

MELBOURNE
BUSHWALKERS INC.

ABN 14 396 912 508



THE NEWS

#857

August
2022



Kimberley - Carr Boyd Range - 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 1 August

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

New members

We welcome the following new members:

Tahl Kestin
Liz Reece

George Tharakan
Wei Cao

Peter Hannemann
Helen Takano

Nanette Power Goodridge
Rosie Worth



Moon over Purnululu - B. Holland

Would you like your trip photos featured in the newsletter?

Due date for contributions to September News: 21 August
Email: news@mbw.org.au



President's Column

Over the past few months since taking on the role of President I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to participate in a range of club activities and talk with a number of members, both recent and long-standing. Any concerns that the viability of the club may be threatened by COVID are receding into the background as our focus of attention shifts back more and more to strengthening the foundation for the future. There are many indicators that we are already doing well. Membership numbers are healthy and growing, with the likelihood that we will be back to pre-pandemic levels by the end of the year. Our activities program is packed with choice and diversity. Participation on most activities is at an encouraging level and in many instances exceeds previous expectations. Significant as these observations are they are only benchmarks of a healthy club but do not identify what it is we may be doing well and how we may do even better.



There are many factors that can be identified as contributing to the building of an outstanding club. Four areas that stand out for me are Leadership, Dedicated People, a Passionate Culture and Engaging Programs.

Leadership in Melbourne Bushwalkers is a team approach distributed across many members. Within our total number averaging around 500 there are smaller activity cohorts, often linked by their preferred type or day of participation, but open to all members. Activity Coordinators by their example and the relationships they develop and maintain with activity leaders draw together our activities programs. Always being approachable and ready to assist they are a key to our ongoing success.

Without dedicated leaders for each of our activities there would be no club. Our investment in nurturing new activity leaders and providing opportunities for their personal growth through skills development will underpin our future. You will have already seen the renewed emphasis that is being given to training opportunities as we ramp up our efforts. Recognising and acknowledging their contributions is our shared responsibility. A simple thank you goes a long way. More formal recognition for outstanding performance is being examined.

The common thread that ties the club together is the culture that has been built up over the decades. Events that bring a broad spectrum of members together, such as our monthly social presentations or our move to regular video sessions, enhances engagement and the sharing of values. A welcoming environment and a common passion for outdoors activities establishes lasting bonds. More than ever before I have noted in recent months the number of members that come together for private travel and adventures to exotic places. I view it as another sign of a healthy club when members engage both on club activities and in a private capacity. The networks we develop are an integral part of how we communicate and share information as a club. Shared values provide each of us with a bigger voice when we choose to speak out on social issues of concern.

Lastly, but possibly most important, is the program of activities we provide. Failure to consider the points above would surely lead to a less rewarding program and a diminished club experience. In the final analysis, however, it is the club's program of walking and related outdoor activities that brought most of us together in the first instance and keeps many of us returning month after month. It is the bonds that are formed during memorable trips that give the club depth and stability, often long after we have reduced our outside adventures. Each of us has an opportunity to contribute by suggesting, and even leading, activities that will enrich the experience that comes with being a club member.

