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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

May 2017

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE!

See inside back page.

VALE BARRY SHORT 11.8.41 – 26.3.17



It is with sorrow that we report of the death of Barry Short. He died of a stroke after knee replacement surgery.

Barry joined the club as an 18-year-old in 1960 after reading about the club in *Walk* magazine. There were many young members in MBW in the early 60's. Like many people, Barry eagerly threw himself into walking, becoming a regular leader very soon. At Christmas that year Barry did a 19-day walk in the Victorian Alps: Crooked River to Mt. Cobbler led by Val Goldsmith. He also did long walks in Tasmania, including the Overland Track and South-West Tasmania. This latter trip included an aerial food drop, something that is not done nowadays. Another long trip that Barry did was caving on the Nullabor Plains led by Rex Filson.

Barry's profession was a cartographer and at one stage in the 60's he was offered the chance to participate in a field trip in Central Australia. He was a general assistant and one of his jobs was to ensure the fridge was well stocked with beer. He also delivered supplies to an out camp. On one trip his vehicle broke down. This was before the days of easy communication, but he knew someone would come looking for him next day when he had failed to return to camp. However the problem was that Barry was only dressed in shorts and shirt, not expecting to spend the night on the track. Knowing that the temperature would drop drastically, he searched the truck for something to wear. All he could find was a carton of toilet paper so he wound himself a paper cocoon and settled down to wait for rescue. No doubt next day his rescuers might have thought they had found an Egyptian mummy!

Barry met Gwenda in the club and they married, no doubt becoming the recipients of a club spoon. They eased up on the walking but kept their interest in the club. For many years they printed *News* on the club Gestetner at their house. This would be a social occasion with people turning up to help with production. When their son Roger was old enough they would go on club Family Walks, an informal offshoot of the club. More recently Barry and Gwenda walked with a group of old Bushies on regular social walks. Barry kept his membership of the club and always took an interest in what was happening.

We give our heartfelt condolences to Gwenda and to Roger and his family. Also to his brother Peter and his family.

A good mate who has reached the end of the track.

Doug Pocock

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

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 1 May 2017

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Adriana Fari-Palko, Elizabeth Haynes, Martin Haynes, John Lovell, Ian Geddes, John Oakley, Ha Dinh, Xiao Hong, Megan Martin, Megan Marks, Ruth Bartle, Leyal Aksu, Joanne Paull, Victoria Cole, Pei Rong Lim, Anita Wu, Diana Zorzo

LOST AND FOUND

Have you started packing for a walk and not been able to find your favourite bit of gear? Can't quite remember when you last saw it? Well it is always possible that you lost it on a club trip and it is fermenting along with other unloved items in the club's "Found Box". Next time you drop by the clubrooms ask about your missing friend and you may be lucky enough to find it has not died of asphyxiation whilst co-habiting with its newly-found unwashed companions.

Leader Training UNIT 5 – CONDUCTING THE WALK WEDNESDAY 10 MAY 7:30 pm in the Clubrooms

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

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

If interested please email vetsiang8@gmail.com



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – MAY 2017

As a regular reader of the club newsletter you will have already seen a number of notices and references to the Federation Walks Weekend to be held in Warburton this year, from the 27th to 29th October. You may also have taken in the fact that it is being hosted by Melbourne Bushwalkers on behalf of Bushwalking Victoria, and all of the other bushwalking clubs across the State that are affiliated with Bushwalking Victoria – around 70 in total. For many of you who are relatively new to the club, however, the significance and history of the event may not be clear.

The Federation Walks Weekend (Fedwalks) is the pre-eminent bushwalking event on the Bushwalking Victoria calendar. It has been held every year since 1935, except for the war years 1942-46, and 2009 when bushfires devastated Victoria's walk areas. Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc., formed in 1940, has been an active participant and organiser of the annual Fedwalks event since the club's formation, starting with the co-hosting with the Melbourne Women's Walking Club in 1951. This was a very fitting partnership for Melbourne Bushwalkers since we were the first mixed-gender bushwalking club in Victoria after the broader YHA.

Since 1951 the club has jointly hosted or co-hosted the event in:

- 1955 – Lyonville and Mason's Falls
(with Victorian Mountain Tramping Club);
- 1962 – Mount Macedon;
- 1967 – Daylesford & Kerrie
(with Victorian Mountain Tramping Club & Catholic Walking Club of Victoria);
- 1970 – Bullarto & Fraser NP
(with Melbourne Amateur Walking & Touring Club);
- 1980 – Belgrave & Britannia Creek
(with Walking Club of Victoria);
- 1990 – Murrindindi;
- 1999 – Brisbane Ranges;
- 2004 – Rawson & Walhalla
(with Ben Cruachan & Strzelecki Bushwalking Clubs);
- 2017 – Warburton.



March 1949: Federation Weekend – Stonyford Creek.
(Image: Horst Eisfelder Collection, Melbourne Bushwalkers' Archive)

The naming of the event has much to do with the history of Bushwalking Victoria, formerly known as The Federation of Victorian Bushwalking Clubs, until it was re-named and refocussed in 2006. At the time of the Fedwalks event in 2004 the Melbourne Bushwalkers organisers noted: "The Federation's membership is comprised of 82 Victorian walking clubs and the organisation's objectives (summarised) are to:

- Co-operate with other organisations having like interests;
- Promote recreational bushwalking;
- Encourage co-operation amongst bushwalking clubs;
- Maintain a search and rescue section;
- Promote the maintenance of walking tracks;
- Distribute information of interest to bushwalkers; and
- Promote conservation."

The organising of such a weekend is no mean feat and the planning for 2017 commenced nearly two years ago. Planning and preparations has included:

- Locating a suitable area for walking with accommodation options in the vicinity for up to 400 people;
- Finding a range of walks – 20 on all, repeated on Saturday and Sunday;
- Documenting the walks and compiling a booklet;
- Organising volunteer leaders and substitutes to preview and lead walks;
- Finding speakers for Saturday evening;
- Arranging catering requirements.
- Risk management considerations; and
- Planning for Base administration.

