



THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 cents

NOVEMBER 2010

The tracks are waiting ...

Summer is not far away, and with it come the yearned-for breaks that let us escape from the city with our friends to regenerate: to breathe real air and fill our senses with the sights, sounds and scents of walking in the Australian bush.

This month's issue of the News is brimming with ideas of where to go and

what to see, reviews of members' walking and cycling trips along with useful advice on choosing gear. To help members plan their outings, there's also a guide to which areas of the state have been affected by the unusually heavy spring rains.

All this and much more. Get ready for summer, the tracks are waiting ...

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hopefully the warmer weather will soon be upon us although there have been some ideal days for walking.

Fifteen members enjoyed their time over Federation weekend at Anglesea. A large variety of walks was offered and it was a great opportunity to mix with members of other clubs.

In this month's NEWS is a separate notice regarding Bushwalking Victoria calendars for the 2011 year. These are a high quality publication at a cost of \$10. Calendars are available

for purchase in the clubrooms – contact a committee member or one of our helpers on duty roster.

Please diarise the date of Tuesday 7 December for the Club's Christmas Party which, this year, will be held at the Balwyn Community Centre from 7 – 11.30pm. We hope as many members as possible will attend this end-of-year function.

There is a separate note in this month's NEWS, but a reminder that all items for the December Newsletter will be due into the Editor by Wednesday 15th in lieu of Wednesday 22nd December. Happy walking!

MARGARET CURRY

Members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc meet on Wednesday evenings between 7.00 and 9.00 pm in the club rooms.

Visitors are always welcome!

General correspondence should be directed to:

The Secretary
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc

MEMBER OF

**Bushwalking
Victoria**



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.

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 6 DECEMBER

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



PLEASE JOIN US!

Friday, 12th November

Restaurant night
At Sparks,
424 Bridge Road,
Richmond.

Reserved for 7pm. Licenced and BYO.
Please book with Susan Maughan no later than
Wednesday 10th November on 9754-7443.

Wednesday, 24th November

Wine and Cheese Night - Slide Night - Les Southwell
will be showing slides of recent Clubwalks.

Les will commence at 8pm.

1. Cape Liptrap - Venus Bay.
2. The Grampians - Mt Stapylton.
3. The Bogong High Plains (Victorian Alps).

Tuesday, 30th November

Lunch on the balcony at the Paradise Valley Hotel,
249 Belgrave Gembrook Rd. Clematis.

Take the Monash freeway, drop a left on to
Wellington Road and the hotel is at the top of
Wellington Road.

Views to die for! Book with Susan Maughan on 9754-
7443 no later than Sunday 28th November.

December

Tuesday, 7th December- Christmas Party.

This year we will be celebrating at the Balwyn
Community Centre, 412 Whitehorse Road, Surrey
Hills.

Melways 46 F8. This can be accessed by trams 23
and 42 or from Chatham railway station.

If driving, the centre has its own extensive carpark.

New Year's Day

BBQ on the Yarra with the traditional lucky dip of
excess Xmas presies.

Reports

CONSERVATION REPORT

Notes from Bushwalking Victoria Environment Committee

ALPINE AREA

Areas affected by storm damage:

- Mountain Creek track is open but there is track damage and a missing footbridge due to flooding.
- Fainter Falls walking track is currently closed past the first lookout due to flood damage (unstable track).
- Road 24 is currently closed due to flood damage.
- Lake Cobbler Road is closed until the October 31, 2010, due to flood damage including landslips, bridge flood demolition and associated restoration / reconstruction works. This includes Williams Logging Road. Alternative route to Cobbler Lake would be the Cobbler Lake / Abbeyard Road.



WILSONS PROMONTORY

Recent rainfall has caused significant stream rises and minor flooding in the rivers at Wilsons Promontory National Park. Tidal River has changed course with the increased rainfall, which has closed off vehicle access to Norman Beach. While the park was looking spectacular after the big wet the rain had also had a significant impact on the condition of walking tracks. Camping areas at Sealers Cove and Little Waterloo

Bay have also been inundated in water. In the interests of public safety, we suggest extra care is taken when hiking and especially when crossing through streams or rivers.

CENTRAL VICTORIA GOLDFIELDS

ParksVictoria has advised that sections of the Goldfields Track (Great Dividing Trail) and other tracks in the Hepburn Regional Park are currently inaccessible, due to significant tree and rock falls.

Most notable amongst these are tracks in the Twin Bridges - Tipperary Springs - Bryces Flat - Blowhole - Breakneck Gorge - and Sailors Falls area. Temporary Parks signage was installed on Friday, September 3, at the start and end points for each of the tracks to warn of the blockages.

Clearance of obstructions was due to start soon after and expected to be completed within two weeks. Clearing is likely to commence around Tipperary Springs-Bryces Flat area and move outwards in both directions from there.

The Great Dividing Trail suffered some damage during the recent rain. St Georges Lake flooded the picnic area and then ran a banker; the track at Slaty Creek is washed out and the Slaty Creek camping area is closed; several sections of track are closed.

BAW BAW NATIONAL PARK

Track Maintenance on the Australian Alps Walking Track on the Baw Baw Plateau is scheduled for March 2011.

NEW PARK DECLARED

Environment Minister officially launched the East Gippsland Park in September. The park covers 45,000 hectares including the contested Goolengook that is home to 400 year-old trees and rare and threatened species. The government estimates 63% of the park is old-growth forest.

