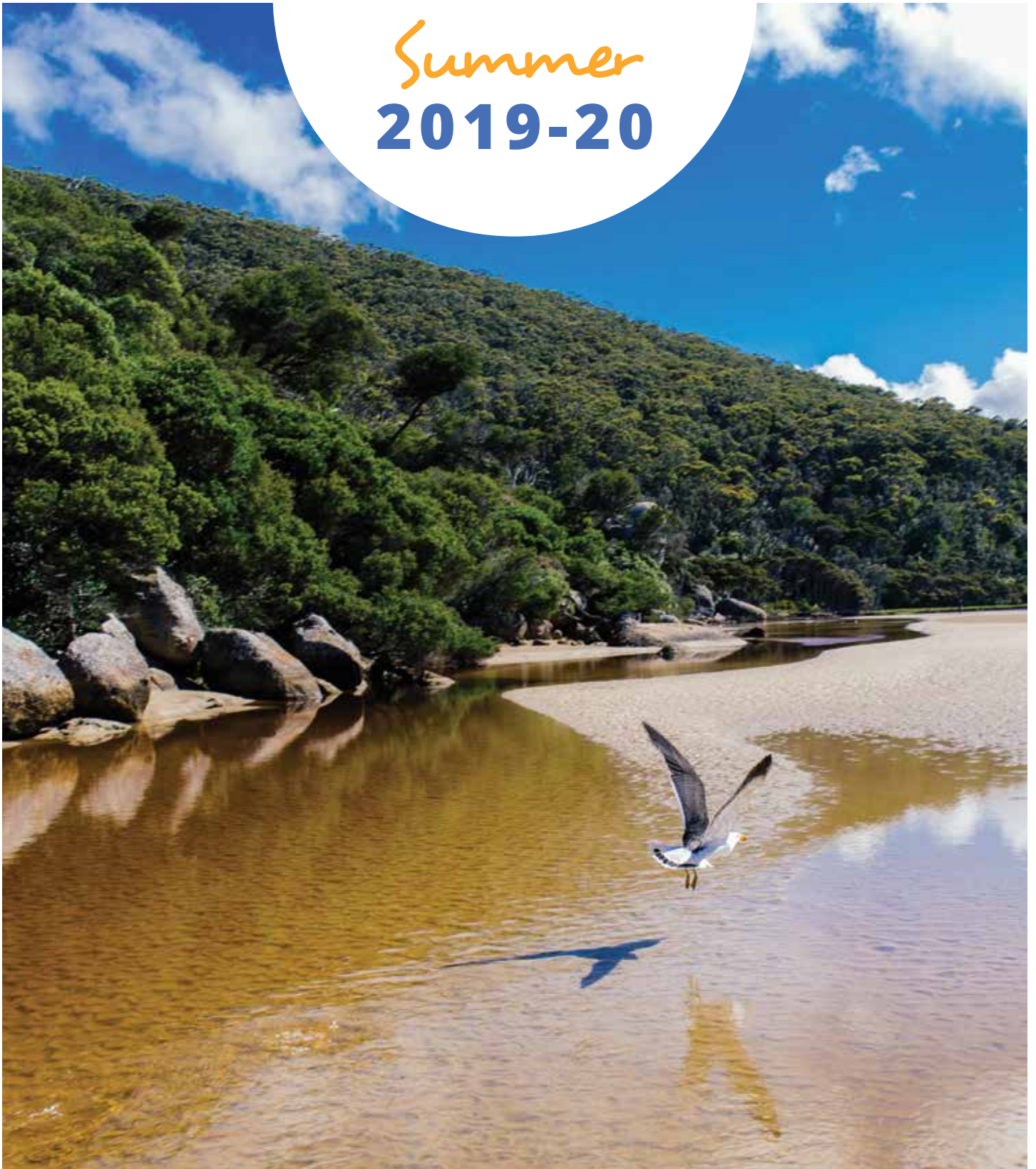




## VNPA BUSHWALKING & ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

Summer  
2019-20





## BUSHWALKING AND ACTIVITIES PROGRAM SUMMER 2019-20

In this Summer 2019-20 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](http://www.vnpa.org.au/adventures) and subscribing to the BWAG email updates at [www.vnpa.org.au/bwag-sign-up](http://www.vnpa.org.au/bwag-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](http://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:** [vnabwag.convener@gmail.com](mailto:vnabwag.convener@gmail.com)

**Program:** [vnabwag.program@gmail.com](mailto:vnabwag.program@gmail.com)

**Treasurer/Trip reports:**

*Darren McClelland* 0449 167 776  
[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/program](http://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.

