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Melbourne Women's Walking Club

(1922 -)

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Summary

The Melbourne Women's Walking Club was formed in 1922 by a group of young women excluded from the men-only Melbourne Walking Club. The Club pioneered treks with packhorses supplied by the mountain cattlemen who also acted as guides. In 1936 three members walked the Barry Mountains, the first women to do so.

Over the years their dress changed from long skirts to short skirts to riding breeches (then the only acceptable form of trousers for women). Finally in the 1930s they defied all conventions by wearing specially tailored shorts. World War 2 curtailed activities and led to a decline in the 1950s, but the club rallied and grew again. Later, groups began to travel further afield, both interstate and overseas. Recently there has been an influx of new members and the club continues to provide a wide variety of activities. 'Still on Track' is the Club's centenary history.

Published resources

Book

Still on track : 100 years of the Melbourne Women's Walking Club, Chong, Keng, et al., 2021

Archival resources

Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc

[Interviews and memoirs of members - 1920-1980](#)

State Library of Victoria

[Memoirs of members, n.d. \[manuscript\]](#).

National Library of Australia, Pictures Collection

[Dorothy Dudgeon and others from the Melbourne Women's Bushwalking Club, 1928-1930 \[picture\]](#)

Author Details

Alannah Croom

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