



A000133X

THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

July 2014

FIRST AID TRAINING 9 AM TO 5 PM, 13 SEPTEMBER 2014 AT SUITE 1, 47 RAILWAY RD BLACKBURN

First Aid: it is like insurance – you never know when it will be required.

- Some knowledge is better than none.
- It is just as relevant at home, work or in the bush.
- Improve your skill at minimal cost.

Walk Leaders (active in 2014) are trained free –
All other club members – \$10 cost.

Book on line at firstaid@mbw.org.au and EFT \$20 deposit to secure your booking. (Leaders refunded \$20 on the day, other members refunded \$10.)

Full cost is \$85 per person, so a BIG saving for all!



Both full day Level One (Bush) First Aid and the CPR refresher (morning only) are available.

Book early as booking will close as soon as we have 20 participants.

Due date for contributions (including September previews) to August News: 21 July

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: No July meeting
Next committee meeting will take place on
Monday 4 August 2014

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Club:

Nimfa De Gracia, Michelle Hurst,
Rima Ramchandra, Nevenka Vrkes,
Melissa MacLeod

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS ON FACEBOOK

Continually growing a community of Facebook fans is important to our long-term membership strategy which aims to profile the club across a number of alternative media sources.

Our Facebook page aims to be entertaining and educational with:

- Amazing pictures
- Exotic walks and top destinations to visit
- Interesting articles from around the world
- Handy tips and ideas.

So how can you help spread the word and encourage new people to look at our page?

Please check out Melbourne Bushwalkers Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/melbournebushwalkers> and help grow our online community.

'Like' us on Facebook and 'Share' us with those of your Facebook friends who may be interested in what we present.

Let's see if we can get 500 likes by the end of the year.

THE 2014 FEDERATION WALKS

This year's walks will take place over the weekend of 8–9 November around the historic town of Walhalla, in the nearby Baw Baw National Park and along the Tyers River. The accommodation and administration base at Rawson is 173 km from the CBD and you can come for the weekend or just a day.

Lodge accommodation (including meals) is available in Rawson Village for 1 or 2 nights in either bunk rooms or twin share (168.50 2 nights, \$109 1 night). Motel rooms are only available for 2 night bookings.

There is a great communal dinner and speaker on Saturday night. Accommodation bookings open 1st July.

There is a \$30 registration fee for the walks. This fee is included in the accommodation fee if you stay at Rawson.

Check out the website www.fedwalks.org.au for more details about walks and accommodation and please contact Mark Heath if you are interested.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER – JULY

In the President's Corner in the June newsletter our President told us he would be away on a bike riding adventure in Europe for some time. His 14-week adventure with Carol continues and they have made great cycling progress carrying all their gear through France and on towards Eastern Europe in their intrepid journey ending in Turkey. According to the last very positive email from Mick and Carol they are doing well and enjoying the ride along rivers and canals (with some hills) – with a broken rib and a bout of gastro for Mick and a flat tyre for Carol! They expect more hills as they head south in Eastern Europe through Bulgaria to Turkey.

With Mick away I was called upon to act in his place, an easy job with an experienced, energetic committee and the past Vice-President doing lots of work and offering a guiding hand to me as the novice. The Committee meeting for June was held on 23 June after the deadline for this newsletter. Outcomes of that meeting will be reported in a future newsletter. The members of the committee continue to work tirelessly carrying out their roles and the many tasks and hours of work that involves. I am reminded how grateful we should all be for their commitment to the club.

I was not at the June meeting as I left for seven weeks trekking on the far western sections of Great Himalaya Trail in Nepal on June 9. An interesting time in monsoon season and as I write this I am hoping landslides and swollen rivers will not impede the four participants and our crew too much.

Cathy Merrick, our Secretary will preside at meetings in the absence of the President and Vice-President until my return on 31 July. We look forward to seeing Mick back in August.

