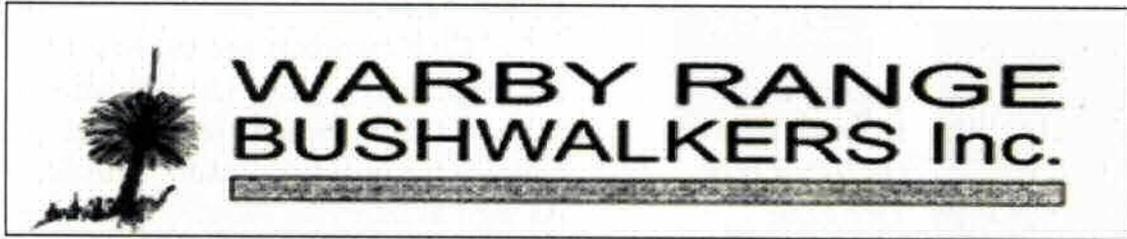


WARBY RANGE
BUSHWALKERS
2012



NEWSLETTER 1, 2012



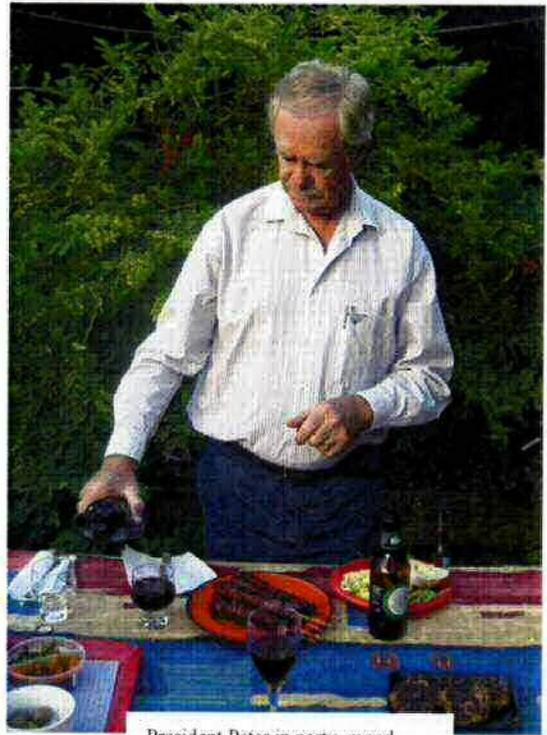
IT'S CHRISTMAS PARTY TIME AGAIN

Peter and Kate Murray's farmhouse is this year's

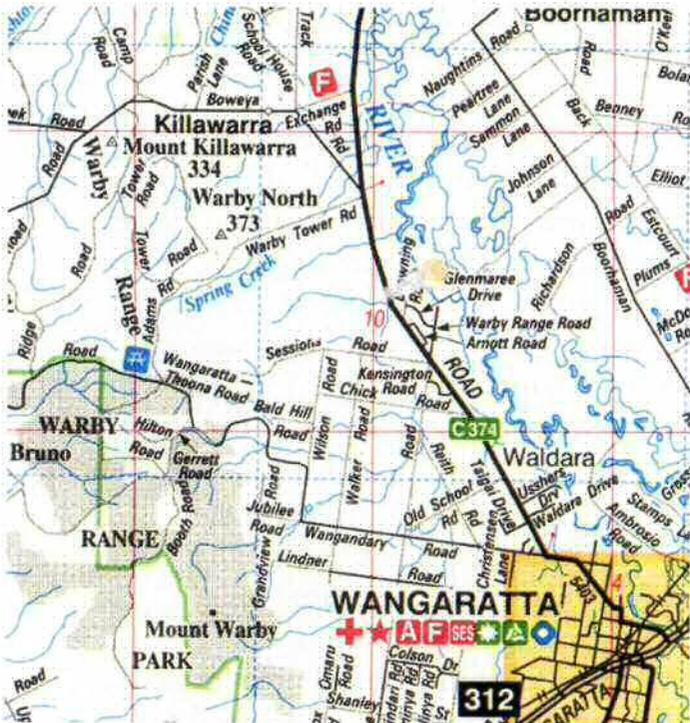
Christmas party venue. Bring your meat, utensils and chairs, and also a salad or dessert to share. Barbeque facilities will be available.

Saturday, December 10th at 6.00 for 6.30 pm.

The Murray house fronts Boweya Road. From Wangaratta, take the Yarrawonga road and turn left 14 kms from Wangaratta. The house is on the right just before you get to the Warby Range and alongside Parish Lane (see north west part of map).



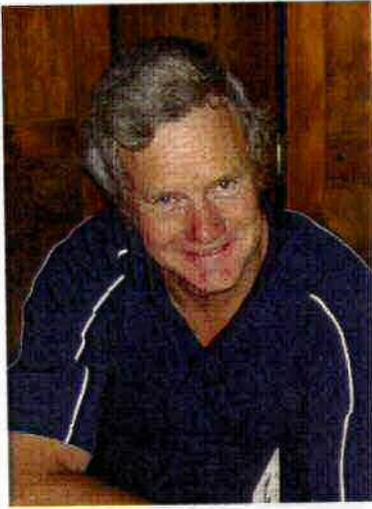
President Peter in party mood



OUR WEBSITE PROGRESS.

Our website is now back! Karen Vincent has been doing a sterling job putting it together again. Thanks too, to Chris and Yvonne McLaughlin, for their work in the restoration process too. We are gradually getting there. Our walks program appears on it, and will include the latest version, so if you lose your hard copy, check it. Gradually we are getting the website back to something like the quality we had before it was hacked and destroyed.





**ASSISTANT
WALKS CO-
ORDINATOR,
TREVOR**

Trevor Turnbull is the quiet achiever in our Club. As Committee member, he is also the Assistant Walks Co-ordinator. Trevor brings a wealth of experience to the walks program, and probably has more experience in long distance and alpine walking than any of us. In recent years, he has been very involved in work parties helping to rebuild or restore huts in the High Country. As a practical person, his skills are much sought after. In working day life, he is a glazier.

Trevor grew up on a dairy farm in Edi Upper and went to the local primary school there. Then on to Wangaratta Technical College and a carpentry apprenticeship. He worked in that trade for 25 years before switching to his current status as a glazier.

His wife, Anne (Hildebrand), is said to have fallen in love with him on the football field. She wasn't playing, just an admiring on-looker.

They have four delightful children, now at the stage of late school and university years. Trevor is a very family oriented person and occasional he and Anne bring their children on walks. He also often helps out at his parents-in-law property in the King Valley. If you want to catch Trevor at home, you have to be lucky.

CLUB NEWS

Club members are saddened by the recent loss of Julie Quartermain. Julie was an associate member and enjoyed the occasional walk with us. As well as enjoying those walks, Julie was an enthusiastic cyclist. It was on her bicycle that a car collided with her on a roundabout in Caloundra whilst on holidays in Queensland in September. Julie is a loss not only to her family, but the Wangaratta community in which she was heavily involved and greatly liked.

We congratulate Kerri and Paul Davenport's older daughter, Elise, who was married in Wangaratta on November 4th. Another club member, John Van Riet, married them in the Wangaratta Uniting Church. By all accounts, it was a very happy occasion.

November 4th was quite an auspicious date for openings. The club (or was it the Queen!) opened the Chick Hill Track that day. It was followed by a social evening at Hamilton Park attended by 30 members and friends. More about this event elsewhere.

Whilst club members were hobnobbing with the 'Queen' at Chick Hill, former members Garry and Helen Batchelor were seen talking with Australia's 'royalty' – the Governor General Quentin Bryce, who was on King Island to 'open' the 150 year old Cape Wickham Lighthouse. Garry and Helen have a house on King Island, and now live there most of the time.

John Lloyd has had another bout of hospitalization, this time for a hernia. He was busy beforehand whizzer snipping the tall grass around their house. It's a no-lift policy for a while. John feels he has been in and out of hospital like a yo-yo in recent

times, but looks forward to returning to good health.

Andy Kimber has recently returned from another aid oriented trip to East Timor. He, and a party of half a dozen others, have recently been to Wangaratta's sister community there, to restore a community facility for the benefit of the villagers. Andy's knowledge of the local language and familiarity with Lacluta would have been invaluable. Well done Andy!

Family of club members are all over the place these days. Helen Hill's son and daughter have been working in South Africa and Azerbaijan, but David surprised his mother by getting married on a Danish Island whilst Helen was on a European visit. Adrian and Helen Twitt are understandably nervous about their son Craig, who is off to Afghanistan to mentor and train young Afghanis in setting up community radio.

The Twitts and Rod and Karen Davis have recently returned from South America, and Ian Slater from Turkey, Greece, Italy and Egypt where he and his wife dodged riots, floods, and financial meltdowns. President Peter Murray and Kate had a more sedate time in France, visiting Peter's brother but enjoying some distance cycling too. Andy and Jillian Kimber will be in England for Christmas to enjoy the birth there of another grandchild, having already had one trip to Europe and England this year.

Rick Sinclair and Wendy Batey are moving from Oxley to Bairnsdale. They squeezed in a couple of walks with us in the past year, between their South American tours.

Blue Mountains Payments

Send cheques
(pay Warby Range Bushwalking Club)
Before Jan. 31st to-
Maureen Phillips,
35 Park Crescent, Wangaratta 3677



BLUE MTS FINAL PAYMENTS DUE

Wonderfully, 32 members have paid deposits for the 2012 'week away' in the Blue Mountains. The event is shaping up to be an exciting time.

For those who missed the news, we have booked an independent wing of the Katoomba Youth Hostel for seven nights from Saturday, March 24.

An enthralling program of walks has been planned. Lesley and Peter Finedon have recently even visited the hostel and tourist facilities to check out resources.

The cost of the accommodation is \$340 per person (on the basis of 30 attendees). Those who have sent deposits have already paid \$100, so you only have to pay the remaining \$240 (per head) before January 31st.

If you have not registered, there is room for more, and the more the better. It's not too late to be part of it. Just pay our treasurer Maureen Phillips as soon as you can (but definitely before the due date as we have to pre-pay the YHA).

SUMMER HIGH COUNTRY HIKES

Summer time is High Country time in north east Victoria, not the least for the Warby Walkers.

Unfortunately we have had to postpone our two day back packing walk from Pretty Valley to Bogong Village originally scheduled for December 17-18. Instead, it will be offered in the next walks program.

Sat-Sun, January 7-8, will therefore be the first of the weekends to enjoy the Alps. The Wangaratta Ski Lodge is booked for the Saturday night, but **you will need to reserve a place with Adrian Twitt (5721 5327) before December 31st** On this weekend, you

will not have to carry anything other than a day pack with lunch and normal gear for alpine walking. The weekend caters for both easy and harder grades of walking. More details when you book.

The next weekend in the High Country will be at the foot of Mt Buller on February 4-5. This will require camping, with limited facilities, but in a beautiful spot alongside the Delatite River.

For the weekends in the High Country, check the walks program.

THE 'QUEEN' VISITS CHICK HILL

When Park Ranger Chris Mercier couldn't attend the opening of the Chick Hill Track last month, the Warby Walkers were surprised that the Queen agreed to officiate. She happened to be in Australia at the time!

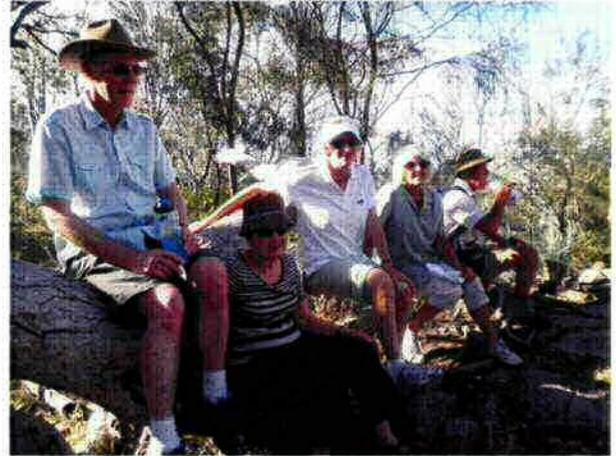
Excitement rose as the Queen's carriage pulled up at the appropriate spot, exactly on time, to be greeted by a large crowd of admirers. Although appropriately gowned for the occasion, disconcertingly the Queen had had to resort to industrial gloves. Perhaps she thought the ceremony would be in grubby surrounds with deleterious effects on her normal white gloves.

While the Queen's speech was impeccably delivered, her cover was exposed when she became inappropriately political. It was our President, Peter Murray!

.....

The official ceremony over, walkers ascended Chick Hill. Then a crowd of 30 returned to the Hamilton Park BBQ area where the pizza oven was already sizzling awaiting the insertion of home made pizzas. The chef took a while to get the firing right after the first pizza or two were either

under done or burnt a little. Eventually, with the perfect oven temperature, the gathering enjoyed a chat over a sumptuous meal.



Top: Max and Lorris Fletcher with Lesley Finedon, Kate Murray and Alan Raison
Bottom: Some of the gathering at Hamilton Park

As the light faded Max Fletcher introduced his talk "Trek to Mt. Everest base camp." Max's photos and his detailed explanation made the trip come alive. The trip commenced at Kathmandu (altitude 1400 metres) and ended at Everest Base camp (altitude 5364 metres). Max talked about the difficulties in acclimatising to the high altitude. His photos were exceptional but the journey came alive with Max's empathy towards the sherpas, the local people and the conditions. At the end of the night, President Peter, (whom we couldn't find early in the day when the opening occurred!) thanked Max for his entertaining presentation.

OUR NEXT AGM & DINNER

It might seem a long way off, but our **2012 AGM and dinner is to be held at The Vine, North Hotel, Wangaratta, on Monday March 6th.**

This is the last newsletter before that date, so open your 2012 diary or calendar and pen it in now. You will need to phone Bob Shaw (5766 2773), our social co-ordinator and book by March 1st.

Chris Mercier, the Ranger for the Warby Range-Ovens National Park (pictured right) will talk about plans and aspirations for the future of the park.



PRELIMINARY NOTICE; PROJECTED FEE RISE NEXT YEAR.

Treasurer Maureen Phillips has demonstrated that our subscriptions do not cover the costs of running the club. Most of your money goes into paying affiliation fees to Bushwalking Victoria, personal insurance and public liability. We are then left with a little over \$300 to run the club for a whole year! It costs much more than that, so we are advising members of a notice of motion to increase the fees.

