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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

August 2018

CHANGE OF SUNDAY WALKS DEPARTURE LOCATION FROM 22ND JULY

Due to redevelopment works in Southbank Boulevard the departure point for all Sunday walks (bus and carpool) commencing on or after Sunday 22nd July will depart from the Alternate Departure Point (Cnr. Abeckett Street and William Street) adjacent to the clubrooms.

Visit the location map on the website for more details on public transport and parking options.

https://mbw.org.au/MBW_club_locn.php

Details of the redevelopment plans for the area can be found here:

<https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/building-and-development/shaping-the-city/city-projects/southbank-boulevard/Pages/transforming-southbank-boulevard-dodds-street.aspx>

SAVE THE DATE

THE MUCH-ANTICIPATED MBW AUCTION RETURNS!

26TH SEPT 26TH SEPT

BUY!!

Time to upgrade to Nordic poles?



You, too, can be the owner of a trendy daypack



SELL!

One lucky Bushie might be the new owner of your old boots



Here is your chance to sell your old tent



By popular demand, your auctioneer for the night is

GRAHAM HODGSON

Due date for contributions (including October previews) to September News: 21 August

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: Merilyn Whimpey

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

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

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

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

Please note:

Next committee meeting will take place on
Monday 6 August 2018

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Marion Boyd
Tim Christie
David Gilbert
Pierre Matthee
Susan Miller
Bernd Neubauer
Jude Newton-Stock
Raghuram Rallapalli

VALE JEAN WOODGER

Jean Woodger was a long time member of the club, having joined in the 1990's. She was also Vice President and Assistant Walks Secretary and was made a life member. She was admired for her high ability, pleasant way of dealing with people and her great beauty.

Jean died at the age of 83 in Malmsbury on 10 July 2018. She had suffered pancreatic cancer for six months and was about to commence palliative chemotherapy before she went into hospital a few days earlier.

Walking with Jean in the 1990's was an experience, as she not only followed Alan Miller as the first Assistant Walks Secretary, she also published a weekly column with recommended walks in the Herald Sun. This was quite impressive, as it gave the club's Sunday walks great kudos.

Jean was a good organiser. When she retired from the printing firm she worked for, the owner closed the company. She was a Vice President of our club, and also Vice President of the Friends of the Wollongong Botanic Gardens. She worked in the office for the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Melbourne Friends.

Her friendship with Neil Priestly was good. They went on many overnight walks together. When he died, she scattered his ashes in the bush.

She was a good friend of mine. I always remember the day I got lost in the bush at her beloved Blackwood, arriving back after nightfall on the shortest day of the year. She gave me the biggest hug!

Thank you Jean for the memories.

Peter McGrath

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – AUGUST 2018

As you are reading this column Halina and I are probably still somewhere in Norway walking in pleasant summer weather. It won't be long though before we are on our way back to Melbourne and looking forward to joining some of you on the many activities the club has programmed for the coming spring months. Over 60 walks, including 16 multi-day Pack-Carry and Base-Camp trips, 7 Bus Walks and 30 other Day Walks. Throw in cycling, training events, conservation and track maintenance activities and it adds up to a busy spring program full of options. For most of us the warmer months are the best time to get outside and enjoy the natural surroundings. It is also the time to remain aware that bushwalking is an activity that can expose each of us to risks to our health and safety, a fact we acknowledge by signing up to an Acknowledgement of Risk agreement each time we renew our membership.

Acknowledging the risks is only the first step in ensuring we don't have our enjoyment interrupted by unwanted incidents. Some forethought and awareness of our situation can prevent all but the most unexpected and unfortunate incidents from ruining our day. The club plays its part too by recognising the risks that can arise and taking steps to avoid or mitigate their impact. Our Risk Management Plan, available as a download from the website, categorises the risks and underpins many of our practices with the aim of keeping us all safe and healthy. Whether it is through the training programs for our trip leaders or the preparation of guidelines that each of us can read and act upon, we strive for zero incidents at the same time as we engage in challenging and rewarding experiences.

The Risk Management Plan is a living document. Each year the Club Committee reviews all incidents reported by trip leaders and the general operations of the club. It also takes note of advice and recommendations from other voluntary bushwalking bodies and regulatory authorities. Together these provide a basis to update our risk assessments, recommended practices and procedures. This year Mick Noonan undertook the primary review of our Risk Management Plan for Committee consideration. A number of changes were adopted, including:

- Walkers are to be advised to wear long trousers or gaiters in certain terrain and seasons;
- A recommendation that all walkers in remote areas carry an Emergency Blanket in winter;
- Guidelines to be prepared and communicated for both the dangers of lightning strike during electrical storms and techniques for crossing fast-flowing creeks and rivers;
- Development and communication of Club guidelines about fatigue, driving distances, sharing driving, parking safely and rest breaks.
- Implementation of Critical Incident Procedures based on the Bushwalking Victoria Guidelines.

