



A very popular Easter at Thredbo

The attraction of Australia's highest peaks has proved very popular, with over 70 booked on this year's Easter trip to Kosciuszko National Park, making it one of our biggest trips ever. Demand was such that, although initially ruled out, a second lodge has been secured at Thredbo for the club's exclusive use, however even that is just about full.

To anyone going, enjoy yourself and show your appreciation to David Sisson for the many many hours he spent organising it. Send any photos and stories about it to yhabush@bigpond.com, for a feature article in the winter Yeti.

Queens Birthday in Queensland...

Lamington National Park is part of a world-heritage listed rainforest region extending from the Gold Coast hinterland along the border with NSW. A network of over 160km of walking tracks encompass many spectacular lookouts and waterfalls along the Scenic Rim, the ridge of mountains formed from the caldera of an extinct volcano.

A trip is planned there for the Queens Birthday long weekend (June 10-12), flying to Brisbane then hiring a car or minivan depending on numbers. The official walk (a pack-carry) is only for three days, but you can easily spend some extra time either at Lamington or elsewhere such as the Gold Coast. If you are interested, you will need to book as early as possible both to obtain a cheap flight and also camping permits – the park is extremely popular with Queenslanders, and they have a long weekend at that time as well. Contact Simon, 9867 6902 for more details.

...or camp in the Mallee

The winter months are the best time to enjoy the Mallee region, with mild temperatures making for comfortable walking whilst providing a warmer alternative to Melbourne. For the first time in a decade we visit Wyperfeld, 450km NW of Melbourne. With the highest point barely 100m (ideal for those who don't like climbing!) the region doesn't have the same spectacle as the more mountainous areas east of Melbourne, however the open spaces of dunes, spinifex, and (usually) dry lakes have a magic of their own. Enjoy the mobs of kangaroos, birdlife and mallee sunsets either as a base-camp or pack-carry. If there is sufficient interest (25-30 people) a coach will be organised. Enquiries: Ken 9853 1017.



Tim and Simon, two of three successful expeditioners to undertake the hair-raising climb to Federation Peak (full story p3) *photo:Kenton Johansen*

Also in this Issue

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Bushwalking Committee Vacancies

This year's AGM will be a critical one, as all four main office-bearers (President, Treasurer, Walks Secretary and Secretary) will be stepping down from their positions. While it looks as if there are volunteers for President and Secretary, the other two are less certain. It is likely that the Walks Secretary role may be split in two between Sunday and Weekend/Saturday walks.

New committee members are urgently needed. If you enjoy walking regularly with the club, remember that it takes a bit of work behind the scenes to keep the club ticking over and schedule walks and social events throughout the year. The more people willing to help out, the easier it will be for everyone on committee.

The 2006 AGM is 8pm Monday April 3rd at the normal YWCA Clubnight venue. Please show your interest in the club by attending. If you are interested in joining either as a general committee member or taking on one of the special roles (particularly Treasurer) and would like to know a bit more about it, have a chat with Simon or one of the current committee members beforehand.

**YHA BUSHWALKING COMMITTEE
2005/06**

President	Simon Walliss
Secretary	Greg Shepherd
Treasurer	Andres Vidovic
Walks Sec.	David Sisson
Social Sec.	Cynthia Bell
S & R	Ken Sussex
Website	Vicki Caravias
Newsletter	Stephen Smith
General	Sarah Anthony
	Ron Bell
	Stuart Hanham
	Catherine Koh

YHA Bushwalking emergency mobile phone
(For emergency contact on walks) 0428 313 880

General Enquiries: 0500 500 272

CONTRIBUTIONS TO YETI

These articles don't write themselves y' know, nor are they all plagiarised from the internet (well some of them aren't anyway). If you've enjoyed yourself on one or two YHA trips or have some thoughts about bushwalking which you'd like to share, then here's your opportunity to do so. Find a spare moment, jot them down then email them to yhabush@bigpond.com. Deadline for the next issue is May 27th 2006.

YETI ONLINE

"Yeti" has its own website www.vicnet.net.au/~yhayeti containing an online version of the latest issue as well as archived articles from past editions. The web versions are well worth visiting, as they often include additional photographs not able to be included in the print version for reasons of space, as well as superior reproduction.

