Melbourne Walking Club Inc.

2025 Annual Report

Founded 1894

For the promotion and encouragement of recreational walking in congenial company and to foster the conservation of our natural heritage

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2025

I'm pleased to present my second Annual Report as President of the Melbourne Walking Club. The Club has had a busy year with an increased number of activities and events, an expanded subcommittee system and our membership continues to grow. We now have approximately 288 members, 70 of whom are women.

Late last year I had success in obtaining a special $5000 State Government grant which enabled twenty-two members to do a comprehensive First Aid Training Course run by St John Ambulance for free. The feedback was extremely positive.

The Activities Program under the leadership of Sue Cranage has been expanded. There are now generally four Sunday walks each month, including a new half day shorter metropolitan walk. This has proved especially popular with people who are working or who have family commitments. The Executive Committee now receives detailed statistics on all aspects of the Activities Program.

There are more overnight trips on offer including Base Under Cover trips and pack carrying walks. A Base Under Cover trip staying at the Mt Buller Lodge took place in March and I led an interstate Base Under Cover trip based in Coffs Harbour in August. Twelve members of the club completed the beautiful Solitary Islands Coastal Walk over five days. I also organized the annual Combined Walk with the Melbourne Women's Walking Club at Mt Donna Buang in May and 40 people from both clubs attended. More recently the President's Walk took place at Kyneton. A Pack Carrying trip at Wilson's Promontory, a combined Bike/ Walking trip in the Myrtleford area in November and a trip to Tasmania in February have also been organized. I congratulate Sue Cranage, all the members of the Activities Subcommittee and of course the many walk leaders for all their work this year.

The Mt Buller Lodge has been experiencing financial challenges due to a range of different factors. These include the legacy of the closure of Mt Buller during two years of Covid, two poor snow seasons and increased running costs. These costs included necessary work prior to lodging our application to Alpine Resorts Victoria (ARV) to renew the lease and a large increase in the cost of insurance. Fortunately, a very good snow season this year led to an increase in winter bookings and we also received just over $15,000 in voluntary donations from members in response to our appeal. We are extremely grateful to the 141 members who made a donation.

The Executive Committee and the Mt Buller Lodge Subcommittee are working closely together in an attempt to increase occupancy of the lodge particularly during the summer (October to May) period. We have just introduced a trial scheme to allow members of two affiliated bushwalking clubs, (Melbourne Women's Walking Club and Boroondara Bushwalkers), to book the lodge during summer at the special exclusive use rate. Bookings have already been made.

There will also be increased marketing and promotion of the lodge as an all-year-

round destination. A motion will be put on behalf of the Mt Buller Lodge Subcommittee at the AGM to reduce the number of qualifying walks to apply for membership from four to two in a twelve month period. If approved at the AGM, the Subcommittee expects more people will apply to join the club and stay at the lodge.

I thank the Convenor of the Mt Buller Lodge Subcommittee, Julie Paris, for the huge amount of work she has done this year in preparation for the lease renewal. The application to renew the lease has now been lodged with the ARV and we are waiting for it to be assessed. The preparation of the application has involved many steps and it has been a long and difficult process.

The Walter Briggs Hut at Mt Donna Buang has also been popular and the hut continues to be maintained in very good condition. We have had walks to and from the hut along different walking tracks, several working bees and an Open Day. We have also invited members of our two affiliate walking clubs to join walks which have involved visits to the hut. I thank the Convenor of the Walter Briggs Hut, Trevor Rosen and the Subcommittee for all the work they have done during the year. The hut is there for all members to enjoy and the club is very fortunate to have this wonderful asset.

Finally, I thank all members of the Executive Committee for their work and ongoing support. This year the members have been Neale Oxley (Secretary), Sue Cranage (Activities Officer), Julie Paris (Mt Buller Lodge), Trevor Rosen (Walter Briggs Hut and also my Assistant), John Rankin (Membership Officer), Arthur Robertson (Treasurer) Charlie Freedman (Circular & Website), Terry Simpson (Marketing) and John Gates (General Committee Member).

I also thank all the different Walk Coordinators, the bike rides Coordinator, the members of each subcommittee, the walk and activity leaders and the many other members of the club who work behind the scenes, for their ongoing contribution to the Melbourne Walking Club.

Kim Rosen
President
Melbourne Walking Club

Melbourne Walking Club Inc AGM on 27th November 2025
Activities Officer Report 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

Refer to tables on **Pages 5 & 6**.

