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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

February 2014

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, March 26th, in the Clubrooms

Come along, chat with friends, find out how your Club is going!

Have a Wine and Cheese

All the information in the March News!

2014 COMMITTEE VACANCIES!!!

Support your Club, consider volunteering ...

Vice President(s), General Walks Secretary, Social Secretary, General Committee.

Contact Mick Noonan for more information.

Please use email as I am away in January.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

To use a ***cooking phrase***, this is a Presidents Corner I prepared earlier!.

There was no January Committee Meeting, I was in Myanmar, Ian was leading a trip to New Zealand while our Committee and volunteers kept the Clubrooms open, and ran a range of walks, the New Years BBQ and more.

Reminders for this month:

- 1 Borrow one of our two new Club GPS units, have a play, try them out!.
- 2 Put the Annual General Meeting date of March 26th in your diary, iPhone or Android!
- 3 If you're doing a preview send an email to ecs@mbw.org.au!

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Wednesday Socials each month starting in February (at which I am showing photos and providing information on Camino pilgrim walks in Europe), and on the Sunday Bus during the New Year.

Mick Noonan

Due date for contributions (including April previews) to March News: 21 February

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 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 3 February 2014

BOOK REVIEW

THE IDIOT AND THE ODYSSEY: WALKING THE MEDITERRANEAN BY JOEL STRATTE-MCCLURE

This book is the story of an American ex-pat who, following his estrangement from his French wife, decides to walk around the Mediterranean. He literally attempts to walk as close to the sea as he can and so much of his trip is barefoot walking on the sand. He rock scrambles, climbs over fences barring his way, walks naked on a nude beach as well as high up on rugged cliff tops.

Despite what may sound like some tough walking, he generally makes a base in a good hotel and then takes a taxi or bus back to base at the end of his day's walk. In the morning he takes the taxi or bus back to where he left off and continues. He also invites friends or family to walk a day or more with him. This journey is not continuous in time as he does take absences to attend to other matters or take up journalism assignments.

This book is different from a lot of walking books in that he doesn't just talk about his sore feet but spends quite a lot of time discussing the political or historical issues and the conversations he has with a range of strange and interesting people.

It does give you a taste for parts of the walk that you would like to explore for yourself and it also gave me some alternative ideas as to how one can tackle a long distance walk. In the appendix at the back he provides some suggestions for short walks along the Mediterranean.

Worth a read if you want something more than a light weight travelogue.

Catherine Merrick



Members relaxing at the New Year's Day barbecue.
Photo by Ian Mair

2014 Social Calendar

**Presentation by Mick Noonan in the Clubrooms
Wednesday 26 February 2014, at 8:00 pm
THE CAMINO TRAIL**

During 2013, Mick Noonan and Carol Corrigan walked 860 km across France from the ancient Roman city of Arles, over the Pyrenees and into Spain to the famous bridge at Puente la Reina, tracing the steps of ancient pilgrims and modern adventurers.

Why do people walk the Caminos? Which one is right for you? Can you walk a Camino on your own?

Come along, enjoy the photos, and find out all about it.



**Slide presentation by Ian Mair in the Clubrooms – Wednesday 23 April 2014, at 8:00 pm
BIBBULMUN END-TO-END – DID I REALLY DO IT?**

A rush of blood to the head? A cunning plot to get out of Victoria to avoid a 70th Birthday Party? The lure of walking on one of Australia's best long-distance tracks? A belief that you can't call yourself a 'real bushwalker' until you have walked further than the distance to the nearest pub? It could be one or all of the above. Either way, Ian Mair, with help and encouragement, made this epic journey of almost 1000 km (plus a few extra for getting lost!) in the south-west of Western Australia during the peak of the wildflower season. Join with Ian as he teases us with eye-catching slides and see why he, and other club members, rate the trip as one of their walking highlights.

**Slide presentation by Ian Mair in the Clubrooms – Wednesday 25 June 2014, at 8:00 pm
WALKING IN NEW ZEALAND'S SOUTH ISLAND WONDERLAND**

New Zealand is famous amongst bushwalkers for its diversity of inspiring and challenging walks. Ian Mair will provide an overview of some of the classics of the South Island such as the Routeburn, Milford, Rees-Dart, Travers-Sabine, Heaphy and others as he highlights why he keeps going back. These are all within the capability of the average club member with an interest in overnight walks. Come along and see how accessible they are and be inspired by the breathtaking beauty of the country.

