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# THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

March 2015

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Melbourne Bushwalkers (Incorporated) will be held on Wednesday, 18 March, 2015 at 8:00 pm at The Clubrooms, Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Corner of A'Beckett Street and William Street, Melbourne

**Members are invited to attend.**

**Non-members are welcome but are not eligible to vote.**

### Business:

Apologies  
Confirmation of Minutes from the 2013 Annual General Meeting  
President's Report  
Treasurer's Report  
Walks Secretaries' Reports  
Other Reports  
Determination of the annual subscription fee for 2014  
Determination of number of Committee Members – non office holders  
Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members  
Appointment of Reviewers of Financial Statements  
Conferral of Honorary Memberships  
General Business

*Proxy and Committee Nomination Forms are available in the Clubrooms.*

*Complimentary Wine and Cheese*

*Meeting followed by videos on 'Walks That Test the Nerve'*

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER – MARCH

The main items at the February Committee Meeting were: the AGM; the draft 2014 end of year financial position; two Incident Reports; how to best record the contact details of visitors who don't book onto a walk so we can follow them up; and arrangements for the Committee Thank You Dinner. Our 'guests' were Ian Mair, who has been nominated for President, and Nigel Holmes who has been nominated for one of the two Vice President positions.

In the January News we published the first version of our 'vision' and 'objective statements' for the Club over the next few years for comment and feedback. Pick up a copy in the Clubrooms or access it via the emailed link. This month I want to cover one of our three **People Objectives**:

*(continued on page 3)*

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

MEMBER OF



Bushwalking Victoria

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

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

Visitors are always welcome!

General correspondence should be directed to:

The Secretary  
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc  
PO Box 1751  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001  
[www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au](http://www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au)

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

Editor: Marilyn Whimpey

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

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

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

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

Please note:

Next committee meeting will take place on  
**Monday 2 March 2015**

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Club:

Fenella LONG  
Lyn Michelle HONAN  
Mette ELISEUSSEN  
Monika DIRDJI  
Shan Shan ZHANG

## For Sale: Scarpa Stratos Goretex

Size 39, excellent condition.  
Only worn twice as too small for me.  
New \$249.95, selling for \$130.  
Rosemary Cotter



## HOUSE SITTER

I'm looking for a housesitting situation from 11th April until mid May.

I'm working in town and need public transport to get to work.

Thank you.

*Tina Leeuwrik*

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

- ***A welcoming and friendly Club where everyone is treated with dignity and respect, can have fun and safely enjoy the great outdoors.***

We would say that we are already a friendly Club, but that does not mean we cannot improve or that is every visitor's or member's experience. We definitely try not to discriminate against anyone, we have a growing cultural diversity which is great and we should encourage it. We try to achieve this through our actions and by having a **Code of Conduct** (which I will put in next month's *News*) that sets a clear expectation for how people should behave. It's not just up to the committee, everyone needs to make an effort so people feel welcome on activities, at socials etc. Try going up to a person on their own and introduce them into the group you are with.

A bushwalking club should be a fun place and walks don't always have to be hard undertakings. There can be times to relax and unwind on or after a hard walk. Socials provide an opportunity to meet both existing friends and new people in a more casual setting. Making new friends often takes time and can occur more quickly on extended activities.

One of the great benefits of a club is that it enables people to safely go to places and do things they may not be able to do otherwise. Through our processes, and the developing of people's skills and experiences we endeavour to make bushwalking a safer activity while still being enjoyable and fun! In the end our visitors and members decide if we achieve this objective, sometimes by whether they join, participate or stay members

**The Annual General Meeting preparations are well underway.** The AGM reports give great insights into the Club's operations and I encourage you to read them. The Financial Report will be available just after the March meeting. It will be sent to members as a link and posted to those who request a printed copy. The other Committee Reports are in this *News*. The remaining reports will be spread across the April and May *News*, e.g. Equipment, Environment, Library and Training Reports.

**Each year we hold a Committee Thank You Dinner** for the previous and new Committee as well as the volunteers that are in non-committee roles, e.g. Activity Coordinators, Wednesday Duty Helpers (we thank our leaders at the Christmas Party with the Gift Voucher Draw). This year it will be on April 27th. Invitations will go out in early March.

### Reminders and information for this month:

- 1 **Carry your Green Health Cards:** Remember to carry your Green Health Card in your pack so it can be readily found. We are currently looking at covers and lanyards to protect the cards and make them easier to locate. Pick a card up when next in the clubrooms or on the bus.
- 2 **Membership fees will be due in April.** You have until the end of June to renew and stay financial but we encourage you to renew early. Renewal Forms will be in the April *News*. They remind you of the risks involved in bushwalking. By paying your fees you are accepting the risk involved. Please read the form carefully.
- 3 **All day walking and cycling activities are automatically cancelled if the temperature in the area is 38 degrees or more.** Leaders may decide to cancel at a lower temperature as they best know the area and the activity. It is best to leave cancelling till as late as practicable as weather can change rapidly. During Fire Season each activity has the best Bureau of Meteorology location for checking the temperature – you can use the Website bom link.
- 4 **Socks!** As well as wearing appropriate shoes we should not forget the humble sock! They are a critical item to choose carefully. Recently we have had people wearing those short 'sockettes' and ending up with blisters.

This is my third and last year as President. Ian and I have agreed as he will be away in April and May, that subject to the AGM results, I will continue until May and he will commence in June.

I hope to see many of you at the AGM supporting your Club, chatting to new and old friends, and enjoying the video entertainment.

*Mick Noonan*

# 2015 Social Calendar

**Wednesday 18 March 2015**  
**WALKS THAT TEST THE NERVE**

For the AGM this year something a bit different. We have made a compilation of some walking destinations from around the world that offer breathtaking scenery and a touch of excitement. Join us at the AGM for drinks and a chat whilst the video takes you somewhere new.



Via Ferrata Telluride, Colorado (USA)

**Wednesday 29 April, 8 pm**  
**PARIS TO ISTANBUL: A CYCLING ADVENTURE ACROSS EUROPE**  
**Speakers: Carol Corrigan and Mick Noonan**



A four thousand kilometre independent cycling adventure across Europe from the Eiffel Tower to the Yeni Great Mosque in Istanbul. Following the rivers and canals of Europe and a few less travelled paths across Bulgaria and Turkey. From sauntering along the fantastic cycle infrastructure of Western Europe to being road warriors dodging wild dogs in Eastern Europe.

Great scenery, amazing sights, lovely people ... come along!  
Visitors welcome.

When: 8 pm, Wednesday 29th April

Where: In the clubrooms, 362 William Street, Melbourne (enter from William Street near the corner with A'Beckett Street)

Wine and Cheese will also be available.

**Friday 3 April- THE INAUGURAL DANDENONGS SUNSET WALK**



*This 60 min walk takes us around the west face of the mountain to finish at Burke's Lookout. It involves a car shuffle.*

**Meet Susan Maughan & Jerry Grandage**  
**6:15 at "Indian By Nature"**  
**3/ 1526-1528 Mount Dandenong Tourist Road,**  
**Olinda**

**Melways 66 H5**

*The restaurant is booked for 7:45.*

*Contact Susan to book in for the walk, the restaurant or both.*  
**0478 504 441**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2014

**This has been my third and final year as President.** As a Committee we had another very busy year not just operating the Club but trying to improve it in both the short and long term.

