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# THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

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February 2012

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Melbourne Bushwalkers (Incorporated) will be held on Monday, 20 February, 2012, 7:45 pm at The Clubrooms, Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Corner of A'Beckett Street and William Street, Melbourne.

Members are invited to attend.

Non-members are welcome but are not eligible to vote.

### Business:

- Apologies
- Confirmation of minutes from the 2011 Annual General Meeting
- President's report
- Treasurer's report
- Determination of the annual subscription fee for 2012
- Walks Secretaries' reports
- Election of Office Bearers and Committee members
- Appointment of Auditors
- Conferral of Honorary Memberships
- Award of Spoons
- General Business

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

## COMMITTEE POSITIONS – ASSISTANCE URGENTLY REQUIRED!!!!

We urgently require nominations for Committee to the following roles which will fall vacant at the Club's AGM this month.

- GENERAL WALKS SECRETARY
- SOCIAL SECRETARY
- GENERAL COMMITTEE

Position Descriptions are available for these roles and can be forwarded to you for your consideration. If you feel you can contribute in some way or you know of anyone who you feel may be suitable for these positions, please contact Margaret Curry (President) or Mick Noonan (Vice President).

## WALK MAGAZINE

Melbourne Bushwalkers published 'Walk' magazine from 1949 through until 1987. The Club is currently seeking spare copies for the years of **1960** and **1976**. If any member holds a copy for these years and is prepared to donate them to the Club please contact Margaret Curry.

Members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc meet on Wednesday evenings between 7:00 and 9:00 pm in the club rooms at:

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

Visitors are always welcome!

General correspondence should be directed to:

The Secretary  
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc



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](mailto:news@mbw.org.au)**

**Closing date for receipt of material for *The News* is the 2nd last Wednesday of the month. So for March News, the closing date is 22 February.**

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](mailto:news@mbw.org.au).

Please note:  
Next committee meeting will take place on  
**MONDAY 5 MARCH 2012**

## Join the mofs and social walkers for a **WALK AND CRUISE ON THE BLACKBIRD MONDAY, 20 FEBRUARY**

The MOFs (Monday Old Fogies) and social walkers are combining in February for a walk and 2-hour cruise on the Maribyrnong River.

Meet on the east side of Footscray station at 10:30 am (train from Flinders Street platform 10 at 10:11).

Two walks of 4 and 6 km in local parks and beside the river before embarking on the *Blackbird* at 12:30 pm.

If there aren't enough walkers to fill the boat (30 passengers) we will welcome non-walkers. There is a car park in Saltriver Place (Melways 25 K9) which is near the *Blackbird's* jetty.

The fare is \$20 or less if we have a full complement.

Booking essential with Jean Giese.

## RECIPE NO FUSS MUESLI SLICE

3/4 cup untoasted muesli  
1/4 cup coconut  
1/4 cup honey  
1/4 cup chopped dried apricots and sultanas  
1/4 melted butter  
1/4 natural yoghurt  
1/2 cup wholemeal self-raising flour  
1 tablespoon flaked almonds

### Method

Set oven to 180°C. Spray a small oblong cake tin with cooking spray and line base with baking paper. Combine all ingredients. Mix well. Press lightly into cake tin until evenly distributed. Bake until golden brown – about 25 minutes. Cool in pan. Lift out and cut into 12 squares.

*Susan Maughan*

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

There has been some great weather for walking and hopefully those New Year resolutions to get fit are being fulfilled.

I look forward to seeing as many members as possible at our Annual General Meeting on Monday 20 February at 7:45 pm. The Agenda appears in this month's newsletter, together with some reports by Committee. We have vacancies for General Walks Secretary, Social Secretary and General Committee. If you have not yet been able to contribute to the Club, please seriously consider giving something back for the 2012 year. It is hoped to have a guest speaker from Bushwalking Victoria on the night.

On renewal of subscriptions in 2012, there will be no requirement to separately complete an Acknowledgement of Risk form. However, you are advised that payment of fees implies acceptance of the risks involved in any activity you may undertake as a member of Melbourne Bushwalkers. Members will be asked to re-read the wording regarding your insurance cover through Bushwalking Victoria, and this will appear in the March Newsletter. As a consequence at our January Committee Meeting it was approved that Clause 8.7 of our By-Laws relating to completion of Acknowledgement of Risk forms be deleted. In addition an amendment was made to Clause 2.11 of the By-Laws stating that if a leader or participant becomes ill or is injured on a walk, that person cannot be left on their own. Updated By-Laws are available for viewing under 'Downloads' on our website.

A reminder to members that on these warm summer days you should carry a minimum of two litres of water, use sunscreen and wear a sunhat. You should also be familiar with the Club's Fire Season, Total Fire Ban and Extreme Heat Policies, as well as Fire Ban Districts in case of a Total Fire Ban being declared on the day of a planned walk. For details refer to the back of the Club's Activity Program and check our website.

Enjoy your walking.

MARGARET CURRY

### BENALLA NEST BOXING WEEKENDS CLIMBING TREES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT 24-25 MARCH AND 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

## SOCIAL COLUMN

**Friday 2 March**

### **SUNSET WALK TO ST KILDA FOLLOWED BY DINNER.**

Depart from The Point Restaurant at 6:30 pm. Melways 2K G7. Parking costs a flat rate of \$2.30. Or catch the 112 tram and alight at Albert Road, or 96 tram and alight at Wright Street. The walk takes just over an hour (no quiz this time!) and starts at Albert Park, along the Esplanade and finishes at the corner of Acland Street and Fitzroy Street. Dinner is hopefully tapas at the Pelican Bar, 16 Fitzroy Street, but they don't take bookings. I have a Plan B and a Plan C, though.

