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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

March 2018

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Melbourne Bushwalkers (Incorporated) will be held on Wednesday, 21 March, 2018 at 8:00 pm at The Clubrooms, Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Corner of A'Beckett Street and William Street, Melbourne

Members are invited to attend.
Non-members are welcome but are not eligible to vote.

Business:

Apologies
Confirmation of Minutes from the 2017 Annual General Meeting
President's Report
Treasurer's Report
Walks Secretaries' Reports
Membership Secretary's Report
Other Reports
Determination of the Annual Subscriptions for 2018
Determination of number of General Committee Members for 2018
Election of Office Bearers and General Committee Members for 2018
Appointment of Reviewers of Financial Statements
Conferral of Honorary Memberships
Award of Leader Training Certificates
Award of Club Spoons
General Business

Any member unable to attend in person may appoint a proxy to be received by the Secretary before or at the commencement of the meeting.

Proxy and Committee Nomination Forms are available in the Clubrooms or may be download from the Club's website (https://mbw.org.au/MBW_docs.php).

Complimentary Wine and Cheese



2018 COMMITTEE VACANCIES

With the AGM coming up later in March we still have a few opportunities for interested members to join the Club Committee. We are seeking a nomination for Social Secretary and two General Committee roles.

Please contact Ian Mair on president@mbw.org.au if you would like to have further information or nominate for one of the positions.

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

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

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Lisa Parrish, Rebecca McCarthy,
Samaneh Heidaryansaein, Hamed Ebadi,
Lachlan McLeay, Alison Ridgewell,
Kenny Robertson, Peter Swiatkiwsky,
Eduardo Cabrera

BOOK LAUNCH

Member Derrick Brown's first book is due for publication on 28 February.

An Unexpected Development – Clacton to Melbourne – the long way

Publisher Austin MacCauley of London

ISBN 9781787100398 paperback
9781787100404 e-book

Book Synopsis

'The book follows my life from a bookless childhood, where I was brainwashed into believing that I was of no consequence and had no future other than that of following the family tradition of compliant, blue collar workers. My early days are described on the Essex coast in the fifties when seaside holidays were popular. A parental struggle ensues when I have the option of an education after the age of sixteen. The Boy Scout movement and an engineering course assists my development and a career path evolves, working for large companies and one of the smallest as I move into the fast-developing computer industry. My confidence rapidly improves as I move up the ladder with anecdotes from travel, training, managing and consulting situations with directors and senior managers of government, public and private organisations who are often making expensive mistakes with huge software projects. Workers, managers and the general public are introduced, cautiously at first, to the electronic technology wave which was to wash over the world and in which I had a part to play. A move to Australia follows where I start up my own business using these experiences to make it a success. Along the way my personal life of marriage, fatherhood and DIY is covered as I make my mistakes and learn to survive and succeed.'

Derrick is thinking of having a book launch for Bushies and friends but hasn't set a date yet. He'll be away for a few weeks, but should be in email contact from time to time.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – MARCH 2018



We all love to get out walking. It's only Monday afternoon and already you feel the urge building to get your walking shoes on again. You comfort yourself knowing that it won't be that long until the weekend rolls around. But the craving is starting to torment you. A few quick keystrokes and the Melbourne Bushwalkers' activities program pops into view. Methodically you scan the options to see where the club is going at the weekend. Great! Sunday's walk is to a location you enjoy visiting. Only 12 km for the longer walk, no problems. You have walked that far plenty of times before. The total ascent doesn't look too bad either and the description sounds interesting. Time to get a message off to 'busbookings' and reserve a spot for yourself.

The days crawl by to the weekend. Finally you are on your way and looking forward to stunning views and a natural bush setting. The leader reminds everyone that the longer walk is graded Medium and should be selected only if you are sure you can handle the tougher conditions. You assure yourself that it can't be too bad and it is only 12 km after all. Part way into the walk you are finding the going tough

over the undulating off-track conditions and rough ground. You start to ask yourself why you hadn't paid more attention to the grading given to the walk and spoken to the leader to find out a bit more before the group set off. What should have been an enjoyable walk is not turning out the way you had planned.

All walks are given a grading standard by the leaders. The mystical letters E, E/M, M, M/H and H appear prominently alongside the other details on the activities program. The longer forms of Easy, Easy/Medium, Medium, Medium/Hard and Hard in the Preview notice give a bit more information. You can work out that they go from easier to harder, but beyond that you may not be sure what they mean. You may remember reading their definition in some club notice but can't recall the specifics.

The grading allocated to a walk is a vital piece of information providing a shorthand way to convey what a walk is going to entail. A number of factors are taken into account by leaders in allocating a grading standard to a walk, including the steepness and length of climbs, the roughness of the ground, whether it is on track or off-track and the level of skill required by walkers. Often the grading is based on previous times the walk was conducted, drawing on a wealth of experience from other walkers. Leaders will be happy to explain why their walk is given a particular grading if it is other than Easy (E).

Fortunately, you don't need to remember the detail of the grading definitions to judge whether a walk is suitable for you. Experienced walkers are generally familiar with the highest grading standard that they feel comfortable undertaking and take this into account when deciding on what walks to do. Here too, other factors that cannot be built into the grading should also be taken into account. What are the weather conditions going to be, particularly the expected temperature? How long it is since you last undertook a walk of the same grading or harder? Do you have any physical impediments since you last walked?

If you are new to bushwalking, even if you have done lots of walking on relatively flat surfaces, then start at the Easy grading and build up your own comfort level. It doesn't take many walks to understand what works for you. It is better to have done a few walks that you found too easy than to risk injury or not enjoy bushwalking because you pushed yourself too hard at the start.

If you are in any doubt always talk to the leader before the walk starts. For Sunday walks a leader is always present in the clubrooms to discuss the walk details on the Wednesday before the walk. For other walks you can contact the leader direct by email or telephone. The club's priority is for your enjoyment and safety and the enjoyment and safety of your fellow walkers. In the end the best decision may be to give a particular walk a miss and look for the next one that fits your current comfort level and experience.

A note of caution. There is no universally applied walk grading system. Most grading systems take account of similar factors in allocating a specific grading, such as the nature of the hills and track conditions. They vary, however, in the importance given to particular factors and the audience they are intended to inform. Most bushwalking clubs have evolved their walk grading levels over an extended period and they are understood by their membership. The same walk graded by two different clubs may not be given the same grading level. If you are new to the grading levels applied by Melbourne Bushwalkers then it is a good idea to discuss a walk with the leader until you are familiar with the expectations implied.

