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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

November 2013



**Due date for
contributions to
December News:
21 November.**

VENUE Melbourne City Bowls Club
ADDRESS Dudley Street West Melbourne (Flagstaff Opposite Clubrooms)
DATE Tuesday 10 December 2013
TIME 7.00 pm to 10.00 pm

BYO Plate To Share

Drinks can be purchased from the bar

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING 8 pm Wednesday November 13th to approve the New Club Rules!

We must update our Club Rules to meet the new Victorian Consumer Affairs regulations and to include their recommended improvements in best practice.

The New Model Rules are more comprehensive than the previous model rules, on which our rules are based.

It is important to get new rules approved as our current rules will be fully replaced by the generic Consumer Affairs New Model Rules on November 26th unless we comply with the legislation. The changes we have made to the generic rules include provisions for life members, qualifying for membership etc.

The following documents were placed on our Club Website Downloads Page in September for members' review and feedback. This has been incorporated and the last two documents updated.

- The Consumer Affairs Victoria's **New Model Rules**
- **Explanatory Notes** that describe the changes we have made to the New Model Rules
- The draft **New Rules** for the Club

The October Committee Meeting recommended the proposed New Rules be submitted to the EGM for approval by the Members.

You may nominate a club member or the Chairman of the Meeting as your proxy. Give the form to someone who is attending the meeting or mail it to:

The Secretary
Melbourne Bushwalkers (Incorporated)
PO Box 1751
Melbourne, 3000

While we must have at least 15 members present for a quorum I hope we will get a lot more to attend!

Wine and Cheese will be provided, so come along and have a chat with fellow Bushies

Looking forward to seeing you at this important meeting!

Michael Noonan, President

Members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc meet on Wednesday evenings between 7:00 and 9:00 pm in the club rooms at:

**Royal Historical Society of Victoria
362 William Street
(Cnr William and A'Beckett Streets)
Melbourne
Vic 3001**

Visitors are always welcome!

General correspondence should be directed to:

The Secretary
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc



PO Box 1751
MELBOURNE VIC 3001
www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au

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

Editor: Marilyn Whippey

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 November 2013

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Club:

JOHN FREE
PAULINE HENG
CAROLINE WOODHOUSE
JANE BROWNFIELD
MICHELLE ZHANG

GETTING TO THE CLUBROOMS Yes, you can still park for free!

Catch a Tram: 23, 24, 30, 34 on La Trobe St, 55 on William St

Catch a Train: Flagstaff Gardens Underground on the Loop, opposite the Club

Car Parks: Both Wilson and Secure Parking in A'Beckett St near the clubrooms have a \$6 Flat Rate 4-10 pm

Close but expensive Parking: Around Flagstaff Gardens its now \$5.50/hr metered to 8:30 pm

Free Parking: Many areas have free parking after 6:30 pm or 7:30 pm

- North of Dudley St: it's free after 6:30 pm, e.g Walsh, Milton, William, Rosslyn, Capel
- A'Beckett St, Queen St and Lonsdale St: loading zones and some metered parking that end at 7:30 pm
- Batman St (other side of Gardens): many spaces are free after 6:30 pm, others after 7 pm

You can also walk or cycle!

NEW TRIP INFORMATION SYSTEM – 0447 489 661

Before setting out, walkers should advise those at home of the location of the trip, the method of travel, the expected time of return and the **Club's Mobile Number 0447 489 661**.

For all activities significant delays will be notified by the leader on the mobile's voice messagebank. You can listen to the announcement and then check for messages. Enter '1' to repeat a message and '6' to go to the next message.

Walkers should consider taking their mobile on activities so they can directly notify anyone who may be concerned if they will be late. Also this year mobiles will receive location-based emergency warnings from the CFA.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The **main items at the October Committee Meeting** were: finalising the draft New Club Rules; continuing the planning for the training weekend; discussing aspects of the new Emergency Contact System; agreeing to add 'Return Time' into the Activity Preview Templates; and setting tentative dates for Club meetings in 2014.

The proposed **New Rules and associated Explanatory Notes** were put on our Website in September for members' review. I hope many of you had a look. They have now been updated and the Committee has recommended that they be approved at the **November 13th Extraordinary General Meeting**.

Sunday Bus numbers have been down this year after 2 great preceding years. It's a great relaxing way to get away on a Sunday and great value with the cost not changing for over 5 years. There is a wide variety of walks available with coastal walks coming back for the Summer Program. To support your club and to ensure that we can maintain our bus fees at the current rates we need you to get on the bus!

Another area where attendances have been down is the monthly **Wednesday Wine and Cheese Social Nights** when we have Guest Speakers. So please try to come along, meet fellow members, and enjoy a social drink or a cup of tea.

During November we expect to finalise the Emergency Contact System. Changes will be communicated at the Training Weekend, in the News, by email, at Club Socials, etc.

You may have noticed on the back of the Summer Program that **from December we are introducing a mobile based Trip Information System 0447 489 661**. Anyone concerned that a person on an Activity has not returned home on time can check if the Activity has been delayed. I want to thank Graham and Sue Errey, and Jim and Libby Marsden for the great service they are providing as Club Emergency Contacts. Refer to the *Trip Information System* News Item on page 2 of this *News*.

