organisations that have volunteers should have insurance to protect themselves and their volunteers. Our Insurance is organised via Bushwalking Australia and Bushwalking Victoria. It includes:

- **Volunteer Workers Personal Accident Insurance**

Personal Accident Cover for volunteers is similar to Victoria's compulsory work cover for paid employees.

It covers volunteers for some expenses following accidental injury, disability or death which occurs while they are carrying out your work on behalf of the organisation.

- **Public Liability Insurance**

Public Liability Insurance covers the organisation's legal liability to pay damages to a third party (such as a member of the public or clients of the organisation) for personal injury or property damage accidentally caused by a member of the organisation, including its volunteers. It covers members, leaders, other volunteers, the Committee and the Club.

Useful reference links:

- 1 [Volunteer Protection Legislation information sheet \(PDF, 644KB\) – specific to Victoria](#)
- 2 <http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/insurance.html> – insurance documents
- 3 <http://www.pilch.org.au/volunteers/> – a wide range of information for volunteers
- 4 <http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/> – another good general source of information

Summary

While this article focuses on the leader, the situation is effectively the same for other volunteers, e.g. the whip, Activity Coordinators, the Committee (they also have extra responsibilities under law), etc.

As far as I can find out, there has not been a case of a leader being sued in Victoria or in Australia and there has never been a claim against the Bushwalking Public Liability Insurance Policy.

While all volunteers have responsibilities, there is both specific state legislation in all states and Club Public Liability Insurance to provide protection to our volunteers including leaders, so they do not have to specifically worry about their 'liabilities' and can focus on making our Club a great place to be.

Mick Noonan

ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS

GRAMPIANS TRACK MAINTENANCE 4–5 MAY

Join Parks Victoria and Friends of the Grampians to improve walking tracks to the Asses Ears (near Zumsteins) on Saturday. Complimentary camping for Friday and Saturday nights will be available at Smiths Mill campground. On Sunday we will be doing a short walk and checking out the Grape Escape Wine, Food and Music Festival in Halls Gap.

STANDARD: Easy
LEADER: Mark Heath
TRANSPORT COST: \$60

REGENT HONEYEATER PROJECT NEST BOX WEEKEND 18–19 MAY

It's on again! Here's a superb opportunity to see our beautiful little gliders as they rest up for the day in our nest boxes ... and with nearly 400 nest boxes to inspect, you're sure to have some delightful sights!

Come and join us for a weekend of fun, fascination, and friendly company, as you work with other volunteers to see who is at home in the boxes, gain some insight about the effects of this serious drought, and think about what we can do to assist the wildlife.

Contact Ray Thomas ray@regenthoneyeater.org.au.
More information: <http://regenthoneyeater.org.au/index.php>.

TRACK NEWS

Grand Strzelecki Track

The new set of 6 maps has been printed and is now available for purchase. Some maintenance work has been done on the track, and a few damaged signs have been replaced.

Otway Ranges

Parks Victoria, Surf Coast Shire and the Great Ocean Road Coastal Committee hosted a lunch to launch the Friends of the Surf Coast Walk at Torquay on Sunday 17 February. www.surfcoastwalk.com.au (and others) have a map of the 46 km walk from Point Impossible to Fairhaven and its sections.

Great Dividing Trail/Goldfields Track

Parks Victoria (Murray Goldfields District) will be carrying out a prescribed burn in the Bendigo area between 26 March and 17 May. Check conditions before you visit.

Alpine Park Closures

The majority of the Alpine National Park and surrounds subject to recent closures has re-opened.

Closures remaining:

- The area north of the Great Alpine Road around Mount Feathertop (includes all walking/vehicle tracks and visitor sites) – **except for** The Razorback, Bungalow Spur and Diamantina Spur walking tracks leading to and from Mt Feathertop which will be re-opened for the Labour Day long weekend;
- The area south of the Great Alpine Road around Mount Hotham, the Dargo High Plains, Dinner Plain and Mt Selwyn (includes all walking/vehicle tracks and visitor sites) – **except for** The Mt Hotham to Dinner Plain Multi-purpose Trail which will be re-opened for the Labour day long weekend;
- The Buckland Spur Track, Top Crossing Track and Top Crossing Hut Camping Area in the vicinity of Lake William Hovell.

Grampians

In February this year a large bushfire affected the more remote areas of Victoria Range and Red Rock.

Parks Victoria have worked hard to ensure that the key visitor attractions and campgrounds remain open to visitors, including MacKenzie Falls, Boroka and Reeds Lookout, the Pinnacle, Mt Abrupt, Mt Sturgeon, Hollow Mountain and Mt Staplyton.

For the safety of visitors the Victoria Range and Red Rock area will remain closed for all activities including walking, driving and climbing. The risk to visitors will be assessed and once these risks have been treated Parks Victoria will reopen sites.

Mount Buller/Mount Stirling

Mt Buller Mt Stirling Resort Management have announced a new project for the region, with the construction of a mountain bike trail that is set to become Australia's first International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) EPIC mountain bike trail.

