



A000133X

THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

December 2012



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

At the November Committee Meeting we set the date for the AGM, confirmed the arrangements for the Christmas Party and a few of us stayed back to complete the Bushwalking Victoria Committee survey. We also reviewed the new Panorama Bus fee increases (around 3.5%) and decided to accept them and keep the Sunday bus fee unchanged at \$25 for 2013.

Please keep Wednesday February 20th free for our Annual General Meeting to be held in the Clubrooms from 8 pm. Wine and cheese will be provided. The meeting will be followed by one of the first viewings of the archive photos being collected by Ian Mair and Derrick Brown.

It was great to see 28 people at the Leaders Night. For those leaders who could not make it we will soon be putting a copy of the information on the Leaders Database, along with a sample of a good Walk Report. We will also be adding Mark Heath's Maps Information Sheet on the Website for everyone to access.

For 2013 we need to fill Treasurer and General Committee positions. If you have a bookkeeping or accounting background and are interested, or know someone who would be interested then please let me know. Similarly if you would like to help or find out more about a Committee position let me know.

Our thanks go to our treasurer Alan Case who has been fantastic in the role. We will also miss Deb Shand who is leaving the Committee but taking over the role of Environment Officer from Rod Novak. Thanks also to Rod for his great contributions to the environment and conservation as our Environment Officer spanning over a decade. Rod will continue to be involved in these areas both inside and outside the club. An update on the Committee changes will be in the January News.

Some things to consider this summer:

- Club activities have a minimum party size of 4 to help ensure the safety of participants.
- Be aware of the fire danger and temperatures whenever you walk in summer. Check the Fire Bans and Temperatures using the Fire Ban District and Temperature Reference codes for the area you are walking in, they are on the Program and Previews. If you need to refresh or you are not sure how to do this read the Club's Fire Season, Total Fire Ban & Extreme Heat Policies on our Website.
- If you agree to drive on a Day or Extended Activity remember that people are depending on you so please make every effort to provide transport for others and let the Leader know well in advance if you can't.
- Last year we and many other clubs across Victoria introduced a Code of Conduct. This sets out what behaviours are expected of you and your fellow members on all Club Activities and Social events, and how we as a club address related issues. Unfortunately sometimes people's behaviours don't measure up and this can lead to some unnecessarily difficult situations for Leaders and fellow participants. I encourage all members to read the Code of Conduct which is included in this Newsletter (page 4) to help make our Club an enjoyable place to be for everyone.

I would like to wish you all a happy Christmas, and a healthy and prosperous New Year with lots of exciting adventures in the great outdoors! I would also like to thank all the volunteers who give their time and efforts to make The Melbourne Bushies such a wonderful club. This includes leaders, whips, committee members, and people who perform other roles within the Club.

Mick Noonan



**Due date for contributions to January News:
Wednesday 19 December**

SOCIAL CALENDAR



November 28: WINE AND CHEESE

Roger and Sue will present a slide presentation on their recent hiking trip in Nepal.

SOCIAL WALK IN ST KILDA FOLLOWED BY DINNER ON FRIDAY 30 NOVEMBER

Meet at St Kilda Botanical Gardens for a 7 p.m. departure. (Melways 58 B1). They were formally established in the 1850's and include extensive flower beds, exotic forest trees, and by 1932 Australian species were added, too.

It is registered with Heritage Victoria.

Access is from Blessington, Tennyson, Dickens and Herbert Streets. You can take the 96 tram to the Acland Street/Barkly Street junction and walk along Blessington Street, or 67 tram to Brighton Road/Mozart Street junction and walk along Mozart Street.

The Gardens are open till sunset, which is 8:26. This will give us time to explore, walk along the Esplanade, and meander to our dinner destination (which is yet to be decided on).

When booking, let me know if you are walking, dining, or both.

Melbourne Bushwalkers 2012 Christmas Party

VENUE Melbourne City Bowls Club (Opposite the clubrooms)

DATE Tuesday 4 December 2012

TIME 7.00 pm to 10.00 pm

BYO Plate

Drinks can be purchased from the bar

TUESDAY, 1 JANUARY 2013

It's on again....the New Year's Day BBQ!

I have decided to stick with last year's venue, as it proved to be very popular, and it's around the corner from home!

Birdsland Reserve, Mt Morton Rd, Belgrave 3160, from midday.

As usual, I ask that you re-wrap an excess Xmas pressie and pop it into the Lucky Dip.

