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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 CENTS

EDITION 645 NOVEMBER 2004

Federation Weekend – Walhalla 9 & 10 October 2004

What is Federation Weekend? Leading up to 2001 there was much press about the Centenary of Federation. As a new member of the Melbourne Bushwalkers, I thought the Federation Weekend in late 2000 was a preliminary Centenary event!

Federation actually refers to the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs Inc., the organisation is also known as VicWalk. The Federation's membership is comprised of 82 Victorian walking clubs and the organisation's objectives (summarised) are to:

- ❖ Co-operate with other organisations having like interests.
- ❖ Promote recreational bushwalking.
- ❖ Encourage co-operation amongst bushwalking clubs.
- ❖ Maintain a search and rescue section.
- ❖ Promote the maintenance of walking tracks.
- ❖ Distribute information of interest to bushwalkers.
- ❖ Promote conservation.

Every two years, nominated member clubs host a weekend of walks and activities. The 2004 weekend was hosted by the Melbourne Bushwalkers in conjunction with the Strezlecki and Ben Cruachan walking clubs. Members of Melbourne Bushwalkers on the planning team were Alan Clarke, Brian Crouch, Trish Elmore and Jan Palich.

Organising such a weekend is no mean feat and the planning commenced eighteen months earlier. Planning included:

- ❖ Locating a suitable area for walking with accommodation options in the vicinity for 400 people.
- ❖ Finding a range of walks – there were twenty-one.
- ❖ Documenting the walks and compiling a booklet.
- ❖ Organising volunteer leaders and substitutes to preview and lead walks.
- ❖ Finding speakers for Saturday evening.
- ❖ Catering requirements.
- ❖ Risk management considerations.
- ❖ Base administration

The weekend was attended by approximately 300 people and was an outstanding success. A huge thank you is extended by the MBW committee to Alan, Brian, Trish, Jan and all the members who volunteered their assistance before and during the weekend.

Howard Friend, Club Secretary

Christmas lunch for Wednesday Walkers plus other friends.

Join Susan and Stuart at the Graham Restaurant and Winebar, 97 Graham Street, Port Melbourne (Mel. 2J/F7) on Wednesday 24th November. The table is booked for 12.30, We'd love to see you there. Phone us on to reserve your place.

Advance notice! Grand New Year's Eve party in the hills

It's going to be open house at Stuart Hodgson's hideaway cottage in Sherbrooke Forest. Dance away the night on the deck, see in the New Year and hug a tree, stay over if you like and share breakfast with the Kookaburras (BYO tent and sleeping bag), There'll be an optional 'recovery' walk or you can just laze in the garden. More details in the December edition of the News. Watch this space!

FRIDAY FLICKS

Our final screening this year fits the festive season and is an all time Australian classic. **BUSH CHRISTMAS** was made in 1947 and won immediate world acclaim. It's got the lot: adventure, pathos, humour, suspense, and has a quintessentially Aussie flavour.

A group of children set out to track down the thieves who have stolen their father's prize stallions. They employ all sorts of ingenious tricks to continually outsmart the thieves until a storm obliterates all tracks and the children become lost. Soon they are being pursued by a search party AND the robbers! But this was a 'feel good' era in film-making, and so of course everything works out in the end. The film features Chips Rafferty (of course!) but unusually this time he plays a baddie.

Our accompanying short this time will be: **THE DELIGHTFUL BUT UNFORTUNATE FATHER KEITH NINK.**

This is an absolute hoot. It was all shot in Melbourne, principally around the Bay and at Montsalvat and concerns a bibulous priest who gets stuck inside a fridge. For those old enough to remember him, it stars Bill Bennett, who used to walk with our club.

Show starts at 7.30 and a light supper will be provided.

Just turn up, or, for any further information, ring Stuart on

REMEMBER! – this is not a video or DVD but an authentic cinematic projection.

