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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

November 2017

**Melbourne Bushwalkers
2017 Christmas Party**

Monday 11th December, 7pm to 10pm

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

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



What a pleasant way to enjoy the Spring ... tree planting for the Regional Honeyeater project, September this year.

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

MEMBER OF



Bushwalking Victoria

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

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

Visitors are always welcome!

General correspondence should be directed to:

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

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

Editor: Merilyn Whimpey

Walk previews, walk reviews, articles, poems, news items, photographs of Club events, reports of new gear, book/movie reviews, letters to the editor, advertisements, et cetera are always welcome. However, the Editor reserves the right to edit contributions where space, clarity or propriety dictate, and to maintain editorial consistency. Note: photographs should be sent as separate files which are capable of being edited.

Please send your contributions as unformatted text files by email to news@mbw.org.au

Closing date for receipt of material for *The News* is the 21st of the month.

Advertisements should relate to bushwalking (e.g. gear, maps, trips, tours, health and fitness etc.). These may be published subject to space availability and Editor's discretion. For current advertising rates contact the Editor at news@mbw.org.au.

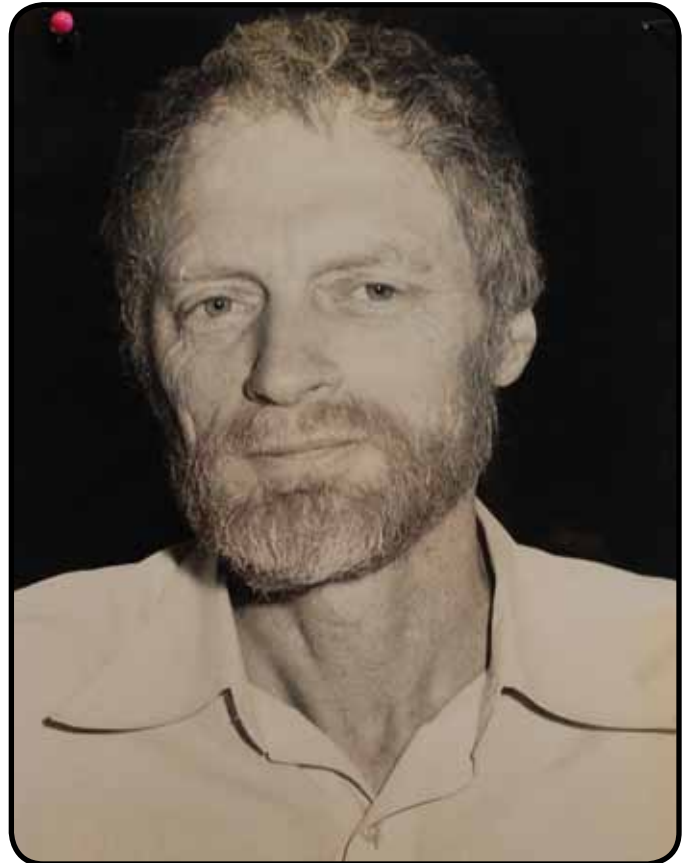
Please note:

Next committee meeting will take place on
Monday 7 November 2017

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Ita Willinski
Carmel McKenzie
Garis Alexander
Lynn Goh
Owen Martin



Vale Les Southwell. See article on page 6.

WANTED – IDEAS FOR THE AUTUMN SUNDAY PROGRAM

Is there a walk that you have enjoyed but it hasn't been on the program for a while, or a walk that you have done yourself that you think would be a great addition to our walks program? If you have then please let me know. I will be developing the Sunday program for autumn over the next couple of weeks before I seek leaders and your ideas will be most helpful and appreciated.

Ideas can be sent to the busbookings email address busbookings@mbw.org.au

*Halina Sarbinowski
Sunday Walks Secretary*

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – NOVEMBER 2017



'Shit happens!' may not be the most refined expression in the English language, but in colloquial terms it is clearly very eloquent. Despite our best endeavours to avoid misfortune in all facets of our lives we can find ourselves faced with situations we would much rather be without. Whether we are the unsuspecting victim of some external action, natural or otherwise, or it is an outcome of our own actions, we may suffer inconvenience, or worse, serious injury. The insurance industry thrives on our concern.

As bushwalkers we choose not to cosset ourselves and hide from risk. The exhilaration of visiting remote and rugged places, at times pushing ourselves to the limits of comfort or skill, enriches our lives. We do, however, take precautions to minimise the chances of inconvenience or injury. Indeed, we remind ourselves regularly through acceptance of the club's Acknowledgement of Risk provisions every time we renew our annual membership, that our chosen endeavour can expose us to risk. Despite our preparations and precautions 'shit happens!'. Prudence dictates, and the club strongly recommends, that appropriate medical insurance is purchased with ambulance cover for emergency medical evacuation from remote locations. In Victoria the recommended level of ambulance cover is that provided by an Ambulance Victoria membership or equivalent.

Most members purchase Private Medical Cover and take comfort in the ambulance cover provided. Herein lies the rub. Many Private Health Funds have significant limitations, exclusions or caps to ambulance cover. This has come to pass in the experience of at least one club member who was then faced with substantial costs to pay. Careful reading of your policy wording may save you future surprises. To help each of us in determining whether our Private Medical Cover provides the desired level of ambulance cover, the Ambulance Victoria website provides some clear questions that you can forward to your provider, or satisfy yourself from your reading of the Policy (<https://www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/membership/faq/>):

1. Does my policy cover me for all ambulance services such as treatment, road and air (transport)?
2. Does my policy cover all emergency transport?
3. What is the fund's definition of an emergency?
4. What if I am not admitted to hospital after ambulance care and transport?
5. If someone calls an ambulance for me but I do not require ambulance care, will I be covered for the cost of an ambulance call out?
6. Am I covered for non-emergency transport?
7. If I require ambulance services whilst interstate will I be covered?
8. If I require transport by ambulance from an interstate hospital will I be covered?
9. Do exclusions exist under my policy? If yes, what are they?

