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# THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 cents

APRIL 2010

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Please mark Sunday 2 May in bold in your diary to celebrate the Club's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This will be held at the Nioka Bush Camp, Plenty Gorge Park and full details appear in a separate notice in this month's NEWS. It is hoped that as many members (both current and past) will come along on the day.

Subscriptions are now due and a reminder that an additional amount of \$10 will be charged to members who receive their copies of NEWS via postal mail. This should be added on to the standard subscription rate which has not changed from last year. The cost of printing and posting NEWS and the Activity Program out to members who do not receive this via email, costs the Club over \$3,000 per annum. We have contained the basic subscription rates despite increases for Bushwalking Victoria's affiliation fees/insurance costs, higher clubroom rental, leadership training, depreciation charges, loss of interest and 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary costs.

David Arnold who has designed and developed the Club's online database would now like to relinquish this role. This is an integral and important facility for the Club's operations. If you have proficient computer technical skills and are keen to contribute to the Club then we would love to hear from you. An advertisement for the role appears in this month's NEWS and a detailed Position Description is available.

I am pleased to advise that Andy Elam has been appointed to the role of Training Officer. He has an extensive background in Leadership and First Aid training and will shortly be advertising some activities in the NEWS. Welcome on board Andy!!

Another date to diarise is Federation Weekend 8 -10 October 2010. This will be hosted by Waverley Bushwalking Club and held at Anglesea. A variety of walks will be available on both the Saturday and Sunday with gradings from Easy to Hard. There will also be an overnight pack carry. The event will be based at the YMCA Recreation Camp at Anglesea. Further details at a later date.

Happy walking!!

**Margaret Curry**



## SOCIAL CALENDAR - SNEAK PREVIEWS...

### Wednesday 26 May

Wine & Cheese Night and a talk by Les Southwell  
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.)

### Friday 25 June

The "Sing-along SOUND OF MUSIC"  
at Hamer Hall

Let's start at the very beginning: if you wish you were 16 going on 17 so that you could climb every mountain and follow every rainbow and your heart wants to sing ev'ry song it hears then have I got the night of nights for you.....

SO ALL YOU LONELY GOATHERDS, CLOSET NUNS,  
LEDERHOSEN WEARERS, AND PINK LEMONADE  
DRINKING BARONESSES.... It's time to frock up!!

Please book with Susan Maughan on receipt of this  
News...do not delay.(This notice will not be repeated.)

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



PO Box 1751  
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:

Next committee meeting will take place on

**MONDAY 3 MAY**

## 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 contact details
17 - 18 April - Nest Boxing	Ray Thomas
18 April - Condons Track	Steve Robertson
30 April - Grampians	Jim Harker -
2 May - Snake Island	Steve Robertson -
October 2010 - Stronachs Camp (Baw Baw Nat. Park)	Geoff Kelly

### A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR

The emailed version of this edition contains all the submissions received this month.

The selection as to which review to publish or not publish in the print version was simply made on the 'first received' basis.



**COME JOIN US!**

**Wednesday 28 April**  
Wine and Cheese night

**Friday, 30 April**

Tour of Melbourne Cemetery. Limited numbers.  
Call now to book.



# Reports

## DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR

**Do you have proficient computer technical skills?  
If so, we would love to hear from you.**

The club's online database is both a central library of leaders' trip reports and maps, and an integral part of the Sunday bookings system. Its current developer and maintainer will shortly be relinquishing this role, to allow someone else to make their mark on this important club facility.

The essential component of the role is to resolve technical issues and generally maintain the facility, which is implemented in PHP/MySQL and related web technologies. Maintaining off-site backups of server scripts and data tables is of course part of the overall role (although backup of non-critical data, such as trip reports and documents, is optional and can be negotiated with Walks Secretaries and other relevant parties to suit requirements).

It is desirable that the administrator would be able to modify existing or incorporate new functionality, according to changing operational requirements of the club.

The database administrator is not involved with entry of the data itself, as this is done directly by the people responsible, namely the Walks Secretaries or Coordinators for trip details, and the appointed booking takers in the case of Sunday walk bookings.

It is hoped there is a member keen to contribute to the club who might be interested in taking on this role. Contact should be made either with David Arnold on [database@mbw.org.au](mailto:database@mbw.org.au), or Margaret Curry, President.

## EQUIPMENT

### Footwear

When we think of bushwalking we think of boots, which is probably why we buy them! If we were to consider our needs we probably wouldn't. Boots may provide limited ankle protection but impair the development of the strength and reflexes that will help protect us in the future. Some boots may stay dry longer but low cut ventilated shoes worn with a good pair of socks are not that unpleasant when wet, drain better, dry faster and are considerably more comfortable at other times. Heavy boots will be more durable but light shoes can have a reasonable life span, even in the toughest conditions. They are easier to fit, less expensive, enable us to adapt to the terrain better and to walk faster with less effort. They may not be the answer to all our needs but, before we encase our floppy ankles in another pair of restrictive boots, it could be worth considering some professional advice, footwear to improve alignment rather than limit mobility, exercises to develop strength and reflexes (such as standing on one foot) and plenty of well-graded bushwalks!

