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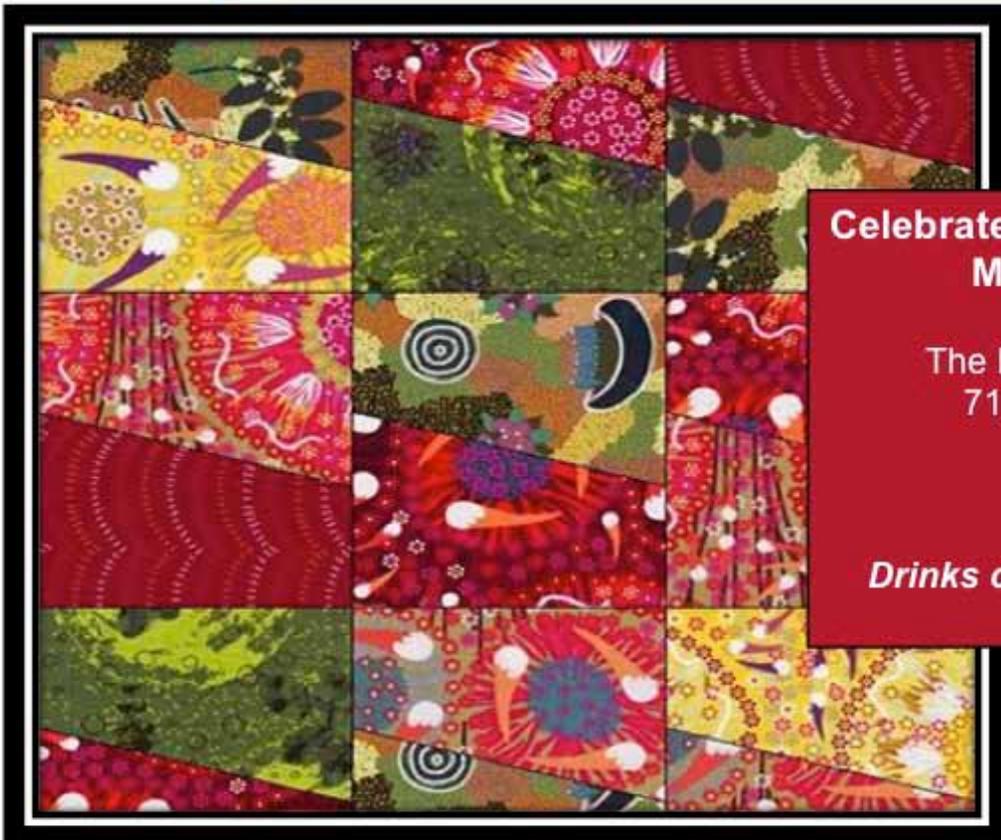
THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

November 2019



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



AUSTRALIAN BUSH RUG BY BARBARA

**Celebrate the Festive Season
Monday 9th December**

The Mission to Seafarers Vic
717 Finders St, Docklands

7-10pm

**BYO plate to share
Drinks can be purchased from
the bar**

NEW YEAR'S DAY BBQ AT 12:30

Come along and celebrate the beginning of 2020 (gulp!) with the Bushies BBQ at Yarra Bend Park, Yarra Boulevard, Kew. Melway maps 44 I4 / 45 A4.

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

No need to book.

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

MEMBER OF



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

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

Visitors are always welcome!

General correspondence should be directed to:

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

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

Editor: Merilyn Whimpey

Walk previews, walk reviews, articles, poems, news items, photographs of Club events, reports of new gear, book/movie reviews, letters to the editor, advertisements, et cetera are always welcome. However, the Editor reserves the right to edit contributions where space, clarity or propriety dictate, and to maintain editorial consistency. Note: photographs should be sent as separate files which are capable of being edited.

Please send your contributions as unformatted text files by email to news@mbw.org.au

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

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

Please note:
Next committee meeting will take place on
Monday 7 October 2019

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:
Caryl Kitchen,
Kuninor Shimbo,
Adam Kabriel,
Tina Henderson,
Jessica Smith,
Annie Bergamasco

VALE PETER HAVLICEK

I served on the MBW committee for ten years and Peter served for most of that time, plus many years more. He broke the record for the longest-serving term on committee. He became Membership Secretary and again I believe that he holds the record for the longest serving club officer – seventeen years. In my time as President, he was one of those people who always made valuable contributions at committee meetings. When one of those thorny problems arose (and it seemed that there was at least one per meeting) Peter would listen carefully and quietly before making his contribution. I could always rely on him to sort out the wheat from the chaff and to come up with a succinct summary of the points, very often proposing a motion that nailed the issue. He had a wicked sense of humour that was extremely valuable at times of tension. He also loved making a play on words and never missed an opportunity to do so. His work as Membership Secretary was absolutely thorough, always reliable, and just went on ... and on.

