

**MELBOURNE
BUSHWALKERS INC.**

ABN 14 396 912 508

THE NEWS

#834 September
2020



Cover photo by Wen Qi

DUE TO THE REINTRODUCTION OF RESTRICTIONS OF MOVEMENT TO CONTAIN THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 ALL CLUB FACE-TO-FACE ACTIVITIES UP TO AND INCLUDING 16TH SEPTEMBER HAVE BEEN CANCELLED. CLUB EQUIPMENT HIRE IS SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

REFER TO OUR WEBSITE FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION.

WE ARE A MEMBER OF



Bushwalking Victoria

The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc (The News) is published monthly, and is the official newsletter of Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

Editor: Wen Qi

Walkpreviews, 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 high resolution 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.

Next committee meeting: Monday 7th September

"video club night"
6:30 - 8:30pm every Wednesday, except
"Wine & Cheese" presentation nights.

General correspondence should be directed to:

The Secretary
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc
PO Box 1751
MELBOURNE VIC 3001
www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au

CLUB OFFICER POSITIONS AVAILABLE

- Social secretary
- Sunday walks secretary
- Vice president

If interested, please get in touch by emailing president@mbw.org.au

Would like your trip photos featured in the newsletter?

Due date for contributions to October News: 21 September
email: news@mbw.org.au





Dear members

I hope you all are keeping well.

It's August already and Spring is around the corner. Hopefully, we will be back in the bush soon. Stay active and well and think about which walk you would like to do first once you are able to venture out further from home.

Back in May we were planning to get together to celebrate the club's 80th Anniversary. Due to the pandemic we have had to postpone the date for our celebration. Once it is safe to meet again in a larger group rest assured we will celebrate with a big bang!

To commemorate Melbourne Bushwalkers 80th Anniversary the Club's committee has decided to plant 500 trees as a long-term legacy for the club. You can purchase 1 or more native trees by donating to our dedicated 80th Anniversary tree planting

GoFundMe page. The funds will be used for the 500 native trees and tree guards. Each tree is \$8.15 and the club will be contributing 50% of the cost. (page link: https://www.gofundme.com/f/melbourne-bushwalkers-80th-anniversary?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1)

The club will organise and attend a tree-planting event (location to be confirmed) during winter 2021, and more details how you can get involved will be posted closer to the date.

Fifteen Trees has been selected as an independent, social enterprise company with established networks with Landcare, community groups and plant nurseries. Fifteen Trees has organised the planting of over 180,000 trees around Australia since its establishment in July 2009. They have overseen big projects with landholders and Landcare (10,000 trees at Kinglake, Vic) and small projects where local school children planted trees on their school grounds (15 trees at Creswick Primary School, Vic). Fifteen Trees helps individuals and companies reduce their carbon footprint through the support of community tree planting projects.

Once the trees have been planted, the community groups (who have planted the trees) send in photos and narrative which are updated on the Fifteen Trees' website. The community benefits from the distribution of the trees. Fifteen Trees helps to support those (mostly volunteer) groups who do the hard work in the community for the environment – preparing the ground, planting the trees, protecting them and keeping an eye on them for those first crucial years. Independent plant nurseries also benefit as the trees are sourced from them. Those planting the trees have local knowledge and expertise. They plant trees indigenous to the area and at the right time of the year (usually the wetter months). This in turn ensures a very good strike rate for the trees. Also, planting indigenous trees in turn encourages native wildlife to establish itself within the plantation, and sets up a whole self-sustaining ecosystem. The trees are planted for the long term.

Founder and Director of Fifteen Trees, Colleen Filippa gave a virtual presentation on Wednesday 26th August. Colleen has a Bachelor of Environmental Science from Melbourne State College (now Melbourne University) and over 30 years of experience working in the areas of education, sustainability and the environment. She has undergone training with Al Gore and the Climate Reality Corps, travelled to Antarctica with 86 other women of Science in a project called Homeward Bound and is a member of numerous environmental networks such as Landcare. Go to Fifteen Tree's website for more information on what they do.

A fitting way to celebrate the Club's milestone, I hope you agree.

Stay warm and safe

Susanne

A NOTE FROM THE SOCIAL SECRETARY

Jane McRae

I have been a member of MBW since 2015, in 2018 I joined the Committee as Social Secretary. It has been an opportunity to make a contribution to the Club, meet other members and hear about their walking experiences. I intend to vacate the position in 2021, if you are interested feel free to contact me at social@mbw.org.au to discuss or if you have any questions.

