

MELBOURNE  
BUSHWALKERS INC.

ABN 14 396 912 508



# THE NEWS

#885

December  
2024

## SEASONS GREETINGS



On the Razor-Viking circuit - B. Brill

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## 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](http://www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au)

Next committee meeting: Monday 2 December

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](mailto: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](mailto:news@mbw.org.au)

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## New Members

We welcome these new members to the club:

Junyi Song  
An Phuong Vo  
Samantha Bain  
Orion David Law  
Cemre Yurtbasi  
Jessie Pomeroy  
Khanh Nguyen  
Sinead Hanley  
Anita Holt



Mountain  
Mirabelia pea  
spotted on the  
Wabonga  
Plateau walk -  
M. Frey

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## Would you like your trip photos featured in the newsletter?

Due date for contributions to January News: 21 December

Email: [news@mbw.org.au](mailto:news@mbw.org.au)





Christmas is almost upon us with holiday time, parties, relaxing and hopefully some good bushwalking. The committee was reminded that it's also a time for more scamming activity! Someone used the club email information on our website to send emails purporting to be from myself to various Club officers. Fortunately no damage was done but it is a warning for us all to be on our guard. With AI to help them the scammers are constantly finding new and more cunning ways to help themselves to your cash. Be sceptical!

The summer weather encourages us all to get out more but don't forget to take - and use - sunblock and extra water. We must also take the higher temperatures into account especially with making ascents when exhaustion and hyperthermia are possibilities. Also we are already experiencing fast-changing weather patterns including heavy rain and strong winds. Be prepared by taking appropriate gear and by being willing to change plans at short notice.

During my recent mountain walk in Italy we received a bad weather warning and descended to a lower altitude for a day. Another couple, walking one day behind us, either didn't get the message or ignored it. They ran into a sudden snowstorm and, with only day-walking gear, had to hunker down. The route has not many 'hunkering down' places, being high-altitude with many steep sections. They called for help but one of them died from hypothermia before help arrived. It's a grim reminder how an adventure can quickly turn to tragedy. Even here in Victoria some of our walking areas are relatively remote; a quick exit is not always possible and help is not around the corner so extra vigilance may be needed.

On a happier note, the member survey was completed and the results are being studied and will be published in this News. There was a 25% response rate which should provide a reasonable snapshot for the committee's use.

Our Christmas celebration is on Tuesday, 10 December, when I hope to see many members there. Food is provided and a draw will take place for survey entry prizes and another for walk leader prizes. See you then.

Derrick

A scenic landscape photograph showing a rocky foreground with a dead, gnarled tree on the left. In the background, there are rolling green hills under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

**XMAS PARTY**  
**MBW MEMBERS EVENT**

**TUESDAY, 10 DECEMBER 6PM -9PM**

**MISSION TO SEAFARERS**  
**717 Flinders St, Docklands**

Finger food provided. Drinks available at the bar.  
RSVP TO: [social@mbw.org.au](mailto:social@mbw.org.au) by December 1<sup>st</sup>

**Join the party to catchup & celebrate  
another fabulous year!**

## Bushies Thriving: Highlights from the 2024 Member Survey

A huge thank you to the 133 members, nearly 25% of our total memberships, who participated in the **2024 Member Survey**. We're thrilled to share that an incredible **95% of Bushies who replied are HAPPY or VERY HAPPY** with our MBW Club!

To show our appreciation, we'll be drawing **five \$50 outdoor gear vouchers** for survey participants. Winners will be announced at our **Christmas Party on December 10**.

**Note: It's important to read these comments as indicative from 25% of members but not necessarily exactly what all members feel or activities they want.**

We have added some facts below about all our members which tell a fantastic story about the health of our club.

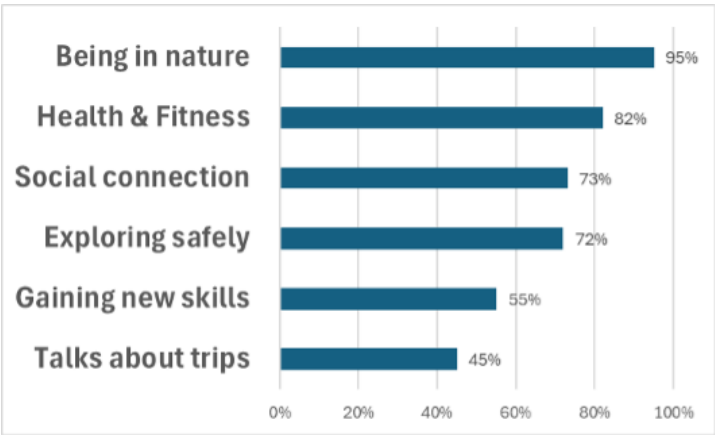
### Who are we?