The Club was an important part of Peter's life, he went on Sunday walks regularly for many years and was an able leader. He became a well-deserved Life Member.

Such a very nice bloke! We shall all miss him and his happy countenance.

Derrick Brown
President 1997–2000

There may be more information about Peter in a later edition of *News*. Club members have only just learned that he died. He wasn't active with the Club recently, but he hasn't been forgotten.

Merilyn Whimpey

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN NOVEMBER 2019

I just returned from this year's Federation Walks weekend organised by the Geelong Bushwalking Club and the Otway Ranges Track Walking Association in Lorne and District. It has been a fantastic two-day event for walkers of affiliate or associated clubs and individual members of Bushwalking Victoria. We were just short of 30 MBW members attending the event. It was a great experience to enjoy a weekend in the Otway Ranges and to enjoy a range of rewarding walks ranging from 5 to 20 km in length.

This event would have not been possible without an incredibly dedicated group of volunteers who organised the weekend and led over 48 walks over the two days. One recurring topic I heard was the low number of leaders in clubs and the difficulties to find new leaders to lead walks. This sounds very familiar also to me as we have only a small pool of leaders we rely on. This puts pressure on the Sunday walks secretary to fill the quarterly Sunday walk program but also puts time constraints on existing leaders as they often lead 4–6 walks or even more each year.

As a member of our club who enjoys a diverse walking program, can I ask you to make a pledge for 2020 to lead one walk. The next leader training is at the beginning of 2020 – more information coming soon. If leading a walk is not possible for you why not volunteer with the club as a committee/non-committee member or join the meet and greet group next year.

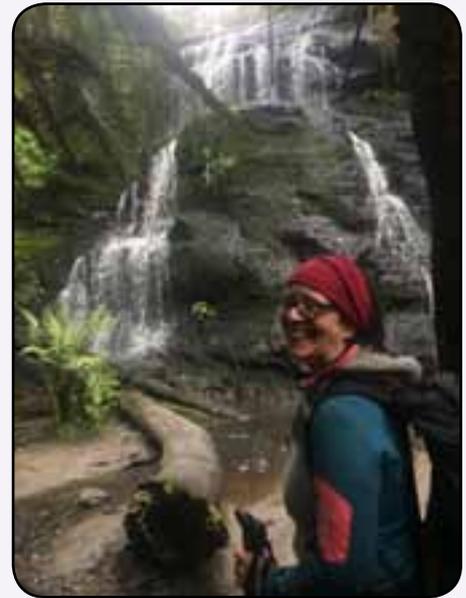
Think about the last time you volunteered your time and talents to an important effort or cause. How did it make you feel? With the busy lives we lead, just the thought of volunteering might seem overwhelming, but it could be very beneficial. It's easy to think about the positive impact that volunteers have on others, but we don't often consider how rewarding it can be for a volunteer to reach out and make a difference in a community. As we approach the summer solstice, put those many hours of daylight to good use.

On this note I want to say a huge thank you to Marilyn Whimpey who has produced the MBW newsletter for about 9 years, keeping us all informed of past, present and future walks. Marilyn has expressed her wish that she would like to pass on the role of news editor for MBW to a new member. Could this be you?

Before I close out this month's president column, can I strongly encourage you to read Mick Noonan's article on Fire Season which summarises the Club's policies around fire restrictions and the extreme heat we often get from spring to autumn.

Wishing you a healthy and safe hiking month.

Susanne Etti



Social Event

Wednesday 27 November, 8:00–9:00 pm

WALKING THE SLOVENIAN HILLS

Presenters: Catherine Cardinet and Neil Churches



Catherine and Neil will share their experiences of the 285 km walk they did in 2018 over 11 days. Walking through spectacular rolling hills and historic villages; taking in the cuisine, wines and history of provincial Slovenia.

Starting in medieval Maribor and finishing near the Croatian border. Retracing the steps of over a hundred prisoners of war eluding Nazi search parties. In 1944 Australian Ralph Churches and Englishman Les Laws led the most successful break-out of Allied POWs in the history of WW2.



FIRE SEASON IS HERE AGAIN!

