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THE NEWS OF THE

Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

November 2016

**Melbourne Bushwalkers
2016 Christmas Party**

Monday 12th December, 7pm to 10pm

**Melbourne City Bowls Club
Dudley Street
West Melbourne
(Opposite the clubrooms)**

**BYO Plate to Share
Drinks can be purchased
from the bar.**



- 1 A huge hollow tingle tree on the Bibbulmun track, September – photo by Ian Mair.
- 2 Black Range Traverse – The big cave near Wildman’s Cave – photo taken on the October Federation weekend in the Grampians by either Ian Mair or Stephen Ingruille.

**Due date for contributions (including January previews)
to December News: 21 November**

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 7 November 2016

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new member:

Natalya KABYLYUK

Expressions of Interest 5 DAY TRIP TO DEAL ISLAND

Base Camp

3 Days of Walking and Exploring

The last two years have seen four trips to Deal Island for the Melbourne Bushwalkers. We made history as the first Bushwalking Club to go there. Each group has had such a fantastic time we want to return in 2017. Check the website photogallery for trip photos (<http://mbw.org.au/zenphoto/index.php>; search on 'deal').

As with previous years, there are very limited sailing opportunities next year so we need to reserve our trip by the end of September. We are booking only one trip for 2017 with a proposed sailing window of early- to mid-February. There is space for only 12 walkers for this sailing season.

The cost for the boat for 12 walkers is \$459 per person, along with \$30 for a Tassie Parks Pass. The trip dates will only be finalised if we get enough expressions of interest and bookings confirmed by deposit payment.

Contact Meredith Quick on quickmeredith@gmail.com as soon as possible to register your interest on this great adventure or to find out more information!



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – NOVEMBER 2016



October has been a month for sharing and learning from other clubs. We do it all the time, whether it is through participation in conservation activities organised by Bushwalking Victoria, joint walks with another club or simply exchanges of club newsletters. Indeed it is an Objective of the Future Directions Plan adopted by the club in early 2015 to build 'Strong ties with Bushwalking Victoria and local Bushwalking Clubs that provide more benefit to members'. However, October was a month in which three broader activities coincided. It was a month in which Melbourne Bushwalkers participated in multi-club activities that build camaraderie and an awareness of the benefits of exchanging experiences.

The highlight of the month was Federation Weekend 2016 hosted by the Wimmera Bushwalking Club. Based in Horsham with the Western Grampians at its back door, the Wimmera Bushwalking Club has a membership of only around 40 and is one of the smallest in Victoria. To take on the organisation of the Federation Weekend was a massive undertaking and brought a number of other clubs together to provide support as walk leaders and co-leaders. I can unequivocally state that in my view it was a resounding success and a weekend I shall long remember, along with over 30 other Melbourne Bushwalkers, 6 of whom volunteered as walk leaders or co-leaders. Was it the smoothest operation ever to run a Federation Weekend? Probably not, but the glitches were not significant. Were the venue and accommodation options remarkable? Yes for some aspects, but not for all. So how was it a resounding success?

Obviously the proximity to the Western Grampians was a big plus. Who does not enjoy walking in the Grampians? But it was the proximity to the Grampians with their ruggedness and limited access points that presented the greatest challenges for the organisers. Think back to late September and the heavy rains and high winds that lashed the State. Think forward to the Federation Weekend itself and the powerful winds that struck on Saturday night. Fallen trees, flooded rivers and closed roads threatened to derail the hard work done in preparation for the event. It is in such times of trial that the strength of a bushwalking club is tested. The Wimmera Bushwalking Club as a team, with leaders assisting from other clubs, took it in their stride and demonstrated by example that belonging to a club is not just about going on walks, it is as much about learning the skills of taking up a challenge together, being ready to share the effort and doing what needs to be done without complaint. Anyone disappointed that their walk had to be changed is reminded that the excellent booklet of walks and maps allows them to return in more benign conditions to try again. The opportunity to see a club pull together in a difficult situation and still make it work with outward calm earned my respect.

Not insignificantly, providing 6 leaders and co-leaders for Federation Weekend 2016 had another long-term benefit. In conjunction with Bushwalking Victoria, the Wimmera Bushwalking Club ran a leaders' training day in Ballarat. Many of the 40 or so leaders and co-leaders needed for the weekend took part. Scenario discussions around participant behaviour, leadership styles, risk management and critical incident management were all very worthwhile. The experience reinforced the merit of the decision by Melbourne Bushwalkers to base our ongoing leaders' training program, which commenced last August, on the Bushwalking Victoria modules.

Still on the topic of training, the second event to take place during October was the First Aid training day arranged by Melbourne Bushwalkers and open to all other clubs affiliated with Bushwalking Victoria. A vote of thanks goes to Vice President Nigel Holmes for undertaking the role of co-ordinator to pull the event together with applicants from a number of other clubs. We all benefit from having First Aid trained members walk with the club and we encourage as many members as have the time to undertake a future course, even if it is only for your own awareness and peace of mind. Arranging the courses as a shared event is a contribution we make to assist other clubs which, like our own cannot always be assured of sufficient numbers to run the course at the best price.

