



THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 cents

JUNE 2008

...BREAKING NEWSOUR CLUBROOMS ARE MOVING SOON...

SEE PAGE 2

SLIDE SHOW AND TALK Honeyeater - sweet success

A POSITIVE SUCCESS STORY

14 YEARS OF PLANTING FOR REGENT HONEYEATERS AND THE LANDSCAPE IS CHANGING !!

About the award-winning conservation work in the Box-Ironbark district of Lurg near Benalla.

Come and listen to **RAY THOMAS**

on Wednesday, 16th July, 2008 at 8pm

at our new club rooms, cnr William St and A' Beckett St, Melbourne (entrance William St)



20TH ANNIVERSARY – WEDNESDAY WALKS

Approximately 40 people turned up on 23rd April at Ruffey Lake Park in Doncaster, to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Wednesday Walks. The sunny weather set the scene for a great day where we welcomed a number of walkers and members from earlier days – Bob and Gwen Aujard, Margaret McGregor, Margaret Borden, Barbara Weston, George Sawenko, Bruce Campbell and Tracey Guest.

A sumptuous feast was laid out for morning tea following which most people undertook one of the two short walks available – a 3.7km outer circuit of the park or a 2.7km wander along the creek and around the lake. Returning to our shelter, the BBQ's were lit or the picnic lunches brought out before President Lynda spoke a few words of thanks and presented flowers to Jean Giese for initiating the Wednesday Walks and to

Margaret Curry for organizing the function. Jean then cut the anniversary cake and in a short speech mentioned other earlier walkers who were not able to join us on the day.

A list of all Wednesday walk leaders over the years was displayed and also photographs from previous walks which brought back memories of earlier walkers and varying locations. People lingered on until mid afternoon before farewells were made. Thanks to all those who attended to make this a memorable occasion, and particularly to Sandra Mutimer, Jan Palich, Jean Giese and Margaret Curry for providing the morning tea and anniversary cake, and to other members who contributed goodies for the day.



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: 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 by:

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 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

June 11	Mark Heath & Lynda Larkin	Yes
June 18	Del Franks & Peter Havlicek	
June 25	Ray Spooner & H Sarbinowski	Yes
July 2	John McCall & Lynda Larkin	
July 9	Jane Williams & Ray Spooner	Yes

Next Committee Meeting:

Monday, July 7 2008

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
September 2008 Condons Track (exact date TBA)	Steve Robertson
25-26 October 2008 Stronachs camp	Geoff Kelly

WE ARE MOVING !!

AS FROM WEDNESDAY 18TH JUNE 2008,

OUR CLUB ROOMS WILL BE LOCATED AT

THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

239 A' BECKETT STREET

MELBOURNE 3000

THE BUILDING IS SITUATED ON THE CORNER OF

A' BECKETT ST AND WILLIAM ST.

NB: ACCESS TO OUR NEW CLUB ROOMS IS VIA WILLIAM STREET

OUR MOVE AUSPICIOUSLY COINCIDES WITH THE FULL MOON!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE.

SOCIAL NIGHT



CARRINGBUSH HOTEL

WHEN	FRIDAY 20 JUNE, 6:30 FOR 7:00
WHERE	228 Langridge Street, Abbotsford
TRANSPORT	Private. Can be accessed by train - one block from Collingwood train station
AREA	MELWAYS 44 D6

President's report

COMMITTEE

At the May Committee meeting, we accepted, with regret, the resignation of Carol Criddle from her position as Vice President. We extend our sincere thanks to her for her years of excellent service whilst on Committee. We are now faced with the task of finding a replacement for this position. Any expressions of interest may be directed to Club Secretary, Howard Friend, or any committee member. This opening presents a great opportunity, for whoever may be interested, to enjoy being involved with the club at another level, to find out how it works and contribute in a valuable way to its operations.

GENERAL WALKS SECRETARY

Good news from the May committee meeting was the appointment of Jane Williams as our new General Walks Secretary (to be formally ratified at the MBW HYGM in August.) A BIG WELCOME FROM ALL OF US, JANE !!!

NEWSLETTER

A word of thanks and appreciation to all those who take the trouble to submit various reports to the newsletter and help to make it such an enjoyable reading experience, ranging from the informative, well-researched articles of our Equipment Officer, John Fritze, to accounts of overnight trips and preview notes penned by all our leaders and those who have participated in the trips.

HEALTH AND SAFETY AND INCIDENT REPORTING

Following a recent incident in which a walker became unwell on the Sunday bus, it became clear that we needed, as a club, to review our policies and establish clear guidelines for the safe and effective management of emergency situations which may arise during club activities. Probably the most important point which came out of discussion at our last committee meeting, is that should a person become unwell or if an emergency situation of any kind develops during a club activity, the leader (or leaders) should be informed immediately, or at least as soon as possible. In this way any decisions which need to be made can be done so in a safe, orderly manner in cooperation with the all those present.

