

**MELBOURNE
BUSHWALKERS INC.**

ABN 14 396 912 508



THE NEWS

#838

January
2021



Kalimna bushland - D. Shand

WE ARE A MEMBER OF



Members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc resume meeting on Wednesday evenings between 6.30-8.30 pm from January 6 2021 in the club rooms at:

**Mission to Seafarers Victoria
717 Flinders Street
Docklands**

Visitors are always welcome!

New Year social club night

**Join us in the
club rooms at the
Mission to
Seafarers to
welcome in a
new year of
walking
adventures with
friends old and
new**



**Share a glass of bubbles, wine and
cheese**

**Wednesday 13 January
6.30-8.30pm**

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Robin Curwen-Walker
Joycelyn Nesvold

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

Editor: Deb Shand

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 1 February

General correspondence should be directed to:

The Secretary
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc
PO Box 1751
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au

Would you like your trip photos featured in the newsletter?

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



President's Column

Dear members

I hope you and your family are keeping well and safe.

In 2020 we've faced all kinds of challenges. A year ago, here in Australia, we experienced the devastating Black Summer bushfires that destroyed over 12 million hectares of bushland and habitat. Nearly three billion native birds and animals – Australian icons and a huge drawcard for tourists and hikers– were killed or displaced. The economic cost of the fires is estimated to exceed AU\$4.4 billion, with tourism being one of the most directly affected industries. Just a few months ago, California's fires mirrored Australia's bushfires with more than four million acres going up in flames. And in 2020, Europe recorded its hottest summer on record. Many countries have experienced serious flooding, including the UK in February 2020, after it was hit by three major storms in a row. UN Secretary-General António Guterres recently noted: nature is striking back – and with growing force and fury.



We've confronted a global pandemic that meant for our club that we had many months without any walks or gathering at our clubhouse at the Seafarers Mission. We have not seen each other in many months. I hope you were able to keep well, look after yourself and stay connected with friends and loved ones close and far away. Like all of us we had never experienced anything like this. For the club it meant we transitioned our committee meetings online and opened our club house virtually with monthly talks while working through Covid-19 safe protocols to ensure the health and wellbeing of our members and leaders. In recent weeks we have been able to restart our walk program. I am excited to see us back on the trail, connecting with nature and each other.

Back in May we were planning to get together to celebrate the club's 80th Anniversary. Due to the pandemic we have had to postpone the date for our celebration to May 2021. More details will be communicated in the New Year. 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 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 (location to be confirmed) during winter 2021 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.

Many of you have asked when our popular Sunday bus will start again. I am excited to share with you that we will welcome you back to the Sunday buses in January. Make sure you visit the preview section on our website for the details. Our club house will be open again from 6 January 2021 onwards.

We would like to welcome you back and celebrate the New Year with you. Join us on the 13th January from 6.30-8.30pm at our club house for a glass of bubbles and wine & cheese. We will also do a raffle to raise funds for our 80th Anniversary tree planting project.

As 2020 winds down, may your holiday be blessed with the love and warmth of family and friends. See you hopefully on the 13th to celebrate the start of 2021.

Susanne

THE BUS HAS BEEN GIVEN THE “GO AHEAD”

On the 7th December, with bated breath we listened to the latest announcements regarding restrictions on activities in Victoria. Finally, the words “tour operators” was mentioned. Although a volunteer group providing services to our members, “tour operators” was the closest group mentioned in restrictions to which we could relate. Hearing the word “no restrictions on numbers” sent a cheer from the members who were monitoring this announcement. This meant that the Sunday bus walks could recommence. For those who had limited transport options, hearing these words meant that they could again participate in walks that will take them to the green areas that they have missed during lock-down and also catching up with friendships that have evolved while walking on a Sunday.

The Sunday bus has been a “NO GUILT” option for walking with the club. For those who fear the responsibility of passengers or don’t own a car the bus has been the option that has allowed participation without feeling any obligation. The bus has been especially appreciated after a difficult walk, when the noise levels on the return trip have been minimal due to so many members having to recuperate by having a “little snooze”.

