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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

February 2018

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, March 21st, in the Clubrooms

Come along, chat with friends, find out how your Club is going!
The Wine and Cheese is free. More information in March News.



Snowgum Press Films presents

The Desperate Plight of the Orange-bellied Parrot

a film by David Neilson

at the Cinema Nova 380 Lygon St, Carlton, 3053
on Tuesday 27th February at 7.00 pm

Screening to be followed by Q&A

Tickets from TryBooking only: <https://www.trybooking.com/TOHN>
Adults: \$20. Concession: \$15. Plus 30 cents booking fee

For information: 0409 383 306, dneilson@snowgumpress.com.au

This event is part of the National Sustainable Living Festival 2018

Profits from this screening will go to Birdlife Australia, ANU Difficult Bird Research Group and Friends of the Orange-bellied Parrot



Ian Mair took the above photos at the Club's New Year's Day BBQ at Ken MacMahon's home in Warrandyte.

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

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 5 March 2018

FOR SALE

Women's Achilles walking boots Size 38, but more like a 37. All leather.

Signs of wear on front of boots, but little wear on the sole.

\$60

Susan Maughan

susanmaughanoz@hotmail.com



Christmas at Camp Eureka

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – FEBRUARY 2018



It's only one month into 2018 and already I find myself planning walks through to the end of the year. I enjoy walking and I enjoy the preparations leading up to a walk. Whether it is a day walk or a multi-day walk the decisions on location, route and timing require attention to detail and awareness of the area to be walked. For club day walks, and especially for Sunday Walks, it is an expectation that the leaders will preview the walk route, or be sufficiently familiar with the route, to ensure that there are no unexpected changes to conditions to be experienced that cannot be handled with competent bushcraft and leadership skills. Multi-day walks are usually further afield and demand more time if a preview is to be conducted. Fortunately in today's world of digital communications and online resources there are tools to make the planning and understanding of the conditions to be experienced more accessible. It makes it easier for

competent leaders to venture into areas not previously walked by them and to set off with confidence.

At the most basic level the Club maintains a database of reports from leaders of past walks that can be accessed by current leaders. These generally provide route details, maps and comments on camping locations, interesting features and changes in track conditions. Whilst the club holds digital copies of all reports prepared by past leaders as far back as 1946, it is only reports back to 1998 that are available for searching online. A big vote of thanks is due to members Dr. Graham Wills-Johnson and David Arnold for their roles in scanning past reports and developing the online capabilities to make them available. Today, after each walk, all leaders are asked to submit their own report for online access giving full details, or just updates to previous reports, so that this invaluable resource will be relevant and available to future walk leaders.

Now, though, leaders have access to other powerful tools to help them in walk planning. Digital mapping resources with inbuilt route planning capabilities, 3-D visualization tools like Google Earth and a growing database of digital records of walk routes generated by GPS-enabled devices, all contribute to a capability for walk leaders to be visually aware of the terrain to be traversed even before they visit the area. Understandably, the awareness developed only relates to the profile of the hills and valleys to be traversed, while knowledge of the actual conditions on the ground depends very much on prior experience or the comments of previous walkers. Even so, walk leaders today are able to be much better informed than their predecessors with a mental image of the area to be walked more explicit than can be obtained from reading 2-D topographic maps.

An increasing number of leaders carry GPS-enabled devices and record the route they have followed, with the capacity for the route to be shared along with the club's database of online walk reports for future leaders to access. Beyond the club's database of walk reports and GPS records the power of online search engines can often recover digital records of routes followed by other walkers that they are happy to share. Significantly, Bushwalking Victoria maintains its own shared database, called where2walk, that is available to the members of all affiliated clubs, like Melbourne Bushwalkers. Armed with suitable online and personal computer-based tools, and access to previous walk records, today's leaders can explore a broadening range of walking options before they venture into the wild. Whether they choose to navigate by map-and-compass or GPS-enabled devices, the time spent in the field previewing or following a planned route can be significantly reduced.

As with all electronic hardware, GPS-enabled devices continue to evolve and improve in accuracy and functionality. Once bulky and of limited practical benefit to bushwalkers we now find that dedicated GPS units fit comfortably in the gear list of even the most weight-conscious walkers. Just as significant the acronym 'GPS', which has become synonymous to many for satellite navigation systems, is actually a reference only to the USA Global Positioning System with its array of earth-orbit satellites. It is not the only global positioning satellite array. Increasingly the Russian GLONAS (GLObal NAVigation System) array is being accessed concurrent with the GPS satellite array to increase accuracy and response speed. Ardent enthusiasts for the iPhone will quickly point out that the latest models of these too access both positioning systems as well as several more localised satellite arrays. Whilst iPhones (and other similarly capable mobile telephones) come at a premium price relative to dedicated GPS units if you are only looking for a navigation device, the added functionality to other features makes them a serious alternative navigation tool for many walking applications. With powerful applications software constantly being released, along with enhanced battery life, all bushwalking owners of modern mobile phones should be investigating the power of their current units as they may already own a very capable GPS-enabled device without the need to purchase a dedicated GPS unit.

