



OLD SCOTCH  
BUSHWALKING CLUB

Old Scotch Bushwalking Club

# Tracknotes

December 2021

Number 98

Visit the bushwalking club's page on the OSCAnet website: [www.oscanet.com.au](http://www.oscanet.com.au). Click on 'Clubs' at the top of the home page, and then on 'Bushwalking Club'.

## Bushrangers Bay walk shook off the cobwebs



Fifteen walkers breathed a sigh of relief to be out of lockdown and away on the Mornington Peninsula for a bushwalk, then set off for a most enjoyable 11km walk, led by Norrie McLeod, supported by Pam.

As the photo shows, walkers encountered a few flights of steps during the walk and a few undulations, but no problem: it was an ideal way to resume bushwalking, after a break since July.



To all our members ...  
A very merry Christmas and a happy and  
safe new year of walking  
from  
President Neil Hart-Smith



and the club committee

We welcomed new club member Anne Hewett, and welcomed back Libby and Alex Marshall, who have rejoined the club.

*Pam McLeod's article about the walk begins on page 6.*



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## Ten questions – Richard Piesse

### How long have you been a member of the bushwalking club?

I joined the club in 1995 – the first year of club walks. (There were three organised activities that year.)

### How did you find out about the club?

I was a member of the Old Scotch Athletics Club, and I heard about the formation of the bushwalking club (and the Old Scotch Wine and Food Club) in 1994 through the wider Old Scotch network.

### What are your links with Scotch College?

I attended the school from 1953 to 1960. My brother, John, was three years behind me at school. Two of my father's brothers – Ken and Jim – attended Scotch in the 1930s. An English Piesse cousin was at the school in the 1980s.

### What is your dream walk within Australia?

Rather than 'dream walk', I will list three 'hope to achieve' walks in old age: the walks on Maria Island (in Tasmania); the Larapinta Trail (in Central Australia); and the Heysen Trail (in South Australia).



### What is your dream walk overseas?

I have no 'dream walks' overseas.

### What is your dream holiday in Australia or overseas?

Many places in Australia would be my chosen venues for future holidays. The two at the top of my list are Kangaroo Island in South Australia, and the wonderful south-west of Western Australia. This is very much dependent on good health in the years ahead.

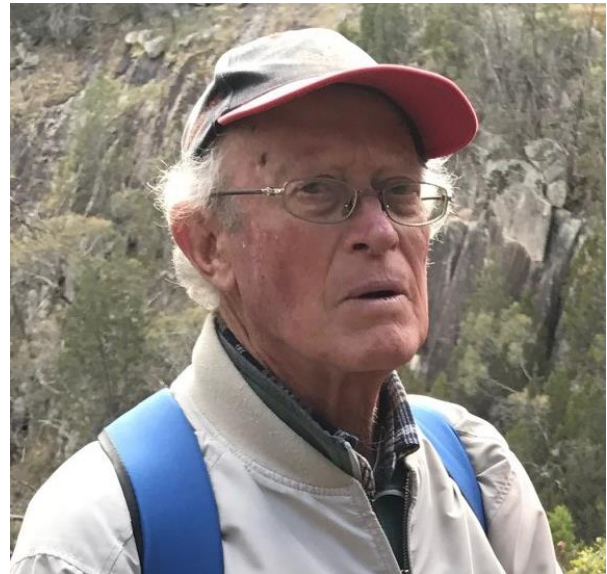
### What are your hobbies and interests, other than bushwalking?

I am very lucky to have two beautiful, very supportive daughters, and seven grandkids (four in Clifton Hill and three in Wangaratta) who all give me a great desire to live as long as possible.

I have a great interest in Australian indigenous plants (especially in central Victoria), gardening, and local history (especially in Tasmania and Victoria).

### What was your occupation?

I worked for BP Australia in Melbourne for over 25 years in various clerical roles.



### What football team do you barrack for?

Our wonderful Aussie Rules football long ago ceased to be a sport – just big business under the AFL marketing brand. In the 1950s and 1960s I was a keen Essendon barracker.

### What is your favourite Melbourne restaurant?

Since I moved from Sunshine North to Fairfield just over 10 months ago, the COVID-19 crisis has complicated restaurant dining, so I have yet to enjoy many local restaurant meals. Hopefully, opportunities will occur not too far into the future.



Richard in 2013, with daughter Celia and granddaughters Mia (left) and Amy, after he received Bushwalking Victoria's Distinguished Service Award (Gold).



