



# THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 cents

Edition 671 | JANUARY 2007

Your Chance to Support Your Club - Questions and Answers in a Discussion Forum

## INTRODUCTION TO LEADING A SUNDAY WALK

Tuesday 23rd January at 8.00 pm in the clubrooms

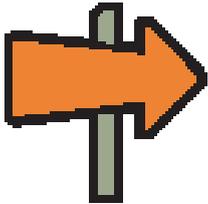
- \* Come along and find out just what is involved in leading a Sunday Bus Walk \*
- \* Listen to a panel of current leaders talk about various aspects of leading \*
- \* Ask questions and listen to or take part in a discussion session \*
- \* We hope you'll be tempted to have a go at leading – your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

The club is seeking new Sunday leaders to share the fun and the work load of providing two walks every Sunday for you and other members and visitors to enjoy. People's circumstances change, we lose a few leaders, and we need to replace them. By having a good pool of willing leaders prepared to lead say two walks a year, four a year if you are very keen or one a year if you are time poor, the load is shared, everyone has fun, no-one is overloaded and the Sunday Bus Walks just hum along.

We also need a Sunday Walks Secretary and Assistant Sunday Walks Secretary for 2007 from within the ranks of Sunday walkers and their roles are made easy if we have ample leaders. There will be a follow up navigation course at the end of March.

So come along. Book with any one of the following committee members: Jopie (Walks Secretary) ; Paul (Secretary); or Jan (Our President).

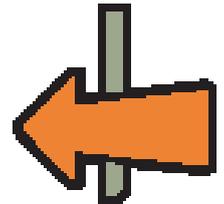
MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC



## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8.00 pm, Wednesday 28 February 2007

Trades Hall, Corner Lygon and Victoria Streets, Carlton



**Come along a cast your vote (members). Non-members are also welcome to attend but may not vote.**

At the AGM all Committee positions will become vacant and the club is looking for members to nominate for any specific role. If you are interested contact Jan Palich, Paul Lodgson, Fay Dunn or David Laing for information on what each position entails.

Currently the positions that **need** a new representative (interested person) are: **Treasurer, Walks Secretary, Social Secretary** and **General Committee Member**. To nominate for these or any other position for the 2007 Committee complete the nomination form below and return it to The Secretary, GPO Box 1751Q, Melbourne, 3001 or place in The Secretary's pigeon hole in the clubrooms. Proxy forms available from the clubrooms.

### Nomination Form for the Committee of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

Position:..... Name of Nominee: .....

Proposed by:..... Seconded by: .....

Signature of Nominee: ..... Date: .....

*Return to The Secretary, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc, GPO Box 1751Q, Melbourne 3001, or place into the Secretary's pigeon hole in the clubrooms.*

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

**Victorian Horticultural Society Hall  
48 MacKenzie Street  
Melbourne**

Visitors are always welcome!

General correspondence should be directed to:

The Secretary  
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc  
PO Box 1751  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

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



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

Editor: Christine Salau

Walk previews, walk reviews, articles, poems, news items, photographs of club events, reports of new gear, book/movie reviews, letters to the editor, advertisements, etcetera are always welcome. However, the editor reserves the right to edit contributions where space, clarity or propriety dictate, and to maintain editorial consistency. **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:

- Placing diskette or hand written material in the editor's pigeon hole in the club rooms
- Posting a diskette or hand written material to The Editor at 16 Carinya Road, East Bentleigh 3165.
- **The most preferred method is emailing unformatted text file to [news@melbournebushwalkers.org.au](mailto:news@melbournebushwalkers.org.au)**

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

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

**Advertising rates (artwork ready)**

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

(Members advertisements are accepted free of charge)

**Club rooms Duty Roster**

17 January Mark Heath and Jan Palich  
24 January Lynda Larkin and Charlotte Bradley  
31 January Fay Dunn and Peter Havilicek  
7 January Paul Logsdon and John Fritze

**Next Committee Meeting**

Monday, 5 February 2007, 7.00 pm, in the club rooms.

# Navigation Lesson

## COMPASS CAPERS

This is the last of the 4 part mini-series on the basics of navigation. This one's all about that extremely useful device – the compass, that seems to scare some people. It shouldn't, and I'll attempt to make it your friendly personal assistant. Make sure you have a topographical map and a compass in front of you before reading this next bit otherwise you'll have no idea what I'm talking about.

**What is a Bearing?** A bearing is simply an angle measured clockwise from north. A full circle is 360 degrees so east is therefore 90 and south is 180 degrees. A grid bearing is therefore an angle (or bearing) clockwise from a N-S grid line. Measure the grid bearing of a direction on the map by placing the edge of the compass along the direction, then rotating the dial (or capsule) so that the parallel black lines inside the dial are parallel to the north-south grid lines and read the bearing at the marker on the dial. Ignore the compass needle because you are dealing with the map, not the ground around you.

