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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 cents

Edition 676 | JUNE 2007

A little bit of history ... this month, 47 years ago ...

Long weekend - June 1960

"SWITZERLAND RANGES PACK CARRY"

On a long weekend 47 years ago, a bus trip took 16 Melbourne Bushies to the Switzerland Ranges near Molesworth. The leader was Rob Taylor and travelling by van Rob lead everyone on a 34 mile pack carry for the weekend.

The group left Melbourne in the van and travelled to the Kulaha Homestead arriving around 11.00 pm, after which they walked a little way to set up camp.

At 9.15 next morning they followed the road to a spur leading up onto Waggs Range. From there the group walked till they arrived at Mt Stewart with a fair amount of bush bashing. The leader was in for long lunches which he recorded each day. The first day the "long lunch" was next to a good running creek (I wonder if this is still running in 2007).

The next day was more challenging with a fair amount of climbing up and down and then down to the valley for the next campsite which had plenty of wood and water. The following day the group travelled through private land which leads to the plain below Mt Broughton. They camped at 443 208 (a GPS wasn't needed back then), and that night had a great camp "sing song" and discussion.

The following day was foggy and the good views of the Goulbourn valley were non-existent. The group travelled through the Switzerland Ranges and after another long lunch and some scrub bashing they arrive at Molesworth. The leader noted that the last day had been the most enjoyable since most of the country was heavily timbered. He felt it was a very successful walk and a good one for winter.

(Research - courtesy of Graham Wills-Johnson) by Jan Palich

3 Great things to do with Liz

1 Boite Music Café Saturday 29 June

Come along to a great evening of music and listen to some talented people at the relaxed Boite Music Cafe.

Jeremy Woolhouse and friends plays jazz with an AfroAmerican flavour and tango/Argentinean music.

And the wonderful a cappella choir, South of the River, who recently won the ABC choir of the year award. Their music encompasses traditional gospel, African inspired songs and new contemporary world music

2 Ray Thomas and the Regent Honey Eater Project Wednesday 4 July

Ray has agreed to do a slide night for the club on the tree planting project that he runs in the Benalla district. This excellent project is aiming to restore native habitat in farms and vacant land to protect native flora and fauna including the endangered Regent Honey Eater.

The project has been supported by the Melbourne Bushies over several years by organizing weekends away for tree planting. Rays slide show is excellent and informative. Even if you are not planning to come on one of Ray's weekends, you should consider coming to the slide show as you will learn a lot and be inspired by Ray's passion and knowledge as well as his excellent photographs.

Pizza will be on offer from 6pm for those who can come early to help with folding the newsletter.

3 The Platform Restaurant, Port Melbourne Friday 20 July

The Platform is Melbourne's newest Restaurant, Cafe and Bar located at Beacon Cove Port Melbourne and has stunning water views. Come along for a social evening with club members.

Full details .. see inside, page 8!

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

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

Visitors are always welcome!

General correspondence should be directed to:

The Secretary
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc
PO Box 1751
MELBOURNE VIC 3001



www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au

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

Editor: Christine Salau

Walk previews, walk reviews, articles, poems, news items, photographs of club events, reports of new gear, book/movie reviews, letters to the editor, advertisements, etcetera are always welcome. However, the Editor reserves the right to edit contributions where space, clarity or propriety dictate, and to maintain editorial consistency. **Note - photographs should be sent as separate files which are capable of being edited.** Contributions to The News may be sent to the Editor by:

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

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

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

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

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

No discounts will apply for multiple insertions.

Club rooms Duty Roster:

Wed 13 June - Del Franks and Carol Sisson
Wed 20 June - Fay Dunn and John McCall*
Wed 27 June - Liz Moore and Ray Spooner *
Wed 4 July - Lynda Larkin and Mark Heath *
(* Treasurer in attendance)

Next Committee Meeting:

Monday 2 July 2007

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Further contributions re our astrology section:

Dear Confused of Camberwell

I happen to be acquainted with the Mr Brown, who's sincerity you impugn, and can reveal that he has recently spent a fortune on creating an ideal habitat for the small winged creatures at the bottom of his garden. You, like the rest of his followers, should admire Mr Brown's collaborative, evidence based approach and wait patiently for his revelations in upcoming editions of "News".

Pieces of North Carlton

Dear Editor

I object to the irreverent reference to spoon bending made in the April News. I've been working on spoon bending ever since Uri Geller demonstrated this remarkable phenomena on television. By focussing my internal energy and intimidating the spoon by shouting at it I think I have managed to bend it a little. I can actually feel the vibrations in the air (and it's not just the train passing by my house). I've also tried to straighten the grapefruit knife but this hasn't worked so far.

Physic of Mentone

And on another subject:

Dear Editor

As a long ago active member, and a present Life member of the MBW I always read The News with great interest. I was intrigued when I read the report on Next Box Monitoring for the Regent Honeyeater Project (May 2007). I expected that they would find birds but instead they found gliders. If this project has been explained previously I have missed it - could someone please do me a favour and explain it?

Val Elder

Editor's reply:

Val, if possible I suggest the you take a look at the Regent Honeyeater Project website - <http://regent.org.au/index.php>. It seems to me that the name "Regent Honeyeater" is a name only, and the project is much bigger than the birds. The site information says "Perhaps you'd like to see some of the beautiful little creatures we are working to protect up here at Lurg. ... We have 174 nest boxes in place, with Sugar Gliders and Squirrel Gliders nesting in just about all of them!"

