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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

February 2019

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

Note the date, Wednesday, March 20th, in the Clubrooms, The Mission to Seafarers Victoria, 717 Flinders Street, Docklands. Come along, chat with friends, find out how your Club is going! The Wine and Cheese is free. More information in March News.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS' COMMITTEE, 2019-20

Nominations are open for the Committee to be elected at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 20th March 2019, for the year commencing 1st April.

The majority of the current Committee have indicated their willingness to continue for the coming year. Vacancies exist for the positions of:

- President
- Treasurer

Both the current President and Treasurer have given notice they will stand down after extended service to members. They have offered themselves for election to Committee in different roles and are available to discuss what is involved with nominees.

If you are interested in nominating for these key roles, would like to nominate someone else (with their agreement), or just seeking further information, please send an email to secretary@mbw.org.au



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

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
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 4 March 2019



Photo taken by Ian Mair on Sunday walk to Wombelano Falls, Island Creek, 11 November 2018



There was a canoe trip on the Glenelg River at Easter 2018. The group visited the Princess Margaret Rose caves.
Photo by Ian Mair



Jopie couldn't resist climbing this rock formation in the Main Range, Kosciuszko National Park, December 2018.



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – FEBRUARY 2019

It is already February and the post-New Year surge of interest in participation in bushwalking as one way to improve fitness is starting to wane. This year, as in previous years, we have seen many new faces. Participation levels on our bus trips in particular are above average. While this was all to be expected it has been especially gratifying this year as it is our first month at our new home at The Mission to Seafarers. Feedback on the venue has been very positive and the location does not seem to have presented any reasons for concern.

The Christmas – New Year period was a busy one for a dedicated group of volunteers who contributed to the setting up of the new venue and managed the re-location of our equipment and files. It will take a few months to find a preferred routine for the setup for normal club nights and special events, but so far everything is going smoothly. During January we held our first full-day training session at the new venue for walk leaders and other interested members. The more inviting ambience and flexible meeting space is delivering the anticipated rewards. Not least in the settling in process has been the welcoming and helpful support of the staff and volunteers of The Mission to Seafarers Victoria. Thank you to everyone who was involved.

An important part of the leader training sessions is the consideration of scenarios involving injury, lost walkers and group cohesion that may be faced by a leader on a walk. These have been written in a way to add colour to the characters involved. While not the primary intent of the scripters of the scenarios they also raise a number of questions around privacy, equity, discrimination and domestic violence that can lead to important and challenging discussion. These ethical and social considerations are just as important to be addressed for the future of the club as are the practical skills to handle an incident while leading. I welcomed being part of the meeting and was heartened by the tenor of the discussions. There is no place in Melbourne Bushwalkers for any display of behaviour that offends other members.

The arrival of February signals the time to ramp up our preparations for the March Annual General Meeting. While it may seem like it is still a long way off until the 20th of March there are a number of actions requiring contributions from volunteers that need to be progressed in a timely manner. Most importantly there are fiduciary and legal steps we are obliged to take. Thankfully most of these have been documented in a convenient form for each new wave of volunteers to follow, and improve as appropriate, so that they are not a time-consuming burden. Each year key members of the Committee report on the activities in their areas of responsibility, including the Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Walks Secretaries. Often presenting quantitative as well as qualitative observations they provide a penetrating insight into the performance of the club.

There is no prescribed period in office for any volunteer role in Melbourne Bushwalkers. We have been fortunate over many years to have a stream of passionate individuals take up the diversity of roles that support our activities. Much as we would like some of them to continue in their role indefinitely it is an unreasonable expectation and a changing of some of the guard takes place at the Annual General Meeting each year. At this stage two key roles do not have nominations for the positions, those of Treasurer and President. I am actively seeking recommendations or nominations for each role. If you are interested in making a contribution to the future direction of the club, or can assist in progressing the nomination of another member, then I am keen to receive your advice.

Sometimes the rewards for our voluntary efforts come from unexpected places and at unexpected times. Many of you will be aware that we maintain an archive of old photographic images as part of the club's online photogallery. Some may find this a quaint curiosity with limited relevance to today's members. It is, however, along with the history of the club's first 50 years from 1940, a well visited part of the website. When that is followed up with a message of thanks for the memory from a former member of the club it brings a feeling of satisfaction and a reminder that we develop more than just casual acquaintances by being part of the club. Lifelong bonds of friendship and memories of shared adventures tie us together even after we have long gone from the club. This is not by happenchance, but rather is the product of the culture of friendliness and shared passion for bushwalking that binds the club and its members together.

Speaking of the club's website, it is timely to mention that progress is being made on the redevelopment of our website. There is much still to be done and many pages are still to be migrated and redesigned, however, if you have an interest in a preview of what is to come you can find it at the IP address 35.189.49.78 Remember, it is a work in progress using sample data and the details presented for our activities program are not the most up to date.

Ian Mair

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

'On a recent walk on the Hollyford track our group were horrified to see a commercial helicopter land in the middle of the ENDANGERED Crested Fiordland Penguin breeding colony at Long Reef Point.

The helicopter landed within the conservation area, many of the breeding fur seals in the vicinity, moved away quickly as the helicopter approached and landed, they were clearly distressed by the noise of the rotors. As for the endangered penguins, we could not determine their distress, it was at approximately 2pm when the helicopter landed, many of the adult penguins would have been feeding at sea, but the noise levels were extreme, I could not hear what the affect was on the new born chicks.

Our group was extremely concerned about the effect the noise and wind from the rotors on the wildlife. Some of our walking group attempted approach the helicopter. The area where we saw this helicopter land was not accessible for us to approach the pilot and the passengers because we would have needed to invade the penguin rookery or attempt an alternate approach via the shoreline where we would encounter the already distressed seals.

The helicopter was turned off for the 20 minutes it was in the area, and was restarted when the "guests" returned. We could not see clearly what the "guests" were doing or what they were shown because of the impenetrable barrier of native flax. We do know that it was an active penguin nesting site because we had visited the site near sunset the night before and heard the chicks calling for their parents to return.'

