



BENDIGO BUSHWALKING AND OUTDOOR CLUB

President's Report

Hi all

First up. Thank you to Kerry Cramer and Garry Brannan for all their toils on the committee in the past few years. We have a new committee with three new members on it. Thanks Sandy, Ian and Donna, and thanks to Hans, Greg, and Peter for putting up their hands again. The Bendigo Bushwalking Club website is getting work completed and will soon be up to date. There is a new calendar of Activities in the newsletter for the next three months, with various leaders on it.

For people who haven't led a day walk before, I'd be happy enough to co-lead any event that you want to put on the Calendar and help you through the process. There are books of walks in the area that you can pick from the club meetings and new trip leaders are important for the club so don't be shy – have a chat to me at the meeting.

At the Club Meeting on Tuesday the 28th of March, three club members will be showing a few slides and talk about a walk that they've completed – mine will be on the Western Arthurs in Tasmania. At the April Meeting which coincidentally is on Anzac Day, I think Andrew is going to talk about contour maps and how to read them and other stuff as well. If I don't see you at the meeting, I'll see you on the track sometime.

Buzza

BENDIGO BUSHWALKING AND OUTDOOR CLUB INC

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

Meetings - 4th Tuesday every month [except Dec]
Presbyterian Church Hall, 35 - 41 Forest Street
Meetings start at 7:30 pm sharp

Membership: Single \$40.00
Family \$60.00

E-Mail: enquiries@gobush.org.au

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

BBOC is affiliated with



COMMITTEE 2022-2023

President Graham Borrell 0438 437 680

Vice President Hans Tracksdorf

Secretary Donna Guille 0466 004 610

Treasurer Greg Doubleday

Committee Members:

Ian Barry

Peter O'Meara

Sandy Raeburn

Other Tasks:

Trips Coordinator Graham Borrell

Web Master

Newsletter Editor David Crocker

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

BBOC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

CHAIRMANS REPORT

This year has been very challenging with further restrictions on group meetings and activities, particularly in the early part of the year.

Consequently our membership has dropped due to members losing interest or have become of an age where activities have become difficult.

The number of activities over this period has also suffered from the passing of long time leaders, or leaders that have not been able to contribute due to various medical issues.

I wish to thank the members who did lead activities. I would like to particularly highlight David Crocker, who has tirelessly organised many activities.

Membership of the club is aging and lack of new younger members willing to take on leadership rolls is causing the club to be in danger of collapsing.

Hopefully with the easing of covid restrictions and the possibility of attracting new members the club can enjoy a resurgence.

I wish to thank the other executive membership for the support.

Kerry Cramer

Chairman



CLUB MEETING NIGHT - MEAL

CATCH UP FOR THOSE INTERESTED

Meals are pretty promptly arranged (no long wait times) and they are reasonably priced \$16-\$28 and they have a Seniors Menu. So anyone ordering, even at 6.30pm should be out of there by 7.15pm.

The Venue is 9-10 mins from Forest St Hall.

TIME:	6:00pm
LOCATION	KANGAROO FLAT SPORTS CLUB
CONTACT	HANS T mob 0400 049 891

Deadline for GO BUSH Newsletter:

Contributions for the Club newsletter need to be submitted one week before the Monthly Meeting

DEADLINE FOR MARCH NEWSLETTER IS Tuesday 21st MARCH

Send contributions to David Crocker, email to dcrocker46@gmail.com

TRIP REPORTS

Croajingolong – Nadgee Wilderness Walk

Sat 19th Nov to Sun 4th Dec 2022

As is usual for this time of the year, the walk was advertised as two weeks of walking.

Firstly in Victoria starting at Mallacoota and walking along the coast through the Croajingolong Wilderness then in the second week on into the Nadgee Wilderness Area in NSW and finishing at Wonboyn.

It was only by accident in late September that I discovered the Wilderness Walk (from Bemm River to Shipwreck Creek, 100km) which had been closed since the bushfires over New Year in 2019/2020 was now open for the section from Wigan Inlet to Shipwreck Creek, 27km. On past trips we had always walked from Thurra River to Mallacoota (61km) over 6 days. Our agenda this time was to walk the shorter section, in the opposite direction and see what the effects of the bushfires had been.

For the first time ever it is now possible to do the first day of the walk from Mallacoota to Shipwreck Campground on newly created and connected walking tracks following along the coast and beaches all the way before entering the Croajingolong National Park. A much more pleasant walk than on previous trips when we have walked the 10km on roads.