October was also the month for the regular meeting of Club Presidents which I attended in Geelong. This free-flowing open forum meeting is a valuable opportunity to exchange views, seek advice or just socialise with a broad selection of Presidents from bushwalking clubs across Victoria. Topics touched on covered membership qualification and acceptance processes, membership list management, handling inappropriate behaviour issues, annual reviewing of club accounts, approaches to formulating a club stance on external issues and succession approaches for club President. A worthwhile and informative exchange.

Ian Mair

2016 Social Calendar



Wednesday 23 November HIKING IN ICELAND

Iceland is situated in the North Atlantic, is less than twice the size of Tasmania, but is high on the list of places for many travellers to visit.

Iceland has recovered from the banking financial crisis and is now booming.

This is an island where there is a volcanic eruption on average every 4 years. In 2010 the volcanic ash from Eyjafjallojokull resulted in the largest air traffic shutdown across Europe since WWII.

Iceland offers spectacular scenery with mountains, glaciers, waterfalls, thermal regions, lava and of course very few trees.

Many travellers to Iceland only venture to Reykjavik and the 'Golden Circle'.

Four lucky travellers, Jenny, Denise, Meredith and Steve, did a 5 day hike with a local Recreational Group – similar to MBW – and explored other areas of Iceland.

They are happy to share their experience and provide information on hiking in Iceland and Greenland.



MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS (INC.) BY-LAW ADDITIONS

The club Committee at its October meeting approved a change to the club's By-Laws. A new By-Law 1.7 has been added to formalise the approval process and level of reimbursement to leaders for vehicle cost incurred during previews of club walks. The approved Preview Reimbursement Form is available from the Leaders' Area of the club website.

New By-Law 1.7:

1.7 Preview Reimbursement

- 1.7.1 The Club may reimburse the leader of an activity listed in the Club program or a special event approved by Committee for vehicle expenses incurred by or on behalf of the leader when previewing the activity.
- 1.7.2 The leader must submit a written claim for the expenses to the Treasurer in a form approved by the Committee.
- 1.7.3 The vehicle expenses are—
 - (a) limited to reimbursement for fuel and the cost of wear and tear to the vehicle of an amount or amounts for each kilometre travelled; and
 - (b) to be approved from time to time by the Committee.
- 1.7.4 The total amount of reimbursement to a leader for an activity must not exceed \$80.

*Ian Mair
President*

TRAINED UP



Our second training night as well as the first aid day have now been completed!

With Nigel coordinating a successful training for first aid, Roger having completed the navigation training, our members are very fortunate in having opportunities to build their skill level of leadership with information presented as theoretic background as well as practical hands-on experiences. This will equip them sufficiently to lead a group. I congratulate most of them for their willingness to attend sessions like this midweek.

It was a delight to see the familiar 8 faces continue their training: Wen, Omar, Chris, Ros, Dana and Folker and to also welcome new faces such as Meredith, Wendy and Jeanette and Ramish. Of course there were a few on the night who were curious to see what the group was up to behind the screen. We were happy to have ring ins! The mix of coordinator Wendy, President and experienced leaders allowed the issues of planning walks to be discussed from different perspectives.

Unit 2 leader training focused on the Why, Who, Where, When and How to organise a walk from the stages of research, planning through to conducting a preview, what to do before, during and after a preview. Participants were guided through some of our resources to access when selecting a walk, especially our extensive data base which previous leaders have built.

UNIT 3 LEADER TRAINING 'PAPERWORK'

WEDNESDAY 30 NOVEMBER – 7:30

Angela Vetsica (Training Officer)

EMERGENCY+ APP

The Emergency+ App is a free App developed by Australia's emergency services and their Government and industry partners. It could save your life one day. If you don't already have it installed on your mobile device then you should.

The App uses GPS functionality built into smart phones to help a Triple Zero (000) caller provide critical location details required to mobilise emergency services.

All walkers, and particularly leaders, on club multi-day walks are encouraged to carry a mobile device to notify the club and emergency contacts of any delays.

Suitable for iPhone, Android and Microsoft operating systems you can find the download links at:
<http://emergencyapp.triplezero.gov.au/>



WEDDERBURN BASE CAMP Friday 23 September to Sunday 25 September



The base camp took place at Doug Pocock's property of over 800 acres on the Old Boort Road north of Wedderburn. Most of the group arrived on the Friday.

