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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

January 2018

VALE MAX CASLEY

Most of you will be aware by now that Max passed away on 2nd December. Indeed, many of you were at the Celebration of Max's life. The event was standing room only with the crush of family, bushwalkers and other friends overflowing into the adjacent patio.

I met Max in the early 70's when he returned from Imperial College with his brand new PhD. We shared an office in the Research Laboratories of the organisation which eventually became Telstra, although we worked on different projects. It was during this time that Max and his brother started walking with the Melbourne Bushwalkers. Following Max's lead, it was not long before I was also walking with the club. Unlike his brother, Max found walking to his liking and was active with the club for four and a half decades.

Max was unusual. In a good way. He never seemed to talk ill of another person. That was reciprocated. Everyone seemed to like Max. He was gentle. A gentleman. It is hard to think of a fault with Max, but there is one that several people have mentioned: his hearty nocturnal acoustic emissions. Some claim that Max was outstanding in this regard. Max knew this and would considerably pitch his tent away from the others. On his trips to the Rover Chalet, he would sleep alone in a cold remote room, leaving the lesser snorers to compete among themselves.

Max contributed more than his likeable personality to the club. He was a regular leader of activities, leading a total of many more than one hundred of them. He also served the club for several years as Walks Secretary. In recognition of his contributions he was appointed a Life Member in 2009.

Max was more than a bushwalking engineer. His sister and his niece spoke of their great affection for him. He was loved. His departure is a sad loss to more than just the Melbourne Bushwalkers.

Bill Metzenth

*Photo from Club's
photogallery, 2012*



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

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 February 2018

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:
Rose Perich, Pamela Douglas, Elizabeth Jazwinska, Shariann Girgis

Make 2018 the Year of Training and enrol in our leader training units beginning with

CRITICAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT WEDNESDAY 17 JANUARY 7:30–9:00 pm in the Clubrooms

This is a unit which is crucial for all walkers to think about. Critical incidents while we hike have occurred and will continue to be part of the risks associated with hiking. Thinking about and preparing scenarios for critical incidents allows us to react confidently to resolve unexpected situations. Come along and participate in scenarios to acquire valuable knowledge for such events.

The following components make up Unit 7

- * What to establish before the walk
- * Common Incidents
- * Major Accident/Incident which occur frequently.
- * Protocols to Follow
- * Follow ups after an Incident

Training for 2018 will continue, repeating the Module 1 for interested leaders, so stay tuned.

February 10th training will focus on using GPS.

March training will provide navigational skills training.

- If interested please email the training officer Angela (vetsiang8@gmail.com).

BURKE AND WILLS WALK

Phil and Susan McDonald are organising the Burke & Wills Walk raising funds for the Fred Hollows Foundation.

DATE Sunday February 11th 2018

WHERE The Charity 13 km Loop Walk leaves Royal Park Melbourne at 9 am to Queens Park Moonee Ponds then returns along Moonee Ponds Creek Trail back to Royal Park.

Entries are available at: <https://www.philsusanmcdonald.com/freds-walk>

Help us help others restore sight.



1 Day Burke & Wills WALK (Melbourne)
11 Feb 2018



Phil's Burke & Wills TREK
depart (Melbourne) 6 May 2018

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – JANUARY 2018

One of the pleasures I enjoy about being a member of Melbourne Bushwalkers is the satisfaction that comes with seeing other members willing to try doing things differently in what we do and the way we operate as a Club. Our Purposes for existing as a Club are spelled out in our Rules of Association, a legal document, but it offers enormous scope in how we go about fulfilling what is written.

For those of you that haven't read the Rules recently the relevant words are contained in Rule 2:

"2 Purposes

The purposes of the association are—

1. To bring together those who enjoy bushwalking and related outdoor activities;
2. To encourage an appreciation of the wild life and natural beauty of this country and assist in its preservation;
3. To organise walking tours and other outdoor activities;
4. To promote social activities among the members."

I readily acknowledge that, over time, we have developed and incorporated into our By-Laws and other documents many preferred ways of fulfilling the Purposes of the Club. Indeed, many of our members, like you, have chosen to join the Club because you like what we do or the way we do things. But our current ways are not set in stone. We live in a dynamic society constantly changing in the ways we communicate and the things we enjoy doing. A cursory browse of some of our newsletters from past years will highlight the fact that we have always been in a process of change driven by the interests of the members at the time. Caving trips to the Nullarbor, lilo trips down the Shoalhaven River, nights at the opera, even wine bottling parties, have had their day. Only two factors have remained constant over the years, the Purposes of the Club and the interest and willingness of members to give it a go. Today it is your Club and if you would like to propose something different in how or what we do then see if you have like-minded members prepared to give it a go with you. You may be surprised how ready the Club is to help facilitate change. Only one word of advice, don't suggest something in the hope that someone else may put in the effort to make it happen!

On the topic of change I noted at the Christmas Party a few achievements and measures of the way the Club is changing even as you read this column. To keep it simple I have rounded some of the numbers to make them easier to remember. During calendar year 2017 Life Member Jean Giese achieved the age of 90 years. Still active and enthusiastic in Club affairs, Jean epitomises an agent for change in the Club. We owe the initiation of many of our mid-week walks to the willingness of Jean to make them happen. The year also saw our membership at the end of December rise to over 500 for the first time in a number of years, a direct result of embracing social media as part of our communications channels. The Club newsletter, the primary record of our activities and history, reached its 800th edition. The growth in membership was reflected in a rise in the number of participant days on Club outdoor activities to around 3000 for the year. Even more importantly we have seen the average age of Club members dropping to around 60 years of age with that of members joining in the last 3 years averaging around 50 years as a growing number of younger members join in. I would hesitate to predict what new initiatives may shape our future directions but I can confidently say that all of the changes we have seen in recent years have placed the Club in a strong position to continue as one of the leading bushwalking clubs through to our 100th anniversary in 2040.

Committee Vacancies for 2018–2019

I am very pleased to note that the majority of the current Committee have volunteered to continue for another year. We do, however, have several vacancies for any member who would like to make a contribution to the running of the Club through being part of the Club committee. I would be pleased to hear from any member who would be interested in nominating either as a General Committee member or Social Secretary. Please contact me if you would like further information and a copy of the Position Description.

