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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 cents

December 2008

SLIDE SHOW - Wed 10 December 8pm in the clubrooms

WALKING IN THE SOUTH WEST OF THE USA

In June and July of this year five club members, Jopie, Jenny, John, Derrick & Gina spent two months walking and exploring the National Parks and other wild areas of California, Arizona and Utah in the SW of the USA.



MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS CHRISTMAS PARTY

You are all invited to our annual Christmas celebration

DATE: Wednesday 17 December 2008

VENUE: Trades Hall - Main Bar (Victoria St entrance)

TIME: 7.00pm – 10.00pm

Come along and join the fun
Catch up with friends old and new
Leaders Lucky Draw with great prizes
Mistletoe and music

Please bring a plate to share for supper

NOTE:

Our William St club rooms will be closed for this evening and the following Wednesday, December 24.

Sunday bus bookings and bookings for other club activities can be made in the foyer at the TradesHall

LEADERS' DISCUSSION NIGHT

On Monday 9 February 2009, a get-together for leaders of all types of walks – Sunday, Wednesday, Saturday, MOFS, TOFS, Base Camps and Pack Carries will be held. Wine, nibbles, pizzas will be available on the night. This will be an opportunity to review resources available to you, gain ideas from other leaders and discuss any issues.

Please make sure you enter this date in your diary - full details will be provided with the next Newsletter.

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

Royal Historical Society of Victoria

**239 A'Beckett Street
Melbourne**

Visitors are always welcome!

General correspondence should be directed to:

The Secretary
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc

MEMBER OF

**Bushwalking
Victoria**



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: 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.

Please send your contributions as unformatted text files by email to news@mbw.org.au

Closing date for receipt of material for The News is without fail the 2nd 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: Treasurer present

Dec 10 Mick Noonan, John McCall Yes

Dec 17 Jane Williams, Halina Sarbinowski

Jan 7 MargCurry & Ray Spooner Yes

Jan 14 Lynda Larkin & Mark Heath

Jan 21 Mick Noonan & John McCall Yes

Jan 28 Delwyn Franks & Howard Friend

Next Committee Meeting: Monday 5 January 2009

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
24-26 Jan 2009 Alpine Mossbed rehabilitation	Steve Robertson srob7859@bigpond.net.au 9762 5367
2-3 May 2009 Grampians	Rod Novak Rodnovak@ozemail.com.au 95612407

SOCIAL NIGHTS



***** HELD AT NEW CLUBROOMS**

WHEN Wednesday 10 December

**JOPIE'S SLIDE NIGHT - Walking in the USA
(Please refer to last month's newsletter for more details).**

**SOCIAL EVENT/BASE CAMP at TIDAL RIVER
from Thursday 11 to Sunday 14December**

Come and join us at Wilsons Prom for a few days of relaxation. There will be a few walks around Tidal River but nothing too strenuous. People can go on longer walks if they wish. This will be a great introduction to Base Camping. Wilsons Prom offers some of the best beaches and scenery in the world!

LEADERS:- Michael Mann and Bob Steel
DATE:- Thursday 11 to Sunday 14 December
See leaders in clubrooms or ring Michael

NEW YEAR'S DAY BBQ at 1 pm

Mel 2D K6, Off Yarra Blvd.

No need to book-just bring all the usual stuff, plus a small gift for our lucky dip-a good way to recycle excess Xmas prezzies!!

As the year draws to a close and we prepare for Christmas, it is a good time to reflect on what a good year it has been for Melbourne Bushies. It has been a year of moving, transition and renewal, with the promise of personal enjoyment and satisfaction motivating us to ensure the ongoing success of all our activities and club operations. As a result of which we remain as strong and vibrant as ever in these changing times and continue to add value to the community.

I would like to extend to all members my warmest wishes for Christmas and the New Year and sincerely thank all those who have so generously contributed to the club in any way at all.

May you and your loved ones have a safe and happy holiday with plenty of sunshine as well as welcome rain (in the right places!).

