



A000133X

# THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

May 2014

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER – MAY

*Club members will be very sad to hear that Joan MacMahon has recently passed away. Joan was a member of the club for some thirty five years. She had a great appreciation of the bush. Her energy in helping regenerate bushland and in campaigning to protect our environment was inspiring.*

*The club has lost a greatly loved member and our thoughts go out to Ken and the two boys.*

The **main items at the April Committee Meeting** were: familiarising new Committee people and new office holders with the Committee operations; the campaign for new members; the *News* advertisement for more Wednesday Helpers; and continuing our Future Directions work.

This month's *News* has a list of **44 people who contribute to the Club in 21 non-Committee roles**, not including leaders and whips. In 2013 there were 29 Sunday leaders, over 30 leaders of other activities, and probably a similar number of Whips. It's really amazing how many people contribute to the operation of our Club!

**Sunday Bus numbers are down in the first 4 months of this year.** We have had a peak of 57 but recently two buses of around 25. So please try and support the Sunday Bus. It is great value with no fee increase in many years. Ideas and suggestions for improvements to Halina.

**We are extending the loaning of the Club's two new GPS units to members.** Previously they were restricted to leaders. Members can borrow a GPS for 2 weeks at no cost for learning new skills, 'try before you buy', using on a walk, etc. We would like to see them borrowed all the time rather than sitting in the Clubrooms. Just see the Committee person on duty and get them to record the booking in the Equipment Loan book.

In April you should have noticed that **the News is now being emailed as a link. We have a new email format** with a list of the main *News* items and highlights. It's part of the upgrades Ian Mair is making to the Membership Database and related activities.

### Reminders for this month:

- 1 **Membership renewals** are due by the end of June! There are no fee increases. Please renew early and update any information including emergency contacts that may have changed.
- 2 **Leaders writing Previews for the News** should remember to use the latest form from the Leaders Database and ensure they have put the **expected Return Time** on the preview writeup.
- 3 **On May 28th Ian McLean from the Essendon Bushwalking Club is presenting on Geocaching.** Come along and find out all about this fascinating activity over a glass of wine and some cheese.
- 4 There is a **Navigation Fun Day on Sunday 11th of May**, no experience necessary! Go along and have a great time and learn some new skills.

**Enjoy the last month of Autumn**, whether it be contributing to track maintenance, cycling, exploring the Dandenongs, the new Sunday walk to *Sardine and Clearwater Creek*, or old favourites such as the *Monk Walk* and the *O'Shannessy Aqueduct Walk*.

Mick Noonan

**Due date for contributions (including July previews) to June News: 21 May**

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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:news@mbw.org.au).

Please note:  
Next committee meeting will take place on  
**Monday 5 May 2014**

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Club:

Geoffrey Wright Cheryl Douglas  
Stephen Ingrouille Fiona Bunworth  
Frances Spanger Jeanette Burnett  
Androula Denetrios Felicia Raso

## NON COMMITTEE ROLES 2014

Asst. Social Secretary	Susan Maughan, Liz Telford
Asst. Sunday Walks Secretary	Del Franks
BSAR Coordinator	David Laing
Club Email Contact	Mark Heath
Database Administrator	Chris Schirlinger
Environment Officer	Deb Shand
Equipment Officer	John Fritze
Finance Reviews	John Boyd, Richard Hanson
Librarian	Cecily Hunter
Maps Officer	Mark Heath
Newsletter Editor	Meryllyn Whimpey
Training Officer	Roger Wyett
Website Manager	Ian Mair

### Activity Co-ordinators

Base Camp/Lodge	Wendy Fortington
Cycling	Ross Berner
Dandenongs Explorer	Maureen Hurley
Pack Carry	Jopie Bodegraven
TOFs/MOFs/Social	Jean Giese & Alister Rowe
Wednesday	Ed Neff

### Bush Search and Rescue (BSAR, new members welcome, see David Laing)

David Laing, Derrick Brown, Gina Hopkins, Jopie Bodegraven, Bill Metzenthén, Roger Wyett, Diane Woodcroft, Mick Noonan, Andy Elam

### Wednesday Committee Duty Roster Helpers (being expanded)

Margaret Curry, Max Casley, Wendy Fortington, Jopie Bodegraven, Fay Dunn, Sue Haviland, Susan Maughan, Graham Hodgson, Roger Wyett, Carol Sisson, Kerry McKeand, Sue Ralston, Cassie Pace, Maureen Hurley, Mary Daley, Carol Ward, Margaret Njeri Cornes

### Club Emergency Contacts (being expanded)

Jim Marsden, Del Franks, Richard Long, Mick Noonan, Ed Neff, Jopie Bodegraven, Stuart Hanham, Derrick Brown, Ian Mair, David Laing

# 2014 Social Calendar

## May 28 'AN INTRODUCTION TO GEOCACHING' by Ian McLean

Ian, from the Essendon Bushwalking Club, is a very knowledgeable and enthusiastic 'geocacher'. Geocaching is an outdoor recreational activity, in which people use a GPS, mobile and other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers, called 'geocaches' anywhere in the world. Come along and learn all about it and why it can be a good compliment to bushwalking!.

