



OLD SCOTCH BUSHWALKING CLUB

Tracknotes

December 2025

Number 114

OLD SCOTCH
BUSHWALKING CLUB

Visit the Bushwalking Club's page on: www.oscanet.com.au.
Click on 'Clubs and Societies', then 'Recreational Clubs'.

The bushwalker

Sue Stanley took this photo of the bushwalker statue, a bronze sculpture by local artist and sculptor Bruno Torfs. It's located outside the tourist centre in Marysville, and serves as a landmark and a preview of the whimsical and imaginative sculptures found in Bruno's Art and Sculpture Garden, which some of our members visited after the shorter Saturday walk during our weekend in Marysville in November.

See our coverage of the weekend starting on page 9 of this issue.



To all our members ...

**A very merry Christmas and
a happy and safe
new year of walking**

**from
President Murray Hooper**



and the club committee

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Ten questions – Pam McLeod

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

Norrie and I joined in 2000, but our first activity was a weekend staying at Bright and walking at Mount Buffalo in 2001.

How did you find out about the club?

Our friends Chris and Layton Moss told us about it. They had just joined and knew we liked bushwalking.

What are your links with Scotch College?

Since the 1880s the McLeod sons have attended Scotch. Norrie and his brother Ian were there, and our two sons, John and Philip, were sixth generation Scotch boys.

What inspired you to take up bushwalking?

When our boys were at uni we spent several holidays where we enjoyed bushwalking. The first time we stayed at Wilsons Prom for a week. Every day we chose a longer walk. The final day we walked to Sealers Cove and back. I remember that we had no proper hiking shoes or backpacks – I wore Dunlop Volley tennis shoes!

Is there a walk within Australia or overseas you've always wanted to tackle?

I think that I have now achieved most of my aims. I have done some wonderful walks in France and Italy, and amazing hiking in Tasmania, the Kimberleys and other areas of Australia.

What is your dream holiday in Australia or overseas?

In January every year we always go to Sandy Point (near Wilsons Prom) to enjoy the surf and sun, and to walk and relax. We have been repeating this for 30 years – so it must be my dream holiday!

Overseas, maybe France (again) next year, or a trip to Ireland.

What are your hobbies and interests, other than bushwalking?

I love music. I play the piano at two aged care homes as a volunteer, and also play the organ at St Oswald's (locum) and sing in the church choir.

I have been a member of a book club for almost 50 years, learn French at U3A, do Pilates, am a



Pam (right) pictured with Di Hooper and Margaret Moore on Mount Hoddle during a weekend of walks in March 2020.

member of the Association of Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (ADFAS) and the National Gallery of Victoria. I suffer over the gardening, but enjoy going to MSO concerts and the 'Wilma and Friends' chamber music recitals at Scotch – which I highly recommend.

What was your occupation?

I am a retired pharmacist.

What football team do you barrack for?

I don't barrack for any team, but I always watch the Grand Final on the tele. I admire the players' athleticism but dislike the rough contact which, to me, often seems excessive.

What is your favourite restaurant?

Pacific Seafood and BBQ House in Toorak Road, South Yarra has excellent Chinese food. It is always crowded and noisy, and the service is fast. Locally, Fiorelli (opposite the Rivoli) has good traditional Italian fare.





President's Tree-Stump



Our seventh visit to Marysville proved to be yet another success. Many thanks go to Norrie and Pam for their organisational skills and for Pam's quiz. Many thanks also go to Laurine for leading the Michaeldene walk and the afternoon gallery/garden sculpture visit.

Wishing everyone a merry Christmas and a happy and HEALTHY walk-filled New Year.

Next year's weekends were to be at Bright and Anglesea, but the accommodation we had previously used at Bright no longer appealed, so we are returning to Foster in March. Anglesea will be in October.

Murray Hooper

President
0418 742 325

Julie tells me she has walk leaders for all our midweek walks next year. Thanks to all who put their hands up. We can't do it without you.

40 years on – try 80!

GRAHAM STANLEY

One of Scotch's school songs starts '40 years on...' and compares how we were when we were at Scotch with what we are like 40 years on – 'shorter in breath, as in memory long', etc.



Well how about 80 years on from our birth! At the recent Marysville weekend, of the 32 bushwalkers present, 10 are over 80 – and still walking. What a great achievement. And, of course, there may well be several other members of our club who are over 80, but were not on the walk and were not counted.

Walking has always been one of the greatest ways to exercise and stay young. Clearly, we all should keep walking for as long as we can.