Lynda Larkin

EQUIPMENT

Packs

In the never-ending battle between form and function there have been some tragic casualties. At least two of our members have recently succumbed to monster packs! No doubt in the shop they looked the part with their rugged personas, elaborate suspension systems, cushy padding and everything that opens and closes but we can't help wincing at the thought of all that unnecessary weight. If you find it hard to imagine how something a quarter the weight of a "real" pack can do the job, try hiring one of our Golites. If you can't bring yourself to do it voluntarily, have a talk to your equipment officer or grit your teeth and count the Golites waiting for you on hilltops.

Blisters

We can't understand why so many walkers put up with blisters without first trying this simple remedy: just cover the affected skin with leucoplast or duct tape at the first sign of discomfort.

John Fritze

TASMANIAN WILDERNESS

*The sun has journeyed south now
bright green crinkled leaves of myrtle- beech
shake and toss in Summer showers
while the forest orchid droops and cowers
in warm and yielding beds of moss.
Scarves of mist wind eerily around
the quartzite tors whose grim rock forms
shout wild challenges against the storms.
I hear the call and I must go
where fate beckons me; once more I feel
the chilling southwest wind that blows
unimpeded from Antarctic snows
and walk a lonely salt sprayed shore
watch the breakers crashing, seething,
in their death sense eternity,
or look down from the high cliff-top and see
the watered silk of ocean's dress
embroidered with an edging of white lace
and go where streams relentlessly
carve deep secret courses, running free,
where furtively the striped one keeps
steadfast vigil near his empty lair,
set in thickets where wire grass grows
and wild bee ravishes the pale dog-rose*

Alma Strappazon

Alma Strappazon, a former Melbourne Bushwalker, who used to submit wonderful trip reports to *Walk* magazine, loved especially the Tasmanian wilderness. These lines should resonate deeply with those who have been there and perhaps inspire others to follow.

WANTED:

Leaders for Base Camps especially for the Australia Day base Camp to Camperdown Volcano Country.

I am intending to lead a Base camp to the Avon River probably on 9th to 11th January, so see me in the club rooms for details.

I want to create an email list of people interested in Base Camps that get organised at short notice that are not on the program.

So if you want to be on the list, send me your email address.

Michael Mann

Reports

RECENT CHANGES TO ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISKS FORM

The Acknowledgement of Risks form and related procedures have changed.

Temporary members (visitors) now only have to sign one form – for the first walk they do with the club. They will be covered for insurance for their first three walks by signing once, instead of signing a form for each of their first three walks.

Visitors will be asked to sign an Acknowledgement of Risks form on their first visit to the club room. As always, we encourage visitors to come in and meet us before they walk.

Completed and signed Acknowledgement of Risks forms will be located in the club room. Private transport trip leaders may not always come into the club room prior to their walk, so if a leader is unsure whether a visitor has completed and signed a form, they should ask them to sign another one. Signed Acknowledgement of Risk forms should be submitted along with walk reports etc, as soon as possible after the walk.,

The revised form is available on the leader's database and in the club room.

NEW SUNDAY BUS ON-LINE BOOKING SYSTEM PROCEDURES

From 1 December 2008, MBW will be introducing the new On-Line Sunday Bus booking system.

The procedure for on-line bookings is to do a bank transfer from your account into the Melbourne Bushwalkers Club Account. The account details are as follows:

Melbourne Bushwalkers
BSB 013-006
Account No 0058-46013

When doing the transfer it is essential that you include

Date of Walk

Your name

in the description/details area of the transfer. This information will appear on the account statement where money is being transferred and will enable us to identify who the funds are from and the walk being booked.

After you have completed the transfer, you MUST send an email to busbookings@mbw.org.au, with a screen dump of the "confirmation of transfer", to verify your payment. Bookings will be based on these emails. Please include details of the walk onto which you are booking. Once we have processed your booking we will reply to your email confirming your seat on the bus.

Through this system we can take bookings up to four weeks in advance. Fund transfer bookings for the current Sunday need to be completed, including the email by 4 pm on the Wednesday before the walk to ensure that you get a seat. Transfers will be accepted as late as noon Saturday, however, if the bus has already been fully booked you may not get a seat. In this case you will be advised and your funds will be credited to another walk.

Visitors will still need to come into the club rooms to book and to talk to the leaders of the walk before they can book on the walk.

If you have any questions regarding the new booking system please do not hesitate to contact Halina or Del.

