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# THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 cents

Edition 695

## LEADERS DISCUSSION NIGHT

On Monday 9th February at our clubrooms, (corner William and A'Beckett Streets, Melbourne), between 7.00 – 9.00pm, a get-together for leaders of all types of walks/activities – Sunday, Wednesday, Saturday, MOFS, TOFS, Base Camps, Pack Carries, Cycling and Skiing trips will be held.

Any members interested in leading any of the above activities are also invited to attend.

This will be an opportunity to review resources available to you, gain ideas from other leaders and discuss any issues. Drinks, nibbles and pizzas will be provided on the night, therefore an idea of numbers attending would be great. If, however, you have forgotten to respond please feel free to still come along. Please diarise this important Club function.

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc  
will be held on

Wednesday, 25 February, 2009,

Commencing at 8.00 pm

at

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria, 239 A 'Beckett Street, Melbourne

Members are invited to attend - Non-members are welcome but are not eligible to vote.

### BUSINESS

- Confirmation of minutes of the 2008 Half Yearly General Meeting
- President's report
- Treasurer's report
- Determination of annual subscription fees for 2009
- Walks Secretaries' reports
- Wilkinson Lodge
- Election of Office Bearers & Committee Members
- Appointment of auditors
- Appointment of Life Membership/s
- Conferral of Honorary Memberships
- Award of spoons

(Nomination forms and Appointment of Proxy forms are available at the clubrooms.

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  
PO Box 1751

MEMBER OF

**Bushwalking  
Victoria**



MELBOURNE VIC 3001

[www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au](http://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](mailto: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:

The next committee meeting will take place on:

**MONDAY 2 MARCH 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<br>Alpine Mossbed rehabilitation | Steve Robertson        |
| 2-3 May 2009<br>Grampians                       | Rod Novak              |

### Club rooms Duty Roster:      Treasurer present:

|        |                                   |     |
|--------|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Feb 4  | Marg Curry & Jane Williams        | Yes |
| Feb 11 | Lynda Larkin & Halina Sarbinowski |     |
| Feb 18 | Peter Havlicek & Ray Spooner      | Yes |
| Feb 25 | Mick Noonan & Jane Williams       |     |
| Mar 4  | Carol Sisson & Wendy Fortington   | Yes |
| Mar 11 | John McCall & Gillian Wainwright  |     |

## SOCIAL NIGHTS



**\*\*\* HELD AT NEW CLUBROOMS**

### THE SOUND OF CORKS POPPING

**WHEN                      Wednesday 25th February**

**No wine and cheese tonight, but something a little different instead.**

**We will be serving champers and strawberries from 7 p.m.**

**Oh, yes, there's also an AGM this night, too.**

**For full program see page 4**

## Greetings All

As we launch into the second month of the 2009, I would like to send out a reminder to members that the culminating event of the Bushwalking Victoria 75th Anniversary Celebrations is just a couple of months away on Sunday 5 April. This combined club event will be taking place at Mt Disappointment where a number of walks, (18 newly designed and some old favourites) will be held. These will be run by member clubs of Bushwalking Victoria, with Melbourne Bushies contributing a walk led by Halina and Del in the area of Strath Creek-Diggers Gully.

I hope that as many of you as possible will make the most of this valuable opportunity to come together and mingle with people from other bushwalking clubs all around the state.

By participating, not only do we express interest in and support for our excellent, hard-working representative body, Bushwalking Victoria, but also we have the opportunity to broaden our horizons, make new friends and benefit from the sharing of experiences and ideas with those we meet.

I realize that this will be my final paragraph as President of Melbourne Bushwalkers and sadly bid farewell, though I will still be around in a "lesser capacity". I would like to thank all those who have helped me carry out this challenging role and who have supported my efforts over the last 2 years.

Though the world is forever-changing, I believe that the great spirit that has kept our club strong and alive over nearly seventy years persists as strongly now as it did at the beginning and I feel confident at this point in time that we can indeed continue growing in a positive direction with all the wonderful leaders and volunteers we have, a responsible, rock-solid Committee taking care of club governance and business affairs and a strong membership, currently around 470 members.

May we all continue to care deeply about the natural environment and love and enjoy bushwalking (and with that, good health) during 2009 and for many years to come.

Lynda Larkin

## WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

# Finke Gorge Unplugged

## Good, better, best ...

**Palm Valley is good.** The short walks here take you into a world that time forgot, ancient palms and cycads that have clung to life here long after their neighbours perished.