The key responsibilities for the Social Secretary are listed below:

- * **PRESENTATION NIGHTS AND GUEST SPEAKERS** - Plan the monthly series of presentations in the clubrooms; book guest speakers; promote the event in the NEWS and liaise with the Webmaster to promote the event on the website and by email
- * **WEDNESDAY WINE AND CHEESE NIGHTS (monthly)** - Advertise in the NEWS; liaise with the Mission to Seafarers; arrange catering; set up room/AV and clean up on the evening
- * **SOCIAL EVENTS** - Plan and organise social functions as required, e.g. Annual Xmas Event
- * **OTHER** - Attend monthly committee meetings and report on club social activities

In terms of time commitment to the role, on average it takes 9 hours per month (Committee meeting - preparation/attendance 2.5 hours; Arranging/co-ordinating guest speakers/presenters 2 hours; Wine & Cheese/Presentation Night 4.5 hours).

This year presentations moved on line in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; they are proving to be popular with members so, it is intended that once activities are allowed back in the Club Rooms, presentations will also be live streamed. This will be a good initiative for the Club to broaden Member engagement and connection.

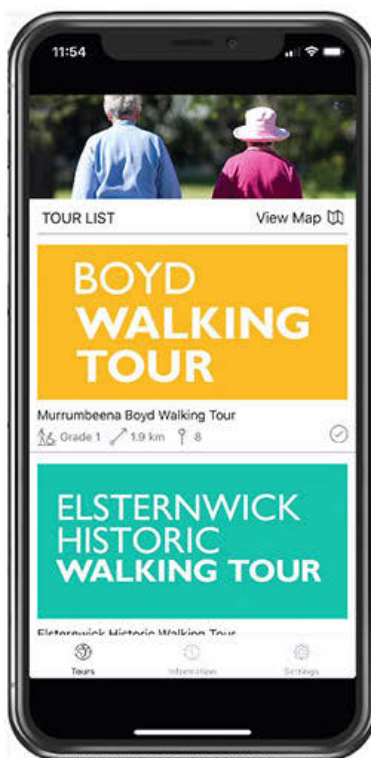
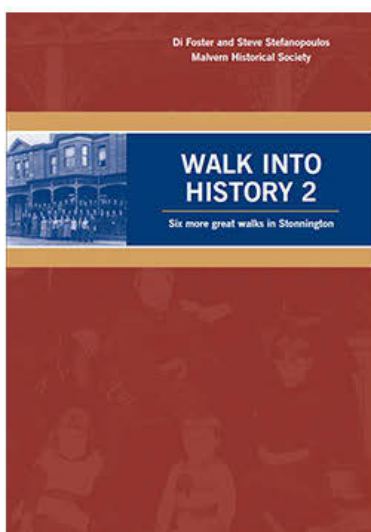
WOMEN'S ADVENTURE FILM TOUR DIGITAL PREMIERE - 11 SEPTEMBER, 7PM AEST

For more details and to purchase tickets, see their website www.womensadventurefilmtour.com/

PRODUCT RECALL: MACPAC MICRO-STOVE

Refer Macpac website for product and refund details.

<https://www.macpac.com.au/product-recall.html>



MAKE COVID-19 WORK FOR YOU

Ian Mair

With everybody in lockdown and our time to exercise limited, pounding around the suburban streets and alleyways can soon become repetitive and boring. How often do you pass an old building or house that you barely give a second glance? You have seen it many times before. But do you ever wonder what is in its past and how it shaped the very area where you live?

You could join a local Historical Society if you were really keen, but they are in lockdown too! For many of us there is another way to combine our passion for walking and exercise with a deeper appreciation of the area around us. A number, but not all, of the City Council areas in which we live provide free self-guided walking maps and notes to significant buildings and sites of interest. Some Councils even have free Apps with downloadable walking routes, including historic images and audio descriptions to guide you on your walk.

The walks vary in level of detail provided but generally fall into the bracket of 1 -2 hours walking. The links below will get you started and make COVID-19 work for you as you learn about where you live.

