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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

July 2017

FEDERATION WALKS WEEKEND OCTOBER 27-29 2017, WARBURTON HOSTED BY MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS



This is a special event and a fun weekend for all involved. Bookings open online on July 1st at

<http://www.fedwalks.org.au/>

You can choose and book your walks, various levels of difficulty, book your accommodation at Arrabri (or make your own other arrangements), book in for the special fun Saturday night dinner, with your fellow walkers from many clubs, and interesting guest speakers Mike McCarthy – local historian and author, and Monica Mains – Senior Forest Management and Roding Officer for the Warburton area.



We greatly appreciate sponsorship received from Warburton and Yarra Junction Community Bank® branches and Warburton Valley CEDA (Community Economic Development Association).



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST DEAL ISLAND 2 9 to 13 February 2018

So many people wanted to go to Deal Island that the trip was full, so we've started a second group, to be led by Derrick Brown.

By the way, the picture we put on page 1 of last month's News was of Wineglass Bay, Tasmania mainland, not Deal Island. Here's one of the real Deal.



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

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 July 2017

VALE HAROLD GRAVE 1-6-1931 to 25-7-2015

Harold joined the Club in the 60's and was active on day walks. He was a keen cyclist and participated in many Club rides.

Harold retired from the PMG in December 1996 and moved to Bermagui NSW where he purchased a nice unit.

Allie and I visited Harold several times and he considered he was in paradise living in this beautiful and peaceful town which has the ocean on one side and mountains on the other, a perfect place for a bushie to retire. As you would expect, he found a local bushwalking club.

Bone cancer was the cause of Harold's death.

Art Terry



From left: Art Terry, Jim Hedstrom, Harold Grave, Alwyn Bloom

FREE TO A GOOD HOME

Hi-Tec women's walking boots. Dakota waterproof, size 40, UK 7. Good condition apart from some wear on the heels. Contact John Terrell.



NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Marina Thomas, Bradley Harris, Julie Minehan,
Matt M Jones, Alexandra Lazar, Trevor Schwenke,
Bobby Wu, Wendy Wu, Elizabeth Foster,
David Cash, Megan Jones, Gael Reid,
Pina Gilbertson

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – JULY 2017



We are just into the winter months and already trip leaders are planning for, and focussing on, the warmer months ahead. It is already looking like an interesting and diversified program over the spring and summer months. So far ahead the notifications for coming trips are generally seeking Expressions of Interest. In the past month or so there have been trips mooted for Deal Island (Tasmania), the Tarkine (Tasmania), Great Barrier Island (New Zealand), The Blue Mountains (NSW), Wilsons Promontory and Camperdown. Not surprisingly, with such interesting destinations, the Expressions of Interest have generally exceeded the available positions. Some of you still contemplating the trips on offer, and disappointed that they are already oversubscribed, may be wondering what is an Expression of Interest and what commitment does it imply?

Leaders and potential Leaders of trips generally issue a call for Expressions of Interest to gauge whether a trip they are thinking of would have enough support to make it worthwhile spending the time needed to flesh out their ideas. Often the trips require long lead times (longer than our Quarterly Activities Program allows) to reserve critical accommodation or to make track and transport bookings. Frequently there are significant charges and deposits to be collected to secure the bookings. On the other hand, the timing is often so far in advance that the leaders may not have all the details required for you to make a final decision on your availability and interest in the trip, or the information provided is insufficient for you and the leader to determine if the trip matches your capabilities. In short, an Expression of Interest is not a final commitment by you to go on the trip, nor is it an obligation on the leader to take you along. It is, however, a notification of desire to participate should you be in a position to do so and the leader accepts your involvement.

Numerous considerations may impact on your final decision that cannot be answered at the time of a call for Expressions of Interest. Can you be available on the dates proposed? Do you have suitable transport options? Do you have the gear and fitness for the proposed trip? Taking too long to contemplate these factors may mean that your place in the queue results in your missing out. Leaders understand these practical constraints. It is for these, and numerous other factors, that leaders will accept Expressions of Interest beyond the available places before listing the trip as “wait list only”. Even that does not necessarily mean that you will be unable to participate and should not stop you putting your name forward. If there is sufficient interest a second trip may be programmed if another leader is available.

It is not an invitation, however, to put your name forward on a whim. An Expression of Interest should be a serious notification of desire to participate. If, however, there are factors that may impact on your availability the best approach is to let the leader know of these at the time. Members who repeatedly express interest and then cancel are quickly identified as unreliable and may find that they are being accepted for fewer trips. Similarly, if you find that after lodging an Expression of Interest that you are not able to go, then you should let the leader know as soon as possible so that someone else may have the chance to participate. All this makes the leader's job easier and more likely to consider organising other trips in the future.

Once a leader has sufficient numbers to confirm that a trip will be viable there will usually be a notification sent to all who have expressed interest advising who has been accepted onto the trip. At that stage a deposit or other measure of commitment, such as an airline booking, will be requested to confirm participation. Cancellation after this commitment has been made entails a shared financial risk. A refund will generally only be available if the service provider provides a refund or a replacement participant can be found.

