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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 cents

FEBRUARY 2011

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hopefully you have all been enjoying the warmer weather recently and getting out and about on the various club activities.

A reminder that all members are invited to attend our Annual General Meeting to be held on Monday 21 February at 8.00pm in the clubrooms. The Agenda appears separately in the NEWS. We will have a vacancy for a general committee member and anyone who feels they would like to contribute to the club in some way and take on this position is invited to contact myself or Mick Noonan, Vice President.

A Leader's Information Night is to be held on Monday 11 April at 7.00pm in the clubrooms. The committee has a range of topics that we believe should be of interest but believe that leaders themselves should put forward any issues they would like discussed on the night. A separate article on this function appears in the NEWS. Please diarise the date now.

We have received advice from Bushwalking Victoria that under our insurance arrangements through Bushwalking Australia, effective from 1st July, 2011 coverage for Personal Accident Insurance will only apply to club authorised activities in Australia and New Zealand not in any other overseas country. Please note that there will be no change to the separate Public Liability policy cover. Members are advised that the Personal Accident Insurance cover provided is not a substitute for normal travel insurance because the Bushwalking Australia policy:

- Only covers activities listed on their schedule and that have been authorized by the club
 - Has limited cover
 - Does not cover some situations that might be encountered whilst travelling in other countries, e.g. medical evacuation to Australia
- 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 at:

**Royal Historical Society of Victoria
362 William Street
Cnr William and A'Beckett Streets),
Melbourne,
Vic 3001**

Visitors are always welcome!

General correspondence should be directed to:

The Secretary
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc

MEMBER OF



PO Box 1751
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au

The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc (The News) is published monthly, and is the official newsletter of Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

Editor: **Catherine Cardinet**

Walk previews, walk reviews, articles, poems, news items, photographs of club events, reports of new gear, book/movie reviews, letters to the editor, advertisements, etcetera are always welcome. However, the Editor reserves the right to edit contributions where space, clarity or propriety dictate, and to maintain editorial consistency. Note - photographs should be sent as separate files which are capable of being edited.

Please send your contributions as unformatted text files by email to news@mbw.org.au

Closing date for receipt of material for The News is without fail the 2nd last Wednesday of the month.

Only advertisements that directly relate to bushwalking (eg gear, maps, trips, tours etc) can be accepted. For current advertising rates please contact the editor.

Please note:

Next committee meeting will take place on

MONDAY 4 APRIL

TRACK MAINTENANCE GROUP

Track Maintenance and Conservation Activities. Bushwalkers are encouraged to assist with the following projects.

As provided by MBW member, Mark Heath.

2011 Activity Dates	Leader contact details
20 February Condons Track	Steve Robertson 97625367 srob7859@bigpond.net.au
4-8 March - Baw Baw AAWT	Andy Gilham 03 5172 2186
27 March - Goldfields Track	Steve Robertson 97625367
17 April - Morleys Track	Steve Robertson 97625367
16 October - Big Tree/ Cora Lynn	Steve Robertson 97625367

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.



**PLEASE
JOIN
US!**

Friday 18 February

Restaurant night at
"Bombay Beat",
93 Burwood Road, Hawthorn.
Please book with Susan Maughan

Noticeboard



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Melbourne Bushwalkers (Incorporated) will be held on Monday, 21 February, 2011, 8.00 pm at The Clubrooms, Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Corner of A'Beckett Street & William Street, Melbourne

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

Business:

Apologies
Confirmation of minutes from the 2010 Annual General Meeting
President's report
Treasurer's report
Determination of the annual subscription fee for 2011
Walks Secretaries' reports
Election of Office Bearers & Committee members
Appointment of Auditors
Motion – to appoint Jopie Bodegraven a life member of Melbourne Bushwalkers (Inc)
Conferral of Honorary Memberships
Award of Spoons
General Business

Nomination forms & Appointment of Proxy forms are available at the clubrooms.

LEADERS NIGHT

A Leaders Night will be held at the Club Rooms on Monday 11th April at 7pm. These events are very important in not only assessing the way that MBW activities are conducted but also areas of improvement.

This year club members are invited to put any matters that they would like discussed and these issues or comments will be incorporated into the program for the night. Such issues could range from the Risk Plan, Emergency Guidelines, grading of walks, weather conditions, to the role of the Whip. There are obviously many more, but this is just a start.

All current Leaders and those who would like to become Leaders are very welcome. For the Club to maintain a high level of varied activities it goes without saying that we need more people to take on the role.

