



Walking along a singing trail

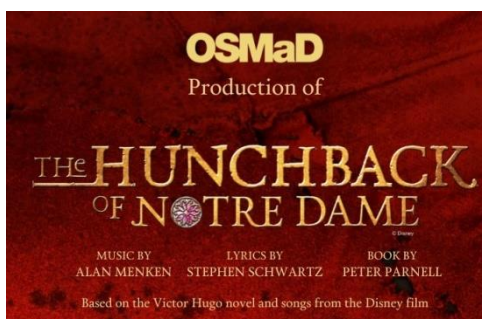


In the photo, Graham Stanley speaks to walkers at the start of the club's unique Elwood Singing Walking Trail walk on 24 August.

The group took a 7km musical walk around Elwood (yes, a musical walk), stopping at 12 singing sites related to Elwood, where songs were accessible via QR codes; although the walkers agreed that they wouldn't sing the songs – just record them and play them at home.

Our walkers were joined by members of the Kooyong Heart Foundation Walking Group, and Graham made sure the visitors were each handed a bushwalking club membership application form, just in case they want to join our ranks.

Our comprehensive article about this innovative walk begins on page 6.



The Old Scotch Music and Drama Club's 2023 production is *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, a musical based on the classic novel by Victor Hugo, with songs from the Disney movie.

The Hunchback of Notre Dame will run from 7 to 16 December, with an OSCA clubs' night scheduled for Thursday 7 December. The club will email booking and other details to our members once they are known.

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Ten questions – Christine Moss

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

I have been a member of the bushwalking club for almost 25 years.

How did you find out about the club?

Ann and Hugh Morris both introduced us to OSBC.

What are your links to Scotch College?

My brother David Leech, Class of '66, and our two sons, Andrew ('95) and Alexander Moss ('98) all attended Scotch.

What has been your favourite walk within Australia?

My favourite walk within Australia would have to be the Overland Track from Cradle Mountain to Lake St Clair in Tasmania.

What has been your favourite overseas holiday?

I've had many wonderful overseas holidays, but two favourites that immediately come to mind are the Alaskan cruise combined with the Rocky Mountaineer train journey and a trip to Peru with a good friend some years ago.

Have you walked while overseas? If so, what has been your favourite walk?

Walking in Mt Denali National Park and to the Inca Bridge in Machu Picchu were very memorable.

What are your hobbies and interests other than bushwalking?

Playing bridge, tennis and holidaying in our little Avon are three hobbies/interests that keep me busy.



Chris Moss photographed during a walk around the Devils Marbles in the Northern Territory

What was your occupation?

Before I retired I worked as a Domiciliary Midwife for many years, a job I thoroughly enjoyed: busy but never boring.

What football team do you barrack for?

I don't barrack for any AFL football team now, but I enjoy watching soccer, especially when the Matildas play and win!



Chris at Blinman in the Flinders Ranges



President's Tree-Stump



Gosh, spring has sprung. I noticed that when I wrote my last tree-stump we were about to enter winter – now we are going into a forecast warm, dry spring. Very good for walking rather than in the cold and rain. The wattle and other flowers are all coming into bloom. This is a great lift to our spirits.

Since my last tree-stump we have had many interesting walks, all very ably led by a band of dedicated walk leaders. We are always looking for more volunteers in this area. Our walks have been from St Leonards to Portarlington, Diamond Creek, along the old rail trail at Loch in South Gippsland, from Kew to Fairfield, in the Plenty Gorge Park and finally along the Elwood Canal.

An interesting point on the Elwood Canal walk was that in about 1905 Scotch's own Sir John Monash designed and built six bridges that crossed Elster Creek and the Elwood Canal, using innovative engineering methods.

Our year is far from ended. We still have more walks planned for the last quarter, including our weekend away at Cobram from 17 to 19 November and our Christmas dinner, which is planned to be held on 10 December. More on that later.

I mentioned above how spring tends to lift one's spirits. I encourage members to support the Old Scotch Music and Drama Club's production, which this year is *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. It will be presented in the Geoffrey McComas Theatre at Scotch in December, after the school year ends. This is to allow the Scotch

boys to use the theatre during Term 4. Further details including booking arrangements for the clubs' night, Thursday 7 December, will be emailed at a later date.

