



## VNPA BUSHWALKING & ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

*Summer*  
**2017-18**





## BUSHWALKING AND ACTIVITIES PROGRAM SUMMER 2017-18

In this Summer 2017-18 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](mailto: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 [vnpa@vnpa.org.au](mailto:vnpa@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

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.

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:** *Terese Dalman*

0413 234 130 [vnabwag.convener@gmail.com](mailto:vnabwag.convener@gmail.com)

**Program:** *Ellen Finlay*

0425 705 353 [vnabwag.program@gmail.com](mailto:vnabwag.program@gmail.com)

**Treasurer/Trip reports:** *Rob Argent*

0417 502 191 [vnabwag.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:vnpa@vnpa.org.au)

Web: [www.vnpa.org.au](http://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/publications/activities-program](http://www.vnpa.org.au/publications/activities-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.

*The Crinoline, Alpine National Park. Photo by Mary Ferlin.*

### EMERGENCY CONTACTS

#### COORDINATOR

**Sue Catterall** Emergency Contacts Coordinator  
0417 526 519 / 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.

#### 2017 EMERGENCY CONTACTS

<b>9-10 December</b>	<i>Helen Buckley</i>	9801 4346 / 0418 398 580
<b>16-17 December</b>	<i>Ann Turner</i>	9878 3297 / 0425 732 384
<b>23-24 December</b>	<i>Robyn Desnoy</i>	9528 2390
<b>30-31 December</b>	<i>Pat Witt</i>	9802 8914 / 0407 360 650
<b>6-7 January</b>	<i>Sue Parkhill</i>	9510 4316 / 0432 413 442
<b>13-14 January</b>	<i>Kyle and Elizabeth Matheson</i>	9890 6094 / 0429 906 094
<b>20-21 January</b>	<i>Russ Bowey</i>	0417 328 651
<b>27-28 January</b>	<i>Robyn Desnoy</i>	9528 2390
<b>3-4 February</b>	<i>Rob Argent</i>	0417 502 191
<b>10-11 February</b>	<i>Kate Parker</i>	0409 231 746
<b>17-18 February</b>	<i>Kyle and Elizabeth Matheson</i>	9890 6094 / 0429 906 094
<b>24-25 February</b>	<i>Helen Buckley</i>	9801 4346 / 0418 398 580
<b>3-4 March</b>	<i>Pat Witt</i>	9802 8914 / 0407 360 650
<b>10-11 March</b>	<i>Ann Turner</i>	9878 3297 / 0425 732 384
<b>17-18 March</b>	<i>Terese and Lawrie Dalman</i>	9562 9938 / 0413 234 130
<b>24-25 March</b>	<i>Kate Parker</i>	0409 231 746
<b>31-1 April</b>	<i>Sue Parkhill</i>	9510 4316 / 0432 413 442

### ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

GRADE	EASY	MEDIUM – May involve:	HARD – May involve:
<b>Walk</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>on formed tracks</li> <li>terrain level or undulating</li> <li>pace relaxed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>some rough terrain, forest or road walking</li> <li>longer ascents or descents</li> <li>up to 6 hours walking in a day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>rough terrain</li> <li>8 hrs or more each day</li> <li>rock scrambling</li> <li>thick scrub</li> <li>steep sustained ascents or descents</li> </ul>
<b>Excursion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bus trips to places of interest to members, including the option of an easy or medium grade walk (see 'easy walk' above)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bus trips to places of interest to members, including the option of an easy or medium grade walk (see 'medium walk' above)</li> </ul>	N/A
<b>Walk, Talk &amp; Gawk</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Park visits/guided walks, with frequent stops for observation of significant features or ecology.</li> </ul>	N/A	N/A
<b>Easy Going Amble</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slow-as-you go strolls with rests along the way still enjoying the great outdoors</li> </ul>	N/A	N/A
<b>Canoe Kayaking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>slow-flowing rivers</li> <li>small rapids</li> <li>a good command of basic strokes required</li> <li>'beginner' trips assume no experience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>moderately flowing rivers</li> <li>small rapids requiring some manoeuvring</li> <li>route generally easy to recognise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level 1 rapids</li> <li>longer days, sustained paddling required</li> <li>manoeuvring in faster flowing water</li> </ul>
<b>Cycle</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>up to 40km/day</li> <li>bitumen roads</li> <li>few hills</li> <li>no steep grades</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>up to 50km/day in hilly country or 70km/day in flat country</li> <li>short stretches of dirt road</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sustained stretches on dirt roads</li> <li>up to 60km/day in hilly country or 80km/day on the flat</li> <li>hilly terrain</li> </ul>
<b>Ski Snowshoe (day)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>up to 5hr/day</li> <li>mainly groomed trails</li> <li>limited experience is assumed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>up to 7hr/day</li> <li>ability to snow plough and stop</li> <li>moderate slopes and off-trail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7hr/day or more</li> <li>good skating skills</li> <li>off trail, steep slopes, all snow conditions</li> <li>competent in poor weather</li> </ul>
<b>Ski Snowshoe (overnight)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>able to snow plough and stop with a daypack</li> <li>overnight backpack camping experience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ability to ski gentle slopes with a full pack</li> <li>snowcamping experience desirable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>moderate slopes in all snow conditions with a full pack</li> <li>snowcamping experience in all conditions</li> </ul>

