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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 cents

Edition 685

LET'S CELEBRATE 20 YEARS OF WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY WALKS!

A 20th Anniversary Celebration of Wednesday Walks will be held on Wednesday 23rd April at Ruffey Lake Park in Doncaster.

Meeting time is 10.30am where we will initially indulge in a morning tea which will be provided. (BYO tea or coffee). Following this, for those so inclined, there is an option of a 2.7km and/or 3.7km walk before or after lunch, otherwise relax, enjoy the surroundings and catch up with fellow walkers.

Bring along your own items for either a picnic lunch or BBQ. Jean Giese, who started up the Wednesday Walks will cut the anniversary cake. Picnic tables, seats, BBQs, toilets and shelter are available as well as ample

car parking space. If you have any 'interesting' photos from past Wednesday walks please bring these along on the day.

All past and present Wednesday walkers as well as current members are welcome to come along and help celebrate this occasion.

Meet at the picnic tables near the main carpark, off Victoria Street.

Please let us know, by Monday, April 21, whether you will be attending so we can finalise numbers for the morning tea.

See the preview page for more details



The Pilbara – take a walk on the wildflower side

SLIDE NIGHT

WHEN April 16, 8pm
WHERE Clubrooms
SPEAKER Michael Marmach

Michael Marmach of the Waverly Bushwalking Club will present a talk and slideshow covering his 10 week trip exploring the western half of Western Australia, a journey he made in spring 2005.

The walk took Michael through the Karijini National Park in the Hamersley Range and the Millstream-Chichester National Park in the Chichester Range to the north.

It was an exceptional year for wildflowers and, by way of contrast, come of the massed flowering on the sand plains on the way north will first be shown and then the walks in Dales and Weano Gorges in Karajini National Park and the Camel Trail Walk from Python Pool to Mount Herbert in the Chichester Range.

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

Member of



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

Editor: Catherine Cardinet

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.

■ **The preferred method is emailing an unformatted text file to news@mbw.org.au**

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

Only advertisements that directly relate to bushwalking (eg gear, maps, trips, tours etc) can be accepted. For current advertising rates please contact the editor.

Club rooms Duty Roster:

April 9 Mark and John McCall
April 16* Lynda and Ray
April 23 Halina and Carol S
April 30* Del and Ray
May 7 Carol C and John F
(* Treasurer in attendance)

Next Committee Meeting:

Monday, May 5, 2008

Bushwalking Victoria

TRACK MAINTENANCE GROUP

Track Maintenance and Conservation Activities. Bushwalkers are encouraged to assist with the following projects. As provided by MBW member, Mark Heath.

2008 Activity Dates	Leader contact details
20 April Cambarville	Steven Robertson
2 - 4 May Grampians	Rod Novak
3 - 4 May Nest Box Monitoring, Benalla	Ray Thomas

Subscription time

We are now in the 2008 Subscription period. There has been no change to last year's subs amounts.

Subs are payable within three months, that is before the end of May 2008. Earlier payment is much appreciated.

We do not have EFT. You can pay by cheque, postal order or directly cash any evening at the club rooms to the Membership Secretary, not the Treasurer.

We do not mail out receipts although they are always made out and can be collected when you see the Membership Secretary. The mailing label on your News will have a comment *SubsDue* until you have paid, then it comes off (that's the way you know your subs has been received).

E-mail News recipient are reminded about subs and are notified as practicable.

Concession rates are available to Centrelink Card holders and to full-time students.

SOCIAL NIGHT



ELGIN HOTEL, HAWTHORN

WHEN FRIDAY 11 APRIL, 6:30 FOR 7:00
WHERE Elgin Hotel, 75 Burwood Rd, opp Hawthorn station.
TRANSPORT AREA Private. Can be accessed by tram no. 75. MELWAYS 45 b10.

Apologies for the absence of a March issue of the newsletter. Our previous News Editor, Christine Salau, had completed a generous two-year commitment and we were in the process of recruiting a replacement. Special thanks, Chris, for doing such a great job over those two years and good luck with the 100km Oxfam Trailwalker Challenge on April 11-13. A big welcome to Catherine Cardinet, who has agreed to a three-month probationary period as News Editor and who will hopefully stay on.

AGM

Forty members attended the Feb AGM. A new Committee was voted in and we would like to congratulate and welcome those who were appointed to the following positions.

Secretary	Howard Friend
Vice President	Carol Criddle
News Editor	Catherine Cardinet
Social Secretary	Susan Maughan

Further to this, at the March Committee meeting, John McCall was appointed to the position of second Vice President and Mick Noonan to General Committee. WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR A GENERAL WALKS SECRETARY and would welcome any expressions of interest.

CLUB ROOMS

At the AGM we discussed a number of options with regard to the matter of the huge rental increase proposed by the Mint Inc. In view of the fact the Mint Inc Board was unwilling to negotiate a more manageable increase, or alternately a sharing arrangement to lower the cost, those at the meeting unanimously agreed that we consider moving our club rooms to a new location, which we hunted for and researched quite intensively, finally chancing upon a place ideally suited to our needs within three city blocks of our current premises, vis-à-vis: "DRILL HALL", 239 A'Beckett St, Melbourne (cnr William St).

