

MELBOURNE
BUSHWALKERS INC.

ABN 14 396 912 508



THE NEWS

#889

April
2025



On the Three Capes Walk, Tasmania - R.I Mair

WE ARE A MEMBER OF



Bushwalking Victoria

Members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc meet on Wednesday evenings between 6.30-8.30 pm in the club rooms at:

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

Visitors are always welcome!

General correspondence should be directed to:

The Secretary
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc
PO Box 1751
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au

Next committee meeting: Monday 7 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:

Rebecca Lawler
Kirsten Jayne Campbell
Simon John Coleman
Paul Failla
Bianca Fileborn
Muhammad Hasbiy
Anna Louise Ruth Wells
Sergey Boytsov
Cherry Zhao
Annabel Diong

Early contributions for May News invited

As the News Editor will be going away overseas in mid-April, please send contributions for the May News to news@mbw.org.au by **14 April (or contact me to tell me they are coming shortly)** so the May edition can be prepared before I leave.

Thank you

Deb Shand
MBW News Editor



Would you like your trip photos featured in the newsletter?

Due date for contributions to May News: 14 April
Email: news@mbw.org.au





It's a little surprising to find myself President of the Melbourne Bushwalkers, because it feels like such a short time ago that I fronted up to do a multi-day pack carry in the high country. The leader, Sylvia Ford, was reluctant to take along a complete unknown, but somehow I convinced her of my "credentials". That was a little over thirty years ago - Derrick, Gina, Lloyd, do you remember?

As you can see, being a member introduces you to new friends, and also offers marvellous experiences and challenges, and encourages us to actively preserve nature that brings such joy to our lives.

It's an honour to give back to this wonderful Club.

If you, too, can contribute in a small way, let's talk.

Susan Maughan

Profile of your new President for 2025-26

The new President of Melbourne Bushwalkers, elected at the March AGM, is Susan Maughan. A member since 1995, Susan previously joined the Committee in 2008 as Social Secretary, a role she filled for four years.

As Social Secretary and as a club leader has been innovative with her Auctions, Fashion Parades, evening walks, kayaking at Docklands, annual Eureka Christmas camps at Yarra Junction, and New Year's Day events, as well as leading boat trips to exotic locations such as Snake Island, Deal Island, Great Barrier Island and Vanuatu.

In her private life Susan is a physical fitness, movement and dance instructor, with particular focus on senior citizens.

Susan was conferred with Life Membership in 2022 for her exceptional services to the club.

Melbourne Bushwalkers Committee 2025/26

President (president@mbw.org.au)

Vice Presidents

Secretary (secretary@mbw.org.au)

Membership Secretary (membership@mbw.org.au)

Treasurer (treasurer-mbw@mbw.org.au)

General Walks Secretary (gws@mbw.org.au)

Sunday Walks Secretary (sunday@mbw.org.au)

Social Secretary (social@mbw.org.au)

General Committee Members

Susan MAUGHAN *

Ian MAIR

Ian PRICE

Andreas MEISTER

Halina SARBINOWSKI

Marianne WELLER

Stuart HANHAM

Quentin TIBBALLS

Bernadette PRUNTY *

David STOCKLEY

Annemarie MULDER

Bernd NEUBER

Elizabeth GWYNN

Jill ALLEN *

Nina IZETT *

* New to Committee for 2025/26

Annual General Meeting 2025 Outcomes

Under the capable chairing of President Derrick Brown, the formalities of the night moved smoothly, commencing with an Acknowledgement of Country. A total of 37 members participated, either in person or by proxy. The President's Report and those of key Office Bearers highlighted the strong position of the club with membership at a record level of 600. A Committee recommendation to hold annual subscription fees at or below the 2003 level for the 22nd year in a row was carried without debate. The Membership Secretary highlighted the growth in younger members.

Retiring President Derrick Brown handed over the chair to the newly elected Vice-President, Ian Mair (who filled in for me while I was away in New Zealand). Eleven of the retiring Committee were re-elected for another year, to be joined by four new Committee Members ready for an active year ahead. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find the newly elected Committee for 2025/26. The appreciation and thanks of the membership were extended to the retiring President and Committee Members Meredith Quick, Chris Lord and John Gurskey. Each have contributed actively to the Committee adding their extensive experience and skills to the many different Club activities and decisions.

