

BENDIGO BUSHWALKING AND OUTDOOR CLUB INC

President's message for March

IMPORTANT. The April meeting will be the last in the Sacred Heart Hall. As of next month we will be meeting at the St Johns Presbyterian Church Hall. There are instructions for getting to the venue later in the newsletter.

The committee is actively pursuing the possibility of having a leadership course in Bendigo. For all those who want to take the next step and lead a walk, keep an eye out for the course. It will be a great opportunity to learn new skills that will greatly assist yourself and the club

Calendar night this month. Please consider putting your name down to lead an activity that you are interested in.

The committee has decided to run a day activity the weekend after each club meeting. This will give certainty for those who want a day activity and also give new members the opportunity to participate in an activity soon after the meeting. Once again this will rely on members putting their hand up for trip ideas and leading.

I was privileged to go on Bob's "In Sturt's Wake" Paddle down the Murrumbidgee River. One of the highlights of the trip was spending time with, and getting to know members that I have not been with before. So I would encourage everyone to participate in a wide range of activities and have the benefit of making new acquaintances.

There are a number of activities coming up for more fun and socialising. Come along on Tuesday night and enjoy the company and the information.

Kerry Cramer

BENDIGO BUSHWALKING AND OUTDOOR CLUB INC

P.O. Box 989, Bendigo, 3552
Reg No. A0051482V

Meetings - 4th Tuesday every month [except Dec]

April Meeting - Sacred Heart Hall, Short Street.

May onwards, Presbyterian Church Hall, Forest Street

Meetings start at 7:30 pm sharp.

Membership: Single \$40.00
Family \$60.00

Web address: <http://gobush.org.au/>

BBOC is affiliated with



Bushwalking Victoria

The statements and opinions expressed in articles herein are those of the Editor and individual authors. They do not necessarily represent the views of the Bendigo Bushwalking and Outdoor Club Inc.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 14/15

President	Leigh Callinan	03 5442 3675
Vice President	Kerrie Cramer	03 5441 4422
Secretary	Chris Franks	03 5439 3549
Treasurer	Greg Doubleday	03 5447 8156
Walks Coordinator	Garry Brannan	0450 879 917
Equipment Officer	Chris Franks	03 5439 3549
Web Master	Peter Pemberton	0428 869 196
Newsletter	Garry Brannan	0450 879 917
General Committee	Kerrie Norris	03 5447 8017
General Committee	Roland Cauka	0402 024 096
General Committee	Maggie Smyth	03 5443 4530

Club Meetings:

Meetings are at 7.15 for a prompt 7.30 pm start on the 4th Tuesday of every month (except January and December) The April meeting will be the last at the Sacred Heart Hall in Short Street.

From May onwards, meetings will be in the Presbyterian Church Hall, 35-41 Forest Street, Bendigo.

There is an annual calendar of speakers, presenters, and activities.

Visitors are always welcome.



Monthly Meeting Activity

- **April 28th** **Calendar Planning – trips and ideas welcome.**
10 minutes [maybe less] - **"Where am I"** - plotting GPS co-ordinates on the map. Quick and simple, not boring or techo. **Garry Brannan**
- **May 26th** **Pre-meeting dinner – 6.00pm – Jojoe's Pizza Bar, crn High and Forest Sts.**
Menu - <http://www.jojoes.com.au/pdf/Jojoes-Dining-Menu-2014.pdf>
'Magic Lantern Show' (Wyperfeld National Park) - Solo, pre and post fires, from a dessert rat's perspective. Presentation by **Bill Clarke**
- **June 23rd** **"In Sturts Wake", a paddle into history – John Lindner.**
- **July 28th** **AGM**

Memberships for 2014 - 2015 **Some members still have outstanding fees for 14-15.** If you are unsure, please contact Greg. Fees are \$60 for a family and \$40 for single members, pro rata for new members.

Welcome to new members and visitors

Bushwalking News Victoria

The most recent edition the Bushwalking Victoria Newsletter can be found [here](#) .

