

MELBOURNE
BUSHWALKERS INC.

ABN 14 396 912 508



THE NEWS

#901

April
2026



Stepping out across the High Plains - P. Neish

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 13 April

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

Editor: Deb Shand

Calls for expressions of interest for club activities and extended trips, walk reviews, articles, poems, news items, photographs of Club events, reports of new gear, book/ movie reviews, letters to the editor, advertisements, et cetera are always welcome (maximum 400 words recommended). However, the Editor reserves the right to edit contributions where space, clarity or propriety dictate, and to maintain editorial consistency.

Note: photographs should be sent as separate high resolution files which are capable of being edited.

Please send your contributions as unformatted text files by email to news@mbw.org.au

Closing date for receipt of material for The News is the 21st of the month.

Advertisements should relate to bushwalking (e.g. gear, maps, trips, tours, health and fitness etc.). These may be published subject to space availability and Editor's discretion. For current advertising rates contact the Editor at news@mbw.org.au

New Members

We welcome these new members to the club:

John Raymond Sciberra
Annette Cameron
Angelica Payne
Karen McMillan
Jani Jacobs
Annie Stonier
Nicholas Weiland
Karen Iloni
Russell Tricker



Beetle spotted recently in the bush near Fryerstown, Vic. - D. Shand



Chrysolopus spectabilis

Species of beetle

About

Wikipedia

Chrysolopus spectabilis is a species of weevil found in south-eastern Australia. It was discovered during James Cook's first voyage, and became one of the first insects to be described from Australia. The weevil measures up to 25 mm long and includes distinctive metallic green and black scales. It is found only on 28 species of the plant genus Acacia.

Would you like your trip photos featured in the newsletter?

Due date for contributions to May News: 21 April

Email: news@mbw.org.au



Recently I had the pleasure of spending an extended time with several new members of the club, so I took the opportunity to find out what brought them to Melbourne Bushwalkers. Answers included: the attraction of the Sunday bus, my brother used to be a member, the chance to go into the High Country, my friend dragged me along, the Sunday bus, and... the Sunday bus. You can definitely see a theme!

Sometimes we join with a specific goal in mind, then discover that all sorts of possibilities open up. There will be people who never expected to walk around the Prom (sometimes in a day!), others might never have contemplated undertaking the Larapinta, or maybe closer to home, you'd never explored our foreshores of Williamstown, Geelong or Elsternwick. Never say never.

For myself, I love sharing favourite places, but I'm also glad to explore new vistas, meet other challenges, and have the chance to experience personal growth. Along the track we sometimes feel adrenalin, learn to motivate ourselves when faced with yet another hill, and sometimes, sometimes, have a moment of quiet contemplation. I think these are small, but meaningful gifts to ourselves.

At the AGM on 25 March your new committee for 2026 was elected. I am happy to confirm that the Club is in a strong financial position, and this is an opportune moment to thank Marianne for her steady hand as Treasurer, and to give a huge thanks to Ray Spooner and Rachel Keen who volunteer to be our financial reviewers. The membership numbers are at dizzying heights! All the key positions were retained, meaning we have continuity and historic reference as we go forward. Please see committee members listed below.

Susan



Melbourne Bushwalkers Committee 2026/27

President (president@mbw.org.au)

Susan MAUGHAN

Vice Presidents

Ian PRICE
David STOCKLEY

Secretary (secretary@mbw.org.au)

Andreas MEISTER

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

Marianne WELLER

Membership Secretary (membership@mbw.org.au)

Halina SARBINOWSKI

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

Stuart HANHAM

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

Quentin TIBBALLS

Social Secretary (social@mbw.org.au)

Bernadette PRUNTY

General Committee Members

Jill ALLEN
Nina IZETT
Bernd NEUBAUER
Geetha KURUDI *

* New to Committee for 2026/27

Thank you – Ian Mair (as he leaves the MBW committee)

I'm sure most of you know Ian who, from Club records, joined Melbourne Bushwalkers in June 2003. From then, until the present time, his contribution to the Club has been phenomenal.

The website indicates that since January 2005 until the end of March 2026 he will have organised, co-ordinated and led 276 activities of which 217 have been walking trips.

These can be broken down into 18 mid-week walks, 11 Base Camps, 4 Lodge based, 86 Sunday walks, 60 weekend Pack Carries, 14 Beginners Pack Carries and 24 extended Pack Carry trips in Australia or overseas. That amounts to a lot of walking days!

He has also organised 6 Cycling trips, spoken on 20 occasions at Club Social nights about personal walks, presented either on line or in person for 21 Leaders Training events and conducted 12 other video sessions to members on bushwalking related topics.

Ian initiated holding video sessions on line through our Covid lock downs and has used video links to provide other interesting sessions from time to time to members. He has also attended numerous Club social functions, external meetings and an enormous number of committee meetings. All combined that is a huge amount of time, energy and commitment.

He has given a staggering amount of time as the Club's webmaster, developing the website to the standard we see today, constantly maintaining and monitoring the content. Many visitors to the Club comment on how good it is and there is a multitude of information behind the scenes detailing Club membership profiles and statistics, walk participant numbers, easy access to information for Leaders, past Walk Reports and maps, storage of Club Policies and historical documents. Ian initiated the archiving of Club records to ensure the history of Melbourne Bushwalkers was retained. There has also been an enormous amount of work done with the ever-popular Photogallery - rotating photos capturing the viewer's interest – and as we all know he has been one of the major contributors to the Photogallery.

