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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

February 2017



Volunteers Needed

Join
the
fun!



**Federation Weekend
Warburton
27-29 October 2017**

Melbourne Bushwalkers are organising this year's **Federation Walks Weekend**, and **volunteers are needed to help make it a great weekend!**

Roles include:

*Meet and Greet, Registration, Parking Attendants, Catering,
Setup, Cleanup etc.*

Can you spare a couple of hours on the Friday, Saturday or Sunday?

If so, then please let us know by 31st March



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

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 6 February 2017

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, IN THE CLUBROOMS

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

The Wine and Cheese is free.

More information in the March News.



MISSED OUT ON LEADER TRAINING NIGHTS?

Don't forget – places filling fast!

**Module 1 LEADER TRAINING
SATURDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2017
9:30 am – 4:30 pm
CLUBROOMS**

The outline of the day below will allow you to select to attend ALL day to complete the modules or you may be interested in PARTS, one or two units of the training only.

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 9:30 am | Welcome |
| 9:45 – 11:15 | Unit 1 – ‘So You Want to Become a Leader?’ <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The concept of leadership• Different styles of leadership |
| 11:15 – 11:45 | Morning Tea |
| 11:45 – 1:45 | Unit 2 – ‘Research, Planning and Previewing’ <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why, Who, Where, When and How to organise a walk from the stages of research and planning.• Conducting a preview, what to do before, during and after a preview.• Resources to access when selecting a walk, especially our extensive data base. |
| 1:45 – 2:30 | LUNCH |
| 2:30 – 4:30 | Unit 3 – ‘Paper Work’ <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Walk description and grading, walker registration• Map and walk notes, transport plans, emergency details, incident reports |

RSVP by email to me by Feb 1 2017 to reserve your place.

Angela V (Training Officer)

FEDERATION WEEKEND 2017 LEADERS/CO-LEADERS AND ORGANISERS MEETING TUESDAY 7 MARCH



A briefing meeting for all Federation Weekend Walk Leaders, Co-Leaders and Organisers will be held in Melbourne Bushwalkers Clubrooms on the evening of Tuesday 7th March at 7.00pm. Cheese and wine will be provided.

If anyone attending would like to meet up around 6.00pm for a meal beforehand with Ian and Halina at La Porchetta, 308 Victoria Street, North Melbourne they are welcome to do so. Please email either of them by 5th March so a table can be arranged. You could check the menu in advance at <http://www.laporchetta.com.au>.

Please advise Margaret Curry of your attendance at the meeting so we can adequately plan for the night.

Thank you

Margaret Curry
Federation Weekend Co-ordinator

Early warning! FOR ALL LEADERS

Risk management, safety and legal issues

**WEDNESDAY 5 APRIL
7:30 pm in the Clubrooms**

After an impressive number of you have completed Units 1–3 this unit is a MUST. With the background theory of planning, organising and the practical event of conducting your walk, being prepared for the possible risks is essential to become aware of potential risks with leading a group of hikers. For the experienced leaders this might be an opportunity to revise some scenarios and share your valuable experiences with newer leaders. So book yourself in for a highly experienced presentation by Mick Noonan.

- Understand that Risk management (RM) is involved in most decisions we make;
- Identify actual and potential risks;
- Evaluate the risks;
- Use strategies to manage risk;
- Be aware of legal responsibilities.



BY LAWS RELATING TO THE HIRE OF CLUB EQUIPMENT

At its last meeting, the Committee made two amendments to the Club By Laws relating to the hire of Club equipment, more particularly by law 7.

First, by law 7(3) was amended by inserting a new paragraph (a) to allow Club equipment to be hired more than one week before the Club activity the equipment is required for.

The existing by law 7 provides that Club equipment can only be collected one week before the activity it is required for and must be returned within one week after the activity. The amended by law gives the Equipment officer discretion to allow equipment such as the dehydrator to be hired out more than one week before an activity. Hire charges continue to apply to the period of use of the equipment and the hire is subject to any prior booking of the equipment.

Second by law 7(5) was strengthened to provide that it is only Club members and temporary members who are eligible to hire Club equipment.

Both amendments are consistent with current Club practice and the Club's equipment hire fee structure and guidelines.

The Club's By Laws and the fee structure and guidelines relating to the hire of Club equipment are available on the Club website.

Susan McInnes
Vice President

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – FEBRUARY 2017



Few members have heard of the Little River Falls in the Cathedral Range State Park, and even fewer have visited them. To be honest, I only had a vague recollection that they were there from looking at the Park map. Yet they have become an unlikely component that helps me bring a number of thoughts and actions together.

Backing up a little, what are the Little River Falls? As the name implies they are a set of waterfalls on the Little River that runs through the Cathedral Range State Park and are located in the south-east corner of the Park. My closer investigation of them arose from an activity I am working on to review and, as appropriate, revise our day walk grading system. A fantastic tool and resource for the club is our database of club walk reports prepared by and available to walk leaders. While browsing the database I came across walk reports from club trips to the Little River Gorge (and Falls) in 1998 and 2000.

Knowing it had not been on recent walks programs I was curious to look into it further.

The descriptions of the walk sounded exciting: “You will find yourself in a spectacular slab-sided gorge with a two meter waterfall at the far end. ... Climb through a small cave under the waterfall. Proceed upstream through a crack between the rock face and a large boulder. The Little River Falls should now be visible ...”

