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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

August 2017

FEDERATION WALKS WEEKEND OCTOBER 27-29 2017

Thanks for your support so far in volunteering to help, or booking in for Federation Walks weekend, October 27-29 in Warburton. Bookings are going well, however, for those that haven't yet booked **don't forget that:**

- excellent accommodation is available at **Arrabri Lodge** with a range of convenient accommodation options – no driving, stay with friends or share a dorm room with other bushwalkers right at the centre of the event
- there are a range of 20 fantastic walks to choose from though some are already booked out (no Sunday club walk that weekend)
- book in for the delicious **Saturday night dinner** with special guest speakers Mike McCarthy (local author and historian) and Monica Mains (senior parks officer for the Warburton area) A great chance to socialise with members of clubs from all over Victoria

Book online via www.fedwalks.org.au at the end of the Bookings section.

We hope to see many of you at Fedwalks 2017 Warburton, hosted this year by our very own, Melbourne Bushwalkers.



FEDERATION WEEKEND 2017 LEADERS/CO-LEADERS/ORGANISERS/HELPERS' MEETING MONDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 7:00 PM

A briefing meeting for all Federation Weekend Walk Leaders, Co-Leaders, Organisers and Helpers will be held in Melbourne Bushwalkers Clubrooms on the evening of Monday 25th September at 7:00 pm. Cheese and wine will be provided.

At the meeting we will be doing a final briefing for the weekend, covering First Aid aspects, walks arrangements and confirming requirements for all the above roles.

Could you please diarise this date and advise Margaret Curry of your attendance at the meeting so we can adequately plan for the night.

Thank you.

Margaret Curry
Federation Weekend Co-ordinator

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

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 7 August 2017

HELPING OUT AT CAMP EUREKA



Our friends at Camp Eureka, Yarra Junction, have a monthly "Collective Weekend" where users and supporters of the Camp roll up their sleeves and help with maintenance, gardening, whatever.

The Bushies have been fortunate to use the place for the past two Christmases, so we are definitely in their debt. (It is already booked for this year, too.)

The next one is on 8–9th September. Further details on their website or:

<http://campeureka.org.au/calendar.php>

Susan Maughan

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Ronnie Freilich
Ann Freilich
Bethia Sullivan
Kathie Nguyen
Sonya Konig



The party heading uphill along the Willimigongon Creek valley, 9 July 2017. Photo by Christopher Collett

NOT THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – AUGUST 2017

As environment officer for Melbourne Bushwalkers, part of my role is to encourage members to take a more active part in protecting and conserving our natural environment, so I'm taking advantage of our President's absence on the Larapinta Trail to mount my environment soap box and let you know about some of activities in which your club is engaged.

Revegetation and remediation of native bush

As you would know from my article in the last newsletter about the Regent Honeyeater Project (you did read it didn't you?), this is a great example of collaboration between landowners, local communities and conservation groups. Based in the Lurg Hills area near Benalla, it has achieved much in restoring habitat for endangered species on both public and private land. All five planting weekends in August to October are listed on our activities program (website and newsletter, not the quarterly program due to late confirmation of dates). I hope you'll consider attending one of these weekends – there is a variety of jobs to choose from, and the Regent Honeyeater people put on an enjoyable, well organised and informative weekend including dinner on Saturday night and (optional) bush dance.

Next summer we will join with other bushwalking clubs and Bushwalking Victoria's Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation (BTAC) group to regenerate alpine peatland by hunting for and destroying willow and other invasive weeds. In previous years we have been based at Falls Creek while this year we worked on Mt Buffalo. Look for next year's activities in the newsletter.

Track maintenance

Have you ever wondered why the track you are walking along is overgrown, hard to follow or even hazardous? Or been pleased that your track is well marked and easily navigable? Land management agencies such as Parks Victoria are chronically underfunded and rely on volunteers, especially bushwalkers, to keep tracks in good condition. Often this is coordinated by BTAC, and our club regularly includes these activities in our programs and newsletter. In coming months there are track maintenance activities at Mt Langi Ghiran, East Gippsland, on the AAWT at East Tyers (near Walhalla) and more. Several of our members are regular participants, but we would love to have more Bushies attending.