<http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/newsletter-archive.html>



Some of the topics is this months Bushwalking News Victoria

Extended Walks Leadership Course

Track and Conservation Activities

Five Top Environment Priorities for the Victorian Labor Government

- Properly fund Parks Victoria
- Rewrite Vegetation Clearing Regulations
- Establish the Great Forest National Park
- Rule out private development in national parks
- Institute a State-wide biodiversity strategy

Federation Walks

Walking Is Good for You

News about Endangered Species

- Good news from Wilsons Prom
- Grampians Quoll Seen Again
- Zoos Victoria - 2014-19 Wildlife Conservation Master Plan
- Swift Parrot
- Sugar Gliders
- Regent Honeyeater Project

Management Plans

- Draft Western Regional Coastal Plan
- Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area
- Management Plan Project

Product Warning Portable Butane Cookers

Bits and Pieces

New Meeting Place, St Johns Presbyterian Church Hall

As most would know, the Sacred Heart Hall, our present meeting place, is due to be demolished in the near future to make way for a new building. To ensure continuity of a place to meet, the Committee charged Kerrie and Maggie with the task of finding an alternative location.

After checking numerous alternatives, St Johns Presbyterian Church was selected. Their report reads as follows -

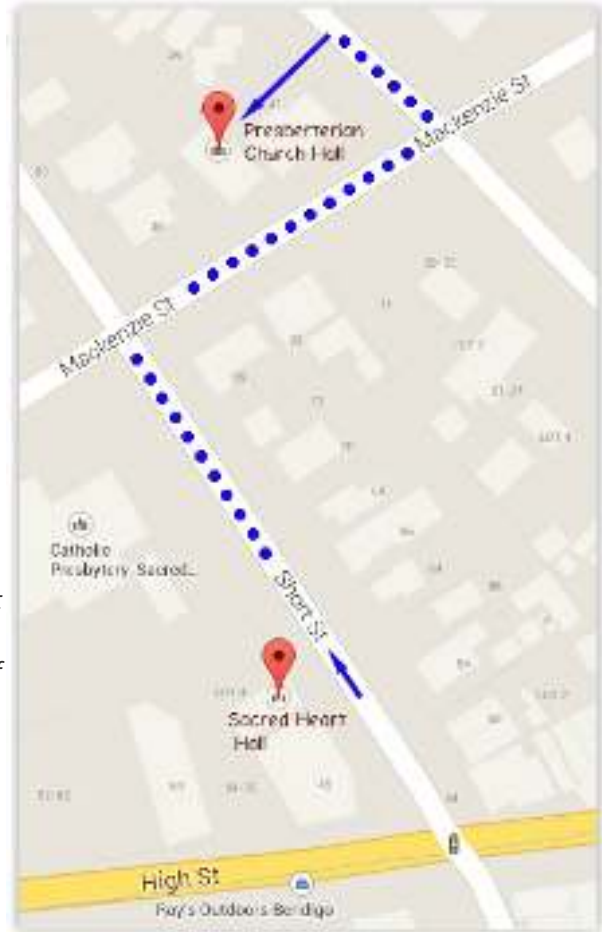
Both Kerrie and I were very impressed with this hall. We could use either the large hall or a smaller meeting room depending on the size of the meeting. The meeting room would comfortably hold 25 or so people. It is carpeted with good heating and fans.

The hall has bare boards and strip heaters on the walls which, we are told, are quite heat effective. A terrific, clean kitchen separates the two spaces. There is room to store our supper box in the pantry and also, on the top shelf, room for our projector. Cups etc are available for use. A screen is also available for our use - or the large white wall space works well as a screen. The bonus is that we are able to have it for the same fee as our present accommodation being \$30 per meeting. There is plenty of parking in the entrance driveway or in the street.

Toilets are also conveniently situated between the two spaces. It is a very clean venue.

Two stipulations apply: No smoking and no alcohol.

Our first meeting at St Johns will be May 26, entry is from Forest Street.



Media Release

No More Fees For Basic Camping In Our Regional National Parks

Thursday 02 April 2015

Minister for Environment, Lisa Neville, today announced that unfair basic camping fees enforced by the previous Coalition Government will be scrapped ahead of the Easter break. The fees imposed under the Coalition made camping expensive for families, affected school camps and buried Parks Victoria in red tape. From now on, over 500 basic camping sites over 70 campgrounds in 19 parks throughout regional Victoria will have no fees.

The bookings system for these sites will remain in place until 1 July 2015. Customers who have made a booking between now and 1 July will be refunded automatically by Parks Victoria, but the bookings will still be honoured.

A basic site is defined as unserviced, with minimal ranger patrols and pit or no-pit toilets. From 1 July 2015, these sites will no longer require booking and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Andrews Labor Government has asked Parks Victoria to review all other camping options to make sure we are getting the balance right between affordable holidays and funding for new facilities.

