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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

April 2017

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE!

See page 3.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017 OUTCOMES

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is a wonderful opportunity to be reminded of how diverse and active we are as a Club. Many of us limit our involvement to one or two types of activity, ranging from Sunday Bus walks to extended overseas trips. Not surprisingly at the AGM you will come across members that you have not encountered before. This blend of interest and experience adds to the richness of being a member and can open doors for a new adventure on your next Club trip.

The formalities of the night moved smoothly. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find the newly elected Committee for 2017. Thirteen of the retiring Committee were re-elected for another year to be joined by two new Committee members ready for an active year ahead. The appreciation and thanks of the membership were extended to retiring Committee member Mark Heath who has been a long-standing contributor. Mark will continue to contribute to the Club adding his extensive experience and skill in the many different Club activities for which he is noted.

An outgoing Committee recommendation to hold annual subscription fees at or below the 2003 level for the 13th year in a row was carried without debate. Discussion on a motion from the 2016 AGM to increase the supplementary charge for a print copy of the newsletter from \$17.50 to \$25, to partially cover the real cost of production and distribution, was passed without debate. The Treasurer reported that the actual cost of preparation and distribution was closer to \$34.

That time of the year has come again and Subscription Renewal for 2017–18 is now due starting from 1st April. While members have three months to the end of June to renew and stay financial we encourage you to renew early. A Subscription Renewal Form is available with this newsletter or can be downloaded from the website. Please remember to include any change in your personal details with the subscription. It is most important that we have your current Emergency Contact details and your current email address. By renewing you are also acknowledging your acceptance of the risk involved. Please read the form carefully! Whilst it is optional, we would also appreciate you recording your YEAR of birth so that we can get an accurate statistical profile of the Club membership. If you prefer, you can manage your own personal details held by the Club through the secure Members' Area of the website.

Wishing you all enjoyable and safe walking.

Ian Mair, President



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

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 3 April 2017

YOUR NEW COMMITTEE FOR 2017

President	Ian Mair
Vice-Presidents	Susan McInnes Ken MacMahon
Secretary	Deborah Bishop
Membership Secretary	Gill Wainwright
Treasurer	Poppy Sicari
Social Secretary	Susanna Mason
General Walks Secretary	Stuart Hanham
Sunday Walks Secretary	Halina Sarbinowski
General Committee	Jenny Andrewes Stephen Ingrouille John Terrell * Peter Taylor * Wen Qi

* NEW to Committee

Leader Training UNIT 5 – CONDUCTING THE WALK

**WEDNESDAY 10 MAY
7:30 pm in the Clubrooms**

Our training continues for module 1 with the next instalment of unit 5. It involves procedures which assist you to conduct the walk. This is an excellent unit in preparation for the Federation weekend. The outline of this unit is as follows:

- tasks you are advised to perform in the week prior to the walk;
- tasks you are advised to perform on the day of your walk prior to arriving at the actual start of the walk;
- tasks you are advised to perform after you arrive at the actual start point for the walk but before you start walking;
- how to conduct your walk in a safe manner so that all participants enjoy the walk;
- tasks you are advised to perform at the completion of the walk;
- the basics of handling accidents or incidents on your walk;
- people management skills through some scenarios.



MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2017-18

Membership subscriptions are due 1st April 2017. You are not required to sign an Acknowledgement of Risk form on renewal; however you are advised that payment of fees implies acceptance of the risks involved in any activity you may undertake as a member of Melbourne Bushwalkers. Members are asked to read the following wording regarding your insurance cover through Bushwalking Australia.

'In voluntarily participating in activities of Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc., which are described to me by the activity leaders, I am aware that my participation in the activities may expose me to hazards and risks that could lead to injury, illness or death or to loss of or damage to my property. I also acknowledge that I may encounter weather conditions that could lead to heat stroke, hypothermia or being in locations where evacuation for medical treatment may take hours or days. In particular when participating in abseiling or above the snowline activities I am aware that these activities could expose me to additional hazards and risks.

To minimize risks I will endeavour to ensure that:

- Each activity is within my capabilities;
- I will carry food, water and equipment appropriate for the activity;
- I will advise the activity leader if I am taking medication or have any physical or other limitation that might affect my participation in the activity;
- I will make every effort to remain with the rest of the party during the activity;
- I will advise the leader of any concerns I am having; and
- I will comply with all reasonable instructions of club officers and the activity leader.

I have read and understood these requirements. I will consider the risks before joining any activity of the club.

I acknowledge that I will take responsibility for my own actions and that payment of my subscriptions will be deemed as full acceptance and understanding of the above conditions.'

Please refer to the Renewal Slip below for methods of paying your subscription. If paying by cheque please return the renewal slip to assist the Treasurer and Membership Secretary to identify you. If any of your personal details have changed, complete the relevant information and forward to the Membership Secretary. The Renewal Slip also appears inside the back page of the newsletter.

Note: Members can modify address details and items displayed to other members through the Members' Area of the Club's website.

RENEWAL SLIP

Payment to the Treasurer, together with completed form by one of the following methods:

- Cash or cheque on club night (cheques payable to Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.)
- Cheque and Renewal Slip posted to Treasurer, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc, P.O. Box 1751, Melbourne 3001
- EFT to the club account. (Account Name: Melbourne Bushwalkers, A/c No. 0058-46013, BSB: 013-006).

Please ensure your full name and 'SUBS' appear on the transfer.

Fees:	Single member: \$45*	Concession: \$34* (Proof required**)
<i>(Please circle your membership category)</i>	Couple/Family: \$72*	Concession: \$50* (Proof required**)
	Printed News Only Subscribers: \$35.00	

Notes:

* Members who currently receive their copies of 'NEWS' via postal mail should add \$25.00 to continue. No new hard copy subscriptions will be accepted.

** Concession membership applies to those who hold an Australian Government concession card, not a Seniors Card only.

Name: Year of birth (optional)

Name: Year of birth (optional)

(Note: Year of birth is used only for statistical purposes and not published in any lists.)

Fill in Address, Telephone number(s) and email address only if changed since last renewal:

Street Address:

Suburb & Postcode:

Tel: [H] [W] Mobile

Email:

Emergency Contact:Tel: [H][M][W]

YES / NO	<i>Indicate left if you agree details can be displayed to other members in the Members' Secure Login Area (Default in Bold)</i>
YES / NO	
YES / NO	
YES / NO	
YES / NO	

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – APRIL 2017



Another year has passed for the Club. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the end of March received reports from some of the more than 50 Club members who undertake ongoing voluntary activities on our behalf. These contributions range from roles such as walks coordinators, organising social activities and preparing the newsletter, through to reviewers of our finances and ensuring our forms and documents are up to date. The Committee elected at the AGM represent only a few of the many who ensure we walk safely, have a challenging and enjoyable activities program and the Club runs smoothly and efficiently. Each year the incoming Committee hosts a dinner to thank these tireless, often faceless, members. We owe them all a vote of thanks for the outstanding contributions they make collectively. However, we can always accommodate more helpers so, if you would like to be part of the team, please contact me or another Committee member and let us know of your interest.