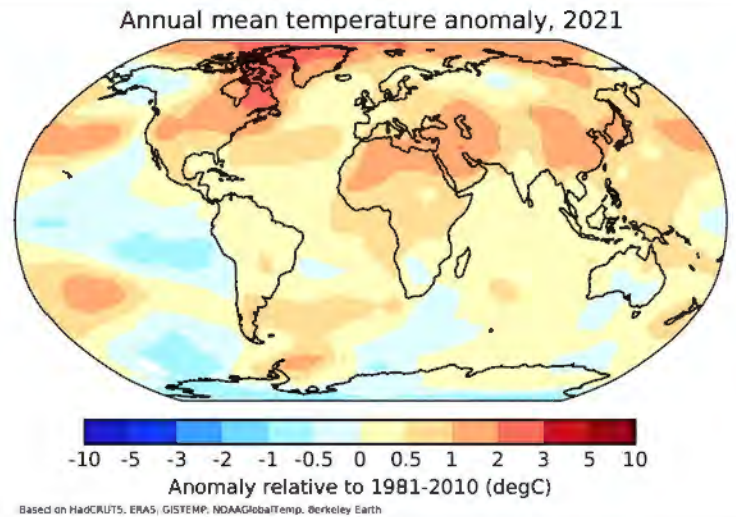
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You may wonder what the role of the club Committee and the President is in the direction we take in the future. Just as all other members we individually have a viewpoint. Our collective role, however, is not to dictate and direct, but to listen and facilitate. Beyond the formalities of the club's legal obligations and an overarching responsibility to have in place procedures that protect member's safety and well-being, our role is to do what we can to provide the tools, resources and opportunities for a dedicated and passionate membership to express their spirit for adventure. Your dream may be one that shapes the club's future and helps make us the outstanding club which we aspire to be!

State of the Global Climate 2021

Susanne Etti

Four key climate change indicators – greenhouse gas concentrations, sea level rise, ocean heat and ocean acidification – set new records in 2021. This is yet another clear sign that human activities are causing planetary scale changes on land, in the ocean, and in the atmosphere, with harmful and long-lasting ramifications for sustainable development and ecosystems, according to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).



The new WMO report is accompanied by a story map [<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/bbe6a05f6dae42f2a420cfd7698e4b1>] and provides information and practical examples on how the climate change indicators outlined in the IPCC reports played out during the recent years globally and how the associated implications on extremes have been felt at national and regional level in 2021. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres used the publication of the WMO flagship report to stress “Renewables are the only path to real energy security, stable power prices and sustainable employment opportunities. If we act together, the renewable energy transformation can be the peace project of the 21st century.”

So, in case your home is not yet powered by 100% renewable energy, it's time to take action on climate change by switching electricity providers. By switching to greener electricity providers, together we can force dirty coal and gas out of the grid and bring more renewable electricity in, sending a clear message to electricity companies that it's time to get serious about tackling climate change. Check out this useful guide to switch today: <https://www.greenelectricityguide.org.au/>

Every hour the Earth gets as much energy from the sun as we need to run the entire global economy for a year. If we can increase the fraction of this energy that we harvest and use, we can make a lot of progress towards solving the climate crisis and helping local economies at the same time.

In addition to the sun, nature gives us water and food, protects us from diseases, and supplies so many of the products we rely on every day. If we don't take care of nature, we put all of that at risk. The same principle also applies to climate impacts. In fact, nature can be the best technology to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Forests are a great example of where nature-based solutions can really pay off. When forests are not managed responsibly, they release large quantities of carbon into the atmosphere. Deforestation and degradation are the largest sources of CO₂ emissions after the burning of fossil fuels—and scientists estimate that up to 13% of

Noticeboard

global carbon emissions come from deforestation. On the flip side, by protecting, restoring, and improving the management of the world's forests, we can address up to [20% of the current climate crisis](#) by 2050. Get involved with our tree planting day Sunday 18 September to support the growth of 500 trees to commemorate the club's 80th birthday. You can confirm your attendance by emailing busbookings@mbw.org.au

Tree planting event on 18 September to commemorate MBW 80th anniversary - everyone welcome!

For the 80th anniversary we had a fund raiser in 2020-21 to raise funds to plant 500 trees as a long-term legacy for our club. In 2021 we reached our fundraising goals, and the planting day is set for a site in Kinglake for 18 September 2022. More information and details of the event will be available in the program. I hope many of you will use the Sunday walk day to join in our tree planting efforts. The more people who come, the more we can share the work and joy. In their biomass and soil, forests are a powerful carbon storehouse.



