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October 2017

THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

VALE ART TERRY AND LES SOUTHWELL

Sadly, the Melbourne Bushwalkers have lost two long-standing members in the last month. Tributes to Art and Les are on page 5.



Art in 1983 on a Jacks Creek – Reedy Creek walk led by Jopie Bodegraven. *Photo by Jopie Bodegraven.*



Les Southwell, left, with Dave Noble of Sydney discuss wilderness photography in the Labyrinth near Lake St Clair, Tasmania, 2008. *Photo courtesy John Robens.*

I am organising a fundraising screening of *The Bentley Effect* for Friends of the Earth. Walkers today expressed interest.

If you have not yet seen *The Bentley Effect*, it is an important and inspiring story of how a community's heroic stand against the fracking invasion became one of the fastest growing social movements ever witnessed. This film celebrates a rare and inspiring win over corporate greed and asks 'what is truly valuable?'

6:30–8:30 pm Tuesday 3 October, 2017

Siteworks, 33 Saxon Street, Brunswick, Victoria 3065

Tickets: \$25 Solidarity. \$20 Regular. \$15 Conc/Member.

http://www.melbournefoe.org.au/bentley_effect_brunswick

Marion Crooke

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

MEMBER OF



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: Marilyn 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 2 October 2017

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Kellie Aston, Howard Bertram, Agatha Kim,
Mathew Knight, Christine Marshall,
Marilyn Miller, Noelene Murphy, Marco Muscat,
Graham Pilkington, Sonia Rainbow, Jo Sanft,
Suparna Sathe, Helene Travis, San San Truong,
Helen Tucker, Joanne Zhou

VALE LINDSAY CRAWFORD OAM 14/9/1926 TO 2/6/2017

Lindsay, I believe, was one of the early members of Melbourne Bushwalkers. He was a well-respected conservationist, senior entomologist and keen photographer. He was among those who contributed to Dick Johnson's groundbreaking 1974 book, *The Alps at the Crossroads*.

I used to see Lindsay and his wife Ann at Melbourne Bushies social functions, but not for some years.

Marilyn Whimpey

FEDERATION WEEKEND

After many months of preparation and enthusiasm our organising committee is thrilled with the fantastic response to our Fed Walks 2017 Weekend, coming up very soon now at Warburton, October 27–29. Over 350 participants have registered, which may be close to a record. We have the numbers we need for the walks, the Arrabri accommodation lodge, and the Friday and Saturday night dinners. Constructing our online booking system was a huge job but it has done its job magnificently, and our walks booklet master is also complete and looking fantastic. Best of all, dozens of volunteer organisers, leaders and whips from our very own club have generously offered their time and skills to cover the 20 terrific walks for all registrations. Walk plans and previews have been going on all year. Event sub-committee leader Margaret Curry has been steering the Melbourne Bushwalkers' ship with great skill and attention to detail – she won't like us mentioning that bit but a huge THANK YOU to you Margaret. So now all we have to do is turn up and have a fantastic time, with participants from many other clubs. As the host club, let's all make an effort to be extra warm and welcoming to all participants from other clubs while we're there.

Warburton here we come !

Margaret Campion

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – OCTOBER 2017



The cycle of life touched members of the club in both natural and tragic ways during September. In each instance it was a reminder of the ties and sense of community that bond us together beyond our passion for bushwalking, sometimes for a few short years, frequently for decades. Fitting tributes in this newsletter, eloquent in their own way, express the sense of loss for two long-standing members – Art Terry and Les Southwell. Their contributions to the folklore and culture of the club will continue across the years. As we reflect upon their passing, many of us will come to realise how little we knew of the contributions they made. It is a reminder that often it only takes a show of interest to unlock the door to tales of exploits and achievements that enrich a companionship and our bushwalking experience.

These were not the only deaths to bring sadness to the club. The loss of member Omar Sharief's father in a fatal road accident in Dubai and the tragic death of the 8-year old granddaughter of our Sunday Bus driver, Geoff Smith, to the ravages of influenza, brought their own feelings of shared grief. Our heartfelt sympathies and condolences were conveyed to each of the families affected.

Looking forward, you will shortly receive notice of our Summer Program. It is packed with a diverse selection of day and multi-day activities that provide options for all members. It is a chance for you to consider something new and expand your bushwalking enjoyment. The more experienced members of the club are more than willing to provide helpful advice. If you have never tried a multi-day walk or camp then now is a good time to start. Or you may be considering giving back to the bushwalking community by participating in one of the programmed track maintenance and conservation activities. Even if you only do one it will be a rewarding and valuable contribution. As noted previously you can always get a sneak preview of some of the activities in the pipeline by browsing through our activities program on the website

It is pleasing to see the response we have received to our Leader Training sessions and coming First Aid course. Skills enhancement makes each of us better prepared as part of a team and contributes to our collective safety in the bush. For me it is as much about self-interest as it is about the club. If I were to become disoriented or injured on a walk I would like to think that there is someone in the group able to help. In the same way I like to add to the peace of mind of my walking companions. Training sessions are a recurring activity throughout the year and open to all members. It is an investment we share for our mutual benefit.

Earlier in September wide publicity was given to the release of draft Australian Adventure Activity Standards (AAAS). These are being developed by government for the full spectrum of outdoor adventure activities, including bushwalking and related activities that are the core of our activities program. Particular concern was raised about the potential negative impact on the operation of recreational clubs like our own if we are forced to introduce more demanding leader training requirements that are appropriate to commercial adventure activity providers who must cater for a more diverse and less experienced population of participants.

The pending introduction of AAAS is not new. It is a process that has been underway for several years and builds on earlier standards in existence at a State level. Your Committee has been monitoring the potential impacts and, in concert with other bushwalking clubs and Bushwalking Victoria, raising our concerns with government and the drafters of the new standards. It is our collective contention that an explicit exemption should be given to recreational clubs like our own.

