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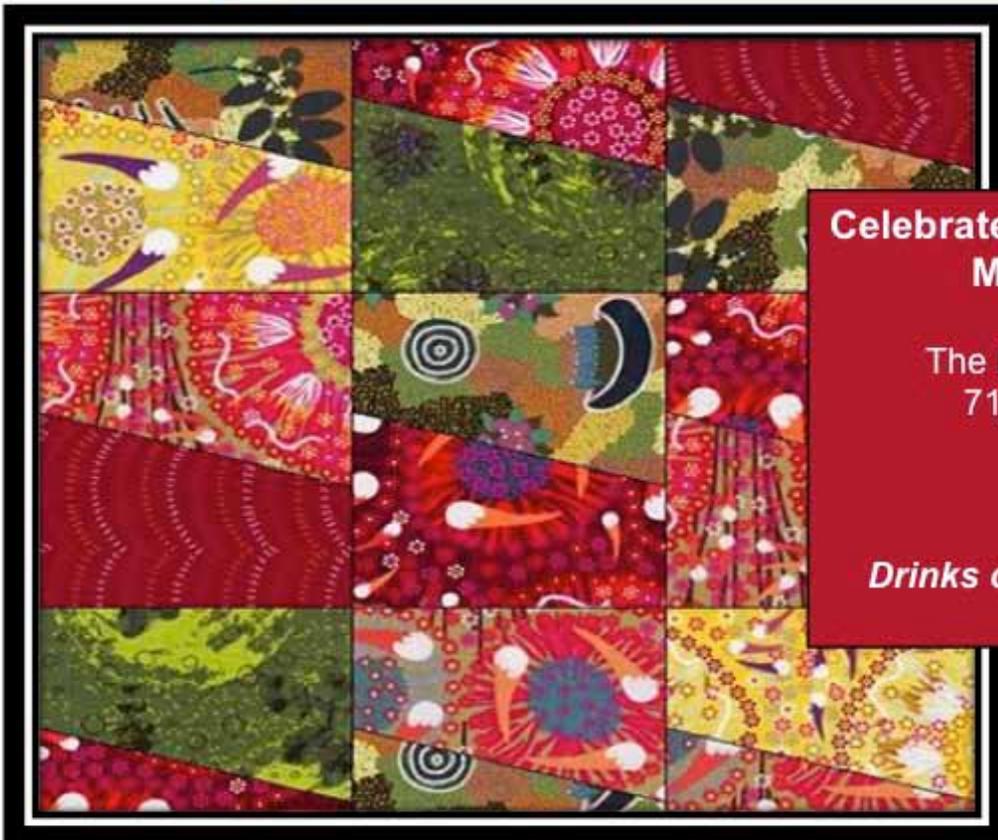
# THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

December 2019



**SOCIAL EVENT of the  
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.**



**AUSTRALIAN BUSH RUG BY BARBARA**

**Celebrate the Festive Season  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

The Mission to Seafarers Vic  
717 Finders St, Docklands

**7-10pm**  
**BYO plate to share**  
**Drinks can be purchased from  
the bar**

**Due date for contributions (including February previews)  
to January News ([news@mbw.org.au](mailto:news@mbw.org.au)): 21 December**

**This my last News as editor. Wen Qi has kindly offered to take over as News editor  
from the January issue. Please keep sending contributions to [news@mbw.org.au](mailto:news@mbw.org.au) and  
they will go directly to Wen and also to Ian to put on the website.**

**Wen would like people to send some high-res photos that she can use for the  
front page.**

***Merilyn Whimpey***

## 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](http://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](mailto:news@mbw.org.au)**

