



A000133X

THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

May 2018

REGENT HONEYEATER PROJECT TREE PLANTING WEEKENDS

Melbourne Bushies has a long association with this project and we hope to have several groups participating this year. Please contact John Terrell (environment@mbw.org.au) if you may be interested. More information and photos at <http://regenthoneyeater.org.au/>



The Regent Honeyeater Project has an exciting list of sites to plant this year as we continue into our 23rd year of rehabilitation and landscape connection.

Over that time we have recorded an increase in the number of Grey-crowned Babbler (50 to 116) who operate in family groups and can be counted; a much wider range for the Brush-tailed Phascogale in nesting boxes; sightings in the Lurg Bird Search of rarer birds in the listed Victorian temperate-woodland bird community such as Diamond Firetail, Painted Honeyeater and many others. The Regent Honeyeater itself remains listed as Critically Endangered and rarely seen. We appreciate the help we have been given over the years and with Ray now in retirement we are continuing in his footsteps as we link the Lurg Hills to Winton Wetlands and the Chesney Hills.

Due to a strict cut-off date for the completion of a 5 year funding cycle (we have applied for the next 5 year round) we need to have most of our planting completed and reported before the end of this financial year and with that in mind have set the dates for the planting weekends as:

PLANTING WEEKENDS: 12/13 May, 26/27 May, 9/10 June, 23/24 June. Then later: 4/5 August, 18/19 August, 8/9 September

If you can join us for any of the early weekends that will be greatly appreciated. The weather here over May and June can be glorious as autumn morphs into winter and with changing climate we are committed to planting much earlier to avoid the drying spring tendency and then the risk of needing to hand water plants over a long, hot summer.

The nest box inspection weekends that are usually carried out in autumn will be on hold again this year as we deal with the urgency around getting plants into the ground and OH&S issues around ladder heights. We will resume these inspections in the near future.

We will be able to provide the same free accommodation as in the past (mattresses at the Guide and Scout Hall in Benalla) and as in the past will provide an evening meal on the Saturday and an on site lunch on Sunday before heading home, both at no charge. As we get closer to the dates we will confirm other activities which will also be happening over the planting weekends (talks, bush dance etc.).

This project is supported by the Goulburn Broken Catchment Authority, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme and the Threatened Species Recovery Fund (in partnership with BirdLife Australia).

Due date for contributions (including July previews) to June News: 21 May

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 4 June 2018

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Tracey Birt, Jim Kianidis, Dianne Robinson-Phillips, Mary Cassar, Troy Yan, Geoffrey Martin, Brian Steffersen, Paul Keown, Marie Cruz, Rachel Keen, Elaine Sanders, Peter Sanders, Clive Davies, and welcome back to Tony Appleyard.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION

On the 28th March we were treated to an insight into the monumental solo walk to be undertaken by Phil McDonal, supported by his wife Susan. This walk commencing 6th May will cover 3200 km and take until September to complete.

Following the presentation a spontaneous passing of the hat raised \$150 towards The Fred Hollows Foundation. Phil and Susan wish to thank all those members who contributed for their generosity.

If you wish to follow Phil's progress or add your support to The Fred Hollows Foundation visit the website at: <https://www.philsusanmcdonald.com/>

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. 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 Merilyn Whimpey.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – MAY 2018



The club has a broad spectrum of walks every month to suit members of varying interests, flexibility in timing and capability. Opportunities for social interaction too have always been a part of the Melbourne Bushwalkers activities program. These provide a welcome chance for members to share experiences away from the rigours of a walk, particularly between members who do not participate in the same categories of walking. Generally the fourth Wednesday of each month is allocated to a presentation in the clubrooms by a member or invited guest. With 'Wine and Cheese' available these prove to be very popular events. The range of topics is vast, covering talks as fascinating as walks in remote and exotic places through to topics of vital importance in the fields of conservation and sustainability. Countries covered in recent talks include New Zealand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Japan, France, Switzerland, Turkey, Georgia, Peru ... and the list

goes on. We are an internationally travelled group!

Two more recent talks have touched on a different theme closer to home. They have reminded us that Australia is a big place and presents many challenges for those who wish to venture forth. A presentation on the historic and fatal journey of Burke and Wills, from Melbourne to the Gulf of Carpentaria and back, highlighted the seemingly empty vastness of the outback and the dangers that await anyone venturing that way insufficiently prepared. Not so Phil McDonald. His enlightening talk of the solo walk he is about to undertake retracing the northwards footsteps of Burke and Wills, a journey of some 3200 km, has a worthy aim of raising funds for The Fred Hollows Foundation. The presentation was as engrossing in the details of the planning needed as it was in the descriptions of the country and the exploits of his less fortunate heroes.

The second presentation to note took us in the opposite direction, down to the rugged ranges of the Tasmanian Tarkine region. No empty vastness here. Quite the opposite. The presentation by the party leader, Claire Luxford, pointed out in graphic detail the tangled web of shrubs brush that frustrated progress at every step. 3 km in 8 exhausting hours spoke to some of the challenges faced as much as to the determination to succeed. And succeed they did. You can read about the trip at length in this newsletter.

Each of these two presentations showed that the spirit of adventure is still very much alive in the club. They also highlighted some of the risks that have to be foreseen and the importance of careful planning and preparation. The club's highest priority is for the safety of its members, but whether you are on a club trip or a private trip, the practices adopted by the club will help ensure you return safely from your next adventure. Our Risk Management Plan is a great place to start, particularly if you have difficulty sleeping at night! As such documents go it is hardly the most exciting reading. It does, though, provide a comprehensive list of the risks that need to be considered by leaders and participants on club trips. Our safety and emergency contact guidelines are informed by the perceived risks, as are many of our other practices, and make for easier reading and comprehension. The Risk Management Plan is a living document, reviewed annually, taking account of all incidents and accidents that may have occurred in the previous year, as well as advice from outside sources. Past-President Mick Noonan has just completed the latest review and update of the Risk Management Plan and will prepare a note for a later newsletter on some of the areas of change.

