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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

September 2014

PRESIDENT'S CORNER – SEPTEMBER

Thanks to Cathy Merrick, Susan McInnes, and Halina Sarbinowski for taking on extra roles while I was away and to all the other Committee Members for keeping the place running smoothly. Cathy and Susan are now enjoying their own overseas adventures.

The main items at the June Committee Meeting were: setting up small Committee groups to look at key objectives for Club's Future Directions; the membership campaign, e.g. more use of social media; the outcomes of the Bushwalking Victoria Leadership Day and AGM, e.g. their new logo and website; and setting up a working group to look at the need for visitors to always attend the Clubrooms to book a walk.

The **items at the August Committee Meeting** included: the Royal Historical Society request for support to get a lease beyond June 2016 for the building we meet in; an initial look at our Club's Donations for 2014; and progressing a 'Young Melbourne Walkers' group.

The Committee continues to work on our Future Directions. We have set up small groups to look at key objectives for the major parts of our club's operations, i.e. People, Outdoor Activities, Membership, Assets/Resources, and External Involvement. If you have a specific interest or would just like to help contact me anytime.

Development of the Summer Program has started. If you are a leader please consider doing that summer walk you have been thinking of, or speak to a coordinator for an idea that suits or challenges you! It would be great to get more base camps onto the program to compliment the wide range of day walks we offer, and the great pack carries, including the already announced overseas trips.

Cycling across Europe from Paris to Istanbul was an amazing adventure. Cycling in Western Europe can be a very pleasant and you don't have to be an experienced rider to visit some great places, e.g. the Loire Valley. The section of the Danube River from Passau to Vienna is a beautiful, easy 350 km ride, but you will not be alone as it's the most famous and one of the most popular cycle paths in Europe. The cycling facilities and infrastructure for tourists are truly amazing and set a benchmark that makes Australian cyclists envious. After Budapest, Eastern Europe and Turkey require you to become a 'road warrior', battling the lack of infrastructure, busy roads, trucks, dogs and security concerns in some areas. However there is also fantastic scenery, e.g. the Danube Gorge in Romania, great friendly people and many interesting cities and towns to see.

After the ride we did a few day walks, including the famous Samaria Gorge on Crete. It is one of the most popular day walks in Europe and claims to attract around 200,000 walkers in just 5 months each year. Once again the walking and tourist infrastructure are amazing. It reminded me of the Tongariro Alpine Crossing in New Zealand for broad popularity and tourist facilities. The walk was also a timely reminder that while one may be cycling fit, walking uses a number of different muscles much to my surprise the day after!

Reminders for this month:

Members who have not renewed their membership are no longer financial and should renew before taking part in outdoor activities.

Carry your green Health Details Card with you when you walk or cycle. You can pick one up in the Clubrooms.

There are still some places on the September 13th First Aid Training, Book by emailing firstaid@mbw.org.au. Take advantage of the ultra low cost available this year due to the training grant we received.

The September 24th social night features Ken Birch talking on 'Rebuilding Victoria's High Country Huts'. Ken is President of the Victorian High Country Huts Association – come along, have a great time and make him welcome!

My short career as a 'road warrior' is over and I am now looking forward to getting back to walking in Australia this Spring and Summer.

Mick Noonan

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 September 2014

**Due date for contributions (including
November previews) to October News:
21 September**

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members
to the Club:

Bahman Sodeirabedi, Sashikala Ragunathan,
Virginia Roberts, Rita Mahony, Irene Toh,
Howard McCallum, Eva Bennett

ANNUAL SALE PREVIEW NIGHT

**23rd October 6-9pm
minimum 20% off all stock**

The Wilderness Shop's famous annual sale is on again! To thank MBW members' for their ongoing support we would like to invite you to a special preview night which is not open to the general public. The preview night offers first access to our sale items, many of which are in limited quantities. So lock it in to your diary and we'll see you October 23rd.



The Wilderness Shop
969 Whitehorse Rd Box Hill

Annual Sale
23rd - 26th October 2014
20% - 50% off all stock
Preview night 5-9pm 23rd Oct.

*If you would like to receive the
Annual Sale catalogue by
email please visit the
Newsletter page on our
website and sign up today.*

FOUR PAIRS OF SKIS FOR SALE

2 pairs of Pizzicato Hart 150cm \$30 each;
one pair Rossignol 193 cm \$60;
one pair Fischer Carve 180 cm \$60.
Also **ski boots** one pair
approx. size 12, 32 cm, \$40.
Contact Bill Dowd.

2014 Social Calendar

Wednesday 24 September 2014, 8 pm

REBUILDING VICTORIA'S HIGH COUNTRY HUTS

SPEAKER: KEN BIRCH, PRESIDENT OF THE VICTORIAN HIGH COUNTRY HUTS ASSOCIATION

Ken will provide a brief description of heritage buildings in Victoria and where alpine huts stand in relation to Government policy.

