

MWC CIRCULAR

OCTOBER 2024



MELBOURNE
WALKING CLUB

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www.melbournewalkingclub.org

MELBOURNE WALKING CLUB INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: THURSDAY 21st NOVEMBER 2024 AT 7:30PM

To be held at the Box Hill RSL (Upton Room, downstairs),
26 Nelson Rd, Box Hill, at 7:30 pm (Melway 47 C8)

AGENDA

1. Opening.
2. Apologies.
3. Noting of deaths during the past year and one minute's silence.
4. Confirmation of Minutes of the 2023 AGM.
5. Matters arising from the Minutes.
6. Correspondence and matters arising.
7. Presentation of Reports including the Financial Statements.
8. Election of Club Executive members and other elected Office Bearers.
9. Appointment of a suitably qualified person to consider, and where appropriate comment on the Financial Statements. (Campbell Denovan has agreed to be Honorary Reviewer.)
10. Approval of Financial Statements.
11. Presentation of 50 and 25 year badges.
12. Golden Boot Award.
13. Other business introduced with permission of the meeting.
14. Closing of the meeting.

All positions on the Executive will be vacant at the AGM. We encourage other members of the Club to nominate for election. It is important that we have new members joining the Executive.

A Nomination Form is on the inside back page of this circular.

Dinner in the Bistro at 6:00pm – A booking has been made for 20 people at one table which is the maximum number of people who can be seated at the table. More people are most welcome to have dinner before the meeting in the bistro but they will need to make their own bookings. People should therefore contact **Neale Oxley** beforehand and the first 20 will be able to sit at this table (email secretary@melbournewalkingclub.org or phone **0407 525 966**). Refreshments will be provided after the meeting.

Please Note: It is important that as many members as possible attend the meeting to ensure a quorum of ten percent of the Membership.

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OCTOBER WALKS

Wednesday	2 Oct	Waurn Ponds – Geelong	Miles Pierce
Sunday	6 Oct	Wookwookarung Park	Tony Crocker
Monday	7 Oct	Bushrangers Bay	David Painter
Wednesday	9 Oct	Point Cook Coastal Park	Alex Hordijkeno
Monday	14 Oct	Wonga Park – Mount Lofty	Stephen Pfundt
Wednesday	16 Oct	Dandenong Botanic Gdns	David Watkins
Sunday	20 Oct	Point Nepean Coastal Walk	David Adams
Monday	21 Oct	Mernda – Hawkstowe	Gordon Proudfoot
Wednesday	23 Oct	Mt Waverley – Holmesglen	David Blackwell
Sunday	27 Oct	Marysville Circuit Walk	Chris Thomson
Wednesday	30 Oct	Sunbury Circuit	Alex Hordijkeno

Office Bearers 2023-2024

Club Executive

President: Kim Rosen

Secretary: Neale Oxley

Treasurer: Arthur Robertson

Activities Officer: Susan Cranage

General Committee: John Gates

Charlie Freedman

Terry Simpson, &

Julie Paris

Membership Officer: John Rankin

Immediate Past President: Trevor Rosen

Sub-Committee Convenors

Mt Buller Lodge: Julie Paris

Walter Briggs Hut: Trevor Rosen

Activities: Susan Cranage

Membership: John Rankin

Marketing: Terry Simpson

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 East: Trevor Rosen

Sunday Walks West: Susan & Colin Crook

Sunday Peninsula Walks: Colleen Simpson

Peninsula Walks: Ron Anderson

Generic email addresses to contact appropriate Club Members:

president@melbournewalkingclub.org

secretary@melbournewalkingclub.org

treasurer@melbournewalkingclub.org

info@melbournewalkingclub.org

bullerlodge@melbournewalkingclub.org

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editor@melbournewalkingclub.org

