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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

January 2017

BUS TRIP TO LANCEFIELD ON A RAINY DAY 10 OCTOBER 2016

Photos by Susannah Dax



11 DECEMBER 2016 – DUCK POND TRACK

Photos by Ian Mair



Multi-coloured butterflies wove in and out of the surrounding shrubs and grasses.



Taking in the views

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

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 2 January 2016

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Carmen Dienhoff, Chris Rhead, Milan Ivkov,
Norah Mullarkey, Sundra Pichot, Therese Ryan

MISSED OUT ON LEADER TRAINING NIGHTS?

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

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

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

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

9:30 am	Welcome
9:45 – 11:15	Unit 1 – 'So You Want to Become a Leader?' <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The concept of leadership• Different styles of leadership
11:15 – 11:45	Morning Tea
11:45 – 1:45	Unit 2 – 'Research, Planning and Previewing' <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why, Who, Where, When and How to organise a walk from the stages of research and planning.• Conducting a preview, what to do before, during and after a preview.• Resources to access when selecting a walk, especially our extensive data base.
1:45 – 2:30	LUNCH
2:30 – 4:30	Unit 3 – 'Paper Work' <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Walk description and grading, walker registration• Map and walk notes, transport plans, emergency details, incident reports

RSVP by email to me by Jan 25 2017 to reserve your place.

Angela V (Training Officer)

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – JANUARY 2017



Calendar Year 2016 was an active year for the club. The program of over 200 events was well attended, with participant days up from the previous year. Opportunities to travel interstate and overseas complemented trips closer to home. An appealing social program brought members together to share walking experiences and each other's company. With 2017 now here the signs are that it too will be busy, not least with the club's commitment to run the Federation Weekend in October.

At this time of the year it is usual to find club members and visitors (Temporary Members) turning their thoughts to enjoying their outdoor pursuits and walking more. Whether it is a consequence of New Year resolutions to get more active, or simply the enticement of the warmer weather over the holiday season, is hard to tell. What we do know is that the number of new visitors to the clubrooms increases notably at the start of the year. A quick look at Sunday Bus bookings for the past four years shows around a 30% increase in visitor participation during January over the full year average.

Significantly, visitors on the Sunday walks are the primary source of new members to the club. With most visitors who choose to join the club completing their qualification walks within a three month period, the jump in participation levels in January flows into a good start to the club's membership year commencing in April. In the words from the notoriously unpredictable financial markets, 'past performance is no indicator of future returns', we cannot be assured of a strong start to this year, but we are optimistic. Indeed, while member average bus attendances during 2016 have been above previous years, visitor numbers showed a marked increase, resulting in bus attendances being up overall by 10–15%.

Members, and hopefully visitors, will have noted a greater flexibility in our booking procedures for the Sunday walks. The introduction of email bookings some years ago was a big step forward. More recent initiatives, such as vouching for the fitness and suitability of visitors by current members, are a positive response to addressing the difficulties some individuals face in attending the clubrooms to book. The sharing of responsibility for the success of the club that comes with vouching contributes to the satisfaction that can be derived from being a part of the club.

There is an opposite side to the coin. We have to be sure that the simplification of booking procedures does not make us over-casual in booking, to be followed by cancellation closer to the walk. The acceptance of a booking for a Sunday walk (or any other club activity) assumes a commitment to participate in the walk. I have no doubt that all members acknowledge that is their intent. I also acknowledge that unexpected circumstances do arise that prevent some members and visitors from participating. In most circumstances when a cancellation is unavoidable a credit for any monies paid is recorded for use on a future trip. All participants can help ensure the system continues to work effectively by following simple guidelines:

- (a) Notify the club of the need to cancel as soon as you know it is unavoidable.
- (b) Cancellation prior to the close of bookings at 4 pm on the Thursday before the walk can be notified by email to busbookings@mbw.org.au stating the reason for the cancellation.
- (c) Cancellation after 4 pm on the Thursday before the walk must be by telephone to the leader whose telephone contact details are included on the Quarterly Activities Program which can be downloaded from the Members' Area of the club website.
- (d) 'If a person pays a Sunday Bus Fee and/or Temporary Member's fee and does not participate in the activity, a credit/reimbursement will only be made if they can satisfy the Sunday Walks Secretary or relevant leader that their non-participation was due to illness, a situation under the Club's Fire Season, Total Fire Ban and Extreme Heat Policies or other unavoidable circumstances, and that they made a reasonable effort to notify them before the walk.' (By-Law 5.8)
- (e) Cancellation due to forecast bad weather does not qualify for a credit, other than covered by the Club's Fire Season, Total Fire Ban and Extreme Heat Policies, or in other extreme weather circumstances when the walk is cancelled by the leader.

I look forward to walking with as many of you as I can in 2017. A glance at the program of activities over the next few months shows we have lots to choose from. Keep walking and keep healthy.

Ian Mair

FALLS TO HOTHAM ALPINE CROSSING – AN ICONIC WALKING TRAIL?

Parks Victoria, along with local and state tourism and development authorities, plan to 'upgrade' and rebadge the Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing (FHAC) as part of a 'branded portfolio of four long distance walks called Walk Victoria's Icons', the others being the Grampians Peaks Trail, Great Ocean Walk and Coastal Wilderness Walk. 'The 56 kilometre trail will provide a world-class walking experience over four nights, with high quality track infrastructure and associated services that improve access to the layered histories, diverse ecologies and changing seasons of the High Country' (FHAC Consultation Summary Nov 2016).

What does this all mean? Well, depending who you speak to it could be anything from a few extra camping platforms, some temporary huts and upgraded tracks to the 'thin end of the wedge' for a commercial takeover of the High Plains and Mt Feathertop.

It raises questions of what uses should be encouraged on the High Plains, how the various uses can be accommodated without compromising environmental values, whether tourism can replace cattle grazing as a major industry in the alpine region.

The proposed extended route goes from Falls Creek over Heathy Spur, to Langford Gap, along Langford West aqueduct to Cope Hut, Cope saddle, Tawonga Huts, down to the West Kiewa River, up Diamantina Spur to Feathertop, then along the Razorback to Hotham. Although this all follows existing walking routes, upgrades to tracks and trail heads are expected to cost some \$13.5 million.

The Draft Master Plan (DMP) estimates that by 2026 the number of walker nights will increase from a current 17,000 a year (a much disputed figure!) to over 60,000. 80 new jobs will be created in the region, plus 65 construction related jobs. Most of the growth in usage is seen to come from so-called 'comfort in nature experience seekers' who are happy to walk but desire more accommodation options than currently available.

The development of 'comfort in nature' accommodation is based on the argument that there have been shifts in consumer preferences from 'traditional independent multi-day bushwalking trips to a greater demand for soft adventure, comfort and security offered by commercial operators. With a growing number of visitors, particularly from China, India and Indonesia, there is a strong need to conserve national parks while enhancing the visitor experience within them to increase yield for local and regional economies' (FHAC DMP, p. 2).

Although we bushwalkers are often accused of wanting to lock up the mountains for our own use, generally we are happy to share these areas with other nature lovers providing they show suitable respect for the natural environment and for the rights of other users. The private huts and trips in the Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair NP and elsewhere show that commercial operations well implemented can occur with minimal impact on the experience of independent walkers and on environmental values.

