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THE NEWS OF THE Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

ABN 14 396 912 508

September 2019

WE NEED MORE ASPIRING LEADERS! WHOLE DAY – MBW TRAINING UNITS 1-5 Saturday 21 September 2018, 10:00 am – 3:30 pm Seafarers Clubrooms

Why not attend our free sessions offered uniquely by our Cub to skill up our members to build confidence to take on leading roles.

Participating in this day allows you to complete module 1 of MBW training.

Others who have attended have commented –

‘Covered a lot and got valuable information about MBW website.’

‘It was well organised and good to do in one day.’

‘Very impressive and professional.’

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

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

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 2 September 2019

CONSERVATION AND TRACK MAINTENANCE

With the arrival of spring, a number of conservation and track maintenance events are happening over the next few months. These include:

- Regent Honeyeater Project tree planting 14–15 September
- Lady Walker Track – Warburton State Forest track maintenance (BTAC) 21–22 September
- Croajingolong National Park track maintenance (BTAC) 26–29 September
- Cathedral State Park track maintenance (BTAC) 5–6 October
- Grampians Track maintenance (joint MBW/VMTC activity – contact Mark Heath) 18–20 October
- Howqua Area – Alpine National Park track maintenance (Mt Howitt and Stanley Name Spur tracks) (BTAC) 23–24 November

Many of these activities are organised by Bushwalking Victoria's BTAC group working with Parks Victoria. So as well as getting out into the fresh spring air and helping keep walking tracks open, you will have the opportunity to meet members of other bushwalking clubs. Please email environment@mbw.org.au or phone me on for details of any of these activities

John Terrell



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN SEPTEMBER 2019

In the past month the UN published a new climate change report stating land clearing and farming contribute a third of the world's greenhouse gases. Here are two key points from the report

- Emissions from land use, largely agriculture, forestry and land clearing, make up some 22% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. Counting the entire food chain (including fertiliser, transport, processing, and sale) takes this contribution up to 29%.
- While the food system emits nearly a third of the world's greenhouse gases – a situation also reflected in Australia – land-based ecosystems absorb the equivalent of about 22% of global greenhouse gas emissions. This happens through natural processes that store carbon in soil and plants, in both farmed lands and managed forests as well as in natural 'carbon sinks' such as forests, seagrass and wetlands

Considering the importance of land based ecosystems, in particular forest, the article in the Mountain Journal highlights how climate change is threatening Melbourne's mountain ash forest; it is an example from the Central Highlands that shows us how climate change poses an existential threat to these incredible stands of Mountain Ash as longer and hotter summers are increasing the risk of longer fire seasons. Much of the Central Highlands have now been logged or burnt, meaning that the public land forests are mostly composed of young trees, which are much more flammable than old trees. The research suggests that, as the mountain ash community collapses, the forests will be transformed and become dominated by acacia woodlands rather than the towering hardwoods that we currently know.

Forests are our cultural and spiritual connection to nature; they are a sanctuary of peace and quiet, a place where we can walk gently and revel in the stillness they bring to all species! As a bushwalking club we enjoy the great outdoors every day and value our time in nature. We know we need to act now. I used the opportunity last weekend to support the TreeProject by attending a Rural Plantings Day. Since 1989, TreeProjects has planted over two million trees thereby sowing the seeds for a sustainable future. TreeProject is a non-profit (charitable), non-government, volunteer-based organization leading the way in sustainable re-vegetation throughout Victoria by providing low cost indigenous seedlings to landholders. A recent report by the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability cited that native vegetation is being lost on private land in Victoria at a rate of 4,000 hectares per year. We depend on balanced ecosystems for photosynthesis, carbon sequestration, pest prevention, drought mitigation, soil enrichment and flood regulation. As a group we planted 1700 seedlings, bringing the total trees planted on the farmland to 13 000. Although it might seem small it is a one of many practical and quantitative steps to fight climate change – an important step.

Please share any comments and/or feedback by contacting me on president@mbw.org.au
Have a great safe hiking month.



Susanne Etti

Social Event

Wednesday 23 October, 8:00–9:00 pm
PRESENTATION OF THE CLUB'S INAUGURAL TRIP TO VANUATU
Presenter: Susan Maughan, leader



Fourteen of us headed over to Vanuatu in early June with a combination of trepidation and high anticipation. Could it be as good as it sounded? How would we cope in a remote, mountainous area? Would it pour with rain the whole time?

