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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 cents

NOVEMBER 2009

Summertime fun



First, the Big One, the Christmas Party.

Tuesday 15 December

It's on in the usual location, the bar at Trades Hall, but note it has been moved to a Tuesday night.

Expect the unexpected: bushwalkers in outlandish outfits, spontaneous singing ... along with old faces, favourite walking companions, new stories and plenty of cheer.

Not only that, but also:

Saturday 7 November

There might still be some tickets left for the Bush Dance. Check with Susan Maughan.

Commences at 7pm at St Oswald's church hall, 100 High Street, Glen Iris. (NOTE correct address.) Melways Map 60, B9.

Tickets are \$14. BYO, plus bring a plate to share for supper. Dance the night away to Bushwahzee.

Wednesday 25 November.

Cheese and wine night. We'll polish off the "leftovers" from the backroom!!

Wednesday 2 December.

Lunch in the Hills. 1pm at "Earthy Pleasures", Belgrave. Book with Susan Maughan.

Melways Map 75, E10 Friday 1 January 2010

New Year's Day

Barbecue at Yarra Bend Park, Kew. Melways Map 45, A3

Bring something for the lucky dip. There will also be birthday cake to celebrate Peter Havlicek's 75th.

Friday 15 January

Dinner in Richmond. Details to follow.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Our Spring and Summer Activities Programs, including the monthly NEWS, offer a wide range of outdoor activities and social functions. Hopefully now that the weather is on the improve members will be participating in large numbers. Sunday walks will continue to alternate between the bus and private transport throughout the summer months and this arrangement will be reviewed by the committee before our AGM in February.

Our new flyer to promote the club was used by Bushwalking Victoria at a stall during Seniors Week in Federation Square, and thanks go to Jean Giese for organizing a walk during Seniors Week in the Warrandyte area. Thanks also go to those who have participated in the Bushfire Recovery project weekends co-ordinated by Janette Kodaih. Many walking tracks are now re-opening following the bushfires earlier this year.

Separately in this month's NEWS appears a list of Melbourne based retailers of bushwalking equipment and services at which your Bushwalking Victoria membership card enables you to obtain a discount. This may be useful for such purchases.

Happy walking,

Margaret Curry

LEADERS NIGHT

for all Current and Potential Leaders!

November 16 in the Clubrooms at 7pm

TOPICS: Fire Season, Total Fire Bans, Extreme Heat,

Sunday Walks, Q&A ...

More information to follow. Keep this Night free.

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

**Cnr. William and A'Beckett Streets,
Melbourne Vic 3001
entry from William Street)**

Visitors are always welcome!

General correspondence should be directed to:

The Secretary
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc

MEMBER OF

**Bushwalking
Victoria**



PO Box 1751
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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 7 DECEMBER 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.

2010 Activity Dates	Leader
January Bogong High Plains	Steve Robertson
January 19-23 Baw Baw Track	Andy Gillham
April 30-May 2 Grampians	Jim Harker

MONTHLY CLUB NIGHT, NOVEMBER

WEATHER FORECASTING AND GLOBAL WARMING

What's the connection? A grasp of basic climate science is needed for both.

Some leaders won't, or can't, read a simple weather chart, then are surprised at being caught out in some capricious mountain weather.

And to understand climate change, we need to know the forces which drive the climate. So come along and find out, and I'll try to answer your questions. (Doubting Thomases welcome.)

- Les Southwell

PACKCARRYS FOR SUMMER TRIPS & LEADERS NEEDED

It is time to start thinking about the trips we would like to put onto the summer program. We need to keep in mind the expected heat later in summer and that some water supplies may be dry, so river trips, coastal trips and alpine trips with reliable water supplies would be worth considering.

Ideas could include Bogong and the High Plains, Mt Buffalo, Moroka, Great Ocean walk, Tali Karng, Snowy Mountains at Xmas, Tasmania etc etc. I'm wholly dependant on your ideas and offers to lead trips.

Feed your offers to lead trips to me and I will try and sort out any date clashes and liase with Base Camp Michael to avoid clashes with base camps or lodge trips.

The timing is that I need to finalise the pack carries by late September so that the program can be sent out with the October News. I will periodically send out a brief progress draft so that you can see where the gaps are

Please email your offers to me or ring me. I will not be approaching anyone directly (with possibly minor exceptions) so what comes in is what will finish up on the program. If you are interested in leading a base camp, please contact Mick Mann.

I'm open for business. My inbox is waiting

Jopie Bodegraven
Packcarry Coordinator

Noticeboard

NEW FIRE SEASON, TOTAL FIRE BAN AND EXTREME HEAT POLICIES

We have new policies for the Fire Season when there can be a high fire danger and extreme temperatures that apply to ALL our activities including Previews.

The review has been driven by the prolonged drought in south-eastern Australia, increasing frequency of very high/extreme fire danger, the danger of rapid escalation and spread of bushfires, the impacts of increasing numbers of days of extreme heat, and the need for the Club to have an effective risk management plan that ensures the continuing safety of all our activity participants.

The objective is to have clear, simple and practical policies that ensure everyone's safety.

