



VNPA BUSHWALKING & ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

Autumn
2017





BUSHWALKING AND ACTIVITIES PROGRAM AUTUMN 2017

In this Autumn 2017 program you will find a great mix of activities to choose from including bushwalks and urban walks, excursions, camps and social nights.

Once you've had a read through the program and have found an activity or activities you're interested in, follow the steps below to make a booking.

HOW TO JOIN IN THE ACTIVITIES

BOOKING A WALK OR ACTIVITY

- Contact the activity leader about 2-3 weeks, but not more than one month, before the trip, unless early booking is indicated in the program. Leader phone numbers are generally home numbers and calls should be made in the evening on weeknights before 9:00pm or on weekends. Please remember that all leaders are volunteers.
- When booking, indicate your name, telephone number, personal emergency contact number, and whether you are interested in car sharing. If contacting a leader by email, put the email subject as "BWAG <walk name>"
- If you are unknown to the leader, s/he will discuss with you your fitness, equipment and experience to undertake the activity you have chosen, or they can recommend another activity that is more suited to your ability. Persons under 18 cannot be accepted unless accompanied by an adult.
- Leaders will not accept early bookings – it increases the chances of cancellations and it is unfair to those who follow the guidelines. Leaders will limit numbers on a trip to comply with our Minimal Impact Bushwalking Policy and safety considerations.
- Please read the Activity Descriptions table before booking a trip.
- Non-members are welcome on trips. They must be booked in with the leader and may attend three trips before it is necessary to join the VNPA.
- To book a NatureWatch activity, please email the NatureWatch Coordinator (christinec@vnpa.org.au) and include your phone number. Bookings for NatureWatch activities can be made at any time.
- **Keep updated with activity changes by subscribing to the VNPA monthly *Bushwalking, Event and Activities* email update. Subscribe via www.updates.vnpa.org.au.**

FEES

The activity leader will collect fees, with the money used to pay for general BWAG expenses, printing the walks program, and VNPA conservation activities. Attendance fees per day are:

	Adult	Child (U16)	Family
Member	\$5	\$2	\$10
Visitor	\$9	\$3	\$20
Annual Pass*	\$50	\$20	\$100
NatureWatch	Free	Free	Free

* Available from the VNPA Office.

The fee for multi-day activities will not exceed a three day fee.

BOOT WASHING – DIEBACK THREAT

Dieback is caused by *Pytophthora cinnamomi*, a plant disease that lives in the soil. Clean your boots with a 70% methylated spirits/water solution immediately after completing your bushwalking activity.

VICTORIAN NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION (VNPA)

The Victorian National Parks Association is Victoria's leading nature conservation organisation. It is an independent, non-profit, membership-based group that exists to protect Victoria's unique natural environment and biodiversity through the establishment and effective management of national parks, conservation reserves and other measures.

The Bushwalking and Activities Group (BWAG) is part of the VNPA and its committee of volunteers prepares and coordinates the activities in this program.

Nature Watch is a VNPA community engagement and citizen science program that brings together community groups, scientists and land managers to develop and manage projects that get volunteers out into the field monitoring native plants and animals.

BWAG CONTACTS

Convener: *Terese Dalman*

0413 234 130 vnabwag.convener@gmail.com

Treasurer/Trip reports: *Rob Argent*

0417 502 191 vnabwag.treasurer@gmail.com

Program: *Gayle Davey*

9572 5681 vnabwag.program@gmail.com

Victorian National Parks Association

Level 3, 60 Leicester St, Carlton VIC 3053

Ph: (03) 9341 6500, Fax: (03) 9347 5199

Email: vnpa@vnpa.org.au

Web: www.vnpa.org.au ABN 34 217 717 593



TRANSPORT

Trips are by private transport unless otherwise stated. Where possible, please try to share transport, as it cuts costs and fuel usage. The leader may arrange car pooling. The objective of our cost-sharing policy is for costs to be shared between all the occupants of the vehicle.

INSURANCE

VNPA has a package of community organisation insurance policies that covers a range of activities. Check the activities infopak at www.vnpa.org.au/page/useful-information/insurance

Every person participating in a VNPA activity does so at his or her own risk in all respects and as such accepts full responsibility for his/her suitability, fitness and preparedness for the activity and for any injury to him/herself. The Association, its office bearers, organisers, leaders and helpers are absolved from any liability in respect of any injury, loss or damage suffered by the participant while engaged in any VNPA activity to the extent permitted by law. While incidents are rare, the great outdoors can throw up challenges. If an incident occurs, you should inform the activity leader and the VNPA office.

The VNPA has determined that overseas trips have significant risks and insurance costs to the VNPA and are outside the scope of the VNPA's geographical focus on Victoria. As such, overseas trips will no longer be offered under the auspice of the VNPA or BWAG and will not be covered by VNPA Insurance.

Participants of overseas trips, especially outdoors, are strongly encouraged to have appropriate personal travel insurance.

Jetty at Santa Barbara Bay, Gabo Island Lighthouse Reserve. Photo by Mary Ferlin.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

COORDINATOR

Sue Catterall Emergency Contacts Coordinator
0417 526 519 / vnpabwg.ec@gmail.com

The (EC) notation after an activity title indicates that the emergency contact system is to be used. The leader will advise participants of the name and phone number of the selected contact. All participants should leave details of their trip, the expected time of return and the phone number of the contact with a relative or friend. Enquiries about the late return of people are to be directed to the contact. Do not ring the police. The names and phone numbers of emergency contacts are listed for relevant dates in the program. Direct any queries to the emergency contact coordinator.