This time I suggest you bring a small contribution for lunch as we will have a long table set up, so bring a chair, too. Let me know if you can help with tables.

If you would like to be picked up from Belgrave station, let me know.

Susan Maughan

Please note – bus bookings need to be made by 8:00 pm on club evenings when presentations are scheduled.

Kerry McKeand—SOCIAL SECRETARY



MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS Inc. CODE OF CONDUCT

Statement

Every person participating in the activities of Melbourne Bushwalkers should strive to ensure:

- The inclusion of every person regardless of their age, gender, sexual orientation, race, culture or religion
- There are opportunities for people with a range of abilities to participate
- They demonstrate respect towards each other, the organisation and the broader community
- There is a safe and inclusive environment for all, free from violent or abusive behaviour
- There is protection from sexual harassment or intimidation

Breaches of the Code

The following behaviours are considered to be breaches of the Code:

- Violent or abusive behaviour or vilification of any kind towards another person or the organisation
- Discrimination against another person based on their age, gender, sexual orientation, race, culture, religion or any other irrelevant personal characteristic
- Victimisation of another person for exercising their rights through this Code of Conduct
- Failure to maintain a safe environment free from violence, abuse, discrimination and harassment

Responsibility of Individuals

It is the responsibility of individuals bound by this Code of Conduct to:

- Make themselves aware of the standards of behaviour required
- Be accountable for their behaviour
- Report breaches of this Code to a Committee Member or Leader

Responsibility of Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

It is the responsibility of the Committee to adopt, implement and comply with this Code of Conduct and treat any breach or complaint made in an unbiased, sensitive, fair, timely and confidential manner. Any breaches of this Code will be dealt with in accordance with the Club's By-Laws and Rules.

Policy Implementation

The Code of Conduct will be published on the Club's website, be printed in the Club's Newsletter and copies made available in the Club's meeting room

Related Documents

Melbourne Bushwalkers By-Laws

Melbourne Bushwalkers Rules of Association

Melbourne Bushwalkers Participants' Responsibilities on Club Activities Policy

Bushwalking Victoria's Code of Conduct

Club President

June 2011

CONSERVATION MATTERS

WILSONS PROM NP – the following tracks and roads are scheduled to re-open by 21 December: Loo Errn boardwalk, Whisky Bay beach access track and car park, Cotters Lake walking track and car park, Mt Oberon Road, Mt Oberon summit walk. Bookings are now being accepted for accommodation at the Lighthouse Cottages, mainly at weekends but by December they will be available full time. Work is currently taking place on the Sealers Cove track east of Ferny Glade. Ferny Glade itself still needs major engineering work (e.g. bridges) so that the whole track will therefore not be re-opened before Easter 2013. Major boardwalk construction on the Waterloo Bay track is scheduled to commence in March 2013. The track will remain open to walkers during this time.

On 23 September thirteen Bushwalking Victoria volunteers completed the clearing of the track Lighthouse Point to Chinaman Long Beach; they also removed some recently fallen trees from the track between Tin Mine Cove and Chinaman Long Beach.

ALPINE NP – In May track maintenance was done in the area near Viking Saddle. The following work was done by Parks Victoria: 3 km of regrowth cleared between Viking Saddle and Razor Ridge, 2 km section of Viking Ridge towards Barry's Saddle has been cleared, 1.5 km section of heavy scrub cut back from Catherine Saddle up to Mt Despair, 6.5 km section from Catherine Saddle towards Viking Saddle was cleared and marked.

McKillops Bridge – In June Parks Vic completed a program to eliminate the feral goat population at McKillops Bridge. Moroka Hut has been repaired following damage caused by vandalism.

The Australian Alps National Parks strategic plan for 2012–2015 has been released and can be downloaded from <http://www.australialps.environment.gov.au/publications/alps-program/strat-plan-12-15.html>

BAW BAW NP The tracks in the Baw Baw National Park and Walhalla Historic area have suffered a lot of damage from the terrible windstorm that swept through the area in mid-September. The AAWT is closed from Walhalla to the Thompson Valley Road (many trees down) and the Mt Erica Road is also closed to vehicular traffic, cutting off access to the AAWT, Mushroom Rocks area and Mt Erica.

MTS COLE/ BUANGOR/ LANGHI GHIRAN AREA – All Parks Vic tracks are now open in the area except the Buckatillable Track – from Cave Hill to Fern Tree Picnic area.