The warmer months bring with them their own seasonal joys and risks. The bush comes alive with wildflowers and a myriad of scents and bird calls. It is also a signal for snakes and other crawlies to get active. The incidence of life-threatening bites is much lower than most of us tend to believe, however, the consequences can be dire. Wearing long trousers and gaiters, particularly when walking near creek and river courses, is a sensible precaution. Carrying appropriate first aid items, like a 'snake bandage', is prudent. Taking advantage of the club's heavily subsidised First Aid Training is a no-brainer. Keep an eye on the website and newsletter pages for the date of the next training session and get in before the rush! Not only will you be better informed yourself on the way to handle bites, stings and scratches, you will be a better companion for your fellow walkers.

As the days get warmer the dangers of dehydration increase. The effects of heightened activity whilst walking and the exposure to direct sunlight can all too easily be underestimated. There are no club awards for running out of water. Make sure you carry enough for your own needs. Likewise there are no brownie points for sunburn. Bushwalking gear may not be the most fashionable but you will fit in with the rest of the group and enjoy the trip more if you keep yourself covered. The simple act of checking the weather forecast before you leave home should be part of your normal routine, no matter what the season. With the ubiquitous use of mobile phones and Apps or access to online searches there is no excuse for not being aware of what the weather may bring. The club's website Home Page also has a convenient link to BoM Regional Weather Forecasts.

With the approaching Fire Season (November to April) extreme heat and bushfire risk is an ever-present danger and one the club takes seriously. Our policies are available for download on the website so that they are readily available to all members. I encourage you all to be familiar with their content. The objective is to have clear, simple and practical policies that ensure the safety of all of our activity participants.

Ian Mair

Social Events in the Clubrooms



Wednesday 26 September, 8 pm
THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS PRE-LOVED GEAR AUCTION

Anyone intending to submit items for the club auction would greatly assist the proceedings if they could do the following:

1. Have the item on display by about 7:30 pm (I will be there at 7:00 pm).
2. Attach your name and a brief history of the item, i.e. how old it is and has it had much use. Describe its general condition.
3. If you have a minimum price you would like for the item put RESERVE on the identification tag and you will be asked during the auction if you are happy to sell when the bidding stops.

Graham Hodgson (Auctioneer)



PACK CARRY: WHISKY TRACK – LERDERBERG GORGE – BLACKWOOD SATURDAY 26 TO SUNDAY 27 MAY 2018



The joy of walking with the Melbourne Bushies is that, as a relative newbie, you are never quite sure what you are in for; one man's initial rating of easy can turn out to be more like a medium! So far no walk that I have done has been downgraded to a lower rating but discussions have ensued as to whether or not a higher rating might be more appropriate. As for (a leader like) Agajan there is no doubt that he will deliver!

Pleasantly surprised by the mild temperature, our group comprising leader Agajan, David, Di, 2 Ians, Jaime, Liz, 2 Peters and Ros, set off at a brisk pace at precisely 9:10 am (thank you Ian L!) along Whisky Track.

Being on vehicle tracks for the first part of Saturday's walk meant that we made very good time and started to wonder if we would be twiddling our thumbs at the campsite. Soon enough the track became a bit more demanding and after successfully negotiating a lichen-clad rocky ridge (Razorback North Track) and clambering up a cliff face we meandered along the Manna Gum and Messmate lined Lerderderg River to our Upsall Hill campsite.

A roaring campfire in the lovely open campsite on a bank of the Lerderderg River was only enhanced by Agajan's one joke (luckily only told twice). Jaime's conscientious attention, just short of pyromania, to keeping the fire burning optimally kept us all nicely warmed – in front! Very easy access to water at the campsite was a bonus compared to other trips where obtaining water has not been so straightforward.

Sunday morning's walk was rather slow due to the precarious nature of the track along the steep river bank; being off-camber and a bit slippery meant that care was needed to avoid slithering downhill into the river. As a contrast to this the afternoon's walking in the river bed, and actually in the river in Ian L's case, was much more enjoyable. At some point we left the river and gently finished the walk along Byers Back Track. Like many tracks in this area it follows an old water race so the gradient was very manageable.

Like most Melbourne Bushies walks this one involved meeting an interesting range of new companions as well as spending time with some tried and true. Thanks Agajan for being a capable and entertaining leader and to Ian M for patiently bringing up the tail.

*Gael Reid
Photos by Ian Mair*



AS THE CROW FLIES – A WALK IN THE BRISBANE RANGES PACK CARRY JUNE 23–24



The walk was scheduled as a Beginners Pack Carry, mainly on walking track with some off track sections.