Well, let me say that we were all completely charmed, amazed and grateful for the experience and, yes, it was awesome – in the true meaning of the word.

Where to start? The porters, the jungle, the views, the peace, the challenges, the education, all contributed to a wonderful experience. Moreover, we had some fantastic photographers with us to document our trip.

The Presentation will showcase our five day traverse of Makekula Island, our rest day at South West Bay, the three day hike following a river to the ocean, and our four days in the Maskelyne Islands which involved outrigger trips, staying on two deserted islands close to a rumbling volcano and enjoying a Hangi.

NOTE – a second Club trip is planned for next year.



The adventure started immediately just getting to the start



Beautiful remote villages



Arriving into a village



The whole group

Photos by Jill Allen

THE MBW HALF-YEAR ROUNDUP ACTIVITY STATISTICS – JANUARY TO JUNE COMPARISON

	2018			2019		
	Trips	Average Nos	Average Visitors	Trips	Average Nos	Average Visitors
DAY WALKS						
MOFs	4	11.3	0.7	6	8.8	0.4
TOFs	6	12.5	1.2	5	8.2	0
Sat/Dande Explorer	4	9.0	0.5	4	11.3	0.5
Sunday bus	13	47.7	11.0	12	48.2	14.9
Sunday carpool	11	16.1	2.8	12	15.1	2.8
Wednesday	11	8.7	1.0	11	9.6	0.4
Social walks	6	5.3	0.2	4	6.5	0.3
OTHER ACTIVITIES						
Conservation	3	2.5	0	–	–	–
Navigation training	2	8.0	0	2	7.0	0
Track maintenance	7	2.0	0	4	–	–
Base camp	7	13.5	1.8	5	16.6	1.6
Lodge	1	10.0	1	1	15.0	0
Pack carry	13	10.1	1.6	15	9.7	0.5
Cycling	4	6.3	0.5	1	4.0	0

- Average attendance and visitor numbers exclude trips where figures not provided.
- Cancellations in 2019: High temperature – SUN BUS x 1, SOC x 2; fire risk – SUN BUS x 1; low numbers – BC x 2, PC x 2, CYC x 1, TRAINING x 1, TRACK MNT x 1; leader unavailable – CYC x 1; and unspecified – TRACK MNT x 1.

Highest Attendances – January to June 2019

MOFs: Feb. 18, **Finns Reserve** – 14

TOFs: Mar. 7, **Olinda Creek** and Apr. 4, **Wilson Botanic Park** and Jun. 6, **Williamstown** – 10

Saturday/Dandenongs Explorer: Jun. 22, **Ferry Creek** – 15

Sunday bus: Jan. 20, **Erskine Falls and Chocolate Factory** – 59 (**26 visitors**)

Sunday carpool: May 5, **Belgrave–Sassafras** – 24 (6 visitors)

Wednesday: May 15, **Autumn in the Dandenongs** – 17

Social walks: June 27, **Williamstown** – 9

Navigation training: June 1, **GPS** – 9

Base camp: Apr. 5, **Rawson** – 20 (2 visitors)

Lodge: Apr. 18, **Bogong High Plains** – 15

Pack carry: Feb. 8, **Mt. Buffalo Big Walk** – 15 (1 visitor) and Jun. 7, **Hattah–Kulkyne NP** – 15 (2 visitors)

Cycling: May 18, **Collingwood–Mitcham** – 4

Special Mentions

Interstate Pack Carries: Jan. 25, **Frenchmans Cap** (Tasmania) – 10 (1) and Feb. 15, **Overland Track** (Tas.) – 13 (1) and May 17, **K'gari** (Fraser Island) Great Walk (7)

Overseas Pack Carries: Jun. 4, **Vanuatu South Sea Adventure** – 13 (2)

Off-Shore Base Camps: Jan. 29, **Snake Island** (Vic.) – 15 (1)

Overseas Base Camps: Mar. 8, **Great Barrier Island** (NZ) – 16 (2)

Leaders' Training: Jan. 19, **MBW Training Day** – Units 1–5 – 10 (1)

(continued on page 6)

Noticeboard

The MBW Half-Year Roundup *(continued from page 5)*

For the first half of this year, we can see mixed results for the Club. Average attendances have increased for the Saturday group, the Sunday Bus (particularly visitors), the Wednesday group, Base Camps and Lodges, compared with the same period last year. However, numbers have decreased for MOFs, TOFs, Sunday Carpools, Social Walks, Pack Carries, Cycling and Navigation Training.

