



PACKS UP!

Volume 42 Number 2

April 2026



The Razor and the Viking from near Mount Howitt

(Photo by the Editor)

If you enjoy reading this magazine or would like to know more about walking with the Bayside Bushwalking Club, visit our website www.baysidebush.org.au

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Just a Passing Cloud

Margaret Morse
Perisher Base Camp - December 2025



Thinking of attending Fed Walks this year? Click here - [Fed Walks 2026](#)



Magical Mountain Mystery Tour

A Visit to Mount Howitt

Bayside Bushwalking Club returned to Mount Howitt for its annual (after a two-year break) four-day New Year walk. Sometimes we don't make it because of bushfires, road closures or extreme hot weather. However, one occasion of lightning, thunder and hail did not stop us!

On the 30th December 2025, Paul, Louise, Margaret, Rosie and I walked the five kms from the Howitt Car Park into the Macalister Springs campsite to set up camp for the next three nights. At around 3 am on the first night, a spectacular lightning show with an accompanying thunderstorm swept through the Howitt area, bringing a short but intense downpour. Fortunately, our well-equipped and well positioned party stayed warm and dry. The weather remained kind for the rest of the trip ☺.



A Misty Start for the Intrepid Bushwalkers
Photo: Rosie Erlandsen



Breakfast in the Mist at Macalister Springs
Photo: Margaret Morse

Mist, Mountains and Memories

On the final day of 2025, we headed North along the Cross Cut Saw towards Mount Buggery. Low cloud lingered all day, limiting the mountain views to occasional fleeting glimpses of the west Peak of Mount Howitt, our path on the Crosscut or east over towards Macalister Springs. These visions of sunny patches in the distance added to the atmosphere. A highlight was an alert walker spotting a rare grey currawong.

Back at Macalister Springs for an early finish to the day's walking, we caught up with a lovely family whom Paul and Louise had met five years earlier, when the boys, Martin and Owen, were just 3 and 5 years old. Owen delighted us by making cute little grass wreaths and left them around the Vallejo Gantner hut and surrounding trees for campers to discover and admire. Full marks to the wonderful parents who have been nurturing a love of bushwalking in their young children.

New Year's Eve

We celebrated NYE early in the evening not waiting for midnight. We were joined by Hannah, who was walking the Australian Alpine Walking Track (AAWT) solo from Canberra to Walhalla – an impressive 35-day journey! She appreciated the company to celebrate the New Year.

We were later pleased to see that she successfully completed the entire walk. Well done, Hannah! We attempted to celebrate a New Zealand New Year's Eve at 9 pm, but we were all in bed by about 8.30 ☺





Loo with a Misty View
Photo: Jeff McDonell



Grass Wreath Surprises Left by Owen
Photo: Rosie Erlandsen

New Year

We welcomed 2026 by heading over to Mount Howitt to continue the tradition of some celebratory 'bubbles' at 10 am on the 'First' on the summit and starting the year 'on the right foot'. Clear skies rewarded us with magnificent views across to Mount Buller, Mount Speculation, The Viking, The Howitt Plains and beyond.



Starting the New Year on the Right Foot - Mount Howitt Summit

As planned, we then headed south along the AAWT towards Mount Magdala. After a couple of hours walking, we opted for an early lunch followed by a leisurely stroll back across Howitt and to our camp at Macalister Springs.





Early Alpine Wildflowers
Photo: Rosie Erlandsen



Everlasting Daisies
Photo: Margaret Morse



Your Reporter in the Clouds
Photo: Paul Redmond



The Viking with Walkers Silhouetted on the Crosscut Saw (bottom left)
Photo: Jeff McDonell



A Fitting Finish

For our final night, we shared the last of our New Year's Eve treats and spent an enjoyable evening of conversation before another early night. Day four was an easy five kms walk back to the Mount Howitt car park - thankfully no flat battery this year - with lighter packs and lighter minds, having walked in the High Country enjoying the beauty of the Australian bush.

It was a magical trip, with magnificent alpine views, a mysterious day wrapped in mist, with the alpine wildflowers brightening the landscape.

Here's hoping we'll see you there next year.

Report: Jeff McDonell
January 2026



Wilson's Promontory – Northern Circuit

This would be my fifth time on the Northern Circuit. The weather forecast suggested it would be quite hot for the first two days. There were four in the group, Anneke, Bernie, Doug and your author.

