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THE NEWS OF THE

Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

EDITION 646 DECEMBER 2004

MBW

CHRISTMAS PARTY



Come on all you humbugs you are cordially invited to share a merry little time with your bushwalking buddies at our Christmas Breakup Party. Trades Hall (cnr. Russell and Victoria Street), Main Bar, open exclusively for MBW members Wednesday, 15 December 2004 7pm – 10pm. Please bring a plate of something yummy to share.

Members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.
 meet on Wednesday evenings
 between 7.00 & 9.00 pm in the Clubrooms,
 Victorian Horticultural Society Hall,
 48 MacKenzie Street, Melbourne.
 Visitors are always welcome.



General correspondence should be directed to:

The Secretary,
 Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.,
 PO Box 1751Q,
 Melbourne, Vic., 3001.

The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. is the newsletter
 of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. and is published monthly.
 Editor: Ron Hampton.

Walk previews & reviews, articles, poems, news items,
 photographs of club events, reports of new gear, book reviews,
 letters to the Editor, advertisements, etc. are always welcome.
 The Editor reserves the right to edit contributions where space,
 clarity or propriety dictate and to maintain editorial consistency.

Contributions to *The News* may be sent to the Editor by:

- Emailing to: pagination@bigpond.com.au
- Placing diskette or hand written material in the Editor's
 pigeon hole in the clubrooms
- Posting diskette or hand written material to either:
 The Editor,
 Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.,
 PO Box 1751Q, Melbourne, Vic, 3001
 or
 R. Hampton, *The News* Editor,

Electronic mail is preferred.

Closing date for receipt of material for *The News* is the last
 Wednesday of the month.

Advertisements in *The News*

Only advertisements directly relating to bushwalking will be
 accepted (e.g. gear, maps, trips, tours, etc.).
 Members' ads are free.

Advertising Rates (Artwork Ready)

in: printed edition only: as below, or printed & on-line editions:
 as below + 25% or on-line edition only: as below + 25%.

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1/4 Page	\$35	\$90	\$330
1/2 Page	\$55	\$150	\$550
Full Page	\$100	\$250	\$900

Presidential Paragraphs

Last month I wrote informing members of the
 possibility of the formation of a Federation ski umbrella
 group that would enable us to get snow insurance. I asked
 people to let me know if they would be interested. The
 silence was deafening, at the time of writing only Jan
 Llewelyn indicated interest, so that made two of us.
 Hardly worth bothering Ken to program ski trips for two.
 What happened to all those who were keen for ski trips
 last AGM?

Some of you may be aware that Bush Heritage has
 acquired its first Victorian property. For those who came
 on my Wedderburn trips the property is the grassy
 woodlands we walked through north of Mt. Kerang. This
 is pretty exciting news as it ties in well with the efforts
 of the local conservation advisory committee. Incidentally
 the malleefowl mound on my block was worked early in
 the season but not followed up, I think it was far too dry.
 However there is at least one mound in the area being
 worked this year. Is there anyone out there interested in
 searching for more malleefowl mounds?

Remember that the AGM will be held in February
 and all committee positions become vacant. Talk to a
 committee member to find out what is involved if you are
 interested in standing.

We still haven't given up on Wilky. We are going
 to lodge an appeal against the decision not allowing us to
 rebuild. You may be called upon to write or to support us
 in some way. Be ready.



*Thanks to Phil and Liz Wood, Eleanor Weeks,
 Rosemary Cotter, Stuart Hodgson and Liz Telford
 for leading Dandenong Explorer walks during
 2004. you have been an enormous help.*

Warren Baker



Wine & Cheese evening



4th week
 of every
 month
 in the
 clubrooms,
 7-9 pm



Grand New Year's Eve Party in the hills



If you're not planning to go away bushwalking this festive season you can at least see in the new year in a bushland setting" Stuart invites you to his hideaway cottage in the Dandenongs (Sherbrooke Forest, near Belgrave) to help see in the New Year. There'll be music and dancing on the deck and we'll illuminate the surrounding trees with fairy light to create a truly magic environment. Stay the night if you like (BYO sleeping bag) or pitch your tent on the lawn. In the morning we'll share breakfast with the parrots and kookaburras. You're welcome to spend Saturday recuperating in the garden or we can arrange a forest walk. BYO and a supper contribution. Kick off about 8.00pm. Book with Stuart

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

Drysdale River National Park



waterfalls, rainforest, open woodland and grassy plains, each with its own special wildlife.

Every creek has its own character. Every one is worth a visit. Sandy beaches and flat rock ledges make excellent camp sites. The warm to cool nights

The largest National Park in the Kimberley contains an incredible concentration of well preserved Aboriginal rock art. The park includes rivers, gorges,

Closed to the Public

of the dry season make them perfect for relaxing around the campfire.

Paradise found or paradise lost? It's always been hard to get there. It's now almost impossible. In July 2004, the last 4WD track still open to the public was closed. There is no airstrip. If you want to visit the park, your choices are a very long canoe paddle with many portages, a very long and expensive flight in a helicopter — or you can come with us.

We have the answer. There is another way. If you want to find out how we do it, ask for our trip notes or visit our [website](http://www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au).



www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au

Willis's Walkabouts 12 Carrington St Millner NT 0810 Email: walkabout@ais.net.au

Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355

Tracks, Huts and Conservation

Notes from the VicWalk Conservation Committee October 2004 meeting

Alpine National Park: Sunday 31 October family fun activity for Cycloped the lizard (threatened species) and will also feature the Cattle in the Alpine National Park issue. The Alpine Cattle Taskforce due to report in late Spring. **Australian Alps Walking Track** at the recent Federation weekend at Rawson, Guest Speaker Baw Baw NP ranger Andy Gilham, showed the new AAWT post with yellow ID marker. The Conservation Committee were involved in discussions with PV staff on this issue and suggested the colour change from light blue to yellow for better visibility.

