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# THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

April 2015

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER – APRIL

**The main items at the March Committee Meeting were:** finalising arrangements for the Annual General Meeting including certifying the financial accounts; analysing the 2013 Incident Reports (2014 was done at the February meeting) and considering two new ones; discussing guidelines for leaders cancelling Sunday Walks; approving the purchase of a new light-weight pack for hire to members; and starting to look at the updates to our Risk Management Plan. Ian Mair was again our 'guest' at the meeting.

**The Annual General Meeting went very well** with about 45 members attending:

- **The new Committee Members** are Ian Mair (president-elect, starting in June), Susanna Mason, Jenny Andrewes, Nigel Holmes, and Christine Hughes.
- **I want to thank John Free, Sylvia Harris, Richard Long and Jamie Brawn** who stepped down at the meeting.
- **Chris and Lee-Ann Schirlinger are now the proud owners of Club Spoons**, having met through the Club and getting married last year.
- **There will be no increase in fees again** this year.

**I am staying in the President's position for April and May** while our 'president elect' Ian Mair is away overseas. So you will get a few more President's Corners from me.

**After a few months' trial we have introduced a system where members can 'vouch' for family or friends to attend a Sunday walk** so they don't have to come into the clubrooms whilst they are still 'temporary members'. The member can book them onto a Sunday walk by transferring funds to the club bank account and emailing [busbookings@mbw.org.au](mailto:busbookings@mbw.org.au) (for either a carpool or bus walk). The Acknowledgement of Risk form can be signed on the day of the walk. The member is responsible for the 'visitor' and his/her fitness to do the walk and should do the walk with the person. We hope this initiative will encourage members to bring their family and friends along.

**We have recently reviewed all the 2013 and 2014 Incident Reports.** The incidents range from near misses, to broken ankles, through to hearing and behaviour issues. They occurred on a preview, a range of walks and in the clubrooms. For 2014 there were approximately 160 activities, involving over 2000 people, and resulting in 10 Incident Reports. Of these 5 were actual injuries. The numbers of Incident Reports in recent years were (from 2014 back) 10, 5, 8, and 17.

Reminders and information for this month:

- 1 **Membership Fees are now due** and while members have 3 months to the end of June to renew and stay financial we encourage you to renew early. Updated renewal forms will be in the News from April to June that **remind you of the risks involved in bushwalking. By renewing you are acknowledging your acceptance of the risk involved. Please read the form carefully!**
- 2 **If you are a Whip on an activity please generally stay at the back of the group** – it's more effective and looks better to visitors.
- 3 **Our 'Code of Conduct' sets out what we expect of members and visitors** and is an important document in making us a friendly club to join and to be a member of – it is included in this News.

**Cooler weather has returned with autumn** which is a fantastic time to get outdoors. If you reduce your walking over summer then it's time to get active again. In March we had a Sunday Bus with 60 walkers (a bus

*(continued on page 3)*

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

MEMBER OF



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 4 May 2015**

## YOUR NEW COMMITTEE FOR 2015

President	* <b>Ian Mair</b> (from June)
Vice-Presidents	<b>Susan McInnes</b> * <b>Nigel Holmes</b>
Secretary	<b>Cathy Merrick</b>
Membership Secretary	<b>Gill Wainwright</b>
Treasurer	<b>Poppy Sicari</b>
Social Secretary	* <b>Susanna Mason</b>
General Walks Secretary	<b>Stuart Hanham</b>
Sunday Walks Secretary	<b>Halina Sarbinowski</b>
General Committee	<b>Margaret Campion</b> <b>Fang Fang</b> <b>Mark Heath</b> * <b>Jenny Andrewes</b> * <b>Christina Hughes</b>

\* NEW to Committee

## CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

One of the joys of winter is to rug up warm, put on cross-country skis and explore the alpine country. Jan and I are proof that you don't have to be an expert to enjoy the experience.

For some years now the Club has not programmed ski trips because of the uncertainty of snow conditions. This is a pity because it has also meant that we have not run introductory trips to enable people to get some basic skills. In the past, Jan and I have used the opportunity of an unexpected snow fall to nick up and have a very pleasant time.

I propose a system whereby members can register an interest so that a list can be drawn up and, if someone wants to organise a trip (with very little notice) then contact be made and a trip organised.

These would be Club trips and members would be covered by Club insurance.

Information required would be;

- Name
- e-mail address
- Address (for car sharing)
- Do you have a car? (4wd? Chains?)
- Are you available all week or only weekends?
- Are you a beginner interested in an introduction to skiing?
- Are you experienced and would like to organise a trip?

*Doug Pocock*

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# Noticeboard

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## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER** *(continued from page 1)*

and a car) including 23 visitors which was great to see. We even had to turn some people away! The easy nature of the new rail trail walk made it manageable.

**There are lots of interesting activities happening:** we have had two overseas trips already this year; a series of Island walks to Snake Island, two to Deal Island (Tasmania) and later in the year possibly another to Flinders Island (also in Tassie); and we also have the expected return of cross country skiing and snow walking to come.

**I hope to see you at one of our activities before I 'retire'.**

*Mick Noonan*

## **MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS Inc. CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **Statement**

Every person participating in the activities of Melbourne Bushwalkers should strive to ensure:

- The inclusion of every person regardless of their age, gender, sexual orientation, race, culture or religion
- There are opportunities for people with a range of abilities to participate
- They demonstrate respect towards each other, the organisation and the broader community
- There is a safe and inclusive environment for all, free from violent or abusive behavior
- There is protection from sexual harassment or intimidation

### **Breaches of the Code**

The following behaviors are considered to be breaches of the Code:

- Violent or abusive behavior or vilification of any kind towards another person or the organisation
- Discrimination against another person based on their age, gender, sexual orientation, race, culture, religion or any other irrelevant personal characteristic
- Victimization of another person for exercising their rights through this Code of Conduct
- Failure to maintain a safe environment free from violence, abuse, discrimination and harassment

### **Responsibility of Individuals**

It is the responsibility of individuals bound by this Code of Conduct to:

- Make themselves aware of the standards of behavior required
- Be accountable for their behavior
- Report breaches of this Code to a Committee Member or Leader

### **Responsibility of Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.**

It is the responsibility of the Committee to adopt, implement and comply with this Code of Conduct and treat any breach or complaint made in an unbiased, sensitive, fair, timely and confidential manner. Any breaches of this Code will be dealt with in accordance with the Club's By-Laws and Rules.

### **Policy Implementation**

The Code of Conduct will be published on the Club's website, be printed in the Club's Newsletter and copies made available in the Club's meeting room.