For our planting day, the trees planted will be natives and usually indigenous to the region. The benefits of planting local species include lower maintenance and inputs (including water), suitable habitat for local wildlife, improved biodiversity (eg. increased bird life), higher survival rates, improved water quality, improved erosion control and habitat for insect and bird predators. Over its lifetime, the average tree captures 268kg of carbon. With your financial support and members actively planting trees in September, we are reducing our carbon footprint and leaving a legacy for our club in memory of our 80th birthday. Please join us on the day. You can confirm your attendance by emailing busbookings@mbw.org.au

Another Federation Weekend in 2022

Fedwalks22 will be held on Saturday 1–Sunday 2 October, with check-in on Friday 30 September after 3 pm. The program will cover the Warby Ranges and Wangaratta region, with 26 walks over the weekend, including Mt. Glenrowan, Beechworth, Mt. Samaria, Chiltern and even Mt. Buffalo.



Accommodation consists of a choice of either free powered campsites at the Wangaratta Showgrounds or commercial venues around the area. Buffet 2-course dinners will be provided at the Showgrounds and there will be guest speakers and live music.

Bookings are expected to open at <https://fedwalks.org.au/> on **Saturday 6 August at 10 am**. Based on our experience when booking for the last Fed Weekend, you will need to be early. Once you've successfully booked in, please email gws@mbw.org.au so that our Club knows how many members are attending. We will be supplying 5 leaders to assist with the walks program.

Stuart Hanham (General Walks Secretary)

Can I be a more Sustainable Bushwalker?

Geof Martin

Well, I am going to put up some information and viewpoints on this topic to promote thoughtful discussion and maybe some positive action on Sustainable Bushwalking.

Recently I participated in a 16-day club walk on the Larapinta Trail. It was here I had a realisation of how much impact a group of just 10 bushwalkers were on the planet's resources. At one food drop, after 4 days walking, we generated 2 black garbage bags of rubbish, primarily being food packaging (and a few odd wine bottles). You guessed it - these bags were destined for the Alice Springs landfill! Ian Mair listened to my observation (some would say a 'rant') and suggested I write up an article for the Newsletter, so here we go.

Most bushwalkers demonstrate strong environmental and sustainable attitudes and display this actively in many ways. My aim is to suggest or expand on methods and strategies to make club members more aware and potentially have less impact on the environment. As a bonus, maybe you will save some money! It should be noted that day walks, overnight PCs and multi-day walks will have differing packing demands and preparation. But the strategies discussed here can be applied and adapted to meet the general idea of being more environmentally sustainable.

The basic 3 R's

Reduce

- Do you need a particular food item/piece of equipment?
- New purchases, is it something you need to improve your bushwalking?
- Buy items that will have an extended life, negating the need to throw it away. Packaging with food there is a lot of waste created. Consider decanting into Ziploc bags or other containers before leaving on a walk.

Re-use

- Over the years most of us will collect a lot of hiking gear, if the items are in good condition and don't plan to use them again – sell, give away or donate.
- One re-use hack is to use a plastic jar for rehydrating food and even eat from it. Can you think of another hack?
- Rule of thumb – the more waste you have at the end of a walk, the less re-use you have achieved.

Recycle

- Remove and recycle food packaging before leaving home.
- If you are using gas canisters make sure they end up in the recycling bin - check with your local Council. 'Jetboil' produces the 'Crunchit' Recycling Tool to make the cylinder disposal safe.
- Seek out products made from materials that can be recycled at end of life.



Bruce and Virginia displaying their sustainability credentials



Can I say that the planning stage of a bushwalking trip is the most important strategy to maximising a more sustainable approach. What to wear and what goes in your pack is something you need to take charge of and see what works for you.

Food is very important on a bushwalk, so good selection is required.

- If you need suggestions, try Google searches or ask other club members.

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- Food menu planning will hopefully give you an insight into quantities and confidence to look for alternatives other than prepacked meals and snacks.
- Buy food in bulk (hopefully in sustainable packaging) and make up your own meals/snacks in reusable bags or containers. (Wash zip-lock bags and other containers - reuse multiple times.) (Example: buy your favourite cereals in bulk and decant with a single serve of your favourite powdered milk/coconut, fruit and nuts!!)
- Avoid overpriced, overpackaged, overprocessed so-called treats, most are full of air!
Consider learning how to dehydrate your own meals, so tasty and will save you \$\$.



