



What are they staring at?



*It looks like the remnants of an army tank, but in fact it's a bit of forestry equipment in a park at Noojee, which these walkers puzzled over during the winery walk on 17 October.
More on pages 4 and 5.*

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*A very merry
Christmas and a
happy new year,
from Graham
Stanley
and the Old
Scotch
Bushwalking
Club committee*





SIDETRACKS

The ever-energetic Ian Marchment almost provides enough copy for Tracknotes on his own, with all his bushwalking exploits. One of his latest expeditions took him to Tasmania on Hobart Show Day, Thursday 21 October for a walk to Macgregor Peak.

'We started 20km north of Port Arthur at Eaglehawk Neck, Lufra. After one hour's walk along the coast we stopped for morning tea at Pirates Bay. Then we started a 700m climb through rainforest which was wet and slippery with many rocks covered in moss, which did not help foot placements.

'A lot of big trees had come down, which led to some major detours, as the track was impassable. After two hours' climbing the views were spectacular, with the full expanse of the lower Derwent and the east coast down to the southern tip of the peninsula visible. It was a very enjoyable day on a MAGIC island.'



Have you ever wondered why some migratory birds travel so far north (in the northern hemisphere) to nesting grounds? It's not likely to have been an issue occupying your mind for long, but University of Quebec (Canada) researchers have come up with an answer. The

researchers placed artificial nests in different locations and discovered that the further north they were located, the fewer times they were raided by predators – quite a good reason for nesting as far north as possible. Sensible birds!



The Yarra Riverkeepers' Ian Penrose (above) has won a 2010 Melbourne Award for contribution to the environment by an individual, for his work with the riverkeepers. Congratulating Ian, Lord Mayor, Robert Doyle said 'with this award, we recognise [his] passion and commitment to making Melbourne a better city...and hope [his] achievements inspire and challenge others.' Mr Penrose said 'the award is a recognition of the important work of the Yarra Riverkeeper Association, and the contribution of its members and supporters. It is also an acknowledgment of the central role that the Yarra River plays in the life of Melbourne.'



The riverkeepers also welcomed the Victorian Government's decision in October to return environmental water to the Yarra. Ian Penrose said the government had 'at long last'

honoured its promise to provide the Yarra with needed environmental flows.

'Our Yarra has shrunk drastically,' he said. 'It has been hit doubly hard; by the dry decade and by the disproportionate amount of water extracted from it. Melbourne must reduce its over-exploitation of the Yarra, and aim to source most of its water supply from recycling and capturing urban stormwater. In that way, the Yarra can retain 60 per cent of its natural run-off. Anything less is inconsistent with the true meaning of living sustainably.'

Following endorsement of a voluntary industry standard by Park Forum, Australia is a step closer to gaining a national uniform system for grading walking tracks. Track grading informs people about walking tracks, enabling them to gauge whether a track meets their capabilities. Tracks are graded from one to five, with grade one suitable for the disabled, grade two for families with young children, and grades three to five suitable for walkers with some bushwalking experience, experienced bushwalkers and very experienced bushwalkers respectively. At present grading systems vary from state to state. One problem is the cost of replacing the signs. Because large numbers of signs have to be replaced, the introduction of the standard grading system will be gradual.



It's not for the faint-hearted, but the Otway Fly Treetop Adventure has added a 'zip line tour', where you can travel from one platform to another connected by tree platforms called 'cloud stations', attached to a steel cable up to 30 metres above the ground.

It appears that you fly through the air with the greatest of ease in a 21st century version of a flying fox. The Otway Fly says visitors 'will see the trees and forest ecology in a new light'. More information is at www.otwayfly.com Note: the website is quite noisy.



President's Tree-Stump



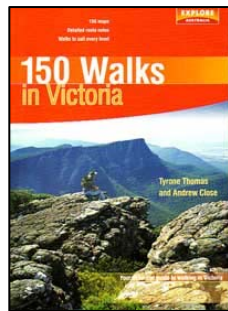
A day in the bush

Bushwalking has become so popular that a number of walkers have written books about it, telling us about their favourite walks while outlining the immense pleasure bushwalking gives them.

Walkers like Tyrone T Thomas, Andrew Close, Ken Martin, John and Monica Chapman, John Siseman and Sandra Bardwell have all published books of walks in and around Victoria.

In her book listing a selection of walks near Melbourne, Sandra Bardwell says: 'Walking is the best form of exercise – it is natural, very beneficial and uncomplicated. As a means of discovering the countryside, it is unsurpassed and is the most practical way to explore the natural world around us.'

