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# THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

December 2014

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER – DECEMBER

**The main items at the November Committee Meeting** were: accepting Panorama's proposed increase in bus costs for 2015 (<3%); deciding that no bus walker fee increase is necessary for 2015 as the Sunday walks continue to be popular and in surplus; discussing our expected end of year financial position and whether an increase in membership fees is required (at this stage we don't believe a fee increase will be needed, mainly due to our high operating reserves); agreeing to support the proposal for the Great Forests National Park; reviewing a number of incident reports (ankle and minor injuries); and our regular Future Directions item.

In December we should be able to publish our draft 'objectives' for the Club over the next few years for member comment and feedback.

**We would like to be known as a very friendly club where everyone feels welcome.** Christmas is a special time of year **so at this year's Christmas Party let's make sure that everyone is included.** If you see someone on their own, whether you know them or not, engage them, go over and talk to them or bring them into your group, introduce them, find out something about them – don't just tell them about yourself! Of course the same applies on all our activities and especially Sunday walks where we have a high number of visitors and new members.

**The Autumn Program is currently being developed** by our Walks Secretaries, Coordinators and Leaders. As well as a great range of Sunday walks, MOFS/TOFS, cycling etc. we have the return of the Dandenong Explorer walks. This autumn we hope to have two Wednesday Walks each month to monitor the interest level. Easter has been a favourite time for remote base camps and for interstate trips, with Tasmania and NSW being popular destinations.

One of the things we want in future **is a more diverse and growing overnight program** of pack carries, base camps and cycling, whether they be in Victoria, interstate or overseas. From 2001–2006 we had 24–33 pack carries each year and 18–26 base camps. While the number of activities has dropped in recent years, pack carries in particular increased this year, with 20 on the program. Regular 'iconic walks' such as the Wilsons Prom, introductory pack carries, and harder walks for the more experienced walkers helps make for an interesting overnight program.

*(continued on page 3)*

### Melbourne Bushwalkers 2014 Christmas Party

Venue - Melbourne City Bowls  
Club, Dudley St  
West Melbourne  
(Opposite the clubrooms)

Date - Monday 8 December 2014

Time - 7.00 pm to 10.00 pm

BYO Plate To Share

Drinks can be purchased  
from the bar



**Due date for contributions (including February previews) to January News: 21 December**

MEMBER OF



Bushwalking Victoria

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 1 December**

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOST THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS NEW YEAR'S DAY BBQ?

The BBQ will be at the Birdland Reserve, Belgrave (Melways map 84 A2).

To host the event you will need to get to the Reserve early to save our spot.

It is a BYO event – everyone to bring something to BBQ, a contribution for the community table, a chair and drinks.

If you are interested in hosting the New Year's Day BBQ please contact John Free, Social Secretary.

Check the MBW website for final arrangements for this event.

*Thanks – John Free*

## SALLOW WILLOW ERADICATION WEEKEND

**24-26 JANUARY 2015 – FALLS CREEK**

The annual Sallow Willow eradication weekend is currently being planned. Please advise your interest to Charlie Ablitt on 0400 967 054 or by email: [conservation@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au](mailto:conservation@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au)



## PARKS VICTORIA CALLS FOR 'FIT AND STRONG' OUTDOOR VOLUNTEERS

Check the web site below for information about work parties.

<https://www.wild.com.au/news/article/parks-victoria-calls-strong-outdoor-volunteers>

*Sent by Judith Shaw*

## WARNING!

### THIEVES ACTIVE AT THE PROM

Last weekend on a non-Club 4-day walk at Wilson's Promontory, a Ranger warned us that the ravens have learned to undo zips on packs.

This was proved to us the next day when we left our packs by the track as we did a side trip to the lighthouse. When we got back all our zip pockets had been opened and the birds stole four bread rolls and a bag of lollies from my pack.

*Merilyn Whimpey*

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT *(continued from page 1)*

It has been quite a few years since we had water activities on the program (canoeing/kyaking last in 2011, with only two since 2007 and liloing in 2008). I have been asked a number of times by visitors and new members if we still do these activities. It would be great to see some water activities return in 2015, starting this autumn. Maybe we could get new leaders interested in learning from the experienced hands and develop extra skills in these activities.

The Committee want to encourage our overnight leaders to help us make this autumn's program one they will enjoy, and a memorable and compelling one for members and visitors.

### Reminders and information for this month:

- 1 **The Clubrooms will be closed on Wednesday 23rd and 30th** with no Sunday walk on December 28th. So book online or come into the Clubrooms on Wednesday 16th.
- 2 **Make sure all January NEWS contributions are in before the due date** of December 21st!
- 3 **If you go on a Preview let us know (email to [ecs@mbw.org.au](mailto:ecs@mbw.org.au)) and also tell a responsible person (your Preview Contact) where you are going.** You can use our Trip Intentions Form for both Club and private walks.
- 4 **The Christmas Party is on Monday December 8th** this year, same venue (the Melbourne City Bowls Club in Flagstaff Gardens).

We will be bringing the Annual General Meeting forward by a week to March 18th so please update your diary.

Enjoy the festive season, drive carefully and get out for some walking or cycling with the Club or friends! Hope to see you at the Christmas Party.

*Mick Noonan*

## GETTING TO THE AGM/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 4–10pm

**Close but expensive Parking:** Around Flagstaff Gardens it's 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, Chapel, A'Beckett, Queen and Lonsdale Streets: 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**

**Note:** The Summer Victoria Night Markets go to the end of March.

**You can also Walk or Cycle!**

## WHISTLES – COMMUNICATING IN THE BUSH

An essential piece of equipment in the bush is the humble **whistle**. It is the best way to communicate between walkers.

- **3 blasts** indicate an **emergency**, e.g. a missing person, and all walkers should move to where the signal originated.
- **2 blasts** indicate a need to **regroup**, e.g. a person needs first aid, the group is too spread out.
- **1 blast** indicates **acknowledgement** and lets everyone know that a message has been heard and is being actioned.

