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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

April 2014

PRESIDENT'S CORNER APRIL

The **main items at the March Committee Meeting** were: finalising AGM and Thank You Dinner arrangements; a review of three Incident Reports; the make-up of the Committee for 2014; a campaign for new members, and a possible specific group for our younger members.

The **Annual General Meeting** was a great success with 7 new Committee Members elected – see the 'Your New Committee for 2014' item in this copy of the News. I want to thank the retiring Committee Members for the fantastic service they have provided to the club over the years: Howard Friend, Cecily Hunter, Tina Leeuwrik, Ian Mair, Kerry McKeand, Carol Sisson, and Roger Wyett.

As I mentioned last month we would like to get more people to assist with the Wednesday Night 'Meet and Greet' for visitors in the Clubrooms. Thanks to those who have already volunteered. Keep an eye out for information in the News or contact me now to volunteer!

One of the things we want to do this year is to get an age profile for the club so we can track changes over time, see who our younger members are, etc. **We are asking for people to provide their 'Year of Birth'**. It is being collected via Social Nights, the Sunday Bus, new membership forms and the renewal forms. This optional information will not be included in the membership lists that are circulated.

One of the things we are considering doing this year **is setting up a group for 'young' Melbourne Bushwalkers**. We need to engage with our young to determine the best way to proceed. So if you have any suggestions, particularly if you are one of our younger members, please contact me or another member of the Committee.

Each year there are a number of members who leave the club for a range of reasons so **we need new members to just keep our membership steady**. We have started distributing leaflets around the city, e.g. at walking equipment shops, universities, libraries, and various forms of accommodation. **Consider encouraging family and friends to join!**

Reminders for this month:

- 1 **Take your GREEN HEALTH CARDS with you when walking or cycling.** Pick one up in the Clubrooms or on the Bus if you don't have one.
- 2 **Leaders doing previews** should remember to advise the Club via an email to ecs@mbw.org.au and provide the trip information to your Preview Contact.
- 3 **If you are going on a pack carry or base camp make sure you provide the Leaders with any information they may need at the time of booking** so they don't have to chase you up, e.g. Emergency Contact details
- 4 **Memberships are now due!** Please see the form in this month's News, provide your 'year of birth' and update any of your details that may have changed.

Get out and enjoy walking and cycling in the great Autumn weather and cast an eye over the new Winter Program to see what's on offer.

Mick Noonan



Due date for contributions (including June previews) to May News: 21 April

Members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc meet on Wednesday evenings between 7:00 and 9:00 pm in the club rooms at:

**Royal Historical Society of Victoria
362 William Street
(Cnr William and A'Beckett Streets)
Melbourne
Vic 3001**

Visitors are always welcome!

General correspondence should be directed to:

The Secretary
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc



PO Box 1751
MELBOURNE VIC 3001
www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au

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

Editor: Marilyn Whimpey

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

Please send your contributions as unformatted text files by email to news@mbw.org.au

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

Please note:
Next committee meeting will take place on
Monday 7 April 2014

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Club:

CLAUDINE COLLINS, HELEN GEDDES, MICHAEL KINGSFORD, CECELIA LEE, JANETTE POULTON, FRANK TABONE



Roger Wyatt models his fashionable 'wet look' outfit at the Lerderberg Gorge 3 March, Cowan and Spanish Onion Tracks Walk.

YOUR NEW COMMITTEE FOR 2014!!!!

President	Mick Noonan
Vice-President	Susan McInnes (NEW to Committee)
Secretary	Cathy Merrick (NEW to Role)
Membership Secretary	Gill Wainwright (NEW to Role)
Treasurer	Poppy Sicari
Social Secretary	John Free (NEW to Committee)
General Walks Secretary	Stuart Hanham (NEW to Role)
Sunday Walks Secretary	Halina Sarbinowski
General Committee	Richard Long
	Fang Fang (NEW to Committee)
	Jamie Brawn (NEW to Committee)
	Margaret Campion (NEW to Committee)
	Sylvia Harris (NEW to Committee)
	Mark Heath (NEW to Committee)

2014 Social Calendar

Slide presentation by Ian Mair in the Clubrooms – Wednesday 23 April 2014, at 8:00 pm **BIBBULMUN END-TO-END – DID I REALLY DO IT?**

A rush of blood to the head? A cunning plot to get out of Victoria to avoid a 70th birthday party? The lure of walking on one of Australia's best long-distance tracks? A belief that you can't call yourself a 'real bushwalker' until you have walked further than the distance to the nearest pub? It could be one or all of the above. Either way, Ian Mair, with help and encouragement, made this epic journey of almost 1000 km (plus a few extra for getting lost!) in the south-west of Western Australia during the peak of the wildflower season. Join with Ian as he teases us with eye-catching slides and see why he, and other club members, rate the trip as one of their walking highlights.

May 28 'AN INTRODUCTION TO GEOCACHING' by Ian McLean

Ian, from the Essendon Bushwalking Club, is a very knowledgeable and enthusiastic 'geocacher'. Geocaching is an outdoor recreational activity, in which people use a GPS, mobile and other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers, called 'geocaches' anywhere in the world. Come along a learn all about it and why it can be a good compliment to bushwalking!.