I am delighted to extend our congratulations to Mick Noonan on his being conferred the status of Life Member. Mick's exceptional service to the club was forwarded to all members prior to the AGM. I was also very pleased to see Derrick Brown receive the club's annual ABCD Award for the outstanding effort he made to fill the role of President when it became vacant at short notice.

With the end of the club's financial year and approval of the fees at the AGM, the Subscription Renewal for 2025/26 is now due starting from 1st April. While members have three months to the end of June to renew and stay financial, we encourage you to renew early. A Subscription Renewal Form is available with this newsletter or can be downloaded from the website.

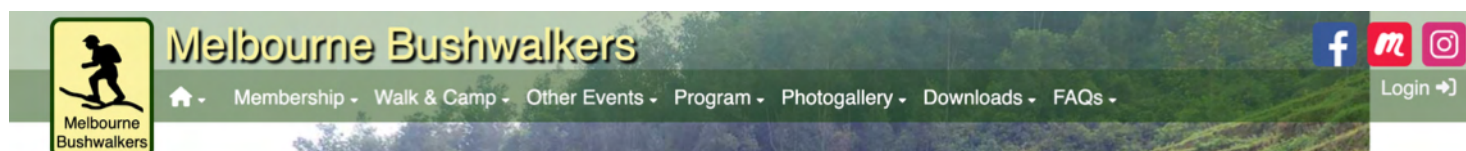
Wishing you all enjoyable and safe walking.
Susan Maughan, President



Webmaster Report to AGM 2025

The Melbourne Bushwalkers online presence includes the website and social media platforms, primarily Facebook and MeetUp sites. These continue to provide member communications and new member information gateways. As of March 2025 the website had an average daily visitors rate of around 200 Active Users per day around Melbourne, while the Facebook and MeetUp sites had 7600 and 2500 Followers respectively. As a complement to organic search tools, like Google, which are the primary channel for new visitors, the club's website has also been registered on Keep Active, a directory service listing local fitness groups, social groups, organisers and trainers. Since registration we have had several enquiries for more information on how to join Melbourne Bushwalkers.

The website continues to be refined and additional features added to support all members and activity leaders. Several new Membership database file maintenance routines have been added to further ensure continued robustness and consistency of the member access gateways and membership statistics. Several routines have



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Noticeboard

been added to extract membership trends and age profiles across the club's activities as an aid to planning and leader training. The Booking Sheet for Sunday Private Transport walks has been changed to provide similar details to that provided on other Private Transport walks to better support leaders.

Testing of AI extensions for web site coding are demonstrating improved productivity and output for maintaining and enhancing the website. These offer the potential for less experienced members to maintain the website in future, contributing to increased performance reliability. Development is ongoing.

As reported last year, enhancements were made to the maps download utility as a result of contributions made to the preparation of maps for the FedWalks 2024 event at Wilsons Promontory in October. Subsequent enhancements have been made to improve the appearance of printed maps.

The club's website was migrated in January 2025 to the new server with an initial 2-year service contract. The migration had a few hiccups due to differences in server configuration but is now stable for most purposes. The website has been updated to a newer version of the PHP programming language for greater performance and security. Consequential refinements to the website coding are being progressively addressed.

I would like to close by thanking all members for their timely and helpful comments when issues are experienced with the website performance or ideas arise for improvements and additions.

Ian Mair
Webmaster

Our newest Life Member – Mick Noonan

Support for the conferral of Life Member status on Mick Noonan was overwhelming and passed at the AGM with a heart-felt congratulations.

Admitted to membership in 1999 it was not long before Mick was elected to Committee in 2006. A few years later he was elected Vice-President from 2009-2012, followed by a 3-year period as President from 2012-2015, a time that saw significant change in the operations of the club. The rewriting of the club's Rules of Association and the development of a Future Directions Framework were key initiatives. After standing down as President and taking up the Role of Risk Officer in 2015 he worked with others to craft our current Emergency Contact System. The club's Risk Management Plan soon followed with Annual Reviews and now monthly Reminders Column in the club's newsletter that alert us all to the actions we can take individually to contribute to our collective safety and enjoyment on club activities.

Taking on the Role as Training Officer in 2022 (while continuing as Risk Officer) Mick has worked diligently with a small team to enhance our internal training activities. The introduction of a Mentor System has increased the scope and depth of the club's leader training. As a representative of the club, he has also assisted Bushwalking Victoria in its development of training materials.

While the roles of Risk Officer and Training Officer are ongoing, his other contributions include presentations to club Wine and Chat evenings (5 since 2004) and leading club activities (more than 50 since 2004), which all point to a contribution that is worthy of being seen as an exceptional, and ongoing, service to the club.

