

**MELBOURNE
BUSHWALKERS INC.**

ABN 14 396 912 508

THE NEWS

#829 April
2020



Feature trip photo: Stanley Name Spur-Speculation-Muesli Spur pack carry. Photo: Ian Mair

Would like your trip photos featured in the newsletter?

Due date for contributions (including June previews)

to May News: 21 April

email: news@mbw.org.au



IN LINE WITH GOVERNMENT ADVICE, ALL NON-ESSENTIAL CLUB ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELLED UNTIL THE END OF JUNE DUE TO COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS. PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.

WE ARE A MEMBER OF



There will be no Wednesday night meetings until further notice.

General correspondence should be directed to:

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

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Judy Clarebrough, Vito Russo Moliterni,
Anitha Damodharaswamy, SusieSpikin,
Scott Baird, Tracey Hendy

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

Editor: Wen Qi

Walkpreviews, walkreviews, articles, poems, newsitems, 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 high resolution 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.

Next committee meeting: Monday 6th April.

MBW PRIVACY POLICY

Susan McInnes (Vice President)

The privacy of MBW Club members is important to the Committee and it is committed to protecting the privacy of members of the Club.

At its last meeting in March, the committee adopted a revised privacy policy for the Club.

The policy covers the collection, use of and disclosure of personal information of Club members mostly through the Club's website and electronic database. The policy outlines why MBW collects, uses and discloses personal information and how it deals with that personal information after collection. The policy also covers how members can access and change their personal information through the Club's website.

The Committee recommends that Club members access and read the privacy policy published in the general downloads section of the Clubs website and assess how the policy applies to the member's own information.



"In this time of unprecedented change, I am reminded more than ever that we are all connected and united on our one beautiful planet."

Dear members,

I hope you and your loved ones are safe and well.

Many people, myself included, are trying to juggle many shifting priorities - preparing for remote work, stocking up on necessary supplies, keeping family members calm or even leading a team at work. Although the outbreak of Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 has caused so much devastation and disruption across the world, I remain hopeful. My thoughts are with those who are suffering, and I want to acknowledge all those who are working tirelessly to slow the spread of the virus and those who are putting themselves in harm's way to care for those affected.

The safety and wellness of our members is our priority. Given the unprecedented impact of COVID-19, we have taken the difficult measure of cancelling all non-essential club activities until the end of June based on government requests and a recommendation from Bushwalking Victoria. The club's 80th Anniversary celebrations will now be deferred until Spring at a date to be advised.

Only a few months ago, the bushfire crisis brought us closer together as a community. We were reminded then, as now, that the only way to come out of this stronger is by supporting each other. Connections and kindness matter, so do people and nature. In this time of unprecedented change, I am reminded more than ever that we are all connected and united on our one beautiful planet.

Please look after yourselves and your loved ones. Let's make sure that being physically distant doesn't mean losing social connection, nor our connection to our planet that sustains us all. I encourage you to continue monitoring the advice of the World Health Organisation and Government as things develop.

Susanne

P.S. Some things may change in the coming weeks, but one thing won't - 2020 is still the most important Earth Hour ever (and nothing's stopping you from raising your voice for nature. **Saturday 28 March from 8.30pm (AEDST) is Earth hour.** Join Earth Hour from the comfort of your couch!)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OUTCOMES

Susanne Etti (President)



The 2020 Annual General Meeting was held in difficult circumstances just ahead of increasingly stringent requirements for limiting social contact and public assembly. With access to our clubrooms closed, six members of the outgoing Committee met in the home of one, and practised social distancing as the meeting was conducted. I am pleased to note that our membership responded to the hurdles we are

facing and we recorded 52 proxies, either generally, or specifically for the four motions circulated before the meeting.

All four circulated Motions were passed either unanimously or with a substantial majority, with the only opposing vote being one against the recommended number of ordinary Committee members for 2020-21.

I am delighted to extend our congratulations to Halina Sarbinowski on her being conferred the status of Life Member. A separate note records the outstanding contribution she has made, and continues to make, to the club.

With the end of our financial year approaching, you will shortly receive a reminder that the annual membership fee is now due for payment within the next three months. The meeting was acutely aware that some of you will be facing more difficult circumstances, with an increased number eligible for a concession, at a time when we are unable to provide the level of activity we wish to have. The incoming Committee will address the challenges this raises. In the meantime, I would like to hear from any member who feels unable to renew their membership for the coming year due to severe financial difficulty.

