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March 2017

THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Melbourne Bushwalkers (Incorporated) will be held on Wednesday, 22 March, 2017 at 8:00 pm at The Clubrooms, Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Corner of A'Beckett Street and William Street, Melbourne

Members are invited to attend.
Non-members are welcome but are not eligible to vote.

Business:

Apologies
Confirmation of Minutes from the 2016 Annual General Meeting
President's Report
Treasurer's Report
Walks Secretaries' Reports
Membership Secretary's Report
Other Reports
Proposed Changes to the Rules of Association
Determination of the Annual Subscriptions for 2017

Determination of number of General Committee Members for 2017
Election of Office Bearers and General Committee Members for 2017
Appointment of Reviewers of Financial Statements
Conferral of Life Memberships
Conferral of Honorary Memberships
Award of Club Spoons
General Business

Any member unable to attend in person may appoint a proxy to be received by the Secretary before or at the commencement of the meeting.

Proxy and Committee Nomination Forms are available in the Clubrooms or may be downloaded from the Club's website (http://mbw.org.au/MBW_docs.php).

Complimentary Wine and Cheese

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

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 March 2017

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Tony Arrigo, Kym Egen, Elizabeth Riordan,
Nadia Glusenko, Darrell Hutchinson,
Julie Hutchinson, Kamila Krauze,
Rosemary Manning, Philip McDonald,
Susan McDonald, Gina Mele, Kerrie Penhall,
Matthew Sullivan, Susan Wardrop,
and welcome back to Julia Anson

Training FOR ALL LEADERS

This unit is highly recommended

Risk management, Safety and Legal Issues

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

Recently a group of nine eager participants dedicated their Saturday to complete Units 1–3, bringing the total to over 25 who are well on their way to completing MODULE 1 LEADERSHIP TRAINING.

With the background theory of planning, organising and the practical event of conducting a walk, being prepared for the possible risks is essential in recognition of potential risks when leading hiking groups. For 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.

The evening will cover the following objectives:

- 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.



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 7:00 pm. Cheese and wine will be provided.

If anyone attending would like to meet up around 6:00 pm 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 5 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



Volunteers Needed



**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

FEDERATION WEEKEND 27-29 October 2017 WEBSITE

Our Federation weekend Website has commenced.

Initial information on bookings and accommodation is now available.

Saturday night dinner will be at Arrabri Lodge where there is also accommodation. Walks and other activities start nearby at the school hall.

Find out more at: fedwalks.org.au

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – MARCH 2017



A hedonist is defined as a person who believes that the pursuit of pleasure is the most important thing in life. It almost sounds derogatory to call someone a hedonist but I shamelessly admit that I planned much of my February to be just that. Naturally, much of my pleasure came in the form of bushwalking. Yet, even as I walked I was reminded of some important observations about the Club and the world in which we live.

Let me start with the Base Camp led by Past President Doug Pocock at the Rover Chalet on the Bogong High Plains. It was a most enjoyable trip, with fellow Club members and visitors contributing equally to communal tasks and participating in a variety of day walks to suit each individual's



inclination on the day. Nothing so different about that. What made it different for me was the reminder of how fortunate we are as a Club to have many members who have been walking for many more years than I have, some of whom were amongst our number at the Rover Chalet. Their past experience and knowledge took me to places I may never have visited or even known about. Today, when so much information on bushwalking destinations is available in books or through the internet, there are still gems that can only be passed on from one walker to another. More importantly, experiencing a new destination or a different challenge with someone who has travelled the route before, plays a key part in building confidence amongst younger leaders to venture that way again. 'Corporate knowledge' is a highly prized asset that we need to nurture. Failure to do so will make us a more narrowly focussed and less diverse Club.

The second trip in my February of fun was planned to be a Wednesday walk I was to lead to the Bunyip State Forest. Everything was seemingly in place to fulfil my expectations. I had even been walking in a nearby area the day before and reflected on how good it was going to be the next day. Imagine my surprise when I received a telephone call at 6 pm from one of our group to advise that the region was going to be impacted by a Total Fire Ban. As a leader I had, of course, been remiss in not having already checked the forecast myself, but there was nothing in the earlier weather predictions to suggest it as a likelihood. Club policy requires that all day walks are cancelled in any region covered by a Total Fire Ban. This is a sound and sensible policy which was immediately implemented. Alas my second trip did not happen. It was, however, a salutary reminder, if one was needed, of the seemingly increasing uncertainty in our weather patterns and their potential to impact on our future activities as a Club.

My third trip to Mt. Buffalo was more successful. The weather was even more benign than could perhaps have been expected at this time of year. Our group of enthusiastic walkers accepted the challenge of doing The Big Walk with full overnight packs and swallowed the 18 plus kilometres and 1700 metres of total ascent (with side trips) with relative ease. I could be flippant and say that it was the promise of an ice-cream at the top that drove us on, however, that would be doing an injustice. What impressed me was the enthusiasm of the mix of 'longer standing' and 'new generation' Club members and their shared celebration at their achievement. Even though the time available was just an ordinary weekend it took nothing away from the pleasure of the trip. The chance to get outdoors and meet a challenge was what mattered most. In years gone by the Club has run many more weekend trips than currently fill our program and it would be good to see more again. Next time our Pack Carry Coordinator puts out a call for leaders and trip suggestions let us see if we can't fill a few more of the ordinary weekends that can be an extraordinary experience.

