

MELBOURNE
BUSHWALKERS INC.

ABN 14 396 912 508



THE NEWS

#893

August
2025



Whiskey Creek walk, Lerderderg Gorge - Q. Tibballs

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 4 August

The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc (The News) is published monthly, and is the official newsletter of Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

Editor: Deb Shand

Calls for expressions of interest for club activities and extended trips, walk reviews, articles, poems, news items, photographs of Club events, reports of new gear, book/ movie reviews, letters to the editor, advertisements, et cetera are always welcome (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:

Jansy Robinson

Tony Fankhauser

Gemma Brown

Adrien Allen

Roger Berryman



Bushwalkers on a log: Avon-t Hedrick Scenic Reserve - R.I. Mair

Would you like your trip photos featured in the newsletter?

Due date for contributions to September News: 21 August

Email: news@mbw.org.au



President's column

The Club has many favourite walks that regularly pop up on the program. Some form part of our history and others have taken on a folkloric mystique.

The former ones would include the GREAT OCEAN WALK and the GREAT SOUTHWEST WALK in Victoria, and THE LARAPINTA and THE OVERLAND TRACK interstate. New Zealand has a magnetic pull, where we morph into "trampers" on GREAT BARRIER ISLAND, the NELSON LAKES, and MT ASPIRING NP. Those adventures that are spoken about in awe include the WESTERN ARTHURS, FEDERATION PEAK and PRECIPITOUS BLUFF, all in Tasmania, all examples of this wonderland to the south, all part of our folklore. I should add the MANBUSH TRAIL in Vanuatu to this list.

All of these are multi-day treks, but no doubt you have favourite day walks that draw you back again and again. THE DANDENONGS and THE GRAMPIANS immediately come to mind.

If you feel it's time to try multi day walks, but are really unsure where to start, head to our home page, to 'walk and camp'.

There is information on overnight walking, and also a list of our equipment for hire. Both should give you the confidence to approach our walks leaders, who will happily answer your questions. Keep your eyes open for Beginners' Pack Carry walks on the program, as well.



Medlands at sunset, Great Barrier Island - A. Wood

Finally, a reminder that on Wednesday, 24th September we are hosting a 'PRE-LOVED GEAR EXCHANGE NIGHT', where it's guaranteed you will pick up a bargain. Members are invited to bring along their excess gear to sell on the night.

https://mbw.org.au/mbw_activities/walks/MBW_overnight_intro.php

https://mbw.org.au/mbw_activities/walks/MBW_equipment_hire.php

Susan Maughan

Notice of By Law change

"The Committee has approved changes to the process for approval of reimbursement to leaders for the purchase of a PLB to be used on Club activities. These are set out in By Law 1.9."

Vale Susan Haviland

Sadly, I must advise that Susan Haviland passed away peacefully on 25 Jun 2025 at the Epworth Freemasons, on her own terms, following complications from cancer.

Even before Sue joined the Melbourne Bushwalking Club in 2009, she was an accomplished walker of the Victorian Alps. She undertook four solo trips to Nepal, only taking a guide on two trips, and one of these trips was in winter, outside the walking season.

Sue was an avid Sunday Bus walker, and by 2010 was leading some memorable walks, as well as joining her partner Roger on pack carries with the club. She took more trips to Nepal in 2012 and 2015, although the 2015 trip was interrupted by the 7.9 earthquake whilst at 4,600m. Sue also ventured to New Zealand and around Mt Blanc in 2018.

Sue was a quiet person, who was respected by all who knew her through her work as a HR Manager or through bushwalking. She was an engaging person, whose smile was as bright as her infectious laughter, and she will be missed by all.

Please attend Sue's memorial service at 2pm, on Friday 22 August 2025 at the White Lady Funeral Service Chapel, 25 Cooper Street, Epping, (opposite the railway station). Then afterwards at the Epping RSL, 195 Harvest Home Road, for 3pm wake.

No flowers please, donations to Peter Mac Cancer Centre instead.

In her own words, in her final days, "be happy for me".

Roger Wyett



Advanced Leadership Skills Series:

For August we are looking at:

Power and influence

(click on or open the above hyperlink)

This covers:

Leadership and power,

Sources of power,

Types, use and limits of power,

Exercising power





Spotlight on ... Quentin Tibballs

Derrick Brown

DB - Quentin, you've been a member for some years but only joined towards the end of your career. But let's start at the beginning - you are a local man?