Wilson's Promontory National Park. Photo by Emily Clough.

### 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.

#### 2019-20 EMERGENCY CONTACTS

<b>20-22 December</b>	Pat Witt	9802 8914 / 0407 360 650
<b>27-29 December</b>	Ann Turner	9878 3297 / 0425 732 384
<b>3-5 January</b>	Ann Turner	9878 3297 / 0425 732 384
<b>10-12 January</b>	Kyle Matheson	0429 906 094
<b>17-19 January</b>	Christine Longman	9397 5712 / 0411 483 571
<b>24-26 January</b>	Darren McClelland	9370 2837 / 0449 167 776
<b>31 January - 2 February</b>	Helen Buckley	9801 4346 / 0418 398 580
<b>7-9 February</b>	Kate Parker	0409 231 746
<b>14-16 February</b>	Cheryl Walker	0412 743 866
<b>21-23 February</b>	Lisa Sulinski	9383 2321 / 0408 308 208
<b>28 February - 1 March</b>	Pat Witt	9802 8914 / 0407 360 650
<b>6-8 March</b>	Robert Argent	0417 502 191
<b>13-15 March</b>	Russell Bowey	0417 328 651
<b>20-22 March</b>	Terese Dalman	0413 234 130
<b>27-29 March</b>	Ann Turner	9878 3297 / 0425 732 384
<b>3-5 April</b>	Adrianna Koutsofrigas	0439 067 798
<b>10-12 Apr</b>	Robyn Desnoy	9528 2390 / 0403 038 804
<b>17-19 Apr</b>	Fred Gerardson	9434 3078 / 0411 533 415

### 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>rock scrambling</li> <li>steep sustained ascents or descents</li> <li>8 hrs or more each day</li> <li>thick scrub</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>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>Snowshoe (day)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>up to 5hr/day</li> <li>mainly trails</li> <li>limited experience is assumed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>up to 7hr/day</li> <li>moderate slopes and off-trail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7hr/day or more</li> <li>off trail, steep slopes, all snow conditions</li> <li>competent in poor weather</li> </ul>
<b>Snowshoe (overnight)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>able to snowshoe with a daypack</li> <li>overnight backpack camping experience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ability to snowshoe 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	 Excursion
	Walk, Talk & Gawk	 Public Transport
	Urban Walk/Activity	 U35
	Easy Going Amble	 Family
	Overnight/ Multi-day	 Snowshoe
	Conservation Activity or Event/Training	 Cycling
		 4WD
		 Social/Presentation



**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](http://www.vnpa.org.au/fish-count)

**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).

**21-22 Dec (w/e)**

**Wilson's Prom NP: South East circuit (EC)**

*(Change of date since Spring program)*

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



A quick weekend away at The Prom, hiking the scenic SE circuit; camping at Refuge cove Saturday night. Day 1: meeting early Tidal River and hike 18kms to Refuge Cove via Sealers Cove. Day 2: complete the circuit via Kersops Peak, Little Waterloo Bay and Telegraph track (18km). Walkers need to be fit, well equipped and ready for Prom weather. Option to camp an extra night before or after hike.

Will you see a Ornate Cowfish in the Great Victorian Fish Count? Photo by Heidi Harron.

### 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.

### 4 Jan (Sat)

#### A Yarra River ramble

Medium 16km | Limit 15  
Louise Prendergast 0400 280 611  
lprendergast2009@hotmail.com



A Yarra River walk commencing at South Yarra station. We walk along the river and through the back streets of Kooyong to where the Yarra joins Gardner Creek. We do a short section of the Gardner Creek Trail before returning along a section of the Yarra to the Botanic Gardens and finishing up at Federation Square.

