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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 cents

Edition 674 | APRIL 2007



NOTICE BOARD

Following the Bushies February AGM, the new Committee has reviewed the issue of reimbursing all walks' leaders for preview petrol costs. It has been taken into consideration that equity for all leaders is of

paramount importance, especially as they all give so generously of their time and energy to ensure their walks are well-planned, safe and enjoyable. We should be able to finalize a reimbursement plan at the April committee meeting and will let leaders know the outcome as soon as possible.

Many people will be aware that VicWalk, now Bushwalking Victoria, has recently undergone significant changes designed to update and improve its management, at the same time maintaining its strong commitment to contribute value to the community through its activities and to protect the interests of its members.

At a Club Presidents' Meeting organized by Bushwalking Victoria last weekend, Vice-president David Laing and I participated in a day-long workshop designed to help clubs adjust to the changes and explore new ways of improving communications between the peak body and its members. Ideas were discussed re new initiatives for promoting the activities we enjoy so much and ways of encouraging more members to take a more active interest in BWV and the running of their clubs

BWV will be holding its AGM on June 5th 2007 and has issued a notice to all clubs requesting that nominations for the new Board of Management be in by April 5th. The Board consists of five Officers- President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, an Assistant Secretary plus five General members.

All these positions will be declared vacant at the AGM, pending nominations for election to fill these roles. We have been doing some head hunting within our ranks at MBW to find a suitable/willing candidate. A delegate from each club may be present at the AGM to participate in the democratic voting in of the new Board and any other voting that may take place.

We are also looking for people who may be interested in Bushwalkers Search and Rescue and Bushwalking Environment (Conservation and Track Maintenance) to work with the BWV teams.

Thanks for your attention and happy walking

Lynda Larkin,



Urgently needed and wanted GENERAL WALKS SECRETARY (COMMITTEE POSITION)

Due to unforeseen circumstances our newly elected Walks Secretary, John Bristow, has had to suddenly resign. Thus, we are once again without someone to fill this role. Please give due consideration to how you may be able to fill this important role in the club. Contact Lynda Larkin, or any other committee member, to discuss your interest.

This is primarily an administrative role and does not involve coming up with walk ideas or finding leaders. There will be separate coordinators for those roles. He/she will therefore not need to be an experienced walker with a good knowledge of walk areas. He/she will coordinate the compilation of the activities program, receiving lists of trips and leaders from the Sunday walks secretary and the other coordinators, endeavouring to avoid any undesirable date clashes between trips. He/she may have to remind them of deadlines. He will email or post the required paperwork to all leaders except Sunday bus leaders, receive and file walk reports, keep stats, prepare a brief monthly report for News and also prepare an annual report.



Urgently needed and wanted WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR (WEBMASTER)

The club's internet presence has been greatly enhanced over the past two years by Ian Mair, whose extensive redevelopment of the site has included features such as the highly popular photogallery, newsletter archive, and generally improved site navigation and layout.

The club is now seeking a volunteer who would like to continue the maintenance and development of the site, now that Ian has decided to move on to new challenges. The role involves some routine work such as updating previews and other content each month, as well as creating new albums in the photogallery with input received from members. There is also scope for creative and/or site development work that the new webmaster may wish to undertake.

The club website is currently maintained using Microsoft FrontPage. Assistance will be given to the new webmaster in the maintenance of the site while the handover is completed.

This is a great opportunity to learn or improve your skills in website development, while maintaining a vital service for the club and prospective members. If you are interested, please contact Lynda Larkin or Ian Mair using contact details in club membership list.

SUBS DUE BEFORE END OF MAY

Ordinary: Single \$40, Couple \$65
Concession: Single \$30, Couple \$38 (criterion: both of couple eligible for Commonwealth Health benefits)

So far 70 subs paid (out of 475), so shake a leg!!!

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



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. **Note - photographs should be sent as separate files which are capable of being edited.** Contributions to The News may be sent to the Editor by:

- Posting a diskette or hand written material to The Editor at 16 Carinya Road, East Bentleigh 3165.
- **The most preferred method is emailing an unformatted text file to news@melbournebushwalkers.org.au**

Closing date for receipt of material for The News is without fail the last Wednesday of the month.

Only advertisements that directly relate to bushwalking (eg gear, maps, trips, tours etc) can be accepted. Advertising rates commencing with edition 674 | April 2007 are the following:

1/4 page, \$80 per insertion (80mm(w) x 12mm(h))

1/2 page, \$160 per insertion (170mm(w) x 125mm(h))

No discounts will apply for multiple insertions.