As an Incorporated club affiliated with Bushwalking Victoria we take seriously our commitment to the provision of member and leader training opportunities embodied in our By-Laws and best-practice guidelines, both developed internally and through Bushwalking Victoria. Our Risk Management Plan, Incident/Accident reporting and review procedures and our Emergency Contact System embody our concern for member safety. Our record of safety and member satisfaction is a testament to the adequacy of our mix of theory and practice-based instruction as an approach to leader training and general bushwalking skills development.

The possibility that Land Managers and insurance providers may require adherence to the provisions of the AAAS is a cause of uncertainty with the potential to impact unfavourably on our operations, leading to a reduction in club activity and its community health benefits, with no gain in bushwalker safety. Your Committee continues to work with other clubs to achieve a preferable outcome.

Ian Mair

VALE ART TERRY

Our dear friend Art Terry passed away on Friday 1st September 2017. He was 94 years old.

Art was an Australian Army Veteran, a postie, a groundsman at the Royal Melbourne Golf Club, and a Health Inspector.

Art was a life member of The Melbourne Bushwalkers Club and went on many walks and cycling trips with the club groups over the years. He also walked many mountains in Victoria. Mount Bogong and Mount Macedon were his favourites in his later years.

Art was a conservationist and an environmentalist supporting the protection of land and nature. He was a member of the Victorian National Parks Association, Bush Heritage, and Trust for Nature. As a conservationist he planted many trees and shrubs around Victoria. His latest planting was of saplings on French Island only a few years ago.

He was also a member of the Bird Observation and Conservation Australia as well as Birdlife Melbourne, and he loved spotting and identifying any unusual birds and their calls. Local magpies visited his backyard every afternoon and, of course, enjoyed his gourmet fresh mincemeat balls.

Art participated in several Great Victorian Bike Rides. He cycled on many long trips throughout Victoria and around Melbourne's outskirts on bike trails, and in his earlier years rode overseas with his lovely lady Alwyn Bloom. He was such a local identity, cycling on his extremely old bike with pannier bags to and from shops and visiting his friends around the neighbourhood.

Art also went kayaking with friends on the Murray River, to the Hattah-Kulkyne National Park and some other lakes in north-west Victoria.

He was an extremely fit man, rising at 5 am doing a full work-out including 60 push-ups, riding his exercise bike for 20 minutes, then he would ride his road bike to do his errands. In summer he would swim along Mentone Beach.

His passion was growing an amazing harvest of vegetables, giving the huge excess away to his neighbours and friends. His cooking and card playing skills were excellent.

He was a very generous, helpful and good neighbour, an extremely interesting person with many stories about his early life, his trips and accomplishments, a good friend to young and old, and will be very much missed by all his family and friends ... we will miss his 'Toodle-oo'.

Karl Spadinger (former member of Melbourne Bushwalkers)

VALE LES SOUTHWELL

Olegas Truchanas, Peter Dombrovskis and Les Southwell – why are these names inextricably linked? They all made huge contributions to the conservation movement. They also all died doing what they loved best.

When I first joined the club in 1990, Les was a regular on the Sunday walks and, as far as I know, he continued to be so until he died. Sunday walkers walk for many reasons including social contact or a love of walking or both. With Les, his interests included conservation.

In the 1990's, Les was often at the back of the group taking photographs. He was famous for this, but no one told me who he was. No one told me he was one of the great unassuming heroes of the Tasmanian conservation movement.

His book, *Mountains of Paradise – Wilderness of South West Tasmania*, documented photographically the reasons why Lake Pedder should not have been dammed in 1972. I was speaking to the then Treasurer of the Tasmanian Wilderness Society only two weeks ago who told me that the lessons learned from failing to save Lake Pedder led to later success in the Gordon-below-Franklin campaign. This is confirmed by the ABC in this report: <http://www.abc.net.au/science/kelvin/files/s18.htm>.

If one goes to Tasmania today, one is impressed by the great natural beauty of places like: Cradle Mountain, Lake St Clair, Frenchman's Cap and South Cape. On the other hand, one is enormously saddened by the damage done around Maydena and Strathgordon where Lake Pedder once used to be. I spoke to Les about this, and he said 'They were building dams no one needed'.

Les was there when they found Olegas Truchanas' body. He is one of only three people to have navigated the Gordon Splits, the others being Olegas Truchanas and Peter Dombrovskis. I attended in 2003 a briefing on the Southwest of Tasmania conducted by the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife service at Mt Field. Les's book was alongside those by Olegas Truchanas and Peter Dombrovskis that evening. Senator Brian Harradine was in attendance.

If you wish to read what Les and others wrote about Lake Pedder, some of his words, and others may be found in this website: <https://lakepedder.org/the-pedder-experience/words/>.

So long Les. See you in the later-life. I assume they don't pursue needless development up there.

Peter McGrath

VALE LES SOUTHWELL

Back in 1990, the history of the Melbourne Bushwalkers, as told by its members, was published in celebration of the Club's fiftieth anniversary.

Les Southwell contributed a chapter on Conservation and Wilderness with Tracy Guest, and when approached to write an article about himself, he submitted an entry, part of which is as follows. 'My first encounter with the Melbourne Bushies in Easter 1975 was a memorable one. We (members of the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club) were camped overnight on the summit of Precipitous Bluff in Southern Tasmania in a fierce May storm, next to an MBW party consisting of Geoff Crapper, Ken MacMahon and Rob Harris. Next morning both parties set off separately in driving sleet to descend the North Wall and follow the stream into the shelter of the rainforest. Unfortunately, we were not told that the stream disappeared into the sands a mere kilometre from the shores of New River Lagoon, leaving us in a ferocious tangle of ti-tree, bauera and cutting grass. Exhausted, we bivouacked in the scrub and next morning discovered the MBW party had also camped within shouting distance. So, we teamed up to take turns in forcing a passage through the scrub to reach the choppy waters of the Lagoon.'

Following that, Les Southwell's name first appears on the MBW membership list in 1978 and he maintained active membership from that year to the present, a total of 39 years. Such loyalty and steadfastness.