Climate Change is resulting in fire seasons starting earlier and lasting longer. Normally the **Fire Danger Period** starts in November. This year East Gippsland started in September and 16 other areas were under Fire Restrictions during October, including the alpine areas. In Queensland and NSW large parts of those states started at the end of August. Most recent years also rank among the hottest on record.

So this is a good time to summarise the Club's policies around fire restrictions and the extreme heat we often get from spring to autumn.

- Day activities in a Total Fire Ban district are automatically cancelled.
- Multiday activities are also cancelled for Severe/Extreme/Code Red ratings; however there are some additional policies to cover groups that may have already commenced.
- If the temperature in the activity area is forecast to be 38°C or more day activities are also automatically cancelled. For multiday activities the leader will decide to either cancel, modify the activity or reschedule it.
- A leader can also cancel an activity if they consider the temperature or the fire danger rating is too high for their activity. If this happens they will notify the participants.
- During periods of Extreme Fire Danger or CODE Red Days all outdoor activities can be cancelled by the Committee for a specified period.

We tag all our activities from November to April with the code for the Fire Ban District the activity is in and the nearby town to be used for the Temperature Forecast. e.g. **CN:ge** is the Central District and the town is Geelong.

Our detailed **Fire Season, Total Fire Ban and Extreme Heat Policies** document is available on our Website Downloads Page and the Quarterly Activities Programs have all the codes.

In addition to fire and extreme heat, leaders can vary/cancel/reschedule activities based on the weather warnings for wind/thunderstorms/floods, extreme cold etc.

There are a few free applications you should have on your mobile or have access to on the Internet. You can also find most of the information on the home page of the Club's website.

Emergency+ – Access to 000, SES, and Police 131444. Provides GPS Coordinates and street address if applicable that you can provide to 000. Australia-wide application.

Vic Emergency – CFA Total Fire Bans and Fire Danger Ratings, as well as State Alerts from trees down to planned burns and major accidents. Other states have similar apps.

BOM Weather – Bureau of Meteorology Severe Weather Warnings, Forecasts, Temperatures etc. Australia wide application.

So remember, check for Total Fire Bans the night before the activity (they are sometimes not announced till 6 pm for the following day), the temperature, and any severe weather warnings.

Whether it's a club activity, walking with friends, holidays, being a tourist or just travelling somewhere, it pays to know the local fire conditions.

Next month we will look at Neighbourhood Safer Places and Community Fire Refuges.

Mick Noonan



Emergency+
National Triple Zero
Awareness Work Group



BOM Weather
Australian Bureau of
Meteorology



VicEmergency
Department of Justice &
Community Safety, Victoria

Map of Fire Districts overleaf

LEADER TRAINING INVITATION 2020

ASPIRING LEADERS DON'T MISS OUT!

Presented by Ian Mair, Mick Noonan and Angela Vetsica

SATURDAY 18 JANUARY, 2020

10:00 am – 3:30 pm

SEAFARERS CLUBROOMS

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

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

- The concept of leadership
- Different styles of leadership

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

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

11:45–12:00 Morning Tea

12:00–12:45 Unit 3 – ‘Paper Work’

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

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

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

1:45–2:15 LUNCH

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

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

to book contact Angela vetsiang8@gmail.com

THE GRAMPIANS IN SEPTEMBER 2019



Above: Rush hour at Venus Baths.

Below: Tower Hill from Mt Rosea walking track

Photos by Mark Simpson



It had so much potential but the long weekend pack walk to Mt Thackeray and the Fortress, carefully planned to allow time to explore the Fortress, was cancelled due to circumstances beyond the leader's control. In its place however, we were rewarded with a base camp which showcased the beauty of the Grampians in September.

A few weeks before the scheduled walk, our leader, Claire Luxford, learned that Harrop Track, a key access track, was still closed because of storm damage and bridge works. Where do you relocate a pack walk in the Grampians when many areas are closed? Perhaps the new Grampians Peaks Trail? But this was already booked out, – only twelve platforms available at the new camp site. So the pack walk became a base camp. With Troopers Creek campsite unavailable and Borough Huts being fully booked for some nights, our group was based at Plantation Campground.

Our Day 1 walk from Halls Gap to Borough Huts is actually two days on the Peaks Trail. Starting near Venus Baths we joined the School Holiday and Long Weekend visitors through the Wonderland area. It was great to see so many families walking. The Pinnacles was amass with people, even in the bitterly cold wind. We lunched at the new Bugiga Hiker Camp. What a shock! Generally looking dreary and unloved, there seems to be no attempt yet to regenerate the bush that has been damaged during the construction. Rubbish in the wire cages under the camping platforms adds little to the ambience and the

purpose-built shelter left us wondering about the design process. There was no incentive for us to book an overnight here, a lunch break was long enough.