If an acknowledgement whistle is not heard then it is important that a message is **relayed** (repeated) so that all walkers, especially the leader, are aware of either an emergency or the need to regroup.

It is essential that all walkers carry a whistle. Do you have one?

You can buy one from the Club for only \$2.

*Halina Sarbinowski*

### VALE – JOYCE DUNN 1922–2014



Joyce joined the Melbourne Bushies in 1968 and her involvement continued through the seventies and early eighties. She was a keen pack-carry walker as well as day walks. She also skied a lot – down-hill at Mount Buller and later cross-country skiing with the Bushies, visiting Wilky a number of times.

When she got home from a walk, she would sneak into the house so as not to disturb her husband and have a bath and cleanup before presenting herself!

When her feet started to give her trouble, she took up horse riding, going on cattle drives with Charlie Lovick, and also on drives in NSW (re-enactments, I think)

She was always neat and well groomed, even on tough walks. She would emerge from her tent with make-up and lippy on while the rest of us were all scruffy and unkempt.

She also had a long involvement with the Box Hill Choral Society, where she was known as Connie (her middle name was Constance)

She and her late husband did a lot of travelling in the later years, and later she went on bus tours with a 'young at heart' group.

Joyce was born in 1922 in the western district near Beeac and grew up on a farm. She was the second oldest of five children. When

World War 2 broke out, she enlisted with the Women's Army Corps and drove trucks carrying supplies all over eastern Australia. She was based at the East Sale air force base, where she met her future husband at the dances organised between the WACs and the RAAF crews.

After the war she took up mothercraft nursing.

Joyce loved the outdoors and liked nothing better than being out in Nature and taking on challenges.

Joyce was a quiet and unassuming lady – a really gentle-woman – and she didn't like making a fuss or worrying others. She was always happy and contented and had a habit of humming quietly to herself as she went about her activities.

What a great lady – quiet and unassuming as I said but one tough and adventurous woman.

She had a full life and I have many fond memories of her as I'm sure have others of you.

*Bob Steel*

### TARA BULGA NATIONAL PARK PACK CARRY



Options, options and options with extras! That's what this walk was. Exceptionally well organised by our leader, El Presidente.

Not only did we see: the standard koala, wallaby, tiger snake, but we were treated to a once-in-a-life-time display by a male lyrebird for 6 minutes at a distance of 5 metres (whilst on his mound) – the full plumage display and verbal repertoire of calls ranging from the standard lyrebird through to almost synthesised music! But alas, no female responded, well none that we know of!

This was on top of some of the best wet temperate mountain ash and fern glens, as we

*(continued over page)*

### TARA BULGA NATIONAL PARK *(continued from previous page)*

descended into temperate eucalypt forest with views to the coast. Feeling like you should have come on this pack carry? Well, it gets better! Friday night camp was in a picturesque setting by the Tara River with the tranquil river, bird life aplenty and majestic Mountain Ash as we looked out from our cosy cabins in the caravan park. Sadly we left this tranquil setting on Saturday morning for a 1.2 km loop of the Bulga NP including the suspension bridge, before coffee and carrot cake at the Bulga Guest House.

Then it was into the remainder of the 17 km, as promised, downhill but ... Ooops, forgot about the four crossings with John being the first to display his lack of rock hopping ability, but at least it was refreshing! Then we stopped for lunch at the base of a lovely waterfall for lunch. As we feasted, so did the leeches. This was only to whet our appetite for the short but slippery climb up from Mac's Creek where many decided kneeling in the dirt was acceptable practice. Or was it praying that Graeme did not take them out like a bowling ball, as he slid back down the path of walkers!

All was soon forgiven as the accommodation at the Mac Creek Hall was sighted, with pre-positioned water, flush toilets, tables and chairs along with lighting for a modest \$10 each to play cards and gorge ourselves on nibbles. Five purists opted for tents, whilst the remaining six slept on the hall floor. All awoke refreshed for the 500 m climb that awaited on Sunday. A steady gradient rewarded us with views to the coast, aided by the strip clearing of plantation timber in sections outside of the park. Then a 200 m descent to Tarra and Cynthia Falls in some spectacular fern glens.

Thanks to Mick for organising and leading what was a most enjoyable walk, and also for the company of: Graeme, John, Di, Cheryl, Geoff, Jamie, Jeanette, Fang Fang, and Fay.

*Roger Wyett*

## Willis's Walkabouts

# Kakadu Plan of Management Have Your Say

The new **Kakadu Draft Plan of Management** is scheduled to be released on 1 December. Comments will be accepted only until the end of January.

This plan will affect what bushwalkers can and can't do for the next ten years. If you would like to walk in Kakadu, or if you simply care about bushwalking in the park, please have your say. Not making a comment tells the authorities either that you are happy with everything in the plan or that you don't care.

The plan will **probably** go online on the Kakadu Publications page: <http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/national-parks/kakadu-national-park/publications>

Please email me if you would like me to send you details when the plan is actually released.



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

### SEVEN CREEKS GORGE AND GARDEN RANGE, 24–26 OCTOBER A weekend of waterfalls, granite scenery and views

I have always loved waterfalls and granite scenery and Ray Thomas's pack carry weekend near Euroa excelled on both these counts. Seven Creeks Gorge is not well known due to it being rather rough and difficult of access for the non-bushwalker, which is a shame because it ranks up there with the best gorges in Victoria such as Moroka, the Snowy and Little River in East Gippsland, albeit on a smaller scale.

On Saturday our group of 12 on a joint Melbourne Bushies and VMTC trip set off from Gooram Falls, a lovely series of cascades on Seven Creeks and the only ones easily accessible to most people. After copious photos we continued on upstream and were confronted by a seemingly never ending series of cascades, small waterfalls, bigger waterfalls and pools and rocky bits in between. Fabulous stuff. Unfortunately there were some hiccups

Early in the piece one of our group sprained her ankle. Luckily we were close to a farm track, so she hobbled / was supported / was piggybacked the 150 metres while John raced back the kilometre or so to get Ray's car which Judith was able to drive back to Ray's house in Euroa despite the bung ankle. That was hiccup 1. Number 2 was that the day was rather warm and by the time we got to Polly McQuinn's where we were to go overland for 3 km to our intended campsite, we were mostly hot, worn out and low or out of drinking water. Camp was declared there and Ray organized some Euroa friends to bring us water. The containers were insufficient so Ray returned to Euroa to come back with extra water; except that his car was now at Shepparton hospital where Judith had taken it to get the ankle xrayed, never dreaming that Ray might want it half way through the trip! Well, what are good friends for? They drove Ray back to our camp without even flinching but no doubt they've accumulated a load of brownie points in Ray's eyes.