Interest from Special Account

Each year Melbourne Bushwalkers donates the interest received on a dedicated investment fund to an organisation or organisations whose activities are consistent with the purposes of the Club. In December the Committee donated \$360 to MyForests Inc to help promote the proposed Great Forest National Park. <https://www.greatforestnationalpark.com.au/>

Ian Mair

2018 Social Calendar

Wine and Cheese Night

Wednesday 28 February, 8–9 pm

THE REALITY OF CLIMATE CHANGE



Club member Dr. Susanne Etti is a PhD Biologist who earned her PhD in Natural Sciences from the University of Bonn in collaboration with the University of Oxford studying the spread of infectious diseases due to climate change.

In 2011 she qualified as a Climate Leader, having been trained by Al Gore personally as part of the Climate Reality Project, to present an updated version of the slide show as seen in the Academy Award-winning film, *An Inconvenient Truth*. The Climate Project educational materials are some of the best scientific and impact analysis publicly available on climate change. The aim of the Climate Project is to increase awareness of climate change with hundreds of thousands of people.

Join us for an informative presentation on a challenging issue that affects us all.



A LETTER FROM MAX'S SISTER AND BROTHER-IN-LAW

Dear Bushwalkers,

We would like to thank so many of you for coming to the celebration of Max's life on Thursday.

It was lovely to meet with some of you and hear about things you have done with Max and how much he was liked and respected by you.

We didn't know much about these things, as you may not have known much about Max's family and his academic life.

As we all know, he was more a listener than a talker!

Max would have been so happy and honoured to have seen so many of you there, and to have heard the many tributes bestowed on him – his kindness, gentleness, helpfulness and common sense. And from Graham – his frugal ways!

It is comforting for us to know that Max had found so many wonderful friends within the bushwalking club, and we thank you all for enriching his life and providing him with many enjoyable experiences and fellowship.

He will be dearly missed.

Kind regards,

Gaynor and James Whitelaw

WHERE ONLY BUSHWALKERS WILL GO!

by Marjie Courtis

Photos supplied by Bush Search & Rescue Victoria

Bush Search and Rescue Victoria

Bush Search and Rescue Victoria (BSAR) is a critical resource for Victoria Police, when people go missing in difficult bushland or alpine regions. Like other clubs affiliated with Bushwalking Victoria, Melbourne Bushwalkers is able to nominate members to BSAR, if they have the appropriate knowledge and skills.

I spoke to MBW's BSAR delegate David Laing. He said that currently MBW has seven BSAR members, eligible to be called out on searches. But with an increasing number of callouts in recent times, and the need for backup if a search is unsuccessful in the first couple of days, he believes that a target number of twelve volunteers for BSAR is appropriate for MBW for the end of 2018. Since any single volunteer is not necessarily going to be able to join a particular search, a bigger pool of volunteers is needed.



Search debrief at Coringal

BSAR Volunteer expectations

The expectations that BSAR has for volunteers are necessarily high. Volunteers need to be skilled off-track navigators, very fit, used to multi-day pack-carrying and trained in the use of BSAR technology, equipment, techniques and processes. But the rewards can be high. Derrick Brown, an MBW member who was a BSAR volunteer for over ten years, spoke of the elation that his search team felt when they discovered an autistic boy in the bush after he'd been missing for four days. Gina Hopkins, another BSAR volunteer spoke of the camaraderie among the search team, of great support from the BSAR leaders and the satisfaction of contributing to saving the life of someone who's got lost.

All searches do not necessarily end happily however. There are searches where the missing person is not found at all. And there are times when the missing person is found too late and is deceased.

So resilience is another attribute that BSAR volunteers need. As the BSAR website says, "searching imposes greater mental and physical demands than normal bushwalking or ski-touring." But the good news is that counselling and support is offered to volunteers when it is required

For more information about requirements to become a BSAR volunteer, go to <http://bsar.org/entry-requirements>.

Becoming a BSAR volunteer

Speaking to other members of MBW, not necessarily current BSAR searchers, has been revealing. I know of a couple of members who are not currently BSAR volunteers, whose interest was sparked when a member of a group they were

(continued over the page)



WHERE ONLY BUSHWALKERS WILL GO! *(continued from page 5)*

walking with went missing. They saw BSAR swing quickly into action and were impressed. I believe they are both considering skilling up further and then applying.

Perhaps you too are a potential recruit. As one of our BSAR volunteers suggested, you may simply be enjoying your bushwalking when you suddenly realise all the experience and skill you've collected along the way. Why not apply them to such a good cause?

Maybe it's just a matter of time and skills development from where you are now. Or an objective to set yourself.

David said that anyone with an interest in becoming a BSAR volunteer can attend a BSAR training session to see what it involves, and to develop some of the skills required.



Demanding searches. Demanding rescues

David and Gina both talked about the demanding nature of many searches. You are sent to “the hardest, scrubbiest gullies”, Gina said.

As a bushwalker, you are probably closer than you think to the reality of Bush Search and Rescue. When you pack your torch and your whistle for every walk, and leave your pack on the track when you “go bush”, you are subtly minimising the risk of getting lost, and preventing unnecessary BSAR callouts. Recently a person was lost on a track-clearing day that MBW participated in. Two members were inspired to consider BSAR as a result.

And even expert and extremely fit walkers can be the subject of a BSAR search. We have BSAR to thank for finding the body of the late Les Southwell, an MBW member who died while out walking on Mt Bogong. A sad discovery of course, but a necessary one. It took the skill of experienced bushwalkers to locate his body.

It's all about the gullies!

All the MBW members I spoke to about their BSAR experience talked about “the gullies”. Derrick Brown spoke of the rescue component of their successful search. The searchers had to form stretcher parties, to carry the man through “steep – very, very steep – gullies.” Gina talked about “searching in impenetrable gullies”.

David explained that many people will go down into gullies searching for water when they are lost.

And the BSAR website stresses that searchers “must be capable of prolonged heavy scrub-bashing on steep slopes”. Of course, Police Search and Rescue has significant skills and expertise of its own, but it supplements it with the State Emergency Service (SES) to search from vehicular tracks and BSAR, on foot, in the bush. As David said, it's a case of going to places “where only bushwalkers will go”.