EMERGENCY CONTACT SYSTEM – LEADERS’ BASICS

Every Group to ensure it has a mobile
Preferably with good remote area reception

Walkers to take their own mobile
So they can ring family and friends if they will be late, leave it off until needed

Club Emergency Mobile 0447 489 661
Recording includes **Club Emergency Contact** names and numbers
The Club Emergency Mobile is left turned off, so a call goes directly to the recorded message

Club ECS email: ecs@mbw.org.au

All Previews:

- Add the **Return Time** to your **News Preview**
- **Tell us you are going:** email to ecs@mbw.org.au re **who, when**
- **Tell your Preview Contact you are going** and give them information on where (Trip Intentions Form)

All Club Programed Activities

- If you will be **significantly** late contact a **Club Emergency Contact**
 - They will update the recording on the **Club Emergency Mobile.**
 - A phone call is preferred, sms in poor mobile reception areas (confirmation of receipt of sms needed).
- Delays of **1-2 hours for a day activity** and **3-4 hours for a multi-day activity** should not cause alarm.
- **Encourage walkers** to directly ring anyone who may be concerned if they will be late home

Pack Carry/Walk-In Base Camp:

- Advise your participants to tell people who may be concerned if they are late to check the Club Emergency Mobile and if still concerned ring a Club Emergency Contact
- Send Trip Intentions Form and Bookings List (names and emergency contacts) to ecs@mbw.org.au before you go
 - Either attaching the club forms or typing the information into the email



The Bushies' Christmas camp 2013

SNAKE ISLAND 27-27 OCTOBER 2013



Easy pack carry on Snake Island can happen in rain, hail or shine.

We certainly had a very wet stormy start to our pack carry weekend when we all met in Welshpool, 180 kilometres south east from Melbourne to ferry across to Snake island.

A fisherman gave our group of 11 a lift to Snake Island. I trust I was not the only one who was a bit anxious once the boat was moored close to the beach front to jump off the boat and to wade the last few metres through the water to the shore. The water was an incredible 12 degrees warm – not really warm enough to get the bathers out. Once we were on the island the weather immediately improved.

Snake Island is a 35 square kilometre sand island, the largest in Corner Inlet here in Victoria. The island is very remote and unspoilt which makes it a perfect spot for our bushwalker weekend. The Island is part of the traditional territory of the Brataualung clan of the Guano people, who named it 'Negima'.

We walked south along the beach before turning inland through woodland, scrubland and heath to meet the main track in the centre of the island that led us to our accommodation. Our cross country bush bashing was helped by our GPS guides in the group. Big thank you. No snake was seen but plenty of eastern grey kangaroos, swamp wallabies and the introduced hog deer.

Our accommodation turned out better than expected. There was no need for pitching a tent as we reached a cattle station with a huge dormitory with enough bunk beds for all of us. Farmers bring cattle over to the island to graze by swimming the stock over the narrow channel at low tide which explained the well-equipped station. The kitchen provided plenty of space for all of us to enjoy a wide selection of nibbles and tapas before everyone started to prepare their evening meal. The billy boiled plenty of water for many rounds of tea and coffee.

After a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast we continued our walk to the coastline dominated by mangroves and salt marshes. As it was low tide we were able to wade in ankle deep water to Little Snake Island, just in time for lunch. A little more beach walking, then a short hike through the centre of Little Snake Island took us to our pick-up point for the boat.

We finished off the weekend with a drink in the local pub. The pack carry was truly a success and a fantastic taster for a newbie like me to find out about the beauty of pack carry but also the ones that have already seen a lot and done many of these pack carries this one provided new inspiration and a lovely escape from the city.

Susanne Etti



BUCHAN WILDERNESS DEC 26 2013-JAN 1 2014

Day 1: After camping by the side of the road the previous night we left the cars halfway up Mt Seldom Seen and walked north along the Wombargo track which follows an undulating ridge along the eastern edge of the Alpine National Park. After about 10 km we turned left on another 4WD track down to the Buchan River, a steep 600 m descent. We camped in a pleasant clearing by the river, not far from the Reedy Creek/Buchan River junction. At about 15 km, this was both the longest day in terms of distance covered and also the easiest, as the walking was all on tracks: a good training run for what was to come.

