

**WARBY RANGE**  
**BUSHWALKERS**  
**2014**



# WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc. **WALKS PROGRAM**

## JANUARY - MARCH 2014

If leader(s) cannot be contacted to book a walk, ring Karen Davis 5722 2540, or Bob Shaw on 5766 2773

January Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Weekend at Mount St Bernard Ski Lodge Saturday, Huts Walk Sunday, Mount Tabletop Walk	Easy/Medium/Hard Book with Adrian Twitt, 5721 5327 (please book before Xmas)
Sunday, January 19 <sup>th</sup>	Beechworth to Woolshed Falls and return	Medium Jeanette Farquhar, 57 21 6514
Saturday, February 1 <sup>st</sup>	Nine Mile Spur, with easier waterfalls option (Walks on Mount Buffalo)	Medium Easy/Medium Karen Davis, 5722 2540
Saturday, February 15 <sup>th</sup> and/or Sunday, February 16 <sup>th</sup>	Grantham Bend Corowa Common Option of 1 or 2 days walking, with Sat evening camp in Corowa	Medium Medium Chris McLaughlin 5722 4876 or 0418 503 802
Monday, February 17 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting and Walks Planning	At Karen's, 154 Rowan Street, 5722 2540
Friday, February 28 <sup>th</sup> to Thursday, 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Alpine Walking Track Stage 3 – Limited places Backpacking for 5 nights	For more information Adele Ritchie, 5727 9501 Bookings close end of January.
Friday, 28 <sup>th</sup> February to Sunday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Weekend at Falls Creek – Myrtleford Ski Lodge	Easy/Medium/Hard options Book with Bob Shaw by 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb on 5766 2773
Wednesday, March 12 <sup>th</sup>	Significant Trees Walk (within Wangaratta)	Easy Adrian Twitt, 5721 5327
Saturday, March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Late afternoon and evening moonlight walk Murmungee Hills	Medium Anne Turnbull, 5721 6215
Saturday, March 29 <sup>th</sup> and/or Sunday, March 30 <sup>th</sup>	Mount Granya  Eskdale Spur or Rail Trail. Option of 1 or 2 days walking with Saturday evening camp in Tallangatta	Medium - Kerri Davenport, 5725 1480 for Saturday or weekend Medium / easy – Andy Kimber, 5721 7922 for Sunday only, or Weekend
Tuesday, April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Annual Dinner and AGM at Vine Hotel	Bookings Jeanette Farquhar by Friday, 28 <sup>th</sup> March, on 5721 6514AH
April – Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> to Monday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Next section of Hume and Hovell Walking Track Blowering Dam Wall to Buddong Falls - Base camping at Talbingo.	For bookings and enquiries Adele Ritchie, on 5727 9501

**Friday 3rd – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Weekend at Mount St Bernard Ski Lodge**

**Saturday, Jan 4<sup>th</sup>. The Huts Walk** – 21km circuit graded hard (we will need to get an early start). This iconic walk links significant historic huts which lead to the development of Mount Hotham Alpine Resort – Spargo's (gold mining), Derricks (ski touring) and Silver Brumby (cattle grazing). There will be a shorter, easier option available – a section of the main huts walk.

**Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup>. Tabletop Walk** – A medium 10km return walk from JB Plain, through snow plains and woodland to Tabletop Creek, then on to a ridge top view across the Dargo Valley.

**Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> January Woolshed Falls Walk** – A medium walk of 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, and along the valley.

**Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> Feb – Nine Mile Spur Track** – A medium 16km, mostly downhill, walk on 4wd tracks. Magnificent views over 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. **An easier walk** of 4km is possible from the same starting point to Rollasons Falls, with an additional visit to Eurobin Falls (another 1.5km) further down the mountain.

**Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> February Grantham Bend** – A 10km easy/medium walk in the Corowa-Wahgunyah area, upstream along the Murray River on bush tracks and bike paths. **and/or**

**Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> February – Corowa Common** – Another easy/medium walk of 10km, looping in and out of the Common on the NSW side of the river.

Both walks are in a shaded riverine environment, with plenty of opportunities to get down to the river, and to have a dip. Chris and Yvonne will be camping at the Ball Park Caravan Park from the Friday, and invite you to join them. Campsites, rooms and cabins are available – phone the Caravan Park on 02 60331426 for bookings.

**Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> February – Committee Meeting and Walks Planning** – All welcome; 7pm start.

**Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Feb – Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> Mar - Alpine Walking Track – Round Mountain to Dead Horse Gap via Rolling Hills**

This section will require five nights of backpacking, with a Tour Operator being used to transport walkers from, and return them to, Corryong at the end of the walk (cost of \$100 each). Numbers are limited, so book early, with those completing the last section given priority. Highlights will be Mount Jagungal, Valentine Falls, Blue Lake and Mount Kosciuszko.

**Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> Feb – Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March – Fall Creek Weekend** – This weekend will provide opportunities to tick off two of the “10 Peaks Challenge” mountains – Mount Cope and Mount McKay. There will also be easy/medium/hard walks from Watchbed Creek, an easy ramble to visit huts, a medium walk to Roper's Hut via Warby Corner, and a longer walk to Timm's Lookout via Warby Corner. Alternatively just enjoy the cool mountain air, and the comforts of the lodge. (\$31/night).

**Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> – Significant Trees Walk** – an easy 6-8km walk, that will literally take us from significant tree to tree, with some identification along the way. Wangaratta is blessed with a range of significant trees, some exotic, and some great Aussie ones not found locally, many of which were planted by our forebears. There are also some centuries old trees, revealing traces of past indigenous culture.

**Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> March - Murrungee Hills** – Join Anne in the cool of the evening for a 12km medium graded walk, starting at her friend Rosie's property near Everton. We will walk up Rosie's Hill, and continue on undulating terrain, on some tracks and also open bush in an Easterly direction. Magnificent views over the Murrungee Basin, and the Great Dividing Range, will be our reward. We will enjoy a picnic tea as the sun sets, before returning along the rail trail by moonlight.

**Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> March - Mount Granya** – This is a 10km walk to the summit of Mount Granya (870m) from the Cotton Tree visitor area, via walking and 4 wheel drive tracks. The track passes an historic log hut constructed in 1937, and Granya Falls before continuing through open eucalypt forest to the summit. The Lyrebird Loop nature track is a short 400m return walk from the summit, where lyrebirds can often be spotted or heard. **and/or**

**Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> March** – A medium graded walk down **Eskdale Spur** on formed tracks is on offer, with views all the way. **Alternatively** an easy walk beside Lake Hume on the High Country Rail Trail, featuring the newly completed Sandy Creek Inlet Bridge. For those wanting to make a weekend of it, the Tallangatta Caravan Park contact is Steve on 0409 938 247.

**Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April – Annual Dinner and AGM – Vine Hotel** - Dinner to commence at 6.30pm. Family and friends welcome. After the brief AGM there will be two short talks from Club Members about recent interesting overseas walks they have undertaken. **New Committee members will be needed** – please register your interest in joining the Committee beforehand.

**Fri 4<sup>th</sup> April – Mon 7<sup>th</sup> April – Hume and Hovell Track – Blowering Dam Wall to Buddong Falls** Staying at Talbingo Caravan Park, using car shuffles, walking with day packs. Saturday night dinner at local pub. Attractions include Blowering Dam, Yellowin Creek (an important corroboree/ceremonial site) and the spectacular Upper and Lower Buddong Falls.

# WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS

*fun, fitness & friendship*



## NEWSLETTER 2 (April), 2014

[www.warbybushwalkers.org.au](http://www.warbybushwalkers.org.au)

Those glorious autumn days are upon us once more, and there is no excuse for not joining us on a walk. As usual, there is a wide variety to choose from, including some tried and true venues, as well as some new adventures.

A reminder that our ANNUAL DINNER and AGM will be held at the historic Vine Hotel on Tuesday, April 1st, and everyone (including family and friends) is welcome to attend.

Dinner will commence at 6.30pm, and after a brief AGM there will be two short talks from club members about their recent interesting overseas walks. Bookings for the Vine Hotel should be made with Jeanette Farquhar (5721 6514AH) by Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup>.

New Committee members will be needed for the forthcoming year, and nominations for the roles of Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Walks Co-Ordinator and other positions on the Committee are being sought, so please feel free to discuss 'climbing on board' with our President, Bob Shaw, on 5766 2773.

Also, please remember that subscriptions fall due at the AGM, and that they should be renewed as soon as possible.

The committee nomination form, and the subscription renewal form, are available under "General Information" on our website, and at the back of this Newsletter.

### CALLING ALL MEMBERS

#### A NIGHT OF FUN, FRIENDSHIP AND CLUB PROMOTION

##### "GREAT OUTDOORS" TRIVIA NIGHT

**TUESDAY, 20 MAY 2014; 7.30pm–10ish**

**AT THE VINE HOTEL**

**Teams of 6 – ask your friends / a chance to introduce new people to our Club**

**(tables can also be made up from individual bookings)**

**Cost \$10 – proceeds to RELAY FOR LIFE – a cause supported by many of our Club Members**

**Provided: nibbles / supper / music / prizes**

**TICKETS FROM KAREN (5722 2540) OR  
GLENDA (5721 5114) –**

**Must be paid for by 12 May to reserve – 60 is our limit,  
so PLEASE ORGANISE YOUR TICKETS (TABLES) NOW.**

**For dinner bookings, please contact The Vine directly.**

**Donations of suitable prizes, ie craft or  
outdoor related items would be appreciated –  
please contact Karen or Glenda.**

**DON'T MISS OUT ON WHAT PROMISES TO BE A  
FANTASTIC, FUN PACKED NIGHT!**

### President's Column

At our last Committee meeting on Monday February 17<sup>th</sup>, at Karen Davis' place, we discussed the most ideal ways to gain best value for money in spending the \$3,000 Wangaratta Rural City Council grant (before the end of 2014.)

Our club has an annual cash turnover of about \$3,000 to \$4,000 annually, so such a grant is a genuine boost to what we can actually do as a club entity.

A small group comprising Karen Davis, Chris McLaughlin and Adrian Twitt will come up with some recommendations about our Warby Walkers pamphlet. We have about \$1500 to spend on this publicity avenue.

Do we create an A4 pamphlet with plenty of information about how our club operates, and how a member of the public can become involved? Or do we just produce a snappy half pamphlet, which just tells those who are interested how to contact our club to take their interest further? Perhaps club members have views on this matter, so see Karen, Chris or Adrian.

Paul Davenport kindly volunteered to organise our "First Aid in the Bush" in-service for members using about \$750 of the grant monies. So watch this space, as Paul will let club members know when and where this information session will occur.

As well, Andy Kimber has offered to use some of our grant monies (over \$400) to liaise with the Trinity Community Care organisation, to assist them in some way to pursue outdoor walking activities in some form.

Finally, Chris McLaughlin will be organising an information session for any club members who wish to know more about website development, and, in particular how to access and post information on our own website.