Taking on such a major event builds character and culture in a club that carries it forward into the future. When bookings open in early-July I look forward to a strong participation from Members. Past-President Margaret Curry and her team of other club volunteers are doing us proud and your involvement will ensure a memorable outcome.

2017 Social Calendar

Wine and Cheese Night
WEDNESDAY 28 JUNE, 8 PM

GREAT FOREST NATIONAL PARK – BY TRIA MANLEY OF THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY



Tria Manley is a Community Organiser with The Wilderness Society and advocate for the Great Forest National Park. She delivers training programs to empower and upskill communities to



campaign for environmental protection across Australia, including protecting the majestic forests of Victoria.

In this talk, Tria will give an overview of the state of the forests of the Central Highlands, and present the opportunities that creating a new national park in the region will provide for protecting our water, tallest flowering trees on Earth, wildlife such as the critically endangered Leadbeater's Possum and our climate, as well as offering a sustainable alternative for communities and future generations.

LEADER TRAINING REPORT 2017

In 2014/15, with the assistance of a State Government Grant, Leadership Training for Day and Extended Activities were developed by teams from BWV and major clubs. Two modules were produced, comprising units with pre-reading, trainer's notes, trainee handouts and presentation material. This content was then made available for clubs to use as required.

This Leader training by BWV formed the basis for MBW in-house training which has been offered Wednesday evenings in the clubrooms. MBW has adopted the core components of the BWV material, with relevant additions incorporating MBW documents/policies. An initial review was compiled by Mick Noonan reviewing the BWV content and recommending that the material was worth implementing for MBW.

MBW goal in 2016/17 is to deliver Module 1 Units 1–6 to all interested leaders, targeting potential leaders. The sessions have successfully been delivered with over twenty participants completing the first 3 units of Module 1. Sessions ran for 90 minutes in the clubrooms over various Wednesday nights with a full day repeated on a Saturday 4th March which offered others the opportunity to complete these same units.

Navigation training organised by experts such as Roger Wyatt and First Aid Training coordinated by Nigel Holmes have also complemented the Wednesday sessions which cover unit 6 within module 1.

MBW is pleased to be adding to the database of current leaders willing to step up and confidently take on the role of leading of MBW walks, which allows the club to keep offering the varied program of bushwalking. A better understanding of the material with its modifications has provided content which we can repeat regularly for interested members and ensured our commitment for ongoing training to continue and meet our Club needs.

A. Vetsica, Training Officer

GEAR TIPS – TENTS

For years freestanding tents with rain-protected side entries and good sized vestibules have provided the most liveable and easy to use three-season accommodation. Unfortunately they have been significantly heavier than the lightest styles. Now, with cheap Chinese imports snapping at their heels, some progressive manufacturers have sharpened their designs and minimised the weight penalty. Here are three that stand out from the crowd:

3F UL Gear 15D 1 Person 3 Season Tent

Available from AliExpress.

Packed weight approx 1340 g plus a 150 g floor protector.

Price approx \$150 including a floor protector and postage (very slow).

This tent is not the lightest in its class but offers excellent value. It is similar in design and weight to the classic MSR Hubba NX but costs less than a quarter as much. It is slightly less refined with eyelets rather than clips securing the fly but has an accessible rear vestibule and can be ordered with a mainly solid or mainly mesh inner.

Note: The club has one for hire.

You may find the eyelets attaching the fly to the cross pole are sewn in too far apart but can easily be relocated with a little hand stitching.

Big Agness Copper Spur UL 1 Person 3 Season Tent

Not stocked locally but available on line from numerous retailers without restriction.

Packed weight approx 1100 g plus a 140 g floor protector.

Price approx \$580 including postage but can sometimes be found heavily discounted (I have recently purchased the tent and a floor protector from Campsaver.com for about \$400 including postage).

This well-executed fully-featured tent is one of the lightest in its class. Its asymmetrical design maximises usable space but somewhat limits sighting options.

Nemo Hornet Elite 1 Person 3 Season Tent.

Not stocked locally and subject to import restrictions. It can however be purchased through an intermediary such as Price USA.

Packed weight approx 850 g plus a floor protector (if available).

Price approx \$670 including postage but can sometimes be found heavily discounted.

This innovative asymmetrical design is less spacious than the Big Agnes and only offers a rain-protected entry with the door partially closed but makes up for it with an exceptionally low weight. A slightly heavier version, the Nemo Hornet (920g) is available locally from Paddy Pallin for \$580 and might suit those uncomfortable with the Elite's extremely thin fabrics.

John Fritze

SLACKERS' DICTIONARY

glamping

noun: British informal

– a form of camping involving accommodation and facilities more luxurious than those associated with traditional camping.

“glamping is likely to satisfy any city slicker seeking a little refuge in nature without foregoing any of life's luxuries”

Origin – early 21st century: blend of glamorous and camping.

slackpacking

“The fine art of intending to go backpacking (carrying all equipment in a large backpack to your camping location in the bush) but instead walking out of the bush for the finer things in life: beer, entertainment, and food.”

WALKING ON THE BOGONG HIGH PLAINS FROM THE ROVER CHALET



On Wednesday 8 February, 22 Melbourne Bushies drove up to the Rover Chalet, where we usually ski for a week in winter, for some summer walking. We were able to rent the hut for 5 days because some of our members have done the Rover training on how to use the hut (and others are also familiar with its workings). The weather was warm and sunny to very hot, the wildflowers very beautiful, although many had already flowered earlier.

On the first day we climbed Mount Cope from the chalet, where we had great views, then went down over the back. Some went back to the chalet via the aqueduct and then the snow pole line, others took Rodney's more strenuous trip down to a picturesque rocky waterfall, which involved quite a lot of climbing over rocks and fallen logs. This group arrived back later and more tired than the rest. However, a hot shower and dinner on the table, and they all chirped up.

