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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 cents

Edition 682 | DECEMBER 2007

**** New Christmas Pack Carry ****
(not shown on your walk program)

COOPRACAMBRA – GENOA RIVER 26-30 December 2007

As there are other walks in the area participants may choose to stay extra days after the walk if they desire.

Although graded Medium there may be some scrubby off track sections on this exploratory walk. Also, as the final ascent to Mount Denmarsh summit is steep and rocky, this could be optional.

Yes. It is a long drive, but similar to drives done for three day week ends. I consider it will be well worth while for the four days (or more), the features being :

- The impressive Peak of Mount Denmarsh is said to be the Most rewarding climb in East Gippsland
- Genoa Wilderness Zone
- Sandstone cliffs of Genoa River Gorge
- Possible excursion to Yambulla Peak in NSW

For further details see page 11.



Clubroom Photo
Presentations

LILONG INFORMATION EVENING 8 pm Wednesday 12 December

Slides and demonstrations of the equipment and technique required for liloing.

MELBOURNE BUSHIES CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wednesday 19 December
7.00-10.00 pm

Trades Hall
Main Ball Room

BYO Plate to share but don't worry about the drinks! The main bar at Trades Hall has been taken over by a new licensee and will be open to Melbourne Bushies.

Look forward to seeing you there!



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@mbw.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. For current advertising rates please contact the editor.

Club rooms Duty Roster:

December 12 Lynda, Mark
December 19* Halina, John F
December 26 Closed
January 2* David A, Peter
January 9 Fay, Del
(* Treasurer in attendance)

Next Committee Meeting:

Monday, January 7 2008

SOCIAL SECRETARY: John McCall

Great things to do ...

Social events

1. BBQ on the Yarra

Wednesday 23 January 2008

Join Susan and Stuart, once again, for our post-Xmas BBQ on the Yarra. Bring-your-own everything plus an "unwanted", not needed, surplus Xmas pressie that we can put into a lucky dip and be given to a deserving bushy.

This proved to be a fun day last year, particularly as the weather was so obliging.

So see you at 1.00 at Yarra Bend BBQ spot, Melways 44 K3. Susan.

2. GELATI NIGHT

Wednesday 30 January 2008

Wot, no wine and cheese night?

No, but instead we have Lygon Street's best Gelati (as voted for by Jopie, Susan and Stuart).

Only \$2.10 per scoop, available from 8.00 pm.

Please bring exact change or loose coins – it will speed things up and avoid having your gelati drip.

So see you at the Bushies first ever Gelati night.



Cheese and Wine Evening

Wednesday, January 30

Gelati Night
(from 8.00 pm)

Reports

PRESIDENT:



Larrikin Lines

Greetings All

As the year draws to a close it is a good time to launch into the Festive Season not without reflecting on and being deeply thankful all the freedoms and pleasures we are able to enjoy in this wonderful country of ours, including that of belonging to a dynamic organization comprised of individuals from many walks of life, an organization which depends on a vital core of excellent people to maintain its business and planning infrastructure and others i.e. a host of great leaders, who make possible such a wide variety of walks and trips ranging from Saturday, Sunday and weekday walks and bicycle and lilo trips, to overnight trips of a more intrepid and challenging nature.

I recall my first experience of bushwalking in Little River Gorge, Cathedral Range many years ago, when I was greatly charmed by the beauty and wildness of the place, savoured drinking the sweet, ice-cold water from the river on that very hot day, found the company stimulating and enjoyable and didn't mind scrambling across difficult, oblique spurs, or the leader getting us lost and then spending hours navigating our way through the Gorge. This actually seemed to add an extra dimension of challenge and excitement to the experience. The final thrill that day was that of finding our way back to "civilization", emerging from the Gorge after dark and being greeted by a large friendly copper moon as we came over the rim and made our way to our cars. By this time my joy was complete and I was so seduced by the experience that the course of my life was altered forever. I am sure many Bushies will have experienced a similar conversion, variations on a theme so to speak, recognizing how satisfying bushwalking is on so many levels... physically, socially, intellectually, emotionally, aesthetically and so on.

Since MBW was established in the 1940's, we have come a long way and the club has grown greatly in terms of membership numbers and the creative range of activities we provide, striving to cater for and encompass a wide variety of levels of fitness and interest, ensuring that we observe proper safety guidelines and aiming to keep abreast of the increasingly complex times and society we live in.

We are fortunate in this respect to be able to take our lead from our advocacy body, Bushwalking Victoria, with President David Reid and the BWV Board, who with great vision and energy are paving the way for the future of the bushwalking community, especially with regard to protecting, and maintaining the natural environment we frequent and our access to it. A prime example of this is the interaction of BWV with Parks Victoria at different levels, from local ranger to senior management, culminating with David Reid signing a memorandum of cooperation with the Chief Executive of Parks Victoria, Mark Stone, at a tracks usage workshop on 9/11/07. Our thanks and congratulations to David Reid and all those concerned at Bushwalking Victoria for this landmark achievement.

Another creative initiative of Bushwalking Victoria is the "Go Further" Project designed to promote and encourage bushwalking in the broader community. Hopefully 2008 will see willing and interested MBW members becoming involved with this project.

In the meantime, best wishes to all for a very Happy Christmas and safe, enjoyable holiday season. Hope to see you at the Bushies Xmas Party on December 19th.

Lynda Larkin



JOUNAMA

Alma Strappazon

Ghost garden bathed in sunset's orange gleam,
Old home deserted, dying. Souls unseen
Still linger lonely here. Wild flowers dream
Where ivy-covered chimneys, aged in grace,
And windows sometime bright with snowy lace,
Now look upon a sad and empty place.