If any Club member has issues that they would like to raise could you email

Michael Murray

Reports

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MONDAY 21 FEBRUARY, 2011

It has been a busy year. Our Activities Program provided a wide variety of walks (Sunday and mid week), pack carry trips, cycle trips, base camp/lodge trips and a ski trip. An inaugural short social walk followed by lunch was introduced in August. First Aid training and Navigation Training was offered to members and all Club Policies and documents were reviewed and updated where necessary.

Our 70th Anniversary Celebrations held on May,2 2010 were a great success with approximately 140 past and present members attending. Activities were a Bird Watch, Cycle ride, 'Sunday bus' walk and short day walk. A picnic or BBQ lunch was enjoyed by participants, plenty of socializing took place, a delicious afternoon tea was consumed, speeches given and photos taken of members who joined the club in the various decades from 1950's onwards.

Scheduling of Sunday walks, alternating between use of the bus and a car pool arrangement has stemmed the loss in the Sunday Walks account. The concession fare was also increased and the late fee of \$5 re-introduced. The alternative departure point for Sunday walks if the Southbank pick-up point cannot be utilized is now opposite the clubrooms in A'Beckett Street. The Club was fortunate in receiving a Small Equipment and Fuel Cost Grant of \$2,998 which was used to reimburse fuel costs for walk previews and purchase of two EPERBS and two filing cabinets.

Social events were numerous - Wine and Cheese nights, guest speakers, slide presentations from members' walking trips, dinners, BBQ's, a cemetery tour, auction of bushwalking gear, a Fitness Night and a successful Bush Dance.

On the community side members participated in Nest Box Monitoring and Tree Planting as part of the Regent Honeyeater Project, the Grampians Track Maintenance weekend, the Melwalk project for Bushwalking Victoria to develop a system of urban walks in the Greater Melbourne area, and made donations of \$500 to both The Wilderness Society (Victorian Forests Campaign) and Victorian National Parks Association (River Red Gum Campaign).

Bushwalking Victoria have advised of a tightening of insurance arrangements. Acknowledgement of Risk forms are now essential for visitors on every activity and from 2011 members will also be required to sign a form annually on renewal of membership. Incident Reports are taken seriously, discussed at committee meetings and appropriate action taken where necessary.

The website, photogallery and leaders' database are currently under review by some of the 'technical' people in the club. Volunteers have also listed all the books in our small library and commenced the scanning of the monthly club NEWS back to the 1940's.

We were able to contain our membership fees at 2009 levels but did introduce a \$10 levy on members who received their NEWS via postal mail. 74% of our membership now receive NEWS via email. Our Membership Numbers were 422 at December 31, 2010 compared to 442 in 2009.

My thanks go to all those who assist the club – Committee members, Leaders, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, Database Administrator, Equipment Officer, Assistant Sunday Walks Secretary, Activity Co-ordinators, Club emergency contacts, Bushwalking Victoria delegates, helpers with the clubroom duty roster and folding of the newsletter. Lastly I thank you the members for your participation in the scheduled activities.

Thank you all for your support and good walking in 2011.

Margaret Curry

Reports

EQUIPMENT REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31/12/10

The club provides equipment for use by members and visitors at nominal hire rates and for use by leaders and the club generally at no charge. Items are selected to improve club facilities, contribute to safety, encourage beginners and assist members in the acquisition of appropriate gear. All purchases are justified on a cost benefit basis with income producing items meeting the additional requirement of being self-funding.

Hire rates were up on the previous year with 20 tents, 14 packs, 23 sleeping bags, 7 sleeping mats, 6 stoves, 5 food dryers and a few sundry items being hired out and 6 heat shields sold for a total net profit of \$390.

An additional tent was purchased to help meet peak demand and we had hoped to acquire a SPOT Personal Locator, but were knocked back by the committee. We consider the latter to be an important acquisition and will investigate other means of making one available to members.

John Fritze

Income from self-funded equipment

Depreciation on self-funded equipment

		Year	Capital expenditure	Depreciation
Hire	\$710			
Sales	\$10	2001	\$0	\$0
Less depreciation	-\$304	2002	\$0	\$0
Less maintenance	\$0	2003	\$100	\$10
Less consumables	-\$26	2004	\$0	\$0
Less other	\$0	2005	\$0	\$0
		2006	\$1,168	\$117
Total net income for year ended 31/12/10	\$390	2007	\$796	\$80
		2008	\$603	\$60
		2009	\$254	\$25
		2010	\$120	\$12
				\$304
			Depreciated value of equipment carried forward from 2009:	
				\$1,999
			Plus capital expenditure:	\$120
			Less depreciation:	-\$304
			Depreciated value of equipment at 31/12/10:	\$1,815

Ref: Treasurer's report for non self-funded equipment

SOCIAL CALENDAR

Wednesday 23 February

Wine and cheese night, commencing at 7 p.m.