All very reasonable you may be saying, but how do you know what trips are coming up so that you can consider whether you want to go? You have to put in some effort! When a leader has decided to seek Expressions of Interest for a coming trip the details are added to the Club's online program at the time they become available. This will generally be followed by an email to all members that the trip is under consideration, as well as an item in the newsletter. On your part you have to read your emails and the newsletter. It is also a good idea to scan through the forward program on the website even though there may not appear to be any items listed for several months in a row. Trips can be planned up to 6 months or more in advance.

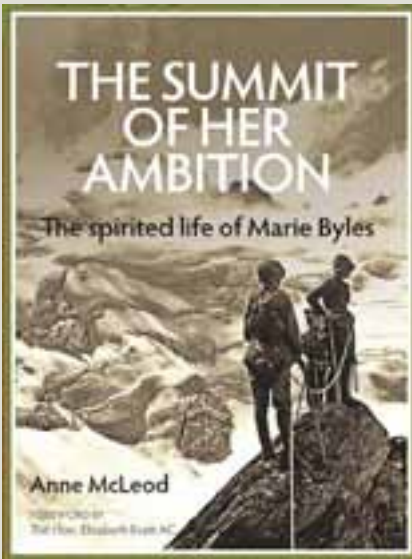
We can look forward to many more club trips to exotic and far-away places. By keeping your eyes open for announcements, and being pragmatic about which ones fit your capabilities and availability, you may find yourself lodging an Expression of Interest in a new adventure sooner than expected.

Ian Mair

2017 Social Calendar

Wine and Cheese Night
WEDNESDAY 23 AUGUST, 8–9 PM

THE SUMMIT OF HER AMBITION – THE SPIRITED LIFE OF MARIE BYLES
BOOK LAUNCH AND AUTHOR TALK BY ANNE MCLEOD



First woman lawyer of NSW, feminist activist with Jessie Street, environmentalist, mountaineer, early Western Buddhist. Marie Byles triumphed over the chauvinistic legal profession and a society that viewed women as second-class by establishing a successful legal practice.

A devoted bushwalker and conservationist, Marie was a zealous advocate for wilderness and helped reserve vast tracts of land for national parks. An avid explorer-mountaineer, Marie climbed Mt Cook and mapped previously unexplored areas of New Zealand's Southern Alps. Her failure to achieve the summit of a mountain in Yunnan Province in 1938 became the catalyst for a journey into realms not found on a map.

Marie Byles' life story has powerful narratives about human rights, conservation, ecology, feminism and spirituality.

Anne McLeod's presentation will be illustrated by Marie's own photographs of her adventurous life and travels around the world.

Visitors welcome. If you are attending as a visitor please send us an email to social@mbw.org.au to let us know so that we can be sure to have enough supper.

Visit the FAQ Page for information on how to book for an activity or how to make a payment: http://mbw.org.au/MBW_FAQs.php

GEAR TIPS – PACKS

When it comes to light weight packs we are our own worst enemy! We can't resist 'features' that add unnecessary weight! Our shops oblige so we end up with rows of overweight packs and little else to choose from!

One of the few exceptions is the Osprey Exos 59. Unfortunately its designers have tried to satisfy our desire for features and in doing so badly compromised on strength and durability.

Another is the Exped Lightning 60. It has fewer pockets but is stronger and more durable with a much higher comfortable load carrying capacity and slightly lower weight. It is about as good as you can get for long trips yet light and compact enough for weekends, while still being tough enough for off track use (if you can accept the inevitable tears to the elastic side pockets). The club has one for hire which you are welcome to try. If you have a short back the latest female model is worth considering.

For short trips a frameless 40–50 litre pack can save a considerable amount of weight without compromising comfort, strength or durability. The now discontinued early model Golite Jam was an excellent example and can be borrowed from the club. Doing so could better inform you on what to look for and whether you can accommodate the limitations on gear selection and packing that these packs demand. If you decide to go ahead you will need to check out the small ultralight gear manufacturers on line. It's a niche market neglected by the main brands and local stores.

For side trips and fetching water a lightweight day pack can be useful. Sea to Summit make a very light version which will do the job adequately but may not last very long. Osprey's version is a little heavier but stronger and more versatile. In my opinion it's the best light weight day pack currently available.

John Fritze

REGENT HONEYEATER PROJECT PLANTING WEEKENDS



The Regent Honeyeater Project is an outstanding example of collaboration between landowners and a wide range of community groups to restore habitat for threatened and endangered species in the Lurg Hills near Benalla.

Coordinator Ray Thomas describes the priorities of the Project as “to protect and restore remnants and enlarge them by add-on plantings. This work has protected relatively healthy remnants by fencing; restored depleted remnants by planting or direct seeding; and revegetated open areas that had been cleared for agriculture. Other restoration activities include mistletoe removal, environmental weeding, environmental thinning; feral animal control, kangaroo reduction, nest box placement, and systematic monitoring of a range of threatened and declining woodland birds and hollow-dependent mammals”. The Project’s list of achievements is impressive: 1600 ha revegetated on over 550 sites. 620,000 seedlings planted, the oldest plantings now being 19 years old and 10 m high, 280 km of fencing. Results include increased numbers of Regent Honeyeaters, Grey-crowned Babblers, Brush-tailed Phascogales and other threatened or endangered species.

In the 21 years of the project’s life, they have refined and perfected the methodology, resulting in a

very high rate of success. Last year I was very impressed with how efficiently the planting was organised. First the Project staff chose the location for each seedling and the best mix of species, the ‘diggers’ prepared and dug each planting hole, the ‘planters’ carefully extracted the seedling from its tube and planted it at the correct depth, another group fitted the tree guards to keep out rabbits, hares and kangaroos and finally the plants were watered. There was an activity to suit everyone!