Transport subsidy

This year, the club committee is supporting participation in programmed conservation and track maintenance activities by offering a rebate on transport costs of up to \$25 per member for each activity they attend. As well as showing how important we think these activities are, it reduces the financial burden on member participation. A form is available in the members area of the club website, or you can contact environment@mbw.org.au.

Advocacy and lobbying

At the club social evening in June, Tria Manley from The Wilderness Society described the threats posed by the expansion of timber harvesting and other destructive activities to the wet forests around Melbourne and the wildlife that relies on them. The proposed Great Forest National Park, extending from Kinglake to Baw Baw and from Eildon to Bunyip would:

- Join together existing parks into a magnificent new national park near Melbourne, comparable to the system of parks in the Blue Mountains surrounding Sydney
- Give endangered species such as Leadbeaters possum, the Greater glider and Helmeted honeyeater a better chance to survive
- Better protect Melbourne's water catchments (which are currently logged)
- Provide more jobs than currently exist in the declining timber (mostly pulpwood) industry
- Provide increased opportunities for local and international visitors to experience this unique natural area through walking, camping, touring, and many other recreational and cultural activities
- Reduce the danger of catastrophic bushfires emanating from logging activities
- Ameliorate the effects of climate change by protecting the most carbon-dense forests in the world

There is considerable support within the Labor State government for the establishment of such a park although opposition is also strong from some unions, conservative MPs and "certain" media outlets. Visit www.greatforestnationalpark.com.au to familiarise yourself with the strong case, environmental and economic, for this new park. Then why not let your State MPs know of its benefits and why you support it?

Finally, the issue which overrides all of these is our changing climate and lack of government action to make our energy systems more sustainable. One element of this is the proposed Adani coal mine about which Deb Shand wrote in the July newsletter.

It is easy to become despondent about the state of the world, particularly threats to our natural environment, but I find that taking action, no matter how small, helps me feel a bit more empowered. I hope you feel this way too!

John Terrell – environment@mbw.org.au

2017 Social Calendar



Wine and Cheese Night

WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER, 8–9 PM

IKIMASHO! WALKING THE KUMANO KODO

SPEAKERS: DEB SHAND, DEB BREWIS AND ANGELA VETSICAS

In April this year as the cherry trees were blossoming, three bushwalkers met in Japan to hike an ancient pilgrimage route, the Kumano Kodo. We made our way through towering pines and mountain villages, up and down hundreds of steps, past small shrines nestling in the forest to the Grand Shrines with their attendant monks. Along the way we experienced Japanese hospitality in traditional lodgings with delicious foods and steaming onsen baths.

Come to our slideshow to see what an enjoyable cultural journey hiking in Japan can be!



PROPOSED BUSHWALKING TRACKS AND CONSERVATION EVENTS FROM AUGUST 2017 TO MAY 2018

2017

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 26–27 August | Creswick Mt Langi Ghiran |
| 29 September–1 October | Croajingolong National Park |
| 21–22 October | East Tyers Walking Track |
| 18–19 November | Errinundra (Mt Ellery and Mt Morris Walking Track) |
| 2–3 December | Upper Howqua Walking Track |

2018

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 25–28 January | McMillan's Track |
| 21–24 February | Mt Buffalo Willow Hunt |
| 17–19 February or 24–26 February | Mt Stradbroke Track clearing and reconnoitre with Ranger |
| 11–13 March | AAWT East Gippsland |
| 5–6 May | Grampians Track Maintenance |

David Miller
BTAC Track Maintenance & Conservation Projects Coordinator
Mobile: 0417 565 919
Email projects@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au



The Great Forest National Park

Just 90 minutes north-east of Melbourne, stretching from Kinglake to Mt Baw Baw and north-east up to Eildon, the Great Forest National Park will protect endangered forests and wildlife, safeguard our water and climate, and give Victorians a place to bathe in the restorative atmosphere provided by the forest.