PLEASE BOOK NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY 29 FEBRUARY. Let me know if you are walking, dining or both. (Sunset is at 7:58.)

**Wednesday 21 March**

### **'THE WARBURTON RAILWAY'**

#### **WITH INVITED SPEAKER, VICTORIAN RAILWAYS HISTORIAN MICHAEL J FOLEY.**

Many of us have cycled or enjoyed a pleasant walk along this long-departed branch line. Michael has historic photos of the area to illustrate how the stations worked, the special trains that passed through it and notable incidents.

Commences at 8 o'clock.

**Wednesday 28 March**

### **WALKING IN PERU**

Ian Mair will give his much anticipated slideshow on Walking in Peru. Commences at 8 o'clock but wine and cheese will be on hand earlier than that.



**Friday 30 March**

### **SUNSET BBQ AT STUDLEY BOATHOUSE PARK, 1 BOATHOUSE ROAD, KEW (MELWAYS 2D G8)**

From 6:30 p.m. onwards. Bring chairs and something to share. No need to book, just show up.

**Wednesday 18 April**

### **COASTS OF BRITAIN**

Jopie Bodegraven will show photos of the Lake District in England, Snowdonia and the Pembrokeshire Coast in Wales, and the Scottish Highlands and Coast. Photos taken over 3 trips in 2006, 2009 and 2011.

We have brought the wine and cheese night forward one week to coincide with the slideshow.



### **Saturday 25th February FREE CONCERT AT THE MYER MUSIC BOWL**

Meet Maureen Hurley at the gates at 5 pm to secure a seat for a 7 pm start. BYO picnic and drink.

This evening's performance includes:

PROKOFIEV Romeo and Juliet and

PIAZZOLLA The Four Seasons

There is a celebration of Latin American music and apparently the concert culminates in a blaze of rhythmic energy with Moncayo's jubilant Huapango!



### PRESIDENT'S REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012

The Club has had a busy year. Our Activities Program offered an extensive range of options although the 2009 bushfires, 2011 floods and burn-offs by Parks personnel had an influence on our walk locations. Thank you to members for your continued participation in the scheduled activities.

Numbers on Sunday walks have remained fairly constant. We will continue to run Sunday walks both on a bus and car pool arrangement. There have been many successful pack carry weekends, base camp/cabin trips, cycling days, mid week and social walks. Interstate and overseas trips proved popular. Skiing and canoe trips were offered to complete a comprehensive program. The Club participated in Federation Day on the Mornington Peninsula where members had an opportunity to meet and walk with bushwalkers from many other clubs around Victoria.

The year has seen new appointments to the roles of Webmaster and Newsletter Editor. These roles, together with that of our Database Administrator, are vital to the Club's operations, and the professionalism of these aspects contributes to our success in attracting new members. The Photogallery had major changes and is now extremely easy to use for both forwarding and viewing of photos.

First Aid Training, Navigation Training and a Leaders Discussion Night were held to update the skills and knowledge of leaders and members. Three committee members attended the Bushwalking Victoria (BWV) Forum and AGM held mid year at which issues faced by bushwalking clubs in general were discussed. In accordance with guidelines provided through our affiliation with BWV, a Code of Conduct was issued during the year and changes made to our procedure for Acknowledgement of Risk forms for insurance purposes. Our Club policies and documents are reviewed and updated as required, or at a minimum, on an annual basis.

On the community side we made contributions of \$500 to Victorian National Parks Cattle Grazing Campaign, Trust for Nature and Friends of the South West Walk plus \$170 to the Cancer Council, a total of \$1,670. An introductory walk was held for a group of people organised through the Department of Deaf Sport and Recreation. The Club nominated three members to join the BWV Bush Search and Rescue team, making a total of 9 from Melbourne Bushwalkers. We have been involved in Nest Box Monitoring and Tree Planting weekends as part of the Regent Honeyeater project near Benalla, Tree Planting at Wedderburn, and participated in Track Clearing work parties at Condons Track, Bogong High Plains, Goldfields Track, Wilsons Promontory and the Yarra Ranges.

Our finances have remained stable. Membership fees should remain the same for the next twelve months. Our membership numbers as at 31 December were 425 compared to 422 in 2010 and 442 in 2009. Numerous social events have been held – BBQ's, lunches, dinners, and twilight walks, together with the ever popular Wine and Cheese Nights with guest speakers or photo presentations by members. There was an informative evening on Community Travel and a popular Fashion Parade.

The club is fortunate to have so many people volunteering their time – committed members of the Committee, our wonderful leaders, Website Manager, Newsletter Editor, Database Administrator, Equipment Officer, Assistant Sunday Walks Secretary, Activity Co-ordinators, Club emergency contacts, BWV delegates, BSAR representatives, Library Co-ordinator and those assisting with the clubroom duty roster and folding of the newsletter. Thank you to all. You make a valuable contribution to the success of the Club.