As well as contributing to the revegetation of habitat, the weekend is also a great social occasion. Last year, along with our group of 5 Melbourne Bushies, we hung out with people of all ages from other bushwalking and conservation groups. In past years there has even been a bush dance on Saturday night!

Free accommodation is provided on the floors of the local scout and guide halls (BYO mattress and sleeping bag). Some pitched a tent outside while others preferred the caravan park or motel. You bring your own breakfasts and lunch on Saturday while the Project, with help from the local community, provides an excellent dinner on the Saturday and BBQ lunch on Sunday.

This year there are 5 planting weekends scheduled: 12–13 & 26–27 August, 9–10 & 23–24 September and 7–8 October. We hope to have parties of Melbourne Bushies going to each of these weekends and the MBW Committee this year is offering a \$25 transport rebate per member for each activity. Contact the MBW coordinator for your preferred weekend – details in the activities previews in the relevant MBW newsletter. See also <http://www.regenthoneyeater.org.au/planting.php>

John Terrell



NOTICE OF AMENDED BY LAW 5:

By-Law 5 of the MBW Club By-Laws deals with fees and costs for Club activities. By-Law 5.3 provides for visitors to pay a temporary members fee for Club activities.

At its May meeting the Committee amended By-Law 5.3 to remove an incorrect cross reference to By-Law 5.5. The amendment clarifies that visitors under the age of 18 (and therefore unable to join the club as a full member) are not required to pay the Temporary Member's fee after paying those fees for 3 activities.

NOTICE OF CONCESSIONAL FEES FOR TEMPORARY MEMBERS:

By-Law 5.2 of the Club's By-Laws empowers the Committee to set Temporary Member's fees. At its June meeting the Committee decided to extend concessional fees to Temporary Members.

The Committee decided that visitors who are full-time students, apprentices, pensioners, persons receiving Centrelink benefits and children under the age of 18 years pay a concessional fee of \$5 as a Temporary Member of the Club when participating in qualifying activities for Club membership. The full fee is \$10. The Club offers concessions on full Club membership and Sunday bus fees to these groups of people.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF BTAC TRACK MAINTENANCE EVENTS:

21–22 Oct – East Tyers (Baw Baw NP / AAWT)

18–19 Nov – Errinundra National Park

2–3 Dec – Upper Howqua Track Area

Most of these activities are organised by Bushwalking Victoria (Tracks & Conservation) in conjunction with Parks Victoria. They have been placed on the MBW program and further details will appear in future MBW newsletters. MBW members will be eligible for a \$25 transport subsidy. Contact John Terrell for further details.

Meanwhile the following events have been foreshadowed for early 2018:

February – date to be advised – Peatland Regeneration Mt Buffalo (this replaces the Willow Hunt originally planned for the Australia Day weekend)

17–18 February – Mt Stradbroke

11–13 March (Labour Day) – AAWT

5–6 May – Grampians (MBW/VMTC activity)

MORE LEADERS REQUIRED FOR MOFS AND TOFS WALKS

This is a plea to all members who are regular weekday walkers to consider being a Mofs or Tofs leader and prevent this very popular activity from being reduced in frequency.

A number of Mofs and Tofs leaders have recently decided that they are no longer able to lead walks, most of whom have led many trips and for that I am very grateful. As a result we are now critically short of people willing to lead walks. We still have a core group of leaders who do a tremendous job month after month but it is not fair that these people are constantly required to be called upon when I am sure there are other very capable leaders out there. As it is, there are two Mofs walks on the spring program that at this stage will not be going ahead due to a lack of leaders.

Mofs and Tofs walks have become a club institution and it would be extremely sad if members could no longer participate on easy walks during the week.

Please contact me if you are available during the week and would like to assist with the continuation of this aspect of our club's activities.

Graham Hodgson (Mofs and Tofs Coordinator)





WHAT IS THE STOP ADANI CAMPAIGN AND HOW DOES IT AFFECT BUSHWALKERS?

Bushwalkers love the natural environment and would like it to remain in its healthy state. Of course, climate change will threaten that by causing increasingly severe weather events, droughts, bushfires, floods, etc. The huge Adani coal mine proposed for the Galilee Basin in Queensland will not only put pressure on the survival of the Great Barrier Reef but will fuel world climate change, so that affects all of us. The campaign is an opportunity to steer politicians of all parties towards investment in renewable energies instead, and some see it as the largest Australian environmental movement since the Franklin River protest of the 1970s.

