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# THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 Cents

Edition 663 MAY 2006

## **Reminder:** Subs are due before the end of May.

This is the last month for the payment of subscriptions. If subs are not paid before the end of MAY, you would not receive your June Newsletter! If the monkey on your Newsletter has a red nose, you have not paid your subs. Confirm by checking your mailing label which should say "Subs due". If you sent in your subs in the last week or so, it may not have been processed yet.



The Federation of Bushwalking Clubs, otherwise known as VicWalk, is the peak or governing bushwalking body in Victoria. More than 70 clubs are members of Vicwalk, representing a total of more than 12,000 walkers, including Melbourne Bushies.

VicWalk exists to serve the interests of bushwalking clubs and bushwalkers and its formal objectives aim to promote the pastime of recreational bushwalking, to gather and distribute information re safety, walking routes, environmental protection and a host of other subjects of interest to bushwalkers.

So we are now asking for interested, non-committee members of MBW to come forward and volunteer to be VicWalk delegates and replace our outgoing reps. It is a rewarding exercise to be involved with VicWalk and gives members the opportunity to make a worthwhile and not too difficult contribution to the running of this excellent club.

Please contact Lynda Larkin.

It is therefore important that we at Melbourne Bushies have representative members or delegates to attend the monthly VicWalk meetings held at 7pm on the first Tuesday of each month. Liaising with and actively participating in VicWalk is a vital and valuable way of ensuring the running of our club is maintained, broadened and upgraded in line with best practice and standards recommended by the governing body, This is ultimately more beneficial and desirable than functioning in isolation.

**WE NEED YOU!**

## **Accommodation is needed**

for interstate BWA delegates  
Weekend June 17 & 18, 2006.

Please contact Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs on (03) 9455 1876

## **Beechworth Base Camp (May 19-21)**

Could anyone intending to come on this base camp please let me know asap so that I can make the necessary bookings with the caravan park and with the hotel for Saturday night dinner. This is necessary as it is also the Harvest Festival in Beechworth that weekend.

Thank you.

David Arnold

**Members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.  
Meet on Wednesday evenings  
Between 7:00 & 9:00 pm in the Clubrooms,  
Victorian Horticultural Society Hall,  
48 MacKenzie Street, Melbourne.  
Visitors are always welcome.**

Member of



General correspondence should be directed to:  
The Secretary  
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.  
PO Box 1751  
Melbourne Vic 3001

The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. is the newsletter of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. and is published monthly.

*Editor: Ana-Silvia Rivera*

Walk previews & reviews, articles, poems, news items, photographs of club events, reports of new gear, book reviews, letters to the Editor, advertisements, etc. are always welcome. The editor reserves the right to edit contributions where space, clarity or propriety dictate and to maintain editorial consistency.

Contributions to The News may be sent to The Editor by:

- 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: as below + 25% or on-line edition only: as below +25%.

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

## President's Corner

This little section of the Newsletter was missed the last 2 months, so although my note is a little late I would still like to make comments on the AGM. We have a new Committee for this year and you will meet them in the following newsletters. Thank you again for entrusting me with the position of Melbourne Bushie President, I feel honoured to have your trust. Our club is the best Bushwalking Club in Melbourne for day & weekend walks, and our volunteers second to none.

Congratulations to three of our members who were made life members at the AGM. As I listened to what they have contributed to the club, I felt that the awards were well deserved.

Life membership is awarded to any person as a mark of high esteem and in appreciation of exceptional services to the club. Our newest life members are:

**Jean Woodger** for her many years of service with choosing and organising walks, leading many and jumping in at the last minute when a leader was unavailable. Jean quietly helped in numerous roles behind the scenes.

**Peter Havlicek** for his involvement as Membership Secretary for over 12 years. Peter undertakes to organise the mailing of the monthly Newsletter, monitoring the database for all members, taking fees etc. (and organising us to fold the newsletters)

**Alan Miller** for his years as Walks Secretary organising and leading walks. Alan was involved when the club sold the old bus and Sunday walks commenced using the "McKenzie" bus. At that time Alan was instrumental in leading the club into a new era of transport.

Jean, Peter and Alan, please accept our congratulations and well done.

Back to club activities, if any member would like to arrange a night activity for the club, e.g. slide night or speaker - please liaise with Charlotte our Social Secretary who will give you the available dates. But I must point out that an important club activity occurs the first Wednesday of the month. If you are calling in to the clubrooms, how about sitting down at the large table at the end of the room and fold a few newsletters. As well as helping to send out our newsletter, you will have the chance to meet others and have a chat.