Sunday was less eventful, just a lovely walk over Mt Wombat and part of the Garden Range, with views aplenty, rock slabs, orchids, lilies and more. Conditions were cooler but warm enough to finish with a refreshing dip in the creek. The trip was punctuated by afternoon tea at Ray's place where Judith had left us a note, she having taken the train back to Melbourne earlier in the day.

Thank you Ray for sharing this beautiful area and your extensive botanical knowledge of it with us; and for having the right contacts when we needed them!

The leader: Ray Thomas

Participants: Helen Geddes, Derrick Brown, Ian Mair, Ray Spooner, Jenny Flood, Judith Shaw, Trish Emore, Halina Sarbinowski, Deb Hand, John Fritze, Jopie Bodegraven.

*Jopie Bodegraven*



John admires the upper drop of Gooram Falls, near the start of Saturday's walk



Trish and Jenny relax in front of a beautiful waterfall somewhere in the middle of the Seven Creeks gorge

### FROM VIKING TO GLADIATOR IN THE ALPS

Rain, hail, icy winds, leeches, snakes, river crossings, sheer rock scrambles, scrub bashing – what a fantastic walk! What started out as a challenging Razor–Viking circuit, albeit not the classic route, was turned on its head as unexpected shifts in the weather patterns encouraged a change in plans. Undaunted, Phil and his co-conspirator Jopie crafted a revised schedule that placed safety and comfort before dogged determination to do what we had set out to achieve, and slipped in a final twist that earned us the right for a refreshment stop on the way home.

Saturday morning started out as expected. Light rains had been forecast and we were dressed to suit. The route was one done many times before. Follow the Howqua River upstream, pick up the Queen Spur Road to the side of Queen Spur and amble up to the top of Mt Buggery. Buggery by name, Buggery by fame! ‘Light rains’ persisted and expensive wet weather gear was more wet than gear. Post-fire regrowth ensured that reluctant droplets would soon be trickling down the inside rather than the outside as we fought our way through its tenacious reach providing convenient launching places for heat-seeking leeches. Shortly after lunchtime, spirits still high, we had reached the top with enough blood left to rest as sunshine intermittently broke through the threatening mist. Mt Speculation now beckoned along the Crosscut Saw. Only Horrible Gap stood between us and the prospect of a warm dry tent on the far side of Mt Speculation. It was easy to imagine that whoever had chosen such evocative names for the hills and hollows must have really been having a bad day! By the time we had reached to top of Mt Speculation there were those amongst us who had added a few more adjectives to the descriptions.

4:30pm. Tents up and dry clothes replacing damp. Sheltered from the worst of the screaming wind high overhead. Should we light a fire while we prepare dinner? The decision was taken from our hands. A light drumming on the tents, slowly building as mist became hailstones and our previously green and brown campsite turned into a blanket of white. The marvel of modern telephony said it all. We could expect temperatures overnight of  $-3^{\circ}\text{C}$  with showers and wind persisting. With a hasty goodnight we all retired early to our individual castles to snuggle in as we dined in solitary comfort.

From inside the tents Sunday morning seemed more inviting. Voices echoed out from nearby neighbours as debate ensued as to whether it was  $+6^{\circ}\text{C}$  or  $-6^{\circ}\text{C}$  while thermometers struggled to match the conditions. Only John dared venture out to capture the beauty of the sun rising over cloud filled valleys. The crisp crunch underfoot over even more hailstones favoured the  $-6^{\circ}\text{C}$  camp! Better to roll over again for another couple of hours as the next wave of mist and fog swept across our campsite in the saddle. By the time hunger and nature’s persistent call forced a re-emergence Phil was on the rounds gathering votes. It was a landslide in favour of sitting out the bleak conditions and an alternative walk plan was put into action. Sunday rolled on, the weather improved and a side trip to Mt Koonika relieved the growing signs of craziness brought on by confinement to small (tent) spaces. By dinner time an open fire was in order and Saturday’s damp gear was once again dry and aired.

Monday was a day for easy walking in pleasant conditions. We retraced our path to Mt Buggery and continued beyond along the Crosscut Saw. Our planned descent into The Terrible Hollow and up to Macalister Springs would have to wait for another trip. Clear blue skies saw us across Mt Howitt and along the Australian Alps Walking Track as we soaked up the boundless beauty of the nearby mountain ranges. Camp in a saddle before Mt Magdala seemed a world away from the conditions of the night before.

Only one day left! Our cars were not far away waiting patiently alongside the Howqua River far below. We warmed up by heading over Mt Magdala with a photo-shoot at Hells Window. Spirits high, we were ready for anything to round out this eventful trip. Should we follow the beaten track down Helicopter Spur, take a more challenging route down the spur from Picture Point or plunge headlong with a spirit of adventure down an un-named, untracked spur along the western slopes above Howqua River South Branch? Jopie and John were sent ahead to scout a route. Cautiously confident it could be done we set off in their wake down the un-named spur. Gently at first, then plunging steeply, arms legs and anything else that could brake the descent were put into action. A few testing rocky outcrops and we were soon down onto the more gentle lower reaches of the ridgeline. The vegetation thought so too and free-fall turned into a wrestle to the death as we fought like gladiators to fend off more tenacious shrubs and branches, this time without the leeches. And then, suddenly, the wall of green ended and we walked nonchalantly out onto the clear, even path along the Howqua River that would lead us home.

Thank you Phil for a fabulous walk, to Jopie and John for your navigation and route scouting, and to Susan, Jeanette, Leo, Heath and Frank for your company on a memorable trip.