Club rooms Duty Roster:

Wednesday 11 April - Mark Heath, Carol Criddle

Wednesday 18 April - John McCall, Del Franks

Wednesday 25 April - Liz Moore, Lynda Larkin

Wednesday 2 May - David Liang, Mark Heath

Next Committee Meeting:

Monday 7 May 2007

THE NEWS OF THE EQUIPMENT STORE

Titanium Wear Woes



Snow Peak make a good titanium spork but, like all sporks, its not very effective at scraping the bottom of your billy. You might be better off with a spoon but they don't sell them separately. MSR sell a spoon but it has a spanner on the end that's useless unless you have a MSR stove. Snow Peak make a 0.9 litre titanium billy with a lid that that can be used as a bowl but it pops off when the billy boils. They also make a 0.7 litre model but its base looks too small to be heated efficiently by the burner. MSR make a good 0.85 litre billy but it has a big price tag and a lid unsuitable for any other use.

So why buy titanium? The situation in cheaper metals is even worse!

Equipment buying evening

The Wilderness Shop in Box Hill is having their "Mega Buying Night" for Melbourne Bushies on Tuesday 5th May between 6:00 and 9:00 PM. Amongst other things they will be offering a 20% discount off all their regular prices. It could be an opportunity to buy some of those items that seldom appear on special.

Head torches

Tired of head torches with three batteries? Black Diamond now offer small two and three led models that use two AAA batteries and a more powerful model that uses two AA batteries. Could be worth considering, especially if you plan to use rechargeables.

Rechargeable batteries

Do you have any devices that don't like 1.2 volt rechargeable batteries? You could consider the rechargeable alkaline variety. They cannot be recharged as many times and tend to lose capacity as they age but are a full 1.5 volts and can be recharged as often as you like.

John Fritze

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I wait each month in breathless anticipation for the next 'Bushwalking by the Stars' article. I do hope that we follow this with other articles in similar vein. May I suggest 'Phrenology for beginners', 'Tarot cards for decision making', 'Basic hand reading', 'Improve your love life with mind reading', 'How to impress your friends with spoon bending' and "How to make your very own crystal ball". I'm currently putting together 'How to befriend the fairies at the bottom of your garden'.

Derrick Brown

Probationary member of the Melbourne Flat Earth Society

Editor's reply:

Dear Avid Stars Reader, I can't wait for your regular contributions in the vein that you suggest!

Christine



Cheese and Wine Evening

25 April 2007
in the clubrooms



Cycling

BELGRAVE TO CARRUM, AND MAYBE BEYOND

DATE	Saturday, 14 April 2007
TIME	9.30 am
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	53 km (to Carrum)
LEADERS	Del Franks
TRANSPORT	Train to Belgrave (Zone 3) leaving Flinders St at 8.10am arriving Belgrave at 9.27. Return from Carrum (Frankston line Zone 2)

Meeting time is at 9.30 am at Belgrave Station (or later if the train is late).

This ride starts of at Belgrave station and follows that train line down to Ferntree Gully. This part of the ride can be a thrill ride (if you choose to take it as fast as you can) or just an easy ride down hill. The ride then follows the Blind Creek Path to Knox City and on to Jells Park where will be have a break, a late morning tea or early lunch depending on time. After Jells Park we ride on to Dandenong where we can have another break. The distance to Dandenong is 36 km and can be an ending for people who would like to do a shorter rider.

After this we follow the Dandenong Creek to reach the Patterson River. Depending on time and interest, the ride can either end at Carrum or we can continue through to Mordialloc and beyond.

Although quite long, the ride is easier than you might think as the first section is mainly downhill and after that the terrain is mainly flat. The first part of the ride is sealed, where as the second part of the ride is hard packed gravel.

I will be in the club rooms on the Wednesday night before the ride (11 April) or I can telephone me.



Sunday bus

FOREST CAVES - PYRAMID ROCK

DATE	Sunday, 15 April 2007
STANDARD	Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCE	12 and 13 km
LEADERS	David Laing and Halina Sarbinowski
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd
RETURN TIME	7pm
AREA	Phillip Island
MAP REF	Melway 631 & 632

These walks start from near Forrest Caves (E/M) and Sunderland Bay (M) walking along the southern back beaches of Phillip Island, past Pyramid Rock to Berry's Beach (E/M) and Kitty Miller Bay (M) passed 1906 wreck of the SS Speke.

The terrain varies from sandy beaches, various sized boulders to rocky shelves. The rock shelves are quite sharp in places so strong soled footwear is advised and perhaps gloves (eg gardening gloves). Be prepared for a considerable amount of rock hopping.

Most of the walk is at beach level but just before Pyramid Rock there is a short climb up the to the cliff tops then along the top for about 3kM to Berry's Beach. The medium walk continues on again at beach level to Kitty Miller Bay with another small climb over Helens Head.

An interesting walk along secluded beaches and rocky headlands with sea views from the cliff tops. It is unlikely to be an excessively hot day, but if so, or if it is wet (which will slow us down) there are options to shorten the walks.

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

We're going!



