

MELBOURNE
BUSHWALKERS INC.

ABN 14 396 912 508



THE NEWS

#895

October
2025



Enjoying the summit of Mt Koooyoora - G. Martin

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 6 October

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:

Wendy Jane Carr
Alister Briggs

Lukas Steinwender
Juliana Conte

Piotr Golec
Deena Louise Ryan

Katja Critters



Wedderburn wildflowers: Pink fingers Caladenia, Spiny bitter pea, Blue Caladenia (Cyanicula caerulea) - R Jung

Would you like your trip photos featured in the newsletter?

Due date for contributions to November News: 21 October

Email: news@mbw.org.au



Our Club is made up of a huge team of volunteers, filling roles such as walks leaders, committee members, Wednesday night helpers, trainers, various coordinators, an awards panel, and much more behind the scenes. In addition to this, I would like to highlight that we have two active sub-committees working on our behalf, namely, the **Social Media Working Group** and the **Future Directions Sub-committee**.

Here is a brief description of their mandate:

The Social Media Working Group

Discussion has looked at why are we on social media? What the Club does now and how successful has our effort been? What alternatives are there, and what else can we do on social media?

The Club maintains three accounts: Facebook, Instagram and Meet-Up. Are they cost effective?

Future Directions Sub-committee

What type of Club do we want the Melbourne Bushwalkers to be in the future?

We reaffirm the Referencing the Club's existing historical Statement of Purpose:

- (a) To bring together those who enjoy bushwalking and related outdoor activities
- (b) To encourage an appreciation of the wildlife and natural beauty of this country and assist in its preservation
- (c) To organise walking tours and other outdoor activities
- (d) To promote social activities among the members.

SWOT Review - Strengths, Weaknesses - Opportunities, Threats

What makes us a strong club, and what are our weaknesses – this is largely internally focused

What are our opportunities to be a better club and what threats do we face?

This is an opportune moment to mention **The Awards Panel** which looks at all nominations for Life Membership, Honorary Membership, "Above and Beyond the Call of Duty" and "Going The Extra Mile" awards.

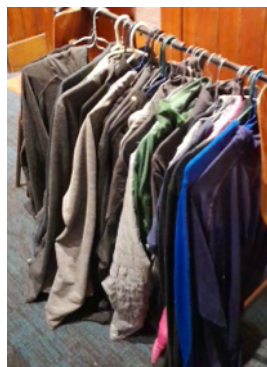
Should you like to add your own input, please email secretary@mbw.org.au

Susan Maughan



Pre-loved bushwalking gear exchange night

The Club's not-so-regular gear night proved to be, yet again, a successful and popular event. Thank-you to the ten people who set up tables and to the fifty Bushies who contributed to a great atmosphere. Brett sold Club items, raised a lot of money for more hire equipment, and used the opportunity to display his Thespian side!



October Safety and Risk Reminders

This month the focus is on the **fire season** ahead, with its associated heat impacts, and the **Clubs policy on children on activities**.

Fire Season (MOD): The Fire Season generally starts in October and runs through to the end of April. So look out for Total Fire Bans and use the **Vic Emergency App** to keep across what's happening near you.

See the article on the Spring Fire Season Outlook in this News. We are looking at a longer fire Season overall, possibly an earlier start in Victoria, and more extreme fire danger days. The South West of Victoria is expected to have an increased risk of fires.

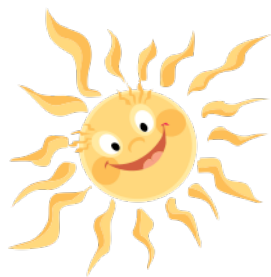
If there is a **Total Fire Ban in an activity area** or if the temperature at the Temperature Reference Site is 38 degrees or more (**Extreme Heat Policy**) then all day walks are cancelled. Extended Walks are cancelled or if they have commenced either cancelled or amended for safety.

