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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 CENTS

EDITION 640 JUNE 2004



Sometime during the final decade of the last century, a small group of Melbourne Bushies, led by Jopie Bodegraven, traversed the gorges and plateaus of the Budawangs in the Southern Tablelands of NSW, 200 km south of Sydney.

A record of this remarkable trip can be viewed, courtesy of Les Southwell, at a slide night coinciding with our monthly wine and cheese night in the club rooms, on

**Wednesday, June 23rd, 2004,
commencing 8 pm.**

Members are advised to try and make their Sunday walk bookings between 7–8 pm before the lights go down for the slide show.

BUSHWALKING NZ

Expressions of interest requested for Bushwalk in New Zealand around January 17th to 23rd 2005 in Mount Aspiring National Park, low altitude, intermediate standard. Contact Quentin.

It's on again!

★ CLUBROOM FRIDAY FLICKS ★

KID STAKES

The classic Australian silent film featuring "Fatty Finn" and his gang. As they are preparing to enter their pet goat, Hector in the annual goat-cart race, a member of a rival gang releases him. The rescue adventures are told with warm charm and gentle humour and offer a valuable insight into Aussie clothes, customs, jokes and appearances of the era (1927). Based on the famous comic strip character and with a musical sound track.



and for your further delectation

FROM THE TROPICS TO THE SNOW.

A hilarious send-up of the travel feature genre. This film gently (and sometimes not so gently) laughs at all those aspects of the Australian way of life that are usually included in travelogues.



**Venue: The Clubrooms
Date: Friday June 18th
Time: 7.30 pm**

Light refreshments will be available.

**For further information contact
Stuart.**

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

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%.

Size:	1 Issue	3 Issues	12 Issues (1 Year)
1/4 Page	\$35	\$90	\$330
1/2 Page	\$55	\$150	\$550
Full Page	\$100	\$250	\$900

Secretary's Report

Things going on around the VicWalk 'Tracks' Adventure Activity Standards (AAS)

By the time you read this, the VicWalk AAS Working Group will have met with the Outdoor Recreation Centre's (ORC) Project Officer (Gordon Duff) to discuss our latest revision of the "Standards for Bushwalking". If we can reach agreement, the agreed version will be sent to clubs asking them to vote on VicWalk endorsement.

Marianne Watt

Bushwalkers Search & Rescue 2004 Practice Weekend - 1-2 May - Wombat State Forest

Two years ago the BSAR annual practice included a 12-hour rogaine and skills workshops. This was very successful and a similar format was used this year, except that the focus of the second day was on searching practice instead of workshops. This format provided an opportunity for members and potential members to:

- familiarise themselves with S&R procedures
- have intensive in-field day and night navigation practice
- become familiar with the use of radios
- practice searching.

A total of 57 participants, representing 11 clubs, and including four search and rescue police and two force response unit police, were involved in the practice. Approximately half were new to BSAR.

Monica Chapman

President's Notes

VicWalk isn't directly involved in adventure activity standards for non-resort based snow activities, however, BSAR is. Merv Trease is the BSAR representative. The draft snow activities AAS is on the ORC website. Interested parties should make comments now.

Jim Harker

Wine & Cheese evening



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



FRIDAY, JULY 2ND 9:00 PM TO MIDNIGHT
St Kilda Army & Navy Club 1st Floor – 88 Acland St, St Kilda

Grand Wazoo

14-15 PIECE BAND RECREATING SOUL MUSIC OF
60s, 70s and 80s

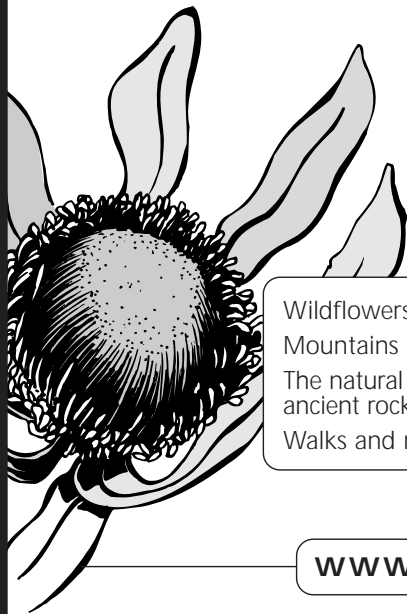
Dance the night away
No cover charge – cheap drinks...interested?

