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# THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 CENTS

EDITION 647 JANUARY 2005

## *Congratulations*

Congratulations are extended to Fiona Gallery and Lloyd Young who became engaged on Peter McGrath's recent Day Walk trip to Tasmania. We understand that the exact date was New Year's Eve and the location was the jetty at Lake St Clair! All members extend their good wishes to the happy couple.



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



8 PM WEDNESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2005  
TRADES HALL, CNR. OF LYGON AND VICTORIA STREETS, CARLTON

Come along and cast your vote (members). Non-members are also welcome to attend but may not vote.  
All committee positions become vacant in February. A new committee to be installed.

A form for nomination of committee members is on the back page.

**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](mailto: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,  
18 Hinton Road,  
Glenhuntly, Vic., 3163.

**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  
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Members' ads are free.

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## VIC WALK delegates notes

### **Future Shape and directions of Vic Walk**

Workshops will be held by Vic Walk in 2005 to share ideas.

The Vic Walk Executive has also suggested clubs hold their own or share sessions with other clubs. If attending such a session appeals to you, or you would like to pass on your ideas for me to present on your behalf at the March 1st workshop for delegates, please contact me at the clubrooms or by phone.

To find out more about the issues that need to be discussed, see page 5 of the November and page 2 of the December Vic Walk News.

### **Trans Ottway publicity Walk.**

The Ottway Ranges Walking Track Association is planning to hold 4 walks over the Labour Day long weekend as follows:

A 4 day walk for which arrival in Lorne on Thursday evening March 10 is required.

A 4 day, 3 camp nights Friday 11 – Monday 14

A 2 day Sunday 13–Monday 14

A day walk, Monday 14th.

Route preparation to re-ribbon overgrown sections is necessary over January and February.

For further information, refer to page 4 of the December Vic Walk News.

To volunteer to assist or participate in any of the publicity walks, please contact me at the clubrooms or by phone. Carol Criddle (please leave message)

# Tracks, Huts and Conservation

## Notes from the VicWalk Conservation Committee November 2004 meeting

**Alpine NP:** The VNPA activity at Federation Square held on 31/10 for **Cyclod Threatened Species** and the **alpine cattle grazing** had success eg sunny day, giant TV screen featured video footage, news items on ABC radio, and table / display / brochures and the montage of lizard art attracting public interest. The Ministerial Taskforce on Alpine grazing is now expected to report in February. An article 'Udder nonsense – cattle in Victoria's high country' featured in *Outdoor* magazine, October/November 2004 issue, pp. 51–52 discussing **cattle** grazing with club member Bill Metzenthien being quoted. Bushwalkers are asked to send in a detailed report to VicWalk of cattle seen in the burnt areas this summer.

**Tarli Karng:** Riggalls Spur track is very overgrown and difficult to navigate. Also, the toilet has been removed from the Tarli Karng campsite with PV now providing a spade for toilet use. The Riggalls Spur overgrown track has previously been reported but PV claim no resources to clear this remote track.

**Aust. Alps Walking Track:** new snow poles have now replaced the 2003 bushfire damaged poles.

**Grampians:** *Discovering Grampians – Gariwerd: A Visitors Guide to Grampians National Park* by Alistair and Bruce Paton has now been published. Copies available from VNPA, Level 3, 60 Leicester Street, Carlton, 3053. Telephone orders on 9347 5188, RRP is \$19.95.

**Great Divide Trail:** The Governor, the Hon John Landy, will officially open the new Lerderderg section in February 2005.

**Mornington Peninsula NP:** the Two Bays Track is to be re-named the 'Stephanie Rennick Track' with an official opening in early 2005.

**Otway Ranges:** The Trans Otway Walk Route will have a series of activities on the Labour Day weekend, 9–12 March 2005. There will be a three-day walk from the Cumberland River to Lorne, a two-day walk option, or a one-day walk available. Bushwalkers and bushwalking clubs encouraged to participate – bookings with John Spencer on 5237 6408. OREN – the final Otway National Park report is due for release on 24 November after an 18 month public consultation period. Also, the popular OREN calendar will be not published for 2005.