March will be just as much fun. This column is my last as President for the 2016-2017 year. It is timely to thank everyone for the contributions you have made individually to make Melbourne Bushwalkers the invigorating and welcoming Club it is. After the AGM on the 22nd March a new Committee will be taking over. We are fortunate that most of the current Committee have agreed to stand for re-election with several new Committee members to bring a fresh perspective. I invite and encourage everyone to come along for what is always a good social evening as well as an opportunity for you to put forward your views on how we are faring. With your goodwill I may be fortunate enough to continue as President for one more year.

Ian Mair

2017 Social Calendar

Wine and Cheese Night

WEDNESDAY 26 APRIL, 8 PM

THE BEAUTY OF NORTHERN VIETNAM ADVENTURE TOUR



Last November the Club undertook a 20 day tour of Northern Vietnam. Highlights included:

- 9 day trek crossing Mt Fansipan and visiting local villages
- Tour of Cuc Phuong National Park
- Halong Bay Cruise
- Various day tours in and around Hanoi

The trip was a most enjoyable blend of trekking, including a climb of the highest mountain in Indo-China, experiencing local customs and traditions, and general sight-seeing.

Join with Ian Mair and Halina Sarbinowski as they take you on a fascinating journey in a part of the world with many options to explore.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Conservation and track clearing activities

There are a number of activities coming up over the next few months:

Thurs 2 – Sun 5 March – **Annual Track Clearing, Baw Baw NP**. To register interest and for further information contact Ron Cann from Strzelecki Bushwalking Club asap (racann@dcsi.net.au).

Fri 10 – Mon 13 March – **BTAC AAWT track clearing, Omeo area**. Let Mark Heath know if you are interested (markus.heath@gmail.com).

Further details of each of these at <http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/component/content/article/78-bnv/bnv-2017-february/551-tracks-and-conservation-activities>

25–26 March – **Friends of Bogong planting**, probably at Langford West camping area, Bogong High Plains. Contact Deb Shand if interested (deb.shand@bigpond.com).

Also dates for **Regent Honeyeater Nest boxing** are 25–26 March, 22–23 April, 20–21 May 2017. Details at <http://regenthoneyeater.org.au>.

Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing Draft master plan

The MBW submission on behalf to Parks Victoria on this draft is available to download in the members area of the Club website.

Transport reimbursement for conservation and track clearing activities

To encourage greater participation in such activities, the MBW Committee recently agreed to a travel reimbursement of up to \$25 per person for participating in approved conservation and track clearing events such as the above in 2017. Mechanism for claiming this is still being finalised, but please let me know if you do attend, also so the Club can record statistics of our participation in these events.

John Terrell

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO 2017 AGM

The President's Report to the AGM is a chance to reflect on the year just past, a time to consider what went well and what can be improved, as well as what the Club can look forward to in the year ahead. The General Walks Secretary, Sunday Walks Secretary and Social Secretary Reports draw out the details of what has been an active and productive year full of diversity and higher levels of participation. These achievements have continued to build on the goals set out in the Future Directions Plan adopted over two years ago. As I noted last year, growth, diversity and engagement encapsulate the thrust of the Future Directions plan to better our bushwalking experiences.

Some initiatives take time to be reflected in our normal operations. Over the past year we have watched patiently as our online portals through the website, Facebook and MeetUp, launched in April this year, broaden the reach of our activities. Offering complementary access to a window on the Club, each portal has steadily built its own following. To many of our online observers the window is all they seek. Significantly, though, a growing number are drawn to enquire further and participate in one or more of our activities. Most often this has first been noticed in visitor numbers on our regular Sunday Bus trips. As noted in the Membership Secretary's Report we ended calendar year 2016 with a steady membership of 433, 18 more than the previous year, and growing. At the same time we had an active Temporary Member (visitor) list of 182, giving an effective membership of 615 for the year. The proportion of visitors choosing to join the Club is also up slightly to 27.4% from 26.2% a year earlier. Concurrently the average age of our membership is trending downwards in line with the younger demographic finding the Club through Facebook and MeetUp. These encouraging indicators bode well for the future of the Club.

2016 saw a continued emphasis on regular Beginner Pack Carry trips offering an easy way for those seeking to broaden their Club involvement a chance to experience overnight activity in a supportive and informative setting. It is pleasing to see a number of new faces on each trip along with more experienced members prepared to share their experience with newcomers. It is not enough, however, to provide a gateway and not follow it up with a pathway through a mix of other Pack Carry trips that develop the initial interest. I encourage all experienced members who may not have done so in recent years to consider leading a Pack Carry trip, particularly shorter weekend trips suitable for relatively inexperienced walkers. You don't have to travel a long way from Melbourne to have a great weekend in an outdoor setting.

At the risk of becoming repetitive, it is of the utmost importance that we continue to build on our pool of willing and experienced trip leaders. Following a comprehensive review by Past President Mick Noonan of the modular leader training materials provided by Bushwalking Victoria, we launched in 2016 a new program of leader training. Using a rolling program of roughly monthly training sessions, with each module repeated throughout the year, we aim to make it more convenient to participate for all members keen to broaden their skills and knowledge. Commitment to leading a trip is not a requirement, however, it is a goal to ensure we have as many members as possible with leader training on all of our trips. With three modules conducted so far we have in the program more than 20 potential new and current leaders reinforcing their knowledge. Any member interested in participating in just one or all of the modules is encouraged talk with our Training Officer, Angela Vestsica.

