



Bushfire Aftermath

Once again bushfires have devastated a large area of Victoria's national parks. This time the main affected area was the section of the Alpine NP which escaped the 2003 fires, although a deliberately lit blaze near Mt Beauty impacted the Kiewa Valley and Fainters Region between Falls Creek and Mt Hotham, which had barely started to recover from the earlier destruction.

Craigs Hut was a very high profile casualty, however given the extent of the fires, the surprisingly good news was that most other huts were unscathed. Despite rumours about their demise, popular huts such as Macalister Springs (Vallejo Gantner), Bluff and the two on Mt Stirling appear to have survived. The main loss was Westons Hut

Despite its lack of historic interest or value as a refuge, it is virtually guaranteed that a new Craigs Hut will rise phoenix-like from its ashes. Its popularity as a tourist attraction in the Mansfield district will ensure pressure from local businesses to rebuild it (if the fires hadn't intervened, this summer would have been spent expanding the car-park to 36 4WDs and building a 2WD park further down). The fate of Westons Hut is less certain. Out of range of day walks from Falls Creek or Mt Hotham, it wasn't as well known or frequently visited as other huts in the area, but was an attractive campsite with historic value as a cattleman's hut dating back to 1932. Many high plains huts have already been rebuilt at least once due to fire, however since the 2003 fires, it has become difficult to obtain permission (let alone resources) to rebuild huts unless they are considered to be important as a shelter.

At the time of publication, only the section west of the High Plains Road (eg Mt Nelse Spion Kopje, Fitzgerald & Cope Huts) and Mt Bogong is open. Popular areas around Mt Hotham such as Mt Feathertop, Mt Loch and Mt Tabletop are closed, however as they weren't burnt it is expected they will reopen soon (before the Labour Day weekend) once the general fire threat from the Kiewa Valley eases.



Social secretary Andrew Stevenson wakes up the day after the formal dinner party at Craigs Hut. Several months into the role, Andrew is far from burnt out and has lined up plenty of social events for the start of 2007 - details p5. Alas the same can't be said of Craigs Hut, a casualty of this summer's Alpine bushfire (photo: Bruce Meincke)

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**YHA BUSHWALKING COMMITTEE
2006/07**

President	David Sisson
Secretary	Stuart Hanham
Treasurer	Cynthia Bell
Walks Sec. (Weekends)	Paul Gottliebson
Walks Sec (Sundays)	Sing Wong
Clubnight Coordinator	Catherine Koh
Social Secretary	Andrew Stevenson
Search & Rescue Rep	Simon Walliss
Website	Hooi-Soon Khoo
General committee	Ron Bell Ken Sussex

Yeti Editor (non-committee) Stephen Smith

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 Feb 22nd 2007.

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

Take advantage of the opportunity to promote your upcoming trips in YETI with a more detailed description than space in the programme allows. 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:

Paul Gottliebson
Bruce Meincke
David Sisson
Andrew Stevenson
Robert Yuen

President's Report

The club's annual Christmas dinner and awards night went very well, and demand was well above the places available. Thanks to Andrew Stevenson, our social secretary, for organising an outstanding night and persuading suppliers to donate the prizes. The first award, the Golden Boot, for the most days walking in 2006 was won by Robert Yuen.

We occasionally award life membership of the club to members who have made major contributions to the club for at least a decade. We were very pleased to announce that Stephen Smith is the fourth life member of the club. Stephen has for led innumerable walks for the club, he revitalized the club's walks programme during his years as walks secretary and more recently he has transformed *Yeti* from a four page news sheet into the publication it is today. Stephen will be awarded a plaque and a Golden Tripcard in the new year.