The Mt Buller Mt Stirling IMBA EPIC Mountain Bike Trail project involves the construction of a 40.39 km trail that will offer visitors to the region a long distance, cross-country descending ride, providing stunning views across the Victorian High Country.

Other

A number of other walking tracks also remain closed. Visit the Park web site for details. Some remote areas of the little Desert National Park are closed, as are also a number of State Forests mainly in the east of the State. Check before you visit.

Deb Shand

2013 Social Calendar

Wine & Cheese Evenings, Presentations

May 22 Wine & Cheese and Bushies' Bakeoff

Bake your best bush recipe whether it be damper or bush cup cakes (whatever these may look like) and enter your yummy bites in our bakeoff. Our panel of expert chefs will do a taste test and award numerous prizes on the evening. There will be a peoples' choice award so bake enough for the judges and others to taste.

June 26 Wine & Cheese and Presentation by John Fritz on Equipment

Back by popular demand John will share his extraordinary knowledge on hiking gear. So whether you are new to the club or a seasoned hiker come equipped with lots of questions.

July 24 Wine & Cheese – Presentation 250 Victorian Waterfalls by Ray Barber & Ian Wacey

Ray and Ian have devoted many years to the research of this book which has involved visiting many of these waterfalls often in locations that can only be accessed by foot.

August 28 Wine & Cheese and Bushies' Auction

Sotheby's stand aside the Bushies' Auction is back on the calendar. This is your chance to make a few bob from surplus gear and contribute to the recycling revolution. Bring along your once loved treasures and the Bushies' auctioneers; Graham and his assistant, will put your goods under the hammer. Further details concerning the auction will be published in future editions of the Newsletter and on the website.

Sept 25 Wine & Cheese & Presentation (TBA but possibly Wild Magazine)

Restaurants and Other Activities

Susan's Social Corner

New Years Day BBQ - Susan will continue her tradition of hosting a New Years Day BBQ.

Lunches - Susan will continue to play social host for lunches throughout the year. Keep an eye on the Newsletter and the website for details of upcoming events.

Other Fun Events

Join us for the occasional casual evening stroll to visit restaurants. Details will be posted here in the newsletter and on our website.

Bushies' Christmas Party

The Bushies' Christmas Party will be held on 10 December 2013. Further details of the party will be provided later in the year.



Pictures taken on the recent willow-eradication work party on the Bogong High Plains (see page 7). Photos by Deb Shand.

SUMMARY OF 2012 TRIPS AND ENCOURAGING NEW LEADERS

FROM THE PACK CARRY CO-ORDINATOR

I've gathered together an **overview summary of the club's pack carry trips during 2012** which may be of interest to members.

We had 14 pack carry trips with an average of 9.7 walkers per trip.

There were 58 individual walkers participating:

- 1 walker did 8 trips (Bob Oxlade)
- 1 walker did 7 trips (Phil Brown)
- 4 did 5 trips (Deborah Bishop, Jopie Bodegraven, John Fritze and Ian Mair)
- 4 did 4 trips (Agajan Akbari, Max Casley, Del Franks and Rosemary Martyn)
- 8 walkers did 3 trips, 22 walkers did 2 trips, 18 walkers did 1 trip

We had 7 individual leaders:

- Bob Oxlade led 4 trips (Thanks Bob and you led a base camp too!)
- Jopie Bodegraven led 3 trips
- John Fritze and Roger Wyatt each led 2 trips
- Agajan Akbari, Richard Hanson and Ian Mair (who also co-led a base camp and a lodge weekend with Halina) each led 1 trip

A big thank you to all of our leaders for your crucial contributions.

We had 4 trips cancelled, one due to low numbers, one due to a member getting sick from a meal on the way to the start point, one due to the leader becoming unavailable and one that I don't know the reason for.

Encouraging New Leaders

The club needs a steady trickle of new leaders to keep the pack carry program healthy. More experienced leaders sometimes reduce their involvement or fade from the scene for a variety of reasons including age, health, changing interests, other commitments, having done areas enough times, etc.

To encourage new leaders we obviously need to make it as easy as possible for them and to this end I'm proposing 3 initiatives:

- **Firstly** having a **back up leader for newer leaders**. The newer leader would still be the official trip leader, handling bookings, the preview, co-ordinating transport etc, but the backup leader would both be on the trip to help and advise with any issues that might arise, including navigation, and be available in the pre-trip phase to help with advice and planning. On the program the leader(s) would be listed as, for example, Joe Bloggs and Fred Nurk (backup). Prospective participants would thereby know that Fred with all his experience and wisdom would be on the trip. So far both Ian Mair and myself have agreed to be backups and I encourage other leaders to volunteer for this also. **Please let me know if you would be prepared to be a backup leader or if you would like to lead a trip and would like a backup**
- **Secondly** I would encourage all leaders to produce photocopies of the relevant section of the contour map (black and white A3 or A4 from Officeworks should be fine) to hand out to anyone interested and then to do some on the spot map reading and navigation training on the walk.
- **Thirdly** I will work on producing a list of suggested suitable walks to deal with the issue of 'I'd like to lead a walk but don't know where to go'.

