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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

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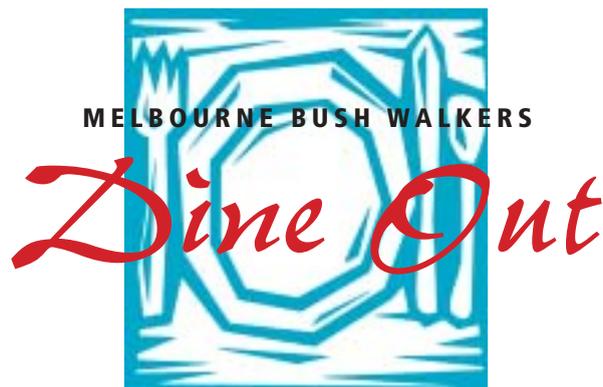
EDITION 651 **MAY 2005**



This is the last month for the payment of subscriptions. If subs are not paid before the end of May, you do not receive your June Newsletter!

If the donkey on your Newsletter has a red nose, you have not paid your subs. Confirm by checking your mailing label which should say "Subs due". If you sent in your subs in the last week or so, it may not have been processed yet.

Social Evening



will be held on the second Friday of each month commencing June 2005.

June 2005 venue:

Westlake Restaurant
189 Little Burke Street
Melbourne 3000

BYO
Friday 10th June at 7pm

July 2005 venue:

**No 3 Station Pier
Restaurant**
Port Melbourne

Licensed
Friday 8th July at 7pm

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.

**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
or
R. Hampton, *The News* Editor,

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%.

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1/4 Page	\$35	\$90	\$330
1/2 Page	\$55	\$150	\$550
Full Page	\$100	\$250	\$900

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

A couple of issues to share with you this month. I was reflecting recently on the number of club members who have quietly contributed to the Committee over the years. Not knowing many of these people or even what our current members have done in the past, I thought that a list of office bearers could help us identify those who are part of our history. Next time you are in the club rooms, check out the two framed lists of office bearers which feature on the wall, '1944 to 1989' and '1990 to current'. These people were on the Committee in various capacities and sometimes they joined the Committee again and again. Looking back over the years, there have been a lot of people who have developed the club to what it is today. To those on the list and the many others – thank you. Also thank you to Derrick Brown who helped with the research.

On a more disappointing note, it was with great sadness to hear the news of the Wilson Prom fire on 1 April this year, which as a result of out-of-control, 'controlled burning', destroyed a substantial part of Wilsons Prom National Park. The park was re-opened on the 18 April but outstations and southern tracks remain closed until further notice due to the damaged infrastructure caused by the fire. Although some growth is coming back, the beauty of the southern section of Wilsons Prom will now have to be remembered in our memories and photographs, as it will not be back to its full glory for many many years. Safe Walking.

Jan Palich

Suggestions Needed

Each year the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. donates the interest earned from the investment account to a worthy conservation project and/or agency which will assist 'bushwalking'. The Committee invites suggestions from members for the 2005 donation. Please speak to a Committee person with your ideas. In 2004, we donated \$750 to the Victorian National Parks Association for their 'alpine grazing campaign'.

Rod Novak

Wine & Cheese evening



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

Tin Mine Cove – Barry Creek

Pack Carry, Anzac weekend, 2005

Trumphant bushwalkers on the summit of Mount Singapore, lunchtime, 23 April 2005, the first day of the hugely successful pack carry lead by Gina Hopkins. Top, left to right: Loch Wilson, Gina Hopkins. Bottom: Rod Novak, John Fritz and Diana Gomaz.



Native Dog Flat

Easter 2005

With a promise of good weather, 21 of us headed to the Alpine National Park for the Club's Easter Basecamp. For those who arrived early on Good Friday, there was a 3 hour stroll up to Buchan Rock (Ram's Head) which looked benignly over our campsite. For those who missed this, the Ram's Head beckoned all Easter.

The first night was bitterly cold, but the campfire good-fairy had a beaut fire glowing as we wandered over for breakfast. We sorted ourselves into easy/exploratory groups and took off by 10am. Bob's 'easy' ramble was along Native Dog Creek and then on to the Playground (an evocative name for a snow grass plain). Jeff's walk commenced after a 17km drive. Initially we walked along a slightly overgrown 4WD track and then ever upward as we bushbashed to Mt. Stradbroke (1320m). What a reward! Stunning blue skies, The Pilot crowned with a whiter than white cloud and a clear view of Mt. Kozzie. 360° of magnificent Alps – no wonder we spent an hour's lunch up there. Mt. Stradbroke is a small collection of rounded

rocks which encouraged repose, sunbaking and some rock-hopping.