Conclusion

Over the next year, our committee would like us to contribute more to BSAR. If you already have the skills and ability, consider applying to become a volunteer through our committee. Of course, we can't all be BSAR participants, but an increased awareness of our safety when we're bushwalking and an appreciation of the hard work contributed by our BSAR volunteers, will all go a long way. As an individual and as a club, we never know when we will need BSAR!

Notes:

1. Our current BSAR volunteers are Nigel Holmes, Gina Hopkins, David Laing, Keith Longridge, Bill Metzenthén, Mick Noonan and Roger Wyatt. .
2. For more information about BSAR, visit <http://bsar.org>

GREAT OCEAN WALK, 7-12 DECEMBER

Richard Hanson Leader

Following on from the Aire River Base Camp four Bushies commenced the four-day walk to Princeton. As has become almost the norm these days the walk from the campsite commenced with a very steep climb to the top of a headland. Once on top the views along the coast were stunning. Initially the track wound through groves of ti-tree affording shelter from the gusty wind off the ocean. We continued to admire the views until the beach was reached. Around this time the weather closed in and wet weather gear was required. After a 2 km walk along the beach, the rain was getting serious. As we approached Johanna Creek off came the shoes and socks as we waded across the creek. We reached Johanna Camp looking like drowned rats, tents were setup in the shelter first, and then to our campsites as the rain continued to fall. The shelter was crowded with a group of five young scouts and three others; however we still managed to set up clothes lines to dry off our wet gear.

The following morning the sun was shining and Richard declared a 10 o'clock start which allowed time for our gear to dry.

Ryan's Den was our next destination. The track continued along the headland with steep descents into gullies and the resultant steep climb up the other side whilst revealing glimpses of the magnificent coastline. The vegetation was continually changing from a ti-tree lined track to meandering through fern gullies and strands of grass trees as we walked further inland. On reaching Ryan's Den we caught up with the Scouts who entertained us with their enthusiasm, non-stop chatter and pranks.

The next day we started early to The Devil's Kitchen. Again the track followed the familiar pattern – up and down gullies, but as we neared the coast the terrain became flatter, more rugged. The vegetation, mainly ti-tree and correa, looked like clipped topiary as a result of the fierce wind coming off the shore which continued till we reached Moonlight Point. After checking out the lookout we had to make a decision either to continue inland or descend onto Shipwreck Beach which is only accessible at low tide. The tide was OK but we decided to go inland to the camp and do Shipwreck Beach later in the day. The inland track took us through grasstrees

and ferns under a canopy of eucalypts and along a great boardwalk which extended almost to the camp. After setting up camp we did a circuit walk along Wreck Beach, managing to avoid some rogue waves which threatened to swamp us, sighting the remains of three anchors, before climbing back up to Moonlight Point and back along the boardwalk to camp.

The final day, to Princeton, was another early start. It was also a short day, only 10 km. Gone were the gullies of the previous days – the track was fairly flat, but badly overgrown in parts with head high bracken making walking a little difficult. About halfway the bracken gave way to rocky headland until we sighted Princeton in the distance. On reaching the beach we followed the road to the Gellibrand River where a kangaroo was spotted swimming across the river. The boardwalk across the wetlands led to the General Store where we eagerly had breakfast whilst waiting for our transport back to Aire River.

Many thanks to Richard for organising a very interesting walk, and to Ian Mair and Susan McInnes for their great company.

Ray Spooner



STRATHBOGIE RANGES BASE CAMP 9-10 DEC 2017

Leader: Ray Thomas

Reporter: Angie Were

Party Members: Omar Sharief, Angie Were, and apologies from several others who had to withdraw at the last minute due to family commitments.

In a lifetime of bushwalking I had never visited the Strathbogrie Ranges, so had no prior expectations. It's just a long drive from Castlemaine, so is not easy to explore without some local knowledge. An invitation from long-time Euroa resident, Ray Thomas, was just the right trigger for a visit.

Saturday's walk in the eastern Strathbogries proved to be a delight. We approached the Ranges from the Midland Highway near the south end of Lake Nillacootie, following Donkey Hill Road and then Harper's Road westwards up onto the plateau. We drove perhaps 20 km to leave a car in the Rocky Ned area for the end of the day. Coming back to the eastern escarpment of the range, we left the second car at Harper's No 1 Track, and began the walk into Sandy Creek Falls.

We descended steeply through open peppermint forest to a deep gorge with a beautiful creek, masses of ferns, rainforest-like vegetation, and moss covering all the logs and boulders. Then moving upstream, we found a powerful, long waterfall, with pools suitable for swimming, and some of those round holes made by stones rolling around in the current over the years.

This was the first of a number of valleys and creeks as we headed NW towards Rocky Ned Falls about 12 km away. All the creeks had clear water and coarse granitic sand in the bottom, so there was no shortage of good drinking water. There were no tracks other than slight animal pads, so in the valleys there was a fair bit of scrub bashing, with one eye on the numerous orchids or wombat holes underfoot.

Each time we rose up to a ridge, the scrub thinned out and the views of the forest were beautiful, especially from the tops of various huge round granite boulders. On the tops of these boulders were gardens of moss and various flowers, including thousands of lovely mauve Rock Isotomes which grow from fine cracks in the granite, and which I had never seen before. It was a thrill walking with a botanist (Ray) and discovering flowers new to me, including vivid purple Finger Flowers and Blue Pincushions and Fringe Lilies twice the size of those in the goldfields country of central Victoria. The lavish flower display was unusual for December, probably due to the recent heavy rains.

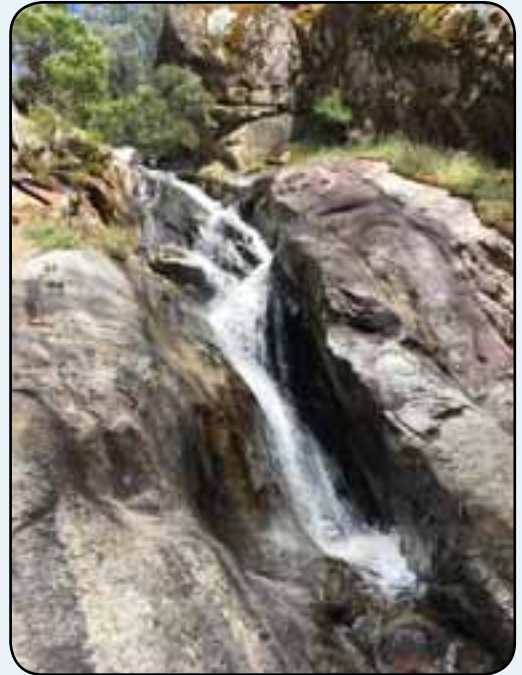
Unfortunately, the higher slopes also showed signs of a lot of illegal trail bike activity, with tracks made straight through the bush, across creeks, up steep slopes, and severe erosion as a result.