In Fire Season Leaders should:

- Ensure the **Emergency Plus** (for accurate location data) and **Vic Emergency App** (for incidents and warnings) are loaded onto their mobile. Encourage walkers to do the same.
- Take a **Personal Locator Beacon (PLB)** as required by our updated PLB Policy.
- Review the Activity Guidelines on **Extreme Weather** and **Considering Bushfire Risk before an Overnight Walk**.
- Take an **AM/FM radio or ABC App** for checking ABC Emergency Warnings.
- Remind walkers to **carry a minimum of 2L of water**.

All groups must have mobile phones preferably with good remote area coverage. The above safety items are also useful in dealing with floods and flooded creek/river crossings.

Both PLBs (checked periodically by the Club, **you don't need to test them!**) along with digital radios (**you should check the batteries!**) can be borrowed from the Clubrooms.



Hyperthermia or Heat Illness: There are several forms of **hyperthermia or heat illness**. Early symptoms such as **heat cramps** are fairly mild, **Heat Exhaustion** is more severe, and **Heat Stroke** is the most serious form of hyperthermia. It can be life-threatening. So avoiding it yourself and knowing how to recognise it in others is important. See the St Johns Ambulance Information Sheet in this News.

If someone is delirious or not responsive and vomiting, they need immediate first aid and medical assistance.

The Red Cross **First Aid** app is free and works in Airplane Mode on your Smartphone. It is useful for remembering what to do for Hyperthermia and most other medical emergencies at home or outdoors.

Children on Activities: Club rules and bylaws require members to be over 18 years of age. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. In addition the activity organiser/leader needs to give their approval prior to the activity (By Law 5.7).

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



Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Spring 2025 in Victoria

Summary:

- An increased risk of fire is predicted for drought-affected areas across the south-west, west and central areas of Victoria, as well as south-west Gippsland.
- The increased risk is mostly expected later in spring.



Seasonal Bushfire Outlook
Spring 2025



Victoria has lowest-on-record 18-month rainfall deficits persisting across the west of the state and extending across west central and through south-west Gippsland. This deficit has also been expanding into the north-central and central highlands. These areas have a significant accumulation of dead plant material and have potential to heighten significant bushfire activity.

Autumn was very dry across Victoria, but substantial rainfall occurred in June and July with notably heavy falls across the south-west, central, eastern and north-east ranges. While the rainfall has resulted in the top layer of soil being damp, lower-level soil remains historically dry in some areas, with uncertainty in how long the top layer of soil will stay damp.

While forest fire potential is likely to remain suppressed through early to mid-spring, a lack of spring rainfall could see underlying dryness rebound quickly, driving a rapid shift to above-normal fire potential in late spring and summer. Areas with arid vegetation types may dry out quicker and support bushfires with any warmer, windy weather.

As a result, despite recent rainfall, above-average fire potential is still expected for drought-affected areas in Victoria, mostly later in spring. The rainfall in June-July is likely to generate green growth in paddocks through spring, once again concealing underlying dryness. Grass is likely to dry out earlier than normal.

Across much of eastern Victoria, the fire risk potential is assessed to be normal, due to higher landscape moisture. Much of the north has been assessed to have normal risk, with the likelihood of a wetter outlook. There remains uncertainty about the rain expected; if less rainfall occurs, then areas like the Otways and Dandenong Ranges may rapidly switch to above-average fire potential. Monitoring of rainfall and fuel conditions will occur throughout spring to identify key risk areas leading into the summer period.

The full national report can be downloaded here:

<https://www.afac.com.au/public-resources/036dac54-01b4-4333-a7c3-4c17d905b10c>

Training activity: First Aid Course

Date: Saturday 29 November **Time:** 9.30am-4.00pm **Venue:** Rowville
Contact: Quentin Tibballs



The **registration cost is \$135** and is an all-day course in Rowville - however, attendees will get a \$40 reimbursement or, for Bush Search and Rescue volunteers, a \$50 reimbursement from Bushwalking Victoria. MBW leaders who have led 2 or more walks in the past 12 months will get a reimbursement of \$95 so there is no out of pocket cost to them.

