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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 cents

Edition 697

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello everyone!

The newly elected Melbourne Bushwalkers Committee has already met and is working on a number of issues and initiatives. I am pleased to advise that Tony Ralston (Webmaster), John Fritze (Equipment Officer), David Arnold (Database Administrator) and Pearson Cresswell (Public Officer) have agreed to continue in their roles for the 2009/10 year.

The Committee has seconded some additional members to assist with the Wednesday night Duty Roster and we thank Lynda Larkin, John McCall, Wendy Fortington, Gillian Wainwright and Max Casley for agreeing to help out.

To all our Activity Coordinators, WalkLeaders, Club Contacts as well as Search and Rescue delegates (Gina Hopkins, Derrick Brown, Jopie Bodegraven, Bill Metzenthén, David Liang and Peter Leech) thank you for your continuing contribution.

It is hoped that the bushfire season is now behind us.

Scheduling of walks over the coming months will be more difficult due to the limited areas we are able to walk in. Changes may need to be made to the Walks Program from time to time and we ask that members are patient with such rescheduling. To check on the state of parks go to the Parks Victoria website <http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au> and VicRoads website <http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au>, also VicRoads Hotline 131 170. One way of assisting the affected communities will be to spend money in those areas when they re-open to visitors. As advised in last month's Newsletter Bushwalking Victoria's (BWV) 75th Anniversary Walk Day scheduled for 5th April in the Mt Disappointment State Forest was cancelled. BWV is hopeful that preparations for that day may be used at a future date. In the meantime they are considering alternative events to be held outside the fire season.

Melbourne Bushwalkers is currently participating in "WWW – Where We Walked" which is a BWV 75th Anniversary project to collect and record information on member use of our outdoor areas. Following the devastating bushfires the information collected through WWW will be of great assistance to BWV as they work with Parks Victoria and DSE on planning and implementing bushfire recovery projects. To date 26 clubs have contributed data and over 1,100 walks involving nearly 14,000 walkers have been recorded. This information can then be used for a range of purposes that will assist BWV to better represent the interests of bushwalkers.

Enjoy all your walks and activities in the coming months.

Margaret Curry
President



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



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.

Please note:

Next committee meeting will take place on

MONDAY 4 MAY 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.

2009 Activity Dates	Leader contact details
Date TBA Grampians	Rod Novak

Club Rooms Duty Roster: Treasurer present:

Apr 15	Ray Spooner/Bernadette Prunty	Yes
Apr 22	Mick Noonan & Carol Sisson	
Apr 29	Rod Novak & Margaret Curry	Yes
May 6	Marilyn Lock & Carol Sisson	
May 13	Mark Heath & Mick Noonan	Yes
May 20	John McCall & Margaret Curry	
May 27	Lynda Larkin & Gillian Wainwright	Yes

SOCIAL NIGHT



WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL.

**NZ WINE NIGHT
FOLLOWED BY SLIDES
OF CLUB TRIP TO NZ
CHRISTMAS 08**

Usually we enjoy wine and cheese on the 4th Wednesday of each month, but this month we have 5 Wednesdays so let's do something a little different. We will offer a small selection of NZ wines from 7 p.m to set the mood for what promises to be a terrific slide show, presented by Marjie Courtis and leader Brian Wallbank. In the February News Marjie entertained us with her Review and left us wanting more. The show commences at 8 p.m. (Please remember to bring loose change for the wine donation.)

For further details (or reassurance) contact Susan

Reports

SUNDAY BUS SURVEY RESULTS -

WHY DO WE GO WALKING?

Because our recent survey found that more than 80% of respondents regarded their laytewst walk as enjoyable or very enjoyable

Thanks to all those 95 members and 10 visitors who responded – that’s about 20% of our membership!!.

The Sunday Bus is what makes our club unique and brings us many new members – around 80 last year. With a slight reduction in numbers over time and an increase in costs we need to ensure it remains a viable and attractive option for the club, its members and visitors. So it was great to get such a large response and so many comments

Some of the key Survey results:

We have lots of regular Sunday walkers:

26 walking 6-10 times and 30 walking more than 10 times in the last 2 years

The key reasons for going on the bus were:

20% Exercise - 19% The Walk - 17% Social - 12% The Environment - 11% The Bus

People really enjoyed their ‘last’ Sunday walk:

Not Enjoyable	OK		Very Enjoyable	
1	2	3	4	5
1%	2%	13%	33%	51%

In response to “What would encourage you to use the Sunday Bus more often?” the top results were:

37% Not having to go into the Clubrooms, 15% New Walks, 11% Coffee stops, 10% Easier Walks, 7% Harder walks, etc.....

