



A000133X

THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 CENTS

EDITION 653 JULY 2005

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR EVERYONE

PERSONAL HEALTH DETAILS CARD

a new safety initiative

Enclosed with this copy of the *MBW News* you will find an attractive, green **Personal Health Details Card**. The purpose of this card is to contain basic but crucial and potentially lifesaving information. It is to be used by medical personnel in the hopefully unlikely but always possible situation where you may require urgent treatment but be unable to convey this information yourself. You may be unconscious, unable to speak or have lost your memory. Having this information could save your life or at least make it easier to treat you quickly and effectively.

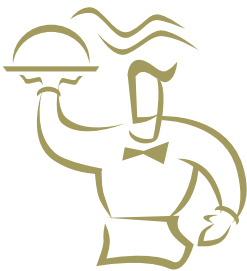
Vicwalk is urging all clubs to adopt the Personal Health Details Card. Some other clubs such as Maroondah have had this system in place for several years and it has already proved its worth.

What To Do With The Card. We suggest that you put the completed card in a small waterproof plastic bag (a small size 'Glad' type snaplock bag from any supermarket would be ideal) and carry it in an outside pocket of your backpack. That way it will be easily accessible to any helper and if we all adopt this convention he/she will always know where to look first.

Leaders: We will have a supply of cards in the clubrooms so that you can give one to every temporary member (visitor) on your trip. Please remind the group during your briefing at the start of your walk that the Club & Vicwalk urge everyone to carry their completed card in their pack.

Carrying your card will be a simple but potentially very important habit to get into. It's valuable insurance. We urge everyone to treat it seriously and do it promptly.

MELBOURNE BUSH WALKERS



Dine Out

August 2005 venue:

Manchester Lane

Manchester Lane (off Flinders Lane
between Swanston and Elizabeth Streets
Saturday 13th August at 7.30pm
Bop Deluxe 5 piece band. 50s rhythm &
blues, & swing music begins 9-9.30pm

If you would like to attend please phone Charlotte at least a week before for reservations and you can also take the opportunity to let her know your favourite restaurants.

A SLIM ISSUE

This month's issue is, of necessity, briefer than usual.

This is because it comes bundled with the Membership List for 2005 and the Health Care Card and the Spring Program and as anyone who has taken part in Newsletter Folding Night knows, more than 12 pages can be a bit of a struggle. We are also encouraged to keep the weight down in order not to incur extra charges from the Post Office.

Apologies then, to those who contributed such excellent articles which reluctantly had to be omitted. Never fear however, as these will appear in the August issue of the *MBW News*.—Ed.

**SUNDAY BUS: Kilcunda – Churchill Island
17 July 2005. Now departs Southbank Blvd.
at 8.30am. See page 5.**

**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 either:
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

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

“New” News Item: I am introducing a new segment in the Bushie Newsletter called “This month ____ Years ago”. The inspiration for this type of article has come from Graham Wills-Johnson, one of our members who has been diligently going through the club’s historical records and scanning all these old documents for prosperity. There are now soft copies of club’s walk reports from 1946 to 1980’s and Graham’s work is still ongoing.

I believe that we are what we are because of those people who have walked this way before us, and reading what happened in the bushwalking club in years gone by, shows us that previous members had the same beliefs and enjoyment of the bush that we have today.

The first article is about a walk done 50 years ago this month. I hope you enjoy these new articles as they come your way each month.

Engagements: Engagements are running hot this year. Fiona Gallery and Lloyd Young became engaged a few months ago, now Peter McGrath and Jackie Verkade have become engaged. Congratulations to both couples!

Overseas Walking: Jackie and Peter have departed for a global walking trip and as Rod Novak is also away on a walking trip, so I hope we are the recipients of some great slide presentations on their return.

Two other club members, Gary Alexander and Angela Vetsica are returning from overseas having just completed the St. James Pilgrims walk (Camino Trail) through France & Spain – we look forward to a slide night from them too. Well done!

Club Auction: There will be an auction held later this year for those of us who have much loved, but unused bushwalking equipment that are just cluttering our cupboards, sheds and garages. Check out the info on this newsletter and look for reminders in the months closer to the auction. We will have cake and coffee, (cake supplied by JanP) that’s a bit of a bribe, but it should be a fun night with a positive outcome for all. 10% of the price of all items sold will be donated to a conservation group.

Safe Walking.