Our Sunday walks program is recommencing on 10th January with a great walk that explores some areas not often walked close to Melbourne (a new walk discovered during COVID-19). As we are still wary of exposure, this walk will minimise the time spent on the bus (which still has a requirement of mask wearing during transport) while still exploring some lovely walking areas.

The clubrooms will be open on the 6th January to book (new time 6:30pm to 8:30pm) however, online bookings are always available for members. If wanting to book online please check the FAQs on the club’s website and check the options under “Booking onto an Activity – How can members book for the Sunday bus?” Option 5 is the preferred option to ensure your participation on a Sunday bus walk.

I hope that I see you on a Sunday walk in the near future. I have missed catching up with you so much!!!

Halina Sarbinowski

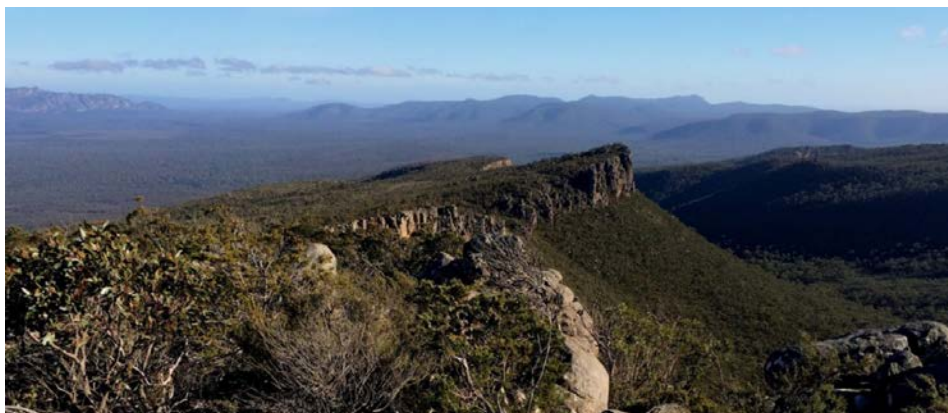
MBW – Membership Secretary



Walkers and driver clear fallen branches from the bus' path

BUSHWALKING VICTORIA - BUSHWALKING MANUAL

Mick Noonan



Information and guidelines for safe and enjoyable bushwalking in Australia. Published by Bushwalking Victoria

Bushwalking Victoria has published an online updated **Bushwalking manual** for use by all Australian bushwalking clubs which can be found at: <http://bushwalkingmanual.org.au>

This manual provides guidelines and information for safe, enjoyable volunteer bushwalking in Australia. The manual includes contributions from many state and territory peak bushwalking organisations and emergency services. It is based on the Bushwalking and Ski Touring Leadership Handbook and has been updated to include recent changes to bushwalking practices and equipment. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning provided funding for its development.

The Manual covers a wide range of topics including:

- Trip planning
- The trip
- Leadership
- Food and water
- Equipment and clothing
- Environment
- State specific information
- Weather: Understanding weather, Thunderstorms, Lightning
- Emergencies: Communications, If lost, Shelters, Bushfires, First aid, Body core temperature
- Related activities: Rogaining, Ski touring, Snow shoeing

The manual is for anyone who is interested in learning more about bushwalking. So whether you're a walk leader, an experienced bushwalker, a member or a novice just starting bushwalking this annual is for you. It is well worth at least a browse!!

Our club produces a number of guidelines on various aspects of outdoor activities and increasingly you will see us reference the new Bushwalking Manual.

Also in this News is a detailed extract from the manual that covers ***what to do if you are confronted by a bushfire.***

WHAT TO DO IF THREATENED BY A BUSHFIRE

Mick Noonan

Our club's policies try to ensure members are not caught out in a situation where they are directly threatened by a bushfire.