The 50 mentioned do not include all of our valued activity leaders. There is some overlap with members making multiple contributions but we have around 80 members each year, from our pool of around 110 registered leaders, leading one or more trips. Feedback and thanks to leaders is more immediate at the end of each trip they lead. Even so, if you have not done so recently, please let them know how much you appreciate their dedication and efforts. As with other Club roles we can always accommodate more leaders. Our ongoing training and mentoring activities are there to help any member with a passion or desire to lead to fulfil their dream. Even if you only lead one activity a year you have made a big contribution to ensuring we have a varied activities program and are sharing in the pleasure of keeping the Club vibrant.

In all of our activities we have to remember that we have an obligation to each other and the broader community in which we conduct our activities. Melbourne Bushwalkers takes conscious measures to be seen as a responsible user of public and private lands through our By-Laws, Code of Conduct and the practices of common sense and respect for the property of others. Your role in all of this is simply to be a responsible individual and, as appropriate, follow the reasonable requests of activity leaders to ensure the Club continues to have the level of respect we currently enjoy. Whether it is as simple as failing to have all of the necessary permits to enter public lands, or as extreme as anti-social behaviour when celebrating a recently completed trip, the Club's standing in the community is affected. In this issue of the newsletter you will find repeated our Code of Conduct which can also be downloaded from the website. Help us maintain the reason we joined the Club in the first place.

During March I sent a letter on behalf of the Club to the Minister for Sport, the Hon John Erin. For some years we have been under the shadow of National Adventure Activity Standards (AAS). More recently draft standards have been issued for bushwalking which note in part 'While the AAS are NOT statutory standards imposed by law, some agencies / organisations may make application of the AAS mandatory...' and further, 'AAS are written specifically for formal groups (commercial and non-commercial organisations) undertaking organized activities ...' Bushwalking Victoria, of which we are an Affiliate Member, have been opposing the standards as far as they apply to voluntary bushwalking clubs and we have responded in support of their campaign.

Melbourne Bushwalkers Incorporated is a long established bushwalking club formed in 1940:

- To bring together those who enjoy bushwalking and related outdoor activities.
- To encourage an appreciation of the wild life and natural beauty of this country and assist in its preservation.
- To organise walking tours and other outdoor activities.

Today the Club has around 450 members and organises around 150 bushwalking trips a year, engaging members and visitors in over 2500 participant days of outdoors activity. Over 80 members per year volunteer their time and expertise as leaders of our programmed activities. Many of us join the Club for the regular physical exercise and health benefits provided through an active outdoors experience. We are all adults who are aware of the risks inherent in any outdoor activity and take responsibility for our own wellbeing.

The possibility that Land Managers and insurance providers may require adherence to the provisions of the AAS is a cause of uncertainty and concern, with the potential to impact unfavourably on our operations and the willingness of members to make their skills available as leaders. The demands of compliance with the standards could lead to a reduction in Club activity and its community health benefits, with no gain in bushwalker safety. I have implored the Minister to instruct his Department and associated agencies to review the scope and coverage of the proposed Bushwalking Adventure Activity Standard (AAS) with the objective of removing the potential to impact negatively on responsible community-based recreational bushwalking clubs. You too can help. Contact me if you would like more background in order to write to your own local Minister.

Ian Mair

2017 Social Calendar

Wine and Cheese Night
WEDNESDAY 24 MAY, 8 PM
NEPAL – TREKKING IN THE TSUM VALLEY AND AROUND MANASLU



I had no intention of ever going to Nepal until a friend rang and said: What are you doing next month? Nepal has changed much in the 40 or so years it has been popular for trekking. But there are still remote valleys with relatively intact culture, friendly people, traditional agriculture and no roads, And the scenery is not bad too!

MBW ENVIRONMENT REPORT 2016

In 2016 members of Melbourne Bushwalkers continued to participate in a range of conservation and track maintenance activities.

These included:

- January – Searching for and eradicating Sallow Willow on the Bogong High Plains with Bushwalking Victoria and Parks Victoria rangers.
- May – checking nest boxes for gliders and other native mammals with the Regent Honeyeater project
- May – track maintenance in the Grampians with VMTC members
- September and October – planting trees with the Regent Honeyeater project to restore habitat for birds and other wildlife near the Winton wetlands, Benalla

Late in 2016 Parks Victoria announced a proposal to upgrade the Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing to make it more attractive to ‘high-end’ walkers. I made a submission on behalf of the Club on this proposal, as did several individual members.

We would like to increase the involvement of Club members in conservation and track maintenance activities. The committee decided in December 2016 to offer a transport rebate up to \$25 for members attending approved conservation and track maintenance activities in 2017. These activities will be clearly indicated on the website and in the newsletter, and the effect of the rebate will be evaluated at the end of 2017.

John Terrell



John with a huge sallow willow on Mt Buffalo.

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Statement

Every person participating in the activities of Melbourne Bushwalkers should strive to ensure:

- The inclusion of every person regardless of their age, gender, sexual orientation, race, culture or religion
- There are opportunities for people with a range of abilities to participate
- They demonstrate respect towards each other, the organization and the broader community
- There is a safe and inclusive environment for all, free from violent or abusive behavior
- There is protection from sexual harassment or intimidation

2. Breaches of the Code

The following behaviors are considered to be breaches of the Code:

- Violent or abusive behavior or vilification of any kind towards another person or the organization
- Discrimination against another person based on their age, gender, sexual orientation, race, culture, religion or any other irrelevant personal characteristic
- Victimization of another person for exercising their rights through this Code of Conduct
- Failure to maintain a safe environment free from violence, abuse, discrimination and harassment

3. Responsibility of Individuals

It is the responsibility of individuals bound by this Code of Conduct to:

- Make themselves aware of the standards of behavior required
- Be accountable for their behavior
- Report breaches of this Code to a Committee Member or Leader

4. Responsibility of Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

It is the responsibility of the Committee to adopt, implement and comply with this Code of Conduct and treat any breach or complaint made in an unbiased, sensitive, fair, timely and confidential manner. Any breaches of this Code will be dealt with in accordance with the Club's By-Laws and Rules.

5. Policy Implementation

The Code of Conduct will be published on the Club's website, be printed in the Club's Newsletter and copies made available in the Club's meeting room

6. Related Policy Documents

- Melbourne Bushwalkers (Inc.) – By-Laws
- Melbourne Bushwalkers (Inc.) – Rules of Association
- Melbourne Bushwalkers (Inc.) – Participants' Responsibilities on Club Activities
- Bushwalking Victoria – Code of Conduct

BY LAW 8.5 RELATING TO NON FINANCIAL MEMBERSHIPS

At its last meeting, the Committee made an amendment to the Club By-Laws that related to lapsed membership and the reinstatement of lapsed membership, more particularly by-law 8.5.