Jan Palich

**Wine & Cheese
evening**



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

Attention Budding Journalists



Would you like to be published in the *Herald-Sun*?

Vic Walks Publicity Convener has lobbied for newspapers to publish Bushwalking Articles, with the aim of promoting bushwalking in the Community. The *Herald-Sun* has shown interest.

Anyone interested in presenting an article or setting up a group to do so, please contact me at the Clubrooms or leave a message on my phone.

*Carol Criddle,
Melbourne Bushwalkers VicWalk Delegate*

KANGAROO ISLAND & S.E. SOUTH AUSTRALIA

in September School Hols. Expressions of Interest Invited
A trip to Kangaroo Island is being planned for the
September school holidays. Dates approx
Sunday 18th to Wednesday 28th. En route we'll take
in Mt Gambier and Robe at least.
Sylvia Ford ph 93297816

Forthcoming lecture series

Susan Maughan is organising a series of lectures to be held in the clubrooms on Wednesday evenings at 8am. The first, which is scheduled for **10 August** will be a talk by Clair Vincent from the Bureau of Meteorology on reading weather patterns in the Alps and at the Proms.

The second, on **21 September** is a talk and slide show by Charles Tivendale a scientist with the Australian Antarctic Division who will talk about his two one-year stints at Mawson in the Antarctic.

For further details please contact Susan Maughan.



Congratulations Peter and Jackie

Last month Peter McGrath and Jackie Verkade announced their engagement. Peter is the assistant walks secretary for the Club and has served on the committee for several years.

Peter and Jackie have recently embarked on a walking (is there any better way?) tour overseas and will be returning in three months

I'm sure that all club members will join me in congratulating them on their good fortune and wishing them an excellent holiday.

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

Finke Gorge

and Watarrka National Parks



Descending into Kings Canyon

Finke Gorge – Much more than Palm Valley. We walk through the wide, sculptured gorges of the oldest river in the world, the Finke. We camp near some of the few permanent waterholes in this arid land. We cross the park via one of the most scenic 4WD tracks in the Centre.

Watarrka – Much more than Kings Canyon. This is the richest area for plant diversity in the whole of central Australia. We walk through deep gorges, across red dunes and enjoy spectacular views from the tops of the steep cliffs on the edge of the range. We camp near some of the few permanent waterholes in the region.

We can offer only one trip which combines the two.

See our website or give us a call for details.

www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au



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

Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355

Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair

An overdue review of nine days in the Traveller and Du Cane ranges.

Originally planned for last Xmas then postponed to February 26 it was a relief to be on our way with leader Doug Pocock to share a tent with Ken Mac, Gina with Trish, Susan Mc and Lesley H, leaving Jopie to try out a new tent on his own. After various methods of travel we met at Lake St Clair on Saturday morning. Doug had chartered a boat to drop us off about half way along the eastern shore and, although the sandy beach was OK for the skipper it was a little short of our preferred position to begin the climb almost to the summit of Mt Ida. We began in fairly dense bush and as we neared the top the pyramidal peak looked challenging to some but our position revealed the deep gully between us and the Traveller Range so we pushed ahead to make camp on the plateau. As was to be often the case, good tent places were limited and Doug's advice to share was well founded. The weather was beautiful and over the next two days we enjoyed walking the undulating area of rocky tarns and lakes at about 1200m. Some of our group had a swim at one lunch stop. We explored a little of the Mountains of Jupiter and sighted a Tasmanian Devil crossing our path about 150m ahead of us. On Tuesday we descended to cross the Overland Track at Du Cane Gap then, through rain forest, steep grassy slopes and a rocky climb to the long ridge of Falling Mountain, an elevation gain of nearly 500m. As we recovered over lunch we viewed the huge rocky ridge of Mount Massif in front of us and wondered if it was possible to negotiate it. It proved to be too difficult along the top and became necessary to drop down a little to continue. The weather was deteriorating with rain and wind chill and it was obvious we could not make it to camp at Lake Helios. After finding a standing place in the rocks to adjust our clothing we decided to head for the Kia

Ora Hut on the Overland Track. The descent was one of the features of the walk, rocks to begin with and passing packs down at one point, crossing a sloping slab at another and, nearing the bottom the forest so dense it was difficult to fit between the small trees with a pack. Across a creek and the button grass was very tiring. We made it to the hut just on dark and the occupants must have been wondering where we came from as we pitched our tents outside. Next day we took advantage of the Overland Track with lunch at the next overnight hut and the following hut by 5pm. From Narcissus Hut we regained our schedule when we followed a track through beautiful rain forest to the base of Mount Olympus. A side trip to the summit—much of it on slate-like scree—then to camp at Lake Petrarch where nicer weather allowed us to wade in and freshen up.