The above is an extract with some of the details of an incident the Melbourne Bushies encountered whilst in a wilderness area. We believed the tourist helicopter breached the boundaries of its licence. I was angry and I wanted somebody to be accountable for this breach.

On December 17th, I forwarded the same letter to DOC Te Anau, the New Zealand Minister for Conservation and WWF, my philosophy being the more people that knew, the better the probability of something being done to curb these invasions.

The email concluded with 'By return could you please advise what steps your organisation will take to:

1. Penalise the helicopter company
2. Prevent future occurrences of the invasion of conservation areas.
3. Steps that will be taken in future to protect the Crested Fiordland Penguin and New Zealand Fur Seal.

I am hoping a tough penalty be imposed on the company and its pilots to ensure this activity does not continue.'

I was pleasantly surprised to receive a return email from the DOC Te Anau almost immediately. They were taking this complaint seriously! They advised the helicopter company had a licence to view marine mammals, but were certain the licence did not extend to Martin's Bay.

Xmas approached and there was silence. To my delight I received a response from the Minister's office on January 7th advising:

'The Department contacted the helicopter company identified by your photographs immediately after receipt of your email. They admitted they were at fault, were very apologetic and have sent out an advisory to their pilots to cease landing in this area.

Other helicopter companies who operate in this area have also been advised that no landings are permitted at Long Reef due to the adverse effects on the breeding rookery of New Zealand fur seals and the colony of Tawaki / Fiordland crested penguins.'

My initial reaction to the incursion was, I wanted the company closed down, I wanted massive fines, how dare these people put tourism before these beautiful creatures! I trust, however, the department has acted appropriately given that we can view this incident as a one off.

It is easy to remark about injustices but the power of documentation is a useful weapon. We need to speak up when we see breaches and contact the authorities when we witness these violations. We CAN make a difference.

Meredith Quick



THE COST OF RESCUE

A ride in an ambulance is not free and you will get a bill, often very expensive if you need to use an ambulance including air ambulance. In Australia search and rescue is not billed to the person rescued except in rare instances where the person has been reckless or is abusing the goodwill of the service.

However overseas it is common to be charged for search and rescue. It is more and more common for a helicopter to be involved for the safety and wellbeing of both the rescued and rescuers. Helicopter rescues can work out very expensive. So if you go walking, mountain biking or skiing etc. in overseas wilderness areas where you are not close to accessibility by a normal ambulance it would be wise to have insurance cover for the cost of rescue.

Travel Insurance PDS require careful and close reading, and it is unlikely the first one you are presented with will be the best cover and value, and no two policies will be identical. Some will have age limits, some will have altitude limits, and nearly all policies you can purchase will exclude coverage when engaged in certain activities. Climbing with ropes is almost universally excluded and so is skiing away from the piste. Some policies require you to pay an extra cover if skiing, but only to find the extra benefits you are covered for are refunds in the case of no snow and theft of equipment and not the big risks related to off-piste and backcountry.

Universally the standard travel insurance policies generally available will describe the rules and conditions regarding the transport from the country of injury or incapacity back to Australia. But are not explicit about the critical and potentially equally expensive much smaller distance from a wilderness location to the nearest medical facility. On the one hand you need to be careful about assuming that the insurance company will pay for something just because it is not excluded. On the other hand you need to be careful about asking specific questions or reading their blogs or FAQ's. Insurance companies are prone to want interpret PDS in the light most favourable to them. So if a court may decide that something is covered but you had got advice from the insured that it was not before you took out the policy you are in a bind.

There are specialist policies out there that cover particular activities, they do tend to be much more expensive than more general travel insurance. However the biggest barrier to members of Melbourne Bushies is that most have an age limit, and stop covering people for these activities somewhere between 64 and 69 years depending on the insurance company. Brilliant, just when you finally have more time and money to enjoy the adventurous activities you have been training and developing your skills for all your working life, the insurance companies think you should stay at home and do knitting or go on cruises or coach holidays.

Do not despair, there are some solutions, and easy ones at that.

Economical mountain rescue insurance.

For between £40 to £52 per year you can join the Austrian Alpine Club (UK) <https://aacuk.org.uk/>. Membership includes insurance cover which is primarily mountain rescue insurance + repatriation and medical cover. The cover is very broad for non powered sports, altitude to 6000 metres, geographic area, up to eight weeks per trip and no age limits. However you are not covered for travel sickness or injury if the trip is not part of a sporting trip.

An economical travel cover for the remainder of your travel risk.

Bankwest Platinum Zero credit card offers a complementary travel insurance cover which fills the gap missing from the AAC UK cover for travel purposes. The qualification is a modest \$500 pre-paid travel expenses on the card, covers card holders up to 80 years old which is older than most commercially available policies without a surcharge. The breadth is comparable with commercially available policies. Off-piste skiing is not covered but that is where the AAC UK membership kicks in.

The Platinum Zero card has no annual fee and a really good bonus is no foreign exchange fees. So it is good for pre paying parts of your trip to qualify for the free insurance, spending during your trip with no exchange fee as well as overseas on-line purchases throughout the year.

On the subject of foreign transaction fees. Be aware that multi-currency cards like Qantas Cash which advertise no foreign transaction fee not only hold onto your money interest free while it is on the card but slog you an undisclosed 5% extra conversion fee on top of the normal credit card conversion rate when you load the card. 5% assumes a hefty unfavourable movement in exchange rate just for you to break even. If the exchange rate moves favourably for the Australian dollar after you load the card you are a really big time loser with these multi-currency cards.

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Member contributions

THE COST OF RESCUE *(continued from page 5)*

If you do decide to purchase a commercial travel insurance policy it is important to shop around. For a number of years I worked for one of the biggest travel agent groups in the world. Our most profitable line was the margin we made on selling travel insurance. My experience is that the 10% discount that you may be offered is insignificant compared to how much you can save on an equivalent or better policy with some diligent research.