Now **how do you know whether the grid or the magnetic bearing is bigger?** That's easy. Remember that in Victoria, magnetic north is always east of north (that is clockwise of or to the right of north) by 10-11 degrees in most of our day walking areas and 12 degrees in most of the Alps. Then imagine a northpoint diagram with a grid north arrow pointing up vertically and the magnetic north arrow pointing a bit to the east or clockwise. The magnetic bearing (or angle going clockwise between magnetic north and our desired direction therefore has to be less than the corresponding grid bearing (in Victoria) by that 10 – 12 degrees. Some people use the acronym GMS or "GrandMa's Socks" for "Grid to Magnetic Subtract" but I can never remember that and find it far easier just to imagine the little northpoint diagram.

So **to walk on a compass bearing**, simply rotate the dial back by the 11 or 12 degrees (the grid-magnetic angle) so that you now have the magnetic bearing set on your compass. Then rotate the whole compass till the red end of the needle (which always points to magnetic north) lines up with the hollow red arrow on the dial. The edge of the compass base is now lined up in the direction (or bearing) you want to go.

For more reinforcement, I refer you again to lesson 7 of the 8 part series on navigation by Quentin Tibballs which is on our club website at [http://www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au/activities/Walks/MBW\\_training\\_navigation1.htm](http://www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au/activities/Walks/MBW_training_navigation1.htm) and the Map Reading Guide on the web at [http://www.ga.gov.au/image\\_cache/GA7194.pdf](http://www.ga.gov.au/image_cache/GA7194.pdf)

If you have understood these 4 articles, you know enough to be a competent navigator. All you need to do now is to practice your new skills. The best way to practice is to, when bushwalking, follow the route on the map, orient the map frequently and correlate the features and landforms around you with what is on the map. Take an occasional magnetic bearing just for fun, convert it to grid and see if it points to the right feature on the map. You'll get better and better.

Then **consider doing a rogaine**. This is the best way I know of to practice and polish up your skills. There is a 6 hour rogaine programmed at Rawson near Erica on both the 17th and 18th of March (bushfires may cause this to be changed). See the rogaing website at [www.vra.rogaine.asn.au](http://www.vra.rogaine.asn.au) for details.

*Then book in to the club [Navigation Course](#) which involves a theory evening in the clubrooms on Thursday 29 March followed by a romp in the countryside and the bush on Saturday 31 March. Book with me in the clubrooms. See you there.*

Jopie Bodegraven



## TOTAL FIRE BANS ON CLUB TRIPS

### What Happens to the Trip?



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

The following guidelines have been adopted by the committee:

#### Sunday Walks

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

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

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

#### Private Transport Trips

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



## Cheese and Wine Evening

24 January 2007  
in the Club rooms

### WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

## Come to Karijini in the Pilbara

Our Karijini trips take you into some of the most spectacular gorge country in Australia.



We show you far more than any one else will ever do.

Come in April and enjoy flowing creeks and warm pools.

Come in June and enjoy clear skies and ideal temperatures.

Come anytime and walk through a timeless landscape where you camp next to beautiful pools and visit Aboriginal art sites which will remain forever unknown to 4WD tourists.

Each trip consists of two walks.

You can choose either or both.

Fresh supplies come in at the end of the first.

For an unbiased opinion & lots of photos, go to the trip report section on our website and see what one of our clients wrote about their trip.

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



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

Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355



## Sunday bus

### WONTHAGGI HEATHLANDS AND WETLANDS

DATE	Sunday, 14 January 2007
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	13 km and 18 km
LEADERS	Halina Sarbinowski and Ian Mair
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd
MAP REF	Parks Notes-Bass Coast Parks & Reserves

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



## Wednesday walk

### MURRINDINDI AREA

DATE	Wednesday, 18 January 2007
STANDARD	Easy Medium
DISTANCE	17 km
LEADER	Jerry Grandage
TRANSPORT	Private
MAP REF	Map - Taggerty South, 1:25000

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



## Cycling

### MARIBYRNONG RIVER - BRIMBANK PARK

DATE	Saturday, 20 January 2007
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	40 km
LEADER	Ian Mair
DEPARTURE TIME	9:30am at Footscray Station (Hyde Street)
AREA	Between Footscray Station and Brimbank Park
MAP REF	Melway 42 (D-5) to Melway 14 (H-9)

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

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



## Sunday Bus

### BIG PATS CREEK - STARLING GAP

DATE	Sunday, 21 January 2007
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	13 km and 18 km approx.
LEADERS	Peter Hogan and David Laing
TRANSPORT	Bus
MAP REF	Ada River 8022-2-4 1:25k

Both walks will start from where the Big Pats Creek - Starling Gap walking track crosses Burns Rd. The track follows an old timber tram line, is shaded and easy walking. It passes through tall timber (for these times) and tree ferns and is pleasant summer walking. At the Ezard Mill site the Easy/Medium group turn off to walk up to Smyth Creek Road and across to the historic Richard's Tramline track. This involves a few steep climbs and the walk finishes near Big Pats creek picnic ground.

