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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

60 cents

April 2012

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This News has the list of the over 40 people occupying non-Committee roles who contribute to our Club – in addition to our Activity Leaders and Whips! Special thanks to Jopie Bodegraven (Map Training) and Mark Heath (Track Maintenance) who are relinquishing some of their roles.

The great news for people who love walking the Prom is that most of the walks in the Southern Prom are now open! See the April Bushwalking Victoria Newsletter or the Parks Vic website for more detailed information on this and other areas.

If you would like to contribute to the environment, native wild life or making our walking tracks better and have a great time why not consider the Nest Box Survey in April or the Grampians Track Maintenance in May.

If you have not renewed your Membership yet then read the Insurance notice in this News and promptly pay your membership fees which remain unchanged.

Have a good look at the Winter Program and start planning an active winter filled with great outdoor activities – thanks to the Walks Secretaries, Activity Coordinators and Leaders who have contributed to the program.

If you are heading off the bitumen to get to your walks then remember to let your tyre pressures down for better traction and less tyre damage. Either use a compressor to pump them back up when you hit the bitumen or stay below 80kph until you get to a service station. 4WD Victoria recommend slowing down and reducing pressures to 60% of the vehicle's placard pressure value for sand and difficult terrain, 70% for snow/rocks/mud, and around 30 psi (slightly reduced) for good dirt roads.

Enjoy the Easter break and the Autumn Walks whether with the Club or with other friends!

Mick Noonan

CONSERVATION REPORT

Alpine Grazing – as reported at our AGM and in March The News, the Federal Minister for the Environment announced the end of the cattle grazing 'trial' in the Alpine National Park on the 31st January 2012. The Victorian State Government will now mount a legal challenge to the Federal Minister's decision. Also, in the House of Representatives, the National Party tried to overturn the Federal Minister's decision on the 14 March 2012. This was (narrowly) defeated. It is a National Park – not a farm.

Minimum Impact Bushwalking – If you carry in, then carry it out. Do not leave orange peel, apple cores, egg shell and banana skins in the bush. Please carry a rubbish bag on trips. Also, if possible and for good karma, pick up other rubbish along the track and at campsites.

Phytophthora cinnamomi (previously known as Cinnamon fungus). At the end of your bushwalk and for best practice 'bush hygiene' to prevent the spread of this plant disease, please wash your boots and if camping – your tent pegs. Use a brush and a mixture of 70% methylated spirits and water.

Rod Novak

NEST BOX WEEKEND FLYER

Ray Thomas has published an interesting flyer about the nest boxing project. It's too big to include in News, but if you email news@mbw.org.au I can send you a copy.

Meryl Whimpey, News editor

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: Marilyn 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 May News, the closing date is 18 April.

Advertisements should relate to bushwalking (e.g. gear, maps, trips, tours, health and fitness etc.). These may be published subject to space availability and Editor's discretion. For current advertising rates contact the Editor at news@mbw.org.au.

Please note:
Next committee meeting will take place on
MONDAY 4 JUNE 2012

VALE FRANK PITT

One of our Life Members, Frank Pitt, recently passed away.

Frank joined the club in 1944, the year that the club became formalised with a constitution and club rules. He was an active leader of both day and extended walks. In late 1948 he became secretary. It would appear that this was the time of the Split when some members left to form the VMTTC. He continued as secretary for four years 1948–52 then again in 1955–58 when Val Goldsmith took over. Frank's wife Fay (who predeceased him) was the club's first lady president.

I joined the club in 1961 but only met Frank a few times as by this time he was heavily involved with the Bush Music Club. It is with sorrow we note this loss with a link to the early days. The Club extends its sympathies to his family.

Doug Pocock

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome the following new members to the Club:

Una Maybin
Jennifer Walker
Parry Doctor

**THE WILDERNESS SHOP
969 WHITEHORSE ROAD, BOX HILL
PHONE 9898 3742**

info@wildernessshop.com.au

**Annual
MEGA BUYING NIGHT**

for Melbourne Bushies

Tuesday 8th May 6–9pm

20% off regular prices, 5% off sale items
FREE nibbles, pizza, beer and soft drinks
Lucky Door Prize!!!!

SOCIAL COLUMN

The Melbourne Bushwalking Club will be hosting two guest speakers this month.



Wednesday, 18th April: Wine and Cheese Evening, and COASTAL WALKS IN THE BRITISH ISLES

Come along to the club's monthly wine and cheese evening and be entertained by Jopie who will show slides on walking in the British Isles. Jopie's presentation will commence at 8.00pm.



Wednesday, 23rd May: Wine and Cheese Evening, and ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE

On Wednesday 23 May, Maddie will give a workshop on applying the Alexander Technique for safe and efficient walking. Maddie's workshop will commence at 8.00pm.

THE BUSHIES' AUCTION

The Bushies' Auction will be back on the calendar mid-year (TBA). This is your chance to make a few bob from surplus gear and contribute to the recycling revolution.