Wednesday 16 March

8:00- Paul George has been invited to give a presentation on the fungi of Victoria. The evening will consist of a slide show highlighting the beauty and variety of fungi, their life cycle and ecological role, plus time for questions. Highly recommended!

Friday 18 March

A twilight walk starting at East Camberwell station, then following the Outer Circle rail trail and ending up at the Kew Hotel for dinner. The walk starts at 6:30 and is 5.5 km. Sunset is at 7:36.

Please book in for the walk, dinner or both with Susan Maughan on 9754-7443 by the 16th so that I can organise a car shuffle should the option of catching a tram home not work for you.

Wednesday 23 March

Wine and cheese night, commencing at 7 p.m.

Wednesday 6 April

Club member Ian Mair will present a slide show of a recent trip to South Africa.

Note: an 8 o'clock start.

Wednesday 20 April

Lunch at "The Mint Cafe", 1144 Burke Road, Hawthorn for midday.

This is a proven favourite with Bushies, and we are very lucky to have a private room booked for our exclusive use.

Book with Susan by 19th April, please.

Reports

GENERAL WALKS SECRETARY

AGM REPORT 2010

It has taken me some time to come to grips with the role of GWS but a rewarding one in gaining a greater understanding as to what makes the Melbourne Bushwalkers tick. As I have found over the past year it is the members, particularly the active members who lead walks and many other activities that give the club its appeal to people who are members and those who wish to join.

The activities are varied, ranging from pack carries, base camps, canoeing, skiing, conservation to day walks during the week. There has been a new addition during 2010 with the introduction of Thursday Social Walks organized by Jean Geise.

In reviewing the 2010 statistics compared to previous years there has been little change. However, there has been a decline in walk/activities reports submitted. It is important that these are submitted as it adds to the database for future leaders to use when assessing walks and activities.

A major highlight of the year was the Club's participation at Federation Weekend 2010. The Bushies were well represented and gave us an opportunity to see how other clubs operated and activities offered to members and visitors. It was noted that many Melbourne and regional bushwalking clubs members are on average over 60. MBW is less than that so clearly the website is appealing to younger age groups. This is evidenced by the higher numbers of visitors to the club participating in many activities over the past 12 months who represent the under 35 age group.

The statistics that have been presented for the Annual Report are a summary of the activities conducted during 2010. If you would like further details please email to michaeljmurray1@optusnet.com.au and I will forward on a more detailed analysis.

Last but not least I would like to thank the Coordinators for all their assistance with the programming and advice. This is very much appreciated. The aim is to provide members and visitors with an interesting and varied program. For that I thank the Coordinators. **Michael Murray**

GENERAL WALKS SECRETARY -STATISTICS 2010

Activity Reports	No. of trips	Members	Visitors	Kms	Reports	Av/Km	Activity Av/
Pack Carry	28	211	8	805	23	28.8	71%
Base Camp	11	91	8	231	8	21.0	73%
Walk/in Base Camp							
TOFs	12	156	12	125	12	10.4	100%
MOFs	11	162	4	136	11	12.4	100%
Cycling	12	86	2	647	11	53.9	83%
Wednesday	11	138	2	155	10	14.1	91%
Conservation	4	21	13	30	2	7.5	50%
Training	3	30					
Social	5	171	15	30	5	6.0	100%
Saturday	3	43	8	35	3	11.6	100%
Skiing	3	19		100	2	33.3	33.3%
Canoeing	1	11	2	50	1	50.0	100%

Notes to Statistics

* There has been little change from 2009 activities except for addition of the Thursday Social Walks which has attracted a high level of participation from members and visitors.

* Conservation activities were more varied this year that attracted a higher number of participants.

* Reports submitted are very good on average across the activities.

* Saturday walks are down on 2010

Noticeboard

BENALLA NEST BOXING WEEKENDS

CLIMBING TREES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

It's that time of the year again, and the call has once more gone out for volunteers for the nest box weekend in Benalla. Every year for two weekends, a check needs to be made of the various nest boxes scattered around the region as well as a count of the animals using the sites. This data is collated over the year and used to determine the path of conservation in the area, as well checking which boxes may need to be fixed or replaced. Last year's count showed some nice growth in Squirrel Glider populations and promising signs that the local juvenile Squirrel Gliders are using the tree planting corridors to disperse when their parents kick them out of home.