**John Fritze**

## BUSHWALKING VICTORIA TRACK MAINTENANCE GROUP

If any one is interested in completing an accredited Chain Saw course (free of charge) and to assist the Bushwalking Victoria Track Maintenance Group, then please contact Rod Novak [Please note: the course is 3-4 days.

**Rod Novak**

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

The annual membership fees were set by the AGM held on 22 Feb to be:

Single Member	\$45.00	
Couple/Family	\$72.00	
Concession (proof required)		\$34.00
Concession - Couple/Family (proof required for both)		\$50.00
The News subscribers	\$20.00	

This is based upon members receiving the monthly newsletter and quarterly activities program by e mail. Should members elect to receive "hard copy" via Australia Post, a \$10 levy will be added to the above membership rates (excl News only subscribers).

Annual membership fees are now due and payable by no later than 31 May 10, by:

- cheque payable to "Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc" P.O. Box 1751, Melbourne, 3001
- cash payment to the Membership Secretary (generally in the clubrooms the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month
- EFT to the club account, please ensure your full name & "SUBS" appear on the transfer

Members should check their details in the current membership listing and advise any changes. Any member wishing to NOT have their address published in the annual member listing (issued in July) should reconfirm this requirement when paying their annual fees. Members electing to advise their e mail details should do this via e mail to: [membership@mbw.org.au](mailto:membership@mbw.org.au)

# Noticeboard

## CONSERVATION MATTERS

ALPINE National Park - MT BUFFALO proposed chairlift - There is an investigation being conducted into a proposed Chairlift up Mt Buffalo. The Investigation has the approval of the Alpine Shire Council and a taskforce has been set up, with members from Great Alpine Valleys Tourism Board & Alpine Shire councillors. The final report from the task force will be completed by 30 June 2010. The website is [www.mtbuffalloskyways.com.au](http://www.mtbuffalloskyways.com.au) please have a look at this proposal and voice your opposition & concerns.

RITCHIES HUT - There will be an official opening of the rebuilt Ritchies Hut on 17 April, at 8 Mile Flat.

GREATER ALPINE NATIONAL PARK - The discussion paper prepared by Bushwalking Victoria is now available for comment on in **Weplan** on parkweb, Parks Victoria website.

PARKS INFORMATION - There are a number of tracks closed in Parks across Victoria due to fuel reduction burns; it is advisable to check with Parks Victoria & DSE before starting your walk.

STRZELECKI RANGES - A proposal has been received about a concept of the Grand Strzelecki Walking Track, this has emerged as a consequence of two communities working to establish walking tracks in the Strzelecki Ranges, in the Balook district surrounded by the Tarra -Bulga National Park and in the Jeeralang area surrounding the Morwell National Park. The merged concept is an 85 kilometre track that will connect the two national parks.

VEAC - The VNPA is conducting a petition to help save the Victorian Environment Assessment Council (which has made a significant contribution to the protection of biodiversity in Victoria). Go to [www.vnpa.org.au](http://www.vnpa.org.au) for more information.

MALLACOOTA - For more information on the campaign to save Bastion Point (inappropriate marina development at Mallacoota on Victoria's 'wilderness coast) go to [www.savebastionpoint.org](http://www.savebastionpoint.org)

2010 - International Year of Biodiversity

Rod Novak - club delegate to BV Environment Committee

## WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

# Great walks in Patagonia

*"The Patagonian Andes are a wonderland of rugged mountains with granite spires, snow covered mountains, glaciers, lakes, beech forests, fields of daisies, waterfalls and more. The opportunity for some terrific trekking shouldn't be missed."* Helen O'Callaghan, Melbourne

### There is no one else

There are dozens, perhaps hundreds of tour operators in Patagonia. Only one offers trips where each itinerary is different, where you take your pack and explore some of the lesser known areas as well as some of the more popular ones. We've been running these trips since 1990. We give you the kind of wilderness experience that no other operator will offer.

Visit our website or ask us for the trip notes.

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

12 Carrington St Millner NT 0810 [rrwillis@internode.on.net](mailto:rrwillis@internode.on.net)

Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355

Come with us in Nov. 2010



# Noticeboard

## THE WILDERNESS SHOP

### MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS MEGA BUYING NIGHT, 1 NIGHT ONLY!!!

WHERE: THE WILDERNESS SHOP, 969 WHITEHORSE RD BOX HILL

WHEN: TUESDAY 11TH MAY 6.00PM - 9.00PM

DETAILS: **20% OFF ALL OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT**, INCLUDING

BUSHWALKING, XC SKIS AND ROCKCLIMBING

OTHER GOODIES: **FREE NIBBLES, PIZZA, DRINKS**

**DOOR PRIZE: DOOR PRIZE DRAWN ON THE NIGHT. BE THERE TO WIN!!!**

## HOUSE SITTING

Jan and Loch are off on another jaunt. We would like someone to house-sit from 8/5/10 to 26/6/10.

