

MELBOURNE
BUSHWALKERS INC.

ABN 14 396 912 508



THE NEWS

#849 December
2021



Hattah-Kulkyne NP - D. Shand

WE ARE A MEMBER OF



Bushwalking Victoria

Members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc meet on Wednesday evenings between 6.30-8.30 pm in the club rooms at:

Mission to Seafarers Victoria
717 Flinders Street
Docklands

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

Next committee meeting: Monday 6 December

New members

We welcome the following new member:

Tamsin Davidson

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

Editor: Deb Shand

Calls for expressions of interest for club activities and extended trips, 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



Leopard orchid -
Fang Fang

Committee positions open for 2022/23

For our committee 2022/23 we have several positions available including **social secretary**, **general committee member** and the **president** position. If you would like to be part of supporting our growing membership and be part of social and environmental initiatives, please get in touch at president@mbw.org.au/ There are many benefits of volunteering including making a difference, meeting new people and making new friends, being part of a community and learning new skills. Through volunteering you can challenge yourself to try something different, achieve personal goals, practice using your skills and discover hidden talents. And most of all, have fun! It would be great to hear from you.

Would you like your trip photos featured in the newsletter?

Due date for contributions to January News: 21 December
Email: news@mbw.org.au



President's Column

Dear members

We are finally out of lockdown and many of you have already taken advantage of our walk program. Last Wednesday we finally had our Wine and Cheese monthly event again. The talk focused on the native Grasslands of the Southern Volcanic Plains. It was a very informative talk to learn that grassland once extended across the Victorian Volcanic Plain all the way from the Yarra River to the South Australian border. Sadly, less than 2% of that original extent remains, and much of what does remain is heavily degraded. If you are interested to shape the speaker program in 2022 please get in touch with me. We are always looking for speaker suggestions.

Our Sunday bus is running again, and our summer program is about to kick off thanks to our volunteers. Make sure you visit the Activities Program on our website for the walk details. Our club rooms opened in November. Remember that access to the clubrooms is limited to persons who are fully vaccinated, and evidence of vaccination must be sighted by staff of the Mission to Seafarers upon entry. Checking in is still a legal requirement.

2020 was the year when our club turned 80 years young. We originally had planned to celebrate this milestone last year but due to COVID and the impact it had on our lives, we had to delay the event to 2021. To mark this important milestone, we would like to invite you to join us on Sunday 12th December for a day of walking, celebration and to enjoy some holiday cheer, so please come. Details are included over the page.

To commemorate Melbourne Bushwalkers 80th Anniversary the Club's committee has decided to plant 500 trees as a long-term legacy for the club. You can still purchase 1 or more native trees by donating to our dedicated 80th Anniversary tree planting GoFundMe page (see MBW website for details). The funds will be used for the 500 native trees and tree guards. The club will organise and attend a tree-planting event (during winter 2022) and more details about how you can get involved will be posted closer to the date. Buying one or more trees might also be an option to say thank you to a friend or send a unique present to someone special.



Speaking of volunteering, I would like to encourage you to get involved in club activities as a leader, whip, or general committee member. There are many opportunities to get involved and support those that do give up their time, as volunteers commit time in addition to working and family commitments. Can I encourage you to reach out to the volunteers to say thank you for their work? These are strange times and everybody is affected on some level. Everyone who gives back to the club deserves our gratitude. I am extremely thankful for the commitment of our committee and volunteers and leaders, especially this year, and I know all of them are giving their best.

So after months that passed in a haze of isolation, we are reconnecting with nature, places and people we love. Wishing you a magical, magnificent, and merry month of December! See you hopefully on the 12th December at our anniversary & holiday celebration.

Susanne



Anniversary and holiday celebration!

We have turned 80(+1) and can meet to celebrate our anniversary and the holiday on **Sunday, 12 December 2:30pm-5:30pm**. 2020 was the year when our club turned 80 years young. We originally had planned to celebrate this milestone last year but due to COVID and the impact it had on our lives, we had to delay the event to 2021. To mark this important occasion, we would like you to keep this date free for a day of walking, celebration and to enjoy some holiday cheer, so join us. We will have several local walks scheduled for the day, starting late morning across Melbourne, finishing at our clubhouse.

Details and walk previews are available on our website with information on how to book. If you decide not to walk on the day, we will still ask you to book via busbookings@mbw.org.au to ensure we record your attendance for catering and COVID requirements.

