



OLD SCOTCH BUSHWALKING CLUB

Tracknotes

July 2026

Number 116

OLD SCOTCH
BUSHWALKING CLUB

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

Happy Hoddle Mountain Trail walkers



This happy group was photographed during the Hoddle Mountain Trail walk, a relatively short but strenuous walk on the Saturday of our Foster weekend away in March. Led by Murray Hooper, the walk took in a variety of habitats, and included uninterrupted views of Corner Inlet, Wilsons Promontory, Waratah Bay and Tarwin Lower. The full story of our most enjoyable Foster weekend starts on page 8.

Walk and dine – save the date: Sunday 8 November

See page 3 for details of the 2026 Walk and Dine, which includes lunch at Glen Iris restaurant Kerabu.



Richard, Ian, Michele, Jenny and Laurine were photographed during the Maribyrnong River walk on 20 May. Richard's article starts on page 6

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Ten questions – Gaye Jenkins

How long have you been a member?

I only joined the club in March this year, so I am a very new member.

How did you find out about the Club?

My friend, Cathy Wagner, joined last year and she recommended it to me when I said that I also wanted to join a bushwalking group.

What are your links to Scotch College?

I do not have a very close connection, but my three nephews – David, Stephen and Peter Jenkins – attended Scotch in the early 2000s

What inspired you to take up bushwalking?

When I was a young teacher in the Latrobe Valley they often needed additional help for the school hikes so I tagged along. Then I met my future husband and he also enjoyed hiking so it was a good activity we did together, and with other friends.

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

Now that I am retired, and the children are grown, the list seems to keep growing. Later this year I am doing the Hadrian's Wall walk, and next year I would like to do the Kumano Kodo walk in Japan.

Is there a particular holiday you would like to take in Australia or overseas?

I have always dreamt of going to Machu Picchu, but I may have left it too late and my fitness may not be up to the altitude walking!

What are your hobbies and interests, apart from bushwalking?

I love reading and I am a member of two book groups. Two years ago my husband bought me an e-bike, and through the U3A I have become a regular cyclist. I also enjoy knitting and eating.

What was your occupation?

I was a secondary school teacher for 40 years.



Gaye photographed on the Camino trail in Spain

What football team do you barrack for?

I grew up in the Western District, and mainly followed Geelong, but then my husband persuaded me to change, and our family are all passionate Melbourne followers. Living near the MCG as we do now enables us to go to lots of their games. (I probably should have listed 'football' as one of my interests!)

What is your favourite restaurant?

I do not have one particular favourite, but I am certainly enjoying eating out at a variety of places in Melbourne.





President's Tree-Stump

President's Tree-Stump has been held over to the next edition of *Tracknotes*.



Walk and Dine 2026 save the date: Sunday 8 November



Our traditional 'Walk and Dine' is changing. Traditionally it's a walk followed by an evening meal on a Sunday in December. The 2026 version will be a walk followed by lunch at Kerabu Restaurant in Glen Iris on **Sunday 8 November**. Please note the date in your diary.

Kerabu is described as 'a modern Asian restaurant that serves mainly Malaysian cuisine, but with some other Asian influences'. Club members who have dined at Kerabu say the food is delicious.