CONTACT HALINA

Perhaps meet for a meal beforehand.

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

Southern Africa



Wildflowers and wildlife
Mountains and coast
The natural world and
ancient rock art
Walks and more walks

Everyone who has taken part has
enjoyed our African trips so much
that we can't resist offering more.

South Africa with light-packs,
8 weeks beginning early September 2004

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Tracks, Huts and Conservation

Notes from the VicWalk Conservation 28 April meeting.

Australian Alps Walking Track *News from the Alps* Autumn issue had an update on the AAWT. The track should be re-opened by Easter 2004, however caution must be exercised as not all bushfire damaged signs have been replaced. The new signage (colour and logo) has been approved and will be progressively installed.

Alpine National Park – New Huts: VicWalk have seen plans for Federation Hut (Mt Feathertop) and Michell Hut (Eskdale spur, Mt Bogong). Both will be prefabricated, helicoptered in, and then assembled on site by contractors. No bushwalker assistance is required. PV thinks they will be ready before the winter season. There seem to be minor changes to the original plans eg no sleeping platforms, but bench seating will be 700mm wide. Also, there will be locked ranger quarters at Federation Hut.

Alpine grazing: it is believed there are no cattle remaining 'pre-winter'.

Howqua River: at Easter time the *e-coli* in the Howqua River at Sheeppark Flat was believed to be above WHO standards. Rangers suggest a number of causes, especially cattle grazing. The rangers recommend getting water above Tunnel Bend.

Baw Baws – Front page article in Australian Alps National Parks Newsletter *News from the Alps* Autumn 2004 issue: 'Baw Baws joins the Australian Alps', a long overdue recognition of this area and the Australian Alps Walking Track.

Central Highlands – Lake Mountain

apparently there will be a new 'snow making facility' at the car park – to allow snow play for the winter day-trippers next to their cars!

Grampians – Melbourne Bushwalkers have scheduled a working bee / track maintenance weekend for 14 & 15 August, to work on the Hollow Mountain route/track (near Buandik).

Western Victoria State Forests – DSE fourth discussion paper issued on 'biodiversity' for the area.

Mallee Parks – Friends of Wyperfeld will plant 2000 seedlings at their Queen's Birthday weekend camp. There will also be a historical re-enactment of a 1900s 'mail run'. Permission has been granted for the horse to enter the national park for this event.

Mornington Peninsula – 'Police Point' was officially handed over to the local council on the 25 March and will not be part of the Port Nepean National Park. Although council will manage this 'reserve' ownership still remains with the Commonwealth government.

Mount Stirling – Media Release from the Minister for the Environment.

Tuesday 20 April 2004: The Minister, Mr John Thwaites, in recognition of Mt Stirling being an all season nature based tourism, education and recreation resource, announced that he would introduce into Parliament that the moratorium on downhill resort development for 15 years, would be extended indefinitely. He also announced that Mt Buller and Mt Stirling would be managed by a joint Board from June this year, in an effort to secure Mt Stirling's financial future. Mr Thwaites said that income from visitors to Mt Stirling currently provides less than one quarter of the budget required to run the resort safely each year. The Government would provide new funding of \$900,000 to the joint management Board to improve visitor access.

Mr Thwaites has asked the joint Board to develop a comprehensive plan to guide Mt Stirling's future as an all-season, nature-based tourism and recreational resource and to include any necessary Planning Scheme amendments.

Rod Novak, Club delegate

VicWalk are often in need of people with skills for specific tasks. They have asked that Club Committees urge members of Clubs to volunteer.

Currently there is an urgent need for someone with skills in Standards to help prepare a submission from VicWalk on Activity Standards before the end of July. If you can help please see a Bushies Committee member.

A case of mistaken identity

or – Oils ain't Oils!

On the last day of the Easter pack carry on the Glenelg River and Discovery Bay, the walking group noticed what appeared to be a series of oil spills. There were about six of them at the edge of the water, all about 100 m across, dirty brown in colour, and leaving a dark stain on the sand. Being concerned about our environment we took a sample from both the water and the sand.

On returning to Melbourne, I contacted the EPA the very next day (ph 03 9695 2777 24 hour Pollution Watchline). Incidentally they would have preferred that we rang asap which we could have done either via a mobile or from Portland. They sent someone out to have a look.