Competition was intense for the club's most prestigious prize, the Silly Billy. It is awarded to the person who achieved the most amusingly daft act of the year. Nominees included:

- A supposedly 'expert' navigator who got lost while acting as whip on an easy walk on a good track.
- An employee of an outdoors shop who couldn't erect her own tent and when she finally did, it fell down in the rain.
- An experienced walker who went for a walk in the rain on the Main Range of the Snowy Mountains without a raincoat and equipped only with a lightweight umbrella which, not surprisingly, was shredded within five minutes.
- A walker who proudly boasted of his new, specially imported \$1,000 tent. This tent leaked for 10 nights in a row in Tasmania, while a \$60 Kmart tent on the same trip was the only tent that didn't leak.
- The prize was eventually won by Ken Sussex for an outstanding effort. Ken led a 'short' trip from his campsite to Tin Mine Falls, just north of the source of the Murray River. "Don't take any food" he said, "We'll be back before lunch". Ten hours later, Ken was starving and had to have a rest and a lie down, before eventually returning to camp well after dark.

In summer the walks we run are different than in other seasons. It's not practical to have walks in warmer areas, but the drier weather opens up cool, wet areas such as the High Country and Tasmania.

The club has grown to a size where the committee can't be aware of what everyone is thinking, so thanks to everyone who has provided feedback. The most frequent requests I've received are for more challenging day walks and for introductory overnight walks. There have also been a few comments about walks changing destinations at the last minute. I've passed this on to the walks secretaries, but the walks we offer are dependant on what our leaders offer to run. So if you've done a few walks with us and are reasonably confident in the bush, please contact the walks secretaries and offer to lead a walk yourself. I can send you modern track notes for most places in Victoria.

David Sisson

Thanks to the following companies that donated equipment to the club in 2006. Yowie Snowshoes, MacPac Equipment, Mystic Mountains Outdoors at Narbethong (near Marysville) and especially Anaconda at Bayswater. Please consider them when you are buying outdoor equipment.

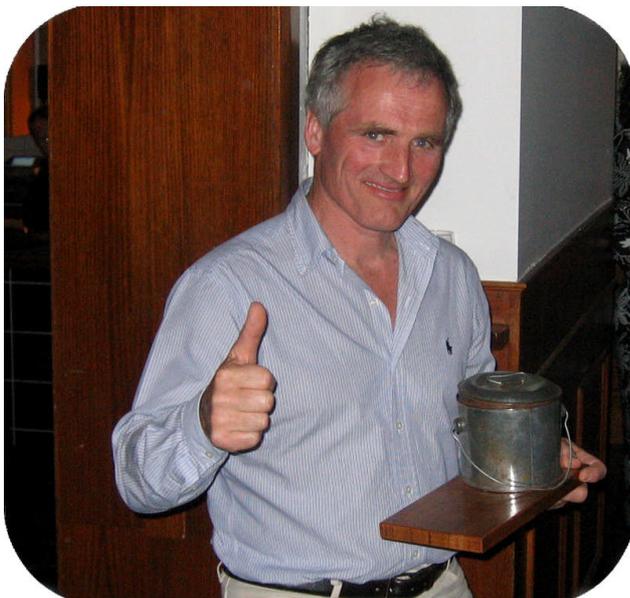
What a Great Night!

The Christmas break-up dinner is usually the most popular social occasion of the year, however the turnout to the 2006 event at the Imperial Hotel eclipsed anything else for at least a decade, with over 80 people attending. Despite that it didn't seem crowded, although it wasn't until a large contingent had left after 11pm that there was room enough for a hard-core group to take the dance floor and groove until after 1am to hard-working organiser Andrew Stevenson's selection of 80's classics!

One reason for its popularity may have been the generous number of prizes Andrew managed to obtain from various donors – the challenge was coming up with means of giving them away. This wasn't the only factor however, as attendances at social events increased notably in 2006, with regular fixtures such as the Colin and Christine's summer twilight walks surprising their organisers with exceptionally large numbers.



One of the happiest at the Christmas break-up was Sarah, winner of the grand prize, wondering what to do with all the space. Looks like a good party tent for upcoming base-camps.



Ken Sussex, pleased to finally win the Silly Billy award after being far too sensible for too many years.

Golden Boot Winner



Robert Yuen shows off his Golden Boot, while President David waits in the wings to present the 'Silly Billy'. Robert reflects on why he enjoys walking with YHA...

I am thrilled that I won the Golden Boot this year ! It is a great honour !!

For me the most memorable walk of 2006 was Croajingalong (East Gippsland base-camp) on Melbourne Cup weekend. It had the longest drive through the parks to reach our starting point (we were very lucky no cars broke down in the middle of forest).