One of the common themes of the presentations referenced above is the value of carrying a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB). A PLB is an electronics device that is designed specifically to be used as the last resort when all other avenues have been exhausted and you are in grave and imminent danger. Its use will result in a search and rescue response if you need it. As with all electronic devices the size and weight of PLBs are constantly reducing and they are increasingly regarded as an essential item of gear to be carried by a group on multi-day walks, or if you are walking alone, where mobile phone coverage cannot be guaranteed. Indeed, even where there may be mobile phone coverage the more reliable battery life of a PLB makes it a sensible consideration. The club possesses two PLBs that can be borrowed by leaders for use on club trips, and by members in general if they are not otherwise needed.

Deciding which unit to buy can be a daunting experience. Specifications, claims and marketing spin can frustrate many of us. Fortunately Nigel Holmes conducted a valuable review of many of the suitable units on offer which guided the purchases by the club. If you are considering purchasing a unit and would like a copy of Nigel's review than just drop me an email. Alternatively, check out the units we hold next time you are in the clubrooms and then look for the best price. Carrying a couple of hundred extra grams could save you a lot of anxiety.

Ian Mair

Social Event in the Clubrooms

Wednesday 27 June, 8 pm

THE JOHN MUIR TRAIL – Brett Daniel and Fang Fang

The John Muir Trail (JMT) is the premier hiking trail in the United States. The trail starts in Yosemite National Park, and continues in a southerly direction for 339km through the Ansel Adams Wilderness, Sequoia National Park, King’s Canyon National Park, and takes in the highest peak in continental United States, Mount Whitney at 4,421m. The lowest point (1,200m) on the trail is the northern terminus at Happy Isles in Yosemite Valley. The highest point (4,421 m) on the trail is Mount Whitney. With the exception of the first 11 km leaving Yosemite Valley, the elevation of the trail never falls below 2,100 m.

Construction of the JMT began in 1915, a year after Muir’s death. Today a permit is required to hike the JMT. Permit reservations can be hard to obtain for JMT thru-hikers, but a portion of permits are reserved for walk-ins. Over 75 percent of hikers hike north to south. Last year Brett and Fang completed the southern section (around 100km), between Onion Valley and Horseshoe Valley, including Mt Whitney.

Join us while Brett and Fang outline their experiences, logistics and challenges on this stunning walk.



FEDERATION WALK 2018 – CALL FOR LEADERS

This year, the Federation Walk will be held on Saturday, 20 October 2018 as a one-day event organised by Bushwalking Victoria. The event will be held on the Mornington Peninsula at Elgee Park, 310 Wallaces Road, Dromana. Details will be sent to all clubs in the next few weeks. Save the date – it will be a wonderful event.

Bushwalking Victoria are seeking 22–24 walk leaders for this event. If you have led walks on the Mornington Peninsula and are willing to volunteer, please contact Peter Conroy via email: peter@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au – thank you.



WALKING THE TARKINE, TASMANIA! MARCH 3-10 2018



Armed with GPS, PLB, maps and a pioneering, FEARLESS leader Claire Luxford, Mick, Di, Fang, Terese, Sylvia, Meredith and I embarked on a unique N.W. Tasmanian, wilderness experience in the isolated, fragile Tarkine. Preparation for the 7-day pack carry was Sydney Bushwalkers' vivid account of their experience. Our reference to Tarkine Trail notes (Phill Pullinger), provided a suggested route, with no camping sites or water locations and was of little value.

Nothing fazed our leader! We were deposited 30 km on Western Explorer Road, five-hour gravel drive from Launceston. Exploration began for the Norfolk Range at this grid reference. The notes write, 'The Norfolk Range is notorious for its scrub: not just thick scrub but a particular entanglement of bauera, cutting-grass and melaleuca.' Now we comprehend the reality of what

scrub can signify for hikers and what 'difficult to navigate and unmarked wilderness' means! Mt Edith in our sight, we tramped towards our first waypoint which seemed relatively easy as we balanced over the button grass.

Pushing aside bushes and stumbling up rocks we scrambled up the slope, eventually bringing us to the vertical climb to a saddle on Mt Edith. The tough button grass allowed us to haul ourselves up to a sheltered spot before the approaching, dark clouds bucketed down over us and the Range. Finding flat ground was a challenge, but thankfully we sheltered before the battering wind and rain hit us.

Emerging with the sunrise was refreshing so from Mt Edith summit, Norfolk Range's highest point, we headed towards Mt Hadmar, our next target. As we soaked in 360 degree views, Claire and Mick consulted their GPS maps and identified a direction towards waypoint 2. This pattern of huddling over maps and GPS, scouring the terrain, repeated itself frequently at short intervals to ensure an easy passage was taken towards each waypoint. Our path looked flat and grassy; how wrong we were! It was exhausting, trudging through uneven ground, ending up in walls of dense scrub which enclosed us and gave us no alternative but to fight or crawl through it. Needless to say our progress was worse than a snail's!

Having no real view of the surrounding area, we descended into gully after gully, entrenching ourselves in towering, impenetrable scrub. While we huddled in the overgrowth, Claire forcibly pushed, pulled crushed, untangled roots, broke branches or entwined vines to create a possible path for the group. Each step was blocked but thankfully Di, Teresa, Meredith and Mick alternated to forge through. From the rear Sylvia, Fang and I advised the team of possible entry points into the overgrowth. Our confrontation with walls of scrub, with no real footholds, unbalanced all of us causing us to slip, slide, fall and collect bruises. It provided an advantage though, we were protected from the glaring sun as we negotiated which scrub to attack. Remarkably, our packs came off unscathed. Our extraordinary, slow progress, 8 hours for 3 kilometres, consequently stopped us reaching Lagoon Elbow, making us camp at and search for water at the bottom of Mt Hadmar. Thankfully, Meredith heard running water nearby (thus named Meredith Creek). This vantage point also provided unique views and glorious sunset dinners as we debated alternate paths we could/should have taken from Mt Edith.