**The Finke River 4WD track is better.** This takes you along the course of the world's oldest river. You see an amazing landscape containing two of the largest permanent waterholes in the Centre.

**Bushwalking is best.** Yet bushwalking in this park is almost unknown and ignored. We know better. Our first walk in this park was back in 1991, our last in 2008. Our Finke Gorge trips consist of a mix of walks from one to four days. We know where to find the water and which walks are better in which years. On most of the walks, you are unlikely to see anyone else. You share the campsites and views with no one but your walking companions. **Ask for our trip notes.**

12 Carrington St Millner NT 0810 [walkabout@ais.net.au](mailto:walkabout@ais.net.au)

Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355

[www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au](http://www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au)



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# Reports

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## EQUIPMENT

### Storage bags

If you crave the smug satisfaction of having everything at your fingertips while those around you are wallowing in disarray you will need storage bags. You can use the plastic variety but the silnylon ones (the lightest type available) are much better. They don't tear, are easy to open and close and things slide in and out effortlessly. Select oversize ones in light bright colours as it will make rummaging through the contents and packing easier and minimise the risk of loss. Nine litres is probably adequate for utility items and about fifteen litres for food, clothing and sleeping equipment. You can buy the bags ready made or make your own square bottomed bags (better for packing) for about a third the cost. Materials can be obtained from [www.questoutfitters.com](http://www.questoutfitters.com) (If you only want a small quantity we have ordered a few yards of 1.1 oz silnylon seconds in yellow, orange and bright blue to sell at cost) and instructions from [www.backpackinglight.com/cgi-bin/backpackinglight/make\\_your\\_own\\_gear\\_5\\_yards\\_to\\_sul\\_part\\_2.html](http://www.backpackinglight.com/cgi-bin/backpackinglight/make_your_own_gear_5_yards_to_sul_part_2.html). Be sure to include some miniature toggles in your order (as they are not available locally) and enough material for capes, rain skirts, water carriers, camp shoes, pack liners, pack covers and lightweight day packs both for yourself and for the creation of cherishable presents. **John Fritze**

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

### FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY RESTAURANT NIGHT.

7:15 At Natraz Innovative Indian Night. Located at 197b Middleborough Road, Box Hill South. Plenty of parking, excellent cuisine and service. Book with Susan no later than Wed 25 Feb:- Or, at the AGM.

### WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH GAMES NIGHT IN FLAGSTAFF GARDENS.

Traditional games and competitions but with a bushies' theme.  
E.g. Throw the daypack / Egg and billy-holder race /  
Lace the walking boots comp.  
Lots more....watch this space !!!!

### WED 25 MARCH WINE AND CHEESE NIGHT.

On this occasion we will specialise in cheese and wine from Tassie.  
If you have any expertise in this area, you are very welcome to co-host with me.

## FORTHCOMING

### TAPAS AND EL CAMINO SLIDE NIGHT with Maddie and Suzanne.

### SLIDE NIGHT OF THE CLUB TRIP TO NZ AT CHRISTMAS.

### EARLY MAY-THE BUSHIES' ART AND CRAFT EXHIBITION

Location-Jean Giese's home, Surrey Hills.  
Theme-Australian Inspirations.

Here is a chance to display, and possibly sell, your art, sculpture, poetry, needlecraft, or photography in an hospitable, welcoming environment.  
If you are not able to participate in the Show, you are cordially invited to view your fellow Bushies' work and enjoy this unique social event.  
Would you would like to volunteer behind the scenes and lessen the load for Jean?

Looking forward to seeing you/imbibing with you/hearing from you,

**Susan Maughan.**

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## Noticeboard

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### ATTENTION ALL PACK CARRY WALKERS A NEW INITIATIVE FROM BUSHWALKING VICTORIA

Bushwalking Victoria has introduced an initiative to deal with the problem that some clubs have of not having enough members interested in overnight pack carry trips, leading to either not enough leaders or trips to provide for the few keen packcarriers, or having leaders wanting to lead trips but not able to get enough participants from their own club for a viable group. This new scheme enables all these people to get together via the internet. It does not replace existing club programs. It merely allows leaders, if they wish, to advertise their trip to a wider audience and participants to access trips in addition to what is on their own club program. Although it is aimed mainly at clubs smaller than ours who may not have a critical mass of pack carry walkers, it could be a useful addition to our pack carry program and is, I think, worth looking at.

**To find out more, look at the ad below** which will direct you via the bushwalkingvictoria website to the packcarryvic website where you can register to participate.