APPS:

- **Museums Victoria Walk Through History (App)**
<https://museumsvictoria.com.au/apps/walk-through-history/>
- **Parkville Heritage Walks (App)**
<https://www.parkvilleassociation.org.au/publications>
- **Bayside Walks and Trails (App)**
<https://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/walks-and-trails-smartphone-app>
- **Glen Eira Self-Guided Walking Tours (App)**
<https://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/our-city/sports-and-leisure/self-guided-walking-tours>

PDF Booklets and Brochures:

- **City of Melbourne**
Thematic History – A History of the City of Melbourne’s Urban Environment (151 pages)
<https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/history-city-of-melbourne-urban-environment.pdf>
- **City of Bayside Walks**
<https://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/bayside-walks>
- **City of Boorandara Local History Trails**
<https://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/about-council/history-and-demographics/local-history/local-history-trails>
- **City of Darebin**
<http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/Darebin-Living/Parking-and-Transport/Transport?a=F972FD83BF75426BA157BFD3A1DB379A#Walking>

- **City of Glen Eira Self-Guided Walking Tours**
<https://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/our-city/sports-and-leisure/self-guided-walking-tours>
 - **City of Maribyrnong Heritage Trails and Walks**
<https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Discover-Maribyrnong/Our-history-and-heritage/Heritage-Trails-and-Walks>
 - **City of Moonee Valley Walking and Cycling**
<https://mvcc.vic.gov.au/play/my-outdoors/walking-cycling/>
 - **City of Port Phillip Walk Booklets**
https://heritage.portphillip.vic.gov.au/Whats_on/Walking_in_Port_Phillip
 - **City of Stonnington Historic Walks**
<https://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/About/About-Stonnington/History-and-heritage/History-of-Stonnington/Local-history-publications#section-5>
 - **City of Yarra Heritage Walks**
<https://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/the-area/visiting-yarra/heritage-walks>
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2020 BC HALF YEAR REPORT

Stuart Hanham ((General Walks Secretary))

No useful comparisons can be made between the first half of 2020 and the same period in 2019, due to recent Corona cancellations and restrictions.

However, here are some early **Before Corona** highlights of this year:

Highest Attendances – so far...

MOFs: Mar. 16, **Yarra River: Kew to Heidelberg** – 6 (1 visitor)

TOFs: Feb. 6, **Summer in the Dandenongs** – 14 (2)

Sunday bus: Feb. 9, **Arthur's Seat to Cape Schank** – 56 (9)

Sunday carpool: Jan. 5, **Three Creeks** – 22 (3) & Jan. 19, **French Island** – 22 (4) & Mar. 15, **Bamgamie State Forest** – 22 (3)

Wednesday: Feb. 12, **Mt. Morton, Belgrave Heights** – 23 (1)

Social walks: Jan. 23, **Stradbroke Park, Hays Paddock** – 7 (2) & Feb. 27, **Chelmsworth Park, Wilson Reserve Trail** – 7

Training: Jan. 18, **Full day for leaders** – 12

Base camp: Feb. 4, **Snake Island** – 14 (1)

Pack Carry: Feb. 15, **Mt. Baw Baw (beginners')** – 13

Saturday/Dandenongs Explorer and Cycling activities were cancelled.

It is hoped that our activities can resume from September 20th (and not having restrictions would be a bonus). It's also hoped that cancelled activities can be rescheduled in the Summer program. Many thanks must go to our leaders who did plan events and fill our programs, only to have the Corona lockdowns intervene.



Feral horse damage to bog between Dead Horse Gap and Cascade Hut

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH FERAL HORSES IN NATIONAL PARKS?

John Terrell (Environment officer)

Feral horses in national parks have been in the news lately. And anyone who walks in the Alpine National Park or Kosciuszko NP will have noticed the damage cause by brumbies and other feral animals.

In NSW this has been exacerbated by 2018 legislation giving feral horses heritage protection while in Victoria the Australian Brumby Alliance and cattleman Phil Maguire took action in the Federal Court of Australia to

stop Parks Victoria from trapping or removing any brumby in the Bogong High Plains area of the Alpine National Park, and from taking action that might cause significant depletion of any of the other populations of brumbies in the Alpine National Park. Parks Victoria had been unable to carry out its feral horse management plans for the past 18 months due to the injunction.

