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# THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 cents

MARCH 2011

## JOPIE BODEGRAVEN - APPOINTMENT AS A LIFE MEMBER OF MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC

Jopie joined the Melbourne Bushwalkers in the mid 1970's. He had been sharing a house with an existing member and although he had been active with Monash University Bushwalking Club there had been a 5 year break from bushwalking. He felt it was time to get back into it.

Jopie was always an enthusiastic and active member and became Walks Secretary in 1982, 1983, 1985 and again in 2005 and 2006. At this time the current roles of Sunday Walks Secretary and General Walks Secretary were carried out by the one person.

He has been a leader of numerous activities – Sunday and Wednesday walks, Base Camps, Pack Carries, a Ski trip and Cycling and Lilo trips. He has also lead extended base camp and pack carry trips interstate and overseas. An extract from the Leaders' database reveals that since 1996 Jopie has lead in excess of 70 activities. However he was also a leader of many trips in the 20 years prior to that time.



He possesses a vast knowledge of walking areas not only in Victoria but also Australia and overseas. Experiences with his own travel company provided additional information on walking/travel areas in Australia and he is always willing to share this information with others.

Jopie has conducted detailed Navigation courses for members over the last 4 years as well as on additional occasions whilst Walks Secretary in the 1980's. His knowledge on a range of activities lead to him writing many Club policies and documents in 2005 and 2006 and he has assisted in a recent review of these. This year he has become a willing helper for Wednesday night clubroom duty. His advice on any aspect of bushwalking is frequently sought by both members and committee.

He is known for his leadership, energy, enthusiasm and meticulous planning no matter what activity he conducts and his high standards never waiver. In appreciation of over three decades of outstanding service and active participation in our club, I would like to recommend Jopie Bodegraven as a Life Member of Melbourne Bushwalkers.

**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

**Bushwalking  
Victoria**



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 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
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!**

**Wednesday 16 March**

**8 pm**

**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!**

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# Reports

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Thank you to all those members who came along to the Club's Annual General Meeting on Monday 21 February. On that night we thanked outgoing committee member Sue Haviland and welcomed Deb Shand to the committee. All other committee members remain the same. I am also pleased to advise that Jopie Bodegraven was appointed a Life Member of the Club at the meeting and I congratulate him on this achievement. A separate note in this month's NEWS details Jopie's involvement with the club since joining in the 1970s.

Subscriptions for the following 12 months will remain the same as at present and are now due. This year for the first time, all members are required to sign an "Acknowledgement of Risk Form" in conjunction with their membership renewal and forward this to our Membership Secretary, Roger Wyatt. This is to conform to our insurance arrangements through Bushwalking Victoria. The relevant form is included with this month's NEWS.

Julian St John who has been our Webmaster for the last 18 months, has had to relinquish this role due to time restrictions and work pressures. Julian has put a tremendous amount of effort into reviewing the website, worked on a site reconstruction and during 2010 was also part of a working group to review and update this facility. I would like to say a big 'thank you' to Julian for all his hard work as Webmaster.

At its February meeting the committee approved the appointment of Ian Mair as the new Webmaster. The appointment was effective from February 7 with a transition period with Julian during February. All items for the website should continue to be sent to webmaster@mbw.org.au.

Last month in NEWS we advertised for a Newsletter Editor to replace Catherine Cardinet who wished to stand down after 3 years of faithful service. I am happy to advise that Marilyn Whimpey has offered to take over this role and will be liaising with Catherine on the changeover which should take place effective with the April NEWS. A huge 'thank you' to Catherine for all her hard work in the preparation of NEWS. All your members really appreciate the time you put in and the professionalism of the publications.

A Leaders' Information Night is being held on Monday 11 April at 7.00pm in the clubrooms. All leaders and potential leaders are encouraged to attend. Please diarise the date and advise Michael Murray, General Walks Co-ordinator of your attendance.

We are now into our busy Autumn Program and it is hoped as many members as possible will participate in the variety of activities offered.

**Margaret Curry**

## BASE CAMP/LODGE CO-ORDINATOR

Michael Mann, who has been our Base Camp/Lodge Co-ordinator for approximately 3 years would like to relinquish this role. We are therefore seeking an enthusiastic member who could take on this position. Enquiries can be directed either to Michael direct, to Margaret Curry or to Mick Noonan.

## YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 2011 - 2012

President	Margaret Curry
Vice President	Mick Noonan
Secretary	Howard Friend
Treasurer	Alan Case
Membership Secretary	Roger Wyatt
Sunday Walks Secretary	Halina Sarbinowski
General Walks Secretary	Michael Murray
Social Secretary	Susan Maughan
General Committee	Mark Heath
	Carol Sisson
	Graham Hodgso
	Deb Shand



# Reports

## REMINDER! LEADERS NIGHT

A Leaders Night will be held at the Club Rooms on Monday 11 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 please contact me at the clubrooms.

**Michael Murray**

## SUNDAY WALKS 2006 - 2010

	2006	2007	2008	2009		2010	
	bus	bus	bus	bus	car	bus	car
J	39.8(4)	43.0(4)	30.0(2)	38.8(4)	0	41.5(2)	15.5(2)
F	41.0(2)	30.0(3)	33.0(4)	29.8(4)	0	44.0(2)	16.5(2)
M	38.5(4)	27.7(3)	33.5(4)	31.0(5)	0	41.0(2)	14.0(2)
A	35.8(4)	34.5(4)	41.3(3)	24.0(3)	0	44.0(2)	19.0(2)
M	36.0(3)	36.2(4)	32.0(4)	35.0(5)	0	46.7(3)	24.5(2)
J	42.5(4)	35.8(4)	39.0(5)	37.0(4)	0	41.0(2)	22.0(2)
J	37.8(5)	32.2(4)	31.3(3)	39.2(4)	0	45.5(2)	23.0(2)
A	39.0(4)	33.5(4)	29.4(5)	28.6(5)	0	43.0(3)	14.5(2)
S	42.5(4)	36.0(4)	23.2(4)	32.5(2)	12.0(2)	45.0(2)	13.0(2)
O	41.3(3)	37.5(2)	21.2(4)	52.5(2)	12.0(1)	31.7(3)	12.5(2)
N	39.7(3)	34.3(3)	40.4(5)	50.5(2)	9.7(3)	41.0(2)	14.5(2)
D	46.0(1)	36.3(3)	35.0(3)	33.0(1)	18.0(2)	30.5(2)	16.0(1)
<b>Full Year</b>	<b>39.5(41)</b>	<b>34.9(42)</b>	<b>32.6(46)</b>	<b>34.8(41)</b>	<b>12.6(8)</b>	<b>41.1(27)</b>	<b>16.7(23)</b>
<b>Walkers</b>	<b>1620</b>	<b>1465</b>	<b>1499</b>	<b>1529</b>		<b>1495</b>	

(figures in brackets are number of trips reported for that month)

### Walks 2010

<b>Most Walkers (Sunday Bus)</b>	
May 16 - Dry Diggings Walk-Vaughan Springs	55
<b>Most Walkers (Sunday Carpool)</b>	
Jun 27 - Warrambool Hills	33
<b>Most Visitors (Sunday Buses)</b>	
Oct 24 - Lost Children's Track	20
<b>Most Visitors (Sunday Carpool)</b>	
May 23 - Anglesea - Unquhart Bluff	11
<b>Cancellations</b>	
Jan 31 - Yarra Rail Trail & Winery (cancelled due to fire risk/TFB)	
<b>Buses Changed to Car Pool</b>	
Oct 03 - Garden of St Erth (from the west)	19

### Visitors 2010

<b>Total</b>	409
<b>Sundays</b>	352
<b>Percentage</b>	86%

### Leaders 2010

<b>Total Sunday Walks</b>	77
<b>Leaders</b>	35
<b>First Time (Sunday)</b>	6



# Noticeboard

## TRACK NEWS

**Wilsons promontory:** The access track to Whisky Bay beach is now open.

**Murrindindi Scenic Reserve:** Murrindindi Scenic Reserve reopened on the Melbourne Cup weekend. The reopening marks the completion of Stage 1 of the \$2.4m Murrindindi Bushfire Recovery Project. The works included the reconstruction of a suspension bridge picnic area and the Blackwood and Cassinia camping areas where 28 camp sites are available. Further sites are scheduled to reopen early in 2011. A further \$270,000 of works will be undertaken to repair and restore several major walking tracks within Murrindindi Scenic Reserve. The Murrindindi River Walk, Boroondara Track, Cascade Walk, Mill Track and the Wilhelmina Falls Walk will be rebuilt.

**Bunyip State Park:** All but two sites are now open. Lawson Falls picnic area and walking track will remain closed until early 2011.