Assuming our hardest scrub bashing was finished and water would be plentiful, we aimed for Lagoon Elbow the next day. To our dismay, encountering more dense scrub with creeks and gullies full of horizontal scrub, banksias and hollow undergrowth tired us dramatically and provided no signs of water to replenish our depleted supplies. The increased heat and steep climb up to open plain on the ridge at lunch offered a promising valley for water. A delegation set off to explore while tents dried and a few recuperated. Worryingly, with upper-arm strength diminished and unable to break, unclearable scrub, no water was located. This dilemma brought up our group concern of dehydration. This risk had us discussing the differing views of water usage – 'Do you drink as little as possible and conserve water? Or 'Do you stay hydrated, sipping slowly to not reach a critical level?'

Realising Lagoon Elbow would not be reached, this issue occupied our thoughts during the hot climb to the ridge, towards Mt Sunday. Trudging in front Di stepped, to our delight in a muddy patch! Mick eagerly pounced

Along the Track

on the plot, dug and filtered water through Chux while Di and Claire, now motivated, located a small stream ahead. Our relief was visible as we took quenching gulps! Ignoring the heavy weight we ensured every bladder we possessed was full. This was a valuable lesson, so we vowed never to allow our water supply to dwindle to a critical level ever again. With increased morale, we ascended energetically to the base of Mt Sunday. Tents elevated on the button grass, we dined watching the 360 degree sunset spectacular! Crawling out to sunrise glory inspired us to aim for Lagoon Elbow! As expected our navigator duo huddled to map out a carefree path towards waypoint 11.

Hoping to skirt around the dreaded, impenetrable scrub, we hiked on through the plains, experiencing some relief when we followed wombat/wallaby tracks.

Consequently, SCRUB filled gullies appeared AGAIN, a steep, banked creek, before we reached Lagoon Elbow, a deep fast-flowing river, which we had to cross! Unnerving a few of us, Claire and Terese scouted for a safe crossing, then generously provided support across the slippery boulders. Claire and Meredith remained to swim, while the rest jumped and squashed the foliage for camp. The button grass created an interesting mezzanine level each night and caused extraordinary condensation!

Satisfied we reached this waypoint, we modified our intentions to locate an unused mining track and accelerate our progress towards the coast. Enthusiastically we headed through seemingly flat plains towards waypoint 13, squashing laboriously built yabby towers only to meander into scrub-filled gullies again! Once we emerged we surveyed the terrain, to identify anything remotely resembling a 4-wheel track in the distance. Everything was an imagined track, but we followed Sylvia's version and made a beeline for it and ecstatically stumbled across it. FLAT DIRT, UNHINDERED WALKING, we could have kissed it! Finally no slipping, sliding, falling over, unbalancing, and no vegetation in our faces.

What exhilaration when we avoided our only snake and emerged on the coast with huge sand dunes and middens scattered along the shoreline. It was rugged, waves pounded, surf swelled as we hiked along the cliffs and crossed rivers with time to swim and soak our feet. Our final camp site was a FLAT, grassy, idyllic location and we revelled in its seclusion. Its protection from the wind allowed us to enjoy a camp fire, a magical sunset viewed from the sand dunes and a night of spectacular stargazing!

Finally, we powered through pebbled beaches, along the cliffs to reach the scheduled pickup point, met a fisherman who lacked water, so generously shared some of our rations. We also noticed the dreaded buggies fishing off the rocks, hoping that was their intention only and not to disrespect the sacred middens! Reaching the Pieman Heads signalled the end of our journey. Spotting the Acadia 11, the riverboat, we waved colourful tarps and gestured frantically to capture the attention of the captain with the hope of an early pick up. Alas, no success so we resigned ourselves to pass time and take advantage of the time to tend our tents and clothes.

While we hovered near head waters, observing the tourists and swans on the opposite bank, our worst injuries were sustained, wasp stings! After 5 hours waiting, our barge ferried us down the Pieman River to quaint Corinna. Our accommodation, the historic pub, had blissful showers, sheets and room to celebrate and debrief involving alcohol. Luckily before our transfer, we squeezed in a cruise to Lovers' Falls, down the Savage River to see the sunken SS Croydon and admired the rainforest banks full of Huon Pine and Sea Eagles. Leaving our leader to continue further exploration of the Tarkine Coast, we journeyed back to Launceston, catching glimpses of Cradle Mountain.

Our group definitely admired Claire's tenacity and energy during our whole expedition and thank her for her encouragement and positive outlook to make this trip as enjoyable as possible. Though we can truly say it was not classified as fun it was certainly adventurous, challenging and a memorable experience!

This walk allowed us to utilise our endurance, recognise our capabilities to cope with untracked terrain. It also gave us a deeper appreciation of the Tarkine, under threat of mining, logging and 4-wheel drivers whose appalling disregard for ancient sacred sites was visible. All eight of us admired Claire who passionately guided us through this threatened, Tasmanian rainforest.



Angela Vetsica

GREAT BARRIER ISLAND

The club ran a walk in March on a tropical paradise called Great Barrier Island. No it's not in Queensland, it is 75 km north-east of Auckland, New Zealand.

We began our adventure with a 4.5-hour ferry ride from Auckland. It was great going up Auckland harbour. Some of us slept, but some of us vomited. Susan had four cars waiting for us at the dock. We were all accommodated on a property near Medlands Beach with some of us in villas and some of us in bunks. The beach was beautiful, some of us swam, some of us walked along it.

Then, with a diverse group Susan had walk options, really hard, really nice and not at all if you didn't want to. Walking highlights included the Harataonga Coastal Walkway that started in a sheep paddock, a walk to Warren's waterfall where some of us had a swim, a highpoint walk to Te Ahumata where quite a few of us slipped over.