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Do you have suggestions regarding talks, presentations, workshops or other social activities that you would like the club to organise? Yes..... then send your ideas to Kerry at the following email address: kerrymckeand@yahoo.com.au

EQUIPMENT

Missing Gear

In recent months we have had two tents, some compasses and a GPS fail to find their way back to the equipment store. If you are implicated, and don't fancy the stigma of tar and feathers, it would be a good idea to sneak them back while we are not looking!

Snake Bandages

After a snake bite a compression bandage applied at the correct tension can make the difference between life and death. Unfortunately it has been found that inexperienced applicators are unlikely to achieve this tension and, even if you can, won't get the opportunity if you are bitten yourself. Bandages with pressure indicators ('snake bandages') increase the likelihood of the correct tension being applied and would be the best type to carry, but are expensive. The cheapest I could find were \$35 plus postage locally or a little less from America. If you know of a cheaper source could you please let me know. I can be contacted by email at equipment@mbw.org.au.

John Fritze

Hi Melbourne Bushwalkers News,

I'm not a member, I just need to buy a second hand camping mat (and from a guaranteed non-smoker). You can't get these via ebay/gumtree, but some bushwalkers would still have old ones in their possession.

(To explain why: I'm too sensitive to glues in regular mattresses, and with futons the underside of me bakes with the trapped heat whilst I shiver on top.)



I used to sleep on an old fashioned rubberised cotton inflatable camping mat, until it broke, similar to this one. I can buy a new one of these, but it will be years before the glue vapours go and I can use it.

I'd pay \$50 to pick up the right mat (with one or two more questions to the seller). Interested in any size.

Joanna Sender (jo@josender.com.au)

Noticeboard

Melbourne Bushwalkers NON COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Newsletter Editor..... Marilyn Whimpey
Website Manager Ian Mair
Equipment Officer John Fritze
Database Administrator..... Chris Schirlinger
Assistant Sunday Walks Secretary..... Kerry McKeand
Assistant Social Secretary..... Susan Maughan
Maps Officer..... Mark Heath
Club Email Contact Mark Heath
Navigation Training..... Roger Wyatt (was Jopie Bodegraven)
Regent Honeyeater, Tree Planting, Nest Box .. Michael Murray
Library Cecily Hunter
First Aid kits..... Carol Sissons
Auditors Richard Hanson, John Boyd
Public Officer..... Pearson Cresswell

Activity Co-ordinators

Dandenongs Explorer..... Maureen Hurley
Wednesday..... Ed Neff
TOFs/MOFs/Social Jean Giese, Alister Rowe
Cycling..... Ross Berner
Pack Carry..... Jopie Bodegraven
Base Camp/Lodge Wendy Fortington

Bushwalking Victoria

BWV Delegate Michael Noonan
BWV Environment Committee (BEC)..... Rod Novak
BWV Track Maintenance Coordinator Vacant (was Mark Heath)
Bush Search and Rescue Coordinator..... David Laing

BSAR Members David Laing, Derrick Brown, Gina Hopkins, Jopie Bodegraven
Bill Metzenthen, Mick Noonan, Roger Wyatt, Diane Woodcroft

Committee Duty Roster Helpers..... Max Casley, Wendy Fortington, Diane Woodcroft, Jopie Bodegraven, Fiona Kelly, Susan Maughan, Graham Hodgson, Margaret Curry, Fay Dunn, Sue Haviland, Michael Murray, Lance Mobbs

Club Emergency Contacts..... Graham and Sue Errey
Jim and Libby Marsden

This might be handy information for cross country skiers and snowshoe walkers.

Mt Baw Baw Ski Lodge is available for hire and comes recommended by Susan Maughan's Wednesday walkers who have just spent 2 enjoyable days there.

The Lodge, built in 1945, was the first on the mountain, and is spacious, clean and well maintained.

Non member rates for the ski season (June to October) for adults are as follows:

Weekend (Friday and Saturday nights) – \$113;

Mid Week (arriving Sunday and leaving Friday) – \$226; single night – \$57

The booking Officer is Susan Thomas, susan@onthe.net.au

Wondering where Information Victoria has gone to?

Naru House,
Level 20,
80 Collins Street

*** handy for maps, walk info etc***

MOBILE PHONES FOR COMMUNICATIONS IN THE BUSH

Mobile phones can often be used for communications in the bush and other remote areas. It is recommended that parties carry at least one mobile phone.

All mobiles are not equal. Do some research to determine which mobile phone will be the best for the places you are likely to use it.

Some points to consider:

- Check the **rating for good reception (eg. Telstra's 'blue tick')**.
- A phone that can take an **external antenna** (there are a few) can improve reception.
- Check the **rated battery life** of the phone – both standby and talk time. A phone battery that only lasts a day is a major limitation.
- Choose a phone with **inbuilt GPS and/or location services**. These can be used for reporting your location, and in some cases for emergency services to track your phone.
- A **waterproof or splashproof** phone is desirable for outdoors use. Some example are a Sonim (GSM) and a Motorola Defy (Next G).
- Phones with resistive touch screens can be difficult to operate if your fingers get sweaty.

