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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

March 2013

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

At the **February Committee Meeting** we finalised plans for the AGM, had a presentation on the history and current status of the Wilky Lodge that burnt down in 2004 from Graeme Thornton and David Laing, discussed MOFS/TOFS walk meeting points, and progressed work on our Club's Future Directions (see below).

The **AGM** went well with a new Committee elected and all Reports accepted. A decision was made not to increase Membership fees this year. The highlight of the evening was the presentation after the AGM by Ian Mair on **Making Our Club History Accessible**. I suggest you have a look at the website and see the fascinating new material that is progressively being added, e.g. old photos in the Photo Gallery going all the way back to 1940, copies of *Walk Magazine* from 1949–87 (under Downloads) as well as old Newsletters.

I would like to extend a warm **welcome to the new Committee members Poppy Sicari, Richard Long and Cathy Merrick** and once again thank Alan Case and Deb Shand who are standing down this year. There is a list of all the 2013 Committee Members in this issue of the News.

Another 'thank you' goes to **Pearson Creswell** who has been our Public Officer since 2004. This position has been the Club's statutory interface to Australian Consumer Affairs that regulates incorporated associations like ours. As a result of the new regulations introduced last year we have combined the Public Officer and Secretary positions with Howard Friend also taking on the statutory responsibilities.

A reminder on our **policies on Total Fire Bans and extreme heat** (copies can be downloaded from the Website). **All day activities are automatically cancelled** if there is a Total Fire Ban in the activity area or if the temperature in the area is forecast to be 38 degrees or more. Activities may also need to be cancelled if there are active fires in the area even if there is no Total Fire Ban on the day. The leader has the discretion to also cancel it if they consider that although the forecast temperature is less than 38 it is still too hot for the activity. The Fire Season extends from November to April each year.

We have had **3 activities cancelled so far this year**: on the Australia Day long weekend a pack carry and a base camp in the high country were both cancelled due to active fires even though there was no total fire ban; and in February a TOFS walk was automatically cancelled as a club activity due to a Total Fire Ban. The policy on extended activities such as pack carries and base camps is similar and is explained in the policy documents.

Each month I will be providing information on how our **Future Directions** work is progressing. In shaping and guiding our Club's future we need to understand:

- **where we have been** – our history, our culture, tap into the experience of our long term members
- **where we are at** – what are the **Strengths** of our club, what are its **Weaknesses**, what **Opportunities** are there, and what **Threats** do we face? This is commonly referred to as a **SWOT** Assessment.
- **Where we want to be** in 2 to 4 years – setting out our vision, objectives and how we measure progress in achieving them.

Currently **the Committee are developing the first version of the SWOT** for the Club and we should have a good draft in a month or two. We are also about to seek input for the SWOT from Past Presidents, Life Members, Activity Coordinators and a sample of members. We will then have a good view of where we are now, taking into account our long and proud history as a bushwalking club. Spontaneous contributions to this work are always welcome! Speak to or email me or any one of the other Committee members.

Membership fees are now due and need to be paid by the end of May so please maintain your membership and renew early! As per last year renewing members are not required to sign a separate Acknowledge of Risk Form. The membership renewal article on page 3 in this issue of the News describes the risks involved in bushwalking and you accept these risks when you renew your membership.

Mick Noonan

Due date for contributions to April News: Wednesday 20 March

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 November News, the closing date is 20 March.

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 8 April 2013

NEW COMMITTEE 2013

President	Mick Noonan
Vice-President	Ian Mair
Secretary	Howard Friend
Membership Secretary	Roger Wyett
Treasurer	Poppy Sicari (NEW)
Social Secretary	Kerry McKeand
General Walks Secretary	Cecily Hunter
Sunday Walks Secretary	Halina Sarbinowski
General Committee	Stuart Hanham
	Tina Leeuwrik
	Richard Long (NEW)
	Cathy Merrick (NEW)
	Carol Sisson
	Gillian Wainwright



CROSS COUNTRY SKIING BOGONG HIGH PLAINS



August 10-17 2013

As I sit in 30+ degrees heat it is hard to imagine that in six months time the High Plains will be covered in snow. Once again we will be able to explore the winter wonderland courtesy of the Rover Scouts. We have the week August 10th to 17th which is usually a good week for snow, in fact last year there was maybe a little too much!!

We will be staying in the Rover Chalet. We ski in the 12 or so kilometres carrying in personal gear and fresh food. The rest of the food is stored in the chalet by the Rovers. Chores such as cooking, cleaning, woodchopping etc. are done by a voluntary roster. The Chalet has 240V power, hot showers, a washing machine, mattresses in the loft where we sleep.

Weather permitting, ski trips are organised each day. Usually there are two choices, one being easier, the same as Sunday day walks.

We give you plenty of notice for this trip so that you can organise leave if necessary. If you are interested give me a ring to discuss it. If I am unavailable speak to Marilyn Whimpey.

Doug Pocock

NEST BOX CHECKING AT LURG 2013

16/17 March 20/21 April 18/19 May

It's on again! Here's a superb opportunity to see our beautiful little gliders as they rest up for the day in our nest boxes....

....and with nearly 400 nest boxes to inspect, you're sure to have some delightful sights!

Come and join us for a weekend of fun, fascination, and friendly company, as you work with other volunteers to see who is at home in the boxes, gain some insight about the effects of this serious drought, and think about what we can do to assist the wildlife....

See pages 4 and 5 for all the details.

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE!

Payment can be via:

- EFT (ensure your name and 'subs' appear in the comments)
- Cheque (post to the Membership Secretary) • In person on booking nights at the club rooms

Please advise any changes to your contact details as well. Thanks in advance to all who pay on time.

Roger Wyatt

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2013

Membership subscriptions are due 1st March 2013. You are not required to sign an Acknowledgement of Risk form on renewal, 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 are asked to read the following wording regarding your insurance cover through Bushwalking Victoria.