**Kinglake National Park** has reopened. The Gums camping area and nearby Island Creek picnic area were officially reopened on October 28. There are now more camp sites than previously, there is car parking for long vehicles, a new toilet block, picnic tables and gas bbqs. The Wombelano Waterfalls and walking tracks are open.

## GRAMPIANS PEAK TRAIL

Parks Victoria has moved to start work on the much anticipated long-distance walking trail traversing the length of the Grampians National Park. The proposed Grampians Peak Trail will link Mt Zero in the north to the town of Dunkeld in the south. The total distance will be approximately 148km and should take most walkers between 12 and 14 days to complete.

The first stage of the Grampians Peak Trail will be to create a three-day walking loop from Halls Gap to a proposed new Rosea Hikers Campground then on to Borough Huts Campground to eventually finish back at Halls Gap. Walkers will be able to complete sections of the trail, shorter loops or walk the entire distance. The southern section of the walk will follow the Mt William Range all the way to its end (crossing Yarramm Gap) to cross back over to the Serra Range and on to Signal Peak, Mt Abrupt and Mt Sturgeon. The first stage should be completed within approximately 2 years.

## WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

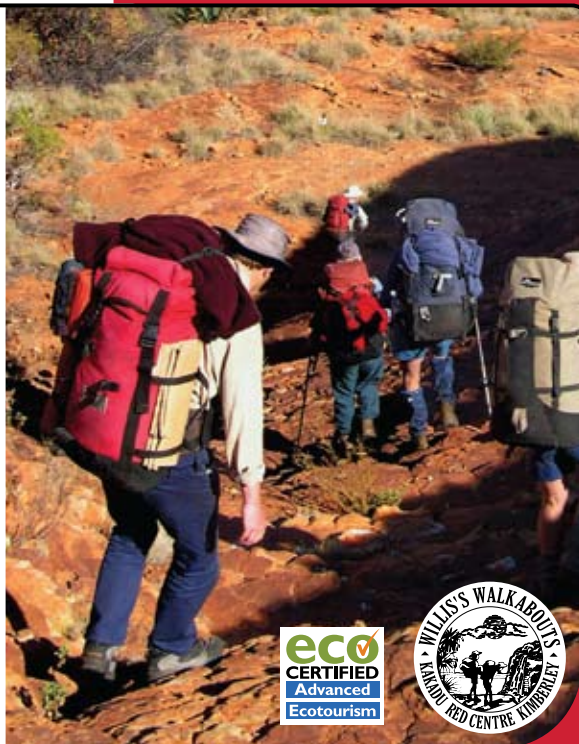
### True Wilderness Trekking There is No one Else

Kakadu, Kimberley, Red Centre and more. For 25 years we have been taking people on treks unlike anything else on the market.

- **Forget trails.** Our treks are off-trail, deep into the wilderness.
- **Vehicle back up? No way!** We go where vehicles never will.
- **Too hard? Not if you are reasonably fit.** Our clients have ranged in age from 10 to 80. With today's gear and our climate, you can trek for a week or more while carrying a pack lighter than most bushwalkers would believe.

#### Stop and think. Would you like a holiday where

- you swim in clear tropical pools, pure enough to drink.
- you enjoy pristine camp sites you share with no one else.
- you walk for days or weeks without seeing anyone but those on your trek.
- you visit amazing Aboriginal art sites which will remain forever unknown to non-walkers.
- you relax by a campfire while your guide prepares you a three course meal.



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

Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355

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

# Noticeboard

## SOCIAL CALENDAR

### 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 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 Beaches and fiords of South-West Tasmania

Some lovely slides of a party of seven on the Club Christmas trip: a moving basecamp at Cox's Bight and Bathurst Narrows.

### 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.

### Wednesday 27 April

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

## 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 so please 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](http://www.bogongroverchalet.org.au) This site gives further information.

If you are interested give me a ring on 5964 4581 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**

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# Noticeboard

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## PHYTOPHTHORA (AND BOOT WASHING)

Dieback is the dying back of plants, and it often results in the death of many of our native plant species. It is frequently caused by *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (known as Cinnamon Fungus). *Phytophthora cinnamomi* is an invasive plant disease that lives in the soil. Many of our native plants have no resistance to it. About 2,000 plant species – most of them Australian natives – are susceptible to the disease, they range from small plants to the giant jarrahs in WA. Collapsed grass-trees are one indicator of the presence of the disease.

It is important to stay on the track when walking through diseased areas. If you walk off the track, your boots will carry and spread the infection. The only way to remove the contamination from your boots is to clean all the soil from your footwear and wash and brush them with disinfectant before you leave the area.