Christine



Cheese and Wine Evening

27 June 2007
in the Clubrooms

THE NEWS OF THE EQUIPMENT STORE

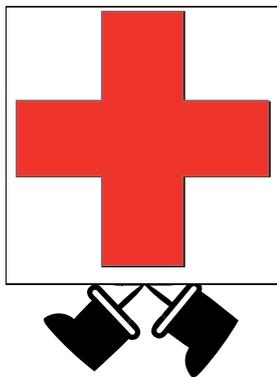
Pillows

Here at the equipment store the idea of a pillow is becoming more of a need than a want so we pinched a design from Roger Caffin (http://www.bushwalking.org.au/FAQ/DIY_RNCDesigns.htm#Pillows) and made two. We think they were successful. The smallest is 210mm by 160mm by 100mm, very comfortable, about 100g in weight, compress to about 0.5L and costs about \$6 to make. You can borrow it to try and if you would like to make your own you can also borrow our hand operated jig to help with the coring of holes in the foam block.

Equip now for summer liloing

With only a few short months to the summer liloing season now is the time to be thinking about equipment. You don't have to worry about paddles and buoyancy vests because the equipment store will have four sets for hire by then. All you need is a single traditional rubberised cotton airbed with box sides. The type with plugs at the ends work best (end plugs are less likely to be knocked out than side plugs) but both are fine. They cost between \$24 and \$30 but right now you can snap up the side plugged variety on special at City Centre Disposals in Elizabeth Street for \$17. If you are planning on shooting any rapids you will also need a bike or other suitable helmet and a pair of shoes or sandals that won't fall off in the water.

John Fritze (Equipment Officer)



Medical Kits have gone for a Walk!

Urgent: Does anyone know the whereabouts of the "spare" medical kits? There should be five but are only three! I use the "spare" ones by rotating them to update supplies. Has someone taken them on a pack carry & failed to return them? Please return them to the Club Rooms before someone bleeds to death!

Carol Sisson

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Notice board

Hi Everyone

Lots of good news this month!

First of all, we have had the good fortune of acquiring as our new General Walks Secretary, David Arnold, who since joining MBW in 1996, has previously served on general committee and also held the position of MBW Secretary for a year, familiarizing himself with all aspects of club operations, history and policy and contributing in a very valuable way behind the scenes with his ideas and input over the years. His added contribution as a Sunday walks, base camp and bike trip leader and the many hours he has put in as technical support person for the maintenance of our website demonstrate the profile of one whose diverse skills, reliability and dedication make him the perfect person to take on the position of General Walks Secretary and the important responsibilities this position entails. Thank you, David, and a special word of thanks also to Jopie Bodegraven for doing such a great job holding things together in the interim.

Our second piece of good news is that Katrina Murphy has volunteered to be our new Base Camp Co-ordinator. Katrina has been with the club for 4 years and explained that she has enjoyed immensely the walks and overnight trip she has attended with Melbourne Bushies. She values her membership and has been impressed greatly by the excellent organization and supportiveness of the leaders as well as the integrity of the club and the quality of the activities we make available to club members and the general community. This has prompted her to want to contribute to the running of the club. We warmly welcome her to the team and we thank her and trust she will derive much pleasure from her new role.

You will see that David and Michelle Elias have some great news for us, with the introduction of our newest Bushie, young "D.D." Elias. David has been an excellent Sunday walks and overnight trips leader for a number of years, and although we will miss him, as he will most likely be tied up for a while as a new father and with the joys of family life, we offer our congratulations and wish him and Michelle and little Daniel every happiness.

Another milestone for Melbourne Bushies is the imminent introduction of a computerized data base in the clubrooms, originating from a project commenced by Graham Wills-Johnson five or six years ago, which has involved the scanning and digitizing of all club walk reports dating from 1946 to the present and the Wilky log books from before the time the hut was accidentally destroyed by fire. This archival data base is currently being laboriously transferred from an outmoded disc form to a more user- friendly format by computer wizard, David Arnold, and will have a number of interesting applications as well as revolutionizing/streamlining the way leaders will be able to access club walk reports and maps in the near future. Discussion re guidelines for who should have access and/or possible distribution of these archives is listed for discussion at the next committee meeting.

John Fritze, our terrific Equipment Officer, is about to take off on holidays, also Jopie. They will be meeting up with Derek and Gina in the UK and then traveling through France and Europe until mid-August. We wish them all the best on their well-earned break and a safe and happy time away



And finally, I have just spent an excellent weekend assisting with track maintenance on Boronia Peak, in the northern Grampians, as part of a team of 29 people. This was carefully planned and organized by Rod Novak, who makes a tremendous contribution in his capacity as a member of the Bushwalking Victoria Environment Committee/Track Maintenance Group. The work was hard, at the same time enjoyable and satisfying, and we were rewarded for our efforts on Saturday night by a barbeque around the camp fire under very bright stars, with an array of wonderful salads provided by the Convenor of the "Friends of the Grampians", David Wither, and his wife, Janet. The weather was just "gorgeous" for both days and after "down tools" mid-afternoon on Sunday, we had time to drive up to Wonderland and take a walk through the Grand Canyon and up towards the Pinnacle. Spectacular rock formations and scenery.

I highly recommend the satisfying nature of these track maintenance activities, which are conducted each month by Bushwalking Victoria, dates being as advertised in the VicWalk News or our own newsletter. It is a great way not only to get good physical exercise and work and socialize in congenial company, but also a valuable way to enjoy and connect with our beautiful natural environment and show in a tangible way an appreciation and appropriate awareness of our responsibilities towards it.

My best wishes to all members and readers.

Lynda Larkin (President)

Dear Bushies,

Michelle and I are delighted to introduce you to Daniel David Elias, born May 10 2007 (4.02kg, 53cm).