My thinking is that as a club we do not necessarily oppose some development of infrastructure, including that used by commercial operators, providing:

- Conservation values of the park are not compromised;
- Existing rights of bushwalkers are not reduced; and
- Any new infrastructure e.g. lodges has minimal visual impact on existing landscapes

However aspects of this proposal could concern some MBW members including:

- Possible upgrade of the Rover Scout Chalet to encourage greater summer usage;
- New lodges (some of them lightweight, demountable, seasonal structures) at Tawonga Huts, the top of Diamantina Spur and Red Robin Battery;
- New camping grounds and platforms, at least some of which will require booking and fee-paying, at Cope Hut, Tawonga Huts, Diamantina River and Federation Hut;
- Dispersed camping to be banned within 100 metres of new facilities (PV say that the statement in the DMP that camping would be prohibited within 500 m of the track is incorrect)

Other concerns which have been expressed in forum discussions such as <http://forums.ski.com.au/> and <http://www.bushwalk.com/> include the projected cost (over \$22 million) and financial viability, possibly over-optimistic estimates of future usage, the safety and environmental sustainability of the route up Diamantina Spur, and the effect of larger numbers of tourists on the bushwalking experience.

At an information session last week PV staff stated that there is nothing in the proposal which would prevent or detract from existing bushwalking activities. However this will depend greatly on how the plan is implemented.

You can read the Summary and Draft Master Plans at <http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/explore/parks/alpine-national-park/plans-and-projects/falls-to-hotham-alpine-crossing-master-plan>.

Parks Victoria invites submissions and comments, the period for which has been extended to 27 January 2017. I have been asked to prepare a submission on behalf of MBW and I'm interested to know what club members think of this proposal.

John Terrell

2017 Social Calendar

Wednesday 22 February HIKING IN PERU – BY AGAJAN AKBARI



Peru is the molten core of South America, a distillation of the old traditions, weaving, art, sophisticated cultures, carnivals, festivals, ancient rites, wild landscapes and frozen peaks.

I did few multi-day hikes:

- Santa Cruz and Cordillera Huayhuash (pronounced why-wash);
- treks at the North, Colca Canyon, and
- Salkantay at the South.

I also visited landmark ruins, floating islands, famous historical sites and marvellous engineering places, towns and cities.

The trip and hiking in Peru was a fascinating experience which I would like to share with you.



COMMITTEE VACANCIES FOR 2017–2018

I am very pleased to note that the majority of the current Committee have volunteered to continue for another year. We do, however, have two vacancies and I would be pleased to hear from any member who would be interested in nominating either as a General Committee member or a Vice President.

Ian Mair, President
president@mbw.org.au

INTEREST FROM SPECIAL ACCOUNT

Each year Melbourne Bushwalkers donates the interest received on a dedicated investment fund to an organisation or organisations whose activities are consistent with the purposes of the Club. In December the Committee donated \$460 to the Australian Wildlife Conservancy to help support their efforts in preserving habitats for endangered wildlife. Last October Zac Lewis, AWC Development Executive (Melbourne), addressed the club and provided a very informative outline of their activities.

Ian Mair

NORTHERN VIETNAM ADVENTURE TOUR, 7-25 NOVEMBER 2016

Our Hanoi travel consultancy, ActiveTravel Asia, labelled our 19-days tour 'The Beauty of Northern Vietnam Adventure Tour'. It was graded as a daunting Strenuous. ('This is our highest grade of physical requirement.') After months of planning and anticipation, nay, years of gestation, Halina's meticulous attention to detail and variety had our group of six anxious for it to begin. No amount of reading of the trip notes, trawling of the internet and discussion with friends could fully prepare us for what would unfold. We knew it would be a rich blend of absorbing walking in the mountains of northern Vietnam, contrasted with the vibrant streets of old Hanoi, and capped off with a delicate introduction to the more popular tourist activities.

The Old City of Hanoi is a magnet for travellers. Bustling with restaurants, shops, market stalls, bars and budget-friendly accommodation it competes unendingly with the need to sleep. The only deterrents to shopping for a bewildering number of attractively-priced goods were the limits to what you can carry and the mind-numbing currency conversion of 16,500 Dong to One Australian Dollar. Big price tags made the head swim when in reality they were only modest. Thankfully Halina had ensured we would not succumb completely to shopper fatigue by pre-booking a number of activities spread across our several visits to and from Hanoi. The renowned Water Puppet Theatre, a guided introduction to the mouth-watering local cuisine, an absorbing cooking class where we learned some of the finer points, and guided visits to monuments and cultural centres. For those with a bent to see it all, and forego some of the temptations of shopping, there was ample time to wander through the colourful streets and back alleys in search of the details of every-day city life.

