

MELBOURNE  
BUSHWALKERS INC.

ABN 14 396 912 508



# THE NEWS

#884 November  
2024



Walkers enjoying lunch with a view on Fedwalks at Wilsons Prom - D. Shand



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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 11 November

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:

Yasmine Puspasuny  
Janaya Lee Vincent  
Thi Thu Huyen Nguyen  
Lei (Lydia) Zhang

Tanya Mitchell  
Darren Bolton  
Prue Lewis

David Turnbull  
Catherine Emily Poulton  
Helen Corry

Sue Gordon  
Alistair King  
Chrisopher Best



Spring wildflowers at the Prom: Caladenia "pink fairies"; Large leaf bush pea; Common bird orchid; Tetratheca "pink bells"

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

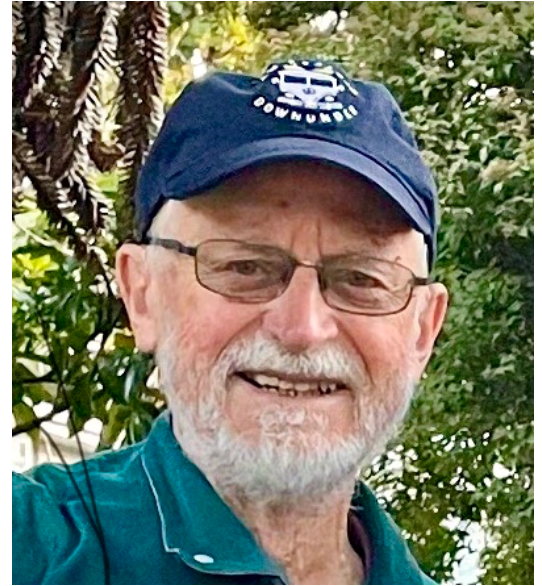
Due date for contributions to December News: 21 November

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



I am back safe and sound from my mountain exertions having experienced one of the most outstanding walks of my life. So now back to business! A few topics to air this month:

The Federation Walks weekend at Wilsons Prom was a great success. MBW made a good showing with 56 walkers out of a total of about 330. Our representatives on the Executive Team supporting the Host Club, Bayside Bushwalking Club, Ian Mair, David Stockley and earlier, Roger Wyatt, have been at work contributing to the planning of the event for more than twelve months. This has been recognised by Lyn Curtis, President of Bayside Bushwalking Club, in a letter of thanks. Additionally, MBW provided 15 of the 44 leaders for walks on Saturday and Sunday, a valuable and much appreciated contribution. Well done all!



The upcoming Try Bushwalking Month received a boost on 17 October from Richelle Hunt on the ABC radio show Conversation Hour. MBW and the Sunday bus walks got a mention that resulted in an increased number of visitors to our website, potentially leading to further inquiries to join MBW. To celebrate the 90th anniversary of Bushwalking Victoria, 30+ bushwalking clubs around the state are welcoming new walkers to join them, with a choice of over 60 walks. MBW has opened up 8 walks during November for new visitors to experience bushwalking.

The conversation can be heard at :

<https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/theconversationhour/the-conversation-hour/104460884>

Outstanding insurance invoice - We were claiming that we should be covered by the insurers for the outstanding lawyers invoice who acted for us in the legal dispute earlier this year. This has been dragging on for five months but I'm very pleased to say that we have met with success! The insurers, Chubb, have changed their position so this is a most satisfactory outcome for the Club. We can now tidy up some loose ends and draw a line under this episode. My thanks to our sub-committee who have been most supportive throughout.

Quentin Tibballs made a video presentation on bushwalking first aid to the St John's Ambulance that was very well-received. It was based on a number of actual situations. A letter of thanks has been received from the St John's organisation. The presentation can be viewed at:

 [First Aid for Bushwalkers in Remote Localities-20240926\\_190400-Meeting Recording.mp4](#)

Quentin will be writing a number of articles for The News that will cover the presentation and will include more information of interest to us all. We thank Quentin for volunteering to put this together and for making an excellent presentation (see article in this News from Quentin).

