Melbourne Walking Club Inc.

2026 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 2026

I'm pleased to present my third and final Annual Report as President of the Melbourne Walking Club. This year my three year term comes to an end and I will no longer continue as President. I intend however to remain on the Executive Committee and take on another role.

It has been a privilege to serve as President and an honour to have been elected as the first female President in the long history of the Club. As President you are involved in all aspects of the Club's operations and the position provides a unique opportunity to work with many dedicated and talented members of the Club. I am also pleased to have seen the membership of the Club gradually increase to its highest level in many years.

The Club has had another busy year with 141 activities completed, averaging almost three activities to choose from every week. There have been five Base Undercover and two Pack Carrying & Camping trips in the same period. One of my personal goals in my three years as President was to re-instate base undercovers and pack-carrying as well as offer a greater diversity of activities in general. This has been a gradual process but significant changes have now occurred. Thanks to the combined efforts of many people including Sue Cranage the Activities Officer, the Activities Subcommittee and the enthusiastic members who have organised these trips, I feel that this goal has been achieved. Several trips have already been organised for next year.

During the year I have enjoyed leading a variety of walks including the President's Walk, a Base Undercover trip at Coffs Harbour and the ongoing series of walks along the Goldfields Track in Central Victoria. I have also helped coordinate the Combined Walk with the Melbourne Women's Walking Club and promoted the Federation Walks at Portland which seven members are attending in October.

The financial position of the Mt Buller Lodge continues to be a concern for the Executive Committee. Most members of the club value the Lodge as a club asset whether they use it or not. The Lodge is now looking better than it has for many years. Essential maintenance work has been carried out including the painting of the exterior. This job required the installation of roof anchors and also repairs to some of the timber work. New blinds have been installed in the dining and living areas, a new split system air conditioner has been installed and the kitchen now has two new induction cook tops. All of this has come at a cost but the work has been necessary to properly maintain and improve the lodge to meet current standards. At the same time some of the fixed costs have increased. The financial details are contained in the Treasurer's Report.

The Executive Committee and the Mt Buller Lodge Subcommittee and a dedicated working group led by Dean Howe have been investigating ways to increase revenue for the lodge and some changes will be necessary. One obvious way to raise more revenue is to increase occupancy levels throughout the year. I strongly encourage all members to make more use of the lodge both in the winter and during the green season. The lodge is a great place to stay with family or friends at any time of the year.

The application for a new lease was submitted over a year ago by Julie Paris, the Convenor of the Lodge. We are still waiting to hear the result from Alpine Resorts Victoria. Julie is to be congratulated on all the work she has organised to update and maintain the Lodge. In addition to this workload she has also been working as the Finance Officer for the lodge.

Our other asset, the Walter Briggs Hut, hidden away in the forest in the ranges near Warburton, remains in very good condition and is cared for by an active Subcommittee with Trevor Rosen the Convenor. The hut is visited regularly for Subcommittee meetings, working bees and as a base for walks in the area. There have also been several recent overnight stays at the hut which is a welcome development. Once again, all members are encouraged to visit the hut and to see for themselves what a wonderful asset this is for the Club.

It is expected that a new system will soon be introduced to manage the membership process for the club. This will enable membership applications and renewals to all be done online. I thank Charlie Freedman, John Rankin and Dean Howe for the work they have been doing on this.

I thank all members of the Executive Committee for their assistance and support during the year. They are Charlie Freedman (Circular and Website), Julie Paris (Mt Buller Lodge), Arthur Robertson (Treasurer), Trevor Rosen (Walter Briggs Hut), Sue Cranage (Activities), Alison Anthony (Secretary), John Rankin (Membership) and Dean Howe (General Committee Member).

I also thank all members of the Subcommittees, the Walk Coordinators, the many leaders of the different activities and those who work behind the scenes for all the work they do throughout the year. Finally, I thank my husband and former President, Trevor Rosen, for all his assistance during my term as President.

Kim Rosen
President
Melbourne Walking Club

Melbourne Walking Club Inc AGM on 26th November 2026
Activities Officer Report – 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

Refer to tables on **Pages 5, 6 & 7**.

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

From 1st July 2025 to 30th June 2026, there were 149 Melbourne Walking Club Activities advertised with only 8 cancellations leaving 141 activities being successfully completed compared to 129 activities being completed for the year 2024/2025.

When compared to the previous year, the average attendance rate for the different activities for the 25/26 year remains about the same. There was an increase in attendance numbers for the Presidents walk in Kyneton in September 2025 from 19 to 26 participants.

