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# THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

December 2013



**Melbourne Bushies  
2013 Christmas Party**

**VENUE** Melbourne City Bowls Club  
**ADDRESS** Dudley Street West Melbourne (Flagstaff Opposite Clubrooms)  
**DATE** Tuesday 10 December 2013  
**TIME** 7.00 pm to 10.00 pm

**BYO Plate To Share**  
Drinks can be purchased from the bar

## NEW CLUB MOBILE FOR INFORMATION ON TRIP DELAYS – 0447 489 661

Before setting out, walkers should advise those at home of the location of the trip, the method of travel, the expected time of return and the Club's mobile number 0447 489 661.

For all the Club's program activities significant delays will be notified by the leader on the mobile's voice messagebank at the first available opportunity. You can check for messages if someone is late returning.

Listen to the announcement and follow the instructions, if you make a mistake ring again. You can enter '1' to repeat a message and '6' to go to the next message.

Walkers should consider taking their mobile on activities so they can directly notify anyone who may be concerned if they will be late. Also this year mobiles will receive location-based emergency warnings from the CFA.

## 2014 COMMITTEE VACANCIES!!!

**Vice President, Membership Secretary, General Walks Secretary,  
Social Secretary, General Committee.**

Support your Club, consider volunteering.  
Contact Mick Noonan for more information.

## CLUB ROOM CLOSURES FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR

Closed Wednesday 25th December, Wednesday 1st January

**Due date for contributions to January News: 21 December**

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](http://www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au)

The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc (The News) is published monthly, and is the official newsletter of Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

Editor: Marilyn Whimpey

Walk previews, walk reviews, articles, poems, news items, photographs of club events, reports of new gear, book/movie reviews, letters to the editor, advertisements, et cetera are always welcome. However, the Editor reserves the right to edit contributions where space, clarity or propriety dictate, and to maintain editorial consistency. Note: photographs should be sent as separate files which are capable of being edited.

**Please send your contributions as unformatted text files by email to [news@mbw.org.au](mailto:news@mbw.org.au)**

**Closing date for receipt of material for *The News* is the 21st of the month.**

Advertisements should relate to bushwalking (e.g. gear, maps, trips, tours, health and fitness etc.). These may be published subject to space availability and Editor's discretion. For current advertising rates contact the Editor at [news@mbw.org.au](mailto:news@mbw.org.au).

Please note:  
Next committee meeting will take place on  
**Monday 2 December 2013**

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Club:

GREG TERRENS  
CHRISTINE TERRENS  
JENNIFER BURGI  
KATE HYUN

## GETTING TO THE CLUBROOMS Yes, you can still park for free!

**Catch a Tram:** 23, 24, 30, 34 on La Trobe St, 55 on William St

**Catch a Train:** Flagstaff Gardens Underground on the Loop, opposite the Club

**Car Parks:** Both Wilson and Secure Parking in A'Beckett St near the clubrooms have a \$6 Flat Rate 4–10 pm

**Close but expensive Parking:** Around Flagstaff Gardens its now \$5.50/hr metered to 8:30 pm

**Free Parking:** Many areas have free parking after 6:30 pm or 7:30 pm

- North of Dudley St: it's free after 6:30 pm, e.g Walsh, Milton, William, Rosslyn, Capel
- A'Beckett St, Queen St and Lonsdale St: loading zones and some metered parking that end at 7:30 pm
- Batman St (other side of Gardens): many spaces are free after 6:30 pm, others after 7 pm

You can also walk or cycle!



Ian Mair took this photo on the recent Britannia Creek walk.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**The main items at the November Committee Meeting** were: discussing our club's finances to see if we need to increase fees in 2014 (at this stage we expect to run at a small loss for 2014 and reduce our reserves slightly, to be decided in December); reviewing an Incident Report; the 2014 Committee; deciding on our donations for 2014; agreeing which GPS units to buy; and reviewing the Clubroom leases. There will be no January Committee Meeting and the 2014 Annual General Meeting will be held on March 26th which is one month later than in the past.

There has been **recent publicity that the Royal Historical Society may have to move**. We currently rent our Clubrooms from them. The good news is that they do not have to move and so our Clubrooms are secure for the time being.

**Each year we donate the interest from one of our deposit accounts to environment, conservation or walking groups.** This year we decided to donate \$420 to the **Victorian National Parks Association** who are running many conservation-related campaigns in Victoria, and \$450 to the **Great Dividing Trail** as they are developing better walking facilities that we will use.

We had a **fantastic turn out for the Extraordinary General Meeting** to approve our New Rules. We had 42 people attend and 17 proxy forms were sent in. The new rules were unanimously approved!