The house is close to public transport (buses and trains), Eastern freeway and the shopping strip of Fairfield with its wonderful coffee shops and varied cuisine. There is also off street parking.

Please contact Jan during business hours\

## SYLVIA FORD

When we first arrived in Melbourne and made contact with the Melbourne Bushies Sylvia was the president, serving three years from 1987 to '89. We couldn't help but be caught up with her enthusiasm, and her loud, very English voice made us feel at home immediately. We became good friends and shared many bushwalking trips together over the next few years, including longer pack-carries in Tasmania, the Otways, and exciting places like The Top End.

She was always good company on a walk and was always finding things to laugh at, and her laughing was infectious! I heard her good story of her first experience of Australian alpine snow conditions when she staggered through heavy snow on Mt Baw Baw - and it was always funny, and she would always laugh at my story of my debacle with our spa bath. Sylvia's energy and organising abilities were always being put to good use and at one Committee meeting it was Sylvia who pointed out that we were approaching the Club's 50th birthday and suggested having a party -and she organised it and all manner of different celebrations for the various interest groups of the Club, bringing together many of the early members. She also volunteered to write a celebratory document and although this became too big a project for one person she made a great contribution to what

became the book of our 50-year history.

Sylvia was a cross-country skier and organised beginners' ski weekends at Lake Mountain and elsewhere. She was very fond of Wilky, and served as Wilky manager for several years. Her Barjarg "lodge" weekends became legendary. One of her favourite areas was the Otways and she led many trips here and on what became the Great Ocean Walk. Sylvia had wide interests and often organised cultural events - we went to many of her Bushie get-togethers at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl concerts. She would arrive early and set up a position with a flag so we could find her. Gina and I got to know her very well when we shared our house with her and her two daughters for a time when she was between houses. She later became a house-sitter for us when we were away on extended trips and we always knew that we would return to a sparkingly-clean house - much better than the one we had left!

While returning home from weekend trips Sylvia would always be looking out for a good coffee venue to stop at. She was *very* particular about her coffee! She introduced a column in *The News* that scored cafes and restaurants on their food and coffee. She would often call in on us for afternoon tea and a gossip after school bringing delicious cakes after she had shopped at her favourite shops in

Kew.

Her sense of adventure and fun meant that she was always looking for new things to do and we were not surprised when she announced that she was off to Poland to work for a year or so. Her emailing wasn't up to scratch but she kept us up-to-date with her exploits with letters and postcards.

Sylvia was so looking forward to her retirement and it was so tragic that she became ill before her plans could come to pass. We were continually amazed at her fortitude and cheerfulness even as the developing news became worse. When I first spoke to her after I had heard the news I said "What a bugger, Sylvia!" "Yes", she said "a real bugger!" That was the only time that I heard any form of complaint from her about this bombshell that came out of the blue.

Now she is no longer with us I feel that there is a big hole where she was.

She positively radiated energy and an enthusiasm for life wherever she was, whatever she was doing. We have lost a great friend, a valuable Bushie, a great example of a positive personality to us all. We are so sad to have lost her.

Derrick and Gina

*Sylvia slipped away during the night of 23 March, 2010 after an illness of some 18 months.*

# Noticeboard

## 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS – SUNDAY 2 MAY 2010

- Where:** Nioka Bush Camp, Plenty Gorge Park (Melways 183:H8)  
**Date:** Sunday 2 May 2010  
**Activities:** A Sunday walk utilizing the bus as transport to the park  
A cycle trip within the park surrounds  
*(For the above two activities please refer to Previews in NEWS)*  
A short bird watch of 1.5 hours commencing at 11.00am  
A short walk of 1.5 hours duration commencing at 2.00pm  
*(The above two shorter activities will commence from the Nioka Bush Camp)*  
Lots of time to chat and mingle with past and current club members  
**Time:** Any time from 10.45am for those not participating in the Sunday walk or cycle trip)  
**Facilities:** A large hall, kitchen area with fridge and sink  
Toilets available at the site  
**Bring:** Any past photos or items of historical interest  
**Lunch:** Picnic lunch or barbeque. (BYO drinks and food). BBQ's and picnic tables available outdoors and also tables and chairs indoors. (Extra chairs and tables may be useful).  
**Food:** Please bring along a 'plate of goodies' for afternoon tea (not applicable to Life or Honorary Members)  
**Tea/Coffee:** Tea and coffee will be provided by the Club  
**Formalities:** Formal proceedings will commence around 3.45pm.  
**Queries:** For further information contact Margaret Curry

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# MACPAC 2010 EASTER SALE

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Discount off RRP. For a limited time (17th Mar 2010 - 18th Apr 2010) or while stocks last. Some items may not be available in all stores.

