

MELBOURNE
BUSHWALKERS INC.

ABN 14 396 912 508



THE NEWS

#877

April
2024



Descending from Mt Heale hut, Great Barrier Island, NZ - K. Aston

WE ARE A MEMBER OF



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 8 April

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 (maximum 400 words recommended). 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 these new members to the club:

Michael Beres
Sharon Carr

Tina McInerney
Eve Armytage

Emma Louise Selleck
Jim Selim

James Findlay
Cathy Warburton



Tidal River, Wilsons Prom - D. Shand

Would you like your trip photos featured in the newsletter?

Due date for contributions to May News: 21 April

Email: news@mbw.org.au

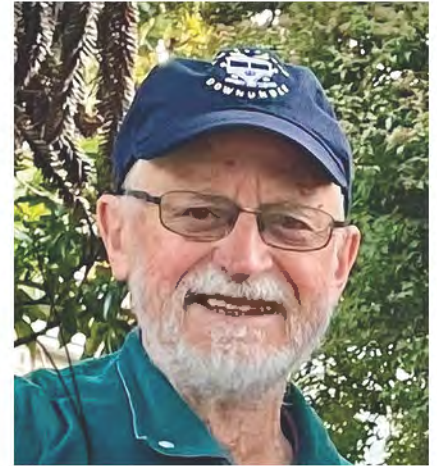


President's column

Welcome to the next twelve months of bushwalking!

The AGM on 20 March wrapped up one year and started us off on the new. It was attended by 58 members with standing room only. We had the benefit of a slide show to help us along, thanks to the officers and Meredith Quick who put it all together. All the business was completed - with one exception being the training certificates, covered below.

The results of the elections for the Committee are recorded elsewhere in this edition. I had indicated that I would not be standing for President but here I am again! Nothing is ever certain! We welcomed two new committee officers - Andreas Meister as Secretary and Quentin Tibbles as Sunday Walks Secretary and Ian Mair returned to Committee as a Vice-president. We thanked the outgoing secretary, Chris Collett who has been in the role for six years, a record, I believe, for this role. Bettina Brill was also thanked for having stepped into the role of Sunday Walks Secretary last year at short notice. Three members of the General Committee retired - Leigh Wykes, Ruth Stewart and John Terrell. We thank them for their contributions and welcome Bernd Neubauer, Elizabeth Gwynn and Ian Price to the Committee. We meet for the first time on 8 April when we will consider the year's objectives and set some parameters.



The AGM was unusual as the ongoing dispute was given time in General Business. All attendees now understand a little more of this. The Committee have been unable to speak about this dispute for reasons of it being a sensitive topic and the three months of mediation remain confidential. I thank members for their understanding.

The first ever ABCD award was made this year to Ian Mair. Ian has made an outstanding contribution to the Club in his on-going work on the website which has grown to become a central plank of the infrastructure. He also has found time to lead a variety of walks in an exemplary manner as well as making excellent and informative presentations and being involved in a leading capacity in organising the Federation Walks weekend this year. I can count more than thirty events that Ian led in the last twelve months including overseas trips, multiple pack carries, Sunday walks, navigation training and even a Lodge weekend. A shining example indeed!

Certificates for successful completion of module one of the leadership training were not handed out at the AGM due to time constraints. So now I congratulate the following thirteen members who will receive their certificates by other means - Adriana Fari-palko, Babak Dadvand, Grant Roger, Ha Dinh, Helen Takano, Hitesh Ghelani, John Gurskey, Prashant Mahajan, Leigh Wykes, Rob Jung, Ruth Stewart, Yiting Zheng, Roy Rossebo. Well done, and I hope that many more certificates will follow this year.

We have a number of non-office bearing roles (listed on the website) and it is hoped that these will be filled or confirmed during the month. This includes the most important role of The News editor. Deb Shand is the current editor and she is going to continue in that role. I thank Deb for doing a grand job! We are looking for volunteers to take part on a review panel to look at our rules covering grievance procedures and disciplinary actions. Please let me know if you might be interested. None of the jobs are huge but they are all important. Job sharing can be considered as well!

I look forward to working with the Committee over the next twelve months and to seeing you on the track.

Derrick Brown



Melbourne Bushwalkers Committee 2024-25

President (president@mbw.org.au) – Derrick Brown

Vice Presidents – David Stockley, Robert Ian Mair

Secretary (secretary@mbw.org.au) – Andreas Meister

Membership Secretary (membership@mbw.org.au) – Halina Sarbinowski

Treasurer (treasurer-mbw@mbw.org.au) – Marianne Weller

Social Secretary (social@mbw.org.au) – Meredith Quick

General Walks Secretary (gws@mbw.org.au) – Stuart Hanham

Sunday Walks Secretary (sunday@mbw.org.au) – Quentin Tibballs

General Committee Members

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| - Chris Lord | - Bernd Neubauer |
| - John Gurskey | - Elizabeth Gwynn |
| - Annemarie Mulder | - Ian Price |

Presidents AGM Report for 2023-4

The year 2023-4 has seen the Club grow in numbers continuing the upward trend post-Covid. It's pleasing to note that the new members are bringing down the average age of the club. The programme of events included imaginative trips and a variety of walks of all descriptions. The leaders training programme continued and has had further enhancements (thank you Mick, mentors and others). It has been pleasing to note that we have a number of younger members now joining our team of leaders and I'm impressed with the serious way that they tackle the training.

