



Affiliated with Bushwalking  
Victoria

The Victorian Mountain Tramping Club Inc. Newsletter - ACN A628G

# Trampalong

December 2018 - No. 750

## REMINDERS & NOTICES

- Christmas BBQ - 13 December. Club rooms, Powlett Reserve
- Half Yearly General Meeting, 3rd Tuesday in February.
- Send photos and a sentence or two to tell us what you are doing - for the VMTC Community section

**CLOSING DATE:** Trampalong contributions

For December: 6 November

For February 2019: 8 January

email contributions to

Rosalind Leong: [jadelily\\_98@yahoo.com](mailto:jadelily_98@yahoo.com)



The Grey Hills (Photo: Damien W)

Editor (content/collation): Rosalind Leong - Editor (content/layout & design): Terri Seddon

*Disclaimer: Any statements and opinions expressed in articles published in 'Trampalong' are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the editors, the committee or members of the VMTC*

It's been a wonderful month of hikes with a range of day walks and overnight pack carries spread across the state. This past month the Federation Walks weekend was also held with over 200 walkers attending.

The new walks program has now been circulated with many incredible hikes available. Be sure to check it out and sign up to walks via the website.

Damien Walters has done an incredible job collating trip data from past Trampalongs to create a data base of VMTC trips since 1976. See more information in VMTC Community section (below). Thank you Damien for all your hard work!

Welcome to newly qualified members David Mellor and Lucy Firth. I hope you have many incredible adventures with the club. Also welcome to new prospective member Maria Cahill!

It's also that time of year again so please don't forget to pay your membership renewal fee.

We still have some copies of *Tramping Further into History* available, if you would like to purchase a copy of this 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary VMTC publication or a copy of the 60th Anniversary Book, *Tramping into History*, please email Nola.

There will be a VMTC General Meeting on the 21st of February. Please put this date in your diary.

Susie Hale

## Membership Report

### *Qualified Members*

Congratulations to Paul Usatov, Lucy Firth and David Mellor on qualifying for full membership. We wish you many more enjoyable trips with the VMTC.

### *New Prospective Member*

A warm welcome to Maria Cahill and Paul Usatov

## September – October Activities

### *Day walks:*

Dandenong Creek Valley – 9 members, 1 visitor.

Mt Macedon – 8 members.

Skeleton Creek Altona – 11 members.

### *Ski Tours:*

Gwinear Day Ski – 3 members, 1 visitor.

Fainter ski trip (3 days) – 4 members.

### *Extended Walk:* Nadgee

wildflower and whale watching (7 days) – 9 members, 2 child members.

### *Conservation:* Regent:

Honeyeater planting weekend – 1 member

### *Weekend Walks*

Grampians Base Camp Dadswells Bridge Caravan Park – 4 members, 1 Prospective member, 1

visitor.

Grand Strzelecki Track – 4 members, 2 child members, 2 Prospective members, 1 visitor.

Rose River Wobonga Plateau (joint with Melbourne Bushwalkers) – 1 member, 3 MBW.

Strathbogie Ranges (joint with Melbourne Bushwalkers) – 4 members, 1 Prospective member, 5 MBW.

Billywing Gorge – McPhersons Cave, Western Grampians – 6 members.

Mt Reynard-Caledonia River-Tamboritha Saddle – 9 members, 2 visitors.

Power – Lookout area to Drum Top Reference Area. (joint with Melbourne Bushwalkers) – 7 members, 3 MBW.

Federation Day Walk – 10 members.

Dock Inlet – 7 members, 4 visitors.

### *Cancelled trips*

Mt Difficult range pack carry. Mt St Gwinear to Walhalla via Australian Alps walking track.

Pearl Point to Mallacoota. Sugarloaf Reservoir Circuit, Christmas Hills.

Whroo Navigation

## 70 Year History

The VMTC has profiled its 70 year history in two volumes:

*Tramping into History* – the first 60 years – AND

*Tramping Further Into History* – the last 10 years.

It's a great Christmas gift, an informative, historical addition to your family library. Buy both for \$30, or one for \$20 (including postage). Pay via VMTC internet deposit, but supply your address.

Contact: Nola S or Helen G  
info@vmtc.asn.au

## VMTC Social Events - Club Rooms and Beyond

**Social Night Clubrooms 7:30 pm - except for movie/meal night**

**Thursday 13th December, Xmas party, Start 6pm**  
BYO meat and beer. The club will provide salads, bread, wine, nibbles etc. Hope to see you all there.

**The club rooms will be open in the New Year period on Thursday 17th January 2019**

Come along for a chat if you are not away on an adventure.

**February 21st 2019 will be our Half Yearly General Meeting which is held every year at this time.**

Regards all  
Nola S  
Social Secretary

### Lending Locker

A big thank you to all those that have generously donated items for our lending locker. We now have tents, sleeping mats, sleeping bags, packs etc., which will be very helpful for any new walkers but of course are available for existing members also.

Contact - Nola S



### Reminder

Please advise any changes to your personal details to [membership@vmtc.asn.au](mailto:membership@vmtc.asn.au)

Membership renewals are now due: Single \$50, Family \$90, Student \$20  
If you do not renew by 30<sup>th</sup> November you will cease to be a member of VMTC.

Payment is preferred directly into the VMTC bank account. Please email the details of whom the payment covers to [treasurer@vmtc.asn.au](mailto:treasurer@vmtc.asn.au)

This information is very helpful for the treasurer particularly when couples have different surnames.

