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# THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

September 2017

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

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

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

Could you please diarise this date and advise Margaret Curry (email [mycurry@bigpond.com](mailto:mycurry@bigpond.com)) of your attendance at the meeting so we can adequately plan for the night.

Thank you.

Margaret Curry  
Federation Weekend Co-ordinator

## FEDERATION WALKS WEEKEND OCTOBER 27-29 2017

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

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

Book online via [www.fedwalks.org.au](http://www.fedwalks.org.au) at the end of the Bookings section.

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



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

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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:news@mbw.org.au).

Please note:

Next committee meeting will take place on  
**Monday 4 September 2017**

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Robyn Ansell, Kim Louise Cowie, Monica Effendy,  
Jyothirmai Kanneganti, Jennifer Le Cerf,  
Thanh Nguyen, Tracy Wilson

and welcome back Gwenda Short



This spring Friends of the Earth will be kick-starting our new Sustainable Cities campaign and getting active with a sponsored walk across our city. *Walk This Way* will be an opportunity to highlight the key areas of community action in the face of climate change and build our vision of a sustainable city.

On Saturday October 7th, we will walk 15 kilometres of Melbourne's Capital City Trail to raise \$10,000 for Friends of the Earth Melbourne.

Beginning on the banks of the Yarra in Melbourne's CBD and journeying through the urban spaces, parklands and communities we call home, we will finish up at the heart of Melbourne's activist community here at Friends of the Earth for a Sustainable Cities campaign launch party!

### Getting Involved

1. **Sign-up Online:** head to [walkthisway.org.au](http://walkthisway.org.au) to sign up to #WalkThisWay.
2. **Get Sponsored:** Ask your friends, your family, your neighbours to donate to Friends of the Earth to sponsor you for your walk.
3. **Spread the Word:** Invite others to sign up and Walk This Way with us – a journey is always better shared!
4. **Get Walking:** You can be part of the whole 15 km walk or you'll be able to join *Walk This Way* at a number of meeting points along the trail.

For more information contact [jemila.rushton@foe.org.au](mailto:jemila.rushton@foe.org.au) or visit [walkthisway.org.au](http://walkthisway.org.au)

### PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – SEPTEMBER 2017



It is fitting that I start this month's column by thanking John Terrell, the Club's Environment Officer, for the preparation of his "Not the President's Column" in the August News. John touched on some important aspects of our aspirations as a club to continue to be a responsible and environmentally conscious "corporate citizen" in all that we do. By that we mean there are actions and messages we can convey as a group that go beyond our individual contributions to help ensure that the future we are building is both sustainable and rewarding. John regularly reports in The News on forthcoming conservation and track maintenance activities that we encourage members to support as a group to our mutual benefit. John will be pleased to explain what is involved if you have not been on one of these activities before.

I, of course, was away enjoying the natural splendour of the Australian outdoors with fellow club members on the Northern Territory's Larapinta Trail. That I was impressed by the Central Australian countryside doesn't need to be emphasized, but I was also impressed by the changes that have taken place on the track since last walking its length seven years earlier. A chat with Rangers along the way emphasized the determination to make it a world class track that draws walkers from around the world to share in the wonders of the Australian outback. They are sure to succeed. Changes to track alignment and grading to make access more doable, more frequent and reliable water sources, environmentally sensitive toilet facilities at the principal camp sites and easy access to the track from supporting infrastructure and services, all combine to leave a favourable impression. It is no wonder that a number of our group said they would like to go back again!

It was during this trip that I was asked an unexpected question: "How would I like to be thanked for organising the trip?" Like other leaders in the club I do not expect or look for any material benefit from leading an activity. To me it is a contribution I can make to the running of the club. Others, with different skills and available time, contribute in a wide variety of different and equally important ways. It is the willingness to contribute and share that makes the club what it is. That said, my response to the question was simple: "The only thanks I look for is the willingness of fellow club members, with the experience and capacity, to lead a trip that I may join in the future." The sentiment goes for all club activities and is simply a restatement of the tried and true advice for harmonious living: "Give as much as you receive." Being part of a club is being part of a team with shared interests and a willingness to contribute.

The email sent recently from our Training Officer, Angela Vetsicas, giving details of the coming Leader Training Day on Saturday, 30th September, carried a similar sentiment: "They [our training activities] are aimed at helping you to enjoy your chosen activity and, as a team, help each other when faced with unexpected situations." Our Beginner's Pack Carry trip to Lerderderg Gorge during August was a notable example of the team work and training in action. An unfortunate stumble resulting in an injury made it inadvisable for one of the group to complete the walk, and instead have the injury checked by a medical professional. Our leader assessed the situation then acted. While other participants with first aid training and nursing qualifications attended to the injury, the group was consulted on options to evacuate the walker, and if necessary, abandon the walk. In this case, after a short recovery period, the walker was able to walk out accompanied to a convenient pick-up point and taken to hospital for further treatment. The rest of the group continued with the walk. As highlighted in Angela's notice: "The club's Leadership Training program is part of the general skills development ... to be more aware of what is involved and to be a better team member." You will find the details of the Leader Training Day elsewhere in this newsletter. If you haven't already signed up to attend please check your diary and become a more informed team member.

Many of you, particularly if you are a regular walker on Sunday Bus trips, will have observed a growing number of new faces in the club. Importantly, a significant number are visitors who have decided to join the club. An important indicator of how well we are meeting the expectations of members, new and old, is the drop-off in numbers at the end of the financial year when membership renewal payments become due. With the three months allowed to make the renewal payment we don't get a good feel for the drop-off until August. Last year we had a marginally higher drop-off than previous years, but still much less than the number of new members who joined the club. This year the drop-off has declined closer to previous levels, notwithstanding a much higher jump in new members, resulting in a healthy growth in projected membership for the current year. You can track our membership numbers by registering for the Members' Area of the website where we report key statistics on a monthly basis.

*Ian Mair*

## THE MBW HALF-YEAR ROUNDUP ACTIVITY STATISTICS – JANUARY TO JUNE COMPARISON

	2016			2017		
	Trips	Average Nos	Average Visitors	Trips	Average Nos	Average Visitors
<b>DAY WALKS</b>						
MOFs	5	11.8	1.6	6	11.0	1.8
TOFs	6	<b>9.7</b>	<b>0</b>	6	<b>15.3</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Sat/Dande Explorer	4	12.3	1.5	4	12.5	1.8
Sunday bus	13	<b>44.8</b>	<b>12.7</b>	13	<b>50.8</b>	<b>17.1</b>
Sunday carpool	13	15.0	3.8	12	16.9	3.5
Wednesday	11	11.9	0.9	10	10.7	0.9
Social walks	6	12.1	2.3	6	10.7	1.5
<b>OTHER ACTIVITIES</b>						
Conservation	2	N.A.	N.A.	2	2.5	0.5
Navigation training	1	7.0	3.0	1	10.0	3.0
Track maintenance	1	2.0	0	2	2.5	0
Base camp	4	14.5	2.0	5	14.8	2.4
Lodge	2	<b>10.5</b>	<b>1.0</b>	1	<b>22.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>
Pack carry	12	<b>7.8</b>	<b>1.9</b>	11	<b>14.4</b>	<b>2.3</b>
Cycling	4	7.5	0.5	6	4.8	0.5