By law 8.5 was substituted by a new by law with terminology consistent with the Club's Rules, particularly Rule 12(3) and 17(2) and the Club's membership database design. The new by-law does not refer to lapsed membership but instead refers to non-financial members. The by-law was also amended to allow people who had resigned from membership to reinstate their membership without having to go through the full re-qualification process. People who have not paid membership subscriptions up to five years after they are due can continue to take advantage of the simplified procedures for re-instatement to membership depending on how long their subscription is overdue.

The Club's By Laws are available on the Club website and members are encouraged to read the By-Laws.

EQUIPMENT REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31/12/16

The Club provides equipment for use by members and visitors at nominal hire rates and for use by leaders and the Club generally at no charge. Items are selected to improve Club facilities, contribute to safety, encourage beginners and assist members in the acquisition of appropriate gear. All purchases are justified on a cost benefit basis with income producing items meeting the additional requirement of being self-funding.

Hire rates are again up on the previous year and we collected \$612 in hire fees which, after the deduction of depreciation and equipment write offs, resulted in a surplus of \$335.

Two of the three silk sheets missing at the last audit have turned up but not the GPS. A stuff sack to one of the sleeping bags is also missing. The items missing last year have been written off. The silk sheet will be replaced but not the GPS which was obsolete and now functionally better served by cheap phone apps such as Pocket Earth Pro and Avenza Maps.

No new equipment was acquired during the year but we hope to soon acquire the male version of the Exped Lightning 60 pack and a 3F UL Gear tent that appears to closely match the weight and functionality of a MSR Hubba HP at less than a quarter of the price.

As usual members and visitors are encouraged to try our gear before buying. Items can be hired for Club trips or, when not in use, taken home for a closer look at no charge. Needless to say we are always happy to discuss equipment with anybody who feels the need.

John Fritze

SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT 2016

The Social evenings which are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month have once again been a popular event with an average of 40–50 members in attendance.

The aim is to have diverse and interesting speakers and this year was no exception.

These evenings are a great opportunity for members and visitors to mix, chat, and have a glass of wine and a nibble.

The year's programme was the following:

February: Fiona Gallery and Fay Dunn shared their October 2015 trip to Flinders Island with Doug Pocock and others

March: The AGM with election of the committee

April: Paul Bolstad, a visitor from Minnesota US, gave a fascinating talk on the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCA)

May: There were two talks –

4 May –The Mountains in Winter with Bill Metzenthén and Doug Pocock

25 May – Walk and History on Italy's Amalfi Coast with Ian Mair and Halina Sarbinowski

June: The Great Barrier Island NZ by Stuart Hodgson and Susan Maughan

July: Wild Water By John Fritze

August: Slide and information night about hiking in Turkey and Georgia by Agajan Akbari

September: The Bushwalker's Ideal Camera and Some Adventures in Tasmania's High Alpine Country by Les Southwell

October: Restoring Australia's Lost and Declining Biodiversity by Zac Lewis from the Australian Wildlife Conservancy

November: Hiking in Iceland and Greenland – Jenny, Meredith, Denise and Steve

December: Which brings us to the end of the year to our Christmas Party, held at the City Bowls Club.

This venue was once again the popular choice. The food supplied by the members, delicious as usual and the rolling photo show of the members having fun on the various walks during the year made for a very convivial evening.

A big thank you to all those who have assisted during the year and helped make the Social Evenings a success.

Susanna Mason, Social Secretary

BIMBI PARK BASE CAMP



The Great Ocean Road – Bimbi Park Base Camp was a beautiful scenic walk and a great way to celebrate Australia day! The day began with the Club members meeting up directly at Bimbi Base Camp on Thursday. The camp was equipped with lots of facilities that included an outdoor cinema, pizza oven, fully equipped kitchen and industrial refrigerators that allowed us to store our barbie meat for an amazing BBQ. Once settled in, Jan led a walk across the back of Skenes Creek. We were treated with beautiful ocean views of Apollo Bay and also came across a black snake! We returned back before sunset to be treated to the sounds and sights of koalas in the trees. The day ended with a BBQ cook off and many of us trying to impress each other with our BBQ skills. You could also hear the koalas active and moving around at night that kept some of us up.

On Friday, we had another beautiful hike from Bimbi Park to Castle Cove. The walk was about 13 km that went past a Lake Aire River where we had our lunch. Some of the Club members decided to cool off with a dip in the lake. We returned back before sunset for another BBQ get together.

On Saturday, Jan led another beautiful walk along the Crayfish Bay. The walk was along the coast and we were treated with some amazing rock formations, clear rock pools and lots of seaweed. We made our way all the way up to Point Franklin before heading along the cliff tops to Cape Otway and back to Bimbi Park. We had lunch back at Bimbi Park and took an afternoon siesta before packing wine, cheese and crackers and heading off to watch the best sunset view over at Rainbow Falls. After watching the sunset we made our way back to the camp and some of us were lucky to catch a movie being shown at the outdoor cinema at the park.

On Sunday, some of the Club members returned to Cape Otway to explore the area and to find caves under the area around the lighthouse. Unfortunately, some of the trails were closed and we had to give up the search. We returned back to the camp and the Club members were packing up and getting ready to head back to Melbourne. But not before another scenic hike in Otway National Park. Jan led another walk where we were treated to two of the most beautiful waterfalls of Great Ocean Road. The first walk was along the Turtons Track that led to Hopetoun Falls. The second walk was to Beachamp Falls. We finally ended the day with some icy cold beer and ice cream at a pub at Beech Forest.

Omar Sharief



QUARTZ RIDGE–BOGONG–SPION KOPJE PACK CARRY, 25–29 JANUARY 2017

It was a large, happy and rowdy group who met to have dinner at Settlers Tavern at Tawonga/Mt Beauty Wednesday night, 25 January. For many it was a meeting again of old familiar faces, the hardcore pack carriers. There were 16 of us from VMTC and MBW with quite a few of us members of both Clubs. I opted for the easier Quartz Ridge–Bogong–Spion Kopje walk as I have heard of Gina's reputation beforehand as an extremely strong walker! Also in the program notes, she has strongly discouraged followers, labelling her walk a semi-crazy one in semi-defined territory.

After getting our coffee at a local café at 8 am sharp Thursday morning, we quickly moved off to do a car shuffle with most cars parked at Howmans Gap where we will finish our walk. We got into our respective harder and easier groups and set off.

My group walked the Big River Fire Trail all the 11 ks and 800m up to Bogong Creek Saddle to camp for the night with the other group. The heat and exposed terrain left me puffing quite a bit and Marianne supported me at the back. She introduced me to the different parts of the mountains like they were her old friends. It was only late the second day that I found out she was THE President Marianne! Past 4 pm, the sound of Gina's coo-ee and the vision of her bounding down the trail to usher us into the lovely site was a very welcome sight.