2017 EMERGENCY CONTACTS

18-19 Mar	<i>Terese and Lawrie Dalman</i>	9562 9938 / 0413 234 130
25-26 Mar	<i>Cheryl Mioch</i>	0412 743 866 9397 7470
1-2 Apr	<i>Russ Bowey</i>	0417 328 651
8-9 Apr	<i>Kate Parker</i>	0409 231 746
15-16 Apr	<i>Pat Witt</i>	0407 360 650 / 9802 8914
22-23 Apr	<i>Helen Buckley</i>	9801 4346 / 0418 398 580
29-30 Apr	<i>Ann Turner</i>	0425 732 384 / 9878 3297
6-7 May	<i>Sue Parkhill</i>	0432 413 442 / 9510 4316
13-14 May	<i>Robyn Desnoy</i>	9528 2390
20-21 May	<i>Adrianna Koutsofrigas</i>	0439 067 798
27-28 May	<i>Fred Gerardson</i>	0411 533 415 / 9434 3078
3-4 Jun	<i>Pat Witt</i>	0407 360 650 / 9802 8914
10-11 Jun	<i>Christine Longman</i>	9397 5712 / 0411 483 571
17-18 Jun	<i>Ann Turner</i>	0425 732 384 / 9878 3297
24-25 Jun	<i>Fred Gerardson</i>	0411 533 415 / 9434 3078

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

GRADE	EASY	MEDIUM - May involve:	HARD - May involve:
Walk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> on formed tracks terrain level or undulating pace relaxed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> some rough terrain, forest or road walking longer ascents or descents up to 6 hours walking in a day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> rough terrain rock scrambling steep sustained ascents or descents 8 hrs or more each day thick scrub
Excursion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bus trips to places of interest to members, including the option of an easy or medium grade walk (see 'easy walk' above) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bus trips to places of interest to members, including the option of an easy or medium grade walk (see 'medium walk' above) 	N/A
Walk, Talk & Gawk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park visits/guided walks, with frequent stops for observation of significant features or ecology. 	N/A	N/A
Easy Going Amble	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slow-as-you go strolls with rests along the way still enjoying the great outdoors 	N/A	N/A
Cycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> up to 40km/day bitumen roads few hills no steep grades 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> up to 50km/day in hilly country or 70km/day in flat country short stretches of dirt road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sustained stretches on dirt roads up to 60km/day in hilly country or 80km/day on the flat hilly terrain

You can use the descriptions above to decide whether you can complete a proposed activity enjoyably and with little risk. If you are inexperienced, you would be expected to progress through the grades, doing day walks before attempting overnight pack-carrying walks. You should discuss any doubts about your abilities with the activity leader. In some cases gradings are combined, e.g. easy/medium or medium/hard.

ACTIVITY ICONS



Bushwalk



Easy Going Amble



Excursion



U35



Cycling



Walk, Talk & Gawk



Overnight/
Multi-day



Public Transport



Family



4WD



Urban Walk/Activity



Conservation Activity
or Event/Training



Social/
Presentation



25 March (Sat)

WT&G – Eaglemont and Heidelberg parks – public transport walk

Easy 6km | Limit 15 | 10km E Melb
Eve Recht 0425 776 494 / 9497 1332



We will walk around Eaglemont and Heidelberg, and cross the river into Bulleen, to explore parks and gardens large and small, private and public. Heidelberg school painters, Walter Burley Griffin designs, and lots of birds and other wildlife.

25 March (Sat)

U35 social night

Hosts: Eloise Oxer 0421 426 490
Saeed Joulaei 0478 300 217
vnpau35@gmail.com



In a break with tradition, this is less a social 'night' and instead a family-friendly, social Saturday picnic. Bring a rug and a plate, and hear about our recent walks, catch up with those you've walked with, or meet new friends to walk with! Details will be posted to the U35 email list and on Meetup closer to the date. For more info, email vnpau35@gmail.com or contact the hosts Eloise or Saeed. RSVP essential.

25 March (Sat)

Caught on Camera at Wombat State Forest

Easy/Medium | Limit 30 | 100 km NW Melb
Christine Connelly, NatureWatch Coordinator
christinec@vnpa.org.au 9341 6510



9.30am-12.30pm. Join NatureWatch and Wombat Forestcare to kick off this season's wildlife monitoring in a fully field-based activity. Learn how to use motion-sensing cameras and help instal them. Meet in Wombat State Forest near Trentham. Full details provided on registration. Some driving on dirt tracks (car-pooling encouraged). Morning tea provided and registration required. Email or phone Christine.

26 March (Sun)

Immigrants Trail – Port Melbourne

Easy 6km | Limit 12 | 5km S Melb
Alison Thomas alithomas@iinet.net.au
0400 172 767 (6-9pm week days)



Come and explore the Immigrants Trail. Walk starts at Station Pier, which was the introduction to Victoria for many immigrants back in the 1850s. We will walk around the surrounding streets of the former Sandridge (now Port Melbourne) and talk about some of the history along the way. We also divert a short way from the streets of Port Melbourne to visit the Gasworks Park bush trail. Finish with an optional drink at the London Hotel.

27 March (Mon)

Geelong

Easy 10km | Limit 20 | 65km SE Melb
Sue Parkhill 9510 4316



Meet at 11am at Geelong Station. Lots to see: the new library, some of the bollards along the coast, and the gardens.

28 March (Tue)

Williams Anglis Dinner – City Campus

Limit 16 | CBD Melb
Cheryl Mioch 9397 7470 / 0412 743 866
cherylmioch@bigpond.com



William Anglis Buffet is a great way to try the many and varied dishes they have on offer. \$35 for a three course buffet and all you can eat. Great value and great fun.