In response to “Why don’t you go on the Bus more often?” the top results were:

41% too hard to get in to book and 17% too expensive

People prefer (in order):

17% Mountains, 15% Forests, 14% Waterfalls, 16% Sea Views and 11% Beach Walks and with easier and harder walks getting the same rating on 4%

59% of people knew about the Cheque Booking Option, and 30% knew about the Prepayment System

A number of the things you told us have already been implemented with more to follow e.g. an Online booking option and an earlier start at 8:45.

Clearly the biggest hindrance to using the Bus more was having to come into the Clubrooms, we have lots of frequent walkers using the bus, there was almost an equal split between those who wanted harder and easier walks, and many people view the Sunday walks as an important social activity.

We will be putting the full survey results including all the commentary on the Club Website and spending time at the

Committee analysing the results.

Regards

Mick Noonan



USE IT OR LOSE IT!!!

You might be surprised to know that one of our favourite pieces of equipment is both heavy and large. It’s an item that for many years has enabled us to enjoy a unique perspective on some of Victoria’s most precious places and people. It’s something we take for granted and wouldn’t normally mention, except for the fact that it’s in danger - have you guessed? - it is the **Sunday bus**.

We will lose it if we don’t use it!

John Fritze

Reports

WEBSITE BULLETIN BOARD REVAMPED

The Club's website in its original and newer versions has had a bulletin board facility since late 2001 but it has never had extensive use and even less so in recent years. The bulletin board has been revamped and members are encouraged to have a look at the available forums (http://www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au/Bulletin_Board/MBW_forum.htm) and make use of this facility for exchange of information. The forum postings can be read without logging in, and it is easy to register so you can log in and make postings or reply to others' postings.

Members can share their knowledge of particular walks and tracks which could be used in the Club's walks program. They can give or seek advice on bushwalking

equipment or offer used equipment for sale or discuss other matters of interest to bushwalkers.

Walk leaders can arrange with those booked on their walks to use the bulletin board to advise of any late changes or final instructions for the walks. They can post information on walks they would like to lead and seek expressions of interest.

The intended purpose of each forum is briefly described on the bulletin board and further comments on use of the forums is posted on the General Discussion forum.

Any comments or suggestions for improving the facility should be posted as a reply to this posting.

Tony Ralston - Webmaster

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

As you all know, Bushwalking is an adventure activity – and on an adventure things do not always go quite as planned.

However, if both yourself and your co-adventurers are prepared and aware of the risks, the outcome of the unexpected is for the better.

On the occasion of renewing your membership, please take time to reflect on your fitness when engaging in Bushwalking.

Temporary members (visitors) on joining us sign 'acknowledgment of risks' forms. When you (an experienced Bushwalker) go on a walk, please, mentally review your fitness and the proposed activity. Share with your leader information about any your impairments that might reduce the chances of concluding a successful and enjoyable-for-all Bushwalk. With that, all the best and many enjoyable walks!

Peter Havlicek

PHOTOS FOR WEBSITE

We would like more members to submit photographs for the Photogallery on the club's website.

If several people on a trip wish to have their photos put on the website, one person only should be nominated to take responsibility for collecting and preparing photos before submitting to the webmaster.

Guidelines for submitting photos are on the Club's website under "Quick Picks" - "Frequent Questions" - "How do I get photos published on the website".;Appendix 'D' of these Guidelines contains a detailed worked example using Windows XP.

If you have any problems in following the guidelines to prepare photographs for forwarding to the webmaster, please contact Max Casley.

A worked example using Apple Mac will be advised as soon as possible.

2009 COMMITTEE

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC

President	Margaret Curry
Vice President	Mick Noonan
Secretary	Howard Friend
Treasurer	Ray Spooner
Membership Secretary	Peter Havlicek
General Walks Secretary	Jane Williams
Assistant Walks Secretary	Halina Sarbinowski
Newsletter Editor	Catherine Cardinet
Social Secretary	Susan Maughan
General Committee	Carol Sisson
	Mark Heath
	Rod Novak
	Bernadette Prunty
	Marilyn Lock

Noticeboard

SLIDE & INFORMATION NIGHT

TMB

Wed 03 June
8 PM at the Clubrooms

Mohammad invites you to Tour Mount Blanc Walking in France, Italy and Switzerland.

