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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

December 2016



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 Park: Wilson Parking in A'Beckett St near the Clubrooms has a \$6 Flat Rate 4–10pm;
- 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!

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

MEMBER OF



Bushwalking Victoria

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

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

Visitors are always welcome!

General correspondence should be directed to:

The Secretary
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc
PO Box 1751
MELBOURNE VIC 3001
www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au

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

Editor: Merilyn 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 5 December 2016

CLUBROOM HOLIDAY CLOSURES 21 AND 28 DECEMBER

There will be no Sunday Walk on the 25 December or 1 January and the clubrooms will be closed on both Wednesday 21 December and Wednesday 28 December.

The first Sunday Walk for 2017 will be on Sunday 8 January. If you are planning to attend please book in the clubrooms by Wednesday 4 January or online by Thursday 5 January. For all other activities please contact the leaders direct.

The clubrooms will be open as usual from Wednesday 4 January.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Thomas Wilson, San Luong, Marianne Crowe,
Lesley Poulter, Sophia Jeong, Mandy Dean

That puts us up to 422 paid up members which is on a par with last year.



The VicEmergency app is the official Victorian Government app for access to community information and warnings for all types of emergencies in Victoria. It will replace the FireReady app in November 2016. New users can download the app from the App Store or Google Play.

<http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/vicemergency-app/>



Drying out in Mt Wills hut at lunch time. Melbourne Cup weekend. See article on pages 7-8.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – DECEMBER 2016



Exercise for health and fitness in an outdoor setting is increasingly popular with the younger career-focussed urban workforce. The popularity of related articles accessed on the Club's Facebook page, or the explosion of online groups bringing individuals together, is a testament to the trend. Sometimes viewed as a replacement for the traditional bushwalking club structure, the changes being witnessed are more complementary. Embracing the online model as part of the traditional structure can add flexibility and convenience for all members. Email and the internet have become a fundamental part of our communications and booking procedures. Our first experiences with Facebook and Meetup are broadening our communications base and strengthening our participation numbers.

Participation in group outdoor activities with regular like-minded and enthusiastic individuals in a safe and encouraging environment, access to skills training and sharing of knowledge and experience, and access to a diverse and challenging activities program in less well-known locations are core reasons for many to join an established bushwalking club rather than go it alone or participate with less structured organisations.

In the newsletter this month you will find information on two aspects of our commitment to enhancing the skills of members through targeted training; a report on the well-attended Beginners' Pack Carry weekend held last October and advance notice of a training day in February next year to re-run the first three units of our Leader Training Program. The latter provides an opportunity for any current participant wishing to catch up or any other member wanting to join the course to register their interest. The next Beginners' Pack Carry is in January. Notwithstanding the labelling of these activities as directed at 'beginners' and 'leaders', they are open to all members. Indeed, experienced members and activity leaders are very welcome. We all have something to learn through the sharing of experience and I encourage every member to consider joining in even if you are reluctant to become a leader.

The Club's commitment to training has a more fundamental purpose than enabling a growing number of members to enjoy the outdoors in remote locations or ensuring that we have a pool of members ready to lead our diverse program of activities. Along with our regular Navigation and First Aid training events the focus is on risk management and member safety. As a volunteer member club of mature adults we are reliant on each other for our own and the group's well-being every time we go on a trip. We do not expect all of our members to be experts but we do encourage our members to have an awareness of the basics of leadership and being part of a group, navigation and first aid. In an emergency it is the collective knowledge of the group that will be important until expert support is obtained. If you haven't recently refreshed your understanding of your responsibilities as a member you can access a copy from the 'Downloads' area of the website – 'Participants' Responsibilities on Club Activities'.

For over 75 years the Club's concern for safety and risk management has served us well. The relative avoidance of serious accidents and incidents in a potentially hazardous recreational sport is commendable. The maturity and experience of the membership plays an important part in this record. Yet regulation and standards aimed at protecting the safety of less experienced walkers accessing trips through commercial operators threatens our continued operation. A drive within Victoria to adopt a Bushwalking National Australian Adventure Activity Standard (NAAAS) could lead to restrictions on the areas where we can walk if land managers impose the same qualification requirements on leaders of recreational clubs as those proposed for commercial groups. The NAAAS are constructed around TAFE qualifications which few volunteer recreational leaders would be prepared to undertake. Bushwalking Victoria is leading efforts to get an exemption for recreational bushwalkers. Your Club has endorsed this thrust.

Before closing I remind you that the Fire Season officially started in November and ends in April. Day activities are automatically cancelled if there is a Total Fire Ban in the area or if the temperature in the area is forecast to be 38 degrees or more. Check the Preview for which Fire Ban District an activity is in and the nearest Temperature Reference Site. For extended activities please contact the leader to see if the trip is to be cancelled. Our policy covering day and extended activities – 'Fire Season, Total Fire Ban and Extreme Heat Policies' – can be downloaded from our website which also has easy links on the home page for the CFA and Bureau of Meteorology.

I look forward to catching up with as many of you as possible at the Christmas Party on Monday 12 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

Advance Notice MISSED OUT ON LEADER TRAINING NIGHTS?

I am pleased to announce a whole day covering the first three units is on offer next year!

**Module 1 LEADER TRAINING
SATURDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2017
9:30 am – 4:30 pm
CLUBROOMS**

Already new participants who have attended the leader training have eagerly volunteered for upcoming walks. The potential and experienced leaders who have attended have shown their commitment to lead walks with renewed confidence.