- The building of our first hut in 2003
- Pictures of various hut restorations conducted over the last 11 years.
- Four short movie cuts (of 10 to 15 seconds each) showing the use of unique axes and log hut construction.
- The restoration of Wallace and Westons Hut on the Bogong High Plains.
- Plans for 2014–2015 building.

He will also bring a collection of axes including a broad axe, fore and adze.

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.



ADVANCE NOTICE - CHRISTMAS PARTY



The date for the Christmas Party has been set for Monday December 8th at the same place as last year – Melbourne City Bowls Club, Dudley Street, West Melbourne (opposite the clubrooms).



UPCOMING CONSERVATION AND TRACK CLEARING EVENTS

For all of you people who care about the natural and bushwalking environment (isn't that all of us?), here are some opportunities to get involved and do your bit to help the environment flourish and the bushwalking trails stay open. Put these dates in your calendar and get in touch with the relevant person to register your interest. These activities are a great way to meet like-minded people from other clubs as well as our own, to get out and learn more about nature, to get some good exercise, and to do something positive for the world. They are also great fun!

Regent Honeyeater Projects Planting weekends 6–7 and 20–21 September



From little things, big things grow! Come and help Ray Thomas plant trees for wildlife. More details were in the last MBW News or can be found here: <http://regenthoneyeater.org.au/planting> For 6–7 September contact Rod Novak who is leading the weekend for our club at rodnovak@gmail.com

For the weekend of 20–21 September contact Ray directly to let him know you're coming at ray@regenthoneyeater.org.au

BTAC Track clearing

Sassafras Creek walking track 12/10/2014 – a good opportunity to enjoy the ambience of the Dandenong ranges and clear this overgrown track

Condon's Track 26/10/2014 – the well-known challenging track near Healesville needs some work

Upper Howqua 29–30 November or 6–7 December

These events are organised by Charlie Ablitt, Bushwalking Tracks & Conservation Projects Coordinator with Bushwalking Victoria. To RSVP contact conservation@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

Friends of Bogong work party 22–23 November 2014

This will be our official 30th Birthday celebration! The Committee will organise a birthday cake for lunch on Sunday. We plan to have lunch at Wallaces Hut, which would let us do the heritage walk (Wallaces – Cope Hut) after lunch. Other than that we plan to stay at our favourite campground (Bucketty Plain) Saturday night. To register your interest contact Deb at deb.shand@bigpond.com



WHEN DELAYS OCCUR

In cases when walking groups, particularly from Pack Carries and remote Base Camps, are significantly late in returning, the Club has an **Emergency Contact System** (ECS). Prior to walks, leaders of PCs and BCs should e-mail a Trip Intentions Form, a map and a Booking List (including participants' personal contacts) to the Club ECS account ecs@mbw.org.au. Before leaving, participants should also advise their personal contacts, of their destination, type of transport, expected time of return (as listed on the walk preview), and the Club's **Emergency Mobile number 0447 489 661**.

If a noticeable delay is expected, possibly due to bad weather, difficult terrain, an injury or transport problems, the walk leader should ring the ECS Mobile, obtain the phone number of a rostered **Club Emergency Contact** (CEC) from the recorded message, ring or SMS that person and explain the situation. The CEC will then put a delay message on the ECS mobile recording and take any other appropriate follow-up action.

Concerned people at home may then call the ECS mobile number, listen to the recording, and if necessary, ring a CEC for further information, rather than the Police. Walkers are advised to carry their own mobile phones and call or SMS their personal contacts about delays, but the Club ECS is intended as a back-up. To date, this system has been successfully used for one late Pack Carry.

A **significant delay** on a Pack Carry or a Base Camp would generally be 2–3 hours before the Emergency Contact System was used, but there may be exceptions in cases of extreme conditions, accidents (including transport) and injuries. If a group was overdue and no message had been received and the leader could not be contacted, the Club Emergency Contacts could access the trip details sent to ecs@mbw.org.au and use this information to take further action, which may involve Police etc.

The Emergency Contact System may also be used for **non-Pack Carry or Base Camp activities**, such as day walks, but is less likely to be needed, due to less difficult conditions, closer access to the city and better phone coverage. However, on any Club activity, it's advisable to plan ahead and keep safety in mind.

Stuart Hanham (General Walks Secretary)

Willis's Walkabouts

Bungles in the Wet

You have to experience it to believe it

There is no one else! Thousands of people flock to the Bungles every year but no one else goes there in the Wet when the land is green, when the creeks and waterfalls are flowing at their magnificent best. .

We know the best campsites, the best rock shelters, the best views. **We know** how to make your trip as safe and as comfortable as it can be. We will give you an experience to remember for the rest of your life.

