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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

December 2018



Members start to gather at the Mission to Seafarers Victoria.
Photo by Ian Mair.

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

CLUBROOM CLOSURES OVER CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Melbourne Bushwalkers' clubrooms will be closed after the last Wednesday meeting on 19th December, 2018, until the first Wednesday meeting on 2nd January, 2019.

Don't forget that from the beginning of January, 2019, our new clubrooms location will be The Mission to Seafarers Victoria, 717 Flinders Street, Docklands. Our meetings as usual will commence from 7 pm, however, The Mission to Seafarers welcomes members and visitors at any time prior to 7 pm. Feel welcome to drop in, relax and enjoy refreshments or a drink from the bar until club activities begin.

CHANGE OF SUNDAY WALKS DEPARTURE LOCATION FROM 22ND JULY

Due to redevelopment works in Southbank Boulevard the departure point for all Sunday walks (bus and carpool) commencing on or after Sunday 22nd July will depart from the Alternate Departure Point (Cnr. A'Beckett Street and William Street) adjacent to the clubrooms.

Visit the location map on the website for more details on public transport and parking options.

https://mbw.org.au/MBW_club_locn.php

Details of the redevelopment plans for the area can be found here:

<https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/building-and-development/shaping-the-city/city-projects/southbank-boulevard/Pages/transforming-southbank-boulevard-dodds-street.aspx>

MEMBER OF



Bushwalking Victoria

Members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc meet on Wednesday evenings between 7:00 and 9:00 pm in the clubrooms 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: Marilyn 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 4 February 2019

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Robert McKenzie
Irena Gaco
Andrew Newton
Marion Skovdam
Stacy Alley
Christine Thach
Wendy Mililli
Sal Mililli
Christine Hocking
Judith Swanson
Chris Donaghy

JEAN GIESE

Our much-loved Jean has been in the wars and Bill and I saw her in rehab the other day. Among other things, she has a compound fracture of the ankle, and here's a picture of her on the scooter that allows her to get around in the rehab hospital.



Marilyn Whimpey

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – DECEMBER 2018



At the end of October, after the November newsletter and my column had been sent out to Members, we held our first club activity at our future home, The Mission to Seafarers Victoria. Despite the Committee's confidence that we had made the right choice to relocate our clubrooms from 1st January next Year it was an anxious time. A new venue with unfamiliar facilities, a location surrounded by development and change and altered travel patterns to negotiate, confronted all attendees. As the numbers drifted in to the spacious public area bedecked with history and heritage a notable buzz was starting to fill the space. Groups variously congregated and intermingled, replenished their Wine and Cheese offerings, or relaxed in the welcoming casualness of the venue. Time too was taken to check out the hidden recesses and outdoor entertainment areas with a sense of exploration typical of bushwalkers, as well as curiosity around the potential for future events. By the time the formal slide presentation for the night was due to start the collected relief of Committee Members was there to be noted. Our new home had been tested and triumphed. There is still much we need to do to complete our move. Our allocated storage space requires fitting out, club records and hire equipment need to be moved, club documents and web sites need to be updated to reflect our new location. It will all seem like light work now that we have opened the doors to a hearty welcome.

Our Christmas Party on the 10th December will be our next club event, however you are welcome to visit the Mission to Seafarers Victoria at any time. The public areas are open from 11 am to 8 pm daily for coffee, drinks or tours. Drop in if you are in the area and say hello to the staff and volunteers in attendance, or make yourself comfortable before our regular club activities.

Moving to a new clubroom location marks a big step for the club in a time of transition. Our membership numbers continue to rise with a new generation of club walkers. The Docklands area where we will soon be located is one of the fastest growing residential areas with its own potential. In 2012 the estimated population of Docklands was around 7000, predominantly in the age group 25–34, and expected to grow by 10% over the coming decade, right on our doorstep. While March may seem a long way away we are already starting to give consideration to the Annual General Meeting and the composition of the incoming Committee. The changing membership profile will present opportunities and challenges. As noted elsewhere, the majority of the current Committee have made themselves available to continue, some with changed responsibilities. More will be said of this as we move into next year. Importantly, though, it is time to identify the next Club President. I have indicated my readiness to stay on Committee with a focus on rebuilding and enhancing our internet presence and electronic communications; however, I strongly believe it is time for different ideas to guide the future directions of the club. I hear comments about the height of the bar and reject them out of hand. There is no bar. Everyone has something to offer the club and that applies to the role of President as much as any other. I will be pleased to hear from any member who would like to be considered.

For a volunteer club like our own there is no more important role than that of activity leader, most notably walking and camping activities. Taking on the role of a leader is not a daunting experience. The club provides support at every stage as new leaders build their confidence and experience. A mentor will be on hand if required. Our training sessions are not an essential prerequisite but are there as a complement to the experience gained under the watchful eye of other leaders, and to build confidence and familiarity with the preferred way to do things. In the past two years over 50 members have undertaken one or more of the 8 units in our training programs, including navigation and first aid training. The number of those who have completed all units is growing. Not all who undertake training units will become active leaders but their knowledge and experience is an equally important aspect of ensuring the safety and enjoyment of the club as a whole. We conduct the training sessions on a rolling basis and have just completed the last of the series. We will start 2019 by offering the first 5 units as a block on Saturday 19th January with attendance open to any member who wants to do all or only some of the units to be covered. See the notice elsewhere in the newsletter for the details.

As this will be the last newsletter for 2019 it is timely to wish everyone a very enjoyable and relaxed holiday season with family and friends. On behalf of all members I extend thanks to each and every one of us for our contributions and participation in club activities that have made this another eventful and enjoyable year. I look forward to chatting to as many of you as possible at the club Christmas Party. And if I look vague and appear forgetful of your name just be kind and remind me. Your next President will do better!

Ian Mair

NOMINATIONS FOR THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS' COMMITTEE, 2019-20

The Melbourne Bushwalkers' Committee oversees the operations of the club for all members. Committee members bring a breadth and diversity of views and experience that is a strength of the club. Whether you have been with the club for decades or months you have a valued perspective to bring to our future directions. Nominations are now open for the Committee to be elected at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 20th March 2019, for the year commencing 1st April.

The majority of the current Committee have indicated their willingness to continue for the coming year. Vacancies exist for the positions of:

- President
- Treasurer
- 1 x General Committee

If you are interested in nominating, would like to nominate someone else (with their agreement), or just seeking further information, please send an email to secretary@mbw.org.au.

DIALING EMERGENCY SERVICES

In Australia and internationally there are a number of telephone numbers used to contact emergency services. In particular in Australia there are two, "000" and "112". You should understand the difference. The following note from the Australian Government website (<https://www.triplezero.gov.au/Pages/Usingotheremergencynumbers.aspx>) is clear.