Over and above all the activity related to the grant, Glenda Hall and others are organising a Quiz night as a fund raiser for Relay for Life. As well as being a social event, the night will also promote and advertise our club to potential future members.

Finally, in the next Walks program we are offering a number of walks which we could not undertake earlier due to the hot weather and/or the threat of bushfires.

So you can see there is plenty happening at the moment as the hot weather abates, and we are starting to walk more often in the milder more pleasant autumn months in the north-east.

Happy walking.

Bob Shaw, President

## Black Range, December 7

A group of 11 Warby Walkers took on what they hoped was a waistline reducing walk in the Black Range on December 7. This is the range country that is visible to the left (east) of Whitfield as you drive up the King Valley.



Setting off from the valley floor, a stiff eight kilometre climb through the heavily timbered state forest was rewarded with views in a couple of sections.

The group had enough breath en route to sing Happy Birthday to Allan, who having just turned 85 is one of our Club legends.

Although the Black Range has been extensively logged some state-ly stands of trees remain, and after the recent rain, streams were running, and evidence of prolific wildlife was noticed on the track.

After lunch on top, an easier walk down the ridge, to a deafening chorus of cicadas, returned us to a welcome cuppa.

## Pine Gully—Skeets Track, December 17

This easy/medium on-track/off-track walk commenced at the Pine Gully Picnic Area of the Warby Ranges, and was to keep us occupied for a little over three hours.

Given that it was going to be a hot day, the eleven participants appreciated meeting up at the early hour of 8am at Rotary Park, and making an 8.30am start out on the gravel.

After dropping a car off at the Adams Track finishing point, walkers followed the track to Pine Gully Lookout, stopping to admire the pools at the top of the falls.

From here, a careful and slow descent to the creek bed was traversed, and all enjoyed rock hopping and zig zagging across the creek, and its scenic waterholes, down to flatter ground.



We stopped for a morning tea break, admiring views over the orchards and to Mount Bruno and beyond, and then followed the private property fence line for about 30 minutes, weaving our way through the trees and low shrubs.

Turning onto Skeets Track involved a sustained slight incline that offered only minimal shade, with the occasional breath-catching stop. We then turned onto Adams Track, and proceeded for about 25 minutes to the car – and a welcome cuppa (thanks as always to Pat Kuhle).

Numerous kangaroos and a swamp wallaby were spotted en route, and all agreed it was worthwhile doing this walk again, perhaps in Spring to take advantage of wildflowers, the remnants of which were still visible.

## High Country Venture—Jan 3-5

During the weekend of January 3-5, 24 members of the Warby Range Bushwalkers enjoyed the Mount Hotham area's bracing weather for one of their many summer High Country retreats. Sunny on both days, the low temperatures were ideal for hiking.



Accommodation at Wangaratta Ski Club lodge at Mount St Bernard, proved a near perfect facility.

Everyone scored a lower bunk, great for resting weary legs. The Saturday dinner, facilitated by Helen Twitt, was much appreciated, providing excellent food and camaraderie.

Saturday's walks concentrated on the Three Huts Track. Those who took the harder option, passed by Silver Brumby Hut, Spargo's Hut, and Derrick Hut, all greatly different from each other.

The walk, involving 500 metres of descent, and 700 metres of ascent, over 16 kilometres, is challenging, but was completed in good time.

Sunday's walks provided the choice of either Carmichael's Falls, or Mount Tabletop as their destination.

Walkers were bemused by the red triangle markers in different states of condition – some on fallen trees, and some almost consumed by their snow gum hosts, but the tracks are well defined, and in the superb weather, there was little chance of taking the wrong turn.

Both walks ended in scenic splendour, the group observing the Falls being greatly impressed, as were those participating in the Tabletop walk, terminating at the edge of a precipice overlooking the vastness of the Dargo Valley wilderness.





The Alps were clothed in a garment of wildflowers at the time, and for those with an interest in botany, there were many rewards.

### Wangaratta—Urban Walk, February 1

As it was decided that it was too hot and risky to venture onto the slopes of Mount Buffalo for the scheduled walk on February 1st, an early morning In-Town walk was organised.

To beat the heat, a hardy bunch of 10 Warby Walkers set off at 7am for a 12km walk around the Creek and River tracks within Wangaratta. The loop encompassed One and Three Mile Creeks, as well as the Ovens and King Rivers, and involved cutting through a few streets.



The group marvelled at the recent revegetation taking place, evidence of wildlife and past aboriginal heritage, and the new paths and bridges along the way.

As the leader tends to do her planning by bike, the walk was longer than anticipated, so after a three hour workout, the group certainly enjoyed their breakfast/morning tea and swim back at the Davis' creekside home. At this stage, we were also pleased to welcome additional Club members, who were recovering from injury, to this pleasant social end to the walk.

### Corowa—Wahgunyah, February 15-16

Nine walkers attended this weekend getaway, with most of them arriving early Saturday morning, and departing Monday morning.

Saturday morning greeted us with a fine drizzle, but it was warm water, and gave a maritime feel to the walk – most appropriate as we spent most of the day alongside the mighty Murray River.

Crossing over the John Foord Bridge from Corowa, we tackled a downstream section of the Tommy McCrae Track, with a loop around, and then back to, the Mass Tree.

The next section took us upstream to the Federation Bridge, and a nice log to sit on for lunch at a soggy Grantham Bend. Having made our way back to Corowa, we had completed a very enjoyable 14km.

Saturday night consisted of a two hour 'happy hour', followed by communal dining at one of the camp barbeque areas.

Sunday morning dawned bright and sunny; what a huge contrast to the previous day. This day's expedition took us back over the Murray, past the Mass Tree, over the suspension bridge at Sunday Creek, past the Foord Cemetery and on to Pfeiffer's Winery for morning tea.



From the Winery, we headed back over Sunday Creek, and made our way to the Murray River. Here we picked up another section of the McCrae Walking Track, and enjoyed a wonderful canopy of river redgums all the way back to the Foord Cemetery.

Back at base camp, we had logged up about 13km, and prepared ourselves for another happy hour, and communal dinner, having whetted our appetites at the Corowa Chocolate Factory during the late afternoon.

### Falls Creek Weekend, March 1-2

Twenty seven walkers booked in to stay at the Myrtleford Ski Lodge at Falls Creek. Everyone arrived between 3pm and 9pm on the Friday Night (Feb 28) to be ready for the walks commencing on the Saturday.

The Saturday walks all started out from Watchbed Creek west of Rocky Valley Dam. The Easy Walk of 9km covered the Fire Track, and then diverted east to Johnstone's Hut, and then west from the track to Edmondson's Hut.

The Medium walk of 20km also visited both huts, and proceeded along the 4WD track to Roper's Hut, which looks towards Mount Bogong to the North.

The 25km hard walk diverted off the same track and proceeded along 4WD tracks to Timm's Lookout. At Timm's Lookout (1820m) you look to Mount Bogong to the North, Spion Kopje to the south

and Mount Arthur to the west. Despite the low lying fog there were also panoramic views down to the Big River gorge to the east, west and north.



This group of thirteen walkers then retraced their steps then met up with the Medium group and proceeded to Roper's Hut for lunch. On the way back to Watchbed Creek many walkers then diverted off the main track to visit Edmondson's Hut as part of the return journey.

Back at the Ski Lodge all participants enjoyed "happy Hour" with the theme being "The Sixties" so there were many kaftans, peace signs, long wigs and some costumes that did not fit as well as they used to 20-30 years ago! Part of the evening was also a Sixties Trivia Quiz, then a two course meal was enjoyed by all.



The Sunday walks commenced at the Wallace's Hut car park. The Easy/Medium walks passed Wallace's Hut, walked along the aqueduct and visited Cope Hut. They then followed the snow poles back to the cars.

Another group completed the same as above, but also were ferried by car along the High Plains Road, and completed the 3km to Mount Cope itself.

The Medium group walked a 16 km journey to Wallace's and Cope Hut. They then crossed the road and proceeded via a walking track, then walked 1.5km overland on rough alpine grasses towards Mount Cope in the distance. They then returned to Mount Cope, the High Plains Road and via Cope Hut along the pole line to their cars.

Overall, this seemed to be a very successful weekend. The lodge has excellent facilities, the walks had plenty of variety, and catered for different abilities and interests, the social night was a genuine

laugh and the catering was first class with a minimum of fuss.

So thank you to all those who were part of the organisation, and to all participants who approached the whole weekend in a most positive and enjoyable spirit.

Bob Shaw

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## Baranduda Bushland

Parcels of land in Leneva and Baranduda will be permanently protected from housing development in a win for threatened wildlife.

The Wodonga Council and the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) have signed an agreement that would protect 36 per cent of the 3000-hectare land mass between Beechworth Road, the Kiewa River, the Baranduda Range and Bear's Hill.

The protected environmental reserves, stemming from waterways, are scattered through-out the area and DEPI's senior biodiversity officer, Marike Van Nouhuys, said it will preserve and encourage the growth of the region's wildlife.

She said the Wodonga area is home to several threatened species such as the squirrel glider, brush-tailed phascogale and a significant woodland bird community including the diamond firetail.

The reserves have gradually been transferred to the council's ownership, from the Albury-Wodonga Corporation since 2007, and the work that led to the agreement for preservation has become a model for other planning schemes in the state.

## Frogs at Mount Buffalo

The Department of Environment and Primary Industry (DEPI) and the Amphibian Research Centre (ARC) released a further 300 captive-bred Spotted Tree Frogs at Mount Buffalo on the weekend of February 8-9. This was part of an on-going trial re-introduction of the threatened species to the area.

An amphibian disease known as Chytridiomycosis (which is caused by a fungus) is believed to have wiped out most of the colony of Spotted Tree Frogs that were previously released in the National Park in 2012, however there have been signs of natural breeding of the species since then.

[condensed from the Wangaratta Chronicle, February 10, 2014]

## New Walking Track, Yarrawonga

A decorated soldier killed in action in World War II has had a cycling—walking track at Yarrawonga named in his honour.

A memorial service was held in December, at the start of the new walk, for Captain John McNamara MC who died aged 34 when he and eight others in the 2/24th Battalion were ambushed by the Japanese near Lae in New Guinea in 1943.

The Yarrawonga stock and station agent had earned the Military Cross in 1942, and the whole town closed in respect upon hearing of his death. It was said "He was the most popular person in Yarrawonga, because of his personality, charisma, presence and good looks".

[Border Mail, December 2, 2013]

The walk starts at the southern end of Sharp Street, and leads past the rear of several industrial properties (not very scenic, but an





extensive tree planting project is underway), before passing through a remnant of original woodland. It then crosses over to the Benalla Road, before making its way to a local highpoint, with nice views over the range country to the south.

The return is via the opposite side of the Benalla Road, and then via another copse of woodland, before returning to Sharp Street. Distance covered is about four kilometres, taking about an hour to cover.