**From the point of view of leaders**, it is entirely at your discretion as to if and when and with what restrictions you advertise your trip to a wider audience. If you think you will get enough participants through Melb Bushies, then there is probably no point or need to go further. If bookings are looking rather thin only 2 weeks before your trip you may think it worthwhile to advertise it through packcarryvic. You may wish to attach conditions such as Melb Bushies members have priority up to say one or two or three weeks before the trip. You may think it's all superfluous and not want to know about it. It's entirely up to you as the trip leader to decide if and how you use this new facility.

**From the point of view of participants**, it makes available a wider selection of trips and trips on dates when our club program doesn't have a pack carry. It could also be good for trips at unpopular times eg winter and could be good for cross fertilisation of ideas between clubs.

It may take a while to get this initiative running smoothly and to iron out any bugs that will inevitably occur but I think it is a worthwhile idea that we as a club can happily support.

**Jopie Bodegraven - Pack Carry Coordinator**



## Interested in more overnight hikes?

A new program is starting to encourage Bushwalking Victoria affiliated club members, or individual members of Bushwalking Victoria, to take part in overnight hikes.

To find out more check

[www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au](http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au)

and the What's New section. A page has been established giving you step by step instructions to follow in requesting access to the site. You send in your details and a check is made that you are a financial member, [allow 7 – 10 days]. After signing an "Acknowledgment of Risks and Obligations", you can open your "account" – no fees, it means you have access to the site.

Then, you can enter the site, check the calendar, apply for a trip, or if you have registered as a leader, put a trip on the calendar.

**NOTE: This is NOT a new club, but for members of Bushwalking Victoria affiliated clubs to go on more overnight pack carries with other affiliated club members.**

This is a new initiative of Bushwalking Victoria starting February 2009.

## Finding Your Way in the Bush

How to navigate and plan bushwalks

by George Carter

*This practical guide is written by a bushwalker for bushwalkers.*

*Sponsored by the Canberra Bushwalking Club, this book is for those who love the great outdoors and are keen to acquire the skills needed to venture into wilderness areas and tread where few know how.*

*You will learn basic map reading, how to use a compass and a GPS (Global Positioning System). Beyond that, you will be introduced to a wealth of practical navigational techniques and short cuts as well as advanced map reading skills.*

Beyond the basics

*You will find out how the topography can be your friend or enemy and learn techniques on how to use different geographical features to advantage including how to estimate times to traverse them.*

*For example, you will learn about the pros and cons of walking on ridges: how to tell if you are drifting off a ridge, how to recognise where ridges divide and subdivide, why you can get lost descending ridges but not ascending them.*

*Moving beyond the basics you will learn advanced map reading skills: including how to relate data on the map to what you see, how to visualize heights and distances and how to identify unmarked cliffs and waterfalls.*

*To enable you to spend more time looking at the scenery, handy **navigation shortcuts** are explained such as using 'handrails', 'attack points' and the position of the sun or your own shadow.*

*Finally, you will find useful information on **how to plan** a safe and interesting trip, including planning en route so you reach your ultimate and intermediate destinations in reasonable time.*

How to order

**Cost:** \$12.95 including postage.

**Direct deposit:** Westpac BSB 032-719 account 17-6134. Please include your name in deposit details, then email your postal address and details of your deposit to: [booksales@canberrabushwalkingclub.org.au](mailto:booksales@canberrabushwalkingclub.org.au)

**Mail:** cheque or postal order:

Credit card:  Visa  Mastercard

Name as it appears on your card.....

LLLL LLLL LLLL LLLL  
Card number

LL/LL  
Expiry date

Signature: .....

Post credit card and mail orders to: Booksales Canberra Bushwalking Club, PO Box 160, CANBERRA ACT 2601. Please ensure that your name and address are included.

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# Review

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## LAKE WAIKAREMOANA, NORTH ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND. DECEMBER 2008 - PART I

"Why-Carry-Mo'- Anna" was my phonetic solution to remembering how to pronounce Lake Waikaremoana, after many failed communication attempts with outdoorshop proprietors and with Brian Wallbank - a leader you could bank on.

Brian led us on a Great Walk, literally, in December 2008. The Lake Waikaremoana walk is in The Urewera National Park in the North Island, and is one of New Zealand's nine Great Walks in the classification system used by the Department of Conservation. (According to the latest Oxladism, this is the Department of Conversation. I thought it was a slip until I realised it was a quip! ).