I again urge all of you to consider being one of our committee members or to volunteer as a walk leader during the coming year.

Until next time or when we meet out on the track,

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Tracknotes

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Could a Great Victorian Coastal Walk become a reality?

When environmentalist Lynn Murrell became the first person to walk the entire Victorian coastline of 2000km back in 2005, he came up with the idea of linking walking trails to form a Great Victorian Coastal Walk.

Now calls are increasing for the walk to become a reality, according to a report in the *Herald Sun*. Mr Murrell told the paper that with limited infrastructure in some areas it was difficult to walk from Nelson in the west to Cape Howe in the east. 'You had to be careful and do your research to get around (difficult) spots,' he said.

He told the *Herald Sun* that the state government would only need to add some extra trails, 'clean up' some existing trails and improve signs to form the Great Victorian Coastal Walk.

Our midweek walks

A pleasant winter's day along Diamond Creek

WENDY LE GET

Our midweek walk on 29 June led us along the Diamond Creek path with 10 walkers in attendance. Our walk commenced at Diamond Creek railway station and we were lucky to have a pleasant winter's day. This is a relatively new walking and cycling track so is in good condition, and is a pleasant walk through well-established gum trees beside Diamond Creek.

The area has been roamed for centuries by the Wurundjeri-willam clan, and manna gums dominate the area. We saw a small mob of kangaroos and a flock of about 50 wood ducks besides the creek plus a few other water birds, but unfortunately none of the platypus that are said to reside in the creek.

We paused at the ruins of pioneer William Herbert's 1861 stone house and stables, and as the photo shows, there is little of it remaining. We then continued through Wattle Glen and on to Hurstbridge. Most of the walk is very peaceful and there is little housing near the path, although we did have some interesting discussions about some of the housing we passed! Some of the area still has grazing and a couple of herds of contented cattle were seen.

At Hurstbridge we concluded the walk for lunch, which we ate in the gardens of the Community Hub. This garden includes numerous wicking beds, a small perennial food garden, a sensory garden, and a picnic/eating area. The produce from the beds is free



At the ruins: Ian Hansen, Julie Walpole, Sonia Gilderdale, Robyn Hansen, Richard Piesse. Back: Jan Ward, Laurine Symington.

for everyone to harvest, and it was an attractive little spot.

At this point the group decided it was 'coffee time', so we then went exploring for an open café, as our planned destination was closed. Finally we proceeded to Hurstbridge Station to catch the train back to our respective destinations.



A manna gum with Ian and Michele McMichael, Richard Piesse, Laurine Symington, Robyn Hansen, Wendy le Get, Jan Ward and Julie Walpole.

Our midweek walks

A sunny winter walk in Kew and Fairfield

CELIA DYNON

On a cool but sunny day 14 walkers met at Victoria Park in Kew for our 19 July midweek walk. We crossed to the north of High Street and continued on a walking path through parkland to the Kew Billabong.

The walk continued west from the billabong along the shared bike and walking path before turning off to walk beside the Yarra up to the Chandler Highway bridge. Crossing the bridge, we walked down steps to continue along the north side of the river from where the sunny day provided perfect reflections in the river. The wattles were all coming out, making a colourful display.



Setting off, with Michele McMichael and Julie Walpole up front



Lunch in the parkland above Fairfield Boathouse

We were challenged a little with a steep climb up from the river, but continued along interesting and attractive Fairfield streets with a variety of old and new architecture. Reaching the parkland above Fairfield Boathouse we stopped for lunch in some gentle sunshine.

We continued across the pipe bridge and down the boulevard with a stop for coffee at Willsmere village before returning to our starting point at Victoria Park. It had been a lovely walk in good company on a perfect day.



Crossing the pipe bridge

A peaceful Yarra scene



Our midweek walks

Strolling through Elwood's colourful past

GRAHAM STANLEY

We have become used to the Stanleys coming up with quirky, if not unique walks, but this year's August midweek walk surely takes the cake! The walk, on 24 August, took the unusual form of a singing tour of Elwood, taking in many of the suburb's interesting features.