- Carry a plastic trough, some methylated spirits, water and brushes for this purposes. Or use a stiff brush and spray the cleaned boots with a 70:30 methylated spirits-water solution.
- Insist that all of your walking group clean their footwear.

The spores of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* are tiny and have no cell walls, so they are very easily killed by a disinfectant. However, soil or gravel on your footwear prevents the disinfectant from reaching the spores.

- Clean your footwear immediately. Do not wait until you get home to clean your boots.
- Be responsible – do not destroy the bush you enjoy.

### **Phytophthora cinnamomi and your car**

*Phytophthora cinnamomi* lurks on gravel and dirt roads and in many car parking spots in the bush and so is also spread by dirt stuck to the underbody and tyres of your vehicle. You should therefore wash the tyres and underbody of your car before and after each trip to a park or reserve. Be careful about where you wash your vehicle as muddy water could carry *Phytophthora cinnamomi* and provide it with the wet conditions that enable it to flourish.



## NEW MAP – TALI KARNG – MOROKA

The Tali Karng-Moroka map is the latest addition to Spatial Vision's excellent Outdoor Recreation Guide series – Scale 1:50,000. RRP \$11.95. Coverage: Dargo and Licola, including the historic gold mining towns of Grant and Talbotville, walking trails such as McMillans Track and a section of the Bicentennial National Trail, and other bushwalking destinations including Moroka Gorge, Lake Tali Karng and The Crinoline. Features of interest include:

- Hut locations
- Descriptions of overnight and day walks
- Walk gradings and cross-sections
- Background information about the area
- Information about activities



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# Noticeboard

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## MELBOURNE BUSHIES AND TRACK CLEARING

Melbourne Bushies rose to the challenge again with one of the first track clearing expeditions of the year up the treacherous Condons Track near Healesville. This wonderful track, climbing steeply up Mt Monda through the Maroondah Catchment area, passes through some beautiful forest full of ferns and thick undergrowth but was badly choked with the heavy regrowth from the recent fires that swept through the area.

Alongside fellow volunteers from Maroondah bush walkers, we shouldered our tools and followed ranger Steven Robertson up the steep trail,

festooned with hardhats and safety jackets. It was slow going up the 8.6 kilometre track, but the satisfaction of looking back and seeing a clear well-defined path, with freshly cut earth steps behind us was terrific.

Amazingly the news of our efforts must have travelled swiftly, and just after morning tea a group of walkers came up the hill behind us full of praise. They



didn't seem thankful enough to take a few shovel-hoes and do a little clearing themselves however.

Up till midday we'd been lucky with the weather and it had been a cool day, but the clouds and heavy rain moved in just as we stopped for lunch. Spirits, and bodies only slightly dampened, we carried on working though the mist, with only the lonely bellows

of (what I have been ASSURED was) a single deer echoing through the forest. The top section of the track had not been as hard hit by the fires, so regrowth was markedly lower, and we emerged, tired but happy, at the top of the track, ready to be picked up by Parks Victoria and ferried down to our cars.

These clearing days are a fantastic

opportunity to give something back to bush walking. It's an unfortunate fact of life that often, if a track is closed due to over-growth or damage, they may not be re-opened and can be lost forever. Condons track has been in use since 1929, and hopefully will available for a good, long time yet.



## Fire Season Updates!

Our **Total Fire Ban Policy** has been updated to reflect the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission outcomes and the subsequent actions of the Country Fire Authority and the Bureaux of Meteorology.

1. The number of Total Fire Ban Districts has been increased from 5 to 9. Note that the Central District is now smaller some more of our Sunday walks will be in adjoining Total Fire Ban Districts.
2. The 9 previous Fire Danger Rating Zones have been aligned with the Total Fire Ban Districts. Council areas are now fully contained within a Total Fire Ban District.
3. The CFA has now over 135 "Safer Places" across the state
4. The highest Total Fire Danger Rating is now just called 'Code Red' – the 'Catastrophic' name has been dropped
5. The CFA site will provide a 5 day forecast for the Fire Danger Rating in each District

The new Total Fire Ban Policy is available on our Website and an updated Summer Activity Program has been posted or emailed to members. All the information is also available on a display in the Clubrooms.

