



Affiliated with
Bushwalking Victoria

Box 2446 GPO Melbourne 3001
Registered by Australia Post PP100003072

Issued free to members.

CIRCULAR

www.melbournewalkingclub.org

REG. No. A657P

DECEMBER 2016

DECEMBER WALKS

Monday	5	Coolart Wetlands BBQ Lunch	Ron Anderson
Wednesday	7	3rd Wed Christmas Lunch	Travis Clark
Wednesday	14	Metro Christmas Lunch	Graeme Barker
Sunday	18	Skiers O'Shannassy Rail Trail	Ernie Lawrence
Wednesday	21	Victoria Park - Clifton Hill	Peter Schulz
Wednesday	28	Princes Bridge - Gardner	Bruce Armstrong

Copy for January to:

David Ikin - Phone: 9878 6301

email: david.ikin.mwc@gmail.com

by the 1st Wednesday in the month, 7th December

Circular Preparation: 3rd Thursday - 15th December at 2:00 pm

Venue: John Horan's home at 9 Oxford Street, Malvern 3144.

Bushwalking News Victoria (BNV)

The Melbourne Walking Club is affiliated with Bushwalking Victoria which publishes a monthly "**Bushwalking News**" on the Internet. For those interested, the Current and past BNV's can be read from their web page at:

<http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/what-we-do/publications/newsletters>



Happy Christmas

To All

Club Members

Talk Over Lunch

All members are reminded of the regular social event which occurs on the **2nd Tuesday of each month (except January)** at the **Charles Dickens Tavern Bistro**, in the basement of 290 Collins Street Melbourne, at **11:45 for 12:00**.

Barry Revill, Phone: 9555 1114 or email: barryrevill@bigpond.com

The Donna Buang Hut

The Donna Buang Hut is available for use by members and their family and friends at most times of the year. You may choose to visit either for the day or an overnight stay. The Hut is in terrific condition. It's bright, clean and tidy. The only restricted times are days of total fire ban or high risk of fire.

For bookings contact Barry Revill on 9555 1114 or at email barryrevill@bigpond.com

Laugh With Lance

Whenever I feel like exercise, I lie down until the feeling passes.

DECEMBER WALKS

Monday 5 December Coolart Wetlands BBQ Lunch

Leader: Ron Anderson

Phone: 59835088

Rendezvous Morning Tea: 10am Melway 193 J 9

Maps: Melway 193

Grading: Easy

Distance: 4klm

Transport: Private car

Walk Details: Meet at Coolart car park for morning tea, we will then take a bush walk around the wetlands and the foreshore also the bird hides and buildings of Coolart.

For our Xmas break up lunch we shall set up in the lawns and BBQ area at approx. 12 pm.

Wednesday 7 December – Christmas Lunch – 3rd Wed Group

Leader: Travis Clark

Phone: 9874 6326, 0407 272 333

Rendezvous & Morning Tea: 10:30 at Queens Park, Moonee Ponds,

near playground at Queens Park Café. Melway 84A D1. (Larger Scale), or 28 J6.

Lunch: Moonee Valley Racecourse Legends Bistro, corner of Wilson & Thomas Streets Moonee Ponds by 12:30, Melway 84A G2 (At Tabaret).

Map: Melway 84A. (28 & 29 for total walk). Grading: Easy

Distance: **am:** 4.5 km, **pm:** 0.5 km

Transport:

Tram. 9.53am from Flinders St. Station [Elizabeth St. Tram Stop]. Take Route 59 Tram to Airport West alighting 10.21am at Stop 35 Queens Park [Wilson St. Moonee Ponds] on Pascoe Vale Road. Walk to rendezvous through Queens Park keeping the lake on your right-hand side. Return at 8 min. intervals.

Car. Park in Tabaret carpark near the Legends Bistro and, if walking, walk up Wilson Street to head for the rendezvous. Cross Pascoe Vale Road at lights and walk through Queens Park to other side of lake. Keep lake on your right hand side. [0.5km]. To halve the walk, you could wait until the Queens Park starters pass by the Bistro after Morning Tea.

