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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 CENTS

EDITION 649 MARCH 2005

WINTER PROGRAMME

Leaders & Ideas Wanted

A Word from the Walks Secretary

hoping to have 2 lodge weekends, 2 metropolitan Saturday cycle rides, a tree planting weekend and an historical walk. There will also be a beginners training pack carry weekend (more from Quentin later)

We do need a few more leaders. Peter our assistant walks secretary would be delighted to hear from you and discuss Sunday walks. Ring him on 5975 1030 or catch him in the clubrooms. I will be in Tasmania till 14 March but would be delighted to have some messages waiting for me on my return re weekend trips. I'm still looking for someone to lead a lodge trip, probably at Tidal River in July, plus 2 pack carries and a base camp

We will start work on the Spring programme in early May. Why not get in early with suggestions and offers. I'd love to hear from you. We need both experienced leaders and new leaders to train up.

Contact me, Jopie, in the clubrooms after 14 March

Jopie Bodegraven

Peter and I are currently putting together the Walks Programme for June to August and offers of leadership and good suggestions are invited. As well as the usual and popular Sunday walks, Wednesday walks, Thursday TOFS walks, Saturday Dandenongs Explorer walks, assorted weekend base camps and packcarrys we are

Congratulations



All club members extend their congratulations and good wishes to newlywed's Ron Milthorpe & Crislie who were married on 6th January 2005 at

Kabankalan, Philippines. They enjoyed their honeymoon at a beach resort in the Philippines.

Ron's big quote ' I seem to be related to everyone in Kabankalan now'.

Subscriptions

We are now in the subscription renewal period. Subs are due before the end of May 2005.

The subs (unchanged from 2004) are:

Single full membership: \$45.00

Couple membership: \$70.00

Subscription to posted copy of the NEWS: \$20.00

Concession membership is available to F/T students, Health benefits recipients, etc. Please present proof when paying.

Seniors Cards are not a concession.

Concession rates:

Single: \$30.00 Couples: \$38.00

The Membership Secretary will be in the Clubrooms every Wednesday to accept subs. Or you can mail using the slip on the back page of the NEWS.

Check that your subs are outstanding if the mailing label on your NEWS is marked "** SubsDue". Allow a week for mail delivery.

Lloyd's 40th BIRTHDAY BBQ

and a chance to wish

Fiona and Lloyd

a happy engagement.

Saturday 19th March 6pm

BYO Drinks and something to share
No presents
BBQ sausages & veggie patties provided.

Members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.
meet on Wednesday evenings
between 7.00 & 9.00 pm in the Clubrooms,
Victorian Horticultural Society Hall,
48 MacKenzie Street, Melbourne.
Visitors are always welcome.



General correspondence should be directed to:

The Secretary,
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.,
PO Box 1751Q,
Melbourne, Vic., 3001.

The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. is the newsletter
of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. and is published monthly.
Editor: Ron Hampton.

Walk previews & reviews, articles, poems, news items,
photographs of club events, reports of new gear, book reviews,
letters to the Editor, advertisements, etc. are always welcome.
The Editor reserves the right to edit contributions where space,
clarity or propriety dictate and to maintain editorial consistency.

Contributions to *The News* may be sent to the Editor by:

- Placing diskette or hand written material in the Editor's
pigeon hole in the clubrooms
- Posting diskette or hand written material to either:
The Editor,
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.,
PO Box 1751Q, Melbourne, Vic, 3001

Electronic mail is preferred.

Closing date for receipt of material for *The News* is the last
Wednesday of the month.

Advertisements in *The News*

Only advertisements directly relating to bushwalking will be
accepted (e.g. gear, maps, trips, tours, etc.).
Members' ads are free.

Advertising Rates (Artwork Ready)

in: printed edition only: as below, or printed & on-line editions:
as below + 25% or on-line edition only: as below + 25%.

Size:	1 Issue	3 Issues	12 Issues (1 Year)
1/4 Page	\$35	\$90	\$330
1/2 Page	\$55	\$150	\$550
Full Page	\$100	\$250	\$900

This is my first venture into the President's Corner in our
monthly Newsletter. I would like to thank you for voting
me into the position and giving your trust in my ability to
work with you. I aim to continue the role to ensure our
club provides great bushwalking opportunities for day
and weekend walkers and any visitors that might be in
Melbourne looking to discover some of our natural
delights.