## 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.

## Willis's Walkabouts

### Kakadu Birdwatching

August 2014 – More than just birds

**If you are interested in looking at the whole of the environment and doing a lot more than tick off a list of species, this trip is for you.**

Every year, we offer one special birdwatching, nature and bushwalking tour using the expertise of our best birding guide. The trip combines day walks and overnight accommodation with a one week, pack-carrying walk. That's the only way you can get to some of the areas where the birds are most likely to be found.

You will see a variety of the relatively common birds that inhabit the area and, with luck, will spot some of the rare ones like the white-throated grasswren.



[www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au](http://www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au) [rwillis@internode.on.net](mailto:rwillis@internode.on.net) Ph: 08 8985 2134

## MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE! MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2014

Membership subscriptions are due 1st April 2014. You are not required to sign an Acknowledgement of Risk form on renewal. However you are advised that payment of fees implies acceptance of the risks involved in any activity you may undertake as a member of Melbourne Bushwalkers. Members are asked to read the following wording regarding your insurance cover through Bushwalking Victoria.

'In voluntarily participating in activities of Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc., which are described to me by the activity leaders, I am aware that my participation in the activities may expose me to hazards and risks that could lead to injury, illness or death or to loss of or damage to my property. I also acknowledge that I may encounter weather conditions that could lead to heat stroke, hypothermia or being in locations where evacuation for medical treatment may take hours or days.

In particular when participating in abseiling or above the snowline activities I am aware that these activities could expose me to additional hazards and risks. To minimize risks I will endeavour to ensure that:

- Each activity is within my capabilities
- I will carry food, water and equipment appropriate for the activity
- I will advise the activity leader if I am taking medication or have any physical or other limitation that might affect my participation in the activity
- I will make every effort to remain with the rest of the party during the activity
- I will advise the leader of any concerns I am having and
- I will comply with all reasonable instructions of club officers and the activity leader

I have read and understood these requirements. I will consider the risks before joining any activity of the Club. I acknowledge that I will take responsibility for my own actions and that payment of my subscriptions will be deemed as full acceptance and understanding of the above conditions.'

Please refer to the Renewal Slip below for methods of paying your subscription. If paying by cheque please return the renewal slip to assist the Treasurer and Membership Secretary to identify you. If any of your personal details have changed, complete the relevant information and forward to the Membership Secretary. The Renewal Slip also appears on the back page of the newsletter.

### RENEWAL SLIP

Payment to the Treasurer, together with completed form by one of the following methods:

- Cash or cheque on club night (cheques payable to Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.)
- Cheque and Renewal Slip posted to Treasurer, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc, P.O. Box 1751, Melbourne 3001
- EFT to the club account. (Account Name: Melbourne Bushwalkers, A/c No. 0058-46013, BSB: 013-006).

Please ensure your full name and 'SUBS' appear on the transfer.

<b>Fees:</b>	<b>Single member: \$45*</b>	<b>Concession: \$34* (Proof required**)</b>
<i>(Please circle your membership category)</i>	<b>Couple/Family: \$72*</b>	<b>Concession: \$50* (Proof required**)</b>
	<b>News Only Subscribers: \$20</b>	

**Notes:** \* Members who currently receive their copies of **NEWS** via postal mail should add \$10 to continue.

No new hard copy subscriptions will be accepted.

\*\* Does not refer to holders of a Seniors Card

Name: .....	Year of Birth (optional).....	
Name: .....	Year of Birth (optional).....	<i>Indicate below if you agree details can go on Club Membership List</i>
<i>Fill in Address, Telephone number / s and Email address only if changed since last renewal:</i>		
Address: .....		YES/NO
Postcode: ..... Tel: H) .....	W) .....	YES/NO
Email: .....		YES/NO

## ACTIVITY STATISTICS 2012 & 2013

	2012			2013		
	Trips	Average	Ave Vis	Trips	Average	Ave Vis
<b>DAY WALKS</b>						
<b>MOFS</b>	12	12.5	1.2	11	12.0	0.4
<b>TOFS</b>	12	10.3	0.3	9	12.1	0.2
<b>Sat/Dand Expl</b>	8	8.0	0.4	7	9.9	1.0
<b>Sunday bus</b>	27	42.6	9.6	27	36.8	6.9
<b>Sunday carpool</b>	23	16.4	3.7	24	15.5	2.1
<b>Wednesday</b>	12	12.7	0.8	11	14.3	0.8
<b>OTHER ACTIVITIES</b>						
<b>Conservation</b>	8	7.3	-	3	7.0	-
<b>Nav Training*</b>	1	-	-	1	8.0	-
<b>Track Maintenance</b>	2	3.5	-	2	6.0	2.0
<b>Training</b>	-	-	-	2	19.0	4.0
<b>Skiing</b>	2	6.5	-	1	12.0	1.0
<b>Base Camp</b>	6	8.4	1.0	9	10.3	1.0
<b>Lodge</b>	1	17.0	4.0	-	-	-
<b>Canoe</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Pack Carry**</b>	17	9.5	0.1	15	9.0	0.6
<b>Cycling</b>	13	8.1	0.1	9	9.0	0.3

Trip numbers are based on total trips - January to December.