## Falls Creek to Mount Hotham

Camping platforms and trail tours on the Falls Creek to Hotham Alpine Crossing are hoped to capture new markets. An \$800,000 upgrade to the 37-kilometre trek has been completed, and Benalla MP Bill Sykes has launched it as one of Victoria's iconic walks.

The upgrade includes the camping platforms at Cope and Dibbins Hut, signage and track development.

The master plan will also include route extensions, and Dr Sykes said he wanted to encourage people to use the facilities, with beginner and advanced routes being provided.

[Border Mail, December 2, 2013]

## New bridge in Wodonga

The Border's cyclists should be delighted with the new cable suspension bridge over Wodonga Creek. They can now take in the river view as they pedal the causeway between Wodonga and Albury.



Porepunkah firm, Cable Bridge Construction, started work on the 66-metre, 2½-metre wide bridge in December 2013, and the \$520,000 Wodonga Council project will have 50 metres of approach ramps connecting the bridge with cycle paths.

The bridge is about 12 metres upstream from the old timber stock bridge, with workers being kept busy assembling the span for four weeks after fabricating the major pieces of it for two months at Porepunkah. Similar cable bridges have also been constructed over the Ovens River at Wangaratta.

[Border Mail, December 2, 2013]

## Grampians Week Away—October 2014

The Club's **ANNUAL WEEK AWAY** will be at Halls Gap from Monday, October 6 to Sunday, October 12 – to explore the non fire affected areas of the Grampians.

Accommodation will be in shared en-suite rooms, and full details will be available at the AGM on 1 April, on our website and in forthcoming newsletters.

Please diarise these dates now to enjoy the fun, friendship and fitness aspects of a super week away!



# **Subscription for membership of Warby Range Bushwalkers Inc.**

## **2013-2014**

Please note that all current memberships expire on the 31st March 2014 (see notes below).

Single \$35; Family \$65; Associates \$20 (see notes below).

Life members receiving newsletter \$20; Casual walkers \$5

Notes.

If you join after the 1st of October in any year, then the membership fee is \$20 for a single, \$40 for a family.

If you join after the 1st of February in any year, then the full subscription is payable, however this will be regarded as a subscription lasting until the following year (that is, approximately 14 months, as compared to a normal 12 month subscription).

Associate membership will not give you access to walks unless you are a member of a Club affiliated with Bushwalking Victoria, but it will give you our newsletters and entitlement to attend social evenings.

Pay cash, cheque or bank transfer.

BSB: 633 000; Account no: 110647799; Reference: (your name)

Name(s). \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form with subscription payment to:**

**Warby Range Bushwalkers Inc**

**PO Box 974, Wangaratta**

**Victoria ,3676**

# WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS

*fun, fitness & friendship*



## Committee Nomination Form

I hereby nominate \_\_\_\_\_

for the position of \_\_\_\_\_  
on the 2014--15 Committee.

(Name) \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

I second the nomination

(Name) \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

I accept the nomination

(Name) \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

Please forward the completed form to:

The Secretary  
Warby Range Bushwalkers Inc  
PO Box 974  
Wangaratta, 3676



# WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc. **WALKS PROGRAM**

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2014

If leader(s) cannot be contacted to book a walk ring Karen Davis 5722 2540, or Jeanette Farquhar on 5721 6514  
If a walk needs to be cancelled (for example, due to weather) an alternative walk will be offered where possible.

[www.warbybushwalkers.org.au](http://www.warbybushwalkers.org.au)

Saturday, 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Eldorado Ridge Top Walk	Medium Ian Slater, 5725 1675
Tuesday, 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Benalla Wetlands Mid-Week Walk	Easy Andy Kimber, 5721 7922
Saturday, 19 <sup>th</sup> July	WARBIES END TO END Stage 1: Boweya Road to Ryans Lookout	Medium WITH LIFE MEMBER Adrian Twitt, 5721 5327
Saturday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aug	Tawonga Gap to Freeburgh (with a shorter option)	Medium/Hard Bob Shaw, 5766 2773
Monday, 11 <sup>th</sup> August	Committee Meeting and Walks Planning	At Karen's, 154 Rowan Street
Sunday, 17 <sup>th</sup> August	Murrungeee Hills Walk	Medium. Anne Turnbull, 5721 6215
Monday, 25 <sup>th</sup> August	Eldorado Ramble Mid-Week Walk	Easy/Medium Jacki Piquerez, 5725 1656
Sunday, 31 <sup>st</sup> August	WARBIES END TO END Stage 2: Ryans Lookout to Taminick Gap	Medium WITH LIFE MEMBER Murray Shaw, 5721 3730
Saturday, 13 <sup>th</sup> September	WARBIES END TO END Stage 3: Taminick Gap to Mount Glenrowan with Chick Hill option	Medium WITH LIFE MEMBER Allan Raison, 5721 7886
Saturday Evening	PUB MEAL at the SYDNEY HOTEL	Bookings to Glenda Hall (5721 5114) by Wednesday 10/9
Wednesday, 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Spring in the Killawarra Forest Mid-Week Walk	Easy John Van Reit, 5725 7207
Sunday, 28 <sup>th</sup> September	Mount Samaria State Park (with shorter option)	Medium / Hard Jeanette Farquhar, 5721 6514
Monday, 6 <sup>th</sup> October to Sunday, 12 <sup>th</sup> October	ANNUAL WEEK AWAY – TO THE GRAMPIANS See our Newsletter and Website for more details	Book with your deposit by 15 <sup>th</sup> July. Irene, 5721 4881 or Glenda, 5721 5114
Friday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> to Monday, 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Can't make the week away? – then try the next section of the Hume and Hovell – Buddong Falls to Henry Angel Trackhead	More information and bookings, Adele Ritchie, on 5727 9501, by 21 <sup>st</sup> September.
Forward Planning 31 <sup>st</sup> October - 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Next Section of the AAWT, Cowombat Flat-Tin Mine Trail-Limestone Creek	More information and bookings, Adele Ritchie, on 5727 9501, by the end of September.



**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July – ELDORADO RIDGE TOP WALK** – This is a medium 14km walk (a shorter / easier 8km walk could be possible by cutting off some of the loop planned). Starting at the Gunhouse, heading east of town onto a ridge, after 3km of track we pick up Ramsey Track, and then Old Coach Road, finally arriving at the Dredge site. There is one hill climb, rewarded with views, and the off track section is scrubby and rocky, but fairly open.

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July – BENALLA WETLANDS WALK** – An easy 8km walk around the lake, and feeder streams in Benalla – our Canberra of the North East. A chance to visit the Rose Gardens, Art Gallery, Fish Ladder, Jaycee and Casey Islands. Possible sightings of platypus, native water rats and various forest and water birds.

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July – WARBIES END TO END WITH A LIFE MEMBER – STAGE 1** -This is a medium graded 10km walk from **Boweya Road to Ryans Lookout**. We will initially follow the ridge line through open bushland to a point near the Warby Tower Lookout, before continuing on forest tracks to Spring Creek Picnic area. This attractive gully will be followed through the bush to the Devenish / Wangaratta Road, and on to Ryans Lookout. Seasonal streams, interesting granite outcrops and views over the plains a feature.

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August – Tawonga Gap to Freeburgh** – A medium / Hard walk of 20km. (A shorter, easier option could be provided if there are takers). The first 7km is on 4WD tracks, on the ridge top through mountain ash forests on the western side of the Kiewa Valley. The next section involves a bit of "up and down" - gaining 240m in total before our route heads mainly downhill via Simmond's Gap. Glimpses of snow covered peaks along the way. From the Gap it is all downhill, via Dungey Creek Track, to Snowy Creek Valley near Freeburgh.

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August GENERAL MEETING AND WALKS PLANNING – All welcome - 7pm**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August – MURMUNGEE HILLS CIRCUIT** – This is a medium 12km walk, which was started as our full moon walk in March, before a thunderstorm struck. We decided it was unsafe to continue then, but all were keen to return to this previously unexplored area.

We proceed through Rosie's property, which has been carefully managed to preserve the native vegetation. We walk along the ridge with magnificent views over the Murrumbidgee Basin, and the Great Divide, before looping back to our starting point on Diffeys Road. The route is undulating, some on old tracks, some on the rail trail, and some through open bushland.

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August – ELDORADO RAMBLE** – A circuit morning walk from Jacki's, mostly on dirt roads and bush tracks to the north of Eldorado. A small section is through open forest. Views over the Eldorado Valley, and the opportunity to look over the famous Dredge, before returning to eat our lunch in Jacki's garden. The walk includes a gentle climb, and a fairly steep descent.

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August - WARBIES END TO END – STAGE 2 – RYANS LOOKOUT TO TAMINICK GAP** – This is a medium 12km walk, with a section passing through some private property with the owner's permission. We start at Ryans Lookout (where Stage 1 finished last month) following the old Loggers Track, and Taylors Track to Wenham's Picnic Area.

An interesting (not too difficult) off track section will take us along the ridge from Mount Warby, to the junction of Booths Road and Spot Mill Track. We follow Spot Mill Track south past the Tower, and on forest tracks, and open bushland through to Taminick Gap. A Spring delight! Also a great chance to pass through an area of the Warbies not usually available to casual walkers.

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September - WARBIES END TO END – STAGE 3 -TAMINICK GAP TO MOUNT GLENROWAN (with an option to return via Chick Hill)** – This is the third and final stage of our End to End Walk. It is a medium graded 8 – 10km walk, commencing at Taminick Gap, and returning there. The walk follows the ridge line, and is a gentle up and down after the initial climb to the Tower. Great views over Glenrowan, the Ovens Valley and Ranges beyond along the way.

The return via Chick Hill involves some steepish downhill, before reaching Taffe Road which brings us back to Taminick Gap Road. Spring flowers and flowering grass trees will be a feature.

**A SOCIAL PUB MEAL will be held that evening – including presentation of End to End Certificates.**

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September – SPRING IN THE KILLAWARRA** – An easy 6-8km ramble to take in the profusion of spring blooms in this open ironbark woodland. Flat walking on forest roads, and small walking tracks, in the vicinity of the old internment camp. Bring along your wildflower and bird books and binoculars.

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September – MOUNT SAMARIA STATE PARK** – A medium / hard figure eight walk of 14km (an easier shorter walk – approx 8km - can be undertaken by cutting off the second loop). Mainly walking on forest roads, and old logging tracks, with a steep section in the second loop. We start at the Spring Creek ruin, which are a feature, as well as the Old Tramline Track and Thompson's Mill. This is a beautiful forest which we don't often visit, not too far from Wangaratta.

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October to Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October – ANNUAL CLUB WEEK AWAY** – This year we are off to the Grampians – and there is room at the inn (hostel). See our website for more information.