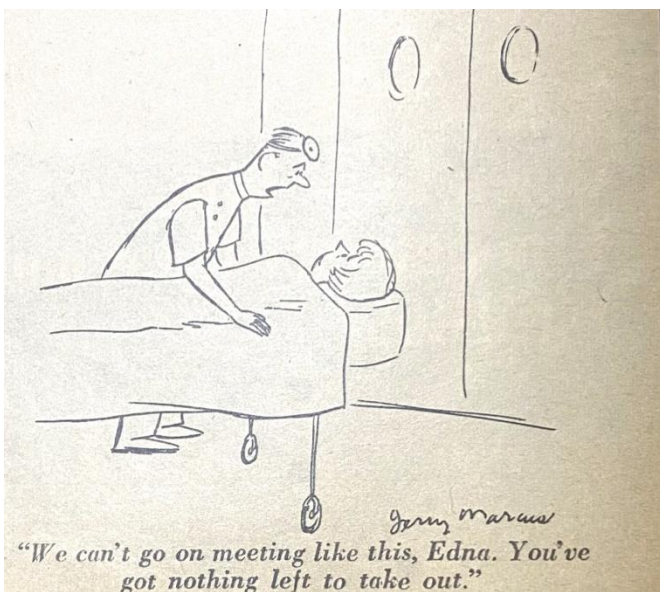
The walk will be a short but beautiful one: around Central Park and Hedgeley Dene Gardens, which are near Kerabu.

Murray re-elected to top job

Murray Hooper was re-elected club President at the club's annual general meeting, held at the Prom Country Lodge on 28 March during our weekend of walks.

Micky Ashton was elected Secretary after Laurine Symington did not seek re-election to the position. Committee members re-elected were Neil Hart-Smith (Vice President), Ian Hansen (Treasurer), Norrie McLeod (Membership Manager), and Jenny Stewardson, Julie Walpole and David Ashton (general committee members).

Murray thanked the committee for their support, and he also thanked walk leaders for performing their important task. Murray and outgoing Secretary Laurine received the meeting's thanks for their fine work for the club over the past year.



Our midweek walks

History, nature and art in Mordialloc

ELIZABETH RAND

Despite a forecast of heavy rain, six intrepid members braved our midweek walk in Mordialloc on 9 April. As luck would have it, we enjoyed a very pleasant walk with fine sunny weather, until the last couple of minutes as we headed back to the railway station.

Commencing our walk at the Mordialloc railway station we stopped at various locations to learn more about the history of the area. The station at Mordialloc opened in 1881, bringing with it more visitors to take in the beautiful seaside, as well as increasing residential and commercial developments. The beach features a historic rotunda, pier and 'promenade', funded by huge carnivals that ran on the foreshore back in the early days.



An idyllic scene along Mordialloc Creek

area home well before European settlement, and we learned more about them as we walked through Attenborough Park (named after another local identity, not Sir David). The area was an abundant source of food for the Boon Wurrung people as well as a source of material for shelters, canoes and food containers.

Leaving town, we headed south along Mordialloc Creek, with lovely bush views all the way through to the Edithvale Seaford Wetlands. In 2001 they were listed as a 'Wetland of International Importance under the RAMSAR conventions'. It is estimated that at any one time up to 7000 birds make the area their home, although we did not spot many on our visit due to recent drier conditions. It was nevertheless a pleasant spot to take a break for lunch.

Returning back along the trail we deviated to the site of the Epsom Racecourse, once considered one of the best private racecourses in the Southern Hemisphere. We were surprised to learn that while it closed in 1938 it was only demolished in 1998.



Walking next to Mordialloc Creek

We then walked along the creek where many small fishing boats are moored, giving the impression you could be in a small country fishing village. The area is famous for Pompei's landing where the Pompei family still build boats to this day, after moving to the area from Sicily in 1912.

Jack Pompei (known as 'Mr Mordialloc') was a local identity with the main bridge named after him. The main street was closed for his funeral procession in 2009.

Indigenous people called the



Street sculpture in Mordialloc commemorating local boat-builders

Our midweek walks



The group at a lookout point over the Edithvale Seaford Wetlands

Mordialloc was home to many horse trainers and their stables, with the sandy soil and proximity to the beach being considered very beneficial. Many hotels and street names reflect this history to this day.



Street art in the Mordialloc Industrial Estate

Finishing our walk, we headed to the Mordialloc Industrial Estate where the annual Wall to Wall Street Art Festival is held, and marvelled at the wonderful works by artists such as Adnate, D'vate, Smug and Zoer to name a few. A short walk back to the station finished off a lovely day.