If you pay into the bank account by visiting a CBA branch please make sure that you instruct the teller to include your name and the word "subs" in the reference.

The Account details are: *BSB: 063 002, Account Number: 00910167, Account Name: Victorian Mountain Tramping Club, Message/Reference: Your surname(s) and initial(s) and "subs"*

Or post with the Renewal Form to: VMTC Inc., GPO Box 1340, Melbourne, VIC 3001

The VMTC encourages all members to renew so that you continue to receive all communication and keep up to date with VMTC activities and in touch with other members. If you are moving overseas temporarily you can apply to the Committee for an exemption.

Thank you.  
Tony  
VMTC Membership Secretary

## TRIP PREVIEWS LIST

For more details, visitors please email: [membership@vmtc.asn.au](mailto:membership@vmtc.asn.au)

### Sunday 18 November 2018

#### Wonthaggi Circuit Walk

Leader: Agata R  
Standard: Medium  
Distance: 17km  
Rendezvous: 9AM Wonthaggi, Murray St

This is a diverse walk through Wonthaggi's mining history, beautiful heathland, coastal reserve filled with coast wattle, boobialla, coast manna gum and coast banksia and a stretch of wild lonely beach.

### 24-25 November 2018

#### Friends of Bogong

Leader: Jim H.  
Standard: Easy

### Sunday 2 December 2018

#### Lyrebird walk/search

Leader: Helen S  
Standard: Medium  
Distance: 16 km (approx.)  
Rendezvous: 7.00 am Grants Picnic Ground: 70 Kallista Rd Kallista. Look for it on your right after coming through Belgrave (3.5 km)

An early start this morning to get out and spot the birds. This will be a quiet walk as we traverse through tracks where I have frequently spotted these amazing birds. These little guys (about the size of a rooster) are renowned not only for their beautiful tail but also their ability to mimic the calls of other birds and surrounding environmental noise.

Too far for you to come in the morning? I live just around the corner from the area we will be walking and would be happy for anyone to camp in our backyard or sleep inside on your mats. If it's a nice night you can even jump in the spa or sit around the fire and cook a few marshmallows.



Send Instagram photos to Nola S.

### 1-2 December 2018

#### Devils Staircase

Leader: Susie H.  
Standard: Hard (exposed rock scrambling and off trail walking)  
Rendezvous: Howitt Plains carpark 8am  
Map: Buller-Howitt alpine Area

Proposed route: We will park at the Howitt Plains carpark before heading towards Mac Springs; from here we will head briefly onto the Crosscut Saw before plunging off the side into Terrible Hollow to set up camp near the creek. On Sunday morning we will head up the Devils Staircase to Mac Springs once more, this may require some pack hauling and will involve steep and exposed rock scrambles with large drop-offs, before returning to the cars.

### 7-11 December 2018

#### High Plains Wildflower Walk

Leader: Maureen H.  
Standard: Medium  
Rendezvous: Mt Loch carpark 9:30am Friday Dec 7

A walk to enjoy the wildflowers and views before the flies get too active and before the busier Christmas–New Year period. A joint walk with the Ben Cruachan Walking Club. (Times are estimates only and do not allow for breaks)

Day 1: Mt Loch carpark to Blair Hut via Mt Loch. Around 5-6hrs  
Day 2: Blair Hut to Tawonga Huts via Westons Hut. 4hrs  
Day 3: Day trip out to the Fainters.  
Day 4: Tawonga Huts to Youngs Hut via Mt Jim and the ancient snowgums near Mt Jim. 5hrs  
Day 5: Youngs Hut to Mt Loch carpark via Cobungra Gap. 5hrs

NB: The circuit may be done in reverse to fit with weather conditions, or in the case of severe weather/bushfire conditions the walk rerouted or re scheduled.

Crossing from the Mt Hotham area to the High Plains and back involves steep downs and ups.

We will be camping in tents, with the possibility of using Huts for gathering/meals depending on the weather.

Weather in the Alps can change quickly and snow and blizzards are possible at any time of the year. Gear and clothing suitable for Alpine conditions are essential.

**8-9 December 2018**

**Mt. Wellington, Lake Tali Karng, Spion Kopje**

Leader: Jurgen W  
Standard: Medium - steep climb on second day  
Rendezvous: McFarlane Saddle 9.00 am Saturday 8 Dec  
Maps: Tali Karng Outdoor Recreation Guide - plus several others

McFarlane Saddle is 62 km from Licola. At Licola take the Tamboritha Rd to Arbuckle Junction (48 m). Turn right and follow Moroka Rd for 14 km to the start of the walk. Some people may wish to camp at Breakfast Creek on Friday night or any of the camp spots along the way, although there is camping at Arbuckle Junction.

Water: No water at the Junction - nor any water until 14 km from the start. Carry water on the second day.

Proposed Route: Saturday - the walk is mostly flat and downhill except for a short climb to Mt. Wellington.

From there we walk to Taylors Lookout, Millers Hut, Rigalls Spur track to Echo Point and down to Lake Tali Karng. Distance about 20 km.

On Sunday we walk up the steep Gillios Track to Spion Kopje walking track, past Picture Point back to McFarlane Saddle. Distance about 14 km.

**Wednesday 12 December 2018**

**Xmas Walk and Lunch: Maribyrnong River**

Leader: Helen S.  
Standard: Easy  
Distance: 10km (approx.)  
Rendezvous: Newmarket Station, 9.00am  
Transport: Craigieburn train departs Flinders St. Station 8.32 am, Southern  
Cross Station at 8.36 am, arrives Newmarket at 8.44 am.

