



THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

April 2019

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2018-19 AND 2019-20



Back Row L-R: Halina Sarbinowski, Susan McInnes, Bettina Brill, Chris Collett, David Cash, Stuart Hanham, Jill Allen, Jane McRae, Brett Daniel, Ian Mair, Gill Wainwright
Front Row L-R: Poppy Sicari, Susanne Etti, John Terrell

YOUR NEW COMMITTEE FOR 2019

President
Vice-Presidents
Secretary
Membership Secretary
Treasurer
Social Secretary

Susanne Etti
Susan McInnes
Chris Collett
Halina Sarbinowski
*Christine Thach
Jane McRae

General Walks Secretary
Sunday Walks Secretary
General Committee

Stuart Hanham
Brett Daniel
Ian Mair
Poppy Sicari
John Terrell
* Bettina Brill
* David Cash
* Jill Allen

* NEW to Committee

Due date for contributions (including June previews) to May News (news@mbw.org.au):
21 April

MEMBER OF



Members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc meet on Wednesday evenings between 7:00 and 9:00 pm in the club rooms at:

Mission to Seafarers Victoria
717 Flinders Street
Docklands
(Melway map 2E 8J)

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 2 April 2019

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:
Kim Nguyen, Brett Skewes,
Charles Requadt, Clancy Benson

CORRECTION TO SUNDAY WALKS SECRETARY'S REPORT 2018

"After 13 years in the role as Sunday Walks Secretary (SWS) I am stepping down" should have read "**After 12 years...**".

Jan Palich and Peter Knighton deserve huge thanks and I nominate that they be elevated to the highest rank in the annals of the Club.

On our recent trip to Great Barrier Island, Jan and Peter relayed from the trailhead to the end of the hike four cars and the leftover luggage of the 14 of us on the pack carry.

From 10:00 through to 3:30 they drove up and down the same stretch of twisting, narrow mountain road and performed a task beyond all expectations.

It was done with good grace, care and in the best of spirits.

Here they are with our thank-you gifts.



Susan Maughan

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2019-20

Membership subscriptions are due 1st April 2019. You are not required to sign an Acknowledgement of Risk form on renewal; however you are advised that payment of fees implies acceptance of the risks involved in any activity you may undertake as a member of Melbourne Bushwalkers. Members are asked to read the following wording regarding your insurance cover through Bushwalking Australia.

'In voluntarily participating in activities of Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc., which are described to me by the activity leaders, I am aware that my participation in the activities may expose me to hazards and risks that could lead to injury, illness or death or to loss of or damage to my property. I also acknowledge that I may encounter weather conditions that could lead to heat stroke, hypothermia or being in locations where evacuation for medical treatment may take hours or days. In particular when participating in abseiling or above the snowline activities I am aware that these activities could expose me to additional hazards and risks.

To minimize risks I will endeavour to ensure that:

- Each activity is within my capabilities;
- I will carry food, water and equipment appropriate for the activity;
- I will advise the activity leader if I am taking medication or have any physical or other limitation that might affect my participation in the activity;
- I will make every effort to remain with the rest of the party during the activity;
- I will advise the leader of any concerns I am having; and
- I will comply with all reasonable instructions of club officers and the activity leader.

I have read and understood these requirements. I will consider the risks before joining any activity of the Club. I acknowledge that I will take responsibility for my own actions, that the Club strongly recommends that all participants have comprehensive personal ambulance cover, and that payment of my subscriptions will be deemed as full acceptance and understanding of the above conditions.'

Please refer to the Renewal Slip below for methods of paying your subscription. If paying by cheque please return the renewal slip to assist the Treasurer and Membership Secretary to identify you. If any of your personal details have changed, complete the relevant information and forward to the Membership Secretary (membership@mbw.org.au). The Renewal Slip also appears inside the back page of the newsletter.

Note: Members can modify address details and items displayed to other members through the Members' Area of the Club's website.

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**)
<i>(Please circle your membership category)</i>	Couple/Family: \$72*	Concession: \$50* (Proof required**)
	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
Suburb & Postcode:	YES
Tel: [H] [W] Mobile	YES
Email:	YES
Emergency Contact:Tel: [H][M][W]	YES

Indicate left if you agree details can be displayed to other members in the Members' Area

(Default shown)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT APRIL 2019

Dear Melbourne Bushwalkers

This is an extremely special moment for me. I feel humbled but at the same time I also feel honoured and privileged for becoming the President of the MBW for the coming term. I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to focus on bushwalking with purpose and joy for our club.

I would like also to thank at this point our outgoing President Ian Mair and thank him for his tireless commitment of time and energy over many years.

You will find in this issue details of our new committee for 2019. I would like to give special thanks to those members who have stepped down from the Committee and thank them for serving with the outgoing President Ian Mair.

Peter Taylor (Vice President)

Gill Wainwright (Membership Secretary)

Nigel Holmes (General Committee)

I would also like to offer a special thank you to our committee members who are vacating their roles and have taken a new position on Committee.

Poppy Sicari (Treasurer)

Halina Sarbinowski (Sunday Walks Secretary)

I am looking forward to seeing you on one of our walks in April or at our club months. If you like to contact me for any suggestions or feedback please use president@mbw.org.au.

As a final note I want to encourage you all to observe Earth Hour on Saturday. Earth Hour is the largest global movement for the environment. Switch off your lights for the future of our planet on Saturday, 30 March 2019 at 8:30 pm.