It is always interesting to observe the diverse
number of people that enter the clubrooms on a
Wednesday evening. Also very encouraging to see the
number of new faces coming in for the first time and also
those who are getting back into bushwalking.

I would like to emphasise two very important issues
in which the club has the opportunity to make a
difference.

1. **Wilkinson Lodge** For those of you who have stayed
at Wilky or wished you had, we have one last chance
with our appeal to Parks Victoria to re-build. We
urgently need your support in the form of a letter to
the Board of Management Parks Victoria before
22 March – for more info. contact Doug Pocock or
refer to Feb Newsletter.
2. **Cattle grazing** We have an opportunity for a final
say before the cattle are given total access to the land
on the high plains. There is still time to write to John
Thwaites and Steve Bracks with your views on the
cattle damage. Address in this Newsletter or contact
Rod Novak.

I look forward to walking with you this year.
Safe Walking!

Jan Palich

Wine & Cheese evening



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

Conservation, Tracks and Huts

Decision on Cattle Grazing imminent

Hello All

A decision on alpine grazing is expected in the next couple of weeks. It would help if bushwalkers would send letters to newspapers, ring talk-back radio, and similar, to put some pressure on the government. The graziers have tried to depict the issue as only being between "greenies" (implying loony lefties) and the cattlemen. It is important to stress that bushwalker's objections aren't based upon extreme conservationism.

Getting our message to the media is particularly important in country electorates.

The following is taken from VicWalk's web site:

Alpine Grazing: Commercial grazing in alpine areas has a long history. The political power of the graziers is remarkable. This outdated and damaging practice has survived the formation of the Alpine National Park almost untouched. Victoria's alpine areas are magnificent places for bushwalkers. Cattle grazing is one of the few things which mar these areas. Non-bushwalkers may not be aware of the ways in which grazing degrades the experience of bushwalking:

- In areas where cattle are present, wandering across the high plains is like walking through a farmyard. Cattle and their droppings to avoid. This is not the experience which walkers seek in national parks.
- Cattle defecate wherever they are. This includes where they drink. Water courses are consequently polluted with cow faeces. Cattle are known to be a source of the serious pathogen E-coli 0157. The presence of cattle is a health risk to bushwalkers.

- Campsites are usually polluted with cattle excreta. The features which make a place a good campsite are also those which attract cattle.
- Cattle do obvious physical damage to the environment.
- Cattle damage the alpine ecology. It is not unusual for a casual observer to not notice this. It is easy to miss the fact that the plant communities one sees are often how they are because of the presence of cattle.
- Cattle and Fires There was a concerted attempt following the 2003 bushfires to create a myth "grazing prevents blazing". After careful examination of the evidence, the state government's Inquiry into the 2002-2003 Victorian Bushfires concluded that there is no objective evidence to support this view. In fact there is some evidence which suggests that the opposite is true in alpine areas.

- Stop now

There is no benefit to anyone except for a select few graziers in continuing alpine grazing. It should be stopped now. Tell your elected representatives.

John Thwaites

john.thwaites@parliament.vic.gov.au

Steve Bracks

steve.bracks@parliament.vic.gov.au

Thank you

Jenny Sykes, VicWalk Administrative Officer

Really important!! Wilky appeal

(see February News)

A reminder to those of you who may not yet have put pen to paper or finger to keyboard. We do need everyone who has an interest in seeing Wilkinson Lodge rebuilt to write or e-mail their thoughts to back up the appeal letter that has now been sent to the Board of Management of Parks Victoria. You don't need to write much, just your personal view on it. Each view counts! Please ensure that your contribution arrives by March 22nd.

Email – helen.gwilliam@dse.vic.gov.au or write to: The Secretary, The Board of Management of Parks Victoria, Department of Sustainability & Environment, PO Box 500, East Melbourne 3002

Skiing and Insurance

I haven't been overwhelmed by members wanting insurance for snow activities. However, there has been a small amount of interest so the Walks Secretary is looking at programming ski trips in the winter program in the hope that we can organise something in the way of insurance. If cover (both insurance and snow) comes about then we can program a week at the Rover Chalet for Aug 27th to Sept 3rd. Let me know if you are interested, application forms can be down loaded from the Bogong Rover web site.