Time to call on Google. The first report from 2013 (after the 2009 bushfires) sounded less encouraging. “...access isn't easy....track was good for about ten meters and then disappeared under the scrub...should take you down to the river....(where) the track notes....simply stated there was no track. All we had to do was make our way upstream.” I persisted with my investigation. “The Little River Falls (in Little River Gorge) are not generally accessible.” “Little River Falls, an Indiana Jones style walk up a steep river valley to a secluded waterfall.” “The falls are quite pretty but not spectacular....they are more a series of rapids with the biggest drop being about four metres.”

It wasn't encouraging but I delved deeper into Google (who browses beyond the first page of results!) Out popped a trip report from a 2003 Melbourne Bushwalkers Base Camp. “After lunch we explored the lesser known Blue Range area to the east, and walked up an attractive small gorge to the Little River Falls.” What a contrast in descriptions. And finally one more report: “The second day we went on a nice walk along Little River to Little River Falls. The trail isn't maintained so we had a few Indiana Jones moments crawling across logs and pushing through dense ferns. It was well worth it, although I can't say that the falls were that amazing, just not enough water.”

Curious as I still am to check out access to the Little River Falls and beyond “on the ground”, the purpose of the above commentary was more to highlight the differences in how a walk and the degree of difficulty experienced may be viewed. There are notable reasons for some of the differences – pre- and post-bushfire vegetation; strong and low river flows. These differences in description do, however, serve to point out the difficulty and, to some extent, the subjectivity associated with developing a walk grading system.

Victoria has more than 2000 trails with a total length of some 8000 km. On top of this there are any number of walks that incorporate an off-track route. Gradings are a primary means of marketing and promoting walks and enable participants to gauge whether a particular walk is suitable for them. Each year the Federation Walks Weekend, which we will be hosting near Warburton in October, brings into sharp focus the differences in walker expectations based on a walk grading. Each bushwalking club has its own standards built up over years of experience that cannot readily be translated into the standards of another club. It is why we advise all new walkers with our club to go on an “Easy” walk first so that they can get a feel for our grading system. What may be Easy-Medium for some clubs (even assuming they use the same terminology) will be found to be Easy or Medium for others. The history and location of a club plays a part. So too do changing demographics of club membership. What is important at the club level is a clear set of descriptions of each grading level and consistency in their application.

With the increasing utilisation of GPS-enabled devices we have been building up a complementary database of walk statistics. It seemed timely to compare our grading approach based on distance and total ascent to the statistics from recorded walks. Our approach to walk grading is available to all members and visitors in our introductory documents. We can pat ourselves on the back since the grading of our walks as listed in our walk Previews is remarkably consistent for a given set of walk characteristics. However, we appear to have got fitter over time and the distances and ascents we undertake are greater than our walk gradings would suggest they should be. This may of course simply be due to more accurate measures of distance and ascent from the GPS. Nevertheless, it is time to review our wording in the grading descriptions and bring them back into line.

Ian Mair

EMERGENCY CONTACT SYSTEM – MEMBERS AND VISITORS BASICS

On all club programed Activities take your own mobile.

- So you can ring family and friends if you will be late.
- Preferably a mobile with good remote area reception.
- Turn off the mobile in remote areas to conserve the battery until it's needed.
- If you must leave it on, put it on vibrate so as not to disturb the enjoyment of others.

Note the Club Emergency Mobile – 0447 489 661 (put it in your phone!)

Recording includes: Information on any significant delays, and the Club Emergency Contact names and numbers.

The Club Emergency Mobile is left turned off, so a call goes directly to the recording ... don't expect anyone to answer!

For all club programed Activities:

Before you go tell anyone who may become concerned the expected Return Time and the Club Emergency Mobile Number.

If there will be a significant delay the Leader will attempt to get information on the delay included in the Club Emergency Mobile recording.

Delays of 1–2 hours for a day activity and 3–4 hours for a multi-day activity should not cause alarm.

If you are on a trip that is late try to directly ring anyone who may become concerned.

For Pack Carry/Walk-In Base Camp Activities:

If after checking the Club Emergency Mobile people are still concerned, they should ring a Club Emergency Contact.

It should not be necessary to ring a Club Emergency Contact for other types of activities.

MAPS.ME

MAPS.ME is a handy little mapping application for smartphones that I have been using recently in Australia and overseas for travelling generally and also for bushwalking. I encourage you to have a look.

All you need to do is download the free App from the Google or Apple stores on your smartphone, load the maps (Open Source Maps) you need for your trip, and all the features work offline/airplane mode. You will always know exactly where you are with no mobile network needed.

It allows you to find a route to where you want to go, add a bookmark to a map, search for places of interest such as shops, transport and accommodation, and even allow you make a booking in some cases.

It is also very handy for bushwalking. While it is NOT a full GPS and the maps are not topographical it can easily load waypoints AS WELL AS walking tracks, and display places of interest. It uses only *KML Format* which is used by Google Maps and Google Earth (an equivalent of the GPX format used by GPS manufacturers). Just send yourself an email with the KML file attached, open it on your phone, and *MAPS.ME* automatically uploads the data ready for use.

You can easily convert a GPX file from your GPS device, from the internet or from the Club's Leaders Database to KML format using the website www.gpx2kml.com (also free).