**We now have two new GPS units** thanks to a Federal Government Volunteers Support Grant. Our new units are Garmin Oregon 650's with Australia and New Zealand Top Maps. They use a touchscreen with smartphone type controls which should make them easier for people to use. They will be available free to leaders to learn how to use them or take them on a preview, or walking or cycling activity.

**We are introducing a new Emergency Contact System because:**

- The current system is no longer effective, is hard to change and does not provide support to our higher risk activities
- The current Club Contacts are difficult to update if someone is not available or retires
- **Previews** often involve only 1 or 2 people which makes it harder to get help and as they are not on the Club's Program there is little knowledge that they are occurring
- Pack Carries and Walk-In Base Camps go into remote areas where they may have difficulty getting assistance when needed
- When we reviewed the Bushwalking Victoria ECS Guidelines we found a number of areas to improve
- New technology and improved mobile coverage offers opportunities to improve the system

We have tried to provide a balance between additional activities and improved safety for everyone.

I want to thank Graham and Sue Errey, and Jim and Libby Marsden for the great service they have provided as Emergency Contacts over many years. The Marsdens will continue as part of the group of new Club Emergency Contacts.

See the 'Overview of the new Emergency Contact System' article in this News and for more information check the Club Website and Leaders' Database.

### Reminders for this month:

- 1 If you are not away over the New Year why not come along to the New Year's Day BBQ (see advertisement)
- 2 We have lots of great equipment to borrow or hire ranging from packs and tents to Personal Locator Beacons and now two new GPS.
- 3 Leaders should get the latest forms from the Leaders' Database as many will have changes relating to the new Emergency Contact System.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Christmas Party. Have a great Christmas and a fantastic New Year!

*Mick Noonan*



## OVERVIEW OF THE NEW EMERGENCY CONTACT SYSTEM (ECS)

There will be a trial of the new ECS during the Summer and Autumn Programs. The key objectives are to provide:

- A simple and flexible method so that people who become concerned that someone is late back can find out about trip delays
- More support for our higher risk activities where they may be delayed and unable to get help and improve our ability to assist Emergency Services who may need more information after being contacted by a Leader of one of these activities

The scope of the system covers:

- **All Club programed activities which will use the new Club Mobile 0447 489 661** for information on delays
- **All Previews** are to have **Preview Contacts**. Leaders will email the Club when a Preview is occurring
- **All Pack Carries and Walk-in Base Camps** are to be supported by rostered **Club Emergency Contacts (CEC)**
- Leaders are to ensure a **mobile is taken on Previews and all Club Programed Activities**
- All trip participants are to be encouraged to **take their mobile** as part of their responsibilities

**The approach we are taking is to educate and inform people**, and explain the reasons for the changes and the benefits. People will be encouraged to follow the new processes and provide feedback. We will expect compliance to increase over time and particularly after the trial is over.

**The key change for members** and visitors going on any Club outdoor activity is that anyone who becomes concerned about their late return now rings the Club Mobile for information on trip delays instead of the previous Club Contacts. The expected **Return Time** is being added into the Activity Preview information in the News and the Website.

**For Previews**, Leaders will select a responsible person to act as their **Preview Contact** and provide them with a **Trip Intentions Form**. They will take action if the group does not return on time using guidelines we will provide to assist them. This may result in calling the Police on 000 (in Victoria the Police are responsible for search and rescue operations). The Leader will send an email to a **new Club Email** to say when the Preview is to occur. This will assist if an accident occurs that results in an insurance claim.

**For Pack Carries and Walk-In Base Camps**, Leaders will include in the information they give all participants the expected Return Time, the Club Mobile Number, and advises them that if people remain concerned after ringing the Club Mobile they can ring a **Club Emergency Contact**. A **Trip Intentions Form** and a **Participants List** is sent to the **Club ECS Email**, either attaching the club forms or typing the information into the email. This information is used by the Club Emergency Contacts and can be provided to the Police if needed.

A description of the process for members and visitors going on activities is on the Club Website Downloads and key documents have been updated. A detailed description of the full ECS System is on the Leaders' Database, as are new and changed Leaders' forms

While we are putting new processes in place people are also being encouraged to take more responsibility themselves by taking their mobiles and when possible directly contacting people who may be concerned.

Based on what we learn from the trial and feedback from leaders and members we will update the system.

*Mick Noonan*



Photos taken by Mark Simpson on the Tali Karng walk, Melbourne Cup weekend. See Derrick's report on page 8.



## Bushies' Christmas Party

Date : 10 December 2013

Venue: Melbourne City Bowls Club  
opposite the Clubrooms.