**By a number of measures we again had a good active year:**

- **The Sunday walks mix of bus and carpool continues to be a success with numbers steady for 2014.** There was a minor increase for the bus and a corresponding minor decrease for carpool. This resulted in a minor financial loss overall. Over the last five years the Sunday Walks have shown a large surplus. Once again no fee increase is required. See Halina's and Poppy's reports.
- **A good mix of Pack Carries, Base Camps, Cycling, and Conservation activities** including two interstate and one overseas trip. We are working to expand our Pack Carry and Base Camp Programs so it was good to see Pack Carry numbers grow to 21, including a number of beginners' trips. The number of Conservation activities was also up. Our non-Sunday day walks continue to do well. See Stuart's report.
- **Our Wednesday Social Nights were very popular** with some great responses. The Christmas Party had around 85 members attend, another great result, and the New Year's Day BBQ was very popular. On occasions we had over 50 people in the Clubrooms on a Wednesday sharing wine and cheese while enjoying great photos. See John's report.
- **Membership numbers remained stable** for the last 5 years with 420 at the end of Dec 2014 and a peak of 440 during the year. While we had one of the lowest number of members leave in 2014 the number of new members was down. Also it is good to see that our average age is dropping as more new members join each year – they are on average 10 years younger than current members. See Gill's report.
- **Our Operating Expenses for 2014** effectively broke even with continuing sound cash reserves. We are again not recommending any membership fee increases. See Poppy's report.
- **Our Website, the News and increasingly our Facebook presence are great resources** in promoting the Club and keeping members up to date on what is happening.

**The Club undertook a number of key initiatives and events during the year. We:**

- **Implemented our new Emergency Contact System**, including introducing a Club Emergency Mobile for information on significant trip delays, as part of modernising our operations and improving safety particularly for Previews and Pack Carries.
- **Developed and distributed the second and final part of our Future Directions work** using a set of Objectives Statements to describe what we would like the Club to be in two to three years' time. We are seeking members' comments and feedback as we work to implement the Objectives.
- **Implemented a new Membership Database** which provides us with far better membership information. It allows us to better communicate with visitors, sending them the News, programs, social invites etc. It will also support other future initiatives, e.g. a secure Website members' logon area.,
- **Continued our annual donations to promote the environment and bushwalking** with \$680 to the Victorian National Parks Association.
- **Organised a well attended First Aid Training Course** that was heavily subsidised by our 2013 Government Volunteers Grant, conducted navigation training and promoted the use of whistles to improve safety.
- **Undertook a number of initiatives** to make it easier for visitors to become members, to record their information when they come in to book their first walk, and to increase membership (limited results so far).
- **Commenced updating our By-Laws and Risk Management Plan, and developing a new secure members' area on our Website** that will allow members to update their personal information, e.g. emergency contacts.

**One of the things that has impressed me most in my time as President is the selfless volunteering of time, energy and skills by so many of our members.** I want to thank all the people who contribute in many ways to make our Club what it is through the Committee, leading or being a whip on activities, previewing walks, or taking on one of the many non-Committee roles, e.g. volunteering for Wednesday night duty.

A good Committee, lots of volunteers and an active membership will continue to make sure the Club operates efficiently, that it is a welcoming place for members and visitors, and provide lots of great activities to enjoy in Victoria and beyond.

I will be standing down this year knowing that our Club has a bright future, confident it can overcome any challenges that may come its way, and that it can remain a great bushwalking club.

*Mick Noonan*

### GENERAL WALKS SECRETARY'S REPORT 2013-14

After a detailed handover from Cecily Hunter, our previous GWS, I came to appreciate the Club's wide range of non-Sunday activities, which have increased by 15.2% since 2013. For 2014, MOF, Wednesday and Social people per walk. The Saturday/Dandenong walks have added nearly 4 attendees each. Conservation and Track Maintenance activities have doubled, although attendances have fallen slightly. There has been little change in Training and Skiing.

While Base Camps decreased by 33.3%, in terms of actual numbers, the difference was small, and there were two cancellations. We are on track for a noticeable increase in 2015. Despite one cancellation, Pack Carries increased by a pleasing 5 trips or 33.3%, so the promotional work has paid off. Cycling was up by 22.2%, and there was one cancellation, but attendances were similar. Cancellations in 2014 decreased by six due to low numbers and were also down by six because of weather-related issues. Leader unavailability was similar to the previous year.

Behind the figures, we have many leaders to thank for their time and effort in surveying trips, writing previews, conducting the activities and sending in reports (which has increased by 11%). We must also thank the Activity Coordinators, Maureen (Dandenongs/Saturday), Ed (Wednesday), Jean and Alister (TOFs, MOFs, Social), Ross (Cycling), Jopie (Pack Carry) and Wendy (Base Camp), for all of their planning and leading efforts. The most attended non-Sunday activity was the TOF's 10th Anniversary Yarra River Walk, run by Jean Giese and Alister Rowe, with 24 people. In second place was Max Casley's Wednesday trip to Hepburn, with 22, while in third, we had Dianne McKinley and Ian Mair's Mt. Howitt Pack Carry, with 19 hikers.

Some members may not be aware that Mick Noonan, our outgoing President, put considerable work into establishing the Club's Emergency Contact System (mobile 0447489661), as a backup in the case of substantially delayed walks or accidents (mainly for pack carries and remote base camps). During 2014, 2-3 volunteers per month, out of a pool of 12, monitored their phones for these types of calls from leaders, and were ready to take follow up action, so thanks must also go to them.

2014 has been a positive year and I believe the Club can look forward to further growth in 2015.

*Stuart Hanham*  
General Walks Secretary

### SUNDAY WALKS SECRETARY'S REPORT

Each year I start my report with a thank you to the leaders. I am so very grateful for your continued support. In 2014, 32 leaders covered 27 bus and 22 carpool walks, ranging from leading one to nine walks each. Three walkers took the plunge and led walks for the first time and there were three leaders who had not led a walk for five years or more who decided to return to leading. Two Sunday walks were cancelled in 2014 due to extreme heat or fire risk.

Financially the 2014 Sunday program incurred a loss (less than \$400.00). However, with bus prices rising by \$29.00 per hire we will need to ensure that the program encourages an increase in participation so that we can maintain the current fee level. In 2014 we offered three walks which were open to family and friends as 'day trippers' (using the bus to visit the area we were walking in). Not one person took up this offer; however, members requested that they could book a family member or friend onto the walk. We allowed this as long as the member was happy to vouch for the visitor's fitness. These walks were all highly successful with a participation of 50 plus each. We are now considering vouching as an alternative for member's family or friends to be booked onto a Sunday walk.

As one measure to meet our future directions goal of promoting the uniqueness of our Sunday bus program, the bus is now featured on our web home page.

Each year the challenge is to provide a program that will stimulate participation and enjoyment. If anyone has an idea for either a new walk or one that the Club has not done for some time (within two hours travel of Melbourne) please let me know. I would love to add your suggestions to the program.

*Halina Sarbinowski*  
Sunday Walks Secretary.

## ACTIVITY STATISTICS 2013 AND 2014

	2013			2014		
	Trips	Average	Ave Visitors	Trips	Average	Ave Visitors
<b>DAY WALKS</b>						
MOFS	11	12.0	0.4	11	10.5	0.2
TOFS	9	12.1	0.2	12	15.0	0.4
Sat/Dande Explorer	8	8.6	0.8	9	12.5	1.5
Sunday bus	27	36.8	6.9	27	37.3	8.6
Sunday carpool	24	15.5	2.1	23	14.8	3.1
Wednesday	11	14.3	0.8	11	13.4	0.9
Social walks	11	11.5	0.6	11	9.6	1.5
<b>OTHER ACTIVITIES</b>						
Conservation	5	5.8	0.5	10	3.4	0.2
Training	1	–	–	1	16.0	3.0
Navigation training	1	8.0	0	1	6.0	0
Track maintenance	1	6.0	0	2	3.5	0.5
Skiing	1	12.0	1.0	1	11.0	0
Base camp	9	10.3	1.0	6	11.5	0.8
Lodge*	–	–	–	0	0	0
Pack carry	15	9.0	0.6	20	10.7	0.8
Cycling	9	9.0	0.3	11	7.7	0.2

\* One 2013 Lodge trip included in Skiing statistics. Two other Lodge trips were cancelled in 2013.