Bushwalking Victoria held its Leaders' Forum and AGM on June 14. The Leaders' Forum discussed the issue of commercial activities in National Parks and other protected areas. Bushwalking Victoria used the day to unveil its new brand and logo and its new standards for how the organisation communicates. In the June newsletter of Bushwalking Victoria the President indicated that in 2014/2015 the organisation proposes to look at enfranchising individual members, establishing partnerships and promoting bushwalking to a wider public. BWV proposes a consolidation of past work in offering training programs in responsible bushwalking to individuals and the development of a website promoting a one-stop shop where bushwalkers can access information about bushwalking trips in Victoria.

Bulletin number 2 about the Federation Walks Weekend planned for November 7–9 notes that registration will be in two parts. First there will be registration for an accommodation/meals package with separate registration for walks. Further information is on the 2014 Federation Walks Weekend website – www.fedwalks.org.au or contact our club co-ordinator Mark Heath.

On 21 May Mark Heath and I attended a Victorian National Parks Association presentation about its work, particularly future proposals. A significant project is its action against cattle grazing in parks. On 16 May the Victorian National Parks Association filed a writ in the Supreme Court of Victoria claiming the Victorian government had failed to meet its obligations under national parks laws by allowing a cattle grazing trial to go ahead in the Alpine National Park. The VNPA is seeking to have the trial declared unlawful as well as seeking an interim injunction to stop cattle grazing in the park.

Reminders for this month:

- 1 **Membership renewals** were due by the end of June with reminders going out at the end of May to individuals who had not renewed. There is no need to come into the club rooms to renew, an EFT or post option is available. See the FAQs on the website for details. Please update any information including emergency contacts that may have changed. Don't delay if you want to continue to enjoy the many activities the club has on offer.
- 2 **Thank you.** Make July the month to thank a hard working leader, committee member or one of the many people in non-committee roles in our club. Without these people you would not be able to enjoy the safe, sociable, enjoyable activities the club offers in the great outdoors. My short time on the committee has reminded me of the amazing energy and enthusiasm these people all provide to our club.
- 3 **Spring Program.** The activities co-ordinators will welcome contributions to the activities for the Spring program. Spring is a time for renewal and new leaders will be welcomed.
- 4 **First Aid Course.** See the note in this newsletter about the up coming First Aid course.

I hope you are able to get out and enjoy the varied activities on offer in our second month of winter, a time to enjoy the countryside and bushland refreshed by the rain.

Susan McInnes, Acting President

2014 Social Calendar

Wednesday 23 July 2014 in the Clubrooms HOW TO SAVE A JUNGLE – HIKING IN THE CARDAMOM MOUNTAINS OF CAMBODIA

A recent experience of community based eco-tourism in Cambodia where local village people guide hiking trips through the extensive jungle of the Cardamom Mountains. Villagers are thus receiving an income from tourism and the forest is protected from illegal logging and poaching as a result. Cambodia is relatively close and economical for Australians to visit, and this is a very accessible trip for those who enjoy hiking and cultural exchange in a beautiful natural environment.



Wednesday 27 August 2014 SLIDE NIGHT: SOME ADVENTUROUS MOMENTS IN BUSHWALKING

John Fritze has put together a slide show of some of the more adventurous activities we get up to, the beautiful places we visit and some inspirational moments he has encountered along the way. It's a celebration of bushwalking!

Come along and enjoy it with a glass of wine and a biscuit.



Wednesday 22 October 2014, 8 pm CFA BUSHFIRE WORKSHOP FOR BUSHWALKING CLUBS

The CFA has recognised that people spending time in bushland from November to April each year need to be made aware of the risks relating to bushfires.

The CFA has put together a presentation specifically for bushwalkers and includes the following topics:

- Travelling and hiking in a high-risk area
- What to do if caught in a vehicle during a bushfire
- Understanding Fire Danger Ratings and how to plan a walking holiday around them
- Not travelling into high-risk areas on bad days – rearranging your plans
- Going to a Victorian Visitor Information centre for further information.

CFA has some great resources specific to bushwalking and travelling in high bushfire risk areas that they can make available to the Club.