We heard about this vision for a new national park at June’s social wine and cheese evening from Tria Manley, a Community Organiser at The Wilderness Society.

The Great Forest National Park proposal will add 355,000 hectares of protected forests to the existing 170,000 hectares of parks and protected areas in the Central Highlands of Victoria. The proposal contains many ideas and suggestions for developing the region, including establishing a multi-day hiking trail from Healesville to Eildon.



We’re invited, together with many other Victorians who love the bush, to call on Premier Andrews and our state MPs to declare the Park within this term of government. With 9 /10 Victorians supporting the creation of more parks and reserves for us all to enjoy, there’s never been a better time to create the Great Forest National Park.

by Tria Manley, of the Wilderness Society

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 CAR POOL

THREE CREEKS WALK

DATE Sunday 6 August 2017
RETURN TIME 6 pm to City
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 13 km
LEADER Del Franks
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Brisbane Ranges
MAP REFERENCE Brisbane Ranges

This enjoyable walk explores the three main creek systems in the rolling hills north of Steiglitz. There is a short off track section (along Yankee Gully), some quiet vehicle tracks and a fair chunk of the Burchell Trail. A number of interesting mines are passed along the way.

If we have time at the end of the walk we can explore the Steiglitz Historical Township.

Return time is typically between 6 pm and 6:30 pm.



MOFS WALK

HAWKESTOWE PARK – SOUTH MORANG – UPDATE

DATE Monday 21 August 2017
RETURN TIME 2:30 pm, Red Gum picnic area
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 10 km
ELEVATION Mostly flat
LEADER Michael Porter
TRANSPORT Private
AREA South Morang
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 183–184

Unfortunately railway extension work at Plenty Rd and Gordons Rd junction makes access to Red Gum Picnic area (designated meeting point) almost impossible. The meeting place for this walk will be changed to:

Wilton Vale Rd gate. Melway 184 A4. [10:30 am]

Michael will also tell potential walkers as they book in.

From Red Gum Picnic Area we will walk to the Nioka Bush Camp. Then we move through Plenty Gorge Park, and into wetlands north of Wilton Vale Rd. Then back to Red Gum Picnic area. There is one narrow, ankle deep creek crossing which can mean wet feet.



BASE CAMP

VOLCANIC HILLS OF CAMPERDOWN–CAMPING/CABINS

FULLY BOOKED: WAIT LIST ONLY AVAILABLE

DATE Fri 1 Sept to Sun 3 Sept
RETURN TIME Return to City by 6–7 pm Sunday
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 27 km (approximate)
ELEVATION Some steep but short climbs
LEADER Jan Colquhoun
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Camperdown Volcanic Hills
MAP REFERENCES Volcanoes Discovery Trail Map
 Vicmap 1:25,000 Mortlake South
 Vicmap 1: 25,000 Camperdown South
 Vicmap Warnambool North 7321-2-N

Over the weekend we will explore the most dramatic features of the western volcanic plains using Camperdown as our base. On Saturday we will make an early start with a 1-hour drive to Tower Hill Reserve; a water-filled volcanic crater with scoria cones and mounds in the centre forming an island. It's a haven for wildlife including emus, kangaroos, koalas and black swans. It features in one of colonial artist, Eugene Von Guerard's, more famous paintings. En route back to Camperdown we visit Mt Noorat, a perfect circular crater. We can walk around the rim (or the centre) and enjoy stunning views into the crater and across the surrounding hinterland. A perfect lunch spot.