We finally dragged ourselves away, but all agreed it had been worthwhile, and Jeff was particularly pleased and would look forward to including this in next year's program.

Easter Sunday dawned quite a bit less cold than previous mornings, so we knew we were in for great weather. Bob's group started off with a short drive, then headed along Native Cat Flat and up an unnamed high point ('Pams Rump' and 'Bob's Head' have already been rejected). Jeff's group drove 2km to their start. With a promise of a 20km walk, saving 4km was an attractive option. We walked along the road to the Playgrounds and then managed to pick up a rarely used track up to Cobberas No. 1 (1825m). The hard slog was rewarded by stunning scenery and we could admire the regal rocky outcrop that was our lunch spot.

Many thanks to Bob and Jeff for getting us there early, and setting up a terrific tarp for shelter, and for keeping the homefires burning so that we could all enjoy convivial nights together at dinner time. Also thanks to Pam and Sandy for their support.

We all enjoyed the Easter break (what great weather!) – let's do it again in 06!

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

Kimberley Wild Rivers

The Drysdale, Durack, Isdell, and Charnley



Many of our Kimberley trips follow major rivers. These rivers all pass through scenic wilderness and are dotted with Aboriginal art sites. They are fed by interesting tributaries which we explore without full packs.

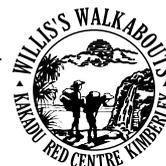
The Drysdale. Huge river, huge park.
> amazing concentration of art, especially Bradshaw style.
> gorges, waterfalls and wildlife
> every tributary is different

The Durack. New this year.
> amazing cliffs
> looks fascinating from the air

The Isdell. This is gorge country. Some of the gorges are
> small & shady; others broad & grassy
> full of paperbarks and flowers
> dry; others wall to wall wet
> home to some great Wandjina art

The Charnley. A spectacular 30km gorge
> dozens of art sites in styles we have seen nowhere else
> lots of exploring without full packs

For more information, see the trip list on our website.



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

TRACKS, HUTS, & CONSERVATION

Notes from the VicWalk Conservation Committee meeting of 23rd March 2005.

Alpine NP VicWalk issued a media release on the amount of cow droppings at Pretty Valley (the media release is on the VicWalk website) and *The Age* newspaper ran a small article on this issue. **Proposed Trail around Rocky Valley Dam:** Parks Victoria are proposing a category 2/3 track (Australian Walking Track Design Standards) of 1.2 metre track width. It will pass under the Rocky Knobs and rejoins the High Plans Road to make a circuit of the lake. It's believed that Falls Creek Resort Management are promoting this proposal. It will be a dual purpose walking and cycling track with timber edging, imported gravel and raised above wet areas. PV have asked for submissions, and the closing date is the 22nd March. VicWalk sent in a submission stating the position that 'walking tracks are for walkers only' – and that we oppose multi-use tracks.

Southern Hydro modification of tunnel, Kiewa Hydro Scheme: proposed new development but details to date are sketchy. It is believed the new tunnel will impact water levels downstream. **Alpine Grazing:** no decision yet from the Minister. **Australian Alps Walking Track:** VicWalk will attend the next AAWT Conference on 27–28 April at Namadgi Park Visitor Centre, in the A.C.T. **Baw Baw NP** – the Final Management Plan will be released in June 2005.

Bunyip State Park The draft Recreation Framework for Bunyip Public Land has now been completed and submissions close on 16 May. Details are on the PV website at parkweb.vic.gov.au. The two key issues are (1) the definition of the walking track network and (2) the closure of tracks to recreational vehicles.

Dandenong Ranges NP the Sassafras Track has fallen trees from the recent windstorms.

Grampians NP The 'Grampians Walking Tracks Support Group' requires help from Bushwalking Clubs to assist with track maintenance. Projects include Hollow Mountain (Mt Staplyton), the Mackenzie River walk, the Chimney Potts Track, the Fortress Track (west side of the Victoria range), Mt Burchell Track at Mirranatwa Gap, Tower Hill/Calactasia Falls Track, Bovine Falls Track (near Mt William Road), and the Asses Ears Track. If your Club can assist then please contact David Witham on 5356 4300, or PO Box 37, Halls Gap, 3381.

