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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

February 2015

Please Note: Navigation Training has been changed to Saturday 21 February 2015

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18TH, IN THE CLUBROOMS

Come along, chat with friends, find out how your Club is going!

The Wine and Cheese is *free*.

More information in the March News.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER – FEBRUARY

There was no January Committee Meeting, with the Committee enjoying a well earned break.

In the January News we published the first version of our 'vision' and 'objective statements' for the Club over the next few years for comment and feedback. Last month I wrote about **Outdoor Activities** and in particular improving our extended activities programs.

This month I want to cover the Membership category. We have 3 broad objectives:

- **An active Membership of more than 500:** For the last 5 years it has been about 440. Prior to that it was around 470 for 2 years. It's much better to be in an active growing organisation than one that is shrinking as many bushwalking clubs are today. Growth helps keep the bus financials in surplus, brings in new people who want to do pack carries as well as day walks and helps with filling club positions over time.

One way of growing membership is to make it easier for new members to join and to record all visitors' details when they come into the Clubrooms. Another important way is to minimise the number of members who leave the club each year. We also need to encourage members to be more active. A growth of around 20 extra members per year would achieve the target in 3 years.

- **Attract and cater for young members:** Young members add a vitality to a Club and help ensure its future. This is not an easy area as there are many things for young people to do these days and giving up a whole day, let alone a weekend, is a major commitment. We are considering having extra specific activities for younger members and perhaps their own coordinator. Also we need to decide what 'younger' means!.
- **A diverse membership where everyone is made welcome and feels accepted:** We should be proud of the diversity we now have in the club, including an increasing spread of ages, nationalities and cultures. It's important that everyone feels welcome and is accepted on activities, and at socials.

(continued on page 3)

Due date for contributions (including April previews) to March News: 21 February

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

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 2 February 2015

ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS

Upcoming conservation activities to add to your calendar. Contribute to the wellbeing of our wild places and enjoy yourself in the outdoors at the same time. All welcome!

Friends of Bogong work party 21–22 March 2015

Working on the beautiful Bogong High Plains.
Leader: Rod Novak

Regent Honeyeater Nest Box Weekends

Come and meet Squirrel and Sugar Gliders in the Benalla area. Accommodation provided in scout hall if desired, otherwise tent, caravan park or local motel.

21–22 March

18–19 April – MBW club weekend,
contact Deb Shand for details/car pooling

16–17 May

Leader: Ray Thomas

WHISTLES – COMMUNICATING IN THE BUSH

An essential piece of equipment in the bush is the humble whistle. It is the best way to communicate between walkers.

- **3 blasts** indicate an **emergency** and all walkers should move to where the signal originated e.g. a missing person.
- **2 blasts** indicate a need to **regroup**, e.g. a person needs first aid, the group is too spread out.
- **1 blast** indicates **acknowledgement** and lets everyone know that a message has been heard and is being actioned.

If an acknowledgement whistle is not heard then it is important that a message is relayed (repeated) so that all walkers, especially the leader, are aware of either an emergency or the need to regroup.

It is essential that all walkers carry a whistle. Do you have one? You can buy one from the Club for only \$2.



Mick Noonan

Noticeboard

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

This is an area we have been working on for some time. In 2014 we started recording visitors' details and sending them the News, the Quarterly Program, and invitations to social activities. We have also been following up members who do not renew to find out why and encourage them to re-join. We have had good success with this in recent years.

A few interesting figures on membership:

- Women make up 57% of members and 73% of visitors
- In the last 5 years around 50 to 70 members have not renewed each year
- The average age of visitors is 14 years less than that of members, and most of those who join do so within 3–4 months.

The Annual General Meeting preparations are well underway. This year the Financial Report will be available just after the March meeting. It will be sent to members as a link and posted to those who request a printed copy – as well as handed out at the AGM. The other reports will be spread across the March and April News.

