

**MELBOURNE
BUSHWALKERS INC.**

ABN 14 396 912 508



THE NEWS

#905

August
2026



Leanganook (Mt Alexander) recovering from last summer's fire - D. Shand

WE ARE A MEMBER OF



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 3 August

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

Editor: Deb Shand

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

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

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

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

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

New Members

We welcome these new members to the club:

Oliver Bellingham
River Foster
John Alfred Warrick
Sandy Joseph
Shaun McCarthy*
Rebecca McCarthy*
Natasha Emery
Marilyn Lee Miller*
Derek Brian Morris
Emma Hindhaugh

*returning to the club after a break



Mycena subgalericulata near Daylesford - D. Shand

Would you like your trip photos featured in the newsletter?

Due date for contributions to September News: 21 August
Email: news@mbw.org.au



Let's take the time to congratulate our friends at the Wilderness Society who are celebrating fifty years, or more specifically, "fifty years wild". Not many of us can make that boast. They have long been a traditional grassroots movement to protect Australia's wild places and are vocal about preserving and cherishing nature. Most recently they made headlines with a Four Corners piece about the future of logging, called ["Timber Turmoil" that aired on Monday, 22 June and now on ABC iview.](#)

Taxpayers have funded the transition away from industrial native forest logging in Victoria, yet now those same sawmills - one of them partly owned by the Victorian government - are importing forest destruction from Tasmania. When next walking in a forest, take time to acknowledge that Australia's ancient native forests hold the culture and stories of the First Peoples. Their law is embedded in the trees and landscapes. These forests belong to future generations too. These forest giants are fighting climate change and providing critical habitat for threatened species, and we will rely on them increasingly for a safe existence. Please consider donating to the Society.



Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation (BTAC) is definitely a way to get your hands dirty! The focus is on exploring opportunities for new or upgrading tracks, articulating a vision that bushwalkers want for the future, and undertaking fieldwork in Victoria's national parks and state forest. BTAC Volunteers work on tracks and conservation projects, under the auspices of relevant land managers, by Parks Victoria (in Victorian national and state parks) and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (in Victorian state forests).

Here is their program for the remainder of the year:

28-30 August at Reefton (Yarra Ranges Goldfields Track).

24-27 September Thurra River tracks (Croajingolong NP)

23-25 October North Prom track (Wilson's Prom NP)

28-29 November Lake Tarli Karng (Alpine NP), and finally,

11-14 December at Stanley Name Spur (AAWT).

Register with ParkConnect: [Register · ParkConnect](#)

Finally, should you find yourself getting up in the cold and dark for a walk, wondering why you are tackling another hill, gritting your teeth through a downpour, just spare a thought for "Old Grey Beard" who is attempting to become the oldest through-hiker of the Appalachian Trail. Dale Sanders held the record in 2017, but lost it in 2021, and being fiercely competitive, he's attempting to regain it... he is ninety.



BTAC photos from Bushwalking Victoria website



Spotlight on ... Rosemary Cotter

by Derrick Brown

DB - Rosemary, you have been in the club for some 45 years. At the last count you have led, or co-led 82 walks, beginning in 1982, right up to 2015 with scarcely a year when you didn't lead a walk. That's a brilliant record! But let's start at the

beginning - can you tell me about your early life?

RC - I was born in England, in Yardley, Birmingham and we moved when I was eleven to Dorridge, near Solihull, not far from Stratford-on-Avon.

DB - A lovely part of England!

RC - Yes, with friends on weekends I used to go exploring the adjacent countryside on our bicycles, including knowing places where there were fields of cowslips and sometimes fritillery flowers.

DB – Fritillery?



RC – A type of Lilly, Snake's Head Fritillery with checked petals, most unusual.

DB - Ah, I see an early interest in flora. We'll come back to that. Your schooling?

RC - I attended a private primary school and passed the 11+ exam to then join Solihull High School (commonly known as Malvern Hall as the school grew out of this 17th century mansion, once painted by John Constable). This was a grammar school where all students studied French and Latin.