The new Summer Program has codes for the CFA Fire Ban District and the Temperature Reference for each activity (the "TFC Codes") on the front of the program with a legend and summary of the policies on the back. They will also be on the Autumn Program for activities in March & April. Next year we will start the coding for November activities in line with the start of the Fire Season.

You should have received a copy of the new policies attached to your printed program or emailed to you. It will also be downloadable from the WebSite.

The main features of the policies are:

FIRE SEASON POLICY

- Groups to carry a mobile and AM Radio to stay I touch with warnings and information
- Leaders to consider their contingency plans in advance and the location of designated safe refuges

TOTAL FIRE BAN POLICY

- If the CFA declares a Total Fire Ban for the Activity Area all Day Activities will be cancelled unless in Melbourne.
- Multi-day Activities will only continue if an Exemption has been obtained by the Leader
- In periods of severe fire risk the Committee may cancel all activities

EXTREME HEAT POLICY

- If the forecast Temperature is 38oC or more for the Activity Area then all One-day Activities will be cancelled.
- For Multi-day Activities the Leader will determine what action is required, so contact the Leader.

The Exemption Process for Multi-day activities involves checking with CFA/Rangers/ DSE on local conditions and getting an appropriate Activity Coordinator or designated Committee Member to review each requested Exemption. There will be no exemptions if the Fire Danger Rating is Severe, Extreme or Catastrophic Code Red – these 3 codes replace last seasons Extreme Rating.

The Website will have new 'Frequently Asked Questions' around the policies and will have easy to find links to the CFA and Bureau of Meteorology Sites. Each of us needs to understand more about Fire Danger Ratings, Fire Bans, weather warnings, designed safe refuges etc.

Keep an eye out for more information and useful contact numbers and links in the media, our Newsletter and the MBW Website. The operation of these policies will be monitored during this Fire Season and then reviewed for next fire season.

If you have any queries give me a ring or send me an email.

– Mick Noonan



Noticeboard

TARGET 2000 – BUSHFIRE RECOVERY PROJECT

In contrast to the searing heat and turbulent winds that culminated in the disastrous bushfires of February 2009, a committed, enthusiastic group of approximately 140 volunteers answered the call to assist in Target 2000 – Bushfire Recovery Project in the Yarra Ranges National Park instigated and organised by Steve Robertson, the volunteer conservation projects coordinator for Bushwalking Victoria.

The weather, on this weekend, the “last weekend in September” was relentless rain, hail, snow and winds with very low temperatures, most unprecedented for this time of year. But by 8.30am on both mornings, members from nine Bushwalking Victoria member clubs had gathered to register and be assigned their tasks for the recreating to as perfect a standard as possible some walking tracks in the Park that had both been affected by the fire or just needed some much required attention to make them safer for all people who enjoy the bush and these tracks.

In preparation for the project and this weekend, Steve had done reeces on numerous tracks including Badger Weir (Lyrebird and Stringybark tracks), Phantom and Keppel Falls tracks, Condons track, Beeches Circuit tracks including Picnic Area-Upper and Lower and Taggerty River Car-park – Upper and Lower, Big Tree Walk including Cora Lynn and Cumberland Tracks and Goldfields and McMahons Creek tracks. The main jobs as assessed as required were garden raking surplus litter, installing chicken wire on boardwalks, removing bark, trippers and rocks, trimming and removing vegetation, rake hoeing tracks to a smooth surface, removing rubbish and litter from sides of tracks, installation of steps or cleaning step surfaces and levelling down, installing new track markers and removing any burnt tracks markers and reporting on any necessary improvements eg edgings, drainage or where any trees were down.



Once a short welcome speech was given by Steve Robertson and an introduction by Ian Roche – Parks Victoria Ranger-In-Charge to Job Safety Analysis, the allocated groups eagerly left Maroondah Reservoir Park with their issued personal safety equipment and tools to the allotted track to begin the work. Due to the conditions the tracks of Badger Weir, Phantom and Keppel Falls and Condons were concentrated on Saturday with all jobs completed on the former and Condons track having a general track clearing and smoothing of track for approximately twenty percent of the way up, and the commencement of installing new track markers and treated pine steps with the burnt track markers being removed.

Sunday started in the same manner as the day before, but as conditions had deteriorated, the large group assigned to Beeches had to abort due to road conditions and snow and two small groups were assigned to Morleys Track, Hendersons Hill and Forest Track at short notice as other tracks that had planned to be worked on were also unsuitable and unsafe due to flooding and snow. Work continued on Condons Track on Sunday with the outcome being that track marking on the entire track was completed, the track was GPS'd and

mapped and a total of about 60 steps had been installed and edging placed or in various stages of completion with more step materials delivered to the site.

Everyone from the Clubs who participated enjoyed the day and were glad of the experience of being in the Yarra Ranges National Park. The mixed reactions to the state of the tracks was interesting and their acknowledgment of the effort of preliminary and subsequent work put in by Steve in the organisation of the event was appreciated. I take this opportunity to thank the dedicated members of Bayside BWC, Booroondara BWC, Catholic Walking Club of Victoria, Diamond Valley BWC, Maroondah BWC, Melbourne Bushies, Nomads BWC, VMTC, VNPA, and Waverley BWC for coming and helping in Target 2000 – Bushfire Recovery Project.