Day 2: We followed the 4WD track across the river and climbed sharply for 350 m before leaving the track to follow a spur about 250 m down to Reedy Creek. It began as a gentle descent over relatively open terrain but became steeper as we proceeded, to the point where I for one adopted the expedient if inelegant solution of sliding rather than walking. The going was tricky from a navigational point of view, as what started as a single spur divided into a number of separate spurs and gullies on the way down, and at one point we found ourselves a couple of hundred metres east of our intended location. Rather than try to traverse the near-vertical slope we opted to drop into a dry creekbed, which fortunately turned out to be relatively blackberry-free, and from there made our way to Reedy Creek. Although the forecast temperature of 38 did not materialise, it was starting to get hot and we were glad to get out of the scrub and into the creek where the water was about knee-deep.

After wading along the creek for a few hundred metres, we stopped for lunch at our intended campsite, a small clearing where Bob and Phil had previously camped. The site was not ideal as it provided little shade and the area appeared to have been reduced by erosion since Bob and Phil's last visit, but it seemed the best option given the steep, scrubby terrain and consequent scarcity of suitable creekside camping spots. After lunch some of us walked further up the creek to look at our planned route out of the valley on Day 4. By a stroke of luck we came upon a perfect campsite not visible from the creek, a large, open area carpeted with soft tussocky grass and shaded by giant mountain grey gums, with the added merits of cutting about an hour off the following day's journey to the Reedy Creek chasm and being situated right at the base of the spur we would climb on Day 4. So without further ado we upped tents and moved to our new home for two nights.

Day 3: the longest day, 10 hours walking to cover about 10 km. By 7 am we were back in the creek with day-packs for the walk upstream to the Reedy Creek chasm. The prospect of an early-morning paddle seemed less inviting after a cool change the night before, but we found the water surprisingly warm. We could go reasonably fast where the water was ankle-deep and the creekbed flat and pebbly, and in some places we could walk along the banks, but we spent a lot of time clambering over and around logjams and had to proceed carefully over sections where the creekbed was covered with large slippery submerged rocks. By midday however we were at the chasm. Its precise location is not clear on the map: it is spread over a stretch of about 300 m consisting of two or three sections where the creek



Reedy Creek Chasm.
Photo by Bob Oxlade

(continued over page)

Along the Track

BUCHAN WILDERNESS *(continued from previous page)*

the scrubby banks give way to sheer rock walls of 15–20 m on either side. It is a magnificent place made all the more exciting by the fact that there is no easy way to get there.

Day 4: We climbed an easy 200 m spur out of the Reedy Creek valley and followed a 4WD track a few hundred metres along a ridge before heading down the other side towards the Buchan River. After a camera-stop on top of a rocky knoll with spectacular northern views, the going became steeper and scrubbier. With a GPS, map and compass we had no trouble pinpointing our location, and we stopped several times to do so in the effort to follow the winding course of the spur we were on, but we could have done with some aerial photos to assist in plotting the best route down, as the terrain ranged from patches of open forest to almost impenetrable regrowth. With relief we reached the river at about 3 pm and took a little time to locate our campsite, a couple of small clearings known to Bob from a previous trip, hidden behind a dense wall of scrub. Our camping spot was only a few metres from the creek and near some good swimming holes; the only drawback was that it also served as a gathering place for the bull-ants of the neighbourhood and few of us escaped the night without a nip or two.

Day 5: We ascended 500 m up a long, gentle spur which included a bit of rock scrambling and some magnificent views, to rejoin the Wombargo track about 5 km from our starting point, reaching the cars at 3 pm. Some of us walked a further 2 km up the Mt Seldom Seen track for a look at the view from the fire tower at the top; then we piled into the cars and drove to a few local places of interest before setting up camp near the Little River falls, heading back to Mebourne the next morning after a short walk to the Tulloch Ard gorge.

Many thanks to our leader Bob Oxlade for a well-designed, interesting and moderately challenging walk, and to fellow participants Robert Zuzowski, Philip Brown and Mark Heath for a memorable six days.