Celebration with afternoon tea and anniversary cake will be served from 2:30pm at our clubroom in the Mission to Seafarers to welcome walkers and non-walkers. During the event we will hear from our members, share memorable moments & photos of our 80 +2-year history, catch up with fellow members, and have a raffle to raise further funds for our tree planting project. (To commemorate Melbourne Bushwalkers 80th Anniversary the Club's Committee decided to plant 500 trees as a long-term legacy for the club. The funds will be used for the 500 native trees and tree guards. The tree planting will be taking place in winter 2022. Details about site, timing and transport will be shared with members in the May-June newsletter issue). During the afternoon, drinks can be purchased at the bar at your own cost.



Life has been made a little bit easier for leaders

Halina Sarbinowski

It's great to be able to get out and about after being cooped up during Lockdown 6 and already many members are stretching their legs and enjoying participating in club activities. With concerns about participants' and leaders' health, participation in club activities was made conditional on participants being double vaccinated against COVID-19. To ensure that members did not need to provide proof every time they attended a club activity, members were given the option to have their membership profiles updated to confirm vaccination. Already over 100 members have had their profile updated.

BUT how does this make life easier for leaders? Our webmaster has been busy behind the scenes updating the leaders' database so that the bookings sheets reflect member's vaccination status. Participation of all activities (except social nights in the club rooms) can be entered in the appropriate area of the leaders' database. The Sunday Walks Secretary (or assistants) enter Sunday walks, but individual leaders enter participants for their own activities under "Activity Bookings-General". Once the member's name is entered a "traffic light" system is triggered. If proof of vaccination has been provided the M'ber Type field turns "green". If not provided, then this field turns "amber". This is automatically updated on booking lists when a member provides proof of vaccination, and their profile is updated. The booking lists print with the colour coding. It is EASY for leaders to know who to check. With member's "OK", leaders can note the validation date of vaccination (month and year only required) and provide this information to membership@mbw.org.au and member's profiles will be updated.

December Reminders

Mick Noonan



This month the main theme is “**safety**”. Leaders and the Club all have key safety roles, and individual members need to take responsibility for their own safety. When you come prepared then you and your fellow walkers will have more fun and reduce the impacts if something does go wrong. Each month there is a reminder item that does not belong – so make sure you spot it!



The simple Whistle: Members are expected to carry a whistle on all walk activities and know the whistle code (see separate article in this News). Leaders should remind members of the whistle codes during the pre-activity circle. A whistle can be an invaluable aid in the outdoors for communicating, eg. if you get separated from your group then the whistle can be your best way for getting help. You may also be able to relay an unanswered whistle message and contribute to any searches. Remember whistles are intended to be used outside only, not indoors or on the bus/car as a sudden shrieking sound can startle/hurt people. Good quality pea-less whistles are available for just \$1 in the Clubrooms.

Members Yellow Safety/

Courtesy Card: This card is a handy reminder of basic safety guidelines for day walks including what to always carry, and what to do in a few key situations, eg. if you become separated from the group. A handy companion for your Green Health Card! If you don't have a Yellow Card then cut one out from this news, fold it over, pop it in a zip bag and put it in your day pack. You can also pick one up in the Clubrooms.

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Safety Guidelines One-Day Walks <i>With the Melbourne Bushwalkers</i></p>  <p>ALWAYS CARRY THESE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sufficient water, lunch, spare energy food, toilet trowel.• Pencil, paper, first aid kit, whistle, torch, matches in waterproof container• Raincoat, warm extra clothing, beanie• Sunhat, sunscreen <p>WHAT TO DO IF YOU ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• get ahead of the leader<ul style="list-style-type: none">– wait at EVERY track junction• lose contact with the person behind you<ul style="list-style-type: none">– stop & wait for them to catch up• make a toilet stop<ul style="list-style-type: none">– leave your pack on the track <p>IF SEPARATED FROM THE GROUP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don't wander – STAY PUT (searchers will begin where you were last seen)• Intermittently blow your whistle and/or shout• If night falls, take shelter from the wind | <p>Courtesy Guidelines</p>  <p><i>For walks with the Melbourne Bushwalkers</i></p> <p>BY PARTICIPATING YOU AGREE TO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respect the rights of other walkers• Follow instructions of the leader, “whip” or bus driver• Turn up on time <p>CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take your rubbish home – even if biodegradable• Avoid trampling on sensitive, new or rare growth• Minimise plant damage – don't cut track corners• Leave wildlife alone –whether native or introduced• Keep at least 100 metres away from watercourses for toilet stops• Bury toilet waste at least 15 cm below the surface• Look after community property including huts |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

What extra things a Leader

should carry in fire season: An AM/FM Radio to check fire warnings, and on overnight activities (pack carries and remote base camps) a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) or Satellite phone for emergency communications. While many Leaders have their own radios and PLBs, good quality radios and PLBs are available to borrow for free from the Clubrooms. These items are in addition to first aid kits and mobile phones that should always be carried.