To plagiarise George Bernard Shaw: 'You don't give up bushwalking because you grow old – you grow old because you give up bushwalking'.



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Our midweek walks

Along the Scotchman's Creek Trail from East Malvern to Mount Waverley

ELIZABETH RAND

With further disruptions to rail services on the Hurstbridge line, unfortunately our planned October walk in Eltham had to be postponed, being replaced at the last moment with our November walk.

Nine walkers met at the East Malvern station on Wednesday 8 October for a relatively flat, mostly sealed, 9.5km walk to Mount Waverley via the Scotchman's Creek Trail. While the skies were overcast as we set off, the sun soon came out for a perfect day out.

Our walk started by following the trail alongside the Monash Freeway towards Chadstone. After crossing the pedestrian overpass at Warrigal Road, we stopped alongside the Holmesglen TAFE to marvel at the huge tunnel borer being used in the extensive Metro tunnel works.



The walkers – Liz Rand took the photo.

before reaching the Huntingdale Wetlands. Apart from providing recreation for the local community and habitat for native plants, animals and birdlife, the wetlands also provide a system to filter pollutants and litter from stormwater, as part of a program run by Melbourne Water to help clean our waterways as they lead to the bay. It was a convenient and pleasant spot for our group to stop for a short break and a snack with a background frog chorus.

Continuing on, the bushland surrounding the trail broadens out, with plenty of wildflowers and lovely views along the creek. On reaching Waverley Road the trail continues on to Jells Park; however we turned off into the Valley Reserve, Mount Waverley – a large conservation area with one of the last remaining stands of indigenous vegetation.

A short walk on bush trails led us to a wonderful bushland picnic area where we stopped for a pleasant lunch. There were plenty of picnic tables and toilet facilities as well as an impressive adventure playground. From here it was a short walk to the Mount Waverley shopping centre for a well-earned coffee at one of the many cafes, and then our return train trip to East Malvern.



Crossing Scotchman's Creek, we stopped to learn more about the southern water skink project.

Here the trail joins Scotchmans Creek, which is the habitat of the southern water skinks (*Eulamprus tympanum*), with information signs telling their story. The skinks have been struggling to survive the effects of urbanisation. Monash Council and local residents have organised the 'Skink Link Project' to protect the skinks and help bring them back to the area through habitat improvement activities. Sadly, we didn't spot any (skinks) though, during our walk.

The trail meanders through natural bushland, passing the Oakleigh Recreation Centre and public golf course

Our lunch spot at the Valley Reserve had an impressive nature themed playground. The group was particularly taken with this creative climbing frame.



Our midweek walks

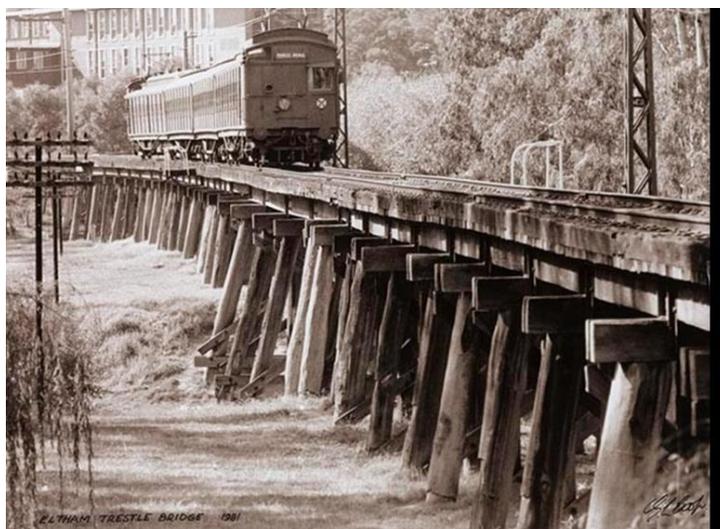
Plenty of history in our Little Eltham Heritage Walk

JULIE WALPOLE

This walk, on Thursday 20 November, was based on a pamphlet produced by the Nillumbik Shire Council and the Eltham District Historical Society, which is available from the Eltham Library. It takes in the area historically known as Little Eltham, and many historical and culturally significant sites are within easy reach of Main Road, Eltham.

The land was subdivided into residential and small farming lots in the 1850s, and the rush to the Caledonia goldfields boosted the population. In 1902, the railway came to Eltham. The station was about a kilometre north of the town centre and businesses moved closer to the station.