The next morning, we decided to have an early 7.30 am start to escape as much of the heat as possible and walked up Quartz Ridge for 6 ks to reach the top of Mt Bogong, the tallest in Victoria at 1986 m. Another 800 m climb but it was beautiful and fresher earlier in the morning and under the trees. As we got to higher ground the cool breeze urged us on. The summit was amazing and the famous Victorian alps mountains were pointed out to us – The Niggerheads, Mt Buffalo, Mt Feathertop, Mt Fainter among many others. It was beautiful to see these majestic entities in one massive landscape from on high. After lunch and many photo shots later, we moved on another 5 ks to Cleve Cole Memorial Hut built in memory of a mountaineer who perished there of hypothermia a long time ago. Anita and I were looking forward to the luxurious private shower in the hut streamed in from the nearby creek. Rachel, Jurgen, Carol and Marianne had a freezing dip in the lovely swimming hole a km away. We reached camp around 1 pm and had a most lovely time chilling and chatting.

Next day was a massive day of following the AAWT for a large part of the way with a big descent of 600 m to Big River and another 600 m steep climb on the Duane Spur to Ropers Hut for the night. Big River had a chain across but it was less than knee deep so we crossed the lovely river easily enough. Small groups went up in a staggered manner and Geoff exclaimed that our group would be found all the way up and down the mountain! Nola and I stuck together and were told that it would take us maybe 2 hours at the rate we were going and we just needed to ensure we did not go past the treeline. After walking for 3 hours and reaching dead bleached snowgums and shrubs, Nola and I decided we had gone past the treeline and missed the turn to the hut. We went coo-eeing and I blew on my whistle up and down for a fair bit hoping that Marianne and Geoff were just behind us. We then decided to walk back down to see if we could find the turning and finally our coo-eeing was met with a response. Phew, such a great relief. It was 4.30 pm by the time we walked into camp.

The last day was an easier 14 ks along the Spion Kopje track with its wonderful sights to have morning tea on the summit before going down to the Rocky Valley Creek and up back to Howman's Gap. The big creek had a trunk across for crossing and many crossing styles were demonstrated, from sit-down bum-dragging to confident 2-packs stride to tentative pole balancing act. Most couldn't resist a dip in the lovely waters.

It was a great hike and walking the last stretch back to the cars under the mottled shade, I couldn't help thinking regretfully, ahh ... this lovely adventure holiday is coming to an end. Thanks Gina and Geoff and Marianne for your wonderful leadership and a lovely walk!

Rosalind Leong

Participants: Geoff Kelly (leader first two days), Marianne Watt, Carol Ward, Ros Leong, Anita Wu, Nola Sanders (VMTC), Clive Davies (VMTC), Jurgen Weller (VMTC), Helen Spooner (VMTC), Cameron Millsom (VMTC), Rachael Millsom (visitor)



QUARTZ RIDGE–BOGONG–SPION KOPJE PACK CARRY, 25–29 JANUARY 2017

This was a well thought out walk plan by Gina with the two group options, and seeing I was by her side on the Grey Hills last Easter when she 'dreamed up a repeat walk of approx. 25years ago' that coincidentally I had also been a participant on ... how could I refuse?

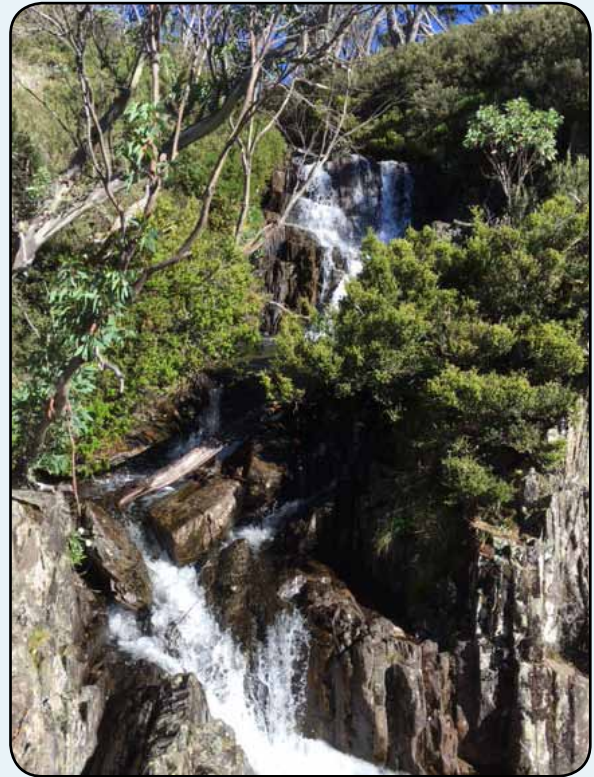
As Ros said, the convivial atmosphere at the Settlers was a great way to start the walk and our group started Saturday morning from Bogong Village, ascending steeply on the Black Possum fire track. The cadence of the group was fast and I slotted into my preferred place at the back, catching up when they stopped for a drink. The day was warm and it appeared to get warmer as we lost the shade of the trees as we turned off the fire trail to the track leading up to the summit of Mount Arthur – a climb of approx. 950 metres. The descent down to Helipad was some relief from the heat and on arrival we sought refuge in the crisp mountain stream to cool down which was delightful.

Friday morning the Granny Spur five headed off– (no grannies in the female members, however John Fritz managed to get over the line with the arrival of his first grandson on Wednesday which was something special to celebrate). We started at 0700 hours to take advantage of the cool, crisp morning. The track down to Cairn Creek was littered with many fallen trees that we clambered over, under or walked around. Spotting the track markers was a challenge at times, however Gina did well in keeping to the track with various thickness of the 'donga' before somebody spotted the hut. We declined to visit as that meant two creek crossings, i.e. Big River followed by Cairn Creek, more importantly WET feet without mentioning the 'super friendly donga' which was making progress slow. I was a little disappointed as on the first visit to the hut I have this clear memory of interesting blue bottles like an old pharmacy on its shelves and it would have been great to see if they were still there ... another time maybe?

At Cairn Creek we had huge drinks and topped up our bottles for the climb up the spur. Gina changed her plans at this point as the spur looked 'ok' scrub wise so up we went taking care to keep in voice contact if we could not see each other. Fortunately we had shade and the scrub dictated the pace which I was appreciative of. Slowly ascending, we sought the path of least resistance around the debris, clamoured up onto fallen tree trunks to take advantage of some respite from the scrub only to slip off and tumble into the scrub below! Arrival at a delightful scrub-free saddle was a great place to have lunch, rest and refuel before we started the final climb up Horse Ridge.

Horse Ridge was a bit of a 'sting in the tail' – no scrub, lots of heat with the sun beating down on us and it was steep! On arrival at Tadgell Point we were greeted by two young men who wondered where we had come from, took our photos and continued down to their camp at Cleve Cole. A lovely cool breeze was welcome. We had brief stop for afternoon tea, dumped packs then headed off to the summit of Mount Bogong – feeling like we were on a highway after our morning efforts off-track. The summit view never fails to impress me, especially on a day with beautiful blue skies. The obligatory photos were taken then we skipped down to join the others at Cleve Cole to camp and enjoy the camaraderie of the group for the evening.