Doug Pocock had told us he planned to lead a day walk through his property the following day. So on Saturday morning we packed our lunches and none of us asked to see a map or to find out any details. None of us took a compass or GPS with us. We knew there was no mobile reception but Doug had already inspired us with confidence in his know-how and mental alertness by putting up 12 nesting boxes with Rodney (for sugar gliders, lorikeets, boobook owls and wood ducks) and then by reciting by heart and with aplomb all 146 lines of 'The Ballad of Idwal Slabs' as we sat around the fire after dinner on Friday night. For those who don't know this, it is a reassuringly moral narrative poem ('It's virtue that wins in the long run; long silken moustaches don't pay...'). Clearly a leader to be trusted!

So on Saturday Doug led us to explore this season's rain drenched Mallee – diverse vegetation communities in a small area. We walked through box/ironbark/yellow gum/red gum woodland; heath land; numerous wattles; cleared areas... As we walked Doug and Jan fed us the names of plants (waxlip orchids, fringed heath myrtle, rosy baeckia, hop bush, alpine grevillea, golden pennants, golden guinea flowers, Stackhousia monogyna, cotula, drosera...) and birds (choughs, goshawks, wrens, robins, cuckoos...) It was not long before we completely lost our bearings in this wonderland. There was no turning back now. As we swatted blood-sucking mosquitoes and ran through ants' nests Doug and Jan led us, not to where we could find gold, but to the lowest and dampest spot in this Mallee swamp – the Korong Vale Reservoir, full of drowned trees with what looked like plastic bags floating on the surface which was actually frog spawn. A spooky pestilential lunch spot,

(continued over the page)

Along the Track

WEDDERBURN BASE CAMP *(continued from page 6)*

attractive to flies and mosquitoes with noisy sounds of frogs, no birds, remnant quandongs and somebody's long discarded dead boots (maybe someone had ended up in one of the old mine shafts we had passed earlier).

After lunch we bush bashed, roughly followed and then crossed an old water channel that had been used to provide water for steam trains that ran from Melbourne to Mildura. Before heading back to camp Doug led us along a winding narrow track through dense Mallee scrub to see the nest of the elusive Mallee fowl. No sign of the bird itself but Doug has been monitoring the nest and believes that it has been prepared for egg laying. An awesome sight!

That night, the mosquitoes at rest, we had dinner around the fire. When the rain started up we moved under the roof for shelter and the Doug Pocock All-stars got out their old tattered songbooks and sang very old tunes as the frogs croaked and the rain set in.

After rain overnight Sunday was fine. In the morning Doug led us for a walk up Mt. Egbert as the water trickled down the slope. We drove our cars to the start of the walk and followed the track to the top. There were huge granite boulders with hollows large enough to hatch humans. The dominant flower was capeweed but there were some interesting plants and shrubs – there was prostanthera in flower, there was indigenous pittosporum and several quandong trees near the top. We saw wedge tailed eagles.

We returned to camp for lunch, packed up and then on the way home stopped off to climb Mt Korong, a much more serious climb than Egbert. It is quite a steep climb, sheer slabs of granite towards the top. Perhaps the strenuous climb took its toll on our leader who was somewhat vague when trying to point out where his property was located. "You should be able to see it. It is somewhere over there" he sketched very roughly with his hand. We could see quite extensively over the plains to the far horizon. Members of the group spent much time debating over which mountain was which. There seemed to be some consensus over which peak was Mt Alexander. Where the Grampians had gone was not so sure....

We had one last biology lesson just before getting in our cars to drive home. This was the sight of a Southern Whiteface feeding its young in a nest hidden in a hollow in a large dead tree. In another hollow of the tree was a native bee nest while a corella was perched on another branch. Doug reminded us of the importance of large trees, even dead ones which are so often cut down for firewood or perceived danger.

Thank you to our intrepid Mallee guides and hosts, Jan and Doug for an inspiring weekend. Thank you to all fellow campers and walkers: Rodney, Meredith, Stephen, Jerry, Faye, Peter and Graham.

*Janet Hodgson
Photos by Stephen Ingrouille*



PACK CARRY – THE BIBBULMUN TRACK – WALPOLE TO DENMARK 23 September to 2 October 2016



The Walpole to Denmark section is roughly 125 km of the 1,000 km track. This section is often referred to as one of the more interesting parts. It was spectacular in so many ways.

The daily variation in ecosystems, terrain, vegetation, views, and walking conditions was fantastic. Some extreme weather also presented us with real challenges. Each day, however, was consistently painted with an overlay of magnificent wildflowers.

This trip started with seven of us meeting at the Perth YHA. It was an interesting night as the building adjoins a main train line and is underneath the nearby hospital's helicopter flight path. The excellent organisation of our leader Ian, coupled with the ease

of accessing the track via train and bus, soon saw us in Walpole. We settled into the YHA and then enjoyed the final minutes of the local pub's telecast of the Bulldogs winning the semi-final. Very raucous!

The next seven days were an ever changing hiker's delight.

We walked through beautiful forests with large tall trees. With recent storm damage, crossing over, under and around some of them was a challenge. The Tingle trees were particularly impressive with their massive and often hollowed out bases. It hailed during one of the forest sections. It was like fairy dust swirling around us.

