



Strzelecki Bushwalking Club Newsletter

December 2023

www.sbwc.org.au

PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE

President John F. Kennedy was a gifted orator who once said "Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country". It's a great sentiment and one that each of us could apply to our involvement in the club. Some clubs survive by the outstanding efforts of one or two members while others thrive through the involvement of many. I like to think that Strzelecki is already in the latter category but there is always room for improvement and the new year is a great time for reflection so here are a few thoughts on how you can be more involved in the club.

Club Night – Come along and enjoy a club night. Get to know your bushwalking colleagues better over a cup of tea and enjoy the excellent speakers provided. Better still, offer a suggestion for a topic that you would like a guest speaker for and, if possible, suggest someone who you think would make a worthwhile speaker at a club night. The topics can be quite broad and don't have to relate directly to bushwalking.

Submit a newsletter article – Maybe you have a short story about a favourite walk you have undertaken or even the first serious walk you ever completed. You could wax lyrical about a favourite piece of equipment or even contrast the modern equipment to that of yesteryear. The possibilities are as broad as your imagination.

Commit to a club activity – Maybe it's been a while since you've been on a walk. We are all guilty of letting the urgent drive out the important so why not look at the newsletter to check out the activities program for the next few months then commit to participate in at least one that tickles your fancy.

Join a club social event – The Christmas breakup is coming up in December and other events take place at various other times throughout the year. There are many folk in the club who I still don't know that well and every time I go to one of these events I meet more people, get to know old ones better and am constantly impressed by the breadth and depth of talented and interesting people within our club. Why not join me at such an event to meet some of these folk.

Trip Reports – You know the awkward look and sideways glances that follow when a leader asks for a volunteer to write the trip report. This is a great task to share around and only takes 20 – 30 minutes to complete so, next time you hear a leader ask the question it would be great to see a throng of hands, particularly from those who either

haven't written one before or not for some time.

So, with the time for new year's resolutions just ahead why not say to yourself "Ask not what your club can do for you – ask what you can do for your club" and resolve to become more involved in the new year.

Best wishes and compliments of the season to all.

Jim Rowley

Christmas Dinner Club Night

Fully Booked

Wednesday 13th December 2023, 6 pm

December's club night is a dinner held at the Yarragon Hotel. All seats are booked. Refer to [Page 2](#) for details.



Location: Yarragon Hotel

WELCOME TO OUR NEW CLUB MEMBERS

Kerry Knights

Kate Senko

Graham Talmage

facebook

We now have 1,393 people following us on Facebook.

Our new target is 1500 followers!!
Help us get there by Liking our page.

NOTICEBOARD

Christmas Dinner

The Christmas Dinner for December's club night is fully booked. There are unlikely to be cancellations, however you can email Chris Elliot atXXX to be on a waiting list in the event there are last minute changes.

The club night/dinner is to be held at the Yarragon Hotel, Wednesday 13th December at 6pm. Traditionally we also have a Kris Kringle: You buy a gift to the value of around \$15, gift wrap it and bring it on the night. We have seen some hilarious, quirky and useful gifts over the years.

For any information please email Chris.



Expressions of Interest

Great South West Walk (GSWW) - 100 km of the inland route

Grade: Medium / Hard

Dates: Wednesday 20 March to Sunday 24 March 2024 inclusive. NB. Participants will need to travel to Nelson on Tuesday 19th March.

Group Size: Approximately 8, however non-walkers are most welcome.

This is a beautiful walk which follows the GSWW track from Cut Out Camp (near Portland) to the township of Nelson, a distance of approximately 100 km on a series of 5 day walks. It is planned to engage a Nelson company to facilitate the logistics of vehicle and group drop offs each day, with the group stopping in accommodation of their choice, at the Kywong Caravan Park Nelson, where various styles of accommodation options are available on a first in best dressed basis.

Wayne Leviston XXX



Strzelecki Bushwalking Club Committee

Jim Rowley	President	president@sbwc.org.au
John Scarlett	Vice President	sbwccommittee1@gmail.com
Joanne Leviston	Secretary	secretary@sbwc.org.au
Carmel Mooney	Treasurer/Memberships	treasurer@sbwc.org.au
Carolyn Dyke	Publicity	publicity@sbwc.org.au
Adrian Crawford	Activities Coordinator	XXX
Peter Dyke	General Committee	XXX
Tania Kirby	General Committee	sbwccommittee2@gmail.com
Trevor Sutton	General Committee	XXX

Other Positions

Matthew Morgan	Newsletter	XXX
Sharlene Butler	Trip Reports	XXX
Chris Elliot	Club Night Coordinator	XXX
Robyn Shingles	Equipment Officer	XXX
General Enquiries to: secretary@sbwc.org.au		

Closing date for submissions for the next newsletter is:

Tuesday 23rd January 2023

Please keep your trip reports to less than 300 words and include some photos if possible

Send items to:

XXX

Trip reports to

XXX


Bushwalking Victoria
 towards better bushwalking

The Strzelecki Bushwalking Club is an affiliated member of Bushwalking Victoria

NOTICEBOARD

NEW YEARS EVE Sun Dec 31, 2023 – Mon Jan 1, 2024

If you have not made other arrangements, Tania Kirby has generously offered us the hospitality of her home and farm in Shady Creek for celebrating NYE. There were suggestions for either a camp or accommodation, and this compromise should hopefully suit most people. Tania's place covers around 100 acres, half bush, and half paddocks and gardens. There is ample space on the lawns for tents, and room for campervans/caravans if anyone would like to bring one. If anyone would prefer to sleep indoors, Tania has offered a room with a double bed, and another with a single, plus, if desired, space on the floor for a few airbeds - (first in - best dressed!). We will have access to her bathroom and toilet, (best if we don't all try to shower!), although if the men go for a 'stroll among the trees', when necessary, that will help avoid congestion!!



If the weather should prove inclement, there is space under cover where we can socialize. A BBQ will be available, and possibly a fire drum and some music to add to the atmosphere. We will need to be mostly self-sufficient – BYO chairs, food, drinks, cooking and eating gear, etc. Battery powered lanterns and festive lights would be appreciated. In addition to whatever you want for dinner and breakfast, please bring some 'goodies' (nibbles and drinks) to share. There will be a couple of trestle tables provided, but you may want to have a small folding table for your own use. Mozzie repellent and a head torch could be helpful.

If desired, there will be a walk of approx. 10 km on the Sunday, and Tania will offer a short,

guided walk around her property on Monday morning, before we all head home. Those wanting to join in the Sunday walk will need to arrive mid- to late-morning, and bring their lunch. Others can roll in during the afternoon and set up camp, read a book, wander around the grounds, (or whatever), but please be ready to commence the 'festivities' by about 5:00 pm.

If you are interested in participating, please email me on hahaynes@bigpond.com to tell me your intentions: i.e. whether you want to join the walk; whether you will camp or campervan, or if you would prefer a bed inside Tania's house; likely time of arrival. Also, if you have any queries, or if I have forgotten to tell you anything important. Closer to the date, I will email final details to those who have expressed interest. There is no cost, and partners are welcome.

Michael Haynes XXX



ACTIVITY REPORTS

Day Walk— Hallston —Saturday 28th October 2023

Participants: Jim Rowley (leader), June Tickell, Wayne Leviston, Jo Leviston, Susan O'Malley, Anton Meyer, Leisa Meyer, Larry George, Pam Dinsmore, Maria Garrett

Arriving in Mirboo North, we realised it was Market Day and the large car park was very busy; but we still managed to find each other and rearranged ourselves to travel to the start of the walk in three cars.

Jim informed us that there would be some ups and downs (total of 400 m). We also heard that a story about a historic event in the area would be told at lunchtime and that it had a connection with a club member.

The walk started off downhill and in some sections we walked along four-wheel drive tracks where we had to spend time trying to avoid the water filled tracks. We shared other tracks with motorbikes and horses.