Ian Mair

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO 2018 AGM

The year just past has been one of excitement and achievement. Membership growth and increased member participation rates have driven a shift in our focus for the future. It is still too early to say how some of the changes will translate into sustainable transformation of the club, but I am encouraged by what we have seen. Increased visitor numbers, increased membership take-up and a strengthening of our numbers in the 30 to 45 years age group bring a sounder balance to the club's active membership. The focus now is on delivering a diverse, challenging and enjoyable activities program with scope for members to experiment and experience something new no matter what age group they belong to.

Underpinning the change has been an active focus on ways to promote the club. High profile events like the Federation Weekend held in October last year, exposure on social media, ready access online to the activities and priorities of the club and, significantly, a positive endorsement from current and former members, all played their part. Now over 30% of walkers who walk with the club for their first time complete the membership qualification process and become financial members. At just over 500 fully-paid members at the end-December we are far from being the largest bushwalking group in Victoria. However, with the number of participant-days on our outdoor activities close to 3000 in calendar 2017, up 15% since 2015 and averaging between 6-8 trips per member, we rank as one of the most active.

Anyone who has been with the club for more than a year or two is fully aware that the club is a community of like-minded individuals that share experiences together beyond the formal events of the club, in addition to programmed activities. International travel, private walking tours or simply group social events all add to bonding the club together. Sharing the experiences at club presentation nights brings pleasure and ideas to other members. With an average attendance of over 50 at the monthly presentation nights during 2017, the popularity of these opportunities to get together as a club cannot be understated.

Federation Weekend, 2017, was a major undertaking for the club. Nearly two years in the planning and preparation for the weekend were rewarded by a strong turnout and positive feedback from participants. Over 80 members of Melbourne Bushwalkers played their part either as organisers, leaders, helpers or participants, a very pleasing level of support. Regrettably Bushwalking Victoria has been unable to garner support from another club to run the Federation Weekend for 2018 and Bushwalking Victoria has chosen to organise a one-day event in its place. Whether this will continue to build on the heritage of generations of bushwalking clubs sharing their experiences or herald a move to a more community-based event with less focus on club member participation is still to be seen.

At this year's AGM we celebrate the completion by the first leader of the club's updated leader training program launched in 2017. During the year we have seen an encouraging total of 34 members undertake one or more of the 6 core modules that make up the training. More can be expected to complete in 2018 as we commence the next cycle of training sessions. Any member interested in participating in just one or all of the modules is encouraged talk with our Training Officer, Angela Vetsicas.

An issue confronting the club during the year, and still ongoing, is the anticipated introduction of Australian Adventure Activity Standards (AAAS) to cover all facets of outdoor activities. A concerted campaign by Bushwalking Victoria supported by Affiliated clubs has sought to clarify the intent and impact of the AAAS on club activities, and in particular the proposed onerous requirements for leader training. After repeated assurances from Ministers of the current government that compliance with the AAAS will be voluntary for non-commercial operations, legal advice on the scope of the AAAS, clarification from the Bushwalking Australia insurance brokers on the potential impacts on premium levels and recognition of the club's sound safety record, we are adopting a watch and see position in line with recommendations from Bushwalking Victoria. That said we are taking steps to ensure that our risk management practices and member and leader education continue to evolve to reflect current good practice and the maintenance of our concern for member safety as a matter of priority.

Sadly, several major initiatives that should have seen fruition during the year are delayed. A refinement of our day walk grading system and a rebuild of our public website more suited to mobile device access have both commenced and progress slowly. 2018-19 is their time to blossom.

Thank you all for your contributions and support throughout the year. The running of the club is a substantial team effort in which all club members play a part. As the coming year will be my fourth and final year as President I look forward to working with members to ensure a smooth handover in 2019.

Ian Mair

GENERAL WALKS SECRETARY REPORT FOR 2017

2017 was a big year for the Club, with the very successful Federation Weekend in Warburton officially attracting 82 of our members, alone. Other highlights included 1 Pack Carry in New Zealand, 2 on the Larapinta Trail, 1 in the Blue Mountains, 3 Beginners' PCs in Victoria, another Base Camp on Deal Island, the ever popular Camp Eureka at Christmas time, and an active Leaders' Training program. The great variety of other non-Sunday activities continued from the previous year.

The number of **MOFs** trips increased by 2 (and there was 1 cancellation). Attendances were slightly lower than 2016. The most popular walk was at Jumping Creek, with 18 hikers, including an impressive 6 visitors. **TOFs** average attendances increased by a pleasing 20.3%. 17 people did the Cherry Lake, East Kew and Darebin Creek walks.

The **Saturday/Dandenongs Explorer** group results increased slightly over the previous year. The highest attendance was 16, on the Elwood to Sandringham trip. For the **Wednesday** team, average numbers were slightly down. The Werribee Gorge trip, with 16 hikers, was the most popular. The number of **Social Walkers** increased by a strong 44.3%, largely due to the event at Finns Reserve, which attracted 45 participants. Ruffey Lake Park was the next most attended trip, with 14 people.

The number of **Conservation** activities fell by 4, but there were 3 cancellations. From low overall numbers, attendances decreased, too. **Leaders' Training** covered 5 units over 4 sessions, with 40 bookings, First Aid attracted 17 people, and **Navigation Training** showed a noticeable increase in popularity from 2016. An impressive 20 people, including 6 visitors, attended an equipment demonstration. An extra 5 **Track Maintenance** activities were conducted in 2017. **Skiing** results were similar to the previous year.

The big news in **Base Camps** was that, after 7 years of working on programs, Wendy Fortington recently stepped aside as Coordinator. We thank Wendy for all of her time and effort. Jill Allen is now the new leader of the group. Despite 3 cancelled trips, BC attendances rose by a very impressive 60.3% last year. Camperdown was the most popular activity, with 26 people, and Camp Eureka attracted 19 members and 5 visitors over the Christmas period. While there was only 1 **Lodge** trip in 2017, a solid 22 people participated.

Pack Carries showed a very pleasing increase of 7 hikes, over the previous year (despite a cancellation), and an average of 38% more hikers. The Helicopter Spur trip (in conjunction with VMTC) had the highest result, with 20 walkers, including 7 visitors. The 3 Beginners' PCs attracted a total of 38, while the 2 Larapinta journeys had 21. 15 people also explored the North Island of New Zealand.

Our **Cycling** group would have shown an increase of 5 rides last year, but for 6 cancellations. The Sunbury Bike Trail attracted 8 riders. However, overall attendances decreased by 36.8%.