HOUSE SITTING

Loch and Jan are looking for a housesitter from May 16 to approximately July 19 2009. We live in a 2 bedroom house in Northcote centrally located close to Fairfield shops and train and buses and boast off street parking.

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

ANNUAL MEGA BUYING NIGHT

ON AT THE WILDERNESS SHOP

One Night Only!

WHEN: Tuesday 12th May 6.00pm - 9.00pm

WHERE: The Wilderness Shop, 969 Whitehorse Rd, Box Hill.

WHAT:

20% OFF ALL OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT including bushwalking, rockclimbing & XC skis, 5% OFF SALE ITEMS

DOOR PRIZE:

Just be there for a chance to Win a door prize!

OTHER GOODIES:

Snacks, Pizza, Drinks, Beer & Softdrink

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

The Charnley River

The Charnley is one of the most spectacular and least accessible rivers in the Kimberley. The lower section goes through about 30 km of continuous gorge.

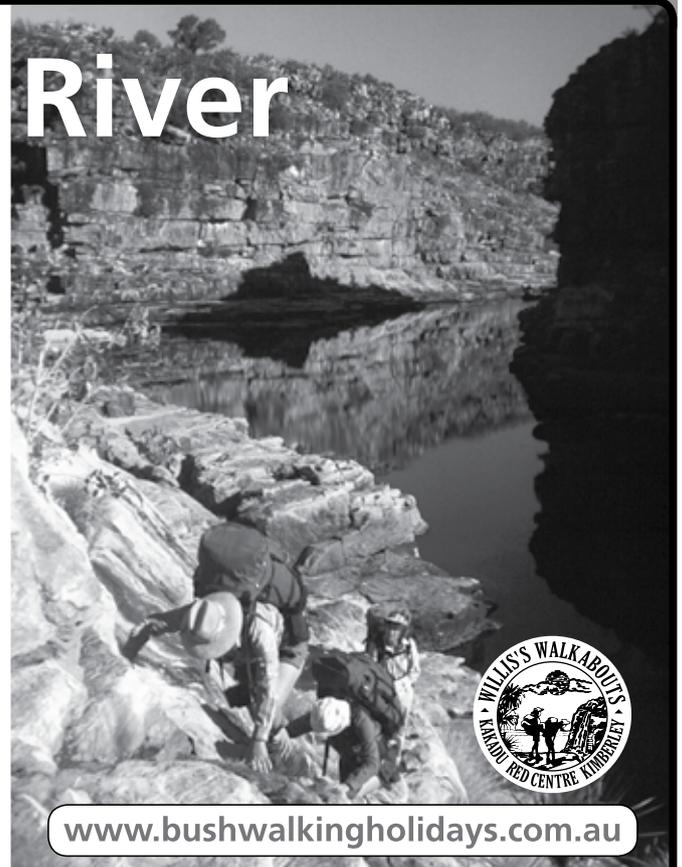
Dozens of Aboriginal art sites show that this has been a special place for thousands of years. With so many interesting side creeks to explore, our Charnley Explorer includes a number of day walks where we don't carry full packs.

Want something even better? Enjoy an easy start to your holiday by combining the Charnley walk with the final section of our Gibb Gorges trip. This takes you about 200 km along the Munja Track. Along the way we do some day and half day walks as well as a four day walk along the two branches of Bachsten Creek. We've found some beautiful spots on previous Bachsten walks there and have been told about something special which we hope to find for the first time this year.

Want more info? Log onto our website, click onto the Kimberley tour list and click the photo gallery link below the trip. No web access? Ask for the trip notes.

Definite departure. Limited space available.

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



www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au

Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355

Noticeboard

A reminder of an excellent NSW pack carry next Melbourne Cup weekend. Please check page 6 of March NEWS for details
Early bookings are essential to obtain cheap air fares.
Please contact Bob Oxlade

HOUSE SITTER REQUIRED

We are going away for June and July and want a housesitter for our house in Kew. It' is quiet, spacious, and there is a garden and parking.

Please phone 9 or email

Derrick and Gina

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST SOUGHT

Dusky Track, Fiordland, New Zealand (PACK CARRY - 8-10days)

4th Jan 2010 - 11-13th January 2010 - Depending on the weather.

Rating: Medium - Hard

Small Group - Only 5 places (first in best dressed)

Experienced in pack hiking and a high level of fitness is necessary - ONLY TAKING PEOPLE I KNOW

This is a breathtaking track which challenges the eyes and the legs.