'Shit happens!'. Be sure you have appropriate ambulance cover.

As spring rolls into summer we can delight in the prospect of warmer days and an activity program packed with choices. Whether your preference is for day walks, or something more extended, our Activity Coordinators and trip leaders have assembled a tantalising selection of destinations and activity gradings to give us all something to plan for. This year has been an exceptionally busy one for many members involved in the preparations for the highly appreciated Federation Weekend at Warburton. A report elsewhere in this newsletter gives more details. It is a testament to the commitment and vitality of club members that our regular program has not suffered. On behalf of all members I am pleased to pass on a vote of thanks for the contributions made.

Summer brings with it a need to carry sufficient water for the hotter days. We have already experienced some early warm days and it is all too easy after a seemingly cold winter to forget how much we need to have that extra water. Statistically, though, Australia's warmest winter on record has combined with the ninth driest winter on record and left fuel loads dry across most of southern Australia, increasing the bushfire risk (<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-09-05/southern-australia-bushfire-outlook-summer-2017/8872440>). From the start of November through to April our activity previews provide details of the Fire Ban District and Temperature Reference Site (city or town) closest to where the activity is to be held. If you have noticed these but not been sure what they mean then they are explained in the 'Notes to Program' at the bottom of each preview on the website or on the back of the Quarterly Activities Program. They are there to guide leaders and members in determining if a trip is to be cancelled due to a Total Fire Ban or extreme heat under the club policies. They are there for your safety and comfort.

Ian Mair

2017 Social Calendar

Wine and Cheese Night

WEDNESDAY 22 NOVEMBER, 8–9 PM – CIUDAD PERDIDA

SPEAKER: SUSAN MAUGHAN



What could be more romantic than an ancient, abandoned city? Ciudad Perdida (literally ‘Lost City’) was lost around the time of the Spanish conquest and only ‘discovered’ again in the 1970s. Its indigenous name is Teyuna and it is one of the largest pre-Columbian towns discovered in the Americas. The city was built between the 11th and 14th centuries, though its origins are much older, going back to perhaps the 7th century. While Machu Picchu receives over 2 million visitors each year, the Lost City gets 20,000 hikers, being accessible only on foot. It is easily one of Colombia’s most exciting and breathtaking hikes.

Susan Maughan was seduced by the mystery and the challenge and completed the five day walk in April this year. On Wednesday 22 November she will present a slideshow in the clubroom.

BUSHWALKING VICTORIA MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Hello Members

As a Member of Melbourne Bushwalkers you are automatically a Member of Bushwalking Victoria, which offers a range of services to enhance your bushwalking experience. You are also entitled to a Bushwalking Victoria Membership Card which entitles you to a range of discounts from a number of bushwalking gear outlets. If you have not already collected your card for 2017–2018 you are reminded they are now available.

Please pick up your card when you are next in the clubrooms. If it is not possible to call in to the clubrooms and you would like one, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the club and we will send one out. Club address:

Membership
Melbourne Bushwalkers
GPO Box 1751,
Melbourne, 3001

You can find the current list of BWV Membership Card Benefits available at:

http://mbw.org.au/mbw_activities/BWV_affiliate_card.php

Gill Wainwright, Membership Secretary



CLUB EMAIL CONTACT ADDRESSES

From time to time we may have a requirement to contact the club by email. A number of generic email addresses are available to make it easier to do so. If you are unsure to whom an enquiry should be addressed then please use the General Enquiries address (info@mbw.org.au) as this is more regularly monitored than some of the others and your message will be forwarded as appropriate. Please do not send messages other than for Sunday Bus and Carpool Bookings to the busbookings@mbw.org.au address.

Role	Club	Role	Club
President	president@mbw.org.au	Social Secretary	social@mbw.org.au
Secretary	secretary@mbw.org.au	Environment Officer	environment@mbw.org.au
Treasurer	treasurer@mbw.org.au	Newsletter Editor	news@mbw.org.au
General Walks Secretary	gws@mbw.org.au	Website Administrator	webmaster@mbw.org.au
Sunday Walks Secretary	sunday@mbw.org.au	General Enquiries	info@mbw.org.au
Membership Secretary	membership@mbw.org.au		

WALKER REGISTRATION AND TRIP INTENTIONS FORMS ONLINE FOR LEADERS

All leaders are familiar with the importance of preparing participant lists as part of their trip preparations. With the need to note expressions of interest, driver availability, travel time intentions and general remarks, it can be time consuming as members seek to join or cancel from a trip. The final participant list forms a part of the leader's trip report after the trip. Additionally, the participant list, along with a Trip Intentions Form, also forms part of the pre-trip registration of details with the club's Emergency Management System for Pack Carry and Walk in Base Camp trips.

For some months we have been trialling online versions of the participant list and Trip Intentions Form to simplify the process and help reduce the time and effort involved in collecting the required participant details. These online versions are now available for use by all leaders (not required for Sunday Bus and Carpool Trips) and can be accessed through the Leaders' section of the Membership Area on the website. A third form for the registering of a Preview Notification with the Emergency Management System is also available for all leaders.

By making use of the member contact details and their preferred Emergency Contact information recorded on the Membership database, the autocomplete features of the online forms greatly reduces the time taken in their preparation and submission. Members can help by making sure their details are current. Member privacy is protected by limiting access to their contact details to the registered leader of the trip they wish to join, and selected senior club officers.

Leaders are encouraged to make use of the online forms and a Guideline document has been prepared to detail the steps involved, should it be needed. A copy can be downloaded from the Leaders' section of the website. Any registered leader who has not yet registered for access to the Members' Area of the website will need to do this first.

