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# THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

January 2019



## GRATEFUL WINNERS AT CHRISTMAS PARTY



It is customary at the annual Christmas Party to conduct a draw for three gift vouchers to go to walk leaders who have been active during the past year. Each leader's name is added to the draw for each time they lead. For 2018 the Club Committee decided to increase the value of the gift certificates to \$100 each for items purchased at Bogong bushwalking shop. The grateful winners were: Graham Hodgson, Rosalind Leong and Ian Mair.

Our walk leaders are only some of the 80 plus volunteers who contribute unselfishly to the running of the club, many of whom are also walk leaders. We owe them all a huge debt of gratitude and thanks for their time and expertise without which the club would not be as active and well run as it is.



## CHANGE OF SUNDAY WALKS DEPARTURE LOCATION FROM 22ND JULY

Due to redevelopment works in Southbank Boulevard the departure point for all Sunday walks (bus and carpool) commencing on or after Sunday 22nd July will depart from the Alternate Departure Point (Cnr. A'Beckett Street and William Street ) adjacent to the clubrooms.

Visit the location map on the website for more details on public transport and parking options.

[https://mbw.org.au/MBW\\_club\\_locn.php](https://mbw.org.au/MBW_club_locn.php)

Details of the redevelopment plans for the area can be found here:

<https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/building-and-development/shaping-the-city/city-projects/southbank-boulevard/Pages/transforming-southbank-boulevard-dodds-street.aspx>

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

## 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](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 4 February 2019**

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:  
Thien Le, Linda Rennie  
and welcome back Amy Markwells

## ACCESS TO THE MEMBERS' AREA OF THE WEBSITE

The Members' Area of the club website is designed to add to the experience of being a club member. We are slowly adding to the information and activities that you can access. As the number of members registered to access the Members' Area increases we will use it as an important communications channel for a growing range of member services. Currently around 50% of members have registered to access the Members' Area. You are currently able to:

- Edit your personal details held by the club through the "My Details" page and also select which items will be viewable by other members from the "Members" page.
- Look up the contact details of other members, including walk leaders, on the "Members" page.
- Find a listing of club officers and other club volunteers and their contact details.
- View a statistical profile of the club membership.
- Download copies of restricted access forms and documents, including the Quarterly Activities Program with Leader contact numbers.

Registration and access to the Members' Area is straightforward. The easiest way is to select the link "Click here to register" on the top-left of the website Home Page and follow the instructions. If you run into any difficulties the webmaster is always ready to help ([webmaster@mbw.org.au](mailto:webmaster@mbw.org.au)). Importantly, when you do register be sure to write down your password and store it in a safe place, one that you can be sure to remember!



Trampers on the Kepler Track, NZ, November 2018

### PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – JANUARY 2019

Welcome to 2019! With the barrage of turbulent world geopolitical news that bombarded the senses as 2018 drew to a close we can only hope for a brighter start to this year. A near casualty of the uncertainty and self-interest that drives much of the international debate these days was the United Nations climate meetings held in Poland. Fortunately more sensible voices prevailed and a step forward was achieved, albeit against a backdrop of predictions assembled by the world scientific community of even more dire consequences of inaction.

As responsible bushwalkers we have long lived by the motto “take only photos, leave only footprints” as we try at an individual level to conserve our natural heritage. It is the accumulation of individual actions that will be an important part of the greater challenge of not just conserving our natural heritage, but achieving a sustainable lifestyle on a global scale. Susanne Etti in her Guest Column in the September issue of our newsletter touched eloquently on a number of actions that each of us can take to make a difference on the path to a more sustainable lifestyle. If you did not read it in September then I commend you to read it now.

It is a very understandable view that any action we may take as individuals is insignificant against the scale of the issues. I too can be counted among those who have not done as much as could be expected. Fortunately there are those around us who have a greater passion for making a change. Every time they pick up a piece of someone else's rubbish while on a bushwalk, repair rather than replace an item of bushwalking gear, lament the wasteful packaging around much of what we purchase, or offer to share a ride rather than drive separately, they change the attitudes of those around them. They have changed my attitude. I won't pretend that I will pick up all the rubbish I pass or take the most responsible path to reducing energy use but now I have that nagging conscience that tells me I should do more. To each of the unnamed fellow walkers who have effected this change I say thank you, keep your passion strong.

Conservation, Sustainability and Climate Change mitigation roll into one as an outcome of an increasing number of us adopting a more responsible lifestyle. Our individual attitudes shape the way we make purchases or the way we vote in elections. It is when the sum of our actions impact on the commercial and political fabric of our society that their significance starts to have real effect. In the areas of sustainable living and the climate change debate this is a process that has been evolving for decades. Progress is being made, despite the actions of erratic global leaders. The fear is not whether we are moving in the right direction but whether we are moving fast enough. Sadly in the conservation sphere we continue to hear of the destruction of natural habitats and the extinction of species.

Not least of the issues for bushwalkers in the conservation debate is access to natural areas. For some this translates to the opportunity to wander freely across vast areas of untracked open spaces. In reality this increasingly means accessing remoter and more rugged areas where the majority of walkers are unable or unwilling to venture. The motto “take only photos, leave only footprints” takes on a new significance. Each marker, intentional or unintentional, guides others along the same route and that most preciously sought is no longer.

Fortunately, most walkers are content to walk on established routes of varying degrees of remoteness and difficulty to visit places of outstanding beauty or natural wonder. Preserving these routes gives satisfaction to the growing numbers who choose to visit our natural places and reduces the pressures on untracked open spaces. If only it was that simple! Pressure on the funding to maintain established track networks continues to erode their quality and accessibility. Nature fights to recover from our unnatural intrusions. Storm and fire reshape what past generations have sought to establish. Only by constant effort can the networks of walking tracks be preserved.