In May the court ruled in favour of Parks Victoria which can now resume its program of deploying small teams of ground-based professional shooters into high conservation priority locations to cull the horses, assisted by thermal imaging and equine veterinary oversight. However in early June, Victoria's Legislative Council passed a motion calling on the Government to cease culling brumbies in national parks and by late July Phil Maguire had raised \$50,000 to seek leave to appeal to the High Court. A risky investment - only about 25% of High Court applicants are granted leave to appeal.

The enthusiasm for court applications then crossed the border into New South Wales - presumably in a Covid-safe manner - where an application by the Snowy Mountains Brumby Sustainability and Management Group was similarly dismissed, on 17 July. The SMBSMG wisely decided not to appeal.

Meanwhile, on 22 July, the NSW Parks and Wildlife Service started removing approximately 4000 feral horses from some higher conservation-value parts of northern Kosciuszko NP. The horses will be re-homed where possible, and any horses for which homes cannot be found will be trucked to an abattoir.

The NSW government is preparing to issue the long-awaited call for comments on its draft wild horse management plan, probably in September. The Reclaim Kosci campaign (www.reclaimkosci.org.au), a coalition of environmental groups, NPAs and many bushwalking clubs, will be preparing a submission guide.

Please contact John Terrell if you would like a copy to help you make your own submission, or to contribute to MBW's submission.

Linda Groom, Volunteer, Reclaim Kosci, lindagroom@invasives.org.au

John Terrell, MBW Environment officer, environment@mbw.org.au



Murray River upstream of Cowombat Flat, horse damage, 12 12 17, photo by Mike Bremers

BTAC UPDATE

John Terrell (Environment officer)

While BTAC's track maintenance and conservation programs have been put on hold this year, firstly because of the bushfires, then COVID-19, Peter Maffei reports that Dan Beacom, BTAC Project Coordinator, is still busy behind the scenes working with the land managers to put in place a series of projects we can implement once restrictions are lifted.

One positive outcome from the restrictions is that the land managers have been able to carry out a significant amount of track work themselves and with the aid of summer crew workers. Their good work has been particularly evident at Wilsons Promontory and also in the Yarra State Forest. There has been a government program called Working4Victoria operating in a number of places. It is believed that the team operating out of the Parks Victoria Heyfield Office has been particularly active in the Licola area.

The proposed expanded Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing seemed to have faded into the background for a while but has now resurfaced and a Strategic Partnerships Committee (SPC) has been established. Bushwalking Victoria has nominated two BTAC volunteers as representatives on the SPC.

Also in the wind, is a potential requirement from Parks Victoria that all volunteers will be required to have a Working With Children Check (WWCC) to participate in volunteer projects after 31 December 2020. Obtaining the check is free to volunteers and can be done online.

Parks Victoria is keen to encourage volunteers to register on their volunteer portal ParkConnect. All future BTAC Parks Victoria activities will be listed on ParkConnect. Please consider joining ParkConnect, remember to also join the Bushwalking Victoria group (www.parkconnect.vic.gov.au)

BOOK REVIEW: SURVIVING THE 21ST CENTURY HUMANITY'S TEN GREAT CHALLENGES AND HOW WE CAN OVERCOME THEM

Julian Cribb, Springer, 2017 (ISBN 978 3 319 41269 6)

Review by Wendy Fortington

This book explores the central question facing humanity today: how can we best survive the ten great existential challenges that are now coming together to confront us?

It's a sobering read, with some hope at the end if we can take up the challenge.

The author examines ten intersecting areas of activity (mass extinction, resource depletion, WMD, climate change, universal toxicity, food crises, population and urban expansion, pandemic disease, dangerous new technologies and self-delusion) which pose manifest risks to civilization and, potentially, to our species' long-term future. This isn't a book just about problems. It is also about solutions. Every chapter concludes with clear conclusions and consensus advice on what needs to be done at global level —but it also empowers individuals with what they can do for themselves to make a difference. Unlike other books, it offers integrated solutions across the areas of greatest risk. It explains why Homo sapiens is no longer an appropriate name for our species, and what should be done about it.

Purchase of the hardcopy will cost in the region of \$40, ebook around \$13. However, this link allows access to a reasonable selection of sample pages: <https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783319412696>



Castlemaine sunset photo by Deb Shand

At times, it is easy to believe that all is well with the world. As I walk my dog in the evening, the setting sun paints clouds gold. Below, in the valley, the buildings of my little town nestle amongst green pillows of trees. Beyond, the sky hangs pink above the mountain.

