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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 CENTS

EDITION 656 OCTOBER 2005



AUCTION



PRE-LOVED BUSHWALKING & RELATED GEAR

Wednesday 16 November in the Clubrooms

This is your chance to pick up useful gear at cheap prices and to pass on gear that you no longer want to someone who does. You may pick up a bargain; you may pick up some priceless nostalgia or it may just be a chance to clear out that shelf of bushwalking gear gathering dust now that you've moved on to easier things. Or just come along for the fun and to eat some of the supper cakes.

The auctioneer will be none other than past president Derrick Brown, ably assisted by Jopie Bodegraven and Gina Hopkins. Details are as follows:

When: Inspection of items begins at 7pm. Auction itself begins at 8pm. **What is being sold:** Mostly preloved items of bushwalking, skiing or cycling gear, such as packs, tents, stoves, bikes, skis, base camp stuff, books etc etc, but also other items that would be of interest to club members. **How to sell stuff:** You can bring in items the two Wednesday nights before, ie November 2 & 9 or bring them along on the night of the auction, preferably by 7pm but by 7.30 at the latest to allow items to be tagged, listed and displayed. Take items to Gina at the registration table just inside the door. **Reserves:** Sellers can set a reserve if they wish. **Inspections:** Sale items will be on display. **Auction process:** Seller can briefly talk about the article and buyers can ask questions. Otherwise normal auction procedures. **Payment:** Buyers pay directly to sellers. **Commission:** The seller pays 10% commission into the commission box to go to the club's conservation fund. **Supper:** The "yummiest cakes in creation" will be provided before the auction as an added enticement for you to come. **Walk Bookings:** Will be taken in the kitchen as we'll need all the space we've got in our small clubrooms for the auction.

Programme change for 25–27 November

GREAT OCEAN WALK BASE CAMP replaced by OTWAYS WATERFALLS BASE CAMP The bad news is that Sylvia is unavailable on this weekend to lead her Great Ocean Walk Base Camp. The good news is that Jopie and Paul are available on this weekend to lead their Otways Waterfalls Base Camp (Stevensons Falls via Forrest) instead and Sylvia will now be leading her base camp on the weekend of 9-11 December. See the preview section of this NEWS for details of the Otways Waterfalls Base Camp and next month's NEWS for details of Sylvia's weekend.

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:

- Emailing to: pagination@bigpond.com.au
- Placing diskette or hand written material in the Editor's
pigeon hole in the clubrooms
- Posting diskette or hand written material to either:

The Editor,
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.,
PO Box 1751, Melbourne, Vic, 3001

or
R. Hampton, *The News* Editor,
18 Hinton Road,
Glenhuntly, Vic., 3163.

Electronic mail is preferred.

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

Advertisements in *The News*

Only advertisements directly relating to bushwalking will be
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

Some time ago members would have received a 'green
personal health card' with their newsletter. I have been a
little tardy and have only just got around to filling in my
card with the relevant information. This is just a reminder
to fill in your card and keep with your pack. If you have
misaid your card, call into the clubrooms and obtain
another one.

As our days become longer and we head into the
summer months and daylight saving, getting out into the
bush is even more enjoyable, but we do need to be
responsible. You will have heard of the motto 'take
nothing but photos and leave nothing but footprints'. This
is part of the Minimum Impact Bushwalking (MIB) Code
that is followed by bushwalkers everywhere.

There are some simple steps that a walker can take to
protect the bush and they don't cost anything.

- Stay on marked tracks; don't cut corners on zig-zag
tracks.
- Wade through waterlogged sections on a track; don't
create new tracks around them.
- Use stepping stones or boardwalks where provided in
eroded areas.
- Avoid easily damaged places such as peat bogs,
cushion moss, swamps and fragile rock formations.
- With beach walks - be aware that you are sharing the
beach with shore-nesting birds. Walk below the
high-tide mark.

Minimum Impact Bushwalking allows walkers to enjoy
their natural surroundings without causing too much
environmental degradation. If you would like more
information on MIB, we do have leaflets in the club room
MIB is all about walking softly!

Safe Walking
Jan Palich

Wine & Cheese evening



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

Wednesday, 23 November

Join Susan and Stuart for lunch
at the
Graham Hotel,
97 Graham Street, Port Melbourne.
(Melways 2J F7)

Let's kick off early at 12.30
Book by 20 November

Vicwalk related volunteers or suggestions needed

1. Skills Convenor (Vacancy)
2. VicWalk News Editor (Vacancy)
3. Track Maintenance Group
4. Melbourne Bushies VicWalk Delegates (Vacancies)
5. Ideas for VicWalk website.