Jopie Bodegraven

THE WILDERNESS SHOP
969 WHITEHORSE ROAD, BOX HILL
PHONE 9898 3742
www.wildernessshop.com.au

Annual
MEGA BUYING NIGHT

for Melbourne Bushies

Monday 6th May 6-9pm

20% off regular prices, 5% off sale items
FREE nibbles, pizza, beer and soft drinks
Lucky Door Prize!!!!

PLAYING WHERE'S WILLOW ON THE HIGH PLAINS – 13/14 APRIL 2013

Forget *Where's Wally*: hunting willows on the High Plains is much more exciting!

Twenty-four eager volunteers from various bushwalking clubs assembled in the Falls Creek car park on Saturday morning to accept the search and destroy mission. Iris from Parks Victoria briefed us, and the looming grey clouds, cold wind and eerie call of the currawong could not discourage us. Dressed in fluorescent vests and armed with secateurs, saws and weed poison, we marched out onto the Bogong High Plains to do battle with the enemy: the cunning introduced willow trees that have taken root in the snow grass and sphagnum bogs and are threatening the beauty of this precious wild area that we bushwalkers love so much.

With cheerful determination we snipped, hacked and dabbed large and small willows as our Parks Victoria leaders Iris, Stewie and Keith shared information about the plants and animals of this area with us. There was time to sit and absorb the wonders of the landscape as we munched our well-earned lunches, and at the end of the day we left hundreds of executed willows behind us as we returned to our comfortable ski lodge for the evening. After hot showers, we enjoyed an ample barbeque dinner where we could chat with old and new friends, sharing glasses of wine and tales of previous battles with weeds or walking trails.

On Sunday morning we sallied forth for another skirmish with the wily willows, before farewelling our fellow warriors and getting back into our cars for the trek down the mountain and the long drive home. We were weary but enriched by a job well done in convivial company.

Many thanks to Parks Victoria staff and Charlie Ablitt of Bushwalking Victoria for organising the weekend, and to Charlie and Sigrid for the delicious Saturday night meal. We look forward to doing it all again next year – willows beware!

Deb Shand

Bush-bound in 2014

Exploranges' 2014 season is now listed online at bushwalkingtours.com.au - find out where we are bound in our 34th year.

With our expertise every step of the way you are sure to have a great outback experience.

And after each day's walk mouth-watering meals beckon you back to the camp we've set up for you.

So hop to it and call 08 8369 1779 to find out why so many keep bouncing back for more.

And if you are hoping to go bush this year...

Pilbara: 7 - 22 Oct 2013

Northern Tassie: 13 - 26 Nov 2013

Or overseas...

Malaysia: 26 May - 7 June 2013

Hong Kong: 11 - 23 Nov 2013

EXPLORANGES
bushwalkingtours.com.au (08) 8369 1779

A VERY HOT WESTERN PLAINS RIDE

Route: Water Gardens (Sydenham) – Sugar Gum Creek – Kororoit Creek – Altona
Date: Saturday 16 February 2013
Weather: Fine and hot, 30–35°C, NW wind
Riders: 1 lady, 6 men
Distance 70 km

We met at Water Gardens Railway Station about 9:15 and at 9:30 Ross had us on our way. Even at this early hour it was hot with a very strong north-west wind and for a few kilometres we rode into this gale. We changed direction at Sugar Gum Creek and what bliss it was to have the wind on our backs. We followed Sugar Gum Creek on a superb cycle path for a few kilometres till it junctioned with the Kororoit Creek, which is quite pretty with many inviting stretches suitable for swimming.

We had morning tea at some new suburban town. Some sections of the Kororoit Creek are not yet provided with a cycle path, so the only alternative is to cycle along roads which will connect with the cycle path further on. Ross does this very well and it was pleasing to see that what was once a very difficult section to follow has been replaced with a new cycle path along the creek.

Lunch stop was in a nice little park with good shade. We needed it as by this time it was red hot. On this particular Saturday work was being carried out on the Werribee and Altona lines – no trains past Footscray on these lines, so, rather than cycle on to Altona and then have to cycle against a head wind to Footscray, Lars and I decided to leave the group somewhere near Sunshine and catch a train home. Ross, our excellent leader, provided us with a map, told us exactly where we were and pointed us in the right direction to the Sunshine railway station.

The rest of the group rode south to the Federation cycle path, turned east along the path for some distance, and then rode north to Footscray. Thanks to Ross for taking us on this pretty route.

The people on this ride were Ross Berner (leader), Lynda Larkin, Ed Neff, Lars Lindahl, Phil Brown, Bob Oxlade and myself.

Art Terry



[This photo was placed in March News, alongside the wrong cycle trip report – Ed]

THE OVERLAND TRACK, 7-15 MARCH 2013 – A TRACK FOR ALL WALKERS.