This beautiful old building, (formerly headquarters of the Australian Army Medical Corps), is currently the home of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, with whom we are now at an advanced stage of negotiating an agreement for moving in to the "Officers Mess Hall", hopefully towards the end of this month.

BUSHWALKING VICTORIA

Planning is now under way for 75th Anniversary Celebrations, in which I hope as many members as possible will participate. You will be updated, encouraged and cajoled by me and others to join in and make the most of this wonderful opportunity to meet, network and enjoy some great times with the wider bushwalking community, with a view to being more proactive and interactive as members of Bushwalking Victoria, which is comprised of the BWV Board and Standing Committees (Bushwalking Search and Rescue, Bushwalking Environment, Track Development and Track Maintenance), and 70 bushwalking clubs all around Victoria, with an overall membership of 10,000 people.

CLUB PRESIDENTS' MEETING

Last Saturday Ray Spooner and I attended the annual get-

together for club presidents, initiated last year as a means of building cohesion and harvesting experiences and ideas between the peak body and member clubs. This was hosted by President David Reid and the Board, along with the Convenors of the various Standing Committees. David Reid outlined for us a vision for the future of bushwalking in Victoria, also for participating in the care of and decisions related to the environment we walk in and for promoting bushwalking for health and fitness in the wider community.

The aim of Bushwalking Victoria since 2004 has been to lift its profile and increase its spheres of influence, in order to build positive relationships with land managers and decision makers, so that the interests of recreational walkers like ourselves can be better served. This has been achieved by building a strong, credible team at BWV, people who are passionate about bushwalking and who perform their respective roles in a business-like and professional manner for the best results and positive outcomes for us all. I was greatly impressed and inspired by all the speakers and by the creative lead that our peak body has taken, showing us the way into the future.

MOSS BED REHABILITATION

Over Easter I spent a very memorable and enjoyable time on the Bogong High Plains with work parties organised by Steve Robertson (BWV Environmental Committee Project Officer) and Parks Victoria. We were well rewarded with petrol and accommodation expenses fully covered and lunch and evening meals supplied. These excellent incentives were provided by BWV and were much appreciated by the 30 volunteers, who belonged to various bushwalking clubs from all over Victoria. We worked hard pulling out young willows, sheep sorrel and various other invaders in several broad gullies and on hillsides around Rocky Valley. This unwanted vegetation poses a significant threat to the moss beds, which are vital for the storage, filtering and regulation of the flow of water at the source of some of our main rivers. So we felt we were doing very worthwhile work contributing to the restoration and protection of our precious natural environment. Beautiful weather on the High Plains made the work even more enjoyable and an amazing Full Moon lured me out of bed and up to the Summit behind Falls Creek village in the very early hours of Saturday morning.

I couldn't leave Falls Creek without visiting the ruins of Wilky and standing a while to contemplate the devastation and recognise the sense of loss which must be felt by all those who had spent so many wonderful times there. We have not yet given up the fight to rebuild. Our solicitor from Halls & Wilcox, Peter Cope, is currently awaiting a reply from the Minister at the DSE.

Lynda Larkin



DEEPEST SYMPATHY

It is with deep sorrow that we have learnt of the death of Matthew, eldest son of Sue and Rex Filson. The Club extends its deepest sympathies.

Notice board

Federation Weekend 2008

This year the Federation Walk will take place on the weekend of 18 & 19 October and will be hosted by the Ballarat Bushwalking Club. The weekend will be based at Beaufort (west of Ballarat) and the focus will be on the Mt Cole area and will include Mt Cole, Mt Buangor and Langi Ghiran State Parks. Details of the walks are not available as yet - that information will be provided when it becomes available.

The Beaufort Caravan Park has been set aside for tent accommodation (approx cost \$ 5 pp per night), and there are only 17 powered sites available. Sites can be booked by contacting the park directly on (03) 5349 2196.

Other accommodation is available in the area if you don't wish to camp

It's important that you book early to ensure the best accommodation

WANTED – STORAGE SPACE

Is there anyone with a spare room, garage, space under the house etc in which to store some furniture and household possessions for about 3 months, starting around May? Rent negotiable.

MBW website

Did you know that the Club has a website which can be found at <http://www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au>?

The website has content of interest to members such as the walks program, trip previews and photos of trips. It is also designed to introduce the Club to prospective members and visitors. The website contains the latest available previews and other information about upcoming walks. Any changes to details of walks such as location, leaders, start time, bus departure point are noted in the program and preview pages on the website. Check it out before your next walk.

Submitting content for the website

Items sent to the News editor (news@mbw.org.au) will be automatically forwarded to the website manager and the walks secretaries will advise the website manager of any changes to the walks program. Any other proposed content and suggestions for the website can be emailed directly to webmaster@mbw.org.au.

Guidelines for submitting photos of trips to be published on the website can be downloaded from http://www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au/MBW_FAQ.htm#photos.

These guidelines have been adopted to facilitate the task of publishing photos, so please follow them. **Tony Ralston**

Ah, the bliss of comfortable feet on a trek!