We welcome all members and visitors into the clubrooms on a Wednesday night and once a month there is a wine & cheese night. If you want to talk to a committee member, there are two of us in the clubrooms each week.

Safe Walking for 2006 - Jan Palich

## Wine & Cheese evening



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

*7:00-9:00pm*

 **SUNDAY BUS: Myrtle Creek**

DATE Sunday 21 May 2006  
 STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium  
 DISTANCE 11 & 14km  
 LEADERS Nik Dow & Cameron Durrant  
 TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blvd  
 RETURN TIME 6:30pm  
 AREA Toolangi State Forest

This walk is altered from Kinglake Nat Park to Toolangi State Forest owing to the Burgan track fire in January this year.

The Toolangi walk was last done in February last year and traverses 1939 mountain ash regrowth with some grand old pre-39 survivors, and takes in some centuries old myrtle-beech rainforest. The walks are all on walking tracks and have only moderate climbs, with a few slippery sections if it has been raining. Both forest types are of excellent quality and we follow a recently cut track through tree-fern gullies for half the walk. Excellent forest walk, highly recommended.

**SATURDAY SPECIAL DAY WALK:  
 Middle Lerderberg Exploratory**

DATE Sat 27 May 2006  
 STANDARD Medium/Hard  
 LEADER Jopie Bodegraven  
 TRANSPORT Private  
 AREA North of Bacchus Marsh  
 MAP REF Meridian Lerderberg & Werribee Gorges 1:35k

Lerderberg Gorge is wild and rough country when you get into the middle section of it. This section is guaranteed to be rough, rocky and scrubby. It has repelled one previous Melbourne Bushies group who weren't prepared for the scrub and rockiness but it is traversed from time to time by well prepared determined groups.

Last June we did a pack carry from Mackenzie Flat upstream to Ah Kow Ruin and Mine. This time we will do the section from Ah Kow to Razorback North Track but we will do it downstream so that we will go with the lean of the scrub.

Meeting point will be at 8.30am at the corner of Mt Blackwood Road and the side road heading NW to the summit of Mt Blackwood. See me in the clubrooms if you want to come and I will try to rationalise transport.

Expect to get wet feet as well.

**Dear All,**  
**A reminder that the deadline for the receipt of News Letter material is the last Wednesday of the month.**  
**Ana-Silvia Rivera**  
**The News Editor**

 **SUNDAY BUS: Olinda Forest Trail**

DATE Sunday 28 May 2006  
 STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium  
 DISTANCE 13 & 16km  
 LEADER Mark Heath & Elizabeth Ingham  
 TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blvd  
 RETURN TIME 7:00pm  
 AREA Dandenongs  
 MAP REF Melways 60/120

A pleasant walk with waterfalls, lyrebirds, good views and the Hamer Arboretum plus the last of Autumn's colours in the Dandenongs

 **SUNDAY BUS: Macedon Walking Trail**

DATE Sunday 4 June 2006  
 STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium  
 DISTANCE 14 & 17km  
 LEADER Halina Sarbinowski & David Arnold  
 TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blvd  
 RETURN TIME 7:00pm  
 AREA Mt Macedon Regional Park  
 MAP REF Woodend and Macedon 1:25000s

My first recollection of visiting Mt Macedon was playing in the snow for the very first time in my life. So be prepared, if the cold spells of April continue into June this walk may also include some snow ball fights for the energetic.

Both groups will walk a route that includes the attractions of the Memorial Cross Reserve, the Sanatorium Lake Forest Eco-Tourism Trail, Mount Towong and the Camel's Hump rock formation. From top of the Cross are splendid views of Woodend and the surrounding area. Lunch and tea breaks will be among the many green grassy picnic grounds of the area.

Although walking in opposite directions both walks will finish in Macedon township hopefully with time to have a hot cuppa before heading back to town.