Ian's computer skills have additionally been utilised when Melbourne Bushwalkers has been involved in organising or assisting with Federation Weekends. This is a huge workload in the planning stages, during the Registration process and final preparation of Participant Lists for walks. He has also assisted in leading walks at a number of Federation weekends to support other Clubs.

He is a strong supporter of the Melbourne Bushwalkers' Future Directions initiative, is a recipient of the ABCD Award (Above and Beyond Call of Duty) given to members who have "Gone the Extra Mile" (GTEM) and was one of the Architects of the Club's Mentoring approach, acting as a Development Mentor for the past 4 years guiding 6 members to become Day Walk or Pack Carry leaders. His enthusiasm and encouragement to members and Leaders has contributed to great camaraderie in the Club and assisted in Melbourne Bushwalkers growth, as well as strength, within the Victorian bushwalking community.

Ian was Vice President in 2012, 2013 and 2024 and Club President in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2022, and part of 2023. Ian what an amazing contribution you have given. All members say a huge "THANK YOU".

Margaret Curry

Member and Past President 2009, 2010, 2011



Ian deftly managing the technology for a clubroom presentation



Spotlight on... Doug Pocock

by Derrick Brown

DB: Doug, we've known each other for many years but I don't know where you were born.

DP: I was born in Birmingham, U.K., in 1942, the youngest in my family with three older sisters. I cannot remember anything of the war except that there was a victory party for the kids in the street and later a bonfire in the middle of the road. A piano was brought out of a neighbour's house and there was dancing around the fire. Both my parents were born in Sussex and we would go for holidays there and would walk miles over the South Downs.

DB: We have something in common then, as I was also born in the war years and I have a photo of the VE (Victory in Europe) Day street party. When did you come to Australia?

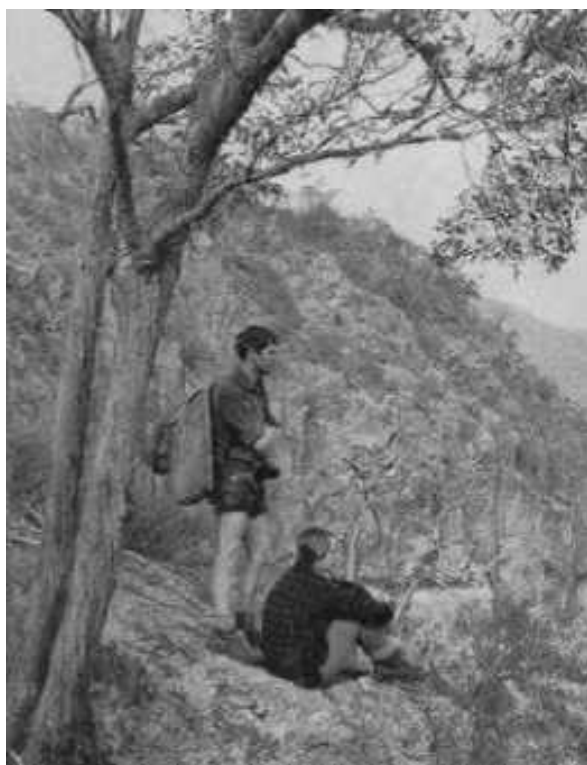
DP: Mum loathed Birmingham and eventually we came to Australia when I was nearly 10. I can't help but be in awe of how brave my parents were coming to Australia - Dad was 40 and Mum 37 with four kids aged from 9 to 15. We came to Clayton, which was very much an outer suburb. We had gas and electricity, roads were unmade (a quagmire in winter), no phone and no sewerage. The dunnyman and the iceman came weekly (not in the same truck!). Clayton was either bush or market garden and kids could run wild. When I was a bit older I had a horse and one of the favourite riding areas was South Clayton through the tea-tree forest sand tracks.

DB: Tell me about your education.

DP: A subject in my Diploma of Chemistry course was geology and I was introduced to Werribee Gorge on a field excursion and couldn't get over how wonderful it was. I had a mate (Bruce) in the local scout group and he took me for a bushwalk in the gorge. We took the train to Bacchus Marsh then walked up Werribee Vale Road and picked up the aqueduct at the weir. All the trestle bridges were there and we followed it to the start in the gorge. It took us two days to walk to the pool where the Myrniong Creek meets the Werribee River. At lunch time Bruce would re-hydrate a packet of Dewcrisp vegetables, make some pastry and then bake pasties in a fire. No wonder it took us so long to walk through!

DB: Was that the impetus to start bushwalking?

DP: Not quite. When I was 18 I was at a loose end on Labor Day weekend. I had noticed in the Moomba Festival program that the Federation of Vic Walking Clubs was having a walk over Mount Alexander to Castlemaine, so I went along. I thoroughly enjoyed the day. Various clubs were handing out their programs to drum up members. The Catholic Walking Club was the wrong religion, VMTC met on my night school night, but MBW was OK as it met on Friday nights. I was friends with a young lady who became unavailable (i.e. she dropped me!) so I decided to try out this bushwalking caper. I signed up for a train trip, Killara, Warramate Hills, Tarrawarra on Anzac Day 1961. On train trips we could buy a "Hikers Return", start at one station and return from another at about the same distance. It was wonderful, and I was hooked.



Doug on cover of Walk magazine, Vol. 21, 1970

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Noticeboard

The next time into the clubrooms (Room 110, 3rd Floor, Victorian Railways Institute) the Club was celebrating its 21st birthday. I was most impressed by the President's celebratory carrot cake! I booked on to the next few walks.

DB: What was the club like then?