Over those many years, Les in his quiet, unassuming way, contributed generously and in a very valuable way to the spirit of the club, upholding MBW core values such as encouraging an appreciation of the wild life and natural beauty of this country and assisting in its preservation. He participated in and led numerous walks and activities, helping and mentoring new leaders with his years of experience and excellent navigation skills, kindly helping leaders, who might be geographically challenged on Sunday walks, always turning up in his famous old purple fleece jacket, intently studying *The Age* newspaper or the map of the day on the Sunday Bus. And always armed with a camera. It wasn't until recent years that he retired the old technology and caved in to the convenience of using a small, compact digital camera, which was an integral part of his hiking gear, and at times caused leaders some anxiety on Sunday walks when his undying obsession with capturing the beauty of the landscape found him out on some precipice or ledge or lingering behind the group.

Les contributed to club social activities with his wonderful slide nights, transporting us to the most spectacular and breathtakingly beautiful places, at times places where no others have been, his passion for rugged wilderness areas and landscapes, especially in South-west Tasmania, being a sign of his incredibly brave and adventurous spirit and profound love of the Natural Environment. It could be said that he was almost alarmingly intrepid and daring, testing my credulity when he related some of the life-threatening experiences, weather conditions and challenges he had encountered on some of his trips into the wild. But he was never daunted and brought back photographs, in his own words, 'of wild, forbidding but enchanting landscapes, whose far horizons ever beckoned the traveller on.'

Notable achievements outside of MBW were his membership in the 1970's of the Lake Pedder Action Committee and as a foundation member of its successor, the Wilderness Society. Les spent 12 months photographing the Southwest Tasmanian wilderness, and in 1983 published a history of the long battle for Southwest Tasmania entitled *The Mountains of Paradise* ... an eloquent and magnificently detailed compilation of the history of the time, diagrams and, of course, wonderful photographs by Les.

Les was truly remarkable man behind that quiet, pragmatic exterior, a man of strong character, of passion, with fine ideals, social values and goals, fine intelligence and a profound sense of the aesthetic.

We give thanks for having known Les and for his great and inspiring contribution to our lives and to the World. We are deeply saddened by his passing.

The following lines from his book '*The Mountains of Paradise*', seem fitting at this moment...

'As we neared the Divide beyond the Valley of the Styx those familiar scenes receded. In clear, cold air and brilliant sunshine the hills rose almost to meet us and we entered a new world: a strange and beautiful landscape— bold, complex, mysterious and seemingly endless.'

Lynda Larkin



2017 Social Calendar

Wine and Cheese Night
WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER, 8–9 PM
THE 88 TEMPLES PILGRIMAGE
SPEAKER: MICK NOONAN



A walking adventure around Shikoku, a rural Island in Japan, retracing the path of Kobo Dashi who brought esoteric Shingon Buddhism to the country in 806 AD. Last year Carol Corrigan and Mick Noonan became henros or pilgrims for this 1100 km journey. Come along and hear about our adventure and the joys of walking in Japan!

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.



BY-LAW 8.4 RELATING TO REDUCED MEMBERSHIP FEES

At its last meeting, the Committee made an amendment to By-Law 8.4 related to reduced membership fees for new members joining part way through the financial year.

The intent of By-Law 8.4 is to reduce the membership fee for new member applications submitted later than half way through the financial year. By-Law 8.4 previously stated that the reduced membership fee would apply from 1st September. This was consistent with the previous practice of holding the Annual General Meeting in February, with the date for subscription renewal being 1st March. The club Annual General Meeting is now held in March, with the date for subscription renewal being 1st April. By-Law 8.4 now provides for the reduced membership fee to apply to applications received after 1st October.

The Club's By Laws are available on the Club website and members are encouraged to read the By-Laws.

CELEBRATION EVENT FOR LIFE MEMBER JEAN GIESE

You may have noticed in last month's edition of *The News* that Jean Giese is leading her last Social Walk on Thursday 26 October. This walk will mark the end of an illustrious leadership period that covers most of her forty-one years of membership. In going back over past copies of walk programmes of that period it is difficult to find one without Jean's name being mentioned.

Jean joined the Bushies in November 1976. In the early days she was a day walker but quickly graduated to weekend and extended walks. Then she took to leading them. She was also a cross-country skier and went into Wilkinson Lodge for winter weeks.

She served on the committee where her organising ability quickly came to the fore. She was made President in 1991 and served in this role for a further 3 years.

She was an active walker without pause and it was only when Jean found that the usual Sunday walks were becoming too much for her that she put on her thinking cap. Wednesday walks were her first answer, in early 2004, quickly becoming popular. When something easier was required the TOFS walks were the result, and the strong demand soon led to the addition of the MOFS in 2007 with Jean planning and leading these for many years. There was clearly a need to be filled as a band of regulars quickly formed to take advantage of these mid-week walks – and Jean not only filled it but found leaders to help out as well. When these walks became a little hard for her Jean introduced yet another walk category – the Social Walk, again attracting a following. The walk programmes wouldn't be the same without all these categories of walks. Jean was made a Life member in 1998.

And now we have reached the point where Jean is to lead her last walk. As she is shortly to be celebrating her ninetieth birthday her walking is naturally restricted, but she remains as sharp as ever, for which we are most grateful.

Any Bushies who would like to help celebrate her birthday and this very special commemoration day on October 26th are welcome to attend the walk and/or the lunch. If you haven't already done so please email Jean with a copy to myself, Derrick Brown, indicating whether you are walking, lunching or just turning up to celebrate. I look forward to seeing you there.

Derrick Brown



WABONGA PLATEAU / ROSE RIVER WALK 8/9/10 SEPTEMBER 2017

The original plan was to walk up and camp on the Wabonga plateau, at an elevation of 1200 m, but after appalling weather in the preceding days, massive snow dumps on the mountains, and also some concerns from the group, our leader changed the walk to have us camping at a lower elevation of 600 m.

And so we all met up on Friday night at Whitfield and set up camp in the local campground and enjoyed a meal at the Mountain View Hotel.

