

**MELBOURNE
BUSHWALKERS INC.**

ABN 14 396 912 508

THE NEWS

#836 November
2020



Cover photo by Wen Qi

Would like your trip photos featured in the newsletter?

Due date for contributions to October News: 21 September

email: news@mbw.org.au



IN LINE WITH THE LATEST VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS OF MOVEMENT TO CONTAIN THE SPREAD OF COVID-19, ALL CLUB FACE-TO-FACE ACTIVITIES UP TO 1ST NOVEMBER HAVE BEEN CANCELLED. CLUB EQUIPMENT HIRE IS SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

REFER TO OUR WEBSITE FOR THE MOST RECENT UPDATES.

WE ARE A MEMBER OF



Bushwalking Victoria

**“video club night” on hold.
No changes to video “Wine & Cheese” sessions.**

For more details of the resumption of club walks & other activities, please refer to our website.

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

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 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 9th November

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Following discussions with club's president and the current committee, we have decided to make some changes to how walk previews are presented in the News:

- Walk titles for the month are listed in the newsletter on the last page as they currently are. Refer website for detailed previews.
- Leaders to send walk preview notes to the webmaster at least 4 weeks before the walk is to take place.
- Any calls for expressions of interest for longer trips, including pack carry, base camp, interstate and overseas trips, could include preview notes in the News.

FIRST AID COURSE RESCHEDULED

The First Aid course on Saturday 24th October has been rescheduled to the first quarter of 2021.

Revised date to be confirmed.



Sir David Attenborough joined Instagram end of September, and told the world (amongst other beautiful words) that out of the whole planet his favourite tree lives in a London park — he says hello to it daily — and described the delight of watching dragonflies in the back garden.

I can associate with it. I am fortunate for living in a leafy suburb and over the months have been blessed to witness the change of seasons on the trees on my daily walks. **Love** your trees. And **undertake little actions** that sprout into big change. This is why I am excited about our 80th MBW birthday fundraiser to plant 500 trees in 2021. We have already raised over \$600. Thank you all for getting us closer to our fundraising goal.

Like you I am counting the days we can walk again in our amazing state and national parks. Especially now that spring is here and wattles are out in bloom. For now let's take advantage of what is possible. For me it means exploring the Capital trail, Merrie Creek, Main Yarra trail on my bike enjoying time out in nature "human powered". For us in metro Melbourne our time is coming - keep an eye on our website for the latest updates when we are re-starting our walk.

I want to close out this month's president column with the following MBW Bravo! Big thank you to our leaders who are putting their hand ups again and again to lead a walk but also need to cancel as the date of restarting walks is being delayed. Huge thank you from all of us to you who are helping us to get walkers on the track walking again. We couldn't do it without you.

DINGO ENCOUNTERS ON THE LARAPINTA

Halina Sarbinowski



While listening to John Blay's reminiscence of when he met a dingo while hiking, I was reminded of my own dingo encounters while walking the Larapinta. In 2010, a group of six Melbourne Bushwalkers decided to walk the Larapinta Trail in the Northern Territory (as a private trip). This proved to be one of the best walks in Australia that I have ever tackled. I have the most amazing memories of the scenery and the wild-flowers, however, my favourite memories are of the dingoes that we encountered along our way.

Our first dingo encounter was at Ormiston Gorge. Prior to reaching Ormiston Gorge we had noted several dead fish in the water holes. Lots of notices advised us not to be concerned as this was a natural annual occurrence due to cold water temperatures during

winter. At Ormiston Gorge we were able to get to within a few meters of a dingo who was taking advantage of this natural event. Using his paws, he flicked dying fish out of the water which he devoured with great relish. He was a seasoned old fellow with a grey and scarred snout. He looked as though he knew all the tricks of the trade to survive, including ignoring us.

As we continued our hike, we would often hear dingoes howling from the cliff tops above us. Their howl was melodious. It was totally enchanting to listen to but we were constantly aware that we were being watched.

After losing the track and having to walk further than expected as we had to retrace our steps, we reached Birthday Waterhole exhausted. We barely had the energy to set up camp, eat dinner and then retire for the night. Not long after retiring we heard a commotion outside our tents as a pack of dingoes raced through our campsite. We could hear their yapping and were tempted to view the scene but exhaustion overruled and we stayed snuggled in our sleeping bags. The next morning, a couple who were camped near us, asked if we had risen to view the pack making its way through the campsite. We were apologetic that we hadn't, explaining our exhaustion, only to





be told that we were wise. Apparently, the pack racing through the campsite was a diversion. If you left your tent a "tail ender" would enter the tent, grab whatever he could and be away. The couple had lost a toiletry bag, which they thankfully recovered about 100 metres along the track. The dingoes are a cunning lot!

My second Larapinta walk in 2017 was not as eventful as the first. We did have one encounter near the end of the walk as we camped at Millers Flat. A lone walker was camped with us and during the night she kept hearing padding going past her tent. She was annoyed that Melbourne Bushies were going past her tent in the middle of the night to go behind bushes. After becoming quite frustrated with us, she decided

to confront us. Throwing her tent flap aside she came eye to eye with a dingo. After quickly retreating into her tent she decided not to venture out again that night. The dingo had not disturbed anyone else, although he did steal one of Meredith's socks from inside her fly but knowing what was good for him, he discarded it an extremely short distance away.



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NOVEMBER 2020

Sun 1	DAY: Shepherds Bush - Jells Park	Pvt	Easy	Halina Sarbinowski
Thu 5	TOF: Along the Maribyrnong	Pvt	Easy	Rosemary Cotter
Sun 8	DAY: Plenty Gorge Park	Car	E/M	Jopie Bodegraven
Mon 9	MTG: Club Committee Meeting (Video Link)			
Wed 11	DAY: Silver Creek & Wallaby Cascades, Kinglake NP	Pvt	E/M	John Terrell
13-15	PC: Eagles Peaks - Howqua River - Eight Mile Spur (Joint VMTC)	CPvt	Med	Gina Hopkins
Sun 15	DAY: Altona Station - Beacon Cove	Car	Easy	Jenny Andrewes
Mon 16	MOF: Alphington Parks with creek and river	Pvt	Easy	Jopie Bodegraven
Wed 18	DAY: Shepherd's Flat - Tipperary Springs	Pvt	E/M	Lesley Hale
Sun 22	Mt Evelyn Forest	Car	E/M	Brett Daniel
Thu 26	SOC: Banksia Park, Yarra Rive	Pvt	Easy	Bernadette O'Connor
Sat 28	DAY: Middle Park to Sandringham	Pvt	E/M	Margaret Campion
Sun 29	DAY: Cathedral Range Northern Circuit	Car	Med	Judith Shaw