- Average attendance and visitor numbers exclude trips where figures not provided.
- Cancellations in 2017: Fire risk – WEDS × 1; low numbers – BC × 1; unspecified – CON × 1

### Highest Attendances – January to June 2017

MOFs: May 15 **Jumping Creek – Stanebrae** 18 (6 visitors)  
 TOFs: Apr 6 **Cherry Lake – Williamstown** 17 (0); May 4 **Kew E. Linear Parks** 17 (4)  
 Saturday/Dandenongs Explorer: Jun 24 **Elwood to Sandringham** 16 (4)  
 Sunday bus: May 21 **Walls Crossing – Vaughan Springs** 57 (16)  
                   Jun 4 **Daylesford Market & Tipperary Track** 57 (12) # #  
 Sunday carpool: Jun 11 **Smiths Gully to St. Andrews Heritage Trail** 25 (3)  
 Wednesday: Apr 12 **Werribee Gorge circuit** 16 (3)  
 Social walks: Jun 22 **Ruffey Lake Park, Doncaster** 14 (3)  
 Navigation training: May 27 **Werribee Gorge** 10 (3)  
 Base camp: Jan 26 **Bimbi Park, Great Ocean Road & Otways** 23 (3)  
 Lodge: Feb 8 **Bogong High Pains, Rover Chalet** 22 (3)  
 Pack carry: Mar 24 **Helicopter Spur – Stanley Name Spur (joint VMTC)** 20 (7)  
 Cycling: Mar 18 **Sunbury Bike Trail** 8 (1)

### Special Mentions

Beginners' Pack Carries  
 Jan 21 **Mt. Baw Baw** 12 (1); Apr 29 Sealers' Cove (Wilson's Promontory) 12 (1)  
Interstate Pack Carries  
 Jan 25 **Mallacoota – Nadgee** 16 (1)  
Off-Shore Base Camps  
 Feb 9 **Tasmania: Deal Island, Kent Group** 12 (3)  
Training Presentation  
 Apr 12 **Equipment demonstration for multi-day walks** 20 (6)

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# Noticeboard

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The MBW Half-Year Roundup *(continued from page 4)*

Leaders' Training

Feb 4 Revision 12; Apr 5 **Risk Management, Safety & Legal Issues** 7; May 10 **Conducting Walks** 5

We can see that the Sunday bus numbers, including visitors, have continued to rise, and that attendances at Pack Carries have grown impressively. TOFs have also shown an encouraging increase, and the Club had a very popular Lodge trip this year. Many thanks must go to the coordinators and leaders of these and all of the other events on our action-packed program. Their time, effort and willingness is much appreciated.

*Stuart Hanham (General Walks Secretary)*

## 2017 Social Calendar

**Wine and Cheese Night**  
**WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER, 8-9 PM**  
**THE 88 TEMPLES PILGRIMAGE**  
**SPEAKER: MICK NOONAN**



A walking adventure around Shikoku, a rural Island in Japan, retracing the path of Kobo Dashi who brought esoteric Shingon Buddhism to the country in 806 AD. Last year Carol Corrigan and Mick Noonan became heroes or pilgrims for this 1100 km journey. Come along and hear about our adventure and the joys of walking in Japan!

### **MORE PHOTOS FROM THE LARAPINTA TRAIL – by Ray Spooner**



### **CRITICAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TRAINING – UNIT 7 WEDNESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2017, 7:30 pm–9:00 pm, CLUBROOMS**

This is a unit which is crucial for all walkers to think about and the last in module one. Incidents while we hike could occur any time. Thinking about and preparing scenarios for critical incidents allows us to react confidently to resolve a situation. So come along and participate with fellow leaders!

*For those who are wondering what happened to Unit 6, it is all about navigation and Roger has offered numerous Saturdays to teach you skills to navigate.*

The following components make up Unit 7 and will be discussed during the training:

- What to establish before the walk
- Common incidents
- Major accidents/incidents which occur frequently.
- Protocols to follow
- Follow ups after an incident

If interested please email the training officer Angela ([vetsiang8@gmail.com](mailto:vetsiang8@gmail.com))

### **WHOLE DAY – LEADER TRAINING – UNITS 1–5 SATURDAY 30 SEPT 2017, 9:30 am–4:30 pm, CLUBROOMS**

Sessions resume for leader training for all those who have been keen to complete all of module 1. A whole day provides you with an opportunity to knock over module 1 in one hit! The outline of the day below will allow you to select to attend ALL day IF you have not completed any units or target the units you have missed and wish to catch and therefore complete Module one.

9:30 am – Welcome

9:45 – 10:30 **Unit 1 – ‘So You Want to Become a Leader?’**

- The concept of leadership
- Different styles of leadership

10:30 – 12:00 **Unit 2 – ‘Research, Planning and Previewing’**

- Why, Who, Where, When and How to organise a walk from the stages of research and planning
- Conducting a preview, what to do before, during and after a preview
- Resources to access when selecting a walk, especially our extensive data base

12:00 – 12:15 Morning Tea

12:15 – 1:00 Unit 3 – **‘Paper Work’**

- Walk description and grading, walker registration
- Map and walk notes, transport plans, emergency details, incident reports

1:00 – 2:00 Unit 5 – **‘CONDUCTING THE WALK’**

- Tasks which need to be completed in the week prior to the walk
- 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

2:00 – 2:30 LUNCH

2:30 – 4:30 Unit 5 – **‘Risk Management and Safety’**

- Understand that Risk Management (RM) is involved in most decisions we make
- Identify actual and potential risks
- Evaluate the risks
- Use strategies to manage risk
- Be aware of legal responsibilities

RSVP by email to Angela Vetsica ([vetsiang8@gmail.com](mailto:vetsiang8@gmail.com))

### LARAPINTA TRAIL 4 JULY TO 22 JULY GROUP 2 – LEADER KEN MCMAHON by Ray Spooner

Our party of 11 arrived in Alice Springs with trip organiser Ian Mair. Leaving around 8 am on Wednesday we arrived at the Redbank campsite around lunchtime. After setting up camp the group explored Redbank Gorge, John and Gina did some rock climbing around the Gorge – impressive stuff.

The following day we climbed Mt Sonder, a 16 km round trip. Some early adventurers left early to capture the sunrise whilst the rest of the group took a more leisurely approach. On returning to camp the Group A had arrived at Redbank Camp.

Our first night on the Trail was at Davenport Creek passing Rocky Bar Gap on the way. Camping on the dry river bed alongside a waterhole provided many photo opportunities, in particular the spectacular sunrise.

