



VNPA BUSHWALKING & ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

Spring
2019





BUSHWALKING AND ACTIVITIES PROGRAM SPRING 2019

In this Spring 2019 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.
- **Keep updated with activity changes by regularly checking www.vnpa.org.au/adventures and subscribing to the VNPA monthly email update at www.vnpa.org.au/sign-up**

FEES

The activities leader will collect fees, with the money used to pay for general BWAG expenses. Attendance fees are:

| | Adult | Child (U16) | Family |
|-------------------|-------|-------------|--------|
| Member (per day) | \$5 | \$2 | \$10 |
| Visitor (per day) | \$9 | \$3 | \$20 |
| Annual Pass* | \$50 | \$20 | \$100 |

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

For Annual Pass info, visit www.vnpa.org.au/program

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.

NatureWatch 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: *Gayle Davey*
9572 5681 vnabwag.convener@gmail.com

Program: *Ellen Finlay*
0425 705 353 vnabwag.program@gmail.com

Treasurer/Trip reports: *Darren McClelland*
0449 167 776 vnabwag.treasurer@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/program

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.

Anglesea trail. Photo by Elizabeth Donoghue, Flickr CC.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

COORDINATOR

Adrianna Koutsofrigas
Emergency Contacts Coordinator
0439 067 798 / vnpabwag.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. If the activity is midweek, use the contact for the previous weekend.

2019 EMERGENCY CONTACTS

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 20-22 September | <i>Robyn Desnoy</i> | 9528 2390 |
| 27-29 September | <i>Helen Buckley</i> | 9801 4346 / 0418 398 580 |
| 4-6 October | <i>Pat Witt</i> | 9802 8914 / 0407 360 650 |
| 11-13 October | <i>Terese Dalman</i> | 0413 234 130 |
| 18-20 October | <i>Ann Turner</i> | 9878 3297 / 0425 732 384 |
| 25-27 October | <i>Kyle Matheson</i> | 0429 906 094 |
| 1-3 November | <i>Christine Longman</i> | 0411 483 571 |
| 8-10 November | <i>Lisa Sulinski</i> | 0408 308 208 |
| 15-17 November | <i>Adrianna Koutsofrigas</i> | 0439 067 798 |
| 22-24 November | <i>Cheryl Walker</i> | 0412 743 866 |
| 29 Nov - 1 Dec | <i>Terese Dalman</i> | 0413 234 130 |
| 6-8 December | <i>Russell Bowey</i> | 0417 328 651 |
| 13-15 December | <i>Kate Badgery-Parker</i> | 0409 231 746 |
| 20-22 December | <i>Pat Witt</i> | 9802 8914 / 0407 360 650 |
| 27-29 December | <i>Ann Turner</i> | 9878 3297 / 0425 732 384 |

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 8 hrs or more each day rock scrambling thick scrub steep sustained ascents or descents |
| 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 hilly terrain or 80km/day on the flat |
| Snowshoe (day) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> up to 5hr/day mainly trails limited experience is assumed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> up to 7hr/day moderate slopes and off-trail | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7hr/day or more off trail, steep slopes, all snow conditions competent in poor weather |
| Snowshoe (overnight) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> able to snowshoe with a daypack overnight backpack camping experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ability to snowshoe gentle slopes with a full pack snowcamping experience desirable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> moderate slopes in all snow conditions with a full pack snowcamping experience in all conditions |

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 |  Snowshoe |
|  Walk, Talk & Gawk |  Overnight/ Multi-day |  Public Transport |  Cycling |
|  Urban Walk/Activity |  Conservation Activity or Event/Training |  U35 |  4WD |
| | |  Family |  Social/Presentation |



21 Sep (Sat)

Excursion by coach:

Anglesea wildflower show

Easy 5km | Limit 57 | 130km SW Melb
 Contact: Larysa Kucan 9347 3733
 Leader: Larysa Kucan



The ANGAIR Wildflower and Art Weekend at Anglesea is always a very popular trip with our members. After a morning tea stop at Riverside Park at Geelong we will travel to Anglesea to view the wildflower, craft and art show. We will then be escorted by local guides to the best wildflower areas for a walking tour. After lunch we will travel to Airey's Inlet for a clifftop walk. A stop at Torquay on the return journey.