"112 – International standard emergency number"

Triple Zero (000) is Australia's primary telephone number to call for assistance in life threatening or time critical emergency situations. Dialling 112 directs you to the same Triple Zero (000) call service and does not give your call priority over Triple Zero (000).

112 is an international standard emergency number which can only be dialled on a digital mobile phone. It is accepted as a secondary international emergency number in some parts of the world, including Australia, and can be dialled in areas of GSM network coverage with the call automatically translated to that country's emergency number. It does not require a simcard or pin number to make the call; however phone coverage must be available (any carrier) for the call to proceed.

There is no advantage to dialling 112 over Triple Zero (000). Calls to 112 do not go to the head of the queue for emergency services, and it is not true that it is the only number that will work on a mobile phone.

Dialling 112 from a fixed line telephone in Australia (including payphones) will not connect you to the emergency call service as it is only available from digital mobile phones."

Ian Mair, President

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST PACK CARRY: GSWW – PORTLAND TO NELSON VIA THE GLENELG RIVER

DATES: Fri, 19 Apr – Sun, 28 Apr **STANDARD:** Easy/Medium **DISTANCE:** 129km plus any side trips

The inland section of the Great South West Walk from historic Portland to Nelson is an unforgettable experience that winds through the Corroboree Forest with its hardwood forests before entering the Lower Glenelg National Park and following the pristine Glenelg River gorge to its mouth at the picturesque township of Nelson.

Distances each day range between 13 km and 22 km with no major hills. It is suited to anyone with a reasonable level of fitness.

Camp sites along the route, at a cost of \$11 per person, can accommodate 20 campers at each location. Toilets are provided and tank water is available during the wetter months. Water must be treated before being used. At each location there is only one shelter and table so these facilities must be shared between campers. Gas or a fuel stove should be carried on the GSWW.

This trip spans both the Easter and ANZAC day holidays.

Proposed schedule:

Fri. 19 April – Drive Melbourne to Portland, site seeing around Portland

Sat. 20 April to Sat. 27-April – GSWW Portland to Nelson

Sun. 28 April – Return to Melbourne

If you are interested contact Ian Mair to add your name to the Expressions of Interest.

FREE 1:25,000 DIGITAL MAPS OF VICTORIA!

Yes, it is true. Getlost Maps puts the whole State of Victoria (Australia) at your fingertips, with free topographic maps for you to download.

- They are COMPLETELY FREE;
- They cover the entire State of Victoria;
- They're topo maps – they include elevation contours (and depths);
- They're at 1:50,000 and 1:25,000 so they have lots of detail;
- They're up-to-date and still being updated all the time to keep them current;
- They include tens of thousands of Points Of Interest, including campsites, huts, mines, helipads, toilets, gates, jetties, boat ramps, towers and lots more;
- Park boundaries and areas are all marked and up-to-date; National Parks, state forest, state parks, reserves, sanctuaries, current mining leases and more; and
- Sealed roads, unsealed roads, 4WD tracks, seasonal closure info, walking tracks, rivers, lakes and more, all in high contour so they're easy to see on a screen.

Data Sources and Licensing come from field surveys, pers.comm, OpenStreetMap contributors and DELWP data. Source data is modified to suit. The maps are made available free, subject to the continuation of the conditions of the licences, including attribution.

The maps are available as:

- OZF4 For Use in OziExplorer on PC, Android or WinCE.
- JPG for image viewers and printing, or OziExplorer PC.
- GeoTIFF or "TIFF" for Avenza Maps (Android or IOS) and other apps.; or
- Download inside your Avenza Maps app.

You can download your own set of free maps from <https://www.getlost.com.au/> , however, consider donating to the project to keep the maps current either as a single payment or by purchasing the convenient Avenza 50k series bundles through your Avenza app. (The 25k series is coming soon.)



THE GRAMPIANS NEVER DISAPPOINT THE FORTRESS TO MT THACKERAY WALK 12TH TO 14TH OF OCTOBER 2018

A Medium/Hard graded walk which caught the attention of few fellow bushies willing to take up the challenge since it was a “experienced walkers only” walk.

A Friday departure was required due to the distance to the destination. The party arrived in two groups to the selected camp spot at Deep Creek and Harrop Track. Friendly locals (roos) gave us a hopping welcome to the area, and after setting up camp we all joined around the fire to share some stories and experiences and as the time passed by one by one the party retreated to their tents in search of a restful sleep.

– Side note: the Bunyip Hotel pub at Cavendish has a very good selection of food and drinks and is highly recommended to stop by for dinner in your way to your campsite –

After a not very restful night for some of us due to some noisy visitors, probably kangaroos or wombats, the group prepared to leave camp. It was decided to leave the packs hidden in the bushes while we drove the cars to the Manja Shelter carpark where the walk was planned to end. The walking started with a visit to the Aboriginal Rock Art Site for a cultural moment and as warmup walk prior to our ascent towards the first objective of the walk, The Fortress.

After picking up the packs and a short walk on the Harrop Track we found the start of the track and 4.6 km was the distance on the track sign, a flat start with a warning about hunters operating in the area turned in no time into climbs and rock scrambling, rewarded with amazing views and a lot of stunning wildflowers in bloom.

Morning tea was held at an open rock area with 360 degrees views of the area, topped up with the visit of a group of goats who didn't seem to be bothered with our presence. Next point of interest in our way up was the Oasis Bush Campsite, or Deep Creek Hiker campsite according to the map. A couple of tents were set up, probably by climbers who left early in search of vertical routes. After a few more challenging climbs through not very well-defined tracks, we made our way uphill to the Fortress campsite, an impressive combination of rock overhangs and few areas where you could fit a tent. It was lunch time, followed by a cup of tea and some additional time for stretching or a well deserved rest.