\*\*\*\*\*

**For Sale**  
 Backpack - MacPac Ravine  
 Size 3 with 70 litres capacity.  
 Weight 1.7 kgs (lighter than standard packs).  
 Only used once - it does not fit me.  
 Would suit a tall person eg 180+ cms.  
 \$200 firm.  
 Contact: Rod Novak

\*\*\*\*\*



## SUNDAY BUS: Pyretes Creek (Lerderderg State Park)

DATE	Sunday 11 June 2006
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	15 & 17kms
LEADER	Peter McGrath & Sue Ralston
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd
RETURN TIME	7:00pm
AREA	Gisborne
MAP REF	Toolern Vale 1:25,000

This walk is in an area now known as Pyrete State Park adjacent to the Lerderderg State Park. It is really quite lovely. It has steep valleys lined with beautiful eucalypts, which create a memorable vista of virgin bushland, quite close to Melbourne.

The club has done many walks in this area. I have led one myself, hence I can attest to its beauty. Previous leaders have commented however on the steep hillsides, the lack of tracks and the difficulty in gaining bus access.

I am leading this walk with a view to restoring it to the program, and also because it is a new State Park. I am confident we will get a good walk, however we still need to do the preview, and I am consulting with the local Parks Victoria office about present and intended tracks through the Pyrete State Park, as it is now known. Please consult with the leaders when booking on this walk.

## WEDNESDAY WALK: Werribee Gorge

DATE	Wed 21 June 2006
STANDARD	Easy / Medium
DISTANCE	8km
LEADER	Margaret Curry
AREA	West of Melbourne
MAP REFERENCE	Lerderderg & Werribee Gorges 1:35,000

Although this distance is only 8km, return to the cars will not be until around 3.00pm due to the terrain. The park is an island of bushland surrounded by farming land, and is an important haven for native flora and animals including kangaroo, echidna, koala, and platypus. Bird watchers might spy a wedge-tailed eagle, a peregrine falcon or an owl. The walk involves some steep sections and great views from a number of outlooks before we descend into the gorge. Here the terrain is more rugged, there is some rocky bluffs to negotiate and one area where a steel cable is used to traverse the rocks. We walk by a disused water race close to Meikles Point Picnic Area before returning to the cars at Quarry Picnic Area.

Travel on Western Freeway to Bacchus Marsh. Take Pentland Hills exit. Turn right at Mortons Road, go under the freeway and then turn left onto Pentland Hills Road towards Ballarat. After crossing under the freeway again, turn left onto Myers Road. Follow this through the main Park gate to the Quarry Picnic area where there is a toilet and picnic tables. Meet here at 10.15am.

Further information and bookings contact Margaret.

## DANDENONGS EXPLORER: O' Donghues Circuit – Sherbrooke Forest

DATE	Sat 24 June 2006
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	About 11 Km
LEADER	Warren Baker
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Sherbrooke Forest
MAP REF	Melway 75 K4

Easy but with a climb just bordering on medium

Meet at Grants Picnic Reserve at 10.15 am.

We will follow the main Monbulk Road (Belgrave-Kallista section) back to the Micawber restaurant along a parallel walking track. After crossing the road **carefully** we will take the left hand track and begin to climb to Sandal's Road. This is a steady but gentle climb. From here we will climb along the Ridge Track to meet O'Donoghue's Track just above the Sherbrooke Falls. A slight detour takes us to the Hackett Track and by means of the Lloyd Track we will arrive at Ferny Creek Recreational Reserve for lunch. This is about 7 Km. After lunch we find our way to O'Donoghue's Reserve, along the Lodge Road and back to Grant's Picnic Ground (about 3.5 Km) and a well earned coffee at Kallista.

## CYCLE TRIP: Werribee to the City

DATE	Saturday 17 June 2006
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER	Del Franks
MAP	Melways
TRANSPORT	Train

For people that love the wetlands, rivers and sea, this is a great ride. The ride will follow the Werribee river into the new suburbs into the north then through some back streets and reserves into Hoppers Crossing. From Hoppers Crossing we will ride on some back roads and suburban streets into Laverton, where we will then get onto a bike path that follows Skeleton Creek into Altona. We will then continue along the coastal bike path through the Wetlands into Williamstown and hopefully take the punt across the Yarra River over to Fisherman's Bend. The Punt cost \$4 one way. From Fisherman's bend the bike path then leads us to the pier at Port Melbourne and then back into the city.

The meeting place for this ride is on the North Side of the Werribee Train Station at 10am. A trail from the City leave the city at 8.45 and arrives at 9.36 or one at 9.05 which arrives at 9.56. There are places to buy food and coffees at Werribee, Altona, Williamstown & Port Melbourne, or BYO.

Contact Del to register interest or see me at the clubrooms on the Wednesday before.