Skills Convenor Do you have a strong interest in the range of skills required for bushwalking? Are you keen to co-ordinate training that clubs can share?

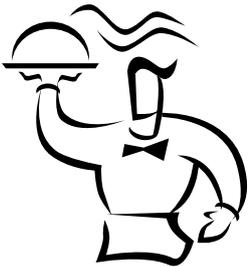
Editor VicWalk Anyone interested ask for a copy of September VicWalk News for Editors Job Description.

Track Maintenance Group Dates & sites for work listed in September VicWalk News if anyone would like to offer to join the group.

Delegates for Melbourne Bushies Please consider coming along with me to a meeting to check out what the position involves.

VicWalk Website A VicWalk Web Working Group (which I am on) is reviewing the site to improve it for anyone likely to want to access it. Let me know of anything you would like to see on that site.

MELBOURNE BUSH WALKERS



Dine Out

November 2005 venue:

STRIKE BOWLING AND BAR

245 Little Lonsdale Street,
Melbourne

Saturday 12th November at 7.30pm
Regina Pizzeria Cnr. Swanston &
Lonsdale Streets.

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.

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

Carol Criddle

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

Wet, wild and wonderful



Calling all adventurers

Local bushwalkers know that summer is the best time to enjoy the **wild rivers, gentle creeks, thundering waterfalls, carpets of flowers and spectacular storms** for which our region is famous. They know that warm rain and cosy rock shelters mean that comfort is never far away.

Our wet season used to bring us groups of adventurers keen to see and experience the best that our region has to offer. Times change. Other places came into fashion. One of the best wilderness experiences the world has to offer remains almost unknown.

We love it and we want to take you there. We offer everything from trips with full accommodation to major expeditions. We give you the tropical summer the way it was meant to be experienced — on foot.

Visit our website or ask us for more information.

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

Sleeping bag temperature standards

Those of us experienced in sleeping in the Aussie outdoors know it can get pretty cold. Inland frosts get down to -5°C and alpine snow camps can get down to -15°C and we have all sweated like crazy in a bag that is too warm!

Up until now we have relied on the vendors to advise us what their sleeping bags could cope with. Snowgum (Hawthorn) and the Wilderness Shop (Box Hill) are staffed by people experienced in the outdoors and their advice is usually spot on. But what of the camping gear supermarkets?

I have seen ads and read claims of overly optimistic performance. In particular I own an ultra lightweight bag (700-800g) which, it was claimed, would keep me warm well below zero. I was not fooled, as one cannot expect a bag half the weight of a proven bag to be that warm. Mine is great to 5°C, but below that I take my good bag. Also why buy an \$800 bag when a \$300 one is all you need. As usual buyer beware!

But how can inexperienced people judge claims? Effective January 1 2005 we have European Standard EN13537. I refer to "Information for Brands/Manufacturers" from the European Outdoors Group (Switzerland), bought to my attention by the Wilderness Shop in Box Hill. People wanting more detail should consult www.europeanoutdoorsgroup.com/information/sleeping-bags/EN13537. Standard EN13537 defines how to test, measure and label a sleeping bag. A sleeping bag fully (as against partially) compliant is entitled to display the CE symbol, provided the product has been subjected to the tests outlined in the standard. This includes a temperature test on an approved manikin and tests on fabrics and filling. The standard is not currently mandatory, nor will it be in the near future, in a strict legal sense. But if a consumer complained about a bag's performance, the complaint could by default be resolved by reference to this standard (sounds like our new activity standards!)

As regards thermal performance, the standard defines four temperatures corresponding to the following situations: Tmax: maximum comfortable temperature, Tcomfort: the most comfortable temperature, Tlimit: minimum temperature Textreme: lowest survivable temperature.

The results for each sleeping bag will be displayed on a label. A user then needs to measure the temperatures of the space adjacent to the sleeping bag for the various usages, and choose a bag where these temperatures are between the Tmax and Tlimit. Hopefully if the labels are widely used, buyers will be able to make much better informed objective choices, and not be deluded by extravagant claims or overcharged for unnecessary bags.