**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%.

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

Presidential Paragraphs

Congratulations to all those who worked so hard to make the Federation Weekend such a resounding success. Melbourne Bushies Alan Clarke, Jan Palich, Brian Crouch and Trish Elmore teamed up with members of Ben Cruachan and Strzelecki Bushwalking clubs to form the organising committee. This committee did an excellent job organising down to the last details, the venue, the walks and the program for the weekend. Many other people were recruited to help with registration, lead the walks, do the catering, and be first aid officers. The weather was overcast on Saturday morning with some very light rain but soon cleared up to fine weather. The wildflowers were plentiful with the guinea flowers looking especially bright. The walks were many and varied and it was pleasant to be able to meet members from some of the other 25 or so other clubs. Once again congratulations and thank you to all those involved.

I received a phone call from one of the Ben Cruachan members who would like to put together a commemorative newsletter of the weekend. He would like to obtain writeups of the walks (not detailed tracknotes) and some digital photographs if possible. If you can help either let me know or contact Jack Winterbottom on 0428 520 178 or e-mail <jackwin@magnet.aust.com>

Members may be interested in some old articles about Walhalla that featured in the Clubs *WALK* magazine in 1949, 1960 and 1969. If you don't have copies of *WALK* they are available in the library in the clubrooms.

The Federation is once again looking at ways of organising insurance for clubs to program ski trips. There is a proposal to have an umbrella Federation ski club with individual clubs having their own ski groups registered with the Federation. I would think that the only way for this to work would be for club people to become members of the skiing sub group and only those would be able to participate in programmed club ski trips, my guess is that this would cost \$5-\$10. Please let me know if you would be interested in joining a skiing sub group in the Club. I will be following up the scheme with Federation and it is important to know how many would be interested

Doug Pocock

Wine & Cheese evening



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

Namibia

5-6 weeks: April-May 2005

and Northern South Africa



Our first trip was great. Here's what some of our clients had to say.

"... only one tour operator in the world

leads you into so many remote wilderness areas in such a short time." (Beatrix Theuer, Austria)

"The walking was hard but rewarding in a dry and desolate world unlike any we have experienced before. ... The luxury accom between walks is what

we have come to expect from Willis's in South Africa." (Marie Agrums & John Murray, Wollongong)

"A memorable holiday and a wonderful introduction to Namibia and South Africa.

The wildlife was wonderful." (Annabel Wheeler, Canberra)

This trip should be even better. It will include 6 or 7 extended walks, a variety of day trips and a visit to the Etosha game park.

For walk details and the itinerary, visit our website or ask for our trip notes.



www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au

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

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

Ph.

References available.



A big thank you

The Federation Weeekend at Walhalla has come and gone and the coordinating committee would like to thank all of those willing volunteers (26 of you) who helped to make the weekend a significant success. Without the many people who put their hand up when asked the whole event clearly would not have happened, let alone to the level of success that was achieved. Virtually without exception the feedback has been very positive about the event – how smoothly it went and how much participants enjoyed themselves.

The Melbourne Bushies, being the biggest club involved, carried the greater workload, with volunteers leading walks, catering, administrating, and many sundry tasks in between. At the obvious risk of missing people out we would like to thank the following in particular – Fiona Gallery for organising the catering, Clare Lonergan for producing the booklet, Carol Criddle for taking and recording so many bookings, Ralph Clayton for sorting the Bushies' accommodation and meals, Quentin Tibballs and Liz Moore for providing first aid coverage, all of the people on registration and administration, all of those who previewed and led walks, and all of the individuals who without hesitation just did things!

It could not have been done without you!

Brian Crouch, Alan Clarke, Jan Palich, Trish Elmore – Bushies members of the Coordinating Committee.

Club donation

Each year the Club donates the interest from our term deposit to a worthy conservation campaign connected to bushwalking. In June we invited members to forward their suggestions to the Committee. At the September Committee meeting these suggestions were considered and it was resolved to donate \$750 to the Victorian National Parks Association. The club regularly uses national parks, state parks and regional parks for many of our activities. The current VNPA campaigns are for a 'cattle free' alpine national park, improving Point Nepean National Park, the Otway Ranges and protecting the Barmah forests. These issues are all very important to bushwalkers.