Rod Novak
Club delegate to BV Environment Committee

SUNDAY STATISTICS QUARTER 2 - 2009 & 2010

Week	Total, bus only, 2009		Bus, 2010		Car pool, 2010		Total, 2010	
	Total	Vis™	Total	Vis™	Total	Vis™	Total	Vis™
1	Canx Fed'n Walk		-	-	16	5	16	5
2	27	4	45	9	-	-	45	9
3*	16	1	43	5	-	-	43	5
4	32	4	-	-	22	4	22	4
5	35	5	43	4	-	-	43	4
6	33	3	-	-	20	4	20	4
7	34	9	55	14	-	-	55	14
8	42	10	-	-	29	11	29	11
9	31	6	42	5	-	-	42	5
10	36	6	39	15	-	-	39	15
11	37	5	-	-	-11	0	11	0
12	33	6	43	7	-	-	43	7
13	42	7	-	-	33	8	33	8
Total	398	66	310	59	131	32	441	91
Average	33.17	5.50	44.29	8.43	21.83	5.33	36.75	7.58
Vis™ %		17%		19%		24%		21%

* 2009 car pool walk

Noticeboard

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST – ROUTEBURN & GREENSTONES TRACKS NZ – FEB 2011

I intend to walk from 20 Feb – 24 Feb 2011 on these two classic New Zealand tracks. Accommodation is in track huts, which make early bookings essential, and to take advantage of reasonable flight prices. Members with prior pack carry experience should contact Roger Wyett.

WANTED:

HOUSE SITTING in Melbourne for a period of 2-6 months anytime from January 2011 to end of the year. Responsible and caring tenants, we can care for your home (and pet and garden) while you are away on an adventure, giving you peace of mind. Prefer near public transport and eastern or inner suburbs, but any home/ flat considered. Please call Kerry Press

EASTER 2011 ADVICE.

In answer to enquiries and to enable walkers to plan ahead, I would like to advise that I am **not** intending to lead a walk in Tasmania next Easter.

I have been very pleased with the participation of walkers in the Easter Tasmanian series for the last four years and thank everyone for making them so successful.

If anyone is interested in further Easy walking handy to Hobart in the south east, I could suggest a combination of Mount Brown, Cape Raoul, Ship Stern Bluff, Tunnel Bay, Lime Bay Reserve and the Coal Mines Historic site over 3 or 4 days.

This requires transport for short distances to connect three locations. Also close by is Cape Hauy. All are on the Tasman NP Map.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Oxlade.

CLUBROOM CLOSURE

Members please note that the clubrooms will be closed on 22 & 29 December.

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

It's Free, It's Informative and It's Interesting.

Every month or so, we send out an email newsletter.

Besides our trips, we cover environmental and other issues which should be of interest to every bushwalker in Australia.

Recent newsletters included articles about:

- The ecology and natural history of the areas where we operate
 - Bushwalking equipment
 - Adventure activity standards which could threaten the existence of bushwalking clubs.
 - Commercialisation of national parks
 - Bush photo and art exhibitions
 - Dehydrated foods for bushwalking
- And more, much more.**

Many have made a point of writing to tell us how much they enjoy it. The issues we publicise from one state may later turn out to be relevant to all.

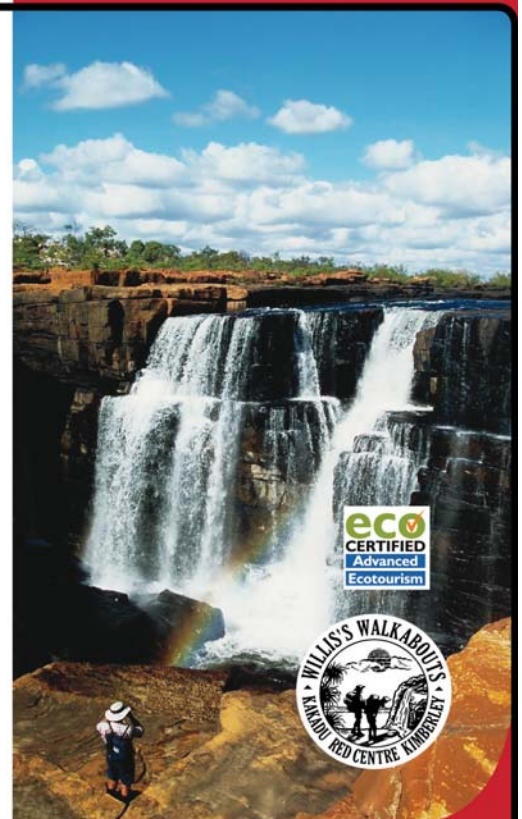
See for yourself. Send an email to rrwillis@internode.on.net and ask to go onto our list. If it's not right for you, send another email and your name is removed. No one else sees the list so it can't be used to generate spam.

Still not sure. Click on the Newsletter link on the top of our website and you can sample a few of the recent newsletters.

www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au

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

Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355



Noticeboard

SUPPORT BUSH SEARCH AND RESCUE

Shop at Ritchies IGA Supermarkets Using the Community Benefit Card Program

Ritchies IGA Supermarkets Community Benefit Card Program donates a percentage of the money spent by customers to nominated schools or charities. Bush Search and Rescue (BSAR) part of Bushwalking Victoria has now been added to this list.

To assist you need to have a key tag (with barcode) to place on your keyring or a plastic card to place in your wallet. These items are free. To obtain either contact Bushwalking Victoria Tel: 8846 4131 or email admin@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

Each time you shop you will be asked by the cashier to present your Community Benefit Card. Your card will be scanned at the register, which will automatically allocate 0.5% of the money you spend to BSAR. A minimum of \$2,000 must be spent collectively each month before a donation will be made.