Phonetics aside, Lake Waikaremoana in the Maori language, means "sea of rippling waters. The track is 46 kilometres long and follows a good proportion of the lake's outline, at lake-level ( 614 metres above sea level ) and at view- point level Trampers take in the stunning views near Panekiri hut, at 1180 metres above sea level. We began our three day walk by taking a water taxi ride from the motor camp by the lake, where we stocked up on well-priced dehydrated meals, setting off in enough rain to rehydrate more than just our meals. Debbie was also seen with her soon-to-be-infamous umbrella keeping her dry inside the water taxi.

Day one involved an afternoon walk of about 10 km and we put our tents up in the rain, creating a delightfully autumnal array of yellow, orange and green tents, while cooking, sheltering, and banging our heads on, the Maori-style cooking hut.

Day 2 was more of a challenge for the overloaded among us as we walked 18km in rain and some mud. Personally, I skipped the waterfall to arrive into a lovely camp site near the lake's "beach" where a refreshing swim was on offer. Yoga exercises were also held that night!

On Day 3 we beached our packs for their boat pick-up later that day. We had some climbing ahead over Panekiri Bluff,

with beech forest, dense rainforest, a myriad of ferns and secretive but audible birdlife. Panekiri Hut was a stopover for a great view and lunch. On our way down, we appreciated Brian's choice of direction . Those climbing up as we descended were looking a little tired.

After that day's 15 km walk, our backpacks were there as promised at the motor camp, and we did our best to stay awake for our NY Eve celebrations. Most were in bed shortly after midnight, but not before one of our party performed an umbrella dance.

Our next day, a well-planned rest day, saw us taking in numerous walks around the motor camp itself, delightful walks, shorter and longer, to falls, ancient trees, old encampments. So the Lake Waikaremoana motor camp, proved it could also be an excellent base camp.

This walk was only one of two Great Walks we did during our two weeks in New Zealand. It was an action-packed fortnight. Brian had organised little holidays within a holiday. Not simply day walks, three day walks, four day walks and sidewalks (e.g. to Mt. Maunganui), but also boating, swimming, fishing, thermal pools, a winery, an Art Deco tour - and more, more,more!!

Brian's sister Pat and brother-in-law Alan were our fun-loving co-hosts for four nights camping, a hangi (Maori style food cooked underground) , two boat trips, mini-bus drives and lots of fun and frivolity.

We gave our club lots of free advertising in New Zealand. We couldn't stop talking about what a great club we belong to. You can see why!

Thank you Brian and all my fellow 'trampers', for walking with me in the 'back country' of New Zealand.

**Marjie Courtis**

Websites:  
[www.waikaremoana.com](http://www.waikaremoana.com)  
[www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)



**ATTENTION BUSHIES!!!! ALL SUNDAY BUS WALKS NOW LEAVE AT 08:45**



**PACK CARRY**

**MT FEATHERTOP**

DATE 27 Feb-1Mar  
 STANDARD Medium  
 DISTANCE 10-20km  
 LEADER(S) Bert Reeh  
 TRANSPORT private  
 AREA Alpine NP  
 MAP REF Vicmap Bogong Alpine Area Leisure Map

Mt Feathertop is Victoria's most alpine peak with spectacular close up views across deep valleys to the Mt Buffalo range, Mt Bogong and the Fainters. To get there with minimum time and effort we will approach from the north, driving to the end of Stoney Top track, just 3.5km from and about 450m below the top.

This will give us ample time to explore the summit area and part of the Razorback on both days, including side trips to MUMC and Federation Huts. Depending on group size Saturday's campsite will be either at the saddle near the Memorial Cross or further down around Federation Hut.

Our return route will depend on whether a car shuffle is practical. This will depend on what vehicles will be coming and when on Friday. Bush camping is available for Friday night not far from Freeburgh, a few kms beyond Bright.



**SUNDAY BUS**

**ELPHINSTONE – FRYERSTOWN**

DATE Sunday 1 March  
 STANDARD E & E/M  
 LEADERS Graeme Walkden & Roy Rossebo  
 TRANSPORT Bus

Please discuss this walk with the leaders on the relevant booking nights and also check the Club's website.



**TOFS**

**DOM DOM SADDLE – MORLEY'S TRACK**

DATE Thursday 5 March  
 STANDARD Easy  
 LEADERS Marion Siseman  
 TRANSPORT Private

Please discuss this walk with the leaders on the relevant booking nights and also check the Club's website.