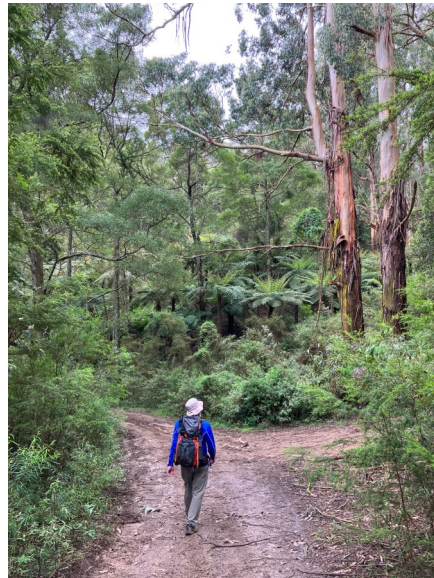
We had lunch in an open area set up with some old furniture and a large fridge but we stuck to our own supplies. Before setting off again, we were treated to a true story about a man who took hostages at a local school and travelled through the area before being caught.

We all enjoyed the walk in some varied nature with eucalypt forest, some farmland views and both wet and dry areas.

The walk was about 14 km according to most devices, and a map of the walk revealed that we had walked around in circles but that allowed us to see the area well.

Back in Mirboo North, everyone except Pam (who had to get ready for work), finished the day at a nice cafe.

An enjoyable day in great company. Thanks Jim and all! *Maria Garrett*



ACTIVITY REPORTS

Overnight Walk— The Crinoline —28th to 29th October 2023

Participants: Wayne Burge (Leader), Martin Norris, Michael Haynes, Mark Conner and Cam Robertson.

Four of us left Traralgon on Saturday morning early to meet Martin at Breakfast Creek at 8.30am.

The weather was fine but the road from the 3rd Wellington bridge to Tamboritha Saddle was not. It is the worst I have ever seen. Exposed rock and small washouts across the road made for slow going. 9.10am saw us heading up to Tamboritha under sunny skies.

Arriving at the top we had good views of the Crinoline. This is when we discovered that Cam did not have his phone. Martin and Cam walked back to look for the phone and the rest of us walked on, either to meet at camp or somewhere along the way.

The three that continued on had 2 snake encounters. One an Eastern Brown who reared up at Michael and I and a Copperhead that did not move.

Lunch was taken at the rock shelter and not 5 minutes after starting, Martin and Cam turned up having found the phone in the ute. (My fault, I put Michaels bag on top of it).

We had great views along the ridge and could see the waterfalls in Shaw Creek gorge.

Camp was arrived at around 4.00pm. After setting up we went and collected water and took in the view of the Crinoline from the top of the falls. A pleasant night was had around the fire and all in bed by 9.30pm.

A fine sunny morning greeted us and we had great views as we made our way to the Crinoline. The views from the lower Bald peak were fantastic.

All that was left to do was walk down to the car. Good time was made and we were at the car for lunch.

Martin and I drove up and collected the ute and we were on our way home.

Thanks to those who came along for a great weekend.

Wayne Burge

Apparently one of these trip reports has been generated by AI. Can you identify which one?

Would we class the use of AI as cheating and give the 'author' a fail like in school, or an award for embracing the use of technology :)

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Multi-Day Walk—Wilsons Prom South—Saturday 4th to Tuesday 7th November 2023

Participants: Martin Norris (Leader), Jo Leviston, Jim Rowley, Wayne Leviston and Anton Meyer

Day 1 – Tidal River to Half Way Hut via Oberon Bay

The group met at the Tidal River overnight car park and quickly departed for a 9:30 am start.

I was excited; a 4-day mystery trip with Martin as leader. Anything could happen and it did!

The weather for starting our walk was perfect. The group was eager and this was evident by the speed in which we started; it was adrenalin-fuelled.

In no time we were looking over Oberon Bay. By this time one of our team had discarded their hiking poles. Apparently they were generally excess to his requirements and he could just use Anton's poles whenever needed.



Looking across Oberon Bay to where an old-looking sailing ship was anchored, we all thought looked like a pirate ship; and may have even had a Jolly Roger flag.

This could not be verified due to the sweat dripping into our eyes.

By this stage I was being dragged along by the slip stream of the group, however we did have time to pause momentarily to view a beehive that Anton pointed out in an old dead tree by the side of the track just prior to reaching the Telegraph Track and our camp at Half Way Hut.

We were one of the first into the camp and spread ourselves out. However, as more and more hikers came in it became very crowded.

In fact, one of our tents became entirely and tightly surrounded by a group of young ladies tents; so close were the tents that the poor President could only access his tent by going through one of his new neighbours.

Apparently, they were nice folk once you are provided with the opportunity to meet with them.

Thanks Jim, for assuming the role of "Foreign Affairs". I must say though that it was fortunate for everyone

that our ageing team member skipped his nightly nature walk!

After we had all settled in Martin cast his eye around and gave his nod of approval to each of our tents. But then to his horror a new neighbour erected their identical tent very close to his and apparently, it was not to our esteemed leader's standard. Next thing Martin was providing lessons into tent erections and then yes, you probably guessed it, he was hands-on putting up their tent. Fine job Martin! Lucky for them you were there on call.

Even though the site was full to overflowing we all slept well and we had all very much enjoyed the day. Thanks, Martin and the rest of the group for their relentless banter. (Wayne Leviston)

Continued.....

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Multi-Day Walk—Wilsons Prom South—Saturday 4th to Tuesday 7th November 2023

Continued.....

Day 2 – Half Way Hut to Sealers Cove

The day began with a superb bird chorus which must have incorporated most of the birds on the Prom judging by its volume. The previous night we had debated the merits of an 8.00am vs an 8.30am start. In the event it was a moot point as we were ready and on the track by 7.15am, setting a pattern that would persist over the remainder of the walk.



The start was not entirely smooth however as Jo could not locate the snow peas which were to provide part of that day's lunch and a detailed but fruitless search ensued. Ever one to 'stir the possum', Martin enquired whether Jo was upset that Wayne had not made a second cup of tea for her. "No, I was completely happy said Jo." "Put that in the trip report," said Wayne. So I did.

The weather was excellent for walking and we made good time to Waterloo Bay where we took morning tea before pushing on for Refuge Cove and it was on this leg that we saw the first of two tiger snakes for the day.

A couple of kilometres short of the cove we downed packs for a quick scramble to the top of Kersops Peak to take in the superb views. Upon returning we found that the local crows had managed to undo zippers on two of the packs and remove some of the contents. It was a lesson well learned.

After lunch at Refuge Cove we set out for Sealers Cove. It was on this section that Jim disgraced himself by missing the turn-off from the beach so that we walked the entire length of the beach before realizing the error and having to back-track.

The beautiful coastal track between the two coves produced a plethora of wildlife including lizards, dark wallabies, a sea eagle and the largest blue tongue lizard that any of us had ever seen. We also met a real life ranger who was walking in the opposite direction. Ranger Luke was particularly friendly and helpful and we enjoyed a good chat. "How does Sealers look we asked." "Snaky," was his single word reply and so it proved to be.



With the shorter track to Sealers still closed we had the place almost to ourselves as few people were prepared to make the longer trek around to get there. One exception was a lovely young couple who had just become engaged that day when she had proposed while on the track and he had accepted. They were glowing when we spoke with them and it was a fine end to a great day's walking.

(Jim Rowley)

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Multi-Day Walk—Wilsons Prom South—Saturday 4th to Tuesday 7th November 2023

Continued.....

Day 3 – Sealers Cove to Half Way Hut

With the hardest day of the hike behind me I was very happily in the land of nod at about 2am when I was sadly awakened by a loud whisper “Joanne, there’s something in your pack!” On inspection I found no trespasser in the vestibule but did notice the balance pocket zip undone and the next day’s scroggin pack with a large hole nibbled into it and much lighter. What a bummer! What followed was a total pack inspection with all food removed and transferred into the tent.

At breakfast we shared the night’s unwelcome raid and when Wayne was asked how he was alerted he replied “I heard rustling and could smell the snakes”. Jim responded with a gasp followed by looks of horror, fear and disbelief. His cogs were running on overtime! *Are snakes in circulation at that hour of the night? And can Wayne really smell them?* Once the entertainment subsided, I explained that I did have some Allens snakes in my scroggin kit, and that Wayne was truly a specialist in lolly identification, especially snakes.

