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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

April 2016

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE!

See page 3.

2017 FEDERATION WALKS WEEKEND to be hosted by Melbourne Bushwalkers – *that's us !!!* Warburton October 27/29

Our FedWalks sub-committee has started meeting already under Margaret Curry's leadership. This is a big project for us as the 2017 host club. Already interest and excitement are building.



Walks, leaders, whips, maps, booklets, finances, website bookings, publicity, volunteer helpers for registrations, car parking, coffee/tea, food, accommodation, Saturday night entertainment, etc. etc. – it's big. These weekends are a great chance to showcase our excellent club, and unite with other bushwalking clubs throughout Victoria.



The great news is that some walk leaders and whips have already started coming forward so that is great, thank you very much. Federation Weekend Walks co-ordinator Jopie Bodegraven advises that he does need some more leaders please. There will be 20 walks of varying levels of difficulty and we want to be fully organised as early as possible.



If you want to do your bit and get involved in this fun project speak to Halina Sarbinowski or Ken MacMahon, or email your interest today to fedwalks17@mbw.org.au. Block out your 2017 diary now!

Margaret Campion – Publicity, Federation Weekend

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

MEMBER OF



Bushwalking Victoria

Members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc meet on Wednesday evenings between 7:00 and 9:00 pm in the club rooms at:

**Royal Historical Society of Victoria
362 William Street
(Cnr William and A'Beckett Streets)
Melbourne
Vic 3001**

Visitors are always welcome!

General correspondence should be directed to:

The Secretary
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc
PO Box 1751
MELBOURNE VIC 3001
www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au

The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc (The News) is published monthly, and is the official newsletter of Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

Editor: Merilyn 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 4 April 2016

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:
Ivan Biber, Huyen Treanor, Bente Seterdal,
Thuy Ho, Jeremy Hawkins, Jacqui Hawkins,
Debra Lee Scott, Ian Thomas, Melissa Duenas

YOUR NEW COMMITTEE FOR 2016

President	Ian Mair
Vice-Presidents	Susan McInnes Nigel Holmes
Secretary	* Deborah Bishop
Membership Secretary	Gill Wainwright
Treasurer	Poppy Sicari
Social Secretary	Susanna Mason
General Walks Secretary	Stuart Hanham
Sunday Walks Secretary	Halina Sarbinowski
General Committee	Jenny Andrewes Mark Heath * Ken MacMahon * Stephen Ingrouille * John Terrell

* NEW to Committee

TRAINING REPORT – 2015

Whilst training in 2015 was based around:

- Basic Navigation training in the field with two fully attended sessions at:
 - Lysterfield Lake – using an existing orienteering course
 - Werribee Gorge
- 1st Aid in the Bush – attended by 20+ members

A lot of work has been on going in the background with:

- Club Members attending sessions of the BWV Leadership Training
- The BNV Training modules being reviewed to determine commonality and suitability for use by Melb Bushies in conjunction with our training modules from the 2013 Leadership weekend (thanks Mick)
- Three Beginner PC being conducted throughout the year (thanks Jopie, Ian & Susan)
- The ongoing mentoring of potential and new leaders during previews, on the actual walk and with pre trip planning

Whilst members may be put off by the concept of training, we are only able to put together the current club activities that we all enjoy through the volunteer efforts of leaders and whips. Without their time and efforts we would not have an active club. Thus I believe it is critical that we support leaders in any way possible, be it skills development, scenario training to practice, admin support and mentoring to name a few, and I request that if you have ever considered being a whip or a leader to give it a go.

Roger Wyett

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE! Membership Renewal 2016

Membership subscriptions are due 1st April 2016. You are not required to sign an Acknowledgement of Risk form on renewal; however you are advised that payment of fees implies acceptance of the risks involved in any activity you may undertake as a member of Melbourne Bushwalkers. Members are asked to read the following wording regarding your insurance cover through Bushwalking Australia.

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

To minimize risks I will endeavour to ensure that:

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

I have read and understood these requirements. I will consider the risks before joining any activity of the Club.

I acknowledge that I will take responsibility for my own actions and that payment of my subscriptions will be deemed as full acceptance and understanding of the above conditions.'

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

Note: Members can modify address details and items displayed to other members through the Members' Secure Login area of the club's website.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL SLIP

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

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

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

Fees:	Single member: \$45*	Concession: \$34* (Proof required**)
<i>(Please circle your membership category)</i>	Couple/Family: \$72*	Concession: \$50* (Proof required**)
	News Only Subscribers: \$27.50	

Notes:

- * Members who currently receive their copies of 'NEWS' via postal mail should add \$17.50 to continue. No new hard copy subscriptions will be accepted.
- ** Concession membership applies to those who hold an Australian Government concession card, not a Seniors Card only.