Reminders and information for this month:

- 1 **Navigation Training is on February 21st** for any member or leader – contact Roger Wyett. This is a great opportunity to learn to navigate or improve your skills in the outdoors.
- 2 Make it easier for Marilyn our News Editor by getting **your** News items in by the 21st of the month!
- 3 **If you do an activity preview tell us** by emailing ecs@mbw.org.au so you are covered if there is an accident for which you need to make a claim. Also don't forget to tell someone where you are going. Fill out and give them a Trip Intentions Form.
- 4 **Endangered species nest box weekends** are on Mar 21/22, Apr 18/19, and May 16/17. If you have never been on one of these weekends before then give it a try! Information is regularly published in the News.

January has been cooler than expected and has been great for walking. Make sure you take plenty of water, check the fire danger, and grab every good weather opportunity during summer and early autumn to get out walking and cycling.

Mick Noonan

THE CLUB'S PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE COVER

Insurance cover for bushwalking clubs such as ours is negotiated each year by Bushwalking Australia and affiliated state organisations such as Bushwalking Victoria.

We have 3 types of insurance: Public Liability, Associations Liability (for office holders, volunteers etc) and **Personal Accident**.

The **Personal Accident** Insurance for 2014–15 includes:

- Loss of earnings – Benefit of \$700 (up from \$500) per week up to age 95, maximum of 80% of income, 7 day excess, maximum of 52 weeks
- Non-Medicare medical costs, 80% claimable to a maximum of \$3000 (up from \$2000), excess per Claim of \$150
- Broken bones benefit of up to \$2000
- Capital Benefit – \$50000 up to age 84, \$10 000 age 85–95 or under age 18.
- Critical Incident Debriefing

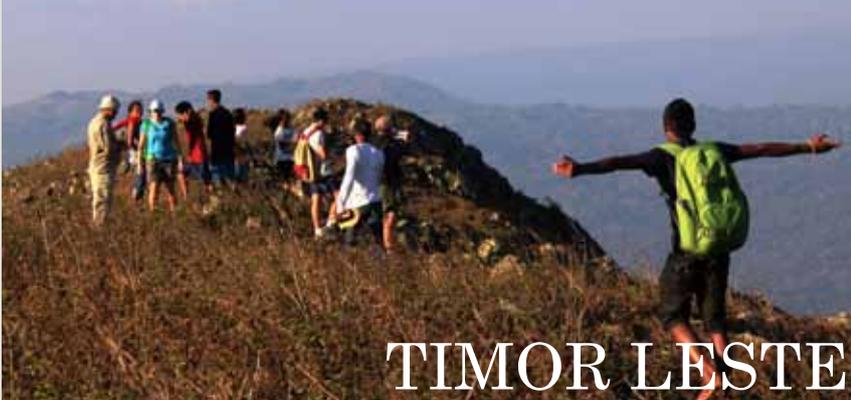
This insurance covers all the club's activities, e.g social, walking, liloing, snow skiing, cycling and training. The cover applies to all of Australia **and to New Zealand**. Further information is available on the Bushwalking Australia website.

When there is an incident on an activity that may result in the need for a claim we send a claim form and information on the claim process to the person involved. It's then up to the person to decide if they need to claim. The Club is not involved in the claim itself.

Mick Noonan

2015 Social Calendar

THERE IS NO PLACE IN THE WORLD..... LIKE



Timor Leste is one of the last places in the world that is untouched by tourism, from rainforest's and miles of coastal beaches to mysterious valleys. This trip journeys into the mountainous district of Luro, where we stay with the local village people, learn of their culture, tackle Tetum and hike the mountain ridges known as the 'Crocodiles Back' to the top of Mt Hafa Hafa, for a breathtaking view of the coast.

Come along to MBW Social night to hear Gen Tehan, Program Coordinator for Friends of Luro, a not for profit organisation, talk about trekking in East Timor.