TRIP LEADERS

If you wish to have a brief description of your upcoming trip printed here in YETI please contact the editor with the details.

YHA ACTIVITIES CLUBNIGHT

Is held on Monday nights at the YWCA building, 1st floor 489 Elizabeth Street in the city, from 8pm to approx. 9:30pm. Special events start at 8.15pm sharp, everybody welcome.

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

If you recognise an article in this newsletter it is probably because it has been plagiarised from another source. This is the only way we can bring you this newsletter. YETI makes no apology for any offence caused.

YETI THANKS

The following contributors to this issue:

Ron Bell
Tim Brooks
Peter Eames
Catherine Koh
Tom Lun
Richard Miller
David Sisson
Petras Surnas
Robert Yuen

**Review of licence fees for public land access
- could bushwalking clubs have to pay?**

The Victorian State Government is reviewing the current licensing arrangements under which tour operators and outdoor activity providers may access public land, a definition encompassing national parks, state parks, state forests and reserves. The draft policy may have some major implications for bushwalking clubs such as YHA. Currently commercial tour operators are required to pay a licence fee, however this does not apply to educational institutions, non-profit organisations or clubs.

The new draft policy proposes a broadening of the definition of "commercial" in an attempt to stop situations whereby exempt organisations (eg educational, non-profit bodies or charities) have either contracted out outdoor-activity services or operated as a business themselves, gaining competitive advantage over tour operators required to obtain a licence. Unfortunately one of the new criteria for commercial activity, if "an entry, participation or membership fee is collected to cover indirect (and) direct expenses" also appears to include clubs. A further statement "where the activities of non-profit and charitable organisations meet the above criteria, such organisations are considered to be undertaking a commercial activity and require a licence" adds cause for concern.

The impact on YHA Bushwalking, would be an annual license cost of at least \$5,000 under the proposed fee structure, requiring a doubling of the existing booking fees. On more optimistic note, another paragraph in the same section "It follows that schools, clubs,... that provide a broader public benefit... should not require a licence to conduct such activities" conflicts with the earlier statements. It is to be hoped that the final policy is worded so as to clearly exempt community-based bushwalking clubs from any licence requirement. A copy of the Directions Paper (section 2.1 contains the points of interest referred to here) can be viewed online at www.dse.vic.gov.au/licencereforms. The closing date for public comment and submissions is March 29th 2006.



On the hottest day of the 2005/06 summer in SE Australia, it was still possible to have a snowball fight. Stephen and John entertain themselves on the Kiandra-Thredbo walk, which in contrast to the Federation Peak trip (see p3) experienced eight consecutive days of fine sunny weather, with sunscreen and insect repellent proving more useful than a waterproof jacket or fleece.

(photo: Tom Lun)

Federation Peak - December 2005 Expedition

YHA's nine-day trip to Federation Peak in southwest Tasmania over the New Year was the longest walk I'd done in terms of duration. Not length though – it was only a couple of kilometres longer than the club walk from Castlemaine to Bendigo last Queens Birthday, which took 3 days. And despite the rugged terrain, I don't think it was as physically taxing as a previous NZ walk I'd done, with more climbing & descending in much hotter weather.

While you had to be moderately fit, you didn't have to be in peak condition like an athlete. More essential was some mental toughness and determination, to cope with several days walking through chocolately muddy bogs often knee deep (I 'found' one waist-deep hole). Also, you had to not be fazed by days of rain, pitching the tent in rain, occasional tent leaks, packing up in rain, and putting the same wet gear on again for the eighth day in a row! Feet were only dry in the sleeping bag overnight. Also, at points along the way you had to grit your teeth and do whatever was required to get to the next destination (one case in particular was a climb up a section of steep gully (read: waterfall) after 7pm when no other route was available).

The landscape was one of unbelievably craggy rock towers, in keeping with a *Lord of the Rings* movie. Fortunately we had a few half-days of blue skies to be able to appreciate it. While bagging the peak was a proud moment, the epic journey was an achievement in itself. Climbing and descending the approx 1000m Eastern Arthur range was made more interesting by mud cliffs, but there always seemed to be plant roots to hang on to or haul yourself up by. The prickly scoparia made us thankful that there was an established track.