The Bushwalking Victoria, Bushwalking Track and Conservation group (BTAC) is a key participant in our collective efforts. The passion of those who keep the momentum going is inspiring. They are an indispensable part of maintaining the track networks in Victoria, working closely with Parks Victoria. But they rely on the voluntary contributions of time and effort from members of the bushwalking community. Within Melbourne Bushwalkers our Environment Officer, John Terrell ([environment@mbw.org.au](mailto:environment@mbw.org.au)), coordinates our efforts and adds relevant track maintenance activities to our activities program. We would like to see a greater contribution from members

It is not too late to add to your New Year resolutions. Make it one of your targets to participate in at least one track maintenance activity this year. You will be making a valuable contribution and may be surprised to find it is not all work. I hope to see some of you on at least one activity in 2019.

*Ian Mair*

# 2019 Social Calendar

**Wine and Cheese Night**  
**Wednesday 27 February, 8–9 pm**  
**PHIL'S BURKE & WILLS TREK**



Phil McDonald has now completed his 3200 km “Phil’s Burke & Wills Trek” across Australia, with his wife Susan as 4WD support.

They both swam at Port Melbourne on May 6th then started Phil’s Trek, following Burke & Wills route as close as practical.

The winter was cold and dark then fine weather with some very hot days finishing off with extremely hot days at the top.

Phil averaged 35 km daily, with some tricky situations thrown in amongst usually very pleasant but always tough days.

They drove back from Karumba, unlike the unfortunate Burke & Wills who walked half way back but perished as Cooper Creek.

They have raised over \$30 000 for The Fred Hollows Foundation so far.

They look forward to sharing their story on Wednesday 27th February.



**DONATION TO GRAMPIANS WALKING TRACK SUPPORT GROUP**

Melbourne Bushwalkers maintains an investment account passed down to current members by past members. As stipulated in our By Laws, the Committee of the day is charged with donating the interest received on the account to an organisation or organisations whose aims and objectives are consistent with the purposes of the Club. At its December meeting the Club Committee agreed to the donation of \$340 to the Grampians Walking Track Support Group. The club has a long association with this dedicated group of volunteers and each year in association with the Victorian Mountain Tramping Club organises a track maintenance weekend to which all members are invited to contribute.



## SNAKE BANDAGES FOR ALL

Prudent bushwalkers carry a snake bandage as part of their medical kit when walking in the bush. For some, though, the cost of over \$20 has been a deterrent. Now an alternative supplier, AiroForm, is available for under \$8 and can be purchased at Chemist Warehouse, or even cheaper online.

The AeroForm Snake Bite Bandage is ideal for applying compression using the Pressure Immobilisation Technique (PIT) with a unique indicator to show the correct tension required. This bandage is designed for use with all snake bites, funnel web spider bites, blue ringed octopus and cone shell stings. The AeroForm Snake Bite bandage measures 10.5 m when stretched and 3.3 m unstretched.

The Pressure Immobilisation Technique (PIT) is the recommended procedure for treating victims of snake bite. These clear Do's and Dont's from the Air Ambulance Service should be committed to memory:



- **DO** bandage firmly, splint and immobilise to stop the spread of venom. All the major medical associations recommend slowing the spread of venom by placing a folded pad over the bite area and then applying a firm bandage. It should not stop blood flow to the limb or congest the veins.
- **DO NOT** allow the victim to walk or move their limbs. Use a splint or sling to minimise all limb movement. Put the patient on a stretcher or bring transportation to the patient.
- **DO** seek medical help immediately as the venom can cause severe damage to health or even death within a few hours.

The club strongly recommends that all walkers wear long trousers and gaiters as a safety measure against snake bite when walking in the bush.

## CLUB EMAIL CONTACT ADDRESSES

From time to time we may have a requirement to contact the club by email. A number of generic email addresses are available to make it easier to do so. If you are unsure to whom an enquiry should be addressed then please use the General Enquiries address ([info@mbw.org.au](mailto:info@mbw.org.au)) as this is more regularly monitored than some of the others and your message will be forwarded as appropriate. Please do not send messages other than for Sunday Bus and Carpool Bookings to the [busbookings@mbw.org.au](mailto:busbookings@mbw.org.au) address.

Role	Club
President	<a href="mailto:president@mbw.org.au">president@mbw.org.au</a>
Secretary	<a href="mailto:secretary@mbw.org.au">secretary@mbw.org.au</a>
Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@mbw.org.au">treasurer@mbw.org.au</a>
General Walks Secretary	<a href="mailto:gws@mbw.org.au">gws@mbw.org.au</a>
Sunday Walks Secretary	<a href="mailto:sunday@mbw.org.au">sunday@mbw.org.au</a>
Membership Secretary	<a href="mailto:membership@mbw.org.au">membership@mbw.org.au</a>
Social Secretary	<a href="mailto:social@mbw.org.au">social@mbw.org.au</a>
Environment Officer	<a href="mailto:environment@mbw.org.au">environment@mbw.org.au</a>
Newsletter Editor	<a href="mailto:news@mbw.org.au">news@mbw.org.au</a>
Website Administrator	<a href="mailto:webmaster@mbw.org.au">webmaster@mbw.org.au</a>
General Enquiries	<a href="mailto:info@mbw.org.au">info@mbw.org.au</a>

### HOLLYFORD TRACK NOVEMBER 2018, FROM MARTINS BAY AS EXPERIENCED BY GROUP 2

LEADER KEN AND JOHN, SUSANNA, JILL, CAROL, ROSE, THERESE AND SYLVIA



The huts along the Hollyford are small, so we split into two groups of eight, with Group 1 led by Ian (aka the “A team”) choosing to start from the northern end and walking downhill, with Group 2 to start from Martins Bay at the southern end. We would be walking upstream, missing beautiful Martins Bay due to the heavy forecasted rain, then having to travel extra distance, maybe wading through a swamp to bed down in the lesser quality back country McKerrow Island Hut! As it turned out they drew the short straw.

**Day 1 MOMENT OF TRUTH:** We drove through the pouring rain which quickly turned to thick snow with the scenery resembling good ski fields the closer we got to Milford. We had little faith in both the bus driver and pilot who reassured us that the sun was shining at Martins Bay. The small plane took off under the clouds, over Milford Sound and the clouds soon parted to give way to beautiful blue skies. In fact our group did not encounter walking in any rain for the entire trip ... a miracle indeed.

