



OLD SCOTCH
BUSHWALKING CLUB

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Tracknotes

March 2024

Number 107

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

A summer walk in the Yarra Ranges

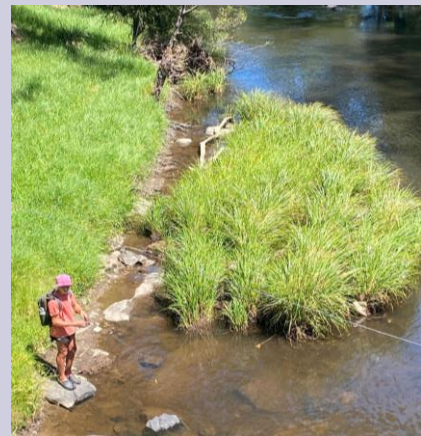


Helen Hunwick and Wendy Le Get are pictured crossing the Yarra River during our walk along the O'Shannassy Aqueduct Trail and the Yarra River at Warburton on 11 February.

The weather was fine and warm, and the walking was enjoyable in a very beautiful part of Victoria. Laurine Symington's article appears on pages 8 and 9.

Inside:

- **Page 2** – Ten questions
- **Page 3** – President's Tree-Stump
- **Pages 4-6** – Walk and Dine
- **Pages 8-9** – Yarra Ranges walk
- **Page 12** – The club's 2024 program



A date for your calendar

| July 2024 | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| M | T | W | T | F | S | S |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

The club is celebrating its 30th anniversary with a special lunch at the Box Hill Golf Club on Sunday 14 July.

You're invited to join members past and present to celebrate this significant milestone. You'll receive more information closer to the event – please keep 14 July free.

(We need a volunteer or two to help organise this event. Please contact Laurine Symington on 0429 381 898 or Brian.laurine@gmail.com.)



Ten questions – Patricia Brownlee

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

I joined the club about two years ago.

How did you find out about the club?

I first knew about the club a long time ago when club members Wendy and Ian Bladon invited me to a walk somewhere near Ballarat. However, some years later Rhonda Hoelter introduced me to the club and I joined then. To my surprise, the first people I met at the club were my cousins, Tom and Ros Morris and Hugh and Ann Morris.

What are your links with Scotch College?

My son Gregor Brownlee attended Scotch from 1979 to 1984. My grandson Michael Tassiopoulos attended Scotch from 2015 to 2020. My daughter Kate Tassiopoulos is Vice President Community for the Old Scotch Football Club. My grandchildren Michael and Emily Tassiopoulos both play for Old Scotch Football Club teams.

What is your dream walk within Australia?

I would like a walk at the Bay of Fires in Tasmania.

What is your dream walk overseas?

I have always wanted to walk across England from coast to coast, starting from the Lake District to Robin Hood Bay.



What is your dream holiday in Australia or overseas?

My dream holiday is to go on the Hurtigruten cruise in Norway. I missed out on a trip thanks to COVID and the war in Ukraine.

What are your hobbies and interests, other than bushwalking?

I played a lot of club tennis for several clubs. I love to surf and swim at Torquay where I spend most of the summer, I am a member of Aquarena Doncaster where I do water aerobics and go to the gym. I belong to a book group. I enjoy the ballet and theatre. I recently attended *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* at Scotch's Geoffrey McComas Theatre. I am a member of a Probus Club. I enjoy going to the MCG to watch cricket and football.

What is or was your occupation?

I was a Radiation Therapist for many years at Peter MacCallum Clinic.

What football team do you barrack for?

The mighty Pies of course! I hope they have another successful year.

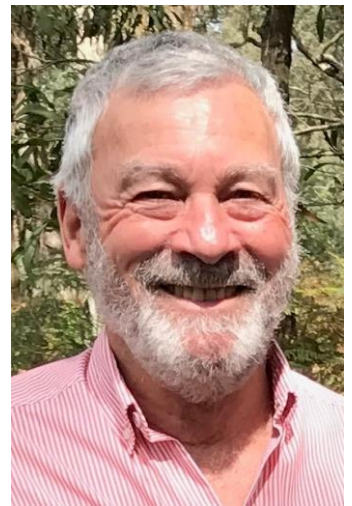
What is your favourite Melbourne restaurant?

My favourite restaurant is Di Stasio Citta in the city.





President's Tree-Stump



As I sit here looking out over Western Port Bay and French Island on a beautiful summer's day, I look back and reflect on the last three years when I have had the privilege to be your President.

