

**WARBY RANGE**  
**BUSHWALKERS**  
**2015**



# 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 Harrietteville, with a walk 'up top' on the Saturday, and a shorter walk around Harrietteville 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.

# WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS

*fun, fitness & friendship*



## NEWSLETTER 2 (April), 2015

[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 Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, and everyone (including family and friends) is welcome to attend. Dinner will commence at 6.30pm, and bookings for dinner should be made with Jeanette Farquhar (5721 6514, AH) by Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.

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.

See the President's Report (below) for more details on the AGM.

### President's Column

On Monday March 16<sup>th</sup> our club is holding its **38<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting** at the Vine Hotel, North Wangaratta. The meal is 6.00pm for 6.30pm, and the actual AGM will start around about 7.30pm.

We suggest that members order their meal and drinks as soon as they arrive so that there is not a backlog of meals and members are having to wait unnecessarily for their dinners.

There is a Nomination Form that can be downloaded from our website so that any member can nominate any other member to our Committee.

As we discussed at our last meeting, a turnover of Committee members, and the volunteering of new members to our Committee is always a welcomed and healthy sign.

Based upon past such meetings, I estimate that the formal part of the evening should be easily finished by a bit after 8.00pm.

The guest speaker is Ruth Rampling from No Roads Expedition Foundation, a not for profit charity. Ruth lives in Beechworth and is into adventure tourism, so it will be most interesting to hear her speak.

At our last Committee meeting on 16.2.2015, it was mentioned that we had **not spent all of our \$3,000 Community Grant** because the cost of many of our items, like the publicity pamphlets and the First Aid course, were far less than estimations - due to the know-how of our Committee members, who were able to get things done at reduced prices.

Hence, we approached the Wangaratta City Council and asked if we could keep the \$1300 that we had not spent.

After constructing a convincing argument that the extra money would go into health and safety matters the Council agreed that we could retain these extra funds.



The Committee agreed that part of this money would go into buying extra First Aid Kits, since our number of participants on walks continues to increase. Furthermore, we could also use the money to buy a few GPS devices. These instruments will be handy for navigation, and location purposes, and will add to the collection of things we have to improve the safety of all our walkers.

At our Committee meeting we also talked about **our website**. In July there were 68,000 'hits' on this website and 67,000 in December. We thank Committee member Chris for all the work that he has done to make this site so interesting, relevant and up to date.

Chris is also going to update our website Photo Gallery, add the massive list of all the walks that the club has run in its four decades of existence, and compile a section on how interested new walkers can enquire and book in for a walk.

It is very encouraging also to see the large numbers that were booked into the Myrtleford Ski Club at Falls Creek for our High Country weekend away.

Happy Walking.

Bob Shaw, President 2014/2015

### AAWT -Dead Horse Gap-Tin Mine Track and return Saturday/Monday Dec 6-8

The Australian Alps Walking Track is a long distance walking trail of about 655km, starting at Walhalla, east of Melbourne, and finishing at Tharwa, on the Murrumbidgee River near Canberra.

The walk on this section of the AAWT started and finished at the Cascade Trail Head at Dead Horse Gap, just south-west of Thredbo Village.

On a Saturday morning, that didn't look so promising, seven of us set off for the Dead Horse Gap area, and by the time we got to the Gap the rain had really set in, but little did we know, it was far worse at home.

Off we went, until three hours later we reached Cascade Hut to be greeted by three hut caretaker volunteers. They had a welcome fire going with a billy on the boil.

It was interesting fitting seven wet people, plus three dry people into the Hut. Turns were taken at putting up tents in the pouring rain, with two walkers threatening to stay in the Hut, but it was just too squeezezy.



The next day we set off in better conditions with the intention of finding the ruins of Stockyard Hut. We were warned to be careful of fire affected trees coming down due to the rain loosening their roots, and indeed we did come across such a tree.

Sylvia and I found the cairn marking the spot where we had walked in from the other direction, but the Hut was a bit more elusive, with an unpassable ford stopping us 100m from the envisioned site.

It was suggested one of us strip, swim across, take a photo and report back, but there were no volunteers.

We returned back to Cascade Hut to find our companions gone. Some hilarity then followed in lighting the fire, until the metho got low, and the boys were warned off. The girl scouts among the group used the old cross hatch method with extreme success.

The trip out was like seeing the landscape for the first time, as not much was seen on the way in due to the poor weather conditions.

Thank you to those who went for a successful trip and a great time.

### **Ovens River Walk, December 8**

Despite the predicted showers, a small but enthusiastic group walked the easy (although quite damp after the big rain) seven kilometre loop on flat tracks, from Frost's Crossing near Peechelba. The bush tracks amble through the open forest of the Ovens River flood plain, and beside the actual river which was almost black from the massive downpour just upstream less than two days before.

Large areas of the grass between the big River Redgums had been flattened by the storm, and masses of noisy cockatoos were feasting on the grass seeds and screaming from the flowering trees.



### **First Aid in the Bush, December 8**

On Monday December 8th an update on previous first aid courses that the club had held, was offered to our members. Twenty eight people attended the course in the Library Meeting Room.

The large number in attendance was most encouraging. The presenter was one of our own members, Angus Clark, who is a full-time local paramedic.

Before tea, Angus spent about one hour on an update of CPR procedures. Then dinner was served for all those in attendance in the form of pizzas.

Then after dinner, Angus used some entertaining examples of real life possible scenarios using our own members and what may happen to them in various situations in the bush. He presented each case study, asked opinions of what we would do in that situation, then he gave the update on the most recent procedures used in each of these scenarios.



Angus covered snake bite, soft tissue injuries common in the bush, emergency life support procedures and the items that we should ensure are part of both the club's, and our own personal first aid kits.

At the end of the evening Angus was presented with a gift voucher and the feedback gained from members was that this was a highly entertaining and informative evening.

A big Thankyou to Angus for his professional, interesting and factual presentation.

### **Woolshed Falls, December 14**

Sunday's bushwalk at Beechworth Historic Park started at the historic Powder Magazine and headed to the scenic Woolshed Falls, stopping at the Cascades along the way.



We came across a shy echidna near Spring Creek enroute, and morning tea was at the Falls, with lunch being enjoyed at Spring Creek on the return trip.

After lunch the group split into two, with five walkers returning via the Spring Creek Bridge, and the other 11 taking on the more challenging path to The Precipice, Fiddes Quarry and Ingrams Rock before returning to the Powder Magazine.



Overall, a great walk during which we enjoyed the company of visitors from Deniliquin and Shepparton.

### Christmas Party, December 19

The 2014 Christmas party was attended by about forty members at the home of Judy and Bob Shaw at Hamilton Park.

It was good to see many loyal members over many years attending,, as well as a large number of newer participants in our club.

The use of name tags was very helpful particularly for those who have just joined the club, and for those who have not walked for some time.



This was just an informal event - with pre-dinner drinks, a BBQ for those who wanted to, sweets and drinks etc.

It was a time to catch up socially, and to share yarns about the year that was with all members who had been on walks during the year.

### Moonlight Walk, January 3

In partly overcast and muggy conditions on Sunday evening – the night before a full moon, the new Warby Heritage Walk was pioneered by a group of Warby Walkers, eager to walk off that Xmas Pudding.

The route of this walk basically descends from Booths Road, down to the winery, passing by much of the original water storages constructed by Ben Warby in the late 1880s.

The first part of the walk was in daylight, along the narrow path on the side of a picturesque gorge accessed via a new car park on Booths Road, a few kilometres on from Wenhams Picnic Area.

Only pools remained in the waterways, with the cascades and waterfall almost dry, but providing enough moisture for several groups of wallabies and kangaroos, as well as evidence of a healthy wombat population.

The signage on the several weir sights was excellent, also at the old wool scour and sawmill.

A picnic tea was enjoyed at Booth's Winery, before the return trip in twilight, and later moonlight, via Cellar and Spot Mill Track brought us back up to Booths Road, and the waiting vehicles. The cooler evening conditions were appreciated for the climb back out of the valley.



As the moon struggled to peep through the cloud cover, some torches were brought out towards the end of the walk, and to light our welcome cuppa at Wenhams on the way home.

All agreed this walk should be repeated in late Winter - early Spring, when the water is flowing, and the wildflowers blooming.

### Nine Mile Track, January 18

This favourite of the Club makes use of the route of Nine Mile Track, and leads from near Rollason's Falls on the Buffalo Plateau, down to Ovens Township, an overall distance of about 17km, with a nice neat car shuttle to link the start and finish points.

There were 28 participants on this occasion, and the weather was fine and mild.

Setting off from the high country (the Buffalo Plateau) the first four kilometres led up and down on the ridge line, with the starting point being a 4WD track on the east side of the car park, with a locked gate at the very start.

We had views west to Mount McLeod and the Buffalo Plateau, and from here kilometres 5-8 led us on a descent to 600m. Continuing downslope to 500m, we had great view of the Buffalo Valley, and the Ovens Valley.

We now encountered a steady descent from 500m to 200m, so as to arrive at Selzer's hydroponic sheds down on the valley floor.

From here, only the non car shuttle drivers continued walking on the river flats, crossing over the Ovens River, and turning left on the Ovens Highway, to walk the last one kilometre to the historic Ovens Hotel.

With stops every hour, morning tea for 10 mins, and 20 mins for lunch at the 10km mark, the whole walk took five hours, commencing at about 9am, and finishing around 2pm.



Degree of difficulty – Medium grading, as it is mostly downhill on a well made 4WD track.

### **Sunrise @ Sunrise, January 20**

*Sunrise @Sunrise* proved a popular walks inclusion with 18 walkers rising early to beat the heat, and complete the Sunrise Loop, and to be back in time for breakfast.