Most of us also walked the Aotea Track which started with us walking through the unique rock formations of Windy Canyon and included Mt Hobson, the highest point on the Island. This walk had some fabulous views over much of the island and included many river crossings which were fun. We stayed at Mt Heale hut which was new and had the best views and the bonus was that there was gas. Our stay in the Kaiaraara hut was interesting as it had a lovely river but also had rats. This freaked out some of us a bit but let's just say that the Americans on honeymoon didn't spend all night by themselves in the kitchen and relocated during the night. We finished with the Old Lady Track, which was anything but an old lady walk, leading to a magnificent lookout over Port FitzRoy.

We also had a rest day to let the cyclone pass, played with a drone, got bogged, visited the coffee shops and finished the week with a dinner at the Carrach Irish Pub. We also enjoyed the flight back to Auckland in an 8-seater light plane.

On behalf of Ian, Halina, Peter, Susan Mc, Robert, Raf, Omar, Judy, Jane, Stuart, Leyal, Kathie, Leslie, Chris, I want to say thank you to Susan Maughan for her generosity and expertise in organising and leading a great walk.

Richard Hanson



EASTER IN A CANOE: A TRIP DOWN THE GLENELG

Twelve eager, if somewhat inexperienced, canoeists assembled at Moleside Creek campground on the Thursday evening before Easter after meticulous planning and detailed emails from our leaders Jamie and Bethia. Our attempts at restful sleep that night were thwarted by fellow campers who chose to socialise around the fire until the early hours of the morning, but nevertheless we were up bright and early to come to grips with packing our trip luggage into watertight barrels rather than our familiar backpacks.

With the car shuffle to the nearby town of Nelson sorted, Jamie herded us to the water with our canoes, and suddenly there we were bobbing on the Glenelg River holding paddles rather than walking poles and trying to figure out how to use them! Each canoe couple faced the challenge of learning to work together to achieve forward motion over the water, which wasn't easy at times. Adjustments to canoe weight loading had to be made; yes, lightweight packing tips are also useful for canoeing! Thus we made our way from landing jetty to landing jetty along the winding river, practising getting into and out of our watercraft without capsizing as well as mastering the art of tethering the canoes so they didn't continue the voyage without us. We were fortunate that, after an initial sprinkle of rain, the weather was fine and the beauty and peace of floating downriver soon became apparent.

At last, after paddling 14 long kilometres against the breeze and with aching shoulders, we arrived at Skipworth Springs camp in the late afternoon to be met by a large group of cheery paddlers who had taken most of the flat camping spots already. Not to be deterred we set up our tents in close formation and prepared our evening meals under the supervision of a flock of gang gang cockatoos in the trees above. As the light faded we enjoyed our warm and tasty meals with no phone signal to divert us from the appreciation of nature and life felt good.

The next morning, Jamie was again urging us on, motivated by the aim of reaching the next campsite before the other group so we could have first pick of the tent spaces. No matter that they were half the age of many of us and more adept in canoes, their youth meant they liked to sleep in. With yesterday's experience behind us, we packed our tents, buckled on our life jackets, loaded our canoes, and were slipping away down the river before the other group had found their breakfasts; or possibly the resident camp possum had found some of their breakfasts first!

We paddled like pros for 16 kilometres with only one stop for morning tea and reached our destination at Bowd's camp in time for lunch. We staked our claims, erected our tents, then settled down to relax for the afternoon. There was a nearby pine forest to explore, a river to swim in and a sunset to enjoy before turning into our sleeping bags for the night.

Easter day involved a relatively short journey to Lasletts camp, giving us time to enjoy the reflections of sky and cliffs on the calm water, spotting ducks and other water birds, as well as the occasional kangaroo or wallaby on the bank. This day we arrived at the campsite just as the surprised residents of the night before were leaving. We set up camp to enjoy the river views, and after lunch completed the 5-kilometre return walk to Princess Margaret Rose caves. The main aim of this expedition was to arrive at this popular tourist site in time to purchase ice creams at the shop! We planned to visit the actual caves the next day. Back at camp the sunny weather (and possibly the lack of showers) enticed more swimmers into the refreshing, if muddy, Glenelg waters while others read or snoozed.

On our last morning we guided our canoes to the caves for the underground tour of subterranean wonders, then got back behind our paddles to complete the final stretch to Donovan's Landing in South Australia where we would complete our trip. This took some effort as we battled the headwinds blowing up from the coast as well as being rocked by waves from passing boats now that we were approaching civilisation. We all arrived safe and happy after a very enjoyable trip, and some of us are thinking that with a bit more practice we might even reach a level to compete at the Masters Games in canoeing in future! Or maybe floating downriver in a canoe gives rise to too much daydreaming?

Thanks for the excellent company of Ian, Halina, Poppy, Vince, Arron, Leila, Omar, Sara and Susanne, and the expert leadership of Jamie and Beth.

Deb Shand



NORTHERN WILSON'S PROM 30 MARCH – 2 APRIL 2018

There were two men on this trip. Is that a record? On the Wabonga trip I was the only man. People on this trip included two farmer's sons, a boat builder's daughter from Williamstown, Ken McMahon's sister and an accountant. The boat builder's daughter was the leader, called Meredith. Meredith was fresh from a waterless bush bash trip from hell in Tasmania. She was apprehensive about a bush bash through Chinaman's Swamp and she was definitely carrying two litres of water, minimum. Thirst is a great teacher, as is experience. For example, experience has taught me that if a party has to split because of a mishap, and there is only one map, the group without a map is seriously up the creek. Ken McMahon's kid sister is Jill. Meredith and Jill met travelling in a 'Stan'. Jill introduced Meredith to the Bushies. Jill's first thru-hike was the Larapinta Trail. Now she and Meredith are bushwalking addicts. Agajan and me are sons of farmers. We were last together on that High Plains trip when it rained for four days straight. I was introduced to Rachel, an auditor, and her face looked familiar. We worked out that we'd been with Claire in the Brisbane Ranges years ago. This sort of thing keeps happening. At Nadgee someone that I barely recognised said that she'd been in the tent next to mine on the ultimate trip from hell, Cape Liptrap 2014.