Time: 7.00 pm to 10.00 pm

Drinks can be purchased from the bar. Please  
bring a plate to share.

# 2013



## New Year's Day BBQ



From Midday at Birdland Reserve  
Mt Morton Road, Belgrave  
Melways 84 C1  
Hosted by Deb and Ross Berner



Re-wrap an excess or unneeded  
Christmas present for the  
New Year's Day "Lucky Dip"



A scene from last year's Christmas party

## ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS – DECEMBER 2013

Thank you to all who have participated, some multiple times, in conservation and track maintenance projects over the past year. We can justly be proud of our work in protecting and enhancing access to our beautiful wild places. I hope that more Melbourne Bushies come and get involved next year – environmental activities are good for body, soul and planet!



*The Copenhagen question  
by Joey Devilla*

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### Australia Day weekend 25–27 January 2014

**Falls Creek willow eradication:** Working on the High Plains to hunt out and poison young willows. Accommodation provided in Falls Creek village. Leader Charlie Ablitt.

**Australian Alps Walking Track:** Clearing Buenba Creek to Mt Hope Road. Leader David Miller

Both of the above events are coordinated by Bushwalking Victoria and Parks Victoria. More details or register your interest at [conservation@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au](mailto:conservation@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au)

I am planning to attend the Falls Creek willow weeding weekend and will help organise car pooling but will be away in January, returning the week before this event.

#### 1–23 March 2014

**Alpine NP Track maintenance/Work party:** Working with the very friendly Friends of Bogong and Mt Beauty Park Rangers. Leader Rod Novak

### OTHER NEWS:

#### Grampians NP

Fire recovery works have been completed on most roads on the western side of the Grampians. Some tracks and campgrounds are still closed – check latest conditions with Parks Victoria before you travel to this area.

#### Victorian Alps Wild Horse Management Plan

Parks Victoria in association with the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) is developing a plan to guide the management of wild horses and their impact on public land in the Victorian Alps. More information at [www.parks.vic.gov.au/alpshorseplan](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au/alpshorseplan)

#### Mt Buller–Mt Stirling High Country road

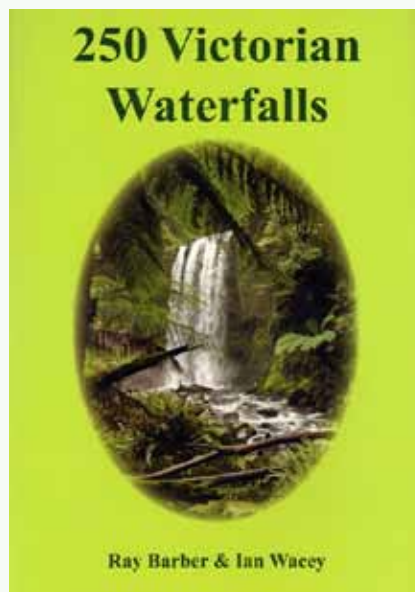
A new road is being proposed by the Mt Buller and Mt Stirling Alpine Resort Management Board. It would link the two mountains via Corn Hill and Howqua Gap. VNPA is objecting to this proposal – read more about it here: <http://vnpa.org.au/page/publications/nature%27s-voice-edition-18/mt-stirling-road-link-puts-at-risk-human-life-and-old-growth-alpine-forest>

*Deb Shand*

## BOOK REVIEW

The authors of this beautifully photographed book gave a very interesting talk about their work, at Club Night a few months ago. Many of the included waterfalls haven't previously been named or shown on Victorian maps, and some are accessible only by experienced bushwalkers. Fortunately, clear directions, including GPS co-ordinates, are provided, as well as driving time from Melbourne, the closest town, facilities at the falls and other local points of interest. It's an impressive 320 page publication, with additional photos of flora and fauna. A copy is now available for loan, from the Library in our Clubroom.