If we can't get the insurance sorted out then we cannot program snow trips.

Doug Pocock

Snowy Mountains Main Range

26 December 2004 – 4 January 2005

Fourteen of us arrived late Sunday afternoon at Ngarigo campsite near Thredbo.

Monday morning to Charlotte Pass and a short circuit walk to Mt Guthrie with nice views and snowdrifts all about. We headed north with packs and soon after crossing the Snowy River left the track and headed for Blue Lake. After lunch the expected cold weather arrived, the rainturning into globules of clear ice and by the time we reached a sheltered campsite at 2018m near Twynam Creek we had to quickly erect our tents as there was about 6cm of snow on the ground. It snowed during the night and we didn't venture out unnecessarily until about 10am

for a side trip to Mt Anton then off with packs. A side trip to Mt Twynam, our third largest peak and we joined the track over Carruthers Peak then camp for two nights at 1974m in a valley below Muellers Peak. Most of the new snow had melted and the weather was to improve with each day. Temperatures averaged about 3–5 degrees at night and 12–14 degrees during the day.

Wednesday was a day walk along Abbott Ridge, then, over Mt Townsend our second highest peak to Alice Rawson Peak with a return to camp for some whilst others took a nice walk around Albina Lake followed by a steep climb before descending to camp.

On Thursday we returned to the walking track and a visit to Mt Kosciusko, our highest peak, completed the trio of main peaks. That nine year-old boy seen jogging to the

summit looked like a future champion. Incidentally, Craig, our youngest walker was waiting for us at the top of all the peaks we climbed.

We made camp at lunchtime at the base of North Rams Head then walked to Rams Head itself then to a rugged peak overlooking the Thredbo River. South Rams Head was further on but our time had run out.

Friday was a beautiful walk, mainly along a small creek before crossing a large snowdrift to camp near Mount Stillwell. We celebrated New Years Eve with lots of goodies although it was agreed that 9pm would do us.

On Sunday we returned to the cars and lunch at Betts Creek followed by a climb over Mount Perisher. After some thick scrub on the next ridge it was a pleasure to see some grassy slopes with daisies for the descent to the cars. We took Rod and Quentin's advice and dined at the Thredbo Hotel bistro for our final dinner. During the trip we saw many flowers, some of which were exclusive to this park and ably described by our knowledgeable members. Also, lots of small frogs and fish and endless interesting rock formations.

Thanks to our leader Jopie for planning this trip with options upon options for side walks and for revising the itinerary due to park closures. Our group comprised Jopie, Jenny, Gerhard, Caroline, Graham, Adrienne, Susan, Dianna, Stuart, Craig, Rod, Quentin, Ken and myself.

Bob Oxlade

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

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Mitchell Plateau. We'll visit a large river system near the Mitchell for the first time.

Durack River. Fascinating from the air. We've finally figured out the best way to get there.

Isdell River. A slight change to the itinerary has allowed us to drop the price.

Drysdale River. The roads have been closed, but we've found a more interesting and less expensive way to get there.

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Eagle's Peaks Pack Carry

28-30 January 2005

'It's an introduction to the joys of pack-carry'

– these were the words used to entice Anna Anson and Barry McIlwain to join intrepid leader Bill Donald, ably assisted by Trish Elmore and Bob Oxlade, for a circuit walk to Eagle's Peaks in the high country.

Starting from the rustically named Sheepyard Flat (not a sheep to be seen), we enjoyed walking around the Howqua River to Fry's Hut, complete with the heritage-listed remains of an old gold mine. Then the real fun began – blackberries are delicious to eat, but most unsavoury when they reach across the track covered in incredibly sharp thorns eager to latch themselves onto passing bodies – especially Bill's gaiter-free legs.

Anna and I developed some very impressive blisters on our tender feet, but the rain helped take our minds off that – we were too busy trying to stay dry and avoid slipping off the trail as we climbed steadily through the lyrebird country along the thickly vegetated ridge leading to our campsite, chosen by the aforementioned bushwalking professionals. As we set up camp in the evening light, we reflected on what – despite blackberries, blisters and rain – had been a fabulous day. Anna and I dined contentedly on bread and lentils. We could only look on in awe as Bill, Trish and Bob produced cordon bleu cuisine out of thin air.