Looking back at Mallacoota Inlet



Interesting Geology



Crossing Shipwreck Creek



Approaching Benedore River

Day 2 took us on from Shipwreck Creek to Benedore River (11km) along what was once the Old Coast Road but now is really just a walking track. Along the way some members of the group took a side trip out to Little Rame Head (the first real land feature or landmark that *Cook* named on the Australian coast). On arrival at Benedore River we went looking for the usual campsite just up the inlet beyond the sand dunes.

This was to prove to be a very bad mistake. Due to the bushfires over New Year in 2019/2020 the area had been badly burnt and the regrowth had generated an area of impenetrable scrub. After about 45 minutes of scrub bashing and not getting very far at all, we gave up and returned to the beach. The best water

supply for Benedore River campsite is about half an hour further along the coast to the west at Sandpatch Point, so we decided to head there and find a campsite. But it had been such a wet spring across Gippsland we encountered a small creek with a good water flow before we got there and were able to set up camp. The \$10 walking permit fee lets you camp anywhere in the wilderness declared areas along the walk.



A wonderful year for wildflowers

Day 3, at Sandpatch Point the track heads inland away from the coast into forested areas. There was some evidence here of trackwork being done by Parks Victoria, which is not supposed to happen in the declared Wilderness Areas. At Red River (very big inlet) the track returns to the coast to cross at the river mouth. We were heading for a late afternoon appointment with the Low Tide for getting across Wingan Inlet to the campsite on the other side. Our timing was a little out and there was more water than we expected but did get across without any swimming being necessary. We had left a car at the Wingan Inlet the previous Sunday when we travelled through to Mallacoota.



Red River Inlet



Wildlife at Wingan Inlet Campground



Wingan Inlet Campground



Wingan Inlet

Day 4 was a rest day at Wingan Inlet which is our common routine when walking the coast. Day 5 we did a day walk further to the west to visit Rame Head (the one that Cook did not actually see or name although this fact is not well known). The week before we left Bendigo this track was still closed but when we got to Wingan Inlet we discovered it had recently reopened. The work to reopen the walking track was actually done by the Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation (BTAC) group of Bushwalking Victoria.



View from Rame Head looking east



Elusive Lake

On Day 6 we left to drive back to Mallacoota. A number of the day walks in the area were still closed but one that was open was the return walk (5km) into Elusive Lake so we all were on a first visit to see this Lake.

Day 7 was the quite traditional rest/recover day in accommodation in Mallacoota with a chance for a coffee, do some washing and have a meal at the Pub.

Day 8 started with a ferry trip across Mallacoota Inlet on the M.S. Loch-Ard with skipper Dale Winward, our favorite mode of transport to get across the Inlet to commence the walk into NSW.



Skipper Dale Winard on M.V. Loch-Ard



Saying goodbye to our ferry



From the ferry drop off it is a short distance to the Old Settlement of Mallacoota. Soon after through the forest the track crosses Howe Flat before arriving back onto the beach. Howe Flat is the drainage area where the outflow from Lake Barracoota feeds into Mallacoota Inlet. On most walks this is just a stroll through some coastal tea-tree vegetation, but not this time. Again the evidence of a very wet spring was obvious after the boardwalk across the creek, the track was rather underwater for a kilometre or so!

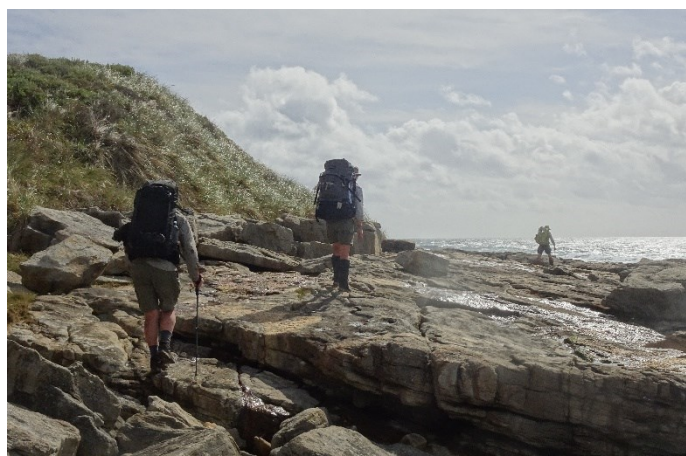


New campsite at Wau Wauka



View of old burnt campsite at Wau Wauka

On recent trips we have chosen not to camp at Lake Barracoota as the original lovely campsite next to the Lake in the tea-tree vegetation has been buried by the massive moving sand dunes. A detour to the Lake for a look and a swim was made prior to having lunch. From here to the next campsite at the Wau Wauka Outflow is a long stretch of 10km of beach walking. We had been warned that the Campsite at Wau Wauka was not fit for use due a bushfire at the campsite in early spring started by a group that did not extinguish their campfire. Subsequent walkers have created alternative campsite across from the old campsite.