POWELLTOWN REGION – the Walking Trails (Walking into History) Project has been cancelled in the current light of cuts to the public service. This money has been offered up as a saving.

CONSERVATION PROJECTS

The **Annual Alpine Restoration weekend** is scheduled for January, at Falls Creek.

Snake Island (project cancelled in July due to bad weather) is still on the agenda awaiting advice from Parks Vic.

Parks Victoria has announced that voluntary staff reductions are under way to reduce the total staff by about 10%. This will not include ranger staff.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR HAWKWEED SUMMER SURVEY AT FALLS CREEK.

Parks Victoria have a number of positions available for sessions 1 & 3 of the 2012/2013 season Bogong High Plains Volunteer Hawkweed Survey. These weeds are highly invasive and can cause major environmental damage in alpine and sub-alpine areas if not eradicated early. The volunteer surveys are a great way to help the Victorian Alps by stopping this dangerous weed, as well as a fantastic opportunity to enjoy the magnificent alpine environment during the green summer months.

Accommodation will be provided by Falls Creek Resort Management, catering is provided by Parks Victoria.

Session 1: Monday 10th - Friday 14th of December - Fully catered for breakfast, lunch and dinner

Session 3: Thursday 27th - Sunday 30th of December - breakfast, morning and afternoon tea provided

For further information, please contact, Keith Primrose, Parks Victoria, 0428 508 299

keith.primrose@parks.vic.gov.au

Rod Novak

Suggestions

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

PACK CARRY – OVERLAND TRACK, TASMANIA – 8–17 MARCH 2013

The Overland Track is frequently listed as one of the world's top 10 walks and is one that all bushwalkers should aspire to do at least once. I plan to lead a walk through the National Park departing on the morning of Friday 8th March and returning on Sunday 17th March. The classic 93 km walk through a wonderland of forests, lakes and mountain peaks will also have time (for those interested) to take in the peaks of Cradle Mountain, Barn Bluff, Mt Ossa and The Acropolis (weather permitting!).

Party size is limited to eight and early booking is required to secure a place in the park and arrange transport.

To join the group or for further information please contact Ian Mair before 5th January if you are interested.

Ian Mair



Willis's Walkabouts

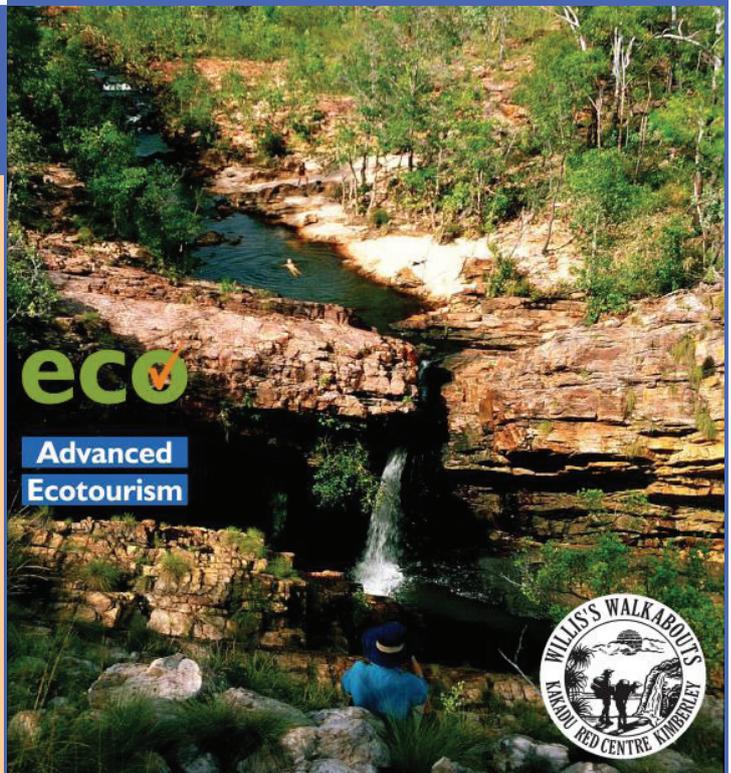
Russell's Light Wet Special 10-24 February 2013

The Top End wet season is **spectacular** and, more importantly, **enjoyable**. This is, in many ways, **my favourite time of year**. This trip is a combination of some of the short wet season walks that I most enjoy doing myself.

I enjoy them all so much that **I'll run the trip for as few as two people at no extra charge**. I've designed it to allow participants plenty of time to acclimatise as we work our way from day walks up to longer overnights.