Drysdale River National Park

Drysdale River is the largest National Park in the Kimberley. It contains an incredible concentration of well preserved Aboriginal rock art, especially Bradshaw style paintings.

See a variety of rivers, gorges, waterfalls and wildlife. Every creek has its own character. Every one is worth a visit. Sandy beaches and flat rock ledges make excellent camp sites. The warm to cool nights of the dry season make them perfect for relaxing around the campfire.

A difficult 4WD track and no airstrip make it hard to get to the park. **We have a better, faster way.** We know where the art sites are and where the best camp sites are. We know the park as well or better than anyone else. **Why not join us. We're going!**

Both our 2007 Drysdale trips are definite departures. Do them both and get a huge discount. Ask us for more information.



www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au

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

Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355



Wednesday Walk

BUNYIP STATE FOREST (Mortimer Picnic Ground)

DATE	Wednesday, 18 April 2007
STANDARD	Easy/Medium.
DISTANCE	Approx 14 kms
LEADERS	Gina Hopkins 9853 3788 (Replacing John and Judy Reddoch)
DEPART TIME	Arrive 9.45am for 10.00am start. Travel time approx 1 to 1hr 15mins.
MAP REF	Melway page 14

Getting there: take Burwood Hwy. to Belgrave to Gembrook. From Gembrook drive towards Beenak East Rd. then along Gembrook-Tonimbuk Rd for 7 km to Mortimer Picnic Ground on left. Alternatively take Princess Hwy through Pakenham to Tynong North Rd. Turn left. Turn left again into Gembrook-Tonimbuk Rd with Mortimer Picnic Ground on right.

Walk description: A very pretty walk through fern gullies and drier forest on a combination of walking tracks and management tracks. There is one steep ascent/descent of 270 m over 1.7 kms. Great scenic views from Four Brothers Rocks. Lyrebirds seen in fern gullies. If time permits after our walk coffee on Main St. Gembrook.



Dandenongs Explorer

BELGRAVE TO SASSAFRAS CIRCUIT

DATE	Saturday, 28 April 2007
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	Approx 14km
LEADERS	Fay Dunn
RETURN TIME	Approx 3.30 pm
MAP REF	Melway 75 10F

The walk commences from the Belgrave Station car park at 10.30 and we will meet there 15 minutes earlier. The first part of the walk features some short steep up and down sections and then leads on to a long steady climb up the Hillclimb Track. The track flattens out shortly after Sherbrooke Falls and remains fairly flat until we begin the downhill return at the Clematis Track. The walk has sections of narrow track with tall trees and tree ferns, a short section on a back road and some open forest on wide tracks. The falls had very little water in them at the time of preview. Lunch is planned at the Ferny Creek Reserve and we should be back in Belgrave in time for a coffee.



Sunday Bus

ANDERSONS PICNIC GROUND - SUNDAY CREEK

DATE	Sunday 22 April 2007
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	15 km Easy, 18kms Easy/Medium
LEADERS	Doug Langton and Marilyn Lock
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd
RETURN TIME	6 pm
MAP REF	Mt Disappointment

Details of the walk: Although not yet previewed, both walks will commence and finish at the Andersons Creek picnic grounds. The easy walk will follow a vehicle track which initially will climb up to and then run along the undulating crest of a major ridge rising gradually with some areas of views into the adjoining creeks. It will then follow a gravel road around the lower slope of Mt Mickey at approx 600m elevation and then turn back down another ridge and four wheel drive track which will eventually bring it above the small but delightful Sunday Creek reservoir. A walking track is then followed below the reservoir to bring the walk back to the Andersons Picnic area and the bus.

The longer walk will cover the same general area but will walk around the Sunday Creek reservoir as well as travel further north into the State Forest. The two walks do coincide in many places but the longer walk will generally move in a counter-clockwise direction whilst the easy walk will move clockwise. A walk which is mainly through eucalypt forest but also includes cool areas of more luxuriant growth in the valleys.



Sunday Bus

MOUNT WORTH STATE PARK

DATE	Sunday, 29 April 2007
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	13 and 16 km
LEADERS	Max Casley and Lance Mobbs
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd
RETURN TIME	7pm approx
AREA	Western Strzelecki Ranges, SE of Warragul
MAP REF	Mt Worth and Allambee 1:25,000, 1:30,000 maps T8021211 & T8121344

This Park has tall forest with some huge mountain ash, tree ferns in the gullies and reclaimed farmland which is slowly regenerating. From high lookout points there are views of the Latrobe Valley, Great Dividing Range and on a clear day Westernport Bay.

The Easy walk will follow a road and a grassy track downhill to Moonlight Creek and then go along a track downstream through the forest to the Picnic Area for lunch. Then we will explore the tracks which go past the historic timber mill sites and see many giant trees including one 7 metres in girth and 300 years old before returning to the picnic area. Make sure that you still have some energy left for a steady 150 metre climb through open regenerating farmland to the finish with good views on the way.