PERSONAL INJURY AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Leaders will now need to be aware that following review of an Insurance Questionnaire recently circulated to member clubs by Bushwalking Victoria, Committee is developing an Incident Report Form, mainly for the purpose of having an accurate and clear record should an insurance claim need to be made. Copies of the form will be kept in each of the club's First Aid kits and the Leaders' Database. Walk Leaders' Checklists will be updated accordingly. Further information regarding Incident

reporting procedure is available from the Walk Secretaries, or Committee members will also be able to provide the necessary information .

It is also important should personal accident or injury occur during any club activity, that all members and temporary members be aware of their entitlement to insurance cover with our Bushwalking Victoria membership status.

TRACK MAINTENANCE

I had the pleasure of again visiting the Northern Grampians in early May, for the purpose of joining Rod Novak's track maintenance team of approx. 18 people from various walking clubs around the state. We did some rewarding work on sections of the Tilwinda Falls circuit track and Lookout Track on the Mount Difficult Road. This included signpost moving, pruning and replacing water bars, under the direction of David Witham of the Grampians Walking Tracks Support Group. I joined a pruning team and assisted, as well, with repositioning a couple of signs which read "STRENUOUS WALKING INVOLVED" but felt inclined to substitute these words with "STRENUOUS WORKING INVOLVED" with respect to the fantastic efforts of those who pushed heavy wheelbarrows full of sand to strategic points along the track. We all enjoyed lunch together in the Autumn sunshine and were well-entertained by a young kangaroo, who joined us. The soft-hearted amongst us offered a morsel or two, (though this is generally discouraged) and eventually the 'roo judged it to be safe enough to actually hop right in to the old tin campsite barbeque to forage around in the ashes for apple cores and other discarded scraps, the amusing irony of which did not escape us.

CLUB ROOMS

You are probably all aware by now that we are in the throes of negotiating a new venue for our club meetings. It has been a slow process acquiring ministerial approval and finalizing a legal agreement with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, who have agreed to let us use part of the building they occupy at the Drill Hall, 239 A'Beckett St, Melbourne. We will keep you informed and anticipate a possible move in mid-June

And now it's Winter. Time to rug up and enjoy another aspect of Nature in the bush, the lovely fragrance of wet bark and ferns and the richer hues of timber, foliage and forest floor collages during our moister months.

Happy, safe walking, All.

Lynda Larkin

Reports

EQUIPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

LOOKING AT YOUR EQUIPMENT : TENTS

If you are in the market for a single person, three-season hiking tent we think it's worth aiming for a very light double skin model with a rain protected side entry, generous vestibule, good ventilation and enough room to comfortably sit and lie.

At the budget end of the spectrum you could consider a disposals style cheapie for under \$100. It's not going to be the best of designs but you should still end up with something serviceable weighing less than 1.8kg.

A better choice would be the 1.38 kg Luxe Firefly. It's available from Backpacking Light, Somerset Place, Melbourne at a Bushies discounted price of \$180. We haven't seen any reviews or field reports yet but it looks like a good functional design. It has a mainly mesh inner (colder in winter – more comfortable in summer), an attempt at higher-level ventilation, a reasonable vestibule and marginal weather protection to the entrance (Vestibule functionality and wet weather performance can be greatly improved with a simple modification); but is a little rough around the edges and too small for some people. Still, we think it's a worthy tent and have added one to the club's list of equipment for hire.

If you are after something better the net is the place to look. In America MSR have been running out last year's Hubba for about US \$160 and even this year's model is selling for US \$250. It's a very functional design with a mesh inner like the Firefly but offers more space, better weather protection to the entrance, can be orientated on a site better (due to it's symmetrical design) and is probably made from more durable materials. On the downside, at 1.6

kg, it's disappointingly heavy, lacks high-level ventilation and has some minor issues with cut. For US \$350 the recently released Hubba HP addresses most of these issues by adding high-level ventilation, a mainly solid inner and a reduced weight of 1.3 kg. It would have to be one of the best tents in the class.

For the state of the art in lightweight tents you can't go past the Terra Nova Laser Competition at 0.95 kg or Photon at 0.84 kg (Including some stronger pegs and a bag). They cost US \$300 and US \$350 respectively and are also very functional. They have a better door design than the Hubbas and can be pitched fly first; but fit like a glove and could be too tight for some. In addition they are a little fiddly to pitch, lack high-level ventilation, have no storage pockets and may not last as long.

You will also want to allow for some minor modifications to get the best out of them.

If you can't make up your mind between the Hubba HP and the Lasers the Hilleberg Akto for US \$365 could be the answer. It's a similar design to the Laser but at 1.5 kg offers more space, greater durability fully adjustable ventilation and four-season versatility. We haven't had a good look at one yet but have read some very complimentary reviews. It seems that condensation and lots of guys to trip over are its possible shortcomings.