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walterbriggshut@melbournewalkingclub.org

activities@melbournewalkingclub.org

MT BULLER LODGE

Your Summer Alpine Retreat

Available October - May

Whole Lodge OR Individual Bookings

**Plan and book early to
secure your preferred dates!**



*Fresh Mountain Air • Glorious
Alpine Scenery • Peace and Serenity
Activities in Beautiful Settings
Bushwalks • Mountain Biking
(on-mountain hire and shuttles)
Horse Riding (on nearby Mt Stirling)
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Indoor Sports Facilities • Etc.*



Share with:

- Family (Quiet stay or family celebration?)
- Your Best Friends
- Work Colleagues (a casual workshop?)
- Your Hobby Group (Art, Photography, Sport, Bridge Club, Needlework, Wine Appreciation, etc.)

The Lodge is located right at the village centre.

It sleeps up to 16

5 bedrooms (3 x 4 bed / 2 x 2 bed)

- each bedroom has its own en-suite bathroom.

Fully equipped kitchen and dining room,
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and barbeque. A small supermarket is close by.

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To book the whole Lodge email your details
and requested dates to

bullerlodge@melbournewalkingclub.com

Individual Bookings:

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Guests \$50 per person per night

To book simply visit the Club Website,
click on Mount Buller and open the
Mount Buller Booking page

An Unmissable MWC Member Privilege

**Copy for November to: Charlie Freedman - Phone: 0415 558 249
email: charlifreedman@yahoo.com
by the 1st Wednesday in the month, 2nd October.**

Laughter Is The Best Medicine

Why do I have to press one for English when they're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?

2024/25 Subscriptions were due by 30 June 2024

Subscription rates are unchanged from last year.
Details are on the inside back page of this circular.

On-Line Back Copies of the Circular

Circulars for the last year:

www.melbournwalkingclub.org/activities/circular

Further back copies:

www.melbournwalkingclub.org/photo-gallery/archives

More details on page 13.

OCTOBER WALKS

Wed 2 Oct Waurm Ponds – Waurm Ponds Ck – South Geelong

Leader: Miles Pierce

Phone: 0429 359 832

Rendezvous: 9:10am at Southern Cross Station southern concourse (Collins St end) entry to designated departure platform for 9:30 V/Line train to Waurm Ponds. Check indicator boards at SCRS. If your arrival is after 9:20, go directly to the train and get aboard.

Maps: Melway 465, 466 & 452

Distance: 12 km.

Grading: Easy – Medium (mostly flat walking).

Transport: 9:30am train from Southern Cross Station to Waurm Ponds. Scheduled arrival at 10:46. Alternatively, the Waurm Ponds bound train can be boarded at Footscray, Sunshine, Wyndham Vale and some other stations enroute (check timetable).

Morning Tea: On train prior to arrival at Waurm Ponds.

Walk Details: From Waurm Ponds station the walk heads northward through residential streets for about 1.5 km to reach the Waurm Ponds Creek trail. The latter pleasantly treed trail will then be followed downstream through the Waurm Ponds Valley Parklands to South Barwon Re-

serve and adjoining Belmont Common. After crossing the Barwon River at 'The Breakwater' the route then follows a riverside trail upstream beside the river with a final kilometre along South Geelong streets to reach the South Geelong station for a return train to Melbourne. (Trains depart at typically 20 – 25 minute intervals early to mid-afternoon.)

Lunch: Provisionally at South Barwon Reserve where there are formal toilets (their 'open' status on the day is uncertain), otherwise lunch will be had along the trail.

Escapes: Bus no. 53 to Geelong R S from near where the Waurin Ponds Creek trail crosses Surf Coast Road. (Approx. 30 min frequency.)

Sun 6 Oct Wookwookarung Regional Park – Bush Walk

NB. You must contact the leader if you want to attend this activity.

Leader: Tony Crocker

Phone: 0419 331 458

Rendezvous: Dementia Friendly Forest and Sensory Trail (Rotunda/information area) at 10:30am.

Maps: Type Woowookarung Regional Park Map pdf in search engine. Not necessary but helpful if you like to research.