Mornington Peninsula NP a request for help from bushwalking clubs to clear the Stefanie Rennick track, and for tree planting at Sea Winds.

Mt Stirling the first Community Consultation meeting of the new Mt Buller and Mt Stirling Board of Management will be held on the 15th April.

Otway Ranges ORWTA have asked for VicWalk assistance with the track. It has been suggested by ORWTA that clubs 'adopt' a section of track. Sixteen

sections have been devised from Cumberland River Reserve to Mariners Falls CP.

Strezleckis the Trust for Nature *Conservation Bulletin* [Issue 30 dated January 2005, page 6] of a MOU between Grand Ridge Plantations and Trust for Nature to protect 10,000 ha of temperate rain forest.

Wilson's Prom NP planned proposals at Tidal River i.e. changes to the road alignment at Tidal River, re-sizing of camping sites, protecting aboriginal middens etc.

Yarra Ranges NP Shire of Yarra Ranges have released brochures for the 'Trees of life' Upper Yarra Community Forests program, the 'Forest Education and Forest Care Volunteers Program' and a 'Bushland Restoration and Revegetation' short course leaflet. The Dom Dom Saddle to the Nobs track is very overgrown and a VicWalk track report has been sent to the Ranger. The Richards tramline (near Warburton) has been recently cleared.

*Rod Novak, Club delegate,
VicWalk Conservation Committee*

NEW ZEALAND WALK

**Expressions of Interest requested
for walking the Heaphy or Abel Tasman track
in the north of the South Island**

9–15 January 2006

**then touring around the northern South Island in
the third week returning to Australia on 22 January**

Contact Quentin Tibballs

Goings on (and comings off) at Hughes Creek

Hughes Creek Ramble, Sunday 17 April 2005



MAX CASLEY

Hughes Creek ramble, it said. Ah, I thought, just what I need to help me get fit again for walking. (I'd had an enforced 'rest' for several months due to injury). I'd left it late and for a moment it looked as if I might not get on the bus. However, there were some no-shows so I and several others got on board, and there were a few seats to spare. It was a beautiful day – warm Autumn sunshine, a light breeze, a few scudding clouds. I chose the easier walk – the Easy-Medium. The medium walkers faced twenty kilometres and several steepish hills and a fast pace. Not for me, I thought. A ramble over twelve kilometres at a gentle pace was more to my requirements. Just as well, for soon after setting off, Julia in the medium group had a fall and returned to the bus with David Arnold. The group waited for David to return and then had to maintain a smartish pace.

Off we went, easy walking, following the creek (with a good flow), passing the hallowed camp site of several Presidents' weekends. Where were the commemorative plaques, I wondered? We took morning tea, sitting by the creek. Then on with young Ben, at 13 years old, scouting the route for our leader, Sylvia. He found a way we could cross the creek, dry-shod, on a fallen tree. The lunch spot was on a wide curve of the creek, with a sandy beach, shady grass, and cliff views. Jan Brooksbank was in the water in a trice. 'Fancy remembering to bring a cossie', someone muttered.

I hadn't thought about that, but I found a deep pool out of sight around the bend and had a lovely swim without a cossie. Sylvia, Maureen and Lee followed. A bit on the cool side, Sylvia thought. Many of the group were somnambulant when I returned. Eventually Sylvia called us to order again and off we set.

A rocky outcrop forced us to cross the creek again, but this time it was with wet feet. Then we were at the foot of a cliff with Sylvia pointing up. It was a steep – very

steep – climb. Hearts threatened to jump out of shirts, as we made our slow way up. We recovered our breath at the top where we were rewarded with fine views over rolling hills and the Hughes Creek valley. We followed the open ridge top, crossing some barbed wire fences with a light breeze to keep us cool. Kangaroos effortlessly moved out of our way – and vanished. Then we could see the medium group, down in the valley, moving fast. We joined up as we got off the ridge and scaled the final barbed wire fence. All we then had to do was a final crossing of the creek to get to the bus, some thirty metres away on the other side. Suddenly John was lying down in the water, looking awkward. Then another slipped in. It was a tricky crossing. A change of clothing was in order for some. There was some conversation about the loaning of knickers and other items, but I won't go into that. I just know I was still wearing my own.

To borrow a phrase from Sylvia – a smashing walk! It was just what I needed. Thank you, David and Sylvia for leading us on this ramble.