We cross deep rivers (so swimming may be required) and hike amazing mountains.

The track starts at Lake Hauroko and finishes at Lake Manapouri with a side visit to Dusky Sound which is a fantastic fishing spot. An all-round amazing hike for those who like a challenge.

fFor more information either email me or keep an eye out for the June Newsletter

Hans Edlinger

SKIING ON THE HIGH PLAINS

This year the MBW ski week at the Rover Chalet will take place from August 8th to 15th. We have been very lucky with good snow for our week for the last few years ,so let us hope for the same luck!

The Rover Chalet is self-contained, about 10km ski from Falls Ck. We organise loose rosters for cooking, cleaning and other chores. Weather permitting, we usually go out for full day ski trips most days.

If you are interested speak to me on 5964 4581. I will be away from late April till early June but if you need info in that time speak to Bill Metzenthen or Merilyn Whippey

Rover booking forms can be downloaded from

Doug Pocock

David and Michelle Elias who met on a Base Camp on the Australia Day long week end in January 2004 are proud to announce the birth of their second child, Heath, on December 24 2008.



Noticeboard

FIRE APPEAL BUSHDANCE

Over the years many bushwalkers have enjoyed themselves at bush dances. Now is your chance to enjoy another one and support the Victorian Bushfire Appeal at the same time!

My name is Naomi and I am in a performance group called Borderline Kaylee and together with the Victorian Folk Music Club we have arranged a family bush dance on Saturday 25th of April at the Ringwood Senior Citizens Hall (Laurence Gve Ringwood, Melways 50 B8). It will start at 8pm and run till 11pm with a light supper provided.

Entry is \$10 adults, \$8 under 14yrs old and under 5yrs old free.

ALL money will be going to the Bushfire Appeal. We are lucky enough to get the hall free of charge and Borderline Kaylee will be donating their services.

There will also be a raffle, a door prize and spot prizes throughout the night.

All dances will be called or demonstrated. No experience is necessary, only enthusiasm!

PACK CARRY TRIPS FOR SPRING

EARLIER THAN USUAL PLANNING

Normally we have until late June to get our Spring pack carry list together for the Spring program. This time is different however as I will be overseas from late April until the end of June, so I need to get it done before I go. I therefore ask all leaders to put your thinking caps on early and let me know what trips you would like to lead on the program. Spring is wildflower season, good for trips in the Grampians, Goldfield areas, parts of the Alps that may be affected by lack of water later in the Summer and lots of other areas. Ring me with your offers and suggestions

Jopie Bodegraven

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PACK CARRY

QUEENS BIRTHDAY LONG WEEKEND - WILSONS PROMONTORY

DATE:	5- 8 June 09
STANDARDS	E/M
DISTANCE	45k kms
LEADER	Agajan Akbari
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Southern Prom
MAP REFERENCE	Wilson's Promontory N-P Outdoor Leisure Map

This is a quite spectacular walk in Southern part of the most loved national park in Victoria. Its great variety of scenery, terrain, vegetation and wildlife make it a magnet for all seasoned hikers. It will be very nice to see the park rehabilitation after those big fires few years ago as well to see the damage done to the park by the recent bush fire, so don't miss out.

Walk start Saturday morning at Telegraph Saddle Car Park we camp Saturday night at Roaring Meg camp site. And if we have some energy left (it is optional) we may do a site trip to southerly point on the Australian mainland known as South Point.

On Sunday we walk via the south east coast track and Lighthouse, camp at Little Waterloo Bay.

Monday we break the camp site and walk back to the cars via Little Waterloo Bay and Telegraph Tracks.

There is a limitation on numbers of walkers imposed by the park (10 -12 Max.). Normally during long weekend park camp sites get crowded and I must book camp sites in advance. If interested contact me as I need to know the number of walkers.

THE JENNY BARNETT CONSERVATION TRIBUTE CAMPAIGN

At the recent AGM the matter of our club making a \$1500 donation to the Bushfire Appeal was discussed.

I informed the club of a current fundraiser organized by the Victorian parks association for The Jenny Barnett Conservation Tribute Campaign.

Jenny was on staff at the VNPA and died in the recent fires. The following are excerpts from a tribute to Jenny from the VNPA:-

Jenny was a trained Zoologist and a dedicated conservationist for over 25 years. "Her knowledge anchored many VNPA campaigns including fire ecology, conservation planning, alpine parks and alpine grazing "to name a few.