The website has made great strides with a number of enhancements including mapping facilities that will assist the Federation Walks team in planning and execution of their programme this year. Our website has become a major factor in the Club's operation thanks to a constant stream of improvements. A major side-effect of this year's work is that the technical knowledge that is required to maintain this valuable asset is now being spread among a number of individuals, so we are reducing the risk of having all our eggs in one basket. Our thanks are due to this team who are beginning work under the able direction of webmaster Ian Mair.

The social programme has been particularly strong with regular presentations and video sessions maintaining links for those who are less active. The Christmas party was attended by around 100 members and was a great success.

An unusual feature of the year was that we have had a unique event in the MBW history. A dispute occurred within the Club leading to a legal case and the Club engaged legal representation. The case was struck out at court. The Club is insured through Bushwalking Australia with an excess of \$10,000. The Committee has taken the precaution of placing this sum in a provisional account. Further legal proceedings are pending so at this time no more can be said. What this has done is to bring members together in a show of solidarity and support for which I and the committee are most grateful. The club is all the stronger for this.

Our Club is only able to function so well because so many members volunteer to either sit on the Committee or to take one of the many other roles that need to be filled. We have so many good people doing jobs, all entailing their time and energy. We owe them a very big "thank you" for keeping the wheels turning. And my special thanks go to Ian Mair, Roger Wyatt and David Stockley for being president or acting president during a difficult period. Together with the Committee they have all helped and supported me over the last six months. Thank you all.

Derrick Brown

A Word of Appreciation

I am honoured and humbled by the recommendation and decision to award me with the Club's inaugural ABCD Award. In part the citation for the Award states: "The ABCD Award will be given for a significant effort or contribution that stands above normal contributions that may be made by club members and demonstrates a high standard of club values and expected behaviours."



It is part of my conviction that it is the volunteer contributions of many, many people through a multitude of community organisations that creates the desirable

society which we are privileged to enjoy. It has been my choice to make my contribution through the bushwalking community, and specifically through Melbourne Bushwalkers where I feel I can do the most good. Many members make significant contributions to the club through their volunteer efforts and much more besides. We do it not for recognition or awards, but the simple satisfaction that we are contributing to the enrichment of the experience and livelihood of others.



Thank you. Your kind act affirms that the contributions of all volunteers to the club is appreciated. I look forward to welcoming many others to building Melbourne Bushwalkers into the future.

Ian Mair

Sunday Walks Secretary Report to AGM 2024

The Sunday walks program continues to be the most popular regular club activity. In 2023 the club had 24 Sunday bus walks and 25 carpool walks, similar to the previous year. Average participant numbers over the year on the bus were 49 and for carpools 17, compared to 42 and 16 for for 2022.

I took over the role of Sunday Walks Secretary in May from Roger Wyett who filled the role for the first few months of the year.

We had quite a few new leaders coming on the program, thanks to the leadership training and continuing leader mentoring program. Some of the walks had to be replaced or redesigned as a result of damage from storms, fallen trees or closed tracks and a great thank you is in order to all the leaders for putting in extra efforts to preview and adjust the walks.

On behalf of all members, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to all leaders for the important contribution they make to the club by keeping the Sunday walks program going.

Bettina Brill, Acting Sunday Walks Secretary



A scenic spot for a break - G. Johnson

KEEP THE NIGHT FREE: Movie Night Cinema Nova – The Way, My Way

Date: Monday Night 20 May (based on current information the film will be on general release on the Thursday prior)

Based on Bill Bennett's book of the same name, *THE WAY, MY WAY* is the charming and captivating true story of an Australian man's transformative experience walking the Camino de Santiago, and the people he meets along the way that changed his life forever.

For more information contact Meredith Quick, Social Secretary social@mbw.org.au



Environment Report 2023

The recent year has seen some positive signs for our bushland environments in the recent cessation of old-growth logging in Victoria and increased efforts to reduce numbers of feral horses in the Victorian alps and Kosciuszko National Park. However, the need for eternal vigilance is shown in new outbreaks of *Phytophthora* (Cinnamon fungus) including at Castlemaine.

In recent years, there appear to have been fewer Bushies attending BTAC (Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation) track maintenance activities than in the past. Unfortunately the way BTAC activities are now organised, via signing up on the Parks Victoria website, makes it difficult to know the level of MBW participation in any activity, unless you were on it yourself, or make regular, informal inquiries. The last track maintenance weekend I signed up for in January, would have had at least 3 other MBW members attending, except that it was cancelled due to a fire in the area. However a number of MBW members have regularly participated over the last year. Our thanks to them!

