

MELBOURNE  
BUSHWALKERS INC.

ABN 14 396 912 508



# THE NEWS

#887

February  
2025



Enjoying morning tea and views from Mt Tabletop - 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 3 February

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)



## Golden opportunity - FREE McMansion tent

Susan Maughan

Accommodates two camp beds and heaps of room in the two vestibules.

The bag is fashionably faded and the tent comes with valet service.

**T&C** 1. Pick up from Belgrave.  
2. Although free, please make a donation to a charity.



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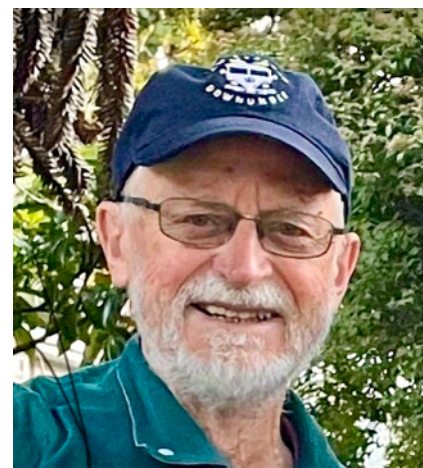
## Would you like your trip photos featured in the newsletter?

Due date for contributions to March News: 21 February  
Email: [news@mbw.org.au](mailto:news@mbw.org.au)





The Try Bushwalking Month (TrB) organised by Bushwalking Victoria in November was deemed a success - thirty-two clubs offered around 700 walk places of which about 200 were taken up. We offered eight walks of a total of eighty on offer, more than any other club, and we had eleven walkers (5.5%) participate. Bad weather may have been a factor, however our Cumberland River walk attracted 20 visitors with two Tryb applicants. This and other analysis says that we do not have any problem attracting visitors and our conversion rate to members has been increasing year on year. The average conversion rate over the last ten years now stands at nearly 36%.



Your committee is still pondering the member survey results and I will make a few observations:

On the question of Overall Satisfaction the score was an amazing 95% 'extremely' or 'very' happy (65.6 and 29 respectively). Whilst we must not be complacent this says that we're doing something right! Looking at what could be improved we have suggestions on training, adventurous walks in foreign climes, more talks on a range of subjects, quite a list. Being a voluntary organisation we are limited but we'll see where we might do better. Looking at what might be improved, the joining process of having to do three walks was criticised and the fact that we had too many rules. That last point finds some support so I'll expand.

The Rules of Association govern the club, a 25-page document that we have to have and adhere to in order to be a bushwalking club. This gives us a legal structure and tells us what we must do and where we have options. Then we have the By Laws, a document of a mere nine pages that contains the rules that the Club has generated over time in order to manage our processes - including the three-walk membership application. On top of that we have to abide by the ATO rules that demand that we do certain things and report our financial activities to the ATO. Yes, even though we are a 'not-for-profit' organisation that's quite a bit of 'red tape' that we have little or no control over - we must abide.

I empathise with the people who think that we have too many rules, if only we could cut some out! When I look at the By Laws however, I can see good reasons why we have them. Sure they're not perfect, they can be cut or changed, it's a process that's defined in the Rules of Association! Be thankful that the vast majority of members do not have to get involved. If you wish you can read all of the rules

on our website. If you would like to comment, you are welcome to get in touch with me and/or write a letter to the editor of 'The News'! Be an agent of change! Those rules can only be changed by the members, acting in unison, so go for it!

That'll do, back to bushwalking ... lots going on, I hope to meet up with more of you on our fine summer weather walks.

Derrick



Alpine flowers - D. Shand



## February Safety and Risk Reminders

This month the topic is the **Club's Emergency Mobile** and its role in our **Emergency Contact System**. It is effectively an insurance policy that we hope never to have to use.



