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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

March 2019

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Melbourne Bushwalkers (Incorporated)
will be held on Wednesday, 20 March, 2019 at 8:00 pm
at The Clubrooms, The Mission to Seafarers Victoria, 717 Flinders Street, Docklands

**Members are invited to attend.
Non-members are welcome but are not eligible to vote.**

Business:

Apologies
Confirmation of Minutes from the 2018 Annual General Meeting
President's Report
Treasurer's Report
Walks Secretaries' Reports
Membership Secretary's Report
Other Reports
Determination of the Annual Subscriptions for 2019
Determination of number of General Committee Members for 2019
Election of Office Bearers and General Committee Members for 2019
Appointment of Reviewers of Financial Statements
Conferral of Honorary Memberships
Award of Leader Training Certificates
Award of Club Spoons
General Business

Any member unable to attend in person may appoint a proxy to be received by the Secretary before or at the commencement of the meeting.

Proxy and Committee Nomination Forms are available in the Clubrooms or may be download from the Club's website (https://mbw.org.au/MBW_docs.php).

Complimentary Wine and Cheese



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

MEMBER OF



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

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

Visitors are always welcome!

General correspondence should be directed to:

The Secretary
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc
PO Box 1751
MELBOURNE VIC 3001
www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au

The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc (The News) is published monthly, and is the official newsletter of Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

Editor: Merylyn 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 1 April 2019

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:
Ali Moghaddamborna, Marziyey Kamali nezhad, Germaine Wattis, Cathy Connop, Xiaolan (Amy) Cao, Helen Parker, Tam Nguyen, Ramprasad Muniyasamy, Michael Kotsanas, Khelina Fedorchuk, Svitlana Stratova, Marie Aspromonte

VALE MARIANNE GEMPERLE 21-01-43 to 10-02-19



Marianne was born in Sweden and passed away on 10th February after a long battle with cancer, which she seemed to be winning six months ago.

She has been on several club trips, and was a regular on our ski week at the Bogong Rover Chalet each year. She was a good skier, great company and a terrific cook.

Her working career was in administration of the Arts Faculty at Monash University.

She used to look after guide dog puppies, and sometimes brought one on a day walk. The latest dog was a breeder of guide dogs, and a very lively fellow he is. Marianne's partner, Martin, is looking after him now.

We miss her.

Merylyn Whimpey



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – MARCH 2019

This year Melbourne Bushwalkers reaches its 79th year. Not one you would particularly associate with a special celebration. Even a quick look at the history of bushwalking in Victoria highlights that we are a relative newcomer and our 79th year is not one to jump up and down about. A slightly edited historical summary from John Chapman (<http://www.john.chapman.name/clubs.html>) is of interest in this context:

“The first serious bushwalking club in Australia was formed in 1894 ... The Melbourne Amateur Walking and Touring Club was formed for men to go walking (day walking) and touring (which was the 1890's term for overnight bushwalking). For over 20 years this was the only club in Australia that organised overnight bushwalks and it had a large effect on development of bushwalking. Members of the club assisted in the formation of other clubs in Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania. In 1929, the club published a yearly magazine, the 'Melbourne Walker', which was produced up until the 1980's. In 1980, the club changed its name to the Melbourne Walking Club and still operates today as a mixed-gender club ...

While men had a club for overnight walks, there was no such club for women to join, so in 1922 the Melbourne Women's Walking Club was formed. They ran both day walks and overnight walks and by 1930 were running extended trips across the Victorian Alps. This club is still operating.

Other smaller clubs followed. In 1934, the Victorian Federation of Walking Clubs (the Federation, now Bushwalking Victoria) was established to present a coordinated voice to the government. Other major influential clubs are the Melbourne Bushwalkers, formed in 1940, The Melbourne University Mountaineering Club, formed in 1944, and the Victorian Mountain Tramping Club, started in 1948.”

Significantly, we are arguably the first mixed-gender club in Victoria, but 79 would be an odd year to celebrate that achievement. My purpose then in reviewing this history is not to look backwards but to look forward. After 79 years what do we have to sustain our future? What makes us, and will keep us, sufficiently different that we will continue to attract a passionate and dedicated membership? Yes, the Sunday Bus is a distinctive feature that many others find hard to emulate, but it can be copied. A strong and diverse program of activities is vital for all clubs and can be the basis of differentiation. By itself, though, it is not sufficient as it too can be emulated or fall into decline as membership changes.

In other walks of life the accumulation of assets has been a way to secure a sustainable future (noting that bricks-and-mortar are not a secure way to survive against online assets). Melbourne Bushwalkers has been down this road. In years gone by we have owned and operated our own transport for Sunday Walks. We also owned and operated a lodge in the snow fields from which to run winter and summer activities. Each was seen as a significant point of differentiation between us and other clubs. It is hard to define their importance other than to note that after the loss of the latter due to fire we saw a measurable membership decline. (I acknowledge that the sale in the case of the Sunday Walks transport was a sound financial judgement, however, in its day it stood us apart from others who sought to carve out their own identity when rental contracts were not so readily secured.)

Should we be building reserves to position the club for a more sustainable future? Should we be investing in assets for the benefit of members and our values of preserving the natural environment? Sydney Bushwalkers owns its own property, Coolana. This is a 60 hectare river front wildlife refuge in the Kangaroo Valley, in the Southern Highlands, just over 2 hours' drive from Sydney. Club members are welcome to use this for camping at any time. Should we be considering a similar type of investment?

As a club we are not rich, nor are we poor. Assets have been accumulated over our 79 years to be managed responsibly by the Committee of the day with approval from the Membership at each year's Annual General Meeting. Times change, priorities change and previous decisions of the Membership at an Annual General Meeting are subject to change to fit with contemporary values and priorities. What is most important is that the accumulated assets are used wisely and with the long term interests of the club as the top priority.

Your Committee has been wrestling with this question over the past year. Our investments are spread over several deposit accounts attracting paltry interest. Our ongoing activities are self-funding and running down the assets to simply subsidise future member costs is not acceptable as a way forward. The dilemma is that the level and spread of our finances is insufficient to fund a meaningful investment in other asset forms. Consolidation of the accounts with a clear focus in mind should be a first step in building for our future. The next step should be the steady building of our assets to secure the way forward.