I decided that we would walk anticlockwise in order to avoid the high tide and a consequent deep crossing of Miranda Creek at the Five Mile Beach campsite. Rather than overnight here, we pressed on to Johnny Souey Cove for the first camp. It was a long day of 22kms with 17kms on the hard gravel of Five Mile Road. We didn't reach the Johnny Souey Cove Camp until nearly seven o'clock, after starting walking at the Five Mile Carpark at 11:15 that morning. The scrub had grown quite a bit between Five Mile Beach and Johnny Souey Cove, so much so that we lost the track a couple of times. It had been a long hot walk, so a quick refreshing swim in the cold waters of Bass Strait was in order.



Five Mile Beach

The temperature on our second was predicted to reach 30°, so we made an early start, on the track (beach) by 7:30. The first headland, Three Mile Point, slowed us down with more thick scrub followed by some very slow rock-hopping (due to the high tide) for another 600m before we reached the relative ease of sand walking. By 11:30am we had reached Lighthouse Point at the northern end of Three Mile Beach. Our route back to the western side of the Prom's northern peninsula first involved a climb in loose sand up the steep dune, past the spindly steel legs of the navigation light that gave such an exaggerated name to the headland, to the start of Tin Mine Walking Track.

At this juncture, we were well over halfway in distance, but certainly not in time. Again, the scrub had become a lot worse since the last time I was here in 2022. It was a major effort, constantly pushing through dense scrub, getting scratched or pushed off balance, and at the same time, keeping a wary eye on the GPS to avoid losing the track, such as it was. The heat and humidity were very energy sapping.





Looking back across Miranda Creek to Five Mile Beach from the Headland

We arrived at Chinaman Long Beach on Corner Inlet just before 4pm. There was a very tempting campsite just where we were resting in the shade behind the beach. What to do? Walk another 2km north (with a climb around the cliffs below Tin Mine Hill) to Tin Mine Cove Camp and water and then back again in the morning with our heavy packs. Perhaps walk without packs to the creek at Tin Mine Cove, collect water and return. There had been some quite heavy rain recently, so we had a look up the nearby creek. It wasn't flowing into the sea, but there was a big pool of water just behind the dunes. It was a little bit brackish, but it seemed the best option rather than walking any further in the heat.

Day 3 and another early start. By 8:15 we had covered the three kms along Chinaman Long Beach and were ready to leave the beach for the inland leg to Lower Barry camp . This section has always been difficult for navigation, more so now with the relentless growth. In many places the track had turned into a creek. No chance of dry boots.

The water flowing down the track made us a little apprehensive about the upcoming Chinamans Creek crossing. I first crossed this swampy creek in the drought years of 2007 and 2008 when it was completely dry! Not so this time. The first crossing is quite short and was only waist deep – optimism for the second crossing. The second crossing is much longer at about 200m. It proved to be about chest high.

There are various methods for keeping the inside of your pack dry when wading a deep creek. Doug opted for carrying it on his head. Bernie just walked into the dark water with his pack on his back, as per normal, relying on the inner liner to keep his gear dry. Anneke and I each put our pack into a large plastic garbage bag and floated it behind. Despite the water's depth, the inability to see what your feet were standing on and being surrounded by the floating leaves of the water plants it was quite serene walking after all the pushing through the scrub. It was also somewhat refreshing after enduring the heat of the morning and the previous days. It was agreed that crossing Chinamans Creek was the highlight of the walk. (I quote Bernie, "Oddly, that 800m was probably the most enjoyable bit of the walk")



We reached Lower Barry Camp mid-afternoon but decided to continue on to Barry Camp to make the last day shorter. But even this section between the two camps wasn't immune to the increase in scrub thickness, so we did not reach the Barry Camp until after six; another long day.



Chinamans Creek Crossing

The final day was just six kms along the gravel road to the car park, then on to Korumburra for a second breakfast / early lunch.

With the density of the scrub, which is only getting worse, I'm not sure I would do this walk again until there has been a substantial change in track conditions, either by track clearing or natural causes. Track clearing is unlikely given that Parks see this area as a wilderness to be left alone (although there was some track clearing done in 2011, 2012 and 2015).

