



# THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 cents

Edition 670 | DECEMBER 2006

## Federation Weekend

### VicWalk 2006 - Bright and Beyond

*Jan Palich, President*

I recently attended the Federation Weekend which was held from Friday 17 to Sunday 19 November and situated around Bright in Victoria.

Bright township is the most beautiful entrance to Buffalo, Mt Hotham and Falls Creek. The weekend was hosted by Border Bushwalking Club, Wangaratta Out and About Club, Benalla Bushwalking Club and the Warby Range Bushwalkers.

Melbourne Bushies had over 40 members attending the weekend and I need to give a big thank you to Max Casley for organising the accommodation and bookings.

I must also give hearty congratulations to the organisers of the weekend as it was extremely well thought-out, with a vast number of different walks that suited us all. The BBQ on Saturday evening was well attended and it is great way to share bushwalking companionship with other walkers from all over the state.

Well done to the regional clubs involved and thank you to the Melbourne Bushies that made the effort to travel to Bright for the weekend.

For those of you, who missed this great weekend, watch out for the Federation Day walk next year in Healesville on 21 October 2007.

## Your Chance to Support Your Club

### Questions & Answer and Discussion Forum

Tuesday, 23 January 2007, 8.00 pm

### Introduction to Leading a Sunday Walk

- Come along to the clubrooms to find out just what is involved in leading a Sunday Bus Walk.
- Listen to a panel of current leaders talk about various aspects of leading
- Ask questions and listen to, or take part in, a discussion session
- We hope you'll be tempted to have a go at leading – your call of course
- Leading is fun, not difficult and very personally rewarding

The club is seeking new Sunday leaders to share the fun and work load of providing two walks every Sunday for you and other members and visitors to enjoy. People's circumstances change and we have lost a few leaders who need to be replaced. If we have a good pool of willing leaders, prepared to lead say two walks a year, four if they are very keen, or one a year if they are time poor, the load is shared, everyone has fun, no-one is burdened with too much and the Sunday Bus Walks just hum along.

We also looking for a Sunday Walks Secretary and Assistant Sunday Walks Secretary for 2007 from within the ranks of Sunday walkers. These roles are made easy if there are ample leaders. We will be following up this forum with a navigation course at the end of March.

So come along. Please register your intention to attend with one of the following committee members:

- Jopie (Walks Secretary)
- Paul (Secretary)
- Jan (Our President)



## Melbourne Bushwalkers Christmas break-up party

Wednesday, 20 December 2006

7 pm to 10 pm

Trades Hall, Cnr Russell & Victoria Sts

The main bar will be open exclusively for Melbourne Bushwalkers to purchase drinks ... please bring a plate of your favourite food to share.

Members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc meet on Wednesday evenings between 7.00 and 9.00 pm in the club rooms at:

**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

[www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au](http://www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au)



The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc (**The News**) is published monthly, and is the official newsletter of Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

Editor: Christine Salau

Walk previews, walk reviews, articles, poems, news items, photographs of club events, reports of new gear, book/movie reviews, letters to the editor, advertisements, etcetera are always welcome. However, 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 club rooms
- Posting a diskette or hand written material to The Editor at GPO Box 1751, Melbourne 3001
- **The most preferred method is emailing unformatted text file to [news@melbournebushwalkers.org.au](mailto:news@melbournebushwalkers.org.au)**

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

Only advertisements that directly relate to bushwalking (eg gear, maps, trips, tours etc) are accepted.

**Advertising rates (artwork ready)**

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

(Members advertisements are accepted free of charge)

**Club rooms Duty Roster**

13 December	Mark Heath and Peter Havlicek
20 December	Carol Sisson and David Laing
27 December	Club rooms closed
03 January	Linda Larkin and John Fritze
10 January	Jan Palich and Fay Dunn

**Next Committee Meeting**

Monday, 8 January 2007, 7.00 pm, in the club rooms.

# Navigation Lesson

## LEARNING NAVIGATION – THE FINISHING TOUCHES

This is the third of a four part mini series on the basics of navigation – an attempt to de-mystify it and show you how easy it really is. In October, I explained the most important technique in navigation - how you can quickly and easily orient a map and navigate with it. Next was an explanation of the norths; true, grid and magnetic. The remaining skills that you need to be a top notch gun navigator are as follows:

1. Understand contours and be able to interpret them. They are those brown curvy lines on the map drawn through points of equal height above sea level They denote landform features such as hills, valleys, ridges, spurs, saddles (a low point between two higher points on a ridge) and knolls (a bump on a spur). Nobody needs to tell you of course that creeks are blue, vegetation is green and roads are in red and foot tracks are in black. A quick look at a topographical map will soon confirm that.
2. Understand Scale. Every map is a scaled down representation of a piece of the earth. A scale of 1:100,000 means that 1 cm on the map represents 100,000 cm (which is 1 kilometre) on the ground. On a 1:25,000 map, 4 cm represents a km. The scale is always stated on the map and you will also find a scale bar showing how long a km is on the map
3. Understand grid lines and be able to give a six figure grid reference. Grid lines are the up and down and horizontal thin black lines on the map. They are generally 1 km apart on 1:25, 1:50 and 1:100,000 scale maps, which are the ones we mostly use for bushwalking, and they are very useful for estimating distances and specifying a location on the map. We also use the vertical ones to measure directions (or bearings) from using a compass. A six figure grid reference specifies a point to within 100 metres. The first three figures are the two figures at the bottom of the vertical grid lines plus an estimate of the tenths of a grid square to the point you are specifying. These numbers are called the easting because they increase eastward. The last three figures are the northing, the two figures level with the horizontal grid lines plus an estimate of the tenths of the grid square and they increase going northwards. Eastings come first because E comes before N alphabetically! A GPS unit can tell you what your grid reference is if you push all the right buttons and it can see enough satellites.
4. Be able to use a compass to measure grid bearings (directions) on the map and magnetic bearings on the ground and be able to convert from one to the other. This will be the topic of my next and final article next month.

In the meantime, here are two sources on the internet that I encourage you to look up. They will reinforce what you have read here and also have very informative diagrams which my article lacks

1. The excellent series of 8 navigation articles written by Quentin Tibballs who was our training co-ordinator till recently and which are on our club website at [http://www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au/activities/Walks/MBW\\_training\\_navigation1.htm](http://www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au/activities/Walks/MBW_training_navigation1.htm)
2. The also excellent publication produced by Geoscience Australia called "Map Reading Guide – How to use Topographic Maps" freely available to download or read from [http://www.ga.gov.au/image\\_cache/GA7194.pdf](http://www.ga.gov.au/image_cache/GA7194.pdf)

In addition the club will be running a Navigation course in late March (dates in the Autumn Program). This will consist of one theory evening and a practice day in the bush. Stay tuned for the next and final article next month

*Jopie Bodegraven*



## TOFS EDITHVALE SEAFORD WETLANDS

DATE Thursday 7 December 2006  
 STANDARD Easy  
 LEADER Alister Rowe  
 TRANSPORT Private  
 Telephone Alister Rowe for further information about this walk.