Train. To Moonee Ponds Station with a 0.75km street walk to Queens Park. Use Melway and own timetables.

Walk Details: **am:** Walk from rendezvous at Queens Park to investigate the park environs. Then to Moonee Ponds Creek via our lunch spot. The creek is followed for a short distance and then we return to lunch with a street walk. **pm:** A return to Pascoe Vale Road Tram stop for some.

Notes: **1:** Individual ordering/payment is at the Register. Remember your Table Number.

2: Seniors Menu is \$12 (1course); \$14.90 (2 courses); \$16.90 (3 courses).

Menu currently offers:

Entrees; Soup, Garlic Bread, Wedges, Vegetable Spring Rolls.

Mains; Lamb Shank, Beer-battered Fish, Chicken Parma, Lamb Cutlets, Garlic Prawns, Spicy Meatballs, Pork Ribs, Cajun Chicken Strips, Fettuccine Carbonara.

Dessert; Ice Cream, Vanilla Slice, Fruit Salad, Pavlova.

Two courses comprise entrée/main or main/dessert.

3: Leader must have your **BOOKING** for the Bistro seating by Sunday 4th December at the **LATEST**.

Wednesday 14 December Metro Group Christmas Lunch

Walk Williamstown – Spotswood

Leader: Graeme Barker

Phone: 9874 6938

Rendezvous: 9.40 at north side of Williamstown Railway Station.

Maps: Melway 56, 41.

Grading: Easy

Distance: 7 km

Transport: 9.10 Williamstown train ex Flinders Street, 9.13 Southern Cross, arriving Williamstown 9.37. Return trains from Spotswood to the city at 10 minute intervals.

Morning Tea: 10.00 at Port Gellibrand Park. Toilet available. (Melway 54 E11).

Walk Details: An interesting historic walk at a leisurely pace, past many old houses in the streets of Williamstown and allowing a visit to the Williamstown Botanic Gardens.

Then along pathways beside The Strand where fine views of the local harbour and the city can be seen. Lunch is at the Spottiswoode Hotel, 62 Hudson's Road, Corner of Hall Street, Williamstown at 12.30 (Melway 41 K12).

Seniors Lunch is 2 courses for \$15.00, with a good menu selection. There is ample car parking opposite the hotel off Hudson's Road.

Sunday 18 December Skiers Walk - O'Shannassy Rail Trail Circuit

Leader: Ernie Lawrence

Phone: 9598 2094

Rendezvous: 9.00 at Warburton Bakery at the east of town.

Maps: Melway 289, 190. Grading: Easy/Hard Distance: 10 km

Transport: Private car - park below the bakery by the Yarra. Allow 1.5 hours plus from Melbourne.

Morning Tea or Coffee: At the bakery. Toilets at start by the bridge.

Walk Details: After crossing the bridge, follow the north bank of the Yarra and recross the Yarra by footbridge to toilet block. South bank is followed past a row of California Redwoods planted in 1922 and cross the main road bridge. O'Shannassy Trail is reached after a hard climb up Yuonga Road. Plenty of stops allowed and toilets and tables at the track start. Level walk for 3 km to lunch and then down Surry Road to Yarra for a rest and toilets before crossing the main road to the rail trail which is followed back to the rail yard and finish at the bakery.

A very scenic walk with plenty of tall Mountain Ash stands and views across the valley. Bring water, lunch and a hat.

Wednesday 21 December Victoria Park - Amphitheatre - Fairfield

Leader: Peter Schulz

Phone: 9470 2189, 0402 567 325

Rendezvous: 9.52 Victoria Park railway station.

Maps: 44, 45, 30, 31.

Grading: Medium

Distance: 11 km

Transport: 9.34 South Morang train ex Flinders Street arrives Victoria Park station 9.52.

Morning Tea: Studley Park, Melway 44 H4.

Walk Details: Follow the banks of the Yarra River. The track is rough at times and steep but otherwise pleasant. Plenty of shady sections. Escapes just after morning tea. Lunch at Yarra Bend Picnic area 44 K3. Toilets and shelter available.