Noticeboard and Report

A BEAUTIFUL BULLER WEEKEND

A Pack Carry on the 14-16 November

It was billed by our leader Gina as being on the hardish side of medium and the relentless nearly 1200 metre climb up Mirimbah Spur to the summit of Mt Buller certainly was that.

The light pack brigade was in force, however, with most packs under 11 kilos and some under 9kg so we were far from spent when we reached the peak. From then on it was a delightful "on the easy side of medium" stroll in a lovely alpine area with great weather and grand views of the major alpine peaks. The weekend started with intrigue.

On Saturday morning Derrick had foolishly left his Sunday's bag of breakfast muesli on the picnic table. It looked amazingly like Jopie's and before you could say "give me back my breakfast, you thief" it had been emptied into the wrong bowl, milk added and promptly devoured. "That's funny", exclaimed Jopie. "I must have packed three breakfasts instead of two as I've still got two left! Derrick got the better part of the deal though as the breakfast he extracted from Jope had 20 grams more in it and contained pepitas to boot. Principles got thrown

to the winds as we traversed Buller Village. It just wasn't possible to pass the Cattleman's Restaurant without sampling their drinks and food. We'll try to avoid mid-trip restaurants in future and get back to basics (ie biscuits and cheese and water) which are much more character building.

We had mild concerns about the water supply for that night and whether we would be camping on lumpy snow grass but in fact we had a perfect camp at Bluff Hut on smooth grass with good water nearby and a great campfire with ample firewood. We needed the fire as it was darn cold with frost on the tents next morning. Sunday's walk was downhill almost all the way, including 15 wet wading crossings of the Delatite River, although a couple of extremists did manage to keep their feet dry for the first five of them before succumbing to the inevitable.

We finished by 1pm after a very pleasant alpine weekend. Thank you, Gina, for a lovely walk.

Participants were Gina, Derrick, Bob, Del, David, Paul, Val, John, Jerry and me, Jopie.

The Delightful Durack

For years we flew over the Durack en route to and from some of our other Kimberley trips. Year after year, we dreamed of the exciting land below.

Finally, in 2005, it happened. What we learned on that first trip made our 2nd trip last July even better. On that trip, we did a day walk which got us to a magic spot which we'll use as a two night camp on our next trip making that one better still.

You need a boat or helicopter to get to the good part of the river. (We use a boat.) **Only bushwalkers willing to go far beyond the beaten track** will ever know the deep gorges, spectacular cliffs, open grassy meadows filled with **wild flowers** and Aboriginal art sites which make this walk so special.

See our website or ask us for details.

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

Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS



www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au

ICE CAMPAIGN "In Case of Emergency"

A great idea that will make a difference!

The concept of ICE was devised by a paramedic, who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents, there were always mobile phones with patients, but no information about whom to contact. He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognized method which could enable Emergency Service personnel and hospital staff to quickly contact the right person.

All you need to do is store the number of a contact person under the name ICE (In Case of an Emergency). For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2, ICE3.

Let's spread the concept of ICE by storing an ICE number in our mobile phones today. ICE will speak for you when you aren't able to.

HIKING NEAR SHANGHAI

While on a short teaching tip to Shanghai (China) I was invited by a Chinese friend to join her hiking club for a trip away on a "comfort trip". Somewhere seven hours away by bus. Of course I said yes. The destination I found out later was a mountainous region in the south west corner of Zhejiang province, (Jiangshan district) south of Shanghai where three provinces join.

I met my friend outside the Shanghai museum at 7.30 pm and joined the minibus, there were a total of 18 people, all Chinese except for me. At 3 am we arrived at a hotel in a village at our starting point. Some people took beds: we put up a tent inside a large room.

After a short sleep, we were up for a Chinese breakfast, and off for the day leaving our packs in the bus, which joined us later. After an inspection of the past house of Dai Li, the head of Chiang Kai-Shek's secret police during WW2, we walked up a valley along an ancient trail, the Xian Xia route, evidently an old trade and access route across the mountains. Now there are some farms on each side, and some archways at the guardposts. Progress was quite slow, as we took many photos of each other. We made a lot of noise, Chinese style, as people called out in conversation to others not even near them in the group. All was green, lush and agricultural.