Grampians National Park: newly released VNPA book *Discovering Grampians – Gariwerd: A Visitors Guide to Grampians National Park* by Alistair and Bruce Paton. RRP is \$19.95 and available from the VNPA, Level 3, 60 Leicester Street, Carlton, 3053

Mornington Peninsula: Minister Thwaites has now set up a Working Committee to resolve the protracted **Devilbend Reservoir** issue. Three members will be representing the Westernport Catchment Protection Association. This may allow for better protection of the habitat. **Point Nepean** – It appears the Community Trust deed has a weakness with the statements of intent being “non-binding”.

Otway Ranges: new bushwalking guide ‘Bushwalks in the Angahook – Lorne State Park’ is available for \$6

(posted). Cheques to ‘Friends of Angahook-Lorne State Park’ and their address is PO Box 160 Aireys Inlet, 3231.

Regent Honeyeater Project (tree planting at Lurg) Ray Thomas advised 21,000 seedlings planted to date. An extra midweek tree-planting was held on the Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th September. Approx 20 people attended with walkers from Bayside BWC and Melbourne Bushwalkers helping out.

Snowy Mountains: Post 2003 fires map issued by Parks Management (September 2004) shows the Jagungal area and parts of the main range are still closed for habitat protection

Track Maintenance: the new track maintenance form in the September issue of *VicWalk NEWS* and the preferred reporting/contact details.

Yarra Ranges: VicWalk suggestions to the draft Shire of Yarra Ranges Forests Policy submitted with five proposals accepted and five rejected. Some wins include better protection of forest areas, better track signage and a more consultative approach between the Shire, Parks Victoria and the forest users.

VicWalk Conservation Policy available on HTML and/or PDF format from the VicWalk website. Go to www.vicwalk.net.au/~vicwalk

Rod Novak, Club delegate

VicWalk News Summary

Bushwalkers Search and Rescue

I think the highlight of the year for me would have to be the extraordinary efforts of the rescue team that undoubtedly saved the lives of three skiers near the summit of Mt Bogong on 9 August.

In the middle of the night, with low temperatures, high winds and falling snow, five members of Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club and one member of Mt Hotham Ski Patrol braved the blizzard conditions to climb Eskdale Spur. The skiers had contacted emergency services to seek urgent assistance on Sunday 8 August - two of the men were very cold and the third was already suffering severely from hypothermia. They had dug snow holes beside a snowpole in Hells Gap.

The rescue team reached the skiers at 4.15am. Tents and emergency procedures were organised and

hypothermia treatment was initiated. One person was dug out from his snow hole, which had been buried by a metre of fresh snow and was in a serious condition. After four hours of rewarming the group, the Ambulance Medi-Vac helicopter was able to land in a break in the weather and the three men were airlifted.

High praise is certainly due to this team of rescuers: from BNSC -- Jim Gargan, Paul Grusovin, Rob Boland, Jarrod Paine and David Panozzo, and Gordon Guest-Smith from Mt Hotham Ski Patrol.

To everyone involved in BSAR, thank you for your support and contributions during 2004. I wish you and your loved ones a very happy and safe festive season and all the very best for the New Year.

Monica Chapman, BSAR Convener

Volcanic Country around Camperdown

15–17 October 2004

Most of us drove down Friday afternoon to camp in a caravan park about 1km out of Camperdown high up on the rim of an old volcano. This was the second time Sylvia had organised a trip to the volcanic country. The park was next to the Botanical Gardens and was quiet with thick grass to make sleeping in tents quite comfortable.

On Saturday morning, after Ken and Carol arrived, we did a short walk through the Botanical Gardens to a view point where we looked down on two lakes in the craters below. One had very salty water – we could see the white salt deposits glistening on the shore. A short car drive took us to the start of the Allan Marshall Walk along which we climbed up Mt Noorat from which we could see down into its renowned near perfectly round crater. Peering down from the rim we could see in one of tall gum trees a huge nest with two fluffy eagle chicks on it. The female parent swooped low over us uttering warning cries and high in the sky we could see another eagle presumably the male. We continued around the rim and as we approached the place chosen for our morning tea we could hear a strange and increasingly loud noise. Halina and Wendy thought it sounded like a cow in labour but it turned out to be a very large bull expressing displeasure at our presence. When it started to paw the ground we decided to move on and found a spot which had patches of Running Postman with lovely red flowers. After this walk we went to the very pleasant Tea Tree Gardens in nearby Terang for lunch. The birdwatchers got good views of reed warblers.

After lunch we drove to Mt Elephant which has been purchased with funds from Trust for Nature and is being conserved by local enthusiasts. Sylvia had arranged with the gatekeepers to let us in. The effort of climbing to the top of the rim was well worth it for the views of the surrounding areas in beautifully clear weather. In the distance we could see the Grampians and Mt Langi Ghiran. On the way back to camp we inspected some of the dry stone walls of which there are many kilometres in this area. We were impressed by the skill and labour involved in these walls. Some were built in a vain attempt to stop the advance of the rabbit plagues. Then it was back to camp for “Happy Hour” with drinks and nibbles. Despite Sylvia’s request to bring small amounts there was still too much to eat. After this we went to the Commercial Hotel in Camperdown where most of us managed to eat or drink some more.

The next morning we packed up and headed off to meet some Camperdown Bushwalkers who had offered to lead us on a day walk around a small area in the Stony Rises. This was a forested area which being too rocky for

serious farming had been unfarmed for many years. There were some marshy areas and in one a tiger snake suddenly reared up in front of Ken causing a hasty retreat. Apart from this it was pleasant walking, slowly picking our way over the rocks. We were rewarded by many sightings of healthy looking koalas.

After farewelling our guides we headed towards home with a brief stop at the Floating Islands (consisting of peat) and an afternoon tea gathering at Winchelsea. We all agreed that Sylvia had organised a full and excellent itinerary – many thanks from us all.

The party was: Sylvia, Wendy, Halina, Lance, Barry, Elizabeth, Rebecca, Bianca, Ken, Carol, Alan Clarke, Quentin, Jenny, Jopie, Marian and John Siseman and me.

Max Casley.

North Grampian pack carry weekend

1–3 October 2004

Five intrepid walkers, led by the fearless leader Bob Oxlade, enjoyed a wonderful walk in the Grampians in early October.

Claire, Katrina, Ken, John and Frances camped on Friday night at Troopers Creek.