Our small group of 5 all fitted into Gayle's jeep, and we headed to Bennies campsite for the start of the walk. From here we followed the Rose River, walking through stunning bush. We had so many river crossings I lost count, the water was ice-cold and often over our knees. We arrived at a beautiful camping spot by the river and set up camp. After a bit of a break we headed up the track to try and reach the plateau, but we left our run a bit late and there was not enough time in the day to get there and back, but as we got higher we had wonderful views of the snow-covered mountains all around us, including a very pretty Mt Cobbler just across the valley. We retreated back down and enjoyed the warmth of our campfire.

After a very cold night we awoke to ice on our tents but a beautiful day of blue skies and sunshine. We walked along the Wild Horse Gap track that follows a ridge line with lots of ups and downs, finally reaching our car in early afternoon.

Thanks to our leader Ian Langford and our small band of hikers Gayle, Jeanette and Kathie for a great weekend of walking.



Jill Allen

PROPOSED BUSHWALKING TRACKS AND CONSERVATION TRACK EVENTS FROM SEPTEMBER 2017 TO APRIL 2018

2017

29 September–1 October – Croajingolong National Park
21–22 October – East Tyers Walking Track
4 November – Two Bays Track Mornington Peninsula
11–12 November – Wilsons Prom (Oberon Bay tracks)
18–19 November – Errinundra (Mt Ellery and Mt Morris Walking Track)
2–3 December – Upper Howqua Walking Track

2018

25–28 January (long w/end) – McMillan's Track
17–19 February – Mt Stradbroke Track clearing
21–24 February – Mt Buffalo Willow Hunt
17–19 February – Mt Stradbroke Track clearing
1–4 March – AAWT Mt Baw Baw
9–12 March (long w/end) – AAWT
20 – 21 April – Wilsons Prom (Lighthouse and Southeast track)

BTAC has just organised with Parks Vic for a working bee on the week end of 20-21 April next year, staying in the Wilsons Prom light house cottages Friday & Saturday nights. Normally this would cost \$144.00 per person per night. BTAC will provide a BBQ and Parks are not charging us to stay.

Those who have been on this track clearing before know what it's like, for those never doing a track clearing based at the light house just the views etc. at no cost makes it worthwhile.

Usually we get more volunteers than we need, this time we need 20 helpers, so to make it fair anyone who participates on a BTAC track clearing or conservation event between now and February will have first choice – if we have more than we can accommodate, names into a hat.

Remember that the MBW committee currently supports participation in BTAC activities by offering a transport subsidy of \$25 per member for each activity.

Contact environment@mbw.org.au if any of this interests you.

PACK CARRY: LERDERBERG GEORGE BEGINNERS: A WEEKEND OF FIRE AND ICE SATURDAY 19 TO SUNDAY 20 AUGUST

The walk had been described as a beginners pack carry as 14 keen walkers met at the Café in Blackwood to enjoy a fresh brewed coffee before heading off on our weekend adventure. This was the day we all learned to read the fine print, the key words were weather dependant, we were soon to learn to read the walk description as carefully as we load our packs.

There had been periods of heavy rain the two days prior to the walk. The Friday had been particularly bad, but the BOM website promised showers clearing and the wind was moderating, perfect weather for walking!

At 10 am after a short car shuffle we started to walk the Whisky Track. The first 5 km were flat along ridge lines until a 120 metre descent into Whisky Creek, and then a corresponding climb out. The temperature was 7 degrees, the rain had cleared, but it was wet underfoot. The track names made the walk sound exotic, Whisky, Vodka, Champagne, the hedonist in me was ready to burst until we got to the Red Onion track, not anywhere as appealing as the first three.

The walking was easy, as we moved along a little used 4x4 track, the slight gradient allowing many in the group to get acquainted. There were a few breaks, some pack adjustments and our snack and lunch break. We continued on the Red Onion track towards the Razorback. The slippery conditions soon claimed one of our number. That momentary lapse in concentration called for the nurse amongst us to apply her skills to assist our injured colleague. Due to the nature of the injury, it was decided that was the end of the walk, a volunteer escorted the injured walker back to the cars and on to the hospital for precautionary checks.

Our number was down to 12, it was getting late in the day so we continued onto the North Razorback Track and after a moderate descent we stood on the banks of the Lerderberg River, swollen by the recent rains. Roger tested the water depth and prepared us for a wet crossing. We were soon immersed to mid-thigh, huddled together bracing against the current, all of us listening to Roger's instructions to ensure we stayed as dry as possible. Roger faced the river five times to bring the group across safely.

Exhilarated by the successful crossing we made our way upstream for 3 km to the camping area. It was late in the day when we arrived, but the tents were soon erected and firewood gathered. There was just enough daylight left to get our water, start preparing dinner and light the fire. As day turned into night we soon had a good fire blazing. There was much discussion about the best way to burn wood. Some chose the parallel log method, whilst others preferred the pyramid method and then there was those that really didn't care as long as they were warm.

Day 2 broke and as we emerged from our tents, it became clear that it was warmer inside than out! We huddled around a small fire when consuming our breakfast, delaying the breaking of the camp as long as we could. The overnight temperature had dropped below zero, our tents were shrouded in ice, and no amount of shaking and brushing could remove it. With numb fingers we stuffed our packs and prepared for our day.

On this day also, the surprises kept on coming! Despite the river dropping overnight, the track along the river was submerged in places. Some of the group chose to scramble up steep rocks, whilst others chose to back track to the 'less steep' upper track. There was a section where the track had disappeared altogether, hidden under many metres of logs washed down and accumulating as a slippery mass. The walking was challenging, each bend in the river providing us with an opportunity to try out our new skills. After 4½ hours we managed the 6 km upstream along East Walk to O'Brien's crossing. We arrived there in beautiful sunlight, a picnic table was selected and the decision was made to terminate the walk at that point. A quick car shuffle had us back at the Blackwood café enjoying the fine selection of goodies they had on offer. The difficult sections of the walk were suddenly less of a challenge and had transformed into something thrilling to talk about to our friends and family.

Thanks to Roger for an exciting and fun weekend and to the team: Kathie, Nadia, Judith, Ian, Gayle, Suparna, Peter, Sashikala, Sonia, Meredith, Ali, Macro and Daniel.