PACK CARRY KANANGRA WALLS TO KATOOMBA 17-21 APRIL 2014

We all met around 1:30 pm on the Thursday before Easter at Katoomba YHA, where we left a change of clothes for after the walk. We then were transported by pre-booked 4WD via the scenic route past Jenolan caves to the start of the walk. We had an excellent campsite with a roaring fire for the cool night. The previous week's rains had passed and the weather was forecast to be beautiful for the entire walk.

On Friday we found that we had an extra six kilometres warm-up before starting the walk as we had been dropped off a little earlier than planned at Boyd river camping area rather than Kanangra Walls – this made for a bright and



early 7:00 start! The track out along the plateau is very rocky and a little overgrown, but being a classic Blue Mountains walk we expected classic views and were not disappointed. The Walls are spectacular orange-grey sandstone cliffs towering above the Kanangra Creek gorge. Waterfalls cascade off the plateau into the vast depths below and the views are awesome.

Having lost count of how many ups and downs and rock scrambles we'd done, we hauled ourselves up to Mt High and Mighty. The views from the top were good and so was lunch. We continued on to Mt Stormbreaker. Then up and down around Rip, over Rack, around Roar and over Rumble, to reach Mt Cloudmaker. Following the ridge we descended down to camp at Dex Creek. Lucky for us an earlier walker had started a campfire so after dinner and 21 km we all slept soundly.

The next morning we had another early start and off to Mt Moorilla

(continued over page)

Along the Track

KANANGRA WALLS TO KATOOMBA *(continued from previous page)*

Maloo, then the aptly named Mt Strongleg. After that the trail went steeply downhill for a knee trembling hour and a half to Kanangra Creek. Having refreshed our burning toes in the cool water as we crossed Cox's River, a lunch stop was called as we soaked up the views along the riverbanks. The next section up Yellow Pup Ridge was the longest climb on the walk. Finally at the top, the trail continues along the flats below Mt Dingo to Mobbs Swamp, our campsite for the evening. Having arrived there as the sun was setting, we dined quietly by headlamp and slept soundly to the whisper of wind in the she-oak trees.

The next day the walk began with a relaxing few kilometres until a steep climb over Mt Debert through pleasant open forest. Before long we were at the base of Tarro's Ladder. This is a set of climbing spikes fixed into the rock face. The climb is about 8 m and difficult with a full pack. Fortunately Agajan had brought pack hauling rope and so a human chain was established up the rock face to the top. The view here is excellent, more so after a surge of adrenaline from the climb!

In no time the walk reached a fire trail along Narrow Neck Peninsula and a steady climb to the fire tower at Bushwalkers Hill for lunch. After plenty more spectacular views and countless ups and downs, as well as a snake encounter, we finally reached the comfort of the YHA at Katoomba, where we had excellent accommodation for the night. For most of the walk we felt we were truly in the wilderness, there were no signs, and the tracks in many places are very vague. However our skilful leader navigated the team easily through some challenging terrain.

Thanks to everyone who came on the walk for such an enjoyable experience. On Monday Agajan, Deb, Judith, Richard and Ian returned to Melbourne by train and plane and I drove back.