Judith Shaw

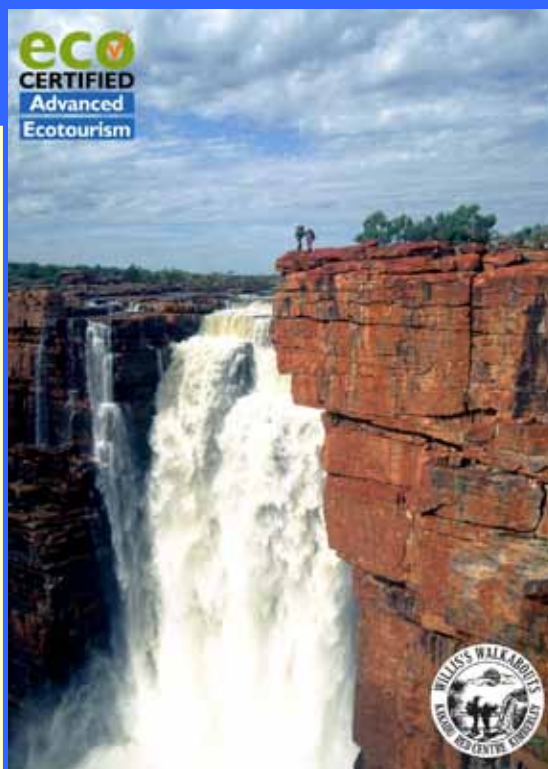
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A reminder that to view all available previews and any notifications of changes to walks, just log on to the walks program and previews pages on the MBW website:
http://www.mbw.org.au/mbw_activities/MBW_activities_program.php

**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.



BASE CAMP

NEST BOX SURVEY

DATE 1–2 March 2014
STANDARD Easy
LEADER Ray Thomas
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Benalla
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Wangaratta



A family of squirrel gliders rest for the day in a carefully woven leaf nest.

Our nest box program has been in operation for over 13 years now and we'd love to invite you to join us as we do our annual monitoring work. We have 381 boxes already in place, with squirrel gliders and sugar gliders nesting in about two-thirds of them!

We're also finding more and more stringybark nests of the rare brush-tailed phascogale, so we're hoping to see some of them face to face when we go checking this year!

Why do we need nest boxes?

The basic problem facing all of these animals is an extreme shortage of natural tree hollows, because the old trees were

heavily cleared decades ago, and the regrowth forests are still far too young to have many hollows.

New boxes to place

As well as checking the older boxes, we'll also be placing some new boxes to help the animals move around the district in search of better food reserves. This is critical for breeding females, as they need the best food to provide enough milk for their babies.

The extra boxes will also provide crucial shelter for juvenile gliders when they leave their parents' territories at the start of the next breeding season.

Why check them every year?

Regular checking is important so that we can find the extent of local populations, the habitats they prefer, the breeding success of particular colonies, and barriers to their movement across the landscape.

We also need to get accurate reports of unwanted species (such as feral bees) taking over our boxes, so that we can remove them at a later date.

The boxes are a virtual 'motel chain' of safe havens all across the district!



Sugar gliders keep extra warm over winter with a fully enclosed nest.

What do the results tell us?

Results from several years have given conclusive evidence that gliders need the fertile soils along creeks to breed successfully. Our records also show that gliders move out of the dry hills down to the creeks every summer, and they absolutely need continuous corridors to do this safely.

So any major breaks in the tree cover along roadsides or creeks become serious barriers to glider populations.

Isolated 'islands' of habitat have proven empty, because gliders are taken by predators and there are no possibilities for replacement! Solid information like this makes it possible to know what needs doing and also where to do it to make the most difference.

Possum boxes for mistletoe control

We will also monitor 30 extra boxes that were specifically designed for common ring-tail and brush-tail possums. These boxes are all located in heavy mistletoe infestations to re-establish a population of these hungry possums as a natural biological control for mistletoe.

GPS fixes

Most of the box locations have been recorded by GPS, so visiting groups can find the boxes more easily. At the very least, it will help confirm your location if you are a bit uncertain.

Please use GDA 1994 co-ordinates to ensure you are at the correct nest box. Look for UTM/UTS WGS 84 in your GPS menu.

Bush navigation

These weekends provide an excellent opportunity for bush walkers to practise their map reading and navigation skills while looking for the nest boxes. The sites are all mapped carefully on 1:25,000 contour maps and brief access and location descriptions.