The Easy/medium group will follow a different route to the picnic area and see the giant tree and Trevorrow's mill site. Then we will try out a new track along Larkin Creek which (to be confirmed) should enable us to reach Moonlight Creek track and then go along this to the picnic area again. Then we will climb 150 metres steadily through the open area back to the bus.



TOFS

MT ELIZA REGIONAL PARK

DATE	Thursday, 3 May 2007
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	9 km
LEADERS	Alister Rowe
RETURN TIME	2.30 pm
MAP REF	Melway 105 K9

Meet at 10.30 am in the car park just off Moorooduc Highway, adjacent to the Moorooduc railway station.

We will explore the Mount Eliza Regional Park and have morning tea at the lookout above the quarry at 105 K7. We will then walk through the upmarket residential area and have lunch at the Mt Eliza Park. Walking south and west will return us to the car park.

This is a shorter walk, but there are some minor hills coupled with good views. Please contact Alister Rowe.



Sunday Bus

MOUNT JERUSALEM - MOUNT EVERARD CIRCUIT

DATE	Sunday, 6 May 2007
STANDARD	Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCE	16 km and 20 km
LEADERS	Graeme Walkden and Cameron Durrant
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd
RETURN TIME	7 pm
AREA	Kinglake National Park
MAP REF	Kinglake National Park Outdoor Leisure map 1:25,000

This circuit walk in Kinglake National Park is all on tracks. Both groups begin and end the walk at Steels Creek Picnic Ground. The Easy/Medium group will walk the circuit anti-clockwise. The Medium group will walk the circuit clockwise and take a side trip.

The Easy/Medium group begins on a track that climbs through dense timber and undergrowth to a ridge walk through open timber. Along the way, the track skirts the summit of Mount Jerusalem. The track turns south to Cooksons Hill, then skirts the summit of Mount Beggary and passes close to the summit of Mount Everard. From there the track descends very steeply at first, levels off and then descends steeply again. The last kilometre is along an almost flat gravel road.

The Medium group begins on the almost flat gravel road, then turns onto a walking track. This climbs steeply at first, levels off and then climbs very steeply. The track levels off, then passes close to the summit of Mount Everard. After skirting the summit of Mount Beggary, the track climbs to Cookson Hill, then follows a ridge through a U-turn to the south. The group now takes a side trip through fern gullies to Jehosaphat Gully Picnic Ground. Lavers Circuit takes the group through another fern gully. After this, the group retraces its steps to the main track. The return to Steels Creek Picnic Ground is mostly downhill, with the track skirting the summit of Mount Jerusalem on the way.



Cycling

BALLAN TO BACCHUS MARSH, The long (and downhill) way

DATE	Saturday, 5 May 2007
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	70 km
LEADER	Jopie Bodegraven
TRANSPORT	Private

Ballan sits up on a plateau at 500m above sea level. Bacchus Marsh is down in a valley at 100m. That sounds like a good cycling recipe to me! Except that there are still some ups but overall its down.

Our meeting point will be at 9am in the carpark for the Bacchus Marsh Swimming Pool in Peppertree Park Melway ref 333H8. We need to leave enough cars there to get the drivers back to Ballan at the end of the ride. Then we drive to our start at Ballan. Our ride will take us via Mt Egerton, the Moorabool River and the long glorious run down through the Parwan Valley back to Bacchus Marsh. Come along for a great day.



Sunday Bus

ANGELSEA – AIREY'S INLET

DATE	Sunday 13 May 2007
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	12km and 15km
LEADERS	Liz Moore and Halina Sarbinowski
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd
RETURN TIME	7pm
AREA	Surf Coast
MAP REF	Anglesea 1:25,000 & Airey's Inlet 1:25,000.

We will be following the Surf Coast Walk between Anglesea & Airey's Inlet with the E/M group commencing their walk a few kilometres east of Anglesea and the Easy group at Anglesea. The walking is a mixture of cliff top paths looking down into beautiful green and blue ocean, long sandy beaches and rock outcrops taking in such features as Eagle Rock, Table Rock, Eagle Nest Reef and Urquhart Bluff. At the end of the walk we will have an opportunity to explore Split Point lighthouse and indulge in an ice-cream or latte.



Wednesday Walk THE TUNNEL - LERDERBERG STATE PARK

DATE Wednesday, 16 May 2007
 STANDARD Easy/Medium
 DISTANCE Approx 16 km
 LEADER Sandra Mutimer
 RETURN TIME 4.30 pm [to the cars]
 MAP REF Meridian Lerderberg and Werribee Gorges 1: 15,000

We will meet at 10:15 am at the Blackwood Hotel on the corner of Martin St [off the Greenvale – Trentham Rd] and Golden Point Rd, Blackwood. It is likely that we will drive closer to the beginning of the Byers Back Track if work on the intended place to park the car has been completed.