Susan Maughan,
President, Melbourne Bushwalkers



Mick leading a walk near Powelltown in 2012

April Safety and Risk Reminders

This month we cover the leaders **Duty of Care**, managing a very **large group of Visitors**, and **staying in visual contact** while on walks.



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 Policies 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

(MOD): 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 **an experienced Whip** or another leader as their Whip whenever they believe it is necessary. **Also make sure the Whip always has a whistle!**

Groups on Sunday Walks can become very large.

A great suggestion from a current leader is that as walkers are checked onto the bus, they should be asked which walk they intend to go on. That way the 2 leaders can discuss if they need to change the walk allocations, remember it is the leaders right to direct people to go on a particular walk if they consider that is required.

Keeping Visual Contact while on Walks (NEW):

Leaders should stop at junctions, check for the Whip, and manage the spread of the group. If you lose visual contact on a walk effectively become your own leader. In open country a group can safely stretch out but in overgrown/close country with limited visibility distance it is important to keep visual contact in front and behind and only move on when the following person sees you. If necessary, you can use your whistle to signal for a regroup (2 blasts).

Note (NEW): The Activity Information Sheet **"Introduction to Overnight Bushwalking"** has recently been updated by Rose Perich to improve the information on items to be taken on a Pack Carry and on food.

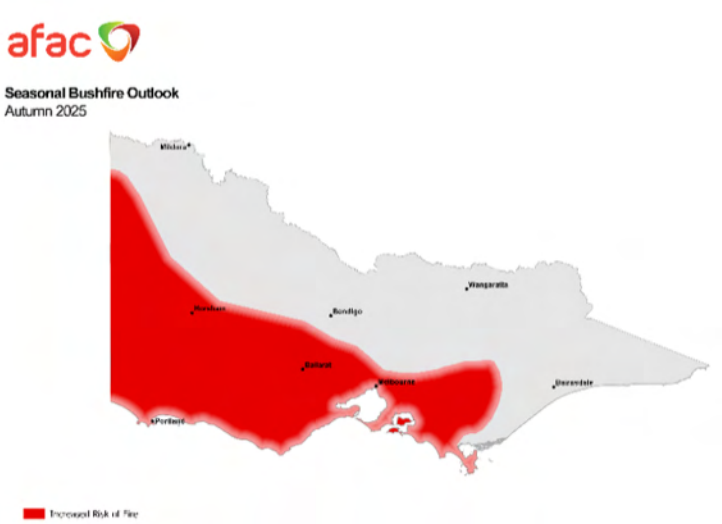
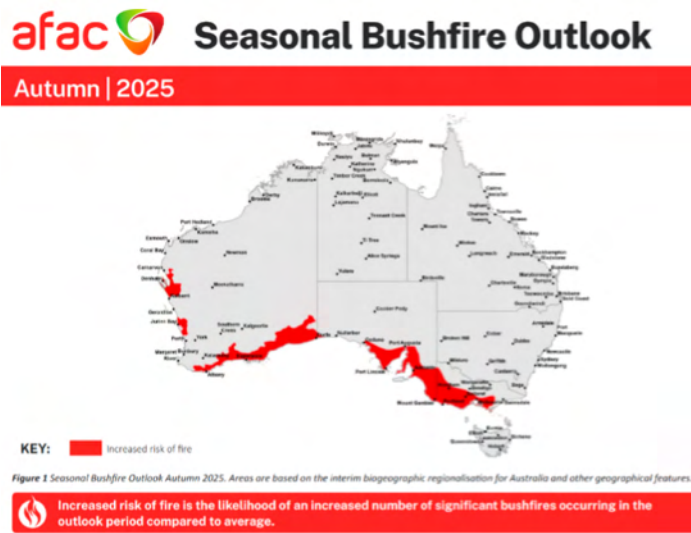
Members and especially Leaders are encouraged to read the monthly Reminders to stay aware of their responsibilities as participants or as leaders on Club Activities: NEW = a new item; MOD= changed from last time; and the others are unchanged.

Mick Noonan, Risk Officer

Autumn Seasonal Fire Outlook

This is a summary of the Autumn Fire Season Outlook. The full article can be found in the below link. The outlook has an increased risk of fire for large areas of Australia with this Summers Victorian fire outlook having more higher risk areas than normal.

