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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

November 2014

PRESIDENT'S CORNER – NOVEMBER

The main items at the October Committee Meeting were: sending letters to politicians to support the Royal Historical Society in their bid to get a long term lease for the building we use as our Clubrooms; reviewing a number of incident reports; planning the 2015 AGM which will be held on Wednesday March 25th next year; updating our By-Laws; and refining our 'objectives' for the Club over the next few years as part of our Future Directions work.

I would like to thank all the people who provide transport to our Activities. We obviously expect responsible driving from those who kindly volunteer but it's also important for the lucky passengers to show their appreciation and make the journey enjoyable for both the driver and their fellow passengers. Without people volunteering to drive we could not operate as a Club.

I mentioned last month that we incorrectly published some contact details that members had asked us not to put in the Membership Lists we send out to all members. The Committee has decided that future Membership Lists we send out will show the suburb but not the street address information. We will still need to collect this information but its use will be restricted, e.g. for emergencies, Committee use, and Club operations.

It was great to see that in a recent pack carry 4 of the 11 attendees had only been in the Club for less than 18 months. We also recently had a young couple take their baby on a Sunday walk!

On November 21–23 Ian Mair is leading a Pack Carry at Mt Buffalo for beginners and those who are new to this fantastic way to see the great outdoors. Contact Ian as soon as possible if you want to reserve a place.

For the Autumn Program, our Wednesday Walk Coordinator Ed Neff will introduce a second walk each month. We want to see what the interest is for extra mid-week walks. To make this work we will also need more leaders. Please contact Ed if you can assist.

Reminders for this month:

When on an activity it is important to let the Leader or Whip know as early as possible if you get an injury or have an accident, e.g. twisted ankle or a fall. You may be able to get help to prevent further injury and/or the leader may be able to modify the activity if needed.

The Fire Season officially starts in November and ends in April. Day activities are automatically cancelled if there is a Total Fire Ban in the area or if the temperature in the area is forecast to be 38 degrees or more. For extended activities contact the Leader. Check the Program for what Total Fire Ban District an activity is in and the nearest Temperature Reference Town! Our policy covering day and extended activities can be downloaded from our website which also has easy links for the CFA and Bureau of Meteorology.

Collect your Bushwalking Victoria Discount Cards next time you are in the Clubrooms or on the bus.

Enjoy a November walk or bike ride. Spring is a fantastic time to get out, with warmer weather, wildflowers and longer days to enjoy in the company of fellow bushwalkers.

We are still looking for a President for 2015. If you are interested or know someone who would make a good President then please let me know.

Mick Noonan

**Due date for contributions (including January previews) to December News:
21 November**

MEMBER OF



Bushwalking Victoria

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 1 December 2014

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Club:

Peter Commons,
Vei Jin (Jinny) Chin,
Bruce Marriott

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOST THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS NEW YEAR'S DAY BBQ?

Last year it was at Birdland Reserve Belgrave. We could return or do you know of another good BBQ spot for the event?

To host the event you will need to get to the venue early to bag our spot. It is a BYO event – everyone to bring something to BBQ, a contribution for the community table, a chair and drinks.

If you are interested in hosting the New Year's Day BBQ please contact John Free.

Thanks – John Free

FIRST AID KIT USAGE

We are introducing a new way of keeping our First Aid Kits stocked.

If you use any items from a Club First Aid Kit then please send an email with the details of the items used, the kit colour (red or blue) and kit number to firstaidkits@mbw.org.au.

Mick Noonan

ALPINE NATIONAL PARKS

Parks Victoria have released the Greater Alpine National Parks Draft Management Plan to the public. The opportunity for comment has unfortunately passed but there is a lot of useful information at:

<http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/explore/parks/alpine-national-park/plans-and-projects/greater-alpine-management-plan/resources>

The Review of information and issues Management Plan June 2014 PDF is a good starting point. There is an interesting new emphasis on using Aboriginal historical knowledge and skills in managing the parks.

