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# THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 CENTS

EDITION 650 APRIL 2005

## Reminder

We are in the subscription period – subs are due before the end of **MAY!** Please do not wait for the last moment, next issue of *The News* is the dreaded 'Red Nose' issue. If your mailing label says **Subs Due**

– they very likely are!



### Melbourne Bushwalkers Annual Mega Buying Night

**20% OFF OUTDOOR GEAR !!!**

**The Wilderness Shop  
969 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill**

**Tuesday 10th May 6:00 pm -  
9:00pm**



**DOOR PRIZE: Mont Backpack**

**20% OFF REGULAR PRICES !!  
5% OFF SALE ITEMS !!  
SNACKS & DRINKS !!**

## CLUBROOM FRIDAY FLICKS

### Friday 29th April

Now that summer is over it's time to reinstate my/your/everybody's favourite Friday night activity: – classic Australian films in 16mm in the clubrooms! So rock along to an evening of nostalgia, comedy, humour and indulgence as we mine the cinematic archives again.

To launch our new season we have pleasure in presenting **HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS**, featuring George Wallace, and made in 1932. George hangs around a hamburger joint next to a theatre and accidentally lands a part in the show. He falls asleep and dreams he's inherited the kingship of a European country. It's corny, dated, and with some dreadful musical interludes but the pace is fast, the gags keep coming and it's rollicking good fun. The influence of Laurel and Hardy, Charlie Chaplin and the Marx Brothers is clearly apparent.

We always start the show with a short film and this time it will be **SOLO**, a breathtaking exploration of the pleasures and dangers of mountain climbing. Spectacular scenery, heart stopping slips (especially when a piton falls out) and a happy ending!

Show starts at 7.30pm, and includes an interval during which a light supper will be provided. No need to book – just show up, but if you need any further information, ring Stuart .

**Remember! This is not a video or DVD but a genuine cinematic projection.**

## P R E S I D E N T ' S C O R N E R

**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:

- 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

We have been fortunate to have two long weekends during March and I must say a big thank you to the leaders that have given up their time to organise the pack carry's & base camps over the Labour Day long weekend, and the Easter Break.

For those of you who have never led a walk, but it is in the back of your mind that you might like to become a leader one day, speak to our walks organisers Jopie Bodegraven or Peter McGrath. They will explain the process of how you can gradually develop leadership skills and work up to leading a walk. The leaders who volunteer month after month make a very important contribution to our great walks programme.

On another issue, the web site has a new format and a couple of new features that I will let you explore for yourselves. Some of you will remember how I was running round taking photos at last year's Federation Weekend. Up till now I have been unable to share those photos with you, but that has changed. Our new web manager, Ian Mair, has developed a photo gallery for shots of interest taken during walks or other activities. So instead of the great photos you take being shared by a few, all members can enjoy the beauty of our walks through your photos.

To add photos to the site, send either prints (which can be scanned and returned) or digital images (on disc or by email) to Ian plus a brief caption for each photo. The site can hold between 5-15 photos for each activity. As the site is public, it is best to avoid personal details such as full names. Should you wish to look at the photo gallery, the link is:

[http://www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au/photogallery/MBW\\_photo\\_gallery.htm](http://www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au/photogallery/MBW_photo_gallery.htm)

Safe Walking

*Jan Palich*

## Wine & Cheese evening



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

# Variety Afternoon

Malvern Town Hall  
Sunday 10th April, 2pm

MBW members David Arnold and Flora Turner will sing with the Melbourne German Club mixed choir 'Liederkrantz Tivoli' in this variety concert, which also features Cranbourne Chorale, Voice Box, and soloist Lisa Anne Robinson

Program will include excerpts from 'The Merry Widow' by Franz Lehár, and a selection of other compositions in German and English.

Tickets \$15 includes refreshments.  
Children under 16 free.  
Proudly sponsored by the City of Stonnington

## Message in a bottle

Have you ever been disgusted by the number of cans and bottles seen in the bush, along the roadside or washed up along a river?

Peter Cook of Maroondah Bushwalking Club has. He is trying to do something about it. He has initiated a campaign called 'Message in a Bottle'. The object is to lobby the Victorian state government to introduce a deposit / refund system on drink containers, the same as works successfully in South Australia.