On Friday we all drove to the Pretty Valley Dam for a walk to Mt Jaitmathang (formerly known as the Niggerheads). Some only went to Tawonga Huts, others to the top, and a separate group to Mt Fainter with Bill. Again this group got in later and more tired than those who just did the summit. The summit-only group, having taken in views of the mountains and plains, walked back across soft grassy snow plains where they saw some brumbies, as well as white everlastings and bright blue alpine bluebells. Some of this group finished the day with a swim in Pretty Valley Dam.

On Saturday Alex led a walk to Fitzgerald's Hut via the aqueduct. We had lunch at the hut under some very old snow gums which had survived the 2003 bushfires. There were also carpets of orange-yellow everlasting daisies. We returned by following the Alpine Track back to the aqueduct – quite a long day except for the few who drove to Langfords Gap.

Sunday we packed up the chalet and headed off home, just as it began to rain.

In between the walking there was lots of chatting and socializing, not to mention nibbling. I think we all enjoyed the comforts of the chalet, so far away from a ski village, although we had some hiccups with the electricity supply and the water. It was great to be able to go on walks straight from the chalet. While alpine spring is probably at its height in December, we saw many plants still flowering and the whole area had a beautiful perfume. Walking through alpine mint bush, it released a pungent peppermint smell. In the open snow grass plains and damper areas the ground was carpeted with a variety of subtle ground covers.



Doug, the leader, catered for the evening meals, with everyone sharing the food preparation, cooking and washing up. Thanks to Bill and David, in particular, for dealing with the technical issues and Merilyn and Mike and other experienced Rover chalet hands for keeping the wheels turning. Doug might even be persuaded to repeat the trip in December to see the flowers at their best. Thanks too to the Rovers for allowing us to rent their chalet, which we have been enjoying for winter ski trips since our own club hut, Wilkinsons, near by, was accidentally burnt down in 2004.

Jan Llewelyn, photos by Ian Mair

ERITH AND DEAL ISLANDS February 8 to 13, 2017

Our group met up at Port Albert, Gippsland, on Wednesday February 8 for a Thursday morning departure at daybreak. Our trip started with a voyage on board the 50-foot-long catamaran “Nooramunga”, skippered by Wynne and Carol Hobson. Expert sailing didn't stop a few of us suffering sea-sickness on the nine hour voyage.

Erith Island, half way between Wilson's Promontory and Flinders Island in Bass Strait, was home to us for 5 nights. We chose our camp sites among the scrub, above the most gorgeous little beach looking across to Deal Island, which was our destination for the first two days. Shuttled by zodiac between Erith Island and the mother ship, we then set off for Deal Island. The trip took about half an hour in total.

Deal Island offered us open walking tracks, often along old bullock or vehicle tracks, lined with she-oaks and frequented by gentle Bennett's wallabies and Cape Barren geese with their green nose-rings. The old tracks had once serviced the lighthouse and its keepers. The lighthouse was de-commissioned because it was often in the clouds, being at a height of 350 metres. It was in clouds on our first day too, so instead we ventured on tracks to Barn Hill, with views across two other islands in the Kent Group, Erith Island and Dover Island. We saw old grave sites, a circular “whim”, where a horse once plodded in circles to drive pulleys to move supplies from the jetty along a steep tram track, which also remains



An amazing museum on the island, surely one of the most remote museums on earth, showed us more about the past life of Deal Island and Bass Strait. It's a museum much loved by “Friends” of Deal Island, other visitors and the two voluntary caretakers, who actively welcome kayakers, yachties and walkers, and care for the island for a period of 12 weeks at a time.

We climbed to the lighthouse on Day 3, our second day of walking. Old brick lighthouse-keeping cottages were still there, though the lighthouse keepers themselves had had to vacate them years ago to protect their children from respiratory diseases associated with the damp atmosphere. Some of our group ventured further down from the lighthouse to see an air crash site from WW2.

Our fourth and fifth days were spent on Erith Island, with us all struggling against the gale force winds lashing our tents on night four. Walking on Erith Island was a different style altogether from Deal Island. It was not open at all. There were large deep tussocks of poa grass and abundant eucalyptus, ti tree and she-oaks. We would also scramble across boulders, rounded pebbles and rocks, bash or “surf” through dense shrubbery or climb up steep, vegetated dunes. Destinations on Erith Island included Wallabi Cove and the swashway between Erith and Dover Islands, which is walkable at low tide.

The trip was under the expert leadership of Meredith Q., our wine aficionado. Tim C. was our resident barista, with coffee grinder and Italian espresso machine in tow. Steve I. was toilet digger and site selector extraordinaire, Maciek D. and Kellie had unending enthusiasm, Jana P. was one of our symbols of youth, Kate L. was a great coach and motivator and Barbara D, our Spartan, eating cold food the whole trip. Our visitors Genevieve from France and Keith and John fitted in brilliantly and we hope they will join the club.

It was a privilege to be part of this sailing and walking excursion.

More photos by Steve are at: http://mbw.org.au/zephoto/2017/base-camp/2017020901_Deal_Island/

Marjie Courtis



WELLINGTON PLAINS – LAKE TALİ KARNG 10–13 March 2017

Big smiles and small fire in the campground firepit greeted Jill, Judith and I, on our arrival at Kelly's Lane Camp Ground. The first group had arrived early to ensure we had the premium location. By midnight, the last travellers for that day had arrived and settled into their tents for the night.

The next morning we completed our drive to the high country at McFarlane's Saddle where we commenced our walk across the Wellington Plain to Nyimba Camp. On arrival at the camp we observed that many of the sheltered sites had been snapped up by keen walkers, we decided to press on to the opposite side of Nigothoruk Creek where a suitable site was selected for us to establish our home for the next two nights.

After a short first lunch, Mark has us back on our feet again. We walked into the Alpine National Park, through the bush damaged by the 2006 fires. Many of the burned trees have shot to life again with healthy branches now enveloping the burnt stumps. We passed the rustic Miller's Hut, we pressed on through snow gum country on our way to Gable End for our second lunch, the skies were clear and we took in the magnificent views promised in the sales brochure.