At the top, our destination was through a not yet completed and unlit road tunnel, 3.6 km long, some had their torches. What will we do for the tedium? Sing!

A delicious lunch was waiting I was told. And so we at 4pm we arrived at another small town, and went to a restaurant where about 8 courses of the local food were quickly prepared and put on the tables. Chinese banquet style of course. The boys finished with some Chinese rice wine. (very strong, like vodka)

The next point was negotiating with the local authorities for a camp site within the town. There are no open grassed areas, so we set up in an enclosed courtyard outside an old temple.

The base was not too hard. We played UNO until 11pm, loudly, as always in the space within the circle of tents. Losers did "Truth or dare". I did not understand any of the conversations or jokes.

Next day, we ascended Fu Gai mountain. There are marked paths and signs to the locations, but rock scrambling is required. This has obviously long been a place for contemplation and meditation. The clouds were low, it was damp, the rocks and log walkways were wet and slippery, but no one fell. The scenery is great, but there were no views that day. The mountain is not high, maybe 1500m, and well timbered. Unusually for China, no other tourists were there to be seen. Again, we took photos of one another in silly poses, and then spent another seven hours in the cramped bus on the way back to Shanghai.

I was told that the leader is always the same person, so I suspect that this is a company rather than a club. But I feel privileged to have been to this area, where tourists and tour companies never go, with a group of friendly people who put up with me in their midst, and were always hospitable. The kind nature of the Chinese people is nothing like the apparently tough nature of the government. I was invited back again if I return to China.

Stuart Mattingley



Reports

CATHEDRAL RANGES PACK CARRY

OCTOBER 11 & 12 2008

This was my third trip to Cathedral Range, the first time as a Base Camp with separate day walks to either end, the second as a Sunday Bus trip to just the Cathedral section.



This time the plan was a Saturday hike up to Sugarloaf summit, traverse the Ridgeback to the Farmyard and camp overnight. Then Sunday, go on to Cathedral and little Cathedral peaks. The weather forecast was ideal and stayed true – fine sunny days with the Sunday reaching low 30s. We gathered at Cooks Mill campgrounds at 9.30am Saturday, and took the walk track up to the Jawbones Carpark, then up the vehicle road to the Summit Car park area for morning tea – a good warm up for what lay ahead.



The next section to the Sugarloaf Summit involved some fairly strenuous and at times exposed rock climbing with full packs on board. There were some debates as to the where the actual track went, but we mostly managed to stay on the markers and reached the summit in time for a 12.30pm lunch, served with grandiose views out over the Acheron Valley. The rest of the afternoon was a rock hopping and climbing traverse along the Razorback, until the easy descent down to the Farmyard at around 3pm. After setting up tents, we walked down for about 10 mins from the headwaters of Jawbone Creek to a full running spring where we picked up crystal clear water for the night and next day. On the return, some of the party opted to do a side trip to the South Jawbone and take in its magnificent views. The Farmyard was a hive of activity with both upper and lower areas dotted with campers. The night was clear and bright with a

full moon and we all had a very pleasant dinner by candlelight.

Sunday we packed up and left our packs at camp as we took in the South Jawbone peak northerly views to get the day started.

Then it was on with the packs and further Razorback traversing to the Cathedral Peak for morning tea – again with stunning views and warming sun. We trekked down and across to Little Cathedral Peak for lunch around 12.30pm, then took the left fork down to Ned's Saddle and on down the well kept track to Ned's Gully campground, for a refreshing cold drink and a splash in Little River. From here, it was just a

3 kms jaunt along the Little River to the waiting cars, completing the circuit by around 4pm. At around 16kms overall, this wasn't a long trip but what it lacked in distance was certainly made up for in the nature of the high terrain and the times involved in negotiating it.

Thoroughly enjoyable walking and thanks, John, for your excellent leadership and planning.

On behalf of Bob Oxlade, Bert Reeh, Val and me – Paul Beers



Reports

A CYCLING WEEKEND...in which we looked for someone who wasn't lost and called the fire brigade out

Loch, Fish Creek, Leongatha, these were just little towns on the way to Wilsons Prom for me until now. This weekend I was able to see them up close, and to spend an enjoyable time exploring this rather attractive area of the Gippsland Hills.