### 11 Jan (Sat)

#### Evening sculpture tour of Docklands and picnic out

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



Starting about 6pm. Walking around Docklands to see the marvelous sculptures around the area, with fish and chips, takeaway or BYO dinner and a look at the city lights.

### 13 Jan (Mon)

#### City of Melbourne to City of Port Phillip

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



Meet at 3pm at the Floral Clock. Walk through the Domain, up to the Shrine, down to the Lake and to Middle Park for dinner. Close to trams 12 and 96.

### 17-20 Jan (w/e)

#### Melbourne Sea Slug Census

Easy | Port Phillip Bay & Western Port Bay  
Nicole Mertens, Reefwatch Project Officer  
nicole@vnpa.org.au



If you are taking a dive or rockpool ramble in the waters near Melbourne over these days, consider taking images for the Sea Slug Census. Sea slugs (also called nudibranchs) come in every colour and pattern and can be found in rockpools and the bottom of the sea. To find out more about these amazing creatures, and how to send in your images visit [www.vnpa.org.au/sea-slug-census](http://www.vnpa.org.au/sea-slug-census)

### 18 Jan (Sat)

#### Heidelberg to Greensborough

Medium 13km | Limit 15  
Philip Sharp 0448 838 055  
sharpstick2011@hotmail.com



From Heidelberg station it's only a short walk downhill to parklands. We pick up the Yarra Trail outbound and pass sporting facilities, wetlands and riparian bush. After reaching the confluence of the Plenty and Yarra rivers, we back track 400m and commence the Plenty River Trail with a steep climb. The views will be worth the effort. By lunch time we should be at the Lower Plenty Hotel. The final leg is to Greensborough via the path that follows the river.

### 18 Jan (Sat)

#### Excursion: around the bay by coach and ferry

Easy 6km | Limit 57 | 105km SW Melb  
Bookings: Larysa Kucan 93473733  
Leader: Larysa Kucan



The highlight of this excursion will be the ferry crossing from Queenscliff to Sorrento. We will travel to Pt Lonsdale by coach for morning tea and a clifftop walk before we continue onto Queenscliff for lunch and a walk. The ferry will then take us across to Sorrento for afternoon tea and a stroll around the township. Dolphin sightings a possibility.

### 19 Jan (Sun)

#### U35: Otways, Upper and Lower Kalimna Falls (EC)

Easy 9km | Limit 10 | 140km SW Melb  
Eva Klusacek 0423 053 318  
eklusacek@hotmail.com



Following the route of an old timber tramway, this is a return walk with a lookout over cascades, at the back of Lorne in the Otways.



### 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 meeting/camping at Wellington River camp site No. 12. Day 1: Wellington High Plains, base camp at Nyimba, afternoon walk to Gables End. Day 2: day trip to Lake Tali Karng via Riggall Spur Track. Day 3: hike out. Option for an extra day at Guy's Hut, Kelly's Hut, Pieman's Falls and Mt Reynard.

### 27 Jan (Mon)

#### Herring Island – South Yarra

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



Meet at 10am at South Yarra station to catch the 58 tram along Toorak Road to Como Ave. A short walk will take us through Como Park to catch the ferry to Herring Island. We will look at the permanent collection of sculptures and the Summer Arts Festival.

### 1 Feb (Sat)

#### Melbourne parks walk and State Library visit

Easy 14km | Limit 14  
Cheryl Walker (Mioch) 0412 743 866  
cherylmioch@bigpond.com



Starting at Flinders Street Station. Walking around the public gardens, Botanic, Treasury and Museum Gardens, lunch then a stop at the State Library to see the latest exhibition.

### 8 Feb (Sat)

#### Royal Park

Medium 15km | Limit 15  
Louise Prendergast 0400 280 611  
lprendergast2009@hotmail.com



Starting at the zoo car park, we walk towards the Royal Children's Hospital gardens and on towards Melbourne University. We then join the Park Street rail trail to Brunswick where we explore and have lunch in the Edinburgh Gardens. We then follow the Capital City Trail through Brunswick and Parkville back to our start.

### 8-9 Feb (w/e)

#### Upper Howqua River to Macalister Springs and return via Mt Howitt (EC)

Medium/Hard 29km | Limit 8 | 250km NE Melb  
John Van Leeuwen 0418 996 048  
van.irrigate@gmail.com



From Upper Howqua camping area to Macalister Springs via Stanley Name Spur. Camp at Vellejo Gantner hut and return via Mt Howitt and Howitt Feeder Spur.