<http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/no-more-fees-for-basic-camping-in-our-regional-national-parks>



Eltham Copper Butterfly

At the February meeting Julie Whitfield gave a fascinating presentation on butterflies. She has a special interest in the rare and endangered Eltham copper butterfly, and the amazing symbiotic relationship the butterfly has with ants and Sweet Bursaria

Rare butterfly floats back from extinction's clutches

Chee Chee Leung

The Age, January 23, 2008

IT'S a discovery that has caused quite a flutter among insect lovers. A TAFE conservation student has found a new colony of the threatened Eltham copper butterfly — a rare species that exists only in Victoria.

The butterfly, distinguished by bright coppery-gold patches on its wings, had previously been seen in just three areas of the state: Eltham, Nhill and Castlemaine.

The latest sighting near Big Hill in Bendigo has raised the possibility that more colonies may be found elsewhere.

"If this species is now popping up in Bendigo, there must be other pockets it could be in," said Peter Johnson, a senior biodiversity planner at the Department of Sustainability and Environment.



The threatened Eltham copper butterfly has been discovered near Bendigo, a healthy distance from its previously known homes. Photo: Andrea Canzano

Up to 50 of the butterflies have been spotted at the one-hectare Big Hill site, and the department estimates there could be as many as 200 in the colony.

The butterfly is listed as vulnerable to extinction under the Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act. Experts estimate there are fewer than 2000 of the insects alive during each season.

Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE student Julie Whitfield found the butterfly while researching a land management project late last year.

She noticed that sweet bursaria plants in the area were flowering prolifically, and recalled that the plant, the butterfly and a native ant have a symbiotic relationship, relying on each other to survive.

Within a week, Mrs Whitfield spotted her first Eltham copper butterfly.

"It might open up people's eyes ... so we find other populations out there that will help with preserving the species," she said.

<http://museumvictoria.com.au/about/mv-blog/may-2014/eltham-copper-butterfly-update/>

https://www.churchilltrust.com.au/media/fellows/Butterfly_conservation_and_community_engagement_-_J_Whitfield_2013.pdf

The Eltham Copper Butterfly (Paralucia pyrodiscus lucida) is a small, attractive butterfly that flies in summer. It has a close association with a group of ants from a genus called Notoncus.

The female adults lay eggs during summer on the shoots and stems of Sweet Bursaria (Bursaria spinosa), and sometimes in the leaf litter close to the base of the plants. The larvae hatch after about 10 to 14 days and shelter and develop in the ant's nest located around the plant roots.

Larvae are nocturnal, sheltering in the nest during the day and emerging at night to feed on the Bursaria leaves, where they are constantly attended by the ants. In return for this protection and care, the ants feed on secretions of sugar and amino acids from the larvae. This may keep the larvae free from fungal and bacterial disease.

Adult butterflies emerge between late November and January. They feed on the nectar produced by the flowers of small and larger Sweet Bursaria plants, and sometimes on nectar of other plants such as Hakea and Cassinia species.

Trip Reports

Vaughan Springs Day walk 4 – 5 hours, 10.5 km, grade E-M

A small group consisting of John Cameron, Brad Warner, Pam Douglas, Kieran Ransom, Helen Cronin, Mervyn Shapiro, Leigh Callinan and guest Marie Hayes had the best weather day of the year so far to explore Vaughan Springs.

To get to the Vaughan Springs Reserve, you drive 9 km south of Castlemaine, on the Midland Hwy, turn left at the Vaughan Springs sign posted road and then travel a further 6 km to the Reserve.

We crossed the Loddon River at a concrete footbridge 30m downstream from the weir and climbed up the stairs to a lookout platform. We followed a good footpath built on the remains of an old water race, which in some places has amazing dry stone walls. They could work, 150 years ago.



L-R Pam Douglas, Kieran Ransom, Brad Warner, John Cameron, Marie Hayes, Mervyn Shapiro and Helen Cronin; Photo by our President and walk leader Leigh Callinan

The water race quickly lead to Butcher's Gully which is crossed by a footbridge and then on to a track junction. You have to ignore the GDT sign posted track to the right and walk straight ahead even though the track for a short while is difficult to discern.