Time passed by and it was time to continue the march to the Mt Thackeray campsite where we would be sleeping the night. After a couple of discussions about the location of the track and a couple of back and forwards on what looked like a track we finally found it and resumed the journey towards the Victoria Range Road which would take us to the final destination of the day. After more climbs – no surprises at this

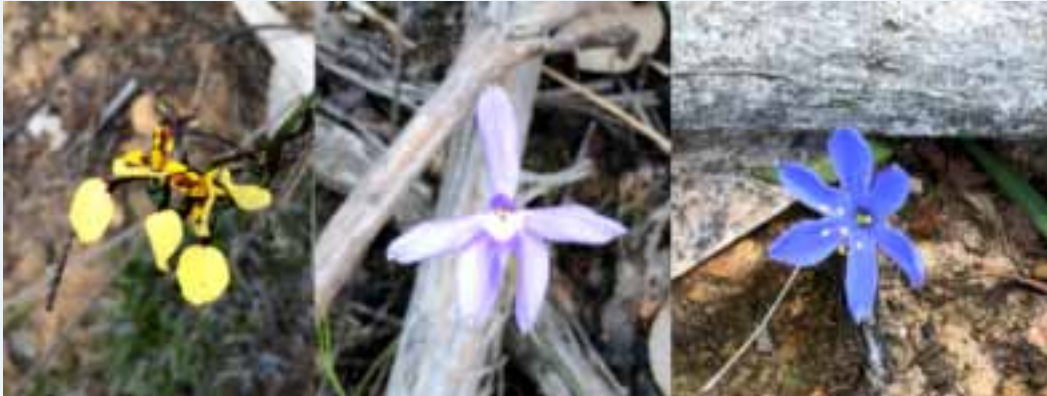


Figure 1– Manja Shelter Aboriginal Art

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Along the Track

THE FORTRESS TO MT THACKERAY (continued from page 6)



stage – the party arrived one by one at the campsite. The first to arrive set their tents up and started preparing the fire – a camp is always better with a fire – and soon everyone was sitting around, having dinner and a great time around the

campfire. However it didn't take too much longer until the yawning started and we knew it was bedtime, a well-deserved sleep. Unfortunately mother nature made sure it was not the case and we had strong winds blowing as lullabies all night long.

Sunday arrived, and after breaky and breaking camp we left the packs in the bushes. We

headed off to Mt Thackeray for a side trip. After some rock scrambling and semi-rock climbing we made it to one of the tops of the rocky formations

in the area, appropriate time for pictures and to appreciate the beauty of the region. Back to the campsite to pick up the packs and start the journey back to the cars. A dead little roo was found lying inside an old tree, not a nice thing to see, but nature has her own ways.

The selected route started with a bit of road walking which took us to the Hut Creek Track, a route filled with steeply down hills, numerous river crossings and countless fallen trees jumping/skipping/climbing and a group of emus welcoming us few metres before we got back to the cars with a smile in our faces after a wonderful trip.

According to the GPS the figures for the whole walk were as follows: total distance ~42.2 km and ascent/descent ~1703 m/1729 m respectively.

Thanks to Claire for organizing an amazing walk and to Linda, Anita, Di, Linda, Sue and Ian for the company.

See you on the next walk!!!



Jaime Pilco Vargas

LERDERDERG PACK CARRY, 20-21 OCTOBER – A BIT OF EVERYTHING

Lerderderg State Park is a convenient place to go for a short weekend walk – close to Melbourne and walking options to suit all tastes and abilities. We chose to arrive on Saturday morning. As we drove to the start in pouring rain our party of nine had come prepared for wet conditions but were ever hopeful the weather forecast was correct and the day would brighten. They were correct. We arrived to clearing skies and the promise of a good day as we prepared to start walking from Lohs Lane on the side of Mount Blackwood.

We set off at a brisk pace as we headed down the Foxy Gully Track on an anti-clockwise circuit within the Lerderderg State Park. Our first destination was the top of the Bears Head Range Track. It would have been straight forward walking on the 4WD track if it wasn't for the hills! They were long enough and steep enough to drive away any thoughts that it was a chilly wind.

Bears Head Range came soon enough and we stopped for a break as we prepared for the next phase of the trip. The track started a bit understated, a gentle stroll with eye-catching views. Its true character was soon revealed when the rate of descent quickened with every step forward. As the Lerderderg River rushed up to meet us the track morphed into a scramble over rugged rock along an ever-narrowing ridge line. Joy!

The Lerderderg River could be heard ahead of us. Had the rains the night before caused a jump in the water level? We were relieved to find no surging torrent and, with care, crossed to the far side with dry feet – this time. It was now only a short hop to the mouth of the Old River and a stop for lunch.

The Old River has its own mystique. Often dry, this time with a trickle, it is flanked by steep and mostly impassable sides, a haven for snakes and feral goats. We saw neither and agreed it was a good thing. Walking along the rocky river floor gives a profound sense of remoteness, interspersed with scrambles over large rocks and fallen trees. All this comes to a close when you reach the pool at the base of Old River Falls. No obvious way around and daunting slopes on both sides. Our leader barely paused and set off up the shaly side to our left. He had been here before.

Like frogs in the proverbial well, two steps up and one step down, we edged our way up to more benign gradients, pushing relentlessly forward towards the ridge line ahead. It was with a sense of relief and achievement when the climb ended. Now it was a pleasant walk to locate the top of the Ah Kow Track before a steep drop back to the Lerderderg River and our campsite for Saturday night amongst the reminders of the Ah Kow gold diggings.

Sunday morning found us raring to go. Our day was to start with an untracked section along the Lerderderg River. More joy! Multiple river crossings, rock-hopping, scrambles along rocky outcrops and through patches of thorny brush. We barely managed a bit over one kilometre an hour to the point where we would leave the river.

The climb up Razorback Track from the river level was a sharp contrast in walking conditions and, despite its relentless climb, was covered in quick time. Getting back to the cars now seemed a painless task that would be over by early afternoon. Our leader though had other ideas, Rather than the tedious plod along the roads and tracks over Mt Blackwood we would plunge into untracked bush at a lower level to skirt around the edges of private property. It sounded good and looked easy enough on the map.

It soon became apparent that the rugged terrain and steep-sided gullies were more than a match for the quality of the contour plots. Fallen trees added to the rigours of contouring our way around the side of Mt Blackwood. To our group it was a challenge to be relished and capped off a short two-day walk that offered the much-appreciated combination of convivial company, a diversity of walking conditions and only a short drive from Melbourne.

Ian Mair



A WALK THROUGH TIME DRUM TOP TO POWERS LOOKOUT

Friday Night

Whitfield pub for dinner was a great place for the group to meet up. This was a joint walk between MBW and VMTC; consisting of our team leader Ray, Jude, John, Carol, Jopie, Owen, Gina, Derrick, Trish, and visitors Charley and Andrew. We all enjoyed dinner together, and OK for some of us there was also a glass or two of the lovely wines from the Whitfield wine region.

Ray gave us all a comprehensive overview on what we should expect to see, distances and terrain over the next 2 days. We made the car shuffle and continued on to camp for the night along Fifteen Mile Creek Road.

Day 1: 7:30 Start

To get to our first spur of the day we had no choice but to push our way through around 50 m of blackberries, followed by a small creek crossing to start the ascent of our first spur. It was wonderful to find this area was home to lyrebirds, sighting many mounds, but no males showing off, doing their courtship ritual.

We eventually reached the Drum Top reference area after a climb of around 370 m. This area was a beautiful shrubland with large mossy granite sheets, with 360 degree views of the Drum Top, which we were soon to walk, and the snowy peaks of Buller, Stirling, Cobbler, etc. Dropping down into the saddle and up to Drum Top for morning tea – we were going to need this for the next section of very thick scrub! Ray did a wonderful job parting the vegetation and carefully selecting the best route.