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



**18 Nov – 17 Dec**

**Great Victorian Fish Count**

Various distances and locations, no limit.  
Kade Mills 93416519  
kadem@vnpa.org.au



Now in its thirteenth year, the Great Victorian Fish Count brings together over 400 divers and snorkelers to record the abundance of 25 key Victorian fish species. This year several species of friendly sharks and rays have also been added. There are great opportunities to get the whole family involved this year. To register your interest join the ReefWatch mailing list at [vnpa.org.au/programs/reefwatch](http://vnpa.org.au/programs/reefwatch)

**9-11 Dec (long)**

**Alpine NP – Mt Loch/Machinery Spur/  
Diamantina Spur/Razorback circuit (EC)**

Hard 45km | Limit 6 | 350km NE Melb  
Taariq Hassan [taariq.music@gmail.com](mailto:taariq.music@gmail.com)



An Alpine pack carry long weekend, including Monday, with an ascent of the Diamantina Spur. Friday option to camp near Freeburgh. The walk route includes Mt Loch, Machinery Spur, Blair's Hut and Diamantina Spur to High Knob or Federation Hut. On Monday a possible visit to Mt Feathertop summit and return to cars via The Razorback. You will need to be fit and well equipped.

**9 Dec (Sat)**

**Easy Going Amble: Truganina Swamp  
and The 100 Steps To Federation**

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



Retain your mobility by getting out and about. Apart from the 100 steps up (and down) at Federation Lookout this is a reasonably flat walk ending with optional coffee/lunch.

**9 Dec (Sat)**

**Royal Park and Carlton**

Medium 16km | Limit 16 | 2km W Melb  
Louise Prendergast 9826 0037  
[lprendergast2009@hotmail.com](mailto:lprendergast2009@hotmail.com)



An urban walk exploring the green areas of the city. Starting at the front gate of the zoo we walk around the perimeter of Royal Park and check out the new gardens at the back of the Royal Children's Hospital. We continue through Carlton and Princes Park and explore sections of the Capitol trail through Brunswick, before returning to the zoo.

**10 Dec (Sun)**

**WT&G: Coolart Wetlands  
and Homestead, Somers**

Easy 7km | Limit 15 | 85km SE Melb  
Julia Pickwick 0433 977 396 [j.pickwick@gmail.com](mailto:j.pickwick@gmail.com)



A nature lover's paradise with wetlands, bushland and beach access, this National Trust classified property also features a historic homestead, outbuildings and a farm machinery collection.