After about 30m we were in Sailors Gully and we climbed about 20 m up its steep bank. We refound the well defined water race up there and followed it. After a short while we came to an old abandoned orchard below. We followed it upstream; at its end we climbed back to the water race, albeit not on the easiest path. We followed it upstream to Glenluce Springs which is marked by a picnic table and benches on the opposite bank. About 100m further on, where the slope permits, we headed up and away from the river in a SW direction. At the top we saw old Melbourne trams, around a bush residence. Just below the tram property, we found the the Italian Hill Track and headed down the Track towards the river again.

We had lunch at a clearing on the left. After lunch we continued on to the sign posted Helge Track, which goes off to the right. Just prior to that we me Helge himself, out for a stroll with his friend. This track lead back up into the forest and met the Great Dividing Trail. We headed north down the GDT for short way and came across the Tubal Cain mine, with its broken-walled dam. The GDT heads west for a while then north. There is one very impressive ruined cottage on this track. The GDT continues up Sailor's Gully and Butcher's Gully, before dropping back down into Vaughan Springs.

We finished up in Castlemaine for the traditional coffee and cakes.

Thanks to all, Leigh

Red Sandstone caves walk. 11/12 April 2015

Fellow members,

Buzza and I have been out to the wilderness, and studied the Red sandstone caves area.

The main problem we faced was the access road, the Nhill to Murrayville road. A year ago it was close to perfect a clay topped "dragway", but already it has been chewed up, is rutted and has sand pot holes. This weekend we made it safely in my 2WD wagon. I had watched the rainfall for 2 weeks before we went away and fortunately the forecast was clear.



Bill and the western mesa

After a surprise visit to a spot called "The Springs", we did a 180 deg turn, then went back to our car park spot. The weather was fine, about 26 degrees at Walpeup.

We did an 11 km walk over 4hrs, pretty casual stuff. (But still a bit hard lifting all that water though.)

After a casual lunch we investigated the two Red Sandstone Mesas out there for Caves. The only cave we found as such, was on the east side of the first Mesa. There are plenty of little openings, but they are not on the cave graph.

Sunday was even cooler, and a lighter pack. 23.4c at Walpeup. Another problem I encountered on the way back, was, after my turn at tripping over, somehow unbeknown to me, the winding knob on my watch was pulled out a bit, stopping the clock at 7mins to 11am. Well a few kms later, and a grumbling stomach, it was still 7mins to 11!! Sorry tummy!

PS: It is a bit easier on the body when you trip over in the sand!

Back to the car etc. As we are confident of only one cave on the only two MESAS in sight, we can justifiably say we know where it is.

The BRIGADOON effect. The desert out there is slowly recovering from the big devastating fire years ago. In a decade, they will put the mesas out of sight for decades. The road that was good last year, is on the way out, thus limiting accessibility for a while.

My thanks to Mr Graham Borrell for coming along.

QED: This exploration is now completed, and is off the bucket list. A mission that started 20 years ago with the outdoor club is accomplished.

Bill Clark



Buzza at the only cave found on the east side of the first Mesa.

NB. Buzza's "Urban Terrain Camouflage Suit" is not particularly effective in the bush.

Timber Tramways Walk, Big Pats Creek to Powelltown 28/9 March.

With a stuff up leaving Bendigo to start the walk, things looked like they were not going to go as planned. Firstly the leader was somewhat late picking up Kerry & in his haste left the maps and tracknotes at home. Then Geoff realized he had departed home minus his walking boots. Sorting out these minor problems meant we left Bendigo later than the advertised start time. Navigating our way via Seymour, Yea, through Healsville to Warburton was easy but finding Big Pats Creek & the recreation reserve in the dark was rather tricky, especially as none of us had been there before and signposts were conspicuous by their absence. The recreation reserve turns out to be the Big Pats Creek Picnic Area which we duly found & proceeded to pitch camp for the night amid a multitude of tents containing the Mt Waverley Scout Group, who were also doing the walk.

Saturday dawned misty as brekky was downed quickly by the drivers who had a one hour car shuffle to complete. We then commenced the 'Walk Into History' as promoted by DEPI. The walk follows old tramways which were put in by the timber industry in the early 1900's, so navigation is no problem as the track is well benched, well worn and of a gentle gradient. Remnants of sleepers and the odd length of rail track adorn the path with occasional log constructions visible which allowed the tramway to dodge obstacles such as large granite boulders with a minimum of blasting & earthworks. It was wonderful to walk beneath a towering canopy of tall trees with magnificent tree ferns in the damper spots (which was just about the whole walk), a marked contrast to the Box Ironbark forests around Bendigo. The tramway we had walked up was used to transport sawn timber from the mill to the railway at Warburton.