Name:			Year of birth (optional)		
Name:			Year of birth (optional)		
(Note: Year of birth is used only for statistical purposes and not published in any lists.)					
<i>Fill in Address, Telephone number(s) and email address only if changed since last renewal:</i>					
Street Address:				YES / NO	<i>Indicate left if you agree details can be displayed to other members in the Members' Secure Login Area (Default in Bold)</i>
Suburb & Postcode:				YES / NO	
Tel: [H] [W] Mobile				YES / NO	
Email:				YES / NO	
Emergency Contact:Tel: [H][M][W]				YES / NO	

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – APRIL 2016



'A tradition is a belief or behaviour passed down within a group or society with symbolic meaning or special significance with origins in the past. The word "tradition" itself derives from the Latin *tradere* or *traderer* literally meaning to transmit, to hand over, to give for safekeeping.' (Wikipedia) Melbourne Bushwalkers, like other clubs, has its traditions, our ways of doing things. These have evolved over the history of the club, some going as far back as the early 1940's. Browse through old newsletters and feel at home with the way walks are described and conducted, the way the club in general is run. Some of our traditions are given greater permanence by entrenching them in the club's Rules, By-Laws and Guidelines. From the very first contact we have individually with the club we are introduced to these traditions through the 'Meet and Greet' welcome, itself being a club tradition.

There are many advantages to having traditions. They can provide a sense of comfort and certainty. In a voluntary organisation like ours, with frequent changes in club officers and leaders, the existence of traditions, especially documented practices, eases many of the qualms that members new to a role may have when they first take on the responsibility. For most members the ways of Melbourne Bushwalkers may even come to be seen as the way all bushwalking clubs must operate. This is not so. Indeed, the ways other clubs operate is almost as diverse as the number of clubs. A case in point is our traditional approach to qualification for club membership, a practice which in itself was established to ensure that prospective members were a fit with our ways of doing things as much as it is about their physical ability.

For those reading this column and wondering where I am going, I am not about to propose a radical change to our qualification process! Suffice to say that it, like all of our traditional practices, needs to be under constant review and evolve if it no longer meets our purpose. Being aware of how other (bushwalking) clubs conduct their affairs is a valuable insight into how we as a club may be able to do things differently or better. There are a number of avenues to increasing our awareness. The most passive and probably least effective is to browse websites or scan newsletters. A more effective approach is to engage in collaborative exchanges and activities where there is a mutually beneficial learning for all involved. These exchanges may be simply at a club-to-club level with jointly organised activities or on a broader scale with multiple clubs involved.

At a club-to-club level, recent joint activities have made us more acutely aware of differences in registration requirements for club activities, as well as differences in walk grading practices and fitness expectations, each of which can influence the membership profile. More significantly, the opportunities to interact with other clubs through Bushwalking Victoria events provides greater scope for interactive learning and exchange. Three examples help to illustrate the point:

- (1) Federation Walks Weekends – held annually, these bring members of many clubs together for a weekend of walking and socialising. Interaction and information exchange is primarily informal and spontaneous. Melbourne Bushwalkers always encourages a high member participation level. As the hosting club for 2017 we can expect a higher level of participation and interaction than usual for the next few years.
- (2) Bushwalking Victoria Leadership Forum – arranged to coincide with the day of the Bushwalking Victoria AGM, the Forums offer a more structured interaction, generally between club office bearers as well as with Bushwalking Victoria Board members. Agenda items can be submitted by any participating club with scope for broad feedback and exchange. For the coming Forum in June, Melbourne Bushwalkers has supported, amongst other items, discussions being held on opportunities for collaboration on Leader Training.
- (3) Meeting of Club Presidents – a recent initiative proposed by Melbourne Bushwalkers for regular meetings over and above the Bushwalking Victoria Leadership Forum, the Meeting of Presidents is an informal networking forum where Presidents can exchange ideas and experiences that support their personal contribution to the development of their club. The last meeting in February, for instance, touched on two aspects of immediate interest to Melbourne Bushwalkers – alternative practices for Emergency Contact Systems and on personal risk implications associated with club-run overseas trips.

Our traditional practices serve us well; however, we cannot afford to operate in a silo. Making the best of the opportunities to learn from the practices of other clubs will broaden our options and help us evolve where it is wise to do so. It is an objective of our Future Directions Plan to strengthen our external interactions.

Ian Mair

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016 OUTCOMES

The Annual General Meeting met expectations of being as much a social get-together as it was a formal part of our calendar. Around 45 members and visitors created as much din as a Grand Final football match as they mixed pleasure with business. Activity Coordinators lobbied for leaders, Leaders spruiked their offerings and our ever-busy Social Secretary kept them adequately refreshed.

The formalities of the night moved smoothly. On page 2 in this newsletter you will find the newly elected Committee for 2016. As usual it is a strong Committee, reflective of the talent within the membership, ready for an active year ahead. The appreciation and thanks of the membership were extended to the retiring Committee members: Secretary, Cathy Merrick and General Committee, Margaret Campion, Fang Fang and Christina Hughes.

An outgoing Committee recommendation to hold annual subscription fees at or below the 2003 level for the 12th year in a row was carried without debate. A related recommendation to increase the supplementary charge for a print copy of the newsletter from \$10 to \$25 to cover the real cost of production and distribution attracted robust discussion. An amended motion from the gathering for an increase to \$17.50 with a move to \$25 in 12 months' time was passed with a majority vote.

Subscription Renewal for 2016–17 is now due from 1st April. A Subscription Renewal Form is available with this newsletter or can be downloaded from the website. Please remember to include any change in your personal details with the subscription. It is most important that we have your current Emergency Contact details and your current email address. Whilst it is optional, we would appreciate you recording your YEAR of birth so that we can get an accurate statistical profile of the club membership. If you prefer, you can manage your own personal details held by the club through the secure Members' Area of the website.