On Saturday morning the group began the walk from Roses Gap, heading towards Briggs Bluff for lunch. The structural form of Briggs Bluff was inspiring to the spirit, the 400 metre drop allowed us to view a vista of the countryside surrounding the the Grampian whilst munching our lunch. From here we descended to our campsite. After pitching tent the group took off to climb Mt Difficult. This was a fantastic climb, the wildflowers were blooming everywhere, rock formations awesome. On our return to the campsite a few troopers went astray taking the wrong turn and venturing back towards Troopers Creek. Fortunately Ken (The Trusty Trooper) who went on ahead managed to attract our attention before we were totally lost.

The next morning Katrina, the country lass from Gordon, near Ballarat discovered her boots had fallen apart (overnight), the soul lost to the devil. What was one to do? Walk the remaining 15km bare foot, but alas, Bob the fearless leader came to the rescue, securing the soul to the boot with netting. Sunday’s return walk provided its challenges, (Katrina favouring a boot without a soul), as boulder hopping and scrambling was necessary most of the way.

The group enjoyed a great walk in the Grampians; the wildflowers were a mass of colour, the geographic sites and rock formations fantastic. Thanks to Bob for his supportive and encouraging leadership.

Having been cancelled in 2002 due to bushfires and in 2003 due to snow it was a relief to be third time lucky. There were nine of us and as Leo briefed us at Native Dog Flat on Saturday morning describing the days walk as just an elevation gain of 300m and about 12km I was wondering what we would do after arriving at camp. However, I discovered this overall summary overlooked the long climb of 600m over Cobberras 1 at 1810m, then down and up over Middle Peak, down and up the very distinctive Cleft Peak 1802m and finally down to camp near the headwaters of Moscow Creek arriving about 5.30pm and thankfully having water there. The first 4km had been on a track and the remainder through light forest and rocky peaks. The nice weather allowed us good views. We had seen a mob of about nine brumbies and Leo had disturbed two snakes.

On Sunday we decided to head straight up to Moscow Peak instead of a longer side trip from a saddle. From the summit (1685m) we could see grassy flats between us and our next challenge of Cobberras 2 (1729m) which just happened to be in a direct line to our next camp at Cowombat Flat. It was a steep, rocky descent and further on we detoured around another black snake. Plenty of evidence of brumbies and as we neared

Cobberras 2 several of them vacated the area although a stallion 30m away gave us a good look as we departed. Many sections of the area were damaged by the 2002 fires but the trees were showing good signs of recovery. We descended from Cobberras 2 for lunch, then over a ridge before moving down the eastern side of Mountain Trout Creek and stepping over the Murray River to camp on the NSW side for two nights.

Cobberras pack carry

29 October – 2 November 2004

Monday was a day trip northeast to The Pilot (1829m). About 7km up an old 4WD track before finding a very indistinct walking track which led to a stony climb to the summit. The views were superb as we could see the snow-covered ranges of Kosciusko 35km to the northeast and also the snow of Mt Bogong etc. 65km to the west. We had lunch at a grassy clearing just below the summit. The burnt Snowgums all had healthy half-metre-high shoots from the base of their trunks. The birds were also returning as we saw several red robins. We descended a spur south to Forest Hill and were within 50m of the spring which is the source of the Murray River when the forecast rain arrived with gusty winds. From here it was 3km to camp and after sheltering in our tents the rain cleared enabling us to dine outside, reflecting on our luck at being able to view all the peaks in fine weather.

Tuesday was an up and down 18km walk out along Cowombat Flat track (AAWT) to our cars.

Present on this memorable walk were Amanda, Leslie, Susan, Bill, David, Max, Michael, Leo and myself. Many thanks to Leo for planning the route and navigating mostly off-track in this fantastic area.

Bob Oxlade

Garden Range pack carry

12–14 November 2004.

We are fortunate in our club to have a range of members with expert knowledge in various fields. Our leader for the walk, Ray Thomas is one of these and his expertise on native plants and flowers was of great benefit to us. With his local knowledge I knew we could expect a top walk location in this lesser known part of the Strathbogie Ranges. As parts of the walk were separated by private properties, Ray had obtained permission to cross these and make the walk possible.

Saturday morning we began from Waterhouse Reservoir, about 9km from Euroa and rock hopped over Mountain Hut Creek to begin the gentle climb to the Flora reserve of the aptly named Garden Range. We made a short side trip to view some Aboriginal rock art and were about to continue with our packs when about 25m away about eight kangaroos came hopping up a gully in single file, the old man bringing up the rear. At the top of the Garden Range there was an outstanding variety of flowers. Around 200 species have been identified in the area and notable were some Tiger Orchids and a couple of patches of thirty or more Spider Orchids. Lunch was had at the edge of a granite escarpment with good views after which we

crossed private property to climb Mt Wombat and were greeted with a brief storm. The wallabies around here were extremely fast, hardly rising with their hop and looking more like race horses. Then, a steep grassy descent to camp near Wombat Creek where some wild pigs and two Echidnas were sighted nearby.

Sunday and Ken McMahon had arranged to lead today as Ray had to depart early for an important appointment. Our next private properties were more walker friendly with stiles over their fences and we cut across to Polly McQuinn weir to begin the 7km walk through Seven Creeks Gorge with rock pools, rapids and waterfalls. A highlight for me was the sighting of a Rainbow Bee-eater, a beautiful little bird which migrates from the north. After completing a car shuffle we had coffee etc. at Euroa.

Our group were Jill, Bill, Graham, Ken, Rod and myself. Thanks to Ray for organising the walk and especially for being available on Saturday to share the delightful untracked area with us. Also to Ken for identifying flowers in the Gorge and leading us through.

Bob Oxlade

Wilsons Promontory Circuit Walk

September 2004

It was around 9.00 am on Saturday morning when our group of 10 walkers left Tidal River to complete the full circuit walk around the whole Prom starting and finishing at Tidal River. The walk consisted of approximately 60 km to be walked over 4 days. We started walking towards Oberon Bay and along the way we had lovely views of the ocean and surrounding islands. After lunching at Halfway Hut we walked on to Roaring Meg for our first nights camp. Several keen members of our party walked down to South Point later in the afternoon. Marisa had asked us to bring an entrée to share. On the first evening, Marisa's cream cheese with sweet chilli and capsicum was definitely a favourite. While we couldn't have a fire several of us had brought along candles which added to the mood of the evening meal, that was until a large group of 30 young hikers arrived to set up camp.