Comprehensive pre-reading is required. Topics to be covered are: Cardiac arrest / managing an unconscious patient / defibrillation; Fractures; Sprains / strains; Snake bites; Head injury / spinal injury; Bleeding management; Asthma / anaphylaxis / Epipens; Burns.

The certificates to be obtained are: **Provide First Aid (HLTAID011)** + Outback First Aid variation (commonly known as a Level 2 certificate); **Provide Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (HLTAID009)** (First 2.5 hours)

More details on website Activity Program. **Please email Quentin on geoq@bigpond.com if interested** and he will send you further details.

Heat-induced illnesses

**IN A MEDICAL EMERGENCY
CALL TRIPLE ZERO (000) FOR AN AMBULANCE.**

DRSABCD Danger ► Response ► Send for help ► Airway ► Breathing ► CPR ► Defibrillation
The DRSABCD Action Plan is the first step when providing first aid. Use this to assess the immediate situation. DOWNLOAD THE DRSABCD FACT SHEET

HEAT EXHAUSTION

WARNING
If a person with heat exhaustion is not managed appropriately, they can develop heat stroke.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- feeling hot, exhausted, weak and fatigued
- persistent headache
- thirst
- nausea
- faintness, dizziness
- rapid breathing and shortness of breath
- pale, cool, moist skin
- rapid, weak pulse

WHAT TO DO

- Move the patient to a cool place with circulating air.
- Help the patient to sit or lie down in a comfortable position.
- Remove unnecessary clothing from the patient, and loosen any tight clothing.
- Sponge the patient with cold water.
- Give the patient cool water to drink.
- Seek medical aid if the patient vomits or does not recover quickly.

HEAT STROKE

WARNING
Heat stroke is potentially life-threatening and immediate medical aid is needed.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- high body temperature of 40°C or more
- flushed, dry skin
- pounding, rapid pulse that gradually weakens
- headache and irritability
- nausea, vomiting
- visual disturbances
- faintness, dizziness, confusion
- loss of consciousness
- seizures

WHAT TO DO

- Follow DRSABCD.
- Call triple zero (000) for an ambulance.
- Move the patient to a cool place with circulating air.
- Help the patient to sit or lie down in a comfortable position.
- Remove almost all the patient's clothing, and loosen any tight clothing.
- Apply a cold pack to areas of large blood vessels such as the neck, groin and armpits, to accelerate cooling.
- If possible, cover the patient with a wet sheet and fan to increase air circulation. Stop cooling when the patient feel cold to touch.
- If patient is fully conscious and is able to swallow, give them cool water to sip.



Training activity: Navigation by map and compass

Date: Saturday 25 October
Time: 10am-3pm
Leader: Quentin Tibballs
Venue: Chewton State Forest

This training day will be conducted on the Victorian Rogaining Association's permanent course in the Chewton State Forest.

Maps and compasses will be supplied. Car sharing from Melbourne may be arranged. See website Activity Program for more details.

Contact Quentin on geoq@bigpond.com



Fifteen Trees update – your donations at work

Jill Allen

A few years ago, members of Melbourne Bushwalkers teamed up with Fifteen Trees and Upper Goulburn Landcare (UGLN) to plant out 500 trees. A total of \$5000 was donated from the club and its members for this project.

It was a fitting way to celebrate our 80-year milestone and assure future generations of having bush to walk in. The trees were planted on Sunday September 18th in wet sclerophyll forest (dominated by Mountain Ash, Messmate and Mountain Grey Gum), in the mountainous district of Kinglake. The trees planted were a mixture of Mountain Grey Gum, Messmate, Blackwood, Round-leaf Pomaderris, Silver Wattle, Silky Goodia, Musk Daisy Bush, Hairpin Banksia and Mountain Tea-tree.

I would like to report the trees are going beautifully and some are standing at over 4m tall! Others have been damaged by wild deer (!) but the owner has replaced the guards and most of the trees will recover from the pruning.