We will walk through the redeveloped Newmarket sale yards to the Maribyrnong River (the sale yards were closed in 1985 and redeveloped in 1987), then upstream through various wetland areas and new housing estates. I have made a lunch booking, and I must confirm the numbers by Wednesday 5th December. Please advise expressions of interest by phone on 9899 7830, or email to mschaeche@bigpond.com, in addition to the on-line booking.

**Sunday 16 December 2018**

**Mt St Leonard**

Leader: Susie H.  
Standard: Moderate  
Distance: 20km (approx.)  
Rendezvous: Wirrawilla carpark 9am

Proposed route: We will leave the cars at Wirrawilla carpark and proceed towards the Tanglefoot carpark through tall forest; along the trail we will see a small

waterfall. We will meander along leaf strewn paths that take us under large tree ferns and into the realm of the lyrebird! The trail continues until the Mt St Leonard road which we will follow up to the lookout point before heading back along a wider trail to the carpark.

**26 December – 2 January 2019**

**Port Davey Track**

Leader: Ian L  
Standard: Medium

The Port Davey Track is a well graded track that follows river valleys to Bathurst Narrows, a strait between Port Davey and Bathurst Harbour. The Narrows are crossed by rowboat. The track then crosses low hills and plains to Melaleuca. At Melaleuca there is an airstrip, walkers' huts and a campground. The Track is all on track and does not reach high elevations but is exposed above the Lost World Plateau. This walk is within the abilities of most pack carry walkers. Manageable days are scheduled and the pace will be sensible.

Itinerary: December 26th a.m. fly Melbourne-Hobart Airport, 3 pm mini-bus to Scotts Peak Dam (booked). Camp at Huon Campground. Walk campsites as follows: 27th Junction Creek, 28th Crossing River, 29th Watershed Camp, 30th Spring River, 31st Farrell Point, 1st Melaleuca, 2nd fly to Cambridge Aerodrome, fly Hobart Airport-Melbourne.

**2-12 January 2019**

**South-West Cape Circuit**

Leader: Ian L.  
Standard: Medium/Hard  
Distance: 79 km  
Map: Tasmap 1:100,000 South Coast Walks. Chapman, John. 2017. South West Tasmania

The South West Cape Circuit follows rugged headlands and small bays to South-West Cape which stretches 3 km into the Southern Ocean. There is then a traverse of the South West Cape Range to more bays and back to Melaleuca. A side trip to South West Cape and a side trip to Stephens Bay and Spain Bay are scheduled. Ample time has been allotted with manageable days. If the party is tent-bound in adverse weather, side trips can be abandoned. The trip is on tracks to Wilsons Bight and after that is mostly off track. There is some scrub bashing. The trip is at low elevations not above 400 metres. There are sheltered campsites but some sites will be exposed. The party will camp in exposed conditions in any weather conditions.

Itinerary: 2nd January fly Melbourne-Hobart Airport, fly Cambridge Aerodrome to Melaleuca. Alternatively join this trip from the Port Davey Track trip. Food drops for walkers joining from the Port Davey Track trip will be air-freighted to Melaleuca. The trip will begin at Melaleuca and will go: 3rd New Harbour, 4th Wilson

Bight, 5th South West Cape, 6th South West Cape Range, 7th Window Pane Bay, 8th Murgab Creek, 9th side trip to Stephens Bay and Spain Bay and return to Murgab Creek, 10th Horseshoe Inlet, 11th Melaleuca, 12th fly to Hobart then Melbourne.

### **Sunday 6 January 2019**

#### **Bike Ride the Warburton Trail**

Leader: Helen S.  
Standard: Medium  
Distance: 5-2 km (approx. - you can make this longer if you wish, see below)  
Rendezvous: 10.00 am Seville Woolworths 568 Warburton Hwy Seville.

At this starting point we will be riding from Seville to Warburton return. ALTERNATIVELY, you maybe a super fit rider and wish to ride the 80k return from Lilydale Station to Warburton (you will need to allow an hour to get to Seville and we can meet you at the unique Carriage Cafe, located in a restored train carriage on the trail).

The Warburton trail is an iconic recreation trail for cyclists (walkers and horse riders). The trail follows the path of the historical railway line through the stunning Yarra Valley finishing in the Warburton Township where we will have lunch by the beautiful river and have a nice break before returning. You may like to buy lunch in town (a good variety available).

### **10-13 January 2019**

#### **Bogong High Plains Ramble (Updated)**

Leader: Jurgen W.  
Standard: Easy/Medium – easy walking but a climb on the first day  
Rendezvous: Bogong Village 9.00am Thursday 10 January  
Maps: best one is Bogong Alpine Area – outdoor recreation guide – but there are others

This walk is mainly above the tree line so there can be magnificent views in all directions. From Bogong village the track goes past Bogong Jacks Hut then there will be the opportunity to visit the Fainters, Mt Jaithmathong, Mt.Cope as well as Mt. Nelse. This should satisfy any peak baggers. The full proposed route can be seen on the club website under online registrations.

### **12-13 January 2019**

#### **The Fortress**

Leader: Susie H.  
Standard: Hard  
Map: Western Grampians

The plan is to explore The Fortress (finding as many nooks and crannies as we can as well as attempting to find a chute up to the top) and camp at one of the caves in the area, we will be off track for the majority of the weekend and it will involve rock scrambling and quite a lot of scrub so don't forget your scrub gloves!