'In voluntarily participating in activities of Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc., which are described to me by the activity leaders, I am aware that my participation in the activities may expose me to hazards and risks that could lead to injury, illness or death or to loss of or damage to my property. I also acknowledge that I may encounter weather conditions that could lead to heat stroke, hypothermia or being in locations where evacuation for medical treatment may take hours or days.

In particular when participating in abseiling or above the snowline activities I am aware that these activities could expose me to additional hazards and risks.

To minimize risks I will endeavour to ensure that:

- Each activity is within my capabilities
- I will carry food, water and equipment appropriate for the activity
- I will advise the activity leader if I am taking medication or have any physical or other limitation that might affect my participation in the activity
- I will make every effort to remain with the rest of the party during the activity
- I will advise the leader of any concerns I am having and
- I will comply with all reasonable instructions of club officers and the activity leader

I have read and understood these requirements. I will consider the risks before joining any activity of the Club.

I acknowledge that I will take responsibility for my own actions and that payment of my subscriptions will be deemed as full acceptance and understanding of the above conditions'.

Please refer to the Renewal Slip below for methods of paying your subscription. If paying by cheque please return the renewal slip to assist the Treasurer and Membership Secretary to identify you. If any of your personal details have changed, complete the relevant information and forward to the Membership Secretary. The Renewal Slip also appears on the back page of the newsletter.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS – MARCH 2013

Unfortunately two different activities scheduled for the Australia Day weekend this year had to be cancelled, one due to unavailability of Parks Victoria staff, and one at short notice due to a bushfire in the Alpine National Park. However, there are other opportunities coming up:

Alps Walking Track and Baw Baw feeder track clearing

Friday 22–Monday 25 March 2013

Bushwalking Clubs and individuals are invited to join local Parks Victoria staff, Friends of Baw Baw National Park and the Strzelecki Bushwalking Club over a four day track clearing activity on the Baw Baw Plateau (Baw Baw National Park) between Friday 22nd and Monday 25th March 2013.

The activity will focus on clearing the walking track network between Jeep Track Flat and the Baw Baw Alpine Resort, including a section of the AAWT across Mt St Phillack. This will further enhance walking opportunities in Baw Baw National Park following the completion of track works in the remote Mt Whitelaw area of the park in 2012.

Parks Victoria will establish a Base Camp for this activity at Jeep Track Flat, from early Friday 22nd March 2013. Access to the 'Base Camp' is via the St Gwinear car park or Baw Baw Village. *Parks Victoria will supply fresh fruit, general consumables, energy food and all evening meals for participants who register an interest in attending, with ample water also available at base camp.* Volunteers will need to bring camping gear, sturdy footwear and wet weather clothing.

Participants are welcome for whatever time they can spare and there will be a variety of tasks to complete from very easy to arduous. All safety gear will be provided by Parks Victoria.

For further information, or to register your interest in this activity, please contact the Parks Victoria Latrobe Ranger in Charge, Andy Gillham on 5172 2186, Mob 0428 333 464.

Regent Honeyeater Project Nest Box weekends

16/17 March; 20/21 April; 18/19 May

Come and help Ray Thomas check on the inhabitants of the nest boxes – full details on pages 4 and 5 in newsletter and on program.

Alpine Cattle Grazing – good news!

In January the State lost its bid to overturn the ban on Alpine Cattle Grazing The Federal Court quashed Victoria's case against the ban on all grounds.

Alpine huts

Cope Hut has a new toilet and 5 camping platforms have been built.

Wallace's Hut has recently been repaired by the Victorian High Country Huts Association funded by Parks Victoria.

Track news

Recent bushfires in the Wonnangatta–Moroka and Mt Feathertop areas should remind everyone to check the Parks Victoria web site or ring 13 1963 before visiting during bushfire danger periods.

Wilson's Prom

The Northern Circuit is now fully open although some sections of the track are undefined and hard to navigate – there may be some track work opportunities here in future.

Mt Oberon and Telegraph tracks were opened in December, but the track from Telegraph Saddle to Sealer's Cove is still being reconstructed.

Johnny Souey camp and Cotters Beach walking track will soon be open again.

Mt Buangor State Park

Bushwalking Victoria are negotiating with Parks Victoria about reopening the closed Cave Hill (Buckatillible) Track with the offer of volunteers to clear the track after previous fire and flood damage.

continued over page

Noticeboard

Environmental Events (continued from page 5)

State Forest Walking Tracks Project

This 4-year project was recently cancelled by the State Government, but some tracks in the Powelltown area, notably the 'Walk into history', will be finalised. The Ada No. 2 Mill site has been upgraded for camping and there are boardwalks over some boggy sections.

Grampians National Park – Park and Road Closures

The fires in the Grampians National Park are affecting the southern end of the Park. For the safety of visitors the following closures have been put in place until further notice:

All areas of the Victoria Valley and Victoria Range Areas are CLOSED

Visitor Site and Walking Track Closures:

All climbing areas and tracks in the Victoria Range and Red Rock area

- Strachans Campground
- Buandik Campground
- Boreang Campground
- Ingleton Springs Picnic area
- Red Rock Picnic area
- Manja Shelter
- Billimina Shelter
- Chimney Pots
- Jimmy Creek Campground
- Wannon Crossing Campground

What is open?

The North and Central parts of the Park remain open and safe for visitors to enjoy but Parks Victoria advises visitors not to go overnight walking and for campers to stay in designated campgrounds only.

For further information please call into Brambuk, the National Park and Cultural Centre in Halls Gap

Deb Shand

NEST BOXES FOR RARE SPECIES

16/17 March 20/21 April 18/19 May 2013

Our nest box program has been in operation for over 13 years now and we'd love to invite you to join us as we do our annual monitoring work. We have 381 boxes already in place, with Squirrel Gliders and Sugar Gliders nesting in about two-thirds of them!