Jenny also wrote a book or "bible" on local conservation in the 1990's called Standing up for your local environment.

Her huge legacy will be missed" and at her time of death Jenny was working on a major fire ecology project.

Funds raised for this campaign will be used to: Provide informed, science based input to the Royal Commission on bushfires.

Respond to backlash against national parks and conservation after the fire.

Continue Jenny's work on intelligent planning for nature conservation.

Further information on the campaign is available at vnpa@vnpa.org.au

The motion for our club to proceed with a donation to this campaign at the AGM was passed.

Maddy Lock

SOCIAL CALENDAR

**FRIDAY 7th MAY-SATURDAY 8th MAY
THE INAUGURAL ARTS AND CRAFT SHOW**

You are cordially invited to view club members' works at the home of Jean Giese, 9 Albert Crescent, Surrey Hills.

The arts and crafts will be displayed in the reception rooms with tea, coffee and chocolate bikkies provided to add to the social atmosphere. The work of club luminaries Les Southwell and Lloyd Young will be on show plus many other friends and Bushies so please take time out to support this unique event. This is primarily an exhibition, however private sales can be made directly with the exhibitor.

You may wish to make a gold coin donation to cover the cost of the refreshments and Jean will donate any surplus to the Bushfire Appeal.

Participants....We'd love to see your paintings, photography, embroidery, woodwork, quilting, sculpture, etc. so please contact either Susan Maughan or Jean Geise to secure your spot and to organise setting up.

Helpers....Are you free on these days to help Jean and Susan for a few hours?

POP THIS IN YOUR DIARY NOW!!

PLUS MORE SLIDE SHOWS TO LOOK FORWARD TO :-

WEDNESDAY 3 JUNE

Agajan's Tour of Mount Blanc, August 08

WEDNESDAY 15 JULY

Susanna and Maddie's El Camino and tapas night.

Review

REPORT ON THE TARRA-BULGA NATIONAL PARK BASE CAMP,

MARCH 20 TO 22, 2009.

People drifted in as Friday unwound, with the few with real jobs rolling up, yawning, early Saturday morning.

The initial mood of the arrivals was sombre, sobered by the kilometres of devastation wreaked by the huge Churchill fire on the park's approaches. However, the miracle that the park itself, with its stunning fern gullies, gigantic Mountain Ash and venerable Myrtle Beech (one over a 1000 years old) was largely unharmed soon worked its magic on long faces.

Every camp has those special moments, those highlights that stand long in the participant's memories. Who of us in that Gippsland forest that weekend will forget the much visited Balook tea rooms, the innumerable photo shoots, Carol's bridge, dinner under the stars by the Tarra River, Wendy's walking stick and our esteemed leader's arithmetic?

Mick 'Killer' Noonan assured us there was just one hill to worry about. Those of us who have passed primary maths, got to four on Saturday and two on Sunday. Now you might think that 'Killer' is a harsh judgement on someone who's only failing is a shortage of useful fingers, but there is more. Your reporter won't say the walks were challenging, but consider if you will the plight of the 17 fresh faced, innocent souls that set out that Saturday morning. They revelled in the ease of the first tree fern gully ramble before relaxing with cheerful laughter in the first of our tea room sessions. That was, however, the quiet before the storm. For our last, Sunday afternoon, visit to that commendable establishment there were just eight,

that's right eight, survivors - a casualty rate for the mathematically minded of 53%! I hasten to add that rumours of 'Killer' being investigated by the Homicide Squad and Missing Person's Bureau are as yet unsubstantiated.

Oh yes, and while I think of it, I reiterate the welcome given to our four visitors, Sandy, Katrina, Linda (generous donor of much of Saturday night's dinner) and Coleen. Has anybody discovered what became of them, I wonder.

We should probably slide past Wendy's attempt to minister to Saturday night's fire with her much fought over walking stick, an effort that somehow



managed to tip Sheena into the babbling, rock-strewn, platypus-infested brook.

This chronicle would be incomplete if we didn't bemoan the almost total disintegration of the rugged, tough reputation of the MBW. Of the 17 souls who showed up, 15 skulked in cabins with just 2 setting up tents on the river bank. Actually it would probably be more accurate to say there was just one tent plus a presidential palace, wouldn't it Margaret? How many slaves did it take to disassemble it on Sunday morning?

