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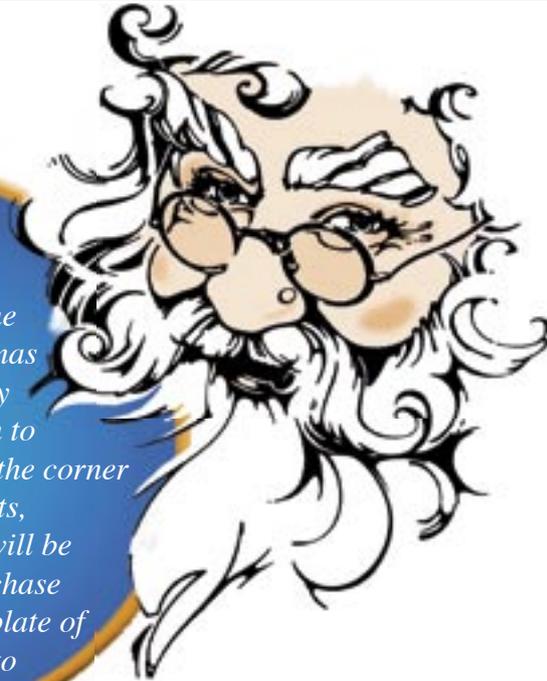
THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 CENTS

EDITION 658 DECEMBER 2005



We wish to extend an invitation to all our wonderful members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers to our Christmas Breakup Party on Wednesday 14 December 2005 from 7 pm to 10 pm at the Trades Hall, on the corner of Russell and Victoria Streets, Melbourne. The main bar will be open for members to purchase drinks. Please bring a plate of your favourite food to share.



YOUR COMMITTEE



Want to become more involved in the Melbourne Bushwalkers? Want to learn what keeps it going and how you can contribute energy and ideas?

Then join the MBW Committee

All positions become vacant in February and we are looking for general committee members and people willing to take on specific roles. Interested? Talk to Jan Palich or Fay Dunn or any committee member in the club rooms.

Newsletter editor required

Feeling creative and are familiar with word processing? Then talk to Ron Hampton about producing the newsletter. A new editor is required in 2006.

**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 1751,
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:
The Editor,
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.,
PO Box 1751, 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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Bushie Departure from Melbourne: This month we have said 'bon voyage' to a very well regarded Melbourne Bushie in Jean Woodger. My first memories of the club were walking with Jean who was a delightful font of knowledge about different walks and places of interest. Any walks that Jean led, were always very popular and she gained a great deal of respect from fellow walkers. Jean was my inspiration within the club and encouraged me to join the Committee. Thank you to those of you who were able to join together and give Jean a great send off to her new venture in NSW.

Jean, to you, again, thank you, for your quiet, cheerful work and commitment to the club over many years.

MBW Phone Contact Person: Another quiet worker in the background who has retired from her Bushie commitment, is Margaret Borden. Margaret has been monitoring our MBW public phone for many years and until recently has been the first point of contact to the club for many, many people.

Margaret, we thank you for your key role and your commitment and work behind the scenes over the years.

The club now has a 'virtual' message bank which we monitor on a regular basis. The Committee felt that although a great number of new members are finding the club via the web site, the phone was still an important part of our first point of contact.

Wilky Update: Following our application to obtain access to public documents available in relation to Wilky and the Parks Management, the Wilky Team have received Parks FoI (Freedom of Information) documentation, and they are evaluating this whilst waiting for additional information from DS&E.

Christmas Walking: Once again, the club has terrific walks organised for over the Christmas break and the Australia Day w/end. If you are at a loose end, and would like to explore our beautiful unspoilt areas, check out the programme and speak to the leader. You may need to come into the club and speak to the leader personally.

Merry Christmas and Safe Walking

Jan Palich

Wine & Cheese evening



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

Grand New Years Eve Party



It's on again! After the resounding success of our end of year spectacular last year we've decided on a repeat performance. So if you're not going to be away over the festive season, consider becoming a forest creature and come to our New Year's Eve party in the hills as a viable alternative. The venue is Susan and Stuart's cottage in Selby, just past Belgrave on the edge of Sherbrook Forest. In fact the park starts right at the bottom of the garden, so you can go for a walk afterwards to recover. There'll be music, dancing, socialising, fairy lights in the trees and some surprises! BYO and a supper contribution please. Stay the night if you like and share breakfast with Mr and Mrs Kookaburra and their extended family. When is this party? **WHEN?** – why Saturday 31st December of course! From 8.00 onwards. Looking forward to seeing you.