The walk commenced at 7am, due to the forecast of a predicted 33C day. The group left the Sunrise car park and proceeded to the plateau via the Quarry Loop.

The Sunrise Loop was then completed at a leisurely pace, and members commented how good the bushland was looking for mid summer thanks to the recent rainfalls.



The walk was completed in just on 2.5hrs, and members then drove to Bob and Judy Shaw's home at nearby Hamilton Park to enjoy a sumptuous cooked breakfast, cooked by Bob.

As this walk proved quite popular, as did a similar one last year, I highly recommend including in the January program an early morning 'breakfast social walk'.

### **Mount St Bernard, January 30—February 1**

Twenty three participants took part in our weekend in the Victorian Alps at the end of January. Based at the Wangaratta Ski Lodge's excellent location, walks were conducted on both Saturday and Sunday.

The unpromising weather of Friday, with a maximum temperature of a mere 5 degrees at Hotham, and a stern wind, seemed not to auger well, but a dramatic improvement in the weather by Saturday morning meant the walkers had almost perfect conditions.

Saturday's walk covered the length of the Blue Rag Range, which, varies in altitude from 1500 to 1700 metres, and overlooks the headwaters of the Wongungarra River.

Some steep climbs and descents make this quite an arduous walk, but it was handled well, though it tested out those who had allowed their level of fitness to drop over the traditional summer holiday period.

Sunday's walk to The Twins was less challenging, but required one very steep climb and descent, and some skilful navigation, given that the markers of the Alpine Walking Track are almost non-existent due to the bushfires of recent years.



Bushfires have burnt off the snowgums of the country surrounding both walk locations, leaving the dramatic views across the mountain landscapes unobscured, and encouraging an abundance of sun loving alpine flowers.

Wangaratta Ski Lodge provided the perfect base for the weekend, and it was a great opportunity to engage with newer members of the Club who took the opportunity to be part of this superb event.

### **Wagirra Trail, February 14**

As mentioned in our last newsletter, Albury City Council has been extending Wagirra Trail, which basically runs downstream from Norieul Park to Horseshoe Lagoon, by building a connection path that will link Wagirra with the Wonga Wetlands. This was the chosen venue for our Valentine's Day excursion, and it turned out to be Wagirra in the rain!

After an early morning start (to beat the heat that never eventuated) we started off from Albury's Norieul Park, heading downstream, with many members of the local populace to accompany us.

The walking was easy, with only a couple of small rises to tackle, and we made good time on our route to the Wonga Wetlands.



Morning tea was held alongside part of Horseshoe Lagoon, with many waterbirds at close hand.

Continuing downstream, we tackled the new bridges that lead to the Wetlands, as well as taking time out to admire the trackside sculptures that are a part of the Yindymurra Sculpture Trail.

After a few false starts, the rain came down in earnest, and we were relieved to see the large (and sheltered) picnic area at the Wetlands.



Following on from a brief lunch, we completed a short loop around some of the wetlands, and then set out for Norieul Park, via a slightly different route.

The rain kept coming and going on the way back, so we were more than pleased to see Pat lay out the tablecloth, and dish out the coffee and biscuits in a picnic shelter at the finish.

## Ovens and King Rivers—

### Early morning walk, February 20

For this very early walk, nine walkers (including two 'newies') set off from Northern Beaches at 7.15am, and in cool, but rapidly warming conditions, they followed the Ovens River through to the cafe area, observing the great work done by the Urban Landcare Group.

They then walked the left bank of the King River, crossed the Wilson Road Bridge, and then entered the rarely visited, but gorgeous, Big Kaluna Park via the levee bank.

The group had covered about six kilometres by the time they trudged into Apex Park for the traditional cuppa and biscuits, and one member was even able to get to work on time.

### Falls Creek Weekend, February 27-March 1

This trip was booked out, despite our great organiser Kerri believing that nobody was coming two weeks ago!! When the crew turned up on Friday night, we realised that the visitors almost outnumbered local Oven/King dwellers. Six people arrived from Deniliquin, two from Waygunyah, two from Shepparton and one from Albury!!

On Saturday, 30 of us walked the 20 genuine High Plains kilometres from Pretty Valley Pondage to the beautifully situated Young's Hut, in fine conditions. The obvious high point of this amble was the observance of amazing Horse Whispering skills from Brumby Al, who almost touched the wild horses, temporarily entranced by his red socks.



After a spirited evening, highlighted by Adrian's magnificent Dining made birthday cake, and fascinating revelations regarding how our retiring President met his wife of 45 years, the rain began to fall. However 18 walkers headed out on Sunday morning and despite trudging through thick cloud, the group really enjoyed a 10km walk which visited Kelly's and Fitzgerald's Hut.



Here comes Brumby Al

This horse whisperer don't need a corral

See him work with his red sox on

A regular smoothie is our Alan

## 2015 Week Away, NSW Central Coast, August 22—29

The planning for our famous 'week away' is well advanced, with the organising committee, led by Glenda Hall, doing some great preparatory work.

The Club has booked out Camp Breakaway, near Wyong on the Central NSW Coast, with full facilities and three person en-suite cabins, and no top bunks.

A range of daily walks across a variety of terrains including coastal, lakes and mountains will be offered and a short presentation and full details will be available at the AGM, and then on the website.

So watch this space and get ready to book for what again promises to be a fantastic week away.

## Member Snippets

Our Club at last count had 89 members. As a result, we are getting plenty of people on our walks. This is in spite of the many comings and goings of members. We are, it seems, a very mobile group. New Zealand is a great beneficiary of our Club. The attractions of their many great walking destinations have been quite a lure.

President Bob Shaw and Judy head off soon to walk the Kepler Track, as well as Cecily Fletcher. Bob and Judy will also do walks elsewhere including the Mt Aspiring Walk, whilst Ken will join Cecily for some campervan adventures.

Glenda Hall and Irene Knox, only recently returned from walking and touring in Patagonia, have just returned from NZ walks, which included the Abel Tasman and Queen Charlotte Sound Walks, and others both in the Tasman Peninsula and the Tongariro Alpine Crossing. 150 kilometres in 10 days!

Our trips to the High Country this past summer have been a great attraction, with approximately 25 participants, based firstly at Wangaratta Ski Lodge in the Hotham area, and then at Myrtleford Ski Lodge in Falls Creek. Some excellent walks were held in both areas.

These walks, as well as other recent walks, have attracted new members and visitors from many quarters, with a number of outdoor enthusiasts coming from as far away as Deniliquin. It has been great to see.

Bob and Judy Shaw celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary at the Falls Creek gathering, with birthdays being celebrated by Bob, and Adrian Twitt (really a non-birthday this year, he being a Leap Year person) who says he is really three-quarters of a century.

Choristers of the Walkers group did a sterling job singing "My Favourite Things" written by Julie Anthony. The highlight of the celebration was the speech by best man at the wedding, Rob Chard, who had us all laughing wholeheartedly about the blind date he arranged for Bob to meet Judy.

Janet and Alex Watson were disappointed not to have been able to take part in the Falls Creek program; Alex has a bout of shingles, and we all hope he makes a swift recovery.

[compiled by Adrian Twitt]

## Grand Strzelecki Track

The Grand Strzelecki Track is one of Australia's newest long distance trails, and covers a fascinating section of South Gippsland's beautiful rolling-green-hill country.

While many parts of the Track are graded easy to medium, other parts are challenging and require a degree of fitness and experience. Overall, the Track is Class 4 under the Australian Standard which means that some parts are narrow foot track with minimal infrastructure provided, requiring self-sufficiency and navigation skills (although it is generally well marked).



There are four possible entry points to start the walk; Morwell National Park (Junction Road car park), Balook (Tarra-Bulga Visitors Centre car park), Tarra Valley picnic area car park or Macks Creek Hall. The Park to Park walk is 26.5km, with a further 9.5km to reach accommodation facilities. This will take two days, with an overnight stop at Jumbuk Rest Area half way.

The eastern section of the Track can be walked in three loops of 1-2 days each, starting and finishing in Balook; the Mount Tassie Loop (18.3km), the Macks Creek Loop (25.2km, or 23.7km depending on choice of route) and the Tarra Valley Loop (22.9km with an optional link to Tarra Valley township, 2.1km each way).

Alternatively these loops can be tackled as a continuous circuit of 3-5 days, exploring a variety of short rainforest walks and waterfalls en route.

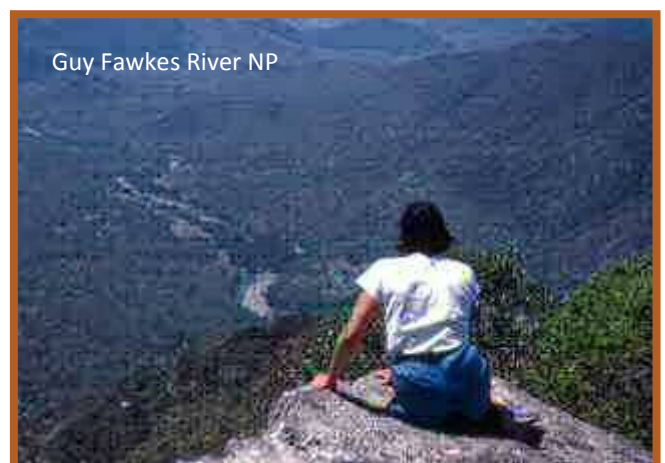
The Tarra Bulga Guest House at Balook, have very kindly offered their grounds to use as a camp site, and camping is available at Fernholme Caravan Park in Tarra Valley. Tent sites, both powered and unpowered are available and also cabins by prior booking. There are toilets and water available at the Tarra-Bulga Visitor Centre in Balook (please sterilize water for drinking). There are no facilities elsewhere.