917 volunteer hours was generated from the weekend. We have a fair way to go to reach our target of 2000 hours. There is plenty of work left to do and we can only hope that many more volunteers join us in supporting the next planned weekend of October 24th and 25th. We also pray that the weather conditions are more favourable.

– Leora Robertson

Noticeboard

HELLO DEAR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Firstly to those who haven't yet heard, the Australian Geographic Society has recently awarded me a significant honour by being naming me as their Conservationist of the Year for 2009. It's not something I ever set out to achieve, and feel that society should rather celebrate the significant environmental improvements that have been made, and the joint efforts of all those who brought about the changes.

It occurs to me that celebrating a single person's effort is perhaps never really an accurate representation of how change happens on the ground. I think it's always people acting in co-operation because they all believe in something that's bigger than any of us! So in that regard, I simply accepted the award on behalf of the 18,000 people who have put their energy into our project over the past 15 years.

I was particularly struck by the "Young Conservationist of the Year", who is clearly a very wise, energetic and insightful young woman, head and shoulders above what I was at her age!! I see such qualities all the time in my work with university students, and feel that we are handing the world into very good hands!! The catchphrase of

the Geographic Society " – because life is an adventure!" – seemed to be a very fitting summary of all the achievements being celebrated that evening.

So thank you for your kind messages of congratulations. I feel glad to have your friendly support!

As well as the main dinner event, I was treated to a weekend in Sydney, so I took the opportunity to do some lovely walks both along the coastal cliffs and in the Blue Mountains. It is such a delightful city with amazing nature all around!!

Since the weekend in Sydney I've been back to the planting with a small crew of volunteers, finishing off the last of our planting sites, and camping in the Benalla Scout hall each night this week. We finished two sites and half of another, planting around 2500 seedlings with only 10 or a dozen volunteers! It's amazing what even a small group can do if the people believe it's possible!!

So now it's time for a weekend's rest and recreation, playing some music and simply enjoying some time in nature without a work focus!!

I hope you are all well, enjoying things as they come, and creating some good things to share as well. – Ray Thomas

CONSERVATION MATTERS

Donations. At the October Committee meeting it was resolved to donate \$400 to the Trust for Nature 'Woodlands Protection Appeal' and \$400 to The Wilderness Society, Victorian campaigns. The Trust for Nature 'Woodlands Appeal' is protecting habitat and endangered species in the Box-Ironbark Forests (around Benalla), Buloke woodlands in the Wimmera and Black Box creek lines in north-east Victoria.

This will help Red-tailed Black Cockatoos in the Wimmera, and the Grey-crowned Babblers and Regent Honeyeaters around Benalla as well as Bush-stone Curlews, Hooded Robin,

Jacky Winter, Crested Shrike-tit, Scarlet Robin and Diamond Firetail. For more information go to www.trustfornature.org.au and click on the 'Woodlands appeal'.

Also, The Wilderness Society, Victoria campaigns focus on Browns Mountain (East Gippsland), the Victoria WildCountry campaign and logging in the water catchments. For more information go to www.wilderness.org.au/regions/victoria.

Congratulations to Ray Thomas, Coordinator of the Regent Honeyeater project for winning the 2009 Australian Geographic "Conservationist of the Year Award". Special mention was made of Ray's 15 year fantastic contribution and organising over 18,000 volunteers for tree planting and habitat protection around the Lurg Hills (Benalla). – Rod Novak

BWV MEMBERSHIP CARD BENEFITS 2009-2010

For Affiliates, BSARV & Individual Members

Your current Bushwalking Victoria membership card enables you to obtain discounts from a number of mainly Melbourne based retailers of bushwalking equipment and services. Cards need to be presented prior to processing of sale.

TRAVEL

Outdoor Travel, 5% on Outdoor Travel tours and all reservations made directly with the office at Bright. Check out the website or join the email newsletter list for tours and current deals www.outdoortravel.com.au. Tel: 1800 331 582. Email: info@outdoortravel.com.au.

GEAR

RRP = Regular Retail Price – discounts do apply to sale or consignment items or hire gear

- AJAY's Snow and Country Sports: Heathmont 10% off RRP
- Base Camp: Berwick 10% off RRP

- Bogong Equipment: Melbourne 10% off RRP
- EMC, Eastern Mountain Centre: Deepdene 10% off RRP
- Melbourne Map Centre: Chadstone 5% discount
- Mountain Designs: Melbourne, Collingwood, Hawthorn and Geelong (main stores only, ie. not the Collingwood outlet store) 10% off RRP
- The Wilderness Shop: Box Hill 10% off RRP
- Outdoors.com.au: Melbourne 10% off RRP
- Outsports: Moorabbin 12% of RRP + 12% off gear hire
- Paddy Pallin: Melbourne, Hawthorn & Ringwood – 10% off RRP
- Pinnacle Outdoors: Melbourne – 10% off RRP
- Snowgum – all stores – free first year Snowgum Club Membership card, value \$11, rebate voucher sent out in May on all things bought between 1st April and 31 March

PLEASE NOTE:

The above is the current list and there are some changes to past years.