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



## Sunday Bus

### FOREST CAVES - CAPE WOOLAMAI

DATE	28 January 2007 (Australia Day weekend)
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	15 and 19 km
LEADERS	Doug Langton and Phil Geschke
TRANSPORT	Bus - <b>NOTE 8.30 AM START</b>
AREA	Phillip Island
MAP REF	Melway Page 632

The two walks will commence at different points on Woolamai Surf Beach (some of this is a mutton bird rookery). The longer walk will commence at Sunderland Bay and pass carefully over a mutton bird rookery whilst the shorter walk will commence at the Colonnades (an interesting geological formation) and then both will move onto the major mutton bird or Short-tailed Shearwater colony at Cape Woolamai at a time when chicks are hatching and well before their major migration to the N.W. Pacific. The interesting geological feature that makes this cape will be walked and probably lunch will be taken at the southern entrance to Western Port Bay near the clear and tranquil waters close to the old granite quarry. (For the easier walk.) The walks will then continue up to the Phillip Island bridge, across it and into San Remeo. It will be both an interesting and a scenic walk - a pleasant walk on a Melbourne Summer weekend. If time permits, swimming on this eastern beach is a possibility



## Wednesday Lunch

### YARRA BEND BBQ

DATE	Wednesday, 31 January 2007
	Join Susan and Stuart at Yarra Bend Park, Kew, for a 1.00 pm BBQ. (Melway 45 3A)

It is quieter and less glamorous than Studley Park, yet has all the facilities plus plenty of parking.

For some added fun bring along a wrapped unwanted Christmas present for the "rejected Christmas present lucky dip". Your reject might be someone else's most wanted.



## TOFS BLAIRGOWRIE - SORRENTO

DATE Thursday 1 February 2007  
 STANDARD Easy  
 DISTANCE 10 km  
 LEADER Alister Rowe

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



## Sunday Bus MT GORDON RIDGE - MARYSVILLE

DATE Sunday, 4 February 2007  
 STANDARD Easy and Easy/Medium  
 DISTANCE About 15 and 16 km  
 LEADER Paul Logsdon and David Elias  
 TRANSPORT Bus  
 AREA Marysville

Circuit walk around Marysville taking in the peaks and spectacular views, with some reasonably difficult climbs at both ends. There is an option to further expand the walks towards the end to take in river views and a coffee stop if we make good time.

We did the preview on a very hot day and it highlighted that walkers should carry at least two litres of water and sun protection.



## Sunday Bus CORONET BAY - CORINELLA

DATE Sunday, 11 February 2007  
 STANDARD Easy and Easy/Medium  
 DISTANCE 15 km and 18 km  
 LEADER Mick Noonan and Mohammad Akbari  
 TRANSPORT Bus  
 AREA Bass Coast  
 MAP REF Melway Key Map - Page 18

This is a very popular coastal walk through mangroves, mud flats, waterbird habitats, pebbly beaches, coastal cliff tops, and stretches of sand. The coast here is a marine national park with views of Phillip Island, French Island and the Mornington Peninsula. We should see ibis, spoonbills, herons, plovers and pacific gulls. Black swans should also be seen feeding on the seagrass.

This is also a walk through history. At the tip of Settlement Point (where guns were once placed) we can see French, Phillip and Reef Islands where convicts collected seashells to burn and make lime for mortar. At Corinella a cairn stands where the original settlement was established in 1826 – here there were military barracks, convicts quarters, a storehouse, a black-smiths forge, workshops and the Commandant's House, recorded as Government House in the London Archives.

The East/Medium walk starts near Reef Island, and follows a pebbly coast to Cutty Sark Road, where the Easy group will start their walk. From here both walks follow the same route, along the beach, then up to a cliff top track. There's a jetty at Corinella which is probably good spot for lunch! We continue above the beach line, with striking views of white mangroves below us. Later we descend to water level, walking along beach, mud flats and beside mangroves to Tenby Point, and on to Grantville Jetty, passing the ruins of Queensferry Jetty along the way.

## Sunday bus ... 11 February continued BIG PATS CREEK - STARLING GAP

This should be a great walk for summer – hope to see you there! P.S. remember water, the sunscreen and insect repellent (flies!)

Thanks to Jean Woodger and Liz Moore for the excellent preview from the April 2005 walk which I re-used extensively!



## Cycling SOMERVILLE - SOMERS

DATE Saturday, 17 February 2007  
 STANDARD Easy/Medium  
 DISTANCE 59 km (or shorter depending on weather)  
 LEADER Ross Berner  
 TRANSPORT Car or Train to Somerville Station  
 RETURN TIME About 4.20 pm (Somerville Station)  
 AREA Mornington Peninsula  
 MAP REF Melway maps 107, 148, 154, 164/5,193, 194/5

The meeting place for ride is the east side of Somerville Railway Station (Melway 107 F12) at 9:25 AM. If weather is hot I will be looking for a prompt departure!!

The route is mainly on off road trails with a few quiet streets.

