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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

August 2016

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Don't forget our first unit on

BECOMING A LEADER

Wednesday 17 August, 2016 – 7:30 pm. Clubrooms

LOOKING FORWARD to the members who have already expressed interest and to the potential members who want to share their talent and ability to lead!

With the navigation training already completed you may want to begin the process of selecting and planning a walk for your club. Remember the units we are offering are based on **Bushwalking Victoria modules** focusing on training components addressing basic leadership skills.

Members who are interested in leading walks do need to gradually build up knowledge of leadership styles and principles. Our Club has a wealth of volunteers who have lead extensively and have given generously over the years. It is vital for our Club to skill up new and potential leaders through our training program to increase our expertise within our membership and for general membership to increase their personal skill levels.

Our Club encourages people regardless of their experience level to participate in Training. So contact me and remember just because you complete the training there is no obligations involved.

Angela Vetsica – Training Officer

THE 2016 FEDERATION WALKS

This year's walks take place over the weekend of 7–9 October in the Western Grampians. The base for the walks is Cameron Oval Reserve at Laharum.

You can come for the weekend or just a day.

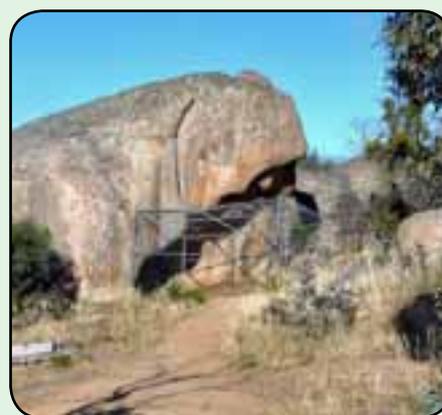
Accommodation is DIY in nearby towns or camping in the Grampians.

The dinner on Saturday night is \$24 and there is a talk by Grampians Chief Ranger Dave Roberts on the Grampians Peak Trail to follow.

Catering is by the Laharum Sports Ground Catering Group. There is no BYO – beer, wine and softdrinks will be sold at the venue.

There is a registration fee for the walks: \$15 for one day and \$20 for two days. Walk bookings start on 8 July and finish 31 August – be early!

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



Cave in the Black Range
Photo by Ian Mair

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

21 August

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 1 August 2016

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Vedran Bajraktarevic, Bridget Brear,
Verna Kearney, Tim Connors, Sue Lindblade,
Mark Thompson, Katy Yeung, Bruce Martyn

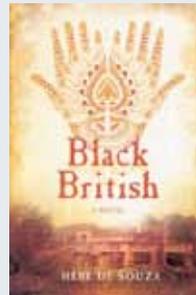
SOIL ENGINEERS, MYCORRHIZAL FUNGI AND HEALTH OF BANKSIAS

Any of you interested in the flora and fauna of Wilsons Prom might be interested to listen to Saturday's Off-Track program on 9th July (link below). The 'soil engineers' referred to were four-footed ones, New Holland mice, wombats and echidnas!

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/offtrack/a-game-of-trap-and-mouse/7577244>

Rosemary Cotter

BLACK BRITISH by Hebe Winifred de Souza



Please note in the last copy of this Newsletter there was an error in the notice about free postage from Booktopia to buy the novel Black British.

When ordering the book online postage is required.

We are sorry for any inconvenience.

Hebe Winifred de Souza

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST: LARAPINTA TRAIL, JULY 2017

The Larapinta Trail stands out as one of Australia's top long distance walking tracks. Running 223 km along the MacDonnell Ranges in the Northern Territory, with Alice Springs at its eastern end, it is also one of Australia's most spectacular bushwalking experiences. I have been approached by a number of club members interested in walking the trail in July 2017 and have decided to include it on the program.

Any members interested in joining this trip please contact me as soon as possible as numbers are closing fast.

Wait list bookings only now available.

Ian Mair – r.i.mair@bigpond.net.au

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – AUGUST 2016



Did you read the message? There is no operation more important for the smooth running of a club than its capacity to communicate with its members. It is a cliché to note that the technologies and avenues for communication are constantly changing. The challenge is to find the most effective means for keeping you informed and having appropriate means for you to communicate with the club and its officers.

Paper-based communication will continue to be used for many more years. However, changing preferences of senders and receivers, cost and timeliness of delivery have reduced its once dominant role. Electronic media in all of its variants have provided new communications channels and also some pressing issues. Critical to effective communication is the simple observation that just knowing that a message has been sent, and indeed received, is no measure of whether or not it was read. Hardly a new issue. Countless organisations and individuals make their livelihood from specialist products and advice to help get the content of a message to its intended audience.

As a club we choose redundancy over repetition as a preferred way to get important information to you as a member. Our website (mbw.org.au/), Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/melbournebushwalkers/) and Meetup site (www.meetup.com/Melbourne-Bushwalkers/) complement our direct email and digital newsletter communications. Our electronic media sources are backed up by verbal announcements at appropriate events. Each of us reacts differently to the way a message is received and alternative approaches increase the likelihood that it will be noted and acted upon. Ultimately, though, it is up to you, as the recipient, to access a message in a timely way and note the information contained.