Susanne Etti

PROFILE OF YOUR NEW PRESIDENT FOR 2019-20

The new President of Melbourne Bushwalkers, elected at the March AGM, is Dr Susanne Etti. A member since 2012, Susanne joined the Committee in 2018.

She is a PhD Biologist who earned her PhD in Natural Sciences from the University of Bonn in collaboration with the University of Oxford, studying the spread of infectious diseases due to climate change.

In 2011 she qualified as a Climate Leader, having been trained by Al Gore personally as part of the Climate Reality Project. The aim of the Climate Project is to increase awareness of climate change with hundreds of thousands of people. Susanne regularly presents a Sustainability Moment to Melbourne Bushwalkers' monthly presentation nights.

Taken at a young age to the South-Tyrolean Dolomites, Susanne developed an early passion for walking (and skiing) in the mountains and brings that same passion to her involvement with Melbourne Bushwalkers.

Susanne works as the Environment Impact Specialist for Intrepid Group, a certified B Corp, specialised in sustainable small group travel.

Ian Mair



Social Event

**Wednesday 24 April, 8 pm,
Clubrooms, Mission to Seafarers Victoria, 717 Flinders Street Docklands
KIMBERLEY TRIP
Presenters Helen and Ian Geddes**



This complex and comprehensive trip (July 7 to August 28, 2018) took more than a year to plan. From its inception the Leader, Mike Hale, (Nissan 4WD Club) pointed out that ideally it would require six months to truly appreciate and engage in all its aspects.

However most of the participants were unable to commit to six months. Therefore it was formatted into an awesome, swashbuckling, 2-month flight across Victoria and South Australia, up through Central Australia to Alice Springs, Katherine and Wyndham, along the Gibb River Road to Broome, before retreating via jaw-dropping gorges into Purnululu then tackling the Tanami Track back into Alice. And the final return to Melbourne.

Helen and Ian will share their experiences with us, in particular the wide variety of land forms that make up the composition of this ancient continent and how its inhabitants have adapted to cope with glaciation, water inundation, low yielding soils, drought, and fire.

While primarily a 4WD trip, due to limited accessibility via other means, Helen and Ian focused on camping and walking wherever possible in order to participate and appreciate more deeply that which they were encountering.



ENVIRONMENT REPORT 2018

Members of Melbourne Bushwalkers participated in a range of conservation and track maintenance activities in 2018. Much of the work was done in conjunction with Bushwalking Victoria's BTAC (Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation) group with the support and assistance of the relevant land manager, usually Parks Victoria or DELWP.

In February, MBW members joined BTAC and Parks Victoria rangers to hunt down and destroy willow which has invaded the peatland on Mt Buffalo. Also in February members assisted in clearing walking tracks on Mt Stradbroke (East Gippsland).

In March one member helped BTAC with clearing and marking a section of the Australian Alps Walking Track near The Twins. I walked along that section of the AAWT a month later and was very pleased that the track maintenance group had been there before me! Tracks need regular maintenance to keep them open and accessible.

April saw track maintenance work near the Wilsons Prom lighthouse with the participants staying in the lighthouse cottage. In May, Melb Bushies joined with VMTC for the regular track maintenance weekend in the Grampians. Thanks to Mark Heath for his continuing role as joint organiser of this weekend. And in June a small group assisted the Regent Honeyeater Project with revegetation of a strip of farming land to recreate a corridor for wildlife between the newly re-established Winton wetlands and nearby hills.

Total attendance by MBW members was smaller than in recent years (13 participants across 6 activities) but all feedback I received from participants was positive. It is possible more members attended than recorded – if you go, please let me know so we can accurately measure our club's contribution.

The MBW committee continues to support member participation in conservation and track maintenance by offering a transport rebate up to \$25 for approved activities.

Despite continual advocacy from environmental and bushwalking groups, agencies such as Parks Victoria are chronically underfunded. They rely on volunteers like our members to do vital conservation work and to help maintain walking tracks. If you haven't joined us yet, check the club activities program or ask me for details.

John Terrell, Environment Officer, environment@mbw.org.au



Planting seedlings with the Regent Honeyeater Project on a beautiful winter afternoon.

SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2018

Social Nights are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month and continue to be popular, with an average of 50 members and visitors attending each event.

The aim is to have a diverse range of topics presented by members and external invitees that educate and inspire. In addition, providing members and visitors the opportunity to meet and catch up in a social setting.

This year's programme was as follows.

February

The Reality of Climate Change by Sussane Etti

March

AGM – Election of committee members

April

The Tarkine – Mt Edith to the Coast by Claire Luxford

May

Trekking in Switzerland and Corsica by Agajan Akbari

June

John Muir Trail – Onion Valley to Horseshoe Valley by Brett Daniel

July

Anapurna Circuit and Forbidden Town of Lo Mantang by Tim Byrne

August

A Quest for Waterfalls in Victoria by Travis Easton

September

Bushies' Auction

October

Norway – A Walkers' Wonderland by Ian Mair and Halina Sarbinowski

November

Walking the Dolomites by Susanne Etti

December

Christmas Party

Thank you to those who have assisted me over the past year to help make the evenings successful.

I extend an invitation to all members – if you or anyone you know would like to share your/their walking (or related) experiences – no matter how low key or epic, domestic or international at one of the Social Events – please contact me in person or via social@mbw.org.au

Jane McRae, Social Secretary

WEBMASTER'S REPORT TO AGM 2019

Significant steps were taken in the past year to reposition and enhance the club's online presence and communications.