Near Starlings Gap an extremely large sawdust heap was examined, a stark reminder of the amount of timber that was logged & processed at the Warburton Timber & Tramway Company No 6 sawmill. Greg and Kerry give some perspective to the size of the heap.



We had lunch at the Starlings Gap picnic area before examining the logging winch in the bush behind the toilet block. Bob, David, Kerry, Geoff and Greg.

As we were leaving Starlings Gap, the scouts staggered in, glad they had caught up with the 'old farts'. Leaving them to attend their hunger we headed off following the Federal Mill tramway, which is basically level. The timber bridges which used to straddle creeks are long gone, burnt in the Ash Wednesday fires. This section was quite damp under foot, with people remarking they were glad we were doing the walk in the dry season. There is a number of substantial cuttings the tramway ran through on this section, once again the tree ferns were fantastic. Eventually we arrived at the Crossroads, a spot where two tramways crossed where we turned left and headed down to the site of Ada No 2 mill to set up camp. This mill was burned in the Black Saturday fires of 1939 with the site littered with relics & rusting machinery. The camping area has tent platforms, fire places, tables & possum proof food safes. We selected the best tent sites before the scouts rolled in. They kept us amused with their fire lighting skills, culinary 'skills' & general disorganised chaos. I'm sure we were never that bad at that age!



Remnants of a very long tramway bridge across the Ada River

This area was known as Powelltown Bush and the tramway levels out as it follows Big Creek to the Latrobe River. Once again the tramway was lined with magnificent tree ferns at the Latrobe River more bridge remains were observed. From here the tramway assumes a more substantial appearance as it climbs towards The Bump, the divide between the Latrobe & Yarra catchments; our lunch stop. There used to be a winching station on top of The Bump but this was superseded when a tunnel was cut through the divide. The tunnel had its entrances blown up years ago but cave-ins reveal the position of the tunnel. From here it was all downhill along the well defined tramway into the outskirts of Powelltown, where we were forced onto the road for the last few hundred meters, finishing at the Powelly Pub & General Store where the obligatory ice cream/coffee/tea was consumed.

This walk was a fascinating trip through tall forests on well graded and defined tracks with easy navigation and lots of historic sites and relics to keep you entertained. I highly recommend it. It can also be done as a series of day walks for those that abhor carrying heavy packs. Many thanks to a crew of 'relics' who included Garry, Bob, Geoff, Kerry and David.

Greg Doubleday

Sunday dawned fine and clear so an early start occurred as it was pointless waiting for the sun to dry damp tents due to the tall timber surrounding the campsite. We departed as the first scout emerged from their tent. Almost immediately we were on a boardwalk which crosses swampy ground as the Ada River is reached. Remnants of a very long tramway bridge were visible from the boardwalk. After crossing the Ada River we began the gentle ascent to the crest of Dowey Spur where a winch was located at the top of the High Lead Incline. The incline's name comes from the high lead cable logging systems used in the steep country in the locality. We soon found out how steep it was as we descended the Incline. Once again we were relieved conditions were relatively dry as the descent had plenty of bark & leaves covering a slippery clayey surface. The descent is 400 meters over about 1.5km with some sections steeper than others. We arrived at the bottom having only one or two minor slips.



Remnants of the Latrobe River Bridge

Activities . . . February to April and beyond

Creswick Forest Walk – Sunday May 3rd

The Creswick Regional Park is notable for its bushland hills, historic pine forests and unusual oak glades. There are wonderful views over St Georges Lake, an abandoned koala park and numerous reminders of the regions gold-rush past.

This is a circuit walk of 14 kilometers, and is rated Easy.

Bring - Solid shoes/boots, hat, wet weather gear [just in case], water, lunch, nibbles to keep your energy up during the day and a few dollars for coffee and cake afterwards.

The petrol contribution for non-drivers will be \$20.00 [ring 2].

Meet outside the Church hall in Short Street, 8.30am

Garry Brannan – 0450879917, garrybrannan@gmail.com

http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0014/313601/Park-note-Creswick-Regional-Park.pdf

Mount Feathertop and Bon Accord Spur – ‘Ashes Tour 2015’ – May 8 – 10th

Mount Feathertop, at 1,922 m is the second highest mountain in Victoria. A classic mountain, it affords spectacular views of surrounding peaks and valleys.