The Committee has recommended that we increase all subscriptions by \$5 per head for the financial year commencing April 1st. This will be put to the 2012 AGM.

The recommendations are –
\$35 individual membership
\$65 family membership
\$20 associate membership
\$20 life membership

The visitors fee of \$5 for a day walk is recommended to remain the same.



LET'S TRY MT BUFFALO AGAIN!

We are not giving up on Mt Buffalo. Having been rained upon during our annual Mt Buffalo weekends the last two years, it has happened again! The recent weekend's event was cancelled at the last moment with heavy rain forecast to extend across the area from Friday to Sunday. It didn't make sense to continue with the plans. Approximately 150 mm rain fell.

The leader, **Karen Davis, has decided to transfer the Mt Buffalo weekend to December 17 and 18.** This event will replace the two day hike in the Bogong area originally scheduled for that weekend.

So, how about it? Karen is planning just a one night camp-out at Lake Catani on the Saturday evening, with the proposed walks being on Saturday and Sunday.

Phone Karen 5722 2540 to book or do so at the Christmas party.



Wangaratta Cup.

This issue's quiz.
Is this photo of –
1. The Governor General
2. The Queen
3. The President of the Warby Walkers
4. Fashions on the field winner at the

The clues are in the text of this newsletter.
Answers may be submitted to
twitt@dragnet.com.au

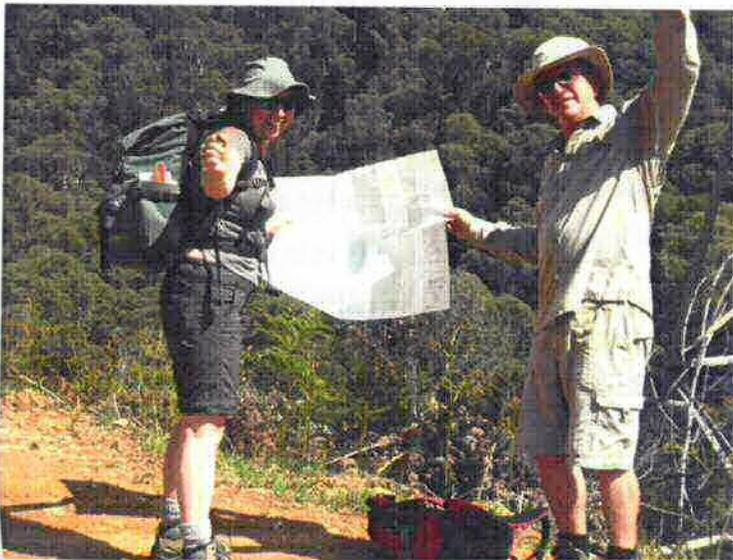
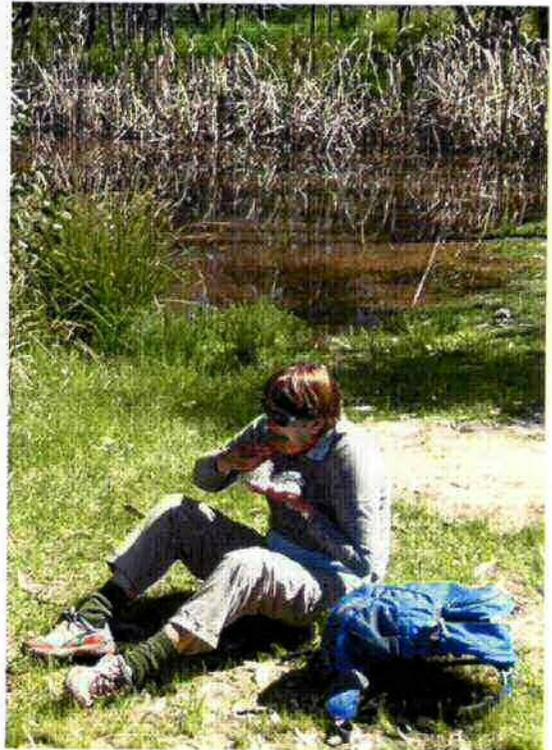
Right: Derek Atkinson and Trevor Turnbull at Mt Stanley. Is Derek about to jump?



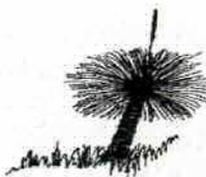
Below:: Lyn Barker and Pat Kuhle at Chick Hill



Right: Yvonne McLaughlin enjoys a sandwich at Black Springs



Left: Adele Ritchie and Bob Shaw displaying a map of Goldie Spur



WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc. WALKS PROGRAM

WALKS PROGRAM – JANUARY – MARCH 2012

If leader(s) cannot be contacted to book a walk contact
Karen Davis on 57222540 / 0409215286 or Trevor Turnbull on 57216215.

January 7 th & 8 th Sat & Sun (Book accom. by 31 st Dec)	WASHINGTON CREEK BON ACCORD TRACK COBUNGRA DITCH	Easy Hard Medium Contact Adrian 5721 5327
January 22 Sunday	OVENS RIVER WALK, SEVEN BRIDGES AREA	Easy/medium Contact Peter 5726 9337
February 4 th & 5 th Sat & Sun (Camp near Mirimbah)	KLINGSPORN TRACK DELATITE RIVER TRACK	Medium/Hard Easy/Medium Contact Karen 5722 2540 or 0409 215 286
February 19 Sunday	SUNRISE LOOP BREAKFAST WALK	Easy/Medium Contact Murray 5721 3730
February 27 Monday	COMMITTEE MEETING & WALKS PLANNING MEETING (all welcome)	Contact Karen 5722 2540 or 0409 215 286
February 28 Tuesday	FRIENDS TRACK – KWAT KWAT LOOKOUT	Easy Contact Alan 5721 7886
March 3 Saturday	ROLLASONS & EUROBIN FALLS NINE MILE SPUR	Two easy walks with Helen Medium difficulty with Bob Contact Bob 5766 2773
March 5 Monday	ANNUAL DINNER AND AGM, VINE HOTEL	Contact Jeanette by Monday Feb 27 5721 3994(w) 57221 6514(h) or 0417 546 974
March 17 Saturday	MORSES CK & BRIGHT GORGE TAWONGA GAP TO BRIGHT	Easy walks with Karen Medium/Hard with Bob Contact Bob 5766 2773
March 24-April 1 Sat-Sun (nine days)	BLUE MOUNTAINS WALKS	General enquiries contact Kerri 5725 1480 Payments by Jan 31 st contact Maureen 5721 2007
March 28 Wednesday	WARBY TOWER AREA	Easy Contact Jan 5727 1347

SAT 7th and SUN 8th JANUARY – A walk into beautiful WASHINGTON CREEK (8km return) or complete the challenging BON ACCORD TRACK up to the Razorback (12km) with a stay on Saturday night at the Wangaratta Ski Club Lodge on Mt St Bernard. The Bon Accord track runs from Harrietville on the old bridle route to Hotham. After an evening relaxing at the comfortable Lodge the newly developed COBUNGRA DITCH WALK will be offered on the Sunday. This 12.5km walk celebrates the rich mining history of the Hotham area.

SUNDAY 22nd JANUARY – OVENS RIVER WALK in the Seven Bridges area. An easy/medium 10 – 12km shaded walk on flat river tracks through red gum forest with Peter our river specialist. Be prepared to negotiate a few obstacles and wade through water. Bring your bathers and old trackshoes for this summer delight.

SAT 4th and SUN 5th FEBRUARY – MT BULLER WEEKEND. With an overnight camp (basic facilities) at the Carters Road Bush Camp near Sawmill Settlement (3km West of Mirimbah where our walks start/end) in a bush setting on the Delatite River. On Saturday we will drive up to Mt Buller Alpine Village (19km from camp). After climbing to THE SUMMIT for the superb views (3km return), we will tackle the historic KLINGSPORN TRACK (8km down to Mirimbah). This is a bridle track cut in 1913 to provide access to the high plains for stockmen. We will follow a pleasant down hill part with some steep sections. That evening in moonlight a 3km walk (from the camp) around the Tramway Bridge circuit. will be offered. On Sunday we will walk upstream from the Mirimbah Picnic Area along the Delatite river towards Howqua Gap and return. This is a pleasant shaded summer walk (10-12km return)with plenty of creek crossings and opportunities for a dip – be prepared to get wet feet.

SUN 19th FEBRUARY – Join Murray for sunrise on the SUNRISE LOOP in the Warbies. A walk of 10 – 12 km (or less if you like). We will make an early start to beat the heat – not quite sunrise – but early with a packed breakfast to enjoy during the walk. Murray will lead us around this complex of tracks he knows so well, up the escarpment and through open forest. Chance of bird & wildlife sightings.

TUES 28th FEBRUARY - Join Alan for a morning walk of approx 8 km to KWAT KWAT LOOKOUT and around the FRIENDS TRACK in the Warbies.

MON 27th FEBRUARY – GENERAL MEETING – ALL WELCOME Come along and make suggestions for new walks (7pm) – we welcome your ideas. Stay on for general business (8pm on) to see how your club operates.

SAT 3rd MARCH – This day on the lower slopes of Mt Buffalo has something for everyone! Join Helen for a “Falls” Day – easy walks into ROLLASONS FALLS followed by EUROBIN FALLS, with a pleasant lunch stop. Bring your bathers if hot. (Total of 6 – 8 km) OR Join Bob for a 17km walk starting at Rollasons Car park on 4wd tracks down the NINE MILE SPUR in a northerly direction. There are views of the Ovens valley towards Myrtleford and back towards Feathertop and the Fainters. The walk finishes near the Ovens Hotel after crossing the river.

MON 5th MARCH – ANNUAL DINNER & AGM – The AGM is a great chance to socialise with other walkers. Bring family and friends along to introduce them to our Club. After the brief AGM there will be a short talk by Warby Range NP Ranger Chris Mercier. Please book (see overleaf)

SATURDAY 17th MARCH – Another day where either Easy or Medium/Hard walks will be offered. Join Karen for a walk along MORSES CREEK in Bright to Wandiligong and back, a 7.5km return walk on cool and shaded river tracks. After lunch on the Ovens a ramble along the CANYON WALK (3km) with the possibility of a refreshing swim is offered. ALTERNATIVELY, join Bob on a DISCOVERY WALK – TAWONGA GAP TO BRIGHT (20km). This is a NEW walk for our Club beginning at Tawonga Gap on the West side of the Kiewa Valley with stunning views of Mt Bogong. It follows the Tawonga Gap Track and the Plantation Track in a westerly direction and ends up on the Back Germantown Road to Bright, having descended 800 metres on 4WD tracks. There should be good views across the Ovens Valley and to Mt Buffalo.

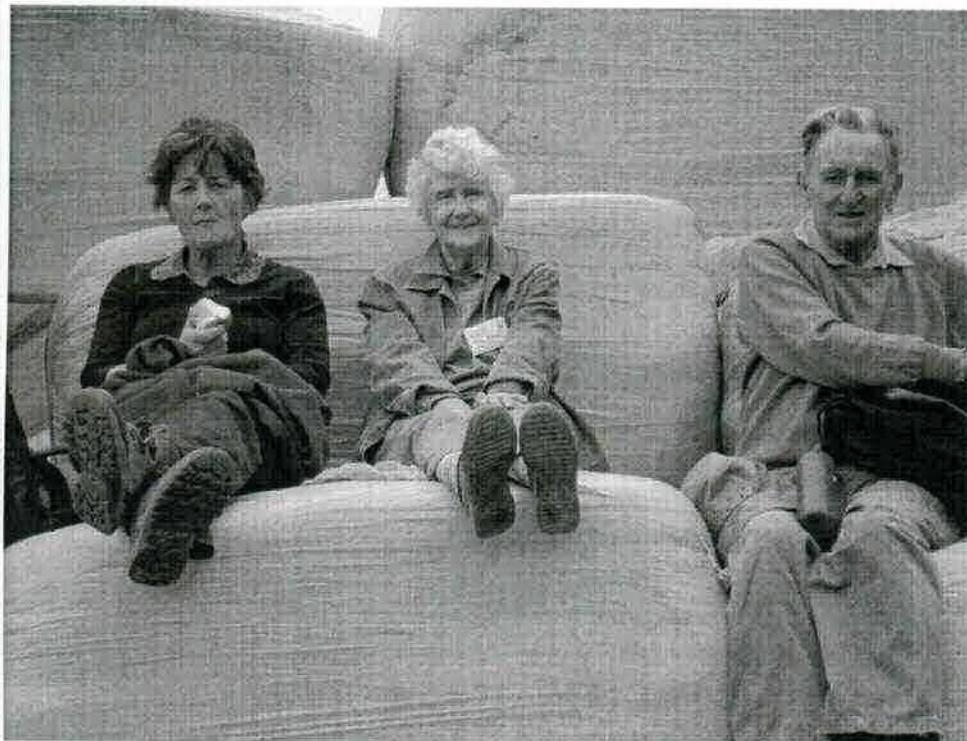
SAT 24TH MARCH – SUN 1ST APRIL – BLUE MOUNTAINS WEEK AWAY
See Newsletter for planning to date and payment deadlines.

WED 28th MARCH – For anyone not in the Blue Mountains, join our Club birdo Jan, for a morning walk in the WARBY TOWER AREA. Pleasant walking on undulating tracks with the promise of surprising wildlife. The iron bark trees should be flowering and birdlife flourishing – bring binoculars if you have them.



WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc.

NEWSLETTER 2, 2012



Joy Rosser, with husband Bill and daughter Mary Anne enjoying morning tea stop on the Banksdale (Myhree) walk in 2008

Friends of the Warbies, and the Wangaratta Urban Landcare Group.

At the February bush camp beside the Delatite River, only a day after her death, the many participants were able to drink

VALE, JOY ROSSER

The Warby Range Bushwalking Club has lost one of its most valued members, Joy Rosser. Joy seemed as 'good as gold' recently, and had socialized with club members in January. Her death on February 2nd came as a shock to her family and friends.

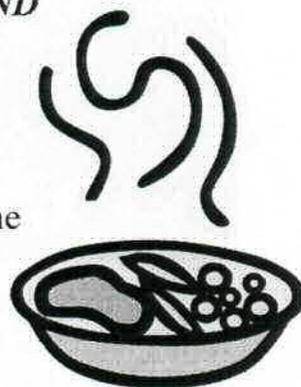
Although no longer an active walker, Joy was an inaugural and life member of the Club. She gave valuable service as a leader of walks, and she had an endearing interest in all of us. Her knowledge of the bush, and especially the flora, was a great asset on any bush walk. Joy took a great interest in environmental issues and had been an enthusiastic member of the

a toast to Joy. It was very appropriate, given that Joy was born in the Delatite Valley.