WATERPROOF FOOTWEAR

On packing for our recent trip to the land of wet feet we flirted with the idea of Gortex-lined shoes until reality dawned. Gortex linings limit your choice of footwear, reduce breathability, can be unreliable and are worse than useless when water inevitability gets in. The breathable variety of waterproof socks seemed like a better idea. They extend further up the leg and need only be worn when required. We actually bought a \$60 pair of Sealskinz but weren't tempted to wear them during the walk because our feet, although damp, remained comfortable. They were, however, appreciated during the evenings, at least until we realised that plastic bags did a better job.

The first real test came when Bill tried to keep his infected toe dry but found, by the end of the day, his feet were just as wet from sweat as they would otherwise have been. Another day we tried them ourselves with similar results. We know

there are people who are happy with their waterproof shoes and socks but, for the time being, we've filed them under "dysfunctional".

PACKS

We couldn't expect our sweet little Jam 2 (50L, 570g, US \$100) to carry the eleven days of food we needed for our trip so opted for Golite's scaled up version, the Pinnacle (70L, 740g, \$US130). Suffice to say we were delighted with its performance. It comfortably carried up to 17kg, sustained no damage from days of bashing through the thickest scrub we've seen and was nimble enough for rock hopping and climbing. We think it's an excellent pack for longer trips or bulkier loads and highly recommend it for those who fit within its adjustment range, keep an eye on weight and are prepared to put a little effort into packing. **John Fritze**, Equipment officer

GENERAL WALKS SECRETARY REQUIRED (COMMITTEE POSITION)

This is primarily an administrative role and does not involve coming up with walk ideas or finding leaders. There are separate coordinators for those roles.

Summary of Responsibilities:

- to assemble the quarterly walks program with data received from the various walk coordinators
- to process walk reports

- to send out a reminder to leaders approx 2 months before their trip,
- to replenish leaders' forms and write reports from time to time
- to attend monthly committee meetings.

Please consider how you may be able to fill this important role in the club. Contact Lynda Larkin or any other Committee Member to discuss your interest.

Notice board

Celebrating 75 years of bushwalking

The inaugural meeting of the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs was held on May 15, 1934. At the meeting, representatives of the founding eight clubs decided on a set of objectives which aimed to unite all Victorian walking clubs.

The objectives were chiefly for the protection and advancement of mutual interests, to promote good fellowship among affiliated bodies and encourage networking and the sharing of information. As well as this, to promote bushwalking in the wider community.

Over the past 75 years, membership of the Federation has grown to 10,000 members in 70 clubs all around Victoria, with links being formed with similar organisations in other states and the establishment of Bushwalking Search and Rescue (BSAR) in 1948.

Planning has commenced on a range of activities to celebrate this milestone. Please check with Bushwalking News Victoria and the BWV website to find out more information about specific events and activities.

Some events and activities to celebrate 75 great years.

Photographic competition: Attention all BWV paparazzi – a

photographic competition will be held with the winning pictures to be used for a 2009 Bushwalking Victoria calendar.

Federation Weekend in October: Hosted by the Ballarat Outdoor and Bushwalking Club.

Tree planting at Lurg with Ray Thomas, August 16 & 17.

Federation Day Walk 2009: Prior to Easter. It is hoped that walkers from many clubs will act as leaders to mark the 75th anniversary.

Members are encouraged to join in the celebrations.



Same book, new look: The former *Bushwalking Victoria News* has had a makeover

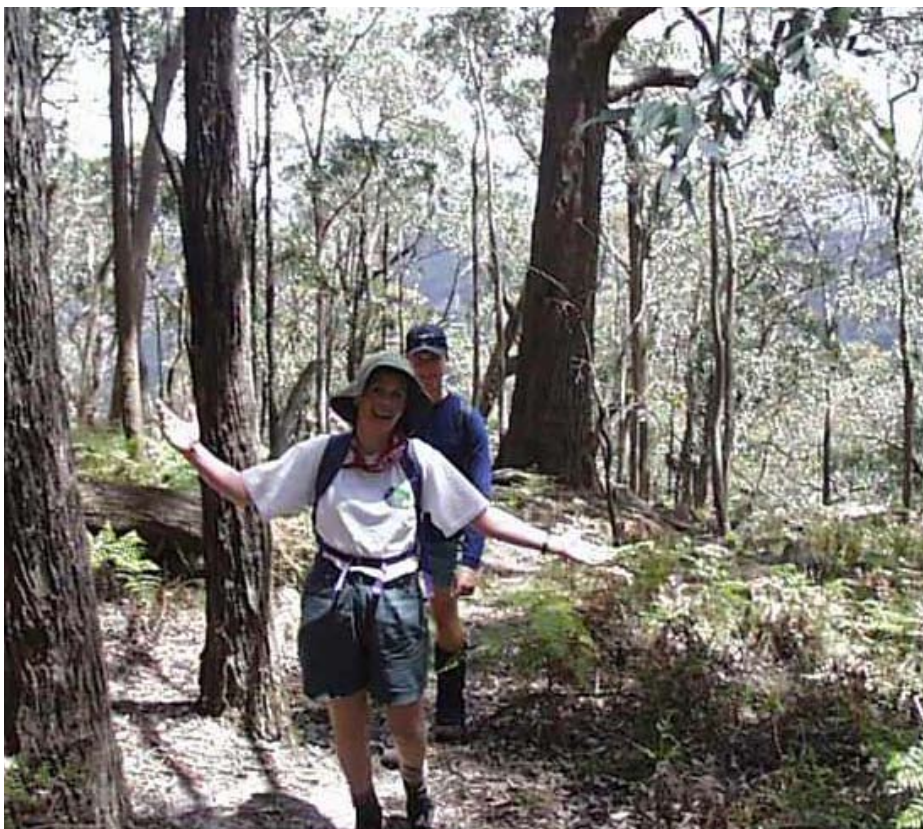
WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

