



Affiliated with Bushwalking  
Victoria

The Victorian Mountain Tramping Club Inc. Newsletter - ACN A628G

# Trampalong

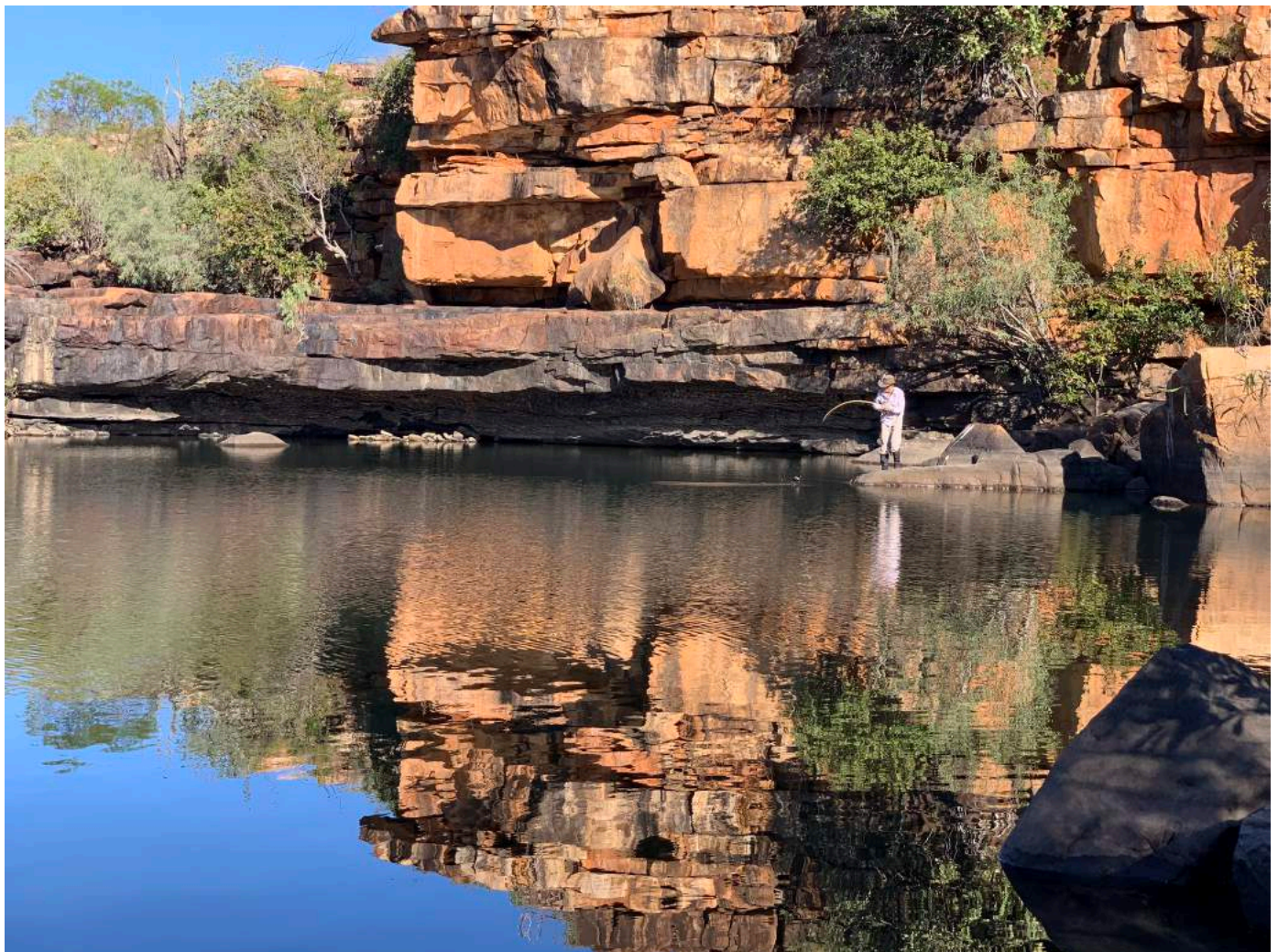
September 2019 - No. 758

## REMINDERS & NOTICES

- Membership renewals now due.
- Trampalong is short of trip reports. Send reports and photos if you want a newsletter!
- Short notice ski tour group email [info@vmtc.asn.au](mailto:info@vmtc.asn.au) with your expression of interest.