Trip numbers are based on total trips – January to December.

Average attendance numbers based on information from leaders, but exclude trips where numbers have not been provided.

Not included are 19 cancellations in 2013 (due to a variety of reasons) and 8 cancellations in 2014 (a 42% decline). Reasons in 2014: Low numbers – CYC x1; Leader unavailable – BC x2, MOF x1; Fire risk – BUS x1, PC x1, SUN CAR x1, WED x1.



### ADVANCE NOTICE CROSS COUNTRY SKIING, BOGONG HIGH PLAINS AUGUST 8–15 2015



Announcing our annual X-C skiing trip to the untracked expanses of the High Plains. We stay in the comfortable Rovers Chalet 12 km from Falls Creek and tend to have the snow to ourselves. Two or three trips are organised each day catering to everyone's inclinations or abilities. A voluntary roster is drawn up to ensure all jobs are done and the week runs smoothly, giving maximum time for skiing. Past skiers are welcome to return and newcomers are encouraged to discuss requirements for joining us.

*Doug Pocock and Marilyn Whimpey*

## MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2014

This has been a big year with the introduction of the new web-based membership data base, thanks to our webmaster, Ian Mair.

It has made the job of membership secretary somewhat easier. It enables us to easily generate various lists and graphs. For example a list of members or non financial members.

It can generate graphs of the age profile of members, number of years in the Club or how far away they live. It shows at present the average age of men in the Club is 61.1 years and for women 58.6 years and that men make up 42.5% and women 57.5% of members.

We can link the booking system to the data base and also allows us to record details of visitors (known as temporary members) so we can send them programs, newsletters and social invitations.

Our graphs have shown that the average age of visitors is 15 years younger than members and that those who join the Club do so on average after 3.6 months.

In the near future we hope to have a secure members' page on our web site, where members will be able to check their own details and update them if necessary. For example a change of address or of emergency contact. Ian is working hard on this at present.

We have decided to make a change to the membership list that is issued to members. We will now not list street addresses, only the suburbs. Of course members may still elect to have other details withheld as well.

The membership numbers have remained fairly static despite some ups and downs over the year. We started the year in February 2014 with 440 members (418 normal plus 22 honorary and life) and the current number 1 year later is 445 (425 normal plus 20 honorary and life). We also have 170 active temporary members, i.e. visitors who have done one or more walks with us but not yet joined. We have been recording these numbers for the last 13 months.

Some committee members help in a follow up of lapsed members after the date for final payment of fees has passed to check if they have just forgotten or have decided not to renew and if this is the case if they could give us the reason. Usually it is the pressure of work, moved away, injury etc. and some remain uncontactable. After this exercise we were left with 29 non renewals for this year. This is one of the lowest lapsed numbers for many years.

Over the year we have also requested members' and visitors' year of birth. This of course is optional but gives us an idea of the age profile of members such as I quoted earlier. This is useful in planning for the future.

As part of our future direction discussions we have a group looking at ways to increase membership numbers and percentage of visitors who join.

Some ideas so far have been to record visitor details and send them newsletters etc. to hopefully keep them interested. Margaret Campion has come up with a flyer that can be printed off easily to hand to prospective members. Also some, young people particularly, would like it to be easier to book on a walk after their initial walk and not need to come in to the clubrooms. So we are working on these and other ideas and any further suggestions would be welcome.

### STATISTICS

	<b>Active</b>	<b>Hon + Life</b>	<b>Total + temporary&lt;13 months</b>	
Feb 14	418	22	440	49
Feb 15	425	20	445	158

*Gillian Wainwright.*

## WEBMASTER REPORT TO AGM – 2015

The year 2014–2015 has seen the Club make steady progress towards building a broad-based online presence that enhances member benefit and improves Club performance.

The public face of the Club's online activity is vital to member recruitment and information access. Foremost in this is the website. The website provides the most up-to-date information on Club activities and events as well as a place for sharing of the good times had through the photo gallery and the reproduction of trip notes from the newsletter. In keeping with the priorities emerging from the Future Directions studies, selected aspects of the Club's activities have been given a higher profile on the website, such as our Sunday Bus program. Our website is also growing in stature as a source of archival material and a renewed link to former members who have long since left the Club.

Visitations to the website have increased around 9% over the past year and now average around 3200 sessions per month from over 2000 user visits. Anecdotally around 70% of first-time visitors to the Club find out about our activities through the website. Notwithstanding these measures of success, the website faces some challenges. The growing diversity of mobile and fixed platform devices used to access the website now requires a review of the strategy and layout design that was appropriate only a few years ago to ensure that we remain current and appealing to our users.

Complementing the website, the Club's public profile has also been extended through social media. The Club's Facebook Page now attracts over 500 regular followers and is one of the leading Facebook resources amongst bushwalking clubs in Australia, keeping the Club's name before potential members and partners.

Behind the scenes three other online activity areas have been advanced during the past year.

- (a) The former spread-sheet based membership records have now been completely replaced by an electronic database. The core contact details and Club history of current and potential members are now available in a more reliable form. Soon a secure member login area will be available via the website to enable members to manage their own contact details, including what details can be made available to other members. Already the benefits of the new system are being realized beyond recording accuracy and efficiency. Bookings for Sunday Bus trips are integrated with the database to simplify booking entry. Statistical analysis of the age profiles of current and potential members along with information on 'first-time walked' with the Club through to joining is assisting in the focus of recruitment activities. Monthly reports now go to all Committee members with details on membership numbers and pertinent statistical profiles.
- (b) A new email management system has been introduced, linked to the membership database, to facilitate the distribution of the newsletter in digital form as well as the distribution of timely advice to members on upcoming events and social activities.
- (c) The Leaders' Database, a resource for Club officers and walks leaders providing details of past walks programs and trip reports, has been extended to include a repository for the master documents used by the Club. Many dozens of documents from Membership Application Forms to guidelines for members have been generated by the Club with a significant investment of time and effort. Maintaining these in a digital form as well as hard copy provides enhanced security for the Club's future operations and eases the burden on office bearers new to a role seeking to understand their new responsibilities.

Future efforts will be guided by the priorities of the Future Directions studies and are likely to include the introduction of an extended online booking system for Club activities and the formation of a Meetup Group to promote the Sunday Bus program.

*Ian Mair – Webmaster*



Seals at Martins Bay, at the beginning of the Hollyford Track, New Zealand

### SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT 2014 OR LOOK WHO'S TALKING!

It's been a busy social year at the Club. The Social Nights at the Clubrooms which are every fourth Wednesday of the month have been popular event. We had a variety of interesting presentations from a diverse range of speakers.

Five of the speakers were members – Ian Mair who spoke on the Bibbulmun Track and South Island New Zealand, Mick Noonan on the Arles Camino, John Fritze on adventurous moments in bushwalking, Deb Shand on Cambodia and Jan Colquhoun on walking in Madeira.

Three external speakers were Ian McLean on Geocaching, Ken Birch on High Country Huts and Glen Tarrant from the CFA. Attendances ranged from 32 to over 70 for John Fritze's presentation which may be a Club record for attendance!