CFA Website: <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/>

**Mick Noonan**



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# Reviews

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## PORT DAVEY

An email came from Jopie saying that there were no Christmas trips for 2010. So I decided to organise one. In 2008 Jopie took me on my first walk in South-West Tasmania and I fell in love with the area. It brought back memories of my youth spent in the Southern Alps of New Zealand. South West Tasmania can only be accessed on foot or by aircraft. There are no roads and no boat services. All the huts have been pulled down except for two huts at the airstrip. It is a world heritage area of pure wilderness. It is the preserve of the bushwalker where everyone is on a grand adventure.

There are no easy walks in the South-West and normally people have to carry one week's food. That is six kilograms of food plus water and fuel on top of the normal load. Now when I was twenty, a normal Christmas trip was two weeks and meant carrying 12 kilograms of food. Not everyone is willing or able to carry loads like this, especially as many of us are getting quite old. It seemed to me that a trip aimed at exploring the area rather than covering distance might attract the average bushwalker. The answer was a moving base camp.

We left Melbourne on Boxing Day and changed planes at Hobart bound for Melaleuca. Here we walked to the South Coast and spent three days camped at Cox's Bight. Some of us had a lazy beach holiday and some went on day walks. It was heaven sitting on the beach, surrounded by sea birds, the ocean smashing on the sand and Maatsuyker Island light house flashing at night. We returned to Melaleuca for one night, collected food and set off for Port

Davey. It rained heavily and we struggled through mud and water. It was only 12 kilometres but took 6 hours to our Port Davey camp on Joan Point at Bathurst Narrows. A lovelier campsite it would be difficult to imagine. Set amongst tea-trees, it has a carpet of soft tea-tree bark underfoot and beautiful views of the fiord and Mount Rugby towering over the north shore. Next day, in perfect weather, we rowed across the narrows for a beach picnic in the sun at Farrell Point. We returned to Melaleuca for a couple of days of day walking and watching birds such as orange bellied parrots and

fire tails in the hide. On 3rd January we flew home.

It was a harmonious party and to leaders I say, "take these people": Fiona Kelly, Bill Metzenthon, Heather Grierson, Lesley Hale, Debra Brewis and Merrilyn Whimpey.

Fiona, who is from Tasmania, sent in this paragraph:

"This was my first visit to South West Tasmania, what a wonderful wilderness it was. A great place to meet like minded people with wonderful stories of travel around the world. We had a fantastic group which was willing to do the walking but also rest as well. I was a little sad to go realising that I was about to leave the peace, quiet and tranquility of the place. I am now keen to lead a group to do the walk around this area, so I will be returning and will let you know when I do."

Ian's footnotes.

**Pack weight.** Packs are too heavy. I had scales and weighed them. Now some people like heavy packs and call lightweight walkers "wimps". But some want light packs. I was goggled eyed to see the junk that came along: sleeping bag liners, camp shoes, groundsheets to go under groundsheets, chairs and pack covers to name a few.

**Packrafting:** We met an Adelaide couple who cruised from Melaleuca to Port Davey and back in pack rafts. These were Alpaca brand inflatable boats described as "perfect for small white water paddlers, adventure racers, and long-distance trekkers". They weigh 2.2 kg. Add paddles, buoyancy aid and launch! It took six hours of tough struggle to reach Port Davey on foot. Imagine floating there! I want this junk in my pack!

Ian Langford



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



**MOFS**

## LYREBIRD CREEK - DANDENONG RANGES

**DATE** Monday 21 March  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** 10km  
**LEADER** Graham Hodgson  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Olinda  
**MAP REF** Melway  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** CN

(November to April only)

**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** md

(November to April only)

**TRANSPORT COSTS (per person)**

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

This walk is a typical Dandenongs stroll through towering mountain ash, fern glades and babbling streams including the occasional leeches, blow flies and snakes (well one was encountered on the preview).

The walk starts at the Eagles Nest Picnic Ground and initially follows Lyrebird Creek until we cross it and then follow Rifle Range Creek. The track then meanders through delightful fern gullies with a musical accompaniment from the resident lyre birds. We will even get a fleeting glimpse of Silvan Reservoir.

The walk is entirely on bush tracks and fire access trails and includes some climbing up relatively easy hills however, there is one fairly long steep hill about two thirds into the walk but it can be avoided and the walk shortened by those who do not want to tackle it.