*Stuart Hanham*



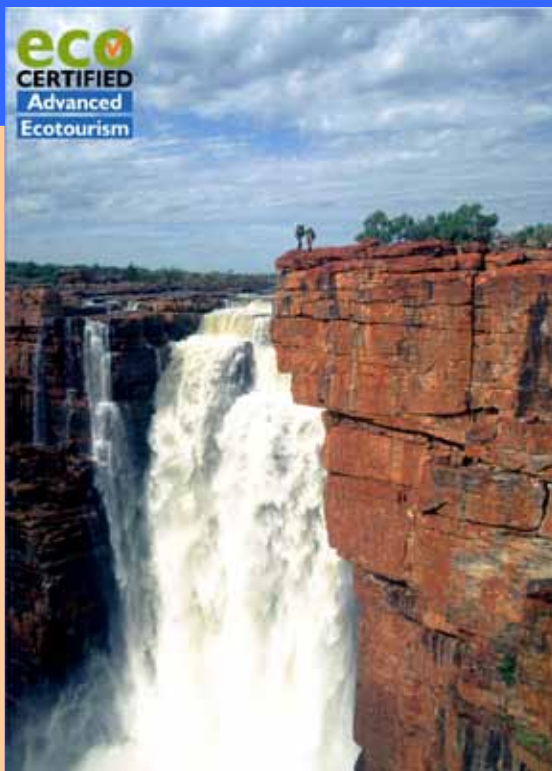
## Willis's Walkabouts

### Unique, off-track bushwalks

**No one else** takes you as far off the beaten path. Explore hidden waterfalls, ancient rock art, flowing streams and deep pools of pure, clean water. The only way to get to these wonderful places is to walk, off-trail through an amazing wilderness few people will ever see. Our experienced guides show you hidden wonders that others seldom find.

**Easy, hard or in between**, four days to six weeks, we offer something to suit every bushwalker. Explore our website and see the incredible variety we offer. Book early and save up to 20% with our advance purchase discounts. Quote this ad, book before 31 January, and receive an extra \$100 off any 2014 trip.

**Join us on an extraordinary adventure you'll have to experience to believe.**



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

### THE MELBOURNE CUP WEEKEND WALK WITH SUN, HAIL ... AND SNOW! LAKE TALİ KARNG – THE SENTINELS – GABLE END

I hadn't been to these parts for some years, so I was very happy to get away from the Cup razzamatazz and join Di on this trip. We camped on Friday night at the Licola caravan park, after some confusion over whether it was open for business. It was – but it's only open at peak times, and it's up for sale! We met up at the start point on Saturday morning – the Mt Margaret Walking Track on the Wellington Road (not to be confused with the Mt Margaret Track which bisects it!). After a short car shuffle we set off in fine sunshine. Jopie performed the weigh-in ceremony and all packs were all in the lightweight category. The message has got around! It soon became hot and by lunchtime having climbed a mere 700 metres I was suffering with cramps, fortunately alleviated by a rest, lunch and a dose of salts. A colourful bacon-and-egg pea dominated the bush and this was in sight all weekend. We made camp at the Chromite Mine Camp on the Dolodrook River, walking past the 4WD campers to find our own spot a little way off. The inevitable chain saw started up accompanied by some loud music, but this all stopped when the children were put to bed (which wasn't soon enough). All quiet thereafter.

After a good night Sunday looked a very different day – overcast and cold. We climbed the very steep Brandy Pinch and on to meet the Lanigan Memorial track that took us through the ominous-sounding Valley of Destruction. This follows the Wellington River which runs underground here, following it to its source – Lake Tali Karng. The lake was formed when there was a major landslide from The Sentinels 1500 years ago which blocked the river. The river flows out unseen through the blockage. It was here, climbing up the valley over small boulders in light rain that made the rocks slippery that our leader, Di, had a fall and suffered a nasty cut over her left eye. Gina did a good patching up job that lasted the rest of the walk. (Di had it looked at on Tuesday by the professionals and it received the thumbs-up.) The planned campsite involved a big climb so it was decided to play safe and camp by the lake. There were already two groups there, each with a large fire despite the sign prohibiting them, (with a \$2000 fine). We found a good spot sheltered in the trees, away from the others and after making camp and a cuppa we walked around the lake to the Snowden Falls. These were on two levels and were rather unexpected. We returned to camp by completing the circumlocution.



Photo: Derrick Brown

It was a cold night – a fire would have been very welcome! Di called a 7.30 a.m. start as we had a longish day planned. Soon after starting our 600 metre climb up Gillios Track we encountered a light covering of snow!

*(continued over page)*



### LAKE TALI KARNG – THE SENTINELS – GABLE END *(continued from previous page)*

Despite some recent work the track needs some attention from the heavy gang. The snow covering became thicker... and the cameras were all clicking away. There were a number of campers at Riggalls Old Hut site and at Nyimba camp further on, warming themselves around fires (allowed here). We lunched at the (much visited by 4WD's) Millers Hut (now a three-sided hut in poor condition with rubbish inside) before moving on to visit Gable End with its magnificent views. Gina and I recalled that many years ago on our first MBW trip here we had got ourselves into much bother by trying to climb down these cliffs! The snow had been blown up the mountainside and had formed very attractive ice flakes on the grass and trees at the top of the cliffs. Then we went out to The Sentinels, a group of rock spires overlooking the lake and our campsite. On another MBW trip I had climbed straight up here from the lake when the spur was clear of vegetation, but that looked impossible now. We retraced our steps to Riggalls Old Hut site then some of the party went back to camp via Riggalls Spur track and Echo Point track and others used the Gillios track. We covered 23 km today and dinner was much anticipated!