Rod Novak, Conservation delegate

VicWalk Track Maintenance Request Form

The VicWalk Track Maintenance Request Form has just been revised. To report damage to a walking track then complete this form which is forwarded to the VicWalk Tracks Officer for action/follow up with the parks and/or public land managers. Copies are available in the Club's Walks Information cabinet.

For further information contact Rod Novak.

Bushwalker Injured

It is much to the credit of MBW and the safety protocols which we observe, that considering the number of trips we do and the number of people who participate throughout the year, that we have so few significant injuries and arrive home all safe and sound... excepting on the rare occasion.

Last Sunday's walk in Blackwood State Forest could be listed as one of those unfortunate rare occasions as one of our walkers had the misfortune to fall and fracture a bone above the ankle at the beginning of a steep descent to the Lerderderg River along Byers Back Track.

It is clear that the steepness of the track, severe erosion and the hazard of loose rock along the track were main contributing factors.

At the time, following the implementation of a few rudimentary first aid measures which included amongst other things, examining the injury, bandaging it firmly and checking to see if analgesia was required, a plan was devised for 3 people to assist the injured walker to the nearest pick-up point 3.5 km away at O'Briens crossing, whilst another walker who had come to Blackwood in his own car, returned to the beginning of the walk (approx. 7 km) and brought the vehicle to O'Briens crossing to pick up the small group with the injured walker and meet the remaining 29 walkers at the end of the planned walk. This plan worked well.

Special thanks to Quentin for providing the emergency transport and expert medical help, also to Peter and Dale for their kindness and practical help and all those who were willing to offer a hand.

And special praise to Wendy for being so heroic and managing to hobble 3.5 km to O'Brien's crossing after the accident and for being so uncomplaining throughout her ordeal.

There is no real compensation we can offer for the pain and inconvenience that follows, but we all send our very best wishes for a speedy recovery and look forward to having Wendy amongst us and enjoying her excellent company again in the not too distant future.

As leader, one cannot help feeling a certain sense of responsibility and subsequently reflect on ways of preventing similar accidents occurring in the future. And I would like also to remind walkers to carry with them a heightened awareness and sense of responsibility for their own safety when negotiating more hazardous terrain, as it can take just a momentary lapse of concentration and awareness for accidents to happen.

Lynda Larkin

Tracks, Huts and Conservation

Notes from the VicWalk Conservation Committee September 2004 meeting

Alpine National Park: The Alpine Grazing Taskforce has delayed their decision until 'late Spring'. The science/facts support the contention that cattle are damaging the Alpine National Park, especially noticed in the peat bogs, selective grazing and water quality. For up to date information go to the VNPA website at <www.cowpaddock.com>

Bushwalkers are encouraged to send a letter to the Premier asking for cattle to be removed from the Alpine National Park.

Grampians National Park: the 'Grampians Walking Track Support Group' had their inaugural meeting on 29 August 2004. This local group wants to improve the poor state of walking tracks in the Grampians and has approval from Parks Victoria to operate under the guidelines of 'Friends' groups. A VicWalk rep attended this meeting and reports that the Grampians National Park has an annual budget of only \$40,000 for track maintenance and this is insufficient for the walking track network. The 'Grampians Walking Tracks Support Group' first project will be assisting rangers with trackwork at MacKenzie Falls to Fish Falls and at Beehive Falls (near Briggs Bluff). VicWalk will assist the Support Group with a donation of \$250.

Great Divide Trail: Lerderberg Track to Bacchus Marsh section trail marking will be commencing soon with a Green Corps work party. Also, there will be a series of celebratory day walks in Spring along the G.D.T.

Regent Honeyeater Project: 21,000 seedlings planted to date. Many bushwalking clubs have assisted over the three planting weekends.

Otway Ranges: Awaiting the Minister's response to the VEAC recommendations.

A new bushwalking guide 'Bushwalks in the Angahook-Lorne State Park' is available for \$6 (posted). A cheque to be made out to 'Friends of Angahook-Lorne State Park' and their address is PO Box 160, Aireys Inlet, 3231.