We congregated at the Loch coffee shop at 8.30 am. on a fine Saturday morning, before driving a short distance to our start point. This was my first time on the bike for quite some time so I wasn't sure how I was going to go on the hills, but Jopie had selected a good route - hills, a good number, sure, but not too steep. We were soon whizzing along very pretty undulating countryside, with lots of catch-up stops where we admired the views. A plaque at one point reminded us that the early pioneers had cleared the great forests that existed here. They did a good job - the cleared land stretched away to the coast. There was scarcely any traffic at all throughout the day so we had no worries about passing vehicles. We arrived at the tiny township of Bena - and were out of it in seconds! Whizzing down a hill, I found myself out in front for the first time - for a full ten seconds before John, Del and Bill left me standing. Howard had

volunteered to be whip and he thought at one point that Ian had been left behind. So he went back... Meanwhile, arriving back at Loch, three people lost their chains and one got a puncture. Then we realised that Howard was missing. Ken went to find Howard, then Jopie went to find Ken... I became overwhelmed by the anxiety and retired to ponder the problem with a large iced coffee. After much pondering the problem was resolved as everyone appeared. Ian, the innocent cause of the problem, was with the group all the time! Howard had cycled an extra 30 kms! We drove the few kilometres up the road to Korumburra caravan park, made camp and cleaned up, then walked to the pub, easing the muscles, for an excellent meal.

I slept well and did not hear the noise coming from a nearby cabin. Jopie was the closest, and in the wee hours he had had enough. He entered the cabin, turned on the lights and ignoring the slumbering solitary man, turned off the TV, turned off the lights and left!

We started on Sunday at Leongatha. A car shuffle was called for so Lars locked his bike to a fence. When the drivers returned Lars was unable to release the bike. We tried to cut the cable, we tried to cut the fence, all to no avail. John, searching for suitable bolt cutters had the bright idea of calling out the fire brigade. The firemen were

delighted to help, and so John cane peddling back to us hotly followed by a shocking pink saloon car driven by a young enthusiastic fireman. With huge bolt cutters the cable was snipped and at last, at 10.45.a.m we started on the rail trail to Koonwarra. This was delightful, with gentle gradients and a good cycling surface. The only issue was a three km stretch on the South Gippland Highway, which was not pleasant, having little or no shoulders in places. The missing piece of rail trail requires several bridges and, although scheduled for completion in 2006 has not been started. We stopped at Meeniyan for coffee and cakes then continued via Stony Creek and Buffalo with a rest at Fish Creek before we finished at Foster. We felt we deserved more coffee and cake so we stopped at Koonwarra enroute to Leongatha where we dispersed.

Thank you Jopie, for an excellent weekend, and thanks also to fellow cyclists Jenny Flood, Gina Hopkins, Ross Berner, John Prent, Philip Brown, Howard Friend, Val Bourne, Lars Lindahl, Del Franks, Ian Coull, Ken MacMahon, Sue Ralston, Bill Metzenthén, Marilyn Whimpey and me, Derrick Brown.

25-26 October 2008. Leader - Jopie Bodegraven

ALPINE RESTORATION – January 2009

Feel like a break from the usual routine and a satisfying holiday?

Bushwalking Victoria will again be participating with Parks Victoria on Alpine Restoration Works on the Bogong High Plains in January 2009. This is a very rewarding activity where you actually feel that you have achieved something at the end of a day's work.

Over 60 Bushwalking Victoria participants thoroughly enjoyed this endeavour early in 2008.

When: Friday night 23 January 2009 – Sunday PM 25 January 2007 (you can always stay on longer as the next day is a Public Holiday – Australia Day)

Where: Bogong High Plains – based at Alpha Ski Lodge in Falls Creek
People required: we need 30 (places will fill quickly)

Cost: A rather complicated formula but to simplify WE PAY YOU

- You will receive two nights accommodation at Alpha Ski Lodge at NO CHARGE
- You will be invited to partake in one BBQ Dinner for Free
- Each participant will receive a cash subsidy toward fuel costs

Doesn't this sound great and an opportunity not to be missed?

Contact Steven Robertson to register your name..