Where have they gone, who once lived here, and loved
The earth, and mingled smiles and tears,
And planted budding roses, and the trees,
The alien trees whose heavy branches green,
Cool corridors and shady havens made,
And Autumn-tinted leaves bright carpets laid?

The shadows lie across the plain. At night
The mountains darkly close their ranks around.
Cold guardians of this cold abandoned ground.
Abandoned too this garden once so loved,
Forsakes this old home, and left alone
Sad rooms, faint echoes of a life once known.

And yet . . .

Old roses fragrant still in one last fling,
Old trees yet green where young birds nest and sing,
All life in death, and death unconquering.
Reborn at night, the misty phantoms fly,
To earth return, in love's abandon sigh,
Relight the flames, the loves that never die.

*Jounama, sheepwalk country, Kosciusko State Park.
Sketch by A Schafer*

The above poem was contributed by Lynda Larkin. It is a reproduction from the May 1976 edition of MBW Walk magazine. Alma Strappazon was a contemporary of Athol Schafer's and the both of them collaborated with this lovely piece, drawing inspiration from a trip to Jounama in Kosciusko State Park.

Reports

EQUIPMENT OFFICER:

Tent floors

Because tent floors can be easily damaged some walkers put protective sheets underneath. We think this is like wearing two pairs of trousers and are shocked at the weight implication. We wonder whether those responsible realise that their tent is just as likely to succumb to a dead fly as a dead floor. In any case we've got solutions. All you need to do is buy a cheap tent for Friday nights and base camps and protect the most used part of your floor with your garbag skirt underneath and your sleeping mat on top.

Reluctant stoves

Gas stoves are normally willing and cooperative but in cold weather or at high altitudes can become a little tetchy. This is due to the less volatile butane manufacturers put into the gas mix to keep pressures manageable. It is supposed to be burnt with the propane but in these conditions can hang around in the can. You can help by keeping the can warm (in your sleeping bag or under your clothing), buying a brand that contains ISO butane or changing brands if you get unsatisfactory results. Poor results can stem from the inclusion of a less volatile form of butane (due to poor quality control) or from minor variations in manufacture that can restrict the gas flow to some burners (this can sometimes be addressed by screwing the burner down a little harder). It is also worth bearing in mind that cooking can take longer at

high altitudes due to the lower boiling point of water and should not be blamed on the equipment or the cook.



Staying clean

To keep ourselves presentable and our dishes sparkling we use a tiny square of scourer (1g), a small piece of soap (14g) and a thin microfibre dish cloth (19g). We use the scourer on our pot, the soap on our less salubrious cleaning tasks and the cloth for everything else. It is our towel, facewasher, dishcloth and tea towel combined. It may not dry quite as fast, or offer the modesty of a regular towel but everything else is a plus. It does a great job of soaking up moisture, trapping grime, rinsing clean, ringing out, drying and remaining at our fingertips. In fact it works so well that we used it throughout our European trip, even the month we travelled by car. In short we think it represents the essence of the lightweight bushwalking philosophy, a simple elegant solution to a basic need, and cheap and cheeky to boot.

And finally

Don't forget the compulsory liloing demonstration and slide night on Wednesday 12 December at 8:00 pm.

John Fritze

GENERAL WALKS SECRETARY:

Last call for Autumn trips!

Please be sure to give your offers to lead trips in the Autumn program to the appropriate walks coordinator by 19th December. The coordinators will then supply their lists to me in order for the program to be produced for distribution with January News. Note that a new series of Monday walks is being introduced by Jean Giese, following a successful trial in November.



- Base Camp/Lodge Katrina Murphy
- Pack Carry Jopie Bodegraven
- TOFs/MOFs Jean Giese
- Sat. (Dand Explorer) Maureen Hurley
- Cycling Jan Palich

(Wednesday walks are already in, and Sunday walks are being handled separately).

Happy Christmas to all,

David Arnold

WANTED

EDITOR

**The News of Melbourne
Bushwalkers Inc needs a
newsletter editor !**

Job starts 2008



Notice board

PROGRESS ON THE AUTUMN PROGRAM

The Autumn Weekend Program is slowly taking shape. We still have room for more base camps and some pack carries. The program to date is summarised below.

March

- 0-2 No trips
7-10 (Labour Day)
BC Buffalo Plateau, Jan C
PC Mt Loch-Swindlers Gap-Paling & Young Spurs, Max
15-16 BC Nesting Box Weekend-Putting in New Boxes, Ray
20-25 (Easter)
BC Cobberas (Native Dog Flat), Geoff
PC Freycinet Nat Park, Bob
PC Watchbed Ck-grey Hills-Timms LO, Bill O
28-29 No trips

April

- 4-6 PC Mt Feathertop/Federation Hut Walk & Work, Bill M
5-6 Wilsons Prom Lighthouse Accommodation Weekend, Wendy
5-6 Nesting Box Monitoring Weekend, Ray
12-13 PC Cape Liptrap-Venus Bay, Bob O

- 18-20 No trips
24-27 (Anzac Day Long W/end)
PC Macfarlanes Saddle-Tali Karng-Wellington River, Ken

May

- 2-4 Track Maintenance: Grampians, Rod
3-4 Nesting Box Monitoring Weekend, Ray
9-11 No trips
16-18 No trips
23-25 No trips



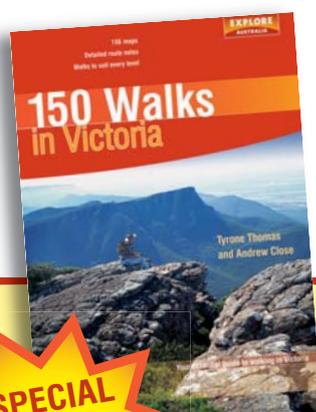
If you would like to add any base camps to the program, please contact Katrina Murphy, our base camp coordinator. If you would like to add any pack carries, please contact me, Jopie, as pack carry coordinator. The final list will go to David, our General Walks Secretary, about a week before Xmas so that it can be included in the overall Autumn program which will be sent out with the January News

Jopie Bodegraven

EXPLORE
AUSTRALIA

New from EXPLORE AUSTRALIA

150 Walks in Victoria By Tyrone Thomas and Andrew Close



Tyrone Thomas and Andrew Close have selected the best Victorian walks in this brand new publication.