Mark Simpson

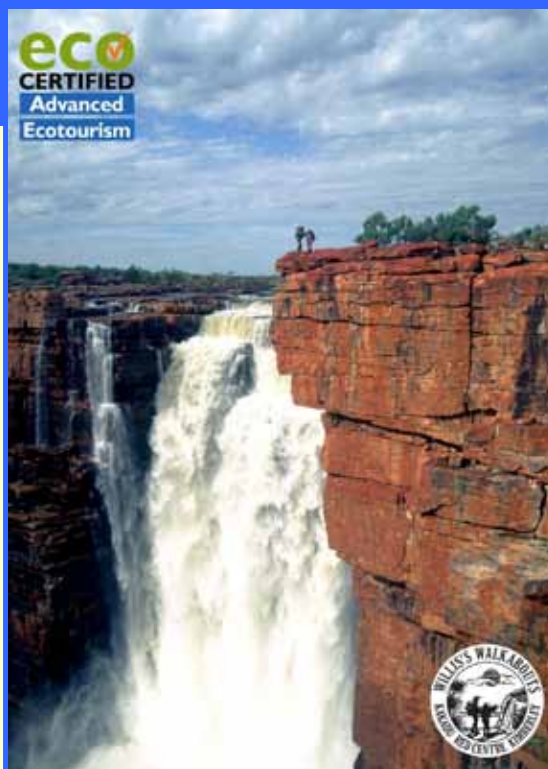
Willis's Walkabouts

Unique, off-track bushwalks

No one else takes you as far off the beaten path. Explore hidden waterfalls, ancient rock art, flowing streams and deep pools of pure, clean water. The only way to get to these wonderful places is to walk, off-trail through an amazing wilderness few people will ever see. Our experienced guides show you hidden wonders that others seldom find.

Easy, hard or in between, four days to six weeks, we offer something to suit every bushwalker. **Explore our website** and see the incredible variety we offer. Book early and save up to 20% with our advance purchase discounts. Quote this ad, book within a month of this magazine being published and we'll give you an extra \$200 off any Australian trip.

Join us on an extraordinary adventure you'll have to experience to believe.



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

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.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

VAUGHAN SPRINGS AND GOLDEN GULLIES

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| DATE | Sunday 3 August 2014 |
| RETURN TIME | 7:00 pm |
| STANDARD | Easy |
| DISTANCE | 16 km |
| ELEVATION | 400 m |
| LEADER | Ron Hampton |
| TRANSPORT | Carpool – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am |
| AREA | Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park |
| MAP REF | VICMAP T77723-4-2-1 and T77723-4-2-2 |

The walk begins at Lawson Spring inside Vaughan Springs Reserve where we cross the Loddon River and head south along an undulating track through areas of forest and the relics of extensive mining which took place in the 1850s. Half way through the walk we leave the trail and strike out east along Sebastapol Creek then north to eventually rejoin the Loddon River and follow it back to Lawson Spring and the car park.

This is a delightful walk mostly along well formed walking trails or vehicle tracks. The off-track section is lightly forested and easily traversed, while the few hills encountered are gradual ascents and descents, the highest being 400 m.

There is the opportunity at the end of the walk to sample the mineral water but if something more stimulating is required, Malmsbury is on the route back to Melbourne and serves good coffee.



TOFS WALK

BLACKS FLAT – JUMPING CREEK – BLUE TONGUE BEND – STANEBRAE (WARRANTYTE STATE PARK)

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| DATE | Thursday 7 August |
| RETURN TIME | 2:30 pm |
| STANDARD | Easy |
| DISTANCE | 10 km |
| ELEVATION | 100 m |
| LEADER | Graham Hodgson |
| TRANSPORT | Private |
| AREA | Warrandyte State Park |
| MAP REF | Park Notes |

This walk is a pretty stroll along the banks of the Yarra River following well made tracks.

There will be some relatively steep hills after we leave Blue Tongue Bend but we will be rewarded with some fine views of the surrounding countryside.

We will inspect the ruins of Stanebrae (an historic homestead) before climbing back up the hill and doing a nature walk before returning to the cars.

On previous walks in the area we have encountered powerful owls, darters sitting on logs in the river, echidnas and mobs of roos.

We will meet at the carpark at Tills Drive (Melway Map 23 H11 at 10:30 am.



CYCLING

BELGRAVE TO PAKENHAM

| | |
|------------------|--|
| DATE | Saturday 9 August 2014 |
| STANDARD | Easy/Medium |
| DISTANCE | 50 km |
| LEADER | Del Franks |
| TRANSPORT | Public transport |
| AREA | Belgrave/Pakenham |
| MAP REF | Melway maps 75, 124, 126, 210, 211, 313, 315, 213 & 317 |

The ride will be almost all on roads, some unsealed and some quite busy. The first section scenic ride is through the beautiful forest of the Dandenongs and the latter section is through the attractive farmland of the Toomuc Valley. Other highlights are the possibility to watch the Puffing Billy trail and the magnificent views at the Cardinia Reservoir.