If you are travelling by train, you will need to take Frankston Line Train departing from Flinders St at 8:00 am to Frankston. Then change to Stony Point Line train that is usually on the adjoining platform leaving about 2 minutes after Frankston Train arrives. (A Metcard valid for zone 3 is needed for all journeys on this line. A Metcard valid for zone 3 is also needed for travel to Frankston.)

The route has several options and which option taken will depend on weather conditions, particularly if forecast temperature exceeds 30°, which is a strong possibility in mid February. In particular, this includes shortening of the afternoon leg of ride by cycling to Morradoo or Bittern Stations. Bring at least 1 litre of sports drink, but not those containing caffeine, in liquid or equivalent in powder. You will also need to get other drinks along the way. Also bring bathers, as we will spend time at beach at Somers if weather is hot.

The route is based around the Somerville – Somers Rail Trail, which is the off road cycle trail on the Peninsula. The rail trail follows the rail line to Hastings, then along the foreshore. South of Hastings we join the Bittern Coastal Wetlands Boardwalk, which passes through the southernmost stand of mangroves in the world. Then to Jacks Beach, a former whaling station, and around the coast by road to Stony Point. We head inland where we rejoin bike trail at Morradoo station, but leave the rail line and follow the western boundary of the Naval Base to Somers and the beach.

The afternoon ride will return to Somerville following the rail trail, which is largely an in land route. It may be extended to include Coolart if weather not hot or shorten to finish at Morradoo or Bittern Stations if very hot.

Those riders who want an extra challenge may wish to meet me at the car park on the east side of Frankston Station (Melway 100A E7, Fletcher Rd) at 8:15 AM for a ride to Somerville. This adds 12 km to the start of the ride. It initially follows the Frankston - Baxter Rail Trail. The gap between Baxter & Somerville is on narrow and often busy roads. This extension should not be attempted by anyone not used to riding on narrow busy roads.

I expect to be in clubrooms on Wednesday 7 Feb to discuss the ride.



## Dandenongs Explorer KALORAMA TO DOONGALLA

DATE Saturday, 24 February 2007  
 STANDARD Easy  
 DISTANCE 11 km  
 LEADER Liz and Philip Wood  
 RETURN TIME 3.00 pm  
 MAP REF Melway Page 52 and 66

The walk starts at Kalorama Picnic Area, Yosemite Road – car park nearest the toilet block (Melway p.52 ref J10) at 10.30am and climbs from there on Kyeema Track to skirt Mount Dandenong, before descending Channel 10 Track to Doongalla for our lunch stop. After lunch we follow Camelia Track and Fireline Track to return to Kalorama via Mountain Road. Some long climbs and short descents are involved, and there may be slippery bits if the weather is wet, but the pace will be relaxed and there are some fine views in good weather.

For bookings or queries please telephone us.



## Wednesday Walk WESTERNPORT BAY

DATE Wednesday, 21 February 2007  
 STANDARD Easy/Medium  
 DISTANCE 10 km  
 LEADER Alister Rowe  
 RETURN TIME 3.30 pm  
 MAP REF Melway 256

This February walk assumes that the day is likely to be hot. Meet at 10.00am in the car park at the end of Beach Rd, Shoreham, Melway Ref 256 F10. We will walk around the beach to the Coolart wetlands, maybe with a few diversions along the way. A car shuffle will be necessary, hence the early start. We may get wet feet if the tide is right in.



## Sunday Bus RED HILL WINERY WALK

DATE Sunday, 25 February 2007  
 STANDARD Easy and Easy/Medium  
 DISTANCE 13 and 15 km  
 LEADER Peter McGrath and Sybille Holdheide  
 TRANSPORT Bus - Southbank Blvd  
 AREA Mornington Peninsula  
 MAP REF Mornington Peninsula Wine Touring map

The Mornington Peninsula is a splendid place to be at this time of the year. It is a bit cooler down there. It is good to be down by the seaside. The wine industry continues to bubble along in this area. The area produces good wines. So this should be a day well spent.

We will visit three wineries on the Easy walk – Maritime Estate, Red Hill Estate and Stoniers. The first is a smaller winery with interesting wines, the second a large established brand and the third won the prize for the best white wine in the world in 2000.

The Easy/Medium walk will have a slightly more bushwalking emphasis, climbing Arthur's Seat via the OT Dam before visiting Massoni Main Creek Vineyard around lunch time, and Stoniers at the end of the day.



## TOFS ELWOOD TO SANDRINGHAM

DATE Thursday, 1 March 2007  
 STANDARD Easy  
 DISTANCE 11 km  
 LEADER Keith White  
 RETURN TIME 3 pm approx  
 MAP REF Melway 67 B8

The walk starts at 10.15 a.m at the end of Bay Street, Brighton facing the Bay, Melway 67 B8. There are traffic lights at the corner of Bay Street and St. Kilda Street and non-restricted parking in Bay St. The distance of the walk will be approximately 11 km.

The walk was planned in expectation of a hot March.

We will follow the paths closest to the shoreline past the colourful Brighton bathing boxes and stop for lunch near Sandringham.