It's worth noting that some manufacturers, including MSR, discourage online sellers from exporting to Australia but it's usually possible to find some who do or to buy through a contact.

John Fritze



MELBOURNE BUSHIES
KUNGSLEDEN SKI TOUR
EASTER 2009
A 200 KM ARCTIC SKI TOUR FROM
VALLEY TO VALLEY, HUT TO HUT,
COMPLETING HALF THE FAMOUS
SCANDINAVIAN KUNGSLEDEN TRAIL,
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AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLETE THE
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KUNGSLEDEN.HTM](http://WWW.KIEWAVIEW.COM/OCKER/KUNGSLEDEN.HTM)



Noticeboard

BUSHWALKING VICTORIA (Federation) WEEKEND 2008

OCTOBER 18 AND 19

FIRST IN BEST DRESSED!!

Ballarat Bushwalking and Outdoor Club will be hosting this year's Bushwalking Victoria Weekend with walks planned in Mt Cole, Mt Buangor and Langhi Ghiran State Parks.

The weekend will be based at Beaufort Lake Caravan Park in the township of Beaufort, which is situated along the Western Highway 40 km west of Ballarat, 164 km west of Melbourne .

There will be plenty of camping facilities, but for those who would do not wish to camp, there is plenty of alternate accommodation in the area. This can be found on the BBOC website under "Guide to accommodation in the Beaufort area." Best to start booking now for the best places.

As with last year's event at Healesville, a list of proposed walks will be circulated in advance so that walkers can select their preferred walks and register early. This is still being drafted, but will be placed on the notice board in the club rooms and circulated to those who would like a copy as soon as it is ready.

Although it seems a while away, those interested are encouraged to start getting organized now and contact Base Camp Coordinator,

Katrina Murphy, for further information, re transport (for the purpose of car pooling), and to register early for the walks you would like, rather than miss out.

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

Cultura

For more than a year senior Kakadu Aboriginal traditional owner Violet Lawson has offered short bush tucker and culture walks near Cooida. We trialed Violet's tour on some of our trips last year. **Everyone who took part thought it was excellent.** Several said it was the one of the highlights of their trip. How could we leave it out?

Violet's tour will now be included on most of our trips that spend the night in Cooida – at no additional charge.

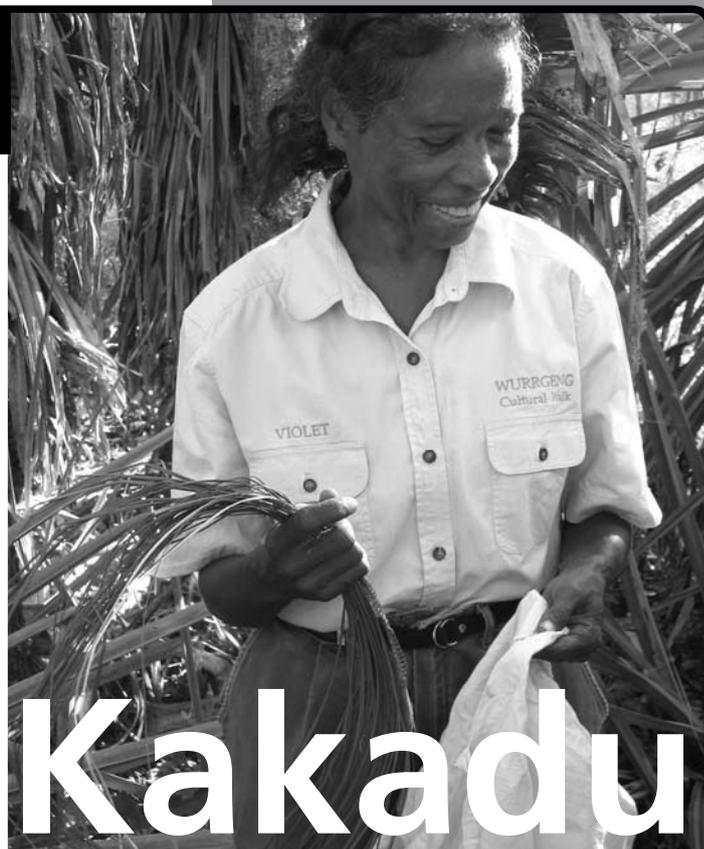
Come and enjoy it with us, and understand more about the landscapes through which you will walk on our Kakadu trips.

As us for details or visit our website for more information.

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



www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au



Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355

Members' Walks

FLOOD FIRE AND SNOW

TALI KARNG 24-27 APRIL

We were keen to inspect the flood damage along the Macalister and Wellington Rivers and the bushfire damage in the area but we weren't really expecting snow!

Our group of 14, depleted by a third due to a rather damp forecast, met at Cheyne's Bridge by the Macalister on Thursday night. Most of us did get some sleep despite the young hoons riding trailbikes and cutting timber with chainsaws at midnight would you believe!