On the second morning we were off early and there were plenty of hills to ensure we had a good workout. It wasn't long before we had views of the lighthouse surrounded by a very calm sea. During the next two hours we still had lovely views of the lighthouse and the other way to Waterloo Beach. Afternoon tea was spent resting on several large rocks again taking in the specular views. We were treated to a fine variety of wildflowers before reaching Waterloo Beach and wish I knew their names. On the second evening we had a great array of entrees including smoked oysters, mussels, cashews, etc. This did help to soothe the aches and pains, blisters, and leech bites which some of our party managed to score. Marisa and Mohammad won the bravery award by going for a quick swim at Little Waterloo beach.

Next morning sadly we said goodbye to Tracey and Fiona who had to head back to Melbourne. We crossed several remote beaches before the climb up to Kersop's Peak. I was dreading this climb but it was not as bad as I had remembered. There were more amazing views from the top of Kersop's Peak. While leaving our backpacks hungry crows attacked Bill's pack. It's amazing to think these birds can move the zips on your packs. We had a leisurely lunch at Refuge Cove and then a short hike onto Sealers Cove. Our last night was at Sealers Cove and Mohammad had saved a wonderful artichoke dip for entree. We also had a friendly visit from a long nosed bandicoot who provided extra entertainment for the evening.

The sun was out on the last morning, highlighting and bringing to life the always beautiful Sealers Cove. If it had just been a couple more degrees warmer I would have gone in for a swim. Most of us waded across the creek at Sealers Cove, however, our leader was treated to a

piggyback crossing and also got her pack carried across too. Marisa said it was due to medical reasons but I'm not so sure.... Anyway, we had great fun watching Mohammad piggyback Marisa across the creek. The walk to Windy Saddle was enjoyable with a wide variety of vegetation such as tree ferns, mosses, stands of messmate and yellow stringybark eucalypts. Marisa did an excellent job leading the trip and we can only look forward to more extended trips led by Marisa. The group consisted of Marisa, Tracey, Fiona, Rod, Bill, Sylvia, Max, Les, Mohammad, Liz.

Warramate Hills

The tenth TOFS Walk

In February of this year, Jean Giese, a former Club President, initiated monthly Thursday walks, which would be easier and shorter than the monthly Wednesday walks, which she also initiated (13 April 1988). These "TOFS" – Thursday Old Fogies – walks are held on the first Thursday of the month and have proved popular, some Wednesday (and Saturday) walkers doing both.

In November a small group of us walked in the Warramate Hills, a Flora and Fauna Reserve in Gruyere in the outer east (off the Warburton Highway). The reserve is the result of a compromise between the council and a developer who wanted to subdivide in this rural area. An English aristocrat sold the land to another developer after failing to negotiate the subdivision with the council but, in the early 1990s, the second attempt resulted in some "farmlets" and a 486 ha reserve mainly comprising the steep treed area of the property. National Parks, Maroondah Office, is responsible for management of the reserve.

The area was lush and green from recent rain, with more threatening to fall, and the birdsong was lovely. We saw many small wildflowers, especially on the drier slopes. We detoured to see where the Woori Yallock Creek flowed in to the Yarra, then started a slow steady climb up to some great views over the Yarra Valley and the ranges beyond, for morning tea and lunch. Lunch was on Steel's Hill, then most of us did a small detour up to Briarty's Hill where there is a fire tower. Briarty was an early selector in this area from the second half of the nineteenth century. In the past there was some gold fossicking on Briarty's Hill and the whole area was logged, the lower flats being cleared for grazing,

Jean then took us via a small hidden man-made dam in a gully down a deer track and back to the cars, before the rain. We could see the deers' footprints but saw none.

Our leader then provided us with a cup of tea from the boot of her car, and we set off home, the early finish hopefully enabling everyone to avoid the peak-hour traffic.

Jan Llewelyn



SUNDAY BUS: Switzerland Ranges

DATE	Sunday 12 December 2004
STANDARD	Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCE	13 & 17km
LEADERS	Doug Langton & Keith McKenry
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd. at 8.30 am .
RETURN TIME	7.00 pm.
AREA	Yea
MAP REFERENCE	Yea and Dropmore 1;25,000

A good medium 450 metre climb up Mt Boughton straight off the bus faces those who choose the easy-medium walk but the expansive views of the magnificent, meandering Goulburn River can be an excellent excuse to regularly stop and have a breather. Whilst this group is testing its stamina, the group doing the easier walk will be dropped just behind that mountain on the plateau and then both groups will following the same fire access trail along the northern edge of the Switzerland Range Flora Reserve. The easy walking group will also enjoy wonderful views from firstly an old hang-glider jump-off point as well as at various points on the ridge descending into the valley. The amazing Goulburn River meander-plain, the native flora as well as the adjoining cultivated blue gum forest will be seen and examined. The final 4 kilometres is a minor road immediately adjoining this magnificent river with the bus to be met beside a well established vineyard.

NOTE: 8.30am start.



SUNDAY BUS: Barwon Heads – Queenscliff

DATE	Sunday 19 December 2004
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/Medium
APPROX DISTANCES	15 and 17+ km
LOCATION	Barwon Heads – Queenscliff
LEADERS	Peter Havlicek & Liz Moore
AREA	Bellarine Peninsula
TRANSPORT	Bus from Southbank Blvd. at 9.00 am
RETURN TIME	6.30 to 7.00+ pm
MAP REFERENCE	Melways 233 to 236

The shorter walk starts in Ocean Grove, the longer walk, a couple of clicks further along on the Barwon Heads – Ocean Grove Road. Major (and other) hills are guaranteed to be absent on this beach walk. If you like looking at waves, seabirds and citizens walking their dogs, this is the walk for you!

On the way we shall pass the Point Lonsdale lighthouse, the nearby William Buckley's Cave (where he had the chance to shelter) and the Marconi Memorial.