Meredith Quick



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

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

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

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



TOFS WALK

BRIGHTON BEACH – ELSTER CREEK

DATE	Thursday 2 November 2017
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	10 km
LEADER	Bill Metzenthien
TRANSPORT	Train, bus or car
AREA	Brighton
MAP REFERENCE	Melway maps 67 and 76
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Melbourne

The walk begins at Brighton Beach railway station at 10:30 am. A train, bus, or car are options to get you there. There is a café near the station for those who like coffee before a walk.

The first part of the walk is on tracks by the bay to the Elwood Canal. This section takes us past points of interest such as the colourful Brighton Beach Boxes, the Middle Brighton sea baths, Elwood Beach and finally Point Ormond. Lunch will be in the park at Point Ormond.

There will be about 900 metres of walking on the beach near the start, but this can be easily bypassed if desired.

After lunch we leave the bay to walk up the route of Elster Creek. The first part is also known as the Elwood Canal and this takes us to Elsternwick Park. A brief diversion to avoid the golf course returns us to the creek route which we follow to Gardenvale.

There is an opportunity for a coffee at one of the cafés in Gardenvale before the trains or buses to take you homewards or return you to the start of the walk.



Mt Solitary Circuit is a one of the classic walks of the Blue Mountains. Walk is Medium (34 km + side trips – all on tracks) and includes superb views, some rock scrambling and steep (up and down) walking. It is a real wilderness hike and covers all the major terrain and vegetation.

The highlights of the walk are: viewing of Jamison and Kedumba Valleys, Ruined Castle (side trip) and great scenic views of upper Blue Mountains.

This walk requires a minimum 5 days (2 days travelling and 3 days hiking). General plan is to depart Melbourne (choose any airline you like, drive up or catch train) on Friday 3 November morning to Sydney then catch train to Katoomba on same day, stay overnight in Katoomba (details later),

Do the walk (Saturday–Monday) and back to Katoomba on Monday 6 November. Next morning (Tuesday 7 November) do some small walks around Katoomba or just chill out then catch the train at noon to Sydney airport for late afternoon or early evening flight back home.

Participants are required to have some Pack Carry experience and fitness, and be well equipped with all types of weather gear. Due to few camping sites numbers are limited; therefore priority goes to Club members. If interested or have any questions please contact Agajan Akbari.



PACK CARRY

MT SOLITARY CIRCUIT HIKE IN BLUE MOUNTAINS, NSW

DATE	3–7 November 2017
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	34 km plus side trips
TOTAL ASCENT	1860 m
TOTAL DESCENT	1860 m
LEADER	Agajan Akbari
TRANSPORT	Private
MAP REFERENCE	Katoomba 8930-IS & Jamison 8939-2N
AREA	Blue Mountains, NSW



PACK CARRY

DIAMANTINA – UP, DOWN AND AROUND (Joint with VMTC)

DATE 3–7 November 2017
RETURN TIME Late Tuesday evening
STANDARD Medium (on the hard side)
DISTANCE 44 km
CO-ORDINATOR Gina Hopkins
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Mt Hotham – Bogong High Plains
MAP REFERENCE Bogong Alpine Area Outdoor Recreation Guide
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Eastern
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mount Hotham



This is a joint VMTC trip with Marianne Watt as leader. There will be a limit of 8 from each club.

We will meet on Saturday morning at the Harrietville General Store at 8:30 am. There is a caravan park at Harrietville for Friday night.

The proposed itinerary and route (dependent on weather and other conditions) is:

Day 1: Along the Razorback with a side trip to Mt Feathertop and/or MUMC hut and to collect water. Camp will be at the top of Diamantina Spur.

Day 2: Down the Diamantina Spur and bush bash (could be blackberries!) up a spur to camp at the saddle just below the Jaithmathangs. Approx. 700m descent and ascent.

Day 3: Side trip to the Fainters and then on to camp at Westons Hut.

Day 4: Descend to the West Kiewa and climb out via Machinery Spur. This is steep and scrubby at the start of the spur.

Be prepared for any sort of weather – alpine snow or pre summer heat. Given the huge snowfalls this winter it is highly likely that some of the snow will still be hanging around.

Hopefully we should have lovely spring walking and camping in the Alps.



BASE CAMP

PORTLAND SHIPWRECK COAST

DATE 4–7 November 2017
STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADER ???

TRANSPORT Private
FIRE BAN DISTRICT South Western
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Warrnambool

Unfortunately, due to back problems, Delwyn is unable to lead this walk. No alternative leader has been found yet. Check the Club's web site (mbw.org.au/mbw_activities/MBW_activities_program.php) closer to the date.



SUNDAY BUS

MURRINDINDI CASCADES – WILHELMINA FALLS

DATE Sunday 5 November 2017
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to City
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES 12 km and 16 km
ELEVATIONS 50 m and 300 m
LEADERS Halina Sarbinowski and Wendy Davis
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Toolangi State Forest
MAP REFERENCE Taggerty South 1:25,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Yarra Glen

The Murrindindi Scenic Reserve comprises 1068 hectares of mixed species eucalypt forest, which includes waterfalls, tree fern gullies and an abundance of birds and mammals. The Reserve provides excellent opportunities for recreational activities such as camping, bushwalking, bird watching, picnicking and fishing.

The Easy group, commencing at the Cascades Picnic Ground, will follow the Murrindindi River Walk, a gentle walk along the length of the Murrindindi Reserve, hugging the banks of the rushing Murrindindi River. The forest is varied, and there are numerous historic relics of the timber industry along the way. Murrindindi means 'Mountain Home' in the Wurundjeri language, and well describes this tranquil river valley. There will be an optional steepish side trip to the base of Wilhelmina Falls which adds about 3 km to the easy walk.

The Easy/medium group will commence at the same point and follow the same track as the Easy group until the Boroondarah Track is reached. This track, followed to the top of Wilhelmina Falls, involves a LONG STEEP HILL. Walkers who chose to do the easy/medium walk will be rewarded with great views over the reserve.

Both groups will end their walks crossing the suspension bridge at the Suspension Bridge Carpark/Camping Ground. This bridge is one of the several bridges that are crossed in the course of the walks.