It's a great pity for bushwalkers not to be able to enjoy this beautiful walk.

But as we all know, the pain of the bad bits tends to be forgotten as time passes. So, who knows.

3rd to 6th December 2025

Author and Photos - Andrew Piddington



Central Tasmania

What do Tasmanian Central Plateau, Chinamans Plain and Cathedral Plateau have in common? We were to discover the answer on a nine day trip into the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. The assiduously studied forecast was good, with only some rain on the third night and, maybe, a wet walk out on the last day.

With a very early start, a flight to Launceston then transport to our starting point, it was with enthusiasm that we hoisted our heavy packs and set off up the Higgs Track to gain the edge of the Central Plateau, 600m above. In the 1870s, Sidney Higgs cut a track up onto the Plateau for summer cattle-grazing but now, restored with well-crafted stonework, it's an easy, if steep, walk.



Starting up Higgs Track

We were quickly damp from the effort as much as the low hanging cloud, an environment clearly enjoyed by more than a reasonable number of leeches. On the Plateau, leeches having been left in the forest, we set a compass direction for Westons Lake and a lovely camp. It had been a huge day, and we were in our tents before the sun had set.

Our plan was to cross the Central Plateau Conservation Area, enter the Walls of Jerusalem National Park (walls) then into Chinamans Plain, drop down to the dreaded Ling Roth Lakes, back up onto the Mountains of Jupiter, back down to Lakes Artemis & Junction Lake and along past the Cloister Lagoons to Grail Falls. If time permitted, we were aiming to have two nights up on Cathedral Plateau then a six km walk out for a noon pickup at the Mersey Forest Road end.



On the Central Plateau

The morning mist soon cleared, and we followed a mostly obvious footpad along Lake Nameless to Ironstone Hut then up onto the Plateau proper. A side trip to Forty Lakes Peak (so named for the more than 40 tarns that can be seen) rectified an omission from a previous trip and provided a pleasurable hour without our weighty packs. Many lovely tarns were passed, as did the day, and around 4pm we started to look for a campsite.



Although a short distance shy of the plan, we were all pleased to stop. We had been following a general line and spotting footpads (more likely wombat trails) and cairns. On the third day, the cairns started to diverge from our planned route. As the cairns offered a shorter route, we followed them. Up over multiple low ridges, scrubby & rocky, into low boggy sedges and back up again we went. Better than the plan? maybe but we pushed on and finally passed Zion Gate and into the Walls. At the end of the day, the last four kms were more testing than they should have been!

The specified camping areas of the Walls are a very different beast to our other camps. Tent platforms, toilets & water tanks and lots of people. We had two nights Dixons Kingdom, and perhaps oddly for me, they were the least comfortable of our eight nights. The overnight rain, with accompanying gusty cold winds, came in as forecast but had passed over by morning, leaving a clear blue sky.



40 Lakes Peak

First we climbed Mt Jerusalem (2.5km, 2hrs, 200m up/down) on-track to an excellent summit from which to survey glaciated plains & tarns to the south as well as the central area of the Walls. Good phone signal allowed contact with the outside world (which seemed to be in a much worse state than when we started the walk). Back down to Dixons Kingdom Hut then up again to Solomons Throne and King Davids Peak (7km, 5hrs, 400m up/down). Access to Solomons Throne is via a well-constructed steep stone stairway to an even steeper walled chute – quite spectacular. King Davids Peak provides another excellent vantage point to inspect the Walls precinct. We enjoyed lunch with legs dangling over the edge, before retracing steps back to the camping area and another early night.



King Davids Peak from Mt Jerusalem



A now 'standard' 8am start and we headed to Lake Ball and up onto Chinamans Plain. The terrain was becoming increasingly challenging with deep soft sphagnum under eucalypts giving way to flats with tarns and button grasses to rocky ridges thick with undergrowth. Navigation required concentration as our route didn't conform to the contours. I might add that the terrain didn't much conform to the map contours either! A welcome lunch break overlooking Lake Toorah preceded one of the hardest sections of the walk. Between Lakes Toorah & Penah, it took an hour to progress just 700m and I started to think of what escape routes we might consider. Our plan was to camp close enough to Ling Roth Lakes so that we had enough time to complete the very difficult crossing and climb to the planned camp up on the Mountains of Jupiter. That plan was slipping away. We pushed on into somewhat better going but it was still slow & requiring more effort than expected. Although well short of our plan, we settled for a lovely camp between two tarns, one deep enough for a thoroughly revitalising swim, of which all partook!