31 March (Fri)

Grasstree monitoring at Brisbane Ranges National Park

Easy | Limit 15 | 80 km W Melb
Christine Connelly, NatureWatch Coordinator
christinec@vnpa.org.au 9341 6510



Join NatureWatch to assess the health of grasstrees in response to *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. Meet at a picnic ground at 10am, finishing by mid-afternoon. A fun way to see the Brisbane Ranges, learn about the disease and contribute to important long-term research. Some driving on dirt tracks. Registration required.

1 April (Sat)

Ballarat West wetlands

Medium 15km | Limit 15 | 110km WNW Melb
Andrew Arnold 5334 2289



The walk commences and finishes at Wendouree Railway Station and will cover the North Gardens wetland, Lake Wendouree, and wetlands to the west of Ballarat. It includes natural and newly-created features in the Barwon, Corangamite and Hopkins river basins.

2 April (Sun)

New members and supporters picnic

Easy 1km | Limit 25
Amelia Easdale 9341 6500
ameliae@vnpa.org.au



Be introduced to the VNPA community at this easy-going stroll and afternoon tea at Yarra Bend Park. Meet VNPA staff and volunteers, learn about our conservation and community learning work and enjoy the wonderful surrounds of the river. For new members and supporters or anyone who would like to learn more about VNPA. From 2pm-4pm. Afternoon tea provided. RSVP essential.

Pilot Cobberas Wilderness area. Photo by Marian Sheppard.

3 April (Mon)

Carlton and Parkville

Easy 7km | Limit 20 | 2km N Melb
Ruth Stirling 9699 7225



Meet at Melbourne Museum 1pm. Walk to the Uni and explore. Visit the new Architecture Building. Continue to Royal Park, then see the Aquarium and meerkats at the Royal Childrens Hospital. Finish at the Peter McCallum Cancer Centre, 7th Floor Café.

8 April (Sat)

Ferry Creek and Sassafras Creek – public transport walk

Easy/medium 14km | Limit 15 | 40km E Melb
Mark Learmonth 9807 7506 (H)



This walk starts by circuiting around the grounds of the Ferry Creek Horticultural Society, then ambles through Sherbrooke Forest and the beautiful Nicholas Gardens. We then follow Sassafras Creek as it winds through the Dandenongs, as far as a large park near Monbulk, where we connect with our return bus trip.

8 April (Sat)

Easy going amble – Gardiners Creek Glen Iris

Easy 5km | Limit 15 | 10km E Melb
Geoff Durham 9523 5559



A walk beside the Monash Freeway may not appeal, but when it is along the adjacent Gardiners Creek it is a surprisingly enjoyable experience with the possibility of being 'bushed', and optional recovery over coffee/lunch. Tooronga Station to Darling Station.

9 April (Sun)

Corranderrk tree planting

Easy | 60km E Melb
Terese Dalman 0413 234 130
teresedalman@gmail.com



Join the Corranderrk Team and Yarra Ranges Landcare Network to plant 500 trees as part of a revegetation program that includes improved habitat for the helmeted honeyeater and Leadbeater's possum. Contact Terese to register and for further details.

12 April (Wed)

Madagascar with Gayle Davey

1km N Melb
VNPA 9341 6500 vnpabwag.social@gmail.com



Come and hear about Madagascar, the Earth's fourth-largest island with lemurs, chameleons and beautiful landscapes. 60 Leicester St Carlton. Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7.30pm start. Entry \$2. Tea, coffee, wine and biscuits provided.

13-17 April (long)

The track less traversed in Kosciuszko National Park (EC)

Hard/exploratory 55km | Limit 8 | 460km ENE Melb
Paul Simpson pgs.100@hotmail.com



A lesser-used access in the northern end of Kosciuszko National Park, Everards Track takes us up and over the Dargal Range (1,580m). The plan is for a circuit passing some of the park's more iconic historic huts. Depending on time, we will extend or limit our adventure, but hope to include Mt Jagungal. Suitable for capable fit walkers. Starting 13 or 14 April, finish 17 or 18 April. Early enquiries welcomed and encouraged.

14-17 April (long)

Wilson's Prom National Park – the Northern Circuit (EC)

Hard 60km | Limit 6 | 250km SE Melb
Taariq Hassan taariq.music@gmail.com



The Northern Circuit of The Prom is a true wilderness full of beautiful and challenging scenery. We will set out anti-clockwise, meeting at 5 Mile Car Park on Friday morning. You'll need to be ready for long days on the trail, carrying water, overgrown head-high scrub and swamps. Monday will be the hike out, a hot shower at Stockyard and a snack at Yanakie Bakery. Early bookings are needed for remote trekking permits.

14-17 April (long)

Forests Forever Ecology Camp

Medium | 300km E Melb
Euan Moore calamanthus5@bigpond.com



This is the 35th Easter Ecology Camp to be held at Goongerah, 70 km north of Orbost in East Gippsland. It offers a range of short walks and day tours of old-growth forest and rainforests. Enjoy the forest, wildlife, information sharing, evening campfires and hot soups. The camp is organised by Environment East Gippsland in partnership with VNPA. For more info, visit eastgippsland.net.au/forestsforever

14-17 April (long)

Bogong High Plains walk

Medium/hard 45-50km | Limit 8 | 430km (5hrs) NE Melb
John van Leeuwen 0418 996 048
van.irrigate@gmail.com



A 4-day walk in the Victorian Alps, largely above the tree line. Starting at Bogong Village, we walk towards Mt Jaithmathang, camping along the way. The second day is over Mt Jaithmathang, with views to Mt Feathertop and past Tawonga huts to beyond Pretty Valley Pondage. The walk continues out onto the Bogong High Plains past Mt Cope, finishing in the Falls Creek area. Great views in a diverse landscape.