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October** – If you can't make our Week Away this year, consider the next section of the **HUME AND HOVELL TRACK – BUDDONG FALLS – HENRY ANGEL TRACKHEAD**. Staying at Tumbarumba Caravan Park, and using car shuffles, hiking with day packs.

**Sat 31<sup>st</sup> Oct – Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> Nov is the next AAWT – Cowombat Flat-Tin Mine Trail – Limestone Creek**. The walk will be split into two, with the second half as a round trip – contact Adele for full details.

# WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS

*fun, fitness & friendship*



## NEWSLETTER 3 (June), 2014

[www.warbybushwalkers.org.au](http://www.warbybushwalkers.org.au)

Our ANNUAL DINNER and AGM was held at the historic Vine Hotel on Tuesday, April 1st, and it was a well attended event, with about 40 members present.

Please remember that subscriptions became due at the AGM, and that they should be renewed as soon as possible.

The subscription renewal form can be found under "General Information" on our website, and at the back of this Newsletter.

In the meantime, the winter walking season is upon us, with many perfect mild and sunny days to enjoy some of our favourite walks in the north-east.

Come and join us, check the walks calendar today, and pencil in a few dates for a perfect day in the bush.

### Winter Walks Report

GREAT NEWS - BY POPULAR REQUEST the iconic WARBIES END TO END WALK has been programmed in three easy stages over July / August / September.

Additionally, three pioneers of our Club (all Life Members and Warby Experts) will be our guides. Don't miss this opportunity - perhaps bring along a friend.

A special END TO END CERTIFICATE will be presented to anyone completing the 3 Stages. This will take place at the Social Pub Meal the evening of Stage 3 (13th Sep) or sent later.

Generally we will walk a little closer to home over the shorter winter days (Warbies, Eldorado, Benalla, Everton) with a couple of more challenging walks (Tawonga Gap, Mount Samaria State Park) to get our heart and legs pumping.

We now are fortunate to have the enthusiastic Jeanette Farquhar (our former Secretary) as Assistant Walks Co-ordinator. Jeanette will hold the Walks Bag and generally oversee walks - and any problems or questions leaders have when I take my numerous 'holidays'. Of course this means you will now have both of us sidling up to Club Members in the quest for new walks and leaders.

Jeanette (and my) contact details appear at the top of the Walks Program. You will also notice there an undertaking (Committee resolution) to provide an alternative walk if the scheduled one cannot take place for some reason (for example, bad weather in the mountains or extreme heat conditions).

We welcome three recent additions to our band of Walk Leaders - Anne Turnbull, Anne Ford and Jacki Piquerez - thank you ladies.

See You On The Track.

Karen Davis (Walks Co-ordinator)

### Grampians Week Away—October 2014

As previously advised, the Club's [ANNUAL WEEK AWAY](#) will be at Halls Gap from Monday, October 6 to Sunday, October 12 – and aims to explore the non fire affected areas of the Grampians.



Accommodation will be in shared en-suite rooms, and full details will be available on our website, and in forthcoming newsletters.

Please book this week now to enjoy the fun, friendship and fitness aspects of a super week away!

### Australian Alpine Walking Track, Feb 28-Mar 2

The Australian Alpine Walking Track (AAWT) group consisting of eight walkers was picked up from Colac Colac Caravan Park (Corryong) on a drizzly Saturday morning, and dropped off at the Round Mountain car park, where the walk began.

From here, Farm Ridge Trail was followed to the AAWT, and O'Keefes Hut was reached before the rain set in. The next morning was a definite improvement on weather, and Mount Jagungal was tackled and achieved, and then onto Grey Mares Hut.



The third day saw the group heading for the Schlink Hilton, via the bright red Valentines Hut. Schlunks was shared with a hut maintenance group from Canberra.

From Shlinks a decision was made to go straight onto the Rolling Grounds, instead of descending to Whites Hut. I don't know that time was saved, but altitude was, and a high pass was the resting stop for the night.

The next morning foggy conditions were encountered, however, the group saw this as a plus as they couldn't see what they had to climb. The weather slowly improved to give views of high mountain tarns, and allow the group to climb Kosciuszko.

Another camp on another pass, but this time the group was entertained with lightning, thunder and hail.

The last day saw fog, but that dissipated into a fine day. A cuppa was had at the chairlift before heading onto Dead Horse Gap for sandwiches, and our ride back to Corryong.

### Murmungee Hills, Moonlight Walk, March 15

A band of 11 optimistic walkers (with a cautious eye to the gathering gloom in the western sky) gathered late Saturday at the base of the Murmungee Hills for a ramble along the range, and return in moonlight on the Everton to Beechworth Rail Trail.

We set off in the company of Rosie, who took us through her family property to the ridge top. This area was testament to her family's conservation values, with well preserved native grasses, shrubs, box and eucalypt trees, and areas of majestic grass trees.

Wonderful views over the Murmungee Basin, and to the ranges beyond, were enjoyed as the group proceeded along the ridge.



Unfortunately about a third of our way through the walk the heavens opened, and with the threat of thunder and lightning, it was decided to don raingear and drop off to a lower path, and return to our cars. The rain eased enough for the group to enjoy the walk back, and a picnic tea and cuppa, alas with no moon visible.

Further adventure awaited as we drove back down Diffey's Road, now strewn with tree branches. The athleticism of our President, and a band of willing *branch hurlers*, was clapped down the track, and everyone (somewhat damp, but in good spirits) agreed that we must return to complete this beautiful walk.

### Mount Granya, March 29

Mount Granya State Park is located about 60km east of Albury-Wodonga (20km north-east of Tallangatta). The Park is noted for its steep slopes, cliffs and prominent rocky bluffs and a diverse range of plant communities.

In between two major rain episodes; 10 club members met at Tallangatta in fine, warm conditions, and then drove to the Mount Granya picnic area. The 870 metre bush covered peak was climbed via mostly dry walking tracks, and some four-wheel drive roads.



Excellent views of the Murray Valley were enjoyed on the way up and the from the top we could look straight down into the fertile valley of Georges Creek, close to Old Tallangatta.

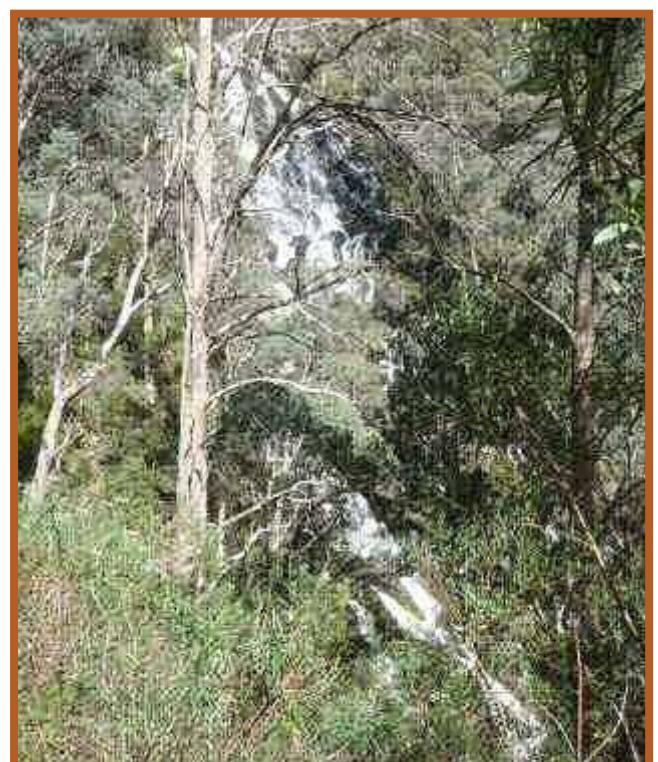
### Hume and Hovell Walking Track, April 4-7

On a rainy Friday the crew set off for Batlow, with the hope of clearing weather, but as it was still raining on reaching Batlow, the campers decided to join the rest of the party, and stay at the Batlow Hotel.

This was easier than anticipated, as the new manager didn't have a booking sheet, and with a one key fits all policy, it was a matter of if you can find a bed, you can have it.

Unfortunately this policy continued well into the night, with the old manager trying to find a bed well into the wee hours, with a not very welcome reception from the guests. Goldilocks and the Three Bears did cross a few people's minds.

We decided what Batlow Hotel lacked in comfort, it made up in entertainment, and one shouldn't stay there without a sense of humour.





Saturday was a long day in the drizzle, not helped by a shift in camp to Talbingo, and a long car shuffle. Bargo State Forests' one way system resulted in a longer walk than planned, with the group walking from the ridge road down to the Flats, (half way along Lake Talbingo), then onto the dam wall.

Sunday dawned sunny, and the group nearly had the one way system worked with a few detours taken. The day before had taken one casualty who helped with the car shuffle, (thanks Graeme). The walk took the party from the Flats almost to Talbingo, and walking around the lake on a sunny day was very enjoyable

Monday was another nice day, with the one way system fully worked out, and used to our advantage at the end of the day.

Buddong Falls was playing nicely after the rain, with the lower falls being very spectacular. Talbingo was reached in good time, but the lengthy car shuffle meant that the group got home later than expected.

## Mungabareena Reserve, April 12

Ten walkers set off on this perfect autumn day, following the best seasonal break in nearly two decades.

Interest centred on the history of the area, and stage one of the walk was to climb to the Eastern Hill Lookout to view the 360° vistas that include Albury-Wodonga, Lake Hume and the Murray Valley. We then picked up Hamilton Hume's arrival track to Mungabareena Reserve, which we circled, before picking up Hume and Hovell's departing track along the Murray River. After the very heavy rains, the track down the Hill, and around the Lagoon was surprisingly firm.



In the 1820s the Murray could be walked across by late summer-autumn, particularly north of Doctor's Point, and of the current Reserve. On the second week of November 1824, Hume climbed Eastern Hill - Hume being the first to sight the broad valley and river that Hovell named the Hume.

Natives called the section to the east of here, the Indi, and to the western plains, the Millewa.

The river was still quite high, and the party backtracked west, where they built a boat to cross sections of the Murray and Mitta Mitta Rivers that are now both under the waters of Lake Hume.

13 years later Paul Huon, of the titled French family took over the *Woodonga Run* founded by Charles Ebdon, the first pioneer to settle to the south of the Murray River.

Paul was most impressed with the grazing flats over the river, and soon acquired the so called *Mungabareena Run*, named after the big annual camp of the five local aboriginal tribes of the local Woradgery nation (Mungabareena means big meeting place, like a parliament).

Paul bought this run for his widowed sister, Elizabeth Mitchell, whose five sons and six daughters did much to establish the Mitchell dynasty in the upper Murray. Her husband was said to be a wayward ex-military captain, and so she relied heavily on her eldest son, and sent 18 year old Thomas to build a home, and run the station with his uncle Paul.

Elizabeth and her children arrived at *Mungabareena* with the Joseph Docker family, who were on their way to take over *Botherambo*, nearly two years later.