### **26-28 January 2019**

#### **Mt Buggery via Queens Spur**

Leader: Susie H  
Standard: Hard (off track with steep climbs)  
Rendezvous: Upper Howqua Camping area 8am  
Map: Buller-Howitt Alpine Area P

We will leave the cars and proceed up Queens Spur Rd until we venture off trail towards Mt Buggery. We will pick up water for the night and next morning before the final climb to camp. On the Sunday we will attempt a jaunt out to the Viking, we may not get there but it's always worth a shot! We will either remain camped on Buggery or move slightly closer to water. If we maintain the first night's camp we will collect water from Camp Creek on the way back from the side trip. Depending on the group feeling we will either take a similar route down or head out a new way (e.g. via Stanley's Name, Howqua Feeder Track or a delightful off track ramble). There will most likely be lots of scrub so don't forget scrub gloves.

### **26-28 January 2019**

#### **Youngs Hut to McNamaras Dinner Plain Hut**

Leader: Jim H.  
Standard: Medium - Alpine  
Rendezvous: 8:00AM at Dinner Plain car park, just near the entrance.

From here we drive to the Brandy Creek fire trail and follow that down to the Cobungra River, passing an old gold mine on the way. We cross the river to a spot that is a perfect campsite, but we aren't camping there. From here we follow Paling Spur up to near Youngs Hut. We will check out the water situation at the top to see if we can camp there. If it is dry we will camp near Youngs Hut, where the water and camping is excellent but the second day is longer. Day 2 will be with day packs all day following Youngs Tops to McNamaras Dinner Plain Hut. It's a long walk and I'm not sure that we will do it all in one day, although we have done it several times

before. In the afternoon we return to our tents. Day 3 is the reverse of day 1.

Note that there are two McNamaras Hut, one at Buckety Plain and one at Dinner Plain, this trip is going to the Dinner Plain Hut. The area is alpine so freezing temperatures and snow are possible at any time of the year.

Recommended map is Bogong Alpine Area by Spatial Vision.

#### **1-4 February 2019 Jagungal Bike and Hike**

Leader: Susie H.  
Standard: Moderate/Hard  
Rendezvous: Round Mountain carpark 9am  
Map: Kosciuszko

Proposed route: We will head out from Round Mountain on the bikes and wind our way to O'Keefe's Hut (approx. 37km) where we will stash the bikes and camp for the night. The following day we will set out on foot to climb Jagungal and visit some of the other huts in the region, in the afternoon we will pick up the bikes again and make a decision about where to camp for the evening. On the final day we will be cycling out via a different route to keep things interesting (approx. 22km). The paths around here are rough gravel ones so please bring spare tubes and a patching kit.

#### **6-10 February 2019 The Rolling Grounds**

Leader: Susie H.  
Standard: Moderate/Hard  
Rendezvous: Dead Horse Gap 9am  
Map: Kosciuszko Alpine Area

Proposed route: Heading up onto the range from Dead Horse Gap we will get onto the Rams Head and make our way to as many of the highest peaks in the area as we wander across the plains off trail visiting huts and creek systems along the way. This beautiful area can have extreme weather at any time of year so please come prepared.

Highlights include: The Rams Head, Cootapatamba hut and lake, Seamans Hut, Mt Kosciuszko, Abbott Peak, Muellers Peak, Mt Northcote, Mt Townsend, Carruthers Peak, Watsons Crags, Mt Twynam and more!



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#### **4-21 March 2019 Western and Eastern Arthurs traverse**

Leader: Susie H.  
Standard: Hard

Proposed route: The plan is to get to the start of the Huon Track and walk in with 18 days' worth of food, we will drop the supplies for the Eastern traverse at Crowcroft Crossing before heading on to the start of the Western traverse. We will head up on to the range and work our way along as dictated by weather. The plan is to do most of the side trips (weather depending) and then drop off and regroup at Crowcroft Crossing to collect our fresh supplies before aiming for the big one, Federation.

Please note this will be a difficult and muddy traverse with unpredictable weather and stunning views!

## TRIP REPORTS

3-4 September 2018

### Bogong Village to Falls Creek Ski Tour

Day 1 (11.4k, 1500m ascent, 444m descent) Sunset 6.00pm, Last light 6.23pm. Falls Creek average snow depth. 205cm Inspired by photos from the Rover Lodge week, I had to enjoy at least one trip this great snow season. Perhaps something different to the usual there and back, plod out to somewhere like Ropers. So a more challenging trip was planned, starting at Bogong Village and finishing at Falls Creek.

I was dropped off by the bus at 8.00am. An anticipated icy crossing of Rocky Valley Creek was circumvented by a convenient footbridge. A solid climb on Black Possum Spur Track followed. I met a pair of curious dingos on a lower section of the track – a couple of ruff ruffs and they were off – the sort of encounter more likely when travelling alone. Snow level was at about the 1250m contour, then skiable snow for a short distance from the flat ridge/saddle at the 1270m contour. The Mt Arthur walking track (sign posted) was unidentifiable under a good snow cover but a depression could be made out in the upper sections.

Anyway, it was just a matter of following the spur up, and up. Due to the steepness and scrub I found the least bad solution was to strap skis onto the pack. Difficult at first, but it became more open as I ascended – so less dodging of overhead branches and crawling on hands & knees! Skied for a short distance from top of Little Mt. Arthur but had to carry skis again on the final steep climb onto Mt. Arthur. Arrived 20 minutes ahead of schedule at Mt. Arthur at 12.40pm. Great views of the West Peak of Bogong and Quartz Ridge – I felt I could almost reach out and touch them.