From the Pinnacles to Borough Huts the walk was far less crowded. A light rain shower did little to dampen the beauty of the area. Identifying the numerous wildflowers was a challenge which John easily won. It was a late finish, but a worthwhile walk.

On Day 2 another good solid walk was planned: Mt William Carpark to Jimmy Creek Carpark, across the Major Mitchell Plateau. The weather, wildflowers and views could not have been better. The field of Grampians Boronia was especially spectacular. What was surprising was the amount of boardwalk on the Plateau. Add to that the rock steps on many ascents and descents (in readiness for the Peaks Trail), the walk has definitely changed. We were all glad to see the end of the steps!

Day 3 saw us, with lots of sore knees from yesterday, relocating to the Southern Grampians to complete a walk from The Piccaninny Carpark to the Piccaninny and Mt Sturgeon and return. Again, fabulous views. The change of vegetation was significant and brought a different variety of wildflowers, with orchids, donkey and greenhoods, being the focus here.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable weekend. Plantation Campground on a Long Weekend is not ideal for pack carriers looking for solitude but it was doable. There had been little choice. Unfortunately Claire injured her wrist and her car encountered a kangaroo near Borough Huts.

Overall, the wildflowers were a delight and the views and the rock formations were worth the effort. Thanks to Claire and the group: Meredith, John W, Bettina, Ros, Angela, Mark and Michael.

Therese

BRISBANE RANGES BEGINNERS' PACK CARRY, OCTOBER 5-6

After discovering the extended snow season at Mt Baw Baw with very little chance of a thaw and keeping front of mind Victoria's notorious fickle weather at this time of year, these factors forced our leader's hand, and the advertised pack carry was hastily relocated to the Brisbane Ranges.

We all set off in our assigned vehicles, on Saturday morning in time to meet in historic Steiglitz. The meet up time was a leisurely 9:45 am so there was plenty of time and opportunity to grab morning coffees from the various cafes and bakery in nearby Meredith. After meeting behind the Courthouse, we drove north west in convoy to a road side stop for the start of our walk.

The walk had been described 'through the historic gold mining area as we head north through open forest, mainly on walking tracks but with some off-track sections. Saturday night camp will be at Friday's Campsite on the Burchill Trail. Sunday we will complete a circuit back to the cars, walking through some of the old Steiglitz gold mining township subdivision before dropping into Sutherland Creek, which will be followed for a while.'

It soon became apparent the first-time walkers consisted of capable walkers, some with pack experience outside the club, others strong day walkers that were ready to try a pack carry.

We headed off down the track, passing the abundant orchids (wax lip, hooded and lady fingers). The walk description had promised wildflowers: we could tick that box. We stopped for lunch at an abandoned mill site, the information boards advising us that it was a quartz crushing plant. The only evidence remaining was the considerable footings and the tailing heaps. We then walked off track to the Old Mill Campsite for a break before heading down the creek to discover it had water. The stream was flowing slowly in places and pooling in others, but it was enough to stop us from undertaking the planned route along the creek bed. We followed the creek as best we could through the bush. During the afternoon we came across many spider orchids. Once we saw one, we continued to see them all afternoon. We continued off track until we reached Hut Road. A short walk up the road had us back on track again, and we arrived at Friday's Camp with ample time to erect our tents and partake in refreshments prior to getting down to the serious business of cooking dinner.

We had light drizzle overnight but the cloud cover and the north wind had made it a warm night out, the temperatures in the double figures. On Sunday we woke to a windy day with threatening skies. It was great to pack up a dry tent, although the windy conditions did make it a bit tricky. We started walking at 9 am, there had been a generous time allowance so that everybody could adjust to daylight saving. We continued as we did the day before, walking through the light scrub with the occasional rock scramble. We crossed the creek several times as it wound its way through the park. Our constant companions were the frogs, the sign of a healthy river. At one stage we detected the sounds of three different types. No one in the group had frog identification expertise, so we just listened and looked, but they remained elusive and unidentified.

All too soon we were heading across the bridge and into historic Steiglitz. After a short walk through the town we stopped at the courthouse for an afternoon tea break before heading off into the bush along Sutherland Creek again.