We're also finding more and more stringybark nests of the rare Brush-tailed Phascogale, so we're hoping to see some of them face to face when we go checking this year!

Why do we need nest boxes?

The basic problem facing all of these animals is an extreme shortage of natural tree hollows, because the old trees were heavily cleared decades ago, and the regrowth forests are still far too young to have many hollows.

New boxes to place

As well as checking the older boxes, we'll also be placing some new boxes to help the animals move around the district in search of better food reserves. This is critical for breeding females, as they need the best food to provide enough milk for their babies.

The extra boxes will also provide crucial shelter for juvenile gliders when they leave their parents' territories at the start of the next breeding season.

Why check them every year?

Regular checking is important so that we can find the extent of local populations, the habitats they prefer, the breeding success of particular colonies, and barriers to their movement across the landscape.

We also need to get accurate reports of unwanted species (such as feral bees) taking over our boxes, so that we can remove them at a later date.

What do the results tell us?

Results from several years have given conclusive evidence that gliders need the fertile soils along creeks to breed successfully. Our records also show that gliders move out of the dry hills down to the creeks every summer, and they absolutely need continuous corridors to do this safely.

continued over page

Noticeboard

Nest Boxes for Rare Species *(continued from page 5)*

So any major breaks in the tree cover along roadsides or creeks become serious barriers to glider populations. Isolated 'islands' of habitat have proven empty, because gliders are taken by predators and there are no possibilities for replacement! Solid information like this makes it possible to know what needs doing and also where to do it to make the most difference.

Possum boxes for mistletoe control

We will also monitor 30 extra boxes that were specifically designed for Common Ring-tail and Brush-tail Possums. These boxes are all located in heavy mistletoe infestations to re-establish a population of these hungry possums as a natural biological control for mistletoe.

GPS fixes

Most of the box locations have been recorded by GPS, so visiting groups can find the boxes more easily. At the very least, it will help confirm your location if you are a bit uncertain.

Please use **GDA 1994** co-ordinates to ensure you are at the correct nest box. Look for UTM/UTS WGS 84 in your GPS menu.

Bush navigation

These weekends provide an excellent opportunity for bush walkers to practise their map reading and navigation skills while looking for the nest boxes. The sites are all mapped carefully on 1:25,000 contour maps and brief access and location descriptions.

Activities: Checking nest boxes to see the wildlife at home
Recording data for our ongoing research investigations
Sharing insights from our day's observations
Spotlighting wildlife after dark (if suitable conditions)
BBQ tea (BYO food and drink)

Meals: BYO lunch and drinks for Sat and Sun, we are out all day

Accomm: BYO food and drink for the Saturday night BBQ
Free accommodation at Benalla Scout Hall if needed
Mattresses supplied
BYO sleeping bag and pillow
Minor kitchen facilities available
BYO tent if you prefer to camp outside

Meeting:

9:30 am Sat Dept Sustainability & Environment, Sydney Rd, Benalla

6:00 pm Sat BBQ at Lake Benalla, beside Shire Offices,
Fawckner Drive

9:00 am Sun Dept Sustainability & Environment, Sydney Rd, Benalla

Do come and join us. It's the perfect opportunity to see these beautiful little animals up close, and the data collected will help us refine our habitat works. It's also a great way to meet some new people, while you're all having some fun together in the great outdoors.

Personal gear: Sun screen, hat, sturdy shoes, long trousers
Sock protectors to keep out grass seeds
GPS unit for easy location of boxes (if you have one)

Group gear: Please let me know if you can bring any extra equipment,
eg: • 5-6 metre extension ladder
• roof rack and rope to carry ladder
• tow ball to carry a ladder on a trailer

Bookings: Please let me know the number of people expected and any of the extra group equipment you can supply

Contact: Ray Thomas
ph (03) 57 611 515
email ray@regenthoneyeater.org.au



A family of Squirrel Gliders rest safely for the day in one of our nest boxes. The boxes are a virtual 'motel chain' of safe havens all across the district!

SIMPLE GOURMET GRANOLA

With this recipe I think I've found the perfect, most delicious and healthy bushwalking breakfast – in fact, the best breakfast anytime! Once you've tried it you won't want to eat store-bought cereal again. I've mentioned it to a few people when walking, and thought it might be nice to share it via the newsletter and/or Facebook, so have attached the recipe and a picture of it 'in the wild'.

It's nice with fresh fruit when base camping, or with milk of any kind, or on its own eaten straight from a snap lock bag when pack carrying due to its crunchy texture. It's full of good things so very sustaining, and you can make it to your own taste by varying the basic recipe with the alternatives suggested. My favourite additions are ground cinnamon, cardamom and ginger; pumpkin, sunflower and sesame seeds (I use these in place of coconut), and after baking – goji berries, cacao nibs, chia seeds and flax seeds. Yum!

The original recipe comes from this healthy food blog: <http://mynewroots.org/site/2011/12/simple-gourmet-granola-mnr-healthy-holiday-gift-guide-2/>



Deb Shand

Ingredients:

- 4 cups rolled oats (not instant)
- 1 cup raw almonds, chopped
- 1.5 cups flaked coconut
- 1/4 tsp. finely ground sea salt (1/2 tsp. coarse, pummeled)
- 1/3 cup liquid honey (or maple syrup, agave)
- 4 Tbsp. coconut (or macadamia oil, ghee, or butter)

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. In a small saucepan over low-medium heat, whisk oil and honey together.
3. In a large bowl combine oats, almonds, coconut, and sea salt.
4. Pour oil and honey mixture over dry ingredients and stir very well to coat. Place on a cookie sheet. Bake for 10 minutes; remove from oven and stir. Place back in oven but remove and stir every 5 minutes or so until the oats are golden brown (approx. 25-30 minutes).