**Club Emergency Mobile 0447 489 661 (MOD):** The Club has an *Emergency Contact System* that includes a Club Emergency Mobile. The prime purposes of the mobile are to:

- **Provide members with information on any significant trip delays.** For all activities the leader will endeavour to advise our *Club Emergency Contacts* of any significant delay so a message can be put on the Emergency Mobile's voice message bank.
- **Advise Leaders, particularly for Pack Carry and remote/walk in Base Camps, who the current Club Emergency Contacts are.** There are 2-3 volunteer CECS on duty each month and their contact details are updated as a minimum monthly by the General Walks Secretary on the mobiles message bank recording. ***Leaders should check the recording just before each walk in case the contacts have changed during the month as sometimes happens.***

Before setting out, walkers should advise people who may become concerned if there is a significant delay of the location of the trip, method of travel, expected time of return and the Club Emergency Mobile Number. While members should always carry a mobile, depending on your Service Provider the mobile may not work in non-urban areas, or there may be no coverage available at all. So tell anyone who might be worried about you being late home about the Club Emergency Mobile. A delay of 1-2 hours for Day Activity and 3-4 hours or even an extra day for multi-day Activities is not generally a cause for concern.



**Have you put this number in your mobile contacts?** You can always find it in the **FAQ Section** of the Club Website. Remember it ***cannot*** be used to contact the Club as we only use the message bank to provide information. There is no physical phone!

The Clubs ***Emergency Contact System*** and its ***Club Emergency Contacts*** also have a number of other specific uses particularly for Pack Carriers and Base Camps:

1. If a PLB is activated on a Club Activity the CEC/ECS provides information for responding Emergency Services.
2. Leaders can report urgent serious incidents via the CEC and potentially get assistance in managing the incident.
3. Leaders can also call the CEC if they don't have internet access and need urgent advice on incidents that may impact the group e.g. fire/extreme weather/floods.

***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*



General Walks Secretary Report for 2024

In 2024, our average attendances increased for 6 non-Sunday activities, remained the same for 2, and decreased for 8, compared with 2023. **Highlights** of last year included a popular Melbourne Cup Day walk in the Dandenongs, a Base Camp at Beechworth, an Easter Lodge trip at Falls Creek, a post-Christmas one at Mt. Hotham, and a very popular Federation Weekend at Wilsons Promontory. Notable Pack Carries were held at Mt. Baw Baw, 2 on the Larapinta Trail, and a Beginners' PC in the Daylesford area.

Last year, there was 1 less **Monday** group walk than previously (but 1 cancellation). Member attendances declined slightly, but visitor numbers roughly doubled. The most popular trip was along the Werribee River, with 12 walkers, including 6 visitors. The **Thursday** group had an extra activity in 2024, while average attendances fell slightly. The Merri Creek Billabongs walk had 13 participants. Our **Saturday** group had 2 more activities than in 2023, but average numbers were down by 6.5. The most popular hike was at Warrandyte, with 14 members.



MBW Activity Statistics 2023 & 2024

	2023			2024		
	Trips	Average Nos	Average Visitors	Trips	Average Nos	Average Visitors
DAY WALKS						
Monday	11	8.6	0.6	10	8.2	1.3
Thursday	10	8.4	0.5	11	7	0.3
Saturday	7	14.9	1.3	9	8.4	0.6
Sunday Bus	24	48.5	10	24	47.2	12
Sunday Carpool	25	17.1	2.4	25	15.8	3
Wednesday	19	7.7	0.7	16	11.1	1.1
Social Walks	13	8.5	1.1	10	8.3	0.7
Historical	-	-	-	1	20	5
OTHER ACTIVITIES						
Conservation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Training	10	7.7	0.3	4	10.3	0
Navigation Training	2	9	1	3	5.7	1
Track Maintenance	5	0.2	-	-	-	-
Skiing	1	6	-	1	3	0
Base Camp	10	16.1	0.9	13	14.3	0.6
Walk-in Base Camp	1	5	2	1	7	0
Lodge	3	17	1	2	23	1
Pack Carry	32	8.3	0.4	26	8.8	0.8
Canoeing	4	6	0.8	-	-	-