*The author dragging himself towards the summit
(photo: Kenton Johansen)*

Federation Facts

- At 1224m it isn't Tasmania's highest peak, but is arguably one of the most remote and spectacular.
- Was first climbed in January 1949
- The area averages 2400mm of rainfall annually
- Less than half of groups doing the walk receive favourable enough conditions to reach the summit



YHA Federation Peak expedition 2005 (clockwise from left – Tim Brooks, Simon Walliss (leader), Mike Cahill, Chris Kouts, Dion, David Sisson, PeterEames & Petras Surnas, plus Kenton Johansen behind the camera)

Discussion topics while walking included theories of contemporary relationships (with many experts divulging their discoveries), the environment, economics, politics, philosophy, psychology, religion, history, gastronomics, music, research methods, lightweight bushwalking gear, and the influence of Trotskyism in the development of the twentieth century Swedish economy. Karaoke also formed an amusing diversion for the most monotonous sections of the walk. These activities certainly kept the grey matter active, to balance the workout that the physical body was getting.

I thought it was a challenging & exciting walk, unlike any trip I'd ever done before. Thanks to Simon Walliss & YHA Bushwalking for the opportunity. And thanks to Koutsy for carrying several kilograms worth of excess food and making my meagre rations more palatable with those beans on the final dinner!

Tim Brooks

Tips for Tasmanian expeditioning

Southwest Tasmania can produce some of the harshest hiking conditions in the world, ones which severely test equipment. *Petras Surnas*, an experienced walker nevertheless learnt a few lessons from his Tasmanian odyssey which he shares on his website

- Take a tent that is one person bigger than you need. This helps you stay away from the soaking wet tent walls on rainy nights. Tents with less than 3 poles are unlikely to withstand strong winds well.
- Make sure your sleeping bag has a weather resistant shell of Dryloft or Epic. Two within the group didn't and ended up absorbing water like sponges.
- Only 3 ply Goretex will do in South West Tasmania; the scrub is extremely damaging. Best to take a good quality jacket but light disposable rainpants.

In Profile - Peter Eames



How long have you been walking with YHA? 11 years

What attracted you to the club? Walking, socialising with people of similar interests. I'd been a frequent user of hostels for some time and impressed with YHA since an early age.

First walk? The Crinoline, still my favourite weekend walk. The first time I did it I carried enough water for four days

Favourite walk? Flinders Island (Easter 2003), fantastic variety of scenery, some good experiences including some rare night-bushwalking (actually a day walk that finished a few hours late!).

Walk from Hell? Howitt to Baw Baw (Alpine walking track, December 2001). Huge climbs then descents every day, we started walking in snow, progressed to rain then ended up with heat. Then to cap it all off, one of the group injured his shoulder and we had to evacuate him.

Daftest thing you've done on a walk? Forgot to take a map on a walk I was leading.

Funny Moment? Charmaine trying to get down off a ledge, slipped, did a total somersault, landed on her feet then carried on walking as if nothing had happened.

Best Food? Half a barbecued chook (done before the walk, with cool weather).

Worst Food? Ate a whole can of anchovies as a lunchtime snack, couldn't stop drinking for several days afterward.

Destination you'd most like to visit? In Australia, the Blue Mountains, elsewhere South America.

Favourite TV show? Survivor.

Best thing about a weekend in the bush? The feed at a pub on the way home

Advice for new walkers? Just do it!

Bush Recipe

Cath's Chinese Fried Rice in the Bush

Serving size: medium portion

Ingredients (from any local supermarket/grocery)

1 packet	Instant rice (chicken or Thai spicy flavour)
1 sml can (125g)	Sweet corn kernels (drained)
2 sticks	Chinese sausages "lup chong" (sliced into ½cm thick pieces)
1 sml can (95g)	Tuna in brine (drained)
½ tsp	Thyme
¼ lemon	Juice

Method

1. Heat the pot and add the sliced Chinese sausages to dry fry until fragrant and oil oozes out from the meat and fats.
2. Remove the sausages and retain the oil.
3. Cook the rice according to the directions on the packet, then add the reserved oil to the water.
4. When the rice is cooked and flavoured with the seasoning from the instant rice packaging, add in thyme, lemon juice, corn, Chinese sausages and tuna.
5. Stir and mix well.
6. Meal is ready, eat whilst hot. If you are base-camping, or able to carry it, enjoy with a bottle of dry white wine.