It was another 7:30 a.m. start on our final day as we walked out down the Valley of Destruction, this time without incident, to the Wellington River. We split the party into two groups, Di going out with those who had to work on Wednesday, while the retirees took their time. There are about a dozen river crossings to be made and today there was a good flow. At the second crossing I spotted a deep waterhole, it was warm and sunny ... and of course I couldn't resist a swim. Inexplicably the others were able to resist it, and sat down for lunch. Just before we reached the cars we passed close by Crolls Gorge which Jopie and John explored but the rest of us were too jaded to participate. They were tempted to swim in the fine pool they found and described a beautiful clean-rock gorge. I await the photos. On the way home we joined the Cup revellers at the Taralgon pub where we were in time for a good meal.

This turned out to be an eventful and really good weekend walk so thank you Di for leading us, and thanks also to Jopie for being the back-up leader and thank you my fellow-walkers for your excellent company.

Leader Di McKinley with Jopie Bodegraven, Jenny Flood, Jim Freeman (visitor), Mark Simpson, Agajan Akbari, Deb Shand, Max Casley, John Fritze, Gina Hopkins, and myself, Derrick Brown.



Gable End, with endless landscapes decorated in snow and ice. Photo: Mark Simpson

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](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](mailto: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.



**PACK CARRY**

**HEAPHY TRACK AND TRAVERS-SABINE CIRCUIT  
 (NEW ZEALAND)**

**DATE** Saturday 4 to Sunday 19 January 2014  
**STANDARD** Medium  
**DISTANCE** 160 km  
**LEADER** Ian Mair  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** New Zealand South Island

Bookings for this trip are now closed.



**WEDNESDAY WALK**

**LA FRANCHI HUT, WOMBAT STATE FOREST**

**DATE** Wednesday 8 January 2014  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium, some off-track  
**DISTANCE** 15 km approx.  
**ELEVATION** A few short steep climbs, otherwise undulating  
**LEADER** Max Casley  
**TRANSPORT** Private car share  
**AREA** West of Daylesford  
**MAP REF** Eganstown 1:25,000  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** North Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Ballarat  
**TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON)** \$25 to driver suggested



**SUNDAY BUS**

**LAKE DAYLESFORD - WOMBAT CREEK DAM**

**DATE** Sunday 5 January 2014  
**RETURN TIME** About 6 pm to City  
**STANDARDS** Easy and Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCES** 14 and 18 km  
**LEADERS** Del Franks and Christina Hughes  
**TRANSPORT** Bus - Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45am  
**AREA** Daylesford  
**MAP REF** 1:25,000 Daylesford, Eganstown & Bullarto  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Ballarat

Come and join Christina and me on these enjoyable walks in the goldfield country south of Daylesford as a celebration of the New Year.

These walks offer great variety including two beautiful lakes (Daylesford and Jubilee Lakes) set in lovely parkland, the ambience of Daylesford, open eucalypt forests and a dismantled railway.

The walks are on tracks and roads through undulating terrain with both walks visiting Central Springs Reserve and with the Easy/Medium walkers also visiting Tipperary Springs.

As the clubrooms are closed on the Wednesday before the walk (i.e. 1 January), to book on this walk you will need to come into the clubrooms on the Wednesday night before Christmas (i.e. 18th December) or book online.

Hope to see you in the New Year - Del.



Most of the walk will be in the Wombat State Forest, beside pine plantations and old mine workings. Some creeks will be crossed but they are small and are unlikely to cause wet feet. La Franchi Hut is surrounded by daffodils, jonquils and deciduous trees possibly planted by homesick miners. However the flowers will probably be past their prime blooming time. This seems a good place for our lunch. We will visit an abandoned slate mine and Charlesford diggings, a remnant of the gold rush that attracted people from all parts of the world in the 1860's.

Near the finish of the walk is some produce (e.g. pumpkin) with an honesty tin which may be of interest to some.

We will meet at 10:30 am at the corner of Basalt Road and Rodoni Track (see sketch map).

Toilets are available at Sailor's Falls and at Daylesford just before the Midland Highway.



## TOFS WALK

### MORNINGTON PENINSULA NATIONAL PARK

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Thursday 9 January 2014</b>
<b>STANDARD</b>	<b>Easy</b>
<b>DISTANCE</b>	<b>10 km approx.</b>
<b>LEADER</b>	<b>Alistair Rowe</b>
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	<b>Private</b>
<b>FIRE BAN DISTRICT</b>	<b>Central</b>
<b>TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE</b>	<b>Frankston</b>



Meet at 10:15 am in the carpark at Sorrento Ocean Beach, Melway reference 156 J9. We will probably walk south towards Spray Point, but this will be reviewed.