Meet at 10.30am at Eagles Nest Picnic Ground Melway Map 122 D2

Contact Graham Hodgson for further details



**MID WEEK BASE CAMP**

## CATHEDRAL RANGES

**DATE** 29 – 31 March  
**STANDARD** Medium  
**DISTANCE** 14 km  
**LEADER** Susan Maugham  
**TRANSPORT** Private – Carpool option  
**AREA** Cathedral Range  
**MAP REF** Buxton  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central North

The cathedral Range is a spectacular 7 km ridge of sharply upturned sedimentary rock. A variety of walking tracks offer the opportunity to climb the peaks and enjoy the views of the forests and farmland in the valley below. Walking tracks lead to all the major features of the park and range in difficulty from an easy walk along Little River between Ned's Gully



and Cooks Mill to the very challenging, steep walk between Sugarloaf Saddle and Sugarloaf Peak. We will camp at Cooks Mill by a clear mountain stream surrounded by the splendour of the Range and its spectacular peaks.

Book with Susan.

## PACK CARRY

### THE BLUFF

**DATE** 1-2 April  
**Standard** Medium  
**Distance** 27km, 1040m height gain and loss  
**Area** 2.5 – 3hr drive from Melb above Howqua River Historic Area  
**Leader** Roger Wyett  
**Map Reference** Buller Howitt Alpine Area 1:50,000 1<sup>st</sup> Ed Outdoor Recreation Guide

We will camp overnight at 7 Mile Flat along the Brock Road that commences from Sheep Yard Flat on the Howqua River, some 45min in from Merrijig which is some 20min from Mansfield. The walk is initially along the high track some 6.5km following the Howqua River (very scenic) to Ritchies Hut and then a 825m ascent over 4.5km to the Bluff Hut, that will test the us all if it is hot. Overnight at the rebuilt Bluff Hut and then a 225m ascent (4km) to the views from the Bluff, prior to a descent back to the Howqua over some 9km. A good work out over a short distance in scenic forest that has flourished after the 2004 fires.

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## Previews

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### CYCLING BASE CAMP

#### DROUIN

DATE	9-10 April
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	56 & 59km
LEADER	Jopie Bodegraven
AREA	West Gippsland
MAP REF	Vicroads Directory, RACV Maps, Warragul 1:100,000

What could be nicer than riding through the rolling dairying hills of West Gippsland in April. Cows mooing, birds singing. The only downside is a few uppish bits.

I've designed 2 lovely circuits. Saturday's is 55km all sealed with 660metres of ups. Sunday's is 59km (including 4km gravel) with 750m of ups. After Saturday's ride we will go to our caravan park, set up camp and go to the Drouin Family Hotel in town for a sumptuous? pub dinner. Next day we pack up and do our second day ride before heading for home.

**Saturday Meeting Point** : 9.30am in Drouin in the car park near the Civic Centre and behind Woolworths. When you get into the main shopping centre along the Old Princes Hwy, turn left into Hope St at the first roundabout, then right into Commercial Place and left into the car park There is a toilet 200m along a concrete bike path in the park there.

We will be staying **Saturday night** at the El Paso Caravan Park. I will organise campsites but if you wish to use a cabin you will need to organise this yourself by ringing the park on 56251710

So come along for fun and frolic on our deadily treadlies in presumably green and hopefully sunny Gippsland



### SUNDAY WALK

#### ADA VALLEY TRAMLINE

DATE	Sunday 10 April
STANDARD	Easy Medium
DISTANCE	13.5km
LEADER	Mick Noonan
TRANSPORT	Private Car \$17
AREA	Warburton/Ada Valley
MAP REF	Vicmap, Ada River 1:25,000; Melway Map 512 T3
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Mt Dandenong

The Ada Valley is crossed by a number of walking tracks including the 33km 'Walk Into History'. Our walk includes a 7.5 km section of a historic timber tramline, old mills and other relics of the early timber industry, fern gullies, and great forests.

(Continued in the next column)

We should start our walk at Starling Gap Picnic Area (complete with toilet) at 10.45 am and proceed through the Ada River Valley to an old four-way tramway junction. After crossing the Ada River we will have lunch south of the junction at the Ada No. 2 mill site. We then take the northern path up past the New Ada Mill, following logging roads to meet Big Creek Road which will lead us back to Starling Gap.

Although only 13.5 km long over relatively easy grades this interesting walk presents a number of challenges to justify its rating of Easy/Medium and takes around 5 hours. Track clearing activities have opened up the start and finish of the tramline section but much of it is overgrown and slow going with occasional fallen trees, large log crossings and creek beds (some muddy) to negotiate. Overpants and/or gaitors are advisable if there has been any recent rain, it can get very muddy in places. The leeches in this area are legendary and a ready supply of salt or spray insect repellent is recommended to repel them (gaitors also help!). Thanks to Ian Mair for parts of this Preview!