In their book, *Day Walks in Victoria*, John and Monica Chapman and John Siseman tell us: 'Victoria, small and well populated, manages to boast a vast array of walking areas to explore and enjoy. Its landscape is probably the most diverse of any state in Australia, with deserts, mountains,



One of Tyrone T Thomas's and Andrew Close's best-known books

rainforests, coastlines and much between. It also has a variety of flora and fauna easily observed on most walks.'

In their book, *150 Walks in Victoria*, Tyrone Thomas and Andrew Close report that 'Victoria is Australia's most densely populated state but there are vast tracts of most attractive walking country.'

While zeroing in on the Mornington Peninsula, Ken Martin claims: 'There is a wealth of natural beauty to admire and absorb on our superb Peninsula. As you walk through any of these contrasting environments, the relaxation and tranquillity, the exercise and the exertion all contribute to an experience of achievement – a getting back to nature.'

'Enjoy the simple pleasures of life that require physical effort on your part. Your efforts will be rewarded many fold with a greater appreciation of the diversity of our natural environment.'

'Walk the tracks, see the beauty and enjoy the exhilaration of reaching a location that may only be accessible to those willing to make the

effort and meet the challenge.'

Then there is the pleasure and ease of walking our many railtrails.

Fiona Colquhoun, Alexander McCooke and Damian McCrohan have put together a fine directory of railtrail walks. They say: 'Victoria has an abundance of closed railway lines that have had their rails and sleepers removed and have been turned into multi-use trails. All trails can tell a story of their past life as a railway, and now as a place of conservation and recreation. Remnants of past railway life remain on most trails.'

'There are railtrails through rainforests, open grassland plains, the inner city and suburbs, in gourmet and winery regions, bushland and farmland.'

So there you have it: a number of our bushwalking authors have extolled the virtues of bushwalking. All we need is YOU!

See you on the track.

Graham Stanley
President

Vale - Heather Fricke

GRAHAM STANLEY

With much sadness we record the recent passing of our member, Heather Fricke.

Both Heather and Warren have been regular walkers, and Heather participated in many walks as she fought the cancer which finally took her life on 13 October.

At her funeral, the one word that kept coming through about Heather's life was 'caring': caring as a wife; caring as a mother; caring as a daughter; caring as a pharmacist – just caring for others.

She was described as a strong and gentle lady who, for two and a half years, fought a tough battle through to the end.

Bushwalking was not her only interest. We learned that Heather was involved in a number of activities within her community. There was Rotary, Rotary Cricket

Australia and the Oakleigh Veterans' Golf Club. All, like us, will miss not having her around.

It was fitting that both Warren and Heather were featured in our last edition of *Tracknotes*.

On behalf of the committee and members of the Old Scotch Bushwalking Club, I extend our sincere sympathies to Warren and his children, Chris and Sarah.



Our weekend walks

Of trestle bridges and Wild Dog

GREG HEMPENSTALL

At 8.15am on the bleak morning of 17 October, 34 members and guests boarded the coach in Morrison Street for a scenic trip up the Warburton Highway.

Just 2km out of Noojee we stopped at a remarkable trestle bridge that has been restored from the days of steam-driven locomotives, which transported timber from the region to the mill at Warragul.

Traversing the bridge that has pedestrian handrails, we ambled into the hamlet of Noojee. The organisers, Christine and Layton Moss, had studiously timed all aspects of the walk. What they had not counted on was the need for the one-cubicle female public toilet to accommodate the demand of most of the ladies!



Jan Eager, Robyn Hansen, Roslyn Steel, Peter and Jill Williams



Sue McLean, Judy Wilmot and Graham Stanley

The Latrobe River was running a banker due to the recent rain. On the way up we noticed the green vegetation and full dams, a consequence of the exceptional rainfall in September and the early part of October.