## Sunday bus DANDENONG RANGES TRACK (SASSAFRAS CK)

DATE Sunday 10 December 2006  
 STANDARD Easy and Easy/Medium  
 DISTANCE 16 km and 12 km  
 LEADERS Les Southwell and Phil Geschke  
 TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blvd  
 RETURN TIME 5.30 pm  
 AREA Dandenong Ranges National Park, Southern area

The E/M walk starts at Sassafras village, and follows the Dandenong Ranges Tourist Track along the Sassafras Creek, via Beagley's Bridge and Grant's Picnic Ground, where the E walk starts. It continues on to Baynes Park and Menzies Ck to rejoin the bus at Emerald township, and finishes up at one of the outdoor cafes if time permits.

There is little climbing involved, and the track is generally sheltered among the tall eucalypts and ferns.



## Cycling SOUTHBANK TO WILLIAMSTOWN & BEYOND

DATE Saturday 9 December 2006  
 STANDARD Easy and delightful  
 DISTANCE 40-50 km  
 LEADER Lynda Larkin  
 TRANSPORT Train/car

Meeting at Southbank at 10am, we will pass through the Docklands and head along Footscray Road to pick up the coastal trail into Williamstown. We will visit wetlands, which are home for pelicans, herons and other water birds, and ride on to Truganina Park.

A feature of the park is the 100 Steps to Federation, a stone staircase of basalt rock recycled from when the area was a clean-fill tip. At the summit of the Steps is a sculpture, the Time Beacon, by artist Cameron Robbins. Panoramic views of the Bay can be enjoyed from this vantage point.

We will retrace our steps back to Williamstown, catch the punt across the river under Westgate Bridge and ride back to the city via Fishermans Bend and Port Melbourne.

Bring lunch if you like, but there are plenty of really good "waterholes" along the way. Lunch in Williamstown is a treat and great views of the City from a western viewpoint as you ride into Williamstown.

## Cheese and Wine Evening



Not till next year:  
 Wednesday  
 24 January 2007 in  
 the Club rooms  
 7.00 to 9.00 pm

### WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

# Aboriginal Land



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Willis's Walkabouts 12 Carrington St Millner NT 0810 Email: [walkabout@ais.net.au](mailto:walkabout@ais.net.au)

Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355



## Wednesday walk MARIBYRNONG RIVER MEANDER

DATE	Wednesday 13 December 2006
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	15 km, which can be reduced
LEADER	Sandra Mutimer
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Before 4.00 pm
AREA	Along the Maribyrnong River, through Aberfeldie, Maribyrnong, Footscray, Kensington, Flemington, Ascot Vale West, Moonee Ponds, Essendon West, Avondale Heights, Braybrook
MAP REF	Melway Maps 28, 42, 27

\*\*\*Please note, this Wednesday walk will be on the 2nd Wednesday of December not the usual 3rd Wednesday for these walks.\*\*\*

We will meet at 10:15 am at the relatively new carpark in Afton St, Aberfeldie/Moonee Ponds, just around the corner from The Boulevard, where the footbridge is. [ Melway Map 28, A5 ]

Formerly known as Saltwater Creek the Maribyrnong River has an interesting history. Much of this relates to the industrial development of Melbourne - bluestone quarries, foundries, stock saleyards and abattoirs, meat canning works, an ordinance factory, pipe making works and other industries which caused major pollution to the river. At the same time the parkland alongside the river attracted people to places such as Scotchman's Hill overlooking Flemington Racecourse in Footscray Gardens, a wine hall, Riverview Tea Gardens, a dance hall, the Anglers' Hotel, swimming holes, motor launch trips and row boat hire amongst these. The Maribyrnong River could be described as an ugly duckling but it's interesting to see it - the good, bad and ugly - in context with its history.

On our Maribyrnong River Meander we will be walking downstream and then return to where the cars are parked early afternoon before travelling upstream and once again returning to the cars. Access to both sides of the river is not always possible but we will try to do this as much as possible along the way.

I would have liked to have included a cruise along the river on the Somerville family's Blackbird and will try to arrange one some time in the future, it's thoroughly recommended.

Some might like to meet for breakfast before the walk at Poyntons Nursery in The Boulevard, Aberfeldie/Moonee Ponds [Melway Map 28, C6] from 8:30 am onwards. Please notify me beforehand, Monday at the latest.

At the end of the walk we will have the opportunity to have a bit of a get together but you will need to find out more details about this from me.

For anyone who would like to try to reach the meeting point by not so easy, but I will be able to meet them at some point nearby if the arrangements fit in with my plans.

Please contact me, Sandra Mutimer, if you would like more details about this walk, but do not leave it until the Tuesday beforehand because I will be difficult to contact then.



## Sunday bus CAPE SCHANK - RYE OCEAN BEACH

DATE	Sunday 17 December 2006
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	15 and 17 km approx.
LEADERS	Liz Moore and Jacky McGrath
TRANSPORT	Bus - Southbank Blvd

This walk is a very interesting beach walk with great coastal vistas, slices of coastal Ti-tree and beach. Both walks commence at Cape Schanck, the Easy/Medium walk visiting the boardwalk, the Easy beginning at the Pines Picnic Area.

The track is through beautiful coastal forest. The Ti-tree gives way to beach. St Andrews, and Gunnamatta beckon, before arriving at Rye Back Beach, a most beautiful beach to finish the walk. Both walks get to experience first hand an interesting sight - Boag Rock - Melbourne Water pumps close to 70% of Melbourne's sewage into the water here each day.

This walk is an interesting slice of coastal Victoria, giving an insight into the marvellous and beautiful back beach areas of the peninsula. You will enjoy it. We hope you can come along.



## TOFS KALORAMA, MT DANDENONG

DATE	Thursday 4 January 2007
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	10 km
LEADER	Bob Steel
MAP REF	Melway, maps 52 and 66

We will start walking at the Kalorama Five Ways. Easiest route is along Canterbury Road to Montrose then up the Mt Dandenong Tourist Road to Kalorama. Meet at 10.15 outside the café. Get there early if you want a coffee before starting the walk.

We will walk along tracks to the Mt Dandenong Observatory and Bistro where we can have morning tea. Very nice bistro, I had a lovely lunch there recently. There will be time to wander around the gardens near the Observatory. They were developing a Hedge Maze when I last visited, which may be open by January. There is also an English Garden and a Wishing Tree!

We will continue past the TV towers to Burkes Lookout Reserve where we will have lunch. We continue down the Channel 10 track, to pick up Dactite track and Fireline track to return to Kalorama. Lets hope it is a clear day for views over the city and the Bay.

Carry plenty of water as it could be HOT! Afternoon tea will be in the café at Kalorama. Phone me to let me know you are coming so I will know to wait if you are running late.



## Sunday bus TALLAROOK STATE FOREST - WARRAGUL ROCKS

DATE	Sunday, 7 January 2007
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	15 km and 18.5 approx.
LEADERS	Graeme Walkden and Cameron Durrant
TRANSPORT	Bus - Southbank Blvd
AREA	Tallarook, Strath Creek
MAP REF	<i>RoofTop</i> Tallarook Forest Activities 1:50,000

We have made this walk shorter and easier. Consequently we can leave Southbank Boulevard at 9 am and still return by 7 pm. Most of the walk is under the canopy of the Tallarook State Forest. The highlight of the walk is the superb view of the Goulburn Valley from Warragul Rocks. The Tallarook State Forest lies between Tallarook and Strath Creek. The forest encompasses Mt Hickey and Falls ..../..