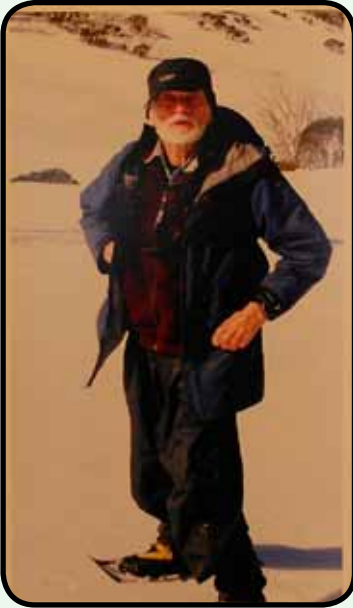
References:

- Guideline for Participant Registration Form, Trip Intentions Form and Preview Notification Form, October 2017
- Guideline on How to Access the Leaders' Database, August 2016

Ian Mair, Website Administrator



LES SOUTHWELL – AN EXTRAORDINARY MAN



I got to know Les in the late eighties when I joined the Melbourne Bushies. I walked with him on day walks and then more often on weekend and extended walks. I wasn't too impressed with him at first, as he consistently broke two of the most basic rules:

Rule 1. Never walk in jeans. Les always wore jeans. I don't know how he survived in hot weather or when they were wet, but I rarely witnessed him walking in anything other than jeans for a long time. He eventually ditched them.

Rule 2. Never walk alone. Well, we all know that Les walked alone even when he was with a group. Leaders quickly learnt not to be concerned when Les didn't turn up at lunch stops or when the group made camp. He would arrive in his own time, often in the dark. He had usually made a considerable side trip, usually scrub-bashing, to some viewpoint or other point of interest, and he'd taken heaps of photos, most of which would turn out to be stunning. His sense of timing left something to be desired, and often the trip leader would find that Les was still in his tent, or cooking breakfast when everyone else was ready to start the day.

In the early days he carried a heavy pack with heavy camera gear. This didn't seem to slow him down. He was strong and agile but over the years he gradually lightened his load. He was an extremely capable and experienced

walker and camper and he could look after himself in all weathers. He was one of those who you could turn to in bad weather to get a fire going as he carried a stub of a candle or a fire-lighter and managed to light a fire even when the rain was howling down. We both enjoyed having a fire and would often cook on one, choofers being a little less common then than now. I have memories of sitting around the embers chatting away with him when everyone else was in bed. Les seemed to be one of those who didn't say a lot, but on certain subjects he had a lot to say. Having an engineering background I had a passport to his world but I never felt that I got close to the man.

Les seemed to be concerned with getting value for money with his gear, and to say that he was not concerned with how he looked is an understatement. At the start of an extended trip to Tin Mine Falls in NSW I couldn't help remarking to him that his shoes had seen better days. That same day the upper of one shoe parted company with the sole. He walked for several days in very rough terrain in my rather insubstantial camp sandals, and these were held together by sticky tape by the end of the walk. At home a few days later a parcel arrived for me, containing a new pair of sandals.

He was of course passionate about SW Tasmania and we may mostly think of Les in the context of his book *The Mountains of Paradise* and his writing about the fight to save Lake Pedder. Having seen the lake, (he actually landed in a light plane on its famed beach on his way to climb Federation Peak before the road in was built) Les joined the movement to try to save the lake.

At the memorial and wake that I attended on October 22nd, along with about thirty bushies and a further sixty or more friends and family, we heard firstly from Bob Brown, who knew Les well from having worked with him on the protests. Les's huge contribution to the Lake Pedder protest movement was acknowledged by Bob. We then heard from Geoff Fagan, Les's companion on his fatal trip in the snow on Mt Bogong. They were descending the mountain separately, on snow shoes, having spent some days there. Geoff waited for Les at Michell Hut and went looking for him when he didn't show up. He then called the police. Les was found by Bush Search and Rescue members on the Eskdale Spur, apparently having moved off the track to take shelter from the poor weather on the lee side of the saddle above Michell Hut. He was sitting by his pack. Two other speakers paid tribute to Les, all agreeing that he was a highly intelligent man, who was passionate about the Tasmanian environment, contributing to the protest with well-argued engineering information, as well as his superb photography. Les leaves a legacy of photographs and it is hoped that a selection will be made available to the public.

And one day, Lake Pedder may even be restored. There is a movement to do this. It would be a fitting acknowledgement to Les if this were to occur.

Les was a real character, I salute him, and will miss him.

Derrick Brown

CAMPERDOWN BASE CAMP SEPTEMBER 1-3, 2017



The weekend began on Friday night with our group of twenty-six at the Camperdown caravan park. Two of us stayed in tents while the rest were distributed across six cabins. On Saturday morning we drove in convoy to the Tower Hill reserve, a four kilometre-wide volcanic crater, which is thought to have last erupted 30,000 years ago. After climbing to a lookout with views of the ocean we did a couple of short walks around the rim and through the wetlands surrounding the crater lake, stopping for a morning coffee at the visitor centre. Our next stop by popular demand was at Logan's Beach at Warrnambool, where we were rewarded with the sight of around seven whales.

After lunch and another drive we arrived at Mt Noorat, which has a crater of 600 m in diameter, with a steep 150 m drop into the centre. We followed the Alan Marshall trail around the rim (named after the writer who was born nearby), a windswept and treeless track with magnificent views of the volcanic peaks of the Western District and the distant Grampians. After dinner at the local pub some stayed up while others retired to our tents and bunks for an early night, well satisfied with our day.

The next morning after a short car shuffle we did a three-hour walk which started from the caravan park and briefly followed the shore of Lake Gnotiuk, a salt-water lake, before climbing a low ridge and descending to Lake Merri Bullen (freshwater). After lunch at a local bakery we did a two-hour circuit walk around Mt Leura and up Mt Sugarloaf, and then drove to Mt Elephant.

We explored the mountain and enjoyed fabulous views of the surrounding countryside before returning to Melbourne.

The fairly complicated logistics of running a busy itinerary for a large group were expertly handled by our leader. Many thanks Jan for this tour d'horizon of Victoria's fascinating volcanic region.