There were a variety of water features to contend with. Heavy rain saw us slopping along water filled tracks and large swells required fancy footwork to avoid waves. The canoe crossing at Irwin Inlet was a logistical riddle. We accomplished with finesse multiple trips in canoes across the inlet with different combinations of people, packs, oars, and life-vests. The requirement to leave a canoe on each bank added to the fun. Crossing Parry's Inlet was also a highlight. There was a rumour that the water would be ankle deep. Yeah right. All of us had water lapping above our thighs as we waded across the murky tannin coloured water.

We experienced wild storms. One evening rain, hail and winds hammered the hut for most of the night. The hut groaned and creaked during the more intense squalls and we were grateful for the sturdy construction of timbers and reinforcing. On an exposed ridge the wind made it difficult to keep feet on the track and some of us were blown sideways. Walking the 7 km soft-sanded beach after Parry Inlet we were sandblasted along for most of the way. How grateful we were to have that gale on our backs rather than heading into it.

The wildflower display was incredible. There were kangaroo paws taller than us, spider orchids, heath, wattles, native gardenia, and many, many other species that cool people know the names of. It was as though the hills and valleys and dunes and forests had been planted as one huge flower showcase.

Our hike finished in Denmark. Although we had resourced fish and chips and wine on occasions during the trip, we were looking forward to a shower and hearty pub meal. Shortly after arriving in Denmark the power went out due to storms. Ahh well. The evening was spent eating take away with head torches and going to bed early to keep warm. Much like our last seven days really.

Thanks to Ian for his wonderful knack at putting together a very enjoyable trip. Fellow walkers, Bridget, Fiona, Gayle, Roger, and Tracey made everything an adventure and fun. Oh and Bob Oxlade has done the full track three times; one lucky man.



Jeanette

WILD STRATHBOGIES WALK 14–16 October 2016

The recent walk through the 'Wild Strathbogies Ranges' lived up to its name, traversing through mostly untracked areas to enjoy the best of this attractive and diverse landscape. The seven participants were met with everything from open grassy forests with massive carpets of soft and springy tussock grasses, towering forests of blue gums, manna gums, narrow-leaf peppermints and messmates as we climbed higher and higher onto the plateau. There was plenty to see between the trees, with huge granite tors covered in moss, clear running water in all the creeks, spectacular waterfalls, tall tree ferns, a few lyrebird feathers, many different bush peas, orchids, grevilleas, and finally a pair of lyrebirds strutting through the bush. There was even a number of prickly currant bushes to slip carefully through ...



Huge granite tors are a feature of the Strathbogies

crackers, a yummy dip, luscious wine and chocolate to share along with our camp food. Then the jokes ran out and we went to bed!

Sunday's walk climbed over the highest points of Golden Mountain and Mt Strathbogie, with their magnificent mountain gums and snow gums, and grand views including everything from The Bluff and Mt McDonald through to The Cathedral, and from Mansfield valley, Mt Samaria through to the great Northern Plains.

After our second morning tea on a rocky lookout, we descended a long spur back down through all these different landforms to the road for a short walk, and then winding down Sandy Creek to enjoy lunch at those impressive falls.

It was an enjoyable time, with good company, and lots of natural beauty to appreciate in 'the relatively small environment of the Strathbogies'. Thanks to Jeanette, Sylvia, Therese, Ray Spooner, Mark, Phil.

And special thanks to Mark for the photos!



The crew enjoys the view from Golden Mountain

We met with a great variety of vegetation types as we climbed higher and higher onto the plateau, beginning in open forests of red stringybark and red box on the dry foothills, with hectares and hectares of soft, springy tussock grasses underfoot. The surprising absence of bushes is a telltale sign that the forest has gone for at least a half century without a bushfire – the shrubs have simply died of old age and their seeds are waiting for the next fire to germinate them!

Dropping into some moister gullies, we found ourselves in towering forests of blue gums and manna gums, then narrow-leaf peppermints and messmates, often 3 metres and even up to 4 metres thick!

Saturday night's camp was by another fine creek, with a full moon, mild temperatures, a boobook owl calling, plus some rice



A leap of faith

Ray Thomas.

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

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

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

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



SUNDAY BUS

HAWKES HILL – MOLLISONS CREEK

DATE Sunday 13 November 2016
RETURN TIME Southbank Boulevard at 6:30 pm
STANDARDS Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCES 14.0 and 16.0 km
LEADERS Nik Dow and Roy Rossebo
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
TRANSPORT COST Standard Sunday Bus charge of \$25 applies
AREA Tooborac–Lancefield
MAP REFERENCE Pyalong 1:50,000; Tooborac & Goldie North 1:25,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Seymour



We first climb Hawkes Hill where expansive views to the east towards the Goulburn valley are seen. The granite ridge extending from this hill is followed by both groups for approximately three kilometres where the shorter walk cuts down to the Lancefield road whilst the longer walk continues along the ridge line and climbs an extension of Hawkes Hill further south. They too then cut down and cross the Lancefield road at the site of two separate ruins and the old Sandy Creek bridge. Both groups then follow the same course across rolling paddocks with sheep. The first creek crossed is Sandy Creek and then Deep Creek which is flowing at the present time but simple to cross. This is followed until it runs

into Mollisons Creek. The walk then follows upstream along this sandy but clear running tributary of the Goulburn River until it takes a sharp turn to the west into what is called ‘The Gorge’. This is still in granite country but the quietly running water with occasional large pools plus some substantial gums makes for a delightful walk. We then climb out of the creek valley and cross open paddocks to the Hillview Homestead. The walk is a wonderful combination of high and creek country and is mainly across fairly open country.