My glass house has broken panes. I am as guilty as any of failing to read a message fully or even bothering to read it at all. My 'read later' folder and in-tray are bulging with good intentions. Messages that are too long, unsolicited or just not a priority at the time, gather proverbial dust. Critical to the way we communicate electronically is the seemingly ephemeral nature of the communication. All too easily a message can be swamped by an endless stream, even discounting the scourge of spam, or summarily given the royal delete. Many years ago I was given the gratuitous advice that I shouldn't worry about things that have gone unread or unanswered since, if they are important, the sender will follow it up with a more urgent communication. It is not the way I choose to operate although to some it may appear to be true.

I have learned from experience that failing to respond in a timely manner, or responding to misread communications, can cause frustration, lack of motivation or annoyance for the other party. This is particularly true for a volunteer organisation like Melbourne Bushwalkers where we depend almost entirely on the goodwill and dedication of many to keep the club running and our activities program vibrant. Feedback or early registrations of interest and bookings motivate volunteers. Make our volunteers' life easier by responding early.

I started this column by noting that it is also a challenge to have appropriate means for members to communicate with the club and its officers. The Quarterly Activities Program distributed to members lists the telephone numbers of leaders so that you may book for coming activities (excluding Sunday Walks). Previews in the newsletter may also provide an email address for leaders if they make it available. Sunday Walks can be booked online using the busbookings@mbw.org.au email address. The Quarterly Activities Program also lists Committee members and their telephone numbers. Those of you who have registered for access to the Members' Area of the website will be aware that we provide a listing of club officers (Committee and non-Committee) and their contact details. The Members' Area also provides a means to look up the contact details of any other member provided they have elected to make the information available.

Your responsibility as a member is to respect the privacy and personal time of club volunteers (which, incidentally, is why we do not make contact details available on the public website). Sending communications to the relevant individual is a big help. We provide a generic email address for questions if you are unsure whom to contact. Please use info@mbw.org.au or the 'Further Information and Feedback' link from the footer of every website page if you are in doubt. Please do not use the busbookings@mbw.org.au address for general enquiries.

We are a large and active club and it is not always easy to remember all of the information provided. Don't sweat on it, the information will be repeated or can be found somewhere online! All that is asked is that you read the notices sent to you at least once.

Ian Mair

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS BUSH DANCE

DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY WITH BUSHWAHZEE

Saturday 20 August
St Oswalds Hall
96 High Street, Glen Iris
7:00pm (band starts 7:30pm) until 11:00pm

Tickets \$20 per person
BYO Plate (to share) & Drinks
Tea & Coffee available

Tickets are on sale NOW:

- in the MBW club rooms on Wednesday evenings;
- on the Sunday Bus Walks;
- EFT payments to Melbourne Bushwalkers account ANZ 013006 005846013 and advise bushdance@mbw.org.au (Please add "BD" before your name on the EFT payment. Once payment is confirmed you will be issued with a ticket number by email and your ticket can be collected on the night.);
- at the door of St Oswald's on the evening.

For further information or booking:

- contact Susanna Mason; or
- email bushdance@mbw.org.au



2016 Social Calendar



Wednesday 24 August

SLIDE AND INFORMATION NIGHT – HIKING IN TURKEY AND GEORGIA

BY AGAJAN

I did two walks in Turkey and two walks in Georgia (Caucasus).

Walks in Turkey include The Laycian way (Likya) situated on the south coast and Mount Kackar. The Kackars are impressive ragged mountains running parallel to the Black Sea southern shore.



Lake Denz and Mount Kackar, Turkey



Gergeti Trinity Church (2170 metres), Georgia

Trekking in Georgia (Mestia – Ushguli) passes through several traditional Svan villages, White Mountains peaks, glaciers and fast deep rivers. My other walk in Georgia was in Kazbegi area (Stepantsminda – town) and land mark Gergeti Trinity church and Glacier close to Mt Kazbek. It was a fascinating experience which I'd like to share with you.

Wednesday 28 September

THE BUSHWALKER'S IDEAL CAMERA; AND SOME ADVENTURES IN TASMANIA'S HIGH ALPINE COUNTRY – BY LES SOUTHWELL



Thinking of upgrading your point-and-shoot camera? There have been some new developments in upmarket digital cameras recently, very useful for bushwalkers. They include the use of the panorama for capturing very wide-angle views, and 'HDR' to tame scenes of extreme contrast, all executed in-camera – no fiddling around with Photoshop required. Les will explain them briefly, with examples.

Also, Tasmania has some of the finest Alpine country on the planet. And he will be showing slides of two recent adventures in the World Heritage area:

First, most bushwalkers taking the Overland track in the Cradle Mountain – Lake St. Clair Reserve usually walk straight through, venturing no further off-track than a day walk to Pine Valley or to adjacent peaks. However, some of the best country is to be found further off-track to the west, in the high Ducanes Range complex.

Second, an ascent of the King Williams – another remote, high alpine plateau, rarely visited, just south of the Lyell Highway. It was reached via a tough, hazardous climb over Slatter's Peak, described in the Abels Guide to Tasmania's high alpine peaks as 'not for the faint hearted'.



Looking north over the King William II Plateau.
More of Les' photos over the page.