After lunch we head to the Red Rock region, a complex eruption point, it includes maars, tuff rings and scoria cones; up to 30 eruption centres have been mapped in this 3x4 km area, which can be viewed from the lookouts. There is an optional wine tasting at the nearby Red Rock winery before returning to our campground. Dinner suggestions include a meal at the local pub or a barbeque. Before dinner you might like to explore the botanical gardens and enjoy the sunset panorama from the Lakes and Craters campground, which is set on a ridge, between Lake Bullen Merri and Lake Gnotuk. Dinner options include a barbeque or the local pub.

On Sunday we explore the two lakes before driving to the local Mt Leura and Mt Sugarloaf; twin scoria cones with a crater between them. There are several interlinked tracks to explore with excellent lookouts across Camperdown. After lunch we drive to Mt Elephant, on our return to Melbourne. Located at Derrinallum, and visible from Camperdown, it is the largest scoria cone in Victoria at a height of 240 metres above the surrounding volcanic plain. Mount Elephant was known as

“the lighthouse of the Western District” to early settlers. After exploring the mountain there should be time for a coffee in Derrinalum before the 2-hour drive back to Melbourne.

Expressions of interest would be appreciated ASAP. A deposit of \$40 if you would like to stay in a cabin and \$25 if you prefer to camp, will be required to secure accommodation in this extremely popular campground which books out well in advance. The full cost of cabins roughly is \$80 per person for the two nights inclusive; it varies according to the number of people in each cabin. Camping fees are \$25 per night, per person. Both the cabins and campsites have outstanding facilities.

Camperdown is 192 km (2.5 hours) from Melbourne on the Princes Freeway. Unfortunately there will be some unavoidable driving between sites on Saturday, mostly on the motorway. On Sunday additional driving is minimised with sites being local or on the route home. The driving is well worth it considering the quality of the places we will visit. This is a perfect way to celebrate the first weekend in Spring!



SUNDAY CAR POOL

LAKE WENDOUREE AND MT BUNINYONG

DATE	Sunday 3 September 2017
RETURN TIME	6 pm to City
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	14 km
LEADER	Del Franks
TRANSPORT	Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA	Ballarat and surrounds
MAP REFERENCE	Yendon 1:25,000
CAR POOL COST	\$20.00

After a few wetter years, Lake Wendouree has blossomed from a desolate dust bowl to a thriving wetland. We'll start the 6 km circuit of the lake near the kiosk opposite the botanical gardens. The lake circuit is an easy, enjoyable walk that will not take too long, so after doing the circuit I hope to explore the botanical gardens then enjoy a picnic lunch close to the cars before heading off to Buninyong for the second half of this walk.

Mt Buninyong is an extinct volcano complete with craters. Our walk will follow country lanes and walking tracks, passing a number of craters till we reach its peak, a great spot for afternoon tea with its high lookout tower which gives excellent panoramic views of the surrounding area. Hopefully after descending back to the cars we will have time to visit Buninyong, settled in the 1840s and the first inland settlement in Victoria. Buninyong has a number of substantial buildings and fine gardens to attest to its past

Return time is typically between 6 pm and 6:30 pm.



TOFS WALK

DAREBIN CREEK – BUNDOORA PARK

DATE	Thursday 7 September 2017
RETURN TIME	3:30 pm
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	11 km
ELEVATION	200 m approx.
LEADER	Jerry Grandage
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Reservoir/Bundoora
MAP REFERENCE	Melway 19

This walk will cover Darebin Creek upstream from where we walked in July, as well as Bundoora Park, with its impressive

old growth Red Gums. There will be a minor hill of about 200 m to the top of Mt. Cooper. While not of Himalayan proportions, this is allegedly the highest point in the metropolitan area, and it offers 360 degree views.

Please phone me to book in. We will meet at 10:30 am in the car park in the CT Barling Park, on the east side of Plenty Road, Melway 19 C7.