- Compiled by respected and trusted authors
- Organised by region, with walks to suit every level and every season
- Includes detailed track notes and 156 colour maps
- Walks take in beaches, waterfalls, rugged terrain and places of interest

The essential guide to walking in Victoria.

To receive *150 Walks in Victoria* at the SPECIAL OFFER price of \$29.95 (rrp \$34.95), take this advertisement to one of the following outlets:

Melbourne Map Centre, 738-740 Waverley Road, Malvern East 3145

Map Works, 184 Keilor Road, North Essendon 3041

Map Land, 372 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne 3000

OR send this advertisement with payment details to your nearest outlet – price \$29.95 plus \$2.00 delivery. Offer ends January 2008.

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EXPLORE AUSTRALIA PUBLISHING

ACCURATE, INFORMATIVE AND INNOVATIVE TRAVEL GUIDES, MAPS AND ATLASES FOR THE AUSTRALIAN TRAVEL MARKET

MEMBER TRIP REVIEW:**Glenaire to Port Campbell
2-6 November 2007, led by Del Franks**

After walking the first half of the Great Ocean Walk (GOW) last Cup weekend and thoroughly enjoying it I jumped at the chance to walk the second half when it came onto the program this year. This decision ensured a weekend of adventure, drama, magnificent views and great company.

On our first night we endured a raging storm that swelled rivers, turned steep tracks into running creeks that were extremely difficult to traverse and made a simple creek crossing into a nightmare. These events caused the ranger to contact us to check if we needed rescuing, as he heard parts of the track had become impassable, and also sent many other walkers on the track scurrying for hotel rooms but our hardy group of seven soldiered on with wet socks, wet boots and wet tents. This perseverance was rewarded many times over with campsites at cliff tops that afforded fantastic views and brilliant sunsets, meeting inquisitive kangaroos and cows along the track, seeing a calf taking its first staggering steps probably within an hour of its birth, having perfect conditions to cross Wreck Beach with tide low and no swell, finding a rock pool that had been warmed by the sun to a perfect temperature for a dip, sharing stories and meal hints at the end of each day, enjoying the fantastic views along the track and hearing Fiona say "Wow!" on her first sighting of the Twelve Apostles. These and many more pleasures rewarded us for our efforts of walking the GOW.

Thank you Del for leading us through this great adventure and thank you, Bob, Max, Susan, Fiona and Ian for ensuring that this adventure was shared in great company.

Halina Sarbinowski

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT:**New members:**

This section is left deliberately blank for our web page version.

MEMBERSHIP STATS:

Life Members	12	
Honorary Members	11	
Single memberships	326	
Family memberships	104	(= 2x 52)
Total membership	453	
This time last year	476	

Bushwalking by the Stars ... by Geoff Crapper**Sagittarian - November 23 - December 22**

Sagittarian men are restless types, always ready to take a new gamble with life, accordingly tend to change jobs at a moment's notice. They treat relationships in a light hearted manner, have a strong love of freedom and are generally outspoken on any subject that may crop up. Best matches Aries, Leo.

The female Sagittarian projects a magnetism which usually makes her the centre of attraction. Her frank, open attitudes to life and the ease with which she mixes socially are often misconstrued for love by the unsuspecting male. She cannot help this and the man who tries to change her will not last very long. Her love of freedom and restlessness make it hard for her to develop a deep and lasting relationship. Best match Leo, Satittarius.

Charlotte Bradly (our "Stars" contributor) adds a correction to the above, she adds "I am a Sagittarian but men do not fall in love with me unfortunately!!", but is that because of her love from "freedom and restlessness"?

Member trip reviews

A weekend on the bicycle 27-28 October 2007, led by Jopie Bodegraven

For various reasons I hadn't been on my bike for six months so Jopie's planned cycle base camp weekend was a great opportunity for me to break the drought. Leaving the cars on Saturday morning at the caravan park at Kyneton we set off in fine spirits and good weather. The route took us on mainly minor roads up hill and down dale through very pretty wooded country. There was very little traffic to bother us as we whizzed down the hills and slowly pedalled up the other side. Much use of the gears was called for. We arrived at Trentham where we stopped for lunch in the town park. One could be excused for thinking that we had gone back in time as apart from the cars little had changed in the main street for a hundred years – or so it seemed. After much liquid replenishment we set off again. I was beginning to think that I was qualifying for the Tour de France as we continued up and down those hills. We eventually arrived at the Upper Coliban Reservoir which looked rather low and which had no outward flow at all.