I feel that the club is in very good shape and believe that we will continue for many years yet. In recent years our walks have become a little shorter and not quite as strenuous as a decade ago. Sadly, this is due to the passing of the years, however I feel our walks have been just as interesting and the camaraderie of our members is as strong as ever.

Your committee has planned a year of very interesting and diverse walks. I look forward to continuing as your President and enjoying many of the walks.

Our weekend away in March, to be held at Sale, will soon be with us. This will also be the time of our AGM and I again encourage you to step up and take a role on the committee and/or to be one of our walk leaders. Please think about it! I again sincerely thank all of our walk leaders who have done a fantastic job over the past year.

Sometimes it has been difficult to recruit new members through OSCA but this year we have welcomed several new members – especially ladies – and of course all

new members are very welcome additions to our membership list.

I would like to give a very special thank you to all of our committee for their tireless work and for their support during the past three years of my presidency. Your club would not be the success that it is without them. I look forward to continuing to work with the new committee over the coming years.

Last but certainly not least, I thank my lovely wife and friend, Anne, for the tireless support and encouragement she has given me over the past three years. Thank you, Anne. I look forward to Anne's continuing support as I embark on another year as your President.

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

Neil Hart-Smith
President

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Tracknotes

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Our weekend walks

Walking and dining in one of Melbourne's hidden treasures

DAVID ASHTON

The club's 2023 Walk and Dine on Sunday 10 December took place in a part of Melbourne that many of us pass regularly without a sideways glance, or realising that a large hotel is located in the midst of it all.

The heritage-listed Burnley Gardens was the location of the 'walk' part of our Walk and Dine, and the 'dine' took place in the Element Hotel. The hotel's address, 588 Swan Street, Richmond, doesn't give any indication that it is actually located in the gardens, virtually invisible from Swan Street.

Fifty-five people had booked for the event – our largest attendance for the year at any event – and of that number, 33 took part in the walk on a cool, cloudy afternoon. The walkers split up into two groups, led by Jan Ward and Laurine Symington, and set off in opposite directions. The walk was really just a 1.1km stroll, but what a beautiful stroll it was, among an abundance of beautiful trees, shrubs and flowers.

The 9ha Burnley Gardens are really a hidden treasure of Melbourne, and it was a first-time visit for many of the walkers. Open to the public 24 hours, seven days a week, the gardens contain nearly 1000 different species of plants, including some of the oldest trees in Melbourne. A massive Queensland kauri and a huge Moreton Bay fig were just two examples.

The gardens are located on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri people, and they have evolved since the 1860s as a location for research and teaching. The



Jan Ward briefs the walkers prior to the Burnley Gardens stroll

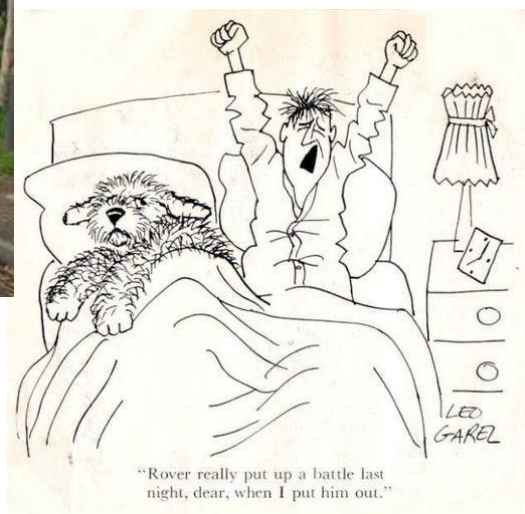
University of Melbourne's School of Agriculture, Food and Ecosystem Sciences is located at Burnley.

The groups wandered leisurely around the gardens, accompanied by the hum of traffic on the nearby Monash Freeway. By 5.30pm it was time to head for the hotel, for our dinner on the fifth floor. A generous selection of canapés were enjoyed out on the terrace, where we took in the unusual views across Melbourne, with the city's skyscrapers far away to the west. The dinner choices were herbed chicken breast or the fish of the day – barramundi – followed by a dessert of vanilla bean and salted caramel panna cotta.

The raffle was drawn and the diners started to head for home, with the club's 2023 events coming to a very satisfactory conclusion. Bee Moignard and Rhonda Hoelter worked hard to ensure the success of the Walk and Dine – thank you, Bee and Rhonda.



Setting off for the Burnley Gardens



Our weekend walks



This Queensland kauri is one of the many beautiful old trees in the Burnley Gardens



A jacaranda in full bloom



Robyn Hansen walking in the gardens, followed by Michele and Ian McMichael



Neil at the table



Photo credit – *The Age*

Free hiking app is App of the Year

The free hiking app, AllTrails, has won the 2023 Apple App of the Year award.