Both Michelle and Daniel are fine, and resting at home.

We look forward to introducing Daniel to you very soon.

Regards

David & Michelle

PS - By the way, Michelle is now Michelle Elias (we were married on February 17) !





Sunday Bus WONGA PARK - WARRANDYTE

DATE	Sunday 10 June
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	16 km and 19 km
LEADER(S)	Graeme Walkden and Doug Langton
TRANSPORT	Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9:00am
RETURN TIME	6.30 pm
AREA	Wonga Park, Warrandyte
MAP REF	Warrandyte State Park

This section of Warrandyte State Park runs along the Yarra River through Wonga Park to Warrandyte. Most of it is land excised from adjoining farms.

The walk is magnificent. There are long sections of track along the riverbank. Extensive views from Mount Lofty and the hilltop near the Bend of Isles richly reward the effort of the climbs.

The Easy/Medium group begins near the Stonehouse Pottery in Warrandyte, passes through the old gold workings in Black Flat and continues along the riverbank to Jumping Creek Reserve. This is the starting point for the Easy group. Both groups follow the track to Blue Tongue Bend, Stane Brae, Yarra Brae, the Bend of Isles, Clifford Park Scouts Centre, Wittons Reserve and Mount Lofty. The main hills (Mount Lofty and another near the Bend of Isles each rise about 80 metres.



Sunday Bus MOORABOOL RIVER GEORGE

DATE	Sunday 17 June 2007
STANDARD	Easy & Easy Medium
DISTANCE	9.5 km and 12-15 km
LEADER(S)	Jan Colquhoun and Halina Sarbinowski
TRANSPORT	Bus from Southbank Blvd. at 9:00 am
AREA	Lethbridge
MAP REF	Lethbridge and Medina 1:25,000

In the western district of Victoria, the Moorabool River goes virtually unnoticed as it threads its way through private property. The Melbourne Bushwalkers have obtained kind permission from the local landowners to walk beside a section of this river and take in the superb scenery and beauty of its features. On our preview we spotted a koala, several kangaroos, parrots, ducks and cockatoos which were impossible not to spot as they made so much noise. One section of the walk is reminiscent of Kakadu.

The easy-medium walk follows almost the same route as the easy walk except for a diversion which involves some crossings of the river, mostly in dry spots and a longer distance. The easy group walks on higher terrain with less rock hopping.

There are no tracks beside the river, so our course can sometimes be slow and a bit of a scrabble but it varies between following animal tracks and sections of rocks, nothing too arduous. Come prepared for adventure and to do some rock hopping. The grass may be long in a couple of sections and gaiters or trousers and perhaps long sleeves are recommended for those who are sensitive. When the going gets rough we climb up to the ridgetops and take in stunning birds-eye views of the river and surrounding hills. Cameras recommended!



Wednesday Walk OLINDA FOREST AND FALLS

DATE	Wednesday 20 June 2007
STANDARD	Easy Medium
DISTANCE	14 km
LEADER(S)	Margaret Curry
RETURN TIME	4.00 pm back to cars
MAP REF	Dandenong Ranges Park Notes, Melways Map 122 B9

Meet at 10.15am at Woolrich Lookout (Toilets, picnic tables) – Melways Map122 B9.

Olinda Forest boasts a variety of forest landscapes from clusters of Mountain Grey Gum trees and cool ferny gullies to dry bushland. A lot of the forest area remains relatively isolated and contains much undisturbed native habitat. We start our walk by heading down into the valley before walking up to Olinda Falls with time to explore.

We walk close to Olinda Golf Course, beside creeks, through scenic picnic areas, and pass through diverse scenery before climbing again through the R J Hamer Arboretum (which contains some 150 exotic tree species) to reach our cars at Woolrich Lookout.

For information and bookings contact Margaret .



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Sunday Bus

DANDENONG RANGES TRACK (SASSAFRAS CK)

DATE	Sunday 24 June
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	Approx. 12 km and 16 km
LEADER(S)	Les Southwell and Phil Geschke
TRANSPORT	Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9:00am
MAP REF	Dandenong Ranges Nat. Park, Southern area

This walk was originally scheduled for December 2006, however, due to a total fire ban day had to be relocated. We now have the opportunity to enjoy this walk.

The Easy/Medium walk starts at Sassafras village and follows the Dandenong Ranges Tourist Track along the Sassafras Creek via Beagley's Bridge and Grant's Picnic Ground, where the Easy walk begins. Both walks continue on to Baynes Park and Menzies Creek to rejoin the bus at Emerald township, finishing at one of the outdoor cafes where a latte can be enjoyed (if time permits) before heading back to Melbourne. There is little climbing involved and the track is generally sheltered among the tall eucalypts and ferns.



Dandenong Explorer

MIDDLE PARK TO SANDRINGHAM (Note change)

DATE	Saturday 30 June
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	12 km
LEADER	Sheena Burgess
MAP REF	Melway 2K / 2N / 67 / 68

We will walk from Middle Park light rail station to Sandringham train station. This should be a very pleasant beach walk with some good pictures from the artists trail to divert us and the possibility of a coffee along the way. Bring a packed lunch. The walk will end at Sandringham train station where we will have a coffee at one of the coffee shops there. The walk is easy along the beach trail, which follows the coast.

We will meet at 10am at Middle Park Light Rail Station (Armstrong Street and Canterbury Road Melway E11). For those who wish to take public transport from the city catch the no. 96 St Kilda tram to Middle Park. The tram leaves the city at 9.25am. Meet me at the corner of Swantson and Bourke St at 9.15am or at Middle Park at 10am. We can catch a train back to the city from Sandringham. For those leaving their car at Middle Park, a bus can be caught back to St Kilda, then a ten minute stroll through the park to Middle Park. You do not need to ring me to book on this walk. Any queries contact me.