The first obvious flood damage was Cheyne's Bridge itself, which was being rebuilt. Then driving upstream along the river valley most of the side creeks were devastated swathes of silt and rock, except some of the steeper ones which were just avenues of rock stripped bare. The river itself was an amazing ugly mess of rock and silt with the vegetation just gone, stripped bare by the enormous volume of floodwater that must have ripped through. Bridges were gone and been replaced with temporary ones and parts of the roadway had been washed away. There were numerous temporary one lane sections where reconstruction was in progress or planned.

The old beautiful Macalister and Wellington alas are no more and will take a very long time to recover. The fire damage was extensive although there were some areas that had somehow escaped.

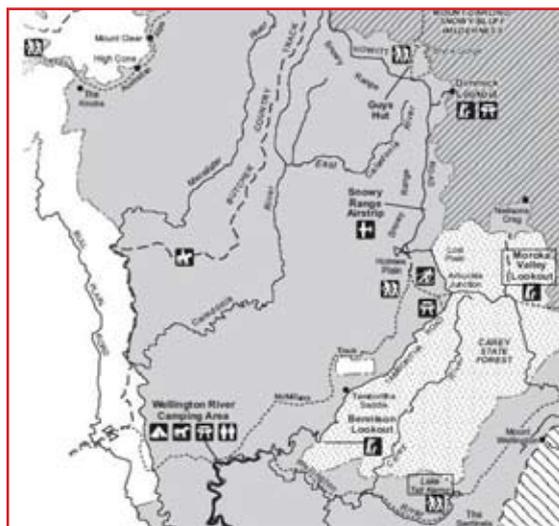
Friday saw us walking over Picture Point and Spion Kopje Ridge in very hazy weather. The terrain underfoot was very rocky and the track was very overgrown after the fires. And we got into some pretty dastardly scrub as well with lots of fallen dead timber. Probably best to give it a miss next time and use the time elsewhere. Our delightful campsite was on the plateau near

Nigothoruk Creek. This is the creek that flows into Tali Karng and we were here for 2 nights, on lovely grass surrounded by beautiful unburnt snow gums but with plenty of firewood. We had roaringly good campfires which was just as well because the nights were freezing and it gets dark by just after 6 in late April.

Saturday was a day trip down to Lake Tali Karng, the main objective of our long weekend. As we passed other bushwalkers struggling up the hill under their oversize packs, we thought what a good idea it was to do it as a day trip. The lake was beautiful but the water level was very low. This made it easier to skirt around the edge of the lake to explore the waterfalls on Nigothoruk Creek upstream of the lake. The waterfalls were lovely and great fun to scramble around. Four of us decided on some fun and adventure at this point. Why go back the same way when we could just follow the creek back towards camp. After about 2 seconds of debate we shot off and had a ball. The creek is an almost continuous series of cascades and small waterfalls; a rock hopper and scramblers paradise but definitely not for the unsure of foot or those with suspect balance.

That night was especially cold but we had our fire and some brave souls stayed up beyond 8.30! It rained overnight and then it started to gently snow. There was some concern

as to whether the non 4WDs would be stuck at MacFarlane's Saddle for the winter! We walked out briskly in gentle snow the whole way, admiring the changed white landscape and found an inch of snow on our cars. Driving out was a non event. Morning tea was at Licola, where the management of the store must have changed because they no longer had the offensive redneck anti conservation signs, tee shirts and hats that they used to always have there. Lunch at Traralgon and an early return home after a fascinating long weekend in the high country. Thanks to Ken McMahon for organising another great trip. **Jopie Bodegraven**



TRIP REPORT: GRAMPIANS NP TRACK MAINTENANCE 2-4 MAY

Four Melbourne Bushies joined in with other Bushwalking Victoria club members at the annual Grampians Track Maintenance weekend. There were 16 of us with bushies from the Sunraysia BWC, Warnambool BWC, VMTC and the Grampians BWC. On the Saturday we worked on the Tilwinda Circuit (Troopers Creek) making repairs to the deeply eroded track by building and backfilling steps [lots of hard wheel barrow work up the hill!!!] with two signs being repositioned and the pruning shears put to good use. A pleasant evening was had at the Plantation Campground with lots of good stories around the campfire. Two Sunraysia members have just returned from an epic 21 day trip across Corsica. On the Sunday we had a great climb up to Briggs Bluff which we shared with a soaring wedge-tailed eagle.

Many thanks to Lynda, Howard and Rosemary for their valued contribution.

Rod Novak

Members' Walks

SOGGY RIDE

REPORT OF BIKE RIDE TO THE YOU YANGS 16 MAY 2008

Leader Del Franks

When I woke up Saturday morning at 6 am and heard heavy rain falling on the roof I thought how easy it would be to ignore the alarm and go back to sleep. However despite the temptation I decided I would be letting the team down if I didn't go.

