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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

August 2015

PRESIDENT'S CORNER – AUGUST 2015

Jean Giese and her able assistant, Alister Rowe, have stepped down as Co-ordinators for the MOFs and TOFs Walks. 'Jean who?' I can hear many newer members ask. This is hardly a surprising reaction for a club as large as Melbourne Bushwalkers where member involvement can be focussed around a particular type or time of activity. But far from being a weakness it is a testament to the strength of several of our core values, namely those of providing a diversity of bushwalking and related activities and of inclusiveness. Put another way, if there is an activity you would like to see on the program and you are prepared to take a lead in its organisation then we will do what we can to help make it happen. It is what makes our club strong. In doing so it is accepted that any member with the capacity to participate will have the opportunity to participate. We provide each other the opportunity to try something different when we are ready. Jean very much embodies these values.

Always an engaged member, and a Past President to boot, Jean rolled with the years and took the initiative to ensure that her advancing age would not exclude her from involvement in club trips. And so were 'born' Wednesday Walks, Monday Old Fogies (MOFs) Walks, Thursday Old Fogies (TOFs) Walks and Thursday Social Walks. Despite their names and the connotations they carry these walks are open to all members looking for good companionship and a walk to suit their schedule. Thank you Jean.

A quick perusal of past club Quarterly Programs will reveal that there have been many other activity types and member initiatives outside of our core walking and camping program that have come and gone, often to return again some time later as a new champion arrives to carry them forward. For instance, cross-country skiing is being re-invigorated by Doug Pocock, Historic Walks are being planned by Nigel Holmes. The Social Program has always been a test-bed of ideas. And the list goes on across a gamut of offerings. It is your club to shape and nurture. If it is not meeting all of your current preferences why not see if there are other members with a similar interest and do as Jean has done, propose a new activity that you are prepared to carry forward, even if it is only once.

Also making news this month:

- All financial members of Melbourne Bushwalkers are also members of Bushwalking Victoria (BWV). Part of each club membership subscription goes to BWV to cover the costs of a range of initiatives and services from which we all benefit. Elsewhere this month you will find a note highlighting some of the BWV achievements for 2014–2015. An integral part of those services is Bush Search and Rescue (BSAR) through which a number of our club members are also active. We are fortunate on August 26th to have a presentation from Peter Campbell, the Convenor of BSAR, giving a first-hand insight into its operations, achievements and participation opportunities. When your safety is on the line in the bush BSAR is one of the groups with an interest in your wellbeing. It is in your own interest to hear this presentation.
- Still on safety in the bush, members are reminded that the club owns several Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) and GPS units that may be borrowed. If you are heading out into remoter areas

(continued on page 3)

Due date for contributions (including October previews) to September News: 21 August

MEMBER OF



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 3 August 2015

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members
Helen Bowman, Nidia Cardona, Kyoko Kamakura, Wendy Davis, Stathis Papaioannou, Kathryn Gawthorn

and welcome back (rejoining)
Richard Stevens, Mark Armstrong



Melbourne Bushwalkers' Facebook Page now has over 1000 followers. Are you one of them?

<https://www.facebook.com/melbournebushwalkers>

THANK YOU PARTY FOR JEAN GIESE

As noted in the President's Column, Jean Giese has stepped down as Co-ordinator of the MoFs and ToFs walks. A Thank You Party is being held on Saturday 29th August at the home of the President to acknowledge the contribution Jean has made over the years. Invitations have gone to a number of members who have worked and walked with Jean. Space is limited; however, any member who feels a strong wish to thank Jean by attending and has not received a personal notification due to our oversight should contact Susan McInnes and we will see what we can do.

Ian Mair, President



Jean Giese cuts the cake at the TOFs 10-year anniversary morning tea by the Yarra, Thursday 6 February 2014.

Noticeboard

PRESIDENT'S CORNER *(continued from page 1)*

where a PLB is highly recommended or would just like to borrow a GPS to gain some experience in their use then contact our Equipment Officer, John Fritz, to arrange a loan.

- Visitors to the club's web site may have noticed a link to the new Members' Area. Now ready for member access you will find a note elsewhere in this newsletter with information on what you can expect to find and do there.
- Mark your diary now for the 14th December. The club will be holding its annual Christmas Function. More details closer to the date.
- After a comparative evaluation of a number of First Aid Course Providers we have decided to make available at a subsidy to members a more intensive course than previously and offering Level 2 Certification. This will be held during October with registration also open to other Victorian bushwalking clubs.
- The club's library of bushwalking books has benefitted from generous donations of books from past-member Shivane Mansfield and member Jan Colquhoun, as well as several recent purchases. These books are available for loan to members from the clubrooms and are listed on the web site (http://mbw.org.au/MBW_Library_Author.php).
- The heavy snowfalls in recent weeks promise a good foundation for the weekend Snow Shoe walking and camping trip at Baw Baw National Park on 15–16 August. Check out the preview if you are up for something different or already an experienced snow camper keen to get away.

