



A000133X

THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

December 2015

**Melbourne Bushwalkers
2015 Christmas Party**

Monday 14th December, 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm

**Venue - Melbourne City Bowls Club
Dudley Street
West Melbourne
(Opposite the clubrooms)**

BYO Plate to Share

**Drinks can be purchased
from the bar.**





GETTING TO THE CHRISTMAS PARTY AND/OR CLUBROOMS

There are options for public transport and free or paid parking:

- Catch a Tram: Nos. 23, 24, 30 or 34 on LaTrobe St; No. 55 on William St;
- Catch a Train: Flagstaff Gardens Underground on the Loop, opposite the Clubrooms;
- Car Parks: Both Wilson Parking in A'Beckett St and Secure Parking in LaTrobe St near the Clubrooms have a \$7 Flat Rate 4ñ10pm;
- Close but expensive Parking: Around Flagstaff Gardens It's now \$5.50/hr metered to 8:30pm;
- Free Parking: Many areas have free parking after 6:30pm or 7:30pm; North of Dudley St it's free after 6:30pm, e.g Walsh, Milton, William, Rosslyn, Capel, A'Beckett, Queen and Lonsdale Streets; loading zones and some metered parking end at 7:30pm; Batman St (other side of Gardens) has many spaces that are free after 6:30pm, others after 7pm.
- You can also Walk or Cycle!

CLUBROOM HOLIDAY CLOSURES 23RD & 30TH DECEMBER

There will be no Sunday Walk on the 27th December and the clubrooms will be closed on both Wednesday 23rd December and Wednesday 30th December.

The first Sunday Walk for 2016 will be on Sunday 3rd January. If you are planning to attend please book in the clubrooms by Wednesday 20th December or online by Thursday 31st December. For all other activities please contact the leaders direct.

The clubrooms will be open as usual from Wednesday 6th January.

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

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 7 December 2015

23 November 2015

We wanted to let you know that our darling Thomas died at 3:30 this morning in St. Vincent's after a short but severe chest infection.

We went in by ambulance at about 7 pm yesterday. He had stabilised and was doing much better but managed to give us all the slip while the two nurses were fiddling around with a machine that wasn't working!

We are so happy that he did it so well and that he wasn't faced with many years of ever diminishing health. He managed to stay out of hospital for 6 years and 4 months which was really wonderful.

All are welcome to his Celebration of Life on Tuesday December 1st at 11 am at Evans Hall, St George's Church, Warncliffe Road, Ivanhoe East.

Janette and Rod Mattingley

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members
Tanina Davenport, Shai Marom, Paul Bolstad,
Sheryl Bolstad, Marion Crooke, Geetha Kurudi,
Jane McRae

And rejoining members,
Michael Stringer, Susan Stringer



On the Bogong High Plains, Melbourne Cup weekend.
See article on page 10.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – DECEMBER 2015



To the inexperienced the mention of doing bushwalking often conjures up images of negotiating a way through scrub, scrambling over rocks and making tricky river crossings with little more than our wits and experience to guide us safely to our destination. It is true that we like a challenge and the popular misconception is, for some, exactly how they like it to be. For most of us, however, our walking follows established routes clearly marked to aid our progress. Whilst differences exist, the level of satisfaction is generally no less substantial. We all enjoy spending time in the world we like best – the natural bush; discovering new places; and learning more about our wild places, plants and animals.

There is a practical side to the use of tracks too. Many of the places we like to walk are fragile environments and if we were all to walk on our own chosen routes we could end up damaging the diminishing areas we most want to preserve. But the development and maintenance of tracks is a costly undertaking. It is only through the dedicated efforts of many volunteers in conjunction with our Parks services that our rich inheritance of established paths can be retained. Those who contribute in this way are exuberant in extolling the virtues and personal satisfaction they receive over and above that of bushwalking itself. There is knowing that you're doing something worthwhile, contributing rather than consuming; helping to maintain tracks and the beauty of the bush; meeting new people from other clubs; and, for those that engage in tree planting, lowering your carbon footprint.

As members of Melbourne Bushwalkers you are encouraged to take advantage of the numerous activities listed on our program throughout the year to make your own contribution. Often in association with Parks Victoria Rangers, Bushwalking Victoria and other organised groups you are assured that your efforts are well planned to be of real benefit. If you are looking at getting involved for the first time our Environment Officer, Deb Shand, or Committee Member, Mark Heath, will be pleased to tell you more about what is involved, as will the many other club members who have continued over the years to make their own contributions. Just ask someone about it next time you are out walking.

Each year Melbourne Bushwalkers donates the interest received on a dedicated investment fund to an organisation or organisations whose activities are consistent with the purposes of the Club. This year the Committee has decided to donate \$640 to the Track and Conservation Group of Bushwalking Victoria to help support their leading role in organising Track Maintenance and Conservation activities.

Also making news this month:

- The Club has purchased two KTI SAG2 Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) for use by members. These Australian designed and made units weigh only 140gm and at 3cm x 6.4cm x 8.8cm are both lighter and smaller than our previous units.
- The 1940's Club photograph albums mentioned in last month's *News* have been located. A selection of images will be scanned for inclusion on the website photogallery archive.
- Several new volunteers have come forward. However, we still have a few vacancies to fill for the 2016-17 Committee. If you are interested in contributing to the ongoing management of the Club's affairs please let me know to ensure your name is not overlooked.
- I look forward to catching up with as many of you as possible at the Christmas Party on Monday 14th December. For those of you that will not be able to join us I wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday season with lots of great walking.