With the group keen to explore the area, we headed off through the open fields of late alpine daisies towards the Sentinals. Again, we were not disappointed, we managed to get a glimpse of Tali Karng below and Jopie's encyclopaedic knowledge of the area was tested by all, as he named mountain peaks valleys and ridges.

Upon return to camp we discovered a surprise visitor, Hans from the Ballarat Bushwalkers managed to squeeze his tent amongst ours. We introduced ourselves, extended a Melbourne Bushies welcome and that night around our campfire the usual banter was exchanged. At around 10 pm Jeanette advised those still around the campfire that it was time to turn it down or retire for the night. The remainder of the night was very quiet.

At 8:30am Hans was still in his tent and we were on our way to the jewel of the trip, Lake Tali Karng. The chosen route was Riggall Spur Track and Echo Point Track, the distance is a little longer but on a slightly easier grade. The day was warm and sunny. The relatively warm water of the lake was the perfect place to find the hole in my mattress and for Ray and myself to cool off and freshen up. Most of the group then walked to the bottom falls, Jopie, Mark, Ray and Jeanette scaled the rocks to explore the next two falls. At the top falls Jopie encouraged by others taking an earlier dip, did likewise only to discover the creek pool was several degrees cooler than the lake. After a long lunch by the lake the return journey was by the shorter but steeper Gillios Track. We took our time and climbed steadily to Echo Point.

Upon return to the Nyimba Campsite we observed smoke rising from the nearby hills. Mark immediately put his emergency plan into action, making calls to the relevant authorities to get the data to make the best decision for the group. With a strong South West wind blowing away from us and no indicator for a sudden wind change, the call was made, we would remain in the area.

Our last morning planned departure time was 8:30am, but all were ready and waiting 30 minutes earlier, we were heading out of the park. We crossed the creek and headed up onto the Wellington Plains, the light winds made the morning smoke haze heavy in the air. Now able to get good communications signals, the phone calls were made and web pages interrogated to get the latest information on the fires in the area.

Again, the area was deemed safe and our planned departure was via Spion Kopje, an easy climb with the view somewhat reduced due to the smoke haze. Upon decent to the track the group split into two with seven of the group opting to return to the cars, whilst the remaining seven walked across the alpine meadow to the Mt Wellington Road and up to the summit. The source of much of the smoke in the area (Moroka ranges) could



be observed, along with the firefighting helicopters and water bombing planes. After leaving our stones on the massive cairn, we turned back to the meadow and returned safely to the cars. As Mark said in the brochure, it was a perfect way to spend the long weekend.

Participants: Mark Simpson (Leader), Roger Wyett, Ray Spooner, Meredith Quick, Jeanette Burnett, Jill Allen, Judith Shaw, Deb Bishop, Di McKinley, Fang Fang, Bill Burnett, Jopie Bodegraven, Roy Rossebo and Brett Daniel

Thank you Mark for a terrific long weekend!

Meredith Quick

A TALE OF TWO LIGHTHOUSES (MARCH 6–13)

Doug organised a trip to two lighthouses for 16 bushwalkers. Our group of eight stayed first at Gabo Island for three nights, followed by Point Hicks for another 3 nights. The other group of eight did the reverse. At the end of the trip ten of us met up at the Cann River pub where it was very interesting to find out: who slept in each bedroom and with whom; who snored; who got bitten, by what and where; whose wounds were still bleeding and who broke Jan's glasses. Also of importance was what was on the menu and who cooked the best meals.

We had planned on leaving Mallacoota for Gabo Island at 9:00 am but there was a big swell and large waves near Bastion Point so the departure was delayed for a few hours. The swell had died down a little by 11:00 am so our boatman decided that though it was "marginal" we could go. The driver of the boat took about 10 minutes before finding a break in the waves which allowed us to get out to the open ocean. Depending on your point of view the 30 minute trip in the small boat from Bastion Point to Gabo Island was a wild and exhilarating ride (like going over moguls on your skis or riding a bucking horse) or a somewhat frightening ordeal. Most of us were so intent on holding on that we missed seeing Tullaberga Island on the way, which was the site of a famous shipwreck.

We docked at the jetty situated on the only beach on the island and were met by the ranger, Leo, who collected our luggage and drove it across the island to our assistant lighthouse keeper's cottage. Leo's job involves looking after the island, lighthouse and visitors. He welcomed us and told us about the island. He also gave us some fresh salad vegetables and herbs from his garden. In the dining room on a polished wooden table he had arranged red dahlias in a vase. Our "cottage" was really very grand – a solid and well-proportioned historic building with tall ceilings made of Gabo Island pink granite. The same beautiful stone was used for the lighthouse, the lighthouse keeper's residence and surrounding walls.

We had plenty of opportunity to scramble over the island's rocks. We could see where rocks had been quarried and where some had been cut and left. We were all in awe at the skill and labour involved in building by hand Australia's second tallest lighthouse.

Little Gabo is a large rock just off the shore of Gabo Island and a short walk from our cottage. It was a favourite platform for cormorants and seals. We watched the seals swimming in the wild sea below the rock and then trying to get back up. They had to wait for just the right swell to carry them so that they could launch back up again. Visible from the cottage was a group of three seals on their own rock – 'the bachelor pad' said Doug.

Three nights at Gabo was just the right length of time to spend walking over the moulted feathers of fairy penguins and stumbling across their burrows all day in order to sight a total of just three fairy penguins plus one decapitated head. Although this island has the world's largest fairy penguin colony, our stay coincided with the 15-day annual penguin moult. During this time the penguins bunker down in their burrows. As for the shearwaters, hundreds could be seen far out to sea if you knew how to focus through binoculars. But they didn't fly back to their burrows at dusk because the bright moon made them "skittish" (in the words of the researchers we met who were on the island studying them). Nevertheless we enjoyed our walks at dusk with torches covered by red cellophane.

Point Hicks lighthouse is also situated in a remote location on a wild and rocky point in Croajingalong National Park. This lighthouse was built in 1890, 37 years after Gabo lighthouse and about 10 metres shorter. The lighthouse is made of concrete painted white and the cottages are made from timber and more basic than Gabo. We had a great view out to Bass Strait from our verandah however and could just make out a group of seals swimming near a distant rock. John and other sceptics were convinced the seals were just kelp at first. By the end of the 3 days even the eyes of the kelp sceptics had adjusted and could quickly pick out the seals near their favourite rock.