2014 Social Calendar

Wednesday 26 November 2014, 8 pm

SLIDE NIGHT: HIKING IN MADEIRA – Presented by Jan Colquhoun

Madeira's a volcanic island off the North West coast of Africa; a Portuguese colony, it's some 1000 km from Lisbon. It's but a speck on a map, 56 km x 20 km but it offers a diverse and dramatic range of landscapes; steep misty mountains, deserts, sub-tropical rainforests, volcanic rock structures and terraced farmlands. Located on the edge of a continental shelf, the capital Funchal has long been popular with cruise ships, but the rest of the island is now coming into its own as a premier European hikers' destination. So come along and let me share this uniquely beautiful island with you.



Melbourne Bushwalkers 2014 Christmas Party

**Venue - Melbourne City Bowls
Club, Dudley St
West Melbourne**
(Opposite the clubrooms)

Date - Monday 8 December 2014

Time -7.00 pm to 10.00 pm

BYO Plate To Share

**Drinks can be purchased
from the bar**



ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS – NOVEMBER 2014

Upcoming events – more participants welcome!

If you've enjoyed walking along a pleasant bush track recently, please give thanks to the unknown people who have cleared it for you. But you too can be involved! Here are some work parties that you can join, and enjoy our beautiful bush at the same time:

Friends of Bogong work party and 30th Birthday celebration 22–23 November

The official 30th Birthday celebration of Friends of Bogong. Come and enjoy spring on the High Plains while working with the local Parks Victoria Rangers on track maintenance projects and visit some of our historic alpine huts also. Camping at Bucketty Plain Saturday night, Sunday lunch at Wallace's Hut, with the heritage walk (Wallaces – Cope Hut) after lunch.

To register your interest contact Deb Shand deb.shand@bigpond.com



Upper Howqua track clearing 29–30 November

A very enjoyable location. Base camping at the Upper Howqua River campsite and clearing overgrowth from nearby tracks. A reasonable level of fitness is required to climb the track. A Parks Victoria ranger will be in attendance.

Contact Charlie Ablitt at conservation@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au to register interest.

CONSERVATION NEWS

What do BTAC volunteers do?

In the 12 months to June 30 2014, BTAC (Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation) volunteers contributed a total of 884 hours of labour. In addition, individual clubs and Bushwalking Victoria members (including Melbourne Bushwalkers) contributed at least a further 1000 hours of work. At Parks Victoria's standard rate for volunteer work, this represents over \$61,000 worth of effort.

And on the flip side...

Trashing the bush

Vandalism, illegal activities and rubbish dumping in the bush has long been a problem that seems to be getting worse. There have been recent reports of trail bike riders riding around gates to ride on bush tracks, gates with concrete footings being pulled out, piles of discarded rubbish, and campers cutting down standing timber for hut fires.

The uncontrolled use by 4WDs and trail bikes of tracks in wet periods is a big worry. This is leading to serious loss of plant diversity and ground cover, greatly increased runoff and erosion into creeks. Another impact is that previously pleasant walks are now deeply rutted.

What can we do?

- Report illegal use of tracks, environmental damage or vandalism on the Bushwalking Report Illegal Activity in the Bush Form available at: <http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/forms.html>

(continued over page)

CONSERVATION NEWS *(continued from previous page)*

- Report illegal 4WD activities on the Dob in a Hoon form available at: <http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au/default0.asp?First>
- Use the Snap Send Solve app available for smart phones to photograph and report rubbish and vandalism. The app works out where you are, who manages incidents within that particular area and then sends through relevant information such as location, incident type and any related image to the appropriate authority. Snap Send Solve allows users to report incidents to every single council in Australia as well as a growing list of new organisations. For further information about Snap Send Solve go to the website at <http://www.snapsendsolve.com/>
- To report illegal dumping which may have serious environmental impact contact EPA Victoria 1300 372 842. The BTAC committee would be very interested in your views on what should be done. For example, by clearing large fallen trees off walking tracks are we enhancing illegal access for 4WD vehicles and trail bikes? This is your opportunity to express your opinions and get involved. Contact: Megan Major, BTAC Convenor at tracks@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

VNPA – HOW DO YOU SAVE A NATIONAL PARK?