This tower near the Mordialloc station once held water for steam trains

Ian's Bayside Bushwalking Club life membership

Congratulations to our club member Ian Marchment, who was recently awarded life membership of the Bayside Bushwalking Club (BBC).

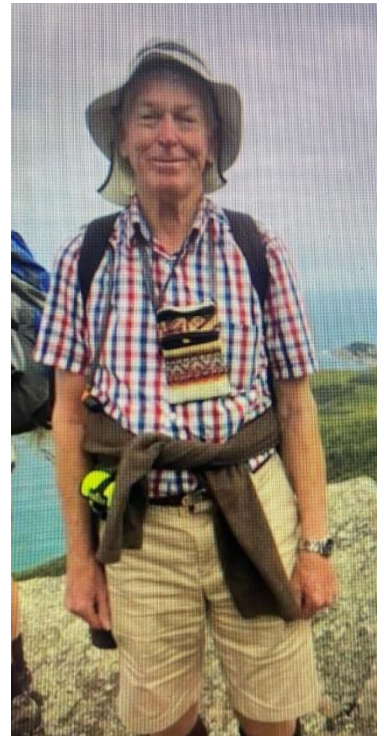
Ian's honour is well deserved. For more than 20 years he has organised 40 base camps for the BBC, ranging from seven to 10 or 16 days in duration.

Ian says being a base camp leader for 20 years has provided him with much enjoyment, organising base camps in 15 different locations around Australia. 'Through BBC I've also had the opportunity to travel overseas and experience the Coast to Coast Walk in the UK, numerous walks in New Zealand, the Camino and bike riding in France and snow skiing in Europe.'

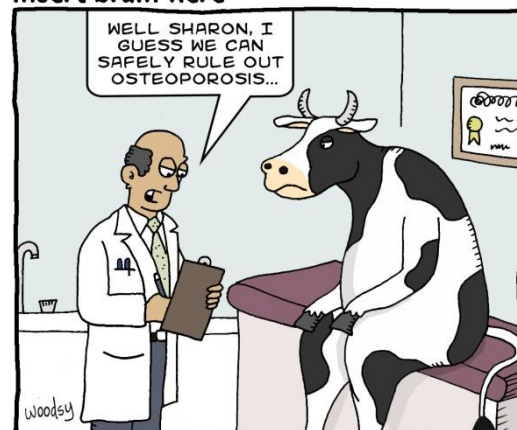
For our club, Ian says he recalls running our club's Mount Buller weekend with his son, Trent, as chef for the weekend in March 2002.

Among other walks he has led, Ian ran the Tarra-Bulga base camp weekend for our club in March 2003, with its attendant rain and leeches. In March 2006 Ian organised a combined Old Scotch Bushwalking Club/BBC weekend of walks at Mount Hotham, including a walk to Mount Feathertop.

He says: 'I have loved every minute of my walking journey.'



insert brain here



by woodsy

Our midweek walks

Along the Maribyrnong River

RICHARD PUGSLEY

On 20 May in pleasant sunshine, a group of five walkers set out from Fairbairn Park heading downstream on the east bank of the Maribyrnong River. Crossing via a footbridge we passed by Frog's Hollow Wetlands before looping around Burndap Lake, a scenic, man-made artificial lake and wetlands area.

The picturesque wetlands area is overlooked on the west side by the Edgewater Housing Estate, which occupies the site of the former Commonwealth Munitions Factory. The Colonial Ammunition Company built an ammunition factory there in 1889, which was acquired by the Commonwealth Government in 1928. During World War II it was Australia's largest and most important ammunition factory, employing more than 9000 workers.



The group near the river footbridge

The preserving works closed in 1888, when there was a decline in demand for its products. Humes Pipes, the largest manufacturer of steel reinforced pipes in Australia, was based there from 1911 to 1979.