## Sunday bus ... continued ...

### TALLAROOK STATE FOREST - WARRAGUL ROCKS

DATE Sunday, 7 January 2007

.../. Creek Reservoir. The latter began supplying water to Seymour in 1895, but no longer does so. Warragul Rocks is on private property near the north-east boundary of the state forest.

Both groups walk north to Warragul Rocks. Continuing northward, we descend 230 metres in 2.3 km to reach Falls Creek Reservoir. After skirting the reservoir, we walk south to Falls Creek Road.

The Easy group continues southward on Falls Creek Road, climbing 120 metres in 2.4 km. A more gradual climb takes this group back to the bus.

The Easy/Medium group enjoys the challenge of a 140 metre climb in 900 metres. After that, undulating tracks take this group back to the bus.

If the weather is hot, be sure to bring sunscreen, a sun hat and at least 2 litres of water.

Because the clubrooms will be closed between Christmas and New Year, the leaders will take bookings in the clubrooms on 20 December 2006 (until 8 pm) and 3 January 2007 (normal hours).



## Sunday bus

### WONTHAGGI HEATHLANDS AND WETLANDS

DATE Sunday, 14 January 2007

STANDARD Easy and Easy/Medium

DISTANCE 13 km and 16 km

LEADERS Halina Sarbinowski and Dion Marriott

TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blvd

MAP REF Parks Notes-Bass Coast Parks & Reserves

From the discovery of black coal by William Hovell at Cape Patterson in 1826 this area's history has been heavily aligned with the coal industry. At Wonthaggi's peak there were over 10,000 residents and almost 2,000 miners at work in the pits. The last coal mine closed in 1968 and Wonthaggi is now an important rural centre. These diverse walks cover a fair slice of Wonthaggi's coal rich past, as well as visiting the beautiful Wonthaggi Heathland and Coastal Reserve. A stretch of lonely beach adds to its appeal.



## Wednesday walk

### MURRINDINDI AREA

DATE Wednesday 17 January 2007

STANDARD Easy Medium

DISTANCE 17 km

LEADER Jerry Grandage

TRANSPORT Private

MAP REF Map - Taggerty South, 1:25000

Last time I led a Wednesday walk it rained most of the day so according to the law of averages we will have good weather this time. This walk will show you the diversity of scenery in the area. We will walk south along Camp Creek Road to the Cascade area, then north along part of the Murrindindi River walk, up the Boroondara walking track and then down to the main road past the Wilhelmina Falls, which might even have some water flowing.



## Sunday Bus

### FOREST CAVES - CAPE WOOLAMAI

DATE 28 January 2007 (Australia Day weekend)

LEADER Doug Langton

Details of this walk to be contained in the News January edition.



## Cycling

### MARIBYRNONG RIVER - BRIMBANK PARK

DATE Saturday 20 January 2007

STANDARD Easy/Medium

DISTANCE 40 km

LEADER Ian Mair

DEPARTUE TIME 9:30am at Footscray Station (Hyde Street)

AREA Between Footscray Station and Brimbank Park

MAP REF Melway 42 (D-5) to Melway 14 (H-9)

If you like riding through bushland by a river on a winding gravel trail; have an interest in history and the redevelopment of part of Melbourne's industrial heritage into extensive wetlands and new residential villages; or if you have an eye for engineering and want to see some fine old metal bridges, then come along.

The ride will start outside Footscray Railway Station on the east side (Hyde Street) where there is ample paid parking and pick up the river trail at Shepherd Bridge. The first stage of the ride is on well made sealed tracks with no hills. Reaching Essendon West there is a short but sharp rise up to a spectacular lookout over the river valley and back to Melbourne. The track then descends sharply again before we move onto gravel track for the remainder of the journey to Brimbank Park where we will stop for lunch. The Parks Victoria visitor centre can cater for those who don't want to carry their lunch or just want that extra coffee hit. There will be time to explore the Park and its fascinating history before returning by the same route, end about 3.30 pm. Contact Ian Mair to let him know if you plan to go.



## Sunday bus

### BIG PATS CREEK - STARLING GAP

DATE Sunday, 21 January 2007

STANDARD Easy and Easy/Medium

DISTANCE 13 km and 18 km approx.

LEADERS Peter Hogan and David Laing

AREA South east of Warburton

MAP REF Ada River 8022-2-4 1:25k

Both walks will start from where the Big Pats Creek - Starlings Gap walking track crosses Burns Rd. The track follows an old timber tram line, is shaded and easy walking. It passes through tall timber (for these times) and tree ferns and is pleasant summer walking.

At the Ezard Mill site the easy/medium group turn off to walk up to Smyth Creek Road and across to the historic Richard's Tramline track. This involves a few steep climbs and the walk finishes near Big Pats creek picnic ground.

The Easy group continues on to Starlings Gap. This section has many logs across the track and requires some agility. There is also overhanging branches and sword grass, so long pants and long sleeves are recommended. At Starlings Gap some of the old timber hauling machinery can be seen. The group will back track to the Ezard Mill site and turn down to meet the bus at Burn Rd.



## TOFS

### BLAIRGOWRIE - SORRENTO

DATE Thursday 1 February 2007

STANDARD Easy

DISTANCE 10 km

LEADER Alister Rowe

Meet at 10.15am in the small car park near "number Sixteen" beach, Melway ref 167 J10. We will walk around the cliff tops and through the bush to the Diamond Bay car park, Melway ref 157 B12 at about 3pm. A car shuffle will be necessary, so please arrive early. This is a scenic walk with lots of good views.

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# A few words from the Walks Secretary

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## YOU TOO CAN BE A SUNDAY WALK LEADER

The Sunday bus walks are very popular and give many of us a great deal of fun, fitness and happy memories. They are the result of a lot of voluntary work by a dedicated band of leaders backed up by the committee, including the Walks Secretary (that's currently me) and Assistant Walks secretary (that's currently Peter). To ensure the longtime continuation of this wonderful system we need to ensure that the jobs of all the volunteers remain enjoyable, which means lots of leaders to share the fun and the workload. This is where you come in. We invite you to consider joining the team and leading or co-leading a Sunday walk. Let's look in more detail at why we need you, what skills you need to be a leader and what resources are in place to help. But first let me tell you what most leaders know and why most of us lead:



Leading is fun, not difficult, and personally rewarding.

### **Why do we need lots of leaders?**

We need lots of willing leaders for two reasons.

Firstly, to ensure that no individual leaders get overloaded. What we ask of leaders is that they lead or co-lead two walks a year or up to four (one each program) if they are very keen. If you are pressed for time we would even appreciate it if you could lead just one walk a year.

Secondly, to ensure that the Sunday walks secretary's job is easy and enjoyable.

After the AGM in February we will have a new Sunday Walks Secretary. This is a new position, one of several to share the workload of organising the club's various activities. His/her sole responsibility will be the overall management of the Sunday Walks. He/she will be assisted by an assistant Sunday Walks Secretary, a Walks Planning Committee, and of course be supported by the rest of the committee and me, as the retiring Walks Secretary. His/her position is crucial and it is vital that his/her job is made easy by having a sufficient pool of willing leaders to draw on. A happy Sunday Walks Secretary means a full smooth-running Sunday walks programme.