These are the specific reasons why many Australians are opposing the mine:

1. Adani do not have the consent of the Wangan and Jagalingou people, whose ancestral lands, waters and culture would be destroyed by the mine.
2. The Great Barrier Reef cannot survive the Adani coal project. Right now, the Reef is facing unprecedented large-scale bleaching two years in a row due to rising ocean temperatures.
3. Adani companies are under investigation for tax evasion, corruption, fraud, and money laundering. Adani Group companies have an appalling environmental track record with a documented history of destroying the environments and livelihoods of traditional communities in India, and failure to comply with regulations.
4. Public funds will be wasted on Adani coal: Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk have promised no public money for Adani but are currently planning to lend \$1 billion of public money to build a rail line for the project.
5. The mine has unacceptable climate impacts: Adani plans to mine 2.3 billion tonnes of coal over the mine's 60 years of operation. Burning this coal would result in the emission of 4.6 billion tonnes of CO₂. To limit the impacts of climate change we need to reduce our burning of fossil fuels to zero as quickly as possible. The world can not afford to burn the coal from this mine.
6. Adani will rob essential water resources: Adani's mine will extract billions of litres of groundwater each year, causing irreversible damage to groundwater systems and resulting in a permanent drop in the water table around the mine site. Currently 87% of Queensland is drought declared, the most widespread drought declaration ever recorded in the state.
7. In spite of our government saying this project will create jobs, in fact tens of thousands of Queensland jobs are at risk. 69,000 reef tourism jobs rely on a healthy Great Barrier Reef, and farming communities are already doing it tough. Adani has misled the public about the amount of royalties and jobs the mine would generate.
8. Coal is killing people: Pollution from burning coal is the single biggest contributor to dangerous global warming, threatening our way of life. In Australia, "black lung" disease has recently re-emerged among coal miners. The coal from the Carmichael mine will be burnt in India where 115,000 people die from coal pollution every year.
9. Australia is missing out on the global renewables boom: We must immediately begin the transition from polluting coal, oil and gas to 100% renewable energy to stop greenhouse gas emissions reaching even more dangerous levels. Solar is now cheaper and faster to build than coal.
10. Australians don't want this project. New polling shows half the country (52.2%) already oppose the mine outright, only one quarter support it and nearly another quarter (23%) don't even know about the project.

What can we do about this?

Consider joining the Australian Conservation Foundation at www.acf.org.au to support and be kept up to date with this and other projects to protect our natural environment.

Come to a film screening "Guarding the Galilee" followed by discussion on July 3 at Ashburton Library, 154 High Street, Ashburton, 7–9 pm. More details and RSVP here:

https://www.acf.org.au/arfisk/guarding_the_galilee_film_screening_and_discussion

(or watch out for this film screening in your local area)

Contact your local federal MP by phone or email to tell them you are concerned about the Adani mine proposal and that you would like to see more investment in renewable energy. Every voice counts.

More information at: www.stopadani.com

Deb Shand

HATTAH LAKES – QUEEN’S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND 2017



Why would 19 of us travel 503 kilometres to walk 48 kilometres in the sand and sleep in the cold? There is probably no explaining it but I’ll try.

We camped at the main Hattah camping ground which was great, it had toilets and tables and we had a very nice fire thanks to Ray who carted the wood up from Melbourne (as we were not allowed to collect it there).

Hattah–Kulkyne National Park is quite arid with rich orange sand and many lakes that were full of water. This was not always the case as Ian told us they were dry when he was last here in 2013. After a change in government policy and substantial expenditure on infrastructure “environmental” water is now allowed to flow down the Chalka Creek to replenish the lakes again.

After 17 kms going cross country and via the “roo”

fence we arrived at the Murray where we camped high above the river with another nice fire. We spent the next day walking 14 kms past massive River Red Gums generally quite high above the Murray River. Again we camped on the banks of the Murray this time with a fire on the sand bar next to the river where we discussed why all the birds and planes were flying to Adelaide or Perth and other equally important things.

Having campfires every night was fantastic and kept us from going to bed at 6:30. It also allowed us to experience beautiful full moons and the stars we can’t see in Melbourne. Thanks to those who brought the wine, especially Meredith who generously brought two bottles to share.

Whilst it was cold at night, during the day it was warm enough to entice three of us (not me) to swim, including Paul who swam to NSW. Mostly we were walking in shirts enjoying up to 18 degrees. Not bad for the middle of winter!

Thanks to Ian Mair for leading us so well and introducing us to a very different landscape. And yes it was definitely worth the drive and the cold.

Richard Hanson



- 1 The nearby Lake Hattah had plenty of water...
- 2 Open sandy areas showed a variety of prints...
- 3 The river views were stunning.
- 4 A fire was soon alight.

Photos by 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 CAR POOL

JOHNS HILL CIRCUIT (DANDENONGS)

DATE Sunday 23 July 2017
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to City
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 14 km
TOTAL ASCENT 335 m
LEADER Theo Mertzaniadis
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Dandenong Ranges National Park
MAP REFERENCE Vicmap 1:25,000 Cardinia Creek

The Dandedongs are mostly known by the tall forests of Mt Dandenong National Park. In the past some of the area had the forest removed for farmland and this allowed panoramic views of the surrounding area. One of the major lookouts is Johns Hill. On a clear day we will have panoramic views of Yarra Ranges, Kinglake, Mt St Leonard and other parts of the Dandenong Ranges.

At the lookout there is an information board which provides relevant information about the region, including an in-depth look at its rich history. The lookout sits at about 410 metres above sea level and it can be very windy! Make sure to dress warmly so that you can relax and enjoy the stunning views as far as the eye can see.

The walk is a combination of road reserve, quiet suburban streets, walking tracks and along a creek track. It is a slightly undulating walk with a few hills – not too steep.

Hope to see you on the walk.



CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

SHORT NOTICE TRIPS

Well, the snow season started off wonderfully well with several good falls in the weeks before and after Easter and leading up to the Queens Birthday weekend. However since then it's been balmy weather in the mountains and we're not sure when the next snow will come. Hopefully well before our annual Bogong High Plains trip at the Rover Chalet from 12–19 August!