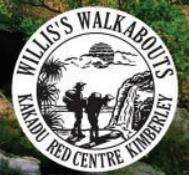
If you have ever wondered what our wet season is really like, you owe it to yourself to have a look at our trip notes.

Russell Willis



eco

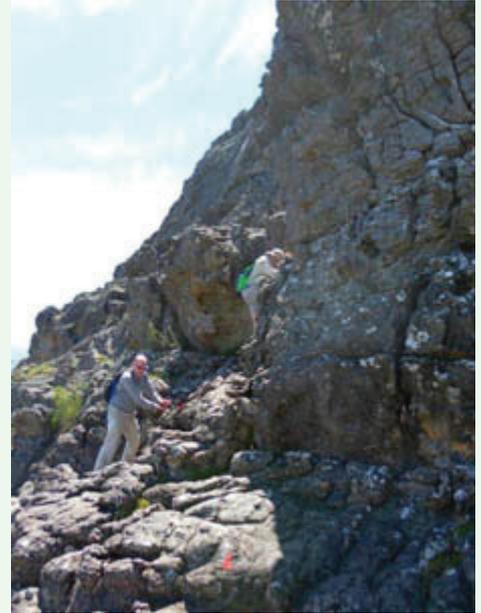
Advanced
Ecotourism



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

Members' Contributions

PACK CARRY MT STAPYLTON, GOLTON GORGE



On Friday afternoon 19 October, Bob, Richard Deb and Gill met for the drive to the Northern Grampians for a pack carry weekend organised by veteran bushwalker Bob Oxlade.

We had the luxury of taking the trip in Richard's nice new Land Rover, which fitted the four of us and our gear easily.

We arrived late evening at Trooper's Creek and quickly set up tents and settled down for the night.

During the weekend we climbed Mt Zero, Mt Stapylton and Hollow Mountain. These climbs involved a lot of rock scrambling to get to the top but the views were absolutely wonderful. You get a 360-degree look at the surrounding countryside from the farmland in the north to the rugged Grampians to the south and east.

We camped Saturday night at an old copper mine site near the top of Golton Gorge and took a quick walk down to look at it in the morning.

One of the highlights of the walk at this time of year in the Grampians of course is the wild flowers. We passed through a variety of flora and terrain.

This was my first pack carry with the club. Everyone had said 'if you want to get into pack carries go with Bob'. They certainly gave good advice as he had planned everything magnificently and was generous in passing on tips to make things easier (and lighter).

The whole weekend was terrific and some of it (for me) a bit challenging. (Bob later admitted some of it was on the hard side of medium, which made me feel a bit better.)

Many thanks to Bob for a great weekend, thanks to Richard for driving and to Deb (the self proclaimed Bob groupie) for her help.

Gillian Wainwright



TRIP REVIEW: CONSERVATION WORK PARTY 17-18 NOVEMBER 2012

Three Melbourne Bushies joined in with the Friends of Bogong, Inc. weekend up at the High Plains. Our weekend task was track repairs on the new Wallace's Hut to Cope Hut walking track. We divided into two groups and improved the eroded walking track by installing permatread (recycled car tyres compressed into a large flexible tile) with a method of underscoring the snow grass turf allowing it to fold back over and hold the tile in place. The permatread is used to prevent track 'braiding' where the walking track gets severely eroded and damaged when walkers start making detours around boggy areas/mud and also where the track deepens and walkers step around the narrow rut. The permatreads are aligned (a lot of deep thought and group consensus) to allow for a good walking gait. We had several challenges with obstacles (lots of rocks! and tricky corners). We worked on the track near the Maisie's Plot information signboard and enjoyed great views of the Main Range and also across the High Plains towards Mt Cope. Approximately 150 permatreads were laid over the sunny Saturday and Sunday and with the final peg on the last permatread tile - it started to snow!! We quickly packed up and retreated to the Falls Creek Day Shelter for lunch as the sago snow swirled around in the wind. The Wallace's Hut to Cope Hut walking track is now called a 'Heritage Trail' to encourage the increased vehicle traffic (the High Plains road is now sealed with lots more traffic - and hundreds of motor cyclists zooming by) to get the tourists out of their cars/bikes and to take short walks to experience the High Plains (lots of Information signboards and seats) of the history and ecology of the area. Also, the Wallace's Hut access road has now become a major Picnic Area and car park with seats in the shape of Bogong Moths!! All enjoyed the weekend and thanks to Parks Victoria Ranger Iris who organised and even camped with us sharing lots of stories around the evening campfire. Many thanks to Deb and Ralph for their contribution on this fun and enjoyable weekend.