The weekend offers a wonderful opportunity to get close to the animals, you are almost guaranteed to see one or two noses poking out of a bowl of leaves when you check the boxes, and everyone has an opportunity to have a look! We count for most of Saturday (after a brief talk by Ray Thomas, the region co-ordinator, on safety and anything

particular to look for) and on Sunday till just after lunch to allow time for the return trip to Melbourne. You will need to provide lunch for yourself for both days, and accommodation on Saturday night is offered in the local scout hall, mattresses provided, bring your own sleeping bag! For Saturday night, bring your own goodies for a barbeque and meet up with your fellow counters. Benalla has a few good supermarkets to resupply from and a really nice bakery where most people go for Sunday breakfast.

All ages are welcome, the walks are usually short, a few hundred meters between sites then back to the cars to drive to the next cluster. Some ladder work is required to get up to the boxes but safety is always a primary concern, and if we get there early, we can grab a light ladder!

This year the weekends are the 12th to 13th of March and 9th to 10th April. Either myself (Chris Schirlinger), or Michael Murray will be available in the clubrooms for two Wednesdays prior to each weekend to answer any questions or sign you up! Transport will be via car-pooling, so please sign up early so we can help with arrangements for cars and drivers.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - BASE CAMPS

LORNE (11 – 14 MARCH)

BEECHWORTH (10 – 13 JUNE)

Expressions of interest are invited as soon as possible from members who would like to participate in Base Camps at Lorne and Beechworth. As these locations are popular and the timing is over holiday weekends, accommodation needs to be obtained and paid for in advance.

At Lorne camp sites have been secured at a cost of \$50 per site per night. These should accommodate two tents and a car depending on sizes. Car pooling is necessary. A deposit of \$50 per person is required at time of booking.

At Beechworth cabins have been booked - 3 with en suite facilities and 1 without. Actual cost for the 3 nights will depend on numbers in each and the type of cabin, but will range from approximately \$80 to \$110. Couples/singles can be accommodated. A camping option is also available (unpowered site for 2 people \$28 per night). A deposit of \$50 per person is required for those booking in a cabin. For those wishing to camp, reservations need to be made directly.

In each case, 2 full day walks will be conducted plus a shorter walk on the Monday.

To register your interest please phone Margaret Curry from January 15.

CONDOLENCES

Sincere sympathy to Alex and Margaret Stirkul, club members, on the passing away of their son Timothy on 24th January after a long illness. Your friends and fellow walkers at Melbourne Bushies are thinking of you at this difficult time.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Our current newsletter editor has requested to stand down after 3 years of faithful service and dedication to the preparation of our monthly newsletter.

This is an extremely important role and ideally we are looking for someone who is able to liaise with members where necessary, has a good understanding of the club and bushwalking in general, can work to a deadline, and of course, has the necessary computer skills. (The current program used is Adobe InDesign).

We would like to hear from any member who has an interest and/or the relevant skills to carry out this role from April 2011. A Position Description is available on request from either Margaret Curry (President) or Mick Noonan (Vice President).

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

SOUTHERN AFRICA

The Bayside Bushwalking Club is running an "expedition" to Southern Africa (Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Zambia & Botswana) and have approached us to ascertain whether any members are interested in joining the group. The departure date is 6 May 2011 & the duration – 22 days. Further information & an itinerary can be obtained from Mike Curtin:

GPS TRAINING

A one hour information session followed by a one hour practical exercise on:

- The basics of GPS usage
- How to upload maps to your GPS
- How to mark and navigate to waypoints

Will be conducted at the Clubrooms for members at 1pm Saturday 26 March

Places are limited, contact Ian Mair to reserve your place:

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING -

BOGONG HIGH PLAINS - AUGUST 13 - 20

For the last few years the Club has had access to the Rover Chalet for a week's cross-country skiing. The Rover Chalet, situated about 12 kilometres from Falls Creek, is a comfortable lodge with well-equipped kitchen, showers, flush toilets and washroom, laundry and drying room. Sleeping is dormitory style with mattresses and pillows provided. On the Friday night we sleep at Tawonga Hall and catch the bus to Falls Creek on Saturday morning. This is included in the cost.

Food is provided by the Rovers on a set menu basis. Much of the food is put into the Chalet before winter and each group carries in fresh meat and veg for the week. Cooking and housekeeping are done on a volunteer roster basis; we have this down to a fine art to allow the maximum time for skiing. We try to go out for a full day's skiing each day, usually in a couple of groups with shorter and longer options. For a booking application form go to www.bogongroverchalet.org.au This site gives further information.

If you are interested give me a ring if you want further information. For those who have been in with us before, if you book direct please let me know so I can keep track of numbers.

Doug Pocock

Reviews

MT SELDOM SEEN - BUCHAN RIVER REEDY CREEK - CHRISTMAS 2010

As it happened, a lot of walkers who would have been interested in this walk had other plans so it was left to Philip Brown and me to explore the area.