# President's Tree-Stump



Sadly, since my previous 'tree-stump' message in September's Tracknotes we have again been locked down, which has curtailed our walking. But now we're up and about again, in the hope that this latest outbreak of COVID will not cause another lockdown. Let's look forward optimistically with the hope that we will enjoy a full year of walks in 2022.

As usual we are planning two weekends of walks next year, starting with a visit to Phillip Island in March, during which we will hold our annual general meeting. A second weekend is planned for later in the year, with dates yet to be finalised. At the time of writing we were eagerly looking forward to our Christmas Dinner and optional walk on Sunday 12 December.

It has been pleasing to see that many members have been keeping in touch and supporting each other during our lockdowns, and some have arranged small groups to walk together.

Your committee is always on the lookout for walk leaders. If you feel that you can help out in this area, please let me or any committee member know.

Two of our members, Richard Piesse and Andrew Gibson, have been unwell during the year, and we certainly wish them continuing improvement in health.

I would like to thank very sincerely all our committee members for their tireless work during a very difficult year. On behalf of the committee, I wish all of you a merry Christmas and a safe and happy 2022.

Until next time or when we meet 'out on the track'.

Neil Hart-Smith  
President  
0428 857 527 / nhartsmi@bigpond.net .au



## A great new walk in the Grampians

There's now another excellent reason to visit the Grampians National Park (Gariwerd), one of Victoria's most beautiful and spectacular national parks. Opened in November, the Grampians Peaks Trail offers a 13-day world-class walk, covering 160km of the interior of the national park. It is a \$33.2 million project which has been 20 years in the making.

The trail takes walkers through a variety of terrain, starting at Mt Zero in the north and heading south. It passes over the summit of Gar (Mt Difficult), and continues through Halls Gap. Hiking highlights include Redman Bluff, Mount William, Major Mitchell Plateau, Signal Peak, Mt Abrupt and Mt Sturgeon, before the trail reaches Dunkeld in the south.

Interviewed in *The Age* in November, Grampians National Park Chief Ranger, Tammy Schoo, described the atmosphere of part of the walk, just below Mt Difficult: 'The sense of remoteness is quite real,' she said. 'You feel like you're in the middle of nowhere.'

The 13-day walk may sound too challenging, but perhaps we can envisage sampling at least part of this walk. Day walks will be possible. Ms Schoo told *The Age*: 'It's really different, depending on the sections you walk. It can cater for different skills and abilities.'

## Tracknotes

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## Our midweek walks

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# A lot to learn about the Abbotsford Convent

### JULIE WALPOLE

Fifteen members were finally able to meet for this walk, on Wednesday 17 November. It was the club's first midweek walk since June due to COVID lockdowns. We were very lucky to have a beautiful sunny day after lots of cold, wet and windy weather.

We set off from Dickinson Reserve Playground, Kew, and followed Andrews Reserve Trail, an unpaved bush path along the northern bank of the Yarra River. The contrast with the industrial and residential buildings on the opposite bank is stark. At Collins Bridge, we crossed the river and continued past the Collingwood Children's Farm to the convent entrance.



*Setting off, led by Jenny Stewardson and Julie Walpole*



*Walking in the wilderness next to the Yarra*

After the obligatory check-in we explored the site, following the self-guided Social History Tour route and descriptions provided on the convent's website. Abbotsford Convent is now Australia's largest multi-arts precinct, but the site on a bend in the Yarra River has a long and diverse history.

The route, 1.1km in length, has 18 stops along the way, each of which describes an aspect of social history of the site, from its use as a meeting point for the Kulin nation, to its time as a closed monastery run by the Good Shepherd Sisters, and how it was saved from developers to become the leading arts, culture and education precinct it is today. The tour takes about an hour.



*The imposing facade of Abbotsford Convent*

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# Our midweek walks

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After lunch within the convent walls, we continued along the river, crossing over the Johnston Street Bridge, and walked down to the lookout overlooking Dights Falls, then past the site of the old pumping station (1891-1964), which supplied water for much of Melbourne in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Unfortunately, heavy rains had washed away a section of the path along the river bank so we had to finish the walk via Yarra Boulevard, but we did enjoy some wonderful views of the convent and Melbourne city along the way. It was a very enjoyable, sociable and educational way to spend the day.