VicWalk Conservation Policy: the Conservation Policy has been revised and approved by VicWalk Council. It is available in word and/or pdf format from the VicWalk website. Go to www.vicwalk.net.au/~vicwalk

Rod Novak, Conservation delegate

VicWalk News Summary

Secretarial Ramblings on Happenings around the Federation: I attended a great Federation Weekend on the 8-10 October in the Walhalla area with Rawson Village as the base for accommodation, walk bookings etc.

Rawson was an ideal location, easily accommodating the needs of all walkers. I believe some 225 walkers attended from 21 Federation clubs, and tackled the varied range of walks on offer over Saturday and Sunday. We were lucky with the weather; even though it rained on Friday night, the tracks were only a little tacky on Saturday and most had dried out by Sunday.

The guest ranger presenter on Saturday evening, from Parks Victoria, was entertaining, full of enthusiasm, and delivered his subject with passion.

The organizing committee and the many helpers and walk leaders from the three clubs who hosted this memorable event - Melbourne Bushwalkers, Strzelecki Bushwalking and Ben Cruachan walking clubs - are to be congratulated for putting on such a well-organized event in the great spirit of ongoing Federation walks, which brings many people from our walking fraternity together. Just a little bit of housekeeping news. By now many clubs would be aware that we now have a new Victorian insurance convener, and there is a strong possibility that we will fill the publicity convener's position at our November meeting.

Wayne Rice

Skiing Insurance: At the council meeting we discussed setting up a club for skiers from all walking clubs to join to obtain insurance at a cheaper rate. Apparently there is a group of bushwalkers who ski, called the Winter Group, and they already have public liability insurance. However, the cost per member is high and they are keen to have more members to spread the cost. We will investigate whether we can use them as this umbrella ski club.

Jim Harker

Insurance: Hi all. This is my first item for VicWalk. My name is David Gordon and I have (foolhardily) agreed to take on the job of Insurance Convenor from Matt who has left the area for a warmer and more tropical area to walk.

I have been involved in insurance for over 20 years and I'm currently the Underwriting and Reinsurance Manager for FMG Insurance - based in lovely Albury. I've been an active walker for many years now - starting in my home of New Zealand as a Trumper before I learnt the error of my ways and became a bushwalker. Currently I belong to the Border Bushwalking Club - where they let me chair the meetings from time to time.

On to work - policy wordings have arrived from Bushwalking Australia and we will be getting those out to clubs just as soon as we can.

That's all from me for this month. Enjoy the walking and I'll see you all out there soon.

David Gordon

Notes from the Grey Nomads

**The Pilbara and
west coast
Easy – Easy/Medium
(with some hard bits)**

Having met up with Doug and Jan at Port Hedland, we moved into the Pilbara. This can be a very trying part of the world, containing Marble Bar, reputedly the hottest place in Australia. However, this was July, and we were going into Kiriijini National Park. Here we explored some of the gorge systems, walking up the gorges to find campsites on pool-side beaches. The gorge cliffs were most impressive – red sandstone, multi-layered and multi-coloured slate and conglomerate and occasionally a fine blue soft rock. Thin layers of asbestos could also be found – the old asbestos mining town of Wittenoom was not far away after all. The water flows were muted, but we certainly found ample swim holes and not a few waterfalls. The most spectacular gorges were the very deep, more-difficult-to-access ones – including Hancock, Weano, and Joffre. We used our lilos to paddle the latter, with its 100 metre high cliffs. The most exciting gorges were the very narrow, deep ones with pools that had to be waded or by-passed on narrow ledges. In Kalamina gorge, during a three-day pack-carry we were excited to find a magnificent rock art gallery some fifty metres long, full of chipped images.