Walking the Overland Track through the Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair National Park, Tasmania, is one of those walks that can be enjoyed over and over again. It traverses one of the best walking areas in Australia with an ever-changing experience dictated by season, weather and optional side trips. Any discussion with seasoned bushwalkers will soon elicit places and names that beckon like a siren call to the uninitiated – Cradle Mountain, Barn Bluff, Mt Ossa, Pine Valley, The Acropolis, The Labyrinth, Lake Will, Hartnett Falls, and the list goes on – all within ready access from the main Overland Track. Despite its international appeal as one of the world's top walks the tightly managed booking system ensures that it never seems overcrowded, although for those looking for a remote wilderness experience it may not suit.

Whether your preference is for staying in the purpose-built huts or camping, there is an option to suit your needs. On our latest club trip in early March the level of interest exceeded the maximum number of 8 that can book into the huts. As we were planning to carry tents and camp anyway our choice was to book the Group Sites which are conveniently located along the track in close proximity to the huts, water and amenities. Allowing up to 13 walkers from registered bushwalking clubs, this suited our final number of 11 and provided an enjoyable camping experience removed from other walkers on the track.

Getting to the start of the walk is well catered for. We elected to catch an early flight from Melbourne to Launceston and a bus into the National Park where we arrived around lunch time, in plenty of time to settle into two well-appointed Waldheim Huts, which we had booked for the night, before setting out on a warm-up walk around Dove Lake. A good sleep and it was time to hit the track in an early morning mist. The long-range weather forecast was for warm weather with the possibility of a few light showers around the middle of our walk.

With the overnight camping logistics resolved and the weather looking good, time and fitness determined the scope of our adventures. Seven nights camping along the track provided an easy schedule that allowed for a side trip on most days, with a comfortable arrival time at our next night's pre-booked camping site, time to pitch our tents and then settle back to relax as we prepared the evening meals. For those that were up to the challenge, the side trips tackled were: Day 1 – Cradle Mountain; Day 2 – Barn Bluff and Lake Will (Innes Falls); Day 4 – Mt Ossa; Day 5 – Waterfalls; Day 6 – Pine Valley and The Labyrinth Lookout. On Days 7 and 8 we walked out via the side of Lake St Clair with an overnight stop at Echo Point on the shores of the lake.

You may have guessed! Notwithstanding the forecast, by the end of Day 3 the weather was set to change. A thunderstorm lashed our camp site shortly after setting up. Then, as quickly as it came, it passed and we unhurriedly prepared dinner before retiring for an early night as the next showers arrived. Despite the weather forecast we were all well prepared for cold and wet in an alpine zone and took it in our stride. A pattern had

been set. The weather treated us kindly for the next few days with a comfortable temperature for walking and the rain holding off until we were well settled each night. Even Mt Ossa smiled. After a mist-shrouded ascent to the peak we were greeted within minutes of our arrival by a parting of the clouds to expose the valleys and mountains all around, then a closing of the curtain again as we set off down the slope. As with the views from the top of Cradle Mountain and Barn Bluff, the vistas were stunning.

The trip into Pine Valley retained its well-remembered charm and belied the fact that only days before the area had been subject to a flash flood brought on by the thunder storm, however, low cloud circling the top of The Acropolis



(continued over page)

Along the Track

The Overland Track (continued from previous page)

placed the merits of our planned ascent in doubt. A trip to The Labyrinth Lookout was unanimously substituted by the willing who set off with a burst of energy to be greeted at the Lookout by a howling gale from the valley below making photography a marginal proposition and the views intermittent.

After 5 Overland trips the appeal has not waned. Great scenery, great company and great walking lie in wait for the next time I get the urge. Check out the photos on the club's website to see what draws me in. Thank you to Halina, Ray, Jacquelin, Andrew, Max, Susan, Mark, Jon, David and Graeme for making the trip a memorable one.



Ian Mair

Mitchell Plateau No. 2 7-20 July 2013

Bushwalking at its best. Why waste your holiday sitting in a 4WD? Using light aircraft and helicopters allows us to reach this remote Kimberley Park in under two hours, allowing us more time to enjoy the spectacular scenery and wealth of Aboriginal art sites.

This trip is in two sections. On the first, we explore the Mitchell River between the two largest waterfalls. A helicopter then brings us to spectacular Donkins Falls. We then work our way back to the start. Both sections include at least one day walking without full packs.