On the way through we found a rocky gully which would have been a great little water fall during winter. A huge wedge tail eagle swooped down, so close overhead I could feel the thrust from the wings as he rapidly climbed upwards out of the gully. I thought Ray was history as I dived under the shrubs!

We walked a further short distance until we started our gradual descent – this soon turned a little steeper down into a small creek valley. Some took the opportunity to top up their water bottles; others continued over the huge fallen tree that must have been 1 m in diameter, making the perfect bridge between the creek banks.

Lunch

Gina pointed out that it was Ian's birthday. We all sang him a big happy birthday; 24 again hey Ian!

Off along the top of the ridge we go, with open shrub lands for more than 1 km, and very easy walking. Ray pointed out three different varieties of terrestrial orchids: salmon, spider and common bird orchid. Also taking in wonderful views of the opposite ridge where we would walk tomorrow.

Descending the final spur of the day, Ray took a slight detour to avoid hundreds of metres of prickly parrot pea, then along the side of the spur, even getting to do a little rock scrambling. As good as Ray was, there was no choice but to brave a short stretch of the prickly shrub.

Delighted to find an open spur, filled with flowering fringe myrtle shrubs; so beautiful I didn't even worry about the few prickles. Finally camped in the valley, surrounded by ferns and huge narrow leaf peppermint trees, with the sounds of Boggy Creek and brilliant starry sky.

Day 2

No need for alarms this morning; we were woken at 5:30 am by two laughing kookaburras.

7:30am. Started off this morning with an easy walk along Boggy Creek Track, and made the creek crossing to find our ascent route. The spur recently burnt, made it quite easy going, passing newly shooting ferns, and through some thicker vegetation toward the top. Luckily for us, Ray had done this section before and remembered precisely where he went previously.

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DRUMTOP TO POWERS LOOKOUT *(continued from page 9)*



As we reached the plateau, Ray explained to us all about the geology of the area. It was very easy to see the change from granite rocks to the sedimentary layers: sandstone and conglomerate.

After morning tea we made a slight detour – Ray had made arrangements with a landholder for us to take a short cut through their property to see the spectacular cliffs with views of the Alps, Power's Lookout and the farming land in the valley below.

Then a traverse across the forested plateau to the road, a gentle walk back to collect our packs, and continuing until we reached the kick-off point for the final stage of our walk.

Lunch Time and a rest for some sore legs.

Across the plateau we went, reaching the cliffs at the eastern edge, and taking in the views back across the valley to the cliffs we had just walked along on the opposite side.

Ray showed us the perfect example of how a controlled burn several years ago had produced dense stands of small trees and shrubs. We saw over an area of about 500 m, how the shrubs were naturally dying out over time – passing through masses of small dead trees still standing, then into an open area where the

same small trees had already fallen over. A short distance on, we reached a magnificent open grassy ridge, where decomposition of the fallen branches had completed the ecological cycle.

Before we descended off the plateau, we were dazzled by a spectacular view off the cliff edge down into a deep rainforest gully – a reminder of Blue Mountains canyons for some of the party.

The descent spur for me was a sad one; seeing so many huge trees pushed over, and piles of dirt bulldozed up from the construction of a road that is no longer used – maybe it was never used. The contrast between this spur and the adjacent untouched spur was horrifying.

Glad to be off that, we found ourselves for afternoon tea in a cool deep saddle with giant trees. Then off downhill, following an old logging track out to the farming land below, and along the creek back to the cars. Ray made a slight detour on the way to a lovely open spur running parallel beside us. Untouched from fires in many decades, it was dominated by elegant brittle gums, a dense mat of wiry tussock grass, and only a few small grass trees. A great opportunity to learn a little more on fire ecology and a lovely relaxing way to end the walk!

Being just a visitor, only my second group overnight walk, it was very obvious to me that this was well thought through, with four reconnaissance trips prior to make sure the walk was enjoyable, and to take in the most remote and untouched. This was very noticeable on reflection; that every spur, gully, creek, plateau and ridge had its own story to tell – in a time sense, as well as geological and ecological.

Thanks Ray.

Andrew Newton, Prospective Member.



MBW/VMTC DRUM TOP – POWER’S LOOKOUT PACK CARRY 27–28 OCTOBER 2018

The 12 of us converged early Friday evening for dinner at the Whitfield Hotel, in the bucolic King Valley. Ray Thomas (our walk leader), and Andrew N (his neighbour) – together they had reconnoitred the walk in several day trips over the previous 6 months. And Ian M, John F, Carol W, Jopie B, Jude N, Gina H, Derrick B, Trish E, Owen M, and Charley R.

Andrew, Jude, and me were returnees, who had made a near full recovery from Ray’s Eastern Strathbogies pack carry back in September.

After a hearty dinner and a legal quantity of drinks we drove a short distance, repositioning two cars at the walk’s end point. Then up the valley, past a hops plantation to set up camp in the dark at the walk’s start point, tucked up among the cars, between Fifteen Mile Creek and the track.

Saturday morning, powerful dawn chorus, no dew, sun emerging, good start. The walk began with a short crash through the thicket of roadside blackberries, across the creek, then straight up the valley side. The morning progressed with stretches of solid bush bashing up rarely-visited slopes, rising into beautiful, mossy granitic outcrops and ridges, with vistas across the valley and on to many well-known peaks such as Mts Buffalo, Cobbler, Buller, and everything in between. Ray shared his vast botanical knowledge with us at every opportunity – I had no idea there would be such diversity of orchids and groundcovers in these ranges, but then I’m a Victorian newbie.

We took lunch on an open platform near Drum Top, then plunged back in to the dense, dry forest along the top of the ridge, which finally cleared to reveal the next valley. We needed to cross the valley and took the best available option, which was straight down what felt like a 60-degree slope, with a commensurate climb up the other side.

As we hiked back along the ridge, our evening’s camp site was coming tantalisingly near. The views here were especially good, due to the extensive open granite areas with flowering shrubs. Thanks to the careful pre-trip recce, we navigated around the thickest, sharpest patches of a tall shrubby pea – which would otherwise have seriously impeded our progress as we descended.

We camped in a delightful location at the base of an escarpment near the convergence of two streams, spreading out on the rich cover of grass, dotted with bracken fern and native currant bush. We naturally formed into a couple of clusters for dinner and, also quite naturally, were ready for an extended sleep soon after.

Next day broke with the same mild, sunny weather. The morning’s walking was easier, thanks to gentler gradients and a fire-cleared understorey. Gina was participating in Birdlife Australia’s “Aussie Backyard Bird Count” and was identifying species as we went.

