



OLD SCOTCH  
BUSHWALKING CLUB

Old Scotch Bushwalking Club

# Tracknotes

March 2022

Number 99

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'.

## Historic streets and gardens feature in January walk



*The historic East Melbourne and Fitzroy Gardens walk was the club's first activity for 2022, held on a pleasant January day with a small group of participants. There was plenty of variety, with the route taking walkers past streets of elegant Victorian-era houses, then proceeding to the beautiful Fitzroy Gardens, with its slopes of lush green grass, the Conservatory, fountains and the lake.*

*Though attended by just a select group of members, it was a great way to start what we hope will be an uninterrupted program of walks during 2022.*

*The photo was taken in the Fitzroy Gardens, close to the fish fountain.*

### Inside:

- **Page 2** – Ten questions
- **Page 3** – President's Tree-Stump
- **Pages 4-5** – Midweek: East Melbourne
- **Pages 6-7** – Midweek: Anniversary Trail
- **Pages 8-9** – Christmas Dinner
- **Pages 10-11** – Blast from the past
- **Page 12** – The club's 2022 program





## Ten questions – Eve Ryder

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

I joined a couple of years ago, but because of lockdowns and other commitments didn't go on any walks with the bushwalking club until 2021.

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

I am a member of the Old Scotch Film Society, and through that there was an invitation to join the Old Scotch Bushwalking Club.

### What are your links with Scotch College?

None, other than the film society and bushwalking club memberships.

### What is your dream walk within Australia?

Not sure I have one. I did go to Maria Island in Tasmania in March 2021 and enjoyed my first multi-day organised walk.

### What is your dream walk overseas?

Again, I don't have a 'dream walk'. I have explored on



foot all the places I have visited overseas and done a few rambles in the European countryside, but have never been, and am unlikely to go on a specific walk.

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

Too many to mention!! I have travelled extensively overseas, but there are a number of parts of Australia I haven't seen. I am addressing this, and have booked to go to Arnhem Land later this year.

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

I prefer to have a variety of activities; too many to mention all of them here. Regularly I participate in exercise and dance classes at the gym, attend French classes, go to the theatre, etc., and when possible, travel!

### What is or was your occupation?

I was a Market Researcher for years, and then a Management Consultant.

### What football team do you barrack for?

Dare I say, I don't have one! I am a New Zealander so Aussie Rules isn't in my DNA.

### What is your favourite Melbourne restaurant?

I don't have one particular favourite. Many times when I found a restaurant I particularly liked, subsequent visits often didn't meet expectations.

*A concert to celebrate the contribution of Richard Beveridge to the Old Scotch Music and Drama Club, to Scotch College and to the community*

Show dates: 2pm and 8pm, Saturday 9 April 2022. Ian Roach Hall, James Forbes Academy, Scotch College.  
All tickets: \$25. To buy tickets: <https://osmad.com.au/rbmc>



## President's Tree-Stump



Well, finally here we are out of lockdown. Let us hope that it lasts.

The first thing I would like to do is to give a big thank you to Rhonda Hoelter, Bee Moignard and Helen Hunwick for organising our very successful Christmas Dinner at the Box Hill Golf Club, with a pre-dinner walk along Gardiners Creek led by Sonia Gilderdale. Thank you, team.

We have already had some interesting walks this year, and coming up is our weekend away at Phillip Island on 19 and 20 March. There have been several walks planned to cater for all of our members, and it is good that our weekend walks are so well attended. It will be an excellent opportunity to get together, have fun and enjoy the walks and each other's friendship, particularly over the Saturday evening dinner.

This is also the time of our AGM, which is to be held on the Saturday afternoon of the Phillip Island weekend. I will be standing for another term as your President, and would like to thank your present committee for their untiring efforts in planning, and pre-walking all the walks, together with the day-to-day running matters of our club.

Your committee is aware that as some of us get older, some of our members are not able to join in the longer and more strenuous walks, and this is understandable. This is taken into account as each walk is planned.