For an annual fee of \$249 the CBA Platinum card provides free international travel insurance without a purchase qualification.

Furthermore the British Mountaineering Council also provides insurance cover for outdoor activities.

David Walsh

TWO MINUTES TO GO

The Fjordland Crested penguins popped out of the sea singly and in groups, then hopped over the large rocks and boulders up the beach to the burrows where their chicks were waiting for their evening feed. These brave birds face many perils and for the 'trampers' observing this nightly ritual it was truly a highlight of the hike to Martins Bay, our last stop on the Hollyford track.

Our walk had begun four days earlier when Ian, Halina, Deb, Meredith, Di, Anita, Susan and Elsa were dropped off to begin our walk through the quiet damp forest where the lacy green plants hung down from the branches and trunks; stopping to admire the green-hooded orchids that were declared to be 'on steroids' by those in the know. We crossed creeks and passed waterfalls, observing how muted the colours were – greens, whites and yellows – and how still the forest was despite the occasional birdsong which was difficult to hear above our racket, much to the chagrin of some. Sorry Ian!

The second day presented us with the first of four three-wire-bridge crossings. Sue, a helpful ranger from the Department of Conservation (DOC) provided a few tips on how to cross these risky structures, advising us to place our boots on the cable, toes pointing outwards Charlie Chaplin fashion, and to rest our forearms on the handrails to improve our balance. All good in theory, so it was a nervous few who attempted the first bridge while others waded across. After that it was just easier to cross above the water and everyone made it. We were fortunate to have great weather so the creeks were not flowing at full spate ... it could have been a far greater challenge.

We had a few memorable moments on day three as we made our way along the slippery, undulating Demons Trail, negotiating two more three-wire-bridges, circumnavigating fallen trees; not to mention those pesky sand flies and the 95 storeys we climbed over a distance of 10 km recorded by an app on a phone. The group of eight stuck together with Ian at the front keeping us going and Halina managing from the back.

Memorable comments included 'Oh dear, this isn't good' as one walker took a dramatic tumble, the wail of 'Oh no my lovely clean socks', as someone else slid slowly into the mud and Ian's motivational catch phrases – 'Two minutes to go' and 'It's about another 500 metres' (whatever the distance).

Martins Bay was the last stop before we flew back and we had a day and a half of great weather to observe fur seals with their pups at Long Reef Point, where they lay in the sun or swam lazily close to shore. We were shocked when a tourist helicopter landed in the middle of the colony and will report it to DOC. *[See page 4.]*

Our return to Te Anau involved a flight in the dinkiest five-seater Cessna 206. We met the pilot drinking his morning coffee at the picnic table next to a gravel path that was actually the runway. Check-in consisted of dividing us in two groups before flying along the coast southwards, then banking left into the stunning Milford Sound where we saw waterfalls tumbling down from hanging valleys and snow crested peaks above us.

Well, we made it and as we sat on that last evening, nursing our sand-fly bites and bruises, watching those tough, little penguins return to their chicks, we knew in our hearts what a great privilege it was just to be there.

Elsa Hodgins, 1 December 2018



MOUNT BULLER WEST RIDGE – PACK CARRY 15–16 DECEMBER 2018

Challenging, adventurous and interesting hiking weekend.

Group leader: Agajan.

Participants: Ian M, Gina H, Trish E, Khelina F.

Jopie B, Mark S. and Anita W.

Day 1 – 16.5 km – 5 hours – Timbertop Track – off track – Doughty Road – West Ridge

Day 2 – 13.5 km – 6½ hours – West Ridge – Mount

Buller Summit – McLaughlin Shoulder – Mirimbah

Spur – off track – Klingsporn Bridle Track

Total Ascent: 1500 m, Descent: 1700 m

Highlights: Steep Climbing/Descending, Exposed Ridge Walking, Rock Scrambling, Bush Bashing, Fallen Trees, Slippery Rocks, Snow Gums, Snakes, Mists, Sunset.

Due to bad weather forecast on Friday night, Agajan suggested to meet on Saturday. We all happily agreed.



We met at Mirimbah Picnic Ground at 9:45 am on Saturday and car shuffled to Timbertop saddle where we started our hike to the summit. It was reasonably easy and steady up. I realised afterwards it was just a 'warm up' for a tough weekend ahead!

We had morning tea in the clouds at Timbertop Summit so it was a pity we didn't get rewarded with spectacular views of the valley. We then continued our walk towards Doughty Road.

Feeling adventurous, we decided to bypass the four wheel track and go off track. At lunch time we had an up and close encounter with two snakes! One slithered in front of Mark and one crept up where Ian was about to put his pack down. We passed a recently logged plantation and were then bush bashing up and down, and under and around through thick bushes. Were we lost? We seemed to be going in circles? Agajan had his GPS and all was under control. So! 'we were not on a track but on the right track!!' It was slow going as scrub was thick with slippery rocks and fallen trees.

We eventually made it out of the bush, reaching Doughty Road Creek where we collected water for the night and the next day. It was then a steady climb up to Round Hill. It was only about 2 kilometres hike but it felt like so much longer as it had been a long day and the pack was heavy with extra water. We camped at a lovely saddle a bit further out from Round Hill. We had superb views of Mt Buller on one side and an amazing sunset on the other. What a beautiful spot to camp after a long hard day.

In the morning Agajan discussed with us which route to take as he was concerned about the windy and wet conditions. Of course we chose a more challenging route, walking the ridge to Mt Buller summit. We started with a steep climb up the ridge. When trees began to thin out we noticed that the ridge had narrowed, becoming exposed. As rocks were loose and slippery in parts, we walked with care. We stopped now and then to take a break and had a glimpse of beautiful hills and valley between drifting clouds. We reached Mt Buller summit and stopped for morning tea. We could only use our imagination for a magnificent view of mountain ranges and Mount Buller Ski Resort as it was a complete white-out. Apart from a bit wet and chilly, it was quite 'romantic'!!