The rest of the day was much less exciting but very enjoyable. The journey seemed easier than the previous day, assisted by an even earlier start, no return detour to Kersops Peak and no extra steps required on the sand at Waterloo Bay.

One thing that did impress us was the continual stream of young hikers on the track, lugging huge packs and carrying genuine smiles. I was a little envious but not surprised to see the 2L wine bladder in one kit, but the bottle of mayo and the dishwashing detergent carried by 2 other hikers did seem over the top. However, as we didn’t come across any other group even close to our ages, I was constantly aware of, and grateful for the opportunity to be having such a special adventure with some SBWC stalwarts.

Half-Way Hut was a very different place compared to our first night, with very few campers.

Unfortunately, the wind was cyclonic so after numerous pats on the back and some discussions about how to acquire edible hiking tucker, we were in our tents by 6pm with reading, music, texting and sleeping the preferred choices for the rest of the evening.

(Jo Leviston)



ACTIVITY REPORTS

Multi-Day Walk—Wilsons Prom South—Saturday 4th to Tuesday 7th November 2023

Continued.....

Day 4 – Half Way Hut to Tidal River via Oberon Bay

Today a new record was set by the group. None of this 8 O'clock start nonsense. Although it was nearly hampered by junior sleeping in, which he blamed on the small patch of rain that hit overnight. But he ate fast and packed even faster giving us a start time of 6:50am and beating the starting times of previous days. Luckily it was our last day because if the walk had gone too much longer I'm afraid we would be leaving in the dark.

Today we were heading from Halfway Hut to Oberon Bay then back to Tidal River, a distance of about 12 km with the first 6km being relatively flat. At the end of Oberon Bay it was time to remove shoes and cross the creek that runs down the beach. Martin was the butt of jokes about missing poles as this was where his were last seen earlier in the trip.

From here we start to go up slightly as we go around the point to Little Oberon Bay.

The weather at this stage was looking slightly off but the temperatures were still pretty warm. Little Oberon Bay appeared reminiscent of Flinders street as so many walkers were coming through. The stairway from hell lived up to it's name as we pulled ourselves up off the beach. We soon discovered the reason for the foot traffic. A school

group were on their way through the Prom. Luckily we were going the other way.

Off we continued, stopping briefly to put on some rain jackets when the weather turned, only to have the rain stop a minute later. Before we knew it we were at Tidal River at 10 o'clock. Too early for lunch but early enough to buy out the shop's entire stock of hot potato cakes followed up with hot coffee.

Everyone in our little group of 5 were proud of the fact that 5 of us went in and 5 of us came out. We had covered some

70-odd kilometers with no mishaps, met some interesting people, even a ranger in the wild, seen the odd bit of wildlife, been around to Sealers Cove and had some good laughs along the way.

P.S. Martin did recover his missing poles. There are still good people out there and they had been handed in to the ranger's station. *(Anton Meyer)*



ACTIVITY REPORTS

The Ballad of Wayne & Jo

Two of our most respected and best loved club members frequently walk together. Moreover, they jointly manage the contents of their respective packs and this sometimes has amusing consequences.

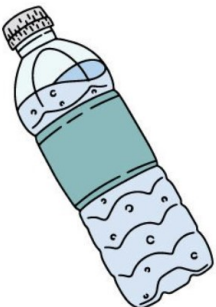
Jo to Wayne – *“I can’t find the snow peas. They must be in your pack”*

No, I haven’t got them Joey but I’m sure that you will find
They are in the inside pocket or the one that’s just behind
Why, I’m sure you put them in there. Yes you did, I now remember
In that little yellow doily bag that you bought last September
Then you placed them near the upper flap. You said we shouldn’t mind
It would make them more accessible and easier to find
I’m sure they’re there, just trust me. Have a look and you will see
They are next to the asparagus behind the bags of tea

Wayne to Jo – *“Jo, do you have my water bottle?”*

Wayne, you know I haven’t got it ‘cause I told you once before
That I would take the sleeping mats the tent and nothing more
While you would be responsible for food stuffs and for ‘other’
I know that I’ve done all the work but Wayne, I’m not your mother
Have you checked the contents of your pack, the pockets thin and thick
Did you put it in the bag of pegs or with the swizzle stick
If it were in my pack it would weigh heavier than lead
So it will be in your pack, you must seek it there instead

Now it’s said what happens on the trip must stay on the trip too
So the location of these items I will not reveal to you
Suffice to say that both these things and several more as well
Were located inside someone’s pack but whose I cannot tell



ACTIVITY REPORTS

Day Walk—Loch Valley Tramway Walk, Noojee— Saturday 11th November

Participants: Melissa Barnes (Leader), Bill Johns, Hayley & Liam

A small group joined Melissa for her inaugural walk as a leader with SBWC along the Loch Valley Tramway.

Melissa, Bill, Hayley and her son Liam (visitors), enjoyed an easy 5km return stroll along the track.

Liam has a special interest in all things trains and trams and kept us all entertained with his encyclopaedic knowledge of all things trains and trams! Highlights included spotting a lyrebird running on the track and spotting some of the old tramway tracks much to Liam's delight, as well as reading the history of the tramway line and how it was destroyed by the 1939 bushfires.

We reached the halfway point and enjoyed a snack in the beautiful surrounds alongside the river before making our way back to the start.



ACTIVITY REPORTS

Overnight Walk: Mnt St Gwinear to Mnt Whitelaw & Stronach's Camp—

Saturday 11th to Sunday 12th November

Participants: Peter Maffei (Leader), Darold Klindworth, Mark Connor, Mike Grimes, Taariq Hussan, Adrian Crawford and Owen Morris

This being a Walking Bee we were equipped with an electric chainsaw, 2 batteries, AAWT markers, nails, glue and hammer with the aim to tidy the track of fallen timber and mark a section of the track that is poorly marked beyond Mount Saint Phillack to Mount Whitelaw. Both days were around 10K's of walking.

Saturday 11th:

Weather Perfect! The walk commenced at the Mount St Gwinear car park with a steady walk of 2.7K up the ski trail to the summit of Mount St Gwinear 1514 M.

On the way up Peter showed us an old example of corduroy track retention which has stood the test of time well. This method involves straight lengths of saplings laid closely together at right-angle across the track.

From the summit, the track continues for a further 1K to the Rock Shelter junction on the Australia Alps Walking Track. Here we took a break and talked briefly with a newly formed women's walking group on their way through to Baw Baw village and suggested that they investigate becoming affiliated with Bush Walking Victoria.

Soon after we were into chain sawing and track marking. Darold proved himself handy with the hammer because of his height, putting the markers in a good line of vision well above the scrub.

The sudden burst of work quickly had us retiring for lunch at the Baw Baw village track junction, just past the summit of Mount Saint Phillack 1564 M.

At Phillack saddle Mark took us on a short scrub bash to the memorial plaque for Bill Jessup who was an enthusiastic member of the YHA Bushwalkers and had a reputation for leading challenging walks in minimalist style.

The rest of the afternoon was spent making our way along the AAWT towards Whitelaw Hut site, with plenty of logs to clear, moving markers from dead trees and installing new as needed.

Whitelaw Hut Site is a pleasant camp site with access to water from Whitelaw Creek and a scary rock "face".

Tent sites could be a squeeze with a larger group.

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ACTIVITY REPORTS

Overnight Walk: Mnt St Gwinear to Mnt Whitelaw & Stronach's Camp—

Saturday 11th to Sunday 12th November *continued*.....

Sunday 12th :

We rose to another fine day and we were underway soon after 8.30am.

The track required a bit more chain sawing than the day before and gave us an idea of future resources required to bring it up to the standards achieved on recent Friends of Baw Baw and BTAC events.

Hopefully, 2024 will have the AAWT between the Rock Shelter and Stronach's Camp to a good standard that can be more easily walked and maintained.