DP: I found the people in the club rooms to be very friendly. While at the time it didn't seem odd but there were many young people in the club, many around my age (18) there were some younger. The minimum age for membership was 16 and I got to know a few people below that age who had committee approval to walk with the club until they reached 16 and could become members. I was 19 when I joined the committee and I would say about one third of the committee were in the 18-25 age range.

I remember being fascinated by the travels people had done, not just to corners of Victoria I had never heard of but overseas trips as well. People had been walking in N.Z., one lady had just come back from walking in the Scottish Isles and two members were about to take off to Nepal which had only recently opened its borders. One of the regular features of the club program was the annual Barn Dance. A club member, Roy Taylor, had a small band and the club would find a hall out in the bush. Leaving Melbourne, members would travel in the van and be dropped off near the venue. We would walk to the hall and set up camp then dance the night away. My pre-bushwalking days had involved many local church and town hall dances so I had a good idea of the steps for the "Pride of Erin", "Palma Waltz", "Evening Three Step" and the like. I would often notice couples following closely picking up the steps.

I threw myself into bushwalking (as do so many people) soon going on weekend walks then three days in the Otways on the Queen's Birthday weekend. The Victorian government had an organization called "National Fitness" to introduce people to outdoor activities. I had been doing enough walking with the club and felt I had picked up enough skills in bushwalking but I joyfully did introduction courses in canoeing, rock-climbing, caving and skiing. I loved them all but bushwalking remained my main activity. Over the years I led plenty of cross-country ski trips, canoe trips and even the odd trip to Labertouche Caves.



Bath time on Macquarie Island

DB: You really got into things then! You mentioned the committee?

DP: Within six months of belonging to the club I became Social Secretary. I believe the Club was far more sociable than it is now. As Social Secretary with the social subgroup we would organise talks every month and slide shows were popular. We always had supper in the Clubrooms. We had many theatre and film nights. We could get discounts for groups and offered reduced prices but we still made a few bob for the Club. We had two dances a year, the Barn Dance and the end of year Christmas Dance. This was held in the Victorian Amateur Cine Society hall in East Melbourne. I was Social Secretary for two years but retired when I went down to Macquarie Island with the Antarctic Division. On my return I was a General Committee member again for two years in about 1969/70 and was heavily involved in "Walk" magazine. In 1994 I became Wilkinson Lodge Manager for 6 years and then President for 2 years.

DB: And you experienced a few special moments with the committee, I believe?

DP: There was a lot of interest in club matters by general members. When I started with the Club we had monthly general meetings, members certainly had a lot of questions of the committee. Later we changed to an AGM and half-yearly GM. The clubrooms would be packed, seats full and standing room only. At an extraordinary meeting in 1965 the President and Secretary resigned (or were perhaps pushed) and a new

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committee formed. At another meeting one member got overexcited when his motion regarding finances was opposed by the treasurer and he resorted to fisticuffs. Another time Jean Giese had to cope with the committee decision to sell the club van. That should have been straightforward but there was a lot of opposition especially from the fisticuffs fame. An extraordinary meeting was called which reversed the decision to sell but nobody would take on the workload the van entailed. Yet another meeting was called and this time I got more involved and rang around a lot of old members and obtained their proxy votes. The meeting confirmed the need for selling and the motion passed. Unfortunately some people left the club over this issue, and it's covered in our 50-year book.

DB: You touched on Wilkinson Lodge earlier, Doug. More, please!

DP: One event I was very proud of organising was the 60-year anniversary of Wilkinson Lodge which coincided with the club's 30 year ownership. I had managed to contact some of the original people who lived at Wilky (it was the SEC cottage then) doing survey work for the SEC before the Kiewa scheme was built. Those early engineers weren't able to come but I found the two children who had lived there from '42 to '48 and they were delighted to come. I got in touch with the Fitzgerald family in Shannonvale who had delivered supplies by packhorse to the people living in the cottage and they were able to come. The MBW group included many of the original group who bought the hut (and donated it to MBW). Some people stayed in Wilky but most of us stayed in the Rover Chalet where we were able to have a slide show of Wilky memories. The weather was fine and a cake was ceremonially cut by two old club members and a plaque for the pioneers was unveiled. Lots of memories were shared, it was an emotional time.

DB: And many of us had many memorable stays in Wilky, particularly in the snow season. You've had a few breaks in your membership, apart from the stint in Antarctica, I think.

DP: Yes, over the years I've had a few breaks but the Club always granted Honorary membership so we didn't lose continuity. In '64 I went to Macquarie Island for 15 months. In '68 I went to N.Z. for 15 months, got work in a hotel and in a shearing gang as a rouseabout. In 1970 a couple of club members were travelling in Europe in a camper van. They put an advertisement in "News" offering it for sale. My then wife and I were considering building a house on the 5 acres we owned in Wandin but decided to take up the van offer. The papers with the van showed it had been owned by many Australians and it gave us good service for 12 months travelling around Europe and the U.K. Coincidentally the people we bought it from decided to return to Europe, so they bought the van back from us! We left it at an aunt's place with instructions how to get there and my then wife and I left England on bicycles to head home. In Holland we spent time with Marijke Mascas's parents then pushed on to Paris. We sold the bikes in Paris and then got public transport to India before flying home. Iran and Afghanistan were highlights for us. On return to Australia I didn't want to return to my old employment at Brockhoff's Biscuits but I was offered a job in a native plant nursery. In the meantime, we built a house and started a family. We did a few walks on and off but managed to get to Wilky quite a bit. I started growing plants for the nursery where I worked and eventually I had my own wholesale native nursery. I finally found the profession that I loved and this deepened my love for nature and the environment.