That's probably enough defamation for one trip, it's time for your diarist to limp over to the Yellow Pages and see what's listed under 'Massages – Remedial'

David Sharman

A reminder that to view all available previews and any notifications of changes to walks, just log on to the walks program and previews pages on the MBW website:
http://www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au/activities/Walks/MBW_walks_program.htm

****CHANGE TO DANDENONG EXPLORER WALKS****

Due to a range of factors the Dandenong Explorer walks will be reduced to one or two per seasonal calendar and none in summer.
 In the Winter program the first Dandenong Explorer will be on Saturday 25th July, and the one following on the 22nd August.
 However if anyone would like to lead an extra Dandenong Explorer in the Winter program (or any other season) just give me a ring. Maureen Hurley (9482 6954)



PACK CARRY

ROPER HUT, CLEVE COLE HUT, OVER BOGONG TO SADDLE AND CLOVER DAM

DATE 10 - 13 April
STANDARD Easy to Medium
DISTANCE 45 km
LEADERS Susan and Michael Stringer
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Bogong High Plains
MAP REF Bogong Alpine Area - Outdoor Leisure Map

We meet on Easter Friday for lunch at Bogong Village. Then after dropping a car off at Clover Dam drive up to Watchbed Creek past Falls Creek. We have a straight forward 2.5 to 3 hour hike along the Alpine Walking Track to Roper Hut, where there is a nice campsite in the snow gums. Saturday's walk takes us north along the Alpine Walking Track and then west to Cleve Cole Memorial Hut. We have time for a late start and a side trip to Howman Falls. On Sunday we walk over Mt Bogong and down Quartz Ridge to Bogong Creek Saddle. There is a side trip to West Peak for the keen. On Monday we walk a fast 12 km downhill to Clover Dam. Then unfortunately there is a 1.5 hour return trip to pick up the cars from Watchbed Creek. Please come prepared for extremes in weather. Call Michael Stringer



CYCLING

MARIBYRNONG RIVER – STEELE CREEK

DATE Saturday 18 April 2009
STANDARD Easy Medium
DISTANCE 46 km
LEADER Ross Berner
TRANSPORT Car or Train to Footscray Station
RETURN TIME About 4:00 PM (Footscray Station)
AREA Maribyrnong, Niddrie & Keilor.
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 2S, 2T, 14, 15, 26, 28, 27 & 42

Please note: Due to a Bushfire in Birdlands Park, which is currently closed, the advertised ride is not possible.

This ride is based on the classic Maribyrnong River ride, but includes a diversion along the recently extended Steele Creek Trail.

The meeting place for ride is the east side of Footscray Railway Station (Melway 2S G9) Hyde St entrance at 10:30 AM.

From here we head up Maribyrnong River Trail to Lily St Park (Essendon), where we pick up Steele Creek Trail. We follow this trail to its current end in Niddrie's Valley Lake Estate. We then use several side streets, Spring Gully Reserve Trail & a short section of the Western Ring Trail to get to Brimbank Park, where we will have lunch. After lunch we will return to Footscray on the Maribyrnong River Trail.

There are a few climbs, Lily Street Park being the hardest, but most cyclists should be able to climb it.

If you wish to discuss ride ring Ross

DO YOU WANT LEAD A BIKE RIDE?

We are looking for rides for later this year.

If you have an idea for a ride please call me to discuss, on 9886 6679 or 0403 167 004.



SUNDAY BUS

BAMGANIE STATE FOREST

DATE	Sunday 3 May
STANDARD	EASY / EASY MEDIUM
DISTANCE	13KM / 15KM
LEADERS	ALLAN MARTIN & PHIL GESCHKE
TRANSPORT	Bus from Southbank Blvd 8.45am
AREA	Meredith, SW of Bacchus March
MAP REF	Grenville. Elaine, Bamganie, Medina 1:25,000

Woodburne Creek winds through the little known Bamganie State Forest, home to Kangaroos, Koalas, Pardalotes and Honeyeaters (and possibly Bunyips, Yetti, Bigfoot and Abominable Snowpersons as well – although we did not actually see any, but you never know!!)

While the forest is surrounded by open farmland, old gold diggings and remains of an early stone dwelling are a reminder of its earlier Pioneer days and interesting to those amongst us who still dream of stubbing our toes on another “welcome stranger nugget” while walking through these old areas.