Ian Mair

BOGONG HIGH PLAINS DECEMBER 15–18, 2017

After a night at Mountain Creek camping ground our group of six drove to Bogong village on a warm Saturday morning. The car shuffle done, we crossed the road and commenced our walk on the Spring Saddle track across the road from the village. Although we were on a well-made 4WD track with a moderate gradient, it was hard work in the rapidly intensifying heat and the occasional shady spots were much appreciated. After a short post-lunch exploration of a more direct but heavily overgrown track our leader decided to stick to the more traditional route, so we returned to the Spring Saddle track for another 2 km before turning left on the Fainter Fire Trail. After a few more kilometres we started to feel the cool alpine air and the track levelled out, presenting us with marvellous views of Mt Bogong and the Bogong high plains to the south-east. We camped at Bogong Jack Saddle, 800 m above our starting point.

The next day dawned bright and sunny, a perfect morning for climbing the Fainters, which we did, before rejoining the track and stopping for lunch by a creek. We then walked the final 5 km to Tawonga Huts, which we reached mid-afternoon. After making camp the more energetic members of the group climbed the Jaithmathangs.

Our final day on top was overcast and a little cooler. We headed south, dropping our packs for a short but scrubby climb up Mt Jim, and then followed the AAWT to Cope Saddle Hut where we turned north, reaching the Pretty Valley Pondage and the cars before midday. After a welcome free shower at Falls Creek (up the steps to the left of the supermarket) we stopped for lunch in Mt Beauty before heading back to Melbourne. Many thanks to our leader Claire for organising a most enjoyable long weekend, and to fellow walkers Di, Deb, Roger and Elise for your company.

Judith Shaw

WESTERNPORT BAY TRAIL – ART TERRY MEMORIAL RIDE JANUARY 20, 2018

Our leader Ross Berner dedicated this ride to the memory of Art Terry, a life time member of the Club who passed away in December. Art was a keen bike rider and often rode this trail and used it a starting point for longer rides in Gippsland.

I met Art on my first outing with the Club, Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail. I was at Flinders Street Station looking very confused as to which train I had to catch, when a gentleman asked me where I was riding. When I explained this was my first ride with the MBW he said he was also a member, and was not riding today due to a previous commitment. He kindly escorted me to the right platform and made sure I caught the correct train.

After riding with Art a few times I mentioned I would like to do the Wangaratta–Beechworth rail trail He said he would go with me if I made all the necessary arrangements. We were staying at The Criterion Hotel and during dinner, Art said we would have to skip breakfast to leave at 7 am to get back to Wangaratta to catch the 2:30 pm train. Next morning at 7 am we knocked the ice off our bikes and headed to Wang. We arrived prior to noon and had to fill in a couple of hours before the train arrived.

There were six starters for today's ride. We commenced at Somerville Station and headed south towards the boardwalk crossing the wetlands to Hastings, a picturesque fishing town. The surface of the trail, although in good condition, was very varied: concrete, asphalt, gravel and boardwalk. It provided great views across Westernport to Sandstone, French and Phillip Islands and passed through the southernmost habitat of mangroves in Australia. Leaving the trail we continued along the road to Stony Point. After a morning tea break we circumnavigated the Naval Base and continued to Somers Beach for lunch. After exploring the beautiful beach we headed towards Balnarring and eventually reached the Frankston–Stony Point railway line which was followed through Bittern to Hastings. From there we retraced our steps back to Somerville. The last couple of kilometres was uphill which tested our stamina. Total distance covered for the day was 63 kilometres.

Today's ride was one Art which would have enjoyed and it was fitting that a few of old adversaries honoured his memory.

Many thanks to Ross for organising the walk, and to my co-riders Ed, John, Jopie and Lars for their company.

Ray Spooner

MT FEATHERTOP AND MT HOTHAM GRAND LOOP, 26–30 DECEMBER, 2017

The rain drops pounded incessantly on the paper-thin surfaces of our fragile hike tents. Flashes of light, followed by the deafening roar of thunder, cast silhouettes of another world outside. Huddled within, we squirmed deeper into our sleeping bags wondering what the night would bring. But I am getting ahead of myself.

The walk was promoted as ‘a walk in one of Victoria’s most attractive alpine areas, taking in a number of iconic locations’. The grading of Medium/Hard made it clear it was not going to be a simple stroll in the park. Mount Feathertop (1903 m), Mount Loch (1865 m) and Mount Hotham (1857 m) along our route weigh in respectively as the 3rd, 6th and 8th highest mountains in Victoria. The North West Spur and Diamantina Spur approaches to The Razorback track draw well-deserved respect from seasoned bushwalkers looking for a challenging climb. We would tackle them all.

With a climb of 1450 m up the North West Spur on the first day, from our starting point at the Trout Farm near Harrietville to the top of Mount Feathertop, our attention was always going to be focussed on the weather forecasts. It was summer and any prospect of searing heat could force a change of plans. The Gods were kind. It would be warm for our start, but manageable. An early departure would get us up to higher altitudes before the heat of the day set in. By lunchtime we were relaxing in the relative cool of the MUMC Hut enjoying the views back to the Bright Valley far below and the peak of Mount Feathertop still towering above. Seemingly not much later we were on top of the peak absorbing the views in all directions. The rest of our walk lay before us. We scanned the features of the Alpine National Park. Only scattered clouds drifted in a sea of blue.