AllTrails offers a variety of features, such as track maps, reviews, photos and difficulty ratings for hiking, biking and running tracks. Users can search for tracks based on location, difficulty level, length and other filters. Users can also track their walks, share their experiences, and discover new tracks recommended by other users.

AllTrails is globally based, covering 420,000 curated tracks worldwide, including 14,000 in Australia.

In a report in *The Age* last December, AllTrails CEO Ron Schneidermann said many people are intimidated by the idea of getting on a trail and don't know where to start. 'The biggest barriers to entry tend to be a lack of information and a lack of confidence,' Mr Schneidermann said. 'We [AllTrails] use technology to remove barriers so that everyone can connect with nature.'

Our weekend walks



Out on the fifth floor terrace at the Element Hotel

City views from the fifth floor terrace at the Element Hotel



Melbourne's skyscrapers in the distance – there were great views from the fifth floor of the Element Hotel



The scene in the dining room at the Element Hotel

Other walks

Walking/glamping in Karajini National Park and Ningaloo Reef

SONIA GILDERALE

In August 2022, Laurine Symington and I joined a small group walking/glamping trip to Karajini National Park and Ningaloo Reef.

Karajini National Park covers 6274 square kilometres of the Pilbara region about 1400 kilometres north of Perth. The nearest town is Tom Price, the highest town in Western Australia, which was established in the 1960s to service the Rio Tinto iron ore mine. The national park is characterised by its stunning scenery of dramatic gorges and canyons, waterfalls and deep red rocks.

We flew into Paraburdoo, another small mining town, and were picked up by our tour guides for the approximately 90-minute drive to the Karajini Eco Resort. This was our accommodation for the next four nights. We each had a permanent tent ('glamp'), containing a camp bed with comfortable mattress. Nights were cold (single figure temperatures), so it was wise to wear warm clothes to bed, but daytime temperatures were in the low twenties. The tour guides did all the cooking, and we were very well fed.

During our stay we explored several of the gorges. The walks were quite rocky and challenging (and probably more so than the tour information had suggested). However, the guides were available to help navigate the tricky bits, and fortunately there were no accidents among the group.

For most of the walks we descended into the gorge and walked along the bottom before climbing out at the end



Sonia and Laurine in Karajini National Park

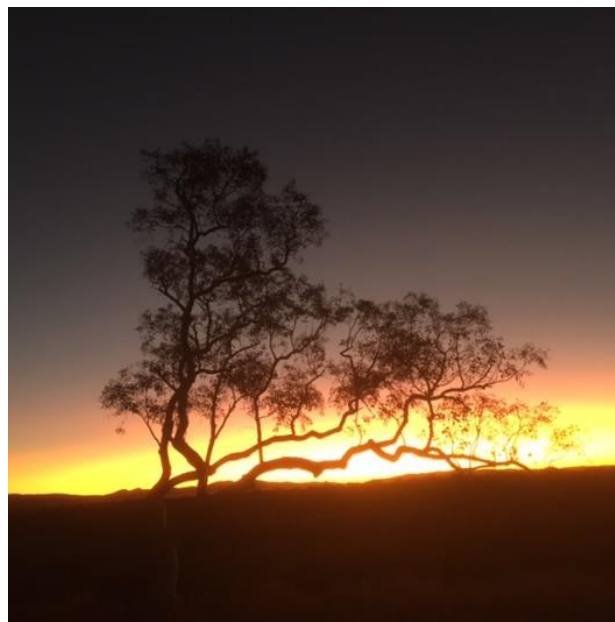
of the walk. Several gorges had water in them, requiring removal of boots; one in particular necessitated swimming through the icy water to get to the other side. In other gorges there were waterfalls and natural pools for a more than refreshing cooling off.

On one gorge walk we met fellow member Wendy Le Get – quite a surprise as we were more than 3000 kilometres from home!

After our Karajini stay the group travelled west to spend the remainder of the tour on the Ningaloo coast near Exmouth.



A natural pool in one of the national park's gorges



A magnificent sunset in the national park

Our weekend walks

A shady walk in the beautiful Yarra Ranges

LAURINE SYMINGTON

Our walk on Sunday 11 February – a fine, very warm summer's day – was along the O'Shannassy Aqueduct Trail and the Yarra River at Warburton.

The aqueduct was completed in 1914 and until 1950 delivered 90 million litres of water per day into the Surrey Hills Reservoir.