It was 3 pm when we completed the circuit, emerging from bush and returning to our cars, all satisfied with the 11 km we had walked that day.

Most of the group adjourned to the workshop café in nearby Anakie for a snack and refreshments before the return drive to Melbourne. We were delighted to discover the café had recently obtained its liquor licence and we were able to purchase a beverage of our choice to accompany the home made cakes and slices.

Thank you to Ian for organising and reorganising the walk. Thank you Silvia, Quinn, Barry, Marion, Halina, Kim, Maciek, Loretta, Jill, Bridget, Shamini and Kellie for your companionship.

Meredith Quick, photos by 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**

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



MAP REFERENCE Great Ocean Road – Anglesea 1:30,000
 FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
 TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Geelong



This is a pleasant walk with spectacular coastal views from the cliff tops and areas of attractive forest behind. It involves 1 km along a beach with the rest on well maintained and signposted tracks. It is more a 'coastal' than a 'beach' walk and should suit those who don't enjoy the latter.

The Easy/Medium group will start at Jan-Juc and the Easy group at Bells Beach carpark. Both groups follow a well-defined path and finish in Anglesea. On the preview in October there were plenty of wildflowers and orchids. If we are doing good time there should be an opportunity to grab a coffee or ice cream at the end of the walk.



SUNDAY BUS

SURFCOAST WALK: TORQUAY TO ANGLESEA

DATE Sunday 17 November 2019
 RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to City
 STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
 DISTANCES 15 km and 18 km
 TOTAL ASCENTS 200 m
 LEADERS Bettina Brill and Richard Long
 TRANSPORT Bus – leaving cnr A'Beckett and William Streets at 8:45 am



SATURDAY WALK

MT MACEDON/HANGING ROCK AREA

DATE Saturday 23 November 2019
 START TIME 11 am – Depart from the Mount Macedon Trading post – 686 Mount Macedon Road, Mount Macedon
 RETURN TIME Return to start location by 4 pm
 STANDARD Easy/Medium
 DISTANCE approx. 12 km

TOTAL ASCENT A steady climb on the way back up
LEADER Mt Macedon
TRANSPORT Helen Graesser
ACTIVITY AREA Private, see arrangements below
MAP REFERENCE Lunch at Hanging Rock
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Melway map 657 K4
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Central Melbourne

Meet at 11 am at the Mount Macedon Trading Post. From there we'll car pool to another nearby location. We will walk down Mount Macedon and take in views of Hanging Rock and have lunch at Hanging Rock (approx. \$4 entry fee). Then we will spend some time exploring before heading back up the Mount. The walk will be on quiet dirt roads. There is a steady climb back up Mount Macedon on the way back. As this will be the last Saturday walk for the year we will also have some dinner at the Mount Macedon hotel – if anyone is interested please let me know before 19th November and I'll make the booking.

Phone me to book in or enquire.



SUNDAY BUS

ROSEBUD FORESHORE TO ARTHURS SEAT

DATE Sunday 1 December 2019
RETURN TIME 6:30 pm to City
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES 15 km and 18 km
TOTAL ASCENTS 400 m
LEADERS Susanne Etti and Theo Mertzanidis
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving cnr A'Beckett and William Streets at 8:45 am
ACTIVITY AREA Mornington Peninsula
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 159 and 171; Parks Victoria – Two Bay walk
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Frankston

Both walks start from the Rosebud foreshore, a hub of activity during the summer months. The Easy/Medium walk will commence at West Rosebud while the Easy group start at Rosebud. After walking the foreshore the groups will wind their way through attractive forests to Kings Falls and then via Seamist Gardens, on to Arthurs Seat, the highest point on Mornington Peninsula. The highlight of both walks is the views over rural farmland, views of both Port Phillip and Western Port Bay and on a clear day, views of Melbourne. Depending on time we may have the opportunity for a cuppa (or something else for those who prefer to be more indulgent) at Arthurs Restaurant before returning to Melbourne.



TOFS WALK

GRESSWELL FOREST AND PARKLANDS (NEW)

DATE Thursday 5 December 2019
RETURN TIME 4 pm to cars
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 10 km
TOTAL ASCENT Minimal
LEADER Jerry Grandage
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Macleod/Bundoora
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 19 & 20
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

Gresswell Forest is one of several interconnected parks in the Macleod/Bundoora area, others being Gresswell Hill, Cherry Street Grasslands and Gresswell Habitat Link. We will walk a circuit in these parks. There may be one small hill and a short distance of road walking. Meet at 10:30 am at the small car park (with toilets) on the south side of Greenwood Drive, Bundoora (Melways 20 B3). Phone me to book in.