Thanks Gina for leading a great, challenging trip and thanks to Marie Maguire, Phil Brown and John Fritz for making up the 'Granny team' ... hope another VMTC and MBW group repeats the trip in the future without waiting the 25 years – keep the tradition going! I feel confident none of this Granny Spur group will be members if it happens.



Howman Falls
photo by Rosalind Leong, who was in
the other Bogong group

Trish Elmore

MALLACOOTA-NADGEE PACK CARRY JANUARY 2017

Two groups of eight met on Wednesday evening at the Mallacoota foreshore caravan park. One group, those planning to walk south, travelled by car on Thursday morning to the Nadgee National Park in NSW. The other group including Judith, Susan, Meredith, Di, Richard, Ian L, Maciek and myself, planning to travel north, travelled across Mallacoota Inlet in a restored 1910 wooden 34-seat ferry. We walked around a headland (and the former site of Mallacoota), then along a beach until a pole indicated an entry point into the sand dunes until we stumbled across the large freshwater Lake Barracoota – our lunch spot and campsite for the night. The early arrival allowed for more exploring on the dunes, swimming in the lake and/or a walk along the beach.



A 9:00 start on Friday morning allowed another swim before exploring more of the dunes on the return back to the beach. We then headed north – some bare-footed as we walked along the edge of the surf – pausing for morning tea near one of the shipwrecks and later exploring the rock pools and coastal birdlife as we walked past Gabo Island. By mid-afternoon there was a choice of rock hopping for about a kilometre or walking around the coastal sand dunes as we passed into NSW. Just before our final section of beach for the day we discovered freshwater seeping through the rocks and sand. We then headed to the northern end of the beach where we had planned to meet the south-bound group for a shared campsite. However only a small delegation arrived, kindly bringing a supply of fresh water (concerned we would have none as they had struggled to find fresh water in the previous days). They returned to their campsite about an hour and a half along the track saying they would make an early start in the morning. Our group relaxed, swam in the surf or explored the rock shelves.

Saturday morning and we left our tents up to tease the other group as they passed through (though some of us had been up before dawn to watch the sunrise and have an early morning swim). Once the others left we packed up and walked over the bushy headland to a freshwater lake for morning tea, and then encountered a series of very pretty headlands, surf beaches and lakes behind sand barriers as we headed north. After lunch on the Nadgee River a small diversion took us to Osprey Lookout with stunning views along the coast. We returned to the track and finally arrived at a grassy campsite just inland from Newton's Beach. Then followed a rather desperate search for fresh water with one unpleasant looking pool avoided as it was the home of an almost metre long black snake. A difficult search further upstream for a kilometre revealed no potable water (but rather an encounter with another slightly larger black snake). Returning back down the dry and obstructed creek bed the original snake could be seen at one end of its shallow and narrow pool while a test at the other end revealed surprisingly fresh and clear water.



After more early swims on Sunday morning, on the way out we passed another black snake (there for form's sake). This time we were on vehicular track so the going was easier as we arrived at the park entrance (Merrica River) where the others had left our cars. Thanks to Helen and Jopie for organising this wonderful trip; to our group leader, Judith; to the other members of our group for their company and good humour; and our south-bound friends for their advice (and for the water). And thanks for the star-filled nights, warm weather and not too many biting creatures.

Stephen Ingrouille

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.



SUNDAY BUS

JAN JUC – ANGLESEA (ALT DEPT)

**ALTERNATIVE DEPARTURE POINT
FOR SUNDAY WALKS OPPOSITE
CLUBROOM**

When advised, the alternative departure point for Sunday walks noted on the walks program and in previews will be at the bus stop on the northern corner of A'Beckett Street and William Street, opposite the clubrooms at the Royal Historical Society building.



DATE Sunday 9 April 2017
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to City
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES 13 km Easy or 16 km Easy/Medium
LEADERS Del Franks and Theo Mertzaniadis
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving CLUBROOMS at 8:45 am
AREA Anglesea
MAP REFERENCE Anglesea 1:25,000 and maps E, NE and N

FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Geelong

PLEASE NOTE DEPARTURE IS FROM THE CLUB ROOMS.

Brilliant coastal and bush views are yours to experience on this section of the famous Surf Coast Walk.

This part of the Surf Coast Walk starts for the easy/medium from Jan Juc. The easy starts from the famous Bells Beach.

From Bells beach we walk along what is known as the ‘Ships’ Grave Yard’ due to the 19 shipwrecks that occurred along this section. Then we walk through ironbark forest heathland and enjoy cliff top views to Point Addis, where we may see a rufous bristlebird. On the last walk both groups saw a tiger snake, but that was back in 2008, so I don’t think it’s there any more. As we walk along the path away from Point Addis, we have nice views of both the beach and the Otway National Park, then both walks will end at Anglesea. Depending on time we may have an ice cream or a coffee.

Departure is at the club rooms.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

SHIP ROCK – KURTH KILN

DATE Sunday 16 April 2017
STANDARD Easy
LEADER Theo Mertzaniadis
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

We will start, finish and have lunch at the Kurth Kiln Picnic Ground which has picnic tables and toilets. ‘Kurth Kiln Regional Park, covering 3500 ha, contains a range of forest types and other interesting features awaiting exploration. Located a short distance east of Melbourne, the park is mostly known for its kiln used during the Second World War to make charcoal for gas producer units fitted to motor cars. It was developed and patented by Professor E.E. Kurth of the University of Tasmania. The “producer gas” was a substitute fuel for petrol which was rationed at the time.’ (Ref: Parks Victoria)

In the morning we will walk to the north following Possum Trap Track, Monkhouse Track and Boundary Road to Shepherd Creek. We will follow a road beside this creek and then walk along a delightful track beside Tomahawk Creek back to the picnic ground. After lunch we will walk south and west from the picnic ground as far as Adams Fireline through the forests which are known for brilliant wattle flowers – however we may be a bit early for these. We then walk back to

Tomahawk Creek upstream of the kiln and return to the picnic ground via Thornton Track which is another delightful track along Tomahawk Creek.

There are a couple of hills which are easy to low-grade medium.

A delightfully varied walk with good photo opportunities. Approx. cost is \$14 round trip



TRACK MAINTENANCE

WILSONS PROMONTORY (BTAC)

DATE 21–15 April 2017
STANDARD Easy/Medium
CONTACT John Terrell
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Wilsons Promontory
FIRE BAN DISTRICT West Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Wonthaggi

Join Bushwalking Victoria and Parks Victoria for a working bee at Wilsons Prom. The plan is to base camp at Roaring Meg and complete walking track maintenance on the following:

- Roaring Meg link track to the light station
- The link track from the Roaring Meg toilet to Martins Hill and along the South Point walking track

Sturdy protective footwear and covering clothing is recommended for track maintenance work.

The work to be done is:

- Removal of vegetation overhanging walking track 60 m
- Clean out track drains
- Repair damage
- Clear trees as required

3–4 vehicles will be able to park near the campsite. Stay at Tidal River on Friday and convoy to Roaring Meg early Saturday morning. (BBQ Saturday or Sunday). Convoy out Monday 24 April and stay at Tidal River before returning home on 25 April. If you wish you can go down early Friday and return home late Tuesday.