IMAGE © MANA WAHINE



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## Noticeboard

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### MOONLIGHT RIDE, SATURDAY 27 FEBRUARY

The last shower was fading as our little peleton gathered on the platform at Flinders Street, leaving the evening cool and overcast. The grey sky had settled in so although we might enjoy a ride, there was little chance of moonlight. Lynda introduced everybody and we made chit-chat as we waited for the train.

A few of us were joining a Bushies ride for the first time, and weren't sure what to expect. Would we be able to keep pace with Lynda? Her shiny racer certainly looked fast. There were other road bikes, a smattering of mountain bikes and my folding bike, just the thing for pottering about and visiting the shops, but a forty kilometre tour might be another matter.

Ross had beaten us to Hoppers Crossing; he'd ridden from Glen Waverly as a warm-up and brought our numbers to nine. The brief formalities: Lynda would lead and she asked me, taking part as an honorary Bushie, to be whip (riding at the back, rounding up stragglers). I'd ridden as "lanterne rouge" in groups before, but whip sounded like more fun.

The first few kilometres were spent clearing the encroaching suburbia: past new shopping centres, new housing estates, along a seemingly endless section of gravel road with corra-gug-gug-gations beside a creek, more new housing, then through the grasslands of Point Cook to our first wayside stop.

We rode up a slight rise, guided by what looked like a massive foghorn standing above the scenery, but turned out to be an art installation of a massive foghorn standing above the scenery. From this high

point, looking south, we could see across the salt lakes to Altona Bay, and southeast to Seaholme and the next leg of our journey.

The evening was closing in as we set out, so more than ever we were thankful Lynda was so familiar with the route. She led on confidently -- left here, right here, over this bridge -- while we trailed single file or side by side, chatting. We were soon at the beach path at Altona, a line of tail-lights snaking around the shore. Lars is to be congratulated for his stoicism: the extra pedalling required to keep the dynamo buzzing against his front wheel must have made even this flat ground feel like riding uphill.

Riding with a group, and particularly riding at night, is such a pleasant way to travel: the kilometres slip past as you enjoy the rhythm of pedalling. Interesting company adds to the experience, and before you know it you've reached your destination. For use this meant rounding the Time Ball on Point Gellibrand, for the last little run into Williamstown.

Another short break, this time for a quick bite and coffee, and it was time for the final section of the ride: into the city. Lars left us to catch a train in Williamstown, and others followed suit as we headed closer to town. Finally, after back streets, main roads, and riverside paths, we were in Southbank and the end of the ride. No, Lynda hadn't ridden too fast; just a comfortable, easy pace.

As the rest of us headed for trains or waiting cars, Ross set his bike on course for Glen Waverley and home. –

**Jamie Harrison**

Riders: Lynda, Catherine, Cordelia, Margaret, Daniel, John, Ross, Lars, Jamie.



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# Reviews

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## MT FEATHERTOP PACK CARRY VIA THE NORTH WEST SPUR - 27- 28 FEBRUARY

On Saturday morning at about 9 am a group of eager pack carry bushwalkers assembled at the base of Mt Feathertop. Our leader, Agajan, gave us a good briefing for the intended route which involved quite a sustained climb up the northwest spur. It was raining quite steadily as we headed off, first walking along a lovely valley, very lush and green.

We crossed a small bridge over the creek, and several thirsty walkers collected water here, as this was the start of the climb proper. The water was cool and clear, very refreshing. Then began the start of the big climb to the top. A number of speedy walkers were keen to push ahead and others felt the need to set their own pace and not rush. As we climbed upwards the rain showers continued and as we became drenched through we reminded ourselves of how blessed we were that it was cool and wet rather than hot and steamy! Though relishing the rain Kerry wished that she had brought along a "Jopie garbage bag skirt" at least to keep the lower part of her dry!

Views of the surrounding valleys and hills emerged as we ascended the mountain. In fact for the people who enjoyed the scenery as they walked it was rather peaceful, mystical and eerie to be immersed in the swilling clouds and softest mist.



changed along the track from the tall Eucalypts and plant diversity of the lower forest to sub-alpine shrubs and open recently burnt woodland, and then to the beautiful snow gums. Just as we thought we had another few hours to go, a large green dome shape loomed up ahead through the mist. It was a welcome sight to see the Melbourne Uni hut which was also our lunch stop. By then the rain was starting to clear so we enjoyed our lunch sitting outside admiring the views of the surrounding landscape.



There were some wildflowers along the track and some lucky people found various berries to sample on the way. These included plump and delicious blackberries and raspberries, and also coffee berries which tasted like tomatoes. Despite their dramatically vibrant bluish purple hue, we didn't eat the deadly Dianella berries!