Advanced Leadership Skills Series

For November we are looking at:

Delegation

This covers:

Steps in Delegation; Delegation Styles;
Barriers to Delegation
This item is also very relevant to the
Assistant Leader Role.

Note: The complete set of articles is
available on the Website



This Year's "LEADERS' TRAINING DAY"

Sat 8th November, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Clubrooms

This is a great opportunity to increase your skills and build confidence to take on leading roles!

Suitable for new leaders, current leaders, and those thinking about leading.

Presenters: Angela Vetsicas, Ian Mair, and Mick Noonan.

So You Want to Become a Leader?

- The concept of leadership.
- Different styles of leadership and Key Relationships
 - Skills and Attributes of Outdoor Leaders

Walk Research, Planning & Previewing

- Why, Who, Where, When and How to organise a walk.
- Conducting a preview, what to do before, during and after.
- Resources to access when selecting a walk, especially our extensive data base.

Activity Processes, Documentation & Resources

- Walk description and grading, walker registration.
- Map, GPS track and walk notes, transport plans, emergency details, incident reports.
 - Online Website and Paper Processes.

Conducting the Walk

- Tasks which need to be completed a week and a day prior to the walk.
- Tasks to perform after you arrive at the walk but before you start walking; appointing a Whip.
 - How to conduct your walk in a safe manner so that all participants enjoy the walk.

Risk Management & Safety

- Basics of Risk Management, and how it is involved in most decisions that we make.
 - Identify and Evaluate Risks.
- Use strategies to manage risks, practical examples.
 - Legal responsibilities; Leader protections.

Critical Incident Management

- What are Critical Incidents, how to avoid them/reduce their impact.
- Dealing with the Critical Incident and with Emergency Services, Scenario Exercises.
 - Post Activity support for recovery and grieving.
- A Leader's view of the new Club Critical Incident Processes.

Overview of Further Training & Development Opportunities

- Navigation e.g. Map Reading, Field Day, GPS, Smartphone, etc
 - Bushcraft, First Aid, Light Weight Walking etc
- Advanced Training – Leadership Skills. Base Camps, Pack Carrys

Memorable Bushwalking Moments – Part 3

The Cathedrals – 12-13 December 1998

Barbara Goldfinch

It was 30 degrees at 6am when we left Melbourne. George had not done an overnight pack carry and was planning to go on Jean Geise's 5 day High Plains walk. He needed a practice run.

10 minutes walking from Ned's car park, George returned to the car to jettison some extraneous gear, he had not listened to my advice about pack weight.

A snake was lazing in the sun and showed no inclination to move as we approached. The march flies were ferocious. At Ned's saddle we had lunch and saw our first lyre bird. Leaving our packs, we climbed the Cathedral summit and admired the view of the Acheron Valley. The mountain top was a patchwork of boulders and spring wildflowers. Here we felt the cool breeze preceding the weather change.

Reluctantly, we returned to our packs. It was difficult to walk even 10 minutes between stops as it was still so hot. Light rain fell. Finally, a stronger gust of wind and a heavier shower announced the long-awaited change. Arriving at The Farmyard, steam was rising, the effect of cool rain on hot earth. Revived with some fruit, we set about finding water, as we were critically short.

The map indicated 3 springs on the Jawbones track. Within 5 minutes we found the first trickles then a cascade lower down. We drank, filled water bottles and splashed. The relief was wonderful. Camp was set up, sharing the site with only the lyrebirds. Dinner was a delicious fry of vegetables with satay sauce. We then climbed South Jawbone sitting like 2 eagles in an eyrie, a vertical drop below us and range upon range in the distance.



We washed off the day's sweat. Clean and content, we retired to the tent, listening to soft rain. During the night, George left the tent for a 'nature break'. Gone awhile, I turned on my torch and peered out, unable to see anything in the intense blackness. 'Keep the torch on,' he called. Finally, a disembodied pair of hairy thighs and an assortment of dangly bits appeared in the circle of torch light. Just as well I was a nurse!