Derrick Brown

UK'S COAST TO COAST WALKING TRACK



Expressions of Interest requested

**for walking Wainright's 'Coast to Coast'
in the UK from the
Irish Sea to the North Sea**

approx. May – June 2006.

Intermediate standard with long days

Contact Jan Palich

NEW COMMITTEE

At our February AGM the Committee changed over and I have been negligent in introducing the new Committee to you. We said goodbye to Doug Pocock, Howard Friend, Ken McMahon and Deb Henry, but welcomed some new additions – Jopie Bodegraven as Walks Secretary, Charlotte Bradly as Social Secretary, Jan Colquhoun and Paul Logsdon on the General Committee. The rest of us shuffled round our portfolios which meant the knowledge base has been retained.

I also welcome our new Web Master Ian Mair. Although Ian is not on the Committee, his role is vital to the club as the website is our link to all the internet users. The Melbourne Bushwalkers website is an extension of the normal club nights and also an ongoing interaction of club members and those seeking information on bushwalking activities.

I would like to also take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Committee members as it is quite a commitment to attend meetings, take on portfolios, being rostered on Wednesday night duty plus the many other tasks that Doug, Howard, Ken and Deb covered. I must say a special thank you to Deb for her development of our web site over the years she has been on committee, thank you to Doug for his invaluable leadership as President, Howard for his astute contribution in documenting club correspondence and meetings and Ken for the walks programme that just appeared with what seemed a minimum of effort (but we know otherwise). Thank you.

The new Committee is:

PRESIDENT	Jan Palich
VICE PRESIDENT	Rod Novak
VICE PRESIDENT	Lynda Larkin
SECRETARY	Fay Dunn
TREASURER	Doug Langton
WALKS SECRETARY	Jopie Bodegraven
ASSISTANT WALKS SECRETARY, SUNDAY WALKS	Peter McGrath
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Peter Havlicek
SOCIAL SECRETARY	Charlotte Bradly
WILKINSON LODGE MANAGER	David Laing
NEWS EDITOR	Ron Hampton
GENERAL COMMITTEE	John Coe, Carol Criddle, Jan Colquhoun, Mark Heath, Paul Logsdon

As you know Committee meetings are open and democratic. If you are interested in what goes on you are welcome to sit in and observe. The meetings are held the 1st Monday night of the month commencing at 7.00 pm.

Jan Palich

Photo-gallery attracting lots of interest

The photo-gallery section of the club's website is proving very popular with visitors to the site. Whether visitors are members just bringing back memories of recent walks or prospective members seeing what it may be like to be part of Melbourne Bushies, the photos add a living history to the club's activities. If you have not yet checked out the photo-gallery then you may find yourself having fun! Visit the photo-gallery at: http://www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au/photogallery/MBW_photo_gallery.htm

Any member can offer photos for inclusion on the site. If you would like to share some of your most memorable shots with others then just drop an e-mail to Ian Mair (r.i.mair@bigpond.net.au) and learn how simple it is to make it happen.

History comes back to life

The monumental effort of publishing the history of the first 50 years of Melbourne Bushwalkers (1940-1990) was completed in 1994 with the publication of "The Melbourne Bushies – fifty years along the track". Now that same history has been brought to life again on the club's website, with fully searchable text. If you have ever wondered who did this or who said that but can't quite remember where you saw it, now you can search for the reference with ease. Or maybe you just want to research the activities of a relative or friend (or maybe even yourself!). Check out the text at: http://www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au/history/MBW_history_i.htm

And if you would like to own your own copy of the book they are available from the club rooms for \$5 a copy.

PREVIEWS OF DAY WALKS MAY/JUNE 2005

DANDENONG EXPLORER: Doongalla Walk

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

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



SUNDAY BUS: Dandenong Ranges Tourist Track

DATE	Sunday 29 May 2005
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	13 & 17km
LEADERS	John Coe and Halina Sarbinowski
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd at 9am
RETURN TIME	Approx 6pm
AREA	Sassafras and Emerald
MAP REFERENCE	Dandenong Ranges 1: 37,500

Come and enjoy the spectacular Dandenong Ranges before the wintry gloom sets in. The E/M group will commence at Sassafras on the Dandenong Ranges Tourist Track. It basically follows the Sassafras Creek, winding its way through the Kallista and Monbulk areas, until it joins Menzies Creek, near Emerald. The Easy group will walk the same track but start the walk at Kay's Picnic Ground, just one of the pleasant stopping points along the way.