Unfortunately, I couldn't take up German as it didn't fit into the timetable for those who selected the science stream. More

recently I've certainly found the Latin very useful with plant names and identification.

DB - You clearly took your education seriously. What came next?

RC - After 'O' and 'A' levels I had a gap year in 1964 and worked as a lab technician in the Rheumatology Research Wing at Birmingham University, working on uptake of a trial drug (later known as Indomethacin) for hospital patients. I had originally wanted to study medicine but somehow I managed to fail biology A level (now how could one do that?!), so I re-sat some A levels during my gap year. I was accepted for a new multi-disciplinary course commencing at Nottingham University Faculty of Agriculture and moved to the campus at Sutton Bonington which was 11 miles from the main campus and situated out in the countryside. Subjects included microbiology, soil science, animal physiology (non-human), chemistry, statistics (passing the latter was mandatory for achieving an honours degree!).

DB - And after you had achieved an Honours degree?

RC - I went on to Bangor University for a Masters in Embryology and Mammalian Reproduction.

DB - So after you achieved that you were very well qualified. What followed?

RC - I stayed on in the same labs and carried out in vitro culture of pre-implantation mouse embryos and many

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were the conversations about what the future presaged should similar work continue with the human species and all the potential legalities surrounding this.

DB - And we've seen some of this come to pass. What then?

RC - Well, I'd met my former husband, John, at Bangor University. He gained a PhD in marine science and was looking for work around the world. He found a job in Australia, assessing the Newport Power Station. We came out as 10 pound Poms and John was appointed as a scientist to study the effect of the heated effluent from the planned Newport Power Station. We lived in Williamstown and I gained a contract job in Monash Pathology at The Alfred Hospital. I subsequently enrolled to study librarianship at a time when science graduates were something of a novelty. I worked concurrently as a reference librarian at RMIT as well as studying, eventually being in charge of reference staff servicing academic staff and students of the three faculties of Applied Science, Engineering, and Biomedicine. Much of this work was providing lectures about finding information in very specific subject areas, all before the internet, although I started using computers for information searching in the early-to-mid 1980s, accessing the CSIRO databases. This involved me in committee work and workshops across the university sector.

Along the way we had talked about the possibility of returning to the UK and we did. I spent a few months working at the Geological Society of London which is housed in the forecourt to the Royal Academy in Piccadilly. Around this time John and I separated. I returned to Melbourne in 1981 having applied for my old job at RMIT Central Library, eventually clocking up well over twenty years there.

DB - Was that your final job?

RC - No, I left RMIT to take up a position as building and administration manager at La Trobe University Library, Bundoora. This was a multifaceted position involving not only any issues associated with the building (emergency evacuations/instructions, rats chewing through main coaxial cable, stabbing in a public toilet, renovation of one floor necessitating relocating large parts of the book collection, a duck which had found its way inside the entry level – leaving its 'calling card' right up the main area) but also design/installation of an electronic door system, managing the photocopiers, issues associated with OH&S, editing the monthly multi-campus library newsletter, secretary to several committees, and being on immediate call for any emergencies during the day.



DB - Good heavens, that was a change in direction! And it sounds like it wasn't boring!

RC – You're right, no two days were ever the same. After eight years there I decided to retire; there was much else I wanted to do.

DB - That's quite a distinguished and varied career path, Rosemary. Let's now turn to other pursuits. I know that you are interested in music; when did that start?

RC - I had had piano lessons from the age of seven, and I passed the whole suite of Associated Board of Music exams. This necessitated practicing some one or two hours a night. Then at University I had always sung in choirs as an alto and I had a guitar and taught myself classical guitar music.

DB - I'm impressed! You are still singing now, aren't you?

RC - Yes, currently I sing in two choirs, the Melbourne Bach Choir which frequently performs in the Melbourne

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Recital Centre, and the Heidelberg Choral Society. As it happens, my husband, David and I met through singing in a small a cappella choir – and that was more than 40 years ago! (though he's not a bushwalker). I also regularly play piano duets at a reasonable level with a friend.

DB – A cappella - that's singing without accompaniment?

RC - Yes, no instruments involved.