ANTHONY BAYLEY
VAL BOURNE
FIONA J CHARNLEY
GAYE DEL AGUILA
NATALIE DUSZYNSKI
PHILIP J MURGATROYD
JOHN O'LEARY
LAUREN PARK
RHONDA RENWICK

Life Members	13
Honorary Members	10
Single memberships	350
Family memberships	106 (2x 53)
Total membership	479
This time last year	499

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Subscriptions are due before the end of May – so you need to remit your subs within the next 6 weeks if you want to continue your membership. If you have not yet paid, there is a notice on your mailing sticker “*SubsDue*”.



Members' walks

Mt Hotham area, Labour Day weekend, 7–10 March, 2008

The weather forecast was fine and hot and a 3-day walk in the high country seemed an attractive proposition. The group of seven met for dinner on Friday night at the Milawa pub and went on to a quiet camping site beside the Ovens River. Next morning we drove to the Mt Loch car park - the start & finish of the walk.

This is being radically changed with the installation of storage for recycled water which is to be used for snow making for the downhill ski slopes at the resort.

We walked along the Alps Walking Track (AWT) and did a side trip to Spargo Hut which seems to get few visitors even though it is close to the resort.

After lunch at Derrick Hut we continued along the AWT and soon turned off towards Swindlers Gap. We had easy open walking until we met thick regrowth from the recent bushfires and we were pleased to reach the Gap and find Dungey's Track. This took us to Swindlers Creek and down to its junction with the Cobungra River where we camped on a comfortable grassy site.

After a slow starting the next morning (some people had new equipment) we climbed Paling Spur and had a long lunch at Youngs Hut.

The camp site at Youngs yards looked nice but after some



discussion we decided to continue to Cobungra Gap near Dibbins Hut so as to make the third and last day fairly short.

Cobungra Gap proved to be an excellent camp site. Next morning we slowly climbed up Swindlers Spur and visited the site of the Quintet Mine Huts – there were remains of iron beds and not much else left after the bushfires of 2003.

We finished before lunch – the cafes of Harrierville and Bright were beckoning. We met again for afternoon tea in Euroa.

The Group was: Tracey Jamieson, Frances Moloney, Mohamed Akbari, Sue Ralston, Jenny Flood, Bob Oxlade and Max Casley.

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

Kimberley

Drysdale, Durack, Isdell, Charnley and more

The wild rivers are what makes the Kimberley so special. Most of our trips there are based on rivers. Here is a taste.

The Drysdale.

- > huge river, huge park.
- > amazing concentration of art, especially Bradshaw style.
- > gorges, waterfalls and wildlife
- > every tributary is different

The Durack.

- Forget the 4WD, we take a boat to the start.
- > amazing cliffs, amazing scenery
- > even some of the smallest creeks had hidden wonders

The Isdell.

- Gorge country. Some are...
- > small & shady; others broad & grassy
- > full of paperbarks and flowers
- > dry; others wall to wall wet
- > home to some great Wandjina art

The Charnley.

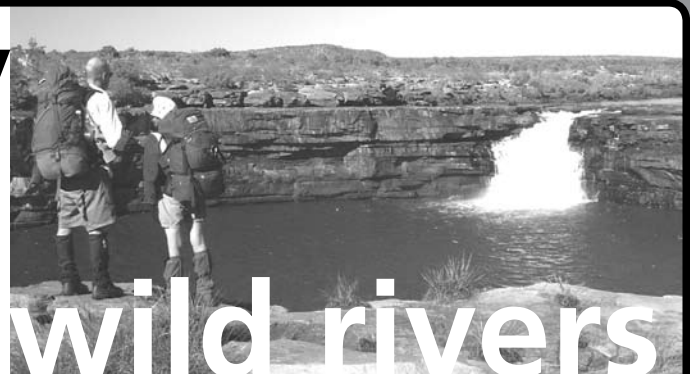
- Spectacular 30km gorge. Simply stunning.
- > dozens of art sites in styles we have seen nowhere else
- > lots of exploring without full packs

The Unknown and Unnamed

Our May Mitchell Explorer visits an unnamed river where we find numerous art sites and enjoy great fishing.

Visit our trips on-line

or contact us for more information.



www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au

12 Carrington St Millner NT 0810 Email: walkabout@ais.net.au

Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355



Bungalow Spur, Feathertop, Razorback – late February 2008

BUNGALOW SPUR, FEATHERTOP, RAZORBACK

Pack Carry 22-24 Feb
Led by Alajan Akbari
Summary Kerry Tabor

On the sunny morning of the 23rd, and after a car shuffle to Hotham, 15 of us (Carol, Mick, Carol, Barry, Roy, Alajan, Alan, Trish, Jan, Richard, Kerry, Ralph, John, Angela and Max) set off on our Feathertop adventure from the very pretty town of Harrietville.