- (a) The adoption of G Suite, a Google product providing online document sharing and other capabilities, is being integrated into our activities. Bulk email management is now handled through G Suite. Email forwarding is being transferred to G Suite with more robust delivery performance.
- (b) A new web server was implemented on the Google Cloud platform.
- (c) Work is well advanced on the rebuild of the club website, hosted on the Google Cloud platform, with upgrades to the underlying software technologies and a focus on "mobile-first" content delivery.
- (d) The club's Facebook and MeetUp portals continue to expand their user base with flow-on benefits to club membership and participation levels.

Plans for 2019–20 include:

- (a) Launch of the rebuilt club website by the middle of 2019.
- (b) Extension of the services provided through the Member's Area of the website.
- (c) Further integration of the Google G Suite product to manage the club's document flow.

Ian Mair

PACK CARRY, 15–24 FEBRUARY – OVERLAND THROUGH PARADISE



Having wanted to walk the Overland Track in Tasmania for many years, I jumped at the chance to do so when it was put on the Bushies calendar. Upon reaching Cradle Mountain area, we had a meal prepared by Maria, and then enjoyed our last night for the week in a bed at Waldheim huts. The next morning dawned misty and moist and the group of thirteen donned our jackets and headed off into the clouds. Even though there was a steady climb up, it was a cold morning and it was hard to maintain body warmth. Upon arriving at Kitchen Hut, a tiny ray of sun appeared and we jumped up and went outside to enjoy it. It all too quickly disappeared, but six of the group decided to climb Cradle Mountain anyway and hope for views once we reached the summit. The balance of the group continued on to Waterfall Valley to set up campsite for the night.

The climb over the boulders to the summit of Cradle Mountain was hard work, but it was satisfying to make it to the summit and get glimpses of views as the clouds briefly parted. The next morning was bright and clear and we made our way up Barn Bluff. It was a steep climb, but the views were thoroughly enjoyed as we sat on the boulders at the top and looked out in each direction over the surrounding landscape. The afternoon brought us drizzle again and we headed directly to Lake Windermere where we camped for the night. As we were a large group we didn't have the use of the huts on the Overland Track, instead camping on the platforms near the huts. In the middle of the night there was upset shouting by our normally calm and happy Anita – the resident local possum had ripped her tent and devoured three of her dinners and some snacks. Being truly a team-hike, others in our group provided food to make up for the stolen meals over the rest of the week. This was a reminder for us all to make very sure our food was wrapped, covered and stored deeply inside packs or tents.

Our next day took us to Pelion Hut where most of our group rested but Anita, Ian and I ventured up Mt Oakleigh for a climb and a view. Again, it was a cloudy and drizzly day and we got to a view point over the valley where we took a few photos and descended again. Definitely a place to visit and climb again in clear weather!

During the night there were screams and yells and some rubbish dragged out of packs by the local possum. I think the hut would have been more settled than the tent platforms where we were! Fortunately, no food was stolen as we had stored it well.

The next day we moved onto Kia Ora with a side trip up Mt Ossa for those keen to do so. Six of the group decided to ascend the mountain in wind and rain for the sake of making it to the top, assuming we'd see no views. We were pleasantly surprised as on the way down, the cloud lifted and we had views over the valley, Cathedral Mountain and Pelion East in the distance.

(continued over the page)

Along the Track

OVERLAND THROUGH PARADISE PACK CARRY *(continued from page 8)*

After a relatively peaceful night, we headed to Windy Ridge campsite via some waterfalls (D'Alton, Fergusson and Hartnett Falls). These had plenty of water running after the rain and gave many photo opportunities for our keen photographers. It was pleasant to sit and watch the falls for a while before moving on.

The following day took us into Pine Valley where the rainforest was quite different from what we had seen so far. It was like stepping back in time with moss absolutely everywhere, even growing 30+ metres up trees. From Pine Valley some of the group did a side trip up into the Acropolis. This was by far our wettest day and the slippery rocks and wet were a concern. After nearly reaching the top, we decided to turn back and leave the dangerous summit for better weather on a future trip.

Most of us stayed in the hut that night to enjoy the warmth and dryness of the indoors, then the next day actually dawned with sunshine! We walked to Echo Point via Narcissus Hut basking in the sunshine at lunch and again after setting up camp, and travelling through old growth forest. One large tree we passed on the way (with a base around the size of a 2-tonne truck) we have on good authority was around 500 years old. This was our first dry night since the first at Waldheim hut.

The final day the sun was shining as we continued walking along the length of Lake St Clair on the final 12 km of the hike to Cynthia Bay, where we relaxed and had lunch at the visitors' centre whilst waiting for our transport to take us to Launceston where we enjoyed a group dinner before flying back to Melbourne the next day.

Thanks to Ian for organising and leading our hike, and to Halina, Maria, Daniel, David, Eduardo, Jill, Anita, Fang, Gayle, Nick and Caroline for your company on what was a very enjoyable trip on the Overland Track.

Rachel Keen



MT BULLER, MT STIRLING PACK CARRY, 9-11 MARCH

Originally this pack carry was meant to explore Mt Cobbler and surrounds. However, due to bushfires nearby, the area was temporarily closed. Thankfully our competent walk leader, Ian Mair, was able to come up with an alternative proposal at very short notice, and ten of us eagerly took up the offer.