### **Related Documents**

Melbourne Bushwalkers By-Laws  
Melbourne Bushwalkers Rules of Association  
Melbourne Bushwalkers Participants' Responsibilities on Club Activities Policy  
Bushwalking Victoria's Code of Conduct

*Club President*

## TRAINING REPORT 2014

### Key Activities

- **May** Navigation Training at Lake Lysterfield using the Vic Rogaine Assc pre-set course and maps (courtesy of Andy Elam), with 12 participants
- **July** Basic Navigation in Werribee Gorge with 7 participants
- **September** 1st Aid Training through First Aid Management in Ringwood with 20 participants, including three from VMTC

### Ancillary Activities

To assist in the development of club members' knowledge, a number of initiatives were commenced in 2014, including:

- Pack Carry mentoring, with an experienced PC and Sunday Walk leader assisting a newer leader, which is advised in advance on the program and web, thus not only reassuring potential participants who may be unsure of the new leader's ability but also advertising that the Club is able to assist those who are developing skills, and see this as a confidence booster
- The development of the Emergency Contact System (Mick Noonan and Stuart Hanham) has not only modernised the contact mode, but it is less reliant upon human response for initial information
- Leaders supplying additional maps and being willing to provide feedback on navigation

We promoted the use of whistles and understanding whistle codes in the *News* and on activities. We continue to provide them free to new leaders. In addition the *News* and the President's corner are used to remind leaders and walkers of the Club's procedures, e.g. the Emergency Contact System has been promoted this year.

We have also started to use the new Bushwalking Victoria Leaders Training with two new leaders attending the first course in 2014.

Activities planned for 2015 include

- Navigation Training (both for beginners and more skilled people),
- 1st Aid Training,
- GPS Training,
- continuing to leverage the Bushwalking Victoria Leaders Training for both Day and now also for Extended Trips, and to use more of our regular walks for training opportunities.

*Roger Wyatt, Training Officer*

## EQUIPMENT REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31/12/14

The club provides equipment for use by members and visitors at nominal hire rates and for use by leaders and the club generally at no charge. Items are selected to improve club facilities, contribute to safety, encourage beginners and assist members in the acquisition of appropriate gear. All purchases are justified on a cost benefit basis with income-producing items meeting the additional requirement of being self-funding.

During the year we hired out 17 tents, 7 packs, 11 sleeping bags, 5 sleeping mats, 3 stoves and 1 food drier for a total net profit of \$171 (\$388 hire income less \$217 depreciation). Members also made good use of the projector, first aid kits and radios, the usage of which was not recorded, and borrowed 10 GPSs and 1 PLB.

Unfortunately the men's medium sized Golite Pinnacle pack went missing during the year. If you can help in its return it would be greatly appreciated.

Unfortunately Golite went bankrupt last year. This has left us with a dilemma over what to recommend or buy should we need a replacement pack. We hope to find a suitable alternative in the near future.

As usual we are always happy to discuss equipment needs with members and visitors.

*John Fritze  
Equipment Officer*

## LIBRARY REPORT FOR 2014

The Club's library has around 250 books. The full list of books can be found on the Club's database. A hard copy is kept on the library shelves. As the table at right indicates, library usage is not high, and appears to be declining. At the same time a glance at the names in the loan book shows that a small number of members regularly borrow books. Recently a note was published in the *News* to draw members' attention to the existence of the library and it is hoped to continue this practice from time to time in 2015.

Year	Books Borrowed	Users
2009	25	17
2010	18	10
2011	18	9
2012	9	8
2013	14	9
2014	10	9

*Cecily Hunter*

## ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES REPORT, MARCH 2015

Groups from Melbourne Bushwalkers participated in six 'official' environmental events in 2014 organised by other groups, although I am aware that individual members also participated in other events at times that were not coordinated by a leader from our club. The groups that we have joined for these events are: Bushwalking Victoria for willow eradication on the Bogong High Plains, Friends of Bogong for track maintenance in the Mt Beauty/Falls Creek area (2 events), the Regent Honeyeater Project for nestbox checking and tree planting in the Benalla area (2 events), and Grampians track maintenance under the guidance of Parks Victoria. We had a group of 3 or 4 members at each of these events to join with participants from other clubs, and I would like to thank those people for their cheerful company and useful work.

Club members who have not participated in environmental or track clearing events might think that special skills or extraordinary strength are required to carry out this type of work, and indeed the ability to use a chainsaw or brush-cutter is valuable, but so is the ability to use a spade, a rake hoe or a pair of secateurs. Participants come away from these experiences with many happy memories, such as: sharing a barbecue with other Bushwalking Victoria members in a ski lodge at Falls Creek, watching the sun rise and set through the snow gums on the High Plains, discovering a family of squirrel gliders curled into a nestbox, looking back over a paddock in the late afternoon and seeing hundreds of new trees planted, working alongside Parks Victoria rangers and learning about our native flora and fauna, walking into hidden valleys that few others see, the haunting beauty of a fire ravaged landscape with bright new growth sprouting, enjoying the camaraderie and enthusiasm of fellow volunteers, or the feeling that you're doing something to correct the balance in the face of global damage by humans. Come and join us next time!

*Deb Shand*



## ADVANCE NOTICE CROSS COUNTRY SKIING, BOGONG HIGH PLAINS AUGUST 8-15 2015



Announcing our annual X-C skiing trip to the untracked expanses of the High Plains. We stay in the comfortable Rovers Chalet 12 km from Falls Creek and tend to have the snow to ourselves. Two or three trips are organised each day catering to everyone's inclinations or abilities. A voluntary roster is drawn up to ensure all jobs are done and the week runs smoothly, giving maximum time for skiing. Past skiers are welcome to return and newcomers are encouraged to discuss requirements for joining us.

*Doug Pocock or Marilyn Whimpey*

# 2015 Social Calendar

## THE WEIRD AND WONDERFUL WORLD OF FUNGUS – a presentation by Geoff Lay

Have you ever wondered about those brightly coloured mushrooms you saw on bushwalks? Fungus forms associations with over 90% of plants worldwide. What do they do? How are they named?

Been scared to ask, but had no one to ask anyway? Never fear, the fungi man Geoff Lay is here.

Fungi are little understood but they are everywhere. Geoff Lay will show us the different types of fungus and describe the major role they perform in the environment. The emphasis is on lots of photos and few words.

Find out about rings and veils, earthstars, stinkhorns and caterpillar murderers.

Geoff has been a keen bushwalker with a camera for over 40 years.

Here are a couple of photos to whet your appetite. One is a weed brought in to help the dreaded pine trees grow better; the other smells worse than rotting meat. Come along and find out which is which.



*Amanita muscaria*



*Aseroe rubra*

Geoff will also have some books on sale for \$30 and \$50 if you want to learn more. Visitors welcome.

**When:** 8 pm, Wednesday 27 May 2015

**Where:** In the clubrooms, 362 William Street, Melbourne (enter from William Street near the corner with A'Beckett Street)



Wine and cheese available.



## 21-23 JULY: MID-WINTER LODGE – WARBURTON (XMAS IN JULY)

Susan Maughan is taking bookings for a mid-winter lodge. Arrive Tuesday 21 July. 'Christmas' dinner that evening. Walk it off next day along the Warburton Trail. Lazy departure on Thursday / option to do a half day walk.

(Costs to be advised closer to the time as this is dependent on numbers.)

[www.wattletreecottage.com.au/](http://www.wattletreecottage.com.au/)

## EQUIPMENT NEWS

### Goodbye to an old friend

Bushwalking equipment can be a delight to use or a source of constant irritation. The Golite Jam 2 pack was one of the former. It was a cheap 50 L pack weighing under 600 g yet comfortable to carry and strong enough for all manner of tough off-track activities. There was also the larger 65 L Pinnacle that weighed around 750 g. It was suitable for longer trips carrying loads well above its rated capacity, but not without some discomfort. Unfortunately both these packs gained weight over the years, lost their trim shape and finally vanished from the market last year when Golite went bankrupt.