Ian Mair, with input from Deb Shand

Noticeboard



PRIVATE ACCESS TO THE
LITTLE YARRA RIVER

IMAGINE YOURSELF
IN THE YARRA VALLEY
THIS CHRISTMAS

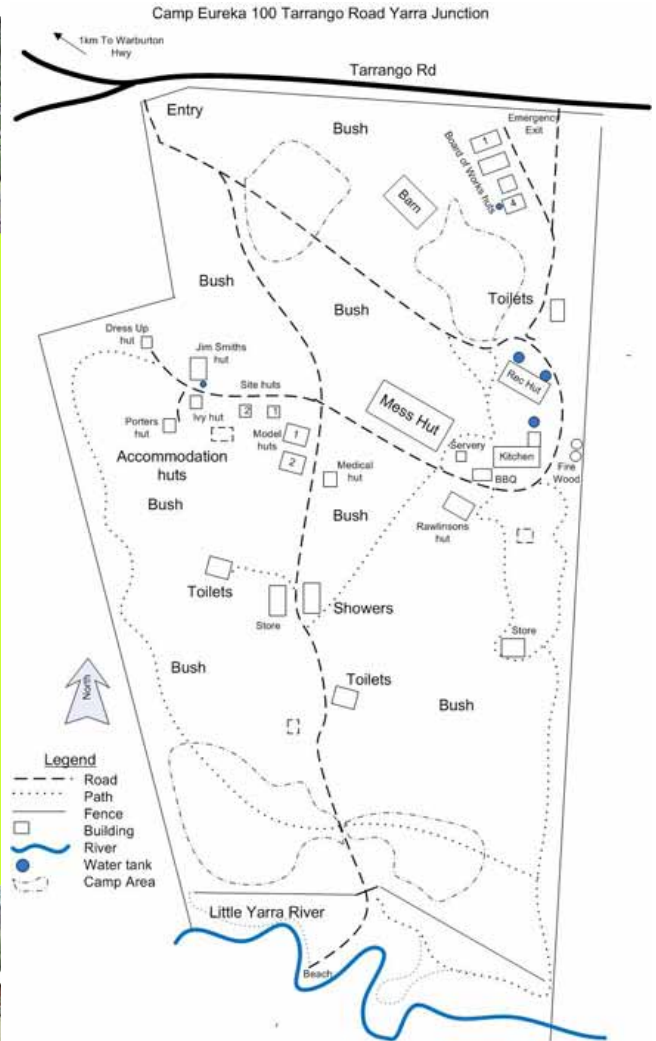


Camp Eureka is located at
100 Tarrango Road, Yarra Junction
It is booked for the Bushies
24 -28 December.

- Around seven hectares of great natural beauty that has been replanted with indigenous species along the river.
- Heritage listed buildings suitable for large groups.
- Basic sleeping accommodation and toilet facilities.
- 2 large camping areas.
- Kitchen, dining rooms and 2 recreational rooms.

The cost is \$250 per day divided by the total number of Bushies. These base camps are always popular as they give us a chance to run a series of day walks, and then come together at night for our renowned convivial evenings and usual Christmas bonhomie!

To Book Contact: **SUSAN MAUGHAN**
susanmaughanoz@hotmail.com or 0478 504 441



Dear Ian,

On behalf of the committee of Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation (BTAC) a standing committee of Bushwalking Victoria, I write to thank the members of Melbourne Bushwalkers (Inc) for their donation of \$640 to further the activities of BTAC.

Please advise your members that your donation will be used to enable our volunteers to continue their work to assist land managers to maintain tracks and facilities for bushwalkers on public land. We hope that our efforts will raise awareness of the interests of all bushwalkers and bushwalking clubs in Victoria.

It is gratifying that the work of BTAC is recognised and supported by your club.

Kind Regards

Megan Major
Board Member BWV
Manager Bushwalking Tracks & Conservation (BTAC)



GEAR TIPS, CHEAP TENTS

The best lightweight hiking tents are nearly as expensive as good sleeping bags but don't offer the same value due to their relatively short lives. Cheaper alternatives can do the job for about a quarter of the price but are heavier and can have inferior materials, design or workmanship that may not be detectable at time of purchase. We thought it might be useful to track down one of the better ones! We hoped to find a free standing rain protected side entry tent but they all seemed all too heavy so ended up with this: http://www.aliexpress.com/item/2015-New-Fashion-Only-1-24kg-2-Person-Tent-20D-Silicone-Fabric-Tent-Double-layer-Tent/32371438667.html?spm=2114.01010108.3.19.Hltx0a&ws_ab_test=201556_7,201527_3_71_72_73_74_75,0_0

It's a two person front entry tent similar to a Big Agness Fly Creek UL2. This style of tent suits those seeking maximum ease of use at a minimum weight and are usually light enough to serve as spacious solo tents. On the downside they seldom have weather protected entries, are not the most convenient to get in and out of and provide no convenient place to cook in bad weather. When shared they can be cramped and offer minimal storage space for wet gear.

Ours cost about \$165 (including a floor protector and postage) which is about \$480 less than you would pay for a similarly equipped Big Agness. At 1440 g it is 390 g heavier but you could save 40 g by replacing half the pegs with lighter ones. Its floor protector is also on the heavy side but could be left at home. The tent lacks a high level vent, storage pockets and at 2050 mm is a bit short for tall people but otherwise seems strong and well made (the pitch can be improved if the end of the tent is pegged out rather than clipped to the pole).

If you are interested you can inspect or hire it from the clubroom.

The cooking and cleaning tips we promised last month will have to wait!

John Fritze



LifeStraw® 
by VESTERGAARD

Do you trust your drinking water?

LifeStraw® transforms microbiologically contaminated water into safe, clean drinking water. Perfect for camping, hiking, travel and emergency use.

Order online now & get 10% OFF! Plus FREE SHIPPING!