21 Sep (Sat)

Dandenongs walk

Medium 16km | Limit 15 | 48km E Melb
 Louise Prendergast 9826 0037
 lprendergast2009@hotmail.com



An early spring walk exploring trails around the Dandenongs, with a chance to experience the blossoms and other blooms in the Dandenong Botanical Gardens.

22 Sep (Sun)

Anglesea wildflower walk

Easy/Medium 10km | Limit 12 | 120km SW Melb
 Lesley Gillespie 9386 9077
 lesley_gillespie999@hotmail.com



After a short visit to the Annual Anglesea ANGAIR Wildflower and Art Weekend (small entry fee) we will walk the perimeter of the town taking in some of the wildflower hot spots. We will take our time. This is a great opportunity to see the local orchids and birdlife.

22 Sep (Sun)

The Scenic Rim: Lerderderg Gorge (EC)

Hard 16km | Limit 10 | 68km NW Melb
 David Moore 0448 555 666
 david@alexanderschool.edu.au



The Scenic Rim hike is a circuit walk graded difficult. The trail includes water crossings (possibility of your feet getting wet unless the river is dry), two steep and steady climbs and one steep and slippery descent. Approximately 4km total climbing and a significant steep 1.3km downhill section back to Grahams Dam on loose and slippery terrain.

23 Sep (Mon)

**Kangaroo Ground –
 Pantan Hills wildflower walk**

Medium 5km | Limit 15 | 30km NE Melb
 Ken Crook 9844 0106



After meeting at the historic Kangaroo Ground War Memorial Lookout Tower and the Moor-Rul Viewing Platform, we drive to the Kangaroo Ground Cemetery. We will walk amongst delightful views to the Felix Borsari wildflower trail. Coffee afterwards at the Kangaroo Ground General Store.

23 Sep (Mon)

Gowrie to Coburg, Merri Creek

Easy 10km | Limit 20
 Sue Parkhill 0432 413 442 / 9510 4316



Meet at Gowrie station at 11.15am. See the wilder and quieter side of the Merri Creek. A lovely track to walk along with the chance of a detour to visit the Linh Son Temple. We will finish in Coburg. BYO lunch.

27-29 Sep (long)

**Ground Parrot survey
 Wilsons Prom NP (EC)**

Medium 20km | Limit 6 | 225km SE Melb
 Denise Fernando 9458 2346



Enjoy hiking across the northern Prom scrubby plains in springtime. Wildflowers and birds aplenty, we'll look out for beautiful elusive Ground Parrots and record sightings for Parks Victoria. Fri 27th: Meet at Five Mile Rd car park, hike to Barry Creek campsite. Sat 28th: Birdwatching day-walk to Lower Barry Creek campsite. Sun 29th: Return to cars. *Note: this walk may not proceed if Collingwood makes it to the Grand Final!

28 Sep (Sat)

Vaughan Springs to Castlemaine

Medium 17km | Limit 12 | 130km NW Melb
 Euan Moore 5472 1572 / 0407 519 091
 calamanthus5@bigpond.com



This walk will follow a section of the Goldfields Track from Vaughan Springs to Castlemaine. At this time of the year there should be some spring wildflowers and the bush will be looking its best. A short car shuffle will be required at the end of the walk. Public transport available to the walk meeting point.

28 Sep (Sat)

Monda Track (EC)

Medium/Hard 17km | Limit 10 | 80km E Melb
 John Van Leeuwen 0418 996 048
 van.irrigate@gmail.com



A circuit walk east of Healesville in mountain ash forests preserved from logging and the 1939 bushfires, along a clear and grassy track, then down along a babbling creek. Some steep sections on return to Dom Dom Saddle.

Wildflowers in Anglesea. Photo by Valt98, Flickr CC.

4 Oct (Fri) Royal Botanic Gardens

Easy 4km | Limit 15 | 1km S Melb
Ken Crook 9844 0106



Enjoy a lovely ramble, visiting seven rest houses each with quaint architecture. Visit the Plant Craft Cottage and the recently completed Grotto, Bird Nest and Moss Gardens. Finish at the Terrace Café, overlooking the Ornamental Lake.