The group assembled Saturday morning at Steglitz. It was clear there were no beginners, although it was noted that two of the starters were first time club walkers with many kilometres of walking experience. Our leader informed us he would make an alteration to the proposed walk to provide a more challenging weekend. There were a few groans when we were advised we would probably walk 18 kms for the day. This distance was more than expected for a beginner's pack carry.

We started walking through the old goldmining township subdivision before dropping into Sutherland Creek which we followed for a while. After a quick review of the map and a play with the GPS, our leader decided it was time to start taking a few 'short cuts', as we headed off track. We were advised the campsite was only 3.7 km away as the crow flies. Little did we realise at that point we were walking away from the campsite!

As is often the case when you head off track, there were a few extra ups and downs, we walked down dry creek beds, climbed the banks when we came across water, we stepped over old fencing wire and continued our exploration uphill until we sighted cabins. A check of the GPS confirmed our worst fears, we had exited the park and inadvertently walked onto private property. A new course was chosen and we quietly retreated under the barbed wire fences and back into the National Park. Not to be deterred by the minor navigation error, we continued off track. Leaving the creek we headed north through open forest.

We reached our Saturday night camp at 4 pm, the Old Mill Camp on the Burchell Trail. We quickly erected our tents, retrieved enough water and had our evening meal underway. As the sun set around 5 pm, we gathered at the fire to consume our tasty meals and take in the warmth the glowing coals emitted. All too soon the embers were dying and we turned in for the night.

Overnight a koala visited the camp, the grunting waking quite a few of us. There was ample evidence of the local wildlife – we sighted large kangaroos, wallabies and a large crackle of cockatoos.

Sunday morning at the civilised time of 9 am we headed off for another day of off-track adventure. As promised in the marketing blurb, we dropped into some old goldmining sites. One of our number suggested we should inspect some of the mines more closely, (apparently disused mines are a great place to hide dead bodies!)

We were expecting a 12 km day as we completed the circuit back to the cars, but this day was cut short after our leader injured himself, requiring the first aiders to step in and administer the antiseptic, gauze and tape to stop the wound from leaking. Discretion and the call of the coffee shop prevailed, the walk was cut short, as we completed the 6 kms for the day by 11:30 and headed to Anakie for a delicious lunch.

Thanks to Ian for organising a fun walk. Thanks to Agajan, Bruce, Janette, Gayle, Suparna, Rosemary and Liz for your company.

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.

**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.



TOTAL ASCENTS 300 m rise and 500 m rise
LEADERS Nik Dow and Ivan Biber
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
ACTIVITY AREA Blackwood
MAP REFERENCE VicmapTopo_30k_A3_T7723-2-3-S



This walk explores an area uprooted then abandoned by fortune-seeking gold miners over 150 years ago.

This walk is mostly off track with some road-bashing, especially for the longer walk.

We have upgraded from Easy and Easy/Medium owing to the rough off-track walking, climbing over fallen trees and rough ground. The E/M walk is off track almost all day, as I discovered an old water race which cuts out the afternoon road-bashing, while the longer walk is on roads all afternoon. Both walks ascend from Blackwood up to Shaw's Lake (not a natural lake) and find an old water race from there. While the Medium walk follows this all the way up to the bridge over Yankee Creek, the E/M group heads up out of the valley to walk on easier ground through forest, which appears to be clear of undergrowth after control burns. After crossing Yankee Creek, the Medium group will follow roads with one section off track through magnificent tall forest, while the E/M group follows the newly discovered water-race almost all the way back to Blackwood.

If time permits it could be possible for one or both groups to round off the day with a drink or snack at the pub or general store.



SUNDAY BUS

YANKEE CREEK – BLACKWOOD

DATE Sunday 26 August 2018
RETURN TIME Return to city by 6:00 pm
STANDARDS Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCES 12.0 km and 15.6 km



SUNDAY CAR POOL

NEW: WHISKEY CREEK TRACK – KANGAROO TRACK
(PLEASE NOTE: ALTERNATIVE DEPARTURE POINT)

DATE Sunday 2 September 2018
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 15 km
DURATION 5.5 hours approx.
LEADER Ron Hampton
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving cnr A’Beckett and William Streets (opposite clubrooms) at 8:45 am
TRANSPORT COST \$18
ACTIVITY AREA Lerderderg State Park
MAP REFERENCE Lerderderg and Werribee Gorges, Meridian Maps

Beginning in the north-west of the Lerderderg State Park we follow the Great Dividing Trail south east through eucalypt forests before heading east and descending to the Lerderderg River then up, out of the gorge to once more rejoin the GDT which takes us to the serpentine and scenic Byers Back Track and the completion of the circuit via Kangaroo Track.