We popped into Hamersley Gorge with its fantastic folded rock before spending a few days in the Millstream-Chichester NP. The walking opportunities are limited here, but we did all the publicised walks and more – finding some excellent rock formations exploring upstream of Python Pool. This was the end of this chapter, and we made our way to Karatha, where we left the Prado for a service – we'd done 12,500km – and all four of us flew back to Melbourne – Doug and Jan to resume their routine, Gina and I to take advantage of the marvellous snow season!

After a two-week skiing interlude we returned to Karatha, collected the Prado, and resumed our wanderings. The Burrup Peninsula was our first stop, where we marvelled at the natural gas installation – where gas from the ocean is piped ashore and processed – and explored the rather wild and exposed peninsula.

We slowly made our way down the west coast, spending some time on Cape Range, where the coral reef is right on the beach and great beach camping is the norm. Our wet suits were put to good use for some excellent snorkelling. Then it was Coral Bay, Carnarvon, and then to Shark Bay where we shared the surf with dolphins, and had some of our best bush and beach camping. We were privileged to see hump-back whales and dugong along this part of the coast. Steep Point, the most western point of the mainland provided more beautiful and remote beach camps, and views of the 100+ metre-high Zuytdorp cliffs that run for 170 km down to Kilbarri. The wildflowers were really more prolific, varied and beautiful than I had ever expected – all the way down the WA coast. At Kilbarri we did a four-day pack-carry down the Murchison gorge with its beautiful cream and red cliffs, seeing hundreds of feral goats apparently quite at home in this national park. There's a thriving export industry – shipping them to the Middle East! At Geraldton we chartered a small plane to fly us to the Houtman Abrolhos islands where Gina searched for a particular bird and for me to snorkel, again. From Geraldton we travelled fairly quickly to the south coast, where we were to spend some time here and in the south-west of WA. We'd now been travelling for some 150 days and we'd covered more than 18,000 kilometres.

Derrick Brown



Good Food Guide

Camperdown 21/4 hours west of Melbourne.

Cafe One Fifty Three. Situated in the middle of the main drag with huge arched windows. Now open for dinner on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Otherwise every day except Mondays. Brilliant coffee, cake to die for and super setting. This is seriously good.

Camperdown 21/4 hours west of Melbourne.

Commercial Hotel. Good pub grub and prices and in a very pleasant setting.

Colac 2 hours west of Melbourne.

Restaurant on the road to Gellibrand, 50 yards down on right hand side. Only had coffee and cake here (both good) and the restaurant keeps buhwalker hours.

Winchelsea 1 1/2 hours west of Melbourne through Geelong on the sweep of the bend just over the river on the right hand side going out of town.

Old Shire Hall cafe. Quite good cafe fare in interesting setting but, closes at 4.30 pm.

PREVIEWS OF DAY WALKS NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2004



SUNDAY BUS: Labertouche Wildflower Walk

DATE	Sunday 21 November
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	13 & 18 km Approx.
LEADERS	Peter Havlicek and ?
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd.
RETURN TIME	6.30 pm
MAP REFERENCE	Spion Kopje 1:25000 8022–2–3
LOCATION	Labertouche Wildflower Reserve
AREA	Bunyip State Forest, Labertouche (along Princes Highway, Gippsland)

The walk is in the Wildflower Reserve off Forest Road in the Bunyip State Forest. The walk is circular, starting at the Brighton Grammar School camp. The medium walk takes in a longer route along Bullock Link Track to South Hells Gate, then to Quartz Creek Road and down to a very pretty and interesting Nature Walk along Lawson Creek, then up Discovery Track and completing the circuit along Tea Tree Road. There is a great variety of bush flowers including Gudenias, Dusty Millers, Banksias, Grevilleas and Boronias along Discovery Track. Wallabies, lyrebirds and land yabbies are amongst the fauna observed on past visits.

The easy walk is shorter with less climbing, but takes in the pretty bits.

DANDENONGS EXPLORER: Birdlands

DATE	Saturday 27 November
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	About about 12 km.
LEADER	Warren Baker
TRANSPORT	Private
MEETING TIME	10.30 am.
MEETING PLACE	Birdlands Reserve, Tecoma. Entrance opposite Mount Morton Road.
MAP REFERENCES	Melway 84 B2.

