

**MELBOURNE
BUSHWALKERS INC.**

ABN 14 396 912 508

THE NEWS

#826 January
2020



Feature photo: Mt Feathertop via NW & Bungalow Spurs. Photo: Melinda Jones. Detailed trip report by John Terrell on P6

Would like your trip photos featured in the newsletter?

Due date for contributions (including March previews)
to February News: 21 January
email: news@mbw.org.au



WE ARE A MEMBER OF



Bushwalking Victoria

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 8)

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: Wen Qi

Walkpreviews, walkreviews, 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 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.

Please note: There is no committee meeting in January.



2019 Christmas Party. Photo: Ian Mair



HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

“As a club we continue to focus on: walking with purpose and joy; on the environment and the wider community we are part of.”

Welcome to our final newsletter for 2019. We hope you have had a successful year – it’s certainly been a busy and action packed one for our club. Thank you for all your support.

This past year was meaningful for many reasons: we saw the birth of a youth movement that is changing the world, braced ourselves against recurring dire reports about the state of our planet and worked knowing that we are about to enter a decade that will be characterized by the ten years we have left to reverse our ecological trajectory.

It’s been a record year for climate action with more people and sectors of society engaged than ever before. Keeping this momentum going into the new year, let’s unify, let’s make sure no one is left behind and most importantly, let’s act now. We can all make a difference and we can tackle the climate crisis in the short window we have left!

As a club we continue to focus on: walking with purpose and joy; on the environment and the wider community we are part of. As we head off on our own holidays, I’d like to thank you for your continued support on behalf of the entire MBW committee and send you our best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Here’s to 2020!

Enjoy the holidays and we look forward to starting 2020 with a bang!

P.S. Temperatures soared in the past week , and a dangerous summer lies ahead. Please stay safe. Check out this handy guide on [how to stay safe in a heatwave](#), and if you’re in a fire zone, stay alert and always listen to the warnings of your emergency services.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Jessica Rowe, Melinda Jones
Eric Lanthers, Laura Banahan
Sophie Tan, Donna Bourke
Merryn Menjivar, Kerrie Risk

BUSHIES NEWSLETTERS

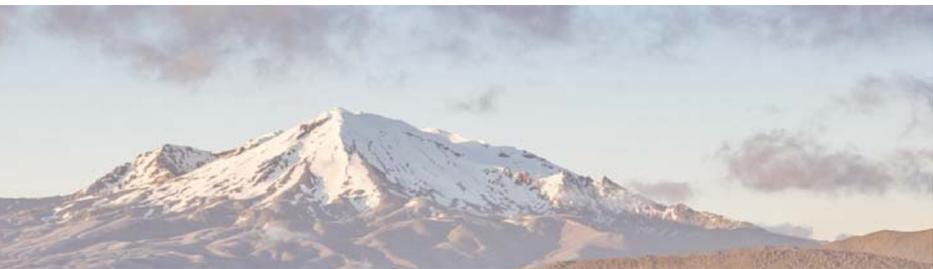
If anyone is interested to have Bushies Newsletters in the following format, please contact Rex & Sue Filson at susanrefilson@gmail.com

- 1962 - 1965 : home binding
- 1969 - 1999 : home binding
- 2000 - present : unbound

Please note Rex and Sue are based in NSW.

REPAIR REPURPOSE REUSE

Meredith Quick



After a recent trip that was particularly hard on my gear, I had to have a hard think about my options, should I go out and buy new gear to replace my torn overpants, my split sole on my brand new boots or get another new tent to replace the rat chewed one?

Taking Susan Etti's pleas for us to be more environmentally conscious, I set out to have all of my gear fixed. I started asking around and got a lot of help. I am sharing this with you all and hope some of the hints will encourage you all to think twice before running out to get the new latest hiking gadget when what you already have will serve you well.

I started by asking around about tent repairs. A rodent had chewed through the inner nylon layer, it had a hole of around 3cm. It was a brand new Macpac Ultralight, I called Macpac and could take it to them for repairs with a turnaround of two weeks. I then phoned Bogong Hiking Melbourne store and was advised of two tent repairers. I also called Paddy Pallin and was given the same names. The two tent repairers were **Remote Equipment Repairs, 40/22-30 Wallace Ave, Point Cook VIC 3030, Ph (03) 8360 7113** and **Finn Industries, 1/23 Manna Gum Ct, Coburg VIC 3058, Ph (03) 9029 9951**. Being a Western Suburbs dweller, I chose Remote Equipment Repairs. It was easy to find and they were extremely helpful, giving me two options for the repair, either a stick-on patch or a sewn in patch. It was a new tent so I opted for the more expensive sewn in patch. Despite choosing the more expensive option the repairs still only cost .10% of the original price of the tent. I noticed also when picking up my tent only 2 working days later, there were many parcels addressed to Macpac, they do their repairs. Since having my tent repaired others have also given Finn Industries the thumbs up.

The next on the list was my overpants. They were good quality Helly Hanson made from gortex. Now complete with small tears in the seat after sliding down some not

so smooth rocks. I noticed whilst in Remote Equipment they also made repairs to clothing and back packs. So the pants were assessed as saveable and sticky patches applied in several places to make them water proof again.