### 10 Feb (Mon)

#### Melton

Easy 6km | Limit 20 | 40km NW Melb  
Ruth Stirling 9699 7225 / 0418 245 151



Meet at Southern Cross station for the train to Melton, departing at 11.16am. BYO lunch. A new walk, but the same coffee shop.

### 15 Feb (Sat)

#### Excursion by coach: Torquay and Pt Addis

Easy 6km | Limit 57 | 96km SW Melb  
Bookings: Larysa Kucan 93473733  
Leader: Larysa Kucan



Cliff-top walks with stunning views in the historic township of Torquay and Pt Addis. We will also travel to Lorne for lunch and coastal and town walks.

### 16 Feb (Sun)

#### Lorne Waterfalls

Medium 17km | Limit 16 | 150km SW Melb  
David Moore 0448 555 666  
david@alexanderschool.edu.au



We will visit several waterfalls, including the Cumberland Falls and the Upper and Lower Kalimna Falls.

### 20 Feb (Thu)

#### New members and supporters picnic

Easy | Limit 30 | 6km NE Melb  
Amelia Easdale 03 9341 6500  
amelia@vnpa.org.au



New to the VNPA community or want to learn more about our work? Come join us for a stroll to learn about our work protecting nature, taking adventures, and our education programs. Meet VNPA Councillors, Volunteers and staff, and enjoy a picnic dinner beside the Yarra River. 6:00-8:00pm, Yarra Bend Park, Loop Picnic area, southern end of Yarra Bend Road. Registration essential.

Spot a skink in the Grampians National Park. Photo by Ed Dunens Flickr CC.

### 22 Feb (Sat)

#### U35: Tarra Valley Loop (EC)

Medium 21km | Limit 10 | 195km SE Melb  
Eva Klusacek 0423 053 318  
klusacek@hotmail.com



Walk through the magnificent rainforest of Tarra Bulga NP for this circuit walk. Explore waterfalls, endangered ferns, and ancient specimens of myrtle beech.

### 22 Feb (Sat)

#### Mondo track (EC)

Medium/Hard 17km | Limit 12 | 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.

### 24 Feb (Mon)

#### Arts Centre – Yarra River

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



Meet at 9.30am at Southbank Food Court for coffee, or outside Hamer Hall on St Kilda Road at 10am to start the walk around the Arts Centre and surrounding area. We will continue along the Yarra River and possibly Docklands.

### 29 Feb (Sat)

#### Spotswood historical walk

Easy | Limit 14 | 10km  
Cheryl Walker (Mioch) 0412 743 866  
cherylmioch@bigpond.com



Start and finish at Spotswood station. Walk through this historical part of town, seeing the old houses, industrial estate and up close to the West Gate Bridge. Information provided by the Local Council Historical App narrated by me.

### 1 Mar (Sun)

#### Wild Families marine discovery day, Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary

Easy | Limit 40 | 23km S Melbourne  
Caitlin Griffith, 9341 6508  
caitlin@vnpa.org.au



Come learn about Port Jackson Sharks and seagrass beds with VNPA Wild Families, Marine Care Ricketts Point and marine experts. We'll be hosting a snorkel (weather permitting), beachcomb and other marine discovery activities for families, plus a BBQ. Snorkel suitable for kids 8+ with supervising adults, beachcomb and other activities suitable for all ages. Registration essential.

### 9 Mar (Mon)

#### Alphington to Kew

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



Meet at Alphington Station at 12 noon with BYO lunch. We hope the Chandler Highway Bridge will be completely finished for us to cross easily to Kew and walk along the Yarra River.

### 14 Mar (Sat)

#### U35: Greens Bush and Cape Schank

Medium 16km | Limit 10 | 97km S Melb  
Eva Klusacek 0423 053 318  
eklusacek@hotmail.com



Car-shuffle walk, exploring the beaches and clifftops of Mornington Peninsula.