Judith Shaw



PACK CARRY: GOLDFIELDS, RIDGES, GULLIES AND RUINS 16-17 SEPTEMBER 2017

Meeting at the Daylesford Information Centre on Saturday at 9:30 am twelve Melbourne Bushies and one visitor were enthusiastic to start this weekend walk. The heavy rains of Melbourne had been left behind and we were rewarded with clear skies. After leaving our cars at the Loop Track junction we headed north to meet the Goldfields Track which was initially followed. Although we set a fast pace there was still lots of opportunity to chat. All too soon (that is, before schedule) we reached Tarilta Creek, the creek that we would follow to our camp site. Ian, our leader, decided that although early this would be a perfect opportunity to have lunch.

After lunch the fun began. We were no longer following walking or 4WD tracks but the banks of Tarilta Creek. We soon lost count of the number of times we crossed the creek. Some crossings were easy while others resulted in wet feet. Sometimes a high route was chosen as both banks were impassable, or fallen trees blocked our path. While on a high point our visitor, Owen, received the message from his wife that they were now home owners. A punch into the sky and a yelp of joy indicated his pleasure. We were all hoping that he had champagne to celebrate the occasion ... alas not.

Early afternoon we came upon a site that was perfect for camping ... close to water, with a sheltered area where we could have our camp fire and lots of logs to sit along. We quickly put up tents, collected firewood and were soon enjoying the ambience of the location. Vince impressed us when he used the open fire to cook the marinated steaks that he and Poppy had carried. The rest of our fare faded in comparison.

After near freezing temperatures overnight we woke to a light tinge of frost. Tents were moved to capture as much sunlight as possible before being packed. Soon after continuing our walk there were more creek crossings; however, by mid-morning we left the creek and started visiting the ruins that were promised in the preview. The second half of the walk involved track and off-track walking so that we could visit as many ruins as possible in the area. Many remnants of gold exploration, ranging from mine shafts and sluicing, were also evident.

Thank you, Ian for leading this delightful walk and thank you, Wen, Agajan, Vince, Poppy, Ray, Gayle, Chris, Alex, Jaime, Bettina and our visitor, Owen for your great company.

Halina Sarbinowski



FEDWALKS WEEKEND 2017, WARBURTON – MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

Compliments have been flowing in about the Warburton Fedwalks weekend, October 27–29, and hosted by our very own Club. If you were a leader, a whip, a walks or maps planner, a web-site builder, a booklet designer or contributor, a meet-and-greeter, a walker, a car park official, a sponsor, a guest speaker, a sign-maker, a crowd-controller, a registration desk person, a First Aider, a roster facilitator, a supplies buyer, a treasurer, a flower arranger, a room set-upper/pack-downer, a caterer, a sub-committee member, a help-desk problem-solver, or even a Margaret Curry (*Superwoman!*) ... give yourselves a big pat on the back – 18 months of careful preparation finally all paid off – a very successful event and a job VERY WELL DONE!

What's that ... ?! – a power-point overload on Day 1? the urn and the laptop won't work? Aagghh !! But Ian Mair had that potential drama fixed somehow in a twinkling and we were open for business for the early arrivers. *What's that?* The hall key is missing on Day 2? Margaret and Fay had that small matter under control in no time flat. Friendly parking attendants and greeters set the tone as each new participant arrived. *What's that?* Heavy rain bucketing down all Friday night? But on Saturday morning the sun was shining, the skies were blue and walking conditions were perfect. Local leeches and snakes (*4 spotted on one walk!*) joined in the fun too, relishing the conditions on a few of the walks. Leaders and whips negotiated car shuffles, diverse walkers, hills and streams with skill, many even adding in a little local historical information for their walkers. Most importantly, they all brought every walker back with 100% safety. 335 registrants, 33 clubs, plus individuals, all enjoyed their Warburton walks and the friendly social involvement – a proud team effort from Melbourne Bushwalkers, and for Bushwalking Victoria. Expert guest speakers, author Mike McCarthy and Monica Mains from DEWLP were very well received.

Event feedback has included: 'fantastically well-organised', 'beautiful walks booklet', 'a wonderful event, a credit to the organizers', 'Arrabri was ideal', 'thank you, you've all done such a lot of work', 'is there any more cheese ... ?' Naturally if any negative feedback does happen to dribble in ... it will be shredded immediately ...

Event sub-committee

Photos (from top)

Liaising at the walks desk; Hubbub in the Hall; Setting off from the car park; Dinner at Arrabri



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

SHERBROOKE AND SURROUNDS TO BELGRAVE

Please note change of leader. The new leader will be Barbara Horwood. Contact Barbara to book.



BASE CAMP

MT BUFFALO WATERFALLS

DATE 1–3 December 2017
RETURN TIME 11 pm Sunday
STANDARD Hard
LEADER Jopie Bodegraven
AREA Mt Buffalo National Park
MAP REFERENCE Mt Buffalo 1:30,000 SV (Outdoor Recreation Guide)
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North East
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Falls Creek

This weekend is graded hard because it is a total unknown and will involve scrub and rockhopping up an unknown creek and also rock scrambling. The purpose of the weekend is to get to and photograph Howells Falls from top and bottom. I had never heard of them till I saw a telephoto shot of them in *250 Victorian Waterfalls* by Ray Barber and Ian Wacey and as a minor waterfall aficionado I wondered how I had never heard of them before. So I must go there. The grid reference is 846322

We will do Howells Falls on the Saturday as a day walk. Then on Sunday to round out the weekend we will get to the base of and look up at Crystal Brook Falls, which is the one that plummets into the head of the Gorge near the Buffalo Chalet. We will go via Eurobin Falls and this too will involve scrub and off track stuff.

We will camp Friday and Saturday nights at the Mt Buffalo Caravan Park which is the one just before you cross the Buckland River on the road from Porepunkah to Mt Buffalo and about a kilometre beyond the roundabout.

So if you're into off track, rocky, scrubby terrain and like exploring creeks and waterfalls, and are up to it, then come along but make sure you bring scrub gloves and gaiters.