The Melbourne Walking Club has had another year of great activities being provided for members and visitors to enjoy. These Activities only happen due to the dedicated efforts of the Activity Coordinators, the Activities Management Group and the members who volunteer to be Activity Leaders.

From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, there were 137 Melbourne Walking Club Activities advertised with 129 of these activities being successfully completed. This number of 129 is slightly less than the 139 activities completed for the year 2023 to 2024. Looking at the averages of the members and visitors attending the different activities for the 24/25 year, the Sunday Activities, and the Wednesday Metro Activities seem to have had the highest average attendance. Compared to the previous year, the annual average number of participants per activity has remained about the same. However, this year under the leadership of Kim Rosen, the combined walk with the Melbourne Womens Walking Club was a great success, with 40 attending the Activity (26 last year).

A total of 1,107 members (1,110 last year) and 191 visitors (294 last year) attended the 24/25 year of MWC Activities. There were 78 Activities which had visitors attending. The number of MWC members who participated in the 24/25 Activities represented 45.5% of the MWC membership. There were 54 members who attended 5 or more Activities of which 14 members attended 20 or more Activities. The details of these statistics discussed above are provided on the next page in the Summary Table for 1st July 2024 to 30th June 2025 period. Many thanks to John Rankin for collecting the activity and participation information, and to David Watkins for calculating the Statistics.

This year a Base Undercover Sub-committee was successfully formed to organize activities which extend over several days with nightly accommodation. Base Undercover Activities have been organized in regional Victoria, NSW and Tasmania and it is hoped to organize some overseas trips in the future. Thank you to Jill Morison, Simon Shepard, Kim Rosen, Cynthia Lui, Francis Brennan and Chris Thomson, who have or are leading Base Undercover Activities. Also, thank you to Kim Rosen, Alison Anthony, Francis Brennan, Cynthia Lui, Simon Shepard and Ann Lewis for being on the Base Undercover Subcommittee.

A big thank you is needed for a group of members who work throughout the year to organize activities and leaders for walks in Victoria and in suburban Melbourne. These members are: Doug Swinbourne for the Midweek, Ron Anderson for the Peninsula Monday, Graeme Barker for the 3rd Wednesday, Keith Tupper for the Easy Metro, Trevor Rosen for the Sunday East, Susan and Colin Crook for the Sunday West, Colleen Simpson for the Sunday Peninsula, John Rankin for the Bike Rides, Trevor Rosen for the Walter Briggs Hut Activities, Charlie Freedman for the Tuesday Social Lunch and Cynthia Lui, who is a new Activity Coordinator for a new Activity called the Sunday Metro. The Sunday Metro is a morning walk in Metropolitan Melbourne on the 2nd Sunday of the month.

It must be remembered that these MWC activities happen only because members are willing to give their time to investigate walks and then to lead them for MWC. So, a big, big thank you to the 54 members who were Activity leaders for the 24/25 year, some of whom led 4 or more Activities.

If you are inspired to be an Activity Leader, participate in as many activities as possible and talk to one of the Activity Coordinators named above about your interest in leading a walk and about what is involved.

Sue Cranage
Activities Officer

YEAR TO DATE MONTHLY STATISTICAL REPORT TO 30/6/2025

Annual Average Number of Participants per Activity

Activity	Total Events Completed	Members	Visitors	24-25	23-24	22-23	21-22	20-21	19-20
Monday Peninsula	9	51	4	6	7	9	12	10	10
Monday Metro	12	97	13	9	9	12	13	10	9
Monday Easy Metro	10	69	5	7	7	8	13	10	14
Tuesday Social Lunch	9	56	1	6	0	1	0	0	0
Wednesday Metro	38	427	51	13	11	13	12	12	15
3rd Wednesday	10	69	9	8	10	10	9	14	16
Wednesday President's Walk	1	17	2	19	20	Cancelled	31	30	36
Sunday Activity West	7	56	6	9	0	0	0	0	0
Sunday Activity East	9	83	34	13	14	15	14	13	16
Sunday Peninsula	12	96	30	11	0	0	0	0	0
Combined With M.W.W.C.	1	21	19	40	26	22	40	0	11
Walter Briggs Hut Activity	7	46	9	11	13	27	21	6	5
Bike Ride	2	6	0	3	5	6	0	7	0
Overnight Pack Carry	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0
Base Undercover	2	13	8	11	10	12	12	0	13
Extended Mixed Tour	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