Know the Whistle Songs!: In the great long tradition of the club It is essential that all members can play at least 2 songs on their whistles. Random testing is being conducted during activities this summer.



Why do groups sometimes make bad decisions? (Part 2)

Mick Noonan

In Part 1 in the November News we looked at the types of decisions outdoor leaders need to make and the different styles of decision making that they can use. Now its time to see what can go wrong!

Psychological and Social Aspects of Decision Making

Many decisions/problems need to be made/solved during an activity. They may be straight forward, or a logical choice based on the leader's competence and that of the group they are leading. Sometimes there will be time to assess carefully all the options while at other times speed may be crucial.

Leaders may need to consider the psychology of the group, people's needs, and their skills/experience levels in making and communicating a decision to the group. Knowing that psychological and social factors may influence group decisions, and why intelligent people can make bad decisions when placed in a group, will assist decision making.

Knowing your group can be important – their fitness, health, experience, are they aware of the danger/challenges. That can often be more important in extended activities. Each person comes with their individual needs and their view of safety is based on their skills and experiences, fears, eg. of heights/darkness, etc.

Why do intelligent people sometimes make bad decisions when in a group?

- Over-confidence
- Common Knowledge
- Groupthink

Overconfidence: It can lead to faulty decision making in a group. With a lack of dissenting voices and information, **individuals in a group can become more overconfident in their own ideas resulting in poor decisions.**

Common Knowledge: It can be difficult to take the personal risk of sharing a totally new idea or a differing view with a group. This is why **groups can tend to rely on 'common shared knowledge' and not uncover key information that may lead to a better decision.** If members play it safe, they aren't vulnerable, or potentially sounding like 'the odd one out'.

Groupthink: A psychological phenomenon that occurs within a group when **the desire for group conformity or harmony overcomes people's common sense** to present alternatives, critically evaluate a position, or express an unpopular opinion **resulting in a bad/dumb decision.** The desire for group cohesion can effectively drive out good decision making and problem solving.



(continued next page)

Noticeboard

Examples:

Why did they keep walking and not camp for the night when it got that late? – ***Get-Home'itis***

Why didn't they send for help earlier? – ***overconfidence***

Why didn't they turn back when the weather got that bad? – ***groups can take riskier decisions than individuals***

Summary

The main benefits of group decision making come from sharing more information, and the synergy from a diversity of views. There is also more acceptance, involvement, participation and understanding of an issue and the resultant decision. But it can take longer and sometimes time is critical in the outdoors.

Whether you are the leader or an activity participant, making good outdoor decisions is based on your skills and experience, being able to leverage the skills and experience of others, having good situation awareness, knowing the group, the ability to assess risks, and ***being aware of the psychology of groups*** so you can avoid 'groupthink'

Some definitions:

Problem Solving: More an analytical aspect of thinking. It can use intuition in gathering facts

Decision Making: More a judgement where, after thinking, one will take a course of action

Situation Awareness: This can be defined simply as "knowing what is going on around you in the outdoors"

Competence: The ability of individuals to deal effectively with the circumstances confronting them and comes from their skills and experiences.

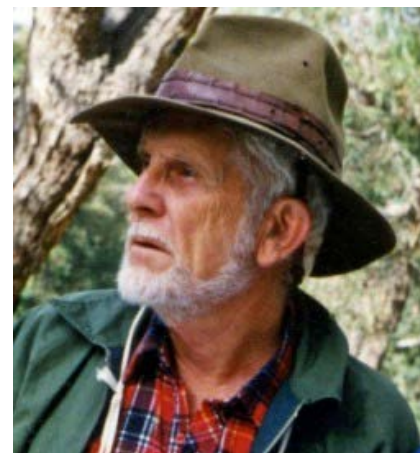
Vale Stuart Brookes

Nigel Holmes, MBW Delegate on BSAR

The bushwalking community was saddened with the news that Stuart Brookes OAM passed away on Friday 19 November, aged 99. Bushwalkers throughout Victoria have benefited enormously from his contributions over the decades.

Stuart had a long involvement with Bush Search and Rescue Victoria (BSAR).

He was a founding member of BSAR in 1949, then known as the Search and Rescue Section, Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs. He participated in search and rescue for 40 years, including many of the major searches through the 1950s to 1970s. He was a Field Organiser for many years and later a Police Liaison Officer.