In conclusion, the number of **non-Sunday trips** increased by a pleasing 7 in 2017, despite 4 more cancellations than the previous year. The average attendance for day walks was down slightly, but there was an impressive increase of 25.2% for the other activities (eg. multi-day events). Margaret Curry and her Federation Weekend team, and our many Activity Coordinators and leaders, must be thanked for all of their work towards another varied and successful program of events. Thanks must also go to our small team of Emergency Contacts, who have been on call again in 2017, in case of major incidents and delays.

Stuart Hanham, General Walks Secretary

SUNDAY WALKS SECRETARY'S REPORT 2017

The Sunday walks program has again experienced a successful year with the Sunday bus participation increasing by an additional 9% from an average of 45.4 to 49.5. It is great to see that this increase has been a combination of both visitors and members taking advantage of the bus. Several times during 2017 the bus was fully booked prior to the close of the clubrooms on a Wednesday night. Unfortunately, this meant that several late bookings missed out. Members are reminded Sunday walk bookings can be made up to 4 Sundays prior to walks and that an early booking will avoid disappointment. The carpool walk average participation remained stable, however, fewer visitors attended these walks.

Again, thank you to all the leaders who have continued to make the Sunday walks program so very successful. The 75 leaders required to cover the 2017 program were covered by 32 individuals who lead walks ranging from one walk to eight walks. Six leaders led 4 walks or more in 2017. Special thanks go to first time leaders in 2017: Wen Qi, Wendy Davis, Rodney Walton, Omar Sharief and Stephen Murphy. I hope that you all enjoyed the experience and will continue to lead in the future. To all leaders our heartfelt thanks go to you.

Halina Sarbinowski, MBW – Sunday Walks Secretary

MBW ACTIVITY STATISTICS 2016 & 2017

	2016			2017		
	Trips	Average Nos	Average Visitors	Trips	Average Nos	Average Visitors
DAY WALKS						
MOFs	9	11.8	1.4	11	10.2	1.2
TOFs	12	11.8	0.3	12	14.2	1.6
Sat/Dande Explorer	9	11.4	1.4	8	12.0	2.0
Sunday bus	27	45.4	12.2	26	49.5	14.3
Sunday carpool	24	15.3	3.8	23	15.3	3.0
Wednesday	19	11.0	0.6	19	9.4	0.7
Social walks	12	8.8	1.4	12	12.7	1.0
Historical walks	1	8.0	4.0	0	0	0
OTHER ACTIVITIES						
Conservation	9	4.3	0	5	2.4	0.2
Training	5	14.2	3.2	7	11.0	6.0
Navigation training	2	5.5	1.5	1	10.0	3.0
Track maintenance	1	2.0	0	6	2.8	0
Skiing	1	8.0	0	1	7.0	1.0
Base camp	11	12.6	1.0	12	20.2	1.7
Lodge	3	10.7	0.7	1	22.0	3.0
Pack carry	20	7.9	1.3	27	10.9	1.5
Cycling	7	7.6	0.3	6	4.8	0.5

- Trip numbers are based on total trips – January to December.
- Average attendance numbers based on information from leaders, but exclude trips where numbers have not been provided.
- Not included are 12 cancellations in 2016 (due to a variety of reasons) and 16 in 2017, as follows: low numbers – PC x1, BC x1, CYC x5, MNT x1 & CON x2; high temperature – MOF x1; fire risk – WED x1; bad weather – BC x1 ; leader unavailable – BC x1 &
- CYC x1; unspecified – CON x1.

Stuart Hanham, (General Walks Secretary)



Deal Island lighthouse – photo by John Fritze



Dolphins in Bass Strait – photo by John Fritze

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT TO 2018 AGM

2017 has been a good year for membership. Our numbers have grown steadily during the year and now (end-February) stand at 511 current full-paid Members compared with 451 at the same time last year. This is despite a drop-off of 54 at renewal time. This is about average for non-renewal each year, though fewer than the 68 the year before.

As you no doubt know, sadly, we had some much valued Members die during the year and we miss them very much.

The most common reason given for non-renewal during our follow-up was 'too busy'. Next were 'moved away' and 'health'. The rest didn't reply, were uncontactable or said they would renew, but didn't.

Our age profile remains virtually the same at around 58 for women and 61 for men despite notable success in attracting younger Members. However, the average age on joining since 2014 is lower at 50.6 for women and 51.6 for men.

Our rate of Temporary Members converting to Members is 30.5%, up a little on last year at 27%. On average they do so by 5.2 months from their first walk with the club.

People are still mainly finding the club via our website, followed by information from friends. Referrals from Bushwalking Victoria and our MeetUp and Facebook pages are also growing in importance.

Arising from our success in growing the club there is some discussion as to whether we could become too big, causing some Members to miss out on a seat on the bus or on camps etc where numbers need to be limited. If you have any thoughts on this please let us know.

Hopefully the club will continue to be in good shape for 2018.

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Month ending	Ordinary	Honorary & Life	Total	Active Temporary
February 2017	433	18	451	214
February 2018	495	16	511	217

Gillian Wainwright, Membership Secretary

TRAINING OFFICER REPORT TO 2018 AGM

MBW training for 2017/18 year continued to deliver Module 1 involving Units 1-7 to keen leaders, some new and other experienced leaders. During the year, a full day organised on a Saturday attracted ten new participants who braved the Grand Final fever to undertake all the Units 1-5. The clubrooms continued to be utilised as the venue for the training and Ian Mair predominantly delivered the content.

MBW is unique in its willingness to provide training based on Bushwalking Victoria's model. Mick Noonan competently adapted scenarios for Unit 7 to make it relevant to our club and the ten who attended on the Wednesday night had opportunities to reflect on emergency situations which may occur during any walk.

Nigel Holmes again organised Premium Health successfully and First Aid Training involved 18 participants who now have the certificate which, gratefully for some, was subsidised by our club. The Map and Compass Navigation Training day run by Roger Wyatt in November, as well as March, allowed for Unit 6, also part of Module 1, to be completed by members and leaders. The successful GPS Navigation Training organised by Ian was also well received and invaluable. To date we have had 35 members who have attended training for selected Units in Module 1 since its availability.

Our commitment to offer ongoing training keeps MBW well in the forefront of bushwalking clubs' expectations. Potential leaders and general members are able to skill themselves up, acquire knowledge and build their confidence to lead all types of walks, keeping our club vibrant and active. An added bonus for those accessing the training allows potential leaders to access our club resources online and plan effectively for all walks. The effective mentoring of new leaders additionally supports our first time leaders.