Approaching the border



Cape Howe marker VIC/NSW

On Day 9 the remaining easterly beach section of the walk to the Victoria/NSW border crossing at Cape Howe. From Cape Howe the scenery changes dramatically as the route heads northwards through open moorlands only an occasional short beach sections at a number of river crossings.





A wonderful year for wildflowers on Endeavour Moor

We were heading for a campsite at the south end of the beach at Nadgee River, it is a well sheltered campsite amongst the tea-tree with water not far away from a large lagoon. But alas yet again we were again disappointed to find the campsite gone! All the tea-tree has been burnt so no sheltered campsite and the regrowth in vegetation completely covers the area. We collected water and headed up the beach to the Nadgee River outlet. Because we had not planned a crossing in the afternoon the tide times were against us and we had a relaxing wait until the water level dropped enough so we could wade across the river to the campsite on the northern bank to set up camp.



Ground Parrot (Pezoporus wallicus)



Canoe at Little Creek crossing

On Day 10 crossing Impressa Moor we were lucky to see the very rare and elusive Ground Parrot, even luckier that it was prepared to wait a moment while we took some photos. Rarely seen or photographed on our previous walks. When we arrived at Little Creek we were surprised to see a Parks & Wildlife canoe had been placed to help with the water crossing. This year the water level was very high indeed. On our last trip about 4 weeks before the 2019/2020 bushfires the country was the driest seen in the 20 years of doing the Wilderness Walk. Camp on Day 10 was made at Newtons Beach, the site of an old farming property, almost all evidence of which is long gone.

On Day 11 the only really hilly section of the walk, on a management road that climbs up to Tumbledown Lookout (200m) and maintaining most of this height all the way to Merrica River campsite. The section of the campsite that we use was unburnt but some other sections were burnt in the 2019/2020 bushfires.

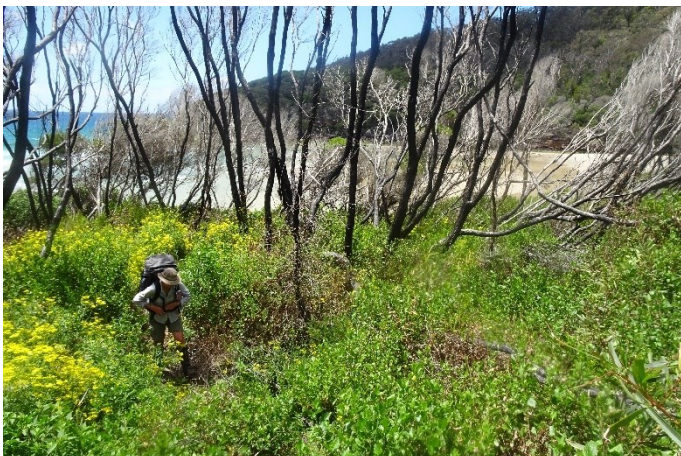


Campsite at Merrica River



Waiting on the tide to cross Merrica River

Day 12 was a designated rest day, but in the afternoon we did make an attempt to locate an arched sea cave that we had previously visited once in 2005. You would think by now that we (especially the trip leader) would have realised this would involve a couple of hours with much frustrating bush bashing through bushfire regrowth, but no we all set off anyway. Did not have accurate GPS location or map grid reference for the arched sea cave. Need to plan better and try again next time.



The Master Track Finder in all the new scrub



The last swim on Wonboyn Beach, Disaster Bay

On day 13 after packing up camp we had to wait for the low tide in the late morning before we could wade across Merrica River for the last section of the walk to the finish at Wonboyn. This final stage still had sections of walking that were much affected by the bushfires. This will be the case for many more years of walking in Croajingolong and Nadgee Wilderness Areas, but we will be back again sometime soon.