Looking ahead, our major commitment for 2017 is the running of the Federation Walks Weekend at Warburton in October. Past President Margaret Curry and her team have been hard at work and already have many of the elements in place or in progress for what promises to be a very successful event. There will be numerous opportunities for Club members to become involved and you are encouraged to help out where you can by responding to the notices in the newsletter.

During 2016 we have continued to encourage a higher level of member participation in track maintenance and conservation activities related to our principal focus of bushwalking. We will be continuing to focus on this enjoyable and important contribution to all of our bushwalking wellbeing. Our Environment Officer, John Terrell, is continuing to highlight the activities available for support. If we all contributed to only one activity in a year it would be an outstanding achievement. Take the time and talk to John to see what is involved and where you may help.

Other major initiatives that should see fruition during the year are a refinement of our day walk grading system, an extension of our online trip management procedures for leaders, and a rebuild of our public website more suited to mobile device access.

Thank you all for your contributions and support throughout the year. The running of the Club is a substantial team effort in which all Club members play a part.

Ian Mair

GENERAL WALKS SECRETARY REPORT FOR 2015–2016

Following a very active 2015, the Club's non-Sunday program offered similar variety in 2016. There were pack carries in Cambodia and Vietnam, three in Tasmania (two Overland Track, one South Coast), one in NSW (Blue Mountains), one in WA (Bibbulmun Track) and three Beginners' pack carries in Victoria. Base Camps included two more on Deal Island, one in South Australia (Wilpena Pound), the very popular Federation Weekend in the Grampians, and Camp Eureka (Yarra Junction) again at Christmas. Of course, there was a wide range of non-Sunday activities within Victoria. Overall trip numbers and attendances were down slightly in 2016, but single day activities showed a general increase.

Starting with **MOFs**, there was a fall in the number of trips, accounted for by three cancellations. However, average attendances rose by 5.4% and average visitors by an impressive 75%. The most popular trips were Mullum Mullum Creek, with 21 walkers, and Footscray parks and river cruise, held jointly with Social walks, which attracted 30 people. **TOFs** had a boost in attendances of nearly 30%, while 18 walkers tackled the new Devilbend trip.

The **Saturday/Dandenongs Explorer** group saw an increase of 5.6% in attendances and a pleasing rise of 27.3% in visitor numbers. The **Wednesday** team added an encouraging three walks last year, which would have been five, but for two cancellations due to bad weather. The number of walkers increased by nearly 2%, while the visitor average fell slightly. The most popular walk was Powelltown, with 24 hikers. **Social** walk numbers remained almost constant in 2016, and apart from the joint trip with MOFs, the highest attendance was 13, at Jenkins Park, Domain Wetlands.

Conservation attendances saw a small decrease, as did **Navigation** training. However, other **Training** was up by four activities and consisted of gear selection (18 attendees), leadership (33 people over three sessions) and First Aid (20 people, with 14 visitors). **Track maintenance** events and attendances were down noticeably, last year. **Skiing** made a comeback in 2015, but the Short Notice Cross-Country Register led to four fewer trips in 2016.

The number of **Base Camps** rose when two pack carries in the Strathbogies were changed to base camps last year, but there were three less base camps overall than in 2015. However, attendances increased by 2.4% and visitors by a pleasing 25%. Apart from 32 of our members at the Federation Weekend, the most popular trips were Mt. Buffalo and Camp Eureka, both with 16 hikers. **Lodge** trips showed similar results to the previous year, apart from a noticeable increase in visitors. Tidal River attracted 15 participants.

Pack Carries would have increased by three in 2016, but there were five cancellations, for various reasons (see statistics table), and two trips that were changed to base camps. The final result was four fewer pack carries and a decrease in attendances of 20.2%. The most popular trip was the beginners' pack carry at Mt. Feathertop, with 15 hikers, including eight visitors. The three beginners' pack carries attracted an encouraging 32 people, with 10 visitors, while the two Overland Track walks totalled 20 and seven.

During 2016, Ross Berner stepped down as Coordinator of **Cycling**, so many thanks must go to him for his work in planning and leading many past rides. Philip Brown now takes the handlebars of the group. The number of rides was down slightly, due to two cancellations, but attendances increased by 8.6%. The favourite trip was the Darebin Trail, with 13 riders.

Overall, 2016 was another busy year for non-Sunday activities. Results were slightly lower than 2015, partly due to cancellations, but some day trips showed an encouraging increase and there was a welcome boost in training. Once again, our thanks must go to all of the Activity Coordinators and leaders who have spent considerable time and effort in making the program happen. Our team of Emergency Contacts should also be recognised for being on call throughout the year, in case of major incidents and delays.

Stuart Hanham

These photos were sent by Stephen Ingrouille with an article about the Mallacoota–Nadgee pack carry in January. Because of space constraints, I've had to hold over the article till next month, as well as articles on the January long weekend Mt Bogong walks and the Bogong Rover Chalet walks in February.