continued next page

# Noticeboard

There were 3 less **Wednesday** walks than previously (but 4 cancellations). However, average attendances rose by a pleasing 3.4. The Coburg and Edwardes Lakes hike attracted an impressive 27 people, including 5 visitors. There were also 3 less **Social Walks** (with 1 cancellation), but attendances were similar to 2023. The North Melbourne Historic Walk (and Dinner) had 15 participants. A separate **Historical** walk, also run by Susan Maughan, was held in the Dandenongs on Melbourne Cup Day, and saw 20 punters, including 5 visitors from the Bushwalking Victoria, "Try a Bushwalk" program.

No **Conservation** or **Track Maintenance** attendance results were recorded in 2024, as for 2023. **General Training** activities decreased by 6, but average attendances rose by 2.6. First Aid training had 14 attendees, while Leaders' Training had 15. There was 1 extra **Navigation Training** session last year, although attendances were 3.3 lower. The 3 Navigation activities attracted a total of 17 people. The **Skiing** group held another cross-country event at the Bogong High Plains, attended by 3 members, which was 3 less than in the previous year.

**Base Camps** showed an increase of 3 activities, although average attendances declined by 1.8. There was 1 Walk-in BC, as in 2023, but attendances decreased by 2. **Lodge** trips were down by 1, however an average of 6 more people participated. The Beechworth BC had 22 hikers, while the Easter Lodge trip had 24, and 21 stayed at a Mt. Hotham lodge. Last year, MBW assisted the Bayside Bushwalking Club with the Federation Weekend at Wilsons Prom, by providing an impressive 15 leaders and co-leaders. In total, 56 Bushies attended this very large event.

Last year, **Pack Carries** declined by 6 (however there were 7 cancellations), but attendances rose slightly. The Mt. Baw Baw trip was the most popular, with 15 hikers, and a total of 16 people tackled the 2 Larapinta PCs. A Beginners' PC near Daylesford also attracted 11. In 2023, **Canoeing** returned with 4 trips, but last year, none were held.

Overall, our 2024 non-Sunday program showed a mixture of both increased and decreased numbers of group activities and attendances. Our Coordinators and leaders must be thanked for their continued efforts to provide a wide range of activities. It should also be noted that, after many years of great work as our Saturday Coordinator, Maureen Hurley stepped down in 2024, and Helen Graesser has now taken on the role. Over the coming year, I look forward to another varied and interesting program, with an increase in attendances across our activity groups.

- Trip numbers are based on total trips – January to December.
- Average attendance numbers based on information from leaders but exclude trips where numbers have not been provided.
- Not included are 25 cancellations in 2023 (due to a variety of reasons) and 17 in 2024, as follows:  
**low numbers** – Sun Car x 1, Wed x 2, PC x 4, BC x 1; **high temperature** – Sun Bus x 1, Mon x 1, Soc Walks x 1, PC x 1; **bad weather** – Wed x 1, Ski x 1; **leader unavailable** – PC x 1; & **unspecified** – Wed x 1, PC x 1.

**Stuart Hanham**  
(General Walks Secretary)

## Update of Melbourne Bushwalkers' Privacy Policy

Andreas Meister





Melbourne Bushwalkers respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we walk and meet, their Elders past and present, and the important role Indigenous people play in managing the land used for outdoor recreation.