Attendances may have fluctuated, but our Activity Coordinators and many leaders have continued to put a lot of time and effort into the 2019 program. We look forward to another interesting range of activities in the second half of the year.

*Stuart Hanham
(General Walks Secretary)*



PICTURES BILL METZENTHEN TOOK ON OUR RECENT WEEK AT THE BOGONG ROVER CHALET, BOGONG HIGH PLAINS



Out for a ski on a sunny day.



It wasn't always sunny and clear.



The dunny at Wallace's Hut



The gorgeous high plains and a gorgeous snowgum

LAKE EILDON – ROCKY PEAK, 19–21 JULY 2019

Gayle had followed Whereis to get to our camp site for Friday night. However, having to ford a fast flowing, rocky creek crossing sent her on an alternative route. An hour after her scheduled ETA she reached our camp site only to find it was unexpectedly closed for renovation. Luckily, on her return to Eildon to find a caravan park she met the others who were camping on Friday night and we decided to just take a campsite within an area still open. The four hardy bushwalkers, who travelled to the start of the walk on the Friday night, set up camp prior to heading to Eildon for a pub meal. Next challenge was finding that there was no pub in Eildon, however, a 'licensed' pizza parlour beckoned. A great choice and a pleasant night before returning to our campsite.

Next morning, while preparing for the weekend, we watched as three cars passed. No, our bushwalkers would not be so co-ordinated, so we slowly packed and travelled to our meeting point for the designated time of 9 am only to find the rest of our walking group waiting! Yes, they were that co-ordinated as they had met at Eildon for coffees. Prior to walking, Ian explained a change of plan. As it was expected that much of today's walk would be off-track, the initial planned walk for the day was shortened. We set off along 4WD tracks, including a creek crossing in full flood (some choosing to take off boots and others walking through the ford at a fast, and hopefully fast enough, pace to stop socks being saturated). 4WD tracks were followed until we reached our turn off to follow Gap Creek. We were surprised that there was a walking track that followed our route as it is not included on any maps of the area. When we reached the meeting of Pinnacle and Gap Tracks, we decided that we would take a side trip to The Pinnacle. Some had day packs and others decided to continue with full packs. We wound our way up the Pinnacle Track and within a 100 metre ascent of The Pinnacle we had a late lunch. Some chose, without packs, to reach The Pinnacle, but others decided to enjoy the ambience of our lunchtime spot.

After returning to the junction where some packs had been left it was only a short walk (only about 1 hour) to our designated campsite at O'Tooles. We quickly set up camp and returned to the creek to collect water, pristine water, for the night and the next morning. Although good fire wood was difficult to find (extremely wet due to recent rains), we managed to have a lovely fire for the night.

Next morning, we followed our designated route up Taylors Track until we reached the Pinnacle Track turn-off. The continuation of Taylors Track was to lead us to Rocky Peak. It was late morning when we parted company with eight hardy walkers deciding to follow the track to Rocky Peak (only to find out that there is no track to Rocky Peak!). The off-track section started a lot earlier than I expected, but Ian, our leader, assured us that this was at a section that did not include very steep climbs. Surprising, a truthful leader!!! We made our way to Rocky Peak, over a relatively easy walk. We had a late morning tea at the Trig Point. The off-track section down the opposite side from the Trig Point to the junction with the Pinnacle Track was slow and arduous ... but we got there ... finally!!! There was a quick lunch at the Pinnacle, with the others who had decided not to do the off-track section to Rocky Peak, prior to joining the Pinnacle Walking Track taking us back to our cars.

The Pinnacle Walking Track took us along a defined ridge line that looked into valleys left and right. We had the most amazing views. The walk started through bracken-lined tracks, then through to an area that can only be described as button grass, to mossy grassed areas where I would readily camp. This was a memorable end to a great walking weekend.

Thank you, Ian, for organizing a challenging walk ... a walk that I (and I am sure others) thoroughly enjoyed.

Halina Sarbinowski



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.