As it is difficult at this stage to plan day trips to Lake Mountain or further afield, I am setting up an email list of potentially interested skiers to help organise trips at short notice, similar to the system Doug Pocock has run in the last few years. If a trip has sufficient numbers it can be registered

as a club activity. If you would like to be on this email list, please send your contact details to xcskishort@mbw.org.au.

John Terrell



TOFS WALK

MT EVELYN – LILLYDALE LAKE – MT EVELYN

DATE Thursday 3 August 2017
RETURN TIME 2:30 pm
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 10 km
ELEVATION Mostly flat
LEADER Rosemary Cotter
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Mount Evelyn–Lillydale Lake
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 38 and 118

This is a delightful walk in the environs of the Lillydale Lake (spelling as on map board in situ!). The walk starts on an old aqueduct trail, traces various wetlands leading up to and adjacent to the Lake where we will have lunch. After this we walk up to the lookout over the Lake and then join the Warburton Rail Trail back to our cars.

Note that there are two hilly sections: one a short descent to Swansea Rd and the other a gentle climb to the rail trail (paved). It is approximately three years since this walk was last on the program.

Meet in the car park adjacent to the tennis courts along Birmingham Road (shown on Melway), ready to begin walking at 10:30 am. Book with leader.



PACK CARRY

LERDERDERG GORGE WALK

DATE 5–6 August 2017
RETURN TIME 3 pm Sunday
STANDARD Medium/hard
ENVIRONMENT Rugged river gorge country
DISTANCE 18 km – Sat 8 km, Sun 10 km
LEADER Claire Luxford
TRANSPORT Private
MAP REFERENCE Lerderderg and Werribee Gorges, 3rd Ed, Meridian Maps 2005
START AND FINISH MacKenzies Flat picnic ground

Lerderderg Gorge is reached 60 km from Melbourne following the Western Highway. The gorge is forested, described as rugged river country and definitely not to be underestimated with its steep interlocking spurs, vertical cliffs and deep gullies. The park is populated with peppermint, box, ironbark, wattle and stringybark, it's described as a dry woodlands forest found throughout the Victorian gold fields. Wattles, hop goodenia, hazel pomaderris, cassinia, prickly box, rhagodia and tee tree will be seen along the riverbank. Evidence of gold mining such as water races and tunnels are still visible. The river is lined with tall manna gum and blue gum. If we are lucky we may see wombats, eastern grey kangaroos, koalas, and swamp wallabies. Bird life is abundant.

On Saturday morning we will meet at Mackenzies Flat picnic ground at 08:30 am.

We will follow the river bed doing many crossings for ease of walking as we encounter rocky bluffs abutting the river. Walking will be slow as we negotiate light scrub, rushes and rock hopping with no formed track for the last 4 km on, compensation will be the many rocky bluffs, wildlife and birds. It is a truly beautiful gorge.

Saturday camp will be approximately 400 m south of Lerderderg weir/Long Point Dam

Sunday will see us climbing steeply (340 m climb in 2.2 km) along a ridge on Long Point Track, panoramic views are to be enjoyed before reaching the Blackwood Range Track. The Blackwood Range forms the western rim of the gorge. We follow the Blackwood Range Track, a minor 4WD track south eventually making our way back to the cars. The range is populated with dry sclerophyll forest.

This section is not difficult although there is a 300 m descent. Sunday is all on track.

Expect to be back at cars by 3 pm.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

THREE CREEKS WALK (BRISBANE RANGES)

DATE Sunday 6 August 2017
STANDARD Easy
LEADER Del Franks
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am

For details of this walk please contact the leader.



WEDNESDAY WALK

BLACK SNAKE CREEK (BUNYIP STATE FOREST)

DATE Wednesday 9 August 2017
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 14 km
ELEVATION 400 m
LEADER Ian Mair
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Bunyip State Forest
MAP REFERENCE VicMap Topo Gembrook South 1:25,000

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). Allow around 1.5 hours travel time from the City centre.

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



LODGE

X-C SKIING: ROVER CHALET, BOGONG HIGH PLAINS

DATE Sat 12 to Sat 19 August 2017
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 12 km ski in with pack then various
LEADER Doug Pocock
TRANSPORT Private to Mt Beauty then bus
TRANSPORT COST See arrangements below. To be advised by Leader if carpool proposed
AREA Bogong High Plains

Once again we have our annual week X-C skiing on the beautiful Bogong High Plains. We stay in the Rover Chalet 12 km from falls Creek. Food is included in the cost. Most food will be stored in the chalet but we carry in fresh meat and vegetables. The chalet has 240V power, drying room, laundry, showers and toilets and fully equipped kitchen. We sleep in the loft, mattresses and pillows provided. Daily chores (cooking, cleaning, wood chopping, bread making etc.) are done on a voluntary roster and we generally go out for a full day's skiing every day, weather permitting.

You will need to carry a reasonably heavy overnight pack on skis for the 12 km from Falls Creek to the Chalet, so experience in pack carrying on skis is recommended.

Join us for a wonderful experience.