**PACK CARRY**

**HOWQUA RIVER – CROSSCUT SAW – SQUARE HEAD JINNY**

DATE 6 – 9 March 2009 (Labour Day Weekend)  
 STANDARD Medium  
 DISTANCE 45 Km  
 LEADER(S) Ken MacMahon  
 TRANSPORT Private  
 AREA Mansfield, Mt Buller  
 MAP REF Howitt – Selwyn 1:50,000

We will be commencing from the Howqua River upstream of Bindaree Hut where we climb up onto Stanleys Name Spur. Camp is just before the final steep climb up onto the Crosscut Saw at the headwaters of the King River. On Sunday the plan is to drop packs when we hit the top and explore this wonderful ridge. We will later visit Macalister Springs to pick up water. Sunday night's camp is to be on the headwaters of King Billy Ck. We will continue eastward on Monday past Lovicks Hut (and lots of 4x4's no doubt) to Mt Lovick before dropping down to the Howqua again via Square Head Jinny.

This walk takes in what is perhaps the most spectacular alpine scenery in Victoria. However, short sections of the ascent and descent are very steep and require some confidence on rocks. Water can be scarce at this time of year too so walkers will need to be prepared to carry 3-4 litres at times.





**BASE CAMP**

**MOUNT BUFFALO**

DATE 6-9 March  
 STANDARD Easy/Medium  
 LEADER Jan Colquhoun  
 RETURN TIME 6-7pm monday  
 AREA NE Victoria  
 MAP REFERENCE Mt Buffalo Plateau 1:30,000 Eurobin & Buckland 1:25,000

This base camp aims to explore many of the highlights of the Mt Buffalo Plateau with a series of interconnected walks. On the Saturday we have a late start; we take a car pool from our campsite to The Reservoir picnic area. From here we have the option of exploring Og, Gog & Magog and ascend Mt. Dunn, which offers some of the best views of the plateau itself. We shall then wander back to the campsite via the Giants Causeway, Stanley Rocks and the picturesque Long Plain. There will be some free time to relax, perhaps take a swim in Lake Catani or explore one of the nearby lookouts before heading up to the Horne lookout for nibbles and a spectacular sunset. On Sunday there are several walking options, depending on the weather and the needs of the group more than one walk may be offered. Options include the Dickson's falls nature walk, known for its sub alpine plant communities and wildflowers at this time of year and the Black Wall track. Alternatively there is the Rollisons falls and Big Walk Track back to the campgrounds. On Monday we will do a quick loop of the Old Galleries before exploring The Corral and Mahomets Tomb. This area was burnt in fires three years ago but it has regenerated since. The many twisted and windswept dead trees have given this area an eerie atmosphere. On our way out of the park we have the option of taking a short hike to Eurobin Falls and possibly a swim before heading back to Melbourne. The campsite has hot showers and Lake Catani is suitable for swimming. This is the perfect spot for a relaxing and sociable long weekend. I will be in the clubrooms for the two Wednesdays proceeding the walk.

Early expressions of interest are appreciated for



this busy time of year!

**SUNDAY BUS**

**THE NOBBIES TO PYRAMID ROCK**

DATE Sunday 8 March  
 STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium  
 DISTANCE 11 km & 14 km  
 LEADERS Carol Corrigan and Fotina Lennon  
 TRANSPORT Bus from Southbank Blvd AREA Phillip Island  
 MAP REF VICMAP 1:25000 Phillip Island Special

A beautiful walk on the rugged south coast of Phillip Island. Plenty of variety, including pristine deserted beaches, towering cliffs, sparkling rock-pools, and even a 102 year old shipwreck, the SS Speke. Although most of the walk is fairly flat and easy, there may be a couple of climbs up to the cliff tops depending on sea conditions. There are also a couple of tricky spots where we will need to do some rock-hopping, and possibly walk through some shallow water, so you will need sturdy footwear. There will be time to explore the boardwalks at both The Nobbies and at Pyramid Rock, plus the opportunity for a swim if the day is warm. This is an interesting walk along secluded beaches and rocky headlands, with wonderful sea views from the cliff tops.



**WEDNESDAY WALK**

**DANDENONGS**

DATE Wednesday 11 March  
 STANDARD Easy  
 LEADER Jerry Grandage  
 TRANSPORT Private

Please discuss this walk with the leaders on the relevant booking nights and also check the Club's website.