There are some gradual climbs but the track is mostly undulating on well-defined foot trails or old vehicle tracks. There is one short, off-track section involving a steep descent which needs to be negotiated with care especially if wet. Walking poles would be handy.



LEADER TRAINING

UNIT 4 – RISK MANAGEMENT

DATE Wednesday 5 September 2018
VENUE Clubrooms, cnr A’Beckett and William Streets, city (Melway Ref 2F, B2)
ORGANISER Mick Noonan (Past President)
TRANSPORT Private
START TIME 7:30 pm
FINISH TIME 9:00 pm
UPDATE Addition to program.

Training has gained momentum over the year with opportunities to complete individual units related to becoming a leader. Much of the information gathered from our training nights can be useful in varied situations, not just bushwalking. So feel free to attend any of our training nights or to catch up on ones you have missed. You are not compelled to lead after undertaking the training with Melbourne Bushies. So come along to any night which may interest you.

This session will cover the following objectives:

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



TOFS WALK

SEAFORD WETLANDS – KANANOOK CREEK

DATE Thursday 6 September 2018
START TIME 10:30 am
RETURN TIME 3:30 pm
STANDARD Easy

DISTANCE 10 km
TOTAL ASCENTS Minimal
LEADER Eileen Ayre
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Frankston
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 100 E7 to 99 D3

We will meet at Frankston Railway Station at 10:30 am. Train travel may be disrupted that day, so contact the leader closer to the walk for updates.

Depending on the weather, we will start with a walk along Frankston Pier, then walk briefly by the sea.

Soon we will detour along Kananook Creek, and follow that up to Seaford. We will go inland into what I see as the most interesting part of the Seaford Wetlands.

We will end with a coffee near Seaford Railway Station.



PACK CARRY

MT LANGI GHIRAN

DATE 7-9 September 2018
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 20 km
TOTAL ASCENT 400 m rise
LEADER Mark Simpson
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Langi Ghiran State Park
MAP REFERENCE VicMap Buangor Nth



Lar-ne-jeering (Langi Ghiran) is Djab Wurrung language for ‘home of the black cockatoo’. Rugged granite peaks and gentle sloping woodlands are the dominant features of this local landmark. Walking to the summit presents views of ancient red gums on the surrounding plains with Mount Buangor in the east and the Grampians in the distant west.

There is no water available during the walk so you will need to carry water for two days. A water drop for day 2 could be made Friday night at the rock art site for pick up at morning tea. There will be some off-track walking amongst some steep, rocky and unmade parts to the trail. Elevations about 400 m.

We will camp Friday night at Langi Ghiran picnic area.

Saturday: we will walk on track fairly flat around the park to a rock art site for morning tea and water pickup – about 6 to 7 km. Then off track for a few km over Mt Gorrin 737 m and another peak 700 m with good views, before descending to a track to camp. Sunday: off track from camp with some steep rock climbing to the summit of Mt Langi Ghiran, 950 m. We then descend, passing large granite boulders, to a track that takes us 3 km via a look-out point back to our cars with nice views of Mt Langi Ghiran en route. At this time of year be prepared for cold weather, wet scrub.



SUNDAY BUS

PHANTOM FALLS – THE CANYON – SHEOAK FALLS

DATE	Sunday 9 September 2018
RETURN TIME	6:30 pm to City
STANDARDS	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES	12 km and 15 km
TOTAL ASCENTS	200 m
LEADERS	Halina Sarbinowski and Bettina Brills
TRANSPORT	Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
ACTIVITY AREA	Great Otway National Park, Lorne

At the back of Lorne are some of the best walking trails in Victoria. This walk has everything that you would enjoy in a bushwalk: breathtaking views, waterfalls, rainforest gullies, wet forest, dry forest, ups and downs.

Starting from Teddy’s Lookout or Allenvale camp ground, both groups will follow the Saint George River to Phantom Falls, then continue through The Canyon to Sheoak Picnic Area. Many walkers have balked at entering The Canyon, however, surprises ensure that this is an enjoyable experience. Prior to ending the walk we climb the ridge to Castle Rock which affords great views over Cumberland Camping Ground extending out to ocean Bass Strait views prior to descending to Sheoak Falls near the coast with possibly a side-trip to Swallow Cave.

There are blackberries beside some sections of the track so long sleeves and pants will protect from scratches; and boots will help if track is muddy after rain.

This is a fun walk through some of the best and varied walking tracks in the Great Otway National Park. Definitely worth a visit. Join us for this exceptionally enjoyable walk experience.