### 21 Mar (Sat)

#### Dandenong Ranges NP: Kalorama to Doongalla Homestead circuit (EC)

Medium 16km | Limit 15 | 50km E Melb  
Darren McClelland 0449 167 776  
darrenlmcclelland@gmail.com



This walk takes in scenic views of Melbourne and the site of the historic Doongalla Homestead. While the walk is generally shady, it is quite hilly, so a good level of fitness is required. Option for afternoon tea at the tea rooms at the conclusion of the walk. The walk start can be reached by car or train and bus.

### 21 Mar (Sat)

#### Excursion by coach:

#### Mt Macedon and Woodend

Easy 6km | Limit 57 | 64km NW Melb  
Bookings: Larysa Kucan 93473733  
Leader: Larysa Kucan



On this excursion our first stop will be in Gisborne for morning tea and a walk through the Botanic Gardens. This will be followed by a visit to Forest Glade, one of the finest private gardens covering over 14 acres. Lunch will be at Mt Macedon followed by a walk to the famous cross and lookouts. Woodend will be our stop in the afternoon.



**21 Mar (Sat)**

**Wilhelmina Falls/Booroondara Track (EC)**

Medium/Hard 12km | Limit 10 | 100km NE Melb  
 John Van Leeuwen 0418 996 048  
 van.irrigate@gmail.com



A circuit walk in eucalypt forests near Murrindindi, including the spectacular Wilhelmina Falls. Some steep climbs.

**23 Mar (Mon)**

**Warrandyte**

Easy 8km | Limit 20 | 30km NE Melb  
 Sue Parkhill 0432 413 442 / 9510 4316



Meet at 10am at the QV Centre corner Lonsdale and Swanston streets. Catch the 906 bus to Warrandyte. Walk to Warrandyte State Park and along the river, coffee at the bakery before catching the bus back to the city.

**28 Mar (Sat)**

**Limeburners Bay**

Easy/Medium 14km | Limit 15 | 60km SW Melb  
 Mark Learmonth 9807 7506 (H)



Limeburners Bay is a unique place, partly industrial, partly open bay views, very popular with birdwatchers and strangely peaceful. Our walk starts at Corio, and wends its way to the mouth of Limeburners Bay, then along the ever narrowing Hovells Creek all the way to Lara. Expect great views here and there too. This is a public transport walk.

**28 Mar (Sat)**

**Arthurs Seat**

Medium/Hard 18km | Limit 16 | 94km S Melb  
 Louise Prendergast 0400 280 611  
 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.

**28 Mar (Sat)**

**Cranbourne Gardens walk with tour**

Easy/Medium 14km | Limit 14 | 63km SE Melb  
 Cheryl Walker (Mioch) 0412 743 866  
 cherylmioch@bigpond.com



An organised tour of the Botanic Gardens (additional cost of \$6.50), then a walk around these wonderful gardens and surrounds.

**4 Apr (Sat)**

**Autumnal Daylesford walk**

Medium/Hard 19km | Limit 16 | 110km NW Melb  
 Louise Prendergast 0400 280 611  
 lprendergast2009@hotmail.com



Exploring trails around the lakes, Wombat Hill, the botanic gardens and part of the goldfields trail towards Hepburn Springs. Hopefully we will see the autumnal colours in all their glory.

**5 Apr (Sun)**

**Koori Heritage Trust Scar Tree Walk**

Easy | Limit 25  
 Darren McClelland 0449 167 776  
 darrenmcclelland@gmail.com



Reserve this date to come along on a cultural journey that connects the traditional and contemporary Aboriginal culture and history of the local Kulin Peoples. This is a 90 to 120 minute guided walking tour conducted by the Koori Heritage Trust. This activity is organised by VNPA. VNPA members will be able to attend the walk at low or no cost. Look out for more details in the next program.

**6 Apr (Mon)**

**Riddells Creek**

Easy/Medium 8km | Limit 20 | 60km NW Melb  
 Ruth Stirling 9699 7225 / 0418 245 151



We will catch the 9.15am train from Southern Cross to Riddells Creek. BYO lunch. From the pleasant town to Conglomerate Flora and Fauna Reserve for a picnic lunch and return for coffee. Train home at 3.45pm; the only suitable homeward train at the time of writing. We did this walk in December 2017. Wear good walking shoes as the track is rough in parts and has some short steep sections; walking poles will be helpful.