4-7 Oct (Fri-Mon) Melbourne Sea Slug Census

Various locations and distances | no limit
Nicole Mertens, ReefWatch Project Officer
nicole@vnpa.org.au



If you are out and about along the coast around Port Phillip Bay and Westernport over these days, consider taking images for the Sea Slug Census. To find out more about these amazing nudibranch creatures and how your images can contribute to this citizen science project, visit www.vnpa.org.au/sea-slug-census

5 Oct (Sat) Caught on Camera at Bunyip State Park

Medium | Spaces limited | 75km E of Melb
Sera Blair, NatureWatch Coordinator
9341 6510 sera@vnpa.org.au



Help VNPA's NatureWatch program monitor wildlife and habitat recovery after recent bushfire. We are elevating our annual Caught on Camera project by adding eco-acoustic recorders, photo points and scat surveys to our data collection. Must be able to walk 1km on rough forest terrain. Training provided. Meeting Gembrook. Full day event. Project partners: Friends of Bunyip State Park, Parks Victoria.

5 Oct (Sat) Barwon Heads

Medium 15km | Limit 15 | 80km SW Melb
Mark Learmonth 9807 7506 (H)



This walk begins in the north-west corner of Barwon Heads, then follows the Barwon River as it travels downstream towards Ingamells Bay. An optional walk to The Bluff is also possible. We then walk along the beach leading into Ocean Grove, finishing near another great lookout. This is a public transport walk.

5 Oct (Sat) Plenty Gorge #1

Medium 13km | Limit 12 | 20km NE Melb
Philip Sharp 0448 838 055
sharpstick2011@hotmail.com



The first of three walks that I propose in the area. Commencing at Greensborough station, we walk along a path beside the river. We cross the river four times and each crossing is a different type. Our last is the only crossing going north for many miles. The river is both the county and geological border. Historical features are encountered and we traverse urban and wilderness areas. Our destination is the South Morang station.

12 Oct (Sat) Easy Going Amble: Bacchus Marsh Avenue of Honour, the Lerderderg and Werribee rivers

Easy 5km | Limit 15 | 50km NW Melb
Geoff Durham 9523 5559



The 2.9km Avenue of Honour loop and a very personal horticultural experience on the Bacchus Marsh river flats. Optional lunch/coffee. Private transport only.

12 Oct (Sat) Plenty Gorge #2

Medium 13km | Limit 12 | 20km NE Melb
Philip Sharp 0448 838 055
sharpstick2011@hotmail.com



The second of three walks that I propose in the area. Commencing at South Morang station we traverse parks, streets and native vegetation areas. So close to suburbia and yet the bush seems so remote. The gorge lookout area gives a good view to appreciate the landscape. More suburbia and parkland, formal and natural. Our destination is the Middle Gorge station.

12-13 Oct (w/e) The Bluff Alpine NP weekend (EC)

Easy/Medium 20km | Limit 9 | 250km E Melb
Richard Tagg 0404 808 242
richard.tagg1@hotmail.com



Let's go and visit the spectacular views of The Bluff before the spring gates open to the 4WDs and the masses. Some pack-carrying but also side walks without packs.

14 Oct (Mon) Seniors Week: Wendouree

Easy 8km | Limit 20 | 123km NW Melb
Ruth Stirling 9699 7225 / 0418 245 151



We will take the 9:15am train from Southern Cross station to Wendouree, to walk around the lake. Time for lunch at the Yacht Club and then explore the Botanic Gardens.



16 Oct (Wed)

Great Victorian Fish Count presentation night

Nicole Mertens, ReefWatch Project Officer
nicole@vnpa.org.au



VNPA's ReefWatch program invites you to an evening to celebrate the upcoming 2019 Great Victorian Fish Count and hear from guest speakers on a range of marine and coastal topics. 6pm onwards at 60 Leicester St, Carlton, Groundfloor Meeting Room 1&2. Refreshments provided. Free event, registrations essential: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/2019-great-victorian-fish-count-our-marine-liferocks-tickets-68396504787

19 Oct (Sat)

Excursion by coach: Walhalla

Easy 6km | Limit 57 | 184km E Melb
Bookings: Larysa Kucan 9347 3733
Leader: Larysa Kucan



A visit to Walhalla, an authentic historic gold mining town, is a trip back in time. We will travel into Walhalla from Thomson in the Goldfields steam train with stunning views of the Thomson River and Stringer's Creek Gorge. The afternoon will be spent exploring and soaking up the atmosphere of this historic township. In the morning there will be a stop at the Drouin farmers' market.