Networks and carriers

- **A phone without network coverage is useless.** Several network operators service mainly cities and urban areas and have poor or non-existent coverage in remote areas.
- In general, the Telstra NextG network has the best coverage, although call rates and data charges are often higher than competitors.
- Some operators such as Three (now merged with Vodafone) have roaming agreements with Telstra, however they may not get the full coverage or services offered by Telstra's NextG network.

Phone usage

- **Keep the phone turned off when it is not needed.** Mobiles operating outside of network coverage will keep 'polling' for a base station and will use more power. You can also put the phone into 'flight mode' which turns off the network connection.
- **Store the phone in a waterproof pouch** that it can be also be used in, or buy a waterproof phone.
- **Turn off Bluetooth, WiFi and GPS functions if they are not needed** – they consume extra power. The GPS in some phones relies on the mobile network to render maps, while some phones have maps stored inside them.
- **You can often get reception from high ground.** If you don't have reception, it is worth walking onto a ridge or further onto a summit.
- Most maps in phones are not ideal for bushwalking as they don't have enough detail.
- **SMS messages use much less power than talking;** if you are running low send information via SMS.
- **If you are lost or in an emergency situation, call 000 and ask for Police.**

Smart phone applications

While smart phones such as iPhones and Android-based phones often use more power and are more bulky than conventional mobile phones, [they] can run useful applications. Some applications that may be useful include:

- Inserty (Android): Insert current GPS coordinates in an SMS
- My Tracks (Android): Record track logs and upload to Google maps
- CoordTransform (Android): Convert between Lat Lon to UTM coordinates
- GPS Tracker (Android): Track the location of the phone (requires network coverage)
- Avenza PDF Map: interact with geo referenced PDFs such as Vicmap Topo 1:30 000 map series. Currently available only for Apple iOS devices.

In summary

Remember, there is no guarantee that a mobile phone will work, so they should not be relied upon for safety or communications. They are no substitute for navigation skills, a map, compass, GPS and Personal Locator Beacon. However, with network coverage they can be a useful addition to your safety gear.

Source: Bush Search and Rescue website, March Bushwalking Victoria Newsletter

Noticeboard

KAKADU NATIONAL PARK

Hi Marilyn,

I think you are on my newsletter list but since people from your club sometimes do walks in Kakadu, I thought I'd send the following so that your club has a chance to comment. Please pass it along to anyone who might be interested.

There isn't a huge amount of time for comments and I don't think that the info that comments are possible has been circulated as widely as I think it should be.

New Plan of Management for Kakadu

Planning has begun for the preparation of the 6th Kakadu Management Plan.

The current plan for Kakadu expires on 31 December 2013. A new plan must then be put in place to guide how the park will be managed for the following 10 years.

As part of the formal consultation process, the public have been invited to provide comments and suggestions on the development of the new plan (Have Your Say process). For more information on this process, go to <http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/kakadu/newplan.html>

Written submissions must be sent by Friday 13 April 2012.

Making a comment before the new draft plan is prepared makes it more likely that issues concerning you will be included.

Regards,
Russell Willis

Willis's Walkabouts

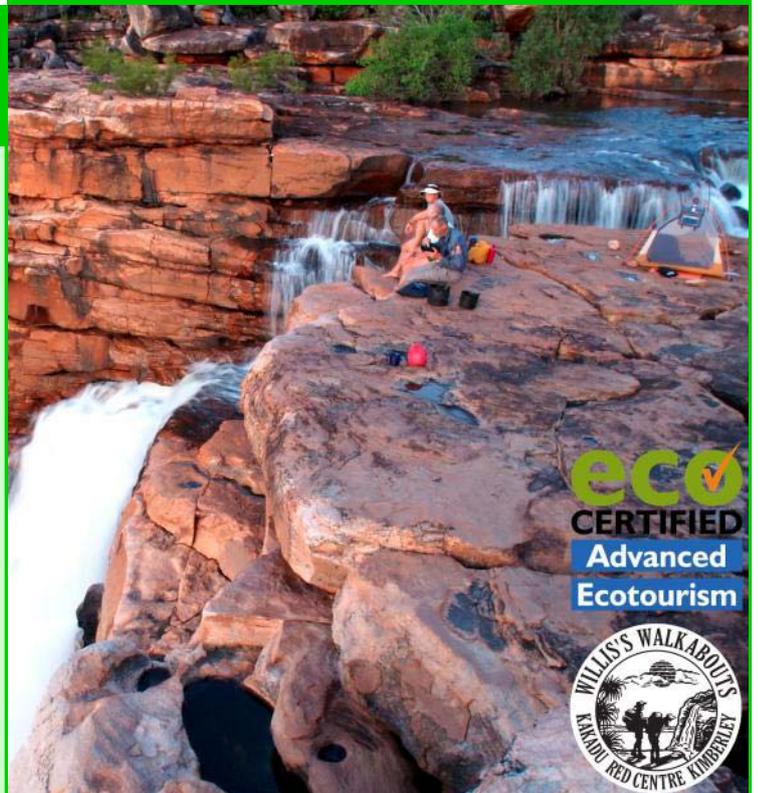
Going to wonderful places most people only dream about

Have you ever camped beside a waterfall that seems to go on forever, water so clean you could bottle it, and deep crystal-clear swimming holes to enjoy in your very own tropical paradise? All this, several days walk from any hint of civilisation so you and your companions have it all to yourselves.