The walk itself was classified as "M", however, due to the challenging nature of the ever changing weather, I consider it should have been upgraded to "MA" (Most Arduous); sunny when we were having our breakfast, raining heavily while we were doing the uphill battle, and windy while we were in our tents.

The walk was also very colorful; the muddy hilly track, the sandy hilltop (a small area covered with fine sand, projecting an image of Sahara desert amidst the very green surroundings), and a rocky walk along the seashore. Plenty of leeches and kangaroos...

We also had a group of very liberating thinking individuals; who were able to talk freely about everything without any gender barrier; philosophy, politics, English literature, human sexual behaviours and garlic to name a few topics of conversation!

This trip was the first time I felt the impact of my own B.O. as well as the other passengers in the car. I had also experienced one pair of socks for three raining days!! (no wonder, the smell inside my tent was stronger than Chanel No.5). After all that, I really enjoyed the walk.

I would like to thank our friendly YHA Bush walking club members for their acceptance and never complaining about my "garlic addiction"; it is such a joy to be with them.

I would also like to thank the leaders of the walks, without their perfect preparation and second to none organisational skill, I would be hesitant to join their walks.

I am now considering bush walking is better than sex !

Robert Yuen

What's New in 2007

Fortnightly Clubnights

From January 2007, Clubnights will only be held fortnightly, however every meeting will feature a special presentation such as a slideshow, video or talk with an outdoor activity theme. Clubnights without a guest speaker haven't had large attendances, so it was decided to focus the committee's efforts on running fewer but more worthwhile evenings. So check the programme carefully before making the trip into the city.

As well as the special presentations, Clubnight is still the forum for general enquiries about bushwalking, trip bookings and obtaining copies of the latest programme and newsletter.

Slideshows over the next few months cover places as diverse as Alaska (Feb 19th), the gruelling Kokoda Trail (Mar 19th) and a trek through the mountains, medinas and marketplaces of Morocco (Jan 22nd).

Trip payments via the internet

Internet banking has been provided as an option for booking on the major accommodated weekends – the first to trial it will be the Labour Day and Easter trips. Payment by cash or cheque at Clubnight will still be available, however it is hoped that the direct banking option will make it more convenient for those who don't have a cheque account or who have difficulty getting into Clubnight.

Bank account details and instructions are obtainable from the trip leader – even if you already know these (they are provided with the emailed programme), the banking transaction is not an automatic trip booking – you must still contact the leader beforehand to confirm places are available and provide your booking details (ie address, contact numbers).

Note that we are unlikely to offer booking by credit card in the foreseeable future, due to the relatively high costs involved for a small operation as ours.

Leaders' email addresses

Where available, the soft-copy of the walks programme includes a link to directly email the leader of a listed event. This was actually introduced with the Spring programme, however if you aren't on the email list you may not be aware of it – another reason to join. Email addresses are intended to complement, not replace, the use of phone numbers when booking on a trip. In order to use them effectively:

- Don't email the leader any later than the Monday before the walk. Many of the emails are private rather than work addresses and may not be checked daily.
- Include contact numbers, preferably evening. Signing the email with your full name is also helpful.
- If you need information about a walk that will determine whether or not you will book for it, a phone conversation with the leader is highly recommended.



Clubnight Jan 22nd – The Mystique of Morocco

New Website Address

Our website has moved to www.yhabush.org.au. It still looks the same (for now), but we have vastly more disk space, providing the opportunity to store higher resolution photographs and even host videos if there are any budding filmmakers coming along on our walks. Also, the new address is easier to remember; the previous one was difficult to spell out to people, as an estimated 43% of the population didn't know what a tilde (~) meant!

Sunday walk destinations

A New Year's resolution will be to try harder to ensure that the Sunday walks go to where they are advertised! During spring about half ended up being relocated, often to suburban trails rather than a day in the bush as promised. Advice about most of these changes was emailed a few days beforehand – another reason to join our email group if you are a regular walker.