Your committee is looking forward to fulfilling a complete program for the forthcoming year, and we all hope that the worst of COVID is behind us and will not again interrupt our walks.

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

**Neil Hart-Smith**

President.

Mob. 0428 857 527 / nhartsmi@bigpond.net.au



## Pollen – by special delivery

*National Geographic* reports that as populations of bees and other pollinating insects decline worldwide, scientists are experimenting with high-tech replacements. An article in the magazine's December 2020 issue reported attempts by a Japanese research group to use a sticky-bottomed drone that could carry pollen similarly to a pollinating insect – except for one small problem: as the drone's propellers approached the plant, they cut it up.

To overcome this, the group equipped the drones with sprayers which released pollen-laden soap bubbles onto the plants. This worked – in tests, pear trees pollinated in this way produced fruit nearly as effectively as when the plants were hand-pollinated. The next step is to develop a more biodegradable soap solution.

The magazine said some ecologists are sceptical – they believe delivering pollen by drone detracts from the essential need to conserve bees and other threatened pollinators.



### Tracknotes

**March 2022**

**No 99**

*Tracknotes is the publication of the  
Old Scotch Bushwalking Club*

Editor: David Ashton 0419 894 340  
ashtonwriting@bigpond.com

Design: Norrie McLeod

Photography: Norrie McLeod

*Thanks to our contributors.*

Next issue: June 2022  
Deadline: 1 June 2022

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

Secretary: Sonia Gilderdale 0407 828 366  
gilderdale@bigpond.com

Membership: Norrie McLeod 0418 325 271  
pn.mcleod@bigpond.com

---

## Our midweek walks

---

# History, heritage and a walk in the park

### LAURINE SYMINGTON

The Historic East Melbourne and Fitzroy Gardens Walk on 19 January was the club's first walk for 2022. It was held on a pleasant day with a very select number of participants. The gents will be pleased to know that for the first time in years, there were more men than women in the group of six walkers!

We walked along George Street, admiring the Victorian homes built between 1865 and 1889. The decorative leadlight windows and cast iron balustrades were obvious signs of owners who had money. At the end of a gravel driveway is 125B George Street, an original farmhouse and one of the oldest homes in East Melbourne.

Numbers 51-57 and 59-65 Simpson Street, built in 1886 and 1873 respectively, were less grand, and made up a row of single-storey terraces with decorated chimneys and moulded faces. The first apartments ever built in Australia were constructed in 1886 on the corner of Simpson and Hotham Streets. Queen Bess Row consisted of three homes, each of four storeys.

Further down Hotham Street, Dorset Terrace has tessellated paths and unusually placed front doors; the doors are not opposite the front gate, but instead diagonal across the front garden.



*Laurine briefs the walkers*

Canterbury Terrace, 82-112 Powlett Street, is an icon among East Melbourne's historic houses. Taking up the whole block, it consists of 16 row houses with 12 graceful arches in the middles and six arches at either end.

Built in 1861, 157 Hotham Street is a very interesting Gothic house. This bluestone house was built for the Deputy Surveyor-General and designed by Joseph Reed, the architect who also designed the Melbourne Town Hall, the Exhibition Buildings and the State Library.



*179 Gipps Street – the town house of Dr Constance Stone (1856-1902), Australia's first woman doctor.*