GUIDELINE FOR NOMINATION OF MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS' LIFE MEMBERS

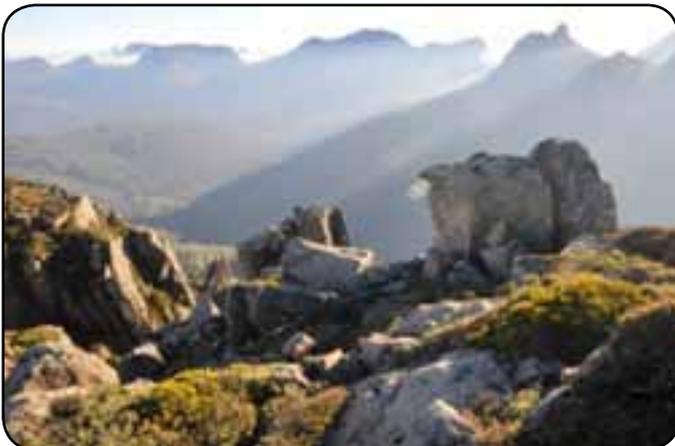
Life membership may be conferred by resolution of an extraordinary or annual general meeting on any person as a mark of high esteem and in appreciation of exceptional services to the Club. Conferring of Life Membership on a person is the highest honour the club can grant and a nomination should not be made lightly. It is not a measure of popularity. Any person may be nominated for Life Membership. In practical terms it is expected that the person nominated will be an existing or a past-member that the current membership wishes to recognise for their contributions. Scope for the nomination of an individual for Life Membership of Melbourne Bushwalkers is given in the Club's Rules (Rule 9(3)):

This Guideline has been developed as an aid to members who may wish to nominate the name of another person for Life Membership. The Guideline should not be seen as limiting the scope nor initiative of a member to make a recommendation within the Club's Rules. There is no black-and-white answer to what constitutes 'exceptional services'. Whilst in no way restricting the role of the membership at a general meeting to confer Life Membership upon a nominee, Committee recommends that appropriate criteria are:

1. A minimum of 20 years membership with Melbourne Bushwalkers;
2. Have regularly contributed as a leader to the Activities Program for at least 10 years;
3. Have at least 6 years involvement on the Club Committee;
4. Have contributed to non-Committee voluntary work in one or more of the non-Committee roles published annually in the Club's newsletter or involvement in Club training activities or conservation activities.

The Guideline may be downloaded from the Members' Area of the website or by request to the Membership Secretary.

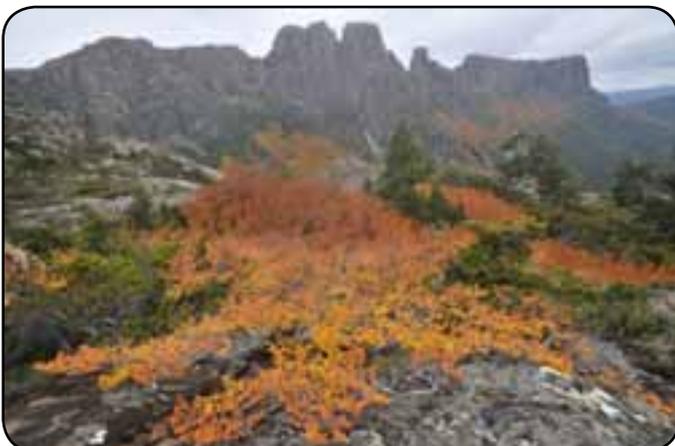
Ian Mair



Mt Ossa and Hyperion, from Walled Mountain.



'Pool of Memories', north of the Labyrinth.



Deciduous Beech in the Ducanes, looking towards Mt Geryon.



High camp among the cushion-plants on Walled Mountain.

Regent Honeyeater Plantings 2016

July 30/31 Aug 13/14 Aug 27/28 Sept 10/11 Sept 24/25



Photo: Jody McCormack

- Meeting Places:** 9.00 am Benalla Ceramic Mural (beside the bridge over Lake Benalla)
OR 9.00 am in the township of Winton (large car park near the CFA shed)
- 9.15 am Welcome for all our volunteers at Winton.
9:30 am Travel in convoy to the planting site.
9:45 am Registration at the planting site and start planting.
- Accommodation:** Sleeping quarters at Benalla Scout and Guide Halls.
Mattresses supplied & small kitchen facilities available.
BYO sleeping bag & pillow.
Hot showers at Benalla Leisure Caravan Park, \$3.
- What to Bring:** Sun-screen, hat, boots or sturdy shoes, long trousers, gloves, rain jacket, hand-trowel.
- Meals:** BYO lunch for Saturday, as we will be out in the field all day.
Hot cuppa supplied for morning and afternoon tea.
Sumptuous meal supplied on Saturday evening.
BYO breakfast for Sunday, or sample the delights of the local bakeries.
Free BBQ lunch in the bush on Sunday after planting.
- Activities:** Bush dance on Saturday night for the energetic.
Wildflower & ecology walk on Sunday afternoon, in some of our best bush remnants.
See the fantastic growth in some of our older sites, a decade or more after planting.
- Numbers Expected:** **Please let us know in advance the no of people coming, so we can cater appropriately.**
- Contact:** Ray Thomas (03) 57 611 515 email ray@regenthoneyeater.org.au

WILSONS PROMONTORY BASE CAMP 3-5 JUNE 2016

Early Saturday we left the lodge and walked along Loo Errn Track, a lovely boardwalk to Tidal Bridge and across to Tidal Lookout. From the Lilly Pilly car park we climbed through beautiful eucalypt forest, saw gorgeous lichen and even spotted a wallaby. We continued on to Lilly Pilly Nature walk which was boarded to protect the fragile warm temperate rainforest vegetation.