Our next port of call was Ormiston Gorge which had the luxury of a cafe and HOT SHOWERS. The Pound walk around the Gorge is awesome providing great views of the gorge and surrounding areas.

The following morning we headed for Waterfall Gorge with packs loaded with 4 days' food and 2 days of water. The track took a steep climb up to the lookout where good views of Mt Giles and the Alice Valley are afforded. On reaching Waterfall Gorge we scrambled to secure the few campsites available.

Leaving camp on Monday 10th we headed down the valley bounded on one side by the Heavitree Range and passed through Inarlanga Pass which involved some serious rock scrambling to our camp at Serpentine Chalet Dam. The dam was constructed to service the Chalet in the 1930s. All that remains of the dam is a solid concrete wall; however exploring the bluff above the dam provided excellent views of the area.

Breaking camp early we descended into Lomandra Gully, then climbed steeply to one of the highlights of the trail, Counts Point affording some of the best views along the trail. Mt. Sonder was still visible to the west, to the right Mt Zeil and Mt Giles. Following the ridge for 3.5 km we then descended into Serpentine Gorge to a well planned and scenic camp. Side trips to the gorge (low on water) and the lookout were taken.

Leaving Serpentine Gorge we continued along the valley across the Trig Point and a number of other rocky knolls to Ellery Big Hole. Arriving just prior to lunch, tents were set up which allowed for a peaceful afternoon, some taking a dip in the cold water, doing washing and just relaxing. The short Dolomite Walk (6 km) was also undertaken.

The next morning we broke camp at 8:30 and continued down Ellery Creek with the ever present Heavitree Range on the left until climbing onto a pass between the range and descending into the Alice valley to our camp site at Rocking Gully (this was the less interesting section of the walk.)

From Rocky Gully the valley walk continued until Ghost Gum Flat where many photos were taken of the large Ghost Gum and the fascinating *Grevillea stenobotrya* which had large panicles of creamy yellow flowers beloved by ants seeking the honeydew. We continued east along the valley to Hugh Gorge and followed the creek up the gorge making a right turn to Hugh Gorge Junction to the camp site. The author unfortunately missed the turn off and continued up the main gorge for 4 km before realising the mistake. It was a beautiful gorge and the unscheduled side trip was worthwhile. From camp a side trip to the waterhole was taken and further swimming was on the agenda.

Leaving the Heavitree Range the Chewings Range was now on our right, climbing to Rocky Saddle then descending into Fringe Lily. The track has been realigned to make for a more genteel climb as we zigzagged to Windy Saddle along Razorback Ridge before descending into Spencer Gorge which was a delight, steep cliffs on either side, lots of cycads and plenty of rock hopping for about 2 km. At the end of the Gorge there was a steep ascent then descent into Birthday Waterhole, our next stop.



The next morning the group was abuzz, we were heading to Brinkleys Bluff. Passing Mintbush Spring, we commenced the ascent along Stuart's Pass to Rocky Cleft where morning tea was taken before descending into a valley then the climbing up 210 metres to Brinkley's. Of course the star of the show was the promised sunset which was glorious, but there was another star – Abdul of the Egyptian Trick performed by Derrick Brown. After dinner, Abdul appeared in a costume that resembled something

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### Larapinta Trail *(continued from page 7)*



Standley Chasm

We headed along the range to Reveal Saddle and Bridle Path lookout before descending into the valley to Standley Chasm. Arriving at approx. 11:30 – perfect timing for viewing the Chasm as the sun was in the right position. Many photos were taken. We also took the opportunity for a hot shower, and to launder clothing before heading to Millers Flat. Leaving The Chasm we climbed steeply up steps (one of the track improvements) to Gastrolobium Saddle, descending into Angkale Junction then down Cycad Creek and a tricky waterfall descent to Millers Flat.

The following morning the group split into two. One group taking the high route, the remainder the lower track along the valley floor. Meeting again at Tangentyere Junction we continued to Fish Hole and then to Jay Creek for lunch. From here we walked through some flat low scrub, passing through Spring Gap to our camp at Mulga Camp. The area around the camp had been subjected to a recent bushfire and was looking desolate with large areas of burnt ground.

Leaving Mulga Camp, the track continued passing by Half Gap and further along Arengue View providing great views of the Bluff. A side trip was taken to Bond Gap which had plenty of water. From Bond Gap we crossed the plains to Simpson's Gap, our next campsite. The gap was full of tourists all waiting get a glimpse of the rock wallabies amongst the rocks at the entrance to the Gap. The water levels in the Gap were very low which was disappointing; however the stands of ghost gums in the creek bed were magnificent.

Heading towards our last camp, Wallaby Gap, the track climbed up Rungutjirba Ridge giving good vistas of the surrounding area. A side to Fairy Spring was disappointing – alas no water. The side trip to Scorpion Pool was more successful, water at the top level. Again crossing through low scrub we reached Wallaby Gap a fairly large campsite with a shelter. Following lunch various people explored the Gorge and were treated to sightings of wallabies.

The next morning we broke camp for the last time and headed up Euro Ridge, a beautiful section of the trail affording views over the valley and Alice Springs in the distance. There plenty of euros to photograph along the way. The track undulated through valleys and small rises until reaching the Alice Springs–Darwin railway line. After crossing the line the track crossed under the Geoff Moss Bridge and along the dry Charles River creek bed. From there it was only 2 km to Telegraph Station and pioneer graves. After refreshing at the Station, a pleasant 4 km walk along a path beside the Todd River to the CBD.

The track was clearly signposted and in most cases well maintained, but I felt some of the improvements took away some of the excitement of my previous trip, in particular the realignment of the track to Brinkley's, so no more rock scrambling up a virtually unmarked track.

We had a great team and someone was ever present to help out if a team member had encountered some difficulties. There were plenty of laughs and good-natured bantering. Many thanks to Ian for planning an excellent trip, Ken Mc Mahon for leading our group and the company of my fellow walkers Carol, Derrick, Diane, Gayle, Gina, Jeanette, John, Ken, Mark and Sussana made for a memorable trip.

that Gina had worn the night before. He commenced his routine by announcing he was usually assisted by 20 dusky maidens, making the males salivate, but we were let down when he said the maidens were unable to make the climb and he was performing solo. After some mumbo jumbo and Gina beating out a tune on the billy, Abdul was assisted by Jeanette moving to the strains of “Walk Like an Egyptian”, however the dance routine was more like the movements of a constipated camel. After much laughter Abdul passed the rope around to show the audience the rope was unknotted then with some magic words produced the knotted rope. The sunrise the next morning rivalled that of the sunset.



Descending a waterfall



### THE LARAPINTA TRACK, JULY 2017 – GROUP B – by Derrick Brown

Such is the popularity of this sixteen-day walk in central Australia that as soon as it was announced by Ian than the walk was filled, with a waiting list. A second leader was found (thank you, Ken) so I got my name down quickly.