After lunch, we catch the train to Elsernwick. Note: you will need coins for the train (and your Senior's Card).

We will link up with the Elwood Canal and follow this pleasant waterway to Point Ormond and along Elwood Beach to our cars.

Don't forget your lunch, hat, sunscreen and water.



## Wednesday Walk - Midweek Trip MID-WEEK FAIRHAVEN SOJOURN

DATE 20-21 March 2007

Join Susan and Stuart down at Fairhaven at the same beach house as last year. The dates are Tuesday 20 March and Wednesday 21 March, but book now as places are limited and filling up. There is however space for camping in the garden.

We will "tag" this on to Margaret's Wednesday Walk.

Tuesday night will be a BBQ. Please bring something to share around the table. On Wednesday, after the walk, we will have a pub meal, with the venue being decided down there. As we got such a great report card last year the rates are reduced and it should work out to be approximately \$15 per person per night.

Book with Susan Maughan.



## WALK SECRETARY'S REPORT

What the club did in November(trip stats):

Activity	Date	Trip	Grade	People
Sunday Bus	5	Lysterfield Lake	E, E/M	40
	12	Mt Donna Buang - Cement Crk	E/M, M	43
	19	Chum Creek - Dixons Creek	E/M, M	36
	26	Switzerland Range	E, M	40
TOFS	2	Warramate Hills		14
Wednesday	15	Marysville		10
Dand Exp	25	Sherbrooke Forest		24
Cycle w/e	25-26	Warburton Rail Trail		14
Base camp	3-7	Buandik (Grampians)		18
	13-16	Otways Coastal Exploratory	Cancelled	
	17-19	Federation weekend at Bright	Various	40
Pack carry	3-7	Great Ocean Walk	E	8
	3-7	Mt Darling-Wonnangatta-Bryce	M	11
	24-26	Mt Howitt via 2 different spurs	E/M	9

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# A few words from the Walks Secretary

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## WHAT DOES A SUNDAY BUS LEADER DO?

Last month we looked at why we need lots of Sunday Bus leaders, what skills you need and what resources there are to call on. Hopefully you have been convinced that you can be a leader. You may however still be unsure as to what a leader actually does. What is the sequence of events? We will assume that you have agreed to lead a particular walk in a particular area on a particular day. The sequence goes something like this.



### Research & Preview

Because we have up to 45 people spread over the 2 walks, the walks do need to be previewed, unless of course you know the walk well enough already. Armed with previous walk reports and maps from the club files and any other information you may have obtained, you and the other leader spend a day (occasionally more) out there checking it all out, including start and finish points and checking that the bus can get in and out. We encourage you to be creative and to change the walks in any way you think will make them better. This day is normally a great fun day out and you get reimbursed for use of your car. Then the main leader (listed first on the program) writes up a preview on the standard form emailed to you by the Sunday Walks Secretary which you then email or post to the News Editor by the due date.

### Taking Bookings

Bookings are taken at clubnights on the 2 Wednesdays prior to the walk. Normally each of the 2 leaders will do one evening's bookings. As well as taking money and answering questions about the walks, you will give newer members a "Safety Guidelines" card. You then give the bus fares, cheques & visitors fees to the Treasurer who gives you a receipt which you staple to the back of the booking form. You also give the Treasurer the preview transport reimbursement form (for using your cars) at the same time and he/she will give you the reimbursement cash or cheque.

### The Walk Day

You tick everyone off on the booking list as they load on at Southbank Boulevard or at any pickup points along the way. You will have clear instructions and a map for the bus driver re drop off and pick up points. En route you do a little welcome and information spiel to the group, using the standard "Announcement Guidelines" sheet as a guide. This will include a brief descriptor of the 2 available walks.

Then comes the **Walk**, the other best part. Your aim is for everyone to have a safe and enjoyable day. This means being sensitive to the group, especially the slower ones, not getting lost (which is why we do a preview), and not losing anyone (which is why we have a whip and why we always wait at junctions). We always start the walks with a circle with names (see how many you can remember) and we number around (so you can do regular head counts to make sure no-one has been left under a bush)

We always aim to be back at Southbank by 7pm

### After the Walk

The main leader still has to do two things

1. He/she completes the **reconciliation** on the back of the booking form, accounting for all moneys received and ensuring that the Treasurer's receipts agree with the money taken in. (This is to avoid AWB type situations)
2. He/she also does a **walk report**. The first part of this is just a list of all the people who actually attended. The second part is a description, preferably with maps and recommendations to help future leaders doing the same or similar walk.

The reconciled booking form and the walk report should both be given to the Sunday Walks Secretary as soon as practicable after the walk for checking, filing and for the stats.

This description is necessarily brief and could easily be padded out, and this has been done in the 4 page brochure entitled "Leading a Day Walk". We also have a "Leaders Guide" card for you to carry in your pocket for quick reference.