Both walks follow a similar route. Some of it is along Woodbine Creek, with occasional crossings and / or scrambles when rocky outcrops block the way. Wet feet are unlikely but bring your spare socks just in case Victoria does gets some of that wet stuff from the sky in autumn (forget what they call it) and the fish no longer get gravel rash along the creek section when we do the walk on the day.

This is a very pleasant place to visit and not visited by MBW since 2006 so do come along – Honestly, you would have to be wrestling Wombats to miss out on it!



BASE CAMP

CATHEDRAL RANGE STATE PARK

DATE	8-10 May
STANDARD	E/M
DISTANCE	Various
LEADER	Max Casley
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	100 km North-east of Melbourne, near Buxton
MAP REF	Cathedral Range – Outdoor Leisure Map 1:25,000

POSTPONED UNTIL SPRING

The Cathedral Range is a spectacular 7 km ridge of sharply upturned sedimentary rock. A variety of walking tracks offer the opportunity to climb the peaks and enjoy views of the forests and farmland in the valley below.

However the Park is closed to visitors until further notice due to the recent fires which devastated surrounding areas. It will be closed during the Easter period. I will review the situation at the beginning of May but I think the most likely result will be to postpone this trip until the Spring Programme, probably September or October.

In fact the Park has suffered very little fire damage – the main effect has been on access roads. The plan is to camp at the beautiful Ned’s Gully area and do day walks including the Sugarloaf area which we don’t get to with the Sunday bus. The walks range from easy strolls beside Little River to more challenging walks in the steeper areas. Whenever we do the trip it will be good.



TOFS

PRINCES PARK AND ROYAL PARK

DATE	Thursday 7 May
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	10km
LEADER	Peter Green - Tel 9348 0612
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Parkville
MAP REF	Melways 29

Meet at a small car park just to the south of the Princes Park Bowling Club at the north end of Princes Park. The entrance is off Bowen Crescent (Melway 29G11) at 10:30. Stroll through the new wetlands of Royal Park pass by the Commonwealth Games Village and the zoo. Walk around the great circle and return via the Melbourne University Melbourne General Cemetery and MC Labour Park (once called Optus Oval). Contact Peter or Susan Green for more information and booking





SUNDAY BUS

TRENTHAM TO BLACKWOOD VIA BLUE MOUNTAIN

DATE Sunday 10 May
STANDARD E/M, M
DISTANCE approx 15 & 18km
LEADERS Peter Leech & Hans Baer
TRANSPORT Bus from Southbank Blvd
AREA State forest north of Lerderderg State Park
MAP REF Trentham 7723-S

The start of the walk was quite interesting as Trentham is quite a trendy little town in places. It boasts a good quality but expensive bakery that caters to your every whim. There are 19th Century buildings in the town that could be used as a scene in a period movie. If we are to take advantage of the culinary delights here we would have to leave 08:30. The first part of the walk is through a section of the park bordering private property. Once you enter the bush even though it is dry the trees provide reasonable shade from the sun or shelter from the wind. This area has been extensively mined for gold and there are a number of old mines that have been filled in or blocked off, but you can get an appreciation of how alive gold fever was here. We go off track to keep things interesting and approach Blue Mountain via the set of The Man from Snowy River. This is under the protection of one of the locals, Nola, who owns a farm on the slopes of Blue Mountain. We plan on having lunch under the bushfire observation tower which should be pleasant with a gentle breeze and partial views of the surrounding area. We cross a few dry river beds and climb to Anderson Corner. We didn't find out who Anderson was but he has been immortalized in this part of the country (probably for a good reason).

This is the point when we can decide to explore more and visit Fosters Lookout and maybe Easter Monday Mine alternatively we could explore the Lerderderg river.

For those who are energetic and who can cover the seven kilometers in one and one half hours then it may be a possibility to take the alternative route to McLaughlin's Lookout (from which there are excellent views of Mt Macedon) and the highly regarded Garden of St Erth at Simmons Reef.

The E/M walkers can take the Nugget Track to Blackwood 1200 m prior to Anderson corner.

The pub at Blackwood has James Squire on tap which was a relished treat at the end of the walk!

So if we ALL get done by 3:30 pm then there is a quick beer at the end in the Blackwood pub waiting for you.



WEDNESDAY WALK

FOSTER RAIL TRAIL

DATE Wednesday 13 May
STANDARD Easy
LEADER Susan Maugham

This is a gentle walk with a wide path allowing us to chat as we amble and affording pretty views along the way.