We have a proud history and a passion to make a meaningful impact for the future of the club. Now is the time for big thinkers to step forward and offer their views.

Ian Mair

Social Event

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



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

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

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

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



PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO 2019 AGM

It seems these days that my club-related involvement revolves around three areas of activity. The role of President takes centre stage. Working with the other Committee members and volunteers to ensure the club runs smoothly and delivers a full and attractive program of activities is top of the list. Enjoying membership of the club as a participant and leader of activities sits up with the role of President. Why be President if you can't enjoy your reason to be part of the club? Thirdly, and not least, is the time taken to fill the role of webmaster. I could have dropped this role when I took on the Presidency but selfishness and self-interest dictated my actions! In each area it has been a full year.

The start of 2019 saw us take up residence in our new home at The Mission to Seafarers Victoria. After a short few months it already seems like we have been here for much longer. The welcoming embrace of both the staff and volunteers of The Mission to Seafarers has eased our relocation. Preparation for the move was by far the item of greatest importance to the club and the most significant action for the Committee during the past year. The time spent on evaluating the move, communicating the intent to move and executing the move, has paid dividends. Many members deserve credit for the part they played in the process and special thanks are due to Peter Taylor, Ken MacMahon and John Fritze for their contributions. The first months of 2019 have seen a lift in visitor attendances with positive feedback from both visitors and members on the new premises.

The past year was also a productive year for member skills development and leader training with over 40 members undertaking their first of one or more of the formal training modules on offer, with others building on their knowledge from previous years. We held our first full-day training session at The Mission to Seafarers in January. Greater flexibility in the facilities on offer was part of our reason for moving. The success of the day encourages even more effort to enhance member enjoyment of their bushwalking experiences through a deeper understanding of how the club runs and what is involved in leading activities.

Participating in the activities of the club has been my primary way of appreciating what the club is about. Feedback on what is relevant, and what members see or do not see as a reason to join the club, has helped me in my role. It has also helped me to shape the club in the way I would hope it continues. The balance between a focus purely on bushwalking at one extreme and conservation of the environment in which we walk at the other, is delicate. The options available today for individuals to tailor their interests through a selection of highly focussed groups makes the survival of a generalist organisation tenuous. I have opted to promote the bushwalking first with due sensitivity for all other considerations. They are not in conflict and the balance will shift over time.

During the year we saw the introduction of a "Sustainability Moment" before each of our regular Wine and Cheese Nights. Prepared and presented by Susanne Etti, these cameos have emphasized the importance of attention to sustainability in our activities and have been widely complimented by those in attendance.

The role of webmaster is perhaps my greatest failing since taking on the Presidency. For some years we have been aware of the need to adapt our online presence to be more "mobile friendly". Looking back over previous reports I see that I have regularly promised it is coming! This past year we made a start and my February President's Column provided a link to the initial content. With the taste of success fresh in my mouth I am looking forward to a more concentrated effort after the AGM to deliver what I believe is essential to the club's future vitality.

It is with mixed feelings of excitement and loss that I prepared my final report as President. As my fourth year draws to a close there is a chance to reflect on what has been accomplished, but more importantly there is a chance to anticipate what will follow. The past four years have been an opportunity to collaborate with a diverse and talented pool of other volunteer members who share the passion of bushwalking and the place for Melbourne Bushwalkers. We have seen a steady rebuilding of our membership base, a strengthening of participation numbers across our activities, particularly the Sunday Walks program, a renewed focus on member skills development and leader training, an extension of our communications channels to encompass social media, and, most recently, the relocation of the clubrooms to The Mission to Seafarers Victoria. During this same period the club contributed to the broader bushwalking community through the hosting of Federation Walks 2017 and participation in other Bushwalking Victoria initiatives.

As satisfying as it is to note the changes, the greater satisfaction comes from knowing that I am leaving the club in good shape for those that follow. The AGM will determine that future through the election of the next President and Committee. In anticipation of the outcome I am delighted with the enthusiasm and vision of those that have nominated themselves for election. I only hope that I am allowed to stay on as webmaster!

Ian Mair

GENERAL WALKS SECRETARY REPORT FOR 2017-2018

After a very active year in 2017, including our hosting of the Federation Weekend, the Club's non-Sunday attendances generally declined in 2018. Highlights included two Pack Carries in New Zealand, one in the Snowy Mountains, one at Mt. Jagungal, one in the Tarkine (Tasmania), three Beginners' PCs in Victoria, more Base Camps on Deal Island, Great Barrier Island in NZ, Maria Island and even Phillip Island, plus popular BCs at Beechworth, the Grampians and Camp Eureka. Canoeing made a welcome comeback, and our strong Leaders' and First Aid Training programs continued.

MOFs' attendances in 2018 were almost the same as the previous year. The most popular walk was Mullum Mullum Creek, with 19 hikers, including a pleasing 7 visitors. There were two cancellations for the year. **TOFs'** average numbers decreased by 22%. The Wandin trip attracted 18 walkers, with two visitors. There were also two cancelled walks.

The **Saturday/Dandenongs Explorer** group's attendances decreased by 11%, while 13 people did the Kalorama walk. **Wednesday** numbers were down slightly, too. The Lower Lerderderg Gorge trip was the most popular, with 13 hikers, including two visitors. Attendees at **Social Walks** fell by 47%, however in 2017, numbers were boosted by one very popular event. The Wurundjeri Walk on Gardiners Creek had nine people.

Conservation results were very similar to 2017. There were five more **Training** activities in 2018, including an impressive nine **Leaders' Training** sessions, with 60 bookings. A First Aid course attracted 20 people, including eight visitors. However, overall attendances decreased by 26%. **Navigation Training** numbers were also down by 35% and one activity was cancelled. For **Track Maintenance**, an extra four activities were programmed, but attendances weren't reported. **Skiing** numbers were almost the same as 2017.