QT - Yes, I was born in Melbourne and

educated at Melbourne Uni, graduating as a Doctor of Medicine.

DB - And you became a GP?

QT - Yes, working here in Australia, also in New Zealand and the UK.

DB - What special memories do you have of those times?

QT - Working for the NHS in England and working on Chatham Island.

DB - Taking the UK first?

QT - That was a very positive experience, with a huge variety of cases, plus the poor pay, and the pressures!

DB - And Chatham Island?

QT - Yes, administered by NZ, Chatham Island is the largest of a group of islands about 800km off the east coast of NZ. I was the locum and the only doctor for the population of a few hundred people. Very remote. I had a Land Rover to drive around.

DB - Quite a responsibility, being so remote!

QT - Yes, but they have an airstrip for supplies and access. I flew there in the fuselage of a Bristol Freighter. It was a very old twin-engined plane and coming into land there was a strong side wind, so the plane was angled, and just straightened out at the last moment.

DB - An experience that you don't forget! Moving on now to when you began bushwalking, tell me how you started.

QT - It was in my first year at Melbourne Uni. I did a six-day pack-carry in the Snowy Mountains with the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club (MUMC).

DB - And that was for starters?

QT - Yes! The highlight, apart from seeing magnificent wild brumbies, was having to swap camp sites from one side of the Ingeegoodbee River to the other through freezing water at 3am because my fellow first year medical student mistook the creaking and groaning of a nearby tree as its impending fall on our tent. Come morning and calmer weather, of course the tree was still there!

DB - And you were hooked?

QT - Yes, I continued to walk with MUMC for the next six years - mostly pack carries to the high country, which also included snow camping. Also in the seventies when I served my first year residency in Christchurch, NZ, I was off to Arthurs Pass NP on many weekend walks or Mt Aspiring for multi-day pack carries - I remember once doing both the east and west branches of the Matukituki River.

DB - All great experiences! And you had one experience when you were stuck in heavy snow?

QT - It was just another weekend away walking, and there was a freak blizzard. And my little car just couldn't make it over the pass. I was stuck there alone. And it kept on snowing. One side of my car was completely covered, but the other side in the lee I could leave the door open a little bit. I had all my cold weather gear and plenty of food, so I wasn't too worried. And I could hear what the emergency services were doing on the radio.

DB - You had made contact?

QT - Well, I hadn't turned up for work on the Monday morning! I had my radio working so I could hear my name on the radio.

DB - So what happened?

QT - Tuesday was just an idyllic day. There wasn't a cloud in the sky. And, uh, you know, I'm just sitting there in complete silence, with not a breath of wind, and all of a sudden, I see this little dot coming over the horizon, and it was a Maori soldier on cross country skis. He expected to find someone frozen to death. But because I saw him coming, you know, I jumped out of the car, or rather squeezed myself out. Gave him quite a fright.

DB - I bet! And in that time while you were there, you cooked a steak, you said. How did you manage that? Inside the car, you cooked a steak?



continued next page

Noticeboard

QT - Yes, and that featured when an article about me appeared on the front of the Christchurch Star! In heavy black letters, you know, "he ate a steak"!

DB - And when was this? When did it occur?

QT - This would have been about 1973.

DB - Apart from the MUMC you have walked with other clubs?

QT - Yes, while doing locum work in Perth I walked with the Perth Bushwalkers Club, and I've also walked with the Catholic Walking Club of Victoria (CWCV) and the Border Bushwalking Club. I maintained contact with the Border Bushwalking Club despite relocating to Bacchus Marsh in the early nineties and went on several walking holidays with this club to the UK – Devon/Cornwall, the Cotswolds, Alnmouth and northern Italy – the Cinque Terre and around Lake Garda

In the mid-eighties I spent two years in the UK with post graduate work - I did the occasional day rambling walks through the green fields of England but my other passion was tennis and I would play as frequently as I could. I would always have my tennis racquet in my car boot and once when I was working in Liverpool I travelled to East Grinstead in Sussex and played nine sets in one day.

I had a penchant for skiing whilst in the UK and I had several skiing holidays with work colleagues in Europe - Andorra, northern Italy (Bormio) and the Spanish side of the Pyrenees. A feature of these seemed to be the après ski fancy dress parties – it's amazing what can be done with a few sheets and a cut-out cardboard crown to mimic a Roman senator. Beware any draft to expose what lies beneath!