---

## Our midweek walks

---

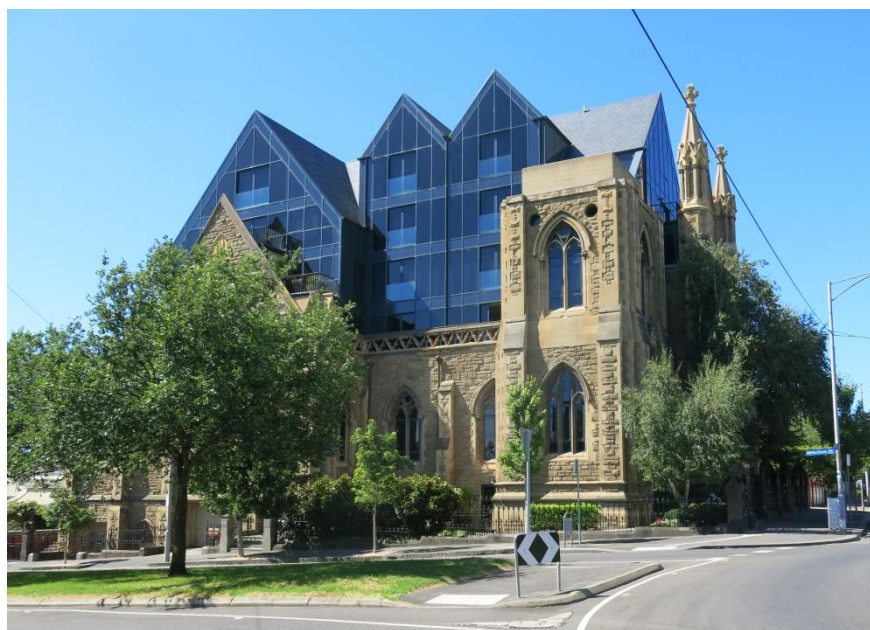
We then passed Bishop's Court, but were disappointed that the opening in the fence only allowed us to see the vegetation. It is the oldest remaining house in its original garden, and although built in 1853 for the Anglican Archbishop, it served as the Governor's house from 1874 to 1876 while the permanent Government House was built.

A stroll around the Fitzroy Gardens included finding the 'People's Pathway', a collection of 10,000 ceramic tiles which were decorated by Victorians on the opening day of Arts Victoria's 1978 Craft Festival.

The Conservatory was open, displaying a fabulous range of colourful flowers – along with a few brides deciding on the best places for their wedding photos.



*Queen Bess Row – one of many gracious East Melbourne edifices which the walkers passed.*



The selection of fountains includes the 'Dolphin Fountain' adjacent to the Mound in the gardens and the lake. It consists of a pyramid of granite boulders upon which are mounted assorted sea creatures – dolphins, octopi, crabs, sea birds, seahorses, starfish, turtles and shrimps. Other water features were noticed, especially the stream where small children can enjoy their special part of the gardens.

The day was very pleasant for walking/strolling – but with just six walkers participating, I do wonder if we should offer a January walk in the future.

*The Cairns Memorial Presbyterian Church, which was damaged by fire and restored in 1980 as an apartment block.*

---

## A beautiful burrowing bird



*A spotted pardalote at the entrance to its burrow*

A bird that builds a tunnel instead of making a nest high in a tree – that's the spotted pardalote, a beautiful small bird which is found along the east and south-east coasts of Australia and also in the south-west corner.

According to *Australian Geographic*, the spotted pardalote is one of the few birds in the world that opts for a tunnel instead of a nest. It either excavates an elaborate tunnel up to 1.5 metres horizontally underground, or it renovates an abandoned rabbit warren, leading to a nest chamber lined with shredded bark, down, or other soft materials. The bird lays one clutch of eggs which both parents tend for about 40 days.

Tunnels have their hazards. Egg-eating reptiles can easily access the tunnel, and there are sometimes cave-ins or tunnel collapses. As well, blood-sucking fly larvae sometimes kill nine out of 10 chicks. The magazine says scientists are helping pardalotes by supplying nest materials such as feathers laced with insecticide, which the birds find and use to line their nests. This has led to vastly improved nestling survival rates.

---

## Our midweek walks

---

# A pleasant stroll along the Outer Circle Railway Anniversary Trail

**JULIE WALPOLE**

Ten club members met at Ashburton station on Thursday 24 February for a walk along part of the Anniversary Rail Trail to Deepdene.

Planning a walk in February can be rather tricky, as the weather can be very hot. This walk was chosen so that we could bail out and jump on a train if any walkers were finding it too much of a physical challenge. As it turned out the weather was kind, and we had no problems completing the entire walk without difficulty.