Grading: Easy to moderate

Distance: 10.5km.

Transport: Private car or collection available at Ballarat Train Station. Take 8:14am Ararat train from Southern Cross arriving Ballarat 09:43. We would aim for 3:20pm or 2:20pm train to return to Southern Cross.

Morning Tea: In your car or on train.

Walk Details: Defined trails among Messmate Stringybark, grass trees and heath. Some moderate hills and stony underfoot in some places. Boots or walking shoes are recommended. We will have an early picnic lunch at a lookout.

Escapes: Can be shortened to approximately 6km, by an early return along Katy Ryans Rd.

Note: **There are no public toilets**. Red Lion Hotel would be a convenient toilet stop prior to walk. Leader will carry paper and a trowel.

Post walk chat and refreshments at above mentioned hotel for those interested.

Mon 7 Oct Bushrangers Bay – Cape Schanck

Leader: David Painter

Phone: 0490 157 224

Rendezvous & Morning Tea: 9:45am, Melway 259 K8, Boneo Rd, Flin-

ders, Bushrangers Bay car park.

Maps: Melway 259 & 257 insert.

Grading: Moderate

Distance: 10km.

Transport: Private car.

Walk Details: From the car park it is a bush walk to Bushrangers Bay, then a undulating coastal walk to Cape Schanck for lunch, we return by the same route. Spectacular coastal scenery and wild life with a variation of pleasant bush and cliff walking.

No escapes.

Wed 9 Oct Point Cook Coastal Park Walk

Leader: Alex Hordijkeno

Phone: 0497 699 507

Rendezvous: 9:44am at Williams Landing station.

Maps: Melway 208 & 199

Grading: Easy

Distance: 9 km.

Transport: 9:14am Werribee train ex Flinders Street arriving Williams Landing at 9:44am. We then catch the 9:53am #497 Saltwater Coast Estate bus to our morning tea spot.

Morning Tea: Saltwater Reserve (Melway 208 A10). Toilet, seating and shelter available.

Walk Details: A pleasant walk through Point Cook Coastal Park and suburban streets at the start and finish. The walk is flat with some nice coastal views along the way. We will stop for lunch in the grounds of the historical 1857 Point Cook Homestead and Stables (toilets, seating, shelter) and later at the Observation Tower Monument to enjoy elevated views of the Point Cook region and Melbourne city. An escape is possible at lunch time to slightly reduce the walk.

Mon 14 Oct Wonga Park – Mount Lofty – Anticlockwise Circuit

Leader: Stephen Pfundt

Phone: 0434 199 736

Rendezvous & Morning Tea: Meet 10:50am outside supermarket. Morning tea location to be decided.

Maps: Melway 24 & 279

Grading: Medium

Distance: 11km.

Transport: 9:40am Lilydale train arriving Croydon 10:22am. Then bus 672 at 10:27 to Chirside Park. Alight at Wonga Park IGA Supermarket near corner of Jumping Creek Road and Dudley Rd. Those driving can park in Bessa Ct around corner from supermarket.

Walk Details: A walk initially through some back streets and reserves in Wonga Park to Warrandyte State Park with a climb to Mt Lofty in the park, then onto Wittons Reserve for lunch, then return to Wonga Park for bus back to Croydon Station. Aiming for 2:23pm bus, next is 3:25. Note that bus and train connections are tight and the frequency of services is terrible, so be warned!

Wed 16 Oct Combined 3rd Wed & Metro – Dandenong Botanic Gardens

Leaders: David Watkins

Phone: 0414 547 190
david39mwc@gmail.com

Graeme Barker

Phone: 0437 006 938
grbark@yahoo.com.au

Bruce Armstrong

Phone: 0416 758 204
brucearm@hotmail.com

Rendezvous: **Longer Walk;** 9.45am at Croydon Station to catch Upper F.T. Gully Bus #688 at 9.55 to alight at Mt Dandenong Hotel at 10.22am. **Shorter Walk;** 10.15am at Croydon Station to catch Upper F.T. Gully Bus #688 at 10.28 to alight at Olinda Township at 10.58am.