We then walked along McLaughlin Shoulder with steep descents through dense bush down Mirimbah Spur. We stopped for lunch when we reached Klingsporn Bridle Track and finished with an easy 2.5 k walk to Mirimbah Picnic Ground.

We all met up at Mansfield Regional Produce Store for a well-deserved coffee before we headed back to Melbourne.

What an epic adventure! The walk gave my thighs a total workout. They were still sore the next day but so worth it!

Thank you Agajan for a fantastic walk. Thank you Ian M, Gina H, Trish E, Khenila F. Jopie B. and Mark S. for your great company.

Anita

WINDY WEATHER ON THE MAIN RANGE – SNOWY MOUNTAINS MAIN RANGE CIRCUIT

Leader Jopie Bodegraven

The Main Range of the Snowy Mountains is an area I love going back to. It is the premier alpine area on the mainland with glacial lakes, cascading streams, a profusion of wildflowers in season, fascinating rocky outcrops and views that go on forever. The other side of the equation however is that being treeless and high, it is exposed to the worst weather that mother nature can throw at it.

Eight of us set off from Charlotte Pass the day after Boxing Day, day 1 of our 6 day bushwalk. There were Jenny, Agajan, Marion, Bronwyn, Quentin, David C, David G and me. We had been delayed two hours by car issues; a flat tyre and what turned out to be a faulty radiator cap leading to overheating, but here we finally were. It was windy, a foretaste of what was to come.

The Snowy River was low so we successfully got everyone across the stepping stones with nobody falling in. Up the hill, then offtrack through snowgrass and light scrub to some lovely cascades and on to a late lunch, sheltered from the howling wind in a spot overlooking Headley Tarn, the first of the five major glacial lakes. The highlight for day 1 was the incomparable Blue Lake, a deep glacial lake in a rocky ice carved cirque, backed by steep cliffs that are the only place on the mainland normally used to practice ice climbing in winter. We followed the lovely series of waterfalls and cascades feeding the lake and followed the clifftops over the shoulder of Mt Twynam to descend into the beautiful cirque on the east side of Mt Twynam. The strong winds were from the NW and we were facing east so it should have been sheltered. We were wrong. The wind eddied and gusted and the flapping of the tents kept us awake most of the night. The campsite for the following night was going to be even more exposed to the NW so we opted for a second night here, turning day 2 into a day trip.



Morning tea in the small gorge near the Sentinel (day 2)

Day 2 was even windier than day 1. We battled our way through a howling gale over Mt Twynam, along a section of the main divide and down to the relative shelter of a small gorge near the Sentinel, a prominent rocky knoll. No way would we be able to negotiate the narrow ridge to the Sentinel but while we were having morning tea, the wind miraculously eased so we did manage to get out and enjoyed the fabulous views. After lunch we went out onto Watsons Crags and marvelled at where the skiers leap off a cornice in winter. That night the wind once again rose up and we had our second long night of sleep deprivation.

Day 3 once again had a howling wind as we went over Mt Carruthers, down to Lake Albina which I consider the second most beautiful of the glacial lakes and on to our campsite in yet

another dramatic cirque on the south side of Mt Townsend. This one was in fact much more sheltered and we had a better night except for about 2 hours when the winds decided to bash our tents around some more. We managed a fabulous side trip onto Mts Townsend and Alice Rawson despite the ever present wind.

Day 4 and more wind as we went over Muellers Peak and mixed it on the summit of Mt Kosciusko with the hundreds of people pouring in from the top of the Thredbo Chairlift. Major culture shock here so it was with great relief that we headed into the Ramsheads which was free of the hordes. Despite doing our best to pick a campsite sheltered behind big rocky lumps we failed yet again. We had another night of being buffeted by gusting and eddying wind.

We packed up on day 5, sleep deprived and grumpy and with a forecast of more strong winds, unanimously voted not to endure another windy sleepless night as planned and instead walked directly back to our cars at Charlotte Pass and drove home to our respective lovely comfortable beds.

I have been on the main range numerous times before and as always it was beautiful and spectacular. I have had windy days there too but never have I had such a sustained period of strong winds as this.

Jopie Bodegraven

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**

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



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

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

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



SUNDAY BUS

LAKE ELIZABETH – WEST BARWON RESERVOIR

DATE	Sunday 3 March 2019
RETURN TIME	6:30 pm to city
STANDARDS	Easy and Medium
DISTANCES	12 km and 16 km
TOTAL ASCENTS	50 m rise and 200 m rise
LEADERS	Halina Sarbinowski and John Oakley
TRANSPORT	Bus – leaving cnr A'Beckett and William Streets at 8:45 am
ACTIVITY AREA	The Otways
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	South West
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Colac



TOFS WALK

SHIPROCK FALLS – KURTH KILN

DATE	Thursday 7 February 2019
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	12 km
LEADER	Jan Llewelyn
TRANSPORT	Private
MAP REFERENCE	Gembrook South 1:25,000 GR 764 059
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Mt Dandenong

Nestled in the Otway State Forest lies the beautiful Lake Elizabeth formed when a landslide blocked the East Barwon River in 1952. The haunting quality of this flooded valley with its stark trees still visible in the lake after nearly seventy years has a serenity that soothes the soul. It is one of my favorite places and I return to it again and again. One such glorious feature on a walk would make this one of the best walks on the Sunday program but close by lies the West Barwon Reservoir. Both walks will have the opportunity to follow the trail around Lake Elizabeth and then wander along the reservoir to our waiting bus.

I hope that you will join us on this most delightful walk.



TOFS WALK

OLINDA CREEK – MT EVELYN AQUEDUCT

DATE Thursday 7 March 2019
RETURN TIME 2:30 pm
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 10 km
ELEVATION 150 m (optional)
LEADER Graham Hodgson
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Mt Evelyn
MAP REFERENCE Melway map 120
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Yarra Glen

This is a pleasant walk through forests and fern gullies at the back of Mt Evelyn.

The walk will be entirely on tracks with a few moderate hill climbs and one very steep climb which will be compensated for with some beautiful views out towards Mt Donna Buang. (The very steep climb can be avoided by those not wishing to attempt it).