Why not?

Join us and let our experienced guides show you the very best that our North has to offer – hidden waterfalls, ancient rock art, beautiful sandy beaches next to clear tropical pools and more, much more.

Untracked bushwalking at its very best



www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au rwillis@internode.on.net Ph: 08 8985 2134

BENALLA NEST BOXING WEEKEND Climbing trees for the environment 21–22 April 2012



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

The weekend offers a wonderful opportunity to get close to the animals. You are almost guaranteed to see one or two noses poking out of a bowl of leaves when you check the boxes, and everyone has an opportunity to have a look! We count for most of Saturday (after a brief talk by Ray Thomas, the region co-ordinator, on safety and anything particular to look for) and on Sunday till just after lunch to allow time for the return trip to Melbourne. You will need to provide lunch for yourself for both days, and accommodation on Saturday night is offered in the local scout hall, mattresses provided, bring your own sleeping bag! For Saturday night, bring your own goodies for a barbeque and meet up with your fellow counters. Benalla has a few good supermarkets to resupply from and a really nice bakery where most people go for Sunday breakfast.

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

This year the weekends are the 24th to 25th March and 21st to 22nd April. Either myself (Chris Schirlinger) or Michael Murray will be available in the clubrooms for two Wednesdays prior to the March and April weekends to answer any questions or sign you up! Transport will be via car-pooling, so please sign up early so we can help with arrangements for cars and drivers.

Chris Schirlinger



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MWC indicates for Macpac Wilderness Club members only - SIGN UP TO MWC INSTORE OR ONLINE TODAY - IT'S FREE!

A ONE DAY ROUND CYCLE TOUR

Route: Footscray, Maribyrnong River Trail, Steeles Creek Trail, Brimbank State Park, Maribyrnong River Trail, Footscray

Date: 14 January 2012

Weather: Fine, cloudy, strong SE wind

Temp: 28°C

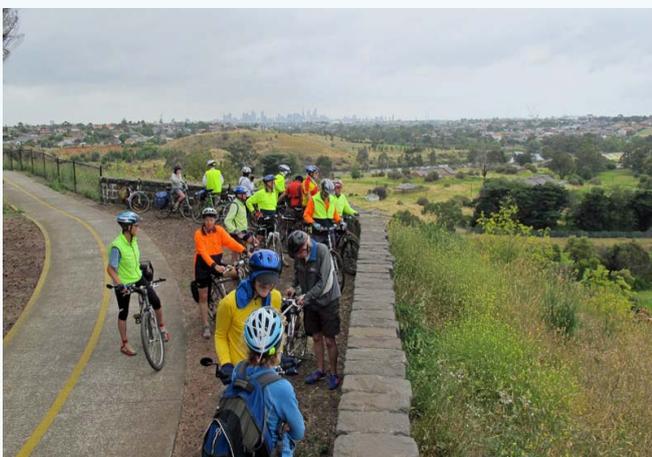
Riders: 4 ladies, 13 men

We all met on time at the Footscray Railway Station and Ian soon had us on our way along the river trail. With a strong tail wind we had it easy and soon passed the Flemington Racetrack and new housing subdivision set against a couple of attractive man made lakes. We stopped for morning tea at a riverside café and then up the steep slopes of the river valley with spectacular views from the top. It was then downhill and we switched from the river valley to the Steeles Creek Trail which was new territory for most of us. It was a pretty valley and included an old quarry which had been developed into a large picturesque lake. We exited this valley with a gradual climb and headed towards the Brimbank State Park. Our approach was on the ridge overlooking the park and the view was spectacular. The ride down to the café was most enjoyable. The café was nicely situated among beautiful old River Red Gums.

With lunch over, Ian had us going uphill and we wondered why. When we had cycled about 300 metres we turned off on to another track and went downhill to the Maribyrnong River Trail. When we arrived at the perimeter of the park the trail suddenly became something of an obstacle course, a notice advised us that the trail was in a damaged state owing to being washed out in many places due to heavy rain. We rode on regardless and after many skids, bumps and walking in a few places, we managed to complete the 8 km with no injuries. The track was good from here on and at 3:00 pm the clouds disappeared and the sun came out. It was very hot, so we were lucky to have had so much cloud cover earlier. Some of us left the river trail to go to the railway station. Max, Lynda, Ross, Mark, Phil, Bob, Sue and Ed had all cycled in from their homes to the start of the ride and were riding home as well. This meant an extra 30–40 kms to the length of the tour which by my measure was 55 kms.