The answer interestingly was that it was an algae. Apparently there is a species that reacts with fresh water and can look very like oil. There are at least two give-aways – one is that oil leaves a sheen on the beach and the algae doesn't. The other, which we should have woken up to earlier, is that the algae sank to the bottom of the water sample. Elementary my dear Watson!

Still, it was an interesting learning experience.

Alan Clarke

The best of Track 96 pack carry

14–16 May 2004

On Friday night we camped at the Granite Creek parking area north of Stratford. With just enough room for our tents under the roof of the picnic shelter they were nice and dry in the morning.

On Saturday we drove to Blue Pool and did a nice circuit walk to Peregrine look out and returned via Fern Gully. The overturned log footbridge at Fern Gully appeared to be the result of recent flooding.

A short drive enabled us to avoid some road bashing. Then, with packs the track is parallel with the road for a while then follows Freestone Creek with good views from above and then, at creek level, where we found a lovely camp site. A cosy small fire made a pleasant evening. The surface diggings nearby certainly looked like that of pigs. On Sunday the track follows Lee Creek past some old gold mine shafts and evidence of house sites until an old dam site where it climbs steadily to the top of the range and nice views before descending to our car. There were further circuit walks of the old gold mining area of Granite Creek but we had run out of time.

This very interesting scenic walk was made very enjoyable with the near perfect weather conditions. Present were Julie and Brian, visitors from Brisbane Bushwalkers, Clare and myself.

Bob Oxlade



Visit Nepal with the Melbourne Sherpas



the soaring Aussie dollar makes 2004 the year to trek Nepal

Contact Mingmar & Marilynne Sherpa of Om Trek

on 03 9781 1280 for more information

<http://travel.to/kathmandu>

5% discount to members of Bushwalking Clubs

TASMANIA

December 29th 2004–January 7th 2005

I feel a great desire to return to the Apple Isle for another 'Tassie Fix' as it is two and a half years since my last trip. I am planning an 'off track' trip in the Cradle Mt. – Lake St. Clair National Park.

I would like to go Cynthia Bay - Traveller Range – Mountains of Jupiter – Du Cane Range – The Labyrinth – Lake Petrach – Little Hugel – Cynthea Bay. This walk will be quite dramatic and should give a good feeling of wilderness as it will be away from the generally visited areas of the Park for most of the time. Apart from a couple of interesting climbs it should not be hard walking. The map and previous visits would indicate that nine days should be ample to do this walk and allow plenty of side trips. These dates are not definite at this stage but will be around then to fit in with Quentins walk in NZ.

If you have walked the Overland Track and now feel you are ready to explore the area a bit further then this is a trip to consider. Give me a ring or see me in clubrooms. *Doug Pocock*

... and now for something different!

I came across this site when perusing a current awareness list. Ian (below) is a resident of Melbourne. Now whilst I've looked at quite a few of the sample knots, I haven't yet discovered the one that I overheard Max C discussing which is said to make shoe laces last longer!

Ian's Shoelace Site

<http://www.fieggen.com/shoelace/index.htm>

Many of us have fond memories of being young and learning how to do a number of basic tasks, such as learning how to ride a bicycle, or perhaps figuring out how to properly lace up our shoes. Taking a love of shoelace tying to a new level is this very comprehensive site developed and maintained by Ian Fieggen, a computer programmer, self-employed businessman, and lover of shoelaces. On this site, visitors will find out about hundreds of ways to tie shoelaces, ranging from the Surgeon's Knot to the Ian Knot, which is claimed to be the "World's Fastest Shoelace Knot." Each knot comes complete with some very nice illustrations, explicit instructions, and the best use for each knot (such as hiking and so on). There's also a good section on lacing shoes, and a FAQ section that answers just about any question about the art of the shoelace, and Mr. Fieggen himself. The site is rounded out by a good section on repairing aglets, which are those little plastic sleeves at the ends of shoelaces. [KMG]

Gould League's interactive website

Spy cameras located to capture the activities of sugar gliders, bats, kookaburras and bull ants have been set up at the Wildlife Sanctuary at

La Trobe University's Bundoora campus. Students of all ages are able to participate in online scientific research with feeds delivered via the University's IT network. Visit the website: www.gould.edu.au/wildlifecams.

For a brief article see the latest University Bulletin which has an article on the webcam now publicly available – select the February issue on the top right hand side of following page, and go to last page (page 16).