The **Fire Season starts in November and runs to the end of April**. Summer temperatures are expected to be above average so whether you are walking or just travelling around the state be aware of the Fire Danger Ratings, any Total Fire Bans, and the location of Neighbourhood Safer Places. Refer to the *Fire Season* News Item on page 5.

Reminders for this month:

- 1 The **Training Weekend is on 23–24 November**. It is aimed at members who want to improve their GPS and other skills, people considering leading, new leaders, and experienced leaders who want to share their experiences and continue to learn. You can attend for one or both days or just a session.
- 2 On Club walks during fire season leaders **need to take an AM Radio to check on fire conditions and ensure the group has at least one mobile phone**. Ideally all participants should take their own mobile.
- 3 **We all expect good behaviour on Club Activities**. Be nice to each other, don't lose your cool, treat people with respect, and be particularly understanding and kind to your volunteer leaders! We have a Code of Conduct for members and visitors. Leaders should consider lodging an Incident Report when people behave very badly. We really want to be a *friendly Club*!
- 4 **Take at least 2 litres of water** with you when you go walking and remember the suntan lotion!
- 5 The Club's **two Personal Locator Beacons are available free to Leaders**. Consider taking one on your next Preview, remote area walk or where there is limited mobile reception.
- 6 **You can get free parking** for the Extraordinary Meeting and the next Social Night featuring the fantastic photos of Les Southwell. Refer to the *Getting to the Club* News Item

Spring is nearly over and Summer is just around the corner. It's still a fantastic time for walking and seeing the wild flowers so get out and enjoy yourself, take the bus and socialise with fellow bushwalkers!

I look forward to seeing many of you at the November 13th **Extraordinary General Meeting**.

Mick Noonan

Social Calendar

Wednesday Evenings in the Club Rooms - Wine & Cheese and Presentations starting at 8.00pm

Nov 27 Wine & Cheese and Presentation - Les Southwell Photography

To finish the year in a relaxed atmosphere, our highly regarded fellow club member Les, will provide an informal slide show of his selection of favourite photos from the Alpine walking track and Tasmania. This slide show shall include the Razor - Viking Circuit, including the Crosscut and Mt Speculation, the Knobs - Mt McDonald (part of The Bluff Circuit) and a tour of The Walls of Jerusalem - one of the classic bushwalks in Tasmania.

Please come along and share a glass of wine with us and have a natter to Les about his photographs.

LUNCH AT LALAN'S DELI & CAFE WED 27 NOVEMBER AT MIDDAY

I have reserved a table at Lalan's, 734 Burke Rd., Camberwell.

(If catching a train, it is only 300 m from Camberwell Station.)

This is a favourite of mine – the menu is varied, the food healthy and delicious.



Bushies' Christmas Party

Date : 10 December 2013

Venue: Melbourne City Bowls Club opposite the Clubrooms.

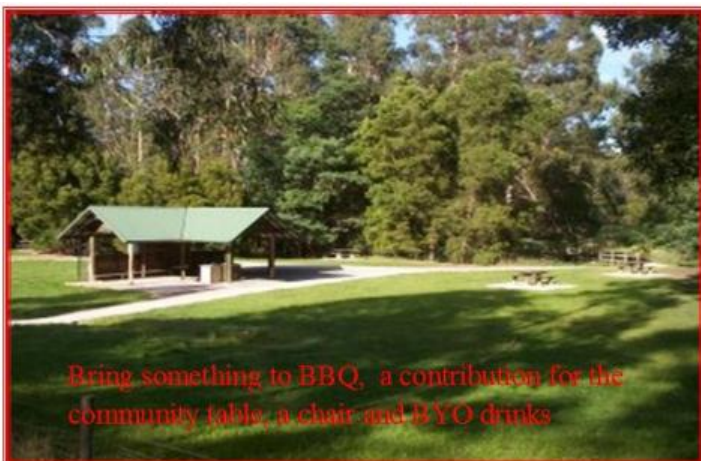
Time: 7.00 pm to 10.00 pm

Drinks can be purchased from the bar. Please bring a plate to share.

2013



New Year's Day **BBQ**

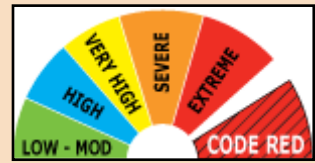


From Midday at Birdland Reserve
Mt Morton Road, Belgrave
Melways 84 C1
Hosted by Deb and Ross Berner



Re-wrap an excess or unneeded Christmas present for the New Year's Day "Lucky Dip"

CLUB ACTIVITIES DURING FIRE SEASON



What happens to Activities in Fire Season?

For all Day activities:

- If a **Total Fire Ban** is declared for the Activity Area the activity will be cancelled unless in Melbourne
- If the **forecast Temperature is 38°C or more** for the Activity Area the activity will be cancelled.

For Multi-day Activities e.g Basecamps and Pack Carries, refer to the Total Fire Ban and Extreme Heat Policies on the Club Website and/or contact the Leader.

What's New this Fire Season?

The main change this year is that you can now receive an emergency warning text message if you are in an area affected by a major emergency. Mobile phone users are now able to receive location-based warnings about nearby emergencies, no matter where their phone is registered or which mobile provider they use.

You can also download the updated FireReady App for your Smartphone from the CFA Website.

Our Activities are tagged with a Fire Ban District and a Temperature Reference Code.