Northern Wilson's Prom is not done much. Probably because Parks Victoria says: 'Hikers must fill out a Hiker Self Assessment Form before a hiking permit is issued. Some track sections are marked with flagging tape; however other sections are undefined. Therefore hikers must be proficient in navigation with a map and compass.' Unfortunately Parks Victoria have had bad experiences with people who spent 7 hours in the swamp or were lifted out of the swamp by helicopter. In truth this is an mostly an easy walk. One part is a road, another beaches and shore rock hopping, another is across a peninsula on a good track and the other is the swamp which is waterless at this time of year and low scrub.

We did the track anti-clockwise. Good Friday was a 19 km walk along a road that took 4 hours 20 minutes. We arrived in time for lunch at 5 Mile Beach Campsite and spent the rest of the day loafing. Saturday we did a side-trip along 5 Mile Beach for 10 km return then walked 3 km over a headland to Johnny Souey Cove Campsite. Here there was a fleet of sea kayaks on a 12 day trip around the prom. The weather was settled and windless so they had perfect conditions, hoping to make Refuge Cove in two days. That night there was a full moon of great beauty. On Sunday we did some delightful rock hopping round Three Mile Point, walked 3 Mile Beach then crossed the peninsula on Tin Mine Cove Track to Tin Mine Cove for 15.2 km for the day. Another splendid campsite in Tea Tree, reminiscent of South West Tasmania. Here there was a sea kayak manned by a couple who had stopped for a walk. On Monday we left at high speed at 6.52 am and covered 23.3 km to the cars in 8 hours 20 minutes, an excellent time. This was due to the superlative navigation though the swamp. It took only 3½ hours from Chinaman Long Beach to Lower Barry Campsite. Meredith put Agajan in front to track find whilst she monitored her GPS that had a track downloaded from Trail Hiking Australia. Whenever the track was lost the leader was able to direct the track finder back to it. This method is faster than map and compass and possibly faster than reading grid references off a GPS onto a map. Meredith had learnt this technique from a day course run by Ian Mair. Her GPS is a Garmin 64st, a lovely piece of kit. To our surprise, Chinaman Swamp was entirely dry, and notwithstanding that it was Tiger Snake breeding season, we saw only one snake there.

Ian Langford



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.



SOCIAL WALK

DANDENONG CREEK, BAYSWATER – HEATHMONT

DATE Thursday 24 May 2018
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE Approximately 5 km
ELEVATION Flat
LEADER Alister Rowe
TRANSPORT Private

Meet at 10:15 am in the carpark at H.E. Parker Reserve, Heathmont, Melway map 64 C2. There is also a 1.3 km path from Heathmont Station.

We will walk along the Dandenong Creek to Wantirna Road and return. Lunch at Barclays Bistro in Heathmont.



PACK CARRY

BLACKWOOD – LERDERDERG GORGE

DATE 26–27 May 2018
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 27 km
LEADER Agajan Akbari
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Lerderderg Gorge State Park
MAP REFERENCE Lerderderg & Werribee Gorge Meridian Production 2001, 1:35,000

Rugged, beautiful and scenic, this is one of the easier good walks close to Melbourne that Lerderderg Gorge provides.

We travel on Saturday morning and meet at Blackwood (details later).

After doing a car shuffle, we will begin the walk on Whisky Track (intersection of Whisky Track with O’Briens Road), later on walking on to Vodka Track. After approximately 12 km walking we will camp at Lerderderg Gorge campsite with the opportunity to have a campfire.

On Sunday we will be walking along the Lerderderg River and Byres Back track for a total of 15 km (we may have some off-track and river walking if the river water level permits).

It is expected to be cold at this time of the year and participants are required to be equipped with all types of weather gear and carry their own personal first aid kit.

If you are interested in the walk or would like more information please contact me via email.



TRAINING

NAVIGATION TRAINING – WERRIBEE GORGE

DATE Saturday 2 June 2018
VENUE Werribee Gorge
STANDARD Easy
ORGANISER Roger Wyatt
TRANSPORT Private
START TIME 8:45 am
ESTIMATED COST \$15
BOOK WITH Roger Wyatt
ACTIVITY AREA Werribee Gorge
MAP REFERENCE Melway Key Map 7 B5

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

The group will be limited to 6 participants, so all participants will have a chance to navigate in a small group, without any pressure, as this is all about learning.

Please bring a compass (borrow one from another club member) and standard day pack, as we will be away from the cars all day, but likely to be an early finish, as long as no one gets lost!



SUNDAY BUS

MT MARTHA – THE BRIARS – SAFETY BEACH

DATE Sunday 3 June 2018
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to City
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES 16 km and 19 km
TOTAL ASCENTS Minimal
LEADERS Jenny Andrewes and Halina Sarbinowski
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
AREA Mornington Peninsula

In 2011 the Federation Walk weekend highlighted the Mornington Peninsula area. Local clubs hosted the walks for this weekend and their local knowledge is evident in the choices of paths that the walks take. This walk is No 19 of the 2011 Federation Weekend.

Both walks commence on the iconic trail along the Balcombe Creek from Mt Martha foreshore to the Briars, a homestead and wildlife sanctuary which has been preserved by the National Trust. Once at the Briars we will traverse the Kur-Bur-Rer Walk through the wildlife sanctuary and visit the bird hides for which the sanctuary is renowned. On the day of the preview a variety of wetland birds were observed, including a spoonbill, however, the highlight was an emu grazing on the edge of the wetlands.

From the Briars we retrace our steps along the Balcombe Creek Trail till just before the walkers' underpass of the Nepean Highway. From here we follow the track to the dog leash free area before crossing the Highway. We now enter Mt Martha 'residential area', however, surprisingly the walk which now follows the Hopetoun Trail along the Hopetoun Creek is an oasis of solitude and serenity among this populated area. It also pays credit to the locals whose knowledge of the area have ensured that this walk minimises the impact of the housing while highlighting the area's natural features. We also skirt the local golf course before making our way to Mt Martha Public Park where both walks reach the highest point of the walk at 160 m and a lookout that gives exceptional views of the coast plus Arthurs Seat in the distance.