<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/bulletin/>

Rosemary Cotter

Member Feedback required

Each year the Club donates to a conservation project which assists bushwalking. If you would like to suggest a worthy project, then please contact a Committee person with your recommendation.

Bogong National Park work party

26 to 28 March 2004



This year our work group involved repairs to Blairs Hut, which is an old cattle hut in the West Keiwa River valley.

On a warm Friday morning David and I travelled to Bright where we met Doug and Jan for lunch. Doug and David had an important meeting with the senior ranger for the Alpine National Park about Wilky lodge. After about half an hour they emerged feeling optimistic but a final decision on the future of Wilky had not been made.

We decided to travel to Blairs Hut by vehicle before dark. It took a very long time as there were numerous gates to open and then lock, a fallen tree blocked our way, and we had to take a detour along a very rough and steep track with several river crossings. Lastly a burned bridge, with big holes in the deck, had to be negotiated and then we made it to camp. I think that would be a medium/hard four wheel drive trip.

Next morning our companions joined us. Bill, Marilyn, Derrick, Mark, Iris, Rod, and national park rangers Enzo and Paul turned up in a convoy eager to begin work. Enzo explained our work for the day, which was to fill in the holes in the walls of the hut. There were numerous gaps between the logs and these were to be filled with wooden wedges and then packed with a mixture of dirt, water, straw and cement.

Some of us split wood to make the wedges, whilst others carted water and dirt, and then made up the mixture to just the right sloshiness to enable the maximum stickiness. The best part was grabbing dollops of the mud and slapping it onto the wall. You can forget about staying

clean when doing that! When working on the upper part of the wall the lower workers did not appreciate getting fallen bits of mud on their faces. At lunchtime we had finished the first wall and it was looking pretty good. The honourable member for somewhere-or-another would be very proud if their mud slinging stuck as well as ours.

After wash up and then lunch we started on wall number two. We were working very efficiently now, having got used to mixing the mud up just right and putting it on the wall before it got too dry. Sometimes the people putting in the wooden wedges dislodged the mud and it had to be done again. There

were numerous little nooks and crannies to be filled, especially where the roof joined the top of the wall. The two end walls had been done and now for the long wall with the window. The gaps around the window were sealed and a new window sill was made (out of mud!). This wall proved to be more challenging because it was a lot larger and there were many difficult to reach gaps down low that had to be filled. By late afternoon we had finished the third wall, we were all quite tired and dirty. A leisurely dinner was had in our lovely campsite, with the night's entertainment provided by a clear star-lit sky. Next day we got up early and started on the remaining wall, before Enzo and Paul arrived to supervise. More mud pack was made up and the gaps around the door were sealed very nicely. Enzo and Paul arrived and were very pleased with the work. We finished in no time and then tidied all of the building material from the hut site. The hut was looking very good, I wouldn't mind spending a winter's night there myself! The last job was to install a barbeque over the camp fire place. We let Enzo do that as it only took a little while. Then it was a long drive back to Mt Beauty, not forgetting to lock the gates again. Thanks to David for organising our work group and to Paul and Enzo for enabling us to do some much valued work on behalf of our National Park. We look forward to completing many more work parties with our friends at National Parks Victoria.

Ralph Blake

ATTENTION ALL BUSHWALKERS – Urgent action required.

Please send an e-mail and/or write a letter ...

Help for the Alps needed now!



The time to get cows out of Victoria's Alpine National Park has arrived!
But this very sensible decision, if it is to happen, will need your support.

The Victorian Government has appointed a Caucus Taskforce to look at whether alpine cattle grazing licences should be renewed in the park. Cattle cause great damage in the alps. They threaten rare plants, destroy ancient peat beds, damage creeks and waterways and spread many weeds. And you pay for the damage!

IF YOU ONLY SEND ONE EMAIL TO THE GOVERNMENT ON ALPINE GRAZING IN YOUR LIFE, PLEASE DO IT NOW!

(If you've previously sent one to the Government, make sure you send another one now to the Taskforce.)

Let them know it's time to end the great environmental damage caused by cattle grazing in Victoria's Alpine National Park!

Send your email to: **alpine.grazing@dse.vic.gov.au**

Your email or submission must be in by Friday 18 June 2004

or you can post a submission to:

**Alpine Grazing Taskforce,
c/- Department of Sustainability and Environment,
8 Nicholson St. East Melbourne, Vic.**

For more information on the effects of cattle grazing in the Alpine National Park, go to the dedicated website **www.cowpaddock.com**

You can also find more information on the Taskforce process at that website.