Slide presentation by Ian Mair in the Clubrooms – Wednesday 25 June 2014, at 8:00 pm **WALKING IN NEW ZEALAND'S SOUTH ISLAND WONDERLAND**

New Zealand is famous amongst bushwalkers for its diversity of inspiring and challenging walks. Ian Mair will provide an overview of some of the classics of the South Island such as the Routeburn, Milford, Rees–Dart, Travers–Sabine, Heaphy and others as he highlights why he keeps going back. These are all within the capability of the average club member with an interest in overnight walks. Come along and see how accessible they are and be inspired by the breathtaking beauty of the country.

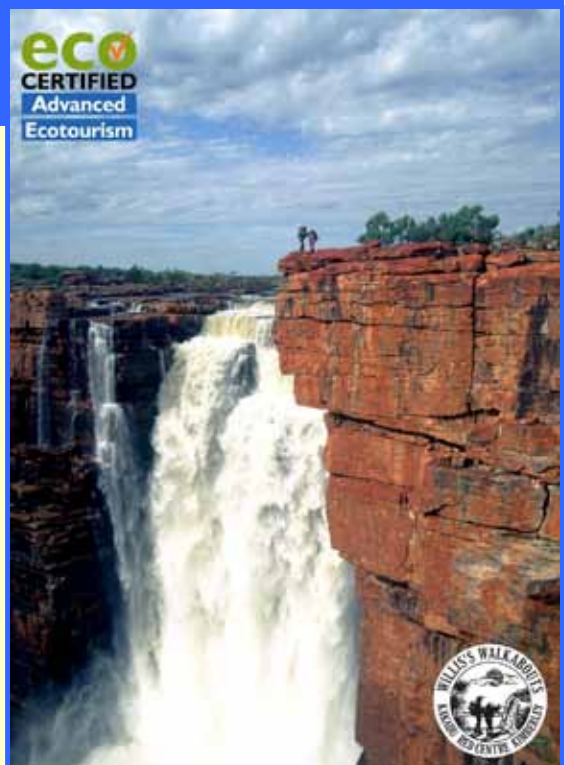
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Noticeboard

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE! MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2014

Membership subscriptions are due 1st April 2014. You are not required to sign an Acknowledgement of Risk form on renewal; however you are advised that payment of fees implies acceptance of the risks involved in any activity you may undertake as a member of Melbourne Bushwalkers. Members are asked to read the following wording regarding your insurance cover through Bushwalking Victoria.

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

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

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

I have read and understood these requirements. I will consider the risks before joining any activity of the Club. I acknowledge that I will take responsibility for my own actions and that payment of my subscriptions will be deemed as full acceptance and understanding of the above conditions'.

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

RENEWAL SLIP

Payment to the Treasurer, together with completed form by one of the following methods:

- Cash or cheque on club night (cheques payable to Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.)
- Cheque and Renewal Slip posted to Treasurer, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc, P.O. Box 1751, Melbourne 3001
- EFT to the club account. (Account Name: Melbourne Bushwalkers, A/c No. 0058-46013, BSB: 013-006).

Please ensure your full name and 'SUBS' appear on the transfer.

Fees: **Single member:** \$45* **Concession:** \$34* (Proof required**)
(Please circle your **Couple/Family:** \$72* **Concession:** \$50* (Proof required**)
membership category) **News Only Subscribers:** \$20

Notes: * Members who currently receive their copies of 'NEWS' via postal mail should add \$10 to continue.
NO new hard copy subscriptions will be accepted.

** Does not refer to holders of a Seniors Card

Name: Year of Birth (optional) *Indicate below if*
Name: Year of Birth (optional) *you agree details*
can go on Club
Membership List
Fill in Address, Telephone number / s and Email address only if changed since last renewal:
Address: YES/NO
Postcode: Tel: H) W) Mobile: YES/NO
Email: YES/NO

THE HEAPHY TRACK – 82 KM

Top of the South Island of New Zealand. One of the ten Great Walks which a dozen keen Melbourne Bushies signed up for to complete with leader Ian Mair. The clean, sweet smelling dozen who joined up in Nelson included Halina, Richard, Debbie, Jonathan, Susan, Carol, David, Phil, Quentin, Deb and Angela. A wonderful companionable lot and of course delightful company which marched through each dramatically different section of the track with unflagging energy and determination. They would try and reach each hut to score a bottom bunk and mattress well positioned so 20 other hikers did not have to step over you in the middle of the night.



Arriving in Karamea after a harrowing 5 hour ride in a rickety old bus we indulged our appetites with one last real food meal, including the speciality which Carol adored of white bait, before we headed the next morning to beat the high tide crossing. The Heaphy delighted many of us with its beauty and varied terrain, changing into distinct landscapes each day from palm forested beach area, grassy plains and mountainous backdrops. Each turn taken on the track provided us with numerous coloured moss and extensive species of lush ferns. Not to mention the continuous crossing of wide flowing rivers, cascading waterfalls and rocky creeks using an endless system of 1 person, 2 person, 3 person etc. bridges. The side trip up Mt Perry was an added highlight for most of the group as well as the exploration of the cave systems along the track.