Late morning, we arrived at the point where we could leave the track and make a short Off-Track ascent of Mount Whitelaw. This involves taking the least line of resistance through fairly dense scrub, over a knoll and saddle before reaching the summit, which has a small cairn on it.

There were quite a few orchids in flower around the summit. (There is no track or marked route).

On the return we seemed to find a line with more scrub than the approach! Back on the AAWT we kind of collapsed for lunch after our scrub bash.

From here the AAWT involved a little tricky route finding before reaching the more defined small vehicle access track that leads to Stronach's camp.

Shortly before reaching the Upper Yarra Walking Trail we met up with another Strzelecki group who were out on a day walk to Frangipani saddle and kindly provided transport for us from Stronach's camp back to our cars at Mount Saint Gwinear carpark. This was prearranged and worked out very well avoiding the need for a lengthy car shuttle. We arrived at Stronach's around 3.30pm.

There was one more pleasant surprise in Pete's walk, a stop along the Thompson Valley Road on the way back to Gwinear carpark to inspect the recently restored cute little Bell's Incline Hut!

Back at Gwinear carpark 9c, so speedy farewells to what had been a wonderful two days on the Baw Baw's!

Owen Morris



ACTIVITY REPORTS

Multi-Day Walk: Victorian High Country Traverse: Mountain Creek to Harrietville—

Sunday 12th to Friday 17th November

John Scarlett (Leader), Hans van Elmpt, Wayne Burge, Michael Haynes, Cam Robertson

Sunday 12th November—Drive to start

Sunday we drove to Harrietville to organise the car shuttle. Leaving one car at the end of the walk we continued onto Towonga Tourist Park. It's quite close to the start of the walk, right on the Kiewa River. (Burgy regretted not bringing his fishing gear!). Dinner at the Italian restaurant in Towonga South made for a great way to start what turned out to be a great trek.

Day 1. Monday 13th November

We rose to a beautiful day and drove to the start of the track an easy 10 K away.

Enroute we encountered a 20-seater bus stuck, bottomed-out in a driveway. Burgey promptly pulled out his 'Snatchem' Strap and in no time had the grateful driver on his way!

We started up the Staircase soon after 8. As its name suggests, it's a steep-up-short-flattish section, then up again. It's a tough climb but it's beautiful. It starts in tall Ash forest and changes as you climb. Snow gums kick in at about 1400 meters with red Grevillia.

We had lunch above the tree line in the saddle, not far below the summit. It was perfect weather with magnificent views, sitting amongst the purple Hovea and Phebalium.

We encountered our first of many groups, this one Medical students from Singapore. Burgey impressed us all with his knowledge of mountain trekking in Singapore!

Up on the summit the whole expanse of the Alps from the Baw Baw Plateau to Kosciusko opened up.

It's fantastic having people that can point out all the features of our mountains (as well as bird calls and plant names). There's an impressive depth of knowledge amongst our club!

From the summit it was an easy stroll of about an hour to our camp at Cleve Cole Hut, arriving about 3 pm.

In total it was about 13.5 K in distance and 1400 meters elevation. A decent days walk! *Cam Robertson*

Day 2. Tuesday 14th November

After a quiet, dry night camping beside the iconic Cleve Cole Hut, we packed up under the threat of dark clouds.

We descended the T-spur (I've always wondered what the T stands for) on legs still complaining about the Staircase and eventually arrived at the Big River.

This required a knee deep crossing through fairly fast flowing water. So it was boots off, pants rolled up and over we went, holding on to the chain for support.

One of the group had a quick look around and decided it was safe to remove his trousers, only to find part way across that there was a sizeable group accruing on the far bank to cross after us.

It was the first of many school groups we were to encounter on this walk. Just as well he was wearing his best jocks, as there wasn't much room on the other side and we had to parade past each person, including a young female teacher at the end of the line.

Continued.....



ACTIVITY REPORTS

Multi-Day Walk: Victorian High Country Traverse: Mountain Creek to Harrietville—

Sunday 12th to Friday 17th November continued....

Day 2. Continued.....

While we were getting boots back on the rain started to fall, softly at first, then a steady rain for most of the day.

We climbed up the seemingly endless grind of Duane Spur and eventually got back into the snow gums, finally arriving at Roper Hut for lunch.

As luck would have it, a couple of fit young AAWT-through hikers were already in the hut taking shelter with the slow combustion heater going nicely.

We had a very cosy and sociable lunch, before donning coats and getting back into the misty, wet alpine landscape.

A short, gently sloping track over the high plains took us past Mt Nelse and on to Edmundsons Hut, our destination for the night. The hut was a Godsend, as the rain did not let up until very early the following morning. There was room enough for all five of us to sleep and cook, and we found some dry wood and had a very welcome fire during the evening to dry out and purge ourselves of useless information and solve at least some of the world's problems.

Hans Van Elmpt.



Day 3. Wednesday 15th November

Wednesday dawned bright and clear, so we packed up quickly, being grateful that we didn't have to pack wet tents. Most of our wet gear had dried overnight. This was our longest day in distance, and in time, but did not involve any long ascents or descents.

We walked southwards via the AAWT, past Langford Gap. We followed an aqueduct for several kilometers, passing near Wallace Hut (which Cam detoured to visit), the Rover Lodge (where some of us checked out the public Emergency Shelter),



Cope Hut (which we all inspected), and Cope Saddle Hut (AKA the SEC Hut).

Here we paused for morning tea, then continued past Mt Bundara and Mt Jim to Westons Hut.

We had been encountering several school groups during the day, and were warned that Western Hut might be the overnight place for a couple of groups. As this hut has limited camping sites, we pushed on a few extra kms to Blair Hut.

This was a good decision, as there were many excellent camping places there. Camping there also gave us a bonus in reducing the distance to walk next day.

Michael Haynes

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Multi-Day Walk: Victorian High Country Traverse: Mountain Creek to Harrietville—

Sunday 12th to Friday 17th November

Day 4. Thursday 16th November



We woke to a fine morning at Blairs hut and after breakfast we tip toed across the Kiewa river to walk down to the start of Diamantina Spur. I have heard some horror stories of how steep it is and I was curious to see for myself. I can now say going up there were some very steep sections but they would be worse if you were walking down. The top end of the spur has great views of Feather top and I was keen to get to the summit as I had never been there.

We arrived at Federation hut at lunchtime and tucked our tents around the edges of the camp area, there were no other campers there at this stage. After lunch we took a stroll to the top of Feathertop, great views all round so spent a while taking it all in.

We met another group heading for the hut on the way up, they were from South Australia doing an outdoor leadership course. The wind slowly built as the afternoon became evening and we cooked tea in the hut because it was

getting rather cold.

A quick dash to the knoll behind the hut to see the sun set then back into the hut for a yack and in bed around 9.00pm.

I can now say I have been to Feathertop and can see that on a fine day it is a great place to be, thanks to John for putting on a fantastic walk. *Wayne Burge*

Day 5. Friday 17th November—Federation Hut to Harrietville.

'And o'er his bones, sae white and bare,
The wind shall blaw for ever mair.'

Thursday night on Feathertop came close to the old Scots ballad. It howled and gusted all night, rattled tents, and blew chilled air through inner shells and sleeping bags. Fortunately, no-one was blown away and we breakfasted in the shelter of Federation hut. By the time we had eaten, the sun was out, the wind had dropped, and we walked down Bungalow Spur on a perfect morning.

Bungalow Spur is a pleasure to walk. The track is well made, with a gentle gradient, descending through successive layers of pretty forest and (in our direction) entirely downhill.

We arrived at Harrietville before 11am and would have been there sooner, but on the way, we met an old man with a magnificent white beard, who might have been Santa Claus. He turned out to be Ian Stapleton, a well-known high-country character, who founded the Mittagundi outdoor education centre. Like the Ancient Mariner, he held us with his glittering eye, and regaled us with a dark and disturbing tale of Parks Victoria, the Hotham management, and their well-advanced plans for a very expensive private walk from Falls Ck to Hotham via the Razorback, with three luxury eco-villages to be built along the route.