Meet at the corner of Hunter Road and Monbulk Road Mt Evelyn (Melway Map 120 G6) at 10:30 am. Parking is available about 50 m past the intersection on the left hand side if you are coming from Mt Evelyn.

For bookings and further enquiries ring Graham.



BASE CAMP

**GREAT BARRIER ISLAND (NEW ZEALAND)
 LODGE WITH DAY WALKS**

DATE Friday 8 to Saturday 17 March 2019
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 10–18 km
ELEVATION 627 m
LEADER Susan Maughan
TRANSPORT Car rental
AREA Great Barrier Island, Auckland, NZ

This trip is now fully booked, but contact leader to see whether there has been a last minute withdrawal.



BASE CAMP

MT BUFFALO – LAKE CATANI CAMPGROUND

DATE 8–11 March 2019
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 43 km (approximate)



LEADER Jan Colquhoun
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Mt Buffalo
MAP REFERENCE Rooftop: Mt Buffalo Plateau Forest
 Activities Map
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Eastern
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Hotham

Mount Buffalo offers a varied range of short and extended walks each with varied but stunning scenery. I have selected walks to highlight the range of scenery available. We shall stay at the Lake Catani Campground, a very popular campground over this Labor Day long weekend.

On Saturday we will explore the Back Wall for excellent views to the south of the plateau. On return to our campground we can stop off for refreshments at the Dingo Dell visitor Centre. There is some free time to relax or perhaps take a swim in Lake Catani. There is then an optional wine and nibbles sunset up on the Horn lookout. The Horn offers 360 degree views and the best sunsets I've experienced in the high country!

On Sunday we shall car pool to Rollasons Falls. After exploring the upper and lower falls we then take the Big Walk track back to Lake Catani via the Chalet and visit many of the scenic lookouts on route. This walk involves some climbing, but all is on well-formed tracks.

On Monday we shall explore Chalwell and Old Galleries and walk from The Reservoir car park back to the campground (after a short car shuffle) one way back to the campground. Last time I walked this track at this time of year the valley was covered in mountain daisies. These are all short but rewarding walks close to the campground. Time permitting; there is an option to check out the scenery around The Cathedral before heading back to Melbourne.

Lake Catani is an excellent campground with full facilities including hot showers. Mt Buffalo is approximately 5 hours drive from Melbourne. Due to the size of the plateau, car shuffles will be involved for some of the walks. The walks listed on this preview are meant as a guideline and they may be rotated or modified depending on the weather or the group.

Expressions of interest would be appreciated ASAP. There are limited places available on this basecamp due to the availability of campsites. A deposit of \$50 per person is required to secure a place. Due to Parks Victoria and Club policy, should you not be able to attend deposits can't be refunded, unless early notice is provided and someone else can take your place.

If interested please contact Jan Colquhoun.



PACK CARRY

MT COBBLER

DATE Friday 8 to Monday 11 March 2019
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 35 km
TOTAL ASCENT 1200 m rise
LEADER Ian Mair
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Alpine National Park
MAP REFERENCE Selwyn 1:50,000; King, Howqua & Jamieson Rivers, VMTC 1:50,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Eastern
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Buller

Set amongst the rugged beauty of the scenic Australian Alps, this is an excellent and not particularly difficult walk to the summit of Mt Cobbler. On Friday we drive to Howqua Gap where we will camp Friday night at Howqua Gap camping area. On Saturday morning we will drive to the start of the walk beside the King River.

The walk climbs the Muesli Spur to Cobbler Plateau, a 600 m climb. Muesli Spur is rocky and could be overgrown in places. We will camp Saturday night beside attractive Lake Cobbler. On Sunday we visit the highest water falls in Victoria (Dangdongadale) before heading towards Mt Cobbler where we will camp subject to water availability. After setting up camp we have time to explore Mt Cobbler with light day packs (some off track walking involved). The area has rocky outcrops and requires some dexterity from the walkers. The reward is a 360 degree scenic view of mountains in all directions. On Monday we will walk across Cobbler Plateau, descend to King River and return to the cars around mid afternoon.

As we will be walking in an alpine area you need to be prepared for all weather conditions and be well equipped. This is a walk in a classic Australian alpine area. If interested contact me or see me in the clubroom.



TRACK MAINTENANCE

MT WILLS/LIMESTONE CREEK AAWT (BTAC)

DATE 9-11 March 2019
STANDARD Easy/Medium
CONTACT John Terrell
TRANSPORT Private
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Eastern
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Falls Creek

BTAC has scheduled a track maintenance activity on the Australian Alps Walking Track in the Mt Wills / Limestone Creek area, north eastern Victoria. For further details please see the March News or register your interest with John Terrell environment@mbw.org.au



SUNDAY CAR POOL

TARILTA CREEK GULLY AND GOLDFIELD RUINS

DATE Sunday 10 March 2019
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to city
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 14 km
TOTAL ASCENT 350 m
LEADER Theo Mertzaniadis

TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving cnr A’Beckett and William Streets at 8:45 am
TRANSPORT COST \$20
ACTIVITY AREA Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park
MAP REFERENCE Vicmap topo 1:300000 7723-4-2-3, 7723-4-2-2
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Bendigo

This delightful walk in a relatively isolated section of the Upper Loddon State Forest provides an opportunity to enjoy the open box-ironbark forests of the goldfields region as we follow a route that combines a section of the Great Dividing Trail with off-track walking along undulating ridge lines and grassy flats beside the course of Tarilta Creek, all with minimal 4WD road walking. It includes a creek gorge and relics of the gold mining days as it passes through dry open forest with some rocky sections and numerous dry creek crossings.

If we are lucky we will likely spot swamp wallabies, eastern grey kangaroos, echidna and the colourful eastern rosella.

Walkers should be prepared for walking on sections of rough rocky terrain and through dense waist-high undercover. Good footwear and protection for arms and legs are recommended. We will also cross the creek bed numerous times but, provided we do not experience heavy rain, this will be relatively easy going.