To all the attendees of our training, 'Well Done!', and we hope to encourage all members to undertake some or all of the training Units. **OUR FIRST LEADER TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE ALL MODULE ONE UNITS, including Navigation Training, will receive our first-ever certificate at the AGM.**

CONGRATULATIONS to RICHARD STEVENS!

Training Officer A.Vetsica

REGENT HONEYEATER PROJECT PLANTING WEEKENDS

The Regent Honeyeater Project has announced extra planting days in coming months and are calling for volunteers for the following weekends: 12–13 May, 26–27 May, 9–10 June and 23–24 June.

Over several decades of operation, the project has worked successfully with local landholders and community groups in the Benalla–Strathbogie Ranges area to revegetate habitat for endangered species such as Regent Honeyeater and other birds, as well as gliders, reptiles and more.

The project is very well organised and provides free accommodation in local scout halls, tent site (or find your own accommodation to suit). Also provided is the Saturday night meal and Sunday lunch BBQ. Also discount breakfast at a local Benalla Bakery.

The planting weekends are always very enjoyable, with great company, a range of tasks to suit everyone, overall a great opportunity to put something positive back into the environment to help nature, animals and birds. Further planting weekends will be held in August and September.

Please show your interest by email to : andie@regenthoneyeater.org.au with a copy to environment@mbw.org.au

John Terrell



Mt Buffalo waterfalls 3–4 February – photos by John Fritze



MOUNT BUFFALO WATERFALLS 3–4 FEBRUARY 2018

The main attraction for our leader Jopie, was to check out one waterfall that he'd only recently heard about, and certainly never seen. So for a self-confessed 'Falls Fanatic', it was a simply a 'must see' experience.

There was everything in store for us lucky visitors: delicate, rare wildflowers; cool, ferny gullies; untouched Alpine Ash forests; tranquil streams and rock pools with crystal clear water; gentle cascades; majestic long distance views; awe inspiring cliffs and powerful waterfalls ...

Saturday's walk to Howell's Falls involved a 500 m vertical climb up Little Buffalo Creek, over a distance of around 4½ km. We began our walk through rough, boulder-strewn terrain left from the gold dredging days of the 19th Century. The lower slopes had clearly been denuded in the search for alluvial gold, with rock piles left to revegetate naturally – eucalypts, wattles, tea trees, ferns, and a fair covering of blackberries that the miners had planted for bush tucker.

Our ascent route up the creek itself was much nicer, with a mix of rock hopping, paddling in the cool shallow water, detouring into the scrub along the banks, and short rock climbs – one of which was made more difficult by a snake curled up in the main crack!

After many twists and turns we rounded a bend to see a massive granite slab with an impressive cascade up ahead. With forests and ferns on the flanks, rare orchids on the ledges, and blue sky above, it was simply beautiful! Rounding another bend, we saw the main falls – even more spectacular! It was clear we couldn't climb them, so off we went into the bush again, and re-emerged just at the top of the falls. The view back down the creek and off into the distance was fabulous.

After lunch (and a swim for some of us), we headed off to our descent spur, a few hundred metres north of the falls. Regrowth Bracken Fern from a recent fire made it tough and tiring work, so there was a change of leader to give the trailer breaker a well-earned rest. Further down, we found some well-preserved aqueducts, carefully dug along the contours to divert water from creeks into header tanks for the gold sluicing operations. The miners squirted water under high pressure at the friable soils on the lower slopes, sluicing the mud for gold that was dumped by streams aeons ago. We found the resulting 'blast holes' along the old stream lines – canyons up to 20 m deep and 100 m long hidden in the regrowth forest. They certainly left their mark!!

The Crystal Brook Falls walk on Sunday involved an 800 m vertical climb up from Eurobin Falls car park, over a horizontal distance of just over 2 km. That gave some idea of what the terrain was going to be like!! We started with a short scrub bash to get around Ladies' Bath Falls, and then rock hopping up the boulder-strewn creek bed. This was fairly easy going while the boulders were the size of a wheelbarrow, but they grew bigger and bigger as the terrain steepened, til they were as big as a house!! There were many smaller waterfalls that required short bits of rock climbing, or detours into the scrub along the banks. Finally we entered the Gorge itself, a massive canyon with huge near-vertical cliffs flanking us on both sides, following this for about 700 m to the base of the main waterfall. Here the canyon walls close in so tightly that the water is funnelled down a gloomy dark slot that descends from the plateau edge high above.

After lunch (and a swim for one hardy soul), it was a choice between retracing our steps down the creek, or continuing up to the plateau. None of us was particularly fond of the idea of down-climbing some of those steeper pitches, if indeed we could find them!! Fortunately 3 of the party had been up the route out of the gorge once before and knew the way, so we were glad to take this option. The track began its upward journey via a steep rocky ramp on the south wall, about 300m down from the falls. We sidled ever upwards following more ramps, gullies, ledges, and several short rock climbs that had fixed ropes attached. The track was well-marked by rock cairns, and mostly easy to follow all the way up to the main tourist lookout at the top of the gorge.

The spectacular views from the plateau edge, and the old heritage-listed Buffalo Chalet provided a great setting to relax as we waited for the car shuffle process – thanks to 2 friendly strangers, who happily gave our drivers a lift back to the cars at the bottom of the mountain.

It was a great weekend indeed, so many thanks to Jopie for organising it all, and sharing these special places with us. Thanks also to all the other team members from MBW and VMTC, for their very good company: Jacque P, Anita W, Susie H, Darrell W, Agajan A, Ray S and John F.

And a special thanks to John F, for his wonderful photographs to remind us of all the amazing things we saw!

Ray Thomas

Look for photos on page 8 of this newsletter, because there isn't room on this page – Editor.

BASE CAMP: DEAL ISLAND – 9/2/2018–13/02/2018

The sun was not up yet and we were already on board, on Nooramunga, a 20 metre twin motor boat, harboured in Port Albert. We were all mentally prepared and organised for at least nine hour boat trip to Deal Island. Sea sickness pills were our first breakfast ... prayers whispered for them to work. Derrick, our group leader, had handled many emails, planning, changes, bookings for all of us to depart that day, on Friday, February 9th, to Deal Island, a beautiful remote island on Bass Strait.

This five-day trip was a journey of learning. I guess that's just what happens when you leave the comfort zone of your home, of your familiar for a few days.