You can become a member of Anaconda, Columbia and Ray's Outdoors free of charge to obtain discounts.

Reviews

WILSONS PROMONTORY

Yes six silly souls ventured to the Prom on the last weekend in September with the intention of doing the Oberon car park/Refuge Bay circuit, only to be advised by the ranger's that this was not recommended due to extreme weather conditions forecast for the Saturday night. Thus the PC became a base camp in one of the Tidal River Huts, however walking was still the main activity, with a day walk to Sealer's and back, on the Saturday, some 20km. Fortunately the recent fires had stopped short of Windy Saddle, and already regrowth was under way with the native grass tree's in full bloom, standing out with 1.5m flower stems in the otherwise blackened and open under story.

As forecast, the Prom was wet with waterfalls that I have not previously seen flowing just past the saddle, and the board walk was 50mm under water in places. It cleared for lunch as Sealer's and was fine until our return to Windy Saddle when the promised winds and rain commenced. We were soon warm and secure in our hut, delecting for some, and catching the final



quarter of the AFL final, prior to dinner in a spacious kitchen rather than a tent, and then a social game of 500 and a dry bed (as it bucketed down outside).

Sunday was dry but windy as we strolled some 11km around the Tidal River headland and Lilly Pilly Gulley, prior to a pub lunch as Fish Creek with a welcome fire. Thanks to Richard Hanson for leading the walk and being flexible in changing, with no notice. The happy and dry base campers were Bernadette, Fang, Michael, Max & Roger.



Noticeboard

WALKER FEEDBACK

Tipperary Track-Daylesford Market

Visitors who joined the Sunday bus on 11 October were asked how they found out about the MBWC.

54 people attended, of whom 24 were visitors. We asked the visitors how they found out about the club, mainly to assist us in evaluating a recent publicity campaign of the club, which involved distributing flyers to promote the Sunday walks.

Visitors were asked:

1. How did you find out about the MBWC?
2. How many walks have you been on?
3. Comments/feedback regarding your experience with the MBWC
4. Age range.

14 visitors were attending for the first time; two for the second time; and eight for the third time.

15 found about the Club through the internet. Six found out through a friend /member of the club. Two had been previous members; one had been a member 30 years ago and the other ceased her membership two years ago.

One found out through a Bushwalking Magazine. NO ONE had seen our flyers.

Five were male and 19 were female. Four were aged

20–30; 11 were 30–40; 4 were 40–50; and five were 50-plus.

Asked for general comments and feedback the majority of visitors were very positive and said that they had greatly enjoyed the walk/s and would continue to attend the Sunday Bus Walks.

Five said the walk/walks had been much harder than they anticipated. They said that they felt they were given insufficient information about the “degree of difficulty” when they attended the Club Room on the Wednesday night. These visitors however said that they greatly enjoyed the walk and were very positive.

Five said that they found the MBWC Internet site very well organized and informative. They all said it was of a higher standard and more “user friendly” than the other walking club sites.

One found the walk physically too difficult to complete. (The leader organised for the bus to collect him during the walk). He acknowledged that he was very poorly prepared and took full responsibility for the situation.

One woman who completed her third walk was unsure whether she would become a member as she was a member of several other clubs.

Overall, the majority of the visitors had a very enjoyable, positive day and said they would continue walking with the Club and become members. The majority of visitors found out about the Club through the internet and word of mouth. No one was aware of our flyer!

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

The Gorges of the Gibb

This is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the Kimberley. During peak season, every camping area accessible to 4WDs is wall to wall with tourists. Thousands of people visit and 99.9% of those visitors miss the best that the area has to offer.

Forget the crowds – the best is seen when you walk. Why share a campground with a hundred other people when a walk of less than 5 km will get you a beautiful pool shared with no one but your walking companions?

Better still, our Gibb Road Gorges trip is one of the **easiest** we offer. **Insert dates here!**

Want more info? Visit our website or ask for the trip notes.

www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au

12 Carrington St Millner NT 0810 rrwillis@internode.on.net

Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355

River Road



Noticeboard

READINGS

Australia's Wild Places

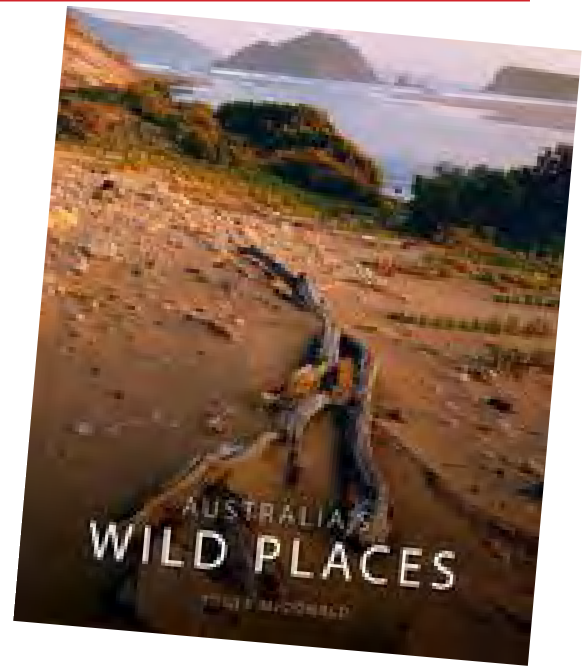
Roger McDonald and NSW Uni Press have amalgamated some of the most precious and iconic Australian photographs from The Pictures Collection in The National Library of Australia. It is a delight to have within the covers of one book so many of our valued and favourite photos. They are arranged chronologically, so we get a chance to enjoy early photos such as Nettleton's *Creek in Halls Gap* (1878), Ponting's *Iceberg Cavern*

(1900), and Cazneaux's *Flinders Ranges*.