Distance: Longer walk 9km approx.

Grading: Easy.

Maps: Melway 66 or Parks Victoria.
Shorter Walk 3km + Garden.

Transport: **Longer Walk;** 8.45am Lilydale train Ex Flinders Street, arrive Croydon 9.26am.

Shorter Walk; 9.10am Lilydale train ex Flinders Street, arrive Croydon 9.52am.

Private Car; Park at Olinda Netball at 10.45am. Entry is approx. 50m up Georgian Rd through gateway on right.

Morning Tea: All will meet at Olinda Netball courts for Morning Tea (Melway 66 J7). Seating, Cover, Toilets.

Lunch: Those on longer walk will lunch at Serenity Point; Shelter, Seating, Toilets. Those doing the shorter walk meet at the **Chelsea Garden at 12.30pm** for lunch.

Walk Details: **Longer Walk;** From Mt Dandenong Hotel walk up Monash Avenue passing Falls Rd to arrive at Olinda Township (Toilets), passing through township follow Olinda Monbulk Rd to arrive at Netball Club and morning tea. (1.6km).

After morning tea we shall all walk to the Botanic Gardens, (450m) where the walk will follow the perimeter of the gardens, lunching at Serenity

point, and then continuing to pass through the Chelsea Australia Garden. After visiting the Gardens return to the Mt Dandenong hotel via Falls Rd & Monash Avenue to catch return bus.

Shorter Walk; Alight from bus at Olinda Township (Toilets) then walk through township to arrive at Netball club for morning tea (600m). After morning tea we shall all walk to the Botanic Gardens, (450m) where there are two options available:-

- After the recce it has been decided that instead of an organised group walk it would be better for everyone to explore independently and meet up for lunch at The Chelsea Gardens for lunch at 12.30pm.
- Guided tour (30mins) on the “Electric People Mover”; this operates from 10.30am to 3.30pm every 45mins, this must be booked in advance on (03) 8427 2087 as it will be very popular. Cost \$11.00 Full Fare, \$8.50 Concession (at time of recce).

Return buses from Olinda: From Olinda township; To Croydon; 1.43pm; 2.28; 3.05. Journey time; Approx. 31mins.
To Upper Ferntree Gully; 1.35pm; 2.26pm; 2.59pm. Journey time; approx. 26mins.

Sun 20 Oct Point Nepean Coastal Walk

NB. You must contact the leader if you want to attend this activity.

Leader: David Adams

Phone: 0419 342 633

Rendezvous: 9.30 am at Gunners Carpark (go through Portsea and enter the Point Nepean National Park).

Maps: Melway 166 H7 (or satnav).

Grading: Easy/Medium

Distance: 9.8 km circuit.

Transport: Private car.

Walk Details: This walk takes in stunning Ocean and Port Phillip coastal scenery. We pass by Cheviot Beach, historic WW2 fortifications and at the furthest point in the circuit walk arrive at the tip of Point Nepean where we can look across “The Rip” to Point Lonsdale lighthouse about 3.5 km away. An historic fort was built here in the 1880s amidst fear of a Russian incursion into Port Phillip. The very first Allied shots of WW1 were fired from this very spot to deter a German freighter making a break to escape out to sea when war had been declared.

On our return to the car park there are several picturesque spots where we can stop for lunch.

Afternoon tea for those interested: A venue in nearby Sorrento will be

selected.

Mon 21 Oct Mernda – Old Mernda – Mernda South – Hawkstowe

Leader: Gordon Proudfoot

Phone: 9717 0909
0405 083 074

Rendezvous: Mernda station at 9.54am.

Maps: Melway 390 & 183

Distance: 10.0 km.

Grading: Easy/medium (1 steep downhill).