TRAINING

FIRST AID – HLTAID003 CERTIFICATE

DATE	Saturday 2 December 2017
ORGANISER	Nigel Holmes (co-ordinator)
TRANSPORT	Private
START TIME	9:00 am
FINISH TIME	3:30 pm
BOOK WITH	firstaid@mbw.org.au
ADDRESS	Premium Health, 115–117 Gardenvale Road Gardenvale

All bushwalkers, and particularly leaders, are encouraged to undertake training in First Aid. Melbourne Bushwalkers has organised a first aid course to be held on Saturday 2 December. Applications to attend are open to all Melbourne Bushwalkers members and members of other clubs affiliated with Bushwalking Victoria.

The course is HLTAID003, equivalent to the old Level 2 first aid certificate. Six to eight hours of prior private study is required (course book provided) with a pre-class test sheet to be completed. During the 7+ hours of class work participants must:

- demonstrate competent CPR performance on an infant and adult manikin (1 manikin per student)
- participate in three first aid scenarios
- complete a written knowledge assessment
- apply first aid procedures for a variety of first aid conditions

Satisfactory completion of the course requirements leads to a nationally-recognised certificate valid for three years.

The instructor is an experienced trauma paramedic with a strong bushwalking background. The course will be tailored towards bushwalkers. The provider, Premium Health, have 30 years' experience and currently deliver first aid training to 45,000 participants per year.

The venue is Premium Health, 115–117 Gardenvale Road, Gardenvale, on Saturday, 2nd December, 9 am–3:30 pm.

Cost:

Melbourne Bushwalkers members who enroll will qualify for a club subsidy reducing the cost to \$50 per attendee. Melbourne Bushwalkers walk leaders who have led at least two walks in the preceding 12 months will be eligible to attend for free.

The full course cost is \$127.5 per person, discounted (for 20 starters) from the usual \$189.

Numbers are limited and bookings are essential. We must have at least 20 starters so let us know your intentions as soon as possible. Enquiries and bookings can be directed to fristaid@mbw.org.au

USI requirements:

All students undertaking formal courses of instruction which have national accreditation are now required to register with the Federal Government and obtain a Unique Student Identifier (USI) code which must be given to the training organisation providing the course.

If you need to apply for a USI or need more information please visit <https://portal.usi.gov.au/student>



TRACK MAINTENANCE

HOWQUA TRACK MAINTENANCE (BTAC)

DATE 2-3 December 2017
STANDARD Easy
LEADER John Terrell (MBW co-ord)
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Howqua
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North East
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Buller

Join with Parks Victoria and bushwalkers to help maintain the Howqua Feeder Tracks, Eagles Peaks and the Lickhole Track. Camping near Sheeppark Flat. They have a work complex/hut/shed there where people can camp, have a shower and get out of the way a bit. Parks Vic will provide a BBQ for Saturday night.

Expressions of interest to David Miller (BTAC) davidmiller3199@gmail.com (BTAC) with a copy to John Terrell environment@mbw.org.au

MBW Committee supports members attending this activity by offering a travel rebate of up to \$25. Contact John for details.



SUNDAY BUS

GREENS BUSH – BUSHRANGERS BAY – GUNNAMATTA



DATE Sunday 3 December 2017
RETURN TIME Return to Southbank Boulevard at 6:30 pm
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES 14 km and 18 km

LEADERS Mark Heath and Stephen Murphy
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
TRANSPORT COST Standard Sunday Bus charge of \$25 applies
AREA Mornington Peninsula/Westernport
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 258 and 259
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Frankston

Summertime and the walking is easy – rock pools, ice-creams and a swim at Gunnamatta await.

The Easy/Medium group will be dropped off at the Highfield carpark on Boneo Road and do a traverse of Greens Bush, taking in the mixed grassland and native forest surrounding Lightwood and Main Creeks, before reaching the Bushranger Bay carpark. Kangaroos were plentiful on previous trips to Greens Bush.

The Easy group will commence their walk from the Bushranger Bay carpark from where both groups will follow the same route along this popular coastal walk. You'll have the opportunity to enjoy the remnant Banksia forest on the way to Bushranger Bay, explore Fingal Beach, view dramatic scenery from cliff tops, tramp the boardwalk and check out Cape Schanck and swim (between the flags, if time permits) at Gunnamatta Beach.



MID-WEEK BASE CAMP

DATE Tuesday 5 to Thursday 7 December 2017
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 15 km plus
ELEVATION Gentle climbs
LEADER Susan Maughan
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Aire River – Johanna
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Geelong

Mid-week base camps were a regular feature on the programme a few years ago, but then I got side-tracked. Early December on the Great Ocean Road seems a perfect way to re-introduce it.

Two beach-front camping sites have been booked to accommodate us at Aire River which is 31 km west of Apollo Bay (approximately 40 minutes). Should you arrive by lunchtime there will be a short beach walk on offer in the afternoon.

On Wednesday 6th we will divide into two groups – one will drive to Johanna and commence walking back to Aire River. The second group will start from Aire River to Johanna. When the groups meet along the track we will swap car keys, thus removing the need to do a time-consuming car shuffle.

On Thursday there will be a short beach walk in an easterly direction so that we can fill our lungs with sea air and be re-invigorated for our return to Melbourne.

NOTE: there is a unique opportunity to remain in the area and add RICHARD HANSON'S Aire River-Princetown pack carry to your itinerary. He will depart on Thursday at midday, and conclude his walk on Sunday 10th. See Richard's separate entry for booking details.

Book the base camp with Susan Maughan.



PACK CARRY

GREAT OCEAN WALK WITH FULL PACKS



DATE 7-10 December 2017
STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADER Richard Hanson
TRANSPORT Private
FIRE BAN DISTRICT South Western
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Warrnambool

Walking from Aire River to Princetown along the wildest parts of the Great Ocean Walk. Although we are carrying full packs we are not walking long distances which allows us to explore and enjoy.