**SUNDAY BUS**

**YEA SPUR**

DATE Sunday 15 March  
 STANDARD Easy/Medium and Medium  
 DISTANCE 14 km & 18 km  
 LEADERS Peter Hogan & Paul Beers  
 TRANSPORT Bus from Southbank Bvd 8.45 am  
 AREA SW of Yea  
 MAP REF Homewood 1:25k & Flowerdale 1:25k

The walk along the Yea Spur SW of Yea has great views of the Goulburn River valley and nearby ranges especially at the lunch spot at Junction Ridge. Previous walkers have reported seeing wildlife such as eagles, echidnas and koalas. There is a climb of about 300 m up to the spur. Some of the walk is on private land. The ridge is exposed so walkers need to be prepared for the (unlikely) possibility of bad weather. Both walks end on the Yea Whittlesea Rd.



**PACK CARRY**

**MOUNT LOCH - SWINDLERS & DIAMANTINA SPURS - THE RAZORBACK**

DATE 20-22 March 2009  
 STANDARD Medium  
 DISTANCE 30 km (approx)  
 LEADER Agajan Akbari  
 TRANSPORT Private  
 AREA Alps near Mt Hotham  
 MAP REF Bogong Alpine Area Outdoor Leisure Map1:50000 and Rooftop's Mt Feathertop – Hotham Forest Activities Map

The walk will start on Saturday morning at the Mount Loch car park near Mt Hotham. We will climb Mt Loch, where we will have views of Mts Bogong and Feathertop the two highest mountains in Victoria. We walk down Swindlers Spur, descending to the Cobungra River, visit Dibbin hut and then Red Robin Battery before heading to Blair Hut. I plan to Camp near Blair's Hut and if we have the energy we may do an optional side trip to Weston's Hut. On Sunday we walk along the Kiewa River, then climb Diamantina Spur (could be steep) to Twin Knobs and walk out via the Razorback. Razorback has extensive panoramic views heightened in this case by the narrowness of the ridge and precipitous fall to the Ovens and Kiewa valleys on either side. This walk is one of the classic walking routes in the high country and is therefore recommended. If interested ring me or see me in the clubrooms on Wednesday 11 or 18 March.



**MOFS**

**SASSAFRAS CREEK, DANDENONG RANGES NATIONAL PARK**

DATE Monday 16 March  
 STANDARD Easy  
 DISTANCE 10 km  
 LEADER Jean Giese  
 TRANSPORT Private  
 AREA Dandenong Ranges National Park  
 MAP REF Melway 124 and 75

If it's hot in March this would be a good place to be. We will follow Sassafras Creek upstream to the Alfred Nicholas gardens then walk through the eastern part of Sherbrooke Forest, winding our way back to our starting point. Meet at Kay's Picnic Ground, Monbulk Road (Melway 124 D3) to commence walking at 10.30 am.



**BASE CAMP:**

**TARRA BULGA NATIONAL PARK**

|             |                               |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| DATE        | 20 - 22 March                 |
| STANDARD    | Easy/MEdium                   |
| DISTANCE    | Various                       |
| LEADER      | Mick Noonan                   |
| RETURN TIME | 5:30pm                        |
| TRANSPORT   | Private                       |
| AREA        | South Gippsland               |
| MAP REF     | Carrajung 8221-3-S, 1:25, 000 |

It is on again! If you were thinking of trying a base camp, have never seen Tarra-Bulga National Park, or had a great time when the club went there before then this is the walk for you! The park featured in the first issue of Parks Victoria's "Parks Discovery" magazine

Secluded 200km east of Melbourne away in Gippsland is Tarra-Bulga, the nearest 'town' is Balook close to the eastern end of the Grand Ridge Road. This park is one of the best temperate rain forests in Gippsland with real trees (giant Mountain Ash, Messmate, ancient Myrtle Beech and Blackwood), huge lush ferns, cool rainforest gullies, the famous Corrigan's suspension bridge, Cyathea Falls, epiphytes growing on the trunks of tree ferns, etc. There's also wombats (dangerous for night driving!), possums, owls, lyrebirds, wallaby's, etc etc.

On the Saturday (18km) we will see the a new short walk through the Mountain Ash & Myrtle Beech, visit the Information Centre and historic Balook (... yes there is a tea room...), the suspension bridge, fern gullies, Wild Cherry Track, with a long steep climb after lunch, lots of views, and (new!) climb the spectacular fern hill behind the caravan park etc. On the Sunday (14km) we check out Cyathea Falls, Diaper track, and the Duff Sawmill Heritage Trail (NEW!). The Duff Sawmill trail is a 4 km loop walk through 100 years of logging history and will take you to some of the huge mountain ash stumps of the giants that once dominated the Strezlecki Ranges.

