



**YHA Bushwalking Victoria
Jonas Lee Memorial Award
Citation 2018
Andrew Francis**

The Jonas Lea Memorial Award is in memory of Jonas Lea, YHA Bushwalking Victoria Club leader and walker who passed away in 2018. He lead his first walk with us in Winter 2015. He was always willing to help, and often offered to fill missing gaps in the walk program. He was always trying to improve on his skills, participating on Leader Training Days and navigation training events. Many of you will have enjoyed chatting with him and appreciated his passion for bushwalking, even when not well.

Jonas' family wanted to recognise the importance of the Club and bushwalking to Jonas. His mum, Judy, said 'the Bushwalking club gave him a new lease of life and he loved the times he spent with you all.' They have generously provided a Paddy Palin gift voucher for the person making the most significant contribution to the Club and who best represents the values of the Club.

The Club very much appreciated Jonas' contributions and sincerely thank his family for creating the award. Thank you also to those people who took the time to make nominations for the award, all were worthy recipients.

The Club is very pleased to announce the recipient of the inaugural Jonas Lea award is **Andrew Francis**.

Andrew is one of the quiet but important achievers of our club. He regularly leads walks for our Club, as well as being the behind the scenes person who manages Meetup for us. If you have joined through Meetup, he is the one who sends you the welcome email. He's also the one who posts most of the Sunday walk Meetup invitations and regularly helps the leaders provide more colour and detail for their walks. Many of these walks would not happen without Andrew's input and support.

He likes to introduce changes to recycled walks and create new walks, which we all benefit from. In the words of his nominee, he is the best administrator in town and organises everything from A to Z. His preparedness and attention to detail has been invaluable support for many new leaders. Walkers have also benefited from his knowledge and experience as he is always willing and very capable in answering questions. He has a calm, pleasant manner in leading his walks that is very helpful. He also provides thoughtful and helpful comments on proposals made by the Committee.

On behalf of Jonas' family and the Club, Congratulations Andrew, on a very well deserved acknowledgement of your invaluable contributions to the Club over a number of years.