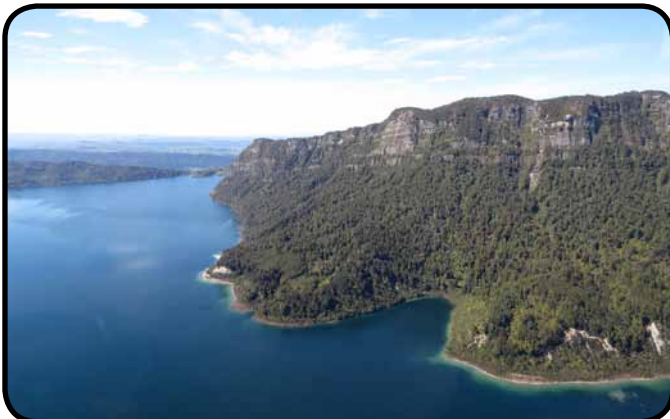
For Victoria it has most of the 4wd tracks, dirt roads and many of the more popular walking tracks on its maps, e.g. around Walhalla and Warburton, the Great South Western Walk, Great Ocean Walk, Walk into History Track and some of other Club walks we do. The smartphone screen is a pleasant change from even the latest GPS's.

The only problem is it won't tell you how far you have travelled.

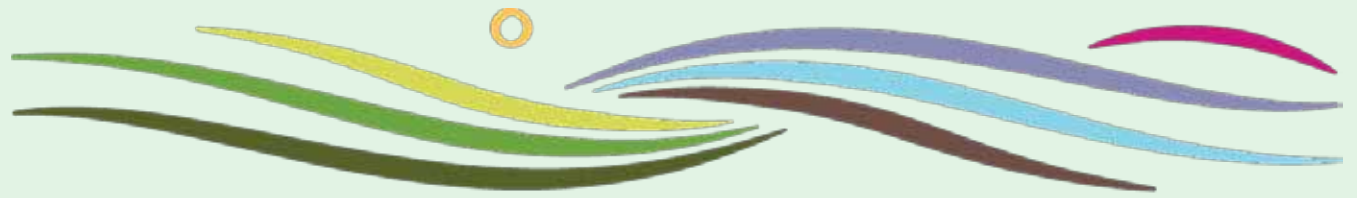
P.S. Smartphone Apps and a GPS are great bushwalking compliments but not substitutes for a real map. Maps don't break or go flat!

If you have any queries or need assistance please don't hesitate to contact me.

Mick Noonan



Lake Waikaremoana, New Zealand.
See Call for Expressions of Interest, page 13.



Bushwalking Victoria

Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation

Peatland Recovery – Mt Buffalo, Mt Buffalo NP 23 to 25 February 2017

15–20 participants.

This activity replaces the Sallow Willow Hunt at Falls Creek undertaken in past years.

There are 133 hectares of protected peatland communities across the Mount Buffalo Plateau, with 96 individual areas. The 2003 and 2006 fires, which burnt most of the park, had significant impact on these peatland areas.

This activity involves searching peatlands at Mt Buffalo for Soft Rush, Sallow Willow, Yarrow and invasive grasses, GPS-ing their location, and cutting out and applying herbicide to these weed plants.

Most work sites will be close to roads. However some sites may require a walk in.

We will camp at allocated campsites at Lake Catani. There are toilets and hot showers at the campground, as well as a communal stone shelter.

You will need to be self-sufficient as for an ordinary base camp. BYO tent etc. You will need to bring breakfasts, snacks, lunches, and evening meals, and drinks sufficient for the period. Campers at Lake Catani are required to be self-sufficient with drinking water, however the ranger will provide water for the Thursday and Friday work days. You should provide your own water for any other days. Parks Victoria will provide a BBQ on either the Thursday or Friday evening. Bring clothes, including wet-weather gear, appropriate for the changeable weather in this alpine location, and sturdy footwear.

You should arrive on Wednesday afternoon or evening to set up your camp and may depart on Saturday morning.

There may be the opportunity to arrive before the Wednesday and to stay on. This depends on the availability of campsites. If you wish to do this, you must let the project leader know ASAP so that campsites can be allocated if available. The normal camping fee applies to these stayovers.

Roads in the area are accessible to 2WD vehicles.

To register interest or for more information contact:

Joslin Guest | BTAC project leader

E: joslin@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au | 0400 988 668

MBW members attending this activity are eligible for a rebate on fuel costs up to \$25 per member. For details on how to apply, please contact John Terrell.

MITCHELL RIVER PACK CARRY 30TH DEC 2016 TO 2ND JANUARY 2017

Leader Ray Spooner



Horseshoe Bend and gullies.

For half of the group it was revisiting this favourite area of Mitchell River, East Gippsland, a proclaimed Heritage River. Recollecting Bob's pack carry with 20 people, nine years ago, we set off energetically, from a well maintained and friendly Echo Bend Caravan Park, repeatedly saying, 'I don't remember this bit', which reinforced how memories fade and repeating a hike is worthwhile. The national park is steeped in Aboriginal history with remote areas flourishing with cassinias which slope on the rocky banks and the senecios in full bloom as we followed the track. A magnificent goanna crossing our path and a bower bird's nest scattered with blue items captured our curiosity.

Ray cheerfully led the party of ten – Verna, Deb S, Agajan, Mark S, Sharnie, Rodney, Steve, Angela, Di Mc to the Billy Goat Bend amphitheatre for lunch where sheer, rugged cliffs dropping down to the river provided us with spectacular views of the



Being confronted with steep inclines which, combined with heat and blazing sun, sapped our energy as we kept catching glimpses of the water below and dreaming of plunging into it. For two of stronger members, Agajan and Mark S, an extra challenge was provided where they admirably carried extra load to support a hiker. Of course the load looked a hunting party carrying a ceremonial pig for New Year's Eve. The camp site presented a pleasant finale to the day where the rapids cooled our bodies and we swam with delight as the blue dragonflies flittered along the water, making this a highlight of the day.