The presentation will be at **8.00 pm on Wednesday 25 February, 2015** at the clubrooms.

Everyone welcome.



Wine and cheese available.

Willis's Walkabouts

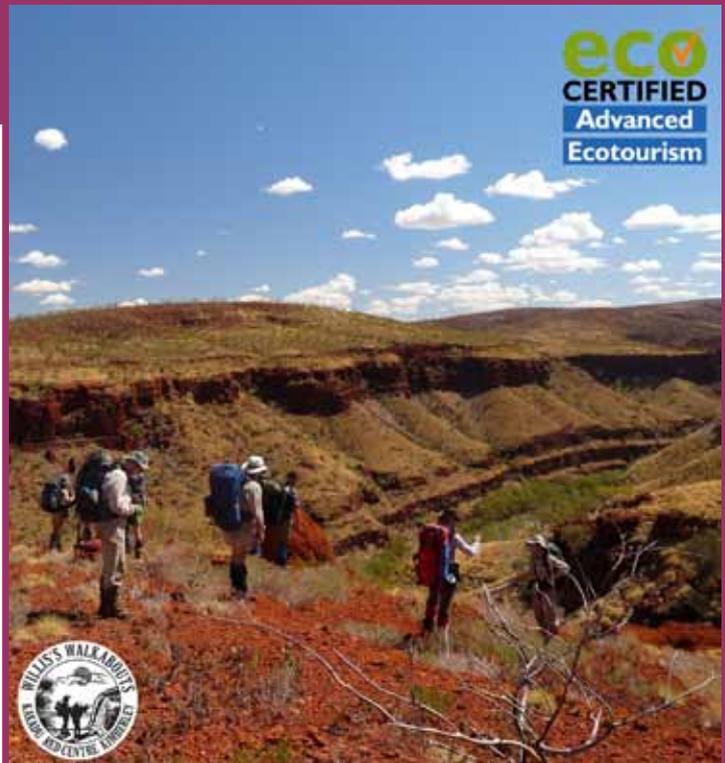
Karijini National Park

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

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 rwillis@internode.on.net Ph: 08 8985 2134

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

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

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

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

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SUNDAY BUS

AIREYS INLET – ANGLESEA

DATE Sunday 1 March 2015
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to City
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES 12 and 15 km
LEADERS Del Franks and Jamie Brawn
TRANSPORT Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Surf Coast
MAP REFERENCE Anglesea and Airey’s Inlet 25–100,000 maps
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Geelong

This is a nice summer beach walk.

The easy walk will start at the Airey’s Inlet lighthouse and walk north-east along the coast to Anglesea. The walking is a mixture of clifftop paths looking down into beautiful green and blue ocean, long sandy beaches and rock outcrops. Near the end of the walk there are sheltered beaches for swimming.

The easy/medium walk will start at Moggs Creek and have dramatic views approaching the lighthouse from the west. This group will then follow the easy walk up the coast to Anglesea. The distance is a few kilometres longer than the easy walk and there is some wading across the mouth of Painkalac Creek.

Bring sunhats, sunscreen and plenty of water, as there is little shade along the beach.

If we are lucky we may get some late summer weather and if time allows bring your bathers.



TOFS WALK

ELTHAM, DIAMOND CREEK TRAIL

DATE Thursday 5 March 2015
RETURN TIME 2:30 pm
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 10 km
ELEVATION Flat
LEADER Alister Rowe
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Eltham/Templestowe

MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 22 and 34
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

The walk will begin at 10:30 am from the Eltham North reserve, Melway 22 A1. Enter from Wattletree Road.

The walk follows the Diamond Creek through Eltham Lower Park to the Yarra footbridge. From there we will proceed through Candlebark Park and Tikalara Park [Melway 34] to Beasleys Nursery.

As a car shuffle will be necessary it would be a good idea to arrive closer to 10 am if possible.

Book with leader. No walk if the forecast is 33° or above.