Washed bags hanging to dry

Some things we can easily do on walks and at home.

- Carpool regularly, use the club bus or take public transport.
- Don't waste food – calculate quantities & measure out accurately – make a diary record.
- Not being acquisitive (reduce your consumption/consumerism).
- Don't think you always need to buy new. Find second-hand outdoor gear on places like eBay, Gumtree, Facebook Marketplace.
- Happy to share or lend with a friend – food, cooking, equipment, etc.
- Go without the so-called over-packaged luxuries.

Sustainable hiking tips.

- Choose your walking routes carefully. Try to avoid walks suffering from 'over-tourism'. Think about alternatives and timing where there will be less traffic, but make sure you stick to existing trails or when going 'off track' choose a 'tread lightly' route to protect flora.
- Avoid making a fire. Lots of walks now have fire regulations in place (fuel stove only), but when allowed it can be tempting to make a fire. Make sure that a fire is permitted and whether it is safe do so (high bushfire risk). But the biggest consideration around busy campsites are the removal and burning of habitat timber.
- Consider selecting sustainable friendly foods to reduce your impact on the environment, selecting locally sourced, minimal packaging that can be recycled. Use a refillable bottle and other reusable containers to keep single use plastics to a minimum.
- Don't leave a trace. It sounds obvious, but it's essential – *pack it in, pack it out*. Rubbish (including toilet paper & tissues) and left-over food can be harmful for the ecosystem and has a negative visual impact.
- Carefully consider where you set up camp. It can be tempting to find the perfect spot with a great view. Avoid moving any vegetation and opt for a spot that is naturally clear or an existing tent pad.
- Wear sustainable outdoor clothing. Do your research to find well-made, sustainable and ethical outdoor clothing brands. Choose clothing made from recycled materials where possible and ensure they are sourced responsibly.
- Note: Supporting companies and businesses that actively embrace sustainable and ethical production is an important driver to push other companies to raise their environmental standards.

If you have some any sustainability suggestions or methods you employ on your walks, let me know and we can do a follow up (martin.geoffrey.j@gmail.com)

Look forward to seeing you on the trail.



Great South West Walk - collected rubbish, lots of plastic

August Reminders

Mick Noonan



This month we look at **Bushcraft** and two great resources from Bushwalking Victoria: the on-line **Bushwalking Manual** and the **Walksafe** booklet.

The Bushwalking Manual: *Bushcraft* is defined by Wikipedia as “the use and practice of skills, thereby acquiring and developing knowledge and understanding, in order to survive and thrive in a natural environment”.

Bushwalking Victoria have produced a manual on bushcraft for all Australian Bush Walking Clubs and it is a valuable resource both for people new to bushwalking and also for experienced walkers. See the article included in this News and remember to carry a waterproof copy when going on Pack Carries.

The **Walksafe booklet pdf**. This handy booklet is all about being equipped to enjoy bushwalking. It covers what Bushwalking Victoria consider are best practices for:

- Planning for water, food, clothing, equipment, the route and the group,
- Common sense bushcraft, camping and minor mishaps, and
- What to do in the unlikely event of becoming lost/separated, a major accident, extreme heat/cold, snake bite, fire, flood and electrical storms

Open this hyperlink to have a look: https://bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/files/walksafe_booklet.pdf

You can easily download the booklet and put it near your **Emergency Plus Application** on one of your smartphone screens.

P.S. Remember to spot the interloper above and it was a true July doggy story!

ASPIRING LEADERS WE NEED YOU!

LEADERS TRAINING DAY

Sat 6th August, 2022, 9:15 am – 4:30 pm, Seafarers Clubrooms

Why not attend this free training offered uniquely by our club to skill up our members to build confidence to take on leading roles? Suitable for new leaders, those thinking about leading, and previous leaders returning after a long break.