My boots were my next concern, another new purchase specifically for the trip. The sole at the heel was split. I went in to Bogong and had the pleasure of meeting Nick, their warranty manager. Together we worked out the best way to repair my comfortable new boots. My conscience would not let me ask for a new replacement pair, the hike we had done was particularly hard on all the equipment. Together, we decided to glue the split heel back together, he helped by cleaning the surface and supplied the Aquaseal, shoe repair glue. He also advised me to apply Nikwax to the leather surfaces, the mud and water had made the leather hard and it would help with the waterproofing and improve their longevity.

My walking poles also required some attention. As we completed the walk, I wiped them down with my Chux, thinking this would be adequate to stop corrosion, but I was wrong. Two days after the walk, when I returned home, I noticed some corrosion starting to appear. I separated the poles, wiped them clean, dried them in the sun and then wiped some olive oil on each pole, with my ever present Chux of course.

I then had to deal with all of the Chux clothes I used. I placed them in a bucket with some biodegradable soap for a bit of a soak and then threw them into the washing machine during the next wash...they are sparkling clean now and ready for my next adventure.

I thought this would be a great start for us to share tips about how best to keep our equipment in good shape and how best to repair, reuse and repurpose. I am sure there are many members with more experience that could share some useful tips.



PARADISE FALLS WABONGA

Trip Report & Photos:
Fiona Gilder (VMTC)

On the weekend of 30th Nov - 1st Dec, a group of 5 hikers was scheduled to do a hike in the Bogong area, but due to several wildfires, the area surrounding Mt Bogong was closed to hikers. So an alternative hike was organised to Paradise Falls and the Wabonga Wilderness area.

Having hiked with Ray previously, I knew what to expect, and he did not disappoint. On Saturday the weather was glorious, not too hot with a gentle breeze.

Once again Rays' knowledge of the bush made for a fascinating walk. We started from the Paradise Falls car park and headed down to the falls. From the falls we headed off-track and up hill into the wilderness.

Ray was struggling a little, due to an unpredictable heart problem, so Andrew; aka superman, stepped in and took some of the weight out of Rays' pack, which made it easier for Ray to walk and catch his breath.

We made our way slowly up to the Plateau, and had lunch on a rocky overhang, looking down on the William Hovell Dam, to a chorus of cicadas.

The Wild flowers were numerous and beautiful, some of which were: Onion Orchid, Tiger Orchid, Fringe Lily, Boronia, Yam Daisy and My favourite the purple pin cushion. Then there was the not so well known "Snorkel Bush" (LOL), which Andrew was very keen on!

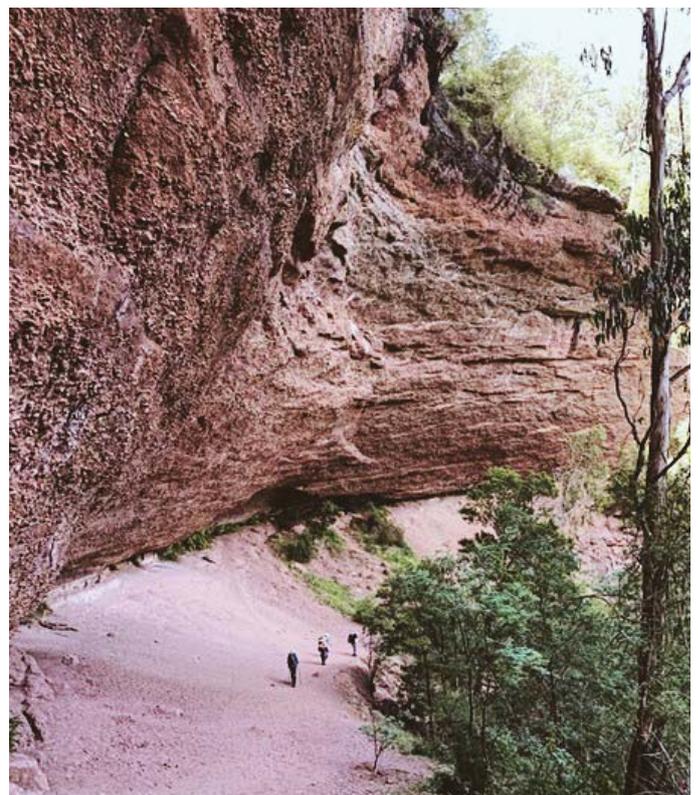
We found water, not too far from our campsite for Saturday night and had a lovely relaxed meal together, before retiring early.

Sunday the weather was overcast and by mid-morning a light rain had settled in. We walked along the top of a series of rocky cliffs and then left our bags at the top and

climbed down, so we could walk along underneath the cliff face, then back up at the other end and completed the loop back to our bags.

We ended the day with a long down hill to a river crossing and then a short climb back to the car.

It was a pleasure hiking with Ray, Andrew, Derek and Bert. We had a great deal of fun and learned a lot as well and I highly recommend hiking with Ray, for a challenging, unique hike.