**Regent Honeyeater Project:** Ray Thomas advised 30,000 seedlings have now been planted in this Spring planting season.

**Snowy Mountains NP:** The Park is open except for the western fall of the main range (including The Sentinel and Watson Crags and Hannel Spur). It is also closed from Mt Anton through to Whites River/ Schlink Pass including all areas on the East and South of the range to the Snowy River with Pound Creek as its western border. The area around Jagungal is also closed (from just north of its summit to along the Geehi River on its Eastern & Southern boundary). The map showing the closed areas is on the Club noticeboard.

**Yarra Ranges:** the Shire of Yarra Ranges Forest Policy 'Our Forests – A Shared Responsibility' will be launched at Warburton on Monday 6th December. The guest speaker will be Rick Farley. A VicWalk rep. will attend.

*Rod Novak, Conservation delegate*

## Baw Baw National Park Pack Carry

**26 –28 November.**

It was a very hot and sultry weekend in Melbourne and was just a fraction cooler on the elevated Baw Baw plateau. Ralph, Rod and Andreas drove up on the Friday evening with Bill and Merilyn arriving on the Saturday morning. We walked along the Alpine Walking Track past Mushroom Rocks, across Mt Erica and then to 'Ralph's secret campsite' just past Mt St. Phillack. We set up tents in the early afternoon and with time to spare went for a circuit walk across to Mt Baw Baw and then back to camp. We had the Plateau to ourselves – passing no other walkers all day. We then enjoyed the balmy evening chatting and cooking our gourmet dinners on quiet fuel stoves (and one very noisy choofer!). [Note: Baw Baw is a declared fuel stove only area]. On Sunday we had an early start with the plan to catch 'Cocos at Yarragon' for a yummy afternoon tea. We retraced our route with lunch at the old hut ruins (with cricket score updates!) and then detoured off track to inspect the NBW Hut. One real surprise was seeing an apologetic nudist walker striding past along the Alpine Walking Track!! Baw Baw NP is a wonderful area and a great destination for a Spring weekend walk. A handy hint is to wear gaiters and long pants as the Baw Baw scrub along the track really, really, bites! I wonder if that nudist will wear gaiters next time?

Walkers: Ralph (leader), Bill, Merilyn, Andreas and Rod.

# If the Mountain won't come to Mohammad . . . another good man bites thedust

## (Day Walks in Tasmania – Christmas 2004–5)

Twelve members of the party set off Boxing Day on the Spirit of Tasmania bound for the Apple Isle and a week of enjoyable walking. The voyage was smooth. We all enjoyed a good night's sleep. We had no idea of what was about to happen.

The rest of the party, who had chosen to travel by air, met us. We assembled in our cars, and set off for Cradle Mountain, where we stayed at the YHA. We were introduced to the joys of sleeping communally, and the pleasant sound of snoring.

In a group of twenty, there were basically five rooms of four. Three rooms seemed to settle into a happy dynamic, and two, not always the same ones, missed the occasional night's sleep. Pressure was placed on the interpersonal skills.

I thank Sara who organised the accommodation, and Mick, Margaret, Liz and Tom, who led walks for three out of the five days.

The highlights of the walk were:

- ❖ Lloyd and Fiona getting engaged at Lake St Clair
- ❖ Two professional guides at Cradle Mountain with sensational legs, and Errico commenting he would pay the \$1,600 required to go on their trip
- ❖ Jan becoming separated from the group, somehow getting picked up by a Park Ranger, who again had sensational legs
- ❖ Jacky's Kit Kat's
- ❖ Carmel looking glamorous no matter how tough the terrain
- ❖ Tom's jokes
- ❖ Lynne, who seemed always to be organising the boot of Mick's car
- ❖ Margaret and Fay, as a source of never ending common sense
- ❖ Frank and Janet enjoying their second honeymoon
- ❖ Kerry's photography, and knowledge of plants
- ❖ Rosemary's ebullience and bright smile
- ❖ Mohammad's elegance in blue and purple striped long johns, good company, and energy
- ❖ The dining room at Lake St Clair, which, in my opinion, has the best view (and wine) in Australia.

Thanks to all who came. It was a pleasure organising the activity. I hope you all enjoyed it.