The number of **Base Camps** remained constant, despite one cancellation, although attendances declined by 30%. The most popular trip was the Grampians in Spring, with 24 hikers, including three visitors. There were also two trips to both Deal Island and Camp Eureka, in 2018. As for the previous year, one **Lodge** trip was held, but the numbers were well down.

Pack Carries showed a pleasing increase of three hikes, even though five trips were cancelled. Attendances were down only slightly. The New Zealand walks were the favourites, with 18 people on the Kepler and Ben Lomond adventure and 16 on the Hollyford Track. The three Beginners' PCs had a total of 29, with five visitors.

Cycling attendances rose slightly, while the number of rides remained constant, despite four cancellations. The Ruffey Lake trip had the most riders, with eight people, including two visitors. **Canoeing** returned in 2018, with 12 people on a Glenelg River trip.

Overall, the average attendance figure across the combined range of activities, decreased by 16% in 2018. However, the number of **non-Sunday trips** increased by a positive 12 (or 9%), despite two more cancellations than in 2017. Our appreciation must go to the Club's Activity Coordinators and many leaders, for their efforts in planning and running this great variety of events. Our Emergency Contact people must also be thanked for being on duty throughout the last year.

Stuart Hanham (General Walks Secretary)

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New horizons beckon?

last spaces in 2019

Lake Eyre & East McDonnells:
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Kangaroo Island: 20 - 26 Nov 2019

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EXPLORANGES

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Noticeboard

SUNDAY WALKS SECRETARY'S REPORT 2018

2017 seems to have been a highlight year for temporary members participating in Sunday Walks. For 2018 the overall average for the Sunday bus has dropped from 49.5 to 45 with most of this drop being in visitor numbers (14.2 to 10.5). The carpool walks have remained fairly consistent with a slight increase from 2017. Due to high temperatures one Sunday walk was cancelled in 2018.

The 77 leaders required for the 2018 Sunday program were covered by 29 individual leaders to whom I am always grateful and special thanks goes to Theo Mertzandis who led eight Sunday Walks on the 2018 walks program. Special thanks also go to Ivan Biber, Bettina Brill and Susanne Etti, first time leaders in 2018. I hope that they enjoyed the experience and will lead more walks in the future.

After 13 years in the role of Sunday Walks Secretary (SWS) I am stepping down. During this time I have seen many changes, the most notable being the change from a weekly Sunday bus to the introduction of carpooling for circuit walks. This was a difficult time for the club when we feared that we would lose the bus completely due to financial pressures. However, limiting the reliance on the bus, dropping off leaflets to inner city residences, city tertiary schools and bushwalking retailers, saw a resurgence of participation. In recent years the use of social media via Facebook and Meetup has helped to ensure the future viability of the Sunday bus.

My experience as SWS was greatly enhanced and facilitated by the introduction of the online Leaders' Database developed by David Arnold. It meant I was able to plan the quarterly Sunday Walks program from home, with reports dating back to 1998 available at my fingertips, just as they are now available for all leaders. This resource, which also includes the Sunday Walks bookings system, has been an invaluable tool and greatly appreciated.

I am happy to announce that Brett Daniel, on Committee, with support from Theo Mertzandis, have agreed to take over the responsibility of an ongoing Sunday Walks program. They have already contributed to producing recent programs. I, along with Del Franks who has been my support since becoming SWS, will continue to be responsible for the Sunday Walks booking system.

Halina Sarbinowski

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT FOR 2018

Last year, 2018 was a steady year for membership. Although numbers have not increased by as many as the year before, there has been an increase. During 2017 ordinary membership increased by 62 but in 2018 by 26.

Our total ordinary membership at the end of February stands at 521 and our total with Honorary and Life members is 536.

We also have 198 Active Temporary Members, down by 19 on last year.

The conversion from Temporary member to Member is now at a rate of 31%. A very slight increase on last year of 0.5%.

Our non renewal rate remains much the same with the same most common reasons. Health problems, too busy, moved away and too old.

The average age of members is for females, 58.3 years and for males 61.8 years. These figures are virtually the same as last year.

This year the majority of new members found the club via our web site. Recommendations from friends are the next most common, followed by Meet Up.

Unfortunately, in August, we learned that our long time member, Jean Woodger had died. She was a very active member; Vice president at one time and Leader. She was also made a Life member. She was a lovely, pleasant lady and much admired. Everyone will miss her very much.

During 2018 we also heard of the death of a couple of past members, Felix Harding and Tim Dent.

I have been membership secretary for the past 5 years but this year am passing the job onto another. Best wishes to the new Membership Secretary.

It has been a great experience and I wish to thank the other committee members for their help and fellowship. Thank you.

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Month ending	Ordinary	Honorary & Life	Total	Active temporary
February 2018	495	16	511	217
February 2019	521	15	536	198

Gillian Wainwright – Membership Secretary.

MBW ACTIVITY STATISTICS 2017 AND 2018

	2017			2018		
	Trips	Average Nos	Average Visitors	Trips	Average Nos	Average Visitors
DAY WALKS						
MOFs	11	10.2	1.2	10	10.2	1.1
TOFs	12	14.2	1.6	10	11.1	0.7
Sat/Dande Explorer	8	12	2	9	10.7	0.7
Sunday bus	26	49.5	14.3	27	45	10.5
Sunday carpool	23	15.3	3	23	15.4	2.3
Wednesday	19	9.4	0.7	20	8.5	0.6
Social walks	12	12.7	1	11	6.7	0.6
Historical walks	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER ACTIVITIES						
Conservation	5	2.4	0.2	5	2.5	0
Training	7	11	6	12	8.1	0.9
Navigation training	1	10	3	2	6.5	0
Track maintenance	6	2.8	0	10	2	0
Skiing	1	7	1	1	8	0
Base camp	12	20.2	1.7	12	14.2	1.6
Lodge	1	22	3	1	10	1
Pack carry	27	10.9	1.5	30	9.9	1.5
Cycling	6	4.8	0.5	6	5.7	0.3
Canoeing	0	0	0	1	12	1

- Trip numbers are based on total trips – January to December.
- Average attendance numbers based on information from leaders, but exclude trips where numbers have not been provided.
- Not included are 16 cancellations in 2017 (due to a variety of reasons) and 18 in 2018, as follows: low numbers – MOF × 2 , PC × 5, BC × 1 & CYC × 4; high temperature – SUN CAR × 1, TOF × 2 & TRAIN × 1; bad weather – PC × 2.

