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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 cents

October 2011

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The weather is certainly improving and Spring is a great time to get out bushwalking.

There is a huge variety of events on offer in our Program and with the warmer days an opportunity to participate in an overnight activity. There are many base camps and pack carries to choose from.

Our Fashion Parade was a huge success with a large number of people attending. The four models showed off the clothes to great advantage amidst much clapping and enthusiasm by members. Home made gluhwein was available and the cost of this plus other contributions on the night totalled \$170 which will be donated to the Cancer Council. Check out the photos on the website!!

The Club has recently forwarded nominations for three of our members – Mick Noonan, Roger Wyett and Diane Woodcroft – to Bushwalking Victoria to join Bush Search and Rescue. This is a great way to utilize your bushwalking and navigation skills and these members will shortly be participating in a test call-out as part of their training. Melbourne Bushwalkers has supported Search and Rescue for many years and it is great to see our continued participation.

Please diarise the date of our Christmas Party – Tuesday 6th December. This is a new venue – close to our clubrooms. Full details in newsletter articles.

Enjoy your walking!

MARGARET CURRY

DISCOUNTS FOR BUSHWALKING VICTORIA MEMBERS

Discovery Holiday Parks, Cradle Mountain is offering members of Bushwalking Victoria 20% off rates during their shoulder and low season times (16 April to 21 December). The accommodation is directly across the road from the Visitor Centre, just outside the boundaries of the World Heritage Area.

To make a booking please call Claire Walsh on (03) 6492 1395.

Discovery Holiday Parks – Cradle Mountain,
PO Box 10, Wilmot, Tasmania 7310.

Tel: 03 6492 1289, 1800 068 574,

Fax: 03 6492 1438

www.discoveryholidayparks.com.au

Phillip Island Nature Parks is offering discounts to Bushwalking Victoria members.

10% discount applies to the 3 Park Pass ticket which includes entry to the Penguin Parade, Churchill Island and the Koala Conservation Centre. The tickets are valid for 6 months.

There is a huge variety of events on offer in our program and with the warmer days an opportunity to participate in an overnight activity. There are many base camps and pack carries to choose from.

MT HOTHAM LODGE LONG WEEKEND – JANUARY 25–29, 2012

To ensure your place at Austen Ski Lodge at Mt Hotham for the Australia Day weekend a 25% deposit (\$34 – 1 night's accommodation) will need to be received by 30 October, 2011.

Accommodation cost is \$136 for the weekend (4 nights at \$34 per night) per person. Final payment will need to be paid by mid December. Please see me in the clubrooms on most Wednesday nights to answer any queries or to make payments.

Walks planned are: 26 Jan – Cobungra Ditch Walk; 27 Jan – Razorback to Mt Feathertop; 28 Jan – Dibbins Hut – Mt Loch Circuit; 29 Jan – Mt Tabletop.

All walks are strenuous but can be shortened for those who do not want a challenging long weekend.

Other plans regarding communal dinners, watching sunsets from the deck or just enjoying this delightful area will be made closer to the weekend.

Halina Sarbinowski

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



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: Merilyn Whimpey

Walk previews, walk reviews, articles, poems, news items, photographs of club events, reports of new gear, book/movie reviews, letters to the editor, advertisements, et cetera 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 the 2nd last Wednesday of the month. So for November News, the closing date is 19 October.

Only advertisements that directly relate to bushwalking (e.g. gear, maps, trips, tours etc.) can be accepted. For current advertising rates please contact the editor at news@mbw.org.au.

Please note:
Next committee meeting will take place on
MONDAY 7 NOVEMBER

TIME TO GET AWAY?!



Mornington Peninsula is the perfect base for a weekend or longer...

Cape Schanck is perfectly positioned between the hustle & bustle of Sorrento and the tranquility of Red Hill and Flinders. Rural and beach walks abound - something for everyone.

Beautiful walks such as Cape Schanck Lighthouse, Bushrangers Bay, and Two Bays to name a few are close by.

Easier 'walks', or another good excuse to relax and enjoy, include - Golf Clubs, wineries & beaches all close at hand. This house is new, modern and sleeps 9. Two separate Living areas and distant sea views make it perfect to enjoy time together and apart!

Relax by the fire and enjoy the vista after a day on the peninsula.

Available for rent: contact Michelle on 0412189550 or email michelle@red-bus.com.au for further details.

ADVANCE NOTICE BUSHWALKING VICTORIA ALPINE WORK PARTY 26-29 JANUARY 2011

Bushwalking Victoria has organised an Alpine Work Party for the Bogong High Plains. We will assist Parks Victoria Rangers and scientists with weed mapping and removal (invasive weeds such as sallow willow and hawkweed).

This annual Bushwalking Victoria trip is based at Falls Creek with accommodation and a BBQ supplied. Limited spots available.

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome the following new members to the Club:

Matthew Jones
Mark Barber

Marianne Gemperle
Paul Stokes

CONSERVATION MATTERS

Notes from the Bushwalking Victoria Environment Committee

Mt Buangor / Mt Cole / Langi Ghiran Parks

The walking track in Langhi Ghiran State Park and the Beeripmo Track (Mt Cole State Forest) are open. There are some closures around Mt Buangor – resulting from storms over the past year.

Grampians NP – some new openings

These are Buandik picnic area, Billiamina and Manja cultural sites, Boreang Campground (access from west only), Strachans Campground, the Chimney Pots (for both rock climbing and walking), Red Rock picnic area, Brim Springs and the Moora Moora Reservoir. The Grampians Peak Trail remains on the drawing board; \$2.6M of funding has been provided for the first 2 phases, and some of the present restititional work will contribute towards its development. A loop from Halls Gap through Wonderland, Mt Rosea, southeast of Lake Bellfield and back to Halls Gap is expected to be up and running by 2013. There will be public consultation before any dedicated infrastructure goes in and this aspect of the planning phase is expected to occur within the next 12 months.