Activities

- Checking nest boxes to see the wildlife at home
- Recording data for our ongoing research investigations
- Sharing insights from our day's observations
- Spotlighting wildlife after dark (if suitable conditions)
- BBQ tea (BYO food and drink)

Meals:

- BYO lunch and drinks for Sat and Sun, we are out all day
- BYO food and drink for the Saturday night BBQ

Accommodation:

- Free accommodation at Benalla Scout Hall if needed
- Mattresses supplied
- BYO sleeping bag and pillow
- Minor kitchen facilities available
- BYO tent if you prefer to camp outside

Meeting:

9:30 am Sat Regent Honeyeater Project Nursery, Sydney Rd, Benalla
Yooralla Community Farm, about 1 km past the Mitre 10 Store
Look for the steel mesh gates, painted sky blue

9:00 am Sun Regent Honeyeater Project Nursery, Sydney Rd, Benalla

Do come and join us. It's the perfect opportunity to see these beautiful little animals up close, and the data collected will help us refine our habitat works.

It's also a great way to meet some new people, while you're all having some fun together in the great outdoors.

Personal gear:

- Sun screen, hat, sturdy shoes, long trousers
- Sock protectors to keep out grass seeds
- GPS unit for easy location of boxes (if you have one)

Group gear:

Please let me know if you can bring any extra equipment, eg:

- 5-6 metre extension ladder
- Roof rack and rope to carry ladder
- Tow ball to carry a ladder on a trailer

Bookings:

Please let me know the number of people expected and any of the extra group equipment you can supply

Contact:

Ray Thomas
ph (03) 57 611 515
email ray@regenthoneyeater.org.au.



SUNDAY BUS

COWANS AND SPANISH ONION TRACKS (Changed from Program)

DATE	Sunday 2 March 2014
RETURN TIME	6:30 pm to City
STANDARDS	Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCES	12 km and 10 km
ELEVATIONS	200 m overall drop
LEADERS	Nik Dow and Ron Hampton
TRANSPORT	Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA	Lerderderg Gorge
MAP REF	Meridian: Lerderderg and Werribee Gorges
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Ballarat

The originally programmed walk could not be done because one landowner refused permission. The substituted walk is very different, being in state forest instead of on farmland.

Both walks start on O'Briens Road, leaving it to follow 4WD tracks towards the Lerderderg Gorge. The longer walk leaves the 4WD track to follow Spanish Onion Track for the steep descent to the gorge, while the shorter walk follows Cowans track all the way to the river. Up above the gorge is eucalypt forest with many Australian grass trees.

The two tracks reach the gorge about 0.6 km apart, and both then traverse the gorge back upstream to O'Briens Crossing.

The track along the gorge is rough and at times difficult. Non-slip footwear is recommended, and stout footwear for walking over rocks and rough surfaces.

Scenery in the gorge is magnificent at times and there is a chance to spot wildlife. We are under the canopy of the forest all day but especially along the river there are stretches of exposure to the sun.

The walks are graded Medium and Easy/Medium despite the relatively short distances, due to the challenging terrain. Features of both walks are being mostly off-road, the scenery and pleasant lunch spots on the gorge.



TOFS WALK

YARRA RIVER: KEW TO HEIDELBERG

DATE	Thursday 6 March 2014
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	10 km approx.
ELEVATION	Mostly flat, very short ups and downs
LEADER	Meryl Whippey
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Kew-Ivanhoe
MAP REFERENCE	Melway maps 31 and 32
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Melbourne

Meet at 10:30 am in the Eaglemont Tennis Club car park, Melways 31K11. Sorry, no toilets there, but there are bushes.

We walk along the west bank to a picnic area for morning tea. Then we cross the river by the Banksia Street bridge, and return on the other side. Lunch will be at Bulleen Park, where if you want you can finish the walk early.

Because of a golf club with a No Trespassers sign, we'll have to walk along Bulleen Road for half a km or so before getting into parkland again.

Come and see some more of Melbourne's urban bushland, with trees, paddocks, billabongs and birds.



PACK CARRY

MT COPE – MT JIM – THE FAINTERS – BOGONG VILLAGE

DATE 7-10 March 2014
RETURN TIME 11 pm
STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADER Jopie Bodegraven
AREA Bogong High Plains
MAP REF SV (Spatial Vision) Bogong Alpine Area 1:50,000

FIRE BAN DISTRICT North East
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Falls Creek

This will be three days in one of our best and classic alpine areas. The views from Mts Cope, Jim, the Niggerheads and Fainter North and South are superb. And they all have rocky and interesting summits. Given OK weather there is nothing hard about this walk. The daily distances are 12, 12 and 16 km and the daily climbs are 380, 400 and 100 metres.