Jim Mclaughlin



Canoe Trip, Upper Murray

Expressions of interest invited for canoeing on the Upper Murray between Christmas and New Year

Phone Quentin

KILOMETRE RATE for PRIVATE TRANSPORT INCREASED to 10 cents

The per kilometre rate paid by passengers to drivers on private transport trips has stood at 8c per km for several years. With increases in petrol and other costs it is time to look at the issue again and the committee has done this. The question of what to include in the calculations is a tricky one. Obviously petrol, servicing, tyres & repairs must be included because they are directly related to the distance travelled. Fixed costs such as insurance & registration are independent of distance travelled and should probably not be included. But what about depreciation which is partly independent of usage, being determined by age, but partly dependant, because greater kilometres travelled reduces the resale value. And what about the risk of accidents borne by the driver who would have to pay the insurance excess for any claim. Other possible costs are tyre damage and windscreen damage not covered by insurance.

The committee has adopted an average running cost covering petrol, servicing, tyre wear and repairs of 20 cents per kilometre using the latest RACV data and then added 50 % for usage-dependant depreciation, insurance excess risk etc (This 50 % is about one eighth of the total RACV calculated depreciation). We assume that there are 3 people in the car (we need to make this assumption to keep the system simple and workable) and we get **10 cents per kilometre per person**. If there are 4 in a car, we would suggest lowering the per km rate to **8c**. If we must have cars with only 2 occupants, then the rate still covers the base running cost for most cars. If petrol prices rise substantially higher above the \$1.30 per litre used in the calculations we will reassess the rate (35c/litre rise would justify a further 1c/km rate rise).

Jopie Bodegraven, Walks Secretary

**THIS
MONTH
40
YEARS
AGO**

Melbourne Bushwalkers Historical Section

Melville Caves – Mt Kooyoora

The club held a weekend walk on 1–3 October 1965 with a distance of 16 miles and led by Graham Errey. Back in 1965 the club had a van that was transport for weekend and day walks. This particular weekend 26 walkers including 5 visitors travelled to view the caves at the Kooyoora State Park. After leaving Melbourne on the Friday night, heading out through Bendigo towards Wedderburn the van arrived near Mt. Kooyoora at the caves car park and picnic area at 10.30 pm, where everyone put up their tents – campsites and water was plentiful. Saturday morning the group left their packs while they climbed the track north to the highest surrounding point ¼ mile from camp passing several rock shelters on the way. The group took a long way back to camp to collect their packs before heading north. They then walked towards Mt. Kooyoora and after an unavoidable rock scramble they arrived at the summit. The group then went north along a very steep sided valley; found a spring and abundant flat campsites at the foot of the mountain where camp was set up. Sunday morning without packs, the group climbed the ridge to the Kooyoora caves and explored the surrounding area. South of the Mt. Kooyoora spur, a lovely lunch spot (with water) was found and everyone enjoyed a break. Then heading west, the group travelled along tracks until they reached the junction of the Inglewood Rheola Read Junction where the van was waiting to take them home.

Sounds like a great weekend!

Bushwalkers' insurance – an overview

Many members will be aware that the club maintains a level of insurance cover in relation to official club trips. Without attempting to be a full description, the following is an outline of how the insurance operates. Further details can be obtained from the policy documents, the committee, or VicWalk.

- Insurance is organised nationally by Bushwalking Australia (previously this role was done by VicWalk on behalf of clubs in Victoria).
- The policy contains P&PL (Public & products liability) and PA (personal accident) components.
- Current cost is around \$10 per member from annual membership fees.
- Members are covered for official club trips (trips on the walks program), but in the case of skiing or abseiling, must sign the designated “acknowledgement of risks” form beforehand (skiing and abseiling were reintroduced into the policy on 1 July 2005).
- Visitors (known as ‘temporary members’ for the purpose of the insurance) are covered for official club trips, but must sign the designated “acknowledgement of risks” form beforehand, regardless of the type of activity.

The “acknowledgement of risks” form is a risk control procedure and is not intended to be a waiver. It is intended to make participants aware of the risks of the activity in order that appropriate risk mitigation steps can be taken in preparation for, and during the activity.

AUTUMN WALKS PROGRAMME



Leaders and ideas wanted

It seems like a long time ahead but now is the time to start thinking about what walks we want to see on the Autumn Programme. We will be having two walks planning meetings in early November. On Tuesday 8 November we will plan the overnight walks. Then on Thursday 10 November we will do the Sunday walks. Both will start at 7pm and be in the clubrooms. This will give us about 7 weeks to finetune the programme and find the remaining leaders before the programme goes to print for the January newsletter. If you would like to attend, please let me know. We need you to offer walk suggestions and we need offers to lead walks. Anything to do with overnight walks, contact me in the clubrooms. For Sunday walks, contact Peter McGrath, he'll be in the clubrooms too. We need lots of your help to compose an interesting and varied programme

Jopie Bodegraven, Walks Secretary

Conservation Alpine Huts

A report was given by Dave Rimmer on the rather lengthy stakeholder meeting held on 18 August regarding their alpine hut strategy. The meeting covered hut replacement strategy, the alpine huts survey, the social values of alpine huts and hut management.