19-20 Oct (w/e)

Bushwalking Victoria Federation Walks weekend: Lorne area

145km SW Melb
Anna van Tatenhove



To be held in the Lorne area with walks spanning from Anglesea to Apollo Bay. Hosted by Geelong Bushwalking Club. Full program will be released on 1 May 2019. Bookings open on 1 July 2019 and close on 1 September 2019. Day and weekend packages available. Further information can be found at: www.fedwalks.org.au and www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

19-20 Oct (w/e)

Mt Erica and Baw Baw Plateau circuit walk (EC)

Medium 15km | Limit 8 | 190km E Melb
John Van Leeuwen 0418 996 048
van.irrigate@gmail.com



A partial circuit walk on the Baw Baw plateau, on the Australian Alps Walking Track passing Mushroom Rocks and camping on Mustering Flat. A side trip to the summit of Mt Baw Baw on Sunday without packs, before returning to our packs and finishing the walk at Mt Erica carpark.

20 Oct (Sun)

Jan Juc to Anglesea

Medium 19km | Limit 16 | 103km SW Melb
David Moore 0448 555 666
david@alexanderschool.edu.au



A pleasant coastal walk with only moderate undulations and a good variety of forest, heath, cliff tops and beach. Rated medium due to distance. We will do a car shuffle for this trip.

26 Oct (Sat)

Caught on Camera at Bunyip State Park

Medium | Spaces limited | 75km E of Melb
Sera Blair, NatureWatch Coordinator
sera@vnpa.org.au 9341 6510



Help VNPA's NatureWatch program monitor wildlife and habitat recovery after recent bushfire. We are elevating our annual Caught on Camera project by adding eco-acoustic recorders, photo points and scat surveys to our data collection. Must be able to walk 1km on rough forest terrain. Training provided. Meeting Gembrook. Full day event. Project partners: Friends of Bunyip State Park, Parks Victoria.

26 Oct (Sat)

Grasslands and wildflowers for Beginners

Easy 1-2kms | Limit 20 | 30km N Melb
Caitlin Griffith 9341 6508 caitlin@vnpa.org.au



10am-midday, Bababi Marning (Cooper Street) Grassland Nature Conservation Reserve, Campbellfield. Learn about characteristics of grassland plants and flowers, resources for identification, and practice our new skills at this special remnant grassland. Led by wildflower and grassland enthusiast Tristan Best. Suitable for all ages. Family friendly. (Special pricing: VNPA members free, non-members \$15 per person, non-member families \$20).

27 Oct (Sun)

Newport Lakes walk

Easy 10km | Limit 15 | 15km W Melb
Cheryl Walker (Mioch) 0412 743 866
cherylmioch@bigpond.com



Walk from the Newport station through some of the historic streets of Newport and around the lakes. Public transport walk.

28 Oct (Mon)

Wattle Park to Ashburton

Easy 8km | Limit 20
Sue Parkhill 0432 413 442 / 9510 4316



Meet at 1pm, tram 70 stop 59, Wattle Park. Walking from Wattle Park to Gardiners Creek, we will head downstream, finishing in Ashburton for coffee and the train home.

Setting off. Photo by Daniel Walker, Flickr CC.

1-5 Nov (long)

Gungartin and Jagungal Wilderness (EC)

Hard 60km | Limit 10 | 600km NE Melb
James Shannon 9754 4951 / 0407 346 467
jmshannon1962@hotmail.com



This spectacular walk in the Kosciuszko National Park will start at Guthega Power Station and take us into the southern section of the Jagungal Wilderness. The extra day is to accommodate the long drive from Melbourne, hence the walk would start lunchtime Friday.

2 Nov (Sat)

Sandringham-Mordialloc

Easy/Medium 14km | Limit 15
Glenn King 0448 816 504



From Sandringham station we follow the coast past Half Moon Bay and Ricketts Point to Mordialloc station.

2-5 Nov (long)

Alpine NP: Mt Wills to Mt Bogong – the AAWT spring hike (EC)

Medium/Hard/Exploratory 35km | Limit 6 | 450km NE Melb
Taariq Hassan taariq.music@gmail.com



The spring hike along part of the AAWT will take in Mt Wills Hut on Saturday night; Big River Saddle, Long Spur, Cleve Cole Hut on Sunday; Mt Bogong summit and Eskdale spur on Monday. The car/s at Mt Wills trail head then need to be retrieved using the car/s at Camp Creek Gap. Walkers will need to be fit, well-equipped and ready for alpine weather extremes.