SUNDAY BUS

BUNYIP STATE FOREST–GREVILLEA AND BORONIA RES.

DATE Sunday 27 November 2016
RETURN TIME Southbank Boulevard at 6:30 pm
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES 11 km and 13 km
TOTAL ASCENTS 360 m rise (both walks)
LEADERS Cathy Merrick and Jenny Andrewes
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
TRANSPORT COST Standard Sunday Bus charge of \$25 applies
AREA Bunyip State Forest
MAP REFERENCE Spion Kopje
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Dandenong

We have planned an interesting walk for you in the Bunyip State Forest. When we previewed the walk, the area was very green and the bush was lush, and given the spring that we are having it should still be great at the end of November.

Both walks will start at the beginning of Rocky Track and finish at the Lawson Falls Picnic area. While the distances are short, you will still be challenged with a couple of good climbs. If you are new to walking hills then this walk would be ideal for those wishing to test yourself on some hills but done at an easy pace.

The walk will start on Rocky Track which is a steady climb of about 260 m, then there will be a steady descent, with some steep bits on Bullock Link Track. This track was very pretty as it runs beside a creek.

There will be a short road bash along Forest Road of about 1 km until we get to the Lawson Falls Picnic Ground. Then both groups will walk up to the Lawson Falls. At the time of the preview there was a good amount of water in the falls.

The easy group will return back to the picnic ground, while the easy/medium group will do the Discovery Track circuit.



TRAINING

LEADERS: UNIT 3 – PAPERWORK

DATE Wednesday 30 November 2016
TIME 7:30–9:30 pm
LOCATION Clubrooms
COORDINATOR Angela Vetsica

Bushwalking Victoria has developed modules for training which provide a framework for our future training program. Following a review of our requirements and opportunities, a schedule of evening and day sessions has been prepared to suit those interested in undertaking this training.

Objectives of Unit 3: Paperwork

On completion of this unit you will be aware of the need to document:

- * The grading for your walk;
- * The walk proposal to Club Co-ordinator and members;
- * A transport plan if required;
- * Walkers registration;
- * Acknowledgement of Risk and Obligations by Members;
- * Temporary Membership;
- * Personal Emergency detail;
- * Walk briefing;
- * Incident Report Form.

Potential Leaders or current Leaders looking to upgrade their skills are welcome to register.



TOFS WALK

YARRA RIVER: KEW–HEIDELBERG

DATE Thursday 1 December 2016
RETURN TIME About 3 pm
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE About 10 km
ELEVATION Mostly flat, very short ups and downs
LEADER Bill Metzenthien
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Kew–Ivanhoe
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 31 and 32
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

Meet at 10:30 am in the Eaglemont Tennis Club car park, Melway 31 K11. Sorry, no toilets there, but there are toilets at the morning tea and lunch places.

We walk along the true right bank to a picnic area for morning tea. Then we cross the river by the Banksia Street bridge, and return on the other side.

Lunch will be at Bulleen Park.

Because of a golf club with a No Trespassers sign, we'll have to walk beside Bulleen Road for half a km or so before getting into parkland again.

Come and see some more of Melbourne's urban bushland, with trees, paddocks, billabongs and birds.



PACK CARRY

MT DIFFICULT RANGE – GRAMPIANS

DATE 2–4 December 2016
STANDARD Easy Medium
DISTANCE 27 km

ELEVATION 300 to 806 m
LEADER Roger Wyatt
TRANSPORT Car pool
AREA Grampians
MAP REFERENCE Northern Grampians 1:25,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Wimmera
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Horsham

Overnight Friday night camp will be at the Troopers Creek Camp Grounds with pit toilets, fireplaces and picnic tables. Day One will commence from Troopers to climb 3 km to Mt Difficult, a 500 m ascent to the 806 m viewpoint, not a walk for those with vertigo, with some tight squeezes along the rock ledges. Then a moderately level rock hopping trail for 3 km, to drop packs before a 3 km return side trip to Briggs Bluff. Returning to the packs we will have a short sharp climb to the south east ridge of the range, that we will traverse for 3 km, before descending 150 m towards the first of two possible campsites. If water is not available at the first site, we will push on a further 2 km to a camp east of Mt Difficult. Approximately 14 km plus side trips on Day One.