But what do you do if you are confronted by a bushfire whether on a club activity, or travelling around/exploring on you own or with family/friends? This may occur even if there is no Total Fire Ban, eg. from dry lightning, a hot car exhaust, an old campfire, a working accident, etc.

The Bushwalking Victoria **BUSHWALKING MANUAL** section on ***Bushfire*** covers:

- 1. Plan to avoid a bushfire, don't be there**
- 2. Be vigilant - get to a safe location**
- 3. Last resort - surviving a bushfire**

Have a read of the manual for the first two parts at <https://bushwalkingmanual.org.au/emergencies/bushfires> What follows is a direct extract from the manual.



LAST RESORT – SURVIVING A BUSHFIRE

If the group is directly threatened by a bushfire, the following actions could be taken to give the best chance of survival:

Last resort if on foot

- Prepare and take shelter well before the fire arrives.
- Consider the direction the fire is likely to come from.
- Move to a lower area if possible. Do not go uphill as bushfires travel rapidly up slopes.
- Bushfires cannot be out-manoeuvred on foot.

Find a location where the bushfire may be less intense (less vegetation), and offers protection from radiant heat.

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Some possibilities may include:

- Larger running streams, a river, lake, dam or the sea
- Eroded gullies free of scrub
- Holes made by fallen trees, provided surrounding vegetation is light
- Bridges, culverts, road embankments or cuttings, gravel pits
- Deep wheel ruts on 4WD tracks
- Large rocky outcrops, caves or overhangs
- Areas with little or no vegetation
- Open ground e.g. sand dunes, a dry lake bed or a cleared area
- An area which has already been burnt
- Substantial building or infrastructure

Taking shelter

- Clear leaf litter and vegetation away from the site
- Use any additional protection to cover all exposed skin, for example sheets of bark, slabs of wood, soft earth to shield from the heat
- Drink plenty of water
- Cover mouth and nose with a damp cloth
- Keep low where there is less smoke and cooler air

Once the fire front has passed

- Consider moving to clear or burnt ground
- Be aware that some burnt areas will be very dangerous, due to the risk of falling trees and of burning cavities in the ground

Notify 000 and the Trip Contact at the earliest opportunity.

Last resort if in a vehicle

Sheltering from a bushfire in a vehicle is extremely dangerous and can result in serious injury or death. THIS IS A LAST RESORT, used only if it is not possible to safely drive out of the area or relocate to a safe place.

Make an early decision to allow time to find the best location.

Position the car to minimise exposure to radiant heat

- Park away from dense vegetation or forest – try to find a clearing or the least amount of scrub
- Stop off the roadway and turn hazard lights on
- Leave the engine running with the air conditioner on recirculate
- Shut all windows and vents
- If possible, park behind a barrier that will provide protection from radiant heat such as:
 - a rocky outcrop
 - an embankment
 - a cutting
 - a gravel pit
- Avoid locations where falling trees could strike the vehicle
- Face the car towards the oncoming fire front

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Noticeboard

- Stay in the car
- HIGH PRIORITY: Cover up with woollen blankets and get down below window level
- Drink water to prevent dehydration
- Cover mouth and nose with a damp cloth

When the fire front is close by

- Turn air conditioning off
- Turn engine off
- Heat, smoke and embers will increase
- Smoke may enter the car and fumes will be released from interior plastics
- Stay as close to the floor as possible to minimise inhalation of fumes
- Tyres and external plastic body parts may catch alight
- If possible, stay in the car until the fire front has passed
- **There will be some very frightening minutes of extreme heat, noise and smoke if the fire front burns over the vehicle**
- Do not open the windows
- Fuel tanks are very unlikely to explode

Once the fire front has passed and the temperature has dropped

- Carefully exit the car, take care as metal parts may be extremely hot
- Move to a safe area such as bare ground or an area that has already been burnt
- Be aware of the danger of falling trees or branches and cavities in the ground that are still burning
- Stay covered in woollen blankets, continue to drink water
- Wait for assistance

Notify 000 and the Trip Contact at the earliest opportunity.