Should the weather be amenable we will detour up a back paddock to take in a sweeping view of The Prom. This will be either at the beginning or the end of the walk (keeping my options open). Yes, there will be a nice cuppa waiting for us in Foster. Afterwards, as a special treat we will visit a soap-maker in Hoddle.

Following our walk, I suggest we hit the bright lights of Foster and have a pub meal later on that night.

This mid-week walk can be combined with a 2 night stay in Yanakie. See separate entry.

12TH-13TH MAY CABIN STAY, YANAKIE.

This month's Wednesday walk is along the delightful Foster rail trail.

You are invited to stay over at Yanakie to make it a mini break. Three cabins have been booked, accommodating 15 people, so don't leave it until the last moment to secure your berth. Cost is approximately \$34 per person per night.

TUESDAY 12TH MAY.

12:30 Meet in Koonwarra for a lunch.

The Koonwarra Food and Wine Store is terrific and will be a great way to kick start the two day break.

2:30 Check in to cabins

3:30 40 min coastal walk to blow away the city cobwebs.

6:30 Cocktail hour followed by a share-a-plate dinner.



SUNDAY BUS ****CHANGE OF VENUE****



DANDENONG EXPLORER

MT MACEDON CIRCUIT WALK

DATE	Sunday 17 May
STANDARD	Easy/Easy Medium & Easy Medium / Medium
DISTANCE	Approx 15 km & 18 km
LEADERS	Dale Mackenzie & Peter Knighton
TRANSPORT	Bus from Southbank Blvd at 8.45am
AREA	Macedon
MAP RE	Macedon

The circuit walk is varied over its distance of approx 15 km E/EM, AND 18 km approx EM/M.

The traverse of the Macedon Ranges is a rare delight, and the walking trail passes through a variety of trees and varied undergrowth. Views across the country from some of the higher parts of the track are most spectacular.

KALORAMA AREA TO DOONGALLA RETURN

DATE	...Saturday 23 May 2009
STANDARD	...Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	...13 km
LEADER(S)	...Fiona Gallery
TRANSPORT	...Private
AREA	...Dandenongs
MAP REF	...Melways 52,66

The walk begins at 10:00 am at Five Ways in Kalorama Melways 52J9. This is on the Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd overlooking the Silvan Dam, where Ridge, Barbers and The Old Coach Roads intersect. This is a walk that has a lot of steep ups and downs and may be slippery in places if wet. I expect to be back at the cars about 4:00. We will be having a morning tea break at the Mt Dandenong Lookout where there is a cafe for those wishing to purchase a coffee – well deserved as it is a bit of a climb to the top.



MOFS



SUNDAY BUS

WRIGHT FOREST - COCKATOO

DATE	Monday 18 May
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	11 km
LEADER	Alister Rowe
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Cockatoo
MAP REF	Melway 311 B4

We meet at 10.30am in the car park at Emerald Lake Park near Lakeside Station (Melway 127 K4). We'll walk east to Wright Forest on Melway page 311 and explore around the Forest, maybe as far as Cockatoo. This is a quite interesting area which you may not be familiar with. We should return to the car park about 3pm. It may be best to bring a picnic afternoon tea.

You can book with the leader

WOMBAT STATION-SAILORS FALLS-TWIN BRIDGE

DATE	Sunday 24 May
STANDARD	Easy/Medium & Medium
DISTANCE	16km & 20km
LEADERS	Andrew Francis & Elizabeth Ingham
TRANSPORT	8:45am Bus from Southbank Blvd
AREA	Creswick - Daylesford
MAP REF	Meridian 1:50,000 Wombat State Forest Touring Guide

Both walks follow the same route, with the Medium walk commencing 4 ks prior to the E/M walk. The ratings of Medium & Easy/Medium are based on the length of the walks rather than any difficulty of the terrain. There are no major climbs. The walks go through the Wombat State Forest and Hepburn Regional Park visiting Wombat Station and Sailors Falls.



CYCLING



SUNDAY BUS

PLENTY RIVER TRAIL

DATE	Saturday 23 May
STANDARD	E/M
DISTANCE	N/A
LEADERS	Ray Spooner
TRANSPORT	Private

See leaders in club room – no preview available at time of printing

HAWKES HILL – MOLLISONS CREEK

DATE	Sunday 31 May
STANDARD	E/M, M
DISTANCE	N/A
LEADERS	Les Southwell & Nik Dow
TRANSPORT	Bus from Southbank Blvd

See leaders in club room – no preview available at time of printing