### New pack for hire

Looking around for an alternative to the now defunct Golite packs has been frustrating. The really light bags just don't seem to nail our needs as well as the old Golites did. I couldn't bring myself to try any, but that's not to say they're not worth a closer look. However, if you are prepared to carry more weight the 1150–1100g Exped Lightning 60, available from Bogong for \$290 (less with club discount), is hard to beat. It combines the tough minimalistic design of the Golites with a widely praised suspension system claimed to comfortably carry up to 24 kg. This is exceptional for light weight packs which seldom exceed 13–14 kg. I have carried 16 kg in it with absolutely no shoulder strain. This makes it ideal for longer trips, while still being small and light enough for weekend use. It could be your only pack or paired with an ultralight kept for short trips, and would even accommodate those in the process shedding unnecessary weight or starting off with cheap gear. It's the sort of pack that should be mainstream! My main reservation is the height – it finishes above the shoulders of those with short backs. It would have been nice if the top could have been rolled down to near shoulder level when loads permitted, but this is a small compromise compared with those of its main local rival, the Osprey Exos 58. It is heavier and less durable, with a smaller volume and a much lower comfortable carrying capacity. It features extra pockets but they add weight and little in the way of functionality.

On the strength of all this, the Club has just acquired a women's model Exped Lightning 60 to hire out. It has shorter shoulder straps and hip belt wings than the male model but other sexes could still give it a try. There are lots of things to adjust on this pack so it pays to spend some time getting it right. Start with the hip belt, then back length, shoulder straps, frame and finally load adjusters. Feel free to bend the frame as much as you like (we have replaced the original with a more bendable aluminium strip). If you would like any assistance don't hesitate to give me a call.

*John Fritze, Equipment Officer*

## PICTURES FROM THE ROUTEBURN–GREENSTONE–CAPLES (NZ) WALK



Day 5 continued the fine weather as we set out from Greenstone Hut.



A remnant of Middle Earth?

### A GREAT SUMMER WALK IN NEW ZEALAND: THE ROUTEBURN–GREENSTONE–CAPLES TRACKS COMBINED



As we climbed higher there were great views down to the Routeburn Flats and adjacent valleys.

Having run the gauntlet of the New Zealand customs officials at the airport on arrival, in the process sacrificing some dehydrated peas, eleven Melbourne Bushwalkers made it to the safety of the Queenstown Lakefront YHA. After a day to stock up on provisions, sort out our packs, and have a brisk training walk up and down the Queenstown Hill (for the keen ones), we were up bright and early the next morning to catch the bus to the start of the Routeburn Track via Glenorchy. Grey clouds and increasing drizzle couldn't dampen our enthusiasm: we pulled on our wet weather gear, submitted to our leader's pack weighing ritual, and set off along the track through ferns and mossy forest.

The Routeburn is a 32 km designated Great Walk that hikers can complete comfortably in three days. Our leader, Ian, planned for us to add on the adjoining Greenstone and Caples Valley loop, making our total distance

approximately 96 km over six days, with a short walk out to the Routeburn Shelter at The Divide on the seventh day. Being a popular and accessible walking destination for both independent and guided walkers, the tracks are well graded and maintained with about 3000 metres of vertical climbing over the distance.

Our first night was spent at Routeburn Falls Hut after a heavy breathing climb up from the valley with our full packs. As we explored the falls that afternoon clouds still shrouded the surrounding peaks, but the next morning as we emerged from our bunks we were greeted with clear views and blue sky. The sun shone as we wound up the track past Lake Harris to Harris Saddle, and we had no excuses to avoid the side trip up Conical Hill, described as a 'short, steep climb' in the notes. Some of us questioned the use of the word 'short' as we scrambled up, but the reward at the top was magnificent views across the Hollyford Valley to the snow-capped Darran Range. These views continued as we walked on along the track towards Lake McKenzie Hut where we spent our second night.

With only cold water taps on offer for washing at the hut, some sweaty hikers braved the pristine, and extremely cold, waters of the lake for a swim. This could be described as a spiritual experience as a higher being was called upon between breathless gasps of air!

The next day we walked on through moss and lichen-encrusted trees to bypass Lake Howden Hut, the last hut on the Routeburn Track, and continue on to McKellar Hut on the Greenstone River. The Greenstone–Caples Tracks are not Great Walks and bunks cannot be booked in advance; however we didn't have any trouble securing beds for the night. Other campers who arrived later than us sometimes chose to camp outside in tents, although this might have been a strategy to escape the company of snorers in the bunkrooms!

Our route over the next few days took us through beech forest that opened out to green valleys with mountains framing either side. We found green-hood orchids nodding beside the track, crossed bridges over rocky gorges where the river tumbled far below us, and passed turquoise pools of clear water that offered swimming perfection if not for the voracious sandflies.

Finally we marched up and over McKellar Saddle as clouds again covered the sky, but we reached Lake Howden Hut for our last night on the track before the rain did. In the morning we donned our rain gear again for the walk out and the bus ride to Te Anau where hot showers and soft beds awaited us at the YHA, and a wondrous array of foods and beverages abounded in the town. That evening we clinked our glasses to Ian's meticulous organisation of the walk and his obvious high standing with the weather gods for all those sunny days. Thanks also for the company of Halina (our trusty whip), Susan, Helen, Rosemary, Carol, Jeanette, Jonathan, Richard and Mark. Next the Kepler!

*Deb Shand*

### KEPLER TRACK



The Kepler Track is one of New Zealand's Great Walks and is a 4-day loop that starts a few kilometres west of Te Anau in the Fiordland National Park. Our day started early (well early for me) with a drop off from the local hiker bus at the weir gate on a sunny Tuesday morning. The track from the gatehouse on the weir follows the southern end of Lake Te Anau to Brod Bay. At Brod Bay we had morning tea at the beach camp ground which provided an opportunity to wander around on the lake beach to stretch the legs before settling back into the trekking routine and starting the ascent to the Luxmore Hut.

After Brod Bay the track slowly winds its way up toward Mount Luxmore and, after some steep climbing, passes under a set of extensive limestone cliffs. We had viewed these cliffs the day before as part of a lake cruise that took us across Lake Te Anau to the South Fiord. From the boat it was also possible to glimpse an open grass plain which was pointed out as destination for our first day's walk, some 700+ metres above us. The walk under the cliffs took us to a set of stairs that certainly made the process of scaling these cliffs an easier proposition than rock scrambling. The steps had an added effect that when various walkers' walking poles struck against the metal steps it created a sound like the ringing of church bells.