TOTAL ASCENTS 300 m rise and 400 m rise
LEADERS Lesley Hale and Jan Colquhoun
TRANSPORT Bus – leaving cnr A'Beckett and William Streets (opposite old clubrooms) at 8:45 am
ACTIVITY AREA Moorabool Shire
MAP REFERENCE Parks Victoria Visitor Guide: Long Forest Flora and Fauna Reserve, Feb. 2019

Long Forest Flora and Fauna Reserve is a haven for bushwalking on the outskirts of Melbourne, located west of Melton and north of Bacchus Marsh. Classified by the National Trust and rich with birdlife, spring wildflowers and ancient rock forms, this small reserve is unique in its geology and landform of small-scale creek escarpments.

Our walk explores the northern section of the Reserve, mostly off-track through open forest, then heads south using tracks which follow Coimadai Creek winding through rocky and sometimes steep terrain. The track in the southern-most section leads to views over Djerriwarrh Creek.

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



TOFS WALK

DAREBIN CREEK – PRESTON

DATE Thursday 3 October 2019
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 11 km
TOTAL ASCENT None
LEADER Jerry Grandage
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Reservoir/Bundoora
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 19, 20

Meet at 10:00am in the car park at the east end of Blake Street, Reservoir (Melway map 19 E10). We will walk down the creek to Northland, then back via the lake system to the Latrobe University campus and Wildlife Sanctuary, returning to the cars along a different section of the creek. Red gum woodland and birds are guaranteed, and kangaroos are possible.



SUNDAY BUS

LONG FOREST RESERVE

DATE Sunday 22 September 2019
RETURN TIME 17:30 to cnr. A'Beckett & William Sts.
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES 11 km and 14.5 km



PACK CARRY

BEGINNERS PACK CARRY: MT BAW BAW

DATE Saturday 5 to Sunday 6 October 2019
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 20 km plus side trips
TOTAL ASCENT 600 m rise
LEADER Ian Mair
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Baw Baw National Park
MAP REFERENCE Parks Victoria, Baw Baw National Park

Are you looking to try overnight hiking and camping, or are you a bit more experienced looking for a chance to improve your skills and prepare for something bigger? The emphasis on this trip will be on enjoying the surroundings while sharing tips and advice on equipment selection, what to eat and how to prepare for longer trips, and at the same time experiencing a night outdoors. There will be enough challenges to make it interesting as well as enjoyable. The club's selection of equipment for hire is an ideal way to test out some of the alternatives before making an expensive purchase.

Covering a substantial part of the Baw Baw Plateau and sections of the Thomson and Aberfeldy River valleys, Baw Baw National Park offers colourful wildflowers in early summer and open grassy plains with Snow Gum woodlands. Mount St Gwinear, Mount Erica and the Baw Baw Alpine Village are ideal bases for bushwalking.

After an early drive on Saturday morning we will meet in Erica for coffee before moving on to St Gwinear carpark and the start of the walk. After an ascent to Mt St Gwinear we will pick up the Australian Alpine Walking Track which we will follow across Mt St Phillack before moving on to our Saturday night camp. On Sunday we will take an off-track route towards Baw Baw Village before making our way back with stunning views to the cars. We should arrive back at the cars in plenty of time to have a relaxed trip home and perhaps even a stop on the way for a refreshment.

Numbers are limited and early booking is recommended to secure a place and/or reserve any hire equipment you may need. Email the leader if you are looking to attend.



SUNDAY BUS

HODDLE MOUNTAIN TRAIL (NEW)



DATE Sunday 6 October 2019
RETURN TIME Cnr. A'Beckett & William Sts at 6:30 pm
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES 13 km and 17 km
TOTAL ASCENTS 200 m rise
LEADERS Susanne Etti and Brett Daniel

TRANSPORT Bus – leaving cnr A'Beckett and William Streets (opposite old clubrooms) at 8:45 am
ACTIVITY AREA South Gippsland
MAP REFERENCE Melway X928 C9

A walk to discover South Gippsland's coastal panoramas, taking a route through an area of national geological significance. It is a great opportunity to see our flora and fauna in diverse environments. Rural landscapes, lush fern gullies, and rocky hills reaching heights over 200 metres above sea level are features of this walking trail.