For further information or to express interest contact Doug Pocock or Marilyn Whimpey by email to xcski@mbw.org.au



PACK CARRY

BAW BAW NATIONAL PARK SNOW SHOEING

DATE 12-13 August 2017
RETURN TIME 10:00 pm Sunday
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 30 km (approximate)
LEADERS Ralph Blake and Kerry Press
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Baw Baw National Park
MAP REFERENCE Baw Baw Plateau 1:25,000

This walk will be a two day pack carry walking with snow shoes in Baw Baw National Park, commencing and finishing at the Mt St Gwinear car park. On Saturday morning we will pack carry on snowshoes beyond Mt St. Gwinear, later setting up camp in a more remote and sheltered spot amongst the beautiful snowgums.

Here we will also have lunch before exploring with day packs this sparkling and enchanted snowy landscape for the rest of the afternoon. The snowshoes offer much freedom to walk across frozen creeks and snowy plains, up and down hills and through wooded forests with ease and joy. Sunday will be spent exploring further afield, returning to our camp in late afternoon to pack up and make our way back to the car park by 5 pm.

Previous snowshoeing experience is not required. However participants do need to be fit, experienced with multi-day pack carries, and well-equipped and prepared for snow camping, and for the changeable (and sometimes extreme) weather

conditions. Group size limit of 10, so book early for this exhilarating bushwalk on snowshoes in the pristine sparkling snowscape of Baw Baw National Park.



CONSERVATION

REGENT HONEYEATER PROJECT PLANTING WEEKEND (BENALLA AREA)

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| DATE | Sat 12 to Sun 13 August 2017 |
| STANDARD | Easy |
| ORGANISER | John Terrell (Co-ordinator) |
| TRANSPORT | Private |
| START TIME | Depart from location in notes below at 9:00 am |
| AREA | Lurg Hills – 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 first of five tree planting weekends in 2017. See the article on page 5 of this newsletter 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.

Visit the FAQ Page for information on how to book for an activity or how to make a payment:

http://mbw.org.au/MBW_FAQs.php



SUNDAY BUS

WOMBAT STATE FOREST – JIM CROW RANGE

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| DATE | Sunday 13 August 2017 |
| STANDARDS | Easy/Medium and Medium |
| DISTANCES | 14 km and 16.5 km |
| ELEVATIONS | 350 m and 650 m |
| LEADERS | Ian Mair and Omar Sharief |
| TRANSPORT | Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am |
| AREA | Wombat State Forest |
| MAP REFERENCE | Eganstown and Daylesford 1:25,000 |

This walk is close Daylesford and takes in the Jim Crow Range, Tipperary Springs, parts of the Dry Diggings Track, and Lake Daylesford.

Wombat State Forest has over 40 rare or threatened animal and plant species. At this time of year it is at its best, freshened up with autumn and winter rains, new growth, flowing streams, wallabies and kangaroos.

What makes this walk different is the extensive off-track sections on both walks through lovely open forests, fascinating creek beds and gullies, with just a few challenging parts on the Medium walk. While there is a reasonable number of hills there are no extensive climbs.

Both walks start at Shepherds Flat north of Hepburn Springs, take in parts of the Tipperary Walking Track, old mining sites, abandoned dwellings and natural springs. The Easy/Medium walk will meet the bus at Tipperary Springs while the Medium group will continue on to the Boathouse



PACK CARRY

LERDERDERG GORGE: BEGINNERS

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| DATE | 19–20 August 2017 |
| RETURN TIME | Sunday late afternoon |
| STANDARD | Easy/Medium |
| DISTANCE | Day one 13 km, Day two 15 km |
| ELEVATION | 400–550 m |
| LEADER | Roger Wyett |
| TRANSPORT | Car pool |
| TRANSPORT COSTS | \$15 per person |
| AREA | Lerderderg |
| MAP REFERENCE | Meridian 1:35,000 Lerderderg Gorge |

This is an ideal walk for members getting into pack carries, as well as for those that want a shorter walk close to Melbourne without the need to do a Friday night camp

We will travel to Blackwood on Saturday morning, after a short car shuffle to the start of Whisky Track (off O'Brien's Road), the 1st 5 kms are flat along ridge lines until a 120 m descent into Whisky Creek, and then a corresponding climb out. Then it is along Vodka Track to Razorback, and onto the Nth Razorback Track and a moderate descent to the Lerderderg River. Hopefully a crossing without wet feet, (weather dependant). The final section heads upstream for 3 km to the base of the Kenworthy Track (where it meets East Walk), to a large cleared area for camping some 50 m from the river, and a fire for dining warmth.

Day Two is 6 km upstream along East Walk to O'Brien's Crossing, then 3 km along Byers Back Track with a short detour to view "The Tunnel", with the final leg to Blackwood continues along the level Byers Back Track with scenic views into the gorge



CYCLING

EAST MALVERN STATION AND RUFFEY LAKE LOOP (TRAIN BASED)

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| DATE | Saturday 19 August 2017 |
| RETURN TIME | 3:30 pm |
| STANDARD | Easy/Medium |
| DISTANCE | 56 km |
| TOTAL ASCENT | 500 m |
| LEADER | Ed Neff |
| TRANSPORT | Private |
| AREA | Eastern suburbs |
| MAP REFERENCE | Start/finish Melway map 69 F1 |

The meeting point is East Malvern Station, at 9:30 am. Meet in car park area entered via Sylvester Cr. (Melway 69F1). Our route is Anniversary Trail, Mont Albert (M/T), Box Hill North, Ruffey Lake, Yarra Trail, Heidelberg Park (L), Anniversary Trail return. Approx 56 km and 500 m total ascent. Mostly on sealed trails and quiet streets. Not too many hills and we can take them gently.