If the weather is fine, bring togs for a quick dip; if not we shall hurry and taste the fleshpots of Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff. A must to build up the necessary stamina to survive Christmas!



**No Sunday Bus on 26 December
A Happy Christmas to all!**



SUNDAY BUS: Mt Donna Buang – Dom Dom Saddle

DATE	Sunday 2 January 2005
STANDARD	Medium Hard / Medium
DISTANCE	17km & 21km
LEADERS	Dion Marriott & Paul Logsdon
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd. 8:30 am
RETURN TIME	Late
AREA	Marysville State Forest

Note – A challenging walk to start the year, after which all other walks will seem downhill!

The walk was originally advertised as medium / easy medium but has since been reclassified as medium hard / medium because of combined long distance and gradients. This is the first time in a long time that this walk has been on the program so it'll be something a bit out of the ordinary.

The harder walk begins at the top of Mount Donna Buang near Warburton and the easier begins at Acheron Gap and joins at The Knobs. Both end at Dom Dom Saddle at the top of the Black Spur. The track is undulating with some pretty solid climbs to the tops of Mount Boobyalla and Mount Vinegar plus a steep descent down from The Knobs and an even steeper ascent at the end. The walk follows a mixture of foot track (some of it overgrown) and jeep track. We will wander through Marysville state forest and skirt some restricted catchment areas for Melbourne Water. The forest is eucalypt with tall Mountain Ash as its most striking feature. It is all very pretty.

Local fauna include Lyrebirds and leaches, the latter were found to be quite tame and even friendly. There are also allegedly some black wallabies, possums and other furry creatures to be had in the area.

Although mostly sheltered by forest the walk is quite high up and weather may be a bit extreme so come suitably attired with a change of clothes if wet and lots of water if hot.

NOTE: 8.30am start.



SUNDAY BUS: Olinda Forest Trail, Dandenongs

DATE	Sunday 9 January 2005
STANDARD	Eeasy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	13 & 17km
LEADERS	Peter McGrath & David Elias
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd. at 9.00 am
RETURN TIME	7 pm
AREA	Olinda Forest, Dandenong Ranges National Park
MAP REFERENCE	Dandenong Ranges Activities Map, 1:20,000



The Dandenong Ranges National Park forms a lovely setting for a summer's walk. The large trees in the Dandenongs are really striking. They form a canopy that the sun's rays will find hard to penetrate, and the cool fragrant surrounds provide a pleasant environment to be in.

The walks we have planned both start at the RJ Hamer Forest Arboretum and end at the Mt Dandenong Arboretum. Both arboretums provide splendid vistas of the surrounding areas, as well as containing some splendid examples of trees. Both walks will visit the Silvan Reservoir for lunch, which is a nice place to kick a footy, but you may not have room for one in your pack. The area is naturally hilly, and the Easy walk will be reduced in distance appropriate to having some extra hilly bits. The Easy/Medium walk will be a bit more challenging. Both walks will visit the Olinda Creek Falls

SUNDAY BUS: Cape Woolamai – Forest Caves

DATE	Sunday 16 January 2005
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	15 km & 17 km
LEADERS	David Laing & Halina Sarbinowski
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd at 9.00 am
RETURN TIME	7.00 pm
AREA	Phillip Island
MAP REFERENCE	Phillip Island Special 1:25,000

This area offers excellent beach walking along both surf and sheltered beaches. Both walks will commence to the west of Forest Caves with the easy/medium group walking an extra 2 km before joining the same walk as the easy group.

The first part of each walk will be along surf beaches before ascending the cliff line to Woolamai Hill where mutton bird rookeries abound. This high point offers specular views including The Pinnacles. The last part of the walk will be along the sheltered beaches of Cleeland Bight, perfect for those who enjoy a dip (weather permitting). Finally we'll cross the bridge to San Remo and if time allows enjoy a latte before our return to Melbourne.

SUNDAY BUS: Kinglake – Jehosophat Gully – Steel Creek

DATE	Sunday 23 January 2005
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	Easy: 12 km. Easy/Medium: 16 km
LEADERS	Paul Beers & Jan Palich
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd. at 9.00 am
RETURN TIME	6.30 pm
AREA	Kinglake
MAP REFERENCE	Strathewen 7922-1-4 Zone 55 1:25000

Both walks start at Jehosophat Gully picnic area and take the Shelley Harris Track until the junction with Mount Jerusalem track. Turn north at this junction and cross the Kinglake Road to access the Cookson Hill track. Both groups walk south down this track.

EASY GROUP (12 km): Continue south down Cookson Hill track and re-cross Kinglake Road to join Mt Everard track going south with option to climb Mt Beggary peak for views. Resume south along Mt Everard track then

continue east along Bundy Track, Old Kinglake Road and finish at Steeles Creek Picnic Ground.

EASY/MEDIUM GROUP (16 km): Departs south-west off the Cookson Hill track at the peak of Cookson Hill and follows the spur south west on both on and off-track for approx. 3.5 km. This ends near the junction of Ninks and Kinglake Roads. Cross the Kinglake Road to a parking bay and a signed track heading north-east. Take the track along a long spur for 2.5 km towards the Mt Beggary peak. Join Mt Everard track and turn north on this for 250 m before climbing the peak for lunch and views. Resume south along Mt Everard track and continue east along Bundy Track, Old Kinglake Road and finish at Steeles Creek Picnic Ground.

Bushwalks from Jehosophat Gully pass through both wet and dry forest and lush fern gullies, banksia and grass trees. Hopefully, we might spot lyrebirds, rosellas and/or kookaburras. Being high summer, make sure of a minimum 2 litres water, sunhats and sunblock!

WEDNESDAY, AUSTRALIA DAY: Warrandyte, Walk or Lilo & BBQ

DATE	Wednesday 26 January 2005
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	10 km
LEADER	Ken MacMahon
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	5 pm from walk
AREA	Outer Eastern Suburbs
MAP REFERENCE	Melways Maps 23 & 24

Australia Day falls on a Wednesday in 2005 and they ain't giving us a long weekend anymore.