In 1920, Eltham was described as a horticultural, dairying and grazing district near the Yarra River, with a telegraph station, post and money order office, state



Railway Trestle Bridge (1902)

artist community. This is reflected in the environmental building movement, particularly in the use of mud bricks.

On 20 November, nine club members arrived by train or car to take part in the walk, and we set off down Main Road. The oldest buildings still standing included Shillinglaw Cottage (c.1859), now a café, the Uniting Church (1880), the former CBA bank (1874), with bullet holes, St Margaret's Church (1861), Stebbing Cottage (c.1861), the Eltham Hotel, originally built in 1854 but replaced in 1925, the Eltham Courthouse (1860), the Police Lock-up (1880s), the Police Residence (1859), Jarold Cottage (1863) and the Bootmaker's Shop (1930), the Eltham Primary School (1855/1875) and the Railway Trestle Bridge (1902), the only timber trestle bridge still in use in the Melbourne railway network.

After viewing these buildings and seeing many other interesting places along Main Road we veered onto the Diamond Creek Trail where we stopped for lunch, then continued back to Shillinglaw Café for coffee before making our way home. We all had a pleasant and interesting day out.



Former CBA Bank (1874) with bullet holes from a hold-up in 1949

school, bank, four churches, two hotels and a police station. Fruit-growing and dairying were the main industries and the population was 400.

Montsalvat was established in the 1930s and Eltham became well known for its



Statue of Alan Marshall, author of I Can Jump Puddles, outside the Eltham Library

Our weekend walks

Historic Kyneton – a walk through some of Victoria’s rich history

GRAHAM AND SUE STANLEY

Although only 87km from Melbourne, Kyneton is a step back into Victoria’s history. Today, Kyneton’s population is about 5200 (ABS figures for 2024/25), but in 1836, when the first European, Major Thomas Mitchell, travelled through the area, Kyneton did not exist.

But since the early 1830s, Kyneton and the surrounding area have ticked off a number of ‘firsts’. The first squatter, Charles Hotson Ebdon, was the first to establish a sheep station north of the Dividing Ranges. Between the 1850s and 1890s, Kyneton experienced tremendous growth, with the establishment of substantial stores, hotels, stately homes and churches along with a hospital, railway station and schools.

The discovery of gold in Castlemaine and Bendigo in 1851, and the subsequent gold rush to those districts, saw Kyneton’s population jump from 300 in March 1852 to 2000 in October in the same year. Although not a gold town, Kyneton was the gateway to the goldfields, with stores and businesses providing food, services, supplies and commerce for those moving to and from the goldfields.



Kyneton Mechanics’ Institute

Kyneton became the chief agricultural town of the state, and the large bluestone flour mills still standing bear witness to its importance as a wheat-growing centre. Hotels were established, and Cobb & Co used the bigger ones as depots.

Kyneton’s first post office, a slab hut in Ebdon Street near Post Office Creek, commenced operating unofficially in 1849. During the 1850s the post office moved to Piper Street, then the principal street. The current post office was built in 1870-71. Bluestone was plentiful nearby, and it was quarried for many of Kyneton’s impressive private homes and public structures.

Ten members of our club ventured to Kyneton on Sunday 21 September, meeting by the banks of the Campaspe

Sue and Jenny stand among the daffodils. The Kyneton Daffodil and Arts Festival took place a couple of weeks before our bushwalk.



House at the corner of Powlett and Simpson Streets in Kyneton

River and strolling 3.5km to the Kyneton racecourse, before heading through several of the historic streets in the town.

The first stop was **The Lawns**, one of Australia’s oldest Victorian manor houses, built in 1871 for local brewer, Robert Cock. Next stop was **Meadowbank**, built in 1858 by Alexander Rodger, a stonemason who had worked on the English Houses of Parliament. The home remained in the Rodger family for 97 years.

One of the town’s early industrial buildings was the **Kyneton and District Co-op Butter Factory**, which began as a flour mill. Next was **College House**, an Italianate treasure built in 1857 by renowned architect, Andrea Stombuco. It was the temporary home of a young future Prime Minister, Alfred Deakin.

After lunch in the Sculpture Park rotunda, we visited **The Pines**, built by the famous Dalgety family in 1854. Then on to the **Old Bank of New South Wales** (1854), the oldest bank building in Victoria, now the town’s museum. Further along Piper Street, is the **Old Church of England Rectory** (1850), the oldest building still standing in Kyneton, and one of a few existing pre-gold rush buildings in Victoria.