- Chemical-free
- Filter water from any fresh water source*
- Removes 99.9999% waterborne bacteria
- Removes 99.99% waterborne parasites
- Removes chlorine & odours
- Retains essential minerals e.g. fluoride
- Requires no power, batteries, plumbing
- Effective against waterborne diseases such as Escherichia coli (E.coli), Salmonella, Cryptosporidium parvum and Giardia lamblia
- Reduces turbidity (muddiness)
- Microfiltration membrane technology to filter down to 0.2 microns

10% Off Prices:

 LifeStraw® Personal \$35. ⁹⁵	 LifeStraw® Go Bottle \$49. ⁴⁵	 LifeStraw® Home \$161. ⁹⁵	 LifeStraw® Family 2.0 \$161. ⁹⁵
--	--	---	---

Order online now using promo code BUSHWALKERS

Offer valid for month of November 2015

www.jadavey.com.au/lifestraw

*Does not filter dissolved matter or heavy metals such as salt, iron, calcium or arsenic from water



30 of Willis's YEARS Walkabouts

After 30 years of remote walking tours, Russell Willis turns his gaze towards the future

2016 will bring the 30th anniversary of the first tour I ran using the name Willis's Walkabouts. For me, this is a great motivation to ensure 2016 is extra special.

For 30 years, I have been blessed in earning a living doing something I love. I visited many wonderful places and met many wonderful people. I have lived a life that many only dream about.

Unfortunately, the price for continuing to run this business has been an increasing amount of office work. I've had enough. It's time to concentrate on the things I truly enjoy rather than paperwork.

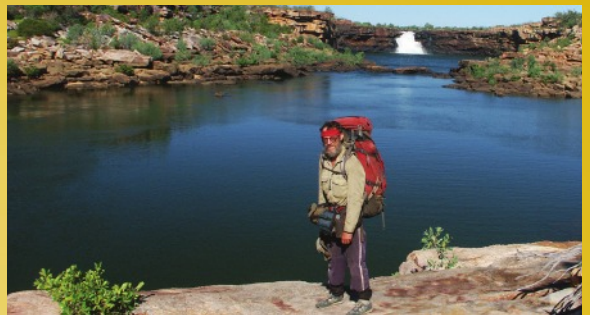
Times change and so must Willis's Walkabouts. I ran my first ad in *The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers* at least as far back as 1992. But I am now phasing out all my print advertising so this will be the last print advert I run here. As such, I'd like to say thanks to all the members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers who have supported us along the way.

The next phase is to consider what next. To celebrate 30 years, I have created a list of the trips I most want to do and will focus on running these over the next few years. I welcome any expressions of interest from those who would like to join me. The best way to find out about those trips is to sign up for my free newsletter using the contact button on the website.

After that there's the matter of succession. While Willis's Walkabouts will definitely continue to exist, it will need to do so with far less of my involvement in the office work. I will, however, continue to lead walks for as long as I continue to enjoy it. And, of course, other walks will continue to be led by my small, select team of guides.

Yours,
Russell Willis

Russell Willis



Kakadu, Kimberley, Pilbara, Central Australia – our bushwalking tours cover them all. Treks from three days to six weeks, easy, hard or in between.

Our overseas trips are different to anything else on offer anywhere: Patagonia, Scandinavia, southern Africa, Madagascar & more.

Check out the trip lists on our website and see for yourself.

Visit the Willis's Walkabouts website or enquire for more information about our upcoming tours today.

www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au

A WEEK ON FLINDERS ISLAND

Last summer Susan Maughan organised a trip to Deal and Erith Islands in Bass Strait, inspiring Doug Pocock to organise a trip to Flinders Island, also in Bass Strait. So, on Friday morning, 2 October, fifteen Melbourne Bushies flew from the old Essendon airport in a small plane we couldn't stand up in. We were met by the owners of the cabins we were to stay in and had our luggage transferred to our cabins, although they were next to the airport. We hired three cars from our hosts which were enough for us all to travel around the island. After we were settled in we drove to the small town of Whitemark to buy supplies for the week as shops would be closed for most of the weekend. Later we walked along the nearby river to the beach, then back to our accommodation. The practice of 'happy hour' was introduced where we would socialize in the lounge of the larger cabin while Doug outlined plans for the next day.

Next day we drove to Wybalenna where the last of the Tasmanian Aborigines were brought by their 'Protector' George Augustus Robinson. We did a spectacular walk around the beach, with lots of boulder hopping, then walked back in a loop along a white beach with clear turquoise water. We then looked at the cemetery and chapel at the settlement, moving on to the Furneaux Museum which was full of information, beautifully organized. And Judy Jacques, a Melbourne jazz singer from the 60s who now lives on the island, was the volunteer in attendance, with her musician partner.

Sunday Doug decided to take a chance on Mount Strzelecki, the highest on the island. Initially it was covered in mist, but by the time the group made the difficult ascent the mist had cleared. Lunch was eaten sitting on a sheltered rock slab with beautiful clear views all around the island and as far as mainland Tasmania. Those interested in plants were pleased to find many orchids flowering. Three members of the group with various issues chose to do the walk around Trousers Point, a stunning coastal heathland walk.



Lunch on top of Mt Strzelecki, 760m, on the south end of the Island after a morning climb. Photo by Mick Noonan

After the fairly hard climb on the previous day (at least the leader found it so) easier walks were planned on the east coast. The group started by visiting the Patriach conservation reserve with its wonderful free hut. We didn't stay there but after a short walk had lunch watching the wallabies while the keen birders found some Tasmanian endemics. Moving on, we walked up the Middle Patriach only to find the views were largely hidden by trees. On to the coast where we viewed the skeletons of pilot whales which beached there in 1978. Red Bluff beckoned so we walked along a delightful beach almost to the point before returning to the cars. That night we had a barbecue at Trousers point and watched the sun go down over the beach. Three of the group were brave (or foolish?) enough to go in for a quick swim.