WEDNESDAY WALK

MT EVELYN – SILVAN RESERVOIR – MT DANDENONG – MT EVELYN

DATE	Wednesday 12 September 2018
RETURN TIME	4–4:30 pm
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	17 km
TOTAL ASCENT	500+ metres of ascent and descent
LEADER	Ken MacMahon
TRANSPORT	Private cars
ACTIVITY AREA	Dandenong Ranges
MAP REFERENCE	Melway maps 52, 66, 120 and 122

This walk offers an interesting variety of forest habitats, good views, as well as a waterfall or two, and all close to Melbourne.

Commencing at Mt Evelyn Reserve we follow the water supply pipe track south towards Silvan Reservoir. Before reaching the reservoir we swing westward and gently start the 500 metre ascent of Mt Dandenong.

We need to walk along quiet roads for about a kilometre or so before picking up a path beside Olinda Creek. Lunch will be at the Olinda Falls picnic area. Continuing steeply upward for another two kilometres, we reach the top of Mount Dandenong, hopefully with fine views all around. Our route then follows the ridgeline generally northward on trails and quiet streets towards Kalorama.

Crossing busy Mt Dandenong Road, we pick up firetrails that lead us steeply downward back to our starting point.



CYCLING

COLLINGWOOD–MITCHAM (Train based)

DATE	Saturday 15 September 2018
START TIME	9:30 am
RETURN TIME	3:30 pm
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	62 km
TOTAL ASCENT	500 m
LEADER	Philip Brown
TRANSPORT	Private/Train
ACTIVITY AREA	Eastern Suburbs
MAP REFERENCE	ridewithgps Collingwood–Mitcham circuit

The meeting point is Victoria Park Station west side at 9:30 am. It takes around 20 minutes from the city by train. We head down to Yarra trail and on the way we pass the ex home of the magpies

Once on the trail we pass Collingwood Children’s farm then exit on to Gardiners Creek Trail,

Coffee in Glen Iris, then onto Scotchmans Creek Trail and Waverley Rail Trail to Syndal. Using the Pipe Reserve Trail and back streets we get to Mitcham and cut across to Eastlink Trail and the Schwerkolt Cottage Reserve for lunch. Then off back to the start using Eastlink Trail, Koonung Creek Trail, Outer Circle Rail Trail and Yarra Trail.

For more information or to book ring or email the leader.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

NEW: BOOTS GULLY TO CHARLESFORD MINE CIRCUIT

DATE	Sunday 16 September 2018
START TIME	Depart from Southbank Boulevard at 8:45 am
RETURN TIME	Return to City at 6:00 pm
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	15.0 km
TOTAL ASCENT	220 m rise
LEADER	Ian Mair
TRANSPORT	Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
TRANSPORT COST	\$20.00 (per person)
ACTIVITY AREA	Hepburn Springs area
MAP REFERENCE	VicMap Topo 1:25,000 A0 7723-3-N Daylesford North

Walk derived from Federation Walks 2015, Walk 13. Notes from Bayside Bushwalking Club and Great Dividing Trail Association.

The area is named for the extinct volcano, Bald Hill, which spread its lava north-westwards to form the farming lands of basalt amidst ancient ordovician slates and shales. These form the gold-bearing quartz underlying the central Victorian goldfields. The walk encompasses several of the smaller goldfields of the Daylesford area. These goldfields required water to wash the pay dirt, which was supplied by water races. Some races conveyed water from up to 20 km away near Twin Bridges. A natural spring, Hendersons, in Boots Gully and a derelict mid-twentieth century slate mine are visited on the walk.

The walk is mostly off-track and on bush tracks with clay surfaces which become slippery after rain or showers. Walking poles are recommended.



MOFS WALK

DAREBIN CREEK (STAGE 4)

DATE Monday 17 September 2018
RETURN TIME Before 3:30 pm to cars
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 12 km
TOTAL ASCENT No hills
LEADER Jerry Grandage
TRANSPORT Private
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 19 and 9

Darebin Creek passes through an eclectic range of landscapes ranging from ugly industry to reasonably attractive parklands, creek scenery and natural vegetation, the latter including much red gum woodland. I haven't decided where we'll be walking this time, except that it will be north of Bundoora Park. It will probably be an out-and-back walk rather than a circuit. Phone me to enquire or book in.



WEDNESDAY WALK

TED ERREY NATURE CIRCUIT, BRISBANE RANGES

DATE Wednesday 19 September 2018
RETURN TIME 3 pm to cars
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 13 km
TOTAL ASCENT 220 m
LEADER John Terrell
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Brisbane Ranges
MAP REFERENCE Melway page (not map!) 7 A9
 Brisbane Ranges National Park (Meridian)



Meet at Anakie Gorge Picnic Ground, Gorge Road, off Staughton Vale Road, Anakie Junction at 10:00 for 10:15 start. We start by walking through Anakie Gorge with its interesting and ancient geological formations before turning onto the Ted Errey nature circuit and climbing steeply up to Nelson Lookout for morning tea. We then follow the Aqueduct track, Outlook Track to The Outlook, then a brief steep section leading down to the historic Lower Stony Creek Reservoir. From

here we walk along Stony Creek and back through Anakie Gorge, returning to the cars at about 3 pm. Some of the creek crossings involve stepping across boulders.