We had no rain, well, just a couple of drops. The daytime temperatures were often around 25–26°, verging on the “too warm” for some of us, with quite cold nights. The logistics were planned meticulously, with three food drops so we didn’t have to carry too much food, (five days was the most), but we did have to carry water for overnight camp on several occasions. The group coped well with the extra weight, we had a strong group here! All up, with the side walks, the total was around 250 km.

We started at Red Bank Gorge but as a warm-up we first explored the locality. There were several minor incidents here that resulted in hands full of spinifex spines and assorted abrasions. We had been reminded that off-track walking had to be taken carefully and spinifex must be treated with great respect! Mt Sonder (1379 m), a climb of around 700 m for us, was the next objective. This was an all-day affair and provided us with our first really good views of the area that we were to be crossing. The Heavitree Range stretched away into the distance and Mt Giles (1389 m) could just be seen. We really were in a vast, uninhabited area, with no human impacts to be seen. The 360 degree views were breathtaking. A road ran parallel to our route but we could see no sign of it. The overall colours were the familiar wonderful reds and orange but I was surprised by the greenery. Despite the lack of rainfall we were to see many trees and shrubs looking very healthy as we moved eastwards to Alice. The real Mt Sonder summit is a further difficult climb from the summit cairn and a brave few tackled the rocky knife-edge route. All dropped back ... with the exception of Gina who made it alone. The greyhounds of the group had reached the summit earlier and John and Carol also got there. I had done it years ago so now I was content to watch the antics from afar. Back at camp Group A had arrived who would be following us, one day behind.

The next day was the real start to the walk. Although the daily walks were all reasonable lengths varying from 7.7 km to 21 km, the terrain made the grades on the tough side, including two very hard and nine hard days. Most of the group suffered from blisters due to the sharp angular rocks. On most days we were making camp by early afternoon when we boiled the billy and relaxed. Some campsites had a shelter, most had a water tank and a toilet. At Ormiston Gorge Visitors’ Centre we picked up our first food drop and gorged on meat pies, iced coffees and smoothies, working our way through the menu as if we’d been walking for months, instead of just three days. The hot showers were most welcome as well! Things had improved since my earlier days on this track! Most of us did the Ghost Gum walk into the gorge, it’s really worth doing this to see the contrasting white-barked trees against the backdrop of the red gorge. There were plenty of visitors at the large waterhole, and a few swimmers.

The next day was a hard one – carrying water for two days’ walking plus an overnight camp, plus all the food just picked up. The climb down into Waterfall Gorge wasn’t easy either. This remote campsite is not serviced by a 4WD track, so there’s no water or toilet, nothing in fact, except for a few little clearings just large enough for one tent. The lack of a toilet is a concern with poo-holes being dug everywhere now that this is a popular trail (and there were four other similar sites). We had to imagine the waterfall flowing as it was bone-dry.

Ellery Creek Big Hole was a great campsite, alongside the large and very deep waterhole where three of our party (only three?!) swam and we watched the sunset in the gorge. Another highlight was the climb to Brinkley Bluff (1209 m), a bit of a grunt for me (I was at the back) but well worth it as we camped at the top and again watched a beautiful sunset. Some even watched the sunrise.

Things had changed at Stanley Chasm. This is a popular spot for day visitors so has a café, car park and facilities. Again we gorged ourselves, showered and rested in shade before taking the paved path into the gorge itself. We were there at midday, the best time, as the sun reaches both sides of the gorge, showing the beautiful deep red colours at their best. It was a little disappointing to find that the owners have closed off the end where we used to be able to climb over the rocks to explore further into the gorge. Furthermore, a new track climbs up and over the side of the gorge, then steeply down the other side, making this a hard section. Again we did this with a full pack of food and water for the overnight camp.

I had never walked the last section from Simpsons Gap to Alice so I was pleasantly surprised to find that it included a delightful walk along Euro Ridge, affording us wonderful views from this knife-edge ridge. It is well-named as we saw many euros and a wedge-tailed eagle here. All too soon we were at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station (coffee etc.) before doing the Riverside walk into Alice. A cold beer was my top priority, but showers and food were also highly sought after. A restaurant meal with the group was a fine way to complete this memorable trip. Thank you Ian and Ken for all the preparation and leadership. It all worked smoothly, making this a top-notch trip. And thank you, team, for your pleasant company. It added up to a walk that we will remember for ever.

The team: Ken (leader), Susanna, Mark, Ray, Dianne, Gayle, Jeanette, Carol, John, Gina and me, Derrick.

### LERDERBERG GORGE – A WALK INTO THE UNKNOWN, 5–6 AUGUST



In its quieter periods the Lerderberg River can be no more than a trickle following the twists and turns of one of the most rugged river gorges near Melbourne. In its times of flood the river is an angry torrent scouring river banks and uprooting trees as it spills across the river valley, roaring through the narrow channels worn over time between the tortuously upturned and deformed rock along its course. The Pack Carry on the 5–6 August was in a relatively benign time of river flow. Following the river path along an untracked section of the gorge provided plenty of evidence, though, of the more turbulent times. The broken remains of once

magnificent trees lay quietly across our path, piled high by the force of past flood waters, and presenting a challenge to our easy passage.

Setting off from Mackenzies Flat with its manicured picnic area and trappings of human comfort there was little to hint at what may lie ahead for anyone failing to do prior planning. Even the stepping stones across the river at the start of the well-maintained Lerderberg Track had been carefully spaced and prepared to invite easy access. Only the steady flow of the river at a level above a trickle gave notice that walking the river would not be a doddle.

The first few kilometres were a pleasant stroll on a well-marked track overhung by towering trees, crossing the river with the help of stepping stones placed by previous walkers over many years. Occasional pools of deeper water invited walkers to take a plunge, but that would have to wait until warmer weather. Notable waypoints like Grahams Dam and the Spur Track junction came and went. Then we were at the base of Link Track No. 2, a steep track rising up a rocky spur from the river's edge to the Blackwood Ranges Track high above. From here we were on our own resources. No established track, no markers to guide our way, no stepping stones to ford the many river crossings. It was only us, the river and the occasional feral goat until we emerged from the gorge at the bottom of Long Point Track. Guided by years of hard-earned experience and an uncanny ability to read the country, our leader, Claire, took us forward into the unknown. For me it was the first time to walk this section of the river and it did not detract from the thrill of the adventure to know that Claire had walked the same route on her own some weeks earlier!

Walking the river is one of the joys of bushwalking. You never know what will be around the next bend. Sometimes it is an easy way across the deposited sediment of years of flow, sometimes it is a daunting cliff of rock with no option but to cross to the other side in the hope of finding a better route. I lost count of the number of times we crossed the river. At first it was a challenge to push skill and daring to the limit as I tottered from rock to rock in an effort to keep my feet dry. Then, with a flash of insight, I realized that you can't die from wet feet! Casting aside pride and the ever present danger of having more than wet feet I plunged forward. Alas, not all of our group had the same insight. Only Claire had dry feet at the end, thanks to having two walking poles to aid her progress. Another had an early bath thanks to very slippery rocks.