Conservation Day – Saturday 17th April with Conservation Volunteers Australia

This year the Melbourne Bushies helped with the Merri Creek habitat restoration project. On a cool Autumn day, we assisted City of Darebin rangers with weeding a billabong next to Edwards Lake in Reservoir. The rangers were so impressed with our morning efforts we were invited into the 'boathouse' with an upstairs lounge with a great view of Edwards Lake. This was a very relaxing lunchspot with comfy easy chairs – just perfect after pulling weeds. We had a great day and our efforts resulted in one very large trailer stacked full of weeds, and two very happy rangers.

Special thanks to Derrick, Jopie, Jenny, Iris, Fay, Liz and me.

Rod Novak

PREVIEWS OF DAY WALKS JUNE/JULY 2004

SUNDAY BUS: Garden of St Erth – Blackwood

DATE	Sunday 13 June
STANDARD	Easy/Medium & Medium
DISTANCE	Approx 13 km & 19 km
LEADERS	Lynda Larkin and Peter McGrath
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd at 9.0 am

Both walks will commence along the Lerderderg Road in the Wombat State Forest 17 kms south-east of Daylesford. The undulating tracks in this area pass through varying types of forest and walkers in both groups will be faced with a modest challenge in the form of a steep climb to the peak of Mount Wilson, which is crowned with an amazing outcrop of huge granite boulders. (A good sweat, some excellent views and a pat on the back will be your reward.) The main part of each walk then follows the Lerderderg Heritage River Walk with both walks finishing at the Garden of St Erth where we may be able to enjoy some refreshments in the tearooms if we are back in time.

Please remember to bring a change of shoes for the bus as some of the tracks are wet and muddy this time of year.

SUNDAY BUS: Sugarloaf Reservoir

DATE	Sunday 20 June
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	12 km & 14 km
LEADERS	Halina Sarbinowski & Vik Dunis
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd at 9.00 am
RETURN TIME	6.30 pm
AREA	Yarra Glen

Both walks traverse the Sugarloaf Reservoir taking the same route with the E/M walk starting a few kilometres before the circuit of the Reservoir. Abundant sightings of kangaroos are guaranteed. The walks will be off and on grassy tracks in beautiful bushland with great views.

Due to the proximity to Melbourne we should be back to Southbank at a reasonable hour. Remember the warm and waterproof clothing.

DANDENONG EXPLORER: Baynes Reserve–Emerald

DATE	26 June
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	11-12 km
LEADER	Rosemary Cotter
TRANSPORT	Train/Private
MAP REF	Melway 127 G4 and 124 F1

Meet at 10.15 am at Emerald Reserve (alias Worrell Reserve in Melway). This is at the third roundabout through Emerald going eastwards. A car shuffle will be required to get to the starting point at Baynes Reserve in Monbulk. The walk is quite flat with a little scrub scrambl-

ing along the Worri Yallock creek edge for part of the way.

It is easy walking with some variation in vegetation. There is a hill to climb near the end of the walk. After we finish and return to collect the cars left at Baynes Reserve we will have afternoon tea at one of the local cafes (plenty of choice!). Please phone me if you know you will be coming – this will assist in organising the car shuffle.

SUNDAY BUS: Anakie Gorge – Steiglitz

DATE	Sunday 29 June
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	14 km & 18 km approx.
LEADERS	Peter Havlicek and Jean Woodger
TRANSPORT	Bus – South Bank Blvd. 9.00 am
RETURN TIME	6.30 – 7.00 pm
AREA	Brisbane Ranges
MAP REFERENCE	Ecclipse Creek 1:25 000 – 7722-3-1 Staughton Vale 1:25 000 – 7722-2-4 Lethbridge 1:25 000 – 7722-3-2

The bus travels via Westgate, Western Hwy to Baccchus Marsh, then to starting point along road to Geelong))

The walk starts at the Anakie Gorge picnic ground. Keep your eyes peeled for koalas devouring Yellow Gums (on the preview, I did not see any, you should be luckier). Walking through the Anakie Gorge, lots of birds, geological formations, flowers, and mighty engineering works of past generations – a treat. At the Stoney Creek Picnic Ground, ‘roos don’t bother to run away. Up a hill to ‘The Outlook’, a magnificent carpet of green to look at. An easy further walk to Steiglitz – history all about. The more medium walk does an extra 4 km loop before starting on walk as above,