Achieved so far:

- \$60,000 for hut maintenance for volunteers to cattlemen's huts over three years
- Agreement on draft huts replacement strategy
- Interpretive signs at sites,
- Five huts rebuilt — Federation, Michell, McNamaras, Mt Benambra and Bogong Aqueduct

Prior Rights

Ropers Hut is the only hut to be replaced, mainly because of its perceived refuge status. During the meeting I was asked by Enzo Brotto, the ranger who is responsible for huts in the Bogong Area, if VicWalk could assist volunteers to carry materials in to Ropers Hut. Bon Accord Hut was also discussed, but it was stated that it is very difficult to access and would be high in maintenance and rebuilding was rejected for mainly this reason.

Hut Management

Of the other alpine huts in Victoria not destroyed in the fires, 11 have been given a high priority for maintenance, 20 of moderate priority and 76 of low priority.

Current Priorities

- Complete renovations to CRB hut;
- Post winter inspection and cleanup of huts;
- Assessment of all slow-combustion stoves and fireplaces;
- Purchase and installation of nine litre water fire extinguishers at nominated huts;
- Purchase and installation of smoke alarms at nominated huts. There were fires recently in Federation & Bluff huts due mainly to carelessness and using a volatile fuel to light a fire.

Kosciuszko

Huts to be replaced in this area are Boobee, Brooks, Delaneys, O'Keefes, Patons and Pretty Plain.

Track Closures Marysville Area

Many trees toppled over in the high winds in late August, affecting tracks in the Marysville area. DSE expects Treefern Gully Track (Marysville to Steavenson Falls) and Beauty Spot Walk to be open by Monday 12th, however, it may be another 2-3 weeks before any longer walks are reopened. Clubs are advised to contact DSE on 13 61 86, or the Marysville Visitor Information Centre on 5963 4567 for the latest information if they intend to do any walks in that area over the next few weeks.

Jenny Sykes

The Wilderness Shop

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



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Bushwalking, Adventure Travel,
Cross Country Skiing, Rockclimbing

As an Independent Store we have a **Huge Range** from Many Leading Brands

10% Discount to Melb Bushies (sale items excluded)

Conservation Notes

The FVWC Track Maintenance Group co-ordinated by Jim Harker now has 30 members and has successfully completed two projects: the Freeman's Mill Track Clearing on 28 August with leader Graeme Kidd (Dandenong Valley) had 16 participants and the Crinoline track clearing on 10-11 September with leader Margarita Chetcuti (VNPA) had 6 participants. Coming projects are:
8-9 October, Cathedral Ranges Organiser Steve Robertson.

21-23 October, Grampians Organiser Rod Novak (on MBW program)

12-13 November, Mt Buffalo Organiser Jim Harker.

19-20 November, Moroka Gorge – joint activity with VNPA Organiser Margarita Chetcuti.

3-4 December, Howqua Hills Area – joint activity with VNPA Organiser Margarita Chetcuti.

11 December, Upper Yarra Track Organiser Steve Robertson.

Members are encouraged to join. Contact Rod Novak, Mark Heath or Jim Harker (email jnharker@netspace.net.au) for details.

Mark Heath

PREVIEWS OF DAY WALKS OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2005



SUNDAY BUS:

MT Caroline – MT Bullamatite – Ti Tree Creek

DATE	23 October 2005
STANDARD	Easy/Medium and Medium.
DISTANCE	Easy walk, 18 km and a total climb of 750m Medium walk, is 14 km plus 580m climbing.
LEADERS	Les Southwell and David Laing.
TRANSPORT	Bus from Southbank Blvd. at 9am
RETURN BY	7pm.
AREA	Between Yarra Glen and Yea
MAP	1:25,000.

Both walks start and finish at Ti Tree Creek, just off the Melba Highway and south of Yea. It goes up to Dunn Hill to Mt Bullamatite, then to Mt Caroline and return. The shorter walk bypasses Clarke Hill and Mt Caroline. Both walks are through open farming country, with good views of the Goulburn Valley, and the climbs are not too steep.