Frankston to Melbourne cycling trip



Please Note: The Frankston to Melbourne cycling trip is on **17 December** as shown in the Summer Walks Program and not 10 December as given in the printed preview notice.

Jan Palich

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

Jawoyn Land



Kakadu, Nitmiluk, Arnhem Land

- > **Seven different walks** — five days to three weeks, wet season and dry.
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www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au

With Jawoyn Guides

- > See Aboriginal rock art from an Aboriginal perspective.
- > Retrace Leichhardt's footsteps through parts of Arnhem Land and Kakadu.
- > Learn a bit about bush tucker. Learn more about why this land is so important to the traditional owners.
- > Australia's traditional Aboriginal culture is at its strongest in the Top End. This allows our guides to give you an unparalleled insight into their culture.
- > On the longest trips, helicopter food-drops allow you to get deep into the wilderness without having to carry an extra-heavy pack.

See the Kakadu and Top End trip list on **our website** or ask us for more information.



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

Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355

Go Light

In September I was visiting Seattle and the must see for bushwalkers is the REI Megastore. Wow – it's a huge warehouse packed with every type of outdoor gear and test areas eg climbing walls, hiking trails, mountain bike tracks etc. That evening there was a special lecture by Demetri "Coup" Coupounas, the founder of Go Lite (outdoor equipment). "Coup" gave a very interesting talk on his 'Fast Packing 101' approach– with the key message of lightening your load. For example, on a 250 mile hike his base load is 5.7 pounds (2.56 kg) with 25 pounds (11.25 kg) of food & fuel. The total pack weight is 32 pounds (that is 14.4 kg for a 10 day trip averaging 25 miles per day). Some interesting tips include: he wears running shoes with street socks (nylon/lycra), uses a solid fuel stove with tablets, only wears the lightest weight performance clothing, does not use a tent but a combined poncho/shelter, has a very light sleeping bag and cut down sleeping pad. All his gear is the smallest, lightest and strongest combination. He walks from first light until dusk to maximize his distance – but his walking pace is moderate. He even shaves all his body hair to save weight and for staying cool during summer. For safety (and business) he carries a satellite phone. For long distance tracks he recommends beef jerky, pasta meals, fast cooking rice, dried veggies and fruit, lots of nuts (especially macadamias and pine nuts), olive oil, and kelp. Minimum cooking is the key. Several of our club members (Quentin, John) are using 'Go Lite' packs. If you are interested I have the complete gear list for his long distance walks.

Rod Novak

Go Heavy

1 Henry rifle, 1 Winchester, 1 double-barrel shotgun, 1 elephant rifle, 1 Starr's breach loader, 1 Jockelyn rifle, 24 muskets, 6 pistols, 1 battle-axe, 2 swords, 2 daggers, 1 boar spear, 2 American axes, 24 hatchets, 24 butchers' knives.

H. M. Stanley's armoury for his expedition to find Livingstone

60 bottles of *vin ordinaire*, 10 bottles of St George, 15 bottles of St Jean, 3 bottles of brandy, 1 bottle of cassis, 6 bottles of lemonade and 2 bottles of champagne.

Albert Smith's drinks list for his ascent of Mont Blanc in 1851

25,000 cigarettes, 284 boxes of matches, 120 batteries, 100 candles, 100 bulbs, 100 tool kits, 30 torches, 16 lbs of tobacco, 6 hurricane lamps, 3 spring balances, 2 altimeters, 2 pair of binoculars, 1 hairdressing set.

Miscellaneous items taken on British expedition to Kanchenjunga in 1955

The Wilderness Shop

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



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Bushwalking, Adventure Travel,
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As an Independent Store we have a **Huge Range from Many Leading Brands**

10% Discount to Melb Bushies (sale items excluded)

The following appeared in a recent Neighbourhood Watch newsletter:

WARNING ON HOME PHONE NUMBERS

A warning from the Victoria Police. This has been confirmed by Telstra,

DO NOT push 90# on your home phone.

'Got a call last night from an individual identifying himself as an AT&T service technician who was conducting a test on our telephone lines. He stated that to complete the test I should touch nine(9), zero(O), hash(#) and then hang up. Luckily I was suspicious and refused. Upon contacting the telephone company, I was informed that by pushing 90#, you give the requesting individual full access to your telephone line, which allows them to place long distance telephone calls billed to your home phone number. I was further informed that this scam has been originating from many of the local jails.'