The forest walk up Bungalow Spur was delightful - especially as we were able to sample blackberries and native raspberries as a delicious treat along the way! We arrived early afternoon at Federation Hut campsite, with a little time to take in the mountain views and appreciate the collection of gnarled old snowgums amongst which we erected our tents.

Then we walked to the summit of Mt. Feathertop. I was full of admiration for the craftsmanship that went into the construction of a section of path on the climb. Alan informed me that the Department of Conservation had brought in Scottish stonemasons to create it. Truly a work of art - the way they fitted the stones together to create a tapestry, with thoughtful placement of alternating steps, the path looked like it had been there for a hundred years or more, woven into the fabric of the hillside. In an age of over-technicalisation and superficiality, it moved me that such pride and craft was still practiced.

We enjoyed 360 degree views of Victoria's famous peaks, and for many of us it triggered rich memories of previous walks (and ski's!) on the High Plains. Angela shared her Canadian chocolate amongst the hordes, and had her photo taken via mobile phone, to send back to the generous Canadian friends who had sent it.

On the cold and windy return back to camp, a few of us took a side path to a wonderful, (and I'm sure ancient), sacred spring, where we collected the most pure and vibrant water I have ever tasted. Untainted by any external influences this precious water emerged from the rocks, perhaps from snowmelts eons ago. The yellow everlasting daisies and purple Brachycomes bravely shone their radiance on the windswept slopes.

It was a bracing evening and I was so grateful for my layers of warm attire as we shared cooking in the open alpine campsite. The Southern Cross, Venus, Orion and other star arrangements danced between moving sheets of clouds. A fire was lit (is this legal, and have we all gone soft??) in the hut's slow combustion stove, (beyond the "for emergency use only" sign on the door), and people gathered around the

warmth to escape from the mountain's wild night.

Sunday morning enveloped us all in a thick and silent mist, our field of view contracted to the immediacy of the snow gums, breakfast, and for some, a vibrant yellow grasshopper with black spots.

Those eager to get back to the cars, (with alluring visions of coffees in Harrietville), took the lead along the Razorback, with others, keen to delay their departure from this enchanting mountainscape, taking up the rear.

We arrived back at the cars on the Mt Hotham Rd at about 1 o'clock, thrilled that the weather had been good to us on this mountain adventure. Thanks must go to our generous and considerate leader Mohamed Akbari for making such a fantastic trip possible. I especially loved the moments he created for us to just take in the moment, to

appreciate this stunning landscape of yellow, purple and white flowers and dramatic mountain vistas.



SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR THE CLUB

A group of bushies is going on a 12 day Kimberley coast cruise June 30th to July 11th inc. This is not a cheap trip but seemed reasonable value compared to other trips on offer. We have the boat to ourselves and at the time of writing there are still two places available. For further information on costs etc, see the charter company website, www.onetide.com.



There have been tentative enquiries about these last two places.

WINTER SKIING

Since losing our beloved "Wilky" we have been able still have a weeks cross country skiing on the Bogong High Plains each year as guests of the Alpine Rover scouts. The Rover Chalet is not Wilky but just as enjoyable. There are different procedures, such as they provide the menu for the week, and there are also some members of other clubs who join us. However the skiing experience is still as wonderful as ever. The week we have allotted to us is week 10, Aug 30th to Sept 6th. Further information and booking forms can be found on the Rover website www.bogongroverchalet.org.au.



SUNDAY BUS

COCKPIT CREEK – BLOWHARD RANGE

DATE	April 13, 2008
STANDARD	Easy+ & Easy Medium
DISTANCE	15km & 17km
LEADER(S)	Halina Sarbinowski & Fotina Lennon
TRANSPORT	Bus from Southbank Blvd at 9am
AREA	Healesville
MAP REF	1:25,000 Glenburn, Klondyke, Juliet North & Toolangi

When last walked in 2002 the Myrtle Gully Track was not included in this walk. After previewing this lovely track we decided that it had to be included as it was so delightful.

Both walks start with this delightful walking track which ends along the rainforest Wirrawilla Boardwalk. We then follow 4WD tracks and country roads lined by magnificent tree ferns, majestic trees that rise to great heights vertically, a field of eucalyptus saplings that sway in the breeze and cross some pristine streams. We unfortunately do pass a small section where logging has occurred which contrasts dramatically with the beauty of the area. The walks include a moderate climb of about 200m from the Yea River to the crest of the Blowhard Range which is followed by both walks.

Although much of the walks is through dappled shadows caused by the magnificent trees please still bring lots of water if hot and if wet a walking pole would be handy for some short downhill sections.

I hope that you will join us on this delightful walk through magnificent forest.



WEDNESDAY WALKS

LAKE MOUNTAIN

WHEN	Wednesday 16 April 2008
WHERE	Meet at Marysville Information Office, 10.15 am
LEADER	Susan Maughan

We will carpool here and then head up to the Lake Mountain carpark, where our walk commences. We'll be following ski trails and hopefully avoiding early snow. Last time we tried to do this walk, in November 2006, we needed skis or snow shoes, due to an unseasonal southerly dump of snow.