Leaving Pipemakers Park we passed by Melbourne's Living Museum of the West, Australia's first ecomuseum, which has been documenting and preserving the stories and the images of the people and places of Melbourne's west since 1984.

The walk concluded at the Anglers' Tavern, with the planned upstream section of the route left for a future event.



Looking over the Burndap Lake Wetlands

Turning upstream we passed by the extensive embankment surrounding Jack's Magazine, initially known as the Saltwater River Powder Magazine, the main storage depot for explosives in Melbourne in 1879. Noted architect William Wardell designed the complex, which originally contained two bluestone magazines surrounded by 10 metre high earth mounds. Unofficially, it became known as Jack's Magazine after its keeper from the 1920s, Wally Jack.

Following a lunch break we continued our walk through Pipemakers Park, whose industrial history lasted from 1847 to 1979. From 1868 to 1888 the Melbourne Meat Preserving Company preserved and canned meat here in its bluestone buildings. Several hundred people were employed here in the 1870s, when the company was Australia's leading exporter of tinned meats.



What have they spotted in Burndap Lake?

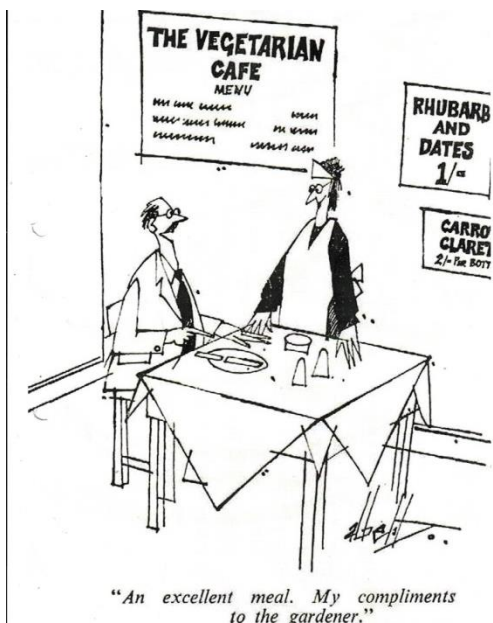
Our midweek walks



The Melbourne Meat Preserving Company preserved and canned meat in these bluestone buildings.



Pipemakers Park, whose industrial history lasted from 1847 to 1979.



Stacks of new research on the Twelve Apostles

Have you ever gazed at the Twelve Apostles along the Great Ocean Road, and pondered how they came to be?

That's exactly what Stephen Gallagher from the University of Melbourne and his colleagues have done, by reading the layers of rock in the limestone stacks. The research was published in *The Australian Journal of Earth Sciences*, and quoted in *Australian Geographic*.

The most surprising finding was while the rock itself in the stacks is millions of years old, the dramatic coastal scenery we see today is brand new in geological terms. The actual sea stacks and cliffs only took their present form in the past few thousand years, after sea levels rose about 125 metres following the last ice age, roughly 20,000–23,000 years ago.

As the sea flooded back in, waves began attacking the exposed limestone, which had also been weakened by tectonic forces. The rock fractured and eroded, forming headlands, then arches, which eventually collapsed to leave isolated stacks standing in the surf.

This process is still happening today. There were only seven or eight sea stacks (due to disagreements about what to count) when the Twelve Apostles were given their name – with a bit of poetic licence – in the early 20th century.

One collapsed in 2005 and another crumbled in 2009, leaving a generally agreed number of seven today. The relentless toll of the waves means further collapses are inevitable, so further research is essential while it can still be done.

Our weekend walks

Fostering a really enjoyable weekend of walks,

Twenty-two club members headed to Foster at the end of March for a really enjoyable couple of days of good walks, some good food and plenty of fun. Thanks to Norrie and Pam for the work they did in organising walks and accommodation for the weekend. Thanks also to Pam, Murray and Norrie for leading the walks, and for writing the articles which appear below.