Fire Ban District Codes:

CN=Central, EG=East Gippsland, NE=North East, MA=Mallee, SW=South West, NC=Northern Central, NY=North Country, WI=Wimmera, WG=West and South Gippsland

Temperature Reference Codes:

aw=Albury-Wodonga	me=Melbourne	ba=Ballarat	be=Bendigo	bn=Bairnsdale
co=Colac	ec=Echuca	fc=Falls Creek	fr=Frankston	ge=Geelong
ha=Hamilton	ho=Horsham	lv=Latrobe Vly	md=Mt Dandenong	mb=Mt Buller
mi=Mildura	mh=Mt Hotham	or=Orbost	sa=Sale	se=Seymour
sh=Swan Hill	sp=Shepparton	wb=Warrnambool	wg=Wangaratta	wn=Wongthaggi
yg=Yarra Glen				

Neighbourhood Safer Places

These are places of last resort when all other bushfire plans have failed. You can find them at:

<http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/neighbourhood-safer-places/>

KNOW YOUR TOTAL FIRE BAN DISTRICT

Mallee District
Albion Falls
Carnoolans Shire
Mildura Rural City
Shepparton Rural City
Wimmera Shire
Wimmera Shire (south of the nesting fence)

Wimmera District
Vicamat Shire
Northern Rural City
Northern Grampians Shire
West Wimmera Shire
Wimmera Shire (south of the nesting fence)

South West District
Avalon Rural City
Crescent Shire
Corangamite Shire
Glenelg Shire
Magna Shire
Fremont Shire
Southern Grampians Shire
Wimmera City

North Central District
Central Goldfields Shire
Lake Mountain Alpine Resort (unincorporated)
Mitchell Shire
Mount Alexander Shire
Murrumbidgee Shire

North East District
Alpine Shire
Genella Rural City
Falls Creek Alpine Resort (unincorporated)
Indigo Shire
Mansfield Shire
Mount Buller Alpine Resort (unincorporated)
Mount Hatten Alpine Resort (unincorporated)
Mount Stromlo Alpine Resort (unincorporated)
Trawool Shire
Wangaratta Rural City
Woodleigh City

East Gippsland District
East Gippsland Shire

West & South Gippsland District
Sawley Shire
Lalor Shire
Mount Rowley Alpine Resort (unincorporated)
South Gippsland Shire
Warragul Shire

Central District
Ballarat City
Gangneung City
East Coast Shire
Geelong City
Boroondara City
Gannocks City
Castrol Shire
Clayton City
Dandenong City
Frankston City
Fusion Island (unincorporated)
Geelong Shire
Golden Plains Shire
Greater Dandenong City
Greater Geelong City
Lalor Shire
Melbourne City
Russhurst Shire
Macedon Ranges Shire
Mansfield City
Maryborough City
Maribyrnong City
Melbourne City
Melton Shire
Melton Shire
Moonee Valley City
Moonbuck Shire
Murrumbidgee Shire
North East Shire
Port Phillip City
Gannocks Shire
Starrington City
Surf Coast Shire
Warragul City
Wendouree City
Yarra City
Yarra Ranges Shire

Total Fire Bans

Total Fire Bans are declared by CFA on days when fires are likely to spread rapidly and be difficult to control.

On days of Total Fire Ban there are legal restrictions in force to reduce the likelihood of fire starting.

Victoria is divided into nine Total Fire Ban districts.

Total Fire Bans are declared by district and you must know which district you live in. A list of municipalities that are located in each of the districts is shown in the coloured boxes.

For more information on Total Fire Bans and Fire Restrictions please call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line (VBIL) on 1800 240 667 or visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au

For more information please visit the CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au or phone the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667.

ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS

Willow hunting on the Bogong High Plains – Australia Day weekend 25–27 January 2014

This is a great opportunity to spend some time in this beautiful environment and help to keep it beautiful! Working with Parks Victoria rangers and other bushwalkers to rid the high plains of invasive willows.

Is Alpine Grazing back on the agenda?

Shortly after the election of the Coalition to power, the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria (September 17, 2013) issued a call for the new Federal Government to overturn the current ban on grazing in the Alpine Park in Victoria. In response, a spokesperson for Gippsland MHR Darren Chester said the Federal Government would 'look at the issue should the State Government put it forward'.

In October it came to light that the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria has written to the Victorian Government asking it to call on the Federal Government to reintroduce grazing trials. Such an action would be consistent with Mr Abbott's intention to get rid of 'green tape' (ie, environmental protections), thereby removing the Federal Government from involvement in most key environmental decision making processes. It was only intervention by the previous Minister for the Environment, Tony Burke, that saw the removal of the cattle after they were introduced by the Victorian government.

If this troubles you, please contact the new Minister for the Environment, Greg Hunt, making it clear you would not support such a move.

Email: greg.hunt.mp@aph.gov.au

More information: <http://foe.org.au/articles/2013-09-17/alpine-grazing-back-agenda>



Track news – Wilson's Prom

Sealer's Cove track has reopened. Work continues on upgrading the tracks between Roaring Meg and east to the Lighthouse Road, but this work should be completed soon.

Deb Shand

REGENT HONEYEATER PLANTING WEEKEND 21-22 SEPTEMBER 2013

On a perfect spring weekend, seven Melbourne Bushies and two keen prospective members made their way to Benalla to join Ray Thomas for another tree planting weekend. Many other volunteers from far and wide swelled the ranks of cheerful workers wielding mattocks, shovels or trowels to plant a green grassy paddock with thousands of native trees and shrubs. The roar of cars and plumes of smoke from the nearby Winton raceway only spurred us on in our efforts to correct the carbon balance and provide habitat for threatened species. Ray was tireless in his efforts to educate us in correct planting techniques as well as teaching us about the native flora and fauna.