Walk into History Walking Track

Bushwalking Victoria Environment Committee delegates attended a stakeholders' meeting at Powelltown to discuss the master plan proposals.

Australian Alps

The Federal Tourism Minister has announced funding for a wide range of tourism projects that highlight the value of the Australian Alps national landscape. Of interest: \$30 140 for the Long Tunnel Extended Mine in the Baw Baws for an outdoor interpretive display and new amenities; \$100 000 towards the finalisation of the Alpine Crossing along the Australian Alps Walking Track between Mt Hotham and Falls Creek

Tasmanian Forests

The Federal and Tasmanian Governments signed a Heads of Agreement for Tasmania's forests.

Logging will stop straight away in 572 000 hectares of forests while verification processes take place. Over the next 6–12 months, these forests will be protected using various measures, including as national parks and world heritage areas.

*Rod Novak
Cub delegate to BV Environment Committee*

WANTED (Actually needed) ASSISTANT SUNDAY WALKS SECRETARY

This is a role that you can make as big or as small as you like. The minimum is sending a monthly reminder to Sunday leaders of deadlines for the newsletter ... something that I am highly remiss in doing.

The role can also allow you to choose the walks on our programs, to encourage new leaders, to participate in bookings, etc. etc. etc.

Halina Sarbinowski – Sunday Walks Secretary.

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SOCIAL COLUMN

OCTOBER

WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER

Dr Bill Birch from Museum Victoria has been invited to give a presentation on Victoria's volcanoes. Bill is the Senior Curator of Geosciences at the Museum.

We have climbed them, camped by them and even lived on top of them. Commences at 8:00 pm with time for questions at the end.

This is a wine and cheese night, too.



NOVEMBER

During the month of November MBW will be on display at the East Malvern Library. We have been invited to use their display case at the Rob Roy Road location. Do drop in.

TUESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER – NOTE: NEW DATE

An exclusive conducted tour (commencing at 1 o'clock and FREE) has been organised at Maranoa Gardens, Balwyn, to be followed by a picnic.

Started in 1901 as a private garden it was unusual in its day as it was devoted entirely to Australasian plants. Located at Kireep Road (Melway 46 F7). The adjoining Beckett Park is the site of our picnic.

WEDNESDAY, 23RD NOVEMBER



Another invited speaker, this time on the subject of bushrangers! Always topical! This promises to be very informative and entertaining, as our guest, Barry Menzies, is quite the Thespian. Also wine and cheese night.

FRIDAY, 25TH NOVEMBER

A social walk through our wonderful gardens followed by dinner at Tandoor Indian Restaurant, 50 Commercial Road, Prahan.

Meet on the steps at Flinders Street Station at 6:30 pm. We will meander through the Botanic Gardens, visit Guilfoyle's volcano, and cross Fawkner Park.

Involves a quiz! When booking, let me know if you are just doing the walk, dining, or both.

NOTE: You can catch a tram at conclusion of the evening.

DECEMBER

TUESDAY, 6TH DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE CITY OF MELBOURNE BOWLS CLUB, FLAGSTAFF GARDENS, DUDLEY STREET, WEST MELBOURNE.

This is a licensed venue, very reasonably priced, and dead easy to access, being just a short walk diagonally across from the club room, or park at Vic Market.

See you there!!

JANUARY

SATURDAY 14TH JANUARY 2012

Expressions of interest are invited to go kayaking on the Yarra.

The cost is \$50.00 per person, for 3 hours of paddling from the city up to Herring Island and later returning down river all the way back to the Casino, finishing off with a well deserved ice-cream.

We commence at 9 am.



MELBOURNE WALKING CLUB – PIONEERS OF BUSHWALKING

An exhibition at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria
From 12 October to 9 December 2011

The first real bushwalking club in Australia started in 1894 as the Melbourne Amateur Walking and Touring Club that later became the Melbourne Walking Club. The club still exists and a few years ago it donated some of its archives to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. This exhibition draws on that material to show the history of the Melbourne Walking Club and some of the remarkable achievements of its members. Although not a comprehensive history of bushwalking, it also shows the development of bushwalking in Victoria.

Over its history the club has included many bushwalking enthusiasts and the exhibition demonstrates this enthusiasm.

They walked in the Victorian Alps when there were no maps for walkers – so they made their own hand drawn maps. These show long gone places such as McVeigh's Hotel on Walsh's Creek and the sawmills near Warburton.

For over 60 years they published *The Melbourne Walker* each year. It is a fascinating collection of articles about long forgotten places, bush personalities and the history of bushwalking.

Other publications include a booklet on map making, notes on equipment and food to take on walks and a booklet on walks near Melbourne.

The archives include a fascinating set of photo albums and lantern slides showing people and places going back to the early 20th century. These will illustrate the various themes of the exhibition.

Many of their extended Christmas and Easter trips were done with packhorses and were guided by local cattlemen. One trip went from Mansfield to Bright via Mt Buller, Mt Howitt, Dargo High Plains and Mt Hotham.

Club members helped found the Victorian Federation of Walking Clubs (now Bushwalking Victoria), were active in search and rescue efforts for lost walkers and were advocates for conservation issues.

The exhibition is highly recommended for bushwalkers of all levels of experience.