We are staying at the Tarra Valley Caravan Park. There is a choice of camping or cabins (up to 6 in a cabin), gas fired BBQ's, wood for a fire, a sheltered eating area, toilets, electricity!, water and a fridge in the Cabin we can share!... camping luxury remote Bring something to share for the Saturday night. So if your new to base camping, have not been to the real Gippsland or just want go back then mark this trip in your calendar!



**BASE CAMP**

**FRIENDS OF BOGONG WORK PARTY – ALPINE NATIONAL PARK**

|          |                                    |
|----------|------------------------------------|
| DATE     | 20-22 March                        |
| LEADER   | Rod Novak                          |
| STANDARD | Easy & Easy/Medium                 |
| MAP      | VicMap Bogong High Plains 1:25,000 |

Expected return time: 9pm Sunday evening We will be assisting the 'Friends of Bogong' with their volunteer work on the Bogong High Plains. Come along for a fun time helping Park Rangers in the Bogong Management Unit of the Alpine National Park. For more information, please contact Rod Novak or see me at Clubnight on Wednesday 18th March

**NEST BOX MONITORING**

|        |               |
|--------|---------------|
| DATE   | 21 – 22 March |
| LEADER | Ray Thomas    |

Please discuss this walk with the leaders on the relevant booking nights and also check the Club's website.

**SUNDAY BUS**



**RHYLL- VENTNOR PHILLIP ISLAND**

|           |                           |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| DATE      | Sunday 22 March           |
| STANDARD  | Easy & Easy/Medium        |
| DISTANCE  | 12 km & 17 km             |
| LEADERS   | Maddy Lock & John Mc Call |
| TRANSPORT | Bus from Southbank Blvd   |
| AREA      | Phillip Island            |
| MAP REF   | MELWAYS 632               |

The Easy medium walk will start at the Oswin Roberts Kolal Reserve. The koala reserve is a reminder of how Phillip island was before it was inhabited. The easy group will start at Conservation Hill and walk to Rhyll . Both groups walk this section which shows spectacular views of Rhyll Inlet. Rhyll Inlet is considered a world class wetland. Both walks hop back on the bus at Rhyll and venture down to Cowes Beach. where the easy medium group will walk to Observation point to gain a closer look at the conservation area at Rhyll Inlet. Both walks may visit a cafe at Cowes or possibly have a swim. Both walks will end at Mc Haffie Point at Ventnor.



**PACK CARRY**

**WILSON'S PROM – SEALERS COVE CIRCUIT**

DATE 27 - 29 March 2009  
 STANDARD Easy / Medium  
 LEADER Richard Hanson

No preview submitted – please check in club rooms

parking and a loo. Allow about 2 ¼ hours from Central Melbourne. Saturday's ride is 55km with 460m climbing (300m with the easy option). There may be an optional extra with a car shuffle and long downhill run if there is time. Bring a cut lunch and both morning and afternoon tea Saturday night we will camp with our cars at the Foster Caravan Park and dinner will be at the nearby Exchange Hotel. If you are happy to camp, I will look after that, but if you would like an on-site cabin or caravan, please ring the caravan park on 56822440 and make your own arrangements.

On Sunday we have 3 separate rides, each with a short height gaining car shuffle. There will be possibilities to buy stuff at morning tea, lunch and probably also afternoon tea for the caffeine desperados amongst us. Please note that I will be interstate and hence uncontactable until 16 March



**SATURDAY WALK**

**SASSAFRAS AREA**

Date: Saturday 28th March  
 Standard: Easy/Medium  
 Distance: 12km  
 Leader: Fay Dunn  
 Transport: Private  
 Area: Sassafras  
 Melways: 6 F9

This walk takes in part of the Sassafras Creek and the Alfred Nicholas Memorial gardens before crossing in to the Dandenongs Ranges National Park at Sherbrooke. We will walk down through the Park and loop back along the Ridge Track to Ferny Creek and then to Sassafras in time for afternoon tea. Please contact the leader for further details.



**CYCLING BASE CAMP**

**FOSTER & SOUTH GIPPSLAND**

DATE 28-29 March 2009  
 STANDARD Easy / Medium  
 LEADER Jopie Bodegraven  
 TRANSPORT Private  
 MAP REF Vicroads Country Directory, RACV Regional maps, Foster, Moe & Warragul 1:100,000 maps

This will be a weekend of riding in the beautiful hilly country of South Gippsland with lots of beautiful views and downhill runs, plus a few uphill bits to work up an appetite and earn those glorious views. We will be doing short car shuffles on 4 occasions to gain height the easy way ie inside cars; once on Saturday and 3 times on Sunday for a total height gain of 650m over the weekend. Unfortunately we can't eliminate all the hills this way but they're not that bad and there's an easy option on Saturday which saves a big hill at the cost of missing out on some scenery.