Wishing you all enjoyable and safe walking.

Ian Mair, President

LIBRARY REPORT

The Club library is now established in its new location in the lobby on the right as you arrive at the top of the stairs with our very own set of shelves kindly organised by Ken McMahon with the assistance of Susanna Mason.

The library also has a new custodian. Margaret Campion has generously offered to take over this role from Cecily Hunter, beginning from the AGM in March.

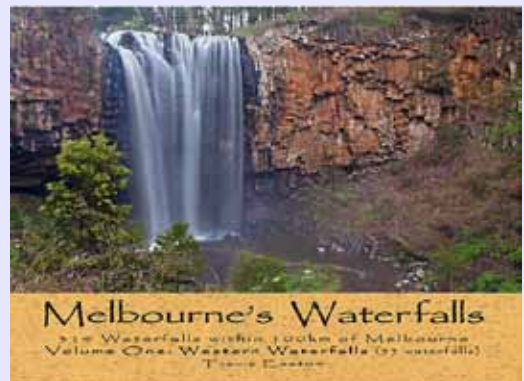
For those new to the Club, the library operates on an honour system. You do need to come into the club rooms to borrow and return books but you may return them at your convenience (within reason). There is a somewhat battered notebook in a file basket on one of the shelves. Just write the title, date of borrowing and your name, in the book. When you return the book, add that date to your entry.

If anyone has books they would like to donate they may be left in this basket also. If you have a large number of books please contact Margaret. Do note the date of publication. Space is limited and we need to ensure that books are relevant and up-to-date, particularly in the case of books concerning equipment and directions for specific walks.

Recent additions to the library

- Travis Easton, *Melbourne's Waterfalls*, Vols 1–3, covering areas to the west, east and north of the city.
- Lance Mobbs has donated three especially interesting books. One is a second edition of *Cattlemen of the High Country*, Tor and Jane Holth, published in 2008. The second is *Wildlife of the Australian Snow Country*, by Ken Green and William Osbourne and the third, also likely to be of interest to those who frequent the High Country, is *Huts in the Victorian Alps* by Klaus Hueneke.
-

Cecily Hunter



MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS ENVIRONMENT REPORT 2015

In 2015 Melbourne Bushwalkers continued to be involved in a variety of conservation activities with a range of different organisations:

- In January we hunted and eradicated sallow willows on the Bogong High Plains with Bushwalking Victoria and Parks Victoria Rangers
- In April we joined other keen volunteers under the enthusiastic guidance of Ray Thomas to monitor squirrel and sugar glider numbers in cosy nest boxes for the Regent Honeyeater Project
- In May we joined Parks Victoria, David Witham and others to clear a track in the Grampians
- In sunshine in August and again on a rainy day in November, we helped to plant hundreds of trees for the Regent Honeyeater Project
- And later in November we joined a Friends of Bogong work party on the glorious Bogong High Plains to clear in and around some of the historic huts to help ensure their survival in the bushfire season, so that their continuing presence can help ensure the survival of bushwalkers and others who may need to use them as emergency shelters

The number of Melbourne Bushwalkers attending each of these events averaged 4–5, and it was good to see some new faces along with the regulars. Although I am stepping down as Environment Officer, I look forward to continuing my involvement in these enjoyable and worthwhile activities to care for the wild places we love so much. I hope to see YOU there next time!

Deb Shand



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Importance of Ambulance Cover for Bushwalkers

As president of Bushwalking Australia I represent bushwalkers at annual meetings of the Search and Rescue Consultative Forum organised by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

At the 2015 meeting, a question was raised by another representative concerning whether persons subject to a search and rescue callout were charged for its cost. The question was subsequently put to the National Search and Rescue Council (NATSAR), which agreed to the following response:



A search and rescue terminates at the point that the person in distress is in a position of safety. At that point, depending on whether medical assistance is required, the associated costs will be contingent on the State/Territory ambulance service arrangements. The NATSAR Council recommends for people who are heading into the remote outdoors to research or ask State/Territory SAR Authorities on their current arrangements as they vary between the jurisdictions.

Bushwalking Australia is not aware of any instance where a person who has been the subject of a search and rescue being charged for any aspect of the cost of the operation. However, where such an operation also involves transport by ambulance, or where there is no search and rescue involved and transport by ambulance is required, the situation may well be different.

If you are a resident of Queensland or Tasmania and require ambulance transport in your home state, you will not generally be charged a fee. If you are a resident of any other states or territories or are an overseas visitor, transport by ambulance will typically result in a fee being charged. This would also apply to residents of Queensland and Tasmania who require ambulance transport in another state or territory.

Some fee exclusions or discounts **may** apply if you are a pensioner or concession card holder. Some private health insurance funds provide cover for ambulance transport; however typically these include exclusions and/or caps on the amounts payable. Before relying on such cover, confirm that it provides sufficient cover should you require ambulance transport while on a bushwalk.

The fee charged for ambulance transport can be **very** significant as they typically include a call out fee plus a per kilometre transport charge.