The Park to Park section starts at Junction Road, Jeeralang Junction, about 5km south of Churchill. At the eastern end of the Track, the three loop walks radiate from the township of Balook where the Tarra-Bulga Visitor Centre is located. This network can also be accessed from Tarra Valley township, Tarra Valley Picnic area, within the National Park, or the Macks Creek Hall.

See the website ([www.grandstrzeleckitrack.org.au](http://www.grandstrzeleckitrack.org.au)) for more details.

## No smoking in NSW national parks

The NSW government has recently introduced a 'no-smoking' policy for some of its more popular parks.



The smoking ban initially applies to Royal and Ku-ring-gai Chase National Parks, and Cape Byron State Conservation Area, and is hoped will reduce the risk of accidental fire started by unextinguished cigarette butts and reduce litter.

The smoking ban will apply to picnic areas, campgrounds, accommodations, beaches, lookouts, walking tracks, and on national parks roads.

The ban will be phased into other parks from next year, starting with other higher visitation parks.

These new regulations will be advertised by placing no smoking signs at entrances to parks, and at popular visitor areas.



## Hotham Shelter

A new shelter for bushwalkers at the Alpine Crossing Trailhead, near Mount Hotham, has improved facilities for visitors to the area, and acknowledged the gold-mining heritage and ecology of Victoria's high country.

The Alpine Crossing Trail head shelter was officially opened yesterday by Tim McCurdy (MLA, Murray Valley). The shelter is located adjacent to Loch Reservoir, at the most elevated point on the Great Alpine Road, Australia's highest sealed, all-season road.



"The purpose-built trail head shelter is a valuable resource for bushwalkers and visitors to the Australian Alps National Park and the Mt Hotham Alpine Resort and includes a sculpture that highlights the gold-mining history of the surrounding area," Mr McCurdy said.

"The shelter has been built in a strategic location for bushwalkers in the area, providing much needed information for people embarking on the Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing, one of Victoria's four iconic walking trails.

The new shelter features a bushwalkers intention book, and a box for track notes and maps of the locality, as well as signs featuring the walks, indigenous and European history, and advisory information on the Falls Creek to Hotham Alpine Crossing.



Mr McCurdy said both elements encapsulate Hotham's history. "The sculpture represents, a gold-mining stamp battery reflecting the powerful influence of gold mining in the region. Over the decades, seven stamp batteries - used to sort gold from quartz- were built in the area."

## Smart Phone—Emergency Call App

A new Smartphone application is now available that helps log your details in case of an emergency call, that is, you need to call 000. The new App (Emergency+) is available via a free download from the major app portals (search for emergency+).



Follow the next few prompts for a quick installation, and don't forget to enable your phone to forward your location without reference to you.

The App's logo is a nice bright red, and if you ever need to use it to call 000, the App will forward your GPS location to the emergency service operator.

For an example of Emergency+ in action see the Doubleclick (David Frith) column in The Australian, February 24.

## Wangaratta - Benalla Bike Path

A shared path connecting Benalla and Wangaratta via Winton Wetlands is a major priority of Tourism North East.

The path would connect up with the Munay to Mountains Rail Trail and give the North East an "international attraction" according to Tourism North East cycle tourism officer Steve Plummer.

Mr Plummer was at the official opening of the Glenrowan to Hamilton shared path on Monday 23rd February, and said the 1.6km path was just the beginning of something much, much bigger.

"Ultimately we want to link Wangaratta and Benalla via Glenrowan and the Winton Wetlands. It's foreseeable in the next year to get this project going. Benalla is already virtually linked to Winton Wetlands, and trails within the Wetlands are already under construction. We're already talking with the Rural City of Wangaratta about linking this trail with the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail in the future."

[The Wangaratta Chronicle, February 25, 2015]

## High Level Planning

Did you know that Paul Davenport piloted his aircraft, while he and President Bob Shaw did a surveillance of a proposed walk behind Mount Buffalo?

The aim was to check the connection between Goldie Spur from the Buckland Valley to the Buffalo Valley.

Is this the first time a Bushwalking Club in Victoria has used air surveillance to reconnoitre a walk?

Adrian

# WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS

*fun, fitness & friendship*



## Committee Nomination Form

I hereby nominate \_\_\_\_\_  
for the position of \_\_\_\_\_  
on the 2015--16 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



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

### **2015-2016**

Please note that all current memberships expire on the 31st March 2015 (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 Inc. **WALKS PROGRAM**

## APRIL – JUNE 2015

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

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

Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Australian Alps Walking Track: Taylors Crossing - Cope Saddle Long Distance Backpacking	Hard For information, and to book, contact Adele Ritchie, 5727 9501 by 13 <sup>th</sup> March
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> April	Mount Hotham - Pretty Valley (Falls Creek); drop off and pick up by mini bus.	Hard Book with Karen Davis, 5722 2540, or Kerri Davenport, 5725 1480 by 31 <sup>st</sup> March
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Salisbury Track – Warby Ranges	Easy John Van Riet, 5725 7207
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> – Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Hume and Hovell Walking Track: Henry Angel – Clear Spring Road - Day walks with camping / accommodation	Easy / Medium For information, and to book, contact Adele Ritchie, 5727 9501 by 1 <sup>st</sup> April
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> and Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Overnight Backpack to Mount McLeod – (Mount Buffalo)	Medium / Hard Book by 12 <sup>th</sup> April, Cecily Fletcher, 5727 1340
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> April	OR ALTERNATIVE Wandiligong Heritage Walk	Easy Jeanette Farquhar, 5721 6514ah
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> May Special Challenge Walk	Discovery Walk: Buckland Valley – Buffalo Valley	Hard Bob Shaw, 5766 2773
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Stanley Forest Walk	Medium Cecily Fletcher, 5727 1340
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> May	General Meeting and Walks Planning	At Bob and Judy Shaw's – 16 Kingfisher Lane, Hamilton Park 7pm.
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Mount Glenrowan, with Chick Hill option	Easy / Medium Margo O'Halloran, 5798 3223
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Wabonga Plateau Mount Warrack Area	Medium John Kirby, 5727 9166
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Beechworth – South West Townscape	Easy Adrian Twitt, 5721 5327
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Kelly's Cave / Lookout	Medium Chris McLaughlin, 5722 4876
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Yackandandah Ramble	Easy Helen Twitt, 5721 5327
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> & Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> July (possible day walk only on Saturday)	Barmah Forest Weekend Camping or Accommodation	Medium grade walks Karen Davis, 5722 2540 or 0409 215 286. Book by 30 <sup>th</sup> June.

**Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> – Tue 7<sup>th</sup> April – Next section of the Australian Alps Walking Track – Taylors Crossing to Cope Saddle (Falls Creek).** This is a hard, long distance, walk, backpacking and camping out. **It is important to contact Adele by 13<sup>th</sup> March, so that transport arrangements can be finalised.**

**Sat 11<sup>th</sup> April - Mount Hotham to Pretty Valley Dam (Falls Creek)** – leaving Wangaratta at 6.30am. This is a 20km walk that includes Derrick Hut, the West Kiewa River, the Basalt Temple, the Bogong High Plains, Mount Jim and the Pretty Valley Dam. It is a hard walk for experienced and fit bush walkers. The walk should take 6-7 hours, and involves some extremely steep sections, both up and downhill, with expansive views. We will travel in a 23 seater bus (with trailer) driven by Club Member, John Gullock. John will drop us at Mount Hotham, and be at Pretty Valley Dam to transport us home.

**Please book with Karen, or Kerri, by 31<sup>st</sup> March to reserve your seat.** Approx cost will be \$20/person. If the weather is inclement on the High Plains. Plan B is to walk Goldie Spur to the back wall of Mount Buffalo.

**Fri 17<sup>th</sup> April – Salisbury Track** – An easy 8-10km morning walk to the Falls, and beyond, right at John's back door. Followed by morning tea in the Van Riet's magnificent native garden.

**Fri 17<sup>th</sup> – Mon 20<sup>th</sup> April – Hume and Hovell - Henry Angel – Clear Spring Road.**

Easy walking with day packs. Staying for the first two nights at Tumbarumba Caravan Park, and the third night at Blankey's Creek Bunk Accommodation. **To assist with organisation, please book by 1<sup>st</sup> April.**

**Option 1: Sat 25<sup>th</sup> and Sun 26<sup>th</sup> April – Overnight Backpack to Mount McLeod on Mount Buffalo** – A medium/hard 16km return walk. Hike to the most remote part of Mount Buffalo National Park. Mainly on old 4wd tracks – steep in places. Great views from Mount McLeod and along the way. This would suit beginner backpackers as a leisurely two day walk. Bush camp site is near Mount McLeod. **Book with Cecily by 12<sup>th</sup> April – number limits may apply.**

**Option 2: Sun 26<sup>th</sup> April – Wandiligong Heritage Walk** - An easy 8-10km walk through the autumn foliage along Morses Creek from Bright to Wandiligong. A chance to explore the history of the township, and former thriving gold fields.

**Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> May – Discovery Walk** – A hard 25km walk from the Buckland River Bridge, up Goldie Spur, past Mount Buffalo's South face, and along the SEC Track to the Rose/Bufalo River confluence. Extensive views of the Dandongadale area, Rose River, Mount Buffalo Plateau and across to Mount Feathertop and the Fainters. This is wilderness country, but mainly on 4wd, and old SEC tracks. There will be two groups – the second will begin at the west end (the Rose/Bufalo confluence), with an exchange of car keys half-way through the walk. **We will need to leave Wangaratta at 6.30am.**

Plan B, if the weather is inclement, is the Flagstaff Range area near Gapsted

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> May - Stanley Forest Walk** – This is a medium 12km walk on good tracks through open forest, with some hilly sections, with views over the Murrumbidgee Basin. A new variation on an area that we have enjoyed in the past.