The Wednesday Social Nights have been a great opportunity for members to mix with others interested in walking. A variety of red wines, white wines, cheeses, tea and coffee was provided for a \$4.00 donation. The evenings have all run at a small dollar surplus.

The feedback from attendees was that the presentations were very informative and of interest to members and guests. These are great nights – so come along in 2015.

The Christmas Party held at the Melbourne Bowls Club was a success with 85 attendees. Members all brought food to share and drinks were available at the bar.

The 2015 New Year's Day BBQ at the Birdland Reserve, Belgrave had 40 attendees. This was another enjoyable activity. Special thanks to Susan Maughan who saved the day as there was no gas at the Birdland BBQs. Susan went home and returned with two portable BBQs with gas bottles!! We were able to have our BBQ after all. We had a stroll after lunch.

Special thanks to Liz Telford for assisting on the Wednesday Social Nights, Jean Giese for her many Social Walks throughout the year, Deb and Ross Berner who hosted the 2014 New Year's Day BBQ and Susan Maughan for her ongoing social contributions.

2015 is off to a great start. On Wednesday 25 February Genevieve Tehan will speak on walking in East Timor. Genevieve is from a not-for-profit organisation.

I will be stepping down this year, I have enjoyed my time as Social Secretary and hope to see many of you in 2015

*John Free, MBW Social Secretary*

### GETTING TO THE AGM AND THE CLUBROOMS – YES, YOU CAN STILL PARK FOR FREE!

**Catch a tram:** 23, 24, 30, 34 on La Trobe Street, 55 on William Street

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

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

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

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

North of Dudley St: it's **free** after 6:30 pm, e.g Walsh, Milton, William, Rosslyn, Capel

A'Beckett, Queen and Lonsdale Streets: loading zones and some metered parking that end at 7:30 pm

Batman St (other side of Gardens): many spaces are free after 6:30 pm, others after 7 pm

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

**You can also walk or cycle!**

### MILFORD TRACK 18 TO 22 JANUARY 2015

After perfect days on the Kepler Track we awoke to heavy rain on the day of departure for the Milford Track. The rain slowed to a drizzle as we headed for Te Anau Downs but become heavy again as we boarded the ferry to cross Lake Te Anau to Glade Wharf, thus negating photographic opportunities. The ferry slowed as we reached a memorial for Quinton Mackinnon and the island where the remains of his dinghy were found a few years after his disappearance. On reaching Glade Wharf, which is little more of a pontoon than a wharf, we donned our wet weather gear to walk to Clinton Hut, passing historic Glade House on the way.

Ranger Ross at Clinton Hut advised that the Clinton River was in flood and the situation would be monitored before we could continue the walk. Around 7 am the following morning Ross had officially closed the track; an hour later he inspected a rock in the Clinton River which determined the flood level and declared the track open, however, warning we may have wet feet at the 7 mile 'post'. True to Ross' word as we approached the 7 mile 'post' the Clinton River had inundated the track, resulting in a knee deep trek through the water for around 50 metres. All this time the heavy rain continued which, along with the rain the day before, afforded fantastic views of waterfalls cascading down the cliffs on either side of the track.

Although the heavy rain made conditions trying, the walk would not have been so spectacular. We did a side trip to Hidden Falls and were again rewarded with torrents of water cascading down the cliffs. On a clear day at this point a first glimpse of Mackinnon Pass would have been visible but all we saw was mist and heavy cloud. As we passed Pompolona Lodge a steel bridge was crossed as we headed towards Mintaro Hut at an altitude of around 500 metres. On reaching the hut there was a scramble as 40 trampers sought hanging space to dry out clothes and boots.

The following morning the rain had cleared as we headed towards Mackinnon Pass which is reached by a zig-zagging track to the Mackinnon Memorial which provided great views of Lake Mintaro and the Clinton Valley. A further 20 minutes later we had morning tea at the Mackinnon Pass day shelter at an altitude of 1154 metres. It has a toilet with the best view in Fiordland. From this point the track falls 970 metres over rocky uneven terrain. After crossing the Moraine Creek Bridge the track follows a boardwalk and staircase beside the Roaring Burn River, again providing many spectacular photo opportunities as we lunched beside the river. The track followed a zig zag path to the bottom of the pass to Quinton Shelter where packs were dropped as we headed towards the fantastic Sutherland Falls. The falls are one of the highest waterfalls (580 metres) in the world and are 20 minutes off the main track to Dumpling Hut, our final hut.

The next morning we headed towards Sandfly Point alongside the Arthur River past the historic Boatshed. Another side trip was taken to the beautiful Mackay Falls and Bell Rock. There were some magnificent rock carvings alongside Arthur Creek and Lake Ada when the track was first constructed. As we continued towards Sandfly Point we came upon Giant Gates Falls. From here the track was wide and smooth built by prison labour in the late 1900's. On arrival at Sandfly Point we caught a ferry to Milford Sound, again capturing glimpses of the beautiful lakes and the rugged terrain of towering cliffs plunging into the lake.

Our Leader David had another surprise – he had booked an eco-cruise of Milford Sound. The cruise took us past the spectacular Lady Bowen Falls and the beautiful Fairy Falls where the cascading falls were so fine that they were blowing in every direction in the light breeze. The sheer magnitude of the cliffs was awe-inspiring, the height of which made a large cruise liner look like a dinky toy on the horizon. The cruise went to the mouth of the Sound into the Tasman Sea and on our return we passed another waterfall whose spray produced a rainbow at water level.

Many thanks to our Leader David Walsh for his meticulous organisation – a job very well done, and to my fellow trampers: Helen Geddes, Diane Woodcraft and Jan Colquhoun for their company, friendship and humour which made the walk very enjoyable.



Sutherland Falls

*Ray Spooner*

### **PACK CARRY – HOLLYFORD TRACK, SOUTH ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND JANUARY 22-26 2015**

On a bright sunny morning we boarded a small ZK-CFI plane at Milford Sound Airstrip for a scenic and exhilarating ride to Martins Bay to start our adventure. This was my first overseas pack carry and I was in anticipation of the undertaking that lay ahead.

Martins Bay on the west coast was home to a seal colony, one of the largest in New Zealand, who with their pups entertained us as they basked in the sun on the boulders (photo on page 9). The threatened Fiordland penguin was spotted at dusk.

#### **DAY 1: MARTINS BAY TO HOKURI HUT 13.5 KM**

The next day we walked through the lush podocarp forest which was boggy and soon we passed a plaque, the remains of a failed settlement due to its isolation, at Jamestown. From here the track changed as we walked along the gravel shore of Lake McKerrow providing scenic views of the lake and surrounding mountains. From here the track leaves the lake and heads inland towards Hokuri Hut.



#### **DAY 2: HOKURI HUT TO DEMON HUT – DEMON TRAIL 9.5 KM**

The second day of our tramp was, as I expected, a challenge as it was aptly named 'Demon Track'; I wish to rename it to 'Devils Track'. It was rocky, undulating and a not too well defined track with minimal markings in rainforest. We used three wire bridges to cross fast flowing rivers and for me this section of the track was testing as navigating this relentless, tedious terrain along the steep shoreline of Lake McKerrow. I was constantly thinking where to place my feet on the slippery mossy rocks or how to best navigate over or around fallen trees. The team did well as we all made it without injuries to Demon Hut, which overlooked the lake, in time for a well-earned meal and sleep.