Wednesday 28 December Princes Bridge - Gardner

Leader: Bruce Armstrong

Phone: 9578 2221, 0416 758 204

Rendezvous: 9.30am under the Flinders Street Station Clocks

Maps: Melway 2F,2G,2L, 2M, 59.

Grading: Easy

Distance: 11 km

Transport: Make your own way to Flinders Street Station - Return to City from Gardiner Station.

Morning Tea: at BBQ's along Banks of Yarra.

Walk Details: Pleasant walk along Yarra to McRobertsons Bridge and then along tracks beside the Railway line to Gardiner Station - Lunch along the way.

JANUARY PROGRAM

Wednesday 4 January Maribyrnong River Circuit

Leader: John Ackerman

Phone: 9337 1164

Morning Tea: Canning Reserve which is about 400 metres from the rendezvous.

Rendezvous: 09.55 At the No 57 tram terminus Cordite Avenue.

Maps: Melway 27 & 28

Transport: At the Flinders St/ Elizabeth St junction catch the 09.13 tram at the terminus. Travel the length of the 57 route to the Cordite Avenue terminus arriving at 09.55. If any walker misses the tram and catches the subsequent 09.20 tram please send a text message to the leader on 0448 168 337.

Walk Details: Easy walk that started at 10.30 and ended at 2.15 pm in 2005. One steep slope up the side of the river valley. One escape after lunch on the 465 or 903 bus to Essendon station. Estimated distance is just short of 10 km. Considerable number of natural toilets on most of the walk.

Wednesday 11 January Fishermans Bend - Newport Lakes - Tottenham

Leader: Peter Schulz
David Watkins

Phone: 9470 2189
9870 3782 or 0414547190

Maps: Melway 42, 41, 55, 56

Distance: 11 km

Grading: Easy, NO HILLS

Rendezvous: 9.05 at Westgate Punt Jetty Melway 42 C12 - across road from bus stop under Westgate Bridge. If stop is missed next is terminus about 100m along road.

Transport: #237 bus from Southern Cross Station, stop is on South. side of Collins Street outside Age Newspaper offices. Buses at 8.14, 8.20, 8.30, 8.43 We shall be using Westgate Punt to cross river, **FARE IS \$2.00 PER PERSON**. Last Punt for morning departs at 9.20am prompt. Anyone missing bus or not wishing to use Punt can meet at Spotswood station at 10.00am

Morning Tea: 9.30am Early short morning tea at disembarkation from

punt, Melway 56 C1 then “elevenses” at Newport Lakes, Melway 55 G3, around 11.00am Toilets available

Lunch: In Cruickshank Park close to Community Garden Melway 55 H9 approximately 12.30pm NO TOILETS or cover.

Walk Details: Leisurely flat walk along parkland and streets, using Westgate Punt to cross Yarra River at start, we walk to Newport Lakes park, then after crossing Westgate Freeway pick up Stoney Creek and follow through Cruickshank Park, then to Tottenham Station. VERY limited toilet facilities, Newport Lakes park the only one from Southern Cross to Southern Cross. Maybe possible to access facilities at Spotswood Museum.

Plenty of escapes the first being 1.km from start at Spotswood station.

Monday 16 January Merlynston - Merri Creek - Victoria Park

Leader: Marshal Schaeche Phone: 9899 7830

Rendezvous: 9.32 at Merlynston railway station

Maps: Melway 17, 18, 30 & 44 Grading: Easy Distance: 17 km

Transport: 9.05 Upfield train ex Flinders Street, arrives Merlynston at 9.32.

Morning Tea: 10.00 at Parker Reserve, Melway 17 J7.

Walk Details: The walk follows the Merri Creek Trail until Dights Falls which is very close to Victoria Park station. There are several escape options after lunch.