Sunday Bus

WERRIBEE GORGE

DATE	Sunday 1 July
STANDARD	Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCE	10 km and 13 km
LEADER(S)	David Arnold and Del Franks
TRANSPORT	Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9:00am
AREA	Near Bacchus Marsh
MAP REF	Werribee Gorge State Park visitor guide (Parks Victoria)

Sunday Bus - Werribee Gorge - Sunday 1 July ... cont'd

Werribee Gorge is a picturesque location on the Werribee River a few km upstream from Bacchus Marsh. There was a small flow in the river at the time of our preview, so the waterholes were quite healthy, and yes there are even a few sandy beaches along the route. Walkers in both groups will enjoy moderate climbs, and in the longer walk there is a section involving a descent over loose dirt and rock which will need particular care. The additional views from the climb to Falcons Lookout and the Western Bluff should be worth the trouble though. Gaiters or long pants may be useful in a few areas where there are low shrubs or nettles. Join us for a scenic walk.



TOFS

BANYULE PARKLANDS

DATE	Thursday 5 July
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER	Alister Rowe
DISTANCE	10 km
RETURN TIME	3.00 pm
AREA	Banyule
MAP REF	Melway 32 F2

Meet at 10.30 am in the carpark near the bottom of F2. Turn right off Somerset drive just before the end. We will walk through the parklands and across Banksia Street to Yarra Flats. We may not get as far as Burke Road but the walk will be a circuit with some pleasant river views.



Sunday Bus

COBAW RANGES

DATE	Sunday 8 July
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	approx 14 km and 18 km
LEADER(S)	Elizabeth Ingham and Mick Noonan
TRANSPORT	Bus – Southbank Blvd 9am
AREA	Cobaw Ranges – midway between Lancefield and Kyneton
MAP REF	Cobaw Ranges Forest Activities Map

The club has organized walks in this area before and they have always been popular...the open forest vegetation and wide forest roads and tracks lend themselves to good walking during winter conditions. There will be a minimal amount of off-track walking and even that is fairly easy. Some sixty percent of the area was severely affected by bush fires in 2003 and it is remarkable to witness the regrowth since that time!

At time of writing this walk has not quite been previewed. My thanks to Jerry and Keith for this preview taken verbatim from June 2004 Newsletter. Royalty cheque is in the mail.

Word has it that if there is adverse weather conditions then the walks can be upgraded to easy/medium and medium respectively.



Cycle

CITY TO BLACKBURN LAKE AND RETURN

**ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY **

DATE Saturday 14 July 2007
 STANDARD Easy/Medium
 DISTANCE 60 km
 LEADER Philip Brown

We will meet at Sandridge Bridge teh Flinders St Station end.

Start on the Yarra trail then to the Gardiners Creek path through picturesque parklands out to Blackburn Lake Sanctuary, where we can feed the ducks as well as ourselves with lunch. Then return by bike or train. I will see if I can find a coffee shop along the way for the caffeine addicts. For more info ring or I will be at the club rooms Wednesday before the ride.



Sunday Bus

LODDON FALLS - VAUGHAN SPRINGS

DATE Sunday 22 July 2007
 STANDARD Easy and Easy/Medium
 DISTANCE 12km and 15km
 LEADERS David Laing and Nick Dow
 TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blvd. at 9.00am
 RETURN TIME Approx. 7pm
 AREA Upper Loddon State Forest
 MAP REF Guildford 1:25,000 and Daylesford 1:25,000

We start this walk south of Vaughan Springs with both walks heading roughly north to end at Vaughan springs. The longer walk starting an extra 3km further south. Both walks follows footpaths/pads, water races, 4wd tracks and a number of off track sections. The walk traverses forested hills and gullies dotted with ruins and relics from its mining past and includes colourful rock formations. There is something for everyone on this walk including many deep mine shafts and an interesting relic that appears to be a covered trough running up the hill to a stone chimney, one theory is that the whole structure is a chimney.

A pleasant walk through open forest, undulating terrain and no big hauls to contend with.



Dandenong Explorer

JOHNS HILL CIRCUIT WALK

DATE Saturday 28th July
 STANDARD Easy
 LEADER Carol Corrigan

Details of this walk will be posted in the next edition of the News. If you need details before then please contact Carol.



Sunday Bus

BUNGAL STATE FOREST

DATE Sunday 15 July
 STANDARD Easy and Easy/Medium
 DISTANCE 12 km and 15km
 LEADER(S) Mark Heath and Peter McGrath
 TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Boulevard 9.00 am
 RETURN TIME 6.30 pm
 AREA Ballan
 MAP REF Lal Lal and Yallock 1:25,00

A pleasant walk thru open bushland to the junction of the East & West Moorabool rivers with lots of kangaroos, panoramic view along the valleys and maybe some wattle in flower.



Sunday Bus

BASS COASTAL TRAIL AND CHURCHILL ISLAND

DATE Sunday 29 July
 STANDARD Easy and Easy/Medium
 DISTANCE 13 km and 15 km
 LEADER(S) Liz Moore and John McCall
 TRANSPORT Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9:00am
 RETURN TIME 6:00pm
 MAP REF Melway 534

This should be a lovely relaxing but invigorating coastal walk. The longer walk starts at Rhyll whilst the easier walk starts at the Rhyll inlet. Both walks will encounter beaches, mangroves (along the board walk at the Rhyll inlet) and mudflats. The walk will then cross the bridge to Churchill Island. We will have plenty of time to soak up the atmosphere of historic Churchill Island, which was the site of Victoria's first farm and now boasts, a historic homestead (1857) with a very good licensed coffee shop. You can do a short (10 minute) walk to the homestead to have a more leisurely coffee/view the homestead or circumnavigate this scenic island getting fine views of Phillip Island and the mainland (but still have time for a coffee). Both Churchill Island and the Rhyll Inlet are well known for birdlife including migratory waders. There is an admission charge to the homestead of \$9 but this is of course optional.