Party Members: David (leader), Rechelle, Garry, Kerry

Trip Report and Photos by: David

DETAILS FOR TRIP ACTIVITIES

Mt Feathertop

Saturday 25th – Sunday 26th February

Type: Overnight Walk

Grade: Medium

Distance: 18.5km (with packs), 6.5km (without packs)

DESCRIPTION: An alpine walk so extremes in weather can be expected.

Fri: Depart Bendigo mid-afternoon with a plan to stop for an evening meal in Bright **or** depart Bendigo after work time for an evening meal in Violet Town. Camp at **Smoko Campground** near Harrietville.

Sat: Drive to Harrietville and leave one car at the base of the Bungalow Spur Track. With the remaining car(s) drive on the Mt Hotham Road and stop at **Diamantina Hut** just before the ski village.

The **Razorback Walking Track** begins at **Diamantina Hut**, it crosses the high ridge linking **Mount Hotham** and **Mount Feathertop**. The route is generally above the tree line so you will enjoy excellent views most of the way. After 9.6km, at the junction (**The Cross**) with the **Bungalow Spur Track** it is then a further 1.5 km to the summit of **Mt Feathertop** (1922m). The final climb to the top (without packs) is steep but well worth the effort.

The campsite for the night at **Federation Hut** is 400m from The Cross.

Sun: An easy morning return walk (3.5km) (without packs) to visit the **MUMC Hut** on the NW side of Mt Feathertop. An easy descent from the mountain on the **Bungalow Spur Track** (8.6km) down to **Harrietville**. A bit of leisure time (70min) in Harrietville while a car shuffle is done to retrieve car(s) from Diamantina Hut. Drive home to Bendigo.

Cost: Transport to and from Harrietville and Mt Hotham, **Zone 5 \$75**

Contact: David C

ph 0409 425 604

Crusoe Reservoir Evening Walks

Wednesday 1st March

Grade: Easy

Distance: approx.6km

MEET: At the Crusoe Reservoir Carpark at **6:00pm**

Contact: Ray W

ph 5447 8862

BIG DAY OUT. BEERIPMO DAY WALK

Sunday 5th March

LOCATION: MT COLE RANGE. BEAUFORT REGION

Grade: DEPENDS ON YOUR ABILITY. I'D SAY MEDIUM. (All of your joints need to be working)

Distance: 21km. TOTAL CLIMB 500m

MEET: 8:00am KANGAROO FLAT SCOUT HALL. No 1 CHURCH ST KANGAROO FLAT

EXPECTED RETURN TIME: 6:30-7:00pm. KANGAROO FLAT

CAR POOLING: We will look at carpooling depending on how many we have

WHAT TO BRING: Morning tea/ coffee, thermos, drinks, lunch. Raincoat (check weather), comfortable walking shoes, trekking poles. Hat, loo paper, mobile.

NON-MEMBER FEE: \$2



DESCRIPTION: The BEERIPMO circuit walk was constructed in the 1980s and traverses thru some magnificent tall eucalyptus forest and tree fern lined valleys in the National Park. From the tops there are great views out to the plains to the south. The walk can be done as a 2 day walk with facilities for overnight camping and there are a few Parks toilets available on the route. We will do it as a day walk. Including breaks, this should take from 6-6.5 hrs.

NOTE. This is a circuit walk and therefore it's not easy to bail out halfway. We will be stopping for breaks and lunch, so it's not all go.

Contact: Hans T

ph 0400 049 891

Tarilta Creek, Six Chimneys and a Ruin

Wednesday 15th March

Grade: Medium/Hard

Distance: 14km

Costs Fuel Share: Zone 2 \$30

DESCRIPTION: This walk includes a creek gorge and relics of the gold mining days. It is through dry open forest with some rocky sections and numerous dry creek crossings. Approximately 40% of the route is off-track in open forest and the remainder on the Great dividing Trail and vehicle tracks.

Afternoon tea/coffee in Daylesford before returning to Bendigo.

MEET: At **8:30am** in the carpark in front of Rebel Sport at Lansell Square, Kangaroo Flat.

Contact: David C

ph 0409 425 604

Crusoe Reservoir Evening Walks

Wednesday 15th March

Grade: Easy

Distance: approx.6km

MEET: At the Crusoe Reservoir Carpark at **6:00pm**

Contact: Buzza

ph 0438 437 680

Great Southern Rail Trail

Saturday 18th -- Sunday 19th March

Type: Base Camp with Day Bike Rides

Grade: Medium

Distance: Saturday 71km, Sunday 51km

DESCRIPTION: Ride the newly extended **Great Southern Rail Trail**, with the **new 36km** section from **Nyora** to **Leongatha** now open making the total length now 108km.