We crawled into the tent at 7.00 pm, and crawled out again at 7.00 am next morning, only to be greeted by the smiling faces of the three pros, who were already well into their substantial breakfast (Anna and I ate a banana each – the pleasures of simple fare just starting to pale a teensy bit).

As we packed the tents, Bill assured us it was only 'two minutes' to Eagle's Peaks. Using the GPS (amazing little gadgets), we

negotiated our way through the lyrebird nests to Lickhole Spur, from where we rock-hopped – or rock-climbed, the terrain being near-vertical in places – to the 1,445 metre summit. (Bill said we'd enjoy this bit, and we did.) The views from the top were stunning – so much rugged beauty. Anna and I enjoyed our lunch (tuna, tomato and onion) more than Bill enjoyed his (peanut butter sandwiches), so we were able to salvage a little bit of culinary self-esteem.

We followed the ridge back towards Sheepyard Flat, then made an ugly 500 metre descent to the cars. We freshened up with a dip in the Howqua, then headed for the Mairdample pub for a huge dinner.

If this was 'an introduction to the joys of pack-carry', Anna and I are hooked. We had a fantastic weekend, and the most enjoyable part was the company of Trish, Bob and our wonderful leader, Bill Donald.

Barry McIlwain



The Club extends its sympathy to Geoff, Rod and Stuart Mattingley and their families over the loss of their mother after a long illness.



SUNDAY BUS: Fingal Beach – No 16 Beach

DATE	20 March 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium & Medium
DISTANCE	18km & 20km
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd. at 9 am
LEADERS	Halina Sarbinowski & Lance Mobbs
RETURN TIME	7.00 pm
AREA	Mornington Peninsula

Please note that these walks have been upgraded to Easy/Medium & Medium due to the distances.

Both walks will commence on the cliff tops above Fingal Beach, however, the Medium group will explore the boardwalk at Cape Schank prior to retracing their steps and following the Easy/Medium group down to Fingal Beach. From this point onwards both groups will follow the shoreline except for a brief ascent to the cliff tops at Point Orr where the coastline is impossible to pass, finishing at Number Sixteen Beach.

Sound like simple walks, however, there are many distractions on the way. The rock pools at Fingal Beach beg to be explored. Gunnamatta Beach invites the body surfer for a dip. The prowess of the surfers along the way demand attention and the beauty of the area stimulates the senses.

Hopefully you will join us on the walks along this extremely special coastline of the Mornington Peninsula.

definitely reward the effort and walkers should not come away disappointed.

To those who have experienced the area before the floods of early February have created many more wide rock pools and there is a “greenness and freshness” to the Gorge that is not normally evident at this time of the year. A wide variety of animals and birds were encountered during the preview to add to the experience.

As there are no tracks beside the river our course can sometimes be slow and a bit of a scramble. Long trousers and/or gaiters and boots are recommended, especially for those hardy souls on the medium walk. Open areas along ridge tops and flanks require sun hats and sunscreen if the day is warm—2 litres of water should be the minimum.

We would respectfully suggest that, unless they are very fit and eager, **first time** walkers should look for an alternative entry walk.

Looking forward to having a good day.



SUNDAY BUS: Coronet Bay – Corinella

DATE	Sunday 3 April 2005
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	15kms & 18kms
LEADERS	Jean Woodger & Liz Moore
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd at 9 am
RETURN TIME	7.00 pm
AREA	Bass Coast
MAP REFERENCES	Melway Key Map Page 18

This is a walk through mangroves, mud flats, waterbird habitats, pebbly beaches, coastal cliff tops, and stretches of sand. The coast here is a marine national park, and we’ll see ibis, spoonbills, herons, plovers and pacific gulls. Black swans also can be seen feeding on the seagrass.

This is also a walk through history. At the tip of Settlement Point (where guns were once placed) we can see French Island, Phillip Island and Reef Island, where convicts collected seashells to burn and make lime for mortar. At Corinella a cairn stands where the original settlement was established in 1826 – here there were military barracks, convicts’ quarters, storehouse, blacksmith’s forge, workshops and the Commandant’s House, recorded as Government House in the London Archives.

