

MELBOURNE
BUSHWALKERS INC.

ABN 14 396 912 508



THE NEWS

#839 February
2021



Sunset walk, Snake Island - 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

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

Next committee meeting: Monday 1 March



AGM MARCH 24 AND COMMITTEE VACANCY

The Melbourne Bushwalkers Annual General Meeting will take place on March 24 in the club rooms.

There is one position open for an ordinary/general committee member. This is a great opportunity to become more involved with the club and its decision making processes. For queries please contact the President at president@mbw.org.au

Would you like your trip photos featured in the newsletter?

Due date for contributions to March News: 21 February
Email: news@mbw.org.au



President's Column

Happy New Year! And welcome to 2021.

I hope you had a wonderful (and maybe even relaxing) holiday break after the roller coaster ride that was 2020, and that you're now feeling rejuvenated and refreshed.

I was very happy to see many of our members in person safe and well during our New Year celebration at our club house. Many of you have joined our Sunday bus walks which are finally back on the road and our walking program is in full swing. It is great to see us back on the track.

For our committee 2021/22 we have an open position for a general committee member. If you would like to assist in supporting our growing membership and be part of social & environmental initiatives, it would be great to hear from you.



Reflecting on the start of the new year, as the calendar has flipped, we know the world still continues to grapple with many of the challenges of the past year. With the turning of the year, we are faced with the question: What does 2021 hold for the world - for us? Often with the new year comes a new list of resolutions. Following on from our MBW news editor's excellent opinion piece on sustainable fashion in the last issue of the News, I think one resolution could be about consuming and purchasing less products which can also be a personal 2021 climate action goal. When stepping up to a sustainable lifestyle it is necessary to reduce consumption. Buy good quality products that are made to last, support businesses that balance purpose and profit (B Corps), revamp old clothes in fun ways for a fresh look, and find new recipes that help you use your leftover groceries in innovative (and delicious) ways. And when you are shopping, vote with your money and look for products made from sustainable materials that are designed to be around for longer than a season.

I am looking forward to a year where we can spend time in nature, connect with MBW members and friends and celebrate our 80th anniversary.

Susanne

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST: CITY MOONLIGHT KAYAK SATURDAY 27 MARCH



The club did this super-fun trip last February and I have received quite a few requests to run it again. No kayaking experience needed. It lasts 2.5 hours.

We meet at the Community Hub at The Dock, 912 Collins Street, Docklands at 5:45 pm.
The no. 48 and no. 11 trams take you there - TRAM STOP D18

For a group of 8 or more, we have a discounted price of \$89 pp (regular price is \$99).

NOTE: **full payment is required at the time of booking to secure your spot.**

Book with Susan Maughan

<https://www.kayakmelbourne.com.au/tours/moonlight-kayak-tour/>

PUBLICATION OF WALK PREVIEWS

After many years of publishing walk previews in the News, it was decided late last year by the club president and committee to make changes to how walk previews are presented:

- Walk titles for the current month are listed in the newsletter on the last page. Refer to the website for detailed previews. This avoids duplication and ensures that prospective walkers have the most up to date information about the walk.
 - Leaders 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 club activities or extended trips, including pack carry, base camp, interstate and overseas trips, can include preview notes in the News
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NEW MAPS AVAILABLE FROM MERIDIAN MAPS

Meridian Maps, a publisher of quality recreational and wall maps, is excited to announce the publication of two new editions.

Mornington Peninsula Walks Map Guide.

This great new edition of the previously titled Mornington-Arthurs Seat Map Guide, is totally updated with new cartography and text and has been vetted by Parks Victoria rangers.

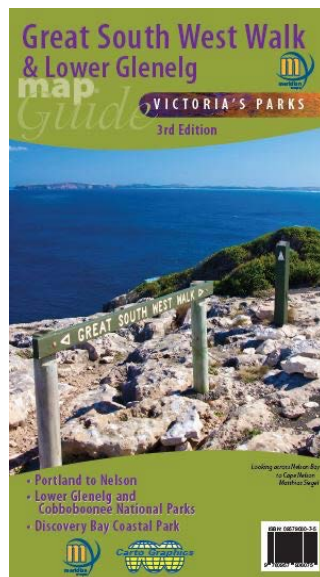
It includes 25 walks across Point Nepean and Mornington Peninsula Nat Parks and Arthurs Seat State Park.

When you are done taking in the great scenery, visit the local farm gates and other businesses detailed

on the Mornington Peninsula Walks Map Guide.

\$10.95 RRP.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/mornington-peninsula-walks-map-guide/>



Great South West Walk & Lower Glenelg Map Guide.