MBW members are eligible for a rebate of up to \$25 to assist with transport costs in attending this activity. Contact John Terrell or environment@mbw.org.au for details.



CONSERVATION

NEST BOXING WITH THE REGENT HONEYEATER PROJECT

DATE 22–23 April 2017
STANDARD Easy/Medium
CONTACT John Terrell
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Benalla

Join the Regent Honeyeater Project under the guidance of Ray Thomas for a great opportunity to see some of our beautiful small mammals close up, and at the same time collect info on how well they're doing out there in the hills, e.g. how many we have in the district, where they prefer to live, if they've managed to raise young ones – and it all helps look after them even better.

Full details available at <http://regenthoneyeater.org.au/pdf/Nestboxmonitoring-moredetails2017.pdf>. This activity will also be held on 20–21 May.

MBW members are eligible for a rebate of up to \$25 to assist with transport costs in attending this activity. Contact John Terrell or environment@mbw.org.au for details.



TOPS WALK

EAST KEW LINEAR PARKS

DATE Thursday 4 May 2017
START TIME 10:30 am at Hays Paddock car park
RETURN TIME Before 3 pm
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE Approximately 11 km
ELEVATION Predominantly flat
LEADERS Alan and Jan Case
TRANSPORT Private
AREA East Kew, Kew, Deepdene and Balwyn
MAP REFERENCE Melway 45 and 46

The walk links various linear parks along creek valleys together with a section of the old Outer Circle Railway. Most of the walk is along formed paths, some of which are shared pedestrian/bicycle paths. Lunch will be in Victoria Park, Kew. The walk follows a circular route, starting and finishing in Hays Paddock.

Meet in the Hays Paddock car park at Melway 45 J1 to start walking at 10:30 am.

Book with Alan and Jan.



BASE CAMP

GUNBOWER NATIONAL PARK

DATE 5–7 May 2017
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE Around 14–16 km each day
ELEVATION If you see a hill it will make the news
LEADER Ian Mair
TRANSPORT Private
AREA On the Murray near Cohuna
MAP REFERENCE Parks Victoria, Gunbower National Park
TRANSPORT COST \$58

I have never been to Gunbower National Park, physically that is, so this Base Camp is a bit exploratory. I have scoured the area and marked every track and tree on Google Earth though! The last time the Club visited the area in 2006 the leaders recommended that the Club should go back every 3–4 years. It has only been 11 years!

The area is renowned as a wonderland of waterbirds, wildlife and aquatic plants. Gunbower Island is home to over 170 species of birds and is one the largest breeding grounds for waterbirds in Victoria. There are also 24 reptile species! Wedged between the Murray River and Gunbower Creek with stands of majestic River Red Gums, the park is ideal for camping. Walking in the area will be a mix of walking trails and off-track to see the best of what the park has to offer at a leisurely pace. As part of the Murray River flood plain there are numerous billabongs and wet areas to explore.

Getting there takes around 3.5 hours from Melbourne. I plan to go up early Friday and will have sorted out a preferred camping spot before everyone else arrives. There are several locations used previously as a fall-back and the full expanse of the Murray River banks at our disposal. Location will depend a bit on how many of us plan to go.

Contact me if you are interested or see me in the clubrooms.



TRACK MAINTENANCE

THE GRAMPIANS

DATE	5–7 May 2017
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER	Mark Heath
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Halls Gap
MAP REFERENCE	Melway 425 C11
TRANSPORT COST	\$60

Join VMTC, Parks Victoria and Friends of the Grampians to improve walking tracks in the Eastern Grampians.

Track maintenance involves a range of activities and skills suitable for all fitness levels – lopping, using small hand saws, removing material from tracks etc.

This activity is eligible for a \$25 travel cost subsidy.

Complimentary camping for both Friday and Saturday nights will be available in the area.

Ian's and Deb's photos give a great sense of previous activities:

http://mbw.org.au/zenphoto/2013/conservation/2013050401_Grampians_Track_Maintenance/



SUNDAY BUS

WONTHAGGI HEATHLANDS AND WETLANDS

DATE	Sunday 7 May 2017
RETURN TIME	6 pm
STANDARDS	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES	Easy 15 km; Easy/Medium 18 km
ELEVATIONS	Almost none
LEADERS	Brett Daniel and Micheal Murray
TRANSPORT	Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA	Wonthaggi

From discovering black coal by William Hovell at Cape Patterson in 1862 the area history has been heavily aligned with coal. The last mine closed in 1968. These walks cover a fair slice of the coal history.

Both walks in the Wonthaggi Heathlands will be taking us through Baxter wetlands, and past the windmill farm onto Baxter Beach for a wander along the coast before rejoining the heathlands, following Sharree Collins track. The easy group will arrive at the bus while the harder group will do an extra beach walk before joining the bus.



WEDNESDAY WALK

SUGARLOAF RESERVOIR

DATE	Wednesday 10 May 2017
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	18 km with the option of reducing to 15 km if desired
ELEVATION	Minimal
LEADER	Carol Elfverson
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Christmas Hills
MAP REFERENCE	Melway 273 B2

This walking track has some great views of Melbourne, the Dandenong Ranges and the Great Dividing Range as it circuits the picturesque Sugarloaf Reservoir. Numerous grey

kangaroos keep an eye on visitors as they graze and gaze in the nearby grasses. An echidna may also make an appearance on the track. The 18 km walk is fairly easy with a few undulations and one hill. There is also an option of finishing at a 15 km area.

We will meet at the Ridge Picnic Area near the main entrance off Simpsons Road at 10:15 for a 10:30 am start. The track can be muddy in places after rain. Please phone Carol to book and for any queries.



TRAINING

UNIT 5 – CONDUCTING THE WALK

DATE	Wednesday 10 May, 7:30 pm in the Clubrooms
LEADER	Angela Vetsicas

Details on page 2.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

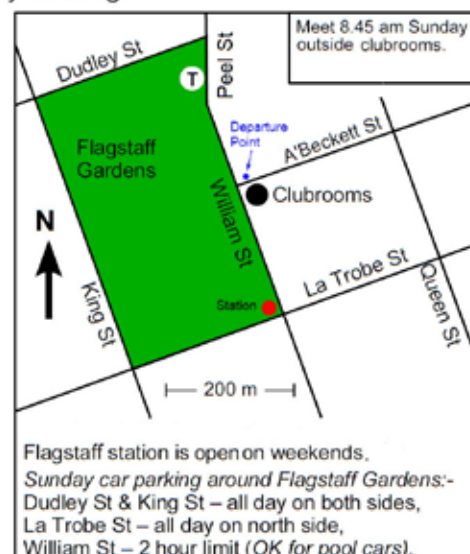
BAMGANIE STATE FOREST (MEREDITH) (ALTERNATIVE DEPARTURE POINT)

DATE	Sunday 14 May 2017
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER	Ron Hampton
TRANSPORT	Carpool – leaving opposite the Clubrooms at 8:45 am

For details of this walk please contact the leader.