Our first pack carry camp is an old favourite amongst snow gums on the side of Mt Jim and the second is a new one near the Fainters that I have never been to before but which is described in Glenn van der Knijff's book Bushwalks in the Victorian Alps and with a Dutch sounding name like that he must be reliable. The last day is the longest but it is nearly all downhill and on good walking or 4WD tracks.

The meeting point will be at Friday night's camp at Mountain Creek, ready for an 8 am departure on Saturday morning. To get there turn east from the Kiewa Valley Hwy at the southern outskirts of Tawonga into Ryders Lane which becomes Mountain Creek Road. The camp is about 10 km from the highway just as the bitumen changes to gravel and just before the road crosses Mountain Creek. We will leave a car somewhere near our finish point at Bogong Village. We will then all do the short walk to have a look at Fainter Falls which we normally just drive past, and then continue on via Falls Creek to our start point at Pretty Valley. Day one will have quite a lot of fairly easy off track but there can be the option of staying mostly on track for those that want it.

Keep in mind that this area can get snow and foul weather any time of the year, so come prepared for a blizzard but we'll hope for sunshine and gentle breezes. Please join me for a lovely long weekend up in our glorious high country.



PACK CARRY

FRENCHMANS CAP (TASMANIA)

BOOKINGS CLOSE 6 FEBRUARY 2014

DATE 7-11 March 2014
STANDARD Medium/Hard
LEADER Roger Wyett
DISTANCE 46 km

This walk over 3.5 days (the other 1.5 days are travel time) is a medium hard pack carry with the aim of summiting the 1446 m Frenchmans Cap (weather permitting). Only experienced pack carry walkers, with early commitment required to ensure transport booking. Maximum group size is 6.



SUNDAY TRAIN

BELGRAVE TO SASSAFRAS CIRCUIT

DATE Sunday 9 March 2014
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE Approximately 15 km
LEADER Brett Daniel and Richard Hanson (Mentor)
TRANSPORT Train from Flinders Street
AREA Sherbrooke Forest
MAP REFERENCE Melway map 75
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

The walk starts at Belgrave Railway Station and the suggestion is that people catch the Belgrave line train from Flinders Street. We will advise what time train closer to the date. Alternately we will meet you at Belgrave Station, however we will not be organising carpooling.

This is a circuit walk from Belgrave station through Sherbrook Forest on the Hillclimb Track to Sherbrook Falls, then on to Sassafras village, returning on Clematis Track to Grants picnic ground and back to Belgrave station on Coles Ridge Track. We will have lunch at Ferny Creek Reserve where we saw a group of kookaburras in the preview. Grants picnic ground usually has lots of birds as well.

The walk is a relatively easy, very pleasant Dandenongs walk that all will enjoy. Please join us.



WEDNESDAY WALK

DANDENONG RANGES

DATE Wednesday 12 March 2014
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 16 km
ELEVATION 300 m
LEADER Ed Neff (instead of Jerry Grandage)
AREA Dandenong Ranges
MAP REF. Melway 52, 66, 122, 120
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Dandenong

Starting and finishing in the Kalorama area, we will head up the hill towards Mt Dandenong, then down through the Mt. Dandenong Arboretum and down Mechanics Track, Rifle Range Track, Bridge Track etc. to the Sylvan Dam area, then

up to Mt Dandenong Tourist Road near Inverness Road. You will see a typical sample of Dandenong Ranges scenery on both sides of the mountain. I am leading this walk instead of Jerry Grandage who will be walking somewhere else.



CYCLING

CAULFIELD, RUFFEYS LAKE, KEW LOOP

DATE Saturday 15th March 2014
RETURN TIME 3:00 to 3:30 pm
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 60 km
ELEVATION 550 m total climbing
LEADER Ed Neff
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Eastern Suburbs
MAP REF Melway Maps 68, 60, 61, 47, 33, 32, 20, 31, 45, 46
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

The meeting venue is Caulfield station, northern entrance (Sir John Monash Drive), at 9:30 am.