**Closing date for receipt of material for *The News* is the 21st of the month.**

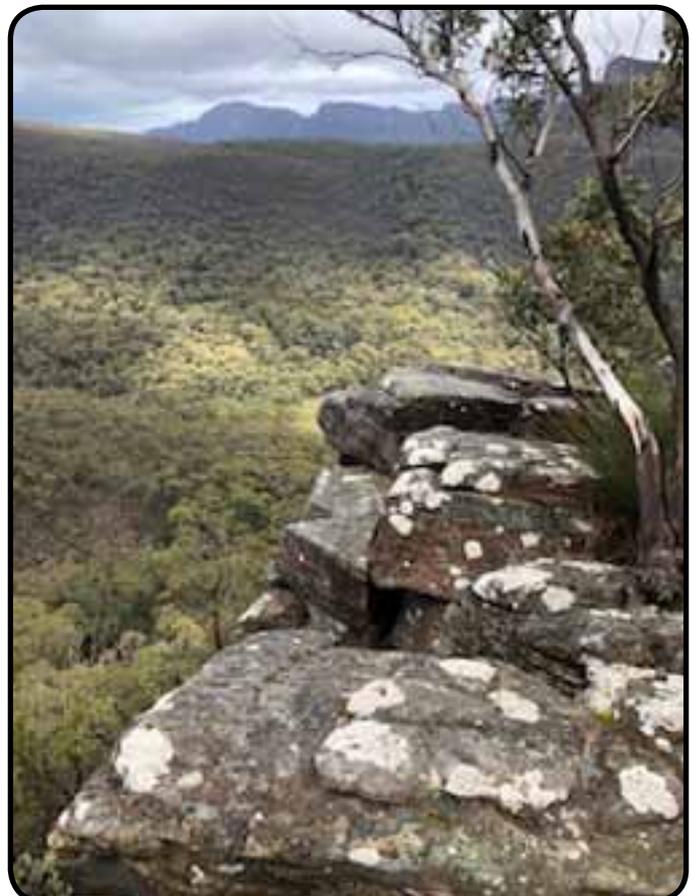
Advertisements should relate to bushwalking (e.g. gear, maps, trips, tours, health and fitness etc.). These may be published subject to space availability and Editor's discretion. For current advertising rates contact the Editor at [news@mbw.org.au](mailto:news@mbw.org.au).

Please note:  
Next committee meeting will take place on  
**Monday 2 December 2019**

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:  
Glenys Van De Wildekamp, Erin McGorlick,  
Magda Pie, George Cichy, Shamini Joseph,  
Eileen Cannington, Carola Nilsson

Photos from the Major Mitchell Plateau walk.  
Read Meredith's story on page 6.



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN, DECEMBER 2019

As you might recall from the last issue I mentioned the value of volunteering and that there are several opportunities within our club as to how you can play a role. I am pleased to say Wen Qi is our new news editor. Also, we are always looking for photos for our newsletter, website and social channels, so send us your epic photos and share your love of hiking with all of us.

On a related note, our Sunday walk team is these days preparing the autumn Sunday walk program. A big task, but the big challenge putting the program together is not about identifying suitable walks but it is about finding leaders. This year the team had to rely on a small pool of volunteers which added extra pressure on those that lead, as many did at least one walk per quarter or sometimes even more. We want to continue to provide a diverse Sunday program every Sunday of the year but in order to do so we need leaders. I would like to ask you to consider joining the leadership training in 2020 and to volunteer to lead a walk. Hope to welcome you to our leader group in the new year.

If you are new to the idea of leading a walk why not chat with your leader and/or whip on your next walk. I am leading on the 1st December on our next bus walk.

Until the next issue, stay safe and enjoy the warmer weather during your hikes.



Susanne Etti

single tents for single travellers • all diets catered for



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**\$3120**

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or call: 08 8369 1779

**EXPLORANGES**  
*with our expertise you're safe to explore*

## COMMUNITY FIRE REFUGES AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES

The Club's fire policies aim to ensure that members are not exposed to fire risk through cancelling activities on days of a Total Fire Ban. All groups including multi-day groups (for which the fire danger may change during the activity) are required to take an AM Radio during the fire season (as well as a mobile phone) so, if needed, they can check with the local ABC station on fire conditions, CFA directions, etc.

You may be visiting friends, travelling through an area where a fire develops, working outdoors in an area that becomes high risk, a health worker visiting clients, etc so it is worth understanding what **'Community Fire Refuges'** and **'Neighbourhood Safer Places'** are and the differences between them.

Remember, the State Government advice is *'When the Fire Danger Rating is Extreme or above, leaving high-risk bushfire areas the night before or early in the day is your safest option'*. The only safe place to be is somewhere else!

During serious fire danger periods **'Evacuation Centres'** will often be established where people can go when they decide to leave early. For people who don't or cannot leave then **'Community Fire Refuges'** and **'Neighbourhood Safer Places'** are intended to be used **only** as a last resort when all other options for the bush fire survival plan can't be put into action safely.

### Community Fire Refuges

There are currently only five official Community Fire Refuges in Victoria, at East Warburton, Ferny Creek, Millgrove, Blackwood and Lavers Hill. They are designed to strict standards to withstand bushfires.

Community Fire Refuges are only activated and opened once there is significant fire in the local area. Community Fire Refuges offer a last resort shelter option if you cannot leave the area in the event of a fire.

The presence of emergency services is not guaranteed at a community fire refuge. Safe travel to and from the site cannot be guaranteed. The number of people each refuge can hold is limited.