On 17 October ex-president Jean Giese celebrated her 97th birthday! I'm sure that many Club members will wish to congratulate Jean on this great achievement. Made a Life Member in 1998, Jean has been an active Club member for forty-eight years and has served on the Committee as President and Vice-president as well as being a walks leader and organiser. When Jean had to pull back from pack-carrying she went on to initiate the week-day walks (only Wednesday walks were organised previously). Only this month I wrote to Jean at the behest of the Committee to congratulate her on resigning from her last position, that of Thursday Social Walks Co-ordinator, having produced her final Summer program. What a phenomenal record!

With better weather now to look forward to (!) we should be getting out more to enjoy the bush. I hope to see many of you out on the track. Safe walking!



# 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!

## November Safety and Risk Reminders

This month the theme of “**being prepared**” continues. If you are well prepared, then you and your fellow walkers will have more fun and reduce the impacts if something does go wrong.

**Take plenty of water:** The Club recommends a minimum of 2 litres of water for a day walk, so make sure you check the forecast and take enough for the situation e.g. length of walk and temperature. Your water should be easily accessible while you are walking!

Drink plenty of water before and during the walk. If not used to walking in hotter weather, consider taking more than 2 litres. Avoid the hottest parts of the day if you can and if it is going to be 38 degrees or more don't walk.

On the walk try putting a wet Chux or cloth around your neck!



**Do you have appropriate Ambulance Cover?:** This is essential to cover you when bushwalking in the outdoors. Make sure you have comprehensive cover or renew it if you have let it lapse. Ambulance Victoria's Family or Singles cover will protect you across Australia from possibly a very expensive bill for an ambulance or helicopter ride. Many Private Hospital Insurance covers will



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PERSONAL HEALTH DETAILS CARD

Name:\_\_\_\_\_D.O.B \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Address:\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Next of kin:\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship:\_\_\_\_\_Phone:\_\_\_\_\_

2nd contact:\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship:\_\_\_\_\_Phone:\_\_\_\_\_

My doctor:\_\_\_\_\_

Phone:\_\_\_\_\_

Current medical conditions/allergies:

Medications:

Ambulance cover: YES/NO

Private Health Insurance Fund name:

\_\_\_\_\_

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC

only cover you from urban or rural street addresses not remote tracks or paths.

**Carry your GREEN HEALTH CARD:** Make sure you carry the Club Health Card in your pack. In case of an emergency we may have to provide your health information to get you the best medical treatment. You can print one off from this Newsletter and pop it in a small zip lock sandwich bag.

**Health advice to Leader:** Before a walk quietly let the Leader and/or Whip know of any health or other issues you have they should be aware of that might impact you on the walk, e.g. where you keep your EpiPen.

*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

First aid for snake bite

Quentin Tibballs

Several weeks ago, I delivered an online session to St John Ambulance trainees on first aid incidents which involved bushwalkers in a remote setting. The link is below. Prior to this event I had asked club members for appropriate incidents and was provided with several snake bite stories.

The Australian Resuscitation Council (ARC) describes 2 Pressure Immobilisation Techniques (PITs) for the first aid management of snake bite. (Also, I will assume for this article the bandage used is one marked with vertical rectangles which when tensioned correctly become squares).

1.

Begin at the fingers or toes and proceed proximally as far as you can.
2.

First bandage over the bite site then proceed as with the first technique. This second technique is also described in the current St John’s First Aid book.

The PIT in theory is meant to retard the movement of venom via the lymphatics proximally by 3 mechanisms 1) pressure over the bite site delays absorption into lymphatic vessels (small thin-walled vessels with a system of one-way valves, the compression of which by muscles, propels the lymph proximally to a final common channel which empties into large chest veins). 2) Compression of these lymphatic vessels in the limb and, 3) restriction of joint movement above and below the bite thus restricting muscle contraction.



continued next page

However, with the second technique there is no mention how many bandage encirclements of the limb are required. If the pressure from the bandage is too great this will create discomfort which in turn will make the victim fidgety and they will thus use their forearm/calf muscles which will negate the lymphatic fluid movement restricting effects of the PIT. It is suggested that only one or two encirclements be performed (personal communication with retired Principal Fellow, Australian Venom Research Unit, Melb Uni, and co-editor of Australian Animal Toxins 2nd Ed).



So what did we pick up from scrutiny of the snake bite examples from fellow club members?