The route takes us through a range of vegetation types – heathland, grass trees, banksias, wattles, gum, box, ironbark – much of it still recovering from the 2006 fires. The Brisbane Ranges are well known for wildflowers (over 600 species including some rare and endemic ones) and this should be a good time for them. There should be some time for botanising. Koalas are common and there is a huge range of birdlife too.

Phytophthora cinnamomi (cinnamon fungus) is rife here so we will need to use the boot cleaning stations to avoid spreading the disease further. This will be easier if your boots are clean before the walk as well as after.



PACK CARRY

EASTERN STRATHBOGIES ESCARPMENT (Joint with VMTC)

DATE 22-23 Sept 2018
RETURN TIME Back at the cars mid-afternoon Sunday
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 20 km
ELEVATION 500 m – 1030 m – 400 m – 800 m – 270 m
LEADER Ray Thomas
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Eastern Strathbogies Ranges
MAP REF Moonee Creek and Mount Strathbogies
 1:25,000

This is a traverse of the eastern escarpment of the Strathbogies ranges, following the high ridges that overlook the Broken River and Lake Nillahcootie. With the weather warming up by then, we're going from south to north, so we climb up all the hills on their cooler southern sides!!

At the Spring Equinox we'll also get to see the forests at their best. There are massive stands of flowering shrubs, delicate wild flowers amongst the native grasses, orchids underfoot, huge granite boulders covered with velvet-green moss, towering cliffs, spectacular waterfalls in good flow, fern-filled gullies, extensive views across to the alps ... need I say more?

And I'm selecting a route with a bit less scrub-bashing!!

We begin in the sedimentary country on the Mansfield side of Mt Strathbogies, ascending an open ridge with lots of little knolls to break up the climb. We'll see many different forest types on the way – everything from Peppermints, Stringybarks and Boxes on the lower slopes, tall forests of Manna Gums, Blue Gums and Messmates on the cooler slopes, and finally the magnificent Mountain Gums and Snow Gums on Mt Strathbogies itself. And what a place that is for lunch with a view!

Then it's all downhill through mazes of huge granite boulders and flowering dry forests, to reach the tree ferns and spectacular waterfalls of Sandy Creek. After a rest, a snack, and perhaps a dip in the cool water, we follow the creek further downstream to camp for the night on a lovely grassy creek flat.

Sunday sees us up and onto the very scenic Lightning Ridge, with its huge rock slabs, moss-covered granite tors, and beautiful long-distance views out to the Great Divide. Then it's all downhill again, passing through extensive stands of flowering shrubs, exploring some hidden caves, and hopefully finishing at the cars by mid-afternoon.



SATURDAY WALK

PLENTY RIVER AREA

DATE Saturday 22 September 2018
RETURN TIME Before 3:30 pm to cars
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 14 km
TOTAL ASCENT Minimal, but some short ups and downs
LEADER Jerry Grandage
TRANSPORT Private
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 183 and 184

Start at 10.30 am at the Hawkstowe Picnic Area close to the LePage Farmhouse (Melways 183 J7), not to be confused with the Red Gum Picnic Area – suggested access Plenty Road and Gordons Road. We will walk generally north, close to the river, as far as Mernda, returning via the Morang wetlands and lakes. You will see kangaroos and birds, red gum woodlands and river scenery. Please note that, while we will be on a track, the track is at times quite narrow and traverses broken ground with short ups and downs. Phone me to book in or enquire.



SUNDAY BUS

WOMBAT STATION – SAILORS FALLS

(PLEASE NOTE: ALTERNATIVE DEPARTURE POINT)

DATE Sunday 23 September 2018
STANDARDS Easy/Medium and Medium
LEADERS John Fritze and Carol Ward
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving cnr A’Beckett and William Streets (opposite clubrooms) at 8:45 am

For details of this walk please check the Club’s website mbw.org.au/mbw_activities/MBW_activities_program.php or contact the leaders.



SOCIAL

BUSHIES AUCTION

DATE Wednesday, 26 September, 2018
VENUE Clubrooms, cnr. A’Beckett Street and William Street, (Melway Reference: 2F, B2)
ORGANISER Susan Maughan
TRANSPORT Private
START TIME 8:00pm
FINISH TIME 9:00pm

Don’t throw out your slightly outdated gear, or stuff that is surplus to requirements. Save it, instead, for the famed MBW AUCTION.

