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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 cents

Edition 675 | MAY 2007



MELBOURNE BUSHIES -- WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

The positions of General Walks Secretary, Pack Carry Co-ordinator and Basecamp/Lodge Co-ordinator have been vacant for some time, but thanks to Jopie Bodegraven holding the reins temporarily, the Winter program has been prepared and we have been able to get by.

As Jopie is now due to go away for an extended period, he will be unable to continue helping us out this way, so it is vital that these positions be filled as soon as possible in time for putting together our Spring Activities Program.

The positions vacant are all crucial organisational roles, but, it must be emphasized, not labor intensive, and provide an excellent opportunity for you, dear people, to make a very valuable contribution and play an important part in the running of your club. It can be a personally rewarding and enjoyable undertaking, so I urge you not only to think about it, but but also to make a worthwhile leap forward and commit.

General Walks Secretary

(Committee Position)

This is primarily an administrative role involving the following tasks:

1. Receiving trip lists from the Sunday Walks Secretary and all other activity co-ordinators, simultaneously identifying and avoiding any date clashes between trips.
2. Sending the required paperwork (standard club documents) by email or post to trip leaders and reminding them of deadlines when necessary. This excludes the Sunday bus leaders, who are attended to by the Sunday Walks Secretary.
3. Producing the quarterly combined program.
4. Providing stats and a brief report for the monthly committee meeting and newsletter and an annual report for the AGM.

Pack Carry Co-ordinator

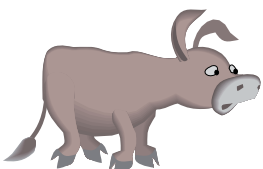
Base Camp/Lodge Co-ordinator

(Non-Committee positions)

These two simplified and relatively easy positions involve organizing a list of trips and leaders for the quarterly program. This is best done by:

1. Having a joint planning meeting, inviting leaders to come along and participate, or if they are unable to attend, to submit their ideas/offerings to their respective co-ordinator before deadline dates. (The General Walks Secretary will have this information.)
2. Submitting list of trips and leaders to the General Walks Secretary, who will take care of the rest.

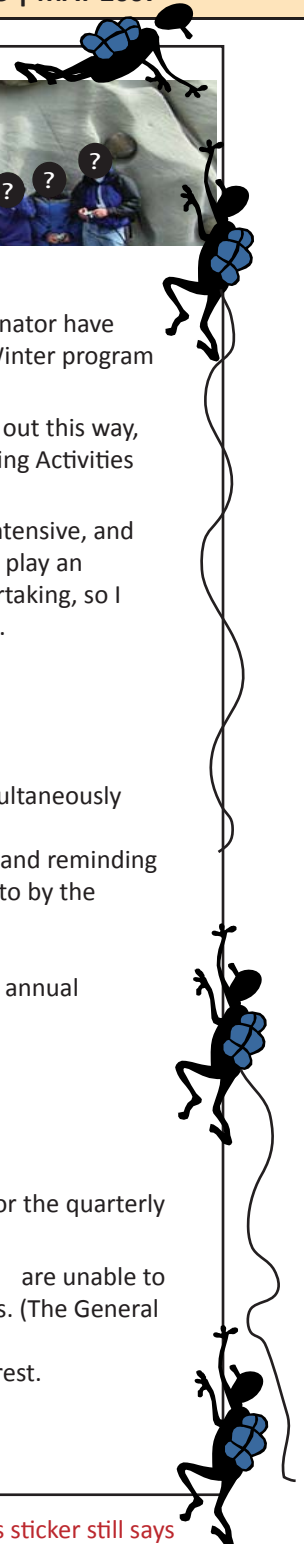
For further details or expressions of interest, please contact Lynda Larkin (President).



May is the final month for paying subs. Please send in your subs if your address sticker still says *SubsDue*. If you have not paid, you will no longer receive your NEWS. However, we accept late payments .

Ordinary: Single \$40, Couple \$65

Concession: Single \$30, Couple \$38 (criterion: both of couple eligible for Commonwealth Health card)



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 9 May - Ray Spooner and John Fritze *
- Wed 16 May - Fay Dunn and Mark Heath
- Wed 23 May - Liz Moore and Lynda Larkin *
- Wed 30 May - David Laing and Carol Sisson
- Wed 6 June - Halina Sarbinowski and Carol Cirdle *
(* Treasurer in attendance)

Next Committee Meeting:

Monday 4 June 2007

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The following is a response to Derrick Brown's letter regarding the frivolous nature of our regular article "Bushwalking by the Stars".