We send our condolences to Bill, himself a life member, who has also given many years service to the club.

ANNUAL DINNER AND AGM.

Hopefully you will get this newsletter before our dinner on Monday, 5th March at the Vine Hotel, North Wangaratta. If you haven't booked, with Secretary Jeanette, just phone the Vine Hotel direct. See you there.



COBUNGRA DITCH, DITCHED (for now)

We seem to have had only moderate success in our High Country program of late. With visibility of only 20 metres while breakfasting at Wangaratta Ski lodge in January, and horizontal rain pounding against the windows, the chances of doing the new Cobungra Ditch walk seemed remote.

The Cobungra Ditch runs from Hotham Central to the Brandy Creek Mine and more-or-less follows the contours for 12.5 km. It opened last year.

The decision to cancel the walk was the right one. Mt Hotham had had 24 mm overnight on Saturday and winds averaged 80 kph. Later, winds gusted to 144 kph. SES advised people to move vehicles, secure loose items, and keep clear of trees and power lines. Another 52 mm of rain fell during the day. Disappointing, but that's the mountains in summer!

NEW MEMBERS, ADELE, PAUL & JEN.

New members among our ranks are always welcome, and we hope they feel welcomed too.



Adele Ritchie is one such member, and she has thrown her lot in with the club to the point that she has offered to lead walks. That's not surprising, given that she has also done walks with the Border and the Benalla Clubs. She has also done extensive walking in other areas of Australia, and New Zealand.

Adele is organizing a series of interesting and new walks jointly with the Benalla Bushwalking Club over coming months.

Adele actually grew up in New Zealand, having been born in Winchester, England, but she has been in Australia for twenty years.

Adele lives near Moyhu with her husband and two teenage children. She is a bush regenerator with the Rural City of Wangaratta. Recently, Adele received an award for excellence in an environmental course she was studying.



Paul Bullock moved to Eldorado with his partner, Suzanne in August. Paul is also quite an environmentalist. Walkers are full of them, aren't they? Paul was

born in Young (NSW) and has had wide experience in bush regeneration in the Frankston area, and in Sydney.

Paul's first walk with us was up the Bon Accord Track, which he tackled with aplomb. His bush walking experience, stamina and youth really showed the rest of us up.



Jen Hunt has just joined in walks with us as a newcomer to Wangaratta. As someone who was born in Malaysia, you might be surprised to know that she took to ski-ing at the age of eight. That's because she actually grew up in Melbourne, and her family skied Mt Buller frequently. At

the recent Warby Walkers bush camp at the foot of Mt Buller, Jen made a quiet pilgrimage near the summit to visit the place where her older, then 24 year old brother perished in a ski venture gone wrong many years ago.

Jen works with the Salvation Army connecting with homeless people in the hope of finding accommodation for them. That is very admirable work.

Although Jen has only walked with us this year, and there were 25 walkers at the Mirrimbah camp site near Mt Buller, she was able to name them all at the end of the first day. How good is that?

HOUSE MOVES

What's wrong with Park Crescent? It used to be the nerve centre of the Club. Bob and Maureen Phillips moved up the street last year, and are renting until they upgrade elsewhere in Wangaratta.

Now Irene Knox has moved out altogether. She has down sized to the Cambridge Estate, but is delighted with her spacious new unit.

At least Glenda Hall seems to be staying put for a while, contented with her lot in Park Crescent.

All were involved in Irene's move which clashed with our January weekend at Wangaratta Ski Lodge. They made it to the dinner and social evening at the lodge, only to wake to weather too wet and wild to do the Cobungra Ditch walk the next day. Well, we all enjoyed their company anyway. And the Cobungra Ditch walk can wait for another day.

Do you want a pair of protective leg gaiters? A member who did the Overland Track in Tassie years ago, now finds them surplus to her needs. If you want them, please contact Adrian 5721 5327.

MORE CLUB NEWS

It grieves those who knew Ursula Cronin's husband, that Terry Cronin died on Christmas Eve. We extend our condolences to Ursula. Ursula is a popular member, who, living in Sydney, understandably only manages limited activities we offer, usually our 'week away'. We will see Ursula with us in the Blue Mountains soon.

Did many members see Helen Hill's exhibition of paintings in the foyer of the Wangaratta Library recently? It demonstrated Helen's great artistic talent. Well done Helen!

The Van Riets have another grandchild – a baby grand-daughter born in Shepparton recently. Not surprisingly, they have been off to Shepparton more often recently. But just as exciting is their proposed trip to Peru where son Martin will be married in Lima later in the year.

There will be the usual long distance overseas travellers this year from the Club.

Glenda Hall is also off to Peru and other parts of South America shortly. She will be doing part of the Inca trail.

Karen and Rod Davis will be cycling in France during May-June, about the time Helen and Adrian Twitt will be on a Ramblers walking trip in Alsace, France.

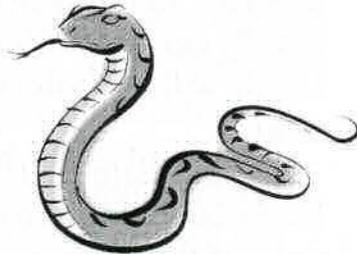
If you haven't seen President Peter Murray on many walks lately, he has a good excuse. He had had to have a knee operation this week. Past sports injuries?

Deb Goodson has had a fall and broken an arm, so has placed most walks on hold recently. We hope to see her out on the track again soon.

SNAKES ALIVE!

At recent walks, snakes have been sighted. The potential threat requires some vigilance. The best action for walkers is simply to stay still until the snake moves away. If inadvertently you stand on one, it is liable to bite. What to do?

First aid for snake bite (from Bushwalking Victoria)



1. Phone or send for medical assistance.
2. Reassure the patient and encourage them to remain calm.
3. Have the patient remain as still as possible. Do not attempt to catch or kill the snake.
4. Apply a pressure bandage to the envenomed limb (see below). If the bite is to the trunk, apply firm pressure to the bitten area. Do not restrict chest movement.
5. Splint or sling the limb to restrict movement.
6. Where possible, help should be brought to the patient rather than moving the patient.

Australian Pressure Immobilisation method

The purpose of this method is to 'buy time' for the patient to reach medical care. Do not wash the area of the bite. It is important to retain traces of venom to identify the snake. If you can do so without moving the limb, place a piece of gauze over the bite site to collect traces of the venom.

If the bite is on a limb, a broad bandage (even torn strips of cloth) should be applied over the bitten area at moderate pressure (as for a sprain; not so tight circulation is impaired), then extended to cover as much of the bitten limb as possible. Ideally you should bandage the whole limb, including fingers or toes. You will probably need several elasticised bandages. This should not be a problem if each walker carries an appropriate elasticised bandage in their first aid kit. Go over the top of clothing rather than risk limb movement associated with removing clothing. The bitten limb should then be immobilised via splint or sling.



You should all be carrying triangular bandages in your first aid kits. Use a walking pole or a stick as a splint. Use bandages from your first aid kits or strips torn from clothing to attach the splint to the limb or create the sling.

Bites to the head, neck and back are a special problem. Firm pressure should be applied locally if possible. Do not restrict the chest.

Removal of the bandage will be associated with rapid systemic spread. So take appropriate care with the pressure of the bandaging, so there is no need to remove the bandage until patient is in a fully-equipped medical treatment area.

Do not cut or excise the area or apply an arterial tourniquet. Both these measures are ineffective and may make the situation worse.

BLUE MOUNTAINS UPDATE

Delightfully, 37



members have booked into our approaching week in the Blue Mountains. If the weather is a little kinder than it has been in recent months in the Katoomba area, a promising week of walks can be expected. The organizing committee headed by Kerrie Davenport, has put much thought into it, and the program looks exciting.

If you have a last minute thought that you can join the group, it's not too late. Phone Treasurer Maureen Phillips (5721 2007) for late bookings.

Unfortunately Liz Walpole had to pull out as her daughter is graduating during that week, and like any good mum, she wants to attend the ceremony. Jo Piquerez also had to pull out due to unexpected problems. We'll be thinking of both of them!

A possible summer retreat.

The Du Nord Ski Club in the middle of Mt Baw Baw Village is offering summer accommodation for groups of up to 24 guests, with a minimum of five guests.

The special offer covers Summer 2012 and 2013. The cost is \$50 per person for the period Friday night to Sunday 4pm. During several weekends in February to May, ski club members will be opening the lodge for maintenance purposes. It welcomes walking club members who wish to tour the lodge to view the accommodation or locate walk trails etc.

ITS NOW MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME.



SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE.

A membership renewal slip will be included with this newsletter. Please complete and pay either cash, cheque or bank transfer to our treasurer, Maureen Phillips, 35 Park Cres., Wangaratta 3677.

Payments are due by 1st April

\$35 individual membership

\$65 family membership

\$20 associate membership

\$20 life membership

You can pay at the AGM if you like.

LAST ISSUE BY CURRENT EDITOR

Your editor of the last nine years, and producer of the last 36 editions of this newsletter, is bowing out. He feels it is time to hand the reins onto someone else. It has been a great experience, and I have enjoyed it immensely. It keeps you on your toes and alert to the Club's events and the doings of Club members.



Thanks everyone for their support over the years, and to Pat Kuhle and Karen Davis especially for distribution in recent times. Thanks also to Helen for proof reading - it's amazing the mistakes that she finds.

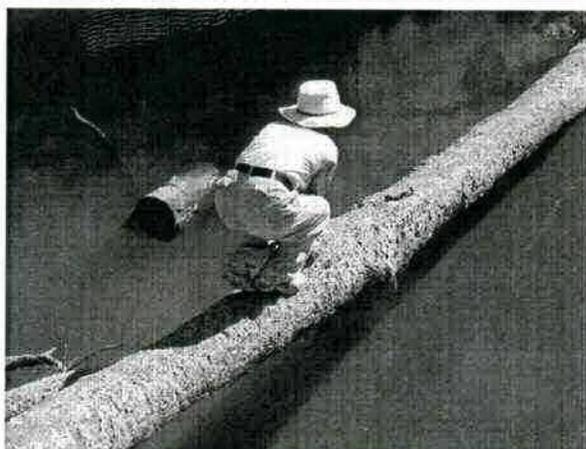
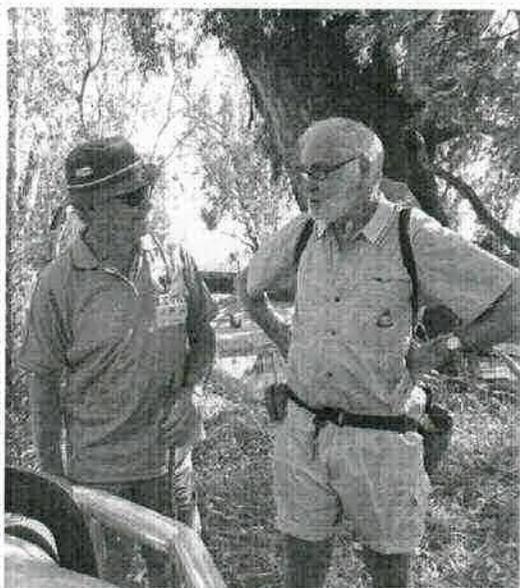
Chris McLaughlin will be taking over as editor. I am sure he will be looking to others to assist, whether it is to do posts on our website; take charge of photography etc. Thanks to Jan Heywood for placing reports in the Chronicle in the past year. All efforts to help were appreciated.

Adrian Twitt



Bon Accord Track: Rest and lunch at Washington Creek; Kate Murray escapes the heat with a dip; the rugged survivors reaching the top; festivities at the end of the day at Wangaratta Ski Lodge.

Left: President Peter Murray and new member, Graeme Glass in deep discussion on the banks of the Ovens. Right: Jen Hunt uses a log bridge over a billabong.



Below: Mirimbah Camp, Mt Buller and the Delatite River





WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc. **WALKS PROGRAM**

APRIL – JUNE 2012

If leader(s) cannot be contacted to book a walk ring Karen Davis 57222540 or Trevor Turnbull on 57216215

April 14th Saturday	WOOLSHED FALLS	Medium Contact Jeanette Farquhar on 5721 6514
April 17th Tuesday	ELDORADO – SIGHTS AND SOUNDS	Easy Contact Adrian Twitt on 5721 5327
April 29 th . Sunday	ROSE RIVER BRIDLE TRACK A joint walk with Benalla Club	Medium Contact Adele Ritchie on 5727 9501
May 6 th . Sunday	MT POREPUNKAH	Medium / Hard or Easy Contact Pat Kuhle on 5722 9173
May 7 th . Monday	COMMITTEE MEETING AND WALKS PLANNING	At Turnbull's (5721 6215) 8 Floyd Avenue at 7pm
May 15 th Tuesday	KILLAWARRA FOREST WALK	Easy Contact John Van Riet on 5725 7207
May 20 th . Sunday	COW CREEK WOBONGA PLATEAU AREA joint walk with Benalla Club	Medium Contact Adele Ritchie on 5727 9501
June 2 nd . Saturday	BARRY'S FALLS ELDORADO AREA	Easy Contact Chris McLaughlin on 5722 4876
JUNE 8 th – 11 th . Friday - Monday	ADELE'S HUME & HOVELL PROJECT(See Newsletter Article)	Contact Adele on 57279501 BY 18 th MAY IF YOU ARE INTERESTED
June 17 th . Sunday	MT TATONG	Medium Contact Bob Shaw on 5766 2773
June 27 th . Wednesday	SOCIAL NIGHT – at VINE HOTEL for Pot & Parma and talk on the Restoration of our Alpine Huts	Contact Bob Shaw on 57662773 by Mon 25/6 to book
June 28 th Thursday	CHICK HILL / MT GLENROWAN	Easy or Medium Options Contact Bob on 5766 2773
June 30 th Saturday	RIFLE RANGE/GAPSTED TRACKS CIRCUIT	Medium/Hard Contact Jan Heywood on 5727 1347
July 7 th .& 8th	WERRIBEE GORGE & INGLSTON GEORGE weekend with Benalla Club	Contact Adele Ritchie on 5727 9501 for details

SATURDAY 14th APRIL WOOLSHED FALLS near Beechworth is a medium walk of approx. 12km leaving from the Gorge Road and following Spring Creek down to the Falls on foot tracks with options for the return route. Visits to the Cascades and remnants of past mining history along the way with spectacular views of the granite landscape.