Want to see more? Click the Bungles Wet links on our Kimberley Gallery page, www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au/kimberley-galleries.shtml



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

Noticeboard

CLUB ACTIVITIES: JANUARY–JULY 2014

DAY WALKS	TRIPS	AVERAGE PARTICIPANTS	AVERAGE VISITORS
MOFS	6	13.0	0.3
TOFS	7	16.9	0.4
Sat/Dandenongs Explorer	5	13.0	1.4
Sunday bus	15	36.6	8.6
Sunday carpool	13	17.0	3.9
Wednesday	6	14.2	1.5
OTHER ACTIVITIES			
Conservation	4	*3.3	*0.3
Navigation training	1	6.0	0.0
Track maintenance	2	3.5	0.5
Base camp	3	11.3	1.7
Pack carry	11	10.4	**1.8
Cycling	7	*8.5	*0.3

*Participant numbers not stated for one activity

**Includes 10 VMTC members on one trip

Highest Attendances

MOFs:

Feb 17 Mordialloc – Sandringham 18 (0 visitors)

TOFs:

Feb 06 10th Anniversary Yarra River walk 24 (0)

Saturday/Dandenongs Explorer:

Apr 26 Kalorama–Doongalla return 16 (1)

Sunday Bus:

Jun 15 Yarra Valley Rail Trail and winery 58 (14)

Sunday Carpool:

Jul 20 Whiskey Creek circuit 27 (8)

Wednesday:

Jan 08 La Franchi Hut, Hepburn Regional Park 22 (4)

Conservation:

Jan 25 Falls Creek/Mt. Bogong willow weeding 4 (0)

Navigation Training:

Jul 12 Werribee Gorge 6 (0)

Track Maintenance:

Mar 28 Bogong High Plains 4 (1)

Base Camp:

Jun 06 Lorne camping/cabin trip 16 (2)

Pack Carry:

Feb 21 Mt. Howitt – Crosscut Saw 19 (2)

Cycling:

Jan 11 Eastern Suburbs (Rosstown Railway) 12 (0)

Special Mention

Overseas Pack Carry: Jan 04 Heaphy Track (NZ) 12 (0)

Many thanks to all of our leaders who gave their time and effort to make all of the above activities possible.

Stuart Hanham
(General Walks Secretary)



Yarra Valley Rail Trail, 15 June

A CYCLE FROM THE DANDENONG RANGES TO THE SEAFORD WETLANDS

Date: Saturday 19 July 2014
Weather: Fine, 14°, overcast, light south-west wind
Riders: 7 men – Ross Berner (leader), Bob Oxlade, Mark Heath, Lars Lindahl, Phil Brown, Karl Spadinger, Art Terry
Route: Boronia, headwaters of the Dandenong Creek, Dandy Creek Trail, Koombi Park, Jells Park, Yarraman, Paterson River Trail, Seaford Wetlands
Distance: 60 km

We met at Boronia Railway Station about 10 am and by 10:15 Ross had us on our way, firstly north through fairly heavy traffic to the lower slopes of the Dandenong Ranges which were covered in light cloud. It was a joy to get away from the busy Boronia area and be in the quiet rural areas. After following several country roads and lanes we met up with the Dandy Creek Trail which is a good and very pretty trail bordering on bushland, parks and golf courses.

After passing under Boronia Road, the trail enters Koombi Park to Burwood Road, where a new overpass has been installed to link up with the bike trail adjacent to the freeway which leads to the southern end of Jells Park. We had lunch at a small farm adjacent to Jells Park, a nice place to stop – hot drinks – good toilets and plenty of tables, etc., to have a meal.

Lunch over, we continued along the trail for a few kilometres before leaving the Dandy Creek and heading for Yarraman Railway Station, where Lars left us. We went on to meet up with the Dandy Creek Trail a few kilometres south of Dandenong via a freeway cycle path. We followed the trail to Wells Road where Karl left us to ride home to Mentone. We turned south on the new freeway cycle path which brought us to the north-east entrance to the Seaford Wetlands. We cycled along the eastern side of the wetlands and from there it was only a short distance to the Seaford Railway Station.

Thanks to Ross for his efforts in making a very rewarding ride for us.

Art Terry

SKIING THE HIGH PLAINS – AUGUST 2014

14 people skied about 12 km from Falls Creek to stay in the Bogong Rover Chalet from 9 to 16 August. Bill Metzenthien took the picture below showing the dining/sitting area of the chalet, with from left David Laing, Doug Pocock, Max Casley, and I can't identify the other two.

There was plenty of snow, and the weather was beautiful most of the week. We skied the Bogong High Plains in the day, coming home to the comfortable chalet in late afternoon. There were lots of jobs to do, and everybody pitched in, especially our leader, Doug Pocock.

Thanks Doug for leading another terrific week.