A quick check of the latest weather forecast revealed milder temperatures for the next few days and the prospect of scattered light showers late the next day was of no concern. Without exception we were prepared for any change in weather typical of walking in alpine regions. However, the ominous ‘possibility of a thunder storm’ seemed remote. As day one drew to a close we settled down for a quiet night satisfied with the achievements of the day.

Day 2 promised a cumulative ascent of around 740 m, but none of the big climbs of day 1. A relaxed walk across The Razorback before ascending Mount Hotham on the way to Hotham Village were ticked off without any drama. Preoccupation with the prospects of lunch and coffee in the Village were forefront in our minds. Contented with another good day free of rain, and a good lunch, we set up camp in the vicinity of Spargo Hut, but far enough away to not compromise the heritage significance of the area. Dark clouds were forming beyond our views of Hotham Village. Before nightfall the rain began and we settled in for an early night. Thunder and lightning and swirling winds disturbed the sleep throughout the night. By morning it seemed the worst had passed and we cheerfully packed up for day 3 in the expectation that another good day of walking lay ahead.

So it was that in quick succession we passed the iconic landmarks of Derrick Hut, Mount Loch, Red Robin Mine and finally Blairs Hut with no more than a few spots of rain. With tents erected we congregated in the hut to chat and prepare our evening meals. Mobile phone reception was poor and the sounds of thunder were unexpected. Before long it was the quick and the wet. Solid rain drummed on the corrugated roof of Blairs Hut as we pondered our next move. The next morning it was a case of congratulating ourselves for selecting tent sites out of the hollows and channels as we prepared for the day ahead. Day 4 turned out to be clear and warm, a reminder of day 1, as we headed for the second big climb of the trip – up Diamantina Spur.

When lunchtime arrived we were already at Federation Hut. The heat of the day was rising and we were still reflecting on two previous wet and stormy nights. A big decision had to be made. Should we stick to schedule and camp at Federation Hut or make a dash down Bungalow Spur to reach the Harrietville ice-cream shop before it closes? It was never a close vote. It was ice-cream hands down.

With thanks to my walking companions for a very enjoyable and memorable trip.

Ian Mair



MT HOWITT – MT SPECULATION PACK CARRY JANUARY 4–9, 2018



At the turnoff to the Crosscut Saw

Our small group of seven walkers met up early Friday morning at Mt Howitt Plains Car Park after having camped Thursday night at various locations near Bennison Plains. We set off walking around 0930 via Macalister Springs, replenishing with good fresh water from the spring, and then headed out toward the Cross Cut Saw on a moderately warm day.

We soon were experiencing the delight of the walk that was to last for the entire weekend with the wildflowers in full bloom and forming an unceasing carpet of colour and beauty. I have never experienced the flowers this good ever, and our leader John counted approximately 30 various flower identities over the weekend. After lunch, which was cool and relaxing sitting under the old snow gums and surrounded by the flowers, near the head of Stanley's Name Spur, we pushed on to experience some real walking over the rugged track across the Crosscut Saw – as the afternoon warmed up.



Chamomile Sunray

Friday night's camp was on the top of Mt Buggery, but not before an evening side trip out over to Mt Speculation and taking in the magnificent views of the stunning Viking and Razor not too far in the distance. However the return trip to our camp back up over Mt Buggery fully loaded with water was less joy at the end of a long day. We also found the lower parts of the track in parts overgrown with thick scrub to push through.

Saturday promised to be extremely hot so our plans were modified to return to Macalister Springs which provided shady shelter, easy access to the spring water and the prize camp site high looking out over the Devils Staircase and the Crosscut Saw. In the afternoon we took a side trip out to the top of Mt Howitt which had extremely gusty and refreshing winds blowing us about, and amazing views in every direction.

Sunday was a walk back to the cars at Howitt Car park and early return home, with an optional short side trip out towards Bryces Gorge on the return along Mt Howitt Road, where we found the Pieman Falls full and flowing.

All of us walkers, with leader John Terrell, thank Roger Wyett very much for his preview and effort to make a water drop for the group, which

enabled us to replan the route not to start from the Upper Howqua Camp which was inaccessible due to road washouts. Great walk John, with our new members Gael and David experiencing an initiation pack carry with the club, and frequent flyers Ian, Jenny, Jopie, and myself thanking you for putting this walk on for us all to enjoy.

Di McKinley

Photos by Ian Mair, John Terrell or Gael Reed



Nicely shaded campsite at Macalister Springs

BEGINNERS' PACK CARRY – MT ALEXANDER REGIONAL PARK 13–14 JANUARY, 2018

It is not an easy decision to take the step of committing to do your first multi-day Pack Carry walk. It is not much easier if it has been quite a while since you last experienced the thrill of getting away from the bustling throng and spending time in remoter locations reliant for your comfort on the preparations you have made in fitness and equipment. The club conducts Beginner's Pack Carry trips to ease any concerns and provide support in making choices that can change the level of your enjoyment for years to come. They have a range of challenges and experiences that introduce walkers to advances in equipment selection, walking and camping conditions and the comradery that comes from spending time together. They are not all 'easy' just because they are classified as being for Beginners, but they all provide a level of support that makes the transition to multi-day walks less stressful. The club's selection of equipment for hire is an ideal way too to test out some of the alternatives before making an expensive purchase.