DB - So you had an extensive bushwalking experience before you joined us. Tell me now about the time that you joined.

QT - Those overseas trips gave me the idea that when I joined Melbourne Bushies in the late 90s I could likewise do the same with our club. I subsequently led a group of eighteen for a Heaphy Track walk in NZ - two groups of nine, walking in different directions and meeting half way on the same day and had a great party. I led one group and Rod Novak the other. We also combined this with visits to wineries in the Marlborough Region and sea kayaking off the coast of the Abel Tasman NP. I also led other pack carries to NZ and Tasmania – Frenchmans Cap.

Canoeing was also an interest and I led trips on the upper Murray above Tintaldra and a five-day trip down the Snowy from McKillops Bridge to Buchan through the Tulloch Ard Gorge. We had an interesting two-day canoe trip on the Goulburn around Trawool camping on Caroline and Gerhard Braun's property amongst the snakes.

DB - And you joined the committee at some point?

QT - Yes, and I became the navigation and training officer and held training sessions at Mt Disappointment and Werribee Gorge and continued to lead day and pack carry walks.

DB - You stepped back from the club for a while I believe?

QT - From around 2005 till about two years ago my bushwalking took a hiatus. I was personal taxi service for my daughter – dance, parties etc. She is now eighteen and can drive herself. I am now back in the business of bushwalking and find myself the Sunday Walks Secretary.

DB - Have you noticed a difference in the club?

QT - Yes, there's more paperwork and less personal interaction as we use electronic media more now, a necessary evil because of the size and complexities of the club. There are opportunities for improvement and that is happening. I see the committee as being very active.

DB - Finally Quentin, I'd like your opinion as a medical man. Do you consider bushwalking to be very important to one's health generally?

QT - Absolutely. In practicing anesthetics, you have to assess people for their cardiovascular fitness. And I've found that bushwalkers are almost always much fitter than their chronological age and that translates to less stress for the anesthetist and fewer complications in the recovery process.

DB - And a last word from you - what do you like best about bushwalking?

QT - Just being away from it all and sharing the bush with other people.

DB - I can relate to that. Thank you, Quentin, for your reflections.



August Safety and Risk Reminders

This month we look at **Bushcraft** and two great resources from Bushwalking Victoria: the on-line **Bushwalking Manual**, and the **Walksafe** booklet. These resources can be found on the Bushwalking Victoria website and in the Members Area of the Club Website under “**External Resources**” along with other resources on Navigation etc.



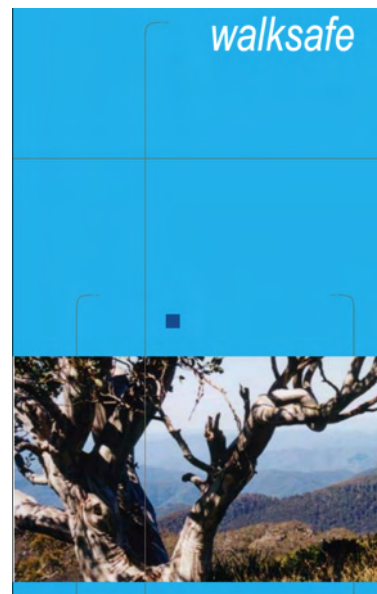
The Bushwalking Manual: *Bushcraft* is defined by Wikipedia as “*the use and practice of skills, thereby acquiring and developing knowledge and understanding, in order to survive and thrive in a natural environment*”.

Bushwalking Victoria have produced an on-line manual on bushcraft for all Australian Bush Walking Clubs and it is a valuable resource both for people new to bushwalking and also for experienced walkers. See the article included in this News.

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

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

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



TIP for Leaders - Swapping mobile numbers with your Whip. For walks that have reasonable mobile reception consider swapping mobile numbers with your Whip. As well as regrouping frequently so you can check with your whip on any issues or using a whistle this gives both of you another option for communicating.

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

Comedy Show for Melbourne Bushwalkers: ‘Eat, Pray, Walk’ by Marcus Ryan

You are invited to join us at the Memo Music Hall in St Kilda for a comedy show for some laughs and fun with the Melbourne Bushwalkers. Award winning comedian and storyteller Marcus Ryan talks about his gruelling experience of walking the **Camino to Santiago**.