Sunday morning was still hot. We reviewed our options. As Saturday had been so taxing, we decided to omit the climb to Sugarloaf. At Cooks Mill, in a pool on Little River we skinny dipped. Life was good.

A few words of advice – know or learn your limitations, listen to experienced walkers, consider taking an instruction course on bushwalking, be able to adapt if conditions are adverse and take a torch if you leave the tent at night!

The Mountain of Light – Kooyoora - September 29-31, 2025

Geof Martin



We wish to acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Djandak lands, the Dja Dja Wurrung (Jaara) people for allowing us the opportunity to share this magnificent place.

Overview:

Kooyoora State Park (also known as Melville Caves) is 45min west of Bendigo. Ken MacMahon organised this base camp as an explorative ramble based on an old hand-drawn map of the area. It's a bit like a treasure map created by an old member of the Bushies back in the 60's. Fred Halls was knowledgeable about first nations people and natural history. He loved Kooyoora and fought hard for its preservation, and it became a state park in 1985. As a group of 13, Ken used this map to re-

discover some of the hidden treasures of Kooyoora. These would include distinctive domed granite outcrops and tors, a wealth of evidence of the occupation by the indigenous Jaara people, the diverse flora and wildlife and a history of European intrusion in mining and pastoral activities.

The Camp and Walk:

The weather forecast for western Victoria for our first night - 'worst weather for 3 years' was fast approaching with winds of 100km predicted. We did our best to be sociable in the early evening around a very breezy and cold shelter, however being so buffeted and starting to become hypothermic we began calling it a night around 7.00.

After a noisy night of roaring winds likened to a jet engine, we magically arose to a fine morning ready to embark on our day of walking. Our route took us firstly to the 'Melville Caves' which are some of many granite overhangs and overlapping tors which form a network of shelters. The Jaara people used these caves to shelter from the weather and amongst the sandy floors stone artefacts have been found. Other remnants of Aboriginal occupation in the



Kooyoora State Park are many 'scar' trees, the bark being used to make 'coolamons' and shields.

The task now was to explore the southern reaches of the park and walk the high granite domes in search of 'gnamma' - natural waterholding depressions or rock wells. As water is scarce in Kooyoora, the Jaara used and maintained these important water sources, modifying them to make them deeper and fabricated lids to reduce evaporation and fouling from debris and animal intrusion.

Back at camp as the evening approached, a fire was struck, corks pulled, chairs unfolded into a neat circle of chatter and in the still of a crisp night the moon grinned and the stars danced - the previous night a distant memory.



Along the track

On the last day the morning brought with it a still and mystical fog making the environs very atmospheric - quite surreal. The task today was an off-track exploration to the highest peak Mt Kooyoora (486m). Our route took us past the historic White Swan Quartz Mine which operated during World War II, producing industrial and ornamental quartz. As we progressed higher through a boulder field the fog started to lift and the landscape above announced itself. The sun lighting up the granite tors of Mt Kooyoora's summit - the 'Mountain of Light' (*indigenous translation*) - such a spiritual experience. The highlight of the climb was exceptional views in all directions, and a very inviting campsite at the summit, a great place to savor our morning tea. Our return saw us having lunch at the lovely Melville Caves Picnic Area with the conversation centred around how amazing and diverse Kooyoora State Park is - 'can't wait to come back, particularly to camp on the summit'.



Thanks to Ken for his time and effort. His detailed planning and preparation made for a very well organised and exciting trip.

Birds and Botany at Wedderburn – 19-21 September 2025

Kerry Press.