Ray pointed out the differences in the eucalypts – Messmate, Manna Gum, Victorian Blue Gum, Peppermints, Stringybark, Red Box etc – including some monster old trees that were clearly hundreds of years old. We also saw lots of wildlife and their telltale signs, including Wallabies, Kangaroos, Feral Deer, Gang Gang Cockatoos, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, plus the chewed trunks of Wattles where the Black Cockies had stripped the wood to get some protein-rich witchetty grubs.

This was a spectacular day in good company, but unfortunate illness of one party member prevented us continuing with the Western Strathbogries' walk on the Sunday.

Thank you Ray, for your navigating expertise and knowledge of the Strathbogrie Ranges and all that goes on there.

Angie Were, VMTC



NEW ZEALAND TREK (NOV '17): TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK – NORTHERN CIRCUIT AND ROUND THE MOUNTAIN

As a newbie to walking this 8 day trek was always going to be a challenge and it didn't disappoint.

Our group of 15 started in high spirits, especially as the walk to the first hut was very short. Day two skies are blue and off we venture on a relatively easy day climbing up and up, landscape amazing almost moon-like as we traversed between Mt Ngauruhoe and Mt Tongariro (both are over 2000 metres and snow-capped).

Just before lunch a group ascended Mt Tongariro (pic below) and enjoyed splendid views plus some snow walking.

Our group reformed and marched past the Emerald lakes onto our second hut night. Oturere hut was small, sitting on cliff with views across the valley below and a spectacular waterfall within a 5-minute walk. Evening and morning light was to die for.

Cold start to day 3 – ice on the ground as we moved off to Waihohonu Hut, around 15 kilometres on undulating (read more ups and downs) tracks. Blue skies and a small forest as we approach our last Great Walk Hut which was luxurious, even had double glazing with two bunkrooms. One for snorers and one for the rest of us. Unfortunately, a number of our group still believe they don't snore!!

Quenton departed next morning due to work commitments back home or he didn't have a supply of toilet paper as we are moving into the more basic back country huts for round 2 of our adventure. This track or route was more challenging (read more ups and downs) plus trail markings were posts that on occasions went missing. Note photo below of our beloved leader – lost again.

The remaining five days were exciting, challenging and filled with panoramic views, river crossings combined with nonstop ups and downs.

This trip was a total success due to the efforts of our leader Ian Mair and his ability to lift spirits during the demanding sections.

Finally, we had a minor mishap on the afternoon of our last day when Sylvia slipped and damaged her wrist requiring medical attention (ambulance evacuation) – great team work by the group, especially our resident medico, Jenny Andrewes.



Mt Tongariro side trip



Lost leader



Hut life

Peter Taylor

LAKE WAIKAREMOANA – NORTH ISLAND NEW ZEALAND NOVEMBER 21–24, 2017

With the Tongariro hike completed, a dozen of us, Ian, Halina, Peter, Jenny, Susanna, Ken, Ray, Wen, Mark, Carol, John, from the original 14 spent the day restocking our provisions and using laundry opportunities in Wairoa for our next great walk – LAKE WAIKAREMOANA.

Having John F. MBW's advisor on packing light, we all culled furiously, leaving extra baggage, including gas and cookers, behind. We all proudly showed our lighter packs off to John while waiting for our shuttle to transfer us to Onepoto. The driver soon informed us to our horror that there was no gas or cooking facilities on this walk! We soon regretted our eagerness to off-load our gas and cookers. Ever so resourceful and adventurous, this did not faze us!

Heading steeply uphill the first day to Panekire Hut, we were fortunate to catch glimpses of the lake from the Bluff before the weather set in and the fog and rain obscured our views. The misty, mossed, gnarled trees, in this rainforest reminded us of the Lord of the Rings creatures as we carefully negotiated the protruding, slippery roots.

We were warned about the state of this hut and true to form it required a desperate clean up before we established ourselves for the night. The problem about cooking was addressed quickly by a few members of the group such as Ray, John and Ken who desperately fanned, blew while Ian shaved wet wood and even used candle wax to ignite the wet twigs. The rest of the group observed anxiously and gave constant advice and encouragement! Luckily, some of us had paper to donate from a book to use as fire starters. The Kindle was not of any use.

Success occurred finally, allowing billies to be boiled for our hot meals and warmth. The few gas cookers which were brought along had to be rationed for breakfast meals. Fortunately, we also purchased spare gas as reserves from other hikers. Card playing, reading and scrabble competition ensured the hours passed pleasantly after our harrowing fire lighting.

Although no wood was provided at Waiopaoa Hut the problem was tackled with gusto by John and Ken and the team, determined to succeed even with a blunt and loose axe. The rest of us foraged for any dry wood, building up a supply to last a week and allowing us and the other party of campers to enjoy the benefits of a warm hut. Early morning on the lake was delightful as the swans swam in amongst the mist as it rose from the surface.

The following days provided sunshine for us to enjoy undulating climbs downhill and fairly flat easy walking through Kanuka forest, trying to avoid swampy patches as we skirted the lake. A side trip to the Korokoro Falls offered a highlight as we followed fern paths to and reached a river which we had to cross using a cable to balance on the slippery boulders before viewing the spectacular falls.

This walk allowed opportunities for members to walk at their own pace and arrive in leisure at the huts to enjoy siestas on the lake and opportunity to chat with local hikers. Walking out on the last day allowed us to visit each campsite and other huts positioned around the lake before chilling out whilst waiting for our water taxi at Whanganui Hut. The ride back on the lake gave a different aspect of the trip as we spotted the hills and journey we covered from the water.

This trip to New Zealand and the wonderful hiking organized by Ian Mair was a thoroughly enjoyable, adventurous and fun trip. Thank you Ian for your careful attention to detail and the your caring leadership!