Ian Mair

EMERGENCY CONTACT SYSTEM – MEMBERS AND VISITORS BASICS

Take your own mobile.

- So you can ring family and friends if you will be late.
- Preferably a mobile with good remote area reception.
- Turn off the mobile in remote areas to conserve the battery until it's needed.
- If you must leave it on, put it on vibrate so as not to disturb the enjoyment of others.

Club Emergency Mobile 0447 489 661

Recording includes: Information on any significant delays, and the Club Emergency Contact names and numbers.

The Club Emergency Mobile is left turned off, so a call goes directly to the recording ... don't expect anyone to answer!

All Club Programmed Activities:

Before you go tell anyone who may become concerned the expected Return Time and the Club Emergency Mobile Number.

If there will be a significant delay the Leader will attempt to get information on the delay included in the Club Emergency Mobile recording.

Delays of 1–2 hours for a day activity and 3–4 hours for a multi-day activity should not cause alarm.

If you are on a trip that is late try to directly ring anyone who may become concerned.

Pack Carry/Walk-In Base Camp Activities:

If after checking the Club Emergency Mobile people are still concerned, they should ring a Club Emergency Contact. It should not be necessary to ring a Club Emergency Contact for other types of activities

Stuart Hanham, General Walks Secretary

2015 Social Calendar

Wednesday 26 August in the clubrooms, starting at 8 pm

BUSH SEARCH AND RESCUE

Presenter: Peter Campbell

Peter Campbell, BSAR Convener, will provide a presentation that will cover BSAR's history, structure, function and roles, how searches are initiated and conducted, information about some recent searches, benefits of joining and how to join.



Wine and cheese also available.



Wednesday 23 September in the clubrooms, starting at 8 pm

SLIDE NIGHT: IN A LAND OF SMUGGLERS AND PIRATES

Presenter: Ian Mair

You've read the book, now see the movie! Well, not quite. But expect to be entertained as Ian takes us along his journey on the South West Coast Path in England, a journey of 46 days. The South West Coast Path (SWCP) is a long distance walker's delight. At 1014 km it is the longest National Trail in the UK. Villages and working harbours occupy almost every cove and inlet. History pervades every facet of the coastline, ranging from former prominent fishing villages to the once rich mining industry along the northern coast of Cornwall. In a matter of days the walk rounds Lands End, the most westerly point of England, and Lizard Point, the most southerly point. The cliffs change their character with a change in geology and the character of the walk seems to change in concert, where there is much to experience along the World Heritage Listed Jurassic Coast stretching along East Devon and Dorset. Large coastal estates and heritage sites under National Trust control span a substantial part of the walk, preserving the sense of remoteness as well as providing an historical perspective.



Wine and cheese also available.



REGENT HONEYEATER PROJECT 2015 SPRING PLANTING WEEKENDS

1st and 2nd August

15th and 16th August

29th and 30th August

See under Walk Previews, page 12 of this News

12th and 13th September

26th and 27th September

For info check the Regent Honeyeater Project site:
<http://regenthoneyeater.org.au/planting.php>



TOWARDS BETTER BUSHWALKING: 2014–2015

2014–15 was a busy year for Bushwalking Victoria. Major highlights were:

- Regular meetings with Victoria Government and Parks Victoria representatives to represent and advocate on behalf of bushwalkers
- 12 submissions made on a wide range of bushwalking and conservation issues
- Board representatives established for all clubs to help communication with BWV
- Major projects for the year:
 - Course material for day leading walks finalised and made available to all clubs
 - Work commenced on an advanced leadership skills course covering base camps, pack carries and walking in more remote and challenging areas. Will be completed in mid-2015
 - Three tips sheets completed and sent to all clubs – Membership Recruitment and Retention, Engaging with the Media, and Influencing Decision Makers.
 - Directory of walks (where2walk) now has 196 walk descriptions. Investigated software options for creating good quality walking maps to go on where2walk
 - Commenced project to promoting bushwalking as an enjoyable, healthy and lifelong activity suitable for most people
 - Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation (BTAC) volunteers undertook 10 projects and completed 1611 volunteer hours on track maintenance and conservation activities at Wilsons Prom (2), Condon's Track (2), Sassafras Creek, Ada River, Upper Howqua, Barry Mountain, Bogong High Plains and the Australian Alpine Walking Track
- 14 Field Officers liaised with Parks Victoria rangers and reported back to BTAC Committee
- Bush Search and Rescue Victoria had six callouts and three searches (totalling 150 search days) including the successful and high profile rescue of a lost child in Lake Eildon National Park plus two searches on Mt Bogong.