DB - Now how did you become so involved in walking?

RC - While at Sutton Bonington we'd go to the Peak District and on one camping expedition to the Lake District I had my first experience of hiring a tent without a groundsheet!

DB - Ooch! That sounds like my boy scout days.

RC - Then at Bangor University the natural course of events was to go walking in Snowdonia, (including walking up Snowdon in the dark to watch the sunrise the next day), although I rather favoured rowing and was the bow of a women's four which practiced on the tidal Menai Straits. Depending on the tide, this often necessitated wading in thigh high to launch our boat! We entered competitions in York and in Swansea and did win some of our races.



DB - Rowing on the Menai Straits would have been interesting! Did you get into the club once you had settled in Melbourne?

RC - No, not until after I returned to Australia in 1981.

DB - With a huge history of walks behind you, tell me about one or two that remain special to you.

RC - In 1983, GWJ (the late Graham Wills-Johnson) and I went to Broken Hill (BH) to join the walkers celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the founding of the town. Along with a large contingent of walkers from interstate with the majority from BH, we set off to complete 100km in 5 days over Easter traversing the Barrier Ranges. We found walking over the Barrier Ranges quite tough as it consisted of loose shale and slate (which gave those with inadequate footwear masses of blisters).

With the Club I enjoyed two lilo trips over New Year (the Colo and the Shoalhaven Rivers). There were also many pack-carrying trips including one in 1996 from Coopracambra following the Genoa River often wading along the edges of the river.

DB - I've read the article on the Colo River trip - you wrote it for the August 1984 edition of *Walk* magazine! It's a good account of a two-week walking/liloing trip that didn't go quite to plan due to low water levels! Now, a final question, we've mentioned your interest in flora, how have you followed that?

RC - I've been a Volunteer Guide at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne for 15 years and convened one of the Australia and New Zealand Botanic Guides Conferences (5 days and more than 100 participants) in October 2023.

DB - Rosemary, this is an outstanding record of achievement in different spheres. You have succeeded in all of them, and here you are, still very much involved with the club. And we haven't even mentioned your entry in the Club Arts and Crafts exhibition in February! A talented member indeed! Thank you, Rosemary, for sharing a little of your interesting and varied life with us.



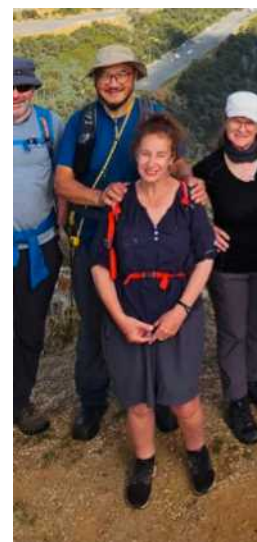
Go the Extra Mile Award - Jan and Toni

On the 3-5 July weekend a group of 23 Melbourne Bushies attended a Base Camp at Beechworth, organized by Jan Colquhoun. After leading a short walk on Friday afternoon and making sure that everyone had found their rooms, just as the group was about to leave to have dinner at a local hotel, Jan received a phone call from two members who had left late from Melbourne and had some car trouble after hitting potholes on the

Hume Freeway near Euroa. Jan and Toni Stebbing drove from Beechworth to Euroa (about 120km) in the dark, found them and drove them on to Beechworth. Jan even took 2 pizzas for them because she knew they had been stranded on the roadside for hours. These actions epitomise the spirit of Melbourne Bushwalkers.

Nominated by Brad Holland.

Jan on a recent base camp



EOI – Bibbulmun Track, Pemberton area

Dates: 17-23 September 2026

Leader: Quentin Tibballs

I propose walking 5 days of the Bibbulmun Track in the area around Pemberton in the South West WA, an area famous for its magnificent karri forests. It will also be wildflower season. However, we could expect some rain.



Photos from Bibbulmun Track website

I worked in Pemberton, as a locum for the local doctor many years ago and it seemed like a place in a past time warp. I'm sure you would find this town and the surrounding forest interesting.