30/6/2025 – YEAR TO DATE BREAKDOWN OF MEMBERS ATTENDANCE AT YEARS EVENTS

	Number Attending At Least On Event	Number Participating In 5 Or More Events	Number Participating In 10 Or More Events	Number Participating In 20 Or More Events
W. Briggs Hut Visits	39	5	0	0
Sunday Peninsula	21	8	2	0
Combined With M.W.W.C.	17	0	0	0
President's Walk	4	0	0	0
Bike Ride	12	0	0	0
W. Briggs Hut Activity	17	0	0	0
Extended Mixed Tour	0	0	0	0
Base Undercover	14	1	0	0
Tuesday Social	2	1	0	0
Overnight Pack Carry	0	0	0	0
Monday Peninsula	18	4	0	0
Sunday Country	35	4	0	0
Wednesday Metro	46	26	15	6
Monday Metro	27	9	2	0
Easy Metro	19	6	1	0
3rd Wednesday	23	5	0	0
Total Activities	**130**	**54**	**28**	**14**

% Member Participation	45.5%

MEMBER PARTICIPATION IN DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES OVER THE YEAR

	Number Participating In Different Activity Type
10+ Activities	0
9 Activities	0
8 Activities	0
7 Activities	3
6 Activities	2
5 Activities	9
4 Activities	12
3 Activities	25
2 Activities	31
1 Activity	51

Melbourne Walking Club Inc.

30th June 2025 Annual Financial Statements

Executive Committee Report for the year ended 30th June 2025

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and the significant accounting policies disclosed in the Notes.

Executive Committee

The names of each person who has been an office holder during the year and to the date of the report are:

President:	Kim Rosen
Secretary:	Neale Oxley
Activities Officer:	Susan Cranage
Membership Officer:	John Rankin
Treasurer:	Arthur Robertson
Marketing Officer:	Terry Simpson
General Committee:	Charlie Freedman, Trevor Rosen (past president), John Gates and Julie Paris

Review of Operations

During the year, the club continued to engage in its principal activity, the results of which are disclosed in the attached.

Financial Statements

The net current year surplus of the club for the financial year ended 30th June 2025 amounted to $8,734.

Club's Objectives

The promotion and encouragement of recreational walking and other activities and to promote and encourage the use of the Mt Buller Lodge and The Walter Briggs Hut for recreational activities.

Melbourne Walking Club Inc.
Profit and Loss Account for the year ended 30th June 2025

1. Mount Buller Account		**2025**	**2024**
Income		**$**	**$**
- Tariffs Winter		56,469	63,868
- Tariffs Summer		15,150	11,322
- Interest and donations		14,754	665
- Sundry		1,610	350
	Total income	87,983	76,205
Expenditure - Fixed costs			
- Site rental		20,227	19,527
- Service charge		7,185	7,240
- Insurance		22,605	14,195
		50,017	40,962
Expenditure - Variable costs			
- Utilities, gas, electricity, telephone		8,314	9,010
- Repairs and maintenance		16,348	252
- Booking System		1,978	1,944
- Sundry		3,515	753
		30,155	11,959
	Total expenses	80,172	52,921
Net Surplus (Deficit)		**7,811**	**23,284**

2. MWC general account		**2025**	**2024**
Income			
- Subscriptions		14,258	13,949
- Interest		412	624
- Visitor fees		700	961
- Govt Grant		4,840	-
	Total income	20,210	15,534
Expenditure			
- Affiliation fees		4,963	4,629
- Circular printing & postage		2,706	1,800
- Insurance		2,867	2,746
- Badges & name tags		538	311
- Walter Briggs Hut		202	158
- Office Expenses		2,724	2,274
- Walk Expenses		447	-
- First Aid Courses		4,840	-
	Total expenses	19,287	11,918
Net Surplus (Deficit)		**923**	**3,616**