Doug in Iceland in 2018

DB: Ah! Now we get to the conservation bit!

DP: My situation in life changed and I started to get back into the MBW. On a skiing trip in Wilky I met up

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with Jan Llewelyn and we clicked. Jan and I eventually married and we had a back-to-front marriage. Most couples do some tripping then settle down with kids. Jan suddenly found herself a stepmother with two young boys, 8 and 10! However, the boys grew up and Jan and I were in a position to travel. We did walks with Willis's Walkabouts in various parts of Northern and Central Australia. We did a lot of Tasmanian walks especially exploring the Central Plateau. I led a trip to Nepal and amongst others there were Gina and yourself, Bill and Marilyn, Jean Giese and my two boys, then 16 and 18. This was a beaut trip - the porters were surprised by Jean's age and called her "Budgie" meaning Grandmother. Later Jan had 18 weeks long service leave due: she took 10 weeks and we went to the U.K. for 8 of them. Talking to people there, they found it inconceivable that Jan was being paid for the holiday and was even building up annual leave whilst on holiday!

My mother died and her estate was split between us four siblings. What was a very ordinary weatherboard house was actually quite valuable as it was only two streets away from Monash University. (I could quite honestly say I went to Monash but it was mainly to pinch carrots from the market gardens there before the Uni was built). With that inheritance I wanted to purchase some land for conservation purposes and, after looking at lots of great properties, I eventually settled on 300 acres at Wedderburn. Another block adjoining mine came up for sale and was on the market for about 3 years, so I made an offer of half what they were asking and they accepted. This gave me another 450 acres, then another adjoining property of 110 acres became available and I managed to budget to buy that. These three properties all now have *Trust for Nature* covenants which means they are protected for eternity. I am doing revegetation work (with help from MBW members) and general maintenance work. I would like the property to be something like it would have been in 1788 and I reckon on this being a 200-year project before the trees planted now will be big enough for environmental hollows! I don't think I will be around to see the results.

DB: Quite a few club members know your property, Doug, love going there and find your work there to be inspirational!

DP: It is interesting to look back in life and realise that some occurrences are real life-changers. For me the first one was coming to Australia as an economic refugee and a boat person, a fantastic investment for both me and the Australian Government. But joining MBW was the main occurrence to change my life. I have so much to be thankful for by going into those clubrooms in 1961.

DB: Doug, this has been fascinating. Thank you so much for sharing this with us.

Clubroom presentation: Tour of Mont Blanc – Wednesday 29 April, 2026

In July 2025, I hiked the **Tour of Mont Blanc**. This classic hike circumnavigates Mont Blanc via walking through three countries: France, Italy and Switzerland. It's a challenging 170km hike with a 10,000m ascent and a 10,000m descent.

It was a fantastic hike with the most stunning scenery, which was further enjoyed by frequent stops at the mountain refuges for coffee, cake and lunch. I did this hike as part of a paid tour however I'll focus on the majesty of this stunning mountainous area and provide some guidance as to how to hike the Tour of Mont Blanc self-guided.

I hope you can join me as I relive some wonderful memories.

Penny Field





SOUTH KOREA

WALKING TOUR

Alongside time in South Korea's major cultural centres, walking the volcanic ridges and coastal paths of **Ulleungdo** offers a close look at one of the country's most remote island regions. This 13-day walking journey moves at a considered pace, using time on foot to explore landscapes shaped by geology, weather and maritime life.

Early June brings long daylight hours and green seasonal growth, creating good conditions for walking along coastal tracks, forested slopes and quiet backroads. Walking provides continuity throughout the journey, allowing space to observe how landscape and daily life in South Korea intersect across very different settings.

Walking in **Seoul** introduces historical context through neighbourhood streets and city-edge trails, followed by time in **Gyeongju** exploring temple precincts, royal tombs and quiet lanes of the former Silla capital.

An overnight ferry leads to Ulleungdo, where several days are spent walking the island's coastline, volcanic basin and interior hills, staying in local towns and moving without pressure to cover distance. We continue through Gangwon Province with walking in **Seoraksan National Park** and along sections of the Haeparang Trail, before concluding in **Busan**.

Ferry crossings, rail journeys and short road transfers are integrated naturally between walking days, creating a steady flow and access to regions rarely included in standard South Korea travel itineraries.

MON 8 JUNE - SAT 20 JUNE

MAXIMUM 12 GUESTS

- > 12 nights accommodation with a traditional hanok village
- > 11 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 5 dinners
- > All internal transport with trains, ferries and private cars
 - > All entrance fees to monuments and national parks
 - > All land, transport and vehicle taxes
- > All tips and gratuities for guides and drivers



\$7,150 PER PERSON

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1300 449 709

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Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine

The Victorian government has temporarily expanded the free Japanese Encephalitis vaccine to people planning outdoor recreation in any of the 24 identified high risk local government areas - many relevant to members e.g. Alpine, Northern Grampians, Bendigo, Strathbogie etc. Free until 30 June 2026. Details here:



<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/health-advisories/expanded-access-to-the-japanese-encephalitis-vaccine-for-people-visiting-high-risk-areas>

April Safety & Risk Reminders

This month we cover the leader's **Duty of Care**, managing a very **large group of Members and Visitors**, **bus safety**, and **staying in visual contact while on walks**.