Meredith Quick has joined the BTAC committee and has been adding their activities to our program. I'd like to thank Meredith for taking the initiative here and I hope this leads to increased participation by club members. If you haven't yet joined a track maintenance weekend, it is a great opportunity to spend a weekend or so in the bush, meeting up with members from other clubs while making a worthwhile contribution to the bushwalking experience.



As I was travelling for much of winter and spring last year, I was unable to organise attendance at other conservation activities in which we have often taken part, such as the Regent Honeyeater Project plantings. I think also the uncertainties of our changing climate, along with staffing shortages following several years of pandemic, have made it much harder for groups to plan their activities in advance. In some cases we only found out dates a week or so beforehand, making it very difficult to organise attendance.

I have retired from the committee and from the position of Environment officer for the club. I would like to thank everyone who has participated in conservation and track maintenance activities in this time, and everyone who has spoken to me about their concerns. The club will be seeking a new Environment officer, so if you may be interested, please contact the President to discuss the role.

John Terrell

News from Newfoundland

Nanette and I are settling back in our home in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada.

Some of you will know we were active members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers for most of the 18 months we spent in Melbourne. Nanette and I are eternally grateful to the Club for welcoming us with open



arms. We very much miss our "outings", but more than anything, we deeply miss the people with whom we regularly hiked. Many of whom we considered friends.

From the lush trails of the Dandenong Ranges, to the rugged beauty of the Grampians, to the

spectacular beaches and headlands along the Great Ocean Road - we loved it all. The distinctive flora and fauna, the birds and the wildlife, much of which was unique to Australia, greatly enriched each trip.


The shared laughter, the challenging trails, and the friendships formed with MBW members are cherished memories as we transition our lives back to our home. Melbourne bushwalkers "good on ya" for making two visitors feel so welcome!

We invite you to come visit Newfoundland and would love to lead you on some of its spectacular trails. For example, check out the [East Coast Trail \(eastcoasttrail.com\)](http://eastcoasttrail.com). It is a spectacular 270 km trail that follows our rugged coastline. It can easily be hiked in small sections of a few hours or a few days. There are many picturesque small communities




Purnululu National Park

An experience you will never forget



NoTraces BushWalking Australia



eco CERTIFIED Ecotourism

Expedition date 2024
28 April to 4 May
26 May to 1 June

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Ph: +61 457 726 525

along the way. We hike sections of it quite regularly. In February we skied out to a section of the trail to a freshwater geyser known as the spout, pictured left.

If you wish to visit Newfoundland I can be reached via Facebook messenger.

Doug and Nanette Goodridge

Navigation Field Training Activities in April

Thursday 11 April 7-8.30pm: Field Navigation Theory – Rivers Room at clubrooms.

Participant Limit: none

I would like participants to do the pre-reading on navigation accessed via MBW website via “Navigation.” There are a series of 8 navigation articles here as well as a more recent summary of these - both accessed via links. It is not essential to do this pre-reading but they will make it easier to understand the material discussed in the evening presentation. If you have any queries please give me a ring on 0408 144265 or email geoq@bigpond.com



On the evening I would like participants to bring a Silva type compass (not essential) and we will cover:

- The projection technique used for the maps we use for projecting an area of a sphere (the earth) onto a flat surface (a map) – the Universal Transverse Mercator projection.
- Eastings and Northings – the horizontal and vertical lines of the grid on a map. How the figures are derived for an individual map and their association with datums (below).
- How longitude and latitude compare with a map grid and why they are not used for our navigation.
- The three norths – true, grid and magnetic.
- Datums – the reference for the vertical and horizontal measurements on a map and how and why they have changed over time and their significance in present day map navigation.
- Aligning map contour patterns to topography.

Saturday 20 April 10am–2pm: Werribee Gorge (meeting point to be discussed at evening session above).

Participant Limit: 6 per session to ensure individual training. If more than one session is required then more Field Days will be arranged.

The practical field session will cover:

- Calculation of distance travelled by using pacing and time.
- Finding where you are using distance topographical features for triangulation.
- Navigating between grid points.

Quentin Tibballs



Great Barrier Island view - B. Dadvand

THE HILLS OF SIKKIM & DARJEELING

WALKING HOLIDAY IN INDIA



Sikkim and the Darjeeling hills are lands of soaring Himalayan peaks and stunning views. Traditional lifestyles and livelihoods are widespread. Unusually for India, population density is low and protected forest coverage is high. This makes it something of an outlier in a country which is seeing rapid population growth and urban development.

Guided by North East India native Kabir Pradhan, we explore this unique region on foot, with day walks through a variety of landscapes including forests, pastoral land and farming hamlets. Each night we return to wonderful accommodation, ranging from heritage hotels to farmstays and tea planters' bungalows. Along the way we learn about the numerous ethnic groups who call this region of India home, including Tibetans, Gorkhas, Bengalis, Lepchas and Bhotias.