ATTENTION - ATTENTION!! WEDNESDAY WALKS 2009

Effective January 2009, Wednesday walks will be scheduled on the second Wednesday of the month, instead of the current practice of being held on the third Wednesday of the month.



SUNDAY BUS

DOM DOM SADDLE TO MAROONDAH DAM

DATE	Sunday 7 December 2008
STANDARD	Easy/Medium & Medium
DISTANCE	16 & 20 kms
LEADER	Del Franks & Lynda Larkin
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Yarra Ranges National Park
MAP REF	Juliet North & Juliet South 1:25,000

Both groups will start at Dom Dom Saddle but head off in different directions. The E/M group will follow the marked track from Dom Dom Saddle to Fernshaw Picnic Area, where the bus will pick them up and take them to the Maroondah Dam Reservoir to pick up the Medium Group.

The Medium group will head west, crossing the road, following the route to Archer Lookout, then along the Bicentennial Trail to Mt Monda then down Condon's Track and then finishing at the Maroondah Dam Reservoir.

Both these walks are quite challenging as they involve a number of steep climbs and descents (especially Condon's Track), but I believe are very beautiful walks, and well worth the effort.



WEDNESDAY WALK

WARRANTYTE STATE PARK

DATE	Wednesday 10 December 2008
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	12 km
LEADER	Margaret Curry
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Warrandyte
MAP REF	Melways Maps 23 and 24

This is a circuit walk close to Melbourne with many points of interest.

As this is our Christmas walk please bring along some delicious goodies to share and something to drink for after the walk, plus perhaps a chair. There should be ample time for afternoon tea in a nice picnic area beside the cars, where toilets are also available. From the Warrandyte-Ringwood Road, turn off at the roundabout along Jumping Creek Road. Follow it for 1.2km until you come to the entrance of Warrandyte State Park on your left. Turn into the park and follow the made road to the parking area at the bottom of the hill – Melways Map 24:A11. Meet at 10.15am for a 10.30am start. To book and for further information contact



PACK CARRY

BAW BAW – STRONACHS CAMP – MT ST GWINEAR

DATE	12-14 December 2008
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	25 kms
LEADER	Max Casley
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Baw Baw Plateau north of Moe
MAP REF	Baw Baw National Park (VMTC) 1:50,000

This is an excellent introductory walk for anyone considering trying out weekend pack carrying - but there will also be more challenging side trip options for those with extra energy. For Friday night I expect we will camp beside Mt St Gwinear car park and drive to Stronach's Camp on Saturday morning. On Saturday we will walk along the Alps Walking Track up to the beautiful Baw Baw plateau and camp near the site of a hut ruin near Mt Whitelaw. On Sunday we go over Mt St Phillack and finish at Mt St Gwinear car park. Options are side trips to Mt Whitelaw and Baw Baw village. Suggested travel cost is about \$45 per passenger including car shuffling. No camp fires are allowed in this park so bring or share a stove – the Club has some for hire.

We will meet on Saturday morning at Mt St Gwinear car park. Nearby there are good camping sites for Friday night. Some may prefer to drive from Melbourne on Saturday morning (2-3 hours drive). Let me know if you are interested in this walk.



SUNDAY BUS

DRY DIGGINGS TRACK-TARILTA CREEK

DATE	Sunday 14 December 2008
STANDARD	Easy/Medium & Medium
DISTANCE	11 km & 14 km
LEADERS	David Laing & Les Southwell
TRANSPORT	Bus from Southbank Bvd 9.00 am
AREA	Upper Loddon State Forrest
MAP Guildford	1:25000

This walk is new for our club, located generally about 8km south of Vaughan Springs.

Initially the walk follows a section of the Dry Diggings Track, then a section of vehicle track, followed with some open woodland and along the Tarilta Creek. We return to the starting point via some road and some untracked bush. The walk has been graded as E/M based on the rating of Moderate in the article, but as this loop is only about 11km and a height variation of about 100-150M, I expect it to be more like our Easy grade as far as exertion goes but there is likely to be a reasonable amount of untracked/creek bed walking as well. For the longer walk there will most likely be a 2-3km extension at the start and/or finish of the shorter walk. This walk is described as pleasant with no steep hills, open woodlands and tranquil surroundings.