Frank Hurley is generously represented, as are Olegas Truchanas and Peter Dombrovskis and it is interesting to trace the various influences that have shaped both our landscape and the people who have viewed it through their camera.

My personal favourite is Richard Woldendorp Rothko-inspired aerial photography.

– Susan Maughan



VALE GRAHAM MASCAS 16/8/36—14/10/09

It is with great sorrow that we say goodbye to Graham Mascas. Graham was a man with huge enthusiasm for life and adventure. Born in Shipley, Yorkshire, he completed an apprenticeship in electrical engineering after his schooling. He later worked as an electronics engineer in Geneva where he met Marijke. They were married in the Netherlands. In 1961 they went to live in Sheffield, Yorkshire, which gave him the opportunity to study statistics. Their two daughters, Monique and Kim, were born there before moving to Abergavenny in Wales where their son Gavin was born. In 1968 Graham applied for a job in Australia and they migrated here. Working as a statistician Graham was able to get a part-time job at RMIT lecturing. One of the staff was MBW member, Alec Proudfoot, who told Graham about the club. Graham and Marijke joined, taking it in turns for one to stay home to mind the children. As the children got older they became regulars on club walks.

Graham took a keen interest in the club and in 1971 became president, a position he held for four years. He made some overdue changes to the way the club was run; especially in the way accounts were kept. Always an active walker, he led many trips for the club. In 1977 he was walks secretary and gave the club very good programs. One of his ideas was for the club to walk the newly opened Alpine Walking Track. This was done in eight stages, using a mini bus to drive walkers to the start of each stage and picking them up at the end. Graham also organised several adventurous non-program trips to unusual places, such as Barrier Ranges and Innamincka.

After being introduced to the club hut Wilkinson Lodge, the Mascas family took to using it with great enthusiasm. An annual fixture was the Mascas Christmas affair, an open house so members without family ties in Melbourne could

have Christmas dinner with an extended Bushy group. There would be lots of walking of day trips or longer to walk off Marijke's roast turkey dinner!

Graham was also interested in photography and was a keen member of a local photography club.

Marijke had been a keen sailor in her youth in Holland and would take Graham on yachts with her. Graham took up sailing again as the children got older, and they bought their own small yacht. Graham did his sums and worked out that he could retire early so he left his job and they spent several years living aboard their third boat, "Myvanwy", as they made their way up the coast of Australia. They cruised with many sailing friends (including MBW members) around the Whitsundays, returning to Melbourne each summer cyclone season. Eventually they sailed through the Indonesian islands and up to Malaysia, Thailand and the Andaman Islands.

After 15 years of adventures they decided to "settle down" and so bought a house in Bruthen. This started a new chapter in Graham's life as he joined the local U3A. Graham soon became president and with great enthusiasm built the group up to a very active one with many members enjoying a wide range of activities. With the boat now moored in the Gippsland Lakes, Graham and Marijke were still able to keep sailing.

Unfortunately, Graham was diagnosed with prostate cancer and developed secondaries. Treatment was successful for a while but then it became obvious that further treatment would not work. Graham stayed at home, being looked after by Marijke with help from friends and local nursing and palliative care. He died at home in his sleep.

Graham will be missed by many people in the community but especially our thoughts go out to Marijke, Monique, Kim and Gavin, and to their families.

Marijke would also like to thank all those people who sent letters and cards when they announced their resignation from the club as well as those who sent letters afterwards.

– Doug Pocock, Bob Steel and Geoff Mattingley

Reviews

RUBICON RAMBLE

Max had said that the campsite beside the river was a bit grungy, but after arriving and seeing the Rubicon River in full flow cascading over rocks which probably had been high and dry for quite some time, Janet and I were suitably impressed and also coupled with the fact that a planned 21st birthday party by some early campers was to be moved to another campsite added to the suitability of our green patch.

Max arrived shortly after us only to inform that the rest of the group were going to stay at the Thornton Caravan Park. What? Shock! Horror! How could they do such a thing? Max surveyed the scene and decided to put an end to the slackness and rounded up the troops for a wonderful night's camping next to the sound of gushing water.

Saturday dawned and we were off to the old tramway aqueduct and pipeline infrastructure built for the hydro power station at Rubicon. As we climbed higher towards the top of the pipeline there was evidence of the devastation caused by the February fires.