With the river fast flowing and very high, Ray surveyed the current to ascertain whether crossing was safe to complete a circuit walk, concluding it was too deep for a crossing. Spending New Year's Eve on the banks of Mitchell River, with Ray frying up cheese yummys combined with everyone else's treats and some makeshift fireworks allowed the year to come to a splendid conclusion.

What a way to begin 2017, waking up to birds chirping and water flowing by your tent window before we had brekky on the banks, heaven, and not having to pack up the tent we headed off to Angusvale. A pleasant easy trek, following the meandering river and passing other campers taking advantage of the river sites. Angusvale was caravan city, all clustered around the toilet blocks and the scene reinforced the advantage of pack carrying and the ability to select secluded camping and swimming spots.

An attempt at a campfire was not successful due to a heavy downpour which sent us off scurrying into our tents and adjusting any drips which soaked through our flies. Luckily, it abated for a while allowing us to emerge, socialise and watch the stars and evening sky.

Thankfully a dry night allowed us to pack damp tents and hike back. The overcast day allowed us to return in good timing to join the hordes of day walkers to check out the Den of Nargun, an Aboriginal site. Ray achieved a very successful first pack carry as a leader. Well done and thank you Ray, I look forward to many more trips you organise.

Angela V



BEGINNERS PACK CARRY – BAW BAW NATIONAL PARK, 21-22 JANUARY

Hiking through vibrant alpine snowgum forests nestled in a multi-coloured carpet of wildflowers under cloudless blue skies and brilliant sunshine, not too hot and almost no breeze, sounds too idyllic. Idyllic yes, but unreal no. These were the ideal conditions enjoyed by our group of 12 enthusiastic bushwalkers experiencing their first multi-day hike or just out for a relaxed weekend.

Beginners Pack Carry trips are not just for those branching out into multi-day bushwalking. It is true that providing an opportunity and encouraging those who have a desire to explore the joys and adventures of pack-carry trips is a major focus. It is also true that they are a relaxed trip over a short two-day weekend for those who just want to get out in the bush for longer than a day walk, but don't want to or can't go until Saturday morning. So it was with our visit to the Baw Baw National Park at the end of January. Our group was a mixture of novice and seasoned multi-day walkers enjoying each other's company while sharing skills and experience in one of Victoria's popular National Parks.

Within a comfortable 2 – 2.5 hour drive from Melbourne the Baw Baw National Park is one of the more accessible areas for bushwalking over several days. Traversed by the Australian Alpine Walking Track, with several access points along its length, there are many options for an interesting weekend trip. Our chosen start point from Mount St Gwinear carpark was convenient for a late morning start after a coffee at Erica General Store. Several hours walking with packs easily brought us to our mystery overnight camping location and fulfilled the aim of providing a route that was challenging enough to allow inexperienced participants a chance to test their own capabilities, but not so demanding/long with the outcome that they would be turned away from future walks.

Rolling hills, moss-covered granite tors, sparkling mountain streams, native orchids and more held our attention as we covered the relatively short 6 km to our Saturday night campsite. Our campsite location nestled amongst the heathland vegetation with a view across the plains of the Tanjil River West Branch was sheltered from any wind and passing eyes. After setting up camp, with a few attempts by some at creative ways of assembling unfamiliar tents, we set off on a walk to the top of Mt Baw Baw where Mueller's Lookout afforded panoramic views of the surrounding hills.

Meal times are always a time of fascination. Dehydrated creations can be the equivalent of a gourmet meal or a gastronomic disaster. We had both. The great benefit of a single night away from civilization is the assurance that you will not starve and you can do better next time. The swapping of views and opinions on cooking gear and recipes gives hope of eating in style when the next opportunity arises.

Sunday started as Saturday had ended, perfect conditions in paradise. After a relaxed decamp and a demonstration of alternative water purification systems we set off on the 6 km towards the cars. Along the way, however, we dropped packs for a 10 km return side trip to the ruins of the old tourist hut at Mt. Whitelaw and situated on the route of the Australian Alpine Walking Track. Built in 1907 as part of the now overgrown Upper Track linking Warburton and Walhalla, the hut was destroyed in the bushfires of 1939. All that remains are the floor slab and a very solid fireplace and chimney. Refreshed and invigorated by our side trip we collected our packs again and set off towards the cars as the rising heat of the day started to take its toll. The promise of ice-cream and cool drinks at the Erica General Store spurred us on to greater things and we completed the walk fully satisfied with our achievements and looking forward to the next trip.

Ian Mair



On the track up to the top of Mount St. Gwinear.



Setting up camp.



View across the Thompson Dam towards the Alpine National Park.

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

SAN REMO – CAPE WOOLAMAI

DATE Sunday 19 February 2017
RETURN TIME Southbank Boulevard at 6:00 pm
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES 15 km and 17 km
ASCENT Minimal
LEADERS Christina Hughes and Rodney Walton
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Phillip Island
MAP REFERENCE Phillip Island Special 1:25,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Wonthaggi

Spectacular views of Phillip Island and the surrounding coastline. Cape Woolamai is a 308-hectare reserve established in 1968. The reserve protects the southeast end of Phillip Island and also the highest point on the island, a 112-metres-above-sea-level crest on the bluffs at the top of Cape Woolamai. The summit isn't much of a climb, so sandy beaches and stunning granite cliffs are the real draw.