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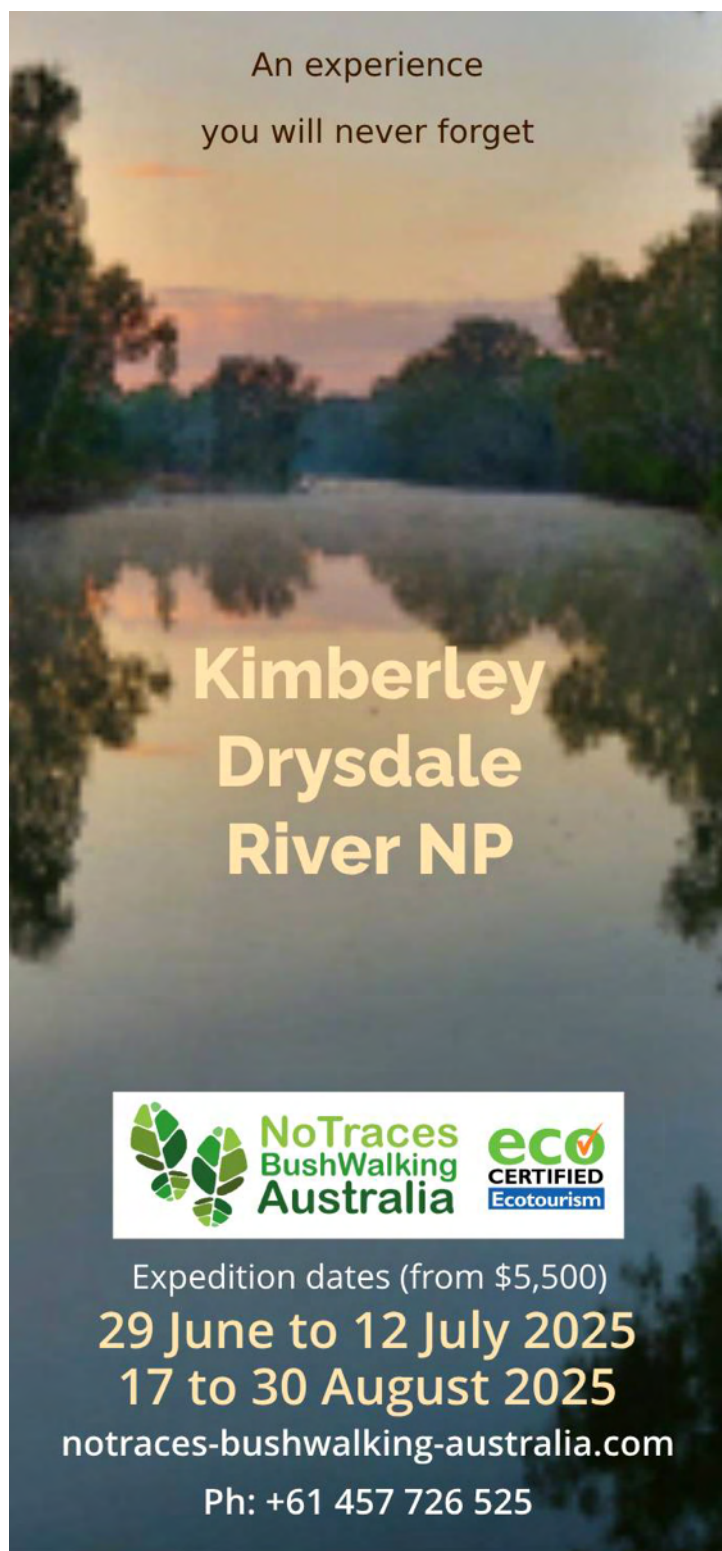
Further Information and Feedback Form  
Frequently Asked Questions  
**Privacy Statement**

Dear members, please be advised that we have updated the club's privacy policy. I encourage you to read the current document which is posted on our website at the link below, or click on the link at the base of the Home page (illustrated). Should you have any questions please direct these to me.


[https://mbw.org.au/downloads/Policy\\_Privacy%2010-2024.pdf](https://mbw.org.au/downloads/Policy_Privacy%2010-2024.pdf)



An experience  
you will never forget



**Kimberley  
Drysdale  
River NP**



Expedition dates (from \$5,500)  
**29 June to 12 July 2025**  
**17 to 30 August 2025**  
notraces-bushwalking-australia.com  
Ph: +61 457 726 525

## Maps Annual Report

Mark Heath

Very few paper maps were borrowed this year. Members appear happy to source and use maps electronically. If storage becomes a concern then the paper maps could be discontinued.