The walk will take us past the Golden Point area of Blackwood to the aptly-named Byers Back Track. This mainly follows an old water race as it gently makes its way down to the valley and the Lerderberg River, passing evidence of former gold mining days along the way. From here we will reach The Tunnel that was cut through solid rock by miners to divert water from a bend in the river and make it easier to search for gold in the exposed dry river bed. We will then climb up [a short sharp climb at first] to join the Tunnel Point Track and make our way back to the car by Shaws Lake and the mineral spring.

Please contact me to book on this walk or for further details.



Dandenongs Explorer SHERBROOKE - HERMONS SADDLE CIRCUIT

DATE Saturday, 26 May 2007
 STANDARD Easy/Medium
 DISTANCE 14km
 LEADER Liz Telford
 RETURN TIME 4:00pm
 MAP REF Melways maps 75 and 124

This month's Dandenong Explorer walk will be a slightly longer version of a walk led by Warren last year. The walk is about 14 km and consists of walking on track in the Sherbrooke Forest and a combination of quiet streets. We will have lunch at Hermons Saddle Reserve. There are a few hills, but you have to expect that in the Dandenongs. The meeting time is 10: 00 am at O'Donohue Picnic Ground (Melway 75 F3). There is no need to book in on the walk. If you have any queries please call me.



Sunday Bus Long Forest Flora Reserve

DATE Sunday, 27 May
 STANDARD Easy and Easy/Medium
 DISTANCE TBA
 LEADER David Arnold and Lance Mobbs

This walk has not yet been previewed. Details will be provided in May edition of the News.



Sunday Bus GERMAN TRACK & OLD TOM CREEK (Daylesford)

DATE Sunday, 20 May 2007
 STANDARD Easy and Easy/Medium
 DISTANCE 12km/16km
 LEADERS Les Southwell and Lynda Larkin
 TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blvd
 RETURN TIME 6.30pm
 AREA Wombat State Forest southwest of Daylesford
 MAP REF Spanning Eganstown and Barkstead

Both walks will start and finish at Sailors Falls in Wombat State Forest south-west of Daylesford. Due to the drought the falls were dry when the walk was previewed in Summer, but hopefully by mid-May there will have been some rain to enhance the beauty of this charming place. We will be walking through open forest along gently undulating tracks in parts of what was once the richest gold mining area in the world, now redolent with history. The mining register reports the activity of a mining party from Clunes along a quartz reef near German Gully from the mid to late 1850's

Very pleasant walking. Remember to bring usual essentials, including sufficient water and change of shoes for the bus after the walk. Book early or miss out.



Bushwalking Victoria

TRACK MAINTENANCE NOTES

The following work days have been scheduled.

- 22 April 2007 **Powelltown** - Dave Rimmer
- TBA **Riggall's Spur** - Jim Harker 9
- 26-27 May **Boronia Peak, Grampians** - Rod Novak
- 31 May – 3 June **Otways** - Jim Harker



Pack Carry BAW BAW-STRONACHS CAMP- MT ST GWINEAR

DATE	20-22 April 2007
STANDARD	Easy (possibly with medium options)
DISTANCE	25 km
LEADERS	Max Casley
AREA	Baw Baw Plateau north of Moe
MAP REF	Baw Baw National Park (VMTC) 1:50,000

Note that this walk was originally set as medium standard but I plan to do an easy walk with possibly more challenging optional extras depending on who else comes along. This is an excellent introductory walk for anyone considering trying out weekend pack carrying. For Friday night there is a pleasant grassy campsite at Stronachs Camp. On Saturday we will walk along the Alps Walking Track up to the beautiful Baw Baw plateau and camp near the site of a hut ruin near Mt Whitelaw. On Sunday we go over Mt St Phillack and finish at Mt St Gwinear car park. Options are side trips to Mt Whitelaw and Baw Baw village and continuing past Mushroom Rocks to Mt Erica car park. No camp fires are allowed in this park so bring or share a stove – the Club has some for hire.



Pack Carry LERDERDERG RIVER - OLD RIVER - CLEARWATER CREEK

DATE	12-13 May 2007
STANDARD	Medium
LEADER	Jopie Bodegraven
MAP REF	Lerderderg and Werribee Gorges 1:35,000 by Meridian Maps

This will be an exploration of 2 major tributaries of the Lerderderg in its middle reaches. The pack carry part is pretty easy. 3 ½ km mostly downhill to the river where we will set up camp on a probably slightly sloping site. Then the rest of Saturday is with day packs exploring 2 km of the main river and then up the Old River, returning via a fire trail. Sunday is pack carrying 1 ½ km upstream, then a side trip exploring up Clearwater Creek and some interesting looking untracked spurs and finishing with a 4 km climb with packs back to the cars.