DO NOT press 90# for ANYONE

TRACKS, HUTS AND CONSERVATION

Notes from the VicWalk Conservation Committee meeting of 23 November 2005.

Alpine National Park Parks Victoria are seeking volunteers to help rehabilitate the alpine mossbeds on the Bogong High Plains from 9th January to 24th February 2006. Accommodation and food provided. You will need to commit to a one or preferably two week period.

Contact Kevin Cosgriff at PV Mt Beauty on 03 5754 4680 or <kcosgrif@parks.vic.gov.au>

Baw Baw NP Friends of BB are working on re-opening the Warburton to Walhalla walking route with a centennial celebration weekend planned for March long weekend in 2007. It is believed the old route will be remarked around the water catchments.

Cobbobonee Forests Environment Victoria are promoting the addition of these state forests into a greater Glenelg National Park in south-western Victoria.

Otway Ranges NP ORWTA has renamed the Trans Otway Walk the 'Trans Otway Waterfall Walk' (TOWW). Recent track clearing days have cleared the Wild Dog Falls tracks from both Haynes Jn and Turtons Track, the Sabine Falls Circuit, the Four Falls Loop, the tracks to Brunswick Falls from TW and Cumberland Tracks, and the Allambee Beek and Staircase Falls Circuit.

Snowy Mountains In the 2006 winter season (from the beginning of the June long weekend the end of the October long weekend), vehicle entry fees in Kosciuszko National Park will cost \$22 per day. This will rise to \$27 per day in the 2007 winter season.

- Outside the winter season, vehicle entry fees will remain at \$16 per day.
- An annual All Parks Pass (covering Kosciuszko National Park) now costs \$145 (effective from 5 November 2005). On 1 January 2007, the cost of this annual pass will rise to \$190. The winter surcharge will provide around \$4 million annually. This will be spent on ongoing programs to improve visitor facilities and the environmental condition of Kosciuszko National Park. The surcharge will help to fund:
- Municipal infrastructure upgrades in the Perisher Range Resorts. This will improve service, public health, safety and environmental protection. Road access will be improved, and better traffic management will eliminate delays at park entry stations.
- Tourism promotion and improvements to visitor facilities, including new scenic lookouts, camping areas, horse camps, the restoration of Kiandra Court-house and further upgrades to the Yarrangobilly Caves area.
- Continued upgrades to the Main Range Walking Track, and significant improvements in high-altitude human waste management.
- Reconstruction, over the next decade, of nine historic huts burnt down during the 2003 bushfires.

- Improved feral horse management, under a community-driven wild horse management plan for the park.
- Stabilisation and rehabilitation works along the Main Range, to rectify historic damage caused by grazing and more recent fire impacts.
- Improved management of horse riding and the restoration of horse camps and riding areas.
- The Main Range Walking Track, now under construction, costs more than \$200 a metre to construct. Built in stone to cope with extreme conditions, it runs for 38 km and is expected to take 25 to 30 years to complete.

Wilson's Prom NP Rangers have advised that the fire damaged boardwalks on the Waterloo Bay track were reinstated by 28 October so that the track can be used again, however there was still a considerable amount of work required to rehabilitate degraded sections and drainage.

*Rod Novak, Club Delegate,
VicWalk Conservation Committee*

Vicwalk related volunteers still required

- 1 Skills Convener. Do you have a strong interest in the range of skills required for bushwalking? Are you prepared to co-ordinate training that clubs can share?
- 2 Track Maintenance Group. Dates and sites for work listed in November VicWalk News; 5 dates from 11th Dec to 7th May 2006. Would anyone like to contribute to the future of tracks which we currently rely on, many of which will be in jeopardy if bushwalkers do not help with maintenance?
- 3 Delegates for Melbourne Bushies. I have had one current Committee member only voicing some interest. Please consider coming along to a meeting with me as a visitor (you are always welcome) 1st Tuesday of the month at 6pm in East Melbourne.

You can see me in the Clubrooms or ring me on 9388 8881 (leave message) for any further information.

Carol Criddle, Melbourne Bushies VicWalk Delegate

THIS
MONTH
40
YEARS
AGO

Melbourne Bushwalkers Historical Section

December 1960 'Mt Juliet'

This was a Sunday walk done on 18 December for 8 miles and led by Robert Taylor. Transport as usual back then was on a Whight's Bus which departed from Flinders Street at 9.15 am. There were only 10 walkers, which was very few for a Sunday walk, even then.