How dare Derrick Brown cast aspersions on astrology! It's a well-known fact that astrology has a firm basis and is used by many celebrities and politicians. It was good enough for Ronald Reagan, after all. I was born on the stroke of midnight on February 19th and I've always been confused as to whether I'm an Aquarius or a Pisces. I mean, should I go after a Gemini or Libra, or a Cancer or Scorpio? Maybe this explains the lack of my success with the opposite sex. And today my horoscopes tell me either not to be afraid of starting something new or to stick with what I do best. Perhaps I'll just stay at home and do nothing.

Confused of Camberwell
[Name supplied]

Editor's reply:

Dear Confused of Camberwell, Thank you for your support of our astrology section. Keep reading, it may all become much clearer very soon!



Cheese and Wine Evening

23 May 2007
in the clubrooms

Next social event

On Saturday 12 May come to a picnic at the Werribee Park Mansion to see the Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Awards.

Further details, see page 4.

THE NEWS OF THE EQUIPMENT STORE

Choosing footwear

Lightweight walking shoes enable you to walk further and faster with less effort (1kg on the feet uses as much energy as 7kg on the back) so why choose boots? Ankle support is probably the main reason but according to Roger Caffin in his excellent articles at www.bushwalking.org.au/FAQ its all "marketing bulls**t". He argues that the clumsy nature of boots and their relative inability to feel and adapt to rough terrain might even increase your risk of injury. Keeping out the mud and water could be another reason but any form of waterproofing adds to the weight, reduces breathability and may not last long. You might be better off using gaiters, waterproof socks, plastic bags or just putting up with wet feet. A feeling of security could be a third reason but it's only a feeling and could be counter productive if it lulls you into relaxing your reflexes.

So why not give shoes a try. Look for a lightweight pair with a cleated sole that bends where your foot bends. The sole needs to be just stiff enough to cushion your foot when you step on something sharp and ideally have an impact absorbing material in the heel. Leather uppers are likely to be the most durable while those with mesh panels the most breathable but prone to snagging. Both should have adequate scuff strips around the toe. Irrespective of what you buy your most important consideration is fit. Find the brand that best suits your foot shape and stick to it. Select a pair with at least 15-20mm of toe clearance. This is essential to accommodate foot expansion and it is better to err on the side of too much rather than too little. If this makes the shoe a bit sloppy pack it out with innersoles or a thicker pair of socks. Walk around, preferably on a hard surface and look for a soft heel strike, smooth heel to toe action, no heel lifting and no other rubbing or slipping. Try forcing your foot up to the end of the shoe. If your toes get close or touch you will need a larger size. Consider yourself lucky if you find a pair that fits and don't hesitate to dispose of any that don't.

If you are still concerned about your ankles here's a way to strengthen them and improve your reflexes - regularly spend time standing on one foot.

Equipment buying evening update

The Wilderness Shop in Box Hill is having their "Mega Buying Night" for Melbourne Bushies on Tuesday 8th May between 6:00 and 9:00 PM, not on the 5th as advised in last months News. The mistake was made by an incompetent journalist.

John Fritze (Equipment Officer)



WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

Bushwalking in the Centre

before or after

Australian Rogaining championships!

From the event organisers:

"The event site is most impressive central Australian landscape. Magnificent coloured rock escarpments of mountain ridges cut across the flat plains, providing gorges and mountain plateaus to traverse. The expectation that one might come upon some ancient aboriginal rock art is always there."

Yeperenye YAW ARC 2007

Saturday 28 to Sunday 29 July

Combine the rogaine with a Willis's Walkabouts trip and get an extra 10% off the trip of your choice.

If none of our regular trips suit, ask about a special charter.



www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au

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

Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355

Notice board



Hi Everyone

I hope you all had a wonderful Easter, whether taking it easy at home, or away with Bushie friends enjoying superlative views, a bit of R&R, a decent hike or two (and maybe even a swim) at Maria Island, Mt Bogong or Native Dog Flat.

Photos of these trips have been flowing into the website and should be soon available for viewing when our new webmaster, Tony Ralston, has completed the handover from Ian Mair, before he takes off again, this time for Kakadu. Have a great time, Ian, and to Tony, a very warm welcome from us all.

I must apologise for a technical error in the article I wrote for last month's newsletter with regard to VicWalk and wish to clarify that it is the title "Federation of Bushwalking Clubs" which has been replaced by that of "Bushwalking Victoria", which will retain, at least for the time being, the trade name of VicWalk, as seen on the logo.