The Easy/Medium group starts at San Remo and walks across the bridge to the beach where all groups will follow Cleeland Bight and a beach walk until the point and the old granite quarry. Here we walk up into the State Faunal Reserve. Hiking up a gradual slope, we come to a wooden overlook with east-facing views. The platform is perched at the edge of a steep bluff with great panoramic ocean views. We then head to the Cape Woolamai Beacon and follow the path past the Mutton Bird rookeries to look down on column-like pink granite sea stacks called the Pinnacles. We continue towards these and along the Cape Woolamai Surf beach and end the walk at the Colonnades.

During the walk look out for echidna and wallabies. We have come across blue-tongue lizards sunning themselves next to the track. Be aware of snakes – although I haven't seen one here, there have been reports from other walkers. Birdwatchers can look for hooded plovers on the beach or perhaps white-bellied sea eagle or albatross on the wing. Kestrels and kites are often sweeping across the cape on the lookout for prey. This is a spectacular walk, so we hope that you will join us. Please remember to bring your hat, sunscreen, insect repellent and plenty of water.



TOFS WALK

GEELONG FORESHORE – BOTANIC GARDENS

DATE Thursday 2 March 2017
RETURN TIME Geelong Railway Station approx. 3 pm
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 9–10 km
ELEVATION Mostly flat
LEADER Rosemary Cotter
TRANSPORT V/Line train, MYKI ticket
AREA Geelong
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 442 and 452
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Geelong

The leader has not yet previewed this walk but will be able to confirm details in the week prior to the TOFS taking place.

We will take the train from Southern Cross to North Geelong then walk along the Geelong foreshore to Eastern Beach. After lunch we will proceed to Eastern Park and the Botanic Gardens. Afternoon tea will be available at the Botanic Gardens Teahouse. Then back along Malop Street to Geelong Railway Station. This walk follows the Geelong Bollards Trail of over 100 carved, painted, reclaimed timber pier pylons depicting historical characters at 48 sites along the trail (leader has a book about these). This walk was previously completed by the Club in July 2007 and January 2015, so we will see it in another season.

Arrive at Southern Cross 8:55 am for the 9:10 am train, arriving North Geelong at 10:09 am. V/Line Train services to Geelong now use MYKI tickets.

Book with leader.



BASE CAMP

BOOLARRA FOLK FESTIVAL

DATE 4–5 March 2017
RETURN TIME Return to City by 5–6 pm Sunday
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 8–10 km
ELEVATION Fairly flat
LEADER Jan Colquhoun
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Boolarra
MAP REFERENCE Boolarra, Mirboo, Thorpdales 1:25,000

FIRE BAN DISTRICT West Gippsland **TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Latrobe Valley

This is a relaxing social weekend that combines the Boolarra Folk festival with a hike along the Grand Ridge Rail Trail on Sunday before returning to Melbourne. We shall drive to Boolarra early on Saturday as the festival doesn't commence until mid morning. It's a community festival and there is no entry fee. If you get there early you can position your camp chair for a good view and come and go throughout the day. The last time I was there there were two stages and a small market selling reasonably priced food crafts and local produce. We shall camp on Saturday night in the grounds of the local pub (no charge) and have dinner at the pub. They have good food.

On Sunday after a car shuffle we will walk the Grand Ridge rail trail ending at the Grand Ridge Brewery where we can sample some of the local brew before returning to Melbourne. The program for the 2017 festival hasn't been published yet but you can check out the website: <http://www.boolarrafolkfestival.com/>

I will be in the clubrooms on the two Wednesday evenings prior to the trip. Best times to ring are evenings or weekend.



SUNDAY BUS

PYRAMID ROCKS – THE NOBBIES

DATE Sunday 5 March 2017
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to City
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES 11 km and 14 km
ELEVATIONS Minimal
LEADERS Halina Sarbinowsky and Omar Sharief
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Phillip Island
MAP REFERENCE Vicmap 1:25,000 Phillip Island Special
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Wonthaggi

The Pyramid – Nobbies is one of the beautiful coastal walks of Phillip Island. This is a fairly easy walk (with some challenges) that affords beautiful views of the sea, cliffs, pristine rock pools, the sound of waves smashing into the cliffs and a wreckage of a 102 year old shipwreck, the SS Speke. There is also be a chance that we may even spot wallabies hiding in the bushes by the beach and if we are lucky fairy penguins on the way. Long term weather forecast is in the low twenties with plenty of sea breezes for a perfect walking day.

Both walks are fairly easy; however, there are a couple of minor challenges with cliffs and rocks to climb, beach walking and a bit of scrambling, some of which may be slippery, hence proper footwear is required.

This is a Sunday bus walk. Visitors interested in this walk can speak to leaders on the two Wednesdays prior to the walk in the clubrooms.



BASE CAMP

LIGHTHOUSES: POINT HICKS AND GABO ISLAND

DATE 6–12 March 2017
STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADER Doug Pocock
TRANSPORT Private
FIRE BAN DISTRICT East Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Orbost

This walk is now full, wait list only



WEDNESDAY WALK

COLIBAN AQUEDUCT

DATE Wednesday 8 March 2017
RETURN TIME 3:30 pm at cars
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 13 km
ELEVATION Mostly flattish
LEADER Lesley Hale
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Fryers Ridge Nature Conservation Area (100 km NW of Melbourne)
MAP REFERENCE Vicmap 7723-N Malmsbury
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Bendigo

The Coliban Water Works System opened in 1877 with 70 kilometres 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. You can download the interesting brochure "Joseph Brady's Coliban System of Water Works" from www.coliban.com.au (click on "About Us" then "History").