The case for a deposit / refund system is compelling and urgent. In Australia, 5 billion drink containers are tossed out annually. We produce more than 2.2 billion PET bottles annually. In Victoria only 35.3% of PET is recycled, but nearly 80% is recycled in South Australia. Added to this, South Australia has 50% less litter than other states and territories, according to Clean Up Australia statistics.

At present the state government, [like the beverage and packaging industries], is opposed to Container Deposit Legislation. The flimsy justifications given for its current position, do not stand up to close scrutiny and are not supported by interstate and overseas experience.

Despite this, a change in government policy will not happen unless enough people speak up and demand change.

If you are concerned about this problem, visit Peter's website [www.wildcoast.net.au](http://www.wildcoast.net.au) and click on 'Message in a Bottle'. There are sample letters and E-mails that you can adapt to send to your state MP, local councillor and Mr. Thwaites, Minister for the Environment.

Also, Peter has started AFROCAB [Australians for Refunds on Cans and Bottles]. Please register your name as an AFROCAB supporter, so Peter can show government that Container Deposit Legislation does have wide public support. E-mail Peter at [pcook@wildcoast.net.au](mailto:pcook@wildcoast.net.au) with your name and contact details.

It will be great having bushwalkers again taking action to help keep our favourite places clean and healthy.

## Spring Walks Program

### Get your ideas & offers in soon

Very shortly we will be starting the process of putting together the Spring Walks Program. It works like this. Throughout April, Peter and I eagerly accept ideas for trips and offers of leadership. Then in early May we have a walks planning night in the clubrooms where we and the rest of the walks committee and anyone else who would like to be there looks at what we have and we flesh out next Spring's walk program. This then gives us about 7 weeks to find the remaining leaders and generally fine tune the program to make it as interesting and comprehensive as possible before it gets printed at the end of June for inclusion with the July News.

Now is therefore the time to get your thinking caps on and let us know about your good ideas, suggestions and the trips you would like to lead in Spring. The planning night will be held on Tuesday 3rd May at 7pm in the clubrooms. Catch Peter or me in the clubrooms or ring me for overnight trips and Peter for Sunday walks. We want your input.

*Jopie Bodegraven*

## Mega Buying Night at the Wilderness Shop

The Box Hill Wilderness Shop invites all members of MBW to a special **20% Discount Night** with free nibbles, pizza, and drinks, and special door prizes on Tuesday 10th May 2005.

See front page advertisement.

# Expressions of Interest Required

**LODGE WEEKEND – GRAMPIANS (HALL'S GAP)  
22-24 JULY 2005**

We're planning a weekend at the excellent YHA Eco-Lodge at Hall's Gap and need to have an idea of numbers interested prior to booking. Accommodation costs per person for the two nights will be \$56.00 (4 person dorm) or \$67.00 (twin/double share).

Walks to be finalised, however, ideas at the moment are the Wonderland Loop, Mt Rosea, McKenzie Falls to Zumstein. Locals have advised that walking in the Grampians takes on a different feel during the winter months so this can still be a new experience for the many time visitor to the area. To those who haven't visited the Grampians before it's pure magic with so very much to offer the bushwalker.

If you are interested please contact me by May 22.

*Halina Sarbinowski*



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**OUTDOOR  
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Our Staff Members are Outdoors  
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sale items not included

969 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill, VIC, 3128  
Tel: (03) 9898 3742 Fax: (03) 9899 5398  
Email: wildshop@ozemail.com.au

## WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

# Top End Orienteering and Rogaining

After 27 years of Top End Orienteering, this is Darwin's first Championship and national badge event.

It will include three orienteering events, a rogaine and a bush dinner.

If you are interested in orienteering and/or rogaining as well as bushwalking, this could be the perfect year for a visit.

Months of planning have already gone into this carnival and months more are still to come. A small, dedicated band of local orienteers and rogainers will have all systems go by the time the event kicks off in July.

**Carnival – 8-17 July**

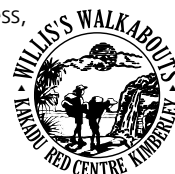
See the websites below for full details.