The Easy/Medium walk starts near Reef Island, and follows a pebbly coast to Cutty Sark Road, where the easy group will start their walk. From here both walks follow the same route, along the beach, then up to a cliff top track. There’s a jetty at Corinella, good spot for lunch. We continue above the beach line, with striking views of white mangroves below us. Later we’ll descend to water level, walking along beach, mud flats and beside mangroves to Tenby Point, and on sand to Grantville Jetty, passing the ruins of Queensferry Jetty along the way.

Note change of leader: Jean Woodger



SUNDAY WALK PREVIEW : Moorabool River Gorge

DATE	Sunday 27th March 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium and Medium (note change)
DISTANCES	Approx 9 and 11 km
LEADERS	Jerry Karbownik and Marilyn Lock
TRANSPORT	Bus from Southbank Blvd at 9am
RETURN TIME	Approx 7.30 pm
AREA	Western Brisbane Ranges
MAP REFS	Lethbridge 1:25000 and Medina 1:25000

In the western district of Victoria and some 30 km NW of Geelong the Moorabool River and (more particularly the Gorge) meanders virtually unnoticed as it threads its way through private properties. Normally inaccessible to walkers, we have obtained the kind permission of several landowners to walk a fairly remote section of the Gorge and to take in some of the beauty of the surrounds—in many ways reminiscent of the Kakadu—but without the crocs and rampaging sex-starved water buffalo !!!

As you can see from the figures above the walks are quite a lot shorter than our normal (?) Sunday walks and this is an indicator to the degree of difficulty. The very nature of the geology that created the Gorge in the first place presents us this time with slow terrain in many places, as well as the necessity to cover several elevation changes to avoid more inaccessible areas. Having said all that, there is a sort of wild beauty to this place that will

TOFS: Bend of Isles – Mt Lofty

DATE	Thurs 7 April 05
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	13km
LEADERS	Liz & Philip Wood
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	3.30 pm
AREA	Wonga Park
MAP REFERENCE	Melway p.24 ref. K3

Meet at 10.15 am at Witton's Reserve, at the end of Reserve Road (Melway page 24, ref. K6). The walk is a pleasant ramble through part of Warrandyte State Park, with riverside sections and extensive views, just right for recovering from Easter. There are no toilets at the starting and finishing point, or anywhere en route, but plenty of Bush. The walk traces a rough figure eight, passing the start again after about 8 km, so anyone wanting a shorter walk can finish at that point. The first part of the walk follows the Yarra, and the ridges overlooking it, downstream to Yarra Brae and the Bend of Isles, traversing the Clifford Park Scout Camp in both directions. The second part follows the Yarra upstream for 2 km, then swings south to climb to the top of Mount Lofty. Although this is not as lofty as its name implies, the views of the winding river, nearby lakes, the distant ranges, the Dandenongs and the edges of the suburbs make the not too strenuous climb well worthwhile.

The walk is mainly on well-developed tracks and park maintenance roads, with a few sections of woodland paths and one or two steep, but mercifully short, ups and downs. There is ample car parking at the starting/finishing point. A swim in the river is possible for any adrenalin junkies.

For more information, questions or bookings speak to Liz or Philip

Navigation and Leader Training Day

DATE	Saturday 9 April 05
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	Approx. 10 to 15 km
LEADER	Quentin Tibballs
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	5.30 pm approx
AREA	Mount Disappointment (Kilmore area)
MAP REFERENCE	Reedy Creek 1:25,000

This Training Day will be conducted on the Victorian Rogaining course at Mount Disappointment near Kilmore. This day will be suitable for beginners and intermediate standard participants (or experts who just want some practice). We will have a preliminary education session on navigation in the clubrooms on the Tuesday 5th April (7.30 pm to 9.00 pm) and I would like those intending to do the course on the following Saturday to attend this if they can.

The day will be divided into morning and afternoon sessions of about 2 hours each, beginning at 11.00 am and

1.30 pm. Those attending will be divided into small groups and each person will take a turn as leader and be required to navigate their party between predetermined grid points. However whilst doing this the other members of the group will be given instructions at a time, not of your choosing, to play act a misadventure for which you as leader will be required to manage.

Gear to be taken will be your usual for a day walk ie please bring your own lunch and a compass if you have one (however there will be spare if you don't) Also maps of the area will be provided. The day will finish early (4.00 pm) and you will be able to make it back to town by 6.00 pm)

Please phone me or email
for further details – thanks Quentin.