Tuesday we did another beach and headland walk, in hot windy weather, marvelling at the large red lichen-covered boulders. Doug and Jan were pleased to find endangered Hooded Plovers on a couple of

(continued over the page)

Along the Track

A WEEK ON FLINDERS ISLAND *(continued from page 7)*



Walking into a stiff headwind on our way to Castle Rock.
Photo by Mick Noonan

planned walk and instead drove to North East Point. Here we had beautiful views of pods of dolphins playing or fishing in the clear waters of the bay

Thursday, our last day, we walked along an old overgrown road, again beside the coast, and had our photo taken as a group on the westernmost point of the island. Leaving the coast we visited Walkers Lookout. Despite a very cold wind we enjoyed a great view of the central Darling Range but felt a bit frustrated that we could not explore further. In the distance we could see the bushfires which would have precluded walking there anyway. That night it was back to the pub for a farewell dinner, then home Friday. A lovely week in a beautiful place with a very congenial group (including three ex-presidents and our News Editor).

Jan Llewelyn



Eleven of us at the most westerly point on the Island. Photo by Mick Noonan.

Jan Llewelyn's report on Flinders island gives an idea of just how good the week was. There were a number of members who missed out on the trip due to limited numbers so if someone would like to organize another trip I'm sure it would be a goer. I am happy to help with details of the trip to make organizing more easy. Talk to me if you are interested.

Doug Pocock

MAJOR MITCHELL PACK CARRY – OCTOBER 2015

Jimmy Creek campground was teeming with activity. Loads of other campers, kangaroos and a frenzy of birdlife. Fortunately, Claire not only reserved a very large campsite for us but had a boot full of firewood for an evening fire.

Claire and Francis had earlier walked from Mt William carpark to the first camp just to check the water was available!

Saturday we car shuffled to SheepHills track to start a steady climb up Mt William. About halfway we could clearly see Cathedral Rock, looking like a whale breaching from a sea of forest. Half an hour later we rested for morning tea on a precipitous ledge which plunged into the valley below us.

By lunch the sun was blazing across Mt William summit, giving us expansive views of the ranges and surrounding plains. From there on to the Major Mitchell track, a rough and rocky path with many a steep descent to test the knees until the First Wannon campsite, a clear and roomy camp next to a flowing creek surrounded by fields of grevillia and populated by friendly antechinus with a taste for David's scroggin.

Next morning we scraped ice off the tents as a thick mist rolled through.

As we ascended to the Plateau, the Serra Ranges began to appear out of the mist, the plains below still blanketed with cloud. The plateau was a feast of wildflowers and by mid morning we sat atop a rocky outcrop to check the map and name all the distant peaks.

Kicking off at a steady pace it was necessary to watch your footing, with rocks at every step. An extra challenge was some rock scrambling going up to the far end of the plateau. By then we had splendid views west across the Grampians and back to Mt William. Following another rocky descent to the grassy plains of Stockyard Saddle we had lunch, chased lizards and lounged in the shade. It was then an easy trek back to Jimmy Creek where some of us had a dip in the creek and we finished off with ice cream and coffee at Halls Gap.

A highly recommended walk. Thanks to all the group, Claire, Francis, John, Helen, Phil, David.

Mark Simpson

Photos by Mark Simpson and John Terrell



PACK CARRY: MT LOCH – MT COPE AND DIAMANTINA SPUR 30 OCTOBER – 30 NOVEMBER

On Friday night we bush camped at Snowy Creek a few kilometres from Harrietville. The weather was warm and balmy when we turned in for the night. The drive up the mountain was a bit challenging as thick cloud had descended, making visibility difficult. On reaching Diamantina Hut Agajan briefed us on the day's walk. The rain had not abated as we headed towards Loch car park for the descent down Swindlers Spur to the Cobungra River, briefly stopping at Dibbin Hut. There was a gradual climb up to Cobungra Gap, passing the Basalt Temple on the right. On the Plateau the rain intensified with gale force winds making walking conditions trying, although one member of the group was excited by the experience. The walk along the Plateau seemed to take forever, but the sight of the signpost for the Tawonga Huts, our campsite for the night, was most welcome. Agajan advised if the rain had not ceased by morning we may have stay at the Huts until the weather improved.

Day 2

The rain had stopped but the weather still looked threatening. We broke camp at 8:00 am with the sun occasionally breaking through. Back on the Alpine plain we were soon rock hopping to avoid the waterlogged ground as we followed the snow poles. After 3 km we joined the Australian Alps Walking Track until we reached Mt. Jim. At this point a side trip was made to look at the magnificent stand of snow gums. A bit of rock scrambling was necessary and to our surprise and Jeanette's delight a patch of snow was nestled in amongst the rocks and a mini snowball fight ensued. Just as we reached the snow gums the dreaded rain started again, wet weather gear was donned and we headed along towards Cope Saddle, again following the snow poles and rock hopping as before. Upon reaching the Cope Saddle Hut the walk to Mt. Cope was aborted and the longer walk to Cope Hut, a 6 km round trip, was a goer. Following lunch a short 3 km walk along a four wheel drive track took us to our camp site at Pretty Valley. Shortly after we pitched our tents around 4 pm the heavens opened and we retreated to our tents until the next morning.

DAY 3

After drying our tents we broke camp at 8:30 am and walked down the Painter Fire Track, passing the Pretty Valley Pondage, then off track until joining the Australian Alps Walking Track, and headed towards Weston Hut. The original Weston Hut was destroyed in the 2007 fires but has since been restored using recycled and new materials. By this time the sun had appeared and advantage was taken to dry out tents and clothing etc. The walk to Blair's Hut sited on the banks of the Kiewa River was pleasant, the track cutting through strands of wildflowers and towering gums. We had barely set up camp when a very heavy thunderstorm hit us again. It was either back in the tents or shelter in Blair's Hut. Ivan used his expertise to



get a fire started whilst the rest of us gathered more firewood. The evening meal was cooked in the hut and eaten around the roaring fire. Ivan's reputation as an all round good guy was enhanced when he produced a small bottle Drambuie which was shared around and we continued chatting until the fire went out.