Rod Novak



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.mbw.org.au/mbw_activities/MBW_activities_program.php

**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.

**PLEASE NOTE:
IAN LANGFORD'S BASE CAMP IN THE MT HOWITT AREA – 26/12/12 TO 2/1/13
HAS BEEN CANCELLED**



PACK CARRY

GREY HILLS, MT BOGONG & ROPERS HUT CIRCUIT

DATE 29 December 2012 to 2 January 2013
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 49 km
ELEVATION Fluctuating from 1000 to 1886 m
LEADER Roger Wyett
TRANSPORT Car Pool 4 hours from Melb
AREA Bogong High Plains
MAP REF Bogong Alpine Area 1:50,000
TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON) Approx \$80
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North East
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Falls Creek

Intend meeting at Falls Creek by 9 am, thus we will travel up Friday night. Day 1 is approx 18 km initially easy for some 9 km along the Big River Fire Trail to Warby Corner then along the Spion Kopje Fire Trail to the Crow's Nest at the start of the Grey Hills track. Then descending 300 m to re ascend along an undulating track, which if hot will be fairly exposed, and will get us into Bogong Saddle camp site in the late evening. Day 2 is a 700 m ascent up the Quartz Ridge track to the summit of Mt Bogong at 1886 m before finishing some 11 km for the day at the Cleve Cole Hut. With a side trip to Howman Falls in the afternoon and an early New Years on the High Plain. Day Three is an 800 m descent to Big River then 700 m ascent to Ropers Hut over some 11 km. Day four is a short 9 km back to the cars with lunch at Mt Beauty Bakery and an early return to Melbourne.

Walkers need to be fully equipped as poor conditions are possible at any time of year in this area, (I have had snow on 1 Jan before!) and expect the hut to be fully occupied at this time of year. Only experienced walkers, and I will finalise the car pooling by 21 December 12, no late bookings.



TOFS WALK

HILLCLIMB TRACK – SHERBROOKE FALLS – SHERBROOKE FOREST

DATE Thursday 3 January 2013
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 10 km
ELEVATION 120 m
LEADER Graham Hodgson
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Dandenongs
MAP REF Melway Map 75 and 124
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mount Dandenong

This walk is slightly different to the one listed in the activities program but is still located in Sherbrooke Forest.

We will start the walk with a moderate climb through cool fern gullies until we reach Sherbrooke Falls which hopefully will have water flowing down it. The rest of the walk will be entirely in Sherbrooke Forest which will offer plenty of shade on a day that could be hot.

We will be walking entirely on tracks and will have lots of rest stops. Don't forget to bring plenty of water and a sun hat.

Meet at 10:30 am in the carpark at the back of Micawber Tavern in Belgrave which is marked P on Melway map 75 F/G 7/8.





SUNDAY BUS

FORREST – LAKE ELIZABETH

DATE Sunday 6 January 2013
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES 14 km and 16 km
ELEVATION 100 m
LEADERS Del Franks and Halina Sarbinowski
TRANSPORT Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA The Otways
MAP REF Walking the Otways E10
FIRE BAN DISTRICT South West
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Colac

Nestled in the Otway State Forest lies the beautiful Lake Elizabeth, formed when a landslide blocked the East Barwon River in 1952. The haunting quality of this flooded valley with its stark trees still visible in the lake after nearly sixty years has a serenity that soothes the soul. It is one of my favourite places and I return to it again and again. One such glorious feature on a walk would make this one of the best walks on the Sunday program but close by lies the West Barwon Reservoir. Both walks will have the opportunity to follow the trail around Lake Elizabeth and then wander along the reservoir to our waiting bus.

This is an exceptionally beautiful walk and one specially chosen to start the New Year. If the New Year resolution is to walk more and get fit then this is a great walk to kick start your goal. I hope that you will join us on this delightful walk.



WEDNESDAY WALK

BUNYIP STATE PARK – SOUTH OF MORTIMER

DATE Wednesday 9 January 2013
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 15 km
LEADER Ed Neff
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Gembrook
MAP REF Melway p.14, Rooftop's Yarra Valley – West Gippsland Adventure Map
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE West & South Gippsland

We will meet at Mortimer Picnic Ground at 10:00 am.