Our weekend walks

Historic Kyneton

St Paul's Church of England is one of Victoria's oldest substantial churches to include a tower, and it is unusually large for a country church. Designed by local architect, William Douglas, the church is very similar to the first St Paul's Cathedral in Melbourne, demolished in 1880. The organ from St Paul's Melbourne was installed at St Paul's in Kyneton in 1889.

The history of the **Old Kyneton Police Station** dates from the 1850s, with the 1860s bluestone lock-up and the 1882 red brick police station remaining today. The lock-up is historically significant for briefly holding Ned Kelly in 1870.

Heritage-listed **Kyneton Courthouse** is the earliest surviving courthouse in Victoria. Built in the Free Classical style, the original building was completed in 1857. Ned Kelly appeared there as a teenager in the mid-1870s for robbery under arms.

We next moved on to **Carn Brae**. The rear of this house was built in 1854 as a refreshment house, coffee shop and pie stall, with the bluestone front section constructed in 1866 to the design of Andrea Stombuco.

Next was **Catherineville**, a magnificent bluestone Italianate-style home constructed in 1872 by Shaw and Haig to the designs of architect William Pritchard. In the 1880s a verandah was added to the front, and two projecting wings were added at the rear.

Then we moved on to **Inverugie**, built in 1858 for Dr Henry Geary, the town's prominent surgeon and cricket team captain. It is notable for the display of the stonemasons' skills in the construction of the rubble and dressed bluestone walling of the 1858 section, and

the unusual use of this material in the bungalow style of its 1920s wing.

Kyneton Primary School, built around 1855, is one of the oldest schools in Victoria, and was originally the National School. The Old Kyneton Primary School Project has restored the school's heritage bluestone building, creating a space for art, creativity and community through a \$12 million investment from the state government.

The **Kyneton Mechanics' Institute**, established in 1854, was designed by Andrea Stombuco and completed in 1858 as a centre for education and culture. In 1859 it was the birthplace of the Kyneton Mounted Rifles, later to



St Paul's Church of England: unusually large for a country church

become the Australian Light Horse Brigade. The building has survived three fires and three rebuilds, with the current 1877 bluestone structure featuring classical elements.

Next stop, **Moorville**, a gracious Edwardian country house, built in 1902 by Mrs Moore Bell and considered one of Kyneton's most stately homes.



The footbridge may have been closed – but that didn't prevent our walkers from crossing it

Finally we reached the **Kyneton Botanic Gardens** (1858), one of Victoria's earliest regional botanic gardens. The gardens were designed to test the suitability of various trees and shrubs for Victoria's climate. Many exotic trees and shrubs were supplied by Dr Ferdinand von Mueller of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne.

Thanks to **Ian and Patsy Marks** who helped us do the final trial walk.

English walks

Climbing Mount Everest (x 4) along an English coastal path



A path that was once used by the British Coastguard to walk along, patrolling for smugglers, is now England's longest signposted long-distance footpath, stretching for 1014km from Minehead in Somerset along the Devon and Cornwall coasts to Poole Harbour in Dorset.

Because the Coastguard needed to be able to look down into every bay and cove, the South West Coast Path closely hugs the coast, providing wonderful views for walkers, although rarely providing the most direct path between two points.

It's certainly a challenging path, rising and falling with every river mouth. The total height climbed has been calculated as 35,031 metres – almost four times the height of Mount Everest. Readers of the British Ramblers' *Walk* magazine have twice in a row voted the path as 'Britain's best walking route'.

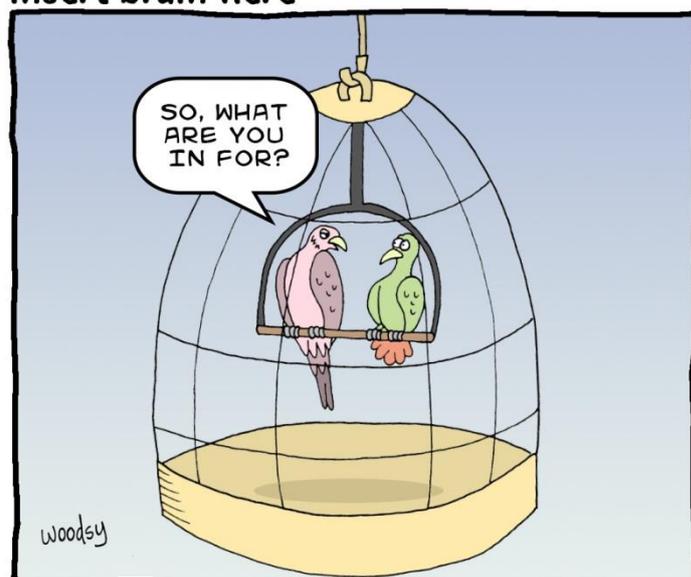
The final section of the path was designated as a National Trail in 1978. Many of the landscapes which the South West Coast Path crosses have special status, either as a national park or one of the heritage coasts. The path passes through two World Heritage Sites: the Dorset and East Devon Coast, known as the Jurassic Coast, was designated in 2001, and the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape in 2007.

