



MWC CIRCULAR

MAY 2023



MELBOURNE WALKING CLUB

Est. 1894

Affiliated with



www.melbournewalkingclub.org

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MAY WALKS

Monday	1 May Greens Bush	Ian Tregear
Wednesday	3 May Endeavour Hills	Jenny Hosking
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Wednesday	10 May Hurstbridge – Eltham	Keith Tupper
Monday	15 May Eltham Circuit	Alex Hordijkeno
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Sunday	21 May Skiers Walk: Cape Schanck	Jenny Hosking
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Sunday	28 May Castlemaine Diggings	Susan Crook
Monday	29 May Easy Metro: Lalor	John Rankin
Wednesday	31 May Rushall – Southern Cross	Bruce Armstrong

Copy for June to: Charlie Freedman - Phone: 0415 558 249
email: editor@melbournewalkingclub.org
by the 1st Wednesday in the month, 3rd May.

MWC Facebook Group

The Club's Facebook Group is open to all members and other interested people. Access it using the following link and join up:

www.facebook.com/groups/241419961129378

Laughter Is The Best Medicine

The ability to speak several languages is an asset, but the ability to keep your mouth shut in any language is priceless.

Talk Over Lunch at Charles Dickens Tavern

This lunch, on the **2nd Tuesday of each month** (except January) is being revived. The next lunch will be held at the **Charles Dickens Tavern Bistro**, in the basement of 290 Collins Street Melbourne, at **11:45 am for 12:00 noon**, on **Tuesday May 9th**.

If you wish to attend, you must contact Charlie Freedman:
Phone: **0415 558 249** or email: charliefreedman@yahoo.com.

Children Attending Club Walks

Members and visitors should note that, at the present time, children under the age of 12 are not permitted to attend any Club activities, as they are not covered by the Club's insurance with BWV.

New Members

Four new Members have joined so far this year: Glen McIntyre, Glenys Harrison, Carolyn Cranmer and Tim West. We welcome these Members to the Club and wish them many happy years of walking and participating in other Club activities.

John Rankin – Membership Officer.

Office Bearers 2022-2023

Club Executive

President: Trevor Rosen
Secretary: Neale Oxley
Treasurer: Terry Simpson
Activities Officer: Jenny Hosking
Membership Officer: John Rankin

General Committee: Kim Rosen,
John Gates,
Michael Corrigan, &
Charlie Freedman

Sub-Committee Convenors

Mt Buller Lodge: Jenny Hosking
Walter Briggs Hut: Kim Rosen
Activities: Jenny Hosking

Other Officers

Website Administrator: Charlie Freedman
Circular Editor: Charlie Freedman

Walk Coordinators

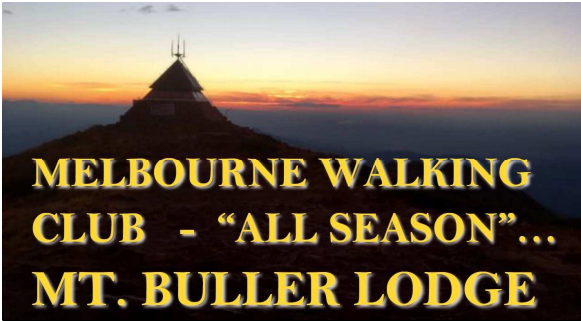
Metro Walks: David Watkins, &
Doug Swinbourne
3rd Wed Walks: Graeme Barker
Bike Rides: John Rankin

Sunday Walks: Kim Rosen
Easy Metro Walks: Gordon Proudfoot
Peninsula Walks: Ron Anderson
Sunday Peninsula Walks: Colleen Simpson

Generic email addresses to contact appropriate Club Members:

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activities@melbournewalkingclub.org



The MWC MT. BULLER LODGE ! - EXCLUSIVE USE NOW AVAILABLE !
 What an amazing asset the Mt. Buller Lodge is to the Club. And in reality what an amazing *“privilege of membership”* it is for all of us to have access to this first class facility any time, any season of the year..!

And now for 3 x Seasons you can book it as your own private holiday home !!!