Foster, 160km south-east of Melbourne, was once a bustling goldmining town known as Stockyard Creek. In 1869, James Northey, in company with James Palmer, had found a small patch of gold near the mouth of Stockyard Creek. News of the discovery spread quickly, with favourable reports in the press sparking a rush of miners. A settlement of tents and makeshift huts quickly sprang up along the banks of Stockyard Creek.

Victory Mine was the deepest mine in Foster, operating between 1887 and 1908 and producing 26,000 ounces of gold throughout its productive life. The Ophir Mine was situated on Ophir Hill. This claim had a shaft to a depth of 150 feet (46m). In total, the Foster mines produced about 60,000 to 70,000 ounces of gold.

As well as paying homage to its gold mining history, the area around Foster features a rich diversity of plants and animals, and Foster is close to Wilsons Promontory.



Pre-dinner drinks outdoors at the Prom Country Lodge



Dinner at the Prom Country Lodge



The scene in the Foster Exchange Hotel on Friday evening

Hoddle to Fish Creek, and the shorter walk, of about 5km, was from Lowrys Road to Fish Creek. See Murray's, and Pam's reports of the walks, below.

After the walks, we met at Gurney's Cidery to sample the amazing range of ciders on offer, and some purchases were made. Then it was back to the motel to prepare for the AGM (see separate report) and convivial pre-dinner drinks outdoors at the motel. Dinner at 7pm consisted of generous alternate serves of very tasty butter chicken and roast beef, followed by panna cotta or sticky date pudding.

Pam had organised her traditional after-dinner trivia quiz, and everyone had great fun trying to answer the often challenging general knowledge questions. Norrie ably performed the role of quizmaster's assistant, and distributed prizes to the quiz winners.

On Sunday morning, Norrie led very pleasant strolls in beautiful weather along the Cody Gully and Bratualung Walks, close to the site of the Ophir Mine. Norrie's description of the walk appears below.



Our members enjoyed returning to Foster, which is a really nice small country town, with plenty going for it. As in the past, our accommodation was at the Prom Country Lodge, and very comfortable accommodation it was. On Friday evening we all enjoyed country-sized servings of delicious food at the Foster Exchange Hotel, while helping out the local footy club by buying 'chook raffle' tickets. Jan was the only prize-winner: she was rather bemused to have won a doggy toy.

There were two walks on Saturday: the longer walk was of 10km, from Mount

Our only 'chook raffle' prizewinner on Friday evening – Jan, with her doggy toy

Our weekend walks

and much more

Saturday, walk 1 –

The Hoddle Mountain Trail

MURRAY HOOPER

After negotiating a car shuttle, 10 walkers left the Mount Hoddle car park to traverse the Hoddle Mountain Trail in perfect autumn hiking weather.

The track wound upwards through diverse indigenous flora until we reached the stunning 360 degree panorama of the Mount Hoddle lookout. A compass trig point indicated key places and their distance.

Following the ridge, we continued through the bush to the telecommunications tower with its uninterrupted views of Corner Inlet, Wilson's Promontory, Waratah Bay and Tarwin Lower.



Sonia in front, followed by Neil during the Hoddle Mountain Trail walk

After we climbed a stile over a barbwire fence the trail led us down a gravel track through farmland to the valley below, where lunch was enjoyed on a grassy knoll. The next stile was long gone, so it was a matter of getting through the fence before re-entering the bush and heading onwards and upwards as we climbed Lavers Hill with its panoramic views north to the Strzelecki Ranges.

Skirting the old Fish Creek gravel pits, the track led us through regenerating bushland to our cars, completing what was, although relatively short (7km), a nevertheless fairly strenuous walk. This necessitated a number of the group retiring to the Gurney's Cider to recuperate.

Saturday, walk 2 –

Lowrys Road to Fish Creek

PAM MCLEOD

All walkers drove their cars to Fish Creek. Car shuttles were required for both walks and these were soon efficiently organised.