There are also hundreds of weekly specials that have extra discounts for Ritchies Community Benefit Cardholders, These 'CB' specials are clearly marked with red shelf tickets bearing the Community Benefit logo. Help yourself to savings and help Bush Search and rescue at the same time with your free Community Benefit Card.

For more information go to <http://www.ritchies.com.au>.

HELPERS NEEDED

We would like to hear from any members who are willing to assist from time to time in the clubrooms on a Wednesday night, eg 'meeting and greeting' visitors, helping on slide nights, cheese and wine nights or folding newsletters. It is not onerous and would assist the committee who already have many other duties to carry out.

This is one way of contributing back something to the club. For further information please contact Margaret Curry, President or Roger Wyett, Membership Secretary.

BUSHWALKING VICTORIA CALENDAR 2011

Bushwalking Victoria is again publishing a calendar for the 2011 year – cost \$10. This is a high quality, glossy publication featuring photographs specially selected by well known book authors John and Monica Chapman from photographs submitted by Bushwalking Victoria members.

It is A4 size, has information of interest to walkers such as sunrise and sunset times, full moon dates, school and public holidays and plenty of space to write in appointments. The photos in the calendar can be viewed on the What's New page of the BWV website at http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/whats_new.htm. The club holds copies of the calendars for those wishing to purchase one – a good idea for one of those Christmas presents!

FLOOD-AFFECTED TRACKS

There has been extensive damage to the following Parks Victoria reserves:

- Creswick Regional Park
- Hepburn Regional Park
- Andersons Mill Historic Area
- Mount Beckworth Scenic Reserve



Assessment of the damage is underway. However, to address immediate safety and risk concerns Parks Victoria will take the following actions:

- Closure of Tipperary Walking Track in Hepburn Regional Park. This is the track between Sailors Falls and Twin Bridges; Twin Bridges to Lake Daylesford and Twin Bridges to Jacksons Lookout
- Closure of Slaty Creek Campgrounds, St Georges Lake beyond the main car park and the Goldfields Track
- Closure of Mount Beckworth

This information and further updates will be on <http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au>. The DSE advise that they are yet to check non-driveable sections of the DSE managed Great Dividing Trail.

EARLY CUT OFF DATE FOR JANUARY NEWS

Due to the Christmas/New Year holiday break members are advised that closing date for any newsletter items for the January NEWS should be forwarded to reach the Newsletter Editor by Wednesday 15th December in lieu of Wednesday 22nd December, 2010.

Noticeboard

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Bogong High Plains Base Camp, 26th Dec. 2010-3rd Jan. 2011, Easy to Easy-Medium

I will be leading a base camp to the Bogong High Plains at Christmas. We will be camping just below Wallace's Hut at the site of the old tennis courts which means there will be an approximately 700 metre easy walk in to the camp site.

The majority of the walks will be easy with one or two easy-medium and medium walks thrown in. The High Plains over the summer period is a wonderful place to visit with alpine flowers and views in abundance.

This walk will suit everyone from the novice bushwalker who would like to try out camping without too much trouble of carrying a pack for days on end to the experienced bushwalker who would like to come.

So come along and enjoy either a few days or the whole week in an alpine environment.

Contact me, Lance Mobbs, and I will send out a map and info sheet.



BUYING GEAR

Improvements in materials and technology have made lightweight pack carrying a reality but the gear we need is often inconspicuously tucked away amongst the stuff we don't, attached to confronting price tags or missing from our local shelves altogether. So how do we avoid buying what we may later regret?

Talk to experienced walkers! Look for those interested in lightweight gear and able to discuss its merits objectively. Our Equipment Officer is always happy to help. You can contact him by phone, email (equipment@MBW.org.au) or in person during club nights or other activities.

Understand the principles and technology! The FAQ section of the Confederation of NSW Bushwalking Clubs website, www.bushwalking.org.au/FAQ, is a good resource.

Read creditable reviews! Those at www.backpackinglight.com are some of the best (but not free). You might also consider our Gear Tips. They target specific club needs and include gear recommendations and where to buy at discounted prices. You can subscribe by emailing your name to equipment@mbw.org.au.

Hire before you buy! Our club has a good range of gear available for use on club walks at very reasonable rates. Hiring it is a great way to familiarise yourself with the activity and its gear before making a commitment. You will be able to try equipment you may later want to buy, see what others carry and how they use it, check out items unavailable locally and discuss your needs with a captive audience.

Shop globally! You will probably buy most of your gear locally but some key items will not be available and others much cheaper if purchased online. Numerous online sellers including www.prolitegear.com and www.backcountrygear.com offer easy

to use and informative sites, good customer service and fast reliable delivery and, if you know what you need, Google's new product search service www.google.com/products makes it easy to locate the best deals. You will find that most sellers don't take international orders on certain brands and a few don't take them at all but if you shop around you will usually find some that do. If not for little or no extra cost you can use organisations such as www.comgateway.com or www.priceusa.com to provide you with an American address and arrange international postage. This can be very useful if you want to order several items, particularly small ones that would not otherwise be worth posting, but care needs to be taken to ensure that the total package does not exceed \$1000 to avoid import charges.

