



The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 Cents

Edition 662 APRIL 2006

Lake Mountain - 19/3/06



Cape Woolami - San Remo 26/3/06



Feathertop & Fainter the Hard Way 11-13/3/06



**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.**

Member of



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: Ana-Silvia Rivera

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: pichita_58@yahoo.com.au
- Placing diskette or hand written material in the Editor's pigeon hole in the clubrooms
- Posting diskette or hand written material to:

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

Electronic mail is preferred.

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

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

Advertising Rates (Artwork Ready)
In: printed edition only: as below, or printed & on-line editions: as below + 25% or on-line edition only: as below +25%.

Size	1 Issue	3 Issues	12 Issues (1 Year)
¼ Page	\$35	\$90	\$330
½ Page	\$55	\$150	\$550
Full Page	\$100	\$250	\$900

SPRING & SUMMER PROGRAMMES ADVANCE PLANNING

IDEAS & OFFERS TO LEAD INVITED
Get your tuppence in

We are about to start work on the **Spring** programme and because the walks secretary is going to be overseas for over 3 months in winter and early spring, we will also do the pack carries, base camps and cycle trips for the **Summer** programme. But we need your input so that we don't get a dull, boring programme full of repeats.

Over the next 4 weeks, feed your ideas and offers to lead to Peter McGrath for the Sunday walks and to me, Jopie, for the pack carries, base camps and cycle trips. Then in early May we will have our **planning nights** where we put it all together. On **Thursday 4th May** at 7pm in the clubrooms we will do the **Sunday walks**. Then on **Monday 8th May** we will do the **overnights**, including the Summer trips. That will then give us 5- 6 weeks to fine tune the Spring programme before I disappear to the northern hemisphere in mid June. After my return in late September we will have one week to tie up the loose ends for the Summer programme.

All leaders and potential leaders are invited and encouraged to attend the planning meetings. Just let Peter or me know in case of any change to time or date.

For offers for the Wednesday walks, contact Sandra Mutimer; for the Dandenongs Explorer walks contact Liz Telford or Maureen Hurley and for the TOFS walks contact Jean Giese.

Let's all muck in and put together really great Spring & Summer Programmes.

Jopie Bodegraven
Walks Secretary

Wine & Cheese evening



**4th week
of every
month
in the
clubrooms.**

7:00-9:00pm

Feathertop and Fainter the hard way

Gina Hopkins

11 – 13 March 2006

I had been looking forward to this walk for months and when Friday arrived I was all ready to go when Gina rang with a change of plan. Jopie was ill, Mohammed couldn't make it and that she wasn't sure about Trish. This meant that the car shuffle was off and that we would all fit into one car. Gina's concern over Trish was soon dispelled and by 6:00 pm Gina, Trish, Jan and I set off in Gina's 4WD. We stopped at Euroa where we had a pleasant meal at the Seven Creeks Hotel and picked up our fifth walker, Paul, then continued on to our Mountain Creek campsite, arriving at 11:30 pm and in bed by midnight.



Saturday saw us back on the road at 7:30 am and at our drop off point just short of Pyramid Hill by 9:00 am. Gina's plan was to park the car about 2.5 km back down the road to make our last day a little easier then catch us up while we walked slowly towards the end of the track to Pyramid Hill. The plan succeeded with a little too much exuberance on our part to walk slowly being offset by what we suspect was a fair amount of running on her part. From here we headed off track down the spur towards Dungey Gap then up again to The Razorback. This was a beautiful route through relatively open forest varying from tall and straight to short and gnarled. There was low re-growth in some burnt areas and other areas of deep forest litter, bracken and grass. All along we enjoyed tantalizing glimpses of Fainter and The Niggerheads through the trees.

Our first section of the Razorback was on a 4WD track along a grassy ridge through a graveyard of bleached tree skeletons with low re-growth and the occasional blackberry. The walking was easy, the views magnificent and the weather perfect and we started to

wonder why "the hard way" was included in the walk description. As we gained altitude the vehicle track ended and we continued along a walking track through increasingly sparse clumps of Snow gums. By this stage it was getting rather warm so we selected one of the last shady spots for lunch before climbing the increasingly bald ridge to the Feathertop summit, arriving at 2:30 pm. After admiring the extensive views we descended to the top of a long spur running NE towards the Kiewa River and followed it and a side spur towards a grassy patch we had seen where the road was on our side of the river and where we thought the blackberries may have been less severe. All went well to within a few hundred meters from the bottom where we encountered a tangle of dense undergrowth interspersed with blackberries and finally an eight meter wide bank of blackberries. It took us an hour to battle our way through and we were all pretty pleased with ourselves when, at 5:30 pm, we eventually broke out into a delightful grassy camping area with the river on one side and



a plentiful supply of ripe blackberries on the other. I was particularly pleased because I had been fighting cramp and some fever all afternoon (must drink more water) and the thought of climbing back up that steep slope through head high blackberries, with dwindling water supplies, to try again in some equally dubious location just didn't appeal.