Stuart Hanham (General Walks Secretary)

EQUIPMENT REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31/12/18

The club provides equipment for use by members and visitors at nominal hire rates and for use by leaders and the club generally at no charge. Items are selected to improve club facilities, contribute to safety, encourage beginners and assist members in the acquisition of appropriate gear. All purchases are justified on a cost benefit basis with income producing items meeting the additional requirement of being self-funding.

Hire rates were down on the previous year but we still collected \$462 in hire fees which, after the deduction of depreciation and equipment write offs, resulted in a net profit of \$184

No new equipment was acquired during the year.

As usual members and visitors are encouraged to try our gear before buying. Items can be hired for club trips or, when not in use, taken home for a closer look at no charge. Needless to say we are always happy to discuss equipment with anybody who feels the need.

John Fritze

Members' contributions

THANK YOU



On 20/1/2019, I was walking, with the Club, on the Erskine Falls track. About halfway down to Lorne I tripped and fell heavily on my knee and was unable to use my left leg. I subsequently discovered that I had two small fractures at the top of the tibia.

I would like to thank all the kind and supportive friends, acquaintances and strangers, who came to my aid on that occasion.

In particular I would like to thank the four young men, strangers to me, who took it on themselves to piggyback me out, a distance of about 6 km., down a rough track full of obstacles. Be Phan, Kim Nguyen, Geoffrey Tan and James Kim were truly amazing in their willingness to offer their physical and emotional help. I really admired, too, how they worked as a team, looking out for each other, recognising signs of fatigue, pacing themselves and each other. For two of them, it was their first walk with the Club and, as I understand, only two of them knew each other before the event.

It was for me a small, painful, physical setback but a wonderfully rewarding experience in the kindness of human nature.

Thank you so much!

Stephanie van Tatenhove



EARRINGS FOUND

These earrings, and a black soft bag container, were left in our car some time during the last twelve months, possibly longer ago, on an MBW trip. They are for pierced ears. As they do not suit either of us would the owner like to claim them? Please respond by email.

Derrick Brown/Gina Hopkins

EUROA EATERIES

On the recent Mt Buffalo trip Gina and I stopped at the Seven Creeks Hotel at Euroa as the nearby Jumping Jumbuck restaurant was closed (it closes at 4pm on Sunday). The Seven Creeks Hotel has had a chequered history with us, being excellent/good/ordinary/poor.

The Jumping Jumbuck is also recommended for afternoon tea and they do a good lemon tart. They open to "about 8pm", except Sundays.

Derrick Brown

FRENCHMAN'S CAP, JANUARY 2019

"Bushwalkers are not welcome!" This was the message from fire-stricken Tasmania before our planned walk to Frenchman's Cap. What a dilemma for the leader (Ian Mair) and his group of 10! With so many areas affected by fires, it was crucial to have accurate information about road closures and hot-spots. However, after appropriate consultation it was decided the walk could proceed.

Frenchman's Cap is a Precambrian quartzite dome of 1446 metres. Situated in the Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park, the 46 km track transverses multiple eco-systems with buttongrass plains, glacial valleys, rainforest, King Billy Pines and alpine lakes. It holds a special place in the hearts of many bushwalkers.

For me personally, this trip was a chance to revisit the iconic "Frenchman's".

It had been one of my first extended walks in Tasmania over 30 years ago. I knew that due to Dick Smith's generosity, matched partly by government funding, the infamous Sodden Loddon was no more. Duckboard and drains through boggy sections and a new 4.6 km reroute now transformed the walk. No more crossing the swollen Franklin and Loddon Rivers – on slippery logs, if you were lucky! Beautiful suspension bridges instead. How could I not be enthused? It would be a totally different experience.

So I was pleased the conditions were deemed safe for us. Wisely Ian had arranged hire cars, thus providing us with flexibility with transport, as from Launceston we were forced to drive via Queenstown to reach our first night's stop, the friendly Derwent Bridge Wilderness Hotel.

At the walk start, Apps were again checked for road closures and new fire information. If we walked in, could we safely return home? Finally we were on the track to the Franklin River. No raging torrent today and a new bridge eased our crossing. Several hours later there is another suspension bridge at the Loddon River. Fantastic improvements! Even better, there was no sinking into thigh deep mud and no wide areas of wasted land where walkers tried to skirt bogs. The boardwalks and drains are excellent. From the Loddon it was up to Laughton's Lead and the new route which was a pleasure to walk.

Lake Vera Hut with its nearby lake was a welcome sight. Was it wisdom or laziness that inspired the "older" walkers to overnight in the hut instead of tenting? Who had dry tents in the morning after the weather had changed?!

The following day saw us in rain jackets walking through dense rainforest on the arduous climb to windy Barron Pass. Another new feature in the walk is the user-friendly vertical log/tree trunk cut with steps. A number of these were evident here. After contouring around Sharlands Peak it was not long before the new Tahune Hut was reached. It was a pity that poor weather conditions hindered our views. With intermittent rain, swirling clouds and strong winds the decision not to climb the peak was easy for those who had previously enjoyed beautiful summit views. For the others it was difficult. Will there be a view if we try?

In the end five brave walkers attempted the summit push. "We walked up a waterfall all the way" summarised the effort but the two who achieved the summit were elated even with very limited views. Unfortunately there was still heavy cloud over the peak the next morning and a second summit assault did not eventuate.

Just as we were departing Tahune Hut, the leader suggested the possibility of overnighing at Derwent Bridge Hotel again. A cheer broke out and some speed records were perhaps made that day.

Overall, it was a great walk. The track improvements certainly enhance the experience.

Thanks Ian for your excellent leadership. Thanks to Mark, Sylvia, Rose, Sal, Wendy, Andrew, Charlie and Halina for being such great company.