**Membership Duration:** Members stay members for a long time. Over half of the respondents have been members over 6 years and many over 10 years. 15% of respondents were our new members who contributed to the positive comments. Interestingly, 25% of respondents also belong to other clubs.

**Bushies are experienced walkers.** While half of our respondents primarily walk on defined tracks, over half have extensive experience with multiday hikes, pack carries, base camps, alpine trekking, and off-track navigation.

**We walk wide and far.** Our respondents have walked globally exploring New Zealand, Europe, the UK, the Inca Trail, Chile, Vanuatu, East Timor, and iconic Australian routes such as the Bibbulmun Track, Larapinta Trail, Three Capes Track, Overland Track, and Flinders Ranges.

### Why Do Members Join MBW?



Our respondents share a passion for the outdoors and bushwalking.

Additional reasons include affordability, accessibility (the club bus helps!), and the opportunity to explore places they wouldn't access alone.

### Respondents love MBW for its:

**Variety:** Walks for all abilities, ages, and preferences, spanning local, interstate, and international locations.

**Organization:** A well-run and efficient club with skilled leaders and a supportive Committee.

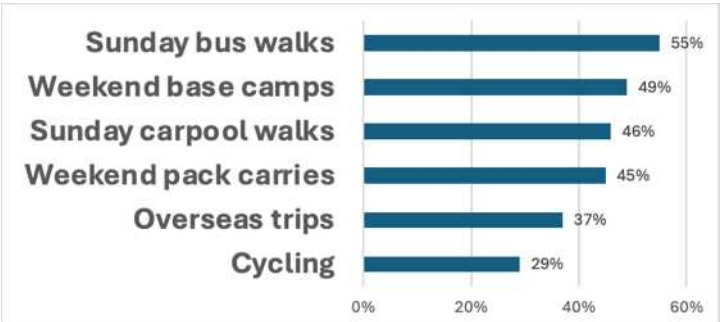
**Safety:** Comprehensive training, robust risk management, and experienced leadership.

**Community:** Kind, welcoming, and friendly members who foster long-term friendships.

**Opportunities:** A platform to train for challenging hikes and overseas adventures.

### Our Favourite Activities

The most popular activities include:



### Less Popular Interests

Non-walking activities appeal to fewer respondents perhaps due to needing skill and experience, e.g. snowshoeing, canoeing, and cycling.

*continued next page*

**New ideas suggested to do more of what we do well**

- Themed walks:** Having a guide or focus on plants, wildlife, and conservation.
- Skill-building workshops:** First aid, GPS navigation, risk management, and fitness training.
- Special outings:** Coastal walks, summer sunset walks with dinners, and social mid-week outings.
- Inter-club activities:** Collaborations with other clubs, plus more interstate and overseas trips.
- Enriching presentations:** Gear talks, travel presentations, and guest speakers (e.g., Parks Victoria).
- Personal storytelling:** Sharing members' adventure stories.

**Constructive Feedback**

- Some respondents suggested improvements:
- Earlier start and return times for Sunday walks.
  - Online booking forms for convenience.
  - Addressing repetitive routes.
  - Managing large group sizes on Sunday walks.

**Great Value for Money**

Respondents appreciate the cost of membership and contributions for Sunday bus walks considering them excellent value. Some felt that the cost of carpooling was a bit high.

**Thank You Again!**

Your feedback helps us grow stronger together. Let's continue exploring, connecting, and sharing our love for the great outdoors!

*Annemarie Mulder, Chris Lord, John Gurskey*

**We also wanted to know**

1. Are numbers declining?
2. Is the club membership getting older and are we attracting new younger members?

For that our webmaster went to the membership statistics to tell us the facts:

1. No, our membership has grown steadily every year and is higher than it has ever been with only a small decline in the COVID years.
2. The gender balance is 61% female / 39% male, which compares with the survey respondent balance of 64% female / 36% male.
3. No. The average age of women in our current membership is 60.6 years, and men 63 years. More significantly, the average age of women at the time of joining the club in the last 10 years is 51.5 years, and men 52 years.
4. Our core member age group is 61-70, the next largest group 51-60, then >71.
5. New memberships continue to grow. While we have many loyal older members, we get a steady inflow of new members from our 50-60 core and many young visitors as well. Some may be short stay tourists and students, but many convert to active members. The most rapidly growing age group is in the 31-50 years bracket.