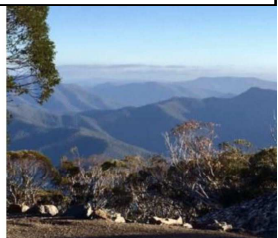
The Lodge is beautiful and fully equipped for a holiday any time of year. Our hard working Buller Sub-committee and Executive committee would like to see more members holiday on the mountain - and we recognise that this new **“exclusive booking”** option for the **sole use** of the **WHOLE** Lodge will appeal to many members taking their families or friends over the Spring, Summer and Autumn seasons.

It’s your own holiday home on the mountain!

You get all 5 bedrooms (3 x 4 bed / 2 x 2 bed) – each with en-suites. Total 16 beds Fully equipped Kitchen & Dining room, Lounge, TV & Table Tennis rooms, Deck & BBQ.

And there’s lots to do on the mountain – for you and your kids - and even grand-kids! Walks, Bicycle trails, Horse Riding, Tennis, Indoor Sports Facility, Licensed Supermarket - or just curl up on a couch with a drink and a good book, and soak up the scenery..!

Please consider the MWC Mt. Buller Lodge when booking your next holiday!



POSTCARDS



MAY WALKS

Mon 1 May Peninsula: Patterson Rd – Greens Bush

Leader: Ian Tregear

Phone: 9548 3391

Rendezvous & Morning Tea: 9:45am at the east end of Patterson Rd, Melway 253 H10.

Maps: Melway 253 & 254

Grading: Easy

Distance: 11km.

Transport: Private car.

Walk Details: Drive along Patterson Rd (off Boneo Rd) to Rogers Rd and park (the Rangers have put a opening in the fence for us now). We start the walk from there and head to Limestone Rd, where we pick up the Two Bays Track, and circuit back to gate 3 in Rogers Rd and then to the cars. There is some seating and a toilet at lunch. This is an easy bush walk with a small hill towards the end.

Wed 3 May Endeavour Hills – Lysterfield Lake Park

Leader: Jenny Hosking

Phone: 0423 627 232

Rendezvous: **By Train**, 8.48am at Dandenong Rail Station to connect with #845 Bus at 9.00am.

By Car, 9.45am at Pavillion at Reema Reserve, Endeavour Hills (Melway 91 H3).

Morning Tea: Reema Reserve (No toilets). **NOTE:** Walk party will leave Reema Reserve at 10.00am.

Maps: Melway 91, 108, 83 & 82 and/or Google.

Grading: Medium with some hills

Distance: Approx 13km.

Transport: **Via car** – To Reema Reserve.

Via public transport – 8.04am Pakenham train ex Flinders Street, arrives at Dandenong Station at 8.48am. 9.00am #845 bus arrives at Terminus Reema Boulevard at 9.38am. Then a short walk to Reema Reserve, Endeavour Hills.

Walk Details: Pleasant walk along the water easement to Lysterfield Lake Park. We then circumnavigate the lake, with lunch at picnic area near boat ramp (Melway 108 D2). After lunch we cross the dam wall and follow tracks to exit the park onto Hallam North Road. Approx 45 minutes to Reema Boulevard bus terminus, to catch bus to Dandenong Station.

Sun 7 May Combined Walk with MWWC – Mt Macedon

NB. You must contact Jenny Hosking if you wish to attend.

MWC Contact: Jenny Hosking

Phone: 0423 627 232

jenniferhosking@gmail.com

This year we (MWC) are hosting the annual Combined Walk with the Women's Club. It would be great if members would put this walk in their diaries and come and welcome our guests for the day.

There will be 2 walks available around Mt Macedon:

- A Medium/Hard walk of approx 13km, and
- An Easy/Medium walk of approx 12km.

Afternoon tea will be provided at the conclusion of the walk.

Rendezvous & Morning Tea: 9.15am – Mt Macedon Carpark, Mt Macedon Memorial Cross (Melway X909 G9).

Maps: Vicmap 1:25 000 Macedon.

Melway Touring Map X909 and/or Google Maps.

Transport: Follow the Calder Highway and take exit to Mt Macedon. Stay on Mt Macedon road through village, turning left onto Cameron Drive. Drive past Camels Hump Carpark, McGregor Carpark to the carpark at the end from where you can walk to the Memorial Cross.

Medium/Hard Walk (13km): Willimigongon Creek-Days Picnic Ground. Leader Jenny Hosking

Requires a car shuffle to start of the walk in Mt Macedon Road near Anzac Road. We walk up the winding Anzac Road to the start of Moola track, Zig Zag track and continue to Days Picnic Ground via Sanatorium Lake. On the return we follow Hemphill's track, Mt Towrong and a fairly steep rocky track which descends to Anzac Road. Walking poles recommended.