**CLOSING DATE:** Trampalong contributions

For October: 10 September  
For November: 8 October  
email contributions to  
[info@vmtc.asn.au](mailto:info@vmtc.asn.au)



Lynne K landing a Sooty Grunter from Johnson Creek, a tributary of the Drysdale River (Photo John F)

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*

## President's Report - September 2019

First, thank you to everyone who made it to the Annual General Meeting, I have included my report below for those who were unable to attend. Second, I would like to thank the committee for their time and effort in running the club this past year. You have made it a pleasure and I warmly welcome you back for another year. All committee members agreed to stay on and were elected unopposed at the Annual General Meeting on 15 August 2019.

### Year in the review

We have seen a lot of fantastic walks come across the program with many interstate and extended excursions taking place as well as some trips overseas. A lot of walks have been well attended and the winter season is about to get into full swing with short notice ski trips being offered to members again this year.

We have changed the date for the 100k event to the first weekend in May 2020, although we still need someone to volunteer to run it as the previous organiser and walk base are no longer available. This means the cycle of the event has changed but given the holidays and other events it was the only month that was a sensible choice. We will decide at a later date whether to hold the next event two years after this one or maintain the old schedule.

Our social nights have been well attended for the most part and Nola has done a fantastic job lining up speakers and organising the nights. The VMTC is in the stages of finalising our new privacy policy based on an updated version from Bushwalking Victoria, once approved by the committee it will be circulated to members.

We are currently seeking members for the website and marketing sub-committee as we are creating a whole new website and look for the club and would like as much input as possible. This will hopefully entice new members as at the moment the website looks dated and may be off putting, we also hope to streamline and remove unused sections. We will also be coming up with strategies for marketing the club to increase membership. Membership has remained reasonably stable as have the accounts throughout the year.

### Walking stats

The most active members this year were Geoff K (59 days over 13 trips), Maureen H (56 days over 9 trips), Trish E (52 days over 8 trips) and Ailsa M (50 days from 9 trips). Gill B and Phil R completed the most trips with 14 day trips each. Other active day walkers were David D, Fay R and Bill W with 12 each, David R with 10, and Heather B, Laurie B and Helen S with 9. Of the 33 leaders, Geoff K and Agata R led 5 trips, and Susie H, Chris S, Helen S and Bill W led 4 trips each. Jim H was leader for 7 conservation or maintenance trips. But thank you to all participants and leaders for the great trips and your enthusiasm!

We are currently seeking a new Day Walks Coordinator. If this position is of interest to you, please contact a committee member.

Susie H

## VMTC Social Events - Club Rooms and Beyond

**Social Night Clubrooms 7:30 pm - except for movie/meal night**  
**East Melbourne Community Centre, Powlett Reserve, Grey St, East Melbourne**

### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019

The Social Night will be a presentation by Jane Frisken on "Hypothermia Management". sounds really interesting, put it in your diary.

### Thursday 17 October 2019

Damien Walters will talk about his recent walks in two areas: Watarrka NP, Northern Territory and Karlamilyi NP in Western Australia.

Two great social nights. Hope to see you all there.

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

## BEEN BUSH - Trip Reports

17-25 July 2019

Kimberley, Drysdale River Walk

Leader: Damien W.

Participants: Brian, Lynne, Jacque, Sandra, Ken, Carol and John

This was Damien's third trip back to Central Australia and the Kimberley and all that work he had put into planning and logistics seemed to be paying off. Now our concern was whether he would still have enough energy left to enjoy this last trip. As events planned out we needn't have worried!

The plan was to fly from Kununurra to the only pool in the Drysdale River on which float planes were prepared to land. From here the walk would be in two stages. The first 11-day loop went down the Drysdale to Solea Falls, with a day of exploring, then up Johnson Creek to Cracticus Falls with more exploring. Then back via an unnamed creek and the Drysdale. The final challenge would be a 110m pack swim back to the starting point where we would hopefully recover our buried food dumps. The second stage was an 8-day walk up the Drysdale to Bango Creek. From here we would fly back to Kununurra by helicopter.



L-R: Carol W, Lynne K, Damien W, Brian W, Jacque P, Sandra B, Ken O and John F.