Transport: 8.52am Mernda Train ex Flinders Street Platform 1, arrives Mernda at 9.54am.

Morning Tea: 10.30am at Mernda Village Drive Adventure Playground (Melway 390 H7).

Walk Details: Mainly along paths or quite suburban streets.

Lunch: Lunch will be held at Woodlands Recreation Reserve (Melway 390 F12D1).

Escapes: Escapes at Plenty Road, Everton Road & Waterview Drive.

Wed 23 Oct Mt Waverley – Burwood – Holmesglen

Leader: David Blackwell

Phone: 9557 9177
0407 877 028

Rendezvous: 9.55 am at Mt Waverley station.

Maps: Melway 61 & 60

Grading: Mostly Easy

Distance: 12 km.

Transport: 9.18 am Flinders St train ex Flinders St to Mt Waverley, or 9.48 am or 9.47 am Flinders St train ex Glen Waverley to Mt Waverley station 9.52 am. Also #733 bus, which goes between Oakleigh & Box Hill, runs in Stephenson's Rd next to Mt Waverley station.

Morning Tea: Damper Creek Reserve; seating, no toilets (Melway 61 D11).

Details: Some street walking, but plenty of parks & creek trails. The most difficult parts are all quite short. Lots of bush toilets along the way.

Escapes: We cross Burwood Highway twice near walk midpoint. Tram #75 will take you to the City, Camberwell or Vermont South.

Lunch: Covered seating on Gardiners Ck trail near Deakin University (Melway 61 B4).

Sun 27 Oct Marysville Circuit Walk

NB. You must contact the leader if you want to attend this activity.

Leader: Chris Thomson

Phone: 0435 759 399

cbthomson@vicbar.com.au

Rendezvous: Meet at the Marysville Information Centre Car Park at 9.30 am. You can get a warming coffee to fortify you on the journey at the nearby Bakery.

Distance: Short version approx. 6 -7 km. Longer version approx. 13 km.

Transport: Private car.

Walk Details: We set off from near the Information Centre and walk on an easy riverside path to the Steavenson Falls, the highest in Victoria at some 82m in total height, a walk of about 4 km. Toilets and picnic facilities are available here. Those wanting the short walk can retrace their steps along the riverside to town.

The longer walk will proceed up to the Keppel Lookout, then return to town via the Robertson Gully track. This longer version of the walk involves some climbing, then a somewhat steep descent.

The Bakery is a fine place for a coffee and snack afterwards, with plenty of tables inside and out. It was almost the sole building in town to survive the February 2009 bushfire. Everything else for miles around was destroyed, but it survived intact.

Features: See the progress that the bush has made regenerating itself since the 2009 inferno. Some ghostly dead gums remain from that time amongst the new growth.

Directions: Marysville is 95 km north east of Melbourne. Travel by private car via the Maroondah Highway through Lilydale and Healesville, then the beautiful but slow going Black Spur, before turning right just past Narbethong. Travel time is approx. 2 hrs from Melbourne. At this time of morning you should miss the busy Sunday Healesville scene which can make for very slow travel.

Wed 30 Oct Sunbury Circuit

Leader: Alex Hordijkeno

Phone: 0497 699 507

Rendezvous: 10.00am at Sunbury Railway station platform.

Maps: Melway 382, 381, 362 & 361.

Grading: Easy

Distance: 11 km.

Transport: 9:09am Sunbury train ex Flinders Street, arriving Sunbury at 9:59am.

Morning Tea: Sunbury Recreation Reserve (Melway 382 C2). Toilet, seating and shelter available.

Walk Details: An attractive walk through parkland and nature reserves following Blind Creek and Kismet Creek part of the way. Mostly sealed paths with several minor hills. Lunch will be at Spavin Lake (Melway 362 B11) which is scenic but exposed with limited seating and no toilets or cover. Some bus escapes possible during the walk.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Sun 3 Nov Cycling: Ballarat – Skipton Rail Trail (Smythesdale to Linton and return)

NB. You must contact the leader if you want to attend this activity.