Easy/Medium Walk (12km): Memorial Cross-Days Picnic Ground. Leader Terry Simpson

The walk starts at the end of Cameron drive in the car park close to the Top of the Range Tea Rooms. It is an easy to moderate walk, 12km. The track meanders through the trees and in places is a little rocky. Walking poles would be useful. It is an interesting and peaceful walk, with some lovely views. Along the way, there are two escape points at the Cameron picnic ground and McGregor's picnic ground for those who want to exit the walk. We will stop at Days Picnic ground for lunch where there are toilets and tables. We return via the same route back to the car park near the Top of the Range Tea Rooms and the Memorial Cross.

Wed 10 May Hurstbridge – Eltham

Leader: Keith Tupper

Phone: 9457 2595
0434 112 192 (10 May only)

Rendezvous: 9.37am at Hurstbridge Station (Toilets available).

Maps: Melway 185, 12, 22 & 21

Grading: Easy *

Distance: 14km.

Transport: 8.19am Hurstbridge train ex Flinders Street. Alternatively, car or bus to Eltham station to board Hurstbridge train there at 9.22.

Morning Tea: Picnic shelter north of station (Melway 185 J8).

Walk Details: A scenic walk along a recently opened trail.

Possible Escapes: Wattle Glen (4km) or Diamond Creek (8km). Trains from Wattle Glen and Diamond Creek run every 40 min; from Eltham every 20 min.

Note: * There will be a change of leadership after lunch at Diamond Creek. The walk will be easy for those who leave, with the leader, at that point.

Mon 15 May Eltham – Sweeneys Flats – Eltham

Leader: Alex Hordijenko
Oliver Lucas

Phone: 0497 699 507
0451 957 821

Rendezvous: 9.35am at Eltham Railway Station.

Maps: Melway 21 & 22

Grading: Medium

Distance: 12km.

Transport: 8.40am Eltham Train ex Flinders Street; 8.43am Southern Cross; 8.49am Parliament, arriving Eltham at 9.35am. Or use Smart Bus 902 to Eltham.

Morning Tea: In playground in Grove Street, Melway 22 A4 - no toilets, no shelter.

Walk Details: This is a very pleasant walk through linear parks & quiet roads to Sweeneys Flats by the Yarra River for lunch, Melway 22 B11, no toilets, no cover, bush seating. Then return to Eltham via river bank, some roads and finally the Diamond Creek trail. A number of hills in the mid part of the walk.

Escapes: Escapes available at 2km, 4km & 10km.

3rd Wed 17 May Eltham

Leader: Graeme Barker

Phone: 9874 6938
0437 006 938

Rendezvous, Morning Tea & Lunch: 10.45am at Eltham Library, Panther Place, Eltham, Melway 21 J5.

Map: Melway 21 Grading: Easy Distance: am: 5km; pm: 1km.

Transport: 9.39am Hurstbridge train ex Flinders Street (platform 1), 9.48 Parliament, arriving Eltham at 10.35. Bus #902 from Nunawading is an option. Leader will meet train for short walk to rendezvous. Return trains pm 20 minute service.

Car: Take first road (Panther Place) to left, off Main Road, after the traffic lights at Main Road and Bridge Street intersection. Drive down Panther Place and seek "longer than 2 hour parking", or continue under the rail bridge to find unrestricted parking around the Central Park Oval and walk back to Library.

Walk Details: am: Follow Diamond Creek Trail through to wetlands and Barak Bushland, returning to Eltham Library via Wingrove Park. An attractive walk along a bike/walking track, Some minor short uphill sections. pm: Short circular flat walk to Eltham Rail Station.

Sun 21 May Skiers Walk: Baldrys Crossing – Cape Schanck

NB. You must contact the leader if you intend to come on this walk.

ALL WELCOME: walkers, skiers & walkers/skiers.

Leader: Jenny Hosking
Simon Shepard

Phone: 0423 627 232
Phone: 0466 087 772

Rendezvous: 9.15am at Cape Schanck Lighthouse Carpark, end of Cape Schanck Rd (Melway 257 F10). From here a car shuffle to Baldrys Crossing will be arranged.