It was an expectant group of eight that set forth on Saturday morning to test themselves in the Mt Alexander Regional Park, a mix of beginners and more experienced walkers out to share their passion for walking. Rising 350 metres above the surrounding area, Mount Alexander Regional Park is a prominent landmark offering a natural forest setting for picnics and bushwalking. It also provides panoramic views of the surrounding area from natural features such as Dog Rocks and Shepherd's Flat and the West Ridge walking track which links all the major lookouts and points of interest in the park.

The selected route around the park was well suited to the aims and outcomes of the weekend.

1. The route was challenging enough to allow participants a chance to test their own capabilities, but it was not so demanding/long with the outcome that inexperienced participants would be turned away from future walks;
2. The route offered a variety of walking conditions, but not too difficult for first time pack carry walkers;
3. The trip allowed participants a chance to compare gear and food options without being overly prescriptive through suggested lists and comments; and
4. It had all of the ingredients for a fun weekend.

The pace was unhurried and provided plenty of time for chatting and sharing of information. Historic features such as the Coliban Main Channel, abandoned granite quarries and the site of the former Leanganook Koala Park added to the interest along the walk. The entire top of Leanganook (Mount Alexander) was once a male initiation site, used by all the Dja Dja Wurrung tribes in Victoria. In 1851 gold was discovered nearby and in the 1860s the first quarries had opened to provide stone for the Northern Railway. Since then Mount Alexander granite has been used for buildings in Melbourne and monuments such as the base of the Burke and Wills memorial. By the 1870s the mountain was stripped of vegetation to provide timber for the goldfields, which is not evident from the trees that now cover much of the area.

You might expect that a 2-day walk would not present any issues with weather that could not be anticipated. Such was not the case. Forecast conditions made sure we were prepared for the odd shower on Saturday followed by a fine day on Sunday. Precision timing had us setting up camp and comfortably under cover as the first rain drops fell. Alas, the planning was not so good with respect to the temperature. A fire

on Saturday evening provided a level of comfort sufficient to keep us out of bed until darkness arrived but the chilly conditions overnight belied the summer expectations. Brave faces in the morning shrugged off any discomfort experienced, however a lesson had been learnt to avoid skimping on warmth to save weight.

By the time we returned to our cars early afternoon on Sunday there was plenty to think about in preparation for the next multi-day walk. The learning opportunity though was not yet finished. A navigation challenge was posed by the leader to find the way to the Redesdale Hotel for a refreshing drink before heading home. Sadly not all of the club's more experienced walkers passed the test!



Lunch at Langs Lookout on Sunday

Ian Mair

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.



TRACK MAINTENANCE

MT WHITELAW

DATE 1–4 March 2018
STANDARD Easy/Medium
CO-ORDINATOR John Terrell
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Mt Baw Baw
FIRE BAN DISTRICT West Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Latrobe Valley

Join the Friends of Baw Baw National Park to work on drainage and general maintenance (including cutting back vegetation) along the Australian Alps Walking Track (Mt Whitelaw area). Contact Peter Maffei from BTAC on 5176 1765 or peter.maffei@bigpond.com (with a copy to environment@mbw.org.au) to register your interest in this activity.

If coming Thursday 1st, meet at DELWP Office, Parkers Corner at 8:00 am. Meet on the job for other days. Base Camp will be established at end of jeep track leading from Stronachs Camp.

Note: All food will be supplied by Parks Victoria for registered participants. Bring camping gear, alpine clothing, lunch, camera, and sturdy footwear.

We will cross to the north of Koonung Creek and continue east along the creek.

Lunch will be in the Slater Reserve which has public toilets. After lunch we will walk back along the southern side of the creek back to the cars.

We can visit a café in Belmore Road, Mont Albert North for a coffee after the walk.

Meet at Elgar Park at the junction of Elgar Road and Belmore Road, (Melway 47 B4) before 10:30 am. There is a parking area and public toilets on Belmore Road.

Book with Alan and Jan.



PACK CARRY

TARKINE IN NORTH WEST TASMANIA

DATE Saturday 3 to Saturday 10 March 2018
STANDARD Hard
LEADER Claire Luxford
TRANSPORT Private
TRANSPORT COST See arrangements below.
AREA North West Tasmania

NOTE: TRIP FULL. WAIT LIST BEING DEVELOPED.

Without trying to turn people away, the walk will be tough, exciting and rewarding. The walk is rated hard and is through untracked country. Three days is along beach, 3–4 days in mountains with subalpine flora with rocky outcrops, button grass hills, and if we're unlucky, scrub. There will be magnificent mountain views of the wild Tarkine coast and Norfolk Range. Several rivers must be crossed. Extra time has been allowed in case we have to wait it out for water to recede before crossing.