Never mind, come along for a delightful walk through Warrandyte State Park and along the river from Wonga Park to 'MacMahon Mansions', 101 Bradleys Lane, Warrandyte. Here we can swim, lilo or relax (the river is just through the back gate) followed by a BYO BBQ – you could even put your tent up if you wish as there is lots of space.

The walk will start at 2 pm or, if you are feeling lazy, just come along for the BBQ. If there is sufficient flow in the river, a canoe trip could also be arranged.

CYCLING: Maribyrnong River

DATE	Saturday 29 January 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	40 km
LEADER	Ian Mair
TRANSPORT	Private
START TIME	9.30 am at Footscray Station (Hyde Street)
RETURN TIME	Around 3.30 pm
AREA	Between Footscray Station and Brimbank Park
MAP REFERENCE	Melway 42 (D-5) to Melway 14 (H-9)

The Maribyrnong has the best undiscovered bike riding in Melbourne. If you like riding through bushland by a river on a winding gravel trail; if you have an interest in history



and the redevelopment of part of Melbourne's industrial heritage into extensive wetlands and new residential villages; or if you have an eye for engineering and want to see some fine old metal rail bridges as well as sweeping new flyovers for the Western Ring Road as you wind your way along the quieter river bank below. The return ride will retrace our outward path and allow an opportunity to take in some of the scenery we may have missed on the way out.

The ride will start outside Footscray railway station on the east side (Hyde Street) where there is ample parking for those who arrive by car (\$4.50 all day) and pick up the river trail at Shepherd Bridge. The first stage of the ride is on a well made sealed track with no hills, passing by icons like Flemington Racecourse, and provides a relaxing opportunity to take in the history of the area. Reaching Essendon West there is a short but sharp rise up to a spectacular lookout over the Maribyrnong River Valley with the Melbourne city skyline in the background. The track then descends sharply again before we move onto gravel tracks for the remainder of the ride along gently undulating tracks along the river valley up to Brimbank Park, where we will stop for lunch with plenty of time to explore the features of the park.

Europeans first settled Brimbank Park in the 1830s soon after Melbourne was founded. It derives its name from the practice of the locals driving their stock "around the brim of the bank" of the Maribyrnong River. Archaeological surveys indicate that Aboriginal occupation extends back 40,000 years, making it amongst the oldest known human inhabited sites in Australia. A café (Leaping Lizard) attached to the Parks Victoria visitor centre can cater for those who don't want to carry their own, or BBQ facilities are scattered throughout the Park.

I will be in the club rooms on the Wednesday evening before the ride or if you would like more information please call me

FOR SALE: Sleeping Bag, Macpac Neve, super light (1.1kg) and warm (suits cool to cold weather camping). Thermarest slides inside base. Ideal for pack carries and where weight and warmth are a priority. As new, used only 3 times. New price \$650, sell for \$450.

FOR A BOTTLE OF WINE: Walking Boots, Scarpa ASolo, sturdy, made in Italy, size 39, excellent condition, brand new Vibram soles.

Susan Maughan is available to Housesit all of December and January should you be away.

References available.



SUNDAY BUS: Mt Worth State Park

DATE	Sunday 30 January 2005
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	11km & 16 km approx.
LEADERS	Ralph Clayton & Maureen Hurley
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd. at 9.00 am
RETURN TIME	7.00 pm
AREA	Gippsland
MAP REFERENCE	Mt Worth/Allambee

This walk has not been previewed yet. However it used to be done fairly regularly by the club. It is in the Mt Worth State Park area which is 20 km South East of Warragul. The park is small but quite pretty with Mountain Ash among other types of trees.

In the past the Easy/Medium walk has climbed Mt Worth while the Easy walk has meandered along various tracks in the Park. Both walks have been circular. This is likely to be the case again this time. Neither walk should be too strenuous unless the weather is hot so those of you who have said they won't come on this leader's walks because they are too hard will be expected to put in an appearance. Conversely, those people who always like to come on this leader's walks because they are hard would be better to spend the day at the beach.

Look forward to seeing people for a fun day.

Walks Secretary Reports

October 2004 Walk Statistics

October 2004	Trips	People	Average	Oct 2003
Sunday Bus	5	160	32	35
Other day	2	43	21.5	14
Pack Carry	4	26	6.5	9
Base Camp	3	80	26.7	20
Interstate	0	0	0	1
Total	14	309	–	9/210

November 2004 Walk Statistics

November 2004	Trips	People	Average	Nov 2003
Sunday Bus	4	131	33	34
Other day	4	38	10	15
Pack Carry	2	12	6	8
Base Camp	1	15	12	16
Cycle	1	4	4	–
Lodge	0	0	0	4
Total	12	200	–	15/265



PACK CARRY: Mt Victor – Mt McDonald (AAWT)

DATE	26 December 2004 – 1 January 2005
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	72km approx
LEADERS	Alan Clarke
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	New Years Day
AREA	East of Woods Point
MAP REFERENCE	Mostly Skene North and Skene South 1:25,000

Please note that a little gremlin has crept into the Summer Program and this walk will actually go to the 1st January.

I have yet to finalise the details but the walk will essentially follow the Alpine Walking track from near Mt Victor (east of Woods Point and where some of us started a Rod Novak trip 3 years ago) and ending at Mt McDonald. I will be aiming to average 14 to 15 km per day, and with a loop back from Mt McDonald will try to minimise what is likely to be a car shuffle of about a couple of hours.

The main aim of the trip is to fill in a large part of the AWT that we would not normally do, and while stretches will not be as exciting as some parts of the alps, there will be some lovely campsites, forest, and great views along the way. Several mountains are visited so please note that there will be some climbing – but then we wouldn't get the views! We will probably do Mt McDonald as a day trip from camp.