The sunny, but extremely windy and hot afternoon walk along Martins Bay led onto Long Reef, home to a colony of New Zealand fur seals, including very active seal pup nurseries along with the magnificently sized and intimidating (to humans) protective males. They just seemed to pop up suddenly from behind every rock. Then there were sightings of the rarer Fiordland crested penguins; standing about 2 feet high, with their distinctive yellow bushy eyebrows extending well beyond their faces. An enjoyable exploratory day had by all.

**Day 2 FORESTS, WATER and BRIDGES:** A short, easy, day walk through magnificent Beech and Rimu trees, until reaching the gravelly banks of Lake McKerrow, which we followed for 2½ days. This section, short and hard going was punctuated with a quick look at the site of Jamestown ... an attempt to establish a port here that was thwarted due to isolation, climate and terrain.

Our next challenge was the start of crossing creeks and rivers using 3-wire bridges. And, that’s exactly it ... 3 strands, one you walk on and the other 2 to grip. These were the first of many.

**Day 3 CHANGE OF PLAN:** Hokuri Hut to McKerrow Island Hut?

This is the day the two groups should pass each other. To avoid bedding down 2 groups of 8 at Demon Trail Hut with only 12 bed spaces, our group was designated to McKerrow Island Hut instead, two hours further afield with likely wading.

Most of our group waited and settled into Demon Trail Hut en route, with no sign of group 2 and the remainder of our detained party. Still no sign of Ian’s group but according to the hut’s intentions book they had been there overnight and gone that morning. How could that be, we hadn’t passed them? All was revealed when Ken and Susanna arrived. Ian and Ken actually passed each other at an optional river/bridge crossing detour. It was the four Kiwi girls we had befriended who united the two leaders in the end. Ultimately, fewer bodies than beds suited us well as we couldn’t afford two more hours to reach our target hut in the remaining daylight. So there we stayed ... and walkers just kept arriving ... 16 in the end: all over the place. A blessing that Ian’s group had moved through, having doubled huted the first day with a plan to enjoy an extra day in Martins Bay, otherwise, we really would have been double bunking!

*(continued over the page)*

# Along the Track

## HOLLYFORD TRACK *(continued from page 6)*

**Day 4: DAY OF DELIGHTFUL SURPRISES:** Enjoyable and worthwhile side trip to homely and serene McKerrow Island Hut (delightful, dry walk, lovely vegetation, large veranda, roomy, toilet paper, less sandflies and no visitors).

Continued in beautiful weather on a relatively flat track to the end of Lake McKerrow and the start of the Hollyford River and an early finish to enjoy and explore Lake Alabaster. We enjoyed great views of the highest peaks and the more recently built, spacious, Alabaster Hut adjacent to the confluence of Hollyford and Pyke Rivers.

**Day 5: DAY OF DISCOVERY:** Fuchsias, Falls, Ferns, Forest, Feasting with Fair views, Flatter.

An easier day with later start. Only one small rise over Little Homer Saddle (168 m) through magnificent forest again – beech, ferns, moss, epiphytes, with sizable, copper coloured, smooth-trunked flowering fuchsia trees which added a splash of dark pink colour in the green forest. These natives are the largest fuchsias worldwide.

Lunch in a clearing with direct views across the walled Hollyford Valley with the highest regional snow and glacier-clad mountains in this region, while we enjoyed warm sunshine.

The Hidden Falls were magnificent ... high, broad, full and roaring with a spray, over a well-worn cliff face. No doubt called Hidden as they are facing in an offset behind the vertical cliff edge, heard but not seen until directly opposite.

Added bonus: the private Pyke Lodge Hut attendant, standing in wait for us with a plate loaded up with left over cake slices, still warm! Good word of mouth advertising!!! (Looked like a fellow back packer.)

**Day 6: DAY OF DEPARTURE:** Habitually, everyone was organised very early for the two to three hour walk out to the end of the Lower Hollyford Road.



Again we traversed typical NZ forests, and bridged creeks with some more minor ups and downs, walking along steep rocky walls. Morning tea enjoyed in the open at a bridge with massive restoration following previous flood damage ... absolutely mind boggling.

Soon we crossed the final bridge over Humboldt Creek, high fived each other, made a guard of honour for our leader, before having our lunch. We were looking at Humboldt Falls when our bus arrived early, and we were then reunited with Ian's group. Bus banter about all our adventures continued until we arrived back at the Te Anau YHA to prepare for our next trek on the Kepler.

*Sylvia McLean*



### KEPLER WALK, NOVEMBER 2018

The Kepler Range is directly across Lake Te Anau from the tourist town of Te Anau in Fiordland, New Zealand. The Kepler Track is a 3–4 day, 60 km circular walk that commences just out of town.

The initial 850 metre climb is a bit of a heart-stopper but it efficiently gets you above the treeline and into the open tussocks, herbs and scree that clothe the tops of the Kepler Range. A good part of the route follows spectacularly narrow razorback ridges where wind, snow and poor visibility can create real dangers for trampers. Fortunately, due to the careful planning of our leader, Ian Mair, our group of eighteen experienced perfect conditions and were delighted by extensive views of some first-class Fiordland scenery. Indeed, DOC only re-opened the Kepler Track to trampers the day before due to an icy blast from the Southern Ocean.

The Kepler Track has attained the much sought-after Department of Conservation (DOC) status of “Great Walk”. A consequence of this is that it is very popular and, with hut fees of \$130 per night, is a great money earner for the NZ economy. DOC have built GREAT big huts. Luxmore Hut, for example, has 60 bunks and has a GREAT big kitchen area which is ridiculously noisy (I concede this would a small inconvenience if it was snowing). And think about all those snorers and the early risers. Not really my idea of a wilderness experience! While I’m discussing noise, at about 4 pm a helicopter landed next to the hut, setting down two snappily dressed and lightly equipped walkers who had a quick look at the view before hoofing it down the path to town. A case of more money than time/sense/energy? The resident kea and the ever-present sandflies kept us entertained outside, as well as Pat the ranger’s botanical ramble. He spoke of the temptation of eating the colourful berries along the path, pointing out how toxic they can be. “Just don’t go there”, he kept saying.