Special offer. Recent circumstances gave me pause to reflect on my life and business. As a special thank you for your support, any member of the Melbourne Bushwalkers who books either our Mitchell Plateau No. 2 or our Drysdale River trip (2-16 June) and quotes this ad, will get a special **\$1000 discount**. Ask us about other MBW specials. **Note:** some of our other discounts do not apply with this offer.



www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au rwillis@internode.on.net Ph: 08 8985 2134

RODGER RIVER PACK CARRY REPORT

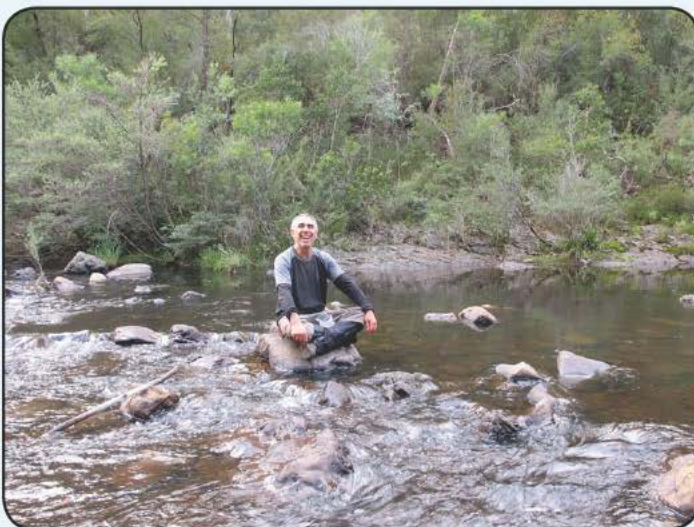
Over the Easter break 13 of us headed into the Snowy River National Park above Orbost. Bob was the leader, and he'd planned the trip around visiting the Rodger River Gorge.

Thursday night we camped at Raymond Falls camp ground. Friday morning saw quick introductions then a short walk to see Raymond Falls. Alas there wasn't enough water for any waterfall, more of a weak trickle, but the mist rising from the still pool was stunning enough and a great spot for the group photo. Then we drove further along Yalmy Road to the start of the main walk into Rodger River. It was a nice drive up to through the forest, with Bob's new car (slightly lower than its predecessor) crunching loudly over any bumps in the road

Early afternoon we shouldered our packs and headed into the forest. The first day, 10 km along vehicle tracks was pretty tough, steep up rewarded by steep down, then repeat. And while the notes had said an overall ascent of 350 m, it hadn't covered how many times! Bob encouraged us on with hopeful statements like 'this should be the last hill...' and for the rest of the trip these words were brought back to haunt him, as inevitably another hill lay beyond.

Saturday morning started with a quick river crossing and then it was up and up, with a heroic mission from Phil and Ian back to retrieve forgotten glasses. It was the longest day of the trip with 18 km on vehicle tracks along the ridge line. Plenty of ups and downs with sneak peeks of the Snowy River through the trees. The vegetation changed with our altitude and aspect, with towering silvertop ash a frequent companion.

Sunday morning we left tracks and packs behind and travelled down Rodger River, winding our way through twisted Kanooka trunks, old and bent near horizontal from the force of floods. Then it was pretty much straight up to the top of the ridge, until we arrived at a rocky outcrop. It may never be resolved as to who should have stopped or kept going, but the group was spilt and lunch was held separately on different outcrops. But the views were stunning up and down the gorge, right to the last bend in the river where it twists out of sight and joins the Snowy. Turning for home we trekked through she oak forest, then dropped off the ridge as steeply as we'd come up. Zigzagging down a slope with considerable care but still the odd rock came free and tumbled down, accompanied by warning shouts to those below. We retraced our steps and crossed the river back over to an old homestead site where an old pear tree provided a nice spot for an afternoon snack.



Back at the campsite we sat in front of the roaring fire cooking dinner until some light drizzle sent the hydrophobics running back to their tents. Undeterred, I enjoyed the reduced competition for a good spot in front of the fire.

Monday and there was 7 km up a vehicle track to Yalmy Road. Halfway was supposed to be a creek, which I never noticed and just as I was beginning to despair that we weren't even halfway, we were almost done!

This was my first pack carry with the club, and based on this trip I look forward to many more in the future. It was a beautiful area and very well planned. Thanks to everyone involved.

Alannah

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.mbw.org.au/mbw_activities/MBW_activities_program.php

**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

MT DISAPPOINTMENT STATE FOREST – REEDY CREEK

DATE	Sunday 2 June 2013
STANDARDS	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES	14 km and 17 km
ELEVATIONS	440 m and 470 m
LEADERS	Michael Murray and Ian Mair
TRANSPORT	Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45am
AREA	Mt Disappointment State Forest
MAP REF	Wandong 1:25000

If you enjoy walking in Mt Disappointment State Forest then this is the one for you. This walk has not been done before but is based on a walk in the same area last done in 2006. The Easy walk is very similar to the Easy/Medium walk but starts at the entrance to the Camberwell Grammar School Barbara Camp, accessed from Main Mountain Road. There is less creek rock hopping but the hills are the same. Plenty of evidence of past gold mine diggings and off course the fantastic views (but you have to earn it to see it). Most of the walk is on 4WD tracks with a little off track hiking along the creek line.