Optional Additions

Flavours:

vanilla bean
cinnamon
cardamom
orange zest
lemon zest
cocoa powder

Nuts & Seeds:

pecans
cashews
brazil nuts
walnuts
hazelnuts
macadamia nuts
pistachios
pumpkin seeds
sesame seeds
sunflower seeds
poppy seeds

Dried Fruit

(add after baking):
dates
figs
cranberries
raisins
cherries
goji berries
mulberries
apricots
(unsulphured)

Superfoods

(add after baking):
bee pollen
cacao nibs
hemp seeds
flax seeds
chia seeds

Sarah B's Favorite Combinations

Pecan + Date
Cardamom +
Pistachio + Mulberry
Walnut + Fig
Vanilla + Cashew +
Cacao Nibs
Pumpkin seed +
Cranberry
Hazelnut + Apricot
Goji + Hemp

A MULTI CYCLE TRAIL TOUR

Route: Yarra, Gardiners Creek, Anniversary, Outer Circle , Yarra, Merri Creek, Inner Circle and Moonee Ponds Trails.

Date: Saturday 12th January 2013

Weather: Fine, 24 degrees, SW wind

Riders: 6 ladies, 11 men

Distance: 62 km

We met at Federation Square and Sue, who was leading her first cycle trip, was as cool as a cucumber. Some people who lead for the first time are understandably nervous – not Sue. She knew what had to be done and did it very well. After the usual circle of introductions and numbering off and appointing a whip Sue had us on our way at 9:30 am sharp.

We followed the Yarra to the junction of Gardiners Creek, a stop here for several minutes for some members to discard jackets and then off along Gardiners Creek to a little south of Alamein where we switched to the Anniversary Trail which in fact is the old route of the outer Railway Circuit which ran from Hughesdale to Fairfield. This section from Alamein is a very pretty trail as it winds its way through parklands, taking in Ashburton, Burwood and Hartwell. There is one very short steep and another long climb on this section. We crossed over a few main roads en route, namely High St, Toorak Rd, and Riversdale Rd. We stopped for morning tea at Town and Country Gardens café in Whitehorse Rd, Deepdene.

From here the trail crosses Whitehorse Road, then through parkland to the junction of Harp Road and High and Valerie Streets. Following along Valerie St, we arrived at the old Outer Railway bridge. From here we took the Yarra Trail east to Banksia Park and then about another 1 km to the Heidi Galleries where we had a much needed lunch. After lunch we backtracked to the bridge, then a climb to the track leading down to the river which we followed for a short distance to the Merri Creek Trail. Derrick and Gina left us here and shortly after passing Rushall railway station Jopie and Jenny left us.

At this point we left the Merri Creek and continued on the Inner Circle railway line – now defunct like the Outer Circle system. Lars left us somewhere here in North Fitzroy and Karl and I left the group at Royal Park railway station. The rest of the group were going to have afternoon tea at The Premises in Kensington but as the time was getting late, Karl and I said our farewells at Royal Park and went by train to Mentone.

By this time only seven of the seventeen who began the ride were left to have their afternoon tea and then continue on with the Moonee Ponds trail to Docklands and then back along the Yarra River to Federation Square. It was an excellent ride. Thanks to Sue for taking us on this interesting route.

The people who participated on this ride were Sue Ralston (leader), Phil Brown, Karl Spasingar, Max Casley, Jopie Bodegraven, Jenny Flood, Derrick Brown, Gina Hopkins, Lars Lindahl, Julie Mason, Ross Berner, Howard Friend, Val Bourne, Fiona Gallery, Mark Heath, Stewart – and myself,

Art Terry



ROTAMAH ISLAND – 11–13 JANUARY 2013

In the footsteps of Royalty...

Charles and Diana visited Rotamah Island in 1985. Our visit in January 2013 was rather more low-key but equally memorable.

After spending Friday night at the campsite at Emu Bight, we drove down the dusty road to Point Wilson where our charter boat (an ex-prawn trawler) picked us up and escorted us to tiny Rotamah Island (4 × 1 km). We schlepped our stuff (including kilograms of water) to our site, 1.5 km away and got ourselves comfy.

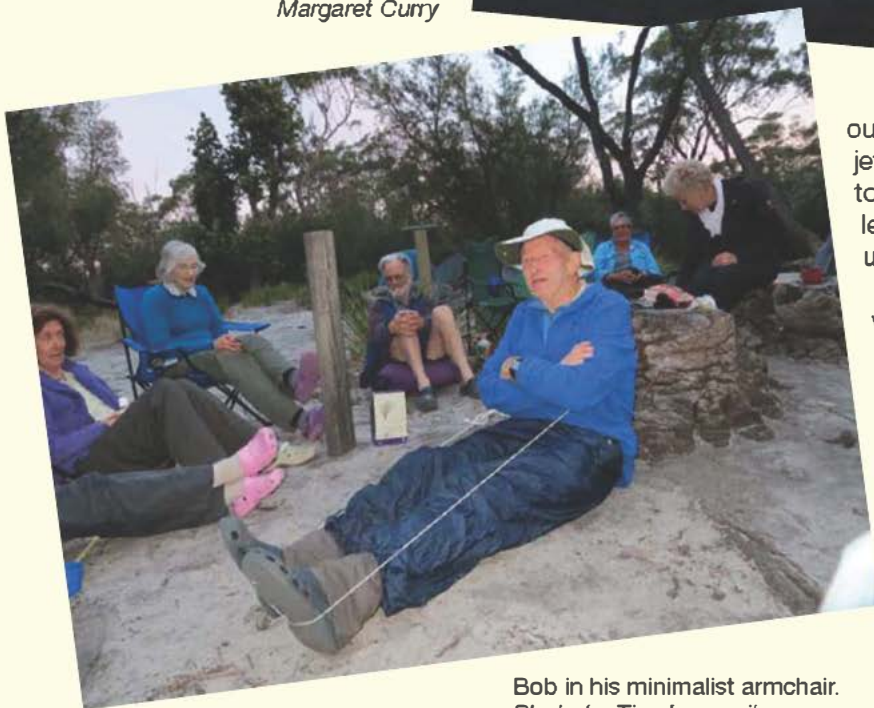
No time to get complacent – we were rounded up at 1 and set off for a trek round the island. The island is tiny and bisected by Lake Reeve but we managed to clock up a few kilometres on flat easy paths through eucalypt woodland, ending with a walk on the ninety mile beach and a swim for a few takers (delicious!) We spotted a couple of seals and later a couple of dolphins – some of us got in some practice with the zoom lens here!