### Neighbourhood Safer Places or 'Bushfire Place of Last Resort'

There are over 350 of these places across Victoria. They are established by councils to standards set by the CFA. They *may* provide some protection from direct flame and heat from a fire, but they do not guarantee safety.

They are not an alternative to planning to leave early or to stay and defend your property; they are a place of last resort if all other fire plans have failed. They are also not an appropriate destination when leaving the area early.

They are existing location and not a purpose-built, fire-proof structure. Many are simply a clearing that provides separation distance from the bushfire hazard (e.g. forest). Not to be confused with Community Fire Refuges, Relief Centres, Recovery Centres or Assembly Areas, each of which have a different and specific purpose.

Sheltering at one does not guarantee your safety. They may offer improved protection (e.g. a safer place) if caught in a fire but they cannot be considered as 'safe'.

### What's the difference?

Most Neighbourhood Safer Places – Places of Last Resort are open-air spaces such as sports ovals, whereas Community Fire Refuges are enclosed buildings that are built or modified to withstand fires.

### LINKS

If you want to know more use the following links.

<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/fire-refuges-faqs>

<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/neighbourhood-safer-places>

Other states have similar constructs ...

[Neighbourhood Safer Places in New South Wales](#)

on the NSW Rural Fire Service website

[Bushfire Safer Places](#)

on the S.A. Country Fire Service website



Mick Noonan

## LEADER TRAINING INVITATION 2020

**ASPIRING LEADERS DON'T MISS OUT!**

**Presented by Ian Mair, Mick Noonan and Angela Vetsica**

**SATURDAY 18 JANUARY, 2020**

**10:00 am – 3:30 pm**

**SEAFARERS CLUBROOMS**

Why not attend our free sessions offered uniquely by our club?  
Participating in this training allows you to complete module 1 of MBW training.

**10:00–10:45 Unit 1 – ‘So You Want to Become a Leader?’**

- The concept of leadership
- Different styles of leadership

**10:45–11:45 Unit 2 – ‘Research, Planning and Previewing’**

- Why, Who, Where, When and How to organise a walk from the stages of research and planning
- Conducting a preview, what to do before, during and after a preview
- Resources to access when selecting a walk, especially our extensive data base

11:45–12:00 Morning Tea

**12:00–12:45 Unit 3 – ‘Paper Work’**

- Walk description and grading, walker registration
- Map and walk notes, transport plans, emergency details, incident reports

**12:45–1:45 Unit 4 – ‘Risk Management and Safety’**

- Understand that Risk Management (RM) is involved in most decisions we make
- Identify actual and potential risks
- Evaluate the risks
- Use strategies to manage risk
- Be aware of legal responsibilities

1:45–2:15 LUNCH

**2:15–3:15 Unit 7 – ‘Critical Incidents’**

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

to book contact Angela [vetsiang8@gmail.com](mailto:vetsiang8@gmail.com)

### MAJOR MITCHELL PACK CARRY 26–27 OCTOBER

After leaving Melbourne we headed up the Western Highway to the Grampians, the location of our Friday night camp at Kalymna Falls Campground, a small relatively unknown site, with flat tent sites, a running creek, drop toilets, a picnic table and a fire pit. After erecting our tents, some of the group opted to take the short one-hour round trip to view the nearby Kalymna Falls. The recent rains had provided a good flow.

Late afternoon we lit the fire. Claire had the forethought to bring an ample supply of firewood from home. Richard produced a fine bottle of wine from Mount Langi Ghiran that was shared amongst the group. We were soon joined by other potential members Liz and Bill, who kindly supplied the cheese and crackers. With plenty of cheese available, the second bottle of wine was consumed by the group of seven, a great start to the weekend. As the sun moved behind the mountains the coals from the fire were hot enough to cook our meals. Night fell, the wind strengthened and became gusty, light rain started to fall, it was time to hit the thermarest.

Overnight the wind roared and frequent showers continued. This weather was not unexpected, the forecast had predicted rain overnight, clearing in the morning.

Saturday morning, following a car shuffle, the walk began at 9 am from Sheep Hills car park at a gentle stroll through a forest of stringybark and banksias before rising steadily to the Mt William carpark. The wild flowers were at their best. We were flanked all the way by boronias, paper daisies, orchids, heath, grevilleas, correas, melaleucas and many more, they were too many to mention them all in this note!

The forecasted rain stayed with us as we passed the Wild Sheep Hills and Cathedral Rock. From a ridge on the track we were rewarded with great views of the ranges and valleys. We continued climbing up to the Mt William carpark. Once there, we had a further 3.6 km walk up a bitumen road to the summit of Mt William (the highest mountain in the Grampians)

As we headed to the summit we were hit by hail showers. We were now above 1000 metres and the air was much cooler than in the valleys below. On reaching Mt William we took in panoramic views and also observed the low clouds continuing to head in our direction. We stopped for lunch, sheltering in a small clearing by the track, moderately sheltered from the gusty wind. Our lunch break was cut short by yet another hail shower.