Beginning at Fish Creek as a detour off the Great Southern Rail Trail, the Hoddle Mountain Trail passes across farmland to the Laver's Hill quarry, then crosses across the catchment area for the Battery Creek reservoir to join the Loader Track through to the Mt Nicoll Lookout, before heading north to rejoin the Great Southern Rail Trail. The middle trail is a series of short steep sections going up and down elevations of 200 and 300 metres. Wedge-tail eagles are regularly seen.



WEDNESDAY WALK

SORRENTO–PORTSEA–LONDON BRIDGE–SORRENTO

DATE Wednesday 9 October 2019
RETURN TIME 4:30 pm
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 16 km
TOTAL ASCENT 100 m rise
LEADER Ken MacMahon
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Mornington Peninsula
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 157 and 166

I have decided to vary the walk a little from the description in the program. Point Nepean is a 1½ hour drive from Melbourne. There is a lot of history to this place and we will be taking time to learn about it. We will start from the national park visitors centre (Melway 156 C2) at 10:30 and walk out to Point Nepean with its grand views over Bass Strait and The Rip. There will be time to visit Cheviot Hill and explore the historic fort. The return walk is largely along the bay side, with the old quarantine station to explore. There are displays here where you can learn about its grim past. Returning to the park entrance, we continue to Portsea from where we pick up a trail along Shelley beach. The last stretch into Sorrento includes Point King and the Millionaires Walk. A 4 km car shuffle will be organised before the walk to get us back to our cars. This walk is along formed tracks and involves a few kilometres of beaches. There are a few small hills. No water is available for the first 10 km. It may suit some participants to finish the walk when we walk past our cars at the park entrance.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

SORRENTO–PORTSEA – FRONT AND BACK BEACHES

DATE Sunday 13 October 2019
RETURN TIME Cnr. A'Beckett & William Sts at 6:30 pm
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 17 km
TOTAL ASCENT Mainly flat with a few short climbs
LEADER Halina Sarbinowski
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving cnr A'Beckett and William Streets (opposite old clubrooms) at 8:45 am
ACTIVITY AREA Mornington Peninsula
MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 156, 157

Come on a walk in the Mornington Peninsula National Park and enjoy the fresh air blowing in from Bass Strait, the magnificent views of coastal scenery, historical buildings and artists' viewpoints. Both front and back beaches will be visited, making this a varied and interesting walk. Along the back beach we will visit St Pauls Lookout, Diamond Bay and London Bridge and on the bay side, we pass the Sorrento Ferry Terminal, Sorrento Hotel and Sorrento Park.

We should manage to have a coffee at All Smiles Café on the Sorrento Back Beach. It will be a bit late for whale watching but the view is sensational.



PACK CARRY

HIDDEN HIGHLIGHTS OF EAST STRATHBOGIES (JOINT VMTC)

DATE	18-20 October 2019
RETURN TIME	Return to start location by 3:30 pm
STANDARD	Medium/hard
DISTANCE	20 km
TOTAL ASCENT	1st day: 620 – 460 – 700 – 420 – 790 metres 2nd day: 790 – 1030 – 400 – 600 metres
LEADER	Ray Thomas
TRANSPORT	Private
ACTIVITY AREA	Eastern Strathbogie Ranges, SW of Lake Nillahcootie
MAP REFERENCE	Brankeet Creek 8024-2-3; Mt Strathbogie 8024-2-2

This walk will explore some of the special places in the NE part of the Strathbogie Ranges – it's the highest, most rugged part of the plateau, and really is a place to treasure! Over the aeons, the creeks have cut deeply into this steep terrain, forming numerous deep valleys, and quite spectacular rocky ridges in between. And the whole area is covered in extensive wild forests, which hide a great variety of delightful places. There are pristine creeks with crystal-clear water, magnificent waterfalls, thickets of tall tree ferns, and forested slopes that provide homes for lyrebirds, greater gliders, and even the odd bandicoot.

Between the valleys there are tall, steep-sided ridges with spectacular cliffs, huge granite rock slabs, and massive boulders smothered with velvety green moss. And to top it off, there are some very fine peaks with fantastic views right out to the Victorian Alps.

You'll be surprised at the tremendous variety of forest types as we climb higher and higher: tall manna gums along the creeks, open stringybark forests on the lower ridges, and huge peppermints, messmates and mountain gums on the moist upper slopes. There are even snow gums on the three highest tops; a relic from the last Ice Age!!