Bushwalking Australia **strongly recommends** that all bushwalkers in NSW, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, NT and the ACT take out ambulance service membership in their home state. Membership will also provide cover while interstate. Bushwalkers from Tasmania or Queensland visiting and walking in the other states and territories should consider travel insurance that cover ambulance transport.

For more information, check the website of your state ambulance service.

Chris Towers, President, Bushwalking Australia



For information about Ambulance Victoria, go to <http://www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/>. Single cover costs \$43.80pa and family cover costs \$87.60pa. **Editor**

2016 Social Calendar

Wednesday 27 April

PAUL BOLSTAD'S WIDERNESS TRIPS



Paul Bolstad is a professor at the University of Minnesota, spending this year at the University of Melbourne working on the Melbourne water supply. He developed a love of the outdoors at a young age, and he's hiked in 30 countries on five continents. Paul has the good fortune of living near the southern edge of the boreal forest, and near one of the highest concentration of natural lakes in the world. Northern Minnesota and southern Ontario contain the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCA) and adjoining Quetico Provincial Park. Together they cover an area about the size of the Franklin–Gordon and Southwest National Parks in Tasmania, and offer weeks-long trips in roadless wilderness. More than 1800 lakes draw visitors the world over for canoeing, kayaking, and hiking in the wilderness.



Paul will describe trips to the BWCA/Quetico, sharing experiences gleaned from trips over 20 years. He'll include geography, flora, fauna, equipment, hazards, and information for those interested in planning their own trip.



Wednesday 4 May

THE MOUNTAINS IN WINTER (AND HOW TO GET AROUND)

Winter brings a completely different look to the bush. Many of our walking areas are covered with snow which brings a beauty and difficulty of access. This evening Bill Metzenthon will show slides of areas of Victoria under snow conditions and Doug Pocock will talk about cross-country skiing and will show equipment to get you out into the snow.

Wednesday 25 May

WALKS AND HISTORY ON ITALY'S AMALFI COAST



Amalfi is the focal town of the coast on which it is located. An independent republic from the 7th century until 1075, it was once an important maritime power. Sheer coastal cliffs punctuated with steep-sided gullies provided a natural haven from neighbouring invaders. In the 1920s and 1930s, Amalfi was a popular holiday destination for the British upper class and aristocracy. Near the better known Sorrento and Island of Capri, Amalfi today is still a popular destination for holiday makers who seek sunshine and a less crowded coastal retreat. Not so often visited are the many walking paths into the steep hills behind, which offer fascinating excursions into small villages and rugged landscapes for anyone looking for challenging day walks. Amalfi is an ideal starting point for anyone setting out along the coast on foot, stopping at the neighbouring coastal towns to taste the culinary delights after an invigorating day of walking.



Ian Mair will entice you with tales and slides from a trip he and Halina did in 2014.

A TRIPLE CYCLE TRAIL TOUR

DATE: Saturday 16 January 2016
DISTANCE: 65 km
WEATHER: Sunny 25°C; Moderate SE wind.
ROUTE: City – Yarra Trail – Fairfield Park – Darebin Railway Station – Darebin Trail – Merri Creek Trail – City

Eleven cyclists met at Federation Square and after a chinwag with each other Sue, our leader, had our group of three women and eight men cycling the Yarra Trail on the south side. Pedestrian and cycling traffic was very congested so care had to be taken to avoid an accident. After crossing the MacRobertson Bridge at Grange Road the ride became more relaxed with much less traffic on the Trail which we followed to the trestle bridge over the river, then out onto the Boulevard for a kilometre or so before returning to the Trail to Fairfield Park. After Fairfield Park we crossed Heidelberg Road, then made our way along quiet streets to Darebin Railway Station where we met up with Linda and Lars and where Ed left us. We had morning tea here at the My Little Brothers Coffee Shop.

We picked up the Darebin Trail a short distance from the coffee shop. This Trail winds its way through very beautiful parklands. It was a real pleasure to be in such very nice surroundings. This cycle trail has been improved greatly over the last couple of years. We had lunch at a very pretty picnic area. After lunch we cycled along the trail for a few kilometres before reaching the Ring Road Trail. We followed this trail for a few more kilometres heading west before reaching the north end of the Merri Creek Trail which has been upgraded since my last ride along here. Sue had picked out a nice spot on Coburg Lake for our afternoon break. This is a very pretty little park. We continued along the Merri Creek Trail and Jopie and Jenny left us at a point closest to where they live in Northcote. Mark, Bob, Karl and I left the park to catch a train from Rushall. Lars left us a little before this. Sue continued on with the rest of the party to Federation Square by way of St Georges Road, the Capital City Trail, Edinburgh Gardens, Napier Street, through the MCG Park and over the bridge to Federation Square.

Many thanks from all of us Sue for organising and leading a most interesting and pretty ride. The people who participated on the ride were, Sue (Leader), Phil, Linda, Lars, Karl, Jopie, Jenny, Bob, Mark D., Dianne, Mark H., Ed and myself,

Art Terry



OVERLAND TRIP NO. 1 – 11 TO 21 FEBRUARY 2016



We met at Launceston Airport and travelled by bus to the start of the Overland Track in central-west Tasmania. Our group of twelve included Ian (leader), Sylvia, Richard, (Rocket Man) Roy, Judith, Nick, Lou, Poppy, Vince, Wen, Halina (whip) and myself. After establishing ourselves in the Waldheim Huts we walked to Dove Lake and back followed by a shared meal in one of the huts. Waking on Friday morning, Poppy made the difficult decision to pull out of the walk due to a sore knee and she and Vince set out on their own adventure, meeting us eight days later in Hobart.