### **What skills do you need to become a walk leader?**

You need only two basic skills:

Firstly, basic navigation, being the ability to orient a map and to interpret the map. If you have read and understood the article entitled "The Easy Way to Navigate" on page 2 of the October News and can orient the map using that technique, and can read a Melways and basic maps, you can preview and lead most walks. Understanding contours is very useful, although some track and beach walks don't even need that. More advanced navigation and experience are of course very useful, especially on off-track walks. We will be running a navigation evening followed up by a Saturday training day in late March.

Secondly, basic common sense, which is something we all should have anyway. This covers a broad range of things but included under this would be patience, concern for the welfare and enjoyment of everyone on the walk and a desire to have a fun day.

Then it's just a matter of following the standard procedures the club has for leading walks and hey presto! You're a leader!

We do not require you to have first aid knowledge. First aid knowledge is always useful and we encourage all walkers to learn some first aid. The club sometimes organizes a first aid course, however that is a separate issue. I expect that very few of our current leaders would have a formal first aid qualification.

### **What resources does the club provide?**

We are running an "Introduction to Leading a Sunday Walk" evening on the 23rd of January which is advertised elsewhere in this News. We will be covering relevant topics and there will be lots of opportunity for questions, answers and discussion. We invite and encourage all potential new leaders and existing leaders to attend. There is no obligation to go on to lead. We of course hope that after what you hear and learn at the evening you will be tempted to have a go at co-leading a walk and then go on to being a main leader, but that decision of course remains yours.

We will also be running a Basic Navigation Course in late March. This will consist of a theory evening followed up by a navigation training day in some suitable bush area.

We have a four page brochure entitled "Leading a Day Walk" which covers pretty much everything you would need to know. It is available in soft copy and we will make hard copies available as well. We have a "Leaders Guide" card for you to carry in your pocket for reference, then there are the previous walk reports, the club map library, other leaders and more. We also provide reimbursement for use of your car in previewing the walk and leaders get a free seat on the bus on the day of the walk.

**So please consider it. If you enjoy going on Sunday bus trips with the club, have a go at leading. Help share the workload, have fun and ensure the long-term continuation of this wonderful activity.**

*Jopie Bodegraven*

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### **MEMBERSHIP STATS:**

Life Members	13	
Honorary Members	11	
Single memberships	340	
Family memberships	112	(= 2x 56)
<b>Total membership</b>	<b>476</b>	
This time last year	480	



**Pack carry**  
**MT McDONALD - THE NOBS**

DATE 8-10 December 2006  
 STANDARD Medium  
 DISTANCE 30 km  
 LEADER Lesley Hale  
 TRANSPORT Private  
 RETURN TIME Late Sunday  
 AREA Great Dividing Range, Alpine National Park  
 MAP REF A bit of the area is in lots of maps:  
 NatMap 1:100 000 Howitt; Mansfield  
 VicMap 1: 50,000 Tamboritha-Moroka  
 VicMap 1: 25 000 Skene North  
 VMTC 1: 50 000 Watersheds of King,

Howqua, Jamieson Rivers

This high ridge walk offers an opportunity to experience the dramatic scenery of the Victorian Alps: extensive views, deep valleys, snowgum forests, and snow grass meadows above the tree line. Bring gear for all weathers; water-divining skills might also be useful.

We start travelling on Friday: 220 km northeast to Jamieson (at least 3 hours); then a further slow 60 km to the start of the walk at Low Saddle (900 m), on the Alpine Walking Track.

The circuit takes us to Mt MacDonald (1620 m) and along the ridge to camp at the Nobs (1490 m) where we hope to find water nearby (but may have to descend to fetch it from the creek further below). On Sunday we descend the Nobs Spur to Barkly River (East Branch) and back up to the cars at the Saddle.

We start the walk with another 8 or so folk who are walking a further week along the Alpine Walking Track with Gina Hopkins. They are hoping that our group can assist in transporting them here to the start of their "through" walk. 4WD vehicles will be most welcome for the last sector of our travel to the Saddle.

For more information please contact me.



**Pack carry**  
**AAWT - MT McDONALD - MT HOTHAM**

DATE 8-17 December 2006  
 STANDARD Medium/Hard  
 DISTANCE 110km (including side trips)  
 LEADER Gina Hopkins  
 TRANSPORT Private  
 AREA Alpine National Park  
 MAP REF Vicmap 1:25,000 Skene North; Vicmap  
 1:50,000 Tamboritha-Moroka, Howitt-  
 Selwyn, Dargo Plains-Cobungra

This section of the Australian Alps Walking Track covers some of the best parts of the Victorian high country - Mt McDonald, Mt Howitt, Razor - Viking, to name a few. It is possible to visit this area in several weekend trips, and the Club has done this, but this walk will link all the bits together.

We'll begin from Low Saddle, 8 km south of Mt McDonald, and for the first day we will have the company of the weekend walkers. We say farewell to them at the Nobs, and then continue on to Mt Clear, Mt Magdala, Crosscut Saw, the Viking, Mt Selwyn, Mt Murray and onto Hotham. Water may be difficult to find in some places given the dry conditions we have had, but hopefully we'll get some more rain by then. Some days will be fairly short with optional side trips, like to the Razor.

This is a joint walk with the VMTC walking club. We will meet up with their weekend walkers at the end of the walk at Mt Murray and the Twins. Transport logistics are by no means certain at this stage and will depend on final numbers, but I expect that petrol costs will be in the order of \$90 to \$100 per person (more than my initial estimate!).

Number of walkers will be limited to 10. I have already received expressions of interest from that number, but if you are interested I will put your name on a waiting list.



**Federation of Victoria Walking Club**

## **FVWC CONSERVATION & TRACK MAINTENANCE**

### **Relay walk along the Australian Alps Walking Track**

National Park agencies associated with the Australian Alps walking Track are planning a celebratory relay walk in six sections for March-April 2007, starting from Walhalla. Parks staff will be involved and will help transport experienced bushwalkers with their own equipment and food to and from each of the sections. More details are available from Mark Heath.

The following work days have been scheduled.

- |                   |   |                  |
|-------------------|---|------------------|
| • 26-28 Jan 2007  | <b>Mossbed Rehabilitation, Bogong High Plains</b> | Steve Robertson; |
| • March 2007      | <b>Condon's Track</b>                             | Steve Robertson; |
| • April 2007      | <b>Powelltown</b>                                 | Dave Rimmer;     |
| • 5-7 May 2007    | <b>Riggall's Spur</b>                             | Jim Harker;      |
| • 26-27 May       | <b>Boronia Peak, Grampians</b>                    | Rod Novak        |
| • 31 May – 3 June | <b>Otways</b>                                     | Jim Harker;      |

## CHRISTMAS TRIPS



### Base camp DAY WALKS IN TASMANIA

DATE	26 December to 6 January 2007
STANDARD	Easy Medium
LEADER	Peter McGrath
DISTANCE	15-17 kms each day
TRANSPORT	Spirit of Tasmania

Tasmania is a splendid place at Christmas time - full of romance, and just that bit cooler than the mainland.