The outline of the day below will allow you to select to attend ALL day to complete the modules or you may be interested in PARTS, one or two units of the training only.

- 9:30 am Welcome
- 9:45 – 11:15 **Unit 1 – ‘So You Want to Become a Leader?’**
- The concept of leadership
 - Different styles of leadership
- 11:15 – 11:45 Morning Tea
- 11:45 – 1:45 **Unit 2 – ‘Research, Planning and Previewing’**
- Why, Who, Where, When and How to organise a walk from the stages of research and planning.
 - Conducting a preview, what to do before, during and after a preview.
 - Resources to access when selecting a walk, especially our extensive data base.
- 1:45 – 2:30 LUNCH
- 2:30 – 4:30 **Unit 3 – ‘Paper Work’**
- Walk description and grading, walker registration
 - Map and walk notes, transport plans, emergency details, incident reports

RSVP by email to me (vetsiang8@gmail.com) by Jan 25 2017 to reserve your place.

Angela V (Training Officer)

I received this email from Jean Woodger, a long-term Club member who moved to NSW some years ago. *Ed*

‘Janet Hodgson’s review of the Wedderburn Base Camp reminded me of the attached poem I wrote at the time of an earlier base camp with Doug and Jan. Thought you might be amused.

GRAMPIANS BOTANY BASE CAMP SEPTEMBER 1997

When it’s springtime in the Grampians
And the wildflowers are in bloom
Wax lips smile and greenhoods nod
To cast off winter’s gloom.

The running postman spreads his cheer
Beside a pultenaea
Hibbertias, acacias, orchids galore
And grevilleas ever near.

The cameras click continuously
And reference books are read
When Douglas points to each new flower
As along the tracks we’re led.

‘A test I’ll set’ he told us all
Which gave us quite a fright
So Latin names were on our lips
As we drove back that night.

A wildflower exhibition
In the centre of Halls Gap
Was a chance for full revision
But our Doug is quite a chap.

We learned our wildflowers well enough
And this was his intention
We found however on our return
The exam didn’t get a mention.

Thank you Doug for a great weekend.

Jean Woodger’



BEGINNERS' PACK CARRY – MT ALEXANDER, 22–23 OCTOBER.

'Rising 350 metres above the surrounding area, Mt Alexander Regional Park (1400 ha) lies within the Harcourt granite intrusion which is estimated to be 367 million years old. With steep slopes, tall trees and rocky outcrops, the Park is a prominent landmark offering magnificent views and a natural forest setting for picnics and bushwalking.' With these words the Parks Victoria notes on the Mt Alexander Regional Park lay the setting for an area well suited to a Beginners' Pack Carry.

The signs of human exploration and exploitation of the mountain are evident and add character and interest to any walk in addition to the natural features. 'Major Thomas Mitchell was the first European to climb the mountain in 1836. The rapid occupation of the region by graziers followed. In 1851 gold was discovered nearby and tales of "Mount Alexander" as the new "Eldorado" swept around the world. It became the richest shallow alluvial goldfield the world has ever known and one of the largest goldrushes of the nineteenth century. The goldfield was later known as Forest Creek or Castlemaine. In the 1860s the first quarries had opened to provide stone for the Northern Railway. Since then Mount Alexander granite has been used for buildings in Melbourne and monuments such as the base of the Burke and Wills memorial. By the 1870s the mountain was stripped of vegetation to provide timber for the goldfields. Areas were also used as a Common (land where anybody could graze a cow or a few sheep) and a Silkworm Farm. Slowly the mountain and its vegetation have recovered.' (Parks Victoria)

The eastern boundary of the park is marked by the Coliban Main Channel, part of the extensive Coliban System of Water Works. The original Coliban Water Works were designed in 1863 by the distinguished Irish Civil Engineer Joseph Brady. The system carries water from the Coliban River at Malmsbury north to Castlemaine and Bendigo.

The selected route starting out along the Goldfields Track from where it meets the Coliban Main Channel at the northern outskirts of the Mt Alexander Regional Park was well suited to the aims and outcomes of the weekend.

- (a) The route was challenging enough to allow participants a chance to test their own capabilities, but it was not so demanding/long that inexperienced participants would be turned away from future walks;
- (b) The route offered a variety of walking conditions, but not too difficult for first time pack carry walkers;
- (c) The trip allowed participants a chance to compare gear and food options without being overly prescriptive through suggested lists and comments;
- (d) It had all of the ingredients for a fun weekend.

With these thoughts in mind our group of 13 travelled the 1–1.5 hours from Melbourne to our meeting point on Saturday morning and prepared for a 10 am start. The mix of experienced and inexperienced multi-day walkers mingled and chatted as they set off at an easy pace beside the Coliban Main Channel. Despite cool, and sometimes wet, walking conditions the chatter continued throughout the day sharing experiences and advice. Deviations from the Goldfields Track explored the ruins of the original Coliban Main Channel, checked out former granite quarries or just experienced navigation in areas with no marked path. Increasingly cool conditions kept our group moving and the breaks short. We arrived at our chosen camping spot at the Leanganook Picnic Ground around 2 pm. No time was lost setting up the tents, sometimes for the first time. Help was always available when it was needed.