For his contribution to bushwalking through map-making, safety in the bush and search and rescue he was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in 1988. Older bushwalkers will remember his excellent maps signed S.R. Brookes. The maps of Victoria's Alpine Area and other popular bushwalking destinations were published from the late 1940s to 2011. The map library at our club has many examples of Brookes' works.

Stuart was a foundation member of the Victorian Mountain Tramping Club (VMTC) and became its first life member 10 years later. Brookes' son, Duncan, continues his father's legacy in BSAR.

The founding of VICPOL SAR is described by Brookes [here](#).

Major Update to our Risk Management Plan

Mick Noonan

Our Club's Risk Management Plan (RMP) has over 50 risks. They are divided into Activity, People, Equipment, Assets, Organisation, and External categories. Each year we review the plan and every 2-3 years we do a major update. We consider if there are new risks to include, if risks have reduced to a point where they no longer need to be specifically managed, if risks have increased/decreased, and do we need to improve the things we do to reduce the risks impacts. We look at the various practices ('controls') we have in place to reduce the chance the risk will occur and what actions ('contingencies') we could do if it does occur. We also check progress on any actions we said we would undertake.

This year was a major review, and the main changes are (the unique risk code is shown in brackets):

New Risks – A Walker is lost during an Activity (A17), Pandemics or Public Health Emergencies (X7), Activity Sustainability (X8), Sunday Bus not viable post Covid (X9)

Increased Risks - Bushfires (climate change related, A10), Insufficient Leaders for Activity Program (COVID Impacts etc. O6), Climate Risk (X2), Insufficient skills of Members (P12A), Members not as Social (COVID impacts, P13), Major drop in Club Membership (M1)

One of the major changes coming out of this year's review is the new '**Reminder System**' which commenced in the October News. Members and leaders will be regularly reminded of key items to improve their knowledge and skills, as well as improving the safety and well-being of members when participating in Club activities. For example, Fire and Snake reminders in Spring and carrying an Emergency Blanket on extended activities in Winter.

We don't expect general members to read and understand the risk plan as we build the outcomes into our normal guidelines, processes, procedures, and training activities. Leaders are expected to be familiar with the Activity and People risks in particular, while Committee Members should be across the full plan and especially the risks that relate to their Club roles. You can find the new RMP, which was approved by the Committee at their November Meeting, in the Members Downloads Area of the Website.

Whistles - Communicating in the bush

An essential piece of equipment in the bush is the humble whistle. It is the best way to communicate critical instructions between walkers.

- **3 blasts** indicate an emergency and all walkers should move to where the signal originated e.g. a missing person.
- **2 blasts** indicate a need to regroup, e.g. a person needs first aid, the group is too spread out.
- **1 blast** indicates acknowledgement and lets everyone know that a message has been heard and is being actioned.

If an acknowledgement whistle is not heard then it is important that a message is relayed (repeated) so that all walkers, especially the leader and whip, are aware of either an emergency or the need to regroup.

It is essential that all walkers carry a whistle. Do you have one? You can buy one from the club for only \$2.

UPDATED (AGAIN!!): Guidelines for Leading a Day Walk with Melbourne Bushwalkers

Mick Noonan

In the October News we presented the many updates made to the *Guidelines for Leading a Day Walk with Melbourne Bushwalkers*. We have since reviewed the current *Leaders Checklist for Sunday Walks – Bus and Car Pools*. It would have needed numerous changes and grown to 4 pages so the decision was made to remove it and include its unique items into the larger Guideline. So we have updated the Guidelines document again!

It has now been updated on the website with the new changes shown in italics. So if you did have a look at the September version, have another quick look at the latest changes. And if you didn't then, now is a great time to see the whole new document. Early next year we will review the other Walk Checklist document which includes Pack Carries and Base Camps.

A Brief History of the Austrian Alpine Club (UK)

David Walsh

Back in the free and easy days of 2019, when we took for granted our right to travel and the possibility to get injured and need rescue, I wrote an article for the news on the “Cost of Rescue”. In that article I mentioned the rescue insurance included with membership of Österreichischer Alpenverein (OAV) through Austrian Alpine Club (UK). Most Sektion or sections of OAV consist of a group of members attached to and with ownership of a particular alpine hut in Austria. Back in 2019 I fully intended to write another article for the News about how this large section of OAV came about located outside continental Europe. Other more active life pursuits got in the way between then and now. However, one of the few benefits of the constant lockdowns has been working through the to do list rather than it consistently growing.