*Peter McGrath*

## Royal National Park (NSW) 4-day pack carry

**Melbourne Cup weekend 2004.**

Alan Clarke led this brilliant public transport walk using airplanes, trains, ferry and taxi to explore Royal National Park and nearby Heathcote National Park. On Friday night we went to Avalon Airport (wine, coffee and cake) and caught our plane to Sydney with accommodation booked at the Alfred Park Hotel. Saturday morning we walked across the famed Central Park to catch the suburban train from 'Central' to Heathcote, and then walked to Kangaroo Creek and its delightful Karloo Pool. Recent rain in late October was appreciated as all the creeks and cascades had strong flows. Flowers were just sensational with many Gynea Lillies and even the occasional Waratah in bloom. It appears Royal NP has a mountain bike problem as we met many bikers walking along the narrow rocky tracks with their bikes carried on their shoulders and no maps!! They also missed the 'No-Mountain bike' signs too!! We then walked up Karloo Track to Ulloola Falls campsite. After a swim and lunch, Alan and Rod then hiked to the popular Audley Café for a coffee and cake. After dinner we went up a nearby hill to see the spectacular night skyline of Sydney. On Sunday we returned to Heathcote for coffee and cake, crossing the Princes Highway into Heathcote NP and camped at Kingfisher Pool with a waterfall and rock pools. On Monday we walked into Waterfall Railway Station and the party divided. Alan C, Jan and Rod went by train to Otford for the coast walk section and Alan H, Maureen and Liz opting for coffee and cake and a taxi to the next camp. The trip highlight for me is the coast track from Otford Lookout to Wattamolla with great views of distant Wollongong, the sea cliffs and passing the heritage listed quirky coastal shacks at Burning Palms, South Era, and Garie. At Curracorrang several waterfalls dropped from the cliffs into the sea – just awesome. Wattamolla is another highlight with a beautiful beach, sandstone escarpment and waterfalls. On Monday evening we sheltered from a Sydney storm with lots of thunder and lightning. On Tuesday we then walked up to Bundeena for a hot shower, hot lunch and a very cold ferry ride to Cronulla (a Sydney north-easter turned Port Hacking into a choppy rain squalled adventure ride). Back on the train and then a short taxi ride into Sydney airport (wine, coffee and cake) and then home to complete this great long weekend. Thank you Alan for planning, researching and leading this fantastic trip. Bird list 60 +. Walkers: Alan Clarke, Liz Telford, Jan Brooksbank, Maureen Hurley, Alan Hall and Rod Novak.



# Leaders 2004

*In 2004 the club had 87 different leaders. The following is a list of leaders and the number of leads. Note that some people led more than shown as they stood in for leaders who had to pull out but the list was compiled from the Walks program and not from the trip reports.*

*The club wishes to express to all leaders its thanks and appreciation for contributing their time, effort and expertise.*

## Ten leads

Warren Baker

## Eight leads

Rod Novak

## Seven leads

Quentin Tibbals

## Six leads

Halina Sarbinowski

## Five leads

Max Casley  
Sylvia Ford  
Jerry Grandage  
Jerry Karbownik  
Lynda Larkin  
Peter McGrath

## Four leads

John Coe  
Howard Friend  
Jean Giese  
Peter Havlicek  
Mark Heath  
David Laing  
Bob Oxlade  
Doug Pocock  
Liz Telford

## One to Three leads

Steve Axford  
Paul Beers  
Ralph Blake  
Jopie Bodegraven  
Derrick Brown  
Roger Browne  
Bruce Campbell  
Nick Chatz  
Alan Clarke  
Ralph Clayton  
William Cone  
Rosemary Cotter  
Margaret Curry  
Mary De Salis  
Nick Dow  
Bill Donald  
Vik Dunis  
Hans Edlinger  
David Elias  
Trish Elmore  
Fiona Gallery  
Lesley Hale  
Graham Hodgson  
Sibylle Holdheide  
Nigel Holmes  
Gina Hopkins  
Cherie Horne