Bushwalking Victoria relies on a wonderful group of volunteers who give their time and skills to make everything we do possible. To all of you, thank you – Bushwalking Victoria could not continue without you.

For more information on Bushwalking Victoria activities in 2014–2015 go to: <http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/annual-report.html>



BTAC volunteers who worked on AAWT 2014



BSAR volunteers on Eskdale Spur search

FIRST AID COURSE

Melbourne Bushwalkers has organised a first aid course for members to be held on Saturday 17 October. The course is HLTAID003, equivalent to the old Level 2 first aid certificate. This is a higher level course than the previous one arranged by us two years back. The cost is \$100 per person discounted from the usual \$180. A further subsidy may be available from Bushwalking Victoria, but this has not been finalised at the time of writing. We must have at least 15 starters so let me know your intentions.

Six to eight hours of prior private study is required (course book provided) with a pre-class test sheet to be completed. During the 7+ hours of class work participants must:

- demonstrate competent CPR performance on an infant and adult manikin (1 manikin per student)
- participate in three first aid scenarios
- complete a written knowledge assessment
- apply first aid procedures for a variety of first aid conditions

Satisfactory completion of the course requirements leads to a nationally-recognised certificate valid for three years.

The instructor is an experienced trauma paramedic with a strong bushwalking background. The course will be tailored towards bushwalkers. The venue is Premium Health, Gardenvale. They have 28 years experience and currently deliver first aid training to 45,000 participants per year.

Nigel Holmes

Willis's Walkabouts

Build Up & Wet

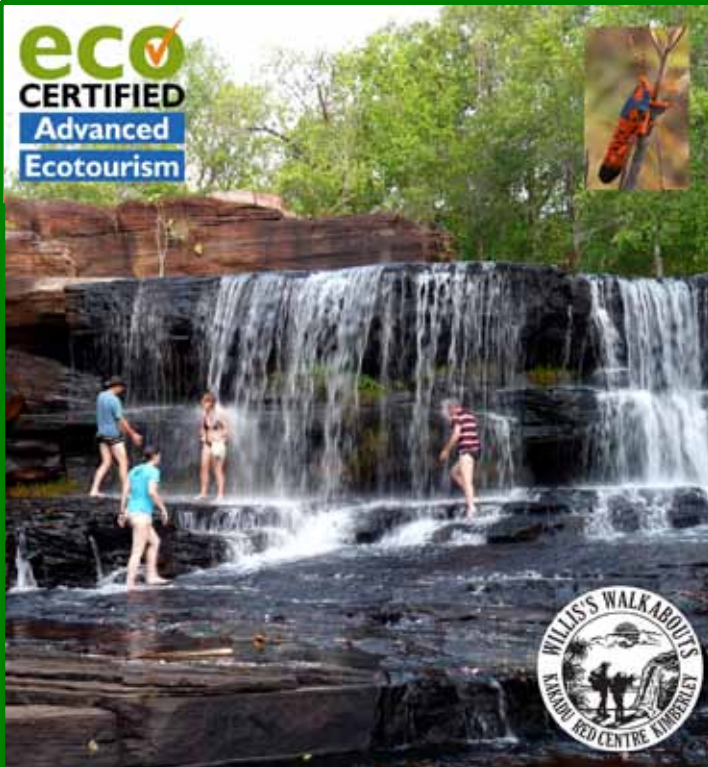
Our most **dramatic** seasons

Our water is warm! Southern Australia has nothing like our tropical seasons. We can't do them justice here. **Check out** our Build Up and Wet season pages and see why.

www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au/buildup.shtml

www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au/wet.shtml

We want more of you to experience our amazing seasons so **we will give a minimum of a \$500 discount** to anyone who quotes this ad and books one of our Australian trips beginning between October 2015 & March 2016. Ask for details. Better still, go fishing and you could win \$1 million.



www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au rwillis@internode.on.net Ph: 08 8985 2134

A MEMBERS' AREA ESPECIALLY FOR YOU

Sharing information is an empowering action. It builds awareness, trust, collaboration, a feeling of belonging and friendship. Melbourne Bushwalkers willingly makes available to all bushwalkers many of its guidelines and walking experiences through its online activities and newsletter. However, prudence dictates limits to the type of information made available. The power of email and other online media make the onward movement of information increasingly easy. Melbourne Bushwalkers endeavours to ensure that personal contact details are kept to a minimum in the public domain and only with member consent. Concerned members may request that anything personally sensitive be removed from our online portals. Yet, having access to current and timely contact details of other members serves an important role in the smooth operation of a club like ours. Trip leaders utilise our membership details in trip planning. Emergency contact details are an essential part of our attention to the safety and wellbeing of members.