#### **DAY 3: DEMON HUT TO LAKE ALABASTER HUT 10.5 KM**

Day three and the track was much the same for at least another five kilometres. Yes head down, more three wire bridges and single person swing bridge. As we came out of the beautiful rainforest a large swing bridge loomed ahead and we were now crossing Alabaster Lake and a fifteen minute hike to Alabaster Hut. As I was crossing the bridge a fisherman named Bruce offered a ride to the hut and thought that would be a fun way to get there. 'Yes', I replied 'I'll take you up on this offer' and Jan also joined me for the cruise down the lake. We took in amazing scenery of the snow-peaked mountains meeting the cool clear waters of tree-lined Lake Alabaster, as our host fished for trout which was to be Ruth the ranger's dinner. What a wonderful way to end the day's tramp.

#### **DAY 4: LAKE ALABASTER HUT TO LOWER HOLLYFORD ROAD END 19.5 KM**

Day four and the testy terrain was now well behind us and we could look forward to a 19.5 km walk on a well formed and marked track. After zig zagging up Little Homer Saddle we headed towards Hidden Falls. Indeed they were aptly named as they were blocked from view by a rock cleft yet certainly made their presence heard as the water swiftly cascaded and roared down from a top. After our brief morning tea here, we headed off along this well serviced and popular section of the track where the banks of the Hollyford River emerged for the first time. The end of the tramp was in sight as we walked along the swing bridge over the Humboldt Creek to the shelter where we waited for the Trips and Tramps pick up.

I would like to thank David Walsh for organising and leading this pack carry and the wonderful comradery of the team consisting of David Walsh, Helen Geddes, Ray Spooner, Jan Colquhoun, David and Diane Woodcroft. The fine weather, great company and the challenges of this scenic wilderness hike has indelibly left me with wonderful memories.

*Androula Demetrios*

### HOTHAM LODGE WEEKEND JANUARY 22–26 2015



What a treat it was when you can prepare for a weekend away and just pack a bag, not worry about having enough gas or trying to stuff everything in a compact way to avoid a heavy pack! All you have to think about is freely throwing everything in a bag, stocking up on essentials such as food, wine and a good book. Then you arrive at a lodge with a roof over your head and a mattress! What a treat and a pleasure after pack carrying! This was such a case for the weekend base lodge weekend at Hotham which was organised by Halina and Ian. They certainly made the four days an experience worth remembering for all 16 who attended, Alan and Jan, Lutfu, Margaret, Debbie, Stephanie, Margaret, Rosemary, Jenny, Poppy and Vince, Deb and Ross, Halina and Ian.

With Halina's usual attention to detail we were dispersed amicably to our cabins and allocated food preparation times. This turned out to be a highlight for each evening. The weekend could have been mistaken for a gourmet getaway in the high country. The culinary delights each person prepared were delicious and unfortunately did nothing for new year weight watching resolutions.

With Halina, Ian and Rosemary fresh off the NZ hiking we had trepidation in joining them for any walking which would have left us for dead in their wake. However, the pace toned down considerably, made for pleasurable walking in the high country. Our first day walk highlighted the mining which occurred for a while to establish a water catchment area, which was abandoned suddenly. Ian leading and Halina whipping us from behind allowed us to observe the abundance of alpine daisies. The last hike on Sunday was short down to Dinner Plains, waterfall and coffee break.

But the highlight of the hikes had to be the undulating walk along the razorback and eventually up to the top of Feathertop. This decision was only made after monitoring the cloud which was rapidly building all afternoon. Fortunately, we made it to the top of Feathertop and admired the 360° view down to Harrietville and Bright before taking refuge in Federation Hut for the storm to blow over. Friday night's storm and deluge occurred conveniently when we all in the lodge or enjoying a drink at The General.



The delightful weekend was full of good company and entertainment, Vince our resident DJ and Poppy with car issues who kept befriending neighbours to gain assistance. Ross who cycled up and down the mountain from Omeo to Harrietville. Ian who challenged everyone to Scrabble and won all games with his 2 letter words. The life saving delivery of the Pampas pastry for my entrée, the Pavs by Debbie and Margaret, the ritual of cold showers taken by Rosemary, Stephanie identifying The Little Yellow Train as a must and of course the infestation of moths in the bathroom and kitchen added to the whole experience. Thank you to Halina and Ian for all their hard work looking after the group.

*Vetsica*

### WEEDING WILLOWS AT WILKIE

#### HIGH PLAINS SALLOW WILLOW ERADICATION WEEKEND 24-25 JANUARY 2015

Under the leadership of Mt Beauty Parks Victoria Rangers, four Melbourne Bushwalkers joined with 26 Bushwalking Victoria members from various clubs to wage war on feral willows that have taken root in the peat bogs on the High Plains. This is a popular annual event as participants are provided with accommodation in a ski lodge at Falls Creek and, as well as enjoying the high country environment during the day, they can socialize with others in the evening.

The weather on Saturday was cloudy with ominous rumbles of thunder, but it wasn't until mid-afternoon when the lightning came a little too close with rain to follow that two groups downed tools and weedkiller bottles and headed back to the lodge. The other group, in a more remote location, watched the storm pass by at a distance and kept on working!

Sunday dawned bright and clear and three of us worked with a group clearing willows around the old Wilkinson Hut site, a place dear to many Bushies' hearts. Although we worked steadily all day and left many decapitated willows behind us, there were still more growing, which shows how important it is to continue this work to stop the spread of these destructive plants.

Thanks to all for their cheerful company, and to Charlie and Sigrid for another delicious barbecue and salads on Saturday night. If you haven't participated in this event before, consider putting your name down early for next year!

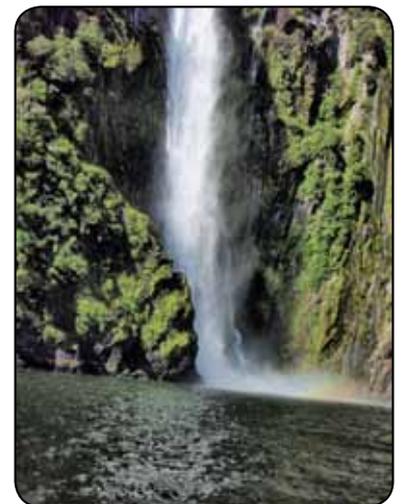
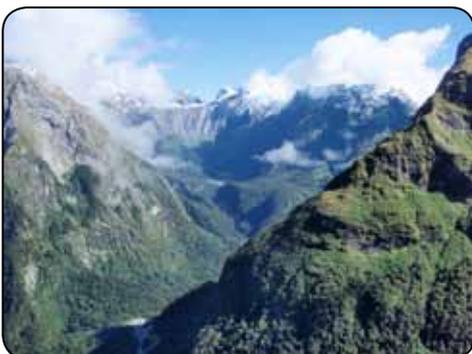


*Deb Shand*

### SOME MORE NEW ZEALAND PICTURES



Views from Mackinnon Pass, Milford Track



Rainbow Falls, Milford Sound

### PORT FAIRY BASE CAMP FEBRUARY 6–8 2015



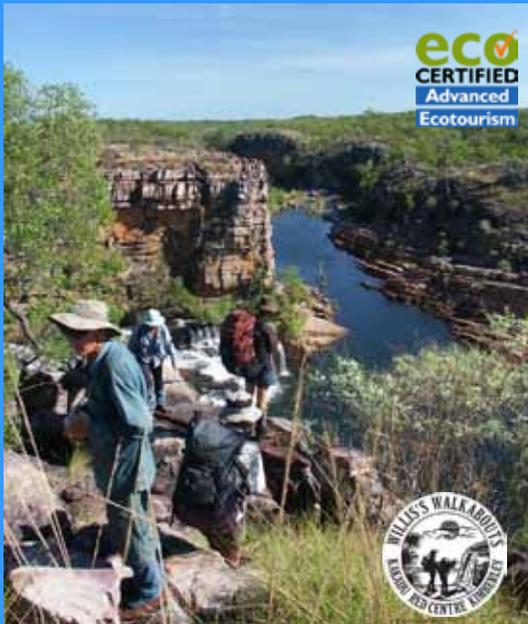
On the weekend of February 7-8, fourteen of us camped at the Garden Caravan park in Port Fairy with promise of a lovely sunny weekend and plenty to explore. Our leader, Bob Oxlade, loaded with brochures and plenty of research about the walking possibilities, had booked us a lovely camping spot between the Moyne River and Port Fairy Bay. Plenty to watch along the river as well as preparations for national sheep dog trials and surf to lull us to sleep each night. After a few stops along the way for lookouts, we started off on a lovely coastal walk, hopping rocks and crossing a creek as far as we could venture before returning the opposite direction in hopes of a swim. After a stop at a historical cottage and ice cream, we headed to the campground and a swim. The next day Bob led us along a few historical walks; Griffiths Island and

Battery Hill before we made our way back to Melbourne. We appreciate Bob's organisation and good company for a lovely, interesting base camp.