Once the tents were up and a dry spot assured in the event of a heavy shower it was time for a warm drink and a chance to delve deeper into the mysteries of multi-day bushwalking gear selection and food preparation. A cosy fire drew the group together in a determined effort to ignore the biting wind. The inclusion of several experienced members helped in offering alternative suggestions and comments on how to address different equipment scenarios. Specific topics covered included:

- (a) A look at the different tents in use and a discussion of the various features and their merits.



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BEGINNERS' PACK CARRY *(continued from page 5)*

- (b) A demonstration of water treatment options and a group discussion was conducted.
- (c) Participants compared and shared choices in meal content.
- (d) During the walk participants compared various pack types and discussed the advantages and disadvantages as they saw them.

By Sunday morning everyone was feeling pleased that they were now an initiate of the great outdoors experience that goes with multi-day bushwalks. Like seasoned walkers we packed up the camp site and were ready for the walk back to the cars. The western side of Mt Alexander features stunning views across the western plains of Victoria from a walking track that rises and falls as it wends its way over and between massive granite boulders. A pause at Dog Rocks, named as such in 1846 because they were the favourite lair of packs of dingoes, was an opportunity for some to explore the hidden crevices.

The pace quickened as the end of the walk approached. Was it a result of the downhill path we followed or the promise of a hearty lunch (albeit late) at the nearby Harcourt Hotel and Café? It matters little as it was an accomplished and cheery group that took leave after lunch to head home with thoughts of the next opportunity to test out their newly honed skills and gear.

Ian Mair

MT ALEXANDER BEGINNERS' PACK CARRY



On the 21st of October 2016, I went on a pack carry, in which 12 other people joined me in climbing up Mt. Alexander. My pack, which weighed only around 10 kg, was much lighter than everyone else's. On the first day we climbed up the mountain to get to our campsite.

When we started on our walk, my pack felt light at first. We crossed many interesting things like big rock structures, creeks, rivers and many different types of plant species. It was fun to be able to move across the terrain in a way that allowed us to hop on boulders or jump over streams.

Eventually we stopped for a lunch break where I had a salmon and spinach wrap. After we ate lunch, we got up and started walking again. We continued at this for a while until we got to our campsite at around

3 o'clock. From there we managed to set up our tents amidst the rain and hail that was pouring onto us at the time. Eventually, we finished setting up our tent even though I ended up with wet shoes.

We then went on a walk where I was able to go to a lookout and see how high up I really was along with some nice scenery. We walked for around an hour until we came back and decided to talk about our tents and learn some ways to make dirty water drinkable.

Later that evening, we started a fire. Most of us stood around the fire talking about camping. When it was around 7 o'clock, we decided to have dinner. Each person brought along their own food with my mum and I bringing salmon, spinach and couscous. We cooked our dinner on the metal hotplate that went over the big fire. After some hot chocolate later on, we went to sleep. Even though it was very cold at one degree I heard, I was able to sleep well enough.

The next day, we got up and I had powdered milk and muesli for breakfast. We then walked around for quite a while until we stopped for a snack at Dogs Rock, an interesting rock formation. I enjoyed climbing around on the rocks that went up to around 10 metres high. We walked on past a few more of these rock formations and I jumped from boulder to boulder a few times along the way, until we got to the television tower at the top of the mountain. The rest was an easy downhill walk. At around 2 o'clock, we got back to the place where we had parked our cars. The whole experience was a fun one and I would recommend it for people who are pack carrying for their first time.

(Philip Koe-Leong, Year 9)

THE MELBOURNE CUP LONG WEEKEND



The High Plains are always a delight to walk around and this walk planned by Agajan was seductive. Seven bushies were seduced (maybe escaping the horse-racing madness was a factor) and, after camping at Mountain Creek, we set off from the Rocky Valley dam wall at 9 am on Saturday. It was bright but cold and we were rugged up. Over Heathy Spur we walked through deep snow drifts, turning off into the Kelly track, arriving at Fitzgerald Hut for a late morning tea. We checked out Kelly Hut just to make sure it was still there, then took the track 107 eastwards.

This odd-named track was built by Angus McMillan around the 1850's under contract from the Victorian Government to build gold mining access tracks to link the gold-mining communities of Gippsland and the High Country. It still has original

rock work cut into the side of the contour leading down to the Glen Wills Valley. (Thank you, Ian, for this info.)

The track joins Wild Horse Creek at a delightful spot that cries out for a tent to be pitched, but we merely stopped for lunch. There are hut ruins there, with a tin chimney and the collapsed log walls. Marked on the map as 'Ruin' this was built by Tommy (Cocky) Robinson, a cattle dealer who went back and forth across the High Plains in the days when the Kelly and Fitzgerald families were using their huts. This accounts for the small size of the hut – it was just an 'overnighter'.

We crossed the full and fast-flowing creek, and continued down the track to reach Big River where we camped close by Dead Horse Creek, which we used for our water, having established that the horse had been removed. Again there were signs of a small hut where we camped. We had time to explore the locality and to check out the river for a suitable crossing point for tomorrow's walk. After all the recent rain the river was running well but we found what seemed to be a suitable route, we thought, where the water wasn't too deep, hopefully. Jeanette was quite gung-ho about this prospect.

Sunday dawned with an ominous sky for our assault on Mt Wills. The river seemed to be flowing even deeper and faster. Jeanette now not so gung-ho. Agajan bravely checked that we could safely wade it, and we did, with care, having removed some garments and walking in our crocs using our walking poles for support. One of Agajan's crocs was last seen sailing away downriver.