Please Note: this activity will take place on Saturday 9 April 05 and not on 8 April as advertised in the Autumn Walks Program.



SUNDAY BUS: Richards Tramline – Mississippi Creek

DATE	Sunday 10 April 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium & Medium
LEADERS	Mick Noonan & David Laing
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd at 9 am
RETURN TIME	Approx 6:30pm
AREA	East of Warburton
MAP REFERENCE	Ada River 8022-2-4 Zone 55; 1:25,000

This is an interesting walk just east of Warburton through an area that used to be criss-crossed with horse drawn and steam driven trams, timber mills etc. Both the walks start at the new Big Pats Creek picnic area where part of the track has been restored to show what the old tramlines looked like.

About ½ of each walk is on varying conditions of walking track through beautiful forest (some large mountain ashes) and ferns gullies with the return legs on well maintained gravel. On the preview there were still a few interesting native flowers (we need an expert on the walk please!) and parrots if you are quiet.

Both walks climb slowly along Richards Tramline Walking Track with the easier walk descending down to the Mississippi Road for the return trip and a few diversions to see some of the views and Mississippi Creek.

The harder walk gets approx 2 km of challenging clambering over numerous fallen trees, and what was on the preview an interesting crossing of Mississippi Creek before reaching an old Quarry on the way to Gifford Saddle and a brisk return to the start point.

Neither walk has difficult climbs with both standard ratings being attributed to the condition of parts of the track (overgrown, fallen trees etc). This walk has not been done since 2002, hope to see you there!

SUNDAY BUS: Hughes Creek Ramble

DATE Sunday 17 April 2005
STANDARD Easy/Medium & Medium
LEADERS Sylvia Ford & David Elias
TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blvd at 8.30 am.

Please see the leaders in the clubrooms about this walk.

WEDNESDAY WALK: Arthurs Seat, Mornington Peninsula

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

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

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

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

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

SUNDAY BUS: Great Divide Trail, Daylesford – Lerderderg Track

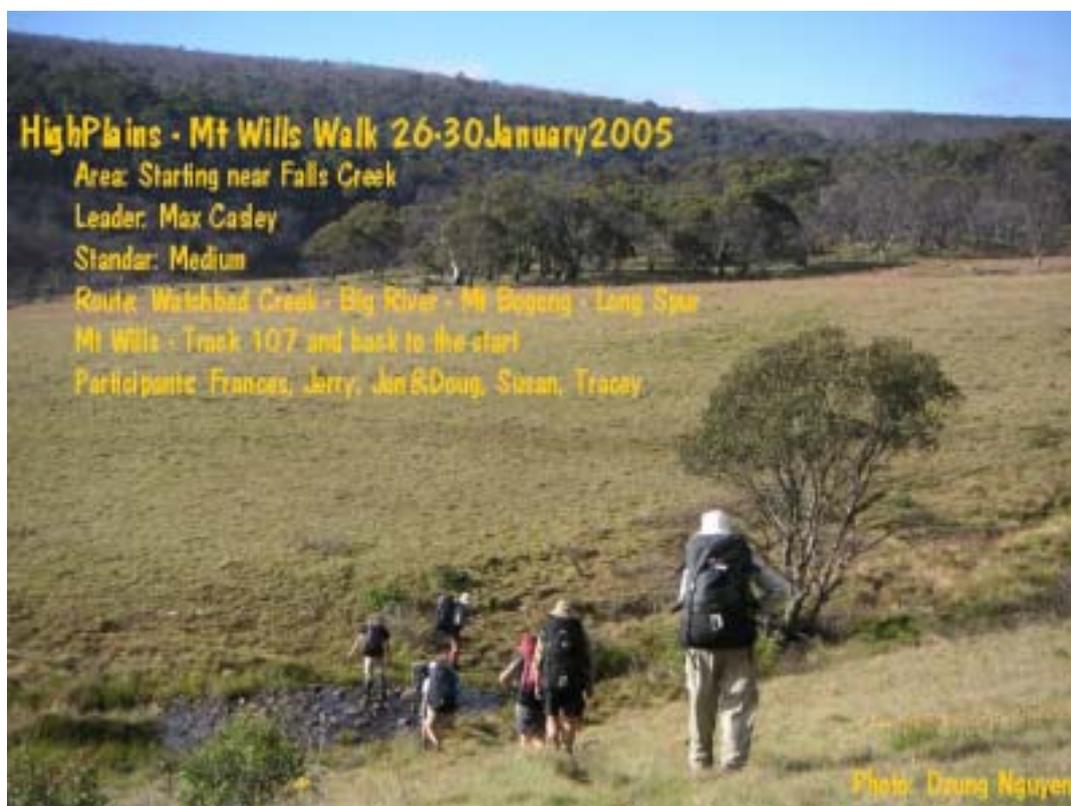
DATE Sunday 20 April 2005
STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium
LEADERS Nik Dow & Fiona Jarman
TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blvd at 9 am