And whilst on the subject of BWV, I would like to encourage everyone to have a look at the monthly VicWalk News, either the on-line version in colour, (very nice) or copies in the club rooms, which are sent to us each month by VicWalk. It contains a wealth of interesting bushwalking-related reading and reports, covering a broad spectrum of interests, projects and activities carried out by BWV and various involved clubs and members, ranging from current Administrative issues, to exercises and work projects undertaken by Search and Rescue, Environmental Care, Track and Huts Maintenance and Government grants awarded to pro-active clubs, to mention a few items. As a small example, I have personally found BWV track clearing and maintenance days very rewarding, providing an opportunity for putting something back into the environment as well as enjoying the interaction and friendship with people from other clubs.

And now the moment a number of readers may have been waiting for, that of information re revised club policy with regard to reimbursement of leaders for costs incurred when previewing programmed activities.

Approximately 18 months ago, the reimbursement policy for Sunday walks leaders was introduced at a time when fuel costs were rapidly rising and a number of Sunday walks leaders expressed the view that they were genuinely feeling the strain.

It must be remembered we are a voluntary organization, but at the same time, as our leaders give so generously of their time and energy to provide safe, enjoyable walks and activities for others, it does not seem fair that they should also be burdened with substantial out-of-pocket expenses when preparing the walks.

Bearing this in mind, the Sunday walks leaders reimbursement policy was agreed upon and introduced by committee in late 2005, with claims being funded by the surplus accumulated from Sunday walkers' bus fees in the Walks Account. Stats collected over the following 12 months revealed that less than 50% of Sunday leaders had actually made a claim and that the overall cost to the club so far was proving to be quite manageable and well-contained.

Unfortunately, what emerged from this was the general feeling that Sunday leaders were being given special treatment and that there should really be equal treatment for all leaders of all programmed club activities.

And so the Committee, with the clear aim of respecting the

rights and views of all our leaders, have given a good deal of time to researching and debating the issue. There was even consultation with other major clubs to learn their policies re leaders claiming expenses. Various arrangements exist whereby those conducting previews share the costs between one another or costs may be equally apportioned to all participants on the walks, including the leader, or else for larger trips, all participants in some clubs contribute towards a gift for the leader. But the clubs themselves offer no compensation.

The information gathered seems therefore to indicate that we have an unusual precedent at MBW, made possible in part by the club's excellent financial position at the moment. This can be viewed also as having been a significant influencing factor when the following motion was voted upon and passed at our last Committee meeting.

"That ALL leaders of ALL walks/activities be eligible, if they wish to do so, to claim for reimbursement of costs (related to car usage) which are incurred when previewing programmed activities. Reimbursement is set at a rate of 20 cents per km, with a cap of 400 km per programmed activity."

The resulting cost to the club will be closely monitored in the months ahead and the subject has been listed for discussion at Committee after December 31st prior to the setting of 2008 membership fees.

We hope members are happy with the above decision and assure you that it has been made in a spirit of appreciation and goodwill to all our fine leaders.

Lynda Larkin (President)

Social event



Picnic at the Werribee Park Mansion, see the Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Awards and have a picnic in the gardens / or lunch in the café. You could also visit the Werribee Park Zoo with a combined ticket.

DATE Saturday, 12th May 2007
TIME 11.00 am at the café (see the map at http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au/1park_display.cfm?park=197)
COST \$12.50 or \$7.50 concession (which also gives you entry to the Mansion)
TRANSPORT Private but if you want to car pool, give me a call

Contact Liz by telephoning or emailing if you want to come just so she know she wont be there on her own.

Do you have ideas for other social events? Please call or email me if you have any ideas. I would be very happy for others to organize dinners/music nights and I can help. *Liz Moore (Social Sec)*

SUNDAY BUS POSTAL BOOKINGS

Postal bookings are available to club members and cheques should be sent to:

- Walk leader – (Date of walk)
- Melbourne Bushwalkers
- Box 1751
- Melbourne VIC 3001

To ensure booking, cheques should be sent to the clubrooms two weeks prior to the intended walk. With the bus often being fully booked and delays in receiving cheques, it is absolutely essential that members making postal bookings contact leaders before the walk to confirm their bus seat.