**10 Dec (Sun)**

**NatureWatch 10 year celebration  
at Brisbane Ranges National Park**

Easy | Limit 50 | 80 km W Melb  
Christine Connelly, NatureWatch Coordinator  
[christinec@vnpa.org.au](mailto:christinec@vnpa.org.au) 9341 6510



Join NatureWatch and the Friends of Brisbane Ranges to celebrate 10 years of our grass-tree monitoring project in the Brisbane Ranges National Park, and to remember where NatureWatch began 10 years ago. Listen to presentations reporting back on what we've discovered and enjoy a bushwalk and yummy refreshments. A family-friendly activity. Registration required, via Eventbrite: [naturewatchtenyears.eventbrite.com.au](http://naturewatchtenyears.eventbrite.com.au)

**11 Dec (Mon)**

**Riddells Creek**

Easy 8km | Limit 20 | 61km N Melb  
Ruth Stirling 9699 7225



Catch the 10.14am train from Southern Cross (Bendigo Line) and travel 50 minutes to Riddells Creek. A look around the town sights. The train came through in the 1850s. Walk west along Wheelwrights Rd, to the Conglomerate Flora and Fauna Reserve for picnic lunch. Homeward train 3.45pm (note, no other train choice). Coffee back in the city.

**16 Dec (Sat)**

**Wild Families at the  
Great Victorian Fish Count**

Limit 10 | 104kms S Melbourne  
Jarrod Boord 0423 258 510 [bellarinesnorkeltours@gmail.com](mailto:bellarinesnorkeltours@gmail.com)



Bellarine Snorkel Tours will lead families on a morning snorkel under St Leonards Pier to count fish. Snorkelling equipment/training provided. Children must be at least six and attend with a responsible adult. Children under nine require one supervising adult in the water per child. Registration essential. Cost: VNPA members free, non-members adults \$9, children \$3, family \$20.

**17-19 Dec (long)**

**Wilson's Prom National Park –  
the complete southern circuit**

Medium/hard 55km | Limit 6 | 280km SE Melb  
Taariq Hassan [taariq.music@gmail.com](mailto:taariq.music@gmail.com)



The entire southern circuit of the Prom is best done in three nights and four days in early summer before the school holidays start. This walk will be Sunday to Wednesday. Day 1: Telegraph Saddle to Sealers Cove. Day 2: walk to Little Waterloo Bay. Day 3: walk to Roaring Meg. Day 4: walk out Tidal River via Oberon Bay. Good fitness and gear are required.

*Eastern shovelnose stingaree at Blairgowrie Pier. Photo by Kade Mills.*

**18 Dec (Mon)**

**Hawthorn – Kew**

Easy 8km | Limit 20 | 7km E Melb  
Sue Parkhill 9510 4316



Meet 1pm at Hawthorn Station. The last of the Monday walks for the year will be through some of the lovely eastern suburbs and the Outer Circle Trail to Kew for a Christmas coffee and cake.

**26 Dec – 1 Jan (long)**

**Bogong High Plains base camp (EC)**

Medium 100km | Limit 10 | 400km NE Melb  
Lesley Gillespie 9386 9077  
lesley\_gillespie999@hotmail.com



From our bush base camp at Bucketty Plain we will explore walking trails on the High Plains during five day walks including aqueducts, huts and peaks. Early interest welcome.

**27-31 Dec (long)**

**Alpine National Park –  
Bogong High Plains circuit (EC)**

Hard/exploratory 60km | Limit 6 | 350km NE Melb  
Taariq Hassan taariq.music@gmail.com



Come and walk the challenging loop around Mt Bogong and the High Plains. We will carpool from Mt Beauty. Walk route includes Ropers Hut, Grey Hills, Bogong Creek Saddle, the Quartz Ridge, Mt Bogong summit, Cleve Cole Hut, the T Spur, Duane Spur and back to the cars at Watchbed Creek. Excellent fitness, experience and gear are necessary.

**6 Jan (Sat)**

**Bendigo Art Gallery –  
Costume Designer: Edith Head**

Easy 5km | Limit 16 | 115km NW Melb  
Cheryl Mioch 9397 7470 / 0412 743 866  
cherylmioch@bigpond.com



Take the train to Bendigo to visit the art gallery and see the new exhibition of Hollywood custom designer Edith Head. Costumes are from a wide range of films and film stars, from day wear to extravagant evening gowns. There is a charge to enter the exhibition – \$12 concession, \$15 adult.

**13 Jan (Sat)**

**Jells Park trails**

Medium 18km | Limit 16 | 25km SE Melb  
Louise Prendergast 9826 0037  
lprendergast2009@hotmail.com



From Jells Park we walk around the lake and follow a number of trails within the park and up towards Shepherds Bush. Not too challenging, the trail is mostly sealed and flat.