A pleasant social evening thanks in part to those hardy walkers who included a bit of wine and nibbles in their food bags. Also on this night Bob took the opportunity to demonstrate his minimalist campsite armchair (see photo).

A varied program for Sunday morning with a few takers for an early swim back on the surf beach, some went bird-watching while a few others made a short walk around the campsite until 10:00 am. Then with lighter packs we got



Sunset on Lake Victoria.
Photo by either Bob Oxlade or
Margaret Curry



Bob in his minimalist armchair.
Photo by Tina Leeuwrik

our stuff back to the jetty. There was time for another walk to the other end of the island and a leisurely lunch before we were picked up at 1:00 pm.

Humans who attended the weekend: Bob, Margaret, Debbie, Angela, Wendy, Lesley, Del, Leo, Vijay, Susan, Fay, Jerry, Catherine, Cathy, David, Deborah, Kate and Tina. Animals who attended the weekend: kangaroos, pelicans, swans, seals, dolphins, a hermit crab and a couple of huntsmen wanting lodging in someone's tent.

Thanks Bob for a great weekend.

Tina Leeuwrik

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.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

MAROONDAH RESERVOIR-DONNELLY'S WEIR

DATE 10 March 2013
 STANDARD Easy/Medium
 DISTANCE 12 km
 ELEVATION 100 m
 LEADER Chris Schirlinger
 TRANSPORT Car
 AREA Maroondah Reservoir Park
 MAP REF Melway map 270, Parks Victoria
 FIRE BAN DISTRICT Healsville, Central
 TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Healsville
 TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON) \$6.50

This promises to be a nice quiet walk in the Maroondah Reservoir Park and up to Donnelly's Weir where we will have lunch.

The spillway is not flowing at this time of the year, but the dam has plenty of water and the forest, while a little sun burned in places, is still green.

There aren't too many hills but there will be a short climb in a few places.

Since this is a fairly short walk, we should have plenty of time after the walk for a coffee and cake in Healesville on the way home!



BASE CAMP

BRYCE'S GORGE (WITH PEREGRINE WC)

DATE 18-22 March 2013
 STANDARD Easy/Medium
 LEADER David Laing and Cathy McLeod
 TRANSPORT Private
 FIRE BAN DISTRICT East Gippsland
 TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Wonthaggi

This camp is a Monday to Friday camp (Monday and Friday are travel days) run in conjunction with the Peregrines Club from the Bass Coast.

The plan is to camp a few kms before Bryces Gorge with walks to Bryces Gorge, Mt Howitt and a third to be decided.

Due to the fires I still cannot do the detailed preview for this News.

I will review the viability for this camp in early March. Any updates/cancellation will have to be done via the website.



PACK CARRY

RODGER RIVER GORGE-SNOWY RIVER NATIONAL PARK

DATE March 28 to April 1 2013 (Easter)
 STANDARD Medium
 DISTANCE 50 km
 ELEVATION 900-150-500 m
 LEADER Bob Oxlade
 TRANSPORT Private
 AREA East Gippsland
 MAP REF Vicmap Yalm y 8523-S 1:50,000
 FIRE BAN DISTRICT East Gippsland
 TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Orbost
 TRANSPORT Approx 850 km return

The Rodger River Gorge is situated 35 km north from Orbost. It is about 2 km long and just before the river's confluence with the Snowy River.

Thursday night camp will be at Raymond Creek Falls Picnic Area which is about 400 km from Melbourne. On Friday morning we will do a 3 km return walk to the Falls before driving back 10 km to Yalm y road. This will enable anyone leaving late on Thursday to maybe stop on the way and meet us at Yalm y road on Friday morning.

We then drive to Rodger River Track (leaving a car(s) on the way) for a 10 km walk to the river camp. This includes a total of 330 m ups and two drops of steep descent totalling 500 m to the river. An overall descent of 300 m.

Saturday. 18 km walk on Moonkan Track with a few minor ups and overall 300 m descent to camp at the Rodger River again. The track is mostly along the crest of a narrow ridge between the Snowy and Rodger Rivers which are only 1 km apart in one spot and 300 m below to the Snowy.

Sunday. A 9 km return walk with day packs. This is on track to an old homestead site, then along banks of the river, maybe through thick scrub and slippery rocks to the Gorge and cliffs above.

Monday. We have just 7 km and 350 m climb to the car(s). We then have to retrieve the car(s) from our beginning at Rodger River Track before heading home.

The Gorge is described as spectacular with walls only 2 m apart in some places and sounds like it will be well worth the visit.

I hope you are interested to come along to this different area for the club. If so, please see me in the clubrooms.
 Bob Oxlade.