PACK CARRY

FALLS CREEK – MT BOGONG – MOUNTAIN CREEK

DATE Friday 6 March to Monday 9 March 2015
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 36 km
ELEVATION Day 2: 800m down and up
 Day 3: 200m up and 1400m down
LEADER Judith Shaw
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Alpine National Park
MAP REFERENCE Bogong Alpine Area Vic Map 1:50,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Eastern
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Falls Creek

We camp at Mountain Creek camping ground on Friday night. The next morning we drive 10 km to Mount Beauty for a bus up to Falls Creek, leaving some cars at Mountain Creek for the end of the walk. We start the walk at Falls Creek, heading out along Heathy Spur to join the Alpine Walking Track and camp at Ropers Hut. On Day 2 we descend to Big River and then up the T Spur to camp at Cleve Cole Hut. On Day 3 we will climb Mt Bogong and then descend to Mountain Creek by way of Eskdale Spur.

The estimated cost of the private bus to Falls Creek is \$35 per person, depending on numbers. The bus company needs a 14-day advance notification to secure the booking, so please book your place by February 20.

 **SUNDAY CAR POOL**

BEARS HEAD RANGE – OLD RIVER (LERDERDERG)

DATE Sunday 8 March 2015
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to City
STANDARD Medium/Hard
DISTANCE 19.5 km
ELEVATION 900 m
LEADER Ian Mair
TRANSPORT Cars – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45am
AREA Lerderderg State Park
MAP REFERENCE VicMap Diggers Gully 1:30000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Ballarat

The Lerderderg State Park offers some of the best challenging walks within an easy 2 hour drive or less from Melbourne, making it one of the more interesting day walk destinations. Dropping down into the Lerderderg River from the surrounding western plains takes you into a different world of rugged rocky spurs, narrow gorges and dense bushland.

The Bears Head Range and Old River Circuit allows walkers to experience the diversity of the area. Starting out from Lohs Lane at an easy pace to help loosen up, the route follows several management tracks to skirt around the Ah Koh Gully Reference Area to the top of the Bears Head Range Track. The track then follows the top of the range, dropping sharply down into the Lerderderg River, at one point traversing a narrow rocky crest near the junction with Old River. A quick

paddle to cool the feet and we are ready to pick our way up the Old River between the boulders until we reach the base of the Old River Waterfall for lunch.

From the base of the falls it is a scramble up the steep slopes shared by goats to reach a more gentle scrub. We test our navigation skills as we work our way between the trees until we pick up the Hogan Track which leads us back down to the Lerderderg River. A steep climb back up from the river gets us back onto easier ground to complete the circuit after a solid walk that may also leave you with tired arms from the sections of scrambling.



WEDNESDAY WALK

BOSTOCK RESERVOIR

DATE Wednesday 11 March 2015
RETURN TIME 6 pm to City
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 15 km
ELEVATION 400 m
LEADER Ian Mair
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Bostock Reservoir, Ballan
MAP REFERENCE VicMap Bostock-Bungal (Custom)
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Seymour
TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON) \$15

Hidden Italy
FOR INQUISITIVE TRAVELLERS

TRAILS TO FREEDOM

An extraordinary hike that combines breath-taking scenery, enchanting towns and villages, challenging walks and delicious food with the fascinating story of four young Australian soldiers who crossed the Italian Alps to freedom in the World War II.

Based on several years' research, this magnificent hike (designed to celebrate Hidden Italy's 21st anniversary) follows the same route as the soldiers, taking you through some of the most spectacular scenery in the European Alps. With a maximum of 12 guests, the tour will be led by Simon Tancred (with 30 years experience hiking in Italy) and a certified local alpine guide.

Tour dates: 20 to 28 August, 2015.

For full details, visit www.hiddenitaly.com.au

Nestled away just beyond Ballan, the Bostock Reservoir has a charm well known to fisherman. It also offers some good walking options around the reservoir shores and the gullies below the dam wall. Our route starts out by skirting around the shores of the reservoir, walled in by tall pine forest, before reaching the pleasant bush tracks of the Bungal State Forest and making our way down to the Moorabool River.