Then we did a circuit trip to the top of rocky Mt Bishop with spectacular views of the Prom's west coast and islands.

Lunch at top of Mt Bishop and the rain came pelting down. Pillar Point is an amazing outcrop of granite boulders and with awe inspiring views of Norman Beach to the left and Squeaky Beach to the right. Then we headed through stringy bark forest, to Lilly Pilly Gully and back to camp.

Returned to camp at 3 pm to a warm and cosy lodge. Delighted to have afternoon tea and a smorgasbord for dinner. Though it continued to rain throughout much of the night with strong winds howling around the camp we were enjoying the wonderful company and food.

After a good night's sleep we woke early to a dry weather and Mt Oberon was finally out of the clouds. A number of us chose to scale Mt Oberon, 585 m, by following the management vehicle track and a series of steps to the summit, 3.4 km, and once again we were fortunate enough to enjoy the views despite the constant rain and strong winds. The waves were coming in parallel to the Norman Beach shore and the sea was extremely choppy. A quick hike back down to the cars at Telegraph Saddle and drive back to the lodge for morning tea and to pack our belongings.

The main walk was next on the plan. A 9.3 km walk from Darby Saddle to Tongue Point and then to Darby River. After a reasonable ascent up the Saddle through lovely ferns and lichens and stopping for the occasional half marathon runner, we arrived at the sign for Tongue Point. We took a left turn through open grassland following the headland to Tongue Point, a rocky outcrop where once again we had amazing views of Shellback Island and Darby Beach, orange lichen covered boulders which were washed by the breaking waves. Despite the rain we were able to find some sheltered spots amongst the rocks and plants to eat lunch and take in the amazing views.

After lunch we headed off towards Darby River which was mainly a coastal walk with great views of the shoreline to our left. The land was gently undulating and the vegetation was ferny and shrubby till we saw the meandering Darby River and swamp. After a steep boarded descent we reached our destination where Halina waited to take the drivers back to collect their cars from Darby Saddle.

A short stop in Loch at a quaint café which had lovely hot cacao and homemade cakes we reached Melbourne at around 5:30 pm. What a wonderful weekend of scenic walks, great camaraderie and fine dining! Oh though it rained it didn't dampen our spirits nor our enjoyment of bushwalking at the Prom.

Thanks Jill for organising such great accommodation, John Gregory group lodge, and planning beautiful walks at the Prom. Best wishes and many happy returns for your birthday which was celebrated at the Prom.

Androula Demetrios



Norman Bay



Tongue Point

Photos by Androula Demetrios

A BARMAH ADVENTURE, 24–27 JUNE.

Way back when the club's Winter Activities Program was being put together a June trip to Little Desert seemed like a good idea. Something different, not too hot and within reasonable reach for a 3-day weekend. Alas, unreliable water availability resulted in a later location switch to the Barmah National Park. Nestled along the banks of the Murray River there had to be plenty of water to drink! Of course, I had never been there and it had an air of an exploratory trip about it. Background reading, study of maps and route planning built up a level of excitement. As the departure date drew nearer the scourge of Blue-Green Algae in the Murray River and waterways of the Barmah NP threatened to scuttle the trip. There were still weeks to go and a good flushing of the river may solve our problem. Plan B was also drawn up with alternative water drop points of good, clean Melbourne water.

The rains came in early June. Reports came through of road closures in the Barmah NP due to flooding. The Blue-Green Algae remained steadfast! The Fates were conspiring against us. As the days slipped by even more rain came but the algae were tenacious. With steely resolve it was decided to push ahead irrespective, but the Fates had more surprises to come. Icy weather, illness and a spate of personal issues whittled away our numbers. At last on the 24th June our diminished band of seven walking warriors set up camp in the rain at the Barmah Lakes camping area. By morning we were down to six. Near-zero temperatures and a sleepless night were not a good preparation for the days ahead.



Saturday promised clear weather for the rest of the trip. After slipping and sliding on the wet and muddy roads an advance team positioned our water supply for the next few nights. By mid-morning we were ready to head out. Now, those of you who know the Barmah NP will also know that it is part of the largest River Red Gum forest in the world. The complex ecology of the forest is closely linked to the Murray River and its flooding regime, creating a diverse natural habitat for a variety of wildlife, particularly waterbirds. You will also know that it is billiard-table flat, just perfect for the pooling of heavy rains! Less well known may be the observation that maps of the area differ in their accuracy and location of roads and tracks that skirt the swampier zones, let alone the existence of a myriad of interconnecting brumby trails intertwined like synapses of the brain. Fortunately we had

planned to spend as much time as possible walking off-track through the easily negotiated forests. Avoiding the recently replenished swamp zones proved a little more challenging and a few mid-course corrections were all part of the fun and exploration. (A word of advice to those who follow. Time spent scouring the area on Google Earth to plan a 'dry' route will be well spent if you have limited time to explore.)

By late afternoon on Saturday we had located our water dump and set up camp by the banks of the Murray River. Plan B determined that we would spend two nights at the same location. It was idyllic. The river flowed full and the cool winter months assured us of a relatively isolated camp site. A camp fire by the river bank added a touch of comfort as its warming glow kept some of the winter chill at bay.