A total of 1,259 members (1,107 last year) and 266 visitors (191 last year) attended the 25/26 MWC Activities. The Activities which had most visitors attending were the Sunday Metro and the Combined activity with the Melbourne Womens Walking Club. The MWC members who participated in the 25/26 year Activities were only 39.1% of the MWC Membership compared to 45.5% in 24/25 year. There were 67 members (54 in 24/25) who attended 5 or more Activities of which 24 members (14 in 24/25) attended 20 or more Activities. The Summary Tables for the information discussed above are included on the next pages. Many thanks to John Rankin for collecting the activity and participation information, to David Watkins for recording and calculating the Statistics and to Charlie Freedman for editing and producing the monthly Circular with the MWC Activities and for uploading the Activity information on the MWC Website.

The Activities Sub-committee can report a successful 2025/2026 year of Base Undercover and Camping/Hike Activities with 8 activities offered and 7 successfully completed. A table of these activities is included with this report. For 2026/2027, there are already 2 BU Activities arranged and booked out with another 3 in the planning. Thank you to Francis Brennan, Kim Rosen, Simon Shepard, Alison Anthony and Ann Lewis for being on the 2025/2026 Activities Subcommittee and to those MWC members who have organized and led Base Undercover or Camp/Hike Activities this year. If you are inspired to organize and lead a Base Undercover Activity, please contact Francis Brennan or myself.

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 - Midweek, Ron Anderson - Peninsula Monday, Graeme Barker - Metro Monday, Alan Manzoori - Easy Metro, Trevor Rosen - Sunday East & Walter Briggs Hut Activities, Susan & Colin Crook - Sunday West, Colleen & Terry Simpson - Sunday Peninsula, Cynthia Lui - Sunday Metro, John Rankin - Bike Rides and Charlie Freedman - Tuesday Social Lunch. A big thank you to Cynthia Lui, for her great work as the Sunday Metro Coordinator in 2025/2026. Sadly, Cynthia is stepping down from this role in 2027.

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 56 members who were Activity leaders for the 25/26 year, with 11 members leading 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

2025 - 2026 ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

Activity	Total Events	Total Attendance		Averages					
		Members	Visitors	**25-26**	**24-25**	**23-24**	**22-23**	**21-22**	**20-21**
Metro Monday	8	38	12	**6**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**10**	**9**
Wed Metro	46	540	56	**13**	**13**	**10**	**11**	**13**	**12**
Easy Metro	10	71	8	**8**	**7**	**8**	**7**	**8**	**14**
Sun. Peninsula walk	10	91	28	**12**	**11**				
Sunday Activity West	8	67	24	**11**	**9**				
Sunday Avtivity East	10	86	24	**11**	**13**	**11**	**14**	**15**	**12**
Peninsula Walk Monday	10	44	1	**5**	**7**	**8**	**12**	**10**	**9**
Overnight carry pack/Camping	2	10		**5**			**9**		
Tuesday Social Lunch	11	72		**7**	**6**	**1**			
Base Undercover	5	48	3	**10**	**11**		**9**	**12**	**12**
Extended Mixed Tour									
W.Briggs Hut activity	3	33	5	**13**	**11**	**14**	**13**	**27**	**21**
W.Briggs Hut Visits	6	23	10	**6**	**6**	**6**	**7**	**6**	**6**
Bike Ride	4	13		**4**	**3**	**6**	**5**	**6**	
Presidents Walk	1	24	2	**26**	**19**	**16**	**20**	**Covid**	**Covid**
Combine with M.W.W.C.	1	16	26	**42**	**40**	**20**	**26**	**22**	**11**
Sunday Metro	11	77	65	**13**					
Mt Buller Working Bee	1	6	2	**8**					
TOTAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR	141								
TOTAL EVENTS FOR YEAR	147								

30/6/2026 – 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
Mt Buller Wkng Bee	6	0	0	0
Sunday Metro	35	9	0	0
W. Briggs Hut Visits	16	0	0	0
Sunday Peninsula	16	5	1	0
Combined With M.W.W.C.	24	0	0	0
President's Walk	7	0	0	0
Bike Ride	9	0	0	0
W. Briggs Hut Activity	20	0	0	0
Extended Mixed Tour	0	0	0	0
Base Undercover	31	19	2	0
Tuesday Social	0	0	0	0
Overnight Pack Carry	8	0	0	0
Monday Peninsula	11	4	0	0
Sunday Country	40	4	2	0
Wednesday Metro	54	26	20	11
Monday Metro	14	2	0	0
Easy Metro	20	4	1	0
3rd Wednesday	6	0	0	0
Total Activities	**117**	**67**	**42**	**24**