TUESDAY 17th APRIL *SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF ELDORADO - an easy 6-8km ramble taking in the historic, natural and human aspects of this unique township.*

SUNDAY 29th APRIL ROSE RIVER BRIDLE TRAIL Join with members from Benalla Walkers for this medium 10km NEW WALK FOR OUR CLUB. IT begins at Bennies Camp and follows an old bridle trail that was once the route from Wonongatta to Wangaratta. The walk features river scenery, river flats & possibility of sighting trout or deer. Be prepared to get your feet wet. Long sleeves and trousers recommended due to the lush vegetation.

SUNDAY 6th MAY - MT POREPUNKAH A medium/hard option involving walking from the base of the mountain through eucalypts to a view over the Ovens Valley in its autumn glory. A quick (steep) descent is an option for thrill seekers on the return trip. Those less sure of foot can take the track down. An easier walk (with all the views) is also offered by driving to the midway point and joining the walkers there.

MONDAY 7th MAY COMMITTEE MEETING 8pm after the WALKS PLANNING MEETING at 7pm. All Club members are welcome to join with the Committee and contribute to the running of our Club.

TUESDAY 15th MAY Join John for a 8km walk in the KILLAWARRA FOREST on some mainly flat well formed lesser known tracks. There should be creeks running, new growth and a chorus of bird song.

SUNDAY 20th MAY COW CREEK WOBONGA PLATEAU Another opportunity to join with Benalla Club for a NEW WALK FOR THE WARBY WALKERS. A medium 10km walk is offered through bush and scrub, some rock hopping/scrambling, a couple of relatively steep climbs but nothing too taxing. Starting at Lake William Hovell we skirt along the King via an old management track crossing Long Spur Track to explore a hidden valley and Cow Creek Falls. Featuring a three tiered waterfall, creek and river flat scenery.

SUNDAY 2nd JUNE BARRY'S FALLS An easy 8km walk close to home on little used bush tracks east of Eldorado. Another little explored area for our Club. Featuring rugged bush land scenery, a couple of creek crossings and an interesting waterfall toward the end of the walk.

FRIDAY 8th JUNE - MONDAY 11th JUNE - Start of Adele's HUME AND HOVELL walking project with Benalla Club- and we are invited. This section covers from Gunning to Log Bridge Camp Site. It involves a camp and car shuffle, moderate walks with visits to places of interest and even a boat trip. For more information and to book contact Adele by 18th May.

SUNDAY 17th JUNE MT TATONG A medium grade 14km walk to the trig point on Mt Tatong (606m.) There are magnificent views towards Mt. Samaria, down Ryan's Creek and to the north towards the Fifteen Mile Creek as well as the King Valley and Lake Mokoan.

WEDNESDAY 27th JUNE - A SOCIAL EVENING will be held at the VINE HOTEL on their special Pot and Parma night. After the meal we will hear all about the wonderful program Club Member Trevor Turnbull is involved in renovating the restoring historic huts on the High Plains. Our Club has already visited one of these huts and hope to add more to our program next summer.

THURSDAY 28th JUNE CHICK HILL / MT GLENROWAN An easy option and a medium option are offered. All walkers will start at Hamilton park and proceed along Taffie Lane up to the ridge track. Those taking the easy option will enjoy views from Chick Hill before returning. The other walkers will proceed along the ridge Track to Mt Glenrowan before returning.

SATURDAY 30th JUNE RIFLE RANGE / GAPSTEAD TRACKS CIRCUIT - A medium/hard walk of 14km. This is a circular walk beginning/ending at the foot of the Flagstaff Track. It involves 2 steep climbs up the Flagstaff and Gapstead tracks totalling 5km. The remaining 9km is downhill. Great view of the Murrumbidgee and Gapstead Basin will be enjoyed.

SATURDAY 7th & SUNDAY 8th JULY - WERRIBEE GORGE & INGLISTON GORGE (With options of Falcons Lookout and Carroll's Spring if wet). Another chance to sample some NEW WALKS combined with Benalla Walkers. Medium fitness is required for both walks - some rock hopping and scrub scrambling needed. Ingliston Gorge is a circular 7km walk offering panoramic views of Werribee Gorge and beyond. Werribee Gorge walk is a 10km circular walk. Accommodation at Bacchus Marsh on the Saturday evening will be organised

WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS

fun, fitness & friendship



NEWSLETTER 3, 2012

The past few months have been very active ones for the Warby Bushwalkers, with a wide variety of walks on offer, and long periods of glorious autumn weather in which to enjoy them.

The 'week away' proved as popular as ever, with this year's destination being the Blue Mountains - a venue enjoyed by over 35 members.

Closer to home, there have been walks in the high country (Tawonga Gap and Mount Porepunkah) as well as more leisurely walks, such as Adrian's well guided history tour around Eldorado village.

The coming months offer an equally interesting array of destinations in the north-east - see the Walks Program for more details.

Also please note that there will be a special long-weekend of walks centred on the Warby Ranges from September 21 to 24. More details on our website from late July, and in the September Newsletter.

Tawonga Gap

On March 18th, with clear skies and mid 20s temperature, the Club walked the 22km from Tawonga Gap to the Back Germantown Road near Bright; Tawonga Gap being the mid-point of the roadway between Bright and Mount Beauty.



It was rated a hard/easy walk, and there were 15 walkers on the hard walk with Bob Shaw, and five walkers on the easy walk with Karen Davis.

There were sixteen major 'hills' along the ridge top, with magnificent views of Mount Bogong, the Fainters, Mount Feathertop and Mount Buffalo, as well as both the Kiewa and Ovens Valleys.

We reckon that this will be a great winter walk, so as to take in the whole panorama of the snowfields.

Blue Mountains Week Away

In late March, thirty-eight Warby walkers converged on Katoomba's Youth Hostel for a week in the Blue Mountains. They were blessed with delightful walking weather, following the soaking rains of recent months. Waterfalls cascading over mighty cliffs, and briskly flowing streams created an awe of wonder for the group



With such a contingent, walks could be divided into groups according to inclination and difficulty, so all comers were well catered for. Those who completed the iconic Federal Pass Track even had the choice of ascending back into Katoomba via the scenic railway, or taking the energetic way up the Furber Steps to street level.

The National Pass, with its UNESCO recognition, having been carved into the side of the perpendicular escarpment a century ago, was perhaps the highlight. It commences at Wentworth Falls and ends at Empress Falls some kilometres distant.

The Grose Valley proved challenging, with a 750 metre descent, and an equivalent climb out, but the many stream crossings provided the greatest challenge, given the volumes of water. Much tentative negotiation was needed to safely reach the other side of each crossing. One walker, who will remain nameless, met a wet and bloodied fate during one such crossing, but persevered with scarcely a waver.



The camaraderie in the evenings, and the sumptuous team cooked meals, added to the pleasure of the week.

Woolshed Falls

A perfect autumn day on April 14th saw members commence a walk from Beechworth's Powder Magazine along the track to Woolshed Falls, and return. The track at first passes through bushland of largely black cypress pine, then to more open country and finally through eucalypt forest.



At all times, the route is close to the Spring Creek, at one point passing the spectacular Spring Creek Cascades. It finishes at the just as spectacular Woolshed Falls.

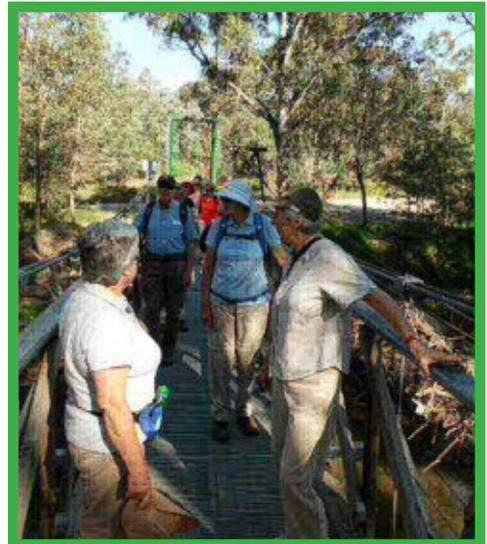
Evidence of the mighty flood of early March was displayed with debris high up above the Falls. What a spectacle that must have been! One pedestrian bridge of steel has been destroyed by the torrent.

Lunch was held at the Falls, before the return, and a cuppa at the end.

Eldorado Historic Walk

Fourteen Bushwalkers met Tuesday April 17th in delightful weather for a seven kilometre stroll through historic Eldorado and surrounds.

The walk was punctuated by stops at interpretive signs of former town and mining sites, all of which were very informative. The new swing bridge across Reid's Creek has survived the recent floods, which were almost at its level given the nearby deposition of rubble from the receding waters.



The group then followed the picturesque Creek, and stopped for a tea break overlooking both it, and the waters of the Top Cut. On return to Eldorado, the walkers climbed the steep slopes of 'memorial' hill, where a monument to a hero of the Boer War overlooks the town.

We came away more knowledgeable of the distant past of this former gold-mining community.

Rose River Bridle Trail

On Sunday 29th of April, Adele Ritchie led a combined group of Warby Range Bushwalkers and Bennalla Bushwalkers from Bennies Camp on a 12km return walk upstream along the Rose River.

They followed in the path of an old bridle trail that had once led to Wonnangatta Valley, and along which James Bennie had packed numerous fishermen to the remote upper reaches of the Catherine, Rose and King Rivers.

The first section, mainly uphill, was made easy thanks to recent track-clearing by DSE. At one point there was a view of the iconic Mount Cobbler.

Morning tea was consumed on round river stones at the first of a total of eight crossings. A few walkers

managed to negotiate the stream with dry feet but most were resigned to wet boots for the remainder of the walk. Luckily it was a warm, perfect autumn day.

From then on the track led through tall timber and head-high scrub and the occasional Kangaroo Grass clearing.

After lunch beside a 'sculptured' rock pool, where golden clematis flowered, the group retraced their steps, to the accompaniment of lyrebirds.

Mount Porepukah

On Sunday, May 6th, Pat Kuhle led a group of ten Warby Range Bushwalkers through lush forest up the well-graded Mount Porepukah Road, near Bright. Because of the short day length, it was decided to begin the walk 7km from the top, and return along the same path, rather than start at the bottom, and take the challenging short-cut down.



The last three kilometres before the top (1194m) were steep, but afforded extensive views of the surrounding hills, and the Ovens River Valley which, because of low cloud, was a patchwork of light and shadow.

Lunch was had on the mountain top, with an outlook to the north face Mount Buffalo. On a less cloudy day, the Chalet would have been visible.

The cold set in as the party was starting down, so there was a general donning of gloves, and a quickening of pace. John was lucky enough to sight a flock of beautiful Wonga Pigeons.

Killawarra Forest

On Tuesday, May 15th, through golden autumn sunshine, John Van Riet led a party of ten Warby Range Bushwalkers on a gentle three hour amble along the northern tracks of Killawarra Forest, beginning and ending at The Camp.

The walkers were concerned to note the widespread damage done by the February floods. The water

must have been up to 50cm deep in places, and the landscape has been deeply scoured.



The group examined an old settlers' well, and delighted in orchids and hibbertias that had been tagged for the occasion by Pat Ward. At one point, two daring walkers posed for photos amid about one hundred beehives, put there to gather honey from the flowering ironbarks.

All were glad of a hot cuppa on their return to The Camp.

Cow Creek Falls

A total of twelve Warby Range and Benalla Bushwalkers, led by Adele Ritchie, braved a cold start in quest of a little seen waterfall on Cow Creek, Wobonga Plateau. The party started out from the Lake William Hovell dam wall, and crossed below it onto an old management track that follows the King River downstream to Long Spur Track.

The walkers dropped off Long Spur into Cow Creek and followed it three kilometres upstream to the falls through a wonderland of colourful mossy rock faces, ferns, a variety of fungi, and shallow fast rapids falling over rock ledges. Three walkers had a close encounter with a bold bush rat.

Lunch was enjoyed in warm sunshine by the sheer rock walls of the triple tiered waterfall. Then came a steep scramble through tea tree onto Long Spur Track which took the party, via the old management track, back to the Lake.

BITS AND PIECES . . .

Mount Buffalo

Parents will no longer have to keep one eye on their kids, and one eye on the views at Mount Buffalo National Park lookouts.

Three helicopters recently flew in 10 tonnes of material, including handrails, stairs and building supplies, to upgrade and improve the safety of six lookouts.

Some of the old hand rails were too short, leav-

ing gaps on either side where a person could slip down.

Mount Buffalo ranger-in-charge Julien Atherstone said the upgrade would allow much better viewing.

“Previously at Marriot’s lookout it was one single handrail with plenty of room on the side to fall down, it would have been quite easy to slip down the side,” he said. “So people will be able to get closer to the views in a safer manner.”

Lookouts being upgraded during the project include Mount Dunn, the Horn, Monolith, View Point, Marriott and Wilkinson’s lookouts.

(Reproduced from an article in the Wangaratta Chronicle.)

New cycle/walking pathway

Work on the new cycle/walking pathway that will provide an off-street linkage between the Barr Reserve area and Apex Park is almost complete.

The link required two new crossings of the Ovens River, both of which were modelled on the current pedestrian bridge over the river at Apex Park.

The pathway will be officially opened at 11am on Friday, 8th of June, and this will be followed by a walk/ride along the new 900m of pathway.

Trinity Walks Program

Warby Range Bushwalkers are helping Mind Trinity Community Support Services in its recently commenced walks program.

Mind Trinity runs programs for people with some form of mental disability.

In April members of Mind Trinity had three days on Mount Buffalo camping at Lake Catani, and participating in a variety of walks over the period. Some were so enthusiastic, they have aspirations to tackle Mount Feathertop!

We have been approached to help them in their project. One of the first matters was to caution them about tackling Mount Feathertop until they have had plenty of walking practice, are properly equipped, are aware of the hazards, and are physically and mentally geared for such a venture.

Therefore we have suggested that Feathertop should not be tackled this year. Instead we have suggested that they do some walks near Wangaratta over the coming months.