Imagine If Trees Gave Off
Wifi Signals, We Would
Be Planting So Many Trees
And We'd Probably Save
The Planet Too.



Too Bad They
Only Produce The
Oxygen We
Breathe.

On Saturday night we enjoyed a hearty dinner at Benalla TAFE, and then two brave Bushies joined the younger generation for some bush dancing in the high school hall. The ever-energetic Ray booted up his music machine and led us all in many merry dances before we wearily crawled off to our beds in Scout Hall or tent.

Sunday morning saw us back out in the paddock finishing the planting. We then enjoyed a barbeque lunch in the sunshine before driving back to Melbourne, happy in the knowledge that we had left a forest to grow behind us.

Thanks to Mick, Rod, Mark, Howard, Doug, Jan, Geoff and Cheryl for their fine company on this weekend, and also to the Melbourne Bushies who have independently attended Ray's other planting weekends this year – doing our bit to save the planet.

Deb Shand



TRACK MAINTENANCE – WIRILDA TRACK – 31 AUGUST 2013

In March this year we had a Sunday bus walk along the delightful Wirilda Track in Gippsland, but we noticed while walking how overgrown it was becoming in parts. As a result of this MBW got in touch with the local Parks Victoria Ranger and the Friends of Tyers Park who invited us to join them on a work party to clear the track.

This was a great opportunity to help maintain a track that we have walked many times, both on day walks and pack carries. Early Saturday morning five MBW members hit the road to Gippsland to meet four volunteers from the Friends of Tyers Park and local Parks Victoria Ranger Tina. The weather was certainly in our favour: the sun was out all day. Equipped with tools we set out along the track and soon split up into smaller groups. Two of us went ahead with a chainsaw to conquer the larger tree trunks that blocked the path while the rest of the group tackled the blackberries and vegetation invading the track. By the end of the day we all had built up a sweat and felt sure some muscles would be aching the next day; however the satisfaction of clearing eight kilometres of track was showing in all our faces. Certainly we all had a good appetite, which was paid off with a dinner in Trafalgar before returning to Melbourne.

We all had a great day out. A day of track clearing is a fantastic opportunity to give something back and to enjoy nature in a different way, as well as making new friends with the friendly folk from Tyers!

Susanne Etti



Willis's Walkabouts

Green Season Expeditions

Those who have only seen the North in the Dry can scarcely imagine how lush and **green** the landscape is in the Wet. Every waterfall is flowing. Wildflowers are everywhere. There are no crowds. **It's magic!**

For those who want to experience **Australia's North at its most spectacular**, we offer a number of major expeditions.

Kakadu Super Circle No. 1: 5-25 January 2014

Bungle Bungles in the Wet: 9-22 February

Kimberley Coast Explorer: 9 March - 19 April 2014

Photos are worth more than words. To see what it's really like, have a look at our photo galleries.

http://www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au/gal_indx.shtml

Click on Kakadu or Kimberley, then on any of the galleries which might interest you.



www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au rwillis@internode.on.net Ph: 08 8985 2134

**TRAINING WEEKEND
23–24 NOVEMBER 2013
NIOKA BUSH CAMP – PLENTY GORGE STATE PARK (MELWAYS 183 K8)**

Timing 23 Nov 13	Activity
1000–1010	Overview of the weekend
1010–1020	Intro to walk leadership
1020–1050	Issues that you want addressed
1050–1105	Morning Tea
1105–1200	Open forum <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Discuss issues– Skills to obtain/improve
1200–1220	What's new in the club <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Emergency contact system
1220–1300	Lunch
1300–1400	What If Scenarios – dealing with the unexpected
1400–1430	Maps and Leaders' Resources
1540–1600	Afternoon Tea
1600–1640	1st Aid and General Equipment incl PLB's
1640–1700	Review of the Day – Q & A
1700–1800	Personal time, erect tents
1800	BBQ, Camp Fire – Socialisation – GPS Video , club photos Practical Night, 'Mystery Challenge'

As advised in the September News, the training weekend schedule has been finalised. What activity will help you? Attend some or all.

Timing 24 Nov 13	Activity
Prior to 0840	Breakfast, pack tents
0840–1040	GPS – Overview (CS) and hands-on in break-out groups
1040–1540	Day Walk with actual walkers, practice navigation, GPS, experienced leader to mentor, also role-play incidents with walkers such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Walkers cannot continue– Walker is aggressive/belligerent (sun stroke)– Walker not following requirements – stop at junction– Walker missing – pack on track– Minor fall – 1st aid only– River crossing
1420–1540	Finish day walk at Camp area; Afternoon Tea; GPS video
1540–1600	Review the Day Q & A – depart

Register your intention to attend with rwyt1@gmail.com ASAP so you reserve the sessions you want to attend and we can have enough snags on the Free BBQ. All other requirements are BYO.

SKIING THE BOGONG HIGH PLAINS, STAYING AT THE BOGONG ROVER CHALET

This year's Rovers week was 10–17 August, deemed by Doug Pocock to be the best time for skiing on the Bogong High Plains – and he was spot on the money.