Where we took a morning rest is the famous meeting place of the natives. Elizabeth and her family did not discourage its use, and The Hon Tom Mitchell, calling on family accounts, told Des Martin (author of *A Tale of Two Cities*),

*When the tribes came down, fat and shiny from their rich diet (of Boogong Moths in the Alps) they continued to the meeting place of the tribes, Mungabareena, and there held parliament. This annual conference showed remarkable co-operation in settling inter-tribal policy, disputes and importance, arranging marriages, dispensing justice and issuing passport credentials in the form of carved sticks that gave safe passage to travellers. Without one of these an aboriginal going out of his bimble (tribal area) was likely to be speared without warning.*

These sticks permitted couriers to travel tracks that virtually circled Australia ... (providing) a steady trade in medicants, narcotics ... paints and flint.

Nothing remains of the *Mungabareena* Homestead; it was physically moved upstream to the *Hawsview Run*.

Many years later Captain Heywood was renovating old buildings there, and came across a beam with the date 1839 carved on it. He told his workmen to set it aside, for it was an item of great historical importance. When he returned the next day, he found the apprentice had split it up to boil the billy!

Lunch was taken at the confluence of the Murray, and a long curling backwater, before picking up the Hume and Hovell Walking Track, and zig-zagging back up Eastern Hill to the Lookout.

## Lake William Hovell, April 26

Seventeen walkers left Wangaratta at 8.30am as we knew that the walk would use up most of our daylight. We parked at the picnic area next to Lake William Hovell, and approached the walk in an anti-clockwise direction.

There was a reason for this; if we had walked the 15km in a clockwise direction, then found the King River in flood, it would be a long way back to our cars – whereas if the King was too deep going in an anticlockwise direction, we only had 8km to get back to our cars!

Walkers were given advice to bring poles to assist with the steep ascent once we crossed the King River, as well as the steep descent on the last part of the Long Spur Track, plus old runners to help them walk across the knee deep King River, as well as a small towel for drying feet.

different route, walking past the old water supply reservoir and enjoying an excellent display of autumn colours.

Back at Jones Reserve after our four kilometre loop, we moved our cars a few hundred metres to just near the bowling club, and headed off to tackle a six kilometre loop along the riverside walking track, and back to town

This was much flatter than our ascent/descent, and once again we enjoyed the autumn colours, as well as being alongside the scenic Ovens River.



Lunch was held at the riverside park, alongside the historic tobacco kiln, and from here, half of the group retraced their steps on the riverside track, whilst the others returned to town via the Phoenix Tree monument.

Back in town, afternoon tea was held alongside Happy Valley Creek, and after some delicious chocolate biscuits, we headed for home.

### Trivia Night, Vine Hotel, May 20

A big THANK YOU to the 70+ members and friends who attended our Social Trivia, and Relay for Life Fund Raiser on May 20<sup>th</sup>, at the Vine Hotel.

What a wonderful community we live in, to see three community groups coming together for a good cause, and a great night out.

As generous Club Members donated all our prizes, the total proceeds of \$907 have been donated to Relay for Life (through the team - Keith Lipshut's Mob).

Wang Uke's treated us to a great concert. Warby Walkers are well known for their 'conversational prowess' but how about that singing!! Wang Uke's voted us their best audience ever.



(If you want to practice your singing further the Wang Ukes have a jam session at the Vine Hotel the first Thursday of the month from 7pm, and everyone is welcome).

After a spirited and close competition, the Wang Uke's table crept across the line, just in front of several Warby Walkers teams.

### Mount Sugarloaf / Turquoise Mine, May 25

The Sugarloaf is a prominent piece of high ground in the Fifteen Mile Creek Valley, and is one of many hills in Victoria that makes use of the word 'sugarloaf'. To access this venue we depended on the kindness of a local landowner, and eighteen of us lined up at Jones Road to tackle the ascent as part of a 9.5km circuit.

We looped around from the property entrance, and began a gradual climb up onto a scenic ridge system (great views on either side) and followed the ridge all the way to the summit at about 515m. The terrain was quite rocky, and with open woodland all around us, it was obviously not a favourable place for vegetation.

Morning tea was held in a sheltered saddle, while some of the group went off in search of a turquoise mine or two.



Lunch was on the north side of The Sugarloaf itself, and from here we began a meandering descent back to the valley floor, with more great views to be enjoyed.

Back at the cars, we had the traditional afternoon tea (nice bright red tablecloth!) and then headed for home.

Wildlife seen on our loop included the ubiquitous currawong, some robins, and the occasional kangaroo – but don't ask about the turquoise mine!

### Bushwalking Victoria—Federation Walk

The Federation Walks Weekend is a Bushwalking Victoria (BWV) annual event. BWV has over 70 affiliated clubs, and the event is open to all club members, and individual members of BWV.

Each year a different walking club or groups of walking clubs affiliated with BWV host the event.

In recent years the Federation Walks event has been a single day event, however, it is the aim of BWV to encourage host clubs to run the event over a weekend, making it more accessible to clubs from across Victoria.

The weekend event offers the opportunity for walkers to participate in walks led by local walk leaders with an intimate knowledge of their local area.

The event name Federation Walks Weekend has its origins in the





The first 8.3km of the walk led us alongside the western and southern sides of the Lake, then where the vehicular track crosses the King River at Sandy Flats, we traversed the River - after two hours of walking in undulating bush lands.

We had morning tea on the banks of the river before the traverse, and two walkers, who were doing the Medium, rather than the Hard Walk, retraced their steps back to the cars.

The next 3.4km was straight up, climbing 400 metres vertically for one hour. This track (Sandy Flat Track) is quite tough, and walkers were very glad of the advice to use poles, as the track was also slippery at times. Once we reached the intersection of Sandy Flat Track and Long Spur Track we enjoyed lunch.

We then walked north and north-west along the Long Spur 4WD Track. This was undulating, and quite easy for the first 2.5km, then descended quite sharply for another 2.5km, until we came to some pink tape on a tree, on the left side of the track. Walking time on Long Spur Track was about 1.5 hours.



We then followed a disused vehicle track for another 6.3km back to the dam wall. This part of the trip back to our cars took about two hours, and at times the track was hard to follow due to fallen trees. After a creek bed there is a very steep, but short ascent, before we dropped down to the grassy areas beside the dam wall.

We walked on the north (downstream) side of the dam wall, and then through the tunnel (below the dam wall) and looked at the water gushing out of the portal on the dam wall.

From here we walked back to the cars at the picnic area, and had a cuppa before driving back to Wangaratta, arriving back in Wang at about 5.30pm, which was nearly darkness.

In terms of fauna and flora, we saw kangaroos and two deer along the route, and heard a few lyrebirds on the plateau, as well as noting an amazing array of fungi.

This is a walk for those who are reasonably fit, and is classified as a "Hard" 23.0km walk, taking about 7.5 hours with stops for morning tea and lunch.

Improvements for next time –

- drive a car to the car park near the dam wall, so that we do not have to finish the walk with a 3.0km trudge back to our cars along the side of a bitumen road.
- Start at 8.00am in Wangaratta, to ensure we arrive back in daylight.

### Friends Track, Warby Ranges, May 10

This was to have been a walk along the Nine Mile Spur of Mount Buffalo, but this was cancelled due to the threat of consistent rain over the day. This proved to be a good call, as the weather on the Plateau was appalling all day, producing about 50mm of rain.

However half of the 16 originally booked in for Nine Mile Spur decided to head up to Wenham's Picnic Area (in the Warby Ranges) mid-morning, and walk around the Friends Track and Salisbury Track - a shorter and less elevated walk close to home.

The group was treated to a beautiful misty vista, with streams running, and raindrops glistening on vegetation. It didn't worry the intrepid group that the the vistas from Kwat Kwat Lookout were reduced to a few metres, or that the drizzle returned during their lunch break on boulders overlooking what seemed a beautiful gully.

The kangaroos and wallabies were also out in numbers enjoying the refreshed bushland. And joy oh joy, the valley views did appear in places by the time the group arrived warm and satisfied on Mount Warby.

With the rain gone a cuppa was enjoyed before returning home mid-afternoon to dry off boots. Mount Buffalo will have to wait for another day!

### Reform Hill, Myrtleford, May 16

A gang of 13 happy walkers gathered at Jones Reserve in Myrtleford for this interesting walk, and kicked off the adventure with an ascent of Reform Hill. A steep-ish climb led us to the picnic area, with many great views to enjoy on the way. Some recently installed information boards, and evidence of gold mining history, also kept us interested.

After morning tea at the summit, we tackled the descent by a



## Subscription for membership of Warby Range Bushwalkers Inc.

**2014-2015**

Please note that all current memberships expire on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 (see notes below).

Single \$35; Family \$65; Associates \$20 (see notes below).

Life members receiving newsletter \$20; Casual walkers \$5

### Notes.

If you join after the 1st of October in any year, then the membership fee is \$20 for a single, \$40 for a family.

If you join after the 1st of February in any year, then the full subscription is payable, however this will be regarded as a subscription lasting until the following year (that is, approximately 14 months, as compared to a normal 12 month subscription).

Associate membership will not give you access to walks unless you are a member of a Club affiliated with Bushwalking Victoria, but it will give you our newsletters and entitlement to attend social evenings.

Pay cash, cheque or bank transfer. BSB: 633 000;

Account no: 110647799; Reference: (your name)

Name(s) .....

Address .....

.....

Post code .....

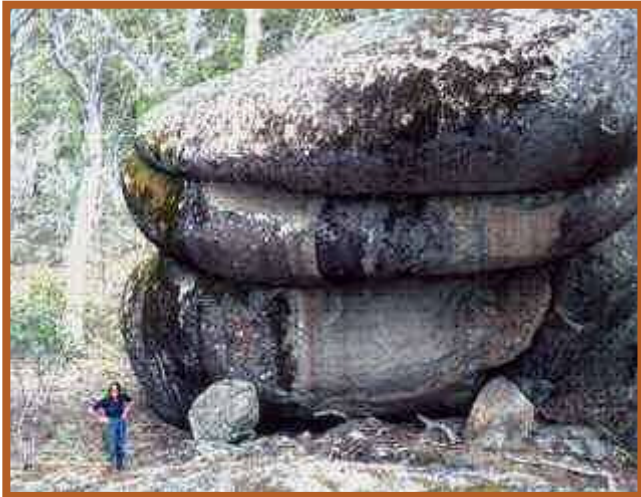
Telephone .....

Email .....

Please return this form with subscription payment to:

**Warby Range Bushwalkers Inc, PO Box 974, Wangaratta, Vic. 3676**

predecessor to BWV, when Victoria's peak bushwalking organisation was known as the Federation of Victorian Bushwalking Clubs.