Angela Vetsicas

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

MCMILLAN'S TRACK (BTAC)

DATE Thursday 25 to Sunday 28 January 2018
STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADER John Terrell (co-ordinator)
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Licola
FIRE BAN DISTRICT West Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE La Trobe Valley

Join members from other bushwalking clubs in clearing part of McMillan's Track in Gippsland. Camping is at Breakfast Creek north of Licola – readily accessible by 2WD vehicles. Start time 8:30 am Friday, 26 January

Bring all food, camping equipment/requirements. BTAC or Parks Victoria normally provide a BBQ for one night's meal. Work equipment and Personal Protection Equipment will be provided but bring suitable clothing for working outside and sturdy boots etc.



TOFS WALK

WANDIN – MT EVELYN

DATE Thursday 1 February 2018
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 10 km
LEADER Doug Pocock
TRANSPORT Private
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Dandenong

This is a gentle walk on highways and byways, tracks and trails,

Meet at Wandin station car park on Warburton Trail ready to walk at 10:15 am.

We will follow the highway a short distance before walking on a quiet track. Some backroads will take us to the Acqueduct track which will bring us to Mt. Evelyn for lunch. Warburton trail will be followed back to the cars at Wandin, Should be time for coffee at Wandin.

Give me a ring on if you are interested.



SUNDAY BUS

CATHEDRAL RANGES – CATHEDRAL PEAK

DATE Sunday 4 February 2018
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm
STANDARDS Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCES 10 km and 10 km
ELEVATIONS 600 m rise and 700 m rise
LEADERS Ian Mair and Brett Daniel
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Cathedral Range State Park
MAP REFERENCE Parks Victoria Cathedral Range State Park
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Yarra Glen

These are two fabulous walks in the Cathedral Range State Park. They are rated Easy/Medium and Medium even with the short distances due to the rough terrain and steep climbs and descents of both walks. Walkers prepared to meet these challenges will be rewarded with the possibility of seeing lyrebirds, echidnas and other wildlife going about their business.

Both walks start at Ned's Gully camping ground and follow Ned's Gully Track and then Cathedral Peak Track to Cathedral Peak where walkers will be rewarded by breathtaking views. The Easy/Medium walk will return back down Ned's Gully Track and then follow Little River Track to Cooks Mill camping ground, finishing the walk with Friends Nature Trail. This is the better walk for anyone who has a fear of heights.

The Medium walk will follow the Ridge Track where the views are breathtaking. Care needs to be taken on this section of the walk as it is rocky and challenging but also a highlight of the walk. The walk will conclude by following the Jawbone Creek Track back to Cooks Mill camping ground.

Note – Walkers should wear long sleeves, solid walking shoes/boots and consider bringing a walking pole. Insect Repellent is highly recommended. Neither walk is recommended for inexperienced walkers.



BASE CAMP

DEAL ISLAND 1 (TASMANIA)

DATE Friday 9 to Tuesday 13 February 2018
STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADER Derrick Brown

TRANSPORT AREA Private
Kent Group of Islands, Bass Strait

Note: Trip full. Wait list being developed.

After the initial offer for 2018 from 16–20 February was quickly filled, a second trip has been organised from 9–13 February. This may be the last time the club offers this trip for a few years. No punches are pulled in letting you know what to expect but the numbers who have already made the trip, some more than once, speak for themselves.

Deal Island is part of the Kent Group and consists of three spectacular islands, Deal, Erith and Dover which are situated in the middle of Bass Strait. The club is offering the opportunity to visit these remote islands. This will be our seventh visit in four years.

Please read the following information and then if you are still interested in going please contact Derrick Brown.

- Costs (approx. at this stage) – \$460 pp for the boat trip, \$30 for a Tasmania Parks Pass and \$50 Pre-departure accommodation in Port Albert and transport costs to get there.
- We will have three days of walking and exploring on the islands and two days of sailing.
- The trip departs Port Albert, which is 3 hours from Melbourne and the boat takes 9 hours to get to the islands, it can be rough and even hardened sailors can or will get sick if the weather is rough (but these islands are worth it!)
- The trip back takes 9 hours but feels like 19 hours!!
- There are NO facilities on the island, it is a base camp and there are NO showers or toilets. You have to take all of your own camping gear and supplies.
- You have to allow an extra day just in case the trip is delayed or extended due to bad weather, so if you are limited in leave, this is a consideration.
- A deposit of \$200 is required to book on the trip and final payment will be required in December and the amount paid is NOT REFUNDABLE unless we can find someone else to take your place.



We will commence the walk by following the river which may necessitate crossing it many times. The water levels should be low so should not present many problems. There is no formed track for the last 4 kms to the campsite, so walking may be slow, but the scenic bluffs and views of the river will be plenty of compensation. It is hard to comprehend that such ruggedness and beauty could be so close to Melbourne, you could be in Kakadu.

Saturday's camp will be on a large grassy flat overlooking a natural waterhole. It is approximately 400 m below the weir. Today's walk is approximately 8 km.

Sunday we will continue along the river to the weir, climbing steeply (340 m climb in 2 km) along the Long Ridge Track affording magnificent views of the gorge before reaching the Blackwood Range track. We will follow the Blackwood Track to Link Track One, then descend steeply back to the river, following the river back to our cars. Today's walk is 10 km.

Depending upon the weather the walk may be done in either direction and may be reversed to make ample opportunity for a swim if the forecast is hotter on one day.

I did this walk in August and was so impressed I had to do it again in summer. Contact me if you wish to join me on this adventure.



PACK CARRY

LERDERDERG GORGE: McKENZIE FLAT-LONG POINT CIRCUIT

DATE 9–11 February 2018
RETURN TIME 5 pm Sunday to Bacchus Marsh
STANDARD Medium/Hard
DISTANCE 18 km
ELEVATION 340 metres
LEADER Ray Spooner
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Lerderderg Gorge
MAP REFERENCE Lerderderg and Werribee Gorges, 3rd Edition, Meridian Maps 2005

FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

Lerderderg Gorge is approximately 60 km from Melbourne and can be reached by either the Western Highway or the Calder Highway. The gorge is heavily forested with steep interlocking spurs. The vegetation is varied populated by eucalypts, acacias and many other native species. The area is home to a number of native animals, kangaroos, wallabies and koalas may be seen. There is also abundant birdlife. There are a number of natural swimming holes along the river which will provide the opportunity for a swim if the weather is hot.