Sunday Bus

GERMAN TRACK & OLD TOM CREEK (Daylesford)

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

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

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



Sunday Bus

ANGELSEA – AIREY'S INLET

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

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



Wednesday Walk

THE TUNNEL - LERDERDERG STATE PARK

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

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

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



Unforgettable travel, remarkable destinations

ETHIOPIA

- Trek in the magnificent Simien Mountains. Also includes visits to Gondar, Lalibela and Addis Ababa (two week duration: departs November 2, 2007).
- Cultural/historical tour including Addis Ababa, Gondar, Simien Mountains, Axum, Lalibela and Bahar Dar (two week duration: departs November 2, 2007).



KOKODA TRACK

- Seven day trek along one of the world's greatest and most historic hiking trails. Starts at Ower's Corner and climbs over the majestic Owen Stanley range (departs ...)

SOLD OUT!
Please enquire about our 2008 Kokoda treks

LATEST NEWS!
Climb Kilimanjaro and visit the Serengeti in September 08: enquire now!

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Dandenongs Explorer SHERBROOKE - HERMONS SADDLE CIRCUIT

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

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



Sunday Bus LONG FOREST FLORA RESERVE

DATE Sunday, 27 May
 STANDARD Easy and Easy/Medium
 DISTANCE 12 km and 14 km
 LEADERS David Arnold and Lance Mobbs
 TRANSPORT Bus - Southbank Boulevard, 9.00 am
 RETURN TIME 6.00 pm approximately
 AREA Near Bacchus Marsh
 MAP REF Long Forest Nature Conservation Reserve (Parks Victoria)

A little-known reserve near Bacchus Marsh with an interesting variety of eucalypts including the only remnant mallee south of the dividing range. Coimadai Creek (when running) winds its way through the rocky and sometimes steep terrain. Both walks will involve some short steep sections and a good deal will be off track. There is very little undergrowth except at a couple of spots where gaiters or long pants would be an option to make the walking a little easier through some patches of woody shrubs.



Training SEARCH AND RESCUE

DATE Saturday, 2 June 2007
 LEADER David Laing
 TRANSPORT Private

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



Sunday Bus MASONS FALLS - MT SUGARLOAF

DATE Sunday 3 June
 STANDARD Easy and Easy/Medium
 DISTANCE Approx. 14 and 16 km
 LEADER(S) Paul Beers & Cameron Durrant
 TRANSPORT Bus from South Bank Boulevard, 9:00am
 AREA 6:00pm approximately
 MAP REF Kinglake National Park

This walk is one of the Club's favourites. Kinglake NP is the largest national park close to Melbourne, with about 22,000 hectares of tall forests, fern gullies, rolling hills, an extensive network of walking tracks and vantage points offering scenic views. Our walks are planned to capture elements of all of these.

Both groups will do the same main track, with the E/M group getting just a little more distance and cardio-vascular exercise. Whatever the weather, track conditions should be favourable. The immediate area around Mason's Falls should be a delight.



TOFS LINEAR PARKS OF EAST KEW

DATE Thursday, 7 June
 STANDARD Easy
 LEADER Jean Giese
 TRANSPORT Private

For details and booking on this walk please contact Jean Giese.



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 GORGE

DATE	Sunday, 17 June 2007
STANDARD	Easy and Easy Medium
DISTANCE	9.5 km and 12-15 km
LEADER(S)	Jan Colquhoun and Halina Sarbinowski
TRANSPORT	Bus from Southbank Boulevard 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 previous walks wildlife including echidnas, koalas, wallabies and native birds have been observed.

The easy-medium walk follows almost the same route as the easy walk except for a diversion which involves some crossings of the river, a possible cross-country addition at the start, and a longer distance.

There are no tracks beside the river, so our course can sometimes be slow and a bit of a scrabble. Come prepared to do some rock hopping. The grass may be long and gaiters or trousers are recommended. When the going gets rough we climb up to the ridge-tops and take in stunning birds-eye views of the river and surrounding hills. Cameras recommended!



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
RETURN TIME	6:00pm
MAP REF	Dandenong Ranges National 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.



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 phone or email Margaret.



Dandenong Explorer

ELWOOD TO BRIGHTON

DATE	Saturday, 30 June
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER	Sheena Burgess

Details of this walk will be contained in the next edition of the News, or contact Sheena.



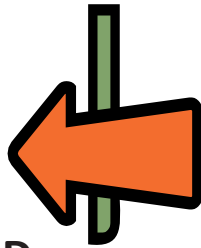
Wednesday Walk

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.