The path along the aqueduct is a vehicle path used by the Yarra Ranges National Park weed controllers, and it was a fantastic walk for a warm day. The publicity described it as 'a beautiful, refreshing walk, especially on warm days'. Alternating between long lengths of shade provided by massive gums, tree ferns and pine trees and sunny patches, the views of Warburton in the breaks of the trees to the left and Mount Donna Buang up the hill on the right were great.

After about 2km we turned around and went back to the cars, pausing for a cup of tea in the car park. The plan was to travel back into Warburton's 'refuge of last resort', a sports ground with lots of toilets and a few trees. It's a place of refuge when there is another fire in the district.

Parking in the shade, we collected our lunches and headed along the Yarra Riverside Walk which was opened in 1993. We headed upstream after we crossed



Father and daughter, Lisa and Peter Williams

the bridge and walked to a copse of Californian redwood trees. There is a large plantation further along the aqueduct, but our group of 10 trees was very shady and very interesting.

We again crossed the river, rather jealous of the youngsters cooling off as they rode floating mats down the river. Just after the fourth bridge we found seating in the shade and enjoyed lunch.

Crossing the bridge and joining the public in the main street, we found a fantastic coffee shop with shaded tables on the outside deck for our group.

After coffee and cakes, we walked back along the river to the cars, as it was getting rather warm and it was certainly time to finish the walk.

Twelve walkers had enjoyed the stroll in the shade, especially Jane and Sarah Gibson, who have not been regular walkers lately. David Ashton and Peter Williams were very much outnumbered by the ladies. Was that something to do with the weather?

It had been a really enjoyable walk in a beautiful part of the Yarra Ranges



Friendly discussions about the walk route

Our weekend walks

Laurine explains the walk route.



A lone fisherman tries his luck in the pristine Upper Yarra



Laurine organising morning tea for the walkers in the car park.

IN ORDER TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT, HE FIRST HAD TO UPDATE HIS OPERATING SYSTEM, DOWNLOAD AN APP, GET A USERNAME, CHOOSE A PASSWORD, LOG IN TO A HEALTH PORTAL, NAVIGATE TO MESSAGES AND WRITE HIS DOCTOR...BY THEN IT WAS TOO LATE.



Our midweek walks



This article originally appeared in the October 2010 issue of Tracknotes.

Midweek walk, 29 July 2010

Burke and Wills – 150 years on

GEOFF STEPHENS

When Tim and Lee Thorn announced that the July midweek walk was going to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the famous Burke and Wills expedition, we had visions of a walk notice advising walkers to turn up with their packhorse and/or camel and at least three months' supplies.

As it eventuated, we had the correct number of persons (18) for a re-enactment but lacked the camels. It was thought as we passed the zoo that we could perhaps rectify the camel deficiency and collect a few other supplies for our saddlebags, but we settled on a more modest and most enjoyable venture from Southern Cross station to the Burke and Wills memorial cairn in Royal Park.

Our route took us through Docklands and Waterfront City, then along the Moonee Ponds Creek trail to lunch in the extensive wetlands west of the zoo.

We suggest that the Sunday walkers could pick up on re-enacting the rest of the 3,250km journey (one way), although we also note that the official re-enactment is using 4WDs and sparing the zoo's camels.



We also suspect that the Burke and Wills party would not have recognised any of the landmarks we passed en route, although a few trees may survive in Royal Park. As retail ventures, Waterfront City and Costco seemed to lack the essential ingredient of customers, but they were not set up to service a Burke and Wills expedition!

It was a most enjoyable day on 29 July, thanks to Tim and Lee Thorn.

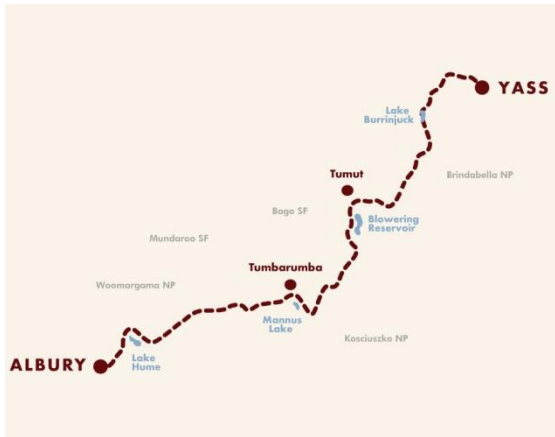


Lee Thorn gets acquainted with Dame Edna.



The group in front of the Burke and Wills cairn at the end of the walk.

Hume and Hovell Track to be upgraded



The NSW Government has completed a 10-year strategic plan to upgrade the Hume and Hovell Track, which runs for 426km from Yass to Albury and features scenic landscapes of grasslands, forests, alpine areas, wetlands and farms.