There were breaks in the rain and hail, that afforded us fantastic views of Mt William and the eastern plains before our steep descent into Boundary Gap and equally steep stairway and small rock scramble up to get up onto the Major Mitchell Plateau.

After Boundary Gap, it was evident the track workers and stonemasons had been busy laying a new section of the Grampian Peaks Trail. Gone was the small track that provided a great rock scramble up to the plateau, it had been replaced by stone stairs! Prior to the work it had been described as 'it's steep, it's rocky, it's a scramble, and it's basically 100 m vertical climb', now it is evenly spaced stairs except for the last 10 metres of the climb. We were happy for the challenge!

Once on the Plateau we took in more great views before heading to the First Wannon Hiker Campsite. The walk was along new 'stepping stones' and metal boardwalk, which made it an easy last couple of kms. We arrived at the campsite after 3:30 and at that time we had the camp to ourselves.

There was a contained fireplace, so we set about collecting enough wood to cook our meals and keep us warm. As the sun dipped, we gathered around the fire for our meal.

Just on sunset a group of 5 hikers joined us. They were young and strong and had managed to do the same walk in 6 hours, leaving the Sheep Hills Carpark at 1:30 pm. We helped them find a good site and settled back to our meal. By 9 pm we were tucked up in our tents, keeping out of the gusty wind and the rain that had returned.

On Sunday, we woke to fog, the low cloud enveloping the camp. The departure time was set at 9 am. We were not going to be stopping to admire any views in this weather! A short day's walking was planned and we were in no particular hurry. This morning we backtracked to Boundary Gap, turned down the Kalymna Falls track that joined to the Mount William Picnic Ground Road. We took a break to the Kalymna Falls and arrived back at the car just after 12 noon.

After a splash in the creek we jumped into Richard's car and headed again to the Sheep Hills Carpark. The second car now retrieved, we drove on to Ararat for lunch at the fabulous Vines Café.

Thanks to Claire for organising an outstanding walk and thanks also to Deb S, Bettina and Richard for your companionship.

*Meredith Quick*

(photos on pages 2 and 13)

### HIDDEN HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EASTERN STRATHBOGIES, 19-20 OCT 2019 by Adrian Miller ... with additional photos by Alec Stewart

My interest was piqued by Ray Thomas's enticing description of his planned off-track expedition. I had not read of any walks or heard of anyone visiting the Strathbogie Ranges. It is a nice change to drive less than 3 hours from Melbourne's east to a weekend walk destination.

First of all, big thanks to Ray who took us to places very few people go. It was a rewarding experience to make it through together and see the beautiful creeks, waterfalls and assorted stunning boulders.

Saturday morning started with a chill in the air, but there was sun in the sky and we had none of the forecast rain! Eight of us set off into the bush, dropping down to a creek that opened up into a very scenic valley with lots of cascades and huge mossy boulders. We scrambled across the boulders and hopped around the ferny banks, then took a break for morning tea on a meadow-like spot with masses of wild lilies. This was to be the last meadow scene for the next few hours, as we climbed through fairly open peppermint forest up and over into the next valley.

Ray confidently navigated us, with very few landmarks, to find the historic gold mining aqueducts that were carved around steep slopes, high above the old mining area in the creek below. We descended further to replenish our water supplies, and check out some really fine geological features where the molten granite had 'cooked' the ancient sedimentary rocks. On the climb out, a lapse of concentration meant that we climbed up the wrong spur (Oops!!), so we met the road at a point a couple of kilometres from where Ray had planned.

Saturday's 16 kms of walking ended at a clearing right beside a mammoth gold sluicing crater that had been carved out by the miners, using high pressure water jets. Now, 150 years later, it's a deep shaded grotto, totally overgrown with tree ferns and other rainforest plants. From camp it was an easy 15 minute walk to a creek, where we collected more excellent water for our cooking. Conversations around the fireside after dinner were cut short when a light rain shower prompted a well-earned retreat to bed.

Sunday morning was overcast, following a few light showers overnight, but the cooler conditions did make the climbing easier. The grey sky persisted as we followed Ray along wombat tracks that took us up through magnificent mountain gum forests to the atmospheric cloudy peaks of Golden Mountain and Mt Strathbogie. Unfortunately the cloud obscured the grand distant views, but the spectacular cliff lines, huge granite slabs, and house-size boulders were a great reward.