The revised walk commenced at Mirimbah, climbed up Mt Buller West Ridge track, over Mt Buller and across to Bluff Spur hut and Mt Stirling before returning alongside the Delatite River.

Most of us met the night before, at the Carters Mill campground near Sawmill Settlement. We shared this lovely campsite with about fifteen 4WD "big rigs", squeezing our little tents along the fringes of the site. The tranquillity of the forest and its inhabitants were startled several times by chainsaws collecting firewood for a raging fire. Those in our group who didn't have earplugs were kept awake into the wee hours by loud conversations and even a little guitar playing. But anyway, after a more peaceful breakfast, we promptly departed the next morning and left our cars just up the road at Mirimbah where an

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MT BULLER, MT STIRLING PACK CARRY (continued from page 9)

important mountain bike event was being set up. We walked along a pleasant river track for a while before heading upwards towards the Mt Buller West Ridge track.

At the West Ridge track junction we collected water and had lunch in a forest clearing fragrant with mint bush. It was a bit of a hot steep climb up the West Ridge, especially with extra water to carry, but lovely to at last be away from signs of civilisation and amongst the birds and special flora of the mountains.

Our campsite had splendid views of Mt Buller and the smoky ranges to the north and south. At one point a couple of helicopters zoomed across towards Melbourne and we assumed these were checking the bushfires. Wedge-tailed eagles were spotted catching the thermals high above us, and we enjoyed the rosy hues of a beautiful sunset. As the sky darkened, we could see a silvery sliver of a moon through the snow gums.



The next morning we followed the West Ridge track through meadows of blue-green snow grass and gnarled snow gums. Gang Gangs croaked in the trees overhead and many Black-Faced Cuckoo Shrikes trilled and swooped. As we got higher the ground became more rocky, and the path more narrow and sometimes precarious. The views were stunning, both to the north-west and the south-east, and always with the impressive bulk of Mt Buller looming ever closer. From a distance, looking across to Mt Buller, it seemed impossible to be able to ascend it because the slopes were so very steep and rocky. But somehow we kept on winding upwards, clambering over rocks and through bushes, until all of a sudden we were at the top. After climbing through what had seemed to be a particularly wild and remote mountainside, it was a bit of a shock to suddenly encounter lots of tourists and a large triangular structure on top of Mt Buller that also served as a fire tower. The top and slopes were now windswept and bare and the vacant chairlifts and buildings looked rather bleak.

We walked down into Mt Buller village where people had gathered to cheer the mountain bike competitors. We learnt from a couple of the spectators that in fact the helicopters we saw the evening before were taking injured riders to hospital in Melbourne. After lunch we continued eastward out of Buller village along a gravel road. Unfortunately we had to keep off the walking trails because these were being used by speeding mountain bike riders. After reaching the hut at Howqua Gap, we headed steeply upwards along a very rocky four-wheel drive road, encountering many large vehicles along the way. I must admit the women in these vehicles didn't appear to be particularly impressed with their husband's and boyfriends' driving prowess along these fairly treacherous roads! I don't think I would have liked to have been in these vehicles as the dust turned to slippery mud in the rain. Shortly before we got to camp at Bluff Spur, it began to rain and by the time we arrived at the campsite we had got pretty cold and wet. Tents were erected in a hurry as we sought shelter. An hour later however, the rain had cleared and then the sun came out into a clear blue sky. After dinner we couldn't resist a scenic walk up to Mt Stirling where we had virtually 360 degree views across the mountains in every direction. As the sun set we returned to our camp. Flame robins flitted in the snowgums.

Monday morning was misty and cold as we departed and began our descent. Following the River Spur track downwards, we travelled through many changes of forest types until we reached the Delatite River below. We were rather shocked by the extent of the blackberries, which in many places created an impenetrable monoculture. But as a small compensation, we did enjoy gobbling ripe blackberries, along with some native currants and raspberries! From here it was flat and easy walking, crossing the river numerous times over log bridges, until we reached our cars by lunchtime.

At the Produce Café in Mansfield we celebrated a great walk shared! It was enjoyable to meet up with old friends again and also make new friends on this invigorating three day hike. Special thanks to Ian, whose experience and commitment enabled us to have this wonderful adventure together, and warm thanks also to all the lovely people with whom I was especially thrilled to share the walk – to Agajan, Di, Bruce, Jaime, Ros, David, Andrew, Gael, and of course Ralph!

Kerry Press

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.

**DEPARTURE POINT
 FOR SUNDAY WALKS**

The current departure point for Sunday walks noted on the walks program and in previews is at the bus stop on the northern corner of A'Beckett Street and William Street opposite the Royal Historical Society building.



TOTAL ASCENT Flat
LEADER Merilyn Whimpey
TRANSPORT Train
ACTIVITY AREA Oakleigh to Carnegie
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 68, 69
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

The Boyd Park Forest is a small, and very attractive, part of this walk. The level crossing removals at Carnegie, Murrumbeena and Hughesdale have elevated the railway line and there is parkland underneath, and this will be mostly where we walk.

We meet outside Oakleigh railway station in Haughton Road under the Warrigal Road overpass (Melway map 69 F8) at 10:30 am. We walk in a green belt beside the railway line to Hughesdale, turning off to go through parkland and cross Princes Highway to the urban forest, returning to the railway line by more or less the same route, but following different paths. Then we follow the new track under the railway line to Carnegie, where we will have lunch.