Maureen Hurley  
Elizabeth Ingham  
Marika Jagow  
Fiona Jarman  
Maria Lake  
Doug Langton  
Jan Llewelyn  
Paul Logsdon  
Leo Lynch  
Ken MacMahon  
Keith McKenry  
Dianne McKinley  
Ian McPhee  
Dion Marriot  
Geoff Mattingley  
Rod Mattingley  
Lance Mobbs  
Liz Moore  
Sandra Mutimer  
Mick Noonan  
Jan Palich  
Dave Pickersgill  
Sue Ralston  
Marisa Rizzuto  
Alister Rowe  
Stephen Rowlands  
Les Southwell  
Bob Steel  
Ray Thomas  
Graeme Thornton  
Sak-Hong Wan  
Sara Watson  
Merilyn Whimpey  
Tom Wilanowski  
Linda Wilkinson  
Jean Woodger  
Roger Wyatt  
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# Notes from the Grey Nomads

## 4 – The southwest of WA – and home

### Easy – Easy/medium

It was a shock for us to be in the desert-like outback of WA one day and in pastoral and arable country the next, driving southwards through very English-like countryside, complete with ‘brooks’ rather than ‘creeks’. We crossed the Rabbit-proof fence (it never was, of course, but is now maintained as the ‘Wild dog fence’ to keep out dingos and foxes). En route to Walpole, on the south coast of WA where we were to meet Jenny and Jopie, Gina and I explored the ‘Valley of the Giants’ – where Tingle and Karri trees rose to 80 metres. We walked the elevated walkway and climbed a tree with a rather insubstantial looking spiral rod stairway. Meeting up, the four of us walked a little of the Bibbulmun track (a 1000 km maintained track with huts) and investigated some of the coast around Albany, before we were joined by Jenny’s son Stuart and his wife Clare. With our three-car convoy, we hit the high spots of Porongurup and the Stirling Range national parks, exploring capes, beaches, mountain peaks (lowish) while being gobsmacked with the wildflowers. Two of the party (guess who?) were looking for the Noisy Scrub Bird, without success.

The Melbourne crew departed, leaving us once more on our own. We had now been out for 164 days – and there remained much to see and do! The plan now was to backtrack, to fill in some of the bits of the south west corner of WA, including the Cape Leeuwin – Cape Naturaliste track. So we did – it was beautiful. This area contains around 300 limestone caves so we naturally explored one – the Mammoth Cave – and it was! We were close to the Margaret River wineries – so we explored those as well! Then it was Busselton, more beach camping then Rottnest Island, off Freemantle. We cycled around the island, saw whales and dolphins, and many of the resident Quokkas – very cute – and loved it. This ex-penal colony is now a very pleasant holiday destination and the old State Governors’ holiday home is now a hotel, selling beer by the pint! We had a very quick look at Perth – just the Kings Park and Botanic Gardens before turning eastwards. We followed the Golden Pipeline Heritage trail, tracking the 600 km pipe that was built at the turn of the twentieth century to take water to the goldfields. We were subjected to a ‘tick attack’ in the John Forrest NP and Gina was pulling them out of me for days afterwards – they seemed to like me more than Gina! Kalgoorlie and its surrounds made for interesting exploring – there are a number of ghost towns and relics of the gold rush to be seen. Kalgoorlie seems to be thriving again – gold, nickel – and tourism.

Reaching Esperance, we turned east again to the superb Cape Le Grand NP – Wilsons Prom, but bigger. Further along the coast was Cape Arid NP, where we were the only visitors for the first night. The others must have known about the weather – it turned nasty and our plan to use now impassable 4WD tracks to reach the Nullarbor was shelved. Instead we returned to Esperance, took a cabin and sheltered from the weather in comfort. We went to the cinema, and caught up with e-mails. This was when I discovered that an old mate from my past was going to be in Bunbury on business. Now Bunbury is 750 km from Esperance, however, after some discussion we turned around and went back to Bunbury! We did meet him and tried to catch up 35 years over dinner! He and I had been Best Man to each other and had lost touch over the years.

Now, after 28 weeks away, it really was time to head for home! Not without stopping, you understand...Wave Rock had to be explored and not a few walks were found to do. Eventually we reached the famed Nullarbor Plain that includes the longest stretch of dead straight road in the world – 146.6 km of it. The ‘roo carnage on this road was among the worst we’ve seen. The Eyre Bird Observatory provided a pleasant overnight stop and we followed the original path of the first telegraph line back to the highway. The cliffs of the Great Australian Bight are really...great. There are many points where the road is close to these 80 metre cliffs and stopping points are provided. We crossed the state border into SA, moving our watches forward by two hours. Stopping at the Gawler Ranges NP, then Port Augusta, we then visited Yellowie Gorge CP where we saw the Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby. We were nearly at the end of our journey, so we moved quickly through the Clare and Borossa wine country until, suddenly, we were at Mannum, on the Murray, where we crossed into Victoria on the ferry. Our last camp – and last walks – were in the Ngarket CP.