Throughout the weekend we crashed through varying densities of bush, following Ray's trailblazing. We had to watch our steps, and someone observed that most of us took a tumble at some point. We enjoyed seeing many huge moss-covered boulders that would be tourist attractions if they were more accessible. Ray pointed out the many orchids and even rare bandicoot diggings amongst a variety of flora.

For Sunday's final adventure, we hid our packs before following a narrow creek gorge through dense tree ferns and mossy forest to the top of a high waterfall. After enjoying the views, we scrambled steeply down, right beside the falls into the valley below, pausing for some more photos and a drink, before climbing out to the cars.



This was an expedition to seldom-seen places (with a few scratches and splinters), but definitely a rewarding experience.

The link below shows some of the highlights photographed by Adrian.

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pSQ\\_QGwDifZLB3fh1TDZhQ6nerD-zuQc?usp=sharin](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pSQ_QGwDifZLB3fh1TDZhQ6nerD-zuQc?usp=sharin)

And more big thanks to Ray for leading this walk – from Alec!

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/hWiEFjPE3BxBk7937>

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](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](mailto: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.



**NEW YEAR'S DAY BBQ at 12:30**

Come along and celebrate the beginning of 2020 (gulp!) with the Bushies BBQ at Yarra Bend Park, Yarra Boulevard.

Please bring a small contribution to the table, your own cutlery and a plate. Plus a mug and tea or coffee. A chair might be handy, too.

No need to book.



**TOFS WALK**

**CARRUM – EDITHVALE WETLANDS**

<b>DATE</b>	Thursday 2 January 2020
<b>DEPART TIME</b>	10:30 am
<b>RETURN TIME</b>	3:00 pm to Edithvale
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy
<b>DISTANCE</b>	9.5 km
<b>TOTAL ASCENT</b>	Flat – maximum 5 metres
<b>LEADER</b>	Eileen Ayre
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Train
<b>ACTIVITY AREA</b>	Carrum, Bonbeach, Chelsea Heights, Edithvale
<b>MAP REFERENCE</b>	Melway maps 97 and 93
<b>FIRE BAN DISTRICT</b>	Central
<b>TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE</b>	Melbourne

We will start from Bonbeach train station at 10:30 am in order to avoid the buses replacing trains for Carrum. I recommend the train on the Frankston Line, leaving Flinders Street at 9:22, as that should arrive at 10:15. The train leaving at 9:32 should make it in time, but that is cutting it fine!

We'll walk first along Bondi Road, then through the Bonbeach Sports Reserve, up to the bicycle path. We will follow the bicycle path, and for a while, the 'Secondary Drain' (so exciting!) through Bicentennial Park and Chelsea Heights.

To get more views of small lakes with birdlife, we will cross Edithvale Road and loop around the Melbourne Water reserve. Then we will head down Edithvale Road to Edithvale station, hopefully with time for a coffee.

In all, we will only see one bird hide, and I've not seen large numbers of water birds there. Mostly water is hidden behind tall grasses or rushes, but it is lovely, open land to walk through, and not too far from Melbourne. Very accessible by public transport.

Book with Eileen.



**SOCIAL EVENT**

**NEW YEAR'S DAY BBQ, BELLBIRD PARK**

<b>DATE</b>	Wednesday 1 January 2020
<b>VENUE</b>	Yarra Bend Park, Yarra Boulevard, Kew
<b>START TIME</b>	Noon
<b>ORGANISER</b>	Susan Maughan
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Private
<b>MAP REFERENCE</b>	Kew. Melway map 44 I4, 45 A4
<b>FIRE BAN DISTRICT</b>	Central
<b>TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE</b>	Melbourne



**SUNDAY CAR POOL**

THREE CREEK WALK

**DATE** Sunday 5 January 2020  
**START TIME** Depart from Cnr. Abeckett Street and William Street at 8:45 am  
**RETURN TIME** Return to Cnr. Abeckett Street and William Street at 6:30 pm  
**TRANSPORT COST STANDARD** \$21.00 (per person) Easy  
**DISTANCE** 13 km  
**LEADER** Brett Daniel  
**TRANSPORT** Carpool – leaving cnr A’Beckett and William Streets at 8:45 am  
**ACTIVITY AREA** Brisbane Ranges  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Ballarat

This walk explores the three main creek systems in the rolling hills north of Steiglitz. There is a short off-track section (along the Yankee Gully), some quiet vehicle tracks and a fair chunk of the Burchell trail. A number of interesting mines are passed along the way.