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## Willis's Walkabouts

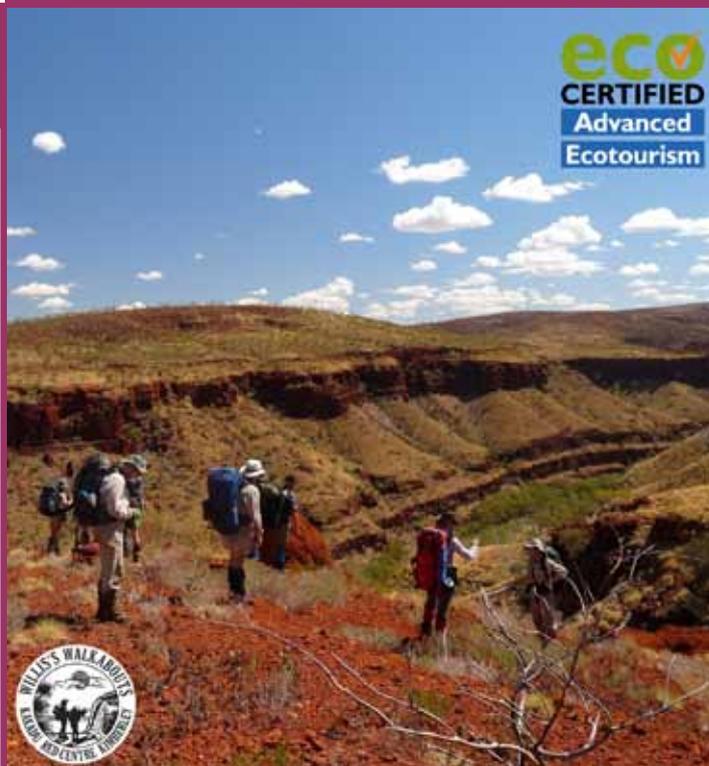
### Karijini National Park

A 2½ hour flight and bus from Perth brings you to Tom Price, gateway to Karijini National Park, the second largest (6724 sq km) in WA. On our Karijini trips, you will enjoy

- **A wonderful variety of landscapes:** rivers, gorges and cliff top views that non-walkers will never see.
- **Beautiful pools and campsites** you share with no one but your walking companions.
- **Day walks.** While you need to carry full packs on most days, there are normally four or five days where you only need a day pack.
- **We offer two trips: April and June.** Enjoy the swims in April or join us in June and enjoy the cooler weather.
- **See our Karijini page** for more info. click on any photo to see a larger version.

[www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au/karijini\\_np\\_apr.shtml](http://www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au/karijini_np_apr.shtml)

**Special Offer.** The first **two** people who quote this ad when they book either trip can take \$800 off the list price. New price \$2195. No other discounts apply with this offer.



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

## Along the Track

### KEPLER TRACK *(continued from page 9)*

We stopped for lunch just short of the break in the tree line to rest and appreciate shade from a strong midday sun, and take in some energy before the final push to the hut. Once we had moved out past the tree line, and out into the open alpine grasslands, the gradient of the slope eased off and we were rewarded with magnificent views to South Fiord, Hidden Lake and Lake Te Anau.

The Luxmore Hut sits just above the tree line with a fabulous outlook across the South Fiord of Lake Te Anau as well as across to the wilderness areas of the Murchison Mountains to the north. This well-appointed hut is used as a ski lodge during the winter months and includes a huge kitchen area and two large north-facing sun decks for après activity relaxation. The decks had attracted a group of kea birds that showed a great interest in interacting with the occupants of the hut. These large strong birds have legs that look like scaly dinosaur legs and a solid beak that screams 'beware'. One kea showed intimate interest in Halina's hair and day pack, much to Halina's displeasure. This was also not a place to leave your boots outside unattended, as it could be a long walk home in one boot.

Near Luxmore Hut are a set of limestone caves that are open for general entry. Never to miss a side trip, the group set off to investigate these caves. While the entrance was high enough to walk through, it soon contracts down, forcing budding cavers into the need for crawling, rock hopping, sliding, and body-contorting to squeeze a descent through the cave. Navigating down 100 metres or so of the main cave system, a large cavern is reached that contained a photographic feast of interesting stalactites and stalagmites, and eerie darkness. This is not a place to have your torch give out.

For any hiker this would be more than enough, but the New Zealand landmass also put on its own unique display of power and presence with a 5.7 earthquake just after midnight that rattled at least half of us awake. The other half that missed this quintessential Kiwi experience must have been made impervious to disturbance by the communal snoring.

We woke to the second day of the walk to overcast weather, which was a disappointment for those who rose early in an attempt to catch the sunrise. Our first milestone for the day's walk was Mount Luxmore, a further 600 metre ascent. With cooler temperatures and a morning mist, the climb to Mt Luxmore was reasonably easy going. The clouds broke occasionally to provide views down to South Fiord below, and majestic scenes of keas flying across the open mountain grasslands. While there was no miraculous parting of the clouds at the top of Mt Luxmore for the promised great vistas, the group ensured that there was adequate photographic evidence of the attainment of highest point on the Kepler Track.

The track after this point clung to the top of a steeply sided ridge that was cut by glaciers. The drop on each side of the track often felt to be near vertical with the ridge that at times trimmed down to a few metres wide. The ridge was such a dividing line that as the morning drew on, and the clouds cleared to the north, it provided us with a mystical view of clouds sweeping up on the south face and then vaporising as they met with the warmed air on the other side of the ridge line.

Ian called lunch on top of a hill on a short side track from the main path, and we nestled into the grass tussocks and rocks for some weather protection. During the lunch break there was a slow dissolving of the clouds below and we were again able to appreciate views to the South Fiord and Murchison Mountains. This regal view was pleasant accompaniment to the enjoyment of one's crackers and cheese lunch.

The next major point on the track was the Hanging Valley shelter. From this point the path slowly descends along a ridge that juts out towards Iris Burn to the south. The descent continued to steepen as we moved further along this narrow ridge, with many sections having blocks of steps installed. Looking back at the end of the stairway section, and the way that they hugged the top of the ridge, it seemed to mimic a mini Great Wall of China.

Before our zig-zag descent down to the Iris Burn Hut, we made a quick trip to the knob at the end of the ridge and tried to spot the hut 900 metres below, with no real success. The trip down the



*(continued on page 11)*

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## Along the Track

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### KEPLER TRACK *(continued from page 10)*

zig-zag path was testing on the legs and many started to run down the hill, causing much amusement and/or annoyance to other travellers on the trail as we rocketed past.

After a weary day on the feet, some of us took in a short walk to the local Iris Burn falls, 20 minutes or so from the hut. Perhaps not the most exciting of New Zealand waterfalls to view, but it did provide an opportunity to cool the feet in the icy river and chill out after a big day. The general opinion of this day's walk was that it had been one of the most spectacular and enjoyable walk days in most of the group's experience, and was firmly placed on the 'to do again' list.

The next day the track followed the Iris Burn down to Lake Manapour. The ranger at the Iris Burn hut, Robbie, had provided us with some insight into the features of the track for the day, and we enjoyed a day of mossy forests and fern gullies while hunting out the various orchids and birds that Robbie had mentioned. It was a gentle day on the legs and knees in comparison to the rise and fall encountered on the previous day, with quite a few stops called for macro photography on the black orchids and green hooded orchids found along the way.

On reaching the lake where we were able to watch a clutch of ducks and a cormorant, while taking in the vista across the lake to Moturau Hut, our destination for the day. After a short walk to the hut we had an afternoon of free time to search the lake beach; sip cups of tea; absorb the fresh reading material of the hut's extensive library; swat the occasional sand fly; and brave the cold water and take a plunge into the lake itself.

Again we were entertained by a rich presentation by the hut ranger on the local environment (a bit of a feature of this walk). One of the strangest tales was the migration habits of the local longfin eel population. The story is that the breeding age of male eels is up to 50 years old, while the female is 80 years old. While this is interesting in itself, the eels pair up for a migration to their breeding ground in Tonga some 3000 kilometres away. A great place for a honeymoon but it seems it takes a long time to save up the fare. Just to make it more difficult for the eels, their natural path between their home lake and the ocean had been blocked off by a power station. So the energy company employs someone to capture the eels and release them in an alternative river for access to the sea and on to Tonga. It wasn't until later than it dawned on me that I had been floating around in the lake with some potential very frustrated eels that afternoon.