MT FEATHERTOP

VIA NORTH-WEST SPUR & BUNGALOW SPUR

Trip Report & Photos: John Terrell

Seven Bushies, past, present and aspiring, assembled at Harrietville on a pleasant mid-November Saturday morning. Our objective - to scale Victoria's second highest peak, Mt Feathertop, via one of its steeper routes, the Tom Kneen Track following the North-West Spur. How hard could that be? Our walk coincided with an cross-country athletic event with runners competing over distances from 7 to 50 km up, down and across the mountains. We were happy with our choice.

For me, the trip was almost exactly the reverse of my first ever overnight walk 50 years ago and a trip I had done many times in the 1970s, so I was keen to see if I could still do it and how the surroundings had changed in that time.

For the first few kilometres the track sidled up and down above Stony Creek. The wildflowers were delightful, including Tiger Orchids and a variety of peas, and they continued to reveal themselves as we climbed higher and higher. As we approached the top of the steep ascent we entered the area burnt by bushfires in 2013. The regrowth seemed good but there were lots of dead tree trunks to remind us of the former alpine ash forest. Here we saw our first views of Mts Fainter and Bogong across the West Kiewa River.

I was secretly relieved to see that I wasn't the only one wilting, as the seemingly never ending track crept upwards towards our lunch spot.

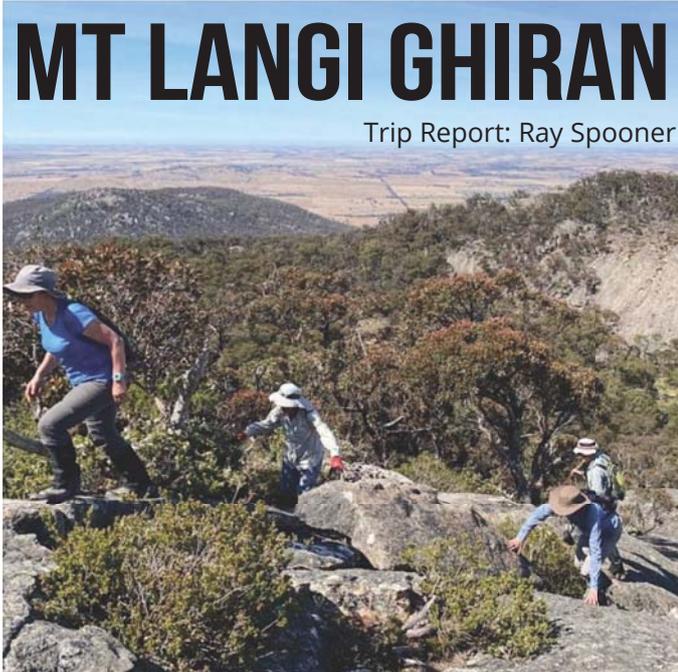
Eventually we arrived at the MUMC Memorial Hut, a geodesic domed igloo built in the late 1960s to

remember Melbourne University Mountaineering Club members who had died in the mountains. It was sobering and sad to see how many plaques with familiar names had been added since my last visit. Otherwise the hut was much the same as in the 1970s, apart from the addition of a solar panel with USB charging output which was very helpful for those of us who use our phone as a camera. The view from outside the hut was magnificent sweeping up to the summit, across to the Bogong High Plains and down to the Ovens River valley.

However there was still 280 m to go to the summit, so after lunch we traversed round toward Little Feathertop, dropping our packs for the final climb to the summit. Here we saw early alpine flowers including Hovea and buttercups among the few remaining snow drifts. Descending from the summit, we passed the last remaining large snow gum in the area en route to our sheltered campsite near the top of Diamantina Spur. That was a hard day's walk!

The next day was much easier as we retraced our steps to the large snow gum and started descending past Federation Hut to Bungalow Spur. Several hours and more wildflowers later we arrived in Harrietville in time for lunch followed by an ice cream and the drive home.

My conclusion? The walk is a lot longer than it used to be! But we all made it! And it is still magnificent – definitely one of my favourite mountains. Thanks to Agajan for leading the walk, and to Sue, Bert, Kevin, Melinda and Eric for your company on a very enjoyable weekend.



A group of 13 Bushies met at Beaufort at 9.30 am. Following a coffee at the local café, we proceeded to the Mt. Langi Ghiran Picnic Ground, the start of the walk. After the obligatory weighing of packs (varying weights between 13 and 17 kg) which included 5 litres of water, we walked along the track towards the Rock Art. After 2 kms it was off track to commence the 2km, 200m climb to our base camp at Hidden Lagoon. Walking at first was quite easy through sparse vegetation with many wildflowers still in bloom until about halfway, then it become more difficult as we scrambled up to a ridge. As we headed down the ridge, the bush changed to head high bracken. After a short distance we arrived at Hidden Lagoon, which was dry as it had been on a previous visit, for a well earned lunch break. After lunch we opted not to pitch tents and headed off to explore Mt. Gorrin with day packs. Again there was a lot of scrambling over rocky knolls and fallen trees until we came to a ridge opposite Mt Gorrin summit. However, to get to the summit there was a descent through a fern gully before commencing the walk up a spur to the summit. It was fairly easy going to about halfway when the climb became steeper and the granite outcrops bigger. On reaching the summit we were rewarded with spectacular views across the surrounding plains and Mt Langi Ghiran. Following a short break we descended again through a fern gully and climbing and exploring a number of rocky knolls. Walking through a forested area with bracken undergrowth down a gentle slope we reached the Lagoon around 4.30pm and set up our tents.