Off track again and a gentle climb to a flat ridge, along which we passed an outstanding King Billy pine. As the weather was turning sour again the area was too exposed and wet to camp, so, over little Hugel and down to Shadow Lake for shelter at approx. 1000m. Next morning, with snow around our tents and our route over Mount Rufus in the clouds we didn't emerge for short walks by the lake until the rain eased later in the morning.

We returned to the Visitor centre by late morning the next day for hot showers and dried our gear whilst enjoying lunch in the restaurant.

I can only say for anyone interested in furthering their walking careers that our club has some wonderfully experienced leaders to show them the way, Thanks to Doug for planning the walk and to others who assisted in making this another great experience.

Bob Oxlade

Park Trek Walking Holidays.

Lots to look forward to in 2005:

- Flinders Ranges 17 – 25 Sept
Accommodation and Camping
- Wilderness Coast 10 – 15 Oct
Fully Accommodated
- Kangaroo Island 24 – 28 Oct
Fully Accommodated
- Wilsons Prom 7 – 11 Nov
Fully Accommodated

Contact us for a brochure
Phone (03) 9486 7070
E-Mail: alfenner@ozemail.com.au



www.parktrek.com

The only thing standing between you and the end of the day is
is fabulous walking, drifting scenery and great company...



TRACKS, HUTS, & CONSERVATION

VicWalk Conservation Committee – Notes from the 22 June meeting.

Please note: Mark Heath will be attending as the club delegate.

Australian Alps Walking Track – VicWalk attended the recent AAWT Forum in the A.C.T. The AAWT Management Strategy has been released. The track is the defining physical link of the Australian Alps National Park. It is a tangible example of one park concept. The focus of the current strategy will be: to co-ordinate post 2003 fire repairs; to foster and develop links with relevant Aboriginal communities in order to better understand and interpret the routes and pathways of the mountains; to deliver appropriate information on the track primarily through the AANP website including interactive feedback from website users.

East Gippsland – A major issue in East Gippsland at present is the preservation of the Wilderness Coastline. A proposed boat ramp / breakwall development at Bastion Point, Mallacoota, threatens the natural integrity of an outstanding area on the Far East Gippsland Wilderness Coast. The recommendations include a breakwall 130m long, 2.8m high and 5m wide at the crest, removal of reef, removal of vegetation for car park, road access over the headland and dune and installation of permanent sand dredging equipment. An update will be published in June on the website www.vicnet.net.au/~malcoast.

Grampians – The Sunraysia Bushwalkers have cleared 4 km of The Fortress Track from the start at Harrop Track up to the Camping Cave.

Otway National Park – The State Government has announced the additions to this park. Unfortunately, they have included a new ‘forest park’ category for firewood collection and motorised recreation.

Tasmania – The Overland Track. From November 1 to April 30 the Overland Track must be done from north to south and will have a \$100 booking fee per person in addition to the \$30 parks pass. Online booking is anticipated to start shortly, but commercial groups have already been given booking slots. Maximum start numbers per day on the track is 55 people but there is no stipulation on how fast or how slow you do the walk – so you are not made to stay at a particular location each night. You can spend four days or ten days or whatever. It is the start date that is the important factor for your booking.

You are able without the \$100 charge to walk into for one or two nights to either Scott Kilvett Hut, Pine Valley Hut, Echo Point Hut or Narcissus Hut providing you don't do the Overland Track in full. If you enter the Overland Track say via the Walls – or Arm River Track then you can continue on the Overland Track in either direction without

the \$100 charge. The new toilet at Kitchen Hut is a composting one – with final residue – capsuled out. New group tent platforms at each hut site have either been completed or will be by November 1. Primarily for commercial operators using tents, these keep the groups away from the individuals. Bushwalking Clubs can register if they wish to use these platforms. An example of one site – Waterfall Valley – the platform is above the waterfall near the old hut. No camping zone still applies before Waterfall Valley Hut – but Barn Bluff (one tent site) is OK. Small areas of boardwalk are continuously being replaced on the track. Lake Wills boardwalk is 95% complete. A new pamphlet *Overland Track – What's New for 2005* has been published.