Meryl Whimpey

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 BUS

BELLBIRD CREEK, TARAGO

DATE	14 September 2014
RETURN TIME	6:30 pm to City
STANDARDS	Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCES	14 km and 18 km
LEADERS	Halina Sarbinowski and Geoff Wright
TRANSPORT	Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA	West Gippsland
MAP REF	Neerim 1:25,000

Tarago State Forest is nestled among the lush green rolling hills of West Gippsland. This area is the gateway to the Mt Baw Baw snowfields and tracks within the forest are closed to vehicles during the winter. Within a few metres of entering the forest we are surrounded by tall mountain ash and the trappings of civilization are soon left behind. Initially the quiet tracks are broad, allowing for lots of opportunity for a chat; however, as we progress further into our walks the tracks have become less used. Although still easily followed, they will present a few challenges.

Whilst the walks are in a heavily forested area, we will have opportunities while walking a ridge track to enjoy views over the farmlands to the east surrounding Neerim or views down into Tarago River towards the end of our walks. Our crossing of Bellbird Creek and Tarago River will be on ‘walkers’ bridges’ and will test our balance.

Join us for enjoyable walks in an area not often visited by the club. Although rated Easy/Medium and Medium, the walks are at the lower end of each rating; however, a few hills and water crossings ensure that there is enough of a challenge to justify the ratings.



TOFS WALK

ELSTER CREEK AND BRIGHTON BEACHES

DATE	Thursday 2 October 2014
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	10 km
LEADER	Bill Metzthen
TRANSPORT	Train, bus or private
AREA	Brighton
MAP REF	Melway maps 67 and 76

The walk begins at Gardenvale railway station at 10:30 am. A train, bus, or car are options to get you there. There are one or two good cafés near the station which provide a good place to spend some time if you arrive early. For those wishing to indulge, the cakes in the café a couple of doors west of the station can be recommended.

The first part of the walk is along Elster Creek, which upon approaching the bay becomes the Elwood Canal. Interestingly, the catchment of Elster Creek happens to make a pretty good approximation of the city of Glen Eira.

A diversion to avoid the golf course will take us though the southern part of Elsterwick Park.

Upon reaching the bay we turn south and have the opportunity to use a variety of path, grass, and beach to walk on. This takes us to Brighton Beach station where the train can be caught back to the start.

Google Maps gives the distance as just over 10 km of walking. Walkers wishing for more could continue to Hampton or Sandringham stations.



PACK CARRY

THE FORTRESS – MT THACKERAY (GRAMPIANS)

DATE	3–5 October 2014
RETURN TIME	9 pm to Melbourne
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	30 km
ELEVATION	978 m
LEADER	Bob Oxlade
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Southern Grampians Victoria Range
MAP REF	Southern Grampians Outdoor Leisure Map 1:50,000; Vicmap 1:25,000 Victoria Range

The Fortress at 875 m is a most impressive peak in a rugged rock climbing area of the Southern Grampians with great views.

After climbing 650 metres and viewing the area on Saturday and we will walk on to the base of Mount Thackeray to camp.

On Sunday morning we will have a side trip to the summit of Mount Thackeray at 978 m for more views before departing with packs. We continue along the top of the Victoria Range for 7 km before beginning the descent to the cars.

This is a nice time of year for this walk. It is all on tracks and has some reasonably long climbs.

If you are interested in coming along please see me in the clubrooms. Bob Oxlade.



BASE CAMP

LAKE ELIZABETH

DATE	Friday 3 to Sunday 5 October 2014
RETURN TIME	Return to City by 6 pm
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	30 km
ELEVATION	100 m
LEADER	Halina Sarbinowski
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Great Otway National Park



Lake Elizabeth is approximately a two hour drive from Melbourne, and has been on the Sunday walks program in the past so you might ask why is it on the MBW walks program as a base camp? Lake Elizabeth and its neighbour, the West Barwon Reservoir provide some exceptional walking experiences which we will enjoy; however, the lake also provides some experiences that cannot be enjoyed on day hikes. The lake is home to several platypus and also the path between the camping ground and the lake is lined with glow worms and the only way to enjoy both experiences is spend the night.

On Saturday we plan to explore the spur that leads to the West Barwon Reservoir. This will be an exploratory walk as each map of the area shows different tracks. This walk will also account for basically all the elevation over the weekend and we will only skirt Lake Elizabeth before returning to camp. Saturday night, I hope, will be the highlight of the weekend. We will walk to the Lake Elizabeth jetty before dusk and with wine and nibbles try to spot some of the platypus in the lake, returning by torch and glow worm light to the camping ground and dinner.

On Sunday, after packing up and doing our car shuffle, we will do the full circuit of Lake Elizabeth before following the shared (mountain bike/walkers) track to West Barwon Reservoir picnic ground. This walk will be the walking highlight of the weekend. The serenity of the drowned valley of Lake Elizabeth makes this one of the most exceptional areas to walk. A coffee (and cake) at the eccentric Forrest Guesthouse will be a must before heading home.