After preparing dinner there was quiet banter until we were disturbed by a flock of screeching sulphur crested

cockatoos. Apparently we were intruding on their nightly nesting site. After a few minutes of circling and screeching, they left the area.

It was an unexpected warm night (forecasted temp. as low as 6 degrees). As a result, our tents were heavily condensed in the morning. Although the lagoon was dry, there must have moisture below the surface. Just after dawn, the lagoon resounded to a loud buzzing noise. At first I thought a swarm of bees had descended on the tents, however, it turned out to be blowflies drinking the condensation on the tents.

As a predicted temperature of 28 degrees, we left camp at 8am without packing up our wet tents and headed east to explore Langi Ghiran. At first the terrain was similar to the previous day as we scouted around the base of the mountain, but as we climbed higher rocky outcrops provided a bit of a challenge. On reaching the Easter Creek track (was it a track?) which we followed for about 1km, a turn to the left and off track again, there was a steady climb of around of 200 metres of scrambling over or crawling under rock formations before reaching a height of 900 metres. From here the large granite slabs of the summit were clearly visible and looking rather ominous. However, between the ridge and the summit there was a deep valley to be traversed. By this time the temperature was rising and it was very pleasant walking through ferns with a ground cover of native mint whose scent permeated through the valley. On reaching the giant granite slabs we walked, scrambled and at times almost crawled to the summit, our path interrupted by large strands of ti-tree in full bloom. After taking in the views, morning tea was taken as we watched a pair of wedge tail eagles gliding in the breeze. The descent was far less taxing than the climb and we were soon back through the valley enroute to camp.

After packing up tents and lunching, the descent to the cars was downhill most of the way with a few tricky rock formations to be negotiated. Leaving the rocks behind, the terrain opened out to an almost park-like area which disappeared almost as quickly as it appeared, and we were back in the scrub before reaching the access road back to the cars. After a quick drink we headed off to Beaufort for coffee.

Many thanks to Jopie leading a very interesting walk and we were certainly not disappointed exploring every rocky knoll which we knew he would have planned. Many thanks to my fellow walkers, Carol, David, Derrick, Geri, Jenny, John, Kate, Kym, Lachlan, Stephanie and Stuart for their company.

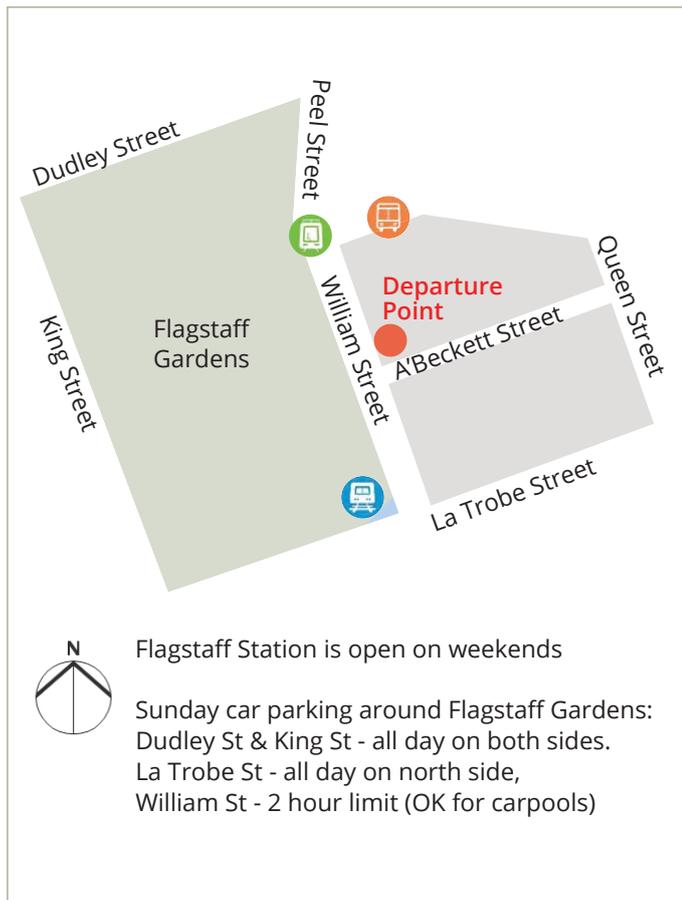
To view all available previews and any notifications of changes to walks, please log on to the walks program and previews pages on the MBW website: http://www.mbw.org.au/mbw_activities/MBW_activities_program.php

**CUT OFF TIME FOR SUNDAY BUS ONLINE BOOKINGS:
4:00 PM THURSDAY PRIOR TO THE WALK**

Bookings notified to busbookings@mbw.org.au after 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 Historial Society building.