VNPA is seeking monetary contributions for their pre-election campaign to get environmental issues such as cattle grazing in the Victorian Alps and tourism development in National Parks back on the political agenda. You can read more and also sign up to get involved as a volunteer at: <http://www.vnpa.org.au>

Deb Shand

Willis's Walkabouts

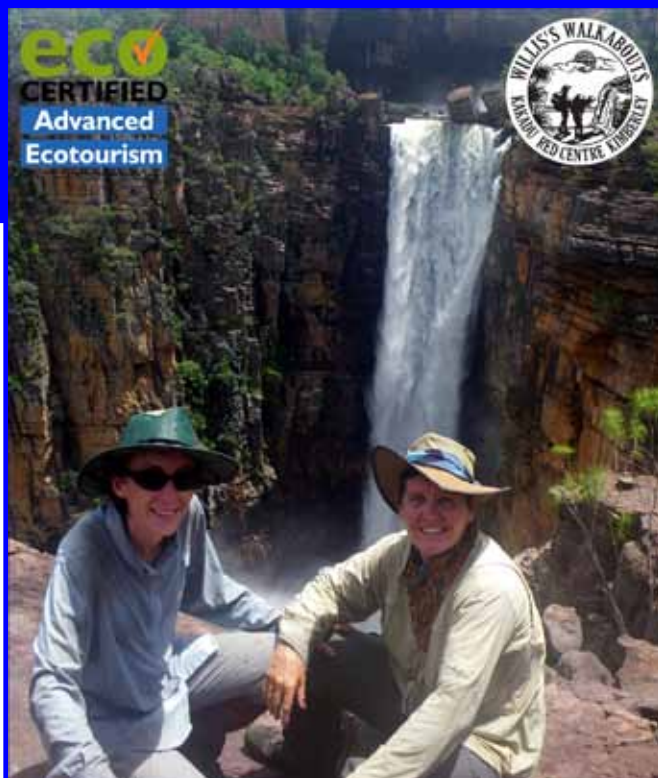
The Wet!

You have to experience it to believe it.

See the land at its spectacular best. Enjoy swim after tropical swim as you marvel at the thundering waterfalls for which our region is famous. Our **warm rain** and light packs must be experienced to be believed. Visit our wet season page and see for yourself. www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au/wet.shtml

Easy, hard or in between, we offer trips to suit every bushwalker who wants to experience something completely different.

Better still — we will give a minimum of a \$500 discount to anyone who quotes this ad and books one of our trips beginning before 1 April 2015. Please ask us for details. *Photo: Jim Jim Falls in January.*



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

Members' contributions

VALE ARTHUR WHYTE 14/3/1928 – 5/10/2014

Arthur joined the Melbourne Bushwalkers in the late 50s and was a very active and strong walker. He served on the committee as Treasurer for three years, 1961, 62 and 63. He was a frequent walks leader and a member of Search & Rescue. He was also involved in the Scout movement for some time.

An accountant by profession, he worked for APM Forests where he spread the good word about bushwalking and convinced fellow workers Clive Bray, Fay Chesterfield and Kay Murphy to join the club. At that time The Den of Nargun was privately owned by APM and Arthur was able to organise a couple of trips there.

Arthur had a good sense of humour which helped people cope with hard walks and bad weather. He, along with John Siseman and Clive Bray formed the 'Gentleman's Walking and Tramping Society', which was a running joke for many years in the club.

In 1966 Arthur married another active Club member, Joan Skurrie. Although he and Joan divorced in 1979 they subsequently regained their friendship and it was Joan, then living in Cairns, who looked after his interests when it was necessary for him to move into aged care facilities in 2013 having developed dementia. Joan regularly visited Arthur in the aged care home and read to him. One of the books was the MBW history *50 Years Along the Track* which Arthur enjoyed and was able to remember some events and people. He passed away peacefully on 5th October aged 86 years.

I remember Arthur was always a fun loving but steady and mature member of the Club. As Barry Short puts it 'I dips me lid' to a great mate.