Although last spring was a bad run, the occasional walk change will always be necessary due to reasons beyond our control such as storm or fire damage. By being part of the YHA-Bushwalking email group, you'll always be kept advised about any late changes and be among the first to know about forthcoming events – last year's Easter trip to Thredbo was virtually booked out by the time the official autumn programme was published. To join, simply send an email to

yha-bushwalking-subscribe@yahogroups.com.au

Tips for Better Bushwalking

#83 Environmentally friendly cleaning

Faced with dirty pots and pans, but quite rightly don't want to use detergent out in the bush?

Ashes from a campfire are a more than adequate substitute for detergent, even for very greasy dishes. You should still however avoid washing, rinsing or disposing of the dirty water in or near the water supply.

Summer Social Activities

YHA Bushwalking is providing a fantastic Social Activities Programme this summer for its Members!



Do you feel like Spiderman? Then come along on Thursday 18th of January, 7pm for an Indoor Climbing night, at Hard Rock Indoor Climbing in Nunawading.

Contact: Catherine Koh Ph: 0423 162 924 E-mail: alkoh2001@yahoo.com.au



Then it's off to the wilds of St Kilda to see "the African Queen" - be at the Astor Theatre on Saturday 20th of Jan. 7pm for this Movie Classic!

This is part one of our African Threesome!

Attend all three social events with an African flavour (Astor Theatre, Rhythm of Africa & Zoo Twilights) & win a mystery prize!

Contact: Andrew Stevenson Ph: 9530 3129 E-mail: svenlobster@yahoo.com.au



We keep the theme going with an afternoon Safari at Werribee Open Range Zoo, to view Africa's Amazing Animals, then staying on to listen to the Rhythm of African Nights with Musiki Manjaro.

Saturday 27th of January Contact Andrew Stevenson

Ph: 9530 3129 E-mail: svenlobster@yahoo.com.au



Goodness Gracious Me! We take a break from darkest Africa for a night out at "Bollywood on the Park" in Box Hill South.

So come along on Friday 16th of February at 7.30pm, to an Indian restaurant with a feel for that is all Bollywood, be prepared for those impromptu Dance numbers!

Contact Louise Reynolds Ph: 9527 3514 E-mail lourey@dodo.com.au



Wanna jive in the Jungle? - On Saturday 24th of February with Zoo Twilights at Melbourne Zoo with the Moovin & Groovin Orchestra, if you are in the mood for a night of Swing & Jazz, then bring some gourmet goodies & don't forget you're dancing shoes!

You will need to book early for this event, as Zoo Twilights are very popular and tickets will need to be pre-purchased through Ticketek!

This is the final instalment of our African Threesome, with mystery prize draw!

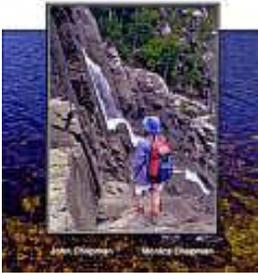
Contact Lynn Goh Ph: 0414 780 828 E-mail: lynn.goh@basell.com



Need some good Khama or a tasty Korma? Then come along to on Saturday 24th of March 7pm to Gaylords Indian Restaurant in Melbourne & be entertained by YHA's own Carlos Ramsey who will cut loose with some classic riffs on his sitar!

Contact Martin Cousins Ph: 9533 2959 E-mail: cousinsm@energetics.com.au

Day Walks TASMANIA

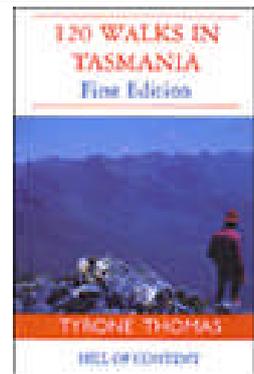


Book Reviews

◀ John and Monica Chapman. *Day walks Tasmania*.
John Chapman, 2003. 192 pages. \$35.

Tyrone Thomas. *120 walks in Tasmania*. ➤
1st [actually 5th] edition.

Michelle Anderson Publishing, 2001. 377 pages. \$24.