**10-13 Apr (long)**

**Mt Hotham, Cobungra Ditch track, Young, Tawonga, Dibbin, Spargo huts circuit (EC)**

Medium/Hard 45km | Limit 8 | 400km NE Melb  
 John Van Leeuwen 0418 996 048  
 van.irrigate@gmail.com



Starting near Mt Hotham, the walk will traverse the historical, reopened Cobungra Ditch track, descending to the Cobungra River and camping there. On the second day, climb up to the Bogong High Plains and on to Tawonga Huts via Mt Jim. Third day to Dibbin Hut via Weston Hut. Fourth day climb up Swindlers Spur to Derrick Hut, Spargo Hut and back to the start.



Winding walks in Wilsons Promontory National Park. Photo by Michael Sale Flickr CC.

**18 Apr (Sat)**

**U35: Cathedral Ranges (EC)**

Medium/Hard 13km | Limit 10 | 165km NE Melb  
Eva Klusacek 0423 053 318  
eklusacek@hotmail.com



Climb up to the peaks of Cathedral Ranges to enjoy 360 degree views of forest and farmland. Only for experienced bushwalkers.

## INDEX



**Durham, Geoff 9523 5559**

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



**Hassan, Taariq taariq.music@gmail.com**

- 4 Wilsons Prom NP: South East circuit (EC)
- 5 Alpine NP: Bogong High Plains Loop – Big Christmas/New Year hike (EC)
- 6 Alpine NP: Lake Tali Karng and Wellington High Plains (EC)



**Klusacek, Eva 0423 053 318**

- 5 U35: Otways, Upper & Lower Kalimna Falls (EC)
- 7 U35: Tarra Valley Loop (EC)
- 7 U35: Greens Bush and Cape Schank
- 9 U35: Cathedral Ranges (EC)

**Kucan, Larysa 9347 3733**

- 5 Excursion: around the bay by coach and ferry
- 6 Excursion by coach: Torquay and Pt Addis
- 7 Excursion by coach: Mt Macedon and Woodend



**Learmonth, Mark 9807 7506 (H)**

- 5 Lyrebird Walk
- 8 Limeburners Bay



**McClelland, Darren 0449 167 776**

- 4 Macedon Regional Park: Macedon township to Woodend via Mt Macedon (EC)
- 7 Dandenong Ranges NP: Kalorama to Doongalla Homestead circuit (EC)
- 8 Koori Heritage Trust Scar Tree Walk

**Moore, David 0448 555 666**

- 6 Lorne Waterfalls

**Moore, Euan 5472 1572 / 0407 519 091**

- 4 Western Treatment Plant – very important wetlands



**Parkhill, Sue 0432 413 442 9510 4316**

- 4 Hawthorn to Glenferrie
- 6 Herring Island – South Yarra
- 7 Arts Centre – Yarra River
- 8 Warrandyte

**Prendergast, Louise 0400 280 611**

- 5 A Yarra River ramble
- 6 Royal Park
- 8 Arthurs Seat
- 8 Autumnal Daylesford walk



**Sharp, Philip 0448 838 055**

- 5 Heidelberg to Greensborough

**Stirling, Ruth 9699 7225 0418 245 151**

- 4 Highpoint to Travancore
- 5 City of Melbourne to City of Port Phillip
- 6 Melton
- 7 Alphington to Kew
- 8 Riddells Creek



**Van Leeuwen, John 0418 996 048**

- 6 Upper Howqua River to Macalister Springs and return via Mt Howitt (EC)
- 7 Mondo track (EC)
- 8 Wilhelmina Falls / Booroondara Track (EC)
- 8 Mt Hotham, Cobungra Ditch track, Young, Tawonga, Dibbin, Spargo huts circuit (EC)

**VNPA 9341 6500**

- 4 Great Victorian Fish Count
- 4 Great Victorian Fish Count For Beginners
- 5 Melbourne Sea Slug Census
- 6 New members and supporters picnic
- 7 Wild Families marine discovery day