The second and third huts turned out to be smaller and more user-friendly. At Irisburn hut, Janine the ranger told us about actions to save NZ’s endangered native birds by trapping stoats and possums, etc. She bravely finished with a little song she had penned. I really enjoyed the talk by ranger Phil at Moturau hut. It went for nearly an hour, so bums on the wooden benches were starting to ache. His talk was about the building of a major hydro-electric scheme and the successful struggle by a small number of locals to prevent the government of the day from raising the level of the vast glacier-formed Lake Manapouri. It was all about engineering, with no thought whatsoever about environmental consequences. The ever-changing lake level would have created a massive and ugly scar and erosion problems around the shore of this beautiful lake (This all happened in the mid 1970’s at about the same time as the unsuccessful campaign to save Lake Pedder).

The fourth day of the walk was along a gently undulating and seemingly manicured path as it wends its way through a completely green world of beech trees. Everything was adorned with mosses and lichens. Amongst all this green, greenhood orchids occasionally line the path. As perfect as it appears, it is not as it should be. Unseen, introduced deer graze the forest eating out virtually all the larger-leafed native vegetation, leaving the beech and lichen untouched.

Thank you, Ian, for a thoroughly well organised trip to New Zealand with a great group of fellow walkers.

*Ken MacMahon*





### TALI KARNG PACK CARRY, DECEMBER 8-10



We all watched the weather that week. The Friday forecast was for 38 degrees, the forecasted change was coming overnight on Friday, so the walk was on. Our group of 8 travelled to the Platypus camping area on the Wellington River north of Licola on the Friday, ready for our 8 am start. We had a warm night in our tents and some of us took advantage of the cool, clear water of the Wellington River to refresh before the day's walk. The group assembled Saturday morning before the nominated time to drive up to Macfarlane's Saddle to start.

We were on the track by 8:45. The heat from the day before made the conditions humid, but the walking was relatively easy,

the track only slightly overgrown. New boardwalks across some of the boggy creeks made the traverse to Nyimba Campsite, our site for our morning tea stop, easily achievable. The entertainment at this stop was to watch the numerous lizards gulp down flies. More lizards were needed, the small bush flies were our constant companions

After morning tea we started the descent to Tali Karng. It was hot and sticky work as we made our way down the steep descent to the lake. The occasional fallen tree blocked our path, providing the random challenge. We were looking forward to a dip in the cool waters. Once at the lake most of us opted for the dip and were pleased to discover the water was warmer than expected.

We were aware this area is a sacred place to the Gunaikurnai people and in keeping with their law, aboriginal people are forbidden to go there. We lunched quietly on the shores of the lake, I sat wondering what could have happened here to keep the indigenous peoples from visiting this breathtaking place.

The lake is believed to have been formed about 1500 years ago when a massive rock slide collapsed into the valley damming the waters of Nigothoruk Creek above Wellington River. Our day's walking was not over – we still had a further 10 km walk ahead of us, down the aptly named Valley of Destruction. We picked our way down from the lake over the rubble from this rockslide. The drop of 150 metres seemed greater as we stepped on wobbly rocks and boulders. As the ground levelled out we came across a group from the Woolangarra Outdoor Education Centre. We would be sharing the campsite with them that night.

We reached our Saturday night camp at 5 pm. We headed straight for the creek only to discover the water was significantly cooler than our lunchtime swim. We quickly retrieved water, erected our tents and started to unwind. The Woolangarra group arrived and provided entertainment as they erected their shelters for the night. We discovered they are a fabulous group of young people passionate about bushwalking and the environment.

Overnight the promised rain arrived. Light showers had been forecast and light showers were what we got. Sunday morning we packed our wet tents and headed off at 8 am. It was going to be a day of river crossings with 13 showing on the map. The first crossing I was able to keep my feet dry, the second, a little damp, by the third I gave up, (as did most of the group), wading through the shallow water of the Wellington River. By 10 am the showers had cleared and we walked in brilliant sunshine. It was getting hot again and we started to look forward to the next crossing so we could cool down. All too soon, we started to hear car noises, signalling the end of the walk. We walked out to the Wellington River bridge near Platypus campground.

On arrival, everybody lunched and spread their wet gear out to take advantage of the sun. Some opted to head for the river for a long cool soak, whilst the 72 km car shuffle between MacFarlane's Saddle and the campground was in progress. The drivers arrived back, we packed our dry gear into the cars, beating the sudden and violent cloud burst.

It seemed a short trip back to the Heyfield Hotel, where the group gathered for a refreshing beverage to fortify us for the long drive back to Melbourne.

Thanks to Claire for organising a fun walk. Thanks to Ian, Bruce, Halina, Haime, Mark and Wen for your company.



*Meredith Quick*

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.

**ALTERNATIVE 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.



**ACTIVITY AREA** Dandenong Ranges  
**MAP REFERENCE** Vicmap 1:25,000 Cardinia Creek  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Mt Dandenong

The Dandenongs are mostly known by the tall forests of Mt Dandenong National Park. In the past some of the area had the forest removed for farmland. This allowed panoramic views of the surrounding area. One of these is Johns Hill lookout. On a clear day we will have panoramic views of Yarra Ranges, Kinglake, Mt St Leonard and other parts of the Dandenong Ranges.

At the lookout there is an information board which provides relevant information about the region, including an in-depth look at its rich history. The lookout sits at about 410 metres above sea level and can be very windy! Nice place to relax and enjoy the stunning views as far as the eye can see.

The walk is a combination of road reserve, quiet suburban streets, walking tracks and a very picturesque creek track. It is a undulating walk starting with a steep hill. There are about four hills (one is climbing up about 150 steps). Plenty of good scenery and a chance to see Puffing Billy in action.



**PACK CARRY**

**WALHALLA – BAW BAW (AAWT)**

**DATE** Friday 18 to Sunday 20 January 2019  
**STANDARD** Medium  
**DISTANCE** 46 km  
**ELEVATION** 2000 m total ascent  
**LEADER** John Terrell  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Baw Baw Plateau  
**MAP REF** Walhalla, Aberfeldie 1:50,000  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** West Gippsland  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Latrobe Valley

This is the first stage of the Australian Alps Walking Track which runs for 660 km from Walhalla to Canberra. This walk covers the first 3 days of the AAWT from Walhalla to Stronachs Camp.