9 hours on the boat = great opportunity to get out of your head and learn something from others.

Wynne, an experienced white beard captain with red cheeks said nobody got sea sick on the way back. 'It's all in your mind' he said. Carol, the first mate of Wynne and excellent boat operator, taught us the rules of conserving the precious water and toilet usage on the boat.

When we arrived at our destination, Wynne used an inflatable small boat to take us to the shore, on Erith island. This was where we based camp, just 20 minutes sail away from Deal island. On Erith, we all unpacked, put up our tents and got together for a yummy dinner. Oh yeah, in the middle of nowhere, we even had chocolate cake, grace to Dianne, and fruit cake thanks to Debbie! There was a lot to learn from Kathie, Babak, Debbie, Derrick, Dianne, Gina, Jana, the two Johns, Kate and Carol, all gathered around the large wooden kitchen table in the camp.

On Saturday, Wynne gave us the first lift to Deal Island. We visited the Museum (East Cove) and for the morning tea we were already up on the hill to the Lighthouse. In the past, the Deal Island Lighthouse was rising proudly as the highest light in the Southern Hemisphere serving fishermen and sea travellers from 1848 till 1992.

A couple of us allowed themselves a longer tea break to admire the view from the Lighthouse. Others walked down to where one of the military aircraft crashed in Australia during the World War II. Then we all headed towards Squally Cove for lunch. The first day of bush walk ended with Little Squally Cove and, for the fastest and fittest (Gina, John F and Carol to be more specific) – Barn Hill too.

On Sunday, Wynne dropped us to Garden Cove. Walking from there to the Winter Cove, I learnt how little wallabies care about humans here. Wallabies could not bother any less about us taking close up photos of them for Facebook.

Through my inexperienced eyes, all the coves on Deal Island look pretty much the same (stunning clear turquoise water, beautiful sandy beach, a lot of bushes with wild Australian geese, wallabies and dry looking pine trees), except one – the Winter Cove which felt special. It must have been the warm brownish-orange colour of the rocks, the wide opening of the beach, the lovely lunch and afternoon we spent there on that Sunday ... or maybe the marvellous encounter with some serious kayakers who showed us some tricks and equipment for light camping. While we were at Winter Cove, Dianne and Kate walked up to Barn Hill, then went back to Garden Cove for snorkeling and sunbathing.

Monday was our last day on Erith. We truly made the best out of it by walking to Swashway, crossing over to Dover island, walk to headland and then return to the camp taking different routes. This is when I learnt that every single gram in our daypack matters in enjoying a walk effortlessly. As Carol and John F. were pointing out afterwards, when you are walking, you have to get your priorities right with everything you put in your backpack. You can take the wok on a base camp if it means a lot to you, but not on a pack carry trip. That Monday was certainly a memorable one, as the day when many of us pushed their limits. With encouragements and a lot of helping hands from Gina and Derrick, we all walked rocky paths we had never dreamed we could walk. We were sweaty (and sometimes frightened too!) while climbing those rocks, but it felt so rewarding at the end of the day.

On the way back to Port Albert on Tuesday, nobody was sea sick, to confirm Wynne's wise observation. Two groups of dolphins had raced with Nooramunga on our return, jumping up and down, and singing joyfully.

Now, from the comfort of my home, I am sending deep gratitude to Derrick, Gina, Babak, Carol, John-the-red-coat and John, Kathie, Debbie, Dianne, Jana and Kate for being part of this heart-warming learning journey.

Adriana Fari-Palko

Look for photos on page 6 of this newsletter, because there isn't room on this page – Editor.

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.



SUNDAY BUS

FLINDERS – BALNARRING – COOLART WETLANDS

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

This is a beach walk along the coast between Balnarring and Flinders. The E/M Group starts at Balnarring/Somers. This group has the opportunity to explore the historic Coolart homestead and wetlands. The Easy Group starts at Merricks Beach. Both walks follow the beach and the foreshore coastal reserve all the way to Flinders Jetty. All of us will have a nice rock pool to cross.

Merricks has a rather significant koala population and a host of manna gums and pine trees lining the streets. It is one of the few coastal places within a 100 km radius of Melbourne that has been basically untouched by development. After Merricks we rejoin the beach and follow it all the way to Flinders. We walk through Port Leo and Shoreham on our way to Flinders

Both walks finish at Flinders Lookout after a short climb up from the beach along the historic Cable Track. This is a really beautiful walk with interesting lava cliffs and lush green vegetation covering the surrounding hills. If we are lucky some dolphins may be sighted.

Both groups will have excellent views of Westernport and Phillip Island.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

NEW: CHOCOLATE WALK (DAYLESFORD AREA)

DATE Sunday 1 April 2018
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to City
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 16.5 km
ELEVATION 140 m
LEADER Theo Mertzaniadis
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
TRANSPORT COST \$12 per person
AREA Daylesford
MAP REFERENCE Vicmap topo 1:25,000 7723-3-n Daylesford North

FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Ballarat

About the walk, it is a first time walk for the Melbourne Bushies, so I hope you can join me on this slightly undulating but scenic walk. Our walk starts on part of the Great Dividing Trail, where we shall see the evidence of goldmining in the area in years gone past. Then we walk on a variety of tracks, part 4WD, part off-track through light scrub. We then follow a path going up to a ridgeline, where, if it is a clear day, we shall enjoy spectacular views of the below countryside. After having lunch and enjoying the country views below, we have a gradually steep descent maybe over rough terrain to a creek. The final part of our walk will be walking up about 100 m over 3 km to the cars, where we shall pass a miner's cottage, interesting to see the small spaces they lived in.

If we finish the walk in time, we shall do a 5 minute drive to the well known Chocolate Mill for a coffee or maybe try their homemade chocolate goodies.

Please be prepared for all types of conditions but plenty of water is a must. Any questions – call me..



TOFS WALK

PLENTY RIVER AREA

DATE Thursday 5 April 2018
RETURN TIME Before 3:30 pm to cars
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 9 km
ELEVATION Minimal, but some short ups and downs
LEADER Jerry Grandage
TRANSPORT Private
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 183 and 184
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

Start at 10:30 am at the Hawkstowe Picnic Area close to the LePage Farmhouse (Melways 183 J7), not to be confused with the Red Gum Picnic Area – suggested access Plenty Road and Gordons Road. We will walk generally north, close to the river, as far as Wilton Vale Road, returning via the Morang wetlands and lakes. You will see kangaroos and birds, red gum woodlands and river scenery. Please note that, while we will be on a track, the track is at times quite narrow and traverses broken ground with short ups and downs. Phone me to book in or enquire.