### WEDNESDAY WALK

#### MT BEENAK

DATE	Wednesday 13 April
STANDARD	Easy Medium
DISTANCE	11.5 km
LEADER	Lesley Hale
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Yarra State Forest
MAP REF	Rooftops Yarra Valley - West Gippsland Adventure Map

FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Yarra Glen

This walk is a circuit on well formed tracks through lush tall forest and tree ferns, with lots of birdlife when previewed, to the top of Mt Beenak (747m) and views to the east. The ascent of 450m is very gradual, winding for 5kms before a final steep ascent of 500m; the descent over 4kms is more steep. On the way up we make a side trip to sit on an amazing old sawdust heap.

We will meet at 10:15 am on the Yarra Junction - Noojee Road at Gilderoy: at a pull-in opposite the bus shelter. From there it is 5 minutes drive to the walk start. Yarra Junction would be a good place for afternoon tea afterwards



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# Previews

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## NAVIGATION DAY FOR BEGINNERS -

### WERRIBEE GORGE

**DATE** Saturday 16 April  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** 8km  
**LEADER** Jopie Bodegraven  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** 1 hour west of Melbourne  
**MAP REF** Meridian Lerderderg & Werribee Gorges 1:50k and 1:20k

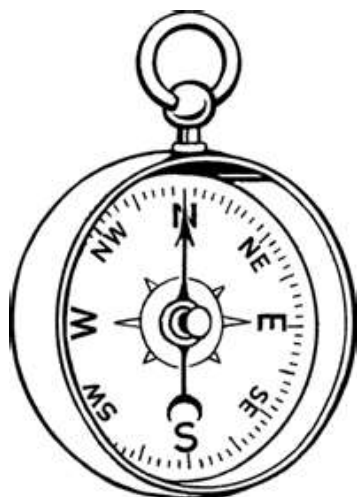
The aim of today is to show you how easy basic navigation really is. To this end I will try to strip away all the unnecessary and advanced stuff and just show you the basics.

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.

There will be a limit of 8 to ensure that everyone gets sufficient personal attention. If we have sufficient demand, I may 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.

We will meet in Toolern Vale, at the parking area (with toilet shown at Melway ref 331G5) about half a km east of the junction of Gisborne-Melton and Diggers Rest-Coimadai Rds at 9.00am. I will endeavour to co-ordinate car pooling



So come and learn the basics of navigation by ringing me on 94824691 or see me in the clubrooms the Wednesday prior.



## SUNDAY BUS

### REEDY CREEK-SHEPHERDS HILL - MT DISAPPOINTMENT

**DATE** Sunday 17 April  
**STANDARD** E & E/M  
**DISTANCE** Not advised  
**LEADERS** Nik Dow and Lesley Hale  
**TRANSPORT** Bus

The highlight of this walk comes in the afternoon as we traverse a high ridge with views to the north and south over rolling farmland. On the preview, the cloud base was touching the ridge and mist was whipped across by the stiff breeze. In case of wind or rain, you will need overtrousers and a good jacket. In the morning, see the regrowth mantling the trees that survived black Saturday (most did in this area). In between, cross Reedy Creek. All of the walking is on (quiet) roads. There are some steep hills both up and down, including a steep downhill at the end of the day as we drop off the ridge through a beef farm.



## MOFS

### ELTHAM, GRIFFITH PARK AND SWEENEYS FLATS

**DATE** Monday 18 April  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** 11km  
**LEADER** Rosemary Cotter  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Eltham  
**MAP REF** Melway map 21 and 22  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
*(November to April only)*  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Central  
*(November to April only)*

The walk takes us along the North side of the Yarra River mainly along bush tracks. As we will be mostly quite close to the river itself there are excellent views of the water and various cascades. There are several reminders of the early settlers who lived in the area, mostly remnant vegetation. Meet at 10.15am at locked gates corner of Reynolds and Yarra Braes Roads (Melway 22 E9). Phone leader to book 9497-3928.

# Previews



## PACK CARRY

### GREAT SW WALK: MOLESIDE-NELSON-LAKE MOMBEONG.

DATE	April 21-26 Easter & Anzac Day.
STANDARD	E/M
DISTANCE	70km.
LEADER	Bob Oxlade.
TRANSPORT	Private.
AREA	South West Victoria
MAP REF	NATMAP 1:100,000 Portland & Nelson.