**SPRING PROGRAM
WEEKEND TRIPS
PLANNING
OFFERS TO LEAD NEEDED**



(no offers = no trips)

We currently do not have pack carry or base camp/lodge trips coordinators, and we are still looking for someone to come forward to fill these important positions (see Lynda's front page notice for more on this).

Because we do not have these coordinators it means that there will be no planning meeting for the Spring program and nobody will be approached to lead any trips. I am holding the fort after a fashion by acting as a passive weekend coordinator. I have put this note in News to invite anyone who would like to put on a trip to let me know the title and dates. I will also send round one email message with the same invitation. Based on what I receive, I will endeavour to sort out any undesirable date clashes, if there are any, and that is what will go onto the Spring program. Only unsolicited offers will be on the program. If no-one offers it will mean that there are no trips.

So if you would like to lead a specific trip, let me, Jopie Bodegraven, know by email, or phone, or in person.

Normally the deadline for getting trips onto the Spring program would be late June, but I will be overseas in June and July so if you could get them to me before the end of May that would be preferable. Hopefully we will be able to find someone who can receive and deal with offers during June.

We are also looking for someone to act as General Walks Secretary. (See the front page for more on this too) His/her most important job is to act as the focal point for getting each activities program together. John Brister, our General Walks Secretary until a month or so ago, unfortunately for us has had to return to England. This leaves an opening for someone else who would like to take on a relatively easy administrative job requiring no experience but which is crucial to the running of the club. Anyone interested in doing this for the club, or in being our pack carry or base camp coordinator, or even a passive weekend trips coordinator, please contact either me or our President Lynda.

Jopie Bodegraven



Pack Carry

LERDERDERG RIVER - OLD RIVER - CLEARWATER CREEK

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

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

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

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



Base Camp

MT COLE AREA

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

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

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

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



Track Maintenance GRAMPIANS

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

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



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.

One 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.



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
LEADERS Alex Stirkul

Further details for this pack carry will be provided in the next edition of the News, if you require information sooner, please contact Alex Stirkul.



Base Camp CANCELLED

DATE 8-11 June [Queen's Birthday Long Weekend]
STANDARD ?
LEADERS ?

As no volunteers came forward to lead this camp, we have had to cancel it.



Bushwalking Victoria

TRACK MAINTENANCE NOTES

The following work days have been scheduled.

- 25-27 May **Boronia Peak, Grampians** - Rod Novak
- 31 May – 3 June **Otways** - Jim Harker



SUNDAY WALK SECRETARY'S REPORT

January to March (trip stats)

Month	Date	Trip	Grade	Nos
January	07	Tallorook State Forest - Warragul Rocks	E&E/M	43
	14	Wonthaggi Wetlands & Heathlands	E&E/M	44
	21	Big pats Cree - Starling Gap	E&E/M	40
	28	Forrest Caves - Cape Woolamai	E&E/M	45
January Average:				43.0
February	04	Mt Gordon Ridge - Marysville	E&E/M	30
	11	Coronet Bay - Corinella	E&E/M	34
	18	Moorabool River Gorge	E/M& M	18
	25	Red Hill Winery Walk	E&E/M	38
February Average:				30.0
March	04	Ada Tree - Doweys Spur	E/M& M	20
	11	Barwon Heads - Queenscliff	E&E/M	27
	18	Mt Robertson - Gum Creek	E&E/M	35
	25	Cathedral Range	M&M/H	39
March Average:				30.3
QUARTERLY AVERAGE:				34.4

Good start to the year but sadly not sustained. Moorabool Gorge, a great walk, suffered in numbers as 2nd week of bookings on Valentine's Day.

Member reviews

Spion Kopje – Grey Hills – Mt Bogong

Easter weekend

It is great to see the walking club attracting people of all ages including families, yippee!

After a car shuffle we departed from the Hownans Gap parking lot, leapt over our first river then climbed up Spion Kopje, which was a challenge with packs on. We got to our Friday night campsite, found some smooth sheltered ground amongst the Snow Gums, put our tents up, collected water then spent a sociable evening around the campfire. It was a cold night and this became the subject of much comment the next morning.

On Saturday we left our packs behind and did a 5km round trip to Whiterock Falls. A few of us decided to explore further with some boulder bounding and it was great fun. Ok, I squealed with glee a few times. We then returned to retrieve the rest of our gear and walked over the Grey Hills to our campsite at Bogong Creek Saddle. The views along the way were stunning. The campsite was wonderful, apart from the European wasps, but we all collected water, set up the campfire again and had another wonderful evening. The stargazers were out in force again that evening.