% Member Participation	39.1%

MEMBER PARTICIPATION IN DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES OVER THE YEAR

	Number Participating In Different Activity Type
1 Activity	33
2 Activities	24
3 Activities	16
4 Activities	23
5 Activities	9
6 Activities	7
7 Activities	4
8 Activities	3
9 Activities	2
10+ Activities	0

Record of Base Undercover Activities 2025 - 2026

Date	Leader/s	Location	Type	Members	Visitors	Total
13-17th August 2025	Kim Rosen	Coffs Harbour – Solitary Island Coastal Walk	BU	12	0	12
17-19th October 2025	Francis Brennan	A Camping Adventure at Wilsons Prom	Camp/hike	3	0	3
31st Oct - 4th Nov 2025	Chris Thomson	Mount Buller – Mt Stirling Circuit & Klingsporn Track	BU	7	0	7
20th-23rd Nov 2025	Cynthia Lui Francis Brennan	Myrtleford – Beechworth, Victoria	BU	10	1	11
19th – 22nd March 2026	Ann Lewis Sue Cranage	Falls Creek, Victoria	BU	CANCELLED		
23rd - 28th Feb 2026	Cynthia Lui Francis Brennan	Tasman National Park, Tasmania	BU	5	3	8
20th – 24th April 2026	Robert Ivory Eileen O'Callaghan	Blue Mountains - Katoomba & Leura, NSW	BU	11	0	11
1st – 3rd May 2026	Richard Simpson Francis Brennan	Tidal River, Wilsons Prom	Camp/hike	7	0	7

Melbourne Walking Club Inc.

30th June 2026 Annual Financial Statements

Executive Committee Report for the year ended 30th June 2026

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:	Alison Anthony
Activities Officer:	Susan Cranage
Membership Officer:	John Rankin
Treasurer:	Arthur Robertson
General Committee:	Charlie Freedman, Trevor Rosen (past president), Dean Howe 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 Deficit of the club for the financial year ended 30th June 2026 amounted to $47,739.

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 2026

1. Mount Buller Account	2026	2025
Income	**$**	**$**
- Tariffs Winter	85,894	56,469
- Tariffs Summer	19,537	15,150
- Interest and donations	10,996	14,754
- Sundry	1,935	1,610
Total income	118,362	87,983
Expenditure - Fixed costs		
- Site rental	23,818	20,227
- Service charge	8,726	7,185
- Insurance	27,742	22,605
	60,286	50,017
Expenditure - Variable costs		
- Utilities, gas, electricity, telephone	11,023	8,314
- Repairs and maintenance	86,107	16,348
- Booking System	-	1,978
- Sundry	1,554	3,515
- Depreciation	579	-
	99,263	30,155
Total expenses	159,549	80,172
Net Surplus (*Deficit*)	**(41,187)**	**7,811**

2. MWC general Account	2026	2025
Income		
- Subscriptions	17,062	14,258
- Interest	352	412
- Visitor fees	1,015	700
- Sundry Income	-	4,840
Total income	18,429	20,210
Expenditure		
- Affiliation fees	4,928	4,963
- Circular printing & postage	3,098	2,706
- Insurance	2,926	2,867
- Office Expenses	2,302	2,274
- Badges & name tags	1,207	538
- Walter Briggs Hut	435	202
- Walk Expenses	883	447
- Sundry including donation to Mt Buller	9,202	4,840
Total expenses	24,981	19,287
Net Surplus (Deficit)	**(6,552)**	**923**

Melbourne Walking Club Inc.
Balance Sheet as at 30th June 2026

Current Assets	**2026**	**2025**
	$	**$**
Mt Buller - CBA account	554	16,234
Mt Buller - CBA saver account	126,068	57,814
MWC - CBA account	13,596	22,203
MWC - CBA T/Deposit account	32,427	32,075
Paypal deposits - Mt Buller	1,250	57,932
Prepayments - AGM	350	350
Prepayments - Insurance	23,291	22,779
Total current Assets	197,536	209,387
Current Liabilities		
Creditor for Painting – Mt Buller	36,762	-
Advance tariffs - Mt Buller	64,175	57,932
Advance subscriptions MWC	9,960	11,762
Advance Donations	100	200
Total Current Liabilities	110,997	69,894
Net Current Assets	**86,539**	**139,493**
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	61,310	55,516
Less provision for depreciation	(56,095)	(55,516)
Total Fixed Assets	444,425	439,210
Total Net Assets	**530,964**	**578,703**
Equity		
Mt Buller - balance beginning of year	502,268	494,457
Add Net surplus (deficit) for year	(41,187)	7,811
	461,081	502,268
MWC - balance beginning of year	76,435	75,512
Add Net surplus (deficit) for year	(6,552)	923
	69,883	76,435
Total Equity	**530,964**	**578,703**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2026