Merilyn – Editor



MBW ACTIVITY STATISTICS 2015 & 2016

	2015			2016		
	Trips	Average Numbers	Average Visitors	Trips	Average Numbers	Average Visitors
DAY WALKS						
MOFs	12	11.2	0.6	9	11.8	1.4
TOFs	12	9.1	0.3	12	11.8	0.3
Sat/Dandenongs Explorer	8	10.8	1.1	9	11.4	1.4
Sunday bus	27	40.8	9.0	27	45.4	12.2
Sunday carpool	21	15.3	2.6	24	15.3	3.8
Wednesday	16	10.8	0.7	19	11.0	0.6
Social walks	12	8.8	1.5	12	8.8	1.4
Historical walks	0	0	0	1	8.0	4.0
OTHER ACTIVITIES						
Conservation	10	4.7	0	9	4.3	0
Training	1	20.0	14.0	5	14.2	3.2
Navigation training	2	6.5	3.0	2	5.5	1.5
Track maintenance	3	4.3	0.7	1	2.0	0
Skiing	5	5.0	0.8	1	8.0	0
Base camp	14	12.3	0.8	11	12.6	1.0
Lodge	3	11.0	0.3	3	10.7	0.7
Pack carry	24	9.9	1.5	20	7.9	1.3
Cycling	8	7.0	0	7	7.6	0.3

- Trip numbers are based on total trips – January to December.
- Average attendance numbers based on information from leaders, but exclude trips where numbers have not been provided.
- Not included are 11 cancellations in 2015 (due to a variety of reasons) and 12 in 2016, as follows:
low numbers – PC x3, CYC x2; high temperature – MOFs x2; bad weather – PC x1, Weds x2;
area inaccessible – PC x1, MOFS x1.

SUNDAY WALKS SECRETARY'S REPORT 2016

The Sunday walks program has continued to move ahead in leaps and bounds. Last year I wrote about a successful year, and again I write about another successful year. Our overall participation numbers have increased by 11% since 2015, mainly through visitors and new members – the conversion of visitors. Last year our tactics to entice walkers to walk with us were in competition to 'Meetup' groups. In 2016 we embraced the 'Meetup' concept to attract walkers to participate with our Club's activities, with our focus being our bus walks. Feedback has been especially encouraging with participants appreciating our organisation and consistency.

Each year I also thank all the leaders who volunteer to lead a walk and this year is no exception. I am very conscious of the contribution of leaders. Without them the Club could not exist. I am extremely pleased that the leadership program has encouraged more walkers to take the plunge and lead a walk, usually initially on the Sunday walks program but later on possibly a pack carry or a base camp. The 78 leaders required for the 2016 Sunday walks program were covered by 31 individuals who lead walks ranging from one walk to eight walks. To all leaders – we thank you.

Halina Sarbinowski
MBW – Sunday Walks Secretary.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT TO AGM 2017

The past year has been a mixed one of steady progress in some areas and delays in others. In April we launched our presence on MeetUp with a group site focussed on promoting our Sunday Bus trips and monthly slide presentations. The careful consideration given to the content and audience targeting by Vice-President Nigel Holmes has proven highly successful in achieving our objectives. We now have over 470 'Bushies' registered on the site, with a growing number actively participating in Club trips and applying for Club membership. Meanwhile our Facebook page has continued to provide a complementary window on the Club's activities with its own regular following of over 2800 individuals (up from 1600 last year), some of whom are also choosing to walk with the Club.

The password-protected 'Members' Area' of the website, launched in 2015, has steadily gained acceptance by the membership and is now reaching a point where it can be used for hosting a wider range of Club communications. Around 180 members have completed the registration process which now provides:

- Access to your own membership details and an option for self-management of changes and confidentiality settings;
- Access to other member and leader contact details;
- Access to Membership statistics and a listing of current Club voluntary office holders; and
- Access to restricted Club documents and the latest Members' version of the newsletter and Quarterly Activities Program.

The Leaders' Area of the website provides Leaders, Activity Co-ordinators and Administrators with a range of utilities to manage the Club's activities. Additions to assist leaders have been made to enable online recording of participants on non-Sunday activities, with their contact and emergency contact details automatically extracted from the membership records. Also, new online forms have been added to enable leaders to complete both Preview Notification and Trip Intention details, with copies forwarded to the Club Emergency Contact System.

These recent additions to the Leader's Area of the website will soon make it possible to also give members access, through the Members' Area, to a listing of which members have booked on coming trips. Further it will be timely in 2017 to re-examine the benefits and constraints to online membership renewal and online trip booking.

2016 was to be the year we made a change to a more mobile-friendly website. A decision had been made on the tools to be applied with some assurance of relevance for several years. Unfortunately it has taken until now for the tools to reach a maturity for them to be reliably used. Work will commence shortly on rebuilding the website.

Ian Mair

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT FOR 2016

You will be pleased to know that our membership numbers are up compared with the same time as in 2016. We now have 451 which is 18 more than the 433 last year. We are still a bit short of the target of 480 set by the 'Future Directions' plan in 2014.

We lost about 68 members at renewal time in 2016 which was a bit above the average of 53 members per year. The reasons for not renewing were mainly for health problems or because of work and, in one case, babies. None said they disliked the Club. Since then however, we have more than made up the membership numbers.