Being so close to Melbourne, we will meet on Saturday morning at McKenzies Flat picnic ground at 8:30 am .



TRAINING

NAVIGATION WITH A GPS

DATE Saturday 10 February 2018
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE Less than 10 km
ELEVATION Minimal
LEADER Ian Mair
TRANSPORT Private
START TIME 9:30 am
FINISH TIME 4:30 pm
BOOK WITH Ian Mair

GPS-enabled devices have become widely accepted and adopted by bushwalkers. At the most basic level they can be used as position finding devices in conjunction with a paper map to facilitate route following. With inbuilt maps a GPS-enabled device becomes a stand-alone navigation tool. GPS navigation apps are among the most popular apps for mobile phones and tablets. They are economical and provide powerful mapping and search features. When combined with digital maps showing tracks and key topographic features a GPS-enabled mobile phone or tablet works well in off-road situations. For off-track navigation through thick bush or rough terrain a dedicated GPS unit may be more suitable.

The training session will cover a range of topics, including:

- (a) Position finding with a GPS-enabled device;
- (b) Mapping software to use with your GPS;
- (c) Setting a route and waypoints for GPS navigation;
- (d) Following a route with a GPS;

It will be assumed that participants are familiar with map coordinates and map reading. Participants should have their own GPS-enabled device.

Registration is only open to club members and will be limited to 12. All members are welcome to participate but priority will be given to active leaders.



SUNDAY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

EDITHVALE – FRANKSTON (TRAIN BASED)

DATE Sunday 11 February 2018
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to City
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 15 km
ELEVATION 50 m
LEADER Halina Sarbinowski
TRANSPORT TRAIN – TBA
 (Check website closer to the date.)
AREA Frankston
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Frankston

The Frankston train line will experience upgrades during January and February 2018. Please check updates relating to transport for this walk before attending.

We will commence the walk from Edithvale Train Station, walking along the beach between Edithvale and Carrum Downs. After crossing the bridge over Patterson River our walk will be a combination of beach walking and the heath land between the foreshore and the Beach Road as we make our way to Frankston. We will have the opportunity to explore Long Island, Frankston on our way to Frankston Pier.

This walk has been scheduled to coincide with the Frankston Festival. There are lots of choices once we reach Frankston. The Sand Sculpting based on Aladdin and the Arabian Tales can be explored at \$14.50 per adult. 3500 tonnes of sand have been transformed into towering sand sculptures to explore and enjoy. However, there are lots of free events, including live music, market stores, beer, wine and cider tastings, food trucks, art and craft show, fun fair with rides and amusements are some of the attractions that we can enjoy.

On reaching Frankston we will have the choice to explore together or make our own way home. The choice is yours. This walk will be a combination of walking (our passion) and lots of fun in a festival atmosphere – a great walk to enjoy.



WEDNESDAY WALK

LAKE DAYLESFORD TO BRYCES FLAT

DATE Wednesday 14 February 2018
RETURN TIME Mid afternoon
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 15 km
ELEVATION 250 m
LEADER Margaret Curry
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Daylesford
MAP REFERENCE Vicmap Topo 125,000 7723-3-N
 Daylesford North
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Ballarat



This walk follows Wombat Creek and Sailors Creek from Lake Daylesford to Bryces Flat, with the return trip along a slightly different route. The track is undulating and narrow in places, with some sections dropping steeply to the creek below. We walk through beautiful bushland and pass the remains of gold diggings and deep mine shafts. Mineral spring water may be sampled along the track. Many birds, butterflies, wildflowers and an echidna were sighted on the preview.

Some of the track is overgrown so gaiters and long trousers are recommended. Walking poles would be useful and take ample drinking water. We will meet at 10:00 am at the Lake Daylesford car park, e.g. approaching the town centre from Melbourne turn left into Bleakley Street and after crossing the causeway turn right into the car park – 400 metres from main road. Toilets available.



BASE CAMP

DEAL ISLAND 2 (TASMANIA)

DATE 16–20 February 2018
STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADER Jill Allen
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Kent Group of Islands, Bass Strait

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

This may be the last time the club offers this trip for a few years. No punches are pulled in letting you know what to expect but the numbers who have already made the trip, some more than once, speak for themselves.

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accommodation in Port Albert and transport costs to get there.

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- The trip departs Port Albert, which is 3 hours from Melbourne and the boat takes 9 hours to get to the islands, it can be rough and even hardened sailors can or will get sick if the weather is rough (but these islands are worth it!)
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TRACK MAINTENANCE

MT STRADBROKE (BTAC)

DATE 17–19 February 2018
STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADER John Terrell (co-ordinator)
TRANSPORT Private
AREA East Gippsland
FIRE BAN DISTRICT East Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Orbost

Mt Stradbroke in the far eastern part of the Alpine National Park is wild and beautiful country, near the spectacular Little River Gorge.

Base camp by the Buchan River at Native Dog Camping Area, Limestone Road via Benambra.

Works: vegetation clearing and re-marking. There is about a day’s worth of work clearing the track as the last half requires less clearing and will mainly be re-marking. The plan is to achieve this on the Saturday and then do a walk on the Cobberas trail on the Sunday as a reward and to discuss any future works.

A long drive from Melbourne (about 7 hours) but would make a great road trip combined with the Mt Buffalo Peatland Regeneration and/or Mt Whitelaw AAWT track clearing activities. Contact me for further details.



CYCLING

EAST MALVERN STATION AND RUFFEY LAKE LOOP

DATE Saturday 17 February 2018
RETURN TIME 3:30 pm
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 56 km
TOTAL ASCENT 500 m
LEADER Ed Neff
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Eastern suburbs
MAP REFERENCE Start/finish Melway map 69 F1
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

The meeting point is East Malvern Station, at 9.30am. Meet in the car park area entered via Sylvester Cr. (Melway 69 A1). Our route is Anniversary Trail, Mont Albert (M/T), Box Hill North, Ruffey Lake, Yarra Trail, Heidelberg Park (L), Anniversary

Trail return. Approx 56 km and 500 m total ascent. Mostly on sealed trails and quiet streets. Not too many hills and we can take them gently.

Bring your lunch, a repair kit with spare tube and a water bottle. Ring me or email to register for this ride, or for any questions.