The Easy/Medium walk will start around 2.5 km further down Main Mountain Road with a short scrub bash to Dabyminga Creek and then on a bush track to meet Tree 15 Road close to the start of the Easy walk. The walk then takes the same route as the Easy group for a while before sharply dropping off the ridge line to pick up Blackman Creek and then follows the creek to its junction with Reedy Creek. The section along Blackman Creek winds its way between rocky outcrops and makes for interesting walking. Please note that if the water level is too high then the path adjacent to the creek is an alternative. The remainder of the walk follows the Easy group route, winding its way back up to the ridge line to meet the bus. There are some testing hills and rock hopping along creek beds but it is a challenging way to keep warm in winter. That is guaranteed.



TOFS WALK

HILLCLIMB TRACK – SHERBROOKE FALLS – SHERBROOKE FOREST

DATE	Thursday 8 June 2013
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	10 km
ELEVATION	150m
LEADER	Graham Hodgson
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Dandenongs
MAP REF	Melway Map 75 and 124

The last time this walk was programmed it was cancelled due to extreme heat. I have never heard of a walk being cancelled due to extreme cold so unless cyclonic winds, monsoonal downpours or heavy snow down to low levels are forecast I think this walk will go ahead this time.

We will start the walk with a moderate climb through cool fern gullies until we reach Sherbrooke Falls which hopefully will have water flowing down it. The rest of the walk is on undulating tracks in Sherbrooke Forest where hopefully we might see or hear lyrebirds.

Meet at 10:30 am in the carpark at the back of Micawber Tavern in Belgrave which is marked P on Melway map 75 F/G 7/8. Micawber Tavern is just past a plant nursery on the left about 1 km out of Belgrave.



PACK CARRY

HATTAH LAKES – MURRAY RIVER

DATE	7-10 June 2013
STANDARD	Easy-Medium
DISTANCE	42 km
LEADER	Ian Mair
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	North West Victoria
MAP REF	Hattah Lakes 1:25000 (Outdoor Leisure Map)

Situated about 450 km from Melbourne, the 48,000 hectare Hattah-Kulkyne National Park is one of only three Biosphere Reserves in Victoria. During flood periods, the lakes are recognised as some of Australia's significant wetlands under an international agreement (the Ramsar Convention)

for the protection of Wetlands. The area is regarded as particularly special because of the large flow of permanent water in the nearby Murray River and a number of freshwater lakes seasonally filled by creeks connected to the Murray. This habitat provides food and shelter for a large number of waterbirds, animals and fish.

Hattah-Kulkyne National Park lies in typical flat mallee country with extensive low scrub and open native pine woodland. Superbly adapted birds, animals and vegetation thrive in the poor, sandy soils and searing summers. Our walk will take us along a mixture of 4WD vehicle tracks and open scrubland, passing by a number of lakes along the way. We will camp on the banks of the Murray River with our walking days relatively short so that we can enjoy the Murray River surroundings. Autumn, winter and spring are the best times to visit this rich wonderland.

Contact Ian Mair or see him in the club rooms for further information.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

STEIGLITZ AREA OF BRISBANE RANGES NATIONAL PARK

DATE	Sunday 9 June 2013
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	15 km
ELEVATION	140 m fluctuation
LEADER	Roger Wyett
TRANSPORT	Car Pool – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA	Brisbane Ranges National Park
MAP REF	Melways 808 J2
TRANSPORT COST (PER PERSON)	Approximately \$20

This walk will be a combination of cross country, following creek beds (water levels permitting), plus along defined walking tracks, 4WD tracks and some gravel roads in the Steiglitz area in the southern end of the Brisbane Ranges National Park. Be prepared for cross country, June weather, and a diverse walk, as well as the chance of sighting koalas and grey kangaroos that inhabit the area.



WEDNESDAY WALK

WERRIBEE GORGE AND ISLAND LOOKOUT

DATE	Wednesday 12 June 2013
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	13 km
ELEVATION	400 m
LEADER	Margaret Curry
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Bacchus Marsh
MAP REF	Park Notes – Parks Victoria

The Centenary Walk to Island Lookout is a relatively new route passing through open woodland before crossing a creek and climbing steeply to reward one with spectacular views of the surrounding countryside. On the return we veer off this track to walk up onto the gorge rim with great views from a number of outlooks before descending into the gorge itself. Here the terrain is more rugged and requires some rock scrambling along the river section. In one area a steel cable is used for about 50 metres to traverse the cliff face. We walk by a disused water race built in 1928 before reaching Meikles Point Picnic Area. Another steepish climb takes us back to our cars at Quarry Picnic Area.



CYCLING

MALVERN – STUDLEY PARK CIRCUIT

DATE	Saturday 15 June 2013
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	45 km approx.
ELEVATION	Only a few short hills.
LEADER	Max Casley
TRANSPORT	Private. Circuit from Malvern railway station.
AREA	Melbourne suburbs.
MAP REF	Melways maps nos. 44, 45, 59, and 60. Also Boroondara TravelSmart map

This bicycle ride is a circuit through some suburbs of Melbourne, mainly on cycle tracks (Gardiner's Creek and Capital City Trails) with only a few crossings of major roads.