Doug Pocock

BOOK REVIEW: *THE OVERLAND TRACK: CRADLE MOUNTAIN TO LAKE ST CLAIR* by WARWICK SPRAWSON



It is not often that I will repeat a long distance track, but having now completed The Overland Track in Tasmania five times between 1964 and 2013, I would have to admit it is one of my favourite tracks. Visitor numbers to the area suggest that I am not alone. Not unexpectedly, such a popular track, with its numerous side trips, spectacular views and rich natural environment, has attracted a number of authors to chronicle its highlights and provide guidenotes to help the less experienced get the most out of their trip.

The Overland Track: Cradle Mountain to Lake St Clair by Warwick Sprawson is not a new book. Published by Red Dog Books in 2010, it has now had a chance to demonstrate its value. Reviews are almost universally positive. Comprehensive, detailed track notes and maps, colour photographs of the birds and animals along the route, advice on bus and ferry bookings, equipment and food are but some of the points often raised. Not to be undervalued is the availability of regular updates on the associated website at <http://www.overlandguide.com/>. Without doubt there is a lot packed into its 188 pages printed in a convenient size (184 × 126 mm).

Reading its introductory pages on the natural history of the area I was surprised at how much I benefited. The sections on geology, flora and fauna too are well written but are not ones that are easily absorbed in one sitting, being more of an invaluable reference for on the track when that inevitable question arises, 'What was that?' Weighing only 275 gm, the book will reward the reader when studied on those quiet nights in the hut or tent, with a comprehensive enough selection of the more frequently encountered flowers, birds and animals to satisfy the needs of all but the serious student of each field.

Although I usually shy away from any publication that claims to be 'a complete guide to walking, flora, fauna and history', I have to agree that this publication comes as close as most walkers would ever need and is well worth the \$19.95 from the author's online site. A copy is also available for loan to members from the Melbourne Bushwalkers library.

First edition, 2010. Red Dog Books. ISBN 9-781742-0351-1-6. Softcover, 188 pages.

Ian Mair

LAKE ELIZABETH BASE CAMP

The rumour was that our campsite near Lake Elizabeth, in the Otways National Park, was to be rather basic with nothing much more in the way of amenities than a pit toilet. In fact it was a rather delightful campsite that easily accommodated the significant numbers generated by the last weekend of the school holidays and fine weather. Base camps offer a good opportunity to try out new equipment and some of our group of thirteen were busy experimenting with various items on the Friday evening.

Our walk the next day started with a short drive before we headed into a heavily forested area and it wasn't long before a black wallaby was spotted just off the track. Then we went exploring to check out another potential campsite – really just an inconsequential clearing in the forest before retracing our steps and heading up a muddy hill towards the lake. Unfortunately the vehicular track turned into a maze of narrow tracks and a pretty much impenetrable barrier. So we retraced our steps again and found another way (and a rather handsome, no doubt venomous, 1.2 m snake with a yellow belly) before returning to a gravel road where some collected the cars and others returned back to the camp via the lake.

On the Saturday evening the whole group went down to the lake at dusk and our return trip in the dark was rewarded with a spectacular display of fireflies sometimes lining both sides of the track. Then it was dinner time where one of our members demonstrated (the trials of cooking in the dark and) how you can expand your evening meal by leaving a large kitchen sponge in your billy!

On Sunday morning the whole group walked around the lake returning to pack up our tents. Some drove the cars up to the nearby town of Forrest while the rest walked up the hill and along the contour where we spotted an obliging koala complete with joey. Then it was down the hill to the West Barwon Reservoir for lunch followed by a short walk into the town Forrest for the obligatory cake and coffee.

Altogether a great weekend with excellent weather and company. Thanks go to Halina for her organisation and leadership.

Stephen Ingrouille



TIM DENT

Club members who were walking in the 1970s may be interested to know that Tim Dent (now 72) has recently competed at the World Rogaining Championships in the USA, where his team of three were placed first in the ultra-veterans category for the over 65's. Teams can travel up to 100 km in the 24 hour event. Tim said he only stopped for about an hour during the event to rest!! Tim was always a very tough walker.