This 'new' trail is in fact a collation of existing forestry roads along which new pegs have been positioned. Eschewing any walking through the forest, the 'trail' stays mostly on roads, which we were able to cover in a Holden Nova.' They appear to be well liked by trail bikes as well.' We have selected the best section, which winds down to the upper Lerderderg River and follows the 'Lerderderg River Heritage Trail' into Blackwood. The first part of the walk, on roads, passes through timber production forest, mostly firewood production. Later there are some pleasant moments along the river and overall an easy walk but not without some changes in elevation.

DANDENONG EXPLORER: Hermans Saddle – Emerald

DATE Saturday 30 April 2005
STANDARD Easy
TRANSPORT Private
LEADER Stuart Hodgson

Full details of this walk will be provided in the April News





EASTER PACK CARRY: The Bluff – Mt Clear – Jamieson River

DATE	24–28 March 2005
STANDARD	Medium
LEADER	Trish Elmore
TRANSPORT	Private
MAPS	VMTc 1:50,000 King, Howqua & Jamieson Rivers (entire route), or Howitt-Selwyn 1:50,000, Tamboritha-Maroka 1:50,000 & Buller South 1:25,000 (to cover the entire route)
DISTANCE	Approx 45 kms

This is a rather spectacular walk and hopefully we are rewarded with fantastic views as we walk some of the ridges on the Great Dividing Range. Thursday night camp will be at Sheeppark Flat and after a car shuffle we climb up to the Bluff then continue along this rocky ridge to camp around Mt Lovick. Saturday we join the Alpine Walking Track (AWT) have an option of a side trip to Mt Magdala then over the King Billies camping around Chesters Yards. Easter Sunday we continue along the AWT over Mt Clear, Square Top enjoying 3600 views before we camp near High Cone. Our final day we get to enjoy The Nobs before we descend to the Jamieson River and back to the cars. This is an alpine area and the weather can be unpredictable – we could face warm to hot temperatures or it may be wet & windy, either way walkers must be prepared and carry suitable gear. It is a lovely area and I encourage you to join me or feel free to phone and discuss any issues or concerns prior to your booking



BASE CAMP: Cobberas /Native Dog Flat

DATE	24–28 March 2005
STANDARD	Easy and Medium
DISTANCE	various
LEADER(S)	Geoff Mattingley & Bob Steel
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Tuesday evening
AREA	Melway edition 29 and above: map 623 C10/D10
MAP REF	NSW 1:50,000 Suggan Buggan 8524-II & III

This will be the fourth year in a row that we have run this popular trip to the Alpine National Park. Come and visit a beautiful alpine campsite at 1200 m altitude, only 15 km from the source of the Murray River. It has plenty of camping space, fireplaces, running water in the Buchan River, a composting toilet, and great views from the nearby peaks. There will be walks of various standards, or you can just enjoy the mountain air, perhaps seeing some of the many brumbies which inhabit the area. It's a fair distance to get there, including some gravel roads, but on previous trips they have been quite OK for ordinary cars. We will camp by the cars, so for those who haven't camped before this is a good opportunity to try it without having to carry a heavy pack. As always, the club has

tents and other equipment for hire. The other advantage of a base camp is that you can take luxuries such as a folding chair, gas lamp etc.

In previous years at Easter there have been plenty of other people around the area, but we have had the camping area mostly to ourselves. To try and ensure that the same applies at this time of year, at least one of the leaders will arrive at the campsite a day early.