RECOMMENDED EATERIES

Beside the **Warburton rail trail at Seville** is a café where we had a good afternoon tea get-together after a cycle ride. It is the **Carriage Café** between the rail trail and the Warburton Highway. It is designed around a 100-year-old railway carriage. When we were there it was sunny so we sat outdoors on the platform next to the carriage. The food was of high quality and the prices were reasonable. Most people had coffee or tea. I am not sure what Bob ordered but he ate it all and I had celery soup which was excellent. Access is easy from the rail trail but it is a little difficult to access by car – about 4 minutes walk from the car park (when you find it) at the intersection of Station Road and Victoria Road. More information such as opening hours is at www.carriage.com.au.

Max Casley

I thoroughly agree with Max's recommendation. Bill and I were attracted by the happy sounds of diners, and were very impressed with the scones, jam and real cream.

And while we're on the subject, we often stop for coffee at **Plunkett's Winery at Avenel**, just off the Hume Highway, with its own highway sign. It's on a hill, with fabulous views. The coffee is at a reasonable price, and you can taste and buy wine. Once we had lunch there, and that wasn't cheap, but delicious.

Merilyn Whimpey

BUSHWALKING VICTORIA BUSHFIRE RECOVERY FUND PROJECT

Chris Towers, President of Bushwalking Victoria (BNV) is pleased to announce that Bushwalking Victoria has entered into an arrangement with Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) to fund from BNV's Bushfire Recovery Fund a project in the Kinglake National Park, 98% of which was burnt in the Black Saturday bushfires. The project is to construct a new section of the Shelley Harris Track linking Jehoshaphat Gully picnic area to Jerusalem Track. The new section will be outside the stand of mountain ash that was killed by the intense fire. If resources permit, a new alignment of a section of the Bundy Track that links Everard Track to Old Kinglake Road will also be constructed. These two tracks are priority tracks, to be opened as part of the 22 km Everard Circuit Walk.

BNV's money will fund up to 12 days of works in September and October led by a CVA team leader in partnership with Parks Victoria. Volunteers working under the team leader will contribute a maximum of 132 volunteer days to the project. Bushwalking Victoria members will be welcome to participate as volunteers in the project without needing to pay the usual volunteers' fee on CVA projects. For more information or to participate as a volunteer, go to www.conservationvolunteers.com.au.

The Bushfire Recovery Fund was established by Bushwalking Victoria in the aftermath of the devastating Black Saturday bushfires in February 2009. Bushwalking Victoria and some member clubs contributed to the fund, and proceeds from the sale of the 2010 Bushwalking Victoria calendar were also put into the fund.

Bushfire Recovery Fund proceeds were used for the very successful Project 2000 organised by Bushwalking Victoria's indefatigable Conservation Projects Officer, Steve Robertson, in the Yarra Ranges National Park in November 2009. A contribution from the fund was also made to the Marysville Triangle Heritage Association for the cost of signage on the Marysville Trail Project.

Jenny Sykes
Administration Officer
Bushwalking Victoria

www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

It's green again and I'm going

The amazing rains of 2010 have continued into 2011 making this another great year to visit the Centre. Waterholes are full and wildflowers are spectacular. It's too much for me to resist.

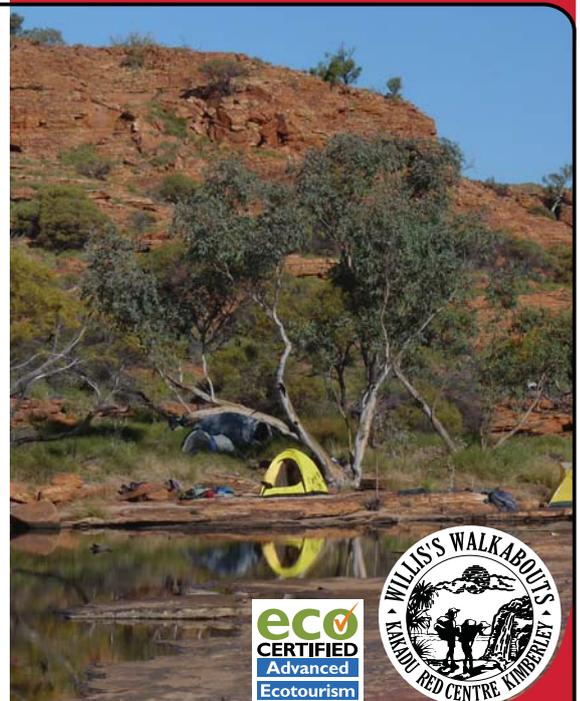
In Watarrka , we'll do a ten-day walk through deep gorges and across red dunes. We enjoy spectacular cliff-top views and camp near lovely, secluded waterholes we have to ourselves. We'll cross Finke Gorge NP via one of the most scenic 4WD tracks in Australia, stopping to do some of the best day and multi-day walks the park has to offer.

Want more? We'll give you a free ride between Darwin and Alice Springs which you can do at your own pace, stopping to enjoy the many sights along the way. Everyone who did my Green Centre trips last year agreed that they were truly special.

Join me in September and see for yourself.



WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS



12 Carrington St Millner NT 0810 rrwillis@internode.on.net
www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355

TREE PLANTING – REGENT HONEYEATER PROJECT 20–21 AUGUST

Seven Melbourne Bushies joined in with a total of 60 enjoying the brilliant sunshine, fun and camaraderie (the Uni Biological Society students were singing as they worked – operas, cartoon and movie theme songs, rap etc.) between the many groups attending and the fine dining on the Saturday evening. On the Saturday we planted 2700 seedlings and then we tackled a different site on the Sunday with another 1100 seedlings planted before stopping for our supplied BBQ lunch. In total, 3800 seedlings were planted on two sites and a very satisfying contribution to this habitat recovery project. After Sunday lunch Ray Thomas (project coordinator and Melb Bushie) gave a superb nature walk exploring three habitat restoration sites – a hot controlled burn with lots of *Grevillea alpina* (in bloom), a direct seeding plot (with lots and lots of flowering wattles) and a traditional planting site (many ironbark and box trees about 8 years old). Ray gave an explanation of the habitat recovery from the previous sheep grazing and we discovered a babbler's nest, learned about caterpillars, mistletoe, gliders and tuans and all enjoying the great views of the surrounding district. Many thanks to Bob, Mark, Bill, Andy, Chris and Leanne for making a valuable contribution. I would strongly recommend the Regent Honeyeater project weekends to all Bushies.