The 7km journey highlighted 12 of the suburb's special features. Each feature was marked by a large disc fixed to a prominent spot, each with a QR code where walkers could click on the code and hear one of the choir's pre-recorded songs. It was agreed that we would not try to sing the songs, just record them and play them at home!



Setting off along the streets of Elwood



Stylish canal-side living

On this walk, we were delighted to be joined by members of the Kooyong Heart Foundation Walking Group, headed by Peter Fletcher, with Edgar Loutit (Scotch's class of 1961), Appy Laspagis, Trish Simmons and Michelle Chew.

Elwood was probably named by Lieutenant-Governor Charles La Trobe after Thomas Ellwood (note - two ls), an influential English Quaker.

Elwood was first surveyed in 1802, but it was not until 1835 that James Faulkner anchored off Elwood en route to found the settlement of Melbourne. Had he liked what he saw, then Elwood may have become Melbourne and the capital of Victoria, however Fawkner's crew sailed on to the Yarra, where they founded Melbourne. Perhaps the large marshy lagoon put them off.

In 1851, Victoria separated from New South Wales, and the first land sale of

six blocks were auctioned in Elwood for two pounds, 10 shillings per acre. That was the same year that Scotch was founded.

Elwood did not enjoy a particularly glamorous beginning. In those early days, parts of Elwood were a quarantine station and abattoirs, a night soil deposit site and a coal mine – and during the walk, we passed over those sites.

Once the swamp was reclaimed in 1905, Elwood became a desirable place to live, with many beautiful mansions built throughout the suburb. But over the years its character and the landscape changed; the mansions disappeared so that only a few now remain, and gradually ugly blocks of flats took over the suburb. There are, however, still many remaining examples of fine homes built in the 1920s and 1930s.

The walk began at Elwood St Kilda Neighbourhood Learning Centre, where the song embedded in the QR code is *We Honour the Land*, written by Dr Laura Brearley, and acknowledging the land's traditional inhabitants.



Briefing at Poet's Corner

Our midweek walks

Elwood cont.

The second stop was the F L Dawkins Reserve, often referred to as 'Poets' Corner', as it is surrounded by streets named after English poets. These streets display examples of the wide range of typical architectural features of Elwood; blocks of flats ranging in styles from plain ugly to spacious Art Deco, and period homes of Tudor, Victorian, Art Deco, Edwardian, '30s and '40s style and post-war.



Robinson Reserve

The song to sing here is *Tumbalalaika*, selected by Melbourne musician and Yiddish teacher, Tomi Kalinski, to honour the Yiddish-speaking migrants who settled in Elwood.

The third stop was a sundial beside the Elwood Canal. Within view of both Elwood Secondary College and Elwood Primary School, the sundial helps students learn about time, navigation, and the seasons.

The song to be sung here is *Carry On* by Australian celebrity songwriter and musician, Jack O'Hagan, who also wrote *Along the road to Gundagai*. He wrote *Carry On* in 1931, to help raise spirits during the depression.

Then on to the fourth stop, Elwood Sourdough, which has become a thriving Elwood institution run by baker Greg Dee and entertainer, songwriter Tracy Harvey. The song for this stop is *In Toast We Trust*, composed by Tracy Harvey.



Elwood Sourdough

Next was Robinson Reserve. During the mid to late 19th century this park was the site of an abattoir, a human manure dump, kennels for hunting hounds, a coal mine, and the location of Victoria's first quarantine station. This was hastily set up when, in 1840, the *Glenhuntly* sailed into Melbourne with a typhus plague on board. The song sung here is *The Wark o' the Weavers*, chosen to honour the early Scottish arrivals in Elwood.

From here we climbed the only hill in Elwood, Point Ormond Hill, a man-made mound that is the remnants of a sandstone cliff known as Little Red Bluff. In the late 19th

and early 20th century, the cliff was broken up and used to fill in the Elwood Swamp.