1. The PIT bandage should not be applied too tightly.
2. A rigid splint should be used for the lower limb and a sling for the arm. It is not sufficient to bandage the 2 lower limbs together as joint movement and thus muscle contraction can still occur.

References for this article were:

- 1, Australian Animal Toxins, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed, S.K.Sutherland, J.Tibballs (brother). Probably available in medical libraries at Melb University or Monash. I have my own copy.
- 2, Australian Resuscitation Council Guidelines – available online and free.
- 3, The Australian Snakebite Project, 2005-2015, Medical Journal of Australia, 2017:207 119-125. I can send you a copy of this article.
- 4, St John First Aid Book – this is available as pdf and costs \$25

So in summary for treatment of snake bite:

1. Lay victim down.
2. Use PIT as described above – preference for second technique but only one or two encirclements over bite site.
3. Indicate bite site on bandage.
4. Don't wash or cut site.
5. Calm and reassure the victim – this will reduce heart rate and thus probably reduce lymph production because of reduced capillary blood flow from which lymph is derived. Reassurance is warranted – there are only 1-2 fatalities/year in Australia despite around 2,000 bites (It's not a notifiable disease so figures not accurate).
6. Use a rigid splint for the leg eg ski pole/wood stick and a sling for the arm.
7. Don't allow the victim to get up – they may want to micturate or have a bowel movement.
8. And of course, urgently summon medical help.

 [First Aid for Bushwalkers in Remote Localities-20240926\\_190400-Meeting\\_Recording.mp4](#)





## Highway to hell: Climate change and Australia's future

– Joelle Gergis

Review by Brian Steffenson

Australia is in peril. In this essay Joelle Gergis, a leading climate scientist, depicts the future.

- For anyone interested in the greatest threat to humanity, this essay lays out the facts about the disturbing lack of action and government paralysis. Bushwalkers beware!!

\*\* Gergis served as a lead author of the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report. She recently gave up the job of her life to concentrate on advocating proper climate policy.

- There is a 90% chance with the continuation of current climate policies that 2.3% to 4.5% of global warming will occur by the end of the century, with a best estimate of 3.5% - way over Paris Accord Agreements. Australia will be worse off. This means 2% in the 2040's (BARRIER REEF GONE) in our lifetime. At 3% plus there will be irreversible melting of Greenland and much of West Antarctic.

- At 3% plus by 2200 nations and coastlines will face 5 metres rise in sea levels; and up to 15 metres by 2300. Once underway it will be impossible to reverse. The IPCC report said that the sea level will rise by 25 cm by 2050 regardless of what we do (and 2 metres by the end of the century).

- Even if nations achieve Paris objectives, we are still on track for 2.4% warming which will lock in centuries of irreversible changes to the climate under this BEST CASE SCENARIO.

- Global emissions will need to fall by 43% by 2030 to meet the 1.5% target, and 28% to reach 2%.

\*\* Let's set the limit at 4.5%. At this level there will be global extinction of life as we know it.

- Regardless of what action we take, several metres of sea level rises are LOCKED IN. Every 1m rise in sea level will result in a 100 metre retreat of the coast.

- 100 fossil projects to go ahead – equivalent to 7 times Australia's current domestic emissions. Woodside's massive gas project, subject to approval, will inject the equivalent of emissions from 28 gas coal fired plants.

\*\* There are no climate scientists in the Australian government. Only 14 have studied science. Who are the multitudes of lobbyists in parliament house, out numbering our reps by 3:1?



\*\* When Gergis attended parliament to promote "The Highway to Hell" hosted by David Pocock the event was well attended by cross benchers. There was one person from the major parties, a solitary labour back bencher. She met not one minister.

Publ. Quarterly Essay 94, 3 June 2024

<https://www.blackincbooks.com.au/books/highway-hell>



### Golden Echoes: A Journey Along the Dry Diggings Track – 4-6 October 2024

Barry Daly

The crisp morning air nipped at our faces as we gathered at the Glenlyon General Store, the aroma of freshly brewed coffee mingling with the scent of adventure. Our small band of four intrepid hikers was about to embark on a journey through time along the historic Dry Diggings Track.