It is important to note that the Lake Elizabeth camping ground is a very popular free camping ground and is based on first come best dressed basis. Cars cannot be parked next to the campsites; however, all campsites are only about 100 m from where cars can be parked. Also easier walking options are available for both days.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

PYRITES CREEK CIRCUIT

DATE	Sunday 5 October 2014
RETURN TIME	6.00 pm
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	14 km
ELEVATION	300 m
LEADER	Ron Hampton
TRANSPORT	Car leaving Southbank Blvd. at 8.45 am
TRANSP. COST	Approx. \$15
AREA	Lerderderg State Park
MAP REF	VicMap: P-278820-5838655-55

Added to Lerderderg State Park as recently as 2005, lying to the east and separated from the larger park by the Bacchus Marsh–Gisborne Road, Pyrites Range is less well known but possesses a variety of interesting terrain, and has its own distinct character and sense of remoteness. Most walking and trail bike activities take place in the north of the park but we will be walking in the south, which is seldom visited.

Beginning at the Antimony Mine Road entrance to the park we will set a course anti-clockwise passing the abandoned Drapers Lode Antimony Mine on our way to Pyrites Creek which we then follow south through forests of Box Iron Bark, Hakea and grass trees then east to complete the circuit.

Mostly the tracks are well formed and undulating but a third of the walk is off-track, much of it in the creek bed itself or along the banks, therefore more suitable to experienced walkers. Walking poles are recommended, as is sturdy footwear. Walkers will be rewarded with the opportunity to experience the unique beauty and stillness which this park has to offer, while it is still relatively unknown.



WEDNESDAY WALK

MACEDON CIRCUIT

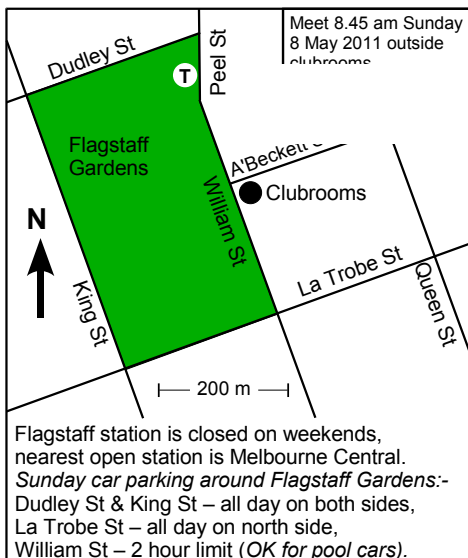
DATE	Wednesday 8 October 2014
STANDARD	Easy/medium
DISTANCE	15 km
LEADER	Fay Dunn
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Mt Macedon
MAP REF	Melways X909 G12

This walk was planned for February but was cancelled due to fires and smoke in the area. We will meet in Mt Macedon village at the coffee shop at 10:15 and start out at 10:30 with a short car shuffle to cut out several kilometres of road walking. The walk starts with a short, steep uphill climb to Mt Towrong then flattens out as we continue on via Sanitarium Lake, The Camel's Hump and the other sights of and from Mt Macedon. There are a few ups and downs and we end with a steepish downhill walk from below the Memorial Cross to where our cars will be waiting. Estimated time of return to cars – 3:30. Please ring to let me know you are coming along.



ALTERNATIVE DEPARTURE POINT FOR SUNDAY WALKS OPPOSITE CLUBROOM

When advised, the alternative departure point for Sunday walks noted on the walks program and in previews will be at the bus stop on the northern corner of A'Beckett Street and William Street, opposite the clubrooms at the Royal Historical Society building.



PACK CARRY

TARRA BULGA – MACK’S CREEK LOOP

DATE	17–19 October 2014
RETURN TIME	5–6 pm Melbourne CBD
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	34 km
ELEVATION	Total climb about 700 m
LEADER	Mick Noonan
TRANSPORT	Private Car
AREA	Tarra Bulga National Park, East Gippsland
MAP REF	Carrajung 8221-3-S, 1:25,000

Secluded, 200 km east of Melbourne, away in Gippsland is Tarra-Bulga National Park. The nearest ‘town’ is Balook close to the eastern end of the Grand Ridge Road.

This park is one of the best temperate rain forests in Gippsland with ‘real’ trees (a giant 60 m Mountain Ash, Messmate, ancient Myrtle Beech some over a thousand years old, and Blackwood), huge lush tree ferns, the famous Corrigan’s suspension bridge, Cyathea Falls etc. There are also wombats (dangerous for night drivers!), possums, owls, lyrebirds, wallabies, platypus, etc.

I am really looking forward to this trip as I have been to Tarra Bulga many times on Base Camps but with the opening of the Grand Strezleki Track it is now possible to do a range of Pack Carries in the area.