Our age profile remains much the same with 64% of members' Year of Birth recorded – the average age is 60.4 years for males and 58.4 years for females. This compares with the profile for new members joining the Club since 2014 where the average age is 50.2 years for males and 49.9 years for females.

Our rate of conversion from Temporary Member, i.e. visitor, to membership is 28%.

The main way in which applicants find the Club is still via our website, followed by recommendations from friends. 'MeetUp' is now bringing in a small but significant number. These are mainly younger people which is our aim, i.e. to attract the younger generation.

Members now appear to be getting used to using the 'Members Only' area on the web site, though some are still contacting us to update their details for them. This could be done by the member themselves on the web.

All in all a fairly good year and hopefully we'll keep it up in 2017.

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS				
Month ending	Active	Honorary & Life	Total	Active Temporary
January 2016	419	20	439	176
January 2017	433	18	451	204

Gillian Wainwright

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.



SATURDAY WALK

WARBURTON AREA

DATE Saturday 25 March 2017
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 12 km
ASCENT Minimal
LEADER Maureen Hurley
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Warburton
MAP REFERENCE Melway 289 K4
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Dandenong

We will meet at 10:15 in the Car Park of the now closed Patchwork Café. This is along the Warburton Highway, just after the Warburton sign and the Mayer Bridge. Parking is at the rear of the Café sign (which is still there). We will walk up Scotchman's Creek Road, to the Backstairs Track and up to Old Warburton Road, which we follow around to La La Falls. We will complete the walk to the Falls, and then descend to the town of Warburton and along the river to our cars. We will have coffee after the walk at one of the cafés along the River trail.



SUNDAY BUS

MT CAROLINE – MT BULLAMALITA



DATE Sunday 2 April 2017
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm
STANDARDS Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCES 12 and 15 km
ELEVATIONS 400 m and 600 m
LEADERS Jenny Andrewes and Christina Hughes

TRANSPORT Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Yea
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Seymour

This walk takes you on a scenic journey over emerald green hills through farmland near Yea, northeast of Melbourne. The views over the surrounding countryside and away into the distance in all directions are magnificent. The opportunities to exercise your legs up and down steep slopes (especially for the Medium group) are abundant. Combine this with fresh air and sunshine and you will have a great physical workout and an enjoyable day. On the preview we shared the landscape with sheep and lambs, cows and calves, kangaroos, a wombat, cockatoos, robins and an eagle. I hope you will come and share this delightful walk with us – but be prepared for the hills!



TRAINING

LEADERS – UNIT 4: RISK MANAGEMENT, SAFETY AND LEGAL ISSUES

DATE Wednesday 5 April 2017
VENUE Clubrooms
ORGANISER Mick Noonan
TRANSPORT Private
START TIME 7:30 pm
FINISH TIME 9:00 pm
BOOK WITH Angela Vetsicas
ACTIVITY AREA Clubrooms, 362 William Street
MAP REF Melway Reference: 2F, B2
UPDATE Addition to program

After an impressive number of you have completed Units 1 to 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 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.

The evening will cover the following objectives:

- 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.



TOFS WALK

CHERRY LAKE – WILLIAMSTOWN

DATE Thursday 6 April 2017
RETURN TIME 2:30 pm to Williamstown
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE Approx. 10 km
ELEVATION Flat
LEADER Merilyn Whimpey
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Altona-Williamstown
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 54, 55 and a tiny bit of 56
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

According to Wikipedia, Cherry Lake was created in the 1960s as a flood retention basin for residential expansion in Altona and Brooklyn. The lake and surrounding reserve is an important wildlife habitat.

Meet at Altona railway station to start walking at 10:30 am. The 9:56 am Laverton train from Flinders Street platform 9 will arrive at Altona at 10:28 am.

We will walk north from Altona railway Station and circumnavigate Cherry Lake, then follow walking tracks past Altona Coastal Park, The Jawbone Conservation Reserve to the Williamstown Esplanade, where we will probably stop for coffee before taking Forster Road north to Williamstown Beach station.



PACK CARRY

GREAT SOUTH WEST WALK – NELSON TO PORTLAND

DATE Saturday 8 to Monday 17 April 2017
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 125 km plus any side trips
LEADER Ian Mair
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Western Victoria
MAP REFERENCE Great South West Walk and Lower Glenelg, 1:50,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT South Western
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Warrnambool

The coastal section of the Great South West Walk from the picturesque township of Nelson to Portland takes in Aboriginal cultural sites, the mighty Southern Ocean with vast sand dunes, sandy bays and beaches, rugged cliffs, freshwater lakes, Cape Nelson lighthouse, stunning Bridgewater Bay and a diversity of natural fauna and flora. The walk finishes at the Portland Maritime Discovery and Visitor Information Centre in south-west Victoria.

Camp sites along the route, at a cost of \$10.60 per person, can accommodate 20 campers at each location. Toilets are provided and tank water is available during the wetter months. Water must be treated before being used. At each location there is only one shelter and table so these facilities must be shared between campers. Gas or a fuel stove should be carried on the GSWW.