Our group, now reduced to ten, set off for Kitchen Hut, where nearby we dropped our packs and climbed to the summit of Cradle Mountain for lunch. Fortunately the weather was fine and the views excellent, making this one of the many trip highlights. Descending the

mountain, we re-engaged with our packs. Unfortunately as we skirted around Cradle Mountain I managed to fall flat on my face and smashed a tooth (with one wag suggesting I could now be a Collingwood supporter). After a short respite we moved onto Waterfall Valley Hut where by chance I was met by a doctor and a nurse and told they were also travelling with a dentist. People typically travel along the Overland staying in tents or in the huts. We stayed in our tents on platforms set aside for groups but as we had partial use of the huts we built up bonds with those individual travellers over the seven nights.

Saturday morning and with the valley full of smoke from distant peat fires, six of our group climbed nearby Barn Bluff (with the view unfortunately obscured), two explored the waterfalls in Waterfall Valley and two relaxed around the hut. We regrouped for lunch and then walked to Lake Windermere after a diversion to Lake Will where a couple of brave souls had a swim. In the evening the weather was fine but by the next morning rain had set in and the temperature fell. Much of Sunday was overcast and wet as we made our way to Pelion Hut where our campsite was visited by shy wallabies (and later some not-so-shy possums). By evening it was cold and wet and most chose to cook dinner in the Pelion Hut followed by the first of many games of 500. Monday morning was cool and cloudy and after some explored the local fossils we headed off



to Kia Ora Hut, missing the climb of Mt Ossa due to cloudy conditions. Kia Ora Hut is smaller than the others but as the weather had deteriorated we were welcomed into the hut to cook and play cards. Overnight was very cold and wet and we awoke to snow on the surrounding mountains.

Tuesday morning we visited a number of waterfalls – now spectacular after substantial rain – before setting up camp near the modern Windy Ridge Hut where space was available to dry out wet equipment (and play cards). On Wednesday morning we passed through many wonderful moss-covered beech forests (another highlight of the trip) before leaving the Overland and walking up Pine Valley Track. In the afternoon we walked up to the Labyrinth Lookout, which most found quite fatiguing.

Thursday morning we returned to the Overland Track, pausing for lunch at Narcissus Hut on the edge of Lake St Clair where many complete the journey by ferry. We, being more hardy folk, walked around the edge of the lake, camping near Echo Point Hut. By now the weather had improved considerably and we were able to enjoy a very serene vista from the edge of the lake – another highlight. Friday morning we walked out in bright sunshine, drying our gear at the visitors centre before heading off to Hobart. Special thanks go to Ian for his excellent organisation and sharing his knowledge from his previous trips on the Overland.

Stephen Ingrouille

THE BLUFF – HOWQUA RIVER 4–6 March 2016

After tea and a pleasant Friday night by the cars at Refrigerator Gap we set off early for the Bluff. A hot day had been forecast so we hoped to complete the 500m climb before it warmed up too much. Fortunately the track through attractive unburnt forest offered reasonable shade and we made the top in good form. After a short break to take in the magnificent views we continued along the ridge to Bluff Hut staying as close as practical to the edge to fully appreciate the rugged escarpment. By now we were starting to feel the heat, and even more so as we made the 1000m descent to our campsite by the Howqua River. On the way we crossed exposed patches of bare ground that felt like ovens. Further down it became muggy as we entered a forest of huge eucalypts. Amongst them were beautiful old trees with bark ranging from the smoothest of milky white to the shaggiest of shag. Once down we headed straight for the river to cool off before setting up camp near Ritchies Hut. We shared the site with another couple who seemed concerned we might 'party' into the night. They need not have worried as we were all quietly tucked into bed by 9:00 pm.



Next morning we had a pleasant walk along the river to Eight Mile Spur and a final swim before tackling the 880m climb back to the cars. It was still very hot so we decided to leave our packs at the bottom and collect them on the way out. Part way up Ian L realised that a more sensible option would be to return to the river for another swim and wait for the cars, so he did! The rest of us ploughed on to the end! On the drive out we remembered to pick up Ian and the packs, had a final meal together at Yea then headed home.

As a sidelight one of the pleasures of bushwalking is to observe your companions in their unguarded moments. Examples from this trip include the squeals of anguish that reverberated around the campsite as Gina overcame her aversion to water to join us in the river, the excitement and anticipation that radiated from her face when she held up her iPhone to try to dupe some little bird into exposing itself, the moment it dawned on newcomer Stefan that he needed to do something about his pack weight and his observation, on seeing Gina power up the hills, that she was 'almost human'. These may not have been the best chosen words but we all knew what he meant.

My thanks go to Gina and the other participants Ian Mair, Ian Langford, Carol Ward, Phil Brown and Stefan Bartl for a very enjoyable weekend.