On Sunday we left camp with our daypacks and climbed up Quartz Ridge to the Mt Bogong summit. Some of us took a scenic route via Bogong Creek and West Peak while others, including myself, went straight to the summit to relish the stunning views and the bonus of gliders flying past at close range. The weather could not have been better. After lunch the group separated and a small bunch returned to camp by the same route while the others decided to go down Horse Ridge and Granny spur. The Granny Spur group didn't realize that there was going to be so much undergrowth along the way and there were a few laughs as we battled through. We inspected the old survey hut at the bottom of the spur then continued on to our campsite, arriving at 6:15pm, just minutes before it got dark. As we approached camp we met a search party sent out by the other group who were armed with torches, food and warm clothing. Another great evening by the campfire and the realization that after much sweat, great fun and dried food that our 4 days was coming to an end.

On Monday morning we packed our gear and readied ourselves for the 12km walk back to our cars. Unfortunately on our return Derrick realized that he had left his keys at our morning tea spot. He and John completed another 12km to retrieve them, and his wallet as well! They made a grand effort and were back as quickly as possible. We were then a little starved and tired of dried food and muesli bars so stopped off at Mt Beauty for pies then at Euroa for dinner. We arrived back in Melbourne around 9:45, which was a good effort.

It was a great Easter weekend and many thanks to John Fritze for organizing it and to our other members, Bill Donald, Gary Wynen, Jopie Bodegraven, Phillip Brown, Trish Elmore, Julian St John, Evan Psaros and Michael, Susan and Callum Stringer for making it such a great success.

Fiona Kelly

Regent Honeyeater Project

Nest Box Monitoring – 21/22 April 2007

Squirrel Gliders are tiny, weighing around 230g, and Sugar Gliders are even smaller, only weighing about 130g. I cannot describe the delight and pleasure experienced when opening a nest box and finding it occupied by either Squirrel Gliders or Sugar Gliders, a pleasure that I experienced by participating in the Regent Honeyeater Project nest box monitoring over the April 21-22 weekend.

The Regent Honeyeater Project, which has been operating for 10 years, now has 174 boxes in place and these were checked over the weekend. The project is run and co-ordinated by the enthusiastic Ray Thomas who is also a member of Melbourne Bushwalkers. Over the years a number of club members have supported the project by contributing their time to tree planting and other activities. This weekend eighty volunteers made up of students, bushwalkers and a variety of other interested people were divided into nine groups (the number of ladders available!).

On Saturday our group consisted of our leader, Anthony, a university biology student, Ian, a member of Maroondah Bushwalking Club, three generations of a farming family from Shepparton, Ian Mair and me. With GPS co-ordinates we were able to locate nests quickly which gave us all an opportunity to view a few occupied nests each. Our youngest members, Jasmine, seven, and Jacob, nine, were keen nest box spotters and also extremely brave, climbing the ladders (supervised by their dad) to great heights to view the gliders. On Saturday eight Squirrel Gliders were located by our group.

A BBQ organised for Saturday night was not spoiled by the rain that finally arrived although unfortunately a planned spotlighting session had to be cancelled. It was, however, fascinating to listen to students around the BBQ who were doing projects based on the gliders. Their findings and future directions were explained. Overall it was a fun night mixing with a lovely group of people.

On Sunday our group had diminished from 10 to 4 as our farming family had returned home the previous night. Without GPS details available for most boxes more time and effort was spent locating them. Even so we were rewarded by viewing three more Squirrel Gliders, a pair of Sugar Gliders and the distinctive nest of the rare Brush Tailed Phascogales, a nest that can only be described as a piece of art.

It was my first experience of the Regent Honeyeater Project and I wasn't sure what to expect but I found it to be a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding experience, an experience that I would highly recommend to all club members the next time the opportunity arises.



Halina Sarbinowski

Member reviews

MARIA ISLAND

Easter weekend

Good Friday by Richard Hanson: Maria Island is a rugged island (about 20 km long by 13 km wide) which sits 6 km off the east coast of Tasmania. It has been a national park and wildlife sanctuary since 1971. Its 11,550 hectares bristle with history, from 19th-century convict settlements to later, quixotic schemes for agriculture and industry. The wildlife includes kangaroos, wallabies and wombats, all there for us to more or less trip over.