John Fritz



Save 30-50% off our Macpac merino apparel range. For a limited time. www.macpac.co.nz

Macpac merino includes base layers, mid layers and outer layers so there's bound to be a top for your specific needs, be it cycling, hill walking, travelling to far away places or everyday adventures in the office.

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Noticeboard

VICMAP TOPOGRAPHIC MAPPING PROGRAM

Topographic mapping is a vital resource for the State of Victoria, as it is used by the general public, State, Local and Commonwealth governments, the private sector and academia. Its uses are broad, including recreation, route planning, emergency response and recovery, navigation, risk management, site analysis, education, flora and fauna surveys, infrastructure planning and asset management.

The original Vicmap Topographic Mapping Publishing Program was between the mid 1970s to the mid 1990s. At that point, though not yet completed state wide, the program was halted due to Government restructuring. In 2004, due to user and government concerns over ageing topographic maps, the program was re-instated.

The objective of the new Vicmap Topographic Mapping Program is to provide current topographic mapping for all users, in a number of different scales and map sizes, and in both digital and hardcopy formats.

The mapping products are created using an automated mapping system that dynamically produces topographic mapping from Vicmap, Victoria's digital spatial framework datasets. Because the program products suite is created from the one mapping system, a state wide consistency of content and currency is now available for all users.

Spatial Information Infrastructure (SII) of the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) is responsible for the production and maintenance of Vicmap Topographic Mapping.

Two main products are available; Vicmap Topographic Hardcopy Mapping and Vicmap Topographic 1:30 000 Online.

new published topographic map sheets, and also the preceding Vicmap Published Series, is now available at all map retailers and on www.land.vic.gov.au/vicmap >Vicmap Topographic-Hardcopy Maps.

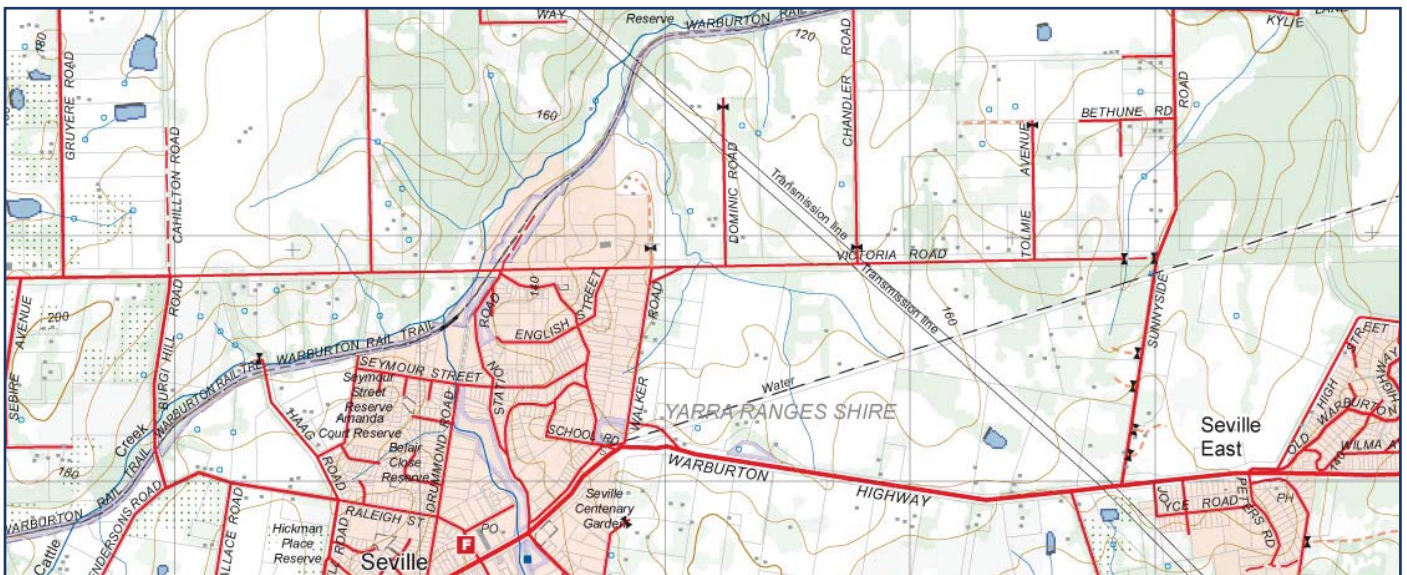
Vicmap Topographic Online 1:30 000 actually comprises three separate map series. A fixed grid A3 and A4 mapping series cover the state in pre-generated map sheets. These map sheets are linked to the existing 1:25000, 1:5000 and 1:100000 map series through the map sheet name. They are updated annually and can be accessed from the website <http://services.land.vic.gov.au/maps/topo30maps.jsp> and also from selected map retailers.

Vicmap Topographic Online 1:30 000 Custom Map is a customised topographic mapping product where users can select their area of interest and obtain either A3, A4, landscape or portrait map sheets covering this area. The underlying data used for these maps is a georeferenced raster image of the topographic content, which is updated annually.

This product can be accessed from the website <http://services.land.vic.gov.au/maps/topo30maps.jsp>

Information on these products and the latest map release is available from our quarterly Vicmap Topographic Newsletter at: <http://services.land.vic.gov.au/maps/topo30maps.jsp>

Georeferenced raster image versions of Vicmap Topographic Mapping are also available for iPhone, iPad, and other handheld portable devices. (Georeferenced raster image refers to an image which has embedded map co-ordinates allowing the user to overlay data on top of the image and also to enable the user to locate their current position on the image.) These can be obtained through: <http://www.maptrax.com.au/>; <http://www.memory-map.com/>; and <http://www.mud-maps.com/maps/>



Vicmap Topographic Hardcopy Mapping is a statewide mapping series, predominantly at a scale of 1:50000, with 1:25000 and Specials available over selected areas. This new mapping series commenced in 2006 and was completed statewide in late 2009. The program is now in maintenance mode, with up to sixty map sheets revised every year. The aim is that each map sheet is to be updated every 3 to 5 years.