PACK CARRY: Snowy Mountains Main Range

DATE	26 December 2004 – 2 January 2005
STANDARD	Medium
LEADER	Jopie Bodegraven
TRANSPORT	Private
MAPS	Mount Kosciusko & Thredbo 1:50,000 or Perisher Valley 1:25,000

The Main Range is my favourite alpine area on the mainland with its lakes, wildflowers and superb views. It is also one of the few areas in the Snowies not devastated by last summers bushfires and as such a perfect place for a Xmas trip. This trip will be a 7 or possibly 6 day fairly leisurely ramble almost wholly above the tree line exploring in detail the wonderful area between the South Ramshed and Twynam Cirque (just west of Mt Twynam), starting and finishing at Charlottes Pass. Of the 7 days, only 5 are with full packs, averaging about 7km a day with full pack with an average climb of 350 metres plus optional side trips. The other 2 days are side trips with day packs (bring a light one) of about 10 km each plus climbing. Sounds civilized but the trip is graded medium because the weather up on this exposed area can be brutal; bitterly cold with howling winds and rain as we experienced 2 years ago, so full foul weather gear and reliable storm tents are essential. We need fuel stoves (no campfires) and water

filters would be useful especially in one campsite as the giardia parasite is present in some areas. The 26th will be spent travelling from Melbourne to camp at Ngarigo campsite just past Thredbo. Day 7 (Sun 2nd January) is a 1 hour walk back to the cars and the drive home. The walk is for 6 nights but it will be possible to combine the last 2 days in one if anyone wants to finish earlier.

Each car will need an \$85 annual NSW National Parks pass which can be obtained in Khancoban on the 26th.

Despite the weather warnings I'm looking forward to a fabulous week of brilliant weather in a fabulous place.

BASE CAMP: Bogong High Plains

DATE	26 December 2004 – 3 January 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER	Lance Mobbs
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	7.00 am
AREA	Bogong High Plains 1:50000

The base camp will probably be at the old tennis courts just below Wallace's Hut with day walks radiating all over the High Plains which will include high mountain lookouts, waterfalls and huts. Hopefully there will be plenty of wild flowers out and about. The walks will range from easy day walks to a more strenuous medium walk. This trip is open to everyone, especially any members and new members who have never experienced camping before but would like to try without the worry of having to carry a pack.

I will be only to pleased to help anyone who has never been camping before and does not no what to take. I will have flyers made up with all the relevant information on how to get there and the walks we will be doing. Note: as the climate up in the High Plains is changeable even in summer, please take both summer and winter gear with you. Anyone who is interested in this trip can either call me on _____ or write to me _____ or see me in the clubrooms.

BASE CAMP: Cradle Mountain Area, Day Walks (Tasmania)

DATE	26 December 2004 – 4 January 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	15 to 17 km x 5
LEADER	Peter McGrath
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	7.00 am
AREA	Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair National Park & Walls of Jerusalem National Park
MAP REFERENCE	1 Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair National Park Map & Notes. 2 Cradle Mountain Day Walk Map & Notes. 3 Walls of Jerusalem National Park, Walk Map & Notes



It is an unfortunate fact that this walk will largely be filled by the time you read this. We are travelling to Tasmania via the *Spirit of Tasmania*, hence the need to book well in advance. Notices were placed in the August and September editions of the News calling for expressions of interest, and these have largely filled the walk. I say largely, because as I write there is still one place left, and I am still determining the lucky recipient.

I say lucky because this was simply the best thing I have done, when I did it last year. The walks include a magnum opus of Cradle Mountain, a walk around Dove River Gorge, a day walk in Walls of Jerusalem National Park, a walk to Mt Rufus and a walk beside Lake St Clair.

The Tasmanian old forests are truly grand – the visions of king billy pines linger long in the memory. The scoparia form a lovely multi-coloured carpet of flowers no human gardener could hope to match. This is certainly a walk to cherish, and hopefully you will get on next year.

Spaces were limited to 20 people. The concept of day walks with the opportunity to return to cabin-type accommodation in the evening to share memories with friends is a great experience. Sorry the trip is just about full. However there are many other Christmas trips and I hope you will enjoy those.

PACK CARRY: South Coast Track, Tasmania

DATE 6–13 January 2005
 STANDARD Medium/Hard
 DISTANCE Approx 90 km
 LEADERS Bill Donald
 TRANSPORT Private
 AREA Southern Tasmania
 MAP REFERENCE Various

The walk begins after a flight into Melaleuca from Hobart. From Melaleuca we walk eastward to the end of the walk at Cockle Creek. Cockle Creek is at the end of the southern most road in Tasmania.

The walk takes in the south coast of Tasmania. During the walk we will walk through rain forest, boggy button grass plains, along beaches, cross rivers and creeks and cross a number of mountain ranges including the imposing Ironboudns Range that rises 1000 metres. Note that the walk is fully booked.

INTRODUCTION TO PACK CARRYING: Timms Lookout area

DATE 14–16 January 2005
 STANDARD Easy/Medium
 DISTANCE 18 km plus side trips
 LEADERS Doug Pocock
 TRANSPORT Private
 RETURN TIME Leave at approx 2.30 pm
 AREA Bogong High Plains
 MAP REFERENCE Bogong Alpine Area 1:50000

A few years ago Marilyn led a lovely walk in this area which was an easy walk in and lots of options in the afternoon. I plan a similar walk, going to one of the most spectacular campspots I know. We will meet at 9.30 at the barrier on the Big River Fire Track, there is Friday night camping nearby. It is not a long walk in and we should be at camp by lunchtime. I plan on camping on an exposed ridge with excellent views, however if the weather looks iffy we have a sheltered area nearby. It will be necessary to get water from about 500m away.

Choices in the afternoon are for walks to waterfalls (a dip may be welcome), Spion Kopje or wherever. Wildflowers should be excellent. Of course sitting admiring the view will be perfectly acceptable.

This walk should appeal to everyone. If you have not tried weekend walking this would be a good one to start with. Talk to me in the clubrooms if you would like to try. Please remember this is a fuel stove only area.

PACK CARRY: Mt Aspiring Area, New Zealand

DATE 15–22 January 2005
 STANDARD Medium
 DISTANCE 70 km
 LEADER Quentin Tibballs
 TRANSPORT Private
 AREA Rees and Dart Valleys
 MAP REFERENCE 1:50,000 maps Earnslaw and Aspiring

This walk is amidst the glorious snow capped peaks of Mount Aspiring National Park in the South of the South Island of New Zealand

There are 7 of us at the moment and we will stay in Queenstown on the evening of Sunday 16th and travel to the start of the walk in the Rees Valley at Muddy Creek Car Park on Monday morning. We will then walk for 2 days to Dart hut at the head of the Dart River arriving on Tuesday 18th. There will be a day trip to Cascade saddle overlooking the Matukituki valley and a return walk of 2 days down the Dart River to arrive at Chinamans Flat on Saturday 22 pm. for our pickup to return to Queenstown. There is an allowance of one day for inclement weather.