Our last day was a walk back to the weir gatehouse to complete the loop. This was another day of fabulous ferny forest with an undulating path under a tall tree canopy. The path had a nice soft mattress spongy feel, gentle on the knees and soles of the feet, which was a relaxing change from the hard rock surface of the path encountered on the second day.

With lighter packs and increasing walking pace the walk was fast coming to an end and an early lunch break was called. Lunch provided a quiet moment to just sit on logs and crunch down on any remaining crackers, cheese and sundry leftovers, take in the view of the wide Waiua River; and let out an arrrrh on the closing of the fabulous hike.

After lunch we made a brief stop at the Rainbow Reach bridge, before ending back at our starting point at the weir gatehouse carpark well ahead of the scheduled time for the bus. With a quick straw poll it was decided that it would be quicker to continue to walk back to Te Anau than wait for the bus. This approach would leave more time for showers, a chance for a bite of some fresh food, and a couple of quick pints of beer before the bus trip back to Queenstown. It didn't take much convincing that this was the best thing to do.

A big thank you to my fellow walkers: Deb Shand, Carol Ward, Rosemary Martyn, Susan Mcinnes, Helen Geddes, Deborah Bishop, Quentin Tibballs, David Walsh, Ray Spooner, Janette Burnett, and Mark Simpson for making this a fun trip. And an especially big thank you to Ian Mair and Halina Sarbinowski for organising the trip and providing the leadership and guidance to allow us to have a fantastic trip.

*John Backhouse*

### **APOLOGY**

Last month I attributed the report on Bob Oxlade's Port Fairy base camp to Androula Demetrios. The article was written by Deborah Bishop.

Sorry, Deborah and Androula.

*Merilyn – News Editor*

### SNOWY BLUFF



Our idyllic campsite on the Moroka River

Friday Afternoon most of us got to the campsite Currawong No 4 on the Wellington River. After a good night's sleep we were keen to get going, so it was into the cars and off to Neilson Crag's car park for a half day walk. On the way we stopped at a lookout to see the local peaks with the morning mist filling up the valleys. We got to the Doolans Plain Road, which was OK until it became narrow with small saplings over it, but we pushed on then we came across a bigger sapling we could not drive over, so with some people power and huffing and puffing we slid it in to the bush.

The walk was along a rocky ridge with some high points which we could not resist climbing. We got to Neilson Crag's for morning tea and we could see Snowy Bluff where we would be going later in weekend. We retraced our steps to the cars and back to the Moroka River Track.

There was a 7.5 km 1000-metre descent walk to our campsite and base for the next two days at the Moroka River. The track in places was extremely steep, was hard on the knees with loose sandy gravel. It was more like an ice skating rink than a track. We had a choice of grassy or sandy campsites on a bend of the river.

In the morning 13 of the 15 walkers climbed Snowy Bluff which was mostly off track. Lunch was near the summit where the views were superb, onto Snowy Bluff then to the east summit which was very rocky and clear of trees, so we had great views to the north of the Moroka River and beyond. We headed back to camp for a refreshing swim and well-deserved dinner.

In the morning it was back up to the cars and morning tea. About half the group headed home and the others drove on to McFarlane Saddle for a walk to Trapyard Hill, which was a good spot to have lunch and where you had a great over view of the whole area.

Then there were four left for Jopie's exploration of Shaws Creek on the Tuesday. That night we stayed at a car camping site on Bennison Plain. In the morning we drove to a spot near Shaws Creek to start the walk downstream on the side of the creek. The challenge was to keep your feet dry, with a lot of rock-hopping and six waterfalls, some of which we could go down and others which were too steep so it was up into the bush to make our way around them. After three km it flattened out and we headed up a spur on to a track back to the cars.

I hear a comment: you always get your money's worth on Jopie's trips. Well this was no exception. Thanks for a full and entertaining long weekend and thanks to the walkers, Leader Jopie Bodegraven, Jenny Flood, Graeme Robinson, Sylvia MacLean, Caroline Reynolds-Chesney, John Fritze, Derrick Brown, Trish Elmore, Ken MacMahon, Philip Brown, Sue Ralston, Sandra Martig, Agajan Akbari, Heath Allison.

*Philip Brown*



The first major waterfall on Shaws Creek

### SNAKE ISLAND FEBRUARY 27TH – MARCH 1ST



The inland route was filled with surprises as we passed across different types of vegetation.

offered hard walking with packs on the sandy ground underfoot. However, the benefit of having huts to sleep, all facilities and an extensive veranda to enjoy drinks on, views of grazing deer and kangaroos as well as a campfire to end the evening, helped us recover very quickly.

The twenty of us included Susan, Judith, Stephanie, Njery, Halina, Ian, Wendy, Jill, Pauline, Sue, Ruth, Yarra, Steve, Cathy, Jane, Ken, Deb, Susanne, with 5 visitors, Leonie, Meredith, Sue R, Jane and Ruth, who all signed up for membership before leaving the boat!

Ventured off on the high seas and then herded off in the dinghy five at a time to wade ashore with strict instructions 'NOT TO BRING SAND BACK ONTO THE BOAT' on our return trip by our hardy captain Whynn. A difficult task when it's an island and though we all did our utmost to comply, one rogue passenger, Steve, smuggled a handful in his pocket. Shame he wasn't caught so we could witness someone walking the plank!

The weekend provided many memorable highlights for the twenty which include: for Halina, the diversity of the fauna within each section we hiked; Jane and Ian the shared nibbles we devoured during the Saturday night feast with the thunderstorm conveniently occurring during the night, while we tucked in warmly under a tin roof, Susanne, the camaraderie of the group, Deb and Meredith, the cooling off and removing the dust with a swim before dinner, Wendy, the well decked out cattlemen's huts with all facilities, Ken and Ian, finding the misfortune of others helplessly stuck in the mud, dangerously sinking with no way of dislodging themselves

an opportunity for photo taking, before they rescued the victims, Stephanie, the fact she didn't have to wear two left feet and lastly for Jerry who was beside herself for losing her sunglasses only to have to query, 'Were they the ones on her nose?' My highlight was the sighting of three huge copperheads which supported the naming of the island and the sweating in the gaiters all worthwhile.

We want to thank the resilience of Susan Maughan with her navigational skills spending the weekend having to continuously modify all her well laid plans to ensure we finally were picked up from Snake Island. She is definitely a 5-star ambassador for the Melbourne Bushies. Oh what tales to tell on our next trip on the high seas with Susan!

*Angela Vetsicas*

Where is it you ask? Well this was the exact question which prompted a number of us to sign up for this introductory pack carry weekend led by Susan Maughan. The twenty participants, made up of an international delegation of hikers – Kenyan, French, Irish, Zimbabwean, Canadian, American etc., set off to satisfy their curiosity for this little known location but a favourite with Susan. This island is used by cattlemen to graze their cattle during the summer months and the only two cows which ran across our path confirmed that they were there.