*Ian Mair*

### MT BULLER – SCENE 1, TAKE 2 PACK CARRY, 14–16 NOVEMBER.

Mount Buller (1805m) was named by the explorer and surveyor Major Sir Thomas Livingstone Mitchell after an acquaintance in the Colonial Office. However the Aboriginal name for the mountain is Bulla Bulla meaning 'good' (Blake, Les – *Place names of Victoria*, Rigby (Adelaide, 1977))

The summit of Buller can be easily reached by vehicle or a number of mountain bike tracks. Whilst the latter can be used for walking, it is also possible to climb the peak from the Delatite River up the Klingsporn walking track starting at Mirimbah, and is an 8.5 km climb to the village. The Klingsporn Track was the bridle trail followed by stockmen when taking their cattle up high for the summer months. A more adventurous option is to walk to the aptly named 'Thank Christ Corner' on Shoulder Spur and go off-track along Shoulder Spur to Mclaughlin Spur and over the summit of Mt Buller. Mclaughlin Spur offers good views to the summit and the rocky outcrops that must be traversed. A circuit can be done by continuing on to Bluff Spur Memorial Hut below the summit of Mt Stirling and descending along the River Spur Trail for a two day walk with a total distance of 31.6 km and a cumulative ascent/descent of 1680 m.

This was the route planned by Agajan for the club's program last February. Alas, high temperatures and fire danger intervened and prudence dictated a deferral to November. Who would have thought back in February that Agajan would be in Nepal in November! In stepped Deb and like a consummate professional she marshalled the willing twelve and led us unerringly across rocky outcrops and raging streams, ensured we were comfortable through howling winds and lashing rain, and returned us safely to our waiting cars after a very enjoyable and high-spirited walk.

Saturday was the big day! From the start at Mirimbah we climbed unrelentingly up, firstly on the Klingsporn Track and then on a lesser footpad until Mt Buller had been summited. There were no really steep sections but with every upward step there was that nagging voice in the back of the head 'I should have listened more carefully to what John Fritze was saying about pack weight!'. The weather was kind – high clouds and no wind – presenting us with mountain panoramas that delighted in every direction. Jopie enlightened the curious with the identification of the more prominent and enticing peaks and mountain ridges. All too soon we were over the top of Mt Buller and heading into the all-but-deserted Mt Buller Alpine Village for a lunch stop. No! Not a restaurant or cafe, but our carefully selected, balanced, nutritional trail food – and an ice-cream!

Beyond Mt Buller we were entangled in the maze of tracks and by-ways that make the area a popular destination for mountain bike riders. Agajan's maps and Deb's attentive eye saw us safely through what could have been a mystery as absorbing as the disappearances at Hanging Rock. Under gathering dark clouds we finally reached our overnight camp site next to Bluff Spur Memorial Hut. Tents then food was the obvious choice with the forecast night rains an ever-increasing reality.

Sunday arrived earlier for some than others. A dawn retreat to Bluff Hut seemed a better option than resting uneasily in a tent-come-liferaft in the gathering pool of water outside. Even so, with sprits high and dressed for the weather, we were ready to set off close to the appointed time of 8am. Discretion suggested we should take a longer route back down to the Delatite River and avoid some of the river crossings swollen by the overnight rain. Cheerfully we negotiated slender bridges erected for bike riders across the swirling water below and with each crossing felt elated that our feet were nice and dry, until ... Who left out that one bridge? Resigned to our fate we plunged headlong through the (benign, shallow) rapids emerging on the other side with our cherished feet sloshing as we went.

Thank you Deb and Agajan for a great walk and thank you Jopie, Jen, Helen, Elsa, Fang Fang, Di, Mark, Roy, Ray and Geoff for your humour and stimulating company.

*Ian Mair*





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**

NEW ZEALAND – ROUTEBURN, GREENSTONE, CAPLES, KEPLER TRACKS

**DATE** 3–18 January 2015

**STANDARD** Medium

**DISTANCE** 160 km

**LEADER** Ian Mair

**TRANSPORT** Private

**AREA** Fiordland, New Zealand

**MAP REF** Great Walks Map Notes

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS TRIP IS FULLY BOOKED. THE PREVIEW/EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IS PRINTED FOR RECORD PURPOSES ONLY.**

Using Queenstown and Te Anau as bases, I am planning to do two pack carry walks on the South Island of New Zealand this coming January. We will fly into Queenstown from where we have ready access to the Routeburn and Greenstone–Caples Tracks which we will combine into a 6-night, 7-day walk of around 95 km. The very popular Routeburn Track provides spectacular views from a high ridge track and contrasts with the valley route of the Greenstone–Caples Track.

After a break in Te Anau on the shores of Lake Te Anau, the second walk will follow the Kepler Track in the heart of the Fiordland National Park, covering 60 km over 3 nights and 4 days, again taking in stunning high mountain views.

Both walks will be challenging and open to the vagaries of alpine weather.

We will complete the two week trip with a short break in Queenstown with options for a further day walk or a lake cruise, or just soaking up all that Queenstown has to offer.

As the Routeburn and Kepler Tracks are part of the New Zealand Great Walks network, they can only be walked with prepaid reservations. Both are popular and places may fill quickly after bookings open around 1st June. A party size limit of 12 will apply.



**SUNDAY BUS**

GREENS BUSH, SEA VIEWS AND RED HILL WINERY TOUR

**DATE** Sunday 4 January 2015

**RETURN TIME** 4:30 pm to City

**STANDARDS** Easy and Easy/Medium

**DISTANCES** 10 km and 12 km

**LEADERS** Christina Hughes and Cathy Merrick  
**TRANSPORT** Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am  
**AREA** Mornington Peninsula  
**MAP REF** [www.visitmorningtonpeninsula.org/walks](http://www.visitmorningtonpeninsula.org/walks)  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Frankston

**A summer stroll and wine tasting in the beautiful Red Hill district**

Greens Bush is the largest remnant of bush land on the Peninsula with vegetation varying from eucalypt forests to fern gullies, heathlands and grasslands. It's a beautiful walk on good tracks and provides many opportunities for wild life such as parrots, honeyeaters and birds of prey along with many kangaroos.