We will meet Saturday morning at 9.45am at Koonwarra (8km past Leongatha) where there is



MORE PREVIEWS NEXT PAGE

**SUNDAY BUS****BALLARAT TO MT BUNINYONG**

|                  |                               |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>DATE</b>      | Sunday 29 March               |
| <b>STANDARD</b>  | Easy & Easy/Medium            |
| <b>DISTANCE</b>  | 13km & 17km approx            |
| <b>LEADERS</b>   | Lynda Larkin & Andrew Francis |
| <b>TRANSPORT</b> | Bus from Southbank Blvd       |

Our destination for this walk will be Mt Buninyong, an extinct volcano located 15 km south east of Ballarat on the outskirts of the historic township of Buninyong. The summit of the mountain is 745 metres above sea level commanding excellent views of the surrounding landscape and mountains, with remnant forest comprised of Manna Gum and Messmate eucalyptus trees providing habitat for a significant koala population in the area.

At this stage we have completed a preliminary preview and have set a course with both walks commencing alongside the Yarrowee River in Sebastapol. We will head south east from Ballarat through the Yarrowee-Redan Wetlands and proceed through open, semi-rural countryside along broad walking tracks and country lanes towards Buninyong.

The day of our walk coincides with the annual Buninyong Gold King Festival, which traditionally includes market stalls, art exhibitions, a street parade and giant tug-o-war. So with time allowing, we should be able to witness some of the fun and sample a choice of excellent coffee shops and bakeries on offer before leaving the township and heading up Mt Buninyong for the final part of both walks. We suggest you book early so as not miss out on what promises to be a most



Last seen on the Erskine Falls walk.....

Bus transport meets at Southbank Boulevard, south side of the Arts Centre, before 8:45 am. Leader or deputy will be there rain, hail or shine!

| <b>March</b>  |   |         |                    |                                |
|---------------|---|---------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Sun 1</b>  | <b>Elphinstone - Fryerstown</b>                   | Bus     | <b>E &amp; E/m</b> | Graeme Walkden & Roy Rossebo   |
| Thu 5         | Dom Dom Saddle - Morley's Track                   | Private | Easy               | Marion Siseman                 |
|               | Labour Day Long Weekend                           |         |                    |                                |
| 6-9           | PC: Howqua River - Crosscut Saw - Helicopter Spur | Private | Medium             | Ken McMahon                    |
| 6-9           | BC: Mt Buffalo National Park                      | Private | E/M                | Jan Colqhoun                   |
| <b>Sun 8</b>  | <b>The Nobbies - Pyramid Rock</b>                 | Bus     | E & E/M            | Carol Corrigan & Fotina Lennon |
| Wed 11        | Dandenongs  | Private | E/M                | Jerry Grandage                 |
| <b>Sun 15</b> | <b>Yea Spur</b>                                   | Bus     | E/M & M            | Peter Hogan & Paul Beers       |
| Mon 16        | Sassafras Creek - Dandenong Ranges NP             | Private | Easy               | Jean Giese                     |
| 20-22         | PC: Mt Loch - Diamantina Spur - The Razorback     | Private | Medium             | Mohammad Akbari                |
| 20-22         | BC: Tarra Bulga NP                                | Private | Easy               | Mick Noonan                    |
| 20-22         | Friends of Bogong Work Party                      | Private | Easy               | Rod Novak                      |

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| <b>Name:</b>  |  |   |              |
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|   | <b>Mobile:</b>   | <b>Home:</b>  | <b>Work:</b> |
| <b>Email:</b>   |  |   |              |
| <b>2009 SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION</b>  |  |   |              |
| <b>Membership</b>   | <b>Ordinary:</b><br>Single \$40 per year / Couple/family \$65 per year | <b>Concession: (proof required)</b><br>Single \$30 per year / Couple/family \$38 per year |              |
| Forward alterations of particulars to Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc via post or email to:<br>C/- Membership Secretary, GPO Box 1751, Melbourne 3001 or <a href="mailto:membership@melbournebushwalkers.org.au">membership@melbournebushwalkers.org.au</a> |  |   |              |