## SUNDAY BUS: You Yangs

DATE	Sunday Walk 25th June 2006
STANDARD	Easy Medium / Medium
DISTANCE	12 & 17km
LEADER	Lynda Larkin & Hans Blom
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd - 9:00am
RETURN TIME	6:00pm

The intrepid English navigator and explorer, Captain Matthew Flinders, entered Corio Bay on May 1st, 1802 and embarked on a 20 mile return trip from Geelong, across the flat larva plains to the You Yangs, a steep, rocky outcrop, which can be recognized by its distinctive sawtooth formation on the western horizon of Port Phillip Bay.

Located 55kms S-W of Melbourne, the You Yangs Regional Park covers an area of 2025 hectares. Both walks will retrace some of the great explorer's steps to the top of Flinders Peak, experiencing the historical ambience of the area, including an aboriginal cave and excellent views from a number of different vantage points.

We will be going adventurously "off track" and therefore **we advise walkers to wear long sleeves and long pants or gaiters** because of the harsher vegetation.

On the preview we discovered an area of cleared forest where many huge volcanic boulders had been gathered and grouped together. We wondered what their purpose was and later in the day we were amazed with what we beheld on our way down the eastern slope of Flinders Peak. Far below in a pool of late afternoon sunlight we were able to see that the rocks were actually strategically positioned to form the outline of a huge eagle... you must come and see it with us.

We promise you an enjoyable day.

And, Walkers, please remember to bring a spare pair of shoes for the bus

## PREVIEWS OF WEEKEND WALKS June 2006

### **BASE CAMP: Gunbower Island, Terrick Terrick & Pyramid Hill**

DATE	10-12 June 2006
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER	Jopie Bodegraven
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Monday early evening
AREA	Up on the Murray near Cohuna

This leisurely base camp combines 4 lovely areas north of Bendigo along and just south of the Murray River. Gunbower Island, incidentally Australia's largest inland island, is an area of red gum forest and billabongs along the Murray. We will camp here for the 2 nights of our base camp with no change of campsite. The other 3 areas are all granite outcrop areas south of the Murray, being Terrick Terrick, Mt Hope and Pyramid Hill. All are interesting and give good views of the surrounding countryside.

It's always difficult arriving at a new campsite in the dark so we'll do away with that. Most of us will leave Melbourne on Saturday morning and drive to Terrick Terrick, where we will meet at the Mt Terrick Terrick picnic area car park at 10.30am. Allow about 3 hours travelling for the 225km from Central Melbourne via Kilmore, Heathcote and Elmore. We will spend the rest of the day doing a very pleasant walk taking in Mt Terrick Terrick and Regal Rock and driving onto our Gunbower Island campsite.

On Sunday we will do an all day walk on Gunbower Island taking in the wildlife, the red gum woodlands, billabongs and a section of the Murray. Then on Monday we will pack up and drive to Mt Hope for a walk and on to Pyramid Hill to climb up that small prominent rocky granite peak for superb views, before returning to Melbourne in the late afternoon.

We should be able to have a campfire, so bring all the usual comfort items, chairs, tables, lights, good humour, tales and good food etc. I have never been to Gunbower Island myself but I am armed with brochures, maps and a very good walk report from a previous base camp there and I will be going up on Friday evening to sort out the camping, but be prepared for possible minor hiccups. Come along for a fun and relaxed long weekend

## CLUBROOMS DUTY ROSTER

<b>May 10</b>	<b>Mark Heath &amp; Paul Logsdon</b>
<b>May 17</b>	<b>Lance Mobbs &amp; Fay Dunn</b>
<b>May 24</b>	<b>Peter McGrath &amp; David Laing</b>
<b>May 31</b>	<b>Charlotte Bradley &amp; John Fritze</b>
<b>June 7</b>	<b>Carol Sisson &amp; Lynda Larkin (TBA)</b>

## Next Committee Meeting

**June 5<sup>th</sup> 2006 - 7:00pm in the clubrooms.**

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Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355

## Slide Night

WEDNESDAY 17TH MAY 2006

8:00PM:-

Please note that the subject for Doug Pococks slide night on the 17th May 2006 - 8pm. has been changed to THE LARAPINTA TRAIL - CENTRAL AUSTRALIA.

If any members missed the Antarctica - Ross Sea - MacQuarie Island slide night on the 19th April please contact Charlotte.