SUNDAY CARPOOL - DUCK POND TRACK

DATE	Sunday 2 February
RETURN TIME	6:30 pm to City
STANDARDS	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	18 km
ELEVATION	470 m
LEADERS	Richard Long
TRANSPORT	Carpool - leaving cnr A'Beckett and William Streets at 8:45 am
FIRE BAN DISTRICT	Central
TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Geelong

Starting from the Distillery Creek Picnic Ground at Aireys Inlet, we walk towards Moggs Creek via the base of Painkalac Dam rockwall. After climbing up to Gentle Annie Track we ascend further to the intersection with Duck Pond Track. Descending to Duck Pond Creek, a short section of rock-hopping along the creek bed is required. Following this there is a sustained climb to Bambra Road and a return to the start via Love's Track and the prettiest part of the Currawong Falls circuit. About 18km, with occasional good views of Aireys Inlet surrounds and coast. Total climbing is 470m. This is Walk 12 of "Walking the Otways" published by Geelong Bushwalking Club.



BASECAMP - SNAKE ISLAND

DATE Tue 4 - Thur 6 February
 RETURN TIME Mid afternoon to Port Welshpool TBC
 STANDARD Medium
 DISTANCE 10 - 18 km
 ELEVATION Sea level
 LEADER Susan Maughan

Snake Island is uninhabited and it can only be accessed by boat, but once there you can experience nature at its unspoilt best. It is 35 square km, located in Corner Inlet, and lies within the Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park. The Aboriginal Gunai name for the island is Negima. It is ideal for bushwalkers as many tracks crisscross the island. Since the 1880s the island has been used by South Gippsland farmers to agist cattle in winter, swimming their stock over a narrow channel at low tide.

This is a mid-week base camp with a choice of 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, and then we have about a 300m scramble

TRANSPORT Private
 ACTIVITY AREA Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park
 MAP REFERENCE Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park
 FIRE BAN DISTRICT West Gippsland
 TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Wonthaggi

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.

TUESDAY 4th - a 12 km round trip to Gulf Point (That evening we have a bring-a-plate dinner.)

WEDNESDAY 5th - Coastal Walk, approx 18 km

THURSDAY 6th - boat pick up midday - TBC (tide dependant)

Meet at Port Welshpool for a 10:30 am departure and the cost for the boat is \$110. Minimum of 15 required. Carpooling can be arranged.

Book with SUSAN MAUGHAN.



TOFS WALK - SUMMER IN THE DANDENONGS

DATE Thursday 6 February
 RETURN TIME 3:00 pm
 STANDARDS Easy
 DISTANCES 10 km
 TOTAL ASCENTS 150 m
 LEADERS Graham Hodgson
 TRANSPORT Private

The last time this walk was programmed it had to be cancelled due to unfavourable weather conditions hopefully this will not happen again.

We will start the walk with a moderate climb through cool fern gullies until we reach Sherbrooke Falls which hopefully will have water flowing down it. The rest of the walk is on

ACTIVITY AREA Dandenongs
 MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 75 and 124 Parks Victoria - Two Bay walk
 FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
 TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

undulating tracks in Sherbrooke Forest where we may hear or even see lyrebirds.

Meet at 10.30am in the carpark at the back of Micawber Tavern in Belgrave which is marked P on Melway Map 75 F/G 7/8. Micawber Tavern is just past a plant nursery on the left about 1km out of Belgrave.



SUNDAY BUS - MT DONNA BUANG TO DOM DOM

DATE Sunday 9 February
 RETURN TIME Return to Cnr. A'Beckett and William Streets at 6:30 pm
 STANDARD Easy/ Medium & Medium
 LEADER Judith Shaw & Bettina Brill

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

Refer website for walk preview or contact leaders



WEDNESDAY WALK

MT MORTON, BELGRAVE HEIGHTS

DATE Wednesday 12 February
 RETURN TIME 2 pm
 STANDARD Easy / Medium
 DISTANCE 10 km
 TOTAL ASCENT 100 m
 LEADER Susan Maughan
 TRANSPORT Private
 ACTIVITY AREA Belgrave Heights
 MAP REFERENCE MLB 84
 FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
 TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Dandenong

This is deliberately a short walk in anticipation of a hot February day. Most of the day we will be in the shade and it will end in a favourite cafe. It should be suitable for TOFs and it is highly recommended for ORCHID LOVERS. Or indeed, any kind of lovers. We will start the walk visiting the acclaimed BALUK WILLAM NATURE CONSERVATION RESERVE. One of the Friends has kindly agreed to meet and tell us about the history and significance of the area.

Incredibly, the Reserve is one of Melbourne’s most diverse



wildflower sanctuaries, being home to over 250 native plants, and, staggeringly, MORE THAN A THIRD OF VICTORIA’S ORCHID SPECIES. The current Orchid species List contains ninety-four orchids that have been recorded in this small area.

10:30- Meet at the gate leading to Mount Morton, Chaundy Road. MEL 84 C5. Best park in Mt Morton Road.

NOTE- I can pick you up from Belgrave Station.



PACK CARRY - BEGINNERS PC: MT BAW BAW

DATE	15–16 February	TRANSPORT	Private
STANDARD	Easy	ACTIVITY AREA	Baw Baw National Park
DISTANCE	20 km plus side trips	MAP REFERENCE	Parks Victoria, Baw Baw National Park
TOTAL ASCENT	600m Rise	FIRE BAN DISTRICT	West Gippsland
LEADER	Ian Mair	TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE	Latrobe Valley

This trip replaces the one initially scheduled for October 2019 that had to be relocated due to a late snow melt.