SUNDAY BUS: Lower Lerderberg Gorge

DATE	Sunday 6 November 2005
STANDARD	Easy and Medium
DISTANCE	10 and 12km
LEADERS	Nik Dow and Fiona Jarmann
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd. at 9am

Only partly previewed at time of writing, this walk will be unusual for a Sunday bus trip, as both walks will be relatively short (10-12 km), and both will have some steep climbs and drops in and out of the gorge. The harder walk will traverse the lower Lerderberg Gorge where there is no track, so rock hopping and wet feet are included, in return some beautiful scenery is on offer, and possibly a swim (including inadvertent ones). The easier walk will include the climbs, some on rough rocky tracks, but will avoid river rock hopping and stay more on tracks, and swims will be voluntary. Be sure to bring changes not just of footwear but some spare clothing for the bus home. PS my phone number in the programme is out-of-date, use my mobile. Nik Dow.



SUNDAY BUS: Lysterfield Lake Park plus barbecue

DATE	Sunday 30 October 2005
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	12 and 15km
LEADERS	Mark Heath and Ron Hampton
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd. at 9am
RETURN TIME	6.30am
AREA	South East
MAP REFERENCE	Park Victoria – Lysterfield Lake Park and Churchill National Park

A pleasant ramble thru two of Melbourne historical parks nestled in the picturesque Lysterfield Hills. 172 species of birds have been recorded in the parks and echidnas may be spotted during the day. Trig Point has spectacular 360° views of Melbourne.

TOFS: Altona – Cheetham Wetlands

DATE	Thursday 3 November 2005
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER	Alister Rowe
TRANSPORT	Private
MAP REFERENCE	Melways map 208

Meet at 10.30am at the '100 seps of Federation' car park (Melway 208K3) We will walk south skirting the Cheetham Wetlands and across the Skeleton Creek ford to the Point Cook Coastal Park tower and back. See wetlands birdlife, seascapes and city skyline. The area has desolate charm! Distance (all flat) is 12 km. Ring 9435 5958 to book.

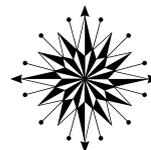


SUNDAY BUS: Anglesea Back Country

DATE	Sunday 13 November 2005
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	17 km and 21 km approximately
LEADERS	Max Casley and Peter Havlicek
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd at 9 am
RETURN TIME	7 pm
AREA	Anglesea
MAP REFERENCE	Anglesea 1:25,000

You will experience beautiful coastal scenery and bush on this part of the "Surf Coast Walk". The walk starts near Bells Beach and goes through Ironbark Basin which has interesting flora and fauna as well as the remains of a jarosite mine (the mineral pigment used on the old red rattler trains). The walk continues through ironbark forest, heath land and along the cliff top to Point Addis and then along beach and cliff top to Anglesea with ocean views on the way. The harder walk may spurn the temptations of the shops and continue through the golf course past grazing kangaroos to finish at Urquart Bluff.

Navigation and Leader Training



Saturday November 19th

Phone Quentin

**WEDNESDAY WALK:
Wombelano Falls – Kinglake National Park**

DATE Wednesday 16 November 2005
 STANDARD Easy
 DISTANCE 12 km
 LEADER Jan Llewelyn
 AREA Kinglake NP, northern section
 MAP REFERENCE Outdoor leisure map 1:50000 Kinglake

Meet at the Gums Camping Ground at 10.00am. Take the Melba Highway, 24.6km from Yarra Glen Hotel then turn left on road marked Kinglake Homestead, Westbridge Rd. Follow this approx 4.5 km to the turnoff marked The Gums.

The walk commences crossing the creek on a handy fallen tree (if we can find it again) and a short climb up to the ridge. We will follow the ridge through light scrub and eventually pick up a vehicle track. Leaving the vehicle track we pick up a foot track leading to Wombelano Falls. Lunch at the falls.

After lunch we retrace our steps for a while before heading off on different tracks back to the cars.

The area comprises magnificent forest and a birdwatcher just ahead of us had seen a red-browed treecreeper and a female rose robin at the falls. A beautiful shady area with wonderful tall trees

We'll be overseas until 19 October, then moving house, and will have a new phone number. We'll try to get this number into *News* in time if possible. Otherwise, just turn up.

Walhalla is some distance from Melbourne (and note the 8.30 start!), but the extra bit of travel should be well rewarded. We will have some great views over this historic gold mining town, and will walk along a section of the famed Australian Alps Walking Track. We may even have a shallow river crossing! More details will appear in November *News* once the exact routes for the two walks have been chosen. **Please note 8.30 am start.**

DANDENONG EXPLORER: Bunyip State forest

DATE Saturday 26 November 2005
 STANDARD Easy/Medium
 DISTANCE about 12 km
 LEADER Warren Baker
 TRANSPORT Private
 RETURN TIME 3.30–4 pm
 AREA Bunyip State Forest
 MAP REFERENCE Melway Key map 14 14538 MortimerReserve/
 Gembrook South 7650/95

Meet at 10.30 at Mortimer Reserve. The easiest way is probably through Gembrook to East Beenak Road. Then take the Gembrook –Tonimbuk Road (unsealed) for about 6 km which passes Mortimer Reserve.