With military precision, we executed our car shuffle, leaving one vehicle at our planned exit point on Porcupine Ridge Road. Piling into a single car, we drove to the outskirts of Castlemaine, bypassing the urban stretch of the track and plunging straight into the heart of goldfields country.

As we set off, the sky opened up, as if nature herself was testing our resolve. For three relentless hours, we trudged through the rain, our spirits undampened by the downpour. The well-maintained track stretched before us like a ribbon through history, guiding us through 17 kilometres of gold rush country.



Fryers Town emerged from the mist, a ghost of its former glory. Here, amidst the whispers of the past, we stumbled upon a modern-day prospector. His eyes glinted with excitement as he showed us two small nuggets, freshly unearthed treasures that bridged the centuries. With a wink, he confided, "Last year's findings bought the missus a new car. Not bad for a hobby, eh?"

As dusk approached, we made camp at Central Springs, racing against the returning rain to pitch our tents. The sound of rushing water from a nearby stream provided a soothing backdrop to our hastily prepared dinner.

The next morning dawned clearer, presenting us with an 11-kilometer stretch through Vaughan Springs. Our path was punctuated by lively conversation and laughter, the shared experience of the previous day's challenges having forged a stronger bond between us.

As we emerged from the bush onto Porcupine Ridge Road, weary but triumphant, the promise of a hot lunch never seemed so appealing. Over steaming plates, we recounted our adventure, already nostalgic for the trail we'd just left behind.

To Rachel, our fearless leader, we owe our thanks for a meticulously planned expedition. And to Tasmin and Ray, gratitude for their unwavering good humour and camaraderie. Together, we didn't just walk a track; we traversed time, connecting with the spirit of the goldfields and forging golden memories of our own.





### The miner's hut, a re-creation

Barry Daly

Beneath the hot Australian sun, in the heart of Victoria's rugged landscape, stood a small miner's cottage made of stone, perched along the Dry Diggings Track. It was 1853, during the height of the Victorian Gold Rush. This modest shelter, with its uneven wooden roof and smoke curling from its chimney, had become home to Thomas O'Leary, a man who had travelled from Ireland with dreams of striking it rich in the unforgiving Australian outback.

The dry diggings near Ballarat were no place for the faint of heart. Thomas had spent endless hours in the harsh conditions, his back bent over the ground as he dug, panned, and searched for the golden promise that had brought thousands of hopeful souls to this desolate place. Many who had arrived with dreams of wealth had since left, empty-handed, but Thomas stayed. For him, it was not just the allure of gold that anchored him to this patch of land—it was the hope for a better life, far from the poverty he had left behind.

The cottage was sparse, with little more than a bed made of hessian sacks, a wooden table, and a small hearth where he would cook his meals. Outside, the landscape was dotted with the remnants of other miners' hopes: discarded tools, piles of dirt, and makeshift shelters that had long since been abandoned. The nights were long and cold, but the crackling fire provided warmth, and Thomas would sit by it, dreaming of finding that one elusive nugget.

Despite the hardships, the land had a beauty all its own. The tall gum trees that surrounded the cottage swayed gently in the breeze, their leaves shimmering like silver in the afternoon sun. Kangaroos often bounded through the scrub, their presence a reminder of the wild and untamed nature of this land.

One evening, as the sun dipped below the horizon, casting a golden glow over the dry landscape, Thomas sat outside the cottage, reflecting on the months of toil and the dwindling hope in his heart. Just as he was about to turn in for the night, a glint caught his eye. There, beneath a rock, in a shallow hole he had overlooked many times before, was something shiny.

His heart raced as he crouched down to inspect the object. It was a nugget of gold, larger than any he had ever seen. For a moment, he could scarcely believe his eyes. This was it—this was the moment he had dreamed of since setting foot on Australian soil. He held the nugget in his hands, feeling the weight of it, the cold metal warming in his palm.

The discovery was life changing. With this nugget, Thomas would finally be able to return home, not just as a man who had left everything behind, but as one who had conquered the odds. But as he looked around at the rugged beauty of the land that had become his home, he felt a pang of sadness. He realized that this place, with all its hardship and struggle, had shaped him in ways he had never imagined. It had given him more than just gold—it had given him resilience, determination, and a deep connection to the land.