Therese Ryan



PACK CARRY, 8–10 FEBRUARY: CONQUERING THE MT BUFFALO BIG WALK



From the surrounding plains the hide-like granite slopes of Mt Buffalo inspire a sense of awe. Rising over 1 km, it towers over the valleys and lakes around its perimeter. Somewhat lower than the nearby alpine ranges it still presents a challenge for all who seek to reach its upper plateaus. The aptly named Big Walk from the National Park entrance close to Porepunkah is a magnet for bushwalkers keen to test their fitness and endurance. Our group of 15 set off in fine weather on a cool Saturday morning with the camping area set along the tranquil shores of Lake Catani as the target of our endeavours.

The first flush of enthusiasm was soon tempered by the initial climb of 300 m to the junction with the 1 Mile Spur track. A few clothing adjustments and the mutterings of reality checks returned order from chaos as our group set off on the next leg. The well-marked track presented no navigational issues and the group progressed in smaller cohorts to reach the first of the open granite slopes offering clear views down to the valley below. It was a popular spot to stop for a mid-morning break allowing the full group to re-assemble. Delightful as it was, there was no time to get too relaxed. The weather forecast was foreboding. Gathering clouds added substance to the prediction of afternoon rains.

A stop for a late lunch was just in time for the lead group.

Slower walkers were less fortunate. The rain came, light at first then with increasingly heavy downpours. All interest in the inspiring views from the strategically positioned lookout points along the walk had dissolved. What is the point of stopping when all you can see is cloud? Heads down, we moved more quickly now to reach the carpark and shelter at the top. The more optimistic members of the group saw it as a timely test of their gear as they prepared for possibly wetter regions in coming weeks! A break in the rain stirred a flurry of activity and we were on our way again to reach Lake Catani and set up camp. The weather gods took pity on our plight and held back their fury until we were settled and dry. The day closed with a mix of exploratory walks near Lake Catani and more relaxed activities under protective shelter.

Sunday morning presented clear blue skies. A quick adjustment to the schedule introduced a side trip led by Gina to The Galleries, an assemblage of granite boulders intersected by narrow passageways and mouse-hole entrances. This impressive feature, explored the afternoon before, attracted keen interest by its very description. Elated by the experience the group set off for the descent, taking a circuit route that included a lookout over the Buckland Valley, the entrance to the underground river and the hang-glider launch ramp, before again reaching the top of The Big Walk near the Chalet. The subsequent descent was rapid despite adequate time given to do justice to the views that had been passed by on the ascent. Time was moving along and a planned side-trip to Rollasons Falls was not to be overlooked, made more impressive by the rains of the day before.

It was with a sense of satisfaction and achievement that the full group reassembled back at the cars. Roger had generously provided a selection of cool drinks and muffins to satisfy our desires. It may seem a long way to travel for a short walk up and down the mountain, but the natural splendours and camaraderie developed make it worth the effort. Thank you to all who participated for your hearty spirit and cheerful company.

Ian Mair



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.



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.



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



TOFS WALK

WILSON BOTANIC PARK – BERWICK PARKLANDS

DATE Thursday 4 April 2019
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE Approximately 10 km
ELEVATION Mostly fairly even with some slight slopes

LEADER Rosemary Cotter
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Berwick
MAP REFERENCE Melway map 111 B6
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

Linking small parks and linear green areas external but adjacent to the Botanic Park makes for an interesting walk. A couple of years ago we observed that there were some excellent tree plantings along the way and in the Botanic Park there is a wealth of native plants as well as a good collection of southern hemisphere conifers. The Park was opened in March 1992 in memory of early pioneers.

Meet in the car park within the Botanic Park, Melway 111 B7, ready to walk at 10:30 am.

Note that the nearest train station is 2 km from the park.



BASE CAMP

RAWSON BASE CAMP

DATE 5-7 April 2019
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE Saturday walk – Rawson to Walhalla Loop – 16 km – 5 hours
 Sunday walk – Rawson to Poverty Point Circuit – 15 km – 5 hours

LEADER Jill Allen
TRANSPORT Private
FIRE BAN DISTRICT West Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Latrobe Valley

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 three 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.

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



CYCLING

LILYDALE-WARBURTON RAIL TRAIL AND RETURN

DATE Saturday 6 April 2019
RETURN TIME 5 pm approx. at Lilydale station
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 78 km
TOTAL ASCENT Fairly flat with some sustained but gradual climbs

LEADER Sue Ralston
TRANSPORT Train to Lilydale station (or car)
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Yarra Glen

This is a lovely classic rail trail ride through farmland and light bush, with some beautiful views of Mt Donna Buang. At this time of the year it should be full of autumn colours. The track is generally very well surfaced, though parts can become rutted after heavy rain, in which case some road bikes may not be suitable.

We will stop at one of several cafés along the way and have lunch on the riverbank in Warburton, close to several cafés where lunch could be bought if needed. There will be another café option on the return trip.

Those wanting a shorter ride may arrange to have an extended siesta en route while waiting for our return.

We will meet at 9 am at the Lilydale station car park. The current timetable has the 7:46 Lilydale train from Flinders Street arriving at 8:55, but please check closer to the day for any changes.

Please bring a spare tube and repair kit, water, snacks, lunch (unless you plan to buy it) and clothes suited to the weather forecast.

To book, or for any questions, please contact me. I look forward to seeing you there!



PACK CARRY

'WABONGA WILDERNESS WANDERINGS'
 (joint with VMTC)

DATE 6-7 April 2019
RETURN TIME mid afternoon Sunday
STANDARD Medium/Hard
DISTANCE 20 km
ELEVATION 350 m to 950 m and return
LEADER Ray Thomas
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Lake William Hovell
MAP REFERENCE Whitfield 1:50,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Eastern
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mount Buller

This trip will explore some of the wonderful untracked country near Lake William Hovell and Paradise Falls south of Whitfield. The forest is mostly pretty open, so it's very interesting to follow the spurs up through granite country, to reach the sedimentary cappings, then up through the cliffs onto the tilt block plateaux.

Our several reconnaissance trips have found fairly easy routes across the terrain, and have revealed many delightful surprises! We cross a beautiful untouched stretch of the King River, which will be great for a swim if it's still warm enough. There are great views from the high cliff edges, (including the aptly named "Mt View"), and the stands of big old brittle gums on the plateaux are simply beautiful.