We commence walking from Western Explorer Road to Mt Edith, head to Mt Hadmar with a side trip to Mt Sunday. From Mt Sunday we head out to the coast, spend a couple of days exploring the coast while making our way to the mouth of the Pieman River where we will meet the Arcadia 11, a 1939 Huon Pine boat that will take us upstream to Corinna.

We should be back in Corinna by 2 pm, allowing time to catch transport back to Melbourne.

Costs:

Each individual is responsible for getting themselves to/from Tasmania.

Group transport will be organized to/from beginning and end of walk. A private bus leaving from Launceston can take us to and from the walk for \$110.00 per person each way. It will take 3.5–4 hrs each way. Transport is available to be



TOFS WALK

KOONUNG CREEK LINEAR PARK

DATE Thursday 1 March 2018
START TIME 10:30 am at Elgar Park
RETURN TIME Before 3 pm
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE Approximately 10 km
ELEVATION Predominantly flat
LEADERS Alan and Jan Case
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Mont Albert North and Blackburn North
MAP REFERENCE Melway Maps 47 and 48
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

The walk will start and finish at Elgar Park. The walk is mostly on shared pedestrian/bicycle paths. We will initially walk north-west to the Koonung Creek wetlands. We will walk through the wetlands via the boardwalk, provided the projected boardwalk rebuild has been completed.

booked now, and we need to book ASAP as it may not be available closer to dates.

Arcadia 11 – \$40.00

See links below for more information:

http://www.bobbrown.org.au/melbourne_will_save_takayna_tarkine_2017
<http://bushwalk.com/forum/viewtopic.php?t=25521>
<http://sbw.us2.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=b9bd4d83f6781cb7b5c545f7d&id=70af20cd74&e=66547476eb>

If after reading the above you're still interested please contact Claire Luxford claire.luxford@gmail.com



SUNDAY BUS

CUMBERLAND RIVER

DATE Sunday 3 March 2018
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm
STANDARDS Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCES 14 and 16 km, approximately
ELEVATIONS 350 m and 400 m
LEADERS Ivan Biber and Denise Charman
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
MAP REFERENCE Lorne 7620-1-1 (1:25,000); Spatial Vision Walk Guide
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Geelong



The walks will start Cumberland River Reserve, 7 km southwest of Lorne on the Great Ocean Road. The walk will commence along the Cumberland River going upstream, and will have several river crossings. Although fairly shallow, the river crossings will be on rocks, which can be a little slippery. There is a sharp rise along a track which last year was a little overgrown. This is being written before the preview, so the walk may need to change a little, depending on the conditions. After the steep rise, the track is wide and in excellent condition, leading to Sheoak Picnic Area. Depending on time, we may visit Lower Kalimna Falls (medium group also goes to Upper Kalimna Falls), Swallow Cave and the superb Sheoak Falls.



WEDNESDAY WALK

BLACKWOOD

DATE Wednesday 7 March 2018
RETURN TIME To cars by 3:30 pm
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 14 km

LEADER Fay Dunn
TRANSPORT Private vehicles
AREA Blackwood
MAP REFERENCE Wombat State Forest Touring Guide
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Ballarat

We will depart from the Jack Cann Reserve outside the Garden of St Erth at 10:30. The walk will explore disused mines sites and head to the Lerdederg Heritage River walk returning to The Garden of St Erth via an old water race and Simmons Reef Road. The walk is along clear tracks with some undulations but no steep hills.

Please let me know you are coming.



BASE CAMP

GREAT BARRIER ISLAND, NORTH ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND

DATE Friday 9 to Saturday 17 March 2018
STANDARD Easy
LEADER Susan Maughan
TRANSPORT Private
TRANSPORT COST See arrangements below.

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

Susan Maughan is organising a trip to GREAT BARRIER ISLAND NZ, a four-and-a-half-hour ferry trip from Auckland. It is paradise re-imagined.

It is off the grid with a population of 800. There are walking tracks galore offering day walks with views to take your breath away. Plus hot pools, dolphins, and tranquility.

See links below for more information:

<http://www.thebarrier.co.nz/walkingtracks.htm>



PACK CARRY

MT BOGONG – STIRLING GAP – HOWMANS FALLS

DATE 9–12 March 2018
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 32 km plus side trips
TOTAL ASCENT Around 2000 m
LEADER Mark Simpson
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Mt Bogong
MAP REFERENCE BogongA Ipine Area 1:50,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Eastern
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Falls Creek

This is a great walk up to Mt Bogong, done quite often because it features lovely alpine scenery, Victoria's highest mountain and the Howman Falls. There is a big climb to get up there, but we can take our time.

Day 1 will be the big climb up Staircase Spur, just under 1500m of climbing and 10 km to get to our campsite in the headwaters of Bogong Creek. We may have time for a side trip to explore down the cascading creek to where it drops down off the plateau.

Day 2 has a pack carry of only about 7.5 km and 200 m of climbing, but there will be a side trip from our camp at Cleve Cole Hut, to Howmans Falls, a spectacular but little visited waterfall.

Day 3 sees us walking 14.5 km back down Eskdale Spur to the cars, with about 240 m of up.

The walking is mainly on track with some off track walking over snow grass.