Rod Novak



BUSHIES FIRST AID !!

Early August 20 Bushies attended first aid training – 18 for full Certificates (renewed every 3 years?) and 2 to renew their CPR Certificates (required every 12 months). The training was specially focused on bushwalking, and with subsidies from the Club and Bushwalking Victoria the cost was only \$20. It was great to see so many new and long term members there. This year there was more coverage of asthma attacks and severe anaphylactic reactions to insect bites/stings. The main change was that the 30 compressions are now given *before* the 2 breaths when administering CPR. The Club's first aid kits have been upgraded with the latest miniature CPR masks. We even got to see how a defibrillator is used!. Whether it's for bushwalking, the home, sport or looking after kids, knowing how to administer first aid can be a great skill!

Mick Noonan

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

MURRINDINDI CASCADES AND WILHELMINA FALLS

DATE 30 October 2011
STANDARD Easy/Medium–Medium
DISTANCE 13 km and 16 km
LEADER(S) Allan Martin and Phillip Geschke
TRANSPORT Bus
MAP REF Taggerty South 1:25 000

This will be the first time back to this walk since the fires of Black Saturday devastated the Murrindindi Forest and is a great opportunity to see first-hand the healing process of nature as the beauty of this area is gradually restored.

Murrindindi Cascade in full flow is something to behold and many of the old growth ferns along the water's edge were spared the fire's destruction. Both groups will ascend to the lookout at Wilhelmina falls where a view of the area can be enjoyed.

There are a couple of steep sections on this walk for both groups so a moderate level of fitness will be required. However we will take it slowly up these, with breathers at the top.

This is truly a lovely part of Victoria and a great opportunity for you to see first-hand an area that went through one of the worst experiences in our history and its gradual resurrection back to its former glory.

Phil and I hope you can join us in what should be a great day out.



BASE CAMP

FRENCH ISLAND

DATE Sat 29 – Sun 30 October 2011
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE To be determined – neither walk over 15 km
LEADER Derek Whitehead
TRANSPORT Private to Stony Point; ferry; bus on French Island
AREA Westernport Bay
RESPONSE BY: You must notify me by 11 October if you are coming on the walk, who and for how long
LIMIT There is a limit of 20 people for this walk

French Island

French Island is mainly national park, and there has not been a Melbourne Bushwalkers walk there for quite some time. We've been there recently, and it is a wonderful place

Transport

The walk will leave on the Saturday 8 am ferry from Stony Point to Tankerton Jetty, French Island, and walkers will return by the Sunday ferry (departs Tankerton at 5:50 pm) to Stony Point. Stony Point is about an hour to an hour and a half from Melbourne by car. Walkers will be transported from the ferry to McLeod Eco Farm (about 20 minutes), and walks will start from there. We will stay overnight at the McLeod Eco Farm.

Accommodation

Walkers will stay in the guest house at McLeod Eco Farm, at a cost of \$40 per person per night. The cost does not include meals, but does include linen and a bed, although not heating (dress warmly). You are free to bring your own food for lunch on Sat/Sun, dinner on Sat, and breakfast on Sun morning. Facilities which we can use at the McLeod Eco Farm guest house include a kitchen for self-catering, cooking facilities, plates and cutlery, etc. There is an open fire. The guest house has shared facilities, and double, twin and bunk rooms. More information at www.McLeodEcoFarm.com

Costs

Ferry: Return ferry ticket (\$21)
Accommodation: At McLeod Eco Farm (\$40 per person per night)
Transport: Transport on French Island is included in the overnight cost.
Additional costs: These are optional. See below.

Additional options

Walkers have a wide range of add-on options, but you will need to notify me of what you plan to do before the deadline. Here are the main options:

- 1 Stay longer. You can choose to arrive on Friday 28 October, and you can choose to stay on for one, two or more nights. The cost will be \$40 per additional night. Let me know.
- 2 Buy food. You can choose from several eating options available at the Eco Farm. Per person prices are: breakfast basket (\$16), continental breakfast (\$10), sandwich (\$7.50), dinner provisions (\$18). All food is grown organically and is certified bio-dynamic.



TASMANIA – PINE VALLEY WALKING HOLIDAY

AN EXTENDED TRIP – MELBOURNE CUP WEEKEND

DATE 28 October – 2 November 2011
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE Approximately 50 km
LEADER Agajan Akbari
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Pine Valley and Lake St Clair
MAP REF Cradle Mountain–Lake St Clair National Park 1:100 000 and Tasmap 1:25 000 Olympus, Du Cane and Dome

Situated north-west of Lake St Clair and conspicuous from many points along the Overland Track, this jumbled region of mountains, plateaus and valleys is usually referred to as Pine Valley.

A brief itinerary is: Fly Melbourne to Hobart on 28 October, staying overnight at Hobart CBD Backpacker. Leave Hobart Saturday morning 29 October to Lake St Clair (approximately 3 hours drive). After registration with Parks Tasmania at Lake St Clair we catch a ferry to Narcissus River and then walk to our Saturday night camp site at Pine Valley Hut area. On Sunday, Monday and Tuesday we explore Mt Acropolis and the Labyrinth, Lake Elysia and walk back to Narcissus Hut area Tuesday morning. If time allows, we walk to Lake Marion and

Gould Plateau before catching the ferry back to Lake St Clair late afternoon.