Crow's Nest Camp (Photo: Damien Walters)

Lunch, then a short side-ski north along the ridge. There was a good snow cover on the Grey Hills. Corniced ridge made it awkward choosing a skiable route in places. Low snow gum regrowth made it difficult in others. I skied around the side of some of the knolls to avoid a steep descent from the top. Choosing a straight route through the dead snow gum branches was tricky at times to keep a level course. The final climb from the last saddle up onto the Crow's Nest was a bit of a nightmare: Too steep and scrubby to ski, so had to strap the skis onto the pack again. Lots of ducking and weaving and unusual body positions, sinking into soft snow up to the crotch at every second step, I even had to crawl on my stomach in a few places to avoid snagging the skis on overhead branches. It got better (more open and firmer) further up but I was totally wasted by the time I arrived at the top.

Then a short icy ski to camp (5.40pm). Camp site was on a nice level shelf above the junction of Big River and a small side creek. Thankfully, no site prep was needed on a hard surface. Erected tent, threw everything in and went to look for water, the availability of which looked like an issue with the huge snow cover. Walked down side creek (totally snowed in, but easy firm walking) then a short distance down Big River to a small section of flowing water. Had to cut steps into the hard snow with the shovel to get securely down to collect the water. Back to tent just before dark. Started dinner at 7.00pm.



The ski along the Grey Hills was harder than I anticipated – the knolls seemed to have become steeper and taller since I last walked there. Plus, my skiing ability was woeful being the first outing for the season and with a pack to boot. I was over-schedule by an hour as I had planned to be at camp by 4.30. I had certainly got my money's worth of challenge today. But it was nice to complete the whole ridge from Bogong Creek Saddle, as I had previously done a club ski trip in the early 90's where we had walked/skied in from Clover Dam and up onto West Peak completing the circuit down Quartz Ridge, and over Mt. Arthur.

Day 2 (18.2k, 494 ascent, 725m descent): Clear sunny morning. Not a breath of wind. About -6° overnight. Feet were cold during the night even with 3 pairs of socks on. The sealskin socks dried out in sleeping bag. Away at 9.00am. Great snow surface on the Spion Kopje ridge then rickety skiing on icy sustrugi along Nelse Ridge. Icy descent to lunch at Edmondsons – calves and thighs were screaming. Good firm snow on Heathy Spur – but not fast. Back to Falls by 3.30 to catch the 5.00pm bus.

Damien W.

**28-30 September 2018**  
**The Fainters Ski Trip**

Leader: Geoff K.  
Participants: Susie H., Adrian B. and Celesta F.

The four of us must have looked an unusual sight as we unloaded our gear on the main road above Bogong village and strapped our skis to the side of our packs for the long walk to Bogong Jack Saddle. It was hot work on the gradual climb on 4 WD track and we didn't encounter snow until a few hundred meters beyond Spring Saddle, from which point there were increasing stretches where we debated whether or not to put skis on instead of post holing through ankle-calf deep snow.



The view towards Feathertop from Fainter North: L to R: Adrian B., Susie H., Geoff K/ (Photo: Celesta F.)

We were spoilt for choice at camp being the sole occupants, settling finally upon a patch of grass under the trees in the old cattle yard, where we had a leisurely afternoon by the tents. The weather didn't eventuate and we enjoyed a golden sunset over the high plains. After a long, though comfortable evening we were up early for the last few kilometres to the Fainter North. Luckily the snow was firm and we were able to walk on top of it, finally putting our skis on just below the summit. As we zig-zagged upwards to the top we enjoyed panoramic views of Bogong, the High Plains, Hotham, Feathertop and Buffalo.



Carrying ski gear on 4 WD from Bogong Village  
(Photo: Susie H.)

It had been an exceptional ski season and there was still plenty of snow around! The hard-packed surface made for quick skiing across the tops, and although the sunshine was glorious upon our faces, it was not T-shirt weather as there was a bitter wind. The benefit of our chosen route was that we were able to really enjoy the Fainters, and after lunch we took to practising our turns on its many slopes.

It was hero snow: forgiving and controllable though softening. We made it back to camp in time for afternoon tea, pleasantly tired by our day's efforts. The next morning, we deconstructed camp and carried our skis back down the 4WD track for lunch at Mt Beauty.

Thanks Geoff for a superb weekend skiing around the Fainter, and Susie and Adrian for their company!

Celesta F.

**28 October 2018**  
**Mt Macedon/ Mt Towrong Loop**  
**walk**

Leader: Nola S.  
Participants: Jayden S., Clive D., Susie H., Mark R., Cath R., Marianne W. and Geoff K..

Had a great day's walking starting at Douglas Rd and walking up to the Memorial Cross. We had a bit of an icy wind at the top but it progressed into a gloriously sunny day. We had morning tea at Mc Gregors Picnic area and then walked to the Camels Hump, the highest point of The Macedon Ranges. Rock climbers were practising on the rock formations and we had a clear view of Hanging Rock and beyond.



L to R: Susie H., Cath R., Geoff K., Clive D, Mark R., Jayden S., Marianne W.  
(Photos: Nola S.)



Sanatorium Lake: L to R: Nola S., Marianne W., Clive D., Geoff K., Susie H., Cath R., Mark R., J. Sanders

From the Camels Hump to Sanatorium Lake via Days Picnic ground, we had lunch at the lake and then continued on to Mt Towrong. The western side of Mt Towrong is a rocky exposed hillside, steep in places and quite different to the previous part of the walk. Wildflowers added to the colour of the day and we did see some orchids.