2-5 Nov (long)

Great South West Walk from the Glenelg River back towards Portland (EC)
Medium/Hard 59km | Limit 8 | 430km SW Melb
John Van Leeuwen 0418 996 048
van.irrigate@gmail.com



From Moleside campsite at the Glenelg River, we will walk through the Lower Glenelg National Park and the Connoboone Forest on maintained walking tracks. Camping at designated sites. Enquire early as Parks Victoria sites need to be pre-booked.

3 Nov (Sun)

Tanglefoot Track and Mt St Leonard

Medium 17-19km | Limit 16 | 86km NE Melb
David Moore 0448 555 666
david@alexanderschool.edu.au



This is a pleasant circuitry walk with some undulations. If the weather is good, we will visit the top of Mt St Leonard which will make the trip around 19km. Otherwise the circuit walk is 16.5km.

4 Nov (Mon)

Kororoit Creek

Easy 7km | Limit 20
Ruth Stirling 9699 7225 / 0418 245 151



Meet at Albion station 11.30am, with BYO lunch. The creek has made a circuitous course through this volcanic country. Check it out on Melway map 40. We finish with coffee near Sunshine station.

9 Nov (Sat)

Easy Going Amble: Outer Circle Railway

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



From East Malvern to Hughsdale through the Urban Forest, Boyd Park and the O T Fight Reserve. Optional lunch/coffee. Public transport option.

9-10 Nov (w/e)

Mt Torbreck, Eildon region (EC)

Medium 8km | Limit 12 | 160km N Melb
Doug Palmer 9399 4494
dpalmer@iimetro.com.au



Enjoy the Eildon area, and climb to a lesser-known sub-alpine peak for great views. Base-camp on Friday and/or Saturday, likely at Kendalls (in State Forest). We will summit to Mt Torbreck on Saturday (approx 600 metres), and there's an option of a short walk/amble on Sunday morning before our Melbourne return. (Option of 'day-trip only', but that involves quite a drive).

9-10 Nov (w/e)

Friends of the Prom working bee weekend

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



Restoring Hooded Plover habitat at Squeaky Beach by removal of Sea Spurge.



16 Nov (Sat)

Caught on Camera at Bunyip State Park

Medium | Spaces limited | 75km E of Melb
Sera Blair, NatureWatch Coordinator,
9341 6510 sera@vnpa.org.au



Help VNPA's NatureWatch program monitor wildlife and habitat recovery after recent bushfire. We are elevating our annual Caught on Camera project by adding eco-acoustic recorders, photo points and scat surveys to our data collection. Must be able to walk 1km on rough forest terrain. Training provided. Meeting Gembrook. Full day event. Project partners: Friends of Bunyip State Park, Parks Victoria.

16 Nov-15 Dec

Great Victorian Fish Count

Various distances and locations | no limit
Nicole Mertens, ReefWatch Project Officer
nicole@vnpa.org.au



The largest marine citizen science event in the state, VNPA's Great Victorian Fish Count brings together hundreds of divers and snorkelers across the state to record key Victorian fish species. There are great opportunities for beginners and families to get involved this year. For latest details, visit: www.vnpa.org.au/fish-count

16 Nov (Sat)

Excursion by coach: Point Nepean

Easy 6km | Limit 57 | 90km S Melb
Bookings: Larysa Kucan 9347 3733
Leader: Sue Parkhill



Point Nepean National Park's rich Indigenous and European heritage, plus its wonderful views of Port Phillip Bay and the ocean, makes this a very special part of Victoria. After a visit to the Quarantine Station we will explore Point Nepean by the park's shuttle bus. In the morning there will be a stop at the Boneo market (60 stalls) for morning tea and pre-Christmas shopping.

16 Nov (Sat)

Cathedral Ranges Northern Circuit

Medium 13km | Limit 12 | 116km E Melb
Evelyn Feller 5962 5227
evefeller@gmail.com



This walk will start and finish at Neds Gully climbing Cathedral Peak en route and then continuing along the ridge to the Farmyard Saddle before descending to the trail back to Neds Gully. Great views along the ridge.

17 Nov (Sun)

Werribee Mansion walk

Easy 12km | Limit 15 | 32km W Melb
Cheryl Walker (Mioch) 0412 743 866
cherylmioch@bigpond.com



Starting at Werribee station, walk along the blue gum-lined river bank to the Mansion, with time after lunch to have a look at the mansion and ground. Public transport walk.