This will be held in the clubrooms on WEDNESDAY, 26th SEPTEMBER commencing at 8:00 pm and promises to be a busy, irreverent, pulsating and entertaining evening – as always.

Along the way you can sell or buy hiking gear from other members – and definitely grab a bargain.

As in previous auctions anyone submitting gear would make the night run smoother if they do the following:

- a) Attach a card to the item giving your name and a brief history of the gear, i.e., how long have you had it, how much it has been used and anything else you consider relevant.

- b) If you want a certain minimum price for the item just put ‘reserve’ on the card.

Please have all the gear to be auctioned available by 7.45 pm on the night.

Further details concerning the auction will be published in future editions of the MBW Newsletter and on the website.



PACK CARRY

GREAT OCEAN WALK: BLANKET BAY – JOHANNA BEACH (3 days)

DATE Thurs 27 to Sun 30 September 2018
RETURN TIME Return to Melbourne by 6:00 pm Sunday
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 35.0 km
LEADER Ros Leong
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Great Otway National Park
MAP REFERENCE The Otways and Shipwreck Coast 1:50,000 Outdoor Leisure Map

LIMIT 9 persons only (3 campers per campsite).
COST OF CAMPSITES \$237.00 in total, shared between group (\$26.30 x 3 sites x 3 nights)

Around 3 hours’ drive from Melbourne takes you to the start of our Great Ocean Walk at Blanket Bay.

The wonderful GOW traverses one of the most remarkable stretches of coast in Australia and encompasses towering cliffs, remote beaches, rainforest, heathland and coastal woodland. Over the last 200 years, the ‘Shipwreck Coast’ has sent 163 sailing ships to the bottom of the sea. Walkers may even see southern right whales between May and November.

On Thursday evening we will meet and camp at Blanket Bay GOW Campground.

Early Friday morning we will do a car shuffle and leave cars at Johanna Beach where we end the walk on Sunday. We then start the walk at Blanket Bay and head towards Cape Otway GOW Campground. This will take 4 hours with around 12 km. Those interested can visit the Cape Otway Lighthouse (there is an entrance fee).

On Saturday, we walk 10 km to the beautiful Aire River GOW Campground, which will take us about 3.5 hours. There are seemingly some resident koalas at the campground.

On Sunday we walk 14 km to finish the walk at Johanna Beach which will take around 4–5 hours. This will involve some beach walking and crossing the Johanna River at low tide. We then undo the car shuffle and return back to Melbourne.



PACK CARRY

MITCHELL RIVER NATIONAL PARK

DATE 27– 30 September 2018
RETURN TIME Sunday evening
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 42 km
LEADER Di McKinley
TRANSPORT Private
AREA East Gippsland
MAP REF Vic Map 1:50,000 Cobbana-Tabberabbera, and Rooftops 1:50,000 Mitchell River National Park

This is a 3-day walk through the Mitchell River Gorge over Grand Final Weekend. Thursday night we travel 300 km via the Princes Highway to the Mitchell River National Park and will camp at the lovely Echo Bend Bark Hut Camping Park. Friday

we walk 14 km along the track following the river upstream which has some steep ascents and beautiful rock scenery to arrive at Billy Goat Bend picnic area for lunch. After lunch we walk further along the track and turn off to go down to the river to a lovely campsite where we will be for Saturday and Sunday nights and there is the opportunity to relax and swim in the river. Sunday we walk with day packs back to the track and continue along the river upstream via Slalom Rapids to the former settlement site of Angusvale. We have an option to cross the river here and return to camp via an alternative ridge and again cross the river back at camp, but this will depend on the river levels, and we may instead return on the same track we went out on. This will be another 14 km day walking. Sunday morning we return 14 km on our original track, now viewing the spectacular scenery including 'The Amphitheatre' from the north approach, back to the cars at Echo Bend with a visit to the Den of Nargun on the way. We should be back at the cars mid afternoon for our return drive to Melbourne.



Is there a monster lurking in the Den of Nargun?



SOCIAL WALK

MERRI CREEK, CERES

DATE Thursday 27 September 2018
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 5 km
LEADER Marilyn Whippey
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Brunswick East and Coburg
MAP REFERENCE Melway map 30

We will walk along the scenic Merri Creek upstream to a footbridge and return on the other side of the creek for lunch at the 'Ceres' café and a walk around the garden.

Meet in the Ceres Community Environment Park carpark Melway map 30 B7 at 10:30 am.