Winton Wetlands - D. Shand

ETHICAL FASHION GUIDE - HOW ARE THE OUTDOOR BRANDS GOING?

(Thanks to Ian Mair for passing on this information)

Baptist World Aid Australia (BWAA) is one of the organisations that track working conditions and sustainability in clothing brands. They have just released their report for 2020. It provides great information on how many brands are going – including key outdoor companies. BWAA say:

“Every time you purchase a piece of clothing, YOU have the power to pass on opportunity and dignity to workers, and sustainability to our planet.

These 2020 special editions of the Ethical Fashion Report and Ethical Fashion Guide are all about empowering you to be a more thoughtful and ethical fashion consumer.

Your first step is the decision to become more connected and conscious of the impact of the clothes you buy.

And amidst the COVID-19 crisis, the people who make your clothes are experiencing new and unprecedented risks. Infection, shortages of PPE and health care, along with a rapidly changing global fashion industry have devastated garment workers... making them even more vulnerable to unsafe working conditions, forced labour, child labour and human exploitation.”

More information and a brand finder can be found here:

<https://baptistworldaid.org.au/resources/ethical-fashion-guide>

<https://baptistworldaid.org.au/covid-fashion-report-faqs/>

And here is how some of the well known brands rate:



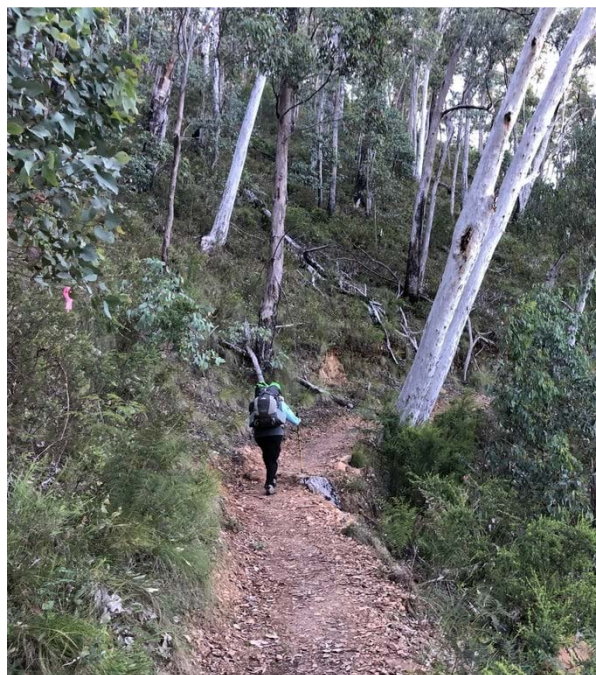
Patagonia	A	The North Face	B
Kathmandu	A	Timberland	B
Explorer	A	Macpac	B-
Lululemon Athletica	A	Berghaus	C+
Ripcurl	B+	Billabong	C-
Icebreaker	B	Quiksilver	C-

BUNGALOW SPUR-FEATHERTOP-BON ACCORD SPUR - DECEMBER 11-14

Meredith Quick

The majority of the group of 12 assembled at the Harrietville Hotel for dinner on Friday night, exchanging our lockdown stories and looking forward to the walk ahead. Most of us had walked Bungalow Spur before and remembered it as a nice walk with possible views.

Next morning, we met at the trailhead at the designated time of 8am. The weather forecast was for a hot day, so we were ready to start the climb while it was still cool. The well-worn track had recently been cleared, which made our ascent easier. There was the odd fallen tree to navigate but that proved to be the least of our problems. Soon after starting, it became obvious there were two distinct groups of walkers, those that lived near hills during lockdown and those that lived in inner Melbourne. The hill dwellers appeared to climb to Federation Hut easily, whereas us city slickers found the constant uphill walk a bit more challenging: the railway overpass is no substitute for a 1100m climb. However, by 11:30am we all made it to Federation Hut and an early lunch was called. It had been a hot climb with the dense regrowth sheltering the track from any breeze and the early summer sun becoming fierce as the morning wore on. We rehydrated and sat back to enjoy the vast panoramas.