Proposed schedule:

- Sat. 8 April** – Drive Melbourne to Nelson, sight-seeing around Nelson
- Sun. 9 April** – Glenelg River walk; Princess Margaret Rose Cave
- Mon. 10 April to Sun. 16 April** – GSWW Nelson to Portland
- Mon. 17 April** – Return to Melbourne

Princess Margaret Rose Cave is an ‘Underground Wonderland’ set in the natural bush surrounds of the Lower Glenelg National Park. Arguably the most decorated cave per square metre in Australia and located only 15 minutes from Nelson.

If you are interested contact Ian Mair.

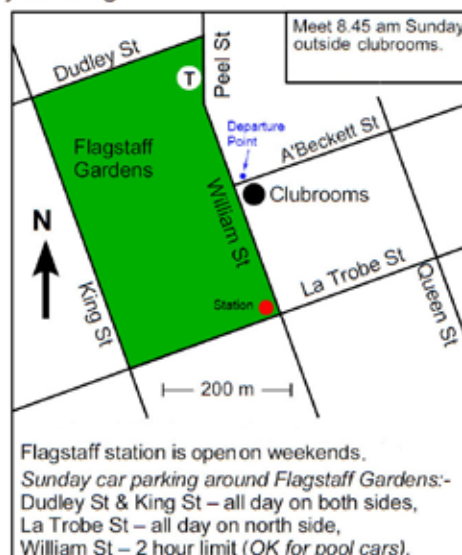


SUNDAY BUS

JAN JUC – ANGLESEA (ALT DEPT)

ALTERNATIVE DEPARTURE POINT FOR SUNDAY WALKS OPPOSITE CLUBROOM

When advised, the alternative departure point for Sunday walks noted on the walks program and in previews will be at the bus stop on the northern corner of A’Beckett Street and William Street, opposite the clubrooms at the Royal Historical Society building.



DATE Sunday 9 April 2017
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
LEADERS Del Franks and Theo Mertzianidis
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving A’Beckett Street at 8:45 am
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Geelong

For details of this walk please contact the leaders.



WEDNESDAY WALK

WERRIBEE GORGE CIRCUIT

DATE Wednesday 12 April 2017
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 10 km
ELEVATION 230 m
LEADER John Terrell
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Bacchus Marsh

MAP REFERENCE Lerderberg & Werribee Gorges (Meridian)
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Ballarat

A short but challenging walk through spectacular Werribee Gorge. The geology and views are magnificent. On the preview we saw wallabies and lots of small birds – we may also see koalas, platypus and peregrine falcons. The track is quite steep and rough in places, there is a bit of scrambling over rocks, especially in the gorge, and a section where you need to hold onto a steel cable to traverse alongside the river. However we will take it fairly slowly as there is plenty of time.

Meet at the Quarry picnic area (toilets), 10:15 for a 10:30 start. We climb briefly to the ruins of Hansen's farm, then past Eastern Viewpoint, Picnic Point and Western Viewpoint with great views of the surrounding countryside and into the gorge itself. A steep, loose descent takes us to the river which we follow downstream through the gorge, past Needles Beach (possible swimming if it is a nice day) and Lionhead Beach (spot the lion's head), with some rock scrambling until we reach the old aqueduct leading to Meikles Point picnic area. Finally a short steep section back to the cars, followed by afternoon tea in Bacchus Marsh!



SUNDAY CAR POOL

SHIP ROCK – KURTH KILN

DATE Sunday 16 April 2017
STANDARD Easy
LEADER Theo Mertzaniadis
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

For details of this walk please contact the leader.



WEDNESDAY WALK

TANGLEFOOT TRACK

DATE Wednesday 19 April 2017
RETURN TIME Walk to finish about 3:30 pm
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 15 km
ELEVATION 850 m
LEADER Fay Dunn
TRANSPORT Private cars
AREA Toolangi
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Yarra Glen

Meet at 10:15 for 10:30 start, at the Wirra Willa car park. The walk begins on the Wirra Willa boardwalk where we may see the world's tallest moss among the ferns, trees and fungi. The main part of the walk is on a clear track with some ups and downs and the occasional log to hop over. We walk through lush rainforest, tall gums and Myrtle Beech. Lyrebirds are often heard and sometimes seen. Leeches are also sometimes seen so bring some repellent with you.



CYCLING

POINT NEPEAN – MORNINGTON PENINSULA NAT. PARK

DATE Saturday 22 April 2017
RETURN TIME About 4:00 pm
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 45–50 km

LEADER Ross Berner
TRANSPORT Car
AREA Rye, Sorrento, Portsea
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 167, 168, 157, 156 and 166
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

The meeting place for the ride is 'Number Sixteen Beach' Car Park, Marcia Avenue, Rye (Melway 167 J10) at 10:00 am.

If you need a lift or are able to give someone a lift please let me know and I will try to arrange it.

The aim of the ride is to the Bike Trails of Mornington Peninsula at the "pointy end".

The ride is on mainly shared trails and quiet streets, essentially flat. Some sections of trail include gravel.

We will ride along the Bay Trail to Point Nepean, and return on the Bass Strait side.

Highlights include Victoria's first settlement, views across The Rip to the Bellarine Peninsula, the other London Bridge. Depending on our progress, I hope to visit some of the surf beaches on the return journey.

Please bring your lunch.