SUNDAY BUS

LAL LAL FOREST – MT DORAN

(PLEASE NOTE: ALTERNATIVE DEPARTURE POINT)

DATE Sunday 30 September 2018
STANDARDS Easy/Medium and Medium
LEADERS Halina Sarbinowski and Nik Dow

TRANSPORT Bus – leaving cnr A'Beckett and William Streets (opposite clubrooms) at 8:45 am

For details of this walk please check the Club's website mbw.org.au/ [mbw_activities/MBW_activities_program.php](http://mbw.org.au/mbw_activities/MBW_activities_program.php) or contact the leaders.



LODGE BASE CAMP

CASTLEMAINE DIGGINGS NATIONAL HERITAGE PARK

DATE Sun 30 September to Thurs 4 October 2018
STANDARD Various
DISTANCE Various
LEADER Raf Makary
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park

Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park lies at the heart of the central Victorian goldfields. The park is a rare place where you can see authentic traces of the great Victorian gold rushes of the 1850s. Sites and relics harbour secrets and tell stories about how life really was on the diggings.

The Goldfields Tracks section of the GDT passes through the park offering both short and long distance walks running from Porcupine Ridge.

Accommodations: (make your own bookings to suit) Castlemaine Central Cabin and Van Park offer accommodation right in the heart of Castlemaine. The Park, in addition to caravan space, offers twenty-four fully self contained cabins ranging from one to three bedrooms and all have ensuite bathroom plus heating/air-conditioning. Cabins include:

- Fully equipped kitchen, with fridge, microwave, cutlery, crockery etc.
- Bathrooms
- Heating and air-conditioning
- Bedding, doonas, blankets, linen and towels

Cabin descriptions and pricing can be viewed here:

<https://www.castlemaine-accommodation.com.au/pricing>

Costs:

- Accommodation costs are listed at the above mentioned link. You will be confirmed on the Camp once you make your accommodation booking.
- If you want to share a Cabin with other walkers, then I will do my best to organise this for you
- Trip/Petrol cost will depend on each driver and number of passengers.

Walks:

Various walks will be planned, both easy and medium. More information later.

Please contact the leader to book.

COMING UP
SPRING BASE CAMPS

PHILLIP ISLAND: FRIDAY 12 TO SUNDAY 14 OCTOBER

PRINCETOWN – GREAT OCEAN WALK: FRIDAY 9 TO SUNDAY 11 NOVEMBER

Details are on the Club's website and will be in the September and October editions of News.

Bus transport meets at Southbank Boulevard, south side of the Arts Centre, before 8:45 am. After 22 September we will meet the bus at the Alternative Departure Point, corner A'Beckett Street and William Street, adjacent to the Clubrooms. Leader or deputy will be there rain, hail or shine!

September 2018				
Sun 2	DAY: NEW: Whisky Creek–Nolan–Kangaroo Trks Circuit (ALT DEPT)	Car	Med	Ron Hampton
Wed 5	TRG: Leader Training: Unit 4 – Risk Management			Mick Noonan
Thu 6	TOF: Seaford Wetlands – Kananook Creek	Pvt	Easy	Eileen Ayre
7–9	PC : Mt Langi Ghiran	Pvt	E/M	Mark Simpson
Sun 9	DAY: Phantom Falls–The Canyon–Sheoak Falls	Bus	E&E/M	Halina Sarbinowski & Bettina Brill
Wed 12	DAY: Mt Evelyn–Silvan Reservoir–Mt Dandenong–Mt Evelyn	Pvt	Med	Ken MacMahon
Sat 15	CYC: Collingwood – Mitcham (train based)	Pvt	E/M	Philip Brown
Sun 16	DAY: NEW: Boots Gully to Charlesford Mine Circuit	Car	E/M	Ian Mair
Mon 17	MOF: Darebin Creek Stage 4	Pvt	Easy	Jerry Grandage
Wed 19	DAY: Ted Errey Nature Circuit, Brisbane Ranges	Pvt	E/M	John Terrell
21–23	PC : Eastern Strathbogie Ranges (joint VMTC)	Pvt	Med	Ray Thomas
Sat 22	DAY: Plenty River area	Pvt	E/M	Jerry Grandage
Sun 23	DAY: Wombat Station – Sailors Falls – Daylesford (ALT DEPT)	Bus	E/M&M	John Fritze & Carol Ward
Wed 26	SOC: Bushies' Auction			Susan Maughan
27–30	PC : Great Ocean Walk: Blanket Bay – Johanna Beach	Pvt	E/M	Ros Leong
27–30	PC : Mitchell River	Pvt	E/M	Di McKinley
Thu 27	SOC: Merri Creek, Ceres	Pvt	Easy	Merilyn Whimpey
Sun 30	DAY: Lal Lal Forest – Mt Doran (ALT DEPT)	Bus	E/M&M	Halina Sarbinowski & Nik Dow
30–4	BC : Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park	Pvt	var	Raf Makary