Wednesday Walk

VAUGHAN SPRINGS AND GOLDEN GULLIES

DATE Wednesday 18 July
 STANDARD Easy
 DISTANCE 13km
 LEADER Lesley Hale
 DEPART TIME arrive 10:15 for 10:30 start (130kms NW of Mel)
 AREA Goldfields – Castlemaine Historic Reserve
 MAP REF Vicmap 7723-4-2 Guildford 1:25,000

Meet at the Vaughan Springs Reserve which is reached via Daylesford/Midland Highway/Guildford or Calder Highway/Malmsbury/Glenluce. The route is a loop south following foot tracks, water races, and 4wd tracks through forested hills and gullies and along the charming valley of the River Loddon. The area is dotted with ruins and relics from its mining past and includes colourful rock formations. There is something for everyone on this very pleasant walk including freshly pumped mineral water in several flavours.

Social Activities

Australian Museum on-line Fact Sheet

<http://www.amonline.net.au/factsheet>



Illustration: K Dempsey

Leeches

Biology

Leeches are annelids or segmented worms, and although closely related to the earthworms, are anatomically and behaviourally more specialised.

The bodies of all leeches are divided into the same number of segments (34), with a powerful clinging sucker at each end (although the anterior, or front sucker can be very small). Body shape is variable, but to some extent depends on the degree to which their highly muscular bodies are contracted. The mouth is in the anterior sucker and the anus is on the dorsal surface (top) just in front of the rear sucker.

Leeches usually have three jaws and make a Y-shaped incision. The Australian land leech has only two jaws and makes a V-shaped incision. Australian leeches can vary in size from about 7 mm long to as much as 200 mm when extended.

Different Types

Leeches are grouped according to the different ways they feed. One group (the jawed leeches or Gnatobdellida) have jaws armed with teeth with which they bite the host. The blood is prevented from clotting by production of a non-enzymatic secretion called hirudin. The land leech commonly encountered by bushwalkers is included in this group.

A second group (the jawless leeches or Rhyncobdellida) insert a needle-like protrusion called a proboscis into the body of the host and secrete an enzyme, hemetin which dissolves clots once they have formed. Leeches which live on body fluids of worms and small freshwater snails possess such an apparatus.

A third group, (the worm leeches or Pharyngobdellida) have no jaws or teeth and swallow the prey whole. Its food consists of small invertebrates.

Respiration

Respiration takes place through the body wall, and a slow undulating movement observed in some leeches is said to assist gaseous exchange. Aquatic leeches tend to move to the surface when they find themselves in water of low oxygen content. As a fall in atmospheric pressure results in a small decrease in dissolved oxygen concentrations, rising leeches in a jar of water provided nineteenth century weather forecasters with a simple way of predicting bad weather.

Sense Organs

Sensory organs on the head and body surface enable a leech to detect changes in light intensity, temperature, and vibration. Chemical receptors on the head provide a sense of smell and there may be one or more pairs of eyes. The number of eyes and their arrangement can be of some use in identification, however to properly identify a leech, dissection is required.

The Rhyncobdellids are capable of dramatic colour changes, and although not an attempt at camouflage, the significance of this behaviour is unknown.

(continued page 11...)

3 Great things to do with Liz

Boite Music Café:

Box Hill Community Arts Centre

- Saturday 29 June
- 407 Station Street, Box Hill
- 7.30 to 8 pm (music starts at 8 pm sharp)
- Cost \$16

Artists: Jeremy Woolhouse and friends (jazz with AfroAmerican flavour + tango/Argentinean music)

South of the River: a cappella based choir, which recently won the ABC choir of the year award. Their music encompasses traditional gospel, African inspired songs and new contemporary world music

This is an outpost of the well known Boite world music café in North Fitzroy and the music should be excellent. There is snack food and drinks available at the bar. You can also bring your own food. It is always a great friendly atmosphere at the Boite.

Booking of tickets: Please book your ticket yourself and we can make up a table. The tickets are available on line (<http://www.boite.com.au/index.php>) or phone 9417 1983. It would be good to know who is coming so we can try and grab a table so please contact me to let me know if you are coming. I will be there by 7.30 to get a good table.

Ray Thomas and the Regent Honey Eater Project

- Slide show , Club Rooms
- 4th July at 8 pm.

Ray has agreed to do a slide night for the club on the tree planting project that he runs in the Benalla district. This excellent project is aiming to restore native habitat in farms and vacant land to protect native flora and fauna including the endangered Regent Honey Eater. The project has been supported by the Melbourne Bushies over several years by organizing weekends away for tree planting. Ray's slide show is excellent and informative. Even if you are not planning to come on one of Ray's weekends, you should consider coming to the slide show as you will learn a lot and be inspired by Ray's passion and knowledge as well as his excellent photographs.

Early Folding of newsletter - Pizza anyone?

Due to the above slide night we ask volunteers to come and fold the newsletter early on Wednesday the fourth of July. We will feed you with good pizza from Lygon Street so you can come straight from work.