Each arrival at the great locations of the huts – Heaphy, James MacKay, Saxon and Perry Saddle provided opportunities to soak in the landscape further by viewing the changing weather through the windows and allowing opportunities to relax. Of course this did not apply to the card players who (Richard and Ian) had to play one more hand of five hundred to outbid each other. There were two members who could not relax in



5-Star ticketed accommodation. Brave Phil and Richard meandered off to establish their tent sites. Were they jinxed and it rained on cue almost every time, they set up or packed up, who knows? Melbourne Bushies dominated each hut and before long established a schedule to adhere to – soup at 4 pm, including preparation of our dehyd meals. And of course dinner could only be taken at 6 pm. And we all agreed that BACKCOUNTRY meals were Quentin's was a connoisseur of most menus – ask him! Each member of the group would agree what a magnificent trip it was due to all the magnificent planning and leading Ian Mair did and we also thank Halina for whipping us from behind.

Angela Vetsica

TRAVERS-SABINE CIRCUIT (NZ) CLOSE TO BUSHWALKER HEAVEN ON THE TRAVERS SADDLE 12-18 JANUARY 2014



On the shores of Lake Rotoiti with Mt Robert to the left and the Travers River valley receding into the distance.

Although it can, and many do, be done in less time we also chose to spend six nights on the track stopping at each of the Serviced Huts along the way. These were comfortable, well-maintained and conveniently located. As circumstances had it the huts were generally close to capacity; however, advice from other walkers met along the way indicated that on the days either side of our schedule the huts were relatively empty! Even so we found room to play cards and appreciated the opportunity to share experiences with fellow walkers.

Enough of the logistical preamble; what was the walk like?

It was an easy start with the track following the edge of Lake Rotoiti as we headed into the headwaters of the Travers River. Mountain views up the lake beckoned us on. Waterfalls cascaded off Mt Robert on the far side of the lake. An early arrival at the first hut gave us time to do a side trip to Whisky Falls, the name of which had an appeal beyond the impressive views we had seen across the way. By good fortune the rushing waters of Travers River were relatively low and the above-knee wading was only a minor obstacle as we crossed to the other side. Days 2 and 3 saw us move ever further up the Travers River, climbing steadily as we went. The promised forests, rushing streams and high mountain peaks were our constant companion until we arrived at Upper Travers Hut, only 450 m below the Travers Saddle and in the shadow of Mt Travers. Ever-present signs with a simple message, 'are you prepared for the saddle?', were enough to make even the hardiest of our group pause. Silent prayers for good weather on the next day helped calm the nerves.

The weather for our crossing was perfect – no wind, no clouds and comfortable temperatures. We reached the saddle in good time, even allowing for frequent stops to marvel at the towering mountain peaks and

The walk preview in the club newsletter promised a lot. 'The 80 km Travers–Sabine Circuit reaches deep into the heart of the mountains of Nelson Lakes National Park. Tranquil beech forests, fields of waving tussocks, 2000 metre high mountains and clear rushing streams are highlights of the walk.' We were not disappointed. Indeed it was more than many of us had anticipated!

Invigorated and fit after completing the Heaphy Track, re-provisioned with gear fine-tuned after a break in Nelson, eleven of us set off in what promised to be good walking weather. Like many other walks through the spectacular New Zealand mountainous terrain our route on the Travers–Sabine Circuit would take us up one river valley, across a mountain pass and back down another valley. We chose the more traditional clockwise option travelling first up the Travers River valley and returning along the Sabine River valley.



Mt Travers towered above as we explored the Travers Saddle on the way to find mountain tarns.

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TRAVERS–SABINE CIRCUIT *(continued from previous page)*

stunning views back down the valley. A decision to drop packs at the saddle and explore the surrounding alpine plateau was given unanimous approval. John and Philip had satisfied their desire to challenge the nearby Mt Travers slopes on a side trip the day before so we headed in the other direction to a collection of tarns that the local Ranger had mentioned were worth a visit. We were duly impressed. A 'class A' tarn was John's assessment of the largest of the collection.

Re-grouping at the saddle, we set off on perhaps the toughest section of the walk, a steep downhill plunge along sharp ridges and loose mountain scree. Exciting stuff! And the views down the valley towards the



The track plunged steeply down towards the Sabine River valley.

Sabine River were even more stunning than those on the way up to the saddle. We all agreed that good fortune had looked our way that day and the highlight of the trip remained with us for the next few days as we returned to below the tree line for the walk out. With a character of its own, the tracks out along the Sabine River Valley and adjacent slopes that took us up to our finish at Mt Robert carpark were an unimaginable verdant green from deep blankets of moss, crossed by mountain streams and through seemingly ancient forests. Alas, rings and Orcs eluded us but took nothing away from our elation from a very enjoyable walk. All that remains now is to plan for the next great adventure to New Zealand's natural treasure!

Ian Mair

AUSTRALIA DAY ON MT BOGONG JANUARY 25–27 2014



The team at the summit cairn – from L to R – Judith, Claire, Jenny, Derrick, Anthea, Ian, Geoff, Jopie.