Last year we had a half day walk in this area. This year I want to find out a bit more about the park and extend the walk by about 4km. We will walk over much of the same ground as last year but will turn west at the junction of the Dargon and Granite tracks to the lookout. We will then work our way around the perimeter and ascend to the junction of the abovenamed tracks. We will then climb to the Abrahams track and work our way back to Birdlands. Carry lunch and sufficient water. There is only one climb of any significance.



SUNDAY BUS: Yarra Rail Trail and Winery

DATE	Sunday 28 November
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	15 & 17 kms
LEADERS	Quentin Tibballs & Peter McGrath
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd.
RETURN TIME	7 pm
AREA	Warburton
MAP REFERENCE	Gladysdale 1:25,000

‘Melbourne’s Mystic Mountains’ is how this area is often described. The description is apt, with the mountains in the immediate vicinity of Warburton providing a green colour and the more distant ones blue, against the setting of a blue sky, green grass and the flowing waters of the Yarra River. The area is rich in history, of gold mining and later the timber workers with the associated tramways providing many of the trails through the region – if you know the history, you can almost see them working in the mind’s eye.

The Easy walk starts at Yarra Junction, visiting Yarra Burn winery along the way. This wine tasting is free. The walk will proceed along the Rail Trail into Warburton before winding around the Yarra River in Warburton.

The Easy/Medium walk will commence at Launching Place, without a visit to the Yarra Burn winery. The group will walk into Warburton along the Rail Trail before launching itself up Mount Little Joe to enjoy the views overlooking Warburton. The walk will end beside the Yarra at Warburton.

On the way home, we will visit Lillydale Estate, where a tasting costs \$4, however the serve is generous. After, we will visit Elmswood winery – here the tasting will cost \$2, and the view across the Yarra Valley is unparalleled.

TOFS: Ferny Creek Horticultural Gardens

DATE	Thurs 2 December 2004
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	11 km
LEADER	Jean Giese
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Back to cars, 2.30 pm
AREA	Dandenongs
MAP REFERENCE	Melways 75

It’s always pleasant walking in the Sherbrooke Forest and of special interest will be the opportunity to have a private wander around to Ferny Creek Horticultural Society’s garden which is usually only open to the public on special gala days. Great views from here too.

Meet 10.15 am on Belgrave Ferny Creek Road opposite Sandells Road (Melways 75 E6). Park on Sandells Road or on the verge at the corner of Sandells Road and Belgrave Ferny Creek Road. Book with Jean on



SUNDAY BUS: Strzelecki Ranges Rail Trail and Brewery

DATE	Sunday 5 December 2004
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	13 & 15 km
LEADERS	Tom Wilanowski & Hans Edlinger
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd. at 9 am.
RETURN TIME	7 pm
AREA	Strzelecki Ranges
MAP REFERENCE	Boolarra 8121-2-3, Mirboo 8121-3-2, Thorpdale 8121-3-1

To me, the major attraction of this walk is the fact that I may be the only participant able to correctly pronounce the name of the destination. Another attraction is a brewery. We had winery walks before, but this may be the first brewery walk done by our club. And what a brewery it is! Grand Ridge Brewery in Mirboo North claims to be the world's most awarded brewery, for example, it won 29 medals in 2002 and 21 medals in 2003 Australian International Beer Awards. Quite possibly this is the best boutique brewery in Australia, if little known, and we will have an opportunity to enjoy a brewery tour and beer tasting session at the end of the walk.

However, as we are a bushwalking club, there will be some walking before that. The Easy group will follow the Boolarra – Mirboo North Rail Trail, while the Easy/Medium group will start at Boolarra historic cemetery (which has the best views in town) and visit other historic sights of Boolarra before joining the same trail. Although the rail trail is only 13 km long, it is for the most part uphill as it climbs 240 m in altitude between Boolarra and Mirboo North, so some level of fitness is required.