Blackened trees and severely scorched tree ferns were everywhere with some showing no signs of recovery. Fire had even reached into some of the deep gullies and we saw 50 metre tall myrtle beeches still standing, but completely dead. Did these trees survive the 1939 fires only to be wiped out in 2009?

The top of the pipeline offers some spectacular views down the valley, and Mary contemplated how awesome the ride in the inspection carriage would be. The carriage plunges by means of a steel cable and rails some 400m down a very steep incline to the power station.

The rest of Saturday involved following the old timber tramline route towards the timber mill, crossing some trestle bridges in dubious condition (one of which only half of the party decided to attempt due mainly to the fact that a considerable number of the sleepers were either non-existent or severely rotten). Most of the brave/slightly insane stalwarts crossed the bridge on all fours, however Graeme Walkden decided if you walk only on the tramlines and have a good sense of balance, then crossing any other way was not necessary. Well he did make it! There was one trestle bridge however that nobody attempted to cross – only the twisted and buckled tramlines remained. The rest was completely destroyed by fire.

The grand finale of the day was the Rubicon Dam. Vast

quantities of water flowed over the spillway and we noticed that a safety fence on the dam wall had been ripped off by a large log which had crashed into it due to the force of the water. A day of examples of destruction by both water and fire. A slight drizzle greeted us on Sunday morning, the day we were to climb Mt Torbreck and supposedly be rewarded with great views.

We drove the cars as far as practicable and set out at about 900 metres in steady rain. As we climbed little patches of snow were seen in the gullies, but nothing of any consequence. We reached the main part of the climb at Barnewall Plains in a slight mist and light rain. There were a few dark mutterings about whether the climb was really worth doing but the challenge prevailed and we were off. The climb was very steep and the little patches of snow we encountered earlier were becoming widespread and much deeper. Eventually at about 1300m the track was basically an untouched white ribbon broken only by the footprints of a wombat. The atmosphere was magical.



Old trestle bridge, Upper Rubicon

The last 200 metres of the climb involved a bit of rock scrambling, climbing over fallen trees and ploughing through snow up to 40 centimetres deep; as for the view – well it was less than spectacular. In fact all we saw was billows of mist rolling in creating a ghostly contrast against the blackened trees. Of course we had to celebrate the conquest with a snowball fight, and after the festivities make our way back down where initially snow shoes or skis would have been a great help.

Thanks, Max, for a weekend of contrasts for all and I can still hear that wonderful sound of a healthy river flowing full belt.

The merry walkers were Max Casley leader, Ed and Mary Neff, Beverley Kuskopf, Graeme Walkden, Janet Hodgson, Fiona Kelly and me the scribe.

– Graham Hodgson

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



DANDENONGS EXPLORER

CHELSEA BEACH AND BAYSIDE RAMBLE

DATE 28 November
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 12K
LEADER(S) Wendy Fortington
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Chelsea
MAP REF MEL 97 B1

We will walk along the beach until we reach the Patterson River where we cross the bridge and then continue along a beachside track to Seaford where we will have lunch on the picnic seats or the beach. Depending on the weather and sand conditions, we may return to Chelsea along the beach. This is a very pleasant walk. You should see some bird life within the dunes.

There is always something of interest along the beach. This is an easy-peasy walk and because it is the last Saturday walk of the year we will have a welcome coffee at the end. Meet across the road from Chelsea station at 10 am. There is plenty of parking behind the shops. Bring plenty of water, and if you wish to buy your lunch there is a bakery at Seaford. Come along and make it a great day.



TOFS WALK

BUSHLAND IN SUBURBIA

DATE Thursday 3 December
STANDARD easy
DISTANCE 10km
LEADER(S) Keith White
TRANSPORT Public or Private
AREA Bushland in Suburbia
MAP REF Melways 31C9

The walk is close to the CBD and to public transport. Meet at 10.30 am at Darebin Parklands, Alphington, in the carpark at the end of Separation St. The nearest station is Alphington, about six minutes' walking time to the start and finish of our walk. From the station walk north along Yarana Rd then follow the cycle path to the car park.

We will meander along the west bank of Darebin Ck heading north to to reach Bell St, walking below the cycle path for most of the journey. We then cross through a mixture of parkland and streets in Ivanhoe to connect with a path that follows Donaldsons Creek back to Rockdeane Park. We drop down and cross over Darebin Creek and return to our starting point.



WALK PREVIEW

WILSONS PROM (TIDAL RIVER)

DATE 4th – 6th December
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE Easy
LEADER(S) Michael Mann
TRANSPORT private
AREA Wilsons Prom
MAP REF

This is going to be a very easy and relaxing weekend. I have been going down to Tidal River with friends for a few years just before Christmas and its usually very quiet. We will be doing all the short walks around Tidal River. There are longer walks if people feel inclined.



WEDNESDAY WALK

YARRA BEND PARK, KEW

DATE Wednesday 9 December
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 9km
LEADER(S) Michael Mann
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Yarra Bend Park
MAP REF Melway 44 K3

Meet at the Car park at Bellbird Picnic area at 10.30 am for a pleasant walk in Yarra Bend Park. This is going to be an easy walk as it is Christmas and we will want plenty of time to have afternoon tea. So please bring along some goodies to share and some drink.



