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# THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 CENTS

EDITION 661 MARCH 2006



## *SKIING IS BACK – How Shall We Organise It?*

Skiing is once again covered under the club's insurance policy so we can get back into official club ski trips. I do not propose however to program ski trips on the quarterly club programme except for lodge weekends and maybe some special trips because of the unreliability of snow conditions, the frequency that ski trips have been cancelled in the past and the need to take advantage of good

conditions as they arise. We therefore need a different and more flexible setup for organising trips

My suggestion is to have a skiing co-ordinator whose job will involve acting as a central contact point for organising ski trips, keeping an email list of interested people for email notification of trips and putting ski activity notices in the News.

Trips would be organised on a month by month basis by way of notices in the Previews section of News or on a shorter lead time and more informal basis by way of email and phone. Email will be a wonderful way of alerting people to trips being organised at short notice.

We should make it clear that although beginners will be welcome on easy trips at the discretion of the leader we do not offer qualified instruction. People wanting proper instruction should contact an other club which may provide it or should take commercial lessons

So all we need now is a skiing co-ordinator. I'll be in Europe for 3 months over winter so don't look at me. Contact me if you are interested in taking on this role. Also please let me know if you have any other good or better ideas, suggestions etc or if you think I have overlooked something or my idea is a dumb idea and should be discarded.

*Jopie Bodegraven, Walks Secretary*

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:

- 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

**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:  
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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

## Nest Boxes for Endangered Species Weekends.

**1-2 April and 29-30 April**

Many of you will have been on one of Ray Thomas's tree planting weekends (Regent Honeyeater Project) in the Lurg Hills near Benalla. These nest box weekends are a follow on from these, great if you would like to both spot some wildlife and help with the project. Ray has this to say in his flyer

'Perhaps you'd like to see some of the beautiful little creatures we are working to protect up here at Lurg. Our nest box program has been in operation for 9 years now, and we'd like to invite you to join us as we do our annual monitoring work.

We have over 170 nest boxes already in place, with Sugar Gliders and Squirrel Gliders nesting in nearly all of them at one time or another. It's helping the wildlife for sure, and it's also a first rate opportunity for people to enjoy some close contact with nature.

We'll also be placing some new boxes out in likely looking habitat. The regrowth forests of Lurg have very few natural hollows, so our nest boxes are crucial habitat for last year's offspring when they leave home to make room for this year's babies.

After dark we'll be spotlighting to see the wildlife on their own terms as they forage through the tree tops. With binoculars at the ready we always get startling views of the nightlife, and some times we are lucky enough to see the rare Squirrel Gliders in action.

Do come and join us. It should be a good opportunity for you and your friends to meet some new people and have some fun together while doing something concrete for our environment. And last but not least, there are many delightful bushland areas to enjoy in the process'!

For full details, contact Ray who will send you an email flyer.

There will also be tree planting weekends 12-13 and 26-27 August and 9-10 and 23-24 September. We will put one of these on the club programme with a coordinator but of course you are welcome to join in on any of them independently. Ray will send you info on these too.

*Jopie Bodegraven*

## Wine & Cheese evening



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

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 2006

2005 was a good year for Melbourne Bushwalkers:

- Membership was up on the previous year.
- The increased interest in our website has made an impact on visitors and members.
- Personal Health Details Card – safety initiative – July 2005
- A club auction was held with 10% of the proceeds going to conservation. A most successful evening with quite a number of terrific bargains for those all who attended. There were quite a few boots and skis left over (if any-one is interested).
- Numbers on the Sunday bus trips have increased with many visitors seeking a way of enjoying the Australian bush.
- Snow skiing is back on our “Intro” guide as the insurance issues have been resolved by the Federation of Bushwalking, so this year we will be able to include ski trips on our programmes again and previews can be included in the Newsletter.

I would like to say “Thank you” : To all the Melbourne Bushie Leaders who are the core substance of the club – a very big “thank you” from all of us. Without you, there wouldn’t be a club. I know these are trite words, but they are true.

To those of you who write reviews of the walks you have participated in. It is always great to share these experiences via the written word.

To the club contacts – Graham & Sue Errey, Geoff & Jenny Kenafacke, Jim & Libby Marsden – thank you.