The Mt Bogong summit plateau forms a fine horseshoe with the summit cairn at its centre, with Quartz Knob on the west end of the horseshoe and Cleve Cole Hut on the east end. It is a popular destination for bushwalkers (and cross-country skiers) and is highly recommended to all members who can climb 1500 metres with a full pack.

We assembled at Mountain Creek camp ground on Friday night, which we shared with Bushwalking Victoria's environmental weekenders. The weather forecast looked pretty good, and so it turned out to be. At the ritualised pack weigh-in we had a 9 kg pack (with

everything) and others in the 10–12 kg range and one or two a tad more! Setting off in near ideal conditions, we were soon climbing the infamous Staircase Spur track that climbs without a hint of sympathy for one's

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AUSTRALIA DAY ON MT BOGONG *(continued from previous page)*



Exploring the Bogong horseshoe

leg muscles to the summit at 1986 metres. 'Go at your own pace' said leader Claire, 'and we'll have morning tea at Bivouac Hut'. I quickly lost view of the greyhounds of the group, only finding them at the hut. By then I was rather hot and my legs were grateful for a rest. The hardest bit was yet to come – the track becomes decidedly steeper and as I got to about 1800 metres the snow gums finished and then I suddenly faced up to a view of the summit approach. The memorial a little further on commemorates the deaths of three walkers caught out in a blizzard in August 1943,

reminding us that this mountain, while so pleasant today, can be a killer. The views got better and better, and then I was at the summit, gasping for breath. It had taken me almost 5.5 hours while Anthea had been there for ages and would have had time to nip to Cleve Cole hut and back while waiting for me. After lunch we crossed the Hooker Plateau to Stirling Gap where we made camp just above the headwaters of Bogong Creek. Some serious tea drinking and lounging about took place before we collected water and some of us explored down the creek towards the more interesting pools and waterfalls. It was a cool night with a light wind but we all slept well.

On Sunday – another glorious day – we packed and went to West Peak, and looked down at the drop to Little Mt Bogong which had been proposed as an optional side trip. Now not only was it about 300 metres down (and back up) but it had been rumoured that the re-growth following the bushfires had made this walk a very, very serious one that required much thought before embarking upon it. (In fact we know that a fit and fast group took some five hours just to get down to it last May.) We scrambled down to the first knoll and then to the second for a closer look and more contemplation. After much discussion common sense prevailed (just) and Little Mt Bogong remained unvisited by us. We consoled ourselves with the panoramic views! We returned to the West Peak and went back to the Summit. Two young chaps turned up who had just climbed up the Staircase in three hours and were going back down almost immediately! We continued on around the horseshoe with glorious views in every direction before dropping down to the sheltered spot in the trees where Cleve Cole hut is situated. The working party were encamped here for their weekend of willow poisoning. We made camp at a delightful spot in the trees shown on the map as a yard. It was obviously used by horse groups, but there was not a horse in sight, the dung was quite old and not an issue. By now the mercury had risen and a dip in one of the pools on the way to Howmans Falls was in order. Jopie and Ian did the hard bit and climbed down to the lower pool then completed the circuit by climbing up the other steep side while the rest of us ambled back to camp, and a sit down and cup of tea. A leisurely dinner rounded off a most pleasant easy day followed by an early night.

We made a 7:30 a.m. start on Monday as it was going to be a warm day and we had the Eskdale Spur track to conquer. We arrived at the top of the track where it drops off the plateau in a biting cold wind but we were soon sweating as we quickly lost height. Again the greyhounds leapt away, only catching up with the rest of us at Michell Hut for morning tea. This hut and Bivouac Hut on the Staircase have been rebuilt since the bushfires and are now robust metal-clad, tongue-and-groove-lined emergency only huts, a bit different from the rat-infested bush huts of bygone days. By the time we reached the track at the bottom I was decidedly warm and looking forward to a dip in Mountain Creek. I had a further 6 km to walk before I had that dip, but oh, it was so welcome! We met up at Mt Beauty bakery to re-charge batteries before heading for home. Thank you leader Claire Luxford and back-up leader Jopie Bodegraven and to my fellow walkers Anthea Borch, Geoff Wright, Jenny Flood, Ian Mair and Judith Shaw for your companionable company on another great weekend on Victoria's highest mountain.

Derrick Brown

AROUND THE PROM IN A DAY 1-2 MARCH 2014

Thirteen starters duly turned up at Tidal River on Friday evening for this event. They were Judith our leader, Sue, Mark, Caroline, Kate, Leila, John, Carol, Ian, Halina, Kevin, Lynda and me, Jopie. This had been an annual event for many years and consists of a roughly 44 km circuit starting and finishing at Tidal River and going clockwise via Sealers Cove, Refuge Cove, Waterloo Bay and Oberon Bay. Some years a few super keen walkers have included the Lighthouse as well making for a walk approaching 60 km. Luckily no-one of that inclination was present or if there were, they came to their senses in time.

The last time we did the circuit was in 2011. The day after we had all returned to Melbourne, all hell broke loose at the Prom with massive rainstorms and landslides which washed away bridges and sections of road and track meaning we could not do the circuit for nearly 3 years till all the tracks were fixed. The Sealers Cove track was the last to be reopened late in 2013.