Continued.....



ACTIVITY REPORTS

Multi-Day Walk: Victorian High Country Traverse: Mountain Creek to Harrietville— **Sunday 12th to Friday 17th November continued....**

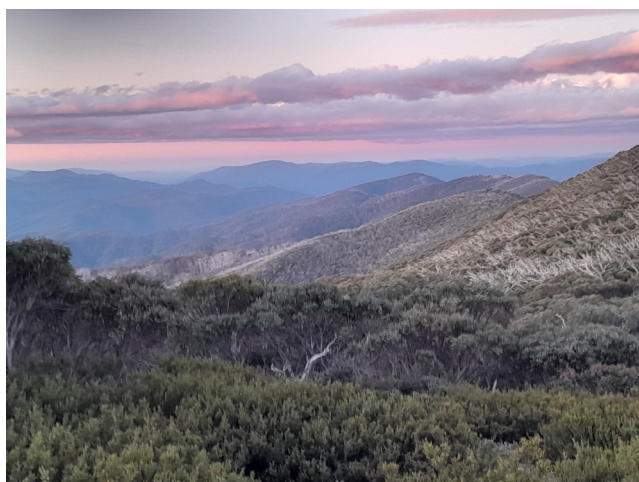
At Harrietville, the car drivers went off to retrieve the other vehicle from Tawonga, while the rest of us has coffee, cakes, and ice-creams, and we all lived happily ever after.

My thanks go to Wayne, Hans, Cam and Michael for their excellent company and for writing the first four days' reports.

For the statistically minded, distances and metres climbed were:-

13.1km, 1440m; 18.1km, 973m; 27.0km, 270m; 12.1km, 1055m; 9.5km, 0m.

John Scarlett



ACTIVITY REPORTS

Day Walk: Baw Baw's Stronachs Camp—Sunday 12th November

Participants: Wendy Cartledge (Leader), Jim Rowley, Tania Kirby, Tessa Lamin & Fran Miller

Our day started early with Jim kindly chauffeuring a few of the ladies to the start of our walk at Stronach's Camp.

Along the way we collected Peter M's vehicle, finding a surprise note with detailed instructions on our expected participation in the working bee currently underway on the track ☺

Fortunately, Wendy's building expertise was available and we managed to nail a dozen or so track markers to trees, no thumbs were hit and we hope no future hikers will be lost!



The forest was in full spring glory with many wild flowers in bloom and the vegetation looking fresh and lovely.

We lunched at a gorgeous location, the headwaters of the Thompson river, crystal clear water and our picnic spot looking very much like a fairy glen.

After lunch we continued on the AAWT and came face to face with a bunch of weary, pack and chainsaw carrying bush warriors who had spent the weekend

clearing a section of the track and laying track markers.

This was our cue to turn back for home, stopping along the way to check out the recently restored bush hut and another stop at Erica for the mandatory post walk coffee/tea and cake.

Thank you Wendy for leading our walk and many thanks to Jim for driving the distance.

Tania Kirby



ACTIVITY REPORTS

Day Walk: Balook to Tarra Valley— Saturday 18th November

Participants: Jim Rowley (Leader), Lucy Yeung, Martin Norris, Carmel Mooney, Jo Leviston, Sharlene Butler

Six participants met at Tarra-Bulga Visitor Centre Carpark on a foggy morning. After a car shuffle and the morning fog dispersed, it turned out to be fabulous sunny day as our walk began.



The northern trail began with a descent along the Grand Strzelecki Track and there was plenty of wildlife sighted on our way, such as wallabies, king parrots, crimson rosellas and lyrebirds to name a few.

Tarra Valley was named after an aboriginal man, Charles Tarra, who guided Strzelecki in the exploration of the Gippsland area in 1840s. Bulga means mountain, and true to its name, there were plenty of mountain ash trees, beeches and fern gullies on our walking track.



The highlight of the walk was the diversity of the natural environments; including an unpredictable event which unfolded during the day where we had to walk through the remnants of a rockslide, before morning tea.

As we prepared for our morning tea, the first leech invited itself to join us. We moved away from the log and sat in the middle of the path.

Luckily our snake guard was very vigilant, otherwise we would have been greeted by a 1.2m brown snake!! It was not going to move away from its turf so we had no option but went up into the bush and walked around his turf. This added another 2km to the trip (well..... not really!) ☺

It was a pleasant walk along the well-maintained track heading to Tarra Valley before our steep descent through majestic mountain ashes and ferns.

Finally we came to the steep uphill section. One of the participants ran up this section with ease, while others walked up at their own pace.

We were rewarded with lunch after 2pm and the ultimate treat was Cyathea Falls meandering through rainforest and Tarra River. Thanks to everyone for an enjoyable walk. *Lucy Yeung*



ACTIVITY REPORTS

Bike Ride: Fish Creek to Toora Rail Trail—Sunday 19th November

Participants – Adrian Crawford (Leader), Graham Duell, Peter Dyt, Ed Dyt, Peter Dyke, Robert Bentvelzen and Peter Maffei

Our bike excursion along the Great Southern Rail trail, Fish Creek to Toora section was a delightful journey through the picturesque Gippsland region. The trail, once a railway line, offered a smooth and scenic route, surrounded by lush landscapes, views to the Prom and Corner Inlet, and dotted with native flora. Cyclists reveled in the tranquility as they pedaled through quaint townships and expansive farmlands. The tranquility was further enhanced by most of the group being on silent e bikes.

A highlight of the day was the pit stop at the local pub in Toora for a hearty lunch, there was no small option or seniors meals. The pub, with its rustic charm, provided a perfect setting to refuel and share stories.

After lunch, our adventure continued as we cycled back towards the Prom Lookout on the trail. The ascent was rewarded with breathtaking panoramic views of Wilsons Promontory and the surrounding hills. The lookout served as a serene vantage point, allowing participants to appreciate the beauty of the region.

As the sun began its descent, we retraced our path along the rail trail, concluding a day filled with exploration, camaraderie, and the simple joys of outdoor adventure in Victoria's splendid countryside, if you can believe this is possible for Grumpy Old Men in Lycra.

Peter Maffei



ACTIVITY REPORTS

Day Walk: Cape Schanck—Saturday 25th November

Participants – Wes Holloway (Leader), Pam Dale, Chris Elliot, Briany Noonan, Lucy Yeung, Jo Leviston, Martin Norris, Jim Rowley

This was Wes's first walk as a leader and those who participated certainly hope that it won't be his last as he displayed great natural leadership skills in organizing and running this walk on the southern Mornington Peninsula.

Wes explained that he had first seen mention of the walk in a list of the 10 best walks in Victoria and it was not difficult



to see why as we ventured forth on a fine walking track towards Cape Schanck. Along the way the scenery was majestic while we also encountered a blue-tongued lizard, an echidna and several other walkers along the track.

Walking past the turn off to Bushrangers Bay (we would return here later) we turned west and, with just a few short stops for some 'Kodak moments' we quickly reached Cape Schanck where we ventured down the long boardwalk to the stony beach with its large basalt rocks.

The weather prediction for the day had been quite dire but Wes had even managed this aspect of the walk carefully and we had brilliant sunshine throughout.



Returning to the lighthouse grounds we enjoyed lunch and an icecream from the small gift shop in the old lighthouse keeper's cottage before retracing our steps towards the start of the walk.

En-route we detoured down to the beach at Bushrangers Bay where a small boat was bobbing up onto the crest of each wave before sinking out of sight down the following trough as it drifted towards the rocks.

As well as fine leadership we also had a great group to walk with and there was much banter and steady chatter throughout the day although Martin did suggest that if people were still able to talk it was a sign that we weren't walking fast enough!

We arrived back at the cars at almost the exact time and distance predicted by Wes, showing that he had done his homework well in preparing this excellent walk for us. *Jim Rowley*

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Day Walk: Thompson Bridge to Walhalla — Sunday 26th November

Participants – Rob Hooper (Leader), Wayne Leviston, James Rowley, Susan O'Malley, Trish Martin, Jude Stone, Kathy Lloyd, Cam Robertson, Debbie Hooper, And past members now visitors Kay Smith and David Smith.