## Navigation Field Training Day

This will be held on Saturday 9 March at Werribee Gorge, and there will be a mandatory pre session in the Clubrooms on 6 March at 7-9pm. More information on Website Activity Program.

To attend advise Quentin Tibballs:  
[geoq@bigpond.com](mailto:geoq@bigpond.com)

This training activity is very popular and is capped at 6 so people get individual attention. Based on demand there may be extra sessions.



## Archivist Report 2025

Ken MacMahon

I look after a small collection of documents and photos from the club's early days. The items are stored in a small safe at my home.

I have started digitising some of the photos and will load them to the club's on-line collection as time permits. Currently images on the club's website are divided into years. It would be most useful to be able to add sub-folders as I could present these old albums in their original format.



Time to study the map, Warburton 1950

Members with worthy old photos or slides (pre-1970) are invited to submit them to me for inclusion in the archive. The most useful images are of identifiable people, annotated and of good quality.

# Our future may be just a click away

To be part of Melbourne Bushwalkers is to be part of a family. The diversity of our activities defines who we are as a club with opportunities for members with a broad range of experiences and capabilities. Our welcoming spirit is something we hold to be very important. Like all bushwalking clubs, however, the changing life circumstances of our members may mean being part of our community is no longer viable. Attracting new members maintains our vigour and youthfulness.

We are fortunate to have a high profile and strong membership numbers. Your assistance in building on our strength will provide opportunities to expand and diversify our activities program. This can be as simple as mentioning our club when you share your personal experiences on social media or emails, which lifts our ranking on search engines such as Google. Adding a review on Google search adds even more weight. And for those who enjoy the images we post to Facebook, a simple click on the "Like" button for the post before you move on encourages others to find out more about what we have to offer.

Share your joy, share our passion.

Ian Mair  
Webmaster


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melbourne bushwalkers

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Tools



Melbourne Bushwalkers

<https://mbw.org.au>

Melbourne Bushwalkers - explore your spirit of adventure

Hiking club connecting you with the great Australian outdoors for fitness, fun and friendship. Come explore with us and feed your spirit of adventure.

Activities Program

Notes to Program and Preview Descriptions: DAY = Day Walk ...

Day Walks by Bus

Melbourne Bushwalkers, one of Victoria's most active ...

MBW membership

How to Join · Visit the clubroom for a brief introduction by a member ...

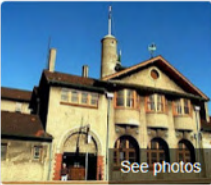
Frequently Asked Questions

Melbourne Bushwalkers has introduced the Bushwalking ...

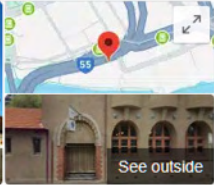
About Melbourne Bushwalkers

The club offers a full programme of activities throughout the year ...

More results from mbw.org.au »



See photos



See outside

Melbourne Bushwalkers - Club Rooms

Website | Directions | Save

4.7 ★★★★★ 3 Google reviews

Corporate office in Docklands, Victoria

Located in: The Mission to Seafarers Victoria

Address: Mission to Seafarers, 717 Flinders St, Docklands VIC 3008

Hours: Closed · Opens 11 am Tue

[Suggest an edit](#) · [Own this business?](#)

Misty mountain views - M. Simpson

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# 'The 4 Peaks Challenge' - 2025

Think you can rise to the challenge of 'summitting' Mt Leura, Mt Sugarloaf, Mt Elephant and Mt Noorat on the same day?

Then this Friends of Mt Leura Inc. activity, in partnership with Mt Leura & Mt Sugarloaf Management Committee, is a must do for you and your family or friends.



**When:** Sunday April 13th 2025 ... for a full day of activity.

**Where:** Meet/start @ Volcanic Education Centre (Mt Leura Road, Camperdown) at base of Mt Leura at 9.30am. Coffee van onsite.

**BYO:** Morning tea, lunch, snacks and plenty to drink; sunscreen, day pack plus camera and/or binoculars for the terrific views.