The South West Coast Path has inspired numerous authors, including Rudyard Kipling, Daphne du Maurier and Raynor Winn, who wrote the book *The Salt Path* based on her experience walking the path. The path has also been a source of inspiration for other authors, such as Thomas Hardy, Agatha Christie and Simon Armitage. More information about the path: southwestcoastpath.org.uk.



Smugglers, by John Atkinson

insert brain here



by woodsy



"If you're not a good boy, Santa will bring you only educational toys."

Our weekend walks

Marysville meanderings, on a cold but generally fine weekend

We were facing the prospect of cold and wet weather for the second of our weekends away for 2025, at Marysville from 7 to 9 November, with the forecast anticipating single-figure temperatures and plenty of rain. Thirty-two members had booked for the weekend, on this, our seventh visit to Marysville as a club.

Although the 'cold' prediction did prove accurate, the rain largely stayed away – at least during our walks on Saturday.

Our first weekend away in Marysville had been in 1997, during which we stayed at the Cumberland Guest House. At other times we have stayed at the Mountain Lodge Guest House (twice), and this was our third stay at the rebuilt (after the bushfires) El Kanah Retreat. For our latest visit, once accommodation at El Kanah was fully booked, some members stayed elsewhere in Marysville.

Marysville has long since risen resolutely from the ashes and tragedy of Black Saturday, 7 February 2009. It's now hard to find evidence of what occurred, aside from the proliferation of new buildings in the town, and the many blackened tree trunks in the forest.

Members arrived on Friday, and in the evening dined at various places around Marysville. Many took the short walk to the golf club just across the road from El Kanah for a hearty meal.

Saturday dawned cold but fine, and members had a choice of two walks – see below.

Walks over, that night our pre-dinner drinks and evening meal were at El Kanah, after which Pam McLeod ran her traditional trivia quiz, with assistant quizmaster Norrie handing out chocolates to winning teams.

We decided against any Sunday activities in Marysville. Much of the town had been taken over by participants in the Marysville Marathon Festival. Races fortunately didn't start on Saturday until both our walks were virtually over, but on Sunday runners were everywhere, so most of us headed home during the morning, with some heading further afield.

Thanks go to Laurine, Sonia, Murray, Di, Norrie and Pam for their parts in preparing or leading walks, and/or organising our accommodation. It was a memorable weekend, ranking with the best of our weekends away.

**Continued
on Page 10**

El Kanah



*Dinner
Time*

&

*Quiz
Time*



Our weekend walks

Marysville meanderings

Walk no. 1 – the Michaeldene Trail

LAURINE SYMINGTON

After breakfast and much discussion about the forecast, our two walking groups departed for their starting points, while the non-walkers chatted at El Kanah.

A group of 19 walkers met at the start of the Michaeldene Trail, at the junction of Woods Point Road and Lady Talbert Drive, Marysville. After about a 6km stroll on a wide gently rising track via the Wishing Well (complete with leeches, the smallest leeches most of us had ever seen, but all managed to avoid the bites) we arrived at the Trestle Bridge.

Continuing up to the Taggerty River lookout, a rather odd 'lookout' at which we looked out onto the river. There were again a few leeches, but again we escaped from them. The birds were very colourful and the stroll delightful.



Returning to the Trestle Bridge we crossed to the left side of the walk and arrived at our cars just as it was beginning to



drizzle. Meeting up with some of our non-walkers, we went to the Marysville Country Bakery for lunch, and then eight of us adjourned to Bruno's Art and Sculpture Garden. For anyone who has not been there, it was amazing. We highly recommend a visit. The gallery was an introduction to slightly 'different' art, by local artist/sculptor Bruno Torfs, and the sculpture garden was fantastic.