On arrival at Flinders St. station I met Phillip and we boarded the train to Werribee, then as the train stopped at Footscray Jopie appeared at our carriage door (he must have ESP) so at least there were at least 3 riders to meet Del at Werribee station.

On arrival at Werribee we were greeted by Del (who ridden down from Altona), we waited a while to see whether any other foolhardy "Bushies" were going to join us. The four intrepid riders headed off to Little River to meet other members who had elected to take a shorter ride by catching the Vline train to Little River.

The rain had not abated when we commenced the long straight ride along Bulban Rd heading towards the You Yangs. In spite of a head wind we made it to Little River in fairly quick time and had 30 minutes to spare before the train arrived. There was only one place to go - the local service station, cum coffee shop, cum newsagent, cum supermarket, where we had refreshments.

During this time the rain had become a great deal heavier which did nothing to dampen our spirits after all it could only get better. When the train pulled in we waited with great expectation as to whether any fellow cyclists (or fools) were going to join us. At first it appeared we were on our own, and then Paula and Richard alighted from the end carriage. With the rain still falling we commenced the reasonably short ride to the You Yangs. As we neared the Park a mob of kangaroos looked at us with an air of disdain and continued their grazing.

On arrival at the Visitors Centre we considered our options

one of which was to tackle the Grand Circuit however given the weather and the softness of the sandy track this was soon off the agenda.

We decided the best plan was to stick to sealed tracks so we took the reasonably steep road to the "Big Rock" which is a huge lump of granite dominating the landscape. We ditched the bikes and explored the "Rock" and enjoyed the panoramic vista- well as much as we could because of the poor visibility. After leaving the "Rock" our leader took us up a steeper road to the Turntable Car Park where we stopped for lunch luckily we found what we think is the only picnic shelter in the park see photo.

After lunch the rain was still falling so we decided to head back to the visitors centre, the ride down was great as it required no effort on our part as it was all downhill. As there was very little we could do because the conditions (Richard said the weather reminded him of his boyhood days in England where he rode to school in the rain most days) we started our return to Little River.

On the way back to our amazement we became part of a cycling race which was taking place in the area and even more



surprising we were only overtaken by the "scratch group" and one other rider before their course changed .

On reaching Little River Paula and Richard opted to catch the train back to Melbourne the remainder headed back to Werribee where we enjoyed a well earned coffee before catching the train home. Del, of course chose to ride the additional 20 kms back to Altona.

Thanks Del for organising a very 'interesting' but very cold and wet bike ride and thanks to the other guys for being so foolhardy.

Ray Spooner



SUNDAY BUS

DANDENONG TOURIST TRACK

DATE	Sunday 15 June 2008
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	13 & 17 kms
LEADER(S)	David Laing & Max Casley
TRANSPORT	Bus from Southbank Blvd at 9am
AREA	Sassafras and Emerald
MAP REF	Dandenong Ranges 1:37,500

Come and enjoy walking in the spectacular Dandenong Ranges. The E/M group will commence at Sassafras on the Dandenong Ranges Tourist Track. It basically follows the Sassafras Creek, winding its way through the Kallista and Monbulk areas, until it joins Menzies Creek, near Emerald. The Easy group will walk the same track but start the walk at Kay's Picnic Ground, just one of the pleasant stopping points along the way. This area abounds in ancient ferns and tremendous Mountain Ash eucalypts, which make this an unforgettable walk in an area so close to Melbourne. There should be time enough for refreshments in Emerald before our return to the city. You can expect a nice 20 degree June day for this walk but just in case the weather bureau stuff up, bring wet weather gear and especially a change of shoes



MOFS

WITTONS RESERVE – MT LOFTY

DATE	Monday 16 June 2008
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	10 km
LEADER	Jean Giese
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Wonga Park
MAP REF	Melway 279

We follow the Yarra River upstream from Wittons Reserve then enjoy panoramic views from Mt Lofty (formerly a grazing property). Descending to the river again we continue upstream then make our way back to the starting point by a different route. On bush tracks most of the time, this is a good walk in a fairly recent extension to Warrandyte State Park. Meet in Wittons Reserve (Melway 24K6) to start walking at 10.30 am.



WEDNESDAY WALK

KURTH KILN REGIONAL PARK

DATE	Wednesday 18 June 2008
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	12 km
LEADER	Max Casley
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Gembrook
MAP REF	Gembrook 1:25,000

We will start, finish and have lunch at the Kurth Kiln Picnic Ground which has picnic tables and toilets. There is an interesting historical display for the old charcoal kiln built for the petrol shortage of World War 2. In the morning we will walk to the north following Possum Trap Track and Monkhouse Track to Shepherd Creek. We will follow a road beside this creek and then walk along a delightful track beside Tomahawk Creek back to the Picnic Ground. After lunch we will walk south from the picnic ground to the forests which are known for brilliant wattle flowers - however we may be a bit early for these. We then walk to Tomahawk Creek upstream of the kiln and then go to the picnic ground via Thornton Track which is another delightful track along Tomahawk Creek.