And finally, don't forget to come along to the :

**"Introduction to Leading a Sunday Walk" evening  
at 8.00 pm on Tuesday 23rd January, in the clubrooms  
Book with Jopie Bodegraven, Paul Logsdon or Jan Palich**

*Jopie Bodegraven*

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## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES:

### New members:

(Deleted for unabridged version)

### Altered Address/Phone:

(Deleted for unabridged version)

## MEMBERSHIP STATS:

Life Members	13	
Honorary Members	11	
Single memberships	344	
Family memberships	112	(= 2x 56)
<b>Total membership</b>	<b>480</b>	
This time last year	484	



## AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND



### Pack carry

#### ?? MT BOGONG 3 DAY ??

DATE ?? 25-28 January 2007 ??  
 STANDARD ?? Easy side of medium??  
 LEADER ?? Derrick Brown??

MAP REFERENCE ?? Bogong Alpine Area Outdoor Leisure Map??

??? This trip replaces Max Casley's Mt Loch-Paling Spur trip. Max has unfortunately jiggered his ankle and the Mt Loch/Hotham area is closed to the public due to the bushfire activity so Derrick has kindly stepped into the breach and we have turned to one of the few areas that is open to us; Mt Bogong. The Mt Loch trip might be done in March if the area is opened up

This is a classic area often done as a 2 day trip. This time we will be camping 2 nights on the plateau, most likely at 2 different sites. One will probably be in the headwaters of Bogong Creek just south of Stirling Gap and the other either at Maddisons Hut Site or at Cleve Cole Hut site. That will give us plenty of time to explore the Mt Bogong massif itself including Howman's Falls.



### Base camp

#### ?? MOROKA GORGE AND MT WELLINGTON ??

DATE ?? 25-28 January 2007 ??  
 STANDARD Easy/Medium  
 LEADER Geoff Mattingley

??? This trip unfortunately has been cancelled because the area as well as being almost totally burnt out is also closed to the public and likely to remain so for some time for safety reasons. We are endeavouring to come up with an alternative base camp but our options are limited. Anyone with ideas or offers is invited to contact the walk secretary, Jopie, who can spread word of any new trip by email???



## THE NEWS OF THE EQUIPMENT STORE

*If you are new to back packing you might wonder how it is possible to spend a comfortable night on hard ground with such minimal equipment.*

It's easy! Start by hiring a short 25mm thick Thermarest from the club. (\$5/weekend or \$40/weekend as part of a complete set of light weight hiking gear). At 370g this is probably your lightest option and an excellent choice if you find it comfortable. If not, consider one of the longer and/or thicker Thermarests or a light weight inflatable air bed with down fill. Be sure to try it out in the store and weigh it to satisfy yourself that any increase in comfort is worth the extra weight.

If you are concerned about the price you might consider a closed cell foam mat. These are cheap, light, reliable and provide good insulation but are rather bulky and, with the possible exception of the Thermarest variety, not very comfortable. Alternatively you could compromise on weight and/or reliability and consider a lesser known brand of inflatable mat. Bear in mind that the Thermarests and some of the other mats can be converted into comfortable chairs but be careful to choose a light weight model. The Thermarest variety is expensive but only weighs about 250g.

To get the most out of your mat you need to pick a good tent site, remove any sticks and stones then lie down on it to check it for comfort. Inflate the mat so that your hips and shoulders are just clear of the ground. If it is a short mat and you are expecting cold weather you can rest your feet on your pack or a small piece of foam that you may be carrying to sit on. Finally make a pillow by packing any surplus gear into your sleeping bag stuff bag then snuggle up for a good nights sleep.

*John Fritze*



Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs

## VicWalk CONSERVATION & TRACK MAINTENANCE

The following work days have been scheduled.

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

(Contact details deleted for unabridged version)



**Pack carry**

## WATCHBED CK - BATTY SPUR - BIG RIVER

DATE	2-4 February 2007
STANDARD	Medium/Hard
DISTANCE	15 km
LEADER	Trish Elmore
AREA	Bogong National Park
MAP REF	Bogong Outdoor Leisure 1:50,000

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



**Pack carry**

## MT FEATHERTOP VIA THE RAZORBACK

DATE	16-18 February 2007
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	22 km
LEADER	John Fritze
TRANSPORT	Private cars
AREA	Bogong High Plains
MAP REF	Bogong High Plains 1:50,000

This is a classic walk through some of Victoria's most scenic alpine areas. Fires permitting we will start from Mt Hotham and follow the Razorback to Little Mt Feathertop. From here we will do an optional side trip without packs to Mt Feathertop before setting up camp near Federation Hut. On Sunday we will descend to Harrierville via the Bungalow Spur.

The walk is aimed at the beginner but, being in an alpine area, participants will need to be equipped for all weather conditions.



**Base Camp**

## TARRA BULGA NATIONAL PARK

DATE	23-25 February 2007
STANDARD	Easy/Medium (Saturday) and Easy (Sunday)
LEADER	Mick Noonan
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Sunday at 5-6 pm
AREA	South Gippsland
MAP REF	Carrajung 8221-3-S, 1:25,000

Its on again! If you were thinking of trying a base camp, have never seen Tarra-Bulga National Park, or had a great time when the club went there last then this is the walk for you! The park features in the first issue of Parks Victoria's new "Parks Discovery" magazine.