21 of us departed the backpacker's accommodation in Hobart at 7.15 am on a chartered bus. An hour and a half later we arrived at the ferry with enough time to go to the bakery. The way we descended on the bakery you would have thought that we had already done the walk! Then on to the ferry for a half hour ride to Maria Island. We set up our tents at Darlington, and with day packs walked up to Bishop and Clerk. This was a great walk to very spectacular dolerite columns. The last pinch was interesting. Then we walked back via the fossil cliffs to Darlington.

Easter Saturday by Mick Noonan: Day 2 saw us depart at 8:30am for Frenchs Farm Campground 11.5 km away with a sidetrip planned (without packs!) to Mt Maria (an extra 7.5 km). First stop was at the Old Oast House which used to provide the Islands local beer.

Mt Maria at 711m was yet another solid climb with a section across large boulders and rocks (dolerite scree for the geologists out there) providing the mountain goats in the party the opportunity to show off! The sunny 360 degree views from the top were magnificent with Freycenet Peninsula in the north, picture postcard beaches and the vivid blue oceans of McRaes Isthmus dividing the north and south of the island, the mainland to the west, and Forester Peninsula to the south. Our whip Alex did a great job guiding us up and down and helping out as needed.

Unfortunately Patricia had a problem with her back after an argument with a rock, so a number of us chipped in to lighten her load. The walk from the track junction where we had left our packs to Frenchs Farm was much quicker than the 3 hours on the signpost and we were all glad to see the open grassy spaces of the campground. Diana and Mohammad managed to fit in a swim while the rest of us spread out to set up our tents across the green carpet for our 2 night stay.

That night many of us made good use of the verandah on the old farmhouse to cook dinner, we enjoyed the fantastic stars and the Bennett's Wallabys that came to check us out. The Easter Bilby also made an early appearance with chocolate gifts.

Easter Sunday by Eleonora Axelsson: Awake to a crisp clear morn! Some manage to squeeze in a swim before we head off, the rest of us savour the thought of plunging into the bracing waters later in the day. Leaving Frenchs Farm our trek heads south to Mc Raes Isthmus, a narrow neck of sand joining the two parts of the island, flanked by sweeping beaches. After a steep descent we emerge from the soft hues of eucalypt forest, to the vivid blues and reds of Haunted Bay. Like seals we soak up the sun on huge, granite boulders listening to the moans of the sea as echoed from the caves. Ambling back to camp Jan C has an encounter which makes her heart skip and legs jump very high ... a Copperhead gliding, gracefully across the track. After 17km, the day had just begun!

The 6km trek after lunch takes us to Encampment Cove (site of convict ruins) and Bloodstone Point (where aborigines obtained ochre) we encounter a starker landscape of grassy tussocks and sand dunes.

Darkness brings a starlit sky, the banter of sharing the day's delights, an impromptu farewell to Cathy who returns to Canada. Heavy footsteps in the night, eyes squint as a beam of light scans the room and the towering silhouette of Bob looms ... SPRUNG! Five who had decided to pack tents and enjoy the cosy ambience of the vacant historical building on the final night.

Enveloped in layers we drift off to the sounds of the night....silence.

Easter Monday by Wendy Fortington: We woke bright and bushy-tailed on the last morning. It was chilly, but we munched a hearty breakfast of leftovers, packed up and hoisted our slightly lighter packs and headed back to Darlington. Mohammad spied the fourth snake of the trip, a black snake a metre and half long. We made a short stop to view the Painted Cliffs. This geological masterpiece features beautifully coloured sandstone cliffs in fascinating striation and is surrounded by numerous rock pools that contain interesting marine life. Some of the group met a couple of rowers who had actually rowed across from Hobart and were exploring the many nooks and crannies around the cliffs.

Once back at Darlington we had a welcome hot shower – luxury! We had a quick lunch, and by this time there was not much food to choose from. Brian had cleverly rationed his, and was able to feed several people with his cheese and crackers. The sea was clear and the sky was brilliant blue as we climbed onto the ferry and a couple of dolphins sported alongside as we chugged along. Our chartered bus was waiting and we sank happily into the seats, but we weren't allowed to stop at the bakery this time!

There were a few groans from those with stiffening legs as we clambered off the bus at the airport and there was time for a leisurely meal before our flights arrived. What a great adventure!

Thanks Bob for a marvellous trip and for taking us to such an amazing place. I want to go back!