Flower photos by Rob Jung

Despite the challenging weather, a dozen eager nature lovers gathered at Doug Pocock and Jan Llewelyn's beautiful property at Wedderburn for a weekend of exploration and bird and plant identification. As a former cleared and overgrazed sheep farm, this 900+ acres Bush Heritage property is now teeming with a diversity of native plants and wildlife. Over a period of about 23 years, Doug, his son Martin, and Jan, together with many keen volunteers, have addressed weeds and feral animals, erosion, soil compaction and other harmful impacts, to gradually transform the property into a landscape protected and enhanced for wildlife. Thousands of trees and shrubs have been planted and, as these have grown, the birds

have come back. Most impressive at this time of year are the vivid yellow blossoms of various species of wattle, offering a fluorescent splash of colour in this dry mallee landscape. Martin led one of the groups, with a special focus and expertise on birds, while the other group led by Doug focussed on plants. But, of course, it's impossible to only look at birds or just plants, so we all enjoyed a diversity of interesting species - whether looking up at birds or Ringtail Possums, or down, at plants, skinks and a praying mantis, or outwards to Western Grey kangaroos and Swamp Wallabies.

The early morning chorus of the birds enticed some of us out of our snug sleeping bags, and into the chilly morning light to investigate. Then at night when the clouds blew away we were able to see a myriad of



Yellow Gum, *E. leucoxylon*



Pink fingers, *Caladenia carnea*



Grevillea Alpina



Heath myrtle, *Micromyrtus ciliata*

birds over the weekend, including many different kinds of honeyeaters - Yellow-Tufted, Black Chinned, Brown Headed, White Naped, Yellow Faced, White Plumed, Spiny Cheeked, White Eared to name just a few. We saw the delightful little Mistletoe birds with their red fronts and blue/ black wings, the Crested Shrike Tit with its striped head and bright yellow chest, the busy chattering groups of Choughs and Babblers, a Little Eagle being attacked by a pair of Magpies, Wedge tailed Eagles soaring high up in the clouds. There were Diamond Firetails, White Winged Trillers, Red-Capped, Hooded and Yellow Robins, Weebills, Cuckoos and Restless Flycatchers...

Then there were the nests: the Choughs' perfect pottery bowl high in the eucalypts, the tangled piles of twigs constructed by the babblers in the lower shrubs, the exquisite little cup nest woven with moss and spider's web by one of the smaller bush birds. But the absolute highlight of the weekend involved the most impressive nest of all, made by Mallee fowl. Given their precarious and threatened status, it was such a privilege to visit the mound of a pair that live on the Wedderburn property. The mound, built of gravel and stones accumulated and maintained over centuries, was huge, spanning maybe 10 metres in diameter and rising to a height of around 3 metres. Although the Mallee



Phebalium festivum, Dainty Phebalium

stars, constellations and the Milky Way.

All weekend the weather was blustery and changeable, with strong cold winds, occasional rain and brief moments of blue sky and sunshine, but that didn't stop us getting out all day to roam across the property. A number of wildflowers were out, including the lovely purple flowering *Euryomyrtus* (formerly *Baeckia*), pink and blue *Caladenia* orchids, little Greenhood orchids and Sundews, the yellow and red pea flowers of *Eutaxia*, purple *Indigofera* blossoms and, of course, the brilliant wattles with their soft perfumes. Some of us tasted the sticky sweet seeds of the mistletoe too.

And as for birds, well what a treat! We saw at least 60 different



Doug's Mallee Fowl on their mound

fowl weren't present when we visited, it was evident that the central mound was being actively tended by them. The birds not only kept the piled up stones and gravel very tidy, but also brought sticks, leaves and soil to the centre where the female will lay her eggs deep within the mound. Through a remarkable ability to check and adjust the internal temperature of the mound by adding or removing material, the male Mallee fowl maintains the temperature at around 34 degrees in order to incubate the eggs. Later in the day we were surprised and delighted to actually see this pair of Mallee fowl quite a distance from their mound. Oblivious to dangers, they had just crossed the road after visiting some adjacent bushland and were slowly making their way back to their mound, casually stopping to eat along the way.

Martin took some of us for a little spotlight walk through the forest at night and we were lucky to see two Ringtail Possums and a surprised Galah high up in the treetops. Stopping by a little pond we were treated to a noisy chorus from at least four different species of frogs.