The walk follows a section of the 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 the bridge over Back Creek. After a short car shuffle north and south of the town we should be ready to start walking at 10:30 am. Plan for afternoon tea at Malmsbury.



PACK CARRY

WELLINGTON PLAINS – TALI KARNG

DATE 10–12 March 2017
STANDARD Medium
LEADER Mark Simpson
FIRE BAN DISTRICT West Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Falls Creek

The Wellington Plains area is one of alpine grasses and snowgum forests interspersed with rocky peaks offering expansive views of the surrounding alpine area.

Snowmelt and rains feed the catchments for the Avon River, Moroka River and Lake Tali Karng, which flows into the Wellington River.

On this walk we will explore some of these high peaks, affording magnificent views of the Victorian Alps, such as Lake Tali Karng from the Sentinels, the Avon River and Moroka ranges from Mt Wellington.

This walk covers three days over the long weekend, half backpacking and half with daypacks.

If you would like to join me for this exciting weekend or require more details please contact me.

Day 1... The plan is to walk in from McFarlanes hut to camp near Nigorthoruk Creek on Saturday morning. That afternoon, day walk across to Gable End for views of the

Razorback and the Sentinels, to view the lake, back to Taylor Lookout for views of the Avon River area and then camp.

Day 2... Day walk to Lake Tali Karng via Riggalls Spur and Echo point. After lunch circuit the lake via Snowden Falls, finishing with an invigorating climb up Gillios Track to camp.

Day 3... Break camp and head up Spion Kopje to Mount Wellington for morning tea. We then go back via Wellington Plains Track to Trapyard Hill for lunch. Then it's all downhill to the cars

The lake has no stream outlet, and has never been known to overflow, the overflow seeping away through the Valley of Destruction. Two creeks feed the lake, Snowden Creek and Nigothoruk Creek. Nigothoruk Creek has three waterfalls, collectively called Snowden Falls. There is no vegetation in the lake itself as the water is slightly acidic.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

MT ST LEONARD VIA CONDONS TRACK

DATE Sunday 12 March 2017
STANDARD Hard
DISTANCE 27.5 m (with Mt Monda side trip)
ELEVATION 1300 m rise and fall
LEADER Ian Mair
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Yarra Ranges National Park
MAP REFERENCE Juliet North and Juliet South 1:25,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Yarra Glen

Last done in April 2014, this challenging walk, including an optional side trip to Mt Monda, was enjoyed by all who made the effort. A great test of your current fitness level! I swore I would never do it again.

It is not a walk for the unfit or inexperienced! The circuit walk, starting from Donnellys Weir not far from Healesville, taking in Condons Track on the way to Mt St Leonard and returning by the Mt St Leonard Track, is a day walk for those that like a good workout. The distance itself of around 27.5 km is enough to put it in the harder range of Sunday walks. Coupled with a total elevation rise and fall of over 1300 m, including the sharp 550 m climb in 2.6 km of the Condons Track, makes it one of the hardest walks on the Sunday program. The estimated walking time with minimal breaks will be around 7–8 hours. For those who accept the challenge, however, the rewards are that much greater.

The walk starts by following 4WD Management Roads to the start of Condons Track up the slopes of Mt Monda. The track passes through ancient fern gullies and tall wet Mountain Ash forest. Condons Track is maintained by Bushwalking Victoria and the benefits of the coordinated efforts will be appreciated, especially if we encounter rain on the slippery slopes. From the top of Condons Track we will follow earthen roads around to Mt St Leonard (although there is the option to first visit Mt Monda, adding another 3 km to the walk!) From Mt St Leonard we will take in magnificent views across the Yarra Valley to Melbourne before descending through mixed Eucalypt forest along the Mt St Leonard track back to Donnellys Weir. The walk ends with a picturesque walk to “Echo Tunnel” alongside a feeder channel forming part of the Melbourne water supply system, before returning to the cars.

Should you choose to accept the challenge please contact me by telephone or see me in the club room. As this walk is rated Hard all walkers need to speak to the leader before bookings can be confirmed.



CYCLING

SUNBURY BIKE TRAILS (train based)

DATE Saturday 18 March 2017
RETURN TIME 5 pm
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 44 km
LEADER Jopie Bodegraven
TRANSPORT Train
MAP REFERENCE Melway directory
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

Sunbury has a surprising number of bike paths. Add in a river valley and some great views and you have a recipe for a good day's riding.

We will meet at Sunbury Railway Station (east side) at or after 10:11 am when the 9:22 am train from Southern Cross arrives. The ride consists of four loops exploring the nooks and crannies of Sunbury, even including a quick look at the historic Emu Bottom homestead. We will finish with afternoon tea at a coffee shop before our train trip home. Join me for a ride in a very scenic place that not many cyclists ever get to.



SUNDAY BUS

BELLBIRD CREEK, TARAGO

DATE Sunday 19 March 2017
RETURN TIME About 6 pm
STANDARDS Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCES 14 km and 19 km
LEADERS Jamie Brawn and Brett Daniel
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA West Gippsland
MAP REFERENCE Neerim 1:25,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT West Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Latrobe Valley

This walk is in the Tarago State Forest to the east of Melbourne just north of the Tarago Reservoir.