If coming from Melbourne a good route is to exit the M1 Monash Freeway at C101 towards Officer and Pakenham. At Pakenham take C411, Pakenham Road left towards Gembrook and later on to C424, Gembrook Road to Gembrook. As you enter Gembrook turn right into Beenak East Road which leads you to Tonimbuk Road and Mortimer Picnic Ground.

This is a very pleasant walk along wide well-formed tracks, passing through quite a variety of forest and vegetation. Some areas show strong regeneration after the 2009 fires, whilst other areas show little fire damage. Some of the walk is along part of the Heritage Horse Trail. There are some hills, with a total ascent of approximately 500 m.

If the weather forces a cancellation due to fire ban or extreme heat, please call me for details of a possible alternative walk.



BASE CAMP

THE LAKES NATIONAL PARK – ROTAMAH ISLAND

DATE 11–13 January 2013
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE Various and optional
ELEVATION Sea level
LEADER Bob Oxlade
TRANSPORT Private
AREA East Gippsland Loch Sport
MAP REF Rooftop's Gippsland Lakes – 90 Mile Beach Adventure Map
FIRE BAN DISTRICT West Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Sale
TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON) Approx 520 km return from Melbourne.

You may wonder why a pack carry person is leading a base camp. Well, the 16 km walk along the 90 Mile Beach then across a causeway to access Rotamah Island by foot would reduce our time to explore it. Therefore I have arranged a boat, which has a maximum of 35 passengers, to come from Paynesville across Lake Victoria to pick us up on the mainland at Point Wilson on Saturday am for a 2 km trip to the island and return us on Sunday.

Rotamah Island, which is about 4 km × 1 km in size, is described as a naturalist's bushland delight and is actually only available to educational groups. There is a camping area and I expect us to be the only ones there. On Saturday we can do a loop walk across to Little Rotamah Island on the eastern end with an option to return along the 90 Mile Beach plus more if desired. This leaves the western end to explore on Sunday. There are several short walks to do on the mainland if time permits on our return.

Depending on our numbers the maximum cost, excluding travel from Melbourne, will be about \$40. This includes camps on the mainland on Friday night, the island on Saturday and the two trips on the boat. As I expect this opportunity to visit the Island to have a lot of interest, and also to confirm numbers for the boat, I suggest you make an early booking if you would like to come along. Please contact me for further details. I look forward to your company on this interesting weekend.



CYCLING

CAPITAL CITY TRAIL AND HEIDI

DATE Saturday 12 January 2013
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 62 km
START 9:30 am Federation Square
LEADER: Sue Ralston
MAP REF Melway 43, 44, 46, 47, 58, 59, 60, 45, 31, 30, 29, 43

This is a lovely summer ride, taking us along creeks and rivers and through leafy parklands in a wide loop around the city.

The ride begins and ends at Federation Square (where morning coffee can be bought), meeting at 9:30 am in Flinders St on the Yarra Trail, below Federation Square and immediately east of Princes Bridge. It follows the Yarra Trail, Gardiners' Creek Trail, the Anniversary Trail, the Yarra Trail again to Banksia Park and Heidi Gallery, then goes back along the Yarra Trail and Merri Creek trail to the Capital city trail,

which takes us past the Zoo and back through the Docklands and South Bank to the city.

There will be several opportunities for coffee/cool drinks, starting with morning tea at the Town and Country Gardens café in Kew. Our proposed lunch stop is at Heidi Gallery/Banksia Park, and afternoon tea will be at The Premises in Kensington (a few hundred metres detour from the Capital City Trail).

In the case of hot weather, the route could be shortened by omitting the Heidi Gallery loop.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

UP THE HIGH LEAD

DATE	Sunday 13 January 2013
STANDARD	Medium/hard
DISTANCE	22 km
ELEVATION	600 m
LEADER	Ian Mair
TRANSPORT	Car – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA	Yarra State Forest
MAP REF	Ada River & Spion Kopje 1:25,000
TRANSPORT COST	\$18
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Yarra Glen



The mountains east of Melbourne are some of the best places to walk in the middle of summer. The tall mountain ash trees provide a good cover from the midday sun. Added to this, the cool mountain streams and large fern trees make this area a delight to walk during the warm summer days. However, it can still be warm so please consider bringing extra water as per any summer walk.

This area is steeped in history from the time when there was a thriving logging industry. Many of today's walking tracks follow the routes of the former logging tramlines, notable of which is the High Lead which plunges over 400 m from the ridge line to the valley below. Most often walks start at the top and descend, however, on this occasion we will go up the High Lead.