There is no doubt our explorations of Hanoi were an adventure, but it was not the main adventure that drew us to Vietnam. To the north of Hanoi the thriving tourist center of Sapa is the principle gateway to hiking in the mountains. With Mt Fansipan, the highest peak in Vietnam and Indochina, visible on a clear day, the shop-lined streets brazenly declare the region's attraction with a seemingly endless variety of hiking gear. Whether by forgetfulness, or indecision due to the uncertainties of the weather, the intending hiker can be sure to find a shop to rectify their need.

Climbing to the summit of Mt. Fansipan was our first goal, to be followed over the next 6 days by what could reasonably be expected to be a gentler trek between some of the nearby villages. Having already earned the respect of our guides, who had tested our resolve on a day trip to the rugged Cuc Phuong National Park, we assembled for the climb up Mt. Fansipan in thick mist and sultry weather. It couldn't be too hard! The internet is peppered with reports from others who had made the ascent. It was a mere ascent of 1200 metres over two days, starting at an elevation of 1900 metres and summiting at 3143 metres. By the time we reached the peak on day two of the climb we were open to the suggestion of joining the masses of other tourists for the descent by gondola rather than by foot. The means of descent took nothing away from the Mt. Fansipan walking experience, which is to be recommended, and presented stunning views of the surrounding valleys as we emerged from the cloud enshrouding the peak.

We learned quickly how steep the hills could be and rapidly adjusted



(continued over the page)

NORTHERN VIETNAM ADVENTURE TOUR *(continued from page 6)*



the walk grading for the rest of the trek to our new expectations. An additional porter or two reduced our load and we were set to go. A day's walking out from Sapa and we left the majority of the other tourist trekkers behind. We were headed into Vietnam in the raw, stripped of many of the tourist trappings. The home-stays were comfortable but basic, the walking paths wove through villages and farms and we scampered up and down hills and valleys. It was just the type of walking we welcomed. Meals shared with local families and strolls

through village streets offered vastly more insight to the country than days of city wandering.

No first trip to the north of Vietnam could be regarded as complete without a visit to the highly-touted

Halong Bay. The natural beauty of the many island mountains combines with the floating city of around 300 tourist 'junk' hotels that weave in and out of the numerous bays and harbours. A trip ashore to explore a cave, or a stop at a former floating village to board a kayak, fills relaxing days on the water and sharpens the appetite for the fine dining on board. It was an ideal way to complete our Northern Vietnam Adventure Tour.

Thank you Halina for the time spent in preparation of a very engaging itinerary and Angela, Deb B., Debra S. and Margie for your invigorating and entertaining company on a trip to remember.



Ian Mair

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

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

Bookings notified to busbookings@mbw.org.au after the cut off time will not be processed and a credit will be issued.

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



SUNDAY BUS

CORINELLA-CORONET BAY-REEF ISLAND

DATE Sunday 22 January 2017
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to City
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES 12 km and 15 km
ELEVATIONS Beach walk
LEADERS David Laing and Fotina Lennon
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Western Port Bay
MAP REFERENCE Melway Key Map 18
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Wonthaggi

Every now and then we find a gem right in our own back yard and this walk along a particularly pretty stretch of Westernport Bay is one of them. It is classified as a beach walk, but the diversity of coast we walk along will really surprise, as we go from open sand, to mangrove and across rocky tidal flats that are similar to costal stretches we find in NSW. This area is also renowned for its prolific birdlife.

This walk will include some of the historical aspects of Corinella situated on Western Port Bay and Victoria's oldest settlement that had built accommodation as opposed to the earlier settlement at Sorrento which was only under canvas.

We will walk between Corinella and Coronet Bay with a combination of cliff top foreshore walking track and the beach.

As the tide looks favorable we will include Reef Island which is about 3 km south of Coronet Bay and only accessible at low tide.