There are some quite demanding hills in the first half of the ride, but the second half is downhill and then flat.

The ride will start at Belgrave Station at the end of the Belgrave line. We will start the ride at 9:40 am. There is a train that leaves the Flinders St at 8:04 am and arrives at 9:35 am. We will meet at the north side of the train station.

Please give me a call if you are interested in doing this ride.



CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

BOGONG HIGH PLAINS



DATE 9–16 August 2014
STANDARD Various, though Medium/Hard to ski in
DISTANCE Initially 12 km, with packs
LEADER Doug Pocock
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Bogong High Plains
MAP Outdoor Leisure Map

Again we have the opportunity to enjoy the untracked expanses of the High Plains in winter. Staying in a basic but comfortable chalet 12 km away from the distractions of Falls Creek we tend to have the snow to ourselves, rarely seeing anyone else. There tends to be two or three trips organised each day catering to everyone’s inclinations or skill levels. A voluntary roster is drawn up to ensure all jobs are done so the week runs efficiently giving maximum time for skiing.

Past skiers are welcome to return and newcomers are encouraged to discuss requirements for joining us. Contact Doug Pocock or Marilyn Whimpey.



SUNDAY BUS

BLACKWOOD RANGES TRACK

DATE Sunday 10 August 2014
RETURN TIME 6 pm
STANDARDS Easy and Medium
DISTANCES 15 and 19 km
LEADERS Quentin Tibballs and Tracey Jamieson
TRANSPORT Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Bacchus Marsh
MAP REF Lerderberg and Werribee Gorges Meridian Maps 1:35,000



This is a new walk along country lanes and the Blackwood Ranges Track, which is an old fire track part of which is undulant through open forest and part along a ridge immediately west of the Lerderberg River from which distant views of the Blackwood Ranges may be had. There is a common 15 km walk for both groups; however the Easy group has the option of including part of the Long Point Track towards the Lerderberg Weir depending on time. The Medium group in addition to the common walk will descend down Link Track No 2 to the Lerderberg River, track this river for the 2 km to Grahams Dam then ascend Link Track No 1 to rejoin the Blackwood Ranges Track. Walkers should note that the vertical distance for both the link tracks is about 250 m and both are quite steep so footwear with good traction is required – you can also expect two river crossings. If you decide on the Medium walk and find the ascent up Link Track No 1 too difficult an option is you could return down the track to Graham’s Dam then walk the 2 km out to Mackenzies Flat and the bus could pick you up there.



WEDNESDAY WALK

STEIGLITZ GOLDFIELDS

DATE Wednesday 13 August 2014
RETURN TIME 3:00 pm back to cars
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 12 km
LEADER Mary Daley
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Brisbane Ranges South
MAP REF Melway 911 D4, Parks Victoria: Steiglitz

A pleasant circuit walk starting and finishing in Steiglitz, a once booming gold mining town. The walk commences by following Sutherland Creek and includes approximately 500 m of rock hopping before the track leaves the creek and heads through bush and open forest. There are many signs of the gold mining past, including the sites and mullock heaps of several old mines. The walk finishes by walking up Regent Street which was once Steiglitz’s main street. The site of the old Steiglitz Coffee Palace reveals a particularly poignant tale.

Meet at 10:15 am for a 10:30 start in the car park at the Steiglitz Courthouse.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

NORTHERN BRISBANE RANGES – SPRING CREEK

DATE Sunday 17 August 2014
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 15 km
ELEVATION Fluctuating with 150 m height changes repeated
LEADER Roger Wyet
TRANSPORT Carpool – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Brisbane Ranges
MAP REF Boars Gully Vic Park Notes
TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON) Approx \$15

This walk is in the northern Brisbane Ranges and will start with a short car shuffle track prior to descending to Spring Creek down a rocky spur. Then upstream from bank to bank to ascend a steep spur to follow a series of tracks back to Boars Gully.

While this walk has a variety of terrain, it is not for the first time walker; rather for those that enjoy open off track (not hard) and nice scenery.