We drove down on Boxing Day and as the weather was bleak at 5pm at the Fire Tower we returned 2km to a lower level and camped by the management track.

On Monday morning we had intended to descend to the Buchan River, but due to recent rains and unknown river level we decided to use the management track get to a ford at the junction of Reedy Creek and the Buchan River. This was a pleasant walk with good views and we could see the fire tower in the distance on the steep descent to the river where there was a nice camp site. There was an interesting incident with a large black snake along the track. After finally getting it to move on the track it wound itself up like a coil spring then bounced up and down ½ dozen times before taking off. We think it may have warming itself up.

On Tuesday morning we crossed the river about 30cm deep and after a short steep climb south west on Reedy Track we were on a ridge with outstanding views. After about 3 1/2km we left the track and descended to Reedy Creek about 5km upstream from the ford. We continued upstream with our packs looking for a suitable campsite. It was beautiful scenery along the creek which was about 30cm deep and we had both chosen sticks to use to avoid

falling in on the slippery rocks. We went about 2km but returned 1 km to the best spot we had seen.

On Wednesday we decided not to do the return day walk to Reedy Creek Chasm but return down stream to the ford. Philip was so impressed with the area that he commented that he didn't mind leaving the chasm till next time. We passed a nice large campsite as we began our return and had several log jams to negotiate before we arrived at the ford.

The Buchan River was wider and easier going so we went downstream about 2km to the foot of a spur we planned to climb up the next morning and were relieved that we managed to finish the day without getting completely wet. We had to put our tents up on a wombat track and were a bit concerned we would be disturbed during the night but all was ok. I did find a nice large camp site later.

On Thursday the spur was good to ascend and we arrived at the car about 2pm.

As we were a day earlier than expected we turned into Tulloch Ard road and camped along a side track. We spent all Friday along this road with a 1 1/2hr return walk to a new lookout with a magnificent view over the Snowy River. We also did a rainforest walk, then to a waterfall and finally drove to a campsite at the junction of the Buchan and Snowy Rivers. We returned to Melbourne on Saturday with our only regret being that more people had not joined us on this excellent walk. I thank Philip for his good company

Bob Oxlade.

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

Karijini in the Pilbara

The spectacular gorges of Karijini are beautiful at any time of year. Come in April if you want to enjoy the swims and see the creeks flowing. Come in winter if you want warm days and cool to cold nights.

Our clients had this to say.

"The most comprehensive and fabulous tour of Karijini on offer" Brian Alston, Wagga Wagga

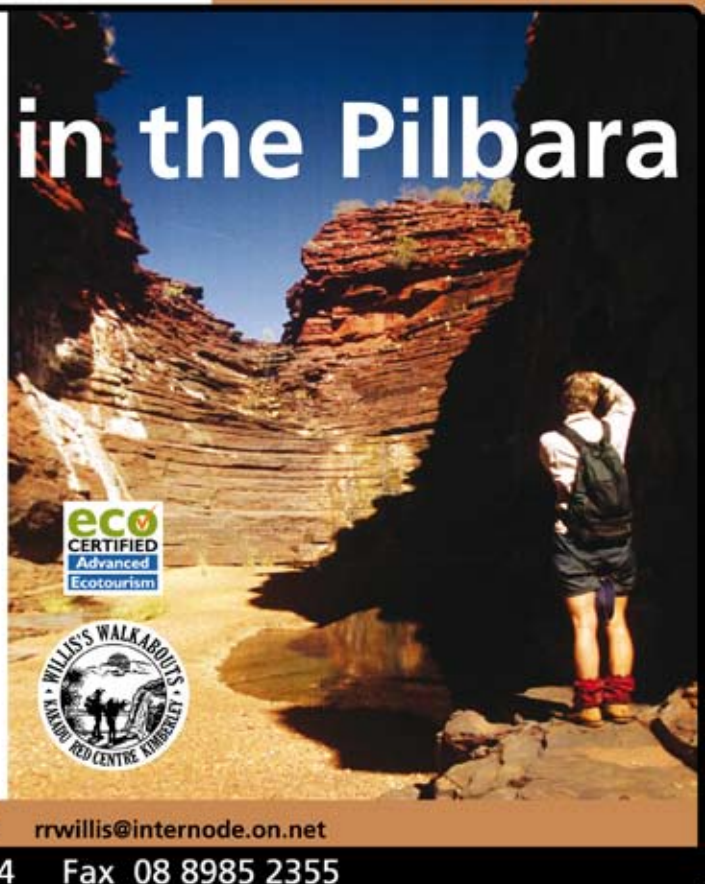
"What a great trip – pools, gorges, fabulous rocks and vistas." Kathy & Andy Anderson, Canberra

"...the patches of paradise just got larger and larger as the walk went on. Frog choruses, starscapes and gorges a go-go." Tracey Dixon, Scotland.