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 CARPOOL - MT DANDENONG - OLINDA FALLS - SILVAN RESERVOIR

DATE Sunday 16 February
 RETURN TIME A'Beckett and William Sts at 3:30 pm
 STANDARD Easy / Medium
 DISTANCE 18 km
 LEADER Stuart Hanham
 TRANSPORT Carpool from cnr A'Beckett and William Streets

START TIME 8:45 am
 RETURN TIME 6:30 pm
 TRANSPORT COST \$8.00 per person
 ACTIVITY AREA Danenong Ranges, Kalorama, Silvan
 MAP REFERENCE Melway maps 52, 66, 120, 122
 FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
 TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Mt Dandenong

This pleasant hilly walk starts at the Mt. Dandenong Arboretum (not to be confused with the R.J. Hamer Arboretum at Olinda), which contains a variety of beautiful trees from around the world. It descends on the attractive Mechanics and Cascades tracks, to the Olinda Falls, where there will hopefully be a good flow of water. After a steep climb back to the main track, the route continues down to the Olinda Creek Valley, crosses the creek, then climbs steadily through towering eucalypts in Kalorama, before recrossing the creek and entering lush fern gullies in Silvan.

After lunch at the attractive Silvan Reservoir, the Grey Gum Track will lead to a steep climb back through Kalorama, and eventually a long, steady climb through Olinda, to rejoin the Mechanics Track. After another steady ascent back to the cars, we will have the option of walking a short distance uphill to the SkyHigh Cafe on the summit of Mt. Dandenong, for drinks and great views towards the city skyline, or driving downhill to the corner cafe at Kalorama. This very scenic walk is closer to a medium rating. Plenty of water is recommended and hiking poles would be useful.



MOFS WALK - CRANBOURNE BOTANIC GARDENS

DATE Monday 17 February
 RETURN TIME 4 pm
 STANDARD Easy
 DISTANCE Approximately 10 km
 ELEVATION 20 m
 LEADER Michael Murray

TRANSPORT Private
 ACTIVITY AREA Cranbourne Botanical Gardens walking tracks
 MAP REFERENCE Melways 133 K10
 FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
 TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

The walk starts from the Cranbourne Botanical Gardens car park. There are many variations with this walk but the group will follow the Wylies Creek Track passing Woodlands Picnic Area and Elizabeth Murdoch Pavilion. We then follow Lake track 1 which leads to the Wetlands Walk. The walk then deviates to Possum Gully Track and finally back to the car park. The landscape is classic heathland and hopefully plenty of wildlife to observe.

Please note that this walk will take place at a very hot time of the year. The landscape has little shade. Therefore temperatures will be key as to the viability of the walk. Those members who are interested we meet at 10.30 am. Any inquiries please contact Michael Murray.



WEDNESDAY WALK - RED HILLS, MERRICKS CIRCUIT

DATE Wednesday 19 February
 RETURN TIME A'Beckett and William Sts at 3:30 pm
 STANDARD Easy / Medium
 DISTANCE 14 km
 TOTAL ASCENT 230 m Rise
 LEADER Ed Neff
 TRANSPORT Private
 START TIME See notes below at 9:45am

TRANSPORT COST See arrangement below. To be advised by leader if carpool proposed.
 ACTIVITY AREA Mornington Peninsula
 MAP REFERENCE Melway 192 F9 for start
 FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
 TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Frankston

A lovely walk along the Merricks to Red Hill Rail Trail, which is also an equestrian trail, and then a loop return along some country roads and tracks. We pass some magnificent homes and rural properties with great views towards the coast.

Merricks General Store. Enter the Reserve through the gate to the carpark. Toilets are available.

We will meet at 9.45am for a 10.00am start. The meeting point is the Merricks Station Reserve which is entered from Frankston Flinders Road just before Thompson Lane and the

For a bit of a variation to a Wednesday walk we can enjoy a morning drink or coffee at a café in Red Hill.

To book for this walk, or if you have any questions, please ring Ed.



BASECAMP - MT FRANKLIN AND SURROUNDS

DATE Fri 21 - Sun 23 February
 STANDARD Various
 DISTANCE 14.1 km & 11 km
 ELEVATION 350 m rise & 200 m rise
 LEADER Halina Sarbinowski

TRANSPORT Private
 ACTIVITY AREA Hepburn Springs
 FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
 TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Ballarat

Mt Franklin is a small volcanic crater that offers an ideal place for a picnic or basic camping set amongst plantings of huge conifers and deciduous trees that create an exotic atmosphere. Also known as Lalgambook by the Djadja Wurrung people, Mt Franklin offers fine views on the approach to the summit.

Mount Franklin is a fine example of a breached scoria cone. The breach, through which the road now enters the crater, is thought to have been caused by a flow of lava breaking through the crater rim. Lava from Mount Franklin and other volcanoes in the area filled valleys and buried the goldbearing streams that became the renowned 'deep leads' of the gold mining era.