This is an enjoyable and varied walk.



WEDNESDAY WALK

DIAMOND CREEK TRAIL

DATE Wednesday 13 March 2019
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 13 km
TOTAL ASCENT 1000 m
LEADER Theo Mertzaniadis
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Diamond Creek and Eltham
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 11, 12, 21 and 22
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

Diamond Creek was a thriving gold rush town in the 1860’s and then a centre for small farms and orchards. The Diamond Creek Trail meanders along the banks of its namesake waterway. It is a shared bike/walk path and snakes around sporting grounds, across bridges, through grey box forest, lush bushland and various wetlands. We walk through creek-side reserves and have some wonderful viewing areas over the water. The Trail passes through the centre of Eltham and ends up meeting the Main Yarra Trail which will lead us into Westerfold Park, before returning on a slightly different route to our cars.

We will meet at Diamond Creek Station (Station Street side) Melways 12:B5 ready to depart at 10:30am. If driving, your cars should be parked near Eltham Station then take the train one stop. At Eltham, turn left into Panther Place, go under the bridge and park beside the oval at Eltham Central Park (Melways 21:J5). Walk 400 m to Eltham Station. Please remember your Myki card and bring some goodies to share for our Christmas get-together after the walk. Some additional tables/chairs may be useful.

To book please contact the leader.



BEGINNERS PACK CARRY

KEPPEL HUT – LAKE MOUNTAIN

DATE 16–17 March 2019
RETURN TIME 5 pm 17 March
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 24 km
ELEVATION 200 m
LEADER Judith Shaw
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Yarra Ranges
MAP REFERENCE Lake Mountain Alpine Resort 1:10,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Buller
TRANSPORT COSTS (PER PERSON) approx. \$25

We meet at the Snowy Hill carpark on the Lake Mountain road at 10 am on Saturday morning. On Day 1 we follow a scenic 4WD track to the Keppel Hut campsite. Day 2 begins with a 200 m ascent to the Lake Mountain plateau on a track which is steep and rough in parts, and is the reason for the walk being rated easy-medium rather than easy. A series of ski trails crosses the plateau, with plenty of opportunities to admire views of the high country to the east. We return to the cars soon after lunch.

Group size: 12
 Please contact Judith Shaw.



SUNDAY BUS

WIRILDA TRACK

DATE Sunday 17 March 2019
STANDARDS Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCES 13.5 and 18 km
ELEVATIONS 100 m
LEADERS Deb Shand and Nigel Holmes
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving cnr A’Beckett and William Streets at 8:45 am
ACTIVITY AREA West and South Gippsland
MAP REFERENCE Vicmap Tyers–Boola
FIRE BAN DISTRICT West Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Latrobe Valley

Covering 1810 hectares of forest in the foothills to the north of the Latrobe Valley, Tyers Regional Park features the spectacular Tyers Gorge where the river has carved a winding course between the steep forested slopes. This walk will follow the meandering course of the Tyers River through this park and the Boola State Forest. The route takes us through open forests of tall eucalypts and through shady fern groves as the track undulates above and down to the river.

The Medium group will start at the Wirilda Environmental Centre, while the Easy/Medium group will initially follow the Pipeline Track before linking up with the Wirilda Track. We will all finish at the Moondarra Reservoir.

Do join us for this lovely walk through quintessentially Australian bushland that rings with bird song and is home to wombats and wallabies. A hiking pole may be useful to negotiate the hills – more for the Medium group, but the Easy/Medium group can expect some too! The Medium group may have a chance to get wet feet if the river is high, and make sure you bring plenty of drinking water if the weather is warm.



MOFS WALK

MAROONDAH DAM TO DONNELLY’S WEIR

DATE Monday 18 March 2019
RETURN TIME About 3 pm to cars
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE Probably 9–10 km
ELEVATION A couple of hills
LEADER Graeme Thornton
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Healesville
MAP REFERENCE Melway map 270
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Yarra Glen

This is a lovely area for walking any time of the year and early autumn is excellent with some of the sting going from the sun.

Starting from the main car park at the Maroondah Dam picnic area (Melway 270 K10 – on the right at the lowest point of the entrance driveway) we’ll traverse the dam wall to the lookout, pick up the Maroondah aqueduct and follow it to Donnelly’s Creek road and then so to the weir which is in a delightful setting. Depending on the weather, we’ll saunter a short distance up the Mt St Leonard’s track (National Trail) for lunch and a view. It’s an easy grade there.

On the way back we’ll go via Henderson’s Hill to the car park. The hill is medium steep, but not very high. There’s also an option to return via a ford on Donnelly’s Creek Road rather than the aqueduct. That will be determined by the flow in Donnelly’s Creek and enthusiasm which we’ll sort on the day. Meet at the main car park at 10:30. Please ring to book.



MEETING

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE Wednesday 20 March 2019
VENUE Clubrooms, The Mission to Seafarers Victoria, 717 Flinders Street, Docklands
LEADER Committee

Come along, chat with friends, find out how your Club is going! The Wine and Cheese is free. More information in March News.



WEDNESDAY WALK

BRISBANE RANGES (NORTHERN SECTION)

DATE Wednesday 20 March 2019
RETURN TIME 4 pm to cars
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 15 km
ELEVATION 300 m
LEADER Jerry Grandage
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Brisbane Ranges
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Geelong

We will be walking in the northern section of the Brisbane Ranges which is visited less frequently than the Anakie and Steiglitz areas. There is a network of tracks in the Spring Creek and upper Little River catchments. You will see typical Brisbane Ranges vegetation and scenery – stunted stringybarks and ironbarks, wattles, and a diversity of ground vegetation – and rocky little watercourses which will probably be dry. Phone me to book in – we will meet in Bacchus Marsh and drive in convoy to the walk.