**Wear:** Sturdy footwear and clothing suitable for the weather.

**Transport:** BYO vehicle.

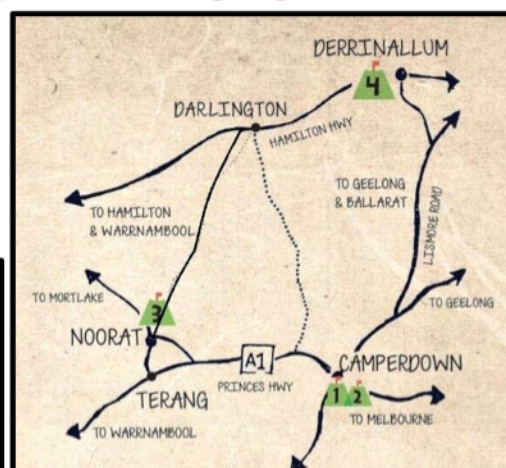
*All welcome, and bring the kids ... but please note that some steep and rough terrain will be encountered so a degree of physical fitness is required.*

***This is our 6<sup>th</sup> '4 Peaks Challenge' .... Keep the tradition going!***

**For more information contact FoML:**

**John Fallon on 0487 341 337**

**Supported by:**



### New Year at Mt Hotham – 27 December-1 January 2025

Quentin Tibballs

The MBW Mount Hotham base camp group arrived at Asgaard lodge on the 27th December and exited the lodge on 1st January, which allowed for 4 days of walking. This activity was shared with the Catholic Walking Club of Victoria (CWCV) who occupied Tanderra lodge at Hotham for the same period. There were 21 walkers from Melbourne Bushies, some of whom stayed for 2 or 3 days only, whilst there were about 18 from the CBWV, 4 of whom camped at JB Plain.



There were several walks of different standards offered each day to accommodate different walking capabilities as well as a tennis afternoon and an evening revue. The weather throughout the 4 days was ideal for walking – maximum between 15-20 degrees for the period although it did dip in the evening.

The program:

#### Sat 28 December – day one:

##### **Mt Feathertop via Razorback and return** – 22km, 800m rise (Alltrails)

A group of 9 (8 MBW, 1 CWCV) left Diamantina Hut at 8.25am and, although a stipulation was set that a walker had to be at the turnoff to Federation hut at 12.30pm to be allowed to climb Feathertop, this wasn't necessary as all walkers, bar one who elected to remain at the Federation turnoff, were on Feathertop summit at midday. It was chilly on top with a breeze despite the temperature of the day being about 18 degrees, however we were entertained by a piloted glider that seemed determined to get as close to the summit as possible without actually crashing into it. The Razorback track itself is in places very rocky and the maximum speed that can be expected from a reasonably good walker is 4km/hr., however the group mostly walked at their own pace and finished uneventfully.

##### **The Cobungra Ditch Walk** (with car shuffle) – 13km, 200m rise approx. (Alltrails)

There was a group of 14 initially for this walk which began with a car shuffle with vehicles left at the car park at the entrance to the track to the Brandy Creek mine. The walk participants were a mix of both clubs and began with a descent down the Davenport Access Tk (an unsealed road) to the Cobungra Ditch. However, due to different walking capabilities, the group was divided into 2 subgroups in transit.



#### Sun 29 December – day two:

##### **Montane Walk and Precipice Plain** – 13km, 320m rise (Alltrails)

This is a circular walk through mostly forest, apart from 4wd track back from Precipice Plain, and again the group was divided into a smaller, less brisk walker group of 4 who did not take the sidetrack to Precipice Plain, and a faster group that completed the whole walk.

##### **Dead Timber Hill Track / Room With a View Track** – 4-8km, 90-200m rise (Alltrails)

This was the easier option for the day and walkers could choose to make it even easier by walking just one of the choices above and finishing early to have lunch at Dinner Plain.