As he walked back into his cottage, the golden nugget clutched in his hand, Thomas knew that his time here was coming to an end. But the memories of the Australian bush, the long days of digging, and the quiet nights by the fire would stay with him forever.

The cottage, with its stone chimney and wooden roof, would remain—a silent witness to the countless stories of fortune and failure that had played out along the Dry Diggings Track. And perhaps, years later, when the rush had long since ended, someone would pass by the abandoned home, wondering about the miner who had once lived there and the dreams that had driven him to dig deep into the earth.



### 15 Mile Creek to Power's Lookout area - and beyond – 20-22 September 2024

Felicity Splatt and Ray Thomas

On Friday 20 September, eight intrepid hikers met in Whitfield for an evening meal at the Hobbledehoy Café and Distillery. The delicious selection of German style fare was a great way to start the weekend, especially as it was raining heavily outside.

Ray asked about some alternative places for us to sleep under cover, and we were lucky to find a dry place to set down our sleeping gear in the town. Our intended camping spot would have been absolutely sodden...

Next morning (in much better weather), we headed for the tiny “town” of Myrrhee, and continued southwards into the upper catchment of Fifteen Mile Creek to begin our walk. We began by climbing up a steep narrow spur to a delightful open plateau with broad views down the valley and across to Drum Top plateau to the East. The huge expanse of flat granite has so little soil that it only supports carpets of moss and masses of hardy Fringe Myrtle shrubs. It was sad that the recent icy winds had delayed the flowering time, so we missed out on a key reason for visiting this isolated place. On the positive side, the views were great, and the rich green “sea” of shrubs had delightfully aromatic leaves.



We crossed a tiny hidden saddle and climbed up to the next plateau, then headed south through thick regrowth from a fire some years ago. It was good to reach more open granite slabs on the highest point (Drum Top), where we stopped for a well-earned lunch break. We again had clear views in all directions, including across to the Whitlands plateau, where we'd explore the spectacular sandstone cliffs next day.

This area of Victoria has such a diverse mix of geologies in a very small area, so some places are barren and treeless, while others have rich tall forest and fertile farmland. But more on that later...

Our off-track hike continued to be challenging after lunch, with lots of collapsed dead shrubs to find a way through. Ray explained that this area was at the next stage of the fire cycle, where masses of regrowth shrubs die of old age, then fall over and start rotting down to make new soil. Not fun to walk through, but the natural way our Australian bush rejuvenates after fire, and then slowly returns to mature open forest.



The final leg of the day was more interesting terrain, along a narrow ridge with good views, scattered open areas, and dense tree patches here and there.

We arrived at Boggy Creek only shortly before dusk, to set up camp in a beautiful, serene location with plentiful fresh water. We cooked our dinner and headed off to bed early, so we could get an early start the next day.

The next morning was a much gentler start, climbing up through open forest to the farming country on Whitlands plateau. We emerged out of the bush onto the road, just as a man with a car and trailer was arriving at his property. This spectacularly bearded man was clearly puzzled and came over to talk to us. He asked quizzically if we'd just walked through the bush out West of his place, remarking that he'd “never seen anything like it!”.



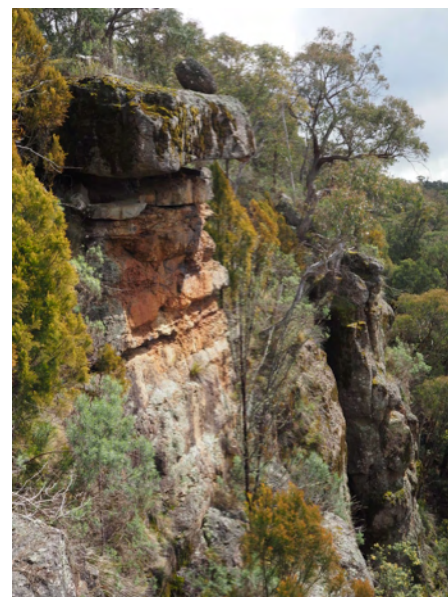
## Along the track

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After a lunch break, and hiding our packs, we set off for a side trip to explore some hidden cliffs near the popular Power's Lookout. These unnamed cliffs, with drops of 20 or even 50m straight down, gave us spectacular views down into the King River Valley, and further afield to some of the alpine peaks. It was a glorious place to visit on a warm, sunny day.