[AFAC Autumn Bushfire Outlook.pdf](#)



This Season’s Bushfire Outlook for Autumn 2025 in Victoria

Summary:

An increased risk of fire is indicated for the western and central parts of Victoria as well as south and west Gippsland during early autumn. Fire authorities will continue to monitor conditions for any changes in fire risk.

Severe rainfall deficits over the last 12-to-24-month period have affected much of western and central parts of Victoria, where increased fuel availability in forests and heathlands has resulted in significant fires across the Grampians and the Little Desert. Central parts of Victoria and southeast Gippsland have shown a strong drying signal over the past year, resulting in increased vegetation drying. Recent rainfall patterns have continued to follow the long-term drying trend, with January rainfall totals ranging from 50-100mm in the far east and less than 10mm in the far west. Most of southwest Victoria has experienced well below-average precipitation, while the remainder of Victoria has received average rainfall for January.

While the outlook has a higher chance of warmer maximum temperatures, the rainfall outlook does not indicate a wetter or drier signal in the forecast. As a result, an extended drying pattern may translate to continued increases in fuel availability in the west and central parts of the state. Without significant rainfall, the flammability of fuels in forests, woodlands and heathlands will remain high with elevated potential for fires to start and spread into early autumn. As a result, most of western and central parts of Victoria, along with south and west Gippsland, are identified as areas of increased risk during the early autumn outlook period.

Elsewhere across the state, the fire risk potential is assessed to be normal, noting that, at any time, areas dominated by dry or cured vegetation can support fast running fires under the onset of hot, dry and windy weather conditions. Landscape conditions will be monitored to identify any significant changes to fire risk. The autumn break is likely to start slightly later than usual, which may delay the emergence of planned burning in some parts of the state while raising opportunities elsewhere to target areas that are not usually available for burning under autumn conditions.

Mick Noonan, Risk Officer

X-C Skiing – Bogong High Plains - 15-23 August 2025

The weather may be warm but now is the time to think of the annual cross country skiing week at the Bogong Rover Chalet.

Many members of the club will be familiar with the annual ski trips we have been making to the Bogong Rover Chalet since 2004. Unlike those early years, in recent years we have had fewer MBW members and more members of other clubs join us. We no longer have a week to ourselves and friends. This year we have so far just a handful of MBW members and friends going on a week where other skiers are the majority.

The chalet experience is usually a most enjoyable week's skiing, from the base of a comfortable and warm lodge. The Bogong Rover Chalet is an 11km ski from Falls Creek. Much of the non-perishable food is stored in the chalet before winter and we only have to carry in meat and vegetables (one or two kg per skier, so easily manageable). As there is a washing machine and the lodge is well heated, packs can be kept very light weight - especially if you make some effort to keep them so.

If you are an experienced weekend pack-carrier, and are interested, you can speak to me on 9578 1062 to discuss the week. Prior cross country skiing experience is preferred but not essential provided that you are willing get some experience before the week.

Bill Metzenthien



Tea-tree or Ti-tree?



FROM time to time a controversy arises in the Press on the question of the correct spelling of the name of one of our commonest trees - the tea-tree, or ti-tree. The latter is certainly the popular spelling, but the weight of evidence seems to be in favour of the former. The subject has been revived by the appearance in last week's "Queenslander" of a full-page photograph of a group of these trees, the caption attached - "Tea-trees" - having been questioned from several quarters. In 1898 a dictionary of Australasian words was issued under the title of "Austral English," the editor being Mr Edward E. Morris, M.A., Oxon., who at the time was Professor of English, French, and German languages and literatures in the University of Melbourne. The tea-tree is very comprehensively dealt with there, the