**WEDNESDAY WALK**

LONG FOREST RESERVE

**DATE** Wednesday 8 January 2020  
**RETURN TIME** 4 pm (or earlier)  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium (or Easy)  
**DISTANCE** 14.5 km (or 11 km)  
**TOTAL ASCENT** 440 m (or 375 m)  
**LEADER** Lesley Hale  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**ACTIVITY AREA** Moorabool Shire  
**MAP REFERENCE** Parks Vic Visitor Guide: Long Forest Flora & Fauna Reserve, Feb 2019  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Ballarat

Meet at Sundew Avenue intersection with Long Forest Road (Melway map 335 E4) at 10 am, ready for short car shuffle to start of walk.

Long Forest has the only remnant bull mallee eucalypts south of the Great Dividing Range; and 400 native plants have been listed here, including taller grey and red box and yellow gum trees, wattles and saltbush. Threatened species of temperate woodland birds are among the 160 bird species listed; and wallaby and echidna are among the wildlife that may sometimes be seen.

The walk explores the northern section of the Reserve, mostly **off-track** through open forest, then heads south using tracks which follow Coimadai Creek winding through **rocky and sometimes steep** terrain with varied views along the way. Walking poles are helpful for rocky slopes and a creek crossing. The final loop on/off track through forest in the southern-most section is optional, leading to views over Djerriwarrh Creek.



**SUNDAY BUS**

WALHALLA

**DATE** Sunday 12 January 2020  
**START TIME** Depart from Cnr. Abeckett Street and William Street at 8:45 am  
**RETURN TIME** Return to Cnr. Abeckett Street and William Street at 6:30 pm

**STANDARDS** Easy and Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCES** 12 km and 15 km  
**LEADERS** Theo Mertzianidis and Brett Daniel  
**TRANSPORT** Bus – leaving cnr A’Beckett and William Streets at 8:45 am  
**ACTIVITY AREA** Gippsland  
**MAP REFERENCE** Walhalla 1:25,000  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** West Gippsland  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Latrobe Valley

This walk in the historic gold mining area of Walhalla. It’s on well-formed tracks with little in the way of hills for the easy group. It follows old tramway alignment, parts of the Great Alpine Walking Track and other trails, through the steep and densely forested terrain of the Baw Baws. Along the way we will see the Thompson River and cross it on the historic iron bridge, pass fern glades, old machinery and mine entrances before arriving at the Walhalla Township. The township itself is a remote and picturesque village clinging to sides of a valley so steep that two buildings straddle it.



**TRAINING**

FULL DAY LEADER TRAINING

**DATE** Saturday 18 January 2020  
**VENUE** Clubrooms, 717 Flinders Street, City (Melway map 2E 8J)  
**START TIME** 10:00 am  
**FINISH TIME** 3:30 pm  
**ORGANISER** Angela Vetsica  
**TRANSPORT** Private

See page 5 of this newsletter for details. To book contact Angela: [training@mbw.org.au](mailto:training@mbw.org.au)



**SUNDAY CAR POOL**

FRENCH ISLAND

**DATE** Sunday 19 January 2020  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**LEADER** Wendy Fortington  
**TRANSPORT** Carpool – leaving cnr A’Beckett and William Streets at 8:45 am  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Frankston



For details of this walk contact Wendy, or look on the Club’s website or next month’s News.



**MOFS WALK**

**EAST KEW LINEAR PARKS**

**DATE** Monday 20 January 2020  
**START TIME** 10:30 am at Hays Paddock car park  
**RETURN TIME** Before 3 pm  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** Approximately 11 km  
**TOTAL ASCENT** Predominantly flat  
**LEADERS** Alan and Jan Case  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**ACTIVITY AREA** East Kew, Kew, Deepdene and Balwyn  
**MAP REFERENCE** Melway maps 45 and 46  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Melbourne

The walk links various linear parks along creek valleys together with a section of the old Outer Circle Railway. Most of the walk is along formed paths, some of which are shared pedestrian/bicycle paths. Lunch will be in Victoria Park, Kew. The walk follows a circular route, starting and finishing in Hays Paddock.

Meet in the Hays Paddock car park (with toilets) at Melway map 45 J1 to start walking at 10:30 am.

Book with Alan and Jan.



**SOCIAL WALK**

**STRADBROKE PARK, HAYS PADDOCK**

**DATE** Thursday 23 January 2020  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** 5 km  
**LEADER** Alister Rowe  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**MAP REFERENCE** Melway map 45, Kew East  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Melbourne

Meet at 10:45 am in carpark off Burke Road near corner with Harp/Belmore Roads, Melway map 45 K4. We will walk along the linear trail to Hays Paddock and maybe a little further to make up the 5 km. On returning to our cars we will have lunch at the Harp of Erin Hotel, Melway map 45 H4. Carpark nearby off Strathalbyn St.