The walk is generally low altitude apart from Rees (1447m) and Cascade (1500) Saddles. The group is 7 at the moment but if anyone would like to join they are very welcome. They will have to be experienced packcarriers of intermediate standard and will have to arrange their own flight to NZ and accommodation.

BASE CAMP: Cape Ottway – Dinosaur Cove

DATE 21–23 January 2005
 STANDARD Easy/Medium
 LEADER Sylvia Ford
 TRANSPORT Private

Please talk to the leader in the clubrooms about this walk.



**EXTENDED PACK CARRY: Watchbed Creek–
Bogong High Plains – Mt Wills**

DATE 26 – 30 January 2005
 STANDARD Medium
 DISTANCE 70 km approx
 LEADERS Max Casley
 TRANSPORT Private
 RETURN TIME Sunday evening
 AREA Falls Creek
 MAP REFERENCE Bogong Alpine Area 1:50,000

This is a 5-day trip taking in the Mt Wills area where we have not been for a few years. We will start after lunch on Australia Day (Wednesday) at 1pm a few kilometres past Falls Creek at the Watchbed Creek road barrier. Camp will be among the snow gums at the site of Roper’s Hut 9 km away. Next day we will go down Duane Spur, cross Big River and climb 750m up T Spur to pitch tents at Camp Valley. Possible side trips are Howmans Falls and Cleve Cole Hut.

On Friday the walk will be more than 20km but fairly straightforward. We go down Long Spur to Big River Saddle which is a possible camp site. This area was badly burnt 2 years ago and is a bit unknown. We may go an extra few km to camp beside Big River. Additionally, we will do a side trip to Mt Wills. Next morning we will locate Track 107 and follow this back up to the High Plains to camp near The Lanes. On Sunday morning we will visit Kelly’s and Fitzgerald’s Huts and then go on to finish at the cars. This trip won’t be difficult but please be prepared for any weather, some scrub and steep climbs.

I will be in the Clubrooms on 12th January but not the 19th (Walks Secretary Ken MacMahon will be there with some information). I will return home on Monday 24th January and we can make any final arrangements if necessary.



PACK CARRY: Eagles Peaks Area

DATE 28 – 30 January 2005
 STANDARD Medium
 DISTANCE Approx 30 km
 LEADERS Bill Donald
 TRANSPORT Private
 RETURN TIME Sunday Evening
 AREA Mansfield South of MT Buller
 MAP REFERENCE VMTC 1:50,000 Buller South – King, Howqua & Jamieson Rivers

The walk begins at Sheeppark Flat and is a circuit walk. On Saturday we head up to the Darling Range and camp in a saddle just below Eagles Peaks. Sunday has climbing Eagles Peaks and then following the undulating ridge line back to Sheeppark Flat. Unfortunately we have a dry camp and will have to carry all our water from day one.

Please note that I will be away in Tasmania from January 6 returning late on January 13.

NEW MEMBERS:

Mark D Bek

Debbie Brewis

Celia H Smith

ADD TO MEMBERSHIP LIST:

Kevin B Korb

ALTERED ADDRESS/PHONE:

Sarah Dunis

Stephanie A Hughes

Melissa Neill

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Life Members	10
Honorary Members	10
Single Memberships	333
Family Memberships	106 (= 2 x 53)
Total Membership	459
This time last year	469

Peter Havlicek, Membership Secretary

Clubrooms Duty Roster

December 15	Jan Palich
December 29	Carol Criddle, Doug Langton
January 5	Rod Novak, Fay Dunn
January 12	John Coe, Doug Pocock
January 19	David Laing, Peter McGrath

Next committee meeting

Monday 10 January, 7 pm in the clubrooms

WALKS PROGRAM DECEMBER 2004

Thur 2	*TOFS: Sherbrooke – Ferny Creek Hort. Gardens	Private	Easy	Jean Giese
3 - 5	Pack Carry: Telegraph Saddle – Sealers Cove	Private	Easy	Ken MacMahon
Sun 5	Strzelecki Ranges Rail Trail & Brewery	BUS	E & E/M	Tom Willanowski & Hans Edlinger
Wed 8	Lower Yarra Meander: Docklands – Fairfield	Private	E/M	Sandra Mutimer
10 - 12	Pack Carry: Mt Bogong	Private	Medium	Rod Novak
Sun 12	Switzerland Ranges (08:30 Start)	BUS	E/M & M	Doug Langton & Keith McKenry
Sun 19	Barwon Heads – Queenscliff	BUS	E & E/M	Peter Havlicek & Liz Moore

Christmas Trips

Sun 26	No Bus Trip – A Happy Christmas to all!			
26 - 30	Pack Carry: Mt Victor – Mt McDonald (AAWT)	Private	Medium	Alan Clarke
26 - 2	Pack Carry: Snowy Mountains, Main Range	Private	Medium	Jopie Bodegraven
26 - 3	Base Camp: Bogong High Plains	Private	E/M	Lance Mobbs
26 - 4	Base Camp Cradle Mountain Area, Day Walks (Tas)	Private	E/M	Peter McGrath

Bus transport: meet in Southbank Boulevard, south side of the Arts Centre, before 9am. The leader or deputy will be there rain, hail or shine. Fees must be paid to reserve a seat on the bus. Bookings are made on Club Night. Telephone bookings are not accepted.

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ALTERATION TO PARTICULARS / SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

NAME (new) _____ NAME (old) _____
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 EMAIL _____

SUBSCRIPTION FEES: ORDINARY – single membership \$45.00 CONCESSION – single membership \$30.00 (proof required)
 FAMILY/COUPLE – membership \$70.00 CONCESSION – couple \$38.00 (proof required)
 New members joining on/after 1st October 2003 \$24.00 less visitor fees *The News* – \$20.00
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