Day Two will follow a 4WD track (Longpoint Fire Trail) through open forest to then ascend 250 m up Carters Track, then a steep drop of 400 m back to Rose Gap Road and a 2 km road bash back to the cars at Troopers. Only 14 km on Day Two, option to visit Bee Hive Falls on the way home, a flat 2.5 km return stroll without packs.

Not recommended as a beginners pack carry.



SUNDAY BUS

WIRILDA TRACK

DATE Sunday 4 December 2016
STANDARDS Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCES 13.5 and 18 km
ELEVATIONS 100 m
LEADERS Deb Shand and Jan Colquhoun
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA West and South Gippsland
MAP REFERENCE Vicmap Tyers–Boola
FIRE BAN DISTRICT West Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Latrobe Valley

Covering 1810 hectares of forest in the foothills to the north of the Latrobe Valley, Tyers Regional Park features the spectacular Tyers Gorge where the river has carved a winding course between the steep forested slopes. This walk will follow the meandering course of the Tyers River through this park and the Boola State Forest. The route takes us through open forests of tall eucalypts, above and down to the river, and through shady fern groves.

The Medium group will start at the Wirilda Environmental Centre, while the Easy/Medium group will initially follow the Pipeline Track before linking up with the Wirilda Track. We will all finish at the Moondarra Reservoir.

Do join us for this lovely walk through quintessentially Australian bushland that rings with bird song and is home to wombats and wallabies.

A hiking pole may be useful to negotiate the hills, and the Medium group have a chance to get wet feet if the river is high.



CYCLING

MOONEE PONDS CREEK, MARIBYRNONG RIVER, WESTGATE PUNT

DATE Saturday 10 December 2016
RETURN TIME 4 pm
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 45 km
ELEVATION basically flat
LEADER Mark Heath
TRANSPORT Private
TRANSPORT COSTS (per person) \$5 for punt
AREA Melbourne
MAP REFERENCE Melway various
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

An above average ride that passes through iconic Moonee Ponds, visits a little known Walter Burley Griffin design, lunches in charming Williamstown and returns via the bicycle punt.

We meet on the concourse at the north end of Southern Cross Station at 10 am before riding through Docklands to the Moonee Ponds trail. We head up this trail then ride west to through Moonee Ponds to pick up the trail that runs along the Maribyrnong River. We follow the river to Williamstown for lunch before returning to Spotswood, where the the Bicycle Punt (\$5) will take us to Fishermans Bend before heading back to Southern Cross via Port Melbourne .



SUNDAY CAR POOL

DUCK POND TRACK

DATE Sunday 11 December 2016
RETURN TIME about 6:00 pm
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 18 km
ELEVATION 470 m
LEADER Brett Daniel
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
TRANSPORT COST \$20 per person
AREA Aireys Inlet
MAP REFERENCE Vicmap 1:25,000 Anglesea South
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Geelong

A variety of views are obtained on this walk, starting with eucalypt forest, before passing along farmland to a pleasant view over Painkalac Dam. A steady climb follows with views of Aireys Inlet and the southern coast as height is gained. There is a steep descent and ascent across a rocky creek. The walk continues along dirt roads to a trig point with views over the valleys to the north. A gradual descent along Ironbark Gorge leads back to the cars. In spring and early summer, orchids and other wildflowers are plentiful. The tracks vary from narrow walking track to a section of gravel roads.



CHRISTMAS PARTY



DATE Monday 12 December 2016
TIME 7 pm to 10 pm
LOCATION Melbourne City Bowls Club, Dudley Street, West Melbourne (opposite the clubrooms)
ORGANISERS Club Committee

Bring your own plate to share. Drinks can be purchased from the bar.



WEDNESDAY WALK

DIAMOND CREEK TRAIL

DATE Wednesday 14 December 2016
RETURN TIME About 3 pm for our Christmas afternoon tea
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 13 km
ELEVATION Flat
LEADER Margaret Curry
TRANSPORT Private or public transport
AREA Diamond Creek and Eltham
MAP REFERENCE Melway 11, 12, 21 and 22
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

Diamond Creek was a thriving gold rush town in the 1860's and then a centre for small farms and orchards. The Diamond Creek Trail meanders along the banks of its namesake waterway. It is a shared bike/walk path and snakes around sporting grounds, across bridges, through grey box forest, lush bushland and various wetlands. We walk through creek-side reserves and have some wonderful viewing areas over the water. The Trail passes through the centre of Eltham and ends up meeting the Main Yarra Trail which will lead us into Westerfold Park, before returning on a slightly different route to our cars.

We will meet at Diamond Creek Station (Station Street side) Melways 12 B5 ready to depart at 10:30 am. If driving, your cars should be parked near Eltham Station then take the train one stop. At Eltham, turn left into Panther Place, go under the bridge and park beside the oval at Eltham Central Park (Melways 21 J5). Walk 400 m to Eltham Station. Please remember your Myki card and bring some goodies to share for our Christmas get-together after the walk. Some additional tables/chairs may be useful.