PACK CARRY

WABONGA PLATEAU

DATE	8–10 September 2017
RETURN	10 September
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
ELEVATION	600 metres
LEADER	Ian Langford
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Whitfield
MAP REFERENCE	Wabonga Plateau Section Map VMTC

A walk on the bush tracks and four wheel drive tracks of the Wabonga Plateau. Access via the Hume Highway. Turn off at Glenrowan and head south on the C521 road to Whitfield. From Whitfield go to Cheshunt and follow the Rose River Rd (the Whitfield–Myrtleford Rd), then the Upper Rose River Rd, then turn down Lake Cobblers Rd; a total distance of 29 km to Bennie's Campsite (2WD access). Toilets and fireplaces (bring firewood). Meet at Bennie's campsite at 8:30 am on Saturday. Return Sunday night.



CONSERVATION

REGENT HONEYEATER TREE PLANTING WEEKEND

DATE	Saturday 9 to Sunday 10 September 2017
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER	John Terrell (MBW co-ordinator)
TRANSPORT	Private
TRANSPORT COST	\$40
AREA	Benalla



Join other bushwalkers and nature lovers for a pleasant and rewarding weekend restoring habitat for endangered native fauna and flora. The Regent Honeyeater Project is an outstanding example of collaboration between landowners, conservation groups and the local community.

This is the third of five tree planting weekends in 2017. See the article in July newsletter or visit www.regenthoneyeater.org.au/planting.php for more details including accommodation options. Bring gardening gloves and other protective clothing, also lunch for Saturday.

Meet at the Benalla Ceramic Mural by the lake at 9:00 am Saturday before heading out towards the Lurg Hills.

Melbourne Bushwalkers offers a transport subsidy of \$25 per member per conservation activity. Contact the MBW coordinator for this activity John Terrell for these and other details.



SUNDAY BUS

TARADALE – FRYERSTOWN (CASTLEMAINE)

DATE	Sunday 10 September 2017
RETURN TIME	Southbank Boulevard at 6:30 pm
STANDARDS	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES	13 and 16 km
ELEVATIONS	Undulating
LEADERS	Andrew Francis and Jamie Brawn
TRANSPORT AREA	Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park
MAP REFERENCE	Vicmap Topographical Fryerstown 1:30,000

This is Box-Ironbark and gold mining country. Gold was found in the area late in 1851. After the gold ran out, the area between Taradale and Fryerstown became the Fryers Ranges State Forest. It is now part of the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park.

Both walks start on the outskirts of Taradale on the Calder Highway about 15 km south east of Castlemaine. They follow slightly different routes along undulating walking and 4WD tracks through dry open forest with little undergrowth. Both walks have some good views of the countryside and forests, particularly the harder walk with the views from the various hilltops.

Nearer Fryerstown, the Easy/Medium group goes off track for a short section. The final stage of the walk is both groups heading towards Fryerstown through open forest along little-known unused walking tracks to roads on the outskirts of the old gold mining town of Fryerstown. Both walks end at the Burke and Wills Mechanics Institute Hall in Fryerstown.

It is hard to believe Fryerstown once had 15 000 people during the peak of the 19th century gold rush!



WEDNESDAY WALK

GEORGE BASS COASTAL WALK

DATE	Wednesday 13 September 2017
RETURN TIME	Approximately 5 pm
STANDARD	Easy/medium
DISTANCE	12 to 14 km
LEADERS	Mike and Barb Quinn
TRANSPORT AREA	Private Bass Coast
MAP REFERENCE	Melway X912 Q11

Meet at 10:15 for a 10:30 start, in the bus station car park, with toilet, at Anderson.

The George Bass Coastal Walk offers panoramic coastal views from a narrow winding path along cliff tops above the surf of Bass Strait. The walk commences at the southern end of the Punchbowl Road, off the Phillip Island Tourist Road. We will use the Anderson to Wonthaggi Rail Trail to provide a return loop from Kilcunda to Anderson. This walk will involve a car shuffle so please let us know if you are coming and how many walkers will be coming with you.