The original plan was to do a 10 km walk to the Poverty Point steel bridge, catch the train to Walhalla, Lunch at the Wally Pub and walk the 5 km back to the cars. The first hurdle was that the bridge had been deemed unsafe and was closed.

Participants were required to buy their train tickets online which went exceptionally well until the tickets were sold out. Twelve people managed to get a train ticket

As the day approached the weather forecast was for rain all day (up to 20mm).

So the walk was modified to “Catch the train, have lunch and walk 5kms back to the cars”. Probably in teeming rain. Thanks to all the participants who *weathered* my numerous emails as the changes happened. My apologies to those who could not get a train ticket.

As often happens the predicted weather didn't arrive.

We arrived in overcast conditions. The slow and scenic ride along the Stringer Creek Gorge on the train was ideal in the dappled sunlight. We then had very generous counter lunches in good company at The Wally Pub. Thanks to the Pub for reserving us two tables.

Then walking commenced with very full stomachs. We were then searching for hats and sunscreen. We started with a leisurely wander up through Walhalla to The Chinese Gardens before heading back to our cars along the Alpine Walking Track. It was a beautiful sunny day by now. The track starts at The Walhalla Rotunda and continues for 650 km to Canberra. We were doing the first 5 kms back to The Thomson Bridge and the cars.

This part of the AAWT is on an old tramway which winds along the edge of the valley way above the village and the road. The track was surrounded by thick vegetation, so was lovely and shady. The train conductor had warned us of the danger of leeches and Jim managed to attract about four of the friendly blighters. Thanks for being our leech magnet Jim.

We finished with a looong steep walk down Mormon Town Track to the bridge and the cars.

Once again though the nicest thing about the walk was the diverse and interesting group of people who come together to enjoy a day out in the mountains.

Rob Hooper, Recycled Hike Leader



WHERE AM I?

Photo location naming challenge: This photo will be posted on the SBWC Walk Buddies Facebook page. The first person to reply to the post, naming the correct location, wins. The winner gets to submit a photo for use in the next months newsletter 'Where am I?' section.

Photo by Mark Kennedy



FROM THE PAST December 2015



The Narrows – Erica Weir – O'Sheas Millsite

Participants: Julie Parker, Wendy and Bob Venables, Chris Elliot, Andrea Fisher, Eileen Laidlaw & Ron Cann (joint leaders)

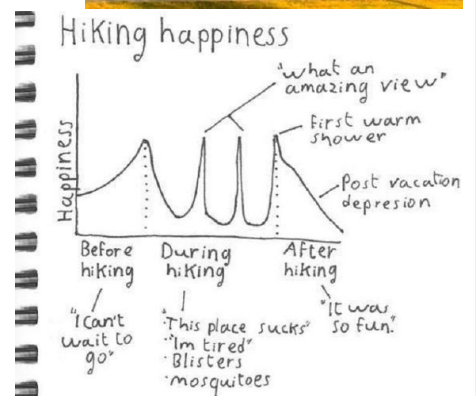
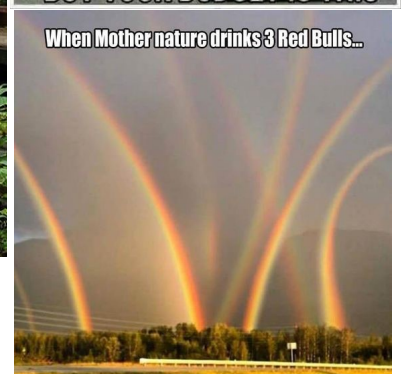
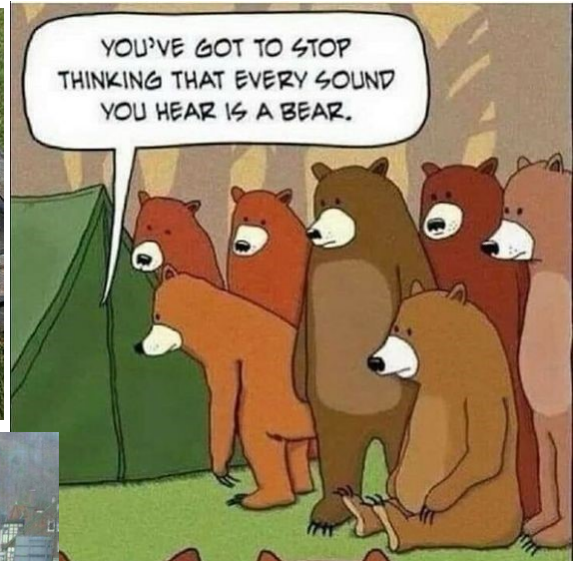
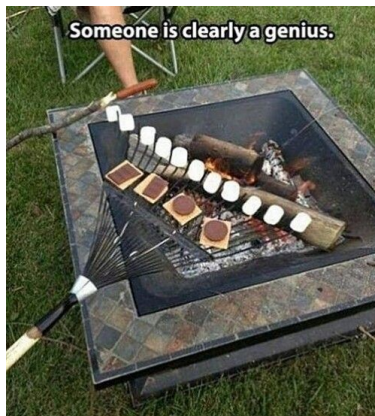
Our group of seven headed out from The Narrows (not far from Erica) for a 9km walk through the Trigger Creek area and along the Australian Alps Walking Track. It was a mild morning as we set off up the steep trail at the start of our walk. There were lots of flowers in bloom along the track including gorgeous, mauve sun orchids. Eileen and Julie were able to point out and name for us the numerous plants and fungi.

Our walk traversed a wide diversity of habitats

in such a small geographical area. The first section of our walk appeared to finish in a slightly muddy clearing. However, Eileen led us ten metres further into the bush where we were awed by the pristine beauty of Trigger Creek. This creek supplies the water for Erica/Rawson, and we were most surprised to hear its catchment area is only 1.15 square kilometres. Magnificent tree ferns, soft mosses, bubbling creek ... it was a soothing nook. Enormous boulders surrounded the creek, carpeted with downy green mosses/soft ferns. Although wary of leeches, some of us climbed around the rocky giants. **Ron Cann**



SCROGGIN



Websites of the month

Bushwalking from 1929

Ever wonder about people bushwalking in the 20th century, especially before modern roads, cars, mobile phones, freeze dried meals. Yes, I know we have some members who think that was yesterday! But guess what; bushwalking was a common activity from the early 1900s and they did amazing walks. Several of the current bushwalking clubs go back over 100 years (older than Michael). A few great resources are around that document that journey by archiving their magazines. Outstanding reading, what a bunch of weaklings we are! Start with your birth year magazine. Except young ones (no not you Peter Maffei), take 20 years off your birth year! I'm sure there are other club archives, so please share them via the newsletter.

- Melbourne Walking Club has their "The Melbourne Walker Magazine" available from 1929-1991.
https://www.melbournewalkingclub.org/photo-gallery/the-melbourne-walker?fbclid=IwAR2zZTyhbl9OINsaf7mbJJOEbR9Fbn6_vYhJxrSQcqa8tel_e1T7I7kENBc
- Melbourne Bushwalkers "Walk" 1949-1987
https://mbw.org.au/MBW_walk_magazine.php
- Sydney Bushwalking Club 1939-2008
<http://ozultimate.com/sbw/wiki/magazines>
<https://history.sbw.org.au/wiki/magazines>
- Australia's seventh state can't be left out – Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ -Journals from 1957
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jgM6U2VVnnelSE7uLI4BUIU4I12BO1KT>

Cheers Martin

General Information

Visitors are welcome on most activities, subject to suitability. A donation of \$5 per trip per person may be requested.

Bookings: Intending participants should contact the leader a few days prior to the trip. All trips are open to both members and visitors. However, if numbers are limited, preference will be given to members. Limits are sometimes placed on numbers to maximise safety and enjoyment and minimise impact on the environment.