Next morning Jan decided to take a more relaxed route back along the road and to meet us with the car at the gate across the track to Spring Saddle. The rest of us broke camp at 8:00 am, followed the road for a short distance, then headed up a spur to Mount Fainter South. At first we had to deal with the blackberries. They were not as dense as yesterday's and we managed to get through with the aid of secateurs and by walking along fallen trees. Next was a band of shoulder high Bracken followed by a large and extremely dense area of tall re-growth forest. This was fun to push through but slow going and we made use of fallen logs, wombat tracks (not much use due to inadequate head room, as usual), rocky areas and old logging tracks (virtually no use as they were all totally overgrown and heading in the wrong direction). This re-growth has been in response to fires that destroyed the area a few years ago and we speculated that it may become impenetrable in the next few years when the saplings become too stiff to push aside. We were lucky enough to see a lyrebird fly past at close range, an owl, a green winged something or other and various other birds that escape me now but that had Gina misty eyed and longing for her binoculars. I do however remember the large hairy turd that may have been left by a dog, and another of peculiar shape that Paul thought belonged to a deer. Towards the top we scrambled over numerous rocky outcrops, from which we enjoyed fantastic views, and reached the summit at 2:30 pm. A short distance down the other side we found water and set up camp in a nice spot at the base of a clump of Snow gums. We spent the warm evening bagging more peaks and relaxing around camp.

In the morning we headed down the 4WD track in light rain, past Bogong Jack Saddle, Bald Hill and Spring Saddle and were delighted to find Jan waiting at the designated pick up point two hours early. From there it was back to Melbourne with tea at Milawa.

John Fritze

Off trail in the Centre



Our trips go to wonderful places you will never find if you go on your own.

You certainly won't see them with another tour operator.

www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au

Our reputation has gained us permission to visit magnificent areas not open to the general public.

Watarrka. No other area in central Australia gives you the experience of EVERY major habitat (mountains, desert dunes, riverine, gorges) — and art sites as well. (Our website has a report one of our clients wrote about one of our Watarrka walks.)

West Macdonnells. Deep, rugged gorges, permanent waterholes and spectacular mountain views. Our walks include the only nearly permanent creek in the region.

Great weather. Crisp, clear days and cool to cold nights in winter, hot to warm days and cool nights in spring.

Want more information. Visit our website or ask for our brochure and trip notes.



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

Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355



50th Birthday

If you know **Peter McGrath** and would like to come to his 50th birthday party, RSVP by 19 April to:

petermcgrath@vtown.com.au
jackyverkade@hotmail.com

or call.

PREVIEWS OF DAY WALKS April – May 2006

WEDNESDAY WALK:

Garden of St Erth – Simmons Reef (Blackwood)

DATE	Wed 26 April 2006
STANDARD	Easy / Medium
DISTANCE	15 km
LEADER	Sandra Mutimer
AREA	Blackwood
MAP REFERENCE	Lerderderg & Werribee Gorges or Wombat State Forest Touring Guide, Meridian Productions

NB This walk will take place on the 4th Wednesday of the month rather than the usual 3rd.

We will meet at the Jack Cann Reserve outside the Garden of St Erth [Vicroads Reference F 9] at 10:15 am. This is 2kms along the Simmons Reef Rd., a left-hand turn off from the Greenvale – Trentham Rd., just before the Blackwood General Store.

The sandstone cottage on Garden of St Erth was built in 1860 when its owner made his fortune on the goldfields and is named after his birthplace in Cornwall. This is where Simmons Reef once existed and it was one of the small mining towns that developed in the Blackwood area after gold was discovered. We will see evidence of water races, tunnels and mine shafts from these days.

On our walk we will gradually make our way uphill from the Garden of St Erth to where there are good viewpoints of the surrounding countryside. After descending we will join the Lerderderg Heritage River Walk that gently winds its way along the Lerderderg Valley on a water race track and this will return us to the Garden of St Erth.

Please ring Sandra to book on this walk

DANDENONG EXPLORER:

Olinda Falls – Mt Evelyn

DATE	Sat 29 April 2006
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	14 km
LEADER	Stuart Hodgson
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	4:00pm
AREA	Northern Dandenongs
MAP REF	Melways P 122-120

I haven't finished the preview yet, but the plan is to do a circuit walk taking in tracks adjacent to Silvan Reservoir, the Aqueduct and Pipeline tracks, Mt Evelyn Forest, Olinda Creek and Olinda Falls. Technically this walk could probably be called "easy", but I've labelled it "easy/medium" because there are a couple of climbs and a little bit of bush-bashing between tracks. (in the past I've been criticised for classifying walks in this area as *easy*, when virgin bush and steep ascents may be involved). But what the heck, it 'aint called MT Dandenong for nothing! The finishing point is set in concrete – afternoon tea at an Olinda coffee shop – but the starting point is as yet undecided, so ring Stuart to book in and find out when and where to meet.