Buon appetit! - *recipe contributed by Catherine Koh*

For Sale

Stove Trangia (incl 500ml fuel), \$100

Tent Salewa micra, good condition \$80

Head-lamp Aurora l.e.d, new, \$60

contact John 9460 7153

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Boots Scarpa size 8, 18 months old, \$200

Sleeping Bag Aurora Mt Tarlo, 9yrs old, down-filled, good condition, \$60

contact John 9435 4965

Dr T's Walks from the Vault

3 – “THE PIQUE OF MT PINNIBAR”

The Australian Alpine walking track runs from Walhalla to just outside Canberra, however the NSW extension came late; for many years it ended at Tom Groggin station in Victoria. The new route crosses the Murray River in the Cobberas, where it is little more than a creek, however there was a curiosity amongst a few of us to see what remained of the original route from Tom Groggin to Mt Pinnibar. Much of the area, including Mt Pinnibar itself is criss-crossed by 4WD tracks, the only “remote” part being the Hermit Range just outside Tom Groggin.

And so at Easter 2001, seven of us set off for Mt Pinnibar under a clear blue sky, first crossing the upper reaches of the Murray River and then following the dirt track to Tom Groggin Station where we were greeted by the station manager. He wasn't at all impressed with our plans, regaling us with stories of the many hours he had wasted rescuing lost and injured bushwalkers in the thick bush surrounding his property. We attempted to convince him that we were experienced walkers and navigators, indeed some were members of Bushwalkers Search and Rescue. He still wasn't impressed - “that's what all the others said. I warned them but they wouldn't listen...” Undaunted, we continued on, picking up two day's supply of water in readiness for the climb up the ridge. The old map showed a water tank half way along the range, but it was bound to have long since rusted away, so we weren't relying on it.

The track up the Hermit Range was located without any problems and in excellent condition, probably because it went through to the Murray Gates and seemed to be a popular horse trail. Eventually we reached the high-point of the track and had to leave it to climb a spur up to the ridge line – that's when the fun started. At the sight of the thick scrub, one walker dropped his pack and refused to go any further, however there was no other option but to proceed, so he morosely tagged along behind. Our progress along the ridge was very slow; it was clear that few people came this way anymore. We frequently came across old Alpine Walking Track markers – there was no trouble navigating - the problem was that the track they once lined had long since become overgrown. With light fading fast, we were desperately seeking anywhere suitable for a campsite. Luckily we found a few fairly flat, not too scrubby, spots on the ridge-line just before sunset.

The next day was more of the same; the weather was perfect and afforded occasional views down to Tom Groggin Station, however it was slow going, especially through a section of thick regrowth after fire. We reached a Trig Station with an old Indi Track marker; further on a clearing marked the spot of a helipad and amazingly the old tank was intact and held some very valuable water.

We had planned to reach Mt Pinnibar by the second night, but we ran out of daylight with a few kilometres to go; again we found the only suitable camping area for some distance right on sunset. The next day we pushed our way through what the 25 year-old map indicated as a

“track”, eventually reaching a real 4WD track late morning. Needing water for the night's camp on the summit of Mt Pinnibar, we realised that it would be a long descent to access water in the creek below. While we were discussing our options a 4WD convoy (aka mobile water supply) came past. Impressed by what we'd done (although they couldn't understand why anyone would want to do it), they let us fill up for the night. One walker in training for a big navigation event ran to the summit with full pack, while the others took the easy option and walked. In a display of environmentalism a large area was cleared of low lying scrub and rocks to make a flat and comfortable platform for his tent; the rest of us just put up with the ground as it came (lumpy and uncomfortable).

Another walker, having suddenly regained his energy after straggling through the scrub for the past two days wanted to head off to Mt Gibbo, but the rest were content to laze around the summit, enjoying the view (Main Range to the north, Mt Bogong in the distant south) and the continuing run of perfect weather. Quite a few 4WDs and motor cyclists visited the summit during the afternoon, but they were all based near the Murray River, leaving us a peaceful campsite on the summit.