In 1901, a signal station at Point Ormond made history, with the first ever radio-telegraph communications with a ship at sea from the Australian mainland. The song here, *The Sea*, uses the words of English poet, John Keats, and celebrates the beautiful water and coastline of Port Phillip Bay.

Next stop was Point Ormond Café, where the octagonal kiosk was built in 1915 and is the oldest structure on Elwood beach. The song for the Beach Shack is *La Mar Estaba Serena*, a traditional Spanish folk tune painting a restful picture: 'the sea was calm; calm was the sea'.

The Elwood foreshore has long been a place of recreation. This part of the beach is the home of the Elwood Life-Saving Club, Sea Scouts, the Elwood Angling Club and the Elwood Sailing Club.

The song here is *Nerm*, written by Jeannie Marsh, the musical director of the Elwood Community Choir. According to Jeannie, local Aboriginals told early European settlers that their name for Port Phillip Bay was Nerm. However, while Jeannie has lived most of her life around the bay, she has never heard the word Nerm.



Lunch by the sea

Our first stop after lunch was the Elwood Pier. Ten mosaics, which record part of the history of Elwood, are set into the pier, which is a great spot to watch wild weather rolling in across the bay; so what could be better than a rollicking sea shanty to the tune of *Round the Cape*.

Our midweek walks

Elwood cont.

The walk left the sea here and entered a small park with traditional English-style garden beds and shade trees. The song the choir sings here, *All About Elwood*, is a summary of Elwood from the days of the Aboriginals to the influx of Europeans. The words were by Red Bingham, a choir member, and the tune is the well-known *I do Like to be Beside the Seaside*, written by British songwriter John Glover in 1907.

Our next stop was not described on the choir's map; it was the St Kilda Street Bridge, where there is a connection to Scotch through its greatest Old Boy, Sir John Monash.



The city skyline was the backdrop for parts of the walk



Walk leader Graham Stanley with Trish Simmons, one of five walkers from the Kooyong Heart Foundation Walking Group who participated in the walk.

Before World War I, John Monash designed and built six bridges spanning Elster Creek and the Elwood Canal. Civil engineer Monash, of the Reinforced Concrete and Monier Pipe Company, designed and constructed the St Kilda Street Bridge in 1905, one of the six bridges spanning the Elwood Canal.

The bridges demonstrate the technical innovation achieved by Monash in the early years of the 20th century, featuring the earliest developments of reinforced concrete technology in Australia. The St Kilda Street bridge is the oldest reinforced concrete beam bridge in Victoria, and possibly Australia. At this point, to honour Monash we could have sung one of our school songs – but we didn't!

The St Kilda Street bridge is the start of the Elwood Canal Linear Park, a lush green strip park running each side of Elster Creek, before it becomes Elwood Canal.



Beside the Elwood Canal

The word Elster means 'magpie' in German, and there are usually many flocks of magpies around to see and hear.

The song the choir sings here is *The Rakali Hop*. The rakali have been described as Australia's otters and are also known as native water rats. Although nocturnal, they have been seen swimming and hunting in Elwood Canal and around the St Kilda pier.

The walk finished at the King of Tonga Bar. The song the choir sings here, *Elwood Song*, is in two parts. The first part is a lilting waltz and the second part was written to a Cuban beat.

We finished the walk at the Tickled Pink Café for a well-deserved afternoon tea.

This being the end of the walk, leader Graham Stanley thanked all for coming and making it such a great day. He also thanked Peter, Edgar, Appy, Michelle and Trish from the Kooyong Heart Foundation Walking Group for joining us on our walk, and handed them club membership application forms in the hope that we can welcome them on future walks.

Our weekend walks

Sunshine and bayside breezes at Portarlington

MARGARET MOORE

Despite a previous weather forecast to the contrary, a group of nine walkers arrived at Portarlington on Sunday 18 June amid clear blue skies, winter sunshine and beautiful views across the bay towards the You Yangs and west to Mt Eliza and beyond. Unfortunately, the wind had not disappeared!

The planned walk was from St Leonard's to Portarlington and began with a bus trip to St Leonard's, giving us a tour of the residential areas along the way. After alighting from the bus we walked towards the shore. Looking out at the pier, the concrete reef, which had been constructed to encourage more bivalve shell growth, was visible despite the high tide.