BASE CAMP

COBBERAS – NATIVE DOG FLAT

DATE 28 March – 1 April 2013 (Easter)
STANDARD Medium, Medium/Hard
 (all optional as this is a base camp)
DISTANCE various
LEADER Geoff Mattingley and assistant
 Wendy Fortington
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME Monday evening
AREA Melway ed. 29 and above: map 623 C10/
 D10. Also VicRoads Country Directory map
 52 C8/D8
MAP REFERENCE: NSW 1:50,000 Suggan Buggan 8524-S
 second edition, OR Vicmap 1:50,000 Willis
 8524-S
FIRE BAN DISTRICT East Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Gelantipy

After a successful trip last year, this great base camp returns to the program. The location is Victoria’s Alpine National Park, close to the NSW border and Kosciuszko National Park. Native Dog Flat is a beautiful sub-alpine campsite at 1200 m altitude, only 15 km from the source of the Murray River, with plenty of camping space, fireplaces and table, a Parks Victoria toilet, and superb views from the nearby peaks. The upper Buchan River runs right through the campsite – hopefully there will be plenty of water in it this year. The day walks in past years have been Mt Cobberas No.1, Mt Stradbroke, and Ram’s Horn (Buchan Rock) – all of these have clear rocky tops with uninterrupted views. Most walking is on 4WD tracks or marked foot tracks, but there is some through the bush following a marked route. Of course you can just enjoy the mountain air from the campsite – since you don’t have to carry anything (we camp beside our cars), you can take luxuries such as a folding chair, gas lamp, extra food etc. You can arrive at the campsite any time from the Thursday onwards and stay for as long or short a time as you wish. It’s a fair distance to get there, including some gravel roads, but they are quite OK for ordinary cars. For those who haven’t been camping before this is a good opportunity to try it without having to carry a heavy pack. As always, the club has tents and a wide range of other equipment for hire from the clubrooms.

Detailed information about the walks, directions for how to get there, and information on road conditions will be available in the clubrooms on Wednesdays 20th and 27th March.



SUNDAY BUS

SWITZERLAND RANGE

DATE Sunday 31 March 2013
STANDARDS Easy and Medium
DISTANCES 14 kms and 17 kms
ELEVATIONS Easy – mostly downhill
 Medium – 450 m ascent
LEADERS Halina Sarbinowski and Theo Metzandis
TRANSPORT Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA North of Yea
MAP REF Dropmore, Yea and Molesworth 1:25,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Seymour

The Switzerland Range Flora Reserve, located north of Yea, is a small reserve nestled among farmland that is an oasis for native birds and animals of the area.

The Easy walk is on track and mostly downhill, with views if the day is clear. It starts east of Highlands to finish near Molesworth, passing through native forest in the Switzerland Ranges Flora Reserve and open farmland.

The Medium walk starts with a 450 m off track climb to the summit of Mt Broughton before joining the route through the Flora Reserve to finish with the Easy group near Molesworth and the Goulburn River.

The highlight of both walks is the views down to the Goulburn River which snakes its way below the tracks followed. The views, the ambience and the curiosity of the local farm animals encountered on previous walks (see photogallery 18 April 2010) has ensured that these walks have become favourites of many walkers.



TOFS WALK

THE DOMINO TRAIL

DATE Thursday 4 April 2013
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 10 km
LEADER Rosemary Cotter
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Trentham, north-west of Melbourne
MAP REF Melway 609 E10
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

This trail meanders through the tall timbers of the Wombat State Forest which is the habitat of the endangered Powerful Owl, and follows the route of the old Trentham Railway (part of the line that once linked Daylesford and Carlsruhe). It was closed to rail traffic in 1978. There is history to be seen along the trail, including a wooden bridge built 1870 and remains of a foundry built in 1893.

The trail is graded easy and is mostly on level ground. Trentham is 97 km north-west of Melbourne. Meet at the heritage-listed railway station at 10:15am for a 10:30 am start.



SUNDAY BUS

STRATH CREEK FALLS

DATE Sunday 7 April 2013
STANDARDS Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCES 9 and 12 km
LEADERS John Fritze and Michael Murray
TRANSPORT Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA North Central
MAP REF Mt Disappointment Outdoor Leisure Map
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Seymour

In this walk we will be exploring one of Victoria’s old gold mining areas, both on and off track. We will inspect Strath Creek Falls, follow creek gullies with cascades and small waterfalls (probably dry), pass through open grassy woodlands, tackle short but steep climbs and negotiate some pleasant tracks. Although the distances are short there will be rock hopping and scrambling up and down steep pinches to make it all worthwhile.



WEDNESDAY WALK

SPRING CREEK – NORTH BRISBANE RANGES

DATE Wednesday 10 April 2013
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 12 km
LEADER Jopie Bodegraven
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Brisbane Ranges west of Melb
MAP REF Ingliston and Staughton Vale 1:25,000
 Bacchus Marsh 1:50,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Geelong

This is quite a varied walk through typical dry open Brisbane Ranges forest but with some extras. These include a 1.5 km section of creek rockhopping, two quite steep but not too long uphill and one more gradual but longer climb. One section has some lovely views over the Spring Creek Valley. Other than the creek section, there is about another 1.5 km off track. I have kept the distance shortish so that we can take our time for the creek and uphill sections. I can lengthen it if there is an overwhelming demand for that!!

We will meet at 10 am at the Sapling Gully Picnic Area. Go to Bacchus Marsh and head south on the road to Geelong. About 1.1 km south of the central roundabout or about 400 m south of the Werribee River bridge, turn right at the roundabout into Griffith St. Travel 7.9 km further and turn right into Glenmore Rd, then a further 1.0 km turn left into Reids Rd. Then after another 7.8 km turn left into Aeroplane Rd, a narrow, winding but OK gravel road. It is a further 1.4 km to Sapling Gully.



CYCLING

STRATHBOGIES-EUROA CYCLE BASE CAMP

DATE 13-14 April
STANDARD Easy / Medium
LEADER Jopie Bodegraven
MAP REF RACV Regional Goulburn Murray Waters.
 Vicroads Country Directory, Euroa and
 Nagambie 1:100,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Seymour

This weekend will consist of two lovely rides through rolling Strathbogies farmland sprinkled with granite outcrops, Saturday night camping or cabinning in Euroa and dinner at a local pub. It seems as best I can tell that it is all on sealed roads. Both rides use a car shuffle to start with so that we start much higher than we finish; 380 m higher on Saturday and 260 m higher on Sunday, meaning predominantly downhill rides. You beauty!