Could be a cool breeze if the day is warm, and there are some good lookouts.

A car shuffle will be needed. Afternoon tea in Sorrento.



## CYCLING

### FEDERATION SQUARE – ROSSTOWN RAILWAY – ELWOOD CANAL – BAYSIDE CIRCUIT RIDE

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Saturday 11 January 2014</b>
<b>START</b>	<b>9:30 am Federation Square near Princes Bridge</b>
<b>STANDARD</b>	<b>Easy/Medium</b>
<b>DISTANCE</b>	<b>65 km (with a 40 km option)</b>
<b>ELEVATION</b>	<b>Virtually no hills</b>
<b>LEADER</b>	<b>Sue Ralston</b>
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	<b>Private or train to Flinders Street</b>
<b>AREA</b>	<b>South eastern suburbs and Bay</b>
<b>MAP REF</b>	<b>Melways 43 44 59 60 69 45 68 77 67 76 85 &amp; 57</b>
<b>FIRE BAN DISTRICT</b>	<b>Central</b>
<b>TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE</b>	<b>Melbourne</b>

This is another lovely summer circuit beginning and ending at Federation Square and following the Yarra River, Gardiner's Creek, Elwood Canal and the Bay as well as some parkland

and quiet suburban streets including the historic Rosstown railway route. The ride is almost completely flat and is mostly on tracks.

If it is hot, or for those who would like a more leisurely ride, the Bay section from Elwood to Black Rock and back can be omitted, reducing the length to 40 km.

We will meet at 9:30am in St Kilda Rd. opposite Flinders St Station and between Federation Square and Princes Bridge. Coffee can of course be bought here before the ride.

Morning tea will be at Mister Brightside in Caulfield South and lunch is planned at Black Rock where there is an abundance of good bakeries and cafes.

We will return along the Bayside trail to Port Melbourne where will take the Sandridge Line trail back to Federation Square.

Please remember to take sunscreen, water and snacks. I look forward to seeing you there.



## SUNDAY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

### FERNTREE GULLY–BELGRAVE (DANDENONG RANGES)

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Sunday 12 January 2014</b>
<b>STANDARD</b>	<b>Easy/Medium</b>
<b>RETURN TIME</b>	<b>6 pm to the city</b>
<b>DISTANCE</b>	<b>15 km</b>
<b>ELEVATION</b>	<b>200 m over the walk</b>
<b>LEADER</b>	<b>Mark Heath</b>
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	<b>9:07 am Lilydale Train from Flinders St</b>
<b>AREA</b>	<b>Dandenongs</b>
<b>MAP REF</b>	<b>Melways 65, 66, 74 &amp; 75</b>
<b>FIRE BAN DISTRICT</b>	<b>Central</b>
<b>TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE</b>	<b>Melbourne</b>
<b>TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON)</b>	<b>\$3.50 (MYKI)</b>



We will meet at the east end of the platform at Flinders St from which the Belgrave train departs.

This varied walk starts on the dry western slopes of the Dandenong Ranges and ends on the wetter eastern side. At the start there are rare communities of Long-leaved Box and Red Stringybark eucalypts. Beneath these tall trees are cypress-like Cherry Ballart, Dogwood, with its slender leaves and white flowers, and several other shrubs, including the yellow and red flowering Rough Bush-pea.

After a steady climb up One Tree Hill we traverse the front of the Ranges to Sassafras, then drop down through moist tree fern gullies and old stringybarks to the impressive

Nicholas Gardens. After a short climb to Sherbrooke Forest we pass Sherbrooke Falls on the way to Belgrave.

The walk is mostly on formed dirt tracks with some narrow sections. The transport is train to Ferntree Gully and train for the return from Belgrave. Walkers living in the eastern suburbs may wish to join the train en route or meet us at Ferntree Gully Station at 10:10am.



## PACK CARRY

### PACK CARRY IN THE WILDS OF THE BUDAWANGS!

<b>DATE</b>	<b>12–19 January 2014</b>
<b>STANDARD</b>	<b>Medium/Hard</b>
<b>LEADER</b>	<b>Ray Thomas</b>
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	<b>Private</b>
<b>AREA</b>	<b>Southern NSW</b>

This is a walk to showcase the magnificence and amazing diversity of the Budawangs, from the highest peaks to the deepest gorges, with a route carefully chosen to visit several out-of-the-way places as well as some well-known places you just have to visit when you come this far!