The Outer Circle Railway Anniversary Trail is a shared bike and pedestrian path which follows the tracks of the old steam era Outer Circle Line. 'Anniversary' was added to the name as part of the commemorations of Victoria's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1985. The path runs from the Yarra River Trail near the Eastern Freeway at Fairfield to the Gardiners Creek Trail, with 12 signs displaying historical photographs at significant locations along the way. (I must point out that some of these are a bit the worse for wear!) The total length of the trail is approximately 14km.

In the 1880s a railway line was built to link the then outer eastern suburbs. The line ran south-east from Fairfield through Kew East, Camberwell East and Alamein to Hughesdale. During the 1890s depression, most sections ceased operation. It reopened as far as Ashburton in 1898 and was extended to Alamein in 1948. Today the only



*Richard Pugsley leading the way*

section carrying passengers is the Alamein line from Camberwell to Alamein. Most of our 7km walk was along this section.

The path is well maintained and flat, except for a short climb to cross the railway line near Hartwell station. The

trail diverges from the rail line in several places and crosses open parkland, and also runs along some suburban streets with interesting architecture and pretty gardens. Most of the trail is lined by mature trees giving good shade cover. There are several spots with benches, picnic tables and playgrounds along the way, but our group of walkers did not need to stop.

We made good time to reach our destination across Whitehorse Road to the park and playground near the site of the original Deepdene Station, where we had a leisurely picnic lunch. A few of us also enjoyed a coffee and sweet treat from the café opposite the park.

*Patrick Persaud and  
Margaret Inglis leading*



---

## Our midweek walks

---

At this point, some members who had caught public transport to the start of the walk took various transport modes home, and those remaining walked back to Riversdale station and hopped on the train back to Ashburton.

Although this is not a really exciting walk it is very pleasant, and the club members enjoyed a good chat along the way as well as getting some exercise. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Marg Inglis in particular, who despite recent ill health did a sterling job in keeping up with the group, with a big smile the whole way!



(Left to right) Patrick Persaud Julie Walpole, Wendy Le Get and Richard Pugsley

*Lunch in the park and playground near the site of the original Deepdene station.*



---

## For those with a head for heights

This incredible glass-bottomed structure spans the east and west canyons of the Shenxianju Scenic Area in Taizhou, Zhejiang, China. It's 140 metres high, and its shape is influenced by jade ruyi, a curved, decorative object symbolising power and good fortune in Chinese folklore.

The structure, opened in September 2020, consists of three interweaving bridges with a deck made of glass providing a breathtaking glimpse into the abyss below.

With COVID restricting international tourism, China has been enhancing its home-grown attractions in an effort to encourage increased domestic tourism. According to a report in *The Age's Good Weekend* supplement, there are more than 2000 bridges made of glass right across China, capitalising on the fear factor.



Some, such as a 266 metre aerial path in East Taihan province, even have transparent LCD screens which appear to 'crack' when tourists walk across them. Staff are on hand to help swooning visitors to their feet.

---

# Our weekend walks

---

## ‘Christmas Dinner with optional walk’

### – a great way to end a tumultuous year

*The club’s former ‘Walk and Dine’ – traditionally our final event for the year – this year became ‘Christmas Dinner – with optional walk’, at Box Hill Golf Club on the evening of 12 December. It was great to get together in a way we have rarely been able to achieve during the pandemic era.*

*Below, Sonia Gilderdale and Bee Moignard give their accounts of the two components of the evening.*