We are offering members from the Warby Range Bushwalkers to accompany them on walks, ascertain their abilities, and perhaps tender some advice. Prior to that, we will be giving advice on appropriate gear for day walks.

There have been some offers from Club members to

accompany the group on each of the first four walks over the late autumn and winter period.

Thanks to Club members who are prepared to help in this program.

Bright Walks upgrade

Refurbishment of two popular walking trails in Bright is close to being finished.



Track resurfacing and step construction on Canyon Walk has been completed, and the full track is now open to the public.

After a section was washed away during flooding, Cherry Walk (the upstream extension of the Canyon Walk) has also been upgraded, and work has been carried out on the southern side of the trail.

Blue Mountains History

Actor Jack Thompson will join a re-enactment of the original Blue Mountains crossing he hopes will spark people’s interest in Australian history. “I was surprised when my youngest son was at school, he wasn’t taught a lot of Australian history,” Thompson said.

Thompson is a history buff, and played Robert O’Hara Burke in a 1985 film about the famous explorer’s ill-fated expedition from Melbourne to the Gulf of Carpentaria. He was at Penrith yesterday with members of the St Mary’s Historical Society, clad in colonial costume, to promote next year’s bicentennial celebration of the first crossing of the Blue Mountains by Gregory Blaxland, William Lawson and William Charles Wentworth.

The celebrations will include a re-enactment of the 1813 crossing. History enthusiasts will walk the original route taken by the three explorers, and take the same number of horses, dogs and servants with them.

(Reproduced from the Border Mail, 14/5/2012)

RAIL TRAILS

1. The High Country Rail Trail in north-east Victoria has bridged the 600m long gap across Lake Hume. The spectacular new bridge, which is quite a feat of engineering, will be opening in mid-2012.

2. Bendigo: both icon and bane of the O'Keefe Rail Trail, the Axe Creek Swing Bridge, built in 1993, is no more. The foundations for the new bridge were poured in February. Unlike the old bridge, the new bridge will cross the creek at the same level as the trail, opening the trail to people who were unable to cross the old swing bridge. The trail has been reformed and resurfaced between its start on the Bendigo Creek and Pratts Park Road in Bendigo East. The trail now links with the new Hargreaves Creek Bridge constructed in 2011 to Crows Road/Burns Street in Axedale.

3. Port Fairy to Warrnambool – a large section of this 37km trail in south-western Victoria has been operative for a few years now, but completing the rail trail all the way to Warrnambool has been a slow process. However, a boardwalk across Kellys Swamp is currently being constructed, providing the missing link. It was scheduled for completion by Easter, with an opening to follow by June.

4. Grand Ridge Rail Trail has been re-opened with new bridges and surfaces, replacing what was destroyed in the 2009 bushfires.

(From the May Bushwalking Victoria Newsletter).

A WALKING PROJECT

Adele Ritchie, who was profiled in our last Newsletter, and spoke at our AGM, is inviting us to join with Benalla Club in a couple of exciting walking projects she and Geoff Rintala (Benalla Club) are planning to complete over the next couple of years.

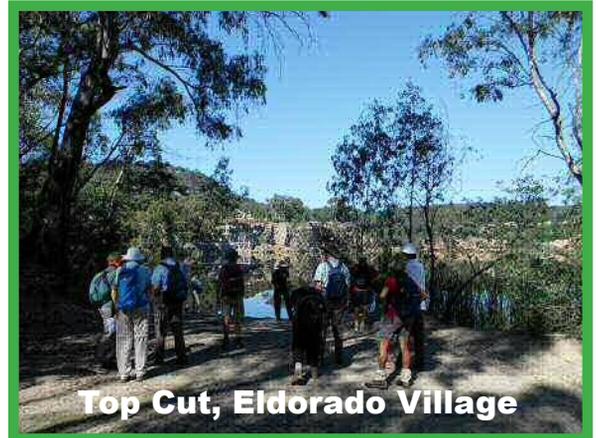
HUME AND HOVELL WALKING TRACK - starting early June (see last program for the first stage). This will be done by a series of base camps and car shuffles. The June walk covers the section from Gunning to Log Bridge Camp Site, and will include visits to historic sites, and a boat cruise on Burrinjuck Reservoir, with walks of between 6 and 12kms each day.

Please contact Adele ASAP for details, and to book.

AUSTRALIAN ALPS WALKING TRACK - starting early January 2013, with the Tharwa to Kiandra section - an 8 day extended walk, with a food drop at the Blue Waterholes camp.

For those only wanting day walks, there is the opportunity to do this from Blue Waterholes for 3-4 days. After the winter, Geoff will also explore the possibility of the whole walk being done as day walks - it may be possible to bring vehicles into each camp. This also depends on the availability of support crew, therefore Geoff and Adele would like expressions of interest ASAP as to whether,

- you would like to undertake the whole walk - as a backpacker, or if it can be arranged as day walks.
- you would like to camp at Blue Waterholes for a few days, and help by bringing in supplies for hikers
- you could act as support crew bringing a vehicle (and packs) into nightly camps, and/or bringing a vehicle from Tharwa to Kiandra at the end of the walk.



CALENDAR CHANGES

Please note the following minor changes to the current Walks Calendar.

Social Night: June 27 - contact Bob Shaw (5766 2773) or Jeanette Farquhar (5721 6514)

Chick Hill - Mount Glenrowan: the contact person is now Andy Kimber (5721 7922).

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Don't forget that it's now membership renewal time. If you find a renewal form with this Newsletter, then we haven't received your fees as yet. Annual Membership Fees are,

Single \$35, Family \$65, Associates \$20*

Life members receiving newsletter \$20

- Associate membership will not give you access to walks unless you are a member of a Club affiliated with 'Bushwalking Victoria', but you will receive our newsletter, and be entitled to attend our Club's social evenings.

Our website (www.warbybushwalkers.org.au) also has a printable form that you can send with payment to:

The Treasurer

Warby Range Bushwalkers Inc.

35 Park Crescent

Wangaratta, 3677

BOX IRONBARK FORESTS

As north-east Victoria contains so much box-ironbark forest, the following article by Robyn Ballinger provides 'food for thought'.

[Dr Robyn Ballinger is an environmental historian who lives and works in the box-ironbark country of central Victoria.]

It's autumn and the sky billows with the steely pink smoke of a bushfire. It is a strange phenomenon at this time of year, and I realise that the Department of Sustainability and Environment is burning Wellsford Forest near where I live, east of Bendigo.

After the horrific bushfires of 2009, the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission recommended the prescribed burning of a minimum of five per cent of public land, at least 385,000 hectares, across Victoria to reduce fuel loads. The policy sounds perfectly rational on paper.

But when I walk through Wellsford Forest, I weep. Instead of the bush I know, I am confronted by a blackened, smoking landscape. The burn has been applied to 499 hectares in the middle of the forest, kilometres away from private property. Vast areas of gold-dust wattle, golden wattle, everlasting daisies, lichens and native grasses have been burnt out. The trunks of grey box and yellow gum are scorched. The bush is eerily quiet. Wellsford Forest is in for more of this, and I fear for its survival.

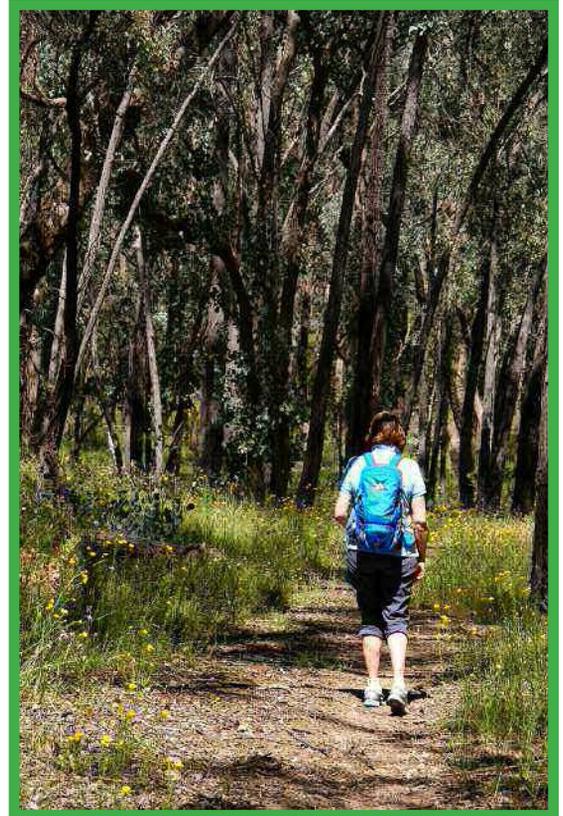
Evidence suggests the box-ironbark is not the type of bush that has evolved through burning; it doesn't produce a lot of ground fuel, so bushfires are less extensive and burn cooler than forests in the south-eastern highlands. The box-ironbark forests are not the forests of Gippsland, just like the Mallee is not the same as the vegetation growing at Cape Otway. Yet the impact of fire in the making of our distinctive and varied forests is ignored in the prescribed burning program.

A recommendation of the royal commission is that DSE "significantly upgrade its program of long-term data collection to monitor and model the effects of prescribed burning programs and bushfires on biodiversity in Victoria". Without this knowledge, the intensity, seasonality and frequency of prescribed burns will certainly have an adverse impact on plant and animal populations. Without this knowledge, trees like the ancient iron-barks of Wellsford Forest are under threat.

If plants in the box-ironbark are burnt at the wrong time they won't set seed. This in turn reduces the diversity of plants that grow, and diminishes feed and habitat for birds and animals. If fallen timber and dead hollow-bearing trees are burnt, further important habitat is removed. But the real devastation comes from the loss of mid-storey vegetation, at which the fires are specifically aimed. This level

of vegetation is slow growing, and will not recover in the time available between burns.

Under the current prescribed burning regime, it is likely a whole ensemble of species will be eliminated from the box-ironbark forests. The locals who know this bush are in despair.



If rotation burns occur every eight to 15 years, likely for the box-ironbark region, the impacts will be significant. This bush takes about 10 years to create suitable habitat for some animal and bird species, 10 to 20 years for some plant species to reach reproductive maturity, and 15 to 20 years for small mammal populations to establish. Fire will fundamentally change the box-ironbark forest's ecosystems. In isolated vegetation remnants, it will lead to the extinction of woodland species, including birds and mammals.

It is generally accepted that some prescribed burning needs to occur to protect human lives and assets. But is this the objective that drives the burning of the bush, or is it more about reaching the target of 5 per cent regardless of the proximity of forest to human communities?

Whatever the motive, without an understanding of, and planning for, each forest's idiosyncratic ecology, we are playing with fire. And sadly, our ignorance may sound the death knell for many of our forests.

(Reproduced from the Melbourne Age).



WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc. **WALKS PROGRAM**

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2012

If leader(s) cannot be contacted to book a walk,
ring Karen Davis on 57222540, or Trevor Turnbull on 57216215.

July 3 rd Tuesday	BEECHWORTH GORGE (and cemetery)	Easy/Medium - Contact Peter & Lesley Finedon on 5728 1740
July 7 th & 8 th Saturday & Sunday (leaving on Friday evening)	WERRIBEE GORGE & INGLISTON GEORGE with Benalla Club	Medium graded walks - Contact Adele Ritchie on 5727 9501 by 18/5
July 21 st Saturday	WHITE BOX WALK CHILTERN	Easy - Contact Jeanette Farquhar on 5721 6514
August 4 th . Saturday	ROLLASONS FALLS to OVENS	Hard - Contact Bob Shaw on 5766 2773
August 9 th . Thursday	SPRING CREEK TRACK	Medium - Contact Bob & Maureen Phillips on 5721 2007
August 19 th Sunday	CHESNEY VALE HILLS	Easy/Medium - Contact John Lloyd on 5765 2476
August 20 th . Monday	COMMITTEE MEETING & WALK PLANNING	At Karen's, 154 Rowan Street. 7pm, 572 22540
August 26 th . Sunday	RUBICON with Benalla Club	Medium/Hard - Contact Adele Ritchie on 5727 9501
September 1 st Saturday	SAVERNAKE STATION (fees apply – bookings by 24th Aug - see overleaf)	Easy (tour and walks) - Contact Adrian Twitt on 5721 5327
September 9 th . Sunday	TURQUOISE MINES VIA THISTLE HEAD TRACK with Benalla Club	Easy/Medium - Contact Adele Ritchie on 5727 9501
September 21 st - 24 th Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday	CELEBRATING THE WARBIES - VICTORIA'S NEWEST NATIONAL PARK INTRODUCED These four days of activities are open to everyone, including children accompanied by parents – with a special invitation to other Walking Clubs.	Contact Adrian Twitt 5721 5327, or Karen Davis 5722 2540 prior to Friday, September 21 st to register (\$5 registration fee payable on arrival by non-members of the Warby Range Bushwalkers). Brochure with details available by post, or on our website warbybushwalkers.org.au from late July.

TUESDAY 3rd JULY. BEECHWORTH GORGE & CEMETERY. An easy/medium walk of about 8km will start and end in the town of Beechworth. This loop walk will pass by the Powder Magazine and pick up the Gorge walking track – reasonably even walking with some rocky inclines -out to Precipice Rock. Great views over the valley towards Woolshed Falls, and beyond, will be enjoyed here. The return route will be via the historic cemetery, with its unique Burning Towers, before returning to town for refreshments.

SATURDAY 7th & SUNDAY 8th JULY (leaving Friday evening) – WERRIBEE GORGE and INGLISTON GORGE. (with option of Falcons Lookout and Carroll's Spring if wet) See last program for details.

SATURDAY 21st JULY – WHITE BOX WALK. An 8.5km walk in the Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park featuring some of the natural and historic features of the area. Mostly flat walking on well formed paths through predominantly Box and Ironbark forest and passing the remnants from past gold mining. A good habitat for birds including the rare Regent Honeyeater.

SATURDAY 4th AUGUST – ROLLASONS FALLS TO OVENS. This 16km walk on old 4 wheel drive tracks is steep in places and is a new and untried walk for our Club. It was scheduled for 17th. March but couldn't go ahead because of heavy rain and landslides in the area. Walkers need to be prepared for a long day walk and a car shuffle. Views will be magnificent across the Ovens Valley as we make our way down the ridge line through several forest types, finally crossing the Ovens River to emerge at Ovens.