The new Vicmap Hardcopy Mapping Index showing all the

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON VICMAP:

Visit the website: www.land.vic.gov.au/vicmap

CONTACTS

George Mifsud, Manager, Topographic Mapping
(03) 8636 2361 george.mifsud@dse.vic.gov.au

John Pergolis, Manager, Vicmap Warehouse
0412 958 425

john.pergolis@dse.vic.gov.au

Review

MELVILLE'S CAVES KOOYOORA COUNTRY

The prospect of large granite boulders, spectacular views, good walking tracks, clean grassy campsite, an odourless toilet block(!) and a roaring fire at night was too tempting. What else is more desirable when camping in the bush?

Max had ordered calm weather and it was granted. Saturday morning saw 12 bushies ready for action but not before Max realised someone was missing – Agajan. Where was he? A quick phone call clarified the matter. He was still in bed in Melbourne. We had woken him up at 9am! Much taunting followed and he promised to arrive later in the day.

Finally we were off following a track through pleasant open country with occasional glimpses of orchids just about to flower, wattles and vivid green mosses, the peak of Mt Kooyoora to the north with its rugged outline enticing us to visit its summit.

Sarah amused us all with her fascination with animal scats, she would suddenly dart off the track, camera and binoculars in hand, to pick up and examine pellet-like, torpedo-like and cone-shaped droppings and analyse their content. Sarah has only been in Australia a matter of months but in that short time she appears to have gained an impressive knowledge of our birds, plants and animals.

The climb up Mt Kooyoora was great fun, it was a case of just pick the best route through towering granite monoliths either by clambering over them or ducking your head and squeezing through narrow passages between the boulders. Some of the rocks were quite slippery, so care had to be exercised if you did not want the seat of your pants removed or maybe modify the shape of a limb.

Finally the summit was reached with splendid views of sheer granite rock faces and tors surrounded by red gum savannah country.

The piles of ash on the summit indicated many people had camped up there over the years, but the person who suggested that some of the ash be carried out to be used as potash on a home vegie bed was very quickly informed of an alternate location for the ash to be put.

The trip back down the mountain was exhilarating, being steep, slippery with many fallen trees to contend with, there

had obviously been a violent wind storm sometime prior to our walk.

After the descent we were treated to an interesting open-cut mine where evidently quartz crystals had been extracted from the surrounding rock.

Agajan finally joined us back at camp and that night we enjoyed a rousing singalong with solos by Carolyn and Elizabeth backed by the rest of the MBW Philharmonia Choir ably conducted by maestro Ken Macmahon. An enormous golden full moon provided a splendid backdrop.

Gourmet nibbles served up during the concert included cashews cooked in marmite (Sarah's contribution, she evidently smuggled them through customs on her arrival in Melbourne from the UK) and exotic cheeses, all washed down with an amazing array of Aussie and NZ wines.

On Sunday we explored Melville's Caves, which are a series of large holes underneath balancing granite boulders.



Tricky climb: Some of the rocks on Mt Kooyoora were quite slippery.

One Captain Melville and his horse are supposed to have lived there in the 1800s.

The rest of the walk consisted of visiting various scenic vantage points around the area including the famous gnamma holes (natural wells in the rock caused by pebbles eroding holes through the granite and rainfall filling the holes). Aborigines used these holes as a source of water.

Kooyoora country is a unique part of Victoria and well worth a visit.

Thanks, Max, for organising a very enjoyable weekend for Joan, Ken, Elizabeth, Mick, Annabel, Sarah, Carolyn, Agajan, Janet, John, Eleonora and me.

Graham Hodgson

WILDFLOWERS GALORE

The easy Grampians Wildflowers base camp at Plantation camping ground (24-26 September) did not disappoint.

We left Melbourne a day before the camp “officially” commenced. It’s always great to get a good run out of the city. It’s a good beginning to the whole camping experience, the feeling of escape, freedom and the expectation of a complete contrast to city life.

We were about half an hour from the camping grounds when we got our first glimpse of the Grampians. There they were in all their grand glory, filtered by the trees, the unmistakable purple/blue shape of the Grampians set against a soft blue sky. It was a teaser and as we turned into the dirt road towards Mt Zero, the image of the Grampians disappeared temporarily.

Continuing down the dirt road, we saw a small shape with clouds of dust billowing behind it. As it got closer it emerged as one of those big Caterpillar road graders. That was about the only vehicle we encountered before we arrived at Plantation camping ground.

Hardly any other people around, we had the pick of the camping sites in preparation for the rest of the campers who were arriving at different times over the next couple of days.

Unpacked and set up, we then went for a stroll enjoying the soft changing colours of the sky as the sun set somewhere unseen and a couple of clouds wafted by. We also spotted some wildflowers – they were in bloom! We were in for a treat.

But that first night was not over yet. There was the rising moon – big beautiful orange moon, a full moon at that. What a bonus! The base camp at the Grampians had begun.