We now knew we would need to camp again before tackling Ling Roth so next morning (8am) we set off for a modest nine kms to set up the next camp. Not the best camp of the trip, at least our chosen spot was dry with water close by. Another early night to prepare for Ling Roth tomorrow.

Crossing between the Ling Roth Lakes was an expected difficulty because of a steep descent and thick beech (*Nothofagus gunnii* – aka tanglefoot, almost impenetrable) as well as all the other tangles of vegetation, rock and holes. Two short thick tangles through gullies gave us a taste of what was to come but we did find quite a good route contouring around a hill to the point we'd marked to begin the descent. Aerial photographs show a gap in the beech, and we were aiming for that. Unfortunately, these photos are more than 30 years old and beech tend to spread. It looked OK from the top, so we set off down to the Lakes, deviating from the intended route to avoid the beech – the gap between trees now very narrow indeed. It will be very challenging in the years to come, I suspect.

Down to the narrow land between the lakes, we now had boulders, holes and fast flowing water with which to contend, in addition to the thick vegetation, but we came through eventually to a small open area and collectively sighed with relief. Just 300m in the last 30 minutes and three hrs for the 2.2km this day so far. Looking forward to an easy open climb onto the Mountains of Jupiter, we walked straight into more vegetation, more rock and more steep stuff (up this time!). Another two hrs and 1.5km, we stopped for a very well earned break & lunch below the Mountains of Jupiter summit.



Crossing Between the Ling Roth Lakes

Sadly, no views as the mists had descended and we were struggling to identify the best route for the final climb. Eventually we made the top and began the steep descent, the route mostly cairned, to our penultimate camp at Lake Artemis. Our leader, scarred deeply by a previous experience, described the campsite as 'the coldest place on Earth'. On a narrow peninsula, a small patch of flat ground was revealed as we rounded a tall pencil pine (*Athrotaxis cupressoides*). After the past days of tough Tassie bush, it was beautiful. Just two more days and mostly on-track, we relaxed into a very comfortable night.



The first half of the track down to Junction Lake was little more than a footpad, faint in places, but with a few deviations we arrived at the Mersey River. Shallow at this point, three of us crossed with dry feet, but one felt the need to pirouette on a slippery rock and indulge in full immersion, pack included. Pride the only injury, and after wringing out clothes & de-leeching, we set off for Grail Falls.



Still Smiling - on Track to Junction Lake

Finally on a marked track, albeit still pretty rough, we made good time and arrived at a possible camp beside the Falls with time to proceed up onto Cathedral Plateau. However, after discussion, the decision was made to take advantage of this lovely spot under beech trees. Camping here also gave us a shorter walk out the next morning and, as it transpired, persistent overnight rain made the walkout that much harder. Four drowned rats emerged from the leech-infested bush (where do those leeches go when it's not wet?) to wait for a midday pickup, with a burger & coffee beckoning.



Grail Falls



Relaxing on the Final Night

Yes, a tough walk with lots of challenges and plan changes and yet a fabulous jaunt across some quite remote regions of Tasmania.

And the answer to what the Central Plateau, Chinamans Plain and Cathedral Plateau have in common? They are *not* aptly named – there is nothing flat about them at all!

March 2026

Author & Photos - Bernie Quirke

More photos on page 23



Portland Base Camp

A group of 14 walkers met at Portland Bay Holiday Park where we spaciously stayed in five cabins and a van. We started our time away with a communal BBQ and a lovely meet and greet over wines, juice or tea. Each walker met someone new from the club and has now forged a new friendship over this special evening meal. The comradery with the cooking across two BBQs on the decks of just two cabins set a wonderful communal group spirit which was evident the whole trip.