**Mon 11<sup>th</sup> May – General Meeting and Walks Planning – 7pm. All members welcome.**

**Tues 12<sup>th</sup> May – Mount Glenrowan (with return option via Chick Hill and Taaffe Road).** An 8-10km walk commencing at, and returning to, Taminick Gap. The walk follows the ridge line, and is gently up and down after the initial climb to the Tower. The Chick Hill return option involves some steep sections. A Club favourite with attractive vegetation, and views over Glenrowan, the Ovens Valley and Alpine Ranges.

**Sun 24<sup>th</sup> May – Wabonga Plateau** – A medium grade 16km walk in the Mount Warrack area of the Plateau. Prior to the walk, John will investigate an easier path to the top of Mount Warrack (that is, easier than Club members experienced on our last attempt four years ago). If this is not possible, a similar walk in the same area will be offered. Some walking will be on forest tracks, but there will be some cross country navigation to add interest. View points along the way.

**Sat 6<sup>th</sup> June – Beechworth South West Townscape** – An easy 10km circuit taking walkers south and west of the town. The early part of the walk goes through the Gorge, passing the Powder Magazine, old Tannery site, then past Pennyweight Winery, using a section of the rail trail to return to town. Like several of the walks on this program, Evan Willis' new book '20 Walks Around Beechworth' was utilised to research this walk.

**Sun June 21<sup>st</sup> - Kelly's Cave Walk** – A medium grade circular walk of up to 14km, mainly on rough 4wd tracks in the Woolshed Valley, but will also entail some cross country navigation to add interest. The area was once frequented by the Kellys, Byrnes and Sherritts; it also has a rich mining history, evident along the way, as well as wonderful vistas over the mountains and the Woolshed Valley.

**Wed 24<sup>th</sup> June – Yackandandah Ramble** – A pleasant 6km walk covering the outskirts of "Yack" and it's Gorge. Explore lesser known parts of the town. Afterwards enjoy a light lunch in one of the High Street eateries, or BYO to eat in the Park.

**(Fri 3rd) Sat 4<sup>th</sup> and Sun 5<sup>th</sup> July – Barmah Forest Weekend** – Enjoy a winter getaway exploring the largest Red Gum Forest in the world – some trees are over 300 years old. Internationally significant wetlands – bird breeding grounds and flight path for migratory birds. Barmah is about 170km from Wangaratta via Yarrawonga and Cobram.

**Sat 4<sup>th</sup> – Moira Lake circuit**, 15km medium, using walking and 4wd tracks – starting point about 20km from Barmah. **Meeting at Barmah Caravan Park by 9.30am, so we can be walking by 10am.**

**Sun 5<sup>th</sup> – Murray River circuit**, about 10km, just north of Barmah township.

**Accommodation** is available at the **Barmah Caravan Park**, Murray Street (5869 3225) – powered or unpowered sites plus some cabins (can sleep 4/5 in cabin - \$95 - \$110 for 2, plus \$15 extra person). **The Barmah Pub** in Maloney Street also has 4 rooms for \$75 (will sleep 3 in each) phone 5869 3270. A booking will be made at the Barmah Pub for the Saturday evening meal – or you can self-cater if preferred. Please make your own booking for accommodation (check with Karen before making payment, and for possible room-mates).

**Karen will check access with National Parks by walk booking date (30/6) and arrange Plan B if too wet in the Forest.**

# WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS

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## NEWSLETTER 3 (July), 2015

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

Our 38th ANNUAL DINNER and AGM was held at the historic Vine Hotel on Monday, March 16th, and it was a well attended event, with about 40 members present.

During the formal part of the evening the following office bearers were elected.

President: Glenda Hall

Vice-President: John Van Riet

Secretary: Kerri Davenport

Treasurer: Margot O'Halloran

Committee Members: Karen Davis, Jeanette Farquhar, Cecily Fletcher, Andy Kimber, Chris McLaughlin, Bob Shaw, Trevor Turnbull, Adrian Twitt and Trevor Walder.

The guest speaker was Ruth Rampling from *No Roads Expedition Foundation*, a not for profit charity. Ruth lives in Beechworth and is into adventure tourism, and it was most interesting to hear her speak.

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 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.

### 2015 Week Away, NSW Central Coast, August 22—29

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, the planning for our famous 'week away' is well advanced, with the organising committee, led by Glenda Hall, doing some great preparatory work.

The Club has booked out Camp Breakaway, near Wyong on the Central NSW Coast, with full facilities and three person en-suite cabins, and no top bunks.

A range of daily walks across a variety of terrains including coastal, lakes and mountains will be offered, and full details will be available on our website.

In the meantime, don't forget that June 29th is the absolute cut off date for members wishing to attend the week away, as the sub-committee will be meeting on the 30th to finalise costings etc.

### Cowombat Flat to Taylors Crossing March 7—11

Again we headed off to complete another section of the AAWT with Adele as leader. Excited and looking forward to another week in our great country, seven of us headed off in two vehicles to begin the journey at Cowombat Flat carpark.

The drive up was lovely, great weather and beautiful scenery, Hotham, Dinner Plain, Omeo, and Benambra; lovely mountains and valleys whetting our appetites for what was to come.

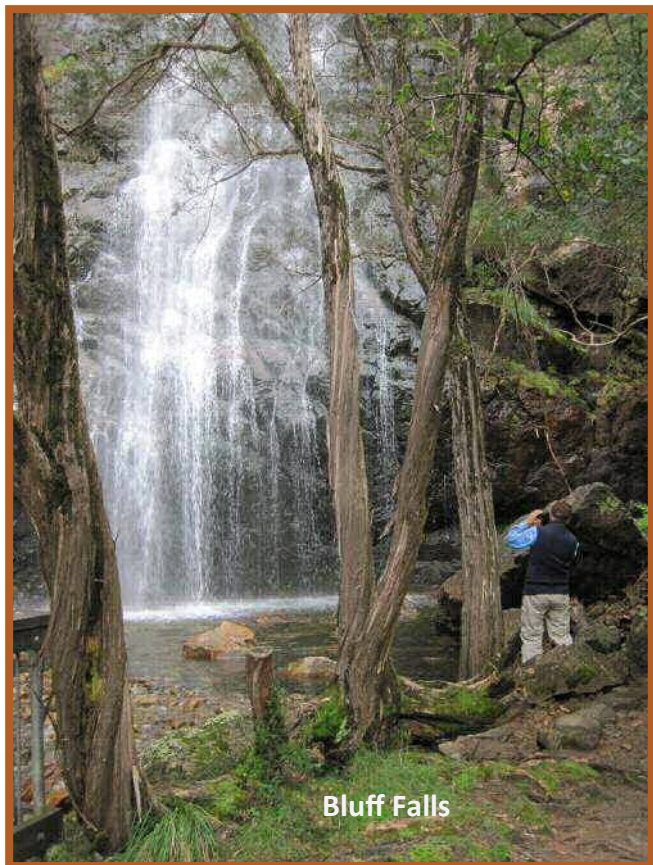
After arriving, six walkers headed off for our first day along the Cowombat Flat Track, which appeared to have been fairly recently cleared with a reasonable amount of markers.

It was lovely walking through this bush. The track then sidled along Limestone Creek, on the side of a ridge most of the way, undulating at times, but a very pleasant walk, and finally reaching our Limestone Creek Camp in the afternoon.

The next day we went on to the Buckwong Hut camp spot, another glorious walk in, at times, dense bush.

Our views were limited due to tall trees, and smoke in the distance from planned burns in the surrounding areas.

Our back up vehicles then drove us down to the Mount Murphy Historic Site, a Tungsten Ore mine. It was great to see the remains of this mine, and to be able to go inside was exciting.



Bluff Falls



Stalactites are forming, in the caves, and in many years to come will no doubt be an added feature of the site.

Buenba Gap was rather memorable to us all (due to its very steep and long climb) as was the day we climbed onto Johnnies Tops, although this certainly was not as steep as Buenba Gap had been.

When we got to Morass Creek (a tributary of the Mitta Mitta River) we went into an unexpected gorge, with magnificent volcanic rocks and cliffs.

The track had been cleared as far as the creek crossing, but after that, the track seemed to disappear into the thick bush. So a bit of searching for the track ensued, and eventually we found our way onto the AAWT where it crosses the Lower Tablelands Road.

We then dropped down, following the more defined and obvious AAWT into our second last camp spot.



We checked Kennedys Hut, which is a very old log cabin style hut close to Taylors Crossing, and is situated on the banks of the Mitta Mitta - a magical spot.

We then were collected by our back up vehicles, and taken back to Taylors Crossing (because it was such a nice camp spot) and then the next day we were dropped off where we had finished the previous day, to walk the last section.

This was again a lovely section of the AAWT, made even more special because of the company of walkers participating - Therese, Sylvia, John, Adele, Willy, and our support vehicle drivers, Trevor and Ian. They were fantastic support and great navigators, finding access to us when needed. Ian also had a chance to do some fishing, with success, along the way.

Thanks again Adele for a great walk, and for all the "reckie" work done by yourself, and Ian, prior to this walk; it was immensely enjoyed by us all. [Willy Skinner]

### Robinsons Bend, March 15

This area is shown as Robertsons Bend on some maps, whereas signage on the ground says Robinsons. However, by either name, for this easy walk we headed out past Boorhaman, to the Ovens River flood plain, east of Peechelba.

With fine sunny weather, and a light breeze and very minor smoke haze from burning off, a dozen walkers set off from the National Park entrance gate.