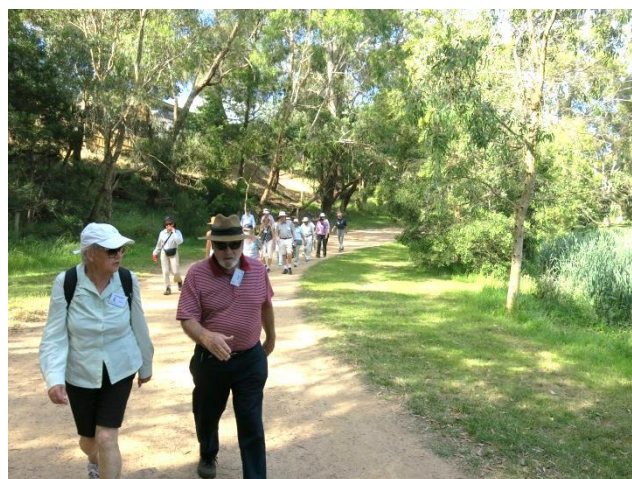
## Gardiners Creek stroll

### SONIA GILDERDALE

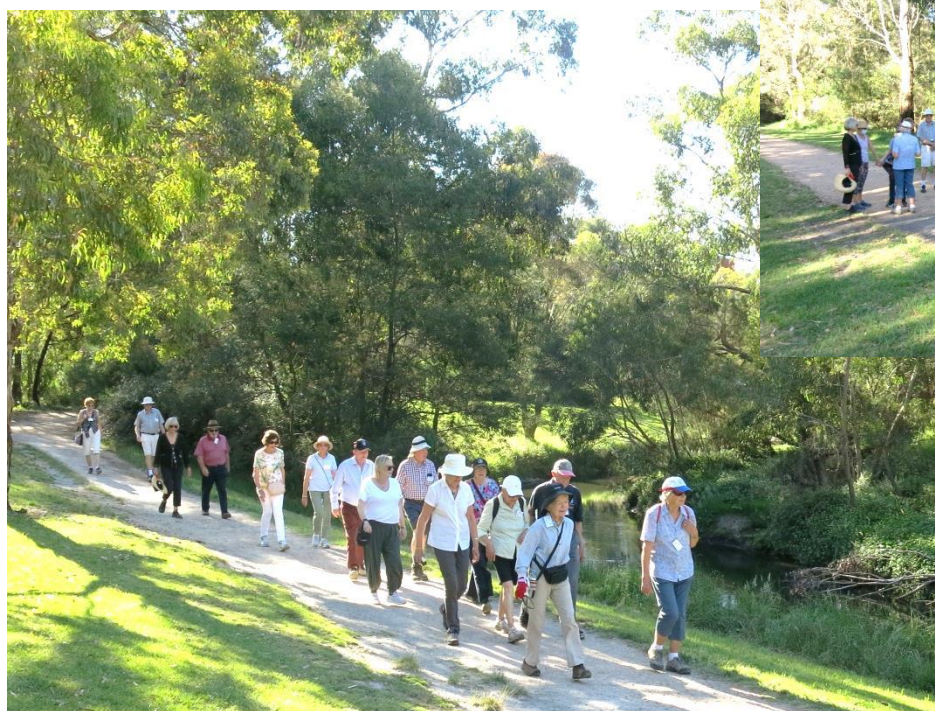
Twenty walkers met at Box Hill Golf Club on the evening of 12 December, to work up an appetite for the Christmas Dinner by joining an easy pre-dinner walk along Gardiners Creek. It was a warm, balmy evening, and everyone was in a relaxed frame of mind as they enjoyed catching up with people they had been unable to meet for months.

Gardiners Creek is named after John Gardiner who had settled in a property adjacent to the creek in the 1830s, after having relocated from the Murrumbidgee region with 400 sheep. Prior to his arrival the Wurundjeri people had lived in the area for thousands of years, using the vegetation for food, tools and medicines.