Morning Tea: 9.45am at Baldrys Crossing, Baldrys Rd (Melway 254 G6).

Snack Break: 11.00am approx. at Lightwood Creek campsite (toilet).

Lunch: 12.30pm approx. at Bushrangers Bay Picnic Parking area (no toilets).

Maps: Melway 254, 253, 259, 258 & 257.

Grading: Medium

Distance: Approx 15km.

Transport: Via private car – From Mornington Peninsula Freeway, take 1st exit onto Boneo Rd (C777). At roundabout continue straight to stay

on Boneo Rd (C777). Just past the RACV Resort, turn right onto Cape Schanck Rd, then turn left onto Cape Schanck Access Rd to the Carpark.

Walk Details: A very scenic walk, initially following the picturesque Main Creek, then through undulating forest, fern gullies and grass tree areas. Nearer the coast there are magnificent ocean views from the cliff tops. Banksia and tea tree vegetation abounds.

Wed 24 May Hawkstowe Park Circuit

Leader: Oliver Lucas

Phone: 9571 6865
0451 957 821

Rendezvous: 9:40am at Hawkstowe railway station.

Maps: Melway 183 & 184 Grading: Easy/Medium Distance: 12km.

Transport: 8:35am Mernda train from Flinder Street, arriving Hawkstowe station at 9:34.

Morning Tea: Hilltop Park, Melway 183 J3. No toilets.

Walk Details: A pleasant walk through Plenty Gorge Park. Start and finish at Hawkstowe station. Lunch at the Hawkstowe picnic area (toilets and shelter). Toilets at Hawkstowe station. Return trains at 2:07, 2:27, 2:40 & 3:07pm.

Escapes: Before lunch, & a short walk after lunch.

Sun 28 May Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park Walk

NB. You must contact the leader if you intend to come on this walk.

Leader: Susan Crook

Phone: 0408 517 381

Rendezvous: 10:00am at uneven, gravel carpark, corner of Wheeler and ETTY Streets, Castlemaine. Located on sharp bend on the road.

Maps: Melway X909

Distance: 14 km.

Grading: Medium (narrow track, exposed rocks in sections).

Transport: Private car to Castlemaine. Travelling from Melbourne take M79 Calder Freeway. Exit at Elphinstone B180, drive to centre of Castlemaine to Wheeler St. Continue to Southern end of Wheeler St, note sharp bend on road (junction of Wheeler and ETTY Streets).

Note: Another car parking option is to park on Wheeler Street off the road, on western side near speed restrictions signs, approximately 20 m from corner of Wheeler and ETTY Streets.

Morning Tea: Poverty Gully Reservoir.

Walk Details: Circuit walk. Start on the Goldfields Track, then follow a well preserved and engineered water race (Campbells Creek Channel) to Eureka Reef and Heritage Walk (lunch here) “This is the best surviving example of early Quartz mining technology and settlement in Victoria” from Gold Fields Guide. Follow Arthurs Track, Dingo Park Road, past the Monk, return to the Goldfields Track, back to car park.

Escapes: No escapes.

Note: No toilets. Option for Refreshments after walk. Drive to Railway Hotel, 65 Gingell Street Castlemaine.

Mon 29 May Easy Metro: Lalor – Edwards Lake – Reservoir

Leader: John Rankin

Phone: 0408 373 148

Rendezvous: 9.40 am at Lalor railway station.

Maps: Melway 8 & 18 Grading: Easy Distance: 13.5 km.

Transport: 8.55 am Mernda train ex Flinders Street station, arriving Lalor 9.35 am.

Morning Tea: V. R. Michael Reserve (Melway 8 K2). Toilets and shelter.

Walk Details: A pleasant walk along Edgars Creek trail to the M80 ring road passing through the historic German settlement on the way where we’ll see some historic farmhouses and the old Lutheran church and cemetery. There is a toilet just before the M80, in the Thomastown Library. After passing under the M80 we then do some street walking to rejoin the Trail and follow it to Edwardes Lake Park for lunch (toilets and shelter). An optional walk around the lake is possible after lunch, then we proceed along Edwardes St to Reservoir station. An escape is possible after 8 km at Keon Park station.

Wed 31 May Rushall – Southern Cross Station

Leader: Bruce Armstrong

Phone: 0416 758 204

Rendezvous: 9.40am at Rushall Railway Station.