Other attractions notwithstanding, this region is exceptionally picturesque, and the rail trail passes through very diverse scenery. There are dairy farms and pine plantations, but there are also damp fern gullies and stands of tall mountain ash, not to mention wildlife, wildflowers and stunning views. If we are lucky, we may even see the endemic Mirboo Lily, the floral emblem of Mirboo North, in full bloom.

The Grand Ridge Brewery charges a \$2 tasting fee, which the leaders will collect immediately before the tasting session. Teetotalers, should such people choose to come on this walk, will be given an option to have tea instead.

WEDNESDAY WALK: Lower Yarra meander: Docklands – Fairfield

DATE	8 December 2004
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	18 km
LEADER	Sandra Mutimer
TRANSPORT	Private, with the possibility of public transport to assist with some of the arrangements
RETURN TIME	Before 4.00pm at the Fairfield Boat House
AREA	Mostly along the Yarra River, from Victoria Harbour, Docklands, to Fairfield Boat House
MAP REFERENCE	Melway 2E, 2F, 2G, 2L, 2M, 59, 45, 44

Please note this walk will be on the 2nd Wednesday of the month rather than the usual 3rd.

We begin at New Quay, Victoria Harbour, at Docklands meeting at 10.00 am and ending at the Fairfield Boat House where we will celebrate our end-of-the-year get-together. It will be mainly on bike tracks along the Yarra River with visits to places of interest along the way.

Some arrangements I need to sort out before the walk which are:

- ways of reducing the distance of the walk for those who would like a shorter option [one possibility is a ride on the City Circle tram].
- organising for as many cars as possible to be at the end of the walk at Fairfield Boat House
- having our food and drink there at the end of the walk.

These arrangements will be sorted out by the time of booking and I will be able to discuss these with you or send you an email or letter with more details – but please do not leave it until the last minute to contact me on

One of the problems I need to sort out is to reduce the distance we'll be walking between Docklands and the Fairfield Boat House. I have some ideas.



SUNDAY BUS: Switzerland Ranges

DATE	12 December 2004
STANDARD	Easy/Medium and Medium
LEADERS	Doug Langton and Keith McKenry
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd. at 8.30 am.

Please see the leaders in the club rooms about this walk.



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 Boulevard 9 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!



PACK CARRY: Baw Baws

DATE	26–28 November
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	30 km
LEADERS	Ralph Blake
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Sunday evening
AREA	Baw Baw National Park
MAP REFERENCE	Baw Baw 1:25000

On Friday night our camp will be at the Mt Erica car park. On Saturday we will walk along the Alpine Walking Track to Mt Erica and then to Mt St Phillack. Camp will be made somewhere near St Phillack saddle. Mt Whitelaw will be visited on Saturday afternoon.

Other places to visit on Sunday are: Mt Baw Baw, Mt St Gwinear, and Mt Kernot. Then we will return via Mt Erica and down to the car park.



PACK CARRY: Telegraph Saddle – Sealers Cove

DATE	3–5 December 2004
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	20 km (with packs)
LEADERS	Ken MacMahon
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	8 pm
AREA	Wilsons Promontory
MAP REFERENCE	Wilsons Promontory, Outdoor Leisure Map

From Telegraph Saddle, Sealers Cove is an easy 10 km walk along a delightful path. We should have the tents set up by lunch time leaving the afternoon free to skip over to Refuge Cove with day packs or you can just cool your heels if you wish. Sunday morning we will explore the northern end of Sealers Cove before re-tracing our steps to Telegraph Saddle.

If you have been thinking of giving pack carrying a go, this walk should be an excellent introduction to the pleasures of weekend walking. The club has equipment to hire and friendly advice and assistance will be available, so why not give it a try?