Rod Novak, VicWalk Conservation – club delegate

Alpine Grazing Decision – Alpine National Park

Thank you to all club members who have supported the campaign to end alpine grazing in the Alpine National Park. The Bill was debated on Tuesday 14th June (I attended the evening session of parliament as a visitor and was most impressed and intrigued with the range of views in the speeches), and it passed the lower house on Wednesday 15th June. At 4.15 pm on Friday 17th June the Upper House of the State Parliament passed the Alpine Grazing Bill. The Governor's assent was expected on Wednesday 22nd June. The next battle appears to be with the Federal Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Ian Campbell MP, who is pro – alpine cattle grazing for its cultural heritage, although his department is against alpine cattle grazing because of the substantiated ecological damage! The alps campaign will now focus on a World Heritage nomination for the Australian Alps. This will be Victoria's first ‘natural’ world heritage nomination.

Rod Novak, Conservation Project Officer

VicWalk Track Work Group

As reported in the June NEWS VicWalk have now established the track maintenance group. The Convenor is Jim Harker (telephone 9547 1152). Contact Jim Harker (VMTC) to express an interest and/or to obtain more information. Here are the first activities.

- Grampians National Park, 21–23 October, organiser Rod Novak 9561 2407.
- Mt Buffalo track clearing (exact track to be determined) 12–13 November 2005, organiser Jim Harker (VMTC), 9547 1152, jnharker@netspace.net.au
- Upper Yarra Track early December (exact date to be notified), organiser Steven Robertson (Maroondah BWC), srob7859@bigpond.net.au
- Riggalls Spur – Lake Tali Karng, 1–2 April 2006, organiser Jim Harker (VMTC), 9547 1152.
- Freeman's Mill Track, Bunyip State Park – to be advised.

Rod Novak, VicWalk Track Group – club delegate

SUNDAY BUS: Kilcunda-Churchill Island

DATE	Sunday 17 July 2005
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	14 and 20 km.
LEADERS	Doug Langton and Mark Heath
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd.
DEPARTURE TIME	8.30am Note changed Time
RETURN TIME	7 pm
AREA	Phillip Island, Kilcunda.
MAP REFERENCE	Parks Vict. George Bass Coastal Walk

Preview Now Completed. Both groups will leave from two separate points close to Kilcunda to enjoy the spectacular, rugged coastline of the George Bass Coastal Walk to Punchbowl Road and its 'IMAX' type view of Western Port and beyond. Private land ownership forces a temporary deviation from the cliff face but the rocky coastline seen by ship's surgeon George Bass in 1798 as he and his crew rowed west return after a short bus trip and the cliff and/or beach is followed into San Remo past aboriginal sacred areas. Both groups will cross the bridge onto Phillip Island and again walk into history to Churchill Island. Planted with a wide range of seeds by Lieutenant Grant of the *Lady Nelson* in 1799 and therefore Victoria's first 'farm' the group doing the longer walk will circumnavigate the island by foot whilst the easy walking group will complete the wetlands board walk into the Parks Vict display and Cafe. The history as well as the present day significance of Churchill Islands surrounding Marine National Park will be reviewed as can be the island's historic homestead and its surrounding working farm where a reduced visiting rate of \$5.40 has been agreed to by the Phillip Island Tourist Trust if participants wish to view the homestead. Wonderful coastal scenery and extensive historical significance should make up for what is not a particularly rigorous walk

WEDNESDAY WALK: Yarra Ranges – McMahons Creek Goldfields

DATE	Wednesday 20 July 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER	Stuart Hodgson
TRANSPORT	Private

The walk traverses an area once popular with goldminers but which is now incorporated into the Ranges National Park. It includes many interesting remnants including lots of diggings and machinery and two huge tunnels built to divert the river. Here you can cross the mighty Yarra without even getting your feet wet! There are a few steep (but mercifully brief) climbs, one of which will reward you with terrific views of the far off Yarra Valley. In some places we follow an old water race as it winds gently through the forest and around a ridge.

For any further information and to book, please telephone Stuart.

TOFS: Balcombe Creek – Briars Woodland

DATE	Thurs 4 Aug 2005
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER	Judith Hall for Alister Rowe
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	3pm
AREA	Mt Martha
MAP REFERENCE	Melway page 144

Meet at 10.30am at the Balcombe Estuary Recreation Reserve Melway ref 144 K11. Enter via Mirang Avenue. The walk will include the estuary board walk and then under Nepean Hwy to 'The Briars' park where we will complete the Kur-Bur-Rer circuit. This is a very easy quite picturesque walk of about 10km. Note: Since I will be away at this time, Ms Judith Hall will be leading this walk.