Thank you to the participants for being a great bunch and making the day fun,

Nola S.

**4 November 2018**  
**Morwell National Park**

Leader: Phil R  
Participants: Gill B., Nathalie C., Alec S.

Morwell NP is a small park, approx. 500 ha in area but with an extensive track network and an enthusiastic Friends Group helping to maintain it. It includes the first few kilometres at the NW end of the long-distance Grand Strzelecki Track from the Billy Creek carpark on Junction Rd. Our walk, on a pleasantly cool cloudy day with occasional welcome bursts of sunshine, took us from here through to the park's main picnic area on Kerry Road via a suitably circuitous 13 km route!

We followed Billy Creek for a couple of kilometres and then joined the signposted Clematis Track to climb the steep eastern side of the valley. True to its name, we found masses of Forest Clematis in flower along the way. This track is slightly tricky to follow in places due to a number of side-trails going off it. Next, Lodge Track led us steeply down to the historic Billy Creek Weir, the source of Morwell's original water supply from around 1920 and a good morning tea stop.



Morning tea, with Billy Creek weir visible at right: L to R: Gill B., Nathalie C. and Alec S.  
(Photo: Phil R.)

Refreshed, we climbed again, taking the Zig Zag Track to join Jumbuk Road which divides the original and newer sections of the NP. At about 2 km up this road, a short 1 km track on plantation land along the southern edge of the park took us into the original section for lunch in a pleasant sunny grassy clearing. We concluded the day's walk by following the Stringybark Ridge and Fosters Gully tracks through to Kerry Road, but disappointingly without finding any of the noted epiphytic Butterfly Orchids in flower – early November is often a good time to spot them.

My thanks to my fellow walkers for their good company whilst exploring well-varied plant habitats, watched by a lot of kangaroos and Swamp Wallabies along the way.

Phil R

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**3-6 November 2018**  
**Moroka River-Carey Creek**

Leader: Geoff K.  
Participants: Marianne W., Darrell W., Wendy & Sal M., Marianne H., Peter I., Shirl P.

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This Cup Day long weekend walk began with a car-shuffle, leaving two vehicles at the Snowy Range Airfield and two at the junction of Moroka Road and Wellington Track, where we began our descent of The Long Spur, after first getting some 'local knowledge' from a couple of young deer hunters. It was a warm, sunny day, and we walked through light scrub and down a steep final slope to our camp beside the Moroka River, pausing often to admire the many flowers, especially the orchids. Pedro went fishing, but there were none.

The second day was fine and sunny as we continued downstream. We soon had wet boots, as we did the first of 20+ river crossings. Occasionally we followed old vehicle tracks, but mostly we pushed through scrub and rock-hopped to our camp in a pretty spot at the junction with Carey Creek. We passed several deer hunter's camps and had a distant view of Snowy Bluff. At the end of the day, we relaxed beside the river in the warm sun. Pedro went fishing and saw a deer stag, but still no fish.

Geoff has walked in this area many times, and particularly likes Carey Creek because of its lovely river flats. This time, he was surprised by the amount of water flowing down the creek, saying it was higher than he'd seen it before, which meant we had to walk along the banks, rather than rock-hop along the creek itself. We crossed the creek many times as we walked along the flats; Sal stopped counting when we reached 50 crossings! We camped on the flat at the junction of Carey Creek and Surveyors Creek. At lunchtime, Pedro was bitten by a spider and several ant bites were sustained by various members of the group, all fortunately with no ill-effects, and Marianne followed Geoff's advice to 'put your foot on that rock' while crossing to the campsite, and promptly fell flat on her face into the creek, as the rock moved! Initial fears of serious injury were luckily wrong. Pedro went fishing again, but still there were none.

On our last morning, the forecast rain began early, but paused long enough for us to finish packing. We left at 7am, as the climb back to the airfield was long, steep and possibly scrubby, and also involved 'cliffs'. As it turned out, the scrub wasn't too thick and we climbed steadily upwards through intermittent drizzle, with views of Neilson Crag, until we reached the daunting cliffs. While Geoff and Darrell checked the route, we ate a quick lunch, during which Shirl discovered she'd caught a (very tiny) fish in her water bottle, much to Pedro's disgust. Geoff remembered descending to a gully on the left to bypass the cliffs on a previous trip, so that is what we did, climbing up the very steep gully mostly by hanging onto the vegetation. The only mishap was a small, but surprisingly bloody cut on Sal's bald head. The rain increased as our weary, wet group climbed the last 'mini cliff' to the Snowy Plains airfield, only to find that Darrell's car was not only unwilling to start, but also had a flat tyre! Luckily, after changing the tyre, he was able to drive out.

Thanks Geoff for leading a lovely walk through this remote and beautiful area.

Shirl P.

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**19 September 2018**  
**Dandenong Creek and Parklands**

Leader: Dave R.  
Participants: Jill B., David D., Helen G., Ren M., Phil R., Fay R., Helen S., Bill W., visitor Jenny R..

There was a cold, icy wind but the sky was blue and with luck it would stay that way for the duration of our walk. We met at Bayswater Station where we picked up the Dandenong bike trail. Parts of the creek are undergoing restoration works to make a more natural setting of rocks and cascades. In council-speak this is called "re-imagining." Several wetland areas have been created along the creek.

When the opportunity came we crossed to the north side of the creek where we were high above the creek, with lots of good vegetation, a gravel track, and no bikes. We crossed under Boronia Road into Koomba Park then proceeded on the grassy verge along Burwood Hwy to Lewis Park near Knox City before exploring parts of Blind Creek. Dave, Fay and Jenny showed us the areas of the creek that they had been caring for, and planting over many years.