Note. Suitable for mountain bikes, touring bikes, hybrid bikes and e-bikes. Not really suitable for road bikes with skinny tyres.

Leader: Colin Crook

Phone: 0418 386 459

Rendezvous: 10:30am at Smythesdale Historic Precinct, 62 Glenelg Highway, Smythesdale. 142km from Melbourne.

Grading: Easy, Mainly flat rail trail with packed gravel surface in good condition.

Distance: 34km in total.

Transport: Private Car.

Morning Tea: Nimmons Bridge, Newtown.

Ride Details: This is a follow-on from the ride in March from Wendouree to Smythesdale. Meet at Smythesdale Historic Precinct which is on the left hand side as you enter Smythesdale township from Melbourne. It is opposite the Courthouse Hotel. Tables and seats and toilet facilities are at the rear of the precinct. It is an easy ride with attractive scenery including the spectacular wooden trestle bridge, Nimmons Bridge, where we will have morning tea. Lunch is at Linton near a takeaway store where lunch and coffee can be purchased. We will return to Smythesdale and have a debrief at the Courthouse Hotel.

Sun 3 - Tue 5 Nov Base under cover Mt Buller Lodge

NB. You must contact the leader if you want to attend this activity.

Leader: Jill Morison

Phone: 0401 070 845

Mon 4 Nov Baldry Crossing – Gwen Marlyn Rd Greens Bush

Leader: Ian Tregear

Phone: 03 9548 3391

Wed 6 Nov Werribee – State Rose Garden

Leader: David Watkins

Phone: 0414 547 190

mdwatti@bigpond.net.au

NOTE. Due to the river crossing bridge being damaged, this walk has been cancelled. An alternate will be advised by email.

Wed 13 Nov Oak Park – West Breen Ck – Moonie Ponds Ck – Oak Park

Leader: Alex Hordijenko

Phone: 0497 699 507

Sun 17 Nov Balnarring – Somers Beach

NB. You must contact the leader if you want to attend this activity.

Leader: Darly Hergt

Phone: 0434 140 022

Rendezvous & Morning Tea: 10:00 am at Balnarring Beach Rd foreshore car park (Melway 193 D10).

Maps: Melway 193 & 194

Grading: Easy

Distance: 12 km.

Transport: Private car.

Walk Details: This walk is a pleasant walk along the beach starting at Balnarring Beach car park reserve. The walk will proceed east along the beach past the Lord Somers camp, yacht club and on to the hundred steps beach access. Lunch will be on the beach past the settled areas. The return will be via the Coolart Wetlands & Homestead followed by a return to Balnarring beach. Look out for possible (no promises) dolphin and rare bird sightings (e.g. the endangered hooded plover).

Time permitting afternoon tea will be at Balnarring Village.

Note: Toilets are available at the start/finish and two places along the way at Somers. However, there will not be any toilets at the lunch spot on the beach.

Mon 18 Nov Lilydale – Yering – Coldstream (Reverse)

Leader: Greg Taylor

Phone: 0430 047 218

Wed 20 Nov Horseshoe Bend – Brimbank Park

Leader: Gordon Proudfoot

Phone: 0405 083 074

Sun 24 Nov Gembrook – Bunyip State Park – Four Brothers Rocks

NB. You must contact the leader if you want to attend this activity.

Leader: Tony Rogers

Phone: 0466 246 507

Mon 25 Nov Richmond – Glen Iris

Leader: Les Littlejohn

Phone: 0409 400 302

Wed 27 Nov Middle Park – Foreshore – Sandringham

Leader: Bruce Armstrong

Phone: 0416 758 204

On-Line Back Copies of the Circular

Members are reminded that printable and viewable circulars for the last year are available on-line at:

www.melbournewalkingclub.org/activities/circular

Older viewable circulars back to 2016 are available at:

drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1Jg1QIKZuottw3DYTO-nUmKNemVcUhxeW

Even older scanned circulars from 1980 to 2001 are available at:

drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1qV9GEw6tFtEAzoGZyMq9hgs9Up80qT8u

And scanned tour programs from 1929 to 2001 are available at:

drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1-pASV9pfx-EgsSjE8-HB5hdLDzIMtNoF

Getting Onto Rodondo

The second part of the series ...