To the Co-ordinators of walks: Sandra Mutimer, Wednesday walks Coordinator – for ensuring that our Wednesday walks are versatile, interesting and fun. Jean Geasie, Thursday “TOFS” walks coordinator – who is enticing more and more members into her Thursday “TOFS” group.

To our Saturday Walks Co-ordinator for the last 6 years, Warren Baker, a Saturday walk is always a very refreshing change and except for the occasional historical walk, is usually up on the Dandenongs.

To Quentin Tibballs, for organising navigation and leader training days, plus overseeing and updating the first aid packs for leaders.

To Ian Mair who maintains the club website and which has become the main focus of information for new members.

To the Auditors, John Boyd and Phil Wood who took on this task at the last AGM and have a very busy time in January, auditing our books – thank you

To our Public Officer for putting up his hand last year - Pearson Creswell.

To Susan McInnes for working behind the scenes and keeping our clubroom sparkling clean.

To the Departing Committee Members:

News Editor, Ron Hampton – another very big thank you for the terrific job you have done with the News over the last couple of years. Ron is so patient and only on the rare occasion says “no you have to wait till next month” Vice President and Conservation, Rod Novak for being the club Conservation Delegate at the VicWalk Conservation Committee and for always bringing the important conservation issues back to the Committee and club.

General Committee: Carol Criddle and Jan Colquhoun, thank you for your involvement and contribution during your time on the Committee.

To all the Committee members, thank you for giving your extra time and commitment to the club

Finally thank you to all the club members for being part of a unique bushwalking club.

*Jan Palich President*



Slide nights on the following Wednesday evenings commencing at 8 pm:–

### **The Camino de Santiago de Compostella**

Wednesday 12 April 2006

Presented by Garis Alexander.

Pictures taken on a 1,500km pilgrimage along The Camino de Santiago de Compostella (The Way of St. James) through Southern France and Northern Spain with Fotina Lennon, Carol Corrigan and Noreen Moore.

### **Central Australia – Larapinta Trail**

Wednesday 19 April 2006

Presented by Doug Pocock.

### **Antarctica – Ross Sea – MacQuarie Island.**

Wednesday 17 May 2006

Presented by Doug Pocock.

# Kimberley Wild Rivers

Drysdale, Durack, Isdell, Charnley and more



The wild rivers are what makes the Kimberley so special. Most of our trips there are based on rivers. Here is a taste.

**The Drysdale.** Huge river, huge park.

- > amazing concentration of art, especially Bradshaw style.
- > gorges, waterfalls and wildlife
- > every tributary is different

**The Durack.** First done last year, we can't wait to get back

- > amazing cliffs, amazing scenery
- > even some of the smallest creeks had hidden wonders

**The Isdell.** Gorge country. Some are...

- > small & shady; others broad & grassy
- > full of paperbarks and flowers
- > dry; others wall to wall wet
- > home to some great Wandjina art

**The Charnley.** Spectacular 30km gorge.

- > dozens of art sites in styles we have seen nowhere else
- > lots of exploring without full packs

**The Unknown and Unnamed**

Our May Mitchell Explorer will explore a river we've never seen. Except on a map. Looks fascinating.

Visit our triplist on line...

[www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au](http://www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au)



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

## Winter Programme progress report. Some Leaders Still Needed

The Winter programme is taking shape but we do still need some leaders.

Is anyone interested in a pack carry trip on Queens Birthday Long Weekend. If we have interest I'll put it on the programme. We have a Queens Birthday base camp and weekend pack carries for both July & August but no pack carry for June.

We need one more day cycle trip. If you are keen to lead I can help with a route if needed

It looks like we will have a lodge weekend on the coast in July, a lodge weekend for cross country skiers probably in August, and possibly a Mt Hotham lodge weekend in August or September. If it is August it won't be listed on the winter programme because it can't be booked in time, but it will be advertised in News as soon as dates can be fixed. Stay tuned.

Peter will be busily engaging leaders for the Sunday walks. Make life easy for him by approaching him with offers to lead. To make your previewing & planning easier we have prepared for each Sunday walk a list of useful previous walk reports and the maps (which the club has in its files) which you will need.