This area is abound with ancient ferns and tremendous Mountain Ash eucalypts, which make this an unforgettable walk in an area so close to Melbourne. There should be time enough for refreshments in Emerald before our return to the city, arriving there before dark.

TOFS: Eltham–Griffiths Park–Sweeneys Flat

DATE	Thursday 2 June 2005
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	11 km
LEADER	Jean Geise
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	2.30pm
AREA	Eltham
MAP REFERENCE	Melways 21 & 22

Our walk takes us along the North side of the Yarra River through some areas recently acquired by Parks Victoria. We will be mostly on bush tracks with views and river cascades to enjoy. Meet at 10.15 at locked gates cnr. Reynolds and Yarra Braes Roads. Melways 22 E9. Book with the leader

CYCLE TRIP: Belgrave to City via Jells Park

DATE	Saturday 4 June 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	55 km
LEADER	Jan Palich
TRANSPORT	Train
RETURN TIME	3.30pm
AREA	East of Melbourne
MAP REFERENCE	Various cycling books

We will be meeting at the Belgrave station at 9.30am ready to start cycling. So those who would like a coffee prior to starting, will need to arrive at Belgrave earlier. There is a lovely coffee spot on the 'round-a-bout' corner near the station. The ride is 'one way' so we don't retrace our steps. Although longer than my usual rides, there are a number of railway stations on the Gardner's Creek section that can reduce the distance. We cycle down out of the hills through a very picturesque Ferntree Gully area passing over the famous Forest Road cycling bridge before we turn left down towards Jells Park. After passing cycling sculptures near Knox and one dedicated to 'Oppy', we come to Shepherds Bush which is a conservation area and a natural haven for over 90 species of birds and many native animals. We should have time to visit this area briefly. Jells Park will be our lunch stop so bring a picnic lunch; however, there is coffee available for those that need a caffeine hit before the hill on the other side of Jells Park.

We then meander along Scotchman's Creek cycle track before joining Gardner's Creek track and then on the Yarra trail at Burnley. There may be an opportunity for stopping on the way, but if not we can stop at the refreshment kiosk next to the Yarra at Como. Then into Melbourne and home.

I look forward to your company on the ride. Please let me know you are coming by seeing me in the clubrooms the week before, or ring me at home.



SUNDAY BUS: Mt St Leonard – Condons Track

DATE	Sunday 5 June 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCE	12km & 14km
LEADERS	David Elias and Dion Marriott
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd. 9am
RETURN TIME	6.00pm
AREA	Healesville
MAP REFERENCE	Juliet North and Juliet South 1:25000



Come and join us for a beautiful walk in the rainforest near Healesville! Both walks will start at Maroondah Reservoir. The longer walk will climb steeply up Condons Track, then follow Monda Track to the summit of Mt St Leonard. The shorter walk will visit Donnelly Weir, then make a gentler ascent about half way up Mt St Leonard. The groups will meet at the summit, where extensive views of the surroundings can be appreciated from the viewing platform. Please be aware that the slopes of Mt St Leonard are very steep, so although the walks are not long, this will be an invigorating winter work-out.



SUNDAY BUS : You Yangs

DATE Sunday June 12 2005
 STANDARD Easy and Easy/Medium
 DISTANCE approx 12km and 16km
 LEADERS Jerry Karbownik and Sue Ralston
 TRANSPORT Bus from Southbank Blvd at 9am
 RETURN TIME est 5.30 pm
 AREA You Yangs Regional Park
 MAPS You Yangs 1:25000, Parks Vic map

The You Yangs Regional Park is an area relatively close to Melbourne, near the small settlement of Little River on the way to Geelong. As such it is often overlooked as a walk destination yet it offers some wonderful views over the surrounding countryside as well as walks of differing standards.

The Easy walk is designed to provide new members or first-time walkers with an attractive walk that will not be too strenuous. The Easy/medium walk will add some extra distance as well as some cross-country experience to attain higher altitudes....and better views !!! Whichever your choice, it should be a good day. Join us.