ALTERNATIVE DEPARTURE POINT FOR SUNDAY WALKS OPPOSITE CLUBROOM

When advised, the alternative departure point for Sunday walks noted on the walks program and in previews will be at the bus stop on the northern corner of A'Beckett Street and William Street, opposite the clubrooms at the Royal Historical Society building.





MOFS WALK

JUMPING CREEK-STANEBRAE

DATE	Monday 15 May 2017
RETURN TIME	2:30 pm
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	10 km
ELEVATION	80 m
LEADER	Graham Hodgson
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Warrandyte State Park
MAP REFERENCE	Melway maps 23 and 24

This walk is one of the many picturesque Yarra river trips. We will start by walking through Black Flat and follow a well defined track upstream to Jumping Creek. It was in this vicinity that we saw a powerful owl on a previous walk.

The track continues on with great river views all the way to Blue Tongue Bend. Here we leave the river and after a bit of a climb and descent we arrive at Stanebrae which is the site of an old homestead. (A few bricks are about all that remains.)

The return trip follows a nature trail which includes a wooden plaque which is a memorial to a pioneering woman who lived in the area.

Meet at 10:30 am at the car park about half way along Tills Road – Melway map 23 H/10.5



PACK CARRY

PYRENEES ENDURANCE TRAIL

DATE	19–21 May 2017
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	24 km plus
ELEVATION	1280 m
LEADER	Ian Mair
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Pyrenees Ranges
MAP REFERENCE	VicMaps Avoca 7523 N; Forest Notes: Pyrenees State Forest



This walk is aptly named considering the steepness of some of the hills. The walk is considered to be reasonably difficult. The Pyrenees Endurance Trail commences on the north-east side of the Pyrenees Ranges at Waterfalls Picnic Area near No. 2 Creek and finishes to the south-west at Warrenmang Road. Whilst it can be done in a long-ish day it is recommended as an overnight trip with Camerons Track being the halfway point. Cameron Camp (200 m north of the walking trail along Cameron Track) is a good place for the overnight stop where there is a shelter, toilet and tank water. If it has been dry we may need to carry our own water.

The Pyrenees Range is about 200 km north-west of Melbourne and about two and a half hours drive. The closest town is Avoca located east of the start of the walk at Waterfalls picnic area that is easily travelled in 2WD. We will need to do a rather long car shuffle before we start the walk.

Telephone or email the leader if you are looking to attend.



CONSERVATION

NEST BOXING WITH THE REGENT HONEYEATER PROJECT

DATE	20–21 May 2017
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
CONTACT	John Terrell
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Benalla

Join the Regent Honeyeater Project under the guidance of Ray Thomas for a great opportunity to see some of our beautiful small mammals close up, and at the same time collect info on how well they're doing out there in the hills, e.g. how many we have in the district, where they prefer to live, if they've managed to raise young ones – and it all helps look after them even better.

Full details available at <http://regenthoneyeater.org.au/pdf/Nestboxmonitoring-moredetails2017.pdf>.

MBW members are eligible for a rebate of up to \$25 to assist with transport costs in attending this activity. Contact John Terrell or environment@mbw.org.au for details.



SUNDAY BUS

WALLS CROSSING – VAUGHAN SPRINGS

DATE	Sunday 21 May 2017
RETURN TIME	6:30 pm at Southbank Boulevard
STANDARDS	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES	15.5 and 17.5 km
LEADERS	Andrew Francis and Tracey Jamieson
TRANSPORT	Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA	Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park
MAP REFERENCE	Vicmap Topographical Vaughan Springs 1:30,000

For most of the walk we will follow the Dry Diggings Track, part of the Great Dividing Trail. The track winds and undulates gently through the light shade of dry box and ironbark forest that is slowly regrowing around gold rush era ruins and relics. We will see plenty of clues to how the miners lived and worked. This area is regarded as the best of the Australian gold rush localities of the 1850s.

To quote the Dry Diggings Track notes:

‘To release the gold, early miners had to wash the clayey soil by panning by hand, later sluicing stream and gully banks under high pressure ... Not just the covering of the land, but its shape changed. In pursuit of gold, diggers quarried gullies and hillsides, dammed creeks, built roads, constructed water channels, and dug intricate networks of shafts, tunnels and open-cuts.’ (David Bannear)

The E/M walkers begin with some off-track walking, but the Easy group will stay on track for the entire walk. There are no serious hills or surprise creek crossings, and we all finish the walk at picturesque Vaughan Springs where thirsty walkers can refresh themselves with natural spring water. This is a recommended walk for all who enjoy a relaxing ramble in the bush with a bit of history thrown in.



CYCLING

WOODEND LOOP

DATE Sunday 21 May 2017
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 62 km
LEADER Howard Friend
TRANSPORT Private
MAP REFERENCE Vicroads 59 and 60

Meeting place – Woodend Information Centre car park at 9:30 am.

The ride passes through Kyneton and Woodend, the terrain is undulating. Please contact me for further details or to book.



SOCIAL

NEPAL – TREKKING IN THE TSUM VALLEY AND AROUND MANASLU

DATE Wednesday 24 May 2017
PLACE Clubrooms
START TIME 8:00 pm
SPEAKER John Terrell

See page 5 for more details.



SOCIAL WALK

EDWARDS LAKE PARK, EDGARS CREEK

DATE Thursday 25 May 2017
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 5 km
ELEVATION Flat
LEADER Jean Giese
TRANSPORT Train
AREA Reservoir
MAP REFERENCE Melway map 18

We programed this walk last winter but when we alighted from the train at Ruthven Station it was pouring with rain and looking very dark to the west where we were headed. Being the Elders of the Club, we decided we didn't have to walk in the rain if we didn't feel like it, so we opted for a train ride instead, boarding the next train and going to the end of the line and back. Of course we didn't miss our lunch together.

We will try again to visit this restored park and the wetlands of Edgars Creek, followed by lunch at the Reservoir RSL.

Take the South Morang train from Flinders Street platform 1 at 9:49 (Southern Cross platform 9 at 9:52)—second carriage from the front—which should arrive at Ruthven Station at 10:27.



NAVIGATION TRAINING

WERRIBEE GORGE

DATE Saturday 27 May 2017
RETURN TIME By 5 pm
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 5–6 km
ELEVATION 120 m fluctuation
LEADER Roger Wyett
TRANSPORT Car pool

AREA Werribee Gorge
MAP REFERENCE Melway Key Map 7 B5
TRANSPORT COSTS Approx. \$15 per person

We will car pool from club rooms, departing at 0845 and meeting in the top car park at the entrance to Werribee Gorge at approx 0945. After a short 1.5 km walk we will undertake the theory aspects in a shed (in case of rain) and then a number of group navigation tasks across country to gain experience navigating on a bearing. As well as a few tips and tricks to make navigation easy.

The group will be limited to 6 participants, so all participants will have a chance to navigate in a small group, without any pressure, as this is all about learning. Please bring a compass (borrow one from another Club member) and standard day pack, as we will be away from the cars all day, but likely to be an early finish, as long as no one gets lost!