I think we've organised a skiing coordinator, especially if a certain someone's email connection can be got up and running, but more on that one in a later News. See also the article in this News entitled "Skiing is back, how shall we organise it"

I don't know how the other coordinators (Jean, Sandra & Liz/Maureen for TOFS, Wednesdays and Dandenongs Explorers) are going but contact them anyway and if they have filled the winter programme, get them to let you do one in Spring.

*Jopie Bodegraven, Walks Secretary*

## The Wilderness Shop

969 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill

Ph (03) 9898 3742 Fax (03) 9899 5398

Email: wildshop@ozemail.com.au



The Equipment Specialists for  
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As an Independent Store we have a **Huge  
Range from Many Leading Brands**

10% Discount to Melb Bushies (sale items excluded)

Dear Bushies

We were members of the club some years ago and have a full set of walk magazines from 1949 to 1987 which are for sale to the highest bidder.

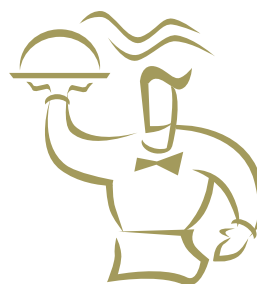
The offer will close at the end of April

Please contact me by phone

*Anne and Peter Bullard*

### MELBOURNE BUSH WALKERS

## *Dine Out*



*April 2006 venue:*

**Spaghetti Tree Restaurant**

59 Burke Street

Melbourne

Phone 9646 6299

Fully licensed

Saturday 22nd April at 7.30pm

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.

**There will be no Dine-Out in March 2006 due to the Commonwealth Games.**

# Baw Baw – Sandy Flat – Mustering Flat

Introduction to Pack Carrying, February 18th – 19th



certainly plenty of evidence to suggest wombats also like the walking trails. They have a wonderful art of leaving their mark on top of rocks, logs and in the middle of the track. Maybe they are just like me and prefer not to get their bottom scratched on nasty scrub.

On a prettier note, the Alpine gentians, snow lilies, sphagnum (moss) and other species were a delight. Nothing however can beat the snow gums which almost looked silver at times.

Our advice before setting off from the Baw Baw car park was to take 2 litres of water as there would be water on route to the campsite. Coming from NZ, I'm used to HUGE mountain streams, crystalclear water – no worries to drink. It'll take a bit

If you were wondering why bushwalkers wear gaiters, read on. It could be because they want to "look the part", it could be to keep their boots a little drier, it could be because they want to keep their socks dry while crossing a river or it could be because, like me, they want to wear a skirt to work on Monday. There was one problem with my first pack carry with the Melbourne Bushwalkers – I didn't wear gaiters! My legs bear the marks of a new kitten testing it's climbing skills. Oh why did I leave my gaiters in New Zealand? So as you can guess there was a very good reason why the experienced walkers wore gaiters and the sensible new walkers wore long pants and then there were the brave like me who just wore shorts as we pushed our way through scrub! Brave or silly? I thought I wouldn't need gaiters in Australia – how wrong I was. Thanks Australian scrub!

more convincing (sorry Jen and Jopie) to get me to drink from an Australian billabong. Jen and Jopie did inform me that they wouldn't drink from any water hole or stream, first they must know its source and apparently the water this weekend was excellent. We investigated the flat and found it much drier than expected but it was fine to drink and take a little wash. Now that's luxury!



Our intrepid leader, Bob, found a superb track for an introductory pack carry. He also found very nice campsites – on Sunday! Why didn't we see them on Saturday? Perhaps because he wanted to introduce us to 'real camping' – no soft stuff for this bunch.



It was a great weekend and I don't wear skirts to work anyway. We walked into Mustering Flat on a beautiful day – not too hot, just perfect in my opinion. The campsite required a little gardening (as you can see from the photos) and I discovered that scrub roots sometimes reveal ant nests – not a good idea to sleep with ants. March flies were the other insect I was introduced to. Or rather – it introduced itself to me via its sharp, nasty proboscis. A small, black snake had its home at our campsite but it soon vacated and was seen no more. Perhaps it was a wombat that visited us at night, there was



Our bunch was nine, our conversation was pack weight, pack type, dehydrating food for minimal weight, past treks and of course other much more interesting stuff.

If you want details of exactly where we went, I'm sorry but I didn't take much notice of the map. I think we pretty much followed the plan. I had complete trust in our leader and really enjoyed being lead. Thanks again Bob and thanks everyone for coming. I had a great time!