23 Nov (Sat)

Quartz Hill

Easy/Medium 14km | Limit 15 | 100km NW Melb
Mark Learmonth 9807 7506 (H)



Castlemaine has a lot of goldfields history. On this walk, we visit Burke and Wills Lookout, Zeal Bridge, a special cemetery, Quartz Hill and the beautiful Botanic Gardens, to the north and the east of the city itself. This is a public transport walk.

24 Nov (Sat)

Wild Families in the Great Victorian Fish Count

Easy | Limit 20 | 100kms SE Melb
AJ Morton, Dive 2U 0409 411 299
dive@dive2u.com



Location: Rye Pier. **Activity 1:** 10am-midday. **Activity 2:** 1pm-3pm. Dive 2U will lead 'Wild Families' on a morning snorkel at Rye Pier to count fish such as Zebra Fish, Weedy Seadragons and Old Wives. All snorkelling equipment and training provided. Bring your own wetsuit if you can. Children must be at least eight and must attend with an adult responsible for their supervision. Cost: \$10 per person or \$25 per family.

25 Nov (Mon)

Maranoa Gardens Balwyn to Canterbury

Easy 8km | Limit 20
Sue Parkhill 0432 413 442 / 9510 4316



Meet at 1pm, stop 50, tram 109, Whitehorse Road. Starting more or less at the finishing point of the March walk, Maranoa Gardens, we will make our way along the leafy streets and parks of Balwyn, Deepdene and Canterbury to Maling Road for coffee.

7-8 Dec (w/e)

Wilson's Prom NP: South Eastern circuit (EC)

Medium/Hard 36km | Limit 6 | 250km SE Melb
Taariq Hassan
taariq.music@gmail.com



A quick weekend away at The Prom. Hiking the scenic South Eastern Circuit and camping at Refuge Cove on Saturday night. Day one: meeting early at Tidal River and hiking 18 kms to Refuge Cove via Sealers Cove. Day 2: complete the circuit via Kersops Peak, Little Waterloo Bay and Telegraph Track (18 km). Walkers will need to be fit, well-equipped and ready for Prom weather.

Take part in the 2019 Great Victorian Fish Count. Photo by John Gaskell.

7 Dec (Sat)

Great Victorian Fish Count For Beginners

Easy | Limit 20 | 110kms SE Melb
Bayplay, 5984 0888



Location: Portsea Pier. **Activity 1:** 10am-midday. **Activity 2:** 12:30-2:20pm
Want to try the Great Victorian Fish Count? Bayplay will lead snorkelers around Portsea pier to count fish such as blue-throated wrasse, old wives and a high chance of spotting a weedy seadragon. All equipment and training provided. Children must be at least five and accompanied by an adult. Cost \$10 per person or \$25 per family.

9 Dec (Mon)

Highpoint to Travancore

Easy 6km | Limit 20
Ruth Stirling 9699 7225 / 0418 245 151



Meet at 1pm outside Target at Highpoint shopping centre, but you can arrive earlier to explore and have lunch. We will follow a steep downhill path to the Maribyrnong River and cross over to Ascot Vale. We'll then find our way to streets named Lucknow and Cashmere. Finish at Flemington Bridge station, or there are trams to the city.

14 Dec (Sat)

Easy Going Amble: The Yarra between Bridge Road and Victoria Street

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



We will stroll up and down this lesser-known part of the river. Some slopes and steps. Optional lunch/coffee. Public transport option.

15 Dec (Sun)

Lillydale Lakes walk

Easy 12km | Limit 15 | 45km SE Melb
Cheryl Walker (Mioch) 0412 743 866
cherylmioch@bigpond.com



Walk around the surrounds of Lillydale Lakes and visit the local museum at the end. Public transport walk.

15 Dec (Sun)

Western Treatment Plant – very important wetlands

Easy 2km | Limit 12 | 60km SW Melb
Euan Moore 5472 1572 / 0407 519 091
calamanthus5@bigpond.com



The WTP wetlands near Werribee are one of the most important wetlands in Australia. They support a tremendous number of birds and other wildlife. We will drive around the wetlands, stopping to look at some of the concentrations of birdlife. Each car will include an experienced birdwatcher familiar with the area.