The creek is lined with mature shady trees, and the group wandered along one side of the creek and returned on the other, passing a few dog walkers on the



*Chris Moss and Neil Hart-Smith conversing and walking way and chatting away to each other. On return to the golf club a quick change of clothes enabled everyone to proceed to the bar, meet up with the remaining club members and enjoy the evening’s festivities.*



*A pause during the Gardiners Creek walk*

*Walking near Gardiners Creek*



---

## Our weekend walks

---



*Panoramic view of the Box Hill Golf Course from the clubhouse*

## Christmas Dinner

### BEE MOIGNARD

We were fortunate to be able to gather in person for our annual Old Scotch Bushwalking Club Christmas Dinner on a warm and balmy summer's evening, at the venue chosen by Neil Hart-Smith and Laurine Symington.

The Box Hill Golf Club was established in 1913. From the clubhouse we enjoyed spectacular views over the 18-hole course and some very fine trees, made even more picturesque by a beautiful sunset.

How nice it was to be reunited with friends after not being able to see each other so frequently, given the COVID restrictions of the past year. Megan, the Club Manager, and her staff served us warmly and graciously. Our 56

guests enjoyed generous pre-dinner nibbles and drinks, after which we sat down to a lovely two-course meal.

Neil Hart-Smith called the raffle prize winners, the prizes being a Christmas hamper, wine, barbecue equipment and Kathmandu vouchers, and each table also had a lucky winner of the pretty red centrepiece poinsettia.

We also acknowledged and congratulated Sue and Graham Stanley on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, which they had celebrated the day before.

Thanks to Rhonda Hoelter, Helen Hunwick and Beatrice Moignard for arranging the dinner and prizes.



*Enjoying the two-course meal, which followed a delicious selection of canapés*

---

# Blast from the past

---

## Eight days on Cradle Mountain



In March [2008], Harvey Liebmann fulfilled a lifetime dream of walking the Overland Track through Cradle Mountain National Park. The Overland Track is the most popular of all Tasmanian walks, with some 9,000 people walking it annually.

Harvey's was a self-supported walk of eight days and seven nights, and he joined a tour group of five women and three other men of ages between 36 and 68 years in a tour organised by Tasmania Expeditions. The trek, graded moderate to strenuous, was 90km in length and required Harvey to carry a pack weighing about 18kg. Here is his diary of the trek.

### Day 1

Today we drive from Launceston to Cradle Mountain National Park, and stay in cabins. We all enjoy a really great meal, and get to know the other people on the trip.

### Day 2

After getting up early, we arrive at the beginning of the track to start the long climb to the Cradle Plateau. There are regular stops for us to catch our breath, and we are supplied with plentiful amounts of glucose 'snakes' and all types of nuts. We are climbing towards Marions Lookout, which will offer us a superb view of Cradle Mountain. The night's stop is at Waterfall Valley where we spend our first night under the stars.

### Day 3

Today we walk towards Lake Windermere where we get the opportunity to look at some great waterfalls and the diggings of a coal prospector Joseph Will, who had a dream of mining for coal here. Unfortunately for Joseph the high cost of securing the coal made it impossible for it to be viable, and shortly afterwards it was declared a



Harvey Liebmann

national park, thereby thwarting any other mining attempts. Lunch is on the shores of Lake King William, with threatening skies.

### Day 4

Today's section is the longest of the trip – 17km. We walk through the moorlands and undulating button grass to the slopes of Mt Pelion West, and then descend to a spot called Frog Flats. This area is surrounded by large dolerite peaks, and is the headwaters of the Forth River which spills spectacularly off the plateau into the Lemnathyme Valley.

At the end of each day's walk a guide leaves the group and goes off to pick up the next day's food rations, which have been hidden in the bush at selected spots.

### Day 5

Today there is a sudden change in the weather, bringing heavy rain and strong winds. It's also very cold. Soon we see Cathedral Mountain and Mt Ossa, both of which are surrounded by cloud. Some of the party want to climb Mt Ossa, but in the end decide against it.



The Overland Track

# Blast from the past

It's so cold as we arrive at our campsite that we hastily erect our tents and climb into our sleeping bags to try and keep warm. Our guides make us dinner and bring it to our tents. Great service!