15 April (Sat)

Excursion by coach: Marysville



Easy 6km | Limit 57 | 95km NE Melb
Bookings: Larysa Kucan 9347 3733 / Jan Lacey 9329 8187
Leader: Larysa Kucan

On this trip to Marysville there will be a stop at Lilydale Lake for morning tea and a short walk, followed by a visit to Tarra Warra Museum of Art and winery. Lunch in Marysville will be followed by a visit to Stevensons Falls and a 4-km walk back into the town. Afternoon tea in Healesville.

22 April (Sat)

Croydon



Medium 14km | Limit 15 | 30km E Melb
Glenn King 0448 816 504

Catch the 664 bus from Croydon Station. Our walk follows Brushy Creek and various pocket reserves and local streets to Croydon, then follows Bungalook Creek to Bayswater Station.

22 April (Sat)

Autumnal Daylesford walk



Medium 17km | Limit 16 | 110km NW Melb
Louise Prendergast 9826 0037
lprendergast2009@hotmail.com

Exploring trails around the Lakes, Wombat Hill, the botanical gardens and part of the Goldfields Trail towards Hepburn Springs. Hopefully we will see the autumnal colours in all their glory.

24 April (Mon)

Epping to Thomastown



Easy 8km | Limit 20 | 18km N Melb
Sue Parkhill 9510 4316

Meet at 1pm at Epping Station. Last year we walked north along Darebin Creek from Epping Station, this time we will be going south along the creek and finishing in Thomastown. Coffee will be in Thomastown before we catch the train.

22 April (Sat)

Caught on Camera at Wombat State Forest



Easy/Medium | Limit 30 | 100 km NW Melb
Christine Connelly, NatureWatch Coordinator
christinec@vnpa.org.au 9341 6510

9.30am-4pm (approx. finish). Meet at Trentham to travel into Wombat State Forest. Assist NatureWatch monitor wildlife using motion-sensing cameras. Full-day activity involving retrieving monitoring equipment and setting it up at new locations in the forest. Some driving on dirt tracks. Registration required.

26 April (Wed)

U35 social night



Host: Jessica Noske-Turner 0430 237 500
vnpu35@gmail.com



Hear about our recent walks, catch up with those you've walked with, or meet new friends to walk with! Dinners are an informal way to meet others Under 35 (more or less) who are interested in bushwalking. Details will be posted to the U35 email list closer to the date. For more info, email vnpu35@gmail.com or contact the host, Jessica Noske-Turner. RSVP essential.

29-30 April (w/e)

Long Hill Plateau and The Crinoline (EC)



Hard 25km | Limit 10 | 300km NE Melb
James Shannon 9754 4951 / 0407 346 467
jmshannon1962@hotmail.com

A spectacular walk in the Alpine National Park near Licola. Our route will take us along narrow ridges and open sedimentary terraces with great views.

29 April (Sat)

Malcolm Creek



Easy 16km | Limit 15 | 40km N Melb
Darren McClelland 0449 167 776
darrenmcclelland@gmail.com

This is a surprisingly pleasant suburban walk in Craigieburn. For much of the walk we follow the Malcolm Creek Reserve, where there are reportedly 366 red gums - one for every day of a leap year! Mostly walking on concrete paths but with some possible walking along grassy reserves. Meet at Craigieburn Railway Station at 9.30am. BYO lunch and water. Afternoon tea towards the end of the walk at a local cafe.

30 April (Sun)

Sorrento Koonya Beach



Easy 13km | Limit 12 | 85km S Melb
Dale Stephenson 9885 0331 (H)

A walk taking in the bay and ocean beaches at Sorrento.

Gabo Island Lighthouse Reserve. Photo by Mary Ferlin.

6 May (Sat)

Blackburn op-shops walk

Easy 10km | Limit 16 | 15km E Melb
Cheryl Mioch 9397 7470 / 0412 743 866
cherylmioch@bigpond.com



Walking around Blackburn lakes and surrounding streets, taking in some op-shops on the way. More op-shops a short drive away.

6 May (Sat)

Anakie Gorge

Medium 14km | Limit 16 | 84km W Melb
David Moore 0448 555 666
david@alexandersschool.edu.au



This pleasant undulating autumn walk follows the Ted Errey Nature Trail with a side trip to the dam at the end of the gorge.

7 May (Sun)

Corranderrk tree planting

Easy | 60km E Melb
Terese Dalman 0413 234 130
teresedalman@gmail.com



Join the Corranderrk Team and Yarra Ranges Landcare Network to plant 500 trees as part of a revegetation program that includes improved habitat for the helmeted honeyeater and Leadbeater's possum. Contact Terese to register and for further details.

8 May (Mon)

Macedon in autumn

Easy/medium 10km | Limit 20 | 50km NW Melb
Ruth Stirling 9699 7225



Bush, then beautiful autumn colour in Macedon's streets and historic gardens. Train from Southern Cross about 10am.

10 May (Wed)

Adventures in Nepal with Wal Mioch and Mary Ferlin

VNPA 9341 6500
vnpabwag.social@gmail.com



Wal Mioch (BWAG leader) and Mary Ferlin (BWAG leader and Park Watch graphic designer) will regale us with their Nepal trekking experiences (Mt Everest Base Camp and Annapurna Base Camp/ Upper Mustang respectively). Venue, 60 Leicester St Carlton. Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7.30pm start. Entry \$2. Tea, coffee, wine and biscuits provided.

13 May (Sat)

Gellibrand Hill – public transport walk

Medium 16km | Limit 15 | 20km NW Melb
Mark Learmonth 9807 7506 (H)



Some of the best views of Melbourne Airport can be had from the small 204-metre peak called Gellibrand Hill. In addition, we will stroll through some very pleasant dry woodland, with guaranteed kangaroo sightings. Some farming ruins also add interest, as well as the delightful Woodlands Homestead.