Starting at The Bump, the route first follows the course of the Latrobe River downstream along a recently maintained track that makes for easy walking, eventually merging into the path leading to the High Lead under a canopy of tree ferns and scattered artefacts to remind us of the logging past. The section up the High Lead starts abruptly and climbs relentlessly with only a few short flatter sections to give tiring legs a break. More than once you will want to offer a silent wish for the return of the steam winches that once hauled the empty logging trolleys back up to the top. Then, as abruptly as it started, the High Lead peaks at the top and from there the walking again becomes relatively easy.

Lunch will be at the site of the former Ada No. 2 Mill, reached along a boardwalk that winds its way through swampy wetlands along the flood plains of the Ada River. The old mill site is now a place for picnics and camping where a half-buried boiler rises from the undergrowth like the ruins of a long-lost civilisation hidden amongst the pages of a childhood jungle epic.

Depending on numbers booked and cars available, we will either return to The Bump along mountain roads or follow the Upper Yarra Walking Track to Starling Gap with a short car shuffle.

The distance and elevation rise place this walk in the Medium/Hard grading, however, much of the walking is on wide and well maintained tracks or roads and can fairly be said to be closer to Medium. It is a good warm-up for the rest of the year for those looking to burn off some of the festive excesses.



SUNDAY BUS

NEW: COLIBAN AQUEDUCT

DATE	Sunday 20 January 2013
STANDARDS	Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCES	13 and 16 km
ELEVATIONS	Mostly flat with a few short hills
LEADERS	Max Casley and Deb Shand
TRANSPORT	Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA	100 km NW of Melbourne, south of Castlemaine
MAP REF	Vicmap number T7723-1-3-1 Taradale
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	North Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Bendigo

This walk is mainly along the Coliban water channel just to the west of the small town of Taradale, which is now bypassed by the Calder Freeway. First opened in 1877, this water supply system has been delivering water to Castlemaine and Bendigo for more than 130 years. The standard of the stonework and brickwork is very high and has stood the test of time. Some photographs were taken on the preview and these are on the photogallery of this website.

The Easy walk will be mostly flat, while the E/M group will get the hills. This is a new walk for the club. The walk is partly shaded by tall trees which will be welcome as the weather could be hot in January – bring plenty of water and sun protection. There are nice views over nearby farmland. Occasionally we go into the surrounding open forest along well-defined tracks which have some short steep sections. On the preview the flowers were plentiful and the birds were in full voice, making for a pleasant environment.



MOFS WALK

MT EVELYN FOREST WALK

DATE	Monday 21 January 2013
LEADER	Jenny Monaghan
MEET	10:30 am as per directions below
LENGTH	10 km circular walk
MAP	Melways p 120
NB	bring plenty of water as this is could be a hot time

From Melbourne follow the Maroondah Highway to Lilydale. At the eastern end of the shops, turn right and follow Anderson Street, then Hereford Road to Mt Evelyn. At the roundabout, veer left and follow Monbulk Road south for 5.5 km, then turn right and follow Stonyford Road south for 800 m to the car parking area on the right.

Mount Evelyn forest is part of the Dandenong Ranges National Park. Some of the forest was previously private land, most of it was logged but never clear felled. The forest is much drier than the rest of the national park as it is in the rain shadow of Mt Dandenong. Messmate, stringybark and manna gum dominate most of the forest and allow plenty of light into the forest floor for ground cover plants. Birdlife is plentiful.



SOCIAL WALK

SOUTH SURREY PARK, BACK CREEK

DATE	Thursday 24 January, 2013
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	5 km
ELEVATION	Mostly flat
LEADER	Jean Giese
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Surrey Hills/Camberwell
MAP REF	Melway 60
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Melbourne

We have been enjoying exploring some of our suburban parks and finding ways to link them together. Our 5 km walk this month will take us around South Surrey Park and along Back Creek to Lynden Park. Meet at 10:30 near the corner of Verdun Street and Riversdale Road, Melway 60G2. Lunch in a nearby café.



LODGE WEEKEND

MT HOTHAM (AUSTEN LODGE)

DATE	24–28 January 2013
LEADER	Halina Sarbinowski

Refer to preview on the Club's website. Lodge bookings now full. Waiting list enquiries only.