Your trainers (Angela Vetsicas, Ian Mair, and Mick Noonan) will cover

So You Want to Become a Leader? Walk Research, Planning & Previewing,
Activity Processes, Documentation & Resources. Conducting the Walk
Risk Management & Safety, Critical Incident Management

To book contact Mick at noonan1953@gmail.com

[BUSHWALKING MANUAL](#)

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: <http://bushwalkingmanual.org.au>



It 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 (available on the Website) and increasingly you will see us reference the new Bushwalking Manual.

Mick Noonan

Light Weight Walking with John Fritze

Mission to Seafarers, Celia Little Room, 7th September 7:30- 8:30pm

Gear selection can be a daunting exercise, no matter whether you are a well-seasoned bushwalker or just starting out on a new adventure. The balance between weight and functionality can make a big difference to your comfort and enjoyment on any walk but particularly on a multi-day hike.

Our presenter and recent Club Equipment Officer, John Fritze, is passionate about gear selection and lightweight walking. He will share his experience and answer questions in a way that will leave you with a list of ideas on how you might reduce weight and still walk in comfort. John will also bring in a range of his gear to demonstrate.

Thoroughly recommended if you are starting out on multi day walks or just want to reduce your pack weight.



Please send a note to training@mbw.org.au if you plan to attend or just come along on the night.

Workshop: Using your Smartphone for Navigation

Saturday October 22, 9am to 3pm at

Outdoor Activity Hub Conference Room, Fitzsimmons Lane, Westerfolds Park, Templestowe

Andrew Robinson, who runs this very popular one-day Workshop for Bushwalking Victoria, is conducting it for Melbourne Bushwalkers. A number of members have already done this course with BWV.

In this Workshop we will look at how GPS satellite navigation works – the theory, practicalities, advantages and limitations. We will discuss a variety of free smartphone mapping/navigation apps, including Avenza, maps.me, and Terra Map. An outdoor practical exercise will be included. Detailed notes, activity sheets and map will be supplied.

Registration for the Workshop opens at 9.00am on Saturday, September 10 and closes at 5.00pm on Thursday, September 29. To Register, click [HERE](#)

You will need to provide your Name, Mobile Number and Make and Model of your Smartphone. Numbers are limited, book early!

Enquiries: bushnavigationandmaps@inet.net.au or noonan1953@gmail.com



You must be vaccinated to attend, Covid safe practices will be followed, bring a mask!

IMPORTANT: After registration, successful applicants will be provided with information on what to bring. They will also receive detailed instructions on phone setup. Preparation and pre-reading **MUST** be completed **BEFORE** the workshop. You must already be familiar with basic map/compass navigation and be conversant with your own smartphone e.g. be able to update software and install new apps.

WANTED: your favourite dehydrator meal recipe

Bettina Brill

Send in your recipe, if possible with photo of ingredients and/or the cook enjoying the result. Who knows, if we get enough recipes we can have our own Melbourne Bushies dehydrator cookbook. For more info and inspiration contact Bettina who is making this her little project.

This month John Fritze has sent us his famous **Spag Bol** recipe:

PREPARATION

2 large brown onions
4 medium sized carrots
4 celery sticks
1 tsp olive oil
1 kg lean minced beef
2 tbsp tomato paste
1 cup red wine
4 cloves garlic, crushed
2 400g cans of diced or crushed tomatoes
Pepper
2 tbsp flour
90g Macaroni (Macaroni is more compact than Spaghetti, less likely to puncture packaging and easier to eat with a spoon)
20g long life grated Parmesan in a pinch of freezer bag



Heat oil in a large pot, add finely chopped onions, carrots and celery and fry for about 5 minutes. Add meat and cook on high until it has changed colour. Stir in tomato paste and wine before adding the garlic, tomatoes and pepper. Cover pot and simmer for 1 hour before stirring in the flour.

DRYING

Spread sauce evenly over 4 or 5 oiled solid food dryer sheets (you can hire a dryer from the club) Set the dryer on high (meat setting) and leave running until there are no moist patches. This could take about 20 hours.