There is much to see and enjoy in this highly varied landscape!

More info on rendezvous times and places will be forwarded after registration.



CONSERVATION

GRAMPIANS TRACK MAINTENANCE

DATE	Friday 18 to Sunday 20 October 2019
STANDARD	Easy/medium
ORGANISER	Mark Heath
TRANSPORT	Private
TRANSPORT COST	\$60.00 (per person)
ACTIVITY AREA	Grampians

MAP REFERENCE Spatial Vision Grampians series

Join VMTC, Parks Victoria and Friends of the Grampians to improve walking tracks in the Grampians.

Track maintenance involves a range of activities and skills suitable for all fitness levels – lopping, using small hand saws, removing material from tracks etc.

This activity is eligible for a \$25 travel cost subsidy.

Tools and safety equipment will be provided.

Complimentary camping for both Friday and Saturday nights will be available in the area.

Ian and Deb's photos give a great sense of previous activities–

http://mbw.org.au/zenphoto/2013/conservation/2013050401-Grampians_Track_Maintenance/



FEDERATION WEEKEND

GREAT OTWAY NATIONAL PARK, LORNE

DATE	Saturday 19 to Sunday 20 October 2019
STANDARDS	Various
LEADERS	Committee
TRANSPORT	Private
ACTIVITY AREA	Great Otway National Park, Lorne

The Federation Weekend of bushwalks for 2019 will take place in the Otways and is organised by the Geelong Bushwalking Club. The base for the weekend is Lorne.

The walks will be listed on the Federation website from May 1st and bookings open on July 1st.

<https://www.fedwalks.org.au/>

You will need to book early to get the walks of your choice. There is also a dinner on Saturday night. Gather a group together for a weekend of great walks and enjoy meeting bushwalkers from other clubs.

Each participant is asked to arrange their own accommodation for the weekend. On the Federation website there are several suggestions for accommodation. Book early as the best options will fill quickly. Gather a group and arrange group accommodation.

More details as they become available.



CYCLING

KOONUNG AND MULLUM MULLUM CREEK TRAILS

DATE	Saturday 19 October 2019
START TIME	Depart from location in notes below at 10:15 am
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	56 km
LEADER	Ross Berner
TRANSPORT	Private
ACTIVITY AREA	Yarra Valley
MAP REFERENCE	Melway maps 30, 31, 45, 32, 46, 47, 48, 49, 35, 34, 22, 21 and 33

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

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

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

We will be using two recently completed bike trails, the Darebin Creek Yarra bridge and the Mullum Mullum Trail

through the Mullum Mullum gorge. The second eliminates some climbs in the Donvale area.

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

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

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

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

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



SUNDAY BUS

LOST CHILDRENS WALK

DATE Sunday 20 October 2019
RETURN TIME Cnr. A'Beckett & William Sts at 6:30 pm
STANDARDS Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCES 15 km and 19 km
TOTAL ASCENTS Undulating for both groups
LEADERS Deb Shand and Angela Vetsicas
TRANSPORT Bus - leaving cnr A'Beckett and William Streets (opposite old clubrooms) at 8:45 am

ACTIVITY AREA Daylesford
MAP REFERENCE DSE Three Lost Children Walk

This walk commemorates the tragic story from Daylesford's gold era when three small boys wandered away from their homes in Daylesford in 1867. Despite a massive and lengthy search effort the boys were not found alive.

The Three Lost Children Walk follows the approximate route the boys walked. The walk will take us through bush landscapes that were once active goldfields, and now part of the Wombat State Forest and the Hepburn Regional Park. Along the walk we will see the remnants of gold mines, water races and tramways.

The walk is along clearly marked tracks through undulating countryside so both groups can expect some minor hill climbs.



MOFS WALK

LAURIMAR TO YAN YEAN RESERVOIR

DATE Monday 21 October 2019
RETURN TIME Return to start location by 3:30 pm
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE About 10-11 km
TOTAL ASCENT A small hill
LEADER Graeme Thornton
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA NE Melbourne
MAP REFERENCE Melway 391 + Yan Yean

Red gum country is great walking. This walk is close to Melbourne and is through remnant red gums with the odd magnificent tree - and just a little bit of suburbia. We start in Laurimar village, make our way via lake and creek and red gum to the pipe track leading us to Yan Yean reservoir. Which, on completion in 1857, was apparently the largest 'artificial' lake in the world. Quite a feat of Victorian engineering. There are still bits of old engineering to be inspected in the reservoir

park. On the way back to our starting point we'll climb a small hill to get a bit of a panorama - otherwise it's mostly fairly flat.