The tour takes place in late November, when flowers are in full bloom, the air is clearest and mountain views at their best. With favourable conditions there are regular views of the main Himalayan range, including of Khangchendzonga, the third highest mountain in the world (as pictured, seen from Darjeeling). Unlike the mountain views, which are at the mercy of the weather gods, good food, unique accommodation and the company of like-minded travellers is guaranteed.


The tour runs for 15 days and is limited to 12 people.
More information at <https://www.indiaunbound.com.au/walking-the-hills-of-sikkim-darjeeling-2024/>

WALKING THE HILLS OF SIKKIM & DARJEELING

15 TO 29 NOVEMBER 2024

Group tour with Kabir Pradhan
organised by India Unbound

For more information please contact
Lincoln Harris at India Unbound

1300 889 513 

lincoln@indiaunbound.com.au 

 **INDIA
UNBOUND**
CUSTOM MADE JOURNEYS

April Safety & Risk Reminders

This month we cover the leader's **Duty of Care** and managing a very **large group of Visitors**.



A Leader's Duty of Care: We use the Bushwalking Victoria definition below:

What a reasonably prudent leader would do to take reasonable care to avoid exposing fellow walkers (having regard to their age, experience, skill and other individual matters) to unreasonable risks of injury or loss.

This complements the **Acknowledgement of Risks** that members and visitors make, as well as the **Code of Conduct** and **Participant Responsibilities** that apply to all members. A leader needs to comply with the Club's Bylaws and Activity Polices and take the Activity Guidelines into consideration when conducting their activities. We try to make this easier for leaders to ensure they are taking "reasonable care" by these regular **Safety & Risk Reminders** that, over a 12-month period remind both members and leaders of the things they should be aware of or need to comply with.

Choosing the Whip when there are lots of Visitors: When the number of Visitors on a walk, primarily Sunday Bus Walks, is 15 or more then the leader needs to ensure that the Whip is also a leader. While this becomes a requirement at 15 the leader can try and have another leader as Whip whenever they believe it is necessary.

Note (NEW): The new Activity Guideline – Leading Pack Carries and Base Camps has recently been sent to current extended walk leaders and is now on the Leaders Area of the Website. Some of its key contents are also very applicable to Day Walk Leaders e.g. vetting participants – both members and visitors.

Members and especially Leaders are encouraged to read the monthly Reminders to stay aware of their responsibilities as participants or as leaders on Club Activities: NEW = a new item; MOD= changed from last time; and the others are unchanged.

Mick Noonan, Risk Officer

Fedwalks 2024 - Squeaky Beach awarded best beach in Australia!

According to an ABC article earlier this month Squeaky Beach, near Tidal River at Wilsons Promontory, was the first ever Victorian beach to claim the title of Australia's best beach of the year. Squeaky Beach came up trumps after investigation of 12,000 beaches around the mainland and surrounding islands conducted by Tourism Australia. This is very timely as we are celebrating the much anticipated 90th anniversary of bushwalking clubs in Victoria — **Fed Walks 24 — at Tidal River 11-13 October 2024.**

Around a three-hour drive from Melbourne this coastal beauty is a source of pride enjoyed by locals as well as being discovered by international travellers. You will be able to experience first-hand the pristine beaches, spectacular granite mountains and cliffs and wildlife including kangaroos, emus and wombats and a stunning variety of birdlife. Wilsons Promontory is a bushwalkers paradise. As part of the package, we are offering 20 unique walks, ranging from easy to medium to hard, available over two days with different styles of accommodation ranging from camping to glamping plus dinner and entertainment on the Saturday evening.

Get your walking buddies planning to attend this unique weekend experience. **Bookings open Monday 3 June 2024.** More details at <https://fedwalks.org.au/>





WEM 09/96

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS (INC)

GPO BOX 1751, MELBOURNE, VIC, 3001

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Statement

Every person participating in the activities of Melbourne Bushwalkers should strive to ensure:

- The inclusion of every person regardless of their age, gender, sexual orientation, race, culture or religion
- There are opportunities for people with a range of abilities to participate
- They demonstrate respect towards each other, the organization and the broader community
- There is a safe and inclusive environment for all, free from violent or abusive behavior
- There is protection from sexual harassment or intimidation

2. Breaches of the Code

The following behaviors are considered to be breaches of the Code:

- Violent or abusive behavior or vilification of any kind towards another person or the organization
- Discrimination against another person based on their age, gender, sexual orientation, race, culture, religion or any other irrelevant personal characteristic
- Victimization of another person for exercising their rights through this Code of Conduct
- Failure to maintain a safe environment free from violence, abuse, discrimination and harassment

3. Responsibility of Individuals

It is the responsibility of individuals bound by this Code of Conduct to:

- Make themselves aware of the standards of behavior required
- Be accountable for their behavior
- Report breaches of this Code to a Committee Member or Leader

4. Responsibility of Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

It is the responsibility of the Committee to adopt, implement and comply with this Code of Conduct and treat any breach or complaint made in an unbiased, sensitive, fair, timely and confidential manner. Any breaches of this Code will be dealt with in accordance with the Club's By-Laws and Rules.