My thanks go to all those who have assisted and supported me during my time as President. After three years in the role, I will not be restanding for the 2012 year and pass on best wishes to my successor and the continued success of Melbourne Bushwalkers.

*Margaret Curry*  
**PRESIDENT**



Wilhelmina Falls – Sunday 30 October 2011

## GENERAL WALKS SECRETARY'S REPORT 2011

After two years as General Walks Secretary the time has come to pass on the baton. The experience has been enlightening and rewarding, and has given me an excellent insight into the workings of Melbourne Bushwalkers. I am pleased to have taken on the position but circumstances for me have changed. However, I will still coordinate activities within the Club.

That said, the statistics are very much the same as 2010. However I would like to highlight two areas. Firstly, Jean Giese's contribution in establishing social walks. These walks have proved to be very popular and have filled a niche in people's desire to walk. Secondly, the perennial problem of base camps. Over the past two years there has been a decline in base camp activity. With the appointment of Wendy Fortington as Base Camp Coordinator I am sure that things will change.

I would like to offer a thank you to the Coordinators of the various activities that the Club presents. Without them the GWS role would be even harder. The aim is to provide members and visitors with an interesting and varied program. They have provided this.

Finally, I would like to offer a big thank you to the outgoing President Margaret Curry. In my role as GWS she has given excellent advice in establishing and maintaining guidelines for the club that has impacted on the GWS role.

*Michael Murray*  
General Walks Secretary

## SUNDAY WALKS SECRETARY'S REPORT 2011

The Sunday bus is like the phoenix that has risen from the ashes. In September 2009 a decision had to be made. To continue on a weekly basis without attracting attendances to meet the costs of the bus spelt the demise of the Sunday bus. Increasing the bus fees was not considered an option as it was felt this would only reduce patronage. The decision to change Sunday walks to bus/car pools walks was made. This decision was the salvation of the Sunday bus. After just over two years the bus account has now a healthy balance and continues to attract visitors. Fees for 2012 will remain unchanged.

### 2011 STATISTICS

#### BUS WALKS

Total Walkers: 1,047  
Total Visitors: 233  
Visitor %: 22%  
Average Walkers: 38.8  
Total Walks: 27  
Maximum Walkers: 52  
Minimum Walkers: 26

One bus was cancelled due to extreme heat.

#### CARPOOL WALKS

Total Walkers: 344  
Total Visitors: 89  
Visitor %: 26%  
Average Walkers: 15.6  
Total Walks: 22  
Maximum Walkers: 30  
Minimum Walkers: 8

One walk was cancelled due to low numbers (2/01/11)  
... a few hangovers perhaps.

#### LEADERS:

Total Walk Leaders: 76  
Covered by: 33 Leaders.

Thank you to every leader ... you have all helped to make the Sunday walks so successful in 2011. Without your support, and the support of leaders of other walks/activities the club would not exist. Thank you.

It is important to note that Sunday Walks do not alternate between bus and car pool walks. Each week is reviewed and if there is a special occasion limiting walkers (e.g. Father's Day) a car pool walk is scheduled. If there are 5 Sundays in a month then 3 will be bus walks.

*Halina Sarbinowski*

## ACTIVITIES STATISTICS 2011

(Submitted from reports)

Wednesdays		Cycling		Conservation	
Total trips	12	Total trips	12	Total trips	4
% of reports submitted (12/12)	100%	% of reports submitted (12/12)	100%	% of reports submitted (2/4)	50%
Total no. of walkers, incl visitors	140	Total no. of walkers, incl visitors	118	Total no. of walkers, incl visitors	14
Total no. of visitors	3	Total no. of visitors	0	Total no. of visitors	0
Average no. of walkers	11	Average no. of cyclists	10		
Average no. of visitors	0.5	Average no. of visitors	0		

Saturdays		Pack Carry		Social	
Total trips	8	Total trips	23	Total trips	8
% of reports submitted (4/8)	50%	% of reports submitted (19/24)	79%	% of reports submitted (8/8)	100%
Total no. of walkers, incl visitors	25	Total no. of walkers, incl visitors	186	Total no. of walkers, incl visitors	86
Total no. of visitors	3	Total no. of visitors	8	Total no. of visitors	11
Average no. of walkers	8	Average no. of walkers	16	Average no. of walkers	11
Average no. of visitors	1	Average no. of visitors	3	Average no. of visitors	2

MOFS/TOFS		Base Camps		Other	
Total trips	22	Total trips	8	Total trips	4
% of reports submitted (21/22)	95%	% of reports submitted (6/8)	75%	% of reports submitted (2/4)	50%
Total no. of walkers, incl visitors	271	Total no. of walkers, incl visitors	94	Total no. of walkers, incl visitors	58
Total no. of visitors	20	Total no. of visitors	10	Total no. visitors	0
Average no. of walkers	12	Average no. of walkers	11	Average no. of walkers	15
Average no. of visitors	0.5	Average no. of visitors	2	Average no. of visitors	0

Skiing		Training	
Total trips	3	Total trips	3
% of reports submitted (3/3)	100%	% of reports submitted (1/3)	33%
Total no. of walkers, incl visitors	50	Total no. of walkers, incl visitors	26
Total no. of visitors	7	Total no. of visitors	0
Average no. of walkers	17		
Average no. of visitors	3		

## A SUBURBAN CYCLING TRIP

Date: Saturday, 10 December, 2011  
Distance: 60 km  
Weather: Hot – 29°C, Strong NW wind  
Route: Caulfield to Caulfield via numerous suburbs on quiet roads and cycle trails

Eight cyclists met at the Caulfield Railway Station and after a short chin-wag, Ed our leader, had our group of 2 women and 6 men cycling through the beautiful tree lined streets of Glen Huntly and Carnegie where we joined the Rosstown Rail Trail to Elsternwick. We then followed the Elwood Canal Trail to the Beach Road Trail and with a very strong tail wind, cycling was a sheer delight.