From here we completed a four kilometre loop to the north, and then a six kilometre figure of eight to the south; an easy walk on 4wd tracks with plenty of opportunity to admire the riverine scenery.

Distance covered was about 10km, with morning tea being enjoyed alongside the Ovens River, and lunch alongside a large billabong. No walk is complete without tea and biscuits at Pat's Café, which on this occasion was located beneath a huge old redgum at the start. [Chris McLaughlin]

### Friends Track, March 20

In warm but hazy conditions, six club members walked the eight kilometre round-trip in the Warby Range from Wenham's, with brief pauses at Kwat Kwat Lookout and Mount Warby.

They discovered that the mainly stringybark forest on the ridge-lines are suffering from temporary dieback, with leaves almost totally removed by an infestation of the Cup Moth caterpillar.

At the end of this short, but delightful, autumn trek, everyone enjoyed the now traditional Pat's cuppa, and extraordinary biscuits. [Adrian Twitt]

### Mount Buffalo—Big Walk, cross-over March 28

This walk is always one of our landmark events of the year, with 23 walkers taking part in the 2015 Big Walk.

As well as the 'local crew' we were pleased to welcome walkers from Deniliquin, Yarrawonga and Geelong.

Of the 23 participants, 15 opted to walk uphill from the Eurobin Creek Picnic Area (near the entrance to the Mount Buffalo National Park) to the Gorge Day Visitor Area near the Chalet.

The remaining nine walkers drove to the Gorge Day Visitor Area, ready to begin their walk downhill, aiming to finish either at Rolasons Falls, or to complete *The Big Walk*, and finish at Eurobin Creek Picnic Area.

Great views were enjoyed from various lookout points along the walk, and the two groups of walkers reunited at the rock face near Mackeys Lookout for lunch.

At the completion of the separate walks, the complete group then met up at the Eurobin Creek Picnic Area for afternoon tea.

The weather was fine, but a smoke haze from burning off diminished the views as the day progressed. [Bob Shaw]



### Australian Alpine Walking Track— Taylors Crossing to Mount St Bernard April 3-7

Day 1 of this great section of the AAWT saw us up bright and early, but delayed in departing to commence a complicated car shuffle and food drops. Finally we set off from Taylors Crossing waving goodbye to our wonderful drivers, (thank you Ian and Trevor).

Our first camping spot didn't look that inviting, (beside a 4wd track, and very dusty with heaps of 4wds going past) and so we set off for the next camp spot. Unfortunately we all walked past the turn-off, not realising until we were three kilometres down the wrong track.

After a good deal of consultation with the map and compass, it was decided to retreat back to the first camping spot. Suddenly it didn't look too bad after all, and at least there was water there.

Day 2 dawned, and we wound our way up our first hill, down to the next camping spot, and straight back up another hill, reaching our food drop late in the afternoon. No water was available until Mount Wills Hut, 6.4 km away.

One of our members, after enduring 12kms of straight up and down, with no flat walking, felt another six kilometres of straight up was too much, and decided to take the opportunity to hitch home. And so his adventures started, which included going up and down the Mitta Mitta River Road, checking out the famous Blue Duck Inn, and being back-up crew for a bunch of bike riders.

He finally boomeranged home two days later, when his wife went out on a rescue mission for him. He has a good wife!

By this stage the leader had hit a wall, and it was only the thought of a drink at the top of the hill, and a team effort, that she was able to grit her teeth and keep going.

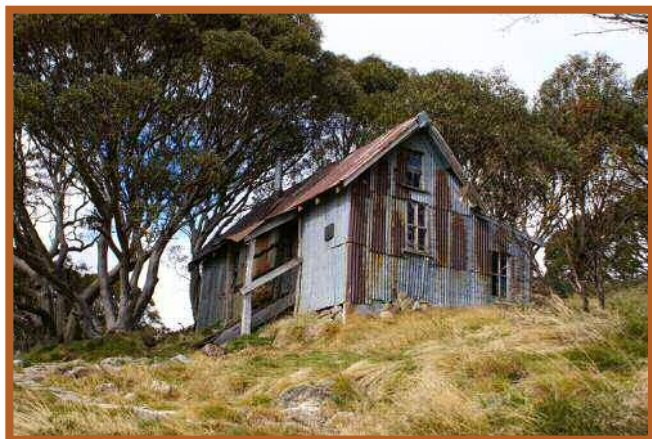
The gang reached Mount Wills Hut just on dark, and in the fog, to be greeted by a warm fire, and our two friends Lynn and Willie, who had decided to do an easier version of our hike. I think they were the wise ones. Someone was so thirsty that they gulped two cups of water, before realising that their gloves were stuffed in the bottom of the cup.

Day 3 was an easier day of 16km, with only minor ups and downs, and Maddison Hut site (on the side of Mount Bogong) was reached in good time, although no one wanted to do side trips, or help with geocaching.

Day 4 One very big down, a notorious river to cross, and one very big up before Ropers Hut, and our first hint of relatively flat ground.

By this time we had another member of the party succumb to injury and tiredness, or was it the thought of spending another two days with me. Anyway, the two girls were going home as soon as Falls Creek was reached, as they had to be back in Melbourne.

So there I was with the ute 36km away by foot, or a very big drive around to get it. It then became Adele's adventure. With a broken tent, and an impending storm, I high-tailed it for Cope Hut which 10 years ago I said I would never sleep in.



With the fire going and a full belly it wasn't so bad, and at 3am when the storm finally broke it became a palace.

Day 5. The next morning, heading for the long drop in the darkness with some speed, I suddenly kissed the ground. On sideways inspection it appeared it had snowed, and snow is slippery.

I now had 31km to cover, and two days to do it in, crappy weather, a back that wouldn't let me lift the pack by myself (not inflicted by the fall, but old age), and no Trevor No 2 to help me lift the pack.

So what did I do - decided to bolt for the ute. I left the Hut as the possums were returning to roost in the rafters, (brought me back to the days at the construction camp, when I was leaving to go hiking as the boys were returning from their night out).

I could only take my pack off at each hut where there was a table, so my pockets were jammed full of maps and food. Good job I needed all the clothes I had on.

I have now been across the high plains in the heat, and in the mist, and I can't recommend either, down to Dibbins Hut (dark, leaky

and dreary), up Swindlers Spur, on to Derrick Hut (only a shelter, no water) and then onto Mount Loch.

Mist now turning to rain, and in danger of being blown off the mountain, and then through the cloud appears a 4wd ute, and two girls working on the mountain that thought that anybody out in that weather was being severely punished by the gods.

The fact that someone was there by choice didn't seem to register. The weather was getting worse, and the tiny bit of my brain that is sane over-rode the other parts, and admitted defeat.

My two lovely Angels took me down to my ute at Mount St Bernard, 12Km away. It was too wet to change at the ute, so it wasn't until I was well off the mountain that I was able to change, eat and reflect on the adventure.

And so concludes the Taylor Crossing saga. [Adele Ritchie]

## Mount Hotham to Pretty Valley Dam (Falls Creek), April 11

On this great day, and at the early hour of 6.30am, 22 club members left Wangaratta by mini bus (driven by our very affable, non-walking, volunteer John Gullock) for Mount Hotham.

Once on-site, and in quite cold and windy conditions, we trudged down towards Mount Loch, and then headed off down the steep, but now windless Swindlers Spur to Dibbins Hut, situated in a delightful grassy area, close to the source of both the Kiewa and the Mitta Mitta Rivers.

After a short rest near the ancient and undamaged Hut, we climbed up onto the edge of the Bogong High Plains.

Lunch was then enjoyed near the dramatic Basalt Temple feature, with superb views back across to Mounts Hotham and Feathertop.

This 20km hard walk was completed with a swift seven kilometre amble across the Plains, accompanied by a group of inquisitive brumbies.

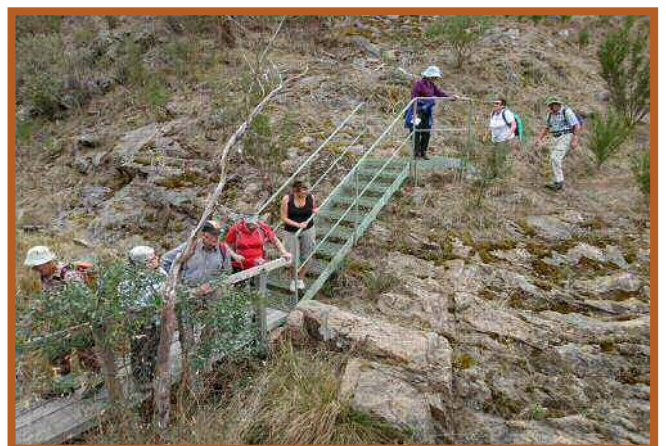
John (and the bus) were waiting for us, and John had the now famous tea table ready, with its hand crafted table cloth, containers full of hot water for tea or coffee, and of course the array of biscuits. [Karen Davis and Kerri Davenport]

## Salisbury Track, April 17

Nine walkers, including three newcomers, one from Deniliquin, one from Echuca and one from Glenrowan, started this walk near the end of Shanley Street.

We set off on the first part of the walk by heading up to Salisbury Falls. This was quite steep, with many steps, then after crossing the creek via a steel bridge, the terrain levelled out.

All remarked on the ravaging of many eucalypts, caused by a plague of cup-moth caterpillars last summer. Hopefully most trees will recover from this outbreak.



Near the end of Cox Road, the group noticed a bad infestation of Mount Morgan wattle. It is one of the most beautiful wattles when in flower, but loves colonising, so beware of it.