Friday night's camp will be at the Mountain Creek campground and we will aim to be ready to start walking from there at 8:00 am. The weather on Bogong can be bitter and cold any time of the year so come prepared for rain and snow but we'll of course hope for blue skies.

Come and join me on this 3 day adventure to one of Victoria's classic alpine areas.



TRACK MAINTENANCE

AAWT: THE TWINS, MT SELWYN (BTAC)

DATE 9-12 March 2018
STANDARD Easy/Medium
CO-ORDINATOR John Terrell
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Mt Hotham
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North East
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Albury-Wodonga

Join members of other bushwalking clubs in clearing part of the Australian Alps Walking Track (section around The Twins and Mt Selwyn, working towards Barry Saddle). Camping Friday night at JB Plain. Further details available shortly. Contact John Terrell (environment@mbw.org.au) to register your interest and for further information.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

BLOWHARD SPUR (EILDON)

DATE Sunday 11 March 2018
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to city
STANDARD Medium/Hard
DISTANCE 18 km
TOTAL ASCENT 320 m
LEADER John Fritze
TRANSPORT Carpool - leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Eildon
MAP REFERENCE Collier Bay 1:25,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North East
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Buller

It's hard to believe that Lake Eildon has a capacity six times the size of Sydney Harbour! Our walk is in a small portion set aside as a national park. We start at Wallaby Bay and follow a pleasant walking track around the shore to Aird Inlet. From here we climb about 320m off track through open forest up Jack of Clubs Spur before descending back to the cars down Blowhard and Keg Spurs. Along the way we will have some excellent views over the lake and surrounding countryside and maybe an opportunity for a swim.



WEDNESDAY WALK

BURCHELL TRACK LOOP, NORTH OF STEIGLITZ

DATE Wednesday 14 March 2018
RETURN TIME 3:00 pm
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 12.5 km
TOTAL ASCENT 200 m
LEADER Ed Neff
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Brisbane Ranges
MAP REFERENCE Brisbane Ranges National Park, Meridian Maps

FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Ballarat

This is a circuit walk which takes in one leg of the Burchell Trail. The full Burchell Trail is normally tackled as a 3 day 35 km hike. This is a good opportunity to experience the Southern Brisbane Ranges with not too much climbing. The area was rich in mining.

We will start the walk at 10:00 am from the Crossing Picnic Area. From the Steiglitz Court House continue NW for 1.9 km along the Meredith Steiglitz Road to Hut Road on your right. The Crossing Picnic Area is 0.8 km along Hut Road.

You can telephone Ed to book or for further information,



TRAINING

NAVIGATION TRAINING - WERRIBEE GORGE

DATE Saturday 17 March 2018
RETURN TIME By 5 pm
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 5-6 km
ELEVATION 120 m fluctuation
LEADER Roger Wyett
TRANSPORT Car pool
TRANSPORT COST Approx. \$15 per person
AREA Werribee Gorge
MAP REFERENCE Melway Key Map 7 B5
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

We will car pool from the club rooms, departing at 0845 and meeting in the top car park at the entrance to Werribee Gorge at approx 0945. After a short 1.5 km walk we will undertake the theory aspects in a shed (in case of rain) and then a number of group navigation tasks across country to gain experience navigating on a bearing. As well as a few tips and tricks to make navigation easy.

The group will be limited to 6 participants, so all participants will have a chance to navigate in a small group, without any pressure, as this is all about learning. Please bring a compass (borrow one from another club member) and standard day pack, as we will be away from the cars all day, but likely to be an early finish, as long as no one gets lost!



SATURDAY WALK

MERRI CREEK MEANDER (PUBLIC TRANSPORT WALK)

DATE Saturday 17 March 2018
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 10 km
LEADER Maureen Hurley
TRANSPORT Public transport
AREA Coburg North, Northcote, Fairfield
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 17J6, 30A1, 30E11
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

We will meet at Merlynston Station, corner Bain Avenue and Obvioto Street, Merlynston at 10:10 am. An Upwey line train leaves Flinders Street at 9:40 am and arrives at Merlynston at 10:07 am. We will cross busy Sydney Road, and walk down Queens Parade to the Merri Bike track. The northern end of the track is well shaded, and continues on to the attractive Coburg Lake, passing Market Gardens to C.E.R.E.S, a community environmental park on several acres

of land. We will spend some time here looking around at the various features of the park, which are educational, social, and interesting. We then continue on through the inner suburbs of Melbourne to Fairfield Boathouse, where we will explore some tracks in this area.

The Fairfield Station is only a short walk away, and is approximately 15 minutes commute to Flinders Street. There is also the option of leaving the walk earlier and catching public transport back to the city (either train or tram).



SUNDAY BUS

LEANGANOOK TRACK – MT ALEXANDER

DATE Sunday 18 March 2018
START TIME Depart Southbank Boulevard at 8:45 am
RETURN TIME Return to Southbank Boulevard at 6:30 pm
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES 11 km and 16 km
TOTAL ASCENTS 550 m rise and 640 m rise
LEADERS Ian Mair and Tracey Jamieson
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Mt Alexander Regional Park
MAP REFERENCE CCM Mt Alexander Walking Tracks Map
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Bendigo

Rising 350 m above the surrounding area, Mount Alexander Regional Park is a prominent landmark offering magnificent views and a natural forest setting for picnics and bushwalking. It also provides important habitat for several rare or threatened species. Experience panoramic views of the surrounding area from Dog Rocks. The West Ridge walking track links all the major lookouts and points of interest in the park.