We will visit Cradle Mountain, Lake St Clair and Mt Field National Parks. We will enjoy 6 day walks. Accommodation will be cabin style (approximate cost \$40 per night).

It is planned we will depart 7:00 pm Tuesday 26 Dec 06 and travel overnight on the Spirit of Tasmania, returning 7:00 am Saturday 6 Jan 07. Travel will be via car, with car groups allocated. Numbers are limited to 15. We are encouraging people to travel by Spirit of Tasmania, as we need cars once we are over there.

This walk will close on 1 December 2006 as we need to finalise accommodation by then. Please email if you would like to come, or see me in the clubrooms.



### Pack carry BLUE RAG RA-WONGUNGURRA RIVER

DATE	26 December to 1 January 2007
STANDARD	Hard
LEADER	Jopie Bodegraven
TRANSPORT	Private cars
RETURN TIME	Afternoon on New Years Day
AREA	Alps south west of Mt Hotham
MAP REF	Dargo Plains – Cobungra 1:50,000

There is a range south west of Mt Hotham called the Blue Rag Range which is a quite spectacular ridge walk with a high point of 1718 metres. Draining the basin between this and the main divide to the north is one of Victoria's true wilderness rivers, the Wongungurra.

Our plan is to spend a day walking out on this spectacular range and dropping down a steep spur into the Wongungurra headwaters, then following the river downstream for 3 days, and finally on day 5 with light packs, climbing back up onto the Blue Rag Range and walking along its length back to the cars. It is a circuit walk so no car shuffle is required.

Last Easter we crossed the Wongungurra part way along the section I intend exploring. It was beautiful and made me want to see more. In addition we exited along the Blue Rag Range cramped up in the back of a Land Cruiser stuffed full of people and we couldn't appreciate the beautiful scenery that we were getting tantalising glimpses of. I longed to come back and walk it so I could drink it all in properly. I also have an article from a Wild Magazine describing a descent down the river and it sounded both challenging and very interesting.

But be warned. This is not a trip for the faint hearted. It is thoroughly exploratory The river sections are only about 5 ½, 6 and 4 km a day but it will be slow and rough with much wading in possibly cold water with the chance of falling in. Good rock-hopping skills are essential. The second and third campsites on the river are OK but the first night's camp on the river is a totally unknown quantity.

Contact me if you want to join me on this adventure.



### Pack carry SNOWY MOUNTAINS (Kosciusko – Jagungal area)

DATE	23 December to 1 January 2007
STANDARD	Medium
LEADER	Jerry Grandage
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Snow Mountains, NSW
MAP REF	1:25,000 Perisher V Valley, Geehi Dam, Jagungal

This is a trip for people who like to spend Christmas Day on the track. The overall format will be similar to Ralph Blake's trip last Christmas. Following the drive up to Charlotte's Pass on 23 Dec., the first three days will involve day walks in the Main Range from a fixed base located a few kilometres from the roadhead. We will then do a five day pack-carry which will hopefully take in Jagungal, but the precise route will depend on the number of cars that we have and also on whether a certain key section of the track has been opened by management after being severely burnt in the January 2003 bushfires. Whatever we do, you will see a section of Australia's highest land at its magnificent best and you will also witness the post-fire recovery.

If you think you might be interested please let me know as soon as possible, preferably by the end of November – this will assist in planning the trip. Also let me know if you're interested only in the pack-carry, commencing the morning of Dec. 27, and not for the first three days.



### Base camp CONGLOMERATE CREEK-BRYCE'S GORGE(Walk-in)

DATE	26 December to 3 January 2007
STANDARD	Easy Medium
LEADER	Lance Mobbs
TRANSPORT	Private cars
AREA	Alps north of Licola
MAP REF	Tamboritha-Moroka 1:50,000

The Snowy Plains is a wonderful place to visit during the warmer months with an abundance of alpine flowers blooming. This walk will suit everybody from the novice bushwalker who has just joined and wishes to experience camping to the more experienced walkers, so for those who have not experienced camping before, I will be more than happy to help with any enquires.

This is a walk in base camp where we will go in and set up camp along the Conglomerate creek approximately 3.5 kms from Guy's Hut car park. It is an easy walk in and we will have a day to get our gear in to camp and a day to leave. The Campsite is well sheltered and there should be plenty of water.

We will be doing day walks which will entail some travel by cars to the starting points. Most of the walks will be graded easy with an occasional easy/medium walk.

Note: Even though the dates stated on the walks list is Dec. 26th-Jan 1st, I am extending it to the 3rd of Jan as usual.

For anyone who is interested in the camp I will be in the club rooms on Wednesday nights and the chrissy party. Or, telephone, or drop me a note.





## Base camp CANOEING UPPER MURRAY RIVER



DATE	26 - 30 December 2006
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	3 day trips 20-35 kms
LEADER	Joy Grinham
TRANSPORT	Private - 450 from Melbourne to Tintalra

Three days on the Upper Murray. Paddling round the bends with Mt. Kosci silhouetted on the skyline, meeting with pastoral scenes as we meander along a river full of exciting challenges. Not for the faint-hearted. You will need to have the confidence to handle strong currents, be wary of the willows and a sense of fun. Some experience is required. Check in with the leader if you have any doubts.

As it is summer, we will be base camping at a local pub, doing day trips that vary in distance from 20 to 35 kms a day. Emphasis is on enjoying what the river has to offer, rather than rushing from one point to another. Limited supplies can be bought at Walwa 20 kms from Tintalra where we will be based. A visit to each of the three historic pubs for dinner will bring the day to a relaxing finish.

\*Non-paddlers may like to holiday at the Upper Murray Holiday Resort for a relaxing high country holiday. A group booking can be made for a cottage if 6 people are interested and paddlers can stop over to celebrate the New Year if they wish to extend their stay. If interested, look at [www.umhr.com.au](http://www.umhr.com.au) for details.

Costs: canoe hire and transport (\$100 for 3 days) per person. Free camping in pub grounds, hot showers (\$2), meals and ice available (cash only – no EFTPOS)

Contact:  
Joy Grinham

Canoeing is a dry sport.....



## Pack carry MT BOGONG

DATE	5 - 7 January 2007
STANDARD	Medium
LEADER	Bill Donald
TRANSPORT	Private cars
RETURN TIME	Sunday evening
AREA	Mt Bogong
MAP REF	Bogong Alpine Area Leisure Series 1:50,000

On Saturday morning we start a leisurely ascent of Mt Bogong via The Staircase. Once at the top we will drop packs and head off to the West Peak as a side trip to check out the valleys below. Collecting our packs we will head towards the Cleve Cole hut area where we will make camp.

On Sunday we will retrace our steps along the ridge and head back down via the Eskdale Spur. The distance we travel will depend on the weather we encounter.

Please come prepared for four seasons in one day. The last time the club did this trip in December 2005 the group encountered extreme weather in the form of hail, sleet and torrential rain so please come prepared for the worst.