Emerging at a main road on the plateau at lunchtime, we dropped our packs for a side trip, which took us along a line of cliffs north of the famous Power’s Lookout, overlooking the settled agricultural scene below. We had also suddenly left the granitic ecological zone, moving into an ecology defined by lower-nutrient conglomerates. Someone had helpfully installed rough-cut log benches at the lookout. I’m not sure about everyone else, but I pulled off a discreet nap.



Then we returned to the packs. Re-encumbered, we took a short walk down the main road and plunged back into bush heading for the eastern edge of the conglomerate plateau. We moved down a long, mostly gentle slope, sighting remnant wet forest in sheltered areas below the cliff line. Ray pointed out evidence of habitation by bandicoot and possum.

We finished the walk by descending a steep spur, finally coming into an area of former farmland. This was in a state of transition as it was gradually being reclaimed by the adjacent forest and sadly blackberry as well – reaching the road almost on top of the cars.

Thanks to Ray and the group for another enriching walk.

Owen Martin

THE RAZOR VIKING CIRCUIT- CUP WEEKEND 3-6 NOVEMBER 2018

The combined MBW and VMTC walk attracted fourteen keen starters which is hardly surprising given the attraction of one of if not the most spectacular alpine walk in Victoria. A novel interruption to the Friday night drive was the sight of a Victoria Police Booze Bus as we neared Licola ... our driver was cleared. Police questioned "Where are you going?" to which we responded "We are going bushwalking". The Policeman responded "You don't look like hunters", so we drove off to find our camp spot for the night hoping the rain would hold off before tents were erected and we were snugly tucked up in our sleeping bags.

The number of cars and fellow walkers at the Howitt carpark indicated the popularity of this walk and the many walkers were making final adjustments to clothing and packs. Jopie our Leader informed our group that due to the weather forecast we would do the walk in an anticlockwise direction which enabled us to traverse the ridge and enjoy the wonderful views before the inclement weather arrived. Off we set down the track, the weather was sunny, the temperature crisp and a coolish breeze reminded us we were definitely in an alpine area. Before long we were topping our water supplies at Macalister Springs and stopping to enjoy the first views of our entire circuit with the Cross Cut Saw, Mount Buggery and Speculation followed by the Viking looking very powerful in the distance. Packs were dumped at the junction with the Alps Walking Track as we did a quick sidetrip to Mount Howitt, returning to enjoy the consistent and many ups and downs of the ridge and finally up and over the summit of Mount Speculation to camp in the saddle to its east along with many other bushwalkers.

An updated weather forecast again was not favourable which influenced Jopie to review our walking plans – the side trip to the northern peak of the Razor was abandoned and the aim was to camp on the Wonangatta River which would mean combining day 2 and 3 into one day's walk which sounded a bit daunting when you consider that included the traverse of the Razor, the descent to Viking Saddle plus the ascent of the Viking and descent to the Wonangatta River ... a challenge faced us all.

An early departure saw us on the track up and over Mount Despair followed by the Razor to the junction point to Viking saddle. The descent to the saddle was hampered by significant logs and it was lovely to enjoy a generous lunch stop at the saddle whilst Jopie, John, David and Sandra disappeared down the gully in search of water for the group. The group was very grateful for their efforts as we quenched our thirsts and topped up our supplies before tackling the ascent to the Viking. The track was relatively clear and as we approached the summit we enjoyed the negotiating of a cave-like rocky formation – fortunate for some there was a rope to assist before we did a final amble to the summit to enjoy the 360 degree views, the surrounding peaks and the route we had already conquered. It was 3 pm, time was ticking away and we still had a big descent after bagging South Viking. Furthermore, the untracked spur required the careful attention to navigation by our Leader. The slow and steady descent continued, legs were tiring, the odd knee was complaining, then we could hear the river which was pleasing and before long we were down and searching for a suitable campsite. Another group grabbed prime position; however we soon found a suitable site, gathered water and were chatting around in a circle before retiring to our tents for a well earned rest.

In the morning as we packed up ready to depart there was a gentle drizzle. We were thinking "here it comes"; however it remained intermittent and didn't bother us that much at all. A chilly river crossing was undertaken and before long we were on the Zeka track ascending steeply in places for the next 7 km having to step aside for the numerous 4WD vehicles which were grinding their way past us before we turned right continuing up the Zeka spur to join the Howitt track. Our lunch break was enjoyed with a little sunshine followed by an easy walk returning the vehicles and completing our circuit. For those of you who are interested in the stats (kindly supplied by Ian Mair) the following is a summary of our physical efforts:

Day	1	2 morning	2 afternoon	3
Km	13.2 km	8.8 km	6.4 km	14.6 km
Ascent	825 m	475 m	450 m	1190 m
Descent	860 m	910 m	955 m	220 m

Actually I didn't need to interpret Ian's GPS data to appreciate that I had undertaken a solid medium hard trip and feel sure the other participants felt much the same. Thanks to our Leader Jope Bodegraven, you did a great job with the navigation, decision making and keeping the group smiling as we completed one of Victoria's finest walks. We avoided the predicted heavy rains and wind, we enjoyed the beautiful alpine environment, the views, the occasional orchid and the camaraderie of a great group and if you were interested/inclined you could dust off your glad rags and attend the Melbourne Cup on the following day!!

Participants: Celesta Fong, Jacque Paynter, Sandra Bucovaz, Gina Hopkins, Ian Mair, David Cash, Jude Newtonstock, Mark Simpson, John Fritze, Maria Cahill, Colin Briggs, Pauline Ferguson and myself, Trish Elmore.

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.

**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.



Meeting at Flinders Street Station (underneath the clocks) at 8:45, we will be taking the train to Williamstown via Newport. It is an easy 12 km gentle walk from Williamstown to Port Melbourne via the Yarra Punt all along the waterfront and on foot paths (concrete).

When arriving in Williamstown we will take the scenic bay route along The Strand. Along our walk we will have some of the best views of the city skyline.

We will finish the day with a coffee in Port Melbourne before taking tram 109 back into the city.

Be sure to bring a valid MYKI card to travel to Williamstown on the day, plus \$5 for the Westgate Punt.



PACK CARRY

SNOWY MOUNTAINS MAIN RANGE CIRCUIT

DATE	26 December 2018 to 1 January 2019
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	38 km with overnight packs, 20 km side trips
LEADER	Jopie Bodegraven
TRANSPORT	Private
MAP REFERENCE	Kosciuszko 1:50,000; Thredbo 1:50,000

The Main Range is the roof of Australia. It features high alpine meadows, creeks, cascades, impressive granite rock outcrops, endless views and the mainland's only glacial lakes. It is an alpine delight. There should be heaps of alpine



SUNDAY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

WILLIAMSTOWN – WESTGATE PUNT – PORT MELBOURNE

DATE	Sunday 9 December 2018
STANDARD	Easy/medium
DISTANCE	16 km
LEADER	Susanne Etti
TRANSPORT	Private
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Melbourne

wildflowers at this time of year, although peak flowering varies from year to year.