Well, we did have one grotty day caught in a blizzard, but that was par for the course, because we also had days of stunning blue skies with endless views and fabulous snow conditions.

Each year the club is able to secure use of the Rovers Lodge: this includes accommodation on Friday night at the bottom of the mountain, transport from Mt Beauty to Falls Creek and all meals for the week up there.

It also includes combined expertise, organisational skills and special Bushies' friendships that make for a terrific week.

FAQ

Will I be warm enough in the Lodge?

Yes. Warm clothes plus the wood stove and heat from the kitchen will keep you toasty. I took my super-charged winter sleeping bag and it was too warm to sleep in.

Will I lose weight?

No. You'll burn up heaps of calories during the day, but the calorie-laden 3 course dinners will help stabilise your weight.

What level of skiing ability is required?

All sorts will fit in. This ranges from the fall-down-get-back-up-again weekenders to those with 40+ years experience. A typical day will see us divide into 2,3 or even 4 groups.

Will I be bored at night with no TV or computer?

No way. There are meals to be cooked, dishes to wash, bread to be baked, card syndicates to be organised, scrabble comps to attend and books to plough through.

Susan Maughan



Photos by Scott Manning and Frank Tabone.

If you can, have a look at the photos on the club's website mbw.org.au/zenphoto. They're even more impressive in large format.

BRISBANE RANGES PACK CARRY (SEPTEMBER 27–29TH 2013)



Little River Gorge
photo by Gill Wainwright

The weather report for the start of the Brisbane Ranges pack carry was rather ominous.

We gathered at the Boar Gully camping Ground at the northern end of the park on Saturday morning, and then headed south.

The going was easy at first, then when we climbed up onto the ridge, we encountered some of the forecast weather. Not a lot of rain but very strong winds, always a bit of a worry when walking among trees.

However, it was a lovely track with many grass trees and some good views.

We arrived at our Saturday night camp site, (Little River camp ground) for a late lunch, set up the tents, then proceeded to explore the Little River gorge for the rest of the afternoon. This everyone agreed was the loveliest part of the trip. We followed the gorge, crossing and recrossing the

river many times to make our way along. The river was very rocky and the grassy bits of the banks very green. Feral goats were sighted up on the rocky faces of the gorge.

Fortunately the winds abated and we were able to enjoy a camp fire and a quiet (except for the frogs) night.

Sunday we headed off, following the gorge again for the first 1.5 kilometres before climbing out of the gorge up onto the ridge again. Some great views and good wild flower displays including Sturt peas and some orchids. Our second morning tea break was at Stony Creek reservoir, a very peaceful spot.

Finally we arrived at our destination, Forest camp ground, from where we decided to head a couple of kilometres further down the road for a late lunch at Steiglitz.

The walk basically followed the Burchall Track from north to south.

Many thanks to Judith for a wonderful and well prepared weekend, from Del, Mark, Saeed, Ian, Kate and Gill.

Gill Wainwright



Stony Creek Reservoir
photo by Gill Wainwright



Saturday's riverside camp
photo by Mark Simpson

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.



DANDENONGS EXPLORER

SHERBROOK FOREST CIRCUIT

DATE Saturday 23 October 2013
LEADER Liz Telford

I will be leading an easy medium 12 km circuit walk starting from Grants Picnic Ground.

It is always great walking in the Dandenongs: tall trees, lush fern gullies, possible glimpses of a lyrebird and lovely bush gardens of the homes in the area. The walk is on the easy side of medium but there are a couple of hills to climb and mud on some of the tracks. Visitors will need to contact me in the week before the walk. Please arrive at Grants Picnic Ground (Melways 75 K4) at 9:45 to start walking at 10:00 and bring your lunch.



SUNDAY BUS

QUEENSCLIFF COASTAL WALK

DATE Sunday 1 December 2013
STANDARDS E and E/M
DISTANCES 13 and 16 km
LEADERS John Fritze and Carol Ward
TRANSPORT Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Queenscliff
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Geelong

This is a walk through the geographically and historically significant area at the entrance to Port Phillip Bay. It begins along stretches of secluded beach with intermittent patches of surf and beach culture. We pass lighthouses that have guided ships through the treacherous Heads for over a century and Queenscliff's historic fort that guards the bay's entrance. From here we should have good views across to Portsea, and maybe take in a ship or two at close range, before descending to the main pier with its elaborate Victorian waiting area and iconic boat shed. We will see the sea pilots' vessels and accommodation, ferry terminal, remnants of the town's fishing fleet and a marina bulging with the toys of the wealthy. A walking track then takes us along the edge of Swan Bay, with its swans and secretive Swan Island, to the the lovingly restored old railway with its collection of engines and vintage

rolling stock. We then head up through a historical section of town and finish off with a stroll down the main street. There should be enough time at the end for a quick visit to some of the town's cafes, shops, galleries or parks.



TOFS WALK

SHERBROOKE FOREST-FERNY CREEK RECREATION RESERVE

DATE Thursday 5 December 2013
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 10 km
LEADER Rosemary Cotter
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Dandenongs, north of Belgrave
MAP REF Melway 75 E6
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

This will be a wonderful walk amongst some truly magnificent gum trees towering high overhead. It will be on tracks heading from the western edge of the Sherbrooke Forest and up past the Falls and on to the Ferny Creek Recreation Reserve for lunch. The return route will be around the Horticultural Society Garden and then mainly downhill back to the cars.