YELLOW GUM AND JANEFIELD NORTH PARKS

DATE Monday 15 December 2008
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE TBA
LEADERS Alister Rowe
TRANSPORT Private

We will meet at 10.30 am in the car park shown at the map reference adjacent to Blue Lake. We'll drive a short distance to our starting point. This is a new park and has good scenic values and historical interest. The walk should conclude about 2.30 pm when we can repair to Greensborough Plaza for afternoon tea



SOMERS TO FLINDERS WINERY WALK

DATE Sunday 21 December 2008
STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 13 kms and 16 kms
LEADERS Carol Corrigan and Richard Hanson
TRANSPORT Bus from Southbank
AREA Mornington Peninsula
MAP REF Melways 193, 257, 256, 262

Escape the madding crowd this Christmas and join us for a delightful beach walk along the coast from Somers to Flinders passing the small villages of Balnarring, Merricks Beach and Point Leo. The longer walk will start at Somers Yacht Club. The shorter walk will commence at Balnarring Beach. Both walks finish at Flinders via the historic Flinders Cable Station Walk (site of the telegraph cable connecting Tasmania to the mainland). There are wonderful views across Westernport Bay from the lookout.

As this walk has a Christmas theme feel free to wear your festive finery. Also bring your bathers if the day is warm. Time and weather permitting we may be able to take a lunch time dip.

On the way back to Melbourne we will stop off at Stonier Winery for tasting (cost \$2) or a glass of wine. Hope you can join us as this is a unique opportunity to enjoy a great beach walk, knock off some of those pre-Christmas kilograms, do your shopping, and show off your Christmas clobber!



BOGONG HIGH PLAINS

DATES December 26 2008 to January 3 2009
DISTANCE Various
LEADER Lance Mobbs **CONTINUE NEXT COLUMN**

STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Bogong High Plains
MAP AREA Bogong Alpine Area 1: 50,000
WHERE The Old Tennis Courts, below Wallace's Hut, Bogong High Plains.

The Bogong High Plains is a wonderful place to visit during spring/summer with spectacular views and extensive alpine herb fields ablaze with wildflowers.

As on previous trips, we will be camping at the old site of the old tennis courts just past and below Wallace's Hut. This will mean an easy 750 metre walk into the campsite, where we will do the day walks from or take the cars to other areas of the park to do the walks. Most of the walks will be either easy or easy/medium with one walk in the medium range due to its length.

This trip will suit everybody from the novice bushwalker who would like to try extended trips without having to carry a heavy pack all the time to the more experienced walker. The length of this trip means you can either come for the whole time or for a couple of days depending on your circumstances.

If interested, please see me in the club rooms for further info, call me on the number above, write to me 6/92a Blyth st Altona 3018 or e-mail on mobbslance@msn.com and I will send you the information and map



CROAJINGOLONG NATIONAL PARK

DATE 26-31 December 2008
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE TBA
LEADER Del Franks
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Far South East Gippsland
MAP REF Mallacoota Outdoor Leisure 1:50,000 & Carn-Pt Hicks 1:50,000

Croajingolong National Park extends from Sydenham Inlet to the NSW border and covering an area of 87,500 ha, it is one of Australia's finest National Parks. From undisturbed forest foothills to a magnificent wilderness coastline, it is home to a vast array of indigenous plants and animals some of which are at the furthest extent of their range. The park is an exciting destination for outdoor enthusiasts and boasts unspoilt natural beauty and remoteness. The planned walk will include some long sections of beach walking, some lovely sections of rocky headlands and some fairly boring sections of heath and forest walking. This walk will require a fairly long car shuttle which is why we are planning on the six days. This will also allow a bit more time for exploring at either end of the walk.

If you are interested in this walking please help me with my planning by contacting me early so that I can make bookings and obtain permits from Parks Victoria.

See me in the clubrooms. I am in most Wednesday nights. Hope to see you there. Del.