**13 Jan (Sat)**

**Easy Going Amble – Mordialloc Creek**

Easy 5km | Limit 15 | 30km SE Melb  
Geoff Durham 9523 5559



Recover from the festive season. A flat stroll up one side of the creek and down the other, ending at Mordialloc for optional coffee/lunch.

**15 Jan (Mon)**

**Middle Brighton to St Kilda**

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



Meet at Middle Brighton Station at 3pm for a beach walk to Fitzroy Street, St Kilda, for pizza.

**20 Jan (Sat)**

**Excursion by coach: Apollo Bay**

Easy 5km | Limit 57 | 188km SW Melb  
Bookings: Larysa Kucan 93473733 Jan Lacey 93298187  
Leader: Larysa Kucan



Sit back, relax and enjoy the ocean views as we travel along the Great Ocean Road. Our first stop will be in Anglesea for morning tea and a stroll. Lunch, and perhaps a swim, will be in Lorne. Apollo Bay, situated at the foothills of the Otway Ranges, will be our destination for the afternoon.

**20 Jan (Sat)**

**Urban Adventure – Altona to the city**

Medium 21km | Limit 18  
Anna van Tatenhove 0433 842 410  
annavt62@gmail.com



Taking the train to Altona Station, we walk down to the beach and follow the Hobson's Bay Coastal trail through the parklands, beach and foreshore areas of Altona to Williamstown. After lunch in Williamstown, we will take in the maritime precinct making our way back to Spotswood. From Spotswood, we catch the punt across the river, before walking back to either Flinders Street or Southern Cross Station via South Wharf.



**22 Jan (Mon)**

**City gardens and parks**

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



Meet at Tram Stop 17 in St Kilda Road at 10am. An earlier start than usual, we will meander through parks and gardens to the Yarra River, then depending on the weather, decide which way to head next. BYO lunch or buy something along the way.

**26-28 Jan (long)**

**Alpine National Park – Mt Hotham area day walks (EC)**

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



Australia day long weekend scenic day walks based at JB Plain near Dinner Plain village. Option to camp near Freeburgh Thursday night. Meet in Harrietville Friday morning. Drive to near Mt Hotham and walk to 'The Twins' (10kms), then drive to JB Plain and set up a hike-in base camp near JB Hut. Saturday, the Hotham Huts loop (18kms) and Sunday morning, visit Mt Blue Rag (10kms) on way out. Good fitness and camping experience are required.

**3-4 Feb (w/e)**

**Base camp walk (EC)**

Medium 16km | Limit 10 | 230km NE Melb  
John Van Leeuwen 0418 996 048  
van.irrigate@gmail.com



Camp at Sheeppyard Flat on Friday night, drive to 8 Mile Gap on Saturday morning and walk to Eagle Peaks. From there, drive to Bluff Hut by 4WD, camp at the hut and walk out to the Bluff and back on Sunday. Bluff Hut is a rebuilt cattleman's hut and is set in a lovely location with a grass area to pitch tents. Steep climbs, exceptional views.

**3 Feb (Sat)**

**Albert Park Lake and Royal Botanic Gardens**

Easy 12km | Limit 16 | 12km W Melb  
Cheryl Mioch 9397 7470 / 0412 743 866  
cherylmioch@bigpond.com



Check out the two parks in the centre of Melbourne. Starting with walking around Albert Park Lake and then walking across to the botanical gardens. Lunch by the lake then back to Flinders Street.

**3-5 Feb (long)**

**Alpine National Park – Wellington High Plains and Lake Tali Karng (EC)**

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



Scenic sub Alpine pack carry hike over the Wellington High Plains to set up a base camp and visit Lake Tali Karng as a day trip. You will need Monday off. Friday night meet at Wellington River Valley. Saturday: car pool to MacFarlane Saddle. Hike to our campsite (optional to visit Gable's End). Sunday: day hike to Lake Tali Karng and waterfall via Riggalls Spur track. Monday: Hike out and drive home. Suitable for fit and equipped people wanting to try an overnight hike.