*Androula Demetrios*

## Willis's Walkabouts

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We know which creeks are flowing when, which 4WD tracks are likely to be open, when the vegetation makes walking easy and when it makes it hard. We offer a huge variety of trips so that we can give you the best possible bushwalking experience at any time of year.

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

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

Bookings notified to [busbookings@mbw.org.au](mailto:busbookings@mbw.org.au) after the cut off time will not be processed and a credit will be issued.

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



**SUNDAY BUS**

**AIREYS INLET – ANGLESEA**

**DATE** Sunday 1 March 2015  
**RETURN TIME** 6:30 pm to Southbank  
**STANDARDS** Easy and Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCES** 15 and 16.5 km  
**ELEVATIONS** 150 m  
**LEADERS** Del Franks and Jamie Brawn  
**TRANSPORT** Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am  
**AREA** Surf Coast  
**MAP REFERENCE** Anglesea and Airey’s Inlet 25–100,000  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Geelong

This is a nice summer coastal walk near the Great Ocean Road.

The easy walk will start at the Airey’s Inlet lighthouse and walk north-east along the coast to Anglesea. The walking is a mixture of clifftop paths looking down into beautiful green and blue ocean, long sandy beaches and interesting rock outcrops. Near the end of the walk there are sheltered beaches for swimming.

The easy/medium walk will also follow the same path along the cliff tops and then down to the beach for a walk along the shore. After a few kilometres on the beach we will then turn off and head into the Angahook State Park. The path follows an old 4WD track and heads uphill to Mt Ingoldsby, getting a dramatic change of coast scenery to bushland. The walk heads around the back of Anglesea township, taking in the amazing miniera di carbone and wetlands along the way.

Bring sunhats, sunscreen and plenty of water, as there is little shade along the beach.

If we are lucky we may get some late summer weather so if the forecast is for warm weather bring your bathers.

Please note if booking in clubroom: There is an activity in the clubrooms on Wednesday, 25 February. Try to complete any bookings for this walk before 8 pm on that date to minimise disturbances. Thank you.



**TRACK MAINTENANCE**

**DATE** 21 and 22 March 2015  
**ACTIVITY** Track Maintenance (with the Friends of Bogong and Parks Victoria rangers)  
**LEADER** Rod Novak  
**GRADE** Easy/Medium  
**LOCATION** Bogong High Plains, near Falls Creek  
**RETURN HOME** Sunday 8 pm.

We will be helping Parks Victoria rangers and the Friends of Bogong with track work on the Bogong High Plains. The track work project is yet to be decided but is usually based on the Rangers and weather conditions. In recent trips we have improved walking tracks on the Staircase Spur track on Mt Bogong, installed track matting on the Alpine Walking Track on the High Plains, done lots of weeding, installed seats on the nature trails and general track repair work, etc. If the weather forecast is good, we will work on the Bogong High Plains, if a poor forecast then we stay down low and work in the Kiewa Valley. Bring your gloves and strong boots and you need to be prepared for very hot and/or wind/rain/snow conditions due to the High Plains location. We camp next to our cars. If interested please contact Rod Novak.



**PACK CARRY**

**ALPINE NATIONAL PARK**

**DATE** 2–6 April 2015 (EASTER)  
**STANDARD** Medium  
**DISTANCE** Total est at 55 km but up to 18 km per day  
**ELEVATION** Fluctuating with some 300-500 m climbs  
**LEADER** Roger Wyett  
**TRANSPORT** Car Pool  
**AREA** Howqua State Forest and Alpine NP  
**MAP REF** Buller Howqua 1:50,000 1st Ed  
**TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON)** Approx \$60 TBC  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** North East  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Mt Buller

Thursday night camp at Sheep Yard Flats with an 8.30 start to drive via Brocks Road to the intersection of Refrigerator Gap Track and then a car shuffle to Nobs Track.

Then a 2 km walk up a 4WD track to Clear Creek Track, which then ascends 500 m over 7 km to the camp at a saddle below Mt Clear, with a 800 m detour to water.

**Day Two:** Will be a 1 km walk to the Mt Clear Track then a 4 km return (gaining 300 m over 1 km), then another 1 km across Mt Clear to good views as a side trip. Then 3.5 km to collect water at Chester's Yard before another 2 km to King Billy Saddle and camp before an afternoon side trip up King Billy 2 (2 km and 200 m climb and return).

**Day Three** is 2 km on a 4WD track around the King Billy 2 and 1, then a 7 km return side trip to Mt Magdala and Hells Window, before finding water some 3 kms from the track junction on the way to Lovicks Hut. Then a further 6.5 km to Bluff Hut for camp.

**Day Four** is 6 km along Mt Eadley Stoney, The Blowhole and The Bluff to Refrigerator Gap Track, then 9 km along the 4WD track to drop 500 m to undo the car shuffle.

This walk will require participants to be experienced pack carry walkers with full alpine gear as we will be at 1500 m+ for most of the walk.



## BASE CAMP

### MARLO/CAPE CONRAN COASTAL PARK

**DATE** 2-6 April 2015 (EASTER)  
**RETURN TIME** Approx 8 pm, Monday 6 April  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCE** 5 km - 14 km  
**ELEVATION** Minimal  
**LEADER** Margaret Curry  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Cape Conran Coastal Park  
**MAP REFERENCE** Rooftops - Cann River-Orbost; Parks Victoria  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** East Gippsland  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Orbost

This activity is now fully booked. Wait list applications only.  
 For information contact Margaret.



## SOCIAL WALK

### INAUGURAL DANDENONGS SUNSET WALK

**DATE** Friday 3 April 2015 (GOOD FRIDAY)  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**LEADERS** Susan Maughan and Jerry Grandage

Meet Susan Maughan and Jerry Grandage 6:15 at Indian By Nature, 3/1526-1528 Mount Dandenong Tourist Road, Olinda, Melways 66 H5.

This 60 minute walk takes us around the west face of the mountain to finish at Burke's Lookout. It involves a car shuffle.

The restaurant is booked for 7:45.

Contact Susan to book in for the walk, the restaurant or both.



## SUNDAY CAR POOL

### THREE CREEKS WALK - BRISBANE RANGES

**DATE** Sunday 5 April 2015 (EASTER SUNDAY)  
**RETURN TIME** Approx. 6 pm to City  
**STANDARD** Easy/medium  
**DISTANCE** 15 km  
**ELEVATION** 360 m  
**LEADER** Michael Murray  
**TRANSPORT** Car Pool - Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am  
**AREA** Brisbane Ranges  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Geelong

This walk is new to the Club. It explores the three main creeks which drain the rolling box and ironbark hills immediately north of Steiglitz. The walk follows along the final leg of the popular 3-day Burchell Trail.