Melbourne Walking Club Inc.
Balance Sheet as at 30th June 2025

	2025	2024
	$	$
Current Assets		
Mt Buller - CBA account	16,234	728
Mt Buller - CBA saver account	57,814	75,772
MWC - CBA account	22,203	15,204
MWC - CBA T/Deposit account	32,075	31,663
Paypal deposits - Mt Buller	57,932	50,075
Prepayments - AGM	350	350
Prepayments - Insurance	22,779	12,517
Total current Assets	209,387	186,309
Current Liabilities		
Advance tariffs - Mt Buller	57,932	50,075
Advance subscriptions MWC	11,762	5,475
Advance Donations	200	-
Total Current Liabilities	69,894	55,550
Net Current Assets	139,493	130,759
Fixed Assets		
Mt Buller Lodge - at cost	263,720	263,720
Mt Buller extensions - at cost	175,490	175,490
Mt Buller furniture & fittings - at cost	55,516	55,516
Less provision for depreciation	(55,516)	(55,516)
Total Fixed Assets	439,210	439,210
Total Net Assets	**578,703**	**569,969**
Equity		
Mt Buller - balance beginning of year	494,457	471,173
Add Net surplus (deficit) for year	7,811	23,284
	502,268	494,457
MWC - balance beginning of year	75,512	71,896
Add Net surplus (deficit) for year	923	3,616
	76,435	75,512
Total Equity	**578,703**	**569,969**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2025

Summary of significant accounting policies

1. Financial Reporting Framework

- These Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Australian requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

  (a) The Melbourne Walking Club inc. is considered to be a Tier 1 entity.

- Basis of Preparation
  The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are based on historical costs unless otherwise stated in the notes.

2. Revenue

- Donations and bequests are recognized as revenue when received.
- Interest revenue is recognized as it accrues.
- Club membership Subscriptions for the 2025/26 year if received prior to the 30th June 2025 are shown as in Advance in the Balance Sheet.
- Mount Buller - Bookings for the 2025 snow season if received prior to the 30th June 2025 are shown as in Advance in the Balance Sheet.

3. Property, Plant and Equipment

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost or fair value basis less depreciation and any impairment losses.

4. Leases

- Details of lease over The Melbourne Walking Club Inc Mt Buller Lodge, and Lot A site within the Mt Buller Alpine Resort (includes site rental and service charge).
- Lease between the Alpine Resorts Commission and Melbourne Walking Club incorporated for a period of 35 years. Expiry date 31st May 2027.

	2025	2024
	$	$
Lease commitment for the 2025 calendar year	26,111	25,815

- Site rental and service charge increase by CPI each year and in addition the new SES charge of approximately $3000 will be payable.

5. Income Tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the entity is exempt from income tax under Div 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

6. Mt Buller Lodge

The MWC Executive has had a Estimate of Reinstatement Cost for Insurance Purposes done by local real estate agent John Castran and based on this valued the lodge at $3,100,000.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – continued

7. Cash Flow	2025	2024
	$	$
Receipts from operations Mt Buller	87,983	76,205
Receipts from operations MWC	20,210	15,534
Payments to Lessors and Suppliers	(99,459)	(64,839)
Change to net cash position	**8,734**	**26,900**
Funded by a net increase in cash reserves	12,816	15,671
Funded by a net increase in debtors	10,262	1,050
Funded by a net increase in liabilities	(14,344)	10,179
	8,734	**26,900**

The Financial Statements were authorised for issue by the Executive Committee on the 1st October 2025.

A Robertson - Treasurer **Kim Rosen - President**

TREASURERS REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2025

The overall result for the year to 30th June 2025 was a surplus of $8,734.

Surplus/ (deficit)	2025 $	2024 $	2023 $	2022 $
MWC	923	3,616	2,449	1,682
Buller	7,811	23,284	32,835	(26,566)
Total	8,734	26,900	35,284	(24,884)

Melbourne Walking Club General Account

A surplus of $923 for the year reflects increasing costs with no increase in members numbers.

Mt Buller Lodge

The lodge surplus for 202412025 of $7,811 a good result reflects the continued increase in the summer bookings, and the donations received to help cover additional expenditure in relation to the work required for the application for the renewal of our lease with the Alpine Resorts Commission. The advance booking for 2025/2026 have been very good due to the exceptional snow season this year.

A Robertson
Treasurer.

REVIEWER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

I have examined the Accounts of the Melbourne Walking Club Incorporated.

From the information available and the explanations received I am of the opinion that the accompanying Financial Statements are properly drawn up so as to present a fair view of the operations of the Club for the year ended 30 June 2025 and the financial position at that date.