A description of the walk will appear next month when I've previewed it.

 **SUNDAY BUS: Walhalla**

DATE Sunday 20 November 2005
 STANDARD Easy and Easy/Medium
 DISTANCE 10 km and 15 km approx.
 LEADERS David Arnold and John Coe
 TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blvd. leaving **8.30am**
 RETURN TIME 7pm
 AREA 30 km NE of Moe (Gippsland)
 MAP REFERENCE Walhalla 1:25000

 **SUNDAY BUS: The Nobbies – Pyramid Rock**

DATE Sunday 27 November 2005
 STANDARD Easy and Easy/Medium
 LEADERS David Elias and Dion Marriott
 TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blvd.

Details of this walk will appear in the November *News*.

**Programme change for
25–27 November**

**GREAT OCEAN WALK BASE CAMP replaced by
OTWAYS WATERFALLS BASE CAMP**

The bad news is that Sylvia is unavailable on this weekend to lead her Great Ocean Walk Base Camp. The good news is that Jopie and Paul are available on this weekend to lead their **Otways Waterfalls Base Camp** (Stevensons Falls via Forrest) instead and Sylvia will now be leading her base camp on the weekend of 9-11 December. See the preview section of this *NEWS* for details of the Otways Waterfalls Base Camp and next month's *NEWS* for details of Sylvia's weekend.

Walks Secretary report

Trip figures for August 2005

	August 2005			August 2004	
	Trips	People	Average	Trips	Average
Sunday Bus	4	156	39	5	36
Other Day	3	46	15	3	16
Pack Carry	0	0	0	0	0
Base Camp	1	8	8	2	8.5
Tree Planting	2	22	11	1	12
Ski Lodge	1	16	16	0	0
TOTAL	11	248			

Good numbers still on the Sunday Bus. Skiing at Mt Stirling was good. Pack carries not so popular in August but if anyone wants to lead on we'll certainly programme it. Skiing should increase in future now that we once again have insurance cover.

Jopie Bodegraven, Walks Secretary

BASE CAMP: Croajingalong National Park

DATE	28 October – 1 November 2005
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER	Ken MacMahon
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	East Gippsland
MAP REFERENCE	Cann-Pt Hicks 1:50,000. Mallacoota Outdoor Leisure 1:50,000

The four day Cup Day long weekend is a great opportunity to visit beautiful Croajingalong National Park.

The plan is to spend two nights camping at Thurra River and the other two at Wingan Inlet. The parks service provides basic facilities of toilets and drinking water at both sites. A camping fee applies.

Primarily we will be exploring on foot, but I intend to incorporate some canoeing into the program as this will allow us to get to some really delightful places. If you don't want to go canoeing there is always that book you have been wanting to read or a walk on the beach.

Come and enjoy Croajingalong – East Gippsland is different!



PACK CARRY: Blue Gum Forest (Blue Mountains)

DATE	28 October – 1 November (Melbourne Cup Weekend)
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	37 km plus extras
LEADER	Alan Clarke
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Tuesday evening
AREA	Blue Mountains
MAP REF	Katoomba 1:25,000

This is obviously an interstate venture, similar to the successful Royal National Park trip that we did last November. One big advantage of doing these trips then is that there is no Cup Day holiday interstate, so we get a four day trip without the big crowds!

This trip flies to Sydney on Friday evening, and takes the train to the Blue Mountains on Saturday am. Then we have 3 1/2 days walking in the beautiful Grose valley before returning on Tuesday afternoon in time to catch an early evening flight home again. Highlights are the famous Blue Gum forest, waterfalls, escarpments, lookouts, and the deep, narrow, Grand Canyon

As I indicated in the last NEWS, approximate costs are under \$300 including fares and accommodation. This can be cheapened depending on when you fly and of course you are free to stay longer if you wish.

There are more camp sites than last year so there are still places if you are interested.