We need to start with a car shuffle so, depending on everyone's availability, we will drive up on Thursday evening or early Friday morning. Either way, we'll start walking at Walhalla on Friday mid-morning. From Walhalla with its many relics of the old gold mining days we follow an old tramway and cross the Thomson River to arrive at the site of O'Shea's Mill surrounded by mountain ash forest.



**SUNDAY CAR POOL**

**JOHNS HILL**

(PLEASE NOTE: ALTERNATIVE DEPARTURE POINT)

**DATE** Sunday 13 January 2019  
**RETURN TIME** 6:30 pm to corner A'Beckett and William Streets  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCE** 14 km  
**TOTAL ASCENT** 335 metres  
**LEADER** Theo Mertzaniadis  
**TRANSPORT** Carpool – leaving cnr A'Beckett and William Streets (opp. old clubrooms) at 8:45 am

The second day takes the long ascent past Mushroom Rocks onto the Baw Baw plateau with its sub-alpine vegetation. There should be wildflowers, views in all directions. Probably camp at Rock Shelter.

On the third day we continue across the plateau, over Mt St Phillack, past Whitelaw hut ruins, descending through some beautiful forest to Stronachs Camp on the Thomson Valley Road. Then another car shuffle and home Sunday night.



**SUNDAY BUS**

**ERSKINE FALLS – CHOCOLATE FACTORY**  
(PLEASE NOTE: ALTERNATIVE DEPARTURE POINT)

**DATE** Sunday 20 January 2019  
**RETURN TIME** 6:30 pm to city  
**STANDARDS** Easy and Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCES** 10 km and 14 km  
**TOTAL ASCENT** Minimal, nearly all downhill  
**LEADERS** John Fritze and Carol Ward  
**TRANSPORT** Bus – leaving cnr A’Beckett and William Streets (opp. old clubrooms) at 8:45 am Lorne  
**AREA** Lorne  
**MAP REFERENCE** Lorne 7620-1-1  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Geelong

This is a short walk packed with treats! We follow a picturesque river flowing through to the ocean. Along the way we pass magnificent waterfalls, rapids, ferny gullies, ancient trees and beautiful coastal scenery. There is a possibility of a swim and to top it all off a visit to a popular chocolate and ice cream purveyor! But be warned, there are several river crossings over slippery rocks and fallen trees, and chocolate is fattening!



**TRACK MAINTENANCE**

**MCMILLAN’S WALKING TRACK (BTAC)**  
**DATE** Friday 25 to Tuesday 29 January 2019  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium  
**LEADER** John Terrell (contact)  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Goulburn State Forest  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** North Eastern

This is a BTAC activity in conjunction with the Ben Cruachan Walking Club (BCWC). We will be working as volunteers for DELWP to do maintenance work on the 5 km section of the McMillan’s Walking Track from Lazarini Spur Track down to the Black River. Arguably the most picturesque bush section of the McMillan’s Walking Track.

The 220 km McMillan’s Walking Track is based on the pack horse track formed on behalf of the Government by Angus McMillan in 1864 to link the various gold fields between Woods Point and Omeo in the Gippsland high country. The track was retraced and cleared as a walking track during the 1980s.

Lazarini Spur Track is readily negotiable by 2WD vehicles, so volunteers may arrive and depart to suit their availability.

Meet near Crows Hut on Lazarini Spur Track off the Jamieson–Licola Road, approximately 55 km south east of Jamieson and 40 km north west of Licola. Friday will be a getting there and setting up camp day. We will commence maintenance work at 9 am on Saturday. On Tuesday we will finish by 2:30 pm.

Work will involve brush cutting, hedge trimmer operation, chain saw operation, erecting markers and the use of hand tools for vegetation trimming and clean up. Reasonable level of fitness required but previous track maintenance experience not necessary.

We will initially car camp along Lazarini Spur Track accessible by 2WD vehicles but may transfer some of the camp down the track as clearing progresses. This will be 4WD only. A BBQ meal will be provided on the Saturday and Sunday evenings. Participants will need to be self-sufficient for camping and all other meals. They will need to carry lunch, water and snacks on the maintenance days. BTAC and DELWP will provide all tools and PPE for the maintenance works.

Please register with Joe van Beek (BCWC) or David Miller (BTAC) Mobile: 0417 565 919, [projects@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au](mailto:projects@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au) indicating expected arrival and departure days and times. Please also email John Terrell [environment@mbw.org.au](mailto:environment@mbw.org.au) so we can record club member participation in conservation and track activities.



**SUNDAY BUS**

**LAKE DAYLESFORD – WOMBAT CREEK DAM**  
(PLEASE NOTE: ALTERNATIVE DEPARTURE POINT)



**DATE** Sunday 3 February 2019  
**RETURN TIME** 6:30 pm to cnr A’Beckett and William Sts  
**STANDARDS** Easy and Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCES** 15 km and 19 km  
**ELEVATIONS** 150 m rise (both walks)  
**LEADERS** Chris Collett and Phil Geschke  
**TRANSPORT** Bus – leaving cnr A’Beckett and William Streets (opp. old clubrooms) at 8:45 am Daylesford  
**AREA** Daylesford  
**MAP REFERENCE** Vicmap Trentham 7723-S 1:50,000  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Ballarat

The longer Easy/Medium walk starts at Tipperary Springs and follows a walking track along Sailors Creek for about 4 km to Lake Daylesford, from where the Easy walk will commence.

Both walks will then follow the same route, initially along backroads and a series of walking tracks to Lake Jubilee, a popular camping ground near Daylesford. The route will then follow a section of the old Daylesford–Creswick railway easement for several kilometres passing through old cuttings and over a number of embankments.

We will then leave the railway easement and head towards Specimen Hill Dam and Wombat Creek Dam through undulating country. Wombat Creek Dam, built in 1964, is the major domestic water supply for Daylesford and is set in a pine tree forest. There will be time to walk across the dam wall and view the spillway, before a short walk to our finishing point.