C R Denovan
Honorary Reviewer

Annual Report - Mt Buller Lodge - FY 2024/2025

Mt Buller Lodge subcommittee had a very busy year. We worked in association with the executive committee to address the lodge's financial issues. Quarterly subcommittee meetings and a special finance meeting were held. There have been some changes to the subcommittee with the resignations of Quentin Mushins, Ernie Lawrence and Jenny Hosking. We thank them for their contributions to lodge management. New members are Genevieve Webb, Brendon Beattie and recently Ann Lewis. They join the other members of the subcommittee Julie Paris, Daryl Hergt, Ian Moreton, Bruce Whorlton, John Gates, Simon Shepard, Susanna Bevilacqua, Maria Arturi plus past and current presidents Trevor Rosen and Kim Rosen.

The application to renew the lease for the lodge's site from Alpine Resorts Victoria was prepared and lodged in August 2025. Prior to this much work was required, starting with the first inspection by building surveyor Justin Bayard in November. This identified the urgent need for a new fire indicator control panel and smoke/heat detectors, fire alarms, emergency lights, compliant door locks plus other upgrades. Also in November, the local CFA Commander inspected the building and grounds. This prompted us to obtain a comprehensive arborist report and then apply for permission to prune the snow gums on our property to reduce fire risk. The lodge has also been inspected and registered with Mansfield Shire Council. Working bees in November and May were very productive with cleaning, minor repairs and removal of rubbish carried out.

We are now waiting for Alpine Resorts Victoria to respond with a score which will determine the length of the new lease. They will likely suggest ways to improve this score (which may require further expenditure).

The lodge has been valued for insurance purposes at $3.41M. In an area prone to bushfires it is essential to have adequate insurance, and our premium has consequently increased.

Maria and Susanna prepared a survey which was emailed to all MWC members in October 2024. Our conclusions- The lodge is extremely important to club members, yet they are not utilising it sufficiently for it to be financially viable. Active membership needs to increase, possibly requiring constitutional change.

The subcommittee has examined multiple options for increasing revenue including-improved promotion of green season exclusive bookings, increased tariffs, more frequent base undercover weekends, promoting MWC to Mansfield locals, applying for a grant from the Bendigo Bank, requesting a donation from MWC members, offering use of the lodge to other walking clubs and more. We presented two proposals to the

executive committee this year. First was a request for direct marketing to members and prospective members via Facebook and Instagram. Second was a proposal to encourage younger people to join the club by changing the constitution to require only 2 walks in 12 months to gain membership. This constitutional change will be put to the vote at the AGM on 27th November.

Occupancy rates improved this winter due to good snow falls and the resolution of water supply issues at Mt Buller which allowed full use of snow making equipment. Improved marketing to members via emails/ebulletins, Facebook and now Instagram also assisted. The winter season is however largely weather dependent, so our marketing focus is mostly on the green season (October to May). A marketing working bee is being planned for Spring 2025 at Mt Buller.

Tariffs were updated before Jan 1st when bookings for the ski season became available to all members. The 25/26 summer tariffs were reviewed and confirmed at our last meeting.

In May a special finance meeting was held. At that stage it was predicted there would be a $30,000 deficit unless changes were made. The Mt Buller Lodge cash balance had dropped below the $100,000 needed to cover critical failures. This was due to unavoidable large expenses this year including insurance premiums, site rental and works required for the lease renewal application. It was decided to ask members for a voluntary contribution to assist the lodge finances. We are very grateful for the response. Fortunately, by June 30th the cash balance had improved to $131,979.

It is often difficult to get tradespeople to come to the mountain for quotations, and so it will take some time to produce a fully budgeted long-term plan for maintenance and upgrades. This year a new dishwasher was installed, and induction hot plates replaced the leaking gas hotplates in the kitchen. The following tasks have been prioritised for next year- installation of reverse cycle air conditioning in the dining/living area, construction of compliant steps at the rear fire exit, installation of roof anchors and external painting.

Thank you once again to everyone who made a voluntary contribution to our lodge funds. We ask that you carefully consider our proposal for a change to the constitution and hope that you decide to vote yes.

Julie Paris – Convenor Mt Buller Lodge

Walter Briggs Hut Annual Report 2025

The Hut continues to be maintained in very good condition and is visited regularly by members of the Subcommittee and other members of the Club on Open Days, Working Bees and visits associated with walks in the Mount Donna Buang Area. We have also welcomed members of the Melbourne Women's Walking Club and the Boroondara Bushwalkers Club on walks which include a visit to the hut.