Meet at the junction of Terrys/Sandells Roads at 10:15 am for a 10:30 am start. Book with the leader.



PACK CARRY

EASTERN STRATHBOGIE RANGES – COOL CREEKS, HUGE MOSSY BOULDERS, WATERFALLS, VIEWS ...

DATE 6-8 December 2013
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 26 km
LEADER Ray Thomas
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME Mid to late Sunday afternoon at cars, then drive home
AREA Eastern Strathbogrie Ranges, SW of Swanpool
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Wangaratta

Rendezvous On Friday night we camp near the Sandy Creek inlet of Lake Nillahcootie, between Barjarg and Swanpool on the Midland Highway. Take the little track down to the lake about 100 m south of the bridge over the inlet. On Saturday morning we'll leave half the cars here, drive to the southern end of the Lake and take Harper's Road then Barjarg Road deep into the Strathbogies, to start our walk near the eastern end of Tames Road. At the end of the walk, a car shuffle will get us all to the original cars again, hopefully just continuing west across the plateau to Euroa or Merton, and home.

Walk Description We'll be exploring the cooler terrain on the southern fall of the eastern Strathbogies, starting in the headwaters of Gerars Creek and North Creek, and keeping off tracks to enjoy the massive moss-covered boulders, open peppermint forests, deep gorges, and waterfalls. The route follows several creeks in a classic example of the rectilinear drainage pattern that is typical of a granitic plateau, then finally ascends the cooler south side of the range to the graceful mountain gum forests of near Golden Mountain, where we camp for the night.

Sunday morning will give us great views of the alps from the highest peaks of Golden Mountain and Mt Strathbogie, before we descend steep forested slopes into the headwaters of Sandy Creek. There'll be more huge boulders, waterfalls and perhaps a dip in the creek if we can find a pool with some depth. The aim is to follow the creek out to Lake Nillahcootie, enjoying the ferns, the trickling water, and a very rare stand of silver banksias that were luckily hidden from the 'extermination' treatment they received on farms all across the northern plains. If the scrub is too thick in the valley, the delightful open ridges and spurs to the east give a simple alternative.

Watering points BYO water for Friday night's camp and Saturday's walk. Creek water may be available for Saturday night's camp, but I'll have a cache of 20 litre water drums hidden as a back up. Good water is available from Sandy Creek during Sunday's walk.

 **SUNDAY CAR POOL**

SHIP ROCK – KIRTH KILN

DATE Sunday 8 December 2013
DATE Sunday 8 December 2013
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 15 km
ELEVATION 200 m
LEADER Chris Schirlinger
TRANSPORT Carpool – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
MAP REFERENCE Parks Victoria, Kurth Kiln Regional; Gembrook South
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Dandenong
TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON) \$13

A pleasant walk through the Kurth Kiln regional park, suitable for new walkers or those wanting to get back into the swing of things.

With only a few climbs, there are a variety of track conditions to keep you on your toes but generally this is a nice quiet walk.

The park is mostly known for the kiln used to make charcoal for cars during the Second World War! There are a few bits and pieces (boilers, and huts) that we should be able to have a look at as we wander around and so it will be an interesting day.



WEDNESDAY WALK

SHERBROOKE FOREST, DANDENONGS AND CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA

DATE Wednesday 11 December 2013
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 12 km
LEADER Mary Daley
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Dandenong Ranges
MAP REF Melway Map 75
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mount Dandenong

This is an easy walk through the Sherbrooke Forest area of the Dandenong Ranges, including Sherbrooke Falls. The area boasts magnificent mountain ash and the presence of lyrebirds.

We will meet at O'Donohue Picnic Ground for a 10:30 am start. (Melway Reference 75G3). The picnic ground is accessed from Sherbrooke Lodge Road, which comes off Sherbrooke Road and it is just past Sherbrooke Picnic Ground.

Bring a plate and we will have the opportunity to share some Christmas cheer at afternoon tea. Anyone who does not wish to do the walk is most welcome to join us for afternoon tea at around 2:30 pm.



PACK CARRY

RAZORBACK-FEATHERTOP-BUNGALOW SPUR

DATE 13–15 December 2013
STANDARD Easy–Medium
DISTANCE approx. 20 km plus side trip to summit
LEADER(S) Claire Luxford and Gina Hopkins, enquiries to Claire
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Alpine
MAP REF Vic Map Outdoor Leisure Map 1:50,000 Bogong Alpine Area
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North East
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Hotham

Feathertop is 170 km north east of Melbourne; it is Victoria's second highest peak at 1922 m. Mt Feathertop rises sharply on all sides to a spectacular alpine peak. Carved into the steep eastern face, Avalanche and Hell Fire gullies graphically describe its ruggedness.

On Saturday after a car shuffle our walk starts on the Razorback Walking Track which begins at Diamantina Hut, 2.5 km on the Harrierville side of the Hotham Village. It crosses the high ridge linking Mt Hotham and Mt Feathertop. The route is generally above the tree line so you will enjoy excellent views most of the way. The ridge is very exposed so ensure you are prepared for any weather. Mt Feathertop offers excellent 360° views.

We will camp at Federation Hut on Saturday night.

On Sunday we will walk down to Harrierville via the Bungalow Spur Tack, approximately 9 km.