Arriving back at the caravan park I gingerly alighted from the bike. My lack of recent practise on the saddle was showing – I could scarcely walk. We had to firstly book in, a fairly cumbersome process as the manager wouldn't accept a group booking and we all had to check in individually, and he laboriously recorded our names, addresses and inside leg measurements before issuing receipts for the \$15 tent fee. Before showers etc we made camp so I found my gear and slowly erected the tent before hobbling towards the amenities block. My condition was clearly as bad as it felt, because the manager, having completed his administration duties and no doubt having banked the vast income he'd just received, on

seeing me walking, rushed ahead to open up the disabled section of the amenities block! I felt fully qualified to use it. These sections are usually much better, being more spacious, and as they are rarely used they are invariably cleaner. This one was excellent, except that it had not one hook or shelf on which to hang ones' clean underwear. Clean and refreshed, I did absolutely nothing for a while except rest. The caravan park is well situated, being in a curve of the Campaspe River adjacent to parkland – a good place to do nothing. We were virtually the only people there. It was soon time to gently amble down to the pub where I had an excellent meal and some good wine, in good company. I slept soundly in my tent, unlike those who had opted to book in at the pub who were kept awake by the band that played to midnight, and the local hoons who played some more in the street.

On Sunday morning I found to my surprise that I seemed to be OK. After breakfast we packed up and set off at 8.30 for some more cycling. A couple of people opted out of today's activity and I wondered if I should have done as my bum hit the saddle again – agh! Today was rather windy, and the hills were as big as yesterday's – if not bigger. I achieved 53.9 kph freewheeling down one hill which was fast enough for me, especially as the side wind would catch me now and then. Today the country was more open and I noticed that there were lots of strange shaggy sheep with long necks around. I got quite excited when I saw one with a head at each end – a real push me-pull-you! Then someone said that it was only two alpacas side-by-side and I should get my eyes checked. As it was Sunday it was fitting that we stopped for lunch at a small church – we took shelter from the wind on the lee side of the empty church. No graceful soaring buttresses here, this was a basic breezeblock building, not very pretty and not in use while we were there.

continued page 8

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

Kakadu in close focus

No one else gets you this close

Kakadu is much more than an inspiring landscape with many deep gorges and beautiful waterfalls. It is also a subtle place where many of nature's masterpieces are seen only by those who walk through at a leisurely pace with a keen eye and sense of wonder.

Take your time. Enjoy a swim and look at the butterflies. Observe the small birds. Have a break and watch the small lizards. Relax around a camp fire. Soak up your surroundings while your guide prepares you a three course meal.

See our website... or give us a call for details.

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

Member trip reviews

Wilkinson Lodge

Wilkinson Lodge or Wilky as it was affectionately known was the Club's hut on the High Plains beyond Falls Creek. It burned to the ground in an accident on 17 January 2004, almost a year to the day after it was saved from the 2003 bushfires that destroyed so much else of that area, including the surrounds of Wilky and the fencing around the water supply. Club members had recently celebrated Wilky's 70th birthday. There were tears aplenty when the terrible news broke. Indeed, I have seen photos of the aftermath and the cleaned-up site but I haven't yet been able to visit the site again.

Wilkinson Memorial Lodge, to give it its proper title, was bought in 1959 for £50 by a group of Club members, who then donated the hut to the Club. It was bought from the Ski Club of Victoria who had bought it from the SEC. Wilky was originally built to house surveyors for the Rocky Valley Dam, and was used as a permanent residence by families for some years in the 1930's and 40's. It was cut off by snow for weeks on end in winter, and was buried over the roof on at least one occasion. When the Club took over Wilky it was in a very poor state, and required much cleaning up and repair. Indeed, it was in such a state that the park authorities had planned to bulldoze it. Club members removed rubbish, made repairs and replacements, performed much cleaning and painting. The outside area was tidied up and old hut remains, broken bottles and rubbish were taken away.

Club members, their families and friends and at least 25 other organisations used Wilky at all times of the year. It was very popular in winter when groups of up to nine or ten would ski in from Falls Creek and stay for the week, sleeping up in the attic and skiing all over the high plains every day. During the summer it was popular with families, especially at Christmas. Wilky had an inside toilet and shower connected to a septic tank and a water supply from a dam. The dam was fenced off to keep cattle out and safeguard the supply as cattle were allowed to graze up there until very recently. The kitchen contained a wood-burning stove and there was another stove in the living room. All firewood was bought and trucked in each year and stored in the woodshed, so that no timber was taken from the bush. The hut had a locker room where the ski groups would store their non-perishable food before the road was closed in May. Wilky was locked when not in use, but the entrance hall was open and served as a public refuge. Over the years the Club spent many thousands of dollars and thousands of people-hours in major repairs, replacement of stoves, septic tank, roof, water supply, etc.

Once in, ski groups experienced a splendid sense of isolation. No phones, electricity, newspapers – or people, apart from any passing skiers who might call in. After breakfast, lunches were made and everyone would gear up and get out into the snow. This was where I learned to ski. Experienced Club members would guide the group around and slowly, over the years, the area became familiar to me. At day's end we would troop in, light the fires, warm up and have drinks and nibbles. The place soon became cosy and we'd sit around reading (there was a



“The Lodge” photograph courtesy of Bob Steel

small library) and chatting. The duty cooks would prepare the meal and we'd enjoy whatever they had conjured up. And some great meals were conjured up. The group would often play cards and board games during the evening as the weather blew wild outside and snow beat against the windows.

Many Club members have happy memories of Wilky. Bob Steel reckons that he spent around 500 nights in Wilky over 40 years and Doug Pocock even more. Some made love there, found their partners there, spent family Christmases there. Now it is no more. But it is not forgotten, nor indeed have we given up the cherished hope of rebuilding it. Although Parks Victoria have refused us permission to rebuild and rebuffed all appeals, we have other avenues. More of this in a later article.