Walking by the river at first, we found a campsite where a messy fireplace, spent cartridge cases and a block of ice were clues as to who had recently left. We picked up the 4WD track that took us up to the Big River Saddle via a number of steep ups and downs. A group of youngsters came down the track carrying overnight packs – and two large cooking dixies! Lightweight packs weren't on their agenda!

The weather was getting worse and by the time we reached the Alps Walking Track the rain was bucketing down before it then turned to hail. At Mt Wills the summit hut was a welcome sight seen through the mist. We soon had the potbelly stove going and eight steaming bodies clustered around to get warm and dry. Goretex or no, we were wet through. Lunch was a longish affair as the drying out took time.

The rain had stopped as we passed the huge granite boulders of the delightful ridge walk to Wills South, then down the AWT at a good pace to the Omeo Highway (the latter part through blackberry). This was a long way around, but the rain would have made the river crossing too dangerous to chance, we calculated. Our maps didn't cover the road walk, which turned out to be a bit longer than we had thought ... so the light was going as we reached the bridge over the Big River (signed the 'Mitta Mitta Bridge') and made our way past the track to the Mittagundi Education Centre, reaching Dead Horse Creek in the dark where we had to remove boots once again for a final creek crossing.

At 9 pm we reached our tents where Gina had the billy on before I could gather my breath. We had climbed 1000 metres plus, and walked 37 km! Perhaps we should enter this Sunday walk for the title 'The most kilometres walked in a MBW day walk'? I slept well that night.

The next morning dawned bright and sunny so we could dry out our kit before we returned back up the track 107 to Kelly Hut where we camped and had a restful afternoon. Two forelegs of deer and a fair bit of rubbish

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THE MELBOURNE CUP LONG WEEKEND *(continued from page 7)*

had been kindly left lying around the hut by some thoughtless souls (*or soul-less *****s – Ed*). It became very cold so we lit a fire in the hut and had our evening meals there with a social setting. Chocolates and goodies appeared to supplement our pastas. It was a little difficult to leave the fire to retire to our tents where ice and frozen kit in the morning proved the temperature.

We retraced our steps over Heathy Spur, battling a headwind the whole way. Back at the dam the thermometer registered two degrees and my diesel vehicle was difficult to start as I hadn't even considered filling it with alpine diesel.

As I was struggling a rather flashy roadster came down the road from Windy Corner and turned towards the dam without slowing down, clearly expecting to be able to drive across the dam wall. The driver saw the barrier at the last moment and braked just in time. The 'road closed' sign had been missed and a messy accident was only just avoided.

We returned to Melbourne, missing some of our favourite watering holes which had closed for Cup Day. Thanks to Agajan for leading this memorable trip and thanks to the team for your great company and spirit in some less-than-optimum circumstances – Deb Shand, Jeanette Burnett, Mark Simpson, Ian Mair, Ray Spooner, Gina Hopkins, and yours truly,

Derrick Brown.

MORE PLATEAU EXPLORATIONS 12–13 November 2016

The weather forecast was dismal: rain, showers, cold! In spite of this, four intrepid people joined Ray Thomas on an exploration of the Drum Top area near Power's Lookout and Whitfield.

After positioning the three cars on Saturday morning to allow for day walks instead of an overnight hike, we started out near a hop growing area south of Myrree. After a few hours slowly and steadily climbing up through thick post-fire regrowth, the leader suggested that we may not reach our day's destination by the proposed route in a reasonable time! A new plan was needed. A traverse of Drum Top itself was now out of the question, but after some discussion on options, we eventually headed towards the edge of the Drum Top Reference Area in order to return to the walk start and drive around to the night's camp site. Walking south along the plateau at the edge of the cliffs, we were pleasantly surprised by views to the west and some sunshine. A long, steep and partly rocky spur saw us down close to the road and our car.

Our overnight camp was dry for a while, enough to set up and start cooking. There were even lovely intermittent views down into the King Valley and over towards Mt Buller. The inevitable showers were only a slight dampener on an otherwise enjoyable evening.

Sunday morning weather was as wet as predicted. The basic plan was to head east across a plateau from near Power's Lookout, through unburned bush to the cliff edge for some good views, and then down to the last car in the King River valley. Several options within this plan were available. The bush here was much easier and even in the rain, it was lovely walking. However, the poor weather eventually led to our shortening the walk by diving off the side to the car.

This was a great opportunity to experience a place not usually frequented by bushwalkers. For such a relatively small area, there was a huge variety of scenery, geology, botany and history! There were several forest types, including the magnificent brittle gums, orchids, many bush peas and other flowers, dry rocky spurs, lyrebird country on the plateaux, open rocky areas with flowering shrublands, impressive conglomerate cliffs, really good views, waterfalls, lovely open grassy forests, bushranger history, and an ecological reference area.

It was well worth the visit. Thanks to Ray for his leadership, amazing navigation and jokes. Thanks to Phil Brown, Omar Sharief and Alan Wilson for their good company too.

Therese Ryan



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.

**SUN 1 JANUARY
 HAPPY NEW YEAR
 (NO SUNDAY WALK)**



SOCIAL

NEW YEAR'S DAY BBQ

DATE Sunday 1 January 2017
START TIME 12 noon
FINISH TIME Whenever
STANDARD Easy
LEADERS Ian Mair and Halina Sarbinowski
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Malvern East
MAP REFERENCE Melway 69 A2
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Melbourne
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Central

Hi everyone,

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**

To celebrate the opening of 2017 the BBQ will be held at the home of Ian Mair (31 Belgrave Road, Malvern East) from noon until whenever.