John Fritze

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

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

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

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



SUNDAY CAR POOL

CURRAWONG FALLS – IRONBARK GORGE

DATE Sunday 10 April 2016
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to city
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 14 km
ELEVATION 320 m
LEADER Richard Long
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
TRANSPORT COST \$20.50
AREA Otway National Park
MAP REFERENCE 1:25,000 Anglesea South
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Geelong

This walk combines two circuit walks that start from Distillery Creek Picnic Ground. Ironbark Gorge track initially climbs through open ironbark forest towards the southern rim of the gorge. It soon descends to the creek, crossing over bridges several times as it swings back towards Distillery Creek Picnic Ground. As you walk you note surrounding cliffs to the north which form part of the Currawong Falls Track which we will be traversing on the second part of the walk.

After about 1.4 km along Currawong Falls Track we climb to a lookout point which gives great views down into Ironbark Gorge, the township of Aireys Inlet and also glimpses of the sea. Once reaching Loves Track we will continue following Currawong Falls Track. It was many years that we were unable to follow this section of the track after back-burning caused a peat fire that closed the track for about 5 years. We can now enjoy visiting Currawong Falls, the Fern Grove and Melaleuca Swamp as we return to Distillery Creek Picnic Ground.

This is a lovely walk that highlights the diversity of habitats for plants and animals that are a feature of the Otway National Park.



SUNDAY BUS

STONY CREEK – STEIGLITZ (BRISBANE RANGES)

DATE Sunday 1 May 2016
RETURN TIME 6:00 pm to city
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES 13 km and 15 km
ELEVATION Several short climbs totalling approximately 300 m
LEADERS John Fritze and Carol Ward

TRANSPORT Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
MAP REFERENCE Brisbane Ranges National Park 1:30,000

This is a walk through an unusual geological area of low wooded hills deeply serrated by numerous narrow gullies and steep rocky ridges. The area is also of historical significance. Gold was discovered here in 1851 and we will pass numerous old mine shafts, mullock heaps and other relics along the way. Then there is the Southern Hemisphere’s first concrete dam. It was built across Rocky Creek in 1871 to serve Geelong after an earlier earth dam collapsed. It is an amazing structure that looms up before you like a mysterious cathedral.

The walk is mostly on undulating tracks with a few short hills and an interesting off track section along a dry creek bed. It finishes amongst the remains of the once bustling gold mining town of Steiglitz.



TOFS WALK

DIAMOND CREEK – CANDLEBARK PARK

DATE Thursday 5 May 2016
RETURN TIME 3 pm
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 10 km
ELEVATION Flat
LEADER Pam Rosso
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Diamond Creek/Tikalara Park
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 21 and 22

We will meet in the car park in Eltham Lower Park, Melway Map 21 H10, in time to start walking at 10:30. Turn to the right as you enter from Main Road.

It is a lovely green stretch of the Yarra in Candlebark Park and Tikalara Park with some interesting historical signage. We will walk up the Diamond Creek as far as the old Trestle Bridge.



SUNDAY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

ALTONA – WESTGATE PUNT – PORT MELBOURNE

DATE Sunday 8th May 2016
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
AREA 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 9:38 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 Fisherman'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

SAN REMO, CAPE WOOLAMI

DATE Wednesday 11 May 2016
STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADER Debra Berner
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Phillip Island
MAP REFERENCE Phillip Island Special 1:25,000

Meet at San Remo Fisherman's Co-Operative near jetty, parking nearby. Melway 734, H8 at 10:30am.

We will walk over bridge to the Island, then onto Cape Woolami circuit walk. The pink granite rocks of Cape Woolami will be explored. There are spectacular views of the coast line. Please ring me to book.



PACK CARRY

GREAT OCEAN WALK – JOHANNA BEACH TO PRINCETOWN

DATE 13–15 May
RETURN TIME Sunday evening
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 35 km
ELEVATION 100 m
LEADER Jeanette Burnett
TRANSPORT Private car
TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON) Site fees and shuttle approx. \$45
AREA The Great Otway and Port Campbell National Parks

The Great Ocean Walk stretches from Apollo Bay to the 12 Apostles. This pack carry will cover the sections starting at Johanna Beach to Princetown, and should allow for ample time to enjoy the views and beach environments.

The plan is to camp Friday night at the Princetown Recreational Reserve. This has undercover BBQ facilities, shower/toilet block and secure parking for cars. For those coming down earlier in the day it would be possible from here to do a walk or car trip to see the 12 Apostles.

Saturday morning involves an early shuttle of walkers to Johanna Beach. From there it is a 14 km walk through farmland and forest to Milanesia Beach, then on to Ryan's

Den for the evening camp. Facilities at Ryan's Den include a composting toilet and three-sided shelter.

Sunday walking promises spectacular coastal cliff top views, and depending on the tide, a walk along Wreck Beach. From here it is an easy walk through heathland and coastal scrub to the Princetown Recreational Reserve.



TRACK MAINTENANCE

THE GRAMPIANS

DATE 13–15 May 2016
STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADER Mark Heath
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Halls Gap
MAP REF Melway 425 C11
TRANSPORT COST \$60

Join Parks Victoria and Friends of the Grampians to improve the walking track from the top of Stockyard Track onto the Major Mitchell Plateau on Saturday.