There are a number of Victorian guidebooks due to be published soon, but they haven't made it to the shops yet. So instead, with the popularity of Tasmania as a summer destination for club members, I'll continue my coverage of Tasmanian guidebooks with a review of day walk guides. There are plenty of locally produced Tasmanian regional walking guides, but the only two covering the whole state are published in Melbourne.

Tyrone Thomas published four editions of *100 walks in Tasmania*, before increasing the number of walks to 120 for the fifth edition. While many of the walks described are very easy 'family walks', barely lasting a couple of hours, there are still a great number of interesting routes. Despite the high number of walks covered, each has sufficient detail for a moderately attentive navigator to complete without getting lost. As with Thomas's guidebooks for Victoria, the greatest drawbacks are the murky and difficult to interpret maps and the complete lack of book design. With the exception of a few pages of photos, it really is just a typed description of walks, black and white throughout with no attention paid to how the pages look to a reader browsing for ideas. As such, it looks more like a product of 30 years ago than a modern guidebook. This was one of the last books Thomas wrote before his retirement, and while it has many good ideas for walks, it is getting a bit out of date.

By contrast, John and Monica Chapman's *Day walks Tasmania* is superbly designed with an easy to read format, plenty of photos, clear maps, gradient profiles and is printed in colour throughout. While it covers *only* 41 walks, those selected are among the best and include appealing day trips in all areas of the state. The walk descriptions are detailed and clear. Highly recommended.

David Sisson

MT HOTHAM ACCOMODATED LONG WEEKEND 10th - 12th March 2007

Come along on the 2007 Labour Day long weekend to Mt Hotham, for great Autumn Alpine Walking, while staying at the relaxing Jalanga Ski Club Lodge.

Day walks include Mt Feathertop along the Razorback, regarded as one of Victoria's classic Alpine Walks; visit many of the Alpine Huts in the area, including Derrick, Dibbins & Spargo Huts, or just sit back & relax! All walks will be Medium & Medium Plus.

Accommodation: Jalanga Ski Club is a self catering spacious lodge situated between Hotham Village & Dinner Plain, with bunk style accommodation and a comfortable lounge, modern kitchen & sun deck.



Costs: YHA Members \$87, Non Members \$92, including all trip fees!
(Payment by Monday 26th Feb)

Contact: Andrew Stevenson Ph: 9530 3129
E-mail: svenlobster@yahoo.com.au for details.

Please Note: An early expression of interest by mid January is required for this trip!

Croajingalong Coastal Walk - November 2006

Croajingalong is a coastal National Park 427km east of Melbourne. The 100km Wilderness Coast Walk covers the length of the park and this pack carry covered 55km from Thurra River in the western part of the park to Secret Beach near the town of Mallacoota. The walk includes beaches, heath land and rocky headlands and a number of water crossings. We completed the walk over the four day Cup Weekend.

After camping at Cann River Caravan Park on Friday night, the base campers gave us a lift to the start of the walk at Thurra River. As the first day was a short 10km, we walked with the base campers to the nearby sand dunes and to Point Hicks.



We left the base campers at 3pm, a little later than expected. Our feet got wet immediately crossing the Thurra River (*see photo above*), however it was only ankle deep. Continuing along the beach we passed Mueller Inlet, its mouth closed to the sea. Further along we came across a dead Humpback Whale that was a little on the nose.

In less than two hours we reached Gale Hill camp site which is settled about 100 metres back in the scrub. The creek was dry so it was worthwhile carrying enough water for 24 hours (4-5 litres).

A rain shower passed as we headed off the next morning around Petrel Point. It took about an hour of rock hopping to get around to the next beach. Part of a catamaran that was wrecked in 1984 could be spotted amongst the rocks.

No water was found at the next beach as mentioned in some guide books. We headed inland for a few kilometres across Rame's Head - a short side-trip to the top provided excellent views of the beaches to both the east and the west.

One member of the party left their camping mat in one of the base camper's cars. Going ahead to the Wingan Inlet camp-site which is accessible by car, he was lucky enough to obtain a mat for free from another camper.

We reached Wingan Inlet shortly before the scheduled low tide at 3pm. Wingan Inlet is the deepest crossing on the walk and can be over waist depth. To cross the inlet at its shallowest point we had to walk about 100m out to sea; the water was about knee height but was rushing out very rapidly so you had to be steady on your feet.