3rd Wednesday 18 January Melbourne Botanic Gardens

Leader: Bruce Armstrong Phone: 9578 2221, 0416 758 204

Wednesday 25 January Mill Park - Bundoora

Leader: Keith Tupper Phone: 9457 2595; 0434 112 192 (25 January only)

Rendezvous: 9.48 at South Morang railway station

Maps: Melway 183, 182, 9 Grading: Easy Distance: 15 km

Transport: 8.56 South Morang train ex Flinders St

Morning tea: Lookout, Quarry Hills Park, Melway 182 K5

Walk details: Rendezvous up to morning tea stop, with optional extension to top lookout and return. Down to level ground, then follow trail right through to Bundoora, with short final section along McLeans Rd to Plenty Rd tram stop (Melway 9 K11).

Notes:

Apart from lookout climb and descent, the walk is flat and easy all the way.

Sunday 29 January George Bass Walk

Leader: Terry Simpson

Phone: 0400 037 291

Rendezvous & Morning Tea: 9.30 at Punchbowl Coastal Reserve.

Punchbowl coastal reserve parking place is reached by taking the Punchbowl Rd to the end. The turnoff from the B420 onto the Punchbowl Rd is about 2 km before San Remo, the last town before Philip Island. The road is clearly marked.

Map Melway X912, Q 11

Grading: Easy to medium given the walk is hilly and some beach walking, but nothing too difficult.

Distance : From the start at the end of Punchbowl road to the Kilcunda pub is about 8.5kms.

Transport **private car** - A car shuttle will need to be done as walk is one way only from Punchbowl to Kilcunda.

Walk Details: Location and access - the walk is situated 100 km south east of Melbourne between San Remo and Kilcunda. The walk commences at the parking spot at the southern end of the Punchbowl Road, off the Phillip Island Tourist Road and finishes at the Kilcunda Pub.

The walk looks over a treacherous stretch of water known today as Bass Strait. This area is marked by middens, hidden in the dunes behind sandy beaches along the coast.

Caution must be exercised when undertaking this walk. The track follows a narrow strip of public land along cliff tops, consisting of slashed track through grassland. The track surface can be slippery, so sturdy footwear should be worn. Beaches along the walks are

unsuitable for swimming due to the presence of strong undertows, rips and steep sloping sandy bottoms. Fishing or walking near the water's edge can be extremely dangerous; swells and large waves can crash up against the rocky shore line.

Morning tea at 9.30am, before start of walk. Car shuttle to drop some cars at Kilcunda and then walk starts at about 10am.

Lunch will be early as we will stop on the beach, an ideal spot for lunch.

Note: There are no toilets at the Punchbowl coastal reserve car park. There are toilets at Grantville, about 17kms before turn-off or at San Remo 2km past turnoff.

Tales from the Campfire

The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much 'pi'.

A rubber band pistol was confiscated from an algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption.

A dog gave birth to puppies near the roadside and was cited for littering.

I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.

Members Register Corrections

Every new system has bugs!

Chris Nikodemski's phone numbers: 0405-385-134, & work 9696-8588.

Andrew, Ethan and Hamish Purcell are all in **Bendigo, not Ballarat** and Hamish's email address is: **Hamishpurcell@yahoo.com.au**

John Taylor's address is: Array 3201/100 Lorimer Street, Docklands

David Watkins should have been recognised as a Life Member on page 17 with his entry being in BOLD type and ending with LM.

Please make note of these changes.

If any member who gets the circular by Australia Post would like their email address in the Members register, please let me know.

I would be obliged if all members could let me know of any other corrections needed.

When all members are happy with their details, the register will be re-issued.

STALWART WALKERS OF OUR EARLIER DAYS

Eric Stewart

Eric joined the Club in 1925, but he had been an experienced bushwalker for some years before this date. The only known surviving record of his experiences are contained in a 16 page typed letter he wrote only a few days before he died in 1982, much of which was printed in "Skiing the High Plains".

In 1922 Eric joined a party organised by Benambra schoolteacher Mr West and led by cattleman 'Big Jack Pendergast'. The trip was from Benambra over high country between the Upper Murray and Snowy revers to Kosciusko and returning via Tom Groggin. Along the way Eric met Bill Waters, Charlie Bryant, Charlie Green and Arthur Schlippe, all who were destined to join the Melbourne Walking Club a few years later. Eric succeeded K Gibson as the Club Librarian and he enthusiastically expanded this to a sizeable collection. Where is it now? (In the Archives hopefully).