*Graham Hodgson
edited this article from his local newspaper.*

WILSON'S PROM PACK CARRY 25-28 SEPTEMBER 2014

This medium walk encompassed the Southern Circuit of Wilson's Promontory in three days, covering approximately 53 kilometres. The group comprised Deb Shand, Jeanette Burnett, Stephen Murphy, Iain Lindsay-Field, Stephen Ingrouille, Jon Backhouse, Diane Woodcroft and David Woodcroft. The trip was to be led by Richard Hanson who, unfortunately, after much organising, scheduling and booking of accommodation had to withdraw due to illness. So our many thanks to Richard and thanks also to Ian Mair who stepped in as our leader.

The rendezvous point was Tidal River on Friday morning. After working out the logistics of the car swap we readied ourselves in the Telegraph Saddle car park – in the rain, which had arrived in conjunction with our departure. However, it stopped a short time after our departure and from here the track initially undulated through hillsides that still showed signs of repair from the 2011 floods before completing its 11 or so kilometre path through lush rainforest and bushland to the beach and a river crossing to Sealers Cove and lunch.

After lunch the track wound its way up high, affording beautiful views of the coastline and the turquoise water from many exposed granite vantage points. We arrived at Refuge Cove via the first camping area, the 'boaties' campground. It appeared to be a tradition to leave a sign with your boat's name as there were hundreds nailed to a structure near the track. We made our way around to the walkers' camp ground, with only one other couple camping there for the night. The camp was pleasantly sited at the head of a small inlet and inviting for strolls down to the beach and rocks before and after dinner.

Day 2 saw the track climb above Refuge Cove, affording the first of what would be regularly spectacular views. We stopped for a detour up to Kersop Peak where we first glimpsed our destination for the evening, the distant lighthouse. This was a day of fairly sustained walking interspersed with a nice variety of beach, bush and mountain and at every lookout stop the gleaming white destination on South East Point drew tantalizingly closer.

After 18 or so kilometres we turned off the South East Point Junction towards the lighthouse path and as if to ensure we truly appreciated what we were about to receive, the last section of the walk to the lighthouse was a steep concrete path of about 400 metres. As we arrived at the complex, we were greeted by a friendly ranger couple who live there for part of the year and who showed us our accommodation. It was a nicely restored former lighthouse keeper's cottage which turned out to house a bushwalker's Shangri-La: hot showers in nice bathrooms, a well equipped kitchen, a library/drawing room and comfortable beds. Some of the group then joined the 4 pm tour of the small museum and lighthouse, which gave an insight into the rugged, isolated way of life here in the 1800's. I dedicated my hot shower to these hardy pioneers. Afterwards we broke out the nibbles/hors d'oeuvres that everyone had brought with them and subsequently enjoyed a very pleasant evening.

Day 3 saw us head down the steep concrete path and rejoin the track for the walk out, through the Roaring Meg camp ground and through to the Telegraph Track Junction where our group divided. Telegraph Track continues straight up to the saddle from here and is shorter than the track to Tidal River via Oberon and Little Oberon Bay, the intended route of this walk. Due to his long drive home Iain was walking back via Telegraph Track and Diane and I joined him due to a severe shin splint developed by yours truly the previous day but this did not stop my appreciation of this trip, especially as this was the first time I had ever been to Wilson's Promontory.

Thanks once again to Richard, to Ian for leading and for everyone who made this such an enjoyable weekend.



David Woodcroft

GRAMPIANS GARGOYLES

This walk promised rocky cliffs, giant chimney stacks, rugged climbs, panoramic views and it delivered all.

Woken by a chorus of kookaburras at Buandik camp, we upped anchor and set off to the walk track where a sign advised 'Very strenuous climb ahead'. It was no exaggeration.

Our pack weight from carrying extra water made for slow going as we steamed uphill but we had plenty of rest stops to enjoy the spectacular rock formations with giant stacks of sandstone pancakes rising out of the trees. We soon reached a small creek to top up our water for the next day. Some huge rock overhangs nearby seemed designed for climbers; however we settled on downing packs and exploring the sensational views amongst the Fortress.