Our first day's walk was 21km loop from Bridgewater Bay. The coastal scenery WAS spectacular and there were so many Kangaroos along the track. Add in the Australian and New Zealand fur seals and perfect weather, it was a wonderful start. The quote of the day was "Who needs the 12 apostles and the crowds, we have this magnificent coastline to ourselves"



Day Two was a good 16km from near Bridgewater Bay to Cape Nelson Lighthouse. A day to stretch your legs striding along a deserted beach. Pick your own route keeping the turquoise sea to your right, observe the plovers flying low above the breaking waves and enjoy the exhilaration of cooling winds. Keep a sharp eye out looking for an exit marked only with a small red buoy. Then climb, climb and climb up a seemingly unending sand dune.

The middle day's walk on Loui's Loop was dubbed 'our magical mystery tour'. A little bit of everything. The morning circuit walk had more twists and turns than any of the group could count. Plenty of wildflowers, interesting signs and an "Emergency Beer" along the walk. We all agreed to stop at the strawberry farm to EAT our lunch. Well, after the first two strawberry ice-creams had been served and admired (huge pink and delicious), I'm not sure there was anyone who then didn't purchase a most delicious ice cream, a generous serve with a premium strawberry atop.

Jane about to enjoy her strawberry ice-cream delight.



As some headed back to the Holiday Park for the afternoon our more adventurous types headed off to scenic Bridgewater Lake. After a short walk, the group found what they were seeking, the largest sand dune in the area.

The challenge was on! Who could make it to the top? With a ferocious westerly blowing, the sand whipped up to cover the four adventurous walkers (crawlers) in sand from top to toe. The sand dune climbers said it was one of the highlights of the basecamp.

That night we contributed to the local community by sharing a meal together at the local pub.



Our final day saw us walking back along the coast from Cape Nelson Lighthouse through to the Enchanted Gardens and return. The day provided showers, sunny breaks and some wind at times, it was refreshing with more spectacular scenery and views over the Southern Ocean. The Enchanted Forest lived up to its name and exceeded expectations. Sitting together in the garden with its large Moonah trees - here and at Sorrento – they are apparently the only large such trees on the planet.

We saw plenty of echidna diggings and were fortunate to observe two on the path. A wonderful last day of walking.

We finished our trip in the Park's communal cabana enjoying fish & chips, burgers and drinks from the local food van that arrives each Thursday evening. We were now regulars here as this was our meeting place each night to gather for pre-dinner drinks, nibbles, and to plan for the next day.

A wonderful base camp that was enjoyed by all.

November 2025

Author and Leader - Wendy Purves

(Wendy acknowledges that this article is derived from comments by members on the trip.)

Photos – Jane Battrick, Jane Braham, Marg Martin and Wendy Purves

More photos on page 23



Yarrangobilly Base Camp

On the 26th November 2025 a keen group of BBC bush walkers departed for Yarrangobilly – located in Kosciusko National Park, NSW - known for its beautiful bush walking, hot springs and caves. As we started to pack the trailer and bus with our provisions and tubs for the week, we were greeted by a sudden downpour of rain. Not deterred we jumped on board our 12 seater bus, ably driven by our leader, Cornelia and headed up the M1, stopping in Orbost overnight. The next day saw us drive to Cooma where we did the biggest fresh food shop ever and arrived at the Yarrangobilly Caves House at about 5pm. With all supplies unpacked and beginnings of friendships made, we settled in on the expansive deck for drinks and nibbles, looking over the beautiful view of cliffs, trees and kangaroos.

The next week was spent walking through the various bush trails, exploring the lofty chambers in numerous local limestone caves – Castle, Jillabenan, Jersey, and the Glory caves – full of delicate stalagmites, stalactites, shawls and cave corals; river crossing, the thermal pool and Yarrangobilly River, lookouts, and other destinations further afield including the Blowering Reservoir in the Tumut area . Our bush walking “hunger” was well satiated, with so much to explore and see, but alas, no platypus or lyrebird sightings. We experienced significant weather variations with one day of minus 1 degree – it rained, hailed and even started to snow – thank goodness for wet weather gear! Other days we were greeted by the warmth of the sun – not too hot, rather a delightful sun kissing.

We shared a delicious home-made meal every night, including lasagne, chicken curry and chilli con carne, and some very fine desserts – Cornelia’s ice cream was a highlight. Delightful conversations ensued during pre-dinner drinks, during dinner and post dinner rendezvous, friendships formed, and two birthdays celebrated amongst the fanfare of tales from past walk experiences, highlights of the day’s events, and planning for the next day challenges.