Now I’m a bushwalker from way back, but I was never really aware of wildflowers. So I imagined that there would be big bright flowers all over the place. I reasoned that they would have to be big to survive. I couldn’t have been more wrong! They are small, delicate and, in most cases, spread thinly over the ground. Tiny little things offering a beautiful touch of colour here and there – purple, white, yellow, red, pink. A stark contrast to the scrawny presence of untidy grass, solid trees and the might of rocky backdrops.

Over the next few days we discovered several species and on this particular camp we were lucky to have an expert on wildflowers, long-time member, Ray. Ray could reel off the

names of the flowers as well as provide a little history on them.

Walking at an easy pace allowed us to appreciate the flowers, listen intently to the bird calls and occasionally try to

mimic them, gave us time to listen to Ray, to take photographs without rushing and admire the views at our leisure. Among the abundance of wildflowers we encountered varieties of orchids, lilies, grevilleas, Grampians bush peas, daisies, common heath, mint-bush, and running postman, Grampians guinea-flower and Grampians thryptomene and



wattle. They were splendid and we had the weather to really enjoy it all.

Now back at the camp, it’s not a true camp without a blazing fire to gather around is it? In the warmth, we tucked into our dinner with a chorus of frogs in the background, saw the moon rise again and of course our discussions centred on solutions to save the world from near extinction.

Well for a group of people walking at an easy pace we did get around. We went to Golton Gorge and Heatherlie Quarry where we wandered around massive machinery used in the 1800s for mining and building a railway. Not being

one for engines and things I was quickly informed that the impressive machinery included a boiler, a steam engine and a compressed-air storage tank. With the recent rains Beehive falls and McKenzie Falls were roaring and magnificent and at Reid lookout we could see for miles and miles.

It was busy at Halls Gap so we drove on past. It seems that not everybody goes to the grand final. Yes it was grand

final weekend and there we were at the Grampians admiring wildflowers! (Must admit a couple of us overheard the last few minutes of the game)

So leader Michael Mann organised a very successful base camp that included a chat with the friendly ranger, a wander in the Grampians community wildflower garden, crisp sunny days, full moon, clear skies and wildflowers galore, enjoyed by all.

Annabelle Dureau



Review



CYCLING THE LILYDALE–WARBURTON TRAIL

Only four gents turned up for this trip on September 18: Lars came by car, Phil and I by train and Ross by bike from his home 30 kilometres away. The starting point for the ride was from the trail car park adjacent to the Old Gippsland Road. The weather was a bit on the damp side and could best be described as a cross between a mist and a drizzle, which the Scots call a “mizzle”. Despite that, it was great to be on the move and the climb to Mt Evelyn is gentle.

From Mt Evelyn it is downhill for miles. After about 15 kilometres we were rather damp and chilled so when The Carriage Café appeared adjacent to the trail we popped in for hot drinks, etc. The First-Class country railway carriage has been fitted out with tables, is heated and is very comfortable, and the drinks, etc, were first class; we highly recommend it.

The ride was magic right from the start: fresh air, beautiful trees and ferns ... even a show of coral fern. I have ridden a few of these trails and I judge this one to be the most picturesque of all. Ross, who has ridden all of them, considers the Walhalla Trail the most beautiful. The further we rode the scenery improved – tall stands of magnificent eucalypts, a backdrop of mountains, green fields, creeks rippling along as we rode along the Yarra Flats. The Yarra River is very pretty in this neck of the woods and we followed it for a few kilometres into Warburton.

We selected a nice cosy café for lunch and stayed there for an hour. The sun shone for about an hour after lunch and added an extra sparkle to this pretty area. We rode into a light

Rewarding ride: The terrain is gentle, the scenery beautiful. Expect to meet walkers and horse riders along the way.



headwind on the return trip, enough for me to drop a couple of cogs in the long climb to the top. The trail was very busy with cyclists, walkers and a few horse riders.

This is a most rewarding ride and I think if you have the time then stay overnight in Warburton, take in the beauty there and take your time riding back to Lilydale. We left Warburton at 1.15pm and arrived back at the car park three hours later. After our farewells, Phil and I rode the rest of the way downhill to the railway station, Lars left by car and Ross rode another 30 kilometres to his home. Eighty kilometres for three of us, 140 kilometres for Ross – some ride, some cyclist. The four gents who participated in the ride were Ross Berner (Leader), Phil Brown, Lars Lindahl and me.

Art Terry

Previews of walks and activities

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

As some previews were not available at time of going to print, please check the website walks calendar.



SUNDAY WALK

MT CHARLIE NEAR MT MACEDON

DATE	14 November 2010
STANDARD	Easy Medium
DISTANCE	13km
LEADER(S)	Richard Hanson
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Mt Macedon
MAP REF	1:25000
TRANSPORT COSTS (per person)	\$11

(Sunday private transport trips only – calculate by multiplying total kms for return trip x 8¢/km)

I will give out maps/directions but briefly we depart Art Centre at 9.00, arrive Rowallan Scout Camp, Mt Charlie Road (near Riddells Creek) at about 10.00.

This circuit walk starts off track up to the top of Mt Charlie then down on track to the northern end of the Mt Charlie Flora and Fauna Park and is followed by a 5 km loop on country lanes (Eaton's Road, Cherokee Road & Grady's Lane). We then retrace our steps south through the park to our cars at the Scout Camp. I enjoyed previewing the walk and saw some birdlife including yellow tailed cockatoos and I'm sure you'll enjoy the walk. Last walked by the club in 2005.

If interested please meet Richard Hanson at the clubrooms on the preceding two Wednesdays.