SATURDAY WALK

FERNY CREEK – TREMONT

DATE Saturday 27 May 2017
RETURN TIME 3:30 pm Ferny Creek
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 14 km
ELEVATION Hills
LEADER Elizabeth (Liz) Gwynn
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Dandenong Ranges National Park
MAP REFERENCE Melway map 75 D1

A reasonable level of fitness is required for this walk.

We will meet at Ferny Creek Reserve in Clarkmont Road at 9:45 am to commence walking at 10:00 am.

The first part of the walk takes in the Tan and Loop Tracks surrounding Ferny Creek and then we move onto One Tree Hill Road which takes us to the picnic ground for morning tea. We then descend the fairly steep Lyrebird Track to the heart of the busy Dandenong Ranges National Park for lunch.

After lunch the medium part of the walk takes hold when we ascend the Belview Terrace Track which is a slow steady incline, leading us back to One Tree Hill picnic ground and then onto Mount Erin Road finishing with the Alpine Track back to Ferny Creek Reserve.

Coffee at the end of the walk most likely in Sassafra.

Please ring Liz by Thursday evening if you are coming on the walk.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

BARWON RIVER, GEELONG – NEWTOWN TO FYANSFORD

DATE Sunday 28 May 2017
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm, Southbank
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 18 km
LEADER Stuart Hanham
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
TRANSPORT COST \$13 per person
AREA Geelong
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 450 and 451

This would be one of the most surprising walks on the current program. Many people would have driven past the area on the bypass west of Geelong and not realised it was there and that it had a variety of attractions. Since our previous trip in 2014, the route has been extended to include more bushland.

Starting at the attractive Balyang Sanctuary in Newtown, Geelong, the walk will head upstream along the Barwon River, taking in a couple of boardwalks, before crossing on the old Queens Bridge. After skirting around the Queens Park Golf Course, we will climb to some great lookout points above the river gorge, to see the Buckley Falls, the historic 1870s Barwon Paper Mill and hopefully the mill waterfall, if there has been enough recent rain. We'll descend to the main falls, then follow a lovely bush track beside the river, which gives views of the impressive stone weir and water race that powered the mill.

Looping back inland, the route then climbs steeply, but soon after descends on a tall wooden staircase to river level, where we may get a close view of the mill waterfall and canoeists in training. After crossing the river, we'll pass some historic 1870s mill cottages, before exploring a former, steeply terraced garden between the mill and the river, which gives great views. Heading north-west on the river trail, we will climb to a panoramic lookout point over the valley, then see the mill weir and the quarry used to build the mill and its waterworks. Further along, the route loops through bushland and eventually crosses the Fyansford Common. Soon, we'll climb a steep bush track to another high point, with more impressive views. This is followed by a steep descent on a loose track, past mansions, to a riverside wetland.

The return journey will be on the other side of the river. Just before the cars, we will explore the birdlife around the lake at the Balyang Sanctuary. Drinks will be at the nearby Barwon

Edge Boathouse. This walk has plenty of variety in terrain, vegetation and scenery and has many photo opportunities. Grippy footwear is recommended.



WEDNESDAY WALK

DANDENONGS DISCOVERY

DATE	Wednesday 31 May 2017
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	14 km
ELEVATION	Some gentle hills
LEADER	Susan Maughan
TRANSPORT	Private. Can pick up from Belgrave Station
AREA	Dandenongs-Belgrave/Kallista
MAP REFERENCE	Melway maps 124, 75, 66

Meet at Hermon's Saddle Reserve ready for a 10:30 departure. Melway map 124 11E.

The walk takes us across to Grants Picnic Ground with a short stop for a real coffee.

Then a meandering circuit around the back paths returns us to Kallista for lunch.

A gentle downhill track returns us to our cars.

Book no later than Monday 29 May.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL SLIP

Payment to the Treasurer, together with completed form by one of the following methods:

- Cash or cheque on club night (cheques payable to Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.)
- Cheque and Renewal Slip posted to Treasurer, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc, P.O. Box 1751, Melbourne 3001
- EFT to the club account. (Account Name: Melbourne Bushwalkers, A/c No. 0058-46013, BSB: 013-006).

Please ensure your full name and 'SUBS' appear on the transfer.

Fees:	Single member: \$45*	Concession: \$34* (Proof required**)
<i>(Please circle your membership category)</i>	Couple/Family: \$72*	Concession: \$50* (Proof required**)
	Printed News Only Subscribers: \$35.00	

Notes:

* Members who currently receive their copies of 'NEWS' via postal mail should add \$25.00 to continue.

No new hard copy subscriptions will be accepted.

** Concession membership applies to those who hold an Australian Government concession card, not a Seniors Card only.

Name:	Year of birth (optional)	
Name:	Year of birth (optional)	
(Note: Year of birth is used only for statistical purposes and not published in any lists.)		
<i>Fill in Address, Telephone number(s) and email address only if changed since last renewal:</i>		
Street Address:	YES / NO	<i>Indicate left if you agree details can be displayed to other members in the Members' Secure Login Area (Default in Bold)</i>
Suburb & Postcode:	YES / NO	
Tel: [H] [W] Mobile	YES / NO	
Email:	YES / NO	
Emergency Contact:Tel: [H][M][W]	YES / NO	

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!

May 2017				
Thu 4	TOF: East Kew Linear Parks	Pvt	Easy	Alan & Jan Case
5-7	BC : Gunbower National Park	Pvt	Easy	Ian Mair
5-7	MNT: The Grampians Track Maintenance	Pvt	E/M	Mark Heath
Sun 7	DAY: Wonthaggi Heathlands and Wetlands	Bus	E&E/M	Brett Daniel & Michael Murray
Wed 10	DAY: Sugarloaf Reservoir, Christmas Hills	Pvt	E/M	Carol Elfverson
Sun 14	DAY: Bamganie State Forest (Meredith) ALT DEPT	Car	Easy	Ron Hampton
Mon 15	MOF: Jumping Creek – Stanebrae	Pvt	Easy	Graham Hodgson
19-21	PC : Pyrenees Trail	Pvt	E/M	Ian Mair
Sun 21	DAY: Walls Crossing – Vaughan Springs	Bus	E&E/M	Andrew Francis & Tracey Jamieson
Sun 21	CYC: Woodend Loop	Pvt	Med	Howard Friend
Wed 24	SOC: Nepal – trekking in the Tsum Valley and around Manaslu			John Terrell
Thu 25	SOC: Edwards Lake, Edgars Creek (train based)	Pvt	Easy	Jean Giese
Sat 27	TRG: Navigation Training – Werribee Gorge			Roger Wyett
Sat 27	DAY: Ferny Creek – Tremont	Pvt	E/M	Elizabeth Gwynn
Sun 28	DAY: Barwon River, Geelong – Newtown to Fyansford	Car	E/M	Stuart Hanham
Wed 31	DAY: Dandenongs Discovery	Pvt	Med	Susan Maughan

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