Alongside the river we get the opportunity to stretch our legs up and down some short, but sometimes sharp, hills. There are two river crossings that could lead to wet feet, so make sure you have dry shoes and socks back at the cars. We also follow an aqueduct and pipeline along the hills above the river.

A nice walk that rewards the effort for those who join me in this attractive location.



BASE CAMP

PROM IN A DAY

DATE	13-15 March 2015
STANDARD	Medium/Hard
DISTANCE	45.4 km
ELEVATION	300 m
LEADER	Judith Shaw
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Wilson's Promontory
MAP REFERENCE	Wilson's Promontory NP, VicMap 2000, 1:50,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	West Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Wonthaggi

Here it is again: the annual Prom-in-a-timewarp, miraculously compressing three days walking into one! We camp at Tidal River on Friday night, and next day after a 7 am start we head for Sealers Cove, Refuge Cove, Little Waterloo Bay and Oberon Bay, before returning to camp in time for tea. On Sunday there will be an optional short walk around one of the tracks near Tidal River, finishing by lunchtime. For fit experienced walkers only, no visitors please.



SUNDAY BUS

NEW: CHEVIOT TUNNEL AND YEA WETLANDS

DATE	Sunday 15 March 2015
RETURN TIME	6 pm to City
STANDARDS	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES	14 km and 19 km
ELEVATIONS	A 100 m climb
LEADERS	Mick Noonan and Christina Hughes
TRANSPORT	Bus - Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA	Brisbane Ranges
MAP REFERENCE	Yea 7923-1-2 1:25 000, Yea Wetlands and Great Victorian Rail Trail Brochures
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	North Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Seymour

This new walk comprises part of the Great Victorian Rail Trail and Yea's wet lands just west of the town.

Our walk along the rail trail, previously called the Goulburn River High Country Rail Trail, starts at Molesworth and heads back to Yea via Cheviot Tunnel. The tunnel, built in 1889, is the longest rail trail tunnel in Victoria, stretching 201 metres (bring a torch!). We also pass Cheviot Station which opened with

the rail line in 1889 and was an important station servicing the local logging industry. There are also some great views across the Goulburn Valley from the trail.

We will then explore the local wetlands, floodplain and native bush around Yea. The main walk in the wetlands is named after John Franklin from the nearby aboriginal Nira Illum Bulluk Clan. The wetlands were a great source of 'bush tucker' and feature a number of scar trees. Hume and Hovell passed through here in 1824. At the time of writing this preview the main billabong is full of water and the frog pond is a busy place. Let's hope for some good rains before the walk!

The key difference between the two walks is about 4.5 extra kilometres on a relatively level part of the rail trail.

If all goes to plan there should be time for a coffee in Yea before we head home. This should be a great, relatively easy walk exploring some of our rail and local history on well-defined tracks and even some raised boardwalks in the wetlands.



MOFS WALK

WRIGHTS FOREST/EMERALD LAKE PARK

DATE	Monday 16 March 2015
RETURN TIME:	2:30 pm
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	10 km
ELEVATION	One medium hill in Wrights Forest
LEADER	Alister Rowe
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Emerald
MAP REFERENCE	Melway 127 and 311
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Mt Dandenong

The walk will begin at 10:30 am.

This time we will start from Emerald Lake Park. There is a free carpark just north of the station at Melway 127 K4.

We will walk via Bellbird Crescent to Wrights Forest and do a circuit which includes one reasonably steep hill.

After morning we will walk back to Emerald Lake via a scenic track for the rest of the walk. Coffee or a drink at the Paradise Hotel is optional.

Book with leader.

No walk if the forecast is 33° or above.