Born in Vienna to British parents, Walter Ingham came to London to work in 1932, and commenced a travel company part-time in England prior to WWII specialising in skiing holidays in Austria and France. During this time he had contact with Henry Crowther, born Heinrich Karl Krausz, working for the Austrian Tourist Board and also a member of the, at the time, joint German Austrian Alpine club DuOAV. Krausz declined to return to Austria at the beginning of the war, and after a period in internment, married a Scottish woman. Krausz spent the latter part of the war working in his trained profession of electrical engineer in England. After the war he changed his name to Henry Crowther.

As a Major in the British army during the war, Walter Ingham was sent to Austria as part of the occupying army at the end of the war. The Allied Armies proposed to blow up the mountain huts in Germany and Austria so they could not be used for military purposes. Major Ingham campaigned against this proposal. The huts, although often in a state of neglect, survived, and shortly after the war the Österreichischer Alpenverein (OAV) was reformed as an independent Austrian Alpine Club again. Around 1947 Walter Ingham and Henry Crowther floated the idea of a British Sektion (Department/Section) of the OAV and Ingham approached the newly formed OAV HQ in Innsbruck, resulting in the Österreichischer Alpenverein Sektion Britannia (Austrian Alpine Club (UK)) being formed in 1948. After the war Walter Ingham and Henry Crowther worked together to re-start the travel business and build it into a major travel operator.

The Österreichischer Alpenverein has about 600,000 members in all Sektion, and as a section of the total club ACC (UK) Sektion Britannia has about 12,000 members in the UK and overseas. <https://aacuk.org.uk/>

Cooking in the Bush

Peter Heading

Back in the early 1980's, I attended an outdoor cooking course run by Marc Gottsch on behalf of the Council of Adult Education. Over the next few months, I would like to share with you some of the information and recipes I received from the course. This may not be appropriate for all hiking situations, but you may pick up a tip or two that you can apply.



Heating a fire for cooking

In the open or outdoors, we can boil, steam, bake, roast, fry and grill. To do these things, we use slightly different methods to those used in the home, mainly the control of heat. The golden rule of outdoor cooking is: **Heat is for cooking, flame is for burning.** There is one exception - boiling, not simmering to stir up a bit of flame will not hurt the boiling billy.

When the fire is lit and going well, put on enough wood to make a good amount of hot coals. Only when the flame dies down should you start your cooking. Lighting a fire in a small trench has many advantages, but a fire surrounded by stones or rock or a brick constructed BBQ works equally well.

However - **never under any circumstances use stones from a river or even a dry creek bed.** These stones will contain a lot of moisture and when they heat up, they can explode like a hand grenade. Likewise, **never throw any kind of flammable liquid onto a fire,** it may cause serious burns.

A trench or some type of wall around your fire helps hold the heat in the coals. With good wood, you can cover the coals with soil overnight and you will still be able to revive the fire with a little new wood next morning.

Judging the heat from a fire - a rough guide:

We can, with practice, learn how to judge the heat from an open fire.

Hold the palm of your hand about 15 centimetres (6 inches) above the coals and count in seconds the length of time you can leave your hand there.

2-3 seconds, hot - 200 degrees Celsius

3-4 seconds, medium - 180 degrees Celsius

4-5 seconds, low - 150 degrees Celsius.

The heat will be hotter at the centre of the fire than at the edges.

Gas canister supplier

I recently purchased the following fuel canisters after searching online. Gasmate canisters are available from Outdoors Domain for pick-up only at their shop in Mt Waverley - 28 Lionel Road.



They come in packs of 24 and cost \$89.95 - so it works out at \$3.75 per canister. The mixture is 25% propane and 75% iso-butane. If interested, I suggest you call ahead, to make sure they have stock available. 24 canisters may be too many for one person, so you could decide to share a pack with others.

<https://www.outdoorsdomain.com.au/products/gasmate-230g-iso-butane-cartridge-24-units>

Woodslane Walking Guides offers Mates Rates

Woodslane Press has set up a dedicated website (see [here](#)) which has enabled them to set up a 'mates rates' discount code. If you order *any* book off this site – including all the walking guides - and enter the code **MATES15** at the checkout you will receive 15% off the RRP.

These new books and new editions are in the pipeline:

- The [Great Ocean Walk](#) has just gone to print and will be in stock by the end of December; authors Julie and Debra are also working on the following for 2022: **Best Walks West of Melbourne** and the **Grampians Peaks Trail**
- Also later next year they are very excited to be publishing **Tasmania's Best Walks** – this will be their biggest walking guide yet with over 55 walks
- Earlier this year they published a new edition of their first and still very popular [Sydney's Best Harbour & Coastal Walks](#); and a new edition of [Best Walks of the Central Coast](#) has just hit the warehouse
- A new edition of **Blue Mountains Best Bushwalks** should be coming around next July, and new editions of **Six Foot Track** and **Great North Walk** later in the year; also later in 2022 they will publish a brand new NSW title: **Best Walks of the Mid-north NSW Coast**



The publishers welcome feedback on their existing titles or on suggestions for new titles and would love to hear from anyone who is keen (and feels capable!) of contributing to the series.