Further Details

- This will be a joint trip between VMTC and MBW.
- April 6, 7 is very suitable timing, as it avoids both the heat of summer, and the cold, wet of winter.
- Grading is Medium/Hard, as it is mostly exploring off track.
- Distances approx 11 km each day.
- BYO water for Friday night's camp.
- Water available at Saturday night's camp.

Rendezvous Friday night

- Free camping area, just off Lake William Hovell Rd, ca 12 or 13 km South of Cheshunt.
- Look out for where the road leaves farmland and enters the bush.
- 600 m further on, at top of the rise, turn left onto gravel track.

- Campsite is just 30m into bush.
- This is also the walk start point.

Return to cars

By mid afternoon on Sunday



PACK CARRY

CASTLEMAINE DIGGINGS NP – VAUGHAN SPRINGS

DATE Saturday 6 to Sunday 7 April 2019
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 24 km
TOTAL ASCENT 500 m rise
LEADER Ian Mair
TRANSPORT Private
START TIME Depart from location in notes below at 10:30 am
RETURN TIME Return to start location by 3:00 pm
ACTIVITY AREA Upper Loddon State Forest
MAP REFERENCE Custom VicMap Topo – 1:30,000 Walls Crossing – Vaughan Springs
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Bendigo

Less than two hours drive from Melbourne this walk offers a relaxed Saturday morning start to a delightful walk through the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park. Although it is not officially designated as a Beginners PC it is suited to those who are looking for their first overnight walk. Starting from a point south of Vaughan Springs the walk heads north along easy tracks and creek gullies to arrive at Vaughan Springs where we will camp for the night.

Vaughan Springs was formerly a large gold rush township called “The Junction”. It became a favoured alluvial gold and market gardening locality for Chinese miners. Today, it is a good place to sample the mineral water and for a stroll along the Loddon River. Camping is available on a grassed tent area of the Upper Terrace Campground, a short distance from the day-visitor area. Non-flush toilets and an electric barbecue are available.

On Sunday we take a different route back, stopping along the way to look at a range of artifacts and ruins from the goldrush era.

Contact the leader, Ian Mair, by email if you would like to be considered for this walk.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

CRESWICK FOREST WALK

DATE Sunday 7 April 2019
STANDARD Easy
LEADER Theo Mertzaniadis
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving cnr A’Beckett and William Streets (opposite old clubrooms) at 8:45 am
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Ballarat

For details of this walk please check the Club’s website nearer to the date, or contact the leader,



WEDNESDAY WALK

BARWON RIVER, BUCKLEY FALLS

DATE Wednesday 10 April 2019
RETURN TIME 3:00 pm to cars
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 16 km
ELEVATION Flat – few minor elevations
LEADER Margaret Curry
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Geelong
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 451 and 450
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Geelong

An interesting walk by the Barwon River exploring the adjacent bushland with numerous birds, many rabbits and even a few wallabies. There are many features such as Buckley Falls, various lookouts, old Paper Mill, Baum Weir and historic 1870’s Mill cottages. From the picturesque wetlands of Balyang Sanctuary we wander beside the Barwon River walking along boardwalks, across bridges, beside the Queens Park golf course then view the attractive Buckley Falls from multiple lookouts and from both sides of the river. We cross Fyansford Common and return on the other side of the river.

Meet at Balyang Sanctuary at 10:00 am (toilets available) for a 10:15am start. Take the M1, then turn left onto B140, turn right into Shannon Street and veer left onto Marnock Road to arrive at the parking area. For information and to book contact Margaret.



LEADER TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING UNIT 7 – CRITICAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

DATE Wednesday 10 April 2019
TIME 7:30 – 8:30 pm
PLACE Clubrooms, Mission to Seafarers Vic. 717 Flinders Street Melbourne
LEADERS Mick Noonan and Angela Vetsicas
TRANSPORT Private

ALL WELCOME to attend this important session to increase your awareness and confidence around the critical incidents which could impact on your experiences in the outdoors. In addition, all trainees who have attended Units 1– 5, this unit allows you to complete the last theory lesson for Module 1. Learning in a small group, supported by the Club’s significant experience and using real scenarios will allow you to acquire valuable knowledge and increase your confidence. Critical incidents such as a serious injury, snake bite, or losing a walker have occurred and will continue to be part of the risks associated with hiking. This session will allow you to react with more skills and confidence whether you’re a leader or a walker.

The following components make up Unit 7

- Preparing for the walk and what to establish beforehand
- Accidents/Incidents which occur frequently.
- Less frequent “Critical Incidents”
- Protocols to follow
- Following up after a Critical Incident

If interested please email the training officer Angela (training@mbw.org.au).



TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

The first part of this walk is through Wattle Park and along the Back and Hercules Creeks valleys. Various friends groups have assisted to turn neglected creek valleys into pleasant walks. The walk includes the Surrey Gardens which has a WW1 Shrine, built in 1917, featuring a carved timber memorial panel. The Shrine is protected by a pair of 1843 cannons.

Lunch will be back at Wattle Park which has shelters in the event of inclement weather. After lunch we will walk through Wattle Park, crossing Damper Creek and past the conservation area to Gardiners Creek. Well-made trails along Gardiners Creek are an easy walk.

We will return on a different route through Wattle Park past the Lone Pine and Chalet to the cars. We may partake of a coffee afterwards in the Golf Course Café.

Meet in the golf course car park (Melway 60 J3) before 10:30 am (also accessible from the No. 70 Tram, Stop No. 59 in Riversdale Road).

Book with Alan and Jan.