We then rock hopped around Wingan Point, which was very slow going, then along the beach for 5km to Red River. The Red River camp-site was on a hill overlooking the river about 200m from the beach, an excellent setting. As the water in the river was brackish, two of us set off along to Red River Track to obtain fresh water further upstream. The track was overgrown and the 4km round trip took two hours.



(l-r) Chris, Paul, Andrew and Ben just past Wingan Inlet

The next day we headed inland along the Sand Patch Track which was scrubby in some parts. We reached the beach after 90 minutes; water was obtainable from a small creek beside the steps to the beach. The next kilometre of beach would be the last for the trip as the remainder of the track was inland. We walked along the Benedore Walking Track and skipped the side-trip to Little Rame Head which doesn't offer any views. Flies were swarming in large numbers whenever we stopped, so we tried to keep walking steadily.

Reaching Seal Cove early in the afternoon gave us time to explore the beautiful small beaches. Luckily we had enough water for night as the creek was brackish. That night we sat around a camp fire and Andrew produced a legendary flambé desert.

The next morning we obtained water from the toilet block at the Shipwreck Creek camping area, then headed off along the Old Coast Road which provided good views of the hills around Mallacoota. After a couple of attempts, we located the Secret Beach Carpark where we were to meet the base campers.

I would like to thank the base campers for providing lifts at either end of the track, and to Andrew, Darren, Ben and Chris for their company. I would highly recommend this walk to anyone who likes coastal walking. Just ensure to have enough water and to time your crossing of Wingan Inlet to occur at low tide.

Paul Gottliebsen

More photos of the trip can be found at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/ozgotti/sets/72157594366023706/>

The Tale of Lenny the Adventurous Leech (part 2)

The story so far: *Lenny lived with his large family on a section of the Overland Track, happily spending his time dining on the passing 'Takeaways'. One day however, the hosts stopped coming from both directions and Lenny found himself carried far far away from home...*

Trembling in the grass, a panic slowly gripped Lenny. Many potential hosts marched past, but alas all were headed in the wrong direction. Occasionally an attack of the munchies tempted him to jump aboard for a quick snack, but even though he disengaged himself quickly, a succession of short journeys began to add up until one day he found himself by the edge of a vast lake. Although he had never been there before, he'd heard stories about it and sensed that this was a boundary he dare not go past. No matter how long it took, or how hungry he became, the next ride he took had to be heading north, or he would never see his home again.

Many weeks went past and then – yes the footsteps were definitely coming from the direction of the lake. Trembling excitedly, he positioned himself on a fern leaf and waited. Sure enough the host soon brushed past, pushing the fern northwards. Just as it was about to spring back, Lenny let go of the leaf and dropped onto the boot. At once a strange vapour enveloped him and he began to feel giddy. No!, no!, no! he screamed silently, how can this be happening? The route home would also be the path to madness, for the host he'd chosen was infused with garlic. As baby leeches they'd all been told the story of Mad Ivan, a hitherto healthy leech until the day he supped on tainted blood. Reeking of it, he'd been made an outcast, forced to live in isolation for many months until the odour wore off by which time his mind was permanently glazed.

Desperately hungry, Lenny was unable to feed – maybe if he could hang on long enough, he could still make it home. He soon realised that this wouldn't be possible either – even on outside of the host's socks, he could feel himself being overcome by fumes – he had to escape now while he could still (barely) think straight. Once more in the mud, the hunger pains became even more acute. The next clean passerby had to be the next meal, no matter where they were heading to. Mustering the last of his strength, he struggled onto a boot as it plodded past and crawled exhaustedly to the dining area. No problems with this one – thankfully many hosts shunned the diabolical clove as much as his kind did. Hunger sated, Lenny snuggled up inside a warm gaiter and fell asleep.