Walkers will be responsible for travel to Perth and accommodation there. Accommodation at Pemberton or Northcliffe may be shared.

Expressions of interest are sought if you would like to join this trip. For further details and Quentin's contact information, see the online MBW Activities Program.

ABC article: 200,000 unrecorded gold rush mining features mapped

In short: A LiDAR mapping project run by the Geological Survey of Victoria estimates there are 230,000 historic mining features across Crown land, including features like mineshafts, surface workings, pits, adits (horizontal tunnels), open stopes (steplike excavations), mullock heaps (mounds of leftover soil or rock), and historic mining infrastructure. Existing records had only mapped about 30,000, and officials, prospectors and historians say the figures are unsurprising. Bushwalkers should be aware as hidden mineshafts have resulted in many dramatic rescues of people and animals.

Link to full article [here](#)

(With thanks to Rob Jung for sharing this)



Photo from CFA

Update on Silver Spoons Award

Melbourne Bushwalkers has had a long tradition of awarding silver spoons to married couples who have met during their time with our club. Our Committee has decided to update this award to make it more inclusive to include de facto couples.

Our updated award celebrates many relationships in our club and also meets the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Discrimination Act 2010, which identifies and aims to eliminate discrimination based on many factors including marital status.

Please contact us if you would like to nominate couples, with their permission, for consideration to receive our award. The awards are distributed at our annual AGM.

Contact: Bernadette at social@mbw.org.au

Bernadette Prunty and Jill Allen,
MBW Committee members.



Wine and chat: McMillans Walking Track, End to End 2025

Presentation by John Kellas

The origins of the McMillans Walking Track was the 1864 commissioning by the government of Angus McMillan and his Alpine Expedition party to link the various goldfields in the Gippsland high country, from Omeo fields via the Crooked River to Woods Point and the Jordon River. The track was retraced, explored, cleared and marked during the 1980s, led by Ben Cruachan Walking Club (BCWC) member John Smith and officially opened as a walking track by Joan Kirner in 1988.



There is some discussion whether it is 210 or 220km long, but there is no controversy for the 8,360m ups and the 8,730m downs. The track crosses multiple watersheds including the Victoria, Dargo, Crooked, Wongungarra, Wonnangatta, Moroka, Macallister, Barkly, Black and Goulburn rivers and briefly joins the Australian Alpine Walking Track on Mount Shillinglaw.

The track passes through a wide range of ecological zones from high Alpine to lowland dry sclerophyll forests. While no towns or villages are encountered there is ample evidence of past activities, predominantly gold mining, forestry and grazing. The BCWC has run supported and catered walks in 2015, 2017, 2019, 2023 and 2025. John and Monica Chapman documented the walk in 2019 and jointly produced the McMillans Walking Track guide.



August Safety and Risk Reminders

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



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

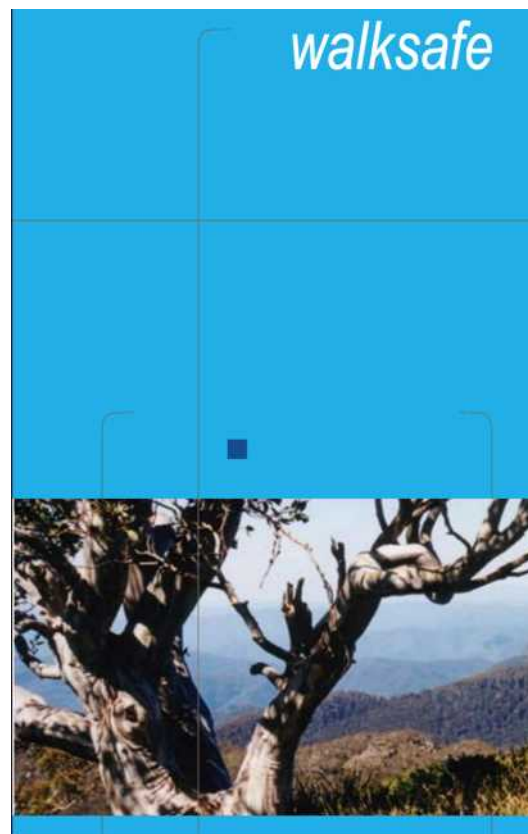
Bushwalking Victoria has produced an on-line manual on bushcraft for all Australian Bush Walking Clubs, and it is a valuable resource both for people new to bushwalking and also for experienced walkers. See the article included in this News.