It was an excellent ride and made so much more interesting and enjoyable due to Ross Berner working out the way to Brimbank Park via Steeles Creek. Thank you, Ross and we were all very pleased to have you out riding with us again. Our thanks to Ian for organising and leading this excellent ride. Statistics for the day – 4 punctures, 3 of them due to Bindi Bins, 1 due to perished plys. A lesson learnt here is that it is most important to carry at least one spare tube, tools to do the job and a large volume pump. I collided with a flying bee which stung me on the forehead and left me with a headache for the rest of the day. I felt sorry for the bee as I am a keen gardener and eat a lot of honey. Bees are my friends.

The people who participated in the ride were Ian Mair (Leader), Mark Heath, Jopie Bodegraven, Jenny Flood, Derrick Brown, Gina Hopkins, Lars Lindahl, Ross Berner, Phil Brown, Ed Neff, Karl Spadinger, Max Casley, Lynda Larkin, Bob Oxlade, Ray Spooner, Sue Ralston and myself – Art Terry.



The views from the Lily Street lookout were worth a stop.



The railway trestle bridge across the Maribyrnong.

Photos by Ian Mair

MT COBBLER PACK CARRY 10TH-12TH MARCH 2012

There was movement at the station for the word had got around that the 'intrepid eleven' were on their way.

They mustered at the pub and downed quite a few cokes as they settled in to plan their way.

Early Saturday morn saw another muster at Howqa Gap to drive onto the King River hut (elevation 800 m) where our trek began with a brisk climb (some 500 m) up the steep Muesli Spur to clear the cobwebs, stimulate the sweat glands and to remind everyone that this was an Agajan trip. Cobwebs cleared, we were able to enjoy a pleasant walk through the Cobbler Plateau, giving us plenty of time to locate an ideal lunch spot, which just happened to be the chosen warming area for a (suspected) Alpine Copperhead snake about 1 metre long. Conversation and now folklore has it that Agajan may have levitated marginally higher than the snake when they realised simultaneously that they were not alone. Fortunately Agajan leapt right and Snake leapt left but refused to give up its ground, so we acquiesced and moved to another snake-free lunch area. The rest of the day was uneventful and we enjoyed a casual stroll into Lake Cobbler camping area to pitch camp early in the afternoon and enable short walks to local waterfalls and numerous cups of tea, as well as discussions of the likelihood of branches falling on this writer's tent during the night. Magnificent light shades on the trees and mirrored lake from the setting sun was a sight to behold. An early night for all ensured all would be up bright eyed and bushy tailed for the planned 8:30 am start.



An Alpine Copperhead maintains a wary eye after being surprised by Agajan.

We woke to a beautiful fog cloud over the lake, barely revealing the feral cows standing in the lake drinking – we all swore that they looked like bull rushes the evening prior, and were relieved once the fog lifted that they resumed their disguise as bull rushes. Agajan's arrival at the camp site from his remote tent site introduced us to his version of flexi-time and revealed the start time miraculously had changed to 8:00 am. Consequently poor Mick was unable to complete his yoga session and Andy's mediation was anything but. A light pack-less walk to Dangdongadale falls (otherwise referred to as Dingdong, Dingdangdongalee, Diddlysquaad and diddydoodah falls) was rewarded with spectacular views of the various falls across the valley in a beautifully dramatic craggy vertical cliff face. It was back to break camp and the intrepid eleven marched out in their quest to conquer Mt Cobbler. All the while, we had amongst us, an official hike photographer in Ian snapping his casual happy group snaps until we learned his real motive was in fact to finally break the photo rut he has found himself in and to be snapped himself with a new pose. We are not sure of the success of his challenge.

A short and very pleasant walk albeit through near overgrown tracks saw our arrival at a lovely campsite on Saturday afternoon a few hundred metres below the Mt Cobbler Summit (1628 m). As we were a small army of GPS-carrying enthusiasts, we were confident of finding drinking water somewhere between our camp and Wangaratta but according to the GPS units only about 50 metres away. So armed with several GPS units, off went the search party to return (successfully) about an hour later. Between Agajan and Ian they had collected about 17 litres and we dubbed them Agamair lake. A beautiful pack-less short walk up to Mt Cobbler revealed wonderful 360° views including Mounts Buller, Buffalo, Hotham, Koonika and the King Valley. Upon descent we enjoyed another afternoon of numerous cups of tea, this time, with much discussion of water supply and whether we might in fact not perish from dehydration, survive the night and the walk out the next day.

Monday morning saw us break camp again with a rather heavy dew and we set off again (8:30 was in fact 8:30) through coarsely overgrown and wet tracks – often the snow gum suckers were densely covering the tracks and ranged from 1.5 to 2 metres high. Nevertheless our fearless leader (all the while beating the track with his walking pole – since the snake encounter 2 days earlier) was able to keep us on the straight and narrow and we enjoyed a very pleasant walk out of the wilderness across the Cobbler plateau, past a disused Indian tepee and down the Mt Speculation road (where we did in fact meet real cows grazing on the beautiful Alpine National Park grass), and back to King River hut where we lunched in style before setting off to the Produce store in Mansfield. I think I heard it uttered that we covered approximately 37.5 km, which was an easy but stunning long weekend and our thanks go to Agajan for his efforts to make it happen.