Date: Sunday, 17 August 3:30pm
Tickets: \$35-\$40

Email Bernadette Prunty, Social Secretary to let us know if you're coming.
Try Booking details below - book your own tickets:
<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1429012>

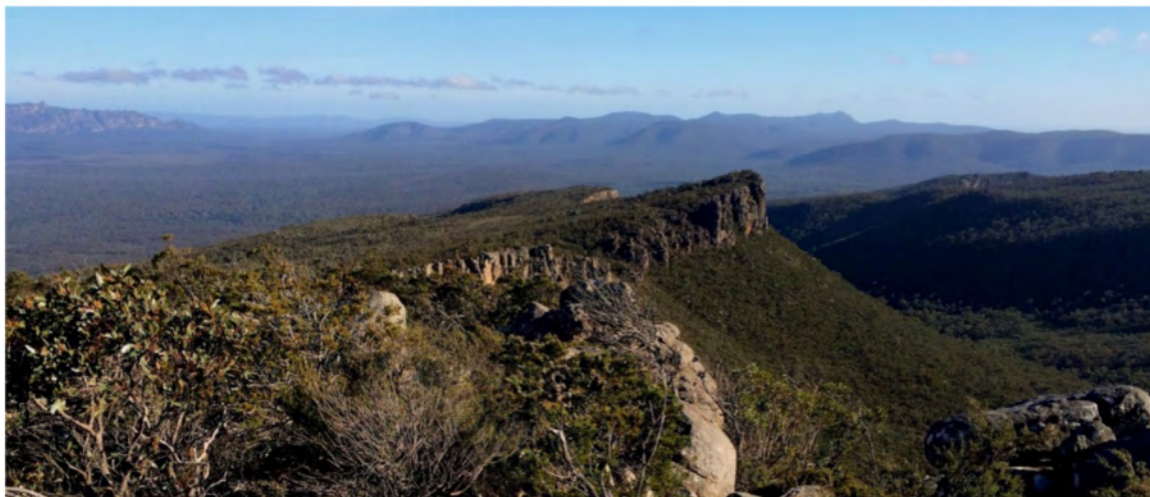




for safe and enjoyable bushwalking in Australia. Published by Bushwalking New

NEW BUSHWALKING MANUAL

Information and guidelines for safe and enjoyable bushwalking in Australia. Published by Bushwalking Victoria



Bushwalking Victoria has published an online updated **[Bushwalking Manual](http://bushwalkingmanual.org.au)** for use by all Australian bushwalking clubs at **<http://bushwalkingmanual.org.au>**

It provides guidelines and information for safe, enjoyable volunteer bushwalking in Australia. The manual includes contributions from many state and territory peak bushwalking organisations and emergency services. It is based on the *Bushwalking and Ski Touring Leadership Handbook* and has been updated to include recent changes to bushwalking practices and equipment. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning provided funding for its development.

The Manual covers a wide range of topics including:

- Trip Planning
- Equipment and Clothing
- Weather:
- Emergencies:
- Related Activities:
- The Trip
- Environment
- Understanding Weather, Thunderstorms, Lightning
- Communications, If Lost, Shelters, **Bushfires**, First Aid, Body Core Temperature
- Rogaining, Ski Touring, Snow Shoeing
- Leadership
- Food and Water
- State specific Information

The manual is for anyone who is interested in learning more about bushwalking. So whether you're a walk leader, an experienced bushwalker, a member or a novice just starting bushwalking this annual is for you. It is well worth at least a browse!!

Our Club produces a number of guidelines on various aspects of outdoor activities and increasingly you will see us reference the new Bushwalking Manual.

Mick Noonan

Major Update to our Risk Management Plan for 2024/25

Our Club's Risk Management Plan (RMP) has over 50 risks. They are divided into Activity, People, Equipment, Assets, Organisation, and External categories. Each year we review the plan and every 2-3 years we do a major update. We consider if there are new risks to include, if risks have reduced to a point where they no longer need to specifically be managed, if risks have increased/decreased, and do we need to improve the things we do to further reduce the risks impacts.

We look at the various practices ('controls') we have in place to reduce the chance the risk will occur and what actions ('contingencies') we could do if it does occur. We also check progress on any actions we said we would undertake. The 24/25 review was a major one, with the main changes relating to:

- The passing of COVID
- New Activity Policies and Guidelines e.g. our new PLB Policy and the Guideline on Leading PCs and BCs
- Updating the Actions Status e.g. what actions has been completed, and including the outcomes
- Clarifications on references to Leaders Cards

We don't expect general members to read and understand the Risk Plan as we build the outcomes into our normal guidelines, processes, procedures, and training activities. Leaders are expected to be familiar with the Activity and People risks in particular, while Committee Members should be across the full plan and especially the risks that relate to their Club roles. The monthly **Safety and Risk Reminders** in the **News** advise members and leaders every 12 months of the key things from the Risk Plan they need to be aware of. Many remain the same year after year, new ones are added as needed and others are updated (with a **MOD** tag).