Finally John took the group past what was Cox's Dam, used previously for a huge citrus orchard, but now providing water for properties in the Cox Estate.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious morning tea at the Van Riet's, and admired their Australian plant garden. Fortunately, the expected rain held off till late afternoon. [John Van Riet]

### **Hume and Hovell Walking Track— Henry Angel Trackhead to Clear Springs April 17-20**

For this section of the HHWT, the Friday early birds arrived at Tumbarrumba caravan park, made brief comments about the rain, and headed to the pub for a lovely meal.

On Saturday it was still raining, but not so much. But, even with umbrellas out, the scenery made up for the dismal weather.

Our back-up vehicle met us for a late lunch, and the rain began to get heavier. Arriving at Mannus Lake, and the gate at the edge of a private road, two of us decided to unload our day packs into the car of our support crew, and guess what was in one of the packs (keys to the ute at the end of the walk).

Thank goodness to a wonderful support officer who had a think about what may be in one of the packs, and met us at the ute, instead of heading off for warmer climates. A long long walk back to Tumbarrumba in the rain had been averted, and we were back at the pub for tea.

On Sunday, fog and drizzle cleared to sunny conditions, and we had to detour along roads due to forestry operations. There was no actual forestry activity on a Sunday, but this maze of tracks was too confusing to negotiate a detour.

We retreated to the starting point, and had morning tea. Someone then had the brilliant idea of driving the detour, and walking the rest - excellent views, and guess where dinner was.

Monday was fine and sunny, and we had brilliant views and a lovely walk. On the way home, we stopped for afternoon tea at the bakery in Holbrook – a popular place.

Thanks everyone for your company it was a great weekend. [Adele Ritchie]

### **Wandiligong Heritage Walk, April 26**

The group had seven walkers participating in the Wandiligong walk which started at the Hawthorn Lane Bridge over Morses Creek at Bright.

The walkers followed the shared bike/walking track alongside Morses Creek, crossing the creek and road at Dougherty Bridge to continue on the foot track to the Alpine Park at Wandiligong.

The Wandiligong Nut Festival was on at the Alpine Park, and the group enjoyed their lunch, and a wander around the Festival, before continuing onto the Chinese Swing Bridge.



The walkers continued on the track, returning to Alpine Park, then returned along the foot track we had started on, back to Hawthorn Lane. [Jeanette Farquhar]

### **Goldie Spur Track end-to-end, May 2**

There were 10 participants on this great adventure, with the walkers starting at two different points, and swapping car keys in the middle. The east point was the Buckland River Bridge on the Buckland Valley Road out from Porepunkah.



The west (second) point of departure was the intersection of Yararabulla Creek Road and Goldie Spur Track, which is 10.5 km south of Lake Buffalo out of Myrtleford.

The distance planned for this walk was 20km, and we had a fine, albeit cold, day for this sub-alpine route, which was rated as hard.

We met at Apex Park in Wangaratta at 7.30am, and started walking from both ends at around 8.45am. We were finished by 2.30pm, and after both parties met for a coffee at the Savoy Club at 3.00pm, we were home in Wangaratta by 4.15pm.

The stronger walkers were given the east to west route, as it is much steeper than the west to east climb (that is, east to west climbs 800m in 6km, whilst west to east climbs the same altitude over 10km). [Bob Shaw]

### **Stanley State Forest, May 9**

This interesting outing saw 20 walkers complete a 12km walk in part of the Stanley State Forest. Walking through a mixed forest of stringy bark and yellow box, they were confronted with rain squalls and low level cloud.

Stanley State Forest occupies much of the high country and plateau that clusters around Mount Stanley (1050m), and covers a large area of very scenic high country.

Thanks to our leader, Cecily Fletcher, we were informed about how the area was settled, and used from the 1880s till 1940s.

We visited the site of market gardens that used to service the Stanley goldfields during this time, the Burgoigee Tunnel that helped drain the landscape, and supplement the water storages in the Murrumbidgee basin, as well as the foot track, used for about 60 years, by miners between Beechworth and the diggings.

### **Mount Glenrowan, May 12**

On this club favourite, seven mid-week walkers ventured from Taminick Gap along the Ridge Track to Mount Glenrowan, with views of Lake Mokoan very prominent as usual.

The return trip was via the Chick Hill Track which this walking club helped to design and construct. [Margo O'Halloran]

### **Moyhu State Forest, May 24**

This was to have been a walk in the Wabonga Plateau area, but was moved to this new venue because of access problems.

The walk started at Fletchers Lane, Moyhu (south of Moyhu township, west of Edi), with 14 walkers in attendance.

As this was mostly an 'off-track' walk, we needed all of our navigation skills, and followed spurs, ridges, gullies, on rough and broken ground through open mixed species forest, occasionally faced with

The next S&R occurred at Paradise Falls, in the Upper King Valley, where a group of teenagers were benighted, and had to call for help. They were found safe and well by police, and local search teams, at about 9pm.

### **Merriwa Park**

Work has started on transforming the Comfort Station at the exit ramp from Merriwa Park into the 'Merriwa Park Bicycle Hub'.



The project will include a deck overlooking the Park, outdoor bike racks, showers, toilets and bike lockers. The existing underpass ramp, which currently provides pedestrian access to the Park from Murphy Street, will be removed as part of the works.

During construction works, access for pedestrians will be via Ely Street or Meldrum Street.

### **Indigenous Culture Trail**

Work is set to commence on an Indigenous trail along the Owens River at Wangaratta, honouring the Pangerang people.

The Bullawah Indigenous Culture Trail will stretch 2.4km, and will become part of the existing river path, telling a story of how a local tribe has lived historically to the present day.

The \$180,000 project, which also includes an Elders Rock, will be the first of its kind in Wangaratta, with the Council calling for expressions of interest for artists to create three sculptures along the Culture Trail.

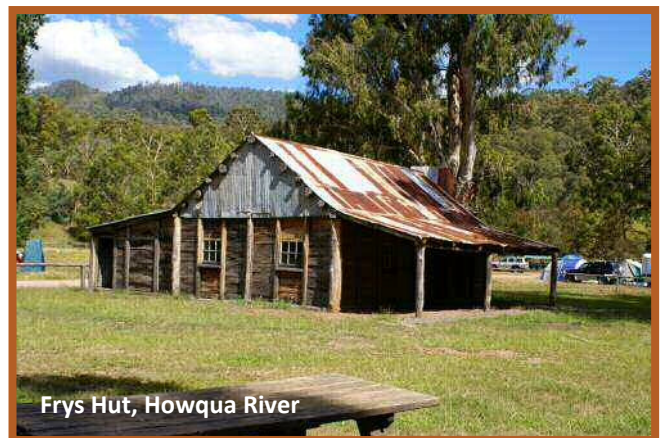
### **Parks Victoria—camping fees**

From 2 April 2015, fees will no longer apply to basic category camping sites managed by Parks Victoria.

For all stays up until 30 June 2015, you will still need to book a basic campsite, but no fees will be charged.

After 1 July 2015, no bookings will be taken for campgrounds where fees do not apply and camping will be first in, first-served.

Camping fees and bookings are still applicable for all other camping and accommodation categories.





steep ascents and descents through low prickly scrub, and bands of wattles.

Members brushed up on their navigational skills, revising their knowledge of relating what is seen on the map, to what is seen on the ground, translating true bearings to magnetic bearings then maintaining a bearing etc (no GPS!!)

The distance planned for walk was about 10.5km, but given the rugged terrain, this took about 6.5 hrs to complete.

We had an 18C, fine, day for our adventure, with little wind and some high cloud (cirrus).

The views were rather good through the trees from some high points. The western side of Mount Buffalo stood out, as did Mount Cobbler in the south. [John Kerby]

## MISC NEWS —————

### Vale Helen Curtis

Helen Curtis, a founding member of the Warby Range Bushwalkers, and for many years a Life Member, has died peacefully at her home in Wangaratta on April 4, 2015, after a long and debilitating illness. Helen, and her husband Peter, led the first walk of the Warby Range Bushwalkers.

Helen Newman was born in 1931, and was a keen bushwalker - her family holidays usually involved the bush, including many areas of North East Victoria.

Her love of the mountains, and her familiarity with the North East, influenced her decision to move to Wangaratta in 1958 to take up a position as the librarian at the town library. It was here that she met Peter Curtis, who was starting his career as an optometrist.

For over 50 years, Helen contributed to the local community as a volunteer in the areas of the environment, community, health, education and the arts. This included the Red Cross, Meals on Wheels, Wangaratta Arts Council, school committees, and The Centre for Continuing Education.

She took a major role in several local conservation groups - the Warby Range Protection Society, the Friends of the Warby Ranges and the Wangaratta Urban Landcare Group. The Protection Society was instrumental in the campaign to get the Warby Range State Park (now Warby—Ovens National Park) created.

One of Helen's major contributions to the environment has been the rehabilitation of Kaluna Park, and a book she co-authored with Peter, *Floodplain Woodland Plants of North East Victoria*.

The Warby Range Protection Society morphed into the present day Warby Range Bushwalkers and, as mentioned above, Helen was a founding member of this organisation, and recognized by the Club as a Life Member.

### Federation Walks—Bushwalking Victoria

Bushwalking Victoria was originally established as the Federation of Victorian Bushwalking Clubs at a meeting on 15 May 1934. At that meeting, the first of the six aims of the new organisation was to 'Unite all Victorian walking clubs for the protection and advancement of mutual interests to promote the pastime of tour walking (as bushwalking was known at the time) and encourage good fellowship among affiliated bodies'.

To foster good fellowship among the eight inaugural member clubs, the first Federation Walk was organised by the Melbourne Amateur Walking and Touring Club, and held on 6 October 1935. The tradition of a member club organising a walk event was thereby created, and 2015 will mark the 80th anniversary of the first Federation Walk.