## Lilo AVON RIVER INTRODUCTION TO LILOING

DATE	12-14 January 2007
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER	Jopie Bodegraven
TRANSPORT	Private cars
AREA	Gippsland near Maffra

This should be a bludgy fun weekend of swimming and paddling on a lovely river. We will have a Saturday morning start and will camp on a nice sandbank on Saturday night with absolute water frontage. The distance along the river is about 8km total, of which 3 ½ will be on Saturday afternoon and 4 ½ on Sunday. The plan goes like this:

The cars meet at 9am Saturday at the public toilets in Heyfield at the corner of Harbeck & Temple Streets. Allow 2 ½ hours from Central Melbourne. We then go in convoy (this avoids messy road navigation) to our starting point at Green Hill. After a car shuffle to our finish point at Wombat Crossing we walk 4 km mostly downhill on a 4WD track with our packs and lilos to our start point at Huggetts Crossing, where we have lunch, blow up our lilos and get organised with liloing lessons in the pool there. Then comes an afternoon of fun and frolic, leisurely paddling plus portaging the rocky rapids and the rather beautiful Channel area, a lovely mini gorge in red sandstone. Camp will be on the sandbank a bit downstream with swimming laid on Sunday will see us paddling further down and then reluctantly pulling out of our watery highway at Wombat Crossing. Some poor sods then have to undo the car shuffle while the others dally by the water.

There is some specialist gear required. Firstly, a box sided lilo (air mattress), available at most disposals and camping stores. Secondly a buoyancy vest for safety in the pools (beg, borrow but preferably don't steal one) and thirdly a bicycle helmet in case there is enough water flow to be able to shoot some of the rapids. Also bring bathers, thermals in case the weather is cold or wet (I expect hot drought conditions), spare dry clothes, sun protective clothes for getting wet on the lilo (you need to wear them for portaging) and three new of the biggest orange garbages for lining your pack (and rubber bands to tie them up) so that your stuff stays dry when you fall off.

Now because all this may sound daunting, I will bring in a complete set of gear to the clubrooms on Wednesday 10 January and do a demo of how this wonderful and fun mode of river travel works

NB: You lilo in a relatively comfortable position sitting with your back upright supported by your pack and your legs out in front. You do not lie on your stomach as that is neck agony!

Come along for a great fun weekend. See me in the clubrooms on the 3rd or 10th of January.



## AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND



### Base camp

#### MOROKA GORGE AND MT WELLINGTON

DATE	25-28 January 2007
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER	Geoff Mattingley
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Monday 7 pm
AREA	Alpine National park – southern part
MAP REF	VICMAP 1:50,000 Tamboritha - Moroka

This base camp is an opportunity to explore some interesting features of the southern end of the Alpine National Park.

The intent is to camp on Thursday night at Breakfast Creek or one of the many campsites along the Wellington River past Licola. On Friday (the public holiday), we will drive to MacFarlane Saddle for a day walk with great views (lake Tali Karng is in the valley below). We will go to Spion Kopje rather than Mt Wellington to avoid the 4WDs. Returning to the cars, we will drive on to our base camp at the Horseyards on the upper Moroka. On Saturday we will follow the river down to the gorge and the falls - the ones that were painted by Eugen von Guerard when he travelled through with Alfred Howitt in 1860.

On Sunday, if the weather is suitable we will drive out to the fire lookout at The Pinnacles for a superb view over the Wonnangatta valley - if the air is clear the view extends as far as the Gippsland Lakes. Alternatively Croll's Gorge makes an interesting short walk on the way home.

Please note - this walk will be cancelled if the forecast is for high bushfire danger. When booking please ensure that there is some way you can be contacted before you leave Melbourne. Detailed information on how to get to the starting point will be available in the clubrooms on the Wednesdays 17th and 24th January.

Additional maps that offer a general view of the area are Rooftop's "Dargo - Wonnangatta Adventure Map" and Hema "The High Country - Victoria"



### Pack carry

#### WATCHBED CK - BATTY SPUR - BIG RIVER

DATE	2-4 February 2007
STANDARD	Medium/Hard
DISTANCE	15 km
LEADER	Trish Elmore
AREA	Bogong National Park
MAP REF	Bogong Outdoor Leisure 1.50,000

One of the last documented walks for the club using this route was in 1989 so we are well and truly due for a re-visit to the area. We shall start at Watchbed Creek and walk up over Mt Nelse and descend to find the ruins of Battys Hut (if it exists). The descent down the spur to the Big River might be a bit of an adventure - we could find nasty scrub but we may be lucky and find a good route down to find a nice relaxing camp site to enjoy the evening. On Sunday we shall return via the Mittagundi Track and Kelly's Hut to Watchbed Creek. There are a few unknowns with this walk, so come with a spirit of adventure and be prepared for extremes of either heat or cold. Please see me in the clubrooms if you have any further queries.



### Pack carry

#### MT LOCH - PALING SPUR - YOUNGS SPUR

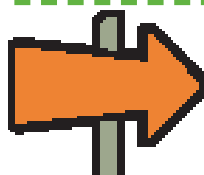
DATE	25-28 January 2007
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	12 + 8 + 13 = 33 km approx
LEADER	Max Casley
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Late Monday evening
AREA	Mt Hotham, north-east Victoria
MAP REF	Bogong Alpine Area 1:50,000

I plan to do a walk which starts and finishes at the Mt Loch Car Park near the Mt Hotham resort. We will start off going along the Alps Walking Track. Soon after reaching Derrick Hut we will turn off the track and go down to Swindlers Gap where we will join Dungey's Track. This is sometimes used by horse-riding groups but it can be fairly overgrown. It goes down Swindlers Creek and we will camp near where it flows into the Cobungra River and swim in the river if we wish.

Next day the distance we walk will be only about 8 km but there is a climb up Paling Spur towards the High Plains where it should be somewhat cooler. We will camp in the vicinity of Young's Hut.

On Sunday we will continue up through the Snow Gums and beyond the tree line to the High Plains. We will rejoin the Alps Walking Track passing Basalt Temple, Dibbins Hut and perhaps visit the site of Quintet Huts which were destroyed in the fires of 2003. Then we will go to Derrick Hut and back to our cars.

A possible camp spot for Thursday night could be Wire Plain about 6 km from our start point – we can decide this nearer to the time. I suggest a transport cost of \$70 per passenger. This is a really nice area and it should be an enjoyable walk.



### COMMITTEE NEWS:

You may have noticed that in the last few newsletters we have been advertising a number of committee positions that are to become available next year.

- **Sunday walks secretary, Assistant Sunday walks secretary; General walk secretary; Pack carry co-ord; Base camp/lodge co-ord:** currently Jopie Bodegraven
- **Treasurer:** currently Doug Langton
- **Social secretary:** currently Charlotte Bradley
- **Training Coordinator:** currently Quentin Tibballs

We have greatly appreciated the commitment and loyalty of these committee members, without them and their hard work we would have had no-one to organise our walks and trips; no-one looking after our finances; no-one organising wine and cheese and other activities for us to get together socially; and no-one training up-and-coming leaders.

**The Annual General Meeting will be held in February, at which time all committee positions will become vacant.** Some of the current committee members will be available for re-appointment, should you so desire. However we will be looking to other club members to step up and have a go.