SUNDAY BUS

VENTNOR – RHYLL (PHILLIP ISLAND)

DATE Sunday 8 April 2018
RETURN TIME Southbank Boulevard at 6:30 pm
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES 16 km and 19 km
TOTAL ASCENTS Small hill
LEADERS Halina Sarbinowski and Omar Sharief
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Phillip Island
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Wonthaggi

This relaxing walk starts along the beach at Ventnor, Phillip Island. Both walks are very similar with the only difference being the longer of two will do a circuit of the Oswin Roberts Reserve. Both walks then head off along a scenic board-walk through Conservation Hill Reserve. This part of the walk will give lovely views of Rhyll Inlet. We then proceed along the foreshore, which will give us very good views of the Westernport area. We finish up at the seaside township of Rhyll. Hopefully the shops (not many) will still be open (depending on the time we get there).

This is a relaxing, picturesque walk on well-maintained tracks including tracks through the mangroves of the area. The walk is a splendid way to see the beautiful scenery of this part of Phillip Island.



WEDNESDAY WALK

LOWER LERDERDERG GORGE

DATE Wednesday 11 April 2018
RETURN TIME Wednesday evening 5–6 pm
STANDARD Easy/Medium to Medium
DISTANCE 16 km
LEADER Gina Hopkins
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Lerderderg State Park
MAP REFERENCE Lerderderg and Werribee Gorges 1:35,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Ballarat

Meeting time: 9:15am at Mackenzies Flat.

To get there, take the Western Freeway to Bacchus Marsh (2nd exit) then turn right onto Gisborne Road, then left on to Lerderderg Gorge Road and continue to end of the road.

This walk will explore the less frequented parts of the Lerderderg Gorge. There will be some steep climbs on rocky ground, and a steepish descent into the gorge, but all on a marked track. We will cross the river a couple of times but unless it has rained a lot we may be able to do this with dry feet. There will be rewarding views both within the gorge and looking over the plains back towards Melbourne.



PACK CARRY

BEGINNERS' MT FEATHERTOP ALONG RAZORBACK

DATE 13–15 April 2018
RETURN TIME Sunday evening 15 April
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE Approximately 26 km over 2 days
ELEVATION Varying from 1700 m to 1922 m

LEADER Helen Geddes
TRANSPORT Private car pooling
TRANSPORT COSTS \$60.00 per person approx. dependent on pick up and drop off
AREA Alpine National Park
MAP REFERENCE Bogong Alpine Area 1:50,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North East
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Hotham

Mt Feathertop along the Razorback is one of the more spectacular walks in the Victorian Alps and a great place for a Beginners Pack Carry.

The plan is to depart Melbourne on Friday afternoon as early as possible with a stop scheduled at Euroa (The Jumping Jumbuck Café) for an evening meal. We will then drive on via Bright to the Freeburgh Cabin and Caravan Park (15 Websters Lane, Freeburgh, 3741) where we will have campsites booked. (Approx \$20.00/person)

Saturday morning an 8 am departure to drive via Harrietville up via the Great Alpine Road till we find our destination, the Diamantina Hut. We will leave our vehicles here on the road alongside the track.

The walk out along the Razorback is a combination of ridge walking and sidling up, down and around as the terrain demands. We will be above the tree-line so it is important to be prepared for sun, wind, rain and even quite severe cold, perhaps. Alpine conditions can change at any time so important to be well prepared as well as flexible. Please check with Leader if uncertain.

Sunday Morning an 8 am departure to return to our vehicles, drive up to Dinner Plain for a coffee before returning to Melbourne via Lilydale.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

WARRAMATE HILLS (SEVILLE AREA)

DATE Sunday 15 April 2018
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to Southbank
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 15 km
ELEVATION 396 metres
LEADER Stuart Hanham
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Yarra Ranges, north of Seville
MAP REFERENCE VicMap 1:25,000 Tarrawarra, Melway map 283 & www.openstreetmap.org
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Dandenong

This would be one of the most scenic walks in the Yarra Valley. After a beautiful drive through the Valley, on little-used roads, we will enter the Warramate Hills Flora and Fauna Reserve and soon wind our way through undulating bushland, on disused MTB trails, before detouring to see the Yarra River. Next, there is a steady climb through tea-tree bush, followed by a walk across the grassy foothills of Warramate, where there are great views across the Yarra Valley, towards the surrounding mountains.

The route then climbs steeply for about 20 minutes to a panoramic lookout point on a ridge. Soon after, we will take another winding MTB trail to a vehicle track that leads to Mt. Steel, the highest point on the walk, and our planned lunch spot. There are more good views to the northern Yarra Valley, from here. After a few hundred metres, we'll go bush to locate another MTB trail, that winds and undulates through a blackened forest and skirts Briarty Hill, before emerging on a vehicle track.

The last section of the walk is on MTB trails and includes deep, lush gullies, with mosses, ferns, towering tree ferns and

some giant trees. We will then emerge to another great view across the Valley.

This walk is quite up and down, with some stony tracks and overgrown sections, so solid footwear and gaiters (or long pants) are recommended. Hiking sticks would also be useful. The route has been changed from our last hike in this area and offers beautiful views and a good of variety of terrain and vegetation. After a good workout, the plan is to finish at the nearby Killara Estate winery cafe.



MOFS WALK

SHIP ROCK FALLS

DATE Monday 16 April 2018
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 12 km
LEADER Jan Llewelyn
TRANSPORT Private
MAP REFERENCE Gembrook South 1:25,000 GR 764 059
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Dandenong

Meet at Ship Rock car park ready to walk at 10:30. If coming from Gembrook follow Launching Place Road for approx. 11.5 km, look for the car park on the left about 200 m after crossing Beenak Road. If coming from Launching Place take the Gembrook Road for approx. 15 km and watch for the car park on the right. The sign is facing the south. Toilets here.

The walk will commence on some rather rough tracks made by mountain bikes which take us to a series of mainly 4wd tracks and foot tracks. This is undulating country but nothing too steep. We will have lunch at Kurth Kiln. Picnic facilities and toilets here. It is worth going to Kurth Kiln for lunch but it may be late lunch if the party is slow.

After lunch we will do a short nature trail foot track before following bush roads back to the cars.