## Why Our Club Walks Matter: Health, Friendship, and Adventure

Ian Mair

As we prepare for our weekend adventures, it's important to remember that our time on the trails is not just about enjoying the beautiful landscapes of Victoria. Our club's program offers a fantastic range of day walks, from 5km social strolls to more challenging 25km hikes, typically taking between 4 to 6 hours depending on the difficulty. These walks provide us with numerous benefits that go beyond just getting outside.



Let's start with our physical health. Engaging in these walks is great for our cardiovascular fitness. A full day of walking helps improve heart health and can lower the risk of various health issues. Plus, for those of us looking to maintain a healthy weight, a day spent walking can burn a significant number of calories while allowing us to enjoy nature.

But the benefits don't stop there. Walking in nature is also incredibly good for our mental wellbeing. Many of us find that being outdoors helps clear our minds and reduce stress. After a day on the trails, it's common to feel more relaxed and focused. Research shows that spending time in nature can enhance our mood and boost creativity, making our walks not just good exercise but also a great way to recharge mentally.

The variety of walks available means there's something for everyone. Whether you prefer a gentle social walk or are ready to tackle a more strenuous trek, you'll find plenty of options that suit your fitness level. The shorter walks are perfect for those who are new to bushwalking or looking for a more casual experience, while the longer hikes offer a chance to build endurance and challenge ourselves.

One of the highlights of our club walks is the opportunity to connect with others. Walking alongside fellow members fosters a sense of community and friendship. It's a wonderful way to share experiences, encourage one another, and enjoy each other's company during the journey.

We also engage our minds while walking. Navigating trails and observing our surroundings keeps us alert and engaged. This mental stimulation is beneficial as we age, helping to keep our minds sharp.

The changing landscapes we encounter - from lush forests to stunning vistas - are not only visually appealing but also promote mindfulness. Many members appreciate how being in nature allows them to focus on the present moment and step away from daily stresses.

For those of us who are older, regular bushwalking is an excellent way to maintain mobility and balance. The varied terrain provides natural resistance training, which helps keep our legs strong and joints flexible.



Finally, let's not overlook the sense of accomplishment that comes with completing a walk. Whether you finish a challenging 25km hike or enjoy a leisurely 5km stroll with friends, each experience boosts our confidence and self-esteem.

So next time you look at the club's walk program, remember that joining a walk is more than just planning an outing; it's an investment in your physical health, mental wellbeing, and social connections. Whether you choose a social walk or an adventurous trek, every step you take contributes to your overall health.

I look forward to seeing you all on the trails!

Love Our National Parks!

Join Us for a Celebration of Nature, Community, and Conservation  
3 Dec Tuesday, Oakleigh Hall 6.30-8pm

Our national parks are the heart of our wild places, a sanctuary for native forests, wildlife, and people alike. Add your voice to our message to Steve Dimopoulos, Victoria’s Minister for the Environment, to create more National Parks. **We want to send Steve a strong message and we need you in the heart of Oakleigh, Steve’s electorate, on Tuesday 3 December.**

MC Sophie Cunningham. Speakers: Professor Paul Sunnucks, Wildlife Genetic Management Group, Monash Uni; Wilderness Society; Victorian National Parks Asscn; Steve Meacher, Friends of Leadbeater’s Possum; Wombat Action Group; Nillumbik Friends of the Great Forest; Kinglake Friends of the Forest.

[RSVP and more info here!](#)

LOVE our

NATIONAL PARKS

Learn what they are and why we need MORE of them

A community celebration!

music - art activities - speakers

OAKLEIGH HALL

142 Drummond St Oakleigh

Tue 3 Dec

6:30 - 8pm

ENTRY IS FREE

LIMITED PLACES

RSVP HERE



Don't Block This Number!

Reprinted from the November Bushwalking Victoria Newsletter.

Summer Fire Season Outlook

The fire outlook for this Summer was not available for the December News. It will be added to the website in the first week of December.