SUNDAY BUS

BURCHELL TRACK NORTH (BRISBANE RANGES)

DATE Sunday 18 February 2018
RETURN TIME 6:00 pm to Southbank Boulevarde
STANDARDS Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCES 12 and 14 km
TOTAL ASCENTS 150 m (E/M) and 250 m (M)
LEADERS Michael Murray and Chris Collett
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Brisbane Ranges National Park
MAP REFERENCE Meridian Maps – Brisbane Ranges National Park
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Geelong

The Burchell Track is a 39 km, 3-day walk along the length of the Brisbane Ranges National Park, which is located to the south-west of Bacchus Marsh. We will be walking along a section of the Burchell Track at the northern end of the park.

The Brisbane Ranges, although not high in altitude, are noteworthy for the multitude of narrow gullies, rocky ridges, and the variety of flora and fauna.

The Medium group will start at the junction of Thompsons Road and Quarry Track; the Easy/Medium group will commence their walk about 2 km further south.

Highlights will include walking along the picturesque Little River, the descent in to Stony Creek with some panoramic views, and the final pleasant stage of the walk through the Anakie Gorge with its numerous creek crossings.

The presence of Phytophthora cinnamomi is an issue within the National Park. We will be required to comply with the quarantine regulations by using the hygiene stations to wash the soles of our boots along the track, and also to wash boots thoroughly after the walk to prevent the spread of this plant disease.



MOFS WALK

BIRDSLAND RESERVE, BELGRAVE

DATE Monday 19 February 2018
RETURN TIME 3 pm
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 11 km
ELEVATION A few moderate hills/one steep decline
LEADER Bernadette O’Connell
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Belgrave Heights
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 83, 84
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Dandenong

Meet at 10:30am at Birdsland Reserve carpark (Melway 84 B2). We will walk along the lakes (and possibly see water birds) then on well-defined undulating tracks through open bush land. Lunch with a view overlooking the plain and a walk back in part through gum trees. The walk is easy with a few moderate hills and one steep decline. A very pleasant walk.

The tracks are clearly marked and aspects can be viewed on the Internet.

NB There is an option to cancel the walk if the temperature is forecast to be over 30 degrees or so.
Book with leader.



WEDNESDAY WALK

KURTH KILN

DATE Wednesday 21 February 2018
STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADER Theo Mertzaniadis
TRANSPORT Private
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Dandenong

We will start, finish and have lunch at the Kurth Kiln Picnic Ground which has picnic tables and toilets. "Kurth Kiln Regional Park, covering 3,500 ha, contains a range of forest types and other interesting features awaiting exploration. Located a short distance east of Melbourne, the park is mostly known for its kiln used during the Second World War to make charcoal for gas producer units fitted to motor cars. It was developed and patented by Professor E.E. Kurth of the University of Tasmania. The 'producer gas' was a substitute fuel for petrol which was rationed at the time." (Ref: Parks Victoria)

In the morning we will walk to the north following Possum Trap Track and Monkhouse Track and Boundary Road to Shepherd Creek. We will follow a road beside this creek and then walk along a delightful track beside Tomahawk Creek back to the Picnic Ground. After lunch we will walk south and west from the picnic ground as far as Adams Fireline through the forests which are known for brilliant wattle flowers – however we may be a bit early for these. We then walk back to Tomahawk Creek upstream of the kiln and return to the picnic ground via Thornton Track which is another delightful track along Tomahawk Creek.

There are a couple of hills which are easy to low-grade medium.

A delightfully varied walk with good photo opportunities.



CONSERVATION

MT BUFFALO PEATLAND REGENERATION (BTAC)

DATE Wed 21 to Sat 24 February 2018
STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADER John Terrell (co-ordinator)
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Mt Buffalo
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Eastern
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Falls Creek

This particular activity involves searching Peatlands at Mt Buffalo for Soft Rush, Sallow Willow, Yarrow and invasive grasses. Involved will be the use of GPS-ing their location and cutting out and applying herbicides to these weed plants. This activity replaces the Sallow Willow Hunt undertaken in past years at Falls Creek – this is our second year in this area.

Camping at allocated campsites at Lake Catani.

The campsite has facilities such as hot showers as well as a communal stone shelter. You will need to be self-sufficient as for an ordinary base camp. BYO tent, food, e.g. breakfasts, snacks, lunches, evening meals and sufficient drinks for this period. Parks Victoria will provide a BBQ dinner on either the

Thursday or Friday evening. Although whilst camping at Lake Catani you will be required to be self-sufficient with drinking water, the ranger will be providing water for the Thursday and Friday working days. Please ensure you pack accordingly for all other times. Bring clothes including wet-weather gear (appropriate for the changeable weather in this alpine location) and sturdy footwear – much of the work is off-track.

You should arrive on Wednesday afternoon or evening to set up your camp and may depart on Friday night or Saturday morning. There may be the opportunity to arrive before the Wednesday and to stay on, depending on the availability of campsites. If you wish to do this, let the organiser know ASAP so that campsites can be allocated. The normal camping fee applies to these stay overs.



SOCIAL WALK

CITY GARDENS

DATE Thursday 22 February 2018
RETURN TIME 2:30 pm
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE About 5 km
ELEVATION Small ups and downs
LEADER Marilyn Whimpey
TRANSPORT Public transport into city
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 2F and 2G
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

Meet at the top of the escalators in the southern end of Parliament Station at 10:30 am.

We walk through the Treasury Gardens, Fitzroy Gardens, past the MCG, over the Yarra, up through Kings Domain and down through the Botanic Gardens to have lunch at the Gardens Kiosk.

There's a bit more walking after lunch, as we go through Gosch's Paddock to Richmond Station.

Please book with the leader. I'll give you my mobile number when you book, and make sure I have it turned on in case there's confusion about the meeting place.



PACK CARRY

MIRIMBAH SPUR – MT BULLER – MT STIRLING

DATE Friday 23 to Sunday 25 February 2018
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE Approximately 34 km
TOTAL ASCENT Approximately 1460 m
TOTAL DESCENT Approximately 1460 m
LEADER Agajan Akbari
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Mt Buller – Mt Stirling
MAP REFERENCE Buller–Stirling Outdoor Leisure Map 1:25,000

FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Eastern
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Buller

Saturday 8am: Medium (Hardish) walk is approx. 21 km.