Subcommittee:

The current members of the Walter Briggs Hut Subcommittee are Trevor Rosen (Convenor), Kim Rosen, John Gates, Denis Ward, Michael Blackett, Tony Cagney, Colleen Simpson, Terry Simpson, Susan Cranage and Brendan Beatty. We're very keen for some other members of the Club to join the Subcommittee and help us look after the hut and also to help organize activities at the hut. Membership of the Subcommittee is an enjoyable and rewarding experience. If you're willing to help please contact the Convenor, Trevor Rosen.

During the year three Subcommittee Meetings were held at the hut on 22 July 2024, 25 November 2024 and 28 February 2025.

Maintenance:

Apart from general repairs there are always other jobs such as clearing the tracks around the hut, cleaning the gutters and the water filter, maintaining a supply of firewood and cleaning the hut. Apart from the walk from the hut to the summit of Mt Donna Buang and the walk to the Healesville Rd and Ben Cairn we can now walk from the hut to the Boobyalla Track, up to Mt Boobyalla and on to the Acheron Way.

Activities and Events at the Walter Briggs Hut

Type of Activity	Total number of events	Total number of attendees	Average no. of attendees
Open Day (1/12/24)	1	12	12
Subcommittee meetings at WBH	3	24	8
Working Bees (Advertised)	2	22	11
Working Bees (Not advertised)	3	17	6
Walks - walks with both MWC & Boroondara Bushwalkers Club including a visit to the hut	3	41	14
Annual Combined Walk with Melbourne Women's Walking Club including a visit to the hut (4/5/25)	1	40	40
Overnight stays	1	2	2
Total Numbers	**14**	**158**	**11**

Two highlights of the year included the Open Day in December 2024 and the very popular Combined Walk with the Melbourne Women's Walking Club in May 2025. Forty people attended this event. There were two alternate walks offered which both included a visit to the hut. Members of other bushwalking clubs are always surprised and impressed when they first see the hut hidden away in the forest in the beautiful Yarra Ranges National Park. Some visits and working bees at the hut are arranged informally and often at short notice depending on the weather conditions and the availability of members of the Subcommittee.

Expenditure:

The Club is fortunate that very little expenditure on the hut has been required this year. Apart from incidentals the only regular expenditure has been the annual lease fee to Parks Victoria in the sum of $128.54. We maintain a close working relationship with the Parks Victoria Rangers who are based at Woori Yallock.

Future Events:

We have another Working Bee on Sunday 26 October and an Open Day on Sunday 7 December which will be a Christmas celebration as well an opportunity to visit the hut, enjoy a gourmet sausage sizzle and join a walk from the hut. All members and their family and friends are most welcome to attend.

Thank You

Thank you once again to all the enthusiastic members of the Subcommittee and to all the other members of the Club who have attended walks or Working Bees at the hut. The Club is very fortunate to have this wonderful asset which has been there for over eighty years. Do come and visit.

Trevor Rosen
Convenor of the Walter Briggs Hut Subcommittee

Membership Report

Membership remained stable during the 2024/25 financial year, with 23 new Members and 24 resignations leaving a total of 284 at 30 June 2025. The trend in Membership for the last ten years is shown in the table below:

Year	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26 YTD
New	14	13	16	24	13	9	20	17	20	23	8
Resigned / deceased		11	9	15	13	23	12	17	6	24	4
Total		274	277	284	282	267	271	271	285	284	288

Since 1 July 2024 to 30 September 2025, we have had 31 new Members, 26 resignations and two Members have passed away. As at 30 September 2025, Membership was 288, which includes 70 women Members and 17 Life Members.

It's pleasing to note that we are continuing to attract new Members. Since Jan 2022, 72 new Members have been admitted, with a median age of 59 (compared to 68 for the Club as a whole), and over half (38) are women.

Details of membership changes since 1 July 2024 are as follows:

New Members (1/7/24 – 30/9/25): Tom Corrigan, Miranda Milne, Greg Wambach, Cynthia Lui, John O'Toole, Ann Lewis, Bernadette Pound, Teresa McCann, Astrid Luengen, Francis Brennan, Alison Anthony, Ines Kessler, Anja Bauer, Ken Morgan, Helen Renehan, Brian Marks, Jacqui Marks, Luke Renehan, Catherine Bourne, Krystel Skilton, Peter Barbetti, Mackenzie Howe, Grace Phillips, Dean Howe, Susan Begg, Robert Begg, Sophia Lee, Levan Lu, Greg Burkhalter, Graeme Davis, Paul Bell.