Book with leader.



**PACK CARRY**

**BOGONG HIGH PLAINS: MTS FAINTER, JAITHMATHANG AND JIM**



**DATE** 24–27 January 2020  
**STANDARD** Medium  
**DISTANCE** 35 km  
**TOTAL ASCENT** 1100 m rise  
**LEADER** Mark Simpson  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**ACTIVITY AREA** Bogong High Plains  
**MAP REFERENCE** Bogong Alpine Area Outdoor Leisure Map  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** North Eastern  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Falls Creek

Friday night camp at Mountain Creek camp ground.

Expect some off track walking.

After a car shuffle the walk will commence at Bogong Village, taking in some of the most attractive but less visited mountains on the Bogong High Plains, including the Fainters and the Jaithmathangs. If the weather is clear good views are guaranteed.

Day 1. Approx 10.5 km. We will climb steadily up to Bogong Jack Saddle where we will camp. Approx 700 m climb.

Day 2. Approx. 12 km. Sunday we head to Tawonga Huts, traversing Mt Fainter North and South. If the weather is clear we will head over the crest of the Jaithmathangs for some of the best views in the high country and eventually arrive at Tawonga Huts for camp.

Day 3. 12 km. From Tawonga Huts we will head to Mt Jim, joining the Australian Alps Walking Track to Cope Hut and eventually make our way the Pretty Valley Pondage and the cars. Plan to be at cars by 2 pm.



**SUNDAY BUS**

**HERITAGE PARK (GOLDEN GULLIES)**

**DATE** Sunday 26 January 2020  
**STANDARDS** Easy and Easy/Medium  
**LEADERS** John Fritze and Carol Ward  
**TRANSPORT** Bus – leaving cnr A'Beckett and William Streets at 8:45 am

**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** North Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Bendigo

John is currently doing a mountaineering course in New Zealand. Look for a preview next month or on the Club's website.



**WEDNESDAY WALK**

**MT WORTH STATE PARK**

**DATE** Wednesday 29 January 2020  
**RETURN TIME** 6 pm to city  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCE** 15 km  
**TOTAL ASCENT** 450 m total height gain  
**LEADER** Mick Noonan  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**TRANSPORT COST** \$20  
**MAP REFERENCE** Vicmap – Mt Worth & Allambee 1:25,000  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** West Gippsland  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Latrobe Valley

Mt Worth State Park is located about 125 km south east of Melbourne. It encompasses 1000 hectares of western Strzelecki rainforest, cleared pastures and regenerating native bush. There are spectacular panoramic views not only during the walk but also on the drive there and back, especially along the Grand Ridge Road.

The park features great stands of mountain ash, dense cool fern gullies, mosses, silver wattle and blackwood, especially along Moonlight Creek. We get to see one of the 300-year-old giant mountain ash that once used to cover much of west Gippsland. The park includes many sawmill sites with Trevorrows mill still having some great machinery including the much photographed old steam boiler.

This circular walk starts from the Moonlight Creek Picnic area where we will meet at 10:15 for a 10:30 start. We head north across the hills and fire tracks, walking along the ridge tops with breathtaking views across the Latrobe valley to the Great Dividing Range.

Even the next section along gravel road has fantastic views. We will walk below Mt Worth (507 m) and then return by the Moonlight Creek Track with its cool fern gullies, towering ash and a lone waterfall to the Giants Circuit and the picnic ground.

Gaiters are a good idea at this time of year and they will be useful for overgrown parts of the track, e.g. Moonlight Creek.

Check out the website for photos taken the previous time I led this walk. After the walk there should be time for a quick stop at the Darnum Tea Rooms.



## Expressions of Interest SNAKE ISLAND, PORT WELSHPOOL Tuesday 4 to Thursday 6 Feb 2020



This is a mid-week base camp offering either camping or shared dorms. We are allowed to use the Cattlemen's Association huts for free for the two nights.

A charter boat takes us from Port Welshpool to a beach close to the huts, then we have about a 300 m scramble up through the sand dunes to reach them. This is Victoria's largest sand island so the walking is flat, frequently shaded and with wide tracks. Expect Wednesday to be a full day of walking.