We pulled into Melbourne on 21st November, 209 days – one day short of 30 weeks – after leaving back in April. We’d covered 28,630 km, a great chunk of Australia, with only one puncture! A fantastic trip that will provide us with many memories (and quite a few photographs) of the beautiful, raw, harsh Australian interior, bush, coast and mountains. It was greatly enhanced for us by our ‘bushy mates’ who were able to join us on various sections – thank you, our good friends for your excellent company. So where next?

*Derrick Brown and Gina Hopkins*

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## PREVIEWS OF DAY WALKS JANUARY 2005

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### **SUNDAY BUS: Kinglake – Jehosaphat Gully – Steel Creek**

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

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

**EASY GROUP (12 km):** Continue south down Cookson Hill track and re-cross Kinglake Road to join Mt Everard track going south with option to climb Mt Beggary peak for views. Resume south along Mt Everard track then continue east along Bundy Track, Old Kinglake Road and finish at Steeles Creek Picnic Ground.

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

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

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

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

Australia Day falls on a Wednesday in 2005 and they ain't giving us a long weekend anymore. Never mind, come along for a delightful walk through Warrandyte State Park and along the river from Wonga Park to 'MacMahon Mansions', 101 Bradleys Lane, Warrandyte.

Here we can swim, lilo or relax (the river is just through the back gate) followed by a BYO BBQ – you could even put your tent up if you wish as there is lots of space.

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

### **CYCLING: Maribyrnong River**

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

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

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

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

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





## SUNDAY BUS: Mt Worth State Park

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

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

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

Look forward to seeing people for a fun day.

### TOFS: Gembrook Park – Mortimer Reserve

DATE	Thursday 3 February 2005
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	11 km
LEADER	Alister Rowe
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	3 pm
AREA	Bunyip State Park

Meet at 10.15 am at the Mortimer picnic ground. This can be found on Melways key map page 14, just to the right of map 314. Access can be through Gembrook – Tonimbuk Road or via Princes Highway where you turn left into Tynong North Road, which runs into the Tynong – Tonimbuk Road.

The walk is easy through attractive bushland with one short, sharp downhill section through a fern gully. We should have time for afternoon tea in Gembrook.



## SUNDAY BUS: Cumberland River

DATE	Sunday 6 February 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium & Medium
DISTANCE	15 km & 18 km
LEADERS	Lynda Larkin & Lesley Hale
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd. at 8.30 am
AREA	Cumberland River, Lorne

Both walks will commence at the mouth of the Cumberland River 7 km southwest of Lorne on the Great Ocean Road. We head inland making several river crossings until a steep climb takes us on a northwesterly course away from the river in the direction of Kalimna Creek and the Upper and Lower Kalimna Falls. The track continues

with easy walking alongside Sheoak Creek, through tall rainforest and dense tree ferns, then through a steep-sided valley to where a magnificent, natural amphitheatre has been fashioned into the steep, hillside rock. A little further on we will visit Swallow Cave, another geological wonder.

The final stretch includes a river crossing near Sheoak Falls and splendid ocean views from the board walk which leads back to the coast to where both walks finish at Sheoak Carpark.

The medium walk will include additional kilometres with side trips to the Cumberland Falls and the Canyon.

When the preview was done in late Spring, we encountered a yellow-bellied snake and an echidna and heard many forest birds. There had been much rain, but we were able to cross the river with relative ease with the water just below knee-deep and the current not too strong. The level should be significantly lower by late Summer.

We recommend arm and leg covering for the stinging nettles noted along the first section of the walk, also the usual sun protection, adequate drinking water and a change of footwear for the bus.