The walks are scheduled in November with the hope that spring rains will highlight the beauty of the area which can be lush and green and with the Murrindindi River at its best when flowing freely. The Murrindindi Scenic Reserve is a delightful area that can be enjoyed again and again.



SOCIAL WALK

SASSAFRAS CREEK, KALLISTA TO BOURKE'S LOOKOUT

DATE Tuesday 7 November 2017
START TIME 10:00 am
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 12 km
TOTAL ASCENTS 320–400 m
LEADER Susan Maughan
TRANSPORT Private

AREA Dandenong Ranges National Park
MAP REFERENCE Feathertops Dandenong Ranges
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mount Dandenong

Yes, we will complete the walk in time to catch the Race That Stops A Nation at the Mt. Dandenong Hotel.

As this will be a car shuffle, when booking I will need to organise some drivers to go to Mt Dandenong for 10:00 am and some to Kay's Picnic Ground (Melway map 124 D3) for 10:30 am. (4.7 km from Belgrave roundabout to Lyrebird Falls Reception, then another 800 metres to the picnic ground.) The Mt. Dandenong drivers will be picked up at 10:00 am and taken to the start, at the picnic ground.

We follow Sassafras Creek up to Sassafras where a real coffee will be waiting for us. Then along Caterpillar Track and over to Dandenong Creek Track till we reach the turnoff for Bourkes Lookout. It will be a grunt from the turnoff. Ridge Road leads us into Mt Dandenong township and the pub.

Please do not just turn up ... bookings are necessary to organise the car shuffle.

Book with Susan Maughan no later than 5th November.



WEDNESDAY WALK

PORT MELBOURNE – ST KILDA – YARRA LOOP
 (replacement walk)

DATE Wednesday 8 November 2017
RETURN TIME 4 pm to City
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 18 km
ELEVATION Negligible height gain
LEADER Mick Noonan
TRANSPORT Private, car
AREA Melbourne
MAP REFERENCE UBD maps 282, 283, 253
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne CBD

This circular walk starts from the historic Princes Pier in Port Melbourne. We will follow walkways, cycle paths, the Yarra, parklands, Albert Park Lake, and as few footpaths as possible to the coastal walk along the bayside beaches from St Kilda to Port Melbourne.

We will head to the City and the Yarra along the Sandridge Rail Trail. Then it's through the parklands, up to the Shrine, around the lovely Albert Park Lake, and down Fitzroy St to the St Kilda Pier. The Pier area is home to a surprising number of penguins and great views of the city skyline and the bay. Heading back to Princes Pier we can do a mix of beach and walk paths while looking at the views across to Williamstown.

Meet at 9:30 (this is an EARLY START) at the Gatehouse on the restored Princes Pier for a 9:45 start. If you get there early have a look at the information boards and interactive displays on the pier.

You can catch the Port Melbourne 109 tram from Collins Street in the City and walk 450 m north to the start point. Alternatively use the free all-day parking near the pier on the bay side of Beach St between Swallow St and Beacon Road, and along The Boulevard at nearby Sandridge Beach.

The walk is rated Easy/Medium based on the distance. During the walk there will be plenty of time for a coffee or two and you can either buy your lunch or take it along. So, come along and see a very scenic part of our city and get home early before the traffic peaks!



PACK CARRY

NEW ZEALAND NORTH ISLAND

THIS TRIP IS FULLY BOOKED. CONTACT THE LEADER IF YOU WANT TO BE ADDED TO THE WAIT LIST.

DATE Saturday 11 to Sunday 26 November 2017
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 120 km
LEADER Ian Mair
TRANSPORT Private
AREA New Zealand North Island

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

To express interest in joining the group or for further information please contact Ian Mair.

As the Tongariro Northern Circuit and Lake Waikeremoana Tracks are part of the New Zealand Great Walks network they can only be walked with prepaid reservations. Both are popular and places may fill quickly after bookings open around 1st June.

A party size limit of 12 will apply.



TRACK MAINTENANCE

WILSONS PROMONTORY – OBERON BAY AREA (BTAC)

DATE 11–12 November 2017
STANDARD Easy
LEADER John Terrell (MBW Co-ordinator)
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Wilsons Promontory
FIRE BAN DISTRICT West Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Wonthaggi

Track maintenance between Little Oberon and Norman Bay, mostly brush cutting and reforming some of the track. Also probably some work on the Little Oberon section – to accommodate this the workers will be driven into the area by 4WD. Parks Victoria Media Department will be making a video for their new ParkConnect website.

Camping will be at Tidal River at no cost to us, with showers and toilets available. Saturday night meal will be a BBQ supplied by BTAC – BYO plates, cutlery and drinks.

Melbourne Bushwalkers members attending this activity are eligible for a transport subsidy of \$25. Contact the MBW coordinator for this activity John Terrell for these and other details.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

BUNYIP STATE PARK CIRCUIT

DATE Sunday 12 November 2017
RETURN TIME 6:00 pm approx.
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 18 km
LEADER Ron Hampton
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am

AREA Bunyip State Park
MAP REFERENCE Rooftop's Yarra Valley Adventure Map
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Dandenong

The walk is mostly flat on well formed walking tracks and vehicle management tracks with only a few minor hills. There is no off-track. Before lunch there is a gradual ascent of 350 m over a distance of 3.5 km, at the end of which walkers will be rewarded by arriving at the monumental pile of granite boulders that is Four Brothers Rocks, splendid views over Black Snake Creek Valley and of course, lunch.

This is a delightful walk taking us through a variety of flora including grass trees, stringybark trees and tree ferns. As it is springtime there should also be plenty of wildflowers.



BASE CAMP

TARRA BULGA NATIONAL PARK – LODGE/CAMPING

DATE 17–19 November 2017
RETURN TIME 5–6 pm, Melbourne CBD
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 18 km and 14 km
ELEVATION Gain 1100 m, loss 1400 m
LEADER Mick Noonan
TRANSPORT Private, car
AREA South Gippsland
MAP REFERENCE Carrajung 8221-3-S, 1:25,000 Grand Strzelecki Track Maps 3 & 4
FIRE BAN DISTRICT West and South Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Sale

Secluded 200 km east of Melbourne away in Gippsland is Tarra Bulga National Park. It is one of the best temperate rainforests in Gippsland with 'real trees' such as a giant 60 m mountain ash, messmate, blackwood and ancient myrtle beech, some of which are over a thousand years old.