VicEmergency - Don't Block This Number

If you see +61 444 444 444 pop up on your phone, it is important you do not block it. This phone number is linked to Emergency Alert, a national telephone warning system used by emergency services across the country to send voice messages to landlines and text messages to mobiles within a specific area to warn people about current emergencies.

Emergency Alert is not used in all situations, so it's important to rely on more than just one source of emergency information.

Stay informed, download the VicEmergency app and visit <https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au/respond/>



Don't block +61 444 444 444  
It's an Emergency Alert



## December Safety and Risk Reminders

This month the main theme is “**safety**”. Members, Leaders and the Club all have key safety roles. Individual members also need to take responsibility for their own safety. When you come prepared then you and your fellow walkers will have more fun and reduce the impacts if something does go wrong.



**Why walkers need to take a whistle:** All walk participants need to carry a quality whistle. Why?

- If you get lost/separated from the group e.g. on a toilet stop, a whistle is the best way to be found.
- If there is an emergency near you, then you can whistle for help (3 blasts)
- If you or others are having difficulty staying in sight of the group you can whistle for a regroup (2 blasts)
- If you hear a call for a regroup or an emergency and no one acknowledges the call (1 blast is an acknowledgement) you can relay the call (repeat the 2 or 3 blasts)

So you need to have a good quality whistle, those that come on a pack are generally not acceptable - a loud and peaseless whistle so they work when wet. Good quality whistles are available from the clubrooms for just \$2. **Get one at the Christmas Party!** But don't blow them without warning when close to people or indoors!

**Whistle Codes:** Remember the Whistle Codes?

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



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

**Members Yellow Safety/Courtesy Card:** This card is a handy reminder of basic safety guidelines for day walks including what to always carry, and what to do in a few key situations e.g. if you become separated from the group. A handy companion for your Green Health Card!

If you don't have a Yellow Card then cut one out from this news (see Page 10), fold it over, pop it in a zip bag and put it in your day pack. You can also pick one up in the Clubrooms.

**What extra things a Leader should carry and check in fire season:** An AM/FM Radio (or the ABC Listen App) to check fire *and* flood warnings. While many Leaders have their own radios, good quality radios are available to borrow for free from the Clubrooms. These items are in addition to first aid kits, and mobile phones that should always be carried. The requirements to carry PLBs now applies throughout the year.

As well as checking for Total Fire Bans and Extreme Temperatures, also see if there are any **Community Fire Refuges** (CFR) and/or **Neighbourhood Safer Places** (NSP) in the walk area and driving route (via the CFS Website). See article in this news on CFRs and NSPs.

**Members and especially Leaders are encouraged to read these 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



## Community Fire Refuges & Neighbourhood Safer Places

The Club's fire policies aim to ensure that members exposure to fire risk is minimised through cancelling activities on days of a Total Fire Ban and Extreme Heat. During Fire Season all Club groups especially multi-day groups (for which the fire danger is more likely to change during the activity) need to be able to check with the local ABC station on fire conditions, CFA directions, etc. This requires an AM/FM Radio and/or the ABC Listen App on a Smartphone (in areas with Internet Access).

You may be walking, visiting friends, travelling through an area where a fire develops, working outdoors in an area that becomes high risk, a health worker visiting clients, etc so it is worth understanding what '**Community Fire Refuges**' and '**Neighbourhood Safer Places**' are and the differences between them.

During serious fire danger periods '**Evacuation Centres**' will often be established where people can go when they decide to leave early. For people who don't or cannot leave then '**Community Fire Refuges**' and '**Neighbourhood Safer Places**' are intended to be used **only** as a last resort when all other options for the bush fire survival plan can't be put into action safely.

### Community Fire Refuges

There are currently still only five official Community Fire Refuges in Victoria, at East Warburton, Ferny Creek, Millgrove, Blackwood and Lavers Hill. They are designed to strict standards to withstand bushfires.

Community Fire Refuges are only activated and opened once there is significant fire in the local area. Community Fire Refuges offer a last resort shelter option if you cannot leave the area in the event of a fire. The presence of emergency services is not guaranteed at a community fire refuge. Safe travel to and from the site cannot be guaranteed. The number of people each refuge can hold is limited.