The Social History Tour and the Ngulu-nganjin (Our Voice) Tour, which shares the history and heritage of the precinct's traditional owners can be found at: <https://abbotsfordconvent.com.au/tours/>



*Lunch within the convent walls*

## Did you know?

In 1835 John Batman signed a treaty at Abbotsford with the local Wurundjeri tribe for 600,000 hectares which was the only treaty made between Europeans and an Australian Indigenous group. This land was subdivided and sold as 'Gentleman Farmlets', one of which gave the suburb Abbotsford its name.

Another gentleman farmer was Edward Curr, a Member for Melbourne in the NSW Council. He led a campaign to separate the Port Philip District from the colony of New South Wales and the proclamation of Victoria as a new colony.

The gold rush left many women and children in poverty, and four Irish Good Shepherd nuns were brought to Melbourne in 1863 to support women and girls in need. When the convent was built in 1901, it was the largest charitable institution in the Southern Hemisphere. It was self-sustaining, and the site produced enough fruit, vegetables, meat and milk to feed more than 1000 women and children living within the walls. Income to buy what could not be grown or made onsite was generated through lace-making and commercial laundry services.

The convent was sold to the state in 1975, and was used by the School of Early Childhood Development and the Lincoln Institute until 1997.

In 1997, a major property developer won the tender to purchase the land, and proposed the construction of 289 apartments and the demolition of many heritage buildings. Shocked local residents formed the Abbotsford Convent Coalition, and led the largest community campaign of its kind in Australian history. The campaign lasted seven years, and in 2004 won the fight to save the convent from commercial development.



*The Melbourne skyline, viewed from Yarra Boulevard*

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# Our weekend walks

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## At last – a bushwalk, after such a long lockdown

### PAM MCLEOD

On Sunday 7 November, 15 walkers gathered at a car park on Boneo Road to walk the Cape Schanck leg of the Two Bays Walking Track. We were pleased to welcome Anne Hewett, a new member, and Libby and Alex Marshall, who have rejoined the club after a few years' absence.

After heavy rain and thunderstorms the previous night, the weather on the day was perfect – blue sky and sunshine!

The beginning of the walk was a good foot track along the slopes high above the west bank of Main Creek, passing through stands of coastal banksias. The track contoured along and there were good views of basalt cliffs around Bushrangers Bay. Here we made a side trip, descending to the beach area for morning tea. A large rock stack known as the Elephant is just off a small point at the southern end of the beach.

After the detour we continued walking west along the clifftop, at first to nearby Burrabong Creek, which we crossed on a footbridge. High points gave broad views of the coastal cliffs.



*Alex and Libby Marshall, Laurine Symington and Jan Ward*

Nearer Cape Schanck lighthouse there is an excellent lookout with wonderful views of Bushrangers Bay and Cape Schanck. Further on at another lookout area we had our lunch break.

We then retraced our walk back, omitting the beach side trip. A highlight was the sighting of three echidnas along the way.

It was a most enjoyable 11km walk, with a few ups and downs and some flights of steps, but not too difficult for our first walk since July.