A Leaders Duty of Care: We use the Bushwalking Victoria definition below:

What a reasonably prudent leader would do to take reasonable care to avoid exposing fellow walkers (having regard to their age, experience, skill and other individual matters) to unreasonable risks of injury or loss.

This complements the **Acknowledge of Risks** that members and visitors make, as well as the **Code of Conduct** and **Participant Responsibilities** that apply to all members. A leader needs to comply with the Club's Bylaws and Activity Policies and take the Activity Guidelines into consideration when conducting their activities. We try to make this easier for leaders to ensure they are taking "reasonable care" by these regular **Safety & Risk Reminders** that, over a 12-month period remind both members and leaders of the things they should be aware of or need to comply with.

Choosing the Whip when there are lots of Visitors (MOD): When the number of Visitors on a walk, primarily Sunday Bus Walks, is 15 or more then the leader needs to ensure that the Whip is also **an experienced leader or an experienced whip**. While this becomes a requirement at 15 the leader can try and have **an experienced Whip** or another leader as their Whip whenever they believe it is necessary. **Also make sure the Whip is a Club Member and has a suitable whistle!**

Groups on Sunday Walk can become very large (MOD): At the bus boarding the leaders can check which walk individual walkers intend to take, as this can help the leaders plan management of group sizes whilst the bus is enroute to the walk drop off point. Remember it is the leader's right to direct people to go on a particular walk if they consider that is required.

Leaders should NOT stand up on a moving bus to make announcements! (NEW): If the bus has a working PA System (most do) it should be used, otherwise ensure announcements are made while the bus is stationary e.g. before leaving the city or at the toilet stop.

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

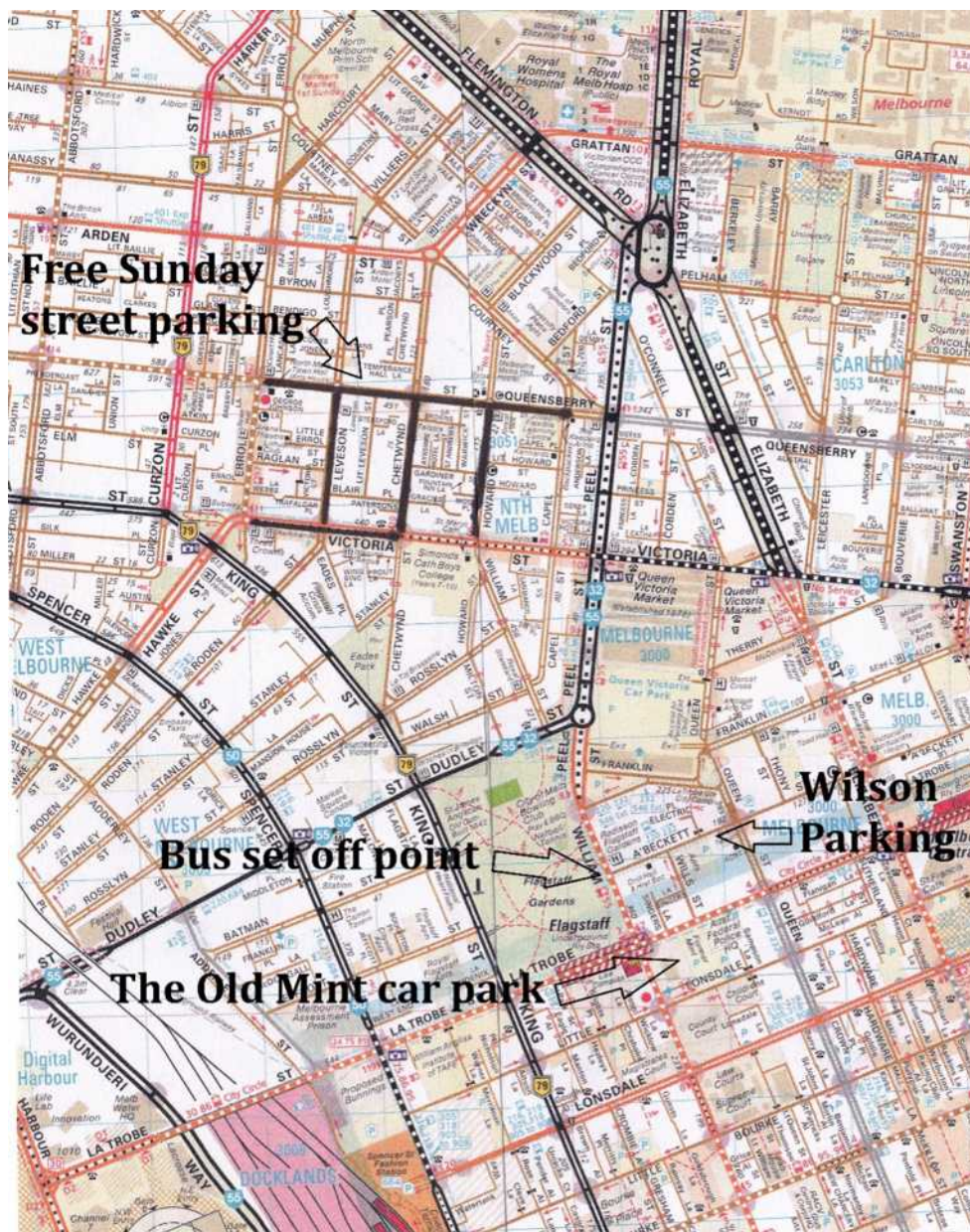
Members and especially Leaders are encouraged to read the monthly Reminders to stay aware of their responsibilities as participants or as leaders on Club Activities: NEW = a new item; MOD= changed from last time; and the others are unchanged.