With this delicate balance in mind we have now implemented a secure Member's Area on the website as we seek to minimise the conflict between the portability of bulk membership listings and the convenience of access to contact details. In the Member's Area you will also have access to a range of other activity details and services only available to members. In particular you are able to:

- Edit your personal details held by the club and also select which items will be viewable by other members.
- Look up the individual contact details made available by other members.
- Find a listing of club officers and other club volunteers and their contact details where they have made these available.
- View a statistical profile of the club membership.
- Download copies of restricted access forms and documents, including the Quarterly Activities Program with Leader contact numbers.

To gain access simply register from the links on the website by following the notes provided. It is your area. Let us know what you would like to see added or have removed. Ensure your personal and emergency contact details are current. Help us to build a more informed picture of what we look like. If you have not already added your birth year to your record consider doing so and remove the bias in the age profile.

Ian Mair, President



- 1 On the bus anticipating another enjoyable Sunday walk, 5 July 2015.
- 2 Sylvia Harris and Doug Pocock at Lake Mountain, 15 July 2015.
- 3 Cranbourne Botanical Gardens, June 2015.
- 4 'The Prom': approaching Sealers' Cove, June 2015.

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.



CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

REGISTRATION OF INTEREST

DATE	Between 1 and 31 August
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	Various
ELEVATION	Various
COORDINATOR	Doug Pocock
TRANSPORT	Private

One of the joys of winter is to rug up warm, put on cross-country skis and explore the alpine country. Jan and I are proof that you don't have to be an expert to enjoy the experience.

For some years now the Club has not programmed ski trips because of the uncertainty of snow conditions. This is a pity because it has also meant that we have not run introductory trips to enable people to get some basic skills. In the past, Jan and I have used the opportunity of an unexpected snow fall to nick up and have a very pleasant time.

I propose a system whereby members can register an interest so that a list can be drawn up and, if someone wants to organise a trip (with very little notice) then contact be made and a trip organised.

These would be Club trips and members would be covered by Club insurance.

Information required would be;

- Name
- email address
- Address (for car sharing)
- Do you have a car? (4wd? Chains?)
- Are you available all week or only weekends?
- Are you a beginner interested in an introduction to skiing?
- Are you experienced and would like to organise a trip?



SUNDAY CAR POOL

MORTIMER RESERVE – FOUR BROTHERS ROCKS

DATE	Sunday 9 August 2015
STANDARD	Medium
LEADER	Theo Mertzandis
TRANSPORT	Carpool – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA	Brisbane Ranges

This walk is in the Bunyip State Forest. This state forest is situated in the hills east of Gembrook, where we start from Mortimer Picnic ground. The walk is on undulating ground with a varied terrain which includes a combination of walking trails and management tracks. Part of the walk goes up a steepish track to the picturesque Four Brother Rocks where we will have lunch, so footwear with good grip is advisable and maybe a pole. After lunch we go back down the track and go through pleasant looking forest to our eventual finish point, Mortimer Picnic ground.



PACK CARRY

BAW BAW NATIONAL PARK PACK CARRY SNOWSHOE

DATE:	15-16 August 2015
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADERS	Ralph Blake and Kerry Press
DISTANCE	30 km (approximate)
TRANSPORT:	private
AREA	Baw Baw National Park
MAP REF	Baw Baw Plateau 1:25,000

This walk will be a two day pack carry walking with snow shoes in Baw Baw National Park, commencing and finishing at the Mt St Gwinear car park.

On Saturday morning we will pack carry on snowshoes beyond Mt St. Gwinear, later setting up camp in a more remote and sheltered spot amongst the beautiful snowgums.

Here we will also have lunch, before exploring with day packs this sparkling and enchanted snowy landscape for the rest of the afternoon. The snowshoes offer much freedom to walk across frozen creeks and snowy plains, up and down hills and through wooded forests with ease and joy. Sunday will be spent exploring further afield, returning to our camp in late afternoon to pack up and make our way back to the car park by 5 pm.

Previous snowshoeing experience is not required. However participants do need to be fit, experienced with multi-day pack carries, and well-equipped and prepared for snowcamping, and for the changeable (and sometimes extreme) weather conditions. Group size limit of 10, so book early for this exhilarating bushwalk on snowshoes in the pristine sparkling snowscape of Baw Baw National Park.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

LYSTERFIELD AND CHURCHILL PARKS

DATE	Sunday 23 August 2015
RETURN TIME	4:30 pm to City
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	18 km
ELEVATION	minimal
LEADER	Mark Simpson
TRANSPORT	Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45am
AREA	Lysterfield
MAP REF	Melway maps 82, 83 & 102
TRANSPORT COSTS	\$8.00

Only just over 40 kilometres from Melbourne CBD is the oasis of Lysterfield Lake Park and the adjoining Churchill Park. This natural bushland so close to Melbourne makes for perfect walking on the shorter winter days. As the lake at Lysterfield formed an important catchment for the metropolitan area it has been protected from development.