SATURDAY WALK

KALORAMA TO DOONGALLA RETURN

DATE Saturday 22 April 2017
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 13 km
LEADER Fiona Gallery
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Dandenong Ranges
MAP REFERENCE Melway 52 and 66
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mount Dandenong

The walk begins at 10:00 am at Five Ways in Kalorama Melways 52J9. This is on the Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd overlooking the Silvan Dam, where Ridge, Barbers and The Old Coach Roads intersect. We will walk to the Doongalla Homestead Site picnic area for lunch along fairly good tracks in front of Mt Dandenong. This is a walk that has a lot of steep ups and downs and may be slippery in places if wet. I expect to be back at the cars about 4:00. We will be having a morning tea break at the Mt Dandenong Lookout where there is a café for those wishing to purchase a coffee – well deserved as it is a bit of a climb to the top.



SUNDAY BUS

WERRIBEE GORGE – FALCON'S LOOKOUT

DATE Sunday 23 April 2017
RETURN TIME 6:00 pm
STANDARDS Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCES 12 km and 13 km
ELEVATIONS Total ascent and descent 450 m
LEADERS John Fritze and Carol Ward
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Bacchus Marsh
MAP REFERENCE Parks Victoria – Park Notes – Werribee Gorge State Park
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Ballarat

This is a spectacular walk in a wild and rugged gorge!

Weather permitting we will be treated to expansive views from amazing vantage points before descending to the Werribee River on a remarkable narrow spur. We cross over on boulders deposited by a landslide that destroyed the water supply to Bacchus Marsh over 60 years ago then follow the remaining section of aqueduct downstream before climbing up the other side to take in more amazing views. On our return to the river we pass beautiful pools and cascades, wade or jump to the other side then climb the steep spur to Falcon's Lookout. From here sightings of raptors, climbers and the city skyline are all possible. We will complete the walk on and off track up near pristine gullies before finally passing under an historic iron bridge to reach the bus, hopefully parked on the other side.

The harder of the walks is only slightly longer but involves more off track sections.

This is one of our more adventurous walks with steep scabbly climbs and descents, rock hopping, off track sections and the near certainty of wet feet. It would be worth taking suitable footwear to change into for the river crossings, or at least leave a pair of dry socks in the bus.



MOFS WALK

DAREBIN CREEK AND PARKLANDS

DATE Monday 24 April 2017
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 10 km
ELEVATION Mostly flat
LEADER Merilyn Whimpey
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Darebin Creek/Darebin Parklands
MAP REFERENCE Melway Maps 31 and 19
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

The walk begins and ends at Darebin Parklands entrance near the end of Separation Street, Melways 31 D8. Meet here at 10:30 am. The walk follows Darebin Creek north. The beginning is near the water's edge and shaded by trees. Further north it becomes more open but still has the charm of a river walk. On our return, we walk through green wedges – parks and reserves in Ivanhoe (with some connecting streets).

SOCIAL

NORTHERN VIETNAM ADVENTURE TOUR

DATE Wednesday 26 April
PLACE Clubrooms
START TIME 8:00 pm
SPEAKER Ian Mair and Halina Sarbinowski

See page 6 for more details.



SOCIAL WALK

LILYDALE LAKE AND WETLANDS (Train based)

DATE Thursday 27 April 2017
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 5 km
ELEVATION Pretty flat
LEADER Jan Llewellyn
TRANSPORT Train
AREA Lilydale
MAP REFERENCE Melway 38

FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

Jan Llewellyn will lead this activity instead of me, Jean, as advertised. Participants will have the added bonus of Jan's good knowledge of birds, of which there are plenty in this area. Starting from the railway station, we will make our way to the lake, walk around it and the wetlands and climb two small hills for good views, before returning to a café in Lilydale for lunch.

Meet on the SE side of the station before 10:15. Catch the Lilydale train from Southern Cross at 9:01 (Flinders Street at 9:07) which is scheduled to arrive at its destination at 10:03. Book with the leader.



PACK CARRY

BEGINNERS: SEALERS COVE (WILSONS PROMONTORY)

DATE 29–30 April 2017
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 10.2 km each day
LEADER John Fritze
TRANSPORT Private
TRANSPORT COSTS \$45 per passenger, paid to car owners
AREA Wilsons Promontory National Park
MAP REFERENCE Parks Victoria Park Note: Wilsons Promontory National Park

FIRE BAN DISTRICT West Gippsland TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Wonthaggi

Sealers Cove is a remote and beautiful crescent of golden sand with a crystal clear turquoise ocean on one side, undisturbed bush on the other and impressive rocky headlands at each end. Getting there involves a relatively short walk on well maintained tracks which makes it an ideal destination for a first pack carry.

The walk starts with a 100 m climb to Windy Saddle then descends 300 m through mature forest to the cove, the last swampy section being on boardwalks. We follow the beach half way around the cove then wade across a tidal estuary to our shady campsite on the other side. For those with energy to spare a side trip to take in the magnificent views from one of the vantage points on the way to Refuge Cove is a must. Other options include a swim in the beautiful sheltered waters, rock pool explorations or a twilight ramble along the secluded beach. On Sunday we walk back along the same track.