The Mt Juliet track leaves the Maroondah Highway about 6 miles past Healesville (near the 44 mile signpost) [which might still be there]. There can (I am not sure about now) be some confusion because three tracks leave the road within 100yds. Take the first track which is a well defined jeep track, and leads up to a track junction where you veer to the right hand track. From here there are no track junctions and no confusion can arise.

From this junction, the track rises very steeply and after about ½ mile, narrows down to a foot track. The only water they crossed on the whole journey was about ½ mile from the highway, there it was suggested that walkers carry plenty of water. (This is still the case now – a very dry walk) The climb was very steep and many rests were required especially on the steeper sections. The track rises 3000 ft in about 4 miles and 2 hours should be allowed for a strong walker. Rob Taylor went on to say that the trip was excellent short training trip for Christmas walking, but there was not much to recommend it scenically apart from the eucalypt forest through which the track passes.

Jan Palich, December 2005



New Books for Library

Jean Woodger has kindly donated the following books for our library.

The Coast and Hinterland in Flower, I.R. McCann, 1992

Aboriginal Melbourne, Gary Presland, 1994.

Federation Day, Steiglitz 1999. Walk description booklet.

Walking the Grampians, Federation Weekend October 2000.

Bush Walking around Daylesford, Federation Day March 2001.

Red Gums and Riders. History of Gellibrand Hill, 1993.

Doug Langton



Good Food Guide

STRATFORD, GIPPSLAND.

This cafe is in the old fire station next to the Post Office. Unmistakeable. Serves excellent local fare, top notch stuff. Not fast, not cheap but brilliant.

Myrtleford Bakery: Situated in the main shopping street at right angles to the main route through town. The cakes are particularly good and the bakery keeps shopping hours.

Sylvia Ford

CANBERRA.

Two Sisters: Thai and Lao food, BYO.

Taj Agra: Indian and Pakistani food. Licensed and BYO. Located in the shopping centre near the corner of Moulet Street and Northbourne Avenue, Dickson, both restaurants serve spicy food at reasonable prices – under \$20 at Two Sisters and around \$20 at the Taj Agra. Delicious food without heartburn.

Helen Lind

SUNDAY BUS: Masons Falls – Mt Sugarloaf Xmas Walk

DATE	Sunday 18 December 2005
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	14 km and 16 km
LEADERS	David Arnold and Peter McGrath
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd at 9am.
RETURN TIME	6pm
AREA	Kinglake area north of Melbourne
MAP REFERENCE	Kinglake National Park 1:25,000

As this is the last Sunday walk before Christmas, bring something to share (and don something Christmassy!) for afternoon tea at the picnic area. We will plan an early finish to the walks so that there is time to relax and party!

Kinglake National Park is the largest national park close to Melbourne. It consists of over 20,000 hectares of tall forests, fern gullies, and rolling hills, and has an extensive network of walking tracks.

TOFS: Balcombe Creek – The Briars

DATE	Thursday 5 January 2006
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	11 km
LEADER	Alister Rowe
RETURN TIME	3.30 pm to cars
MAP REFERENCE	Melways 144 J11

Meet at 10.30am at the Balcombe Estuary Recreation Reserve off the Esplanade, Mount Martha.

We will follow the board walk up the estuary and under Nepean Highway to 'The Briars' Park. We will complete the Kur-Bur-Rer Scenic circuit and if time permits may watch a video at the visitor's centre. hopefully the wetlands may have some interesting birdlife. An easy walk for a hot day.

SUNDAY BUS: Aireys Inlet – Lorne

DATE	Sunday 8 January 2006
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	13 and 16 km
LEADERS	John Coe and Elizabeth Ingham
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd depart 8.30am
RETURN TIME	Approx. 7 pm
AREA	Lorne
MAP REFERENCE	The Otways and Shipwreck Coast

If you made a New Year's resolution to only do the best walks, then you have to go on this one. Otherwise, you will have to wait another year to redeem yourself. Come and experience, up close, the magnificent scenery of the beaches along the Great Ocean Road.

The Easy/Medium walk will start at the historic lighthouse at Aireys Inlet, while the Easy walk will commence at Mogg's Creek.