Arriving back at our packs, we ran into our new friend again; the only other person we encountered during our hike! He again came over to talk to us and made enquiries about joining our club. We were so pleased we'd inspired this man further in his thoughts on starting hiking.

We began the home stretch with a stroll along the road, before diving into the bush again on the second highest point of Whitlands Plateau. This insignificant knoll is actually a tiny remnant of an ancient lava plain that extended for many kms here, about 70 million years ago. Most of the thin basalt layer has been eroded off to make a rich volcanic soil, and that's what attracted the early European settlers. At the edge of the plateau, the basalt capping has been eroded completely off, to expose the even older sandstone layers. These are what make the impressive cliffs that Power's Lookout is famous for.



We continued further East, through attractive Brittle Gum forest, to find our descent route off the plateau towards Whitfield. We headed down a beautiful open grassy spur, that clearly hadn't been burnt for many, many decades. Without the tangle of fallen dead shrubs, we had expansive views down between the trees, and could enjoy some beautiful wildflowers on the lower, warmer slopes.



Reaching the bottom, we had to navigate around some very thick Saw Sedges in a wet gully line, but soon found a fire track which took us onto old farmland - past an extremely mossy, dilapidated bridge, and finally past the old homestead site to the road, and our cars.

We were tired but satisfied with our challenging and interesting walk - through a variety of landscapes, with a wonderful crew of hikers.

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## Mt Cobbler from the West - 18-20 October 2024

Sal Mililli

Participants: Ray, Cam, Cameron, Darren, Irene, James, Petras, Frank, Sal and Wendy

This was a combined VMTC and Melbourne Bushwalkers effort that was long in the making. Cancelled in October 2023 due to bad weather and again in March 2024 when Ray had covid, this time all eyes were again on the weather. With 85mm rain predicted for Friday we were wondering what was in store.







It was a long drive from Melbourne through sheeting rain and thunderstorms. Rendezvous was the Hobbledehoy Cafe in Whitfield where we enjoyed a hearty meal while the rain eased. Ray had cleverly organised a sheltered farmshed that we could use to set up our beds for Friday night so not only did we have dry tents to start the walk on Saturday but we also enjoyed breakfast on the farmhouse verandah.

After a short car shuffle we set off in glorious sunshine through the wet and sparkling forest. Ray set a blistering pace straight up the first hill and it was immediately clear this walk was going to involve some heavy breathing. We steadily made our way along a low ridge and some steep sections eventually sidling our way up Little Cobbler. We were making

good time so spent some time appreciating the view to Mt Buffalo, The Razorback and Feathertop.

Continuing off track to a saddle below Mt Cobbler, the fun begins with steep slopes and rock scrambles. Working as a team hauling and pushing each other up, we didn't need to use ropes or pass packs. We reached the top with the late afternoon sun lighting up the magnificent alpine views. Evening's camp was just below the summit, after collecting water from a creek in the nearby gully. With a late rising moon, the clear sky was ablaze with stars and I had to drag myself away from the spectacle and into the tent.

It was an early start on a crisp Sunday morning. Our legs looked forward to an easier day. We made our way down to Cobbler Lake before heading up to the top of Dandongadale falls. The recent rain had the falls pumping. Then we headed back down the road from Cobbler, down a spur to the river. Looking back at Mt Cobbler you could spot several smaller falls coming off the mountain as well as the spectacular Dandongadale falls. We followed the river through thick scrub, crossing repeatedly, bank to bank to negotiate the fast flowing waters, eventually reaching cars mid afternoon.

Thankyou to Ray for leading an outstanding walk. Walks like this make you really appreciate that you can learn so much off our leaders, and that good navigation skills can open up a whole new world of places to explore.



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## Mt Torbreck - 25-27 October 2024

Andreas Meister



There were 14 of us on this walk which was led by Ian with Halina as whip: Derrick, Gina, Ros, Deb, Annemarie, Mel, Adriana, Ben, Babak, Matthias, Ken and Andreas.