Secluded 200km east of Melbourne away in Gippsland, is Tarra-Bulga, the nearest 'town' is Balook close to the eastern end of the Grand Ridge Road. This park is one of the best temperate rain forests in Gippsland with real trees (giant Mountain Ash, Messmate, ancient Myrtle Beech and Blackwood), huge lush ferns, cool rainforest gullies, the famous Corrigan suspension bridge, Cyathea Falls, epiphytes growing on the trunks of tree ferns, etc. There's also wombats (dangerous for night driving!), possums, owls, lyrebirds, wallaby's, etc etc.

On the Saturday (14km) we will see the Information Centre, historic Balook (yes there is a tea room) the suspension bridge, fern gullies, Wild Cherry Track, with a long gradual climb after lunch, lots of views etc. On the Sunday (11km) we check out Cyathea Falls, Lyrebird track, plenty of views and magnificent forests.

There is no camping in the National Park so we are staying at the Tarra Valley Caravan Park. There is a choice of camping or cabins (up to 6 in a cabin), gas fired BBQ's, wood for a fire, a sheltered eating area, toilets, electricity!, water and a fridge in the Cabin we can share!... camping luxury remote from nearby towns and relatively immune from the weather ...!!! Bring something to share for the Saturday night.

Give me a ring on 0429700686 for more info or see me at the Club on the two Wednesdays before. You can either drive down on Saturday morning (via Traralgon & Balook) or the Friday night (via Gippsland Highway & Yarrum if arriving after daylight to avoid the roos and wombats!) I'll have lots of maps and more info at the Club. So if you're new to base camping or have not been to Tarra-Bulga (walk last done in Nov 2005 and then back in 1999) or seen the real Gippsland mark this trip in your calendar!



**Base Camp**

## MOUNT BUFFALO

DATE	9-11 February 2007
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER	Jan Colquhoun
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Optional
AREA	NE Victoria
MAP REF	Mt Buffalo Plateau 1:30,000 Eurobin & Buckland 1:25,000

This base camp aims to explore many of the highlights of the Mt Buffalo Plateau with a series of interconnected shorter walks. On the Saturday we take a car pool from our campsite at Lake Catani to The Reservoir picnic area. From here we have the option of exploring Og, Gog and Magog and Eagles Point before returning to the car park to ascend Mt. Dunn, which offers some of the best views of the plateau itself. We shall then walk back to the campsite via the Giants Causeway, Stanley Rocks and the picturesque Long Plain. We shall then drive to The Chalet for afternoon tea and further walks to some of the nearby lookouts. On Sunday we shall explore The Corral, The Castle, Mahomets Tomb, the Cathedral and the Hump. This area was burnt in fires two years ago but it has regenerated since. The many twisted and windswept dead trees have given this area has an eerie atmosphere. On our way out of the park we have the option of taking a short hike to Rollisons Falls before heading back to Melbourne.

The campsite at Lake Catani has toilets and the lake is suitable for swimming. The proposed walks are flexible depending on the needs of the group, the weather and any subsequent fire damage to the park. I will be in the clubrooms for the two Wednesdays preceding the walk.



# Member reviews

## The November Wednesday Walk

15 November 2006

Susan Maughan intended to introduce the intrepid Wednesday walkers to Lake Mountain bathed in summer sunlight and benign weather. In fact the snowfall of 15 November was a record one for several snow seasons. We purchased a disposable camera, so we can show you that while some of the group remained under cover, another took his coffee on the patio.



Doug enjoys Morning Tea at Lake Mountain

The extraordinary weather of that day meant that plans were changed and changed again. Lake Mountain became like one of the winter alps and so our planned Lake Mountain walk was abandoned.



Leader Susan ascertains our location

However, after a chilly lunch at Marysville, we were able to enjoy the pretty rainforest walk to Steavenson Falls.



Wednesday Walkers lunched under cover

*Mary Daley*

## Mt Howitt via Two Different Spurs

24 -26 November 2006

We drove up Friday night to Howqua Gap via Yea and Mansfield, camped in the dark and next morning drove to the Upper Howqua Camping Area. Under the guidance of the very able Jerry Grandage the nine of us walked beside the Howqua River and up the long Howitt Spur in very pleasant weather. Along the way we saw to our bemusement school girls in summer uniform wearing gaiters. Evidently it is part of their school tradition to wear their uniforms on the last day of a multiday walk. I thought it was some sort of punishment!

Anyway about half way up one of our party suffered heatstroke and wanted to go down again. So Tony Reck very kindly walked her down to the camping ground and then walked all the way up again. That was really big hearted of Tony.

We passed Mt Magdala, and Hells Window on our right as we climbed. After a couple hours we got up to Mt Howitt West and enjoyed great views in most directions. Looking west we could see the buildings and bare ski runs of Mt Buller, with Mt Stirling on the right of Buller and Mt Magdala much closer to us on the left. On the right we could see Stanleys Name Spur, the Crosscut Saw, Mt Speculation and further away Mt Cobbler. So then it was up to Mt Howitt (1738m) proper and even more extensive views, especially to the east we could see the Viking, The Razor, Mt Buffalo and so on.