SUNDAY BUS

ELPHINSTONE TUNNEL TO FRYERSTOWN

DATE Sunday 14 April 2019
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to city
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES 15 km and 18 km
TOTAL ASCENTS Undulating: some short steep ascents/descents
LEADERS Lesley Hale and Ian Mair
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving cnr A’Beckett and William Streets (opposite old clubrooms) at 8:45 am
ACTIVITY AREA South-east of Castlemaine
MAP REFERENCE VicMap Malmsbury 7723-N, 1:50,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Bendigo

The walk goes through the Fryers Ranges State Forest and into the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park, classic gold mining country. We start near the Elphinstone Railway Tunnel, meet the Fryers Water Channel, and visit gold era (mid-19th century) relics in gullies named Poverty/Cobbler/Spring to finish at the Fryerstown Mechanics Institute, constructed in 1863 in honour of Burke and Wills. We use forestry tracks and walking trails, except for some short off-track sections in lightly forested areas with little undergrowth.

The two groups take different routes through the forest at the start; and the longer walk includes a climb up The Monk, a prominent hill along the way. A perfect walk for autumn.



MOFS WALK

WATTLE PARK – GARDINERS CREEK

DATE Monday 15 April 2019
RETURN TIME Wattle Park Golf Course car park by 3 pm
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 10 km
ELEVATION Small hills
LEADERS Alan and Jan Case
TRANSPORT Private or No. 70 tram
ACTIVITY AREA Burwood
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 60, 61 and 46
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central



WEDNESDAY WALK

ONE TREE HILL

(Note: This walk replaces a walk previously appearing on the program.)

DATE Wednesday 17 April 2019
RETURN TIME 3:00 pm
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 13 km
ELEVATION 650 m total climbing
LEADER Ed Neff
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Upper Ferntree Gully
MAP REFERENCE Parks Victoria Dandenong Ranges National Park. Melway map 74 G5.5 for start
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mount Dandenong

We will meet at 10:00 am for a 10:15 am start from the carpark of the Ferntree Gully Picnic Ground. Take the Burwood Highway to Upper Ferntree Gully and then left up the Mount Dandenong Tourist Road. The picnic ground entrance is just a short distance along Mount Dandenong Tourist Road. Take the first carpark entrance and we will meet at the lower end of the carpark.

This walk has some good ups and downs but we can take our time on the ups. It is a good workout. We will take some tracks that have not been included on previous walks and we will avoid the busy Kokoda Trail.

As a reward at the end of the walk we can adjourn to a nice café nearby in Upper Ferntree Gully.



LODGE

BOGONG HIGH PLAINS BASE CAMP (LODGE)

DATE 18–22 April 2019
RETURN TIME 6 pm, 22 April
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 20 km per day approx.
TOTAL ASCENT 300 m per day approx.
LEADER Judith Shaw
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Bogong High Plains
MAP REFERENCE VicMap Falls Creek 8324s 1:50,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North East

TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Falls Creek

A three-day ramble over the alpine meadows and peaks of the Bogong High Plains, with a special focus on visiting some of the area's historic huts. The walking is mostly on tracks, with some non-challenging off-track sections. As always in the high country, extreme weather conditions can occur any time so be prepared with warm and waterproof gear.

We stay in self-catered lodge accommodation in Falls Creek from Thursday April 18 to Monday April 22. Four-bed and two-bed rooms are available, and the cost per person per night is \$42-\$55 depending on room type. BYO cards, board games and suchlike for the evenings.

On our way home on Monday there is an optional 3 km stroll around the beautiful Lake Guy in Bogong Village and a lunch stop at the Milawa cheese factory.

Limit:12. Book early to avoid disappointment!



PACK CARRY

GREAT SOUTH WEST WALK – PORTLAND TO NELSON ALONG THE GLENELG RIVER

(Wait list only)

DATE Friday 19 to Sunday 28 April 2019
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 129 km
TOTAL ASCENT No major hills
LEADER Ian Mair
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA South West Victoria
MAP REFERENCE Great South West Walk and Lower Glenelg, 1:50,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT South Western
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Warrnambool

The inland section of the Great South West Walk from historic Portland to Nelson is an unforgettable experience that winds through the Corroboree Forest with its hardwood forests before entering the Lower Glenelg National Park and following the pristine Glenelg River gorge to its mouth at the picturesque township of Nelson.

Distances each day range between 13 km and 22 km with no major hills. It is suited to anyone with a reasonable level of fitness.

Camp sites along the route, at a cost of \$11 per person, can accommodate 20 campers at each location. Toilets are provided and tank water is available during the wetter months. Water must be treated before being used. At each location there is only one shelter and table so these facilities must be shared between campers. Gas or a fuel stove should be carried on the GSWW.

This trip spans both the Easter and ANZAC day holidays.

Proposed schedule:

Fri. 19 April – Drive Melbourne to Portland, sight seeing around Portland
 Sat. 20 April to Sat. 27 April – GSWW Portland to Nelson
 Sun. 28 April – Return to Melbourne

This walk is now Wait List only. If you are interested contact Ian Mair to add your name to the Expressions of Interest.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

ADA TREE – CHARLIE CREEK AND SAWMILLS

DATE Sunday 21 April 2019
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to city
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 17 km
TOTAL ASCENT 450 m rise
LEADER Brett Daniel
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving cnr A'Beckett and William Streets (opposite old clubrooms) at 8:45 am
TRANSPORT COST \$20.00 (per person)
ACTIVITY AREA Warburton
MAP REFERENCE Neerim south
FIRE BAN DISTRICT West Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Yarra Glen

Please note that this trip will depart from the corner of William and A'Beckett Streets at 8:45am

The Ada Tree is one of the largest known flowering trees in the world. Estimated at over 300 years old, the tree stands about 77 m tall with a root system that extends over 4000 sq m. The area includes New Federal Mill with its great historical photos and the Ada No 2 Mill site with its big range of machinery. The walk features rainforest, damp sclerophyll forest dominated by majestic mountain ash, as well as southern sassafras occurring in moist sheltered gullies. The forest supports a variety of native fauna species including swamp wallabies, wombats, echidnas and lyrebirds.