PACK CARRY

MT LANGI GHIRAN

DATE 7–8 December 2019 (Saturday start)
RETURN TIME 9 pm Sunday
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 20.5 km
LEADER Jopie Bodegraven
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Between Beaufort and Ararat
MAP REFERENCE Buangor North 1:25,000 or OSM online maps
FIRE BAN DISTRICT South West
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Ballarat

This trip is rated Easy/Medium due to the relatively short daily distances of 10 km and 10.5 km and the fact that much of it is side trips with a day pack from our overnight camp. Much of the walking however is off track over quite steep and rocky ground, including a steep 270 metre ascent with overnight pack carrying 5 litres of water on Saturday as our camp will most likely be dry, so be warned.

Now the sales pitch. Langi Ghiran is a small granite range with lovely rock outcrops and some good views. The vegetation on the whole is fairly open, or at least it was on my previous visit in 2016. It's a lovely area. Because it's not too far from Melbourne, we will drive up on Saturday morning. The plan is to meet at 9:30 am at the Beaufort Band Rotunda on the south side of the main street (Western Hwy) of Beaufort (corner of Livingstone St). It conveniently is just a block from the Beaufort Bakery so if you get there early you can grab a coffee. From there we will go in convoy to the walk start at the Langi Ghiran picnic ground, about half an hour away. Google says that it is about a 2 hour drive from Central Melbourne to Beaufort.

Saturday has a pack carry section of about 4 km but this includes the steep off track ascent with 5 litres of water of 270 m over a bit more than a kilometre. We then make camp and do a side trip of about 6 km to some nice rocky high points. On Sunday we do another circular side trip of about 7 km to the summit of Langi Ghiran via some rocky knobs and then a 3.5 km pack carry back to the cars, of which 2 km is off track downhill.

There will be a numbers limit. Also I can't accept any bookings after Sunday 1st, otherwise organising transport becomes too difficult. Don't forget the extra water and a light day pack for the side trips. It should be a lovely weekend in a lovely area despite the initial uphill grunt on Saturday.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

TARILTA CREEK GULLY AND GOLDFIELDS RUINS

DATE Sunday 8 December 2019
RETURN TIME A'Beckett and William Sts at 3:30 pm
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 20.5 km
LEADER Ron Hampton

TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving cnr A’Beckett and William Streets at 8:45 am
TRANSPORT COST \$20.00 per person
ACTIVITY AREA Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park
MAP REFERENCE Vicmap Topo 1:30,000 A4: 7723-4-2-3, 7723-4-2-2
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Ballarat

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

If we are lucky we will likely spot swamp wallabies, eastern grey kangaroos, echidna and the colourful eastern rosella. We may also see a fox or two.

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

This is an enjoyable and varied walk.



SOCIAL

CHRISTMAS PARTY

DATE Monday 9 December 2019
TIME 7–10 pm
VENUE Clubrooms, Mission to Seafarers Vic. 717 Flinders Street, Docklands

Come and catch up with your walking mates.
 BYO Plate to share. Drinks can be purchased from the bar.



WEDNESDAY WALK

MORE OF ROYAL AND PRINCES PARKS WALK

DATE Wednesday 11 December 2019
RETURN TIME To arrive back at the Zoo carpark before 3:00 pm
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE Flexible, between 10–12 km at the most
ELEVATION Barely noticeable
LEADER Sandra Mutimer
TRANSPORT Private and public
ACTIVITY AREA Royal and Parinces Parks, Parkville, Princes Hill
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 29, 43
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

This is an extension of last year’s walk which was shortened due to the heat. It is possible that this might happen again so there is need for some flexibility about adapting the walk to suit the conditions. The walk in some form will go ahead unless there are extreme weather conditions. There will be the opportunity to leave at various points where we will be close to public transport.

We will be walking at a relaxed pace through different parts of Royal Park from last year and some of the same with some

different places for us to visit along the way. Then it will be on to Princes Park with a couple of diversions along the way.

Afterwards we will have our Christmas get-together, or whatever you like to call it, with shared plates of goodies at a place not far away from where we met and where the cars are parked. For anyone who would like to join us after the walk we will be at Trin Warren Tamboore [Bellbird Waterhole] and you will need to look for the carpark off Oak St / Manningham Rd, Parkville West.