After lunch we began a gradual descent through chargrilled forest to a 4WD track leading along and up to Mt Thackeray. Then, up a bit more, around a few corners, up again ... anyway, the campsite was perfect. Flat and clear amongst trees to have dinner and a robust discussion on daylight saving and what time to get up next morning.

Sunday, an Irish mist descended, creating a moody atmosphere. Sandstone gargoyles and giants leered at us as we looped around and up Mt Thackeray. We were rewarded with the most stunning views over the surrounds.

The walk back was leisurely along mostly 4WD until Hut Creek track where after a few creek crossings we ambled along accompanied by views of the surrounding cliffs rising from a sea of grasstrees.

Thanks to Bob for leading such a wonderful walk and to our cheerful group that made it so much fun, Elsa, Rohan, Leo, Deb, Phillip.

Mark Simpson



Above: Some very satisfying rock scrambling up the mountain

Top right: Contemplating fog on top of Mt Thackeray;

Bottom right: Sadly we had to leave a moody Mt Thackeray



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

**CUT OFF TIME FOR SUNDAY BUS ONLINE BOOKINGS
 4:00 PM THURSDAY PRIOR TO THE WALK.**

Bookings notified to busbookings@mbw.org.au after the cut off time will not be processed and a credit will be issued.

Payment to the leader of the full bus fee and late fee of \$5.00 will have to be made on the day if your booking has not been confirmed prior to the walk.



DANDENONGS EXPLORER

DATE Saturday 29 November 2014
PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE FROM 22.11.14 TO 29.11.14.
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 15 km
LEADER Maureen Hurley
TRANSPORT Private or train
AREA Dandenong Ranges National Park
MAP REF Melways 74 E5
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Dandenong

We will meet in the car park of the Upper Ferntree Gully Railway Station just off the Burwood Highway, at 10 am.
 The walk will be in the Dandenong Ranges National Park in the One Tree Hill and Sassafras areas.
 There will be quite a lot of climbing on this walk, so a reasonable level of fitness is required. Look forward to seeing you there.



TOFS WALK

GLEN IRIS CREEKS
DATE Thursday 4 December 2014
RETURN TIME Return to Ashburton railway station by 3 pm
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 11 km
ELEVATION Mostly flat
LEADERS Alan and Jan Case
TRANSPORT Private or Metro Train
AREA Glen Iris & Ashburton
MAP REF Melway Maps 59 & 60
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

The walk will begin and end at the Ashburton railway station on the Alamein line.
 Meet in the Ashburton station car park on the west (city) side of the station at 10:30 am. There are usually a few car parking spaces left there at that time and unrestricted car parking is available in Aitchison Avenue and Kelvin Grove adjacent to the station.

The walk will follow the Summerhill Linear Park, Back Creek and Gardiners Creek through areas which have been much improved by the actions of various friends groups. After lunch we will proceed to Warrigal Road and return along the other side of Gardiners Creek and the Anniversary Rail Trail along the old outer circle railway route to Ashburton station.
 We will have a choice between a number of coffee shops in High Street to enjoy a coffee after the walk.
 If the day is very warm, we will have the option to shorten the walk by a few kilometres.
 Book with Alan and Jan.



CYCLING

BELGRAVE TO PAKENHAM
DATE Saturday 6 December 2014
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 50 km
LEADER Del Franks
TRANSPORT Public Transport
AREA Belgrave/Pakenham
MAP REF Melways maps 75, 124, 126, 210, 211, 313, 315, 213 & 317
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Dandenong

This ride was on the winter program; however due to cold weather and injuries it was postponed. It should be a great ride in the early summer.
 The ride will be almost all on roads, some unsealed and some quite busy. The first section is a scenic ride 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 train 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 9:40am. 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.