WORK PARTY

BUSHWALKING VICTORIA TRACK MAINTENANCE

DATE	25–28 January 2013
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER	Rod Novak
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	North-East Victoria (near Omeo)
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	NE
TEMP REF SITE	Falls Creek

We will be joining with fellow Bushwalking Victoria clubs with track repairs on the Australian Alps Walking Track. This will be a Base Camp in a remote section of the Alpine National

Park and working with Parks Victoria Rangers from the Omeo district. At the time of writing the exact location has yet to be determined. As a guide, last year's trip worked on a section of the AAWT near Mt Wills. More details should be known in mid-January. Early expressions of interest recommended – please contact the leader for more information.



PACK CARRY

MT BOGONG – LITTLE BOGONG – HOWMANS FALLS

DATE	25–28 January 2013
STANDARD	Medium
LEADER	Jopie Bodegraven
AREA	Alps near Mt Beauty
MAP REF	Bogong Alpine Area Outdoor Leisure Map 1:50,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	North East
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Falls Creek

Mt Bogong is one of those classic areas that we keep going back to every so often because it is so grand and so special. It features grand alpine scenery, Victoria's highest mountain and the likelihood of beautiful late season alpine wildflowers as well as a remote but quite spectacular waterfall and a creek with lovely cascades. There is however a price to pay, namely a big climb to get up there, so light packs are the order of the day.

Day 1 will be the big climb up Staircase Spur, just under 1500 m of climbing and 10 km to get to our campsite in the headwaters of Bogong Creek. We may have time for a side trip to explore down the cascading creek to where it drops down off the plateau.

Day 2 has a pack carry of only about 7.5 km and 200 m of climbing but there are 2 side trips (both optional). The first is out to Little Bogong along a beautiful ridge and the second is from our camp at Cleve Cole Hut to Howmans Falls, a spectacular but remote and little visited gem.

Day 3 sees us walking 14.5 km back down Eskdale Spur to the cars, although there is still about 240 m of up.

The walking is mainly on track with some offtrack walking over snow grass and some light scrub out to Little Bogong. Friday night's camp will be at the Mountain Creek campground and we will aim to be ready to start walking from there at 8:00am. The weather on Bogong can be bitter and cold any time of the year so come prepared for rain and snow but we'll of course hope for blue skies.

Come and join me on this 3 day adventure to one of Victoria's classic alpine areas.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

BAMGANIE STATE FOREST (MEREDITH)

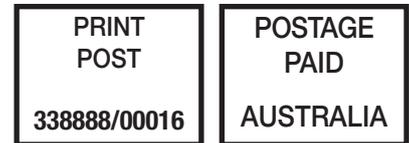
DATE	Sunday 27 January 2013
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER	Nik Dow
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Ballarat

For details of this walk please contact the leader.

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!

December 2012					
Thu 3	TOF: Sherbrooke Forest/Sassafras Creek	Pvt	Easy	CN:md	Grahan Hodgson
Sun 6	Forrest - Lake Elizabeth	Bus	E & E/M	SW:co i	Del Franks & Halina Sarbinowski
Wed 9	Bunyip State Park	Pvt	E/M	WG:lv	Ed Neff
11-13	BC: Lakes National Park Loch Sport	Pvt	Easy	EG:bn	Bob Oxlade
Sat 12	Cycling: Capital City Trail & Heidi Gallery	Pvt	E/M	CN:me	Sue Ralston
Sun 13	Up the High Lead	Car	M/H	CN:md	Ian Mair
Sun 20	NEW: Coliban Aqueduct	Bus	E & E/M	NC:be	Max Casley & Deb Shand
Mon 21	MOF: Mt Evelyn Forest Walk	Pvt	Easy	CN:md	Jenny Monaghan
Thu 24	SOC: South Surrey Park, Back Creek	Car	Easy	CN:me	Jean Giese
24-28	LOD: Mt Hotham (Austen Lodge)	Pvt	var	NE:mh	Halina Sarbinowski & Ian Mair
25-27	MNT: Aust Alps Track Maintenance Alpine NP	Pvt	Med	NE:fc	Rod Novak
25-28	PC: Mt Bogong-Little Bogong-Howman's Falls	Pvt	Med	NE:fc	Jopie Bodegraven
Sun 27	Bamganie State Forest (Meredith)	Car	E/M	CN:ba	Nik Dow

The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers
 If undelivered please return to:
 MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC
 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:
 (Please circle your membership category)
Single member: \$45 or \$55* Concession: \$34 or \$44** (Proof required)
Couple/Family: \$72 or \$82* Concession: \$50 or \$60** (Proof required)
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:

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

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