13 May (Sat)

Easy going amble – The Yarra at Richmond and South Yarra

Easy 5km | Limit 15 | 5km SE Melb
Geoff Durham 9523 5559



Walking on water may be beyond your expectations, but you will achieve this on your stroll along the Yarra from Church Street Bridge to MacRobertson Bridge. Return to coffee or lunch for those who wish to linger.

13 May (Sat)

WT&G: Abbotsford success stories

Easy 4km | Limit 15 | 4km E Melb
Eve Recht 0425 776 494 / 9497 1332



Explore the St Helliars Road Abbotsford precinct on Farmers' Market morning with a stretch of Yarra Trail walking thrown in. Explore the market and meet some farmer stallholders to hear how 15 years of markets have changed their lives and their businesses. Visit the Collingwood Children's Farm and the Convent, and hear about those two success stories as well.

13 May (Sat)

Caught on Camera at Wombat State Forest

Easy/Medium | Limit 30 | 100 km NW Melb
Christine Connelly, NatureWatch Coordinator
christinec@vnpa.org.au 9341 6510



9.30am-4pm (approx. finish). Meet at Trentham to travel into Wombat State Forest. Assist NatureWatch monitor wildlife using motion-sensing cameras. Full day activity involving retrieving monitoring equipment and setting it up at new locations in the forest. Some driving on dirt tracks. Registration required.



14 May (Sun)

U35 Brisbane Ranges circuit (EC)

Medium 12km | Limit 12 | 85km W Melb
Jessica Noske-Turner 0430 237 500
j.nosketurner@gmail.com



A circuit walk in the Brisbane Ranges National Park starting at Anakie Gorge Picnic Ground, following Stony Creek up to the Lower Stony Creek Reservoir, then back around and down via two lookouts. Stay updated with changes via Meetup and the U35 email list.

14 May (Sun)

Donnelly's Weir to Mt St Leonard

Hard 16km | Limit 12 | 70km NE Melb
David Moore 0448 555 666
david@alexanderschool.edu.au



It may only be a 16-kilometre walk, but this is one for those who are fit or who want to get fit. The first nine kilometres are straight up from Donnelly's Weir to the top of Mt St Leonard. We will have lunch there and continue onto the Tanglefoot Track, finishing at the Wirrawilla Car Park. Car shuttle required. Because this walk will be posted on Meetup, early bookings from VNPA members are welcomed.

14 May (Sun)

Dandenongs autumnal fun

Medium 13km | Limit 12 | 40km E Melb
Richard Tagg 0404 808 242
richard.tagg@oceanfree.net



Leaving the cars at home, we shall catch the train to the Dandenongs. The walk will take in spectacular mountain ash trees, fern gullies, native birdlife and some biggish hills.

20-22 May (long)

Alpine National Park – Craig's Hut to Mt Cobbler and Lake Cobbler (EC)

Medium/hard/exploratory 40km | Limit 6 | 350km NE Melb
Taariq Hassan taariq.music@gmail.com



This route takes in superb high-country scenery in autumn. Friday night camping at Carters Road campsite. Saturday, drive to near Craig's Hut on Mt Stirling and head for Lake Cobbler Hut. Sunday, Dadonagale Falls, Mt Cobbler and King Hut. Monday, King Hut back to Craig's Hut and drive out. You will need Monday off to do this and be very fit and well equipped for mountain weather extremes.

20 May (Sat)

Peninsula coastal walk

Medium 17km | Limit 16 | 100km S Melb
Louise Prendergast 9826 0037
lprendergast2009@hotmail.com



A lovely scenic walk with lots of peaceful bays, ocean coastline and bush walking. We explore a section of the 100-kilometre Mornington Peninsula Trail.

20 May (Sat)

Excursion by coach: Gembrook

Easy 5km | Limit 57 | 60km SE Melb
Larysa Kucan 9347 3733 Jan Lacey 9329 8187
Leader: Geoff Durham



This excursion to Gembrook is to be led by Geoff Durham and will include a visit to Kurth Kiln. Built during WWII, the kiln and outbuildings have been carefully restored and sit at the heart of a conservation area. Walks in and about the area.

21-22 May (w/e)

Pyrenees walk in Avoca area (EC)

Medium 18km | Limit 10 | 183km NW Melb
Evelyn Feller 5962 5227 evelynfeller@gmail.com



This is an opportunity to explore a lesser-known area near Avoca, with good views and wildlife. Drive up Saturday, set up a base camp and then hike.

21 May (Sun)

Domino Rail Trail

Easy 14km | Limit 14 | 95km NW Melb
Lesley Gillespie 9386 9077
lesley_gillespie999@hotmail.com



A lovely wooded walk with a chance to take in some historic features around Trentham and Lyonville. There will also be an opportunity for cake and coffee for those who are interested.

22 May (Mon)

Sunbury

Easy 10km | Limit 20 | 30km NW Melb
Sue Parkhill 9510 4316



Meet at 11am at Sunbury Station. There are some lovely linear parks in Sunbury and we will find our way along some of them. BYO lunch to have along the way, with coffee at the end.

Old snow Gums on the Bogong High Plains. Photo by David Neilson.

25 May (Thu)
U35 social night

Host: Eva Klusacek 0423 053 318
vnpau35@gmail.com



Hear about our recent walks, catch up with those you've walked with, or meet new friends to walk with! Dinners are a very informal way to meet others Under 35 (more or less) who are interested in bushwalking. Details will be posted to the U35 email list closer to the date. For more info email vnpau35@gmail.com or contact the host, Eva Klusacek. RSVP essential.