Please consider your options over the Christmas period, and how you might be able to assist.

# Member Reviews

## Strathbogies Pack Carry

20-22 October 2006

At the end of a walk have you ever stopped and asked yourself, "What are the three things that will have a lasting memory for me?" The 21.4km walk planned by Ray Thomas, our trip leader, had it all. We covered the ground mainly off-track, guided by his pin-point accurate compass navigation, as we picked our way up and down hills strewn with granite boulders, along creek beds and up waterfalls. We explored caverns hidden below huge granite tors, edged our way across expanses of exposed granite sheets, rock-hopped along creek beds and cautiously inched our way up a steep gully on the side of Rocky Ned, an imposing rock buttress that towered high above us as we approached its base. Compressed into two days there were so many experiences that limiting the list to three is as big a challenge as was the walk itself. But let me try!

Foremost has to be the unexpected diversity and beauty of the Strathbogie Range. The sharp contrast between the austere dry forest interspersed with granite boulders and slab outcrops along the open ridges and saddles and the verdant green hues of the lush water-fed valleys, complete with tree ferns and moss-covered rocky ravines was striking. Even in this period of low rainfall the water flows were reliable, albeit well below the torrents that shaped the waterfalls that were a feature of our walk.

Secondly I will long remember the enthusiasm of Ray with his intimate and detailed knowledge of the flora of the region. There were frequent stops to point out the rarity of this or that plant or to explain the uniqueness of the habitat. He never tired of sharing his knowledge of individual plant species and collecting specimens for more detailed study later. Sadly, my capacity to absorb his wisdom was well below the expanse of his knowledge!

Lastly, I will remember that it was a walk that catered for a range of experiences and standards. For those that chose to do the harder options it provided a chance to push personal barriers whilst there were easier routes to follow for those who may have preferred to take them. No one did! Accepting the challenge, the route chosen to scale Rocky Ned was particularly memorable. Not so much physically demanding as needing a head for heights and an above average degree of care on slopes steeper than found on my normal bushwalking trips, I thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

There were many more moments that added to the total pleasure that comes with pack-carry trips away from the more accessible and frequented tourist sites. Camping alongside a secluded section of Sugarloaf Creek whilst listening to the sounds of the native birds and animals, sharing experiences around the glow of an open fire and being exhilarated by the views from remote and otherwise inaccessible vantage points at Scott's Peak and Rocky Ned are but a few. I was grateful too for the flexibility Ray had built into the walk which enabled me to forego a rock-hopping exploration down Sugarloaf Creek and relax by the banks of the nearby Rocky Ned Falls until the others returned!

All in all our party of eight had a most enjoyable weekend with particular thanks to Ray for his thorough preparation and leadership. The only questionable incident was an extreme instance of "pack-anorexia" where John had become so enthused by his drive for down-sizing his gear that he completely forgot to pack his sleeping mat! With this added weight saving advantage he literally bounced from rock to rock in what could be regarded as a rock-hoppers paradise.

The walk preview has an excellent outline of the route followed whilst the club's web site photogallery provides a graphic presentation of some of the highlights.



Working our way down Sugarloaf Creek.

*Ian Mair*



### WALK SECRETARY'S REPORT

What the club did in October (trip stats):

Activity	Date	Trip	Grade	People
Sunday Bus	1	Mt Caroline-Break'Day	E/M M	34
	8	Brisbane Ranges North	E E/M	43
	15	Dandenongs	E E/M	34
	22	Taradale-Fryerstown	E E/M	45
	29	Hughes Creek	E/M M	45
TOFS	5	Blackhill Res (Kyneton)	E	16
Wednesday	18	Mt Macedon Circuit	E/M	13
Dand Expl	28	Mornington Beach Walk	E	16
Cycle	7	Craigieburn Bypass Trail	E	9
Base Camp	13-15	Warby Ranges	E	10
	27-29	Lorne Waterfalls	E/M	6
Pack Carry	6-8	Cathedral Range	E	9
	20-22	Strathbogies	M	8

Scaling Rocky Ned



# Member Reviews

## MT. DARLING, AND DOWN...

3-7 November 2006

Descent was a prominent feature of the Mt. Darling-Wonnangatta River-Bryce's Plain 4 day pack-carry, held over the Melbourne cup weekend. Water cascading over waterfalls: spurs plummeting into river valleys: several walkers going down with unexpected injuries, and another suffering near exhaustion. An interesting rather than invigorating trip, it emphasised the importance of physical and mental preparation when intending to explore the rugged mountains north of Licola.

The walk began with a brief side trip into the valley of Cave Gate Creek, and the discovery of a dubious campsite; presumably belonging to some miscreant deerhunters. In complete contrast, the day ended at a delightful spot: a snowplain 1 kilometre west of the ridge extending north toward the summit of Mt. Darling. That night, around a large fire, we plumbed the depths of the war in Iraq. Like the current U.S. government, we surfaced sometime later with few answers.

Sunday morning, and we rockhopped to the summit of Mt. Darling. But not before our first casualty was forced to return to Dimmick Lookout with a crook back.

From the summit of Darling, it was down, down, down...

1000 metres into the mysterious embrace of the Wonnangatta valley. Half way along the untracked spur, a second walker's legs became gelatinous and collapsed beneath him. (Rockhopping with a heavy pack and a body unprepared can be a humbling experience). But with much patience and persistence, we eventually arrived at an unintended campsite in a secluded grove of Ti-Tree, slightly upstream from the Conglomerate-Wonnangatta confluence.

The geographical peculiarities of the Wonnangatta Valley - ancient flood plains concealed by mountains and high ridgetops - often results in the valley creating its own microclimate. At sunrise on Monday morning, the high level of humidity present in the valley was no exception. After a cursory glance at the defunct Wonnangatta Homestead, combined with the imagined burden of 50,000 moisture deprived bush flies clinging to our packs, we dissected south-west into the Dry river valley and arrived at the junction of the Bicentennial Trail, and the ascending track to Conglomerate Falls. Another injury to another member of our party, and a considered decision was taken to split the group; with the injured member resting her swollen ankle, and walking out accompanied the next day. After a time consuming ascent onto Bryce's Plain, camp was declared immediately south of Conglomerate Falls. That night, as the temperature dropped and the mist descended upon us, each member of the party soon disappeared into tents and the warmth of their sleeping bags.

Tuesday morning, and a somewhat educational 3 days of walking was capped off by the spectacular scenery surrounding Conglomerate Falls; complete with the unexplained mystery of many dead fish belly up in the waterfall's bottom pool. A virus perhaps, or had the fish been washed over the falls in a flood? Maybe it was further evidence of those miscreant deerhunters first encountered at Cave Gate Creek, perpetrating the unfortunate act of dynamiting trout as an alternative to capture by line and hook. Either way, the mystery was soon forgotten as we listened to Delta Blues win the cup, followed by cries of 'Afternoon tea at Coco's'. Near drooling, we quickly descended upon the unexpecting township of Yarragoona for homemade sausage rolls, cheesecake, coffee, and lemon meringue pie, before a leisurely afternoon drive back to Melbourne, and a most welcome early night.