Finally, still with good humour and enjoying the challenge, we arrived at our camp for the night just before the climb up Long Point Track. A quick change of clothes into something warm and dry, a warming fire and dinner under way, and it was time to relax. Tomorrow would be a new challenge as we headed up Long Point Track and our return route along the Blackwood Ranges Track. For now I could savour the moment of conquering the unknown, meeting all of the obstacles in our way and feeling like an explorer of a time gone by. Next time, like many before us, it will be a walk we have done before, still exciting and challenging but no longer with that tingle of somewhere not previously walked.

Thank you Claire for leading us to a wonderland on our doorstep, and to Wen and Ray for sharing in the joy of the walk.

*Ian Mair*



### BAW BAW SNOW SHOE SHUFFLE

Would we snowshoe, or wouldn't we? That was the question in the weeks and days leading up to Ralph and Kerry's proposed trip to the Baw Baw National Park as our mild winter weather melted the snow around Mt St Gwinear. But then came icy temperatures and a blizzard on the weekend before we were to depart and we got busy packing for two days in the snow.



The uncertainty had caused some potential participants to turn to other activities, but on the second Saturday in August four keen snowshoers met in Erica before driving to Mt St Gwinear car park. Although the snow was thin there, the Rangers assured us that the snow was deeper higher up the mountain, and we strapped on our packs and set off up the muddy track. Before long we had our snowshoes on and were crunching over the white stuff and enjoying the alpine environment.

We found a level site near a creek not far from the rock shelter and set up our tents at lunchtime, which then freed us to go off exploring with light packs for the afternoon. There was much amusement as one, then another of us would sink into a soft patch of snow, but mostly we were able to walk around at will between the snow gums where in summer we would be bush bashing.

As we prepared our dinners in the fading light, rain started falling and we dived into the shelter of our tents, not to emerge again until the next morning when we were rewarded with crisp snow and a golden sunrise. Our morning walk took us over undulating trails to Mt Baw Baw where cross country skiers were gliding along, then we retraced our steps through the snowy wilderness to the tents to pack up and head back to the cars. Over dinner at the hotel in Trafalgar we relived our invigorating adventure before the drive home. Thanks to Ralph and Kerry for their organisation and leadership, and to Stefan for his company.



*Deb Shand (photos by Deb and Ralph)*

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](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](mailto: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.



**TOFS WALK**

**SEAFORD WETLANDS – PATTERSON LAKES – CARRUM**

**DATE** Monday 16 September 2017  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** 10 km  
**ELEVATION** Flat  
**LEADER** Eileen Ayre  
**TRANSPORT** Public (or private)  
**AREA** Seaford-Carrum  
**MAP REFERENCE** Melway maps 95 and 97

Most of the walk will be on bicycle tracks in the Seaford Wetlands, along a canal and a river, ending on the beach. In the wetlands, the main views are of tall grasses with occasional glimpses of muddy puddles and some of attractive lakes with birdlife. We will walk a little along the Eel Race Drain, then through a green strip in suburban Patterson Lakes.

Time permitting, I'll try to show the three different types of lake-side housing there. Bring your MYKI, as seeing one may entail a three-stop bus-trip if energy flags.

Then we'll walk beside Patterson River down to the beach at Carrum.

We'll meet at Seaford Station at 10:15 for a 10:30 start. Meet at the north end of the outbound platform. There is parking beside the station. The pace will be leisurely, but I hope to finish by 2:30 or 3, with plenty of time for coffee near the station in Carrum.

Please book with Eileen.



**SUNDAY BUS**

**LERDERDERG GORGE – BLACKWOOD**

**DATE** Sunday 24 September 2017  
**RETURN TIME** 6 pm  
**STANDARDS** Easy and Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCES** 14 km and 16 km  
**ELEVATIONS** 200 m and 400 m  
**LEADERS** Judith Shaw and Roger Wyett  
**TRANSPORT** Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am  
**AREA** Lerderderg State Park  
**MAP REFERENCE** Lerderderg State Forest 1:35,000, Meridian Maps

The Lerderderg Gorge is an under-appreciated natural attraction. Only an hour's drive from Melbourne, it has a surprisingly remote feel, with a maze of ravines, spurs and forested gullies. Both walks follow a ridge track on the eastern side of the gorge before dropping down to the Lerderderg river. The easy walk then follows the river for a few kilometres before heading into Blackwood on the interesting Byers Back Track, along which a historical aqueduct and other evidence of past mining activity can be observed. The easy-medium walk, which climbs the western side of the gorge and follows the Great Dividing Trail into Blackwood, includes a couple of steep but not extended ascents, an off-track section and a non-challenging river crossing.



**SUNDAY CAR POOL**

**TARILTA CREEK GULLY AND GOLDFIELDS RUINS**

**DATE** Sunday 1 October 2017  
**RETURN TIME** Return to Southbank Boulevard at 6:30 pm  
**STANDARD** Medium  
**DISTANCE** 20.5 km  
**LEADER** Ian Mair  
**TRANSPORT** Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am  
**TRANSPORT COST** \$20.00 per person  
**ACTIVITY AREA** Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park  
**MAP REFERENCE** Vicmap Topo 1:30000 A4: 7723-4-2-3, 7723-4-2-2

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

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

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

This is an enjoyable and varied walk.



**TOFS WALK**

LAVERTON – CHEETHAM WETLANDS

(not starting at Altona as on the program, as that would be too ifar)

<b>DATE</b>	Thursday 5 October 2017
<b>RETURN TIME</b>	Walk should finish by 2:30 or 3:00 pm
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy
<b>DISTANCE</b>	10.5 km
<b>ELEVATION</b>	Dead flat except for one small optional hill
<b>LEADER</b>	Merilyn Whimpey
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Train and bus
<b>MAP REFERENCE</b>	Melway maps 58 and 203

Meet at Laverton Railway Station by 10:30 am. Take the 9:41 am train from Platform 10, Flinders Street or 9:44 Platform 14, Southern Cross. We'll meet on the Laverton station platform because there's the option of a steep stairway or a lift to get off the station.

We walk along the road for a short distance before turning into parklands and along the Laverton Creek. We'll visit the 100 Steps of Federation (that's the hill) before following the shared path along the Cheetham wetlands to Skeleton Creek.

Last time this walk was done there was a ford with too much water to encourage crossing. Now there's a lovely footbridge. The last part of the walk may change when I do another preview, but the plan is to follow Skeleton Creek north before taking suburban streets to Point Cook Road, where we catch a bus to Williams Landing Railway Station for the train home.