Parks Victoria Hawkweed Program - Summer 2022

This summer, Parks Victoria (PV) will continue its volunteer program which is working on eradicating the invasive Hawkweed from the Bogong High Plains. Hawkweeds are a highly invasive pest plant species which could cause major environmental damage in alpine and sub-alpine areas of Australia if not eradicated early. PV have now added some volunteering dates for this summer. There will be four one day sessions available on the following dates:

Friday 7th January, Friday 14th January, Friday 21st January, Friday 28th January



To register, click on the link or paste the link into your browser to access Parkconnect, <https://www.parkconnect.vic.gov.au/Volunteer/search-volunteer-activities/?mf=0%3D%261%3D%262%3D%263%3D%2Aalpine%264%3D> once entered, scroll down and the program should be visible. Volunteers who are directly engaged in a Parks Victoria program and/or activity that is delivered by Parks Victoria staff are required to have mandatory vaccinations unless holding an exemption. In line with Parks Victoria Protocols volunteers will be required to have a Working with Children Check.

Questions can be directed to: Vicki Rickard, Hawkweed Volunteer Officer, Email Vicki.Rickard@parks.vic.gov.au

Oxfam Trailwalker 2022 – Melbourne event seeking volunteers

The Oxfam Trailwalker Melbourne to be held in March 2022 is seeking volunteers to assist with running the event. The organisers would like to know if any Melbourne Bushwalker members would be interested in using their skills to volunteer? The event takes places from Endeavour Hills to Heidelberg where teams of 4 journey through 100km or 50km of bush trail in over 48 or 24 hours. More information is available on this website: <https://trailwalker.oxfam.org.au/volunteer>



Wilsons Promontory Lighthouse Trip - November 2021

Therese Ryan



A wild electrical storm, the stunning beauty of the Wilsons Promontory peninsula, the comfort of the old large Lighthouse Keeper's cottage, unexpectedly dry walking weather and great company! What else could I ask for on a Bushies' hike?

Jill Allen's meticulous planning saw twelve walkers booked for the Prom, with the highlight being an overnight at the Lighthouse. Metro Melbourne's Lockdown only ceased two weeks earlier and there had been some nervousness about the trip eventuating. Fortunately we were free to travel.

Jenny A, Jill, Annemarie, Geof, Keith, Eddy, Sylvia McL, Sharon, Liz, Kim C, Jess and myself, Therese, arrived on Friday to stay in booked huts at Tidal River. There we met two other Bushies, Carol and Fotina, who were doing an independent walk at the Prom. Most of the group headed to Pillar Point for an afternoon stroll. Annemarie and I stayed and happened to witness a bike mishap, with the rider possibly incurring two broken arms. The Duty Rangers were most helpful.

Saturday morning saw us walking the 19 km from Telegraph Saddle via Roaring Meg to the Lighthouse. The car park was full but the Shuttle bus was operating from 9am. Storm damage has affected the Boardwalk to Sealers Cove, (possible reopening in Spring 2022) and the washed out descent on the western side to Little Oberon Bay is also yet to be repaired. Refuge Bay to Sealers is closed because of fallen trees. Personally I was pleased we took the shortest route as I wanted to spend more time at the Lighthouse.

This was my second time overnighting here and it was just as exciting as the first time. Built in 1859 from local granite, the historic buildings are well-maintained and are a wonderful way to view the rugged coastline and Bass Strait. Our group was allotted the largest, very comfortable house, which was just perfect for us. Because of Covid restrictions the usual tour of the Lighthouse was cancelled but the museum is fascinating. The forecast rain that afternoon fell just as Geof and Liz who had opted to visit South Point were arriving. The rest of us enjoyed watching the storm from the verandah.

It was a most genial night. Annemarie had pre-cooked a group meal of Spaghetti Bolognese which was prepared and plated by Jess and helpers. So delicious and full of interesting flavours! Others contributed much appreciated snacks. The library was a cosy place to relax and chat. A humorous story of how not to prepare a Toblerone Cheesecake was a highlight.

On Sunday our return walk via Waterloo Bay was in brilliant weather. It was a sunny lunch stop at the beach and Kim and Jess could not resist the lure of the water. It was a really wonderful weekend, not to be missed. Thanks Jill!