Join us and experience the Karijini magic for yourself.

Russell Willis

www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au



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

Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355

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



SUNDAY BUS

FLINDERS TO BALNARRING

DATE	Sunday 13 February
STANDARD	Easy and E/M
DISTANCE	14KM and 17KM
LEADERS	Maddy Lock & Bernadette Prunty
TRANSPORT	BUS from Southbank Blvd
AREA	Western Port Bay
MAP REF	Melway 261+
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
<i>(November to April only)</i>	
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Central (November to April only)

This is a very enjoyable summer walk mostly along the beach with firm packed sand, from Flinders to Balnarring. It is a popular family holiday area with lots of sailing, swimming and other water activities. If we have a gentle breeze like on the preview it will be very pleasant. The E/M group will start at the end of Golf Links road. They will walk along the more exposed and wild Ocean beach for approx. 2&1/2 km and then climb up to the lookout and then traverse along the road for 1/2 km to the start of the easy group walk at Kennon cove.. Some rock hopping and getting feet wet may be necessary. The easy group will have a very flat walk although be prepared to get wet feet depending on the tides. There is a great swimming spot at Point Leo and there should be time for a refreshing dip. The walk does not have many trees available for shade so you will need to dress accordingly with hat and sunscreen. You may be able to refill your water bottles at the Surf lifesaving clubs. If the groups finish on time there is an ice cream shop 100m from the bus pick up point.

This is one of the more challenging walks on the Sunday Walks Program with lots of hill climbing and rock hopping, so wear your good walking boots. Fantastic views and a variety of landscapes ranging from forested ridges, open bush and rocky outcrops will reward your efforts. On preview several black wallabies and a lyrebird were also sighted.

Both groups will commence from Neds Gully and make the steep ascent to Neds Saddle. From there the medium group will take in Little Cathedral then follow the rocky ridge top to the Cathedral Peak. The easy/medium group will take the track straight to Cathedral Peak then both groups will follow the ridgeline track to the Farmyard (so called because the lyrebirds in the area mimic the domestic animals on the valley farms below). Both groups will descend along Jawbone Creek, and then take the river track back to the bus after passing through Cooks Mill camping area. Be prepared for all types of weather and make sure that you bring plenty of water for both walks are quite strenuous.



SUNDAY BUS

CATHEDRAL RANGE

DATE	Sunday 27 February
STANDARD	Easy/Medium & Medium
DISTANCE	13 km & 16 km
LEADERS	Andrew Francis & Sarah White
TRANSPORT	Bus from Southbank Blvd
AREA	North of Marysville
MAP REF	Cathedral Range Special 1:25
000	
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	North Central
<i>(November to April only)</i>	
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Yarra Glen (November to April only)
<i>(read on in the next column)</i>	



TOFS WALK

SOMERS – COOLART WETLANDS

DATE	Thursday 3 March
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	10 km
LEADER	Alister Rowe
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Westernport
MAP REF	Melway 193 H9
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	
<i>(November to April only)</i>	
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	
<i>(November to April only)</i>	

Meet at 10.30 AM in the car park at Coolart Visitor Centre, entered off Lord Somers Road. We'll walk around the Coolart Wetlands where there is currently plenty of water and birdlife. We'll then walk down the beach towards Sandy Point. How much street walking we'll have to do will depend on the tide and the Merricks Creek. If the forecast is above 33° C please check with the leader on the day.

Previews



SUNDAY BUS

HUGHES CREEK

DATE	Sunday 6 March
STANDARD	EM & M
DISTANCE	13km & 17km
LEADERS	John Fritze & Michael Murray
TRANSPORT	Bus from Southbank Blvd
AREA	North Central
MAP REF	Mt Stewart and Mt Bernard
1:25,000	
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	North Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	North Central

This walk is one of our favorites. The medium option involves crossing Hughes Creek then climbing a long grassy spur to a wooded ridge top trail from which we make an off track descent back to the creek. We meander along the creek banks past magnificent red gums and through a gorge before climbing an old track to a ridge known as the Razorback. We follow it through farmland studded with outcrops of boulders and the occasional large shade tree before dropping back to the creek for a final crossing before returning to the bus. The easy-medium option excludes the initial climb and descent. Both walks enjoy magnificent views over beautiful rolling farmland and Hughes Creek. They are mainly on private property so take advantage of the opportunity while you can. There will be some rough rocky sections and a few shallow creek crossings, so bring a dry pair of socks. You will find some shots from the previous trip in the photo gallery.

grey gum. We will pass numerous waterfalls, follow creeks or rivers and have some spectacular views.