We will meet at the Zoo carpark off Poplar Avenue close to the Royal Park Station on the Upfield line and tram stop 27 on the 58 route. Drivers will need to pay \$2 to park for 5 hours parking.

To book or find out more details about the walk please contact me.



SUNDAY BUS

MT DONNA BUANG – CEMENT CREEK

DATE Sunday 15 December 2019
RETURN TIME Return to Cnr. A’Beckett and William Streets at 6:30 pm
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES 11 km and 14 km
TOTAL ASCENTS 500 m and 500 m
LEADERS Ian Mair and Halina Sarbinowski
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving cnr A’Beckett and William Streets at 8:45 am
ACTIVITY AREA Mt Donna Buang
MAP REFERENCE Juliet South 1:25,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Yarra Glen

Mt Donna Buang and its surrounds are perfect for a summer walk with the overhanging vegetation providing shade so often sought in summer. Both walks will visit Mt Donna Buang and Mt Boobyalla with the Medium group also visiting Mt Victoria. We’ll have the opportunity to climb the lookout tower at Mt Donna Buang with its 360° views. The area is also renowned for the lyrebirds which nest in the area and hopefully we sight one on the day.

The highlight of the walk will be at the end when we visit the Rainforest Gallery. This beautiful site features a 40 metre long observation platform (one of only three of its type in Australia) which takes you into the rainforest canopy 15 metres above the ground. A 350 metre long elevated walkway takes you through the Rainforest Gallery where you will see magnificent 65 metre tall old growth Mountain Ash trees, ancient Myrtle Beech trees (many of which are 300 to 400 years old), ferns, mosses and other plants that make up this damp and diverse rainforest environment. There are several viewing spots along the walkway where you can pause and enjoy the sounds of Cement Creek flowing past on its journey to the Yarra River.

I hope that you will share this delightful walk with us.



MOFS WALK

BAYSWATER – DANDENONG CREEK

DATE Monday 16 December 2019
RETURN TIME 3:00 pm
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 12 km
TOTAL ASCENT Insignificant
LEADER Doug Pocock

TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Bayswater
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 63–64
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

An easy walk following Dandenong Creek which has been somewhat tidied up since last walking here. There are toilets at the start and at morning tea spot.
 Meet at the car park in Bayswater Park (Melway 64 F3) ready to start at 10:00 am.

 **SUNDAY CAR POOL**

UPPER FERNTREE GULLY TO LILYDALE

DATE Sunday 22 December 2019
START TIME Depart from location in notes below at 8:45 am
RETURN TIME Return to location in notes below at 6:30 pm
STANDARD Medium/Hard
DISTANCE 22 km
TOTAL ASCENT 600 m rise
LEADER Mark Heath
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving cnr A’Beckett and William Streets at 8:45 am
ACTIVITY AREA Dandenong Ranges National Park
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 38 and 118
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Dandenong

This walk combines many of my Dandenongs favourites into one. From Upper Ferntree Gully station we head up One Tree Hill and along the Western trail to Mt Dandenong and some great views over Melbourne and the bay. From Mt Dandenong we drop down through fern gullies to Olinda creek and the Mt Evelyn Aqueduct. From Mt Evelyn we take the rail trail to Lilydale and the station.
 We meet at 8:45 am at the east (Swanston St) end of platform 2 at Flinders St to catch the 9:06 am Lilydale train. We change trains at Ringwood and arrive at Upper Ferntree Gully at 10:18. You can join the train along the way or meet us on the north side of Upper Ferntree Gully station at 10:20 am.

 **BASE CAMP**

CHRISTMAS AT CAMP EUREKA

DATE 24–28 December 2019
STANDARDS Medium, Medium/Hard
DISTANCE Various
LEADER Susan Maughan
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Yarra Junction
FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Yarra Glen

The Club’s annual base camp at Camp Eureka, Yarra Junction is always popular, not least because the location and facilities are ideal. The walks, the good company, the relaxed atmosphere and the festivities all add up to a great way to enjoy Christmas..
 Stay any number of nights or come along only for a day walk. The accommodation includes private cabins, large dorms or shaded camping spots. NOTE – we have exclusive use of the property.
 Purchase something from the op-shop in RED OR GREEN to leave under the tree. Let your imagination run wild.

Bring a plate to share for evening dinner on Christmas Day and be sure to wear something of the 60s. Our theme is ‘Woodstock’. Note – no nudity, please!
 Dinner on Boxing Day is a BBQ, and our final night (27th) is a pub night.
 Approximately \$16 per person per night.