**Top End Orienteering:** [www.topend.nt.orienteering.asn.au/badge/index.html](http://www.topend.nt.orienteering.asn.au/badge/index.html)

**Rogaine:** <http://nt.rogaine.asn.au>

Several of our trips or sections of our trips can easily be combined with the carnival. See the Top End and Kimberley trip list on our website for full details.

**Special discount.** Anyone entering the orienteering championship and/or the rogaine will get an additional discount of 10% on the cost of the trip if their total discounts are 15% or less, an extra 5% if their other discounts add up to more than 15%. (Proof of entry is required.)



[www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au](http://www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au)

**Willis's Walkabouts 12 Carrington St Millner NT 0810 Email: [walkabout@ais.net.au](mailto:walkabout@ais.net.au)**

**Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355**

# Third time lucky for Max (and others).

## Mount Wills area, 26–30 January

Max had tried to run a trip to the Mt. Wills area on two previous occasions but had been defeated by the January 2003 bushfires and their aftermath. This time he was successful and the exercise was very rewarding. We met at lunchtime on Australia Day at Watchbed Creek on the Bogong High Plains and spent the afternoon wandering over to Roper's Hut site on the edge of the High Plains. Roper's was one of several huts burnt in the fires, as was much of the vegetation in the country that we passed through during the five day trip. Our route took us steeply downhill from Roper's to the Big River, up just as steeply to the slopes of Mt. Bogong, along the well-named Long Spur towards Mt. Wills and down (again) to the Big River for the third night, finishing up the mysterious Track 107 to the High Plains and our starting point.

For the wildflower freak the walk provided a veritable feast for the eyes. Our timing in the season was ideal for witnessing the brilliant display of daisies, including the superb golden everlastings. Two years after the fire is a good time to see them. The High Plains vegetation in general is re-establishing well after the fire. Even the most severely burnt areas are showing signs of vigorous regrowth. The snowgum woodlands may look unsightly due to the 'dead-stick' effect but all the trees are now re-sprouting from the base. Similarly the slopes just below the High Plains are covered with Alpine Ash and other seedlings.

Our first and second nights' campsites had a High Plains ambience but the third night at the Big River provided contrast and a warmer night. During the third day's walk there was some discussion about Track 107; specifically the origin of its name and also where it went in view of its being shown so differently on the two versions of the map that we were carrying. Our leader had walked it before (even if in the other direction from that to be followed on our fourth day) and therefore we anticipated no difficulty in locating it.

On day four we crossed the Big River and headed up the hill expecting to intersect the track after only a short distance of off-track walking. We walked up, and again we walked up for quite a long time, with no sign of a track. We looked left and right in case we had been walking parallel to it. We looked at the map and procrastinated and wondered whether we had crossed over the track without noticing it. We even wondered whether the track existed other than in Max's imagination. We were committed to walking up the hill and decided to push on, track or no track. Sometime later we intersected a very obvious track (the elusive 107) and its location told us that both versions of the map were seriously in error. After following it and encountering a group of horse trekkers we emerged once again into High Plains-type scenery at the beautiful Wild Horse Creek where we camped our last night. Here we had some rain which

contrasted with the otherwise excellent weather organised by the leader. On the last (half) day we walked up past Kelly's and Fitzgerald's huts and back to Watchbed Creek, again revelling in the wildflowers. Finally we made an obligatory visit to the Mt. Beauty Bakery to fortify ourselves for the long drive home.

Max did a great job. His group was Doug and Jan, Susan, Tracey, Frances, Dzung and

*Jerry Grandage*

## Latest on Wilky

At this stage there is no latest on Wilky. We have put in our club appeal and we are pleased with the support received from members and non members. There has been no response from Parks Vic so if you were planning to write but missed the dead line why not put pen to paper NOW. Your letter might just be the one to tip the scales in our favour. Also chase up those friends/relatives who you took up for a lovely holiday, they may like to write a letter of support.

Write to: The Secretary,  
Board of Management of Parks Vic.,  
Dept of Sustainability and Environment,  
P.O. Box 500,  
E. Melbourne 3002.  
E-mail: [helen.gwilliam@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:helen.gwilliam@dse.vic.gov.au)

Doug Pocock (Ph. For info 5964 4974)

## Trekking in Nepal



**I am organising a group to trek in Nepal in April, 2006.**

Discover the beauty of the Himalaya on this introductory trek. This great adventure will incorporate the two most popular trekking areas in Nepal, the Annapurna and Everest regions.