**4 Feb (Sun)**

**Little Hampton and Loddon River Gorge**

Easy/Medium 12km | Limit 15 | 100km NW Melb  
Darren McClelland 0449 167 776  
darrenmcclelland@gmail.com



This is a delightful walk through the Wombat Forest, leaving from the small hamlet of Little Hampton. It's a mix of bush tracks and a little road walking. We visit some springs and cross a river that will probably be dry. Happy to arrange car pooling or meet the group at 9.30am at the corner of Justices Road and Glenlyon-Little Hampton Road. If the forecast is above 30 degrees the walk will be postponed.

**10 Feb (Sat)**

**Mentone to St Kilda**

Medium 19km | Limit 15 | 21km SE Melb  
Louise Prendergast 9826 0037  
lprendergast2009@hotmail.com



Starting at Mentone Station we walk towards the bay and pick up the Bay Trail. It will take us along the coast with great views, beaches, the Art Trail and the colourful Brighton Beach boxes. There will be time for an ice cream stop, a paddle at the water's edge, or a swim if the weather is warm. The walk will finish at St Kilda beach. Some beach walking.

**10 Feb (Sat)**

**Easy Going Amble: Maribyrnong River – Maribyrnong**

Easy 5km | Limit 15 | 7km NE Melb  
Geoff Durham 9523 5559



There is nothing better than a gentle walk to revive waning spirits and energy. A loop walk along the Maribyrnong River Trail, taking in the Battle of Jutland Memorial Avenue and a new imaginative recreation area. Optional coffee/lunch.

**12 Feb (Mon)**

**Deer Park to St Albans**

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



On a drive to Ballarat in the past, Deer Park seemed quite remote from the city. Times have changed. Meet at Deer Park Station at 1pm. We will wind our way to St Albans.

*Alpine panorama from Hell Gap. Photo by Laurence McDonald.*

### 14 Feb (Wed)

**Social Night: Hanging on to nature's best with Phil Ingamells**

60 Leicester St, Carlton  
VNPA 9341 6500 vnpabwg.social@gmail.com



Fire, ferals and fearless developers all want a piece of our parks and, oh yes, there's climate change too. This is a visual exploration of some of the great wonders of the park system, the threats they face, and ways we can all help. 60 Leicester St Carlton, doors will open at 6.30pm for a 7.30pm start. Entry \$2. Tea, coffee, wine and biscuits provided.

### 17 Feb (Sat)

**Excursion by ferry: Portarlington**

Easy 5km | Limit 30 | 110km SW Melb  
Bookings: Larysa Kucan 93473733 Jan Lacey 93298187  
Leader: Larysa Kucan



Escape the heat of the city by cruising across the bay to the historic township of Portarlington. Dolphin sightings are a possibility. Lunch on the beach or in one of the cafes. This will be followed by a walk along the foreshore. There will be time to explore the township before we cruise back to Melbourne.

### 17 Feb (Sat)

**Exploring Westgate Park**

Medium 20km | Limit 18  
Anna van Tatenhove 0433 842 410  
annavt62@gmail.com



Located along the eastern banks of the Yarra River, under the Westgate Bridge, this park offers spectacular views to the mouth of the Yarra and the city skyline. We will head out of the city along the Port Melbourne tram line passing by Station Pier before heading to the park. We will have time to take in Lyn Moore's Earth Sculptures and the other natural features of the park before heading back along the Yarra, via South Wharf back to the station.

### 22 Feb (Thu)

**New to the VNPA community or want to learn more about our work?**

Easy | Limit 40  
RSVP: amelia@vnpa.org.au or 9341 6500



Come and join us for a stroll to learn about our work protecting nature, taking adventures, and education programs. Meet VNPA Councillors, volunteers and staff to enjoy a picnic dinner beside the Yarra River. Registration essential. 6-7:30pm, Yarra Bend Park, Loop Picnic area, southern end of Yarra Bend Road.

### 24 Feb (Sat)

**Newport Lakes walk**

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



Walk from Newport Station through some of the old parts of town – then around the Newport Lakes and back to Newport Station.