As we continued up the mountain slope the group spread out along the track but we were all given strict instructions to meet at the Melbourne Uni hut by our leader. Some people encountered friendly leeches along the way. The vegetation

After lunch we continued over some knolls on the ridge line. At the point where the track starts to traverse along the side of Mt Feathertop we left our packs and continued up the spur, the steepest part of our climb. For some there were lovely little red berries to enjoy on the way up which tasted like cherries. After the final push we made it to the summit with clear skies and magnificent views for 360 degrees. For some in our group it was their first visit to Mt Feathertop. For others it was the latest of many journeys to the mountain. One never seems to tire of visiting this beautiful place with its invigorating fresh air and inspiring scenery. After returning to the packs we continued along the track traversing the side of Mt Feathertop. After a short while we stopped at a well-known small gully with a sacred spring. We collected water for camp, and I think this spring has the most exquisitely clear, fresh and sweet water I have ever had anywhere. Carrying water we continued along to our camp site, below Mt Little Feathertop and near the rebuilt Federation Hut. A lovely dinner was had as the sun went down and the cool evening emerged softly through the mist with

the gentle smudgy glow of a full moon just visible.

During the night there was some heavy rain and the next morning the camp site was in thick fog. We heard the mournful haunting calls of yellow-tailed black cockatoos as they flew across the mountainside. Agajan had requested we be ready at 8.30 am, and just as we were setting off the mist started to rise, once again revealing the majestic mountains. How nice it would have been to hold the beauty of that moment for awhile longer. But unfortunately it was time to leave!

**(Continued overleaf)**

# Reviews

## SMITHS GULLY - ST ANDREWS HERITAGE WALK SUNDAY 7 MARCH

It was an ominous start to the Sunday carpool to Smiths Gully. The previous night Melbourne had seen some of the worst weather in years, hail stones the size of frantic chickens and buckets of it. That Sunday morning the sky looked no better, dark and pendulous.

What's worse, our original leader, Del Franks, had been forced to cancel due to injury, so the mantle had been passed to Andy Elam, a new leader, untested and unscarred. Almost immediately we lost one walker who, taking one look at the black sky and our new leader peering with some confusion at the maps, felt discretion was the better part of valour and begged off, but we still had a large compliment of walkers who decided to brave the day.

Of course, I'm sure everyone was wondering if their decision was the right one when we arrived at the departure point. A slow steady drizzle seemed to have set in and almost immediately, only meters away from the parked cars, we were faced with our first swollen river crossing (well a swollen sluicing canal at least) which churned a nasty brown (well could have been churning the previous evening perhaps).

Despite the looks though, the sluicing canal was deceptively easy to hop across, and the walk started with everyone squeaking their way through the rain like a herd of Gortex puffy balloon animals. Smiths Gully is a very beautiful area, green bush everywhere, and it was a nice change to have a full river rushing along below us (well defer to above qualifications in this instance). Soon, with everyone growing hotter in their rain gear, and the rain letting



up, raincoats were discarded, although one eye was always kept skyward as were the lounging kangaroos eyeing us off as if we should be joining them in their pursuit of relaxation.

The walk quickly progressed from the small track we started out on and onto the back roads, which we stayed on for most of the day. Luckily traffic was at a minimum, and we strode past farms, wineries (no off sales sadly) and after a few (short) detours (due entirely to bad signs, which I am sure had been turned around by bored locals) we wandered into the Rifle Range Reserve where we had a nice lunch on a knoll. By this time, the sky had cleared up wonderfully, blue was peeking through white clouds and it was getting decidedly warm. After lunch we turned back onto our track with yet more unmarked junctions fortuitously selecting the correct track

unfailingly, completing the large loop we had started earlier that day. We stopped here and there to look at signs of the old gold works in the area and peer into diggings. After a few more hills, and frequent stops where we sat about on fallen trees and sunned ourselves, we arrived back at the cars very early in the afternoon, which left more than enough time for a nice coffee stop at nearby Smiths Gully

General Store. Those in the know say the iced coffee was one of the best they'd ever had and the pastries and cakes apparently well recommended!

This was really wonderful walk, the rain held off, the sun came out and the area was green and lush with interesting remains from the gold era everywhere. It even turns out Andy can read a map pretty well! The kangaroos chose to continue their lounging about and not join us on our jaunt. Apparently it is no longer a dog's life but a roo's life

**Chris Schirlinger**

(From previous page) We headed off on the descending path down the Bungalow Spur.

The track was very pleasant and easy going. After a short while we passed the old hut site. Someone had gathered together a collection of old tools and artifacts from around the old hut site and it reminded me of the stories of people in the Australian bush by Henry Lawson. Further down the path there were more berries to scoff but of course many of the ripest ones were just out of reach. Cruising and chatting along the well graded

track we passed Tobias Gap and Picture point, and then we could see Harrietville below. All too soon we arrived at the road and the official end of our superb walk.

A big thank you to Agajan for leading our walk so competently and conscientiously. We were impressed to learn that he had previewed the entire walk earlier on a single hot Saturday. It was most enjoyable and well worth the steep climb!