Remove from dryer and use a stick blender or food processor to break up the clumps (to make the sauce more plastic bag friendly). Divide into individual serves by placing 70g of sauce, the macaroni and cheese into small plastic bags (unfortunately freezer bags have been getting thinner and thinner and are becoming unreliable but you can buy stronger poly bags from Office Works). It should make about 7 serves. This is a reasonable serving size to start with but it is a good idea to adjust it over time so that you end up carrying no more or less than you require (the weight of food is critical on longer trips).

REHYDRATION

Tip contents excluding cheese into a pot (a titanium pot with handles just large enough to accommodate a 230g gas canister is ideal), cover generously with water (about 12mm above pasta), add lid then bring to the boil, stirring occasionally. Allow to stand for 10 minutes, add cheese then consume directly from pot. When combined with a 45g Whitakers chocolate bar and a cup of tea this makes a complete evening meal.

Kimberley Adventure - Purnululu - June 2022

Brad Holland

Three members of Melbourne Bushies (Deb, Meredith and myself) joined 6 others from Canberra, NSW Coast and Tasmania for a wonderful 7-day hike in mid-June in the Purnululu National Park in the Kimberley Region of Western Australia. The area is commonly referred to as the Bungle Bungles. The tour started and ended in Kununurra, about 300km from the NP. Our Tour Leader, Sebastien runs No Traces Bushwalking Australia and leads tours in Litchfield NP and the Kimberly Region.

The beehive-like rock outcrops of the Bungle Bungles were stunning, with their horizontal stripes in the base white, chalky sandstone created 85m years ago by rock layers rock of oxidised iron and cyanobacteria. With food for 7 days and a couple of litres of water, we carried full packs for about 3km along the dry Piccaninny Creek (rounded stones, sand and rock sheets) and set up camp at a small waterhole. Our Leader prepared a simple but delicious 3-course dinner every night and we relaxed watching the stars and the satellites passing overhead. With no



phone or internet reception, we had early mornings, to avoid walking in the heat and early nights as it was dark about 5.30pm.

The next day we walked about 6km with full packs to our base camp in Piccaninny Gorge. Over the next 3 days we explored the '5 fingers' of Piccaninny Gorge, with towering cliffs, huge boulders, tall slender Bungle Palms and silent caves. During the day, we replenished our drinking water from the rock pools. Some trips required stripping down and carrying our daypacks on our head to wade through rock pools. Finger 1 required swimming about 50m or more in a freezing rock pool but the incredible scenery was well worth it. Walks into some of the fingers required gaiters and gloves as protection from the spinifex and climbing up, over or sliding down huge boulders. Lunch was often enjoyed from spectacular rock ledge lookouts or beside tranquil rock pools. Our Leader pointed out rock art, markings and stone mounds created by indigenous peoples.

Cane toads have invaded the area and decimated the populations of small marsupials, reptiles and some bird species. Crows have figured out how to eat cane toads by flipping them over, thereby avoiding the poison in their neck glands.

The last 2 days we hiked out of the main gorge, visiting Whip Snake Gorge and Cathedral Gorge. The only annoyance during the hike was the ubiquitous helicopters and fixed wings buzzing high above.

We said our goodbyes at the farewell dinner in Kununurra but most of the hikers were setting off the next morning for 1 or 2 weeks with 'No Traces' in the Carr Boyd Ranges. A wonderful experience with a great group of like-minded hikers.



The Kimberley – Carr Boyd Ranges – June/July 2022

Deb Shand

After the Purnululu hike with Brad (previous article), Meredith and I continued on with others into the South and North Carr Boyd Ranges led by Sebastien of No Traces Bushwalking. We travelled by boat across Lake Argyle to start the walk, where we were now walking through lightly treed grassland, some areas of which had recently been burnt. We camped the first night close to a pool, and the next day headed into the ranges up the broken, rocky, dry hillsides with views back to the lake in the distance. Every day we would come across at least one pool or waterway to swim in, which was also a good opportunity to wash our clothing by immersing ourselves while wearing it and then laying it to dry on a warm rock.