Somehow we all fitted with tents and cars onto the 2 sites Judith had booked. Then just after 7 am we set off up the road to Telegraph Saddle. The weather was good with cloud sitting on the mountain tops all day. We didn't have Derrick along to show us how to swim at each of the beaches and no-one else was prepared to set the example and it really wasn't hot enough anyway for swimming and it is a hassle getting gear on and off and you get sand in all sorts of awkward places and we had a long way to go so we all piked and just walked.

Ian as always was sticking his camera lens into everything, determined to get good shots for the website. Morning tea was at Sealers and lunch at North Waterloo. By the time we got to Oberon Bay the walk was taking its toll with several blisters and sore toes but we all valiantly struggled on and stayed together till we finally and triumphantly straggled back into camp just over 12 hours after we started. Showers, food and then to bed to recover. Not even the Saturday night yahooping from neighbouring camps could keep most of us awake.

Next morning was a very slow start and all bar 5 of us found reasons not to do any more walking. Something about exhaustion and sore feet I think may have been a factor. The five did a delightful walk to Tidal Overlook before heading home.

Ian had his GPS working and tells us that the total cumulative ascent for the day was 1290 m. From the contour map I estimated about 920 m! He also tells me we walked for 9 hrs 5 mins out of the elapsed time of 12 hrs 25 mins. What a slack bunch we were sitting on our bums for 3 hrs 20 minutes. Total distance walked was 44.2 km

I personally immensely enjoyed getting back to the Prom after 3 years and accepting the challenge of this exhilarating and challenging walk and would like to thank Judith for organizing it all for us. I expect I'll be there again next year and if Derrick is too then maybe next year I'll have a swim at every beach.

Jopie Bodegraven

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Working our way back up the western side of the Prom towards Tidal River only one more hurdle stood in our way.

A reminder that to view all available previews and any notifications of changes to walks, just log on to the walks program and previews pages on the MBW website:
http://www.mbw.org.au/mbw_activities/MBW_activities_program.php

**CUT OFF TIME FOR SUNDAY BUS ONLINE BOOKINGS
 4:00 PM THURSDAY PRIOR TO THE WALK.**

Bookings notified to busbookings@mbw.org.au after the cut off time will not be processed and a credit will be issued.

Payment to the leader of the full bus fee and late fee of \$5.00 will have to be made on the day if your booking has not been confirmed prior to the walk.



DANDENONGS EXPLORER

KALORAMA TO DOONGALLA RETURN

DATE Saturday 26 April 2014
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 13 km
LEADER Fiona Gallery
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Dandenong Ranges
MAP REF Melways 52 & 66

The walk begins at 10:00 am at Five Ways in Kalorama, Melways 52J9. This is on the Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd overlooking the Silvan Dam, where Ridge, Barbers and The Old Coach Roads intersect. We will walk to the Doongalla Homestead Site picnic area for lunch along fairly good tracks in front of Mt Dandenong. This is a walk that has a lot of steep ups and downs and may be slippery in places if wet. I expect to be back at the cars about 4:00. We will be having a morning tea break at the Mt Dandenong Lookout where there is a café for those wishing to purchase a coffee – well deserved as it is a bit of a climb to the top.



TOFS WALK

KURTH KILN, BUNYIP STATE FOREST

DATE Thursday 1 May 2014
RETURN TIME 3:00 pm
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 10 km
ELEVATION 100 m
LEADER Janet Hodgson
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Bunyip State Forest, Gembrook
MAP REF Gembrook South 1:2500

This walk includes historical interest and natural beauty. The walk will start at Kurth Kiln, a facility set up during the 1940's to produce gas from charcoal. A few buildings still exist and we will have time to explore them.

The walk will be entirely on tracks and will include fern gullies, towering eucalyptus forest and a dense copse of hazel pomaderis in the damper section of Tomahawk Creek.

Banksias are abundant and the habitat supports a variety of birds including lyrebirds.

We will meet at 10:30 am at the Kurth Kiln picnic ground which is located approximately 4.7 km north along Beenak Road from its intersection with Gembrook–Launching Place Road, Melway 299 B 5.



TRACK MAINTENANCE

THE GRAMPIANS

DATE 2–4 May 2014
STANDARD Easy
LEADER Mark Heath
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Halls Gap
MAP REF Melways 425 C 11
TRANSPORT COST \$60

Join Parks Victoria and Friends of the Grampians to improve walking tracks in the Eastern Grampians on Saturday.

Complimentary camping for both Friday and Saturday nights will be available near Halls Gap.

Ian's and Deb's photos give a great sense of last year's activities – http://mbw.org.au/zenphoto/2013/conservation/2013050401_Grampians_Track_Maintenance/

On Sunday we will be doing a walk in the Eastern Grampians – suggestions are welcome.



WORK PARTY

NEST BOX SURVEY

DATE 3–4 May 2014
STANDARD Easy
LEADER Ray Thomas
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Benalla

Full details of this weekend were in February's News.