I am planning to attend Susan Maughan's base camp at Aire River then do the following pack carry:

- **Thursday 7 Dec** departing at 12:00 Aire River to Johanna Beach.
- **Friday 8 Dec** Johanna Beach to Ryans Den.
- **Saturday 9 Dec** Ryans Den to Devils Kitchen.
- **Sunday 10** Devils Kitchen to Princetown by lunchtime. Limit of 8 so get in early.

Please email me at rhanson@vsk.org.au ASAP but before Wednesday 22 November. It will cost \$90 for three nights camping plus petrol.



TOPS WALK

CARRUM – EDITHVALE WETLANDS

DATE Thursday 7 December 2017
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 10.8 km
ELEVATION Flat – maximum of 5 metres
LEADER Eileen Ayre
TRANSPORT Train, bus and/or car
AREA Carrum, Bonbeach, Chelsea Heights, Edithvale
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 97 and 93
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

We will meet on the beach at the west end of Johnson Avenue, a few metres from Carrum Station. I recommend the Frankston line train leaving Flinders Street at 9:22, as this will allow us to meet before 10:25 for a 10:30 departure.

Initially we will walk beside the Patterson River, turning north-east along a cycle track on the far edge of the reserve, beside relatively attractive housing. Here there are views of small lakes, grasses, and birdlife. At the end of this parkland, we walk briefly through a more urban area to the next section of preserved wetlands. We will later loop around a section of the Edithvale wetlands, with plenty more lake views and more birds.

We will finish by walking down to Edithvale station, after hopefully finding a coffee shop nearby.

Bring your MYKI in case you'd like to avoid a walk along Edithvale Road, or leave the walk earlier.

If there is enough interest, I'm hoping this will be the second of 4 walks covering much of the wetlands between Seaford and Mordialloc. Parts are urbanised, but the area is still impressively open, and an important stage of the flight path for birds coming from as far as Japan.

Book with Eileen.



BASE CAMP

STRATHBOGIES CREEKS AND GORGES
 (Joint with VMTC)

DATE 8-10 December 2017
RETURN TIME Back at the cars by mid pm Sunday, ready for drive home
STANDARD Medium, but need to be fit
ELEVATION Saturday – undulating 550, 700, 410, 600, 380, 770, 420, 600 m
 Sunday – upstream 160 m to 460 m at Polly McQuinn's, 800 m at Mt Wombat
DISTANCE 12 km on Saturday, 8-12 km on Sunday
LEADER Ray Thomas
TRANSPORT Private cars

AREA Strathbogie Ranges, near Euroa and Swanpool
MAP REFERENCE Moonee Creek and Mt Strathbogie 1:25,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North East
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Wangaratta

Saturday's route will explore some of the steep rocky ridges, deep creek valleys, and spectacular waterfalls at the Eastern edge of the Strathbogie Ranges.

A sensible rendezvous point is a small informal camping area in the bush, just off the Midland Hwy near the northern end of Lake Nillahcootie. Look for a dirt track on the east side of the highway, about 1½ kms south of Williams Rd, or 400 m north of the entrance gate to Lake Nillahcootie picnic area.

Camping here on Friday night would help us to get a reasonably early start the next day. It's also possible arrive on Saturday morning of course, but you would need to be there by 7:45 am please.

On Saturday morning we'll travel in convoy south along the Lake and turn right into Donkey Hill Road, just before the end of the Lake. We continue uphill for about 4½ kms to the Harpers No 1 track on the ridge top, and leave some cars here near Sandy Creek Falls car park, which is the end point of Saturday's walk.

From there we cram into the minimum number of cars and continue westwards to Lima East Road and Rocky Ned area, which is our starting point. The walk traverses some steep slopes, both up and down, but we are rewarded by many beautiful sights in the ferny creeks, cliffs and cascades.

We're in luck with refreshment for the trip, as all the creeks on this side of the plateau have excellent, clear, cool drinking water! We'll also find some pools deep enough to have splash and cool off. Please note that the route will be off track all day, so it's best to have long trousers and gaiters. Distance approximately 12 km.

Back at the cars, we'll have an enjoyable camp in the peppermint forest under a starry night sky. Maybe we could bring some treats to share, and make a good evening even better! There'll be excellent water only a few hundred metres away in Sandy Creek.

On Sunday morning we'll drive in convoy across the Strathbogie plateau to the western escarpment to explore the Seven Creeks Gorge from Gooram Falls up to Polly McQuinn's reservoir and perhaps beyond if we feel like it.

We'll stop to leave some cars at the end of the walk, cram into the minimum number of vehicles, and continue downhill off the plateau to the Euroa-Merton Road. From here we turn left and travel approximately 2 km, and turn left into a small track that leads down to a parking area by the creek.

Heading upstream, we quickly reach some amazing rocky pools and cascades that just have to be sampled! And continuing from there, we pass a stunning series of impressive waterfalls and many more tranquil pools, all the way from plains level up to the plateau. With more and more surprising sights around each bend, this has to be one of the most scenic gorges in Victoria!

There will be time for a quick swim in a number of the waterholes, so it might make sense to wear light-weight clothing with swim-wear underneath. But please note that we'll need to carry drinking water, as most of the Seven Creeks catchment is actually cleared farming country!

If there's time and energy after a swim at Polly McQuinn's (the biggest water hole on the trip), we'll climb up the southern slopes of Mt Wombat to top off the trip with great views from the highest peak at this end of the plateau. We'll pass through lovely, open forests of blue gums and peppermints, pick up good drinking water in Wombat Creek on the way, then check out the enormous rock slabs and beautiful shrublands just north of the summit.

Distance approx 8 km to Polly McQuinn's, plus an extra 3 or 4 km if we venture up to Mt Wombat.