The strategic plan identifies a range of recommendations to make the track better for bushwalkers, campers, families, and visitors.

The NSW Government invested \$337,900 to develop the strategic plan – the first ever for the track – funded by the Department of Regional NSW’s Business Case and Strategy Development Fund.

Among many objectives, the plan includes improving track sections and campsites with better facilities such as basic hiker huts, tent platforms, toilets, water and camp kitchens. Also envisaged is developing short, medium and longer distance walks to interpret and capture the pioneering spirit of Hume and Hovell’s historic expedition, and to encourage First Nations operators to share histories and culture through tours.

The next step will be to form a Track Coordination Group to focus on the plan’s implementation. A business case will then be developed to seek funding to implement major components of the plan.

A bee with formidable (defensive) jaws



An Australian insect with huge jaws jutting out from a very large head may appear rather intimidating, but the oversize jaws of the male megamouth bee are actually intended for defensive rather than offensive purposes.

According to *Australian Geographic*, the megamouth bee (*Leioproctus Muelleri*) was discovered in 2010 by Dr Terry Houston, curator of insects at the Western Australian Museum. He found specimens in bushland at Forrestdale, about 20km from Perth.

It’s a solitary species, with the bees (actually about the size of honeybees) living underground. The male’s large head, with its oversize jaws, is to protect the female with which he’s chosen to mate.

The females spend a lot of time with their eggs in the burrow, while the males stand guard, impressive jaws at the ready. Only the female is permitted to enter the burrow: all other potential intruders – including rival males and the parasitical cuckoo wasp – are fiercely fended off.

This wasp tries to infiltrate nests and lay eggs near the host’s eggs. Hatching cuckoo wasp larvae may eat pollen stored for the host’s larvae – then turn on the host’s larvae themselves and eat them. In that case, as the *Australian Geographic* writer said ‘I think I speak for all of us when I say, GIVE THE MEGAMOUTH BEE EVEN BIGGER JAWS.’



“I’ll give you something for gas.”

The club's 2024 program

The dates for our 2024 walks are final, but the location of nominated walks may need to be changed.

| Public Hol. | 2024 | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun | Feature | Walk (Proposed) | Leader |
|------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| New Year | Jan | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | New Year | | |
| | Jan | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | | | |
| Australia Day | Jan | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | | | |
| | Jan | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | | | |
| | Jan | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | |
| | Feb | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | | | |
| Valentine's Day | Feb | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | Warburton | L Symington | |
| | Feb | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | Ashburton/Deepd | J Stewardson | |
| | Feb | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 1 | 2 | 3 | | | |
| | Mar | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | | | |
| Labour Day | Mar | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | Sale | D Ashton | |
| | Mar | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | | | |
| Easter | Mar | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | Easter | Gardiners Creek | J Walpole |
| | Apr | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Day Sav Ends | | |
| Anzac Day | Apr | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | Queenscliff | M&D Hooper | |
| | Apr | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | Boneo | M&D Ashton | |
| | Apr | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | Anzac Day | | |
| | May | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | French Island | N Hart-Smith | |
| Mother's Day | May | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | | | |
| | May | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | | | |
| | May | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | Darabin Creek | R Pugsley | |
| | May | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | | | |
| King's B'day | Jun | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | | | |
| | Jun | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | Merricks | C Dynon | |
| | Jun | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | | | |
| | Jun | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | * * * | R Piesse | |
| 30th Anniversary | Jul | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | | | |
| | Jul | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | | | |
| | Jul | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | | | |
| | Jul | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | * * * | J&J Isaac | |
| | Jul | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | |
| | Aug | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | Trentham | S&G Stanley | |
| | Aug | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | | | |
| | Aug | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | * * * | S Gilderdale | |
| Father's Day | Aug | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | | | |
| | Sep | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | * * * | R Piesse | |
| Warby Trail | Sep | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | | | |
| | Sep | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | Warby Trail | L Symington | |
| | Sep | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | | |
| | Oct | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | Day Save | | |
| E Kay | Oct | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | * * * | E Kay | |
| | Oct | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | | | |
| | Oct | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | * * * | | |
| | Oct | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | | | |
| Cup Day | Nov | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | | | |
| | Nov | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | Rememb Day | Weekend | |
| | Nov | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | | | |
| Christmas | Nov | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | | | |
| | Dec | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | Christmas | | |
| | Dec | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | | | |
| | Dec | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | | | |
| Christmas | Dec | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | Christmas | | |
| | Dec | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | |

31 = School Holidays = Bushwalks

06-Mar-24