THURSDAY 9th AUGUST – SPRING CREEK TRACK. A medium graded walk of 10km, with an optional extra 4km starting at the Spring Creek Picnic Area in the Warbies. Flattish walking on vehicle tracks, with a couple of steep pinches. A loop walk using Tower Road, Ridge Road and Link Track. Lunch will be taken at the scenic Tower Lookout. (there will be the choice of walking or driving this section)

SUNDAY 19th AUGUST – CHESNEY VALE HILLS. Join John for a walk totalling 10kms near his home through open woodland. No defined trail, but easy walking, rocky in places, with a few gentle hills and one medium climb. This will be rewarded by good views across the Winton Wetlands to the highlands beyond. Some early spring wildflowers should be out, and the area is renowned for its birdlife (bring binoculars).

MONDAY 20th AUGUST – COMMITTEE MEETING INCLUDING WALKS PLANNING

All Club members welcome. If you would like to offer a walk for our next program please contact Karen.

SUNDAY 26th AUGUST – RUBICON. This is a medium grade exploratory walk of 15km in conjunction with Benalla Club. This circular walk will take 5-6 hours (according to the descriptions available) and as some of the track may have sustained damage in the Black Saturday fires, an early start is planned. Much of the route follows tramways adjacent to an aqueduct, but there is a steep descent of 440m at the end. We will visit historic sawmill sites and various electricity generation facilities.

SATURDAY 1st SEPTEMBER – SAVERNAKE STATION. A fully guided tour and walk around Savernake Station, including the historic 1886 Homestead, Woolshed, box-pine woodland and Boat Rock Hill situated about 25km north of Yarrawonga. On the walk you will pass 400 year old trees, and may spot orchids, as well as learn about bush tucker. We will also visit significant Aboriginal cultural sites. The charge of \$5/person/hour (which will be about \$20-25) covers guided tours, and walks based on a minimum number of sixteen participants.

Bookings are required at least one week in advance- by Friday 24th. August. Bring your own morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea etc. Further information about the station is available at www.savernakestation.com

SUNDAY 9th SEPTEMBER – TURQUOISE MINES VIA THISTLE HEAD TRACK. An easy/medium walk of 10km with Benalla Walkers on an old logging track up the Thistle Head Valley. Easy walking with lovely vistas of Thistle Head Creek. At the base of a spur we will climb up to meet Black Range Track passing the site of an old gold mine. (Don't get excited, the battery was taken down to Moyhu some time ago and then lost in someone's backyard). There is however still a pile of quartz to mark the spot. Walking a short distance along 4WD tracks we will visit the same turquoise mines visited in 2011. We will return via Black Range Track with views of the King Valley through the trees.

**FRIDAY 21st, SATURDAY 22nd, SUNDAY 23rd and MONDAY 24th SEPTEMBER.
CELEBRATING THE WARBIES – VICTORIA'S NEWEST NATIONAL PARK INTRODUCED.**

- The Warbies North to South by three individual day walks on Saturday, Sunday, Monday.
- A choice of other short and longer walks of various grades are being offered on each of the three days. These are, Friends Track, Killawarra Forest, Mt Glenrowan/Chick Hill, Pangerang Lookout, Pine Gully, Salisbury Falls/Alpine Views, Salisbury Falls/Friends Track, Sunrise Track, Wenhams to Booths, and Ovens River walks.

These walks cover different eco-systems in the Park, which is usually at its best in late September, when waterfalls are cascading, and wild flowers are to be seen in abundance. The Park embraces a great variety of tree and shrub species, and bird and animal life. From the escarpments, and its granite outcrops, there are spectacular views easterly across the Ovens Valley to the Victorian Alps, and westerly across spreading fertile plains. An opening BBQ is planned for Friday evening, and a Pub Meal for Saturday evening.

WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS

fun, fitness & friendship



NEWSLETTER 4, 2012

The wattles are in bloom, and warmer weather is now upon us - there is no excuse for not enjoying a walk (or two) from our wide selection of venues. There is something in our walks program for all interests, and all timetables.

In particular, don't forget our long weekend (four days) of walks centred on Warby - Ovens National Park from September 21-24.

Warby - Ovens is still Victoria's newest National Park, and offers many great walks, right on our doorstep. See later on in this newsletter, and on our website, for more details. Don't miss out on this great weekend - organise yourself, your family and friends for the perfect outing.

Vale Garth Hodge

We regret the passing of Garth Hodge on 4th September at the age of 83. Garth was a foundation member of the Warby Range Bushwalkers, and prior to that a passionate supporter of the Warby Range Protection Society which achieved its aim of having the Range declared a State Park.

Garth was a bushwalker extraordinaire, and those who remember walking with him will recognize that he kept a racy pace. He was made a life member of the Club.

Garth was a local accountant, and audited our books for many years. He was very much involved with community affairs, including The Centre and St John's Retirement Village, but his poor health in recent years precluded him from public events.

Hume & Hovell Walk (June 8-11)

Friday, June 8, 2012: After a late start (by going to the opening of the new bridges over the Ovens River in Wangaratta) six keen walkers headed north, reaching Burrinjuck Reserve by nightfall.

Saturday, June 9: After a short car shuffle, the six of us faced a delightfully still, but frosty morning, and trudged around the track below the dam wall for a few kilometres, before heading up the unmade Slaughter Road.

After a total of about eight kilometres of superb Brittle and Scribble Gum ridge country, and an early lunch spot looking over forested hills, we walked around to



the main road into Burrinjuck Dam. Here we found that some very winding bitumen had replaced the narrow gauge railway which fed building materials to the Dam site between 1908 and 1928.

Four of us then walked up the bitumen for a few kilometres, where Adele and Pat picked us up, and after signing the (plastic logged) book at one of the official campsites, we motored to Yass. Here, we visited Hamilton Hume's well maintained grave, and his large original station *Cooma*.

Why do Scribble Gums scribble when they could be scribbling in a book?

Why are they such poor models to the other trees in the neighbourhood?

Why can't they be like other gums and just let their shiny bark fall?

Why do scribble Gums scribble – it makes no sense at all!

Apparently it has only been in the last 10 years that the scribbling pattern has been explained. Tiny (2 - 3mm) moths lay micro eggs under the bark in autumn. Larvae develop through winter and spring, feeding on the softest surface tree tissues, before heading down to the soil at the base of the trees for the summer where the larvae prepare to pupate.

From Yass we went to the small settlement of Wee Jasper in the backwaters of Burrinjuck Dam, where we spent the night - in the fascinating old shearers' quarters, right alongside a massive shearing shed, part of the original 1840's Wee Jasper Station.

Sunday, June 10: We set off at 7.30am from Wee Jasper Station under very frosty conditions, walked to Fitzpatrick's Track Head, and then crossed Wee Jasper Creek. This was followed by a gradual climb where we enjoyed morning tea on the ridge, with lovely views over Burrinjuck Dam.

The roadway was reached at 10.35, and we then walked the two kilometres to Wee Jasper Homestead. After lunch we drove to Carey's Cave, and following our tour of the caves, walked to Burrinjuck Dam, reaching the point the ferry would have taken us to. We then retraced our steps back to the cars, and drove back to Wee Jasper Station.

Monday, June 11: The final day dawned with a temperature the right side of zero, although a light breeze made it feel a lot colder.

The plan was to take a short walk to a waterfall, part way up Mount Wee Jasper, before heading home. However, when we got there, the waterfall was somewhat inaccessible, and the creek barely flowing, so it was decided to proceed further up the mountain until about 10.30am, and then turn back. The climb overall was fairly solid, but alleviated by numerous photo stops for frost covered plant life, and varied fungi.

I am hoping to do the next section of this walk late April - early May 2013, again basing ourselves at Wee Jasper.

The Hume & Hovell Track isn't hard, and has some beautiful scenery. I plan to do it the easiest way possible, so come along and have a go, even if you haven't done the first section, as there are bound to be catch-up walks once the whole length of the walk has been done, and some of the sections are nice to do any way. [Adele Ritchie]

Mount Tatong

On Sunday June 17, a group of eleven walkers, led by Bob Shaw, met at O'Dea Road, Molyullah, and then set out on a steady climb along a 4WD track to reach the 600 metre Mount Tatong trig point.

Unfortunately, once at the peak, the whole area was covered in fog, so no photos were taken from this high point. However, later in the day there were views to the north, towards Lake Mokoan and Bennalla, and towards the west to Mount Samaria and the Strathbogie Ranges.

After lunch we bush bashed from Mount Tatong, in an easterly direction, through to Schultz's Track. The group then walked along Schultz's Track, and O'Dea Road back to the cars. The walk passed through areas that had been badly burnt in the Tatong fires of 2006, but the regrowth is very dense and extensive.



There were remnants of wild flowers, but the landscape appeared very dry due to the lack of autumn rains.

This very enjoyable walk was classed as medium, and the total walk length was 14 km.

Barrys Falls

The scenic Barrys Falls are located on a minor tributary of Reedy Creek in the Woolshed Valley. On June 21 Warby Range Bushwalkers, led by Chris McLaughlin, parked their cars at the Mason Road/Woolshed Valley Road intersection and walked a further 700m along Woolshed Valley Road to Nieoff's Road, and onto Warbler Track.



The track then meandered around for several kilometres, before leading to a sharp right hand turn that soon petered into a foot pad. This followed a small waterway, up past rock pools, over broad rock faces and on to the base of Barrys Falls. The Falls are a vertical rock face of an impressive height, over which a constant stream rippled.

Here the walkers enjoyed morning tea in the superb remote atmosphere of the steep-sided valley, amid a wild tumble of muted pink and lichen covered rocks, Murray Pine and contorted Blakely's Red Gum.

Leaving the Falls, the group returned to Neioffs Road via a small loop, and then back to the cars, ready for the short drive to Eldorado for lunch.

Beechworth Gorge

When we departed from Wangaratta for Beechworth on the morning of July 3rd, we were enveloped in a cold dense fog, a most uninviting start. But by the time we arrived at Beechworth and met up with leaders, Peter and Lesley Finedon, the grey beginnings had been replaced by a day of perfect sunshine.



The eight walkers commenced their trek at the historic Old Schoolhouse Gallery and passed by the Powder Magazine, the Spring Creek Cascades, Ingrams Rock and Fiddes Granite Quarry, enjoying the mosaic of giant rocks, and the forested, rugged landscape. From Ingrams Rock the group took in the extensive views down the valley.

The walkers topped off a most pleasant morning by indulging in a very social lunch at the Beechworth Pantry.

Werribee Gorge

Saturday morning of July 7 dawned frosty, but clear, with Ingliston Gorge being tackled first. We thought this was pretty, and reasonably spectacular, but better was yet to come. We then headed to Falcons Lookout via Ironbark Gorge for lunch. Here we had amazing views of the Dandenong Ranges, the Melbourne skyline, and of course Werribee Gorge.

After lunch we headed for the Granites and Western Bluff Lookout, but they didn't quite compete with Falcons Lookout. Back at camp we had nibbles, a hot shower, and then headed to a rowdy Irish pub for dinner.

The next morning was again clear and frosty, and our target for the day was Werribee Gorge. From Meikles Car Park, it was a climb to the rim of the Gorge, and this gave us views of the Gorge and its surrounds at Eastern Viewpoint, Picnic Point and Western Viewpoint. We then descended back into the Gorge, via an old uplifted fault block, with wonderful views of the Gorge and Falcons Lookout.

In the Gorge proper, we negotiated boulders and rock faces, with one section being cabled to allow hand holds. Lunch time saw us back at the car park, and after a hearty regress of the weekend, lunch and a cuppa we headed home.



Thank you to all those who took part for their wonderful company, it went well with the spectacular scenery. [Adele Ritchie]

White Box Walking Track

Saturday 21st July, and a cold and foggy morning greeted fifteen walkers as we gathered at a water drenched Apex Park in Wangaratta. However, once clear of the wetlands to the north of town, we could anticipate a glorious sunny day for walking in Chiltern – Mount Pilot National Park. The much loved White Box Walking Track was the chosen venue for the day, and this provided us with ideal walking conditions.

Starting at Honeyeater Picnic Area, the woodlands



of the Park appeared to be in great condition, and seventeen different species of birds were logged by two guest walkers from Melbourne (Elizabeth and Paul Hackett).

The 8.5km track was covered in about three hours, with several stops to admire the views, and look at old gold mining diggings. We had an enjoyable morning tea en route, and lunch was back at the Honeyeater Picnic Area. [Jeanette Farquhar].

Rollasons Falls to Ovens

On Saturday, August 4th, 17 walkers gathered under a grey sky near Rollasons Falls at the head of the Nine Mile Track in Mount Buffalo National Park, for the commencement of what was a new walk for the club.



We were heading down to Ovens, 16km away and Bob Shaw, our leader, distributed maps that were a wonder to behold. Never in the history of the club has there been such a map, and walkers were assured of no lack of reading matter throughout the trip.

At first there were glimpses of the craggy north face of Buffalo, but soon light rain began to fall and we were clouded in. Though good views could still be had of the Ovens Valley, it was not till much later in the day, when the sun burst through, that we could see the mountain again.

The gently undulating, downhill track was easy going, and there was the scent of peppermint in the air. The final stages of the walk were through private property on the Ovens River flats, past atmospheric farm sheds from a bygone era.

At the end of the day the drivers went back up Mount Buffalo to collect cars, whilst everyone else finished off the last 2.5km from Selzer's to the Ovens Pub. This saved about half an hour of time at the end, and meant that we got to explore the Happy Valley Hotel at Ovens (that goes back to the early mining days) and enjoy refreshments under the vines.

Spring Creek Track

On Thursday, August 9th, in bracing sunshine, the bush full of light and shadow from racing clouds, a group of Warby Range Bushwalkers, led by Bob and Maureen (who had just moved into their new house) set out from the Spring Creek picnic area in the Warbies to walk to the Tower Lookout.



Other than raucous coughs, few birds were about, but there was the gold and purple of wattles and sarsaparilla, reflecting puddles, and expanses of moss covered rocks.

We were joined by Ingrid, a teacher on holiday. She had much to tell us of her interesting experiences teaching Aboriginal children on Milingimbi Island, and Numbulwar in Arnhem Land.

Morning tea was enjoyed on a rocky ridge among smooth boulders, and lunch, sheltered amid spurwing wattles at the Tower Lookout. From there we could see both east and west, and noted dark snow clouds banked on the mountains. It did rain, but only when we were safely in cars on the way back to Wangaratta.