After a delightful stroll in the bush and an experience at the gallery, we all returned to El Kanah for a hot shower followed by pre-dinner drinks and nibbles.

A richly-plumed Australian king parrot at times accompanied Michaeldene Trail walkers.



Cathy and Jenny pictured during the Michaeldene Trail walk.

Some of the intriguing sculptures on display in Bruno's Art and Sculpture Garden, created by Bruno Torfs. The facility was completely destroyed on Black Saturday and rebuilt after the fires.



Our weekend walks

Marysville meanderings

Walk no. 2 – the Wilks Creek Trail

MURRAY HOOPER

Even with the overhanging threat of wet weather and a slippery trail, five energetic walkers elected to join me as we traversed the Wilks Creek catchment, passing through a variety of forest types. There was plenty of evidence of lyrebird activity on the edges of the trail but they were too elusive to be seen.

After a steady climb along the farmland boundary, we came to part of the Bicentennial National Trail (known as the 'BNT'), a 5330km horse trail connecting Healesville (Victoria) to Cooktown (Queensland).

The trail led us across Wilks Creek to the old Anderson Mill site. This timber mill was one of the most productive in the area, even boasting a few shops and a school. Nothing remains today but a small campsite and some horse stockyards used by riders on the BNT.

After a quick lunch and with rain threatening, we started the return journey. Fortunately Sonia had just spent some time putting on her wet weather

jacket and over-pants meaning the rain immediately stopped and the sun broke through.



Wilks Creek Trail walkers inspect lingering evidence of the Black Saturday bushfires.

The return journey took us past the Marysville cemetery where we spent a few minutes looking at the old graves. Life in the late 1800s was not easy. One more rise and it was downhill to the cars and back to El Kanah for a well-earned rest after what turned out to be a very pleasant 12km walk through the bush.

Walker Murray Hooper is seen in a red jacket and grey pants, smiling at the camera. He is standing on a dirt path in a forest, with other hikers visible in the background.

Murray rests during the Wilks Creek Trail walk.

Walkers prepare for possible wet weather during the Wilks Creek Trail walk.



A pause during the Wilks Creek Trail walk.



The club's 2026 program

Public Hol.	2026	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Feature	Walk (Proposed)	Leader
New Year					1	2	3	4	New Year		
	Jan	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
	Jan	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
	Jan	19	20	21	22	23	24	25			
Australia Day	Jan	26	27	28	29	30	31	1			
	Feb	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		***	N Hart-Smith
	Feb	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Valentine's Day		
	Feb	16	17	18	19	20	21	22			
	Feb	23	24	25	26	27	28	1		City Walk	J Walpole
	Mar	2	3	4	5	6	7	8			
Labour Day	Mar	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		Foster	P&N McLeod
	Mar	16	17	18	19	20	21	22			
	Mar	23	24	25	26	27	28	29			
	Apr	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	Day Sav Ends		
Easter	Apr	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	& Easter	***	Liz Rand
	Apr	13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
Anzac Day	Apr	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	Anzac Day	***	D Ashton
	Apr	27	28	29	30	1	2	3			
	May	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Mother's Day		
	May	11	12	13	14	15	16	17			
	May	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		***	R Pugsley
	May	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
	Jun	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
King's B'day	Jun	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		***	
	Jun	15	16	17	18	19	20	21			
	Jun	22	23	24	25	26	27	28			
	Jul	29	30	1	2	3	4	5		***	J&J Isaac
	Jul	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
	Jul	13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
	Jul	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		***	
	Jul	27	28	29	30	31	1	2			
	Aug	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
	Aug	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		***	J Stewardson
	Aug	17	18	19	20	21	22	23			
	Aug	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
	Sep	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	Father's Day		
	Sep	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		***	S Gilderdale
	Sep	14	15	16	17	18	19	20			
	Sep	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		***	W Le Get
	Sep	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	Day Sav		
	Oct	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		Anglesea	M&D Hooper
	Oct	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
	Oct	19	20	21	22	23	24	25			
	Oct	26	27	28	29	30	31	1			
Cup Day	Nov	2	3	4	5	6	7	8			
	Nov	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Rememb Day		
	Nov	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		***	L Symington
	Nov	23	24	25	26	27	28	29			
	Dec	30	1	2	3	4	5	6		***	
	Dec	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
	Dec	14	15	16	17	18	19	20			
Christmas	Dec	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	Christmas		
	Dec	28	29	30	31						

31 = School Holidays = Bushwalks

01-Dec-25