Thanks Dave for showing us these important creeks and paths in the eastern suburbs.

Helen S.

## Tramping Further into History The Past Ten Years (2008-2018)

Just published and launched at the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon this past October 7<sup>th</sup>.  
Purchase your copy either at the upcoming Christmas Party or order through a Committee Member.  
This makes a perfect Christmas Gift at just \$15.00 (+\$4.45 postage if required).

Contact Helen G. at [info@vmtc.asn.au](mailto:info@vmtc.asn.au)

### November 2018 Drum Top to Powers Lookout

Leader: Ray T.  
Participants: Ian M., Jude NS, John F., Carol W., Jopie B., Gina H., Derrick B, Trish E, Andrew N, Owen M., Charley R.

### Walk through time

#### Friday Night

Whitfield pub for dinner was a great place for the group to meet up. This was a joint walk between MBW and VMTC; consisting of our team leader Ray, Jude, John, Carol, Jopie, Owen, Gina, Derrick, Trish, and visitors Charley and Andrew. We all enjoyed dinner together, and OK for some of us there was also a glass or two of the lovely wines from the Whitfield wine region. Ray gave us all a comprehensive overview on what we should expect to see, distances and terrain over the next 2days. We made the car shuffle and continued on to camp for the night along Fifteen Mile Creek Road.

Day 1, 7:30 Start: To get to our first spur of the day we had no choice but to push our way through around 50m of blackberries, followed by a small creek crossing to start the ascent of our first spur. It was wonderful to find this area was home to lyrebirds, sighting many mounds, but no males showing off, doing their courtship ritual. We eventually reached the Drum Top reference area after a climb of around 370m. This area was a beautiful shrubland with large mossy granite sheets, with 360degree views of the Drum Top, which we were soon to walk, and the snowy peaks of Buller, Stirling, Cobbler etc. Dropping down into the saddle and up to Drum Top for morning tea - we were going to need this for the next section of very thick scrub! Ray did a wonderful job parting the vegetation and carefully selecting the best route.



Photo: John F.

On the way through we found a rocky gully which would have been a great little water fall during winter. A huge Wedge Tail Eagle swooped down, so close overhead I could feel the thrust from the wings as he rapidly climbed upwards out of the gully. I thought Ray was history as I dived under the shrubs!

We walked a further short distance until we started our gradual descent - this soon turned a little steeper down into a small creek valley. Some took the opportunity to top up their water bottles; others continued over the huge fallen tree that must have been 1m in diameter, making the perfect bridge between the creek banks.

Lunch: Gina pointed out that it was Ian's birthday. We all sung him a big happy birthday; 24 again hey Ian! Off along the top of the ridge we go, with open shrub lands for more than 1km, and very easy walking. Ray pointed out 3 different varieties of terrestrial Orchids: Salmon, Spider and Common Bird Orchid. Also taking in wonderful views of the opposite ridge where we would walk tomorrow.

Descending final spur of the day, Ray took a slight detour to avoid hundreds of meters of Prickly Parrot Pea, then along the side of the spur, even getting to do a little rock scrambling. As good as Ray was, there was no choice but to brave a short stretch of the Prickly shrub. Then an open spur, filled with flowering Fringe Myrtle shrubs; so beautiful I didn't

even worry about the few prickles. Finally camped in the valley, surrounded by ferns and huge Narrow Leaf Peppermint trees, with the sounds of Boggy Creek and brilliant starry sky.

Day 2: No need for alarms this morning; we were woken at 5:30am by 2 laughing kookaburras. 7:30am. Started off this morning with an easy walk along Boggy Creek Track, and made the creek crossing to find our ascent route. The spur recently burnt, made it quite easy going, passing newly shooting ferns, and through some thicker vegetation toward the top. Luckily for us, Ray had done this section before and remembered precisely where he went.

As we reached the plateau, Ray explained to us all about the geology of the area. It was very easy to see the change from granite rocks to the sedimentary layers: Sand stone and Conglomerate. After morning tea, we made a slight detour - Ray had arranged with a landholder for us to take a short cut through their property to see the spectacular cliffs with views of the Alps, Power's Lookout and the farming land in the valley below. Then a traverse across the forested plateau to the road, a gentle walk back to collect our packs, and continuing until we reached the kick-off point for the final stage of our walk.

Lunch Time and a rest for some sore legs. Across the plateau we went, reaching the cliffs at the eastern edge, and taking in the views back across the valley to the cliffs we had just walked along on the opposite side. Ray showed us the perfect example of how a controlled burn several years ago had produced dense stands of small trees and shrubs. We saw over an area of about 500m, how the shrubs were naturally dying out over time - passing through masses of small dead trees still standing, then into an open area where the same small trees had already fallen over. A short distance on, we reached a magnificent open grassy ridge, where decomposition of the fallen branches had completed the ecological cycle.

Before we descended off the plateau, we were dazzled by a spectacular view off the cliff edge down into a deep rainforest gully – a reminder of Blue Mountains canyons for some of the party. The descent spur for me was a sad one; seeing so many huge trees pushed over, and piles of dirt bulldozed up from the construction of road that is no

longer used – maybe it was never used. The contrast between this spur and the adjacent untouched spur was horrifying.



Cliffs near Powers Lookout (Photo: John F.)