THURSDAY ‘TOFFS’: Blacks Walk – Blackburn Lake

DATE	Thursday 1 July
STANDARD	Easy, definitely unless it is freezing
DISTANCE	About 10 km
LEADER	Warren Baker
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	3.30 pm
AREA	Leafy Blackburn
MAP REFERENCE	Melway 47 + 48

The walk will start at the rotunda, Blackburn Railway Station, Melway 47 K9 on the south side of the railway line. During the day we will walk to the north of the railway line and on the south of the railway line through parkland which is interconnected with some of the local streets. Many of the streets are covered by National Trust classification. On weekdays parking in the vicinity of the station is restricted and tight but if you must drive to the start (and finish) parking is possible in Norton park or in Gordon Street about 400 metres away.



SUNDAY BUS: Cobaw Ranges

DATE	Sunday 4 July
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/medium
DISTANCE	approx 14 km and 18 km
LEADERS	Jerry Karbownik & Keith McKenry
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd at 9 am
RETURN TIME	approx 6.30 pm
AREA	Cobaw Ranges – midway between Lancefield and Kyneton
MAP REF	Cobaw Ranges Forest Activities Map

The club has organised walks in this area before and they have always been popular...the open forest vegetation and wide forest roads and tracks lend themselves to good walking during winter conditions. There will be a minimal amount of off-track walking and even that is fairly easy. Some sixty percent of the area was severely affected by bushfires in 2003 and it is remarkable to witness the regrowth since that time! Kangaroos, Wallabies and the occasional wild pigs should add to the experience...so come join us !!

CYCLE TRIP: Elwood – Ricketts Point

DATE	10 July
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	40 kms
LEADERS	Liz Telford
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	3:00 pm

We will meet at the Canal in Broadway, Elwood at 10.30 am. Those who are keen can ride from Flinders Street or catch a train to Ripponlea or take the car to the meeting spot. We will have a leisurely ride down to Ricketts Point, along the beach bicycle track. We will stop and look at the Brighton Sea Baths, the Brighton Bathing Boxes, Half Moon Bay, Black Rock and have lunch at Ricketts Point. In the afternoon we will ride back the way we came taking in the sea views and stopping for afternoon tea at the Turtle Café in Elwood.

I will be in the club rooms on Wednesday 7 July or you may make a telephone booking.



SUNDAY BUS: Dandenong Ranges Western Trail

DATE	Sunday 11 July
STANDARD	Easy/Medium & Medium
DISTANCE	14 km & 16 km
LEADERS	Maureen Hurley & Ralph Clayton
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd. at 9 am
RETURN TIME	6 pm
AREA	Dandenong Ranges National Park
MAP REF	Melways 74H4

This walk will be close to Melbourne in the Dandenong Ranges National Park. At the time of writing this report it had not been previewed, but it is planned to commence in the Ferntree Gully area, possibly climbing the 1000 steps

which some people may have used to train for their walking in Nepal. We will walk through the National Park, climb to Mount Dandenong and have some great views of the Dandenong Ranges! Remember it could be cold and wet so bring warm and waterproof clothes. See you there!



SUNDAY BUS: Mineral Springs Walk

DATE	Sunday 18 July
STANDARD	Easy/Medium & Medium
DISTANCE	18 and 22 km
LEADERS	Tom Wilanowski & Steve Axford
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd at 8:30 am
RETURN TIME	7 pm
AREA	Daylesford – Hepburn Springs
MAP REFERENCE	Daylesford 7723-3-1

There are two kinds of liquids that I love to drink: wine and mineral water. Thanks to (largely) Peter, winery walks are a regular feature in our Club calendar. We also had walks to mineral springs before, but never to such an extent. Victoria's Central Highlands have more mineral springs than the rest of Australia combined. After decades of neglect, the locals and tourists alike are finally learning to appreciate this wonderful natural resource.