It has some great practical advice for what to do if you find yourself in an area with Lightning – and yes even Carbon Fibre walking poles should be put away.

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

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

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



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

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

Mick Noonan, Risk Officer





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

NEW BUSHWALKING MANUAL

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



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

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

The Manual covers a wide range of topics including:

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

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

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

Mick Noonan

Beechworth Basecamp - 3-5 July 2026

Jan Colquhoun

We headed up to Beechworth for a mid-winter getaway, to enjoy the diverse landscapes, the excellent food the town has to offer and an enjoyable social weekend. We weren't disappointed. Those of us who arrived early did a pleasant walk between Lakes Kerferd and Sambell before group nibbles then dinner at the local Brewery; they make delicious pizzas.



We had good weather predicted for the weekend but unfortunately in the few days prior to our arrival there was excessive rain resulting in flooding which meant we couldn't complete the full circuit of Beechworth Historic Park the following day. Many of our drivers rose to the occasion, getting up early to do a car drop before we commenced the walk. We started with a stroll around the Farmers and Craft Market before exploring the Historic Park and all its lookouts at a leisurely pace. We managed over two-thirds of the circuit before the flood waters got in our way, then returned to Beechworth with some extra time to explore the town and make a contribution to the local economy. For dinner we were fortunate to score a private room at Tanswell's with our own open fire.



We stayed at the Old Priory where we shared the twin rooms on the top floor, which were originally occupied by the nuns. A charming old worldly place, if not a bit eerie. The cleaner advised that room ten was haunted so we hoped to spot the ghost, sadly not, maybe next time.

On Sunday we headed to Mt Pilot and the White Box walking track. Graeme Beard led the white box circuit, his walk leading debut. We all enjoyed the walk very much and look forward to future walks that Graeme leads.

We had a large group but everyone got along very well and were ready on time. Anyone who is a regular base camper will tell you that it's the people who make the trip! We had a great group. We then headed to the historic town of Chiltern where we sampled the award winning pies at the local bakery before heading back to Melbourne; well walked and well fed.



Upcoming activities

August 2026

Sun 2	DAY: Castlemaine Trails & Walmer Forest	Car	E	Deb Shand
Mon 3	MTG: Club Committee Meeting	Pvt		Susan Maughan
Thu 6	DAY: Balcome Ck Estuary & The Briars	Pvt	E	Phillip Geschke
Sun 9	DAY: Red Hill Winery walk	Bus	E&M	Matthias Frey & Tanya Chambers
Wed 12	DAY: The Dandenongs (Sherbrooke Forest)	Pvt	E/M	Jerry Grandage
14-16	BC: Wilsons Prom	Pvt	E/M&E/M	Jill Allen
Sun 16	DAY: Mason Falls & Mt Sugarloaf circuit	Car	E/M	Quentin Tibballls
Mon 17	DAY: Around the Bay: Mt Martha-Mornington	Pvt	E	Sharon Carr
22-23	PC: Lerderderg-Bears Head Range	Pvt	M/H	Roger Berryman
Sun 23	DAY: Tipperary Track, Daylesford	Bus	E&E/M	Brett Daniel & Graeme Baird
Wed 26	SOC: McMillans Walking Track, End to End	Pvt		John Kellas
Thu 27	SOC: Templestowe-Yarra Trail	Pvt	E	Pearson Cresswell
28-1	PC: Sunset Country Walking Track (NW Vic)	Pvt	M	Rob Jung
Sat 29	DAY: Kalorama to Doongalla & return	Pvt	E/M	Helen Graesser
Sun 30	DAY: Warramate Hills (Seville)	Car	E/M	Bettina Brill

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



Turkey-Tail
Trametes versicolor,
near Harcourt, Vic. -
D. Shand