Tuesday night (1 November) we either stay at Lake St Clair Backpacker or camp at camping ground (optional). On Wednesday morning (2 November) there is an opportunity to explore the lake or have a small walk (optional). We leave the lake and go to Hobart airport around or before 12 noon, and catch a flight on Wednesday late afternoon to Melbourne. Note that the total walking and travelling days are 5 full days (Friday 28 October not included). We will be walking in a wilderness and wet region in Tasmania, so some fitness, a good waterproof, warm clothing and camping equipment are essential.

This walk offers excellent views and experience in one of the famous valleys and lakes in Tasmania and therefore should not be missed. Estimated overall budget cost should be under \$700, depending on flight ticket cost. Although numbers are limited there are still a few vacancies available.



CANOE TRIP (4 DAY, CUP DAY WEEKEND)

GLENELG RIVER

DATE	28 October – 1 November 2011
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	60 km
LEADER(S)	Ken MacMahon and Janette Kodiah
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	South-western Victoria
MAP REF	Great South West Walk Map and Park Notes (from Parks Vic)

The Lower Glenelg River is unlike any other river in Victoria. It is deep, wide and usually tranquil. Scenic limestone cliffs define its course for many kilometres, making it ideal for pleasant flat-water canoeing. What's more, there are choice camping places set up especially for canoeists.

For this trip, we will be using the services of a local canoe hire operator who will provide canoes, associated equipment and transport to and from our start and finish points, which are 54 km apart. This saves time and hassles.

We will begin Day 1 from Pines Landing, paddling 18 km to Skipworth Springs camp, then 16 km to Pattersons camp on Day 2, 15 km to Lasletts camp on Day 3, before paddling 12 km into Nelson, arriving around noon on Day 4. Lasletts Camp is close enough to Princess Margaret Rose Caves for us to take a break from paddling and walk there for a look underground.

Generally, Canadian canoes are the most practical for this sort of trip, but kayaks are available too.

There are limited places available for this trip, so if you are keen, please book early. I will require up-front payment of about \$135 each. This includes use of a bunk house on Friday night. Participants should have some canoeing experience or pair up with someone who has a few skills.

If river conditions are suitable I intend to arrive a day early to do an extra stretch of river starting at Dartmoor. The river is quite a bit smaller here because it has emerged from its drowned valley and there is likely to be a few woody obstacles to negotiate. Should be fun if you want to join me!



PACK CARRY (4 DAY)

THE BLUFF – MT CLEAR – THE NOBS

DATE	28 October – 1 November 2011
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	44 km
ELEVATION	Up to 1726 metre (alpine)
LEADER	Max Casley
TRANSPORT	Car
AREA	South-east of Mansfield
MAP REF	King, Howqua and Jamieson Rivers, VMTc 1:50 000

TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON) \$55 suggested

This 4-day walk is around the headwaters of the Jamieson River in the high country on the Dividing range and just to its north-west. Starting beside the Jamieson River, the first day is a short distance but there is a climb up to our camp site near The Nobs. There should be plenty of time to explore along The Nobs without main packs. The second day we go over High Cone, Square Top (maybe the magnificent old snowgums will still be there) and visit the spring at Mt Clear. We pitch tents near Chester's Yard at Rat Camp from which there are good views to the north-west. On the third day we go over King Billy Nos. 1 and 2, admire a magnificent old snowgum and walk past Lovick's Hut and Bluff Hut. The campsite is near The Blowhole. On our last day we walk along the edge of The Bluff to the summit. From here we could go south back to our starting point or steeply down the path to the north and then to 8 Mile Gap – that can be decided nearer the time of the walk.

Then we head for home, possibly listening to Tuesday's Melbourne Cup and stopping for refreshment along the way. Sheepyard Flat is probably a suitable spot to meet Saturday morning and to camp on Friday night before the walk. The walking pace won't be fast but be prepared for any weather conditions.



TOFS WALK (Note change of leader)

BRIARS PARK AND BALCOMBE ESTUARY

DATE	Thursday 3 November
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	10.5 km
LEADER(S)	Alister Rowe
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Mt Martha
MAP REF	Melway 145
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central

This scenic walk includes The Briars Park – Wetlands and Woodlands Reserve with its notable bird hide, and the Balcombe Estuary. The estuary remains largely in its natural state with a diversity of vegetation types and is a haven for local flora and fauna. It runs from Briars Park to Mt Martha – perfect for a coffee stop. The woodlands section is gently undulating with a small hill – the estuary is mainly boardwalk. Meet at 10:30 am in the parking area of the Visitor Information Centre at Briars Park – Melway 145 F12.



SUNDAY WALK

FRENCH ISLAND

NOTE: 8:30 am START!!!!!!

DATE	Sunday 6th November
STANDARD	Easy Medium
DISTANCE	21 km TBC
LEADER(S)	Mick Noonan
TRANSPORT	Private Car \$13 + Ferry \$22/18/0 (see below)
AREA	Westernport Bay
MAP REF	Parks Victoria French Island National Park
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Wonthaggi

A French scientific expedition were the first Europeans to visit French Island in Western Port Bay in 1802, it was settled in 1847, koalas were first introduced in the 1880's and now it has one of the largest populations in Victoria, it was the proposed site of a nuclear power plant in the late 60's, 70% of the Island became a national park in 1997, and the Bushies last walked there in 2003.

We will make our way to Stony Point, enjoy a 15 minute ferry trip to Tankerton Jetty on French Island (84 km southeast of Melbourne in Westernport Bay by road), and then explore the south west of the Island with its tranquil surroundings ranging from mangroves and salt marsh through to heaths and open woodlands, numerous species of bush orchids and birds, and very few cars! We should be able to manage a coffee, cold drink and/or ice cream at the General Store before catching the 4:30 ferry.