Day 4 was when the fun really began as we were now following a gorge with high rocky walls and at times the only way forward was to wade or swim through wide, deep pools fed by waterfalls with our packs. We were soon adept at removing outer clothing and boots, putting our packs into dry bags supplied by Sebastien, swimming across to the further shore, taking the pack carefully out of the dry bag so as not to get a hole in it, getting dressed again, and continuing on to the next pool where we repeated the process. Along the way there could be rock hops or scrambles, or areas of head-high spinifex and prickly pandanus to push through – this is where long sleeves and tough gloves were essential!



Occasionally we had the opportunity to take side trips up narrow gorges, swimming through chains of pools and clambering over boulders in underwear, T-shirts and sandals to arrive, shivering from constant immersion, in watery caverns frequented by bats.



The second week of this journey through the North Carr Boyd required no pack swims, but every day we visited and camped by scenic waterfall pools, each more beautiful than the last, and varying in temperature from icy cold to silky cool. No matter the air or water temperature – we had a couple of rainy, cooler days towards the end of the week – the beauty of these pools lured us in to swim. It was part of this magical Kimberley experience that would come to an end all too soon.

Throughout the journey, our guide Sebastien led us expertly through the changing landscape and prepared the evening meals at night over a fire. Arriving at camp in the afternoon after another day of hiking, swimming and scrambling, we all looked forward to his call: “Water is boiling!” when we could make a cup of tea or soup. Along the way he pointed out trees and plants of interest, such as the elephantine boabs, elegant salmon gums or deadly ironwoods, talked about the history of the rock formations assisted by a Tasmanian geologist on the trip, and told us stories at sites where ancient peoples had left their subtle signs, faded by time. The terrain on this trip can be challenging but Seb was always ready to offer a helping hand to those with shorter legs or hesitant hearts. This was an unforgettable adventure from start to finish with a friendly group of people.

Upcoming activities

August 2022

Mon 1	MTG: Club committee meeting	Pvt		Robert Ian Mair
Tue 2	MTG: Video session-MBW website maps utility	Pvt		Robert Ian Mair
Thu 4	TOF: Gresswell Forest Reserve	Pvt	E	Jerry Grandage
5-13	SKI: X-C skiing, Rover Chalet, Bogong High Plains	Pvt	var	Doug Pocock
Sat 6	TRG: Leaders training	Pvt	var	Mick Noonan
Sun 7	DAY: Trampoline walk (Mt Dandenong)	Bus	E/M&M	Bettina Brill & Bernd Neubauer
Wed 10	DAY: Frankston Botanic Gardens & Old Reservoir	Pvt	E/M	Mark Heath
13-14	PC: Castlemaine Diggings-Vaughan Springs	Pvt	E	Robert Ian Mair
Sun 14	DAY: Eastern View	Car	E/M	Jill Allen
Mon 15	MOF: Hillclimb Track-Sherbrooke Forest & Falls	Pvt	E	Graham Hodgson
19-21	CON: Regent Honeyeater Project planting	Pvt	E	John Terrell (MBW contact)
20-21	PC: Clearwater Creek-Old River (Lerderderg)	Pvt	M	Jopie Bodegraven
Sun 21	DAY: Mornington to The Briars	Bus	E&E/M	Halina Sarbinowski & Robert Ian Mair
Wed 24	SOC: Walking in Serbia-off the beaten track	Pvt		Ruth Stewart
Thu 25	SOC: Valley Reserve, Mt Waverley	Pvt	E	Merilyn Whimpey
26-28	PC: Whipstick-Kamarooka	Pvt	E/M	Gina Hopkins
Sat 27	DAY: Brimbank Park	Pvt	E/M	Maureen Hurley
Sun 28	DAY: Blackwood Area (Upper Lerderderg)	Car	E/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