I have booked 7 camp sites at Lorne at a cost of \$50 per site per night. These should each accommodate two tents and a car depending on sizes. Car pooling is necessary. You will need all your camping gear plus food although shops are available. We may eat out one night. A deposit of \$50 per person is required at time of booking. For further information and bookings phone Margaret.



PACK CARRY

GREAT SW WALK: PORTLAND-THE SPRINGS.

DATE	March 11-14
STANDARD	E/M
DISTANCE	50km
LEADER	Bob Oxlade
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	South West Coast Vic.
MAP REF	NATMAPS 1:100,000 Portland & Nelson. Also Maps & Notes from Bushwalking in Australia by John Chapman.

This is a very interesting section of the Great South West Walk (G S W W), and I quote John Chapman, "At the eastern end of discovery Bay the large rocky peninsulas of Cape Duquesne, Bridgewater Bay and Cape Nelson extend into the southern ocean. These capes provide panoramic views of the surrounding bays and inland plains and provide a spectacular finish for the last 3 days of the walk. This walk will complement the 3 days done in June 2008 and with the upcoming 5 days at Easter will complete the best of the whole 15 day G S W W leaving only a 4 day forest section from Portland to Moleside not done. We will drive down on Friday and camp at a nice spot just past Port Fairy to shorten the drive. On Saturday we will continue to Portland and after a short car shuffle to Fisherman's Cove will begin walking from the recognised start in Portland and have 17km to Mallee camp. On Sunday we leave the track at Shelly Beach and short cut across the peninsula to enable us to camp at The Springs. Although the walk is 22km on that day, the going is easy. On Monday we have just 10km back to Fishermans Cove and after the car shuffle will have time for lunch in Portland and should return home at a reasonable time.

If you are interested in this part of the series please ring or see Bob in the club room.



BASE CAMP

LORNE

DATE	11 – 14 March
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	9km to 14km
LEADER	Margaret Curry
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Great Otway National Park
MAP REF	Parks Victoria
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	CN
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	ge
<i>(November to April only)</i>	
<i>(November to April only)</i>	

Lorne is a great location for a base camp. The Otway Ranges with its renowned coastline, spectacular forests and picturesque waterfalls offer numerous walks. We will also be close to the beach for swimming if the weather is warm. The plan is to do a full day walk on both the Saturday and Sunday with a shorter walk on the Monday. While generally the walking is along defined tracks, there will be some steep sections, rock hopping and creek crossings. Be prepared to get your feet wet! The vegetation is varied with magnificent tree ferns and tall forests of mountain ash, messmate, blue gum and mountain

Previews



CYCLING

THE GRAND RIDGE ROAD

DATE	Saturday 12 - Monday 14 March
STANDARD	Medium Difficult
DISTANCE	Total 195km
LEADER	Philip Brown
TRANSPORT	Train/car
AREA	Gippsland

Warragul to Traralgon via The Grand Ridge Road. This ride is supported with a vehicle so you can bring all the gear for the three days, you can catch the train or drive to Warragul at the start. Day 1 Warragul to Mirboo North Day 2 Mirboo North to Tarra Bulga Day 3 Tarra Bulga to Traralgon and the end of the ride, then catch the train back to Warragul and the cars. Three days of panoramic views rolling hills farmland and rainforest in the Tarra Bulga National Park. The roads are a mix of sealed and unsealed. Night meals, at Mirboo North choice of Grand Ridge Brewery with a Restaurant or the Pub, at Tarra Bulga there is a Guest-House with a Restaurant. Accommodation is yet to be finalised there are Motel units and a Guest House or Bush camp both nights, please book two weeks before so I can sort out the Accommodation! Distants is around 65km each day. If you have any questions or for info contact me Philip Brown



SUNDAY CARPOOL

MCIVOR RANGE (HEATHCOTE)

DATE	Sunday 13 March
STANDARD	Easy-Medium
DISTANCE	15kms
LEADER	Ian Mair
TRANSPORT	Car Pool from Southbank Blvd
8:45am	
AREA	Heathcote-Graytown National Park
MAP REF	Heathcote 1:25,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Northern Country
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Bendigo
TRANSPORT COSTS (per person)	\$18.00

The rolling hills of the Mclvor Range directly overlook Heathcote and are covered in the typical box woodlands that are a feature of the Heathcote-Graytown National Park. This national park is rarely visited but is a delight to walk in.

The walk starting at the perimeter of the Mclvor Range will follow walking tracks making its way down to Heathcote township to enjoy lunch. At this point we may take a side trip to visit the Pink Cliffs (or visit them prior to our return to Melbourne). Sluicing work in the early 1880s brought to light these colourful "hills".