One of the leaders will be in the clubrooms on Wednesdays 16th and 23rd March to provide the latest information on road conditions, as well as details of how to get there and what to take.



PACK CARRY: King Spur–Crosscut Saw–S. N. Spur

DATE	8–10 April 2005
TRANSPORT	Private
STANDARD	Medium/hard
LEADER	Dion Marriott

Please contact the leader about this walk.

CYCLE BASE CAMP: Beaufort & Ballarat

DATE	16 & 17 April (Sat am start)
LEADER	Jopie Bodegraven
TRANSPORT	Private
MAP	RACV Goldfields. Beaufort & Ballarat 1:100,000

I've discovered some wonderful cycling country out west. Bitumen roads with very little traffic and a delightful mix of forest and farmland scenery. Even some coffee stops on the routes. The weather of course should be marvellous in mid-April with hopefully no wind. Saturday evening we will be staying by the lake at the Beaufort Caravan Park, camping with the option for some of staying in one of the 2 cabins and 1 caravan if they haven't been snaffled up by some intruder before we claim them. Also on Saturday night we will have dinner at the local historic Golden Age Hotel where they advertise 'country style meals at country prices'.

Saturday's ride of about 58 km is in the gently undulating forest and farmland country SW of Ballarat, taking in Linton, Snake Valley, Smythesdale, Berringa & Cape Clear. We will have not one but 2 coffee stops (Bring a cut lunch though). Also by doing a 6 km car shuffle we will finish 170 metres lower than our start point. Sounding even more attractive?

Sunday's ride of 68 km starts & finishes at the caravan park. Lunch will be in the park at Lexton where there is a General Store selling goodies including coffee and food. If there is a strong SW wind we can shorten the ride with a



car shuffle and avoid the last 10 km which would otherwise be into the headwind.

The meeting details on Saturday morning are 9.30 am at the road junction 2 km approx south of Linton on the road to Cape Clear. Allow about 2 hours driving from Central Melbourne. I will try to rationalise transport but that will depend on people having bike racks or some other means of transporting multiple bicycles. I will be out of contact from 3–10 April so please contact me before or after then up to the Wednesday clubnight before the trip.



PACK CARRY:

Tin Mine Cove – Five Mile Beach (Northern Prom)

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

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

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



PACK CARRY:

Tin Mine Cove – Barry Creek (Northern Prom)

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

After somehow arranging to leave a car at the Five Mile Road car park in the northern section of the Prom, on Saturday morning we'll be taken by boat from Welshpool across to Tin Mine Cove. This will be our first night's camp so we will have the opportunity to explore the northern tip of the northern prom, with a possible climb up Mt Singapore. This will be off-track walking so expect some serious scrub and rock-hopping. The second day we will make our way south along Chinaman Long Beach and through some swamp to Lower Barry Creek. This section is rated hard because the track (if it exists at all!)

is not marked and is hard to find and will involve wading across creeks and swamps – there are no boardwalks or bridges at this end of the prom! If we lose the track, which is highly likely at times, the going will be pretty tough I am told. From Lower Barry Creek the track is better marked and the terrain somewhat easier. We should have time for a sidetrip to Vereker Outlook on our return to the car park.

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



PACK CARRY: Mitchell River Gorge

DATE	22–25 April 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	45 km
LEADERS	Bob Oxlade
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	South of Dargo
MAP REFERENCE	VMTC, Crooked River – Dargo Area

PLEASE NOTE: It has been decided to change the venue for this walk due to a lack of suitable options in the Dargo area – too many 4Wd's and too much scrub off tracks. Instead, I am intending to explore the nearby Mitchell River Gorge. On Saturday we will walk 14 km to a beautiful camp overlooking some grand river scenery where we will stay for two nights. On Sunday we will walk with daypacks to Eaglevale and return. Monday we will retrace our steps to the cars.

This is a really delightful 3 day trip into some surprisingly good river gorge country.

BASE CAMP: Grampians

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

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

We can anticipate that it may be freezing cold and perhaps even wet this time of year in the Grampians, so come prepared for extreme conditions. Despite this we may be required to bring all water. Please ring Dianne on 8489 9325 to obtain more information and see me in the clubrooms the 2 weeks prior to book on the trip. This should be a good weekend of walking in a very scenic area of the Grampians.