The walk is based on the western section of the parks which retain precious examples of natural forest and bushland and are an important refuge for a variety of native wildlife including kangaroos, wallabies, wombats, possums, echidnas and a variety of birdlife.

Not only does this walk allow for close up and personal encounters with the native wildlife, which at this time of the year included a variety of curious joeys that enjoyed the presence of walkers as much as we enjoyed seeing them, but also with relics of the past including the infrastructure to build the dam and from the Boys Farm which was a training ground for some of our local farmers in the mid 1900s.

Being so close to Melbourne with a guaranteed early finish, having a variety of fauna with minimal walking elevation ensures that this will be a walk that will be enjoyed by all.



TOFS WALK

CRANBOURNE BOTANIC GARDENS

DATE	Thursday 3 September 2015
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	10 km
LEADER	Rosemary Cotter
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	SE of Cranbourne
MAP REF	Melway 138 G10

This should be a good time to visit the area around the Australian Botanic Garden at Cranbourne as the flowers are at their best August to November. The walk will take in the indigenous landscape and flora around the larger area as well as visiting the Australian Garden. There will be some focus on the Australian Garden so come prepared to meet the flora!

Having just returned from overseas, the final route hasn't been determined – phone the leader closer to the date of the walk.

Meet in the visitor car park adjacent to the Australian Garden (Melway 138 G10) at 10:15 am for a 10:30 am start. Book with the leader.



PACK CARRY

GRAMPIANS PEAK TRAIL

DATE	4–6 September 2015
RETURN TIME	September 6 early evening
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	36 km
ELEVATION	Day 1: 770 m, Day 2: 160 m
LEADER	Judith Shaw
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Grampians
MAP REF	VicMap Grampians Special 1:25,000

This walk follows the newly-opened stage 1 of the Grampians Peak Trail, a 144 km track which, when complete, will run the full north-south length of the Grampians National Park. Stage 1, completed last May, is a 36 km loop south from Halls Gap. The walking is exciting and varied, from the narrow gorges and remarkable geological formations of the Wonderland Range, through open stringybark and grass-tree forest to exposed rocky plateaus and magnificent cliff-top views from the Pinnacle and Mt Rosea. Day 1 is a reasonably long day which includes some rock-hopping. Day 2 is an easy 14 km walk back to Halls Gap along the eastern shore of Lake Bellfield.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

NEW: WARRAMATE HILLS

DATE	Sunday 6 September 2015
RETURN TIME	6:00 pm, Southbank
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	16 km
ELEVATION	400 m approx
LEADER	Stuart Hanham
TRANSPORT	Carpool – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8.45 am
AREA	North of Seville
MAP REF	Vicmap 1:25,000 Tarrawarra and Melway map 283

Warramate Hills is a beautiful flora and fauna reserve on the edge of the Yarra Valley. The walk will follow a different route from previous walks in the area. Soon after the start, we will visit the junction of the Woori Yallock Creek and the Yarra River. We then begin climbing into the hills, up a long steep section, with wonderful panoramic views of the Yarra Valley and Don Valley. Near the top of the climb is another great viewpoint. Our highest point will be Steel Hill, where the plan is to have lunch, overlooking the Yarra Valley.

Next, we will leave the vehicle tracks and contour down the side of Steel Hill on a little-known, but well maintained mountain bike trail. The vegetation contrasts between burnt trees and beautiful fern gullies. After reaching a vehicle track below Briarty Hill, we will join another undulating MTB trail, which enters a lovely semi-rainforest area with towering tree ferns and plenty of mosses. Descending towards the Yarra, we will have more inspiring views towards Mt. Toolbewong, before reaching farmland and the cars.

After the walk, we'll adjourn to the nearby Killara Estate Winery, which overlooks the Don Valley. This walk has great mountain, forest and valley views, which should appeal to nature lovers and photographers. Boots with a good grip are recommended.



WEDNESDAY WALK

BRISBANE RANGES

DATE	Wednesday 9 September 2015
RETURN TIME	3 pm to cars
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	13 km
ELEVATION	220 m
LEADER	John Terrell
TRANSPORT	private
AREA	Brisbane Ranges
MAP REF	Melway Page (not map!) 7 A9

Meet at Anakie Gorge Picnic Ground, Gorge Rd, off Staughton Vale Road, Anakie Junction at 10:00 for 10:15 start. We start by walking through Anakie Gorge with its interesting and ancient geological formations before turning onto the Ted Errey nature circuit and climbing steeply up to Nelson Lookout for morning tea. We then follow the Aqueduct track, Outlook Track to The Outlook, then a brief steep section leading down to the historic Lower Stony Creek Reservoir. From here we walk along Stony Creek and back through Anakie Gorge, returning to the cars at about 3 pm. Some of the creek crossings involve stepping across boulders.