This walk follows well-used tracks ascending and descending via steep alpine spurs. The tracks are easy to follow. The summits of the peaks and higher sections of The Razorback are exposed to the very changeable weather, but good emergency shelter is available.

This circuit walk would appeal to those who may wish to expand their experience in alpine areas in relative safety and to those who may have walked one or more of the spurs previously but may not have completed this particular circuit as a complete route.

Duration:	Three days; Friday 8 May to Sunday 10 May
Length:	31.1 km plus 3.6 km side trip to summit
Standard:	Medium
Fuel share:	Ring 5, \$45 pp
Map:	VICMAP Outdoor Leisure Map 1:50,000, Bogong Alpine Area
Contact:	Keith Longridge 0417 151 591; or k.longridge@campaspe.vic.gov.au

Grampians Base Camp May 15 - 17th

Note! Date changed.

Due to extensive fire damage in the north eastern side of Grampians with several campsites closed, I have changed this camp to Buandik. The club (with Greg D went here a few years ago) and there are plenty of walks in this area. Two one day walks will be undertaken.

Sheltered in open woodland beside Billimina Creek, the campground has non-flush toilets, shared fireplaces and picnic tables. Fires may lit only in the fireplaces provided. No drinking water is provided however a limited water supply is available for dish washing and sanitary requirements.

There are four sites suitable for camper trailers and caravans. All remaining sites are for tent based camping only and are suitable for large tents, with adjacent vehicle parking.

Buandik Campground is located in the south-west of the Grampians, at the base of the Victoria Range, and is best accessed via Billywing Road which is unsealed but suitable for two wheel drive vehicles.

http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/315587/Park-note-Grampians-National-Park.pdf

Leaving Bendigo Friday afternoon. Fuel Share - \$45.00

Ring Buzza 0438437680

Date	Description	Rating	Comments	Contact
April				
Tue 28th	Club Meeting		Various topics + Calendar Night	Leigh Callinan 0408 061 766
May				
Sunday 3rd	Creswick Forest 14km	DW E	Bushland hills, historic pine forests, unusual oak glades, views over St Georges Lake, and reminders of the regions gold-rush..	Garry Brannan 0450 879 917
Friday 8 – Sunday 10th	'Ashes Tour 2015', a three day circuit walk to Mount Feathertop.	M PC	Three day circuit. Bungalow Spur, Razorback and Bon Accord spur	Keith Longridge 0417 151 591
15 – 17th Date Changed	Grampians Base camp	E	Location shifted to Buandik due to fire damage at Mt Rosea	Graham Borrell 0438 437 680
16 -17th	Nest Boxing Weekend		Contact Ray Thomas: B/H 5761 1515, or email ray@regenthoneyeater.org	
16 - 17th	Bushwalking Victoria - Extended Walks Leadership Course		Refer Bushwalking News Victoria, April, pp3-4 http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/files/Newsletters/BNV_256_Apr_2015.pdf	
Tuesday 26 th 7.30pm	Club Meeting - Presbyterian Church Hall, 35-41 Forest St.		This will be our first meeting in the new hall. Wyperfeld National Park - Bill Clarke	Leigh Callinan 0408 061 766
Sat 31st or Sun 1st	Day walk	DW	TBA	
June				
5-8 Queens Birthday Week End	Wilsons Prom Three nights.	M PC	Limit 8. Contact Garry for full details, only two places left.	Garry Brannan 0450 879 917
Tuesday 23 th 7.30pm	Club Meeting - Presbyterian Church Hall, 35-41 Forest St.		"In Sturts Wake" , a paddle into history – John Lindner.	Leigh Callinan 0408 061 766
Sun 28th	Leaghur State Park	DW	A significant Black Box wetland and woodland community	Graham Borrell 0438 437 680
July				
Tuesday 28 th 7.30pm	Club Meeting - Presbyterian Church Hall, 35-41 Forest St.		AGM	Leigh Callinan 0408 061 766

E – Easy M – Medium H – Hard D – Day DW – Day Walk PC – Pack Carry BC – Base Camp

For additions to the activities calendar: - Email trip details to Garry for inclusion in the calendar together with a write-up for the newsletter. garrybrannan@gmail.com.



The deadline for the next edition of GoBush –
Wednesday May 20

Please forward Trip Reports, details of Coming Events, and interesting articles to Garry at garrybrannan@gmail.com 0450879917