Fri: Travel from **Bendigo** to **Toora**, 336km. Overnight: Fri & Sat at Toora CP

Sat: Ride from **Toora** to **Port Welshpool** (return 30km) in the morning. After a morning coffee stop in **Toora** drive to **Meeniyan** (23 min). Ride from **Meeniyan** to **Fish Creek** (lunch) to **Foster** to **Toora** (41km) in the afternoon.

Sun: Drive to **Meeniyan** (23kin) and leave a car, drive on to **Nyora** (40min). Ride from **Nyora** up to **Korumburra** then down to **Leongatha** (lunch) and on to **Meeniyan** (51km). Car shuffle to get the car(s) from **Nyora** then travel back to **Bendigo**.

Trip Extension: An extra day (or two) can be added to the trip if you can ride on Friday (and/or Monday) by adding some return rides on other **South Gippsland Rail Trails** – **Bass Coast RT** (23km) and to **Grand Ridge RT** (13km)

Cost: Transport to and from Toora, **Zone 5 \$75**. Accommodation costs for Cabin at **Toora CP** for two nights, **\$80**.

Contact: David C

ph 0409 425 604

Spring Gully, Break Neck Hill & The Monk

Wednesday 22nd March

Type: Day Walk

Grade: Easy/Medium

Distance: 14km

Costs Fuel Share: Zone 1 \$15

DESCRIPTION: A walk on the Great Dividing Trail (GDT) though parts of the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park, commencing in Fryerstown.

The morning follows the GDT from Fryerstown passing through Irishtown and Choken Flat before turning north and making the steady climb to Break Neck Hill (405m). Further north the Dingo Park is passed before making a short steep climb to The Monk (459m). From The Monk the route now turns south along

4 PEAKS VOLCANO CHALLENGE

Saturday 15th -- Sunday 16th April

WHERE: CAMPERDOWN – DERRINALUM AREA

ACTIVITY: 5-6 HOURS

Grade: Medium (Hill climbing with big breaks in between)

DESCRIPTION: 'For interested people in Bendigo, they may have to organise overnight accommodation in Camperdown (possibly at Botanic Gardens caravan Park). It usually a great day out with participants driving between the various Venues. The last one is usually Mt Elephant. From there it's a 2.5 hr drive back to Bendigo PO.

At this stage I can be the contact for queries but am not organising the event.

Contact: Hans T ph 0400 049 891



'The 4 Peaks Challenge'

Think you can rise to the challenge of 'summitting' Mt Leura, Mt Sugarloaf, Mt Elephant and Mt Noorat on the same day?

Then this Friends of Mt Leura Inc. activity, in partnership with Mt Leura & Mt Sugarloaf Management Committee, is a must do for you and your family or friends.



When: Sunday April 16th 2023 ... for a full day of activity.

Where: Meet/start @ Volcanic Education Centre (Mt Leura Road, Camperdown) at base of Mt Leura at 9.30am

BYO: Morning tea, lunch, snacks and plenty to drink; sunscreen, day pack plus camera and/or binoculars for the terrific views.

Wear: Sturdy footwear and clothing suitable for the weather.

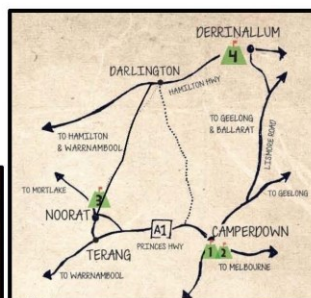
Transport: BYO vehicle.

All welcome, and bring the kids ... but please note that some steep and rough terrain will be encountered so a degree of physical fitness is required.

For more information contact FoML:

John Fallon on 0487 341 337

Supported by:



Contact: Hans T

ph 0400 049 891

Spargo - Werribee River and Mt Hope

Wednesday 19th April

Grade: Easy/Medium Distance: 15km

Costs Fuel Share: Zone 2 \$30

DESCRIPTION: A walk in the Wombat Forest starting/finishing at a Truffle Farm. In the morning the Werribee River Walking Track will be followed down, across, and then back up the Werribee River. We then head further into the forest on tracks to reach the summit of Mt Hope, an old gold mining area before heading down and back to the cars.