THREE CREEK TRAILS – CAULFIELD TO BORONIA CIRCUIT

DATE	Saturday 12 December 2009
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	65km
LEADER(S)	Ed Neff
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	SE Suburbs
MAP REF	Melway Maps 68, 69,70, 71, 72, 63, 64, 65.

We will meet at Caulfield station Northern entrance at 10 am. The ride will take us first on Scotchmans Creek Trail to Jells Park for a morning coffee break. We then weave around the East Link Trail to connect with the Dandenong Creek Trail to Bayswater. A rail trail to Boronia then connects us with the Blind Creek Trail back to Jells Park. The return circuit is completed via Glen Waverley and a rail trail back to East Malvern and on to Caulfield.

This enjoyable ride is mostly on bike trails with only short sections on minor roads and only a few hills.

Ring me directly to book or if you have any questions. I will not be in the clubrooms beforehand.



BARWON RIVER OLD MILL WALK AND FORSHORE -

NEW DATE	13 December
STANDARD	EASY / EASY MEDIUM
DISTANCE	11KM / 16KM
LEADER(S)	PHILIP GESCHKE & ALLAN MARTIN
TRANSPORT	Bus from Southbank Blvd 8.45am
AREA	FYANSFORD GEELONG
MAP REF	MELWAYS RE 227 B3

Today as a lead up to Christmas and an alternative to our usual programs we have planned an easy and enjoyable day along the banks of the Barwon River and Geelong Foreshore. The walks commence at Fyansford Park and follow a 7.5 km circuit up the river to a very interesting and pretty part of the Barwon River. In the late 1800s a paper mill was constructed and the river dammed to create a water race to drive the mill, the remnants of which are still there on our walking track to Devils Lookout.

Lunch will be back at the Fyansford common, where there is also a country pub for a counter lunch and ale for those so inclined to partake before the afternoon program begins. After lunch you have a choice of activities. For the less energetic the bus will take you to go to the Geelong foreshore where you can explore along the waterfront development and all it has to offer. For the rest wishing to work off their veal parma lunch a bit more energetically, we will continue our walk down along the Barwon River towards greater Geelong to the bus pickup point. This day would be a great introduction to bushwalking as there are very few inclines and for the more experienced walkers out there, a relaxing end for our 2009 Sunday walks program.



SUGARLOAF RESERVOIR

DATE	Sunday 20 December 2009
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	16km
LEADER	Mick Noonan
TRANSPORT	Private Transport – Southbank Blvd
RETURN TIME	5.30
AREA	Yarra Glen/Christmas Hills north-east of Melbourne
MAP REFERENCE	Melways Map 273

This walk circumnavigates the Sugarloaf Reservoir east of Melbourne near Yarra Glen. The reservoir was opened in 1980 on lands previously occupied by the Wurunjeri people. The dam is currently about 55% full, hopefully more by the time we walk around it!

We will start at the Ridge picnic area, walking anticlockwise. The walk is a combination of on and off track in beautiful bushland, with some spectacular views back to Melbourne and

out across the Yarra Valley. The area is very green at present attracting numerous birds and kangaroos.

As its close to Melbourne we should be back at Southbank reasonable early, unless we stop by a winery or have a coffee!

The walk is in the Central Total Fire Ban District, the best Temperature Reference is Melbourne in case it is 38 or more, and the travel distance is approx 90 km return so the cost will be \$9.



MOFS

MORTIMER RESERVE – GEMBROOK PARK

DATE	Monday 21 December 2009
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	11 km
LEADER(S)	Alister Rowe
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Bunyip State Park
MAP REF	Melway key map Page 14, R12

Mortimer Picnic Ground can be reached either from Gembrook via Beenak East Road to Gembrook–Tonimbuk Road or from the Princes Highway via Tynong North Road to Tynong–Tominbuk Road. The picnic ground is on the corner of Gembrook–Tonimbuk and Link Roads and can be easily missed.

The walk will commence at 10.30 am and is a pleasant stroll through varied and attractive bushland. A couple of mild hills and a short downhill scramble will put you in good shape for afternoon tea in Gembrook.

WALK PREVIEW



SNOWY RIVER GORGE (NEAR BOMBALA)

DATE	26-29 December 2009
STANDARD	Medium/Hard
LEADER	Jopie Bodegraven

This trip has been cancelled due to the leader no longer being available



PACK CARRY

WONGUNGARRA RIVER - BLUE RAG RANGE EXPLORATORY

DATE	4-9 December
STANDARD	Hard
LEADER	Jopie Bodegraven
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Alps near Hotham
MAP REF	Dargo Plains - Cobungra 1:50,000

This will be a challenging trip only for those able to put up with discomfort, scrub, two days of wet feet and a monster climb. Two of the campsites are unknown quantities in a steep narrow gorge and may have nowhere suitable for pitching tents. We may have to sleep leaning against a tree ... who knows? There will be two days of rockhopping/wading/ scrub bashing down the Wongungurra River with lots of opportunity to break ankles and other bits for those not up to it.