This popular map has been updated and now shows the Emergency Markers along the 250 km Great South West Walk. Covering the far South West of Victoria is it ideal for visiting Cape Bridgewater, Cape Nelson, Discovery Bay, The Glenelg River and Portland.

\$14.95 RRP.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/great-south-west-walk-map-guide/>

You can purchase these maps individually or as part of the Victorian Walking Map Pack:

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/victorian-walking-map-pack/>

Meridian Maps is pleased to offer all bushwalking club members a 10% discount as an introductory offer for these two great new maps. Purchase of the Victorian Walking Map Pack in any format already obtains a 10% discount. The offer is available on the Meridian Maps website

www.meridianmaps.com.au from January 22 through to 28 February 2021. Use code MPWGSW21 to obtain the offer.

Meridian Maps are also available in digital form for your mobile device at:

Avenza Maps - <http://www.avenza.com/pdf-maps>

WHO ARE THE FRIENDS OF BOGONG?

Deb Shand



Friends of Bogong was formed in 1984 to provide an avenue for people interested in the Bogong High Plains and adjacent peaks of the Alpine National Park to give something back to the environment they gain so much enjoyment from. Members are a group of people of all ages and from all walks of life who value fresh mountain air, spectacular mountain views, great time with new friends and taking care of nature.

Objectives of the group are to:

- Provide support and foster public awareness of the Alpine National Park
- Assist Parks Victoria with special projects within the Park
- Bring into contact people with a mutual interest in the Alpine National Park.

Activities of the group include:

- Track building and clearing
- Planting and weed control
- Erosion control on tracks and roads
- Removing old wire fences and posts
- Building picnic tables and seats
- Cleaning and painting sign boards
- Hut maintenance



Weekend work parties are held twice per year in March and November. You can become a member for \$10 per year or come along as a visitor. Volunteers with Parks Victoria are required to register first on ParkConnect at <https://www.parkconnect.vic.gov.au/Volunteer/>



More information about the Friends of Bogong can be found on their website:

<http://www.friendsofbogong.org.au/Intro.html>

Or on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Bogong-186891461345098/>

The next work party will be held on the weekend of March 20-21. The group usually camps at Mountain Creek on Friday night and on the High Plains on Saturday night, weather permitting. You are welcome to contact me for more details.

CHRISTMAS AT CAMP EUREKA

Susan Maughan



The Bushies have had thoroughly enjoyable Christmases in Yarra Junction for the past six years. The camp occupies several acres of natural bushland with owls and a koala for company at night. There are extensive facilities, which means, after a day's walk, we can cook up a storm or relax by the bbq.



It has become a tradition to dress for dinner on Christmas Day and this time round our theme was "The 1920s". Bootleggers, gangster's molls and Flappers arrived in style! Next year... it's Bollywood.

BEWARE THE COUGHING KANGAROO

Halina Sarbinowski

Several years ago, I lead a walk around the Sugarloaf Reservoir. At the end of the walk, as a diligent leader, I checked the toilet block to see if all members had returned to the bus prior to doing the final count. I was the last person to leave the toilet block and saw a sole kangaroo. As I approached it, the kangaroo started to cough. I was very concerned and slowly walked towards it repeating "You poor thing!". The nearer I got to it the coughing became more distressed. Feeling very sorry for this poor kangaroo I decided to "back off". I was so concerned that upon reaching home I found the contact details of the Kinglake rangers and left a message, expressing my concern for this coughing kangaroo hoping that they would medically intervene.

Many months later, I read an article about "coughing kangaroos". Coughing is the warning sign to "back off", a bit like a growl from a dog. The poor kangaroo wasn't ill but giving me a warning...no wonder the closer I got that the coughing became more distressed... it was just getting angrier.

I thought about the rangers listening to my message and laughing at the ignorant person who could easily have been attacked if she had continued to approach the "coughing kangaroo".

I feel compelled to let you know that if you approach a "coughing kangaroo" don't feel sorry for it...just BACK OFF!



TRAVERSING THE COBBERAS

John Terrell

Of the peaks above 1800 m in Victoria, only a few are outside the Bogong–Hotham area. One is Mt Buller and the others are in The Cobberas, a remote area in eastern Victoria near the start of the Murray River. I'd been on a couple of Easter base camps in the area and was keen to explore it more.



We assembled on Boxing Day at Native Dog Flat, a bush camping area on the tiny Buchan River and were surprised to find it almost empty. Because the weather forecast was for rain and cloud the first two days, with the promise of sunshine later in the walk, our leader Jopie decided to reverse the original direction so that we would climb The Cobberas when there was more chance of views.