Summary of significant accounting policies

1. Financial Reporting Framework

- These Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.
- 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 2026/27 year if received prior to the 30th June 2026 are shown as in Advance in the Balance Sheet.
- Mount Buller – Bookings for the 2026 snow season if received prior to the 30th June 2026 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 ski lodge, and description - 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.
- Lease commitment for the 2026 calendar year $32,544 (2025 was $27,412)
- Site rental and service charge increase by CPI each year and in addition the SES charge.

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

An estimate of the reinstatement cost of the lodge was obtained by the Executive Committee in 2024. The estimated reinstatement cost was $3,100,000 excluding GST.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – continued

7. Cash Flow

	2026	2025
	$	$
Receipts from operations Mt Buller	118,362	87,983
Receipts from operations MWC	18,429	20,210
Payments to lessors and suppliers	(184,530)	(99,459)
Change to net cash position	**(47,739)**	**8,734**
Funded by:		
A net decrease/increase in cash reserves	(12,363)	12,816
A net increase in debtors	512	10,262
A net increase in liabilities	(41,103)	(14,344)
A net increase in fixed assets	5,215	--
	(47,739)	**8,734**

The Financial Statements were authorised for issue by the Executive Committee on the 6th October 2026.

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

TREASURERS REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2026

The overall result for the year to 30th June 2026 was a deficit of $47,739.

Surplus/(deficit)	2026	2025	2024	2023
	$	$	$	$
MWC	(6,552)	923	3,616	2,449
Buller	(41,187)	7,811	23,284	32,835
Total	(47,739)	8,734	26,900	35,284

Melbourne Walking Club General Account

The deficit of $6,552 was because of a donation to Mt Buller of $8,992 towards the cost of some new equipment, part of the repairs and renovations done to bring the Lodge up to standard.

Mt Buller Lodge

The lodge deficit of $41,187 is due to the additional expenditure in relation to the work required to bring it up to standard, mainly the painting and repairs of the exterior that was required for the application for the renewal of our lease with the Alpine Resorts Commission. The advance bookings for 2025/2026 have been good helped by the exceptional snow season in 2025.

A Robertson
Treasurer

REVIEWER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

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 2026 and the financial position at that date.

C R Denovan
Honorary Reviewer

Melbourne Walking Club Mt Buller Lodge Annual Report FY 25/26

The Mt Buller Lodge Subcommittee had another busy year. Works required for the application to renew the lease of our land from Alpine Resorts Victoria (ARV) have either been completed or are planned for the current green season. The lease expires in 2027 and we lodged the application in late 2025. Details of the lease to be offered by ARV have yet to arrive.

During working bees this year the lodge was deep cleaned and tidied, with abandoned skis and other unwanted items removed from the lodge. Roof anchors were installed and the entire exterior of the lodge was repaired and painted, including the removal of rotten timbers. Fortunately, the company which carried out these works is allowing us to pay off the roughly $60,000 cost in monthly instalments. The broken central heating flue was replaced. Induction cooktops have replaced the dangerous old gas cooktops and the gas heater in the lounge has also been removed. In the dining/living area a reverse cycle air conditioner was installed, and the old curtains were replaced with bright new blinds.

There have been some changes to the subcommittee. Daryl Hergt, Ian Morton and Bruce Whorlton all retired after many, many years of service for which we are very thankful. We welcomed Dean Howe who joined the committee as our Maintenance Officer. Regular meetings were held throughout the year with many tasks being completed. Tariffs for both seasons were reviewed and updated. Policies and procedures were rewritten, with our insurers in mind, to minimise risk. The lodge information on MWC's website has been updated along with the instruction signs at the lodge.

Our marketing via the MWC circular, eBulletins to members, Facebook and Instagram continued to target both the green/summer and ski/winter seasons. Several clubs affiliated with Bushwalking Victoria have also been approached and are starting to book the lodge in the green season.

The snow seasons at Mt Buller are becoming much less reliable with global warming. Reduced winter occupancy can no longer provide sufficient income to fund ever increasing expenses such as site rental, insurance and gas central heating along with the cost of necessary maintenance and upgrades. Members have been slow to appreciate the excellent value the lodge offers in the green season. A project team from the Executive Committee, led by Dean Howe, is currently considering options for the long-term financial sustainability of our Mt Buller Lodge.