TOFS WALK

MULLUM MULLUM CREEK, DONVALE-RINGWOOD

DATE Thursday 2 May 2018
START TIME 10:00 am for car shuttle
RETURN TIME 3:00 pm after car shuttle
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE About 10 km
TOTAL ASCENT Some steep ups and downs
LEADER Merilyn Whimpey
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Mitcham, Ringwood, Croydon
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 36, 50, 49
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

The walk follows the Mullum Mullum Creek path and will take in Mullum Mullum and Yarran Dheran Parks. The latter boasts sightings of all sorts of native animals and birds, including koalas. Last time we saw a family of kangaroos – in Mitcham! There's also the historic Schwerkolt Cottage and surrounds. The cottage won't be open on the day we go there, but we can walk around and read the interpretive signs.

Meet at Hillcrest Reserve, Lisbeth Avenue, Mitcham, Melway map 48 K5 (the green bit on the map) at 10 am, ready to drive a couple of cars to the end of the walk.



SOCIAL WALK

BOYD PARK URBAN FOREST RESERVE

Oops!

In last month's News the date of the Social walk to Boyd Park Urban Forest Reserve was given as Thursday 27 April. It should be Thursday 25 April. *Merilyn Whimpey*

DATE Thursday 25 April 2019
RETURN TIME 2:30 pm after lunch
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 5 km



TRACK MAINTENANCE

GRAMPIANS TRACK MAINTENANCE (JOINT VMTC)

DATE	Friday 3 to Sunday 5 May 2019
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
ORGANISER	Mark Heath
TRANSPORT	Private
ACTIVITY AREA	Northern Grampians

Join VMTC, Parks Victoria and Friends of the Grampians to improve walking tracks in the Golton Gorge area of the Northern Grampians.

Track maintenance involves a range of activities and skills suitable for all fitness levels – lopping, using small hand saws, removing material from tracks etc.

This activity is eligible for a \$25 travel cost subsidy.

Tools and safety equipment will be provided.

Complimentary camping for both Friday and Saturday nights will be available in the area.

Ian & Deb's photos give a great sense of previous activities – http://mbw.org.au/zenphoto/2013/conservation/2013050401_Grampians_Track_Maintenance/

http://mbw.org.au/zenphoto/2013/conservation/2013050401_Grampians_Track_Maintenance/



PACK CARRY

EAGLES PEAKS

DATE	3–5 May 2019
RETURN TIME	10 pm Sunday 5 May at the latest
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	30 km
ELEVATION	550–1446 m
LEADER	Claire Luxford
TRANSPORT	Private
ACTIVITY AREA	Howqua River – Jamieson River area
MAP REFERENCE	Howqua and Jamieson Rivers, Bush Maps Victoria 1:50,000

This walk is for experienced walkers only as there will be some off track walking in difficult terrain. The group size will be 4–6 walkers.

Eagles Peaks are south-east of Mansfield and just south-east of Sheepland Flats.

Friday night camp will be at Sheepland Flats.

The walk is graded as moderate but expect regrowth from fires. The last report by Helen Geddes in 2015 mentioned thick regrowth.

We will commence walking from Sheepland Flats along the river bank and see evidence of past gold mining activity as we pass the tall chimney of the Great Rand Mine. The day will have a mix of flat walking and steep climbing as we head towards Mt Darling at 1150 m and onto a saddle called Lickhole Gap to camp for the night. Water will be collected from Lickhole Creek in the afternoon and carried for camp, about 3 km and the following day. Track finding may be difficult due to past fires.

On Sunday we will aim for the summit crags (at 1446 m) of the southernmost Eagles Peaks. A short scramble through the bluffs is needed to gain the top. Eagles Peaks are three distinct summits spread along a 2 km ridge each offering good views. The summits are rocky so expect to do some rock scrambling. We will follow the ridge between the summits. The walk back to Sheepland Flats will follow a ridge line on faint tracks. The walk should not be too difficult back to the cars.



SUNDAY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

BELGRAVE–SASSAFRAS CIRCUIT (Train Based)

DATE	Sunday 5 May 2019
RETURN TIME	17:30 to City
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	14.5 km
TOTAL ASCENT	480 m
LEADER	Susanne Etti
TRANSPORT	Train Flinders Street Station at 8:45 am
ACTIVITY AREA	Belgrave
MAP REFERENCE	Melway p 75, 124

Departure location will be Flinders Station at 8:45 (steps underneath clocks). This train-based Sunday walk is starting at Belgrave station and will be in the Sherbrooke forest.

The Forest contains some of the finest examples of towering mountain ash in the region; below the trees is an understory of tree ferns, wattles and shrubs. The forest is also home to the lyrebird; it is sometimes seen crossing the tracks. This walk is a circuit walk and we will visit many major features of the forest. Ensure you have a valid myki card on you.



WEDNESDAY WALK

SUGARLOAF RESERVOIR, CHRISTMAS HILLS

DATE	Wednesday 8 May 2019
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	18 km
TOTAL ASCENT	Minimal
LEADER	Carol Elfverson
TRANSPORT	Private
ACTIVITY AREA	Christmas Hills
MAP REFERENCE	Melway 273 B2

Meet 10:15 am for a 10:30 am start at the Ridge Picnic Area near the main entrance off Simpsons Road.

This circuit track around Sugarloaf Reservoir provides attractive water views, and sighting of numerous grey kangaroos and birds. The track is fairly easy with a few hill climbs giving great views of the Dandenong Ranges, Melbourne and the Great Dividing Range.