There are a number of highlights on this walk that includes Century Mine which gives a good idea as to how a small gold mine operated. The Steiglitz area was a significant gold mining area in the mid 19th century and there is evidence of workings throughout the walk.

Brisbane Ranges is one of the most biologically diverse areas in Victoria, so if you are interested in walking through a very changing landscape you will enjoy this one.

Walkers should note that taking plenty of water is essential as it is likely that we are in for a late and extended summer. Whilst there is a water tank at Old Mill Camping Ground, there is no guarantee of water.



## WEDNESDAY WALK

### TRAVERSING MT DANDENONG FACE



**DATE** Wednesday 8 April 2015  
**STANDARD** Medium  
**DISTANCE** 10 km  
**LEADER** Susan Maughan  
**TRANSPORT** Private/ car shuffle  
**AREA** Dandenong Ranges  
**MAP REF** Feathertops Dandenong Ranges  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Mount Dandenong



**10:10–10:30.** Meet at the gate, Old Coach Road, The Basin. Melways 66 B8.



**10:30** departure from Old Coach Road. The walk continues along School, Range and Caterpillar tracks to The Basin–Olinda Road. We cross this and join Mt Dandenong Creek track to our lunch spot by the creek. Fuel up, because the next stage includes a 20 minute grunt as we take the Fireline track onto Old Mt Dandenong Road, eventually coming out at the back of Five Ways, Kalorama. 3.5 hours of walking.



Pick up the cars, head into Mt Dandenong to the Brunch Café for afternoon tea (table booked), and then return to The Basin for the other cars.  
Book with Susan.



**TOFS WALK**

**WESTERN SUBURBS WATERWAYS PART 2**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Thursday 9 April 2015</b>
<b>STANDARD</b>	<b>Easy</b>
<b>DISTANCE</b>	<b>10 km</b>
<b>ELEVATION</b>	<b>Flat</b>
<b>LEADER</b>	<b>Meryl Whippey</b>
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	<b>Train, or car and train</b>
<b>AREA</b>	<b>Altona–Williamstown</b>
<b>MAP REFERENCE</b>	<b>Melways 54, 55, 56</b>
<b>FIRE BAN DISTRICT</b>	<b>Central</b>
<b>TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE</b>	<b>Melbourne</b>

We meet at Seaholme Station on the Williamstown line at 10:30 am (Melways 54 K11). A train leaves Flinders Street Station Platform 10 at 9:51 am and arrives at Seaholme at 10:25 am.

We walk down to the coast and follow walking tracks along the shore line, around Altona Coastal Park, beside Kororoit Creek, the Jawbone Conservation Reserve and the Esplanade to Williamstown Station. Some of this walk we did just before Christmas with Margaret Curry, and some of it will be new.

Please contact the leader.



**PACK CARRY**

**BEERIPMO WALK**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>10–12 April 2015</b>
<b>RETURN TIME</b>	<b>Sunday 12 April 8 pm</b>
<b>STANDARD</b>	<b>Easy to Medium</b>
<b>DISTANCE</b>	<b>21 km over 2 days</b>
<b>ELEVATION</b>	<b>400 metres</b>
<b>LEADER</b>	<b>Jamie Brawn</b>
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	<b>Car pool</b>
<b>MAP REF</b>	<b>Vic Map Beaufort 7523-S</b>
<b>FIRE BAN DISTRICT</b>	<b>South West</b>
<b>TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE</b>	<b>Ballarat</b>
<b>TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON)</b>	<b>\$ 29.50</b>

Located an hour's drive west of Ballarat, just off the Western Highway, Mt Cole State Forest is 25 kilometres from the township of Beaufort and marks the gateway to the Pyrenees Wine District and the Grampians. The Beeripmo Walk winds its way through Mt Cole State Forest as well as Mt Buangor State Park and has been designed as a 2-day walk. Walkers will be exposed to a seriously rewarding forest bushwalking experience.

The Beeripmo is described as good starter's overnight hike with lots of variety.

At this stage the plan is to start the walk on Saturday mid morning, allowing people to drive up early or people can stay at one of the campsites on Friday night.

The walk will pass through tall-tree-filled valleys with lush ferns and waterfalls. As we climb higher there are excellent views of the surrounding countryside and other National Parks. Each day will be approx 10 km long to allow for the climb up and exploring.

Expect cool nights and hopefully sunny days as the higher areas of the park are considered sub-alpine forests.

More information will be available in the coming weeks. Hope you will join me.



## SUNDAY BUS

### STARLING GAP – ADA TREE

**DATE** Sunday 12 April 2015  
**STANDARDS** Easy and Easy/Medium  
**LEADERS** Theo Mertzandis and Cathy Merrick  
**TRANSPORT** Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Yarra Glen

For details of this walk please contact the leaders.



## CYCLING

### DROUIN BASE CAMP

**DATE** Saturday 18 – Sunday 19 April 2015  
**STANDARD** Medium/Hard  
**DISTANCES** 65 km, 55 km  
**LEADER** Philip Brown  
**TRANSPORT** Private or by train  
**RETURN TIME** Return to City by 6.00 pm  
**AREA** West Gippsland  
**MAP REFERENCE** Ride with GPS  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** West Gippsland  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Latrobe Valley

I have worked out two rides one north and one south of the highway that runs down the Latrobe Valley.

**Day 1** Start at Moe and head up in to the Strzelecki Ranges hugging the edge of the range with great 180° views across the valley as far as the eye can see, then drop down in to the valley below and on to Drouin. About a one-third of the ride is on gravel. 65 km +1032 –964 m.

**Day 2** This one for the tar babies – it is on sealed road. From Drouin we head north to a road I found that goes all the way back to Moe. It's called Old Sale Rd and was the original road to the east to reach the Port of Sale in the 1800s. It runs through green rolling hills and again views of the valley and the Strzelecki Ranges. 55 km +543 –586 m.

The plan is on the way to leave the gear that's needed for the Saturday night in a vehicle at the Drouin caravan park then go to the start in Moe where we leave the cars in a spot near the Police Station.

There are many options on this week end. You could just come on one-day car shuffles to save some or climbs even catch a train half way and head back.

We will be staying Saturday night at the El Paso Caravan Park. I will organise campsites but if you wish to use a cabin you will need to organise this yourself by ringing the park on 56251710.

To discuss rides or book in ring Philip or email.



## CONSERVATION

### NEST BOX CHECKING FOR THREATENED SPECIES

**DATE** 18-19 April 2015  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**LEADERS** Ray Thomas and Deb Shand  
**AREA** Benalla  
**TRANSPORT** Private

The Regent Honeyeater Project has 400 boxes in place, with squirrel gliders and sugar gliders nesting in about two-thirds of them. Regular checking helps to discover the preferred habitats in different seasons, the breeding success of particular colonies, barriers to wildlife movement across the landscape, and strategic new areas to place more boxes.

Do come and join us in checking the boxes. It's the perfect opportunity to see these beautiful little animals up close, and the data collected helps to refine the habitat works. It's also a great way to meet new people, while having some fun together in the great outdoors.

We generally travel up to Benalla on Saturday morning, and accommodation is provided in the Scout Hall, or you can camp or stay in the caravan park or local motel. Another option is to come for a day if you can.