*Lunch was at Cape Schanck*

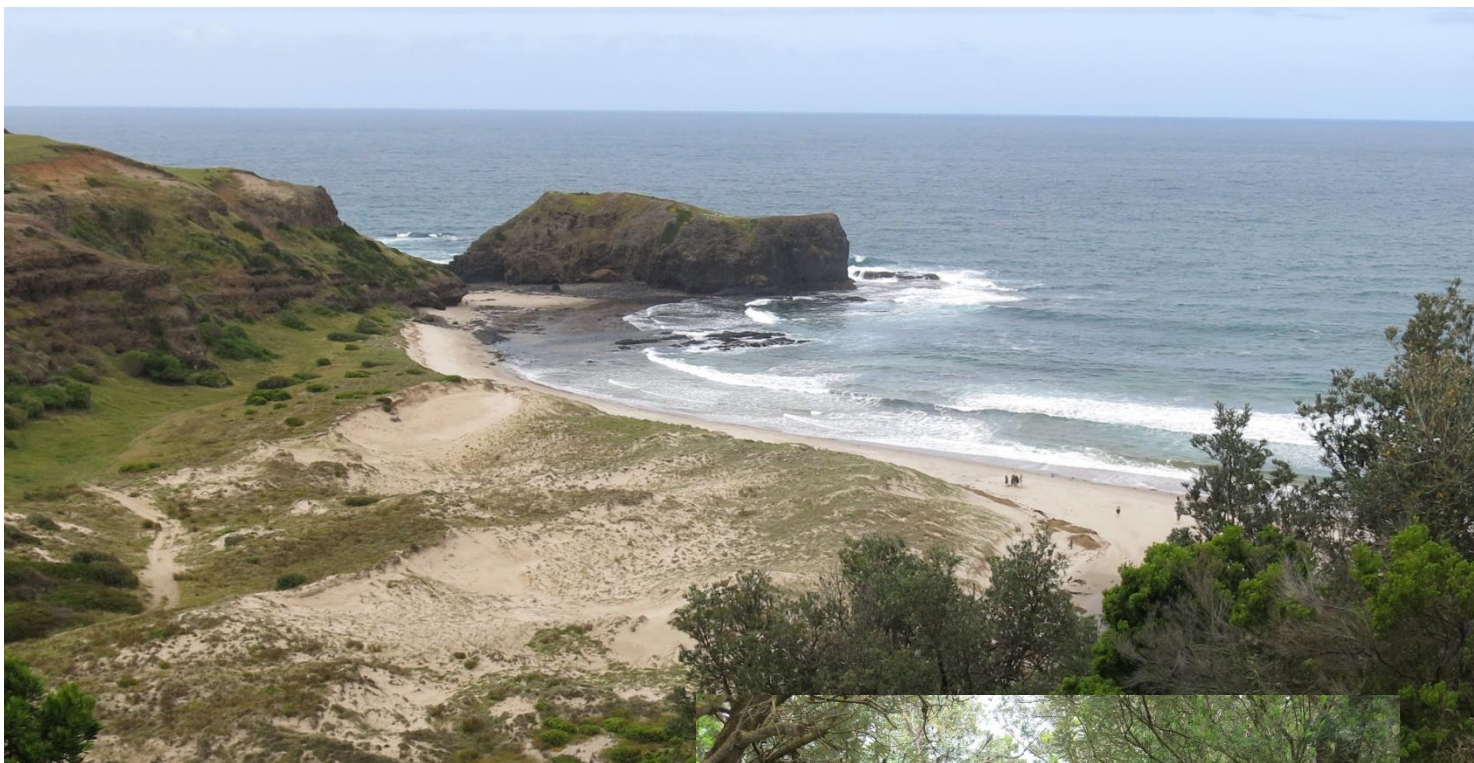


*Posing after morning tea at Bushrangers Bay*

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# Our weekend walks

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*Bushrangers Bay*

*On the return journey to Boneo Road*

*The coastal scenery was magnificent*



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# Our locked walks

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## Locked down, but not locked up

Although on the surface it appeared that people were out cycling, jogging and walking during coronavirus lockdowns – much more, it seemed than in 'normal' times – a study taken during the 2020 lockdown suggested that 44 per

cent of Australians actually did *less* physical activity during the lockdown than before it. But it seems that was not the case with our very active members – not during the 2021 lockdowns at least. Here are four good examples.

### The Stanleys out-walk 'Karen of Brighton'



*Graham and Sue at Beechworth in 2018*

While the much-publicised 'Karen of Brighton' claims to have walked every street in Brighton, the Stanleys have gone much further! Our two intrepid club members have walked every street in Brighton, Brighton East, Hampton and most of Sandringham.

During the house arrest, (or as some call it, the lockdowns) Graham and Sue would drive the legal five or 10 kilometres (depending on what rules Dan imposed at the time), park the car and then walk a set of streets determined by Sue.

Sue, as organised as ever, had printed off the relevant maps out of the Melway to work out where to walk on each outing. When we completed each walk, on returning home, Sue would colour in the map to chart our progress.

That effort leaves our Karen from Brighton for dead!  
**GRAHAM and SUE STANLEY**

### A supermarket crawl



*Laurine and Brian on a shopping trek*

When the 5km radius was initially announced, the first thing I did was check where I could ride my bike. It was quite good, as the Main Yarra Trail, the Anniversary Trail and the Ferndale Track were along the edges of my boundary, as well as the MCG and the Botanic Gardens when they were open.

Walking with different friends on different days in different directions was good, but I did feel my husband was not walking much. But we did need to go to the supermarket as we needed to eat, and essential shopping was allowed. We have a choice of supermarkets nearby from across the road to about 3.5km distant. So we started discovering the supermarkets within our 5km radius: East Hawthorn via the Kooyong Common, Victoria Gardens via the Burnley Parklands, Camberwell via Fritsch Holzer Park, all with a tram available if you felt tired or it started to rain. And if you shop every day you don't need to buy much, so you can carry it home!