PACK CARRY: Mt Buffalo NP, – Rocky Creek

DATE	4 –6 November
STANDARD	Easy, suitable for first time pack carry walkers.
TRANSPORT	Private
LEADER	Claire Luxford,
MAP	Mt Buffalo Plateau 1: 30 000 by Geoff Lawford

Spectacular wild flowers and scenic views will be the norm on this picturesque sub-alpine plateau walk. Commencing at Lake Catani we will follow the Long Plain Track, including a side trip to Mt Dunn to take in the best view of the Mt Buffalo Plateau. Rejoining the main track before doing another side trip to the Drillholes, which is a rock outcrop on top of which are a number of deep narrow water, eroded holes. Views can be enjoyed of the SW Plateau. After leaving the Drillholes we will make our way along the Giants Causeway and head up to Macs Point for views of the SW, grass plains and snow gums. The fire track offers an easy walk to the Rocky Creek campground where we will spend the night.

The Reservoir is our destination on Day Two. The first of three side trips is to Mollisons Galleries for excellent views of the Buffalo River Valley, as well as a collection of massive boulders that you can walk through and under.

Eagle Point is the second side trip offering more views. The track changes here after as we begin to walk through boulder studded grass plains before reaching our last side trip to Og Gog and Magog to take in views and spectacular tors. The main track then leads us, after a short walk to the Reservoir and our cars.

BASE CAMP: Victoria Range Rock Scramblers Exploratory (Grampians)

DATE	11–13 November 2005 (possibly longer)
STANDARD	Medium/Hard
LEADER	Jopie Bodegraven
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Grampians Victoria Range
MAP REFERENCE	Southern and Northern Grampians 1:50,000 Outdoor Leisure Maps. Victoria Range and Victoria Gap 1:25,000

This is a trip for those who love exploring the wonderful off-track rocky outcrops that occur so abundantly in the Victoria Range. There will be lots of fun rock scrambling, open rocky expanses, getting to the top of super outcrops with marvellous views (and then getting down again), a certain amount of scrub, some a bit prickly in parts, narrow passages between outcrops etc. Obviously only those happy and confident on rock will want to come.

We will be base camping near Mt Thackeray with our vehicles. Last year in early November we checked out the access and found that access via the eastern end of the Goat Track off Syphon Road was very easy for a Subaru Forester and probably OK for most 2 wheel drive cars. The Victoria Range Road down to Mt Thackeray



was fine too. We will however try to use Subarus or other 4WDs. Areas to be explored as day walks will probably include the Maze, Mt Thackeray, the rocky areas across the creek south of Thackeray, rocky outcrops further north and more.

We will camp Friday night at Boreang between Halls Gap and the Victoria Range so that we can all drive up onto the range together on Saturday morning. Jen and I may stay on till Tuesday so you may wish to join us for that too. Ring me or see me in the clubrooms.

BASE CAMP: Tarra Bulga National Park

DATE 11–13 November 2005
 STANDARD Easy with a bit of Easy/Medium on Saturday
 LEADER Mick Noonan
 TRANSPORT Private
 RETURN TIME Sunday at 5- 6pm
 AREA South Gippsland
 MAP REFERENCE Carrajung 8221-3-S, 1:25, 000

Secluded 200 km east of Melbourne away in Gippsland is Tarra-Bulga National Park, the nearest 'town' is Balook close to the eastern end of the Grand Ridge Road. This park is one of the best temperate rain forests in Gippsland with real trees (giant Mountain Ash, Messmate, ancient Myrtle Beech and Blackwood), huge lush ferns, the famous Corrigans suspension bridge, Cyathea Falls etc. There's also wombats (dangerous for night driving!), possums, owls, lyrebirds, wallaby's, etc etc.

On the Saturday (14 km) we will see the Information Centre, historic Balook (... yes there is a tea room...), the suspension bridge, fern gullies, Wild Cherry Track, with a long gradual climb after lunch, lots of views etc.

On the Sunday (11 km) we check out Cyathea Falls, Lyrebird track, plenty of views and magnificent forests.

There is no camping in the National Park so we are staying at the Tarra Valley Caravan Park. There is a choice of camping or cabins (up to 8 in a cabin), gas fired BBQ's, wood for a fire, a sheltered eating area, toilets, electricity!, water and a fridge in the Cabin we can share!... camping luxury remote from nearby towns and relatively immune from the weather...!!! Bring something to share for the Saturday night.

Give me a ring for more info or see me at the Club on the 2 Wednesdays before. You can either drive down on Saturday morning (via Traralgon and Balook) or the Friday night (via Gippsland Highway & Yarrum if arriving after daylight to avoid the roos and wombats!) .. I'll have lots of maps and more info at the Club.