Also Maps and notes from Bushwalking in Australia by John Chapman.

This walk will complete the recent Great South West Walk (G S W W) series and offers a variety of scenery. Beginning in the forest, then along the beautiful Glenelg River and Gorge, then in and out along the coast to Lake Mombeong.

At the most westerly point we cross into South Australia, then through Nelson, which is the only town on the walk and the 1/2 way point of the whole 240km G S W W.

We will drive down on Thursday and camp just past Port Fairy to shorten the drive.

On Friday we continue past Portland to Moleside Camp. After a car shuffle to Lake Mombeong we walk to Post and Rail Camp. 12.4km.

Saturday to Pattersons Canoe Camp at the river.16.8km. There are several places to camp.

Sunday to Simsons Camp 15.9km. It's only another 2.2km to Nelson.

Monday to White Sands Camp in the sand dunes near the beach 11.6km. This allows for time in and around Nelson which is by the river not far up from the ocean.

Tuesday to Lake Mombeong 11.7km. Then we complete the car shuffle and maybe a late lunch (1.30pm) in Portland on our return to Melbourne which should not be really late.

This is a good opportunity with the extra day's holiday to fit this walk in at a nice time of year.

If interested in coming along ring me on 9887 8701 or see me in the Clubroom.

Bob Oxlade.



## SOCIAL WALK

### SASSAFRAS CREEK – ALFRED NICHOLAS GARDENS

DATE	Thursday 28 April
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	5.5 km
LEADER	Jean Giese
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Dandenong Ranges
MAP REF	Melway 75
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	CN
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	md

This walk will take us on the foot track along SassafRAS Creek and into the Alfred Nicholas Gardens. We'll explore the lower gardens with its lakes and ginka trees and move on into Sherbrook Forest, following a foot track downhill to have lunch at the Kallista Tea Rooms. Then there will be another 500m to be covered to return to our cars.

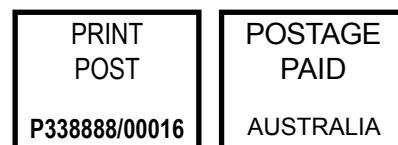
Meet by 10.30 AM in Perrins Creek Road just over Beagleys Bridge (Melway 75 K2 (or K1 in older Melways). Book early with Jean on 9890 2189 because of the lunch reservation to be made.



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!

APRIL 2011				
1- 3	PC: The Bluff	Private	Medium	Roger Wyett
<b>Sun 3</b>	<b>Sunday Bus: The Monk Walk - Castlemaine</b>	<b>Bus</b>	<b>E&amp; E/M</b>	<b>Richard Hanson &amp; Chris Schirlinger</b>
Thu 7	TOFs: Mt Evelyn - Lilydale Lake	Private	Easy	Bob Steel
9 - 10	Cycle: Drouin	Private	Medium	Jopie Bodegraven
9 - 10	Nest Box Survey - Lurg Hills (Conservation)	Private	Easy	Michael Murray Coordinator
<b>Sun 10</b>	<b>Sunday Carpool: Ada Valley Tramline</b>	<b>Private</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Mick Noonan</b>
Monday 11	Leaders Night			Michael Murray Coordinator
Wed 13	Mt Beenak	Private	E/M	Lesley Hale
15- 17	BC: Wilsons Prom - Northern Circuit	Private	Medium	Michael Murray
Sat 16	Navigation Day for Beginners	Private	Easy	Jopie Bodegraven
<b>Sun 17</b>	<b>Sunday Bus: Reedy Creek - Shepherd's Hill</b>	<b>Bus</b>	<b>E &amp; E/M</b>	<b>Nik Dow &amp; Lesley Hale</b>
<b>Mon 18</b>	<b>MOFs: Eltham - Griffith Park - Sweeneys Flat</b>	<b>Private</b>	<b>Easy</b>	<b>Rosemary Cotter</b>

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<b>Phone:</b>	<b>Home :</b> <b>Work:</b>	<b>Home:</b> <b>Work:</b>
	<b>Mobile:</b>	<b>Mobile:</b>
<b>Email:</b>		
2011 SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION		
<b>Ordinary:</b>	Single \$45/\$55* Couple/family \$72/\$82*	Tick if address details are NOT to be published in the membership listing issued to Members only
<b>Concession</b>	Single \$34/\$44* Couple/family \$50/\$60* Proof req.	
* An additional \$10.00 is charged to members who receive their copies of "The News" via Aust Post		
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