22 days trek per person land package all-inclusive US\$1,500.00.

**For more detailed information please contact Julie**

# Bacchus Marsh joins the Great Dividing Trail network

**The Great Dividing Trail (GDT) continues to grow, stretching across an ever-expanding area of the central Victorian goldfields.**

On Friday 18 February, the Governor of Victoria, John Landy, patron of the Great Dividing Trail Association (GDTA), opened the 80km Lerderderg Track from Bacchus Marsh to Daylesford, at an impressive ceremony held at the beautiful Blackwood Mineral Springs Reserve, bringing the total length of the GDT to 260km.

Also at the opening, immediately after running a long section of the new trail from Mount Blackwood to Blackwood, was GDT Ambassador, Steve Moneghetti.

About 150 people were in attendance to hear the Governor speak of his long-standing interests in flora and fauna, and of the significance of the GDT in terms of the natural environment and the gold mining era. He indicated how impressed he was with the cooperation between the GDTA and various government departments, individuals and the Green Corp as a testament of what can be achieved by the community working together. Steve Moneghetti encouraged city people to use this pathway into the bush.

Barry Golding, GDTA President, then told the gathering how pleased the association was to have completed the original plan conceived in the early 1990s, and expressed the GDTA's gratitude for the support it received from various State and local government and other bodies and individuals. The Governor then unveiled a plaque which will be installed at the Blackwood Mineral Springs Reserve, and the ceremony concluded with the traditional 'cutting of the ribbon' by the Governor.

Following a magnificently-catered afternoon tea, the Governor and Steve Moneghetti led a walk along the trail from the Springs to Blackwood township. Most of the people in attendance took part in this walk. Bacchus Marsh is now the closest point to Melbourne on the GDT, being only a little over 30 minutes away by train, and the entry point to the trail is at the railway station.

This completes the last link of the GDT as originally planned in the early 1990s, and already investigation is proceeding on the feasibility of several further extensions.

The Lerderderg Track starts at the Bacchus Marsh Railway Station and follows an urban route to the Lerderderg State Park boundary at Swans Road. It continues along the west ridge of the Lerderderg Gorge to O'Briens Crossing, passing en route around the slopes of Mt Blackwood. From O'Briens Crossing it joins Byres Back Track, which is followed into Blackwood township. The trail then heads north-westward to Lake Daylesford

via Simmons Reef, Nolans Camp and the picturesque Jubilee Lake. From this hub of the GDT at Daylesford, one is also able to walk 72km to Creswick and Ballarat along the Federation Track, and 115km to Castlemaine and Bendigo via the Dry Diggings and Leanganook tracks. Building of the Lerderderg Track involved the installation of about 200 direction posts, some distance posts, entry station boards containing maps at key locations and a substantial map publication. Some track construction, including a substantial number of steps over steep sections, was necessary.

A detailed colour map of each of the GDT tracks, including the Lerderderg Track, is available from most information centres in the GDT area.

Further information on the GDTA and its network of walking tracks can be found on the GDTA website at [www.gdt.org.au](http://www.gdt.org.au).

## PHOTO-SHOW OF KAKADU AND THE TOP END

Kodachrome

**8.00 pm Wednesday,  
27 April 2005  
(cheese and wine)**

Join us in some recollections of our 2004 trip when we spent some time up north with bushie mates as part of our seven-month tour –  
Gina Hopkins & Derrick Brown.



### SUNDAY BUS: Hughes Creek Ramble

DATE	Sunday 17 April 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium & Medium
LEADERS	Sylvia Ford & David Elias
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd at 8.30 am.
MAP REFERENCE;	Mt. Bernard & Mt. Stewart 1:25000

Hughes Creek has got to be amongst the best inland day walking areas in the state. It's got everything: huge rolling hills with expansive views, definitely big sky country, and down to the creek itself sometimes flowing over slabs of granite, sometimes beside a cliff where Peregrin Falcons nest or through slow deep pools where I've seen Platypus swimming. Some of it is over farm land but there's plenty of good bush too. Come and join us.