Meet at Port Welshpool for 10 am (TBC) and the cost for the boat is \$110. Minimum of 15 required.  
[susanmaughanoz@hotmail.com](mailto:susanmaughanoz@hotmail.com) 0478 504 441

## Expressions of Interest MOONLIGHT KAYAK, DOCKLANDS Saturday 29 Feb 2020

**DATE** Saturday 29 February 2020  
**LEADER** Susan Maughan  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**COST** \$85.00 (special discount)  
Book and pay with the leader

**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** MELBOURNE

No kayaking experience is necessary as the guides will be with you every step of the way. The sea kayaks are extremely stable and easy to operate. There is a short briefing on paddling techniques before getting on to the water and setting off for an exploration of the sights in Victoria Harbour. Later we tie up to a dock in a beautiful marina. Fish and chips are served to us as we stay seated in the kayak for a very special on-the-water dining experience.

After the meal we paddle upstream, then under the Bolte Bridge, and continue past the casino. The tour is timed to coincide with the dramatic fireball display. From there we kayak past Flinders Street Station and beneath Princes Bridge and the tour ends at the Rowing Sheds.

SIXTEEN places available.

**WHAT TO WEAR:** You can wear your normal clothes but you may want to bring a change if you are going out.

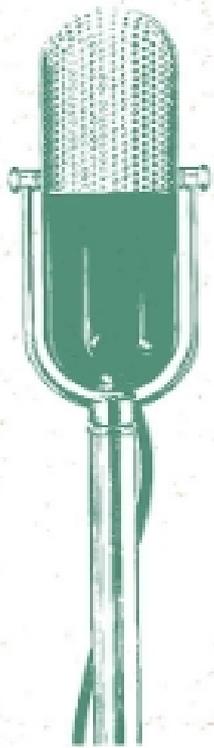
**START TIME AND PLACE:** We start at the wharf at the Community Hub at The Dock, 912 Collins Street, Docklands. The tour commences at 6:45 and it lasts 2.5 hours.



CAMP EUREKA

26th

DECEMBER



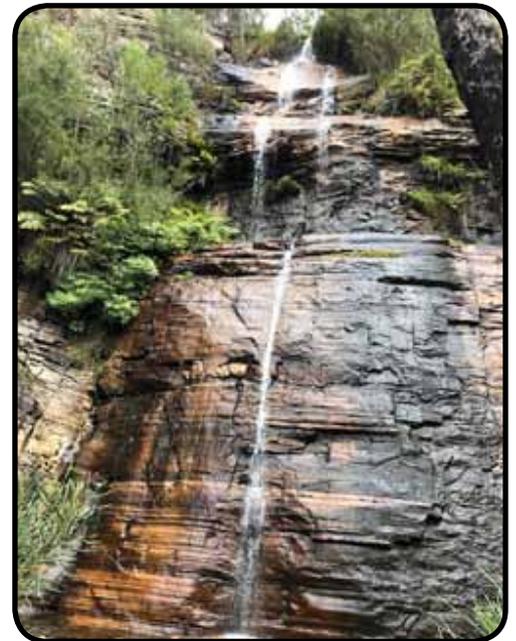
OPEN  
MIC  
NIGHT

SINGERS  
MONOLOGISTS  
COMEDIANS  
BUSH BALLADIERS  
and more....

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!

January 2020						
Wed 1	SOC: New Year's Day BBQ, Bellbird Park	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Susan Maughan	
Thu 2	TOF: Carrum – Edithvale Wetlands	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Eileen Ayre	
Sun 5	DAY: Three Creek Walk	Car	Easy	CN:ba	Brett Daniel	
Wed 8	DAY: Long Forest	Pvt	E/M	CN:ba	Lesley Hale	
<b>Sun 12</b>	<b>DAY: Walhalla</b>	<b>Bus</b>	<b>E&amp;E/M</b>	<b>WG:lv</b>	<b>Theo Mertzaniadis &amp; Brett Daniel</b>	
Sat 18	TRG: Full Day Leader Training				Angela Vetsica	
Sun 19	DAY: French Island	Car	Easy	CN:fr	Wendy Fortington	
Mon 20	MOF: East Kew Linear Parks	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Alan & Jan Case	
Thu 23	SOC: Stradbroke Park, Hays Paddock	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Alister Rowe	
24–27	PC : Bogong High Plains: Mts Fainter, Jaithmathang & Jim	Pvt	Med	NE:fc	Mark Simpson	
<b>Sun 26</b>	<b>DAY: Heritage Park (Golden Gullies)</b>	<b>Bus</b>	<b>E/M&amp;M</b>	<b>NC:be</b>	<b>John Fritze &amp; Carol Ward</b>	
Wed 29	DAY: Mt. Worth State Park	Pvt	E/M	WG:lv	Mick Noonan	

Photos from the Major Mitchell Plateau walk. Read Meredith's story on page 6.



Bird orchid seen in the Strathbogies. Story on page 7.