TOFS

LONG BEACH TRAIL

DATE	Thursday 2 December
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	10 km
LEADER(S)	Ron Evans
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Mordialloc - Carrum
MAP REF	Melways Maps 92, 97

This is an easy flat 10km walk from Mordialloc creek to Patterson River along the Long Beach Trail

The trail travels along the Mordialloc creek for a short distance before it runs along the side of the creek's flood plain before joining up with the Edithvale wetlands, and then to the Patterson River. When we get to the river, there is a 2km walk along its banks before we cross over it back to the Boat Ramp car park.

The trail passes by the Rossdale Golf Course, The Chelsea Golf Course and the Patterson River Golf and Country Club. During the preview I spotted feeding galahs and water

birds including two black swans with 5 cygnets but there was plenty of water around at the end of August. I am hoping to organize a brief tour of the wetlands as part of the walk if possible.

We will meet at 10.30am, at the Patterson River Boat Ramp, Launching Way, Melways 97 E7, parking near the Parks Victoria Office. We will need to do a car shuffle to Attenborough Park, Mordialloc, opposite Doyles Hotel, Melways 92 F2 where we will start the walk.

Call Ron on his mobile to book or for more details.

SUNDAY BUS



WALHALLA

DATE	5 December 2010
STANDARD	E & E/M
DISTANCE	12km & 15km
LEADER(S)	John Fritze & Del Franks
TRANSPORT	Bus from Southbank Blvd
AREA	Gippsland
MAP REF	Walhalla 1:25,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	West & South Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REF SITE	West & South Gippsland

This is a walk in the historic gold mining area of Walhalla. It is on well-formed tracks with little in the way of hills for the easy group. It follows old tramway alignments, parts of the Great Alpine Walking Track and other tracks through the steep and densely forested terrain of the Baw Baws before arriving at the Walhalla Township.

Along the way it passes fern glades, the Thompson River, an historic iron bridge, old machinery and mine entrances. The township itself is a remote and picturesque village clinging to sides of a valley so steep that two of the buildings straddle it and some say the graves in the cemetery had to be dug in sideways. We will have a bird's eye view as we approach and an opportunity to walk the full length of the main street. There should be time for coffee and a little site seeing or an optional \$12 ride on a precarious railway that crosses at least seven large trestle bridges on its short journey to the other side of the Thompson River. We expect to return to Melbourne by 7:00PM.

Previews



WEDNESDAY WALK

ONE TREE HILL – FERNTREE GULLY

DATE	Wednesday 8 December
STANDARD	E/M
DISTANCE	10 km
LEADER(S)	Ed Neff
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Upper Ferntree Gully, E Melbourne
MAP REF	Parks Victoria, Dandenong Ranges National Park. Melways 74G5.5 for start

Come and clear the cobwebs after the Club's Christmas Party held the night before this walk, and enjoy a picnic afternoon tea at end of walk.

We will meet for a 10.30am start in the carpark of the Ferntree Gully Picnic Ground. Take the Burwood Highway to Upper Ferntree Gully and then left up the Mount Dandenong Tourist Road. The picnic ground entrance is just a short distance along Mount Dandenong Tourist Road. Take the first carpark entrance and we will meet at the lower end of the carpark.

The walk is not long but it does include plenty of hilly ups and downs with total climb of around 600m. It is all on well formed tracks, mostly through open bushland. We will descend from One Tree Hill down the "Kokoda Trail" steps and then divert around a lovely nature trail to return to the carpark before 3.00pm. We will finish with afternoon tea in the picnic grounds, so bring some goodies for our Christmas cheer.

If anyone feels that they are not up to the full walk. They are welcome to join us for afternoon tea. A lighter option would be to do the nature walk only which could be done in approximately 1½ hours from the carpark.

You can telephone me to book, or for further information.

PACK CARRY



BAW BAWS - STRONACHS CAMP - MT ST

GWINEAR

DATE	10-12 December 2010
STANDARD	Easy/medium
DISTANCE	25 km
LEADER	Max Casley
TRANSPORT	Private Cars
AREA	Baw Baw Plateau, north of Moe
MAP REF	Baw Baw National Park (VMTC)
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	NE
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	lv
TRANSPORT COSTS (per person)	\$45 suggested

On Saturday we walk from Stronach's Camp along the Alps Walking Track up to the beautiful Baw Baw plateau, passing a point with good views.

Camp will be near Mt Whitelaw at the site of a hut ruin – there is water in the nearby creek. A camp fire is allowed in the fireplace which is the only remaining part of the old hut.

Otherwise fires are not permitted: so bring or share a stove – the Club has some stoves for hire. On Sunday we go over Mt St Phillack, past the Rock Shelter and finish at Mt St Gwinear car park. This is a good introductory walk for anyone considering trying out weekend pack carrying, and there will be options, e.g. Mt Whitelaw and Baw Baw village, for those with extra energy.

On Friday night we can camp beside Mt St Gwinear car park where there are grassy camp sites and a shelter with toilets. Some may prefer to drive from Melbourne on Saturday morning (about 3 hours drive). On Saturday morning we will meet at Mt St Gwinear car park and drive to Stronach's Camp (about 30 km, 1 hour) which is the start of the walk. The Ranger says that the walking track was cleared earlier this year except for about 2 km which we traverse on Sunday morning. Otherwise the walking is easy, but be prepared for cold weather in this sub alpine area. The walk should be a good one – let me know if you are interested.