*Gill Fenton*

## Vale Dennis Barson

*Life Member 24 June 1933 –16 January 2006*

Dennis was the driver of our means of transport which in the 60s, 70s and into the 80s were furniture vans. He was an excellent driver, everyone felt safe when he was at the wheel. He was a softly spoken, considerate and obliging gentleman, everyone liked him, a person could not help liking him as he had such a lovely disposition.

He was made a Life Member of the Melbourne Bushwalkers in the early 70s in recognition of his sterling, unselfish and enthusiastic services to the club. I first met Dennis in the mid 60s when he was driving Gronow's van, later on he drove for Jack Barker and when the club purchased Jack's van he drove for us until he retired and moved with his family to live at Wonthaggi.

He also drove the vans for us on all our cycling trips over the years.

Dennis contributed greatly to the Melbourne Bushies and was a marvellous help to leaders of walks, he was so reliable and would, without fail be waiting at the pick-up point and on many occasions waiting hours longer than was required of him. He would always walk with us on walks which had a common starting and finishing point.

He was a very keen gardener and died while working in his beautiful garden in Mildura where he and his wife moved to from Wonthaggi some years ago.

I attended his funeral service in Mildura on Friday 20th January 2006 and spoke about Dennis on behalf of members of the Melbourne Bushies. We were good friends and I am saddened by his passing as no doubt those members who knew him in the 60s through to the 80s will be saddened also.

*Art Terry, Life Member*



Hearing of Dennis Barson's passing brought back fond memories of of the many drives in Gronow's furniture van. Dennis would go out of his way to make it easier for the leaders and walkers. He was a very pleasant and kind man at all times.

My sincere sympathy goes out to his family. yours faithfully

*Joyce Dunn*

## Thank You Warren

The Committee and Members, especially those who have enjoyed the beauty of the Dandenongs with Warren and Maria, would like to thank Warren for his intelligent and enthusiastic leadership and co-ordination of the Dandenong Explorer walks programme over the past 5 years.

*Maureen Hurley*

## To All Leaders

Because of a commitment elsewhere for the month of March, I can only make it into the Club Rooms every second week. I will therefore visit the Club Rooms on Wed 8th March and Wed 22nd March. I will only be available to collect moneys on those two dates.

*Doug Langton, Treasurer*

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## PREVIEWS OF DAY WALKS MARCH – APRIL 2006

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### SUNDAY BUS: Cape Woolamai – San Remo

DATE	Sunday 26 March 2006
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	15 km and 17 km
LEADER(S)	Liz Moore and Halina Sarbinowski
TRANSPORT	Bus – <b>Fairfield at 8.30 am</b>
RETURN TIME	7.00 pm
AREA	Phillip Island
MAP REFERENCE	Phillip Island Special 1:25,000

This area offers excellent beach walking along both surf and sheltered beaches.

Both walks will commence to the west of Forest Caves with the easy/medium group walking an extra 2 km before joining the same walk as the easy group.

The first part of each walk will be along surf beaches before ascending the cliff line to Woolamai Hill where mutton bird rookeries abound. This high point offers specular views including The Pinnacles. The last part of the walk will be along the sheltered beaches of Cleeland Bight, perfect for those who enjoy a dip (weather permitting). Finally we'll cross the bridge to San Remo and if time allows enjoy a latte before our return to Melbourne.

**Please note 8.30 am start from Fairfield (due to Commonwealth Games).**

### TOFS: Smiths Gully – St Andrews

DATE	Thursday 6 April, 2006
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	12km
LEADER	Pam Rosso
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN	4.00pm
LOCATION	Smiths Gully – Rifle Range Reserve
MAP REFERENCE	Melways Maps 250, 264-266
AREA	St Andrews Area

Meet at 10.15am at the car park/picnic area in Peter Franke Reserve in Smiths Gully Road, opposite the old Queenstown Cemetery. Melway reference 264 H3. Note: turn off the Kangaroo Ground – St Andrews Road at the Smiths Gully Store onto Clintons Road and immediately turn left onto Smiths Gully Road. The picnic area and car park is 900m down the road from the Store. If you are early enough, you can get a very nice coffee and a cake at the Store/Bakery!