BIKE RIDE

SOMERVILLE - SOMERS

DATE	Saturday 19 April 2008
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	59 km (or shorter – 46 km)

LEADER	Ross Berner
TRANSPORT	Car or Train to Somerville Station
RETURN TIME	About 4:20 pm (Somerville Station)
AREA	Mornington Peninsula
MAP REFERENCE	Melway maps 107, 148, 154, 164, 165, 193, 194 & 195

The meeting place for ride is the east side of Somerville Railway Station (Melway 107 F12) at 9:30 AM.

If you are travelling by train, you will need to take Frankston Line Train departing from Flinders St at 8:00AM to Frankston. Then change to Stony Point Line train that is usually on the adjoining platform leaving about 5 minutes after Frankston Train arrives. (A Metcard valid for zone 2 is needed for all journeys on this line. A Metcard valid for zone 2 is also needed for travel to Frankston.)

Bring bathers if weather is warm, as we will spend time at beach at Somers at lunchtime.

The route is based around the Somerville – Somers Rail Trail, which is the off road cycle trail on the Peninsula.

The afternoon ride will return to Somerville following the rail trail, which is largely an in land route. It may be extended to include Coolart or Balnarring or shorten to finish at Morradoo or Bittern Stations if necessary.

Those riders who are want an extra challenge, may wish to meet me at the car park on the east side of Frankston Station (Melway 100A E7, Fletcher Rd) at 8:15 AM for a ride to Somerville, which adds 12 km to the start of the ride. It follows the Frankston - Baxter Rail Trail to Baxter and then on a busy road.

Please note change of ride, as Eastlink Trail is not quite ready yet. Planning to do ride later in year.



SUNDAY BUS

LAKE MOUNTAIN

DATE	Sunday 20 April 2008
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	12km and 15km
LEADERS	Lesley Hale and Hans Edlinger
DEPART TIME	8:30am from Club Rooms
AREA	Lake Mountain, 20km east of Marysville
MAP REFERENCE	Vicmap Outdoor Leisure: Marysville-Lake Mountain

Lake Mountain, Melbourne's nearest alpine resort, is 120km NE of the city, within the Yarra Ranges National Park. The summit is 1433m above sea level and various lookout points offer views of the Victorian Alps to the East, and the city skyline and surrounding foothills of the Great Dividing Range to the west.

The walking tracks and grassy ski trails across the plateau take in beautiful stands of mottled grey snow gums and alpine heath, interspersed with alpine bogs which form the headwaters of the Taggerty River. After the initial climb from the car park, the walk is generally undulating on easy tracks; but gaiters are recommended for a section of the longer walk which may be a bit scrubby.

Temperatures are on average 10 C cooler than Melbourne,

so be prepared. As alpine weather conditions are subject to rapid change, always carry waterproof and warm clothing.

Note: The bus will leave at 8.30am from the Club Rooms and return there.

All-day parking is available nearby: try Victoria Parade.



MOFS

ELTHAM, GRIFFITH PARK, SWEENEY'S FLAT

DATE	Mon 21 April 2008
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	10 km
LEADER(S)	Jean Giese
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	2:30 pm
AREA	Eltham, Yarra River
MAP REF	Melway maps 21 & 22

Our walk takes us along the north side of the Yarra River through some areas acquired by Parks Victoria a few years ago. We will be mostly on bush tracks with views and river crossings to enjoy.

Meet to start walking at 10:15 at the locked gates cnr Reynolds and Yarra Braes Roads. Melway 22 E9.



WEDNESDAY WALKS

20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

DATE	Wednesday 23 April 2008
STANDARD	Easy - 20th Anniversary Celebration
DISTANCE	2 short walks available - 2.7km and 3.7km
LEADER	Margaret Curry
TRANSPORT	Private car or public bus from Box Hill Station
AREA	Ruffey Lake Park, Doncaster
MAP REF	Melways 33:J9

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Bring along your own items for either a picnic lunch or BBQ. Jean Giese, who started up the Wednesday Walks will cut the anniversary cake. Picnic tables, seats, BBQs, toilets and shelter are available as well as ample car parking space. If you have any 'interesting' photos from past Wednesday walks please bring these along on the day.

All past and present Wednesday walkers as well as current members are welcome to come along and help celebrate this occasion.

Meet at 10.30am at the picnic tables near the main carpark which is off Victoria Street, Doncaster, Melways 33:J9.



SUNDAY BUS

STRZELECKI RANGES RAIL TRAIL & BREWERY

DATE	Sunday 27 April 2008
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	13 and 15 km
LEADERS	John McCall & Tom Wilanowski
TRANSPORT	Bus - Southbank Blvd
RETURN TIME	7 pm
AREA	Strzelecki Ranges
MAP REFERENCE	Boolarra 8121-2-3, Mirboo 8121-3-2, Thorpdale 8121-3-1

The major attraction of this walk is the fact that the leaders may be the only participants able to correctly pronounce the name of the destination. Having said that, pronunciation is likely to be the only significant challenge on this walk. It will be a long bus ride to a short walk. Both walks will be very easy, all on track, and short on distance.

The Easy group will follow the recently renamed Grand Ridge Rail Trail from Boolarra to Mirboo North, while the Easy/Medium group will have added a few kilometres around Boolarra at the beginning of the walk. Although the rail trail is only 13 km long, it is for the most part uphill as it climbs 240 m between Boolarra and Mirboo North, but the ascent is very gradual.