The Easy/Medium group will largely follow the classic Tipperary Track from Lake Daylesford to Hepburn Springs with a detour to Argyle Spring. The Medium walk will be done by adding 4 km and one more spring (Jubilee Lake). We will visit the total of 19 springs, in the following order: Jubilee Lake, Central (3 springs), Hard Hills (2), Wagga, Sutton (2), Tipperary (3), Liberty, Golden, Argyle, Wyuna, Sulphur, Locarno and Soda. A word of warning: if the current drought continues, some of these springs may dry up before the day of the walk, but the majority of them should still be fine. We will preview this walk again closer to the walk date, then I will know more.

Other attractions will include two lookouts, one of which is little known yet in my opinion it offers the best views of the Spa Country (Cornish Hill). We will also see many relics of the gold mining past, scenic lakes, lovely landscaped parks as well as surprisingly wild bushland areas. You may find it hard to believe that all this can fit into one day, but trust me – it can.

Please remember to bring your own drinking vessel to sample the waters.

Note: Early start (8.30 am) as winter days are short, and although the terrain is gently undulating, the distance is rather long. For the same reason, please bring a torch – just in case.

WEDNESDAY WALK: You Yangs Regional Park

DATE	Wednesday 21 July
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	12 km
LEADER	Margaret Curry
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	3.45 pm back to cars
AREA	Near Lara and Geelong (130 km return from Melbourne)
MAP REFERENCE	You Yangs 1:25,000

Although only 352 metres high, the granite peaks of the You Yangs dominate the landscape between Melbourne and Geelong. The Park contains an amazing variety of trees, shrubs, birds and wildflowers. The area is also the home of many possums, koalas and wallabies, some of which were sighted on the walk preview.

The walk commences with a short climb up Flinders Peak to obtain spectacular views of the surrounding countryside. We then join the West Walk track, which skirts the Peak and continue past The Saddle and Stockyards areas and on through mixed open forest. We later divert onto a dirt track passing an old sand quarry before climbing steeply back to The Saddle. We return on the East Walk track which affords yet more panoramic views all the way back to the cars. (There is an option for anyone not wanting to climb the Peak to take the West Track from the carpark and meet up with the group that climbs the Peak. There is also an easier return option if required).

Travel on the Geelong Road, take the Little River exit and follow the signs to the You Yangs. From the Park entrance drive up Turntable Drive past the You Yangs Park Information Centre and follow sign for Flinders Peak Road. Meet at 10.15 am at Turntable CarPark where there are toilets, BBQs and picnic tables. For further information and bookings phone Margaret.

BSAR: Ski skills training day

DATE	Saturday 24 July
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER	David Laing
TRANSPORT	Private

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



SUNDAY BUS: Yea Spur

DATE	Sunday 25 July
STANDARD	Easy/Medium & Medium
LEADERS	Sue Ralston & Paul Logsdon
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd.

Please talk with the leaders in the clubrooms about this walk.

DANDENONGS EXPLORER: Rhododendron Gardens

DATE	Saturday 31 July
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER	Warren Baker
TRANSPORT	Private

Please talk with the leader about this walk.

X LEADERS TRAINING DAY: Bacchus Marsh DATE 31 July

Please note: This event has been cancelled and will be rescheduled for later in the year.

Ski cross country with

Wintergroup Inc*



Wintergroup is a social cross country ski club which caters for all levels of skiing: from day trips at Lake Mountain to backcountry touring in the alps; for beginners to the very experienced.

Formed in 1966, it continues to encourage 'bushwalking on skis' with a varied program in the winter months.

Interested?

Contact Becky for more information and a copy of our 2004 program

*A0010337D



PACK CARRY: Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park

DATE	25 – 27 June
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	25 km
LEADER	Doug Pocock
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Reasonable
AREA	Beechworth
MAP REFERENCE	EI Dorado 1:25000. Bush Maps Vic- Beechworth

This is a walk that appears to be new to the club. It is in an unburnt area of the Chiltern Mt Pilot National Park. On Saturday the walk will leave the ford on Reedy Creek and will climb gently onto the ridge south of the creek. This ridge is followed, with extensive views to the south, to Native Dog Peak. Here we will explore Kelly's Caves near Kelly's Lookout. (Yes, that is Ned Kelly) If we have time we will also look for the Police Caves where the police looked out for Ned while he looked out for them. Carry water for the day. We will drop down to Reedy Creek to camp where the leader will have organised a water drop as the quality of the creek water is suspect.

On Sunday we will return to the cars maybe direct or maybe with a bit of a detour. This walk would be excellent as an introduction to weekend walking, if you have thought of trying weekend walking talk to me.