5. Policy Implementation

The Code of Conduct will be published on the Club's website, be printed in the Club's Newsletter and copies made available in the Club's meeting room

6. Related Policy Documents

- Melbourne Bushwalkers(Inc.) - By-Laws
- Melbourne Bushwalkers (Inc.) - Rules of Association
- Melbourne Bushwalkers (Inc.) - Participants' Responsibilities on Club Activities
- Bushwalking Victoria - Code of Conduct



MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS (INC)

GPO BOX 1751, MELBOURNE, VIC, 3001

PARTICIPANTS' RESPONSIBILITIES ON CLUB ACTIVITIES

Club activities require individual responsibility from all participants. The guidelines listed below are intended to ensure a safe and enjoyable time for everyone.

- Check the grading of the activity and read the grading definition in the Preview. If in doubt as to your ability to undertake the activity, check with the Leader before you commit to participate.
- Persons under 18 years are required to be accompanied by a parent or authorized guardian.
- Bring all the correct clothing, equipment, sun protection, food and water with you. (A minimum of 2 liters of water per day should be carried although this is dependent on terrain and weather conditions. If in doubt about what to bring ask the Leader at booking time or before departure.
- Participants on all Club lilo, rafting and canoe activities are required to use buoyancy vests and helmets.
- Arrive at the meeting place in time to depart at the time stated.
- Ensure your health and fitness is suitable for the activity. Advise the Leader if you feel unwell or suffer an injury during the activity.
- If you suffer a medical condition that may require assistance or medication, ensure you advise the leader, carry appropriate instructions and that the leader or a friend know where these are located.
- Ensure you carry the Club's green Personal Health Details card at all times when participating in a Club activity, preferably in the outside pocket of your pack.
- Ensure you have ambulance cover as evacuation from remote areas is expensive.
- Follow all reasonable instructions from the Leader and "Whip".
- Provide assistance and support to others on the activity.
- Be aware of and comply with the Club's Code of Conduct and demonstrate respect and consideration for other participants
- Stop at all track/road junctions, signs, or whenever there is doubt about the correct route and wait for instructions from the Leader.
- Carry a personal First Aid kit, whistle, torch, pen, paper, matches in waterproof container
- The code when using a whistle is (1 blast – acknowledge, 2 blasts – stop and regroup, 3 blasts – EMERGENCY).
- The Whip is there to assist slower members and to ensure that nobody is left behind. If you need to leave the track for a toilet stop, inform someone nearby and leave your pack on the track.
- Care for the environment – minimize plant damage, don't cut track corners, take your rubbish home, keep at least 100 meters away from watercourses for toilet stops and bury toilet waste at least 15cm below the surface.
- Clean shoes after walking in Phytophthora areas (70% methylated spirits/bleach to 30% water).
- When camping, fuel stoves are encouraged, fires should be kept to a minimum size, no rubbish burnt in fires, only dead wood used for firewood and fires to be completely extinguished before bedtime if conditions warrant and when leaving the campsite.
- Don't pollute streams with shampoo, soap, detergent or food waste. Ensure washing is done away from streams, lakes, etc.
- Ensure you leave details of the activity and names and telephone numbers of the Club Emergency Contacts (noted on the quarterly Activity Program) with your family or friends and make them aware of the emergency procedures.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2024-25

Membership subscriptions are due 1st April 2024. You are not required to sign an Acknowledgement of Risk form on renewal, however you are advised that payment of fees implies acceptance of the risks involved in any activity you may undertake as a member of MBW. Members are asked to read the following wording regarding insurance cover through Bushwalking Australia.

'In voluntarily participating in activities of Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc., which are described to me by the activity leaders, I am aware that my participation in the activities may expose me to hazards and risks that could lead to injury, illness or death or to loss of or damage to my property. I also acknowledge that I may encounter weather conditions that could lead to heat stroke, hypothermia or being in locations where evacuation for medical treatment may take hours or days. In particular when participating in abseiling or above the snowline activities I am aware that these activities could expose me to additional hazards and risks.

To minimize risks I will endeavour to ensure that:

- Each activity is within my capabilities;
- I will carry food, water and equipment appropriate for the activity;
- I will advise the activity leader if I am taking medication or have any physical or other limitation that might affect my participation in the activity;
- I will make every effort to remain with the rest of the party during the activity;
- I will advise the leader of any concerns I am having; and
- I will comply with all reasonable instructions of club officers and the activity leader`

I have read and understood these requirements. I will consider the risks before joining any activity of the Club. I acknowledge that I will take responsibility for my own actions, that the Club strongly recommends that all participants have comprehensive personal ambulance cover, and that **payment of my subscriptions will be deemed as full acceptance and understanding of the above conditions.**

RENEWAL SLIP

If any of your personal details have changed, update your details through the Members' Area of the club's website, or complete the form below and send it by email to membership@mbw.org.au , or if paying by cheque forward it with your payment to the Membership Secretary.