Sunday was like Saturday without heavy packs. Explorations along the river bank, a foray into the forest, calculation and re-calculation of a path around the swamps and finally back to the camp site. The surrounding forest changed appearance repeatedly, sometimes sparse, sometimes dense. Fallen timber was a hurdler's delight. Fungi flourished after the extended rains, attracting much interest by their shape, colour and size variations. And brumbies and kangaroos monitored our progress.

Too soon it was Monday morning and time to head back to our starting point. By now our initial route plans had been abandoned and our course was set by random waypoints that it was hoped would take us to places of interest. They did just that. The forest diversity along our path continued to enchant, even where the signs of past logging had left their mark, and the replenished creeks we followed were home to an array of pelicans and other water birds. The sun shone brightly overhead and in our hearts.

Thank you to those who were able to join me on this adventure. Barmah National Park is a place to put back on the program.

Ian Mair

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.



TOFS WALK

NEW: DEVILBEND NATURAL FEATURES RESERVE

DATE Thursday 1 September 2016
START TIME Depart from location in notes below at 10:30 am
STANDARD DISTANCE Easy 12 km
ELEVATION Flat
LEADER Michael Porter
TRANSPORT Private
TRANSPORT COST See arrangements below. To be advised by Leader if carpool proposed.
AREA Mooroduc/Tuerong
MAP REFERENCE Melways 152-153. Parks Victoria: Devilbend Natural Features Reserve [NFR]-Map

We will walk around the reservoir of Devilbend N. F. R. Until recently this was a water supply, but is now developed for recreational use such as fishing and walking. Native vegetation is being regenerated and native fauna protected. Birdlife is abundant. A catch drain maintenance track along a natural contour makes up two thirds of the walk. It is broad, firm and level. A gentle climb up one low hill gives scenic views overlooking the lake. The rest of the walk continues on level tracks through a variety of remnant native bush, beside grazing land and through pine forests.

Meet at 10:30 am at Devilbend Natural Features Reserve picnic area. Enter from Graydens Road, Melway 152 J3.

With a wealth of options to choose from, on most days there will be both easier and more challenging walks. Some of the easier options include walks through river red gum and acacia forest across the valley floor, following ancient creek beds, and walks to the historic Hills homestead and the Wangara lookout for panoramic views of Wilpena Pound. More challenging options include the climb up St Mary's Peak (1170 m), the trek to Malloga Falls in Edeowie Gorge and nearby sections of the 1200 km Heysen Trail.

Estimated Transport Cost: \$367 plus return flight to Adelaide.

To get there: a 5-6 hour chartered bus drive from Adelaide airport on Saturday September 3, returning to Adelaide Saturday September 10.

Facilities at Wilpena Pound: campsites with fireplaces, shower and laundry facilities: \$26 per site. Campers have access to the restaurant at the Wilpena Pound resort. Accommodation in the resort includes deluxe cabins with all facilities, accommodating up to 6 for \$75 per person per night. NB. Cabin accommodation is disappearing fast and needs to be booked ASAP. Deluxe single and double rooms also available: see <http://www.wilpenapound.com.au/>



SUNDAY CAR POOL

HEALESVILLE SANCTUARY-BADGERS WEIR

DATE Sunday 4 September 2016
STANDARD Easy
LEADER Del Franks
TRANSPORT Carpool - leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am

For details of this walk, please contact the leader.



BASE CAMP

WILPENA POUND, FLINDERS RANGES

DATE 3-10 September, Saturday to Saturday
STANDARD DISTANCES Medium Various
TOTAL ASCENTS Various
LEADER Judith Shaw
TRANSPORT See arrangements below
AREA Flinders Ranges
MAP REFERENCE Flinders Ranges 1:50,000; Carto Graphics

A week of day walks in the stunning Flinders Ranges, based in the spectacular natural rock amphitheatre of Wilpena Pound, a remnant valley floor from an ancient range of mountains.



PACK CARRY

WARBY RANGES

DATE 10-11 September 2016
STANDARD Easy
ELEVATION 500 metres
LEADER Ian Langford
TRANSPORT Private
TRANSPORT COSTS \$40 per person
AREA Warby-Ovens National Park
MAP REFERENCE Vicmap 1:50,000 Wangaratta 8125S

The dry Warby Ranges are 240 km north of Melbourne, near the Hume Highway, overlooking Glenrowan. Despite the easy access from Melbourne, they are seldom visited by Melbourne Bushwalkers and pack carries there are uncommon.

The attractions are granite hills and woodland with views of the Victorian Alps, waterfalls and gorges and trees such as Blakely's redgum, red stringybark, box, the austral grass-tree, with its long 'skirt' and black trunk, and spurwinged wattle. Birds include rosellas, robins, wedgetailed eagles, eastern spinebills and white-throated treecreepers.

Rendezvous 0830 Saturday at Taminick Gap, a saddle on the Warby Ranges, reached by turning off the Hume Highway at Glenrowan onto Warby Range Road then left onto Taminick Gap Road. From Taminick Gap an out and back walk to Morgans Lookout on Mt Glenrowan to see the Ovens and King Valleys and Victorian Alps. Then a short drive to the start of the next leg which goes up past Salisbury Falls to a camp at Black Springs. Sunday is a walk to Pine Valley Picnic Area and return to the cars via Taylor Track and Alpine Views Track.

Special requirements: Water to be carried on Saturday afternoon for a dry Saturday night camp and Sunday walk. When registering, state name and phone number, car registration, car availability, departure time, name of emergency contact and contact's phone number.