Dinner at Platform Restaurant in Port Melbourne

- Friday 20 July, 7.30 pm
- 101B Beach Street Port Melbourne

We have tentatively set the date for Friday 20th July, The Platform is a licensed restaurant with mains costing \$16 to \$26. I will need phone bookings by 18th July)

Please note that this event will be confirmed in the next newsletter. If anyone has any other ideas for a night out, please let me know.

Liz Moore



Pack Carry WILSONS PROM NP

DATE 9-11 June [Queen's Birthday Long Weekend]
 STANDARD Easy/Medium
 DISTANCE 40 kms
 LEADERS Rod Novak
 RETURN TIME 9 pm Monday evening
 AREA Wilsons Prom
 MAP REF VicMap 1:50,000 WilsonsProm NP

The plan is to drive down to The Prom early on Saturday morning. Commence walking from Telegraph Saddle to Roaring Meg (camp), on Sunday we will visit the Lighthouse then continue on to Little Waterloo Bay (camp), and on Monday return to Tidal River by Oberon Bay. Expect very windy, very cold, and very wet winter conditions. More details from the leader at Clubnight. Bring a gourmet entree to share. As this will be the club's second pack carry trip on this long weekend, and the Prom requiring advance payment, I have only booked for six people. On the Monday evening, a counter tea on the way home will complete a great weekend.



Pack Carry HATTAH LAKES

DATE 8-11 June [Queen's Birthday Long Weekend]
 STANDARD Easy/Medium
 LEADER Alex Stirkul

If you need details of this pack carry please contact Alex Stirkul direct.



Pack Carry BRISBANE RANGES

DATE 7 and 8 July 2007
 STANDARD Easy
 DISTANCE 30 kms
 LEADER Bill Donald
 TRANSPORT Private
 RETURN TIME Sunday Afternoon
 AREA Anakie
 MAP REF VMTC Brisbane Ranges

We will meet on Saturday morning at the Court house in Steiglitz.

The walk starts near the Little River picnic area and we will follow a well established walking track to the Old Mill campsite. Depending on progress we might have a side trip to the Anakie Gorge picnic area.

On Sunday we pick up the track again that eventually takes us back into Steiglitz. The walking will all be on track (possibly overgrown in sections with regrowth) with no serious climbs.

Please come prepared for a winter walk.



Search and Rescue WINTER PRACTICE - MT GWINEAR

DATE 21-22 July 2007
 LEADER David Laing
 TRANSPORT Private

If you are interested in this activity, please contact Dave Laing.



Pack Carry WIRILDA TRACK

DATE 3-5 August 2007
 STANDARD Easy
 LEADER Bob Oxlade

Details available in the next newsletter.



Tree Planting REGENT HONEYEATER

DATE: 11-12 August
 LEADER Mark Heath

Details available in the next newsletter.



Talk About Walking Tracks

And be PAID

The Department of Sustainability wants to talk to walkers about walking tracks in Victoria. They are looking for walkers of all levels: from extended pack carries to day walks through to strolling about a lake. And they will pay \$50 to talk to you.

Sessions are running over two weeks, mostly in the evenings, commencing the week 4th June. The sessions last around one and a half hours and are to be held in Moonee Ponds, close to the railway station.

If you are interested contact Sarah Madden on 9372 8400. You will be asked questions about the type of walks you do and then offered times to attend various sessions.

Member reviews

Bushwalkers Go Arty

Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award 2007

12 May 2007

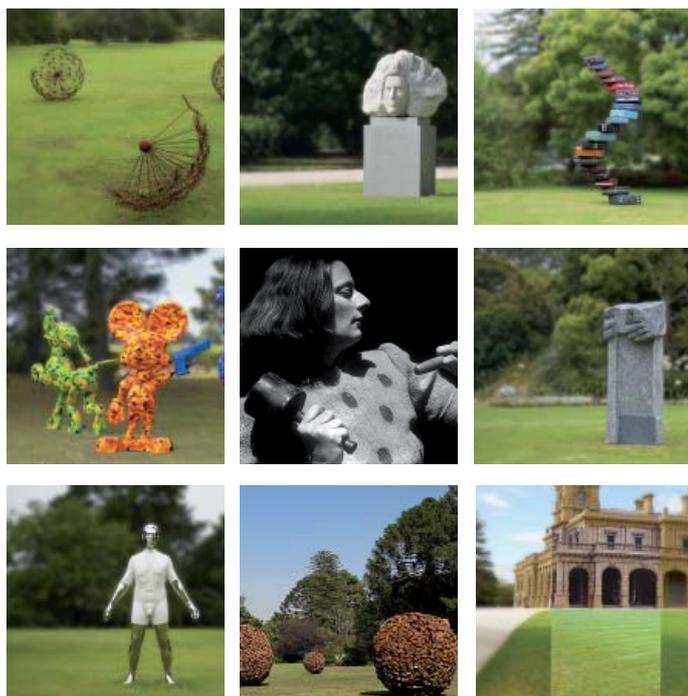
Saturday 12 May saw a group of Bushies head to the Chirside Mansion at Werribee Park to view the Helen Lempriere Sculpture Award Exhibition. The grounds of the mansion are a fabulous setting for this annual exhibition as well as for a permanent sculpture display that fronts the Werribee River. We strolled the mansion grounds and pondered the meaning of works such as submarines that could be sharks, of thousands of red strings dangling from trees, of huge balls of well stacked wood, of wires that could be a field of grasses, of works entitled Menisci, Industrial Jam Session and Casualty Numbers. We debated then voted for our favourite sculpture and are now hanging out to win the voters prize of a weekend for two at the luxury hotel on site.