*Tony Reck*



### TOTAL FIRE BANS ON CLUB TRIPS

#### What Happens to the Trip?

During the hotter months we occasionally get a total fire ban on the day of a trip. This leads to questions such as: Does the trip still go ahead? Should the venue be changed? Can I pull out and get a refund (Sunday bus)?

The following guidelines have been adopted by the committee:



#### Sunday Walks

The walks committee as part of the Summer Programme will select two or more coastal or metropolitan walks for which there are good track notes available and which can be led without previewing.

In the event of a total fire ban day in the walk area, and the walk being in a high fire risk area, the leader shall relocate the walk to one of the metro or coastal walks selected by the committee, or another suitable walk of the leader's choice, unless the walk can be suitably modified to make it adequately safe to the satisfaction of the walks secretary or assistant walks secretary.

The leaders should inform all those booking on the Wednesday prior that the walk may be altered or relocated and the proposed destination. A total fire ban day will be an acceptable excuse for pulling out of the walk and qualifying for a credit note, provided the leader is notified no later than 7pm Saturday.

#### Private Transport Trips

These trips will be entirely at the leader's discretion to modify, relocate or cancel, having regard to the potential dangers of the walk area, but the leader must endeavour to contact all participants if the trip is cancelled or relocated.

# Member Reviews

## GREAT OCEAN WALK – APOLLO BAY TO CASTLE COVE

3-7 November 2006



Day 1 - a cosy spot for lunch at Shelly Beach



Day 2 - Climbing up above the crashing waves

I now understand the addiction to pack-carrying that has eluded me for several years. Remembering my first effort lugging a four-man tent and my friend carrying a hammer it is little wonder that I really didn't enjoy the experience. Fortunately buoyed by the enthusiasm of friends in the club and their support and advice I was encouraged to try again and am now totally addicted.

Over the Cup weekend the club provided the opportunity to walk the first half of the Great Ocean Walk (GOW) – a 51 kilometre walk from Apollo Bay to Castle Cove (excluding side trips of around 11 km).

Over this weekend we had some fantastic experiences. The first day we walked through the mist that this area is renowned for. Crashing waves viewed from cliff tops through this mist, although beautiful, made us very aware of the danger of this coastline. The flora constantly changed from coastal heath land, tall manna forests and rainforest. The rock formations: rock shelves jutting out to sea, rocks sculptured by the movement of the ocean, dramatic sandstone overhangs added to the rugged beauty of the walk. We had the opportunity at the Cape Otway (GOW) Campsite to get up close and personal with several koalas resulting in greater insight into mating habits. Ralph was quite stunned by the aggression displayed by two males vying for the attention of a female. Bird life varied from tiny wrens to yellow-tailed black cockatoos and sea eagles.

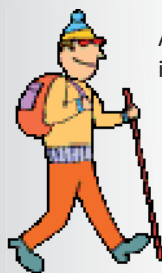
The distances between campsites were not long and this afforded opportunities for a number of exploratory side trips. I especially enjoyed these as the overgrown tracks made me very aware of how infrequently they were walked. Our lunch at the mouth of Snowy Creek among some beautiful rock sculptures was our reward for detouring from the main track. Exploring the rock pools and cave under the Cape Otway Lighthouse was only achieved by finding an overgrown track that Bob Steel had shown me several years ago, a track that very few people (including local bushwalkers) know about.

On our last day with less than an hour's walking to complete our walk we opted to lunch along the beach. We each dreaded the end of our walk...each willed that the walk would continue...each falling under the addiction of pack-carrying - the addiction from enjoying a view...enjoying the ambience of a place...from being somewhere that can only be achieved from walking there.

Thank you Ian for sharing this experience with us and thank you to Del, Di, Ralph, Kerry, Joycelyn and Burt for being great companions.

*Halina Sarbinowski*

### THE NEWS OF THE EQUIPMENT STORE



Are you one of those lucky walkers who carries over 10 kg on a weekend pack carry? You can increase your speed, endurance and walking comfort and decrease your risk of injury simply by discarding unnecessary weight! Here's how.

Start by weighing each of the items you carry and compare it with, for want of a better yardstick, those listed in our set of hire equipment (available on our web site). Chances are you will be able to save some weight immediately and come up with a wish list for future purchases prioritised towards weight saving.

If all of this seems too difficult, consider that the time will come when you won't be able to carry such heavy loads, and will either have to give up pack carrying or get some lighter gear. It's easier to make a switch now than later, you will get more use from your new gear and you won't have to hide when walk leaders produce the scales.

*John Fritze*

### Forthcoming activities program - December 2006 to early January 2007

Date	Location	Transport	Standard	Leader
7	TOFS: Edithvale Seaford Wetlands	Private	Easy	Alister Rowe
8-10	Pack carry: Mt McDonald to The Nobs	Private	Med	Lesley Hale
8-17	Pack carry: Low Saddle to Hotham	Private	Med	Gina Hopkins
9	Cycle: Docklands to Point Cook	Train/car	Easy	Lynda Larkin
<b>10</b>	<b>Dandenong Ranges Track (Sassafras Creek)</b>	<b>Bus</b>	<b>Easy, Easy/Med</b>	<b>Les Southwell &amp; Phil Geschke</b>
13	Wed: Maribyrnong River Meander	Private	Easy	Sandra Mutimer
<b>17</b>	<b>Cape Schank to Rye Ocean Beach</b>	<b>Bus</b>	<b>Easy, Easy/Med</b>	<b>Liz Moore &amp; Jacky McGrath</b>
26-1	Pack carry: Blue Rag Ra-Wongungurra River	Private	Hard	Jopie Bodegraven
23-1	Pack carry: Snowy Mountains	Private	Med	Jerry Grandage
26-3	Base camp: Conglomerate Creek-Bryce's Gorge	Private	Easy/Med	Lance Mobbs
26-6	Base camp: Day walks in Tasmania	Private	Easy/Med	Peter McGrath
26-30	Base camp: Conoeing Upper Murray River	Private	Medium	Joy Grinham
4 Jan	TOFS: Kalorama, Mt Dandenong	Private	Easy	Bob Steel
5-7 Jan	Mt Bogong	Private	Med	Bill McDonald
<b>7 Jan</b>	<b>Tallaroak State Forest - Warragul Rocks</b>	<b>Bus</b>	<b>Easy, Easy/Med</b>	<b>Graeme Walkden/Cameron Durrant</b>

Bus transport: Meet in Southbank Boulevard, south side of the Arts Centre, before 9.00am Leader or deputy will be there rain, hail or shine!

#### The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers

If undelivered please return to:  
MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC  
GPO BOX 1751, MELBOURNE 3001



#### ALTERATION TO PARTICULARS

	Change to:	Current:
Name:		
Address:		
Phone:	Home :    Work:	Home:    Work:
	Mobile:	Mobile:
Email:		

#### SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Membership	Ordinary: Single \$45 per year / Couple/family \$70 per year	Concession: (proof required) Single \$35 per year / Couple/family \$38 per year
New members joining after 1st October and before AGM are accepted at the cost of 3 x visitors' fees = \$24.00		
Forward alterations of particulars to MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC and post to: C/- Membership Secretary, GPO Box 1751, Melbourne 3001 or email to membership@melbournebushwalkers.org.au		