Please give me a call or email if you need further info. Ray Thomas.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

VAUGHAN SPRINGS AND GOLDEN GULLIES

DATE Sunday 10 December 2017
RETURN TIME 7:00 pm
STANDARD Easy/medium
DISTANCE 16 km
ELEVATION 400 m
LEADER Ron Hampton
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
TRANSPORT COST \$23
AREA Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park
MAP REFERENCE VICMAP T77723-4-2-1 and T77723-4-2-2
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Ballarat



Beginning at Lawson Spring inside Vaughan Springs Reserve we cross the Loddon River and join the Goldfields Track through areas of forest scattered with the relics of extensive mining that took place in the 1850s. Half way through the walk we leave the trail and strike out east along Sebastapol Creek then north to eventually rejoin the Loddon River and follow it back to Lawson Spring and the car park.

This is a delightful walk mostly along well-formed walking trails or vehicle tracks. The off-track section is lightly forested and easily traversed while the few hills encountered are gradual ascents and descents, the highest being 400 m.



SOCIAL

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS CHRISTMAS PARTY

DATE Monday 11 December 2017
TIME 7 pm to 10 pm
VENUE Melbourne City Bowls Club, Dudley Street West Melbourne (opposite Clubrooms)

See poster on page 1.



WEDNESDAY WALK

HEIDE AND HEIDELBERG SCHOOL ARTISTS' TRAIL

DATE Wednesday 13 December 2017
RETURN TIME Mid-afternoon
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE This will vary from 12 km with additional distance depending on options taken
LEADER Sandra Mutimer
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Heidelberg and Templestowe
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 33, 32 and 31
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

This is a more relaxed walk combined with a Christmas get-together afterwards. We will meet at Banksia Park off Bulleen Road at 10:00 ready to leave by 10:15 on a car shuttle to the beginning of the walk. The part of the park where we will meet is right of the roundabout near the pylons. This is where we will be returning at the end of the walk to share our plates of goodies, and others who would like to join us are welcome to do so.

The walk will start at the footbridge at Finns Park, Templestowe, and cross to the other side of the Yarra River to travel through Banyule Flats continuing until returning to Banksia Park. Other aspects of this walk will include remnant vegetation, wetlands, part of the Heidelberg School Artists Trail, the Heide Sculpture Garden and areas of significance to the Wurundjeri people. Some of these can be optional additions.



PACK CARRY

MOUNT FAINTER, JAITHMATHANGS, MT JIM, COPE HUT (3 DAY WALK)

DATE 15–18 December 2017
RETURN TIME Evening of 18 December approx. 8–9 pm
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 35 km
ELEVATION 1100 m
LEADERS Claire Luxford and Di McKinley
TRANSPORT Private
TRANSPORT COSTS Approx. \$63 per person
AREA Bogong High Plains
MAP REFERENCE Bogong Alpine Area Outdoor Leisure Map
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North east
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Hotham

Friday night camp at Mountain Creek camp ground.

Expect some off track walking.

After a car shuffle the walk will commence at Bogong Village, taking in some of the most attractive but less visited mountains on the Bogong High Plains, including the Fainters and the Jaithmathangs. If the weather is clear good views are guaranteed.

Day 1. approx 10.5 km. We will climb steadily up to Bogong Jacks Saddle where we will camp. Approx 700 m climb.

Day 2. Approx. 12 km. Sunday we head to Tawonga Huts traversing Mt Fainter North and South. If the weather is clear we will head over the crest of the Jaithmathangs for some of the best views in the high country and eventually arrive at Tawonga Huts for camp.



CYCLING

DANDENONG-FERNTREE GULLY LOOP

DATE Saturday 16 December 2017
START TIME 9:15 am
RETURN TIME 3:30 pm
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 65 km
TOTAL ASCENT 365 m rise
LEADER Philip Brown
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Eastern suburbs
MAP REFERENCE ridewithgps Dandenong Loop
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

The starting point is at Dandenong Station at 9:15 am where we can find a coffee shop to start the day. We take back streets to Eumemmerring Creek trail than onto Hallam Bypass Path. From there head north up to Lysterfield Lake Park, through 4 km of streets to the Kellets Road trail. Next on to Ferry Creek Trail that gets us to the Ringwood–Belgrave Rail Trail which we follow until we hit the Blind Creek Trail and lunch spot at the Tim Neville Arboretum. From there on the Dandenong Creek Trail back to the station.



SUNDAY BUS

LOWER LERDERBERG GORGE

DATE Sunday 17 December 2017
STANDARDS Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCES 11 and 13 km
LEADERS John Fritze and Carol Ward
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
MAP REFERENCE Lerderberg and Werribee Gorges 1:35,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Ballarat

In this walk we will explore some of the less visited areas of this remarkable gorge. We will take in its beautiful rugged scenery from vantage points both on and off track. There will be steep climbs and drops, rock hopping, river crossings and the possibility of a swim. It could be worth bringing your bathers and a change of shoes.



MOFS WALK

LYSTERFIELD LAKE

DATE Monday 18 December 2017
RETURN TIME 3:00 pm
STANDARD Easy/Moderate
DISTANCE 10 km
ELEVATION 150 m
LEADER Michael Porter
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Lysterfield
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 82, 83, 102
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Dandenong

Enter Lysterfield Lake Park by Horswood Drive off Belgrave-Hallam Road. Enter the park and at the roundabout; inside turn right / north to the Mahogany Carpark.

Meeting time will be 10:30 am.

Starting out along the Logan Park, Lake and Lambert Tracks we will walk through acacia scrub and eucalypt woodland before climbing steadily up to the Trig Point lookout. We will lunch here. We return via the Glen, Powells and Thompsons Tracks.

Parks Victoria has good notes and map online for Lysterfield Park and Churchill National Park

SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER

NO SUNDAY WALK



CHRISTMAS BASE CAMP

CHRISTMAS AT CAMP EUREKA, YARRA JUNCTION

DATE	Sunday 24 to Thursday 28 December 2017
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCES	Various
TOTAL ASCENTS	Various
LEADER	Susan Maughan
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Yarra Junction/Warburton
MAP REFERENCE	Melway 288 K10
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Yarra Glen

The 2016 Christmas base camp was so popular that on checking out we booked straight away for this year. (See 2016 Preview https://mbw.org.au/mbw_activities/2016122401)

The Bushies have exclusive use of Camp Eureka at Yarra Junction from Sunday 24 to Thursday 28 December.