**TOFS WALK**

SHIPROCK FALLS – KURTH KILN

**DATE** Thursday 7 February 2019  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**LEADER** Jan Llewelyn  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Mount Dandenong

Jan's overseas at the time of printing. Look for her preview in next month's News, or on the Club's web site.



**PACK CARRY**

MT BUFFALO BIG WALK

**DATE** Friday 8 to Sunday 10 February 2019  
**STANDARD** Medium  
**DISTANCE** 30 km including side trips  
**TOTAL ASCENT** 1670 m rise  
**LEADER** Ian Mair  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Mt Buffalo National Park  
**MAP REFERENCE** Parks Victoria Park Note: Mount Buffalo National Park  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** North Eastern  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Mt Hotham



Mount Buffalo provides a blend of spectacular views with a challenging but manageable walk in one of Victoria's most picturesque areas. We will walk from Eurobin Creek Picnic Area at the base of Mount Buffalo to Lake Catani at the top and return, camping Saturday night at Lake Catani.

The Big Walk is a great way to ascend Mount Buffalo at your own pace. The Big Walk is 11.3 km (or 16 km with a side trip to Rollasons Falls which we will do on either the up or the down leg), quite steep and takes about 4-5 hours one way from Eurobin Creek Picnic Area to the Gorge Day Visitor Area.

It is a relatively flat further 2 km to Lake Catani camping area. Hikers pass through several vegetation zones as the altitude increases, while enjoying spectacular views of the Australian Alps and The Gorge from numerous lookouts.

Numbers are limited due to restricted campsites at Lake Catani. Let me know quickly if you are interested. Hikers need to be reasonably fit and have strong footwear as The Big Walk ascends over 1000 metres in only 9 kilometres!



**SUNDAY CAR POOL**

EUMERALLA FLORA RESERVE

(PLEASE NOTE: ALTERNATIVE DEPARTURE POINT)

**DATE** Sunday 10 February 2019  
**RETURN TIME** Return to Cnr. A'Beckett and William Sts at 6:30 pm  
**STANDARD** Medium  
**DISTANCE** 16 km  
**TOTAL ASCENT** 220 m rise  
**LEADER** Brett Daniel  
**TRANSPORT** Carpool – leaving cnr A'Beckett and William Streets (opp. old clubrooms) at 8:45 am  
**TRANSPORT COST** \$20 per person  
**ACTIVITY AREA** Anglesea  
**MAP REFERENCE** Vicmap Anglesea South 1:25,000  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Geelong

This circuit walk provides good views along the coast and, especially in late summer, an abundance of wildflowers are found along most of the walk.

The walk initially follows the Anglesea River, then the clifftops of the Surf Coast Walk. It then turns inland and circles around the Eumeralla Scout Camp and winds around the Anglesea Heath to return to Anglesea via the river and the waiting cars.



**WEDNESDAY WALK**

LYSTERFIELD PARK

**DATE** Wednesday 13 February 2019  
**RETURN TIME** Return to cars by 3:30 pm  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCE** 16 km  
**ELEVATION** 300 m total ascent  
**LEADER** Ed Neff  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Lysterfield, south east Melbourne  
**MAP REFERENCE** Melway map 108 D3  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Melbourne

We will meet at 10.00 am at the car park (to the left as you enter the Park, that is, the carpark closest to the dam wall). Take the Wellington Road exit off Monash Freeway and then follow Wellington Road to the Belgrave Hallam Road. Turn right here and continue on the Belgrave Hallam Road to a right hand turn into Horswood Road which has a sign to Lysterfield Lake Park. Continue to the end of Horswood Road to enter the park.

This circuit walk is mostly on well established tracks through lightly forested areas and some grassy areas. We start on Tramline Track which is the route of the tramway that was used to transport granodiorite rock approximately 4 km from a quarry to build the dam wall for Lysterfield Lake in the 1930s. Eastern grey kangaroos and black wallabies are commonly

seen in the park. At the northern end of the park the walk adjoins the perimeter fence and we will see and hear a large commercial quarry in operation. We return around the eastern side of the lake.

You can telephone the leader to book or for further information.



**PACK CARRY**

OVERLAND TRACK, TASMANIA

TRIP FULL, WAIT LIST ONLY AVAILABLE.

<b>DATE</b>	Friday 15 to Sunday 24 February 2019
<b>STANDARD</b>	Medium
<b>LEADER</b>	Ian Mair
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Private
<b>TRANSPORT COSTS</b>	See arrangements below.
<b>ACTIVITY AREA</b>	Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair National Park, Tasmania



The Overland Track is frequently listed as one of the world's top 10 walks and is one that all bushwalkers should aspire to do at least once. I plan to lead a walk through the National Park departing on the morning of Friday 15 February and returning on Sunday 24 February.

The classic 93 km walk through a wonderland of forests, lakes and mountain peaks will also have time (for those interested) to take in the peaks of Cradle Mountain, Barn Bluff, Mt Ossa and The Acropolis (weather permitting!).

This trip will use the Group campsites and require the carrying of tents. Party size is limited to thirteen.

Whilst it is still a long way off early booking is required to secure a place and allow participants time to arrange any annual leave.

To join the group or for further information please contact Ian Mair if you are interested.



**TRACK MAINTENANCE**

CATHEDRAL/KINGLAKE (BTAC)

<b>DATE</b>	16–17 February 2019
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy/Medium
<b>LEADER</b>	John Terrell (contact)
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Private
<b>FIRE BAN DISTRICT</b>	Central
<b>TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE</b>	Yarra Glen

BTAC has scheduled a track maintenance activity in the Cathedral Range / Kinglake National Parks. For further details please see the February News or register your interest with John Terrell [environment@mbw.org.au](mailto:environment@mbw.org.au)



**SUNDAY BUS**

GRAND RIDGE RAIL TRAIL AND BREWERY

(PLEASE NOTE: ALTERNATIVE DEPARTURE POINT)

<b>DATE</b>	Sunday 17 February 2019
<b>RETURN TIME</b>	Return to Cnr. A'Beckett Street and William Street at 6:30 pm
<b>STANDARDS</b>	Easy and Easy/Medium
<b>DISTANCES</b>	15.5 km and 18.0 km
<b>TOTAL ASCENTS</b>	Minimal, 200 m (Easy), 350 m (E/Medium)
<b>LEADERS</b>	Ivan Biber and Bettina Brill
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Bus – leaving cnr A'Beckett and William Streets (opp. old clubrooms) at 8:45 am
<b>TRANSPORT COST</b>	Standard Sunday bus charge of \$25 applies
<b>ACTIVITY AREA</b>	Grand Ridge Trail, Mirboo North
<b>MAP REFERENCE</b>	Mirboo North 8121, 1:50,000
<b>FIRE BAN DISTRICT</b>	Central
<b>TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE</b>	Latrobe Valley



Just over 160 km east of Melbourne, the Grand Ridge Rail Trail is unique in that it continuously follows along the site of the original railway track in the Strzelecki Ranges, connecting the townships of Mirboo North and Boolarra. It passes through several flora reserves, impressive cuttings and across large embankments.