TRACK MAINTENANCE

MT HOWITT – GUYS HUT – WONNANGATTA – ALPINE NATIONAL PARK (BTAC)

DATE 25–28 April 2019
STANDARD Easy/Medium
CONTACT John Terrell
TRANSPORT Private
FIRE BAN DISTRICT West Gippsland
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mount Buller

BTAC has scheduled a track maintenance activity in the Alpine National Park north of Licola (Mt Howitt – Guys Hut – Wonnangatta). For further details please register your interest with John Terrell environment@mbw.org.au



SOCIAL WALK

BOYD PARK URBAN FOREST RESERVE

DATE 27 April 2019
RETURN TIME 2:30 pm after lunch
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 5 km
TOTAL ASCENT Flat
LEADER Merilyn Whimpey
TRANSPORT Train
ACTIVITY AREA Oakleigh to Carnegie
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 68, 69
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

The Boyd Park Forest is a small, and very attractive, part of this walk. The level crossing removals at Carnegie,

Murrumbeena and Hughesdale have elevated the railway line and there is parkland underneath, and this will be mostly where we walk.

We meet outside Oakleigh railway station in Haughton Road under the Warrigal Road overpass (Melway map 69 F8) at 10:30 am. We walk in a green belt beside the railway line to Hughesdale, turning off to go through parkland and cross Princes Highway to the urban forest, returning to the railway line by more or less the same route, but following different paths. Then we follow the new track under the railway line to Carnegie, where we will have lunch. There are at least a dozen eateries in Carnegie, and I haven't yet decided which one.



SATURDAY EXPLORER WALK

CITY PARKS AND GARDENS (public transport)

DATE Saturday 27 April 2019
START TIME 10:30 am
RETURN TIME Around 3 pm
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 8 km or 12 km
ELEVATION Flat
LEADER Margaret Campion
TRANSPORT Public transport – bring your MYKI
ACTIVITY AREA City
MAP REFERENCE Melway map 2B J8
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

Our mighty Saturday Explorer leader Maureen Hurley has suggested this lovely relaxed city walk for Margaret to lead in April ... I wonder why? Mountains to climb? none. Rocks to scramble? none. KMs to hike? Not many. Rivers to cross? Yarra, but bridges are supplied! Dangerous wildlife? none ... maybe an occasional skateboarder!

We meet at the corner of Nicholson St and Carlton St Fitzroy at 10:30 am (trams 86, 95, 96; nearest train station Melbourne Central). Our city adventure begins with the beautiful Carlton Gardens, Melbourne Museum/IMAX/Royal Exhibition Buildings area. Down Spring St past the Princess Theatre and past Doug Nicholls and his wife, to St Patricks Cathedral and the beautiful Fitzroy Gardens. Next we walk to the iconic MCG precinct. Go Pies!

We cross the Yarra one way or another – bathers optional – and amble over to the beautiful Botanic Gardens where we explore the lake and pathways as much as we like, and the café for byo or bought lunch. For those who are keen to show off, an extra 4 kms can be added with a lap of the tan track. Home from Flinders St Station around 3 but flexible. Enjoy our city with friends.



SUNDAY BUS

ANAKIE GORGE – STEIGLITZ

DATE Sunday 28 April 2019
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES 14 km and 18 km (approx.)
LEADERS Jenny Andrewes and Denise Charman
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving cnr A'Beckett and William Streets (opposite old clubrooms) at 8:45 am
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Geelong

The easy walk starts at Anakie Gorge with the E/M walk starting up a significant hill (but good views) and adding a few km before arriving at the start of the Gorge.

Both walks go through the gorge to a picnic ground then on walking tracks up to a lookout.

From there along a combination of road and 4WD tracks for a few km then the walks separate again with the harder walk adding a little more distance. They rejoin again near Steiglitz where the bus will be waiting near the old court house.

There are a variety of ups and downs with no significant long steep sections except for the start of the E/M walk. The area is very dry so do not expect running water even in the gorge. This is a very pleasant walk for both groups.

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
 KAKADU EASTER WALKING TRIP
 (NON-CLUB TRIP)
 18-25 APRIL 2019**

Seeking Expressions of Interest for Kakadu Easter Walking Trip (non-club trip):

It combines a night at Cooida and a Yellow Waters cruise with some truly spectacular scenery among one of the greatest concentrations of Aboriginal rock art in the park. List price – \$1795.

Please call Ros Leong.



Our outgoing President, Ian, on the Frenchmans Cap track

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!

April 2019					
Thu 4	TOF: Berwick Parklands	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Rosemary Cotter
5-7	PC : Wabonga Wilderness Wanderings (joint VMTC)	Pvt	M/H	NE:mb	Ray Thomas
5-7	BC : Rawson Base Camp	Pvt	E/M	WG:lv	Jill Allen
6-7	PC : Castlemaine Diggings NP – Vaughan Springs	Pvt	Easy	NC:be	Ian Mair
Sat 6	CYC: Warburton Trail	Pvt	Med	CN:yg	Sue Ralston
Sun 7	DAY: Creswick Forest Walk	Car	Easy	CN:ba	Theo Mertzandis
Wed 10	DAY: Barwon River, Buckley Falls	Pvt	E/M	CN:ge	Margaret Curry
Wed 10	TRG: Leader Training: Unit 7 – Critical Incident Management				Mick Noonan & Angela Vetsicas
Sun 14	DAY: Elphinstone Tunnel to Fryerstown	Bus	E&E/M	NC:be	Lesley Hale & Ian Mair
Mon 15	MOF: Wattle Park – Gardiners Creek	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Alan & Jan Case
Wed 17	DAY: One Tree Hill	Pvt	E/M	CN:fr	Ed Neff
18-22	BC : Bogong High Plains Base Camp (Lodge)	Pvt	E/M	NC:fc	Judith Shaw
19-28	PC : GSWW – Portland to Nelson along Glenelg River	Pvt	E/M	SW:wb	Ian Mair
Sun 21	DAY: Ada Tree – Charlie Creek & Sawmills	Car	E/M	WG:yg	Brett Daniel
25-28	MNT: Mt Howitt–Guys–Wonnangatta track (BTAC)	Pvt	E/M	NE:mb	John Terrell (contact)
Thu 25	SOC: Boyd Park Urban Forest Reserve	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Marilyn Whimpey
Sat 27	DAY: City parks and gardens (public transport)	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Margaret Champion
Sun 28	DAY: Anakie Gorge – Steiglitz	Bus	E&E/M	CN:ge	Denise Charman & Jenny Andrewes