



THE NEWS

OF THE
MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INCORPORATED

EDITION 472

JUNE, 1990

PRICE 20 C

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S O C I A L C O L U M N

**** DATES TO REMEMBER ****

KZFM CROSS COUNTRY SKI SHOW

WHERE : At Camberwell Civic Centre
WHEN : SUNDAY 24 JUNE, 1990 -- 11.00 A.M. - 4.00 P.M.
HOW MUCH : \$1.00 CHILDREN - \$3.00 ADULTS - \$7.00 FAMILY
ORGANISED BY: SKI TOURING ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

Everything you have ever wanted to know and even information that you didn't want to know is all here under the one roof at the Centre. Bring all your gear to sell; or buy: SKIS, BOOTS, CLOTHING, CAMPING & OTHER SPORTING GEAR. Pamphlet on Notice Board in Club Room.

THE SECOND GREAT BRIDGEWATER BAY BUSH BASH

You have of course, written the dates September 26/27/28/29 and 30 (Show Day) in your diary haven't you?????

One of the best kept State Secrets is this little corner of Victoria. Those who came before thought it was pretty good, now you should see it with the spring wildflowers out, AND whales at Warnambool on the way! Just **WONDERFUL, WONDERFUL, WONDERFUL.** Its mainly base camping and very limited extremely flash accommodation. All self catering. Having a problem getting a band for the famous bush dance in the old school, but I'm working on it. Rest assured there'll be heaps happening and multiple varied bushwalks going in every direction, along the cliffs, over the volcano, by the fresh water lakes, round the headlands, on the beaches and the dunes and among the fossilized forest. Bookings open in August. Ya gotta come!

Sylvia Wilson

NOTE: Also See Page 11, a letter from Michael Griffin with regard a sections of the above area that will no doubt be included in the walk. Because of lack of space, it is not possible to print the entire letter. Members will find Michael's letter displayed on the Club's News Board.

DON'T FORGET AUCTION 4TH JULY

S O C I A L C O L U M N (Continued)...**THE BUSHIES 50TH BIRTHDAY GATHERING**

The big birthday picnic up at Gilwell Park, Gembrook on November 25 is beginning to take shape. The area is in fact an enormous scout camp in very bushy surroundings. We will take over a "field" for the Sunday lunch barbeque and hope to gather as many of the bushies over the last 50 years as we can. Those with families are particularly welcome as there's a dammed creek to swim in, a ropes course and a riotous initiatives course (well we caused quite a riot when we actually succeeded in completing a task. No it doesn't need children for this). The walking round-about is lovely too.

Anyway apart from the Sunday the main event we wondered if people would be interested in a bush dance the night before. There's a good hall for the event and I'm sure we can get a rip-roaring band. It is possible to camp overnight and there are a few bunk rooms too, so one wouldn't have to trek back home. If this sounds like something you'd be interested in, could you please phone Marian Siseman (Phone: 878 1839) or me, Sylvia Wilson (Phone: 836 6342) so we can gauge the interest and proceed with arrangements.

Our next step is to start contacting people, if you'd like to help in this bit or just join the organising sub-committee, we would be ever-so pleased to hear from you.

Sylvia Wilson
Sandra Mutimer

Marion Siseman
Bob Steel

MALLEE PARK - BRAVO!

Late last Thursday night (31st May) the Liberal Party supported the Labor Government's Mallee Park legislation in the Upper House and the Bill was passed without amendment. This means:

- . The establishment of the 630,000 ha Mallee - Sunset National Park;
- . A 22,000 h.a. extension to Wyperfeld National Park and various other flora and fauna reserves;
- . Stock grazing phased out of all conservation reserves by 1996.
- . Broom brush harvesting to be terminated on Mallee public land by June 1990.

Congratulations to the Victorian Government, the Opposition and all who worked so hard to preserve this lovely land.

Jean Giese

The Spring Programme planning group will be meeting on the 19th June. If you would like to see any particular walks on the programme, or if you are able to volunteer to lead a walk please see me in the club rooms. **ALSO**

Many apologies to Art Terry and Jopie and Jenny for accidentally leaving their names off the "thanks for help" on the Federation Day walk. My only excuse is a failing memory.

Philip Taylor, Walks Secretary

HELP NEEDED! Jan Llewelyn is attempting to put together a small history of Melbourne Bushwalking Club, she is missing "News" up to May '54, No. 68 and years 57/58/59 and 60. Any other material particularly from the early days, anecdotes, written or verbal would be appreciated. Please write to Jan: 55 Railway Parade, Wandin North. Vic 3139 or Phone:(059) 64 4947.