We will start by walking up the ridge from where there are views to the east over farmlands around Neerim. The first part of this walk is up a medium gradient on a 4wd road, surrounded by large eucalyptus trees. Once at the top we will begin our descent to some little-used but pretty tracks, before we reach the crossing of Tarago creek. This is where the harder group will start an extra loop before arriving at the bus.

Long pants are recommended, as well as poles.



MOFS WALK

BAYSWATER – DANDENONG CREEK

DATE Monday 20 March 2017
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 12 km
LEADER Doug Pocock
TRANSPORT Private
MAP REFERENCE Melway 63 and 64
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

While this is a suburban walk we were pleasantly surprised on the preview by the amount of trees and bush along the way. This is a return trip but a lot of the time we can return on the

opposite side of the creek. Bring a thermos and we will have a coffee in the park after the walk.

Meet at the carpark in Bayswater Park, King Street, Melway 64 F3. Toilets here. We start walking at 10:30.

MEETING

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE Wednesday 22 March 2017
TIME 8 pm
VENUE Clubrooms

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

The Wine and Cheese is free.

More information in the March News.



SOCIAL WALK

RIVER WALK, HAWTHORN TO KEW

DATE Thursday 23 March 2017
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 5 km
ELEVATION Mostly flat
LEADER Jean Giese
TRANSPORT Private or tram
AREA Hawthorn, Abbotsford, Kew
MAP REFERENCE Melway 2H
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

Summer is the time to be walking in the shade beside the Yarra. There is a foot track on the east side from Burwood Road to Barkers Road, which we will take, before crossing to the west side and following the river upstream and then returning.

Lunch will be in a café overlooking the river, but if anyone would rather bring their own, there is a river reserve just outside.

Meet at 10:15 in the carpark in Yarra Bank Reserve (Melway H6) – enter from Denham Street; also accessible from Church Street and Bridge Road trams. Book with the leader.

If the weather forecast is for 30° or over, the walk will be cancelled.



PACK CARRY

HELICOPTER – STANLEY NAME SPURS

A chance to enjoy a challenging weekend in Victoria's awesome high country

DATE 24–26 March 2017
RETURN TIME Sunday evening
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 26 km approx.
ELEVATION Upper Howqua Camp Area 900m; Mt Howitt 1742 m
LEADER Helen Geddes
TRANSPORT Private car pool and costs to be advised by leader
AREA Buller – Howitt
MAP REFERENCE Buller–Howitt Alpine Area SV Maps 1:50,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North East
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Buller

Friday: Camp at Upper Howqua Camping Area off Bindaree Road

Saturday: 8 am: Departure.

Commence the day with a combination of off track and foot track as we climb along and up a steep and rocky ridge (800m) before joining the 4WD Bluff Track taking us on to Picture Point (1635 m). From here we join the AAWT and make our way across to Mt Magdala (1725 m) for the evening camp.

Spring water available and we will need to collect water for the following day.

Sunday: 8am: Departure

En route we take in Hell's Window, up and over Big Hill (1668 m) then down and up and over Mt Howitt (1742 m), before working our way on to the Crosscut Saw and the intersecting Stanleys Name Spur. Gradually we descend to the Howqua River, crossing it many times en route back to the cars at the Upper Howqua Camp. Make sure you have dry clothes waiting for you in the car.

- This is alpine country and we can and do experience snow at any time of year in these regions.
- All participants are required to be equipped with all seasons' camping equipment, weather gear and carrying personal first aid kit, have some hiking experience and fitness.

This is a joint MBW and VMTC Trip. Numbers are limited and early booking is recommended to secure a place. Email or telephone the leader if you are looking to attend.



SATURDAY WALK

WARBURTON AREA

DATE Saturday 25 March 2017
STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADER Maureen Hurley
TRANSPORT Private
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Dandenong

For details of this walk please contact the leader.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

GARDEN OF ST ERTH – SIMMONS REEF (BLACKWOOD)

DATE Sunday 26 March 2017
RETURN TIME Southbank Boulevard 6:30 pm
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 16 km
ELEVATION About 300 metres of ascent
LEADER Chris Collett
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Simmons Reef (Blackwood)
MAP REFERENCE VicMap No. T7723-2-3-3 (1:25,000)
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Ballarat

This trip commences at the Garden of St Erth, which is located where the mining township of Simmons Reef once existed. This was one of the small mining towns that developed in the Blackwood area after gold was discovered here and evidence of mining remains in the former water races and mine shafts we shall see on the walk. The sandstone cottage on the property was built in 1860 when the owner made his fortune on the diggings and it is named after his Cornish birthplace. The garden can be explored and appreciated at the end of the walk.

Our walk will gradually take us uphill to the site of the Easter Monday mine, last operated in the 1930's. After reaching the high point of the walk near McLaughlin's Lookout in the Wombat State Forest, we will descend along old vehicular tracks to the Lerderberg River for lunch. We will then follow the Great Dividing Trail as we wind along the river valley downstream until we return to the Garden of St Erth.



WEDNESDAY WALK

LA LA FALLS AND BACKSTAIRS TRACK

DATE Wednesday 29 March 2017
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 12 km
LEADER Doug Pocock
TRANSPORT Private
MAP REFERENCE Melway 289-290
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Yarra Glen

This is an old favorite with the Club and is one we will be doing for the Federation Weekend. However to make it smoother for breaks the walk will be in reverse to the normal way we walk it.