Average numbers based on information from leaders (ie excludes trips where numbers have not been provided).

Not included are 1 Lodge, 2 Pack Carry's, 2 Cycling and 1 Wednesday Walk cancelled in 2013 due to fire/heat or low numbers

\* Numbers not available for 2012

\*\* Snow shoe walk included in pack carry statistics



*Pyramid Rock, Sunday 30 March 2014  
Photo by Cecelia Lee or Halina Sarbinowski*



*Lake Daylesford walk, Sunday 5 January 2014  
Photo by Cecelia Lee*

### GAINING NEW RESPECT FOR DRAINS – FRIENDS OF BOGONG WORK PARTY 29–30 MARCH 2014



On the last weekend in March, three Melbourne Bushwalkers and one keen prospective member joined with the Friends of Bogong to work on tracks around the Mountain Creek campsite at the base of Mt Bogong. Mt Beauty rangers Iris and Rudi organised our tasks for the weekend, which included cleaning signs, cutting back vegetation encroaching on tracks, and installing a new seat beside the creek. There were jobs suitable for all strength levels and even the pesky leeches couldn't deter us.

After a break for lunch, Rudi demonstrated how to clear out the drains on the Staircase Track, and we set to work with mattocks, shovels and rake hoes. The drains serve to divert water from the track in rainy weather, so next time you climb

Mt Bogong, please admire the fine condition of the first 51 drains!

On Sunday we woke to steady rain on our tents, and Iris arrived to inform us that it was too wet to work and we should meet for debriefing and morning tea in the Tawonga Store. There were no quibbles about this, and after some fine food and conversation we set off for home.

Thanks to Rod Novak for coordinating the weekend and for the company of Mark and Raf as well as the other friendly Friends of Bogong.

*Deb Shand*

### NEST BOX SURVEY WEEKEND 5–6 APRIL 2014

Ladder skills came in useful on the weekend when I joined about eighty other people checking nesting boxes in the Benalla area. The nesting boxes are established about four hundred metres apart along roadside vegetation or creek gullies with two main goals: to provide nesting places (in lieu of available large old trees) and to track the progress of the target species – mainly squirrel gliders and sugar gliders.

In teams of four or five we were allocated areas with around twenty nesting boxes each. Our team was connected with the Melbourne Bushwalking Club. With the aid of maps and descriptions we first had to find the boxes – often not an easy task in fairly rough country or where they have been purposefully concealed. Plus we had to carry a long extension ladder across paddocks and barbed-wire fences.

Having found the correct nesting box we had to check for unwanted occupants: feral bees, wasps, rats and snakes. Some boxes were empty; others contained glider nests in various states of construction. All of this information had to be recorded – the colour and age of the leaves along with the shape of the leaf nests. The squirrel gliders build a bowl-shaped nest and then cover themselves with very bushy tails. The slightly smaller sugar gliders have a much less bushy tail yet build a nest that all but encloses their bodies, using tightly packed leaves (and the air spaces in between) to provide insulation. [A lesson here that we should insulate our houses just as skilfully!]

About two thirds of our boxes were occupied – mostly by juvenile squirrel gliders. This was good news as squirrel gliders are endangered. Occasionally we found whole families but it was usually hard to know the number of family members, as they tend to squash into the nest box and cover themselves with leaves or their bushy tails – and we didn't want to disturb them too much. An empty box with a nest is not necessarily a bad sign because it shows occupation and it may just be that the gliders are using several nests to avoid predators such as goannas.

All in all a great weekend with a good team from the Melbourne Bushwalking Club.

*Stephen Ingrouille*



### BOGONG HIGH PLAINS MARCH 7-10 2014

After camping at Mountain Creek the night before, our group of 15 woke to a bright, sunny day and headed up the Bogong High Plains road, stopping on the way for a 15-minute detour to the Fainter Falls. Up on the high plains we started from the Pretty Valley car park and headed eastwards across the plateau towards Mt Cope, stopping for morning tea on the banks of a creek which we crossed and re-crossed as it meandered along in our general direction. It soon became apparent that it was our leader's intention to climb every hill that presented itself! We duly admired the view from the top of Mt Cope before heading down to the Cope Saddle Hut for lunch, then along the AAWT for a few kilometres, leaving the track to ascend to our campsite among the snow gums on the southern slopes of Mt Jim. After making camp some of us climbed to the top while others headed 500 m down the hill to collect water. That evening we were treated to a spectacular sound and light show with a dry thunderstorm to the south.