SUNDAY BUS

ERSKINE FALLS (GENTLE ANNIE'S BERRY FARM)

DATE Sunday 18 December 2016
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to City
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES 10 km and 11.5 km
ELEVATIONS 100 m descent
LEADERS Halina Sarbinowski and Del Franks
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Back of Lorne
MAP REFERENCE Lorne 7620-1-1 (1:25,000)
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Colac

This is the last walk on the 2016 Sunday walks program so we have decided to repeat the Erskine Falls walk with a visit to Gentle Annie's Berry Farm which was enjoyed by all who attended in 2014. The offerings at the berry farm were delightful. Only disappointment in 2014 was the little time we had to pick berries. Hopefully this year with a slightly faster pace we will manage to pick berries which will be at their peak in December.

The Easy/Medium group will follow the forested Lemonade Creek track from Blanket Leaf Picnic Area, while the Easy group will start its walk from where this track crosses Erskine Falls Road. Both walks will then follow the Erskine River down into Lorne. There are three waterfalls along this walk

with the magnificent Erskine Falls taking centre stage. Once Lorne is reached the walks will finish with a gentle walk along boardwalks and beach to the waiting bus.

Distances have been kept reasonably short on the day so that we will have plenty of time to enjoy our visit to Gentle Annie's Berry Farm located 20 minutes from Lorne. Visit their website <http://gentleannie.net.au/> to discover the types of berries that will be available to pick, the gourmet produce available or check out the offerings of their licensed café.

Please note that although distances are short there are a few challenges in this walk.



MOFS WALK

WARRANTYTE-MULLUM MULLUM CREEK-PARK ORCHARDS

DATE	Monday 19 December 2016
RETURN TIME	2:30 pm
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	10 km
ELEVATION	30 m
LEADER	Graham Hodgson
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Warrandyte-Park Orchards
MAP REFERENCE	Melway map 34
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Melbourne

The walk will be initially following the eastern bank of Mullum Mullum creek south through moderately thick bushland to Currawong Bush park. Continuing south we will then walk through Bucks Reserve then over Tindals Road and into the Park Orchards section of the creek.

The return trip will follow the western bank of Mullum Mullum creek. The walk is entirely on bush and bicycle tracks which wind their way through rare remnant vegetation

Meet at 10:30am at Beasleys Nursery carpark, Melway Map 34 F2.



BASE CAMP

CHRISTMAS AT CAMP EUREKA, YARRA JUNCTION

DATE	Saturday 24 to Wednesday 28 December
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	TBC
LEADER	Susan Maughan
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Warburton
MAP REF	Melway 288 K10
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Yarra Glen

Camp Eureka is located at 100 Tarrango Road, Yarra Junction. It was constructed by the Eureka Youth League, the Communist Party and the trade union movement after the Second World War as a holiday camp for the Eureka Youth League. Today it is an environmental bush camp owned by a voluntary group, the Camp Eureka Working Collective, who have kindly leased us the whole camp for the Bushies' Christmas base camp.

Stay for as many nights as you wish, and just pay as you go. Or come along for a day walk only.

It is \$250 per day, so each day's payment will be divided by the number of participants. (Maximum 32)

There are two campgrounds, the best one being right next to the Little Yarra River. There are several rustic cabins of various configurations. There is a huge barn that would offer shelter and shade if you want to park a campervan. When booking let me know which option you prefer. The fully operational industrial kitchen has several fridges, and absolutely everything. There is a large lounge and dining room attached to the kitchen and a second, separate rec room. Also, some lovely outdoor dining areas and a BBQ. We have toilet blocks and showers, although you'll need to stoke up the fire if you want warm water.

Each day's walk will be confirmed the night before as we determine the weather and conditions.

Should you plan to be there for Christmas morning, please wrap an op shop special for the Santa Sack that is wacky, tacky or batty.