We will walk along the Smiths Gully – St Andrews Heritage Trail, which has information signs about the early gold mining in the area.

After that it is along little used country lanes with good views along the way, to Rifle Range Reserve where we will have lunch. Then back along more country lanes to the car park at the start. It is possible to shorten the walk by doing a car shuffle if you are so inclined.

### SUNDAY BUS: Paradise Mill Circuit (Blackwood area)

DATE	Sunday 2 April 2006
STANDARD	Easy and Easy / Medium
DISTANCE	11km and 15km
LEADERS	Rick Chater and David Arnold
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd. at 9.00am
RETURN TIME	7:00pm
AREA	Wombat State Forest
MAP REFERENCE	Trentham/Greendale/Cleever Hill 1:25,000 Wombat State Forest Touring Guide 1:50,000

The walk is through the Wombat State Forest about 50km west of Melbourne, starting near Blackwood. It was effectively cut down during the gold-rush times of the mid to late 1800s, and timber cutting has also affected it. But it has been regenerating under strict controls since the 1960s, though some logging still occurs. There are several old gold mines in the forest, and sites of several mills, including Paradise Mill where we will be having lunch.

Although the walks are fairly short, and on well formed trails, there are several ridges of 400m climb to cross. This is a new walk for the club.

We will be finishing at the Garden of St Erth where, time permitting, a good afternoon tea is available.

### SUNDAY BUS: Breamlea – Barwon Heads

DATE	Sunday 9 April 2006
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	12 km and 14 km
LEADERS	Halina Sarbinowski and Mick Noonan
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd. at 9 am
RETURN TIME	7 pm
AREA	Surf Coast

Come and enjoy this pleasant part of the Surf Coast. The walks will actually go through Barwon Heads and end at Ocean Grove but we will explore Barwon Heads, the setting of the series *Seachange*, on our way through this coastal town that was once regarded as a sleepy holiday village.

The E/M group will commence at Breamlea, a beach a few kilometres east of Torquay, while the Easy group will start walking at Bancoora Beach. The beach walking should be quite pleasant as it will be done either side of low tide when the sand will be compacted. We will pass through some of the lesser known beaches of the area, such as, Bancoora and Thirteenth Beach as well as the landmarks of Noble Rocks, Black Rocks and Blue Rocks.

Make sure that you bring plenty of water, hat, sunscreen (and a change of shoes for the return journey) and enjoy your own mini seachange even if it will only be for the day.



## **SUNDAY BUS: Creswick Miners Track**

DATE	Sunday 16 April 2006
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	15 and 19km
LEADERS	Tom Wilanowski and Roger Browne
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd. at 9am
RETURN TIME	7.00pm
AREA	Ballarat – Creswick
MAP REFERENCE	The Great Dividing Trail – Federation Track map

The famous Eureka rebellion took place in late 1854 in Ballarat. On December 1, 1854, some 200 Creswick miners set out on foot to join their “brothers in arms” in Ballarat. It was a hot and thirsty march. Rafaello Carboni, one of the rebellion leaders, recorded in his journal that the Creswick miners arrived “helpless, grog worn, and proved to be the greatest nuisance”. Later in history the artistic Lindsay family roamed these hills.

We will walk in the opposite direction to the miners, which should help us avoid becoming as grog worn as they were. Both groups will start at different points on the outskirts of Ballarat and finish at the beautiful St. Georges Lake in Creswick. The walk follows a marked trail; the terrain is undulating and easy going. The vegetation is mostly eucalypt forest. There is ample evidence of mining activity in the area.

## **CYCLE TRIP: Gellibrand Hill & Moonee Ponds Creek**

DATE	Saturday 22 April 2006
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	To be advised on booking
LEADERS	Jan Palich
TRANSPORT	Train
RETURN TIME	To be advised
AREA	North of Melbourne
MAP REFERENCE	Various cycling books

We will be meeting at Broadmeadows railway station ready to start cycling. As usual we will have the option of various coffee stops and hopefully access to morning tea at Woodlands Historic Homestead. We have been there on occasions before with the Sunday walks.

The ride is “one way” so we don’t retrace our steps. The ride is mostly on bike tracks with some bushland around the open park area near Woodlands Park. On our return, we head back towards Melbourne and pick up Moonee Ponds Creek and then meander back to the City and home.