### 26 Feb (Mon)

**Ripponlea to St Kilda**

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



Meet at 10am at Ripponlea Station. Walk through the parks and interesting streets of Ripponlea, Balaclava and St Kilda. Finish at St Kilda Gardens, the beach, or a coffee shop that we are sure to find along the way.

### 1 Mar (Thu)

**Coolart and Balnarring public transport walk**

Easy/Medium 14km | Limit 15 | 75km S Melb  
Mark Learmonth 9807 7506 (H)



This public transport walk begins near Somers beach, with very attractive distant views. We walk through the "Koala Reserve" within Somers township, then onto the most enjoyable reserve around Coolart Homestead, hopefully with birds to greet us. After some more scenic beach walking, we finish in Balnarring Village.

### 3 Mar (Sat)

**Lilydale lakes walk with op shops at the end**

Easy 12km | Limit 16 | 45km NE Melb  
Cheryl Mioch 9397 7470 / 0412 743 866  
cherylmioch@bigpond.com



Walk from Lilydale Station to Lilydale lakes – then back around to have a look at five op shops in Lilydale, then lunch in the park.

### 10 Mar (Sat)

**Easy Going Amble – along the coast**

Easy 5km | Limit 15 | 25km S Melb  
Geoff Durham 9523 5559



Recuperate, re-aerate, revitalize and re-invigorate with a sea-breeze stroll. From Sandringham to Black Rock including Half Moon Bay, the wreck of the Cerberus and the famous, colourful and expensive bathing boxes. Optional coffee/lunch.



**10-12 Mar (long)**

**Alpine National Park – Champion Spur and the Northern Razorback (EC)**

Hard/Exploratory 40km | Limit 6 | 350km NE Melb  
Taariq Hassan taariq.music@gmail.com



A long weekend pack-carry hike taking in less walked routes in the Mt Feathertop area. Friday night camping option near Freeburgh. Saturday morning: a 4WD/high clearance AWD car shuttle will be required, then ascend upper Stony Tops Ridge and North Razorback track to the Feathertop summit, camping at High Knob or Federation Hut. Sunday: hike along the Razorback, descend via Champion Spur to Harrierville.

**12 Mar (Mon)**

**Clifton Hill – Merri Creek and the Yarra River**

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



Meet at 1pm at Clifton Hill Station. Lovely quiet walking along the Merri Creek and Yarra River. Finishing at busy Victoria Street, Richmond.

**14 Mar (Wed)**

**Social Night: Citizen science and NatureWatch with Christine Connelly**

60 Leicester St, Carlton  
VNPA 9341 6500 vnabwag.social@gmail.com



Christine will showcase the many and varied VNPA NatureWatch projects: wildlife monitoring using motion-sensing cameras, recording bird sounds, or surveying yam daisies, and explain how you can get involved. 60 Leicester St Carlton, doors will open at 6.30pm for a 7.30pm start. Entry \$2. Tea, coffee, wine and biscuits provided.

**17 Mar (Sat)**

**Arthurs Seat**

Medium 18km | Limit 16 | 94km S Melb  
Louise Prendergast 9826 0037  
lprendergast2009@hotmail.com



A walk through eucalypt and fern forests with vantage points over Port Phillip Bay. This is a circuit walk exploring trails throughout the Arthurs Seat State Park, including part of the Two Bays Trail.

**17 Mar (Sat)**

**Mt Dom Dom at Black Spur**

Easy/Medium 12km | Limit 14 | 100km NE Melb  
Doug Palmer 9399 4494  
dpalmer@iimetro.com.au



Enjoy the lovely dense forest near Black Spur. From Dom Dom Saddle we firstly go downhill, then circuit clockwise around Mt Dom Dom and back to our start. Great forest to enjoy. Potential for a summit side-trip, time and track permitting. Healesville area.

**17 Mar (Sat)**

**Excursion by coach: Euroa and Mansfield**

Easy 6km | Limit 57 | 170km NE Melb  
Bookings: Larysa Kucan 93473733 Jan Lacey 93298187  
Leader: Glenn King



On this excursion, we will follow the Ned Kelly Touring Route. We will visit and explore some of the sites made famous by Ned Kelly and his gang between 1878 and 1880: Euroa, Stringybark Creek and Mansfield. There will also be a stop in Yea.