Morning tea on the high plains

The following morning we rejoined the AAWT, stopping for a few minutes to allow those who had not done so the day before to get to the top of Mt Jim, before following an undulating trail up and down the hills formerly known as the Niggerheads, stopping for lunch in a saddle and then over Mt Fainter South. We camped in a flat area between the Fainters with wonderful views towards the east and Mt Bogong.

The next morning we climbed Fainter North where once again there were panoramic views to admire. One of the highlights of this walk was the opportunity to see the changing faces of major landmarks Mts Bogong, Feathertop and Hotham from a range of different angles. After a short scrub-bash down the northern slope of Fainter North we joined the Fainter Fire Track which led down to Bogong Jack saddle and then a steep 10 km descent down a 4WD track back to the cars. Notable features of this section included an encounter with a large lazy black snake with a distinct yellow underside. (Looking it up later I found that although snakes of this description are commonly seen there is actually no such species as a yellow-bellied black snake and it was most likely either an eastern brown snake or a tiger snake.) At the bottom of the track we were momentarily disconcerted to find the way blocked by a large locked gate, but recalling an intrepid cyclist encountered coming up the track as we went down, we figured if she could find a way around it, so could we, and sure enough some of us ended up slithering underneath the gate while others made use of a gap in the fence.

Many thanks to Jopie for organising and leading this wonderful walk, and to fellow walkers Jenny Flood, Alex Stirkul, Jenna Burgi, Bob Oxlade, Jeanette Burnett, Ian Langford, Jenny Andrews, Marilyn Whimpey, Bill Metzenthén, Gina Hopkins, Derrick Brown, Jamie Brawn, and Phil Brown for a memorable weekend.

*Judith Shaw*



Four Js and interloper on Fainter North with Mt Feathertop in the background

### 12 APOSTLES PACK CARRY – 21–23 MARCH 2014

This pack carry completed the Great Ocean Walk (GOW) series walk leader Bob Oxlade commenced in 2011 and covered the last 30 km of the GOW to the 12 Apostles. This was my first pack carry and I chose it because a) it seemed easier than others on the program b) I hadn't seen the 12 Apostles. I carpooled with Deb, Fang and Deborah and we were the last to arrive at the Loves Creek Picnic Area, Karwarren about 8 pm on Friday. It was freezing, wet and dark and thankfully Philip had the same tent as the one I hired from the club and helped to put it up. We all went to bed early. Not a great start to the trip!

Fortunately the rain had stopped in the morning but it was a slow start to the day due to car shuffle arrangements. We started walking about 10:30 am from Ryans Den and had to give up a side trip due to the late start. The terrain was more 'undulating' than expected but generally enjoyable with lunch and breaks at lookouts with amazing views. The last 4 km of the 16 km today was on a rather dull car track and we realised later that we could have by-passed this as a new track had been built recently.

We camped the night at Devils Kitchen, which has good facilities including drinkable water, a shelter, and the most incredible view over Wreck Beach from the toilet! The 14 of us and two young Swiss men jostled for space in the shelter to cook dinner. The Swiss guys were walking the whole GOW and their dinner involved a full sized cooking pot and giant stove, half a packet of rice, and half a jar of tomato sauce! Most of us had a BackCountry meal for dinner and tips were swapped about which meals tasted better – the Thai Chicken Curry wasn't bad. Dessert included a bottle of Rose (thanks Leila) and pretzel M&Ms from the U.S. (thanks Geoff) shared among the group.

Breakfast the next morning was interrupted by a group of local runners, which was quite a surprise! We set off around 9 am and started by exploring the beautiful rock pools at Wreck Beach for about an hour. Today's walk was much better than the day before due to easier terrain, better weather and more coastal views. We had lunch at Gellibrand River and left our packs in the cars and waited while more car shuffling took place. We re-grouped then set off for the last part of the GOW with each passing kilometre providing another fantastic view of the 12 Apostles. The day before we had the track mostly to ourselves but today was much busier,

particularly in the last 3–5 km. The GOW finishes about 400 m before the 12 Apostles Visitor Centre where we met most of the cars. The Visitor Centre was teeming with tourists and we didn't stay too long – it all seemed a bit overwhelming after the quiet of the last couple of days. We all stopped at Colac to have a pub meal for dinner on the way home, which was a nice way to end the trip.