New Risk in this year's plan:

- Insufficient Financial Assets.
- Issues with people with disabilities on Activities
- Loss/Absence of Key People disrupts Club Operations

Risks that have Increased:

- Large Membership Growth has negative impacts

Risks that have reduced:

- Inadequate Equipment for Activity
- Insufficient Hire Equipment for Extended Activities
- Major Drop in Club Membership
- Apathy from Members and the Public
- Competition from other activities, Clubs, walking outside the Club
- Major increase in Bus Costs impacts its Viability
- Pandemics, Public Health Emergencies

Deleted Risks:

- Membership may not Recover post COVID

Merged Risks

- Two risks were merged into 'Activity participant takes legal action against Club Volunteer and/or the Club' itself"

You can find the new Risk Plan, which was approved by the Committee at their June Meeting, in the Members Downloads Area of the Website.

Mick Noonan, Risk Officer



A Hidden Walking Gem in Italy – The Camino Materano

Presenter: Michael Noonan, Wednesday 27 August 7.30pm, Clubrooms

There are many Caminos in Europe, nearly all are walks to a holy place – e.g. Santiago. Rome, Oviedo. This is different as it is a walk to two Italian UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE sites, Matera and Alberobello created by enthusiasts who love Puglia and southern Italy. You can walk from 1-3 weeks or make it a loop walk and go for a month!

Italy is full of amazing historical places, fantastic mountain and coastal villages, great food and wine, and of course ancient olive trees! This walk is no exception. We walked it in September 2024, and we thoroughly enjoyed it. So come along and discover the Materano.



Pre-Loved Bushwalking Gear Exchange Night - Buy and Sell

**Wednesday 24th September 2025
7.30 pm - MBW Clubrooms**

Come along for a fun night with the Melbourne Bushwalkers to socialise and purchase some good bushwalking bargains or to find a new home for some of your bushwalking items.

SELLERS

Bring along your no longer needed/ excess gear.
Put a price tag on it, or "nearest offer".
Let Bernadette Prunty or Susan Maughan know in advance if you require a corner of a table or a whole table.

BUYERS

Welcome! Browse the tables of bushwalking gear and snap up a bargain.
Bring **CASH**.

Examples of previous popular items have been:
Walking clothes, backpacks, walking poles, tents, sleeping bags, walking boots etc.

Wine available at bar prices.

For further information contact Bernadette Prunty (Social Secretary) social@mbw.org.au



Memorable Bushwalking Moments – Part One

Barbara Goldfinch

Why walk?

Why force myself up another steep hill, through dense scrub with a heavy backpack in the cold or heat, rain and flies and, as in the case of Rex Filson's Barmah Forest, ankle deep mud and thigh deep lakes (previously a dry flood plain). Why? A deep sense of satisfaction having survived; wonder and awe at the achievement; the comradery, 'Just keep plodding along'(1); 'putting one foot after the other' advice from a club veteran; an interest in the natural world; freedom from city refinement and the smell of scrub after rain.



My first walk, Rye Back Beach, October 1967

Club rules kept us safe and engendered respect for the bush leaving only footprints - no rubbish to be left (with a little tap on the shoulder if you transgress); ensuring a fire is never left unattended and properly out before leaving a site, especially if that fire is a little more than 'minimum requirements'.

These days, I enjoy the bush by the more gentle activity of bird watching and get annoyed when birders do not stop at track junctions, my MBW training. I also cycle on mountain trails (on an e-bike of course).

Beginnings

My Dad was a scout and well versed in 'bush craft'. We bought contour maps of the Marysville area and Dad and I plotted our way around the surrounding hills using fire trails and forestry tracks or 'bush bashing'. Once on the Paradise Plains Road, we stopped for lunch, the only space to sit being the middle of the road. Alone since leaving Marysville, we were tucking into our sandwiches when a forestry vehicle came along. Were the forestry workers amused or annoyed whilst we hastily removed ourselves? I enjoyed these rambles, and they became useful as an MBW walk leader at a later time.