If paying by cheque or EFT please be sure to clearly identify who the payment is for to assist the Treasurer and Membership Secretary to identify you and ensure your renewal is properly recorded.

Payment to the Membership Secretary, together with completed form (if required) by one of the following methods:

- **(Preferred)** EFT to the club account. **Please ensure your full name and 'SUBS' appear on the transfer.** (Account Name: Melbourne Bushwalkers, A/c No. 0058-46013, BSB: 013-006).
- Cash or cheque on club night (cheques payable to Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.)
- Cheque and Renewal Slip posted to Membership Secretary, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc, P.O. Box 1751, Melbourne 3001

Fees (Please circle your membership category) *

Single member: \$45 **	Concession: \$34* (Proof required ***)
Couple/Family: \$90 **	Concession: \$68* (Proof required ***)

- Notes:** * Members who have nominated their Home Club as other than Melbourne Bushwalkers and paid the insurance cover to their Home Club should only pay 50% of the appropriate fee noted above.
 ** **Members who currently receive their copies of 'NEWS' via postal mail should add \$40.00 to continue.** No new hard copy subscriptions will be accepted.
 *** Holders of a Seniors Card or Commonwealth Healthcare Card only are not eligible for a concession.

Name: Year of Birth (optional).....

Name: Year of Birth (optional).....

(**Note:** Year of Birth is used only for statistical purposes and not published in any lists.)

Fill in Address, Telephone number(s) and Email address only if changed since last renewal:

Street Address:

Suburb / Postcode

Tel: [H] [W] Mobile:

Email: Home Club:

Emergency Contact Tel:.....[H][M][W]

Mt. Buller North Ridge - 1-3 March 2024

Damien Walters

For me, the North Ridge of Mt. Buller is one of the best in Victoria. Over the years, I have done it six times, all in winter. The first in 1977 with Bruce Meinke from YHA. It's called the North Ridge, but it actually runs northwest. It rises in a straight line, to the very top of Buller, unrelenting with only a couple of short level sections. It becomes more dramatic near the top where you clear the tree line and negotiate a short but exposed rock scramble. Here, McLaughlan Shoulder on your left and the saw-toothed West Ridge to the west, come into full view.



So, after a long absence, I was grateful to be accepted on Gina's recent walk. Our Friday night campsite was to be a perfect grassy clearing near the start of the West Ridge

Track. But alas, not to be, unless you wanted to share it with about 40 active bee hives. This campsite even has an official name: the sign says Bee Site. Playing it safe, we camped at the nearby road intersection.

Starting from the cars at 7.30am, we walked along the road, past a quarry, then easily followed the overgrown continuation of the road around to a spur line, where it ended. We followed this spur down the foot of the North Ridge. It was generally open with what looked like a foot track in places. And then we plummeted to the valley floor on a loose gravelly surface with only tree holds and our bums to control the descent.

We filled water bottles from a clear puddle in Buller Creek and started the steep climb up the initial part of the North Ridge. It was a scrubby ascent. The sort of dry regrowth that whips your face and threatens to poke your

eyes out. Mostly head height. But out in front Gina gallantly ploughed a path for us. It was slow going, so we stopped on the spur rather than the top for lunch. At least we had more shade and didn't have to admire the ugliness on the other side of the hill.

Water was to be collected from Mt. Buller Village, as we were uncertain of supplies further on. We discovered to our annoyance there are no damn outside taps anywhere – we assumed because of freezing. We eventually had to drop down out of our way to the Info Center and fill up from a water chiller at the cafe. From the village we somehow found our way onto the Klingsporn Track through a maze of ski runs and mountain bike tracks. John's style of negotiating the latter was interesting – just run down the bends full bore as if on a bike, and hope for the best.



It turned out we didn't need to collect water, as there was good running water in both tributaries of Boggy Creek. From here the grassy track continues through a beautiful open eucalypt forest. One good thing about this whole area is that it has been untouched by wildfires.

At Thank Christ Corner we departed the Klingsporn Track and did a hard left. There was a reasonable



Along the track

campsite here, but Gina recollected a better one further on. So, we headed on up the ridge on a defined foot pad towards Mirimbah Spur. I recall it was about 6pm at this time, so we had been on the road a while. Gina called a halt to proceedings before the promised campsite at a place where there was reasonable camping on sort of level ground. I named this campsite Thank Christ Campsite. Nothing to do with it being near Thank Christ Corner.

It was a beautiful balmy Autumn evening, but owing to the long day it was a Kimberley bedtime.

Next day we continued up the beautiful open treed ridge onto McLaughlan Shoulder. We followed the foot track all the way to the summit. It was a cautious descent onto the West Ridge on an eroded loose track. Once on the ridge it was then a delightful walk punctuated by some tricky scrambling. Dropping off the ridge we continued to a lunch break in the saddle (good campsite) just before Round Hill. Again, a beautiful ridge walk through unburnt forest. From the bottom of the West Ridge Track it was only about 400m to the cars.