PACK CARRY

GOLDFIELDS RIDGES, GULLIES AND RUINS

DATE	Saturday 15 – Sunday 16 September 2017
RETURN TIME	5:00 pm to City
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	20.5 km
ELEVATION	350 m
LEADER	Ian Mair
TRANSPORT AREA	Private Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park
MAP REFERENCE	Vicmap Topo 1:30,000 Ae: 7723-4-2-3, 7723-4-2-2

This delightful Easy pack carry is in a relatively isolated section of the Upper Loddon State Forest that provides an opportunity to enjoy the open box-ironbark forests of the goldfields region as we follow a route that combines a section of the Great Dividing Trail with off-track walking along undulating ridge lines and grassy flats beside the course of Tarlita Creek, all with minimal 4WD road walking. It includes a creek gorge and relics of the gold mining days as it passes through dry open forest with some rocky sections and numerous dry creek crossings.

If we are lucky we will likely spot swamp wallabies, eastern grey kangaroos, echidna and the colourful eastern rosella. We may also see a fox or two.

We will spend Saturday night camped along the grassy flats of Tarlita Creek.

Walkers should be prepared for walking on sections of rough rocky terrain and through dense waist high undercover. Good footwear and protection for arms and legs are recommended. We will also cross the creek bed numerous times but, provided we do not experience heavy rain, this will be easy going.

This is an enjoyable and varied walk suited to those just getting into pack carry activities and keen to extend their skills. 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.



CYCLING

FOOTSCRAY-BRIMBANK LOOP

DATE	Saturday 16 September 2017
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	55 km
TOTAL ASCENT	300 m
LEADER	Philip Brown
TRANSPORT AREA	Train/Private Melbourne western suburbs
START TIME	9:30 am
FINISH TIME	3:30 pm

We start at the Footscray Station 9:30 am. It is a circuit ride out to Brimbank park for lunch. We will be using the Federation, Kororoit Creek, Ring Road Trails to get there. To get back we will use the Maribynong River Trail.

To book in or for details contact Philip.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

LA FRANCHI'S HUT

DATE Sunday 17 September 2017
RETURN TIME 5:30–6:30 pm
STANDARD Easy, veering towards Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 14 km
ELEVATION 370 m
LEADER Jan Colquhoun
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Daylesford
MAP REFERENCE Eganstown 1:25,000
TRANSPORT COSTS \$17 per person

Lafranchi, a gold prospector of Swiss Italian heritage built this hut around 1880 and with a little structural restoration in the 1960's the hut remains in very good condition. Legend suggests that the tiny hut was once home to a family of 13. Lafranchi made the hut more homely by planting European bulbs in the surrounding bush; these jonquils, daffodils, iris and bluebells have flowered every spring since. I have timed this walk hopefully to coincide with the flowering of the jonquils and daffodils. The area in which we will be walking is part of the Goldfields Heritage Trail some 10 km outside of Daylesford with sections of the walk in the Wombat State Forest and others navigating through pine plantations. We will have time to explore the Charlesford diggings area. Most of the walk is on gently undulating tracks. After lunch at Lafranchi's Hut we will pass through an area of felled pine plantation where there is an alternate route, off track, along a gully, once a creek bed, before returning to the Wombat State Forest. There should be time for a coffee in Daylesford before returning to Melbourne.



MOFS WALK

TO BE ADVISED

DATE Monday 18 September 2017
STANDARD Easy
LEADER Leader required
TRANSPORT Private

Details will be available when a leader volunteers.



WEDNESDAY WALK

MERRICKS BEACH AND COOLART (CIRCULAR WALK)

DATE Wednesday 20 September 2017
RETURN TIME 2:30 pm – 3 pm
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 15 km
ELEVATION 100 m total ascent
LEADER Mary Daley
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Mornington Peninsula/Westernport
MAP REFERENCE Melway 192 J11 for start

Coolart comprises wetlands and bird sanctuaries and a late Victorian mansion built by the Grimwade family, as well as some examples of earlier buildings (eg. an 1860 buttery). The property is managed by Parks Victoria.