Maps: Melway 30, 29, 43 & 2E Grading: Easy Distance: 12 km.

Transport: Mernda Line train departing Flinders Street Station at 9:12am and arriving at Rushall Station at 9.35am.

Morning Tea: Edinburgh Gardens, Melway 30 B 12.

Lunch: Lunch proposed at Macaulay Station.

Walk Details: A pleasant walk mainly along Capital City trail past Melbourne Zoo following train route to City.

JUNE PROGRAM

Sat 3 Jun Mt Buller – Opening Ski Season

NB. You must contact the leader if you intend to come on this walk.

Leader: Jenny Hosking

Phone: 0423 627 232

Sun 4 Jun Domino Trail – Trentham

NB. You must contact the leader if you intend to come on this walk.

Leader: Michael Clarke

Phone: 0412 849 989

Mon 5 Jun Peninsula: Seawinds – Baldry

Leader: Denis Phillips

Phone: 9796 8096

Wed 7 Jun Olinda – Hamer Arboretum – Kalorama

Leader: Wayne Hansen

Phone: 9879 7346

Wed 14 Jun Launching Place – O’Shannassy – Warburton

Leader: Miles Pierce

Phone: 9890 8319

Sun 18 Jun Bushrangers Bay – Cape Schanck Lighthouse – Lunch at RACV Cape Shanck

NB. You must contact the leader if you intend to come on this walk.

The number of people who are able to attend this trip is strictly limited to 20. You are advised to book early.

Leader: Colleen Simpson

Phone: 0410 442 978

Rendezvous: 9.30am at the Bushranger car park and picnic area on the Rosebud to Flinders Road (Boneo Rd C777). The car park is 4.4km after the RACV Cape Schanck Resort, on the right hand side of the road. A car shuttle will be required to leave some cars at the Fingal Beach Picnic Area Car Park, where our walk ends. We then drive to RACV for lunch.

Grading: Easy

Distance: 7.5 km.

Morning Tea: At the Bushranger car park.

Walk Details: The walk goes through coastal Banksias, alkaline scrub and swamp scrub down to Bushranger Bay, and a sandy beach which is surrounded by basalt cliffs with a large rock stack on the south end, known as the Elephant. This part of the walk is 2.5 km.

We then walk up to the Cape Schanck Lighthouse, which is a further 2.5 km. This part of the walk is in contrast to the first part, and it is of brooding headlands and wild waves that often crash onto jagged rock. Cape Schanck is the most southern tip of the Mornington Peninsula, the meeting of Bass Strait and Westernport. There are magnificent views and near Cape Schanck there is an offshore rock stack known as Pulpit Rock. At Cape Schanck Lighthouse there are also toilets.

After exploring the area around the Lighthouse we will walk up to the Fingal car park. This is a distance of about 2.5 km through meandering coastal heath to the towering pine trees of Fingal Picnic Area. Here we will have a brief break while the remainder of the cars will be picked up from Boneo Rd. We then drive to the RACV Cape Schanck resort where we will have a sit down lunch in the restaurant. That will be the end of our walk.

Escapes: Cape Schanck Light House car park.

Mon 19 Jun Eltham – Westerfolds Park – Doncaster

Leader: John Rankin

Phone: 0408 373 148

3rd Wed 21 Jun Longbeach Chelsea RSL – Walk & Lunch

Leader: Jenny Hosking

Phone: 0423 627 232

Sun 25 Jun Starlings Gap – Ada Tree

NB. You must contact the leader if you intend to come on this walk.

Leader: Richard Jasek

Phone: 9820 2974

Mon 26 Jun Easy Metro: Melbourne General Cemetery – City Parks – Shrine of Remembrance

Leader: Oliver Lucas

Phone: 9571 6865

Wed 28 Jun The Patch – Emerald

Leader: Richard Simpson

Phone: 0419 528 130

Stalwart Walkers of Our Earlier Days

Following is another extract from a document titled ***Stalwart Walkers of Our Earlier Days*** published by the Melbourne Walking Club.