Awaking suddenly sometime later, the smell of the bogs, the moss and the mud had vanished, replaced by something altogether strange. Sensing danger, Lenny had to find somewhere to hide. Luckily the gaiter was one of those cheap brands where the velcro strip had started to come away from the material. Lenny had only just squeezed inside this gap when light flooded as the host tore off the gaiter, thrusting it into a bag whereupon it was sealed. Although there was enough moisture and mud to sustain him, Lenny was unable to escape. Having just fed, hunger wouldn't be a problem for several weeks, so it was simply a matter of waiting. As time passed, Lenny felt a sensation of being lifted to a great height, only to be returned to earth a short while later. He waited patiently as his reserves dropped to half full, more anxiously as they fell to a quarter and then began to get worried.

When it happened it happened suddenly – the inrush of fresh air, followed by the gaiters being taken out and wrapped around warm calves. It was the same host; Lenny ended up next to the mark he'd left a few weeks ago. It had been a while between courses, but he wasted no time grabbing a bite of dessert before making a hasty exit. He found himself once again in a bog, amidst plants and smells that were similar yet different from any he'd encountered before. As Lenny contemplated his new surroundings, voices rang out from behind. "Don't move – you're not from around here are you? – I think we'd better fetch Tweedy; he'll decide how the Boobyalla Mob deals with outsiders..."

(to be continued)

Equipment News - Something for Someone Special

With Valentines Day approaching, why not show that special someone that you care by giving her the perfect accessory for a romantic stroll along a beach. At only \$6000, a Louis Vuitton daypack oozes style and sophistication.

Or, for an even more intimate long-distance walk, the matching Louis Vuitton Damier canvas weekend pack at \$9500 will have her gasping, especially after carrying it full of chocolates and champagne.

And finally, a Damiani gold-inlaid 18-carat diamond-studded compass will unerringly point to the direction of her heart.



2006 : How well were you paying attention?

1. The meeting point for Sunday walks is now:
 - a) Spencer St bus station
 - b) Victoria Market
 - c) The Law Courts
 - d) Parliament Station
2. According to Paul Kelly, from St Kilda to Kings Cross is thirteen hours in a bus – for those on the Easter trip how much less was it from Melbourne to Thredbo?
 - a) The same
 - b) 3 hours
 - c) 4 hours
 - d) 5 hours



3. The most likely month to find snow on top of Mt Stirling was.
 - a) January
 - b) April
 - c) July
 - d) November

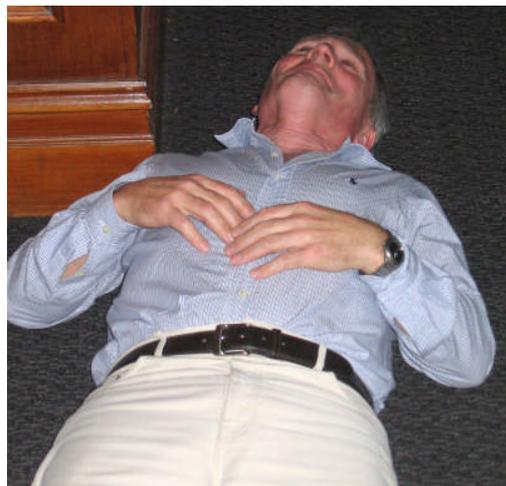


4. A fixture on the Queens Birthday weekend: Gnarled, very ancient and with an extensive network of roots is:
 - a) Old Be-Al
 - b) Old R-Bell
 - c) Old Ar-Bor.
 - d) Old Al-Jaq
5. The ban on Alpine cattle grazing was responsible for:
 - a) The drying up of the Murray river
 - b) The high price of bananas
 - c) The severity of the recent bushfires
 - d) Horse manure on Spring St.

6. The “Terror of Cann River, a suspicious character women on the Cup Weekend walk were warned to beware of and not walk alone at night turned out to be a relatively innocuous:
 - a) Caretaker
 - b) Pet wombat named Cedric
 - c) Truckie
 - d) Member of the YHA Bushwalking committee.