*Cassandra Pace*



View of Wreck Beach



### WILSONS PROMONTORY BEGINNERS PACK CARRY, 4–6 APRIL 2014

Unsurprisingly, this was a very popular pack carry that booked out quickly but due to a cancellation, I was lucky enough to go. The club newsletter described the trip as a pack carry aimed at beginners with the emphasis on understanding what to pack, carrying a heavier pack, trying different equipment etc., rather than walking. Ian had organised an information session a couple weeks prior at the club rooms to go through what to pack (by John Fritze), equipment hire, carpooling etc., which was very useful. It was also a good opportunity to meet everyone as several of the people attending were new club members.

I carpooled with Geoff and Cheryl and we were followed by Daniel and Sara. Sadly, a stop at Fish Creek did not deliver the promised pie (there is no bakery!). We arrived at Tidal Creek about 5:30 pm on Friday and set up our tents in light rain. Ian, Halina, Stephanie and Njeri were already there and we were later joined by Gill, Poppy and Cecelia. Despite the poor weather, we proceeded to enjoy a BBQ for dinner complete with cheese, crackers and wine. Geoff and Cheryl – King and Queen of base camps – provided a few luxuries that really made the evening. A wombat joined our group as we were packing up and was determined to get some dinner. About 15 minutes of wombat antics followed with the highlight being a tug of war involving Halina, a loaf of bread and the wombat.

Tidal River wasn't particularly busy but I would definitely recommend ear plugs for anyone camping there! We packed up ahead of schedule and caught the 9 am bus up to Telegraph Saddle. It was then a pretty easy 10 km walk to Sealers Cove as it was mostly downhill. The terrain was stunning and varied from bush to rainforest to swamp to beach. The track to Sealers Cove was the last to re-open after the March 2011 floods and with good reason – the first few kilometres in particular were marked with huge landslides. We walked at a relatively slow pace as there was no hurry and plenty of photo opportunities.

We arrived at Sealers Cove about lunch time and had the pick of the campsites. Most of the group went for a walk to a lookout after lunch but a few of us investigated the beach instead. An early dinner followed filled with stories of past camping trips. By this time, Sealers Cove had reached capacity (60) with a range of people camping from teenagers to families. The last group arrived about 9 pm, not long after we had all gone to bed, and set up camp in the middle of our tents! We later learnt that one of the group of late arrivers had hurt their ankle and then the party got stuck crossing the river at high tide, so they were forgiven for setting up camp so late. Note the water at Sealers Cove is not the best and definitely needs to be boiled before consuming. The toilet facilities were also marred by people leaving rubbish in them.

The next morning we packed up and crossed the river then walked barefoot along the beautiful beach before walking back the same 10 km to Telegraph Saddle. Although our packs were slightly lighter, the return trip was harder going as it was mostly uphill, very humid, and a few of us were battling bruises (watch the slippery boardwalk!), a cold or sore shoulders. We had lunch at Telegraph Saddle then about half the group walked to Mount Oberon (6.8 km return) and were treated to blue skies and clear views. The rest of the group went back to Tidal River for a shower and hot food from the takeaway shop. We all re-grouped at Tidal River and returned backpacks and equipment to their rightful owners before driving home. Overall, a very enjoyable trip – well organised, a great group, quite good weather, and a good balance of walking and socialising.

*Cassandra Pace*



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](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](mailto: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.



**TRACK MAINTENANCE**

THE GRAMPIANS



**DATE** 2-4 May 2014  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**LEADER** Mark Heath  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Halls Gap  
**MAP REF** Melways 425 C 11  
**TRANSPORT COST** \$60

Join Parks Victoria and Friends of the Grampians to improve walking tracks in the Eastern Grampians on Saturday.

Complimentary camping for both Friday and Saturday nights will be available near Halls Gap.

On Sunday we will do a short walk before returning home. Tools provided – a great way of enjoying the Grampians environment!

Contact Mark Heath for details.



**SUNDAY BUS**

MT ROBERTSON AND GUM CREEK

**DATE** Sunday 1 June 2014  
**STANDARDS** Easy/Medium and Medium  
**DISTANCES** 16 km both walks  
**ELEVATION** 300m fluctuation  
**LEADERS** Sue Haviland and Roger Wyett  
**TRANSPORT** Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am  
**AREA** Kinglake West – Hazeldene  
**MAP REF** Pheasant Creek 1:25,000

Both walks are approx 16 km through open woodlands along ridgelines mostly on 2WD and 4WD dirt tracks with an ascent of Mt Robertson (620 m) from 450 m then down to 320 m at the walk end. Sounds easy, but the harder group will be closer to Medium with a sharp ascent and a rock steep descent off Mt Robertson. However for the easier group it will be an enjoyable walk which has not been done since 2008.

We will do a northern pick up en route on the Plenty Rd, by prior arrangement only.