Afternoon tea/coffee in Daylesford before returning to Bendigo.

MEET: At **8:30am** in the carpark in front of Rebel Sport at Lansell Square, Kangaroo Flat.

Contact: David C ph 0409 425 604

The Gullies of Forest Creek

Wednesday 26th April

Type: Day Walk Grade: Medium Distance: 13km

Costs: Fuel Share: Zone 1 \$15

DESCRIPTION: Starting from Expedition Pass Reservoir after a circuit of the Reservoir head to the Welsh Village and then onto the Garfield Water Wheel. Along the way all the gullies that are passed through need to be identified. From the Water Wheel across the range and into the extensive valley of Forest Creek where more gullies are waiting for identification.

Afternoon tea/coffee in Castlemaine before returning to Bendigo.

MEET: At **8:30am** in the carpark in front of Rebel Sport at Lansell Square, Kangaroo Flat.

Contact: David C ph 0409 425 604

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

DATE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	RATING	COMMENTS	CONTACT
FEBRUARY					
Sat 25 th - Sun 26 th	O/W	Mt Feathertop	Medium	An alpine walk starting from Diamantina Hut and finishing in Harrietville	David C 0409 425 604
Tues 28 th		Monthly Club Meeting		Presbyterian Church Hall Cnr Forest & MacKenzie St	
MARCH					
Wed 1 st	D/W	Crusoe Reservoir Car Park	Easy	6km walk around Crusoe reservoir area	Ray W 5447 8862
Sun 5 th	D/W	Beeripmo	Medium	A wonderful walk winds through Mt Cole State Forest and Mt Buangor State Park	Hans T 0400 049 891
Sat 11 th – Mon 13 th		Labour Day Weekend			
Wed 15 th	D/W	Crusoe Reservoir Car Park	Easy	6km walk around Crusoe reservoir area	Buzza 0438 437 680
Wed 15 th	D/W	Tarilta Creek, Six Chimneys and a Ruin	Medium /Hard	East of Mt Franklin with considerable off-track walking along Tarilta Creek	David C 0409 425 604
Sat 18 th - Sun 19 th	B/B	Great Victorian Rail Trail	Medium	Riding 122km, including the new 36km section from Nyora to Leongatha	David C 0409 425 604
Wed 22 nd	D/W	Spring Gully, Break Neck Hill & The Monk	Medium	Through old gold mining areas in the Castlemaine Heritage National Park	David C 0409 425 604
Tues 28 th		Monthly Club Meeting		Presbyterian Church Hall Cnr Forest & MacKenzie St	
Wed 29 th	D/W	Leitches Creek Springs	Medium	Bullarto Reservoir, Kangaroo Creek valley, extinct volcano: Currys Hill and Leitches Creek Springs	David C 0409 425 604
APRIL					
Sun 2 nd	D/W	Castlemaine	Easy/ Medium	Garfield Water Wheel to Expedition Pass Reservoir and return	Buzza 0438 437 680
Wed 5 th	D/W	Jacksons Lookout, Hunts Dam and Mineral Springs	Medium	Up and down a bit through the Hepburn State Park	David C 0409 425 604
Fri 7 th – Mon 10 th		EASTER HOLIDAYS			
Wed 12 th	D/W	Mt Macedon circuit	Medium /Hard	A longish, upish, downish, walk from Mt Macedon Village to the summit of Mt Macedon	David C 0409 425 604

DATE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	RATING	COMMENTS	CONTACT
Sat 15 th – Sun 16 th	B/W	Camperdown	Easy/ Medium	Climb 4 Volcanoes in a Day	Hans T 0400 049 891
Wed 19 th	D/W	Spargo - Werribee River and Mt Hope	Medium		David C 0409 425 604
Sun 23 rd	D/W	Bendigo	Easy		Ian B 0457 540 564
Tues 25 th		Monthly Club Meeting		Presbyterian Church Hall Cnr Forest & MacKenzie St	
Wed 26 th	D/W	The Gullies of Forest Creek	Medium	Castlemaine Heritage National Park	David C 0409 425 604
Sat 29 th – Sun 30 th	B/W	Black Range	Medium		Ray W 5447 8862
MAY					
Tues 23 rd		Monthly Club Meeting		Presbyterian Church Hall Cnr Forest & MacKenzie St	