HISTORICAL WALK:

Elsternwick Creek – St Kilda Botanic Gardens

DATE Monday 13 June 2005
 STANDARD Easy
 LEADER Nigel Holmes
 TRANSPORT Private

Please contact the leader about this walk

WEDNESDAY WALK:

Cowans Loop – Lerderberg Gorge

DATE Wednesday 15 June 2005
 STANDARD Easy/Medium
 DISTANCE 14km
 LEADER Sandra Mutimer
 TRANSPORT Private
 RETURN TIME 4.30pm approx.
 AREA Lerderberg Gorge, Wombat State Forest
 MAP REFERENCE Meridian Wombat State Forest 1:50 000

We will meet at O'Briens Crossing (VicRoads, Map 77 G1) at 10.15am. This can be reached by turning off the Greendale-Trentham Road onto O'Briens Road before reaching Blackwood.

The walk will start at O'Briens Crossing on the northern bank of the Lerderberg River and follow it downstream. There will then be a short, steep climb towards Cowans Track but feel reassured that the leader will be tackling it at a slow and steady pace. This will bring us back to O'Briens Road and then back to the crossing.

After the walk you are invited to 27 Mincha Street, West Brunswick for a late afternoon tea/dinner-ish snack. I do need to state that I will not be attempting to reach the high standard of hospitality that we have been fortunate to enjoy from Bruce and Bet Campbell. To book on the walk and / or give me prior warning that you will be joining me afterwards please contact me

NAVIGATION TRAINING – Rogaining

DATE Saturday 18 June 2005
 STANDARD Easy
 DISTANCE 10 km
 LEADER Quentin Tibballs
 TRANSPORT Private
 RETURN TIME 5.00 pm
 AREA Wombat State Forest (near Blackwood)
 MAP REFERENCE Rogaining map will be supplied on the day

This is a 6 rogaining event run by the Victorian Rogaining Association to be held near Blackwood. Rogaining is excellent for improving navigation skills whilst being enjoyable at the same time. We will enter as a Melbourne Bushies team and will probably only compete for 4 hours of the 6 depending on team wishes. The cut off date for late entry is June 8th so if you intend to compete in this event with MBW please let me know sooner rather than later. Also participants are required to join the VRA prior to the event and the fee for this is \$18. Please ring me to discuss
Quentin Tibballs



SUNDAY BUS: Aireys Inlet coastal walk

DATE Sunday 19 June 2005
 STANDARD Easy and Easy/Medium
 LEADERS John Coe and Peter McGrath
 TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blvd at 9am
 RETURN TIME Approx 7pm

You will know Aireys Inlet as the place with the picturesque lighthouse, the start of the Great Ocean Road, and the place where one catches the first glimpse of the Southern Ocean, as one journeys into a leading tourist area of Australia. It has a fish and chip shop, whose sales must be stimulated by its close proximity to the lighthouse and the beach.



This is a new walk for the club, and, at time of writing, we have not completed the preview. Both walks will be centred on Aireys Inlet, and based on the walk description in the Geelong Bushwalking Club's book entitled 'Walking the Otways' however, we will make some amendments.

Both walks start along the clifftops at Aireys Inlet, where you will be treated to sea air and good views. The cliffs here are 50-60m high, and orange, which makes for some interesting photography. The walks then journey through bushland in the hinterland area. After the walks, you will return to Melbourne, invigorated, for the challenges of a new week.

Please note that the leaders are now Keith McKenry and John Coe

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

DANDENONGS EXPLORER: Mordialloc – Sandringham

DATE	Saturday 25 June 2005
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	12 km
LEADER	Debbie Collie
TRANSPORT	Train Richmond Station 9.25am
RETURN TIME	3.30pm
AREA	Mordialloc
MAP REFERENCE	Melway Map 92 F1

This relaxing linear walk explores the Coastal Art Trail featuring the work of the Heidelberg School during their summer artist camps from 1886. The paintings come to life as we stand where the artists stood over 100 years ago and note the changes in the landscape. After exploring the rockshelf at Rickett's Point and lunch we will make our leisurely way to Sandringham via Half Moon Bay. After coffee we return to Richmond via the train. Please ring me on to book for the walk and any further information.



SUNDAY BUS: Gellibrand Hill

DATE	Sunday 26 June 2005
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
LEADERS	Peter Havlicek and David Arnold
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd at 9 am

Details of this walk will appear in the *June News*



PACK CARRY & BASE CAMP: Pink Lakes

DATE	10-13 June 2005
STANDARD	Easy/medium
DISTANCE	45 km approx
LEADERS	Max Casley
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Monday evening
AREA	Mallee, west of Ouyen
MAP REFERENCE	Park Leaflets. Underbool & Sunset 1:100,000

The Pink Lakes are in the Mallee to the west of Ouyen and we don't go there often. The distance is about 550 km each way and a car fare of about \$90 is suggested. In winter, saline ground water enters the lakes from the surrounding country. Low atmospheric can also raise the level of the ground water. In the past salt was harvested from these lakes and piles of salt and old machinery still remain.