Thank you, Gina, for organising and leading a great walk. And perfect weather! And thanks to new faces and old acquaintances for your enjoyable company.

Leader: Gina Hopkins. Participants: Carol, John, Ting, Rachel, Ha, Damien

Mt Buffalo base camp – 8-11 March 2024

Graeme Baird



This base camp coincided with Victoria's hottest weekend of the summer, temperatures hovering in the mid-30s on most days.

On Saturday we set out on The Big Walk, that is, from Lake Catani to Rollason's Falls. One group walked downhill, and a harder group chose to walk it uphill.

Unsurprisingly, many of us did not complete the full walk because of the heat. There were numerous mutterings of Noel Coward's classic line "mad dogs and Englishmen out in the midday sun". We were all very relieved when we plunged into the cool waters of Lake Catani later in the afternoon.

Jan sensibly changed the proposed bushwalk for Saturday so that we were walking in the cool of the morning or evening and not in the middle of the day. In the morning, we followed The Long Plain to Mt Dunn and returned. Mt Dunn provided



Along the track

magnificent 360degree views of the surrounding area. On return to Lake Catani, some tougher individuals completed the Chalwell Galleries Circuit whilst the rest of us again retired to the cool waters of Lake Catani.

At about 5:30 PM we set off again. This time to The Sentinel and Mohomet's Tomb followed by sunset at The Horn. Mohomet's Tomb consists of a small space surrounded by massive granite boulders. It is a significant climb requiring us scaling boulders at an 80° angle. But well worth it! Watching the sunset at The Horn was magnificent. The magnificence was enhanced by good wine and nibbles including a delightful blue cheese contributed by Jill.



On our last morning, a smaller group followed the South Buffalo Track. There was considerable excitement when Jan, who was leading the group, noticed a black snake. After an abrupt stop and a hasty retreat, Jan and Geof negotiated a bypass route around the snake. Finally, we stopped at The Leviathan, a massive veranda type structure made of granite, for lunch.

Thanks to Jan for a wonderful bushwalk!

Bush walkers: Oliver, Sophy, Eduardo, Angus, Mathew, Brad, Geof, Jill, Carmel, Toni, Joshua, Fotina, Penny, Andie, Frances, David, Diane, Graeme and Jan

A Relaxed Weekend walking around Mt Baw Baw - 16-17 March, 2024

Ian Mair

Getting away from Melbourne and into the mountains is one of life's pleasures. When it is only a relatively short two hours drive on a Saturday morning, a rendezvous with coffee and cake before thinking about walking, then an easy hike to camp, the temptation to participate is strong. So it was for our group of 15 who converged on Erica township before heading into the Baw Baw National Park for a relaxed weekend of walking.



"The history of Mt Baw Baw as a recreational area began at the turn of the century. Bushwalking is the oldest recreational activity recorded in the region. A large number of tracks constructed during the 1880's allowed movement across the plateau. These tracks were used both in summer and winter. With the improvement in access to areas within the Baw Baw region, interest in recreation increased." (<https://www.mountbawbaw.com.au/the-resort/our-history/>) While the network of tracks has changed over the years the Baw Baw National Park, declared in April 1979, remains a popular destination for walkers.



While technical purists in the club may argue that our trip wasn't really a Pack Carry walk but rather was a Walk-in Base Camp, the distinction meant little to those who enjoyed getting out into the bush in fine weather. A steady 5km walk to our Saturday night camp at Phillack Saddle ensured we had our tents up and lunch eaten before setting off to explore Mt Baw Baw and the attractions of Baw Baw Village on an 8.5km circuit walk. There were a few surprises! Who would have expected to encounter dingoes or find an open coffee shop? And there they were, the former in an Alpine Dingo enclosure in the centre of the village.

Sunday took us deeper into the National Park as we ventured north along a section of the Australian Alps Walking Track (AAWT). Our modest 6km to Whitelaw Hut was just a sample of the 670km trail that runs from Walhalla to the outskirts of Canberra. Forming part of a network of huts to accommodate walkers in the early 20th Century the Whitelaw Hut was destroyed in the 1939 bushfires. Still used as an optional camping spot along the AAWT it looks out onto lush alpine marshes. After retracing our route along the AAWT we arrived back at our previous night's campsite in time for lunch before collecting our packs and heading back to the cars. Mt St Phillack was the only climb on the way back. From here it was all easy downhill walking along X-country ski trails back to the carpark. Next stop - another coffee in Erica!