Only 2.5 hours away from Melbourne, Snake Island, accessed by boat from Port Albert, offered a surprising variety of vegetation, with thriving huge banksias, tea trees and opportunities to stretch our legs. The 14 km Lighthouse Point and Gulf tracks



Sorry, Angela, I couldn't resist this one

*Merilyn*

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.



**SUNDAY BUS**

STARLING GAP – ADA TREE

**DATE** Sunday 12 April 2015  
**STANDARDS** Easy and Easy/Medium  
**LEADERS** Theo Mertzandis and Cathy Merrick  
**TRANSPORT** Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Yarra Glen

This walk is along well-formed, gently undulating foot track. There is plenty of shade. We will pass through remnants of old eucalyptus trees as well through a rainforest. There are well-shaded fern gullies and some of the largest trees in Victoria including – you guessed – the Ada Tree. This area used to be a logging area so we will see remnants of this bygone era, including tramway alignments, an impressive log bridge and left-over machinery.

Hope to see you on this walk which has lots of history, a rich biodiversity and which is located south-east of Warbuton.



**TRACK MAINTENANCE**

THE GRAMPIANS

**DATE** 1–3 May 2015  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**LEADER** Mark Heath  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Halls Gap  
**MAP REFERENCE** 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.

Ian and Deb's photos give a great sense of 2013's activities – [http://mbw.org.au/zenphoto/2013/conservation/2013050401\\_Grampians\\_Track\\_Maintenance/](http://mbw.org.au/zenphoto/2013/conservation/2013050401_Grampians_Track_Maintenance/)

On Sunday we be doing a walk in the Eastern Grampians – suggestions are welcome.



**LODGE BASE CAMP**

GRAMPIANS (HALL'S GAP) LODGE WEEKEND

**DATE** 1-3 May 2015  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCE** 20–30 km  
**LEADER** Del Franks  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Grampians (Hall's Gap)  
**MAP REFERENCE** Central Grampians  
**TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON)** about \$60

We will stay at the YHA Eco-Lodge at Hall's Gap which has excellent facilities for a social/walking weekend. Accommodation costs per person per night will be about \$32.00 (4 person dorm) or \$90.00 (twin/double share).

The walks will be in the Hall's Gap area and will depend on the weather. Possible walks include the Wonderland Loop, Mt Rosea, McKenzie Falls to Zumstein.

Even if you have walked in the area before, late autumn is a wonderful time of year and a great experience. So hopefully you will join me in experiencing the magic of the area on this weekend.

If you are interested in doing this weekend please contact me early, so I can plan the weekend and the accommodation.



**SUNDAY BUS**

COLIBAN AQUEDUCT

**DATE** Sunday 3 May 2015  
**STANDARDS** Easy and Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCES** 13 km and 16 km  
**ELEVATION** Mostly flat with a few short hills  
**LEADERS** Halina Sarbinowski and Tracey Jamieson  
**TRANSPORT** Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45am  
**AREA** 100 km NW Melbourne, south of Castlemaine  
**MAP REFERENCE** Vicmap number 17723-1-3-1 Taradale  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** North Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Bendigo

The Coliban Aqueduct, first opened in 1877 as a water supply system delivering water to Castlemaine and Bendigo, remains unchanged after almost 140 years. The stone and brick work is of a very high standard and has stood the test of time. Our walks mainly follow the Coliban water channel to just west

of the small town of Taradale. This aqueduct system is still functioning and part of the charm of this walk is the WOW factor that this aqueduct was built without the machinery that is available now. This aqueduct was made with the blood, sweat and tears of workers over 100 years ago.

The easy walk is mainly flat while the easy/medium walk will include some hills while it deviates off-track away from the aqueduct. Both walks travel through sections of tall trees that will provide shade while other sections are though open areas with views over nearby farmland.

This is a lovely walk that not only travels through the open forest that the region north west of Melbourne is renowned for and a joy to walk through, but includes remnants of our history ... a history that reminds us of our hardy ancestors.



### TOFS WALK

#### CHURCHILL PARK

**DATE** Thursday 7 May 2015  
**RETURN TIME** 3:00 p.m.  
**STANDARD** Easy /Medium  
**DISTANCE** 10 km  
**ELEVATION** 224 metres  
**LEADER** Pam Rosso  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Churchill National Park, Endeavour Hills  
**MAP REFERENCE** Melway 82  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT**  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE**

We will meet at 10:15 a.m. to commence walking at 10:30 a.m. at the picnic shelter, Melways Map 82 C10. This is quite a hilly area and no matter which direction we take there will be some steep climbs. Therefore I have graded the walk Easy/Medium. However they are not long climbs and we can take our time.

Contact the leader to book.



### SUNDAY CAR POOL

#### TARILTA CREEK

**DATE** Sunday 10 May 2015  
**RETURN TIME** 6:30 pm  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCE** 14 km  
**ELEVATION** 470 m  
**LEADER** Ron Hampton  
**TRANSPORT** Car: leaving from the clubrooms at 8:30 am  
**AREA** Upper Loddon State forest  
**MAP REFERENCE** Guilford 1:25,000  
**TRANSP. COST** \$13

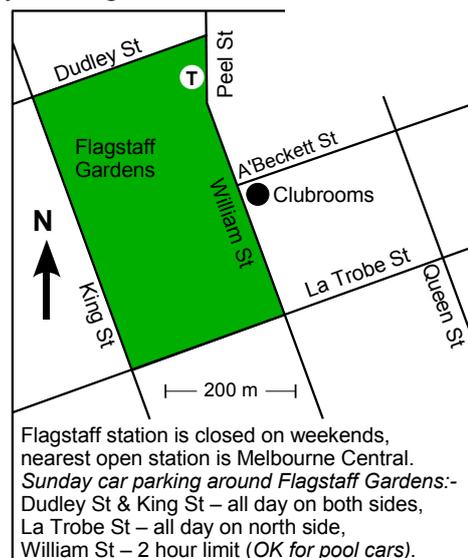
This walk is in the Upper Loddon State Forest about 30 minutes drive north of Hepburn Springs and is a delightful combination of off-track walking and a section of the Great Dividing Trail.

The walk will take us over undulating terrain through ironbark forests and down to the pleasant grassy flats and stands of manna gums and candlebark along the banks of Tarilta Creek. The creek will need to be criss-crossed several times but this can be done without difficulty. There are some areas of scrub to negotiate and some rocky terrain so walkers are advised to bring good footwear and protection for arms and legs.

**Please note the earlier departure time of 8:30 am leaving from outside the clubrooms in William Street.**

### 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.



### WEDNESDAY WALK

#### MAROONDAH DAM AND DONNELLYS WEIR

**DATE** Wednesday 13 May 2015  
**RETURN TIME** 3 pm  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCE** 13 km  
**ELEVATION** Some hills  
**LEADER** Debra Berner  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Healesville  
**MAP REFERENCE** Melways 270, Vic. Map Juliet South

Meet at 10:15 am for 10:30 start. Main car park at Maroondah Reservoir below Ranger's Office. Toilets nearby. Ref. Melways 270 J5.

Join me for a scenic walk to Donnelly's Weir within the Yarra Ranges National Park. Mainly flat with some steep short hills.

Book with leader.

Afternoon tea an option after the walk within park.