We start and finish at Malvern railway station, cycle through Hedgeley Dene Gardens, through a tunnel under Monash Freeway, along Gardiner's Creek, and then go north via Hartwell to the Kew Billabong at the Yarra River. We then go west down the river and across to Merri Creek where the café area at North Melbourne Institute of TAFE looks a good place for lunch. Our route follows Merri Creek to its junction with the Yarra at Dights Falls, then to Studley Park. We then follow the Yarra to Collingwood Childrens' Farm and Heyington and go up Gardiner's Creek to Glen Iris and back to Malvern station.

This should be a fairly easy ride, so if you have not been on a Club ride before, this might be the one to start on. However, bring a spare tyre tube in case of a puncture!

This ride was programmed for last December but was cancelled because of forecast severe storms (however it turned out to be a pleasant day!).



SUNDAY BUS

GEORGE BASS COASTAL TRAIL

DATE	Sunday 16 June 2013
STANDARDS	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES	12 km and 15 km approx.
LEADERS	Deb Shand and David Laing
TRANSPORT	Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45am
AREA	Bass Coast/ San Remo
MAP REF	Parkweb – George Bass Coastal Walk

The popular George Bass Coastal Walk stretches along the clifftops from the outskirts of San Remo to Kilcunda. It offers spectacular views of the coastline and follows the route of the explorer George Bass' epic voyage of discovery along the southern edge of the Anderson Peninsula over 200 years ago.

To extend and add interest to the walk, we will also explore part of the beach near Kilcunda as well as a section of the Bass Coast Rail Trail.

Come and join us for this scenic winter walk that offers abundant fresh ocean air and memorable views of rugged cliffs and pounding surf. We may even be able to spot Southern Right Whales on their annual migration to the warmer waters along the southern coastline of Australia.



MOFS WALK

WATTLE PARK – THREE CREEKS

DATE	Monday 17 June 2013
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	10 km
ELEVATION	Small hills
LEADERS	Alan and Jan Case
TRANSPORT	Private or No. 70 Tram
AREA	Burwood
MAP REF	Melway 60, 61 and 46

The first part of this walk is through Wattle Park and along the Back and Hercules Creeks valleys together with an inspection of a brace of 1843 cannons. Various friends groups have assisted to turn neglected creek valleys into pleasant walks. Lunch will be back at Wattle Park, after which we will walk through Wattle Park to Gardiner's Creek. Well made trails along Gardiner's Creek are an easy walk before we return on a different route through Wattle Park past the Lone Pine and Chalet to the cars.

Meet in the golf course car park (Melway 60 J3) before 10:30 (also accessible from the No. 70 tram in Riversdale Road).



DANDENONGS EXPLORER

DATE	Saturday 22 June 2013
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	14 km (approx.)
LEADER	Fay Dunn
TRANSPORT	Private cars
AREA	Sassafras, Dandenong Ranges
MAP REF	Melways 66 F9

I have not fully previewed this walk but intend to depart from Sassafras at 10:30 and head towards Sherbrooke via the Nicholas Gardens. There are a few hills but not too steep. Most of the walking will be through typical Dandenongs forest which could be muddy and/or slippery in winter so bring a change of shoes. Let me know you are coming, preferably by email or mobile, and I will give you more detailed information then.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

NEW: SILVER CREEKS WALK (NORTHERN KINGLAKE NP)

DATE	Sunday 23 June 2013
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	12 km
LEADER	Richard Hanson
TRANSPORT	Car Pool – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA	Wallaby Creek Water Supply Catchment, Kinglake NP

A new walk to the club in the Silver Creek Buffer, in the Kinglake National Park, about 50 km north of Melbourne.

This is part of the very large 9965 ha Wallaby Creek Water Supply Catchment Area, located in the NE section of the Park, managed jointly by Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water.

The Silver Creek Buffer Zone (2100 ha) is mainly eucalyptus forest, covering steep gullies and narrow ridges.

The walk starts at the Silver Creek Buffer car park, on Silver Creek Rd. This is reached from a turn-off on the Kinglake-Yea Rd, about 10 km south of Flowerdale.

There are nice views through tall timber across rugged densely forested valleys. Should be good, please join me.



SOCIAL WALK

BELLBIRD DELL RESERVE, VERMONT

DATE	Thursday 27 June 2013
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	5 km
ELEVATION	Small hills
LEADER	Jean Giese
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Vermont
MAP REF	Melway 62

A delightful oasis of remnant bushland which we will explore, walking south to Terrara Park and returning by mostly different paths. I didn't hear any bellbirds in the dell but I did see a couple of ducks in a pond along the way.

Join me at the entrance to the reserve on Barnesdale Road (Mel 62K3) at 10:30. A short drive afterwards will take us to lunch at the Banks Café in Brentford Square.