BASE CAMP

TIDAL RIVER

DATE	17-19 DECEMBER
STANDARD	EASY
DISTANCE	20-25 km.
LEADER(S)	GRAHAM HODGSON
TRANSPORT	PRIVATE
AREA	WILSONS PROMONTORY
MAP REF	PARKS VICTORIA, WILSONS
PROM	
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	CNwn
TRANSPORT COSTS (per person)	\$38

(Sunday private transport trips only – calculate by multiplying total kms for return trip x 8c/km)

This is a trip to ease the stress of the pre Christmas rush. We will be camping at Tidal River on both Friday and Saturday nights and doing day trips, The walks we do will be negotiable, but I would like to do the Darby Saddle-Tongue Point-Darby River walk as this area has been closed to walkers in recent years due to bushfires.

The walk is through low heathland with spectacular coastal and forest scenery and an amazing view from Sparkes Lookout. At Tongue Point there is a semi attached island.

On the Sunday we will do various walks around Tidal River. I envisage total distance for both days to be about 25 kms.

Bring along some exotic goodies for pre dinner nibbles on the Saturday night

I have been allocated two campsites which will accommodate about 12 people (three tents per site) so first in first served. Any late bookings and you will have to make your own camping arrangements.

Previews



MOFS

MAROONDAH DAM/DONNELLY'S WEIR

DATE	Monday 20 December
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	10-11 Km
LEADER	Rosemary Cotter
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Healesville
MAP REF	Melway 270 K10

Meet in the grounds of the Maroondah Reservoir Park in the vicinity of the kiosk. We will start out across the dam wall and inspect the water level before following tracks to a hill top for lunch. There are a couple of steeper hills which we will take at a steady pace to suit everyone.

When I originally wrote the preview for Feb 2009 (the walk was cancelled) I stated that 'much of the day will be spent in dappled shade with the areas adjacent to Donnellys and Sawpit Weirs being under pines (gloriously cool and quiet). However, note that there are parts of the walk in open sunshine.' I have yet to re-preview the current state of the vegetation as areas surrounding the weir were burnt out. At the time of writing (27 Sept), Donnelly's Weir area is closed due to the impact of storm/flood damage.

Meet at 10.15am adjacent to the cars, ready for a 10.30am start. Return should be by 3-3.30pm. Contact the leader closer to the time for an update on conditions.



BASE CAMP

BOGONG HIGH PLAINS

DATE	26 December 2010-3 January 2011
STANDARD	Easy, Easy/Medium & Medium
DISTANCE	Various
LEADER	Lance Mobbs
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Alpine (Bogong High Plains)
MAP REF	Bogong Alpine Outdoor Leisure Map 1:50000

I will, again, be leading a base camp up on the Bogong High Plains this Christmas. The High Plains over the summer period is a wonderful place to be with stunning views and beautiful alpine flowers in abundance.

Most of the walks will be easy with one medium walk due to its length. The walks will be over alpine herb fields with very little climbing involved.

This base camp will suit the new members to the club who would like to do some extended walking without having to carry a pack for days on end, but everyone is welcome.

For further information see me in the clubrooms on wednesday night or ring me.



PACK CARRY: CHRISTMAS TRIP

PORT DAVEY TASMANIA

DATE	26th December – 3 January
STANDARD	Easy-Easy Medium

A pack carry in the charming surrounds of South West Tasmania. Port Davey and Bathurst Harbour are large inland waterways joined by Bathurst Narrows and are the size of Sydney Harbour. This walk is accessed by plane and boat then fly out. Some day walks then then a walk to the coast, then back to the airstrip. Note this trip is not a base camp. Contact Ian Langford.



TOFS

THE YARRA - STUDLEY PARK

DATE	Thursday 3 Feb 2010
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	8km
LEADER(S)	Peter Green
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Kew
MAP REF	Melway Map 44

Meet at the Studley Park boathouse carpark, Melway 2D F8 at 10:30. We will be seeing the Yarra from a different angle including doing a very pleasant loop through Galatea Point. This is a short walk on little-used paths along the east bank of the Yarra. Some of the tracks are narrow on the side with steep drops down to the river. Most of the tracks are shaded so it will be pleasant if the day is very hot. We will also get a glimpse of Melbourne's largest urban vineyard.

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				
Thu 2	TOFs: Long Beach Trail	Private	Easy	Ron Evans
Sun 5	Sunday Bus: Walhalla	Bus	E & E/M	John Fritze & Del Franks
Wed 8	One Tree Hill	Private	E/M	Ed Neff
10 - 12	PC: Stronachs Camp - Mt St Gwinear	Private	E/M	Max Casley
Sat 11	Cycle: Bayside	Private	E/M	Mark Heath
Sun 12	Sunday Carpool: Tarilta Creek	Private	E/M	Michael Murray
17 - 19	BC: Wilsons Prom - Tidal River	Private	Medium	Graeme Hodgson
Sun 19	Sunday Bus: Inverloch	Bus	E & E/M	Sue Haviland & Kerry McKeand
Mon 20	MOFs: Maroondah Reservoir - Donnelleys Weir	Private	Easy	Rosemary Cotter
Thu 23	Social (No walk in December)			
26 - 28	BC: Bogong High Plains	Private	Easy	Lance Mobbs
26 - 1	PC: Mt Seldon Seen - Buchan River - Reedy Creek Chasm	Private	Medium	Bob Oxlade
26 - 3	PC: Port Davey (Tasmania)	Private	E/M	Ian Longford

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