PACK CARRY: Mt Bogong

DATE	10–12 December
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	25 km
LEADER	Rod Novak
TRANSPORT	Private
ELEVATION GAIN	1400 metres
MAP	Alpine National Park
RETURN TIME	9.30 pm Sunday evening

Up Bogong! And at 1986 m this is Victoria's highest peak. We have a very steep climb with the reward of Victoria's best mountain views. On Saturday it is up, up and more up the famous 'Staircase' Spur to the summit, then across to Cleve Cole Hut with camp at the old stockyard site. On Sunday we return to the summit, then descend down the Eskdale Spur, then along Mountain Creek back to the cars. Optional extras include side trips to West Peak and/or How-man's Falls. Expect both snow and extreme heat conditions. This trip is for fit, experienced and equipped pack carry weekend walkers. See the Leader at Club night on 1st and 8th December for more information and bookings.



PACK CARRY: Mt Victor – Mt McDonald (AAWT)

DATE	26 December 2004 – 1 January 2005
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	72 km 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 Ram-shead 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 7 km 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 pleased to help anyone who has never been camping before and does not know 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

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.

NEW MEMBERS:
Dominic Chillemi

Joycelyn Nesvold

Brian Lawrence

Bert Reeh

Christina Linczocoski

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Patricia O'brien

Life Members	10
Honorary Members	10
Single Memberships	329
Family Memberships	106 (= 2 x 53)
Total Membership	455
This time last year	465

Lynne Wilkinson

Peter Havlicek, Membership Secretary

ADD TO MEMBERSHIP LIST:

Alan Kellett

Clubrooms Duty Roster

November 10	Mark Heath, Ron Hampton
November 17	Rod Novak, Jan palich
November 24	Fay Dunn, Doug Pocock
December 1	Carol Criddle, Peter Havlicek
December 8	Lynda Larkin, John Coe

ALTERED ADDRESS/PHONE:

Sheena Burgess

Next committee meeting

Monday 6 December, 7 pm in the clubrooms

Matthew C Cameron

Jan Colquhoun



Fang Fang

MISSING

The Club's weekend trip **First Aid Kit**
Can weekend leaders check their home
equipment cupboards?
Please return a.s.a.p.

Sibylle Holdheide

Rubber bands wanted: If your place of work has a nett rubber band output (rather than a rubber band consumption), the Bushies are keen to help you recycle these. We need them for the NEWS mailing and the useful ones are the wide ones, 4mm or more. Thank you.

WALKS PROGRAM NOVEMBER 2004

Tue 2	Historical Walk: Merri Creek – CERES	Private	Easy	Nigel Holmes
Thu 4	TOFS: Warramate Hills	Private	Easy	Jean Giese
6 – 7	Cycle trip: Leongatha to Foster Rail Trail	Private	E/M	Stephen Rowlands
Sun 7	Lysterfield Lake Park (Including BBQ)	BUS	E & E/M	Fiona Gallery & Marisa Rizutto
12 – 14	Pack carry: Garden Range – Seven Creek Gorge	Private	E/M	Ray Thomas
Sun 14	[08:30 start] Cathedral Range	BUS	E/M & M	Halina Sarbinowski & Lance Mobbs
Wed 17	Wednesday Walk: Creswick Miners' Walk	Private	E/M	Sandra Mutimer
19 – 21	Base camp: Cape Liptrap Area	Private	E/M	Jopie Bodegraven
Sun 21	Labertouche Wildflower Walk	BUS	E & E/M	Peter Havlicek & Joan MacMahon
26 – 28	Pack carry: Baw Baws	Private	Medium	Ralph Blake
Sat 27	Dandenongs Explorer: Birdlands	Private	Easy	Warren Baker
Sun 28	Yarra Rail Trail & Winery	BUS	E & E/M	Quentin Tibballs & 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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ADDRESS _____ ADDRESS _____

PHONE Home _____ Bus. _____ PHONE Home _____ Bus. _____

EMAIL _____

SUBSCRIPTION FEES: ORDINARY – single membership \$45.00
FAMILY/COUPLE – membership \$70.00
New members joining on/after 1st October 2003 \$24.00 less visitor fees
Make cheques or money orders payable to 'Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.' and post to:
Membership Secretary, GPO Box 1751Q, Melbourne, 3001

CONCESSION – single membership \$30.00 (proof required)
CONCESSION – couple \$38.00 (proof required)
The News – \$20.00