TOFS:

Bellbird Dell Reserve - Dandenong Creek

DATE	Thurs 4 May 2006
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	11 km
LEADER	Jean Giese
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	2.30pm
AREA	Dandenongs
MAP REF	Melways 62 & 63

We continue with our Autumn/Winter exploration of Metropolitan Melbourne's parks. This time we will link Bellbird Dell Reserve, Koomba Park and Campbell Croft Reserve with good views from a lookout and, hopefully, waterbirds in the Dandenong Creek wetlands, making an 11 km round trip.

Meet to start walking at 10:15am on corner of Philip St & Tucker Rd where there is an entrance to the Reserve. Melways 62K4.

Book with leader.

CYCLE TRIP:

Darebin & Merri Creeks

DATE	Saturday 6 May; 10:15am
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	Around 45km
LEADER	Ian Mair
TRANSPORT	Train / Private
RETURN TIME	Approx 4:30pm
AREA	Metropolitan Melbourne
MAP REF	Start/End Melways Map 31 C-10

For cyclists, the Darebin and Merri Creek valleys are two treasures within the outer-city boundaries. The planned trip will enable us to include parts of each in an enjoyable and varied circular route which takes in a range of riding conditions and views of outer Melbourne. The ride will start from the Alphington Station at 10:15am and travel north along the Darebin Creek as far as the Metropolitan Ring Road from where it will follow the Ring Road west to meet the Merri Creek for the trip home. An early lunch will be taken at Bundoora Park where light meals can be purchased or BYO. If there is interest we can have afternoon tea at Ceres Environment Park or the Fairfield Park Boathouse.

The ride is mostly on sealed bike paths and the occasional bit of road, however, there are a couple of short sections of gravel and mown grass which would be unsuitable for those with narrow rim road bikes.

Contact Ian Mair to register interest or see him at the clubrooms on the Wednesday before.



SUNDAY BUS:

Mt Donna Buang – Cement Creek

DATE	Sunday 7 May 2006
STANDARD	Easy/Medium & Medium+
DISTANCE	13 & 17 km approx.
LEADERS	Max Casley & Dion Marriott

TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blvd
 RETURN TIME 7:00pm
 AREA Warburton
 MAP REFERENCE Juliet South 1:25,000

Please note that there will be no "Easy" option on this day.

These walks are among the magnificent Mountain Ash forests that grow on the slopes of Mt Donna Buang high above the Yarra Valley near Warburton.

The Medium+ walk will start at Martyr Road in Warburton and will ascend approx 900m on the steep walking track to Mt Victoria (1106m) and then we have a fairly easy climb to Mt Donna Buang (1250m) This will not only give you excellent aerobic exercise but well-earned magnificent views from the lookout tower at the top. The return is shorter as we avoid Mt Victoria and follow the summit road a small way from Ten Mile Turntable to the top of the steep track. Descending back to Warburton will be fast and exciting, and will test your knees.

The Easy/Medium walk will start at Cement Creek and begin with a stroll around the Rainforest Gallery treetop platform. We shall climb 470m up a very steep track to the saddle between Mt Donna Buang (1250m) and Mt Boobyalla (1224m) and then on to Mt Donna Buang. We will have a break here and there will be opportunity to climb the lookout tower providing (hopefully) magnificent 360° views. The walk will then proceed to Mt Victoria (1106m) and finally descend the steep track down to Warburton and the waiting bus.



SUNDAY BUS:

Anglesea – Pt Addis – Ironbark Basin

(This walk replaced Anglesea Heathlands Walk).

DATE Sunday 14 May 2006
 STANDARD Easy Medium/Medium
 DISTANCE 14 & 18 km
 LEADER Mohammad Akbari & David Elias
 AREA Anglesea
 TRANSPORT Bus from Southbank
 RETURN TIME Before 7:00pm
 MAP REFERENCE Anglesea 1:25000

This is a walk along the Anglesea and Bell Beach with an extension to Jan Juc. The walk takes in interesting sites: the surf at Bells Beach, the source of the pigment that coated the 'red rattler' trains of yesteryear, the rich flora and bird life of the Ironbark Basin, relics of aboriginals along the coast, the lighthouse at Pt Addis among others. Depending on the state of the tide we may walk along the beach or on the cliff tops. This is a beautiful coastal walk with many lovely views. At the end of walk if we have time we may chill out in a local café, see you on walk.