Scarlet sundew, *Drosera glanduligera*

This adventure certainly wasn't your typical Melbourne Bushies weekend base camp. We may not have covered big distances but from dawn until dusk we energetically explored and discovered birds and plants, learnt about the bush regeneration and so much more. Many people in the group knew quite a bit about different aspects of nature and we were able to share and learn so much together. Doug, Martin and Jan have tremendous knowledge and passion which they generously shared with us. It was inspiring to witness what can be achieved when the land is actively cared for. Doug and Jan's property is truly a haven now for wildlife.



Greenhood orchids, *Pterostylis*

Thanks to fellow adventurers and nature lovers, Fay, Jerry, Deb, Rob, Roger, Jeannette, Gill and Ralph for sharing this special weekend. And from us all a big thank you to Doug for the initiative to run such an interesting weekend for us, and of course to Jan and Martin and Doug for making it such a successful and interesting two and a half days.

bunjil nganga Parkland (Quarry Hills) – 24 September 2025

Therese Ryan



There are definite advantages to Wednesday walks and the best is having a beautiful area to ourselves. This was the case on Jopie's 12 km circuit walk to Quarry Hills in South Morang. Almost! We did meet one dog walker!

This place is a gem. Hidden in outer suburban Melbourne, not far from Plenty Gorge, the Quarry Hills Parkland is of granite and metamorphic rock. It offers true 360-degree views with Mounts Macedon, St Leonard, Dandenong, Disappointment and Blackwood all clearly visible.

After a short distance through pretty streets, we reached the open woodland of the Hills. The walk over the hills followed good tracks. It is quite exposed in parts but

fortunately the worst rain of the day held off until after our lunch in a sheltered area and after we had enjoyed the fantastic views.

Suburbia seems to be creeping up along the valleys but the park of 114 hectares is set to increase enormously. There are lots of new plantings and picnic structures, which, like the whole park, have been designed in consultation with the local Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung representatives.

With a cafe close to the end of the walk, it was only a few kilometres after coffee to reach our cars. A most pleasant way to spend a Wednesday!



Upcoming activities

October 2025

Thu 2	DAY: Hillclimb Track-Sherbrooke Forest	Pvt	E	Graham Hodgson
Sun 5	DAY: NEW: Mandurang South	Bus	E&E/M	Brett Daniel & Theo Mertzandis
Mon 6	MTG: Club Committee Meeting (Video)	Pvt		Susan Maughan
Wed 8	DAY: Tanglefoot Track	Pvt	E/M	Fay Dunn
11-12	BC: FedWalks 2025: Halls Gap (Grampians)	Pvt	Various	
11-12	PC: Vaughan Springs-Hepburn Springs	Pvt	E	Bernadette Young
Sun 12	DAY: Devilbend Reservoir (Mornington)	Car	E/M	Wendy Mililli
Fri 17	SOC: Studley Park Sunset Walk	Pvt	Soc	Susan Maughan
18-19	PC: Mt Alexander	Pvt	E	Robert Ian Mair
Sun 19	DAY: Cowans & Spanish Onion Track	Bus	E/M&E/M	Quentin Tibballs & Matthias Frey
Mon 20	DAY: NEW: Hovells Creek (train based)	Pvt	E	Halina Sarbinowski
Wed 22	DAY: Point Nepean	Pvt	E/M	Judith Shaw
Thu 23	SOC: Westerfolds Park, Templestowe	Pvt	Soc	Pearson Cresswell
24-26	PC: Black Range	Pvt	M	Robert Ian Mair
Sat 25	DAY: Brimbank Park	Pvt	E	Maureen Hurley
Sat 25	TRG: Navigation by Map and Compass	Pvt		Quentin Tibballs
Sun 26	DAY: Britannia Range-Yarra State Forest	Bus	E&E/M	Grant Roger & Tanya Chambers
Wed 29	SOC: Scotland on Foot	Pvt		Robert Ian Mair

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