I joined a National Fitness course on bushwalking - four lectures, a day walk, an overnight camp at Wilson's Prom and a snow camp at Mt Baw Baw.



Barmah Forest Walk. Rex Filson on right, Jan and John behind him still holding hands. (see Michael Griffin. 'Along the Track. Barmah Forest. June 12-15' 1970. The News. Edition 256. July 1970.)

Crunching through frozen snow was exhilarating and the views pretty but camping in the snow was cold and I drew the line there. The course was valuable preparation for anyone with intentions of serious walking.

It was 1967, and when the course was over, I joined MBW for a day walk along Rye back beach. It was a magnificent day and the company interesting, girls of my age being rare at that time. The following year, I began nursing training and although it was difficult to combine shift work with a social activity, I completed the walks to qualify for MBW membership.

1. Helen Mitchell 10th December 1967. BDG diary entry.

A Walk Along the Avon: In the Quiet Rhythm of Water and Time – 27-29 June 2025

John Gurskey

There are places where the land folds gently into itself, where rivers wear stone like a beloved habit, and where the passage of walkers becomes just another whisper in a long conversation between earth and sky. The Avon Mt Hedrick Scenic Reserve is one such place.

Our walk began not on the trail, but with the small rituals that mark a shared journey: tents staked under the starlight of the Newbury Sports Ground, laughter under tin ceilings at the Farmers Arms Hotel, and local wine warming our hands against the first cold breath of winter. There were thirteen of us in all, each carrying something more than gear, each shouldering time, memory, and the quiet anticipation of a river-bound path.



Friday night laid a cold stillness across the paddocks, and a frost crept in like a slow tide. By morning, the mist hung low and the mad cockatoos, wild and unreasonable in their hours, cracked open the silence at 3:45 a.m. Some of us woke early, others blinked stubbornly against the dawn, but all of us rose. The sun came soft over the horizon, drying tents and lifting the last of the fog as we gathered for the day ahead.

After a short shuffle of cars, we found the trail. Packs tightened, boots laced, we began walking beside the Avon. The path climbed, drawing us upward along the river's shoulder, offering glimpses down into the gorge, water glinting like threads of silver wound through stone. The landscape changed as we walked: dry open woodlands above, the river edges below, alive with grasses and green brush, nature's quiet contrast between the parched and the nourished.

By midday, we reached what would become the heart of the walk, the Channel, a place shaped not by men but by time and water. There, the Avon cut a narrow wound through solid rock, slow and sure as truth. We sat among stone and sunlight, laid out our lunches, and listened to the hush that lives between words and birdsong. Some of us dried our tents; all of us rested and ate.



The afternoon pressed on. We walked beyond the gorge and into harder country, places where the trail asked more of our feet and patience. Yet there was beauty in the challenge, in the shared quiet when no one spoke but everyone understood. As shadows stretched long across the trees, we reached Huggins Campground. Packs dropped, boots loosened, water boiled. One walker, bold in spirit, returned from a friendly encounter with an armful of firewood, and soon the fire was built. We circled it, grateful, warm, and wrapped in that rarest comfort: earned stillness.

Sunday arrived gently. Morning light fell on the forest, and soon we broke camp. The group parted briefly, some taking the road, others

Along the track

retracing the trail, but we met again along the Mt Hedrick summit trail. It was not the summit yet, but a place worth pausing in all the same. We did find the summit not long after, Mt Hedrick, standing 459 meters, offering views as wide as memory and as sharp as longing. Distant ski fields stood like quiet witnesses in the faraway hills, and we stood there too, thirteen walkers, part of the view and held by it.

The walk down led us through a softer land, temperate forest, small streams, and lush brush that seemed to grow from the very spirit of the place. And then, as quietly as it had begun, the trail ended. Cars waited like old friends. Some of us lingered at the Farmers Arms once more, letting the ritual of food and fellowship close the circle before turning southward, back to Melbourne.

And through it all, the Avon ran beside us, not loudly, not insistently, but steadily. Like a story that never really ends. Special thanks to Ian, for knowing the way, and for leading us through it.



Whiskey Creek Loop, Lerderderg Gorge – 20 July 2025

Quentin Tibballs

We were a merry band of 17 who set off from Square Bottle Carpark at 10am on Sunday morning intending to walk the Square Bottle Track to the turnoff to Kenworthy Track, follow this to the Lerderderg river for our lunch spot on its eastern bank then follow East Track south, again to a river crossing then ascend Razorback Track North then to Razorback Track and finally to our patiently waiting vehicles.