From an Article in “The Quarterly Supplement To The Gum Tree” by John Mayston Béchervaise, reprinted from “The Educational Magazine”.

And also from an Article “Rodondo Report” by John Mayston Béchervaise, reprinted from “Walkabout”, 1 June 1947.

As an adventure, such a landing could not fail to hold appeal. In this sphere already it had a worthy heritage, for the conical mountain top was first sighted by none other than the lion-hearted Bass above the wave-washed free-board of his open boat, and this great mariner had thought it worthy of note in his log. Matthew Flinders proceeded to mark it on his chart during that almost unparalleled epic of coastal exploration with which the eighteenth century closed, while in 1802 it received its name from Captain Grant, who was evidently impressed by it while making a voyage from the west through Bass Strait in the Lady Nelson. Since then, as they passed by sea between Sydney and Melbourne,



thousands of travellers have seen Rodondo's steep outline, so that it must be as well known nowadays as its namesake in the West Indies. Even more commonly, perhaps, it has been likened by travellers to the famous "Paddy's Milestone" - Ailsa Craig, off the south-west coast of Scotland - and it is perhaps odd that I should have clambered up to the summit of this famous island a good ten years before the chance came to visit Redondo.

To me, as a boy, Wilson's Promontory acted like a magnet. It was a wild place beyond the ends of roads, where every narrow track led to the sea, where there were rugged hills and deserted coves, where shy animals roamed unmolested; a realm coloured as much by recent enchantment with The Swiss Family Robinson and Treasure Island, as by the more factual evidence I had from the hardened adventurers who were its habitues. Thither, therefore, I hastened, as soon as I had saved enough to buy a rucksack, a tent, and stout boots.

Looking back over twenty years, I am still a little amazed by that enthusiasm. I chose a friend a little younger than myself, and we set out gaily from Korumburra to walk what must be almost a hundred miles - camping, cooking, and contemptuous of lifts - to the lighthouse settlement at the extreme south-east tip of Australia. There is nothing like a first visit to a lovely place, and, although times out of number I have repeated the journey, my mind still holds luminous vignettes of that first great hike. From that journey dated two ambitions, both crystallized in conversation with that inspiring Scotsman, Hugh Dickson, keeper of the light.

The first was old La Trobe, the highest mountain on the "Prom", whose only hazard was fire-thickened scrub, dense to the point of impenetrability. The second, hatched as we stood by the wind-swept look out, the setting foot on Rodondo. The first was achieved in due course, after sweating and cutting a route along the Vereker ridge at the rate of 7 miles in five days; the second lay fallow through years in distant parts, when occasionally, among close friends, some one would enquire why I used a certain pseudonym at times - and was little the wiser when I spoke vaguely of a tiny distant island in Bass Strait!

On many occasions before going abroad I discussed Rodondo with south-coast fishermen - always with the same result; a friendly but obstinate dissuasion, especially from those who had sailed near by and observed the rather uncompromising cliffs. I used to wish that the Guide to Seamen had never been written - with its catalogue of dangers, ending "a place to be avoided." However easy or difficult the actual cliffs might be, the approach must be with the co-operation of an expert boatman sympathetic to the venture.

To be continued ...



The Start of a Cold Winters Walk on a Sunny Day, July 3rd 2024

**If undeliverable, return to:
Melbourne Walking Club Inc.**

**Box 2446 GPO
MELBOURNE VIC 3001**

Melbourne Walking Club Circular