continued next page

references covering six columns. The references open as follows: - "Tea-tree, n. (Very frequently, but erroneously, spelt 'Ti-tree,' and occasionally, more ridiculously still, 'Ti-tri,' q.v.). A name given in Australia, New Zealand, and Tasmania to several species of trees and shrubs, whose leaves were used by Captain Cook's sailors, by escaped convicts, and by the early settlers as a ready substitute for the leaves of the Chinese Tea-plant (*Thea chinensis*) for making tea. The trees of the genera *Leptospermum* and *Melaleuca* were the earliest used, in Australia and New Zealand, in this way. When in blossom the branches of many species with their little white flowers, and the general appearance of their leaves, bear a strong resemblance to those of the true Tea-plant. Their leaves, though exceedingly aromatic, have not, however, the same flavour. Nevertheless, it was probably this superficial likeness which first suggested the experiment of making an infusion from them. Some of the species of *Leptospermum* and *Melaleuca* are so closely allied that their names are by some botanists interchanged and used as synonyms for the same plant. Although not all of the species of these two genera were used for making tea, yet, as a tree-name, the word 'tea-tree' is indifferently and loosely used to denote nearly all of them, especially in the form 'tea-tree scrub,' where they grow, as is their habit, in swamps, flat land, and coastal districts. Other trees or plants to which the name of 'tea-tree' was occasionally given are species of the genera *Kunzea* and *Callistemon*. The spelling 'ti-tree' is not only erroneous as to the origin of the name, but exceedingly misleading, as it confuses the Australian 'tea-tree' with, another 'ti' (q.v.) in Polynesia (*Cordyline ti*). ... As to the species of the Australian tea-tree, that first used by Cook's sailors was either *Leptospermum scoparium* or *L. lanigerum*. ... In New Zealand the Maori name Manuka, is more generally used than Tea-tree, and the tree denoted by it is the original one used by Cook's sailors."

Among the references given in "Austral English" is an extract from Cook's Voyage Towards the South Pole and Round the World"; - "The beer certainly contributed not a little. As I have already observed, we at first made it of a decoction of the spruce leaves; but finding that this alone made the beer too astringent, we afterwards mixed with it an equal quantity of the tea plant (a name it obtained in my former voyage from our using it as tea then, as we also did now), which partly destroyed the astringency of the other, and made the beer exceedingly palatable, and esteemed by every one on board." On page 100 Cook gives a description of the tea plant, and also figures it. He was then at Dusky Bay, New Zealand.



By the earlier authorities quoted in the dictionary the name is invariably spelt "tea-tree." The first is an extract from J. White's "Voyage to New South Wales," dated 1790: - "Tea tree of New South Wales. *Melaleuca* (?) *trinervia*. This is a small shrub, very much branched." It is not until 1881 that it appears in its now popular form in A. C. Grant's "Bush Life in Queensland," volume 3, page 19: "Along the water's edge, noble ti-trees, whose drooping branches swept the stream, formed a fringe, the dark green of their foliage being relieved." Again, In C. Harpur "Poems" (1883), page 78: "Why roar the bull-frogs in the ti-tree marsh?" From then onward the references alternate between ti-tree and tea-tree. The majority of newspapers in Australia appear to have adopted the former spelling, probably from misapprehension, while the botanists and scientific writers adhere to the "tea" form. However, as newspaper forms of expression, in the course of time almost invariably become grafted on the language, and eventually find their way into the dictionaries, it is unlikely that the original and correct spelling will ever regain a footing.

The Queenslander Illustrated Weekly (Brisbane, Qld. : 1927 - 1939)
Thu 31 Jan 1929, Page 4

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/22857040#>

(With thanks to Ian Mair for contributing this interesting article)

2025 Training Update

Our 2025 Training Program is taking shape: We have already had our **Field Navigation Training Day** led by Quentin Tibballs, and a video session on **Reading Topographical Maps** led by Ian Mair.

Future events include:

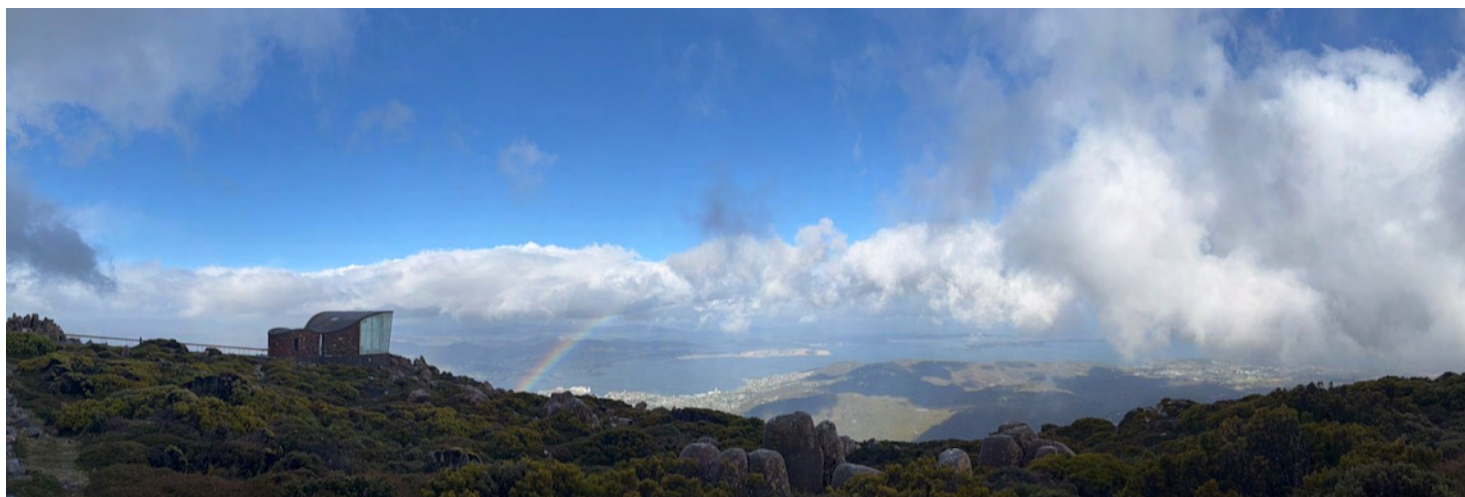
- **Beginners Pack Carries:** These will continue in 2025, so far there are two this Autumn, which is normally a fantastic time for walks, and one in Winter. Pack Carries will take you to amazing places you won't get to on day walks. The Club has gained more camping equipment with member donations etc. so there is plenty of equipment available to hire.
- For Navigation we again have:
 - **GPS Navigation** is on 12 April with Ian Mair. See Information in the Website Program. Once again very popular so sign up now!
 - **Smartphone Navigation Workshop** is in its third year on Saturday 13th September, with registration from mid-August. This is also a very popular course run again for us by Andrew Robinson who runs these courses for Bushwalking Victoria.
- Ian Langford will run another **Lighter Pack Training** activity - date to be advised, limited numbers. This involves an actual pack carry and pre walk training session before you head out.
- **First Aid Training** is on 17th May, with full Club subsidy for leaders and a part Bushwalking Victoria subsidy for those who successfully complete the course. This year there is more focus on Bushwalking/Outdoor First Aid (organised by Quentin Tibballs).
- Our **New Leaders Training** Day will be on 8th November, once again a full day in the Clubrooms. It is suitable for current leaders who want to update some of their skills and members assuming there is room. Some of the Units may also be run separately. We will continue to provide mentors for our new/trainee leaders.

The Information Sheet on **Introduction to Overnight Walking** has been updated with more guidance on equipment choices and food, as well as CFA advice on putting out campfires.

A major new activity this year will be taking advantage of the new training material Bushwalking Victoria have been developing with input from Clubs including ours. This includes courses on Leading Extended Walks, Advanced Leadership Skills, and more individual training resources etc. We are starting next month with a series of News articles on **Advanced Leadership Skills**.

All training items are advertised in the News and are part of the Club's Activities Program on our Website.

Mick Noonan, Training Officer noonan1953@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2025-26

Membership subscriptions are due 1st April 2025. 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).
- 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.
** Holders of a Seniors Card or Commonwealth Healthcare Card only are not eligible for a concession.
*** **Copies of the club newsletter are only available as PDF files downloaded from the website. No hard copy subscriptions are available.**

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

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

(**Note:** Year of Birth is used for statistical purposes only 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]

The Three Capes Walk, Tasmania -14-20 February 2025

Ralph Blake (and Kerry Press)

Our group of nine enthusiastic pack carry bushwalkers met at the Port Arthur Historic Site on Saturday morning. Our group included Ian (our leader), Halina, Deb, Ken, Dianne, Ralph, Kerry, Bernadette, and Mathias. After our official sign in at the visitors' centre, we had a few hours to look around Port Arthur. There is a lot of history here and it was very interesting to learn about the convict settlement and its history and people. For me the highlights were the Separate Prison, the old Church, and the Governor's mansion. Very impressive!

Before too long we had to go to the jetty to meet our boat and the start of the four day walk. We all boarded our boat tour, our MBW group, and a number of other keen walkers also doing the Three Capes trip. The weather was blustery and stormy to say the least. After about 1 hour of speeding across the choppy waves and enduring showers of cold salty spray to view the rugged coast, dramatic cliffs and the many sea birds, we were landed at the beach on Denman's Cove. By this time the gale force wind and heavy rain was coming right in and we had to jump off the boat into icy water up to our thighs to get ashore. No one waited on the beach to say farewell to our boat crew, we all headed up into the shelter of the forest to get out of the severe conditions.