CONSERVATION

REGENT HONEYEATER TREE PLANTING WEEKEND

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| DATE | 10-11 September 2016 |
| STANDARD | Easy |
| LEADER | John Terrell |
| TRANSPORT | Private |
| TRANSPORT COST | \$40 |
| AREA | Benalla |
| MAP REFERENCE | Melway 420 B8 |

Many Bushies will be familiar with Ray Thomas and the Regent Honeyeater Project which has engaged a whole farming community in restoring remnant box-ironbark habitat for the regent honeyeater and other endangered species still living in the district, and attracted ongoing support from a wide cross-section of the community to help farmers with the on-ground works. Each year they run several tree planting weekends and MBW chooses one as a club conservation activity. If you can't make it on 10-11 September, alternative dates are 30-31 July, 13-14 August, 27-28 August and 24-25 September.

Full details of the weekend are at www.regenthoneyeater.org.au but the main ones you need to know are:

Meet at 9.00 am Saturday 10th in the township of Winton (large car park near the CFA shed).

Accommodation for Saturday night is provided at Benalla Scout and Guide Halls. Mattresses supplied and small kitchen facilities available. BYO sleeping bag and pillow. Hot showers at Benalla Leisure Caravan Park, \$3.

Bring sun-screen, hat, boots or sturdy shoes, long trousers, gloves, rain jacket, hand-trowel.

BYO lunch for Saturday, as we will be out in the field all day. Hot cuppa supplied for morning and afternoon tea. Sumptuous meal supplied on Saturday evening. BYO breakfast for Sunday, or sample the delights of the local bakeries. Free BBQ lunch in the bush on Sunday after planting.

Additional activities include Bush dance on Saturday night for the energetic; Wildflower and ecology walk on Sunday afternoon, in some of our best bush remnants; See the fantastic growth in some of our older sites, a decade or more after planting.

Please contact John Terrell if you plan to come as they need to know numbers. If you plan to come on one of the alternative weekends, contact Ray Thomas directly (03) 57 611 515 or ray@regenthoneyeater.org.au



SUNDAY BUS

STRATH CREEK FALLS

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| DATE | Sunday 11 September 2016 |
| STANDARDS | Easy/Medium and Medium |
| DISTANCES | 9 and 12 km |
| LEADERS | John Fritze and Carol Ward |
| TRANSPORT | Bus - leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am |
| AREA | North Central |
| MAP REFERENCE | Mt Disappointment Outdoor Leisure Map |



This is an excellent walk in one of Victoria's old gold mining areas. It is mostly off track with some steep, scrabbly climbs and descents, rock hopping along creek gullies, scrambling around fallen trees and small waterfalls and a section through open grassy woodland. We will cross Strath Creek just above the spectacular Strath Creek Falls and take in other magnificent views from rugged valleys to picturesque farmland. This is one of our more adventurous walks and not to be missed! It could be a good idea to bring a pair of scrub gloves



WEDNESDAY WALK

BLACK SNAKE CREEK - BUNYIP STATE FOREST

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| DATE | Wednesday 14 September 2016 |
| STANDARD | Easy/Medium |
| DISTANCE | 14 km |
| LEADER | Ian Mair |
| TRANSPORT | Private |
| AREA | Bunyip State Forest |
| MAP REFERENCE | VicMap Topo Gembrook South 1:25,000 |

Accessing the Bunyip State Forest via Gembrook brings you to the Black Snake Road and the source of the creek. The name 'Black Snake Creek' evokes feelings of awe. In reality it is an inspiring circuit through an attractive section of the Bunyip State Forest. Starting from the junction of Black Snake Road and Rankins Track the walk first passes through the drier forest to the south of Black Snake Creek. A few moderate hills and traversing on management tracks brings us to Dyers Creek Picnic Ground. Heading into the hills to the north of

Dyers Creek the forest gets lush as we follow the little-used Russell Track back to the cars.

We will meet at the parking area at the junction of Black Snake Road and Rankins Track (Ref: 804994). Allow around 1.5 hours travel time from the City centre.

Please see me in the clubroom or telephone for more information, or to let me know if you will be joining this interesting walk.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| DATE | Sunday 18 September 2016 |
| STANDARD | Easy/Medium |
| DISTANCE | 14 km |
| ELEVATION | 700 m total ups and downs |
| LEADER | Brett Daniel |
| TRANSPORT | Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am |
| AREA | Brisbane Ranges |
| MAP REFERENCE | Walk 5 from Melbourne Western Gorges by Glenn Tempest |

The grass tree walk in the Brisbane ranges not far from Melbourne is a very interesting walk named after the famous *xanthorrhoea* or native grass tree. These ranges have almost 20% of the native plants in Victoria.

The walk follows the initial section of the 3 days Burchell Trail commencing at the Boar Gully camping grounds. It's mainly along quiet tracks through undulating woodlands with an understorey of grass trees, and one steep climb out of a little gorge. Old slate quarries, good views, eastern grey kangaroos, wallabies, and the little gorge add to its appeal.



MOFS WALK

OLINDA FOREST

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| DATE | Monday 19 September 2016 |
| STANDARD | Easy |
| DISTANCE | 11 km |
| LEADER | Doug Pocock |
| TRANSPORT | Private |
| AREA | Dandenong Ranges |
| MAP REFERENCE | Melway 120 and 122 |

A pleasant stroll in the eastern side of the Dandenongs. We will do a couple of loops which should avoid any long steep climbs. Lunch will be in a sunny glade. Some of the walk is through Grey Gum forest so watch out for Hobyahs.