With views to both Phillip Island and French Island, the walking is easy with usually firm sand along the beach and no hills of significance. Snake protection is strongly advised as there are some long grass areas along the foreshore and on Reef Island.

Please note – be prepared to get muddy boots as we traverse the mangroves. Don't forget to bring a change of shoes for the bus.



TOFS WALK

VALLEY RESERVE TO GLEN IRIS WETLANDS

DATE Thursday 2 February 2017
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 11 km

ELEVATION Negligible
LEADER Keith White
TRANSPORT Train (or private car and train connection)
TRANSPORT COSTS Two suburban train trips
AREA East of city
MAP REFERENCE Melway 59, 60, 69 and 70
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

Meet at 10:30 am just inside the entrance to Valley Reserve (opposite Amber Grove) in Waimarie Drive, Mount Waverley – reference Melways 70F1.

Valley reserve is a bushland oasis in the heart of Mount Waverley. The walk will basically follow Gardiners Creek passing Melbourne Water Retard Basin (with a variety of birds) and through the Glen Iris Wetlands area.

Public transport option: Take train to Mount Waverley station and walk across to start of walk. The walk will finish at Glen Iris station (or East Malvern station if you require a shorter walk). NB: all stations are on the Glen Waverley line.

Private car option: Park your car near the start of the walk. Return by train to Mount Waverley station from either Glen Iris (or East Malvern) stations.

NB: There is an option to cancel the walk if the temperature is forecast to be above 30 degrees or so.



TRAINING

LEADERS – UNITS 1-3 CATCH-UP

DATE Saturday 4 February 2017
TIME 9:30 am – 4:30 pm
PLACE Clubrooms
STANDARD Easy
CO-ORDINATOR Angela Vetsicas

See article on page 2.



SUNDAY BUS

THE OAKS – INVERLOCH

DATE Sunday 5 February 2017
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to City
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES 12 and 15 km
ELEVATIONS None

LEADERS Mark Heath and Wendy Davis
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Inverloch
MAP REFERENCE Bunurong Marine & Coastal Park – Parks Victoria
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Wonthaggi

This walk covers a breathtaking stretch of coastline showcasing rugged cliffs, rocky headlands and rock pinnacles that jut dramatically out to sea. The views are spectacular, Cape Woolamai on the western horizon, the high peaks of Wilsons Promontory on the south eastern skyline above Cape Liptrap. To the north the high hills of Foster are visible.

The Easy/Medium walk will start with a nature walk in Inverloch before following the same route as the Easy walk. Both walks will pass through coastal features such as 'Flat Rocks', 'The Caves', 'Eagles' and 'Twin Reefs' until 'The Oaks' is reached. A huge crevice blocks our path at this point, so onto the bus.

The walk is on the beach and rock shelves.



BASE CAMP

BOGONG HIGH PLAINS – ROVER CHALET

DATE 8–12 February 2017
RETURN TIME Sunday afternoon
STANDARD Varied
DISTANCE Varied
ELEVATION Varied
LEADER Doug Pocock
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Near Falls Creek
MAP REFERENCE Outdoor Leisure Series Bogong High Plains
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North East
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Falls Creek

As the club no longer has Wilkinson Lodge we are lucky to be able to use the Rover Chalet. This is a comfortable lodge with all facilities, cooking, unisex toilets and showers, laundry and drying room. Sleeping is in dormitories with mattresses provided. We will have group catering for most evening meals.

The Chalet is ideally positioned for many walks. At this stage I envisage multiple choices, asking for volunteer leaders. Some options would be Mt. Cope, High Plains waterfall, Mt Jaitmathang, Fitzgerald's hut, Rocky Knobs. Some people may prefer to just wander in the vicinity of the Chalet – there is lots to see and explore. It is possible to swim in Rocky Valley but it is best to keep to the top 10 cm as the water is very bracing.

Accommodation cost is \$20 per person per night and group food will be calculated after shopping.

There will be a limit on the numbers so if you are interested contact me on email.