The event is usually held in October or November of each year, and the 2014 event is being jointly hosted by a number of Gippsland based clubs; these include,

Ben Cruachan Walking Club

South Gippsland Walking and Adventure Club

Strzelecki Bushwalking Club

West Gippsland Bushwalking Club

The 2014 Walk will be a weekend event, based in the small Gippsland village of Rawson, with a range of walks being offered in Baw Baw National Park, around Walhalla and in the surrounding area (such as Mushroom Rocks—see above).

An attractive and affordable meals and accommodation package has been negotiated with Rawson Village.

See [www.fedwalks.org.au](http://www.fedwalks.org.au) for more details.

### Important Announcement

Irene Knox writes; after 20 weeks (who has been counting) I have officially been declared healthy, not fit, but now happy. I truly appreciate the caring people we have in our Club.



Thank you to all for the visits, cards, flowers and offers of shopping and assistance. Special thanks to Glenda for keeping me sane, and weeding my garden. How good was that, because this was in January.

Many thanks also to Maureen and Bob for being there. Once again, thank you all. Irene

### Local Hero

Warby Range Bushwalkers member, and local hero, Alan Raison, was the subject of an interesting cameo in a recent edition of the Wangaratta Chronicle . . .

Bushwalking and red woollen socks are synonymous with Wangaratta's Alan Raison.

At 85 years of age, Alan continues to conquer mountains and peaks with the Warby Range Bushwalkers Club – which he is a life member of – and is currently in his 26th year with the group.

"I usually wear red socks when I go hiking," Alan chuckled.

"Someone gave me a pair of red socks years ago and I have just been getting them ever since."

He cited growing up in the country fishing and shooting, and participating in sport such as footy and tennis over the years as reasons he still remains active.

He spoke of walks with the Warby Walkers – as they are affectionately known – throughout Victoria's and New South Wales' High Country, exploring the Blue Mountains, spending days completing the Victoria Great Ocean Walk, seeing the Flinders Ranges and walking regularly in the North East.

One of his most recent walks was Mount Granya, near Tallangatta, with an elevation of about 868 metres.

It's not unusual either for Alan to walk seven to eight kilometres of a morning with fellow walkers from the Wangaratta Mens Probuss Club.

[Wangaratta Chronicle, April 7, 2014]

### Parrot Project

Turquoise parrots in the Warby Range and surrounds will have improved habitat, thanks to a \$295,620 project, that was recently announced by Bill Sykes (MLA, Benalla) .

Turquoise Parrots were almost driven to extinction in Victoria around the early 1900s due to habitat loss; but populations have re-emerged since the 1940s, especially in the Warby-Chesney Hills.

The Practical Parrot Action Project is a co-ordinated effort by the Broken-Boosey Conservation Management Network and Chris Tzaros from Birds, Bush and Beyond. The grant will allow landholders to build nesting boxes, provide fencing to protect remnant vegetation and to provide revegetation of habitat corridors for the parrots.

The funding, to be spread over two years, was made available through the Communities for Nature initiative (with support from the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority).

### Walking/Cycling path at Winton Wetlands

A 5km shared cycling and pedestrian path will be constructed from Benalla to the Winton Wetlands, and is to be opened in late 2014.

The pathway will occupy the former Lake Mokoan inlet channel land, will connect to other cycling and walking paths within the Wetlands. The decision to build the pathway came within a week of the Winton Wetlands calling for tenders to build a new \$1m visitor centre, near the former Lake Mokoan Yacht Club.

Both projects are seen as important to help develop the Wetland's tourism potential.



# WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc. **WALKS PROGRAM**

## OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2014

If leader(s) cannot be contacted to book a walk ring Karen Davis 5722 2540 or Jeanette Farquhar on 5721 6514.  
If a walk needs to be cancelled (due to bad weather etc) an alternative walk will be offered where possible.

[www.warbybushwalkers.org.au](http://www.warbybushwalkers.org.au)

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING LEADER CHANGES TO OUR LAST PROGRAM:**

Warby Ranges End to End – Stage 2, on Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. Please book with Karen Davis 5722 2540.

**FORGET THE PUB MEAL** after Stage 3 on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>.

Please book with Glenda on 5721 5114.

Spring in the Killawarra, on Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. Please book with Andy Kimber on 5721 7922.

Monday, October 6 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday, October 12 <sup>th</sup>	ANNUAL WEEK AWAY to The GRAMPIANS – Good News, some places still available.	Final Payment by August 31 <sup>st</sup> Irene, 5721 4881 Glenda, 5721 5114
Sunday, October 19 <sup>th</sup>	MOUNT BARAMBOGIE	Easy/Moderate Chris McLaughlin, 5722 4876
Saturday, October 25 <sup>th</sup>	ELDORADO to MOUNT PILOT	Hard (easier option available) Ian Slater, 5725 1675 With Bob Shaw
Saturday, November 1 <sup>st</sup> – Thursday, November 6 <sup>th</sup>	AAWT Cowombat Flat - Tin Mine Trail - Limestone Creek	Details/bookings to Adele Ritchie, 5727 9501 by end of Sept.
Tuesday, November 4 <sup>th</sup>	CUP DAY WALK & LUNCH Lake Moodemere - Pfeiffers Winery circuit	Easy Karen Davis, 5722 2540
Saturday, November 8 <sup>th</sup>	MOUNT BOGONG	Hard Bob Shaw, 5766 2773
Monday, November 10 <sup>th</sup>	COMMITTEE MEETING and WALKS PLANNING	At Karen's 154 Rowan Street
Sunday, November 16 <sup>th</sup>	MOUNT MEG	Medium Jan Heywood, 5727 1347
Saturday, November 22 <sup>nd</sup> and Sunday, November 23 <sup>rd</sup>	OVERNIGHT BACKPACK to MOUNT HOWITT	Hard Trevor Turnbull, 5721 6215
Saturday, November 29 <sup>th</sup>	WARBY GRASS TREE WALK	Easy/Medium Andy Kimber, 5721 7922
Saturday, 6 <sup>th</sup> – Monday, 8 <sup>th</sup> December	AAWT – Cascade Track Catch Up	Details/ Bookings Adele Ritchie, 5727 9501
Monday, December 8 <sup>th</sup>	OVENS RIVER WALK	Easy Karen Davis, 5722 2540
Sunday, December 14 <sup>th</sup>	BEECHWORTH – WOOLSHED FALLS	Medium Jeanette Farquhar, 5721 6514
Friday, December 19 <sup>th</sup>	CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY	At Bob and Judy Shaw's place, 5766 2773
Late November – date to be advised	FIRST AID TRAINING	See Newsletter for details.

**Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup> – our ANNUAL WEEK AWAY is in the GRAMPIANS this year –**  
A great week with a variety of walks offered each day, or the opportunity to just relax and take in the scenery and Spring wildflower display. See our website for full details.

**Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> – Mount Barambogie** – An interesting 12km walk. Mount Barambogie (504m) is located on the western side of Chiltern - Mount Pilot National Park, and this walk makes a loop around the environs of the Mount, before climbing to the summit. From there, the walk makes an open bushland descent to the north, back to the starting point. About 7km of the walk is on narrow forest roads, with about 5km through open bushland.

**Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> – Eldorado to Mount Pilot** – A 22km walk through the bush in the southern part of Chiltern – Mount Pilot National Park – using a number of 4wd, and some 2wd tracks. The walk is graded as hard because of the distance. There is a gradual ascent, with a couple of steeper pinches nearer the 'Mount' but there are plenty of flattish sections along the way. Good views can be enjoyed from Mount Pilot. A possible shorter option will be offered by Bob Shaw if there are takers.

**Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup> – Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup> – AAWT – Cowombat Flat-Tin Mine Trail – Limestone Creek** – To avoid huge car shuffles the walk has been split in two, with the second half done as a round trip. The trip will require a combination of backpacking, and some walking with day packs. Highlights are Tin Mine Falls, Mount Pilot, aeroplane wreck, source of the Murray River, Black - Allen border cairn and the Cobberas.

**Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> – Annual Cup Day Walk and Lunch** – This year we have chosen the **Lake Moodemere – Pfeiffers Winery** loop for this iconic event. We will start and end our walk at Pfeiffers, with a lunch stop at Lake Moodemere. Bring some finger food to share for lunch – if delicate it will be transported there ready for our arrival. We will return to Pfeiffers in time to enjoy a cuppa, and our Cup Cake sweep. Last years 'Cup' winner, Gillian Anderson, will present the Warby Walkers Melbourne Cup to this year's lucky winner. There is also the opportunity at the end of the walk for a wine tasting, and/or to share a celebratory bottle (glasses supplied). If this appeals, bring a few extra dollars.

**Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> – Mount Bogong** – Nearby accommodation (for example, at the Caravan Park just off the Kiewa Valley Highway, Tawonga South - 03 5754 4396) is recommended, as we aim to leave from the Mountain Creek car park at 8am sharp on the day of the walk. We will drive from Mountain Creek to Trappers Gap, to Camp Creek Gap, then to the Granite Spur Car Park. Here there is a sign "Mount Bogong 2.5km" We walk up 'Staircase type' terrain to Bogong Summit, gaining 600 metres in altitude. From the summit, walkers can choose to proceed for another 6km return trip (to Bogong West Peak), and another 6km to Cleve Cole Hut and return.

The walk is 5km hard, with the possibility of two medium graded walks each of 6km. This walk is a chance to scale the highest mountain in Victoria via the easiest of all the routes, plus to spend some time near the summit looking at the diversity Bogong has to offer.

**Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup> – Committee Meeting and Walks Planning** – All welcome.  
Please contact Karen before this date if you have any suggestions for our January – March 2015 program.

**Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup> - Mount Meg** – This 11km medium graded walk offers an element of surprise with the possibility of encountering pythons / evidence of aboriginal occupation. The walk is through open bushland, with no real defined path. An initial moderate climb will be rewarded with views North over the plains, and South over Winton Wetlands, and the distant Alps.

**Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Overnight Backpacking Trip to Mount Howitt** – A 28km return trip graded hard. Starting at Bindaree Road (off Circuit Road) near Mount Buller. The walk will be initially along a creek track, then along a heavily timbered ridge, and through snow grass plains over the high country. The path will be undulating with a 2km climb to the summit of Mount Howitt. Please discuss details with Trevor.

**Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup> – Warby Grass Tree Walk** – A medium / easy 8km walk starting at the Sunrise Track Carpark and walking on various tracks in the complex, and also on part of a new track. Superb grass trees will be visited in the middle of their 'flowering season'.

**Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> – Alpine Walking Track - Cascade Track catch up** – This is the first part of the Dead Horse Gap to Limestone Creek walk. It involves an 8.9km backpack into Dead Horse Gap on the Friday, a 20km walk to Tin Mine Track with day packs Saturday, followed by the return 8.9km backpack out on the Monday. This trip is suitable for beginner backpackers. Contact Adele to discuss.

**Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> – Ovens River Walk** – This is an easy 8 – 10km half day walk on flat tracks through the open forest of the Ovens River flood plain. A pleasant shady walk with good river vistas and prolific birdlife.

**Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> - Woolshed Falls Walk** – A medium graded walk of 12km leaving the Gorge Road and following Spring Creek down to the Falls on foot tracks, with other options for the return route. Visits to the Cascades, and the remnants of past mining history along the way, with spectacular views of the granite landscape, and along the valley.

**Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup> – CLUB XMAS PARTY** – Come along and enjoy this social occasion with fellow walkers in the Shaw's lovely garden. Bring along your own drinks and b-b-q meat, your crockery, cutlery and chair. Please contact Bob or Judy to arrange bringing a sweet or salad to share.



# WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS

*fun, fitness & friendship*



## NEWSLETTER 4 (September), 2014

[www.warbybushwalkers.org.au](http://www.warbybushwalkers.org.au)

### A WALK FOR ALL TASTES

The October – December walks program is jam packed to take advantage of the prime spring walking conditions pre-Christmas.

Following on what promises to be a fantastic week walking in the Grampians, there is a walking opportunity each week alternating between challenging and easier walks.

Adele continues with two stages of the Great Alpine Walk – one of them suitable for beginner backpackers, and Trevor is leading an overnight walk to Mount Howitt. Additionally, Bob has arranged an 'easier than normal' ascent of Mount Bogong, and Ian will pioneer a walk between Eldorado and Mount Pilot.

There is no shortage of less strenuous option with Mount Baram-bogie, Mount Meg, Woolshed Falls, the Warby Ranges and Ovens River walks on the menu.

For the socially inclined, our popular Cup Day Walk and Lunch is on again, and of course our Christmas BBQ will round off the year.

Happy Walking – See you on the Track – Karen

### Grampians Week Away—October 2014

As previously advised, the Club's [ANNUAL WEEK AWAY](#) will be at Halls Gap from Monday, October 6 to Sunday, October 12 – and aims to explore the non fire-affected areas of the Grampians.

Accommodation will be in shared en-suite rooms, and full details are on our website. Book now for this great event.



### Thistle Hill, June 7

Thistle Hill is on the western ridge line of the King Valley, with some of the walk through forest, and the rest through open grasslands. The venue lived up to expectations on the Saturday of the Long Weekend, with masses of low growing thistles covering the ridge top, and the surrounds of the trig point at the summit of Thistle Hill.

However, the thirteen walkers of the group still found enough rocks and grassy patches to enjoy lunch at the top, as well as the 360 degree vista.

Being a perfectly clear day, the views of Mount Buffalo, Mount Cobbler and many other mountains stood out sharply.

The walkers had climbed through forest, into open country to reach the summit, and then followed a steep descent back into the King Valley to conclude the walk.

Most of the group then visited the popular King Valley art show to finish a rewarding day.

### White Box Walking Track, June 11

The venue for this month's mid-week walk was an old favourite - the White Box Track at Chiltern-Mount Pilot National Park.



Thirteen walkers, including guests from two great cities - Calgary and Melbourne - gathered at Apex Park for the short drive to the National Park, and we were putting boots onto gravel before 10am.

It was a cold start to the morning, but soon warmed up, a progression we have seen for much of the Autumn and Winter of this year.

Unlike our last walk in this area (which was in Spring) there was little evidence of the Park's diverse wildlife, but we were more than compensated by the sight of early wattle blooms, and a forest that looked to be in excellent condition.

Morning tea was held on a large fallen tree (just enough room for thirteen of us) and lunch was enjoyed back at the Honeyeater car park.

## McFarlanes Hill, June 22

McFarlanes Hill, on the western edge of the Wodonga urban area was the chosen venue for this 'winter solstice walk'. The day started off bitterly cold, with banks of fog everywhere, and we wondered if the drive up the Freeway was going to be worth the effort.

However, the sunshine burst through at about 10am, and we left Fell Timber Creek Road in high spirits.

The group took the access track from near the car parking area, and climbed up to a t-junction, where we needed to swing left to pick up the ridgeline walking track.



We had morning tea at about the 2km mark, with some nice views to the left of the track, over-looking the valley of Fell Timber Creek. We then followed the walking track through to a stile (one of several on this route) that led immediately onto a roadway.

Turning right here, we followed the roadway for a few hundred metres to a rotary gateway. Passing through this gate, we began a relentless climb to the summit of "One Tree Hill".

Lunch was enjoyed the rotunda at the top of the Hill, with great views of the High Country, and the Albury-Wodonga urban area. From here we skirted around, and down, to the east, passing through a rotary gate, and then followed a line of timber back to the roadway referred to above.

Turning left at the roadway, we made a short climb back to the stile, also referred to above, recrossed the stile, and made our way back along a portion of our outgoing route, turning right just over a creek, to pick up the return route.

The thirteen of us (including a guest from Iran) were back in Wangaratta about 3pm, having enjoyed an excellent walk at a venue that was a first time event for the Club.

## Eldorado, July 5

Fifteen walkers braved a decidedly wintry morning to meet in Eldorado for a walk, which proved challenging, not only because of the weather, but the nature of the walk itself.

In misty rain, the group departed from Gunhouse Park on the easy part of the walk - an amble along Eldorado's creekside paths, and over the swing bridge. Then, the real challenge began.

If the group had been mountain goats, it would have been easy, but this was real bushwalking. With steep slopes. no paths to follow, poor visibility, and wet slippery moss-covered boulders to negotiate, progress was slow.

Our indomitable leader calmly announced, long after the morning tea break, that we were definitely heading in the wrong direction.



Fortunately, Ian Slater, our leader, knows the hillsides around those parts as well, if not better, than any mountain goat, and the intrepid walkers were calmly directed in the correct direction, at least according to the map!

The final eight kilometres of the 14km walk, was taken at a veritable canter after lunch, and coincided with afternoon tea at the historic Eldorado Dredge.

## Benalla Lake and Wetlands Walk, July 15

Lake Benalla is an artificial lake on the Broken River (a major tributary of the Goulburn River), and adjoins the commercial centre of Benalla.

Despite the forecast of rain on the day, five club members enjoyed a delightful walk of about six kilometres, in a clockwise direction around the Lake and Wetlands. Drizzle gradually changed into showers as we explored the new river walking trail to the north of the fish ladder/dam wall.



Morning tea was taken in the shelter of the ceramic mural (alongside the Monash Bridge) but the heavy rain held off until we entered the Art Gallery for a superb lunch.

## Warby Range—North to South

### Section One: Boweya Road to Ryans Lookout, July 19

A perfect winter day dawned for the first section of the three Warby Range north to south walks. Hardly a cloud in the sky, and a temperature of about 14 degrees, made it ideal for walking. Two cars were left at Ryans Lookout prior to the registration point at Rotary Park in Wangaratta, and with 27 participants, we were at the walk commencement point by 9.30am.



At first, we traversed through open forest, then scrambled to the top of a rocky knoll through thickets of spur wing wattle, which made for variety, if some scratched limbs, before the full sweep of the snow covered Victorian Alps were revealed. From then on, the walk was less challenging, and in spite of the many rainy days leading up to the event, the ground underfoot was rarely soggy.

The next challenge, just beyond Spring Creek picnic area, was to cross the creek itself. The steep banks were the challenge, rather than the water, though the creek was flowing well. From then, the walk followed the Spring Creek with the lovely sound of rushing water (sometimes cascading) over the granite rocks.



By early afternoon, Devenish Road appeared, and a short walk took the group to Ryans Lookout for lunch, eaten while the car drivers were driven back to the walk commencement point.

With such a perfect day, compasses became unnecessary, though rarely did the walk follow existing roads or tracks. One of the features of this walk, is that it traverses real bushland, giving a wonderful sense of adventure.

### **Tawonga Gap to Young Gap, August 2**

The first weekend of August was foggy at first in the valleys then the day opened up to bright sunshine with snow covering the ground at a height above about 900 metres. Hence we were walking in a winter 'wonderland' for about the first four hours of this walk.

Starting from the Tawonga Gap car park, 19 enthusiastic walkers set off on a walk of 21km (6.5hours) that can be divided into three sections.

First nine kilometres were on a 4WD track, walking on the ridge top through mountain ash forests on the west side of the Kiewa Valley. We walked in a southerly direction, starting at an altitude of 890m. Then we walked mainly up and down hill tops, with the maximum height of 1130m being reached. This was the hardest part of the walk, and for most of this section the ground was covered with soft powdery snow.

The second part (of three kilometres) was from where we turned east onto Simmonds Gap Track. This was undulating, or mainly downhill, and was also on 4WD tracks. There was still plenty of snow lying on the ground.

Lunch was held near Simmonds Gap, at a place we called Flat Rocks.



The last nine kilometres was all undulating, then finally all downhill for the last four kilometres on 4WD tracks from Simmonds Gap, down Dungey Track, then Pyramid Hill Track to the junction of Pyramid Hill Track and Simmonds Creek Road. The final kilometre was along Simmonds Creek Road to Young Gap, where we had the cars waiting.

This is a very picturesque walk, with glimpses of Mount Bogong, Mount Fainter, Big Hill and Mount Feathertop, and there had been very recent snow. Everyone seemed to enjoy this walk, and all walkers were very experienced, with only two having any sort of difficulties, primarily new boots and blisters..

Degree of Difficulty: Medium/Hard (hard in parts).

### **Murmungee Hills, August 17**

This enjoyable walk started with an enthusiastic band of 21 walkers making their way along the rail trail in mild, but overcast, conditions towards Beechworth, before turning into Zigzag Road and onto the Murmungee Basin Ridge.

All marvelled at the views unfolding right across the valley, and mountains behind, as we made our way west along the ridge.

A lunch stop was enjoyed from the decking of Reid's Tent House, along with a million dollar view.

The terrain was undulating, with picturesque open forest, native grasses, grass trees and rock formations.

Wattles and shrubs were coming into flower as we made our way through our guide Rosie's natural reserve, and back to our starting point.



Some light drizzle didn't dampen the enjoyment of the walkers, some who had attempted this walk in summer, and were turned back by a fierce thunderstorm.

All agreed it was a wonderful walk through an previously unknown area for us.

Thanks to Anne for her organisation, and to Rosie Bennett and her neighbours for allowing us access.

### **Eldorado Ramble, August 25**

In brilliant weather, 7 club members completed a very pleasant 10km ramble, starting near the recreation reserve, and Jacki's delightful residence. We walked to the huge old dredge via a brand new track which boasts fresh signposting.



The path then continued up the old Coach Road to a rocky spot where we paused to enjoy great views over the whole Reedy Creek Valley. Then we briefly skirted the southern edge of the Chiltern Pilot National Park before heading back down across the Historic Reserve, and through Eldorado township to Jacki's chalet for lunch.