PACK CARRY

MT BULLER – LITTLE BULLER – 6 MILE SPUR – HOWQUA RIVER – 4 MILE SPUR CIRCUIT

DATE Friday 22 to Sunday 24 March 2019
STANDARD Medium/Hard
DISTANCE Approximately 22 km
TOTAL ASCENT Approximately 1600 m
TOTAL DESCENT Approximately 1600 m
LEADER Agajan Akbari
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Mt Buller – Howqua River
MAP REFERENCE Buller-Howitt Alpine Area Outdoor Recreation Guide 1:50,000

FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Eastern
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Buller

The Six and Four Mile Spur hikes (not length related) are a well-kept secret that delivers close-up views of South Face and majestic panoramas over the Bluff, Crosscut Saw and soundings of the Mt Buller area.

Plan is: We meet at Mt Buller chairlift car park area (close to Little Buller trail) on Saturday at 8.00am. The walk starts at the car park on the walking trail to Little Buller and then descends via the 6 Mile Spur to Howqua River. After approximately 8 hours walking we camp Saturday night at Gardiners Hut (also known as 4 Mile Hut).

On Sunday we set off at 8:00 am, ascending via 4 Mile Spur to the summit of Mt Buller. This could take around 5 hours, and then back to the cars.

We will be walking through ghost-white mountain ash and snow gums and be rewarded with superb views. Walk includes walking over rugged bluffs, narrow ridgelines and very steep descending/ascending. A good portion of this walk is off-track which requires a fair amount of bush bashing and walking through overgrown scrub, fallen trees, river banks, river crossing (multiple times and getting wet feet) and walking over other objects on hiking paths. Participants are required to be experienced, fit, have rock scrambling skills and have head for heights. As the Victorian Alps weather is unpredictable and rescue challenging, walkers are required to be well equipped with all types of hiking gear (for: wet, cold, hot etc.) including gaiters, gardening gloves, walking poles, carrying own personal first aid kit and have valid Ambulance Victoria (or similar) membership.

Friday night campsite details later. This walk, especially the 6 Mile Spur, is one of the best (and craggiest) spur walks in Australia and therefore is recommended. If happy with all of the above and interested in the walk or would like more information contact me via email.



SATURDAY WALK

WARBURTON AREA

DATE Saturday 23 March 2019
RETURN TIME 3 pm
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 13 km
ELEVATION One initial climb, then gentle undulations
LEADER Maureen Hurley
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Warburton
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 289 K4 and 290 C4

FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Yarra Glen

We will meet in the car park of the Patchwork Café, which is on Warburton Highway, after the first white bridge (Mayer Bridge), as you come into Warburton, at 10:15. The café is no longer in use, but the sign post is still there. The car park is opposite Scotchman’s Creek Road (Melway 289 K4).

We will climb the Backstairs Track and walk along Old Warburton Road to La La falls, then make our way back in to Warburton and finish with coffee, prior to returning to our cars along the river track. No need to book, see you there. Any queries ring Maureen.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

BILL HILL TO HORSESHOE FALLS

DATE Sunday 24 March 2019
RETURN TIME Return to city at 6:30 pm
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 14 km
TOTAL ASCENT 590 m rise
LEADER Brett Daniel
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving cnr A’Beckett and William Streets at 8:45 am
TRANSPORT COST \$23.00 per person
ACTIVITY AREA Great Otway National Park, Lorne
MAP REFERENCE Anglesea South Vicmap 1:25,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Geelong

Superb coastal views around Cathedral Rock and Big Hill Creek are enjoyed at the start of this walk. Vehicle tracks are followed to Big Hill which is close to the coast. The walk then heads inland following undulating vehicle tracks onto a high ridge. The wide track is left behind for a steep descent on a scrubby faint foot pad that leads you to Horseshoe Falls. These are set in a scenic amphitheatre amidst rain-forest. The walk returns to the vehicle tracks and descends steadily following a long spur back to the coast and cars.

THIS WALK CROSSES THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD TWICE.

Please note if booking in clubrooms: There is an activity in the clubrooms on Wednesday, 20 March. Please complete any bookings for this walk before 8 pm on that date to minimise disturbances or wait until after the activity is completed (usually around 9 pm). Thank you.



SOCIAL WALK

BANKSIA PARK AND YARRA RIVER

DATE Thursday 28 March 2019
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 5 km
ELEVATION Flat
LEADER Bernadette O’Connell
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Banksia Park, Bulleen
MAP REFERENCE Melway Map 32
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

Meet outside the toilet block in Banksia Park at 10:30 am. Melway 32 D5. There is ample car parking within the park.– vehicle entry from Templestowe Road, Bulleen.

This is a very pleasant walk along the river flats of the Yarra on the trails and paths within Banksia Park followed by a short

section south along the Yarra and back– to walk around the gardens and sculpture park at Heidi Museum of Modern Art. Lunch venue has yet to be decided. Book with Bernadette.



PACK CARRY

LERDERDERG STATE PARK & CLEARWATER GULLY CIRCUIT

DATE Saturday 30 to Sunday 31 March 2019
START TIME Depart from location in notes below at 10:00 am
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 22 km
TOTAL ASCENT 1150 m rise
LEADER Ian Mair
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Lerderderg State Park
MAP REFERENCE Bacchus Marsh North
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

Last November I noted that the Lerderderg State Park offers some of the best challenging walks within an easy 2 hour drive or less from Melbourne, making it one of the more interesting walk destinations. Dropping down into the Lerderderg River from the surrounding western plains takes you into a different world of rugged rocky spurs, narrow gorges and dense bushland. It is just as relevant for this walk.

The proposed route starts out from O’Briens Road on the northern side of the Lerderderg River and soon departs from the Lerderderg Track to follow the upper reaches of a dry creek bed as we make our way across to Cowan Track. We will have a short steep climb out of the creek bed before dropping down the Cowan Track to the Lerderderg River. After crossing the river we start up the Razorback North Track to the junction with the Razorback Track which leads us back down to the river again where there is a chance to catch our breath before climbing out again on the Lower Chadwick Track. After we reach the junction with the McKenzie Track it is time to start thinking about a well-earned camp for the night, back down on the banks of the Lerderderg River at a lovely spot at the bottom of the McKenzie Track, following a roller-coaster 11.5 km and over 500 m cumulative ascent.