On the Friday we can camp and/or get a cabin at the Tarra Valley Camping Ground as it is not permitted to camp in the park. The trip will include fantastic fern gullies, mountain ash, views of the distant Prom; the Wild Cherry Track; waterfalls, temperate rainforests and some regeneration areas, and the new track extensions down to the hall at Macks Creek.

There will be some creek crossings (either boots off or hopping across the rocks), some climbing but no steep uphill sections. While the walk is graded Easy/Medium it is suitable for fit people who are early in their Pack Carry career. Happy to discuss, and/or help with reviewing your pack etc.

Let me know if you are interested and I will send you more information and the final route.



CYCLING

‘UNDER THE WESTGATE BRIDGE’

DATE	Saturday 18 October 2014
RETURN TIME	3:00 pm
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	50 km
ELEVATION	Flat Ride
LEADER	Ed Neff
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Caulfield/Southern Suburbs
MAP REF	Melway 68, 67, 58, 57, 56, 42, 43, 58, 59

We will meet at Caulfield Station, northern entrance (Sir John Monash Drive), at 9:30 am.

The first part of the ride weaves through quiet streets of Carnegie, Ormond, McKinnon and East Brighton to connect with the Bay Trail at North Point. We can stop for a coffee around the St Kilda Marina and then continue on the Bay Trail to Port Melbourne and beyond. Princes Pier and the nearby light beacons are well worth a stop. We then cycle to Westgate Park, under the Westgate Bridge and then follow the Yarra River all the way back to Kooyong. Lunch can be taken in the



SUNDAY BUS

MT CAROLINE – BULLAMALITA (ALTERNATIVE DEPARTURE POINT)

DATE	Sunday 12 October 2014
RETURN TIME	6.30 pm to City
STANDARDS	Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCES	12 and 15 km
ELEVATIONS	E/M 400 m, M 650 m approx.
LEADERS	Deb Shand, Judith Shaw
TRANSPORT	Bus – Leaving clubroom at 8:45 am
AREA	Yea

This walk takes you on a scenic journey over emerald green hills through farmland near Yea, northeast of Melbourne. The views over the surrounding countryside and away into the distance in all directions are magnificent. The opportunities to exercise your legs up and down steep slopes (especially for the Medium group) are abundant. Combine this with fresh air and sunshine and you will have a great physical workout and an enjoyable day.

On the preview we shared the landscape with sheep and lambs, cows and calves, kangaroos, a wombat, cockatoos, robins and an eagle. I hope you will come and share this delightful walk with us – but be prepared for the hills!

Alexandra Gardens. Gardiners Creek Trail leads us back to Darling Station and then back streets to Caulfield Station.

We will maintain an easy pace so come and enjoy this interesting and relatively flat ride. Bring your lunch, a repair kit with spare tube and a water bottle. Ring me to register for this ride, or for any questions

 **SUNDAY CAR POOL**

UP THE HIGH LEAD



DATE Sunday 19 October 2014
STANDARD Medium/Hard
DISTANCE 22 km
ELEVATION 760 m
LEADER Ian Mair
TRANSPORT Car – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Yarra State Forest
MAP REF Ada River and Spion Kopje 1:25,000
TRANSP COST \$18

The distance and elevation rise place this walk in the Medium/Hard grading. However, much of the walking is on wide and well maintained tracks and can fairly be said to be closer to Medium. It is a good warm-up for the rest of the year for those looking to get back into shape for the coming summer months or just out for a great day walk.

Set in the mountains east of Melbourne, the area where we will be walking is steeped in history from the time when there was a thriving logging industry. Many of today's walking tracks follow the routes of the former logging tramlines, notable of which is the High Lead which plunges over 400 m from the ridge line to the valley below. Most often walks start at the top and descend; however, on this occasion we will go up the High Lead.

Starting at The Bump, the route first follows the course of the Latrobe River downstream along a recently maintained track that makes for easy walking, eventually merging into the path leading to the High Lead under a canopy of tree ferns and scattered artefacts to remind us of the logging past. The section up the High Lead starts abruptly and climbs relentlessly with only a few short flatter sections to give tiring legs a break. More than once you will want to offer a silent wish for the return of the steam winches that once hauled the empty logging trolleys back up to the top. Then, as abruptly as it started, the High Lead peaks at the top and from there the walking again becomes relatively easy.

Lunch will be at the site of the former Ada No. 2 Mill, reached along a boardwalk that winds its way through swampy wetlands along the flood plains of the Ada River. The old mill site is now a place for picnics and camping where a half-buried boiler rises from the undergrowth like the ruins of a long-lost civilisation hidden amongst the pages of a childhood jungle epic.

Depending on numbers booked and cars available we will either start with a short car shuffle from The Bump to Starling Gap or at the end of the day.