So if your new to base camping or have not been to Tarra-Bulga (walk last done in 1999) or seen the real Gippsland mark this trip in your calendar!



PACK CARRY: Feathertop – North Razorback

DATE 18–20 November
 STANDARD Easy/Medium
 LEADER Lance Mobbs
 TRANSPORT Private

This walk will be more Easy than Easy/Medium and involves a car shuffle. On Friday night, we will drive to the Harrietville Caravan Park. Saturday we will drive to Mt Hotham and walk to Feathertop.

There will be a few very short climbs along the Razorback to Camp Federation Hut. Sunday will be down hill all the way to Harrietville. Hopefull it will be fine weather, but be warned, the weather could turn bad so be prepared for both fine and cold weather.

CYCLING WEEKEND:

Lilydale to Warburton and return

DATE 19–20 November 2005
 STANDARD Easy/Medium
 DISTANCE Approx. 40 km each day
 LEADERS Jan Palich
 TRANSPORT Car or train to Lilydale
 RETURN TIME Approx 4 pm Sunday
 AREA Dandenongs (east of Melbourne)
 MAP REFERENCE Warburton Rail trail

Saturday: cycling Lilydale to Warburton, departing 9.30 am from Lilydale Station. Sunday: returning from Warburton to Lilydale, departing 9.30 ish from Warburton.

This is one of Australia's best recreation trails – the "Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail" which is a lovely ride through varied countryside – forests, farms, beside rivers, through sleepy country towns. We will be commencing from Lilydale Station on Saturday morning and stopping for a "surprise" morning tea and then a picnic lunch on the way. Sunday for those that wish, a visit to a local bakery for lunch. Expect a few hills, we will be cycling on gravel tracks along the old train line from Lilydale to Warburton, so experience with cycling is necessary.

Could you bring either a nibbly contribution for "Happy Hour" on Saturday night, or something for a late night coffee; and in between, we will be going to a local restaurant for dinner.

Accommodation is at the Warburton Caravan Park where I have booked a lodge that caters for 9 people (all bikes outside). There is no limit to the group, as those that are unable to located inside can bring tents. This is very pretty area with lots of trees.

The lodge has outside doors into the kitchen and 2 bathrooms, as well as the main room. Cost: camping is \$8 p/p and lodge \$14 p/p.

Doug Pocock has very kindly offered to transport our personal luggage from Lilydale to the Warburton Lodge on Saturday morning and then also transport our gear back to Lilydale on the Sunday.

Details of what you need to take ie. Sleeping bags (or hire sheets/duonas) will be available at the clubrooms when you book. Bookings are essential.

BASE CAMP:

Otways Waterfalls Weekend – Stevensons Falls

DATE 25–27 November 2005
 STANDARD Easy/Medium and Medium/Hard
 LEADERS Jopie Bodegraven and Paul Logsdon
 TRANSPORT Private
 RETURN TIME Reasonably early Sunday evening
 AREA Otways via Forrest
 MAP REFERENCE The Otways and Shipwreck Coast 1:50,000

This weekend has it all, a lovely forest campsite by a river, two leaders so that we have walks to suit everyone and best of all, a host of lovely waterfalls to photograph. This weekend was going



to be programmed for December but due to Sylvia no longer being available to lead her Great Ocean Walk weekend on this last weekend in November, we have swapped the two weekends so that she will now lead her weekend on the 9–11 December.

The walks we will be doing are walks from the great little booklet produced for the Federation Weekend held in the Otways in October 2002. Some of us will have done some of these walks but there were too many on offer and some booked out early so this is our chance to do some of the ones we missed out on. Paul will be leading the easier ones, graded from easy to medium. They will include Stevensons Falls Circuit 3–4 hours easy, Sabine Falls Circuit 2 hours medium (due to the 240 m climb out), Allambee Beek Falls 3 hours easy to medium and Lake Elizabeth

Circuit 3–4 hrs easy to medium with an easier option. Jopie will be leading the harder walks including Four Falls Circuit (Upper Cumberland River) 6 hours medium to hard, Wild Dog Falls 4 hours medium to difficult, Allambee Beek Falls 3 hours easy to medium and probably Stevensons Falls short walk 1 hr easy.

Camp is about 2 hours from Melbourne so you could come up early Saturday morning if Friday night is difficult. Bring all your usual basecamp chairs, goodies, lights, good cheer etc. plus if you can, some firewood for our campfire as I'm not sure how easy wood will be to find around camp. Water is available from the river but bring a bit for drinking cold if you want to be absolutely sure. I'll do my best to organise good weather. Join us for a great fun weekend.