We stopped for morning tea at the North Point Café and were delighted to be met there by Ross Berner who is recovering quite well from his injuries and expects to be out with us on Ian Mair's ride on 21 January 2012.

From North Road we were blown along the trail at a fast pace through Brighton and the rest of the bayside suburbs to Mordialloc where we stayed for a while and where Mark left us. We then headed into the gale force wind and wound our way through Parkdale, Mentone East and Cheltenham East to Karkarook Park on Warrigal Road, Heatherton. Ed had chosen this beautiful park for lunch, it was an ideal spot with plenty of native trees, shrubs and a lake with a large number of water birds.

After lunch we skirted around the lake and made our way to South Oakleigh, passing the Metropolitan Golf Course en route, then through Oakleigh, Hughesdale and Murrumbeena to Carnegie where we wound our way through beautiful tree lined streets to Caulfield Railway Station. Ian told us this area has a heritage listing and as such, this stops developers from ruining the area.

I would say in summing up, that this route is unique in its variation of scenery, points of interest and the number of suburbs we traversed. Ed gets 10 out of 10 for his leadership and navigation. As complicated as the route is, Ed never referred to a map once. It was a most enjoyable outing on wheels. Thanks from all of us. The people who participated on the ride were: Ed Neff (Leader), Ian Mair, Sue Ralston, Max Casley, John Markham, Mark Heath, Max's sister Gaynor and myself, Art Terry.

## Willis's Walkabouts

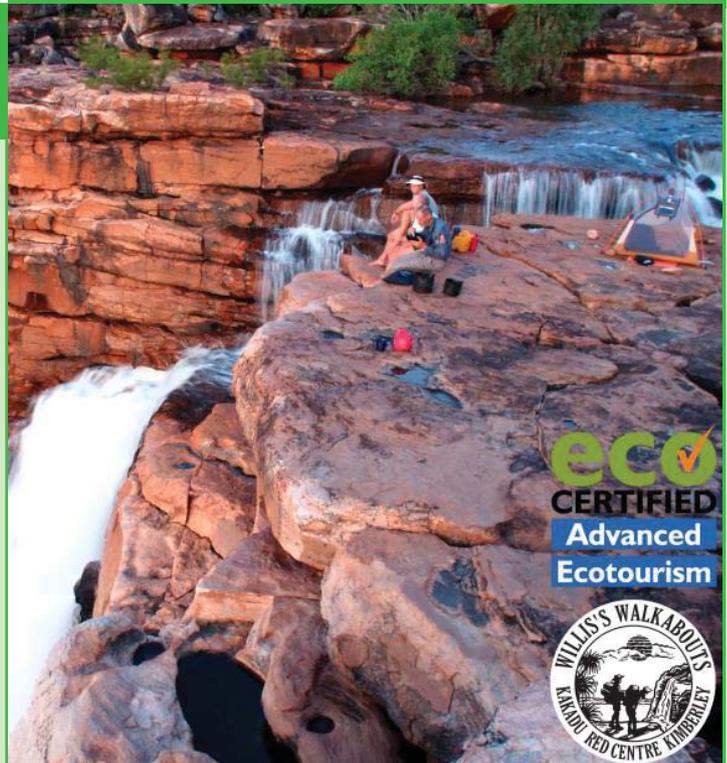
### Going to wonderful places most people only dream about

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](http://www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au) [rwillis@internode.on.net](mailto:rwillis@internode.on.net) Ph: 08 8985 2134

### MT KOSCIUSZKO MAIN RANGE – A PLEASANT WAY TO END 2011 AND WELCOME 2012

The Great Dividing Trail is steeped in history. Winding its way from Bacchus Marsh to Bendigo via Ballarat and Daylesford, it encompasses a rich tapestry of the hopes, disappointments and great ingenuity of our predecessors in their pursuit of gold and all it has to offer. In contemporary terms it is an engaging walk through a diversity of Victorian bushland, river trails and mountain top views. Little wonder then that it is a regular destination for the Mt Kosciuszko Main Range – a pleasant way to end 2011 and welcome 2012.

Kosciuszko National Park is home to the top 10 highest peaks in Australia, all within easy reach of each other. Where better to spend the time between Christmas and New Year! But our leader, Richard, had decided that this was to be a relaxing trip – somewhere between a base camp and a pack carry – and we settled on just the top three with a lesser one or two thrown in.