But all is not well. A virus stalks amongst the people of our city and many other cities throughout the world. Businesses and economies teeter on the brink of collapse. Far away in Siberia, one of the coldest places on Earth, there is a record heatwave causing wildfires to burn and permafrost to melt sending greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

Hearing this news reminds us of the terrible bushfires that raged through our country only six months ago. Then we wore masks to stop the smoke of burning trees and animals from entering our lungs. Now we wear masks to stop a virus entering our lungs and stealing our breath away.

Storm clouds of chaos and uncertainty gather on the periphery of our minds. While we fret over COVID-19 figures, our politicians seek to dismantle environmental laws and allow mining companies to destroy ecosystems and ancient caves.

Despite these grave threats to our existence, sunsets are still to be enjoyed. Lockdown can be a gift: a time to reflect, to eat well, to read and rest, to grow gardens and ourselves. Each of us has a responsibility to steer our Earth onto a better course. We are not alone: there are millions around the world working for positive change, for renewable solutions, for a healthy environment and stronger community. We must practice sustainable ways of living and remind our MPs that they work for our wellbeing if we want future generations to inherit a habitable planet.

Postscript: "Fight for Planet A" featuring Craig Reucassel and currently screening on ABC on Tuesday evenings or iView has some great ideas for decreasing our individual carbon footprints.

PATAGONIA

PART 5, 6 & 7

Dec 2019 - Jan 2020

Trip report & photos
by Meredith Quick



January 1st 2020 Three and a half hours after arriving home from the NYE celebrations we were packed and ready for the drive to our next stop Caleta Tortel. We needed to get up early to catch the ferry, the same one as the way down. We had to drive the 100km to be there and the ferry was leaving at 11am. It was a brilliant day and the drive was spectacular, postcard stuff. Tortel was only another 70km on from the ferry.

Caleta Tortel is a town built on stilts and elevated boardwalks. It is located within a fiord, very picturesque but it seemed dirty and polluted. We checked into our hotel, I headed straight out again, determined to make the most of the good weather. One of the walkways lead to a point at a beach, so I took my lunch and picnicked, whilst swatting the march flies. I was tempted to go for a swim until I saw the signs warning people not to go in. I suspect the water was contaminated and it had nothing to do with tides and currents. After lunch I went with Sebastien to find a restaurant that was open for dinner. It seemed like an easy task and was a good way to explore the town. But it was to prove harder than we thought. New Year's Day is a big family day in Chile and most of the restaurants were closed. We finally decided on a restaurant and had the others join us. We arrived at the restaurant at 7:30 and did not get our meals until after 10pm, we discovered the person that took the orders, ran the bar, cooked the food and then served the food was the same person...there was only one person working there and for a group of 10 people it just took a bit longer. Once we were served the food was good, wholesome and reasonably priced.

On January 2nd we moved on to San Lorenzo to a camp on a working farm. It was a long drive and we arrived in time to erect our tents and settle into the camp kitchen to make our dinner. The following day we were to have our packs carried up the mountain by horse, but there had been an accident. Whilst Group 1 were ascending the mountain a horse had lost its footing and fallen into a ravine, with 3 packs on its back. People were sad about their packs I was sad about the poor horse and feeling a bit nervous about the type of terrain we would be covering for the next two days.

We set off up the valley in light drizzle, very soon the sun came out and it was off with the wet weather gear. We started to climb steadily, but not steeply. We then reached the point where the horse fell. It wasn't steep or narrow, something must have spooked the animal. I and the rest of the group were feeling sad again, poor horse. We then walked on at an easy pace, the going was not steep or tough, it was easy to do without the help of a horse. We arrived at the hut in time for lunch. It gave me plenty of time to explore and see try to get the best view of the San Lorenzo Glacier and mountain from the best angle. We then were set the task of collecting firewood. The hut had a small stove for heating and cooking, so we searched the immediate area for suitable wood. Soon the group had collected enough to cook and provide some heat for the cold night ahead. The private hut was cosy, with the sleeping area upstairs and the cooking dining areas downstairs.

The next day a few of us set off to explore closer to the glacier, we were walking on scree which is pretty difficult, it keeps moving under your feet, so you have to be careful with each step. There was no track so the five of us,

Along The Track

took what we thought to be the safest route, soon we were in the snowline and there was lots of ice around. We still had plenty of days left on this trip so we decided to be sensible and come down the mountain. I didn't want to slip on the ice and rocks.