As expected walking conditions were on the warm side so each day we rose at 5.00am, enjoyed the sunrise over a leisurely breakfast, and started walking at 7.00am. We reached our destination by early afternoon, had dinner at sunset and were safely tucked up in our mozzie domes by 7 or 8.00pm. The area was dryer than usual, with Solea Falls reduced to an uninspiring trickle and the side creeks with next to no flow. Despite this we were able to cool off in numerous pools along the way. Some were shallow and rocky, others long and deep. The deeper pools were somewhat murky which meant we couldn't see the creatures that on several occasions nibbled at our feet. We hoped they were fish and not crocodiles!

In this area the Drysdale meanders through relatively flat country. It flows over vast areas of rock swept clean and often burnished by the huge wet season flows. In amongst the rocks and flat slabs battered paperbarks clung to any crack they could find. Other parts of the river flowed over sand. Here paperbarks and pandas often grew down to the water's edge, making progress difficult. To make life a little easier we sometimes cut off a bend in the river by walking cross country. Every so often we would come across a cliff bearing ancient art, some of it predating the Aborigines. To our mutual horror we also came across another group travelling in the opposite direction on a similar mission.

On day four we were confronted by a horrible accident. Damien lost his balance while stepping over a branch and fell head first down a 3.5-4m cliff onto rocks below. By some miracle he escaped with just a large gash across his forehead and sore rib cage. He was able to walk the 200m to a spot where a helicopter could land. Four hours later, he was whisked off to Kununurra hospital.

This was a timely reminder of the importance of keeping up to date on first aid and emergency communication procedures, and the importance of carrying appropriate equipment. We rang him the next day and were flabbergasted to hear that he had been given 24 stitches at the hospital and then discharged. He was now planning, with the aid of pain killers and an expensive plane flight, to re-join the group for stage two! True to his word, Damien was waiting for us at the starting point with the requested watermelon and a birthday cake!

The second stage was through terrain similar to the first walk. We camped in some of the most beautiful places imaginable, caught a few fish, saw wallabies, a donkey, a cow, a snake, fresh water crocodiles, dead cane toads with their guts exposed and assorted birds and insects. There were also some strange humans clad in garments made almost entirely from local vegetation!

Our thanks go to all group members for making the trip a success and especially to Damien for all the effort he put in and not dying!

John Fritze



R-L: Brian W, Sandra B, Jacque P, Lynne K and Carol W (Photo John F)

### GOING BUSH - Trip Previews List

Members, find contact details on VMTC calendar.	Visitors, please email: <a href="mailto:membership@vmtc.asn.au">membership@vmtc.asn.au</a>
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**29 Aug -13 Sep 2019**  
**The Carnic Peace trail – along the alpine border of Austria and Italy**  
 Leader: Marianne H  
**Fully Booked**

**31 August – 1 September 2019**  
**Mt. Feathertop**  
 Leader: Damien W  
 Standard: Medium - hard (early start on Saturday)  
 Maps: SV - Bogong Alpine Area 1:50,000

The plan is to ascend Feathertop via Bungalow Spur and build ourselves a snow cave for the night. Apart from the fun of doing this, it may add to the list of your snow survival skills. Snow caves are surprisingly warm, (comparatively) comfortable and quiet – especially if there is a blizzard blowing outside. The location of the cave will be dependent on snow consistency and weather conditions, but I am hoping to dig into the cornice at the summit, where I have done it several times before. Contact leader for list of gear needed for the weekend.

**Sunday 1 September 2019**  
**Either Mt Stirling or St Gwinear ski tour**  
 Leader: Trish E  
 Standard: Medium

Enjoy a day’s skiing where there is the best snow– most likely St Gwinear or Mt Stirling. The plan and route will be decided depending on the snow conditions and the weather. Please contact me to discuss, if you are keen to come on the day and unsure of your skill level or experience.

**Sunday 1 September**  
**Cathedral Range, northern circuit**  
 Leader: Alan Wilson  
 Distance: Approx 12 km  
 Standard: Medium. Some rock scrambling and exposed ledges. Suitable for older kids with a head for heights  
 Rendezvous: Neds Gully 9.30 am

Cathedral Range, northern circuit. Starting at Neds Gully – Cathedral - The Farmyard – Cooks Mill – Neds Gully. There will be a mixture of track walking and some rock scrambling (mainly on the ridge). There will be good views if the weather is fine.