Both walks start at Baldry's Crossing, passing through Greens Bush and Highfield Parks, ending at Boneo Rd. The Easy/Medium group's extra distance involves hiking a portion of the Long Point circuit. We are expecting both groups to be picked up by the bus at 1:30. From here we'll have a short detour to Cape Schanck to explore the boardwalk and take in the sea views where we'll be back on the bus at 2:30 pm.

**Winetasting at T'Gallant**

T'Gallant will run a wine tasting for us at \$5 a head; we have the 3 pm session locked in for the Club. (Please bring the correct change so we can collect the money for the winery.) We can rotate from the cellar door to the café for a relaxed tasting, coffee or cake before boarding the bus back home.

*Optional pick-up location:* Pick-ups are possible at the off ramp just before the lights of the Monash Freeway at Fosters Road. Contact a leader if you would like to arrange a pick-up.



**TOPS WALK**

BLIND CREEK, BORONIA TO KNOX CITY

**DATE** Thursday 8 January 2015

**STANDARD** Easy

**DISTANCE** 9 km or less

**ELEVATION** Mostly flat

**LEADER** Marilyn Whimpey

**TRANSPORT** Train/bus

**AREA** Boronia–Knox City

**MAP REF** Melways 64, 65 and 73

**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central

**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Melbourne

The walk starts at Boronia railway station. Belgrave train leaves Flinders Street Platform 2 at 9:26 am, arriving Boronia at 10:10 am. We'll start the walk at 10:15 am and go to the Koolunga Native Reserve, then under the railway line to Tim Neville Arboretum and Amphitheatre. After inspecting this park, we'll continue along Blind Creek to Lewis Park and the Knox City shopping centre.

Buses leave the shopping centre for all parts of Melbourne, including back to Boronia station. We could arrange a car shuttle if people prefer to use their cars.

Please book with Marilyn.



## PACK CARRY

### MCFARLANE SADDLE – TALI KARNG – THE SENTINELS

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Thursday 8 to Sunday 11 January 2015</b>
<b>STANDARD</b>	<b>Easy/Medium</b>
<b>DISTANCE</b>	<b>48.0 km</b>
<b>ELEVATION</b>	<b>700 m rise</b>
<b>LEADER</b>	<b>Judith Shaw</b>
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	<b>Private</b>
<b>AREA</b>	<b>Alpine National Park</b>
<b>MAP REF</b>	<b>VICMAP Tali Karng Special 1:25,000</b>
<b>FIRE BAN DISTRICT</b>	<b>West Gippsland</b>
<b>TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE</b>	<b>Latrobe Valley</b>

I saw this walk in Wild Magazine and was instantly drawn to it because it offers the best of both worlds, enabling exploration of the remote alpine wilderness around the Wellington Plains with the comfort of day packs and a settled campsite. The beautiful Lake Tali Karng, Victoria's only true alpine lake, is a hidden jewel resting at the bottom of a huge natural amphitheatre formed by precipitous slopes surrounding it on four sides. The steep track down to the lake is easily negotiated with day-packs.

After a night camping by the cars at McFarlane Saddle, we carry packs 12.5 km to our campsite at Millers Hut, a morning's walking across alpine grasslands. After setting up camp and lunch we don day-packs for the 10 km round trip to the Sentinels, a rocky promontory with views of the distant East Gippsland ranges and the dark waters of Tali Karng 700 metres below. On Day 2 we descend 700 m to Tali Karng where we spend some time walking around the lake and visiting waterfalls a short way upstream, returning to Millers Hut via the Riggall Spur track, a total distance of about 15 km. On Day 3 we return to McFarlane Saddle via the Spion Kopje ridge, with a short off-track section over grassy terrain and snow gum woodland, before rejoining the Wellington Plains track and reaching the cars around lunchtime.

Full packs are required only for the relatively short and easy section between McFarlane Saddle and Millers Hut, making this a walk suitable for beginner pack-carriers.



## SUNDAY CAR POOL

### AROUND EASTERN VIEW

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Sunday 11 January 2015</b>
<b>STANDARD</b>	<b>Easy/Medium</b>
<b>LEADERS</b>	<b>Theo Mertzaniadis and Del Franks (Mentor)</b>
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	<b>Carpool – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am</b>
<b>FIRE BAN DISTRICT</b>	<b>Central</b>
<b>TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE</b>	<b>Geelong</b>

For details of this walk please contact the leader or check the Club's web site.



## WEDNESDAY WALK

### ARTHURS SEAT

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Wednesday 14 January 2015</b>
<b>RETURN TIME</b>	<b>Approximately 5 pm</b>
<b>STANDARD</b>	<b>Easy</b>
<b>DISTANCE</b>	<b>11 km</b>
<b>ELEVATION</b>	<b>300 m</b>
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	<b>Mike and Barb Quinn</b>
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	<b>Private</b>
<b>AREA</b>	<b>Arthurs Seat</b>
<b>MAP REF</b>	<b>159 D12</b>
<b>FIRE BAN DISTRICT</b>	<b>Central</b>
<b>TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE</b>	<b>Frankston</b>

Meeting point is the Latrobe Parade Carpark at 10:15 for a 10:30 am start.

The walk will follow the Two Bays Walking Track for the first five kilometres before turning off and following the signposted track to the Kings Falls loop. From the loop we will walk to the Arthurs seat lookout area (coffee or icecream) via the McKellar loop walk and the Seawinds gardens. As the track that used to run under the old chairlift is closed we will make our way back to the cars via the Two Bays walking track.

Phone Barb or Mike.