Ref: *The News February 2004*

Derrick Brown

A weekend on the bicycle ... continued

There was an option to cut out a few kilometres today, which half of us took. On this gravelled stretch Jopie's bike developed a wonky wheel, due to a broken spoke, but with a little adjustment he was able to continue. After a seeming 150 kilometres we arrived back at Kyneton where we tried to buy coffee. Strangely this was more difficult than you would imagine. We did achieve this eventually and then got back to the cars when I noted that my computer had recorded a grand total of 126 kilometres for the weekend – and not one puncture between us! I was grateful that Trish was driving and I could relax and gently snooze my way home. Thank you Jopie for researching and planning this trip and thanks to my companions for the pleasant company.

Leader – Jopie Bodegraven with Jenny Flood, Trish Elmore, Lars Lindell, Jan Palich, Angela McKenzie, John Markham, Lesley Hale, Fiona Kelly, Don James, Phillip Brown, Del Franks, Ray Spooner, Sue McInnes, Ed Neff, & Ross Berner and me, Derrick Brown

Ray Spooner



Wednesday Walk FROM GLEN TO GLEN IN MELBOURNE AND CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA

An urban stroll from Glen Waverley Station to Glen Iris Station via Scotchmans Creek and Gardiners Creek Pathways. Non-walkers, especially former Wednesday Wanderers, are invited to join us for Afternoon Tea at the conclusion of our walk, at about 3.15pm, at the George Pepperell Gazebo, High Street, Glen Iris. (Melway 59 K8)

DATE Wednesday 12 December
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 14 km
LEADER Mary Daley
DEPART TIME 10.20 am at Glen Iris Station
AREA Metropolitan Melbourne
MAP REF Melway, 59, 60, 69, 70, 71

We will meet at Glen Iris Station at 10.20 am, and catch the 10.34 am train to Glen Waverley. Glen Iris station is not staffed so the leader will pre-purchase the train tickets.

Drivers will readily find parking in the car-park adjacent to the T.H. King Oval and Gardiners Creek picnic area, located on the south side of High Street. Toilet available in the T.H. King Pavilion, but not at Glen Iris Station.

This walk is easy, but hard walking surfaces make suitable footwear necessary. Cream brick-veneer, mock Georgian, Californian Bungalows, golf fairways, wetlands, birdsong, traffic noise, and even frog choruses all combine to offer a fascinating picture of Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs.

Please bring a small plate of something seasonal to share at Afternoon Tea. Please call Mary to book this walk.



Beginners Lilo Trip YARRA RIVER

DATE Saturday 22 December
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 5km
LEADER John Fritze
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Yarra River, Wonga Park
MAP REF Melways 279 B4–A6

Liloing is a great way of exploring our rivers in summer (in some conditions the only practical means) and can be as gentle or adventurous as you care to make it.

This trip is aimed at beginners interested in one of our more adventurous overnight trips scheduled for later this summer, those curious as to how a lilo can form the basis of a comfortable and efficient means of river transport and anybody who might enjoy a few relaxing hours on the water.

We will paddle down a picturesque loop in the river around Warrandyte State Park. This section is mostly flat but there will be an easy rapid every few hundred meters.

You will need to bring a box sided cotton/rubber lilo (the type where a strip of fabric separates the top from the bottom), double ended paddle, buoyancy vest, canoe or bike helmet and a pack to act as a backrest and ballast (If you book in time you can hire the paddle and buoyancy vest from the equipment store for \$8).

There will be a liloing equipment demonstration evening and slide show at 8:00pm in the clubroom on Wednesday 12 December. Beginners are encouraged to attend.



Sunday Bus MACEDON RANGES AND WINERY

DATE Sunday 16 December
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 14km and 18 km
LEADER(S) Eleonora Axelsson and Carol Corrigan
TRANSPORT Bus from Southbank Blvd
AREA Macedon Regional Park
MAP REF Melway ref: 609 G10

A walk through tall eucalypt forest and fern gullies of an extinct volcano. Mt Macedon rises to 1010 metres from Memorial Cross, Camel's Hump and the western face of Mount Towrong sweeping views are enjoyed. A brilliant stand of Manna gums reflect in the waters of Sanatorium Lake. The trail continues to a local winery – there are some great wines in this area!



TOFS MARYSVILLE

DATE Thursday 3 January 2008
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 11km
LEADER Alister Rowe
TRANSPORT Private
START TIME 10.30 am
RETURN TIME Back to the cars by 2.45 pm
MAP REF Marysville Melway 610 T11

Drive through Marysville, cross bridge over Steavenson River and bear right onto Lady Talbot Drive. Proceed about 12km to the Taggerty River crossing picnic ground. This is the next stop past Keppel Falls sign. We will do "The Beeches" circuit before lunch and then return to Marysville to walk to "Island Hop". The Beeches Track is very beautiful and not to be missed. Please have protection against leeches! Plenty of time for coffee and cakes in Marysville.



Wednesday Walk HISTORICAL WALK, LOWER YARRA

DATE	Wednesday 16 January
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	(4.5 hours)
START	10.30 am
MEET	At The Leonda, Kew, Melway 45 A11

In mid 1995 I joined the late Athol Schafer on one of his historical walks and enjoyed it immensely. I have often thought about following the same route, so here it is, please join me. We take in various sights, a Prime Minister's 1920s residence, John Wren's pony racing track, and the entrance to "The Hawthorns". Plus Studley boathouse (lunch) and Dight's Falls. This might prove to be a thirsty day so we could end up at the Carringbush for a cold drink – what do you think?
Susan.