#### Mon 30 December – day three:

##### **Brabralung Trail** (with car shuffle) – 12km, 210m rise

There were only 3 takers for this walk – walking from Hotham to Dinner Plain.



## Along the track

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### **Mt Hotham from Asgaard – many choices**

The majority of walkers chose this – some walked only to the summit, or part thereof, whilst others did a round trip to Diamantina Hut.

### **Tennis afternoon at Dinner Plain**

There are 2 tennis courts at DP which are surfaced by what appears to be Plexipave, however only one had a net and the surface is broken in places by ice action (as was explained to us by a resident). However, there were 7 in total who picked up a racquet and although there were varying levels of expertise we all had a heap of fun.



### **Evening revue at Asgaard**

I decided to incorporate this event into the program because of its success the last 2 Christmases when I have booked out Asgaard for the CWCV. It is surprising the theatrical talent lying dormant in your average bushwalker – only needing a glass (or two) of wine and good company to surface. We had about a dozen acts which included – jokes, poems, limericks and Greek dancing (inspired by Angela V who left before the show began).

Much enjoyment was had by all.



### **Tues 31 December – day four:**

**Mt Tabletop and return from JB Plain - 11.6km (to centre of plateau), 435m rise (Alltrails)**

There were 9 on this walk – we left at 9.10am and returned at 2.00pm (leisurely pace). On the outward journey the track was very grassy and difficult to follow for the first 2km then entered scrubby woodland. It was easier to follow here but progress was stalled at times to negotiate fallen trees. The descent into the valley separating Tabletop from JB Plain was steep but manageable and the ascent up Tabletop follows an obvious spur and not too difficult, however once on the plateau the

track was indistinct and only present for the northern half of the plateau. Progress to a lookout point at the southern end of the plateau was judged very difficult because of dense scrub and was not attempted. Instead, lunch was had halfway along at a rocky outcrop with good views to Precipice Plain to the east.

**Derrick Hut walk** (with car shuffle to Loch car park) – 9km return, approx. 200m rise

Several walkers took this walk.

**Wonderland and Christmas Hill Trail** – 4 to 8km, 80 – 200m rise

There are several walk options in this area from a few kms and flat to 8km with a 200m rise. The walkers were divided into smaller groups to suit their abilities.

### **New Years Eve dinner at The General**



## Upcoming activities

### February 2025

Sun 2	DAY: Wombat Station-Sailors Falls-Daylesford	Bus	E/M&M	Andrew Francis & Chris Lord
Mon 3	MTG: Club Committee meeting	Pvt		Derrick Brown
Thu 6	DAY: The Briars-Balcombe Creek	Pvt	E	Halina Sarbinowski
Sun 9	DAY: Warrandyte to Wonga Park	Bus	E/M&M	Hiroko Nagano & Christopher Collett
Tue 11	MTG: Video session: How to read a topographic map	Pvt	E	Robert Ian Mair
Wed 12	DAY: Domino Rail Trail	Pvt	E	Robert Ian Mair
14-20	PC: Three Capes - Tasmania	Pvt	M	Robert Ian Mair
14-17	MNT: McMillans Walking Track-Crooked River to 25 Mile Creek	Pvt		Joe Van Beek (BTAC)
Sun 16	DAY: Plenty Gorge-Blue Lake	Car	E/M	Jopie Bodegraven
Mon 17	DAY: Yarra Boathouses of Kew	Pvt	E	Graham Hodgson
22-23	PC: Mt Baw Baw	Pvt	E	John Gurskey & Hiroko Nakano
Sun 23	DAY: Mount Worth	Bus	E&E/M	Bettina Brill & Brett Daniel
Wed 26	SOC: Walking in Europe	Pvt		Peter Heading
Wed 26	DAY: One Tree Hill the back way via Chandlers Hill	Pvt	E/M	Chris Lord
Thu 27	SOC: Wattle Park	Pvt	Soc	Liz Gwynn
27-3	MNT: AAWT-Misery Trail-Macs-Dead Horse Ck	Pvt		John Green (BTAC)

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)