Contact Deb to register your interest and arrange car pooling. Full details at this site: <http://regenthoneyeater.org.au/index.php>



## SUNDAY CAR POOL

### TALLAROOK STATE FOREST

**DATE** Sunday 19 April 2015  
**RETURN TIME** 6 pm  
**STANDARD** Easy Medium  
**DISTANCE** 20 km  
**LEADER** Jamie Brawn  
**TRANSPORT** Car Pool – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am  
**MAP REF** Yea 7923-N  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** North Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Seymour

Situated about an hour and 15 minutes drive north of Melbourne, Tallarook State forest comprises 5,100 ha of mixed species Eucalypt forest. The area has been used for Army training, logging and gold mining.

Our day walk will be along 4WD tracks and other trails exploring this interesting area. Highlights will include mountain top views of the surrounding countryside (Mt Hickey) and the Goulburn River valley from Warrigal Rocks.

Exact route and distances will be judged on the day, based on group size and fitness. Refer to the website for an update closer to the day. Hope you will join me.



## MOFS WALK

### MARYSVILLE AND TAGGERTY RIVER.

**DATE** Monday 20 April 2015  
**RETURN TIME** 3:00 pm at Marysville Information Car Park  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** 10 km  
**ELEVATION** 200 m  
**LEADER** Michael Porter  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Yarra Ranges National Park  
**MAP REFERENCE** Melways 910 T11.  
 Marysville Forest Trails (Parks Victoria).  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** North Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Yarra Glen

Please meet at Marysville's Information Car Park, Marysville Road by 10:30 am. (Good toilets available. Coffee shops nearby).

The walk begins with a short steep climb up the Red Hill Trail, through attractive bushland. Then it descends more gently down through forest to the Michaelene Track at the Trestle Bridge. Further on it comes out at the Taggerty River Lookout, after which the Dickinson Track leads us on to the Taggerty River Picnic Area. The return to town is mostly flat as it avoids Red Hill by sticking to the Michaelene Track, along the timber getters' old tramline.

Please book with Michael.



## WEDNESDAY WALK

### TANGLEFOOT TRACK

**DATE** Wednesday 22 April 2015  
**RETURN TIME** 3:30 pm  
**STANDARD** Easy medium  
**DISTANCE** 14 km  
**ELEVATION** Possibly up to 1000 m  
**LEADER** Fay Dunn  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Toolangi  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Yarra Glen

This walk takes us along the Tanglefoot track from the Wirra Willa boardwalk through to Mt St Leonard via rain forest, tall trees, tall mosses and a great view from the top of Mt St Leonard. The walk is mostly along cleared tracks and undulates. We will decide on whether to walk up Mt St Leonard on the day, depending on weather and time. Mt St Leonard adds in a steeper walk but is worth it for the views.



## SOCIAL WALK

### NORTONS PARK, SHEPHERDS BUSH

**DATE** Thursday 23 April 2015  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** 5 km  
**ELEVATION** Flat, except for one small hill  
**LEADER** Jean Giese  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Glen Waverley  
**MAP REFERENCE** Melways 71 & 72  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Melbourne

There are bush tracks to be explored on both sides of Dandenong Creek in Nortons Park and Shepherds Bush. We will only make use of the bicycle trail for a small section of our walk.

Meet to start walking at 10:30 in the Nortons car park, Melways 72 A2. Turn south off High Street into Nortons Lane to access this.

Book with leader.



## PACK CARRY

### MT REYNARD – CALEDONIA RIVER

**DATE** Friday 24 April to Sunday 26 April 2015  
**RETURN TIME** Sunday evening

**STANDARD** Medium/hard  
**DISTANCE** 20 km approx.  
**ELEVATION** 1500 m to 1710 m to 700 m  
**LEADER** Helen Geddes  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** North-east Victoria  
**MAP REFERENCE** Tamboritha Moraka Vicmap 1:50,000  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** West and South Gippsland  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Mount Buller

**Friday Night:** Breakfast Creek

**Saturday 8am:** Depart Breakfast Creek in vehicle convoy to set up car shuttle on Dingo Hill 4WD Track, continuing on to The Lost Plain (1500 m) to leave vehicles. We will follow a track over Mt Arbuckle and on to Mt Reynard (1710 m) camping in this general area (water available).

**Sunday 8am Departure:** Medium/hard descent of The Red Spur into the Caledonia River (600 m) south west of Mt Reynard, cross Caledonia River (wet feet) and reverse the car shuttle before returning to Melbourne.

This is alpine country and we can and do experience snow at any time of year in these regions. Due to recent bushfire activity conditions have changed and re-growth as well as friable unstable soil and rock will impact on progress. All participants are required to be equipped with all seasons' camping equipment, weather gear and carrying personal first aid kit, have adequate hiking experience and fitness.

If interested contact Helen Geddes via email or phone.

This is a joint MBW and VMTC Trip.



## SUNDAY BUS

### WERRIBEE GORGE – ISLAND LOOKOUT

**DATE** Sunday 26 April 2015  
**RETURN TIME** 6:00 pm to city  
**STANDARDS** Easy/Medium and Medium  
**DISTANCES** 11 km and 14 km  
**ELEVATIONS** 500 m & 550 m  
**LEADERS** John Fritze and Carol Ward  
**TRANSPORT** Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am  
**MAP REFERENCE** Lerderberg & Werribee Gorges 1:35,000  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Ballarat

This is a recently constructed walk not previously done by the Club. It starts from the Meikles Point Picnic Area, climbs a forested spur overlooking Pattersons Gorge to the Quarry Picnic Area, passes the remains of Hanson's Farm (established 1871) and through a lovely woodland of rare yellow gums to the Werribee River at Junction Pool. From here it climbs to the top of Island Lookout, an isolated volcanic hill with breathtaking views over Werribee Gorge and as far as the You Yangs and Melbourne skyline. The 200 m deep gorge is geologically significant in that it has been gouged through some of the world's earliest known glacial deposits over 400 million years old. On the way back the Easy/Medium group passes another interesting view point before descending back to the starting point through an open grassy woodland. The Medium group takes in a couple of additional view points and a longer stretch along the disused water channel beside the Werribee River (built in 1928 to supply drinking water to Bacchus Marsh).

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!

April 2015				
2-6	PC : Mt Clear-King Billy-The Bluff circuit	Pvt	Med	Roger Wyett
3-6	BC : Easter Trip: Marlo, East Gippsland	Pvt	Various	Margaret Curry
Fri 3	SOC: Inaugural Dandenongs Sunset Walk	Pvt	Easy	Susan Maughan & Jerry Grandage
Sun 5	DAY: NEW: Three Creeks Walk (Brisbane Ranges)	Car	E/M	Michael Murray
Wed 8	DAY: Dandenongs	Pvt	E/M	Susan Maughan
Thu 9	TOF: Western Suburbs Waterways Part 2	Pvt	Easy	Marilyn Whimpey
10-12	PC : Beeripmo Track (Mt Cole)	Pvt	Easy	Jamie Brawn
Sun 12	DAY: Starling Gap – Ada Tree	Bus	E & E/M	Theo Mertzandis & Cathy Merrick
18-19	CYC: Moe to Drouin to Moe (base camp)	Pvt	Med	Phil Brown
18-19	CON: Nest Box Checking for Threatened Species	Pvt	Easy	Ray Thomas & Deb Shand
Sun 19	DAY: Tallarook & Surrounds	Car	E/M	Jamie Brawn
Mon 20	MOF: Easy Marysville	Pvt	Easy	Michael Porter
Wed 22	DAY: Tanglefoot Track	Pvt	E/M	Fay Dunn
Thu 23	SOC: Nortons Park, Shepherds Bush	Pvt	Easy	Jean Giese
24-26	PC : Mt Reynard	Pvt	Med	Helen Geddes
Sun 26	DAY: Werribee Gorge – Island Lookout	Bus	E/M & M	John Fritze & Carol Ward

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