SUNDAY BUS

OLINDA FOREST TRAIL

DATE	Sunday 30 June 2013
STANDARDS	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES	14 km and 18 km
ELEVATIONS	Generally hilly
LEADERS	Andrew Francis and Theo Mertzanidis
TRANSPORT	Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45am
AREA	Olinda Forest, Dandenong Ranges National Park
MAP REF	Vicmap Monbulk North 7922-2-N (1:25,000)

Olinda Forest boasts a variety of forest landscapes from clusters of mountain grey gum trees and cool ferny gullies to dry bushland. A lot of the forest area remains relatively isolated and contains much undisturbed native habitat. These are pleasant walks with waterfalls, lyrebirds and good views.

Both walks start at Woolrich Lookout, 500 m, with a splendid vista of the surrounding mountains. There is a steep descent through the RJ Hamer Forest Arboretum (which contains some 150 exotic tree species) into the valley. The lunch spot for both walks will be the Silvan Reservoir, before tackling tracks which are undulating and climb slowly to the Olinda Falls. The easy/medium walk will have steeper climbs and extra distance.

The walk is entirely on tracks and quiet management roads, some of which can be muddy – make sure your shoes have good grip! The reward is that the final steep ascent will reach the finish at Mt Dandenong Observatory, 633 m, with views of the Melbourne skyline and coffee.

NAVIGATION TRAINING – SATURDAY 6 JULY 2013

Need to refresh your knowledge? Too embarrassed to ask the question?

Does not matter, this day will be aimed at the novice who wants to:

- Understand the basics of reading a map
- Know how to set a map to ground and relating features to the map
- Use a compass
- Navigate on a bearing

A mixture of theory and practical activity near Werribee Gorge will be limited to 12 participants, all whom will receive a free copy of the Geoscience Australia Map Reading Guide and Mapping Template!

Contact Roger Wyett to reserve your place.

This will be a car pool departing from the clubrooms at 8.30am. All participants will need to bring a compass (borrow one from a fellow club member) and standard day activity equipment (day pack).

ANNUAL BUSH SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING WEEKEND

The next BSAR training weekend is 20–21 July 2013. The annual training weekend is planned to be at Marysville and Lake Mountain, for all current and prospective BSAR members. It has not been determined yet whether it will involve snow or not, as that will depend on weather conditions. This is a good opportunity for anyone who has a future interest in BSAR membership to also attend.

*David Laing
MBW Delegate to BSAR*

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

NEW ZEALAND – JANUARY 4–19, 2014

Using Nelson as a base, I am planning to do two pack carry walks on the South Island of New Zealand this coming January. The first week will be on the Heaphy Track across the North West corner of the South Island. The longest Great Walk at 78.4 km, the Heaphy Track traverses a range of landscapes from mountains to sea, crossing rivers and streams through beautiful beech forest, rolling areas of red tussock and podocarp forest. The second week will be spent on the Travers–Sabine Circuit. The 80 km Travers–Sabine Circuit reaches deep into the heart of the mountains of Nelson Lakes National Park. Tranquil beech forests, fields of waving tussocks, 2000 metre-high mountains and clear rushing streams are highlights of the walk.

To join the group or for further information please contact Ian Mair. As I am going to be away during September and October I would like to have bookings in place early. Contact me before end-July if you are interested.



Travers–Sabine Circuit – John Tait Hut

Noticeboard

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 Wyatt

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2013

Membership subscriptions are due 1st March 2013. 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

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!

June 2013

Sun 2	DAY: Reedy Creek – Shepherds Hill	Bus	E/M & M	Michael Murray & Ian Mair
Thu 6	TOF: Sherbrook Forest	Pvt	Easy	Graham Hodgson
7–10	PC : Hattah Lakes – Murray River	Pvt	E/M	Ian Mair
Sun 9	DAY: Steiglitz area of Brisbane Ranges National Park	Car	E/M	Roger Wyett
Wed 12	DAY: Werribee Gorge	Pvt	E/M	Margaret Curry
Sat 15	CYC: Malvern – Studley Park Circuit	Pvt	E/M	Max Casley
Sun 16	DAY: George Bass Coastal Trail	Bus	E & E/M	Deb Shand & David Laing
Mon 17	MOF: Wattle Park – Gardiners Creek	Pvt	Easy	Alan Case
Sat 22	DAY: Dandenongs Explorer	Pvt	E/M	Fay Dunn
Sun 23	DAY: NEW: Silver Creeks Walk (Nthn Kinglake NP)	Car	Easy	Richard Hanson
Wed 26	SOC: Lightweight gear and packing			John Fritze
Thu 27	SOC: Bellbird Dell Reserve	Pvt	Easy	Jean Giese
Sun 30	DAY: Olinda Forest Trail	Bus	E & E/M	Andrew Francis & Theo Mertzandis

The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers
 If undelivered please return to:
 MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC
 GPO BOX 1751, MELBOURNE 3001

PRINT
 POST
 338888/00016

POSTAGE
 PAID
 AUSTRALIA