Meet at 10:15 am at Kurth Kiln Picnic Ground which is at the intersection of Beenak Road and Soldiers Road. From Gembrook: go north-east 8.5 km toward Launching Place then turn left (west) into Soldiers Road. Continue 1.8 km and the picnic ground will be on the left. From Launching Place: from the Warburton Highway go south 17 km towards Gembrook and turn right (west) into Soldiers Road. Continue 1.8 km and the picnic ground will be on your left. If you would like to come on this walk please contact me.



SUNDAY BUS

CAMEL'S HUMP – CHEROKEE

DATE	Sunday 22 June 2008
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	12 & 14 kms
LEADER(S)	Tom Wilanowski & Peter Leech
TRANSPORT	Bus from clubrooms, 9:00am start
AREA	Macedon Ranges
MAP REF	Macedon 7823-3-3, Riddells Creek 7823-3-2, Romsey 7823-3-1, Woodend 7823-3-4

As this walk is on the shortest Sunday of the year and with the fear that we would be completing it by torchlight along an extended steep descent through trackless country prudence prevailed and the walk has been shortened. Unfortunately this means that we will not be visiting Mt Charlie, however, as recompense we will visit Mt Macedon Cross.

Both groups will visit the Cross before returning to the bus and travelling onto the start of their respective walks. The Easy Medium Group will start from Cameron Picnic Ground and the

Easy Group from Camel's Hump. Both walks will travel in an easterly direction with an opportunity to climb Camel's Hump and to see Sanatorium Lake. From here we will leave the normal walking track and work our way through spectacular tall forests to the small township of Cherokee. On a clear day there will be lovely views, however, the Macedon Ranges are renowned for eerie mists.

Mt Macedon can provide a variety of weather in winter from crisp, clear skies to heavy rains so please be prepared for any type of weather. Also as we will be walking on the shortest day of the year with sunset at 4:48pm as a precaution please bring a torch...hopefully it won't be needed.

If time allows we will stop at Mt Macedon Township for a warming cup of coffee before travelling back to Melbourne.

Please note that due to a fun run in the city the walk will start from the clubrooms.



SATURDAY WALK

MIDDLE PARK TO SANDRINGHAM

DATE Saturday 28 June 2008
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 12 Km
LEADER Margaret Campion

Meet at 10am at the Middle Park Light Rail Station – Armstrong St and Canterbury Rds (Melway ref. E 11) We walk from there to Sandringham Train Station. This is a beautiful beach walk with some pictures from the Artists' Trail to enjoy along the way. Bring a packed lunch and there are coffee shops at Sandringham. A bus can be caught back to St Kilda, then a 10 minute stroll through the park back to Middle Park.

No need to book in, just turn up. See you there.



SUNDAY BUS

BOSTOCK RESERVOIR – BALLAN

DATE Sunday 29 June 2008
STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 14 km & 17 km
LEADERS Del Franks & Jan Colquhoun
TRANSPORT Bus from Southbank Blvd

Bostock Reservoir is part of the Moorabool water supply system for Geelong. It is in a picturesque setting surrounded by 100 hectares of pine trees. The Moorabool is a big river, with branches to the east and west. This is a pleasant walk that offers a diverse range of scenery. We will start by walking around and perhaps cutting across some of the dried out areas of the reservoir; this is visually interesting in itself. Despite the droughts there is still plenty of water and birdlife in the reservoir. With both groups starting at the reservoir, the E/M

group will start with a 3 km circuit, passing the Ballan mineral springs on the way. The Moorabool always has water in it, as does the creek. On previous walks people have spotted koalas in this area; there are quite a few to be seen, but generally you have to look carefully. Back at the reservoir, we'll walk along the shore line, before passing through a pine forest. From here on, it's bush tracks and open forest until we reach the relatively shallow river. Both groups will follow the course of the Moorabool, where it may be necessary to cross or climb higher in order to negotiate some of the steep sides. We shall explore the meanders of the river with some stunning scenery from the steeper ridges. Much of this section of the walk shall be off track. We will visit 'Neanderthal hut' an ingenious shelter built from local material that we came across by chance on our preview.



TOFS

YOU YANGS

DATE Thursday 3 July 2008
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 11 kms
LEADERS Alister Rowe
TRANSPORT Private
AREA You Yangs
MAP REF Melway Map No. 11

We will meet in the car park nearest the main entrance at 10.30 am. I have not finalised the details of this walk as yet but it will probably include Flinders Peak. A very scenic area, but some rain would help. The walk should conclude about 2.45 pm.

SUNDAY BUS



OLINDA FOREST TRAIL

DATE Sunday 6 July 2008
STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 13 & 16 kms
LEADER(S) Mark Heath & Maddy Lock
TRANSPORT Bus from Southbank Blvd at 9am
AREA Dandenongs
MAP REF Melway 60/120

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. These are pleasant walks with waterfalls, lyrebirds, good views and the Hamer Arboretum to enjoy.