We start with walking through some of the back roads of Warburton before heading through rainforest on an old timber tram track to La La Falls. From here we find an old track which leads to the top of Backstairs track which we descend. If there has been recent rain walking poles would be useful. Reaching the rail trail we follow this back to the start.

Meet at the parking area at Warburton Recreation Reserve Melway 290 C4. Toilets here.

We start walking at 10:30.



BASE CAMP

WILSON'S PROM IN A DAY (Joint with VMTC)

Rescheduled from February

DATE Friday 31 March to Sunday 2 April 2017
STANDARD Medium/hard
DISTANCE 45 km
TOTAL ASCENT 300 m rise
LEADER Judith Shaw
TRANSPORT Private
START TIME Depart from location in notes below at 7:00 am

AREA Wilson's Promontory
MAP REFERENCE Wilsons Promontory NP, VicMap 2000, 1:50,000

FIRE BAN DISTRICT West Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Wonthaggi

We camp at Tidal River on Friday night, with a 7am start on Saturday for the Sealers Cove – Little Waterloo Bay – Oberon Bay circuit (45 km), returning to Tidal River in time for tea. There is an option to do the longer circuit via the Lighthouse (67 km).

On Sunday we have an optional short walk around one of the tracks near Tidal River, finishing by lunch time.

Fit experienced walkers only, no visitors please.

**CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
 BOLIVIA TREKKING 2017
 MAROONDAH BUSHWALKERS**



Maroondah Bushwalkers are running a fully supported trekking trip to Bolivia in June and July 2017. Maroondah have 10 vacancies on the trip and have extended an invitation to Melbourne Bushwalkers to join them.

Approx prices are \$5500p/p for 4 weeks including flights, and supported high altitude treks in the Andes (Apolobamba Range), and a trek at Lake Titicaca. Trekking is at altitudes up to 5200 metres.

The treks involve camping, there is a guide, cook and donkeys to carry gear. You need only carry a day pack, and provide a sleeping bag and sleeping pad/mattress.

There is also the option to join Maroondah in an extended tour of Bolivia to include the Amazon Jungle, the Salar de Uyuni (salt flats), and more. The price for this 8-week trip (including the treks and flights) is approx \$11,000p/p. Prices are dependent on the number of participants.

If you are interested in the details please contact Michelle Gallant.

A deposit for the trekking is needed by early April.

**CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
 NEW ZEALAND
 NOVEMBER 11-26, 2017**

I am planning to do two pack carry walks on the North Island of New Zealand this coming November. We will fly into lovely Wellington before travelling north. Our first walk will combine the Tongariro Northern Circuit Great Walk with the "Round the Mountain" circuit of Mt Ruapehu, a total of 7 days. After a transfer to the shores of Lake Waikeremoana we will do the equally stunning Lake Waikeremoana Great Walk, taking 4 days. Both walks will be challenging.

To express interest in joining the group or for further information please contact Ian Mair. As the Tongariro Northern Circuit and Lake Waikeremoana Tracks are part of the New Zealand Great Walks network they can only be walked with prepaid reservations. Both are popular and places may fill quickly after bookings open around 1st June.

A party size limit of 12 will apply.

Bus transport meets at Southbank Boulevard, south side of the Arts Centre, before 8:45 am. Leader or deputy will be there rain, hail or shine!

March 2017

| | | | | | |
|---------------|---|------------|------------------|--------------|--|
| Thu 2 | TOF: Geelong foreshore – Botanic Gardens | Pvt | Easy | CN:ge | Rosemary Cotter |
| 4–5 | BC : Boolara Folk Festival | Pvt | Easy | WG:lv | Jan Colquhoun |
| Sun 5 | DAY: Pyramid Rocks – The Nobbies | Bus | E&E/M | CN:wg | Halina Sarbinowski & Omar Sharief |
| 6–12 | BC : Lighthouses: Pt Hicks and Gabo Island | Pvt | E/M | EG:or | Doug Pocock |
| Wed 8 | DAY: Coliban Aqueduct | Pvt | Easy | CN:be | Lesley Hale |
| 10–12 | PC : Wellington Plains – Tali Karng | Pvt | Med | WG:fc | Mark Simpson |
| Sun 12 | DAY: Mt St Leonard via Condons Track | Car | Hard | CN:yg | Ian Mair |
| Sat 18 | CYC: Sunbury Bike Trail (train based) | Pvt | E/M | CN:me | Jopie Bodegraven |
| Sun 19 | DAY: Bellbird Track, Tarago | Bus | E/M&M | WG:lv | Brett Daniel & Jamie Brawn |
| Mon 20 | MOF: Boronia – Dandenong Creek | Pvt | Easy | CN:md | Doug Pocock |
| Wed 22 | MTG: Annual General Meeting | | | | Club Committee |
| Thu 23 | SOC: River walk, Hawthorn to Kew | Pvt | Easy | CN:me | Jean Giese |
| 24–26 | PC : Helicopter Spur – Stanley Name Spur (joint VMTC) | Pvt | Med | NE:mb | Helen Geddes |
| Sat 25 | DAY: Warburton area | Pvt | E/M | CN:md | Maureen Hurley |
| Sun 26 | DAY: Garden Of St Erth – Simmons Reef (Blackwood) | Car | E/M | CN:ba | Chris Collett |
| Wed 29 | DAY: La La Falls and Backstairs Track | Pvt | E/M | CN:yg | Doug Pocock |
| 31–2 | BC : Prom in a Day (joint with VMTC) | Pvt | M/H | WG:wn | Judith Shaw |

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