### Neighbourhood Safer Places or 'Bushfire Place of Last Resort'

There are over 350 of these places across Victoria. They are established by councils to standards set by the CFA. They **may** provide some protection from direct flame and heat from a fire, but they do not guarantee safety. They are not an alternative to planning to leave early or to stay and defend your property; they are a place of last resort if all other fire plans have failed. They are also not an appropriate destination when leaving the area early.

They are an existing location and not a purpose-built, fire-proof structure. Many are simply a clearing that provides separation distance from the bushfire hazard (e.g. forest). Not to be confused with Community Fire Refuges, Relief Centres, Recovery Centres or Assembly Areas, each of which have a different and specific purpose. Sheltering at one does not guarantee your safety. They may offer improved protection (e.g. a safer place) if caught in a fire but they cannot be considered as 'safe'.

### What's the difference?

Most Neighbourhood Safer Places - Places of Last Resort are open-air spaces such as sports ovals, whereas Community Fire Refuges are enclosed buildings that are built or modified to withstand fires.

### LINKS

If you want to know more use the following Victorian links.

<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/fire-refuges-faqs>

<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/neighbourhood-safer-places>

Other states have similar constructs e.g. [Bushfire Safer Places](#) on the S.A. Country Fire Service website

Mick Noonan



## Guide to FREE camping in Victoria, Summer 2024-25

Parks Victoria has implemented free camping at 131 of its bookable campgrounds in Victoria, from December 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. Reservations are required, even though there is no fee, and a two-site limit per booking applies.

The initiative aims to increase access to various camping locations across diverse landscapes, from beaches to mountains. The guide provides information on booking, cancellation policies, campground types, safety tips, and frequently asked questions to ensure a safe and enjoyable camping experience. Improvements to the booking system, such as a flexible cancellation policy and a new online booking cart, have also been implemented.


<https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/where-to-stay/camping/free-camping-in-victoria>



### Safety Guidelines

#### One-Day Walks

*With the Melbourne Bushwalkers*



**ALWAYS CARRY THESE**

- Sufficient water, lunch, spare energy food, toilet trowel.
- Pencil, paper, first aid kit, whistle, torch, matches in waterproof container
- Raincoat, warm extra clothing, beanie
- Sunhat, sunscreen

**WHAT TO DO IF YOU ...**


- get ahead of the leader
  - wait at *EVERY* track junction
- lose contact with the person behind you
  - stop & wait for them to catch up
- make a toilet stop
  - leave your pack on the track

**IF SEPARATED FROM THE GROUP**

- Don't wander – **STAY PUT** (searchers will begin where you were last seen)
- Intermittently blow your whistle and/or shout
- If night falls, take shelter from the wind

### Courtesy Guidelines

*For walks with the Melbourne Bushwalkers*



**BY PARTICIPATING YOU AGREE TO**

- Respect the rights of other walkers
- Follow instructions of the leader, “whip” or bus driver
- Turn up on time

**CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT ...**

- Take your rubbish home – even if biodegradable
- Avoid trampling on sensitive, new or rare growth
- Minimise plant damage – don't cut track corners
- Leave wildlife alone –whether native or introduced
- Keep at least 100 metres away from watercourses for toilet stops
- Bury toilet waste at least 15 cm below the surface
- Look after community property including huts



### Four Days in the High Country: Viking Circuit – 1-5

November 2024

Barry Daly

What started as an easy 6km stroll across snow plains to Macalister Springs quickly turned into an epic adventure. The Cross Cut Saw to Mt Speculation gave us our first taste of serious climbing, but it was the stretch to Viking Saddle that truly tested us. "Tree Armageddon" – a chaos of fallen snow gums forcing us to climb 3-4 meters above ground just to progress. More than once, we lost the track entirely.

The final days weren't any kinder. After descending to the Wonnangatta River, we faced a brutal 900-meter climb up the Zeka Track, followed by 5km of bush-bashing through the overgrown Wonnangatta walking track. With no clear path and countless fallen trees, we relied on navigation skills and sheer determination to reach the Howitt walking track and finally, our cars.

The Victorian High Country had shown us its teeth, but we'd risen to the challenge.

Thanks to Enrica, David, Bettina, and Meredith for sharing the challenge and Claire for leading.

As I climbed into the mountains ever higher  
And my legs began to tire,

I wondered what the hell I was doing here  
When I could be at home drinking a beer,

Trudging on the Viking circuit in the Australian Alps so steep,  
Scaling Mount Buggery, my spirits start to weep.