Even if you are past the age where you can enjoy hiking in an alpine environment yourself, why not book the whole lodge for an extended family gathering, for example- Christmas, New Year, a 50th wedding anniversary or 85th birthday celebration? The lodge is very comfortably appointed with ensuite bathrooms and a well-equipped kitchen. It is also the home of many historic MWC photographs and books. It is in effect Melbourne Walking Club's clubhouse.

Report prepared by Julie Paris
Convenor Mt Buller Lodge Subcommittee

Walter Briggs Hut Annual Report 2026

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 Mt Donna Buang area. More recently there have also been several overnight stays at the hut which is a pleasing development. We have welcomed members of the Boroondara Bushwalkers Club to the hut and the visit is always regarded as a highlight of their walk. We were also pleased to invite a guest from Germany to visit the hut and she was delighted by the experience.

Subcommittee:

The current members of the Walter Briggs Hut Subcommittee are Trevor Rosen (Convenor), Kim Rosen, John Gates, Denis Ward, Tony Cagney, Colleen Simpson, Terry Simpson, Susan Cranage and Luke Renehan. We were saddened by the death of Michael Blackett who was a long standing member of the Subcommittee and a keen supporter of the hut.

We're very keen for some other members of the Club to join the Sub-committee 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 Trevor Rosen, Convenor.

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 (7/12/25) (Advertised)	1	18	18
Subcommittee meetings at WBH (Not advertised)	3	19	6
Working Bees (Advertised)	2	20	10
Working Bees (Not advertised)	1	4	4
Walks - walks with both MWC & Boroondara Bushwalkers Club including a visit to the hut	3	39	13
Overnight stays (Not advertised)	1	2	2
Informal visits (Not advertised)	2	6	3
Total Numbers	**13**	**108**	**8**

The annual Open Day at the hut is always popular and the Working Bees have been well attended.

Visitors and 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. All visits to the hut must be arranged with the Convenor.

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:

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.

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

I'm pleased to report that Membership grew significantly during the 2025/26 financial year, from 284 at the beginning of the year to 298 at 30 June 2025. It has since grown to 302 in the period to 30 September 2026. From 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2026, we have had 33 new Members join and 6 resignations. Seven Members unfortunately have passed away, including three Life Members: John Moore, Robin Bailey and David Ikin. As at 30 September 2026, our Membership of 302 included 82 women Members and 16 Life Members.

The trend in Membership for the last eleven 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	26/27 (YTD)
New	14	13	16	24	13	9	20	17	20	23	25	8
Resigned/deceased		11	9	15	13	23	12	17	6	24	11	2
Total		274	277	284	282	267	271	271	285	284	298	302

It's pleasing to note that we are continuing to attract new Members. Since Jan 2020, 122 new Members have been admitted, and just over half (65) are women.

Details of membership changes since 1 July 2025 are as follows:

New Members (1/7/25 – 30/9/26): Susan Begg, Robert Begg, Gina Bekos, Paul Bell, Jan Berry, Michael Bertie, Greg Burkhalter, Virginia Comerford, Lynette Cone, Graeme Davis, Allison Dehnert, Anna Evans, Leanne Findlay, Jan Fitzpatrick, Susanne Greenfield, Sew Yong Heng, Michael Hillas, Ollie Hoekstra, Dean Howe, Anthony Jones, James Kerford, Sophia Lee, Levan Lu, Steven Mathews, Astrid Mathews, Tamsin Nichols, Tony Ottobre, Jeremy Shepard, Russell Smyth, Jasmine Smyth, Peter Spiess, Alex Steven, Rebecca Trott

Resignations (1/7/25 – 30/9/26): Peter Begelhole, Jim Christie, Liz Cranmer, Anna Curnow, Marilyn Forsyth, Greg Wambach

Deceased (1/7/25 – 30/9/26): Robin Bailey; John Bertram; Michael Blackett; Mark Dewhirst; David Ikin; Jacqui Marks; John Moore.

As always, I would like to 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 2026

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 has completed the upgrade of the website. The new website has a brighter, bolder look, but the functionally is basically unchanged.

The club is now adding functionality to enable members to pay their subscriptions online via a secure website plug-in. Members will be notified when this is available for use.

Charlie Freedman – Webmaster

Melbourne Walking Club Inc

2026 Annual Report

If undeliverable, return to:
Melbourne Walking Club Inc.

Box 2446 GPO
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

AGM REPORT

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