For those contemplating their first pack carry the club has equipment for hire and an equipment officer (me) only too happy to help. I will be conducting an equipment



demonstration in the clubroom at 8.00 pm on Wednesday 12 April which, because it is so easy to waste money on inappropriate gear, could be well worth attending.

The walk has been scheduled with enough time to drive down on Saturday morning, but if you prefer you could leave earlier and spend Friday night at Tidal River, but would need to make your own booking for the night (a campsite to accommodate four costs \$52). All other booking costs have been prepaid and participants will need to reimburse me \$13 to secure a place. Visitors will need to add an extra \$10 (if you let me know I can provide an account number into which the money can be deposited). When you arrive mention my name or itinerary number 5872843 to be let in.

We will meet at 10.00am on Saturday morning outside the Tidal River Cafe then drive or catch the bus to Telegraph Saddle. We won't know until closer to the event whether the bus will be running but if it is we may need to change our meeting time. I will let you know a week or two before the event.

Parks Victoria limits group sizes to a maximum of twelve participants, so pay up early to avoid disappointment!



SUNDAY CAR POOL

SARDINE AND CLEARWATER CREEK

DATE	Sunday 30 April 2017
RETURN TIME	6:30 pm to City
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	11 km
ELEVATION	520 m
LEADER	Deb Shand
TRANSPORT	Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA	Lerderderg Gorge
MAP REFERENCE	Vicmap
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Ballarat

This walk is classic Lerderderg State Forest topography. It takes in a range of historic mining features that includes water races, stone chimneys, a tunnel diverting the river, and of course the valley views. It involves typical steep climbs and descents into and out of the Lerderderg River – a walking pole would be useful here! There is also some off track walking beside Clearwater Creek, and creek and river crossings could mean wet feet.

A good walk to boost your fitness and enjoy some lesser trodden paths.



**BUSH SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING WEEKEND
25/26 MARCH 2017**

Bush Search and Rescue's annual training weekend is on the 25th and 26th March. We anticipate a good attendance from current BSAR members. Experienced bushwalkers who are interested in becoming members of BSAR are also most welcome.

BSAR has been a significant part of Bushwalking Victoria for almost 70 years, with BSAR members assisting Victoria Police in many searches for people lost in the bush over that period. For Bushwalking Victoria to continue to provide this service to the community, BSAR needs new members.

The level of bushwalking skills and experience required to become a member of BSAR can be found at <http://www.bsar.org/joining>. If you are at or near this level of skill and experience, please talk to your club delegate David Laing.

The program will cater for prospective and new BSAR members through to our most experienced members. It includes a day long mock search. The program begins with workshops covering specific search and rescue skills including use of current BSAR equipment and BSAR's current procedures. Saturday's programme will also include a short GPS rogaine to develop members' familiarity with BSAR's GPS units. Sunday will be devoted to a mock search with emphasis on applying the workshop outcomes.

The training weekend will be held in the Wombat Forest. Victoria Police will provide bus transport, leaving our Northcote rendezvous and car park early Saturday morning and returning Sunday evening. Participants will need a bushwalker's normal food and equipment for an overnight base camp on Saturday night and day trips in the bush; off track and with some thick scrub. A hall has been hired for use as the training base. It will provide shelter for some exercises and for meals if required, but participants must bring their own tents.

Details how to sign up to attend can be found on the BSAR website, and will be emailed to all current BSAR members.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Rod Costigan
training@bsar.org
<http://www.bsar.org>

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!

April 2017					
Sun 2	DAY: Mt Caroline – Bullamalita	Bus	E/M&M	NC:se	Jenny Andrewes & Christina Hughes
Wed 5	TRG: Leaders – Unit 4 – Risk Management, Safety and Legal Issues				Mick Noonan
Thu 6	TOF: Cherry Lake – Williamstown	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Meryllyn Whimpey
8–17	PC : GSWW – Nelson to Portland	Pvt	E/M	SW:wb	Ian Mair
Sun 9	DAY: Jan Juc – Angelsea (ALT DEPT)	Bus	E&E/M	CN:ge	Del Franks & Theo Mertzandis
Wed 12	DAY: Werribee Gorge & Island Lookout Circuit	Pvt	E/M	CN:ba	John Terrell
Sun 16	DAY: Ship Rock – Kurth Kiln	Car	Easy	CN:me	Theo Mertzandis
Wed 19	DAY: Tanglefoot Track	Pvt	E/M	CN:yg	Fay Dunn
Sat 22	CYC: Mornington Peninsula (train based)	Pvt	E/M	CN:me	Ross Berner
Sat 22	DAY: Kalorama to Doongalla return	Pvt	E/M	CN:md	Fiona Gallery
Sun 23	DAY: Werribee Gorge – Falcon’s Lookout	Bus	E/M&M	CN:ba	John Fritze & Carol Ward
Mon 24	MOF: Darebin Creek & Parklands	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Meryllyn Whimpey
Wed 26	SOC: Northern Vietnam Adventure Tour				Ian Mair & Halina Sarbinowski
Thu 27	SOC: Lilydale Lake and Wetlands (train based)	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Jan Llewelyn
29–30	PC : Beginners: Sealers Cove (Wilson’s Prom)	Pvt	Easy	WG:wn	John Fritze
Sun 30	DAY: Sardine and Clearwater Creek	Car	Med	CN:ba	Deb Shand

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