Transport: Almost all trips are by private vehicle. Please inform the leader when booking if you require or can offer transport. The Club committee recommends the following method for reimbursing vehicle owners who kindly offer transport to other participants – (a) if there is just one passenger, the passenger and driver share the petrol costs; (b) if there is more than one passenger, the passengers share the cost of the petrol, not including the driver.

Medical Conditions: Please indicate to the leader if you have any medical condition which may affect your participation. If necessary the leader can take extra precautions or adjust the activity accordingly. On all Club activities the leader should arrange for the Club's first aid kit to be carried by the party. Each individual should also carry a personal first aid kit, including any special medications.

Equipment: Members are normally required to provide all their own equipment. However, newer members may not have one or more essential items. **The Club has some items of equipment for hire** and new members could always ask the leader or other members if they have equipment that could be borrowed. (Established walkers tend to have spare gear floating around)

Page 4 includes a current list of available equipment for hire.

Have you joined the (members only) SBWC Walk Buddies Facebook Group?

There's a lot on offer on the club program, but sometimes you just get the urge to head off at the last minute. We have created a Facebook page to connect members who are looking for someone to walk with (or ride or kayak, etc). Activities can be posted to see if anyone would like to join you.

Open to club members only, if you're on Facebook search for **SBWC Walk Buddies** and click **Join Group**.

*Support for the printing of this newsletter is provided by the office of
Melina Bath, MP for Eastern Victoria
This is gratefully acknowledged by the Strzelecki Bushwalking Club.*

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Telegraph Saddle to Tidal River via Oberon Bay Med 17km *Saturday 9th December 2023*

Starting at the Telegraph Saddle Car Park we will follow the Telegraph Track and Oberon Bay Walking Track to Oberon Bay where a low tide has been arranged for our visit. Following lunch, we will walk Oberon Bay, Little Oberon Bay and the newly completed walking track to Tidal River. Along the way we will take a detour to the Norman Point Lookout which offers the best view of Skull Rock and the islands off that part of the Prom coast. A car shuffle will occur between our starting and finishing points.

Jim Rowley XXX

Churchill National Park Easy 6km *Sunday 10th December 2023*

Churchill NP (which is near Rowville, not Churchill!) is home to a large eastern grey Kangaroo and swamp wallaby population. We're sure to spot both, sometimes even in the carpark before we even start walking. If you keep your eyes peeled, we may even see an echidna. We'll make our way around a 6km loop, which includes a climb up Lysterfield Hills Track to the Trig Point Lookout. This hill will get your heart pumping, but we'll take it slow and steady. From here you can enjoy 360 views of the park before we make our way back down the hill and loop around to the car park.

Melissa Barnes XXX

St Gwinear Carpark to Rock Shelter Circuit, Baw Baw NP Med 9km *Tuesday 12th December 2023*

We will commence the walk from the St. Gwinear carpark and will visit the Rock Shelter and the Summit of Mt. St Gwinear. While the distance is short, the walk will include some off-track walking and significant uphill scrambling, hence the medium rating. The Plateau in summer offers spectacular scenery, including stunning snow gums and carpets of alpine grasses and wildflowers. As this is an alpine activity be prepared with appropriate clothing for potential rapidly deteriorating weather.

Ron Cann XXX

Christmas Dinner Club Night—Yarragon Hotel *Wednesday 13th December 2023*

Fully booked, refer details on [Page 2](#).

Bryces Gorge Campground Mt Howitt and Bryces Gorge walks Easy/Med *Fri 15th—Sun 17th December 2023*

The base camp will be set up at the Bryces Gorge Carpark on Friday afternoon and we will depart after the hike around the Bryces Gorge circuit on Sunday. There is a toilet at Bryces Gorge.

On the Saturday it is planned to drive from our base camp at Bryces Gorge to the Mount Howitt car park and start our hike from there. The return hike to Mount Howitt is approximately 14 Kms with about 500 metres of ascent (and descent). This is a spectacular hike which passes through snow gum woodlands, open grass plains, Vallejo Gantners Hut with stunning alpine views. This hike I will grade as easy/medium.

On Sunday it is planned to walk the Bryces Gorge Circuit which includes both Piemans Creek Falls and Conglomerate Creek Falls, the distance is approximately 8 to 8.5 Kms and it is an easy yet spectacular walk.

Wayne Leviston XXX

Bike Ride - Alberton to Welshpool and return Easy 40km *Sunday 17th December 2023*

This new section of the Great Southern Rail Trail is due to open in the next few weeks, with all major works done and just the approaches to the several new bridges to be finished. The ride will start at the Alberton pub, meeting at 10 am. There is plenty of parking. The trail heads west through Gelliondale and Headley to Welshpool, where we will have lunch. Lunch options include a pub, a couple of cafe's, or byo and eat in the park. Then return to Alberton..

Graham Duell XXX

Hoddle Mountain Trail Med 17km *Saturday 30th December 2023*

Beginning at Fish Creek as a detour off the Great Southern Rail Trail, the Hoddle Mountain Trail passes across farmland to the Laver's Hill quarry, then crosses across the catchment area for the Battery Creek reservoir to join the Loader Track through to the Mt Nicoll Lookout, before heading north to rejoin the Great Southern Rail Trail near the Hoddle Lookout and return to Fish Creek on the Rail Trail. Most of the walk is flat or gentle slopes but the fantastic views and unique flora on Hoddle Range feel earnt after an extended climb in this section of the walk.

Patrick Platt XXX

New Years Eve Camp: Shady Creek—Tania Kirby *Sun 31st Dec 2023 - Mon 1st Jan 2024*

Tania has generously offered camping/accommodation for SBWC to spend New Year's Eve at her farm, with walks on both days and festivities for the night.

Refer to Page 3 for details.

Michael Haynes XXX

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Wall of Jerusalem NP	Med/Hard	<i>Tue 5th - Sat 9th January 2024</i>
5 days walk in the 'Walls of Jerusalem National Park'. Walking from the Mersey Valley via Lake Adelaide, Lake Meston and Lake Junction to Lake Artemis. May return the same way or attempt to walk via Lake Bill and Jaffa Vale to come into the 'Walls of Jerusalem' south of Dixons Kingdom hut. This will depend on finding a suitable route. We will then come out via the 'Walls of Jerusalem Track', but not a guarantee. We may come back out the way we walked in. Note: This is not the usual 'Walls of Jerusalem Track' as we will be walking south along the western side of the walls, and 'David Kings Peak'. Wendy Cartledge XXX		
Pearsons Lookout	Med 12km	<i>Saturday 6th January 2024</i>
Walk along the Mt Hedrick Walking Track coming back on Rocky Spur along Corner Creek then up to Pearsons Lookout. Adrian Crawford XXX		
Paddle - Macalister River at Glenmaggie	Easy	<i>Tuesday 9th January 2024</i>
Pat Williams 0439 741 383		
Yarra Bend Park Big Day Out	Easy 10km	<i>Saturday 13th January 2024</i>
What is it? It's a walk, a meal and a row or paddle. We start with an Easy 10km walk through the Yarra Bend Park taking in Dights Falls plus several interesting and historical features. The walk ends at the Fairfield Park Boathouse where we have lunch in the tea gardens. After lunch there is the opportunity to hire a rowboat, kayak or canoe to further explore the river. Jim Rowley XXX		
Cape Woolami Loop 6.30pm	Easy 8km	<i>Sunday 14th January 2024</i>
Come and join me for a slow and steady 8km evening stroll (6.30pm) around the Cape Woolamai Loop. The tide will be low and hopefully the sun won't be too hot. We'll follow the trail along the beach and then up to the pinnacles lookout before making it to the highest point on Phillip Island to enjoy 360 views of Phillip Island, San Remo and Kilcunda. We should also see plenty of shearwater birds and if we're lucky a wallaby or two. If anyone is interested I'm happy to meet for fish & chips on the beach before hand – just let me know. Meet at Cape Woolamai Surf Beach (Magic lands) car parking.. Melissa Barnes XXX		
Paddle - Rotamah Island and Lake Reeve	Easy 12km	<i>Tuesday 16th January 2024</i>
Meet at the carpark at Trapper's Point in Lakes National Park (go via Loch Sport and continue on Lake Reeve road). Most of this paddle is in quite shallow water around the back of Rotamah Island and in Lake Reeve, which means that even in January there is limited visual and auditory intrusion from jet skiers and large power boats. John Scarlett XXX		
Paddle - Nicholson Base Camp	Easy/Med	<i>Fri 19th - Mon 22nd January 2024</i>
Camping on a private property overlooking Nicholson township. Paddling options include: Upstream past Sarsfield as far as we can go, Tambo River.or Lower reaches of the Nicholson. SGWAAC is the host club for this activity. Roz Spratt XXX		
Crolls Gorge	Easy/Med 15km	<i>Sat 20th - Sun 21st January 2024</i>
A relatively easy overnight walk. You only have to carry overnight packs for 1 hour then spend the rest of the day exploring Crolls Gorge and camp for the night. A good one for first timers or inexperienced walkers but anyone can come along. Wayne Burge XXX		
Aberfeldy River and Diversion Tunnel Walk	Med/Hard 8.5km	<i>Sat 20th January 2024</i>
The Aberfeldy River is one of the most attractive rivers and delightful river walks in Victoria and very few ever get to walk it! And of course, being a walk created by Wayne Burge, it is a great walk! TLDR: The short description of this walk is "a steep downhill, a long flat wet bit, a tunnel and a steep uphill bit". Martin Norris XXX		
Aust Day Weekend TBD:	Medium	<i>Fri 26th - Sun 28th January 2024</i>
Either the Dolodrook River, Chromite mine, Wellington River Circuit or McFarlane Saddle, Spion Kopje, The Sentinels, Gables End and Lake Tali Karng Martin Norris XXX		
Poverty Gully Walk - Rawson	Easy/Med 11km	<i>Saturday 27th January 2024</i>
Following a short car shuffle, we follow a part of the Grand Strzelecki Track to the north and west of Balook before veering off to the south to end in the picnic area at Tarra Valley. There are two steep sections on this walk which can be quite slippery when wet. Following lunch, a short walk to Cyathea falls is an optional extra for this walk. Tim Rothberg XXX		