WEDNESDAY WALK

MT JERUSALEM CIRCUIT, KINGLAKE NATIONAL PARK

DATE Wednesday 18 April 2018
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 13.5 km
LEADER Doug Pocock
TRANSPORT Private
MAP REFERENCE Kinglake Outdoor leisure series GR 531 420
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Yarra Glen

Meet at the carpark at the corner of Heidelberg–Kinglake Rd and Old Kinglake Road. Please note that if you are coming through Yarra Glen, Old Kinglake Road is closed between Steels Creek and Heidelberg–Kinglake Rd. So you will need to go via Buttermans Track or up Melba Highway and through Kinglake. Be there to start walking at 10:30

The walk will be mainly on closed 4wd tracks, a few steep sections which could be a bit slippery after rain. Depending on the regrowth after the fires we may visit the summit of Mt. Jerusalem. The question is, would it go?



TRACK MAINTENANCE

WILSONS PROMONTORY LIGHTHOUSE (BTAC)

DATE Friday 20 to Sunday 22 April 2018
VENUE Wilsons Promontory National Park
STANDARD Easy/Medium
ORGANISER John Terrell (Co-ordinator)
TRANSPORT Private
FIRE BAN DISTRICT West Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Wonthaggi

Bushwalking Victoria (BTAC) have organised with the Ranger at Wilsons Promontory for a working bee on the weekend of 20-21 April next year, staying in the lighthouse cottages Friday and Saturday nights. Normally this would cost \$144.00 per person per night. BTAC will provide a BBQ and parks are not charging us to stay.

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

Usually we get more volunteers than we need, this time we need 20 helpers, so to make it fair, any one that participates on any BTAC track clearing event between now and March will have first choice. If there are more volunteers than we can accommodate all names go into a hat.

If you are available to help on this or any other BTAC Track Clearing activity please contact David Miller, BTAC Co-ordinator, direct with a copy to John Terrell at Melbourne Bushwalkers.

David Miller
 BTAC Projects Coordinator
 Mobile: 0417 565 919
 Email: davidmiller3199@gmail.com



PACK CARRY

MT HOWITT – MT SPECULATION – MT STIRLING
 (joint with VMTC)

DATE 20–25 April 2018
RETURN TIME Around 3:00 pm back at the cars
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 59 km
LEADER Gina Hopkins
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Alpine National Park
MAP REFERENCE Buller–Howitt Outdoor Recreation Guide
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North East
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Buller

This walk will be a 5 day circuit starting and ending at Stanley Name Gap on the Circuit Road around Mt Stirling.

We will start off ascending the Stanley Name Spur to the camp site just below the ridge of the Crosscut Saw. The next day we will do a side trip to Mt Howitt, and possibly Vallejo Gantner Hut, then across the Crosscut Saw to camp on Mt Speculation. We'll then continue on past Mt Koonika and down Muesli Spur to camp somewhere on the King River, near the King River Hut. On day 4 we will cross the King River several times (crocs or sandals recommended!) then follow a horse trail path up towards Craig's Hut. We will make camp a little further on to keep away from any possible 4WD's. On the last day we will have a short climb with our packs to the Monument Track then do a side trip to take in the views from

the summit of Mt Stirling. We should return to the cars in the early afternoon.

Note: this is a joint VMTC walk.

 **CYCLING**

EASTERN SUBURBS (train based)

DATE Saturday 21 April 2018
RETURN TIME approx. 4 pm (Blackburn Railway Station)
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 61 km
ELEVATION 450 m (total)
LEADER Sue Ralston
TRANSPORT Train or private car
TRANSPORT COSTS MYKI to Canterbury and from Blackburn stations
AREA Eastern suburbs
MAP REFERENCE Melway map 46 D11 (start)
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

This ride goes anti-clockwise in a wide arc from Canterbury station through East Malvern, Wantirna and Croydon to Blackburn station, and links several bike trails, starting with the Anniversary trail and including Scotchman’s Creek, Dandenong Creek, Taralla Creek, Mullum Mullum Creek and Eastlink trails.

There will, of course, be the mandatory morning coffee stop en route (with a pre-ride coffee option in Canterbury if needed).

Please bring a spare tube, basic bike-repair kit, water, snacks, lunch, sunscreen and clothing suited to the forecast.

We will meet at 9:35 am in the car park north of Canterbury Railway Station (south of Canterbury Road). The provisional Belgrave–Lilydale train timetable has an 8:46 from Flinders St arriving at 9:15 and a 9:06 arriving at 9:35. However, please check closer to the day in case there are any changes.

Please ring me by Friday evening to book for the ride. I look forward to seeing you there.

 **SUNDAY BUS**

DANDENONG RANGES TOURIST TRACK
 (ALTERNATIVE DEPARTURE POINT)

DATE Sunday 22 April 2018
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES 13 km and 17 km
ELEVATIONS 147 m gain; 319 m descent
LEADERS Angela Vetsica and Susanne Etti (Brett Daniels mentor)
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving northern corner of A’Beckett and Williams Streets, opposite the clubrooms, at 8:45 am
AREA Sassafras and Emerald
MAP REFERENCE Dandenong Ranges
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Dandenong

Come and enjoy walking in the spectacular Dandenong Ranges. The Easy/Medium group will commence at Sassafras on the Dandenong Ranges Tourist Track. It basically follows the Sassafras Creek, winding its way through the Kallista and Monbulk areas until it joins Menzies Creek, near Emerald. The Easy group will walk the same track but start the walk at Kays Picnic Ground, just one of the pleasant points along the way. This area abounds in ancient ferns and tremendous Mountain

ALTERNATIVE DEPARTURE POINT FOR SUNDAY WALKS OPPOSITE CLUBROOM

When advised, the alternative departure point for Sunday walks noted on the walks program and in previews will be at the bus stop on the northern corner of A’Beckett Street and William Street, opposite the clubrooms at the Royal Historical Society building.



Ash eucalypts, which make this an unforgettable walk in an area so close to Melbourne.

 **SOCIAL WALK**

ELTHAM LOWER AND CANDLEBARK PARKS

DATE Thursday 26 April 2018
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE Approximately 5 km
ELEVATION Mostly flat
LEADER Megan Martin
TRANSPORT Private
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

Meet Eltham Lower Park – Melway Ref : 21 H10, at 10:15am
 Enter park from Main Road, turn right at roundabout and meet in small parking area near toilet block.

This pretty walk follows Diamond Creek to its junction with the Yarra River which we then cross via a footbridge to Candlebark Park on the south side. We explore some of Candlebark Park before returning to the starting point by a different route.

Lunch will be a short drive away at Shillinglaw Café in Eltham.