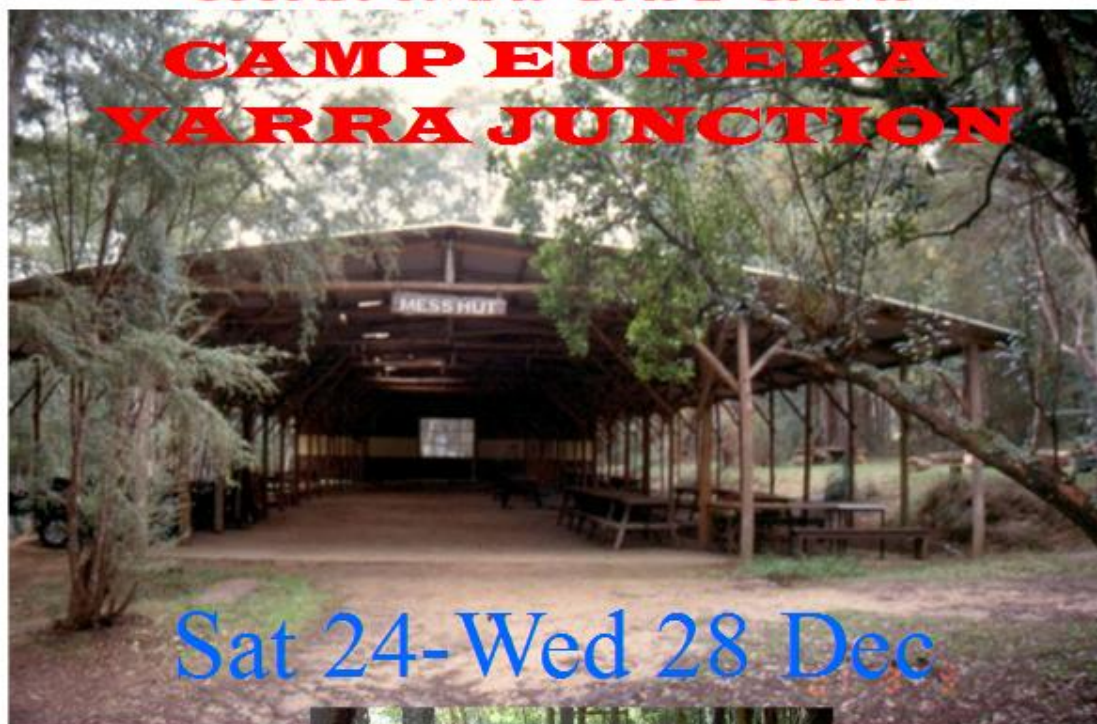
PACK CARRY

MITCHELL RIVER NATIONAL PARK

DATE	Friday 30 December 2016 to Monday 2 January 2017
RETURN TIME	Approx. 6 pm, Monday 2 January
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	38 km
LEADER	Ray Spooner
TRANSPORT	Private
TRANSPORT COSTS	(per person) \$60
AREA	East Gippsland
MAP REFERENCE	Vicmap 1:50,000 Cobbana-Tabberabbera
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	East Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Bairnsdale

The Mitchell River National Park provides spectacular scenery, serene rainforest gullies and rugged landscapes. It should be noted this is not a circuit walk – we will be returning along the same track back to the cars. However the return trip does provide a different perspective of the views of the river and gorges. Friday night's camp will be at the Echo Bend Camping Ground (cost approx. \$6). The walk will commence from the camp ground and we will head north along the Mitchell River, stopping at Billy Goat Bend for lunch and taking in the spectacular views from the natural amphitheatre before heading to our campsite beside the river. The campsite is level and nicely grassed and has a great waterhole suitable for swimming. On Sunday we will head further north along the river, sighting rapids and the odd canoeist, to Angusvale which was the site of an historic settlement, but is now a popular camping site for families. It has a water tank and toilets. After lunch depending on the water level it maybe possible to take an alternative route back to camp. On Monday the return trip will include a side trip to the Den Of Nargun. Aboriginal legend tells of a mythical creature that preys on those that stray too close the Den The den itself contains contains fragile stalactites and should not be entered. On our return to the camping ground hot showers will be available for a nominal cost and refreshments are available from the cafe.

CHRISTMAS BASE CAMP CAMP EUREKA YARRA JUNCTION



Sat 24-Wed 28 Dec



These base camps are always popular as they give us a chance to run a series of day walks and then come together at night for our renowned convivial evenings and not-so-typical Christmas bonhomie!



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0478 504 441

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!

December 2016						
Thu 1	TOF : Yarra River: Kew – Heidelberg	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Bill Metzenthien	
2–4	PC : Grampians: Mt Difficult Range	Pvt	E/M	WI:ho	Roger Wyett	
Sun 4	DAY : Wirilda Track	Bus	E/M&M	WG:lv	Deb Shand and Jan Colquhoun	
Sat 10	CYC : Moonee Ponds Creek, Maribyrnong River, Westgate punt	Pvt	E/M	CN:me	Mark Heath	
Sun 11	DAY : Duck Pond Track	Car	Med	CN:ge	Brett Daniel	
Mon 12	SOC : Xmas Party				Club Committee	
Wed 14	DAY : Diamond Creek Trail	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Margaret Curry	
Sun 18	DAY : Erskine Falls (Gentle Annie's Berry Farm)	Bus	E&E/M	CN:co	Halina Sarbinowski and Del Franks	
Mon 19	MOF : Mullum Mullum Creek, Warrandyte	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Graham Hodgson	
24–28	BC : Christmas at Camp Eureka, Yarra Junction	Pvt	Med	CN:yg	Susan Maughan	
Sun 25	MERRY CHRISTMAS (No Sunday Walk)	Car				
30–4	PC : Mitchell River National Park	Pvt	E/M	EG:bn	Ray Spooner	

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