Our walk will take in a number of attractions in the area including the Powder Magazine, Devils Cave and Viewing Rock Lookout before making our return to our cars.



BASE CAMP

WILSONS PROM IN A DAY

DATE	Friday 18 – Sunday 20 March
STANDARD	Medium-hard
DISTANCE	42km
LEADER	Lynda Larkin
TRANSPORT	Private

Those wishing to participate are advised to arrive at Tidal River on Friday evening in preparation for an early start the following day. We will meet outside the Tidal River General Store at 06:55 Saturday morning in time for a 7:00am departure.

Our walk will follow the same course as in previous years, traditionally heading off from Tidal River towards Telegraph Saddle (Mt Oberon car park) and from there to a number of favourite Prom locations including Sealers Cove, Refuge Cove, Waterloo Bay, Oberon Bay and Norman Bay. We usually arrive back at Tidal River around sundown.

The walk is well-paced with sufficient time to rest and enjoy main points of interest and have a swim if the weather is warm enough

Make sure you are in good shape for the day and well-equipped with sturdy, comfortable footwear, 2 or 3 pairs of socks, food and adequate fluids, sun protection, swimmers etc.



SUNDAY BUS

TALLAROOK STATE FOREST - WARRIGAL ROCKS WALK

DATE	Saturday 20 March
STANDARD	E/M & M
DISTANCE	15 km - 18 km
LEADERS	Phillip Geschke & Allan Martin
TRANSPORT	BUS
AREA	Kilmore
MAP REF	10 m grid map - possibly a rooftop map

The walk takes in a "fantastic view of the Goulburn River" from Warragul Rocks while we enjoy a stop. This was a definite high point of the walk on previous visits. The walk is generally on 4 wheel drive and other major tracks through forests with lush green growth from recent rains. There are several hills involved. We also pass a dam which, as you can imagine, is full.

The starting section of the walk has not been decided and is Subject to another preview (stay tuned to a website and/ or newsletter update). It may contain Mt Hickey for the harder group. It will be similar to one of the walks done in July 2007 or September 2008.

Previews



THURSDAY SOCIAL WALK

FINNS RESERVE, WESTERFOLDS PARK

DATE	Thursday 24 March
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	5 km
LEADER	Jean Giese
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Manningham
MAP REF	Melway 33

We look for shady places in summer. This time we'll follow the Yarra downstream in Finns Reserve then back to cross the footbridge near Odyssey House to go upstream to Westerfolds Park then back for lunch at the nearby Templestowe Hotel, 23 Parker St, Lower Templestowe.

Meet at 10.30 am in the parking area at the end of Duncan Street (Melway 33 B4). Book with Jean.



BASE CAMP

CONSERVATION WORK WITH RANGERS, BOGONG HIGH PLAINS

Date	25-27 March
Leader	Rod Novak
Area	North-East Victoria
Map	VicMap 1;25,000 Bogong High Plains
Expected return	9pm Sunday evening

We will join in with the Friends of Bogong with conservation project work on the Bogong High Plains, Alpine National Park (near Mt Beauty). Activities may include weeding, track maintenance, etc (activity dependent on the weather and park/ranger requirements). For more information contact the leader or see me at Clubnight on the 23rd March.



SATURDAY WALK

KALLISTA – SHERBROOKE

Date	Saturday 26 March
Standard	E/M
Distance	14 km
Leader	Fay Dunn
Transport	Car pool
Area	Kallista/Sherbrooke

We will meet at 10.00am at the Kallista shopping area. The walk will take us via Grants Picnic ground along the Lyrebird track and will loop towards Monbulk Creek then across Monbulk Road through Sherbrooke before heading back to Kallista via O'Donohues picnic ground to Kallista for some afternoon tea. Please contact me on my mobile to let me know you are coming and for exact details of meeting point.



SUNDAY WALK

BELGRAVE TO SASSAFRASS CIRCUIT

DATE	Sunday 27 March
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	14 km
LEADER	Mark Heath
TRANSPORT	Car
AREA	Melbourne
MAP REF	Melway Map 75 10F
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMP. REF. SITE	Mt Dandenong

This walk starts from Belgrave Station and climbs up through old growth Mountain Ash and tree ferns to Sassafrass via Sherbrooke Falls. The return is via Grant's Picnic ground. There are many birds to be seen and a small possibility of hearing a lyre bird or sighting the elusive Blue Winged Parrot. We will try to view Puffing Billy as it crosses the scenic trestle bridge over Monbulk Creek.

The walk is on a mix of concrete paths and dirt tracks with some scrambly bits. There are some short steep sections and a longer steady climb up to Sassafras.

Estimated petrol cost \$10