Sunday Bus RAWSON

DATE	Sunday 20 January 2008
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	14 km and 17 km
LEADER(S)	Mick Noonan and Dale MacKenzie
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd, 8:30 am
AREA	Thompson SF and Walhalla Historic Area
MAP REF	Walhalla, 1:25, 000, Gippsland

The last time we did a Sunday walk in this area was the Walhalla Federation Weekend in 2004. The easy/medium group starts at Rawson and takes 4 wheel drive tracks to the Thomson River Bridge. From here we all wander along an old tramway walking track with fantastic views of the Thomson River to the Old Steel Bridge. Then it's back to the Thomson River Bridge via the opposite side of the river (with a chance for an ice cream at the Railway Station!). From here we take the old railway line which runs above the Thomson River to the site of the old Platina Station. We then continue along the old railway line to Erica. The walk has ferns, great forests, historic sites, fantastic river views, old and new railway bridges.

Depending on the weather, the river level and timing we should get a chance to see the Horse Shoe Tunnel that to this day still diverts the Thomson around where they searched for gold in the 1860's. Come and enjoy this lovely part of Victoria and walk part of the Alpine Walking Track!



Sunday Bus PYRITES CREEK

DATE	Sunday 27 January 2008
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/medium & E/M
DISTANCE	14 and 17 km
LEADER(S)	Mark Heath and Peter Leech
TRANSPORT	Bus
AREA	Gisborne
MAP REF	Toolern Vale & Bullengarook 1:25000

These walks have a few ups and downs amongst old growth Box-Ironbarks, dry Eucalypt forests and grass trees. The area has elements common to both Eastern and Western Victoria and is home to 150 bird species, including the Swift Parrot and Powerful Owl. The area was a significant source of Antimony during the Second World War.

MEMBER TRIP REVIEW:

Frenchman's Cap 2-6 November, Leader Mohammad Akbari

Four intrepid walkers left Melbourne on Friday 2 November to trek Frenchman's Cap in central west Tasmania.

Frenchman's Cap is a track leading to the summit of the magnificent white quartzite dome of Frenchman's Cap (1146m), which is the most prominent mountain peak in the Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park. The trek offers a perfect wonderland of walking, trekking through mud plains and bogs, forests and button grass savannas, lakes, crags and valley, rain forests, and a superb peak to climb.

The first day we headed off from the Lyell Highway, along the Philipps Lead track through the Loddon River into the mud plains and bogs, toward the peak. When we stopped for lunch on the first day, we saw in the distance our challenge, a snow capped peak raising 1146m into the horizon.

While some of us found it difficult to navigate our way across the mud without being trapped knee deep, others managed to reach camp at night, at least 1 hr ahead of the pack, without any major fatalities. The day's walk gave us all the opportunity to walk through pristine wilderness, for which Tasmania is known. Another key aspect of the walk was the availability of huts to stay in over night. These huts were clean, warm and very comfortable; mattresses provided. What bliss!

The next morning we broke camp early, knowing we needed to get to the next hut at lake Tahune, as early as possible, in order to shed our packs and climb the summit. The second days' walk took us through rainforest that were so magical we were sure we saw Alfs and Fairies hiding under the tree roots and/or behind trees. Once arriving at the hut at Lake Tahune, we took off, to climb the summit. What a challenge, jumping boulders, rocks, skirting snow lines, climbing ladders and rock faces. As we ascended the view became increasingly beautiful, giving us the opportunity to view Tasmania's wilderness from the roof tops of the world. The panoramic view was 360o and it was just spectacular. We hung around the summit for a while, taking in the view, in sheer awe.

The camp and hut at Lake Tahune was magic. The water in the lake appeared crystal clear, giving us a mirror reflection of the vegetation around the lake. Early next morning we broke camp and trekked back through the magical rainforest for the day, (what a treat) to Lake Vera, another beautiful pristine wilderness spot. Whilst trekking through the rainforest we were able to see beautiful fungi, flowering bushes and shrubs and other exotic rainforest plant life.

The hut at Lake Vera provided us with ample comfort to relax and enjoy a game of cards. Early next morning we broke camp, knowing the walk back to the cars was arduous, especially when navigating the mud bogs.

The grand finale of the walk, culminated in a beautiful dinner at a Spanish Restaurant in Battery Point, Hobart.

Thanks to Agajohn (Mohammad), Alan and Phil for the spirited companionship throughout the walk.

Fran Moloney



Pack Carry

BUFFALO PLATEAU - THE BIG WALK

DATE	14-16 December
STANDARDS	Medium (possible Medium/hard)
DISTANCE	26 km
LEADER	Mohammad Akbari
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Mt Buffalo (The Chalet- Lake Catani)
MAP REF	Map 1:25000, VICMAP, Eurobin 8224-1-3, Zone 55 and Map 1:3000 Mt Buffalo forest activities published by rooftop mapping services

This is a quite spectacular walk specifically surrounding views from Mt Buffalo Chalet.

Walk starts at the foot of Mt Buffalo before the Gatehouse. After crossing Eurobin creek the track climbs steeply for 2 km through pleasant tall forest. There are a few road crossings and Mackey's lookout, which offers excellent views, is near the fourth road crossing. The walk continues across the face of open granite and Buffalo Gorge, also with great views. Walk offers many lookouts and views, with a total climb of 1040m. We visit Bebt's lookout near the Chalet car park and stop for refreshment in the Chalet main building café. We will camp overnight at Lake Catani camp site and return to the cars on Sunday. We also can visit Bright before heading home.

This is a good work-out walk and is therefore recommended. Contact me by telephone if you are interested in participating.