Eric accompanied Bill Waters' small Easter 1932 party to the Moroka headwaters, Mt Kent, Snowy Bluff and the Wonnangatta, and Eric was in a small group on a trip to Buller, Stirling, King River, Cobbler, Speculation, Howitt and the Howqua River at Christmas 1935. Although it is known that Eric walked extensively, no other records of his walks survived. However, like a number of Club members, Eric had become 'hooked' on cross-country skiing and was amongst the earliest of the pioneers. He was a member of the four man party which made the first W-E winter crossing of the Bogong High Plains in 1927 and with the same group who made the first winter ascent of Mt Bogong in 1928.

Eric was appointed Snowline Representative for the Victorian Tourist Bureau and for five winters, 1935 - 1939 up to his enlistment in World War II, he supplied riding ponies and pack-horses and guided parties of skiers to and from Harrietville to the Feathertop Bungalow and also up the Bon Accord Spur to Hotham Heights. His writing details some of the trials and tribulations of this period when he employed cattleman Cliff Lawler and Carl Wraith as his assistants.

Cliff Lawler carried on the service until the end of season 1942 when Eric Johnston took over for two seasons using a horse drawn sledge. The novelty of the sledge obviously impressed the skiing fraternity, as they erected a memorial to Johnston after his death.

Eric Stewart, who had become almost a legendary figure in the Harrietville - Hotham area during his years of service was completely forgotten. He died in 1982 and left his own library of mountain books to the Latrobe Library.

From the Bushwalking Victoria President



FedWalks 2016

It was a great pleasure to attend the very successful FedWalks 2016 weekend hosted by the Wimmera Bushwalking Club in the Grampians (Gariwerd).

Over 280 people participated in this event. My daughter, Chloe (age 10) had a wonderful time scampering over rocks and crawling through caves on the spectacular Hollow Mountain walk on Saturday. We were rewarded by the wonderful panorama from the summit with the massive Taipan Wall visible in the distance.

The roast dinner on Saturday night was a great opportunity to meet fellow bushwalkers and to hear from Cr David Grimble from Horsham Rural City Council. The Council provided funding for our event, which was greatly appreciated.

Cr Grimble spoke about the significant contribution that bushwalking and the FedWalks weekend is making to the recovery of tourism in the region after recent very serious bushfires.

David Roberts, Parks Victoria Area Chief Ranger, provided an interesting update on the progress of the iconic Grampians Peaks Trail currently under construction. When completed, this route will take several days to traverse from Mount Zero in the north to Dunkeld in the south.

The first section is now complete and offers a 36km, 3 day-2 night circuit walk departing from Halls Gap.

I thank Chris and Susan Dunmill and Steve Knoll from the Wimmera Bushwalking Club for their excellent organisation and also the walk leaders and other volunteers from Wimmera and seven clubs across Victoria.

Proposed National Australia Adventure Activity Standards

(AAAS)

Bushwalking Victoria has not yet received a response from Sport and Recreation Victoria to our request for an exemption from the proposed standards for recreational bushwalkers and volunteer community groups.

We remain very concerned that these standards are likely to have very serious impacts on volunteer and community groups and the general public, leading to a reduction in bushwalking and less safe bushwalking practices.

I would like to thank over 20 clubs and 40 individuals who advised us they submitted feedback that the 64 page Draft AAAS Core Standards are clearly intended for commercial operators.

I will soon again contact all Bushwalking Victoria clubs and members requesting further assistance with this matter.

Peter Campbell, President, Bushwalking Victoria

A New Excuse for Sick Leave

I urgently needed a few days off work, but, I knew the boss would not allow me to take a leave.

I thought that maybe if I acted 'crazy' then he would tell me to take a few days off.

So I hung upside-down from ceiling beam and made funny noises.

My co-worker asked me what I was doing.

I told her that I was pretending to be a light bulb so that the boss would think I was crazy and give me a few days off.