### 7-8 September 2019

#### Bogong Ski

Leader: Susie H  
Grading: Hard/Alpine

This trip is dependent on weather and snow conditions. We will head up from Mountain Creek and camp either near the summit or at Cleve Cole Hut depending on the weather conditions. We will spend whatever spare time we have cruising the hills and enjoying the views. The days will be long to make the most of the limited sunlight. Please contact leader before registering for this trip.

### 13-15 September 2019

#### Paradise Falls and beyond

Leader: Ray Thomas  
Standard: MH, off-track and river crossing (knee deep)

This walk will be exploring the wild Wabonga between Paradise Falls and Lake William Hovell, deliberately going off-track to enjoy some of the untouched cliffs, ridges and gorges that abound in this landscape. There are stunning views across to the alps, valleys and gorges with crystal clear streams, whole forests of brilliant white-trunked Brittle Gums, and at this time of year, masses of wildflowers!!

The geology is dominated by massive layers of ancient Sandstone-Conglomerate that have been slowly dissected by all the streams to form a maze of small plateau and tilt blocks. And the bigger streams have cut deeper of course, right down to expose the Granites underneath. It's the best place I know of where you can so easily see how this has happened!

### Wednesday 18 September 2019

#### Croydon to Heathmont

Leader: Helen G  
Grade: Easy approx. 12km

Croydon Station at 9: Trails to Heathmont station. Morning tea at Bayswater Park, Lunch at Heathmont on the trail. Optional coffee at Village then train.

### 21-29 September 2019

#### Whales and Wildflowers: Nadgee Wilderness walk

Leader: Chris S  
Standard: Easy

Nadgee is on the far south coast of NSW. We start and finish at the old Merrica Ranger station and go to the remote Cape Howe on the NSW/Vic border. There are a couple of nights at campsites. Days are short, 2-4 hours.

The walk highlight is across heathland with mass flowerings, whale watching, unspoilt beaches and spectacular campsites. Fishing is generally pretty good too. Everyday has variety; there is time to explore hidden sea caves, read a book or catch a fish or two.

### 21-22 September 2019

#### Hollow Mountain, Mt Stapylton, Mt Difficult, Grampians.

Leader: Jurgen W.  
Grade: Medium with Day 1 exposure to heights.  
Rendezvous: Contact leader

Day 1 is a round trip from Mt Stapylton campground via Hollow Mountain and Mt. Stapylton to the camp ground. There is some exposure at Hollow Mtn and getting across to Mt. Stapylton.

Day 2 we will relocate to Beehive Falls carpark and walk to the top of Mt. Difficult via Briggs Bluff.

### 27-29 September 2019

#### Explorations around Falls Creek

Leader: Susie H.  
Grade: Medium/Hard Alpine

This trip will involve long, hard days.

**Note: Susie is looking for a replacement leader as she can no longer lead this trip.**

### 5-6 October 2019

#### Mt Stirling Circuit

Leader: Susie H.  
Grade: Medium/Hard Alpine



Send your photos to Nola S ....

### 19-20 October 2019

#### More highlights of the Eastern Strathbogies

Leader: Ray Thomas  
Standard: M/H (mostly off track)  
Distance: 20 km for the w/e  
Area: Eastern Strathbogie Ranges, SW of Lake Nillahcootie  
Map: Brankeet Creek 8024-2-3  
Mt Strathbogie 8024-2-2

This walk will explore NE Strathbogie Ranges, the highest, most rugged part of the plateau. It is a place to treasure!

It has pristine creeks, magnificent waterfalls, Tree Fern thickets, and forested slopes homes to Lyrebirds, Greater Gliders, and even Bandicoots. There are steep-sided ridges with spectacular cliffs, huge granite rock slabs, and massive boulders smothered with velvety green moss. There is tremendous forest variety, with tall Manna Gums, open Stringybark forests, even Snow Gums on the three highest tops; relics from the last Ice Age!!

More info on rendezvous times and places will be forwarded after registration.

## Advanced Notice of Trip

15-30 May 2020

Karlamilyi National Park WA

Leader: Damien W.

I am seeking expressions of interest in a walk in Karlamilyi (formerly Rudall River) National Park. The park is the second largest in Australia, is located 250 km N.E. of Newman and has no facilities. I have approval from WDLAC (Western Desert Lands Aboriginal Corporation) to do the walk. The viability of this walk will depend on next summer's rainfall.