No need to book, just turn up, but a courtesy email to social@mbw.org.au to let us know who to expect would be appreciated. Get 2017 off to a cheery start. Drop in for the full BBQ or just to say hello and a welcoming drink.

It is a BYO event – bring something to BBQ, a contribution for the community table, a chair and drinks depending on how long you plan to stay.

*Susanna Mason
 Social Secretary*



TOFS WALK

CRANBOURNE BOTANIC GARDENS

DATE 5 January 2017
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 10 km
LEADER Rosemary Cotter
TRANSPORT Private

AREA South east of Cranbourne
MAP REFERENCE Melway 138 G10
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

Other TOFS walks down at Cranbourne have been at other months of the year so this will be a good opportunity to see what is in flower or of note in summer. We will visit the Australian Botanic Garden at Cranbourne (part of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria) and then move outside the cultivated area to the indigenous landscape. There will be some focus on the Australian Garden so come prepared to meet the flora! I will do a recce much closer to the set date so haven't yet decided the precise route we'll take. This may also be dictated by weather on the day.

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



SUNDAY BUS

AIREY'S INLET – ANGLESEA

DATE Sunday 8 January 2017
RETURN TIME 7 pm to City
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES 12 and 15 km
LEADERS Del Franks and Theo Mertzandis
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Surf Coast
MAP REFERENCE Anglesea and Airey's Inlet 25–100,000 maps
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Geelong

This is a nice summer beach walk.

The easy walk will start near 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 rock outcrops. Near the end of the walk there are sheltered beaches for swimming.

The easy/medium walk will start at Moggs Creek and have dramatic views approaching the lighthouse from the west. This group will then follow the easy walk up the coast to Anglesea. The distance is a few kilometres longer than the easy walk and there is some wading across the mouth of Painkalac Creek.

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

If we are lucky we may get some summer weather, so if forecasted bring your bathers.



WEDNESDAY WALK

MORNINGTON PENINSULA

DATE Wednesday 11 January 2017
START TIME Depart from location in notes below at 10:15 am
RETURN TIME Return to start location by 3:00 pm
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 13 km
LEADER Deb Berner
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Mornington Peninsula Ocean Coast
MAP REFERENCE Melway 258 D1
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Frankston

Start at Gunnamatta car park, map 258 D1. Meet at 10:15 am. Join me for spectacular ocean views and wonderful tidal rock pools.

Dependent on tides, walk along Fingal beach, Selwyns Fault, ascending 439 steps to Cape Schanck. Can walk along board walk to scenic pebble beach and perhaps the kiosk.

Retrace our steps along the high route back to Gunnamatta. There may be good weather for a swim.

ELEVATION Predominantly flat
LEADERS Alan and Jan Case
TRANSPORT Train to start, train or tram home
AREA Coburg
MAP REFERENCE Melway 17, 18, 30 and 44
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

The walk starts at Merlynston station on the Upfield railway line. The walk along Merri Creek is mostly on shared pedestrian/bicycle paths which were very quiet on the Monday of the walk preview. Numerous reserves and sporting facilities will be passed.

Morning Tea will be at Coburg Lake. Lunch will be at the CERES Environmental Park.

The walk after lunch will be along Merri Creek to a café for a coffee or perhaps a beer before catching the train home from Clifton Hill station or a tram in Queens Parade.

If the day is very warm, we will have the option to shorten the walk by a couple of km while still being able to conveniently partake of a coffee or beer after the walk.

Meet at Merlynston railway station (Melway 17 G7) before 10:30 am.



WEDNESDAY WALK

LAKE MOUNTAIN

DATE Wednesday 18 January 2017
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 13 km
LEADER Doug Pocock
TRANSPORT Private
MAP REFERENCE Marysville–Lake Mountain Outdoor Leisure 1:30,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Yarra Glen

If the weather looks to be hot then Lake Mountain will be the place to be. This is the closest site to Melbourne where you can breathe deeply and enjoy that distinctive alpine air scented by the alpine prostanthera and all the other high country plants. The walk follows non-vehicular tracks through the Lake Mountain reserve. It is undulating country with no long climbs. We may do a little extra to visit Boundary Hut which is the highest point in the Yarra Ranges National Park but is only 130 metres higher than our starting point.

As this is a long way to drive we will meet at Gerraty's car park for a 10:15 start but should still finish in time for a coffee in Marysville and to be able to drive home in reasonable traffic.

Remember, while we won't be as high as the Alpine National park the weather can still get cold and wet very suddenly (though not expected on this day) so make sure you have suitable clothing. Also there may be march flies so bring some repellent.



SOCIAL WALK

CITY PARKS

DATE Thursday 19 January 2017
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 5 km
ELEVATION Mainly flat
LEADER Jean Giese
TRANSPORT Public
AREA Melbourne City
MAP REFERENCE Melway 2F and 2G



SUNDAY CAR POOL

SAILORS FALLS – DAYLESFORD CIRCUIT

DATE Sunday 15 January 2017
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to City
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 18 km
ELEVATION 400 m
LEADERS Wen Qi and Halina Sarbinowski (mentor)
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
TRANSPORT COSTS \$17.00 car pool costs
AREA Daylesford
MAP REFERENCE Meridian 1:50,000 Wombat State Forest
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Ballarat

This is an enjoyable walk in the goldfields country south of Daylesford. It offers great variety – two beautiful lakes set in parks, the ambience of Daylesford, open eucalypt forest, a spectacular waterfall (dependent on the rainfall) and a dismantled railway. A highlight is the panoramic view of south Daylesford from a lookout on its edge.