The Easy walk starts at the Old Mill Site car park and Arboretum and follows 2.5 km of small tracks before joining the start of the Rail Trail at Boolarra. From here there is a gentle ascent for most of the track, through pine forests and remnants of the original temperate rainforest, dry sclerophyll forest. We will see the historic remains of the old railway line, built in 1885, which contributed significantly to settling in the area. The Rail Trail opened in the late 1990s but was effectively closed for some time following the Grand Ridge bushfires of February 2009. On the track we will cross two new impressive arch bridges that were built after the fires.

The Easy/Medium walk will start at Boolarra Rail Trail and follow the same route along the trail until about half way, where the group will turn off for a 5 km loop and then join the Rail Trail again.

Both groups will then follow the same section of the trail until the end at the rear of Mirboo North Grand Ridge Brewery.

After the walk we will visit the brewery where we can taste beers or ciders, or have a coffee or tea before returning to Melbourne.



**MOFS WALK**

FINNS RESERVE, WESTERFOLDS PARK,  
CANDLEBARK PARK

**DATE** Monday 18 February 2019  
**START TIME** Depart from location in notes below at 10:30 am  
**RETURN TIME** Return to start location by 2:30 pm  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** 11 km  
**TOTAL ASCENT** Negligible  
**LEADER** Graham Hodgson  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**ACTIVITY AREA** Westerfolds Park, Templestowe  
**MAP REFERENCE** Melway map 33  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Melbourne

A pleasant walk following bush tracks along the banks of the Yarra with occasional walking on the bike paths. The walk starts at Finns Reserve where we will do a loop around the reserve taking in some interesting facts about the early settlers and buildings that used to be in the park.

We will then walk east and over the Yarra suspension bridge following the bike path for a short distance before following a track around the banks of the river and eventually arriving at Westerfolds Park. We will then continue to follow the river until we briefly enter Candlebark Park where some suitable lunch spots can be found.

After lunch we will retrace our steps back into Westerfolds and do a pretty little nature walk before returning to the cars. A very imaginative children's (and adult) playground and gardens are situated near the cars and those who feel young at heart can have a bit of fun.

Meet at the lower carpark (northern end) of Duncan Street, Melway Map 33 B4, at 10:30 am.

For bookings and further information please contact Graham.



**WEDNESDAY WALK**

YOU YANGS CIRCUIT

**DATE** Wednesday 20 February 2019  
**RETURN TIME** 5:00 pm to city  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCE** 13 km  
**ELEVATION** 420 m climb  
**LEADER** Mick Noonan  
**TRANSPORT** Private car  
**AREA** Little River  
**MAP REFERENCE** Melway page 11 and Park Note  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Geelong

This walk takes us south west of Melbourne to the distinctive granite peaks of the You Yangs that rise from the flat volcanic plains between Melbourne and Geelong. The park is popular for its magnificent views, birdlife, rock-climbing and abseiling, bushwalks, picnics and mountain biking.

The walk commences with a short climb up Flinders Peak to obtain spectacular views of the surrounding countryside.

We then walk along the West track which skirts the Peak and continue to the Great Circle Drive, returning to The Saddle via Branding Yard Road and Saddleback Track. We will view the Bunjil Geoglyph constructed by the Australian artist Andrew Rogers in recognition of the indigenous people of the area. It depicts Bunjil, a mythical creature to the local Wautharong Aborigines. The creature has a wing span of 100 metres and 1500 tonnes of rock was used to construct it and it was unveiled in March 2006. We then return via the East track back to the cars.

Meet at 10:15 am at the Turntable Car Park. Travel is via the Geelong Road from Melbourne taking the Little River exit and follow the signs to the You Yangs. From the park entrance, off Branch Road, drive up Turntable Drive past the You Yangs Park Information Centre and follow the sign for Flinders Peak Road to the Turntable Car Park where there are toilets. We should finish around 3:15 pm, allowing plenty of time to get back to Melbourne.



**BASE CAMP**

AROUND THE PROM IN A DAY

**DATE** 22-24 February 2019  
**STANDARD** Medium/Hard  
**DISTANCE** 40 km / 62 km  
**ELEVATION** 300 m  
**LEADER** Judith Shaw  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**AREA** Wilsons Promontory  
**MAP REFERENCE** Wilsons Promontory National Park, VicMap 2000, 1:50,000  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** West Gippsland  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Latrobe Valley

We camp at Tidal River on Friday night, and at 8 am on Saturday we drive to Telegraph Saddle to start the Sealers Cove - Little Waterloo Bay - Oberon Bay circuit (40 km), returning to Tidal River in time for tea. There is an option to do the longer circuit via the Lighthouse (62 km). The highest elevation is a little over 300 m, but the terrain is undulating and a GPS reading taken on a previous walk indicated a cumulative ascent/descent of more than 1000 m. On Sunday we have an optional short walk around one of the tracks near Tidal River, finishing by lunchtime. Fit experienced walkers only, no visitors please.