WEDNESDAY WALK

MT MACEDON CIRCUIT

DATE Wednesday 8 February 2017
RETURN TIME 6 pm to City
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 16 km
ELEVATION 350 m climb to The Cross, 750 m total height gain
LEADER Mick Noonan
TRANSPORT Private car, \$14 per person

AREA Mt Macedon Regional Park
MAP REFERENCE Woodend and Macedon 1:25,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

This walk takes us to the Mount Macedon Regional Park located about 70 km north west of Melbourne. We will start from Mount Macedon village and climb approximately 350 m up to the Memorial Cross Reserve with its spectacular views, then on to the Western Lookout, the Camel's Hump rock formation, the Sanatorium Lake Forest Eco-Tourism Trail, and then descend on the Zig Zag Track and Sangsters Road back to the cars.

There are pleasant picnic areas for lunch with shelter, picnic tables, some seating and toilets. Kangaroos and other wildlife can be seen in the park.

Photographs from the Sunday Bus walk on 4 June 2006 are available on the website. After the walk there should be time for a coffee at the Mt Macedon Trading Post/Cafe and possibly even breakfast if you get there early enough!

From the Calder Highway take the Mount Macedon Road exit (C322) north of Gisborne and follow the signs to the Macedon Regional Park. Meet at the Mount Macedon Trading Post/Cafe, 686 Mount Macedon Road, (corner Douglas and Mt Macedon Roads) at 10:15 am for a 10:30 am start. Please let me know if you will be attending.



BASE CAMP

DEAL ISLAND

DATE 9–13 February 2017
STANDARD Various
LEADER Meredith Quick
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Bass Strait

This trip is fully booked.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

YEA SPUR

DATE Sunday 12 February 2017
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to Southbank Boulevard
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 15 km
ELEVATION About 300 metres of ascent
LEADER Christopher Collett
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
TRANSPORT COST \$14 per person
AREA Flowerdale
MAP REFERENCE Flowerdale 7923-2-4 (1:25,000)
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Seymour

This walk is based in the countryside around the Yea Spur, a ridgeline of approximately 5 km in length, which is located between Flowerdale and Yea. The ridge offers panoramic views of the surrounding farming communities as well as the Goulburn River valley.

The first half of this walk is in attractive open forest giving, in parts, a sense of isolation. This section of the walk is mainly off-track, and initially proceeds along the dry creek bed of the Carver Creek. We will then follow an undulating route through the forest, and the edge of adjacent farmland, to eventually ascend to reach the Yea Spur.

After lunch in a shady area, we will proceed to the high point of the spur and take in the outstanding views from this

vantage point. To complete the walk we will traverse the length of the ridgeline, and appreciate the visual perspective of the surrounding area.

A walking pole would come in handy for some early sections of the walk.



WEDNESDAY WALK

BLACK SNAKE CREEK (BUNYIP STATE FOREST)

DATE	Wednesday 15 February 2017
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	14 km
TOTAL ASCENT	400 m
LEADER	Ian Mair
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Bunyip State Forest
MAP REFERENCE	Vicmap Topo Gembrook South 1:25,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Melbourne

Accessing the Bunyip State Forest via Gembrook brings you to the Black Snake Road and the source of the creek. The name 'Black Snake Creek' evokes feelings of awe. In reality it is an inspiring circuit through an attractive section of the Bunyip State Forest. Starting from the junction of Black Snake Road and Rankins Track the walk first passes through the drier forest to the south of Black Snake Creek. A few moderate hills and traversing on management tracks brings us to Dyers Creek Picnic Ground. Heading into the hills to the north of Dyers Creek the forest gets lush as we follow the little-used Russell Track back to the cars.

We will meet at the parking area at the junction of Black Snake Road and Rankins Track (Ref: 804994) at 10:15 am for a 10:30 am start. Allow around 1.5 hours travel time from the City centre. We should be back at the start location by 3:30 pm with time for a coffee in Gembrook before the drive home.

Please see me in the clubroom or telephone for more information, or to let me know if you will be joining this interesting walk.