Both walks will be on the beach for most of the day, with sections of the walk on rock platforms, exposed by the day's low tide. Plenty of water, sunscreen and a wide brimmed hat are essential items for this walk, as are bathers (cossies, trunks, swimmers etc. if you come from more exotic locations), if you want a swim after the walk. There should be time enough for other refreshments also.

N.B. It is an **8:30 am** start (if you hadn't noticed)The clubrooms will NOT be open on 21st and 28th December. Bookings for this walk will be taken on 14th December between 7:00pm and 7:30pm and also on 4th January between 7 and 9pm. Mail bookings can be made, as long as payment arrives well before the 4th January.

SUNDAY BUS: High Lead – the Bump – Powelltown

DATE	Sunday 15 January 2006
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	13 and 17 km approx
LEADERS	Alan Clarke and Keith McKenry
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd at 9am
RETURN TIME	7.00 pm
AREA	Near Warburton
MAP REFERENCE	Ada River and Spion Kopje 1:25,000

The mountains east of Melbourne are one of the best places to walk in the middle of summer – the tall Mountain Ash trees provide a good cover from the midday sun. Not to mention cool mountain streams and large Fern Trees. However it can still be warm so please consider bringing extra water as per any summer walk.

This walk has actually not been done before as per the program. However, please be assured that we will be doing interesting and appropriate walks on the day that will hopefully use some of the better tracks in the area – we will make sure of it! The old tramways from the century before last (yes, that's correct!) provide some really lovely and generally flat walking, although High Lead may involve a steep descent, if we use it.

WEDNESDAY WALK: Warragul Rocks – Tallarook State Forest

DATE	Wednesday 18 January 2006
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	15 km
LEADER	Lesley Hale
AREA	Tallarook State Forest
MAP REFERENCE	Vicmap 1:25 000 Strath Creek

NOTE: Early meeting time of 9:30 am (VicRoads Map 61: C4) Meet at 9:30 am at Ennis Road where it meets the Hume Highway, 103 km from the Arts Centre (allow 1.5hrs) or 50 km beyond Donnybrook Road. We travel in convoy for 12.5 km to leave cars beyond the Tallarook Picnic Area, near junction of West Falls Road.



The walk heads north/east and along Falls Creek, skirting the reservoir before turning uphill for a late lunch and spectacular views at Warragul Rocks (9km), on private property. We use tracks most of the time, through a richly varied forest landscape. Even the drive down from the plateau features rocky outcrops and great views for the passengers. BYO afternoon tea to revive before the drive.

For bookings and enquiries please contact Lesley.

CYCLE TRIP: Geelong Bikepaths

DATE Saturday 21 January 2006
 STANDARD Easy (except for one steep hill)
 LEADER Jopie Bodegraven
 MAP Melways Geelong Maps 441, 442, 450, 451, 452, 465.

Geelong has some wonderful bikepaths that we will explore on this delightful ride of approximately 65 km (guesstimate off the map). It will take in some of the foreshore including Eastern Beach, long sections along the Barwon River, downhill runs along the valleys of Waurm Ponds and Cowies Creeks, a rail trail section and even a visit to Buckleys Falls. There are however 2 major hills (one of which, out of the Moorabool valley at Fyansford, you may wish to walk up. And there are some mostly quiet street sections to link it all up into a large figure of 8 route.

There should be an opportunity for coffee stops at Eastern Beach and maybe one other place. Bring a cut lunch though because I'm not sure where lunch will be.

We will meet in the foreshore carpark at St Helens Park (Melways 442B8) at 9 am. Access is via Swinburne St off the Princes Hwy, immediately after Osborne Park. Train travel is problematic because the trains can only take 3 or 4 bikes unless we book a D-Van which can only be attached to certain trains, evidently not the 8 am and for which they need 2 weeks notice and as I'll be out of Victoria till the 16th January anyway it's all too hard. We would also be limited to a fixed return time to catch the train with the D-Van on the return trip. So cars it is!

I'll be back in Melbourne for the evening of Monday 16 January so ring me after then or see me in the clubrooms on the Wednesday night to book for this great ride. I'll do my best to rationalize transport.