Our last day saw an early departure, as we had a long drive back via the M31, arriving in Melbourne as the sun was setting. Our thanks to our leader Cornelia, for all the planning, organising, driving (ably shared by Noel) and amusing tales and stories and games to keep us entertained!



One of the 18 River Crossings





Author: Jacinta

Keeping The Great South West Walk on Track



Pattersons Camp

The faint tang of sea salt in the air, birds calling overhead and leaves rustling underfoot – this has been the rhythm of the Friends of the Great South West Walk for 42 years.

Winding through 262 kilometres of spectacular coastline, rugged bushland, serene river systems and national parks, the Great South West Walk is cared for by a quiet but enduring partnership between these passionate volunteers and local Parks Victoria rangers.

Since the early 1980s, the Friends have worked side-by-side with rangers to build, maintain and protect the track. On any given week, you might find them clearing fallen branches, fixing a worn signpost, battling an invasive weed or resurfacing a section of track after heavy rain – all to keep it safe and accessible for the thousands who come to walk it each year.

To read more visit the Parks Victoria website - [Keeping the Great South West Walk on Track](#)



President's Column

It is both melancholy and joyful to write a column in this edition of Packs-Up. After five years and so many editions of our much loved magazine, our editor Paul Redmond is passing the quill to another.

Paul's contribution to our club cannot be underestimated. He ensured that we all knew of club events, pursued walk leaders to write articles on the walks they had led and chased, found or provided photos to share in this wonderful publication.

Editing a magazine like Packs-Up is not a simple task. It needs to present well and read well. Articles need to be presented in correct English, and not some outback Australian sort-of English (as some have done). Paul has been tenacious in finding items of interest for club members and bringing these together into interesting articles that are informative and user friendly.

Our thanks to Paul is great and expansive.

And now the joys. We welcome Ulrike Fisher into the position of our Packs-Up editor. Each incoming editor is encouraged to look at the publication as a blank sheet of paper and through clear and fresh eyes develop its style as they see fit. This is true for Ulrike, make it your own.

As we know the magazine is a collection of the contributions of the club members, this responsibility is ours, not the editors. We need to keep the input flowing to provide the editor with the copy to be fashioned into our publication. I know all will support Ulrike in this key position within the club.

Continuing the positive theme, so far this year we have again conducted training to develop our leaders and ensure the safety of our members.

We conducted leadership training with 17 members attending and learning the key skills of leading a walk. In addition, the club arranged first-aid training with the Red Cross, and 19 club members either renewed their qualification or qualified for the first time in first aid.

It is these training efforts along with other measures the club has in place, mentoring, written process, a past walks register, that will see the future walk leaders of the club take the next step and lead their first walk.

If there is any new leader that is interested in leading a walk but is hesitant, please talk about this with your assigned mentor or Walks Coordinator. The first walk is the most difficult, but in time leading walks becomes a well-worn path (pun intended).

"If you've got no phone coverage, you're in the right place".

Ian Knapton
(President)



Next Members Meeting

- ❖ **Monday 13 April 2026 - 8pm at the Hampton Community Centre.**
- ❖ **Note that due to the Easter holiday the April meeting will take place on the 'second' Monday.**
- ❖ **Margaret Morse and Jasmine Pereira will entertain the meeting with a presentation on their recent trip on the Michinoku Track in Japan.**
- ❖ **Committee Speaker - Ewa Wasylkowski – The Secretaries' Role.**

➤ **The Club's AGM will be held on Monday 4th May**

No Overnight Hiking Gear? – No Problem

The obvious barrier to stepping from day walker to an overnight walk is the equipment required to spend the night in the bush. This can include a suitable sized backpack, good sleeping bag, a sleeping mat and a tent. The BBC does hold a number of these items and can loan equipment to fill gaps in anyone's overnight equipment needs. (See page 21)

However, our club is fortunate in that we have developed close links to the Hampton Scout group who hold a large range of overnight bushwalking equipment, and, through their leader Graeme Bonser, we have agreed to loan each of our group's equipment to the other, as needed.