I have added the Wednesday to the otherwise four-day walk so we can camp Tuesday night after a hard day and drive home in the morning. If the weather forecast is bad or river levels are too high we will postpone the trip, probably for two weeks.



PACK CARRY

HELICOPTER SPUR – MT MAGDALA- HOWITT SPUR

DATE	27-29 November 2009
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	20 km
LEADER	Max Casley
TRANSPORT	Private cars
AREA	Alpine National Park east of Mansfield.
MAP REF	VMTC King, Howqua & Jamieson Rivers 1:50,000.

This two-day walk is in an area cherished by bushwalkers. It traverses steep ridges and peaks high above the Howqua River in spectacular alpine country. At first there is a steep climb from the Howqua River up Helicopter Spur, which has some steep rocky sections. We will be rewarded by good views from the ridge. Then we follow the Alps Walking Track over Mt Magdala past Hells Window to a sheltered campsite in a saddle among snowgums.

Next morning we will continue along the AWT past Big Hill to Mt Howitt and possibly a side trip to Macalister Springs. We will then descend via Howitt Spur back to the Howqua River.



BASE CAMP

BOGONG HIGH PLAINS

Dates: 26th December 2009-3rd January 2010
 Standard: Easy-Easy/Medium
 Leader: Lance Mobbs
 Transport: Private
 Area: Bogong High Plains
 Map Area: Bogong Alpine Area 1: 50,000
 Where: The Old Tennis Courts, below Wallace's Hut, Bogong High Plains.

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

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

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

Please Note: The starting date on the Summer walks list is wrong, the walk will start as usual on Boxing Day the 26th, not Christmas Day the 25th.

If interested, please see me in the club rooms for further info or call me and I will send you the information and map.

If anyone have not done any camping before, please feel free to ask me, I will be only to happy to help with any concerns.



PACK CARRY

THREDBO TO KIANDRA

Roger Wyett's Thredbo to Kiandra pack carry trip after Christmas has been brought forward by two days. The dates are now 27 December to 4 January.

This means that to do the whole walk you only need to have the Monday (4 January) off work – unless you are a retiree – in addition to the days between Christmas and New Year.

For more information contact Roger Wyett.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST INVITED



PACK CARRY IN THE DOUGLAS APSLEY NP TASMANIA AT EASTER 2010.

Location. 178km from Hobart, just north of Bicheno, and 4km in from the coast. Graded Medium, this walk could complete all of the suitable Easter pack carries for us near the East Coast.

Excerpt from Wild magazine. "Apart from unspoilt bushland vistas and gorges, the park features waterfalls, varied flora, bountiful bird life and the spectacular rocky towers known as Nichols Needles".

Friday 2 April 2010. Depart Hobart by charter bus to begin 3hr walk south to Heritage Falls campsite. Time to view the Falls and opportunities for the more adventurous.

Saturday. 200m climb to a ridge top then side trips to coastal views and Nichols Cap to view the Needles.
 Camp at the Douglas River.

Sunday. 300m climb from camp and varied terrain until descent to camp at the Apsley River.

Monday 5 April. Explore Apsley Gorge and then bus to the Airport. There may be time to see more of Bicheno.

Costs which include accommodation in Hobart on Thursday night, bus travel to the park and return to the Airport, and park passes could be \$120 to \$160 depending on numbers.

Air fares not included and, although these have increased from last year, there maybe cheaper prices still to be announced. The walk will only proceed with your approval of final costs.

If interested please contact Bob Oxlade.



Bus transport meets at Southbank Boulevard, south side of the Arts Centre, before 8:30 am. Leader or deputy will be there rain, hail or shine!

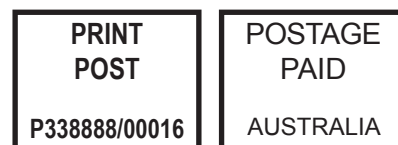
December

Date	Location	Transport	Stand	Leader(s)
Thu 3	Bushland in Suburbia	Private	Easy	Keith White
4-6	BC: Wilsons Prom (Tidal River)	Private	Easy	Michael Mann
4-9	PC: Wongungarra R-Blue Rag Range Exploratory	Private	Hard	Jopie Bodegraven
Sun 6	Coliban Falls - Granite Creek Falls	Car	Easy	Ron Hampton
Wed 9	Yarra Bend Park-Kew	Private	Easy	Michael Mann
11-13	PC: Mt Buffalo - Rocky Creek	Private	E/M	Del Franks
Sat 12	Cycling: Caulfield-Boronia	Private	E/M	Ed Neff
Sun 13	NEW: Barwon River	Bus	E & E/M	Phil Geschke & Allan Martin
Sun 20	Sugarloaf Reservoir	Car	E/M	Mick Noonan
Mon 21	Mortimers Reserve, Gembrook Park	Private	Easy	Alister Rowe

Christmas Trips

25-3Jan	BC: Bogong HP-Wallaces Hut (Old Tennis Crt)	Private	Easy	Lance Mobbs
26-29	PC: Snowy R Gorge (near Bombala)	Private	M/H	Jopie Bodegraven
29-6Jan	PC: Snowy Mtns: Thredbo to Kiandra	Private	Medium	Roger Wyett

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