The route will be from Desert Queen Baths, a permanent waterhole in the Broadhurst Range, to Punmu Aboriginal community on the NE side of Lake Dora, in the Great Sandy Desert. After the walk, I plan to stay 2 or 3 days at Punmu, to have some interaction with the traditional owners.

We'll follow Rooney Creek and the Karlamilyi River (the Martu name for the Rudall River) towards Lake Dora. These are two of the main water courses in the area. They rarely flow, but each have some excellent water holes which are a haven for a variety of bird life.

The walking will be generally easy over flat (but not monotonous) terrain. However, it can still be hot in May and we will have to cross some sand ridges (average height 15m) on a number of days. For example, the last day is 22 km and will cross about 19 ridges. There will also be a couple of dry camps.

As it is the remotest place in Australia, access will not be cheap. I am currently looking at transport options. Air charter costs ex Newman will be \$2,400 per person for a party of 4 or 8. We may helicopter in to Desert Queen Baths or be driven from Parnngurr (another Martu community) to DQB. We would fly back from Punmu to Newman.

Highlights	Lowlights
Great atmosphere in a remote desert wilderness Fabulous waterholes big sand ridges bird life meet with traditional owners	Heat big sand ridges Flies? A couple of dry camps

If you are interested, please contact me.

Damien



### Day Walk Leader Training

Sunday, 17 November 2019, 8.45am - 16.15pm

Registrations close on 27 September 2019.

Venue: Conference Centre, Outdoor Activities Hub, Westerfolds Park.

Map: Melways 33 G1

The Day Walk Leader training day on 16 November has booked out and we are offering a second day on Sunday, 17 November with another 20 places available (first come first served). The training is free of charge.

Morning & afternoon tea and course materials provided. Please bring: lunch, notebook, pen & pencil, wet weather gear.

Judy Hunter, BWV board member, trainer and very experienced walk leader will be presenting the course assisted by John Hillard an equally experienced walk leader, trainer and Bush Search and Rescue (BSAR) member.

Questions, please email: [training@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au](mailto:training@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au)

## News from the VMTC Community

Info and adventures beyond Official VMTC Trips – Please send short items and photos

### Weather

The Bureau of Meteorology maintains a special website for bushwalking and camping. <http://media.bom.gov.au/social/blog/2050/know-your-weather-bushwalking-and-camping/>  
It's well worth a look.

Jim H

### The Cooloola Great Walk

Helen and Brian S recently completed the Cooloola Great Walk in Queensland. It runs from Noosa North Shore to Rainbow Beach. It is a 5-day walk of just over 100kms with beautiful beaches and passing through forest, rainforest and sand dunes. The walk was blessed with whales, dolphins and warm weather.