### CYCLING

#### GREENSBOROUGH TO FAIRFIELD VIA GRANITE HILLS

**DATE** Saturday 16 May 2015  
**RETURN TIME** About 4 pm Fairfield  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCE** 50-55km – at a guess!

**LEADER** Graeme Thornton  
**TRANSPORT** Train, bike or private  
**AREA** NE suburban Melbourne  
**MAP REFERENCE** Melway 20, 10, 183, 182, 9, 19, 31, 30

We will meander along three creeks and one river on this ride. Starting from the Poulter Ave exit at Greensborough railway station (Melway 20 K2) it's first along the Plenty River, up through Janefield (aka University Hill on sales brochures) then along to South Morang. From there it's around the suburban fringes of the Granite Hills. At about morning tea time there will be an optional short walk up to Clancy's and Nikki's Old East Lookout for a 240° view.

Then down to the start of Hendersons Road Drain (really a creek) which is followed most of the way back to join Darebin Creek. We pedal up Darebin, peel off up Findon Creek, loop across to Darebin Creek again and cycle back down the opposite side. There are a few remnant old river gums along Findon, reminiscent of a miniature version of Malcolm Creek on Ross's Craigieburn ride. Darebin Creek is followed back to Darebin Park and we finish at Fairfield railway station.

The ride is mostly on shared paths, some quietish streets and a short section of on-road bike lane near South Morang station. There are sections of gravel and dirt along HRD and North Darebin Creek. We also have to cross over some East-West roads, some more than once. The grades are mostly fairly gentle – except on leaving the Plenty and up to the lookout, but neither is very long. The current timetable shows an Eltham train (Hurstbridge line) leaving Flinders St platform 1 at 8:59 am, arriving Greensborough at 9:45. We'll set off after that train arrives. Please phone to let me know if you are coming.



## PACK CARRY

### LERDERDERG GORGE BEGINNERS WEEKEND

**DATE** 16–17 May 2015  
**RETURN TIME** 7 pm  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCE** 10 km with packs, 12 km side trips  
**LEADER** Jopie Bodegraven  
**MAP REFERENCE** Meridian 1:35,000 Lerderderg and Werribee Gorges  
**TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON)** 10c/km

Don't be put off by the medium bit. The pack carry part is only 10 km over 2 days, all on track except for 2 km along the river. The medium bit refers to the side trips because much of that is off track along rivers and creeks or fairly open spurs and ridges. The weekend is ideal for anyone new to pack carries but old hands are most welcome to come and share their knowledge and join in the fun.

Saturday we walk 4 km on track, steepish in parts, down to the Lerderderg River and then along it for half a km to our campsite. After making camp, we will do a 5½ km side trip circuit walk with day packs up Clearwater Creek and down a spur back to camp. We should be able to have a cheery campfire tonight. Sunday we pack up, walk downstream 1½ km and leave our packs while we do another side trip with day packs, this one 6 km down the river, up the Old River, past a waterfall, up a fairly steep spur and down a track back to our packs. Then the finale, a 4 km climb of about 360 metres, quite steep at first but on a track, back to the cars to finish with afternoon tea at a nice coffee shop in Bacchus Marsh.

We do have some packs, sleeping mats and tents available for hire from the club. I will be in the clubrooms on the Wednesday night before the walk to answer any questions and organise any equipment hire needed. There will hopefully

be water in the river which we can boil or filter but we may need to carry some drinking water down to camp, thankfully downhill. I'll know more on this just before the trip.

So come along for a fun weekend, a fun campfire, look at other people's gear and enjoy a lovely relatively easy walk in a wild remote gorge close to Melbourne. I'll have some photocopy maps and we may have some navigation training too.

To book ring me but please note I will be out of Melbourne from 12 April to about 5 May.



## CONSERVATION

### NEST BOX CHECKING FOR THREATENED SPECIES

**DATE** 16–17 May 2015  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**LEADER** Ray Thomas  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Benalla

The Regent Honeyeater Project has 400 boxes in place, with squirrel gliders and sugar gliders nesting in about two-thirds of them. Regular checking helps to discover the preferred habitats in different seasons, the breeding success of particular colonies, barriers to wildlife movement across the landscape, and strategic new areas to place more boxes.

Do come and join us in checking the boxes. It's the perfect opportunity to see these beautiful little animals up close, and the data collected helps to refine the habitat works. It's also a great way to meet new people, while having some fun together in the great outdoors.

We generally travel up to Benalla on Saturday morning, and accommodation is provided in the Scout Hall, or you can camp or stay in the caravan park or local motel. Another option is to come for a day if you can.

Full details at this site: <http://regenthoneyeater.org.au/index.php>



## SUNDAY BUS

### WOMBAT STATION – SAILORS FALLS – TWIN BRIDGE

**DATE** Sunday 17 May 2015  
**STANDARDS** Easy/Medium and Medium  
**DISTANCES** 16 km and 20 km  
**LEADERS** Deb Shand and Andrew Francis  
**TRANSPORT** 8:45 am Bus from Southbank Blvd  
**AREA** Creswick – Daylesford  
**MAP REFERENCE** Meridian 1:50,000 Wombat State Forest Touring Guide

These walks, in the goldfields country south of Daylesford, form the last leg of the Wallaby Track, which is part of the Great Dividing Trail.

Both walks follow the same route, with the Medium walk commencing 4 km prior to the Easy/Medium walk. The ratings of Medium and Easy/Medium are based on the length of the walks rather than any difficulty of the terrain. There are no major climbs. The walks go through the Wombat State Forest and Hepburn Regional Park visiting Wombat Station and Sailors Falls. On preview there were several sightings of kangaroos and wallabies and evidence of previous gold mining in the area.

These are lovely walks through bushland ending just outside Daylesford.



## MOFS WALK

HILLCLIMB TRACK – SHERBROOKE FALLS –  
SHERBROOKE FOREST

**DATE** Monday 18 May 2015  
**RETURN TIME** 2:30 pm  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** 10 km  
**ELEVATION** 150 m  
**LEADER** Graham Hodgson  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Dandenongs  
**MAP REFERENCE** Melway Maps 75 and 124

We will start the walk with a moderate climb through cool fern gullies until we reach Sherbrooke Falls which hopefully will have some water flowing down it. The rest of the walk is on undulating tracks in Sherbrooke Forest where hopefully we might see or hear lyrebirds. (Some sections of the tracks may be slippery if wet.)

This is a very typical Dandenongs walk with towering eucalypts, ferns and probably leeches!

Meet at 10:30 am in the carpark at the back of Micawber Tavern in Belgrave which is marked P on Melway Map 75F/G 7/8. Micawber Tavern is just past a plant nursery on the left about 1 km out of Belgrave.



## DANDENONGS EXPLORER

FERNY CREEK – DANDENONG RANGES NATIONAL PARK

**DATE** Saturday 23 May 2015  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCE** 14km  
**LEADER** Liz Gwynn  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**MAP REFERENCE** Melway Map 75 D1

A reasonable level of fitness is required for this walk.

We will meet at Ferny Creek Reserve in Clarkmont Road at 9:45 am to commence walking at 10:00 am.

The first part of the walk takes in the Tan and Loop Tracks surrounding Ferny Creek and then we move onto One Tree Hill Road which takes us to a picnic ground and then down the fairly steep Lyrebird Track to the heart of the busy Dandenong Ranges National Park for lunch.