The route takes us through a range of vegetation types – heathland, grass trees, banksias, wattles, gum, box, ironbark – much of it still recovering from the 2006 fires. The Brisbane Ranges are well known for wildflowers (over 600 species including some rare and endemic ones) and this should be a good time for them. There should be some time for botanising. Koalas are common and there is a huge range of birdlife too.

Phytophthora cinnamomi (cinnamon fungus) is rife here so we will need to use the boot cleaning stations to avoid spreading the disease further. This will be easier if your boots are clean before the walk as well as after.



BASE CAMP

VOLCANIC HILLS OF CAMPERDOWN – CABINS/ CAMPING

DATE	Friday 11 to Sunday 13 September 2015
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	25 km (approximate)
ELEVATION	Some steep but short climbs
LEADER	Jan Colquhoun
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Return to City by 6–7pm
AREA	Camperdown Volcanic Hills
MAP REF	Volcanoes Discovery Trail Map
	Vicmap 1:25,000 Mortlake South
	Vicmap 1: 25,000 Camperdown South
	Vicmap 1: 25,000 Beeac South
	Vicmap Warnambool North 7321-2-N

Over the course of the weekend we will explore the Western Victorian Volcanic Plains in the area around Camperdown. These won't be A to B walks, but a series of explorations of key features with drives between sites; such is the nature of the area.

Camperdown is around 2½ hours drive from Melbourne. On Saturday we have an early start driving to Tower Hill Reserve just west of Warnambool. Tower Hill is a water-filled volcanic crater with scoria cones and mounds in the centre forming islands. The crater has been regenerated to its original

habitat with reference to a painting by colonial landscape artist Eugene von Guerard. The reserve is a haven for native wildlife, including black swans, koalas and kangaroos. It is particularly famous for its emu population who rear their young chicks around the time of our visit August/September.

We then visit Mt Noorat, an impressive scoria cone with a perfect circular crater 159 metres deep, which is lower than the surrounding plain; it is one of the deepest in Victoria. We will do a circuit around the rim with stunning 360 degree views down into the cone across the surrounding plains. Or you may like to descend to the bottom of the crater, if you have the knees for it. Noorat itself is famous as the hometown of Allan Marshall and as a place to view fine examples of dry rock walls; these were built from the volcanic rocks by Anglo-Celtic settlers in the 19th century.

We then head for the Red Rock region. A complex eruption point, it includes maars, tuff rings and scoria cones; up to 30 eruption centres have been mapped in this 3 x 4 km area. Lookouts give excellent views of all the volcanic features and the surrounding lakes. On the way down from the lookouts we will spot another interesting feature; the Red Rock Winery. Wine tasting is optional! Before dinner you might like to explore the botanical gardens and enjoy the sunset panorama from the campground, which is set on a ridge, between Lake Bullen Merri and Lake Gnotuk. Dinner options include a barbeque or the local pub.

On Sunday we explore the two lakes before driving to the local Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf, twin scoria cones with a crater between them. There are several interlinked tracks to explore with excellent lookouts across Camperdown. After lunch we drive to Mt Elephant, on our return to Melbourne. Located at Derrinallum, and visible from Camperdown, it is the largest scoria cone in Victoria, and includes a breached crater 90 metres deep. At a height of 240 metres above the surrounding volcanic plain Mount Elephant was known as 'the lighthouse of the Western District' to early settlers. After exploring the mountain there should be time for a coffee in Derrinallum before the 2-hour drive back to Melbourne.

Expressions of interest would be appreciated ASAP if you would like to stay in a cabin. For cabins I require payment in advance to secure them. The cost of cabins is \$80 per person for the two nights inclusive. Camping costs around \$10 per person per night and includes use of a campground kitchen. Both the cabins and camp sites are excellent value for this well-maintained campground. Advance expressions of interest would also be appreciated, but not crucial for campers.

Unfortunately I work most Wednesday evenings and won't be able to attend the clubrooms on the Wednesdays prior to the trip. Best to ring evenings or weekend.



CONSERVATION

TREE PLANTING FOR REGENT HONEYEATER

DATE	12–13 September 2015
RETURN TIME	6:00 pm
STANDARD	Easy
LEADERS	Ray Thomas 03 5761 1515
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Benalla
TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON)	\$42.00 approx.