The walk follows tracks and country roads through undulating terrain, with a few moderate hills and one short steep climb. The start of the walk is from Sailors Falls Picnic Ground following the dismantled Ballarat to Daylesford railway, passes Jubilee Lake onto our lunch spot on the banks of Daylesford Lake. After lunch we will follow the Great Dividing Trail initially following the creek of the Centre Springs Reserve, finishing with a short, steep climb to our starting point at Sailors Falls.



MOFS WALK

MERRI CREEK – COBURG TO CLIFTON HILL

DATE Monday 16 January 2017
START TIME 10:30 am at Merlynston station
RETURN TIME Before 4 pm
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE Approximately 11 km

FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

Time for a wander around some of Melbourne's beautiful city parks? We will start with Birrarung Marr, over William Barak Bridge and around the Fitzroy Gardens, stopping at the conservatory to enjoy the current exhibition. Then into the Treasury Gardens and back to Federation Square for lunch.

Meet on the NE corner of Princes Bridge at 10:15.

Note: This month's walk is on the third Thursday, rather than the fourth, to avoid the Australia Day holiday.



PACK CARRY

BEGINNERS: BAW BAW NATIONAL PARK

DATE Saturday 21 to Sunday 22 January 2017
STANDARD Easy to Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 20 km plus side trips
ELEVATION 600 m
LEADER Ian Mair
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Baw Baw National Park
MAP REFERENCE Parks Victoria, Baw Baw National Park
FIRE BAN DISTRICT West Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Latrobe Valley

Are you looking to try overnight hiking and camping, or are you a bit more experienced looking for a chance to improve your skills and prepare for something bigger? The emphasis on this trip will be on enjoying the surroundings while sharing tips and advice on equipment selection, what to eat and how to prepare for longer trips, and at the same time experiencing a night outdoors. There will be enough challenges to make it interesting as well as enjoyable. The club's selection of equipment for hire is an ideal way to test out some of the alternatives before making an expensive purchase.

Covering a substantial part of the Baw Baw Plateau and sections of the Thomson and Aberfeldy River valleys, Baw Baw National Park offers colourful wildflowers in early summer and open grassy plains with snow gum woodlands. Mount St Gwinear, Mount Erica and the Baw Baw Alpine Village are ideal bases for bushwalking.

After an early drive on Saturday morning we will meet in Erica for coffee before moving on to St Gwinear carpark and the start of the walk. After an ascent to Mt St Gwinear we will pick up the Australian Alps Walking Track which we will follow across Mt St Phillack before moving on to our Saturday night camp. On Sunday we will take an off-track route towards Baw Baw Village before making our way back with stunning views to the cars. We should arrive back at the cars in plenty of time to have a relaxed trip home and perhaps even a stop on the way for a refreshment.

Numbers are limited and early booking is recommended to secure a place and/or reserve any hire equipment you may need. Telephone or email the leader if you are looking to attend.



CYCLING

CAULFIELD MORDIALLOC LOOP

DATE Saturday 21 January 2017
RETURN TIME Return to Caulfield by 3:30 pm
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 60 km
LEADER Ed Neff
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Southern suburbs

MAP REFERENCE Melway 68 E1 for start
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

We will meet at Caulfield station, northern entrance (Sir John Monash Drive), at 9:30 am. We will connect with the Rosstown Rail Trail to Elsternwick and then join the Beach Road trail (not Beach Road) to Mordialloc. We can stop for a coffee at Sandringham. Lunch will be at Braeside Park. We will navigate quiet back roads through Dingley and Clayton South to Westall. From there we will follow the rail trail back to Murrumbeena and on to Caulfield.

We will maintain an easy pace so come and enjoy this interesting and relatively flat ride. Bring your lunch, a repair kit with spare tube and a water bottle.



SUNDAY BUS

CORONET BAY – CORINELLA

DATE Sunday 22 January 2017
STANDARDS Easy/Medium and Medium
LEADERS David Laing and Fotina Lennon
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA South Gippsland
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Wonthaggi

For details of this walk please contact the leaders.



PACK CARRY

MALLACOOTA TO NADGEE

DATE 25–29 January 2017
RETURN TIME late on Sunday
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 63 km
LEADER Jopie Bodegraven
TRANSPORT Private cars
AREA Both sides of the NSW–Victoria border
MAP REFERENCE Mallacoota Outdoor Leisure Map 1:50,000, Nadgee Vicmap 1:50,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT East Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Orbost

This fabulous walk takes in the remote coastline between Mallacoota in Victoria and Wonboyn in NSW and is known as the Wilderness Coast walk. It features lots of beaches, lagoons and shifting sand dunes, mainly in Victoria and also rugged cliffs and rock platforms, mainly in NSW, with coastal heaths and woodlands. It is a bird watcher's delight, especially for seabirds.