The equipment held by the Hampton Scout Group is more extensive than the gear we hold. The scouts can equip four bushwalkers simultaneously with sleeping bags, sleeping mats, tents and packs. Their equipment is some of the best available and rated to be used in snow

The Scout's equipment includes:

- Mont 70 litre packs,
- One Planet sleeping bags,
- Light weight tents, &
- Insulating sleeping mats.

In addition to the Hampton Scouts group's generosity in sharing equipment, they have also loaned us the use of their hall for our training needs. This was arranged by our wonderful Vice President, Mary Valcanis. Well done Mary.

So, if you are interested in overnight bushwalking but equipment has been the barrier, it need not be any more. You can talk to your overnight walk leader or our Equipment Officer, Paul Redmond, who will arrange access to the required equipment.

Take the plunge and step into the world of walking far and sleeping rough.

Ian Knapton
(President)





The latest issue of the Bushwalking Victoria Bulletin is available through the link on the BBC Website under the Packs Up! tab or go to [April 2026 Bushwalking News!](#)

Thinking of attending Fed Walks this year? Click here - [Fed Walks 2026](#)



BTAC Activities

Alpine National Park

**Maintenance work on the Track to The Crinoline and other projects
Thursday 23 to Tuesday 28 April 2026**

**This activity was originally scheduled for the Australia Day weekend
but has been rescheduled to the ANZAC Day weekend.**

Possible projects include:

- The Crinoline - clearing and track restoration,
- Old Zeka Spur Track – clearing logs and marking
- Wellington River Track towards Tali Karng - clearing and track improvements.
- McMillans Walking Track – clearing vegetation on sections local to Muttonwood camp.

For this four day working bee volunteers can come for whatever time suits them.
They can take time out during the period to explore or relax.

Baw Baw National Park

**Maintenance work on the AAWT from the Mount Erica Carpark to the
summit of Mount Erica and on towards Mount St Gwynear
Friday 10 to Sunday 12 April 2026**

For more details of these or future events go to - [BTAC - Bushwalking Victoria](#)



BBC has Bushwalking Gear Available to Members

Tents, sleeping mats and stoves are provided to make it easier for members to try out overnight bushwalking, without the need to buy their own gear before deciding if overnights is for them. There is no charge for hire, but a cash deposit of \$30 per tent and \$20 per item for other equipment must be left with the custodian. If hiring a group of items, e.g. stove, pack and sleeping mat, the deposit for the group of items is \$30.

Gear can be hired through the BBC Website.

Go to Menu -> Equipment -> Equipment Hire

Enquiries to Paul Redmond



So, this is why Frank had to truncate his bike ride to Williamstown



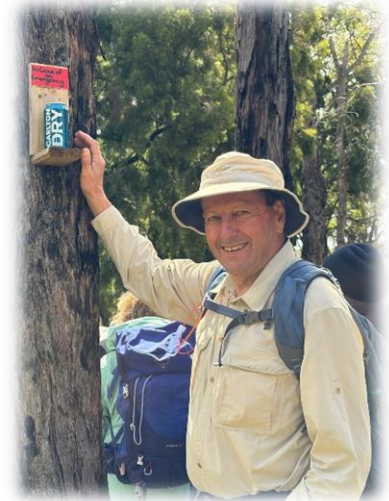
This Month's Photo Riddle



Answers on page 23



More photos from the Portland Base Camp



More photos from the Central Tasmania Jaunt



Two interesting articles on the ABC's News Website

READ - [Meet the mapmakers recording every remote road in Australia to keep travellers safer](#)

WATCH - [The Mapmakers: Traversing the country to make maps](#)

Photo Riddle Answers -

Dog Hut near Woolrich Lookout	A work in <i>The Reveal</i> art installation on Channel 10 Track, Doongalla Forest. See notes next page.
AAWT – near Mount Howitt	



The Reveal is a highly evocative installation by Helen Bodycomb (artist), Cate Kennedy (writer) and Aunty Lee-Anne Clarke (cultural advisor and artist) situated beneath the towering mountain ash and tree ferns of the Doongalla Forest in goranwarrabil (the Dandenong Ranges), Victoria.