### WEDNESDAY WALK:

#### Arthurs Seat, Mornington Peninsula

DATE	Wednesday 20 April 05
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	15 km
LEADERS	Alister Rowe
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	3:30 pm
AREA	Mornington Peninsula
MAP REFERENCE	Parks Victoria, Two Bays Walking Track

Meet at the Latrobe Pde carpark at entrance to the park, Melway Ref 159 D10.

Arrive at 10:00 am sharp because a car shuffle will be necessary. Allow plenty of time to clear the city. Turn off the freeway at McCullach St and access Latrobe Pde from Point Nepean Rd.

The walk will be up to Arthurs Seat and down to Baldrys Crossing carpark, keeping to the Two Bays walking track. There will be a few diversions along the way to take in the views.

Bruce Campbell has kindly invited us to his home at Mt Martha for refreshments afterwards – a treat not to be missed!



### SUNDAY BUS:

#### Great Divide Trail, Daylesford – Lerderderg Track

DATE	Sunday 24 April 2005
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/Medium
LEADERS	Nik Dow & Fiona Jarman
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd at 9 am

This 'new' trail is in fact a collation of existing forestry roads along which new pegs have been positioned. Eschewing any walking through the forest, the 'trail' stays mostly on roads, which we were able to cover in a Holden Nova. They appear to be well liked by trail bikes as well. We have selected the best section, which winds down to the upper

Lerderderg River and follows the 'Lerderderg River Heritage Trail' into Blackwood. The first part of the walk, on roads, passes through timber production forest, mostly firewood production. Later there are some pleasant moments along the river and overall an easy walk but not without some changes in elevation.

### DANDENONG EXPLORER: Hermans Saddle – Emerald

DATE	Saturday 30 April 2005
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	13 km
TRANSPORT	Private
LEADER	Stuart Hodgson
TIME	10.15 am

This circular walk combines picturesque walking paths and quiet roads with parts of the Puffing Billy track. From John's Hill lookout there are spectacular views across Silvan Dam, Kinglake National Park and the bays, and lots of colourful gardens along the way. The walk includes an interesting timber stairway and a delightful little-known shady grove for our lunch break. Later in the day if there's time we could also check out the Puffing Billy Railway Museum as we approach Menzies Creek. The starting point for this walk is Herman's Saddle Reserve (Melways 124 E 11). For any further information or to book in, ring Stuart.



### SUNDAY BUS: Mt Alexander Regional Park

DATE	Sunday 1st May 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium (14 km) and Medium (19 km)
LEADERS	Keith McKenry & Tom Wilanowski
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd at 9 am
AREA	Harcourt, Calder Highway, NW of Melbourne.
MAP	Mt Alexander Regional Park Visitor Guide, Melways 509 E6.

This walk explores the Mt Alexander Regional Park. Mt Alexander lies on a large granite intrusion with steep slopes, tall trees and is crowned by rocky outcrops. The park is a prominent landmark rising some 350 m above the surrounding area offering fine views with Bendigo visible on a clear day.

In 1851 Mt Alexander was the new 'Eldorado'. The area became the richest shallow alluvial goldfield the world has ever known and experienced one of the largest goldrushes of the nineteenth century. Granite from Mt Alexander has been used for buildings and monuments in Melbourne including the base of the Burke and Wills memorial. More recently it was used in the new parliament house in Canberra. Native trees include Manna Gum, Messmate, Long leaved Box and Yellow Box.



The Medium walk will approach Mt Alexander with a steady climb from the south passing the Leanganook winery. Leanganook is derived from 'Lanjanuc' the name the local Jarra Jarra people called the mountain which to them was a sacred ceremonial ground and high vantage point.

Both walks will explore the Leanganook fenced Koala enclosure before proceeding along the West Ridge walking track taking in fine views from Dog Rocks, Shepherds flat and Langs Lookout. From Langs lookout both walks descend off track through some light scrub to meet the bus at the Harcourt picnic area which features large Oak trees which will be in full autumn color.