MOFS WALK

MT DONNA BUANG, VICTORIA RANGE

DATE Monday 20 October 2014
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 10 km
ELEVATION Some easy hills
LEADER Alister Rowe
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Warburton
MAP REF Melway 290

Meet at 10:30 at the Rainforest Gallery Skywalk. This is about 10 km along the Donna Buang Road from Warburton. We will do the Skywalk then drive to the 10 mile picnic area, leave some cars there and proceed to the summit.

After morning tea and a climb up the lookout tower, we will do a circuit towards Mt. Boobyalla. Our descent will be down the Mt. Victoria Range track.

Book with the leader.



SOCIAL WALK

JELLS PARK

DATE Thursday 23 October 2014
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 5 km
ELEVATION Flat
LEADER Jean Giese
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Wheelers Hill
MAP REF Melway 71 and 72

A pleasant walk through the bush and around the Jells Park lake, concluding with lunch at the café.

Meet to start walking at 10.30 in the carpark nearest the exit onto Jells Road (Mel 71K7). Book with leader.



DANDENONGS EXPLORER

SHERBROOKE FOREST

DATE Saturday 25 October 2014
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 14 km
LEADER Liz Telford
ELEVATION 300 metres
MAP REFERENCE Melways 75
TRANSPORT Private

I will be leading an easy medium walk, consisting of two separate loops of the Sherbrooke Forest in the Dandenong Ranges National Park. The walk commences at Grants Picnic Ground, lunch will be at Ferny Creek and a visit on the way back to the Alfred Nicholas Gardens to admire the spring flowering rhododendrons. There are two decent hills to climb, so the walk will be good training for our New Zealand hikes next year. Also, be prepared for mud on the tracks and fingers crossed for no rain (with my last two walks having heavy rain...). Visitors should ring me to book in and discuss the walk.

The meeting place is Grants Picnic Ground (Melway 75 K4). Please arrive at 9:45 to commence walking at 10:00. Optional carpool at the Burvale, ring me to verify this time.



PACK CARRY

WESTERN STRATHBOGIES (COMBINED WITH VMTG)

DATE 25–26 October 2014
LEADER Ray Thomas
TRANSPORT Private

Western Strathbogies 25–26 October will be up the Seven Creeks gorge from Gooram Falls to Polly McQuinn's reservoir and beyond. We pass a stunning series of powerful waterfalls and many tranquil pools as we climb from plains level up to the plateau. With more and more surprising sights around each bend, this has to be one of the most scenic gorges in Victoria! On Sunday we climb up through beautiful Blue Gum forests onto Mt Wombat, down through the attractive rock gardens on the northern slopes, through wonderful Narrowleaf Peppermint forests across to the western escarpment, then down through stunning masses of flowering Heath Myrtles to plains level again. It's not called the 'Garden Range' for nothing!!



SUNDAY BUS

MT DONNA BUANG – DOM DOM SADDLE

DATE Sunday 26 October 2014
RETURN TIME About 7 pm to City
STANDARDS Easy and Medium
DISTANCES 16 km and 24 km
ELEVATIONS 660 m and about 1000 m
LEADERS Del Franks and Nigel Holmes
TRANSPORT Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Yarra Ranges
MAP REF South Juliet and North Juliet

Are you looking for a challenge? Then this is the walk for you. Set in the beautiful Yarra Ranges between Warburton and the Black Spur, the Medium walk will be starting at the top of Mt Donna Buang and finish at Dom Dom Saddle. Donna Buang is 1260 m above sea level and Dom Dom Saddle is 510 m, so it is downhill on average; however the track is undulating with a few serious climbs and descents. The peaks to be covered in the walk are Mt Boobyalla (1224 m), The Knobs (1113 m) and Mt Vinegar (1020 m).

The Route for the Easy walk cuts off two of the hills, Mt Boobyalla and The Knobs, as it starts at the base of Mt Vinegar. The first 5 km is a steady climb of about 540 m to the top of Mt Vinegar, rewarding you with some beautiful views of the surrounding area, and then finishes at Dom Dom Saddle.

Some of the key attractions of the area are towering mountain ash, fern gullies, 130 native bird species, 31 native mammals, 21 reptiles and nine amphibian species recorded. The Superb Lyrebird is the park's most famous inhabitant. Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Crimson Rosellas, Laughing Kookaburras, Eastern Yellow Robins, Yellow-faced Honeyeaters and Pied Currawongs are some of the native birds to be seen. Who knows, we just might be lucky and see some of them. Also there should be good views of distant mountains if we are blessed with a fine day.