SUNDAY BUS

CORONET BAY – CORINELLA

DATE	Sunday 15 December 2013
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/medium
DISTANCE	15 km and 18 km
ELEVATION	Beach walk
LEADER	Halina Sarbinowski and David Laing
TRANSPORT	Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA	Western Port Bay
MAP REF	Melway Key Map 18
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Wonthaggi

This walk is the last Sunday bus walk for 2013 and it coincides with the Lions Market at Tooradin. We will have an extended stop on our way to the start of the walk at Tooradin, allowing time to browse the market stores for a Chrissy present or for those who enjoy a caffeine fix time to have a coffee at leisure.

Every now and then we find a gem right in our own back yard and this walk along a particularly pretty stretch of Westernport Bay is one of them. It is classified as a beach walk, but the diversity of coast we walk along will really surprise, as we go from open sand, to mangrove and across rocky tidal flats that are similar to coastal stretches we find in NSW. This area is also renowned for its prolific birdlife.

Corinella was one of the first settlements in Victoria and although there is little left of its pioneering past it has kept its atmosphere of a coastal hideaway. If you have never visited this part of Victoria before you will be pleasantly surprised.

Hope you can come along with us and enjoy the experience and possibly a little bit of Christmas cheer.



MOFS WALK

FINNS RESERVE – WESTERFOLDS PARK – CANDLEBARK PARK

DATE	Monday 16 December 2013
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	11 km
ELEVATION	Negligible
LEADER	Graham Hodgson
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Westerfolds Park – Templestowe
MAP REF	Melway Map 33
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Melbourne

A pleasant walk following shady tracks along the banks of the Yarra with occasional walking on the bike paths.

The walk starts at Finns reserve where we will do a loop around the reserve taking in some interesting facts about the early settlers and buildings that used to be in the park.

We will then walk east and over the Yarra suspension bridge following the bike path for a short distance before following a track around the banks of the river and eventually arriving at Westerfolds Park. We will continue to follow the river until we briefly enter Candlebark Park where some suitable lunch spots can be found.

After lunch we will retrace our steps back into Westerfolds and do a pretty little nature walk before returning to the cars.

A very imaginative children's (and adult!!) playground and gardens are situated near the cars and we will spend some

time exploring it and having fun with some of its activities. Come on, we are all young at heart.

Meet at the lower carpark (northern end) of Duncan Street, Melway map 33 B4, at 10:30 am.



CYCLING

HARRY HOUDINI RIDE (DIGGERS REST – SUNBURY CIRCUIT)

DATE	Saturday 21 December 2013
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	55 km (option + 16 km)
LEADER	Ross Berner
TRANSPORT	Train to Diggers Rest
RETURN TIME	About 4:00 pm (Diggers Rest Station)
AREA	Diggers Rest – Sunbury
MAP REFERENCE	Melway maps 352, 351, 382, 381, 697, 696, 361, 332, 353 and 3

The meeting place for the ride is the east side of Diggers Rest Station (Old Calder Hwy), Melway 252 C5, at 10:10 am. This is on the Sunbury Line.

On the ride we will see the monument to the first powered flight in Australia by Harry Houdini (March 18, 1910) and where the flight took place.

For the last 3 summers I have led rides along the Kororoit Creek. On this ride we ride to the head waters of the creek in South Gisborne

If you are travelling by train, you will need to take Sunbury Line Train departing from Flinders St at 9:24 am. PS: check timetable closer to the date.

Bring your lunch.

The ride is entirely on country roads, but avoids major roads. The first 20 km contains about 250 metres of climbing and the ride is not suitable for beginners.

The remaining ride is mainly flat and downhill.

The finishing point for the ride is Diggers Rest Station.

Depending on weather and time taken, we can add an additional 16 km loop to end of ride which takes us to the Organ Pipes Park.

If the weather forecast is over 30°C, ride may be shortened as appropriate.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

ANAKIE GORGE CIRCUIT

DATE	Sunday 22 December 2013
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	13 km
ELEVATION	280 m
LEADER	Richard Hanson
TRANSPORT	Cars – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA	Brisbane Ranges
MAP REF	Brisbane Ranges Meridian Maps 1:30,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Ballarat

This is an iconic walk in the Brisbane Ranges that includes a lovely walk along Stoney Creek in Anakie Gorge, some good hills (i.e. some cardio) and lookouts. The circuit is also known as the Ted Errey Nature walk. In addition I expect to walk the Waddawurong walk circuit and visit the Lower Stoney Creek Reservoir.

Close to Melbourne, being only an 84 km drive. Why not join me?

PS. Might be hot so please bring hats, water and sunscreen.



BASE CAMP

CHRISTMAS BASE CAMP AT COOKS MILL, CATHEDRAL RANGE, BUXTON

DATE 24–28 December 2013
STANDARD Medium–Difficult
DISTANCE 13 km
LEADER Susan Maughan
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Cathedral Range
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North East
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Yarra Glen
TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON) 8c per km

A typical Christmas base camp with a range of options and choices: to walk or not to walk, to read, lie around, dip in the creek, play ball games, decide when cocktail hour commences, have a conversation or snooze – really, you are limited only by your imagination.

The walking can be tough at times, as scaling and traversing the Cathedral Range can be a challenge and the weather conditions determine the degree of difficulty.