CYCLE TRIP: Diamond Creek to Westgarth

DATE	Saturday 6 August 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium 40–45 km
LEADER	Mark Heath

Latte with the Impressionists on Melbourne's best bike trail!

Transport is the 9.28am Hurstbridge train from Flinders St, arriving Westgarth 09.45am and Diamond Creek at 10.30am. I'll be in the first carriage. We'll head down the Diamond Creek trail, over the new bridge and then down the Yarra trail, arriving Fairfield/Westgarth mid afternoon.

Depending on weather and times I may continue down the Yarra trail to the city.

SUNDAY BUS: Dandenong Ranges

DATE	Sunday 7 August 2005.
STANDARD	Easy/Medium & Medium.
DISTANCE	14km & 16km
LEADERS	Mohammad Akbari and Lance Mobbs.
TRANSPORT	Bus – South Blvd. at 9am.
RETURN TIME	6 pm.
AREA	Dandenong Ranges National Park.
MAP REF	Melway 74 H4.

This is one of the prettier walks in the Dandenong National Park. The Medium walk will commence at the Ferntree Gully picnic ground area. Medium walkers will first climb the 732 steps to the One Tree Hill, picnic ground where the Easy/Medium walk begins. We will be walking through a few friendly hills (not hard, just a good workout) which provide some great views of Mount Dandenong and surrounding areas.

Although this walk is in spring please be prepared for a possible cold and wet day, bring your proper weather gear and clothes. This is a good walk and therefore is recommended, see you on the walk.



SUNDAY BUS: Sunday Creek – Mt Disappointment

DATE	Sunday 14 August 2005
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	15 km and 18 km
LEADER(S)	Halina Sarbinowski and Marilyn Lock
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd at 9:00am
RETURN TIME	7.00 pm
AREA	Mt Disappointment State Forest
MAP REFERENCE	Wandong & Reedy Creek 1:25,000

Mt Disappointment State Forest is a lovely bushland area not far from Melbourne. The Sunday Creek Reservoir, which we skirt, is part of the water supply for Melbourne. The area is popular for rogaining, our navigation courses and also army training.

The day of the preview was one of those exceptionally clear winter sunny days after a night of rain with the bush smelling fresh and looking beautifully green. An exceptionally pleasant place to be. Much of the walks follow the Sunday Creek which has a rainforest feel to it while other parts can only be described as 'typical' Australian bushland (in the best sense). Most of the walking will be on four wheel drive tracks with both walks basically following the same route. The Easy/Medium group doing a few extra bits for the added kilometres. Some hills will be involved but nothing overly strenuous. Both walks will end by following the lovely nature trail along Sunday Creek. This is a lovely area to walk in not far from Melbourne so please join us and enjoy these walks.

WEDNESDAY WALK:

Mt. Despair and Murrundindi River

DATE	Wednesday 17 August
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	21 km.
LEADER	Jerry Grandage
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	6.30 pm
MAP	Taggerty South, 1:25,000 Topo.

Please note that this walk is of **Medium** standard, not Easy/Medium as advertised in the walks programme. We will start with a 500 metre uphill walk to Mt. Despair, after which it is downhill most of the way to the Murrundindi Road and along the beautiful River Walk back to the starting point. The road could be used as a softer option for the second half of the circuit.



SUNDAY BUS: Vaughan Springs – Golden Gully

DATE	Sunday 21 August 2005
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
LEADERS	Dave Laing & Lesley Hale
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd at 9 am

Please see the leaders in the clubrooms for details of this walk.

DANDENONGS EXPLORER:

Grants–Sassafras–Ferry Creek–Grants

DATE	Saturday 27 August 2005
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	11 km
LEADER	Liz Telford
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	3.00 pm
AREA	Kallista and Sassafras

The walk will commence at Grants Picnic Ground and soon we walk along the Sassafras creek for the first part of the walk. This is very pleasant walking with lovely tall stands of tree ferns on the edge of the creek. After we arrive at Sassafras we have to walk a small section along a road but there are several large houses to admire along the way. Then the rest of the walk is along the outer edge of the Dandenong Ranges National Park. The walk is very easy, with no major hills and only a 20 minutes section of steep downhill to walk. There is the possibility of extending the walk if people are keen. We should finish about 3.00 pm and then off for coffee and cakes

Please meet at Grants Picnic Ground in Kallista at 1045 am (Map 75 K4 in the Melways). If there has been a lot of rain, parts of the track will be muddy and it would be advisable to wear boots. If you have any queries please call me on 9808 4663, but generally there is no need to book.