10:30 am. Depart from Mary and Ed's beach-house at Palmers Hill Road, Merricks Beach. Walk along the beach to Coolart (4 km of beach walking. On the day of the preview the sand was soft.) Enter Coolart: visit the homestead, the

gardens, the walking trails, the Visitors Centre, and several bird hides. Australian White Ibis nest at Coolart, but you will also see many other bird species – a wedge-tailed eagle has sometimes been sighted in the area.

Picnic lunch at Coolart.

Return to Merricks Beach via the beach, and with a short detour walk amongst neighbouring farms.

We will share afternoon tea at the house.



PACK CARRY

BRIGGS BLUFF/MT GAR (MT DIFFICULT) RANGES

DATE 22–24 September 2017
RETURN TIME Sunday 8 pm
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 13 km each day
LEADER Claire Luxford
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Northern Grampians
MAP REFERENCE Northern Grampians 1:50,000
TRANSPORT COSTS (per person) Approx. \$52 from CBD
No camping fees

Friday night camp at Plantation camping ground, Mt Zero Rd (Free camping).

Saturday, car shuffle to walk start at Roses Gap car park.

This walk has something for everyone, including dramatic scenery from Briggs Bluff and Mt Gar (Mt Difficult), high sandstone cliffs, overhanging cliffs, sandstone ranges, rocky turrets, ravines and escarpments, heathland wildflowers, waterfalls and butterflies.

Commence walking on a track through sparse forest to meet Mud Hut Creek and the lovely Beehive Falls.

With day packs we'll head to Briggs Bluff for lunch. In the afternoon we'll do a side trip to Mt Difficult (808 m), the highest point in the Northern Grampians for 3600 views over most of the Ranges. Our intended camp site is at Longpoint West camp ground. A challenging walk, steep in places involving zig zag climbing, slippery surfaces if wet, creek crossings and rock hopping/scrambling.

Sunday we continue to explore the Mt Gar (Mt Difficult) range as we return to Plantation camp ground. Spectacular views are plenty as we cross rocky terrain with large bare rock expanses, high cliffs and walk along rock ledges. Again expect to do zig zag climb as we return to Plantation camp ground.

Plan to be back at cars at 3 pm. Return to Melbourne 7–8 pm.



CONSERVATION

REGENT HONEYEATER TREE PLANTING WEEKEND

DATE Saturday 23 to Sunday 24 September 2017
STANDARD Easy
LEADER Deb Bishop (MBW co-ordinator)
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Benalla

Join other bushwalkers and nature lovers for a pleasant and rewarding weekend restoring habitat for endangered native fauna and flora. The Regent Honeyeater Project is an outstanding example of collaboration between landowners, conservation groups and the local community.

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including accommodation options. Bring gardening gloves and other protective clothing, also lunch for Saturday.

Meet at the Benalla Ceramic Mural by the lake at 9:00 am Saturday before heading out towards the Lurg Hills.

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SATURDAY WALK

WARRANDYTE STATE PARK

DATE	Saturday 23 September 2017
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	14 km
ELEVATION	Gentle
LEADER	Maureen Hurley
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Warrandyte State Park
MAP REFERENCE	Melway 23 H11.5

We will meet at 10 am in the car park of the Stonehouse Cafe, cnr Ringwood–Warrandyte Rd, Warrandyte.

We will initially walk along Tills Road, a “pretty as a picture” road that leads us to Black Flat track. Taking this track to Jumping Creek Reserve, along the Yarra River and then continuing on to Blue Tongue Bend. We then leave the River and head up to the grounds of Stane Brae, for lunch. This was once an old homestead, but now only has the sheds of the homestead. A lovely old oak tree is on the grounds. We will return via a bushy track for a while before re-tracing our steps to the track along the Yarra.

This is a pretty walk at this time of year, with the spring blossoms and wattle out. Coffee is at the Stonehouse Café. The walk should finish by 3 pm. No need to book, but let me know if you’re running late.