YOUR NEW COMMITTEE FOR 2020

President	Susanne Etti
Vice-Presidents	Susan McInnes
Secretary	Chris Collett
Membership Secretary	Halina Sarbinowski
Treasurer	Christine Thach
Social Secretary	Jane McRae
General Walks Secretary	Stuart Hanham
Sunday Walks Secretary	Brett Daniel
General Committee	Poppy Sicari
	John Terrell
	Bettina Brill
	David Cash
	*Anitha Damodharaswamy

* NEW to Committee



**OUR NEWEST
LIFE MEMBER:
HALINA
SARBINOWSKI**

Support for the conferral of Life Member status on Halina Sarbinowski was overwhelming and passed at the AGM with a heart-felt congratulations.

Halina is known to many members as the face behind the computer on Wednesday evenings, collecting Sunday Walk bookings and offering encouragement and words of advice from her own experience. Her contributions to the club go well beyond her tireless attendance on Wednesday evenings and monitoring the flow of online booking requests. Not long after joining the club 20 years ago (April 2000) she threw herself into the active role of walk leader and led her first walk in 2002. Over the next 18 years she has been leader or co-leader on more than 140 walks and other activities ranging over Sunday walks, Base Camps, Lodge trips and even a trip to Vietnam, leading as many as 11 activities in one year. Her enthusiasm for leading made her a natural choice for Sunday Walks Coordinator, a role she took up in 2007 and continued to fulfil for 12 years until 2019, producing each quarter a diverse and balanced program of Sunday Walks to attract an equally diverse range of member interests. It was not all plain sailing and her steady head was at the fore when the Sunday Bus was losing support and drastic steps were needed in 2011 to stem the financial losses. Car-pooling was introduced and the Sunday Walks program has since recovered its proud place in the club's walks program.

In 2019 Halina looked for a change and took on the role of Membership Secretary when it became vacant, a role she continues to hold. In both her role as Sunday Walks Coordinator and Membership Secretary, Halina has been a member of the club Committee and her 13 years in that position make her one of the longest serving Committee members in the club's history, adding an important appreciation of past decisions and a willingness to contribute to Committee tasks where her expertise is appropriate.

Susanne Etti,
President, Melbourne Bushwalkers

MBW ACTIVITY STATISTICS 2018 - 2019

Stuart Hanham (General Walks Secretary)

	2018			2019		
	Trips	Average Nos	Average Visitors	Trips	Average Nos	Average Visitors
DAY WALKS						
MOFS	10	10.2	1.1	11	10	0.6
TOFS	10	11.1	0.7	11	8.7	0
Sat / Dande Explorer	9	10.7	0.7	9	10.3	0.6
Sunday Bus	27	45	10.5	24	46.3	12
Sunday Carpool	23	15.4	2.3	25	14.4	2.2
Wednesday	20	8.5	0.6	20	10.2	0.5
Social Walks	11	6.7	0.6	9	6.7	0.3
OTHER ACTIVITIES						
Conservation	5	2.5	0	1	1	0
Training	12	8.1	0.9	2	8.5	0.5
Navigation Training	2	6.5	0	2	7	0
Track Maintenance	10	2	0	4	-	-
Skiing	1	8	0	1	6	1
Base Camp	12	14.2	1.6	12	15.4	0.9
Lodge	1	10	1	1	15	0
Pack carry	30	9.9	1.5	28	9.3	1
Cycling	6	5.7	0.3	4	5.3	0
Canoeing	1	12	1	0	-	-

- 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 18 cancellations in 2018 (due to a variety of reasons) and 17 in 2019, as follows: low numbers – MOF x 1, PC x 3, BC x 2, CYC x 1, TRAIN x 2, TRACK x 1; high temperature – SUN BUS x 1, SOC x 2; fire risk – SUN BUS x 1, PC x 1; leader unavailable – CYC x 1; & unspecified – TRACK x 1.