Base Camp

BOGONG HIGH PLAINS

DATE	26 December 2007 to 3 January 2008
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER	Lance Mobbs
TRANSPORT	Private

This year, we will be back up on the Bogong High Plains, camping just below Wallace's Hut at the site of the old tennis court (which use to be the highest in Australia). There will be plenty to see such as abundant number of wildflowers, numerous old huts and views from atop local peaks which are fairly easy to climb, with most of the walks being in the easy to easy medium range with one medium walk due to the length of the walk (approx. 20km).

While everyone is welcome to come along on this trip, people new to bushwalking, who want to experience overnight trips without having to carry a heavy pack everyday are more than welcome to come and try their hand camping. Any queries about what to take, I can be contacted either by phone on 0428 572 124 or see me in the clubrooms.

This trip is designed so that people can stay the whole time or if they have commitments that clash can stay part of the time. Anyone interested in this trip can contact me either by phone, write to me at or see me in the clubrooms/Christmas bash at the THC building. I will also have flyers made up with the relevant info for anyone who is interested.



Pack Carry **** NEW CHRISTMAS PACK CARRY ****

COOPRACAMBRA – GENOA RIVER

DATE	26-30 December 2007
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	63 km
LEADER(S)	Bob Oxlade
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	East Gippsland 28km north of Cann River
MAP REF	Vicmap 1-50,000 Combienbar – Wangarabell 8723-S

As there are other walks in the area participants may choose to stay extra days after the walk if they desire.

Although graded Medium there may be some scrubby off track sections on this exploratory walk. Also, as the final ascent to Mount Denmarsh summit is steep and rocky, this could be optional.

Yes. It is a long drive, but similar to drives done for three day week ends. I consider it will be well worth while for the four days (or more), the features being :

- The impressive Peak of Mount Denmarsh is said to be the Most rewarding climb in East Gippsland
- Genoa Wilderness Zone
- Sandstone cliffs of Genoa River Gorge
- Possible excursion to Yambulla Peak in NSW

Day 1 - Road conditions will dictate the start of the walk, then a Side trip to Mount Denmarsh (917 metres) 8km return off track could be in scrubby terrain.

Day 2 - On track for 7 km, then 6km off track to the Genoa River and maybe begin upstream.

Day 3 - About 4 or 5 km through the Gorge to camp and possible return walk to Yambulla Peak.

Day 4 - Probably 13km. All on track to the cars, with time to return to Melbourne. Walking distance depends on the road conditions when driving in on Saturday.

As the walking and river conditions are variable the Itinerary is flexible enough to allow for this. Come along and explore this remote area. Reasonable fitness required.

If interested, please see me in the clubrooms or phone Bpb.



Beginners Lilo

AVON RIVER

DATE	5-6 January 2008
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER	Jopie Bodegraven
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Gippsland north of Heyfield
MAP REF	Maffra 1:100,000. Rooftops Walhalla-Woods Point Adventure Map

This will be our second attempt at this trip as last year the bushfires thwarted us. It should be a bludgy fun weekend of swimming and paddling on a lovely river.

We'll ignore the burnt out forests. We will have a Saturday morning start and will camp on a sandbank that night. The total distance paddling will be about 8km, 3 ½ on Saturday afternoon and 4 ½ on Sunday after a leisurely start.



Beginners Lilo AVON RIVER .. continued

The walk in to the start is about 4km mostly downhill

We will meet at 9am Saturday at the public toilets in Heyfield at the corner of Harbeck & Temple Sts. Allow 2 ½ hrs from Central Melbourne. We drive to Green Hill, do a car shuffle, and walk to our start point on the river at Huggets Crossing for lunch. After blowing up lilos, lessons and practice in the pool there, we float and paddle the pools and probably portage most of the rapids down to our sandbank campsite (I hope it is still there after the floods, but if it's not I'm sure we'll find another) En route we pass through a beautiful red sandstone mini gorge called the Channel. Sunday is more lovely river.

There is some specialist gear required, namely a box sided lilo, buoyancy vest and a bicycle (or canoeing) helmet (in case there is enough water to shoot a few easy rapids). Also bathers, old sandshoes for portaging, sunscreen, hat etc. A paddle is also useful but not mandatory!. The club has some buoyancy vests and paddles for hire and I have 2 spare paddles.

It is important that anyone new to liloing who wants to come on this trip also comes along to the information, demonstrations and slide show in the clubrooms on Wednesday 12 December at 8pm. John Fritze and I will answer all your questions and show you how much fun it all is.

You will need to book with me by Saturday 22 December at the latest(the day of John's Yarra River beginners lilo trip) as I will be incommunicado probably until 3rd or 4th of January which is only a day before the trip

So come along and join me for a great fun weekend suitable for a hot summer



Pack Carry NORTHWEST SPUR – MT FEATHERTOP – BON ACCORD SPUR

DATE	11-13 January 2008
STANDARD	Medium/hard
DISTANCE	30 km
LEADER(S)	Gina Hopkins
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Alpine National Park, Bogong area
MAP REF	Bogong Outdoor Leisure Map 1:50,000

This is a classic walk to the second highest mountain in Victoria. In good weather the rewards are great with magnificent views all round. The Northwest Spur, starting from the Harrierville Road, is the steepest route to the summit, and it's one that I haven't been up before. The climb is about 1,450m. After savouring the views from the top we'll collect water and walk on 2km to camp at the top of Diamantina Spur. Sunday we head south along the Razorback, with its ups and downs, and then down the Bon Accord Spur back to Harrierville. This spur also has a steepish section near the top.