**24 Mar (Sat)**

**Mount Macedon circuit walk**

Medium/Hard 18km | Limit 18 | 65km NW Melb  
Anna van Tatenhove 0433 842 410  
annavt62@gmail.com



Starting at Mount Macedon township, this circuit walk takes in all of the Mount Macedon area's highlights. We climb up to the Memorial Cross before walking around to Camel's Hump, and then back to the township via Sanatorium Lake and Mt Towrong. Some short steep sections, but well worth the effort.

**26 Mar (Mon)**

**Macedon in Autumn**

Easy 10km | Limit 20 | 65km NW Melb  
Ruth Stirling 9699 7225 / 0418 245 151



We will take the morning train to Macedon, for an uphill walk towards Mount Macedon, taking in side streets and peeking at beautiful gardens.

**30 Mar-2 Apr (long)**

**Alpine National Park – Refrigerator Gap to MacAlister Springs and back (EC)**

Hard/Exploratory 50km | Limit 6 | 450km NE Melb  
Taariq Hassan taariq.music@gmail.com



Easter long weekend pack-carry from Refrigerator Gap near The Bluff to MacAlister Springs and back. Fri: meet at Sheeppark Flat. 4WD/AWD car shuttle to 8 Mile Flat and Refrigerator Gap. Hike the Bluff to Bluff Hut and Lovick's Hut. Sat: Lovick's Hut to MacAlister Springs via Mt Magdala, Hell's Window and Mt Howitt. Sun: descend to Howqua River via Howitt Spur track, return via Bindaree Hut, camp at Ritchie's Hut. Monday return to 8 Mile flat.



Little Desert National Park. Photo by Phil Ingamells.

**30 Mar-2 Apr (long)**  
Forests Forever Easter Ecology Camp

Easy/Medium | 420km E Melb  
VNPA and Environment East Gippsland



Camp beside the Brodribb River at Goongerah in East Gippsland. Walk amongst the rainforest trees and visit Errinundra National Park. Learn about the ecology of these forests from scientists who have been studying them. More details to come, see the next activities update email or visit [www.vnpa.org.au/forests-forever](http://www.vnpa.org.au/forests-forever). To volunteer to help with the camp or help lead walks contact Mike Forster: [mike.forster10@gmail.com](mailto:mike.forster10@gmail.com) or Euan Moore [calamanthus5@bigpond.com](mailto:calamanthus5@bigpond.com)

Upcoming events in the **Bushwalking and Activities Program Autumn 2018**

5 Apr (Thu)

**Silvan Reservoir**  
**public transport walk**  
Medium 15km | Mark Learmonth

9 Apr (Mon)

**Quarry Hills Park, South Morang**  
Easy 9km | Ruth Stirling

14 Apr (Sat)

**Easy Going Amble: Lillydale Lake**  
Easy 5km | Geoff Durham

21-22 Apr (w/e)

**Alpine National Park - Mt Clear circuit**  
Hard/Exploratory 22km | Taariq Hassan

23 Apr (Mon)

**Geelong foreshore and gardens**  
Easy 8km | Sue Parkhill

29 Apr (Sun)

**Yarraville - St Kilda**  
Easy/Medium 14km | Glenn King

5 May (Sat)

**Upper Mullum Mullum Creek**  
**public transport walk**  
Easy/Medium 14km | Mark Learmonth

12 May (Sat)

**Easy Going Amble: Carlton Gardens, Royal Exhibition Building, Murchison and Macarthur Squares**  
Easy 5km | Geoff Durham

14 May (Mon)

**Craigieburn**  
Easy 8km | Sue Parkhill

19-20 May (w/e)

**Mt Buffalo National Park - Mt McLeod**  
Medium/Hard/Exploratory 20km | Taariq Hassan

27 May (Sun)

**Waurin Ponds - Marshall**  
Easy/Medium 15km | Glenn King

28 May (Mon)

**Maribyrnong River**  
Easy 7km | Ruth Stirling

2 Jun (Sat)

**The Gurdies public transport walk**  
Easy/Medium 12km | Mark Learmonth

11 Jun (Mon)

**West Gate Park**  
Easy 6km | Ruth Stirling

16 Jun (Sat)

**Easy Going Amble: Wyndham Harbour**  
Easy 5km | Geoff Durham

23 Jun (Sat)

**Doncaster - East Kew**  
Easy/Medium 14km | Glenn King

25 Jun (Mon)

**Caulfield Racecourse Reserve**  
Easy 6km | Sue Parkhill

Put these future events into your calendar, but note bookings will only open one month before the activity dates. More details in the Autumn 2018 program.