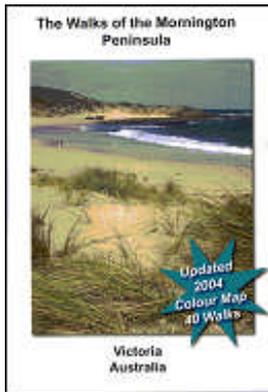
The final day was a straightforward descent on 4WD tracks back to Tom Groggin Station, although the manager wasn't around to notice we'd survived. In a weekend of ups and downs, the final annoyance was a couple of infringement notices on the car windscreens for entering a New South Wales National Park without a permit. We'd spent all but half an hour of the walk in Victoria but had to pay \$30 per vehicle (luckily the ranger only visited for two out of the four days) for the privilege. On top of this one walker was grumbling about the cost of petrol (funny how some things never change); despite the almost 1000km round trip, he only had \$20 with him and claimed to have difficulty paying. The driver was adamant however – either pay the estimated amount or walk home. The passenger ended up in front however, as the ATM in Wodonga spat out an extra \$50 note on top of what he officially withdrew.

On the final day, we walked 18km in 4.5 hours, compared with 7km along the Hermit Ridge in just under 10hrs on the second day. Our curiosity had been both satisfied (Hermit Range won't reappear on the programme in a hurry), but also aroused by the other tracks in the area we'd seen but didn't have time unable to explore.



Murray River crossing at Tom Groggin

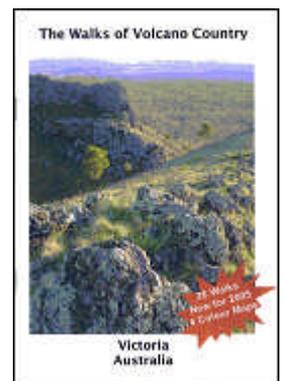
Book Reviews



Ken Martin. *The walks of the Mornington Peninsula*. Third edition. Seadrift Publishing, 2004. 40 pages. \$13.00.

Ken Martin. *The walks of volcano country*. Second edition. Seadrift Publishing, 2005. 32 pages. \$12.00.

Ken Martin's books are very much a personal production. In *Walks of the Mornington Peninsula*, he describes 40 well chosen walks and in *Volcano Country*, 27 inland walks in the Western District. The booklets are closely A5 page. The walk descriptions are well written and informative, with distances and estimated times, but they are hard to trace without maps -



which have been a standard feature of walking guide books for 30 years. The lack of photos also handicaps the walk descriptions as there is no better way to get a real feeling for a walk than to see parts of it.

In summary; these are well written amateur guides with a good selection of walks, but handicapped by their lack of design, maps or photos.

David Sisson.

Bushfires Aftermath

Bushfires once again affected a number of national parks this summer. Although the areas will recover much more rapidly than the devastated Alpine national park, a number of locations are still closed.

Kinglake – Entire park is closed except for the Masons Falls picnic area

Brisbane Ranges – Steiglitz and the northern section are open, however the Anakie and Little River Gorge areas are still off-limits.

Lake Tali Karng – All tracks and camping areas are now reopened following the fires just before New Year.

Grampians – Most roads and picnic areas have reopened, with the remainder expected to be available by Easter.

Leaders planning walks to any of these regions should be aware of the fire damage and survey the region if they intend running a trip there after they have reopened.

Naked Ramble 2 : Bride of the Naked Rambler

British serial nudist Stephen Gough has once again taken lightweight walking to extremes with a sequel to his 2003 hike across the length and breadth of the scepter'd isle. In true sequel style, the plot was identical to the first – trek Lands End to John'o'Groats, frighten a few little old ladies, get arrested several times, spend more time in gaol than actually walking and only get to finish it in winter when it was too cold and bleak for anyone else to be around to complain. To broaden the public appeal this time however, he had a love-interest, Melanie, accompany him throughout the journey.