Both walks will end at a brewery. Grand Ridge Brewery in Mirboo North claims to be the most awarded brewery in Australia. Indeed, it keeps winning medals at various competitions; for example, it won 15 medals in 2006 and 10 medals in 2007 Australian International Beer Awards. Quite possibly this is the best boutique brewery in Australia, if little known, and we will have an opportunity to enjoy a brewery tour and beer tasting session at the end of the walk.

The Grand Ridge Brewery charges a tasting fee, so please bring some small change with you.



MOFS

BLUE LAKE AND PLENTY RIVER

DATE	Thursday 1 May 2008
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	10 km
LEADER(S)	Jean Giese
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Yellow Gum Park, Plenty

I hadn't been to this area before and am quite delighted to share with you what I found. The Plenty River has created a twisting gorge surrounded by much unspoilt bush, now known as Yellow Gum Park. Blue Lake was once a quarry which was

unwisely (for the company) blasted below the level of the nearby river. In the 1970's a spring was hit and now (for our enjoyment) there is a deep, clear lake. The adjacent area has been re-instated with the indigenous woodland.

Meet in the car park at the end of Goldsworthy Lane (Mel 10F5) to start walking at 10.30 am.

to Little River and would therefore make an ideal first country road ride for novice or for less experienced riders as there are no really busy roads and no difficult hills. If you are interested in this option, you will need to catch a Geelong V/Line trail to get to Little River. There is a train that leaves Melbourne at 10 am, arriving at about 10.35 am and will cost about \$6.



SUNDAY BUS

CASTELLA- VICTORIA RANGE- TOOLANGI

DATE	11 May 2008
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/medium
DISTANCE	13 and 17 km
LEADERS	Max Casley and Paul Beers
TRANSPORT	Bus
AREA	East of Kinglake
MAP REF	Toolangi 1:25,000

This area is just north of the Great Dividing Range among the tall trees of the Toolangi State Forest to the east of the Melba Highway. At this time of year be prepared for the chance of cold weather and perhaps some muddy patches along the tracks which may be slippery. The forest is fairly thick in this area and so we will mainly follow tracks and roads which we hope will be quiet. There will be a short distance of walking off track – we will have more details available when you book on the walk.



SUNDAY BUS

WOODS LKT – MICHAELDEN TRACK

DATE	Sunday 18 May 2008
STANDARD	Easy+ & Easy Medium+
DISTANCE	15 km & 18 km
LEADER(S)	Del Franks & Mark Heath
TRANSPORT	Bus 8.30 from Clubrooms
AREA	Marysville
MAP REF	Marysville, Lake Mountain 1:30,000 O'door Leisure Map

Situated 95 km north east of Melbourne, the Marysville State Forest provides a range of walks to suit those seeking day walks through picturesque forest, which is made up of the majestic Mountain Ash, Alpine Ash, narrow-leaved peppermint & various other Eucalypts trees. The forests surrounding Marysville support a variety of native fauna species. These include black wallabies, wombats, antechinus and several species of possum.

Both walks start & finish in Marysville, so you might be lucky and fit in a coffee before heading home if time permits. Both walks provide a good climb up over Mt Gordon to Woods Lookout, which gives good views of the Cathedral Range. Other points of interest are the Wishing Well & Trestle Bridge. The harder group will also check out the beautiful Island Hop on the Taggerty River.



BIKE RIDE

WERRIBEE TO YOU YANGS CIRCUIT

DATE	Saturday 17 May 2008
STANDARD	Easy & Easy Medium
DISTANCE	Easy 40 & easy medium 60 km
LEADER(S)	Del Franks
TRANSPORT	Train to Werribee or Little River Stations
AREA	Werribee/You Yangs
MAP REF	Melways maps 423 key map 11, 200, 204 & 205

This ride provides a close up look at the You Yangs, the distinctive granite hills which rise abruptly from the basalt Werribee Plains and which are visible from so many vantage points in Melbourne. The terrain is generally flat but there are the options to shorten or lengthen the ride. Some may be interested in riding up to the You Yangs Turntable and to walk to Flinders Peak for marvellous panoramic views or just walking in the area.

On this ride you will need to bring both water & food as there will not be any opportunities to buy food on the way however food can be purchased in Werribee at the start & finish of the ride.

For those that feel up to the longer distance, we will meet on the north side of the Werribee Train Station at 9am, ready to leave at about 9.15. This will allow a bit of time to reach Little River Railway Station to meet up with the peopling catching the train.

The ride can be shortened by catching the Geelong Train



MOFS

FAIRBAIRN PARK – MARIBYRNONG RIVER

DATE	Monday 19 May 2008
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	10 km
LEADER	Alister Rowe
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Maribyrnong
MAP REF	Melway 28 C9

Meet at 10.30 am in the car park near toilets in Fairbairn Park (Melway 28 C9). We will walk south along the east bank of the river and return along the west bank.

This is quite an interesting walk through a rapidly changing part of Melbourne which includes some wetlands. Hopefully we might have lunch in Footscray Park adjacent to Flemington Race Course. Maybe a drink at the "Anglers Tavern" after the walk.