Sunday takes us back across the Lerderderg River to the mouth of a creek leading upstream to Clearwater Gully. After about 4.5 km of exploring we leave the creek bed and follow a series of old tracks that lead us back towards our cars, but not without cutting back across the creek gully and a short but sharp climb up to O’Briens Road giving us another 10 km and 650 m of cumulative ascent.

We will drive up Saturday morning with the plan to start walking around 10:00 am. Please let me know if you would like to join me on this chance to venture into less-walked sections of the Lerderderg State Park.



CYCLING

KOONUNG & MULLUM MULLUM CREEKS

DATE Saturday 30 March 2019
RETURN TIME About 4:00 pm (Fairfield Station)
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 56 km
LEADER Ross Berner
TRANSPORT Train to Fairfield
ACTIVITY AREA Yarra Valley

MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 30, 31, 45, 32, 46, 47, 48, 49, 35, 34, 22, 21 & 33

FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

The meeting place for the ride is the north side of Fairfield Station (Wingrove Street). (Melway 30 K10) at 10:15 M.

If you are travelling by train, you will need to take Hurstbridge line train departing from Flinders Street at 9:38 am and arriving at 10:04. PS: check timetable closer to the date.

The ride is almost all on bike trails, with a few quiet side streets near the start. There is about 130 metres of climbing on the way to Donvale, with the return trip being largely downhill.

We will be using two recently completed bike trails, the Darebin Creek Yarra bridge and the Mullum Mullum Trail through the Mullum Mullum gorge. The second eliminates some climbs in the Donvale area.

The finish point is back in Fairfield where we can get a coffee if we want.

The aim of the ride is to follow the Koonung Trail to Donvale, then follow Mullum Mullum Creek to the Main Yarra Trail which we will follow back to Fairfield.

This ride is similar to a ride led by David Arnold in 2006 and one I led in 2014. However the above new trail sections make the ride significantly better.

There are sections of gravel on Mullum Mullum and Yarra Trails (around 1/4 of ride). Using a hybrid or mountain bike is recommended.

Please bring your lunch and plenty of water.
 If you wish to discuss the ride ring Ross.



SUNDAY BUS

MARYSVILLE – STEAVENSON FALLS – KEPPEL LOOKOUT

DATE Sunday 31 March 2019
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to city
STANDARDS Easy/Medium and Medium
DISTANCES 15 km and 19 km
TOTAL ASCENTS 400 m
LEADERS Bettina Brill and Andrew Francis
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving cnr A’Beckett and William Streets at 8:45 am
AREA Marysville
MAP REFERENCE Marysville – Lake Mountain 1:30,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Eildon

This promises to be a wonderful walk, the forests in the area have regenerated nicely 10 years after the 2009 fires. With rain before the walk the waterfalls should be in wonderful form on the day.

This is a very energetic and scenic walk. Both groups visit the spectacular Steavenson Falls, plunging 82 metres in three stages, before climbing up to the Keppel Lookout along a well-defined track through the regenerated forest. Easy/medium group will have more time to stop at the falls and lookouts. Medium group will keep up a steady pace and cover extra distance. There is a long steady climb of 400 metres altitude gain from the top of Steavenson Falls to Keppel Lookout at 860 metres. Keppel lookout has views of Marysville and the nearby Cathedral Range. The descent from Keppel Lookout is initially very steep – walking poles and boots are advised. Walkers that aren’t used to long hill climbs and steep descents may not find this walk suitable.

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!

March 2019					
Sun 3	DAY: Lake Elizabeth – West Barwon Reservoir	Bus	E&M	SW:co	Halina Sarbinowski & John Oakley
Thu 7	TOF: Olinda Creek – Mt Evelyn Aqueduct	Pvt	Easy	CN:yg	Graham Hodgson
8–17	BC : Great Barrier Island (NZ)	Pvt	E/M		Susan Maughan
8–11	BC : Mt Buffalo – Lake Catani Campground	Pvt	E/M	NE:mh	Jan Colquhoun
8–11	PC : Mt Cobbler	Pvt	Med	NE:mb	Ian Mair
8–11	MNT: AAWT Mt Wills/Limestone Ck (BTAC)	Pvt	E/M	NE:fc	John Terrell (contact)
Sun 10	DAY: Tarilta Creek Gully & Goldfield Ruins	Car	Med	CN:ba	Theo Mertzanidis
Wed 13	DAY: Diamond Creek	Pvt	E/M	CN:me	Theo Mertzanidis
16–17	PC : Beginners: Keppels Hut – Lake Mountain	Pvt	E/M	NE:mb	Judith Shaw
Sun 17	DAY: Wirilda Track	Bus	E/M&M	WG:lv	Deb Shand & Nigel Holmes
Mon 18	MOF: Maroondah Dam – Donnelly's Weir	Pvt	Easy	CN:yg	Graeme Thornton
Wed 20	MTG: Annual General Meeting				Committee
Wed 20	DAY: Brisbane Ranges (northern section)	Pvt	E/M	CN:ge	Jerry Grandage
22–24	PC : Mt Buller–Little Buller–6 Mile Spur–Howqua River–4 Mile Spur Circui	Pvt	M/H	NE:mb	Agajan Akbari
Sat 23	DAY: Warburton Area	Pvt	E/M	CN:me	Maureen Hurley
Sun 24	DAY: Bill Hill to Horseshoe Falls	Car	Med	CN:ge	Brett Daniel
Thu 28	SOC: Banksia Park, Yarra River	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Bernadette O'Connell
30–31	PC : Lerderderg SP – Clearwater Gully	Pvt	Med	CN:me	Ian Mair
Sat 30	CYC: Koonung to Mullum Mullum trails	Pvt	E/M	CN:me	Ross Berner
Sun 31	DAY: Marysville – Steavenson Falls – Keppel Lookout	Bus	E/M&M	NC:yg	Bettina Brill & Andrew Francis