Fellow walkers were Rosemary, David, Fang, Brian, Deb, Ray, Chris, Sue, Janette, Kerry, and myself - **Ralph**.

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](http://www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au/activities/Walks/MBW_walks_program.htm)



## POINT ADDIS TO ANGLESEA & RETURN

### SUNDAY CARPOOL

<b>DATE</b>	Sunday 25 April	
<b>STANDARD</b>	EASY/MEDIUM	
<b>DISTANCE</b>	16 km	
<b>LEADER</b>	Maddy Lock	
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Car Pool	
<b>AREA</b>	Surf Coast	
<b>MAP REF</b>	Melways 611E10	
<b>FIRE BAN DISTRICT</b>		CENTRAL
<i>(November to April only)</i>		
<b>TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE</b>		CENTRAL
<i>(November to April only)</i>		
<b>TRANSPORT COSTS (per person)</b>		approx 220 km
<b>return</b>		
<i>(Sunday private transport trips only – calculate by multiplying total kms for return trip x 8c/km)</i>		

Walking down through quiet bush land to cliff tops overlooking the ocean is an exhilarating experience. Added to this is the opportunity for a refreshing paddle or swim in the waters of Bass Strait.. The cliffs extending from Pt Addis to Anglesea are stunning. The colours are magnificent. We can walk the one length by the sea and the other on the cliff tops. The tides will determine which we do first. On the preview we stopped for coffee on the way back at Torquay by the beach. This promises to be a most enjoyable walk .Prepare to get your feet wet just for a couple of minutes as we walk around the coastline.. There are a few short hills, mostly flat and lots of great views from cliff tops.



## SUNDAY BUS

### 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY WALKS – PLENTY RIVER GORGE

<b>DATE</b>	Sunday 2 May
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy & E/M
<b>DISTANCE</b>	10 km & 13 km
<b>LEADERS</b>	Halina Sarbinowski & Max Casley
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Sunday Bus from Southbank
<b>Boulevard.</b>	
<b>MAP REF</b>	Melways 10, 183, 184

Melbourne Bushwalkers will be celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Nioka Bush Camp, Plenty River Gorge Park. The Sunday bus is an iconic part of Melbourne Bushies and we hope that you join us on the Sunday bus walk culminating with anniversary celebrations at Nioka Bush Camp.

Prior to joining other Melbourne Bushies in our celebrations Sunday walkers will explore Plenty River Gorge, which although close to Melbourne, is an oasis for the flora and fauna

native to the area. Our walks are short but this is to allow for us to fully explore and appreciate the features of the gorge, features of a spectacular gorge with stunning landscape views, with a range of cultural, historical, recreational and natural features. This will involve ups and downs, river crossings and lots of fun.

Once at Nokia Bush Camp we will join in the celebrations with afternoon tea and cake and also photos... photos to match those of previous anniversary celebrations. However, the bus celebrations will not end there. In the past after a Sunday walk many of the walkers would enjoy a get together meal at Southbank. Sitting by the Yarra River with take-away watching the sun set was once considered the perfect end to a Sunday walk. This will be the way that we will end our celebration walk.

I hope that you will join us on our walk, with our celebrations and a lovely end to the day.



## CYCLING

### SOUTH MORANG – 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

<b>DATE</b>	Sunday 2 May
<b>STANDARD</b>	Medium
<b>DISTANCE</b>	41 km
<b>LEADER</b>	Ross Berner
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Car
<b>AREA</b>	South Morang / Thomastown
<b>MAP REF</b>	Melway Maps: 183, 182, 181, 8 & 9

Meet at "In" gate for Plenty Gorge Park in Gordons Road South Morang (near cnr Plenty Road) Melway Map 183 H8 at 10:30. Please bring your Lunch.

This ride is part of the club's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations.

We follow Gordons Rd west through new estates in South Morang, and then to Findon Rd. This leads into O'Hearns Rd, and just as quickly where in the country.

When we reach the Hume Fwy, we turn south onto the Galada Tamboore Pathway and follow that onto Western Ring Trail. We can stop at Thomastown for a coffee and a bit to eat.

We resume on the Western Ring Trail and follow Darebin Creek Trail north. We then pick up Henderson Road Drain Trail which takes us to the lake at South Morang. We follow The Lakes Blvd and head back to the start.

The plan is to join the rest of the club for afternoon tea at Nioka Bush Camp at 3:30 PM (adjoining Plenty Gorge Park in Gordons Rd).

Note: this ride contains a mixture of surfaces and riding conditions. A mountain bike or hybrid is recommended.

Sections of Findon Rd are narrow and without a bike lane, riders should be confident in riding on roads.

If you wish to discuss ride or book on ride call Ross.



**TOFS**

**WERRIBEE GORGE STATE PARK**

**DATE** Thursday 6 May  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** 9 km  
**LEADER** Alister Rowe  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Werribee Gorge

Meet by 10.30 am in the first car park on the right immediately on entering the park. To get there take the Western Freeway skirting Bacchus Marsh and turn left into Pentland Hills Road. The way to the Werribee Gorge State Park is clearly signposted! Ring Alister on his mobile, 0419874182, if necessary.