Meet at Sylvan Weir overflow carpark on the north side of Stonyford Lane (Melways 120 H11). There are toilets in the main Sylvan carpark. Be there ready to start walking at 10:30.



WEDNESDAY WALK

COLIBAN AQUEDUCT

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| DATE | Wednesday 21 September 2016 |
| RETURN TIME | Taradale 3:30 pm for 'tea' |
| STANDARD | Easy |
| DISTANCE | 13 km |
| ELEVATION | Mostly flat |
| LEADER | Lesley Hale |
| TRANSPORT | Private |
| AREA | 100 km NW of Melbourne, beyond Malmsbury |
| MAP REFERENCE | Vicmap 7723-N Malmsbury |

The Coliban Water Works System opened in 1877 with 70 kms of open channels, aqueducts, syphons and tunnels to carry water (by gravity) from the Coliban River at Malmsbury, north to Castlemaine and Bendigo. Inspired originally by the need to supply water to end the annual summer drought in the goldfields region, it now services farms and agricultural activities in the area. The awe-inspiring stone and brickwork, built by workers without today's machinery, has stood the test of time.

The walk follows a section of the Coliban water channel to the west of the small town of Taradale on the Calder Highway. It passes through forested areas and more open areas with views over nearby farmland.

We meet at 10:00 am at the Taradale Mineral Springs Reserve: heading north on C794 to the edge of town, take first right into Jackson Street after crossing bridge over Back Creek. After a short car shuffle north and south of the town we will be ready to start walking at 10:30 am. Plan to finish with an excellent afternoon tea at the 'Goods Shed'.



SOCIAL WALK

KARKAROOK PARK, HEATHERTON

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| DATE | Thursday 22 September 2016 |
| STANDARD | Easy |
| DISTANCE | 5 km |
| ELEVATION | Flat |
| LEADER | Jean Giese |
| TRANSPORT | Private |
| AREA | Heatherton |
| MAP REFERENCE | Melway 78 |

This park was once a quarry that has been restored with the planting of indigenous vegetation and a lake and wetlands formed. It isn't large but we can make a nice walk within it and drive to the Boundary Pub for lunch.

Meet to start walking at 10:30 in the first carpark off Fairchild Street, Melway 78 D7. Book with leader.



PACK CARRY

BIBBULMAN TRACK: WALPOLE TO DENMARK

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| DATE | 23 September to 2 October 2016 |
| STANDARD | Medium |
| LEADER | Ian Mair |
| TRANSPORT | Private |

This walk is fully booked.



BASE CAMP

WEDDERBURN

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| DATE | 24–26 September 2016 |
| RETURN TIME | Sunday evening |
| STANDARD | Easy |
| DISTANCE | Short |
| ELEVATION | Mostly flat with a couple of rocky scrambles |
| LEADER | Doug Pocock |
| TRANSPORT | Private |
| AREA | Central Goldfields |
| MAP REFERENCE | Vicroads 29 C7 |

Once again we invite members to a base camp on our private conservation reserve. This is 850 acres of mallee/box ironbark land neighbouring the Wychitella Flora and Fauna reserve. There is a camping area with a pit toilet and a picnic shelter. There is tank water available. The camping area is large so large tents, campervans and caravans can be easily accommodated.

On Saturday we will walk through the property into the FFR to visit a disused reservoir. This will give people chance to see the revegetation that many members have helped with. On Sunday we will go to the nearby Mt. Egbert for a rocky wander and then head to Mt. Korong for another rocky wander before heading home.

Jan and I will be going up earlier (probably Wednesday) to be able to get a few jobs done and would welcome anyone who would like to help us. Some things will be installing nest boxes, destroying rabbit warrens, thinning revegetation, erosion control.

As it will be spring there will be an emphasis on botany on our walks. For those are interested in birds you may like to do birding instead, we have 130 species recorded including resident mallee fowl.

We will be able to have a campfire which may lead to singing and jollity as in days of yore.

Contact me for access details.



CYCLING

RINGWOOD-MONTROSE-LILYDALE CIRCUIT

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| DATE | Saturday 24 September 2016 |
| STANDARD | Easy/Medium |
| DISTANCE | 51 km |
| LEADER | Jopie Bodegraven |
| TRANSPORT | Train |
| MAP REFERENCE | Melway |

This will be a pleasant ride through the leafy treed suburbs and semi rural areas in the foothills of the Dandenongs. We will meet at Ringwood Station north side at 10:00 am. The train to catch is the 9:06 from Flinders St which goes round the loop, stops at Richmond at 9:19 and arrives at Ringwood at 9:58. Morning tea will be at Bayswater Park; lunch at Lilydale Lake and afternoon tea at a nice coffee shop in Ringwood East. After lunch there is the option of pulling out at Lilydale, Mooroolbark or Croydon and if 51 km is not enough we can continue down the Mullum Mullum Creek trail to various other stations on the Ringwood Line.