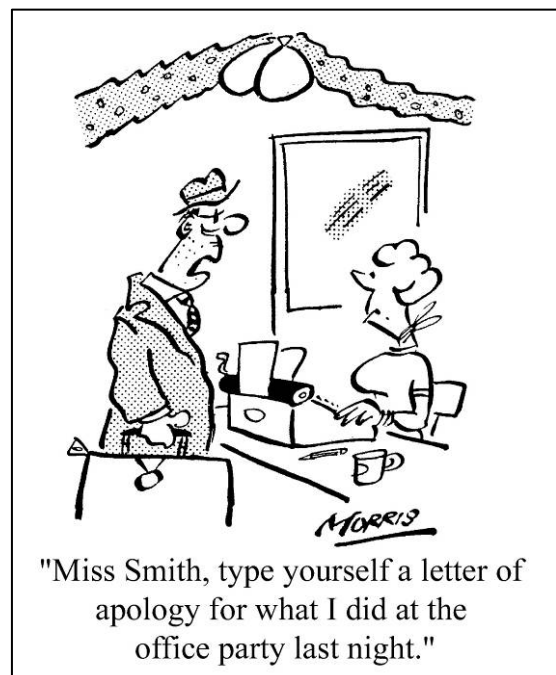
After crossing the river we strode out along the Loch Valley Tramway Walk. This track is a spur line from the main track, and has recently been upgraded to provide a gentle flat walk through tall trees and very healthy tree ferns. The moist gullies were alive with birdsong – and leeches.

The return trip took just over an hour, and due to the leisurely pace being set, the group was regaled with stories of overseas travel by a number of recent returnees.

The coach was waiting for us at Noojee. The earlier confrontation between Paul the driver and the gear box on the coach was now exacerbated as we attempted to leave. Valerie Hempenstall, who occupied one of the front seats, advised those of us at the back that the reason for the crunching was that the gears were too close together! *(Continued on page 5)*



Tom and Carol Geddes and Trevor and Judy White



Our weekend walks

Of trestle bridges and Wild Dog (cont.)



Laurine Symington on the Noojee trestle bridge

Stage two of the journey was the drive from Noojee to Warragul and the Wild Dog Winery. This modern establishment hosts wine and cheese tastings as well as a first-class restaurant. No one was disappointed with the splendid dishes presented, which were washed down with the local product. Included in the fare was barramundi from a fish farm located in the vicinity.



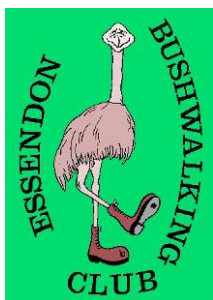
David Wilmot and John Isaac

All were in good voice as we sang to celebrate Jill Williams' significant birthday. The day had turned near perfect as we made our way back to Melbourne. The effect of the late lunch and the generous tasting session did quieten the mood of the group on the return journey.

A good time was had by all – many thanks to Christine and Layton Moss.

A 42km 'stroll' to Ballarat

RICHARD PIESSE



On 6 November, just under 50 walkers participated in the 17th annual Essendon Bushwalking Club Marathon, walking along the Skipton Rail Trail from Linton to Ballarat. Harvey Liebmann and Richard Piesse represented the Old Scotch Bushwalking Club on the 42km journey.

Unlike last year's hot day through the Lerderderg State Park, this year's walk was through mostly very open country (grazing land with small sections of bush) and fortunately in very comfortably low temperatures – approximately 20 degrees maximum.

The display of wildflowers along most of the walk was quite extraordinary, reflecting the huge increase in rainfall since all the years of drought. There were large numbers of orchids, lilies and daisies in flower; more species than in recent years, and in huge quantities.

As usual the walk was excellently arranged and conducted by Bill Casey and his large band of able supporters.



Our midweek walks

Exclusivity in a walk

JOYCE ISAAC

On Wednesday 27 October a small, 'exclusive' group set off from Jells Park on a lovely spring day. After circling Jells Lake and making a few birdwatching stops, we headed along Dandenong Creek and up into Nortons Park. We stopped there for a very pleasant lunch overlooking the lush paddocks, the flowering fruit trees and across to the city.

After lunch we continued on to High Street Road, crossed Dandenong Creek and into Shepherds Bush. From there we skirted around the Glen Waverley Public Golf Course and returned to Jells Park. A very pleasant coffee and chat followed at the teahouse.

It was a most enjoyable walk in great weather, with lovely views and excellent company. Thanks Norrie for a good day.



A chat in the shade



John and Joyce Isaac, Jenny Stewardson, Di and Murray Hooper



Our midweek walks

No coffee till the end

JAN WARD

Broadmeadows Station around 10am was the meeting place on Thursday 23 September – and there was not a coffee shop (or much else) in sight for those arriving that little bit early in case of a cancellation, track problems, or other unforeseen events. Richard Piesse did, however, assure us that there was one waiting for us at the end (a coffee shop, that is).

Broadmeadows is certainly having a building boom – there are schools, enormous college complexes and sports stadiums ... all in gigantic proportions lining the main road leading through the suburban streets. Streets with names like Dimboola, Pearcedale, Bittern, Hastings, Merricks, Rosebud, Tyabb, Coleraine – and even Sunset Boulevard. We could have been anywhere!