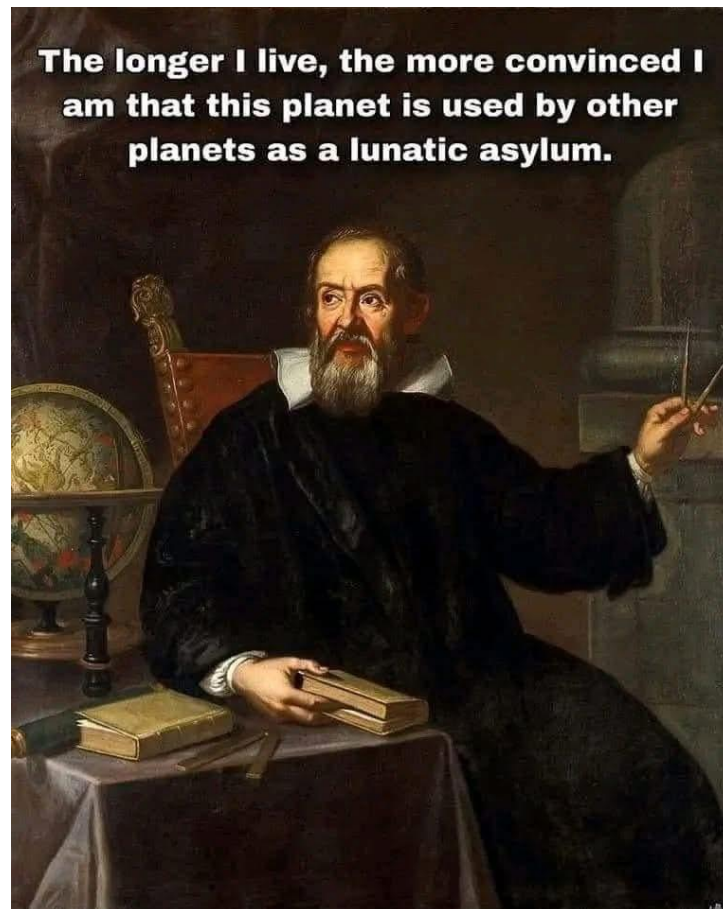
For further information - ['The Reveal' - 15 artworks in the Doongalla Forest.](#)

The Reveal is part of ngurrak barring, an arts and culture trail through the Dandenong Ranges which spans 39 kilometres of walking trails that can be entered from many different locations.

It comprises artworks, sculptures and storytelling signage at different points along the trails.

For further information and background go to: -

[Arts and culture trails in the Dandenong Ranges](#)





Cloud Over the Howitt Road

By the Editor

December 2025

If you enjoyed reading this magazine or would like to know more about walking with the Bayside Bushwalking Club, visit our website www.baysidebush.org.au .

The Club is welcoming to new members. If you are unsure about a first walk with BBC, we can provide a 'buddy' to assist and prepare you for an enjoyable day in the bush or on an urban walk. Places are held for new members on the popular walks that quickly book out. Go to - info@baysidebush.org.au.

Identifying details of members have been removed from this 'public' edition of the magazine. Some formatting may have suffered from this action.

Currently BBC has 316 members. As of 31st March 2026

Packs Up! is the newsletter of the Bayside Bushwalking Club (BBC).

Editor – Paul Redmond

Contributions can be sent to the editor at newsletter@baysidebush.org.au.

Text must be in Microsoft Word format and photos for inclusion in jpg format.

Deadline for contributions is the close of business on the third Monday of the month.

The contributor is responsible for ensuring that all authors and photographers have agreed to publication in *Packs Up!* and that persons depicted in photographs have given their consent for their image to be published in *Packs Up!* and appear on the BBC Website.

Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of Bayside Bushwalking Club Inc., its office bearers, or members.

Advertisements may be accepted from members relating to Club activities, sale of second-hand equipment or seeking expressions of interest in club or private trips. Advertisements submitted must comply with Club policy as set out in Appendix 2 to the "ABC of the BBC".

Publication of all submissions will be subject to limits of time, space and the editor's discretion, especially the editor's discretion.

Find us on Facebook

The Bayside Bushwalking Club's Facebook page is attracting lots of "likes" every week. If you're on Facebook and want to find us, search Bayside Bushwalking Club in the Search box at the top of the Facebook screen. There is also a link on the BBC website that will take you straight there. And if you "Like" the page or one of the posts, you will get any new BBC posts on your Facebook feed.



**BAYSIDE
BUSHWALKING
CLUB**

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