To book or for more info ring Carol.



TRACK MAINTENANCE

MT HOWQUA TRACK MAINTENANCE (BTAC)

DATE	10–12 May 2019
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER	John Terrell (contact)
TRANSPORT	Private

BTAC has scheduled a track maintenance activity in the Alpine National Park in the Howqua River area. For further details please register your interest with John Terrell environment@mbw.org.au.



SUNDAY BUS

SASSAFRAS TO EMERALD

DATE Sunday 12 May 2019
RETURN TIME to City 6 pm
STANDARDS Easy/Medium and Easy
DISTANCES 19 km and 15 km
LEADERS Richard Hanson and Helen Geddes
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving cnr A’Beckett and William Streets (opposite old clubrooms) at 8:45 am
ACTIVITY AREA Dandenong Ranges
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 66, 124, 127

This walk is possibly the Premier Walk in the Dandenong Ranges, heading out and down from the charming village of Sassafras (Melways 66 F9). The track quickly disappears into the tall mountain ash forest of this region as it makes its way down and into the gully below Kallista, then along through gorgeous rainforest valleys toward Monbulk. The track although a little undulating does not possess any major climbs. From the parkland surrounding Monbulk Aquatic Centre we cross into the Woori Yallock Creek system where we start to experience glimmers of the agricultural activity of this region whilst still wandering and savouring these significant rain forest gullies before eventually finding our way out via the new exit route up to Emerald Village (Melways 127 F3).

The Easy group will start at Kay’s Picnic Ground (Melways 124 D3) finishing with the same end destination.

Please join us for a splendid day wandering along a gentle, audible, mountain stream, under gigantic mountain ash with an understorey of tall fern palms, flitting rosellas, eastern spinebills and if we are lucky yellow tailed black cockatoos or maybe a lyrebird.

Bring plenty of water, your camera, wear sturdy footwear and bring a change of shoes so they don’t muddy the bus on your return.



WEDNESDAY WALK

AUTUMN IN THE DANDENONGS

DATE Wednesday 15 May 2019
STARTING TIME 10:30 am
RETURN TIME 4 pm or earlier to cars
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 16 km
TOTAL ASCENT 300 m
LEADER Jerry Grandage
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Dandenong Ranges
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 122 and 66

You will see the R J Hamer Arboretum at its brilliant best in autumn, and by way of contrast the equally brilliant but of course different adjacent eucalypt forests. The Arboretum was planted in the 1960s and 70s to offer some fire protection for Olinda village. Needless to say you will walk up and down a few hills, as you would expect in the Dandenongs!

Phone me to book in.

We will meet at 10:30 am at Woolrich Lookout on Chalet Rd. (Melways 122 B9).



BASE CAMP

DARGILE FOREST – HEATHCOTE

DATE 17–19 May 2019
STANDARDS Medium and Easy
DISTANCES 14.2 km and 10.4 km
TOTAL ASCENTS 330 m rise and 300 m rise
LEADER Halina Sarbinowski
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Heathcote

We will be camping at the Dargile Picnic Area about 10 km outside Heathcote. Lots of campsites are available, including areas where you can bring a caravan. All luxuries can be included for this base camp. I will be camping on the Friday night; however, as Heathcote is only just over 2 hours from Melbourne you can join me on Saturday as our first walk will start at 9:30 am.

Our two walks this weekend will be the two iconic walks of the area: on Saturday – Dargile Forest and Sunday – Mclvor Range.

This weekend will be an excuse to just enjoy. Friday night will be a meal in Heathcote, Saturday night a meal around the campfire (please bring some firewood) and Sunday, perhaps a breakfast in Heathcote before we do our final walk, after which we might visit the Pink Cliffs before heading home.

This is still a great location even if wet. The campsite has a fantastic shelter where we can eat (with fire pit) even if the heavens open. There are no excuses if you want a weekend away.



8-DAY PACK CARRY

K’GARI (FRASER ISLAND) GREAT WALK

DATE 17–26 May 2019
STANDARD Medium/Hard
DISTANCE 97.7 km
TOTAL ASCENT 200 m
LEADER Meredith Quick
ACTIVITY AREA Queensland
MAP REFERENCE Fraser Island
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Qld. Gov. Fraser Island
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE BOM Fraser Island

Fraser Island was World Heritage listed by UNESCO in 1992 in recognition of its natural values. It stretches over 123 kilometres in length and 22 kilometres at its widest point. With an area of 184 000 hectares it is the largest sand island in the world and is considered a precious part of Australia’s natural and cultural heritage.

It is believed the Aboriginals call this Island K’gari (meaning paradise) because of its bountiful forests, picture perfect beaches, azure seas and freshwater lakes.

Fraser Island is the world’s largest sand island, yet it supports large stands of lush tropical rainforest. We can expect to see an extraordinary array of buttress-rooted trees, strangler figs, rare primitive cycads and huge satinays. Some of the massive trees are more than 6 metres wide and over 1000 years old. The sands also support more than forty crystal-clear freshwater lakes, some of which we will visit.

The K’gari (Fraser Island) Great Walk is 97 km Great Walk. We will take 8 days, at a relaxed pace to complete it. The weather will be cooler, but we still can expect the temperature to be in the mid to higher 20s. Much of the walking is remote, enabling us to immerse ourselves in the tranquil beauty of this

unblemished natural environment completely away from the busy tourist routes.

Explore the world's largest sand island on foot and discover ever-changing landscapes, stunning scenery and fascinating natural and cultural heritage.