DAY 4

We broke camp at 7:30 am and commenced walking under a cloudless sky. However there was a more immediate challenge – crossing the Kiewa River. Stephen had carried out repairs to a temporary bridge (if you could call it that) but four walkers (I won't say who didn't trust Stephen's handiwork)

(continued over the page)

Along the Track

MT LOCH – MT COPE AND DIAMANTINA SPUR *(continued from page 10)*

elected to wade barefoot across the river, braving the icy cold water. Agajan, Mark, Stephen and myself took up the daredevil challenge and made it safely across with dry feet. We then steeled ourselves for the arduous climb up the Diamantina Spur, 700 m up on the 3.5 km track to the Crosscut Saw junction. The Spur soon afforded great views of the Kiewa Valley and the spur we descended the previous day. Further up the track Mt. Feathertop was spotted with patches of snow still intact. We reached the junction in 3 hours and our leader was very happy with the progress. The remaining 9.5 km along The Crosscut Saw was a breeze in the sunny conditions. Halfway along the ridge we stopped for lunch and took in the views including the impressive Buffalo Range. For those interested in statistics our total ascent on Day 4 was 1092 metres. We reached Diamantina Hut around 2:30 pm and freshened up a bit before hitting Harrierville for an ice-cream and then to Bright for a well-earned coffee. Some departed for home at Bright and others opted for an enjoyable pub meal at Euroa.

Thanks to Agajan for organising a very well planned walk and thanks to my fellow walkers: Ian Mair Jeanette, Mark, Ivan (visitor) Ian Langford and Stephen for making the walk very enjoyable especially in the trying conditions in the first 2 days.

Ray Spooner

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST



BASE CAMP

MT BUFFALO – LAKE CATANI CAMPGROUND

DATE	Friday 11 March to Monday 14 March 2016
RETURN TIME	To city by 6–7 pm
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	43 km (approximate)
ELEVATION	1723 metres maximum
LEADER	Jan Colquhoun
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Mt Buffalo National Park
MAP REFERENCE	Rooftop: Mt Buffalo Plateau Forest Activities Map
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	North East
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Mt Hotham or Falls Creek



Mount Buffalo offers a varied range of short and extended walks, each with varied but stunning scenery. I have selected walks to highlight the range of scenery available. We shall stay at the Lake Catani Campground, a very popular campground over this Labor Day long weekend.

On Saturday we will explore the Back Wall for excellent views to the south of the plateau. On return to our campground we can stop off for refreshments at the Dingo Dell Visitor Centre. There is some free time to relax or perhaps take a swim in Lake Catani. There is then an optional wine and nibbles sunset up on the Horn lookout. The Horn offers 360 degree views and the best sunsets I've experienced in the high country!

On Sunday we shall car pool to Rollasons Falls. After exploring the upper and lower falls we shall take the Big Walk track back to Lake Catani via the Chalet and visit many of the scenic lookouts en route. This walk involves some climbing, but all is on well-formed tracks.

On Monday we shall explore Chalwell and Old Galleries and walk from The Reservoir car park back to the campground (after a short car shuffle) one way back to the campground. Last time I walked this track at this time of year the valley was covered in mountain daisies. These are all short but rewarding walks close to the campground. Time permitting, there is an option to check out the scenery around The Cathedral before heading back to Melbourne.

Lake Catani is an excellent campground with full facilities including hot showers. Mt Buffalo is approximately five hours' drive from Melbourne. Due to the size of the plateau it will be necessary to drive to or from the starting points or ends of some of the walks. The walks listed on this preview are meant as a guideline and they may be rotated or modified depending on the weather or the group.

Expressions of interest would be appreciated ASAP. There are limited places available on this base camp due to the availability of campsites. A deposit of \$50 per person is required to secure a place. Due to Parks Victoria policy, deposits can't be refunded. Unless early notice is provided and someone else can take your place.

If interested please contact me.

KENNETT RIVER, SKENES CREEK AND SURROUNDS 6-8 NOVEMBER 2015

The pleasure of a challenging day walk followed by rest and relaxation appeals to many club members. The Club's day walks program setting out from Melbourne offers an amazing variety of options over a year. But these are only a small part of what is available across Victoria, limited by time and distance. Nothing beats base camps to broaden the horizons and provide a mixture of walks and social companionship further afield, whether in the more traditional way of camping in tents or the alternative of roofed accommodation. Our leader, Halina, had selected two top walks from the popular publication 'Walking the Otways' from the Geelong Walking Club that would best be done from a base camp. Now in its 4th edition, and edited by John Chapman *et al*, the latest edition covers one day walks in the Otway Ranges and also covers the Great Ocean Walk as a series of one day walks.

A Base Camp location at Skenes Creek along the Great Ocean Road near Apollo Bay was selected and offered all accommodation options to suit individual taste. Our 16 happy hikers opted for a mixture of a rented house at Wye River, the YHA at Apollo Bay and camping at the Skenes Creek Beachfront Caravan Park, all within a short drive of each other. No matter what the accommodation preference, it was a smoothly coordinated weekend of walks, fine social dining at the Apollo Bay Brewhouse on Friday evening and a shared BBQ at Skenes Creek on Saturday night. And for those that felt like extending the experience, a beer tasting at the Forrest boutique brewery on the way home.

Don't for a moment think that it was more of a bludge than a walking outing! We earned our times of rest and relaxation. The walks Halina had chosen (Nos. 25 and 28) could be easily reached from our main base at Skenes Creek. Superficially these walks were very similar. A #*%^! big hill to start as we headed inland followed by a coasting descent back to the foreshore before an easy walk along the beach back to our cars. Such is the way of numerous day walks in The Otways. Sweeping majestically back from the foreshore and the Great Ocean Road the hills rise sharply to offer a testing workout before revealing spectacular views along the coastline. In closer detail the walks were very different. One offered stunning walking amongst tall stands of majestic trees and tree ferns whilst the other wove its way between open pastures with uninterrupted views down sharp gullies to the foreshore.