Bring your lunch, a repair kit with spare tube and a water bottle.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

ENFIELD STATE PARK

DATE Sunday 20 August 2017
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to Southbank Boulevard
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 14.6 km
ELEVATION 185 m
LEADER Richard Long
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
TRANSPORT COST Approx. \$20
AREA Golden Plains
MAP REFERENCE VicRoads 76E6, VICMAP 1:25,000 Dereel, Berringa, Smythesdale & Napoleons

Enfield Forest was the scene of a gold rush starting in 1853. Surface Point Picnic Area was the centre of activity, much of it alluvial working conducted by Chinese miners. Today the State Park has reverted to forest, and is notable for its wildflowers, particularly in Spring when we can expect to see orchids. 61 different species have been recorded here.

Our walk begins at Enfield settlement on Dredge Rd running off Colac–Ballarat Rd just south of its junction with Grubbed Rd. We walk along Dunn Gully via a slowly descending track through sclerophyll forest to Surface Point. In case of recent rain the track becomes slippery, particularly where side gullies are crossed, so bring suitable clothing. After lunch we head northwards along Frith Gully/Long Gully through undulating country with several short steep gully crossings. Slowly ascending to Bald Hill the track ends near the T-junction of Misery Creek Rd with Incolts Rd, both gravel. From there it is relatively flat as we return to our starting point via Incolts Rd.



MOFS WALK

HAWKESTOWE PARK – SOUTH MORANG

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

Meet at Red Gum Picnic Area for a 10:30 am start to walk. Melway 183 H7. Enter by Gordons Rd off Plenty Rd. Please note there are changed traffic conditions at this turn. 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.



SOCIAL

THE SPIRITED LIFE OF MARIE BYLES

DATE Wednesday 23 August 2017
VENUE Clubrooms
START TIME 8:00 pm
FINISH TIME 9:00 pm
BOOK WITH social@mbw.org.au

ACTIVITY AREA

Clubrooms
 Cnr Abeckett Street and William Street
 (Melway Reference 2F B2)

SPEAKER

Anne McLeod (author)

Book launch and author talk by Anne McLeod:
 “The Summit of Her Ambition – The spirited life of Marie Byles”
 See page 4 for more details.



SOCIAL WALK

BUNDOORA PARK

DATE Thursday 24 August 2017
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 5 km
ELEVATION Small hills
LEADER Alister Rowe
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Bundoora
MAP REFERENCE Melway map 19

This park has much to offer, from grasslands to wetlands, ancient River Red Gums and views from the highest mountain in Melbourne.

We will start by enjoying views of the city from Mt. Cooper, then take the walking track beside the golf course to the Darebin Creek. This we will follow downstream and make our way back through the grasslands to the wetlands. A short car shuffle is involved. Lunch will be at the park café.

Meet at 10:15 near the toilet block in the carpark on the corner of River Red Gum Ave and Playground Ave, Melway map 19F3.

Book with leader.



SATURDAY EXPLORER

MT MACEDON

DATE Saturday 26 August 2017
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE Approx. 14 km
ELEVATION Some sustained and steep hills
LEADERS Tracey Jamieson and Barbara Horwood
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Macedon Regional Park (Mt Macedon)
MAP REFERENCE Melway map X909

We will meet at The Trading Post (coffee shop) at Mt Macedon village at 9:50 am for a 10:00 am start. We will commence walking along a quiet road for a short time until we come to a single track which leads directly to the top of the mountain at Memorial Cross. Parts of this track are steep and may be slippery if wet. While not required, poles may be helpful depending upon track conditions. We will detour before the top at The Cross, leaving the single track to walk along fire trails surrounded by thick and lush forest.

We will be having lunch near the Cross with a choice of eating at the picnic ground or purchasing lunch/coffee in the café located at the picnic ground. Last year we were fortunate enough to be at the top of mountain having lunch as Mt Macedon had their first decent snowfall for the year.

After lunch, we will head down the mountain again through lovely forest and make our way to The Trading Post for coffee. Please ring the leader by Friday evening if you are coming on the walk or have any queries.



CONSERVATION

REGENT HONEYEATER PROJECT 2ND PLANTING WEEKEND

DATE Sat 26 to Sun 27 August
STANDARD Easy
LEADER Mark Heath (MBW coordinator)
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.

This is the second of five tree planting weekends in 2017. See the article on page 5 of this newsletter 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 Mark Heath for these and other details.



SUNDAY BUS

MORNINGTON TO THE BRIARS AND WINE TASTING

DATE Sunday 27 August 2017
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to City
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES 14 km and 17 km
ELEVATIONS Minimal
LEADERS Theo Mertzandis and Wendy Davis
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Mornington Peninsula

This walk following the cliff-tops from Mornington to Mt Martha along the esplanade to the Balcombe Estuary Boardwalk then onto The Briars has again been scheduled to coincide with the Frankston and the South Eastern Wine Show.

The cliff-top walking has exceptional scenic views over the bay. Once we reach Mt Martha we follow Balcombe Creek. Balcombe Creek, with its estuary, is the last unspoilt waterway entering the eastern side of Port Phillip Bay. The Balcombe Estuary Reserve covers 44 hectares of natural bushland along the creek's lower reaches. A boardwalk and walking tracks run through bushland along the south bank which at the Nepean Highway connects with walking tracks to The Briars Park.