Both walks will enter the Mt Alexander Regional Park from the northern end to take in all that it has to offer. The Easy walk will start from the Harcourt–Sutton Grange Road and after a gentle start will commence a long climb to the top of Mt Alexander near Laings Lookout. The Easy/Medium Walk will start further north from the North Harcourt Road and do a brisk 5 km warm-up beside the historic Coliban Main Channel before picking up the route of the Easy walk. Both walks follow the route of the Leanganook section of the Great Dividing Trail.



CYCLING

SOUTH MORANG TO HURSTBRIDGE (TRAIN BASED)

DATE Sunday 18 March 2018
RETURN TIME 5 pm
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 48 km
LEADER Jopie Bodegraven
TRANSPORT Train
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

This lovely ride explores the newer suburbs of South Morang, Mernda, Laurimar and Doreen plus visits Yan Yean Reservoir for lunch. It features lots of bike paths and quiet streets, beautiful old red gums and maybe surprisingly lots of lakes. After Doreen we have a scenic run, mostly downhill past farms, trees and rural views to Hurstbridge where we will finish off with afternoon tea at the local café before our train home.

Catch the 9:08 am train from Flinders Street to South Morang, arriving there at 10:00 am where we will meet on the platform or just outside the exit gates. The train departs Clifton Hill Station at 9:28 and the return train from Hurstbridge

rejoins the South Morang line there so you could park there if you are coming by car. I will be joining the train at Northcote.

Please ring me or email me if you would like to join me on this super ride.



MOFS WALK

BRAESIDE PARK – WATERWAYS – MORDIALLOC

DATE Monday 19 March 2018
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 9.5 km
LEADER Eileen Ayre
TRANSPORT Public transport
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 88, 93 and 92
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

We will meet at the Information point near the north west entrance to the park (opposite Howard Road) – Melway 88, C8. To get there, I recommend the Frankston line train leaving Flinders Street at 9:03. Get off at 9:50 at Mentone station. Perhaps people can meet in the last carriage. This train will connect well with the 812 bus towards Dandenong, leaving from Como Parade West (opposite the other platform) at 10:02. At 10:14, the bus is due to arrive at Howard Road, Dingley Village, where you cross into the park.

After walking through Braeside Park, we cross into the suburb of Waterways, heading to morning tea at The Nest – a particularly well-placed café overlooking a lake. We then walk through this fairly new suburb, partly on bicycle tracks. As it is a part of the wetlands which are so important to some migratory birds, it is disappointingly suburban. However, we will follow as closely as we can to the lake and then cross further south to walk along tracks to Mordialloc. We end with walking beside the Mordialloc Creek, and finish up close to Mordialloc Station or the beach for any who want to extend the experience.

Meet at 10:20 for a 10:30 start.

Please book with Eileen in case any details change.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE Wednesday 21 March 2018
TIME 8 pm
VENUE Clubrooms

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

The Wine and Cheese is free.

More information in the March News.



SOCIAL WALK

WILSON RESERVE, IVANHOE

DATE Thursday 22 March 2018
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 5 km
ELEVATION Flat
LEADER Pearson Cresswell
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Ivanhoe
MAP REFERENCE Melway map 31 G10–K11
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

The walk follows the bank of the Yarra River from Wilson Reserve upriver to the Burke Road bridge, returning by the same track. That's only about 5 km so there is an option to go a little further into the Yarra Flats park if people are feeling frisky. The path is flat, well surfaced and well shaded. For those interested in lunch afterwards we can head for a café in Ivanhoe East.

Meet at the carpark at the end of Irvine Street (Melway map 31 G10), accessible from The Boulevard, for a 1015 start. There are toilets here.

For booking and any further information ring Pearson.



BASE CAMP

CAMP EUREKA, YARRA JUNCTION

DATE Friday 23 to Sunday 25 March 2018
STANDARDS Medium
DISTANCES Various
LEADER Susan Maughan
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Yarra Junction/Warburton
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Yarra Glen

The Christmas base camp at Camp Eureka (<http://campeureka.org.au>) enjoys a fine reputation, not least because we have exclusive use of this pristine bushland on the bank of the Little Yarra River.

Arrive any time after 4 pm, Friday 23rd. There is a choice of accommodation: private cabins (some with Heritage listing), dorms or camping. The cost is the same – APPROX \$25 per person per night. That night we will eat at the pub in Yarra Junction.

I plan to do the Britannia Ridge track on Saturday. It's rated medium/medium hard.

Saturday dinner is share-a-plate. There is no need to bring anything else, as the kitchen is FULLY equipped.

You must bring a powerful torch, though, because there is no lighting between the buildings, although there is power to the cabins and dorms.

Check out late Sunday morning. I might add a short walk, depending on numbers.

Contact Susan Maughan to book.