Camping at Mt Franklin, suitable for short stays, is on a first come first served basis. No fees apply. Toilets, fireplaces (if

cold weather predicted bring some firewood) and washing water are provided.

Mt Franklin will be our base, however, we will need to travel to the start of each walk. Walks have been chosen from The Federation Walks weekend in 2015. Our first walk, on Saturday, will follow Tarilta Creek, with 16 creek crossing (fortunately all dry), extensive off-track sections with visits to relics of the mining era of the 1800s. On Sunday, after packing up we will travel close to the Chocolate Mill before leaving cars and following various tracks, including the Great Dividing Trail towards Hepburn Springs before returning to our cars.

Our reward after a weekend of walking will be a special treat at the Chocolate Mill.



SUNDAY BUS - COWANS & SPANISH ONION TRACK

DATE Sunday 23 February
 RETURN TIME Return to Cnr. A'Beckett and William Streets at 6:00 pm
 STANDARDS Easy/Medium and Medium
 DISTANCES 10 km and 12 km
 TOTAL ASCENTS 200 m overall drop
 LEADERS Chris Collett & Deb Shand

TRANSPORT Bus - leaving cnr A'Beckett and William Streets at 8:45 am
 ACTIVITY AREA Lerderderg Gorge
 MAP REFERENCE Meridian Lerderderg and Werribee Gorges
 FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
 TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Ballarat

These walks are in the area of the Lerderderg State Park, and involve the opportunity to walk along the Lerderderg River for several kilometres.

Both walks start on O'Brien's Road on the north side of the river, and leave the road to follow 4WD tracks downhill towards the Lerderderg Gorge. The longer walk initially follows the Lerderderg Track, and then the Spanish Onion Track for the steep descent to the gorge. The shorter walk follows Cowan Track all the way to the river. Up above the gorge is eucalypt forest with many Australian grass trees.

The two tracks reach the gorge about 600 metres apart, and then traverse the gorge upstream to O'Brien's Crossing. The track along the gorge involves walking over rocks and uneven surfaces, and there is one rock face above the river which

must be sidled across by both parties. At times the narrow track runs high above the river so participants need to be comfortable with slight exposure to heights.

The scenery in the gorge is impressive at times with many rock pools and the occasional evidence of previous gold mining in the area. We are under the canopy of the forest most of the day but there are stretches of exposure to the sun.

The walks are graded Easy/Medium and Medium despite their short distances due to the challenging terrain. Features of both walks are being mostly off-road, the scenery, and pleasant lunch spots on the river.



WINE AND CHEESE - WALKING FROM MUNICH TO VENICE ACROSS THE ALPS

DATE Wed 26 February
 VENUE Clubroom
 ORGANISER Ian Mair

START TIME 8pm
 FINISH TIME 9pm
 MAP REFERENCE 717 Flinders Street

After years of being awed by the tales of fellow walkers following their exploits in the Alps of southern Germany, Austria and, more often, the Dolomites of northern Italy, it was time to conquer apprehension and make it happen. The final push to get it moving was a chance discussion with Rob Bonnici on a club Sunday walk. Rob had recently completed a walk from Munich to Venice that sounded fantastic. Even the name inspired - the "Dream Path (Traumpfad)". The ball started rolling. Jenny Andrewes who also spoke with Rob was keen to take it on. Time passed, dates came and went as we planned and procrastinated.

In the end two groups of two (Jenny Andrewes & Deb Shand followed by Ian Mair & Halina Sarbinowski 3 weeks later) set off mid-2019 on the adventure with more blind determination than real appreciation of what was involved.

It was challenging and uplifting. After all, a walk of 550km across the alps of Europe in around 30 days walking with around 26km of total ascent is not a walk in the park.

Join Halina, Jenny and Deb as Ian (with unplanned interjections and embellishments from the floor) enthalls you with stunning views and nerve-testing images that hopefully will



inspire you to give it a go. "If we can do it you can too!" It is an unforgettable journey for long-distance hikers that can be done in total or in stages.



SOCIAL WALK - CHELMSORTH PARK, SILSON RESERVE TRAIL

DATE Thursday 27 February
 STANDARD Easy
 DISTANCE 5 km
 TOTAL ASCENT Flat
 LEADER Pearson Cresswell
 TRANSPORT Private
 START TIME See notes below at 10:15 am

TRANSPORT COST See arrangements below. To be advised by leader if carpool proposed.
 ACTIVITY AREA Ivanhoe
 MAP REFERENCE Melway map 31 G10 - K11
 FIRE BAN DISTRICT Central
 TEMPERATURE REFERENCE SITE Melbourne

The walk follows the bank of the Yarra River from Wilson Reserve upriver to the Burke Road bridge, returning by the same track. That's only about 5km so there is an option to go a little further into the Yarra Flats park if people are feeling frisky. The path is flat, well surfaced and well shaded. For those interested in lunch afterwards we can head for a cafe in Ivanhoe East.

Meet at the carpark at the end of Irvine St (Melway Map 31 G10), accessible from The Boulevard, for a 1015 start. There are toilets here.