A few minutes later the boss came into the office and said 'What on earth are you doing?' I told him I was a light bulb.

He said, 'You are clearly stressed out, go home and recuperate for a couple of days.' So I walked out and went home. My co-worker went home too saying 'I can't work in the dark!'

A Visit to Braeside Park Brings Back a Memory

After Peter Schulz sent me the photograph on page 13, my wife Joan and I decided to make a visit to Braeside Park to inspect the Red Gum Stump Carvings. Apart from the Pelican carving there is a carving of Phar Lap's head and shoulders. Phar Lap won the 1930 Melbourne



Peter Schulz Admiring the Pelican - Red Gum Stump Carving at Braeside Park

VALE KEVIN BOURNE

Members will be saddened to learn of the death of **Kevin Bourne** on Sunday 30 October 2016. Kevin has been a member of the Club for nearly 20 years having joined in 1997.

Kevin was active and involved from the start of his membership, participating in many walks over that time, both as a walker and as a leader of walks. He involved himself in much work in surveying and planning several new walks.

However his chief influence was in the advocating of Club membership for women, an advocacy that eventually brought about a change of the Club's constitution to allow this to happen. This was an achievement that gave Kevin great satisfaction and pride.

Members will remember with pleasure his friendship and his company on so many walks and Club trips.

The Club extends to Ann and their family deep sympathy at this time.

John Horan

Cup horse race.

Braeside Park was the site of the Sewage Treatment Plant built in the 1920's. The Sewerage Effluent Treatment Plant at Braeside served the communities of south-east Melbourne for thirty five years until 1975. In that year all the sewers that entered the Braeside plant were diverted to the South Eastern Trunk Sewer complex at Carrum.

In 1982 the chairman of the MMBW at that time, Alan Croxford, announced that a substantial part of the property at Braeside would be administered by the Parks and Gardens section of MMBW as a public park. Subsequently the responsibilities were transferred to Parks Victoria, the situation that exists today. It is now known as "Braeside Park".

In 1951 during my Melbourne University Civil Engineering course the class was taken on an inspection of the Braeside Sewage Treatment Plant so that we could see a real plant, rather than a theoretical one from a text book.

One of the students, David Llewellyn, was a keen photographer and he wanted a picture of the plant with the other students in the frame. So to get a good perspective on the view he climbed up on the circular

VALE DUDLEY GROSS

Dudley died on August 26th after a brief illness aged 91.

He was an active member of the Club in the late 1940-1950 period in the time of Bruce Sykes, Ray Whitford, and Frank Feltham (other names escape me). As he enjoyed skiing he had a hand in the construction of the Mount Buller Lodge.

Dudley met his wife Noel while hiking at Wilsons Promontory and left the Club in 1954 so that we could continue hiking together mainly on week ends and Christmas with small groups of friends.

In 1960 we spent 6 months in North America, mainly in the U.S., travelling from one national park to another, and decided that this was a better way of life than working. Subsequently we visited every other continent, hiking in national parks as much as possible. We were among early trekkers in the Himalayas and Dudley led a couple of treks there for AUSVENTURE.

On the home front we travelled extensively in Australia, before mass tourism. We settled in Avonsleigh about 30 years ago and became active in many 'friends' groups. We also collected seeds of local species for propagation in community nurseries.

Until just before his death, Dudley and I attended the Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeaters nursery once a week, and being foundation members, we were recently awarded life memberships. (Our first 'friendly' activity was in the 1960s cleaning up around the Cleve Cole Hut with the Mt Bogong Club).

Noel Gross

tank edge.

The tank was covered with grass and looked solid. Being unable to fit everyone in he took a step backwards ... you've guessed it ... he sank up to his neck in the tank's treated sludge. He was fortunate that he held his camera above his head.

After he had been rescued and back on firm ground again we had to strip him down to his underwear and hose him and his clothes down.

David had a cold and rather lonely trip back to the university. He didn't smell too good. I will never forget David Llewellyn!

David Ikin



Hugh Gibson receiving his Life Membership Certificate from Alan Hosking - Activities Officer, Winner of 6 Golden Boots

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