Further adventures are planned:

- Same as before, but in the opposite direction back to Lands End (**Naked Rambler Returns**)

- Same as before, but stalked by a mysterious invisible creature, with nothing (absolutely nothing) but his wits to defend himself with (**Naked Rambler vs Predator**)

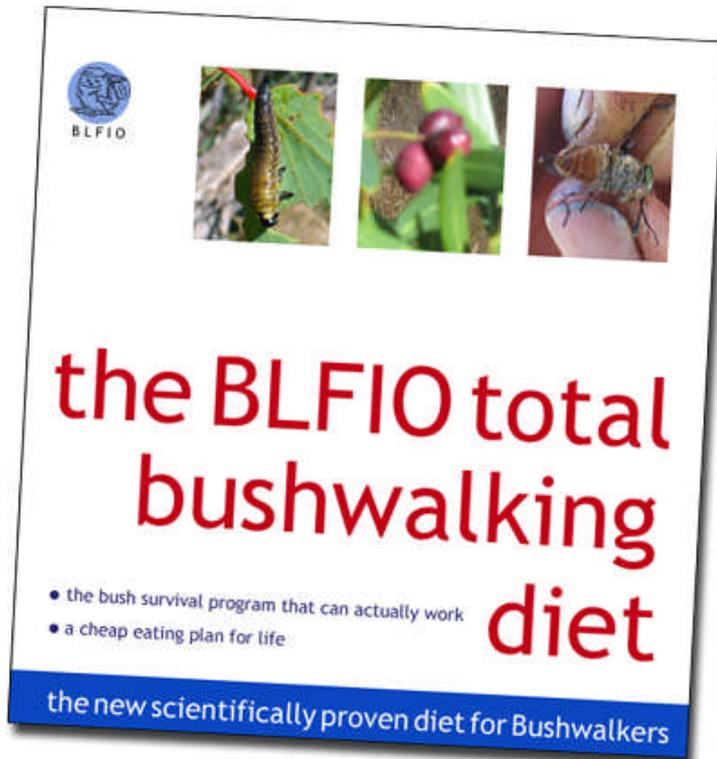
- Same as before, but this time trekking the length and breadth of the former Soviet Union, evading capture by former Soviet secret police, rushing bare to avoid the Russian Bear (**Naked Rambler 5: Mission to Moscow**)

- And finally, recognising that any character development actually occurred decades ago, the Rambler's hesitant origins coyly streaking between villages are explored in **Naked Rambler 6: A Nude Beginning**.



"Would you Adam and Eve it, we've finally made it!"

Equipment News - The Ultimate Bushwalking Diet?



Yeti is proud to present a sneak preview of the latest bestselling diet publication. Produced by the BLFI Organisation, the book's meals are based on the inclusion of something from each of the four BLFI food groups – Berries, Leaves, Fungi and Insects.

Well laid out, the book consists of over 100 recipes based around plants and insects commonly encountered in south-east Australia. Of surprise to many will be some of the things listed as edible. Did you know for instance that within a march fly lies a tiny droplet of caramel-flavoured honey, or that spitfires, either sauted or naturale, can provide a tasty snack. The book's tips on how to live off the land can improve your chances of surviving a weekend in the bush should something disastrous occur like a possum stealing your BBQ-Shapes.

The book has attracted a bit of controversy already, with some nutritionists questioning its endorsement of a relatively large larvae component in many of its recipes. "I fail to see the health benefit of a diet containing so much wriggly protein" claimed another dietician whose own book hasn't sold very well.

Even Green groups, expected to applaud the use of entirely natural foods, have criticised some aspects of it, claiming the delicate ecological balance of sensitive environments could be upset if the book gives too many a taste for the outdoors. Said a spokesperson "if everyone who spies a Bogong moth gobbles it up instead of being content to watch it flutter by, there won't be too many left. Plus, we've only just got the cattle out of the high country, the last thing that it needs is large groups of walkers being encouraged to forage there instead".

You be the judge – *the BLFIO Total Bushwalking Diet* is scheduled to be released at the beginning of April, rrp \$39.95



Dear Dr Telemark

Advice on any personal difficulties you may be having with life in the great outdoors, all handled with Dr T's trademark delicacy and sensitivity.

Dear Dr T,

On a recent base-camp, I made the mistake of pitching my tent next to the club's veteran nymphomaniac-in-residence. I was then kept awake all night by the sound of her entertaining her latest pick-up. Many times I felt like banging on her tent and asking them to keep the noise down or relocating myself to the other end of the campground, however I felt too embarrassed to do so, as they would realise I had overheard them. What is your advice in case I find myself in this situation again?