CYCLING

RUFFEY CREEK – GREEN GULLY

DATE Saturday 12 July 2008
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 40 km (or shorter – 30 km)
LEADER Ross Berner
TRANSPORT Car or Train to Eltham Station (or Greensborough Station)
RETURN TIME About 4:00 PM (Eltham Station)
AREA Banyule & Manningham.
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 10, 11, 20, 21, 22, 32, 33 & 34

The meeting place for ride is the east side of Eltham Railway Station (Melway 21 J5) at 10:30 AM.

While this is a shorter ride, it includes 2 main hills. An alternative starting point is Greensborough Station at 11.30 AM (north side Melway 20 K2). This eliminates the first main hill and reduces ride to 30km.

If you are travelling by train, you will need to take Hurstbridge Line Train departing from Flinders St at 9:28 AM to Eltham Station. (If starting ride from Greensborough, take 10:28 AM train from Flinders St. Greensborough station is also on Hurstbridge Line.)

Leaving Eltham station we cross from Diamond Valley to Plenty Valley, which involves a climb of about 100m. We join the Plenty River Trail and follow this to Greensborough, and then to Viewbank, where we get an excellent view down the Yarra Valley. We briefly join Main Yarra Trail, cross Odyssey House Footbridge and follow Ruffey Creek Trail to Ruffey Lake Park. By following this trail we avoid the surrounding steep hills. From here we have second big climb, to cross over to pick up Green Gully Trail. From here we descend to the Mullum Mullum Trail and Tikalara Park. We then follow the Main Yarra Trail again before returning to Eltham on the Diamond Valley Trail.

Do you want lead a bike ride? We are looking for rides for later this year.



SUNDAY BUS

ELPHINSTONE TUNNEL – IRISHTOWN TRACK

DATE Sunday 13 July 2008
STANDARD Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCE 14 km & 19 km
LEADER(S) Graeme Walkden and Andrew Francis
TRANSPORT Bus from Southbank Blvd at 9am
AREA South of Chewton and Elphinstone
MAP REF Chewton, Drummond and Guildford 1:25,000

This is Box-Ironbark and gold mining country. Gold was found in the area late in 1851. After the gold ran out, the area between Elphinstone and Irishtown became the Fryers Ranges State Forest. It is now part of the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park. We walk through dry open forest with little undergrowth.

Both walks start near the Elphinstone railway tunnel and follow the same route for about 6 km along tracks. After that, the two groups take different routes. The Easy/Medium route includes about 2 km off-track (including a section along Nuggetty Creek). The final stage of this route is on tracks and includes three short sharp climbs and three similar descents. The Medium route includes about 7 km off-track (including sections along Columbine Creek and Salters Creek). At one section of Columbine Creek, dry stone walls line the banks. Another feature of this route is the gold era pipeline that crosses Salters Creek on timber trestles. Both walks end at a small dam beside Irishtown Track.



WEDNESDAY WALK

ANAKIE GORGE

DATE Wednesday 16 July 2008
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 11 km
LEADER Margaret Curry
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Brisbane Ranges
MAP REF Vicmap 1:25,000 Staughton Vale and Eclipse Creek, Park Notes from Parks Victoria, Melway 511/D3, Vic Roads Map 77/F8

This is a great winter's day walk, not difficult, with only two slightly steep sections – one uphill and one downhill. The scenery is extremely varied – forest areas, an abundance of grass trees, remains of aqueducts, and system of old stone walls. There are a couple of stunning viewpoints and we also visit Lower Stony Creek reservoir. The gorge track crosses Stony Creek many times by means of small wooden bridges. Wallabies sighted on the preview. Parks Victoria has placed many interpretive signs to understand the flora and fauna.

Travel via Princes Highway and turn off at Little River or take the Western freeway to Bacchus Marsh and then the Geelong Road. At junction of Staughtonvale Road

and Geelong-Ballan Road, heading towards Ballan, travel approximately 2.5km before turning right onto Switch Road. Follow this winding dirt road approximately 2.5km to Stony Creek Picnic Ground. Meet at 10.15am for a 10.30am start.

SUNDAY BUS



WHISKEY CREEK, LERDERDERG RIVER

DATE Sunday 20 July 2008
STANDARD Easy-medium / Medium
DISTANCE 14 km / 17 km
LEADER(S) Nik Dow & Lynda Larkin
TRANSPORT Bus from Southbank Blvd
AREA Lerderderg State Park
MAP REF Greendale 1:25,000

Probably not done before as a Sunday walk, both walks go off track along Whiskey Creek before following the familiar track up the Lerderderg River to O'Brien's Crossing. The shorter walk covers about 1.5 km of Whiskey Creek where it is a wide rock-strewn (and on our preview, dry) river bed, after a short sharp descent using the Great Dividing Trail. The longer walk covers most of the length of Whiskey Creek, requiring about 4 hours off track, including some log and rock-hopping.