Complimentary camping for both Friday and Saturday nights will be available in the area.

Ian and Deb's photos give a great sense of previous activities – 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.



SUNDAY BUS

BULLENGAROOK (GISBORNE)

DATE Sunday 15 May 2016
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to City
STANDARDS Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCES 11 km and 16 km
ELEVATIONS 520 m and 550 m
LEADERS Nik Dow and Halina Sarbinowski
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Pyrete Range Lerderderg State Park
MAP REFERENCE Toolern Vale 1:25,000

Bullengarook is located in the northern section of the Pyrete Range. The Pyrete Range is between Mt Bullengarook and Mt Gisborne. The range covers an extensive area of relatively undisturbed old growth forest in steep and rugged terrain. It has remained relatively unchanged since European settlement. A 329 ha area has been set aside as research and reference areas and is the home of 130 species of birds including the Swift Parrot, Great Egrett and the Powerful and Masked Owls.

I am setting the scene for this walk. The terrain is steep and rugged. Both walks follow established 'undulating' 4WD tracks, animal tracks and also go off track following natural features such as ridge lines, spurs and the Pyrete Creek. Much of the vegetation is typical of the dry climate in the area so off track walking is relatively easy and apart from a few water holes Pyrete Creek is dry so the challenges of this walk lie with the elevation. Some sections of track are very steep and a walking pole would be helpful.

If you are prepared for the challenge or are in training for a special walk then this is the walk for you.



MOFS WALK

OSHANNASSY AQUEDUCT – WARBURTON

DATE Monday 16 May 2016
RETURN TIME 3:00 pm
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 10 km
ELEVATION Mainly flat with some downhill
LEADER Janet Hodgson
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Warburton
MAP REFERENCE Melway Map 289, 290

This walk follows the O'Shannassy Aqueduct through beautiful temperate rainforest with picturesque views overlooking Warburton. We will inspect an interesting old trestle bridge before leaving the aqueduct trail and walking along the Yarra riverbank passing some historic California Redwoods and into Warburton township for coffee and cake!

After our indulgence we will follow the river back to the Warburton Golf Club.

Meet at the carpark to the Warburton Golf Club (Melway 289 J4) at 10:15 am for a car shuffle.



WEDNESDAY WALK

WOODLANDS HISTORIC PARK

DATE Wednesday 18 May 2016
START TIME 9:30 am
RETURN TIME 2:30 pm. Afternoon tea at the Homestead
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 15 km
ELEVATION 200 m
LEADER Mary Daley
TRANSPORT Private
MAP REFERENCE Melway 177 J9 – 178 C6

During the preview in March the creek was desperately dry – nevertheless we saw a mob of kangaroos and three wallabies, a flock of musk lorikeets, several black cockatoos and myriads of superb fairy wrens. The walk is easy, and there are several points of interest such as the views from Gellibrand Hill and some homestead ruins. We plan to have afternoon tea at the historic homestead, an excellent example of a prefabricated building erected in 1843, but last orders for afternoon tea must be in before 3:30 pm.

This venue is close to Tullamarine airport, and we will commence and finish the walk at the Woodlands Homestead carpark. Please enter the gateway from the Oaklands Road entrance, close to the intersection at Sunbury Road. Please also note that these gates open from 8 am and are closed at 4 pm.

Please note the earlier walk starting time of 9.30am.



CYCLING

SEAFORD, FRANKSTON, MT ELIZA LOOP

DATE Saturday 21 May 2016
STARTING TIME 9:30 am
RETURN TIME 3:30 pm
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 50 km
ELEVATION 350 m total ascent
LEADER Ed Neff

TRANSPORT Private
AREA Frankston, Mt Eliza
MAP REFERENCE Melway 99 E3, Start/Finish

This ride was planned by Ross Berner. Unfortunately, Ross is not quite ready to resume riding.

We will meet at Seaford Railway Station on the east side, by Railway Parade at 9:30 am. There is a Frankston line train departing Flinders Street at 8:18 am, arriving at Seaford at 9:15 am. Please check these times closer to the ride day.

We will first ride to Frankston where we should be able to enjoy an early coffee break. From there we ride east to pick up the Peninsula Link Trail South, then west and south to Mt Eliza and our highest point at Mt Eliza Park. Then downhill for lunch near Moorooduc station. (Bring your lunch as there may not be an opportunity to purchase).

Our return to Seaford will be substantially along the Peninsula Link Trail.

Bring your lunch, a repair kit with spare tube and a water bottle.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

LONDON GULLY – CLEARWATER GULLY

DATE Sunday 22 May, 2016
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 14 km
TOTAL ASCENT approx. 300m (but only after descending 300m first)

LEADER Nigel Holmes
TRANSPORT Carpool from Southbank Boulevard
START TIME Depart from Southbank Boulevard at 8:45 am
RETURN TIME Return to Southbank Boulevard at 6:30 pm
ACTIVITY AREA Wombat State Forest / Lerderderg Forest Park
MAP REFERENCE Lerderderg Gorge Forest Park, FCV 1974; Forest Explorer 5 (on-line) and LASSI (on-line) for GDA94 co-ordinates

The north-east corner of Lerderderg Forest Park is walked far less often than the western half or the Gorge proper. This is a pity as it provides fine cross country walking through fairly open dry sclerophyll bush on the ridges around the major tributaries of the Lerderderg River and along interesting rocky gullies.