The walking is a mix of on tracks and through the scrub, traversing everything from dry rocky heathlands, tall Messmate forests, cool streams deep down in Holland's and Clyde Gorges, ancient rainforest patches, dank mossy canyons with tree roots draping down the walls, and huge rocky overhangs for camping in.

The standard is Medium to Hard, and needs some confidence with scrambling on rocky sections. We'll be covering many kilometres in the 6 or 7 days walking.

We'll meet at the northern entrance to the Park in the Sassafrass area, on the Braidwood–Nowra Rd about 21 km from Nerriga or 48 km from Nowra. Day 1 starts with the drive in to Newhaven Gap where we leave the cars, walk south along the plateau to Folly Point, eventually dropping down through the cliff lines to Holland's Creek for the night. Day 2 is downstream to join the beautiful, clear waters of Clyde River, then a day walk up Talaterang Mountain, and continue downstream to camp at the foot of Mt Byangee. Day 3 is up the side to a fairly easy pass up a steep gully, and along the open tops to enjoy the stunning views at the east end of the amazingly narrow plateau. We should have time to enjoy the natural rock arch at the gap between Byangee Walls and The Castle before returning to the river, grabbing our packs and heading upstream to the towards Darri Head to camp. Day 4 we climb up a steep spur and sidle along below the cliffs of Darri Head, then up through Darri Pass to reach the next plateau level. We continue southwards along this level, eventually reaching a good campsite right under the towering walls of Mt Mooryang, just where Cooyoyo Creek drops over the cliff edge. Day 5 is a fascinating scramble over and around The Castle, Monolith Valley, Seven God's Pinnacle, camping at the caves under the cliffs of Mt Cole, and ending with sunset views from Mt Owen. Day 6 is another delightful day, exploring Mt Tarn, taking a detour to Crooked Falls where Angel Creek drops into the huge hollow of Holland's Gorge, then continuing under the enormous cliffs of Mt Houghton to more camping caves. We'll continue on to Styles Creek if time permits, crossing some beautiful heathlands with stunning views down into Holland's Gorge. Day 7 gives us some more amazing sights as we return to Newhaven Gap, including a short side trip to Hidden Valley, and some ancient rainforest that has held on in the shade of the steep cliffs ever since the last Ice Age!



## SUNDAY BUS

### ADA TREE – DOWEY SPUR

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Sunday 19 January 2014</b>
<b>STANDARDS</b>	<b>Easy and Easy/Medium</b>
<b>DISTANCES</b>	<b>15 km and 18 km</b>
<b>LEADERS</b>	<b>Michael Murray and Nik Dow</b>
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	<b>Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am</b>
<b>FIRE BAN DISTRICT</b>	<b>Central</b>
<b>TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE</b>	<b>Yarra Glen</b>

For details of this walk please contact the leaders.



## MOFS WALK

### MERRI CREEK – COBURG TO CLIFTON HILL

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Monday 20 January 2014</b>
<b>RETURN TIME</b>	<b>Before 4 pm.</b>
<b>STANDARD</b>	<b>Easy</b>
<b>DISTANCE</b>	<b>Approximately 11 km</b>
<b>ELEVATION</b>	<b>Predominantly Flat</b>
<b>LEADERS</b>	<b>Alan and Jan Case</b>
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	<b>Start Train – Train or Tram Home</b>
<b>AREA</b>	<b>Coburg</b>
<b>MAP REF</b>	<b>Melway 17, 18, 30 and 44</b>
<b>FIRE BAN DISTRICT</b>	<b>Central</b>
<b>TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE</b>	<b>Melbourne</b>

The walk starts at Merlynston station on the Upfield railway line.

The walk along Merri Creek is mostly on shared pedestrian/bicycle paths which were very quiet on the Monday of the walk preview.

Coburg Lake will be passed, together with numerous reserves and sporting facilities.

Lunch will be at the CERES Environmental Park.

The walk after lunch will be along Merri Creek to a watering hole for a coffee or perhaps a beer before catching the train home from Clifton Hill station or a tram in Queens Parade.

If the day is very warm, we will have the option to shorten the walk by a couple of kilometres while still being able to conveniently partake of a coffee or beer after the walk.

Meet at Merlynston railway station (Melway 17 G7) before 10:30 am.

The walk will be cancelled if the weather forecast is over 33°C.