After lunch we climbed the remaining 300 metres to the top of the world...well, Feathertop, it just seemed like the top of the world. The temperature was warm despite the altitude, the skies were clear. Once there, we could consume the breathtaking vistas. Then came the guessing game, we were all challenged to identify mountains near and far.

All too soon it was time to start our descent and to get our water for the night from the nearby spring. After

Along the track

collecting the cool clear water, we walked on to High Knob, our chosen campsite, arriving at 4pm. There was plenty of time to set up camp and to compare the various tents and the latest equipment people had acquired during lockdown. That night we gathered for dinner around the fire scar and stayed on chatting about our future walk plans until sunset. At 9pm it was time to turn in for the night.

The next morning, sunrise came early. We packed our tents, gathered for a leisurely breakfast and then headed off up the track to the Razorback. The Razorback is a walk that never disappoints, again we had clear skies and a warm morning. Every now and then we would pause to take in the spectacular views. By 11am we climbed the Big Dipper and it was time for our descent along the Bon Accord Spur. At first the walking was easy as we dropped gradually from the Alpine pasture to the sub-Alpine scrub. Parks Victoria had kept their contractors busy, this track also had been cleared. As we dropped further into the temperate forest the going became more difficult, debris from the recent track-clearing making it hard to get a firm footing. We arrived at the ruins of the Bon Accord Hut and again an early lunch was called. Some of us already had aching knees from bracing against the downhill gradient.



Refreshed after lunch, we set off again, expecting to encounter more steep sections, but we were pleasantly surprised: the gradient of the track eased. By 3pm we were at the confluence of the rivers and our proposed campsite for the night.

After investigating the area and a quick dip in the river, the group consensus was to move on and for us all to head back to Harrietville, we would look for suitable campsites along the way. As luck would have it, no campsites were found and we arrived back at the Bon Accord Trailhead. Half of the group headed back to Melbourne that night so they could keep the wheels of commerce turning, whilst the remaining 6 headed to the Harrietville Camp ground. After setting up our tents, showering and jumping into our Sunday best we headed to the Snowline Hotel to enjoy the food and beverages on offer.

Thank you Richard for organising the walk and thank you to Ian, Iain, Halina, Bert, Lachlan, Deb, Bettina, Michael, Fang and Brett for your great company and humour.

Upcoming activities

January 2021

Fri 1	SOC: New Years Day BBQ	Pvt		Susan Maughan
Thu 7	TOF: Golf courses of Kew, Ivanhoe & Alphington	Pvt	E	Jopie Bodegraven
Sun 10	DAY: Reynolds to Petty's Orchard	Bus	E&E/M	Brett Daniel & Theo Mertzandis
Wed 13	DAY: Walking Melbourne creeks & rivers	Pvt	E/M	Fay Dunn
Wed 13	SOC: Welcome to 2021	Pvt		Susanne Etti & Jane Mcrae
16-18	PC: The Bluff & Howqua River	Pvt	M	John Terrell
Sun 17	DAY: Castlemaine & Kalimna Bushland	Car	E/M	Deb Shand
Mon 18	MOF: Braeside Park & waterways	Pvt	E	Merilyn Whimpey
Wed 20	DAY: Parks & gardens bordering Melbourne CBD	Pvt	E/M	Sandra Mutimer
22-26	PC: Mt Bogong - Ropers Hut - Grey Hills	Pvt	M/H	Claire Luxford
Sun 24	DAY: Mornington to The Briars	Bus	E&E/M	Theo Mertzandis & John Widmer
Thu 28	SOC: Willsmere Park - Darebin Creek	Pvt	E	Pearson Cresswell
Sun 31	DAY: Mt Macedon	Car	M	Judith Shaw

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