PACK CARRY

MT BUFFALO – THE BIG WALK

DATE	17–19 February 2017
RETURN TIME	7–9 pm Sunday
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	Up to 33 km

ELEVATION	Around 1200 m
LEADER	Ian Mair
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Mount Buffalo National Park
MAP REFERENCE	Park Note: Mount Buffalo National Park
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	North East
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Mount Hotham

You have got 2017 off to a good start. You are resolved to be fitter and more active than last year. The Mount Buffalo Big Walk is just the walk you are looking for to blend spectacular views with a challenging but manageable walk in one of Victoria's most picturesque areas. We will walk from Eurobin Creek Picnic Area at the base of Mount Buffalo to Lake Catani at the top and return, camping Saturday night at Lake Catani.

The Big Walk is a great way to ascend Mount Buffalo at your own pace. The Big Walk is 11.3 km (or 16 km with a side trip to Rollasons Falls which we will do on either the up or the down leg), quite steep and takes about 4–5 hours one way from Eurobin Creek Picnic Area to the Gorge Day Visitor Area. It is a relatively flat further 2 km to Lake Catani camping area. Hikers pass through several vegetation zones as the altitude increases, while enjoying spectacular views of the Australian Alps and The Gorge from numerous lookouts.

Numbers are limited due to restricted campsites at Lake Catani. Let me know quickly if you are interested. Hikers need to be reasonably fit and have strong footwear as The Big Walk ascends over 1000 metres in only 9 kilometres!



CYCLING

WERRIBEE TO CITY (TRAIN BASED)

DATE	Saturday 18 February 2017
RETURN TIME	3:30–4:00 pm at finish
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	60 km
ELEVATION	195 metres
LEADER	Philip Brown
TRANSPORT	Train
AREA	Western suburbs
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Melbourne

The meeting point is Werribee Station south side at 9:30 am. To get there catch the 8:27 am train from Flinders Street. We will head north on the Werribee River Trail and do a 11 km loop on the Lollipop Trail and return back near to the start, so any one who wants a shorter ride can join us there, up to the end of the trail then head north east over to the Skeleton Creek Trail, down to the Federation Trail through Footscray back to Flinders Street Station. If the weather is hot there is a option to cut through to the Bay Trail to get a sea breeze, so come along and explore the outer and the inner West.



SUNDAY BUS

SAN REMO – CAPE WOOLAMAI

DATE	Sunday 19 February 2017
STANDARDS	Easy and Easy/Medium
LEADERS	Christina Hughes and Rodney Walton
TRANSPORT	Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Wonthaggi

For details of this walk please contact the leaders.



MOFS WALK

SUGARLOAF RESERVOIR

DATE Monday 20 February 2017
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 12 km
LEADER Michael Porter
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Christmas Hills
MAP REFERENCE Melway 273
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Yarra Glen

Meet at 10:30am in the Ridge Picnic Area, near the entrance. (Melway 273 B2). We will need a car shuffle so as to be able to finish at Saddle Dam Picnic Area (Melway 273 E8).

We will walk clockwise around the Reservoir. Expect to see kangaroos and good views. There is one big hill. Most of the way is open to weather and after rain can be muddy underfoot in spots. Recommended afternoon tea at Watsons Creek Antique Cafe (Melway 272 C5).

SOCIAL

HIKING IN PERU (Wine and Cheese night)



DATE Wednesday 22 February
PLACE Clubrooms
START TIME 8:00 pm
SPEAKER Agajan Akbari

See Social column on page 5.



SOCIAL WALK

BACK CREEK RESERVE AND GLENBURN BEND PARK

DATE Thursday 23 February 2017
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 5 km
ELEVATION Flat
LEADER Jean Giese
TRANSPORT Private or bus
AREA Glen Iris
MAP REFERENCE Melway 59 and 60
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

Thank goodness that, in days of yore, the little creeks that ran through what is now Melbourne suburbia, were prone to flooding and so didn't interest the developers. We are the beneficiaries with pleasant green reserves to explore.