**TOFS WALK**

WESTERN SUBURBS WATERWAYS



**DATE** Thursday 5 June 2014  
**RETURN TIME** 4:00 pm  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** 10 km  
**ELEVATION** Dead flat, except for 100 optional steps  
**LEADER** Marilyn Whimpey

**TRANSPORT** Train or car  
**AREA** Altona  
**MAP REF** Melways 53, 54, 208, 209

Meet at Westona railway station at 10:30 am. Williamstown train departs Flinders Street at 9:31 am and you have to change at Newport for the Altona train. Or you can catch the 9:51 from Flinders Street which gets you in at 10:30 but gives you no spare time.

We see Laverton Creek and a bit of Skeleton Creek. We climb the 100 Steps to Federation to get a view of the surrounding wetlands. We end up at Altona station.

On the preview I saw swans, coots, cormorants, stilts, pelicans and a large raptor I couldn't identify.

Note: There are toilets opposite Westona station but no more till the lunch stop towards the end of the walk.



**BASE CAMP**

**LORNE BASE CAMP/CABIN TRIP**



**DATE** 6-9 June 2014  
**RETURN TIME** Approx 5pm Monday 9 June  
**STANDARD** Easy Medium and Medium  
**DISTANCE** 8 km - 16 km  
**ELEVATION** 300 m  
**LEADER** Margaret Curry  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Great Otway National Park  
**MAP REF** Parks Victoria

Lorne is a great location for a base camp. The Otway Ranges with their renowned coastline, spectacular forests and picturesque waterfalls offer numerous walks. The plan is to do a full day walk on both the Saturday and Sunday with a shorter walk on the Monday. While generally the walking is along defined tracks, there will be some steep sections, rock hopping and creek crossings. Be prepared - you may get your feet wet!! The vegetation is varied with magnificent tree ferns and tall forests of mountain ash, messmate, blue gum and mountain grey gum. We will pass numerous waterfalls, follow creeks or rivers and have some stunning views.

I have booked three cabins with en suite facilities at the Cumberland River Holiday Park, 7 km south west of Lorne. Each cabin can sleep up to 6 people. Cost will range from \$111.50 for 6 people up to \$134.25 for 4 people for the three nights. A camping option is also available. Car pooling is recommended. A deposit of \$50 is required at time of booking. Leader will be in clubrooms on Wednesday 28th May to discuss and/or finalise arrangements.



**SUNDAY CAR POOL**

**MT EVELYN AQUEDUCT**

**DATE** Sunday 8 June 2014  
**RETURN TIME** around 6:30 pm to city  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCE** 16.5 km  
**ELEVATION** about 150 metres  
**LEADER** Brett Daniel, Phil Geschke (Mentor)  
**TRANSPORT** Car pool - Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45am  
**AREA** Dandenong Ranges  
**MAP REF** Melway 120 B3

This walk was last done in September 2009, so it will be interesting to go back this time around. Starting and finishing at the Mt Evelyn Reserve, we will follow the Aqueduct Trail and then enter open forest in the Dandenongs to the Olinda track, then up to Sylvan Dam where we will have lunch. After lunch, we will return via Greygum Track where there is a short sharp hill; then mainly downhill back to where cars are.

The walk is all on tracks with a couple of small hills apart from one mentioned above, but nothing too strenuous.

After all this we probably will adjourn for afternoon tea/ coffee before heading back to city.



**WEDNESDAY WALK**

**LYSTERFIELD PARK**

**DATE** Wednesday 11 June 2014  
**RETURN TIME** 3.45pm back to cars  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCE** 16 km  
**LEADER** Ed Neff  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Lysterfield, SE Melbourne  
**MAP REF** Parks Victoria, Melway 108 D3

We will meet at 10.00 am at the car park (to the left as you enter the Park, that is, the carpark closest to the dam wall). Take the Wellington Road exit off Monash Freeway and then follow Wellington Road to the Belgrave Hallam Road. Turn right here and continue on the Belgrave Hallam Road to a right hand turn into Horswood Road which has a sign to Lysterfield Lake Park. Continue to the end of Horswood Road.

This circuit walk is mostly on well established tracks through lightly forested areas and some grassy areas. We start on Tramline Track which is the route of the tramway that was used to transport granodiorite rock approximately 4 km from a quarry to build the dam wall for Lysterfield Lake in the 1930s. Eastern grey kangaroos and black wallabies are commonly seen in the park. At the northern end of the park the walk adjoins the perimeter fence and we will see and hear a large commercial quarry in operation. As we head south we will have the opportunity to inspect the ruins of Donelan Homestead, home of one of the early settlers. We return around the eastern side of the lake.



**SUNDAY BUS**

**YARRA VALLEY RAIL TRAIL AND WINERY**



**DATE** Sunday 15 June 2014  
**RETURN TIME** 6:30 pm to city  
**STANDARDS** Easy and Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCES** 12 km and 14 km  
**ELEVATIONS** 90 metres  
**LEADERS** Cathy Merrick and Halina Sarbinowski  
**TRANSPORT** Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45am  
**AREA** Yarra Valley / Warburton  
**MAP REF** Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail

The walks follow the old rail line along the most beautiful end of the Lilydale–Warburton Rail Trail from Launching Place, or Yarra Junction to Warburton. When we reach Warburton we will follow the Yarra River Walk. This is one of the most popular walks of the area. The walking loop is 6 km long and boasts several vantage points and crosses several bridges.