The fellowship of the trail: Journey to the Great Barrier Island, New Zealand – 8-18 March, 2024

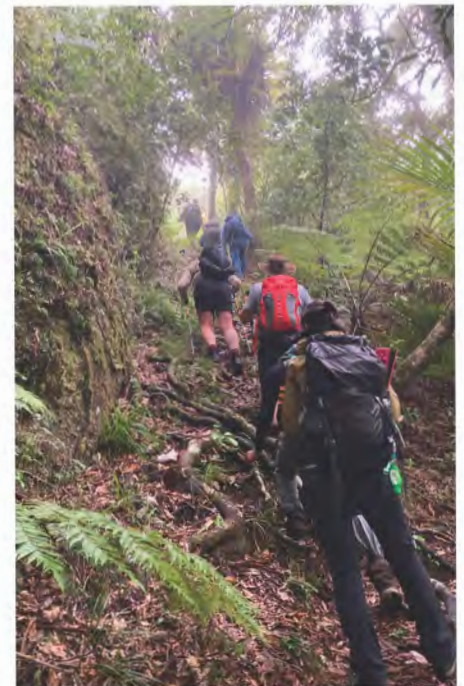
Adriana Fari-palko

Gather around, fellow bushwalkers, for a tale as real as hobbits are short! We all know the 'Lord of the Rings' and 'The Hobbit' are just fiction. The adventures you are about to read, unfolding in the lush landscapes of Great Barrier Island, New Zealand, are as real as it gets.



Once upon a time, in the new moon of March, Susan, the Lady of the Trail, guided us, the 15 hobbits from the Downunder Shire, towards the heights of Mount Heale Hut, where the breathtaking sunset reigns supreme.

But reaching that sublime summit was no walk in the park. Nay, my friends, we had to train harder than a hobbit chasing after a second breakfast to conquer the challenges of getting to Mount Heale Hut. The Lady of the Trail started our training with Warrens Loop Track, a gentle climb through the native bush, taking us to a waterfall. The hobbits have seen many coastal landscapes in Downunder, but nothing like the Harataonga Track, where the ocean hugs the land wearing azure, pink and white silky waves.





Through Te Ahumata Track, the climb increased, leading to panoramic views in every direction.

Finally, Susan completed our training for Mount Heale Hut with Cooper's Castle Track, where our resolve was tested like never before. Both the ascent and the descent were a relentless battle, and to win it, the hobbits called upon poles and used their posteriors and the grasping fingers of the aerial roots of enchanted trees and bush. The bravery of the hobbits overcame the wounded earth on Cooper Castle and the sneaky slippery rocks that set traps on us throughout the track.



At this point, The Lady of the Trail knew we were ready to climb God-knows-how-many-stairs to Mount Heale Hut. Susan and her disciple Babak led us to the hut of sublime sunset. Up there, the world seemed to hold its breath for the sun to set and fall asleep.

What followed after Mount Heale Hut? Easy-peasy adventures: hot springs baths, Medlands to Tryphina on Station Rock Walkway, Dolphin Bay track, kayaking for some hobbits, art galleries for others and star gazing and Irish pub celebrations for all.

As the adventures of the 15 hobbits and the Lady of the Trail reach the end, let us remember that it is not the destination but the journey itself that truly defines us. In the end, it is not the heights we reach but the steps we take along the way that shape our adventures and enrich our lives.



Great Barrier Island sunset - K. Aston

Upcoming activities

April 2024

Thu 4	TOF: Braeside Park & Waterways	Pvt	E	Bill Metzenthén
5-7	BTAC: AAWT near Mt Whitelaw	Pvt		Meredith Quick
Sun 7	DAY: Starling Gap-Ada Tree	Bus	E&E/M	Robert Ian Mair & Halina Sarbinowski
Mon 8	MTG: Club Committee Meeting	Pvt		Derrick Brown
Wed 10	DAY: Ferny Creek-Tremont	Pvt	E/M	Elizabeth Gwynn
Thu 11	TRG: Field Navigation Day-Theory session	Pvt		Quentin Tibballs
12-14	PC: Bungalow Spur-Feathertop-Bon Accord Spur	Pvt	M	Gina Hopkins
Sun 14	DAY: Sugarloaf Reservoir	Car	E/M	Babak Dadvand & Adriana Fari-palko
Mon 15	MOF: Parks & Gardens near East Malvern	Pvt	E	Robert Ian Mair
Wed 17	SOC: Walking & Touring in Iceland	Pvt		Robert Ian Mair
Sat 20	TRG: Field Navigation Day-Practice	Pvt		Quentin Tibballs
Sun 21	DAY: Taradale-Fryerstown (Castlemaine)	Bus	E/M&M	Deb Shand & Therese Ryan
Wed 24	DAY: Blue Mountain	Pvt	E/M	Judith Shaw
24-28	PC: Wilsons Promontory: Sealers Cove	Pvt	M	Robert Ian Mair
Thu 25	SOC: Westerfolds Park	Pvt	E	Pearson Cresswell
25-28	BTAC: Rescheduled-Coastal Walk	Pvt		Meredith Quick
Sat 27	DAY: Brimbank Park	Pvt	E	Maureen Hurley
Sun 28	DAY: Plenty Gorge (train based)	Car	E/M	Jopie Bodegraven

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