This circuit is meant to be a fairly leisurely exploration of this lovely area, with only about 38 km of actual pack carrying with full packs and about 20 km of side trips with a light day pack

There is however a caveat. This area is high elevation, mostly above 1800 m and up to 2228 m at Mt Kosciusko. There are mostly no trees and hence the area is exposed to the elements meaning we must be prepared for cold, wet and windy weather with the possibility of snow and very cold nights. We have had snow here at Christmas on previous trips but we have also had brilliant weather. Our fingers will be crossed. We will therefore need good tents and sleeping bags and full cold and wet weather gear. Campfires are prohibited so our cooking is only on fuel stoves and down jackets are advised.

We will travel up on Boxing Day via Khancoban where we can get our Kosciusko National Park passes which should be \$85 per car for 6 days. The Parks office closes at 4.30 pm. Melbourne to Khancoban should be about 5½ hrs plus stops. Then it is about another 1 hr 40mins to the Ngarigo National Parks campground where we camp. Next day we drive the hour or so on to Charlotte Pass where we start our walk. We will be camping out for 5 nights and should be back at the cars by mid morning on New Year's day for the drive home.

There will be a numbers limit so if you want to book on, email me asap or ring me.



PACK CARRY

PORT DAVEY TRACK

DATE	26 December 2018 to 1 January 2019
START TIME	8:30 am 27 December
RETURN TIME	See below
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	71 km
LEADER	Ian Langford
TRANSPORT	Private
TRANSPORT COST	See below
ACTIVITY AREA	South West National Park, Tasmania
MAP REFERENCE	Tasmap 1:100,000 South Coast Walks. Chapman, John. 2017. South West Tasmania

The Port Davey Track is a well graded track that follows river valleys to Bathurst Narrows, a strait between Port Davey and Bathurst Harbour. The Narrows are crossed by rowboat. The track then crosses low hills and plains to Melaleuca. At Melaleuca there is an airstrip, walkers' huts and a campground. The Port Davey Track is all on track and does not reach high elevations but is exposed above the Lost World Plateau. This walk is within the abilities of most pack carry walkers. Manageable days are scheduled and the pace will be sensible.

Special requirements: Windproof parka, hood, gloves, over trousers, winter clothing, warm sleeping bag, water containers for 5 litres.

Itinerary

December 26. Fly Melbourne-Hobart Airport. Bus to Scotts Peak Dam. Camp at Huon Campground. Walk campsites as follows: 27th Junction Creek, 28th Crossing River, 29th Watershed Camp, 30th Spring River, 31st Melaleuca, 1st fly Melaleuca to Cambridge Aerodrome, fly Hobart Airport-Melbourne or continue on South-West Cape Circuit trip.

Food

6 days food. The bus company can buy food in Hobart or bring food from Melbourne.

Fuel

Buy fuel from bus company.

Cost Estimates

Return flight Tullamarine-Hobart: \$266, airport bus Melbourne return: \$36, bus Hobart-Scotts Peak: varies, e.g. \$70 for party of 7, flight Melaleuca to Cambridge Aerodrome: \$300, park pass: \$30.



PACK CARRY

SOUTH-WEST CAPE CIRCUIT, TASMANIA

DATE	2-9 January 2019
START TIME	8:30 am 2 January 2019
RETURN TIME	9 January 2019
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	58 km
LEADER	Ian Langford
TRANSPORT	Private
TRANSPORT COST	See below
ACTIVITY AREA	South West National Park, Tasmania
MAP REFERENCE	Tasmap 1:100,000 South Coast Walks. Chapman, John. 2017. South West Tasmania

The South West Cape Circuit follows rugged headlands and small bays to South-West Cape which stretches 3 km into the Southern Ocean. There is then a traverse of the South West Cape Range to more bays and back to Melaleuca. This walk is within the abilities of most pack carry walkers. Manageable days are scheduled and the pace will be sensible. The trip is on tracks to Wilsons Bight and after that is mostly off track. The trip is at low elevations. There are many sheltered campsites but some sites may be exposed.

Special requirements: Windproof parka, hood, gloves, over trousers, winter clothing, warm sleeping bag, water containers for 5 litres.

Itinerary

1st January fly Melbourne-Hobart Airport, taxi to Cambridge Aerodrome, fly to Melaleuca. Alternatively join this trip from the Port Davey Track trip. Food drops for walkers joining from the Port Davey Track trip will be air-freighted to Melaleuca. Walk campsites as follows: 2nd New Harbour, 3rd Ketchem Bay, 4th Wilson Bight, 5th Window Pane Bay, 6th Murgab Creek, 7th Horseshoe Inlet, 8th Melaleuca, 9th Fly to Cambridge Aerodrome, fly Hobart-Melbourne.

Food

7 days food. The bus company can buy food in Hobart or bring food from Melbourne.

Fuel

At Melaleuca airstrip: buy fuel from Par Avion.

Cost Estimates

Return flight Tullamarine-Hobart: \$266, airport bus Melbourne return: \$36, air freight for food drops \$5.50 per kilo, return flight Cambridge Aerodrome-Melaleuca: \$600, fuel: \$15 (gas 250 grams \$15, meths \$6 litre, Shellite \$6 litre), park pass: \$30.



SUNDAY BUS

PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK

(PLEASE NOTE: ALTERNATIVE DEPARTURE POINT)

DATE Sunday 6 January 2019
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to City
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES 11 km and 15 km
TOTAL ASCENTS Minimal
LEADERS Halina Sarbinowski & Wendy Fortington
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving cnr A’Beckett and William Streets (opposite clubrooms) at 8:45 am
ACTIVITY AREA Mt Macedon
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

The first Sunday walk for 2019 will give us the opportunity to explore the volcanic formations of Hanging Rock and the fables that surround them and then view them from above on top of Mt Macedon. Enjoying all this with a sense of celebration.

We’ll find the “hanging rock” suspended over the summit track and have enough time to scramble over the rock formations and glimpse views of the land below; beautifully framed by the rock. We’ll also do the Base Walk, an easy, flat circuit around the perimeter of the rock, a wide dirt track between the gum trees where you can stop to admire how steeply the rock rises from the ground. The E/M group will also walk through and around the racecourse to see an amazing view of the rocks from a distance.

Once we are back at the bottom of the rock, we can unpack our picnic on one of the tables next to the racecourse and watch the many crimson rosellas. As lunch can be left on the bus it can be quite extravagant! An hour for lunch also gives you plenty of time to explore the Discovery Centre.