Fishing in the river is not common; however, salmon and trout have been seen. At times a platypus has also been sighted swimming in the river.

After the walk we plan to visit a winery, during which time, walkers will be able to enjoy a wine sample, purchase if interested, or simply relax with a coffee, and admire the beautiful views over the grapevines to the mountains in the distance.

Booking on the bus will also be open to family and friends accompanied by a member who would like to enjoy the day in Warburton and visit a winery at the end of the day. If you would like more information on booking as a ‘non-walker’ please contact Halina.



**CYCLING**

**WOODEND LOOP**

**DATE** Sunday 15 June 2014  
**STANDARD** Medium  
**DISTANCE** 65 km  
**LEADER** Howard Friend  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Woodend, Newham, Carlsruhe, Tylden, East Trentham  
**MAP REF** Vic Roads Pages 59 – 60

This route was the 2014, 65 km Road Ride – one of the MAD (Melbourne Autumn Day) ride routes organised by the Melbourne Bicycle Touring Club. All roads are sealed. We will start the ride in Woodend, have morning tea at Carlsruhe, lunch at Tylden and return to Woodend via Ashbourne Road. A good standard of fitness is required. We'll meet at the car park at the Information Centre (western side of the Calder Highway, just past the Tylden–Woodend Road) in time to depart at 9.30 am. Bring your lunch.



**MOFS WALK**

**MT EVELYN TO LILYDALE LAKE AND RETURN**

**DATE** Monday 16 June 2014  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** 12 kms  
**LEADER(S)** Bob Steel  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Lilydale/Mt Evelyn Area  
**MAP REF** Melway Maps 38 and 118/120

Meet at the old Railway Station (now a café) in Wray Crescent, Mount Evelyn (Melway Map 120, B1) to start walking at 10:30. Get there earlier for a coffee before setting out if you want to. Parking can be a problem as most spots are time restricted but there is all day parking near the tennis courts in Birmingham Road which is on the north side of the Rail Trail.

We will walk down the Mt Evelyn Aqueduct track to Lilydale Lake where we will have lunch sitting on the beach (or in a shelter if inclement). We then walk around to the start of the Warburton Rail Trail to climb gradually back to Mount Evelyn.



**SUNDAY CAR POOL**

**BARWON RIVER – GEELONG TO BUCKLEY FALLS**



**DATE** Sunday 22 June 2014  
**RETURN TIME** 6.00 pm, Southbank Blvd, City  
**STANDARD** Easy–Medium  
**DISTANCE** 17 km  
**LEADER** Stuart Hanham  
**TRANSPORT** Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8.45 am  
**AREA** Geelong  
**MAP REF** Melway maps 450 and 451  
**TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON)** \$13

This scenic walk will have a different starting point and head in a different direction to my previous walk on the Barwon River and there will be a new section of track, with great views. Beginning at the attractive Balyang Bird Sanctuary, we will head upstream beside the river, detour along a couple of wetland boardwalks, then cross the river on the quaint, single lane Queens Bridge. Continuing past Queens Park, we will start climbing above the volcanic river gorge and take in dramatic views of the Buckley Falls area, which may be in flood, and the impressive 1876 bluestone paper mill, with its own waterfall. We'll cross the river further down, then head up behind the mill and inspect its old water race. The Barwon River Lookout will offer sweeping views of the river valley, before we continue past a bluestone quarry. At Fyansford, there will be another lookout and an historic bridge. Further downstream, a steady climb will take us to a vantage point with the best views of the Queens Park area. Our return to the cars will be mostly on the other (western) side of the river. Finally, we'll get the chance to inspect the birdlife at the sanctuary, before adjourning to the nearby River's Edge Cafe. This walk has a few steep sections, but runners would be suitable.



## SOCIAL WALK

MARIBYRNONG RIVER, ABERFELDY WETLANDS



<b>DATE</b>	Thursday 26 June 2014
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy
<b>DISTANCE</b>	5 km
<b>ELEVATION</b>	Flat
<b>LEADER</b>	Jean Giese
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Private or tram
<b>AREA</b>	Maribyrnong Aberfeldy
<b>MAP REF</b>	Melway 27 and 28

I haven't explored this section of the Maribyrnong River before and recommend you join me to enjoy the new wetlands at Aberfeldy and other points of interest as we walk upstream on one side of the river and return on the other.

Meet at 10:15 am in the carpark of the Anglers Rest Hotel Mel. 28D8 (lunch will be in the hotel) . This walk is accessible by tram.