**LAURINE SYMINGTON**

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### Encountering a camel on the Tan

Each day in lockdown I went for a walk either around Fawkner Park or the Tan.

On one occasion around the Tan I was joined by a camel!

**VALMA ANGLISS**



*Valma Angliss*



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# Our locked walks

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## Bushwalking locally, with a book as a guide

While sorting through old books during the 2020 lockdown, we came across a booklet entitled Sixteen walks to take around Boroondara, produced by the Boroondara Council in 1998. They ranged from 3.5 to 7km with varying degrees of difficulty, and all were presented with a good trail guide map and points of interest.

Over time we did many of these walks and discovered previously unknown parks and reserves, admired historic buildings and learnt much history of the area.



Number 88

One good example was the Scotch Hill Walk – an easy walk of 4.5km. The walk started from the carpark behind the Hawthorn Library (and former Hawthorn Town Hall), and headed west down Wattle Road (1853), once known as German Paddock because of German settlers living there from the early 1850s.

Number 88 was reputed to be the toll house for settlers wanting to reach the nearby Yarra River.

A path at the end of Power Avenue leads down to one of Boroondara's prettiest parks - Morag Road Reserve.

We walked through the Wurundjeri garden down to views of the Yarra, and followed a path along the riverbank and behind Leonda Reception Centre. This led to Fairview

Park, running alongside the river. From here we went along Callantina Road past the Scotch Junior School.

Our tour took us along Kooyongkoot Road, Violet Grove, and a track through charming little Scullin Park and the Urquhart Estate – a 1920 subdivision of 1880s Chinese market gardens.

From Swinburne Ave we made our way back to the start. A great walk!

**PAM MCLEOD**



Leonda Landing



Morag Road Reserve



Fairview Park

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# A weekend walk from 2010

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## Worth getting out of bed for

CHRISTINE MOSS



Sunday 20 June 2010 – midwinter, cold and misty with showers predicted. A medium to hard 13km walk in the Werribee Gorge State Park early in the morning. Not exactly conducive to crawling out from a warm bed is it?

But rise we did, and 23 members managed to arrive on time at Meikles Point picnic area at 10am to commence the 9km circuit walk.

Werribee Gorge retains a wild, rugged natural beauty. The 575 hectare park protects native flora and fauna, offers spectacular views and displays 500 million years of geological history.



*Harvey Liebmann and Paul Eager*

After much huffing and puffing we ascended the first steep hill, sighting a shy kangaroo en route. From then on the walk was not so strenuous, and we managed to enjoy the many wonderful views from different lookouts. We stopped to explore the site of the first homestead in the area belonging to the Hanson family – no relation apparently to our mad Magpie supporter, Ian (and spelt a little differently).

Further into the bush, Neil Hart-Smith found a lovely dragonfly with wings encrusted with diamond-like raindrops and then we came across a feral sheep: a huge, woolly beast that had apparently been on the run for the last two or three years from a nearby farm, and very definitely in need of a 'click' with the shears.

After completing the circuit walk we lunched in the Meikles Point picnic area, and then headed



*Val Hempenstall and Bee Moignard*

off again (it was too cold to sit for long) on the 4km river walk. This pretty walk follows the old aqueduct upstream to a point where walkers need to climb around the base of a cliff. A wire rope attached to the rock wall assists navigation of this section of the track for those wanting to continue further on.

However we didn't attempt this section, as time and weather were against us. It was raining heavily, and it took all our efforts to stay upright and not slip in the large, muddy puddles.

Our day ended very pleasantly by driving off to Bacchus Marsh to enjoy a delicious artery-clogging afternoon tea at the Jolly Miller Bakery. Our thanks must go to David Ashton for his usual meticulous planning of this interesting walk, which despite the inclement weather was well worth climbing out of our beds for.