SUNDAY BUS

MOORABOOL RIVER GORGE

DATE Sunday 7 December 2014
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
LEADERS Nik Dow and Deb Shand
TRANSPORT Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
MAP REF Vic Topo T7722-3-2-4
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Geelong

We follow a tributary down to the Moorabool River gorge. The gorge is quite steep-sided so there are some steep scrambles as we move along. One party might walk along the river while the other party tracks higher, skirting the farmlands above. At lunchtime we usually visit some beautiful swimming holes, so if the weather is warm, bring your bathers. After lunch the gorge widens out and we follow the river upstream out to the bus.



WEDNESDAY WALK

WILLIAMSTOWN WANDER

DATE Wednesday 10 December 2014
RETURN TIME Approximately 5.00 pm
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 12 km
ELEVATION Nil
LEADER Margaret Curry
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Metropolitan Melbourne
MAP REF Melways Map 56
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

Come along and enjoy a varied walk around the Williamstown area. Initially we walk through the historic Botanical Gardens then along the beach to the Jawbone Conservation Reserve, a network of wetlands and a mangrove habitat for birds. Meandering along the streets we pass many historical buildings before reaching the Williamstown Sailing Club. Our route from here is along the foreshore where points of interest include Commonwealth Reserve, Gem Pier and the historic Time Ball Tower built in 1849 by convict labourers. We walk back to our cars through Point Gellibrand Coastal Heritage Park.

Meet at the Williamstown Botanical Gardens, cnr Giffard Street and the Esplanade (Melways 56 C11) at 10:00 am for a 10:15 am start. As this is our Christmas walk, bring some goodies to share after the walk, either in the Botanical Gardens or under shelter nearby. A chair may be useful!! For bookings and information phone Margaret.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

PARADISE MILL CIRCUIT (BLACKWOOD)

DATE Sunday 14 December 2014
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 22 km
ELEVATION 700 m
LEADER Ian Mair
TRANSPORT Car – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am

AREA Wombat State Forest, west of Blackwood
MAP REF Wombat State Forest Touring Map, Meridian Productions 1:50 000
TRANSP. COST \$20
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Ballarat



Old mines dot the route.

The history of the Blackwood area is linked very much to that of gold mining and timber harvesting. Our planned walk will take in some of the historic sites as we move between ridges and valleys in this often steep and rugged countryside.

Starting out from the Recreation Reserve in Blackwood, we will shortly pick up a section of the Great Dividing Trail that will lead us to the popular Garden of St Erth café. This will be no more than a temptation though as time will not permit us to stop! Our walk now moves on to lesser used 4WD tracks that take us like a roller coaster up and down the high ridges of the area. Whilst relatively steep, the hill climbs are not very long and quite manageable by most walkers. Lunch will be at the site of the former Paradise Mill, now a well frequented camp site for those looking for a quieter place to relax close to Melbourne.

After lunch we will continue to follow some of the quiet 4WD tracks for a while with plenty of opportunity to enjoy the surrounding bushland. As we near Blackwood again we will pick up the walkers-only Whipstick Loop and follow it the long way round back to Blackwood to complete our 22 km circuit.



MOFS WALK

SOMERS – WESTERNPORT

DATE Monday 15 December 2014
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 10 km
ELEVATION Mainly flat
LEADER Alister Rowe
TRANSPORT Private
MAP REF Melway 193 H9
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Flinders

Meet at 10:30 am in car park at Coolart Homestead, Melway 193 H9. A small parking fee *may* be payable.

We will walk around the wetlands and then along the beach to Merricks to have lunch in the Bill Carroll Reserve and return. Could be nice if the weather is mild.
No walk if the forecast is over 33°.



SUNDAY BUS

ERSKINE FALLS (GENTLE ANNIE'S BERRY FARM)

DATE Sunday 21 December 2014
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to City
STANDARDS Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCES 10 km & 11.5 km
ELEVATIONS 100 metres down
LEADERS Halina Sarbinowski & Ian Mair
TRANSPORT Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Back of Lorne
MAP REF Lorne 7620-1-1 (1:25,000)
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Geelong

Each quarter one of our Sunday bus walks is open to family and friends of members to attend as 'day trippers', merely to enjoy a day in a great location and also, sometimes, to join in a visit to a special place. The last walk for 2014 is one of these walks. Family and friends are welcome to join us as long as they are accompanied by a member. Usual booking payments are required. However, as these walks can be done by anyone with reasonable fitness if a member is happy to vouch for the fitness of a guest then he/she can be booked onto the walk by the member. Non member cost is \$25.00 for non walkers or \$35.00 if walking with the club on the day (less \$5.00 for concessional payments).