Saturday night too was a highlight. Halina had loosely apportioned responsibility for providing part of the shared meal. True to form the participants excelled in providing a spread to satisfy the most fastidious eater. A diverse mixture of dishes that would not normally be part of each individual's everyday eating, complete with a good selection of wines and other beverages, ensured that everyone was fully satisfied.

Thank you Halina, and to all of the participants, for a very enjoyable weekend at one of Victoria's top destinations complete with comfortable walking weather.

Ian Mair



Walking amongst tall trees on Saturday.
Photo by Ian Mair.



Saturday evening BBQ gets underway.
Photo by 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

**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.



NEW YEAR'S DAY BBQ

DATE Friday 1 January 2016
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE Optional short walk after BBQ
ELEVATION Mostly flat
LEADER Susanna Mason
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Birdsland Reserve, Belgrave
MAP REFERENCE Melway 84 C1
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

It's on again – the popular way to welcome in the New Year with friends and family: THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS NEW YEAR'S DAY BBQ.

The BBQ from noon will be at the Birdsland Reserve, Belgrave (Melway 84 C1) off Mt Morton Road. Someone will be at the Reserve early at 10:00 am to save our spot if anyone wants to arrive early. Check out the photos from last year: http://mbw.org.au/zenphoto/2015/social-events/2015010101_New_Years_Day/

It is a BYO event – everyone to bring something to barbecue, a contribution for the community table, a chair and drinks. No need to book, just turn up, but a courtesy email to social@mbw.org.au to let me know who to expect would be appreciated.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

SUTHERLAND CREEK

DATE Sunday 3 January 2016
RETURN TIME 6 pm to city
STANDARD Easy/medium, depending on conditions
DISTANCE Approx. 13 km
ELEVATION 100 m maximum
LEADER Michael Murray
TRANSPORT Carpool – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Brisbane Ranges National Park
MAP REFERENCE Steiglitz Anak 1
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Geelong

The Brisbane Ranges is one of my favourite areas for bushwalking because of its diversity. The walk will follow Sutherland Creek which is at the southern end of the national

park. This walk has everything from open woodland, creek lines, which is the majority of the walk, large boulders to climb over, some hills (not difficult) and of course the inevitable large pebbles and sand ridges on the creek floor. Fortunately there is little 'road walking' For the beginner this walk would be a challenge.

This walk is scheduled for early January so plenty of water is required and certainly appropriate clothing and footwear.

As the clubrooms are closed on 23 December bookings will have to be done on line.



SOCIAL

THE JOHNSTON COLLECTION, EAST MELBOURNE
 2:00 P.M WEDNESDAY 6 JANUARY 2016

Book your tickets for the Johnston Collection's Christmas Display and join Susan at the 2 pm session followed by afternoon tea in Jolimont.

<https://www.johnstoncollection.org/>

NOTE – Sandy Mattingley, wife of a past president, along with other members of the Fusion Fibre Art Network, will be exhibiting in the yellow room.



TOFS WALK

MERRICKS–SOMERS–COOLART WETLANDS

DATE Thursday 7 January 2016
RETURN TIME 3:00 pm
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 10 km
ELEVATION Negligible
LEADER Graham Hodgson
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Westernport Bay
MAP REFERENCE Melway Maps 192, 193
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

The walk will be on the less populated side of the Mornington Peninsula, i.e. Westernport Bay.

We will start at Merricks beach and walk along the foreshore to Somers beach where we will cross over a lagoon and enter an area of bushland at the back of the Coolart Homestead.

We will do a circuit within the area before entering the wetlands and observing some birds from the excellent bird hide that has been constructed. After the wetlands we will visit the Coolart Homestead which is set in beautiful gardens and displays some interesting photographs of the area. We will then retrace our steps back along the beach and return to the cars via the Merricks headland bushwalk.

We will have time for some swimming for those interested and also coffee and cake at the Merricks general store.

Bring a sunhat, sunscreen and plenty of water.



SUNDAY BUS

WALHALLA

DATE Sunday 10 January 2016
STANDARD Easy and easy/medium
DISTANCE 12 km and 15 km
LEADERS John Fritze and Carol Ward
TRANSPORT Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Gippsland
MAP REFERENCE Walhalla 1:25,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT West Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Latrobe Valley

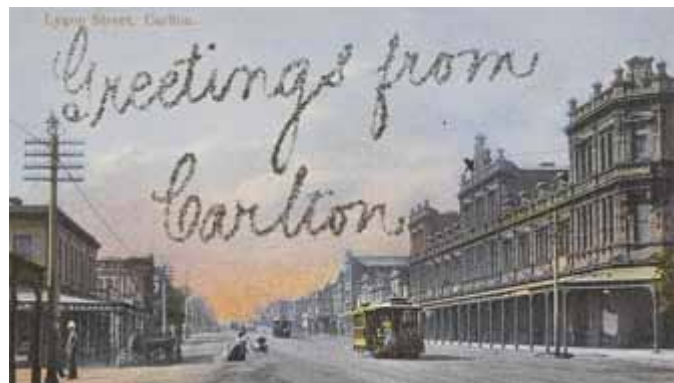
This is a walk in the historic gold mining area of Walhalla. It is on well-formed tracks with little in the way of hills for the easy group. It follows old tramway alignments, parts of the Great Alpine Walking Track and other tracks through the steep and densely forested terrain of the Baw Baws. Along the way we will see the Thompson River and cross it on an historic iron bridge, pass fern glades, old machinery and mine entrances before arriving at the Walhalla Township. The township itself is a remote and picturesque village clinging to sides of a valley so steep that two of the buildings straddle it. Some say the graves in the cemetery had to be dug in sideways! We will have a bird's eye view as we approach and an opportunity to walk the full length of the main street. There should be time for coffee and a little sightseeing and an optional \$15 ride on a precarious railway that crosses at least seven large trestle bridges on its short journey down the valley to the other side of the Thompson River. We expect to return to Melbourne by 7:00 pm.