That night we stayed in the hut again before heading back down the mountain and along the valley back to the farm for another night.

The following day, was drizzly but we decided to walk to the waterfall, the rain was intermittent and the walking was easy. Once out of the forest and on the glacial moraine, the wind whipped done from the glacier making it quite cold. At that stage I had seen enough and we retreated back to the camp and the warmth of the wood stove. There were lots of birds around and we managed to see a Patagonian woodpecker. I could easily identify it...it had a bright red head.



It was the 6th January, we left the farm and headed into Cochrane, a reasonable size town.

We checked into our hotel at Cochrane, showered and then headed to the pub for a beer and a hamburger. After the essentials we then headed to the supermarket to top up the dwindling food supply and then we went onto the coffee shop for the best hot chocolate in southern Chile. It might seem like a big call, but they usually serve Cadburys hot chocolate powder...yuk...it's too sweet. This place actually serves the milk and melted chocolate... yummo.

The next day I drove the car to the start of the Tamango walk, some of the group was taking the 2 day walk over the mountain and down to the

Westwinds camping ground in Parque Patagonia. Because from now on we were not doing loop walks, instead through walks, we had to take it in turns to drive the cars to the end of the walk. I chose this walk, because it was the least appealing to me and it was the shortest.

I dropped my people off and headed back to the hotel for a day in bed with a lemon, my throat was dry and I thought I could be coming down with the cold that some of the group were suffering with. I wasn't sick, I just wanted to make sure I was resting well to keep on top of it, before it got on top of me. After a nap and a read of my book, I went to the coffee shop again for my hot chocolate. For dinner that night we picked up empanadas for a quick and easy meal.

On 8th January, we left Cochrane and drove out to Parque Patagonia to the Westwinds camping ground. We were there early and selected campsites, sheltered from the wind. At 12 noon we then decided to walk up the mountain, it was only 1200 metres and the sun was still setting at 11pm, so we had plenty of time. At about 900 metres, we met the group that had done the overnight walk, coming off the mountain. It had been snowing up there and some of them seemed pretty miserable. It was late in the day I was not going to be able to complete the 21km walk comfortably, so I turned back with the group that was descending the mountain.

Now the 9th January, I set off early to go up the mountain again, this time I was going to do the lake walk, a 21km circuit. I set off 10minutes ahead of the McColl family, they were super fit and I was not confident I would keep up with them. But surprisingly, I got to the top and had to wait for them to arrive. At the top the views were sensational, we then walked on past several tarns before descending back into the valley and back to Westwinds. I recall it as one of the best walks of Patagonia, ascending though grassland to forest areas and then up to the rocky alpine areas, through lush forests to calm tarns, some clear others with grasses and weed, most of them with wildlife. The walk was technically easy, but the 1200m climb would make it a challenge for those who are not fit. On 10th January we started the walk-through from Casa de Piedra to Jeinimeini. The walk was along the Valle Aviles through to Lake Verde, this was a 4 day valley walk, the highlights were the fabulous steep narrow gorges

Along The Track

of the Chacabuco Valley , walking by the Rio Aviles o Pedregoso, the hike up Gloria Pass and a side trip to the glacier. On day 4 we walked over the Gloria Pass and along the Hermosa Valley, at lunchtime we needed to do a deep river crossing, well it was deepish, up to the top of my thighs. It had been an unusually warm day and we had been walking on river stone that reflected the heat. After the river crossing, I decided it was time for a swim, the water was reasonably warm in comparison to a lot of the crossings we had previously done, so instead of relaxing, I swam for a bit. We then walked on to Lake Esmeralda, the colour of the water was a vibrant turquoise, so it was time for another dip. We then walked on to Lake Jeinimenei, the wind strength had increased and the air temperature had dropped, so we decided it was best to limit our swims to 2 for the day. We walked into the camp that afternoon, just as it started to rain.

On 14th January we left the shores of Lake Jeinimeini and drove to Jeinimeini park. The reserve features interesting rock formations, including Piedra Clavada, a solitary tall rock formation resting in the middle of a wide-open grasslands. It was a short trekking loop 9 km but the rock formations, the Mars like landscape and the views were spectacular. That afternoon we drove onto Chile Chico for the night.