### TOFS: Long Forest Flora Reserve

DATE	Thursday 5 May 2005
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	11 km
LEADER	Jean Giese
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Long Forest / Merrimu (near Bacchus Marsh)
MAP REFERENCE	Melways. Different editions, different pages

Situated between the Djerrwarrh and Coimadai Creeks, this reserve was established in 1981 because of its scientific value and unusual landscape, as well as for the remnant mallee forest, the only naturally occurring mallee south of the Great Dividing Range. The walk is mostly on bush tracks, some of which are a bit rough, so bring the trusty walking sticks.

Take the Western Highway and after crossing Djerrwarrh Creek, there is a right hand turn before the crest of the hill – Long Forest Road, signposted for Merrimu Reservoir. Meet about 1.2 km along this road to start walking at 10.30 am.

Book with the leader.

### TRACK WORK: Mt Buffalo National Park

DATE	6 – 8 May 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	10 km
LEADER	Rod Novak
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	9 pm Sunday evening
AREA	North-east Victoria
MAP REFERENCE	Eurobin 1:25,000

Come along for a fun weekend helping Ranger Ross Grant with track work at the Mt Buffalo National Park. This park suffered greatly from the 2003 bushfires and the Rangers need help in getting the walking tracks working again. Possible projects include track maintenance on 'The Big Walk', laying matting along the alpine meadows and maybe even some bridge building! Bring your normal Base Camp equipment as well as safety equipment eg gloves, strong boots, safety glasses etc. We will have a celebratory gourmet entrée on the Saturday night – you need to bring something interesting and delicious to share. Ranger Ross may even have accommodation for us.

More details at Clubnight with a trip briefing at 7.45 pm on Wednesday 4th May to arrange car pooling, final arrangements and an information sheet. Please note: I will be unavailable at the Wednesday 27th April Club-night, however early telephone inquiries most welcome.



### SUNDAY BUS: Yea Spur

DATE	Sunday 8 May 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium & Medium
LEADERS	Paul Logsdon & Linda Wilkinson
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd at 9 am

This is a classic ridge walk in the wonderful hilly country south of Yea. It will feature extensive views, open farm country with some forest patches and oh yes, some ups and downs.



### SUNDAY BUS: Mollison Creek – Tooborac

DATE	Sunday 15 May 2005
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	15 km & 18 km
LEADERS	Jean Woodger & Doug Langton
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd at 9 am
RETURN TIME	Approx 7.00 pm
AREA	Pyalong
MAP REFERENCES	Pyalong 1:50,000 or Goldie North & Tooborac 1:25,000

We have not yet had a chance to preview this walk, but having led walks in this area before, I would say the following is a good indication of what we can expect. We'll start off at Hawks Road in Tooborac, climbing gradually through grassy paddocks scattered with numerous rocky outcrops, then along Hawks Hill through more rocks and old gum trees, emerging into open farming areas. Following the spur, with views across the valley, we'll have a few ups and downs, still walking amongst huge granite boulders.

Descending to the valley below, we will continue over farmland (and fences) to reach Mollison Creek, which we will follow to Mollison Gorge. The Easy/Medium walk will pursue one or two more peaks, and/or walk further along the gorge to another boulder strewn peak, before crossing some paddocks back to the bus. This is a great opportunity to walk through some picturesque rural properties.

### WEDNESDAY WALK: Smiths Gully Explorer

DATE	Wednesday 18 May 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	11 km
LEADER	David Hespe
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	3.30 pm
AREA	Smiths Gully
MAP REFERENCE	Melways pp. 264–265

Easy travel via Eltham or Hurstbridge then on to Pantan Hill. Four kilometres past Pantan Hill turn right after





Smiths Gully store then left into Smiths Gully Road. A further two kilometres brings you to the carpark opposite the Queenstown Cemetery. The walk will start from the cemetery (Melways 264 M3 and will include the Old Caledonia Gully Rifle Range Reserve and finish by walking through the Willis Nature Park.

Hopefully we will have a fine autumn day and Devonshire tea will be available at the Hesper's after the walk for those who have the time.