HISTORICAL WALK

MELBOURNE PRECINCTS

DATE Wednesday 13 January 2016
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 6 km
LEADER Susan Maughan
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Carlton
MAP REFERENCE Melway map 2B
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne



Meet at Baretto Espresso Bar, Alan Gilbert Building, Corner of Barry & Grattan Streets for a 10:30 departure.

This walk takes in 22 points of interest as we meander through familiar streets and look at things with new eyes.

We conclude the walk at 'Depot de Pain', Rathdowne Street, Rathdowne Village for a late lunch (roughly about 1:15-1:30). The tram from adjacent Nicholson Street returns us to the city loop. There is no quiz or test, but nonetheless bring a pencil and paper.

Book with Susan.



CYCLING

FEDERATION SQUARE – YARRA RIVER – DAREBIN PARKLANDS – MERRI CREEK – CITY CIRCLE TRAIL – FEDERATION SQUARE

DATE Saturday 16 January 2016
START 9:30 am
STANDARD Easy/medium
DISTANCE 65 km approx. (with an approx. 40 km option)
ELEVATION Relatively flat; some slow steady uphill
LEADER Sue Ralston
TRANSPORT Private or train to Flinders Street or Alphington station
AREA City and inner northern suburbs
MAP REFERENCE Melway incl. 31, 19, 9, 7, 17
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

This is another lovely summer circuit beginning and ending either at Federation Square or at Alphington station (for the shorter route) and following the Yarra River, Darebin Creek, Merri Creek and the Capital City trails. The ride is relatively flat with some slow steady uphill sections and is mainly on bike tracks, with some quiet suburban streets.

If it is hot, or for those who would like a more leisurely ride, there is the option of meeting at Alphington station at approx. 10:30 am and/or ending the ride there.

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

Morning tea will be at one of the many cafes in the Fairfield area, and there will be an opportunity for another coffee stop at Ceres or in the Carlton area in the afternoon.

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

 **SUNDAY CAR POOL**

CATHEDRAL RANGE

DATE Sunday 17 January 2016
RETURN TIME Approx. 6:30 pm
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 11 km approx.
ELEVATION Fluctuation from 300 to 900 m
LEADER Roger Wyatt
TRANSPORT Carpool – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Cathedral Range
MAP REFERENCE Cathedral Range Leisure Series 1:25,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Yarra Glen

The Cathedral Range State Park has three major peaks over 900 m above sea level along a rocky crescent of rock rising steeply from the Acheron River Valley, that provides excellent views above the messmate and pepper gum forest.

The walk will start from Sugarloaf Saddle with a steep 250 m ascent of Mount Sugarloaf, and then a 2 km undulating walk along the Razor Back to the South Jawbone Peak with some sections of rock hopping. Descending to the Farm Yard, before climbing North Jawbone, as a short side trip. Continuing north, along the razor to Cathedral Peak. Then Cathedral North and time permitting onto Little Cathedral, before returning to Ned’s Saddle on the lower track. Then a steep descent to Ned’s Gully, before reversing the car shuffle.

This may be short walk in distance, but tough in parts.

 **MOFS WALK**

LAVERTON TO ALTONA ESPLANADE

DATE Monday 18 January 2015
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 11 km
ELEVATION Level
LEADER Keith White
TRANSPORT Train
AREA West of city
MAP REFERENCE Melway 53 D10
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

We meet at the Laverton Railway Station (Werribee Line) at 10:30. Trains leave Flinders Street Station at roughly 10 minute intervals and take approximately 30 minutes.

This is a linear walk tracing Laverton Creek to its mouth where we can stop for lunch and view wading birds resting along the spit. After lunch we cross Laverton Creek and follow the shoreline past Altona beach to finish at Seaholme Station (approximately 11 km).

On other occasions, some walkers have chosen to continue the walk through Altona Coastal Park and Jawbone Conservation Reserve to finish at Williamstown Beach Station. This option adds approximately 6 km of easy walking with the temptation of a coffee stop before catching the train back to the city.

NB: the walk will be automatically cancelled if the temperature is forecast to be above 30 degrees.

 **WEDNESDAY WALK**

DATE Wednesday 20 January 2016
RETURN TIME City 5:30–6 pm
STANDARD Easy/medium
DISTANCE 14 km
ELEVATION Minimal climbing
LEADER Mick Noonan
TRANSPORT Private car
AREA Warrandyte
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 23, 24 and 35
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

This is a circuit walk close to Melbourne that takes us to the Warrandyte State Park. It features lightly wooded bushland which has a bluish-green hue typical of the Red Box foliage common in the area, scenic views along the Yarra River and Warrandyte Gorge, historical areas with old mine workings and tunnels, and the Warrandyte township, after which we return to the cars along a meandering path beside the river.

There are pleasant picnic areas for lunch with shelter, picnic tables, some seating and toilets. Kangaroos and other wildlife can be seen in the park There should also be time for a coffee along the way.

From the Warrandyte-Ringwood Road, turn off at the roundabout along Jumping Creek Road. Follow it for 1.2 km until you come to the entrance of Warrandyte State Park on your left. Turn into the park and follow the road to the Jumping Creek parking area at the bottom of the hill – Melway 24:A11. Meet at 10:15 am for a 10:30 am start.

Note: I may change the start to the Black Flat parking area to have time to see the Pound Bend Tunnel so make sure you let me know if you are coming along!

 **PACK CARRY**

MOROKA GORGE VIA LONG SPUR

DATE 22–26 January 2016
RETURN TIME Tuesday evening
STANDARD Medium/hard
LEADER Jopie Bodegraven
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Alps north of Traralgon
MAP REFERENCE SV Maps: Tali Karng–Moroke 1:50,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Wangaratta
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Hotham

Please note that this trip is 4 days, Friday evening till Tuesday evening, not a normal 2 day weekend trip as indicated in the program

This trip is Medium/hard for two main reasons. Firstly the approach to the Moroka via The Long Spur is a total unknown. It might be easy or it might be a horrendous 6 km battle through thick regrowth and other nasty scrub. The final 600 m descent looks very steep on the map although there are no cliffs indicated. Secondly the first two days along the Moroka involve a lot of serious rockhopping with plenty of potential for twisted ankles or worse and a high probability of wet feet. In addition the first night's campsite is also an unknown, so be prepared to rough it if required. The other two nights should be OK I think.