PACK CARRY

HANNELS SPUR - LADY NORTHCOTE'S CANYON

DATE	1-6 January 2009
STANDARD	Hard
LEADERS	Jopie Bodegraven
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Snowy Mountains
MAP REF	Kosciusko 1:50,000

This is a tough walk only suitable for fit strong walkers who are able to handle extended difficult rock hopping on possibly wet rocks and scrub and steep off track stuff. Possibilities for breaking ankles and other body parts are abundant. I will not be taking anyone I don't know personally and there will be a small group size limit.

We start with the biggest spur in Australia, Hannells Spur, which is a relentless 1520m climb with 4 days food on a likely indistinct track to our campsite at Byatt's Camp. If we have any energy left we will explore the Abbot Range. On day 2 we do a circuit of the granite knobs west of Kosciusko. Then comes the hard part; the rugged descent of Lady Northcote's Canyon and the walk out along the untracked Geehi River spread over 2 days. Contact me before Xmas if you're silly enough to still want to come on this ridiculous and masochistic endurance test. Please note the dates differ from those on the summer program. The Wongungurra River trip has been postponed.



PACK CARRY

MT McDONALD & THE NOBS

DATE	16-18 Jan 2009
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	15-20km
LEADERS	Bert Reeh
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Alpine NP
MAP REF	Watersheds of the King, Howqua and Jamieson Rivers (Bush Maps Victoria)

Mt McDonald is the southern gateway to the central Alpine part of the Australian Alps Walking Track (AAWT) in Victoria, offering spectacular views to other peaks and across the Jamieson River.

Starting from Sheeppark Flat on Saturday morning we will drive to near Upper Jamieson Hut and start our walk with a 900m climb to this peak. After lunch we will follow the AAWT to our campsite on the flank of The Knobs and take in more views from the rocky ridgeline.

On Sunday we will continue to at least High Cone and possibly Mt Clear before dropping down to Clear Creek and back to the Jamieson River along Brocks Rd.



SUNDAY BUS

CORA LYNN CASCADES – ERSKINE FALLS

DATE	Sunday 4 January, 2009
STANDARD	Easy/Medium & Medium
DISTANCE	11.5 km & 14.5 km
LEADER(S)	Halina Sarbinowski & Tracey Jamieson
TRANSPORT	Bus from Southbank Blvd (8:45am start)
AREA	Back of Lorne
MAP REF	Lorne 7620-1-1 (1:25,000)

Both walks will follow the Lemonade Creek Track which links Blanket Leaf Picnic Area with the Erskine River. This provides walkers with an outstanding forest and river walk all the way to Lorne where a cappuccino, gelato or a swim can be enjoyed before we head home. There are three waterfalls along this walk with the magnificent Erskine Falls taking centre stage. The Medium group will also have the delight of viewing the Cora Lynn Cascades before following the same route as the E/M group.

This is a great walk to start the New Year. It has only been on the Sunday walks program once before – about three years ago. Please note the early start for this walk.

The club rooms will be closed on the two Wednesdays leading up to this walk (Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve) but we will be taking bookings in the club rooms on 10th December and also at the Christmas party on 17th December so prepare for your New Year's resolutions early by booking on this walk before the end of the year.



SUNDAY BUS

TOORADIN MARKET - GEORGE BASS WALK

DATE	Sunday 18 January 2009
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	approx 12 & 15 kms
LEADERS	Jan Colquhoun & Linda Stewart
TRANSPORT	Bus from Southbank Blvd at 9:00am
AREA	Wonthaggi
MAP REF	George Bass Coastal Walk- Vic Parks Visitor Guide

In the past we have driven past the Tooradin Market, held on the third Sunday of each month, with people commenting on how interesting the market looked. Well, for the first time we have decided to stop at the market for an hour, before returning to the bus and continuing our journey to the start of the George Bass Walk. You will have the opportunity to stroll around this local market that specializes in farm produce and crafts or perhaps enjoy a coffee in a local café.

The rail trail offers a diverse range of landscapes. Initially walking through farmlands we will pass an area of abandoned coal mines before reaching the coast at Kilcunda. Here we cross the historic railway trestle bridge before continuing our walk along the cliff tops of the Bunurong Marine and Coastal Park. These rugged sandstone cliffs, broad rock platforms and underwater reefs represent some of Victoria's most spectacular coastal scenery. Don't forget your swimsuit as there may be time for a dip at the nearby San Remo beach.