This month our plan is to walk beneath the trees in Back Creek Reserve to where the creek joins Gardiners Creek and then around Nettlefold and Glenburn Bend Parks. Lunch will follow at Glen Iris Pantry.

Meet at 10:15 in Ferndale Park beside Glen Iris Road (Melway 60 A7). Book with leader.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

WALHALLA TO BRITANNIA CREEK CIRCUIT

DATE Sunday 26 February 2017
RETURN TIME Return to Southbank Boulevard at 6:30 pm
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 17 km
ELEVATION 2 x 200 m steep climbs, 960 m elevation gain
LEADER Michael Noonan
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
TRANSPORT COSTS \$28 per person
AREA Walhalla Historic Area
MAP REFERENCE Walhalla 8122-2-2, 1:25,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT West Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Latrobe Valley

Come and see the beautiful forests and vistas of West Gippsland! Walhalla is a very beautiful and historic town approximately 180 km east from Melbourne. While this is a new walk taken from the 2014 Federation Weekend it does include some old favourites including the magnificent walk along the Alpine Track perched high above the town.

We start in Walhalla with a climb up the Zig Zag Track to the famous Cricket Ground 130 m above the town. Then north to Britannia Spur Track and back south via Mormon Town (now just a name) to join the Australian Alpine Track above the Thompson River Bridge. We return to the historic mining town with spectacular views from the track perched high above.

The area has fantastic native forest, gullies, fern-lined creeks, historic mines, a historic railway and some open country for those panoramic views. There are also great views on the drive!

The walk is graded at the lower end of medium primarily based on the distance to be covered, the required walking pace (we are just over 2 hours drive from Melbourne), combined with a total elevation gain of approx. 1000 m in a number of climbs.

While there won't be time for cricket we may have time for a coffee/cold drink before leaving for the return trip. Look forward to seeing you there!

BASE CAMP

WILSON'S PROM IN A DAY
 (Joint walk with VMTC)

Leader Judith Shaw

This Base Camp originally scheduled from Feb 24–26 has been moved to to March 31–April 2. The walk will be nicer in cooler weather and it will provide an opportunity to make it a joint activity with VMTC which has been the practice from time-to-time over a number of years.

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!

February 2017					
Thu 2	TOF : Valley Reserve, Glen Iris	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Keith White
Sat 4	TRG : Leaders – Units 1–3 Catch-up				Angela Vetsicas (coordinator)
Sun 5	DAY : The Oaks – Inverloch	Bus	E&E/M	CN:wn	Mark Heath and Wendy Davis
8–12	BC : Bogong High Plains, Rover Chalet	Pvt	var	NE:fc	Doug Pocock
Wed 8	DAY : Mount Macedon	Pvt	E/M	CN:me	Mick Noonan
9–13	BC : Deal Island	Pvt	var		Meredith Quick
Sun 12	DAY : Yea Spur	Car	Med	NC:se	Chris Collett
Wed 15	DAY : Black Snake Creek, Bunyip SF	Pvt	E/M	CN:me	Ian Mair
17–19	PC : Mt Buffalo – The Big Walk	Pvt	Med	NE:mh	Ian Mair
Sat 18	CYC : Werribee to city (train based)	Pvt	E/M	CN:me	Philip Brown
Sun 19	DAY : San Remo – Cape Woolami	Bus	E&E/M	CN:wn	Christina Hughes and Rodney Walton
Mon 20	MOF : Sugarloaf Reservoir	Pvt	Easy	CN:yg	Michael Porter
Wed 22	SOC : Hiking in Peru				Agajan Akbari
Thu 23	SOC : Back Creek, Hill and Dale Park	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Jean Giese
Sun 26	DAY : Walhalla to Britannia Creek Circuit	Car	Med	WG:lv	Mick Noonan
Sun 29	DAY : Mason Falls & Mt Sugarloaf Circuit (Kinglake)	Car	E/M	CN:me	Ian Mair

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