The walk is graded Easy/Medium due to the distance, the Island is very flat (highest point is the Pinnacles at 96 m!) and easy walking so it's a great chance to stretch out and clock up a few k's. If you have not been to French Island before, miss Derek Whitehead's October base camp, or loved it last time you were there then this unique walk is for you!

The Ferry costs are: Adult \$22, Concession \$15, Seniors FREE – Concession and Seniors Cards must be presented. Car Park \$4.40 per car.

Note that in order to ensure we make the 10:15 Ferry we will be leaving at 8:30 from the normal departure point!!!!



WEDNESDAY WALK

BYERS BACK TRACK – THE TUNNEL – SHAWS LAKE, BLACKWOOD

DATE	Wednesday 9 November
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	15 km
LEADER	Sandra Mutimer
TRANSPORT	Private
MAP REFERENCE	Meridian Lerderderg and Werribee Gorges 1:15 000

We will meet at 10:15 am outside the Blackwood Hotel on the corner of Martin Street [off the Greenvale–Trentham Road] and Golden Point Rd. From there we will drive a short distance closer to the beginning of the Byers Back Track, with this depending on the condition of the road.

The walk will take us along the Byers Back Track which follows an old water race. It gently winds its way down to the valley and the Lerderderg River, passing some evidence of former gold mining days along the way. Here we will reach The Tunnel which was cut through solid rock by miners to divert water from a bend in the river and expose a section of the dry river bed so that it was easier to search for gold. At the time this walk was previewed it

was interesting to observe the strong flow of the river through the tunnel, something which has not been in evidence in recent years.

Starting with a short, sharp climb we will then join the Tunnel Point Track and make our way to Shaws Lake and the Mineral Springs Reserve before returning to the cars.



BASE CAMP

INVERLOCH

DATE	11–13 November 2011
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	various from 5 km to 19 km
LEADER	Maddy Lock
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Powlett River to Cape Patterson
MAP REF	Melways 612 S12

There will be Easy and Easy/Medium walks offered each day. So we will need more leaders on the day.

Navigation will be straightforward. The longer walk will take place on the Saturday. The terrain will be mainly along the coast and exposed so make sure you carry sufficient water and sunburn protection. There will be plenty of opportunities to swim if the water is not too cold.

The 2 day base camp is a repeat of a successful and most enjoyable base camp with the Wednesday walkers 2 years ago.

We will be staying at the Big 4 Caravan Park at Inverloch. You can stay in shared cabins. (I will need to know the numbers for these by October 12th.) The shared cabins are the only accommodation that I will be booking. The cost of this accommodation if 4 people are sharing will be between \$43 and \$53 per night, depending on the standard of the cabin. I have booked 5 cabins, 3 deluxe and 2 Holiday Units. You will need to pay for one night by 30th September. You can email me re method of payment. You can also do your own thing and book your cabin or camp site (Phone 03 5674 1447). All accommodation can be viewed at www.inverloch-holiday-park.vic.big4.com.au.



PACK CARRY

BAW BAW NATIONAL PARK

DATE	11–13 November 2011
DISTANCE:	30 km (approx)
LEADER:	Ralph Blake
TRANSPORT:	Private
MAP REFERENCE:	Baw Baw Plateau 1:25 000

Baw Baw NP is a pleasant and beautiful place for a pack carry and late spring should be very nice there.

On Saturday morning our group shall meet at Mt Erica car park. We shall ascend to Mt Erica via the Mushroom Rocks. Continuing along the Alpine Walking Track from Mt Erica, we shall climb up and over Mt Talbot. A charming lunch spot shall be found somewhere here. After lunch we shall press on toward Mt St Phillack. Camp shall be made near Mt St Phillack. No camp fires are permitted within Baw Baw NP. For the rest of Saturday and Sunday morning we shall have the opportunity to do some side trips from camp. A shorter side trip to Mt Baw Baw and a longer trip to Mt Whitelaw. After lunch on Sunday we shall retrace our path back to the Mt Erica car park. The group size limit is 12.



SUNDAY BUS

MT DONNA BUANG TO DOM DOM SADDLE

DATE	Sunday 13th November 2011
STANDARD	Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCE	About 17 km and 22 km
LEADER(S)	Del Franks and David Laing
TRANSPORT	Bus
AREA	Yarra Ranges
MAP REF	South Juliet and North Juliet
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central/North Central

This walk is set in the beautiful Yarra Ranges between Warburton and the Black Spur. The medium walk will be starting at the top of Mt Donna Buang and finishing at Dom Dom Saddle. The route for the easier walk has not yet been finalised, but it will also finish at Dom Dom Saddle. There will be more information on the walks at the time of booking

Donna Buang is 1260 m above sea level and Dom Dom Saddle is 510 m, so it is downhill on average; however the track is undulating with a few serious climbs and descents. The peaks to be covered in the walk are Mt Boobyalla (1224 m), The Knobs (1113 m) and Mt Vinegar (1020 m).

Some of the key attractions of the area are towering mountain ash, fern gullies, 130 native bird species, 31 native mammals, 21 reptiles and nine amphibian species recorded. The Superb Lyrebird is the park's most famous inhabitant. Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Crimson Rosellas, Laughing Kookaburras, Eastern Yellow Robins, Yellow-faced Honeyeaters and Pied Currawongs are some of the native birds to be seen. Who knows, we just might be lucky and see some of them. Also there should be good views of distant mountains from some of the pecks.