PACK CARRY

EAGLES PEAKS

DATE	Friday 20 - Sunday 22 March 2015
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	30 km approx
ELEVATION	550 m to 1446 m
LEADER	Helen Geddes
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Howqua River
MAP REFERENCE	Howqua and Jamieson rivers, Bush maps Victoria 1:50,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	North Eastern
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Mount Buller

Friday: Camp at Sheepyard Flat.

Saturday 8 am: Medium (Steepish) walk, 900 m ascent.

We meet at Sheepyard Flat (500 m approx.) at 8 am to follow a track up via the Great Rand Mine to join the Lickhole

Creek Track. We need to collect water along the creek for Saturday and Sunday requirements. Then we will proceed upward to set up camp near the start of the track up to the Governors (1100). After lunch a side trip to take in the Governors (1442) then back to camp.

Sunday 8 am: Medium (Steepish) walk, 900 m descent.

Depart 8 am to drop into Lickhole Gap and up onto Eagles Peaks (1423 m and 1446 m) for some of the best views the high country offers.

The return descent to Sheeppyard Flat down the spur and over Hill 923 m, picking up the earlier ascent track en-route.

This is alpine country and we can and do experience snow at any time of year in these regions.

Due to recent bushfire activity conditions have changed and re-growth could have an impact on progress.

This is a Classic Walk and participants are required to be equipped with all seasons' camping equipment, weather gear and carrying personal first aid kit, have some hiking experience and fitness. If interested contact Helen Geddes via email or phone.

This is a joint MBW and VMTC Trip.



BASE CAMP

DEAL ISLAND, KENT GROUP, TASMANIA (TRIP 2)

DATE 20-23 March 2015

Sorry, this trip is fully booked.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

CHEWTON GOLDFIELDS

DATE Sunday 22 March 2015
 RETURN TIME 6:00 pm at Southbank
 STANDARD Easy/medium
 DISTANCE 14 km
 LEADER Stuart Hanham
 TRANSPORT Car
 AREA Castlemaine
 MAP REFERENCE VicMap, Malmsbury North 1:25,000
 FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Central
 TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Bendigo
 TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON) \$19

Chewton is on the Pyrenees Highway just before Castlemaine, and used to be a very rich gold-mining area. The walk starts near the remains of the giant Garfield Water Wheel and follows a water race, past deep mine shafts and the ruins of some stone buildings. Native bush gives way to European trees as we approach the very interesting Welsh Village, previously the home of many miners.

Next, we pass a huge open-cut mine and walk along some almost empty roads with street names. The route follows the rocky bed of Forest Creek to the beautiful Expedition Pass Reservoir. If it's a hot day, we can stop for a paddle or a swim. After passing through a jungle of tall reeds, we'll circle the reservoir and head south along the creek, past more diggings and the remains of dams, before returning to the cars.

This walk is undulating and has an interesting variety of scenery and history. There will be a café stop in Malmsbury, on the way home.



WEDNESDAY WALK

LAKE MOUNTAIN

DATE Wednesday 25 March 2015
 STANDARD Easy
 DISTANCE 14 km
 ELEVATION Undulating
 LEADER Doug Pocock
 TRANSPORT Private
 AREA Marysville
 MAP REFERENCE Marysville-Lake Mountain Outdoor Leisure map
 FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Central
 TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Yarra Glen

A most pleasant walk in a delightful alpine area. We may be lucky and still have a few alpine flowers. Despite the damage wrought by the fires we saw plenty of birds on the preview, including lots of flame robins. We will be walking on ski trails and have a number of good lookouts. There are no long or steep climbs, just gentle undulations. As the old man said to Julius Caesar, 'Beware the flies of March'. If you wear shorts bring some leg protection for lunch time.

Meet at Gerraty's car park in time to start walking at 10:30 am. Please ring me if you are coming so that car pooling can be organised if required.

We should get back to the cars at 3:00 pm and can enjoy afternoon tea at Marysville unless you have to rush back to the city.