At this point the easy walk will be picked up by the bus, with the easy/medium walkers continuing to the foreshore of Safety Beach. These walkers will need to walk along some of the 'residential' streets of Mt Martha before reaching the path that meanders between Marine Drive and the beach, however, this is not a distraction from the walk. It actually includes a 'WOW' factor of the houses and the views of the area. It may even make you question your choice of where to live. I know that the leaders pondered this question as we previewed the walk. Another highlight of this last section of the walk is the man-made canal of Mt Martha Cove. The walk will go under the canal prior to its finish at Safety Beach.



TOFS WALK

ELTHAM – GRIFFITHS PARK – SWEENEYS CREEK

DATE Thursday 7 June 2018
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 11 km
ELEVATION Mostly along river with some slight slopes
LEADER Rosemary Cotter
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Eltham
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 21 and 22

Preview will not have been updated before *News* goes out – please phone leader if intending coming on walk!

The walk takes us along the north side of the Yarra River mainly along bush tracks. As we will be mostly quite close to the river itself there are excellent views of the water and various cascades. There are several reminders of the early settlers who lived in the area, mostly remnant vegetation.

Meet ready to start walking at 10:30 am at locked gates on the corner of Reynolds and Yarra Braes Roads (Melway 22 E9). Phone leader to book.



Lake Mountain, Sunday 7 January. Photo by Kris.



BASE CAMP

BEECHWORTH

DATE 8–11 June 2018
RETURN TIME Monday 5:00–6:00 pm
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 10–16 km each day
LEADER Margaret Curry
TRANSPORT Private
AREA North East Victoria (Historic Beechworth)
MAP REFERENCE Parks Victoria Notes

Beechworth has many natural and historic attractions. The surrounding countryside provides spectacular views of forest areas and the Victorian Alps. Tracks lead to the Woolshed Falls, Spring Cascades, Powder Magazine, One Tree Hill, Ingrams Rock and Lake Kerford. Time also to explore nearby Chiltern–Mt Pilot National Park. Generally the walking is along defined tracks but there will also be some steep hills and rock hopping. Full day walks are planned for the Saturday and Sunday with a half day walk on the Monday.

Cabin accommodation is approximately \$150 per person but is now waitlist only. A camping option (including camp kitchen) is available. Unpowered or powered site \$32 or \$38 per night. For further information contact Margaret.



TRACK MAINTENANCE

HATTAH KULKYNE

DATE 8–11 June 2018
STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADER John Terrell (contact)
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Mallee
MAP REFERENCE

Visit the picturesque Hattah-Kulkyne National Park and help with Track Clearing.

BTAC (Bushwalking Victoria – Tracks and Conservation) has volunteered to assist Parks Victoria with track maintenance and clean up of the Hattah Lakes walking trails. Water from the recent flooding of the lakes has receded, and this Queens Birthday weekend is the ideal opportunity to do this work as the weather is mild.

The plan is to travel up to Hattah on Friday, 8 June, do the track work on Saturday and Sunday. Then return to Melbourne on Monday, 11 June 18. There will be opportunities for relaxing, bird watching and socialising, with a BBQ dinner on Saturday night. You might like to stay on after the weekend for some fishing, camping and further exploration of this remote and beautiful national park.

Register your interest with the BTAC Project Manager David Miller at projects@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au with a copy to environment@mbw.org.au



CONSERVATION

REGENT HONEYEATER TREE PLANTING

DATES 9–10 June, 23–24 June
STANDARD Easy
LEADER John Terrell (contact)
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Benalla

Join the Regent Honeyeater Project and volunteers in restoring remnant box-ironbark habitat for a wide range of endangered birds, marsupials and other native species in the area around Benalla. Tasks include digging holes for planting, placing seedlings and watering.

Accommodation for Friday and Saturday nights is provided at Benalla Scout and Guide Halls. Mattresses supplied and small kitchen facilities available. BYO sleeping bag and pillow. The project provides an excellent three-course meal on Saturday night, a barbecue lunch on Sunday, plus hot drinks for morning and afternoon teas.

Bring:

- A picnic lunch for Saturday, be prepared to organise your own Sunday breakfast. (Or slip down to the bakery: great coffee and eats.)
- Gardening gloves and sensible clothing (hat, sunscreen, wet weather gear just in case). A change of clothes can save you driving home in muddy gear. Tools are provided but you can bring your own if you prefer.

Further tree planting weekends in 2018 will be 12–13 May, 26–27 May, 4–5 August, 18–19 August, 8–9 September.

Contact John Terrell (environment@mbw.org.au) if you are interested or want to know more. Also see the article in this month's News and visit <http://www.regenthoneyeater.org.au>



SUNDAY CAR POOL

MT LITTLE JOE BYPASS AND RIVER TRAILS

DATE Sunday 10 June 2018
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to city
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 12.5 km
TOTAL ASCENT 320 m
LEADER Ian Mair
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am
TRANSPORT COST \$12
AREA Warburton
MAP REFERENCE Vicmap Topo T8022-3-1-N, 1:30,000

This enjoyable and varied walk offers ample bird life, views along the Yarra River and of Mt Donna Buang, as well as time to explore Warburton Township and its many bridges across the Yarra.

Starting from the Warburton sports oval we follow the riverside track upstream, then cross Redwood Bridge before heading downstream on the north side of the river past Bramich Bridge, Brisbane Bridge, Swing Bridge and then Mayer Bridge at the downstream end of Warburton.

Our route then picks up the Rail Trail where we proceed west to Millgrove. A farm access road will take us to the Mt Little Joe Firebreak trail. This track climbs quickly to the side of Mt Little Joe then sidles around it to meet the Old Warburton Road. Just before it meets Old Warburton Road we take the Backstairs Track down to Scotchmans Creek Road and the way back to Warburton.