The route will follow Gardiners Creek Trail and then quiet suburban streets through Box Hill and Doncaster to Ruffeys Lake Park. On the way we will stop for morning coffee in Box Hill. From Ruffeys Lake we follow Ruffeys Creek to the Yarra where we cross the suspension bridge and join the Main Yarra Trail. A short diversion north, and climb, along the Plenty River Trail will be rewarded with a great downhill to rejoin the Yarra Trail. Lunch can be taken at one of the picnic spots along the trail. Return to Caulfield will be via Anniversary Trail through Kew and Camberwell.

This ride is mostly on bike trails and some quiet streets. A small proportion of the trails are unpaved, but firm gravel. It has been graded Medium due to the total climbing which is not difficult and there are no long sustained climbs.

Come and enjoy this most scenic and interesting ride. Bring your lunch, a repair kit with spare tube and a water bottle.



SUNDAY BUS

MT WORTH STATE FOREST

DATE Sunday 16 March 2014
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES 11 and 15 km
LEADERS Del Franks and Deb Shand
TRANSPORT Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA South Gippsland
MAP REF Mt Worth 8021-2-1 1:25,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT West and South Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE South Gippsland

Mt Worth State Park is situated approx 130 km south-east of Melbourne in the Strzelecki Ranges. This park is a gem hidden a little south of Warragul.

The lower part of the walk covers a lovely stretch of rainforest along Moonlight Creek on a trail surrounded by tree ferns and passing the remnants of old logging mills. Remnants of the majestic forest that once covered this region are still to be found, with some giant mountain ash estimated to be over 300 years old still dominating the forest.

The longer walk will cover an open stretch, climbing to the top of the park where there should be great views across Gippsland. The walk in the upper part of the park is

breathtaking and the rain forest along the fern-covered lower stretch along the romantically named Moonlight Creek adds up to some classic bushwalking.

As this is a hilly area, both walks will have some uphill sections to cover, however the views should make the climbs worth it.



MOFS WALK

JELLS PARK BACK TRACKS

DATE Monday 15 March 2014
STANDARD Standard
DISTANCE approximately 10 km
ELEVATION Flat
LEADER Jenny Monaghan
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Eastern Suburbs
MAP REF Start and finish Melway 72 A9
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

We will meet at 10:30 am at the Ferntree Gully Road entrance of Jells Park and make our way through what is sometimes a wetland area, around the lake where there is a bird hide, up towards Nortons Park (bit of a hill there) and return through another wetland area and finally a cuppa at the café in the park.

If the temperature is 32°C or more, the walk will be cancelled.



PACK CARRY

GREAT OCEAN WALK: RYANS DEN TO 12 APOSTLES

DATE 21-23 March 2014
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 31 km
ELEVATION 0-175 m
LEADER(S) Bob Oxlade
TRANSPORT Private
AREA South West Victoria
MAP REF Parks Victoria 1:25,000. Great Ocean Walk.
FIRE BAN DISTRICT South-west
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Colac

This walk will complete the Great Ocean Walk (GOW) series I began in December 2011 and these two days have some of the most spectacular coastal sections of the GOW, including the very impressive Gables Lookout.

We have a nice Friday night camp just past Colac and will complete the drive on Saturday morning. It is about 2 km walk on track from the road to access the GOW at Ryans Den. It will be in and out along the coast and we may have time for a side trip on the way to camp at Devils Kitchen. About 17 km today, with approx 350 m total of ups which are mostly nicely graded and interspersed with the same downs.

On Sunday we may be at the Gellibrand River at Princetown for lunch. It is then only about 6 km to finish and view the Twelve Apostles before returning home at a reasonable time. About 14 km today with approx 200 m total of ups and similar downs.

There will be a party limit and your early booking is desirable as the campsites require booking in advance. Please ring or email me asap if interested as I may not need to be in the clubrooms prior to the walk.



DANDENONGS EXPLORER

DATE Saturday 22 March 2014
STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADER Maureen Hurley
TRANSPORT Private
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

For details of this walk, please contact the leader.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

LAKE MOUNTAIN

DATE Sunday 23 March 2014
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE about 13 km
ELEVATION Undulating
LEADER Marilia Cipolloni
TRANSPORT Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Marysville – Lake Mountain
MAP REF Marysville – Lake Mountain 1:50,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Yarra Glen

This walk is a good excuse to get out of the city and enjoy the freshness of the alpine air without having to travel for half the day. Also to witness how an area that was totally devastated in the 2009 fires has regenerated. There are many new buildings in Marysville and Lake Mountain Resort has some smart new buildings, including a café for after the walk.