The walk is very scenic and, although shorter than usual, it has a couple of hills.



**SUNDAY CAR POOL**

**UPPER LERDERBERG RIVER/BLACKWOOD**

**DATE** Sunday 9 May  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCE** Approx 16km  
**LEADERS** Roger Wyatt 0418 544 715 rwyett@caroma.com.au  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Upper Lerderberg River/Blackwood  
**MAP REF** 1:30,000 Wombat State Forest Area

This walk will be a circle starting on the fringe of Blackwood, with a short walk to the start of the Byers Back Track, an old water race that will be followed to the lunch point at "The Tunnel" Bring your head torch as we will venture into an old gold mine drive along the way, as well as good views of the river. After lunch there is a steady climb for some 2 km (not too steep) and then we venture on to the minerals springs and a return via another old water race following the river back to the cars. While it is some 16km, almost half is on old water races and fairly level making it an enjoyable walk.



**WEDNESDAY WALK**

**SIMMONS REEF – LERDERBERG HERITAGE RIVER TRAIL, WOMBAT STATE FOREST**

**DATE** Wednesday 12 May  
**STANDARD** Easy / Medium  
**DISTANCE** from 15 to 18 km Refer to details about the walk.  
**LEADER** Sandra Mutimer  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Simmons Reef area of Wombat State Forest  
**MAP REF** VicMap Trentham 7723-2-3 1:25,000 Wombat State Forest Touring Guide, Meridian Productions 1:50,000

We will meet at 10:15 am at the Jack Cann Reserve outside the Garden of St Erth [ Vicroads reference 59 F9 ]. This is 2 kms along Simmons Reef Rd, a left-hand turn-off from the Greenvale – Trentham Rd.

The walk will start at Simmons Reef, one of the small mining towns that developed in the Blackwood area after gold was discovered and where the sandstone cottage of the Garden of St Erth was built in 1860. On the walk we will see evidence of mines, water races and tunnels and also of former sawmills.

We will walk westwards, gradually climbing to a higher point from where there are good viewpoints of the area, and then make our way downhill to the western part of the Lerderberg River. How far west we travel and which track we take to reach the river will depend on the group and our pace [ and this includes the leader ! ] From here the Lerderberg Heritage River Walk section of the Great Dividing Trail will take us eastwards gently winding along on an old water race back to the Garden of St Erth.

Please call me to book on the walk or for further details.





**NAVIGATION DAY FOR BEGINNERS**

**WERRIBEE GORGE**

**DATE** Saturday 15 May  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** 8 km  
**LEADER** Jopie Bodegraven  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** 1 hour west of Melbourne  
**MAP REF** Meridian Lerderderg & Werribee Gorges 1:50k and 1:20k

The aim of today is to show you how easy basic navigation really is. To this end I will try to strip away all the unnecessary and advanced stuff and just show you the basics.

We will stop our cars at 2 lookout points at Toolern Vale and Werribee Gorge where we will cover the basics of map reading, orienting the map and correlating features on the map with what we see on the ground. We then do a leisurely 8km circuit at Werribee Gorge with the emphasis on frequent stops to orient our maps, identify features, ensure that we know at all times where we are and generally practice our navigation skills.

We will meet at 8.30am at the carpark overlooking Brimbank Park at Melway Ref 15B9 from where we will rationalise transport. To get to the car park from the Calder Fwy westbound, make sure you exit at the Ring Road exit and follow the signs to get on to Keilor Park Drive.

There will be a limit of 8 to ensure that everyone gets sufficient personal attention. If we have greater demand, I will also organise a group for Sunday

You will need a compass and an A4 clipboard so you can read the map easily, especially if it is a bit windy. You can purchase the map if you wish but I can easily organise some colour and B&W photocopies of the relevant areas for which there will be a small cost. Also of course bring morning and afternoon tea and lunch

So come and learn the basics of navigation by ringing me or see me in the clubrooms the Wednesday prior. I may be out of Melbourne during the 2 weeks 24 April to 8 May (not quite sure at the moment)



**SUNDAY BUS**

**DRY DIGGINGS WALK – VAUGHAN SPRINGS**

**DATE** Sunday 16 May  
**STANDARD** E & E/M  
**DISTANCE** 12.5 km & 17.5 km  
**LEADERS** Allan Martin & Linda Stewart  
**TRANSPORT** Bus  
**AREA** Vaughan springs  
**MAP REF** Guilford & Daylesford 1.25000

Please note change of name of walk and leaders.