7. The unusual overnight camping equipment being carried above is because:
 - a) The track features a boardwalk
 - b) The trip is to Mt Tabletop
 - c) An accessor for the Formal Dinner weekend
 - d) They are needed as stabilisers on a steep descent.
8. Which area wasn't affected by bushfires during 2006?
 - a) The Dandenongs
 - b) Bogong High Plains
 - c) The Grampians
 - d) Little Desert
9. If you attended our trivia night, you'd know that the southernmost town in Victoria is:
 - a) Foster
 - b) Apollo Bay
 - c) Port Albert
 - d) Mallacoota



10. Ken Sussex (above) is lying prostrate at the Christmas above because he's:
 - a) Doing his Ben Cousins impersonation
 - b) Having recently turned 60, he needs to have the occasional lie down
 - c) Re-enacting of part of his epic, Silly-Billy award-winning, walk
 - d) Enjoying a post-coital nap

Answers: 1c, 2b, 3b, 4a, 5d, 6d, 7c, 8a, 9b, 10c

Caption Competition



Win a prize by coming up with the most amusing caption for the above photograph.

Conditions of Entry:

1. You may provide up to five suggested captions – anything after the first five will be ignored.
2. Email your entry to yhabush@bigpond.com (Subject: "Caption competition") by February 28th 2007.
3. Members of the current YHA Bushwalking committee and Yeti editor are not allowed to enter.
4. The winning entry will be published in the Autumn 2007 edition of Yeti.
5. Judging will be done by the Yeti editor and two members of the committee; the judges decision is final, no bribes will be accepted.

If you have an interesting photograph that could also do with an entertaining caption, then email it in as well – no prize, just the possible honour of being used for future competitions .

Extended trips to Tasmania & Central Australia

Trips to some contrasting but both very scenic areas of Australia are scheduled during the first half of 2007. Feb 7-16 is a pack-carry exploring the Walls of Jerusalem area of Tasmania before heading across (a mini-adventure in itself) to join up with the northern (Mt Cradle Mountain) section of the Overland Track.

Enquiries: Bruce 9306 2428.

June 2-16 is an opportunity to experience the rugged and ancient landscape of the MacDonnell Ranges along the Larapinta Trail. The full trail extends 220km west of Alice Springs, however this trip will cover the highlights as a mix of day walks and 2-3 night pack-carries. The club's previous foray along the Larapinta in 2000 was a memorable trip, however at the time the trail wasn't complete. It is now fully opened, so a highlight will be doing the Standley Chasm-Serpentine Gorge section for the first time. More details will be available with the autumn programme.

Enquiries: Stephen 9387 6481

Great Ocean Walk

From Apollo Bay to Princetown, the Great Ocean Road is a bit of a misnomer as it winds its way through 100km of forest, with only one sealed turnoff leading to views of the coast (Cape Otway). On the other hand, the Great Ocean Walk (GOW) is a very accurate description. Officially opened at the beginning of 2006, the 91km track takes in coastal scenery largely inaccessible to car tourers. Some sections have been walked as part of hostel weekends to Apollo Bay and Port Campbell, however this summer YHA Bushwalking is doing the full end-to-end walk for the first time. Almost a week is needed to complete the walk in one go – difficult for many due to lack of time or inexperience in extended walks, so we are breaking the GOW into three more easily manageable weekends.

The 'first' walk Jan 13-14th is actually the 26km middle stage between Aire River and the Ryans Den track/Great Ocean Road junction.

The second walk Feb 24-25 covers the 38km section from Marengo (next to Apollo Bay) to Aire River; as guidelines for the walk strongly suggest that it be done from east to west, this section is definitely regarded as the start. Camping overnight at Blanket Bay, highlights include the Blowhole and Cape Otway.



Shelley Beach, on the Apollo Bay-Aire River section of the Great Ocean Walk

The final leg, Ryans Den to Glenample (28km) is scheduled April 14-15th. Highlights include Moonlight Head and the Gable, climaxing with a clifftop walk towards the Twelve (or however many are currently left) Apostles.

The GOW included special hiker-only campsites, however the red-tape required to book one, not to mention the relatively high cost (\$20/tent site plus \$10 application fee) is a deterrent. It is disappointing that the newest long-distance walk could make better use of 21st century methods to handle bookings – the Wilsons Promontory system is more user-friendly. Fortunately there are general campgrounds which don't require extensive pre-booking and are better suited to moderate-sized groups.

Look out for trip reports and photos from the GOW in upcoming editions of "Yeti"