Mount Pilot

Mount Pilot is one of several distinctive granitic outcrops of Chiltern - Mount Pilot National Park, and stands at 545m above sea level (about 380m above the surrounding terrain), overlooking one of Victoria's best box-ironbark forests.

This walk (to the summit of Mount Pilot) was to have been a Chesney Vale Hills walk. However, the venue was changed when walk leader John Lloyd had to fly to Germany to see his terminally ill daughter-in-law.

Having made it to the summit of the Mount, and with lunch on an extensive rock face, amid pools and moss and an army of flame robins, leader Adrian Twitt admonished: "Not only be careful, but be careful of walking on water . . ."

The walkers were about to descend to the road below through boulders and scrub and would have been well served with walking-on-water powers, for soon they were negotiating rock faces in a style that would have astounded any Everest climber.

As any wise husband would, Adrian sent wife Helen to the lead, and in such a position she enjoyed most of what was on offer in spills and thrills; picking herself up after each tumble, she warned the party onto gentler paths, only to suffer a torn knee ligament for her efforts.

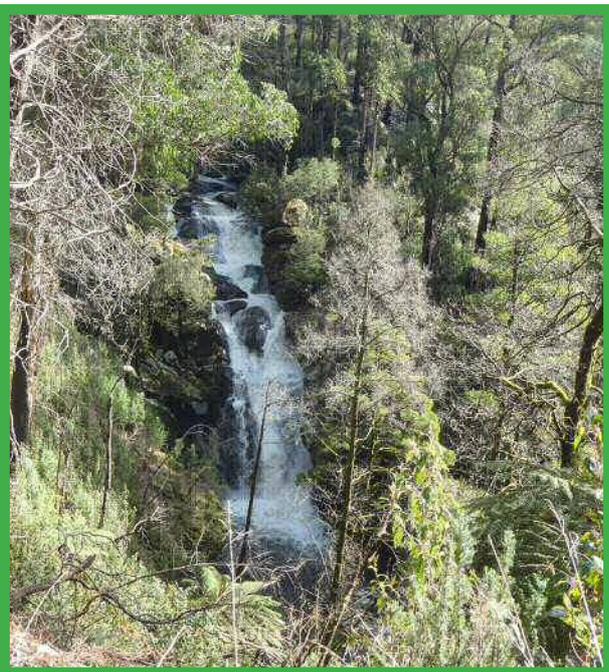


But soon the Warby walkers were back where the walk had commenced, in the serenity of the Yoddonda cave site, where the Duduroa people had sheltered and painted 2000 years ago.

Following a boardwalk overhung with golden wattle, amid pillars of purple sarsaparilla twining up blackened native pine skeletons, the party viewed a painting of a Tasmanian Tiger, and the smoke-blackened ceilings of rock shelters.

Rubicon, 25-26 August

The foray into Rubicon country took us into an area of historical wealth, where, in the early 1900s, eight timber mills were in operation, and a network of tram lines connected the sawmills to the edge of the forest. In 1939 the forest was destroyed by fire, and the regeneration we see today is from those fires, and the Black Saturday fires of 2009.



The Rubicon area is also the site of the first Victorian hydro power scheme, being completed in 1929. During the 1930s the scheme contributed one fifth of Victoria's power needs, and is still in operation, however it's contribution to the power network is very minor. Even so, the four power stations, aqueducts, associated tramlines, many of the mill sites and reconstructed trestle bridges are still of interest today.

After a small, very merry, campfire in drizzle on Saturday night, four of us from Benalla and the Warby Ranges walking clubs set off along the the Rubicon Power Scheme route. We started at the Rubicon Power Station, gulping at the 1 in 3 gradient up a steel tramway and pipeline to the top of the spur, (those tram tracks make mighty great hand holds).

The spur was gained just on morning tea time, and we stood for a moments reflection on the ride the workers would have taken up and down the spur.

We then set off along the aqueduct to Royston Power Station, and after passing Syphon Trestle Bridge, Royston Trestle Bridge, and visiting Royston Power Station, we had lunch at one of the old mill sites. The return journey took us down a 4WD track past more mill sites, yet another power station, dam and the beautiful Royston Falls to our car, entertained by black cockatoos and lyre birds. [Adele Ritchie]

Savernake Station, September 1st

Savernake Station (www.savernakestation.com) is located about 30km north of Yarrawonga, where the Sloane family's relationship to the property began on September 1st 1852, when 10,000 acres of box-pine country was purchased for a pound an acre.

Alexander and Anne Sloane own Savernake, and Anne led us through 400 hectares of box-pine woodland, reminiscent of those far off days. Apart from White and Murray Pine, there are seven species of acacia, five species of orchids, and Sweet Bursaria in the woodlands. Cream and pink heath and Gold Dust Wattles were in also bloom.

The area is frequented by many birds including Regent Parrots and curlews. A myriad of Red-capped Robins and thornbills, and a few fantails and gerygones also kept us company.

Once, before the advent of foxes, there had been Malleefowl on the property, and by 1900 Savernake was plagued by rabbits and foxes, yet still managed to support 29,000 sheep.

Anne showed us sand ant nests, often adjacent to Murray Pines with which they have a symbiotic relationship, and explained that the 'tubes' of sand were the regurgitations of an echidna after it had taken in sand while foraging for ants.

After morning tea in the homestead garden, we toured the 20 roomed house built of Murray Pine, the home to generations of Sloanes from the time it was built in 1886.

One of the most attractive rooms was the light-filled dining room, a corner room with windows to the veranda on two sides, and completely lined with mellow golden Murray Pine. The table is set with the original china Jean Sloane, as a new bride, brought with her from London in 1899.

Reluctantly we left the homestead and headed for Boat Rock, an Aboriginal site where by burning fires on a granite face, and scraping the heat-effected rock, the Pangerang people had created a two metre deep boat-shaped reservoir along a natural drainage line. After summer rains they would come to the granite rock hill to perform initiation ceremonies.



The only living creatures we came across was a large Brown Snake (which made even bush-savvy Anne cry out) as well as ravens feeding their young, high in a eucalypt. [Adrian Twitt]

Klaus Hueneke

Well known writer, publisher, and oral historian Klaus Hueneke was amongst the Queens Birthday honours list for 2012, receiving an AM award (Member in the General Division) for his contribution to conservation and the environment.

Klaus is the author of several books on the high country, including *Huts of the High Country* and *Huts in the Victorian High Country*. He is also a noted member of the Kosziuscko Huts Association, and a founding member of the Victorian High Country Huts Association. A list of his publications can be found at www.tabletopressbooks.com.

Team Work in the Alps

Our Social Night at the Vine Hotel on the 27th June was graced by an outstanding talk by Lachie Gales, who led us through the process of rebuilding/restoring three of the iconic alpine huts – Roper's, Wallace's and Weston's. Roper's and Weston's were rebuilds, having been destroyed by fire, whereas Wallace's was a restoration.

Many walkers remember them as they were, and could not help but admire how the team of volunteers, tradesmen and supporters, had restored them to look much as they were before time and bushfires took their toll.

The difficulties included getting people and materials on site. Sometimes, it meant volunteers having to walk into a site carrying tools and materials.

Lachie could not make light, however, of the headaches in matching the demands of Parks Victoria, Heritage Victoria, archaeological work, the families who built the huts, commonsense what limitations the terrain imposed on them.

Lachie gave great credit to those who supported the work, the families, the hut owners, the Freemasons task force, the Rover Scouts and Mobile Landcare. These people lent a hand, lent bush skills like adzing door posts, provided beds and cooked for the team.

We were shown what the huts once looked like, and how their surrounds had changed. Sometimes he was sceptical about the location of huts, but came to understand how sensibly the early cattlemen had chosen the sites in terms of distance, shelter and water availability. He was also able to explain the skill needed to build some parts of the huts, and where the materials came from. He also linked this to the loyalty the owners attached to their huts – the Westons even wanted to retain a dirt floor!

However, the three huts look like they once did, with the odd addition like a verandah - but you have to look beyond appearances. Roper's is not just a cold, corrugated-clad shack; it's now double clad with corrugated iron with insulating polystyrene in between.



Wallace's chimney might look much the same, but it is now attached to the hut so that snow melt does not run into the hut; it has new supporting posts and wall slabs with new, aged-looking malthoid to stop snow drift driving into the hut. Westons' new cladding is of split shingles, not cut board, since uncut timber fibres weather much better.

As I tried to say in my thank-you to Lachie, and his

helpers, we'll never look at these huts in a casual, take-for-granted way again. We appreciate the security they give us because the elements in the Alps can so quickly become dangerous.

Thanks to Trevor and Ann Turnbull, and the Vine Hotel, nearly 50 people (mostly diners) enjoyed a night to remember. [Peter Murray]

Trinity House Walk (Thursday 5th July)

I took five regulars from Trinity House and a staff member for a short bushwalk on Thursday afternoon 5th July. I had planned to walk a few kilometres in our beloved Warby Range, but having just done some reconnaissance walking along by the Ovens, I gave them a choice of two venues.

We firstly tackled the three kilometre walk from the end of Gray Street along by the Torryong (Pangerang name) and then around Northern beaches, and back via the showground. None had been there before!! Jillian and I walk every day with our dogs, along that track, and through "our" very special red gum forest area with all the koori trees.

The crew enjoyed that walk so much, that we drove around via Apex Park, and parked near the Horse-shoe Lagoon. Despite some not having really strong footwear, we headed off, circling around the Lagoon and then sauntering along the north bank of Bur-wang. As we approached part of the main billabong we saw a turtle shell floating on the very still water near to the bank – proof that no humans had been there for a while.

It was a delightful experience taking a group of very appreciative people into a special area near to where we live. [Andy Kimber]

Dieback

Report on May 11th Meeting - Geoff Barrow (ex Chief Ranger Warby Ovens NP) with John Van Riet and Andy Kimber (representing the Warby Range Bushwalking Club)

Phytophthora Cinnamomi is a soil-borne water mould that produces an infection which causes a condition in plants called root rot or dieback. The plant pathogen is one of the world's most invasive species, and is present in over 70 countries.

Geoff has recently completed a contract for Parks Victoria - mapping the extent of the disease in the Warby Range. Disappointingly, he has found that Phytophthora Cinnamomi has spread through most of the Park in the last fifteen years, affecting at least 90 sites.

Several plants and plant communities are affected, with the most obvious being the iconic Grass Trees which are an important feature of the Park. Geoff has produced a pamphlet entitled *Fighting Plant Disease in Warby – Ovens National Park*, available at various Wang offices, and this contains a map of the main active infestation areas.

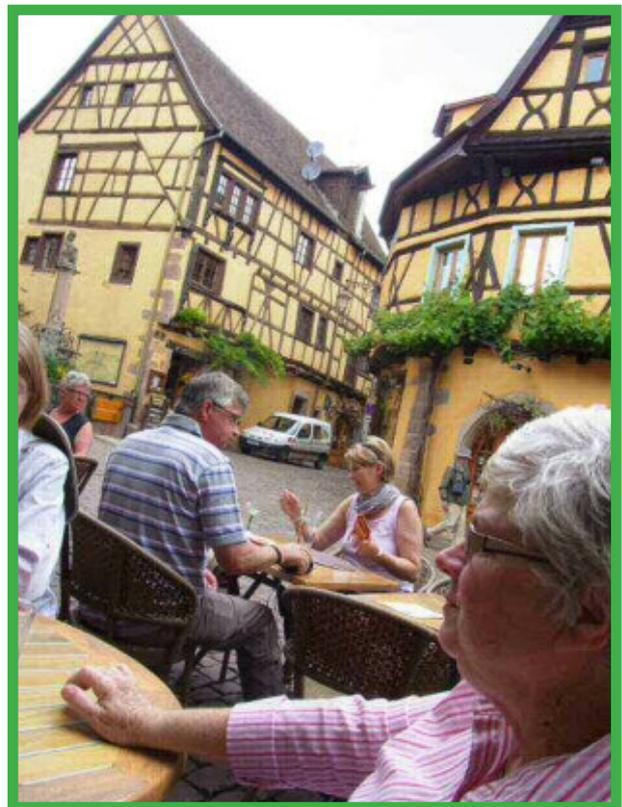
Geoff is obviously very interested in our support and

interest, and our involvement could include -

1. Helping to publicise the "Go in clean – come out clean" program – outlined in the plant disease pamphlet *Control Hygiene Code Of Practice*.
2. Using a product like "Phytoclean" before and after bushwalking trips in the Ranges, on boots, and even vehicle tyres.
3. Actual involvement in a possible demonstration trial this spring – initiating protection spraying in an area of vulnerable Grass Trees.

Walking in Alsace

Alsace is peppered with quaint medieval villages surrounded by vineyards and wooded hills, topped by a quaint castle or two. Alsace is the province wedged between Germany and France, and has see-sawed between both countries over the centuries, but has now had 67 years of union with France.



We met the group at the quaint Railway Station in Colmar, a magical Alsatian city near the Rhine River, not far from our intended base, a lovely village called Kaysersberg. The village, birthplace of Albert Schweitzer, is a well kept secret. Here we stayed in a comfy hotel, our home for the week, run by an effervescent French lady everyone called "Madam".

Our hearts sank on the first evening when walks leader Gordon, outlined the rather tortuous program confronting us. Did we really have to walk 18 kms a day? Are the ups and downs that steep? Don't we have a free day? However, our leader seemed oblivious to the consternation of the sixteen British and two Aussies confronting him.

It wasn't all bad. How could it be when each village

seemed like a cardboard cutout from a fairytale! Each was situated only a couple of kilometres from the next, except where it was necessary to climb over the wooded hills separating one valley from another. Picturesque church steeples, roof tops adorned with storks nests, winding narrow streets lined by quaint buildings, dotted with enticing streetside restaurants and delicious patisseries..

Alsace hasn't been placed in a fortuitous position in Europe. There were war graves on hillsides, and tucked behind village churches. We wondered what it was like during the terrible skirmishes of both World Wars. Now Alsace is peaceful and prosperous. It's a place we can recommend, now that we are no longer footsore and weary, and blisters well healed. [Adrian Twitt]

Club News

Glenda Hall had a nasty accident, requiring hospitalization whilst on her recent trip in South America (yet she was still able to do a one day Inca trail walk). More recently, Glenda has concussion from a fall whilst dog walking in Wangaratta. Here's hoping for a speedy recovery.