 **PACK CARRY**

MT BULLER – CIRCUIT HIKE

DATE Friday 27 December 2019 to Friday 3 January 2020
STANDARD Medium/Hard
DISTANCE Approximately 100 km
LEADER Agajan Akbari
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Mt Buller – Howqua River Area
MAP REFERENCE Buller–Howitt Alpine Area Outdoor Recreation Guide 1:50,000
FIRE BAN DISTRICT North Eastern
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Buller

This hike traverses some of the Victoria’s most spectacular mountain summits with great views, including Mount Buller, The Bluff, Mount Howitt, Mount Buggery, and Mount Speculation and many more.

We also visit some of the historical huts, and walking through a variety of natural landscapes including ghost-white Mountain Ash, snow gums, deep fern-lined gullies, walking over rugged bluffs, narrow exposed ridgelines and very steep descending/ascending with remarkable cliff-top lookouts.

This is a demanding walk and could provide some challenges. Participants are required to be experienced, fit, have rock scrambling skills, river crossing (multiple times and getting wet feet) etc. 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, walking poles, carrying own personal first aid kit and have valid Ambulance Victoria (or similar) membership.

Plan is to drive up Friday 27 December, camp close by the walk (detailed program including Friday night camp site later). If you’re interested in the walk or would like more information contact me via email from mid-October onwards.

SUNDAY 29 DECEMBER – NO WALK!

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



This is a mid-week base camp offering either camping or shared dorms. We are allowed to use the Cattlemen's Association huts for free for the two nights.
A charter boat takes us from Port Welshpool to a beach close to the huts, then we have about a 300 m scramble up through the sand dunes to reach them. This is Victoria's largest sand island so the walking is flat, frequently shaded and with wide tracks. Expect Wednesday to be a full day of walking.
Meet at Port Welshpool for 10 am (TBC) and the cost for the boat is \$110. Minimum of 15 required.

**Expressions of Interest
BASE CAMP
PORTLAND/CAPE BRIDGEWATER
19-24 April 2020**

Expressions of Interest are being called for walking along a section of the Great South West Walk (GSWW) from Mt Richmond to Point Danger which offers some of the most spectacular coastal scenery in Victoria. The walk passes the Blowhole, the Petrified Forest and the aptly named Enchanted Forest with views of seals frolicking in the waters below the highest coastal cliffs in southern Australia. The area we will be walking in is represented by photos from the club's pack-carry in April 2017 (photo 34-85). The area is truly spectacular.
It is planned to walk this section of the GSWW (approx. 60 kms) over 4 walking days from our base accommodation with the first and last days being travel days from and to Melbourne. There will also be an option for those interested of an extra night camping at Budj Bim National Park (Mt Eccles) on the Friday to walk around this amazing volcanic area (returning to Melbourne on Saturday 25th).
Expected accommodation costs will be between \$50-\$70 per person per night with final arrangements being based on how many people are interested in attending.
If interested please contact Halina Sarbinowski by 30th November so that accommodation can be secured.

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

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

FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE MELBOURNE

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

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

SIXTEEN places available.

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

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



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!

December 2019					
Sun 1	DAY: Rosebud Foreshore to Arthurs Seat	Bus	E&E/M	CN:fr	Susanne Etti & Theo Mertzandis
Thu 5	TOF: Gresswell Forest and Parklands (NEW)	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Jerry Grandage
7-8	PC : Mt Langi Ghiran (Sat start)	Pvt	E/M	SW:ba	Jopie Bodegraven
Sun 8	DAY: Tarilta Creek Gully and Goldfields Ruins	Car	Med	CN:ba	Ron Hampton
Mon 9	SOC: 2019 Christmas Party				Social Secretary
Wed 11	DAY: More of Royal and Princes Parks – Christmas Walk	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Sandra Mutimer
Sun 15	DAY: Mt Donna Buang – Cement Creek	Bus	E&E/M	CN:yg	Ian Mair & Halina Sarbinowski
Mon 16	MOF: Bayswater – Dandenong Creek	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Doug Pocock
Sun 22	DAY: Upper Ferntree Gully to Lilydale	Car	M/H	CN:md	Mark Heath
24-28	BC : CHRISTMAS at CAMP EUREKA	Pvt	Easy	CN:yg	Susan Maughan
27-3	PC : Mt Buller–The Bluff–Mt Speculation Circuit	Pvt	M/H	NE:mb	Agajan Akbari
Sun 29	DAY: NO WALK				