The path along the foreshore was well formed and flat, enabling us to take in the view and surroundings. At one point there was a plaque noting the evolution of the family holiday homes along the coast of St Leonard's beginning in the 1950s, and now attracting retirees as well as holiday makers.

Along the beach front there were several rows of beautifully and uniformly maintained boat sheds and a small yacht club.



Eight of the nine Portarlington walkers.

At Indented Head were the remains of the *Ozone*, a steel paddle steamer which had been brought out from Scotland. For many years it ferried passengers on short trips and excursions around the bay. After it, and other ships, had been scuttled its remains were moved to Indented Head to form a breakwater for small craft. It is now classified and protected as a historic shipwreck.

Lunch was enjoyed at a beautifully maintained picnic area in the sunshine and protected from the wind

There were dog walkers, runners and cyclists all enjoying the track; but one man was eager to show us his very clever adaptation of a mobility scooter with a carrier and fishing rod holders which could be adapted for multiple purposes and occasions.

We felt very lucky to be able to complete the 10.2km walk in sunshine despite battling a headwind. Needless to say, rest and a coffee at a Portarlington cafe at the conclusion of our walk were greatly appreciated.



The paddle steamer Ozone



All that remains of the Ozone in 2023



Boathouses on the foreshore at Indented Head

Our weekend walks

A little Victorian history in a Strzelecki Ranges walk

LAURINE SYMINGTON

The building of the Great Southern Railway from Dandenong to Port Albert commenced in 1887 and the railway opened in 1892. It was built to transport forestry and dairy products to Melbourne. History tells us that Leongatha schoolchildren travelled to Dandenong by train in 1922 to compete in school sports.

But passenger numbers declined from the 1930s onwards, and by 1994 the last of the freight trains ran. The line was then manned by volunteers who ran a tourist train from Leongatha to Nyora until 2015, when safety requirements made it too expensive to continue.



Before the start of the walk at Bena



On the Strzelecki Ranges rail trail

Thirteen well-equipped walkers in six cars arrived in Loch on Sunday 9 July, having driven from Melbourne in the rain. Three cars were driven to Bena, the start of the walk, and one to Jeetho, the halfway point, in case the weather or the distance was too hard, leaving two at Loch so we could collect the cars at the end of the walk – easy!

The 10.5km walk started near Bena, where we crossed a bridge that looked very oversized for a walking trail; but possibly it was designed as an emergency truck road. Bena once had a station, but when they closed the railway in 2015 the town was left with not even a general store or a public toilet!

The walk was through the Strzelecki Ranges, with views of the rolling countryside and dairy farms. Being a rail trail it was mostly gently downhill or had very small rises. It was a bit windy, but there was no rain, so we were all happy.

Jeetho was another town that once had a station. Now all that remains is the community hall. The rail trail has only recently been completed, and the seats are still to be installed. But the community hall had a lovely double set of stairs leading to the front door; it was a good place to sit and eat our lunch. Nobody pulled out here, so off we went towards Loch and the promise of a coffee and a toilet.

The terrain was still of green pastures but more trees had been planted. There was a large dirt bridge where the gentle hills became steeper, and there were seats and a viewing platform at Hilda Falls – where Alsop Creek bounced down the rocks and reminded us we were in South Gippsland.

The approach into Loch was past the Loch Market site and the old railway station. Coffee was booked at the old bakery, which had a warm room at the back of the shop, ideal for us to sit and wait while the drivers collected the cars.

It had been a pleasant stroll through the green farmlands, and the rain held off. It was great to have Jane and Sarah Gibson join us for the day.



Our weekend walks

Plenty Gorge Park – a surprising departure from sprawling suburbia

PAM MCLEOD

On Sunday 13 August, 14 members met at the Hawkstowe Picnic Area on a very cold but sunny day. The Plenty River parklands are an interesting part of Melbourne, between South Morang and Yarrambat. Suddenly, you leave behind sprawling suburbia for expansive bushlands, stunning views, kangaroos, birdlife and quiet river gorges.