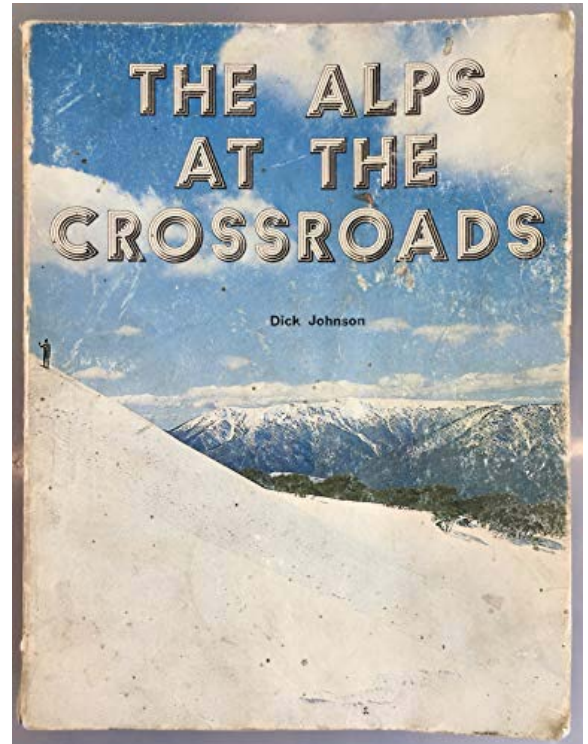


Australian Alps Walking Track

John Widmer

Doug Pocock reminded us that Geoff Mosely (formerly director of the Australian Conservation Foundation) was the first person to walk the full length of the proposed Alpine Walking track in the 1970s. At last, we had a plan for Australia's first long distance bushwalking track. There was a growing public awareness of "wild" places.

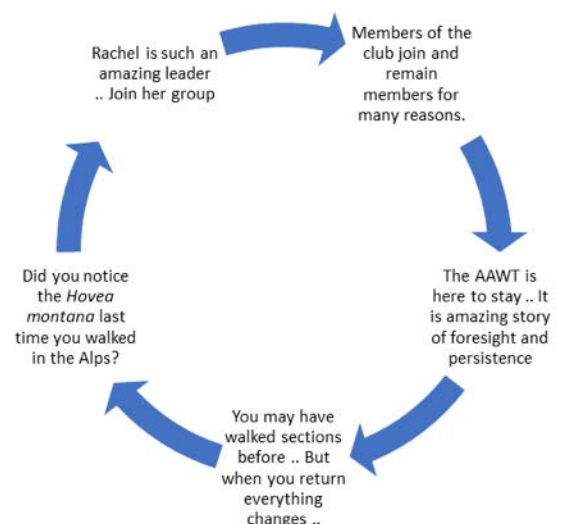
Dick Johnson published the "Alps at the Crossroads" in 1974 with the support of the VNPA. Greeted with some hostility at first, it is worth quoting the first sentence of that 1974 call-to-arms: "In the 19th Century the alpine region of Victoria was extensively mined for gold and during this period and in all the years following was grazed by cattle. Despite the harmful effects of these activities the country, even thirty years ago, was very much an unroaded wilderness, a vast natural expanse of mountain country with a wonderful feeling of spaciousness that gave an intense exhilaration to those visitors privileged to pass through it."



For thousands of years the aboriginal travellers in the high country collected food such as the Bogong moth. European settlers completely changed the view of the high country; it was a place to provide wealth. By the 1970s "new" Australians such as Geoff Mosely were beginning to question the value of such narrow values.

At first the Alpine Walking Track only followed the Victorian Alps. It was extended later to Tharwa in the ACT. The track was originally marked with little yellow signs. Marking a track is one issue. How to follow each section is another. The 2003 and 2009 fires removed many of the signs. A GPS is an essential tool for the remote parts of the track. John Siseman and the Chapmans started producing detailed guidebooks.

Rachel Keen is now planning to allow Club Members who have limited "escape" time to walk the AAWT in short sections. She has already led one section over Mount Bogong. Two sections are already planned for the summer program. Why should we support Rachel?



Hattah-Kulkyne NP Two-for-One bootcamp - Part 1

November 13-19, 2021

Deborah Bishop

After much too and froing, our leader Ian was able to settle on a somewhat confirmed base camp/pack carry for our group of 12. In light of environmental water flooding the Hattah lakes, we moved our three-day basecamp to Lake Mournpall, a lovely site near the water complete with tables, firepit, water tanks and toilets. Emu wander freely and the occasional wallaby come over for drinks. Each morning we woke with the sun and birds calling and on one day a tawny frog mouth juvenile that landed on our tents looking for protection.