27-28 May (w/e)
Friends of the Prom working bee

Easy | 235km SE Melb
Deb Henry 0409 338 182
info@friendsoftheprom.org.au



Come and help this busy friends group on a working-bee weekend in one of Victoria's most iconic national parks. You may find yourself planting trees, surveying animal habitat, track clearing or other volunteer activities, which we undertake for Parks Victoria.

27 May (Sat)
Queenscliff walk

Easy/medium 16km | Limit 16 | 50km S Melb
Cheryl Mioch 9397 7470 / 0412 743 866
cherylmioch@bigpond.com



Walk around the beaches and tracks around Queenscliff, then on beach paths to Point Lonsdale.

28 May (Sun)
WT&G: Long Forest Nature Conservation Reserve

Medium 10km | Limit 15 | 58km W Melb
Lisa Sulinski 0408 308 208 lsulinski@gmail.com



This remnant bull mallee woodland is a feast for birdwatchers and plant enthusiasts. The reserve protects 200 bird species, rare grasses and its own unique species of bull ant. Some off-track navigation along the Coimadai Creek, but mostly on trails.

28 May (Sun)
You Yangs

Easy/medium 12km | Limit 12 | 50km SW Melb
Doug Palmer 9399 4494
dpalmer@iimetro.com.au



Explore the You Yangs in a cooler month. Enjoy rocky landscapes and bush scenery as we walk around the peak and possibly make a trip to the summit.

1 June (Thu)
William Anglis dinner

Limit 15 | CBD
Cheryl Mioch 9397 7470 / 0412 743 866
cherylmioch@bigpond.com



Get first-class service and food at this training restaurant. Starts at 7pm and is a full buffet. Great value for money and the food is superb.

3 June (Sat)
Easy going amble – Merri Creek from Bell Street to Ceres

Easy 5km | Limit 15 | 10km N Melb
Geoff Durham 9523 5559



Merri is the Aboriginal word for stony, but our walk will be on flat paths beside the creek. Ceres is the Roman goddess of agriculture, and also the name of the Community Environment Park at East Brunswick, where we will end our stroll at the cafe there.

4 June (Sun)
Altona to Newport – public transport walk

Easy/medium 16km | Limit 15 | 20km S Melb
Cheryl Mioch 9397 7470 / 0412 743 866
cherylmioch@bigpond.com



We start our walk at Altona station and then along the beach front and into the bird wildlife areas of Williamstown. Stopping at Williamstown for lunch or an ice cream, then onto the Newport station along the beach.

4 June (Sun)
NGV Festival of Photography

Easy | Limit 15 | 0.5km S Melb
Alison Thomas alithomas@iinet.net.au
0400 172 767 (6-9pm week days)



This activity takes us away from the walking tracks to see the National Gallery of Victoria's Festival of Photography. From March to August 2017, the NGV presents photography exhibitions from various well-known photographers. Entry to the exhibition will be free. After the exhibition, we can take an optional short walk through the nearby gardens for a drink at the Observatory Cafe in the Botanic Gardens.



9-12 June (long)
Hattah weed mapping

Medium 30km | Limit 25 | 450km NW Melb
Euan Moore 9827 5852 (H)
calamanthus5@bigpond.com



This is a volunteer activity. We will be mapping the presence of high-priority weeds in the Hattah-Kulkyne National Park so that weed-control operations can be undertaken more efficiently. There will be two days of off-track walking following set routes using a GPS (training and GPS provided). Monday morning we'll do a short walk to enjoy this great national park. Travel from Melbourne on Friday. Camping at either Lake Mournpall or Lake Hattah.

10-11 June (w/e)
Berripmo walk

Medium 22km | Limit 10 | 140km NW Melb
Peter Whelan 9689 0606
peter.whelan@melbourne.vic.gov.au



Moderate overnight walk with good camping sites – an 11-kilometre walk on both days. Warm fire on the Saturday night with marshmallows and mull wine. Sunday afternoon drive back to Melbourne.

10-12 June (long)
The Grampians National Park –
The Fortress and other walks (EC)

Hard/exploratory 25km | Limit 6 | 300km W Melb
Taariq Hassan taariq.music@gmail.com



A long weekend of walking in the Grampians. Possibly an overnight pack-carry hike out to the Fortress or perhaps long day walks and staying at the Halls Gap YHA. More details closer to the date.

10 June (Sat)
Braeside

Medium 18km | Limit 15 | 25km S Melb
Glenn King 0448 816 504



Catch the 709 bus from Mordialloc for a circuit walk around Braeside Park, and then continue on to Mordialloc along various streams and lakes.

12 June (Mon)
Toolern Creek Regional Park

Easy | Limit 20 | 40km NW Melb
Ruth Stirling 9699 7225



In April 2016, we arrived at the entrance to the park to a 'NO ENTRY' sign. The housing-estate developers were creating a wetland. We want to see the result of their work and reluctantly observe the growing urban sprawl. Southern Cross train about 10am.

14 June (Wed)
Friends of the Prom nursery – 21 years

VNPA 9341 6500
vnpabwag.social@gmail.com



Come and hear about the successful Friends of the Prom nursery program implemented in 1994. Venue, 60 Leicester St Carlton. Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7.30pm start. Entry \$2. Tea, coffee, wine and biscuits provided.

17 June (Sat)
Blackwood walk (EC)

Medium 15km | Limit 16 | 50km NW Melb
Cheryl Mioch 9397 7470 / 0412 743 866
cherylmioch@bigpond.com



Starting at Blackwood, this round trip is a wonderful walk through the Wombat State Park down to Tunnel Point. Some hills.