**Please note 8.30 am start.**



## SUNDAY BUS: Mt Macedon

DATE	Sunday 13 February 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium and Medium (note change)
DISTANCE	16 & 21 km approx
LEADERS	Jerry Karbownik & Mick Noonan
TRANSPORT	Bus, Southbank Blvd at 9am
RETURN TIME	Est. 7pm
AREA	Mt Macedon Regional Park
MAPS	Woodend and Macedon 1:25000s
and Parks	Vic regional map

Hot town, Summer in the city ??? – do what all the smart people do and come with us to Mt Macedon where it is (nearly) always a little greener and cooler. The walks that we have chosen are in generally shaded conditions and offer quite spectacular views – please note the change to standards (from the yellow monthly sheet) – these walks will make you sweat (read 'glow' for the ladies) just a little, but it will be worth it !!

As it will be in the middle of February you will need to bring extra water (2 litres recommended) and a hat for the scenic outlooks. Given track conditions, boots are not mandatory for this walk (though always advisable) – good quality walking or running shoes should suffice.

Looking forward to having you join us.

Susan Maughan is available to Housesit all of January should you be away. **Ph. 9754 7443.** References available.



### WEDNESDAY WALK: Mt Dom Dom Surrounds

DATE	Wednesday 16 February 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	14km
LEADER	Margaret Curry
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	To Narbethong 3.15 pm
AREA	Mt Dom Dom and Narbethong
MAP REFERENCE	Juliet North 8022-4-N 1:25,000

Travel via Healesville and continue on Maroondah Highway to our meeting point at Dom Dom Saddle Picnic area at the top of the Black Spur where toilets are available. You may encounter road works on the way. Distance 170 km return from central Melbourne (approx. 1 hour 45 mins) Meeting time is 10.15 am.

As you drive up the Black Spur, you are surrounded by beautiful scenery – towering trees and majestic ferns. Our walk is mostly downhill, and by circuiting Mt Dom Dom the entire range of vegetation can be seen – dry slopes in the north and lush forest in the south. We walk into old Narbethong to the original Post Office and Black Spur Inn Hotel. Those wishing a shorter walk could finish at this point. The rest will continue on through scenic countryside along old horse trails and close to farming land. We cross the old Melbourne Coach Road, then continue on a narrow trail before walking briefly off track to bring us to our finish point in Narbethong.

A relative of mine lives here and will take drivers back to their cars for a short 6 km car shuffle. They run a B&B (formerly a restaurant). It is suggested we adjourn there after the walk for a Devonshire tea at a cost of \$5 per person. Numbers required beforehand. Further information and bookings phone Margaret

### SUNDAY BUS: Kilcunda – Cape Patterson

DATE	Sunday 20 February 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium & Medium
DISTANCE	19 km & 20 km
LEADER(S)	Halina Sarbinowski & Lance Mobbs
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd at <b>8.30 am</b>
RETURN TIME	7.00 pm
AREA	Phillip Island/Gippsland
MAP REFERENCE	Park Notes – Bass Coast Parks and Reserves

The gradings of these walks are not based on any difficulty of terrain but purely on distances. The walking will be quite easy on hard sand at low tide.

The Medium walk commences at the rail bridge at Kilcunda and moves onto the beach fairly quickly. The E/M walk will commence just before the bridge over the Powlett River and follow the river till this group too reaches the beach. From this point both walks will follow the same route. Most walking will be along the beach, however, at Cutlers Beach we'll move inland and follow the tracks through Wonthaggi Heathland making our way

back onto the beach at Harmers Haven. Both walks will finish at Cape Patterson where we can enjoy a quick dip or an ice-cream (or both!).

These are lovely beaches with lots of rock pools to explore, sea birds to sight and crashing waves to listen to. These are walks that you will enjoy.

**Please note 8.00 am start.**

### DANDENONGS EXPLORER: Warrandyte area

DATE	Saturday 26 February 2005
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER	Warren Baker
TRANSPORT	Private

Talk to the leader in the clubrooms about this walk

### SUNDAY BUS: Mt Tanglefoot Area

DATE	Sunday 27 February 2005
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	14 km & 17 km approx.
LEADERS	Nik Dow & Keith McKenny
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd 9.00 am
LOCATION	Mt Tanglefoot, Toolangi, north of Yarra Glenn

Interested in seeing the tallest moss in the world?