I plan to camp at Pink Lakes beside the cars on Friday and Saturday and explore the area around the Lakes with day packs on Saturday. Then we will do a 2 day pack carry on the Sunset Remote Walking Track camping out on Sunday and returning Monday. This requires a car shuttle on sandy 4wd tracks. The roads at Pink Lakes are OK for normal cars.

We can expect sunny days and cold nights. Fires are permitted only at Pink Lakes so bring a stove for the Remote Track. Water is available at the remote campsites and at Pink Lakes, but do bring plenty of water in the car. Bring some fire wood if you can.

BASE CAMP: Pink Lakes and Doug's Place

DATE	10-13 June 2005 (Queens Birthday Weekend)
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	Varied
LEADER	Doug Pocock
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Monday pm. or Tuesday
AREA	NW Victoria
MAP REFERENCE	National Park Notes

Friday night campspot will be at Pink Lakes, Jan and I will go up earlier to 'bags' a good campspot. Those who wish to break the journey may want to camp at Wedderburn and arrive Saturday. There are fireplaces at the campspots, bring some firewood with you. Water was available at the preview but bring some to be on the safe side.

Saturday morning will be a short walk around one of the lakes, in the afternoon we will do a longer, but still very shortwalk. On Sunday we will take lunch and do a longer circuit of most of the lakes. Returning to camp we will pack up and head off to Wyperfeld Nat Park. 4WD vehicles can take a short cut but 2WD vehicles will go via Patchewollock to Casuarina camp ground. It would be possible to pick up some supplies at Walpeup or Patchewollock.

On Monday morning we will do a walk to Bracky Well returning to the cars for a reasonably early departure.

Those with no time constraints can go to Wedderburn to camp and, following a walk in the morning, will return to Melbourne on Tuesday.

We were most impressed by the birds, especially at Casuarina. A long list from splendid wrens to emus, plenty of raptors and parrots, Major Mitchell cockatoos and mulga parrots in the camp ground. The botany was greatly varied. Saltbush and glassworts at Pink Lakes, Mallee forests, Buloke and Native Pine at Casuarina and Black Box woodland in the creeklines. Those who wish may just do short walks enjoying the wonderful bird watching available in these two parks.



PACK CARRY: Lerderderg Gorge Traverse

DATE	25-26 June 2005
STANDARD	Medium
LEADERS	Jopie Bodegraven
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Sunday late afternoon
MAP REFERENCE	Lerderderg & Werribee Gorges 1:35,000

This walk will be an adventure and the ideal walk for winter. It is in a wilderness area very close to Melbourne, a rare combination. The Lerderderg River flows through Blackwood and quickly enters a gorge. There are walking tracks along or close to it until you get to a tributary called Whisky Creek. Twice in recent years the club has done overnight walks in this area of the Lerderderg upstream of here. This weekend we are going to explore the section of the gorge downstream of here to where it emerges out of its gorge at Mackenzie Flat and we will do this as much as possible at river level. The upper two thirds of this section have not been done by the club for a very long time as far as I can gather and have no recognised track.

We will start at the bottom end at Mackenzies Flat. The first 7km is either a track or fairly often walked and hopefully reasonably easy, albeit rocky in parts with river crossings. The remaining 11 or 12km will be much wilder with the possibility of delightful river scenery, scrub and wet feet. If the going gets too difficult we should be able to easily leave the river up one of the relatively open spurs or via one of the 5 tracks that come down to or close to the river on our exit side. If we do make it to Whisky Creek we will have another 4km to walk out to our cars. I'm sure we'll find a good Saturday night campsite somewhere in the gorge because an older map I have actually marks some likely spots.

We begin 8.30am on Saturday morning in Bacchus Marsh. If the river levels are too high or the forecast is for abysmal weather we will postpone the walk because the gorge is not the place to be under those conditions.

If you're after a bit of exploratory adventure in a great wild area close to Melbourne and are prepared to put up with a bit of scrub, rocks and wet feet then this is the walk for you.