SUNDAY BUS: Cora Lynn Cascades – Erskine Falls

DATE Sunday 22 January 2006
 STANDARD Easy/Medium and Medium
 DISTANCE 15.3 km and 19 km
 LEADERS Halina Sarbinowski & Jerry Karbownik
 TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blvd **8:30 am start**
 RETURN TIME 8:00 pm
 AREA Back of Lorne
 MAP REFERENCE Lorne 7620-1-1 (1:25 000)

Be prepared to get your feet wet on these walks. There are 22 creek crossings of the Cora Lynn Creek in the first part of the walks. Plenty of rock-hopping is involved and a walking pole would be useful. With the hand holding that will be involved we estimated that there will be at least three marriages and half a dozen proposals just in this section of the walks.

The E/M group will be bussed from the Blanket Leaf Car Park to the top of Erskine Falls while the Medium group will follow the newly reopened Lemonade Creek Track that connects the two sections of this walk. The Erskine Falls Track has not been undertaken by the Club as a Sunday Walk. It follows Erskine River down to the caravan park in Lorne and involves still more rock hopping and creek crossings.

Both sections of the walks are challenging but lots of fun. Although much of the walks follow waterways the flora is quite diverse. This is a beautiful area to visit so please join us and enjoy these walks.

SUNDAY BUS: Bunyip State forest from Mortimore Res.

DATE Sunday 29 January
 STANDARD Easy and Easy/Medium
 LEADERS Nik Dow and Fiona Jarman
 TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blvd.

A full walk preview will appear in the January *News*.

Help!

On a recent trip to Hughes Creek with the Trust for Nature I was remembering an orchid reserve on a spur of the Callan Range. However, I haven't got it marked on either of my maps: Mt Stewart and Mt Bernard 1:250,00. Do you have it marked on yours?* The local field Nats new nothing of this and would be very interested to know more.

*The spur ran west or SW into the creek, north of our camping ground on the Crown land.

Sylvia Ford 9329 7816

Frankston to Melbourne cycling trip



Please Note: The Frankston to Melbourne cycling trip is on **17 December** as shown in the Summer Walks Program and not 10 December as given in the printed preview notice.

Jan Palich

 **PACK CARRY: Snowy Mountains**

DATE	23 December 2005 to 2 January 2006
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	100 km (approx)
LEADER	Ralph Blake
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Evening of 2 January 2006
AREA	Snowy Mountains
MAP REFERENCE	Khancoban and Kosciusko 1:50,000

This trip will still be to the Snowy Mountains. However it will be split into two distinct trips. The first one to the Mt Kosciusko area, and the second to the Mt Jagungal area. This is because the Great Dividing Range between Mt Anton and Dicky Cooper Bogong remains closed to walkers.

A proposed itinerary for the trip is as follows.

- 23 Dec.** Travel to the Snowy Mountains area from Melbourne.
- 24 Dec.** From Charlottes Pass we will commence walking, heading towards Mt Twynam. Camp will be near Mt Twynam. (Hang up stocking on tent door for Santa!)
- 25 Dec.** We will continue along the Great Dividing Range toward Mt Kosciusko. There will be a side trip to Blue Lake. Camp will be near Muellers Pass.
- 26 Dec.** Day trip to Mt Townsend, Mt Kosciusko, and the Rams Head.
- 27 Dec.** We will head back towards Charlottes Pass, camping near Mt Stilwell. It would be possible for anyone who wishes to join the trip after Xmas to meet us here.
- 28 Dec.** A short walk down to Charlottes Pass and then travel to Munyang by car. Alternatively, post-Xmas walkers may meet us here. Continuing our walk we will make camp at Schlink Pass or near Gungartan.
- 29 Dec.** We will make our way along to Tin Hut, The Brassy Mountains, and then camping near The Bulls Peak.
- 30 Dec.** There will be a day trip to Mt Jagungal.
- 31 Dec.** We shall pack up camp and head towards Valentine Hut. After visiting Valentine falls we will camp some where near the hut.
- 1 Jan.** Continuing along the Valentine fire track we will head back over Schlink Pass and camp in the vicinity of Horse Camp Hut.
- 2 Jan.** A short walk to Munyang and then home for tea.

The itinerary may need to be changed depending on the interests of our group and the weather. All participants must be well equipped and experienced pack carry bushwalkers, and must also be prepared for any weather conditions. From freezing temperatures and snow falls, to hot and sunny weather. Each vehicle going on the trip will need to have a valid NSW National Parks permit.

If you are interested in this trip please contract the leader as soon as possible. Limit of 8.