We meet at Mirimbah picnic area (base of Mt Buller road) at 8 am to get an early start on Saturday. We walk via Klingsporn Track (good track), and the McLaughlin Shoulder (a bit rocky) to the summit of Mt Buller. At the summit of Mt Buller we will be rewarded with one of the magnificent Alpine views on a good clear day. From the summit we will continue walking towards the Mt Buller village (explore the village) and

then down to the Howqua Gap and up the other side to Mt Stirling. We'll camp around Bluff Spur Hut which has a rain water tank. If time permits we may pay a visit to the summit of Mt Stirling for another great Alpine view.

Sunday 8am: Easy Medium walk approximately 13km.

On Sunday we break camp at 8 am, pay a visit to the summit of Mt Stirling (if not done yesterday) then walking towards Mirimbah via the River Spur trail and the Delatite River walking track (good scenic walk). Walkers are required to be equipped with all seasons camping equipment, wet and warm weather gears and carrying own personal first aid kit, have some hiking experience and fitness. Friday night camp site direction and walking maps will be provided to participants later. If interested or wanting to know more about walk contact me via email.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

ANGAHOOK EXPLORE

DATE	Sunday 25 February 2018
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	Up to 15 km
ESTIMATED DURATION	5-6 hours
ELEVATION	Up to 200 m
LEADER	Roger Wyett
TRANSPORT	Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA	Aireys Inlet
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Geelong

Still in the process of finalising the route, however will be combining the two walks out of the Distillery Creek area, with a cross country explore (hopefully connecting) through the canyon. Will involve some bush bashing and climbing (not technical).



SOCIAL

WINE AND CHEESE: THE REALITY OF CLIMATE CHANGE

DATE	Wednesday, 28 February, 2018
VENUE	Clubrooms
ORGANISER	Susanne Etti
START TIME	8:00 pm
FINISH TIME	9:00 pm
ACTIVITY AREA	Clubrooms, Cnr. Abeckett Street and William Street, (Melway Reference: 2F, B2)

Club member Dr. Susanne Etti is a PhD Biologist who earned her PhD in Natural Sciences from the University of Bonn in collaboration with the University of Oxford studying the spread of infectious diseases due to climate change.

In 2011 she qualified as a Climate Leader, having been trained by Al Gore personally as part of the Climate Reality Project, to present an updated version of the slide show as seen in the Academy Award-winning film, *An Inconvenient Truth*. The Climate Project educational materials are some of the best scientific and impact analysis publicly available on climate change. The aim of the Climate Project is to increase awareness of climate change with hundreds of thousands of people.

Join us for an informative presentation on a challenging issue that affects us all.

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
BEECHWORTH BASE CAMP/CABIN TRIP**

Expressions of interest are invited for a base camp/cabin trip at Beechworth in north-eastern Victoria over the Queen's birthday long weekend 8-11 June 2018. Full day walks are planned for the Saturday and Sunday with a half day walk on the Monday.

Cabins have been reserved and total cost for the 3 nights will be approximately \$150 per person depending upon sleeping configuration in each cabin. Couples/singles can be accommodated. A camping option is also available (unpowered or powered site – \$32 or \$38 per night). Deposit of \$50 per person required for cabins.

**CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
NEW ZEALAND – OCTOBER 27 TO
NOVEMBER 11, 2018**

Using Queenstown and Te Anau as bases I am planning to do two pack carry walks on the South Island of New Zealand in October/November. We will fly into lovely Queenstown from where we will travel by bus to Te Anau on the shores of Lake Te Anau. The first walk will follow the Kepler Track in the heart of the Fiordland National Park, covering 60 km over 3 nights and 4 days, taking in stunning high mountain views from ridge line tracks. After a short break in Te Anau the second walk will follow the 56 km Hollyford Track over 4 nights and 5 days as it winds its way along interconnecting valleys. We will complete the two week trip with a short break in Queenstown with options for a further day walk or a lake cruise, or just soaking up all that Queenstown has to offer. Both walks will be challenging and open to the vagaries of alpine weather.

To express interest in joining the group or for further information please contact Ian Mair. As the Kepler Track is part of the New Zealand Great Walks network it can only be walked with prepaid reservations. A party size limit of 8 will apply.



On the Kepler Track

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!

February 2018					
Thu 1	TOF: NEW: Wandin – Mt Evelyn	Pvt	Easy	CN:md	Doug Pocock
Sun 4	DAY: Cathedral Ranges – Cathedral Peak	Bus	E/M&M	NC:yg	Ian Mair & Brett Daniel
9–13	BC: Deal Island 1 (Tasmania)	Pvt	E/M		Derrick Brown
9–11	PC: Lerderderg Gorge: McKenzie Flat–Long Point Circuit	Pvt	E/M	CN:me	Ray Spooner
Sat 10	TRG: Navigation with a GPS	Pvt	Easy		Ian Mair
Sun 11	DAY: Edithvale – Frankston (Train Based)	Car	Easy	CN:fr	Halina Sarbinowski
Wed 14	DAY: Lake Daylesford to Bryces Flat	Pvt	E/M	CN:ba	Margaret Curry
16–20	BC: Deal Island 2 (Tasmania)	Pvt	E/M		Jill Allen
17–19	MNT: Mt Stradbroke Track clearing	Pvt	Easy	EG:or	John Terrell (co-ord)
Sat 17	CYC: Malvern E. Stn & Ruffey Lake loop (train/pvt)	Pvt	E/M	CN:me	Ed Neff
Sun 18	DAY: Burchell Track North (Brisbane Ranges)	Bus	E/M&M	CN:ge	Michael Murray & Chris Collett
Mon 19	MOF: Birdsland, Belgrave Heights	Pvt	Easy	CN:md	Bernadette O’Connell
Wed 21	DAY: Kurth Kiln	Pvt	E/M	CN:md	Theo Mertzandis
21–24	CON: BTAC: Mt Buffalo Willow Hunt	Pvt	Easy	NE:fc	John Terrell (co-ord)
Thu 22	SOC: City Gardens	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Merilyn Whimpey
23–25	PC: Mirimbah Spur – Mt Buller – Mt Stirling	Pvt	Med	NE:mb	Agajan Akbari
Sun 25	DAY: Angahook Explore	Car	Med	CN:ge	Roger Wyett
Wed 28	SOC: The Reality of Climate Change				Susanne Etti