These walks skirt the western side of Mt. Tanglefoot and go through tall mountain ash and magnificent rainforest gullies. Also expect to see blackwood wattles, sassafras and myrtle beech trees. Some of the myrtle beech are over 200 years old having survived the 1939 bush fires.

There are more than 100 different species of birds in the area, including lyrebirds. In the treetops look out for kookaburras and cockatoos, sooty and powerful owls, and you may see wedged-tail eagles in the skies about the treetops.

The walks include sections of boardwalks and cross timber trestle bridges.

If time permits an extra challenge is the summit track to Mt. St Leonards with great views over the Yarra Valley.

Yes the moss (*Dawsonia Superba*) is tall, some 8cm, and looks like miniature pine trees.

**FOR SALE: Sleeping Bag**, Macpac Neve, super light (1.1kg) and warm (suits cool to cold weather camping). Thermarest slides inside base. Ideal for pack carries and where weight and warmth are a priority. As new, used only 3 times. New price \$650, sell for \$450. Call 9399 2449.

**FOR A BOTTLE OF WINE: Walking Boots**, Scarpa ASolo, sturdy, made in Italy, size 39, excellent condition, brand new Vibram soles. Phone 9399 2449

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## PREVIEWS OF WEEKEND WALKS JANUARY 2005

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### BASE CAMP: Cape Otway – Dinosaur Cove

THE GREAT OCEAN WALK, PART 2

DATE	21–22 January 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER	Sylvia Ford
TRANSPORT	Private

Camping at the mouth of the Ayre River (east) access via Hordern Vale Road from Great Ocean Road. Bring drinking water, firewood and maybe a camping fee. There are no nearby pub or coffee shops (shock, horror)! Saturday walk: South to Cape Otway via Rainbow Falls. A circular walk of approximately 15 km. Sunday walk: North to Castle Cove and Dinosaur Cove. Shuffle cars at Castle Cove first thing. Aftersnoon tea at Lavers Hill and possibility of Blue Berry Farm pick-your-own (16 varieties) or The Otway Fly after. Lee Mullany will have the blurb and booking form on Wednesday 19 January. N.B. possibly some rock hopping.



### PACK CARRY: Eagles Peaks Area

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



### PACK CARRY: Razorback – Mt Feathertop

DATE	4 – 6 February 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	22 km (18 km with backpacks)
LEADER	Liz Telford
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	7.00 pm
AREA	Victorian Alps
MAP REFERENCE	Vicmap 1:50,000 Bogong Alpine Area Outdoor Leisure

Mount Feathertop at 1922 metres tall is the second highest mountain in Victoria. It has been described as 'one of the most visually aesthetically pleasing peaks in the Victorian Alps'. This weekend walk will be along the razorback to Mount Feathertop. The walk has impressive views and we should see plenty of wildflowers. On the Friday night we will camp the night at the Harrierville Camping Ground. I am planning to leave early on Saturday morning as we will need to leave the cars at the Diamantina Hut near Mount Hotham.

The walk should commence at approximately 9.30 am on Saturday and we will walk 9 km with packs along the razorback until we reach the site of the Federation Hut which was burnt in the 2003 fires. We will camp the night at this site. Later in the afternoon we will walk 2 km to the top of Mount Feathertop. This walk is very steep in parts but if it is a clear day the views are spectacular. On Sunday we will retrace our steps along the razorback, returning to the cars.

Water should be available at a spring near camp on Saturday night and walkers should be fully prepared for all weather conditions. I will be in the club rooms on 26 January and 2 February. Limit of 10.

## CANOE TRIP: Goulburn River

DATE	12–13 February 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	30 to 40 km
LEADER	Quentin Tibballs
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	7.00 pm Sunday 13th
AREA	Yea / Seymour / Nagambie
MAP REFERENCE	Yea 1: 100,000 Nagambie 1: 50,000

We intend to canoe 2 unlinked stretches of the Goulburn River on this weekend and will be camping on Carolyn and Gerhard Braun's (MBW members) property at Trawool, an idyllic spot on the river's edge, on both Friday and Saturday nights. This weekend will be similar to last year in that Carolyn will be providing a delightful all inclusive meal on Saturday evening for \$10, (as there may be a total fire ban), both days will involve car shuffles, day packs only will have to be carried and the canoes, paddles and life jackets will be hired from Nagambie Scouts (at a reasonable price to be agreed). The Saturday canoeing leg will be the same (Ghin Ghin bridge to the Braun's property at Trawool) between Yea and Seymour however the Sun section will be upstream of Nagambie and will include a stopover at Michellstown Winery for lunch and a finish mid afternoon at Chateau Tahbilk.