For booking and any further information ring Pearson



CANOE TRIP - MOONLIGHT KAYAK, DOCKLANDS, INCLUDED FISH & CHIPS DINNER

DATE Saturday 29 February 2020
 STANDARD Easy
 LEADER Susan Maughan
 TRANSPORT Private
 START TIME: See notes below at 6pm

RETURN TIME See notes below by 9pm
 ACTIVITY AREA Docklands
 MAP REFERENCE Community Hub at The Dock, 912 Collins Street

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.

kayak past Flinders Street Station and beneath Princes Bridge and the tour ends at the Rowing Sheds.

SIXTEEN places available. To reserve a spot the cost is \$85 which must be paid to the leader.

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

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

START TIME & 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.

DEAL ISLAND BASECAMP, 29th March - 2nd April

A cancellation has opened an opportunity for one more on this trip. See website preview for details. Contact the leader Geof Martin to express interest.



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

GREAT BARRIER ISLAND, NZ

15 -25 March 2020

YES, there is another return trip to Great Barrier Island, North Island, NZ. Kellie Aston is organising another trip to GREAT BARRIER ISLAND, NZ, a four-and-a-half-hour ferry trip from Auckland. It is paradise re-imagined.

It is off the grid with a population of 800. There are walking tracks galore offering day walks with views to take your breath away. Plus hot pools, dolphins, and tranquility. This wonderful jewel lies in the outer Hauraki Gulf, 100 kilometres north-east of central Auckland, and it is a trampers' paradise.

Walking is Easy/Medium (mostly day walks/base camping, one overnight hike to cabin). Walks through forests to panoramic views, beach walks, natural hot springs, swimming, sea kayaking

If interested please contact Kellie Aston.



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

WILSONS PROMONTORY SOUTHERN CIRCUIT

Easter 2020 (10-13 April)

The classic 60km Southern Circuit walk over 4 days is a gem of the Wilsons Promontory National Park. A booking has been made for 12 people on this very popular circuit. Expressions of interest are invited now. Walkers will be advised early February whether they have been successful. This is not a "first in wins" selection. Preference will go to members and those who are active contributors to the clubs walks program.

If you are interested in being considered please contact Ian Mair by Friday 8th February.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

BASE CAMP LITTLE DESERT NATIONAL PARK

14 -18 September 2020



Bookings are open and deposit will be due immediately upon receiving a confirmation email that you are listed on the Camp (See costs below).

To submit your Expression of Interest, or to seek further information, email Raf at rafmky@gmail.com

Little Desert National Park is more than a desert, it contains a changing landscapes and diverse flora and fauna. Travel through pure mallee heathland, rolling sand dunes, and on to the cypress pine and casuarina woodlands.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Little Desert Nature Lodge is located in bush land and surrounded by Native wildlife (www.littledesertlodge.com.au)
A tentative booking for 12-20 people in shared standard ensuite bedrooms is in place. Visit the web page for more details of features. If you wish to book directly, options available are:

- Deluxe garden view ensuite rooms
- Standard ensuite rooms
- 4 person Bunk rooms with shared amenities block

COST:

- It is estimated that the accommodations' cost will be \$55 -75 per person per night depending on the number of persons per room and the standard of room.
- All rooms are twin share with option of single or double beds. Bunk room has 2 bunks.
- Trip / Petrol cost will depend on each driver and number of passengers.
- The booking fee to secure your place will be **\$200**. This must be paid upon receipt of email confirming your place on the trip and is not refundable unless you can be replaced. The balance is due at a later date to be confirmed.

WALKS:

Various walks will be planned, both easy and medium, including a trip to Mt. Arapiles, will be arranged.

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!

FEBRUARY 2020

Sun 2	DAY: Duck Pond Track	Car	E/M	CN:ge	Richard Long
4-6	BC: Snake Island	Pvt	Var	WG:wn	Susan Maughan
Thu 6	TOF: Summer in the Dandenongs	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Graham Hodgson
Sun 9	DAY: Mt Donna Buang to Dom Dom	Bus	E/M&M	CN:yg	Judith Shaw & Bettina Brill
Wed 12	DAY: Mt. Morton, Belgrave Heights	Pvt	E/M	CN:md	Susan Maughan
15-16	PC: Beginners PC - Mt Baw Baw	Pvt	Easy	WG:lv	Ian Mair
Sun 16	DAY: Mt Dandenong - Olinda Falls - Silvan Reservoir	Car	E/M	CN:md	Stuart Hanham
Mon 17	MOF: Cranbourne Botanic Gardens	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Michael Murray
Wed 19	DAY: Red Hill, Merricks Circuit	Pvt	E/M	CN:fr	Ed Neff
21-23	BC : Mt Franklin and surrounds	Pvt	E/M	CN:ba	Halina Sarbinowski
Sun 23	DAY: Cowans & Spanish Onion Track	Bus	E&M/M	CN:ba	Chris Collett & Deb Shand
Wed 26	SOC: Walking from Munich to Venice across the Alps				Ian Mair
Thu 27	SOC: Chelmsworth Park, Wilson Reserve Trail	Pvt	Easy	CN:me	Pearson Cresswell
Sat 29	CAN: Moonlight Kayak, Docklands, included fish & chips supper	Pvt	Easy		Susan Maughan