You will need to be independent with regards to food, please bring your lunch as we may not be near any shops to purchase food.

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

## **SUNDAY BUS: Warburton Rail Trail**

DATE	Sunday 23 April 2006
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	To be determined
LEADERS	Doug Langton(E) and Peter McGrath(E/M)
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd. at 9 00am
RETURN TIME	Approx 6.30pm
AREA	Yarra junction – Warburton
MAP REFERENCE	Melways P 288 – 289

The exact course has not yet been decided but the easy walking group will remain on the old railway track for the entire walk and the distance will be approx 15 km. The harder walk will be longer and may include a section off the rail trail. Once both groups have completed their walks, a visit to one of the nearby wineries will probably be included, probably nearby McWilliams Yarra Valley vineyard and winery.

## **WEDNESDAY WALK: Garden of St Erth – Simmons Reef (Blackwood)**

DATE	Wednesday 26 April, 2006
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER	Sandra Mutimer
TRANSPORT	Private

Please see the leader in the clubrooms about this walk.

## **DANDENONG EXPLORERS: Olinda Falls to Mt Evelyn**

DATE	Saturday 29 April, 2006
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER	Stuart Hodgson
TRANSPORT	Private

A description of this walk will appear in next months *News*.

## **SUNDAY BUS: Bamganie State Forest**

DATE	Sunday 30 April 2006
STANDARD	Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCE	13 km and 15 km
LEADERS	Jopie Bodegraven and Lesley Hale
TRANSPORT	Bus Southbank Blvd. at 9 am
RETURN TIME	Approx 7pm. Meredith, SW of Bacchus Marsh
MAP REFERENCE	Grenville, Elaine, Bamganie, Medina1:25,000

Woodburne Creek winds through the little known Bamganie State Forest, home to kangaroos, echidnas, koalas, pardalotes and honeyeaters. While the forest is surrounded by open farmland, watched by wedgetailed eagles, old diggings and remains of an early stone dwelling are a reminder of its earlier history of gold discoveries.

Both walks follow a similar route. Some of it is along Woodburne Creek, with occasional crossings and/or scrambles when rocky outcrops block the way. Wet feet are unlikely as well-used kangaroo tracks mark the best spots to cross. Other sections involve forest roads, hills, and rolling farmland. A very pleasant place to visit.

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## PREVIEWS OF WEEKEND WALKS MARCH – APRIL 2006

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### CYCLING BASE CAMP: Camperdown Area

DATE	24–26 March 2006
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	About 100 km over 2 days
LEADER	Ken MacMahon
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	7 pm
AREA	Western District
MAP REF	Vicroads Map Book or other road maps will do

The main focus of this trip will be the fantastic volcanic features that abound in the Camperdown district. On Saturday we will follow a circular route along sealed back roads visiting Glenormiston, Mt Noorat, Noorat village, Lake Keilembete, Terang and Lake Bullen Merri, a distance of around 55 km.

On Sunday I intend to cycle around Camperdown taking in the delightful streetscapes as well as nearby Mt Leura. Then we will cycle the rail trail from Cobden to Timboon, a distance of 34 km through farmland, forest, gullies and over some trestle bridges. This trail is gravel so it won't be suitable for racy road bikes.

We will be staying in a very picturesque and well appointed camping ground located high on a hill overlooking the district. There is an excellent pub in town with comfy chairs and good meals on Saturday evenings and just the thing for weary cyclists.



### PACK CARRY:

#### Sugarloaf – Macalister River – Bruni Knob

DATE	31 March – 2 April 2006
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	Approx 26km
LEADER	Bob Oxlade
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	9.00pm
AREA	West Gippsland
MAP REF	Vic Maps Licola-Wellington and Tamboritha-Moroka 1:50,000

A good walk location for this time of year in the Alpine National Park. To my knowledge, this area has not been affected by recent bushfires, so this has to be a plus.

We begin with a 600m climb to Sugarloaf, then we will take the opportunity for a side trip to The Crinoline at 1165m. With its picturesque surrounds, this is one of my favourite Peaks. This time we will not have to worry about water as is often the case when camping nearby. Camp for us will be at the Macalister River near Kendall Flat

On Sunday we will discover if it is possible to follow the river down as far as a walking track that takes us over Bruni Knob, and down to our cars. If this is not feasible we have several options of ascending Bruni Knob for our return.