WEDNESDAY WALK:

Mt Worth

DATE Wed 17 May 2006
 STANDARD Easy/Medium
 DISTANCE 14 km
 LEADER Stuart Hodgson
 TRANSPORT Private

RETURN TIME 5:00pm
 AREA Mt Worth State Park (South of Warragul)
 MAP REF Vicmap – Mt Worth & Allambee 1:25,000

Mt Worth State Park encompasses 1000 hectares of western Strzelecki rainforest with spectacular views not only during the walk but also on the way there and back, especially along Grand Ridge Road. It's a circular walk which includes romantic attractions such as Moonlight Creek, Waterfall Bower, and Giant's Circuit. From panoramic heights we shall view luxuriant glades and towering mountain ash, with waterfalls and open meadows. Look out for a large variety of mosses and ferns, including the kangaroo fern. Sadly, in a bygone era the area was extensively logged, but the remains of the mills and machinery do add an interesting extra dimension to the walk. Meeting point will probably be at Moonlight Creek picnic area, 22 km from Warragul, but for final details and booking, ring Stuart .

DANDENONGS EXPLORER:

Wicks Reserve - Doongalla

DATE Sat 27 May 2006
 STANDARD Easy
 DISTANCE About 10 km
 LEADER Alan Hall
 AREA Doongalla
 MAP REFERENCE Melways 65 H8

Meet at 10:30 am at Wicks Reserve Melways 65 H8. We will then walk up to the site of the historic Doongalla homestead for a reasonably early lunch. Some of the uphill track sections are very steep. After lunch, guess what? More climbing (until we reach a possible source of Dandenong Creek). From there it is basically downhill then a road or two back to the cars and the optional Café.

TOFS:

Fairfield Park – Yarra Bend Park

DATE Thurs 1st June 2006
 STANDARD Easy
 DISTANCE 11 km
 LEADER Jean Giese
 TRANSPORT Private
 RETURN TIME 2:30pm
 MAP REF Melways 30/44

We will be on bush tracks for most of this 11 km walk, following the Yarra River upstream and down as it wanders around Fairfield & Yarra Bend Parks, crossing it twice on footbridges.

Meet in the parking area, Fairfield Park, Melways 30 J12 to commence walking at 10:15am. Book with the leader.

PREVIEWS OF WEEKEND WALKS April – May 2006



PACK CARRY:

Mt Buller from the Howqua

DATE	5-7 May 2006
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	22 km
LEADER	Trish Elmore
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	9:30pm
AREA	Mt Buller
MAP REF	Vicmap Buller Sth 1:25,000 or Buller Sterling Outdoor Leisure 1: 25,000

I plan to camp Friday night at Sheeppyard Flat. Saturday morning drive to the start of the walk at Eight Mile Flat. Here we climb approx 1,000 metres off track over Little Mt Buller and camp on the south side of Mt Buller. Hopefully there will be an opportunity to explore around the summit area if people are interested. Sunday we will descend via Four Mile Spur on a track to the Howqua river then aback along the river track to Eight Mile Flat. Sufficient warm clothes in preparation for any type of weather are essential for this weekend. Hopefully you will join me for a challenging but rewarding walk in a beautiful alpine area.

BASE CAMP:

Beechworth

DATE	19-21 May 2006
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	12 to 15 km each day
LEADER	David Arnold
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Approx. 7:00pm Sunday
AREA	Beechworth, 3 hrs NE of Melb.
MAP REF	Beechworth - Albury - Wangaratta Adventure Map (Rooftop Maps)

An easy weekend, with dinner on Saturday night at a Beechworth pub (although those who insist on cooking with their MSR or Trangia back at the caravan park will be able to do so!)

Saturday's walk is likely to be along the gorge to Woolshed Falls, and on Sunday we will do another walk in one of the many reserves and forests in the area. Leader will need to have numbers as soon as possible in order to book with the caravan park and hotel.

TRACK MAINTENANCE BASE CAMP:

Grampians NP Track Work Weekend

DATE	12-14 May 2006
STANDARD	Easy / Medium
DISTANCE	15 km
LEADER	Rod Novak
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	9:00pm Sunday evening
AREA	Grampians NP
MAP REF	VicMap Northern & Southern Grampians

This is a VicWalk Track Group Weekend doing walking track maintenance and repairs. The Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs (VicWalk) have an active volunteer track work group helping to keep the more remote walking tracks open and in good order. We will be assisting the Rangers and the Grampians Walking Tracks Support Group with track work on The Fortress and Mt Thackeray on the western side of the Grampians. Contact Rod Novak for more information. Base camp equipment required and Riggers gloves and boots are recommended. Petrol money estimate is \$70.