Once reaching The Briars we will have the opportunity to explore the historic buildings or for \$10.00 we can enjoy a tasting of the varied wines being showcased for the amateur wine tasting competition. The home-made wines are made from fruit, vegetables, flowers or herbs and range under categories which include sparkling, fortified and liqueurs.

Finally, we will explore the walking trails at The Briars which include wetlands and woodlands. The Briars is a sanctuary of local wildlife and birdlife. The birdlife is showcased by visits to the bird-hides located in the park.

Before leaving we hope to convince the ranger to play a tape that gives insights into the historical significance of The Briars, including its roots that are entwined with Napoleon.

This is a walk that will be enjoyed for a variety of reasons. I hope that you will join us to enjoy the lovely area of our bay.

The wine show is an open amateur wine making competition showcasing home-made wines from fruit, vegetables, flowers, and herbs.



BASE CAMP

VOLCANIC HILLS OF CAMPERDOWN—CAMPING/CABINS

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 Derrinallum 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!

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
TARKINE, NORTH WEST TASMANIA
3-10 MARCH 2018**



Calling for expressions of interest for a trip to the Tarkine in North West Tasmania, March 2018 from 3/3/18 to 10/3/18.

Without trying to turn people away the walk will be tough, exciting and rewarding.

The walk is rated hard and is through untracked country, three days is along beach, 3-4 days in mountains with subalpine flora with rocky outcrops, button grass hills, if we're unlucky, scrub. There will be magnificent mountain views of the wild Tarkine coast and Norfolk Range.

Several rivers must be crossed. Extra time has been allowed in case we have to wait it out for water to recede before crossing.

We commence walking from Western Explorer Rd to Mt Edith, head to Mt Hadmar with side trip to Mt Sunday. From Mt Sunday head out to coast, spend a couple of days exploring coast while making our way to the mouth of the Pieman River where we will meet the Arcadia 11, a 1939 Huon Pine boat that will take us upstream to Corinna.

Should be back in Corinna by 2 pm, allowing time to catch transport back to Melbourne.

Costs

Individual responsible for getting self to/from Tasmania.

Group transport will be organised to/from beginning and end of walk

Arcadia 11 - \$40.00

See links below for more information.

http://www.bobbrown.org.au/melbourne_will_save_takayna_tarkine_2017

<http://bushwalk.com/forum/viewtopic.php?t=25521>

If after reading the above you're still interested please contact me.

**ADVANCE NOTICE
GREAT BARRIER ISLAND, NZ
9-17 MARCH 2018**

UPDATE: ONLY WAIT LIST POSITIONS NOW AVAILABLE.



Susan Maughan is organising a trip to GREAT BARRIER ISLAND, NZ a four-and-a-half-hour ferry trip from Auckland.

It is paradise re-imagined.

It is off the grid with a population of 800. There are walking tracks galore offering day walks with views to take your breath away. Plus hot pools, dolphins, and tranquility.

<http://www.thebarrier.co.nz/walkingtracks.htm>

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!

| August 2017 | | | | |
|---------------|--|------------|------------------|--|
| Thu 3 | TOF: Mt Evelyn – Lilydale Lake | Pvt | Easy | Rosemary Cotter |
| 5–6 | PC : Lerdererg Gorge: McKenzie Flat – Mt Blackwood | Pvt | Med | Claire Luxford |
| Sun 6 | DAY: Three Creeks Walk (Brisbane Ranges) | Car | Easy | Del Franks |
| Wed 9 | DAY: Black Snake Creek – Bunyip SF | Pvt | E/M | Ian Mair |
| 12–19 | LOD: X-C Skiing: Rover Chalet, Bogong High Plains | Pvt | E/M | Doug Pocock |
| 12–13 | PC : Baw Baw Nat Park snowshoeing | Pvt | E/M | Ralph Blake & Kerry Press |
| 12–13 | CON: Regent Honeyeater Project planting weekend (Benalla area) | Pvt | Easy | Co-ord: John Terrell |
| Sun 13 | DAY: Wombat State Forest – Jim Crow Range | Bus | E/M&M | Ian Mair & Omar Sharief |
| 19–20 | PC : Lerdererg Gorge: Beginners | Pvt | Easy | Roger Wyett |
| Sat 19 | CYC: East Malvern Station & Ruffey Lake loop (train based) | Pvt | E/M | Ed Neff |
| Sun 20 | DAY: Enfield State Park | Car | E/M | Richard Long |
| Mon 21 | MOF: Hawkestone Park – South Morang | Pvt | Easy | Michael Porter |
| Wed 23 | SOC: The Spirited Life of Marie Byles | | | Anne McLeod (author) |
| Thu 24 | SOC: Bundoora Park | Pvt | Easy | Jean Giese |
| Sat 26 | DAY: Saturday Explorer: Mt Macedon | Pvt | E/M | Tracey Jamison & Barbara Horwood |
| 26–27 | CON: Regent Honeyeater Project planting weekend (Benalla area) | Pvt | Easy | Co-ord: Mark Heath |
| Sun 27 | DAY: Mornington to the Briars and wine tasting | Bus | E&E/M | Theo Mertzandis & Wendy Davis |

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