Spring is coming and it's tree planting time again. More details about the weekend and what to bring on the Regent Honeyeater Project site: <http://regenthoneyeater.org.au/planting.php>



SUNDAY BUS

LERDERDERG RIVER – BLACKWOOD

DATE	13 September 2015
RETURN TIME	6:30 pm to City
STANDARDS	Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCES	14 and 18 km
LEADERS	Del Franks and Fotina Lennon
TRANSPORT	Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45am
AREA	Lerderderg Gorge
MAP REF	Meridian Wombat State Forest Touring Guide 1:50,000

Although these walks are fairly easy, some steep sections and the distances have given these walks their grading of Easy/Medium and Medium.

The Easy/Medium group will be dropped off first at Blackwood and will follow the track clockwise. The first part of the walk is along a number of four-wheel-drive tracks but as we move towards Lerderderg River we follow a narrow and steep track down to the river. We will have an opportunity to view the tunnel dug out by miners to divert the course of the river before following the river till we reach Ambler Lane. After a short but steep climb we will meet the Bryers Back track which we will follow until reaching the waiting bus near golden Point Township.

The medium group will commence their walk at Golden Point and follow the main track anticlockwise. It will cover the same tracks as the Easy/Medium Group however will continue onto O'Briens Crossing. The medium group will complete their walk in Blackwood township where the Easy/Medium group will be waiting whilst enjoying a café latte, a beer or a wine.

Both walks will include walking along the river and also high tracks which take advantage of views into the gorge. Be prepared for a few river crossings and some steep tracks. A walking pole will be an advantage for some sections of each of the walks.



PACK CARRY

EAGLES PEAKS

DATE	Friday 18 to Sunday 20 September 2015
STANDARD	Medium
LIMIT	10 people
DISTANCE	30 kms approx.
ELEVATION	550 m to 1446 m
LEADER	Helen Geddes
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Howqua River
MAP REFERENCE	Howqua and Jamieson Rivers, Bush Maps Victoria 1:50,000
FRIDAY	Camp at Sheeppark Flat
SATURDAY 8 AM	Medium (steepish) walk 900 m ascent

We meet at Sheeppark Flat at 8 am to follow a track out to join the Lickhole Creek. We will need to collect water here for the evening and Sunday's requirements.

From here we climb up onto Eagles Peaks (1423 m and 1446 m) mostly via a trackless spur. In recent months there has been an extensive fuel reduction burn in the area; hence conditions are unknown at this time.

We will camp out along the spur toward Eight Mile Gap.

Sunday 8 am: Depart camp at 8 am to reascend Eagles Peaks before working our way downward, returning to Sheeppark Flat mid to late afternoon.

Eagles Peaks is one of the highlights of the Victorian alpine region, a special place to visit as well as experience the high country panorama. This is an alpine area and participants need to be equipped with all seasons' camping equipment, weather gear and carrying personal first aid kit, have some hiking experience and fitness. If you would like to join the trip please contact Helen Geddes via email or phone.



CYCLING

ROKEBY TO NEERIM TRAIL

DATE	Saturday 19 September 2015
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	55 km
ELEVATION	800 metres
LEADER	Philip Brown
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME TO START	3:30 to 4:00 pm
AREA	Neerim South
MAP REFERENCE	Ride with gps search Neerim

We will start in Rokeby. The ride will be using the Rokeby to Neerim trail – a section of this is the old Warragul to Noojee rail line (1890–1958) – and through the Neerim East State Forest, so a lot of the ride will be on bush tracks. Highlights are fantastic views of Mount Baw Baw, Bunyip State Forest, Tarago Reservoir, Latrobe Valley and the Strzelecki Ranges. Morning break in Neerim South for coffee and pick up lunch if needed.

Meet at 9:15 for a 9:30 start.

For directions and details contact me .



SUNDAY CAR POOL

UPPER LODDON RIVER–BULLARTO RESERVOIR

DATE	Sunday 20 September 2015
STANDARD	Medium
LEADER	Nik Dow
TRANSPORT	Carpool – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am

Take a walk in the (Wombat State) forest and along the Loddon River which might actually have some water in it, if present conditions continue. About 17 km circuit walk with some climbing, about 300 m. Some off track. If it's a cold rainy day, remember it's better up there north of the Divide.



MOFS WALK

MERRICKS TO RED HILL

DATE	Monday 21 September 2015
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	14 km
ELEVATION	Gentle climb to Red Hill
LEADER	Alister Rowe
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Merricks
MAP REF	Melway 192 and 191

Meet in the car park at Merricks Station Reserve, Melway 192 F9 at 10:15 am. We will walk along the Peninsula Equestrian Trail, have lunch in Red Hill and return. The walk has great

scenery and is based on the old Merricks/Red Hill Railway so grades are gentle. Slightly longer than usual, it is an easy walk which should conclude about 2:30 pm. Maybe afternoon tea at the upmarket trendy Merricks Store!
Book with Alister.