We spent most of the first day walking along the Cowombat Flat Track, part of the Australian Alps Walking Track. Much of the surrounding forest had been burned in last summer's bushfires, but we were gratified to see that most tree trunks were covered with the epicormic growth that allows them to survive all but the most intense fires. I had heard about Cowombat Flat many years ago, as the place where you can straddle the Murray with one foot in Vic, on in NSW, but I was surprised how large the flat was. Plenty of room for our party of 15 to camp, plus another Melbourne group, several mobs of brumbies (feral horses) and the wreckage of the RAAF aircraft that crashed there in 1953.

On day 2, the weather turned damp and cloudy. Jen and I decided not to climb The Pilot, but explored the upper reaches of the Murray and climbed Forest Hill where the 1870 surveyors built the first cairn marking the start of the straight-line border between the two states. Although we didn't see huge numbers of feral horses, we could see that they had caused quite a lot of damage, particularly to the stream edges, to the extent that we were quite uncertain whether to drink the water without treatment. After lunch we headed downstream looking for waterfalls, but probably didn't go far enough. Another pleasant evening was spent around the campfire back at Cowombat Flat.

Leaving our camp early on day 3, we started climbing into the Cobberas wilderness. Initially we walked through burnt forest, which at least minimised the amount of scrub we had to bash through. But the route was rocky and uneven with no track. We slower walkers were glad not to have to find the route! By mid-



Along the track

afternoon, the clouds were breaking up and by Cobberas No. 2 we were starting to get some views until finally, on climbing Moscow Peak we saw the entire Cobberas range laid out around us. But still clouds covering The Pilot and the Main Range. Thankfully we were now in the unburned area, although this didn't make the going any easier. This was the hardest day of the walk and I don't think I was the only one who felt themselves approaching their limit! It was a great relief to camp shortly after in a delightful saddle at the head of Moscow Creek, among ancient snowgums and wildflowers. However it took quite a while to find sufficient water that hadn't been trampled, muddied or worse by feral horses.



The final day dawned clear and sunny and, carrying only daypacks, we headed through swathes of bush pea, mint bush and many other wildflowers, climbing Cobberas No. 1, Middle Peak and finally Cleft peak. At last we had magnificent views north to The Pilot, Mt Kosciuszko, Mt Townsend and the Main Range, east to Mt Tingaringy, south towards Buchan and west to Mt Bogong, the High Plains and Mt Pinnibar. Returning to camp, we packed up and continued through more (mostly) trackless scrub, over rocks and fallen trees for several hours until we regained the Cowombat Flat Track. Derrick and Eddie did sterling work ferrying our packs back to the Limestone Road and returning to collect us stragglers (although we think Agajan ran most of the 5 km back to the road!) Half the party were keen to drive home that night, but the remaining seven returned to Native Dog Flat for one more night in the bush.

Thanks to Jopie for planning and leading this very challenging walk, and to Jen, John F, Carol, Gina, Derrick, Agajan, Ros, David, John W, Eduardo, Jude, Barry and Quinn for your company.

For another perspective on this walk, see Eduardo's blog at <https://www.equilibriumx.com/en/ecoturismo-y-conservacion/rutas-de-senderismo-alpes-australianos> (English translation available)



Photos by J. Terrell

Upcoming activities

February 2021

Mon 1	MTG: Club committee meeting	Pvt		
Thu 4	TOF: Along the Maribyrnong	Pvt	E	Rosemary Cotter
6-7	PC: Tarilta Creek Gorge	Pvt	E	Ian Mair
Sun 7	DAY: Mt St Leonard to Donnelly Weir	Bus	E/M&M	Brett Daniel & Angela Vetsicas
Wed 10	DAY: City history walk	Pvt	E/M	Susan Maughan
12-14	PC: Mt Arthur-Spion Kopje cct from Bogong Village	Pvt	M/H	John Widmer
12-14	BC: Cumberland River	Pvt	E/M	Halina Sarbinowski
Sun 14	DAY: Ironbark Gorge and Currawong Falls	Car	E/M	Richard Long
Mon 15	MOF: Norton Park-Shepherds Bush-Jells Park cct	Pvt	E	Ian Mair
Sun 21	DAY: Kilcunda-Cape Paterson	Bus	E/M&M	Ian Mair & Halina Sarbinowski
Wed 24	DAY: Woodlands Historic Park	Pvt	E	Lesley Hale
Thu 25	SOC: Plenty River, Yallambie	Pvt	E	Alister Rowe
Sun 28	DAY: Sherbrooke Forest (train opt)	Car	E/M	Bettina Brill

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