WEDNESDAY WALK

DOMINO TRAIL, TRENTHAM - LYONVILLE SPRINGS

DATE Wed 21 May
STANDARD Easy/Medium, with an Easy option
DISTANCE 16 km, with the possibility of 12 km
LEADER Sandra Mutimer
RETURN TIME Before 4:30 pm
AREA Trentham
MAP REFERENCE Vicmap Trentham & Coliban 1:25 000, Vicmap Wombat State Forest Touring 1:50 000

We will meet at 10:15 am at the Old Trentham Railway Station and Information Centre in Market St, Trentham, which you will be able to reach by turning right off the Kyneton-Trentham Rd.

The walk starts off on the Domino Trail, more or less following the route of the railway line which once linked Daylesford and Carlsruhe. It also moves along old logging tracks, reminders of the timber industry which was so strongly represented here and in the nearby forests.

At the western end of this trail we will continue on through Lyonville and on to Lyonville Springs before returning to the section of the Wombat State Forest on the southern side of the Daylesford-Trentham Rd and then back to the old railway station.

It is possible for those who do not wish to continue on to Lyonville Springs to return from Lyonville travelling along a well-defined track.



PACK AND CARRY

WHISKEY CREEK – LERDERDERG RIVER – BLACKWOOD EASY/MEDIUM PACK CARRY 10-11 MAY 08

Leader: Roger Wyett 0418 544 715 or rwyett@caroma.com.au
Map: Lerderderg & Werribee Gorges, 2nd Ed, Meridian Productions, 2001, 1:35,000

Due to the proximity to Melbourne this walk will commence on Saturday morning with a short car shuffle, then following Whiskey Track through to the Razorback Track & Lerderderg River. While this walk is mainly on 4WD and formed walking tracks there are some steep descents and ascents, providing good views of Lerderderg Gorge. We will camp well away from any road access, near the river and continue along the river via the East Walk to O'Brien's Crossing on the Sunday morning. It is intended that we will have a mid-afternoon finish at Blackwood via Byers Back Track, after visiting "The Tunnel".

I will only be in the club rooms on 7 May 08, but will take phone bookings from members with prior pack carry experience.



PACK AND CARRY

MACFARLANE SADDLE – TARLI KARNG – MACFARLANE SADDLE

DATE 24 – 27 April 2008
STANDARD Easy / Medium
DISTANCE 30 km
LEADER(S) Ken MacMahon
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Mtns of Northern Gippsland
MAP REF Vicmap 1:50,000 maps Moroka & Licola – Wellington

I have never actually stood by the shores of Victoria's only natural mountain lake, Tarli Karng, but I am particularly interested in getting into this area now to see how much change has been wrought by the devastating floods and fires.

Yes, I know the Walks program says Mt Howitt, but that's because when the program was drawn up the roads beyond Licola were closed by landslips, fallen trees, washaways, etc.

Anyway, after the locals applied considerable pressure, DSE have hastily got the roads opened up. I believe they're a bit rough and tricky in places, but we should be OK.

I would prefer to do a through walk, but at this stage the Wellington River route is closed. Therefore, the plan is to walk in from MacFarlane Saddle and back out again via Mt Wellington. We will camp at the lake one night and near Millers Hut the other. Anzac Day falls on Friday this year so we get



BASE CAMP

GRAMPIANS TRACK MAINTENANCE WEEKEND

Base Camp 2-4 May 2008
Activity Grampians Track Maintenance Weekend.
Leader Rod Novak
Map Vicmap: Grampians Northern & Southern Sheets 1:50,000
Returning 9pm Sunday evening

Come along for an enjoyable weekend working on the Grampians National Park walking tracks. This is a Bushwalking Victoria (VicWalk) Track Maintenance Group activity and you will enjoy the company of fellow bushwalkers from Warnambool BWC, Sunraysia BWC, Grampians BWC as well as the Melbourne Clubs. We will be assisting David Witham of the Grampians Walking Tracks Support Group and Parks Victoria Rangers. The plan is to do track maintenance on the Saturday and to go for a walk on the Sunday. For more information and car pooling arrangements contact the leader at Clubnight on Wednesday 30 April.

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

Date	Activity/Location	Transport	Standard	Leader
April				
13	Bus: Cockpit Creek – Blowhard Range	Bus	E, E/M	Halina Sarbinovski and Fotina Lennon
16	WW: Lake Mountain	Private	E, E/M	Susan Maughan
19	Bike: Somerville – Somers	Private	E/M	Ross Berner
20	Bus: Lake Mountain	Bus	E, E/M	Lesley hale and Hans Edlinger
21	M: Eltham, Griffith Park, Sweeney Flat	Private	E	Jean Giese
23	WW: Ruffley Lake Park	Private	E	Margaret Curry
24-27	PC: Macfarlane Saddle – Tarli Karang – Macfarlane	Private	E, M	Ken MacMahon
27	Bus: Strzelecki Ranges Rail Trail & Brewery	Bus	E, E/M	John McCall and Tom Wilanovski
May				
1	T: Blue Lake and Plenty River	Private	E	Jean Giese
2-4	BC Grampians Track Maintenance Weekend	Private		Rod Novak
11	Bus: Castella – Victoria Range – Toolangi	Bus	E, E/M	Max Casley and Paul Beers
17	Bike: Werribee to You Yangs Circuit	Private	E, E/M	Del Franks
18	Bus: Woods Lkt – Michaelden Track	Bus	E, E/M	Del Franks and Mark Heath

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