Although camp is at a lower level, we could experience any type of weather at the higher locations, so be prepared for this. So here's looking forward to a good week-end.

### BASE CAMP: Great Ocean Walk–The Finale

DATE	7–9 April, 2006
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER	Silvia Ford
TRANSPORT	Private

Please see the leader in the clubrooms about this walk.

### BASE CAMP: Cobberas/ Native Dog Flat

DATE	13–17 April 2006
STANDARD	Easy and Medium
DISTANCE	Various
LEADER(S)	Geoff Mattingley and Bob Steel
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Monday evening
AREA	Melway edition 29 and above: map 623 C10/ D10; VicRoads: map 52 C8/D8
MAP REFERENCE	NSW 1:50,000 Suggan Buggan 8524-II & III

This will be the fifth year in a row that we have run this popular base camp to Victoria's Alpine National Park, close to the NSW border and Kosciuszko National Park. It offers a beautiful alpine campsite at 1200m altitude, only 15km from the source of the Murray River, with plenty of camping space, fireplaces and tables, running water in the Buchan River, a composting toilet, and superb views from the nearby peaks. There will be walks of various standards, which may include Mt Cobberas No.1, Mt Cobberas No. 2, Mt Stradbroke, Ram's Horn (Buchan Rock), or to the source of the Murray to have a look at the recently restored cairn that marks the start of the straight-line part of the Vic-NSW border. If you prefer you can just enjoy the mountain air from the campsite – since you don't have to carry anything you can take luxuries such as a folding chair, gas lamp, extra food etc. You can arrive at the campsite any time from the Thursday onwards and stay for as long or short a time as you wish.

It's a fair distance to get there, including some gravel roads, but on previous trips they have been quite OK for ordinary cars. For those who haven't been camping before this is a good opportunity to try it without having to carry a heavy pack. As always, the club has tents and a wide range of other equipment for hire from the clubrooms.

One of the leaders will be in the clubrooms on Wednesdays 5th and 12th April to provide the latest information on road conditions, as well as details of how to get there and what to take.

**PACK CARRY:****Mt Cobbler – Crosscut Saw – Stanley Name Spur**

DATE	13–17 April (Easter) 2006
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	About 50km over 4 days
LEADER	Max Casley
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Monday evening 17th April
AREA	Great Dividing Range east of Mansfield
MAP REF	Howitt – Selwyn (Vic Govt) 1:50,000; Watersheds of King, Howqua & Jamieson Rivers (VMTC) 1:50,000

From the distance Mt Cobbler has a distinctive profile because of its knobbly peaks. We will climb to the Cobbler Plateau along Muesli Spur Track, avoiding 4WD roads most of the way, and pitch our tents near Mt Cobbler which we will visit that afternoon or next morning. Next day we will walk to Mt Koonika and on to Mt Speculation which has some of the best views in Victoria and excellent campsites. On the third day we will go along the Crosscut Saw with the Terrible Hollow on one side and the infant King and Howqua Rivers on the other. Some sections are steep and need care. A side trip to Mt Howitt will be an option. Then we will turn down Stanley's Name Spur to another good campsite. On the last day we will continue along the spur, with excellent views of the Dividing Range, and go over Mt Thorn to finish at the Mt Stirling Circuit Road. This should be an enjoyable walk in spectacular country.

**PACK CARRY:****The Twins – Mt Murray – Blue Rag Range**

DATE	14–18 April 2006
STANDARD	Medium/hard
DISTANCE	32 km
LEADER	Jopie Bodegraven
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Tuesday lunchtime or late Monday evening
AREA	South of Mt Hotham
MAP REF	Howitt-Selwyn & Dargo Plains– Cobungra 1:50k.

This trip is a mixture of easy track and challenging exploratory sections. It includes a lesser visited section of the Alpine Walking Track (The Twins & Mt Murray) with one of our most remote and wild rivers (the Wongungurra) and the rarely visited Blue Rag Range. I have never done any of this route which is why I am keen to do it. It is based solely on track notes and 2 articles from Wild magazine.