WEDNESDAY WALK

SILVER CREEK – WALLABY CASCADES (KINGLAKE NP)

DATE 13 June 2018
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 13 km
LEADER John Terrell
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Kinglake National Park
MAP REFERENCE Glenburn South (Avenza)

A pleasant walk through fragrant eucalypt forest to the scenic Wallaby Cascades.

The Wallaby Creek block was added to Kinglake National Park in 1995. Most of it is closed catchment for Melbourne's water supply but a buffer area has a few marked and colour-coded walking tracks. We follow the red, yellow and orange tracks.

From the intersection of the Whittlesea–Yea and Whittlesea–Kinglake Roads at Kinglake West (toilets) drive a further 13 km toward Yea. Just after you reach the 'Welcome to Flowerdale' sign (and before the CFA), turn left on Silver Creek Road and follow it to a gate where there is a small car park. Meet here at 10 am for a 10:15 start.

Most of the walk is along well kept management vehicle tracks with some undergrowth and fallen trees. Some steepish sections which could become slippery after rain.



PACK CARRY

PYRENEES ENDURANCE TRAIL

DATE 15–17 June 2018
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 24 km plus
TOTAL ASCENT 1280 m
LEADER Ian Mair
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Pyrenees Ranges
MAP REFERENCE VicMaps Avoca 7523 N;
Forest Notes: Pyrenees State Forest

This walk is aptly named considering the steepness of some of the hills. The walk is considered to be reasonably difficult. The Pyrenees Endurance Trail commences on the north east side of the Pyrenees Ranges at Waterfalls Picnic Area near No. 2 Creek and finishes to the south west at Warrenmang Road. Whilst it can be done in a longish day it is recommended as an overnight trip with Camerons Track being the halfway point. Cameron Camp (200 m north of the walking trail along Cameron Track) is a good place for the overnight stop where there is a shelter, toilet and tank water. If it has been dry we may need to carry our own water.

The Pyrenees Range is about 200 kms northwest of Melbourne and about two and a half hours drive. The closest town is Avoca located east of the start of the walk at Waterfalls picnic area that is easily travelled in 2WD. We will need to do a rather long car shuffle before we start the walk.

Telephone or email the leader if you are looking to attend.



SUNDAY BUS

JEHOSAPHAT GULLY – STEELS CREEK (KINGLAKE)

DATE Sunday 17 June 2018
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
LEADERS Brett Daniel and Nigel Holmes
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving Southbank Blvd at 8:45 am

No preview has yet been received for this walk. Please contact the leaders, or watch the Club’s website.



MOFS WALK

MORDIALLOC TO SANDRINGHAM BEACH WALK

DATE Monday 18 June 2018
DEPARTURE TIME 10:30 am
EXPECTED FINISH 3 pm at Sandringham
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 10 km
ELEVATION 15 metres
LEADER Eileen Ayre
TRANSPORT Public transport recommended
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 87, 86, 85, 76

This beach walk will be along tracks, mostly shared bicycle tracks, beside the beach. Walking in the sand is optional for part of the way, but we will be on the cliffs some of the time. The walk is very pleasant with some variation with beach, cliffs, tree bush ... For part of the walk, we will cover some of the Heideberg Artists trail, with occasional pictures of what was painted there. I anticipate stopping at Ricketts Point Tea Rooms for a late morning tea or early lunch. Picnicing BYO there is an option.

I recommend meeting at 10:20, and using public transport, as we will leave from Mordialloc Station on the Frankston line at 10:30 and finish at Sandringham on the Sandringham line. I will recommend a particular train time, and possible bus connections between train lines, when you book with me.



PACK CARRY

BEGINNERS – BRISBANE RANGES

DATE Saturday 23 to Sunday 24 June 2018
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 24 km
TOTAL ASCENT 600 m
LEADER Ian Mair
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Brisbane Ranges National Park
MAP REFERENCE Parks Victoria, Brisbane Ranges NP

Are you looking to try overnight hiking and camping, or are you a bit more experienced looking for a chance to improve your skills and prepare for something bigger? The emphasis on this trip will be on enjoying the surroundings while sharing tips and advice on equipment selection, what to eat and how to prepare for longer trips, and at the same time experiencing a night outdoors. There will be enough challenges to make it interesting as well as enjoyable. The club’s selection of equipment for hire is an ideal way to test out some of the alternatives before making an expensive purchase.

Little more than an hour’s drive from Melbourne takes you to the state’s richest wildflower habitat. Set in a low range of mountains dissected by rocky gullies, the unusual geology of Brisbane Ranges National Park has preserved plants that have long since vanished from the region, together with a correspondingly diverse bird population and the greatest density of koalas in Victoria.

After an early drive on Saturday morning we will meet in historic Steiglitz. We start walking through some of the old goldmining township subdivision before dropping into Sutherland Creek which will be followed for a while. Leaving the creek we head north through open forest, mainly on walking tracks but with some off-track sections. Saturday camp will be at the Old Mill Camp on the Burchill Trail. Sunday we will drop in to some old goldmining sites as we complete a circuit back to the cars in plenty of time to stop for coffee on the way home.

Numbers are limited and early booking is recommended to secure a place and/or reserve any hire equipment you may need. Telephone or email the leader if you are looking to attend.



DANDENONGS EXPLORER

FERNY CREEK / TREMONT

DATE Saturday 23 June 2018
RETURN TIME 3:30 pm Ferny Creek
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 14 km
ELEVATION Hills
LEADER Elizabeth (Liz) Gwynn
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Dandenong Ranges National Park
MAP REFERENCE Melway map 75 D1

A reasonable level of fitness is required for this walk.

We will meet at Ferny Creek Reserve in Clarkmont Road at 9:45 am to commence walking at 10:00 am.

The first part of the walk takes in the Tan and Loop Tracks surrounding Ferny Creek and then we move on to One Tree Hill Road which takes us to the picnic ground for morning tea.