DAY WALKSJULY, 1990SUN. 1 JULY BALNARRING BEACH - POINT LEO - FLINDERS EASY & E/MEDIUM

LEADERS : IAN NEWBOLD & DARRELL ROLFE
 TRANSPORT : VAN FROM SOUTHBANK BOULEVARD (NOLAN STREET) AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 PM
 MAP REFERENCE : MELWAYS PAGES 193, 194, 197
 APPROX. DISTANCE: 13/15 KMS

Easy walk starts from Balnarring Beach and Easy/Medium starts from Sommers Beach finishing at Flinders Pier. Pleasant walking mainly on beaches, with may be some small diversions.

SUN 8 JULY BLACK FLAT-JUMPING CREEK-WITTONS RESERVE - E/MEDIUM & MEDIUM
HOMESTEAD ROAD

LEADERS : TREVOR THOMSON & GINA HOPKINS
 TRANSPORT : VAN FROM SOUTHBANK BOULEVARD (NOLAN STREET) AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 6.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : MELWAYS 23, 24, 172
 APPROX. DISTANCE: 15/19 KMS

We will follow the Yarra River upstream, in the region where it winds through Warrandyte and Wonga Park. Sometimes we will be close to the river, passing a few rapids, and accompanied by plenty of bird life. At other times we will be relatively remote from and well above the river, with some valley views. While much of the walk is on tracks, there are also some grassy and some scrubby (burgeon) sections.

So come for a pleasant close-to-home winter's walk, with the prospect of a relatively early return from a reasonably substantial day's walk.

WED.11 JULY BYERS TRACK-BLACKWOOD-LERDERDERG RIVER E/MEDIUM

LEADER : BOB AUJARD
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE CARS
 EXPECTED RETURN : BACK IN MELBOURNE 4.45 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : LERDERDERG GORGE-CONSERVATION FORESTS & LANDS OR TRENTAM
 1:25000
 APPROX. DISTANCE: 14KM
 MEETING: : AT SIR ROBERT MENZIES RESERVE - MELWAYS 59 D5 AT 8.30 A.M. TO
 ARRANGE TRANSPORT OR 10.00 A.M. AT MINERAL SPRINGS RESERVE,
 BLACKWOOD

We start walking at about 10.00 a.m. on the road going east out of Blackwood until we meet Byers Back Track. This is an old aquaduct and the walking is therefore fairly level for the next 6 KM to where we have lunch sitting on the rocks next to the river at the Tunnel. After lunch a short climb (100m) through open forest brings us to Tunnel Point Track. In the afternoon we visit Shaws Lake. There are good views and many interesting features on this walk and if you like mineral water bring along some containers.

SUN. 15 JULY MT. TALLAROOK STATE FOREST**E/MEDIUM & MEDIUM**

LEADER : RICK CHATER & ROD TOPER
 TRANSPORT : VAN FROM SOUTHBANK BOULEVARD (NOLAN STREET) AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.30 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : STRATH CREEK
 APPROX. DISTANCE: 14/18 KM

Oops! I got caught short and have not previewed it yet. But its a great area about 2 hours north of Melbourne with some interesting rocky outcrops and hills of views over the surrounding farmlands. Hopefully we will be able to organise suitable variety for all.

SUN. 22 JULY DYERS CREEK-LAWLESS CREEK-BLACK RANGE-BUNYIP RIVER**E/MEDIUM & MEDIUM**

LEADER : PHIL TAYLOR & JOHN ROSEMAN
 TRANSPORT : VAN FROM SOUTHBANK BOULEVARD (NOLAN STREET) AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 PM.
 MAP REFERENCE : GILWELL & BEENAK 1:25,000
 APPROX. DISTANCE: 13/16 KM

This is a delightful area centered around the area east of Gembrook, mostly walking along tracks with a few small hills thrown in to keep you warm. Hopefully the early winter flowers will be out and the sun shining.