Mick Noonan, Risk Officer

There is free Sunday parking in Leveson, Chetwynd, Howard and Queensberry St's particularly in the median strips and some in Victoria St as indicated. 12-15 min walk to bus.

Car park of the old Mint - \$10 all day Sunday – oodles of room.
Entrance off William St. 3 min walk to bus - **Recommended**

Wilson Parking A'Beckett St. \$15 - \$18 online. 2 min walk to bus



For April we are looking at:

This topic covers:

- Values and Facts;
- Ethics Develop and Change over time;
- Leadership involves Ethics;
- The dilemma;
- Consequences and leadership decision making

Note: The complete article set is available on the Website





WEM 09/96

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS (INC)

GPO BOX 1751, MELBOURNE, VIC, 3001

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Statement

Every person participating in the activities of Melbourne Bushwalkers should strive to ensure:

- The inclusion of every person regardless of their age, gender, sexual orientation, race, culture or religion
- There are opportunities for people with a range of abilities to participate
- They demonstrate respect towards each other, the organization and the broader community
- There is a safe and inclusive environment for all, free from violent or abusive behavior
- There is protection from sexual harassment or intimidation

2. Breaches of the Code

The following behaviors are considered to be breaches of the Code:

- Violent or abusive behavior or vilification of any kind towards another person or the organization
- Discrimination against another person based on their age, gender, sexual orientation, race, culture, religion or any other irrelevant personal characteristic
- Victimization of another person for exercising their rights through this Code of Conduct
- Failure to maintain a safe environment free from violence, abuse, discrimination and harassment

3. Responsibility of Individuals

It is the responsibility of individuals bound by this Code of Conduct to:

- Make themselves aware of the standards of behavior required
- Be accountable for their behavior
- Report breaches of this Code to a Committee Member or Leader

4. Responsibility of Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

It is the responsibility of the Committee to adopt, implement and comply with this Code of Conduct and treat any breach or complaint made in an unbiased, sensitive, fair, timely and confidential manner. Any breaches of this Code will be dealt with in accordance with the Club's By-Laws and Rules.

5. Policy Implementation

The Code of Conduct will be published on the Club's website, be printed in the Club's Newsletter and copies made available in the Club's meeting room

6. Related Policy Documents

- Melbourne Bushwalkers(Inc.) - By-Laws
- Melbourne Bushwalkers (Inc.) - Rules of Association
- Melbourne Bushwalkers (Inc.) - Participants' Responsibilities on Club Activities
- Bushwalking Victoria - Code of Conduct



WEM 09/96

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS (INC)

GPO BOX 1751, MELBOURNE, VIC, 3001

PARTICIPANTS' RESPONSIBILITIES ON CLUB ACTIVITIES

Club activities require individual responsibility from all participants. The guidelines listed below are intended to ensure a safe and enjoyable time for everyone.

- Check the grading of the activity and read the grading definition in the Preview. If in doubt as to your ability to undertake the activity, check with the Leader before you commit to participate.
- Persons under 18 years are required to be accompanied by a parent or authorized guardian.
- Bring all the correct clothing, equipment, sun protection, food and water with you. (A minimum of 2 liters of water per day should be carried although this is dependent on terrain and weather conditions. If in doubt about what to bring ask the Leader at booking time or before departure.
- Participants on all Club lilo, rafting and canoe activities are required to use buoyancy vests and helmets.
- Arrive at the meeting place in time to depart at the time stated.
- Ensure your health and fitness is suitable for the activity. Advise the Leader if you feel unwell or suffer an injury during the activity.
- If you suffer a medical condition that may require assistance or medication, ensure you advise the leader, carry appropriate instructions and that the leader or a friend know where these are located.
- Ensure you carry the Club's green Personal Health Details card at all times when participating in a Club activity, preferably in the outside pocket of your pack.
- Ensure you have ambulance cover as evacuation from remote areas is expensive.
- Follow all reasonable instructions from the Leader and "Whip".
- Provide assistance and support to others on the activity.
- Be aware of and comply with the Club's Code of Conduct and demonstrate respect and consideration for other participants
- Stop at all track/road junctions, signs, or whenever there is doubt about the correct route and wait for instructions from the Leader.
- Carry a personal First Aid kit, whistle, torch, pen, paper, matches in waterproof container
- The code when using a whistle is (1 blast – acknowledge, 2 blasts – stop and regroup, 3 blasts – EMERGENCY).
- The Whip is there to assist slower members and to ensure that nobody is left behind. If you need to leave the track for a toilet stop, inform someone nearby and leave your pack on the track.
- Care for the environment – minimize plant damage, don't cut track corners, take your rubbish home, keep at least 100 meters away from watercourses for toilet stops and bury toilet waste at least 15cm below the surface.
- Clean shoes after walking in Phytophthora areas (70% methylated spirits/bleach to 30% water).
- When camping, fuel stoves are encouraged, fires should be kept to a minimum size, no rubbish burnt in fires, only dead wood used for firewood and fires to be completely extinguished before bedtime if conditions warrant and when leaving the campsite.
- Don't pollute streams with shampoo, soap, detergent or food waste. Ensure washing is done away from streams, lakes, etc.
- Ensure you leave details of the activity and names and telephone numbers of the Club Emergency Contacts (noted on the quarterly Activity Program) with your family or friends and make them aware of the emergency procedures.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2026-27

Membership subscriptions are due 1st April 2026. You are not required to sign an Acknowledgement of Risk form on renewal, however you are advised that payment of fees implies acceptance of the risks involved in any activity you may undertake as a member of MBW. Members are asked to read the following wording regarding insurance cover through Bushwalking Australia.