SUNDAY WALK REPORT 2019

Brett Daniel (Sunday Walks Secretary)

We had a good year with the Sunday program, I would like to thank all the leaders, Angela Vetsicas, Andrew Francis, Denise Charman, Helen Geddes, Ivan Biber, Jamie Brawn, Jill Allen, Jan Colquhoun, Meredith Quick, Nigel Holmes, Wen Qi and Wendy Fortington, who lead one walk each. Carol Ward, John Fritze, Jenny Andrewes, Lesley Hale and Stuart Hanham, who lead 2 walks each. Nik Dow has lead 3 walks, Deb Shand, Chris Collett, Ian Mair, Ron Hampton, Richard Hanson and Susanne Etti each lead 4 walks. Bettina Brill lead 5 walks. Halina Sarbinowski lead 6 walks. And a special thank you to Theo Mertz who lead 8 walks as well as helping to make the programs in the last year.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2020 - 2021

Membership subscriptions are due **1st April 2020**. You are not required to sign an Acknowledgement of Risk form on renewal, however you are advised that payment of fees implies acceptance of the risks involved in any activity you may undertake as a member of Melbourne Bushwalkers. Members are asked to read the following wording regarding your insurance cover through Bushwalking Australia.

"In voluntarily participating in activities of Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc., which are described to me by the activity leaders, I am aware that my participation in the activities may expose me to hazards and risks that could lead to injury, illness or death or to loss of or damage to my property. I also acknowledge that I may encounter weather conditions that could lead to heat stroke, hypothermia or being in locations where evacuation for medical treatment may take hours or days. In particular when participating in abseiling or above the snowline activities I am aware that these activities could expose me to additional hazards and risks.

To minimize risks I will endeavour to ensure that:

- Each activity is within my capabilities;
- I will carry food, water and equipment appropriate for the activity;
- I will advise the activity leader if I am taking medication or have any physical or other limitation that might affect my participation in the activity;
- I will make every effort to remain with the rest of the party during the activity;
- I will advise the leader of any concerns I am having; and
- I will comply with all reasonable instructions of club officers and the activity leader.

I have read and understood these requirements. I will consider the risks before joining any activity of the Club. I acknowledge that I will take responsibility for my own actions, that the Club strongly recommends that all participants have comprehensive personal ambulance cover, and that payment of my subscriptions will be deemed as full acceptance and understanding of the above conditions."

RENEWAL SLIP

If any of your personal details have changed, complete the relevant information and forward the form with your payment to the Treasurer, or send it separately to the Membership Secretary (membership@mbw.org.au). (Note: Members can modify their personal address and other contact details through the Members' Area of the club's website.)

If paying by cheque or EFT please be sure to clearly identify who the payment is for to assist the Treasurer and Membership Secretary to identify you and ensure your renewal is properly recorded.

Payment to the Treasurer, together with completed form (if required) by one of the following methods:

- Cash or cheque on club night (cheques payable to Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.)
- Cheque and Renewal Slip posted to Treasurer, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc, P.O. Box 1751, Melbourne 3001
- EFT to the club account. (Account Name: Melbourne Bushwalkers, A/c No. 0058-46013, BSB: 013-006).

Please ensure your full name and 'SUBS' appear on the transfer.

Noticeboard

Fees: (Please circle your membership category) **Single member:** \$45* **Concession:** \$34* (Proof required**)
 Couple/Family: \$72* **Concession:** \$50* (Proof required**)
 Printed News Only Subscribers: \$35.00

Notes:

***Members who currently receive their copies of 'NEWS' via postal mail should add \$25.00 to continue.**
No new hard copy subscriptions will be accepted.

**Concession membership applies to those who hold an Australian Government concession card, not a Seniors Card only.

Name: Year of Birth (optional).....

Name: Year of Birth (optional).....

(**Note:** Year of Birth is used only for statistical purposes and not published in any lists.)

Fill in Address, Telephone number(s) and Email address only if changed since last renewal:

Street Address:	NO	Indicate left if you agree details can be shown to other members in the Members' Area (Default shown)
Suburb / Postcode	YES	
Tel: [H] [W] Mobile:	YES	
Email:	YES	
Emergency Contact Tel:.....[H][M][W]	YES	

MT FRANKLIN BASE CAMP

Trip Leader: Halina Sarbinowski, Trip Report: Ian Mair, Photos: Ian Mair



The keys to success for a good Base Camp are an interesting location to set up camp and a diverse choice of walks in the surrounding area. Set among plantings of huge conifers and deciduous trees that create an exotic atmosphere, the small volcanic crater that is Mt Franklin meets the first criterion. Known as Lalgambook by the Djadja Wurrung people, Mt Franklin also offers fine views across the surrounding western plains and low-lying hills on the approach to the summit.