17 June (Sat)
Excursion by coach:
Mirboo North – Boolarra Rail Trail

Easy 5km | Limit 57 | 155km E Melb
Bookings: Larysa Kucan 93473733 / Jan Lacey 93298187
Leader: Sue Parkhill



This excursion will be a continuation of the June 2016 trip. We will be walking the other half of the Mirboo North-Boolarra Rail Trail: Boolarra to Darlemude. Morning tea will be in Warragul, with a short walk in the local park.

Seals, Gabo Island Lighthouse Reserve. Photo by Mary Ferlin.

18 June (Sun)

WT&G: Parliament to Royal Park – public transport walk

Easy 8km | Limit 15 | 1km N Melb
Eve Recht 0425 776 494 / 9497 1332



We'll park-hop from Parliament Station to Royal Park, via Melbourne Uni, to explore history (old and newer), landscape, ecological change, and Melbourne's award-winning new nature playground (for kids of all ages).

19 June (Mon)

WT&G: Warburton in winter

Easy 5-8km | Limit 15 | 80km E Melb
Julie Hunt 9568 7515
hunt.jm@bigpond.com



River walk with the option of a couple of short walks after lunch (café/pub options). The river will be roaring!

24 June (Sat)

Jells Park to Churchill National Park

Hard 25km | Limit 15 | 25km SE Melb
Louise Prendergast 9826 0037
lprendergast2009@hotmail.com



Leaving from Jells Park, we walk past the lake and follow the Diamond Creek Trail through suburbia. We stop for morning tea at Police Paddocks Park, while lunch will be at Churchill National Park before returning the same way. Churchill National Park is an example of remnant bush with plenty of wildlife to be seen. A long walk but not too challenging – the trail is mostly sealed and flat.

26 June (Mon)

Footscray to Kensington

Easy 10km | Limit 20 | 10km W Melb
Sue Parkhill 9510 4316

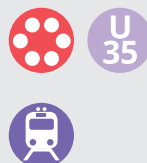


Meet at 1pm at Footscray Station, on the Footscray Market side of the station. We will walk down to the Maribyrnong River through the new building development, cross the river near the wetlands and finish in Kensington.

28 June (Wed)

U35 social night

vnpu35@gmail.com



Hear about our recent walks, catch up with those you've walked with, or meet new friends to walk with! Dinners are a very informal way to meet others Under 35 (more or less) who are interested in bushwalking. Details and contact details for the host will be posted to the U35 email and Meetup list closer to the date. For more info email vnpu35@gmail.com. RSVP essential.

9 July (Sun)

Mud Islands

Medium 5km | Limit 15 | 100km S Melb
Euan Moore 9827 5852 (H)
calamanthus5@bigpond.com



This trip is in conjunction with Friends of Mud Islands. The boat departs from Queenscliff. This walk is mainly on the beach but does involve some walking through saltmarsh scrub and shallow wading. These islands are important bird breeding areas as well as the summer home for migratory waders from the Arctic. Trip may also include seeing fur seal and gannet colonies. Email bookings preferred from one month prior to the trip.

April or May

Grasstree monitoring at
Brisbane Ranges National Park

Easy | Limit 15 | 80 km W Melb
Christine Connelly, NatureWatch Coordinator
christinec@vnpa.org.au 9341 6510



Join NatureWatch to assess the health of grasstrees in response to *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. Meet at a picnic ground at 10am, finishing by mid-afternoon. A fun way to see the Brisbane Ranges, learn about the disease and contribute to important long-term research. Some driving on dirt tracks. Registration required.

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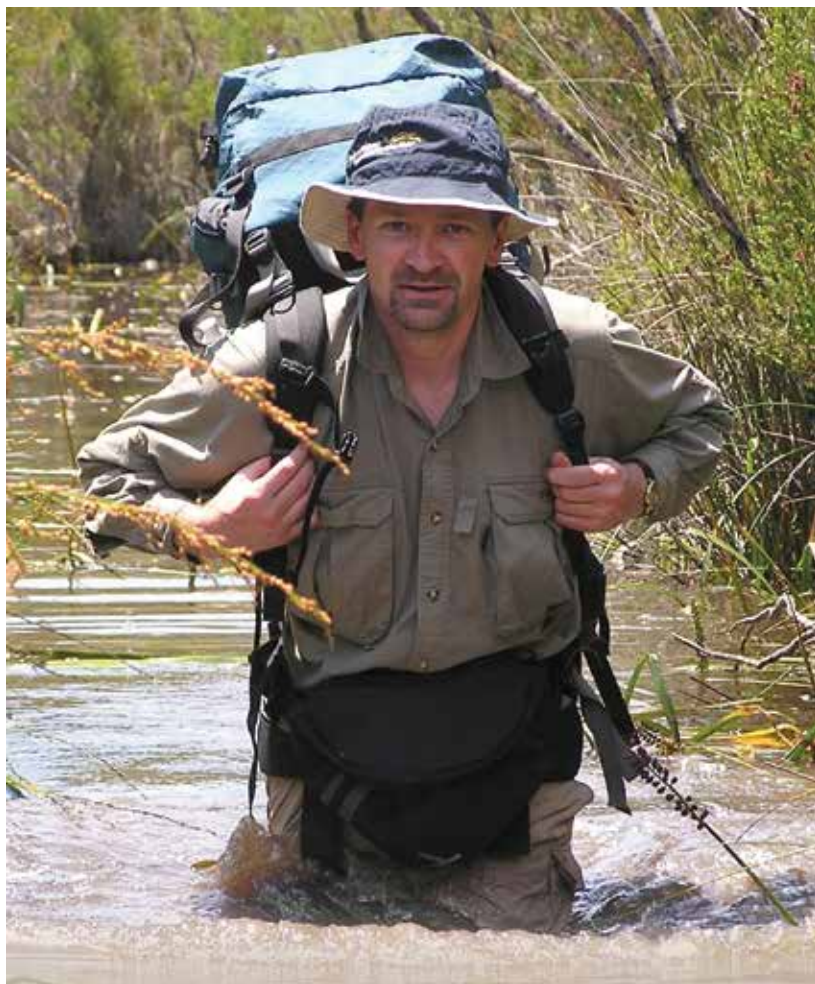


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Q&A

WITH

RUSSELL BOWEY

BWAG LEADER AND
FORMER COMMITTEE MEMBER

PHOTO COURTESY RUSSELL BOWEY

AS A COMMITTEE MEMBER

Russell Bowey recently stepped down from the BWAG Committee after eight years of service. We spoke to him about the experience.