**PACK CARRY**

THE PROM – REFUGE COVE – LIGHTHOUSE COTTAGES

<b>DATE</b>	Friday 6 to Monday 9 October 2017
<b>STANDARD</b>	Medium
<b>DISTANCE</b>	50.4 km
<b>LEADER</b>	Ian Mair
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Private
<b>AREA</b>	Wilsons Promontory National Park
<b>MAP REFERENCE</b>	Parks Victoria Park Note: Wilsons Promontory National Park

**THIS TRIP IS FULLY BOOKED. CONTACT THE LEADER IF YOU WANT TO BE ADDED TO THE WAIT LIST.**

This is the classic walk around the Southern Circuit of Wilsons Promontory. It is over three days, camping Friday night at Tidal River. Walk from Telegraph Saddle via Sealers Cove to camp at Refuge Cove on Saturday night and then walk down the east coast via Waterloo Bay to stay at the Lighthouse cottages Sunday night. It is then a longish walk Monday to Tidal River via Little Oberon Bay.

Please note that Monday is not a Public Holiday.

It will cost approximately \$10 to share a campsite at Tidal River, \$13.40 to camp at Refuge Cove and \$144.50 to stay the night at the lighthouse cottages, i.e. \$167.90 per person.

Parks Victoria mandates a maximum group size of 12.

The trip is a challenging Pack Carry with full gear and is graded MEDIUM. It will be demanding walking, particularly if we strike bad weather along the exposed sections of the route. Distances and ascents to be covered are:

- a. Saturday 16 km and 450 m (camping at Refuge Cove)
- b. Sunday 18 km and 850 m (lighthouse stay)
- c. Monday 22 km and 780 m

Please email as soon as possible if you are interested in joining me.



**PACK CARRY**

AVON RIVER MT HEDRICK RESERVE

JOINT MELBOURNE BUSH WALKERS/VMTC TRIP

<b>DATE</b>	6–8 October 2017
<b>STANDARD</b>	Medium
<b>DISTANCE</b>	Approximately 16 km/day
<b>LEADER</b>	Helen Geddes <a href="mailto:helen.geddes1@gmail.com">helen.geddes1@gmail.com</a>
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Private

Plan to meet at Heyfield Wetlands Information Centre at 8 am on Saturday. From here we will drive in convoy to the start of the walk off Huggett's Road.

The walk will follow the walking track, climbing over Mt Hedrick and down the Avon River and out to Huggets Ford.

We will then retrace our steps for a short period before continuing along the river to finally camp on Saturday evening at Wombat Plain.

Sunday morning we will return part way retracing our steps with some additional new routes before reaching the vehicles early afternoon.

Please contact the Leader if you require transport.



**CONSERVATION**

REGENT HONEYEATER PROJECT 5TH PLANTING WEEKEND

<b>DATE</b>	Saturday 7 to Sunday 8 October 2017
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy
<b>LEADER</b>	John Terrell (MBW co-ordinator)
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Private
<b>AREA</b>	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 final of five tree planting weekends in 2017. See the article in July newsletter or visit [www.regenthoneyeater.org.au/planting.php](http://www.regenthoneyeater.org.au/planting.php) for more details including accommodation options. Bring gardening gloves and other protective clothing, also lunch for Saturday.

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

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



**SUNDAY BUS**

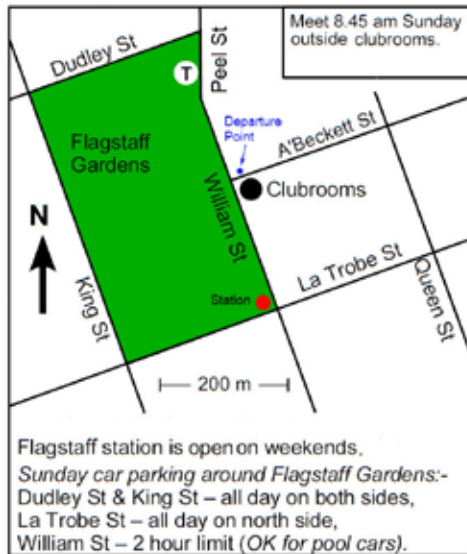
MACEDON RANGES AND WINERY (ALT DEPT)

<b>DATE</b>	Sunday 8 October 2017
<b>STANDARDS</b>	Easy and Easy/Medium
<b>DISTANCES</b>	Easy 15 km, E/M 19 km
<b>TOTAL CLIMB</b>	E/M Group 780 m
<b>LEADERS</b>	Theo Mertzandis and Deb Shand
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Bus – leaving Clubrooms at 8:45 am, returning by 6:30 pm
<b>AREA</b>	Macedon Regional Park
<b>MAP REFERENCE</b>	Parks Victoria Park Notes

Notes: The Macedon Ranges form the southern end of Victoria's Great Dividing Range with forested land protected along the ridge of the range. Mt Macedon is one of the highest

### ALTERNATIVE DEPARTURE POINT FOR SUNDAY WALKS OPPOSITE CLUBROOM

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



Warragul for 2.2 km to VHC Track (orange sign). We'll leave one or two cars at Starlings Gap to avoid a 3 km road walk at the end. Allow 40 mins from Warburton.

We start walking along the VHC Track toward the New Ada Mill. From here the track descends past an old boiler to Federal Crossing, where the old Powelltown Tramway and the Federal Tramway to Warburton cross. After a short diversion to the Ada No. 2 mill site where there are many relics remaining of the mill and tram tracks, we follow the tramway along the Ada Valley, crossing creeks and passing more sawmill sites, to Starlings Gap.

May be muddy and slippery in places with numerous fallen trees, deep leaf and bark litter. Leeches a possibility! Sturdy footwear recommended and perhaps gaiters. Apart from the initial descent, the track is mostly undulating. This is a modified version of Walk 14 on the FedWalks '17 program.



### SUNDAY CAR POOL

#### CATHEDRAL RANGE SOUTHERN CIRCUIT (ALT DEPT)

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Sunday 15 October 2017</b>
<b>RETURN TIME</b>	<b>6:30 pm to City</b>
<b>STANDARD</b>	<b>Medium</b>
<b>DISTANCE</b>	<b>12 km</b>
<b>ELEVATION</b>	<b>650 m</b>
<b>LEADER</b>	<b>Wen Qi</b>
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	<b>Carpool – leaving outside Clubrooms at 8:30 am</b>
<b>AREA</b>	<b>Cathedral Ranges State Park</b>
<b>TRANSPORT COST</b>	<b>\$20</b>

**Please note the earlier departure time of 8:30 am from outside the clubrooms.**

This is a walk for those who have a head for heights and love rock scrambling and exposed rock edges! Many sections of the trail are steep and rocky and can be slippery following wet weather.

Our walk starts from Cooks Mill Heritage site and follows Messmate Track which is a 3 km long gradual ascent to warm up the legs for a steep climb up Sugarloaf Peak. From Sugarloaf Saddle, we will continue along the main track through open forest to the start of Sugarloaf Peak climb.

After the steep climb, we will be rewarded with 360 degree views of the surrounds.

We then follow the track marks and walk along the narrow Razorback till we reach The Farmyard. We will take stops to appreciate the views and most of this section involves rock hopping or scrambling.