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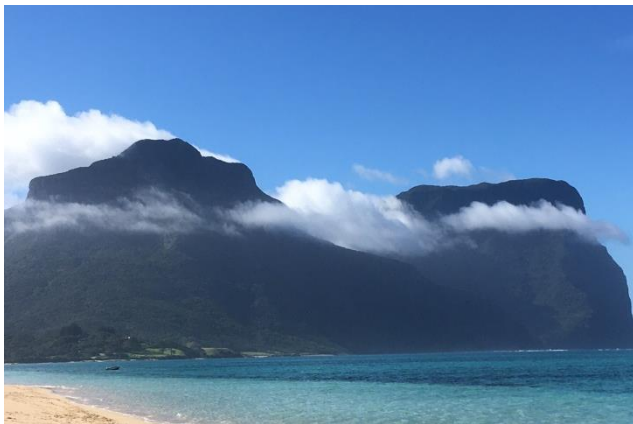
# Sonia's island walks

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## Post lockdown escape!

### SONIA GILDERDALE

After many cancelled holidays, a trip to Lord Howe Island with my son, Michael, his partner, Renee, and two children, Erin (9) and Liam (7), had serendipitously been booked for a week coinciding with the NSW border opening. It felt strange to be venturing out of the Melbourne metropolitan area let alone catching a plane to an idyllic sub-tropical island. What to pack? What phone apps or documents were required? Everything seemed unfamiliar.



*Sonia and her son, Michael, take a breather during a walk on Lord Howe Island*

transport as the saddle was incredibly uncomfortable, but it served a purpose to get to the start of the walks, most of which were extremely steep. It was rather galling that the 7-year-old bounded up the track while I proceeded slowly with frequent stops to catch my breath. However, I got there in the end, and the views were spectacular and made the effort worthwhile. Plus, there was the reward of a swim in warm water at one of the many beaches after all the hard work.

Arrival at the airport was strange. It wasn't the bustling place of old, but a largely empty cavernous space. Arriving at the tiny island airport felt surreal as well, with warm weather and sunshine providing a stark contrast to the chilly grey Melbourne we had left. It was almost as if the previous 20 months had not happened. The only reminder of the pandemic was that masks were required in the two small food shops, and this seemed somewhat incongruous. We hired bikes to get around, not my favourite form of



The scenery is spectacular; blue water with coral reefs containing tropical fish and turtles, lush jungle vegetation, and dramatic views everywhere. Everything is expensive, as food all has to be brought in, but after not having had a holiday for a long time nobody cared. Leaving the paradise behind and returning to reality, while inevitable, was still a shock to the system.

# The club's 2022 program

The dates for our 2022 walks are final, but the location of nominated walks may need to be changed.

2022	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Feature	Walk (Proposed)	Leader
Public Hol.										
New Year						1	2	New Year		
Jan	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Jan	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
Jan	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		Fitzroy Gardens	L Symington
Australia Day	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
Feb	31	1	2	3	4	5	6			
Feb	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		***	***
Feb	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Valentine's Day		
Feb	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		Annivers Rail Trail	J Walpole
Mar	28	1	2	3	4	5	6			
Mar	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
Labour Day	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		Phillip Is	N Hart-Smith
Mar	21	22	23	24	25	26	27			
Mar	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	Day save ends	Brunswick	C Moss
Apr	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		Mt Macedon	R&T Morris
Easter	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Easter		
Easter	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	Easter	Fairfield	S Gilderdale
Anzac Day	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	Anzac Day		
May	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Mother's Day		
May	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		***	***
May	16	17	18	19	20	21	22			
May	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		Kew	C Dynon
May	30	31	1	2	3	4	5		***	***
Queen's B'day	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
Jun	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		Docklands	I Hansen
Jun	20	21	22	23	24	25	26			
Jun	27	28	29	30	1	2	3			
Jul	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
Jul	11	12	13	14	15	16	17			
Jul	18	19	20	21	22	23	24			
Jul	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
Aug	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
Aug	8	9	10	11	12	13	14			
Aug	15	16	17	18	19	20	21			
Aug	22	23	24	25	26	27	28			
Aug	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	Father's Day		
Sep	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
Sep	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
Sep	19	20	21	22	23	24	25			
Sep	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	Day save start		
Oct	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		Boneo Park	M Ashton
Oct	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
Oct	17	18	19	20	21	22	23			
Oct	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
Cup Day	31	1	2	3	4	5	6			
Nov	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Rememb Day		
Nov	14	15	16	17	18	19	20			
Nov	21	22	23	24	25	26	27			
Nov	28	29	30	1	2	3	4			
Dec	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
Dec	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
Dec	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Christmas		
Christmas	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	New Year		

31 = School Holidays      = Bushwalks

07-Dec-21