Be prepared for lots of rockhopping, almost all with a day pack, and a certain amount of scrub. You will be part of an exploratory team. Be warned. Only the tracks in and out of the gorge have been previewed.

If the river is still dry we will simply carry all our water in. At least it's downhill! We will meet at 9am at the end of Lohs Lane just south of Mt Blackwood. Take the Myrning turnoff from the Western Freeway. No car shuffle required.



Base Camp BLACKWOOD

DATE	27-29 April 2007
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER	Paul Logsdon, Co-Leader TBC
AREA	Blackwood

This Base camp activity is located in the historic Blackwood gold mining area, between Daylesford and Bacchus March, close to the Lerderderg River and Lerderderg Gorge. We plan to set up camp Friday night at O'Brien's Crossing Camp site, where toilets, BBQ facilities are available.

Depending on the numbers of people that book on this activity, we will attempt two long walks and possibly a short walk as well. The first walk will start and finish at O'Brien's Crossing and is approx. 18km long, through the Lerderderg Gorge area, following the Lerderderg River, and visiting The Tunnel and gold diggings along the way.

The second walk is Blackwood – Long point, a challenging walk, 18km long rated Medium/Hard and progresses along the Blackwood Ranges Track, Fox Gully Track and Long Point track to Lerderderg Weir. The start and finish will be at Mount Blackwood.

Please bring some food to share on Saturday night. I will be attending the MBW Clubrooms during April to take bookings and provide maps.



Base Camp MT COLE AREA

DATE	18-20 May 2007
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADERS	Halina Sarbinowski
MAP REF	1:25 000 Buangor North and Beaufort North

Within 200km of Melbourne are Mt Buangor and Mt Cole. These areas are not often walked and therefore the two walks planned are quite rugged and gaiters will be highly beneficial.

Saturday night's camp will be at Richards Camping Ground, Mt Cole. Our first walk at Mt Buangor, the adjacent park, will visit a variety of landmarks including the Cave and Beeripmo Camp Site. On day 2, after packing up, we will do the shorter of our two walks, Grevillea and Paradise Tracks, in Mt Cole. If you have a walking pole it would be an advantage as some tracks are extremely steep and slippery.

An afternoon snack (or late lunch) will be enjoyed in Beaufort at a Café with a genuine French chef who has learnt the shortfalls of purchasing a business on-line. Our gain...his confusion. For those who want to go the extra kilometers I intend to stop and do a circuit of Windermere Lake, Ballarat before heading home.



Track Maintenance GRAMPIANS

DATE	25-27 May 2007
LEADER	Rod Novak
MAP REF	Vic Map Northern Grampians 1:50,000

We will be assisting the Bushwalking Victoria (VicWalk) Track Maintenance effort and the Grampians Walking Tracks Support Group working on the Boronia Peak Track. The weekend will involve building stone steps ie finding, carrying and lifting rocks. A BBQ will be supplied (weather permitting!). Contact the leader for more information.

Treasurer's Report

(As tabled at the AGM 28 February 2006 by Mr Doug Langton)

Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc Statement of Financial Performance (Income and Expenditure) Year ending 31st December 2006

SUB-ACCOUNT SUMMARY

Sub-Account	Opening Balance	Closing Balance	Surplus for year
Administration account	8,897.40	10,199.54	1,302.14
Special account	21,215.40	22,145.40	930.00
Walks account	12,311.15	15,275.15	2,964.00
Wilkinson Lodge account	15,747.02	15,747.02	0.00
	\$58,170.97	\$63,367.21	\$5,196.14

ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNT

	2005	2006
Opening balance	\$6,646.00	\$8,897.40
Income		
Advertising	875.00	625.00
Catering income	660.00	728.30
Equipment hire	540.00	282.30
Federation subsidy	811.03	0.00
Interest	1,570.50	1,336.20
Membership fees	16,742.17	16,876.00
Publication sales	7.50	0.00
Visitors fees	3,485.00	3,746.00
Other	898.88	298.54
Total income	\$25,590.08	\$23,892.34
Expenditure		
Business affairs	35.80	36.70
Wine and cheese catering/Christmas	1,224.23	1,199.08
Equipment/maps/first aid kits	722.18	1,751.91
Federation insurance	7,041.40	7,897.35
Internet charges	0.00	297.35
News - postage	1,980.60	1,458.73
News - printing	4,232.50	3,970.70
News – programs	214.20	276.38
General printing/photocopy/postage	140.00	387.52
Petrol – Nat parks track clearing/previews	588.80	592.00
Rent – premises/PO Box/AGM	2,749.00	3,459.00
Telephone	402.890	179.36
Transfer to special account	1,467.55	0.00
Utilities – water/gas/electricity	820.55	815.62
Other	1,708.98	268.50
Total expenditure	\$23,328.68	\$22,590.20
Result for year	\$2,251.40	\$1,302.14
CLOSING BALANCE	\$8,897.40	\$10,199.54