Both Kerrie Davenport and Jeanette Farquhar lost their mothers within days of each other at the end of June, whilst Karen Davis lost her father in June, and Rod lost his mother in May. Our condolences to all concerned.

On a happier note, the Van Riets are heading off to South America to attend the wedding of their son, Martin, who is marrying a Peruvian lady in Lima.

Week Away

At the last committee meeting it was decided to have a 'sea change' and head for Eden (south coast NSW) for the 'week away' in 2013. The dates are October 13-20, with more details to be provided in subsequent newsletters.

EPIRB

The committee also decided that the full emergency kit be taken on all walks, regardless of how easy they may have been rated. This includes carrying the club's EPIRB device.

Benalla Bushwalking Club

Our friends at Benalla have the following excellent walks on offer over the next six months. More details on the Benalla website (www.home.vicnet.net.au/~benbwclub) and/or Adele Ritchie 5727 9501.

- Sat /Sun Nov 3-4 Mollisons Galleries (Overnight back pack - Easy Overnight).
- Dec 31- Jan 10, 2013 Tharwa - Kiandra (Medium) Staying at Tharwa New Years Eve, and starting the walk New Years Day.

Day 2 Tharwa - Honeysuckle Creek, 7 hours.

Day 3 Honeysuckle Creek - Orroral space tracking station, 6 hours.

Day 4 Orroral - Cotter Gap, 6 hours.

Day 5 Cotter Gap - Oldfields Hut, 6 hours.

Day 6 Oldfields Hut - Blue Waterhole, 5.5 hours.

Day 7 Rest day, with a number of short walks in the area (may also organise car shuffle for end of trip if needed).

Day 8 Blue Waterhole - Ghost Gully, 8.5 hours.

Day 9 Ghost Gully - Murrumbidgee River, 3.5 hours.

Day 10 Murrumbidgee River - Kiandra, 7.5 hours.

Optional venues for those who would prefer a base camp at Blue Waterhole include Nicole Gorge and Murray Cave; Clarke Gorge and White Fish Cave and the Blue Waterholes Trail.

- 18-21 April (Thur-Sun) Hume and Hovell walking track, Fitzpatrick Trackhead - Bossawa Campsite (Medium). Staying at Wee Jasper Station, depending on numbers. Medium difficulty, on well formed tracks, carrying day packs.

Victoria's ten highest peaks challenge

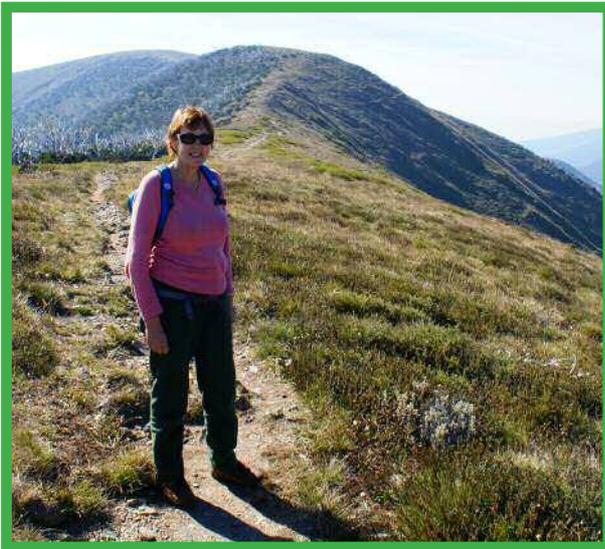
The Warby Ranges Club has plans to climb the ten highest peaks in Victoria over a period of about ten weeks – Ten Peaks in Ten Weeks!



This would include the following peaks -

- Mount Bogong, 1983m
- Mount Feathertop, 1922m
- Spion Kopje (East), 1893m
- Mount Loch, 1887m
- Mount Nelse (North and South), 1884m
- Mount Fainter (North and South), 1883m
- Mount Hotham, 1868m
- Jaithmathang (Niggerheads), 1858m
- Mount McKay, 1849m
- Mount Cope, 1837m

Proposed dates are January 19-20, 2013 Mounts Loch and Hotham (medium) as well as Mount Feathertop (hard). Wangaratta Ski Club or Harrietville Caravan Park overnight.



Sunday Feb 3
Mount Nelse and Spion Kopje (medium).

March 23 and 24
Mount McKay and Mount Cope (medium), Mount Fainter and Mount Jaithmathang (hard). Myrtleford Ski Club overnight.

April 6
Mount Bogong – via the Staircase (very hard).
Leave Wang at 6.00am or stay at Tawonga/Mount Beauty the night before. Daylight savings finishes on April 7.

Or, Mount Bogong via Eskdale Spur Track (hard). Arrangements as above. Drive up Eskdale Spur Track (4WD) as far as we can go.

More details in the next newsletter, and on our website at a later date.

New Bushwalking Victoria Web Site

A new initiative by Bushwalking Victoria (where2walk) will provide detailed information on walks all around Victoria and, possibly, the border areas of New South Wales and South Australia.

Initially it is hoped to have around 100 walks on the site (from Federation Walks held in recent years), with additional walks being added over time.

The directory will allow easy location of walks by geographic location, type of walk, grade and season, or to find walks of particular interest.

Each walk will contain a detailed walk description, information such as distance, duration, facilities, a map and references, precautions, how to get to the start of the walk, and other walks in the area.

The Federation hopes to build an extensive library of walks that will benefit member clubs and all people who want to enjoy the wide and diverse range of walking opportunities Victoria has to offer.

Initially, access to all the details in the directory will be available free to all users, though in the future it may be decided to charge non-members a fee for access to the full walk details.

Secret Places

Custom designed GPS backpacks have been attached to turtles living on the Murray River east of Echuca, as scientists try to learn more about where native turtles go when they leave the water.

The project, initiated by the Yorta Yorta people concerned about the effect of the drought on a totem they consider their protector, and a provider, involves attaching a GPS transmitter to the shell of two species of freshwater turtles - the threatened broad-shelled turtle and the common long-necked turtle.

The transmitters will allow scientists from DSE to track the turtles, and is the first time the switch devices have been used on turtles in Australia, with researchers keen to use the information to identify and protect habitat and nesting sites.

The secretive broad-shelled turtle suffered during the drought when large numbers were found dying throughout the forest. Nine of the 13 transmitters will be attached to this species, as they tend to nest further away from water, and don't nest in groups like the other two species.



However, the project, which started as a survey of the health of populations during drought, has been hit by floods over the past three years, and the drought data would now be compared with flood data collected in Barmah-Millewa Forest.

Finally . . .

If you need to call for help whilst on a bushwalk, having a good database of phone numbers keyed into your phone will assist in getting to the right person or organisation quickly.

If you are out of range of the services of your normal phone company then you can call 112 instead of 000; the same number can be called from a mobile phone without the need for a PIN prior to using the phone.



WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc. **WALKS PROGRAM**

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2012

If leader(s) cannot be contacted to book a walk
ring Karen Davis 5722 2540, or Trevor Turnbull on 5721 6215.

October 6 th Saturday	CHESNEY VALE HILLS	Easy/Medium Contact John Lloyd on 5765 2476
October 14 th Sunday	FEDERATION WALKS Marysville Area	Contact Jeanette Farquhar 5721 6514 by 14 th Sept
October 20 th Saturday	ELDORADO - BEECHWORTH	Medium/Hard Contact Ian Slater on 5725 1675
October 26 th Friday	SPRING SURPRISE	Easy Contact Kerri Davenport on 5725 1480
November 3 rd and 4 th Saturday/Sunday (with Saturday option)	MT BUFFALO (overnight backpacking with Benalla Club)	Easy/Medium Contact Adele Ritchie on 5727 9501
November 6 th Tuesday	CUP DAY WALK/LUNCH WENHAMS – BOOTHES	Easy/Medium Contact Adrian Twitt on 5721 5327
November 11 th Sunday	MOUNT MURRAMARANGBONG	Medium Contact Andy Kimber on 5721 7922
November 24 th Saturday	BIG WALK MT BUFFALO Weekend Camp Option	Easy/Medium/Hard Contact Bob Shaw on 5766 2773
November 26 th . Monday	COMMITTEE MEETING & WALKS PLANNING	At Karen's 154 Rowan Street 7pm 5722 2540
December 8 th Saturday	FLAGSTAFF RANGE	Medium/Hard Contact Jan Heywood on 5727 1347
December 12 th Wednesday	BILLABONG TRACK OVENS RIVER	Easy Contact Peter Murray on 5726 9337
December 15 th Saturday	XMAS PARTY at the Davenport's	Contact Kerri & Paul on 5725 1480
Dec 31 st '12 – Jan 10 th '13 (or Jan 4 th for a few days) Start of a project with Benalla Club	AUST ALPS WALKING TRACK Extended Walk THARWA to KIANDRA (or Blue Waterhole Base Camp)	Contact Adele Ritchie ASAP for more information, and to book, 5727 9501
January 18 th - 20 th Friday/Saturday/Sunday	WEEKEND AT MOUNT ST BERNARD LODGE Walks will include the new Cobungra Ditch walk	Contact Adrian Twitt to book on 5721 5327 More details next Newsletter

SATURDAY 6th OCTOBER – CHESNEY VALE HILLS This walk was originally scheduled for August, but will now fortunately take place in mid spring when wild flowers and birds will be abundant. A double loop walk totalling 10 km from John and Freida's home through open woodland. There is no defined trail, but easy walking, rocky in places, with a few gentle hills and one medium climb. This will be rewarded by good views across the Winton Wetlands, to the highlands beyond.

SUNDAY 14th OCTOBER – FEDERATION WALKS – *this year the walks will take place in the Marysville region, which is recovering from the 2009 bushfires. Registration fee of \$22. Saturday evening BBQ is \$10.*

SATURDAY 20th OCTOBER – ELDORADO – BEECHWORTH Join Ian on a NEW WALK for our Club -15km overland from Eldorado to Beechworth. From Eldorado we will head off to the Southern edge of the Chiltern/Mount Pilot National Park. Here we'll climb up into the bush to catch some lovely views. We pick up Masons Track taking us through forest to open farm country and eventually the Beechworth Road. Be prepared for some elevation gain and off track bush walking. Don't forget water, hat and sunscreen

FRIDAY 26th OCTOBER – SPRING SURPRISE – This will be an easy walk of approx. 10km near to Wang. on little used trails – Be surprised! Be delighted! Be there!

SATURDAY 3rd & SUNDAY 4th NOVEMBER – (easy overnight backpacking on Mount Buffalo)
Totalling approx. 20km this is a walk for those just starting overnight walks and a trial run for walkers considering Adele's AAWT event in Dec/Jan. Starting near the reservoir we will walk towards Mollisons Galleries, visiting Og Gog and Magog and Eagles Point. From Mollisons Galleries we will continue along to the Rocky Creek camp area (a remote camp) to overnight. On the Sunday we will return via wild Dog Plains and Macs Point. IT IS POSSIBLE FOR WALKERS TO COME ON SATURDAY FOR A DAY WALK, AS LONG AS THERE ARE AT LEAST 2 TAKING THIS OPTION.

TUESDAY 6th NOVEMBER – CUP DAY WALK & LUNCH – WENHAMS TO BOOTHS – Celebrate Cup Day Holiday with a 10km walk on dirt tracks, through bush land and along a scenic creek. The walk is through changing vegetation, and features the Old Taminick sheep dip and stone dam wall. Lunch and wine tasting at Booths Winery. BRING some picnic finger food to share for lunch (and a few dollars if you wish to share a bottle of wine with lunch). A car will be available to transport our tables, and any delicate lunch food to Booths. Cuppa and "cup cakes" will be enjoyed back at Wenhams.

SUNDAY 11th NOVEMBER – MT MURRAMARANGBONG – A medium grade walk of about 12km climbing from the Alans Flat area on to the summit of Mount Murra (place of thunder) on an unmade road and then descending on bushtracks. Superb views from the top over Tangambalanga, Kiewa Valley, Lake Hume, Yackandandah Valley and the Baranduda Range.

SATURDAY 24th NOVEMBER– THE BIG WALK MT BUFFALO Three options are on offer if enough participants – i) The Big Walk DOWN from the Chalet visitor area to the Entrance Gate (11.5km Med)
ii) The Big Walk UP from the Entrance Gate to the Chalet visitor area.(11.5km Hard)
iii) The Gorge Heritage Loop (2.5km Easy) and/or around Chalet/Lake area.
Spectacular views and waterfalls are a feature of this recently renovated walk – the longest on Mt Buffalo. There is plenty to delight those wanting the easier option in the Chalet area.
SOME WALKERS MAY WANT TO MAKE A WEEKEND OF IT & CAMP AT LAKE CATANI.

MONDAY 26th NOVEMBER – COMMITTEE MEETING & WALKS PLANNING – All welcome.
If you have any suggestions for our Jan – Mar 2013 program please contact Karen before the meeting. It is wonderful having so many people leading different walks.

SATURDAY 8th DECEMBER – FLAGSTAFF RANGE – A medium/hard walk of 18km.
The track takes us mainly along the very scenic Flagstaff Road which climbs from Taylor's Gap on the Great Alpine Road to the Buckland Gap area. The walk is undulating and quite steep at times. Superb views over the Murrungee Basin and Mount Buffalo. Good chance of seeing spotted quail thrush and late wildflowers.

WEDNESDAY 12th DECEMBER – BILLABONG TRACK – An easy 8km ramble in the Peechelba region of the Ovens River. We will walk along shaded river flats on tracks and through open forest. Basically flat walking – haven for bird life. Maybe the opportunity for a dip.

SATURDAY 15th DECEMBER – CLUB XMAS BBQ – This year the event will be held around or under the eco-friendly verandahs of the Davenport's home on Petticoat Lane – a summer shower won't worry us!
BRING your own meat / drinks and glasses /dinner and sweets plates and cutlery/ chair / ALSO a salad or sweet to share. CONTACT the Davenports for directions, and to book, and to organise your sweet/salad.
BRING ALONG any unwanted backpacks to donate to MIND (Trinity House) walking program.

MONDAY 31st DECEMBER – THURSDAY 10th JANUARY – AUST ALPS BACKPACKING PROJECT – THARWA TO KIANDRA
FRIDAY 4th JANUARY FOR 4 DAYS – BASE CAMP AND WALKS AROUND BLUE WATERHOLE
See details in this Newsletter about these options, each of which form the first stage of the Great Alpine Walking Project with Benalla Club. Contact Adele for more information, and to book in.