From The Farmyard, there's an optional side trip to South Jawbone Peak to again take in the stunning views.

Once returned to The Farmyard, we will follow the Jawbone Creek Track which has steps to descend to the carpark below. Walking poles may be helpful in this section to reduce pressure on the knees.

Please speak to the leader before booking on the walk and this applies to both club members and visitors.

The leader will be at the clubroom Wednesday 11th October to answer any last minute questions. Alternatively, please email the leader with any questions you have prior to booking.



### WEDNESDAY WALK

#### ADA RIVER SAWMILLS AND TRAMWAYS

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Wednesday 11 October 2017</b>
<b>STANDARD</b>	<b>Easy/Medium</b>
<b>DISTANCE</b>	<b>12 km</b>
<b>LEADER</b>	<b>John Terrell</b>
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	<b>Private</b>
<b>AREA</b>	<b>Warburton</b>
<b>MAP REFERENCE</b>	<b>Neerim 1:50,000</b>

Walk through tall mountain ash forest, interspersed with myrtle beech and sassafras, to explore the remains of the historic sawmills and tramways that operated in the early 20th century.

Meet 10:15 for a 10:30 start at the junction of Big Creek Road and VHC Track.

From Warburton Visitor Centre, drive along the Warburton Highway (B380) and Woods Point Road (C511) for 10 km, turning right onto unsealed Brahams Road. Continue for a further 13 km, turning right onto Big Creek Road toward



### CYCLING

#### BUNYIP STATE FOREST RIDE

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Sunday 15 October 2017</b>
<b>STANDARD</b>	<b>Medium/Hard</b>

**DISTANCE** 51 or 60 km  
**LEADER** Philip Brown  
**TRANSPORT** Car or train  
**AREA** West Gippsland

Here's one for mountain bike riders – a circuit out at Bunyip State Forest. The ride is mostly on fire trails and gravel access roads and a nice flat section along an aqueduct. There is a large climb up to Four Brothers Rocks. The pay-off is a great view of the tree-covered valley below. There are some ups and downs but it will be at a steady pace so join me and escape for a bushwalk on wheels where you can breathe fresh air and enjoy native plants.

The meeting place is at the corner of Tonimbuk and Princes Highway. It is around 1 hour 15 minutes from the City for a 9:30 am start.



**MOFS WALK**

**CARDINIA RESERVOIR**

**DATE** Monday 16 October 2017  
**RETURN TIME** 2:30–3:00 pm  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** 10 km  
**ELEVATION** 100 metres  
**LEADER** Michael Porter  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Narre Warren East  
**MAP REFERENCE** Melway maps 126, 210

Meet 10:30 am at the Crystal Brook Picnic Area some 2 km inside Cardinia Reservoir Park (Melway 210 E3). Enter off Wellington Road (Melway 126 B11).

From Crystal Brook we will walk up to Messmate Circuit and on to Duffy's Look out. Then we will continue on back down to Crystal Brook. Then the Tea Tree Track will take us up to the observation car park. From there we will cross the embankment before our final descent to Crystal Brook. The total distance is barely 10 km so the walk should conclude about 2:30 pm.



**WEDNESDAY WALK**

**BUNYIP STATE PARK**

**DATE** Wednesday 18 October 2017  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCE** 15.5 km  
**RETURN TIME** Approx. 5:00 pm  
**LEADER** Gina Hopkins  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**MAP REFERENCE** Melway page 14

Meeting time: 9:45 am for 10:00 am start at Mortimer Picnic Ground.

To get there, take either the Burwood Highway or Wellington Road (recommended by Google Maps) to Emerald then Gembrook. Continue through Gembrook on Beenak East Road then along Gembrook–Tonimbuk Road for 7 km to Mortimer Picnic Ground on the left.

The walk will begin and end at the picnic ground, and will take us through pretty ferny gullies and climb up to drier forest as well. If it has been raining the walking track may be slippery so walking poles (or a wooden stick collected on the way) may be a good idea. There is much birdlife in the park, and a good chance to hear or even see a lyrebird. There is some uphill and downhill involved but nothing too challenging.

Afternoon tea, for those that wish, will be at Spencers Store in Gembrook. (This café has replaced Charlottes.)

They have a good selection of home made cakes and other goodies, and excellent coffee.



**PACK CARRY**

**MT COBBLER–DANDONGADALE FALLS (JOINT WITH VMTC)**

**DATE** 20–22 October 2017  
**RETURN TIME** 11 pm Sunday  
**STANDARD** Medium/Hard  
**LEADER** Jopie Bodegraven  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Alps via Whitfield  
**MAP REFERENCE** Selwyn 1:50,000 Rooftops Bright-Mansfield Adventure Map

This trip features the rocky summit of one of our iconic peaks and top and bottom of 3 waterfalls plunging over the edge of the Cobbler Plateau. It will include quite a lot of off-track with potential for quite a bit of scrub and some challenging rock scrambling .

It will be a circuit so no car shuffle is required. Day 1 will start with a 6 km climb on a 4WD track to the saddle between Cobbler and Little Cobbler. If the scrub is not too thick we will do a detour out to the western cliff edge of Little Cobbler for the views. Then comes the good bit, a rock scramble up through gaps in the western cliffline of Mt Cobbler. I'm told it is OK but I have never done it so it will be exploratory and could be scrubby. Total climb for day 1 is about 900 m. On day 2 we're off track, probably scrubby, to the tops of the three waterfalls, followed by a 2 km road walk and then a steep off-track descent and some boulder hopping to the bases of the three waterfalls. Finally a 1.5 km rockhop out to the road and a 1 km road walk back to the cars.

Bring gaiters and scrub gloves for the off-track sections. Also a sense of adventure for this partially exploratory trip.

Friday night we will camp at Bennies Camping Area. From Whitfield go to Cheshunt, then take the Rose River Road for about 14 km and then the Upper Rose River Road for about 12 km to the bridge over the Rose River. Cross the bridge and turn right. Bennies is about half a km along this track. We will aim to be ready by 8:15 am for the 13 km drive to our starting point.



**TRACK MAINTENANCE**

**EAST TYERS TRACK CLEARING (WITH BTAC)**

**DATE** 21–22 October 2017  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium  
**LEADER** John Terrell (Co-ordinator)

Details pending, contact JT if interested.



**SUNDAY BUS**

**COLIBAN AQUEDUCT**

**DATE** Sunday 22 October 2017  
**RETURN TIME** 6:30 pm to City  
**STANDARDS** Easy and Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCES** 13 km and 16 km  
**ELEVATIONS** Mostly flat with a few short hills  
**LEADERS** Halina Sarbinowski and Tracey Jamieson  
**TRANSPORT** Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am  
**AREA** 100 km NW of Melbourne, south of Castlemaine

**MAP REFERENCE** Vicmap 17723-1-3-1 Taradale

The Coliban Aqueduct, first opened in 1877 as a water supply system delivering water to Castlemaine and Bendigo, remains unchanged for almost 140 years. The stone and brick work is a very high standard and has stood the test of time. Our walks mainly follow the Coliban water channel to just west of the small town of Taradale. This aqueduct system is still functioning and part of the charm of this walk is the WOW factor that this aqueduct was built without the machinery that is available now. This aqueduct was built with the blood, sweat and tears of workers over 100 years ago.