CYCLING

COLLINGWOOD-MITCHAM (train based)

DATE	Saturday 18 May 2019
START TIME	Depart from location in notes below at 9:30 am
RETURN TIME	Return to start location by 3:30 pm
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	62 km
TOTAL ASCENT	500 m rise
LEADER	Philip Brown
TRANSPORT	Private
ACTIVITY AREA	Eastern Suburbs
MAP REFERENCE	ridewithgps Collingwood-Mitcham Circuit

The meeting point is Victoria Park Station west side at 9:30 am. It takes around 20 min from the city by train. From there we head to the Yarra Trail, passing the old home of the Magpies and Abbotsford industrial area on the way to Gardiners Creek Trail.

Coffee in Glen Iris then onto Scotchmans Creek Trail and the Waverley Rail Trail to Syndal.

Using the Pipe Reserve Trail and back streets we get to Mitcham, cut across to Eastlink trail and the Schwerkolt Cottage Reserve for lunch. Then off back to the start using Eastlink Trail, Koonung Creek Trail, Outer Circle Rail Trail and Yarra Trail.

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



SUNDAY CAR POOL

PARADISE MILL CIRCUIT (BLACKWOOD)

DATE	Sunday 19 May 2019
RETURN TIME	6:30 pm to City
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	22 km
TOTAL ASCENT	450 m
LEADER	Wen Qi
TRANSPORT	Carpool – leaving cnr A'Beckett and William Streets (opposite old clubrooms) at 8:45 am
TRANSPORT COST	\$15.00
ACTIVITY AREA	Wombat State Forest

The history of the Blackwood area is linked to gold mining and timber harvesting.

This 20 km circuit starting from the Blackwood Recreation Reserve passes through some of the historic sites as it moves between ridges and valleys.

The walk is undulating and involves some scrub bashing. Long pants or gaiters may be handy.



MOFS WALK

AUTUMN IN THE DANDENONGS

DATE	Monday 20 May 2019
STARTING TIME	10:30 am
RETURN TIME	4 pm or earlier to cars

STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	12 km
TOTAL ASCENT	200 m
LEADER	Jerry Grandage
TRANSPORT	Private
ACTIVITY AREA	Dandenong Ranges
MAP REFERENCE	Melway maps 122 and 66

You will see the R J Hamer Arboretum at its brilliant best in autumn, and by way of contrast the equally brilliant but of course different adjacent eucalypt forests. The Arboretum was planted in the 1960s and 70s to offer some fire protection for Olinda village. Needless to say you will walk up and down a few hills, as you would expect in the Dandenongs!

Phone me to book in.

We will meet at 10.30 am at Woolrich Lookout on Chalet Road. (Melways 122 B9).



SOCIAL WALK

FAIRFIELD AND YARRA BEND PARK

DATE	Thursday 23 May 2019
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	5 km
TOTAL ASCENT	Small hills
LEADER	Megan Martin
TRANSPORT	Private
ACTIVITY AREA	Fairfield
MAP REFERENCE	Melway maps 30 and 44

Starting from the northern end of Yarra Bend Park, we will go down to Fairfield Park, cross the Yarra on the Pipeline Footbridge and explore a little of the east side.

Crossing back on the bridge, we will make our way upstream on a foot track on the west side and proceed to the lookout over the Merri Creek.

Lunch at the North Melbourne Institute of TAFE Café nearby. There will be a short walk back to the cars after lunch.

Meet in the car park on Yarra Bend Road, Melway 30 H12, to commence walking at 10:30 am.

Book with leader.



DANDENONGS EXPLORER

KALORAMA TO DOONGALLA RETURN

DATE	Saturday 25 May 2019
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	13 km
LEADER	Fiona Gallery
TRANSPORT	Private
ACTIVITY AREA	Dandenong Ranges
MAP REFERENCE	Melway maps 52 and 66

The walk begins at 10:00 am at Five Ways in Kalorama Melways 52 J9. This is on the Mt Dandenong Tourist Road overlooking the Silvan Dam, where Ridge, Barbers and The Old Coach Roads intersect. We will walk to the Doongalla Homestead Site picnic area for lunch along fairly good tracks in front of Mt Dandenong. This is a walk that has a lot of steep ups and downs and may be slippery in places if wet. I expect to be back at the cars about 4:00. We will be having a morning tea break at the Mt Dandenong Lookout where there is a café for those wishing to purchase a coffee – well deserved as it is a bit of a climb to the top.



SUNDAY BUS

BULLENGAROOK (GISBORNE)

DATE Sunday 26 May 2019
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to City
STANDARDS Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCES 11 km and 16 km
TOTAL ASCENTS 520 m rise and 550 m rise
LEADERS Nik Dow and Halina Sarbinowski
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving cnr A’Beckett and William Streets (opposite old clubrooms) at 8:45 am
ACTIVITY AREA Pyrete Range
MAP REFERENCE Toolern Vale 1:25,000

Bullengarook is located in the northern section of the Pyrete Range. The Pyrete Range is between Mt Bullengarook and Mt Gisborne. The range covers an extensive area of relatively undisturbed old growth forest in steep and rugged terrain. It has remained relatively unchanged since European settlement and a 329 ha area has been set aside as research and reference areas and is the home of 130 species of birds including the swift parrot, great egret and the powerful and masked owls.