We enjoyed dinner together at the Rubicon Hotel, Thornton on Friday night. Saturday was a chilly early morning but a perfect sunny start for heading off in cars into the Eildon National Park Reserve towards Jamieson.



## Along the track

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Our walk began at the bottom of an old logging trail and headed steadily upwards, winding through massive gum trees towards the "Mt Torbreck Natural Features and Scenic Reserve". On reaching the ridge top the forest had been savaged by logging and prior fire. At this point Ian split us into 2 groups, those who were happy to continue along the track, and the more adventurous. We, the thrill seekers, took an off-track route upwards into dense bushland, aspiring to walk South along the ridge line to - hopefully - meet up with the others at our campsite at Barnewall Plains.

Soon we found ourselves struggling through dense undergrowth littered with fallen tree trunks on top of each other which exhausted our energies.

Adriana, amused at seeing us labouring on, called it an adventure playground for adults! Further up, blackberry infestation became so wild that we were forced to turn back to the logging track. Halfway back down we stopped for lunch and discovered a greenhood orchid and several common bird orchids that delighted everyone.

We finally reached the campsite 3½ hours after the earlier group. The others were starting to worry that the adventurers had got themselves lost and had response plans ready!

Barnewall Plains campsite at 1160m is an inviting grassy area where we gathered around a campfire for dinner and to chat. We

were amongst ourselves as the road was still shut for traffic. A pair of curious King parrots visited, and we were entertained by birdsong until nightfall.

On Sunday morning we headed up a well-defined walking track to climb some 340 m up to Mt Torbreck. Easy compared to yesterday's bush bash! On its rocky top we admired gnarly snowgums and soaked up the expansive 360 deg views to the horizon. Then descended back to the campsite for lunch and to pack our tents.

Our return walk followed logging tracks downhill through tall gum forest filled with the song of lyrebirds. An optional side trip led to the 1940 crash site of the Avro Ansen plane, where a memorial now commemorates the tragic loss of 4 lives.



We were back at the cars at 3 pm, in good time for returning to Thornton where we collected to chat about our experience and to celebrate Ian's birthday before driving home. The total distance including the off-track scramble and crash site was 24 Km.

Thanks so much Ian for taking us on this exciting adventure!



## Upcoming activities

### November 2024

1-5	PC: Razor-Viking	Pvt	M/H	Claire Luxford
1-5	PC: Razor-Viking (anti-clockwise)	Pvt	Exp	John Terrell
Sun 3	DAY: George Bass Coastal Walk	Bus	E&E/M	Robert Ian Mair & Halina Sarbinowski
Tue 5	DAY: Melbourne Cup Day Walk	Pvt	E	Susan Maughan
Thu 7	DAY: Carrum-Frankston Wetlands	Pvt	E	Bill Metzenthen
8-10	PC: Paradise Falls-Wabonga Plateau-Lake William Hovell	Pvt	M/H	Ray Thomas
Sun 10	DAY: Mt Alexancer - West Spur & Cidery	Car	M	Deb Shand
Mon 11	MTG: Club Committee meeting	Pvt		Derrick Brown
Wed 13	DAY: Mt Macedon	Pvt	E/M	Jenny Andrewes
15-17	PC: Grampians: Briggs Bluff-Mt Difficult	Pvt	E	Rachel Keen
16-24	BC: Blue Mountains (NSW)	Pvt	M/H&H	Halina Sarbinowski
Sun 17	DAY: Cumberland River	Bus	E/M&M	Bettina Brill & Helen Takano
Mon 18	DAY: O'Shannassy Aqueduct-Redwood Forest	Pvt	E	Graham Hodgson
Sat 23	DAY: Blackwood Historic Walk	Pvt	E/M	Helen Graesser
Sun 24	DAY: Currawong Falls & Ironbark Gorge, Aireys Inlet	Car	E/M	Stuart Hanham
Wed 27	SOC: Walking in the Sierras	Pvt		John Chapman & Monica Chapman
Wed 27	DAY: Werribee Gorge Circuit	Pvt	E/M	Helen Dobbyn
Thu 28	SOC: Stradbroke Park & Hays Paddock	Pvt	E	Liz Gwynn
30-1	PC: Mt Baw Baw	Pvt	E	Hiroko Nakano & John Gurskey

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)