SUNDAY BUS

LERDERDERG RIVER – BLACKWOOD
(ALTERNATIVE DEPARTURE POINT)

DATE	Sunday 24 September 2017
STANDARDS	Easy/Medium and Medium
LEADERS	Judith Shaw and Roger Wyatt
TRANSPORT	Bus – leaving CLUBROOMS at 8:45 am

Details of this walk may be in the next News, or on the Club’s web site, or contact the leaders.



SOCIAL

IKIMASHO! WALKING THE KUMANO KODO

DATE	Wednesday 27 September 2017
VENUE	Clubrooms
START TIME	8:00 pm
FINISH TIME	9:00 pm
BOOK WITH	social@mbw.org.au
ACTIVITY AREA	Clubrooms
SPEAKERS	Deb Shand, Deb Brewis & Angela Vetsicas)

In April this year as the cherry trees were blossoming, three bushwalkers met in Japan to hike an ancient pilgrimage route, the Kumano Kodo. We made our way through towering

pinetrees and mountain villages, up and down hundreds of steps, past small shrines nestling in the forest to the Grand Shrines with their attendant monks. Along the way we experienced Japanese hospitality in traditional lodgings with delicious foods and steaming onsen baths.

Come to our slideshow to see what an enjoyable cultural journey hiking in Japan can be!



SOCIAL WALK

VALLEY RESERVE

DATE	Thursday 28 September 2017
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	5 km
ELEVATION	Small hills
LEADER	Megan Martin
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Mt Waverley
MAP REFERENCE	Melway 70

We will explore the very pleasant Valley Reserve and walk beside Scotchmans Creek, ending up in a café for lunch in Stephensons Road. There will be a 700 m walk back to the cars after lunch.

Meet in the carpark in the reserve (Melway 70 G2) at 10:15.

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.



Bus transport meets at Southbank Boulevard, south side of the Arts Centre, before 8:45 am. Leader or deputy will be there rain, hail or shine!

September 2017

1–3	BC : Volcanic Hills of Camperdown–camping/cabins	Pvt	E/M	Jan Colquhoun
Sun 3	DAY: Lake Wendouree/Mt Buninyong	Car	Easy	Del Franks
Thu 7	TOF: Darebin Creek – Bundoora Parks	Pvt	Easy	Jerry Grandage
8–10	PC : Wabonga Plateau	Pvt	E/M	Ian Langford
9–10	CON: Regent Honeyeater Project planting weekend (Benalla area)	Pvt	Easy	John Terrell (Co-ord)
Sun 10	DAY: Taradale – Fryerstown (Castlemaine)	Bus	E&E/M	Andrew Francis and Jamie Brawn
Wed 13	DAY: George Bass Walk	Pvt	E/M	Michael Quinn
16–17	PC : Goldfields Ridges, Gullies and Ruins	Pvt	Easy	Ian Mair
Sat 16	CYC: Footscray – Brimbank loop (train/pvt)	Pvt	E/M	Philip Brown
Sun 17	DAY: La Franchi Hut (Daylesford area)	Car	Easy	Jan Colquhoun
Mon 18	MOF: TBA	Pvt	Easy	TBA
Wed 20	DAY: Merricks Beach and Coolart	Pvt	E/M	Mary Daley
22–24	PC : Briggs Bluff – Mt Difficult	Pvt	Med	Claire Luxford
23–24	CON: Regent Honeyeater Project planting weekend (Benalla area)	Pvt	Easy	Deb Bishop (Co-ord)
Sat 23	DAY: Warrandyte State Park	Pvt	E/M	Maureen Hurley
Sun 24	DAY: Lerderderg River – Blackwood (ALT DEPT)	Bus	E/M&M	Judith Shaw and Roger Wyatt
Wed 27	SOC: Ikimasho! Walking the Kumano Kodo	Deb Shand, Deb Brewis and Angela Vetsicas		
Thu 28	SOC: Valley Reserve, Mt. Waverley	Pvt	Easy	Megan Martin