## Membership Report

<p><b>Congratulations to</b></p> <p><b>Anne Forsyth</b></p> <p><b>on qualifying for full membership.</b></p> <p>Note: Full membership follows payment of membership subscription.</p>	<p><b>Day walks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ferntree Gully - Ferny Creek Trail – 5 members, 2 visitors.</li></ul> <p><b>Extended walks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drysdale River National Park Kimberley, Western Australia (19 days) – 8 members.</li><li>• Larapinta Trail - Northern Territory (20 days) – 5 members, 1 prospective member.</li></ul>	<p><b>Weekend walks</b></p> <p>Great Ocean Walk Johanna Beach - Princetown – 6 members, 1 prospective member, 1 visitor.</p> <p><b>Weekend ski tour</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mt Nelse – 5 members.</li></ul> <p><b>Cancelled trips</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wilsons Promontory base camp</li><li>• Scenic Rim to Lerderberg Gorge</li><li>• Grampians Pack-carry - Browns Ck Gorge</li></ul>
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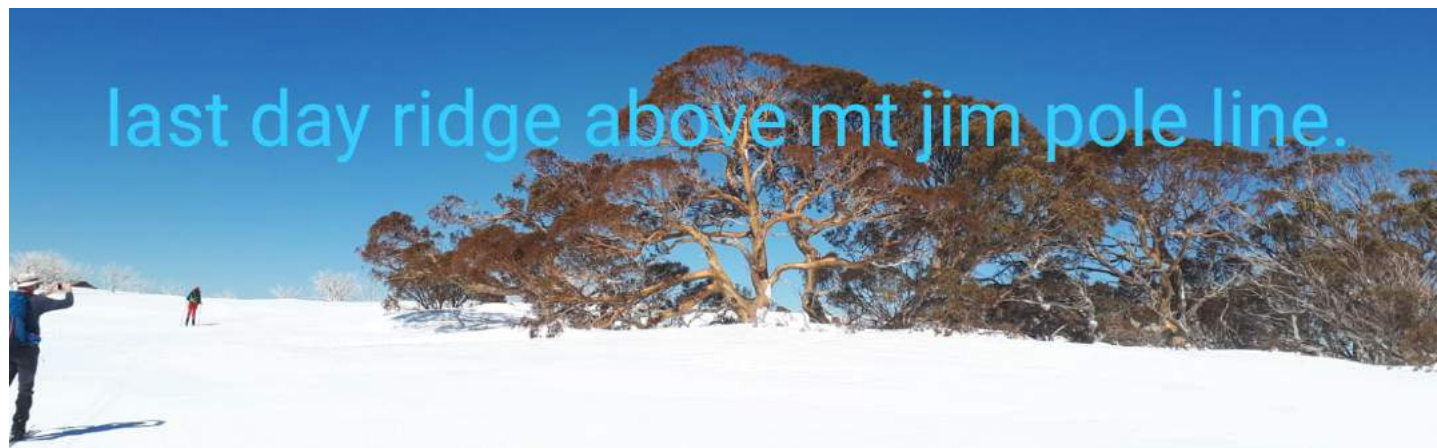
### Reminders

- Please advise any changes to your personal details to [membership@vmtc.asn.au](mailto:membership@vmtc.asn.au)
- Leaders, as soon as possible after your trip please email a scan of the completed WR1 form to [walks@vmtc.asn.au](mailto:walks@vmtc.asn.au)
- If you cannot scan **please email the participant details** to [walks@vmtc.asn.au](mailto:walks@vmtc.asn.au), and post the completed form to the VMTC's PO Box.

### Activity Registration:

- It is important that all participants in an activity are registered on the online booking system. This information is required in the case of an emergency.
- It is a responsibility of the leader to ensure that all participants are registered, and to register any participants who cannot do so themselves (e.g. visitors). Refer VMTC online booking system – responsibilities for members elsewhere in this issue.

Tony H.  
VMTC Membership Secretary



**The turn**

Soft silent snow.  
Swish, I ski,  
Whooshing down slopes.  
Steeplly I slide  
Heart in throat  
Soul shrieking  
At speed.  
Now, scratching,  
Then scraping  
The turn icy.  
Laughing I  
Hoot. Breath  
Steaming in, out.  
Heart booming, my chest  
Heaving. Then the  
Silky swoosh.  
Smooth release.  
Soft, silent snow.  
And I have turned.

Terri S, August 2019

**Membership Renewals - Reminder**

Membership Renewal Forms will be sent out late August and can also be downloaded from the Member Section of the VMTC'S website ([vmtc.asn.au](http://vmtc.asn.au)) in the Forms Section.

*Payment on or before 31<sup>st</sup> October*

Single \$40, Family \$80, Student \$20

*Payment after 31<sup>st</sup> October*

Single \$50, Family \$90, Student \$20

**Early bird discounts close 31 October; renew by 30 November or lose your membership.**

Please pay directly to VMTC bank account:

BSB: 063 002 Account Number: 00910167  
Account: Victorian Mountain Tramping Club  
Message/Reference: Your surname(s) and  
initial(s) and "subs"

Email [treasurer@vmtc.asn.au](mailto:treasurer@vmtc.asn.au):

Saying who the payment covers. This avoids confusion when couples have different second names. If paying through CBA branch, please ask teller to use this format: in the reference 'Your second name-subs'

**NOTE:** VMTC encourages all members to renew so you receive all communication, keep up to date with VMTC activities and in touch with other members.

If you are moving overseas temporarily, apply to Committee for exemption.



## 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 an online process for members. Once logged in, under [Members Only] [Events] select Calendar to view and register for upcoming events.

### 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



L-R: Lynne K, Jacque P. and Carol W.(Photo: John F.)

### 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 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 booking.