**SUNDAY CAR POOL**

WHISKEY CREEK CIRCUIT

(PLEASE NOTE: ALTERNATIVE DEPARTURE POINT)

**DATE** Sunday 24 February 2019  
**RETURN TIME** Return to cnr. A'Beckett and William Streets at 6:30pm  
**STANDARD** Medium/Hard  
**DISTANCE** 12 km  
**TOTAL ASCENT** 500 m rise  
**LEADER** Ron Hampton  
**TRANSPORT** Carpool - leaving cnr A'Beckett and William Streets (opp. old clubrooms) at 8:45 am  
**TRANSPORT COST** \$15.00 per person  
**ACTIVITY AREA** Lerderderg Gorge  
**MAP REFERENCE** Meridian: Lerderderg and Werribee Gorges  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Ballarat

Commencing at the intersection of Blackwood Road and Square Bottle Track, we follow Razorback North Track through light forest down to the confluence of the Lerderderg Gorge and Whiskey Creek, picking up a trail which will lead us to Mine Camp and ample evidence of substantial gold mining activity, before climbing out of the gorge and eventually joining the Great Dividing Trail which will take us back to the cars.

Most of the walk is on well formed walking trails but there are a few steep climbs, some rock scrambling and three river crossings although these should be mostly dry this time of year.

The walk is expected to take about 5 hours. Bring plenty of water. A walking pole will be useful.



**SOCIAL**

**PHIL'S BURKE & WILLS TREK**

**DATE** Wednesday 27 February 2019, 8-9 pm  
**VENUE** Clubrooms, Mission to Seafarers, 717 Flinders Street, Docklands (Melway map 2E 8J)  
**SPEAKER** Phil McDonald

Details on page 4.

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST  
 RAWSON BASE CAMP,  
 5/6/7 APRIL 2019**

Accommodation will be at the Mountain Rivers Tourist Park in Rawson. Arrive any time after lunch on Friday and settle in.

I have booked the Lodge which consists of six motel rooms and a Common Room. The Motel lodge can sleep up to 24 Guests. Each room consists of a Queen Bed and a bunk bed, en-suite, bar fridge and tea and coffee facilities.

The Common Room attached to the lodge consists of a large dining room and lounge room as well as a modest kitchen. Linen is included.

I am planning on 3 people sharing the rooms. Couples, of course, have their own room. The room cost is \$90 per night. Camping is an option for those that prefer to pitch a tent. And there are other accommodation options as well.

We will have a shared/communal dinner on the Saturday night, with everyone contributing a plate of food.

Saturday walk – Rawson to Walhalla Loop – 16 km – 5 hours – Easy/Medium  
 Sunday walk – Rawson to Poverty Point Circuit – 15 km – 5 hours – Easy/Medium

If you are interested in coming along or you would like more information please contact Jill Allen.



**SOCIAL WALK**

**WARRINGAL PARKLANDS, HEIDELBERG**

**DATE** Thursday 28 February 2019  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**LEADER** Alister Rowe  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**FIRE BAN DISTRICT** Central  
**TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE** Melbourne

Meet at 10.30 am in carpark of Heidelberg Park Melway 32 B 4. We will walk up to Banyule Flats and return. A pleasant parkland walk fairly flat with some river views.

Lunch at the nearby Old England Hotel.

If the forecast is 33° or above the walk will be cancelled.

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST  
 LARAPINTA TRAIL PACK CARRY  
 JULY/AUGUST 2019**

**LEADER** Jill Allen  
**DATES** Wednesday 24 July to Sunday 11 August 2019  
 Flying to Alice Springs from Melbourne on 24 July and flying back on 11 August or later if you choose

**GROUP SIZE** 10

The Larapinta Trail, in the heart of Central Australia, runs 223 km (plus side trips) along the spine of the West MacDonnell Ranges from Alice Springs to Redbank Gorge and Mount Sonder.

The trail has many highlights including Redbank Gorge, Simpsons Gap, Ellery Creek Big Hole, Ormiston Gorge, Standley Chasm and Mt Sonder. With its rugged, ancient landscape, the Larapinta Trail is one of the most spectacular multi-day hiking experiences in the world

We will be walking the trail from west to east, starting at Redbank Gorge and walking into Alice Springs. With side trips, we will walk around 250 km over 16 days. It is a tough walk, only strong and fit walkers need apply. There are several sections where you will be required to carry 4 days food and 2 days water (min of 5 litres). There will be three food drops along the way.

The Larapinta winds its way through some very stunning scenery and takes you up and over just about every hill there is along the way, and rocks. The Larapinta is about rocks – you will walk on them, sit on them, crawl over them, use them to hold down your tent, fall over them, and take pictures of them.

But it's a wonderful walk, if interested please send me an email.



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**THE NEWS OF THE  
 Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.**

Bus transport meets at Southbank Boulevard, south side of the Arts Centre, before 8:45 am. Leader or deputy will be there rain, hail or shine!

February 2019					
Sun 3	DAY: Lake Daylesford – Wombat Creek Dam	Bus	E&E/M	CN:ba	Chris Collett & Phil Geschke
Thu 7	TOF: Shiprock Falls – Kurth Kiln	Pvt	Easy	CN:md	Jan Llewelyn
8–10	PC : Mt Buffalo Big Walk	Pvt	Med	NE:mh	Ian Mair
Sun 10	DAY: Eumeralla Flora Reserve	Car	Med	CN:ge	Brett Daniel
Wed 13	DAY: Lysterfield Park	Pvt	E/M	CN:me	Ed Neff
15–24	PC : Overland Track, Tasmania	Pvt	Med		Ian Mair
16–17	MNT: Cathedral / Kinglake (BTAC)	Pvt	E/M		John Terrell (contact)
Sun 17	DAY: Grand Ridge Rail Trail & Brewery	Bus	E&E/M	CN:lv	Ivan Biber & Bettina Brill
Mon 18	MOF: Finns Reserve, Westerfolds Park, Candlebark Park	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Graham Hodgson
Wed 20	DAY: You Yangs Circuit	Pvt	E/M	CN:ge	Mick Noonan
22–24	BC : Around the Prom in a Day	Pvt	M/H	WG:lv	Judith Shaw
Sun 24	DAY: Whiskey Creek Circuit	Car	M/H	CN:ba	Ron Hampton
Wed 27	SOC: Phil's Burke & Wills Trek				Phil McDonald
Thu 28	SOC: Warringal Parklands, Heidelberg Gardens	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Alister Rowe