We had beautiful walks on deserted beaches and swims in the cold ocean and Thurra River. The twitchers Jan and Doug were indefatigable pointing out many birds. At one stage Doug strode up to Jan on the beach brandishing a dead bird in one hand as though it were a trophy: "Look Jan – a petrel..." We saw hooded plovers

(continued over the page)



A TALE OF TWO LIGHTHOUSES *(continued from page 8)*

and John pointed out the POC's (pied oyster catchers) patrolling the beach. This bird obsession was catchy. Back at the cottage a pair of sea eagles hovered over us.

Jerry proved himself to be the venerable elder of the group by noticing how the sands had shifted in time. He pointed out a largely vegetated hill with a sandy top and recalled the days when that hill was all dune from the top down to Thurra River. We climbed up to see the dunes and the following day climbed up Mt. Everard for more extensive views.

We discovered two free campsites which may be of interest to bushwalkers. The first was at Genoa Rest area on the banks of the Genoa River and the second was at Cann River by the Cann. Both places had plenty of flat grassy sites and shade. You have to share with grey nomads in their enormous vehicles and the toilet facilities are basic. But the surrounding countryside is beautiful and just at the back of the Cann River camp ground is a 2 km rainforest walk making it a lovely stopover.

On our last night at Point Hicks we sang together as Helen led us on her ukulele. Among other songs we sang the "Swimming Song" by the McGarrigle sisters, repeating the third verse in tribute to our intrepid leader Doug who was the only one of us to swim informal without his swimming suit! Many thanks go to Doug and Jan for organising such a wonderful trip. Thank you also to fellow bushwalkers- Faye, Jerry, Helen, John and Graham for sharing this experience.

Janet Hodgson

PROM IN A DAY WITH WOMBATS **31 March – 2 April**

It's a club tradition, to occasionally go down to Wilsons Prom and walk the Sealers Cove – Refuge Cove – Waterloo Bay – Oberon Bay circuit as a rather long day walk of approximately 40.4 km. The attraction is obvious to those who know the Prom. Marvellous coastal scenery and you get to do it carrying only a light day pack instead of labouring under a bigger heavier overnight pack.

Things started off ominously on Friday night. As well as fabulous scenery and beaches, the Prom is also known for its wildlife, including wombats. They are like little tanks on legs and in the Tidal River campground they have been spoilt by humans feeding them and have no fear of humans. In fact they see us as an easy source of food. One such determined little tank visited us on Friday evening and visited several tents. He didn't knock, just stuck his head through the mesh leaving a gaping hole while John tried to pull him out. He later got inside another tent, wandered under tables and generally made a jolly nuisance of himself. A new couple in our group were so traumatised by his overnight rampage that next morning they packed up and left, not prepared to endure another night of wombat terror. On Saturday night he damaged another tent and walked over Clive's tent, over his legs in fact.

Saturday morning we set off from Telegraph Saddle at 7:30 am when it was finally properly light. We were nine, Judith our leader, Sue, Meredith, Carol, John, Meredith, Clive, Anita and me. Jenny chose to have a relaxing day of shorter walks. John took off like a rocket because he was the only one wanting to do the superman option of flying around the Prom via all the bays we were visiting plus the lighthouse, a leg numbing 60 km!

The weather was cool, overcast and windy with a few spots of rain and occasional sunshine, in other words typical Prom weather. But the scenery of course was beautiful as always. After second morning tea at Refuge Cove the group split into two with the three speedy ones zooming on ahead and the remaining five of us plodding along at a more sensible pace.

The ploddy five arrived back at camp at 6:30 pm. The speedies had been back for over an hour and Super John arrived about 15 minutes after the ploddies. I think we were all suitably tired, with a few aches and pains and the odd patched up blister but all rather pleased with ourselves.

Next morning we all had a leisurely breakfast and all found excuses for not doing a short winddown Sunday stroll so we all headed home. Thanks Judith for doing all the organising and thanks everyone for making it another memorable Prom in a day weekend.

Jopie Bodegraven



A WEEKEND IN MY FAVOURITE AREA Helicopter – Stanleys Name Spurs, 25–26 March 2016

Gina and I had left it rather late to decide whether or not to go on this weekend walk – we had only been home for a few days and we'd been a bit busy ... but by Friday midday (!) we had the leader's permission to join the crew. We packed in a couple of hours, and left home at 4:30 pm, in good time to mix it with the rush-hour travellers. We found the slumbering group at the Upper Howqua camping site where we quietly pitched the tent and retired.

This weekend was a combined VMTC and MBW walk with two groups, starting and finishing at the same point, but going around the circuit in different directions, with a joint camping site. It was an opportunity not to be missed!

At 8:00 am our group led by Geoff Kelly set off in a thick mist along the Howqua River track, while the other group led by Helen Geddes began the climb up Helicopter Spur. Our route was along an old benched road, which originally had allowed access to a marvellous site for fossils. This area had been an inland sea a mere 380 million years ago, so that many thousands of fish fossils have been found here. We crossed the Howqua River five times – no wet feet this time as the water level was low. We slowly climbed, joining the Queens Spur Road (just an old track now) to join Stanleys Name Spur. The vegetation was damp, if not wet, so soon we were counting the leeches. Wearing shorts, I caught quite a few around the knees. Later, blood patches on my shorts revealed a couple of adventurous ones had reached the nether regions! Some steep rock scrambling was required to reach the top of the spur and the infamous Crosscut Saw, joining the Australian Alps Walking Track where we turned right towards Mt Howitt. But no views! Nothing could be seen of Terrible Hollow, and where was Mt Speculation, my favourite campsite? It wasn't until we had nearly reached Mt Howitt (1742 m) that we had our first views as the mists began to clear. Catching our breath at the top we took our first photos of the mountain peaks, now clearing nicely, which some of us have come to know well over the years. Bypassing West Peak we made our way down to the long saddle which was to be our campsite for the night. The other group were already there but this site could easily accommodate all twenty of us, and many more with ease. The water supply was not good, as the spring was silted up making it useless, and the creek was hardly flowing. However, we managed and dinner was soon on the go with a warming campfire to help the conversation as we compared our days. Someone produced a whole bottle (plastic) of red wine – now that deserves a commendation! I was lucky enough to have a glug or two, and it was much appreciated.