Norrie McLeod, David Ashton and Geoff Stephens

Ahead of us, as we approached the basalt plain and atop it Essendon airport, were the cities of Hume, Moreland and Moonee Valley, through which the Yuroke Creek meandered. Neat parklands, blooming yellow with oxalis and wattle, provided easy walking along the Moonee Valley Trail.



The group pauses along the Moonee Ponds Creek Trail.



Huge earthmoving equipment dominated the landscape, upgrading the Western Ring Road. (How much do those people earn who hold up 'Stop' signs while trucks, graders and anything else crosses paths and roads?)

Most of the information boards along the way were badly graffitied, but Richard filled us in with the details.

Wetlands along the way provided refuge for nesting birds, and two duck families caught our attention as the young ones were taught the hazards of inner city living.



Bruce Brown and Jenny Stewardson

Stopping for a break, the aromas from a Middle Eastern barbecue reminded us that lunch shouldn't be too far away.

Before passing under the standard gauge railway line – a very long, very high trestle bridge – we marvelled at the enormous new houses, either established or in the process of being built: not many trees, but plenty of bricks and mortar. Behind them were rolling green hills – but for how long?

As a plane flew overhead, we reached Boeing Reserve for lunch and an 'Exeloo' experience. Fortunately no-one became trapped.

After lunch we continued along the trail, passing quite close to Essendon Airport, and ending up at Strathmore Station – and that coffee shop!

Finally it was all aboard the Flinders Street train, after an interesting walk in perfect walking weather, in an area not familiar to most of us. Thanks, Richard.

Black and white – and cardinal, gold and blue

IAN HANSEN

[Editor's note: For Ian and Robyn Hansen, Collingwood caps are essential bushwalking equipment, and they have never been backward in coming forward about their love for the Magpies. But the Hansen family's devotion to Collingwood – and to Scotch College – is hardly a passing fancy: it dates back more than 100 years, as this article, which is also scheduled for inclusion in Great Scot, reveals.]

The Hansen family's association with Collingwood began in 1906 when my great grandfather (Laurits Hansen) bought a house at 26 Walker Street, Clifton Hill. He began work as a building contractor in 1902 and constructed a grandstand for the Collingwood Football Club at Victoria Park in 1909. This stand, at the railway end of the ground, was used until it was demolished and replaced during the 1970s.

My grandfather (Vernon Hansen) spent his early years in Clifton Hill, was a lifelong supporter of the Collingwood Football Club, and passed this passion on to succeeding generations of his family.

My father, (Laurits 'Laurie' Hansen) was born in 1925 – a magical time for Collingwood, as they had played in five grand finals and won four premierships by the time he reached the age of five. Dad has been present at every grand final since 1946. During his lifetime, Collingwood has played in 29 grand finals (and won nine premierships) and Dad has been present at them all, with exception of the first five.

I attended my first grand final in 1958 and including that year, I have now been present at all 15 grand finals in which Collingwood has played since that time (and I have seen three premiership wins).

My children (Chris Hansen and Michelle Carsen) have also been bitten with the bug, and have attended five grand finals that Collingwood has played in for two premiership wins. My grandchildren (Lachlan Hansen and Ella Carsen) are too young to have attended a grand final yet, however Lachie has been to several matches during the 2009 and 2010 seasons, and I am sure that they will be adding to the family history in the not too distant future.

Dad and I have now been attending the football together weekly for 52 years. My parents are aged in their mid-80s, however a family group consisting of Mum and Dad, Robyn and me, my sister (Jenny Glanville) and her daughter Claire attended every game Collingwood played in Melbourne during the 2010 season; and flew to Brisbane to attend the match played against the Brisbane Lions in May 2010 (Collingwood's second last loss for the season).

We try to attend one interstate match each season, and we have also attended the last two interstate finals in which Collingwood has played (Adelaide in 2008 and Perth in 2007).

As Melbourne Cricket Club members we do not always have reserved seats for the grand final, and our family group of eight or nine members camped out overnight to ensure we had good seats in both 2002 and 2003. Unfortunately we lost both matches, however fate was kinder to us in 2010 and we obtained reserved seats for both the original grand final and the replay.

Supporting Collingwood over the periods detailed above has been immensely rewarding, sometimes disappointing, and often character building. Of the 15 grand finals I have attended, Collingwood has failed to win the 'closest' six by a combined total of 20 points (i.e., an average margin of three points per game), and has never won in a close finish.