**Walker (Mioch), Cheryl 0412 743 866**

- 4 Lillydale Lakes walk
- 5 Evening sculpture tour of Docklands and picnic
- 6 Melbourne parks walk and State Library visit
- 7 Spotswood historical walk
- 8 Cranbourne Gardens walk with tour



## Upcoming events ...

**27 Apr (Mon)**

**Tarrawa Creek, Bayswater to Croydon**

Easy 8km

Sue Parkhill

**2 May (Sat)**

**Autumnal Walk: Buninyong (EC)**

Medium 17km

Louise Prendergast

**11 May (Mon)**

**West Gate Park**

Easy 6km

Ruth Stirling

**25 May (Mon)**

**Blackburn Lake, Cootamundra Walk**

Easy 8km

Sue Parkhill

**8 Jun (Mon)**

**Ballan**

Easy 5km

Ruth Stirling

**22 Jun (Mon)**

**Hughesdale to Oakleigh**

Easy 6km

Sue Parkhill

*Put these future events into your calendar, but please note bookings will only open one month before the activity dates. More details in the Autumn 2020 program.*

PHOTO BY UNSPLASH/NINE KOPFER

## Wild Families activities

Wild Families is a VNPA program supporting families with children under 12 years old to take journeys of discovery together, based on the themes of enjoying, learning about and looking after nature together. You can download a range of activity sheets that can be done on adventures in most natural places, or sign up to our email list to find out about upcoming activities your family can join.

Visit [www.vnpa.org.au/wild-families](http://www.vnpa.org.au/wild-families) for plenty of opportunities for family nature fun.



PHOTO BY UNSPLASH/IGOR KASALOVIC

## SIGN UP FOR ACTIVITY EMAIL UPDATES

This activities program is published four times a year in Summer, Spring, Autumn and Winter.

If you would like to also receive an email update once a month reminding you of upcoming activities and notifying you of any alterations to the activities, you can now subscribe to the new BWAG email list at [www.vnpa.org.au/bwag-sign-up](http://www.vnpa.org.au/bwag-sign-up)

## *Thank you*

Thank you to all our volunteer Leaders for your generous contribution to the Bushwalking and Activities Program in 2019 – and to everyone who participated in an activity this year. We hope you all have a wonderful nature-filled new year.



PHOTO BY UNSPLASH/HELENA HERTZ

## The Great Ocean Walk is within your reach!

Just walk and relax, we will do the rest!



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.

For more information on the Great Ocean Walk & our other walking tours call us on 08 6219 5164 or visit:



[www.inspirationoutdoors.com.au](http://www.inspirationoutdoors.com.au)

# Great Forest Guardians summer program

To enhance the Victorian National Parks Associations efforts as part of the campaign to create a new Great Forest National Park, our NatureWatch citizen science program will increase its wildlife monitoring activities in the area.

Over the next few months we will be:

1. **'Stagwatching' (observing a single old tree for an evening) for possums and gliders** with Professor David Lindenmayer's research team from the Australian National University. There will be 12 evening events, meeting in Healesville, Yarra Junction or Warburton.
2. **Touring the forest with scientific and conservation experts.** Join us on one of two all-day forest tours to experience areas of the proposed Great Forest National Park and witness first-hand the forest management challenges that make formal protection of these forests imperative. Tours will end with a stagwatch.
3. **Monitoring small mammals with motion-detection cameras.** Continuing on from NatureWatch's other Caught on Camera projects, we will be adding cameras to research sites across the Central Highlands forests to survey wildlife.
4. **Recording audio of forest nightlife.** Monitoring for night birds like powerful owls, Leadbeater's possums and forest bats. A variant of NatureWatch's Communities Listening for Nature project, we are excited to be working with Dr Karen Rowe from Museums Victoria again.

NatureWatch volunteers will be needed for all activities, so this is a great time to get involved in the program. Dates and details coming soon. To register your interest for updates please contact Sera at [sera@vnpa.org.au](mailto:sera@vnpa.org.au) or **9341 6510** or join the NatureWatch email list to get all the latest updates: [www.vnpa.org.au/naturewatch/sign-up](http://www.vnpa.org.au/naturewatch/sign-up)



PHOTO BY MATT TOMKIN

Activities in the Great Forest Guardians Program are made possible by generous support from the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife and Bank Australia.