SATURDAY WALK

SEAFORD – FRANKSTON CIRCUIT

DATE Saturday 28 April 2018
START TIME Depart from location in notes below at 10:15 am
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 15 km
ELEVATION Minimal
LEADER Halina Sarbinowski
TRANSPORT Private
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Frankston

We will meet in the carpark at Seaford Station for a 10:15 am start (the train from the city arrives at 10:02 am). Please be a little early so that we can start walking at 10:15 am.

From Seaford station we will head east to the Seaford Wetlands. After completing the wetland circuit we will return to the station and commence our walk along the Kananook Creek Walking Trail. This trail leads to the Frankston Foreshore. If you have never explored this trail, it is worth a visit.

We'll enjoy lunch either at Sofia's Restaurant on the foreshore or picnic on the grass that overlooks the bay. The choice is yours. If you decide not to lunch at Sofia's it is still worth enjoying their gelati cones. After lunch we will retrace our steps for a short distance along the Kananook Creek Walking Trail till we meet the Seaford Foreshore Walking Trail. This trail will lead us back to Seaford Station along a narrow strip of bushland between the Nepean Highway and the beach. We should be back to the start of the walk early afternoon.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

BOAR GULLY – NORTHERN CIRCUIT

DATE Sunday 29 April 2018
STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADER Roger Wyett
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Geelong

Details of this walk may be in next month's News, or on the Club's web site.



BASE CAMP

MARIA ISLAND – TASMANIA

DATE Sunday 29 April to Thursday 3 May 2018
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 30–40 km approximately
ELEVATION 706 m
LEADER Jill Allen
TRANSPORT Plane, shuttle bus, ferry
TRANSPORT COSTS Cost of flight and \$240 per person
AREA East Coast Tasmania

Sunday 29 April: Flying to Hobart 6 am with Jetstar, a shuttle will then take us to Triabunna on the East Coast, catching the 10:30 ferry across to Maria Island.

Monday to Thursday – Day walks around the island, leaving the island Thursday afternoon and flying home that night.

Accommodation is in the Old Penitentiary. There are 9 rooms which each have 6 bunk-beds, each with comfortable mattresses, picnic-style table and chairs and wood heater (not suitable for cooking). A room is \$44 per night for the first 2 people and \$10 pp after that. There are no shops on Maria Island and no fridges so you need to bring enough food to last five days without refrigeration. You will need to bring all food, bedding and lighting as well as pots, pans, kettles, crockery and cutlery. In the Camp Kitchen in the Mess Hall, gas stove tops are provided for cooking (no ovens). The mess hall has electricity and lighting and a wood heater. Toilets are nearby and coin operated showers are at the campground. I will book the accommodation on Maria Island and arrange the shuttle to and from the airport and the ferries.

Flights – I will require you to book your own flights, flying over to Hobart with Jetstar on Flight JQ701 – 6 am – 29 April 2018. Flying back on May 3 with Jetstar JQ716 at 10:40 pm, you can fly back with me on this flight or choose to stay on in Hobart for the weekend. www.jetstar.com.au

For more info on Maria Island – <http://parks.tas.gov.au/index.aspx?base=3503>



CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

BOGONG HIGH PLAINS

DATE 11–18 August, 2018
STANDARDS Various, but a 12+ km ski with packs from and to Falls Creek on the first and last days
LEADER Doug Pocock
TRANSPORT Private to Mt Beauty, then bus to Falls Creek. There is a charge to leave your car in the bus depot car park.

Imagine waking up in a comfortable hut about 12 km from the hustle and bustle of Falls Creek. There has been an overnight fall of fresh snow and there are miles of untracked snow waiting to be explored. After breakfast cleaning up is quickly done and lunch is made with freshly baked bread. Out onto the slopes with any amount of choices of trips, Mt. Cope, Mt. Jim, Ropers Lookout, Fitzgerald's hut, wherever we feel like visiting!

Of course if perchance the weather is inclement we may find some sheltered slopes to play around on and have telemark lessons from one of the experts. (Definitely not from me, I'm a plodder!)

We stay as guests of the Rover Scouts at their comfortable chalet. Sleeping is dormitory style in the loft, mattresses provided. Most of the food is stored in the large pantry and we only carry in fresh meat and vegetables provided by the Rovers. All chores such as cooking, cleaning, dishwashing and wood chopping are done by a voluntary roster. The Chalet has 240v power, a full industrial kitchen, unisex toilets and showers. There is a washing machine and a drying room. What more could you want???

If you are interested give me a ring or if I'm not around ring Marilyn Whippey.

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!

April 2018					
Sun 1	DAY: NEW: Chocolate Walk (Daylesford area)	Car	E/M	CN:ba	Theo Mertzandis
Thu 5	TOF: Plenty River area	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Jerry Grandage
Sun 8	DAY: Ventnor – Rhyll (Phillip Island)	Bus	E&E/M	CN:wg	Halina Sarbinowski & Omar Sharief
Wed 11	DAY: Lower Lerderderg Gorge	Pvt	E/M	CN:ba	Gina Hopkins
13-15	PC : Beginners' Mt Feathertop along Razorback	Pvt	Easy	NE:mh	Helen Geddes
Sun 15	DAY: Warramate Hills (Seville Area)	Car	E/M	CN:md	Stuart Hanham
Mon 16	MOF: Ship Rock Falls	Pvt	Easy	CN:md	Jan Llewelyn
Wed 18	DAY: Mt Jerusalem circuit, Kinglake NP	Pvt	E/M	CN:yg	Doug Pocock
20-22	MNT: Wilsons Prom Lighthouse (BTAC)	Pvt	E/M	WG:wn	John Terrell (Co-ord)
20-25	PC : Mt Howitt–Speculation–Stirling cct (+ VMTC)	Pvt	Med	NE:mb	Gina Hopkins
Sat 21	CYC: Eastern suburbs (train based)	Pvt	E/M	CN:me	Sue Ralston
Sun 22	DAY: Dandenong Ranges Tourist Track	Bus	E&E/M	CN:md	Angela Vetsicas & Susanne Etti (Brett Daniel mentor)
Thu 26	SOC: Eltham Lower & Candlebark Parks	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Megan Martin
Sat 28	DAY: Seaford – Frankston Circuit	Pvt	E/M	CN:me	Halina Sarbinowski
Sun 29	DAY: Boar Gully – Northern Circuit	Car	E/M	CN:ge	Roger Wyatt
29-3	BC : Maria Island, Tasmania	Pvt	Easy		Jill Allen