This is my sixth club trip to Tarra Bulga and we will explore old National Park favourites, and new parts of the Great Strzelecki Track. We will visit the popular tea rooms in the historic town of Balook, the famous Corrigan's suspension bridge, magnificent tree fern gullies, great rainforest walks, waterfalls, and plenty of magnificent forest views. We'll be looking for platypus, wombats (dangerous for night driving!), possums, owls, lyrebirds, and wallabies. See the Website (mbw.org.au/zenphoto) for Preview Photos.

On Saturday, the walk from Mount Tassie back to the Caravan Park includes the Duff Sawmill Heritage Trail (new), the fantastic forest and fern gully walks around the old Bulga Park, Balook and the Diaper Track. On Sunday, we start from the Grand Ridge Road and walk to Balook via Butlers Track, the Tarra Rainforest Walk and waterfalls, the Diaper Track and the Lyrebird Trail. While there is a reasonable elevation gain and loss over the two days there is plenty of time to recover.

We are staying at the Tarra Valley Caravan Park which offers a choice of camping along the banks of the Tarra River or cabins (up to 6 in a shared cabin or you can book your own), and a sheltered eating area with BBQ's and cookers. There is also a fridge we can share.

If arriving during daylight on Friday or on Saturday morning drive via Traralgon and Balook allowing 3 hours. For arriving after daylight on Friday come by the Gippsland Highway and Yarram to avoid the many wombats and roos around the park!



TRACK MAINTENANCE

ERRINUNDRA NATIONAL PARK (EAST GIPPSLAND) (BTAC)

DATE 18–19 November 2017
STANDARD Easy
LEADER John Terrell (MBW co-ordinator)
TRANSPORT Private
AREA East Gippsland
FIRE BAN DISTRICT East Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Orbost

Errinundra National Park preserves the largest remaining stand of cool temperate rainforest in Victoria, as well as ancient eucalypt forests.

Join members of other bushwalking clubs in helping maintain the Mt Ellery and Mt Morris walking tracks. The main work will be vegetation removal using secateurs and pruning tools.

Camping will be beside the Delegate River (free). Wood for a fire will be provided by Parks. The river water is ok for cooking, the road to the camp site is ok for 2WD. Parks will supply a BBQ for Saturday night – BYO plates, cutlery and drinks. Note that it is 7 hours drive from Melbourne, so ideal if you can take a long weekend or more to explore this magnificent area!

Melbourne Bushwalkers members attending this activity are eligible for a transport subsidy of \$25. Contact the MBW coordinator for this activity John Terrell for these and other details.



CYCLING

NYORA-BEENA LOOP (GIPPSLAND)

DATE Saturday 18 November 2017
START TIME Depart from location in notes below at 9:30 am
RETURN TIME Return to location by 4:00 pm
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 60 kms
TOTAL ASCENT 600 m rise
LEADER Phillip Brown
TRANSPORT Private
AREA West Gippsland
MAP REFERENCE ridwithgps search Nyora Bena Loop
FIRE BAN DISTRICT West Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Wonthaggi

The starting point is at Nyora at the old railway station at 9:30 am.

This ride in the main is on sealed roads apart from a short 4 km of gravel at the start. I have planned a coffee stop at a one-horse town with the name of Kernot, so that should give us a kick along for the 200 m climb up to the main range between Bena and Wonthaggi where we will hopefully get 360 degree views of the green rolling hills of the Strzelecki Ranges. From Bena it is mostly down hill apart from some small ups back to Nyora.

For more information to book or you need transport ring or email the leader.



SUNDAY BUS

CRESWICK MINERS WALK
(ALTERNATIVE DEPARTURE POINT)

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 19 November 2017
STANDARDS Easy/medium and Medium
LEADERS Brett Daniel and Jamie Brawn
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Ballarat

For details of this walk please contact the leaders. May be on the Club's website (mbw.org.au/mbw_activities/MBW_activities_program.php) closer to the date.



MOFS WALK

YARRA BEND PARK – STUDLEY PARK AND FAIRFIELD BOATHOUSES

DATE Monday 20 November 2017
START TIME 10:30 am
RETURN TIME Return to start location by 2:30 pm
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 10 km
ELEVATION Predominantly flat
LEADER Graham Hodgson
TRANSPORT Private
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

A leisurely walk along the mostly shady banks of the Yarra. We will start at the Studley Park boat house, cross over the river at Kanes bridge and then amble along through the gums

and poas. We may meet the odd reptile, hopefully only the blue tongued variety, and maybe see a red rumped parrot or two. We will inspect the occasional newly created wetlands and eventually reach the Fairfield boathouse where we will have plenty of time for coffee, ice creams etc.

After any culinary indulgences we will cross the Yarra at the pipe bridge and press on, continuing to follow the river upstream towards the Chandler Highway bridge. Upon reaching the bridge we will do an about turn and head downstream negotiating some interesting rock formations and take in the odours of the famous bat colony as we pass by.

A tranquil walk (if you are able to block out the sounds of the freeway at certain times)

We will meet 10:30 am at the first carpark on the left off the entrance road to the Studley Park boathous



SOCIAL

A WALKER IN COLUMBIA, SOUTH AMERICA

DATE Wednesday 22 November 2017
TIME 8:00 pm
LOCATION Clubrooms
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.



SOCIAL WALK

MARANOA GARDENS, BECKETT PARK

DATE Thursday 23 November 2017
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 5 km
ELEVATION Small hills
LEADER Pam Rosso
TRANSPORT Private cars or tram
AREA Balwyn
MAP REFERENCE Melway map 46
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

This garden is well worth a visit. It was one of, if not the, first native garden to be planted in Victoria. Its other claim to fame is that, in 1995, the Melbourne Bushwalkers held a party on the lawn to celebrate the launching of the Club's book 'Fifty Years Along The Track'!