Onward towards Macalister Springs where we camped overlooking the Terrible Hollow. We walked down to Macalister Springs for water. The following morning we awoke to a spectacular view of the Terrible Hollow full of cloud below us and the peaks of the Razor and the Viking jutting through the cloud.

Next morning we joined the Australian Alps walking track along the Crosscut Saw until we got to the top of Stanleys Name Spur. Here the group divided, some staying whilst others continued northwards over the teeth that make up the Crosscut Saw with Bert Reeh until we got to the saddle before Mt Buggery. What a great walk with spectacular views!

So then it was down Stanleys Name Spur which included some steep rocky sections arriving at King River for lunch. Then off we went to join the Queen Spur Road that took us down to the Upper Howqua Camping Area.

Then back to Melbourne with dinner at the Yea Hotel for some of us.

All up a great walk that I really enjoyed. My thanks to our leader Jerry Grandage and to Bert Reeh, Bob Oxlade, Fang Fang, Tony Reck, Philip, Shayne and Judith

*Richard Hanson*



# Member contributions

## Bushwalking by the Stars ... by Geoff Crapper

*Charlotte Bradley contributes this first instalment of "Bushwalking by the Stars" by Geoff Crapper. Geoff is a past member of the Melbourne Bushwalking Club, and during his time with the club he wrote about personality characteristics in a star chart.*

Now don't be fooled, this isn't a guide to walking at night, so all of you night owls can go on to the next article.

It is the first instalment of a synopsis of the personality characteristics inherent in persons born under certain signs of the Zodiac and their likely affinities with other people born under particular signs.

The Zodiac can be broken up into four categories: Earth, Water, Fire and Air signs. For the statistically minded, there is only a one in three chance of achieving a compatible relationship and yet, over 50% of couples in the club do have a good astrological match. A good match would be Earth/Earth, Earth/Water, Water/Water, Fire/Fire, Fire/Air, or Air/Air. This "rule of thumb" system can be easily remembered by the fact that earth plus water mix well to give mud, earth and water both put fire out, fire needs air before it can burn, air plus water creates bubbles, too much air with earth results in an unstable foundation.

The Earth signs are Virgo, Taurus, Capricorn, which comprise about 20% of the club.

Alright, I know you think I'm crazy, but if you aren't scoffing by now or in hysterics, please continue to read this regular contribution. This month we will focus on Capricorn.

21 December 20 January



**Capricorn Men** are born stirrers, they just can't help themselves. They find it hard to function without their personal careers and are good when it comes to finances. They tend to be snobbish and yet overall they make good friends once you get to know them.

Best match: Virgo, Taurus

**A Capricorn woman** is a moody creature who takes life seriously and loves organizing. She tackles things slowly but carefully and has a strong domestic streak and reaches peak fulfilment through marriage.

Best match: Virgo, Taurus

## A true story ... an absolute inspiration ... can you guess who ??

*Carol Lingard is a long time member of the Bushies (about 15 yrs), joining when she came to Melbourne from Queensland. Recently she has been greatly inspired by the transformation of a relatively new member, who joined the Melbourne Bushwalking Club around June 2005. Not only has Del lost over 20+kgs in weight, but along the way she has become very very fit, and her enthusiasm and enjoyment for life is wonderful to witness.*

*Carol has been so inspired that she has written a small article ...*

Since joining the Melbourne Bushwalking Club some 18 or so months ago this Melbourne Bushie could possibly out walk, out climb most club members these days.

Some achievements and milestones to date are:

- a complete change of lifestyle which includes lots of outdoor, sporting and gym activities, eating good foods and having loads of fun along the way have all added to the amazing turnaround in appearance and outlook on life for this Melbourne Bushie, not to mention becoming very very fit
- going on numerous, too many to count Sunday walks over the last 18 months
- and more recently participating in base camps
- cycling to/from work most days clocking up approx. 160-200kms per week
- finishing the very challenging 210km Bicycle Victoria "Around the Bay in a Day" last October 2006 - making good time, ending in fine spirits and a little weary – and who wouldn't be !!
- does bicycle trips on a Saturday sometimes on her own or with her cycling buddies, usually clocking up approx. 80km and more ... then fronts up bright-eyed, bushy-tailed and ready for a bushwalk Sunday morning
- and the latest challenge is training to do a mini Triathlon.

Is there anything stopping this Melbourne Bushie? I suspect not.

And where can you find her ?? Well ... if you're on a Sunday walk, Del (Franks) is always at the front of the pack on the harder of the two walks held on the day or perhaps on a base camp or you may spot her whizzing past on one of her many cycle trips somewhere in Victoria.

You go girl !!!

Del, you're a real inspiration, that's for sure !!!



Del setting off in the Cathedral Ranges at her usual brisk pace