Friday night campspot at the ford on Reedy Creek 606797 or else come up from Melbourne on Saturday morning. I will probably be walking in the Kimberley prior to the walk but should be in clubrooms on the Wednesday before.

BASE CAMP: Aberfeldy River Goldmines

DATE	2–4 July
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	25 km
LEADER	Ken MacMahon
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	5 pm
AREA	Between Walhalla and Woods point
MAP REFERENCE	Matlock 1:100,000

I know a family who live on the Aberfeldy River – they are virtually the only permanent residents in this wild, mountainous region. We will be staying in rustic, but comfortable miner's cabins, which can sleep up to 15 people. There are even showers (presumably hot) and toilets – sounds pretty good for a walk in mid winter (cost is \$10 /night). The weather here is generally not too bad here as the area is in the rain shadow of the Baw Baws.

If we are lucky our hosts might show us over an old mining battery, where ore from the New Dawn mine was crushed until the 1950's, and may entertain us in their 'music' room.

On Saturday we will walk to Toombon, where in the 1880's there was a bustling settlement in a narrow gully. Toombon was destroyed by fire in 1913, but there are lots of relics here including a 500 foot deep mine shaft, a huge boiler and the restored hotel. If we have time we will continue on to Donnelly's Creek where more mining took place. On Sunday I would like to explore the delightful Lily Creek valley and search for the 'fabled' Lily of the Valley mine.

This trip is only 3 hours from Melbourne so it needn't be a late finish.



PACK CARRY: Lerderderg Gorge

DATE	16–18 July
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	27 km
LEADER	Di McKinley
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Sunday late afternoon
AREA	Lerderderg Gorge State Park
MAP REFERENCE	Lerderderg & Werribee Gorges. Meridian Productions 2001, 1: 35,000

This pack carry is a good opportunity for walkers who have had limited experience pack carrying. Although the Gorge is close to Melbourne, it is rugged and beautiful. The distances are minimal, 12 km on Saturday and 15 km on Sunday and the area is well worth exploring. We'll put up tents at a level campsite in the dry Lerderderg Riverbed and hopefully have a campfire on what will probably be a cold winter night.

The starting point is in Blackwood, which is less than 1 hour and 30 minutes from central Melbourne, so we will meet on Saturday morning at 0830 for the start of the walk. It is necessary to carry gear and food and water for the one night. After a car shuffle, the route starting at the Whisky Track is along good tracks and then more testing dry river paths, requiring some ascents and descents of approximately 200 meters. While mildly challenging with our packs, it is manageable. On Sunday we will also be on tracks and follow routes along the Lerderderg River in the morning and then water races up to Byers Back Track in the afternoon. On the preview we sighted big grey roos and a goat ('with the kids').

After the car shuffle there will be time for a group Devonshire Tea in Blackwood prior to a return departure late afternoon. It is expected to be extremely cold at this time of year and warm gear is essential. Access to water is also expected to be limited (unless it rains profusely – which we don't really want while walking!), so walkers will be asked to carry a reasonable quantity and to be prepared to boil drinking water for Sunday.

If you are interested and want to have a go at backpacking please ring Dianne early to discuss this trip.

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Life Members	10
Honorary Members	10
Single Memberships	380
Family Memberships	104 (= 2 x 52)
Total Membership	504
This time last year	502

Membership paid 312 compared with last year 336

Peter Havlicek, Membership Secretary

Walks Secretary Report

May 2004 Walk Statistics

May 2004	Trips	People	Average	May 2003
Sunday Bus	5	194	39	28.5
Other day	3	54	13.5	18
Pack Carry	2	8	4	7.5
Base Camp	2	26	13	16
Cancelled	1	–	–	–
Total	12	282	–	10/94

There were 54 participants on a recent Sunday Walk to the You Yangs. A bicycle trip was cancelled due to lack of interest, which is probably attributable to the awful weather on the day. The BSAR rogaine activity is not included in these figures as I didn't receive a report from the leader, Gina Hopkins. The Spring program is just about completed, with just a few leaders required for day walks.

Ken MacMahon, Walks secretary

Clubrooms Duty Roster

June 16 David Laing, Rod Novak
June 23 John Coe, Jan Palich
June 30 Mark Heath, Howard Friend
July 7 Fay Dunn, Deborah Henry

Next committee meeting

Monday 5 July, 7 pm in the clubrooms