After a somewhat restless night Gina and I overslept and only awoke at 7:15, when the leaving time was 8 am! Our practised routine swung into action and we were (just) ready on time! A fine day was heralded as we passed Hells Window and climbed Mt Magdala (1725 m). Morning tea number two was at Picture Point on the Bluff Track (4WD). We visited that fine old snow gum with many huge trunks that stands just off the road, which I'm sure that many vehicles pass by without seeing. In fact, we almost missed it as well! This tree must be the king of the high country. After a little hesitation we found the beginning of the Helicopter Spur track and began the descent. There are three steep cliffs on this spur, necessitating some careful scrambling. The third one is the biggest and we had to back-track a little to find a route down the side. Looking back at it from our lunch spot further on it appeared most formidable! The next part of the track was horrible – eroded, very steep, slippery gravel, with few footholds and no handholds. I was grateful for my walking pole. Nearing the bottom the track follows an old timber road or tramway and becomes clear and wide. By 2:30 pm we had reached the cars, and I quickly made for the river for an all-over wash, being very hot and sweaty. Lots of "oohs" and "aahs" could be heard as we found shallow pools in which to splash around.

Helen's group came in shortly after we left but we caught up in Yea where nineteen of us had dinner. This was an apt finish to an excellent weekend, the more so as it was a joint club effort. Thank you Geoff, for leading our group so well and thanks are due to Helen for the overall leadership.

Our group (as pictured) – Jopie Bodegraven, Ray Spooner, Mark Simpson, John Fritze, Theo Read, Jane Frisken, Gina Hopkins, Leader Geoff Kelly, Alec Stewart.



Derrick Brown

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.



SATURDAY WALK

FERNY CREEK-TREMONT

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

A reasonable level of fitness is required for this walk.
 We will meet at Ferny Creek Reserve in Clarkmont Road at 9:45 am to commence walking at 10:00 am.

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

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

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



We will start by walking around the lake where there is a bird hide which had views of numerous birds on the preview. The walk continues north along the Dandenong Creek valley and through Shepherds Bush to Nortons Park for lunch.

We will return to Jells Park for afternoon tea in the restaurant/café.

Meet in Jells Park South in the first car park, entrance off Ferntree Gully Road, Melway 72 A9 to start walking at 10:30 am.



TOFS WALK

JELLS PARK AND DANDENONG CREEK VALLEY

DATE	Thursday 1 June 2017
START TIME	10:30 am
RETURN TIME	Before 2:30 pm
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	Approximately 10 km
ELEVATION	Predominantly flat
LEADERS	Alan and Jan Case
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Whealers Hill and Glen Waverley
MAP REFERENCE	Melway 71 and 72



SUNDAY BUS

DAYLESFORD MARKET - TIPPERARY TRACK

DATE	Sunday 4 June 2017
RETURN TIME	Return to Southbank Boulevard by 6:30 pm
STANDARDS	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES	10.5 km and 14.5 km
TOTAL ASCENTS	340 m and 380 m
LEADERS	Ian Mair and Marilia Cipolini
TRANSPORT	Bus - leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA	Daylesford / Hepburn Springs
MAP REFERENCE	VicMap 1:30,000 custom map - Jim Crow Range

Daylesford is one of those towns that has something for everyone. For this week's Sunday Bus we will be travelling direct to Daylesford, where everyone will have an hour's

leisure time before the walks commence to visit the famous Daylesford Sunday Market where a long lost hidden treasure (or maybe just some interesting junk) can be found, or just relax over a morning coffee and hearty breakfast if you wish. Both walks will then commence along the Tipperary track.

For the more energetic walkers, the Easy/Medium longer walk along the Tipperary Track will be about 14.5 km, starting at Jacksons Lookout, and will move at a slightly faster pace through dry forest and along gullies until it reaches Breakneck Gorge. The Easy walk starts at this point, after which both groups follow the same route. Lunch for both groups will be at the Blowhole on Sailors Creek which is a fascinating part of our gold mining history. An optional Ridge Loop of 650 m can be followed from the lower level of the Blowhole to get back to the Tipperary Track. From the Blowhole the track follows Sailors Creek past Bryces Flat to Tipperary Springs before continuing to follow the Tipperary Track as far as Twin Bridges.

Both walks offer a diverse walking experience with lots of points of historic interest along the way.

DISTANCE 40 km
LEADERS Ros Leong and Angela Vetsicas (mentor)
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Brisbane Ranges National Park
MAP REFERENCE Brisbane Ranges National Park 1:50,000
TRANSPORT COSTS (per person) \$17
LIMIT 8 persons only.
COST OF CAMPSITES \$68.00 in total, shared between group

The Burchell Trail – 40km – 3 days, side trip to Anakie Gorge 6km return.

Little more than an hour's drive from Melbourne takes you to the state's richest wildflower habitat. Set in a low range of mountains dissected by rocky gullies, the unusual geology of Brisbane Ranges National Park has preserved plants that have long since vanished from the region, together with a correspondingly diverse bird population and the greatest density of koalas in Victoria.

The Burchell Trail is a great way to see the Brisbane Ranges National Park as it traverses the length of the Park.



On Saturday morning we will meet at Boar Gully Camping Ground and do a car shuffle. The walk will commence from Steiglitz Courthouse, we will walk approx. 12 km to camp at Old Mill camp ground. The walk follows orange track markers and uses existing walks, management tracks and public roads. Sunday our destination is the picturesque Little River Camp site located at the junction of the Little River and Rileys Creek, 16 km with an optional side trip to Anakie Gorge. The walk will finish at Boar Gully Camping Ground, 10 km from Little River.