On Sunday, Ian led us on an 18km walk, exploring the lake systems north of Lake Mournpall. Open country and sand made navigating easy with lakes to the left and right. Occasional showers had us scrambling for rain gear off and on.

On Monday, we went in the other direction for 18km to Warepil lookout, stopped in at the visitor centre and had a look at the flooded Lake Hattah campground. Further information gathered from rangers found our next walks were in the firing line of goat hunters and required a change of our next walking location.

On Tuesday, after securing a safe spot for the tawny frog mouth, we drove to our next camp along the Murray near Messenger pump station. Water from pumps with a capacity of 100 gigitalitres per day was being pumped from the Murray into Chalka Creek to support habitat in the lake environment. The weather was improving and getting warmer as we set up our next camp and prepared for more walking along the Murray River.



Hattah-Kulkyne NP Two-for-One bootcamp - Part 2

Richard Hanson



While driving to our camp by the Murray River we were distracted by a vivid red lake. We stopped to investigate and discovered a fabulous spongy red weed that felt great to walk on. It surrounded and covered Lake Kramen. After visiting the Messenger pumping station, an extended walk beside the flooded Chalka Creek was enjoyed by all.

The next day we began a two-day pack carry and camped overlooking the Murray which was peaceful until about 6.00 in the morning when we were visited by the most raucous Sulphur Crested Cockatoos. In

the evening we dined by a campfire on a sandbar beside the Murray River listening to stories of bushwalks gone wrong beside magnificent River Red Gums. We also enjoyed watching the feral goat families scramble down to the water on the other side of the river.

After such pleasant walking and camping we had to leave a day early because a total fire ban was declared - forecast 34 degrees and big winds. This was hard to explain to people in Melbourne who were experiencing cold, wet and windy weather.

On the drive home we stopped at a huge pink lake. Lake Tyrrell, near Sealake, is the largest salt lake in Victoria with a nice visitor centre explaining the history of salt mining. We all had to taste the salt water of course.



Thanks to Ian Mair for leading us on yet another great bushwalk. And thanks to Deb B, Susan, Halina, Ian, Therese, Peter, Chris, Bettina, Deb S, Jenny and Bernadette for your company.



Upcoming activities

December 2021

| | | | | |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------|----------------------------|
| Thu 2 | TOF: Edgars Creek & the Two Lakes | Pvt | E | Jopie Bodegraven |
| 3-5 | PC: Helicopter Spur-Mt Howitt | Pvt | M | Agajan Akbari |
| 4-5 | PC: Beginners: Brisbane Ranges | Pvt | E/M | Robert Ian Mair |
| Sun 5 | DAY: George Bass Coastal Walk - Kilcunda | Bus | E&E/M | Greg Johnson & John Widmer |
| Mon 6 | MTG: Club Committee meeting | Pvt | | Susanne Etti |
| Wed 8 | DAY: Woodend Christmas walk | Pvt | E/M | Rose Perich |
| Sat 11 | TRG: First Aid training | Pvt | | David Cash |
| Sun 12 | SOC: Holiday & 80th Anniversary party | Pvt | | Susanne Etti |
| Sun 12 | DAY: Mission to Seafarers from Malvern East | Car | E/M | Robert Ian Mair |
| Sun 12 | DAY: Mission to Seafarers from Collingwood Children's Farm | Car | E/M | Susanne Etti |
| Sun 12 | DAY: Mission to Seafarers from Botanical Gardens | Car | E | Jan Colquhoun |
| Thu 16 | SOC: Bellbird Dell Reserve | Pvt | E | Alister Rowe |
| 17-19 | PC: Square Head Ginny-Mt Lovick-Picture Point Spur | Pvt | M/H | Jopie Bodegraven |
| Sun 19 | DAY: Daylesford - Sailors Falls & Lake Jubilee | Bus | E/M&M | Therese Ryan & John Widmer |
| Mon 20 | MOF: Mordialloc Creek-Edithvale Wetlands | Pvt | E | Eileen Ayre |
| 23-28 | BC: The Annual Christmas Base Camp | Pvt | E/M | Susan Maughan |
| 27-13 | PC: Tasmania-South Coast & Port Davey Tracks | Pvt | M/H | Ian Langford |
| 28-1 | PC: AAWT-Stronachs Camp-Rumpff Saddle | Pvt | M | Rachel Keen |
| 28-4 | PC: Genoa River | Pvt | M/H | Claire Luxford |

For detailed preview notes and program updates, please refer to the activities program on our website:
https://mbw.org.au/mbw_activities/MBW_activities_program.php