It was interesting to note the groups of Masked Cormorants huddled on cliff ledges, almost identical to the Pied Cormorants we encounter on the mainland but with a little more black on their faces. The Currawongs we encountered along the walk had a very strange and different call to the ones we hear around Melbourne.

briefly stopped at a look out point named 'Waving Arms' to admire the views of the remote coastal landscape, and the soaring Sea Eagle above us. But we had to press on through the icy rain and hail. After a few kilometres we arrived at our first lodge called "Surveyors". This is a very well appointed accommodation, with bunk rooms with comfy beds, kitchen and dining/living room and good lavatory facilities. A feature of each day's arrival at our lodge was the official welcome lecture from our resident friendly ranger who gave us some good information and advice about the walk and what to expect on the following day. The ranger highlighted the importance of deeply burying toilet waste or carrying out (used) toilet paper in compostable bags (provided) each day, and these bags could be disposed of in the composting toilets at the next hut. This policy was most welcome and ensured that the well-used track was mostly not strewn with toilet paper, as is so frequently encountered on our walks in the





bush. We settled in and had a nice evening with our fellow walkers. About 48 people were doing the walk each day and staying at each lodge. I lay in my warm dry bed that night wondering what it would have been like in the tent, as the gale force winds roared and howled all night and into the next day.

By the second day the weather had moderated somewhat and we set off on the walk across heath and forest with spectacular coastal scenery, with plenty of up hills and down hills. At various places on the walk there would be a stopping place that had a point of interest, such as a view, or natural feature or historical significance. These would be described in our comprehensive walk booklet. We also discovered a special little orchid, which Ian later identified as *Eriochilus cucullatus*. After a full

days walk we arrived at Munro lodge for the night. Much the same as the previous well appointed lodge with an official welcome and briefing from Mads (Madeleine), our resident ranger. Announcing that we all needed more poetry in our lives, Mads then entertained us with an excellent poem she had written about how the Three Capes walk was first explored. Munro lodge has a very impressive lookout point with views along the rugged coast and forest and out to the vast ocean, in the direction of where there used to be a land bridge to the mainland.

The third day had better weather and saw us leave our packs at Munro to do the long trip out to Cape Pillar with day packs. This was a very spectacular walk with steep climbs and descents, massive cliffs with impressive rock formations, and vast ocean views. We also walked out onto 'The Blade' a narrow rocky formation with very tall, steep cliffs on either side. It's very important to make sure to stay on the track doing this section! After lunch we returned to our packs depot and resumed the walk to our next lodge "Retakunna", which was a shorter and easier going walk than before. Another pleasant evening at the accommodation and a relaxing dinner was had.

We had an early start on the fourth day to ensure we arrived in time for the 2pm bus pick up at the end. The day began with a big uphill climb to Mount Fortescue through an enchanting little pocket of Cloud Forest where remarkable mosses and ferns grew amongst Sassafras and Myrtle Beech and other cool forest plants. This delicate ecosystem of rare and sensitive plants was exquisitely beautiful. After the climb we descended to reach the track junction for the side trip out to Cape Huay. This was more rugged walking with spectacular views and very high sea cliffs. When we got back to our packs to gobble down our lunch, the rain suddenly poured down so we quickly packed up and set off on the last stretch. Through sunny spells and downpours we completed the walk down to Fortescue Bay where the Three Cape Walks ended. There is a very pretty and sheltered beach here and a few brave walkers even went for a refreshing swim! Shortly the bus arrived and took us back to Port Arthur.

A big thank you to Ian for organising and leading our trip! We never would have gone there without your generous enthusiasm and knowledge and leadership. Thanks also to Halina for your thoughtful support, and to all the lovely people in our group. We enjoyed the walk immensely and had a very memorable time on the Three Capes Walk.



Mitchell River pack carry – 7-10 March 2025

Matthias Frey

After a night at the Echo Bend caravan park, we started our walk with a visit to the Den of Nargun, a place of cultural significance for the Gunnai/Kurnai Aboriginal community. The site features an impressive cave under a rock overhang, a beautiful stone pool and a waterfall which was, however, reduced to a small trickle on this hot and dry day.

Because the track along the river had not been restored following recent storm damage, we had to improvise and make our way to the lunch spot at Billy Goat Bend on roads. The walk was at times steep and there was very little shade to shield us from the blazing sun, but our efforts were rewarded with a beautiful view of Mitchell River at lunch.