We plan to enjoy day walks in this beautiful part of the state, dunk ourselves in the Little Yarra River (we have a private frontage in the camp), participate in the usual Xmas festivities ... and this year add a themed 'Op Shop Glam' on Christmas Eve.

More details later.

Contact Susan Maughan if you are interested.



PACK CARRY

FEATHERTOP – HOTHAM GRAND LOOP

DATE	Tuesday 26 to Sunday 31 December 2017
VENUE	Mt Hotham – Mt Feathertop
STANDARD	Medium/Hard
DISTANCE	60 km
TOTAL ASCENT	3500 m Rise
LEADER	Ian Mair
TRANSPORT	Private
START TIME	Depart from location in notes below at 8:30 am
RETURN TIME	Return to location in notes below by 8:00 pm
TRANSPORT COST	See arrangements below. To be advised by Leader if carpool proposed.
ACTIVITY AREA	Mt Hotham – Mt Feathertop
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	North Eastern
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Mt Hotham

This is a walk in one of Victoria's most attractive alpine areas, taking in a number of iconic locations. The plan is to start walking on 27 December and finish on 31 December.

- 26 Dec – Travel to Harrietville or nearby camping location
- 27 Dec – 10.5 km (1320 m ascent) – (Harrietville) to Federation Hut via North West Spur (Option to climb Feathertop late afternoon if we don't go over the top)
- 28 Dec – 16 km (700 m ascent) – Federation Hut to Derrick Hut via Mt Hotham (Option to visit village)
- 28 Dec – 14.5 km (530 m ascent) – Derrick Hut to Blairs Hut via Mt Loch and Red Robin Gap (side trip to Spargo Hut)
- 29 Dec – 10.5 km (1010 m ascent) – Blairs Hut to Federation Hut via Diamantina Spur (Option to climb Feathertop late afternoon)
- 31 Dec – 9 km (0 m ascent) – Federation Hut to Harrietville via Bungalow Spur (Option to climb Feathertop before descending)

The decision on when to climb Feathertop will be based on the weather and how the party is travelling. Three possibilities available. Some may do it more than once.

Return to Melbourne on 31st December. Option to stay longer if anyone wants to spend New Year's Eve in the country.

SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER

NO SUNDAY WALK

**GREAT OCEAN WALK WITH DAY-PACKS, JANUARY 25–31
CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

Six days exploring the magnificent Otway coast from Apollo Bay to Princetown. Among the highlights are deserted sandy beaches and rock platforms, shady manna gum forests and fern gullies, rugged cliff tops with some of Victoria's best ocean views and the historic Shipwreck Coast. The secluded hikers' camping areas have toilets and communal cooking shelters. We stay at the Marengo caravan park outside Apollo Bay on the night of January 25 and start walking on the 26th, finishing in Princetown before lunch on the 31st. A vehicle will transport our gear from campsite to campsite for the first four days and meet us in Princetown to take us back to Apollo Bay.

Although we carry full packs only for the final one and a half days, this is not a beginner's walk. There are some 20+ km days and hills, especially on days 4–5.

Standard E/M.

Costs will be in the vicinity of \$250 per person.

As campsites must be reserved in advance, a deposit of \$150 is required. Group size: 8–11. There is a limit of 8 tent sites in the hikers' camping areas. Maximum group size 11 if some share tents.

Judith Shaw

NB: Judith is going to India for a couple of months. Jan Colquhoun is the contact for this walk until Judith gets back on December 18.

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

December 2017					
1-3	BC : Mt. Buffalo waterfalls	Pvt	Hard	NE:mh	Jopie Bodegraven
Sat 2	TRG: First Aid – HLTAID003 Certificate				Nigel Holmes (co-ord)
2-3	MNT: Upper Howqua Walking Track	Pvt	Easy	NE:mb	John Terrell (co-ord)
Sun 3	DAY: Greens Bush – Bushrangers Bay – Gunnamatta	Bus	E&E/M	CN:fr	Mark Heath and Stephen Murphy
5-7	BC : Aire River (mid week)	Pvt	Med	CN:ge	Susan Maughan
7-10	PC : Great Ocean Walk: Aire River – Princetown	Pvt	E/M	SW:wb	Richard Hanson
Thu 7	TOF: Carrum – Edithvale Wetlands	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Eileen Ayre
8-10	BC : Strathbogies Creeks and Gorges (joint VMTC)	Pvt	Med	NC:se	Ray Thomas
Sun 10	DAY: Vaughan Springs and Golden Gullies	Car	E/M	CN:ba	Ron Hampton
Mon 11	SOC: MBW Christmas Party				Club Committee
Wed 13	DAY: Heide and Heidelberg Artists' Trail	Pvt	E/M	CN:me	Sandra Mutimer
15-18	PC : Mts Fainter, Cope and Jim (3 days)	Pvt	Med	NE:mh	Claire Luxford
Sat 16	CYC: Dandenong-Ferntree Gully loop (train/pvt)	Pvt	E/M	CN:me	Philip Brown
Sun 17	DAY: Lower Lerderderg Gorge	Bus	E&M	CN:ba	John Fritze and Carol Ward
Mon 18	MOF: Lysterfield Lake	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Michael Porter
Sun 24	DAY: NO SUNDAY WALK	Car	Easy		
24-28	BC : Christmas at Camp Eureka, Yarra Junction	Pvt	E/M	CN:yg	Susan Maughan
26-31	PC : Feathertop – Hotham Grand Loop	Pvt	M/H	NE:mh	Ian Mair
Sun 31	DAY: NO SUNDAY WALK	Car	Easy		