The walk starts with a circuit walk to and around the summit of Lake Mountain. After that we follow grassy ski trails which have moderate gradients as they go through the forest past snow plains. The walk is all on well-defined tracks, with views of the alpine areas, Marysville and perhaps Melbourne if there is good visibility on the day.

Hope to see you there.



SOCIAL WALK

MERRI CREEK, VICTORIA PARK

DATE Thursday 27 March 2014
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 5 km
ELEVATION Flat
LEADER Jean Giese
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Clifton Hill/Abbotsford
MAP REF Melway 2D
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

We will meet at Dights Mill carpark to start walking at 10:30 am (Melways 2D A6). (If you are travelling by train, there is a 1 km walk to the meeting place. Those with a car parked at Dights will have a 1 km walk after lunch).

We will walk upstream beside Merri Creek and return through Hall Reserve high above the creek to a lookout with views of Marvellous Melbourne, before making our way to Victoria Park, the home of Collingwood Football Club, which has now been turned into an historic park—a must for any Magpies' one-eyed supporters. Lunch at Ritass Café.



Photo from the Collingwood Football Club web site, with apologies from your rabid Collingwood supporter editor.



WORK PARTY

TRACK MAINTENANCE: BOGONG HIGH PLAINS

DATE 28-30 March 2014
LEADER Rod Novak
GRADE Easy/Medium
LOCATION Alpine National Park
MAP VicMap Bogong High Plains 1:25,000
EXPECTED RETURN TIME 9 pm Sunday evening
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North East
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Falls Creek

We will be joining with the 'Friends of Bogong' with their volunteer work on the Bogong High Plains. Possible activities include track maintenance and/or weed removal (it all depends on the expected weather and ranger priorities). Base camp and you need to have suitable equipment for both hot and possible cold (snow!) weather conditions. Bring your own small gardening tools. Come along for a fun time and helping the Rangers in the Bogong Management Unit of the Alpine National Park. Early bookings required to help the rangers with their planning.



BASE CAMP

GRAMPIANS

DATE 28-30 March 2014
STANDARD Medium
LEADER Judith Shaw
TRANSPORT Private
FIRE BAN DISTRICT South West
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Horsham

For details of this walk, please contact the leader.



SUNDAY BUS

FORREST CAVES – PYRAMID ROCKS

DATE Sunday 30 March 2014
STANDARDS Easy/Medium and Medium
LEADERS David Laing and Cathy Merricks
TRANSPORT Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45am
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Wonthaggi

For details of this walk, please contact the leaders.

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!

March 2014				
1-2	Nest Box Survey Benalla	Pvt	Easy	Ray Thomas
Sun 2	Hughes Creek	Bus	E/M & M	Nik Dow and Ron Hampton
Thu 6	Yarra River: Kew to Heidelberg	Pvt	Easy	Marilyn Whimpey
7-10	PC: Mt Cope-Mt Jim-The Fainters-Bogong Village	Pvt	E/M	Jopie Bodegraven
7-11	PC: Frenchmans Cap (Tasmania)	Pvt	M/H	Roger Wyett
Sun 9	Belgrave to Sassafras	Car	E/M	Brett Daniel and Richard Hanson (Mentor)
Wed 12	Dandenongs	Pvt	E/M	Ed Neff
Sat 15	Cycling: Caulfield-Ruffy's Lake-Kew Loop	Pvt	Med	Ed Neff
Sun 16	Mt Worth	Bus	E & E/M	Del Franks and Deb Shand
Mon 17	Jells Park Back Tracks	Pvt	Easy	Jenny Monaghan
21-23	PC: Great Ocean Walk: Ryans Den-12 Apostles	Pvt	E/M	Bob Oxlade
Sat 22	Dandenongs Explorer TBC	Pvt	E/M	Maureen Hurley
Sun 23	Lake Mountain	Car	E/M	Marilyn Cipolloni and Del Franks (Mentor)
Thu 27	Merri Creek, Victoria Park	Car	Easy	Jean Giese
28-30	BC: Grampians	Pvt	Med	Judith Shaw
28-30	Track Maintenance Bogong High Plains	Pvt	Easy	Rod Novak
Sun 30	Forrest Caves - Pyramid Rocks	Bus	E/M & M	David Laing and Cathy Merricks

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