Getting there: North along Plenty Road, right (east) into Hazel Glen Drive, right (south) at the roundabout in Laurimar village into Painted Hills Road then in 60-70 m turn right into the carpark behind Woolies. Meet near the carpark entrance. Melway map 391 E6. Can arrange to pick up at nearby Mernda railway station around 10:00. Check timetable closer to event.

Please phone to book.



SOCIAL

PRESENTATION:
THE CLUB'S INAUGURAL TRIP TO VANUATU

DATE Wednesday 23 October 2019, 8:00-9:00 pm
VENUE Clubrooms, The Mission to Seafarers Victoria, 717 Flinders Street, Docklands
PRESENTER Susan Maughan (trip leader)

The Presentation will showcase our five day traverse of Makekula Island, our rest day at South West Bay, the three day hike following a river to the ocean, and our four days in the Maskelyne Islands which involved outrigger trips, staying on two deserted islands close to a rumbling volcano and enjoying a Hangi.



SOCIAL WALK

BOLIN BOLIN BILLABONG, YARRA RIVER

DATE Thursday 24 October 2019
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 5 km
TOTAL ASCENT Flat
LEADER Merilyn Whimpey
TRANSPORT Private
START TIME Depart from location in notes below at 10:30 am

ACTIVITY AREA Bulleen
MAP REFERENCE Melway map 32

Starting at the Veneto Club, we will walk around Bulleen Park and then upstream beside the Yarra to Bolin Bolin Billabong, a meeting place of significance of our First People. There are plaques telling some of their history, and ancient River Red Gums which have born silent witness to events for hundreds of years.

Meet in the carpark of the Veneto Club nearest to the entrance gates to commence walking by 10:30, Melway map 32 D9.



PACK CARRY

MAJOR MITCHELL PLATEAU (GRAMPIANS)

DATE Friday 25 to Sunday 27 October 2019
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE 25 km
TOTAL ASCENT Day 1 640m, Day 2 850m
LEADER Claire Luxford
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Southern Grampians
MAP REFERENCE Southern Grampians Spatial Vision 1:50,000

Friday night we will camp at Jimmy Creek Campground. Saturday morning, following a car shuffle, the walk will begin from Sheep Hills car park at a gentle stroll through a

forest of stringybarks and banksias before rising steadily to a ridge where you will be rewarded with great views of the neighbouring ranges and valleys. We continue to climb until we reach Mount William to enjoy panoramic views. During the afternoon there is a steep rock scramble to get up onto the Major Mitchell Plateau and the First Wannan Hiker Campsite.

On Sunday the track continues beyond the First Wannan Hiker Campsite along the Major Mitchell Plateau, revealing magnificent panoramic views.

The wild flowers should be in full bloom.

Water is available at the campsite.

We aim to be back at the cars by 3 pm.

Please be warned this is not an easy walk but, for experienced pack carry walkers it is spectacular and a joy. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the walk.

Costs: approximately camping \$7.80 per person includes fees for Friday and Saturday night. This may change depending on numbers of participants. Transport 8 cents per kilometre.



SATURDAY WALK

BRIMBANK PARK

DATE Saturday 26 October 2019
LEADER Maureen Hurley

This walk will be in the Brimbank Park area, but has not been previewed as yet. Please check the website for details of this walk closer to the time.



BASE CAMP

FLINDERS ISLAND

DATE Sunday 27 Oct to Sunday 3 Nov 2019
RETURN TIME 2:00 pm Sunday 3 November, Essendon
STANDARDS Airport
DISTANCES Various
TOTAL ASCENTS Various
LEADER Raf Makary
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Flinders Island
MAP REFERENCE Tasmania Topo 1:100,000 Flinders Island

UPDATE: A vacancy has just occurred (18th Aug) – please contact Raf if you are interested in going.



When you set foot on Flinders Island you step into an awe-inspiring world of sparkling beaches, rugged ranges, abundant wildlife, flora and clear sapphire waters. Discover the jagged mountains that jut from the wild ocean like giants proudly presenting their bounty to all and sundry. These remarkable ‘mountains in the sea’ offer a rare experience you won’t find anywhere else on earth.