We then descend the fairly steep Lyrebird Track to the heart of the busy Dandenong Ranges National Park for lunch.

After lunch the medium part of the walk takes hold when we ascend the Belview Terrace Track which is a slow steady incline, leading us back to One Tree Hill picnic ground and then onto Mount Erin Road finishing with the Alpine Track back to Ferny Creek Reserve.

Coffee at the end of the walk most likely in Sassafra.

Please ring Liz by Thursday evening if you are coming on the walk.

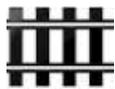


CONSERVATION

REGENT HONEYEATER TREE PLANTING

DATES 23–24 June 2018
STANDARD Easy
LEADER John Terrell (contact)
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Benalla

See the preview for the 9–10 June weekend.



SUNDAY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

LAVERTON – WILLIAMSTOWN (TRAIN BASED)

DATE Sunday 24 June 2018
STANDARD Easy
LEADER Susanne Etti (mentor Brett Daniel)
TRANSPORT Train

No preview is yet available. Check the Club’s website or contact the leader.



SOCIAL

JOHN MUIR TRAIL (USA) –
 ONION VALLEY TO HORSESHOE VALLEY

DATE Wednesday 27 June 2018
VENUE Clubrooms
ORGANISER Brett Daniel
START TIME 8:00 pm
FINISH TIME 9:00 pm
ACTIVITY AREA Clubrooms, Cnr. Abeckett Street and William Street, (Melway Reference: 2F, B2)

Join us while Brett and Fang outline their experiences, logistics and challenges on this stunning walk. See page 4 for more details.



SOCIAL WALK

MARIBYRNONG RIVER WETLANDS – ANGLERS TAVERN

DATE Thursday 28 June 2018
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE About 5 km
ELEVATION Flat
LEADER Bernadette O’Connell
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Maribyrnong
MAP REFERENCE Melway map 28

Meet in the carpark at Angler’s Tavern (Melway map 28 8D) ready to start the walk at 10:30 am. We walk along the west side of Maribyrnong River until the footbridge. Across the footbridge we visit the Afton Street Conservation Park Wetland which attracts a number of different bird species. We continue on the east side of the river and detour to Aberfeldie Park. The paths are concrete or smooth grass so you can enjoy the views. A very pleasant and relaxing stroll with the river, bird life, trees, sense of history, and general amenities – a calming experience.

Lunch will be at Angler’s Tavern Hotel. If possible, please let the leader know in advance so the booking is accurate.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL SLIP

Payment to the Treasurer, together with completed form by one of the following methods:

- Cash or cheque on Club night (cheques payable to Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.)
- Cheque and Renewal Slip posted to Treasurer, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc, P.O. Box 1751, Melbourne 3001
- EFT to the Club account. (Account Name: Melbourne Bushwalkers, A/c No. 0058-46013, BSB: 013-006). Please ensure your full name and ‘SUBS’ appear on the transfer.

Fees: **Single member:** \$45* **Concession:** \$34* (Proof required**)
 (Please circle your **Couple/Family:** \$72* **Concession:** \$50* (Proof required**) membership category) **Printed News Only Subscribers:** \$35.00

Notes:

- * **Members who currently receive their copies of ‘NEWS’ via postal mail should add \$25.00 to continue.** No new hard copy subscriptions will be accepted.
- ** Concession membership applies to those who hold an Australian Government concession card, not a Seniors Card only.

Name:		Year of birth (optional)
Name:		Year of birth (optional)
(Note: Year of birth is used only for statistical purposes and not published in any lists.)		
<i>Fill in Address, Telephone number(s) and email address only if changed since last renewal:</i>		
Street Address:	NO	<i>Indicate left if you agree details can be displayed to other members in the Members’ Area (Default shown)</i>
Suburb & Postcode:	YES	
Tel: [H] [W] Mobile	YES	
Email:	YES	
Emergency Contact:Tel: [H][M][W]	YES	

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!

June 2018				
Sat 2	TRG: Navigation Training – Werribee Gorge	Pvt	Easy	Roger Wyett
Sun 3	DAY: Mt Martha – The Briars – Safety Beach	Bus	E&E/M	Jenny Andrewes & Halina Sarbinowski
Thu 7	TOF: Eltham – Griffiths Park – Sweeneys Creek	Pvt	Easy	Rosemary Cotter
8–11	BC : Beechworth Base Camp/Cabin Trip	Pvt	var	Margaret Curry
8–11	MNT: Hattah Kulkynne track maintenance	Pvt	E/M	John Terrell (contact)
9–10	CON: Regent Honeyeater tree planting			John Terrell (contact)
Sun 10	DAY: Mt Little Joe Bypass and River Trails	Car	Med	Ian Mair
Wed 13	DAY: Silver Creek – Wallaby Cascades (Kinglake NP)	Pvt	E/M	John Terrell
15–17	PC : Pyrenees Endurance Trail	Pvt	E/M	Ian Mair
Sun 17	DAY: Jehosaphat Gully – Steels Creek (Kinglake)	Bus	E&E/M	Brett Daniel & Nigel Holmes
Mon 18	MOF: Mordialloc – Sandringham Beach Walk	Pvt	Easy	Eileen Ayre
23–24	PC : Beginners – Brisbane Ranges	Pvt	Easy	Ian Mair
Sat 23	DAY: Dandenongs Explorer – Ferny Creek / Tremont	Pvt	E/M	Elizabeth Gwynn
23–24	CON: Regent Honeyeater tree planting			John Terrell (contact)
Sun 24	DAY: Laverton – Williamstown (Train Based)	Car	Easy	Susanne Etti (mentor Brett Daniel)
Wed 27	SOC: John Muir Trail (USA) – Onion Valley to Horseshoe Valley			Brett Daniel
Thu 28	SOC: Maribyrnong River Wetlands – Anglers Tavern	Pvt	Easy	Bernadette O’Connell