'In voluntarily participating in activities of Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc., which are described to me by the activity leaders, I am aware that my participation in the activities may expose me to hazards and risks that could lead to injury, illness or death or to loss of or damage to my property. I also acknowledge that I may encounter weather conditions that could lead to heat stroke, hypothermia or being in locations where evacuation for medical treatment may take hours or days. In particular when participating in abseiling or above the snowline activities I am aware that these activities could expose me to additional hazards and risks.

To minimize risks I will endeavour to ensure that:

- Each activity is within my capabilities;
- I will carry food, water and equipment appropriate for the activity;
- I will advise the activity leader if I am taking medication or have any physical or other limitation that might affect my participation in the activity;
- I will make every effort to remain with the rest of the party during the activity;
- I will advise the leader of any concerns I am having; and
- I will comply with all reasonable instructions of club officers and the activity leader`

I have read and understood these requirements. I will consider the risks before joining any activity of the Club. I acknowledge that I will take responsibility for my own actions, that the Club strongly recommends that all participants have comprehensive personal ambulance cover, and that **payment of my subscriptions will be deemed as full acceptance and understanding of the above conditions.**

RENEWAL SLIP

If any of your personal details have changed, update your details through the Members' Area of the club's website, or complete the form below and send it by email to membership@mbw.org.au, or if paying by cheque forward it with your payment to the Membership Secretary.

If paying by cheque or EFT please be sure to clearly identify who the payment is for to assist the Treasurer and Membership Secretary to identify you and ensure your renewal is properly recorded.

Payment to the Membership Secretary, together with completed form (if required) by one of the following methods:

- **(Preferred)** EFT to the club account. **Please ensure your full name and 'SUBS' appear on the transfer.**
(Account Name: Melbourne Bushwalkers, A/c No. 0058-46013, BSB: 013-006).
- Cheque and Renewal Slip posted to Membership Secretary, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc, P.O. Box 1751, Melbourne 3001

Fees (Please circle your membership category) *

Single member: \$45 *

Concession: \$34* (Proof required **)

Couple/Family: \$90 *

Concession: \$68* (Proof required **)

Notes: * Members who have nominated their Home Club as other than Melbourne Bushwalkers and paid the insurance cover to their Home Club should only pay 50% of the appropriate fee noted above.

** Holders of a Seniors Card or Commonwealth Healthcare Card only are not eligible for a concession.

*** Copies of the club newsletter are only available as PDF files downloaded from the website. **No hard copy subscriptions are available.**

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

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

(**Note:** Year of Birth is used for statistical purposes only and not published in any lists.)

Fill in Address, Telephone number(s) and Email address only if changed since last renewal:

Street Address:

Suburb / Postcode

Tel: [H] [W] Mobile:

Email: Home Club:

Emergency Contact Tel:..... [H][M][W]

Leaders Training Day – Saturday 5th September

An all-day event intended for:

- Members interested in leading bushwalks
- New leaders
- Current leaders who want to refresh or further develop their skills

See the Website Activities Program for a detailed description of the Agenda.

Contact **noonan1953@gmail.com** if you are interested, or

Use the **Expression of Interest** tab on the Website



Walls of Jerusalem – 26 February-2 March 2026

Ros Leong

An eager group of 8 started our Walls of Jerusalem pack carry on a gorgeous day. After a quick group photo at the WOJ Carpark, we set off on a steady climb to Trapper's Hut, when we plateaued off. We started walking past pretty mountain lakes and tarns that WOJ NP is renowned for and reached Lake Adelaide campsite in no time. The site was very close to the lake which had abundant wild red flowers in bloom at the edge. While resting, we were told the possums were excellent at getting into food bags, and even those tied to a rope strung between 2 trees have been ravaged. We ahm-ed and ah-ed about ways to keep our precious supplies intact, as we didn't want to turn back due to a depleted food supply right at the start of our pack carry. Some strung them to trees and many of us decided the best place is the loo, with rocks against the unlockable loo door as further insurance!



Day 2, another gorgeous day! No food was taken. Phew! We started off again. However, not reading carefully a sign with ultra small font, we walked along Lake Adelaide for 2ks before we realised that we should be walking along Lake Ball! It was a pretty walk so none of us minded. We soon got to Dixons Kingdom Hut, a most quaint log hut. Close by was Tent City, Dixons Kingdom Campsite, with great facilities including tent platforms aplenty and even a large communal cooking and dining area. We spent the rest of the arvo climbing Mt Jerusalem. We even got to spot the Resident Spotted Quoll which was unbothered by the masses.



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The third morning was foggy and gusty and there was no chance of climbing the mountains so we explored Pool of Bethesda and walked further to see Lake Salome. After lunch Sinead, Khanh and Hitesh went exploring the summits. Past 3pm, the rest of us got a rallying call to say the mist was lifting. We ran off to climb the dramatic Solomon's

Throne and The Temple. I was most happy that we got to do that as I had resigned myself to miss these mountains completely.

Contented, we walked out the next day in light rain. Before long we were back in Launceston celebrating another great pack carry well organised and executed by our excellent leader, Di, with the WOJ Gang (Di, Gayle, Jenny, Liz, Khanh, Sinead, Hitesh and Ros)!