## CYCLING

### LILYDALE-WARBURTON RAIL TRAIL AND RETURN

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Saturday 17 January 2015</b>
<b>RETURN TIME</b>	<b>4:30 pm approx. at Lilydale Station</b>
<b>STANDARD</b>	<b>Medium</b>
<b>DISTANCE</b>	<b>78 km or 56 km</b>
<b>ELEVATION</b>	<b>Mainly flat with a few gentle but steady climbs</b>
<b>LEADER</b>	<b>Sue Ralston</b>
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	<b>Train to Lilydale station or car to Mt Evelyn</b>
<b>AREA</b>	<b>40-80 km east of Melbourne</b>
<b>MAP REF</b>	<b>Melway 118, 119, 285, 286, 288, 289, 290</b>
<b>FIRE BAN DISTRICT</b>	<b>Central</b>
<b>TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE</b>	<b>Mt Dandenong</b>

This is a lovely classic rail-trail ride through farming country and bush with some magnificent mountain views and several coffee stop options along the way.

The ride begins and ends at Lilydale station, beginning at 9:30 am and finishing at approximately 4:30 pm.

Those wanting a shorter ride with less climbing can meet us at 10:15 at our first coffee stop, The Cog Café in Mt Evelyn (on the Warburton side of where the rail trail crosses Monbulk Rd – Melway 120 C1). Parking is available in front of the café and nearby.

Lunch will be along the grassy shaded riverbank in Warburton, close to good cafés. There will also be an afternoon coffee stop on the way back

The trail is in good condition, although road bikes are not recommended.

Please remember to bring water and sunscreen as well as a bike repair kit and spare tube.

In the case of a Total Fire Ban day, or if the temperature forecast for Coldstream is 38 degrees or above, the ride will be cancelled. If it is below that, but considered hot, the ride may be shortened.

I look forward to seeing you there.



## SUNDAY BUS

### JEHOSOPHAT GULLY AND STEEL CREEK

**DATE** Sunday 18 January 2015  
**RETURN TIME** 6:30 pm to City  
**STANDARDS** Easy/Medium and Medium  
**DISTANCES** 15 km and 22.5 km  
**ELEVATIONS** Easy 500 m descent  
 Medium 500 m descent and ascent  
**LEADERS** Sue Haviland and Roger Wyett  
**TRANSPORT** Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am  
**AREA** Kinglake  
**MAP REF** Kinglake NP Leisure Series Ed 2 1:25,000  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Yarra Glen

Both walks will start from the Jehosaphats Gully Picnic Area where there are toilets, and both will descend the 3.4 km of the XX Track, which is well known as a lyrebird nesting area. After Pinch Gut Creek the groups will split:

Easy group will turn uphill for a short distance to cross the main road and then follow the Cookson Track mainly downhill to recross the road and ascend the side of Mt Beggary as they follow the Mt Everard Track uphill to reach Mt Everard at 440 m. The track will be followed south for another 1.5 km to enjoy the views before doubling back and descending 330 m down the Bundy Track and then the last 1.5 km to Steel Creek and the bus.

The Medium group, after the split of the groups, follows the ridge line down Mt Jerusalem to Steels Creek, dropping some 400 m. Then it will be a steady gradient up the Old Kinglake Road to the Cookson Track and back to the walk start, gaining some 500 m along the way.

There are opportunities to shorten both walks on the day if it is very hot, as the regrowth after the fires five years ago provides a modest amount of shade. We will do an enroute pickup in South Morang on Plenty Road.



## PACK CARRY

### MILFORD TRACK (NEW ZEALAND)

**DATE** Sunday 18 January 2015  
**STANDARD** Ex Te Anau, New Zealand  
**DISTANCE** Medium/Hard  
 54 km  
**ELEVATION** There is one major pass at 1154 m  
**LEADER** David Walsh  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** New Zealand Fiordland National Park  
**MAP REF** CB08 – Homer Saddle

**APPLICATIONS FOR THIS TRIP ARE NOW CLOSED.**



## MOFS WALK

### GEELOG FORESHORE AND BOTANIC GARDENS

**DATE** Monday 19 January 2015  
**RETURN TIME** Geelong Railway Station, approx. 3:00 pm  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** 9 km  
**ELEVATION** Mostly flat

**LEADERS** Alan and Jan Case  
**TRANSPORT** V/Line Train (MYKI ticket)  
**AREA** Geelong  
**MAP REF** Melway Maps 442 and 452  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Geelong

We will take the train from Southern Cross to North Geelong then walk along the Geelong foreshore to Eastern Beach. After lunch we will proceed to Eastern Park and the Botanic Gardens. Afternoon tea will be available at the Botanic Gardens Teahouse. Then back along Malop Street to Geelong Railway Station.

This walk follows the Geelong Bollards Trail of over 100 carved, painted, reclaimed timber pier pylons depicting historical characters at 48 sites along the trail.

This walk was last completed by the Club in July 2011. This time we will experience it in summer.

Arrive at Southern Cross 8:30–8:45 am for the 9:00 am train, arriving North Geelong at 9:51 am. V/Line Train services to Geelong now use MYKI tickets.

Note that it is proposed that the train timetables will be revised early in the new year. We will check immediately prior to the walk that the train will still leave at 9:00 am.

Book with Alan and Jan.



## SOCIAL WALK

### EAST MELBOURNE HISTORICAL WALK

**DATE** Thursday 22 January 2015  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** 5 km  
**ELEVATION** Flat  
**LEADER** Jean Giese  
**TRANSPORT** Public  
**AREA** East Melbourne  
**MAP REF** Melway 2G  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Melbourne

We'll meet at 10:30 at the Hilton Hotel (Mel 2G4D) – Jolimont Station and trams nearby – and follow the route suggested in the City of Melbourne 'Elegant Enclaves' walk, imagining ourselves back in Victorian Melbourne. Notes on the history of the area and buildings will be provided. Lunch afterwards. Book with leader.



## BASE CAMP

### MT HOTHAM – LODGE WEEKEND

**DATE** 22–26 January 2015  
**RETURN TIME** 7:00 pm Monday 26 January 2015  
**STANDARD** Various  
**DISTANCE** Various  
**ELEVATION** Various  
**LEADERS** Halina Sarbinowski and Ian Mair  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Victorian Alps, Mt Hotham  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** North Eastern  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Mt Hotham

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS WALK IS NOW FULLY BOOKED.**

After the disappointment of the long weekend being cancelled in 2013 due to fires in the area we are now in the position to

offer this long weekend at Mt Hotham again. We have booked the lodge for four nights from 22 to 26 January 2015.