SUNDAY BUS

O'SHANNESSY ACQUEDUCT

DATE Sunday 4 May 2014
RETURN TIME 6:00 pm to City
STANDARDS Easy and Medium
DISTANCES 13 km and 20 km
ELEVATIONS 200 m
LEADERS Chris Schirlinger and Cathy Merrick
TRANSPORT Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Yarra Ranges
MAP REF Melway 289, 290

This unusual walk has a large distance difference between the Easy and Medium groups to allow plenty of time for the easy group walkers to enjoy an afternoon in Warburton amongst the cafés and antique shops.

Most of the walk takes place following the aqueduct through the fantastic Yarra Ranges water catchment area. The path here is wide, flat and easy walking. If you are up for a bit more of a challenge, apart from the extra distance, the Medium group will also have to climb a few hundred metres up to the start of the trail.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

NAVIGATION FUN DAY – LAKE LYSTERFIELD

DATE Sunday 11 May 2014
STANDARDS Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCE 10 to 15km
ELEVATION 100 m fluctuation
LEADERS Andy Elam and Roger Wyatt 0409 692 005
TRANSPORT Car pool (Alternative Departure Point – Clubrooms)
AREA Lake Lysterfield State Park
MAP REF Melways Ref 91K10

Often we are not lost – just misplaced. Come along and learn the basics of navigation. We will learn how to set a bearing, use of topology and visual navigation and combining these methods to effectively navigate to your desired location. We also will learn pacing and other techniques to help your navigation.

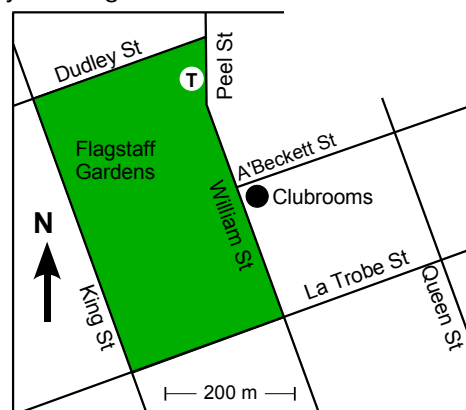
The idea of this day is to have some fun whilst learning or just brushing up on your navigation skills, and then a BYO BBQ lunch with more challenges in the afternoon.

Lake Lysterfield is idea for the two different navigation activities we are setting up:

- There will be a Rogaine course that Andy will challenge members who want to be a little more competitive (the more and remoter targets you reach the more points you earn) for 2–3 hours in the morning, whilst:
- Roger will co-ordinate members who are more map-to-ground focussed (still with some points acquisition) but using less compass skills, and staying on track (mainly).

ALTERNATIVE DEPARTURE POINT FOR SUNDAY WALKS OPPOSITE CLUBROOM

When advised, the alternative departure point for Sunday walks noted on the walks program and in previews will be at the bus stop on the northern corner of A'Beckett Street and William Street, opposite the clubrooms at the Royal Historical Society building.



Flagstaff station is closed on weekends, nearest open station is Melbourne Central.
 Sunday car parking around Flagstaff Gardens:-
 Dudley St & King St – all day on both sides,
 La Trobe St – all day on north side,
 William St – 2 hour limit (OK for pool cars).



WEDNESDAY WALK

SUGARLOAF RESERVOIR

DATE Wednesday 14 May 2014
RETURN TIME About 5:30 pm
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 15– 18km
ELEVATION Minimal
LEADER Margaret Curry
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Christmast Hills
MAP REF Parks Victoria Notes, Melways 273:B2



Sugarloaf Reservoir is a domestic water supply reservoir for Melbourne and was built among the Christmas Hills on former farmland and forest. Expansive views of Melbourne, the Dandenong Ranges and the Great Dividing Range are a feature of the walk and numerous grey kangaroos can be sighted on the grassy hill sides. While the distance is 18 km, it is a relatively easy walk following a track around the shoreline with only a few undulations and one small hill. A 15 km option is available.

We will meet at Ridge Picnic Area near the main entrance off Simpsons Road at 10:15 am for a 10:30 am start. To book and for further information phone or email Margaret.



CYCLING

BUNYIP STATE FOREST RIDE

DATE	Saturday 17 May 2014
STANDARD	Medium/Hard
DISTANCE	51 or 60 km
LEADER	Philip Brown
AREA	West Gippsland
TRANSPORT	Car or train

Here is one for mountain bike riders, a circuit out at Bunyip State Forest. The ride is mostly on fire trails and gravel access roads and a nice flat section along an aqueduct. There is a large climb up to Four Brothers Rocks and the pay off is a great view of the tree-covered valley below. There are some ups and downs but it will be at a steady pace so join me and escape for a bush walk on wheels where you can breathe fresh air and enjoy native plants.

The meeting place is at the corner of Tonimbuk and Princes Highway in front of the servo around 1 hr 15 min from the City for a 9:30 am start.



SUNDAY BUS

THE MONK WALK

DATE	Sunday 18 May 2014
RETURN TIME	6:30 pm to City
STANDARDS	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES	14 km and 18 km
ELEVATION	Undulating
LEADERS	Theo Mertzandis and Andrew Francis
TRANSPORT	Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA	Castlemaine
MAP REF	Vicmap Topographic 1:30,000 T7723- 4-1-2 and T7723-4-2-1

Both walks start at Castlemaine and follow the Dry Diggings Track (also the Great Dividing Track). We are walking largely on track, through a woodland corridor with great 360 degree views from The Monk (elevation 510 m), along an open ridge overlooking the Loddon Valley, visiting Central Springs, and for the longer walk finishing at Vaughan Springs.