The next day we were off again to catch yet another ferry to Puerto Ibanez. A short drive from the ferry terminal and we were in Villa Cerro Castillo. We overnight camped in yet another farm campground, before setting off the next day for our last walk.

The 5 day Cerro Castillo walk is noted as dangerous due to the extreme conditions and high winds we were likely to experience. At the start of the track there were park officials there warning us of the dangers and reiterating there was snow on the pass and likely to be high winds after 11am each day. The walk started pretty sedately, along a river valley, there were several small river crossings and we managed to keep our boots dry. We arrived at the camp at 4pm, there were



already several people at the camp, this was one of the few times we encountered other groups (we had been walking less well-known areas). The following day we set off at 9am as usual and started to climb steadily to the pass. As advised, we walked through the snow, stopping to have a bit of a play. One of the group did not cope well in the conditions and needed to be assisted to the end of the snow and then helped down the glacial moraine to our chosen lunch spot. We did not experience the Armageddon we were expecting, the winds were moderate and walking pleasant. That night we camped next to a river. The next day we were off again at 9am for the walk up onto the second pass, the most dangerous. Some of the group dropped our packs for side trip to view the glacier and Glacial lake...just a 1 hour doddle, whilst those more anxious about the impending weather conditions walked ahead on the track. That day there was no wind and I was able to take great photos of the reflection of the mountain in the lake. It was so good we stopped on top of the pass for lunch, taking in the fabulous views of the glaciers on one side and the valleys and vast Andes mountains to the other side. After lunch we started the steep descent to the valley and onto our campsite for two nights. The next day was a day walk to yet another glacier and lake, the following day we walked out to our waiting cars and drove back to Coyhaique.

It was our last night in Chile together! Most of us got together at the Bomberos for the final steak feast accompanied by a couple of Chile's drinkable Camenera. Then it was back to Hostal Gladys to pack and be ready for an early flight from Balmaceda in the morning.

At the end of the trip, I thought about my earlier fears, with the program, unknown to most and the uncertainty that it would come together. Sebastien, the guide selected by Russell to lead group2 had managed to pull the program together, interpret the maps, decipher the notes and deliver the planned walks where it was possible to do so, with the safety of the group foremost. In all we had 24 days walking and there were options to walk more if we wanted to!

Would I do it again, probably not, there are many more places to experience

Upcoming Activities

DUE TO THE REINTRODUCTION OF RESTRICTIONS OF MOVEMENT TO CONTAIN THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 ALL CLUB FACE-TO-FACE ACTIVITIES UP TO AND INCLUDING 16TH SEPTEMBER HAVE BEEN CANCELLED. CLUB EQUIPMENT HIRE IS SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

REFER TO OUR WEBSITE FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION.

OCTOBER 2020

Thu 1	TOF: Exploring Mullum Mullum Creek	Pvt	Easy	Pearson Cresswell
Sun 4	DAY: Mt Evelyn forest	Car	E/M	Brett Daniel
Mon 5	MTG: Club Committee Meeting			
7-9	PC: The Fortress & Mt Thackeray	Pvt	M	Claire Luxford
Sun 11	DAY: Warrandyte - Jumping Creek	Car	E/M	Jill Allen
Wed 14	DAY: Warrandyte State Park	Pvt	E/M	Margaret Curry
Sun 18	DAY: Evelyn - Lilydale Lake	Car	Easy	Susanne Etti
Mon 19	MOF: Braeside Park - Waterways	Pvt	Easy	Merilyn Whimpey
Wed 21	DAY: The Dandenongs in Spring	Pvt	E/M	Jerry Grandage
Thu 22	SOC: Diamond Creek, Barak Wetlands	Pvt	Easy	Alister Rowe
23-25	BC: Camp Eureka Base Camp at Yarra Junction	Pvt	Easy	Susan Maughan
Sat 24	TRG: First Aid Training - HLTAID003			David Cash
Sat 24	DAY: Middle Park to Sandringham	Pvt	Easy	Margaret Campion
Sun 25	DAY: Mt Macedon	Car	M/H	Deb Shand
Wed 28	SOC: Challenging the Pyrenees High Route Solo			Agajan Akbari
30-3	PC: The Cobberas	Pvt	Med	Jopie Bodegraven
31-3	BC: Base Camp on Snake Island	Pvt	Easy	Susan Maughan