CYCLING

SOMERVILLE-SOMERS

DATE	Saturday 19 November 2011
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	59 km (or shorter – 46 km)
LEADER	Ross Berner
TRANSPORT	Car or train to Somerville Station
RETURN TIME	About 4:30 pm (Somerville Station)
AREA	Mornington Peninsula
MAP REFERENCE	Melway maps 107, 148, 154, 164, 165, 193, 194 and 195

The meeting place for the ride is the east side of Somerville Railway Station (Melway 107 F12) at 9:15 am.

The route is mainly on off-road trails with a few quiet streets.

If you are travelling by train, you will need to take the Frankston Line Train departing from Flinders Street at 7:38 am to Frankston. Then change to Stony Point Line train that is usually on the adjoining platform, leaving about 5 minutes after Frankston train arrives. (A Metcard valid for zone 2 is needed for all journeys on this line. A Metcard valid for zone 2 is also needed for travel to Frankston.)

Bring bathers if weather is warm, as we will spend time at the beach at Somers at lunchtime.

The route is based around the Westernport Bay Trail (formerly Somerville-Somers Rail Trail), which is the off road cycle trail on the Peninsula. Our route follows the rail line to Hastings, then along the foreshore. South of Hastings we join the Bittern Coastal Wetlands Boardwalk, which passes through the southernmost

stand of mangroves in the world. Then to Jacks Beach, a former whaling station, and around the coast by road to Stony Point. We head inland where we rejoin the bike trail at Morradoo station, but leave the rail line and follow the western boundary of the Naval Base to Somers and the beach.

The afternoon ride will return to Somerville following the rail trail, which is largely an inland route. It may be extended to include Coolart or Balnarring, if participants want to. It is also possible to shorten the ride and finish at Morradoo or Bittern Stations if necessary.

Those riders who want an extra challenge may wish to meet me at the car park on the east side of Frankston Station (Melway 100A E7, Fletcher Rd) at 8:00 am for a ride to Somerville, which adds 12 km to the start of the ride. It follows the Frankston-Baxter Rail Trail to Baxter and then on a busy road.

**BUSH SEARCH AND RESCUE
VICTORIA TRAINING WEEKEND:
19-20 NOVEMBER 2011**

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS AND POTENTIAL MEMBERS

This weekend will provide BSAR members and interested bushwalkers with training in the skills required for bush searching. The varied program structure will cater for new through to our most experienced members. It will include a new rogaine style GPS navigation exercise to develop members' navigation skills with a GPS. Other exercises will include observation and tracking, 'sound and light' night searching, the group leader's role, and first aid.

Who Should Attend?

Current BSAR members, prospective members and experienced bushwalkers who are considering membership of BSAR and who meet or who are close to meeting the requirements for BSAR membership, are all most welcome.

BSAR entry requirements are on Page 12 of the BSAR manual, and at <http://www.bsar.org/joining>.

Venue: The Wombat State Forest

Date, departure time, transport and parking

Buses will be provided by Police Transport Branch. The car parking, assembly and departure point for all participants is at Police Bands Compound, end of Green Street, Northcote by 0700 hrs Saturday 19 November. The bus will return at approximately 1800 hrs Sunday 20 November.

What to bring?

Bring normal food and equipment for an overnight camp on Saturday night and day trips into the bush; off track and some thick scrub. A reminder of BSAR Policy: no shorts please. Maps will be supplied. Full waterbottles as always. There will be a fresh water tank on site.

Bring your copy of the BSAR manual, notebook, folder, pens and paper.

A folding chair is a handy luxury for the workshop sessions and in camp.

Attendance Confirmation

Club members and prospective members should register with their Club BSAR Delegate prior to Wednesday 9 November.

*David Laing
Club Delegate for BSAR*



TRACK MAINTENANCE

WILSONS PROMONTORY

DATE	19–20 November 2011
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER	Mark Heath
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Wilsons Promontory
MAP REF	Melways 425 C11
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	West and South Gippsland
TEMP. REF. SITE	Tidal River

Join Parks Victoria and Friends of the Prom to improve walking tracks in the northern section of the park.

Complimentary camping for both Friday and Saturday nights will be available at the Stockyard at the entrance to the park.

More details will be made available closer to the weekend.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

MT ST LEONARD (VIA CONDONS TRACK)

DATE	20 November 2011
STANDARD	Medium/Hard
DISTANCE	23.5 km
ELEVATION	1200 m rise and fall
LEADER	Ian Mair
TRANSPORT	Car – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA	Yarra Ranges National Park
MAP REF	Juliet North and Juliet South 1:25 000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	CN
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	yg

This is not a walk for the unfit or inexperienced! The circuit walk, starting from Donnellys Weir not far from Healesville, taking in Condons Track is on the way to Mt St Leonard and returning by the Mt St Leonard Track, is a day walk for those that like a good workout. The distance itself of around 23.5 km is enough to put it in the harder range of Sunday walks. Coupled with a total elevation rise and fall of over 1200 m, including the sharp 550 m climb in 2.6 km of the Condons Track, makes it one of the hardest walks on the Sunday program. The estimated walking time with minimal breaks will be around 7–8 hours. For those that accept the challenge, however, the rewards are that much greater.

The walk starts with a picturesque walk to Echo Tunnel alongside a feeder channel forming part of the Melbourne water supply system, from where it follows 4WD management roads to the start of Condons Track up the slopes of Mt Monda. The track passes through ancient fern gullies and tall wet mountain ash forest. Condons Track is maintained by Bushwalking Victoria and the benefits of the coordinated efforts will be appreciated, especially if we encounter rain on the slippery slopes. From the top of Condons Track we will follow earthen roads around to Mt St Leonard (although there is the option to first visit Mt Monda, adding another 3 km to the walk!) From Mt St Leonard we will take in magnificent views across the Yarra Valley to Melbourne before descending through mixed eucalypt forest along the Mt St Leonard track back to Donnellys Weir.

Should you choose to accept the challenge please see me in the club room.