Our hardy group of ten assembled at Khancoban before setting off for Thredbo, our base for the rest of the trip. Seasoned walkers though we were, Richard had chosen a day walk on our way to Thredbo 'to shake out the excesses of Christmas festivities' and to prepare us for the longer challenge ahead. 'An easy walk', he said, 'a dawdle up Cascade Creek with a bit of a climb at the end up to Chimneys Ridge'. The notes said we just had to follow the brumby pads and we couldn't go wrong. We could see the brumbies laughing in the distance as we crisscrossed from one path to another whilst scrambling through scrub and sodden waterways on our way to and from our destination! The wonders of modern GPS technology and a good map, however, kept our meanderings to a minimum. A pub meal at Thredbo that night eased any tender parts and rounded out our preparations for the start of the pack-carry early the next morning.



The circuit route from Thredbo to Charlotte Pass via the Main Ridge and back along the Summit Road is a popular three-day walking track. The three highest peaks in Australia (Mt Kosciuszko – 2228 m, Mt Townsend – 2209 m and Mt Twynam – 2195 m) are each easily reached with minor side trips. Visible too are the notable glacial lakes – Lake Albina, Blue Lake and Club Lake. All-in-all a feast of alpine natural wonder.

We were treated to brilliant sunshine for most of the walk. The occasional dark cloud was but a faint reminder of wetter weather earlier in the week. Suncream rather than wet weather gear was our first priority at the start of each day. As if celebrating the change in conditions, the wildflowers were bursting into thick carpets of yellows and whites with the occasional patches of purple and pink. The walking under such conditions was a joy over well marked and well maintained paths. Indeed, the greatest danger was the risk of tripping over younger walkers out for the day with their parents on the highly popular Mt Kosciuszko trail from the top of the Thredbo Chairlift.



Mt Kosciuszko, our first climb of the top three, hardly raised a sweat, even after a diversion to Rams Head North (2177 m) along the way. We capped off the first day by taking in Mt Townsend (the second highest) too. This we did in the less conventional way by picking our way off-track from our first night's camp spot alongside Wilkinsons Creek. The views from both high points were intoxicating in haze-free summer air. The camping area in the valley below Mt Townsend was broad and flat with ample supplies of crystal clear stream water.

The second day saw us continue along the Main Ridge track as far as Mt Twynam (the third highest peak) before back-tracking a little to head for

*(continued on page 9)*

*Mt Kosciuszko Main Range (continued from page 8)*



Charlotte Pass. Sharply plummeting slopes along the way opened up spectacular views of the glacial lakes. What better scenario for a pause to sip a freshly brewed cup of Greek coffee which Angela magically provided. With so much to see and do, our second night's camp spot a little before Charlotte Pass seemed to come too soon, even though it was late into the afternoon when we arrived.

Conversation, as frequently happens when Bushies get together, often turned to equipment and food. What is best, what is lightest, what is easiest to prepare ....? Arguments were won and lost on the basis of persuasion and/or passion. Reference sources like the 'Fritze Guide to Everything' scored

well. Irrefutable facts, however, like 'more walkers are known to have died from rancid butter poisoning than shark bite whilst walking' were seen as the last bastion of the desperate.

The third pack-carry day saw us back at Thredbo Village where we made the most of the excellent YHA or Thredbo Alpine Hotel as our preferences dictated. Our thoughts were now turning to New Year's Eve. However, we still had another day of walking to do and Richard chose an easy option near Jindabyne – a downfall for some as new world records were set for the most BLTs to be consumed in a three hour period. That did not ruin our appetite for dinner though, and New Year's Eve started with a feast at Cascades Restaurant in Thredbo, followed by much sparkling wine back at the YHA. It was close to 2 am before the last of our hardy group of Richard, Jan, Max, Di, Angela, Ian F., Halina, Heather, Debbie and I (Ian M.) called it a night. It was a great way to end 2011 and welcome 2012.

*Ian Mair*



## PACK CARRY

# ADVANCE NOTICE

### MT SELDOM SEEN – BUCHAN RIVER – TULLOCH ARD GORGE (SNOWY RIVER NP IN THE PROGRAM)

<b>DATE</b>	<b>5th April to 9th or 10th April 2012</b>
<b>STANDARD</b>	<b>Easy Medium</b>
<b>DISTANCE</b>	<b>40 km plus side trips</b>
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	<b>Bob Oxlade</b>
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	<b>Private</b>
<b>AREA</b>	<b>East Gippsland</b>
<b>MAP REF</b>	<b>Vicmap Deddick 8523-N 1:50,000</b>

Still in the same area of East Gippsland and also new for the Club, I consider this walk will allow more walkers to participate.

The walk has excellent views and is near the Buchan Headwaters Wilderness Zone which is part of the Alpine National Park and adjoins the Snowy River NP.

We will drive down on Thursday night and camp just prior to the walk start.

On Friday we will walk along the Wombargo Track and descend to camp at the junction of Reedy Creek and the Buchan River. 16 km and 500 m overall descent today.

Saturday. After one or two side trips to see more views we then have an easy 2 km walk along and downstream the Buchan River, which could be 30 cm deep in parts, to camp at the foot of our exit spur. We may have an option to explore a little here. The river section is the easiest route for us but nothing to be concerned about and plenty of time to do it.

Sunday. A 500 m gentle climb up an untracked spur to the Wombargo Track and return to our cars is about 10 km. We then drive to camp by our cars near the start of the Gorge walk.

Monday. A short walk to Tulloch Ard Gorge Lookout for spectacular views over the Snowy River and options of other walks before returning home at a reasonable time.

A further option is available to camp on Monday night and return on Tuesday after a 5-6 hour return walk to Raymond Creek Falls and the Snowy River near Orbost.