The last time a walk was done from the south to Vaughan

Springs in 2007, it encompassed long stretches along 4WD tracks – this time we will be going via a different and what should be more interesting route, following the “Dry Diggings Walk” which is a section of the Great Dividing Trail to Vaughan springs

Both walks follow the “Dry Diggings track” which winds through an area that is rich in Victoria’s pioneer mining history. The harder walk also encompasses a 2km off track section along Sailors Gully towards the end of the walk in addition to the extra length. This section of creek was heavily mined for gold and is now very eroded and will require some scrambling through ravines at times. There are no very large hills on this walk, nor were there any Bunyips, Yeti or Bigfoot sighted during the preview. For the lucky few who go there, walks though the old Gold Fields of Victoria provide an insight into our pioneering heritage which most people just never get to see and is slowly disappearing. Hope you can join us for what should be a pleasant day out.



**MOFS**

**DANDENONG RANGES**

**DATE** Monday 17 May  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** 10 Km  
**LEADER** Alister Rowe  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Dandenong Ranges  
**MAP REF** Melway 75 and 124

Meet at 10.30 am in Micawber Tavern car park, Melway 75 F8. The walk is a circuit including Sherbrooke Falls, O’Donohue Picnic Ground, with lunch at Grants Picnic Ground. Return via Newman and Paddy tracks. Being the Dandenongs there are some hills but the pace will be slow. Call to Book. Mobile 0419874182 on the day only.





**DANDENONGS EXPLORER**

**KALORAMA TO DOONGALLA RETURN**

DATE	Saturday 22 May
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	13 km
LEADER	Fiona Gallery
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Dandenong's
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. We will walk to the Doongalla Homestead Site picnic area for lunch along fairly good tracks in front of Mt Dandenong. 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.



**PACK CARRY**

**WHISKY TRACK – LEDERDERG GORGE - BLACKWOOD**

DATE	Sunday 22 - 23 May
STANDARD	EASY/MEDIUM
DISTANCE	27 km
LEADER	Agajan Akbari
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Lerderderg & Werribee Gorge Meridian Production 2001,1:35000.

Rugged, beautiful and scenic, this is one of the good walk close to Melbourne.

We travel on Saturday morning and meet at Blackwood.

After doing the car shuffle, we will begin the walk on whisky track (intersection of whisky track with O'Briens Rd) and later on walking on to Vodka track (nice names..!?). After 12k walk we camp at Lerderderg Gorge campsite with the opportunity to have a campfire.

On Sunday we will be walking along the Lerderderg River and Byres Back track for total of 15k. It is expected to be cold at this time of the year and therefore warm and wet gears are essential.

If interested contact me by telephone or see me in the clubrooms on the two Wednesdays before the walk.



**SUNDAY CAR**

**CURRAWONG FALLS/IRONBARK GORGE**

DATE	Sunday 23 May
STANDARD	E/M
DISTANCE	16.5Km
LEADER(S)	Mick Noonan
TRANSPORT	Car/Private Transport
AREA	Angahook-Lorne State Park
MAP REF	DayWalks Around Melb. (G Tempest),
Airleys Inlet 1:25K	
TRANSPORT COSTS (per person)	\$20 (4 or more occupants), \$25 (2-3 occupants),

The Angahook-Lorne State park is nestled 3km inland from Airleys Inlet. We will first do the Currawong Falls Walk and then the shorter Ironbark Gorge.

This walk has cliff areas, a gorge, coastal views along the Great Ocean Road, fern gullies, a waterfall, red ironbark forest havens for birds and wallabies – it should be a fantastic day!,

There are a few cliff areas, climbs, and creek crossings (subject to rainfall!) so bring good footwear! Its also a very pleasant 250km round trip.

This walk was last done in 2003 so it nearly qualifies as a 'new walk', come along and see a great part of Victoria!



**SUNDAY BUS**

**MOUNT KOALA - MOLLISSONS CREEK**

DATE	Sunday 30 May
STANDARD	E & E/M
DISTANCE	13 km & 17 kn
LEADERS	Jan Colquhoun & Keith McKenry
TRANSPORT	Bus from Southbank at 8:45
AREA	Tooborac and the Great Dividing Range Goldie North & Tooborac 1:25,000 or Pyalong 1:50,000

This is a delightful walk through picturesque farmland in the Great Dividing Range. The entire walk is off-track following ridges, creeks and the occasional animal trail over five private properties. We begin by ascending Hawkes Hill to gain panoramic views in all directions. This area is known for its clusters of granite boulders in all shapes and forms which present like a natural art gallery against the blue skies (forever hopeful!). We walk through the boulders and curious flocks of sheep before descending through fields to Sandy Creek and crossing at the remains of an old bridge, We then follow Deep Creek, reminiscent of an English brook. Along its banks, have been planted a series of old poplar and willow trees, making the perfect spot for afternoon tea. We then join gum tree lined Mollissons Creek following it south towards Hillcrest. On completion of this walk you shall be rewarded in the knowledge that you will certainly be a better fence crosser than when you started. Bring some spare shoes to change into on the bus and perhaps your camera. If walking across farmland and you have to tread in something just hope that it was done by a rabbit and not a cow!