Glad to be off that, we found ourselves for afternoon tea in a cool deep saddle with giant trees. Then off downhill, following an old logging track out to the farming land below, and along the creek back to the cars. Ray made a slight detour on the way to a lovely open spur running parallel beside us. Untouched from fires in many decades, it was dominated by elegant Brittle Gums, a dense mat of Wiry Tussock Grass, and only a few Small Grass Trees. A great opportunity to learn little more on fire ecology and a lovely relaxing way to end the walk!

Being just a visitor, only my second group overnight walk, it was very obvious to me that this was well thought through, with 4 reconnaissance trips to make sure the walk was enjoyable, and to take in the most remote and untouched areas. This was very noticeable on reflection; that every spur, gully, creek, plateau and ridge had its own story to tell - in a time sense, as well as geological and ecological. Thanks Ray.

Andrew N.  
Prospective Member.

## News from the VMTC Community

Damien W. has created a fantastic resource for the club. It is a table containing a list of trip previews and reports published in *Trampalong* from 1976 to the present date. The table has now been uploaded to the VMTC web site in the member's section. It is in the Trampalong Archive folder.

Use this table when you are thinking about trip ideas and when you are planning routes. There are a total of 46 pages of walks around Australia and overseas, with 38 pages of walks in Victoria!!

Dear VMTC friends,

I am currently living and working in Guinea, Africa, aboard a surgery ship called the Africa Mercy. The organisation I've volunteered with is called "Mercy Ships". I'm working with the plastic surgery team in my professional role as an occupational therapist specialising in hand therapy. The ship is a floating hospital, with 80 beds, 300 volunteer staff (everyone needed to run the ship (captain, deck hands, cooks, surgeons, cleaners, and even a small school!).



The Mercy Ship (Photo: Jane F.)

The Africa Mercy docks at a west coast country for 10 months each year and serves that nation with many surgeries, dental services, teaching local healthcare workers, and providing employment and training for some of the local people who act as translators. Soon after my arrival in mid-August a screening day was held at the People's Palace, where over 6,000 people queued up outside the gates, hoping to be chosen. Only about 1,500 of these could be offered treatment.

I've been on a couple of outdoor adventures on weekends. The closest I've made it to a VMTC-type activity was a 23km day hike on an island. The trip from the port to the island was on a wooden long boat which had a tiny outboard motor (the driver had to cut the engine several times during the trip to cool the engine!). No life jackets of course! The local guys at the lighthouse pulled out a visitor log book – we noticed that the first recorded visitors were in 1915!

The patients I see have undergone plastic surgery, mainly to release very significant skin contractures from burns they have sustained more than a year ago. Often their loved ones do not take them to hospital, since hospitals are often seen as places people go to die, and so they are cared for at home often in a foetal position, which is why the contractures are so severe. I've also discovered that the hospitals are not resourced with staff nor knowledge to care for these people either.

Feel free to take a look at my blog if you'd like to know more <https://jumbuckjane.wordpress.com/>

See you on the trail in 2019.

Jane F.



<http://www.bsar.org/>

## QUICK INFO ADVERTISING

The VMTC's website is a wealth of information, but sometimes members want quick reminders or quick access to information. This section meets this demand. The content changes to address issue of importance

### Car Travel Costs

Persons sharing their cars may make prior arrangement for sharing costs. In the absence of any other prior agreement, the standard and maximum payment shall be 1.5 times the cost of petrol divided by the number of persons in the vehicle. Road tolls are additional. (See Bye-law 2.6).

### Online bookings

Booking for club trips is now an online process for members. Go to: <https://vmtc.asn.au/component/users/?view=login>

### Paying membership and visitor's fees

The easiest way of transferring fees to the VMTC bank account is via internet banking. Or deposit the fees by cheque or as cash at a Commonwealth Bank with a follow-up email to [treasurer@vmtc.asn.au](mailto:treasurer@vmtc.asn.au) that explains the detail of that deposit.

The bank account is:

BSB: 063 002

Account Number: 00910167

Account Name: Victorian Mountain Tramping Club Inc.

Reference: Your name



Mt Macedon Orchid (photo: Nola S.)

### Official club email addresses

Email address	Purpose
<a href="mailto:secretary@vmtc.asn.au">secretary@vmtc.asn.au</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>External correspondence to VMTC.</li><li>Members can communicate to the committee.</li></ul>
<a href="mailto:treasurer@vmtc.asn.au">treasurer@vmtc.asn.au</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Financial transactions or queries to be directed to the treasurer.</li></ul>
<a href="mailto:walkssecretary@vmtc.asn.au">walkssecretary@vmtc.asn.au</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Enquiries about walks published on the website to be directed to the walks secretary.</li></ul>
<a href="mailto:membership@vmtc.asn.au">membership@vmtc.asn.au</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Enquiries about membership via the website.</li><li>Update changes to members contact details.</li></ul>
<a href="mailto:info@vmtc.asn.au">info@vmtc.asn.au</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Circulate information via VMTC News to all on the email listing.</li><li>Update changes to member's email address/s for receiving VMTC emails.</li></ul>
<a href="mailto:walks@vmtc.asn.au">walks@vmtc.asn.au</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Send completed WR1 or list of members/visitors who participated on trip/s.</li></ul>

### Updating contact details:

Send an email with updated information to:

1. [membership@vmtc.asn.au](mailto:membership@vmtc.asn.au)
2. [info@vmtc.asn.au](mailto:info@vmtc.asn.au) (updates VMTC News contact list) and
3. on the website, in members section "My User Profile" (bottom tab on members main menu page), click on this and you can update all contact details. This is important for auto populating online bookings.