Resignations (1/7/24 – 30/9/25): John Webb, Kevin Shaw, Chris Jepson, Don Ziino, Alan Tickell, Thomas Crook, Andrew Bell, Murray Charlesworth, Carolyn Cranmer, Noriko Farrell, John Fredrickson, Nathan James, Roger Jukes, Paul Kennedy, Bores Marczuk, Luke McVicar, Ines Ros, Mark Sanderson, Ian Taylor, Russell Way, Helene Rosanove, Travis Beckwith, Marshal Schaeche, Greg Wambach, Jim Christie, Marilyn Forsyth.

Deceased (1/7/24 – 30/9/25): Hugh Gibson and Mark Dewhirst.

I would like to again thank all Leaders for sending me their Attendance Sheets promptly, or handing them to me on walks. It is from the Visitors list on the Attendance sheet that we identify potential new members to whom I send information about the Club and, after four walks, an invitation to apply to join the Club. The Attendance sheets are also used by David Watkins to produce statistical information on walks for the Executive and to identity the yearly winner of the Golden Boot.

John Rankin – Membership Officer

Website Report 2025

The Current Walks page has a listing of all walks for the current and following months, along with the leaders' names:

http://www.melbournewalkingclub.org/activities/walk-status

It provides quick access to a brief description of the walks program.

More details on each walk are available in the Club's circular. Circulars for the most recent 12 months are available at:

http://www.melbournewalkingclub.org/activities/circular

Circular copies back to 2016 are available at:

https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1Jg1QlKZuottw3DYTO-nUmKNemVcUhxeW

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

https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1qV9GEw6tFtEAzoGZyMq9hgS9Up80qT8u

Old scanned Tour Programs from 1929 to 2001 are available at:

https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1-pASV9pfx-EgsSjE8-HB5hdLDzlMtNoF

These old Circulars and Tour Programs were digitised by Mick Meyers, whose father was in the club.

There are links to photos, videos etc. on the Clubs website at:

http://www.melbournewalkingclub.org/photo-gallery/archives

Any members with photos, videos or other items related to the Club or bushwalking in general (in digital format, e.g. JPG, MP3, DVD or MP4), who are willing to share them with other Club members, can have them uploaded to the Club's website. Please contact me on:

Phone: **0415 558 249**

or email: **webmaster@melbournewalkingclub.org**

Website Upgrade

The club is currently in the process of upgrading the website, and this will eventually enable members to pay their subscriptions online via a secure website plug-in. The new website will have a brighter and bolder look and feel, but the functionally will be basically unchanged.

At present the new website is being tested. If anyone would like to view the new website and give their comments, please contact me as above.

Charlie Freedman – Webmaster

MWC Annual Marketing Report 2025

The revamped Mt Buller Lodge Subcommittee has introduced some new members. Considerable effort is now focused on maintenance, renewing the lease for the Mt Buller Lodge and developing marketing initiatives to boost occupation of the Lodge. The marketing activity of the Lodge now rests with the Lodge Subcommittee.

A number of other marketing activities were also carried out to assist the Mt Buller Subcommittee and other club activities, with input from David Adams and Richard Simpson, which included:

1. Mt Buller Lodge
    - Providing photographic material for the Lodge advertising.
    - Recommendations on grant applications, e.g. Bendigo Bank.

2. MWC communication
    - Assistance in designing Website, Circular and eBulletin communications for member communication.
    - Design and implementation of a MWC business card for advertising to the general public.

3. Membership
    - Advertising, to appeal to all club members, such as Sunday Walkers, Weekday Walkers, Skiers, and Non-active members about the range of club activities and a message to join in.

Conclusion

The marketing of Melbourne Walking Club activities is now fairly comprehensive for walking, bike riding and longer two or three day undercover walks. Social activities, weekday walks and the inclusion of non-active groups needs more work. Mt Buller Lodge, however, is the most pressing area for further efforts. The Mt Buller Lodge Subcommittee is motivated and working hard to develop and implement plans for the Lodge.

T. Simpson

Melbourne Walking Club Inc

2025 Annual Report

If undeliverable, return to:
Melbourne Walking Club Inc.

Box 2446 GPO
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

AGM REPORT

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