If interested in coming along please see me in the Clubroom on 21 or 28 March.

*Bob Oxlade.*

A reminder that to view all available previews and any notifications of changes to walks, just log on to the walks program and previews pages on the MBW website:  
[http://www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au/activities/Walks/MBW\\_walks\\_program.htm](http://www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au/activities/Walks/MBW_walks_program.htm)

## 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.



### SUNDAY BUS

#### POINT NEPEAN – LONDON BRIDGE

**DATE** Sunday 19 February 2012  
**STANDARDS** Easy & Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCES** 14 km, 17 km  
**ELEVATIONS** 60 m  
**LEADERS** Mick Noonan, Deb Shand  
**TRANSPORT** Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am  
**AREA** Point Nepean National Park  
**MAP REF** Park Map, Melways 166, 167  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Melbourne

Point Nepean, close to Melbourne on the tip of the Mornington Peninsula, has fantastic scenery and a long and interesting history. Once the Bunurong people roamed the grassy plain that is now Port Phillip Bay.

It features outstanding coastal scenery, panoramic views across Port Phillip Bay and along ocean beaches on Bass Strait to Cape Schanck, and others including the Rip. There is also a new Wilsons Folly Walk to London Bridge on Bass Strait where both walks will end. The area has a rich history extending back to the large Quarantine Station (established in 1852 and recently opened to the public) and Fort Nepean (dating back to the 1880's) with well preserved fortifications and gun emplacements. There is also a new track through the Rifle Range area that was set up in 1952 for the Army Officer Cadet School. Find out about the Monash Light and more!

If you have not been there before this is a 'must do' for the scenery and history. If you have been then the great views and new opened areas are worth a return visit.

The walk is graded based on the distances with no obstacles of significance and is particularly suited to visitors and new members as well as those who want to stretch out. It's often warm, often cold, always windy and there is no water available inside the park.



### TOFS WALK

#### LONG BEACH TRAIL

**DATE** Thursday 1 March 2012  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** 10 km  
**LEADER** Ron Evans  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Mordialloc–Carrum  
**MAP REFERENCE** Melways Maps 92, 97

This is an easy 10 km walk from Mordialloc Creek to Patterson River along the Long Beach Trail

The trail travels along the Mordialloc creek for a short distance before it runs along the side of the creek's flood plain before joining up with the Edithvale wetlands, and then to the Patterson River. When we get to the river, there is a 2 km walk along its banks before we cross over it back to the Boat Ramp car park. The trail passes by a number of golf clubs and wetlands habitat.

We will meet at 10:30 am, at the Patterson River Boat Ramp, Launching Way, Melways 97 E7, parking near the Parks Victoria Office. We will need to do a car shuffle to Attenborough Park, Mordialloc, opposite Doyles Hotel, Melways 92 F2 where we will start the walk.



### SUNDAY BUS

#### MARYSVILLE – KEPPELLS & STEVENSONS FALLS

**DATE** Sunday 4 March 2012  
**STANDARDS** Easy/Medium and Medium  
**DISTANCES** 14 km & 17 km  
**ELEVATIONS** 300 m  
**LEADERS** Michael Murray & Chris Schirlinger  
**TRANSPORT** Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am  
**AREA** Marysville  
**MAP REF** Marysville – Lake Mountain 1:30,000  
**Outdoor**  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** North Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Eildon

This promises to be a wonderful walk, the forests in the area are regenerating nicely after the recent fires and with all the rain the waterfalls should be in wonderful form on the day.

Both groups will have a chance to stretch their legs with a few climbs of a couple of hundred metres each up to the various lookouts where we will be able to gaze down on Marysville and the surrounding areas. Everyone will also get a chance to stop at the falls for a rest either for lunch or morning tea, and if you are keen can attempt the 10 minute extra walk to the top of the falls!

The easier group may even get a chance to potter about a bit in town at the end of the day if time permits.



## PACK CARRY – LABOUR DAY LONG WEEKEND

### MT COBBLER ALPINE NATIONAL PARK

DATE	9–12 March 2012
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	Approx 35 km
LEADER	Agajan Akbari
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Great Dividing Range East of Mansfield
MAP REF	Howitt–Selwyn 1:50,000 (old series) or Selwyn 1:50,000 (new series) King, Howqua & Jamieson Rivers, VMTC 1:50,000

Rugged, beautiful and scenic, this is an excellent and not particularly difficult walk to the summit of Mt Cobbler. On Friday drive to Mt Stirling ski resort area, take right turn from Telephone Box Junction to Howqua Gap hut. We camp Friday night at Howqua Gap camping area. On Saturday morning we drive to the start of the walk beside the King River.

We walk via Muesli Spur to Cobbler Plateau, a 600 m climb. Muesli Spur is a bit rocky and overgrown in places with thick bush. We camp Saturday night at attractive Lake Cobbler. Sunday we may visit the longest water falls in Victoria (Dangdongadale) then break the camp site heading towards Mt Cobbler. We camp at the foot of Mt Cobbler, subject to water availability. After we set up our campsite we explore Mt Cobbler and Little Cobbler with light day packs (some off track walking involved). The area has rocky outcrops and requires some dexterity from the walkers. The reward for your efforts is a 360 degree scenic view of mountains in all directions on a clear day. Monday we walk across Cobbler Plateau, descend to King River and back to the cars around mid afternoon.