Located not far from Daylesford near the boundaries of the Upper Loddon State Forest to the north and the Hepburn Regional Park to the south, Mt Franklin more than fulfils the second criterion too. Indeed, the notes from the 2017 Federation Walks weekend centred on Hepburn come with a ready-made set of walking options to form the basis of any program. Two very interesting walks with minimal need for driving from our campsite were assembled by our leader and more than commended the location as one to consider again for any future Base Camps.

As we were close to Melbourne the option to arrive on Friday or early Saturday morning provided flexibility and convenience for our small group of seven. At the

nominated time on a clear Saturday morning we were assembled in the centre of the volcanic cone ready for the briefing for our first walk. We were to head out to the Upper Loddon State Forest with a balance of walking along the Tarilta Creek, through regenerated forest, and inspection of old gold mining era artefacts and buildings. It was a favourite area for our leader (me!!) and we certainly had our monies worth. Some would suggest that it may have been a little too much, although it was enjoyed by all. There were no formed tracks along the course of the Tarilta Creek and the need to pick our way through light scrub and across the creek multiple times left a sense of remoteness that definitely belied the fact that we were still very close to Melbourne.

Camaraderie is a core ingredient of Base Camps and the "Saturday night" planning is well to the fore in the minds of leaders. Sometimes a local restaurant or hotel fulfils the preferences of the participants. On this occasion the relatively well-appointed camping area with provision for an open fire suited our needs. After a day of walking with ample variety and challenge we were happy to sit back and relax. You have to wonder why the world is still in a mess after the number of problems we solved that night!

Our trip leader, Halina, led us out on the Sunday walk, this time to the Hepburn Regional Park. Taking advantage of the course of the Dry Diggings Track and a network of paths and management roads we worked off any excesses of the night before as we ticked off visits to mineral springs, lookout towers and more reminders of the gold-mining history of the area. Particularly notable was Beehive Gully, a deeply eroded creek gully that you would not want to stumble into in the dark. A good fifty meters across in places, and ten meters deep, it presents a formidable challenge to cross at any point other than on the Dry Diggings Track. It is a clear indication that the Dry Diggings are not always dry!

I could leave off this note here but a nagging need for full disclosure with honesty and truth drive me to bare my disappointment. The trip Preview promised a visit to the Chocolate Mill nearby. Alas, huge signs at the entrance as we passed on Sunday morning dimmed our anticipation; "CLOSED FOR FEBRUARY". Fortunately our experienced leader was well prepared with Plan B and we retired at the end of the day to Daylesford for refreshments of a different kind. Thank you Halina and all participants for a very enjoyable weekend.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: ROVER CHALET, BOGONG HIGH PLAINS

7 - 15 August 2020

Once again we have been offered the use of the Rover Chalet for a week's X-C skiing. The chalet is an 11 km ski in from Falls Creek so is well away from the crowds. The chalet is well fitted out with a commercial grade kitchen, mattresses for sleeping on in the loft, internal toilets and hot showers. There is a washing machine and a drying room. 240v power so you can charge your phones even if reception is restricted.

We run the week with a voluntary roster covering all the chores that need to be done, cooking, cleaning, wood chopping, bread baking etc. We try to organize full day trips every day taking lunch with us, usually at least two standards, an easier and a harder. If the weather is lousy we often play around on sheltered slopes near the chalet, perfecting (in my case trying) telemark turns.

The week includes Tawonga hall to sleep in on Friday night and a bus up and down to Falls Creek. To ski in we have to carry our fresh meat and vegetables, all the other food is stored in the large pantry in the chalet.

To go in you need to have had experience on skis and to be able to carry a pack. The pack can be kept fairly light as you don't need many clothes because you can wash and dry them up there.

If you are interested talk to Doug Pocock or Marilyn Whimpey.

BASE CAMP: LITTLE DESERT NATIONAL PARK

14 -18 September 2020

Refer website or News issue 827 for details. Contact Raf to book.



Photo by Peter Maffei

BASE CAMP: SNAKE ISLAND

31 Oct -3 Nov 2020 (Cup Weekend)

Depart PORT WELSHPOOL at 10:30 am Saturday 31st October by charter boat for the island.

The cost is \$120 pp and payable to the boatman on the day. The trip is approx 30 minutes.

The accommodation is free - we can use the Cattlemen's Association dorms or camp.

We will be picked up on Tuesday 3rd November at 11 am, giving us time to find a country pub to watch the Melbourne Cup. This is ideal for members who are new to base camping. The day walks will vary in length, there will be opportunities for ocean dips, and the atmosphere is always convivial.

Please contact Susan Maughan for more information.

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