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES!

Strzelecki Bushwalking Club Program December 2023 / January 2024

Please read the Walk descriptions on pages 26 & 27 for further detail.

Date	Activity	Location and Description	Grade	Leader/Contact
Sat 9 Dec	Day Walk	Tele. Saddle to Tidal River via Oberon Bay	17km Med	Jim Rowley XXX
Sun 10 Dec	Day Walk	Churchill National Park	6km Easy	Melissa Barnes XXX
Tue 12 Dec	Day Walk	St Gwinear Carpark to Rock Shelter Circuit, Baw Baw NP	9km Med	Ron Cann XXX
Wed 13 Dec		Club Night - Christmas Dinner		
Fri 15 - Sun 17 Dec	Base Camp	Bryces Gorge Campground Mt Howitt and Bryces Gorge walks	Easy/Med	Wayne Leviston XXX
Sun 17 Dec	Bike Ride	Alberton to Welshpool and return	40km Easy	Graham Duell XXX
Sat 30 Dec	Day Walk	Hoddle Mountain Trail	17km Med	Patrick Platt XXX
Sun 31 Dec - Mon 1 Jan	Base Camp	New Years Eve Camp: Shady Creek—Tania Kirby		Michael Haynes XXX
Tue 5 - 9 Jan	Multi Day	Wall of Jerusalem NP	Med/Hard	Wendy Cartledge XXX
Sat 6 Jan	Day Walk	Pearsons Lookout	12km Med	Adrian Crawford XXX
Tue 9 Jan	Paddle	Macalister River at Glenmaggie	Easy	Pat Williams XXX
Sat 13 Jan	Day Walk / Day Out	Yarra Bend Park Big Day Out	10km Easy	Jim Rowley XXX
Sun 14 Jan	Evening Walk	Cape Woolami Loop 6.30pm	8km Easy	Melissa Barnes XXX
Tue 16 Jan	Paddle	Rotamah Island and Lake Reeve	Easy	John Scarlett XXX
Fri 19 - Mon 22 Jan	Paddle	Nicholson Base Camp	Easy/Med	Roz Spratt XXX
Sat 20 - Sun 21 Jan	Multi Day	Crolls Gorge	15km Easy/ Med	Wayne Burge XXX
Sat 20 Jan	Day Walk	Aberfeldy River Diversion Tunnel Walk	8.5km M/H	Martin Norris XXX
Fri 26 - Sun 28 Jan	Multi Day	Aust Day Weekend TBD: Either the Dolodrook River, Chromite mine, Wellington River Circuit or McFarlane Saddle, Spoin Kopje, The Sentinels, Gables End and Lake Tali Karng	Med	Martin Norris XXX
Sat 27 Jan	Day Walk	Poverty Gully Walk - Rawson	11km E/M	Tim Rothberg XXX

Grading of Walks: The following guidelines are provided, but check with the leader for a detailed description of the terrain to be covered and to discuss suitability for your experience.

Family – on formed tracks over level to gently undulating terrain with distances up to 10km per day.

Easy – suitable for adults and older children over gently undulating terrain, up to 15km per day, mostly on track.

Medium – involves sustained climbs or descents of 1km or more. Some of the walk may be off track. Distances of 12 to 18 km in a day.

Hard – consistent walking with moderate to hard ups and downs, medium scrub, forest walking, off track, alpine environment with possible adverse weather.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES—longer term forecast

Below is the forward outlook for the following months. More detail will be provided and activities confirmed for each months newsletter but feel free to contact leaders to sign up / express interest.

Strzelecki Bushwalking Club Program – February 2024

Date	Activity	Location and Description	Grade	Leader/Contact
Sat 3 Feb	Day Walks	Wonthaggi Desal Nature Reserve Loop	6km Easy	Melissa Barnes XXX
Sun 4 Feb	Ride	Great Southern Rail Trail, Leongatha to Nyora and return	60km Med	Rob Bentvelzen XXX
Tue 6 Feb	Paddle	Latrobe River at Sale	Easy	Pat Williams XXX
Sat 10 Feb	Day walk	Tanjil Bren Circuit	12km E/M	Jim Rowley XXX
Sat 10 - Sun 11 Feb	Overnight	East Caledonia River Gorge	14km Hard	Wayne Burge XXX
Tue 13 Feb	Day Walk	Holey Plains State park	TBA	Tania Kirby XXX
Sat 17 Feb	Day walk	Frangipani Saddle	Med	Wendy Cartledge XXX
Wed 21 Feb	Day Walk	Mt Donna Buang	Hard	John Scarlett XXX
Sat 24 Feb	Day Walk	Wild Bull Rd, Bull Tk, Hawthorn Ck Rd Walk—Neerim East	14km Med	Tim Rothberg XXX
Sat 24 Feb	Day Walk	Glenmaggie Creek Gorge	6km Hard	Wayne Burge XXX

Strzelecki Bushwalking Club Program – 2024

Fri 1st - Wed 6 Mar 2024	Multi Day	Flinders Island Bushwalking Trip <u>Trip fully booked and has waiting list</u>		Jim Rowley XXX
Wed 20 - Sun 24 Mar 2024	Multi Day	Great South West Walk Expressions of interest	Med / Hard 100km	Wayne Leviston XXX

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Great South West Walk (GSWW - 100 km of the in-land section) Med/Hard Wed 20 - Sunday 24 March 2024 inclusive.

This is a beautiful walk which follows the GSWW track from Cut Out Camp (near Portland) to the township of Nelson, a distance of approximately 100 km on a series of 5 day walks. Refer to the article on [Page 2](#) for more details.

Wayne Leviston 0418 391 591 levos85f@gmail.com

To add an activity to the program, please contact **Activities Coordinator**—Adrian Crawford XXX

Note that last minute activities can be added and communicated via bulletin/email/Facebook.

NB: All activities and dates are subject to change.

Last minute activities may be added and communicated via bulletin / email / Facebook

Walks in green are recommended for less experienced participants (but open to all!)