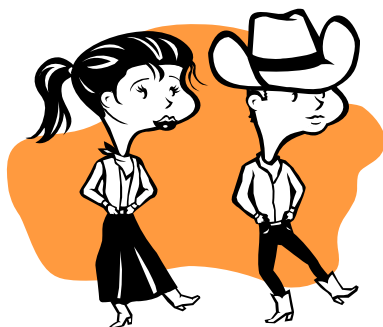
## Walks Secretary Report for March 2006

Type	Date	Trip	Grade	Numbers
Sunday Bus	5	Starling Gap-Ada Tree	E&E/M	43
	12	Arawata-Andersons Ridge	E&E/M	36
	19	Lake Mountain	E&E/M	37
	26	Cape Woolamai – San Remo	E&E/M	37
TOFS	2	Dandenongs – Nicholas Gardens	E	10
	15	Ada Valley Tramline	E/M	8
	25	Belgrave – Upper Ferntree Gully	E	10
Cycle Base Camp	24-26	Camperdown area	E/M	16
	Pack Carry	3-5	Wilson's Prom – Oberon Bay	Easy – <b>Cancelled:</b> lack of interest
10-13		Spion Kopje-Ropers Hut – B Ck Saddle	M	9
10-13		Feathertop & Fainter the hard way	M/H	5
Base Camp	10-13	Howqua River	var	12
	17-19	Prom in a Day Circuit	M/H	10

☹ Sunday walks numbers reducing slightly. The beginners pack carry to the Prom had to be cancelled due to lack of interest, which is disappointing but that is obviously the way it is. The cycle base camp was popular but we had a hell of a hot day on the Sunday! Maybe the Wednesday walk was too far from Melbourne.

Jopie Bodegraven, Walks Secretary

## Bush Dancing



Friday 5th May 06  
8.30pm to 12.30am

**Venue: Collingwood Town Hall, 140 Hoddle Street, Abbotsford** (Parking alongside) Featuring Blackberry Jam Bush Band and all dances called! Tickets can be purchased from Charlotte \$18.00 each or \$22.00 at the door. BYO Drink/glasses/Supper - Tea & Coffee provided free of charge. Tickets can also be purchased from Ron Bell.

# Wilson's Prom

after the fire



## March 17-19 2006

This year I was not going to do the whole of the 'Prom circuit' – 43 kms – as I was recovering after a knee operation and the advice was to exercise, but "not go too mad". I thought that the walk to Sealers Cove and return would be sufficient for one day. So I drove from Tidal River up to Telegraph Saddle and walked from there, the idea being that the rest of the group would catch up with me at Sealers Cove. And so they did. I had scarcely hobbled onto the beach before the leaders arrived. Bill and Marilyn were in the water before you could blink, and I and others followed. Gorgeously. That first swim from the sandy beach in such a wonderful cove is bliss. The day was fine,

not too hot, the sea was as calm as a duck pond, and the prospect of walking back to Tidal River seemed, well, not so attractive. So I thought that I'd walk on a bit before turning back.

The fire damage had been too evident up the hill to the Telegraph Saddle carpark, with many burnt trees but mostly it was growing back nicely. From the saddle to Sealers was untouched. And along the next bit of coastline was OK as well. Some swam again at north Refuge Cove. As the rear party, I saw little of the group until we had climbed Kersop Peak and reached North Waterloo Bay. By this time I had given up all ideas of turning back and I was now committed to going on. We lunched and swam at North Waterloo Bay and here Gina, Ray and Geoff decided that 43 km was not sufficient for the day – they would

include the lighthouse and make it 60 km! They took off at a trot. The rest of us made our way from Waterloo Bay (after another swim) through regenerating scrub and a mass of grass trees that had all flowered. Lots of new boardwalks here and much regeneration. I was tiring so I returned to Telegraph Saddle via the Lighthouse track (not recommended – a road bash and a climb) while the rest continued on to Oberon Bay (and a swim) then back to Tidal River via Little Oberon Bay and Norman Point. Everyone was back at Tidal River by 7.30 p.m, 12 ½ hours after setting out. Showers and food were in demand! Ralph went for a lie down and awoke at 3.30 a.m. for his shower. He ate his dinner for breakfast!