A few kilometres along the Foster road at Lowrys Road, eight members assembled to access and begin their walk along the rail trail which led back to Fish Creek.

The track was flat, and an easy gentle stroll of 7km. We passed through pleasant bushland with views of the surrounding hills and paddocks with some cattle. Just before reaching Fish Creek we were joined by a few members who had spent an enjoyable time investigating the small shops, galleries and cafes in the town.

There were great views during the Hoddle Mountain Trail walk



Our weekend walks



Simon and John rest on a sign during the Lowrys Road walk.

Some of the group decided to have lunch at Gurney's Cidery – a well-known local attraction high up in the hills close to Foster. There are wonderful views from the cidery gardens overlooking Corner Inlet and the mountains of Wilsons Promontory. On the menu were home-made pizzas, delicious food platters showcasing local Gippsland produce, and tasting paddles of different ciders. It was a good finish to our relaxing walk!



Celia, Wendy and Pam during the Lowrys Road walk



Jan, Jenny, Sue and Graham during the Lowrys Road walk



Gathering outside the Prom Country Lodge on Sunday morning before the walks in the Foster Flora Reserve

Sunday walk –

The Foster Flora Reserve

NORRIE MCLEOD

On Sunday we explored some of the Foster Flora Reserve, located close to the town centre. When we had completed check-out of our rooms at the lodge, our group of 15 left our cars parked at the lodge and walked to the nearby woodlands.

The Parks Victoria park note showed two adjacent loop walks. First we took the Ophir Hill Walk. This took us past remnants from the days of gold mining such as hand-dug trenches and through forests of eucalypt species including stringybark, mountain grey gum and peppermints. It was a magical experience with the morning sun filtering to the path through the trees.

For the second loop we took the Cody Gully Walk, with gentle slopes through peppermints, banksias, paperbarks and ferns. When checking out walks on Friday, we could not rehearse this one because it had been closed for a controlled burn – the blackened results and clean-up were seen on this walk. We then returned to our cars and the conclusion of the weekend.



In the Foster Flora Reserve

Our weekend walks

Arthurs Seat walk a washout

DAVID ASHTON

After several weeks of beautiful, warm autumn weather a cold front arrived at Arthurs Seat on the morning of Sunday 2 May, bringing with it torrential rain and strong winds.

Unfortunately that was precisely the morning our Arthurs Seat walk was scheduled to begin. Ten members had turned up for the walk, but we could only sit in our cars as the rain bucketed down and the wind

roared. After about three-quarters of an hour I made the decision to postpone the walk to another date.

All was not totally lost. As the photo shows, we adjourned to the nearby cafe at the Eagle for a very pleasant hour of coffee and conversation. Outside, the storm abated a little, but as the forecast was for thunderstorms the walk postponement was confirmed. The walk will be rescheduled, probably until next year.



Happy faces in the Eagle cafe at Arthurs Seat – despite the washout

The bleak scene outside the cafe



Foster



Getting ready to head for home after the Sunday walk

The club's 2026 program

	2026	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun		Walk (Proposed)	Leader
Public Hol.									Feature		
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		Lysterfield Park	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			
	Mar	16	17	18	19	20	21	22			
	Mar	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		Foster	P&N McLeod
	Apr	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	Day Sav Ends		
Easter	Apr	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	& Easter	Mordialloc	Liz Rand
	Apr	13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
Anzac Day	Apr	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	Anzac Day	Arthurs Seat	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		Maribyrnong R	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		Murrumbeena	G&S Stanley
	Jun	15	16	17	18	19	20	21			
	Jun	22	23	24	25	26	27	28			
	Jul	29	30	1	2	3	4	5		Metro Tunnel	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		Sherbrook	J Turner
	Jul	27	28	29	30	31	1	2			
	Aug	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
	Aug	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		MCG	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	* * *	S Gilderdale
	Sep	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
	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		Walk & Dine	M&D Ashton
	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			27-Jun-26	