It's famous for its gold mining ruins, ghost towns, water race, diggings etc. Fryerstown used to have 15,000 people at the height of the gold mining! Come and enjoy this lovely part of Victoria and walk part of both the Great Dividing Trail and the Dry Diggings Track!



MOFS WALK

CARDINIA RESERVOIR

DATE	Monday 19 May 2014
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	10 km
ELEVATION	Negligible
LEADER	Alister Rowe
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Narre Warren East
MAP REF	Melway 126, 210

Meet in the Observation car park at 10:30 am. Enter from Wellington Road; car park is at Melway 126 E12.

As on previous occasions, we will walk around the area including Duffy's Lookout, Crystal Brook picnic ground and return with a walk along the embankment. The total distance is barely 10 km, so the walk should conclude before 2:30 pm. The area is quite scenic on nice days.



SOCIAL WALK

BOYD PARK, URBAN FOREST RESERVE

DATE	Thursday 22 May 2014
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	5 km
ELEVATION	Flat
LEADER	Jean Giese
TRANSPORT	Train
AREA	Hughesdale,, Murrumbeena and Malvern East
MAP REF	Melway 69

The best option for this walk is to catch the train as we start at Oakleigh Station and finish near Murrumbeena Station. Car parking on a weekday could be a problem.

We will walk in a north-west direction, linking bike paths and parks, as far as the Monash Freeway, and return by a mostly different route to Murrumbeena where we will have lunch in a café in Neerim Road. This will enable us to explore Boyd Park (with some history about the famous artistic family), O.T. Flight Reserve and the Urban Forest Reserve.

Catch the train for Oakleigh (Cranbourne Line) at Flinders Street at 9:52, Richmond 9:55, to meet at Oakleigh Railway Station at 10:15.



DANDENONGS EXPLORER

MIDDLE PARK TO SANDRINGHAM

DATE	Saturday 24 May 2014
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	approx. 13 km
LEADER	Margaret Campion
TRANSPORT	Private
MAP REFERENCE	Melway 2K

This month we dare to leave the Dandenongs behind and it's off to the seaside for our traditional Middle Park to Sandringham walk.

Bucket and spade are optional as we meet, 10 am at Middle Park light rail station car park, corner Canterbury Road and Armstrong Street, Middle Park – Melway 2KF11. We'll stroll down Armstrong across Beaconsfield Parade and along the beach through lively St Kilda and trendy Brighton, all the way to Sandy. Might be a tasty stop along the way then lunch at the end of North Rd. Too many cappuccinos are never enough, including the last one in Sandy. Bring your MYKI for the fun bus trip back to St Kilda then the light rail back to Middle Park. No booking needed, just turn up.

 **SUNDAY CAR POOL**

NEW: SARDINE AND CLEARWATER CREEK (INCLUDING THE TUNNEL)

DATE Sunday 25 May 2014
STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADER Michael Murray
TRANSPORT Carpool – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am

For details of this walk please contact the leader.

 **SOCIAL EVENT**

AN INTRODUCTION TO GEOCACHING

ACTIVITY Presentation by Ian McLean
LOCATION Club Rooms
DATE Wednesday 28 May 2014
ORGANISER Kerry McKeand

Geocaching is an outdoor recreational activity, in which people use a GPS, mobile and other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers, called 'geocaches' anywhere in the world. Come along and learn all about it and why it can be a good compliment to bushwalking.

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
 LORNE BASE CAMP/CABIN TRIP**

DATE 6–9 June 2014
RETURN TIME Approx 5 pm Monday 9 June
STANDARD Easy Medium and Medium
DISTANCE 8 km – 16 km
ELEVATION 300 m
LEADER(S) Margaret Curry
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Great Otway National Park
MAP REF Parks Victoria

Lorne is a great location for a base camp. The Otway Ranges with its renowned coastline, spectacular forests and picturesque waterfalls offer numerous walks. The plan is to do a full day walk on both the Saturday and Sunday with a shorter walk on the Monday. While generally the walking is along defined tracks, there will be some steep sections, rock hopping and creek crossings. Be prepared – you may get your feet wet!! The vegetation is varied, with magnificent tree ferns and tall forests of mountain ash, messmate, blue gum and mountain grey gum. We will pass numerous waterfalls, follow creeks or rivers and have some stunning views.

I have booked 3 cabins with en suite facilities at the Cumberland River Holiday Park, 7 km south west of Lorne. Each cabin can sleep up to 6 people. Cost will range from \$111.50 for 6 people up to \$134.25 for 4 people for the three nights. A camping option is also available. Car pooling is recommended. A deposit of \$50 is required at time of booking.

**BOOK REVIEW:
 WALKING TO CANTERBURY: A MODERN JOURNEY THROUGH CHAUCER'S
 MEDIEVAL ENGLAND BY JERRY ELLIS.**

This book is written by an American who in 1999 walked 60 miles of the Pilgrim's Way in England from London to Canterbury. This is about half the route. The true Pilgrims Way is a walk of 192 kilometres or 119 miles that runs from Winchester to Canterbury. This is the route described in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales and the author makes many references to that famous piece of literature.