After lunch, the bus takes both groups up to the Memorial Cross on Mt Macedon, The E/M heads off to Camels Hump right away, while the easy group gets to explore. We all follow the western lookout loop to Camels Hump; a short, steep climb for afternoon tea and a view of Hanging Rock from above. We continue over Mt Macedon Rd and on to Days Picnic Ground. The E/M group also do the Sanatorium Lake Eco track loop back to Days Picnic ground for the bus pick up.



WEDNESDAY WALK

FRIENDSHIP TRACK, ARTHUR’S SEAT

DATE Wednesday 9 January 2019
RETURN TIME 3:30 pm
STANDARD Easy/Medium, some uphill with undulations
DISTANCE 13 km
ELEVATION 270 m
LEADER Deb Berner
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Mornington Peninsula
MAP REFERENCE Melway map 160 B9
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mornington Peninsula

Meet at Hillview Community Reserve, Boundary Road at 10:15 am, ready to start walking 10:30 am. Car park may be busy with mountain bikers. Extra parking near shops.

From Boundary Road walk uphill towards Arthurs Seat Road, a slight detour around OT dam. Left onto Friendship Track, a tree ferned track with some board walks and steps.

We will cross the road and follow a dirt road behind houses to Arthurs Seat. We will then make our way to Seawinds for lunch. We return the same way to our cars.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

JOHNS HILL

(PLEASE NOTE: ALTERNATIVE DEPARTURE POINT)

DATE Sunday 13 January 2019
STANDARD Easy
LEADER Theo Mertzianidis
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving cnr A’Beckett and William Streets (opposite clubrooms) at 8:45 am
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

For details of this walk please contact the leader.



TRAINING

MBW TRAINING DAY – UNITS 1–5

DATE Saturday, 19 January, 2019
VENUE Mission to Seafarers Victoria, 717 Flinders Street
ORGANISER(S) Angela Vetsicas and Ian Mair
TRANSPORT Private
START TIME 10:00 am
FINISH TIME 3:30 pm
BOOK WITH Angela, training@mbw.org.au

UPDATE: Addition to the program.

Are you an aspiring leader who has been meaning to attend our training days or are you a member who wants to develop your bushwalking skills? Then you may attend all day or select the units which interest you from the MBW Training Day.

10:00–10:45 Unit 1 – ‘So You Want to Become a Leader?’

- The concept of leadership
- Different styles of leadership

10:45–11:45 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.

11:45–12:00 Morning Tea

12:00–12:45 Unit 3 – ‘Paper Work’

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

12:45–1:45 Unit 4 – ‘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.

1:45–2:15 – LUNCH

2:15–3:15 Unit 5 – ‘Conducting the Walk’

- Tasks which need to be completed week prior to the walk;
- tasks 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;

To book contact Angela at training@mbw.org.au.



SUNDAY BUS

ERSKINE FALLS (CHOCOLATE FACTORY)

(PLEASE NOTE: ALTERNATIVE DEPARTURE POINT)

DATE Sunday January 2019
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
LEADERS John Fritze and Carol Ward
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving cnr A'Beckett and William Streets (opposite clubrooms) at 8:45 am

FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Geelong

Details of this walk will be in December News and on the Club's website.



MOFS WALK

GLEN IRIS CREEKS

DATE Monday 21 January 2019
RETURN TIME Return to Ashburton railway station by 3 pm
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 11 km
ELEVATION Mostly flat
LEADERS Alan and Jan Case
TRANSPORT Private or Metro train
ACTIVITY AREA Glen Iris and Ashburton
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 59 and 60
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

The walk will begin and end at the Ashburton railway station on the Alamein line.

Meet in the Ashburton station car park on the west (city) side of the station at 10:30 am. There are usually a few car parking spaces left there at that time and unrestricted car parking is available in Aitchison Avenue and Kelvin Grove adjacent to the station.

The walk will follow the Summerhill Linear Park, Back Creek and Gardiners Creek through areas which have been much improved by the actions of various friends groups. After lunch we will proceed to Warrigal Road and return along the other side of Gardiners Creek and the Anniversary Rail Trail along the old outer circle railway route to Ashburton station.

We will have a choice between a number of coffee shops in High Street to enjoy a coffee after the walk

If the day is very warm, we will have the option to shorten the walk by a few km.

Book with Alan and Jan.



SOCIAL WALK

STUDLEY AND YARRA BEND PARKS (BUS OPTION)

DATE Thursday 24 January 2019
STANDARD Easy

DISTANCE 5 km
TOTAL ASCENT Flat
LEADER Pam Rosso
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Studley Park; Fairfield
MAP REFERENCE Melway Map 2D
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

Meet at 10:15 a.m. in the first car park on the left at the end of Boathouse Road, Melway Map 2D F8. There are toilets in the park. I have not previewed this walk yet, but it will be a stroll along the Yarra River taking in Dight's Falls followed by lunch probably in the Boathouse Café. Book with Pam.



PACK CARRY

FRENCHMAN'S CAP, TASMANIA

DATE Friday 25 to Tuesday 29 January
STANDARD Medium/Hard
DISTANCE 43.0 km
TOTAL ASCENT 2470 m rise
LEADER Ian Mair
TRANSPORT Private
TRANSPORT COST See arrangements below.
ACTIVITY AREA Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park

Trip Full, wait list only available.

From Parks and Wildlife Tasmania:

"This track leads to the summit of the magnificent white quartzite dome of Frenchmans Cap (1446 m), the most prominent mountain peak in the Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park, a part of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. The track passes buttongrass plains, unusual rainforest where Huon pine grows alongside King Billy pine, and spectacular glacial valleys, up to Lake Tahune, perched under the huge and spectacular cliff face of Frenchmans Cap. The silvery Precambrian quartzite is some of Australia's oldest exposed rock.

The track is considerably more arduous than many other Tasmanian walks, including the Overland Track. The track is often rough and muddy and is steep in places. To do the summit climb you must have good weather and a good head for heights and exposure."

Proposed Schedule

Friday 25 January: Early flight to Launceston and then self-drive to Derwent Bridge for the night. Do a side trip on the way.

Saturday 26 January: Drive to walk start and walk in to Lake Vern Hut (14.6 km; 650 m total ascent)

Sunday 27 January: Walk to Lake Tahune Hut (5.3 km; 635 m total ascent). Climb Frenchmans Cap (weather permitting) (3.3 km return; 490 m total ascent).

Monday 28 January: Return to Loddon River and camp (13.6 km; 390 m total ascent).

Tuesday 29 January: Walk out to carpark (6.3 km; 305 m total ascent) and return to airport for late afternoon flight.

Participant numbers are limited to 8. Please contact Ian Mair if you are interested.