There is a permit required and unfortunately the maximum group size is eight but if there is demand and we can find a second leader we may be able to organise a second group. It would have to start a day later or do the walk in reverse. The area also unfortunately has ticks and a sizable one-hour each-way car shuffle is required. Google tells me it takes 6 hours to drive from Melbourne to Mallacoota. The cost of getting a boat to take us across Mallacoota Inlet at the start of the walk plus the 3 nights wilderness camping permit is about \$60 each. The Wednesday night camping at Mallacoota and the car transport from Melbourne is extra of course.

This trip may be full by the time you read this but if you would like to do this wonderful walk, probably in reverse, please contact me on and we'll see if we can organise a second group.



PACK CARRY

MT ARTHUR – MT BOGONG – SPION KOPJE

DATE 25–29 January 2017
RETURN TIME Around 4:00 pm
STANDARD Medium/Hard (A); Medium (B)
DISTANCE 47–50 km
LEADERS Gina Hopkins (A), Derrick Brown (B)
TRANSPORT Private
TRANSPORT COSTS (per person) \$70
AREA Alpine National Park
MAP REFERENCE Bogong Alpine Area Outdoor Recreation Guide
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North East
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Falls Creek

There will be a choice of routes this weekend trip, with two leaders, and the plan is for both groups to camp in the same spot. The last 2 days will be the same.

Walk A: not a classic Mt Bogong walk! I'm not sure why or if anyone would want to join me on this but I'm repeating a walk I did about 25 years ago. My vague recollection of the route up Granny Spur was that the bottom section was very steep, scrubby and slow-going. After the bushfires of 2002/3 I imagine the regrowth will make it even slower and scrubbier. Am I trying to put you off? Yes! You need to be a little mad, a strong walker with experience in adverse conditions, to come on this walk.

The plan for the four days is to start from Bogong Village, climbing steeply to the top of Mt Arthur via the Black Possum Spur, an ascent of 1000 m. Then a steep descent to camp either at Bogong Creek Saddle or Cairn Creek Hut. It is then less than 900 m ascent to the top of Bogong, but going up Granny Spur and Horse Ridge could be challenging. However, once up above the scrub the ridge top walking should be delightful, and the top of Bogong, in reasonable weather, is always a good place to be. Camp would be at the old yard near Cleve Cole Hut. Day 3 will take us down to the Big River and up to Ropers Hut to camp. There will be options for side trips to Whiterock Falls and/or Timms Lookout. The last day we head over to Spion Kopje and finish the walk at Howman's Gap.

Walk B: the first day's walk to Bogong Creek Saddle will be a gentle climb along management vehicle tracks or old tramways. Day 2 is the classic Quartz Ridge, possibly the best route up Bogong. The next 2 days will be same as above.

Note: this is a joint VMTC walk and numbers will be limited.



BASE CAMP

BIMBI PARK, GREAT OCEAN ROAD AND OTWAYS

DATE Thursday 26 to Sunday 31 January 2017
RETURN TIME Return to city by 7:00 pm
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE Combined 40 km (approximate)
TOTAL ASCENT Some steep but short climbs
LEADER Jan Colquhoun
TRANSPORT Private
AREA South West Victoria
MAP REFERENCE Vicmap 1:50,000 The Otways and Shipwreck Coast
FIRE BAN DISTRICT South Western
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Colac

Bimbi park is an award winning campground along the Great Ocean Road. It has full amenities including hot showers, a well-equipped kitchen with refrigerators, barbeques and a small shop. It is famous for resident native wildlife; especially koalas.

This is a four day (3 night) base camp that enables people to travel down from Melbourne in daylight on the Thursday morning. I will be offering an optional walk on Thursday afternoon ascending to The Crows Nest Lookout for spectacular views of Apollo Bay and the coastline. On Friday we will do a full day walk from Bimbi Park along the coast to Castle Cove. On Saturday we will either walk from Shelly Beach back to the Cape Otway lighthouse (tides permitting) or do an alternate walk in the Otways. I'm hoping we will be able to explore the rock-pools and caves under the lighthouse. On one evening there will be an optional walk down to the beach / Rainbow Falls for a wine and nibbles sunset. On the final day heading north we will do a series of short but very beautiful walks in the Otways; including Hopetown and Beachamp Falls. There should be time for a coffee in Beech Forest before heading back to Melbourne.

This gives a general idea of the walks that will be included; however they may be subject to change depending on the weather, tides and the group's interests. Some of the walks on this weekend are point to point and will involve car shuffles.

As this is a peak time of year I'm seeking early expressions of interest ASAP in order to secure a booking on the Australia Day long weekend. A deposit of \$60 will be required to confirm your booking, which is the full cost of 3 nights accommodation.

To book or for further details contact the leader.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