If you haven't been dissuaded by my preamble, then you are potentially in for a treat; two fabulously scenic gorges with cliffs and numerous beautiful waterfalls and cascades plus plenty of opportunities for swims. Day 1 is a 6 km traverse and then steep descent of Long Spur to our unknown campsite by the river. Day 2 is a 7 km rockhopping traverse of the lower gorge with several lovely small waterfalls and cascades and gorgeous in situ rock. Day 3 is a 5 km traverse of the main gorge with four major waterfalls, lots of delicate rockhopping, a section creeping along a narrow ledge and depending on water levels, a possible wade or challenging scramble over a bluff. Day 4 should be a relatively easy 5 km walk out mostly on track; the only easy day of an otherwise challenging but hopefully highly rewarding trip.

We will camp Friday night at the Bennison Plains campsite which is about 40 km beyond Licola and about 4 km beyond Tamboritha Saddle. Turn left off the main Tamboritha Road and there are nice campsites off to the right less than half a kilometre in. It is a designated camping area with toilet and water from nearby Shaws Creek. We will aim to be ready to roll at 8 am Saturday. The walk start is about 23.5 km away, or about 5.5 km beyond MacFarlane Saddle at the junction with the Wellington 4WD track. We then need to do a 14 km each way car shuffle to our finish point at the Horseyards. Google tells me it takes about 3 hours 10 minutes from Melbourne GPO to Licola. Licola to Bennison campsite is probably another hour as the last 18 km is unsealed.

If you're up for a challenging walk through one of Victoria's most spectacular river gorges, then this is the walk for you.



SUNDAY BUS

CASTLEMAINE – VAUGHAN SPRINGS

DATE Sunday 24 January 2016
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to city
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/medium
DISTANCES 14 and 17 km
LEADERS Del Franks and Brett Daniel
TRANSPORT Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Great Dividing Trail, Castlemaine, Vaughan Springs
MAP REFERENCE Castlemaine and Guildford, 1:25,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE North Country District

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

This is famous for its gold mining ruins, ghost towns, water race, diggings etc. Fryerstown used to have 15,000 people at the height of the gold mining! Come and enjoy this lovely part

of Victoria and walk part of both the Great Dividing Trail and the Dry Diggings Track!



SOCIAL WALK

SOCIAL WALK: BLACKBURN CREEKLANDS

DATE Thursday 28 January 2016
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 5 km
ELEVATION Flat
LEADER Jean Giese
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Blackburn
MAP REFERENCE Melway 47
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

This is a lovely piece of some original, and some restored, bushland beside Gardiners Creek. There are foottracks on both sides of the creek and we can make a good 5 k walk of it, including making our way to the Gourmet Café. There will be a 750 m walk back to the cars after lunch.

Meet in the carpark off Pakenham Street, Melway 47 H11 to start walking at 10:30. Book with leader.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

WERRIBEE GORGE – FALCONS LOOKOUT



DATE Sunday 31 January 2016
RETURN TIME 5:30 pm to city
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 14 km
ELEVATION Substantial
LEADER Richard Hanson
TRANSPORT Carpool – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Werribee Gorge
MAP REFERENCE Meridian Maps Lerderderg & Werribee Gorges 1:35,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Ballarat

This is a circuit walk that includes two crossings of the Werribee River and substantial climbs. Werribee Gorge State Park is relatively close to Melbourne and at the same time quite wild and remote. The walk will include Falcons Lookout (which is popular with rock climbers) and Western Bluff on the south side of the river and Western and Eastern Viewpoints on the northern side of the river. Walking poles would be helpful. It could be very hot so brings lots of water and we might even have a swim. It will be an excellent strenuous walk.

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 2016

Fri 1	SOC: New Year's Day BBQ	Pvt	Easy		Susanna Mason
Sun 3	DAY: Sutherland Creek (Brisbane Ranges)	Car	E/M	CN:ge	Michael Murray
Wed 6	SOC: The Johnston Collection, East Melbourne	Pvt			Susan Maughan
Thu 7	TOF: Merricks-Somers-Coolart Wetlands	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Graham Hodgson
Sun 10	DAY: Walhalla	Bus	E & E/M	WG:lv	John Fritze & Carol Ward
Wed 13	DAY: Historical walk – Melbourne precincts	Pvt	E/M	CN:me	Susan Maughan
Sat 16	CYC: Darebin Trail (train/car to start)	Pvt	E/M	CN:me	Sue Ralston
Sun 17	DAY: Cathedral Range – Sugarloaf Peak Circuit	Car	Med	NC:yg	Roger Wyett
Mon 18	MOF: Laverton-Laverton Crk Wetlands-Altona	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Keith White
Wed 20	DAY: Warrandyte	Pvt	E/M	CN:me	Mick Noonan
22-26	PC : Moroka Gorge via Long Spur (joint VMTC)	Pvt	M/H	WG:mh	Jopie Bodegraven
Sun 24	DAY: Castlemaine – Vaughan Springs	Bus	E&E/M	NC:be	Del Franks & Brett Daniel
Thu 28	SOC: Blackburn creeklands	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Jean Giese
Sun 31	DAY: Werribee Gorge – Falcon's Lookout	Car	Med	CN:ba	Richard Hanson

The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers
 If undelivered please return to:
 MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC
 GPO BOX 1751, MELBOURNE 3001

PRINT
 POST
 338888/00016

POSTAGE
 PAID
 AUSTRALIA