Canterbury became a pilgrimage site following the famous murder of the Archbishop by King Henry II's knights in the Cathedral. People of the times walked to Canterbury to make penance or to accrue indulgences.

Jerry Ellis provides an interesting insight into Chaucer and the period of the pilgrimages. His book is not an expansive description of the route but you do get a sense of what it will be like, the accommodation options – he stayed in bed and breakfasts or camped out, and the towns along the way.

If you are thinking of walking any of the other pilgrimage walks like the Camino de Santiago you may find this book helpful in understanding the allure of pilgrimages to medieval travellers.

Of course Ellis, like other travel writers, draws verbal portraits of the people he meets along the way, some more interesting than others. Overall this book helped to give me a taste for another interesting walk.

Happy reading!

Cathy Merrick



BUSH SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING WEEKEND 3–4 MAY 2014

Bush Search and Rescue's annual training weekend will be held on the 3 and 4 May, and all current BSAR members are encouraged to attend. Experienced bushwalkers who are interested in becoming members of BSAR are also most welcome.

BSAR has been a significant part of Bushwalking Victoria for over 60 years, with BSAR members assisting the Police in many searches for people lost in the bush over that period. For Bushwalking Victoria to continue to provide this service to the community, BSAR needs new members.

The level of bushwalking skills and experience required to become a member of BSAR can be found at <http://www.bsar.org/joining>. If you are at or near this level of skill and experience, please consider attending the training weekend. Talk to David Laing, the club's BSAR Delegate,

The weekend program will cater for prospective and new BSAR members through to the most experienced BSAR members. It includes a full search practice. This will take participants through the process of planning and getting organised while en-route and on arrival at the 'Command Post', then searching a designated area in small groups using specific search techniques, followed, perhaps, by a rescue. The program also includes an extended rogaine style GPS navigation exercise to develop members' navigation skills with a GPS, and some workshops covering specific search and rescue skills.

It will be held in the Wombat Forest. The Police will provide bus transport, leaving the BSAR Northcote rendezvous and car park early Saturday morning and returning Sunday evening. Participants will need a bushwalker's normal food and equipment for an overnight base camp on Saturday night and day trips in the bush; off track and with some thick scrub.

Details how to sign up to attend will be on the BSAR website later in March, and will be emailed to all current BSAR members.

For further information please contact
David Laing

or
training@bsar.org
<http://www.bsar.org>



*BSAR team at search conclusion of Howitt Plains search
Sunday 23 March 2014
From BSAR website*

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!

May 2014				
Thu 1	Tomahawk Creek, Bunyip Forest	Pvt	Easy	Janet Hodgson
2-4	Track Maintenance – Grampians	Pvt	E/M	Mark Heath
3-4	Nest Box Survey – Benalla	Pvt	Easy	Ray Thomas
Sun 4	O’Shannessy Acqueduct	Bus	E & E/M	Chris Schirlinger and Cathy Merrick
Sun 11	Navigation Fun Day – Lysterfield Park (ALT DEP)	Car	Easy	Roger Wyatt and Andy Elam
Wed 14	Sugarloaf Reservoir, Christmas Hills	Pvt	E/M	Margaret Curry
Sun 18	Cycling: Tonimbuk–Bunyip Circuit	Pvt	Med	Phil Brown
Sun 18	The Monk Walk	Bus	E & E/M	Theo Mertzandis and Andrew Francis
Mon 19	Cardinia Reservoir	Pvt	Easy	Alister Rowe
Thu 22	Boyd Park, Urban Forest Reserve	Car	Easy	Jean Giese
Sat 24	Dandenongs Explorer TBC	Pvt	Easy	Maureen Hurley
Sun 25	NEW: Sardine & Clearwater Creek (incl The Tunnel)	Car	E/M	Michael Murray

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RENEWAL SLIP

Payment to the Treasurer, together with completed form by one of the following methods:

- Cash or cheque on club night (cheques payable to Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.)
- Cheque and Renewal Slip posted to Treasurer, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc, P.O. Box 1751, Melbourne 3001
- EFT to the club account. (Account Name: Melbourne Bushwalkers, A/c No. 0058-46013, BSB: 013-006).

Please ensure your full name and ‘SUBS’ appear on the transfer.

Fees: **Single member:** \$45* **Concession:** \$34* (Proof required**)
 (Please circle your **Couple/Family:** \$72* **Concession:** \$50* (Proof required**)
 membership category) **News Only Subscribers:** \$20

Notes: * Members who currently receive their copies of ‘NEWS’ via postal mail should add \$10 to continue.
NO new hard copy subscriptions will be accepted.
 ** Does not refer to holders of a Seniors Card

Name: Year of Birth (optional) *Indicate below if you agree details can go on Club Membership List*

Name: Year of Birth (optional) *YES/NO*

Fill in Address, Telephone number/s and Email address only if changed since last renewal:

Address: *YES/NO*

Postcode: Tel: H) W) Mobile: *YES/NO*

Email: *YES/NO*