PACK CARRY

BUCHAN WILDERNESS – REEDY CREEK CHASM

DATE 26 December 2013 to 1 January 2014
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 55 km
LEADER Bob Oxlade
TRANSPORT Private
AREA East Gippsland
MAP REF Vicmap Deddick 8523-N 1:50,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT East Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Orbost

This walk has excellent views and is part of the Alpine National Park which adjoins the Snowy River National Park. It is in the same area as the 2012 Easter pack carry. The extra days now will enable us to include the Reedy Creek Chasm which has been an ambition of mine. Only the first and last days are similar to the Easter walk and there is no walking down the Buchan River. Camp sites are limited but we are fortunate to be aware of some good ones. Some of the off-track is unknown territory but I expect reasonable going.

We will drive down on Boxing Day **Thursday 26** and camp just prior to the walk start.

On **Friday 27** we walk the Wombargo Track and descend to a nice camp near the junction of Reedy Creek and the Buchan River. 16 km and 500 m overall descent today.

Saturday 28. A side trip to an interesting area nearby. We then cross the Buchan River to climb 350 m on track to a ridge above and then 350 m off track descent to camp by pristine Reedy Creek for 2 nights. About 8 km today so we should have time to explore the area near camp.

Sunday 29. Today is with day packs. It is about 4 km up and along the creek to the Chasm and we have all day to see the area and return to camp. It will probably be a wet feet day.

Monday 30. From camp we ascend an adjacent spur back to Saturday’s ridge track and then another 3.5 km and 400 m descent off track to camp at the Buchan River. About 7 km today.

Tuesday 31. A 500 m gentle climb up an untracked spur to the Wombargo Track and return to our cars is about 10 km. We may go to the Mount Seldom Seen Fire Tower for views. We then drive to camp by our cars at the same spot as Boxing Day. This will be a convenient camp to celebrate New Year’s Eve with any goodies you may have.

Wednesday January 1. There are several options today. There is a short walk nearby to Tulloch Ard Gorge Lookout for spectacular views over the Snowy River before returning home at a reasonable time. There is also an opportunity to do other walks and camp the night at the junction of the Buchan and Snowy Rivers and return on Thursday.

If interested in coming along please see me in the Clubroom on Wednesday 18 December only.



PACK CARRY

SNOWY MOUNTAINS MAIN RANGE AND RAMSHEADS

DATE 26 December 2013 – 2 January 2014
STANDARD Medium
LEADER Jopie Bodegraven
MAP REF Mt Kosciusco 1:50,000 and Thredbo 1:50,000

The Snowy Mountains Main Range is definitely my favourite alpine area on the mainland and Christmas is an excellent time to be there; lots of wildflowers and probably still a few snowdrifts. I have some very specific objectives in mind. One is to explore and photograph a particular series of waterfalls and the other is to camp in some idyllic alpine campsites. Places that will be included are Mt Townsend, The Sentinel, Watsons Crags, Mt Twynam, Blue Lake, Ramsheads and more.

The trip will actually be two separate pack carries. The first is from Charlotte’s Pass and will be four days (27–30 December). The night of Monday 30 December we will be camping with the cars. The second is from Dead Horse Gap and will be three days (31 December – 2 January), getting back to the cars by morning tea on the third day (2nd January) and then driving home. New Year’s eve will be in some nice spot up among the Ramsheads, well away from any cars. Both trips have moderate pack carry distances with side trips which are always optional. The total pack carry distances are about 22 km and 10 km for the 4 and 3 day walks respectively. A lot of the walking, however, is off track over snow grass, which can be tiring, and there will be areas of hopefully light scrub.

There is a Kosciusko National Park entry fee of \$16 per car per day so we will need to economise with cars. We can leave cars parked at the Khancoban National Parks office for free and all squeeze into fewer cars. We will travel up on the 26th and camp the first night at Thredbo Diggings campsite. If we haven’t been able to get passes in Khancoban we will need to get them at the entry gate a few km beyond Thredbo Diggings before we make camp.

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

December 2013				
Sun 1	Queenscliff Coastal Walk	Bus	E & E/M	John Fritze & Carol Ward
Thu 5	Sherbrook–Ferry Creek Horticultural Gardens	Pvt	Easy	Rosemary Cotter
6–8	PC: Eastern Strathbogie Ranges	Pvt	Med	Ray Thomas
Sun 8	Ship Rock – Kirth Kiln	Car	Easy	Arron Laki
Wed 11	Sherbrooke Forest, Dandenongs & Christmas Afternoon Tea	Pvt	Easy	Mary Daley
13–15	PC: Razorback–Feathertop–Bungalow Spur	Pvt	Easy	Claire Luxford & Gina H (support)
Sun 15	Coronet Bay – Corinella	Bus	E & E/M	Halina Sarbinowski & David Laing
Mon 16	Finns Reserve – Westerfolds Park – Candlebark Park	Pvt	Easy	Graham Hodgson
Sat 21	Cycling: Sunbury Circuit	Pvt	Med	Ross Berner
Sun 22	Anakie Gorge Circuit	Car	E/M	Richard Hanson
24–27	BC: Cathedral Range	Pvt	E/M	Susan Maughan
Thu 26	Boxing Day – No Walk			
26–1Jan	PC: Buchan Wilderness – Reedy Creek Chasm	Pvt	Med	Bob Oxlade
26–2Jan	PC: Snowy Mtns Main Range & Ramsheads	Pvt	Med	Jopie Bodegraven

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