SOCIAL WALK

MORE OF PLENTY RIVER

DATE Thursday 26 March 2015
 STANDARD Easy
 DISTANCE 5 km
 ELEVATION Flat
 LEADER Jean Giese
 TRANSPORT Private
 AREA Greensborough
 MAP REFERENCE Melway 21
 FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
 TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

We enjoyed our walk beside the Plenty River last year so we will continue our exploration upstream this month, patronising the Lower Plenty Hotel again for lunch.

Meet to start walking by 10:30 near the toilet block in Willinda Park, Melway 21 A4. The park is a bit tricky to get into so allow yourself plenty of time to get lost looking for it. Book with leader.



BASE CAMP

DEAL ISLAND, KENT GROUP, TASMANIA (TRIP 1)

DATE 27-30 March 2015

Sorry, this trip is fully booked.



SATURDAY WALK

YARRA RANGES (WARBURTON)

DATE Saturday 28 March 2015
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 13 km
LEADER Maureen Hurley
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Warburton
MAP REFERENCE Melways 289 K4
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Dandenong

We will meet at the Patchwork Café, Warburton at 10:15 am. This is the first café as you drive into the town of Warburton, on the left hand side. There is ample parking at the rear. The planned walk is the Backstairs Track, Old Warburton Road and La La Falls, then finishing with a walk along the river. There may be a deviation from this walk plan to a walk very close by to Mount Little Joe, depending on time to preview. If this is the case we will still meet at the same place. Coffee to follow. If it's hot this is a well shaded walk.



CYCLING

SEYMOUR BASE CAMP

DATE 28–29 March 2015
RETURN TIME 6 pm
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 71 km Saturday and 58 km Sunday
LEADER Jopie Bodegraven
MAP REFERENCE Vicroads Country Directory and 'Ride With GPS'
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Seymour

This will be another pleasant weekend consisting of two day rides in lovely scenic countryside, Saturday night camping or cabins in Seymour and Saturday night dinner at a local pub. Saturday's ride will start high at Murchison Gap and take us through Broadford (coffee stop), Tallarook, a section of the Goulburn Valley Rail Trail and finish at Strath Creek. The distance will be 71 km and there are some hills with total ups of 645 metres but because we are craftily doing a 5 km car shuffle, we are starting 220 m higher than we finish so you could say it is a predominantly downhill ride! There will be some lovely downhill cruises to balance the lesser ups.

Sunday's ride is shorter, only 58 km, in case we are worn out from Saturday, and so we can finish with a leisurely afternoon tea in Kilmore and still get home in good time. There will be a 14 km car shuffle to avoid riding along the busy Northern Highway but unfortunately there is no height gain this time. Total ups will be similar to Saturday.

We will meet Saturday morning at 9:30 am at Murchison Gap which is the high point between Broadford and Strath Creek, about 6 km from Strath Creek. Turn off the Hume Freeway at the Broadford exit or come up via Flowerdale.

Saturday night we will camp at the Goulburn River Tourist Park, 13 Trevan Streetm, on the banks of the Goulburn River mnjin Seymour and dinner will be at the Railway Club Hotel which is a 10–15 minute walk away. If you are happy to camp I will organise that for you but if you would like to book into a cabin you will need to organise that yourself by ringing the managers on 5792 1530. Let me know if you want to share in case someone else wants to.



SUNDAY BUS

KILCUNDA – CAPE PATTERSON

DATE Sunday 29 March
STANDARDS Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCE 19 km and 20 km
LEADERS Cathy Merrick and David Laing
TRANSPORT Bus – Leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
RETURN TIME 7.00 pm approx
AREA Phillip Island/Gippsland
MAP REFERENCE Park Notes – Bass Coast Parks and Reserves
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Wonthaggi

The gradings of these walks are not based on any difficulty of terrain but purely on distances. The walking will be quite easy on hard sand at low tide.