16 Dec (Mon)

Hawthorn to Glenferrie

Easy 8km | Limit 20
Sue Parkhill 0432 413 442 / 9510 4316



Meet at 1pm at Hawthorn station. The walk will be around Hawthorn, down to the Yarra River and back to Glenferrie, for the final coffee together for the year.

21 Dec (Sat)

Macedon Regional Park: Macedon township to Woodend via Mt Macedon (EC)

Medium 16km | Limit 12 | 70km N Melb
Darren McClelland 0449 167 776
darrenmcclelland@gmail.com



This walk commences at Macedon township and can be reached via train or car. The walk takes in part of the Macedon Ranges Walking Trail, skirting around the summit of Mt Macedon, then down the northern side of the range where we will walk along a quiet road to reach Woodend for a drink and the train back to Macedon (or Melbourne).

27 Dec - 1 Jan (long)

Alpine NP: Bogong High Plains Loop – Big Christmas/New Year hike (EC)

Medium/Hard 65km | Limit 6 | 350km NE Melb
Taariq Hassan taariq.music@gmail.com



A grand tour of the magnificent Bogong High Plains starting at Bogong Village. Includes: Bogong Jack Saddle, The Fainters, Tawonga Huts, Young's SEC Hut, Ryder's Hut, Cope Saddle Hut, Cope Hut, Fitzgerald's Hut, Roper's Hut, Spion Kopje, and return to Bogong Village. Wildflowers should be at their best. You will need to carry food for 6 days, be very fit and equipped for alpine weather extremes and annoying insects.

28 Dec (Sat)

Lyrebird Walk

Medium 15km | Limit 15 | 30km E Melb
Mark Learmonth 9807 7506 (H)



A somewhat optimistic title for this walk, but we do have a chance of spotting a lyrebird, because this area of the Dandenongs does have them present. The walk begins with some road walking to a scenic lookout, before we move into the forest in both the east and west catchments of Hardys Creek. This is a public transport walk.



11 Jan (Sat)

Easy Going Amble: Westgate Park re-visited

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



It is six years since we ambled in Westgate Park (Nov 2013). What was once a muddy mudflat is now attractive Indigenous bushland with feature lakes under the Westgate Bridge – a remarkable restoration achievement. Public transport option.

25-27 Jan (long)

Alpine NP: Lake Tali Karng and Wellington High Plains (EC)

Medium 35km | Limit 6 | 350km NE Melb
Taariq Hassan taariq.music@gmail.com



A relatively easy long weekend hike. Friday night camping at Wellington River campsite No.12. Day 1: Wellington High Plains, base camp at Nyimba, afternoon walk to Gable End. Day 2: day trip to Lake Tali Karng via Riggall Spur Track. Day 3: hike out and return to Licola for an ice cream. Hopefully the 2019 bushfire damage has not spoiled this magical place.

Don't miss any activity changes!

Make sure you are getting the most up to date details of the activities in this program.

Check for any activity alterations, additions or cancellations on our website: www.vnpa.org.au/adventures

It's also a good idea to subscribe to the VNPA email updates at www.vnpa.org.au/sign-up

The Great Ocean Walk is within your reach!

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7-Day End to End Tour or 4 Day Highlights Tour. Ex Melb.

Walk one of Australia's best coastal trails taking in the spectacular views, wildlife and experiences this track has to offer without camping or roughing it. Each night you will return to comfortable accommodation and a delicious meal.

Small Group Size. Knowledgeable Guides. Includes Helicopter ride over 12 Apostles.



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The BWAG Committee needs YOU

The BWAG committee is essential to being able to run the Activities Program.

New members are required for the 2020 Program to go ahead.

There are many fantastic reasons to join the BWAG Committee:

- Investing in the VNPA and the natural environment
- The BWAG Committee benefits from fresh insight and ideas of new members.
- No prior experience required – just a willingness to contribute to VNPA's 'be part of nature' philosophy.
- Only four meetings a year (with the option to teleconference).