In the Saturday section the current can be quite strong and the water is usually cold even in mid summer (because it is taken from the lower levels of the Eildon Weir for irrigation) and tricky, with semi-submerged branches and logs so each canoe must have an experienced person in the rear for steering and both occupants must be competent swimmers. However if you would like to come and are unsure of your skills please get in touch with me so we can chat – we may be able to place you in a canoe with a competent steerer. We will also be taking our time on this section to appreciate the abundant birdlife and unique scenery as the river winds between the Cherry Tree and Switzerland Ranges to the north and uplands to the south.

On Sunday the water is more benign with the attractions being the 2 wineries to be paddled to.

About 6 canoes with accessories will be available for hire but please consider bringing your own canoe if you have one. Please contact me for further details and instructions for getting to the Braun's property. Quentin 0408 144265 or <geoq@bigpond.com>.

## BASE CAMP: Johanna – Cannonball Cove

THE GREAT OCEAN WALK, PART 3

DATE	18–20 February 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER	Sylvia Ford
TRANSPORT	Private

Camping facilities are being currently explored. Johanna Beach site is very exposed. Will keep you posted. Saturday Walk: depending where we finished in Part 2 of this extended walk, we will go from Johanna Beach east to Dinosaur Cove and return and maybe something else. Sunday Walk: Johanna Beach west to??? depending where the track has been cut. possibly a car shuffle first. I also have a really nice, mostly inland, walk in this area which includes two really nice waterfalls and spectacular views. Whatever happens we shall visit the amazing Canonball Cove and have afternoon tea at Laverhill, and pick blueberries on the way home. This is a particularly beautiful part of Victoria

## BASE CAMP: Jamieson River Area

DATE	21–24 February 2005
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER	Susan Maughan
TRANSPORT	Private
MAP REFERENCE	Rooftops Series: Jamieson-Licola 1:50,000

We'll set up camp mid-late afternoon on the 21st along the Goulburn River. Continue south of Jamieson on the Mansfield – Woods Point Road and we'll camp at one of the sites just after the town (to be confirmed).

The plan is to explore the Bald Hill area and possibly through to the Big River arm of Lake Eildon one day and drive along to A1 mine Settlement and Woods Point another day.

We're hoping to enjoy all the usual base camp evening activities – then again, expect the unexpected.



## PACK CARRY & BASE CAMP: Mt Buffalo

DATE	25–27 February 2005
STANDARD	Easy & Medium
LEADERS	Bob Oxlade & Pearson Cresswell
TRANSPORT	Private

Talk to the leaders in the clubrooms about this walk



## PACK CARRY: Traveller Range – Labrynth area (Tas)

DATE	26 February–6 March 2005
STANDARD	Medium/Hard
LEADER	Doug Pocock
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Central Plateau

This will be an extremely spectacular walk, hopefully we will have good weather to see it! As this was advertised in the *News* a while ago it is now full.



# Walks Secretary Reports

## December 2004 Walk Statistics

December 2004	Trips	People	Average	Dec 2003
Sunday Bus	3	107	36	27
Other day	2	27	14	17
Pack Carry	3	28	9	7
Base Camp	2	30	15	16
Cycle	–	–	–	–
Lodge	–	–	–	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>11/186</b>
Cancelled	1			1

## Clubrooms Duty Roster

January 19	Mark Heath, David Laing
January 26	Peter Havlicek, Fay Dunn
February 2	Ron Hampton, Jan Palich
February 9	Carol Criddle, Doug Pocock

## Next committee meeting

Monday 7 February, 7 pm in the clubrooms

## MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Life Members	10
Honorary Members	10
Single Memberships	339
Family Memberships	106 (= 2 x 53)
Total Membership	465
This time last year	475

*Peter Havlicek, Membership Secretary*