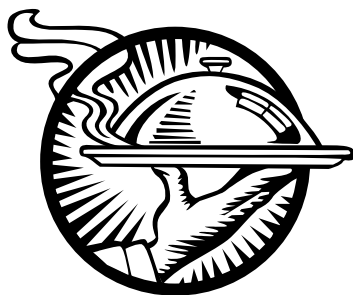
Sunday morning was a gentle start as people found

their limbs slow to respond! Some of us wandered around and inspected the rebuilt walkways at Tidal River before going out towards Tongue Point. A car shuffle allowed us to start at Derby Saddle and finish at Derby River. Fairy Cove beckoned, so we stopped by there for a restful swim. We met up for a leisurely lunch / afternoon tea at Koowarra in the warm sunshine before the homeward drive. I was pleased that my knee had enabled me to do the walk and see for myself that the Prom was coming back again. But it would be nice to have somewhere other than Tidal River to camp!

Walkers – Bill Metzenthien, Marilyn Whimpey, Ralph Blake, Ray Thomas, Bill Donald, Lynda Larkin, Geoff Kelly, Gina Hopkins, Irene Moser and Derrick Brown.

Irene Moser

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Friday 19th May -7.30pm

Venue: Chocolate Buddha, Licensed –  
Federation Square, Melbourne  
Ph 9654 5688.

If you would like to attend please contact Charlotte and you can also take the opportunity to let her know your favourite restaurants.

*FREE..!*

### Opening of the Australian Garden – Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne

This is Victoria's newest botanic garden, The Australian Garden in Cranbourne and last month I was fortunate enough to join a group of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens for a pre-opening tour. The design and planning - and what has already been achieved - is truly amazing. As the plants grow it will be a wonderful place to showcase indigenous flora as well as flora from different environmental/climate zones. Do take this opportunity to visit. In future there will be a charge for visiting the Australian Garden (has to be self-supporting), although the natural bushland part of the Cranbourne Gardens will still be free. Details of the opening are given below.

The premier, Steve Bracks will officially open the garden that will come alive with music, puppetry and roving performers. There will be free tours, gardening demonstrations, children's activities, a performance by Vika and Linda Bull and a tethered hot-air balloon that will give visitors a bird's eye view of this magnificent new garden.

Date: **Saturday 28 May, 11am - 4pm.**  
Cost: entry to the Australian garden is free on opening day only. Charge for hot air balloon rides.

Location: Melway 133 G10.

## CLUBROOM FRIDAY NIGHT FLICKS

**May 26th. 7:30pm**

Autumn is here! This means it's dark enough in the evenings for us to start up our clubroom Australian film screenings again. What we do is set up a projector at one end of the room and a screen at the other. We start with an entertaining short and follow this with a feature length film, including an interval for supper and socialising. Just like in the good old days at the pictures.

We start the season with a classic comedy: "**Alvin Purple**", made in 1973 and heralding an Australian film revival. It was closely followed by such films as "Stork", "Picnic at Hanging Rock" and "Caddie". Alvin is an ordinary young bloke looking for a quiet life but whose very ordinariness makes him irresistible to women. The film was made at a time when censorship was beginning to be relaxed and it poked fun at all sorts of bastions of Australian propriety, especially psychiatry, the press and the law. It was hugely successful and even today remains one of the most profitable Aussie releases. Stars include Graeme Blundell, Jackie Weaver and Noel Ferrier. So, come along and enjoy a piece of movie memorabilia.

A light supper will be provided at interval. We'll screen more Australian classics in coming months if enough interest is shown.

No need to book – just show up. If any further information is required contact Stuart.

**Remember – this is not a video or DVD but an authentic cinematic projection on to a BIG screen!**



# Sugarloaf · Macalister River - Bruni Knob

31 March - 2 April 2006

On this trip, we explored a ridge between two valleys, one with a sealed road following the Wellington River, the other a very narrow secluded valley with the Macalister River winding along at the bottom.

Only a short distance from each other, one valley is tangibly connected with civilisation (with the visible effect of dead wildlife on the road), the other agreeably devoid of any sounds of human presence. Although we never managed to identify a very strange



sound we heard at the campfire on Kendall Flat: a single distinct bark that sounded almost, but not quite, like a dog's. It made us wonder whether we had spread our camp over too large an area. With ample space on the flat grassy banks of the Macalister river, snuggling up in defence hadn't been our first inspiration.

But we were keen to snuggle up around the campfire. After all, the first day had we had



started our trip taking down wet tents on the camp at Breakfast Creek where we arrived on Friday night. The rain courteously stopped for the time we pitched and took down our tents, but Saturday was spiked with a few showers. One of them sprinkled hail over our lunches up on The Crinoline (1165m according to the map, 1182m according to Max' GPS), our second excursion from the saddle where we left our packs. We were keen to get down from the windy peak in temperatures of just under 10°C.