Attendees: Agajan Akbari, Andy Elam, Bob Oxlade, Carol Corrigan, David Laing, Deb Shand, Ian Mair, Matt Jones, Max Casley, Mick Noonan and Sue Ralston.

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

**CUT OFF TIME FOR SUNDAY BUS ONLINE BOOKINGS
4:00 PM THURSDAY PRIOR TO THE WALK.**

Bookings notified to busbookings@mbw.org.au after the cut off time will not be processed and a credit will be issued.

Payment to the leader of the full bus fee and late fee of \$5.00 will have to be made on the day if your booking has not been confirmed prior to the walk.



MOFS WALK

LYSTERFIELD PARK

DATE Monday 16 April 2012
STANDARD Easy
LEADER Jenny Monaghan
TRANSPORT Private
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Dandenong

Meet at 10:30 am, Lysterfield Lake Park Picnic Ground, Melway 108 D3 – Dam Wall car park/picnic area. From the Belgrave Hallam Road turn into Horswood Drive. Once in the park turn left into the carparks, through Spotted Gum car park and follow through to the far end, to the Dam Wall car park. It is as far as you can go.

We will start on the eastern side of the lake track and make our way to Trig Point Lookout and back along the Tramline track near the old quarry, through red gum and spotted gum plantations back to the Dam Wall car park.

A good 10 km.



WORK PARTY

NEST BOX SURVEY – LURG HILLS (BENALLA)

DATE 21–22 April 2012
CO-ORDINATOR Michael Muray

Details of this activity are on page 7.



PACK CARRY SORRY – BOOKED OUT!!

MT BUFFALO – ROCKY CREEK

DATE 20–22 April 2012
STANDARD Easy Medium
LEADER John Fritze
TRANSPORT Private
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North East
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Falls Creek

This is a walk amongst the granite outcrops, snow gums and wild flowers for which the Mount Buffalo Plateau is renowned.

It will be run at a relaxed pace along tracks with no major climbs but could be rocky and overgrown in places. Distances covered will be short at 11 km for day one and 9 km for day two but there will be optional side trips to Devils Couch, Mt Dunn, Macs Point, Rocky Creek Falls, Mollisons Galleries and Eagle Point. There should also be some nice scrambling for those so inclined. We will spend Friday night at the Lake Catani Campground and Saturday night at the Rocky Creek Camp Area. Both involve a small fee and the latter is limited to ten walkers, which will determine our maximum group size.

Although the walk is not difficult it is in an alpine area and all participants must be prepared for the possibility of bad weather.



TOFS WALK

ROSANNA – LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

DATE Thursday 3 May 2012
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 10 km
ELEVATION Flat
LEADER Alister Rowe
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Rosanna/Macleod
MAP REF Melway 19 and 20

Meet at 10:30 am in Bachli Court (Melway 20 A12) off Lower Plenty Road and also near Rosanna Railway Station.

We'll do a circuit walk through Rosanna and Macleod Parklands to La Trobe University and return. A pleasant and interesting walk which will be new to most.



TRACK MAINTENANCE

THE GRAMPIANS

DATE 5–6 May 2012
STANDARD Easy
LEADER Mark Heath
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Halls Gap
MAP REF Melway 425 C11
TRANSPORT COST \$60

Join Parks Victoria and Friends of the Grampians to improve walking tracks around Halls Gap on Saturday.

Complimentary camping for both Friday and Saturday nights will be available at the Borough Huts camp ground.

On Sunday we be doing a short walk and checking out the 'Grape Escape' Wine, Food and Music Festival in Halls Gap.



SUNDAY BUS

MT BEENAK – BUNYIP RIVER

DATE	Sunday 6 May 2012
STANDARDS	Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCES	14 km and 19 km
LEADERS	Del Franks and Michael Murray
TRANSPORT	Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA	Yarra Ranges North of Bunyip Park
MAP REF	Gembrook South 1:25,000

Both walks will start about 8 km from Powelltown Road and will walk up the Fire Track to Mt Beenak, which is about 130 m climb. After the climb up Mt Beenak we walk along tracks to Basan Corner, then on to Finishers Track to walk alongside the Bunyip River for a couple of km and then to Tomahawk Gap.

At this point the easy/medium group will walk back to Basan Corner, turning right onto East Beenak Road, whereas the medium group will turn left at East Beenak Road and do an extra loop to return to Basan Corner.

The leaders have not yet previewed the walk so will have more information close to the time of the walk.



WEDNESDAY WALK

BUNYIP STATE PARK AND FOUR BROTHERS ROCKS

DATE	Wednesday 9 May 2012
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	15 km
LEADER	Max Casley
TRANSPORT	Private car
AREA	Gembrook
MAP REF	Melway Page 14, R12; Park pamphlet; Gembrook South 1:25,000

TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON) \$12 suggested

The Bunyip State Park is about 65 km east of Melbourne and this walk will start and finish at Mortimer Picnic Ground which is about 5 km south-east of Gembrook along the road to Tonimbuk. We will meet there at 10:15 am to start the walk.