The Medium walk commences at the rail bridge at Kilcunda and moves onto the beach fairly quickly. The Easy/Medium walk will commence just before the bridge over the Powlett River and follow the river till this group too reaches the beach. From this point both walks will follow the same route. Most walking will be along the beach, however, at Cutlers Beach we'll move inland and follow the tracks through Wonthaggi Heathland making our way back onto the beach at Harmers Haven. Both walks will finish at Cape Patterson where we can enjoy a quick dip or an ice-cream (or both).

These are lovely beaches with lots of rock pools to explore, sea birds to sight and crashing waves to listen to. These are walks that you will enjoy.



BASE CAMP

MARLO/CAPE CONRAN COASTAL PARK

DATE 2–6 April 2015
RETURN TIME Approx 8 pm, Monday 6 April
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 5 km – 14 km
ELEVATION Minimal
LEADER Margaret Curry
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Cape Conran Coastal Park
MAP REFERENCE Rooftops – Cann River–Orbost; Parks Victoria
FIRE BAN DISTRICT East Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Orbost

Marlo is where the Snowy River meets the sea after its 500 km journey from the Alps. It is a tranquil seaside resort and fishing town close to Cape Conran Coastal Park. The area provides varied walking beside the river estuary, through heathland, and along the spectacular Cape coastline– sand dunes, rock hopping, board walks and superb views. There is abundant bird life in the area and swimming opportunities available. The plan is to do two full day walks of 12–14 km as well as some shorter walks of between 5–10 km.

I have booked two cabins with en suite facilities and also three large camp sites which can each take multiple tents. Cost for camping is \$30 per site per night plus \$10 each additional person. Cabin costs will range from \$130 to \$240 for the four nights, depending on numbers in each and type of cabin. Car pooling is recommended. A deposit of \$50 is required at time of booking. For further information and bookings contact Margaret.

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!

March 2015				
Sun 1	DAY: Aireys Inlet – Angelsea	Bus	E&E/M	Del Franks & Jamie Brawn
Thu 5	TOF: Eltham, Diamond Creek Trail	Pvt	Easy	Alister Rowe
6–9	PC : Mountain Creek–Mt Bogong–Falls Creek	Pvt	Med	Judith Shaw
Sun 8	DAY: Bears Head Range – Old River (Lerderberg)	Car	M/H	Ian Mair
Wed 11	DAY: Bostock Reservoir	Pvt	E/M	Ian Mair
13–15	BC : Prom in a Day (Wilson's Prom)	Pvt	M/H	Judith Shaw
Sun 15	DAY: NEW: Cheviot Tunnel & Yea Wetlands	Bus	E&E/M	Mick Noonan & Christina Hughes
Mon 16	MOF: Wrights Forest, Emerald Lake	Pvt	Easy	Alister Rowe
20–22	PC : Eagles Peaks (joint with VMTC)	Pvt	Med	Helen Geddes
20–23	BC : Deal Island, Kent Group, Tasmania (trip 2)	Pvt	E/M	Jamie Brawn
21–22	CON: Nest Box Checking for Threatened Species	Pvt	Easy	Ray Thomas
21–22	CON: Friends of Bogong Work Party	Pvt	Easy	Rod Novak
Sun 22	DAY: Chewton Goldfields	Car	E/M	Stuart Hanham
Wed 25	DAY: Lake Mountain	Pvt	Easy	Doug Pocock
Thu 26	SOC: More of Plenty River	Pvt	Easy	Jean Giese
27–30	BC : Deal Island, Kent Group, Tasmania (trip 1)	Pvt	E/M	Susan Maughan
28–29	CYC: Seymour area (base camp)	Pvt	Med	Jopie Bodegraven
Sat 28	DAY: Dandenong Explorer	Pvt	E/M	Maureen Hurley
Sun 29	DAY: Kilcunda – Cape Patterson	Bus	E/M&M	Cathy Merrick & David Laing

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