Kemble Gibson

'Kem' joined the Club in 1924 and within a year also became a foundation member of the Ski Club of Victoria. His first recorded visit to the mountains was with the S.C.V's. inaugural visit to Mt St Bernard, when Kemble is reported as having carried all his gear in a

suitcase while he struggled to ski up the road from Harrierville to the Hospice. He was a quick learner, however and soon took his place amongst the pioneer skiers. He joined Eddie Robinson and four others in 1926 in the first E.-W. winter crossing of the Bogong High Plains and in 1927 he joined E. Robinson, E. Stewart and W. Waters in the first W.-E. crossing. With the same companions in 1928 he made the first winter ascent of Mt Bogong. His winters were regularly spent at Mt Hotham and for four years (1931-1934) he was editor of the Victorian Ski Year Book, and in 1933 became the editor of the Victorian section of the Australian and New Zealand Ski Year Book. Kemble had become one of the states most experienced and respected skiers.

However, although no records exist of his summer wanderings, Kemble claimed to have climbed every worthwhile Victorian mountain and he is known to have spent a considerable amount of time in the Sheepyard Flat-Howqua River area. He is remembered for his naming of the top of the McLaughlin's Spur climb from the Delatite River to the final approach to Mt Buller - "Thank Christ Corner", a name which persisted on bushwalker's maps until the Buller Ski Village Development made the route redundant.

'Kem' was a member of the Melbourne Walking Club for sixty years.

All Through the Night

From **The Melbourne Walker**, Vol 40, 1969, pp. 75-76:

By R. Williams

As time goes by, details of past walks blur into a pleasant background of recollections against which are highlighted those incidents and events which were pleasant, exciting, or arduous enough to have left a clear and permanent record on the mind. Sometimes, however, a whole trip remains in bold relief. The Melbourne Walking Club's Easter walk of 1960 is a case in point. The story of this trip, commonly referred to as the "Easter Death March", has oft been recounted around the campfire, but now that the ranks of first-hand retellers are thinning, it is perhaps time to establish the written record.

The outing began innocently enough. We travelled by train to Heyfield on the Thursday evening preceding Easter, and there boarded a bus for the long drive to the Mount Skene Road junction. The more perceptive of those present perhaps recognized an omen in the fruitless hour-long wait at Heyfield for a late-comer; however, the first real sign that this was no ordinary trip came when a large tree across the road forced us to disembark and shoulder packs in the small

hours of Friday morning, some six miles short of our destination. At long last the road junction came into view and we plodded on up the jeep track, to bed down in the Mount Skene fire-watchers' hut at 4 a.m.

Dawn came all too soon, revealing leaden skies from which snowflakes fluttered down to join the inch-thick carpet of white, fresh-fallen on the ground - not an encouraging sight. It is a credit to the persuasive powers of the leader that all members of the party were packed and away by 9 a.m. After a quick visit to the summit of Mount Skene, we descended a steep track to join a logging road running north along the Main Divide, in the direction of Mount Sunday. As we walked on, the skies cleared a little and our step quickened. Prospects looked good despite a chilly wind. We soon reached the end of the road, and continued north, halting for lunch above a deep gap which appears on the map as Peter's Gorge. In the distance, still a long way off, was our proposed camp-site, the Low Saddle, a gigantic gap in the Divide between Mount Sunday and Mount Macdonald. At this juncture one member consulted a small crystal ball which he always carried in case of emergency, and decided to retreat in favour of a more leisurely Easter.

We continued on, now twelve in number. Lack of sleep and a few cases of unfitness slowed the pace during the afternoon and it soon became apparent that the Low Saddle was not to be reached that night. Darkness overtook us on the ridge leading to Mount Sunday and here was established dry camp Number One.

The morning of Saturday was cloudy and cold, but without rain. We were up at dawn and away for the Low Saddle like horses scenting water. The first arrivals downed packs, took up billies and waterbags and headed down a long gully running to the north. The search was long as a consequence of the preceding dry summer, and an hour elapsed before the water party returned bearing the precious fluid. After a combined breakfast and lunch, we set off, with full water-bottles, on the steady 3,000 feet climb toward the triple peaks of Mount Macdonald, which were reached after a long uphill grind. We paused briefly in the chill wind to admire the view from the 5,333 feet top of the mountain, before hurrying on in the now late afternoon to establish a second dry camp some distance east of the summit.