Crossing from one valley into another on both days meant steep climbs and seemingly even steeper descents. On the second day, we found only traces of the walking tracks marked on the current 20-year-old map of the region. Heading downstream for an access to the Bruni Knob on the same ridge south of the Sugarloaf,

we crossed the river at least 8 times.

Surprisingly, only 2 out of 18 feet got wet, and the scenic bends of the winding river with its haze of morning mist in the first rays of sunlight kept the spirits up - as did the unusually comfortable walking on next to flat ground.

When we made our way up a steep spur to Bruni Knob the sun was already burning down again and we did not miss the campfire Ian had considerably lit for breakfast. The last 200m before the ridge top



deserved the description "ordeal" for me, but the steep descent to the other



side proved almost a match with its overgrown or nonexistent tracks, thorny bushes, slippery gravel and quite a few rocky patches. Frequent stops were justified by orientation and gave our 5 hard core bushies, many of them experienced leaders like our Bob, time to ask their GPS's whether we were still where we had planned to be. The walk culminated in a 40m slide down a 50-60° gravel slope down to the road to civilisation, with a very necessary wash in the Wellington River.

Participants were Bob Oxlade, Irene Moser, Kerry Tabor, Jopie, Bill Donald, Ian Mair, Andreas Ludwig, Paul Beers, and Max Casley.

Irene Moser

# Bogong

## Creek

### Saddle

10-13 March 2006

As some of our group had camped Friday night at the Mt Beauty Caravan Park, we met there at 8-15 on Saturday morning. Present were our leader Bill Donald, along with Rod, Jerry, Bert and Joycelyn, Frances, Susan, Alex and myself.

Following a briefing from Bill we drove to our starting point at Howman's Gap, leaving Frances' car at Clover Dam as we passed by. It was a beautiful morning and everyone was enthusiastic as we located the walking track. After a short descent to a creek we crossed it for a steep 250 metre climb to the Spion Kopje Fire Track and all agreed that we deserved our morning tea break.

We continued a steady climb, leaving the forested level and emerged onto the more open high plains, and when only 1km from Spion Kopje we stopped for lunch. We had noticed that Joycelyn had been dropping back and we were all extremely disappointed to hear that she was experiencing a reoccurrence of a previous injury, and not wanting to take any risks, decided to return to their car while within reach of it. Bill arranged that Rod would lead us while he and Jerry would accompany Joycelyn and Bert back to

their car. Bert would then drive them up past Falls Creek so they could access the Alpine Walking Track and rejoin us at camp. A short side trip to Spion Kopje gave us nice views and it was decided that a very pleasant 2km short cut across the plains over Whiterock Creek would bring us to a snow pole line only 1km from Roper Hut campsite at 940 metres. It is a beautiful spacious area amongst snow gums with good water in a nearby rocky creek, and, although the hut had been destroyed by the recent bushfires, a new toilet had been erected. Bill and Jerry surprised us by arriving as early as 7pm after their long detour, and they didn't waste any time erecting tents, having dinner and going to bed after their long day.

It was a warm morning on Sunday as we cut across the plain to the Big River Fire Track on Timms Spur. We had good views across the Grey Hills towards the Fainters and we wondered the position of Gina's group in that area. We detoured around a snake sunning itself in the middle of the track and as we descended to Big River we encountered much after fires regrowth forest about 2metres tall. We refreshed at the river and a short climb had us in the shade

just prior to Bogong Creek Saddle at around 1400metres for a late lunch. As it was quite hot on the saddle we decided to give the views a miss and erect our tents where we were. This area was untouched by the fires. It was a unanimous decision that the side trip offered up Quartz Ridge was not really necessary. and although most elected to relax or maybe return to the river for a dip, a 3km walk was done to Cairn Creek Hut and back. This was an interesting trip as the track to this Survey Hut had been difficult to find prior to the fires.

It was a cool change in the weather on Monday when we continued down the Big River Fire Track. We had good views towards Mount Bogong as the track zig zagged down to the car at Clover Dam and it was raining when we arrived there. After completing the car shuffle we had a late lunch at the Mt Beauty Bakery.

To Bert and Joycelyn, we missed your company, thanks to Rod for helping out, and to Bill for organising and leading another good walk.

Bob Oxlade