**Cost of the weekend is \$34 each night per person (\$136 per person).**

We'll again do the iconic Razorback to Mt Feathertop and the Cobungra Ditch Walks, however, other walks will be finalised closer to the weekend.

For those who want a laid-back holiday, the ambience of the lodge is lovely, with superb views of the surrounding mountains from the balconies. Photos from the Australia Day weekend 2012 in the MBW photogallery will give you an idea of how lovely this venue and the walks in the area are. Shared meals, one meal at the General Store (local pub) make this a great weekend for those who enjoy getting away from it all in a sensational location.



## PACK CARRY

### HOLLYFORD TRACK (NEW ZEALAND)

<b>DATE</b>	<b>8:00 am Thursday 22 January 2015</b>
	<b>Piopiothi Milford Sound, New Zealand</b>
<b>RETURN TIME</b>	<b>17:30 Monday 26 January</b>
	<b>Queenstown, New Zealand</b>
<b>STANDARD</b>	<b>Medium</b>
<b>DISTANCE</b>	<b>58 km plus optional side trip aprox 12 km</b>
<b>ELEVATION</b>	<b>This is a low altitude track starting at sea level, with the highest point 166 m</b>
<b>LEADER</b>	<b>David Walsh</b>
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	<b>Private to Milford Sound start, aircraft charter to Martins Bay, charter bus from finish to Queenstown.</b>
<b>AREA</b>	<b>New Zealand Fiordland National Park</b>
<b>MAP REF</b>	<b>CB09 – Hollyford Track</b>
<b>TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON)</b>	<b>Approx \$300 excl flights and own transport to Milford Sound start. Hut passes extra \$15 per night</b>

This is the only major low altitude track in Fiordland National Park that can be walked all year round.

We will take a charter flight over the mountains to two valleys north of Milford Sound to the mouth of the Hollyford River. We will have an optional day exploring the shores of Big Bay and hopefully come across the seal pups nursery. We will then spend four days walking up the Hollyford River along the Demon Trail / Hollyford Track. We will walk out of the Hollyford on the afternoon of Australia Day January 26 and be whisked direct to Queenstown by bus to arrive early evening. There are no major passes but here will be some long days in terms of time and distance of 4 to 7 hours walking.

**The ability to add more walkers to this trip will depend on the availability of additional seats on the charter flight from Milford Sound and the ability of the proposed members wanting to join, to arrive at Milford Sound by January 21 and find accommodation for that evening ready for an early flight to Martin Bay on January 22.**

**Due to logistic reasons final applications to join this trip WILL CLOSE ON DECEMBER 15.**



## PACK CARRY

### SNOWY BLUFF AND NEILSON CRAG

<b>DATE</b>	<b>23–26 January 2015</b>
<b>STANDARD</b>	<b>Medium</b>

<b>DISTANCE</b>	<b>32 km plus 4 km optional on Monday afternoon</b>
<b>LEADER</b>	<b>Jopie Bodegraven</b>
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	<b>Private</b>
<b>AREA</b>	<b>Alps north of Traralgon</b>
<b>MAP REF</b>	<b>SV Tali Karng–Moroka 1:50,000</b>
<b>FIRE BAN DISTRICT</b>	<b>West Gippsland</b>
<b>TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE</b>	<b>Mt Buller</b>

Snowy Bluff and Neilson Crag are two iconic peaks that we haven't been to for a long time. Neilson Crag is a spectacular rocky crag which is great fun to explore and which gives great views. Snowy Bluff has dramatic cliffs that never fail to impress. As well as these two peaks there will be an extra peak, Trapyard Hill, for those who don't need to get back to Melbourne early and for those who are keen to do some hard gutsy off track exploring and can stay on for the Tuesday, there is a great series of waterfalls and cascades on nearby Shaws Creek to explore.

Friday night we will camp along the Wellington River, probably at the Currawong campsite, 12 or 13 km beyond Licola.

Saturday we drive up to Doolans Plain and do the 3 km return walk to Neilson Crag with plenty of time to explore and enjoy this rocky eminence. After lunch at the cars we walk 7 km mostly downhill to our campsite for 2 nights on the Moroka River.

Sunday is an all day side trip with day packs to climb Snowy Bluff, a climb of around 1000 m over about 7 km. The views from the top will be outstanding. We may return by a more challenging route, depending on how we are going, or we could divide into two groups. We'll see.

Monday sees the inevitable climb back to the cars, 980 m up over about 7 km so we should be back for lunch. For those who want, there may be the option of climbing Trapyard Hill, a 4 km return walk with 220 m of climbing from McFarlane Saddle. That will be the end of the official medium grade walk but for those prepared for more 'fun' and who can stay an extra day, I have some exploring in store. I have explored some way down Shaws Creek where it tumbles off the plateau down towards the Caledonia River and found an amazing series of waterfalls but due to lack of time I couldn't keep going, whereas the waterfalls and cascades did. I therefore have unfinished business there and hope that some others will join me.

Be prepared for possible hot weather. Camping is all low elevation beside rivers so swimming will be in order too. Bring a day pack for the side trips. This is a trip not to be missed.



## SUNDAY CAR POOL

### MAROONDAH DAM – DONNELLY'S WEIR

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Sunday 25 January 2015</b>
<b>RETURN TIME</b>	<b>6 pm to City</b>
<b>STANDARD</b>	<b>Easy/Medium (also Easy option)</b>
<b>DISTANCE</b>	<b>14 km</b>
<b>ELEVATION</b>	<b>420 m total climb, largest climb 130 m</b>
<b>LEADER</b>	<b>Mick Noonan</b>
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	<b>Cars– Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am</b>
<b>TRANSPORT COST</b>	<b>\$11</b>
<b>AREA</b>	<b>Healesville</b>
<b>MAP REF</b>	<b>Melways 270, VicMaps 1:20,000 Juliet South</b>
<b>FIRE BAN DISTRICT</b>	<b>Central</b>
<b>TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE</b>	<b>Yarra Glen</b>

Maroondah Reservoir was finished in 1927. It is in the Yarra Ranges National Park and features gardens with stands of native and exotic trees, native animals and birds, and a wide

range of walking tracks. Its lawns and cool summer shade make it a popular picnic destination and a great place for a relatively relaxing 'easy' Sunday walk.