We will meet in Euroa at 10:00 am near the toilets in Brock St between Binney and McGuinness St. There is a bakery and coffee shops in Binney St just around the corner for the earlybirds. We will then drive off to our start point, so leave bikes on/in the cars. Saturday's ride will be about 64 km with about 360 m of climbing but a lot more whizzing downhill. Lunch will probably be in Strathbogies. Does anyone know if you can buy coffee there? We camp Saturday night at the Euroa Caravan Tourist park ph 5795 3034. I will organise the camping but if you wish to rent a cabin you will need to book

that yourself. Let me know if you want to share a cabin so I can put you in touch with others of a similar mind. Sunday's ride is longer but has less climbing, 72 km with only 220 m of climbing. Afternoon tea will be at a coffee shop in Euroa.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

MT FRANKLIN GORGE – TARILTA CREEK



DATE Sunday 14 April 2013
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 15.5 km
ELEVATION 470 m in short, sharp sections
LEADER Ian Mair
TRANSPORT Car Pool – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Upper Loddon State Forest
MAP REF Guilford 1:25,000
TRANSPORT COST \$13
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Ballarat

This delightful walk in a relatively isolated section of the Upper Loddon State Forest provides an opportunity to enjoy open the box-ironbark forests of the goldfields region as we follow a route that combines a section of the Great Dividing Trail with off-track walking along undulating ridge lines and grassy flats beside the course of Tarilta Creek, all with minimal 4WD road walking.

The walk starts out on the Great Dividing Trail (GDT) along a short section of 4WD road to get us warmed up but soon heads off along interconnecting ridge lines high above the adjacent creek valleys with views across the nearby hills and plains. After leaving the GDT we will make our way off-track as we head towards an intersection with the Tarilta Creek. Surprisingly, as we make our way through apparently untouched bushland, we will criss-cross an old water race to remind us of the areas gold digging history.

After reaching the creek we follow it upstream along its un-tracked banks, and occasionally along the dry creek bed, as we loop back towards the cars. Although parts of the area were touched by a controlled burn in March 2012 this does not detract from the beauty and isolation of the place which has since recovered well. If we are lucky we will likely spot swamp wallabies, eastern grey kangaroos, echidna and the colourful eastern rosella which were all spotted on the preview. We may also see a fox or two.

Walkers should be prepared for walking on sections of rough rocky terrain and through dense waist high undercover. Good footwear and protection for arms and legs are recommended. We will also cross the creek bed numerous times but, provided we do not experience heavy rain, this will be relatively easy going.



MOFS WALK

MARIBYRNONG RIVER, AVONDALE HEIGHTS

DATE Monday 15 April 2013
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 10 km
ELEVATION Undulating
LEADER Alister Rowe
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Avondale Heights
MAP REF Melway 27
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

Meet in the carport at the end of Lily Street, off Buckley Street (Melway 27 J4). We'll walk upstream along the Maribyrnong River to Solomons Ford at Melway 27 B8 and return. Crossing Solomons Ford is optional.

For public transport access there may be a bus along Buckley Street from Essendon Station. If not I could meet the train no later than 10:00 AM.



BASE CAMP

BLACK RANGE STATE PARK

DATE 19-21 April 2013
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 16 km on Saturday and several short walks
ELEVATION Some modest hills.
LEADER Ian Mair
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Western Victoria, 340 km NW of Melbourne. Range parallel to and west of Grampians
MAP REF Mt Talbot 1:25,000, Black Range 1:25,000; Country Roads Directory 55 C3
TRANSPORT COST \$58
FIRE BAN DISTRICT South West
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Hamilton

Black Range State Park (11 700 hectares), like the popular Grampians National Park to the east, protects rugged and spectacular bushland and provides for excellent bushwalking. Similar in character to the Grampians Ranges, it is important for fauna conservation, contains a rich and diverse flora and has highly significant Aboriginal art sites. Mudadgadjiin Shelter (Bunjil's Cave) is located in the Black Range State Park and is the only rock art painting of Bunjil known. It is widely regarded as one of the most significant cultural sites in south eastern Australia. In Aboriginal Dreamtime of the local tribes, Bunjil is a principal legendary hero, the creator who provides for all and remains as a protector of the natural world, his people and their beliefs. When Bunjil finished his creation works he transformed into an eagle, flying high into the sky, where he still lives today.

Vehicle-based camping at Burren Campground adjacent to the Rocklands Reservoir is a popular activity during holiday periods but we should find it relatively quiet on a normal weekend, making it an ideal time to go despite the distance from Melbourne. Fireplaces are provided but visitors must bring all other facilities.

A long walk commences at the Mudadgadjiin Picnic Area and leads to the top of the Black Range, providing excellent views. The walk continues south along the range to Muirfoot Track. Wedge tail eagles can sometimes be seen gliding past at a similar height. More adventurous walkers can choose to continue along Muirfoot Track to a walking track leading to Mount Byron (an elevation of 520 metres) or return to the picnic area.



SUNDAY BUS

ROSEBUD FORESHORE - ARTHURS SEAT

DATE Sunday 21 April 2013
STANDARD Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES 15 and 18 km
LEADERS David Laing and Arron Laki
TRANSPORT Bus - Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Mornington Peninsula
MAP REF Parks Vic 2 Bays Walk, Arthurs Seat section
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Frankston

Both walks cover a section of the Mornington Peninsula coast then climb up Anthony's Nose towards Arthurs Seat. We follow the Two Bays track just below the top of Arthurs Seat and beyond it to Kings Falls circuit. Then back up towards Arthurs Seat via the TC McKellar circuit, Seawinds Gardens and several lookouts.

There are great views from several points looking down the Peninsula on both the bay and back beach side.