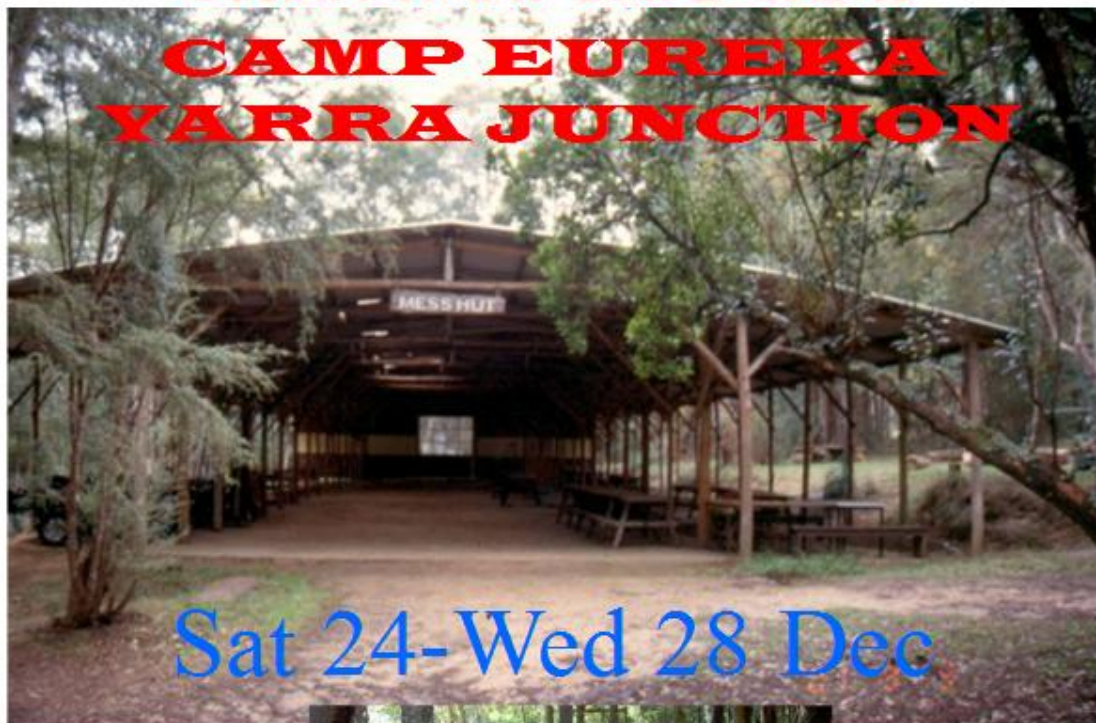
MASON FALLS AND MT SUGARLOAF CIRCUIT

DATE Sunday 29 January 2017
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to City
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 15.5 km
ELEVATION 730 m
LEADER Ian Mair
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
TRANSPORT COST \$12
AREA Kinglake National Park
MAP REFERENCE Parks Victoria Kinglake National Park
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

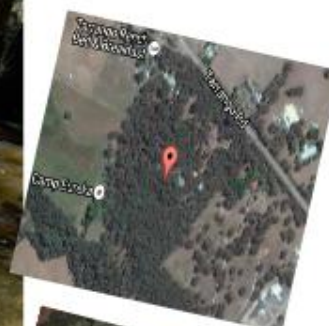
The diversity of the terrain and vegetation of the Kinglake National Park is well illustrated on this walk. The moist gullies along the banks of Running Creek support lush fern and forest growth which contrasts with the drier tops of Mt Sugarloaf and the Sugarloaf Ridge.

The walk commences with the short Lyrebird Circuit, and then on to the new viewing platform at Mason Falls. The new paths and viewing areas are impressive with a clear view of the falls. Running Creek Track descends to Running Creek and follows this creek for about 3 km to The Tryst from where there is a 3 km steady climb of just over 300 m to the main Sugarloaf Road. Mount Sugarloaf provides good views of Melbourne in the distance and Strathewen surrounds to the east. The return via Sugarloaf Ridge Track provides an easier downhill path before descending more sharply for a second look at Mason Falls on the return leg.

CHRISTMAS BASE CAMP CAMP EUREKA YARRA JUNCTION



Sat 24-Wed 28 Dec



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 not-so-typical Christmas bonhomie!



susanmaughanoz@hotmail.com

0478 504 441

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 2017					
Sun 1	HAPPY NEW YEAR (No Sunday Walk)				
Sun 1	SOC: New Year's Day BBQ				Ian Mair and Halina Sarbinowski
Thu 5	TOF: Cranbourne Botanic Gardens	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Rosemary Cotter
8-10	DAY: Airey's Inlet - Anglesea	Bus	E&E/M	CN:ge	Del Franks and Theo Mertzandis
11-13	DAY: Mornington Peninsula	Pvt	E/M	CN:fr	Deb Berner
Sun 15	DAY: Sailors Falls - Daylesford Circuit	Car	E/M	CN:ba	Wen Qi & Halina Sarbinowski (mentor)
16-18	MOF: Merri Creek: Coburg - Collingwood	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Alan Case and Jan Case
Wed 18	DAY: Lake Mountain	Pvt	E/M	NC:yg	Doug Pocock
Thu 19	SOC: City parks	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Jean Giese
21-22	PC : Mt Baw Baw Beginners	Pvt	Easy	WG:lv	Ian Mair
Sat 21	CYC: Caulfield/Mordialloc loop	Pvt	E/M	CN:me	Ed Neff
Sun 22	DAY: Coronet Bay - Corinella	Bus	E/M&M	CN:wn	David Laing and Fotina Lennon
25-31	PC : Mallacoota - Nadgee	Pvt	Med	EG:bn	Jopie Bodegraven
25-31	PC : Mt Arthur-Bogong-Spion Kopje (joint VMTC)	Pvt	M/H	NE:fc	Gina Hopkins (A) Derek Brown (B)
26-31	BC : Bimbi Park, Great Ocean Road and Otways	Pvt	E/M	SW:co	Jan Colquhoun
Sun 29	DAY: Mason Falls and Mt Sugarloaf Circuit (Kinglake)	Car	E/M	CN:me	Ian Mair

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