We will walk across the dam wall, check out the lookouts, walk part of the Bicentennial National Trail, enjoy the quiet tracks and pleasant forest walks, majestic ferns, and cross one creek crossing where we may get our shoes wet if there are good summer rains. There are also lots of great views of the Yarra Ranges, Healesville, etc. Depending on the weather we can have lunch at a picnic shelter at Donnelly's Weir or on top of a nearby hill.

On the way back we will see the historic Maroondah Aqueduct dating back to 1893, the Echo Tunnel, and climb Henderson Hill. Just before we get back to the cars we can see the lily pond, historic valve houses and the rose stairway all beneath the towering 41 m dam wall.

The walk is graded at the lower end of Easy/Medium. There is an option for people to have a long lunch at Donnelly's Weir, reducing the distance from 14 to 11 km, and the climbs from 420 to 290 metres. There are a couple of steep hills with generally short climbs which we will take at a steady pace.

On the preview there were colourful parrots and a number of water birds. There should be plenty of time for a coffee stop at Healesville on the way back.

**Note:** The originally programed walk was in Mt Disappointment State Forest. However since it was last walked before the 2009 bushfires a key track has disappeared into regrowth and the fencing around the reservoir has been increased.

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST  
BASE CAMP/CABIN TRIP  
2-6 APRIL 2015  
MARLO/CAPE CONRAN  
COASTAL PARK**

Expressions of interest are invited from members who would like to participate in a Base Camp/Cabin trip at Marlo over Easter 2015. Marlo is where the Snowy River meets the sea after its 500 km journey from the Alps. It is past Orbost in East Gippsland, approximately 400 km (4-5 hours drive) from Melbourne.

I have booked three large camp sites which can each take multiple tents. Cost for camping is \$30 per site per night for two people plus \$10 per additional person. Two cabins with en suite facilities have also been booked and couples/singles can be accommodated. Cabin costs are dependant on numbers in each and type of cabin, but will range from approximately \$130-\$240 per person for the four nights. A deposit of \$50 per person is required at time of booking whether camping or in a cabin.

There will be two full day walks of 12-14 km each and some shorter walks of from 5-10 km. To register your interest and for further information please contact Margaret Curry.

*Margaret Curry*

**FEDERATION WALKS WEEKEND 2014, 7-9 NOVEMBER**

You weren't there? Well, you missed one to remember. An initiative of the fledgling Federation of Victorian Bushwalking Clubs, the first Federation Walk was held in 1935 and has been almost an annual event ever since. Now under the umbrella of Bushwalking Victoria the one or two day event continues to provide an opportunity for walkers from all clubs to walk together and engage in fellowship.

The organisers and hosts for this year's weekend event (Ben Cruachan, South Gippsland, West Gippsland and Strzelecki bushwalking clubs) chose the location wisely with the idyllic setting of Rawson attracting nearly 300 participants and officials. Snuggled near the edges of the Baw Baw National Park and the feature-rich attractions of Walhalla and the Thompson Reservoir, the steep and in places rugged landscape is crossed by a number of walking tracks of varying degrees of difficulty. With uncanny efficiency and unstinting friendliness and patience the organisers fed, transported and exercised the disparate group that made up a representative cross-section of Victoria's bushwalking community. Thirteen Melbourne Bushwalkers members had made Rawson their base for the weekend. With 22 walk options to choose from the only difficulty was deciding which ones to nominate for each day.

Saturday night was a time to be informed and entertained. Official speeches were kept to a minimum and the guest speaker, Tim Cope, adventurer and author, was as inspiring as he was modest as he presented slides and video clips of his epic journey of 10 000 km on the Trail of Genghis Khan from Mongolia to Hungary by horse – a journey that eventually took him more than three years and led him on a deep journey into the fabric of nomad society on the Eurasian steppe.

Thank you organisers and thank you Bushwalking Victoria for an outstanding weekend.

The Federation Walks Weekend 2015 will be hosted by Bayside Bushwalking Club and the Great Dividing Trail Association and will be held around Daylesford and Hepburn Springs over the weekend of 24th and 25th October.

*Ian Mair*

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!

January 2015				
3-18	PC: NZ – Routeburn, Greenstone, Caples, Kepler Trks	Pvt	Med	Ian Mair
Sun 4	Red Hill Winery Walk	Bus	E & E/M	Christina Hughes & Cathy Merrick
Thu 8	Blind Creek, Boronia to Knox City	Pvt	Easy	Merilyn Whimpey
8-11	PC: McFarlane Saddle – Tali Karng – The Sentinels	Pvt		Judith Shaw
Sun 11	Around Eastern View	Car	E/M	Theo Mertzandis & Del Franks (Mentor)
Wed 14	Arthurs Seat	Pvt	E/M	Michael Quinn
Sat 17	Cycling: Warburton Trail	Pvt	E/M	Sue Ralston
Sun 18	Jehosophat Gully – Steel Creek Picnic Ground	Bus	E & E/M	Roger Wyatt & Sue Haviland
18-26	PC: NZ – Milford and Hollyford Tracks	Pvt	Med	David Walsh
Mon 19	Geelong Foreshore and Botanic Gardens	Pvt	Easy	Alan Case
Thu 22	East Melbourne Historical Walk	Car	Easy	Jean Giese
22-26	Mt Hotham	Pvt	Various	Halina Sarbinowski & Ian Mair
23-26	PC: Snowy Bluff and Neilson Crags	Pvt	Med	Jopie Bodegraven
Sun 25	Anderson Picnic Ground – Sunday Creek	Car	Easy	Mick Noonan

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