**SOCIAL WALK**

**CAMPBELLS CROFT, DANDENONG CREEK**

**DATE** Thursday 23 January, 2014  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** 5 km  
**ELEVATION** Mostly flat  
**LEADER** Jean Giese  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Vermont, Wantirna  
**MAP REF** Melway 63  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Melbourne

Some lovely reserves and wetlands are tucked away beside Dandenong Creek in Vermont/Wantirna. These we will explore, starting at 10:30, where Heatherdale Road comes to a deadend beside Abbey Walk (Melways 63 D4). Bring your seniors' card for lunch at the Manhattan Hotel.



**PACK CARRY**

**MT BOGONG – LITTLE BOGONG – HOWMANS FALLS**

**DATE** 24–27 January 2014  
**STANDARD** Medium with med/hard climb on day 1  
**LEADER** Claire Luxford  
**AREA** Alps near Mt Beauty  
**MAP REF** Bogong Alpine Area Outdoor Leisure Map 1:50,000  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** North East  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Falls Creek



Mt Bogong is one of those classic areas that we keep going back to every so often because it is so grand and so special. It features grand alpine scenery, Victoria's highest mountain and the likelihood of beautiful late season alpine wildflowers as well as a remote but quite spectacular waterfall and a creek with lovely cascades. There is however a price to pay, namely a big climb to get up there, so light packs are the order of the day. Although the overall trip is medium, the climb on day 1 is really medium/hard but we can take our time

Day 1 will be the big climb up Staircase Spur, just under 1500 m of climbing and 10 km to get to our campsite in the headwaters of Bogong Creek. We may have time for a side trip

to explore down the cascading creek to where it drops down off the plateau.

Day 2 has a pack carry of only about 7.5 km and 200 m of climbing but there are two side trips (both optional). The first is out to Little Bogong along a beautiful ridge and the second is from our camp at Cleve Cole Hut to Howmans Falls, a spectacular but remote and little visited gem.



Day 3 sees us walking 14.5 km back down Eskdale Spur to the cars, although there is still about 240 m of up.

The walking is mainly on track with some off track walking over snow grass and the notable exception of the optional side trip out to Little Bogong. My backup Jopie will be sub leading this part and he tells me there is the possibility of nasty bushfire regrowth which may make him shorten it if the rumour is true. Friday night's camp will be at the Mountain Creek campground and we will aim to be ready to start walking from there at 8:00 am. The weather on Bogong can be bitter and cold any time of the year so come prepared for rain and snow but we'll of course hope for blue skies.

Come and join me on this 3-day adventure to one of Victoria's classic alpine areas.



**SUNDAY CAR POOL**

**BRISBANE RANGES NATIONAL PARK**

**DATE** Sunday 26 January 2014  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCE** 17 km  
**ELEVATION** Fluctuating with 250m height changes repeated  
**LEADER** Roger Wyatt  
**TRANSPORT** Carpool – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45am  
**AREA** Brisbane Ranges  
**MAP REFERENCE** Boars Gully Vic Park Notes  
**TRANSPORT COSTS (per person)** Approx. \$15  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Ballarat

This walk is a mixture of relaxed 4WD tracks and parts of the Burchell Tail in the northern end of the Brisbane ranges prior to lunch, and then off track and descending to Spring Creek down a rocky spur. Then upstream to ascend a steep spur to follow a series of tracks back to Boars Gully. While this is a variety of terrain, it is not for the first time walker, rather for those that want a work-out and nice scenery.

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!

<b>January 2014</b>				
4-19	PC: Heaphy Track & Travers-Sabine Circuit (NZ)	Pvt	Medium	Ian Mair
<b>Sun 5</b>	<b>Lake Daylesford – Wombat Creek Dam</b>	<b>Bus</b>	<b>E &amp; E/M</b>	<b>Del Franks &amp; Christina Hughes</b>
Wed 8	La Franchi Hut, Hepburn Regional Park	Pvt	E/M	Max Casley
Thu 9	Sorrento Back Beach	Pvt	Easy	Alistair Rowe
Sat 11	Cycling: Eastern Suburbs (Rosstown Railway)	Pvt	E/M	Sue Ralston
Sun 12	Ferntree Gully-Belgrave (Train based)	Train	E/M	Mark Heath
<b>Sun 19</b>	<b>Ada Tree – Dowey Spur</b>	<b>Bus</b>	<b>E &amp; E/M</b>	<b>Michael Murray &amp; Nik Dow</b>
Mon 20	Merri Creek to Collingwood	Pvt	Easy	Alan Case
Thu 23	Cambells Croft Reserve-Dandenong Creek	Car	Easy	Jean Giese
24-27	PC: Mt Bogong-Little Bogong-Howmans Falls	Pvt	Med	Claire Luxford & Jopie Bodegraven (support)
Sun 26	Brisbane Ranges – Boar Gully	Car	E/M	Roger Wyett

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