PACK CARRY

MT BOGONG: UP STAIRCASE AND DOWN ESKDALE SPURS

DATE 25–28 January 2019
STANDARD Medium

DISTANCE 33 km with packs, 6 km side trips
TOTAL ASCENT 1500 m
LEADER Jopie Bodegraven
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Near Mt Beauty
MAP REFERENCE Bogong Alpine Area 1:50,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North East
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Falls Creek



Mt Bogong is one of the alpine classics that we keep coming back to. It takes us up into Victoria's highest alpine area with fabulous views, hopefully still some late season wildflowers, and a side trip to the beautiful Howmans Falls.

Day 1 is the hardest day unfortunately. A whopping 1500 metres of climbing to get to our campsite in the headwaters of Bogong Creek. The distance is about 11 km but the climb is the issue so we will of course take our time. We will also, of course, all have our packs as light as possible to ease the pain, consistent with taking all the gear we need for an alpine area that can be brutally cold, wet and very windy at times, although we always hope for sunny weather. Then it gets easier.

Day 2 is only 7 km with packs plus side trips to West Peak, Bogong Creek and Howmans Falls. Our campsite is near Cleve Cole Hut. Then Day 3 is 14.5 km with the knee-crunching descent down Eskdale Spur back to the cars.

Friday night's campsite is at Mountain Creek campground. The turnoff from the Kiewa Valley Highway is about one km south of Tawonga township and is called Ryders Lane. Mountain Creek camp is about 10 km along this road. We will aim to be ready to walk off at 8 am on Saturday morning.

Ring me or email me to book onto this classic trip.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

RAWSON – HOTEL CREEK – ERICA CIRCUIT
 (PLEASE NOTE: ALTERNATIVE DEPARTURE POINT)

DATE Sunday 27 January 2019
RETURN TIME 7 pm approximately
STANDARD Medium/Hard
DISTANCE 20 km
TOTAL ASCENT 420 m
LEADER Ron Hampton
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving cnr A'Beckett and William Streets (opposite clubrooms) at 8:45 am
TRANSPORT COST \$27 approximately
MAP REFERENCE Vic Map: Walhalla 8122-S
FIRE BAN DISTRICT West Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Latrobe Valley

This walk takes us through areas of attractive native forest with occasional glimpses of farm land beyond, across small creeks, into ferny gullies and through towering forests of mountain ash. Water permitting there is also a waterfall.

Beginning at Rawson we walk south west over hilly terrain following Hotel Creek then south to the old timber town of Erica where we stop for lunch. There are picnic tables and toilets here and an old General Store about 150 m distant where fleet-footed walkers may buy coffee.

After lunch we proceed north east following a disused railway line to Platina Station. If time permits we will detour and take a look at the Horseshoe Bend Tunnel on the Thomson River before heading back to Rawson and the cars. There are plenty of hills on the first part of the walk but the tracks are good. There is no off-track walking.



BASE CAMP

SNAKE ISLAND

DATE Tuesday 29 to Thursday 31 January 2019
RETURN TIME Port Welshpool, early afternoon
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 8–16 km
ELEVATION Flat
LEADER Susan Maughan
TRANSPORT Private/car share
ACTIVITY AREA Snake Island, Port Welshpool
MAP REFERENCE Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park
FIRE BAN DISTRICT West and South Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Western Port

Snake Island is uninhabited but the Cattlemen's Association of Victoria maintain cabins, dorms and other facilities there and they have kindly allowed us to use these free of charge.

A local fisherman will take us over (approx 30 mins), so space is limited. The cost is either \$120 or \$140, depending on our final number. Bring a torch, sleeping bag, pots, stove and all of your supplies– no need to bring a tent or mattress. There is no power on the island.

WAIT LIST ONLY – SUSAN MAUGHAN



WEDNESDAY WALK

DANDENONGS, SHERBROOKE FOREST

DATE 30 January 2019
RETURN TIME 3:00 pm
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 14 km
TOTAL ASCENT 500 m gain
LEADER Fay Dunn
TRANSPORT Private cars
ACTIVITY AREA Dandenong Ranges
MAP REFERENCE Melway map 75 F8
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Dandenong

Meet 10 am at Micawber Tavern car park, Monbulk Road (Melways 75 F8 to start walking 10:15 am.

This a tree-lined walk with wet eucalyptus forest, tree ferns and a waterfall so should not be too hot for a summer walk. Some hills, as you'd expect in the Dandenongs, but easy to follow tracks and should be a pleasant day out.

Let me know you are coming.

Bus transport meets at Southbank Boulevard, south side of the Arts Centre, before 8:45 am. After 22 September we will meet the bus at the Alternative Departure Point, corner A'Beckett Street and William Street, adjacent to the Clubrooms. Leader or deputy will be there rain, hail or shine!

January 2019					
2-12	PC : South-West Cape Circuit, Tasmania	Pvt	M/H		Ian Langford
Sun 6	DAY: Picnic at Hanging Rock	Bus	E&E/M	CN:me	Halina Sarbinowski & Wendy Fortington
Wed 9	DAY: Mornington Peninsula	Pvt	E/M	CN:fr	Deb Berner
Sun 13	DAY: Johns Hill	Car	Easy	CN:me	Theo Mertzandis
Sat 19	TRG: MBW Training Day – Units 1-5				Angela Vetsicas & Ian Mair
Sun 20	DAY: Erskine Falls (Chocolate Factory)	Bus	E&E/M	CN:ge	John Fritze & Carol Ward
Mon 21	MOF: Glen Iris Creeks	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Alan & Jan Case
Thu 24	SOC: Studley & Yarra Bend Parks (bus option)	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Pam Rosso
25-29	PC : Frenchmans Cap, Tasmania	Pvt	M/H		Ian Mair
25-28	PC : Mt Bogong: Up Staircase & Down Eskdale Spur	Pvt	Med	NE:fc	Jopie Bodegraven
Sun 27	DAY: Rawson – Hotel Creek – Erica Circuit	Car	M/H	WG:lv	Ron Hampton
29-31	BC : Snake Island	Pvt	E/M	WG:sa	Susan Maughan
Wed 30	DAY: Dandenongs	Pvt	E/M	CN:md	Fay Dunn

FREE TO A GOOD HOME

3/4 Thermarest.

Goose down Insulation Sleeping Bag “Columbus SL”: used, always with a silk liner; in very good condition.

Fisher Outtabound Crown Skis with cable bindings, 165 cm long, steel edges. These skis are good for turning and look more like downhill than cross country skis.

Sturdy leather ski boots, probably size 8½, 3-pin, fit cable bindings.

Stocks, 138 cm long.

Ski bag.

Little bit of wax, iron for melting it on to the skis, scraper to get it off the skis.

All items to be picked up from Mont Albert North. You can take all or any one item.

Marianne Gemperle