Pack Carry BOGONG HIGH PLAINS

DATE	25-28 January 2008, Australia Day weekend
STANDARD	Easy/medium
DISTANCE	30 km
LEADER(S)	Ken MacMahon
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	North east Victoria, Bogong High Plains
MAP REF	Bogong Alpine Area Outdoor Leisure Map

I intend to start this circular tour of the High Plains from Pretty Valley pondage. First night's camp will be out towards Mt Fainter South. We will visit Mt Fainter of course. Camp on Day 2 will be out towards Mt Cope. I have a delightfully secluded camp spot in mind, which is tucked away in a little-visited copse of old snow gums.

On Day 3 we should be back to the cars by early afternoon via Rocky Knobs.

I have it in mind for this walk to be a ramble with pack carrying limited to about 10 km per day and lots of time to explore the delights of this alpine area once we have set up camp. This walk would be suitable for beginners to pack carrying.



Pack Carry GREAT OCEAN ROAD – APOLLO BAY TO AIRE RIVER EAST

DATE	25-28 January 2008, Australia Day weekend
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	38km
LEADERS	Carol Corrigan
AREA	Cape Otway
MAP REF	Vicmap 1:25,000 Otway/Princeton & Parks Vic GOW Info

Forests, clifftops, beaches – this lovely walk has it all as it passes through The Great Otway National Park. First day is 17 kms, but short 2nd and 3rd days ensure a leisurely pace with plenty of time for swimming, a tour of the lighthouse, and an early return home on Monday. There are a limited number of campsites so book early. Camping fees will be determined by number of walkers. For more details or to book on this walk contact me by telephone or email.



Pack carry MT BOGONG

DATE 8 - 10 February 2008
STANDARD Medium
LEADER Bill Donald



Base camp ANGLESEA

DATE 15-17 February
STANDARD Easy
LEADER Del Franks



Pack Carry BUNGALOW SPUR - FEATHERTOP - RAZORBACK

DATE 22-24 February
STANDARD Medium
LEADER Mohammad Akbari



Pack carry FREYCINET NATIONAL PARK, TASMANIA

DATE 20-24-March, Easter 2008
STANDARD Easy/Medium with M and M/H options
DISTANCE 36km plus 16km options
LEADER(S) Bob Oxlade
TRANSPORT Private to Hobart then Charter Coach
AREA Tasmania East Coast
MAP REF Tasmap Freycinet N.P.

The Freycinet Circuit is rated as one of the best 5 walks in Tasmania and features beaches, peaks and the world famous Wineglass Bay. Everything is confirmed for the walk and now is the time to arrange travel.

The neat 4 day itinerary suits most walkers as the harder sections are optional.

Friday am. Travel by coach to Freycinet N.P. and optional return walk with day packs to Mount Amos. Camp near walk start.

Saturday. To Cooks Corner campsite and optional side trip to Bryans Beach.

Sunday. To Wineglass Bay via Mount Graham and optional side trip to Mount Freycinet, or the easy option of walking there via Hazards Beach and time on arrival to partly climb Mount Graham with daypacks for views if desired.

Sunday. Just 4km via the lookout to our coach and return to the Airport, ETA 2-45pm.

Although all the airfares are not cheap this year, my costs are OK and could be approx \$120 which includes accommodation Thursday night, coach travel, Park and camp fees. Overall cost could be \$110 per day, or cheaper with some airfares. There are quite a few confirmed and a limit of 24. Please contact me if interested for complete itinerary and details. Bob Oxlade

Bushwalking Victoria

TRACK MAINTENANCE GROUP

Track Maintenance and Conservation Activities. Bushwalkers are encouraged to assist with the following projects

2008 Dates	Activity	Leader	Contact Details
26-28 January	Alpine Mossbed Rehabilitation (booked out)	Steve Robertson	
February TBA	Two Bays Track	Bev Williams	
15-16 March	Nest Box Placing, Benalla	Ray Thomas	
21 -24 March	Alpine Mossbed Rehabilitation	Steve Robertson	
5 - 6 April	Mt Buffalo	Jim Harker	
5 - 6 April	Nest Box Monitoring, Benalla	Ray Thomas	
2 - 4 May	Grampians	Rod Novak	

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

Date	Activity/Location	Transport	Standard	Leader	Phone (H)
DECEMBER					
2	Werribee Gorge area	Bus	E/M & M	Phil Geschke and Jan Colquhoun	
6	TOFS: Long Forest Flora Reserve	Private	E	Keith White	
8	Cycle: Pakenham to Gembrook and return	Private	M	Phillip Brown	
9	Wirilda Track * 8.30 start	Bus	E/M & M	Del Franks and Les Southwell	
12	Glen to Glen in Melbourne	Private	E/M	Mary Daley	
14-16	PC: Buffalo Plateau - The Big Walk	Private	M/H	Mohammad Akbari	
16	Macedon Ranges & Winery	Bus	E & E/M	Eleonora Axelsson and Carol Corrigan	
19	Xmas Party			Trades Hall 7pm	
22	Beginners lilo: Yarra River	Private	Easy	John Fritz	
26-3 Jan	BC: Bogong High Plains	Private	E/M	Lance Mobbs	
26-30	PC: Coopracambra-Genoa River	Private	M	Bob Oxlade	
JANUARY					
3	TOFS: Marysville	Private	E	Alistar Rowe	
5-6	Lilo: Avon River Beginners	Private	E	Jopie Bodegraven	
6	Greens Bush-Bushrangers Bay-Gunnamatta	Bus	E & E/M	Halina Sarbinowski and Doug Langton	

The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers

If undelivered please return to:
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