SPECIAL ACCOUNT

	2005	2006
Opening balance	20,217.85	21,215.40
Income		
Interest	930.00	930.00
From Administration account	1,467.55	0.00
Total income	\$2,397.55	\$930.00
Expenditure		
Donations	1,400.00	0.00
Total expenditure	\$1,400.00	\$0.00
Result for year	\$(997.55)	\$930.00
CLOSING BALANCE	\$21,215.40	\$22,145.40

TREASURER'S REPORT ... continued

WALKS ACCOUNT	2005	2006
Opening balance	7,494.87	12,311.15
Income		
Sunday bus	37,076.15	38,598.20
Other	0.00	0.00
Total income	\$37,076.15	\$38,598.20
Expenditure		
Bus hire	32,175.00	0.00
Preview payments	0.00	1,282.20
Other	84.87	252.00
Total expenditure	\$32,259.87	\$35,634.20
Result for year	\$4,816.28	\$2,964.00
CLOSING BALANCE	\$12,311.15	\$15,275.15

WILKINSON LODGE ACCOUNT	2005	2006
Opening balance	15,747.02	\$15,747.02
Income		
Other income	0.00	0.00
Total income	\$0.00	\$0.00
Expenditure		
General	0.00	0.00
Total expenditure	\$0.00	\$0.00
Result for year	\$0.00	\$0.00
CLOSING BALANCE	\$15,747.02	\$15,747.02

Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc
Statement of Financial Position
(Balance Sheet) – As at 31st December 2006

ASSETS	2005	2006
Bank accounts		
Cheque account	16,170.97	21,367.11
Reserves account	12,000.00	12,000.00
Fixed term deposits	30,000.00	30,000.00
	\$58,170.97	\$63,367.11
Equipment		
Camping equipment	3,347.18	4,714.89
Other equipment	3,954.23	4,056.63
Maps and books	1,029.00	1,310.80
	8,330.41	10,082.32
Petty cash held		291.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$66,510.38	\$73,340.43
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	0.00	0.00
CURRENT NET WORTH	\$66,510.38	\$73,740.43

To the Members
Melbourne Bushwalking Club Inc
2006 Audit Statement

We have audited the financial report, being the Statement of Financial Position and the Statement of Financial Performance of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Incorp. For the year ending 31st December 2006. The treasurer and the committee are responsible for the financial report and we have conducted an audit of that report in order to express an opinion to the members.

Having conducted a check of the transactions during the year, their recording in the ledge and their subsequent presentation in the financial report, in our opinion the report presents fairly the financial position of the club as at 31st December 2006.

Signed by Phillip Wood and John Boyd on Feb 2006

Auditors

(Please note: The Treasurer's report has been re-typed for publication in the News due to incompatibility of programs. Every effort has been made to ensure the correctness of this reproduction, however, please refer to the original if you have any particular queries. The Editor)

Member reviews

Batty Spur and Mt Wills

10-12 March 2007

Batty Spur and Batty Hut has been an occasional destination for cross-country skiers from Wilky, but the Club hasn't walked down the spur to Big River since 1989. So it was about time that we returned. We had a pleasant drive up to Falls Creek on Friday evening, enjoying a good meal at the Milawa pub, although we had to wait an hour to be served! (They had a large party booking). But then - where to camp? The x/c ski bowl came to mind, just beyond Windy Corner, and it served us well – short grass, flat, easy to access. It was a cold night with a frost. On Saturday morning we crossed the dam wall (the water was very low) and the six of us set off from Watchbed Creek in warm sunshine. The views from Mt Nelse and Mt Nelse North were as stunning as ever. Then we made a right turn and followed the track to Round Plain where we picked up a faint track to the sad ruins of Batty Hut, destroyed by the 2003 bushfires. I had last seen the hut almost buried in deep snow. We then followed Batty Spur down to the Big River, picking our way through fallen timber, dead blackened trees and lots of regrowth. There were many of those wriggling masses of black slimy chrysalis things on the young gum trees, not nice to catch hold of! It was slow-going. We all ran out of water and we were gasping by the time we reached the river, where we almost drank the river dry and cleaned up. But where was the campsite? We looked for a while but had to make a make-shift camp as it was getting late. Without too much trouble we were able to clear a sufficient area for five tents. We cooked in the dark and slept well.

On Sunday we made a side-trip to Mt Wills. Climbing up from the river we found an old aqueduct that made a good track, and we quickly found the 'proper' campsite that we missed last night, about three hundred metres downstream. The way to Mt Wills is up a steep road, but we were rewarded with easily picked ripe blackberries for much of the way. We joined the Alps Walking Track for the climb to the summit, and had to hack our way through the blackberry and regrowth at the beginning. Mt Wills summit offered glorious views from the granite boulders and we lunched there in warm sunshine. The summit hut is in top condition and has an indoor water supply and two bunkrooms, all neat and clean. Returning to camp we shifted to the better campsite where we enjoyed a swim, followed by dinner under a beautiful night sky and a campfire.