The grounds of the mansion are a work of art too. Huge historic trees, a shell lined grotto on the lake, the formal rose garden and broad vistas across the brilliant green of the manicured lawn (recycled water we were reassured) to the 1870's squatters mansion. From the rear garden we could see rhino and gnus grazing on the far side of the river.

The restoration of the house is a continuous process and is a monument to an elaborate lifestyle of dressing rooms, morning rooms and butler's rooms, but fortunately also caters to the modern with a licensed café in one corner. Here we relaxed, took in the scenery, enjoyed the sun, each other's company and a picnic on the grass.

Thanks Liz for a great day out.

Fay Dunn



Track Maintenance Weekend

25-27 May 2007

Five Melbourne Bushies joined in with fellow walkers from the Sunraysia Bushwalkers, Grampians Bushwalking Club, VMTC and Warnambool Walkers on the Bushwalking Victoria (VicWalk) track maintenance weekend in the Grampians National Park. We were assisting David Witham and his Grampians Walking Tracks Support Group and Parks Victoria Ranger Frank van der Peek on the Boronia Peak walking track.

There were 29 willing workers on the Saturday all pitching in - building stone steps, drainage channels and shrub pruning. We camped at Borough Huts camping ground and had a delicious BBQ and salads provided by the organisers. Camp fire chat focused on great walking trips by the various clubs with lots of ideas and future trip possibilities shared.

On the Sunday afternoon we enjoyed a quick walk on the newly opened Grand Canyon - Pinnacle Wonderland walking track. Many thanks to Lynda, Bob, Mark and Ralph for making a valuable contribution to our walking tracks.

Rod Novak

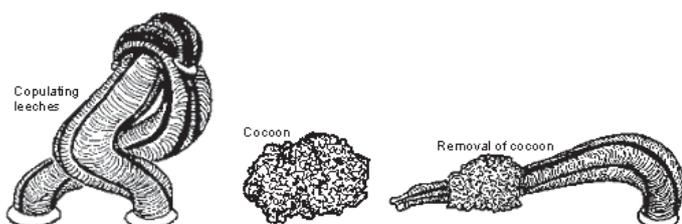


Reproduction

As hermaphrodites, leeches have both male and female sex organs. Like the earthworms they also have a clitellum, a region of thickened skin which is only obvious during the reproductive period. Mating involves the intertwining of bodies where each deposits sperm in the others' clitellar area. Rhyncobdellids have no penis but produce sharp packages of sperm which are forced through the body wall.

The sperm then make their way to the ovaries where fertilisation takes place. The clitellum secretes a tough gelatinous cocoon which contains nutrients, and it is in this that the eggs are deposited.

The leech shrugs itself free of the cocoon, sealing it as it passes over the head.



The cocoon is either buried or attached to a rock, log or leaf and dries to a foamy crust. After several weeks or months, the young emerge as miniature adults. Studies show that the cocoons are capable of surviving the digestive system of a duck. Leeches die after one or two bouts of reproduction.

Feeding

Most leeches are sanguivorous, that is they feed as blood sucking parasites on preferred hosts. If the preferred food is not available most leeches will feed on other classes of host. Some feed on the blood of humans and other mammals, while others parasitise fish, frogs, turtles or birds. Some leeches will even take a meal from other sanguivorous leeches which may die after the attack.

Sanguivorous leeches can ingest several times their own weight in blood at one meal. After feeding the leech retires to a dark spot to digest its meal. Digestion is slow and this enables the leech to survive during very long fasting periods (up to several months).

Foraging - How does a leech go about searching for a blood meal?

A hungry leech is very responsive to light and mechanical stimuli. It tends to change position frequently, and explore by head movement and body waving. It also assumes an alert posture, extending to full length and remaining motionless. This is thought to maximise the function of the sensory structures in the skin.

In response to disturbances by an approaching host, the leech will commence "inchworm crawling", continuing in a trial and error way until the anterior sucker touches the host and attaches. Aquatic leeches are more likely to display this "pursuit" behaviour, while common land leeches often accidentally attach to a host.

The Bite

When a jawed leech bites it holds the sucker in place by making its body rigid. Using its semi circular and many toothed jaws like minute saws, it then makes an incision in the skin and excretes a mucous from the nephropores (external openings from the kidney-like organs). This helps the sucker to adhere. A salivary secretion containing the anticoagulant and a histamine floods the wound and the leech relaxes its body to allow the blood to be ingested. This mixture allows the blood to flow and also prevents clotting once inside the leech. A bacterium in the gut of the leech assists the digestion of the blood, and it has been shown that the type of

bacterium varies with the type of host on which the leech feeds. The bacterium also prevents growth of other bacteria which may cause the ingested blood to putrefy.

Habitat

Most leeches are freshwater animals, but many terrestrial and marine species occur.

Land leeches are common on the ground or in low foliage in wet rain forests. In drier forests they may be found on the ground in seepage moistened places. Most do not enter water and cannot swim, but can survive periods of immersion.

In dry weather, some species burrow in the soil where they can survive for many months even in a total lack of environmental water. In these conditions the body is contracted dry and rigid, the suckers not distinguishable, and the skin completely dry. Within ten minutes of sprinkling with a few drops of water, these leeches emerge, fully active.

Freshwater leeches prefer to live in still or slowly flowing waters, but specimens have been collected from fast flowing streams.

Some species are considered amphibious as they have been observed in both terrestrial and aquatic habitats.

Uses in Medicine

For over 2000 years, leeches were needlessly applied for many ailments as an adjunct to blood letting. Their use in Europe peaked between 1830 and 1850, but subsequent shortages led to a decline in their use. Today there is a real clinical application in that they are of great value to plastic surgeons when venous congestion of skin and muscle flaps is a problem.

