

WALKER'S 2026 PROGRAM

Friends of the Great South West Walk: Recreational Walks Program 2026

SWB (Short Walks on and around The Great South West Walk) - **GB** (The Great South West Walk Guide Book)

DATE	WALK	MEETING LOCATION AND TIME	DISTANCE (APPROX) GRADE	OPTION FOR LEAVING THE WALK	REGISTER WITH LEADER ON
THURSDAY Jan 15 th	Trewalla Loop Walk to Cape Bridgewater (swim option)	Bridgewater Carpark	9km G2-EASY		<p>LEADER CONTACT 0448 112 391</p> <p>PLEASE TEXT NAME & WALK DATE TO BOOK</p>
SATURDAY 17 th January	North Nelson Track/Gorge Circuit Twilight Walk BYO Picnic dinner	Portland Visitor Information Centre 2.00pm	9.2km G3-MOD		
MONDAY Feb 2 nd	Nelson (Ocean Beach) to Mombeong (option via Inland Track) (swim option)	Mombeong Camp Ground 8am	20km G4-MOD- DIFF		
SATURDAY 14 th February	North Nelson Rd to Sapling Creek Twilight Walk BYO Picnic dinner (swim option)	Portland Visitor Information Centre 2.00pm	10.2km G3-MOD	Pattersons 5.5km	
THURSDAY Feb 19 th	Pattersons to Battersbys (swim option)	Battersbys 8.30am	14km G3-EASY		
MONDAY March 2 nd	Bridgewater Café to Cape Nelson	Cape Nelson Lighthouse 7.45am	20km G4-MOD- DIFF		
SATURDAY 14 th March	Trewalla Camp to Murrells BYO lunch	Portland Visitor Information Centre 9.00am	10km G3-MOD		
THURSDAY March 19 th	Full Nelson	Cape Nelson Lighthouse 9am	9km G2-EASY		

MONDAY April 6th (Easter Monday)	Cape Nelson lighthouse to Bill's Walk (Childers St)	Bill's Walk 7.45am	20km G3-MOD	Yellow Rock 8km	<p>LEADER CONTACT 0448 112 391</p> <p>PLEASE TEXT NAME & WALK DATE TO BOOK</p>
SATURDAY 11th April	Bridgewater Blowholes to Bridgewater Bay Café SWB #22. (Option for lunch at the café)	Bridgewater Bay Café carpark 9.30am	9km G3-MOD		
THURSDAY April 16th	Bridgewater Lakes to Blowholes	Blowholes 9am	9.5km G3-EASY-M		
MONDAY May 4th	Swan Lake to Tarragal	Tarragal Camp (Telegraph Rd) 8am	22.1km G4-MOD- DIFF	Mt Richmond 13km	
SATURDAY 9th May	Cobboboonee to Cut-Out BYO lunch	Portland Visitor Information Centre 9.00am	11km G3-EASY		
THURSDAY May 21st	Cut-Out to Cobboboonee	Cobboboonee 9.30am	11km G3-EASY		
MONDAY June 1st	Simpsons to Pattersons	Pattersons 8.30am	18.5km G3-MOD	Nth Nelson Rd	
SATURDAY 13th June	Sam's Loop SWB #29	Quarry Road 10.00am	8km G2-EASY		
THURSDAY June 18th	Mt Richmond to Bridgewater Lakes	Bridgewater Lakes 8.30am	13km G3-MOD	Tarragal Camp	
MONDAY July 6th	Bridgewater Loop	Bridgewater Café 8.30am	22km G4-MOD- DIFF	Blowholes	
SATURDAY 11th July	Casterton Loop (Kelpie Walk & River Junction Walk) BYO lunch	Portland Visitor Information Centre 9.00am	9km G2-EASY		
THURSDAY July 16th	Town Walk	Portland tourist Information Centre 9am	12km G1-EASY		

MONDAY August 3rd	Moleside to Battersbys	Battersbys 8.30am	19.5km G3-MOD	Pritchards	LEADER CONTACT 0448 112 391 PLEASE TEXT NAME & WALK DATE TO BOOK
SATURDAY 15th August	Cape Nelson Lighthouse to Enchanted Forest BYO lunch	Cape Nelson Lighthouse Carpark 10.00am	8km G3-EASY		
THURSDAY August 20th	Bill's Walk to Yellow Rock	Yellow Rock 9am	12km G3-MOD		
MONDAY Sep 7th	Moleside to Fitzroy/Jackass Fern Gully (How wet season is)	Fitzroy/Jackass Fern Gully 8.30am	22km G4-MOD-DIFF	Harris Rd	
SATURDAY 12th September	Seacliff Nature Walk & Half Nelson SWB #26/27 BYO lunch	Cape Nelson Lighthouse carpark 10.00am	9km G2-EASY	Yes, contact leader.	
THURSDAY Sept 17th	Quarry Gates to Cape Nelson Lighthouse	Cape Nelson lighthouse 9am	16km G3-MOD	Enchanted Forest 8km	
MONDAY Oct 5th	Tarragal to Blowholes	Blowholes 8.30am	15km G3-MOD		All leaders please.
SATURDAY & SUNDAY Oct 10th & 11th	FED WALKS				
MONDAY Nov 2nd	Lake Mombeong Loop with Extension	Lake Mombeong 8.30am	16.5km G3-MOD		LEADER CONTACT 0448 112 391 TEXT NAME & WALK DATE
SATURDAY 14th November	Portland to Bolwarra Twilight Walk BYO Picnic	Portland Visitor Information Centre 3.00pm	8km G2-EASY		
MONDAY Dec 7th	Fitzroy to Cobboboonee (Lunch at Cobboboonee)	Cobboboonee 8.30am	12km G3-MOD		