For further information:
Email: vnabwag.convener@gmail.com

INDEX

C

Crook, Ken 9844 0106

- 4 Kangaroo Ground – Pantom Hills wildflower walk
- 5 Royal Botanic Gardens

D

Durham, Geoff 9523 5559

- 5 Easy Going Amble: Bacchus Marsh Avenue of Honour, the Lerderderg and Werribee rivers
- 7 Easy Going Amble: Outer Circle Railway
- 9 Easy Going Amble: The Yarra between Bridge Road & Victoria Street
- 10 Easy Going Amble: Westgate Park re-visited

F

Feller, Evelyn 5962 5227

- 8 Cathedral Ranges Northern Circuit

Fernando, Denise 9458 2346

- 4 Ground Parrot survey Wilsons Prom NP (EC)

G

Gillespie, Lesley 9386 9077

- 4 Anglesea wildflower walk

H

Hassan, Taariq taariq.music@gmail.com

- 7 Alpine NP: Mt Wills to Mt Bogong – the AAWT spring hike (EC)
- 8 Wilsons Prom NP: South East circuit (EC)
- 9 Alpine NP: Bogong High Plains Loop – Big Christmas/New Year hike (EC)
- 10 Alpine NP: Lake Tali Karng and Wellington High Plains (EC)

Henry, Deb 0409 338 182

- 7 Friends of the Prom working bee weekend

K

King, Glenn 0448 816 504

- 7 Sandringham–Mordialloc

Kucan, Larysa 9347 3733

- 4 Excursion by coach: Anglesea wildflower show
- 6 Excursion by coach: Walhalla
- 8 Excursion by coach: Point Nepean

L

Learmonth, Mark 9807 7506 (H)

- 5 Barwon Heads
- 8 Quartz Hill
- 9 Lyrebird Walk

M

McClelland, Darren 0449 167 776

- 9 Macedon Regional Park: Macedon township to Woodend via Mount Macedon (EC)

Moore, David 0448 555 666

- 4 The Scenic Rim: Lerderderg Gorge (EC)
- 6 Jan Juc to Anglesea
- 7 Tanglefoot Track and Mt St Leonard

Moore, Euan 5472 1572 / 0407 519 091

- 4 Vaughan Springs to Castlemaine
- 9 Western Treatment Plant – very important wetlands

Alpine National Park. Photo by Lois Padgham/Australian Alps Flickr CC.

P

Palmer, Doug 9399 4494

- 7 Mt Torbreck, Eildon region (EC)

Parkhill, Sue 0432 413 442 / 9510 4316

- 4 Gowrie to Coburg, Merri Creek
- 6 Wattle Park to Ashburton
- 8 Maranoa Gardens Balwyn to Canterbury
- 9 Hawthorn to Glenferrie

Prendergast, Louise 0400 280 611

- 4 Dandenongs walk

S

Shannon, James 9754 4951 / 0407 346 467

- 7 Gungartin and Jagungal Wilderness (EC)

Sharp, Philip 0448 838 055

- 5 Plenty Gorge #1
- 5 Plenty Gorge #2

Stirling, Ruth 9699 7225 / 0418 245 151

- 5 Seniors Week – Wendouree
- 7 Kororoit Creek
- 9 Highpoint to Travancore

T

Tagg, Richard 0404 808 242

- 5 The Bluff Alpine NP weekend (EC)

V

Van Leeuwen, John 0418 996 048

- 4 Monda Track (EC)
- 6 Mt Erica and Baw Baw Plateau circuit walk (EC)
- 7 Great South West Walk from the Glenelg River back towards Portland (EC)

van Tatenhove, Anna

www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

- 6 Bushwalking Victoria Federation Walks weekend: Lorne area

VNPA 9341 6500

- 5 Melbourne Sea Slug Census
- 5 Caught on Camera at Bunyip State Park
- 6 Great Victorian Fish Count presentation night
- 6 Caught on Camera at Bunyip State Park
- 6 Grasslands and wildflowers for Beginners
- 8 Caught on Camera at Bunyip State Park
- 8 Great Victorian Fish Count
- 8 Wild Families in the Great Victorian Fish Count
- 9 Great Victorian Fish Count For Beginners

W

Walker (Mioch), Cheryl 0412 743 866

- 6 Newport Lakes walk
- 8 Werribee Mansion walk
- 9 Lillydale Lakes walk

★

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REWARD OFFERED FOR
clear side profile shots of Dragons seen in the
vicinity of Port Phillip and Westernport bay.

The creature is often seen moving slowly close to the seabed making it easy to photograph. With your image we can use the unique markings on the side of each dragon to identify individuals. This is the first step to knowing how many dragons exist locally.



★

P.S. The reward is having a Dragon named after you if you are the first to find it.

★

EMAIL IMAGES TO REEFWATCH: kade@vnpa.org.au
FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.vnpa.org.au/dragon-quest