### **SUNDAY BUS: Anglesea – Pt Addis – Ironbark Basin**

DATE	Sunday 22 May 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCE	14 & 18 km
LEADERS	Peter Havlicek & Alan Clark
TRANSPORT	Bus from Southbank Blvd at 9.00 am
RETURN TIME	Before 7.00 pm
AREA	Anglesea
MAP REFERENCE	Anglesea 1:25000 (7721-3)

This is a walk along the coastline between Anglesea and Bells Beach with an extension to Jan Juc. The walk takes in interesting sites: the surf at Bells Beach, the source of the pigment that coated the 'red rattler' trains of yesteryear (does anyone still remember?), the rich flora and bird life of the Ironbark Basin, relics of aboriginals along the coast, the lighthouse at Pt Addis among others. Depending on the state of the tide, we may walk along the beach or on the cliff tops.

### **DANDENONG EXPLORER: Doongalla Walk**

DATE	Saturday 28 May 2005
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER	Warren Baker
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Doongalla State Forest

Meet 10.30 am Wicks Reserve Melway 65 H8. This year we will walk in the forward direction to have a reasonably early lunch at Doongalla homestead. We will walk on the road past the basin theatre and enter the park via the Golf Course Track. From here we will work our way up to Doongalla homestead via some fire tracks. Beware of thieving kookaburras at lunch time. After lunch we will climb Channel 10 track and walk along the track to the Glasgow track which we will negotiate with great care. We will then descend to the flat and find our way back to the cars via the archery pavilion. Hence to a well earned coffee.

### **SUNDAY BUS: Dandenong Ranges Tourist Track**

DATE	Sunday 29 May 2005
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/Medium
LEADERS	John Coe & Halina Sarbinowski
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd at 9 am

Details of this walk will appear in the May edition of the *News*

Walk leaders are reminded that the deadline for the receipt of walk previews is the Wednesday before the monthly committee meeting.

## **Mega Buying Night at the Wilderness Shop**

The Box Hill Wilderness Shop invites all members of MBW to a special **20% Discount Night** with free nibbles, pizza, and drinks, and special door prizes on Tuesday 10th May 2005.

See front page advertisement.

## **Federation Day Walk**

The 2005 Federation Day Walk will be hosted by the Essendon Bushwalking Club on Sunday 16 October at the picturesque town of Blackwood, about an hour's drive west of Melbourne.

Walks will be in and around the town, the Lerderberg State Park and the Wombat State Forest. Accommodation, if needed, will be up to the individual clubs to organise themselves.

Caravan parks in the area include:

- Blackwood Caravan Park
- Kyneton Caravan Park
- Bacchus Marsh Caravan Park
- Ballan Caledonian Caravan Park
- Cross Roads Caravan Park

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## PREVIEWS OF WEEKEND WALKS APRIL/MAY 2005

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### PACK CARRY:

#### Tin Mine Cove – Five Mile Beach (Northern Prom)

DATE	22–25 April 2005
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	40 km
LEADERS	Ken MacMahon
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	8 pm Monday
MAP REFERENCE	Wilsons Prom Outdoor Leisure Map

After setting up a car shuffle, we will be taken by boat from Port Welshpool to Tin Mine Cove. From here we walk on tracks and a beach to our campsite at Johnny Souey Cove, a distance of about 15 km. On Sunday we continue on to Five Mile Beach where we should have time to explore this beautiful, remote part of the Prom before the march along the access road to Barry Creek camp. It is only a short distance out to the cars on Monday, so we might take the opportunity to climb Veraker Lookout, perhaps after joining up with the 'Toughs' doing the harder walk.

This is a good opportunity to experience the best of the remote northern area of the Prom without having to walk both ways.



### PACK CARRY: Mitchell River Gorge

DATE	22–25 April 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	42 km approx.
LEADER	Bob Oxlade
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	8.30 pm Monday
AREA	East Gippsland
MAP REFERENCE	VIC MAP 1:50,000 Cobbannah–Tabberabbera. Also rooftops 1:50,000 Mitchell River NP Forest Activities

REMINDER: This more suitable venue replaces the programmed Dargo Area walk.

Friday night camp will be at the delightful Bark Inn camping park which is also a safe place to leave cars. Saturday we walk approximately 14 km, beginning with a 1 km bush track to the NP where we can view several features including the Aboriginal legendary Den of Nargen then, heading north upstream we follow the river and gorge with some spectacular scenery until leaving the track for our campsite at the river for Saturday and Sunday nights. On Sunday with day packs, we will walk approximately 14 km continuing along the river to the site of the former settlement, Angusvale. If the river level allows us to cross we have the option of returning to camp via a ridge-top track.