How long were you on the BWAG Committee and in what roles did you serve?

I joined the BWAG committee in 2008 and retired in 2016. Positions held were Convenor, Secretary, VNPA Council representative and Mentoring Coordinator.

What was your favourite role?

Convenor sounded attractive because I thought I'd be able to delegate – I was sadly misled! All the roles had their appeal though.

From your time on the BWAG Committee, what was your most disappointing experience?

The Corkman Hotel being illegally demolished – it was the site of many enjoyable committee meetings. Meetings fly by when you add a pint of conviviality!

What was most surprising thing?

That none of the roles were particularly difficult. I didn't really know what I was in for when I started, but there's no shortage of people to ask for advice.

What is your favourite memory?

I think just finding out all the latest gossip. On the committee you meet up with people you might not normally walk with, so you find out how different walks and events went.

What do you regard as your best contribution?

Introducing new leaders: briefing them on the guidelines, mentoring some of them to becoming BWAG leaders and then hearing about some of the walks they lead.

What skills did you develop?

Multi-tasking! As Secretary, if you can't eat pizza while you take minutes, you'll go hungry.

What most impressed you?

How much the BWAG committee achieves with everyone pitching in to do their bit. There's always room for more helpers though.

Left: Russell Bowey gets wet but not wild on one of his intrepid BWAG activities.

Rock paa. Photo by Colin Totterdell.

AS A BWAG LEADER

Russell is also a long-time VNPA member and has led many BWAG activities.

Why did you become a BWAG Leader?

I won't name names, but there was one particularly persuasive committee member who had a knack for recruiting new leaders. It was just easier (and less scary) to say, 'yes'!

What do you like most about being a BWAG leader?

Showing people new places and encouraging people who haven't done much bushwalking to try something new – particularly the snow trips (when we ran them) and overnight hikes.

Which walk was your favourite as a leader, and why?

I've led the Falls Creek to Mt Hotham return trip a couple of times, which is quite relevant to the current debate about the proposed trail. There are great views and it doesn't require a huge amount of fitness if you stay at a lodge. We hiked from Pretty Valley to Mt Hotham on Saturday; relaxed in comfy accommodation with a civilised pub meal on Saturday night, then hiked back on Sunday. No additional infrastructure required!

Around Melbourne, I've really enjoyed leading some evening walks. Lysterfield is a particular favourite. Most people don't get to walk in the bush after dark, so the combination of sunset, lots of roos, frogs and other nocturnal critters is a nice change for them.

Why would you encourage someone to become a BWAG leader?

You'll make great friends, go where you want to go, gain confidence and, you can order people to provide you with chocolate. Leading walks also encourages you to do a bit more background research about the places you walk than you normally would.

What words of advice would you give other potential BWAG leader?

Watch what other leaders do and ask questions. Think of the walk from the participant's viewpoint. Be flexible but also be prepared to apply a little 'extreme vetting' if it's a difficult walk – having participants who are out of their depth is a sure-fire way to put people off. One more tip – keep a list of participants who freely share their chocolate and port.

And lastly, what should you never take on an overnight pack-carry?

Raw eggs, tuna in zip lock bags or noisy MSR stoves.



The BWAG Committee Needs YOU

Benefits of joining the BWAG Committee:

- No prior experience required, just a willingness to make a contribution in another way to VNPA's 'be part of nature' philosophy.
- Just 6 meetings a year and the option to tele-conference.
- An opportunity to acquire new skills or apply skills you already have.
- 'Many hands make light work' and the BWAG Committee could really use a couple more pairs of hands so we have our full quota of Committee members.

For further information, contact any of the existing Committee (details page 2 or index page12):
 Terese Dalman (Convenor), Rob Argent, Gayle Davey, Deb Henry, David Moore or Lisa Sulinski.
OR email: vnpabwag.convenor@gmail.com
 vnpabwag.program@gmail.com

PHOTO: CHRIS TZAROS

ADVENTURES IN NEPAL

Presentation on trekking at Mt Everest and Annapurna base camps, and Upper Mustang.



Wednesday 10 May
 Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7.30pm start at 60 Leicester St Carlton.
 Entry \$2. Tea, coffee, wine and biscuits provided.
 Contact: VNPA 9341 6500 vnpabwag.social@gmail.com

PHOTOS: MARY FERLIN

FORESTS FOREVER

EASTER ECOLOGY CAMP



Why not spend your Easter in the heart of South East Australia's botanical wonderland?

- **CAMP** among Peppermint and Manna Gums on the Brodribb River.
- **SPOTLIGHT** for wildlife.
- **EXPLORE** ancient and beautiful forests with expert biologists.
- **BE INSPIRED** to help save East Gippsland spectacular forests.

WHEN: FRIDAY 14 APRIL 2017 to MONDAY 17 APRIL 2017

WHERE: Goongerah, East Gippsland (70km north of Orbost VIC, 96km south from Bombala NSW).

COST: \$75 for the weekend.
\$35 for one day.
Concessions available.
Children under 13 years free.

For more information and to book your spot, go to www.eastgippsland.net.au/forestsforever



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