Because we are walking in an alpine area be prepared for all weather conditions and be well equipped. This is a very good classic walk and therefore is recommended. If interested see me in the clubroom.



## SUNDAY CAR POOL

### LAKE EILDON NATIONAL PARK

DATE	Sunday 11 March 2012
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	15 km
LEADER	Stuart Hanham
TRANSPORT	Car – Southbank Blvd, 8:45 am
AREA	Alexandra/Lake Eildon
MAP REF	VICMAP 1:50,000 Lake Eildon
TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON)	\$24

The drive to Lake Eildon is fairly long, but one of the most beautiful in Victoria. We pass through the Yarra Valley, cross the Black Spur, parallel the Cathedral Range, descend to the pretty town of Alexandra in the Goulburn Valley, then cross the steep hills overlooking the lake.

Starting at Merlo's Lookout, above the deep blue waters of Eildon, the walk starts with a long steep climb to the well named Blowhard Summit. The effort is rewarded with inspirational views of the reservoir and surrounding hills. From there, we follow a roller coaster ridge, where you feel that you are near the top of the world.

Next is a long steep descent into a forested area close to the lake shore. We detour to the old Stones Outstation hut, in an attractive setting at the head of Aird Inlet. The walk continues through light forest along a heavily indented shoreline, where some super luxury houseboats are likely to be moored. Cook Point offers wide views up and down the lake.

Overall, this walk is very scenic, but challenging in parts. **It is not suitable for beginners.** Grippy and sturdy footwear, a hat, sunscreen and plenty of water, are essential.



## WEDNESDAY WALK

### MT BAW BAW MIDWEEK GETAWAY

DATE	13–15 March 2012
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	16 km
LEADER	Susan Maughan
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Mt Baw Baw
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	WG
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Iv

Mt Baw Baw is 157 km from Melbourne. You can travel via the Prices Highway, turning off at Robin Hood. Alternatively, drive along the Warburton Highway, turn off at Yarra Junction and continue through Powelltown, which joins the main road at Noojee.

The club has been invited to use the Mt Baw Baw ski club lodge (so we need to be on our best behaviour). It costs only \$25 per person per night with a variety of bedding configurations.

Tuesday night is share a plate. On Wednesday's walk we'll traverse part of the Baw Baw plateau. Approx 16 km. Check out is midday Thursday.



## CYCLING

### CRAIGIEBURN – GELLIBRAND HILL (TRAIN)

DATE	Saturday 17 March 2012
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER	Phil Brown

For details of this trip, please contact the leader.



**SUNDAY BUS**

**BLAIRGOWRIE–PORTSEA BACK BEACHES**

**DATE** Sunday 18 March 2012  
**STANDARDS** Easy & Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCES** 13 & 17 km  
**ELEVATIONS** Mostly flat, a few short climbs up cliffs, some sand.  
**LEADERS** Max Casley & Sibylle Holdheide  
**TRANSPORT** Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am  
**AREA** Mornington Peninsula  
**MAP REF** Melways maps 156 and 157  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** CN  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** fr

Come on a walk in the Mornington Peninsula National park and enjoy the fresh air blowing in from Bass Strait. We will walk along paths through the coastal tea tree scrub, along cliff tops with good views and along the ocean beaches of Sorrento and Portsea. The walk involves both the front and back beaches and we will cross the peninsula along Wilson’s Folly track. Low tide is about 2 pm so beach walking should be favourable. We will visit Mt St Pauls Lookout, Diamond Bay and London Bridge on the ocean side and on the bay side we walk past the Queenscliff ferry terminal, Sorrento Hotel and through the Botanical Gardens. There may be time for a coffee break at the shop near Sorrento SLSClub.



**MOFS WALK**

**MOUNT DANDENONG ARBORETUM/OLINDA FALLS**

**DATE** Monday 19 March 2012  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** 10 km  
**LEADER** Janet Hodgson  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Mt. Dandenong  
**MAP REF** Melway Maps 52, 66, 120  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Mt. Dandenong

Meet at Kalorama Native Reserve (Melway Map 120 B9) at 10:30 am ready for a car shuffle. The walk will start at the Mt. Dandenong Arboretum. We will walk through the arboretum where there is a great variety of wonderful exotic trees. We will follow Olinda Creek to its falls. We will then continue downhill on a foot track beside the creek and enjoy some flat walking before ascending through the forest to Kalorama Reserve.



**SOCIAL WALK**

**TOORAK TO HAWTHORN**

**DATE** Thursday 22 March 2012  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** 5 km  
**LEADER** Jean Giese  
**TRANSPORT** Train  
**AREA** Toorak/Hawthorn  
**MAP REF** Melways 58, 59, 44 and 45  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central

Not only is this a pleasant walk but it has historical interest and is accessible by train. We will explore a few streets in Toorak before taking the walking track to the long railway bridge which spans both the river and the freeway. This lands us in the lovely Burnley Gardens which we will enjoy as we make our way to the river trail, following it upstream to Burwood Road. Historical St. James Square is very interesting, as are the mansions we pass as we walk to the Hawthorn Station. Lunch in a pub nearby.

Meet at 10:30 am on the Western side of Heyington Station, Melways 59 K9.