Transport is plane/car and costs will vary.

Various walks ranging from coastal walks to climbs of Mt. Killecrankie and Mt. Strzelecki.



SUNDAY CAR POOL

MARYSVILLE: RED HILL – GILBERTS GULLY (NEW)

DATE Sunday 27 October 2019
RETURN TIME Cnr. A'Beckett & William Sts at 5:30 pm
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 17 km
TOTAL ASCENT 620 m rise
LEADER Stuart Hanham
TRANSPORT Carpool – leaving cnr A'Beckett and William Streets (opposite old clubrooms) at 8:45 am
TRANSPORT COST \$16.00 (per person)
ACTIVITY AREA Marysville
MAP REFERENCE Parks Victoria: Marysville Trails

This is a very scenic walk, which includes most of the main tracks near Marysville. First, it climbs steadily over Red Hill, then continues through regrowth forest to the Taggerty River. After a few kilometres, it connects to the beautiful Tree Fern Gully Trail along the Steavenson River, before climbing fairly steeply on the Keppel Lookout Trail. The route then detours to the Wilks Creek Trail, through tall forests and past rolling, green farmlands.

Next, there is an attractive nature trail loop around Gilberts Gully, partly on boardwalks. The track back to Marysville, offers impressive views over the town, towards the Cathedrals. In the town, the walk passes the remains of the famous Marylands Guesthouse, from the Black Saturday fires, and continues through a beautiful parkland and lake area. The plan is to finish at a café or bakery. Good footwear and plenty of water are needed, and be prepared for rapidly changing weather in this semi-alpine area.



WEDNESDAY WALK

DEVILBEND RESERVOIR TO BITTERN

DATE Wednesday 30 October 2019
START TIME Depart from location in notes below at 10:15am
RETURN TIME Return to start location by 3:00 pm
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 14 km
TOTAL ASCENT 80 m rise
LEADER Deb Berner
TRANSPORT Private
ACTIVITY AREA Hastings North
MAP REFERENCE Melway map 152 J3

Meet at Devil Bend Car Park, Graydens Road Tuerong. Toilets, picnic area.

High conservation area, due to the amount of birds. Is the largest water inland body on the Mornington Peninsula. We will walk along the reservoir, through the lowland forest to Bittern Reservoir, then retrace our steps.

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!

October 2019				
Thu 3	TOF: Darebin Creek – Preston	Pvt	Easy	Jerry Grandage
5–6	PC : Beginners Mt Baw Baw	Pvt	Easy	Ian Mair
Sun 6	DAY: Hoddle Mountain Trail (New)	Bus	E&E/M	Susanne Etti & Brett Daniel
Wed 9	DAY: Sorrento–Portsea–London Bridge–Sorrento	Pvt	E/M	Ken MacMahon
Sun 13	DAY: Sorrento–Portsea – Front & Back Beaches	Car	Easy	Halina Sarbinowski
18–20	PC : Hidden Highlights of East Strathbogies (joint VMTC)	Pvt	M/H	Ray Thomas
18–20	CON: Grampians Track Maintenance	Pvt	E/M	Mark Heath
19–20	BC : Federation Weekend	Pvt	var	Committee
Sat 19	CYC: Koonung and Mullum Mullum Creek trails	Pvt	E/M	Ross Berner
Sun 20	DAY: Lost Childrens Walk	Bus	E&E/M	Deb Shand & Angela Vetsicas
Mon 21	MOF: Laurimar to Yan Yean Reservoir	Pvt	Easy	Graeme Thornton
Wed 23	SOC: Vanuatu South Sea Adventure			Susan Maughan
Thu 24	SOC: Bolin Bolin Billabong, Yarra River	Pvt	Easy	Merilyn Whimpey
25–27	PC : Major Mitchell Plateau (Grampians)	Pvt	Med	Claire Luxford
Sat 26	DAY: Brimbank Park	Pvt	E/M	Maureen Hurley
27–3	BC : Flinders Island	Pvt	var	Raf Makary
Sun 27	DAY: Marysville: Red Hill–Gilberts Gully (New)	Car	E/M	Stuart Hanham
Wed 30	DAY: Devilbend Reservoir to Bittern	Pvt	E/M	Deb Berner