Rewards for both walks are some delightful scenery and a "lost" feeling (not really) down in the deep valley. Bring stout boots with good tread.

MOFS



BOX HILL SOUTH – BLACKBURN PARKS

DATE Monday 21 July 2008
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 10 km
LEADER Jean Giese
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Box Hill-Blackburn
 Expected time of return: 3.00pm

A pleasant winter walk linking the parks of Box Hill South and Blackburn Lake. We will include the area beside Gardiner's Creek where the Artists later known as belonging to the "Heidelberg School" first set up camp to explore painting in the "open air".

Meet in the parking area of RHL Sparks Reserve, entering from Albion Road (Melway 47, G11), to start walking at 10.30 am.



BASE CAMP

SNAKE ISLAND

DATE June 14 -15 2008
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 16 kms
LEADER Susan Maughan
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Snake Island – Port Welshpool
MAP REF Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park

We will meet at Port Welshpool at 08:00 on Saturday morning for and 08:15 departure by boat to the western side of the islands. This means we will be dropped off next to the cattlemen's huts and this will allow a prompt and early start to our walk. We will explore the southern end of the island but will need to be mindful that the days are very short. Should the weather or tide prevent us from landing in the appointed spot, our boatman will drop us off at Swashway jetty which will mean an approximately 2 hour long walk to the huts. Should this be the case we will need to modify the afternoon walk?

The boat can take 14 people and the cost to each will work out to be between \$50 and \$70 depending on numbers. The accommodation in the huts is free. There is a dormitory, a kitchen and fresh water but essentially we will need to be self sufficient. There is flat ground for tents.

The island was a refuge for the Gunai Kurnai people; it was mainly used as a nuptial island for their young people. Today we can enjoy the island's diverse range of flora and fauna. It is ideal for bird watchers and home to the ground parrot as well as the swamp antechinus.

Anglers are welcome but need to obtain a licence.



BASE CAMP

ULUPNA ISLAND (MURRAY RIVER)

DATE July 4-6 2008
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE Max. 20kms
LEADERS Bob Steel & Michael Mann
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Murray River near Strathmerton

MAP REF Melway 921, J4 (2008 Edition) – Vic Roads Map 22 J7

Come on an easy base camp at Carters Beach on the Murray River. Access via Shepparton & the Murray Valley Hwy to Strathmerton. Last few kms to camp is gravel and dirt but should be OK so long as it is not too wet. There is a wide beach at Carters Beach, plenty of space to camp, drop toilets, lots of koalas, bird life. You could even try your hand at fishing (NSW licence required). We will do some leisurely walks along the banks of the Murray River – not too hard or too long. There will be plenty of time to relax. We should be able to have a

campfire at night. Bring chairs and other luxuries. Leaders will be there Friday afternoon and probably stay til Monday but you can come up on Saturday morning if you wish. There is a great bakery in Strathmerton, which is approx 12.5 kms from our campsite.

See leaders in clubrooms on how to get there

PACK CARRY

We will be camping at Roaring Meg, via the Telegraph Saddle & Walking Track. Once we get to Roaring Meg we can decide whether to visit, with day packs, the Lighthouse (South East Point) or go down to South Point. I hope to visit both these points, so the one that we don't do on Saturday, we will do on Sunday before returning to Tidal River via Oberon Bay. If you are interested in coming on this Pack Carry please contact me as soon as possible as I will have to booking the camping with Parks Victoria.



WILSON'S PROM LIGHTHOUSE – OBERON BAY CIRCUIT

DATE July 11-13 2008
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 38 km

LEADER(S) Del Franks
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Wilson's Promontory National Park
MAP REF Wilson's Promontory National Park

The idea is to travel down to Wilson's Prom on Friday and camp at Tidal River, so that we can have an early start on Saturday morning.



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
June				
15	Dandenong Tourist Track	Bus	E & E/M	David Laing & Max Casley
15-16	BC: Snake Island	Private	E	Susan Maughan
16	MOFs: Wittons Reserve – Mt Lofty	Private	E	Jean Giese
18	WW: Kurth Kiln Regional Park	Private	E/M	Max Casley
22	Camel's Hump - Mt Charlie	Bus	E/M & M	Tom Wilanowski & Peter Leech
28	Explorer Middle Park to Sandringham	Private	E	Margaret Champion
29	Bostock Reservoir – Ballan	Bus	E & E/M	Del Franks & Jan Colquhoun
July				
3	You Yangs	Private	E	Alister Rowe
4-6	BC: Ulupna Island -Murray River (Strathmerton)	Private	E	Bob Steel & Michael Mann
6	Olinda Forest trail (Dandenongs)	Bus	E & E/M	Mark Heath & Maddy Lock
11-13	PC: Wilsons Prom Lighthouse – Oberon Circuit	Private	M	Del Franks

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