**PACK CARRY**

**SQUARE HEAD GINNY – MT LOVICK – PICTURE POINT SPUR**

**DATE** 23-25 March 2012  
**STANDARD** At least Medium/Hard; possibly a bit harder  
**LEADER** Jopie Bodegraven  
**AREA** Alps beyond Mansfield  
**MAP REF** Selwyn 1:50,000

This will be a challenging and largely exploratory walk suitable only for those who don’t mind scrub, steep rock scrambling and adventures into the unknown. I have never done this route before, which is why I want to do it. Square Head Ginny’s cliffs look formidable from the Howqua Valley but I’m told that there is a steep, scrambly but feasible route up through them so long as you go up the right gully. I don’t know of anyone who has been down Picture Point Spur but from the top of Helicopter Spur on Max’s recent trip it looked feasible. Camp will be in an area near Mt Lovick where I have camped and found water many years ago.

The bulk of the route is off track. The canopies looked unburnt from afar but could have had low burns so expect lots of nasty scrub. Gaiters and scrub gloves essential. Wear shorts at your own risk. The climb on day 1 is about 900 metres with less than half on a track and over half steep, rocky and scrubby off track. Day 2 is mostly downhill but will probably have lots of scrub to slow us down plus steep rocky sections.

We will meet Saturday at 8.30 am at the Upper Howqua Campsite on the north side of the river just before the washed out bridge.



**PACK CARRY**

**AN INTRODUCTION TO PACK CARRYING**

**DATE** 24–25 March 2012  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** 14.5 km  
**LEADER** Susan Maughan  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Cathedral Range  
**MAP REF** Vicmap Cathedral Range  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** NC  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** sc  
**TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON)** 8 cents per km.

Cathedral Range is located along the Maroondah Hwy, 7 km after Buxton. Turn off at Cathedral Lane, then right into Little River Road for 2.9 km till you reach Neds Gully. This is our departure point at 10:30 am on Saturday 24, or you can join me Friday, have dinner in the pub and camp overnight.

The first day's 8 km walk takes us up Neds Gully track to The Cathedral for some terrific views. Saturday night's campsite is a little used spot prior to the more popular Farmyard. There is a spring up there, hopefully with water. Next day's 6.5 km is a descent down the Jawbone Creek track into Cooks Mill camp ground, and then a steady stroll along Little River back to our cars for an early afternoon finish. That'll give us time for a drink at the Black Spur pub on the way home.

The club has a range of equipment to hire and advice on light pack carrying. Speak to your leader or John Fritze, the Equipment Officer.



**WORK PARTY**

**NEST BOX SURVEY – LURG HILLS (BENALLA)**

**DATE** 24–25 March 2012  
**CO-ORDINATOR** Michael Muray

Details of this activity are on page 3.



**SUNDAY CAR POOL**

**KINGLAKE ANDREW HILL**

**DATE** Sunday 25 March 2012  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** 11.5 km  
**ELEVATION** 450 metres  
**LEADER** Meg Morris  
**TRANSPORT** Carpool from Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am  
**AREA** Kinglake  
**MAP REF** Outdoor Leisure Map: Kinglake National Park  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Yarra Glen  
**TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON)** \$13.00

The Kinglake area, a favourite walking area for Melbourne Bushies, was devastated in the Black Saturday fires of February 2009. This walk is only the second walk that Sunday walkers have ventured to do in the area since the fires. We have patiently waited for its recovery. Both walks have been in the Wombelano Block. This area was the first to be reopened in the Kinglake National Park after the fires. It is located in the

north-eastern end of the Park, just north of the Great Dividing Range.

Starting from the Gums Camping Area we will follow Island Creek, a delightful track, to the Island Bend Picnic area. Lyrebirds are often heard and sometimes seen from this track. From here we will walk along Stringybark Track which climbs steadily. After walking in an arc along Mountain Creek Track and Andrew Hill Track we finally reach St Andrews Hill, the highest point in the Park. Only a few more kilometres are required before we return to our cars.

This is a lovely walk, surprisingly lush and green after recent rains, that will be enjoyed by any who choose to walk in the area. I hope that you will join me in exploring the area and appreciating the regeneration after the fires.



**TOFS WALK**

**LAVERTON CREEK – ALTONA ESPLANADE**

**DATE** Thursday 29 March 2012  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** Approx. 10 km  
**ELEVATION** Flat  
**LEADER** Keith White  
**TRANSPORT** Train or Private  
**AREA** Melbourne's West  
**MAP REF** Melway Maps 53, 54, 208 & 209

NB. This walk has been scheduled for March because the first Thursday of April clashed with Easter.

1. The walk starts outside Laverton Station at 10:30 am (Melway Map 53 E10) and finishes at Altona or Seaholme Station at 2:00 pm, for a train direct to Flinders Street.
2. Alternatively, walkers who prefer to come by car, can park near Laverton Station and return by train to Laverton from Altona or Seaholme Stations. Refer Melway Maps 53 and 54.
3. Energetic walkers can continue their walk along the Esplanade to Williamstown for a train to Flinders Street.

The walk follows Laverton Creek to its mouth for lunch (no pun intended) with an optional climb up The 100 Steps of Federation. After lunch we cross Laverton Creek and follow the Esplanade to Altona or Seaholme Station. There are a number of cafés in the Altona precinct for afternoon tea. .



Some of the marine life sculptures at Altona Beach