SUNDAY CAR POOL

SMITHS GULLY

DATE Sunday 11 June 2017
RETURN TIME Approximately 6 pm
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 14 km
LEADER Brett Daniel
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA St Andrews
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 265, 264

We will walk along Smiths Gully and St Andrews heritage trail, which has information boards about the early gold mining in the area. After that it is along little-used county lanes with good views along the way. At rifle range reserve will be having lunch. Following some more trails back to the awaiting cars.



PACK CARRY

HATTAH LAKES

DATE Friday 9 June to Monday 12 June 2017
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 42 km
ELEVATION Pretty flat
LEADER Ian Mair
TRANSPORT Private
AREA North-west Victoria
TRANSPORT COST See arrangements below. To be advised by Leader if carpool proposed.
MAP REFERENCE Hattah Lakes 1:25,000 (Outdoor Leisure Map)

Situated about 450 km from Melbourne, the 48 000 hectare Hattah-Kulkyne National Park is one of only three Biosphere Reserves in Victoria. During flood periods, the lakes are recognised as some of Australia's significant wetlands under an international agreement (the Ramsar Convention) for the protection of Wetlands. The area is regarded as particularly special because of the large flow of permanent water in the nearby Murray River and a number of freshwater lakes seasonally filled by creeks connected to the Murray. This habitat provides food and shelter for a large number of waterbirds, animals and fish.

Hattah-Kulkyne National Park lies in typical flat mallee country with extensive low scrub and open native pine woodland. Superbly adapted birds, animals and vegetation thrive in the poor, sandy soils and searing summers. Our walk will take us along a mixture of 4WD vehicle tracks and open scrubland, passing by a number of lakes along the way. We will camp on the banks of the Murray River with our walking days relatively short so that we can enjoy the Murray River surroundings. Autumn, winter and spring are the best times to visit this rich wonderland.

Contact Ian Mair or see him in the club rooms for further information.



PACK CARRY

BRISBANE RANGES – BURCHELL TRAIL

DATE 9–12 June 2017
RETURN TIME Return to Melbourne by 5 pm
STANDARD Easy



WEDNESDAY WALK

MASONS FALLS – KINGLAKE NATIONAL PARK

DATE	Wednesday 14 June 2017
RETURN TIME	3:30 pm
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	14 km
ELEVATION	530 m total ascent
LEADER	EdNeff
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Kinglake National Park
MAP REFERENCE	Outdoor Leisure Map, Kinglake National Park

The Masons Falls area has a new impressive picnic area and toilets together with a new Falls viewing platform, built after the 2009 bushfires.

We will meet at the Masons Falls carpark at 10:00 am. If coming from Melbourne proceed to Whittlesea and then take the Whittlesea Yea Road, C725 to Kinglake West, turn right on to the Whittlesea Kinglake Road (Healesville Kinglake Road), C724 and after approximately 3.8 km turn right onto National Park Road, proceed approximately 4 km to park entrance, continue approximately 1.5 km to the Masons Falls carpark. (Ignore the carpark just inside the park entrance).

The walk starts with a short Lyrebird Circuit walk to the new Falls Lookout. It then follows Running Creek to the Tryst after which we start a steady climb of 400 m over 3 km to the summit of Mount Sugarloaf for a well-earned lunch spot. The leader can boast that it is all downhill from here back to the cars!



CYCLING

FRANKSTON – MT ELIZA CIRCUIT (TRAIN BASED)

DATE	Saturday 17 June 2017
RETURN TIME	5 pm
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	40 km
LEADER	Jopie Bodegraven
TRANSPORT	Train
MAP REFERENCE	Melway

This is a lovely ride exploring the beaches and bays between Frankston and Sunnyside and going right over the summit of the geographical Mt Eliza. The distance is short, a mere 40 km, but there are some not insignificant ups, totalling about 500 m in all, resulting in some nice cruisy downs of course. Beautiful coastal scenery and views guaranteed. There are two sets of stairs where we have to carry our bikes across short bits of beach. Not for the hill-averse but we will take our time up the hills. Morning tea and lunch spots yet to be finalised but afternoon coffee will be in Frankston.

We will meet at Frankston Station at 10:02 am which is when the 8:58 am train from Flinders St (9:01 am from Richmond) arrives.



SUNDAY BUS

LONG FOREST RESERVE

DATE	Sunday 18 June 2017
RETURN TIME	5:30 pm
STANDARDS	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES	11 km and 14.5 km
ELEVATIONS	280 m and 340 m
LEADERS	John Fritze and Carol Ward
TRANSPORT	Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA	Between Melton and Bacchus Marsh
MAP REFERENCE	Long Forest Conservation Reserve: Parks Victoria notes



This walk is a mostly offtrack exploration of a small flora reserve located between Melton and Bacchus Marsh. Our route takes in a variety of terrains as it undulates over ridges and down remote unspoilt valleys. There are some steep rocky sections but most of the offtrack is pleasant walking through open Bull Mallee forest.



MOFS WALK

HILLCLIMB TRACK – SHERBROOK FALLS – SHERBROOK FOREST

DATE	Monday 19 June 2017
RETURN TIME	2:30 pm
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	10 km
ELEVATION	150 m
LEADER	Graham Hodgson
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Dandenongs
MAP REFERENCE	Melway maps 75 and 124

We will start the walk with a moderate climb through cool fern gullies until we reach Sherbrook Falls which hopefully will have water flowing down it. The rest of the walk is on undulating tracks in Sherbrook Forest where hopefully we might see or hear lyrebirds.

Meet at 10:30 am in the carpark at the back of Micawber Tavern in Belgrave which is marked P on Melway Map 75 F/G 7/8. Micawber Tavern is just past a plant nursery on the left about 1 km out of Belgrave.