We had a 7.30am start on Monday as we had to climb a steep spur to join Track 107 that gave us very pleasant walking to Kelly Hut where we lunched and rested. It was then a straightforward walk back to Watchbed Creek and the cars. Cold beers were found at Mt Beauty bakery and a reasonable pub meal at the Seven Creeks Hotel rounded off the weekend. Thank you David for leading this slightly-more-adventurous-than-usual weekend, it was most enjoyable.

David Laing (leader), Trish Elmore, Mohammad Akbari, Judy Bell, Gina Hopkins and me, Derrick Brown.

Mitchell River Pack Carry

2-4 March

The Mitchell River National Park is not visited by the club very often, so it was with some enthusiasm that our small group of seven set off early on Saturday morning to explore this wonderful area. After investigating the Den of Nargun and examining the Mitchell River itself at close quarters, we realised that the level of mud in the water was going to prove a challenge when it came to drinking supplies. As we climbed up onto the western escarpment of the river, the weather was a tad warmer than we had bargained for, and tested most of us at some stage of the day. At Billy Goat Bend, the gorge is particularly spectacular with views of a semi-circular cliff called "The Amphitheatre". We enjoyed lunch here before shouldering our full packs and stocking up on as much fresh water as we could carry from the tank there. Our campsite by the river was a lovely spot and no time was wasted in going swimming in the muddy river which was very refreshing. A couple of hardy souls cooked their dinner in the river water and survived to tell the tale!

The next morning we hid our packs behind a log (which we later discovered to be riddled with ants!) and with our daypacks proceeded upstream to Angusvale. There is little that remains of the former settlement apart from a large open grassy clearing. We greatly appreciated the fresh water in the tank attached to the toilets and had a morning tea break pondering our good fortune. Our untiring leader, Bob Oxlade, never ceased to amaze us with what he could pull out of his pack. He now produced water purifying tablets for any who would like them. The previous day it had been fresh grapes! Retracing our steps, a close examination of the rapids at Rock Creek allowed those considering a future lilo trip on the river to assess the viability of such a venture. Back at our packs, we delighted in pouring out our remaining muddy water after lunch. It was a short 6km back to the car with a few ups and downs arriving mid-afternoon. Fish and chips in Traralgon was a fitting finale to a very enjoyable weekend. Many thanks to Bob for the excellent leadership and planning of the trip. The group included Bob, Ian, David, John, Fiona and Del.

Margaret Andrew

Member reviews

A Cycle Trip On A Very Hot Day

Cycling - Somerville to Somers, Saturday 17 February 2007

The weather forecast for Saturday was hot, 37° with a strong north wind. No doubt it was that forecast that deterred many of the regulars from participating in Ross's ride from Somerville to Somers and return. Five of us – Ross Berner (leader), Ray Spooner, Lars Lindahl, Ian Mair and myself met at the Somerville railway station and left at 9.45 am. We set out with a tail wind and it was downhill to Hastings where we stopped for morning tea. We then cycled through marshland and mangroves to Jack's Beach. A long stretch of the cycle track here is elevated board walk. From Jack's Beach we rode on quiet roads to Stony Point, to Moradoo where we picked up the cycle track which was alongside the northern and western boundaries of the Flinders Naval Base. We followed this track to Sandy Point Road and then along the new cycle track which extends the full length of Sandy Point Road and beyond. This track is built well away from the road and is a real pleasure to ride along as it winds away among the She-Oaks etc. We took a short cut in to Somers as by this time we were hot and keen to have a swim in Westernport Bay. The swim was priceless after such a hot ride. Somers was also our lunch spot.

The return trip to Somerville via Bittern was even hotter as it was mainly uphill and pushing into a strong head wind. However after a couple of cold drinks at Somerville we felt fine.

Many thanks Ross for organising this ride and introducing us to interesting and pretty places.

Art Terry, Life Member

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES:

MEMBERSHIP STATS:

Life Members	13	
Honorary Members	11	
Single memberships	359	
Family memberships	116	(= 2x 58)
Total membership	499	
<i>This time last year</i>	<i>509</i>	

Bushwalking by the Stars ... by Geoff Crapper

ARIES

21 March to 21 April

Aries men possess a great strength of character, independence and confidence.

They never hesitate to criticise where criticism is needed. They like to possess and dominate their women, which they do by their intense declarations of love.

Best match...Leo and Sagittarius.



The Aries woman loves to dominate and will chase a man without hesitation until she has him cornered. Thriftiness is not one of her virtues and she spends money extravagantly. She is stimulated greatly by argument and would feel more at home in jeans or slacks than a mini skirt or long dress.

Best match ... Sagittarius, Leo.