SUNDAY BUS

FLINDERS-BALNARRING-COOLART WETLANDS

DATE Sunday 25 March 2018
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
LEADERS Theo Mertzandis and Wendy Fortington
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Frankston

For details of this walk please contact the leaders.

CANOE TRIP

CANOEING THE GLENELG RIVER OVER EASTER

DATE Thursday 29 March to Monday 2 April 2018
STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADERS Bethia Sullivan and Jamie Brawn
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Western Victoria
FIRE BAN DISTRICT South Western

TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Hamilton

NOTE: TRIP FULL. WAIT LIST BEING DEVELOPED.

The Glenelg River in the far west of Victoria offers an excellent opportunity for flat water canoeing. For much of the distance the river flows through the Lower Glenelg National Park. This is a 4-day canoe trip from Dartmoor to Nelson at the mouth of the River, travelling an average of 14 km each day. An optional side trip to the Princess Margaret Rose Caves is included on the last day. Travelling downstream, the last day of canoeing near Nelson can be affected by incoming tides and winds, which may slow progress, but we will have plenty of time.

Camping at sites designated for boat users on the river has been booked for 12 participants. The designated campsites are at Moleside, Skipworth Springs, Bowds, and Lasletts. Toilets are provided and water is seasonally available.

You can get a good idea of the fun to be experienced from the following video clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8W3uTfBlolI>

We have booked for a group size of 12 so numbers are limited and early Expressions of Interest are recommended. Cost is expected to be around \$150 per person plus travel costs to Nelson and \$20 for the optional cave trip. The booking fee to secure your place will be \$75. This must be paid on booking and is not refundable unless you can be replaced,

To submit your Expression of Interest, or to seek further information, click on the following link and provide your details and any questions. canoe0318@mbw.org.au

The Leaders will be in touch with you with additional information and instructions on how to pay your booking fee should you be one of the lucky 12.



PACK CARRY

WILSONS PROM NORTHERN CIRCUIT

DATE Thursday 29 March to Monday 2 April 2018
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 57 km
LEADER Meredith Quick
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Wilsons Promontory National Park
FIRE BAN DISTRICT West Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Wonthaggi

FULL – WAIT LIST ONLY

The northern section of Wilsons Promontory National Park is a remote wilderness zone with few facilities. Toilets are not provided at any of the camp areas in the Northern Wilderness. Some track sections are marked with flagging tape only. Other sections are undefined. Hikers must have significant experience in off track navigation.

The Northern Promontory hikes are Graded Level 5 under the Australian Walking Track Grading System, based on the most difficult sections.

The maximum group size is 6 and we are not permitted to camp at the same location on any night. I have booked for two groups.

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

March 2018					
1-4	MNT: AAWT: Mt Whitelaw (Friends of Baw Baw)	Pvt	E/M	WG:lv	John Terrell (Co-ord)
Thu 1	TOF: Koonung Creek Linear Parks	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Alan & Jan Case
3-10	PC : Tarkine in North-West Tasmania	Pvt	Hard		Claire Luxford
Sun 4	DAY: Cumberland River (Lorne)	Bus	E/M&M	CN:ge	Denise Charman & Ivan Biber
Wed 7	DAY: Blackwood	Pvt	E/M	CN:ba	Fay Dunn
9-17	BC : Great Barrier Island, North Island, NZ	Pvt	Easy		Susan Maughan
9-12	PC : Mt Bogong – Stirling Gap – Howmans Falls	Pvt	Med	NE:fc	Mark Simpson
9-12	MNT: AAWT: The Twins, Mt Selwyn (BTAC)	Pvt	E/M	NE:aw	John Terrell (Co-ord)
Sun 11	DAY: Blowhard Circuit – Lake Eildon	Car	M/H	NE:mb	John Fritze & Carol Ward
Wed 14	DAY: Burchell Track loop, north of Steiglitz	Pvt	E/M	CN:ba	Ed Neff
Sat 17	TRG: Navigation Training – Werribee Gorge	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Roger Wyett
Sat 17	DAY: Merri Creek meander	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Maureen Hurley
Sun 18	DAY: NEW: Leanganook Track – Mt Alexander	Bus	E&E/M	NC:be	Ian Mair & Tracey Jamieson
Sun 18	CYC: South Morang to Hurstbridge (train based)	Pvt	E/M	CN:me	Jopie Bodegraven
Mon 19	MOF: Mordialloc – Braeside waterways	Pvt	Easy	NC:me	Eileen Ayre
Wed 21	MTG: Annual General Meeting				Committee
Thu 22	SOC: Chelmsworth Park, Wilson Res. Trail	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Pearson Cresswell
23-25	BC : Camp Eureka, Yarra Junction	Pvt	Med		Susan Maughan
Sun 25	DAY: Flinders – Balnarring – Coolart Wetlands	Bus	E&E/M	CN:fr	Theo Mertzandis & Wendy Fortington
29-2	CAN: Canoeing the Glenelg River over Easter	Pvt	E/M	SW:ha	Bethia Sullivan & Jamie Brawn
29-2	PC : Wilsons Prom Northern Circuit	Pvt	Med	WG:wn	Meredith Quick