SOCIAL WALK

RUFFEY LAKE PARK

DATE Thursday 22 June 2017
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 5 km
ELEVATION Small hills
LEADER Jean Giese
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Doncaster
MAP REFERENCE Melway map 33

The undulating nature of the parkland around the lake and wetlands helps make this a very pleasant area but also means we have small hills to negotiate. We will take them at our own pace and have time to hear the maggies carolling and enjoy the trees and shrubs which have been planted since this ceased to be an orchard. The notices, with photos, along the way, conveying the history of the area, will add interest to our 5 km walk.

Meet at 10:15 in the carpark off Victoria Street (Melway 33 J10).



SATURDAY EXPLORER

MIDDLE PARK TO SANDRINGHAM ALONG THE BEACH

DATE Saturday 24 June 2017
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE About 13 km
LEADER Margaret Campion
TRANSPORT Private
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 2K, 2N, 2P, 67, 76

It's a Saturday beach walk this month, chasing away any winter blues. We dare to leave the Dandenongs behind and it's off to the seaside for our traditional Middle Park to Sandringham beach walk. Bathers are optional (brrr!).

We meet at 10 am, Middle Park light rail station car park, cnr Canterbury Road and Armstrong Street, Middle Park – Melway 2K F11. We'll stroll down Armstrong across Beaconsfield Parade and along the beach through lively St Kilda, past Luna Park, through trendy Brighton, and all the way to Sandy. Might be a tasty stop along the way then lunch at the end of North Road.

Too many cappuccinos are never enough on this walk, including the last one near Sandringham railway station.

Please bring your Myki for the fun bus trip back to St Kilda, then we catch the light rail back to Middle Park. No booking needed, just turn up.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

PYRITES CREEK CIRCUIT

DATE Sunday 25 June 2017
RETURN TIME 6:00 pm
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 14 km
ELEVATION 300 m
LEADER Ron Hampton
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
TRANSPORT COST Approx. \$15
AREA Lerderderg State Park
MAP REFERENCE VicMap P-278820-5838655-55



Once an important source of antimony which was discovered here in 1887, this is a less frequented part of the Lerderderg State Park with a sense of remoteness which belies its closeness to Melbourne.

The walk is undulating except for a short, steep, descent at the beginning and end and a few negligible ascents. Half of the walk is on well-formed walking trails, the other half is off track through forests of box iron bark, grass trees and hakea with 4 km along the (mostly dry) creek bed where care needs to be taken.

The last antimony mine ceased operation in 1944 when it became unprofitable and after WW2 the park was used for army training. Some relics from both activities remain.

Walking poles and sturdy footwear are strongly recommended. If it rains before the walk there may be more water in the creek so it is advisable to bring a spare pair of socks in case of wet feet.



SOCIAL

GREAT FOREST NATIONAL PARK

DATE Wednesday 28 June 2017
PLACE Clubrooms
START TIME 8:00 pm
SPEAKER Tria Manley, Victorian Community Organiser, The Wilderness Society

See page 4 for details.



**ADVANCE NOTICE
 CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING**

ROVER CHALET – BOGONG HIGH PLAINS

DATE 12 – 19 August
STANDARD 12km ski in with pack then various.
LEADER Doug Pocock
TRANSPORT Private to Mt Beauty then bus.

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 240 V 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.

Join us for a wonderful experience.

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
MT SOLITARY CIRCUIT HIKE
IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS – NSW**

(3–7 NOV 2017, MELBOURNE CUP LONG WEEKEND)

Mt Solitary Circuit is a one of the classic walks of the Blue Mountains. The walk is Medium (34 km + side trips – all on tracks) and includes superb views, some rock scrambling and steep (up and down) walking. It is a real wilderness hike and covers all the major terrain and vegetation.

The highlights of the walk are: viewing of Jamison and Kedumba Valleys, Ruined Castle (side trip) and great scenic views of the upper Blue Mountains. This walk requires a minimum 5 days (2 days travelling and 3 days hiking).

General plan is to depart Melbourne (choose any airline you like, drive up or catch train) on Friday 3 Nov morning to Sydney. then catch train to Katoomba on same day, stay overnight in Katoomba (details later), do the walk (Saturday– Monday) and back to Katoomba on Monday 6th November.

Next morning (Tuesday 7th Nov) do some small walks around Katoomba or just chill out then catch the train at noon to Sydney airport for late afternoon or early evening flight back home.

Participants are required to have some pack carrying experience and fitness, be well equipped with gear for all types of weather. Due to few camping sides numbers are limited; therefore priority goes to club members. If you are interested or have any questions please contact Agajan Akbari.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL SLIP

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

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

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

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

Notes:

- * Members who currently receive their copies of 'NEWS' via postal mail should add \$25.00 to continue. No new hard copy subscriptions will be accepted.
- ** Concession membership applies to those who hold an Australian Government concession card, not a Seniors Card only.

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

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

June 2017

Thu 1	TOF: Jells Park	Pvt	Easy	Alan and Jan Case
Sun 4	DAY: Daylesford Market and Tipperary Track	Bus	E&E/M	Ian Mair and Marilia Cipolloni
9-12	PC : Hattah Lakes	Pvt	E/M	Ian Mair
9-12	PC : Brisbane Ranges – Burchell Trail	Pvt	Easy	Ros Leong & Angela Vetsicas (mentor)
Sun 11	DAY: Smiths Gully	Car	E/M	Brett Daniel
Wed 14	DAY: Masons Falls – Kinglake National Park	Pvt	E/M	Ed Neff
Sat 17	CYC: Frankston – Mt Eliza circuit (train based)	Pvt	Med	Jopie Bodegraven
Sun 18	DAY: Long Forest Reserve	Bus	E&E/M	John Fritze and Carol Ward
Mon 19	MOF: Hillclimb Track – Sherbrooke Falls	Pvt	Easy	Graham Hodgson
Thu 22	SOC: Ruffey Lake Park, Doncaster	Pvt	Easy	Jean Giese
Sat 24	DAY: Middle Park to Sandringham	Pvt	Easy	Margaret Champion
Sun 25	DAY: Pyrites Creek Circuit	Car	Med	Ron Hampton
Wed 28	SOC: Great Forest National Park			Speaker from Wilderness Society

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