## SATURDAY WALK

CITY PARKLANDS

<b>DATE</b>	Saturday 28 June 2014
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy
<b>DISTANCE</b>	12 km
<b>LEADER</b>	Maureen Hurley
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Public
<b>AREA</b>	Carlton to Melbourne
<b>MAP REF</b>	Melways Map 43 J4 and 44B12

Many times as I've been driving/tramping it or riding my bike through Melbourne I admire our lovely city gardens. This walk will include Carlton Gardens, the Fitzroy Gardens and finish at the Botanical Gardens.

We will meet on the corner of Rathdowne and Carlton Streets, Carlton at 10:30 am (Mel 43J4).

Remember to bring warm and waterproof clothing.



## SUNDAY BUS

WOMBAT STATE FOREST – JIM CROW RANGE



<b>DATE</b>	Sunday 29 June 2014
<b>RETURN TIME</b>	6:30 pm to City
<b>STANDARDS</b>	Easy/Medium and Medium
<b>DISTANCES</b>	14 and 18 km
<b>LEADERS</b>	Del Franks and Nik Dow
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45am
<b>AREA</b>	Wombat State Forest
<b>MAP REF</b>	Eganstown and Daylesford 1:25,000

This walk is close Daylesford and takes in the Jim Crow Range, Tipperary Springs, parts of the Dry Diggings Track, and Lake Daylesford.

Wombat State Forest has over 40 rare or threatened animal and plant species. At this time of year it is at its best, freshened up with autumn and winter rains, new growth, flowing streams, wallabies and kangaroos.

What makes this walk different is the extensive off track sections on both walks through lovely open forests, fascinating creek beds and gullies, with just a few challenging parts on the Medium walk. While there is a reasonable number of hills there are no extensive climbs.

Both walks start at Shepherds Flat north of Hepburn Springs, take in parts of the Tipperary Walking Track, old mining sites, abandoned dwellings, natural springs, and end at the Boathouse Café on Lake Daylesford for a social chat after what should be a great day of bushwalking!

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!

June 2014				
Sun 1	Mt Robertson – Gum Creek	Bus	E/M & M	Roger Wyett and Sue Haviland
Thu 5	Western Suburbs' Waterways	Pvt	Easy	Meryllyn Whimpey
6–9	BC: Lorne Camping/Cabin Trip	Pvt	E/M	Margaret Curry
Sun 8	Mt Evelyn Aqueduct	Car	E/M	Brett Daniel and Phil Geschke (Mentor)
Wed 11	Lysterfield Park	Pvt	E/M	Ed Neff
Sun 15	Yarra Valley Rail Trail and Winery	Bus	E & E/M	Cathy Merrick and Halina Sarbinowski
Sun 15	Cycling: Woodend – 50 km	Pvt	Med	Howard Friend
Mon 16	Mt Evelyn – Lilydale Lake	Pvt	Easy	Bob Steel
Sun 22	Barwon River – Geelong to Buckley Falls	Car	E/M	Stuart Hanham
Wed 25	Dandenongs Explorer TBC	Pvt	E/M	Maureen Hurley
Thu 26	Maribyrnong River – Aberfeldie Wetlands	Car	Easy	Jean Giese
Sun 29	Wombat State Forest – Jim Crow Range	Bus	E/M & M	Del Franks and Nik Dow

The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers  
 If undelivered please return to:  
 MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC  
 GPO BOX 1751, MELBOURNE 3001

PRINT  
 POST  
 338888/00016

POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 AUSTRALIA

**RENEWAL SLIP**

Payment to the Treasurer, together with completed form by one of the following methods:

- Cash or cheque on club night (cheques payable to Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.)
- Cheque and Renewal Slip posted to Treasurer, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc, P.O. Box 1751, Melbourne 3001
- EFT to the club account. (Account Name: Melbourne Bushwalkers, A/c No. 0058-46013, BSB: 013-006).

Please ensure your full name and 'SUBS' appear on the transfer.

**Fees:** **Single member: \$45\*** **Concession: \$34\* (Proof required\*\*)**  
 (Please circle your **Couple/Family: \$72\*** **Concession: \$50\* (Proof required\*\*)**  
 membership category) **News Only Subscribers: \$20**

**Notes:** \* Members who currently receive their copies of 'NEWS' via postal mail should add \$10 to continue.

No new hard copy subscriptions will be accepted.

\*\* Does not refer to holders of a Seniors Card

Name: ..... Year of Birth (optional).....

Name: ..... Year of Birth (optional).....

Fill in Address, Telephone number/s and Email address only if changed since last renewal:

Address: .....

Postcode: ..... Tel: H) ..... W) ..... Mobile: .....

Email: .....

Indicate below if  
 you agree details  
 can go on Club  
 Membership List

YES/NO

YES/NO

YES/NO