MOFS WALK

HAWKSTOWE PARK/MORANG WETLANDS
(NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE FROM PROGRAM)

| | |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| DATE | Monday 18 August 2014 |
| STANDARD | Easy |
| DISTANCE | 10 km |
| ELEVATION | Flat |
| LEADER | Alister Rowe |
| TRANSPORT | Private |
| AREA | South Morang |
| MAP REF | Melway 183 |

Meet in the Redgum picnic area car park at 10:30 am, Melway 183H7. Turn right off Plenty Road at Gordons Road. Park entrance and Redgum area clearly signposted.

We will do a picturesque if slightly rough circuit around Nioka Bush Camp and down to the river ford, which we may cross if the water is low enough. We will then walk around and through Hawkstowe Park to Wilton Vale Road.

The walk may need to be extended to make up the distance, but I will think of something.

Book with the leader.



DANDENONGS EXPLORER

| | |
|------------------|---|
| DATE | Saturday 23 August 2014 |
| STANDARD | Easy/Medium |
| DISTANCE | 13 km approx |
| LEADER | Sheena Burgess |
| TRANSPORT | Private |
| AREA | Birdland Reserve to Lysterfield Park |
| MAP REF | Melway 84 B2 |

A walk starting at Birdland Reserve, Belgrave Heights. We will meet at 10:00 am at the BBQ shelter (Melway 84 B2). The walk will head to the wetlands at Monbulk Creek, then south to cross over Wellington Road. Then down to Lysterfield Lake and back via Granite track. Then off to Belgrave for afternoon tea and cakes.



SUNDAY BUS

DROMANA – ARTHURS SEAT – GREENS BUSH – CAPE SCHANCK

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| DATE | Sunday 24 August 2014 |
| DISTANCE | Easy/Medium 15 km; Medium 20 km |
| LEADERS | Mick Noonan and Christina Hughes |
| TRANSPORT | Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am |
| AREA | Mornington Peninsula |
| MAP REFERENCE | Two Bays Walk Notes and Melway maps 258 and 259 |

The views across the bay are stunning, the wildlife, bird life, flora and fauna are exceptional and like no other walking track on the Mornington Peninsula.

The medium walk, extra distance, involves climbing to Arthurs Seat via the OT Dam then taking the bus down to the start of the easy/medium walk at Baldry's Crossing. Both walks follow the same route from Baldry's Crossing, passing through Greens Bush and Highfield Parks, across Boneo Road, then past Bushrangers Bay, finishing at Cape Schanck.

Some of the best coastal scenery near Melbourne



Time permitting either walk has the possibility of a detour to the beach at Bushrangers Bay and the boardwalk at Cape Schanck. Greens Bush is the largest remnant of bushland on the Peninsula, with vegetation varying from eucalypt forests to fern gullies, heathlands and grasslands. It's a pleasant walk on good tracks.

Optional Pick Up location: Pick-ups are possible at the off ramp just before the lights of the Monash Freeway at Fosters Road. Contact a leader if you would like to arrange a pick-up.



SOCIAL WALK

DAREBIN PARKLANDS

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| DATE | Thursday 28 August 2014 |
| STANDARD | Easy |
| DISTANCE | 5 km |
| ELEVATION | Small hills |
| LEADER | Jean Giese |
| TRANSPORT | Private |
| AREA | Alphington |
| MAP REF | Melway 31 |

Darebin Park has an interesting history and a lot to offer today with its wetlands and much of the indigenous vegetation restored. There is also a Spiritual Trail provided by the Wurundjeri Clan of the Woimurrung people who have cared for this land and enjoyed it through many millennia.

Meet in the carpark off the end of Separation Street (Melway 31D9) to start walking at 10:30.