The group: Carol Corrigan, Delwyn Franks, Jan Palich, Richard Hanson, Eleonora Axelsson, Mick Noonan, Christine Salau, Mohammad Akbari, Cathy Cheung, Diana Gomez, Wendy Fortington, Jan Colquhoun, Martin Mowbray, Brian Wallbank, his sister Patricia Birley and our leader Bob Oxlade

Writers of this review were enthused to write about their terrific time away, and consequently left no room for pictures - view the marvellous sights of Maria Island in the photo gallery on the website - www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au

OXFAM TRAILWALKER MELBOURNE TRAILBLAZERS

This year, on 2 March, we had two Melbourne Bushies participate in the Melbourne Oxfam Trailwalker, raising money for the fight against world poverty.

Our very own Christine Salau and Paul Logsdon were part of a team calling themselves "Justputsomething", and I would personally like to "just put in" a word of praise, not only for their noble aspirations in supporting such a worthwhile cause, but also for their remarkable achievement in completing the walk in just over 20 hours despite extreme weather conditions, which ranged from hot, gusty winds and temperatures in the high 30's in the afternoon, to cold winds and blinding, torrential rain during the night. As you can imagine, progress along those narrow tracks in the dark proved to be very difficult with heavy rain reducing visibility.

Commencing at Jells Park, Glen Waverley at 7am Friday morning, the intrepid team took off with over 2,500 participants, this number making it the largest Oxfam Trailwalker to ever take place in the southern hemisphere.

Taking nine very brief "pit stops" along the way and losing ¼ of an hour attending to a team mate suffering with heat stress, Chris and Paul and their other remaining team member still managed to complete the course in 20.4 hours, arriving at the finishing point, Wesburn Park near Yarra Junction, on Saturday at 3am tired and drenched to the bone. Some of those who attended the Easter base camp at Maria Island reported tell tale signs of heroism and endurance on witnessing Chris's feet, which are still recovering from the wear and tear of the adventure.

A total distance of 88.5 km was covered by the walkers, instead of the usual set 100km, this being the result of the closure of a section between two check points regarded as a high risk fire area on that particular day of Total Fire Ban.

Chris and Paul would like to thank everyone who sponsored the team and donated to Oxfam. Total fundraising to date is close to \$1.5 million, which is a fantastic result and will enable Oxfam to continue to support their development programs around the world.

Good on you, Chris and Paul !

Lynda Larkin



Happy? Justputsomething, Chris Salau, Paul Logsdon, Nellie Gibson, Greg Hewitt



Library news and reviews

Hairy-Chested History: colourful characters of Hotham and Harrietteville.

By Ian Stapleton

The Club has recently purchased this book and it has in fact been signed by the author.

Ian was the guest speaker at the last Federation of Bushwalking Clubs gathering in late 2006 in Bright. He regaled us with stories about putting this, and the other three books in the series, together. During his "quiet" times in the '80's and '90's he went with his antique tape recorder and spoke to the older mountain people about the pioneers of the High Country. Ian had a stroke not long ago and this prompted him to assemble his trailer load of notes, photos and memorabilia in to a semblance of order. It makes fascinating reading and if you are lucky enough to know the places he mentions, it's an added bonus. I can't recommend this highly enough!

Syliva Ford

Bushwalking by the Stars ... by Geoff Crapper

Taurus

21st April to May 21st

People born under the sign of Taurus are very stable and persistent with a strong affinity with the earth, flowers and gardening. The male makes an excellent husband, his one failing is that he demands all in a relationship and gets extremely "uptight" if his partner shows some inadequate emotional response. Best match: Virgo, Capricorn



The female Taurean has a strong idea of what she wants in life and is strong in will and body, with a great love of the earth and flowers. These attributes tend to make her an excellent walker.

Best match: Virgo, Capricorn

Membership changes

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES:

New members:

Deliberately left blank for web edition.

Rejoining lapsed members:

Deliberately left blank for web edition.

Altered Address/Phone:

Deliberately left blank for web edition.

Altered Address/Phone: (cont'd)

Deliberately left blank for web edition.

MEMBERSHIP STATS:

Life Members	13	
Honorary Members	11	
Single memberships	363	
Family memberships	120	(= 2x 60)
Total membership	507	
<i>This time last year</i>	513	

Remember - May is the final month for paying subs. Please send in your subs if your address sticker still says *SubsDue*. If you have not paid, you will no longer receive your NEWS. But we will accept late payments.

If the donkey on the front page has a coloured-in nose, that means we haven't received your subs yet.

Post to:

Melbourne Bushwalkers
Membership Secretary,
GPO Box 1751
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