Cape Woolamai with Pelicans - Monday 16 March 2026

Ian Mair

They are big. They look intimidating. But the pelicans at San Remo show that looks can be deceiving. Patiently they waited for the mid-day feeding that has become a feature of the area. And so our walk on Cape Woolamai started with watching these fascinating birds at San Remo as local volunteers provided

offcuts from the local fishermen to satisfy their grumbling appetites.



A short drive later and we were at the Cape Woolamai carpark ready for a casual 9km walk around the point. The passage of time creates history, so too does it hide much of the past. On the eastern side of the Cape an "Inca-like" stone jetty is the dominant reminder of a quarry established in 1891 for the mining of the unique Cape Woolamai granite shipped to Melbourne for buildings of the day.

On reaching the highest point of the Cape at the Beacon the contrast between the sheltered eastern beaches and the rugged cliffs of the western shoreline are immediately apparent. Sharp drops and crashing waves spell immediate danger for passing ships. For casual walkers the views are absorbing with exposed sea caves tempting casual speculation of hidden bounty.

After completing the circuit we were offered a unique challenge as we enjoyed a post-walk refreshment! Identify the club member shown in the photograph on the wall of the cafe on Cottosloe Avenue?

A diverse and informative walk for the start of the week.



Big River Fire Trail - Ropers Hut - Heathy Spur - 20-22 March 2026

Peter Neish

Leader: Anne Wilkins

Walkers: Angus, Anne, Brett, Deena, Derrick, Fang, Gina, Helen, John, Kate, Ken, Peter

After being rescheduled twice, this much-anticipated high-country walk finally came together on a beautiful alpine weekend. The Bogong High Plains delivered everything we'd hoped for - stunning 360-degree views, historic huts, magnificent snow gums, and the sense of freedom that only the Australian alpine environment can offer.

Some of our group camped Friday night at Langford West Campground, about 15km past Falls Creek, while others met us at the trailhead on Saturday morning at the Big River Fire Trail. With the short car shuffle sorted, we set off in good spirits along the fire trail, part of which follows the Australian Alps Walking Track (AAWT).



Our first stop was Johnston Hut, a welcome spot for morning tea. We encountered a group who had booked the hut, and they kindly showed us the areas usually kept locked, including a kitchen and hot water - luxury! The hut is jointly maintained by the Ski Clubs of East Gippsland and Wangaratta. We then made our way to Edmondson Hut before ascending to Mt Nelse, where the views were spectacular. Feeling inspired, we deviated from the planned route and walked along the spur to Mt Nelse West before descending back to the AAWT, a spontaneous detour that was definitely worth it.

While the wildflowers had mostly finished for the season, this did nothing to dampen our enjoyment of the natural world along the way. We encountered many birds, interesting fungi, a variety of insects going about their business, and even a wolf spider, a reminder that the alpine environment is teeming with life well beyond its summer floral displays.

Ropers Hut was a delightful campsite, nestled among gorgeous snow gums with plenty of room for our group and a couple of other parties who arrived after us. With reliable water from nearby Duane Creek and a relatively warm evening for the high country, the campsite atmosphere was wonderfully convivial. After dinner, Anne had organised a trivia contest that had everyone entertained well into the evening.

Sunday brought a more atmospheric start, cloudy and misty, which lent the landscape a moody, dramatic quality as we retraced our steps from the previous day. We then joined the Heathy Spur Track, a lovely 4.5km stretch that provided a fitting and scenic conclusion to the walk.

A huge thank you to Anne for her exceptional leadership, knowledge, and planning that made this walk such a memorable experience.



Upcoming activities

April 2026

2-6	BC: Easter at Falls Creek	Pvt	Var	Judith Shaw & Bettina Brill
Thu 2	DAY: Werribee Park & River Walk	Pvt	E	Robert Ian Mair
2-6	CAN: Easter canoe, Glenelg River, Nelson	Pvt	E	Susan Maughan
2-6	PC: Stanley Nsme Spur-Crosscut Saw-Mt Cobbler	Pvt	M	John Terrell
Sun 5	DAY: Lysterfield Hills & Lake	Car	E/M	Indu Devanath
Wed 8	DAY: O'Shannassy Weir & Aqueduct, Redwood Forrest	Pvt	E/M	David Arnold
10-12	PC: The Bluff-Howqua River circuit	Pvt	M/H	Mark Simpson
Sun 12	DAY: Lost Childrens Walk, Daylesford	Bus	E&E/M	Robert Ian Mair & Halina Sarbinowski
Mon 13	MTG: Club Committee Meeting	Pvt		Susan Maughan
14-16	BC: Point Nepean Base Camp	Pvt	E&E	Susan Maughan
Thu 16	SOC: Hurstbridge & Wattle Glen (train based)	Pvt	E	Roger Wyett
Sat 18	DAY: Lysterfield Lake	Pvt	E	Elizabeth Gwynn
Sun 19	DAY: Elphinstone Tunnel to Fryerstown	Bus	E/M&M	Christopher Collett & Therese Ryan
Mon 20	DAY: Woodlands Wetlands & Braeside Park	Pvt	E	Phillip Geschke
20-25	PC: Northern part of Wilsons Prom	Pvt	M/H	Rob Jung
Wed 22	DAY: Point Nepean	Pvt	E/M	Judith Shaw
24-26	BC: Langi Ghiran	Pvt	M&M	Robert Ian Mair
Sun 26	DAY: Red Hill-Punty Lane-Montalto	Car	E/M	Wendy Millilli
Wed 29	SOC: Tour de Mont Blanc	Pvt		Penny Field

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