*Yours Sleeplessly,
Jealous Bystander*

Dear JB,

How can you like spending a weekend in natural surroundings yet are unable to enjoy the sounds of nature in full flight? I've spent many a memorable night entranced by the mating cries of all manner of creatures from the latin rhythm of cicadas to the thrash-metal screeching of Tasmanian devils. And yet here you are complaining about love calls of the same species. My advice is don't just lie there, go and join in. I once found myself sharing a campsite on the Great South West track with a party from the Catholic Women's Walking club – I won't go into details, suffice to say I slept very well afterwards, awakened only by numerous "Hail Marys" as they all sought absolution next morning.

Or maybe you can get yourself some earplugs?

Ta for now,
Dr T.

Autumn Programme Highlights

How to Choose a Backpack

Choosing a suitable backpack, and knowing how to adjust it properly, is an important part of bushwalking. The weight needs to be distributed so as not to place undue strain on parts of the body such as the hips or shoulders – getting it wrong, and the ensuing discomfort is a frequent reason people are discouraged from overnight walks. The pack itself is also put under a great deal of stress – withstanding it for more than a few walks is the difference between a cheaply made and quality product.

Clubnight early May, Garry Ritchie will give a talk on what to look for in a backpack and demonstrate how to fit it. Also featuring will be a look at some new lines of backpack products especially designed for women.

Lorne hostel weekend – May 20-21st

Enjoy the beauty of the Otways, staying in one of the most picturesque settings of any Victorian hostel. Day walks to waterfalls and lookouts amongst the rainforest.

Cost is \$45 members/ \$49 non-members and must be paid by May 1st – book early as there are only 20 places. Further information, Ron Bell 9338 4057/042 938 4057.

Something adventurous...

Butcher Country is the name given to the range of hills between the Macalister and Caledonia rivers, accessible from the Tamboritha-Howitt Rd north of Licola. The area is a popular 4WD destination (a track runs the length of the ridge), but not visited much by bushwalkers due to its remoteness. YHA hasn't visited the area for at least a decade, however an exploratory pack carry is planned April 29-30th. You definitely need to be a fit, experienced pack-walker for this, however for those looking for something a bit different and who don't mind not knowing quite what to expect, this will appeal. Further information, Simon 9867 6902.

Also in the Licola area, but further downstream on the Macalister river, an easier walk to The Sugarloaf and other peaks south of the Crinoline will be led by Peter Eames on May 20-21st.

...or an interesting beginner walk

An Sunday walk suitable for beginner walkers with an interest in history is to Chewton (May 7th).

Located just outside Castlemaine, the area features relics from the gold-mining era, some still in use such as the Expedition Pass reservoir built in 1870 as a water supply for Bendigo or the mine-shaft where one of Melbourne's gangsters was recently disposed of, while others such as the Welsh Village and Garfield Waterwheel make for fascinating ruins.

Lake Eildon base-camp May 6-7th

Eildon National Park is about two hours drive from Melbourne, just a little too far for Sunday walks, a shame as it offers some good day-walks. Although the water levels have been down for many years now, the lake still provides a spectacular backdrop viewed from the surrounding hills.



May 6-7th, a "short-weekend" (meaning it doesn't leave until Saturday morning) base-camp is planned at Lake Eildon, with walks around Blowhard Spur and Estate Spur. The walks are graded "medium-plus" as there are quite a few steep ups and downs to get to the viewpoints around the lake. At night, enjoy a campfire and BBQ at a very picturesque location. You'll need a tent and basic camping gear (although you don't need to carry it anywhere). More information, bookings: Catherine 0423 162 924.

YHA Bushwalking presents the annual

BUSH DANCE

Featuring *"BLACKBERRY JAM BUSH BAND"*

No experience needed - All dances are called



Friday May 5th, Collingwood Town Hall

Tickets: \$18 pre-purchased, \$22 at the door (if available)

Tables of 12, with one free ticket per table sold

Ticket Sales – Ron Bell 9338 4057(h)/0429 384 057