Leeches are treated in the same way as blood products and are reused only on the same patient.

Medical use of leeches also includes treatment of black eyes, and hirudin is used in the treatment of inflammation of the middle ear. Hirudin is also being developed for experimental use as a systemic anticoagulant, and may prove useful in invitro blood sampling.

Repellents

The most common enquiry regarding leeches concerns repellents. It is unknown whether a specific preparation is commercially available but there is a plethora of tried and tested, but unproven leech-protection ideas. These include a lather of bath soap smeared on exposed parts and left to dry, applications of eucalyptus oil, tropical strength insect repellent, lemon juice and impenetrable barriers of socks and pantyhose.

The Wound

The presence of hirudin in the wound following a leech bite may cause oozing to continue for several hours. Although inconvenient, blood loss is not significant.

Gut bacteria can cause wound infection. In the post-operative use of leeches this is closely monitored and dealt with by use of the appropriate antibiotic.

There may also be a delayed irritation and itching after a bite. There appears to be no support for the theory that mouthparts left behind after forced removal of the leech causes this reaction.

Can leeches transmit disease? There is no evidence to suggest that they do. The presence of trypanosomes, (malarial parasites), in the gut of jawless leeches has been noted, but jawed leeches do not appear to be hosts.

Allergy to leech bite has been reported. Medical opinion should be sought, depending on the severity of the reaction. [END]



William Sharpe

22nd March 2007,

The President,
Melbourne Bushwalkers Incorporated,

Dear Lynda,

I would like to resign from the Melbourne Bushies from April 2007. My reason is that I am spending quite considerable time by dry fly fishing in the rivers in Snowy Mountains i.e., the upper reaches of Eucumbene and Murrumbidgee near Kiandra, the upper reaches of Thredbo near Guthega pondage. Nearly all the trout that I catch and release them back to their wonderful environment.

I am greater lover of our illustrious countryside, and believe not to destroy our precious gift from Mother Nature as we are welcome as children in her life. I realised that most Melbourne Bushies have the same respect with her as I do.

I have included some colourful printouts of the Snowy River near Guthega and Murrumbidgee River – Port Philip Fire Trial on the road to Tantangara reservoir. I believe it is good investment of seeing the countryside.

If you like, you may printed this letter with “NEWS”, as all members may be interested.



Good luck with the Club.
Thank you,
Yours sincerely,

Eucumbene Bill

Bushwalking by the Stars ... by Geoff Crapper

Gemini May 22 to June 22

The Gemini man is the eternal wanderer who finds it terribly hard to settle down. He is a born critic and craves perfection. His love of the outdoors combined with his wanderlust makes him perfect bushwalking material. He has a surplus of energy and an impatience with pretence, always searching for a fresh challenge.
Best match ... Aquarius, Sagittarius and Libra.



The Gemini woman is an intriguing person. She is often attracted to a man's stability and his capacity to share her unorthodox attitudes. Her love of personal freedom and an active social life can lead to a spectacular clash of wills if her boyfriend is the jealous type. Miss Gemini often indulges in romantic fantasies and provides stimulating company for the man in her life.
Best match...Aquarius, Libra and Gemini.

Membership changes

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES:

New members:

- Details deliberately removed for web version.

Altered Address/Phone:

- Details deliberately removed for web version.

MEMBERSHIP STATS:

- Life Members 13
- Honorary Members 11
- Single memberships 368
- Family memberships 120 (= 2x 60)
- Total membership 512 [this figure still includes 148 un-renewed memberships]
- This time last year 519 [also including un-renewed memberships]

Peter Havlicek
Membership Secretary

LETTER TO FELLOW BUSHWALKERS FROM ROBYN AND MICHAEL ANDERSSON

(Who will not be renewing their membership)

MANY HAPPY MEMORIES

I think I joined bushies in 1981; I think my husband to be joined in 1983. We met when I was leading a beach walk. I have many happy memories with the bushies and met many wonderful people with many stories to tell. Wilky was the highlight for me and it is with embarrassment that I won't tell you how long it took to get into Wilky my first time. All I will tell is that the bunch I went with, although probably well-deservedly frustrated with me, protected me and guided me in the frightful conditions we went in. Even going across the dam wall was a nightmare for me. I must say my trip out was a cinch. One week with skiing when the weather would abate did wonders together with perfect weather on the way out. The trip out was a respectable period of time. I only ever did one pack carry, enjoyed the base camps, the day walks which apart from a few mediums were all easy ones, the work parties at Wilky and enjoying summer sojourns at Wilky. After an absence of time, due to the rearing of children and other time constraints I joined in on some Thursday walks and then a most memorable Wednesday walk with ants. I went on a few other walks and was, with my ex-bushie friend the last of the Club to stay in Wilky. Me, being me, thought I must have done something wrong, my daughter who was at home by herself thought I was the one burnt. It took a stalwart Doug Pocock to get through to me in my shocked and dazed state that he was just checking that I and my friend Anne Bullard were both safe.

I love the bush, also the sea, my favourite bush setting is the bush at Angelsea, probably because I was from Geelong, and also the Grampians. The reason for this article is for one of appreciation. My husband and I have decided after all these years not to renew our subs. We bid you all, our old cronies and acquaintances adieu and heaven forbid I might meet you on a 4-wheel drive track. Our ex-bushies friends, Anne & Peter Bullard belong to a 4-wheel drive club and I am joining them on a trip to the Streizleggi Track very shortly. As yet they haven't got me behind the wheel but who knows one day they might.

Robyn and Michael Andersson