This walk explores Landon Gully and Clearwater Gully (Watties Creek). Mostly off track and following rocky creek beds, the walk gives a sense of remoteness all the more remarkable for its closeness to Melbourne. Drinking water for the day should be carried in as the creeks are expected to be dry. Not recommended for weak ankles. Four Joe Blakes, two feral goats and a koala were noted on the preview.



SOCIAL WALK

EDWARDS LAKE PARK

DATE Thursday 26 May 2016
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 5 km
ELEVATION Flat
LEADER Jean Giese
TRANSPORT Train
AREA Reservoir
MAP REFERENCE Melway map 18

Have you ever been to Edwards Lake Park? I hadn't until recently and I recommend that you join us on this walk.

In 1914 Thomas Edwards donated 34 acres of his land to Preston Council. The creek was dammed and the lake park developed, becoming a popular swimming destination, complete with jetty and Life Saving Club. With the post World War II development of adjacent Reservoir, the lake became polluted and gradually the park turned into a place for the locals to dump their rubbish. Of more recent times a wetlands has been created to purify the creek water and indigenous vegetation planted, making it again a very pleasant park.

We will walk from Ruthven Station along a green corridor to Edgars Creek, around the lake and then proceed to Reservoir for lunch at the local RSL Club. The station for our return is nearby.

Take the South Morang line train from Flinders Street platform 1 at 9:49 (or from Southern Cross platform 9 at 9:52) which should arrive at Ruthven Station at 10:27. Book with leader.



SATURDAY WALK

FERNY CREEK / TREMONT

DATE Saturday 28 May 2016
RETURN TIME 3:30 pm Ferny Creek
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 14 km
ELEVATION Hills
LEADER Elizabeth (Liz) Gwynn
TRANSPORT Private

AREA Dandenong Ranges National park
MAP REF Melway Map 75D1

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 the picnic ground for morning tea. We then descend 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 Track which is a slow steady incline, leading us back to One Tree Hill picnic ground and then onto Mount Erin Road, finishing with the Alpine Track back to Ferny Creek Reserve.

Coffee at the end of the walk most likely in Sassafras.

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



SUNDAY BUS

LOST CHILDREN TRACK (PLUS CIDERY)

DATE Sunday 29 May 2016
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
LEADERS Denise Charman and Jenny Andrewes
TRANSPORT Bus - leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am

No preview received at time of publication. Check next month's News, or the club's website, or contact the leaders.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL SLIP

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

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

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

Fees: **Single member:** \$45* **Concession:** \$34* (Proof required**) (Please circle your **Couple/Family:** \$72* **Concession:** \$50* (Proof required**) membership category) **News Only Subscribers:** \$27.50

Notes:

- * Members who currently receive their copies of 'NEWS' via postal mail should add \$17.50 to continue. No new hard copy subscriptions will be accepted.
- ** Concession membership applies to those who hold an Australian Government concession card, not a Seniors Card only.

Name:		Year of birth (optional)
Name:		Year of birth (optional)
(Note: Year of birth is used only for statistical purposes and not published in any lists.)		
<i>Fill in Address, Telephone number(s) and email address only if changed since last renewal:</i>		
Street Address:	YES / NO	<i>Indicate left if you agree details can be displayed to other members in the Members' Secure Login Area (Default in Bold)</i>
Suburb & Postcode:	YES / NO	
Tel: [H] [W] Mobile	YES / NO	
Email:	YES / NO	
Emergency Contact:Tel: [H][M][W]	YES / NO	

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 2016

Sun 1	DAY: Stony Creek – Steiglitz (Brisbane Ranges)	Bus	E&E/M	John Fritze and Carol Ward
Thu 5	TOF: Diamond Creek – Candlebark Park	Pvt	Easy	Pam Rosso
Sun 8	DAY: Altona to Port Melbourne (By train – alt dept)	Car	E/M	Mark Heath
Wed 11	DAY: San Remo, Cape Woolamai	Pvt	E/M	Deb Berner
13–15	PC : Great Ocean Walk: Johanna Beach–Princetown	Pvt	E/M	Jeanette Burnett
13–15	MNT: Grampians track maintenance	Pvt	E/M	Mark Heath
Sun 15	DAY: Bullengarook (Gisborne)	Bus	E/M&M	Nik Dow and Halina Sarbinowski
Mon 16	MOF: O’Shannassy Aqueduct	Pvt	Easy	Janet Hodgson
Wed 18	DAY: Woodlands Historic Park	Pvt	E/M	Mary Daley
Sat 21	CYC: Mount Eliza summit	Pvt	Med	Ross Berner
Sun 22	DAY: Landon Gully – Clearwater Gully	Car	E/M	Nigel Holmes
Thu 26	SOC: Edwardes Lake Park, Edgars Creek	Pvt	Easy	Jean Giese
Sat 28	DAY: Dandenongs Explorer	Pvt	E/M	Liz Gwynne
Sun 29	DAY: Lost Children Track (plus Cidery)	Bus	E&E/M	Denise Charman and Jenny Andrewes

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