SATURDAY WALK

WARRANTDYTE

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| DATE | Saturday 24 September 2016 |
| START TIME | 10 am |
| RETURN TIME | 3:30 pm |
| STANDARD | Easy/medium |
| DISTANCE | 14 km |
| ELEVATION | Gentle |
| LEADER | Maureen Hurley |
| TRANSPORT | Private |
| AREA | Warrandyte |
| MAP REFERENCE | Melway 23 H11.5 |

We will meet at the Stonehouse Cafe at 10:00 am on the corner of Ringwood/Warrandyte Road, and Tills Road. We will walk up Tills Road to Black Flat and Mullens Track following the Yarra to Jumping Creek Reserve and then around to Blue

Tongue Bend. We then go inland to the remains of Stane Brae, previously a country property (some old brick sheds remain) where we have lunch. This is the site of a magnificent old oak tree.

We then retrace our steps, with some inland walking but then continuing along the Yarra Track to our start point. Coffee will follow the walk. You're welcome to just show up; however visitors are asked to ring and let me know you are coming.



CONSERVATION

REGENT HONEYEATER TREE PLANTING: BENALLA

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| DATE | 24-25 September 2016 |
| STANDARD | Easy |
| LEADER | Mark Heath |
| TRANSPORT | Private |
| TRANSPORT COST | \$40 per person |
| AREA | Benalla |
| MAP REFERENCE | Melway 420 B8 |

Spring is coming and it's tree planting time again.

Come along to help as well as enjoying good country air, food and fun. Accommodation provided in the Scout Hall or bring your tent or try out a local motel. Dinner provided on Saturday night and BBQ lunch on Sunday. Bush dance for the energetic ones on Saturday night also.

More details about the weekend and what to bring on the Regent Honeyeater Project site: <http://regenthoneyeater.org.au/planting.php>

Bookings: Ray Thomas, phone (03) 57 611 515

Email ray@regenthoneyeater.org.au



SUNDAY BUS

FLINDERS-BALNARRING (PLUS WINERY)

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| DATE | Sunday 25 September 2016 |
| RETURN TIME | Return to Southbank Boulevard at 6:00 pm |
| STANDARDS | Easy and Easy/Medium |
| DISTANCES | 13.5 km Easy, 16 km Easy/Medium |
| ASCENT | Minimal |
| LEADERS | Christina Hughes and Theo Mertzandis |
| TRANSPORT | Bus - leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am |
| AREA | Mornington Peninsula Ocean Coast |
| MAP REFERENCE | Melway 193, 257, 256, 262 |

This is a beach walk along the coast between Balnarring and Flinders. The Easy/Medium Group starts at Balnarring and the Easy Group at Merricks Beach. This walk follows the beach and the foreshore coastal reserve all the way to Flinders Jetty. There are excellent views across to Phillip Island and the Nobbies and lots of rock pools to explore.

Merricks has a rather significant koala population and a host of manna gums and pine trees lining the streets. It is one of the few coastal places within a 100 km radius of Melbourne that has been basically untouched by development. After Merricks we rejoin the beach and follow it all the way to Flinders. We walk through Port Leo and Shoreham on our way to Flinders

Both walks finish at Flinders Lookout after a short climb up from the beach along the historic Cable Track. This is a really beautiful walk with interesting lava cliffs and lush green vegetation covering the surrounding hills. If we are lucky some dolphins may be sighted

At Flinders we board the bus for a short trip to Stoniers Winery for tasting and cheese platters.

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!

| September 2016 | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|------------|------------------|---|
| Thu 1 | TOF: NEW: Devilbend Natural Features Reserve | Pvt | Easy | Michael Porter |
| 3-10 | BC : Wilpena Pound | Pvt | Med | Judith Shaw |
| Sun 4 | DAY: Healesville Sanctuary-Badgers Weir | Car | Easy | Del Franks |
| 9-11 | PC : Warby Ranges | Pvt | Easy | Ian Langford |
| 10-11 | CON: Regent Honeyeater tree planting: Benalla | Pvt | Easy | John Terrell (co-ord) |
| Sun 11 | DAY: Strath Creek Falls | Bus | E/M&M | John Fritze and Carol Ward |
| Wed 14 | DAY: Black Snake Creek – Bunyip SF | Pvt | E/M | Ian Mair |
| Sun 18 | DAY: Grass Tree Walk (Brisbane Ranges) | Car | E/M | Brett Daniel |
| Mon 19 | MOF: Silvan Reservoir – Olinda Forest | Pvt | Easy | Doug Pocock |
| Wed 21 | DAY: Coliban Aqueduct | Pvt | Easy | Lesley Hale |
| Thu 22 | SOC: Karkarook Park, Heatherton | Pvt | Easy | Jean Giese |
| 23-2 | PC : Bibbulman Track: Walpole to Denmark | Pvt | Med | Ian Mair |
| 24-26 | BC : Wedderburn | Pvt | E/M | Doug Pocock |
| Sat 24 | CYC: Ringwood-Montrose-Lilydale circuit | Pvt | E/M | Jopie Bodegraven |
| Sat 24 | DAY: Warrandyte area | Pvt | E/M | Maureen Hurley |
| 24-25 | CON: Regent Honeyeater tree planting: Benalla | Pvt | Easy | Mark Heath (co-ord) |
| Sun 25 | DAY: Flinders-Balnarring (Plus Winery) | Bus | E&E/M | Christina Hughes and Theo Mertzandis |
| Wed 28 | SOC: Tasmania through the Photographer's Eye | | | Les Southwell |

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