PACK CARRY

RAZOR – VIKING – MAGDALA CIRCUIT

DATE 31 October to 4 November (Melbourne Cup weekend)
STANDARD Medium/Hard
DISTANCE 54 km
ELEVATION 3500 metres
LEADER Philip Brown
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME Late
AREA Australian Alpine National Park, Mt Howitt area
MAP REF New Series Selwyn 1:50,000. Spatial Vision: Buller – Howitt Alpine Area
FIRE BAN DISTRICT: North Eastern
TEMPERATURE REF. SITE Mount Buller

Travel up on Friday to the upper Howqua camp ground or if leaving late may have to camp at other spots on the way and finish the drive in the morning so we start at the camp ground – that's if things going well – at 9:00 am

Day 1: 12 km. Start at 840 m, end at 1648 m. We head off along the Howqua River with some crossing and get on to the Queen Spur track and follow it to the base of Mt Buggery then up the Australian Alps Walking Track (AAWT) on to Mt Speculation to camp.

Day 2: Start 1648 m, end at 1480 m. Head to The Viking. On the way we go over Mt Despair with a possible side trip to The Razor. Collect water at Viking saddle then camp on top to get the views.

Day 3: 12 km. Start 1480 m, end at 1600 m. Off track down a spur to the Wonnangatta River at 660 m then up the other side to Macalister Springs for the night.

Day 4: 18 km, 1600 m, end at 840 m. Back on the AAWT over Mt Howitt, Mt Magdala, Picture Point, on to Bluff Track and down Helicopter Spur back to the cars.

Come and join me on this 4-day adventure to one of Victoria's classic alpine areas. For more information or to book please ring me.

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 admin base at Rawson is 173 km from the CBD and you can come for the weekend or just a day.

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

There is still bunkroom accommodation available at Rawson and the website has details of other options in the area.

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

**HOLLYFORD TRACK JAN 21-26
EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**



This walk is the second half of a walk combining the Milford and Hollyford Tracks. There are no hut spaces left for the Milford section of the walk but there are spaces available for members to join the walk at Milford Sound for the Hollyford section of the walk. Walkers only doing the second section can join us at Piopiothi on the afternoon of January 21 for an optional two-and-a-quarter hour Encounter Nature Cruise on Milford Sound.

We will overnight in civilisation in the village of Piopiothi in Milford Sound on January 21. 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. The second half along the Hollyford should be easier than the Milford with no major passes. There will be some long days in terms of time and distance of 4 to 7 hours walking.

To express interest and get further information please contact **David Walsh** as I will be away skiing much of July and August and then overseas until mid-October. If you are considering joining this trip I suggest you ask for the detailed information as early as possible.

**CAMBODIA JANUARY 2016
EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST SOUGHT**

I am proposing to apply for a travel grant through the Uniting Journeys Foundation to help fund a small group (6-8 people) to travel to Cambodia for 2-3 weeks in January 2016. The main activity of the group would be trekking in the Cardamom Mountains (community based eco-tourism) with an emphasis on responsible travel. This would be similar to the trip illustrated in my recent slideshow at the club rooms.

Other activities on the trip could include:

- a visit to the Phnom Tamao wildlife rescue centre
- a visit to the reforestation project in Chi Phat
- a visit to a school
- staying on an island off the coast (camping and trekking)
- traditional cooking class
- visiting Siem Reap temples and other places of interest

Before applying for the grant (closing date late August), I would like to find out if there are others interested in joining me on such a trip.

You can find out more about the Uniting Journeys Foundation and grants at this website:
www.responsibletravel.org.au

Deb Shand

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!

October 2014				
Thu 2	TOFS: Elster Creek and Brighton Beaches	Pvt	Easy	Bill Metzenthén
3-5	Pack Carry: The Fortress – Mt Thackeray (Grampians)	Pvt	Med	Bob Oxlade
3-5	Base Camp: Lake Elizabeth	Pvt	E/M	Halina Sarbinowski
Sun 5	NEW: Pyrites Range	Car	Med	Ron Hampton
Wed 8	Mount Macedon	Pvt	E/M	Fay Dunn
Sun 12	Mt Caroline – Bullamalita (Alternative Departure Point)	Bus	E & E/M	Deb Shand & Judith Shaw
17-19	Pack Carry: Tarra Bulga – Mack's Creek Loop	Pvt	E/M	Mick Noonan
Sat 18	Cycling: 'Under the Westgate Bridge'	Pvt	Med	Ed Neff
Sun 19	Up The High Lead Revisited	Car	M/H	Ian Mair
Mon 20	Mt Donna Buang, Victoria Range	Pvt	Easy	Alister Rowe
Thu 23	Jells Park	Car	Easy	Jean Giese
Sat 25	Dandenongs Explorer – Sherbrooke Forest	Pvt	E/M	Liz Telford
Sun 26	Mt Donna Buang – Dom Dom Saddle	Bus	E & M	Del Franks & Nigel Holmes
31-4 Nov	Pack Carry: Razor – Viking – Magdala Circuit	Pvt	M/H	Phillip Brown

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