Our walk passed through lovely areas of bush splashed with golden wattles, past an old bluestone quarry now filled with water, and through the Morang Wetlands, where we saw some birds but heard many frogs. We saw the remains of an old farmhouse, and throughout the walk we were often watched warily by large mobs of curious kangaroos. We were following the Plenty River, and at one point there was a wonderful view of the gorge and a small waterfall from a nearby lake.



Kangaroos were seen in abundance during the walk
household waste tip. There are waste gas recovery wells, and signs to avoid this contaminated area.

Our homeward path meandered through parkland to the home lake of the Le Page Homestead and then we returned to the parking area where we all enjoyed a 'car boot' afternoon tea before heading home.



At one point walkers enjoyed a great view of the gorge and a small waterfall



Boulders provided comfortable seats for lunch

Some convenient boulders made excellent seats for our lunch stop – sunshine and no wind! Continuing on we came to a large grassed area which had been an old

Norrie led us, without a map, along paths, across grass, through trackless bush for a distance of 9km. It was a most enjoyable walk.

Editor's note: Norrie did a marvellous job with some unerring cross-country navigation, and after the walk Pam provided delicious chocolate brownies to liven up the 'car boot' afternoon tea.



One of the lakes walkers encountered

The club's 2023 program

The dates for our 2023 walks are final, but the location of nominated walks may need to be changed.

	2023	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Feature	Walk (Proposed)	Leader
Public Hol.											
New Year	Jan							1	New Year		
New Year	Jan	2	3	4	5	6	7	8			
	Jan	9	10	11	12	13	14	15			
	Jan	16	17	18	19	20	21	22			
Australia Day	Jan	23	24	25	26	27	28	29			
	Feb	30	31	1	2	3	4	5			
	Feb	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		Somers	R Morris
	Feb	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	Valentine's Day		
	Feb	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		Rosebud	D&M Ashton
	Mar	27	28	1	2	3	4	5			
	Mar	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
Labour Day	Mar	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		Warrnambool	N Hart-Smith
	Mar	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		Maribyrnong River	Pugsley Persaud
	Mar	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	Day Save End		
Easter	Apr	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Easter		
Easter	Apr	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		Point Nepean	N Hinshelwood
	Apr	17	18	19	20	21	22	23			
Anzac Day	Apr	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Anzac Day	Shepherds Bush Sherbrooke	P&N McLeod S Gilderdale
	May	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
	May	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Mother's Day		
	May	15	16	17	18	19	20	21			
	May	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		Moonee Ponds	R Piesse
	May	29	30	31	1	2	3	4			
King's B'day	Jun	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
	Jun	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		Portarlington	J&M Moore
	Jun	19	20	21	22	23	24	25			
	Jun	26	27	28	29	30	1	2		Diamond Creek Loch	W Le Get L Symington
	Jul	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
	Jul	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
	Jul	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		Kew/Fairfield	C Dynon
	Jul	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
	Aug	31	1	2	3	4	5	6			
	Aug	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		Plenty Gorge Park	P&N McLeod
	Aug	14	15	16	17	18	19	20			
	Aug	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		Elwood	S&G Stanley
	Aug	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	Father's Day		
	Sep	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		Castlemaine	R Piesse
	Sep	11	12	13	14	15	16	17			
	Sep	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		Bundoora	I Hansen
	Sep	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	Day Save Start		
	Oct	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		Boneo/Rosebud	D&M Ashton
	Oct	9	10	11	12	13	14	15			
	Oct	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		Murrumbeena	M McMichael
	Oct	23	24	25	26	27	28	29			
	Oct	30	31	1	2	3	4	5			
Cup Day	Nov	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
	Nov	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		Cobram	C Moss
	Nov	20	21	22	23	24	25	26			
	Nov	27	28	29	30	1	2	3			
	Dec	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		Dinner	Hoelter Moignard
	Dec	11	12	13	14	15	16	17			
	Dec	18	19	20	21	22	23	24			
Christmas	Dec	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Christmas		

31 = School Holidays = Bushwalks

22-Aug-23