I am setting the scene for this walk. The terrain is steep and rugged. Both walks follow established “undulating” 4WD tracks, animal tracks and also go off track following natural features such as ridge lines, spurs and the Pyrete Creek. Much of the vegetation is typical of the dry climate in the area so off track walking is relatively easy and apart from a few water holes Pryete Creek is dry so the challenges of this walk lie with the elevation. Some sections of track are very steep and a walking pole would be helpful.

If you are prepared for the challenge or are in training for a special walk then this is the walk for you.



CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

ROVER CHALET, BOGONG HIGH PLAINS
 10-17 AUGUST 2019

Once again we have been offered the use of the Rover Chalet for a week’s X-C skiing. The chalet is an 11 km ski in from Falls Creek so is well away from the crowds. The chalet is well fitted out with a commercial grade kitchen, mattresses for sleeping on in the loft, internal toilets and hot showers. There is a washing machine and a drying room. 240v power so you can charge your phones even if reception is restricted.

We run the week with a voluntary roster covering all the chores that need to be done, cooking, cleaning, wood chopping, bread baking etc. We try to organize full day trips every day taking lunch with us, usually at least two standards, an easier and a harder. If the weather is lousy we often play around on sheltered slopes near the chalet, perfecting (in my case trying) telemark turns.

The week includes Tawonga hall to sleep in on Friday night and a bus up and down to Falls Creek. To ski in we have to carry our fresh meat and vegetables; all the other food is stored in the large pantry in the chalet.

To go in you need to have had experience on skis and to be able to carry a pack. The pack can be kept fairly light as you don’t need many clothes because you can wash and dry them up there.

If you are interested talk to me) or Marilyn.

Doug Pocock

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

**BASE CAMP – WILSONS PROM LIGHTHOUSE, WILSONS PROM NATIONAL PARK
 NOVEMBER 8, 9, 10 2019**

Maximum number is 12.

This is a beautiful walk showing off the diversity of the Prom. It is not an easy walk due to the length and some big hills. But to stay at the lighthouse on the southernmost point of mainland Australia, is a very special experience.

Friday 8th: Arrive at Tidal River. I have booked three x 4 bed huts for the group.

Saturday 9th: Depart 8 am from Tidal River via Oberon Bay. Distance is 22 km. We will stay in a beautiful and historic house at the lighthouse. Doona, pillow and pillowcase are supplied.

Sunday 10th: Depart lighthouse at 8:30 am to walk back to Tidal River via Waterloo bay and Oberon Bay – Distance 26 km.

If you are interested in coming along then please send me an expression of interest. If you are accepted on the walk, I require full payment immediately to confirm your place, but note this payment is not refundable unless your place can be filled (usually not a problem).

Cost \$187.80 per person – shared accommodation on Friday and Saturday night.

Contact Jillyallen@hotmail.com

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

PATAGONIA, DECEMBER–JANUARY 2019–2020

The trip, organised by Willis’s Walkabouts, will begin in the city of Coyhaique in southern Chile and will cross the border into Argentina. This is Chile’s frontier territory. We will travel in four wheel drives so that we can get to places that would otherwise be inaccessible. The cost for the trip is approx. \$1895 plus airfares and additional accommodation. For more information contact Meredith Quick.

Bus transport meets at cnr A'Beckett and William Streets, Melbourne, before 8:45 am. Leader or deputy will be there rain, hail or shine!

May 2019				
Thu 2	TOF: Mullum Mullum Creek, Donvale–Ringwood	Pvt	Easy	Meryllyn Whimpey
3–5	MNT: Grampians track maintenance (joint VMTC)	Pvt	E/M	Mark Heath
3–5	PC : Eagles Peaks	Pvt	Med	Claire Luxford
Sun 5	DAY: Belgrave – Sassafras Circuit (Train Based)	Car	Med	Susanne Etti
Wed 8	DAY: Sugarloaf Reservoir, Christmas Hills	Pvt	E/M	Carol Elfverson
10–12	MNT: Howqua track maintenance (BTAC)	Pvt	E/M	John Terrell (contact)
Sun 12	DAY: Sassafras Creek	Bus	E/M&M	Richard Hanson & Helen Geddes
Wed 15	DAY: Autumn in the Dandenongs	Pvt	E/M	Jerry Grandage
17–19	BC : Dargile Forest – Heathcote	Pvt	E/M	Halina Sarbinowski
17–26	PC : K'gari (Fraser Island)Great Walk	Pvt	E/M	Meredith Quick
Sat 18	CYC: Collingwood – Mitcham	Pvt	E/M	Philip Brown
Sun 19	DAY: Paradise Mill Circuit (Blackwood)	Car	Med	Wen Qi
Mon 20	MOF: Autumn in the Dandenongs	Pvt	Easy	Jerry Grandage
Thu 23	SOC: Fairfield and Yarra Bend Park	Pvt	Easy	Megan Martin
Sat 25	DAY: Dandenongs Explorer	Pvt	E/M	Fiona Gallery
Sun 26	DAY: Bullengarook (Gisborne)	Bus	E/M&M	Halina Sarbinowski & Nik Dow

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:
(Please circle your membership category)

Single member: \$45*	Concession: \$34* (Proof required**)
Couple/Family: \$72*	Concession: \$50* (Proof required**)
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
Suburb & Postcode:	YES
Tel: [H] [W] Mobile	YES
Email:	YES
Emergency Contact: Tel: [H][M][W]	YES

Indicate left if you agree details can be displayed to other members in the Members' Area

(Default shown)