Recreational Walks Program 2026

WALK GRADING LINKS <https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=890353509805864&set=pcb.890353903139158>
<https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/things-to-do/hiking-and-bushwalking/choose-the-right-hike/how-walking-tracks-are-rated>

All interested walkers must register their interest by: (Please text your name & the walk date, plus your email if first walk for the year)

Saturday walks - 7pm Thursday prior to the walk

Monday & Thursday walks - 3pm on day prior to the walk

There will be a **maximum of 20 walkers**. Contact numbers will be taken at time of registration to enable confirmation of meeting location/times or event cancellation.

Carpooling from Portland can be arranged. There will be a car sharing cost of either \$5(<1hr driving) or \$10(~2hrs driving) depending on distance, payable by each passenger to the driver. The cost applicable will be indicated on registration and exact change would be appreciated.

Walking with the FGSWW offers the opportunity to walk with others and share knowledge of the history, terrain, flora and fauna of this beautiful South-West corner of Victoria, which is becoming increasingly popular with locals and visitors to the area. We welcome new members and visitors.

Where possible opt out options have been included for those walkers who would like to participate but not complete the whole planned walk. Please indicate to the contact person at the time of registering if you plan to opt out to assist with transport options.

Walkers are welcome to join in as visitors for up to two walks, after which they are required to join as FGSWW members in order for them to be able to participate in any further walks. Membership forms are available from the FGSWW website or the contact person on the day of the walk. **For non-members, a charge of \$5.00 per person/per walk** is collected on the day to contribute to the cost of the FGSWW insurance for such events – please have the correct change. FGSWW is affiliated with Bushwalking Victoria.

Suggested Equipment for Day Walks

Personal first aid kit (Emerg Med Info A5 sheet to be carried in pack at all times) to include snake bandage and all personal medications. Morning tea, nibbles and lunch, water bottle (min 1 litre), day pack, waterproof jacket, sun hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, beanie, comfortable and broken-in footwear. Jumper/puffer to put on at breaks. A change of clothes for the return trip (left in the car) in case of wet weather. Leave no trace. Carry a small plastic bag to take your paper and rubbish out with you. Thank you.

Remember: Always keep other walkers in view, wait at intersections and if leaving the trail (for loo), drop your pack on the track at that point.

Bushwalking Victoria for useful information <https://bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/beginning-bushwalking/>
Sarah – FGSWW Walks Co-ordinator 0417 051 020

AUSTRALIAN WALKING TRACK GRADING SYSTEM EXPLAINED (Caro Ryan)

Grade 1 // Easy. Grade 1 trails are perfect for **beginners** or those seeking a leisurely stroll. These tracks are usually well-defined and signposted, flat and have a smooth surface, without steps. You won't need any special equipment or hiking experience for these walks, making them great for families, assisted wheelchair users and those looking for a relaxing day out in nature.

Grade 2 // Easy. Moving up to Grade 2 trails, these are good for folk with no bushwalking or hiking experience, and great for families with children. These tracks may have some gentle slopes or occasional steps on hardened or compacted surfaces and are suitable for most fitness levels. (Up to 10kms)

Grade 3 // Moderate. As we venture into Grade 3, things start to get a bit more exciting. These tracks can be a bit steeper, with short hill sections, steps and have rougher surfaces. You might encounter obstacles like tree roots and rocks along the way. A reasonable level of fitness and some basic hiking experience and first aid knowledge will come in handy for these tracks. So, lace up those hiking boots or walking shoes, grab your backpack, and get ready to explore! (Up to 20kms)

Grade 4 // Moderate-Difficult. Now, let's talk about Grade 4 tracks. These ones are for the more seasoned bushwalkers and hikers. Expect steep climbs, rough terrain, and potentially unmarked paths. You'll need a good level of fitness, proper hiking gear, first aid and navigation skills to tackle these trails. But hey, with a bit of preparation and a sense of adventure, you'll be rewarded with stunning vistas and a sense of accomplishment.

Grade 5 // Difficult. Brace yourselves, because Grade 5 tracks are not for the faint-hearted. These babies are challenging, often taking you into remote and rugged areas. They can involve long distances, significant elevation changes, unmarked routes and unpredictable weather conditions. Advanced navigation skills, excellent fitness, emergency first aid and experience in multi-day hikes are a must.

<https://lotsafreshair.com/australian-walking-track-grading-system>