The start is ridiculously easy. Day 1 is 5km on track with a 300m climb to our campsite on the Twins. Forget the long drive up battling traffic on Thursday night. We will leave Melbourne at the civilised hour of 8am on Friday and do a leisurely drive to Mt St Bernard in daylight. Day 2 is about 11 km with 620m climbing, all on track, to our campsite near the summit of Mt Murray, but if it is has been dry we may have to carry water quite a way. Day 3 looks easy if you don't look at the terrain, under 6 km, but over half is off track down a long and at times very steep spur to the Wongungurra River. The camping is uncertain. Some adventurers described it as a precarious campsite on a rocky ledge at a remarkable gooseneck in the river. The map also shows a flattish

area half a km downstream 70m above the river. She'll be right mate but no guarantees. We should have plenty of daylight left to sort it out and to explore the river. Then on day 4 with lighter packs we have our hardest day, a big 900m climb up a steep untracked spur onto the Blue Range Range and a 6 to 10km road bash with extra ups to our cars.

We will then have the choice of driving home that evening or camping and driving home in daylight next morning. Light packweights will be essential on this trip.

**PACK CARRY:****Wilsons Prom – Sealers Cove – Lighthouse**

DATE	21–25 April 2006 (Anzac Day 4 day Weekend)
STANDARD	Easy / Medium
DISTANCE	60km
LEADER	Rod Novak
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	9pm Tuesday evening
AREA	Wilsons Prom NP, South Gippsland
MAP REF	VicMap 1:50,000 Wilsons Prom

Here is the plan. Day one: we will drive down to Tidal River on the Saturday morning and meet at the Park Office at 11.00am. We then start our walk at Telegraph Saddle, with lunch at Windy Saddle. We continue on to Sealers Cove for our first night camp. Day two: we walk to Refuge Cove (lunch and a swim) and camp is at Little Waterloo Bay. Day three: we continue to Waterloo Bay and then to the Lighthouse and camp is at Roaring Meg. Day four – a side trip to South Point, then to Oberon Bay for lunch. Back to Tidal River for a shower and late afternoon tea. Pub meal on the way home. Some costs: Petrol money estimated at \$46, hiking permit \$20–25, allow \$10 for parking, and \$20 for a pub meal for the trip home. Note: Trip limit of eight people (pre-paid advance booking made for eight).

**LODGE: Barjarg – Strathbogies Exploratory**

DATE	28–29 April, 2006
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER	Silvia Ford
TRANSPORT	Private

A description of this walk will appear in next months *News*.

**CLUBROOMS DUTY ROSTER**

March 15	Mark Heath, John Coe
March 22	Lynda Larkin, Jan Palich
March 29	Fay Dunn, John Fritze
April 5	Paul Logsdon, David Laing

**Next Committee Meeting**

April 3, 2006

## WALKS SECRETARY REPORT FOR JANUARY

	DATE	TRIP	LEADERS	Nos
<b>Sunday Bus</b>	8	Aireys Inlet – Lorne	John Coe & Eliz Ingham	45
	15	High Lead – The Bump – Powelltown	Alan Clarke & Keith McKenry	45
	22	Erskine Falls – Lorne	Halina Sarbinowski & J Karbownik	35
	29	Bunyip State Forest	Nik Dow & Fiona Jarman	34
<b>TOFS</b>	5	Balcombe Creek – The Briars	Alister Rowe	12
<b>Wednesday</b>	18	Warragul Rocks – Tallarook SF	Lesley Hale	7
<b>Dand. Explorer</b>		No walk in January		
<b>Cycle</b>	21	Geelong Bikepaths	Jopie Bodegraven	8
<b>Pack Carry</b>	9–22	NZ Heaphy Track – Abel Tasman NP	Quentin Tibballs	19
	13–15	Mt Howitt via Howitt & St Name Spurs	Jerry Grandage	3
	25–29	Mts Fainter & Jim from Pretty Valley	Max Casley	12
<b>Base Camp</b>	25–29	Snowy Plains – Dimmicks Lookout	Bob Steel	9

The Sunday walks were popular despite the Erskine Falls walk having a scorcher of a total fire ban day. Quentin's NZ trip was a great success but Jerry's trip probably suffered from being on at the same time. Jopie's Geelong cycle trip also had a very hot day which may have kept the numbers low. A good turnout on the TOFS but the Wednesday group must have been on holidays?

*Jopie Bodegraven, Walks Secretary*