MOFS

WOODLANDS HISTORIC PARK

DATE	Monday, 21 November 2011
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	Approximately 10 km
LEADER	Keith White
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Woodlands Historic Park, Greenvale
MAP REFERENCE:	Melway 177 and 178

Meet at 10:30 am in the car park at Woodlands Historic Homestead (Melway 177 K8). Enter Woodlands Historic Park from Oaklands Road, approximately 200 metres after turning right from the roundabout in Sunbury Road. From entrance gate, follow driveway to car park (approx. 800 metres).

The plan, at this stage, is to traverse the park for lunch on Gellibrand Hill, then meander through the 'Paddock' back to our cars. Should finish the walk by 2:30 pm.

Book with Keith at home.



THURSDAY SOCIAL WALK

MORE KOONUNG CREEK RESERVE

DATE	Thursday 24 November 2011
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	5 km
LEADER	Jean Giese
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Balwyn/Box Hill North
MAP REF	Melway 46 and 47

We were in this area in August 2010 and felt there was more we would like to explore. We will be on foot tracks rather than the bike track most of the time and will enjoy wetlands, old trees and restored bushland.

Meet at 10.30 in the car park for the miniature railway off Belmore Rd (Melway 47 B4). Lunch at Pure Italian in Belmore Road.

Please note that this will be the last Thursday Social Walk in 2011.



FRIDAY SOCIAL WALK

CITY GARDENS – ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS – FAWKNER PARK

DATE	Friday 25 November 2011
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER	Susan Maughan

Details of this event are in the Social Column on page 4.



SATURDAY WALK

DANDENONGS EXPLORER

DATE	Saturday 26th November
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	12 km
LEADER	Doug Pocock
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Olinda State Forest
MAP REF	Melways 122 and 66

Should be a relatively easy walk with a few Dandenongs ups and downs just to keep the heart pumping. Meet at Eagles Nest picnic ground for a 10:30 am start (Melways 122 E3). As this is the last Saturday walk for the year bring a thermos for a coffee or tea (or whatever your choice) and we will have a break-up afternoon tea.



PACK CARRY

**MT DIFFICULT AND BRIGGS BLUFF
(CHANGED FROM MAJOR MITCHELL PLATEAU)**

DATE	25-27 November 2011
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	13.2 km
ELEVATION	500m
LEADER(S)	Del Franks
TRANSPORT	Private Cars
AREA	Grampians
MAP REF	Grampians
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	South West
TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON)	about \$60

Unfortunately, due to recent natural disasters (fires, floods etc.), the Major Mitchell Plateau area is still closed. As the Grampians is a great place to be in spring I have therefore changed the walk to the Mt Difficult and Briggs Bluff track, which is the only overnight track that is currently open.

There is a compulsory registration system that currently applies to this overnight hike, so if you are interested in doing this walk, can you please give me a call on 0403 705 763

The walk will start from the Troopers Creek Campground and finish at the Beehive Falls Carpark, so a car shuffle will be required on Saturday morning. People can camp at Troopers Creek on Friday night; however please be advised that camping fees apply.

The walk begins on Saturday as an easy stroll through forested slopes. Soon the track becomes a steep, zig zagging climb to the base of massive cliff overhangs and then weaves through a maze of weathered rock formations and boulders. We should have good view of the area from the top of Mt Difficult. The overnight camp will be at the Briggs Bluff Hikers Campsite.

On Sunday we continue north-west, and follow the track to the summit of Briggs Bluff that offers some of the most spectacular cliffline views in the northern Grampians. The track descends through massive boulders and over windswept terraces to a plateau with splendid views. An unrelenting scramble over steep slopes and rock outcrops brings takes you to Beehive Falls (maybe with some water in it this year). We then descend the rocks to the bridge and follow the easy graded track to the Beehive Falls Carpark.

Hope to see you on this spectacular walk. – Del



BASE CAMP

**WILSONS PROM – MILLERS LANDING – MT VEREKER
OVERLOOK**

DATE	November 25-27
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	30 km
ELEVATION	200 m
LEADER(S)	Graham Hodgson
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Wilson's Promontory
MAP REF	Parks Victoria Wilsons Prom
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	WG
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	wn
TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON)	\$45

We will be camping at Tidal River on both Friday and Saturday nights. I will be booking two large sites that should be able to accommodate up to 8 tents in total.

Wilson's Prom has a fantastic range of walks but I would like to do the Millers Landing–Mt Vereker overlook walk on Saturday. This walk involves a spectacular climb following a narrow ridge with views overlooking Corner Inlet and Mt Vereker. After the climb we will walk to Millers Landing where hopefully the tide will be out so that we can explore the interesting rock formations along the foreshore. Depending on time we may also do some short walks around Tidal River but most importantly bring along some nibbles and drinks to share at the traditional Saturday 6 pm nosh-up at the campground. There have been some amazing dips, cakes, savouries etc in previous years. Come on! Excel yourselves!

Sunday morning we will pack up early and do a short car shuffle so that the Derby Saddle-Tongue Point walk can be undertaken. This walk is mostly downhill with expansive sea views up and down the east side of the prom (this walk has not been possible in recent years due to ongoing track closures).

I emphasise that track closures can happen at any time at the Prom but hopefully we can do the walks indicated.

Please note that I will be taking bookings on a first-in first-served basis and once I have reached the limit any latecomers will have to make their own arrangements regarding camping.

Please book with me using the phone number in the membership list and NOT the mobile number on the walks program.



SUNDAY BUS

LYONVILLE SPRINGS – BABBINGTON HILL

DATE	Sunday 27 November 2011
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
LEADERS	Deb Shand and John Fritze

For details of this trip, please contact the leaders, or see next month's *News*.