SAT.28 JULY DANDENONGS EXPLORER-OLINDA STATE FOREST**E/MEDIUM**

LEADER : JAN LLEWELYN
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE CARS
 EXPECTED RETURN : 3.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : MELWAYS 120,122 VIC. MAP SILVAN 1:25,000
 APPROX. DISTANCE: 9 KM

The walk will start at 11.00 a.m. from the picnic ground cnr. Olinda Creek Road and Silvan Road (Melways 120 12F, Silvan 590 117). It will be mainly on forest roads through the heavily wooded areas surrounding Silvan Dam. There will be one short scrub bash through light understorey bush. At this time of the year the early spring flowers should be at their height. On the southern slopes and in the gullies there are the tree ferns typical of the Dandenongs. Also typical of the Dandenongs are hills - in particular we have one short sharp climb. I hope we will see and hear the lyrebirds at Lyrebird Creek. We should be back at the cars by around 3.00 p.m.

SUN. 29 JULY HEALESVILLE-MT. RIDDELL**E/MEDIUM & MEDIUM**

LEADERS : ANNE BULLARD & GRAHAM HARDING
 TRANSPORT : VAN FROM SOUTHBANK BOULEVARD (NOLAN STREET) AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN :
 MAP REFERENCE :
 APPROX. DISTANCE:

Our initial investigations show a restricted water catchment area could be a potential problem for the billed walk.

A substitute walk in the same general area may have to be found. We will keep you posted in next months "News".

W E E K E N D W A L K SJULY29 JUNE - 1/2 JULY INTRODUCTION TO "WILKY" IN WINTERMEDIUM

LEADER GRAEME THORNTON/KEN MACMAHON
 TRANSPORT PRIVATE CARS
 MAP REFERENCE ALGONA - BOGONG HIGH PLAINS
 APPROX. DISTANCE 22 KM WITH FULL PACK AND DAY TRIPS

This weekend is intended to be an introduction to the Club Cottage "Wilky" located 10-11 km beyond Falls Creek on the Bogong High Plains. It will be either a 2 day or a 3 day trip depending upon what time people can arrange to have off. Whilst first preference will be given to those who have not been into Wilky in winter before, others interested in an early season "hoot" are welcome - space permitting. The weekend is before the winter groups start so is dependent upon sufficient snow. "GT" will be instructing on falling over and getting up (the latter optional), Ken will be instructing on hooting.

Please note that this trip is not suited to raw beginners as the way into "Wilky" can be very bleak. Equipment and clothing suited to extended ski touring is required. Food for 2 or 3 days must be carried.

Anyone interested please see "GT".

30 JUNE - 1 JULY NORTHERN WILSONS PROM - BY FISHING BOATMEDIUM

LEADER: MARK WALTERS
 TRANSPORT PRIVATE CARS
 MAP REFERENCE: WILSONS PROM - OUTDOOR LEISURE MAP
 APPROX. DISTANCE: 26 KM

NOTE: Strict limit of 12 for boat safety and National Park Regulations. Friday night - camping at Port Welshpool.

Saturday 8.00 a.m. boat trip to Miranda Bay or Johnny Sovey Cove (1 hour) depending on weather conditions. If easterly winds are blowing the alternative is Tin Mine Cove or Biddies Cove. Alternative walks have been planned for any situation.

From the East coast we will walk via Three Mile Point Whale rock to Tin Mine Cove. walking will alternate from tracks on the beach with one or two small headlands involving rock scrambles to be negotiated. Time should permit exploring some of the more remote areas. Boat pick-up 4.00 p.m. Sunday. Arrive Port Welshpool 5.00 p.m.

27-29 JULY CHASING THE SNOW WEEKENDMEDIUM

LEADER : MARK WALTERS
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 See leader in club room.

SNEAK PREVIEW - WINTER PROGRAM, 1990BEGINERS SKIING DAY

We are planning a beginners skiing day at Lake Mountain early in the snow season (if there is any snow). We will have an experienced ski instructor to give tuition.

The group will be limited to 10/12 people and the cost will be approx. \$12.00 per person depending on numbers. If there is a need for another beginners day we will arrange it. Could interested people let me know so I can get an idea of numbers. So if you want to know how to ski like the experts, come along.

MICHAEL MANN

27-30 SEPTEMBER, 1990 - FLINDERS RANGES

A group of five bushwalkers including volunteer leader is needed to walk in the Flinders Ranges National Park over the period 27-30 September, 1990 (Melbourne Show Day period). Flinders Ranges is 420 km north of Adelaide and is best in late September because of the milder temperatures and wildflowers. The plan is to depart Moorabbin airport (free parking) at 6.00 a.m. on Thursday 27 September by Cessna 210 aircraft and land at Wilpena Pound (in the park) at about 9.00 a.m. Four days walking is then planned in the Flinders Ranges National Park. The aircraft will remain at Wilpena Pound for the four-day period (at nil cost) and the party will return departing Wilpena at 4.00 p.m., arriving at Moorabbin at 7.00 p.m. on Sunday 30 September.