Mount Disappointment loomed ahead, true to its name,  
Each step a battle, my body wracked with pain.

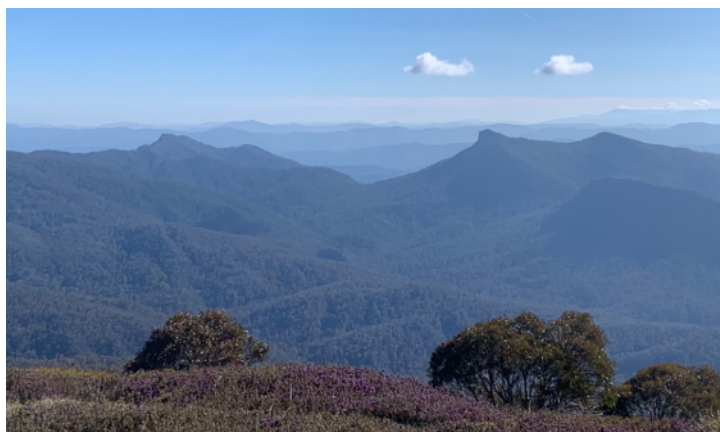
Yet onward I pushed, to Mount Despair I'd go,  
Questioning my choices with each laboured toe.

The trail stretched endless, a cruel serpentine test,  
No comfort in sight, no chance for rest.

But in this struggle, a strange peace I found,  
My troubles left behind on the unforgiving ground.

For in these peaks, so aptly christened with dread,  
I discovered a strength I thought long dead.

So I'll press on through Buggery, Disappointment, and  
Despair,  
Finding triumph in the journey, breathing crisp  
mountain air.





### Paradise Falls-Wabonga Plateau-Lake William Hovell -

8-10 November 2024

Matthias Frey

On this walk in the Alpine National Park, Ray took ten walkers from the Melbourne Bushies and VMTC off track to explore the beautiful country between Paradise Falls and Lake William Hovell.

We met on Friday evening for a delightful dinner of Austrian fare at "The Oven" in Cheshunt, and camped under a starry sky in the bush near Lake William Hovell. Up and away early, we did the car shuffle to Paradise Falls and began our walk. We admired the impressive cliffs of the waterfall, but soon left the tracks behind. A long and at times steep walk, took us down into the valley and back up to the mighty cliff line at the other side. We were rewarded with magnificent views of the Victorian Alps, and Lake William Hovell nestled in the valley below.



From there, we followed the road for a little while, but soon it was off into the bush again to see a small waterfall, and then on through an open Brittle Gum forest. It was enjoyable walking, and a good place to see how a shrubby thicket is slowly replaced by tussock grasses when there's no fire for many decades.

Soon, we reached the road again, which quickly led us to our campsite for the night on the edge of a large open plain with only a few scattered trees. After dinner, we explored the ruins of the Wabonga homestead nearby, enjoyed the changing lights and colours of the setting sun, and retired to our tents for a well-deserved rest.

Having risen with the sun in the crisp morning air, we discovered that this cold air drainage basin lived up to its name - with frost on the tents. We set off past the old homestead, through more beautiful Brittle Gum forest, and climbed up 2 more gentle tilt blocks to reach another even more spectacular cliff line. It treated us with yet more stunning views of the mountains and the lake. Leaving the packs up on the ridge, we scrambled down to the bottom of the cliffs, and followed the base for several hundred metres, enjoying the view looking up at the fascinating rock layers.

The final stage took us down a long spur to reach the cool clear waters of the King River, where some of us took a dip. Crossing two arms of the river with slippery stones on the bottom proved a bit challenging, but on the other side we reached our waiting cars just before the afternoon heat hit.