The easy walk is mainly flat while the easy/medium walk will include some hills while it deviates off track away from the aqueduct. Both walks travel through sections of tall trees that will provide shade, while other sections are through open areas with views over nearby farmland.

This is a lovely walk that not only travels through the open forest that the region northwest of Melbourne is renowned for and a joy to walk through but includes remnants of our history ... a history that reminds us of our hardy ancestors.



**SOCIAL**

**PILGRIM WALKING IN JAPAN**

**DATE** Wednesday 25 October 2017  
**VENUE** Clubrooms  
**START TIME** 8:00 pm  
**FINISH TIME** 9:00 pm  
**BOOK WITH** [social@mbw.org.au](mailto:social@mbw.org.au)  
**ACTIVITY AREA** Clubrooms, Cnr Abeckett Street and William Street (Melway Reference 2F B2)  
**SPEAKER** Mick Noonan

See page 5 for details.



**SOCIAL WALK**

**FINNS RESERVE, WESTERFOLDS PARK**

**DATE** Thursday 26 October 2017  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** 5 km  
**ELEVATION** Flat  
**LEADER** Jean Giese  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Templestowe

**MAP REFERENCE** Melway map 33

We will walk around Finns Reserve then cross the Yarra on the footbridge and proceed upstream to Westerfolds Park. We then continue beside the river for a short distance before returning to Finns Reserve.

Meet to start walking by 10:15 in the carpark off the end of Duncan Street (Melway 33B4).

As this month's walk will be my Swan Song as a leader and also marks the fact that I have been on the planet for 90 years, our usual lunch after the walk will be somewhat of a celebration. If any old pals would like to join us on the walk or just come to enjoy the Templestowe Hotel's smorgasbord at 12:15, that would be good. Because I will need to book our tables, please let me know if you intend coming by 19 October.



**LODGE**

**FEDERATION WEEKEND – WARBURTON AREA**

**DATE** Friday 27 to Sunday 29 October 2017  
**STANDARDS** Various  
**DISTANCES** Various  
**TOTAL ASCENTS** Various  
**LEADER** Margaret Curry (Co-ordinator)  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**ACTIVITY AREA** Warburton area

The Federation Walks Weekend is a Bushwalking Victoria (BWV) event. Each year one or more walking clubs affiliated with BWV take turns to host the event in a different location, offering the opportunity for bushwalkers to participate in walks led by walk leaders with local knowledge.

The 2017 Federation Walks Weekend will be held in the Warburton area, 75 km east of Melbourne in the Yarra Valley and hosted by Melbourne Bushwalkers over the weekend of Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th October 2017. Initial information for the event can be found on the Federation Walks website at: <http://www.fedwalks.org.au/>

The principal venue for the weekend will be Arrabri Lodge, 450 Woods Point Road, Warburton East. A meals and accommodation package will be available. See the Federation Walks web site for preliminary details.

Registration bookings open on Saturday 1st July and close on Friday 1st September, 2017.

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

**TIDAL RIVER LODGE – WILSONS PROM NATIONAL PARK – MAY 11, 12, 13 2018**

Tidal River is the popular gateway to the outstanding features of the Wilson's Prom National Park.

The weekend plan is to arrive at the Prom any time on Friday and settle in to the Lodge.

On Saturday we will cover all the beautiful walks around Tidal River, from Tidal Overlook, Lilly Pilly Gully, Mt Bishop, Pillar Point, Squeaky Beach to name a few.

We will have a group dinner on Saturday night, with everyone bringing along a dish to share.

On Sunday you can either have a relaxing morning or hike to the top of Mt Oberon for superb views followed by a walk from Darby Saddle to Darby River, via Tongue Point, and then head home.

The cost is \$64 per person to stay in the lodge in shared accommodation. This must be paid on booking and is not refundable unless you can be replaced.

To submit your Expression of Interest, or to seek further information, click on the following link and provide your details and any questions. [tidalriver0518@mbw.org.au](mailto:tidalriver0518@mbw.org.au)

The Leaders will be in touch with you with additional information and instructions on how to pay your booking fee should you be one of the lucky 12. The booking fee must be paid by Sunday, 3rd September.

The Lodge can accommodate a group of 12 people in shared bedrooms, 2 rooms have 4 bunks and 2 rooms have 2 singles. Blankets and pillows are supplied; however guests provide their own linen and towels. Features include: central living/dining area, fully equipped kitchen with microwave, two Bathrooms, gas heating and barbecue.



**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!**

<b>October 2017</b>				
Sun 1	DAY: Tarilta Creek Gully and Goldfields Ruins	Car	Med	Ian Mair
Thu 5	TOF: Laverton – Cheetham Wetlands	Pvt	Easy	Marilyn Whimpey
6–9	PC : The Prom–Refuge Cove–Lighthouse Cottages	Pvt	Med	Ian Mair
6–8	PC : Mt Hedrick – Avon River (joint VMTC)	Pvt	Med	Helen Geddes
7–8	CON: Regent Honeyeater Project planting weekend (Benalla area)	Pvt	Easy	John Terrell (Co-ord)
<b>Sun 8</b>	<b>DAY: Macedon Ranges and Winery (ALT DEPT)</b>	<b>Bus</b>	<b>E&amp;E/M</b>	<b>Theo Mertzandis &amp; Deb Shand</b>
Wed 11	DAY: Ada River Sawmills	Pvt	E/M	John Terrell
Sun 15	DAY: Cathedral Range Southern Circuit (ALT DEPT)	Car	Med	Wen Qi
Sun 15	CYC: Tonimbuk – Bunyip loop (Gippsland)	Pvt	M/H	Philip Brown
Mon 16	MOF: Cardinia Reservoir	Pvt	Easy	Michael Porter
Wed 18	DAY: Bunyip State Park	Pvt	E/M	Gina Hopkins
20–22	PC : Mt Cobbler–Dandongadale Falls (joint VMTC)	Pvt	M/H	Jopie Bodegraven
21–22	MNT: East Tyers track clearing (with BTAC)	Pvt	E/M	John Terrell (Co-ord)
<b>Sun 22</b>	<b>DAY: Coliban Aqueduct</b>	<b>Bus</b>	<b>E&amp;E/M</b>	<b>Halina Sarbinowski &amp; Tracey Jamieson</b>
Wed 25	SOC: Pilgrim Walking in Japan			Mick Noonan
Thu 26	SOC: Finns Reserve, Westerfolds Park	Pvt	Easy	Jean Giese
27–29	LOD: MBW Federation Weekend–Warburton area	Pvt	var	Margaret Curry (Co-ord)