The Easy walk is probably on the medium side of easy due to both distance and the climb up Arthurs Seat. I would not recommend this walk for first timers unless they have had previous experience with bush walking.



SOCIAL WALK

SEAFORD BEACH AND KANANOOK CREEK

DATE Thursday 25 April 2013
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 5 km
ELEVATION Flat
LEADER Jean Giese
TRANSPORT Train
AREA Seaford
MAP REF Melway 99
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

A train journey to Seaford will enable us to walk south along a path near the beach and return on a foot track beside Kananook Creek, which should be very pleasant in autumn. Lunch in Seaford.

This walk will be on Anzac Day and the Railways say they think the trains will be on a Saturday timetable, but will not be sure until about a month beforehand. Assuming it is a

Saturday schedule, we will meet on the Frankston platform at Flinders Street in plenty of time to catch the 9:18 train, arriving Seaford at 10:15.

Note: I omitted to list the May Social Walk on the Autumn Programme. It is planned for Thursday 23 May in Valley Reserve, Scotchmans Creek.



BASE CAMP

NORTHERN GRAMPIANS – MT DIFFICULT, MT STAPYLTON

DATE 25–28 April 2013
 STANDARD Easy/Medium
 LEADER Roger Wyett
 TRANSPORT Private
 FIRE BAN DISTRICT Wimmera
 TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Horsham

Details of this walk will be in next month's *News*. It may have to be relocated because of the bushfires.



DANDENONGS EXPLORER

DATE Saturday 27 April 2013
 STANDARD Easy/Medium
 LEADER Maureen Hurley
 TRANSPORT Private
 FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
 TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Dandenong

Details of this walk will be in next month's *News*.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

SAILORS FALLS – DAYLESFORD CIRCUIT

DATE Sunday 28 April 2013
 STANDARD Easy/Medium
 LEADER Max Casley
 TRANSPORT Car Pool – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
 FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
 TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Ballarat

Details of this walk will be in next month's *News*.

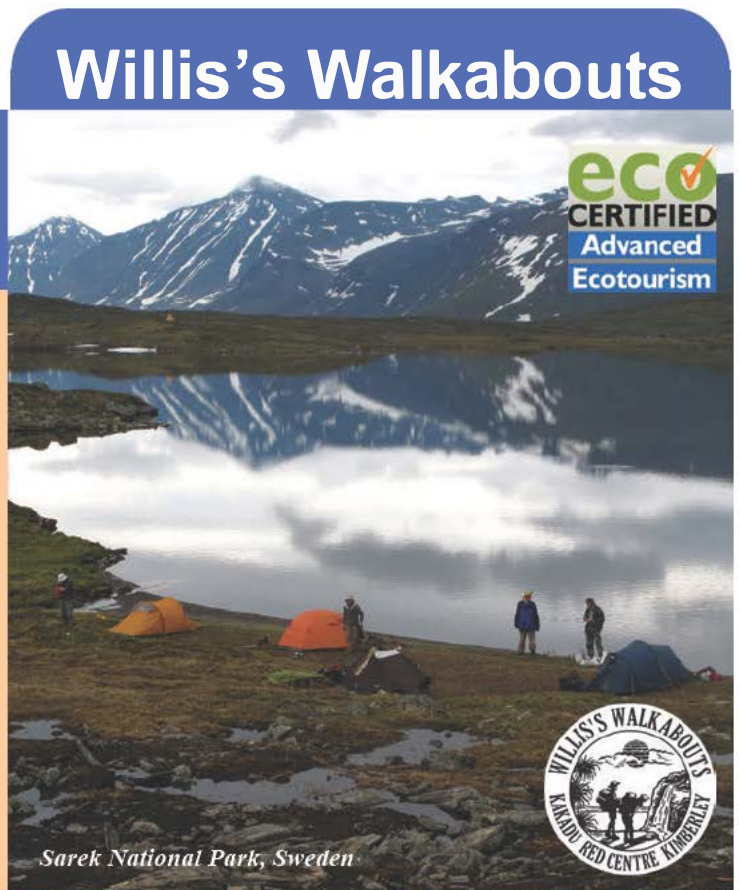
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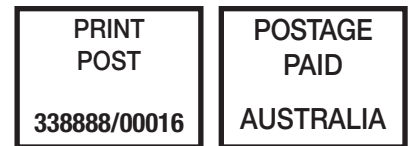
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Bus transport meets at Southbank Boulevard, south side of the Arts Centre, before 8:45 am. Leader or deputy will be there rain, hail or shine!

April 2013					
Thu 4	Domino Trail	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Rosemary Cotter
Sun 7	Strath Creek Falls	Bus	E/M & M	CN:se	John Fritze & Michael Murray
Wed 10	Spring Creek–Northern Brisbane Ranges	Pvt	E/M	CN:ba	Jopie Bodegraven
13–14	Cycling: Strathbogies (Euroa Base Camp)	Pvt	E/M	NC:se	Jopie Bodegraven
Sun 14	Mt Franklin Gorge – Tarilta Creek	Car	E/M	CN:ba	Ian Mair
Mon 15	Maribyrnong River, Avondale Heights	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Alister Rowe
19–21	BC: Black Range	Pvt	E/M	SW:ha	Rosemary Cotter
Sun 21	Rosebud Foreshore – Arthurs Seat	Bus	E & E/M	CN:fr	David Laing & Arron Laki
Thu 25	Seaford Beach and Kananook Creek	Car	Easy	CN:me	Jean Giese
25–28	BC: Northern Grampians–Mt Difficult, Mt Stapylton	Pvt	E/M	WI:ho	Roger Wyett
Sat 27	Dandenongs Explorer	Pvt	E/M	CN:md	Maureen Hurley
Sun 28	Sailors Falls – Daylesford Circuit	Car	E/M	CN:ba	Max Casley

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 - 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.

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