BASE CAMP: Bogong High Plains

DATE	26 December 2005–3 January 2006
STANDARD	Easy to medium
LEADER	Lance Mobbs Ph 0428572124
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Bogong National Park, Bogong Alpine Area
	1:50,000 Lesuire Map

Once again, I will be holding another base camp at the old tennis courts just below Wallace's Hut on the Bogong High Plains. It will be an easy 750 metre walk-in base camp. Most of the walks will be easy and we will visit such highlights as the huts and peaks of the high country. There will also be an abundance of alpine wildflowers on display. Everyone is welcome to come, especially anyone new to the club who wish to experience camping without having to carry a heavy pack long distances. This walk is designed so that people can either come along for the whole trip or come for a couple of days, depending on circumstances. Please note: the weather up in the alpine area is unpredictable, even in summer, so bring both summer and winter gear. If interested, please contact me on the phone no. above, see me in the club rooms, drop me a note at 6/92A Blyth St. Altona 3018 or EMail me at <mobbslance@msn.com>.

 **PACK CARRY: Swindlers Creek via Cobungra River to Anglers Rest (with Base Camp alternative)**

DATE	26 December 2005–1 January 2006
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	60 km approx.
LEADER	Paul Beers
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	1 January, pm
AREA	Mt Hotham–Omeo
MAP	Dargo Plains–Cobungra 8328-N

This is truly beautiful country and I have encountered deer, been gatecrashed by roos at breakfast, seen trout leaping from the river at dusk, enjoyed the company of wombats, birdlife, heard a wild dog baying at the moon and been snowed on in summer. But this walk is meant to be fairly leisurely, with short days and plenty of time to enjoy the river for swims, etc.

The walk starts Boxing Day after car shuffling (see below)*, beginning at the top of the Brandy Creek Mine Track on the Alpine Road, 3–4 km west of Dinner Plain. Once down on the Cobungra, we walk upstream to the Swindlers Creek junction area. This is a lovely grassy area worth visiting and only 2–3 km from the Mine Track, so it should be a short day but we'll stay here also day 2. Days 3–6 will be easy, short days down the river and on day 6, New Years Eve, we cross the river and climb 1 km up a steep spur that runs down slightly west from the junction at McCoys and Greys 4WD Tracks. From here, it's a simple 10–12 km walk along 4WD track/s to a cold refreshing drink at the historic Anglers Rest Pub on the banks of the Cobungra. Camp night 6



across the road in the council campsite by the river. Celebrate New Years Eve with a BBQ at the old pub. Day 7, Jan 1st: Return a.m. car shuffle to Dinner Plain, return to Melbourne.

BASE CAMPING Option: This walk requires a long car shuffle from Dinner Plain through Omeo to Anglers Rest – about two hours – so a four hours return trip. However, this is also an opportunity for people who may not want to do the walk but would like to camp (in the shire campgrounds along the river) then meet up with the walking party for a New Years Eve BBQ at The Blue Duck Inn. There are plenty of lovely day walks, great fishing, canoeing and swimming in the Anglers Rest area. If there are base campers, this might then avoid a car shuffle as cars could be driven on from Dinner Plain at the walk start. So there are lots of options for everyone.

Call me on 0419 003 476 for info.

CANOEING: Upper Murray

DATE	27 December 05 to 1 January 06
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	80km
CONTACT	Quentin Tibballs
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	1 January late pm
AREA	Upper Murray River
MAP REFERENCE	Melways Page 523

This canoe trip will be over 4 days and begin at the Bungenbong Bridge over the upper Murray River just out of Corryong on Wednesday 28th and end at Walwa on New Years eve. It will be dependent on adequate numbers and availability of canoes for hire. Car shuffles are planned for the first 2 days. This will enable the group to stay at Towong on the first night and at Tintalra on the second. The Tintalra pub is just by the river where we will be camping and serves fine meals. For the last 2 days however we will be required to take provisions for overnight riverbank camping and we will probably spend New Years eve at the Jingelic pub. Please ring to discuss with me – Quentin 0408 144265.

PACK CARRY: NZ. Heaphy track

DATE	9–22 January 2006
LEADER	Quentin Tibballs

It may not be too late to obtain a place on this spectacular walk in New Zealand's South Island.
Contact Quentin Tibballs 0408 144265.