We will walk around Beckett Park and then spend some time exploring the Maranoa Gardens before heading south via a green wedge and north through John August Reserve to a cafe in Whitehorse Road for lunch. There will be a 1km walk back to the cars after lunch.

Meet to start walking at 10:15 in the Beckett Park car park at the end of Parring Road (Melway 46 G7). Book with leader.



SATURDAY WALK

SHERBROOKE AND SURROUNDS TO BELGRAVE

DATE Saturday 25 November 2017
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 12 km
ELEVATION Undulating
LEADER Maureen Hurley
TRANSPORT Private or public transport
AREA Dandenong Ranges
MAP REFERENCE Melway map 75 F10
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Mount Dandenong
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Central

We will meet on the lower side of Belgrave Station at 10:15 am (train from the City arrives at 10:12). This walk will circle the area of the Dandenong Ranges Park in the Sherbrooke area via Old Monbulk Road and Hillclimb, Lloyds and Clematis Tracks to Grant's Picnic Ground.

We then retrace our steps via Coles Track to Belgrave. This is a good walk if you would like to leave the car at home as it will start and finish at Belgrave Station. Finish time approximately 3 pm. This is not a difficult walk but has some steep ups and downs. As this is the last Saturday walk for the year there will definitely be coffee and cake in Belgrave. No need to book.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

BOSTOCK RESERVOIR

DATE Sunday 26 November 2017
RETURN TIME 6:00 pm to Southbank Boulevard
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 14 km
TOTAL ASCENTS About 200 metres
LEADER Christopher Collett
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
TRANSPORT COST \$4 per person
AREA Bostock Reservoir, Ballan
MAP REFERENCE Vicmap Bacchus Marsh 7722-N (1:50,000)
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Ballarat

Bostock Reservoir is a storage reservoir formed by an earth and rockfill dam constructed across the East Moorabool River just below its junction with Paddock Creek. It is located a few kilometres west of the township of Ballan, and is part of the Moorabool water supply system for Geelong.

This walk offers a diverse range of countryside. We will start by walking around the edge of the reservoir, and most likely, we will be able to cut across some of the dried out areas of the reservoir. We will then leave the reservoir and head through



2017 CHRISTMAS BASE CAMP

The 2016 Christmas base camp was so popular that on checking out we booked straight away for this year.

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.

Susan Maughan

a pine forest, before following the tracks through the Bungal State Forest to the valley of the East Moorabool River.

The river will then be followed upstream on its winding route back to the Bostock Reservoir. There are some hills along the way, and a couple of river crossings. Along part of this section we will walk off-track as we follow a water pipeline and aqueduct. At times from the higher vantage points there will be impressive views of the river valley and the adjoining farming country.

If all goes well there should be time for coffee in Ballan to reflect on the day's activities before we head home.

A walking pole would come in handy for some sections of the walk along the river.



WEDNESDAY WALK

FRIENDSHIP TRACK, ARTHURS SEAT

DATE Wednesday 29 November 2017
START TIME 10:15 am
RETURN TIME 4 pm
STANDARD Easy/medium, some uphill with undulations
DISTANCE 14 km
LEADER Debra Berner
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Mornington Peninsula
MAP REFERENCE Melway map 160 B9
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mornington Peninsula/Mornington

Meet at Hillview Community Reserve, Boundary Road at 10:15 am. From Boundary Road walk uphill towards Arthurs Seat Road, a slight detour around O/T dam. Left onto Friendship Track, a tree-ferned track with some boardwalks and steps. We will cross the road and follow a dirt road behind houses to Arthurs Seat. We will then make our way to Seawinds for lunch. We will walk back in reverse either the way we came, or the equestrian trail. Please book.

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

November 2017					
Thu 2	TOF: Elster Ck – Brighton Beaches	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Bill Metzenthien
3-7	PC : Mt Solitary Circuit hike in Blue Mountains – NSW	Pvt	Med		Agajan Akbari
3-7	PC : Diamantina Wander (joint VMTC)	Pvt	Med	NE:mh	Gina Hopkins
4-7	BC : Portland Shipwreck coast	Pvt	E/M	SW:wb	Del Franks
Sun 5	DAY: Murrindindi Cascades – Wilhelmina Falls	Bus	E&E/M	NC:yg	Halina Sarbinowski & Wendy Davis
Tue 7	SOC: Sassafras Creek, Kallista to Bourke's Lookout	Pvt	Easy	CN:md	Susan Maughan
Wed 8	DAY: Port Melbourne – St Kilda – Yarra Loop	Pvt	E/M	CN:me	Mick Noonan
11-26	PC : New Zealand North Island	Pvt	E/M		Ian Mair
11-12	MNT: Wilsons Prom – Oberon Bay Area (BTAC)				John Terrell
Sun 12	DAY: Bunyip State Park Circuit	Car	E/M	CN:md	Ron Hampton
17-19	BC : Tarra Bulga National Park – lodge/camping	Pvt	E/M	WG:sa	Mick Noonan
18-19	MNT: Errinundra NP (E.Gippsland) track clearing (BTAC)	Pvt	E/M	EG:or	John Terrell (Co-ord)
Sat 18	CYC: Nyora – Bena loop (Gippsland)	Pvt	Med	WG:wn	Philip Brown
Sun 19	DAY: Creswick Miners Walk (ALT DEPT)	Bus	E/M&M	CN:ba	Brett Daniel & Jamie Brawn
Mon 20	MOF: Yarra Bend Park – Studley Park and Fairfield Boathouses	Pvt	Easy		Graham Hodgson
Wed 22	SOC: A Walker in Columbia, South America				Susan Maughan
Thu 23	SOC: Maranoa Gardens, Beckett Park	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Pam Rosso
Sat 25	DAY: Sherbrooke and surrounds to Belgrave	Pvt	E/M	CN:md	Maureen Hurley
Sun 26	DAY: Bostock Reservoir	Car	E/M	CN:ba	Chris Collett
Wed 29	DAY: Friendship Track, Arthurs Seat	Pvt	E/M	CN:fr	Deb Berner