The air transport cost is kept to a minimum as the aircraft pilot (myself) will pay an equal share of the aircraft hiring costs. Calculated air transport cost is as follows:

Cost of Aircraft Hire:	\$160 per hour (includes fuel)
Total Flying Time :	7 hours (max. return trip)
Total Hire Cost :	160 x 7 = \$1,120
Total Cost Per Head :	\$1,120/5 = <u>\$224 each</u> (five including pilot)

As I will be doing all the flight planning, aircraft hire arrangements and flying to/from Flinders Ranges, then one of the other members of the group is required to lead the walk. Therefore a volunteer leader is required to plan and lead the four day bushwalking in the area.

Because of insufficient notice it is not possible to include this proposed walk in the walks programme. However, if you are interested in going and/or leading the walk please ring me at home (Phone: 819 4656)

Dave Vincent

3-6 NOVEMBER, 1990 - TASMANIA

I also planning a similar trip over the period 3-6 November, 1990 (Melbourne Cup period) but to a different location - Tasmania. The location is Maria Island National Park (100 KM NE Hobart) and Strzelecki National Park (Flinders Island) for two days bushwalking at each location - five days total. The cost will be about \$190 each for a group of five. If the weather is suitable we will return flying over the south west of Tasmania and the west coast. But again a volunteer leader is required for this walk. If you are interested in going and/or leading the walk please ring me at home (Phone: 819 4656)

Dave Vincent

ROB & JENNY'S WEDDING

On Sunday 20th May several of us Bushies were delighted to be present at Rob Ayre and Jenny McCann's wedding. The Uniting Church ceremony was pleasantly informal, neither of the "star turns" seemed to be nervous in the least. Jenny wore an ivory ballerina length dress with deep lace on the sleeves and hem which suited her beautifully. It was made by Becky Marshall - who said the Bushies weren't a multi-talented lot? Afterwards we repaired to an Eltham restaurant and mingled with the rellies, the best man (who was nan old uni. associate of Rob's) and others. There was a spot of singing, a lot of it quite impromptu. I hope we sent them off in style. I'm sure all the Bushies join with me in wishing them all the very best for their future happiness together.

Sylvia Wilson

COMMITTEE NOTES

MEETING HELD ON 4TH JUNE, 1990

1. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

- . Following an assessment of our hire equipment by Mark Walters it was agreed to purchase a new tent, a weekend pack, a sleeping bag and three new liners.
- . A response to the Wilderness Report was prepared by Janet Norman and forwarded to the Land Conservation Council.
- . A copy of the Federation insurance policy was obtained by Rick Chater but it was too general to determine whether visitor's at Wilky were covered. A definitive response to that question will be sought from the Federation.

2. CORRESPONDENCE:

Received from the East Gippsland Co-alition. Sent to Steve Crabb, Minister Conservation and P. Sheehan Environment and Regional Manager Department of Conservation and Environment re the Mitchell Estate pursuing inclusion in the Dandenong Ranges National Park and the destructive track-work done by contractors to the MMBW.

3. REPORTS:3.1 TREASURER'S REPORT MAY, 1990

BALANCE	\$39,311.46
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PAYMENTS TO BE RATIFIED:

M.Mann (Wilky Costs)	\$172.10
G. Breen (Balance of costs for Refuge)	\$ 81.83
Rampower (April ACCT)	\$273.49
VNPA (Donation)	\$300.00
A. Bullard (Postage)	\$ 20.50
E. Ayre (Refund for Marysville)	\$ 93.00
G. Thornton (Wilky Costs)	\$246.28
D. Wilhoft (Postage/Printing Costs)	\$331.00
A. Conway (Printing of "News")	\$200.00
Wilderness Society (Subscription)	\$ 28.00
ACF (Subscription)	\$ 63.00
STAV (Subscription)	\$ 30.00
Cleaning/Garaging (May)	\$150.00
Driving (May)	\$400.00

	\$ 2,389.20
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BILLS TO BE PAID:

Nil	\$ 0.00
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	\$ 0.00
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3.2 **WALKS SECRETARY:**

The following table prepared by Phil Taylor makes some interesting comparisons:

<u>Month</u>		<u>1990</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1988</u>
<u>April</u>	Total =	316	280	354
	Day	260	260	235
	Weekend	56	20	119
	Members	244	170	263
	Visitors	72	110	91
		\$2,342	\$2,321	\$2,077
<u>May</u>	Total =	217	241	246
	Day	213	224	230
	Weekend	4	17	16
	Members	144	153	193
	Visitors	73	88	53
		\$1,892	\$2,050	\$2,170

3.3 **TRANSPORT:**

The old saying "what do you want first, the good news or the bad news", has been replaced by "what do you want first, the bad news or the worse news". In short the painting quotes have now been received for the bus:

.	Repair and repaint roof	\$700
.	Remove sign writing	\$240
.	Paint body	\$1,900
.	Paint silver	\$600
.	Signwriting	\$350

we have some options here and it was decided to hold off till Rob Ayre's return. The "worse" news is that we have possibly less than 6 months to find a new home for the bus. There must be a member or two reading this, who has some ideas on this, please let one of the committee know of any options.

3.4 **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:**

The renewals are still rolling in, a whole bundle cleared from the P.O. box was presented to Penny at the meeting, she believes possibly about 40 more to come in.

3.5 **NEWS EDITOR:**

Jill expressed concern about the lack of a Social Secretary and consequently the social issues which would make "News" more interesting. Some further efforts will be made to recruit a Social Secretary.

3.6 **WILKINSON LODGE:**

The Lodge is fully booked for the winter. Consideration is being given to revising our insurance cover for the Lodge and contents.

3.7 **EQUIPMENT HIRE:**

The broken zip on a good sleeping bag is being repaired and new equipment is being purchased as mentioned earlier.

3.8 **VICTORIAN NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION:**

- .
- See Jean Giese's article re Mallee.
- Graeme Thornton and Graham Breen are to research the VFT proposal for East Gippsland and report back to the committee.

3.9 **SKI TOURING ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA:**

Following interest expressed by persons contemplating skiing for the first time this year, Gina Hopkins will prepare an article for next "News". The consensus opinion of committee was "go with an experienced skier". Note the Beginners Day 18 August - contact Mick Mann.

**** FOR SALE ****

SCARPA WALKING BOOTS - Size 39. (Used only one day) - Paid \$249 - Sell \$199.
Phone: Barbara Hesse (A/H)

ULTRA LIGHTWEIGHT COMPACT AMERICAN TUNNEL TENT (Sierra Designs Divine Light). Only 1 kg. weight Goretex. Suite small person. Was \$215. Now \$90.
Phone: Keith Lloyd

I would like to thank all those who helped with our fiftieth anniversary Federation Day Walk. A special thank you to Phil Taylor for planning the walks and organising leaders and sub-leaders and to Jean Giese for organising the cooks, water boilers and waitresses to provide afternoon tea. It was a most impressive day.

Spencer George

CHANGES OF INFORMATION

Adrian Cole	Barbara & David Hesse
Pam Westgate	Jenny & Robert Ayre
Stephen Down	Joyce James
Janet Norman	Alex Stirkul
Verna Millis	Peter Roks
Paul Photios	Tony Stapley
David Pickup	Michael Verni
Simon Cridland	Jenny Navaro
	690 7497
Tracey Guest	Cyril Jerram
) 326 6368
Trevor & Rosemary Thomson	Marie Ormonde
Ambling Swaggers	Marianne Driver
	Maureen Hurley
John Kowarsky	Les and Lindsay Markham

DANDENONG EXPLORER

The meeting place was the car park at Emerald Station. Before the circle was finished, Puffing Billy's whistle was heard echoing in the hills and most of the males and a few of the females walked down to the track to wave to the driver and passengers. When Dorrie had collected all the names of her large flock, she directed them along the track, past two level crossings and into the grounds of Nobelius Heritage Nursery. Here, fifty years ago, flowers were grown for the homes and gardens of Melbourne. Delivery, of course, was by the little train. The Shire of Sherbrooke is slowly removing the excess vegetation and adding descriptive plaques to the plots. We walked around the grounds and up to the Packing Shed. The Puffing Billy Preservation Society have spent a lot of time converting the former packing shed into a typical small town community hall where parties, receptions and film nights may be held. On the siding there is place for a complete train of locomotive and three carriages to be left clear of the main line.