SUNDAY BUS: Gum Creek – Mt Robertson.

DATE	Sunday 28 August 2005
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	15km & 17km
LEADERS	Keith McKenry & Tom Wilanowski
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd at 9 am
AREA	Mt Robertson State forest, 7 km north of Kinglake, Melba Highway north of Melbourne.
MAP	Vicmap Pheasant Creek 1:25000, Melways 510 P11.

This walk explores the Mt Robertson State forest. Both walks commence just north of Kinglake Central and finish at the Gum Creek conference centre on the Whittlesea Yea Road.

This is an old gold mining area and we will explore a disused gold battery roughly at the mid point of the walk. This remains an imposing structure fashioned out of the local timber and evokes the history of the once important industry of the area.

Most walking is on open four wheel drive tracks following ridge lines through the forest. Sections of the tracks are quite rutted. No vehicles were encountered during the walk preview. There are many bottlebrushes and sections of tree ferns are seen around the creek valleys. We walk generally North West and the late afternoon light streaming through the trees adds to the pleasant surrounds.

The two groups (E & E/M) follow mostly the same route but the E/M walk is slightly more difficult. After visiting the gold battery, it diverts to a harder section descending from Mt Robertson (600M) down to Gum Creek (370M). After crossing the creek it then has a steep climb of 150m to rejoin the track taken by the Easy group. There is a small section of off track walking for the E/M group.

PREVIEWS OF WEEKEND WALKS JULY/AUGUST 2005

BUNKHOUSE WEEKEND: Barjarg

DATE 12– 14 August 2005
 LEADER Sylvia Ford
 TRANSPORT Private
 AREA Close to Mt Stirling

This weekend is for cross country skiers to ski on Mt Stirling. The nature of the mountain is that it is not suitable for beginners, being steepish. Hopefully there will be sufficient numbers to break up into groups of similar ability/inclination and everyone will have a good two days trashing the snow.

Barjarg is an old village school approx 20km north of Mansfield on the Midland Hwy and can accommodate people in bunk rooms of six in each. The facilities are not flash but comfortable.

Cost: \$20 per person per night plus a bit more for cleaning (?\$5) and Saturday night dinner of meat and potatoes (?\$6). We'll do entree or salads or dessert.

Please note that club insurance does not cover skiing activities. Everyone is responsible for their own safety and anyone not prepared to take full responsibility for themselves must not come

BASE CAMP: Maldon & Bealiba Range

DATE 19–21 August 2005
 STANDARD Easy/Medium
 LEADER Jopie Bodegraven
 TRANSPORT Private
 RETURN TIME Early Sunday evening
 AREA Goldfields north of Castlemaine
 MAP REFERENCE Dunolly North & Maldon 1:25k, Dunolly & Bendigo 1:100k, Maldon Historic Reserve Parks Vic brochure, Maldon Town Walk brochure

This is an area that to the best of my knowledge has never been done before by Melbourne Bushies. The chief attractions are the granite and metamorphic scenery of the Bealiba Range, the view from Mt Moliagul, the views from the Nuggety Range and Mount Tarrengower at Maldon and the historic goldmining township of Maldon itself. Add to this a pleasant camping ground at Maldon, dinner Saturday night at one of the several historic pubs in the town and hey presto! You have a great weekend. And there should be lots of wattles blooming and the countryside should look lovely and green

Maldon is 140km from Melbourne via Harcourt. Allow 2½ hours driving time. Jen & I will get there early on Friday so that we can vet the pubs for dinner and the coffee shops for Sunday afternoon tea. There is a fireplace but we will need to bring our own wood so if you can bring some, please do.

On Saturday we drive to the Bealiba Range, a drive of about an hour. We could have camped at Dunolly but Maldon is much nicer. The walk is about 10km with 370m of climbing but some of the ground is rough & rocky underfoot. Then we drive on to Mt Moliagul for a short walk and fabulous views and if we have time we can have a look at historic Tarnagulla on the way back to camp.