On Monday we will return to the cars via Saturday's track but will be viewing this great scenery from the north with its contrasting effects.



### PACK CARRY:

#### Tin Mine Cove – Barry Creek (Northern Prom)

DATE	22–25 April 2005
STANDARD	Medium/Hard
DISTANCE	31 km
LEADERS	Gina Hopkins
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Wilsons Prom
MAP REFERENCE	Wilsons Prom Outdoor Leisure Map 1:50,000

After somehow arranging to leave a car at the Five Mile Road car park in the northern section of the Prom, on Saturday morning we'll be taken by boat from Welshpool across to Tin Mine Cove. This will be our first night's camp so we will have the opportunity to explore the northern tip of the northern prom, with a possible climb up Mt Singapore. This will be off-track walking so expect some serious scrub and rock-hopping. The second day we will make our way south along Chinaman Long Beach and through some swamp to Lower Barry Creek. This section is rated hard because the track (if it exists at all!) is not marked and is hard to find and will involve wading across creeks and swamps – there are no boardwalks or bridges at this end of the prom! If we lose the track, which is highly likely at times, the going will be pretty tough I am told. From Lower Barry Creek the track is better marked and the terrain somewhat easier. We should have time for a sidetrip to Vereker Outlook on our return to the car park.

There is a limit of 6 on this trip. If you would like a different Prom experience from the crowded campsites of the southern section, and don't mind having wet feet all day, then this could be the walk for you.

### BASE CAMP: Grampians

DATE	22–25 April 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	20–30 km approx
LEADERS	Dianne McKinley
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Monday evening
AREA	Northern Grampians

The basecamp for this 3 day weekend will be at Troopers Creek located North West of Halls Gap. On Saturday and Sunday we will do full day walks and on Monday choose a shorter walk before returning at a reasonable hour. Within this vicinity we have a variety of walks to choose from such as Hollow Mountain, Mount Stapylton, Beehive Falls, Briggs Bluff or Mount Difficult. The walks offered will vary from easier trips to medium grade.

We can anticipate that it may be freezing cold and perhaps even wet this time of year in the Grampians, so



come prepared for extreme conditions. Despite this we may be required to bring all water. Please ring Dianne on 8489 9325 to obtain more information and see me in the clubrooms the 2 weeks prior to book on the trip. This should be a good weekend of walking in a very scenic area of the Grampians.

**BASE CAMP: Bendigo Bunk House**

DATE 14–15 May 2005  
 STANDARD Easy  
 DISTANCE 20–30 km approx  
 LEADER Sylvia Ford  
 TRANSPORT Private

The Bendigo Bushwalkers are kindly being our hosts for the Saturday, taking us up Mount Hubert. I haven't a clue where that is, all I know is that part of it is steep. The Saturday night dinner venue is being sussed out for us too – some pub. On Sunday it has been suggested we visit the little known but interesting Victoria Gold Mine and then please ourselves. A touristy walk around town?

The accommodation is not flash, but it is cheap. Arakoon is a 'resort' – a very loose meaning of the word – and it's on the McIvor Highway, just north of Axedale, about 20 km southeast of Bendigo.

Blurb sheets available on booking.



**PACK CARRY: Beeripmo Walk – Mount Cole**

DATE 27–29 May 2005  
 STANDARD Easy/Medium  
 DISTANCE 21 km  
 LEADER(S) Rosemary Cotter  
 TRANSPORT Private  
 RETURN TIME 7 pm  
 AREA Mt Cole/Mt Buangor – NW of Beaufort (187 km NW of Melbourne)  
 MAP REFERENCE Beaufort North and Buangor North, both 1:25,000

Following in the steps of Bob Oxlade who lead a very successful walk two years ago, we will be following the Beeripmo Walk which winds its way through fern gullies, past rocky outcrops, alpine plateaus, and spectacular tall forests. There are some optional side trips (without packs). Would suit beginner weekend walkers. Given its proximity, we may be able to drive up on the Saturday morning. See the leader in the clubrooms for more details.

**Walk leaders are reminded that the deadline for the receipt of walk previews is the Wednesday before the monthly committee meeting.**