During the night, water rationing came to a sudden end. Rain - buckets of it - poured down in drenching torrents. At breakfast a billy could be filled from the run-off down the smooth trunks of the snow-gums. Camp was struck and we continued east along the ridge in rain

and swirling mist, en route, so we thought, for the Nobs. The illusion was rudely shattered when, having dropped below the level of the mountain mists, we saw the ridge ahead descending into the dark green depths of the upper Jamieson Valley. Wilting under the sullen stares of the sodden sufferers, the leader and an accomplice retraced the route along the ridge to find that the Main Divide diverged southward but a short distance from our previous night's camp-site. Back to the top the weary wanderers plodded in worsening weather, then down again along a ridge (the right one this time), heading for the Nobs. As the Nobs loomed out of the mists, driving rain turned to vicious sleet. The wind increased in violence until one member, somewhat lacking in ballast, was, after a stumble, blown off his feet and down the steep slope below. A lurid torrent of fluent Scot's cursing indicated that the victim, although entangled in the folds of his ground-sheet, was still very much alive. Fortunately he was not hurt, apart from a few bruises.

We left the Divide at the Nobs, to head southward toward the Bull Plain Spur, and ultimately Glencairn and the Barkly River. With decreasing altitude the windswept-going of the open tops was exchanged for welcome shelter among timber, and before long the northern extremity of a forestry jeep track was reached. At Grime's Saddle, a few miles south of the Nobs, we halted to examine the situation. Dusk was now approaching and our bus was to be met at noon the following day at the Barkly River bridge, three miles south of Glencairn and twenty-two miles from our present position. The way ahead lay first along a jeep track, and then a timber road, and since navigation presented few problems it was decided that we would walk through the night. First we had a meal and the warmth of a good fire. In the clearing of the jeep track, large quantities of brushwood and saplings had been uprooted and pushed aside. Willing hands piled this material into a heap and soon flames rose high into the black night as eager hands threw on more and yet more fuel. Descending rain seemed to vaporise and billies standing several feet from the fire bubbled merrily. For a pleasant two hours warmth flowed into previously frozen bodies and spirits rose.

Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end. Eventually the fire died and the time came to depart. Having no torches, we groped and stumbled along the narrow forest-flanked jeep track in a many-eyed but three-quarters blind "crocodile", until the road, encountered at the Basalt Knob Mountain Ash Top Saddle, provided better going. As the night wore on the weather improved and some illumination was provided by the moon as it shone fitfully through gaps in the fast-

moving cloud. The party drew out over the long hours as individuals and small groups found the sleepwalking pace that suited them best. In the early hours of the morning tired eyes began to play tricks. I will remember peering through the darkness at houses by the roadside, which, on closer approach, resolved into sticks leaning against trees. A few of the night marchers dropped out to snatch a couple of hours' sleep by the wayside. The rest plodded on, not feeling, not thinking, just staring ahead into the darkness until the grey dawn light shining on the white rails of the Barkly bridge indicated the end of the trail.

Breakfast at sunrise, then a few hours' welcome sleep, and the trip was over except for the ride home, and, of course, the talking, which continues to this day, breaking out afresh whenever the "Night Marchers of the Bull Plain" foregather.

Bushwalking News Victoria (BNV)

The Melbourne Walking Club is affiliated with Bushwalking Victoria which publishes "Bushwalking News" monthly. The Current and past BNVs can be read on their web page:



Bushwalking Victoria

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

**2023/24 Subscriptions will be due by 30 June 2023,
and are set out below with discounts available to members
who wish to take them when paying.**

**2023/24 rates -- Within Victoria and aged under 80 years \$65
-- Outside Victoria or aged 80 years and over \$60**

The following discounts apply:

Prompt Payment: \$5 (for payment by 30 June 2023).

Emailed Circular (not by post): \$10 (for 12 months).

Note: Life Members and those who have been members for 50 years or more are not required to pay annual subscriptions.

**Please send a cheque payable "Melbourne Walking Club Inc" to:
Mr T. Simpson, 10 Ti Tree Av, Bonbeach, Vic, 3196.**

Or

By bank transfer to the Club's general account:

Account Name: Melbourne Walking Club Inc.

BSB: 063-000, Account No: 1078 3218.

Please ensure that you clearly state your name on the transfer.

Terry Simpson, Treasurer, MWC.



Why we should do a recce

If undeliverable, return to:
Melbourne Walking Club Inc.

Box 2446 GPO
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Melbourne Walking Club Circular

Place
Stamp
Here