Mountain Ash grows on the steep southern slopes of Bunyip State Park, whilst in the foothill forests, Silvertop and messmate are prevalent. Below, in the heathy woodland, correa and pink heath are to be found.

The walk starts along Ferres Track beside Diamond Creek and then goes up Lyrebird Track to Four Brothers Rocks. This is a steady but not difficult climb of about 240 metres. We will have lunch at Four Brothers Rocks, a group of large granite boulders, where there are good views to the north across the Park. We then descend on Nicholls Hut Track, which can be muddy and slippery in places, and then turn along the beautiful Tree Fern Track, with some of the biggest tree ferns you are ever likely to see. This crosses Link Road and climbs steeply to Windy Point Road. We then head south to finish at Mortimer Picnic Ground. There's a choice of tracks to lead us there, finishing with a delightful nature walk that will take us back to the cars. Afterwards, coffee, tea etc at Gembrook is a definite possibility.



PACK CARRY

MITCHELL'S TRAIL – JAMIESON RIVER

DATE	11–13 May 2012
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	35 km
LEADER	Bob Oxlade
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Jamieson State Forest, North East Vic
MAP REF	Rooftop's Jamieson – Sheeppark Flat Forest Activities Map

The Jamieson River was prospected for gold during the 1860's and until 1880 when the claims were exhausted and Fred Mitchell began farming and grazing on a 4,500 ha property. This continued until 1929 and the homestead finally abandoned in 1936.

Mitchell's Trail begins 8 km from Jamieson at Granny's Flat and follows the forest and meandering course of the Jamieson River to end at the homestead site.

However, we will drive to and begin walking down Silvermine Spur Track with 7 km and 600 m descent to meet the Trail at the river approximately 3 km from the homestead site. We can drop packs and continue with day packs to the homestead site and return. We then have about 6 km to a camp site, or less if necessary, and will pass by the remnants of the Quicksilver mercury mine.

On Sunday we have about 14 km from the camp site to our cars left at Granny's Flat. There could be other exploring along the way.

This looks like an interesting walk and I think new for the club so if you would like to come along please see me in the clubroom.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

UPPER FERNTREE GULLY TO LILYDALE (TRAIN BASED)

DATE	Sunday 13 May 2012
STANDARD	Medium/Hard
DISTANCE	28 km
LEADER	Mark Heath
TRANSPORT	Train from Flinders St
AREA	Melbourne
MAP REF	Melway maps 38 and 118
COST	\$3.50 for a Sunday Saver Metcard

This walk combines many of my Dandenongs favourites into one. From Upper Ferntree Gully station we head up One Tree Hill and along the Western trail to Mt Dandenong and some great views over Melbourne and the bay. From Mt Dandenong we drop down through fern gullies to Olinda creek and the Mt Evelyn Aqueduct. From Mt Evelyn we take the rail trail before dropping down to Lilydale Lake and then the station.

I will be at Southbank Boulevard at 8:45 to shepherd people up to Flinders St but you can meet me at the east end of platform 2 at Flinders St if you wish; or catch the 9:06 am Lilydale train along the way to Ringwood (where we change trains) or meet us on the north side of Upper Ferntree Gully station at 10:10 am.



CYCLING

DROUIN LOOP

DATE	Saturday 19 May 2012
STANDARD	Medium/Hard
DISTANCE	60 km
LEADER	Howard Friend
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Drouin, Neerim South, Jindivick, Longwarry
MAP REF	Vic Roads Page 96

This is an excellent cycle ride on sealed roads. There are hills on the ride and the Melbourne Bicycle Touring Club graded the ride Medium-Hard (for fit cyclists). Participants should be capable of keeping up with the group. We will start the ride in Drouin, have morning tea at Neerim South, lunch at Jindivick and return to Drouin via Longwarry. We'll meet at the Drouin Railway Station car park at 9:00 am. Bring your lunch.



SUNDAY BUS

WELLS CROSSING – VAUGHAN SPRINGS

DATE	Sunday 20 May 2012
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
LEADERS	Deb Shand and Leslie Hale
TRANSPORT	Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am

For details of this walk, please contact the leaders, or wait for *May News*.



MOFS WALK

WRIGHT FOREST/EMERALD LAKE

DATE	Monday 21 May 2012
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	10 km
ELEVATION	Hilly in Wright Forest
LEADER	Alister Rowe
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Emerald
MAP REF	Melway 311 and 127

Meet at 10:30 am near the Wright Puffing Billy Station (Melway Ref 311 B4), along Wright Road, off Belgrave/Gembrook Road.

Before morning tea we'll walk in Wright Forest. Then we'll walk to Emerald Lake Park via the Emerald Cockatoo Trail. We'll return via Bellbird Cr.

This walk has excellent scenic values and should not be missed!