Sunday is all spent at Maldon, first doing a walk of 10km and

400m climbing over the Nuggety Ranges & Mt Tarrengower with great views followed by an historic town walk and finishing with afternoon tea at our chosen coffee shop.

The caravan park does have on site vans & cabins but the Gem Cutters Guild is having a weekend there so bookings may be heavy. Come along for a great weekend of exercise, scenery, views & history.

TREE PLANTING: Regent Honeyeater Project

DATE 27–28 August 2005
 LEADER Marika Jagow
 TRANSPORT Private
 AREA Benalla Area 2 ½ hrs from Melbourne
 RETURN TIME Sunday 5pm

Join in on a fun weekend of tree planting. For those Bushies who have been before you know what I am talking about. If not come along and find out. This weekend involves a day and a half of tree planting to support the regrowth of plant life for the endangered Regent Honeyeater. Free accommodation (or bring your tent), BBQ and bush dance provided as well. Come on the Saturday or both days. See the leader in the clubrooms to confirm numbers for the accommodation and meeting point details. BYO gardening gloves and gum boots.

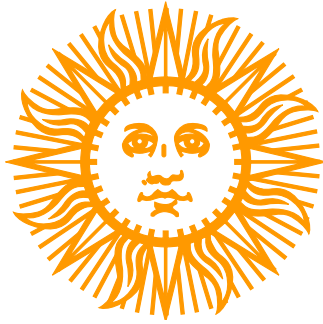
Walks Secretary report

Trip figures for May 2005

	May 2005			May 2004	
	Trips	People	Average	Trips	Average
Sunday Bus	5	205	41	5	39
Other Day	3	42	14	3	18
Pack Carry	1	9		2	5
Base Camp	0			2	13
Bunkhouse w/end	1	9	22		
Canoe	0				
Track maintenance	1	8			
Cancelled					
TOTAL	11	273			

The Sunday bus is very popular at the moment. This may be partly due to our fantastic recently upgraded website. A big thank you to our new webmaster Ian Mair.

Jopie Bodegraven, Walks Secretary



SUMMER PROGRAMME

leaders & ideas wanted

In early August we will start putting together the programme for December to February. This is when we do a lot of our alpine weekend trips, maybe a canoe trip, day walks by the beach or in the cool mountains which can be a bit wet or leechy at other times. Australia day falls on a Thursday giving us the chance for a 4 day weekend. And of course there are the extended trips at Christmas/New Year and in January/February.

To get all this happening we need suggestions and/or offers to lead specific trips. Don't be shy. I'm very approachable. We will be having a walks planning night in the clubrooms at 7pm on Tuesday 9 August. I will be away till the end of July but would love to be inundated with ideas & offers via my pigeon hole, mail box or email anytime or by phone after 30 July or in the clubrooms on 3rd August. I am specifically looking after the overnight trips but will handle day walks as well. John Coe is standing in for Peter McGrath who is swanning it overseas with his fiancée till late September and John would be delighted to receive Sunday walk suggestions & offers anytime. Thinking caps on and away we go!

Jopie Bodegraven, Walks Secretary

THIS
MONTH
50
YEARS
AGO

Melbourne Bushwalkers Historical Section

On 3 July 1955, there was a day walk from Greensborough to Wattle Glen led by Faye Garretly and the group travelled by train to and from the walk. Everyone met at Flinders St to catch the 8.52am train to Greensborough, returning on the 6.20pm Wattle Glen to Melb.

NARRATED BY LEADER. We started walking by crossing the river via a footbridge from Greensborough Station to St. Helena Road. This road was under repair so the group went on an alternative track. At St. Helena, we inspected a historical local church and then went cross country to an aqueduct where we had lunch. Following the lunch break, we continued along the aqueduct to the main road and turned north, enjoying the good views over the countryside. At the end of the road, we went cross country towards the valley and into Diamond Creek, and followed a road towards Hurstbridge till we arrived at the Wattle Glen Station. Good walking along quiet roads with good views – an easy walk.

Note for your Diary:

CLUB AUCTION OF BUSHWALKING EQUIPMENT

Date: Wednesday 19 October

For all those walkers who have bushwalking equipment lying around in cupboards and garages – now is the time to think about what you would like to pass on.

The club is holding an auction for pre-loved bushwalking equipment on Wednesday 19 October. 10% of all sales will be donated to conservation. So you have plenty of warning – please diarise this date and if you have any queries, please contact me. Jan Palich.