We followed the track alongside the line down to Nobelius Station. Trains do not normally stop here, but we were very lucky as there was a trainee guard on so the train stopped to give the trainee some practice and we were able to take photographs. It was now downhill to the much altered large Emerald Lake which was almost circumnavigated while we admired the large murals, crossed the long new bridge, loitered at the kiosk for extra supplies and stopped for lunch at the new small lake. Near the end of lunch the locomotive was again whistling along the track so the enthusiasts climbed up to watch the train enter Lakeside yard. While the engine was being watered, Dorrie led us to the current end of the track and then on to the side of Wright Station. It was near here that the 1982 bushfire was started. We left the railway line and followed a forest road in the direction in which the fire swept. The forest is recovering. Cockatoo has recovered. There are now more houses in Cockatoo than there were before the fire. Some of the owners are forgetting one lesson from the fire and are again allowing thick vegetation to grow close to the walks.

From the site of the former Gembrook Railway Station to the site of Wright Station the railway right of way is now a walking track. Walking along a few back streets brought us to a street in Avonsleigh which escaped the blackening of the fire. The kind owner of one of the houses invited us all in for Devonshire Tea - freshly baked scones, choice of two jams, cream and a choice of tea or coffee. After removing her apron Dorrie led us back to Emerald Station. Thanks for a great day.

Spencer George

Art Terry recommended the walk to me many years ago and kindly sent me the original set of maps. In those days, the GSWW started about 12 km north of Portland, near the Nine Mile Forc and Fauna Reserve, and finished 5 km south of Portland at Yellow Rock. The walk now begins and ends in the heart of that city (outside the Tourist Centre) and describes a 250 km loop, passing through the Cobboboonee State Forest, the Lower Glenelg National Park, the town of Nelson (some food supplies available), the Discovery Bay Coastal Park, Capes Bridgewater and Nelson, and Point Danger. There are now 16 campsites, each boasting a toilet, fireplace and a water supply (usually from an above-or-below-ground tank). Apart from the track additions around Portland, there have been modifications to the route through the forest to avoid flood-prone sections, an extension into South Australia along the Glenelg River and improved bridges of the Fitzroy and Surry rivers. I think Fitzroy camp has also been relocated (a marvellously atmospheric site) and additional camps have been provided near the old starting place (Blackwood camp) and just north of Simpsons Landing.

I was finally able to walk the complete circuit just after Easter this year, with an additional weekend to tackle an alternative inland route through the Mt. Richmond National Park. The following notes may be of some use to walkers contemplating the journey. It seems reasonable to allow 10 to 12 days for the complete walk, which is comparatively flat and readily permits distances of 20kms and more each day.

Continued.....

In drier times, there is no surface water apart from the Glenelg river and a tributary or two, so the camp water supplies are crucial. At Tarragal camp, on the Mt. Richmond section, the underground tank supply has been contaminated and walkers must rely on jerry cans left by the ranger. In periods of heavy usage, this can be dicey. Water at Trewalla Camp, in the Bridgewater Bay section, has a rather unpleasant taste (another underground storage tank) and water at Moleside and Post & Rail camps has to be taken from the Glenelg river. Further downstream, the river water is brackish and above grounds tanks are provided. All other camp water supplies were fine.

Campsites are generally secluded but there are exceptions. (Most camps remain fairly close to vehicular access nonetheless). Moleside has ready public access, and the camp at Lake Mombeong is a disappointment. A vast stretch of barbeque plates at the end of a (dirt) road. There are some lovely secluded spots where the walking track skirts the lake shore but signs here prohibit camping. Firewood is abundant at most sites but can be scarce along the coastal section. The Springs Camp, near Cape Duquesne, is particularly difficult and really demands a fuel stove.

My suggestion would be to forgo the first stretch from Portland to the nature reserve because much of the 17kms involves road bashing. The next 50 km is within the Cobboboonee forest. There are few views other than the surrounding trees but the walking is easy and pleasant. The track then follows the Glenelg river, with improving vistas of the river and surrounding cliffs as the S.A. boarder is approached. Generally the walking track stays clear of forest roads. A section of bitumen road is unavoidable just south of Nelson, but then its long stretches of beach and cliff top walking. The new section at the end of the walk is generally worthwhile but the Portland smelter dominates the scene and the final stretch is alongside a main road. The coastal scenery over the last day or two is the highlight of the walk.

I am not a botanist but the walk rates highly from this perspective. There are some marvellous botanical environments and their diversity is quite astonishing. The inland route from Nobbles Rocks to Lake Mombeong is a particular delight.

To finish on a cautionary note, beware the long stretches of sand along the coast and their abrasive effects on unwary feet. The people who run the Bridgewater Bay kiosk hear many tales of blistered toes and sore feet. Apart from that, what are you waiting for?

Michael Griffin
Mt. Gambier