The Easy/Medium group will follow the forested Lemonade Creek track from Blanket Leaf Picnic Area, while the Easy group will start its walk from where this track crosses Erskine Falls Road. Both walks will then follow the Erskine River down into Lorne. There are three waterfalls along this walk, with the magnificent Erskine Falls taking centre stage. Once Lorne is reached the walks will finish with a gentle walk along boardwalks and beach to the waiting bus.

Distances have been kept reasonably short on the day so that we will have plenty of time to enjoy our visit to Gentle Annie's Berry Farm located 20 minutes from Lorne. Although I have never visited the farm I have heard excellent reports. Their website <http://gentleannie.com.au/> advises that we can pick our own berries or orchard fruits or buy some gourmet produce or simply enjoy the offerings of their licensed café.



CHRISTMAS BASE CAMP 2014

DATE 23–27 December
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE Various
LEADER Susan Maughan
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Cathedral Range Rubicon Valley
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Eildon

Drop-in or stay awhile. We will set up camp at Cooks Mill, Cathedral Range on the afternoon of Tuesday 23 December. From Healesville, Buxton is another 70 km along the Maroondah Highway. Continue past Buxton till you reach Cathedral Lane on the right. Follow this, and signage, into

the State Park. On crossing the bridge turn LEFT to our camp spot.

Christmas Eve walk up to the Farmyard for lunch with a view.

Christmas Day drive to Taggerty and through to the Rubicon Valley. This is a relatively easy walk of 17 km. That evening we'll share dinner, so bring a plate.

Boxing Day we'll walk up Neds Gully. That evening will be a pub meal in Buxton.

Minimal park fees, but will depend on the numbers. Pay me there.



SUN 28 DECEMBER

NO WALK

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
 BASE CAMP/CABIN TRIP
 2–6 APRIL 2015
 MARLO/CAPE CONRAN
 COASTAL PARK**

Expressions of interest are invited from members who would like to participate in a Base Camp/Cabin trip at Marlo over Easter 2015. Marlo is where the Snowy River meets the sea after its 500 km journey from the Alps. It is past Orbost in East Gippsland, approximately 400 km (4–5 hours drive) from Melbourne.

I have booked three large camp sites which can each take multiple tents. Cost for camping is \$30 per site per night for two people plus \$10 per additional person. Two cabins with en suite facilities have also been booked and couples/singles can be accommodated. Cabin costs are dependant on numbers in each and type of cabin, but will range from approximately \$130–\$240 per person for the four nights. A deposit of \$50 per person is required at time of booking whether camping or in a cabin.

There will be two full day walks of 12–14 km each and some shorter walks of from 5–10 km. To register your interest and for further information please contact Margaret Curry.

Margaret Curry

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

December 2014				
Thu 4	Glen Iris Creeks	Pvt	Easy	Alan Case
Sat 6	Cycling: Belgrave to Pakenham	Pvt	Med	Del Franks
Sun 7	Moorabool River Gorge	Bus	E & E/M	Nik Dow and Deb Shand
Wed 10	Williamstown	Pvt	E/M	Margaret Curry
Sun 14	Paradise Mill Circuit (Blackwood)	Car	E/M	Ian Mair
Mon 15	Somers, Westernport	Pvt	Easy	Alister Rowe
Sun 21	Erskine Falls (Gentle Annie's Berry Farm)	Bus	E & E/M	Halina Sarbinowski and Ian Mair
23-27	Base Camp: Christmas at Cathedral Range	Pvt	various	Susan Maughan
Sun 28	No Walk: MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR			

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