The Hansens – a genuine Scotch College family

- Laurits Vernon Hansen (at Scotch in 1912)
- Laurits Alexander Hansen (Scotch 1938 to 1941)
- Laurits Ian Hansen (Scotch 1962 to 1967)
- Laurits Christopher James Hansen (Scotch 1990 to 1995)
- Lachlan James Hansen (Born in 2007; on Scotch's waiting list)

Dad's brother Colin ('47), and my brothers – Robert ('68), Andrew ('70) and Philip ('73) – also attended Scotch and they are all Collingwood supporters too, although not quite as rabidly so as the rest of us.



Young Lachie Hansen, shown in 2009 at his first Collingwood game, looks a little concerned about how the Pies might perform. With him are (left to right) Chris, Ian and Laurie Hansen.

Continued on page 9


Black and white – and cardinal, gold and blue (cont.)



We have been quite successful in protecting and increasing our family's Collingwood support base, as the only extended family members who do not support Collingwood are my brother-in-law, Neil Glanville, and his son Adam (Essendon); and my son-in-law, Michael Carsen (Western Bulldogs).

Footnote: 'Laurits' is a Danish name which has usually been given to the eldest son in the Hansen family since my great-grandfather's day.

A happy extended Hansen family after the 2010 grand final replay. (Left to right) Ella, Michelle, Robyn, Ian, Jean, Jenny, Claire and Laurie).



Ten questions - Judy and David Wilmot

How long have you been members of the bushwalking club?

About 10 years

What is your dream walk within Australia?

Cradle Mountain

What is your dream walk overseas?

Machu Pichu

What are your interests or hobbies, other than bushwalking?

4WD holidays, theatre, grandchildren, bridge (Judy)

What are your occupations?

Pharmacist (Judy) and accountant (David)

If you were stranded on a desert island, with which three people would you like to be stranded (living or dead)?

Leonardo da Vinci, Michael Palin, Paul Kelly (singer and song writer)

What one thing could you not live without?

A radio

What song do you never want to hear again?

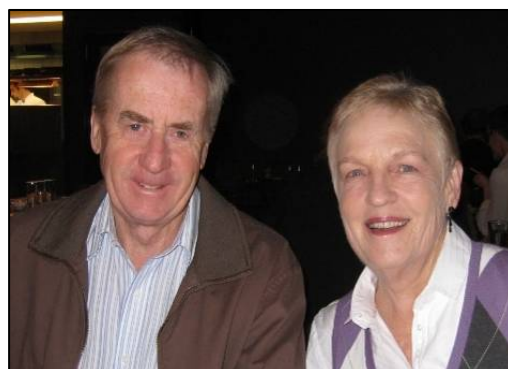
The Collingwood song!

Describe one of your pet dislikes

Spin doctors

And on a philosophical note, what is the meaning of life?

Waking up every morning!!



Tracknotes

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Proposed 2011 walks

Please note that the dates for our 2011 walks are final, but locations of the nominated walks may need to be changed if circumstances change.

Public Hol.	2011	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Feature	Walk (Proposed)
							1	2	New Year	
New Year	Jan	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
	Jan	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
	Jan	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
Australia Day	Jan	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
	Feb	31	1	2	3	4	5	6		
	Feb	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		Cape Schanck
	Feb	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Valentine's Day	
	Feb	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
	Mar	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	AGM?	
	Mar	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
Labour Day	Mar	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		Gippsland
	Mar	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
	Mar	28	29	30	31	1	2	3		
	Apr	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		Marysville
	Apr	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
Easter	Apr	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	Easter	
Anzac Day	Apr	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	Anzac Day	
	May	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Mother's Day	
	May	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		Ararat (via Rail)
	May	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
	May	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
	May	30	31	1	2	3	4	5		
	Jun	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
Queen's B'day	Jun	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		You Yangs
	Jun	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
	Jun	27	28	29	30	1	2	3		
	Jul	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Jul	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		Urban
	Jul	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
	Jul	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
	Aug	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
	Aug	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		Noojee
	Aug	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
	Aug	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
	Aug	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	Father's Day	
	Sep	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		Woolamai
	Sep	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
	Sep	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		
	Sep	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	AFL Grand Final	
	Oct	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
	Oct	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		Wine Walk
	Oct	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
	Oct	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
Cup Day	Nov	31	1	2	3	4	5	6		
	Nov	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Rememb Day	Johanna Beach
	Nov	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
	Nov	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
	Nov	28	29	30	1	2	3	4		
	Dec	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		Walk & Dine
	Dec	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
	Dec	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Christmas	
Christmas	Dec	26	27	28	29	30	31			

31 = School Holidays Bushwalks