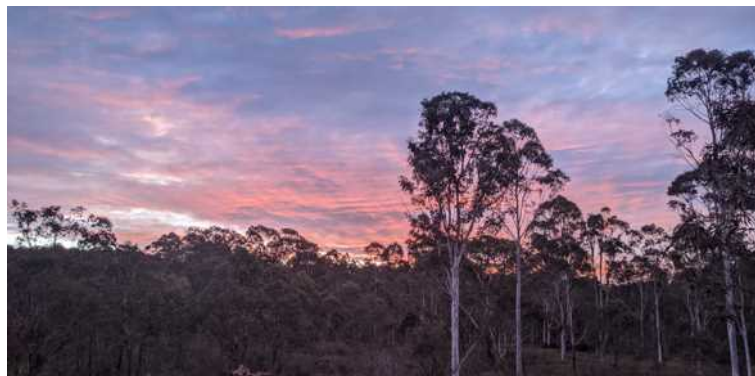
This walk was a true adventure, and our off track walking efforts were handsomely rewarded with many surprises. We saw a Koala, a Blue-tongued Skink, Bandicoot





## Along the track

diggings, and a variety of different forests with majestic trees and masses of breathtakingly beautiful wildflowers. We heard about the complex system of symbiotic relationships between orchids, fungi and trees, and how some species are threatened due to their declining habitat.



A big thank you is due to Ray, who not only navigated us through the forest with unfailing precision, but also showed us many hidden secrets of the area and told us many fascinating stories about the plants and geological features we encountered.

Members of the party were: Sal, Wendy, Sandra, Jacque, Ian, Andreas, Francesca, Colin and Matthias.

## Briggs Bluff and Mt Gar – 15-17 November 2024

Richard Hanson

We camped Friday night at Plantation Camping ground just north of Halls Gap. We avidly studied the weather forecasts and read that Stawell's forecast for Saturday was 35 degrees!

Well it was hot, getting to 32 degrees but it was fabulous walking in the Grampians again. All that rock to clamber over to get to those magnificent views. We walked by Beehive Falls which was disappointingly only a dribble, then up to Briggs Bluff to take the outstanding views over the plains. We lunched at the Grampians Peaks Trail Mt Gar campsite in the shelter. "Shelter" is not an adequate word to describe the substantial building with two tables and a picture window. It was a great place to eat lunch and get out of the heat. Onwards to climb Mt Gar and then to camp at Longpoint West campground which had a new toilet and water tank. It was a relief to have a cold wash after the hot walk!



The chocolate frogs I'd brought to share Saturday evening had gone limp from the heat. By morning tea on Sunday they had solidified with the cold and John said they looked more like cane toads!

Initially Sunday was pleasant, I was in shirt sleeves, but progressively it got colder, windier and wetter. Soon we had all our wet weather gear on. What a contrast to Saturday afternoon! We did a nice loop out to Longpoint East Campsite (no facilities) and then back to Briggs Bluff. By the time we got to the cars it was starting to get hot again.

We had a great group comprising Fiona, John, Bernadette and Jason well led by Rachel Keen.



## Upcoming activities

### December 2024

Sun 1	DAY: Long Forest Reserve	Bus	E/M&M	Brett Daniel & Halina Sarbinowski
Mon 2	MTG: Club Committee meeting (Video)	Pvt		Derrick Brown
Tue 3	MTG: Introduction to the MBW Website Mapping Utility	Pvt		Robert Ian Mair
Wed 4	DAY: Dandenongs Doongalla circuit	Pvt	E/M	Kerry Press & Ralph Blake
Thu 5	DAY: Gardenvale-Brighton Beach	Pvt	E	Bill Metzenthén
6-8	BC: Rubicon Valley & Lake Eildon	Pvt	E/M	Robert Ian Mair
Sun 8	DAY: Lerderderg Scenic Rim	Car	M	Judith Shaw
Tue 10	SOC: MBW Christmas Party	Pvt		Meredith Quick
13-15	PC: Mt Howitt via Howitt & Stanley Name spurs	Pvt	M	Hiroko Nakano & Mark Simpson
13-15	PC: Square Head Jinny-Picture Point Spur	Pvt	M/H	Gina Hopkins
Sun 15	DAY: Gullies & Ridges of the Dandenong Ranges	Bus	E/M&M	Halina Sarbinowski & Robert Ian Mair
Mon 16	DAY: Woori Yallock-Wandin	Pvt	E	Doug Pocock
Sun 22	DAY: Maldon & Mt Tarrengower	Car	E	Richard G Long
23-28	BC: Christmas Camp	Pvt	M	Susan Maughan
27-30	PC: Mt Cope-Fainters-Bogong Village	Pvt	M	Rachel Keen
27-1	BC: Asgaard Lodge, Mt Hotham	Pvt	Var	Quentin Tibballs

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](https://mbw.org.au/mbw_activities/MBW_activities_program.php)