The day was ideal, not even a breeze, not a cloud in the sky and bathed in warm winter sun. Matthias Frey was our Assistant Leader and as I had previously provided him with an old Vicmap Greendale 7722-1-4 1:25K (compiled in 1972), which has a better display of contour lines than any map accessed via our website, a Silva compass and instructions on their use, I was happy to hand over leadership reins to him. Matthias did not disappoint – in fact Alltrails lists many accounts where walkers have become lost on this track but not Matthias. He navigated without fault.



This clockwise traverse of the Whiskey Creek Loop has 3 steep downhill sections – the descent into Whiskey Creek, the descent on Kenworthy Track to the river and the descent of the terminal part of East Track to the river. In particular, the Kenworthy descent was quite precarious as it had not yet dried out from the sun and the bark and rocks covering the track were slippery. Most navigated this section without incident except myself – I sustained a foot injury when I slipped and fell. However, I completed the walk albeit at a slower pace.

What makes this walk most attractive is the variety of terrain, from pleasant walking on undulant forest paths to steep declines and inclines on narrow rocky tracks. Also, the walk in the Lerderderg gorge itself is beautiful. I think it is one of the best day walks in Victoria.

Also of note is that this walk was graded as E/M – there was a group discussion at the end and it was agreed with input from some very experienced walkers that a more accurate grading was M.

Botanic Gardens Social Walk - 24 July 2025

Margaret Campion

Our happy crew of seven met under the clocks at Flinders Street station in perfect conditions. Sunny blue skies, a gentle breeze, not a wintry July day at all, and we loved it. Gill, Bernie, Pam, two lovely newbies Emma and Ye, Bernadette and Margaret.

Across to the floral clock, past Sir John Monash's statue and on to the Tan track. Did we need to climb or run? No! As we found our ideal walking pace. Past the Shrine, past the Observatory, past Latrobe's cottage and along the Tan. Trees and birds were looking delightful and Emma pointed out the Peace Bells along the way, which we rang enthusiastically, hoping for much more of that in today's world.



We chose to stroll down the Anderson St hill and then into

the Gardens. Around the beautiful Lake we walked, taking in all the Gardens' sights, with Government House in the background. Then a yummy lunch at the Lakeside Cafe and plenty of laughs to celebrate our cleverness! Good luck Ye, whose goal it is to do 20 club walks by November! She can do it.



Upcoming activities

August 2025

Sun 3	DAY: Blackwood-Tunnel Point Loop	Car	E/M	Quentin Tibballs
Mon 4	MTG: Club Committee Meeting	Pvt		Susan Maughan
Thu 7	DAY: Lysterfield Lake	Pvt	E	Phillip Geschke
Sun 10	DAY: Dargile Forest-Mt Ida (Heathcote)	Bus	E/M&E/M	Grant Roger & Glenn Swane
Wed 13	DAY: Sea, beach, piers & lakes from Port Melbourne	Pvt	E/M	Mick Noonan
15-17	BC: Volcanic Hills of Camperdown	Pvt	E/M	Jan Colquhoun
15-23	SKI: Cross Country Skiing-Bogong High Plains	Pvt	Var	John Terrell
Sun 17	DAY: Werribee Gorge & The Island	Car	M	Quentin Tibballs
Sun 17	SOC: Comedy Show for Melbourne Bushies	Pvt		Bernadette Prunty
Mon 18	DAY: Darebin Creek area	Pvt	E	Jerry Grandage
Sat 23	DAY: Ferny Creek	Pvt	E/M	Elizabeth Gwynn
23-24	PC: Lerderderg-Bears Head Range	Pvt	M	Robert Ian Mair
Sun 24	DAY: Currawong Falls & Iron Bark Gorge	Bus	E&E/M	Bernd Neubauer & Brett Daniel
Wed 27	SOC: A hidden walking gem in Italy: the Camino Materano	Pvt		Mick Noonan
Thu 28	SOC: Gardiners Ck-Box Hill South	Pvt	E	Gillian Wainwright
29-31	PC: Whipstick-Kamarooka	Pvt	E	Gina Hopkins
29-31	BC: Kooyoor State Park/Melville Caves	Pvt	E&E/M	Ken Macmahon
Sun 31	DAY: Yarra Bend Park	Car	E/M	Jenny Andrewes

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