## Day 6

It's still very cold! A thin layer of ice covers our tents, but thankfully there are clear skies. After another hearty breakfast we head towards the rainforests of leatherwood and sassafras, and we visit Ferguson and Dalton Falls, with Hartnett Falls as an added bonus. These falls are some of the most stunning in the entire national park. Tonight we camp at Windy Ridge, where a glacier carved out the valley during the last great ice age, leaving huge boulders everywhere.

## Day 7

We leave the Overland Track to travel to Pine Valley. Travelling through eucalypt forests, we pass an area called the Bowling Green. It is a square-shaped area of flat ground, where the aborigines used fire to herd kangaroos and other animals, and then speared them.

Most groups finish their walks by taking a ferry ride across Lake St Clair to the visitors' centre at the bottom of the lake. Our head guide now gives us the option of the lake ferry or spending one more night camping under the stars. We all opt for the latter. We spend the night at Echo Point, situated right on the side of the lake, with a spectacular view of Mt Ida.

## Day 8

It's our last day. We walk for about four hours around the edge of the lake through some magnificent forests of

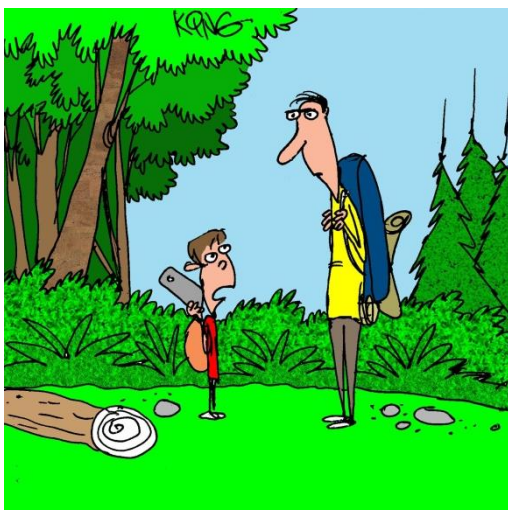


*Cradle Mountain*

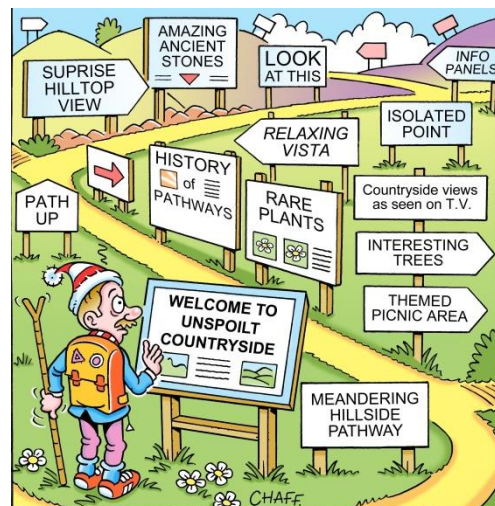
eucalypts, with some of the largest trees seen on our walk. One tree is so large that even with all nine people joining hands we can't meet around the trunk.

The trek has been a wonderful experience, made even better by the great group of people I've walked with. We all hope to meet again one day, possibly a reunion walk in Melbourne in 12 months.

If you are reasonably fit, the Overland Track is a must. I cannot speak more highly of the tour company. Their professionalism and their attention to every detail made it the experience of a lifetime for me.



*"Dad, can you mute the nature sounds?  
I'm on the phone."*



# 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.						1	2	New Year		
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	Jan 24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
	Feb 31	1	2	3	4	5	6			
	Feb 7	8	9	10	11	12	13		Warburton	J Ward
	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			
Labour Day	Mar 7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
	Mar 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 Mt Macedon	C Moss R&T Morris
	Apr 4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
Easter	Apr 11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Easter		
Easter	Apr 18	19	20	21	22	23	24	Easter	Fairfield	S Gilderdale
Anzac Day	Apr 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	Jun 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	Nov 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	Dec 26	27	28	29	30	31	1	New Year		

31 = School Holidays      = Bushwalks

15-Feb-22