### **Warby Range—North to South**

#### **Section Two: Ryans Lookout to Taminick Gap, August 31**

In this second section of the North-South Trek, 32 happy walkers thoroughly enjoyed 12kms of bush tracks along the Warby Ridge in perfect weather. The large group realised that they were so lucky to have such superb country at their doorstep (Warby equals "We Are Right Behind You" by the way!!) with gorgeous views to country on both sides, and the constant display of many early spring blooming flowers.



We stopped briefly at Wenham's for a cuppa, where we admired the new signposting, and the well maintained campsite. Lunch was taken just after Bailey's Track, and an hour later we emerged at Taminick Gap, ready for Pat's high class refreshments.

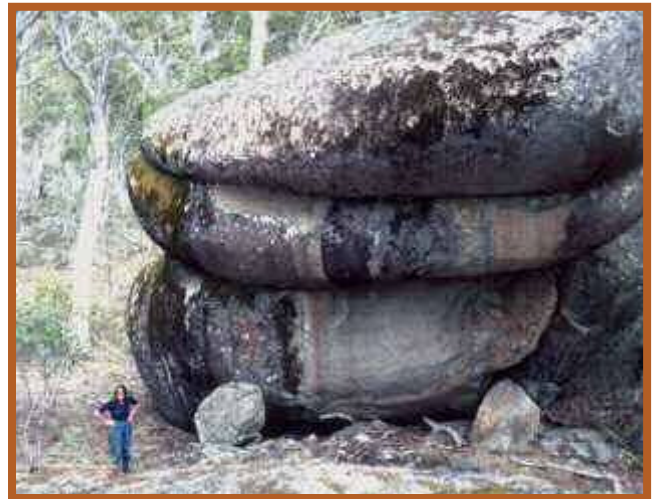
Our thanks to the various landowners along our route, all of whom kindly allowed us access through their properties.

### **Bushwalking Victoria—Federation Walk**

The Federation Walks Weekend is a Bushwalking Victoria (BWV) annual event. BWV has over 70 affiliated clubs, and the event is open to all club members, and individual members of BWV.

Each year a different walking club or groups of walking clubs affiliated with BWV host the event.

In recent years the Federation Walks event has been a single day event, however, it is the aim of BWV to encourage host clubs to run the event over a weekend, making it more accessible to clubs from across Victoria.



The weekend event offers the opportunity for walkers to participate in walks led by local walk leaders with an intimate knowledge of their local area.

The event is usually held in October or November of each year, and the 2014 event is being jointly hosted by a number of Gippsland based clubs; these include,

Ben Cruachan Walking Club

South Gippsland Walking and Adventure Club

Strzelecki Bushwalking Club

West Gippsland Bushwalking Club

The 2014 Walk will be a weekend event, based in the small Gippsland village of Rawson, with a range of walks being offered in Baw Baw National Park, around Walhalla and in the surrounding area (such as Mushroom Rocks—see above).

See [www.fedwalks.org.au](http://www.fedwalks.org.au) for more details.

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# WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc. **WALKS PROGRAM**

## JANUARY – MARCH 2015

If leader(s) cannot be contacted to book a walk, ring Karen Davis, 5722 2540, or Jeanette Farquhar on 5721 6514.

If a walk needs to be cancelled (for example, due to weather) an alternative walk will be offered where possible.

Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	New Year – Full Moon Walk New Warby Heritage Loop Track, to Booths, and return	Easy/Medium Karen Davis, 5722 2540 or 0409 215 286
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	Nine Mile Spur Track on Mount Buffalo	Medium Bob Shaw, 5766 2773
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Sunrise Track for the Sunrise, followed by breakfast.	Easy/Medium Judy Shaw, 5766 2773
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> January – Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	Weekend at Mount St Bernard Ski Lodge (If bathroom renovations have begun, the alternative will be a camp at Harrietville)	Easy/Medium/Hard options Book with Adrian Twitt on 5721 5327, by Friday, 23 January
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Wagirra Trail – Murray River at Albury	Easy/Medium Chris McLaughlin, 5722 4876
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Committee meeting and Walks Planning	At Karen's 154 Rowan Street, 7pm. 5722 2540
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Early morning walk on Wangaratta Waterways	Easy Andy Kimber, 5721 7922
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb – Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Weekend at Falls Creek Myrtleford Ski Lodge 'Alpine Huts Extravaganza'	Easy/Medium/Hard options Book with Kerri Davenport, on 5725 1480, by 16 <sup>th</sup> February
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Australian Alps Walking Track Cowombat Flat Car park to Taylors Crossing	For more information, and to book, contact Adele Ritchie, 5727 9501
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Robertsons Bend – Warby Ovens National Park	Easy Chris McLaughlin, 5722 4876
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Annual Dinner and AGM at Vine Hotel	Bookings to Glenda Hall 5721 5114 by Friday, 13 <sup>th</sup> March
Friday March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Friends Track, Warby Ranges	Easy/Medium Adrian Twitt, 5721 5327
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	The Big Walk Mount Buffalo – Up or Down Option	Medium/Hard JeanetteFarquhar, 5721 6514
Keep in Mind Easter 3 <sup>rd</sup> - 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Next section of AAWT Taylors Crossing to Cope Saddle	See next Walks Program, or contact Adele, 5727 9501
Keep in Mind July, Aug, Sept & Oct	Series of walks completing the Hume and Hovell Walking Track	See next Walks Program, or contact Adele, 5727 9501

Saturday 3rd January – New Year Full Moon Walk – An easy/moderate loop walk of 8km to get us going for 2015. Using the newly constructed Warby Heritage Track from Booths Road, just past Wenhams, down to Booths Winery, we will follow the path down the scenic creek, past cascades, and the now well signed heritage features in the fading daylight.

After a picnic tea (and possibly a cold beer or wine) we will return via Cellar and Spot Mill Tracks in the moonlight to a cuppa before home. A suitable adventure for any visiting grandchildren.

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January- 9 Mile Spur Track – Mount Buffalo – A medium 16km walk, mostly downhill on 4wd tracks. Magnificent views over the Ovens Valley, as we make our way down the ridge through several forest types, finally crossing the Ovens River to emerge at Ovens. This walk has been postponed twice due to extreme weather conditions. Refreshments available at the Ovens Hotel, while the cars are collected.

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January – Sunrise Track for Sunrise – An early start for an easy /moderate walk on some of the Loop Tracks in the Sunrise area of the Warby Ranges. Both the distance and the starting time will be finalised when the expected temperature for that day is known.

The walk will be on bush tracks, with some undulations. Great views over the plains and distant high country. Enjoy a latish breakfast together at the completion of the walk.

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February – Weekend at Mount St Bernard Ski Lodge.

Saturday: Blue Rag Range – accessed from the Dargo High Plains Road. This 18km medium/hard return walk is through snow gum and alpine meadowland.

At its highest point Mount Blue Rag at 1718 m, participants will have the opportunity of returning, making an easy to moderate 9km walk, or continuing on to an 1192m point overlooking the majestic Wongungarra Wilderness. The final 5kms requires a descent and ascent on return.

A rewarding walk with some great views over the Alps and Barry Mountains. Participants need to have suitable alpine clothing, and be prepared for an early start. A lower altitude alternative will be offered in the event of bad weather.

Sunday: An easy/medium walk to The Twins area near the Lodge.

If the scheduled bathroom renovations have already started, Plan B is for a weekend camp at Harrietville, with a walk 'up top' on the Saturday, and a shorter walk around Harrietville on the Sunday.

The cost of lodge accommodation is \$25/night /person. More details on booking

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February – Wagirra Trail – Albury – This is an easy / medium 16km walk, downstream from Norieul Park to Horseshoe Lagoon, with some local loops to add variety. There are some excellent wetlands along the way. Walking on bush tracks, shaded by river red gums. Another little gem from Chris, providing pleasant walking on a summer's day, that happens to be Valentine's Day.

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Committee Meeting and Walks Planning - All members are welcome to participate. Suggestions for future walks are also encouraged – contact Karen beforehand, or come to the meeting.

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February – Early Morning Walk on Wangaratta's Waterways. - An easy morning walk of about 8 – 10kms along the shaded and scenic pathways on the Ovens and King Rivers. Come along, beat the heat, and explore this beautiful environment within town boundaries.

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Feb – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Mar – Falls Creek Weekend – staying at the very comfortable Myrtleford Ski Lodge; a weekend in our cool alpine area, to farewell summer!

Saturday: From Pretty Valley Dam

i) Hard walk to Youngs Hut – 20km return

ii) Medium walk to Westons Hut – 14km return

iii) Easy walk to Tawonga Huts – 8km return. Westons Hut, and more recently Youngs Hut, have received a "make over" from the wonderful Alpine Huts Restoration team, of which Trevor Turnbull is a member.

A quick visit to Mount McKay is planned to allow completion of the *Victoria's 10 Highest Peaks Challenge* by some walkers.

Sunday: An easy/ moderate walk of 10km return, to visit Fitzgerald and Kelly Huts. Those with excess energy could arrange to add another 5km by walking back via Heathy Spur. It is of course possible to just relax at the lodge or around the village.

Cost of accommodation is \$36 per night per person. More details on booking.

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March – Next stage of AAWT Cowombat Flat Car park – Taylors Crossing

Day packs with driver support or car shuffling – a bit easier this time. Walk days will vary from 9km to 19km. Is there anyone out there that would love to see the area, but doesn't want to hike? If so, the group would love you to be a support driver. Please contact Adele to discuss this further.

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Robertsons Bend – Warby / Ovens National Park – This easy walk of 12km is on the Ovens River, not far north of Boorhaman. It is a shaded, half day, river, and wetland option close to Wangaratta using forestry tracks. It features some beautiful wetlands / lagoons, with nice loop tracks alongside the River.

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March – Annual Dinner and AGM – Vine Hotel. Family and friends are welcome to join Club Members for this meeting. Dinner to commence at 6.30pm; after dinner, and a brief AGM, there will be a talk by Ruth Rampling, an adventure tourist from Beechworth, involved in the No Roads Expedition Foundation.

Also an update from Lesley Finedon on our planned Week Away, in August 2015, to the Central Coast of NSW.

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March – Friends Track – An easy / medium walk of 8km with a visit to Kwat Kwat Lookout, and Mount Warby. Mainly on bush paths – some rocky sections and gentle undulations. Highlights are seasonal streams, native vegetation and rock formations. A good walk for bird life, and encountering kangaroos. An extra loop of about 4km may be possible for those with excess energy.

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March – The Big Walk – Mount Buffalo – This is a walk of 11.5km, from the entrance gate of the National Park, to the Chalet visitor area. Graded Hard for those taking the "up" option, and Medium for those taking the "down" option.

It would be possible for the two groups to meet up for lunch, and the "up" walkers drive the "down" walkers cars back to the entrance station on completion of the day. Spectacular views and waterfalls along the way, with changing vegetation matching the change in altitude. A delightful, iconic mountain walk.