SUNDAY BUS

COWBAW RANGES

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| DATE | Sunday 31 August |
| RETURN TIME | 6:30 pm to City |
| STANDARDS | Easy/Medium and Medium |
| DISTANCES | 15 km and 18 km |
| ELEVATIONS | 500 m and 700 m |
| LEADERS | Ian Mair and Halina Sarbinowski |
| TRANSPORT | Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am |
| AREA | Cobaw Ranges west of Lancefield |
| MAP REF | Rooftop's Cobaw Ranges Forest Activities Map |

The Cobaw State Forest just north of Hanging Rock is a haven for wildlife and is characterised by huge granite boulders within a natural forest setting. Within an easy one-hour drive from Melbourne its popularity with bushwalkers has waned a little due to the attraction the rugged terrain has for trail bikes. However, by a careful selection of lesser-used tracks and long stretches of off-track walking through easily navigated country the natural attractions of the area can be enjoyed by all. We get close and personal with some of the huge granite outcrops and cross serene forest openings as we pick our way over fallen trees and through bracken thickets under the watchful eye of kangaroo and wallaby.

Both walks follow a similar route for most of the day with the longer walk taking in a few extra hill climbs near the start and longer sections of off-track walking. Due to the nature of the country to be followed off-track and the steepness of some of the hills the walks have been graded as Easy/Medium and Medium. A good level of fitness and comfort with walking over untracked rough ground is required; however, none of it is technically difficult.

Take this opportunity to find out a bit more of what the 'bush' in bushwalking is all about and experience a little of what few people have the chance to enjoy. Discuss the walk with the leaders if you need more information on whether it is right for you.



PACK CARRY – EARLY NOTICE

WILSON'S PROMONTORY

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| DATE | 25 to 28 September 2014 |
| RETURN TIME | 8 pm 28 September 2014 |
| STANDARD | Medium |
| DISTANCE | 53.6 km |
| LEADER | Richard Hanson |
| TRANSPORT | Car |
| AREA | Wilsons Promontory |

This is a classic walk around the southern circuit of Wilsons Promontory. It is over three days, camping Thursday night at Tidal River. Walk from Telegraph Saddle via Sealers Cove to camp at Refuge Cove on Friday night and then walk down the east coast via Waterloo Bay to stay at the Lighthouse cottages Saturday night. It is then a longish walk Sunday to Tidal River via Little Oberon Bay. It will cost \$12.50 to camp at Refuge Cove and \$133.80 to stay the night at the lighthouse cottages, i.e. \$146.30 per person.

This is a medium walk that would appeal to those that have done a pack carry recently. Parks Vic mandates a maximum group size of 12. Please email me at rhanson@vsk.org.au as soon as possible if you are interested in joining me.

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
MILFORD TRACK / HOLLYFORD
TRACK**

January 17–26 2014



This walk will run back to back with Ian Mair's Routeburn / Kepler walks in January. Starting from Te Anau on January 17, this will be a nine day walk, four days along the Clinton River, up over Mackinnon Pass and down the Arthur River along the famous Milford Track, to an overnight in civilization in the village of Piopiothi in Milford Sound. The next morning we will literally fly over the mountains to two valleys north at the mouth of the Hollyford River. We will have an optional day exploring the shores of Big Bay and hopefully come across the seal pups nursery. We will then spend four days walking up the Hollyford River along the Demon Trail / Hollyford Track. We will walk out of the Hollyford on the afternoon of Australia Day January 26 and be whisked direct to Queenstown by bus to arrive early evening. Although this is a continuous nine day walk it will be possible to leave or join the walk at Milford Sound when we overnight there on January 21. On the afternoon of January 21 there will be an optional two and a quarter hour Encounter Nature Cruise on Milford Sound.

The most strenuous days on the trip are likely to be days 2 and 3 when we go over the 1154 metre McKinnon pass, the second half along the Hollyford should be easier with no major passes. However overall it will be a challenging walk with nine continuous days and some long days in terms of time and distance.

To express interest and get further information please contact David Walsh preferably by email on kiewa@optusnet.com.au as I will be away skiing much of July. The Milford Track is a very popular Great Walk and you must pre book the huts. For 2015 bookings are expected to open around mid-July and it is expected that the dates for this trip may book out very quickly. If you are considering joining this trip I suggest you ask for the detailed information as early as possible.