After lunch the medium part of the walk takes hold when we ascend Belview Terrace which is a slow steady incline, and then onto Mount Erin Road finishing with the Alpine Track back to Ferny Creek Reserve.

Coffee at the end of the walk at The Piggery Café or a short drive to Sassafras.

Please ring Liz by Thursday evening if you are coming on the walk.



## SUNDAY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

ALTONA – WESTGATE PUNT – PORT MELBOURNE

**DATE** Sunday 24 May 2015  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium  
**RETURN TIME** 5 pm to the city

**DISTANCE** 16 km  
**ELEVATION** None!  
**LEADER** Mark Heath  
**TRANSPORT** 9:07 am Werribee Train from Flinders St Melbourne  
**MAP REFERENCE** Melways 42, 54, 55 and 56  
**TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON)** \$6 (Myki ) plus \$5 for the punt

We will meet at 8:55 am on the east end of the platform at Flinders Street from which the 9:07 Werribee train departs. The train arrives at Altona at 9:25 am.

This pleasant coastal walk includes some of my favourite places in Melbourne. From village-like Altona we head past Seaholme to Kororoit Creek, with its mangroves and small fishermen's huts. Further along there is a small rocky boat harbour and the hidden treasures of Williamstown. After coffee in Williamstown we walk along the lower reaches of the Yarra to the Westgate Punt. After crossing to Fishermen's Bend we head past Garden City to Port Melbourne and a tram back to the CBD.

The Westgate Punt costs \$5 one way.

The walk is on formed paths so cushioned footwear might be best.



## WEDNESDAY WALK

YOU YANGS

**DATE** Wednesday 27 May 2015  
**RETURN TIME** 3:30 pm  
**STANDARD** Easy Medium  
**DISTANCE** 13 km  
**ELEVATION** 420 m  
**LEADER** Ed Neff  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Little River/You Yangs  
**MAP REFERENCE** Melway Page 11

We will meet at 10:15am at the Turntable Car Park. Travel on the Geelong Road, take the Little River exit and follow the signs to the You Yangs. From the park entrance, off Branch Road, drive up Turntable Drive past the You Yangs Park Information Centre and follow the sign for Flinders Peak Road to the Turntable Car Park where there are toilets.

The walk commences with a short climb up Flinders Peak to obtain spectacular views of the surrounding countryside. We then walk along the West track which skirts the Peak. Good views are enjoyed at an observation platform, including Barwon Prison and the adjoining Marngoneet Correctional Centre near Lara. We return to the Turntable via East track. East Track also enjoys some great views, including the Bunjil Geoglyph which we visit on the next loop.

Branding Yard Trail walked anticlockwise is an easy and very enjoyable 5 km loop which takes in an inspection of the Geoglyph. The Bunjil Geoglyph was constructed by the Australian artist Andrew Rogers in recognition of the indigenous people of the area. It depicts Bunjil, a mythical creature to the local Wautharong Aborigines. The creature has a wing span of 100 metres, and 1500 tonnes of rock was used to construct it and it was unveiled in March 2006.



**SOCIAL WALK**

BEACON COVE, WHITE RESERVE

**DATE** Thursday 28 May 2015  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** 5 km  
**ELEVATION** Flat  
**LEADER** Jean Giese  
**TRANSPORT** Public Transport  
**AREA** Port Melbourne  
**MAP REFERENCE** Melway 56

The plan is to travel to the start of this walk by tram. I will catch the 109 Port Melbourne tram leaving Box Hill at 9:14. Its route is Whitehorse Rd, Kew Junction, High St, Victoria St, McArthur St, Collins St, Spencer St (becomes Clarendon St) before turning SW into the old train reserve, arriving at old Port Melbourne Railway Station at 10:30. If train is easier, you could pick up our tram opposite Southern Cross Station (cnr. Collins St and Spencer St) at about 10:10, or meet at the Port Railway Station Melway 2JA6.

Our walk will take us around Beacon Cove and Sandridge Beach to White Reserve and on beside the Bay at the back of Webb Dock East, where we may disturb a hopeful angler or two. Lunch to follow before boarding the tram which departs every 8 minutes.



**SUNDAY BUS**

MT ALEXANDER

**DATE** Sunday 31 May 2015  
**STANDARDS** Easy and Easy/Medium  
**LEADERS** Judith Shaw and Michael Murray  
**TRANSPORT** Bus - Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am

For details of this walk please see next month's News.

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST SOUGHT  
 BASE CAMP – FLINDERS ISLAND  
 FRIDAY 2ND OCTOBER TO FRIDAY 9TH OCTOBER**

I am planning a trip to Flinders Island on the above dates. As the weather can be somewhat inclement I am organising cabin accommodation; these are self-contained. I will also organise transport around the island, probably cars for flexibility rather than minibus. The accommodation is just outside Whitemark and is thus fairly central. There will be a cabin for four (2 bedrooms), one for 6 (2 bedrooms) and two one bedroom.



There are a lot of walks on the island as well as birdwatching, swimming (for the hardy!) or whatever. As the cabins are self-contained, people can cook individually or in a group. There is an outside BBQ available. I would anticipate eating out a couple of times. Weight will be limited on the plane so we will have to buy up food when we get there. There is a good supermarket in Whitemark.

**COSTS**

Flight over will be around \$500 return. I will be checking out chartering planes to see if it would be much cheaper.

Accommodation will be in the order of \$45 per person, i.e. \$245 for the week.

Car hire about \$12 per person per day, i.e. \$84 for the week.

Numbers will be limited to 14 people (depending on the flights available).

Let me know early if you would like to come so that I can confirm bookings. Deposits will be required.

*Doug Pocock*



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!

May 2015				
1-3	MNT: Grampians track maintenance	Pvt	E/M	Mark Heath
1-3	LOD: Lodge: Grampians	Pvt	var	Del Franks
Sun 3	DAY: Coliban Aqueduct	Bus	E & E/M	Halina Sarbinowski & Tracey Jamieson
Thu 7	TOF: Churchill Park	Pvt	Easy	Pam Rosso
Sun 10	DAY: Tarilta Creek (Alt Dep)	Car	E/M	Ron Hampton
Wed 13	DAY: Maroondah Dam & Donnellys Weir	Pvt	E/M	Deb Berner
16-17	PC: Beginners: Lerderderg Gorge	Pvt	E/M	Jopie Bodegraven
Sat 16	CYC: Greensborough to Fairfield via Granite Hills	Pvt	E/M	Graeme Thornton
16-17	CON: Nest Box Checking for Threatened Species	Pvt	Easy	Ray Thomas
Sun 17	DAY: Wombat Station-Sailors Falls-Twin Bridges	Bus	E/M & M	Deb Shand & Andrew Francis
Mon 18	MOF: Sherbrooke Forest, Falls & Hill Climb	Pvt	Easy	Graham Hodgson
Sat 23	DAY: Dandenongs Explorer	Pvt	E/M	Liz Gwynn
Sun 24	DAY: Altona to Port Melbourne (by Train)	Car	E/M	Mark Heath
Wed 27	DAY: You Yangs	Pvt	E/M	Ed Neff
Thu 28	SOC: Beacon Cove, White Reserve	Pvt	Easy	Jean Giese
Sun 31	DAY: Mt Alexander	Bus	E & E/M	Judith Shaw & Michael Murray

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