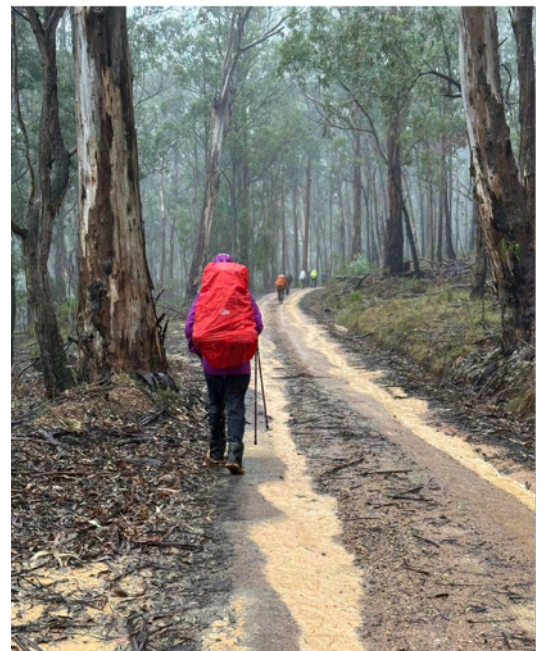
We were then able to rejoin the walking track along the river and made our way to the campsite at Jurgensons Point with beautiful views of the river valley and surrounding hills. The river provided a welcome refreshment after this long and hot walking day.

On the second day, we got our day packs out and went on a stroll further along the river which treated us to more spectacular views of the valley. After having lunch by the river (and another refreshing dip in the water), we returned to our campsite, leaving much of the afternoon to swim and relax by the river.

The weather had changed completely for our last day, as we woke up to an overcast sky and a magical mist that had settled above the river.

During our walk back along a shorter route, the skies opened up and got us completely drenched. All the more welcome were the hot showers back at the caravan park!

The walkers in the group were Meredith, Fang, Brett, Ros, Barry, Richard, Khanh, Rachel, Michael, and Matthias. A big thank you to Bettina for organizing and leading the walk!



Upcoming activities

April 2025

Thu 3	DAY: St Kilda-Elwood	Pvt	E	Richard Hanson
4-6	Mt Bogong via the Staircase	Pvt	M/H	Petras Pedroarvy Surna
4-6	PC: Beginners: Wilson's Prom-Oberon Bay	Pvt	E	Dianne McKinley
Sun 6	DAY: Mt Macedon-Mt Charlie	Bus	E/M&M	Robert Ian Mair & Halina Sarbinowski
Mon 7	MTG: Club Committee meeting	Pvt		Susan Maughan
Wed 9	DAY: Werribee Gorge	Pvt	E/M	Helen Dobbyn
Sat 12	TRG: Navigation with GPS	Pvt		Robert Ian Mair
Sun 13	DAY: Olinda Valley	Car	E/M	Hitesh Ghelani
17-21	LOD: Falls Creek 2025	Pvt	Var	Judith Shaw
17-21	PC: Low Saddle-Mt McDonald-Mt Clear-The Bluff	Pvt	M/H	Gina Hopkins
17-21	PC: Mt Clear-King Billy 1&2-The Bluff	Pvt	M	Mark Simpson
17-21	CAN: Glenelg River Canoe Trip	Pvt		Babak Dadvand & Adriana Fari-palko
18-25	PC: AAWT Kiandra to Tharwa	Pvt	M	Rachel Keen
Sun 20	DAY: Sweetwater Ck & Old Frankston Res.	Car	E/M	Richard Hanson
Mon 21	DAY: Mentone-Sandringham	Pvt	E	Bill Metzenthien
Thu 24	SOC: Finns Reserve, Templestowe	Pvt	E	Pearson Cresswell
24-27	BC: Thornton and Surrounds	Pvt	E/M&M	Robert Ian Mair
25-28	MNT: Mitchell River Walking Track	Pvt		Joe Van Beek (BTAC)
Sat 26	DAY: Mt Charlie (near Riddells Creek)	Pvt	E/M	Helen Graesser
Sun 27	DAY: Stony Creek-Steiglitz	Bus	E/M&M	Grant Roger & Bettina Brill
Wed 30	SOC: Walking in Norway and Iceland	Pvt		Agajan Akbari
Wed 30	DAY: Autumn in the Dandenongs	Pvt	E/M	Jerry Grandage

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