**FINAL CHANCE TO DIVE IN!**

Great Victorian Fish Count

18 November – 17 December

Now in its thirteenth year, the Great Victorian Fish Count brings together over 400 divers and snorkelers to record the abundance of 25 key Victorian fish species.

This year several species of friendly sharks and rays have also been added. There are great opportunities to get the whole family involved this year on 16 December (more details in this program).

To register for an activity, visit:  
[vnpa.org.au/programs/great-victorian-fish-count](http://vnpa.org.au/programs/great-victorian-fish-count).

Eastern Blue Groper

PHOTO BY SARAH SPEIGHT



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6 Little Hampton & Loddon River Gorge
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4 WT&G: Coolart Wetlands and Homestead, Somers
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Mt Jagungal, Jagungal Wilderness Area, Kosciuszko National Park. Photo by Mary Ferlin.



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9 Forests Forever Easter Ecology Camp

**New to the VNPA community or want to learn more about our work?**

**Thursday 22 February – Yarra River**

**RSVP: amelia@vnpa.org.au or 9341 6500**

Come and join us for a stroll to learn about our work protecting nature, taking adventures, and education programs. Meet VNPA Councillors, volunteers and staff to enjoy a picnic dinner beside the Yarra River. Registration essential. 6-7:30pm, Yarra Bend Park, Loop Picnic area, southern end of Yarra Bend Road.



PHOTO BY JULIA PICKWICK




# GREAT OCEAN WALK TOURS

Adventures at nature's pace



**7-Day End to End Tour or 4 Day Highlights Tour. Ex Mel.**

Walk one of Australia's best coastal trails at nature's pace, taking in the spectacular views, wildlife and experiences this track has to offer. Staying in comfortable accommodation each night, just walk and relax, we will do the rest!



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# Protect and enjoy Victoria's national parks, natural places and wildlife by becoming a **Member**

## I'd like to become a Member of the Victorian National Parks Association

Membership gives you the opportunity to actively enjoy Victoria's magnificent national parks and natural areas, while also providing support for important nature conservation activities across the state. For specific details on the benefits of Membership, visit [www.vnpa.org.au](http://www.vnpa.org.au)

- Individual**  1 year \$65  2 years \$130
- Concession**  1 year \$40  2 years \$80  
(Pensioner/Student)
- Household/Family**  1 year \$90  2 years \$180
- Small organisation**  1 year \$65  2 years \$130  
(Not-for-profit with less than 100 Members)
- Large organisation**  1 year \$100  2 years \$200  
(Not-for-profit with 100+ Members or commercial organisations)

Please AUTOMATICALLY RENEW my Membership each year (through my credit card as provided).

## Donation I'd like to amplify my impact by adding a tax-deductible donation

- \$20  \$50  \$100  \$500  \$\_\_\_\_\_ My choice
- Please make this a monthly donation by credit card\*

**Total** \$\_\_\_\_\_

## My contact details

Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation name \_\_\_\_\_

(for Organisational Membership only)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb/Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Gender  F  M

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Names of others included in my Household/Family Membership \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to receive a 'Wild Families' activities pack, designed for families with children under 12.

## Payment method

**Cheque/money order** payable to 'Victorian National Parks Association' is enclosed.

**Credit card**  Visa  MasterCard

Card no \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Cardholder name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please post with payment to Victorian National Parks Association, Level 3, 60 Leicester St, Carlton VIC 3053 or call us on (03) 9341 6500



\* Donations will be automatically deducted from your credit card on the 28th day of each month. You will receive a tax receipt at the end of each financial year, and you can alter your donations at any time. Minimum gift is \$15/month. All donations over \$2 are tax-deductible. ABN 34 217 717 593

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