WEDNESDAY WALK

MURRINDINDI, WILHELMINA FALLS

DATE Wednesday 23 September 2015
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 12 km
LEADER Gina Hopkins
TRANSPORT private
AREA Murrindindi Scenic Reserve

We'll meet at Blackwood Camp in the Murrindindi Scenic Reserve at 10:15 am.

This circuit walk includes a gradual climb to the base of Wilhelmina Falls and a short detour to a viewing platform. These spectacular falls drop 75 metres down a steep granite rock face. Steps continue to the top of the falls and another viewing platform. There has been considerable regrowth since the last major bushfire so views are limited. After a little more uphill the track descends back to the Murrindindi River and we will return along the river track through tall forest and past ferny gullies.

For those not wanting to climb to the top of the falls, an easier option will be to return to the river track after viewing the falls, and continue along the river as far as the Murrindindi Cascades.



SOCIAL WALK

COBURG LAKE, MERRI CREEK

DATE Thursday 24 September 2015
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 5 km
ELEVATION Mostly flat

THE 2015 FEDERATION WALKS

This year's walks take place over the weekend of 24–25 October around picturesque Daylesford. You can come for the weekend or just a day.

Accommodation is DIY if you wish to stay up there.

There is a registration fee for the walks: \$20 for one day and \$30 for two days. Walk bookings start on 15th June and finish 30th September – first in best dressed! Check out the website www.fedwalks.org.au for more details about walks and please contact Mark Heath if you are interested.

LEADER Jean Giese
TRANSPORT Public
AREA Coburg North
MAP REF Melway 17

The plan for this walk is to take the train to Batman Station (or the tram in Sydney Road) and return from the Merlynston Station. If coming by car, there is parking in Lake Grove, off Gaffney–Murray Street. (Melway 17 H10). We will walk around the Lake Reserve then upstream beside the Merri Creek to lunch at Vincenzi Café.

Meet on the 10:04 Upfield line train (departs platforms 4 or 5) or in the Lake Grove carpark at 10:40.

Book with leader.



DANDENONGS EXPLORER

DATE Saturday 26 September 2015
STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADER Maureen Hurley
TRANSPORT Private

Please see next month's News for details of this walk.



CONSERVATION

TREE PLANTING FOR REGENT HONEYEATER

DATE 26–27 September 2015
RETURN TIME 6:00 pm
STANDARD Easy
LEADERS Ray Thomas 03 5761 1515
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Benalla
TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON) \$42.00 approx.

Spring is coming and it's tree planting time again. More details about the weekend and what to bring on the Regent Honeyeater Project site: <http://regenthoneyeater.org.au/planting.php>



SUNDAY BUS

TORQUAY – ANGLESEA

DATE Sunday 27 September 2015
RETURN TIME 6:00 pm to City
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES 13 km and 16 km
LEADERS John Fritze and Carol Ward
TRANSPORT Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45am
MAP REF Anglesea 1:25,000 and maps E, NE

This is a classic coastal walk through heathlands, messmate forests and around sandy bays. The area we pass through is notable for its red cliffs towering above the deep blue ocean and is considered to offer some of the most spectacular coastal scenery in the world.

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!

September 2015				
Thu 3	TOFs: Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne	Pvt	Easy	Rosemary Cotter
4-6	PC: Grampians Peak Trail	Pvt	Medium	Judith Shaw
Sun 6	NEW: Warramate Hills	Car	E/M	Stuart Hanham
Wed 9	Brisbane Ranges	Pvt	E/M	John Terrell
11-13	BC: Volcanic Hills Camperdown	Pvt	E/M	Jan Colquhoun
12-13	Tree planting for Regent Honeyeater	Pvt	Easy	Ray Thomas
Sun 13	Lerderderg River – Blackwood	Bus	E/M & M	Del Franks and Fotina Lennon
18-20	PC: Eagles Peaks	Pvt	Med	Helen Geddes
Sat 19	Cycling: Neerim South area	Pvt	Med	Phil Brown
Sun 20	Upper Loddon River–Bullarto Reservoir	Car	Med	Nik Dow
Mon 21	MOFs: Merricks to Red Hill	Pvt	Easy	Alister Rowe
Wed 23	Murrundindi, Wilhelmina Falls	Pvt	E/M	Gina Hopkins
Thu 24	SOCIAL: Coburg Lake, Merri Creek	Car	Easy	Jean Giese
Sat 26	Saturday Explorer: destination t.b.a.	Pvt	E/M	Maureen Hurley
26-27	Tree planting for Regent Honeyeater	Pvt	Easy	Ray Thomas
Sun 27	Torquay – Anglesea	Bus	E & E/M	John Fritze and Carol Ward

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