SOCIAL WALK

BANKSIA PARK, HEIDI

DATE	Thursday 24 May 2012
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	5 km
ELEVATION	Flat
LEADER(S)	Jean Giese
TRANSPORT	Private

AREA
MAP REF

Templestowe
Melway 32

We will explore the bends on the east side of the Yarra River (Banksia Park) as well as following a foot track downstream for a short distance. Meet (and park) as close as possible to the toilet shown on Melway 32 D5 at 10:30. Lunch at Heidi Café.



DANDENONGS EXPLORER

KALORAMA TO DOONGALLA RETURN

DATE	Saturday 26 May 2012
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	13 km
LEADER	Fiona Gallery
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Dandenong Ranges
MAP REF	Melway 52 and 66

The walk begins at 10:00 am at Five Ways in Kalorama, Melway 52 J9. This is on the Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd overlooking the Silvan Dam, where Ridge, Barbers and The Old Coach Roads intersect. We will walk to the Doongalla Homestead Site picnic area for lunch along fairly good tracks in front of Mt Dandenong. This is a walk that has a lot of steep ups and downs and may be slippery in places if wet. I expect to be back at the cars about 4:00. We will be having a morning tea break at the Mt Dandenong Lookout where there is a cafe for those wishing to purchase a coffee – well deserved as it is a bit of a climb to the top.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

CLEARWATER CREEK

DATE	Sunday 27 May, 2012
STANDARDS	Medium
DISTANCES	14 km
ELEVATIONS	350 m
LEADERS	Richard Hanson
TRANSPORT	Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA	Lerderderg State Park
MAP REF	Daywalks Around Victoria, Glen Tempest, page 93.
TRANSPORT COST:	\$12.00

Clearwater Creek is a seldom visited tributary of the Lerderderg River set deep inside the Lerderderg State Park. The remote location and rugged terrain disguise the fact that the area was once actively explored for gold, with only the remnants of the mining activity still visible.

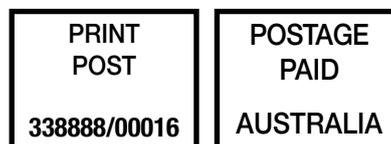
The walk is a balance of management access tracks and off-track river gorges and creek gullies. A drop of 350 m from the start to the banks of the Lerderderg River is matched by an equal climb back up the path of the Clearwater Creek and onto the return management track.

The walk is only suitable for fit and experienced walkers. Exposed rock surfaces and grassy flats provide a diversity of walking conditions; however, the former can be dangerous in wet conditions. If rain is predicted for the day an alternative route will be chosen nearby.

Bus transport meets at Southbank Boulevard, south side of the Arts Centre, before 8:45 am. Leader or deputy will be there rain, hail or shine!

MAY 2012				
Thu 3	Rosanna – La Trobe University	Private	Easy	Alistair Rowe
5–6	Grampians Track Maintenance	Private	Easy	Mark Heath
Sun 6	Mt Beenak – Bunyip River	Bus	E/M & M	Del Franks and Halina Sarbinowski
Wed 9	Bunyip State Park and Four Brothers Rocks	Private	E/M	Max Casley
11–13	Pack Carry: Mitchells Trail – Jamieson River	Private	E/M	Bob Oxlade
Sun 13	Upper Ferntree Gully – Lilydale (Train based)	Car	M/H	Mark Heath
Sat 19	Cycling: Drouin Circuit	Private	Hard	Howard Friend
Sun 20	Wells Crossing – Vaughan Springs	Bus	E/M & M	Deb Shand and Leslie Hale
Mon 21	Wright Forest – Emerald Lake	Private	Easy	Alistair Rowe
Thu 24	Banksia Park – Heide (Social)	Car	Easy	Jean Giese
Sat 26	Kalorama Area	Private	E/M	Fiona Gallery
Sun 27	NEW: Clearwater Creek	Car	Medium	Ian Mair

The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers
 If undelivered please return to:
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 GPO BOX 1751, MELBOURNE 3001



RENEWAL SLIP

Payment to the Treasurer, together with completed form by one of the following methods:

- Cash or cheque on club night (cheques payable to Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.)
- Cheque and Renewal Slip posted to Treasurer, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc, P.O. Box 1751, Melbourne 3001
- EFT to the club account. (Account Name: Melbourne Bushwalkers, A/c No. 0058-46013, BSB: 013-006).

Please ensure your full name and 'SUBS' appear on the transfer.

Fees: **Single member:** \$45 or \$55* Concession: \$34 or \$44** (Proof required)
 (Please circle your **Couple/Family:** \$72 or \$82* Concession: \$50 or \$60** (Proof required)
 membership category) **News Subscribers:** \$20

Notes: * Additional \$10 charged to members who receive their copies of 'NEWS' via postal mail

** Does not refer to holders of a Seniors Card

Name:

Indicate below if you agree details can go on Club Membership list

Name:

Fill in Address, Telephone number/s and Email address only if changed since last renewal:

Address:

YES/NO

Postcode: Tel: H) W) Mobile:

YES/NO

Email:

YES/NO