PACK CARRY: Mt. Howitt via Howitt and Stanley Name Spurs

STANDARD	Easy-medium
DATE	13–15 January 2006
DISTANCE	25 km
LEADER	Jerry Grandage
MAP REF	Howitt–Selwyn

Mt. Howitt is one of the focal points of the Victorian High Country and one of the most popular venues for bushwalkers. We will ascend the Howitt Spur from the upper Howqua and use part of

the Stanley Name Spur to return on Sunday. Camp will be either at Macalister Springs or on Stanley Name Spur. The views from Howitt are always great in good weather, particularly looking east to the Viking etc.

BASE CAMP: Snowy Plains – Dimmicks Lookout

DATE	25–29 January 2006
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	About 30 km
LEADER	Bob Steel
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	North Gippsland
MAP REFERENCE	• Tamboritha-Moroka 1:50 000 • Howitt-Selwyn 1:50 000 • Rooftop Maps: Dargo-Wonnangatta Adventure Map

Pleasant camping amongst snowgums at the north end of the Snowy Plains. You will be able to camp by your cars so bring the little luxuries that make camping more pleasant. Please bring your own water as water is unreliable in this area. We should be able to have campfires.

Please bring nibbles to share for evening 'happy hours'.

Walks in the area to Dimmicks Lookout and the escarpment, as well as to the Conglomerate Creek Falls and Bryces Gorge area. Also nearby is Cave Creek with another waterfall. Some walks will require a short drive to the start.

Please see me in the Clubrooms for details of how to get there, or phone me on 9725 6171.

PACK CARRY: Mt Fainter and Mt Jim from Pretty Valley

DATE	25 – 29 January 2006
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	55 km approx. About half without main packs.
LEADER	Max Casley
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Evening Sunday 29 January 2006
AREA	Bogong High Plains near Falls Creek
MAP REFERENCE	Bogong Alpine Area 1:50,000

The walk will start and finish at Pretty Valley Pondage which is about 8km beyond Falls Creek village. For Wednesday night there are convenient camp spots 1 km before the pondage, just past Pretty Valley huts. We will start 9:30 am on Thursday and go up Cope Creek valley to the SEC hut at Cope Saddle. Without packs we will climb Mt Cope for 360 degree views. We will continue past Ryders Yards to our campsite on the south-east slopes of Mt Jim which will be our home for the next two nights. If there is enough time we will visit the falls on High Plains Creek en route.

On Friday we will do a full day walk without main packs down to the valleys to the west of Mt Jim, visiting Westons, Blairs and Dibbins Huts and climbing back up from Cobungra Gap along the Alps Walking Track past Basalt Temple. On Saturday we will head north via the Niggerheads for good views of Mt Feathertop and we should reach our campsite on the eastern side of Little



Plain by lunchtime. In the afternoon we will go to Mt Fainter for more good views of Mt Feathertop, Mt Buffalo and Mt Bogong.

All I plan for Sunday is to leisurely stroll past Tawonga Huts back to the cars to allow plenty of time for the drive home.

This area is an old favourite for bushwalkers with plentiful campsites, good water supplies and beautiful scenery.

I will be in the Clubrooms with information on Wednesday 4th January. On the 11th and 18th I will not be in the Clubrooms but I will leave information there. We can make any necessary arrangements after I return home on Sunday 22nd January.



PACK CARRY: Fainter from Pretty Valley 2 day

DATE 27-29 Jan 2006
STANDARD Easy/Medium

This walk is intended for those who are unable to do Max's full 4 day trip but would like to walk in on Saturday from Pretty Valley via the Niggerheads to Max's Saturday night camp near Fainter and join his group for the rest of the weekend. It is entirely dependant on a suitable leader wanting to do this 2 day option. Contact Max if you are interested as leader or participant.

Clubrooms Duty Roster

December 14	Mark Heath
December 21	CLOSED
December 28	CLOSED
January 4	Rod Novak, Jan Palich
January 11	Fay Dunn, Carol Criddle

Please Note: The Cub will be closed on December 21 and December 28.

Walks Secretary report

Trip figures for October 2005

	October 2005			October 2004	
	Trips	People	Average	Trips	Average
Sunday Bus	4	-	42	5	32
Other Day	4	-	13	3	14
Pack Carry	3	-	7	4	6.5
Base Camp	3	-	12	3	27
Tree Planting	0	0	0	0	0
Ski Lodge	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	14	0			

The Sunday bus continues to fill or nearly so. The pack carries struggled a bit for numbers but all went. One base camp (Croajingalong) had 22 participants. Kooyoora and Grampians track maintenance base camps had 7 & 8.

Jopie Bodegraven, Walks Secretary