The 2015 Federation Walks are being hosted, and organised, by Bayside Bushwalking Club and the Great Dividing Trail Association. Walks will be held in the Victorian Goldfields and Spa Country around Daylesford and Hepburn Springs, on the weekend of 24-25 October 2015.

The venue for registration, afternoon tea and Saturday evening meal will be the Hepburn Primary School, 156 Main Road, Hepburn (corner of Fourteenth Street).

Due to the wide range of accommodation available in the area, and the fact that it is close enough to Melbourne to permit day trips, the hosting clubs will not be organising accommodation. Instead they will provide information about suitable group and budget accommodation.

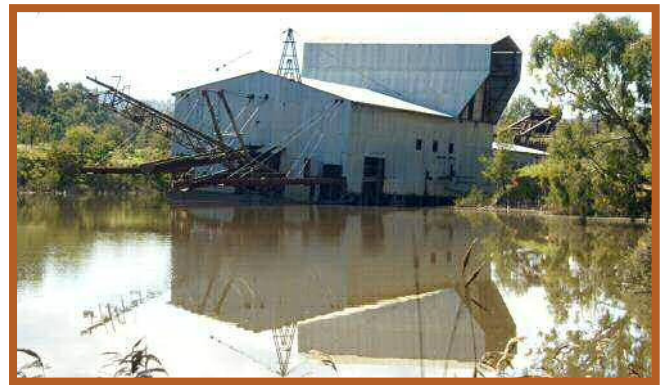
The Daylesford area is very popular, and accommodation can book out quickly, sometimes a year in advance, so if you would like to participate in some of the great walks we are planning while staying overnight in the area, it might be a good idea to book your accommodation soon.

In the meantime, keep up to date about the Federation Walks weekend at [www.fedwalks.org.au](http://www.fedwalks.org.au).

### Eldorado Pathway

The Eldorado shared path was officially opened in May, and links key tourism attractions, namely the historic dredge, museum, old swing bridge and Top Cut Lake.

The project, which includes a new playground with a shade sail, more seating and shelter, and a new disabled toilet in Gunhouse Park, was funded by the State Government, the Rural City of Wangaratta and the Eldorado community.



The pathway was the culmination of a five year campaign led by local residents, with support from the Rural City of Wangaratta, and the state government.

### Brabralung Trail

The 12km Brabralung Trail, which links Mount Hotham to Dinner Plain, is now open, and helps to highlight 25 Indigenous heritage sites.

The trail highlights the cultural significance of the Victorian Alpine Area, in particular its indigenous history and experiences of European settlement including cattle grazing, gold mining and tourism and recreation.

### Winton Wetlands

The new Mokoan Hub at the Winton Wetlands is now officially open, and marks a significant phase in returning the former Lake Mokoan to a wetland.

The new building, which is located on Lake Mokoan Road, features a cafe, a function space, an outdoor dining area and information boards on the wetlands.

See our Walks Program for details of our mid-week walk around the Wetlands on September 9.

### Search and Rescue

Two minor search and rescue operations were conducted in the North-east over the past few months. The first was at Reform Hill, in Myrtleford, where a walker became confused and overdue. Friends notified police, and the walker was eventually located at about 9pm, suffering from mild hypothermia.



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

## JULY – SEPTEMBER 2015

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

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

Fri night 19 <sup>th</sup> - Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Hume & Hovell Walk: Clear Spring Road- Murphy's Road	Medium grade walks For information, and to book, contact Adele 5727 9501 by 12 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>JULY</b>		
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> , Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> & Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> July (possible day walk only on Saturday)	Barmah Forest Weekend caravan park or pub accommodation.	Medium grade walks Karen Davis, 5722 2540 or 0409 215 286. Book by 30 <sup>th</sup> June.
Mid week walk Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> July	Warby Wander.	Easy Glenda 5721 5114
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Warby Ranges: Pangerang Lookout and Pine Gully Nature Walk.	Easy Cecily 5727 1340
<b>AUGUST</b>		
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> August	Beechworth: Lake Sambell to Wallaby Mine. Lake Sambell via Heaven & Hell Tunnels to Lake Kerferd and return	Medium Easy Jeanette 5721 6514
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> August	Social night pizza Presentations from people who have walked in interesting places recently	Helen & Adrian 5721 5327
Mid week walk Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> August	Moonlight Track Warby Ovens NP, to Mt Glenrowan,	Easy, easy/medium & medium options Bob 5766 2773
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> August	Mt Porepukah	Hard, medium and easy/medium options Bob 5766 2773
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> August to Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> August	Hume & Hovell Track	Easy and medium grade walk For information, and to book, contact Adele 5727 9501 by 1 <sup>st</sup> August
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> August to Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> August	Week away Central Coast NSW	Easy, medium and hard walks To book contact Glenda 5721 5114
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>		
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	Tawonga Gap, Kiewa Valley to Freeburgh, Ovens Valley.	Hard Bob 5766 2773
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September to Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> September	Hume & Hovell Track, Yass to Wee Jasper	Easy grade walks For information, and to book, contact Adele 5727 9501 by 10 <sup>th</sup> August
Mid week walk Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	Winton Wetlands	Easy/medium Adrian 5721 5327
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> September	Mt Emu discovery walk	Hard Bob 5766 2773
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	Gapsted	Easy and hard walk available Cecily 5727 1340

<p>Friday night 19<sup>th</sup> - Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June - Hume &amp; Hovell Track: Clear Spring Road- Murphy's Road Medium grade walks. For information, and to book, contact Adele 5727 9501 by 12<sup>th</sup> June.</p>
<p>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August to Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August: Hume &amp; Hovell Track For information, and to book, contact Adele Ritchie, 5727 9501 by 1<sup>st</sup> August</p>
<p>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September to Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September: Hume &amp; Hovell Track For information, and to book, contact Adele Ritchie, 5727 9501 by 10<sup>th</sup> August</p>
<p>Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat 4<sup>th</sup> &amp; Sun 5<sup>th</sup> July (possible day walk only on Saturday) - Barmah Forest Weekend, camping or accommodation. Enjoy a winter getaway exploring the largest red gum forest in the world. Some trees are over 300 years old. Internationally significant wetlands, bird breeding ground and flight path for migratory birds. Barmah is about 170km from Wangaratta, via Yarrawonga and Cobram. Sat 4<sup>th</sup> - Moira Lake circuit: 15 km medium walk, using walking and 4wd tracks – starting point about 20km from Barmah. Meeting at Barmah Caravan Park by 9.30am so we can be walking by 10am. Sun 5<sup>th</sup> - Murray River circuit: about 10km, just north of Barmah township. Accommodation is available at the Barmah Caravan Park, Murray St ph 5869 3225 – powered or unpowered sites, plus some cabins (can sleep 4/5 in a cabin, \$95/110 for 2 + \$15 extra person. The Barmah Pub in Maloney Street also has four rooms for \$75 (will sleep three in each) ph 5869 3280. A booking will be made at the Barmah Pub for the Saturday evening meal, or you can self cater if preferred. Please make your own booking for accommodation (check with Karen before making payment, and for possible roommates). Karen will check access with National Parks by walk booking date (30/6), and arrange Plan B if too wet in the Forest.</p>
<p>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July – two walks in the Warby Ranges. Cecily An easy 3km walk in the nearby Warby Ovens National Park to Pangerang Lookout, with views to Mt Major, and the Boosey Creek catchment, followed by the Pine Gully Nature Walk which is steep and rocky in places. Weather permitting a picnic lunch at the Falls. An enjoyable family day out with a total of about 2 hours walking.</p>
<p>Mid week walk Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July date – Warby Wander. Glenda An easy 7km walk on gravel roads, with an optional extra 4kms to enjoy the panoramic views from Warby Tower Lookout. The walk is mostly flat, with just a few gentle undulations, and the wattles should be at their peak.</p>
<p>Sat 1<sup>st</sup> August or Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> August - Beechworth: Lake Sambell to Wallaby Mine. Jeanette Easy walk approx 10km from Lake Sambell to Lake Kerferd, via the Heaven and Hell Tunnels, and return to Lake Sambell. Easy/medium walk to Wallaby Mine (a further option for those wanting to complete the return walk to Lake Sambell). A mostly flat to slight uphill track, with a short steep section between Lakes Sambell and Kerferd. Another short steep descent and return ascent along the 4WD track near the mine (there is a rebuilt 12 head stamping battery among mining ruins).</p>
<p>Fri 7<sup>th</sup> August - Social night pizza. Adrian &amp; Helen. Presentations from people who have walked in interesting places recently. Book in with Helen and Adrian, check to see if you will bring along a salad or sweet to share plus some \$ for pizzas.</p>
<p>Mid week walk 11<sup>th</sup> August - Moonlight Track, Warby Ovens National Park. Bob Options of an easy walk along Moonlight Track (7km), an easy/medium includes ascending to Mt Glenrowan (12km) or a medium walk, which also includes Chick Hill to Hamilton Park, and return via Taaffe Lane to the start (16km). Great views from Mt Glenrowan. The day could end with coffee at Bailey's Winery for all those interested.</p>
<p>Sat 15<sup>th</sup> August - Mt Porepunkah. Bob Hard, medium and easy/medium walks. A day trip to a prominent feature, with magnificent views up to 70km from the 1178m summit fire tower, overlooking the Ovens Valley, across to the High Plains and to Mt Buffalo Plateau. Hard: 22km from Quinn's Gap, along Mt Porepunkah Road to the summit, then down the valley to Porepunkah. Medium: 18km from near Quinn's Gap, a reasonably gentle but consistent walk up the mountain on 4WD tracks and return. Easy/Medium: From the Star Hotel in Bright, follow some back roads and foot-tracks to ascend and descend to/from Bright Apex Lookout. 6.5km. This walks offers panoramic views of the Ovens Valley.</p>
<p>Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug to Sat 29<sup>th</sup> - Week away Central Coast, NSW. Glenda Easy, medium and hard walks. Check the website for more details.</p>
<p>Sat 5<sup>th</sup> September - Tawonga Gap, Kiewa Valley to Freeburgh in the Ovens Valley. Bob A hard walk, approx 18km on 4WD tracks along Tawonga Gap and Dungey Creek Tracks, via Simmond's Gap to Snowy Creek Road in the Ovens Valley (a climb of 300m). Includes views on fine days to Mts Bogong, Fainter, Feathertop and Big Hill.</p>
<p>Mid week walk 9<sup>th</sup> September – Winton Wetlands. Adrian The Winton Wetlands are currently undergoing developments to enhance its features for walkers, cyclists, birdos and others. Two short easy walks, approx 7km total. BYO lunch or visit the new Winton Wetlands Hub for a coffee &amp; lunch.</p>
<p>Sat 12<sup>th</sup> September - Mt Emu discovery walk. Bob 21km hard walk commencing near the Mountain Creek car park. On 4WD tracks, a climb of 700m in altitude up to Mt Emu (1360m). Located near Mt Bogong, Mt Emu is a launching pad for hang gliders, has panoramic views to Mts Bogong, Fainter and Feathertop, plus the Kiewa Valley below. From the peak, we continue along the Eskdale Spur for 4km, overlooking Tawonga, Dederang and the Kiewa Valley, before descending into the Kiewa Valley via Redbank Track.</p>
<p>Sat 19<sup>th</sup> September – Gapsted. An option of an easy walk or a hard walk. Cecily A hard walk in the Gapsted Hills provides a good workout, some steep pitches and of course good views of the Ovens Valley. A steep descent along a graded track to Gapsted Winery, with some well-earned refreshments. Walking poles highly recommended. A shorter easy walk option also available for those after a less challenging walk.</p>





# WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc.

FUN . FITNESS . FRIENDSHIP

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

## NEWSLETTER 4 (October), 2015

### A WALK FOR ALL TASTES

The October – December walks program is jam packed to take advantage of the prime spring walking conditions pre-Christmas, with a walking opportunity each week alternating between challenging and easier walks.

The North-east is looking its best, with good winter rains having soaked our catchments, and raised the level of all of our streams.

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

Happy Walking .

### President's Column

**Week Away, 2106.** Having just completed a successful week away to the Central NSW Coast, the Club has secured a booking for a 24 bed Lodge at Wilsons Prom, April 10-16. This is a long held dream for our Club, with further details and a registration form being available on the last page of this Newsletter, and on our website.

Our stay will be for six nights, with five days walking (that is, there will be no designated rest day). The Lodge sleeps 24 (two rooms of 2, two rooms of 4, and two rooms of 6). The four and six person rooms have double bunks. There are four toilets and four showers, plus a communal living and kitchen area. Cost per night per person will be between \$30 and \$50, depending on the room size you choose / are allocated. A \$100 deposit per person is needed by the end of September.

**Bushwalking Victoria Annual Report.** Bushwalking Victoria has now published its annual report, with the full and abbreviated versions available at [www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au](http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au). Both documents are highly recommended reading, with many interesting articles.

**Looking for Walks Leaders.** Have you ever wondered about the contents of the mysterious walks bag? Well, we can solve that! All you need to do is volunteer to be a walks leader, and a suitable walk can be allocated to you. There will be a mentor to assist you as you prepare for your first walk - and detailed instructions are available to lead you through the before, during and after walk process. Please contact Jeanette on 5721 6514, or Karen 5722 2540 to discuss.

**Tread Softly.** Our Club has formally adopted Bushwalking Victoria's Tread Softly initiative to "keep to the established tracks where they exist", thereby preventing erosion and damage to native vegetation, including sensitive alpine bogs, that are damaged when walkers cut corners or walk beside a track.

**Bushwalking Victoria Contact.** Bushwalking Victoria has instigated a new initiative to foster closer relationships between the peak body for bushwalkers in Victoria and all affiliated clubs. This involves BWV Board members being allocated specific clubs, and our contact is Joslin Guest, whom we have invited to join us on a future walk that may suit her.

[Glenda Hall]

### Beechworth : Old Tannery Walk, June 6

Beechworth is often clear on days when Wangaratta has fog, and so it was when eleven walkers set off in winter sunshine from Beechworth for this ten kilometre walk.

The walk took the group past the powder magazine, down through attractive native pines, and onto the cascade bridge which crosses the impressive Spring Creek, thence along Gorge Road, and across country to the old tannery.



Morning tea was enjoyed at an elevated spot along Old Tannery Road, in view of the imposing nineteenth century brick chimney, a vestige of the former renowned tannery, which once was the largest employer in the district, selling its leather for export across the world.

The return to Beechworth was via Pennyweight Winery, where some wine tastings occurred, before setting off along the rail trail, and back into town. A quick visit to the bakery, and other eateries, enabled participants to stock up for lunch, a repast enjoyed in the park at the conclusion of the walk.

[Adrian Twitt]

### Loggers Lane and Friends Track, June 21

The walk on this date was to have been to Kellys Lookout, but the venue was changed because of access problems in the Woolshed Valley.

There were 18 takers for this alternative venue, and we started out from the northern end of Loggers Lane, just around the corner from Gerretts Road and Wangaratory Road.

The distance planned for the walk was about fifteen kilometres, with the day being very cold at first (with some frost) but mostly sunny, and a temperature of about 12C.

The adventure kicked off by walking up (and down) Loggers Lane to Taylors Track, where we turned left to pick up the eastern portion of Friends Track. This was followed through to Mount Warby, and then north to Wenhams picnic area. Here we had lunch, and then continued north to meet up with Taylors Track once more.



Turning left, we walked through to Booths Road, then right, down towards Gerretts Road. The walk was then concluded by taking one of the mountain bike tracks in this area, the one we took leads back to the northern tip of Loggers Lane.

This was an easy/moderate walk, with the only problem being that the track signage in the vicinity of Wenhams is not the best.

[Chris McLaughlin]

### **Barmah Forest, July 3-5**

Barmah Forest is a major redgum wetland area adjoining the Murray River, and extends from Picnic Point, north of Nathalia, downstream to Barmah township.

On this nice little adventure, eleven hardy souls spent a pleasant weekend at Barmah, with a fairly long walk on the Saturday, and a shorter Sunday morning loop from Barmah township.



The weather was cool but fine, and the sunshine on Saturday afternoon had walkers reaching for sunglasses and sun shades.

The main walk accessed the Park from the Moira Channel on the Cobb Highway. Walking conditions were flat, and mostly dry underfoot, and the Moira Lake wetlands had plenty of water and resident water birds to make the walk along the Moira cutting scenic and enjoyable. In all about 18km was covered by the return to the township at 4pm.

A night out in downtown Barmah, with an enormous and delicious pub meal, encouraged the group to keep the Sunday walk to a morning's stroll along the Moira Creek, Murray River and the forest on Barmah Island, before a return to the pub for the Sunday roast. [Karen Davis]

### **Warby Wander, July 28**

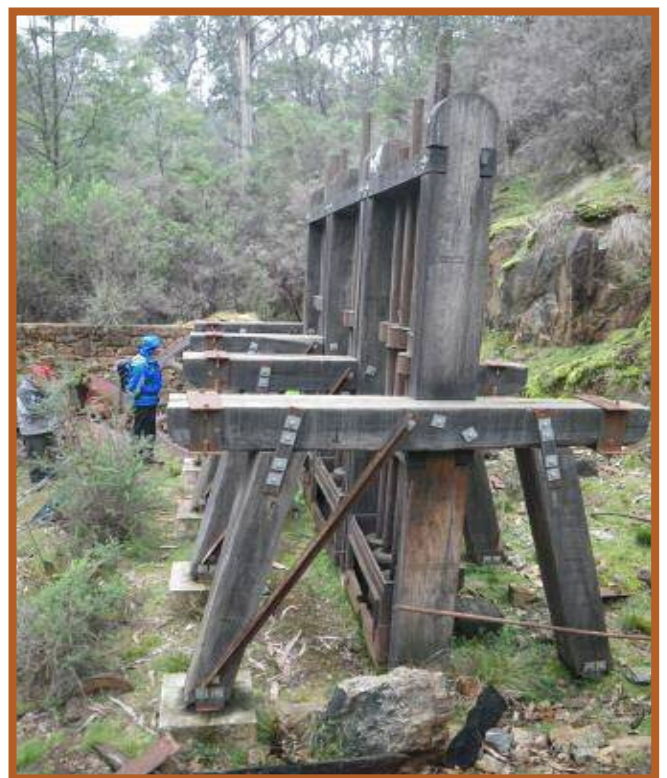
Another cool winter's day, and 12 keen walkers set off to tackle a seven kilometre loop from the Spring Creek Picnic Area off Adams Road, via the Warby Tower. The loop included Link Track, Range Road, Cox's Road and, of course Tower Road, covering about 10km overall, although not all walkers actually completed the route to the Tower itself.

The temperature reached a top of about 11C, with intermittent sunny/cloudy conditions allowing us to enjoy great views towards Lake Mulwala, and Yarrawonga.

As well as the views, we noted that the grass trees looked very healthy, and that many groups of spur-wing wattles were displaying enormous growth. A small mob of kangaroos, and a wallaby, added to the late winter enjoyment of this walk, as did a delicious cup of tea at the finish. [Glenda Hall]

### **Lake Kerferd and Wallaby Mine, August 2**

A grey winter's day did not deter seven tough walkers from gathering at Beechworth's Lake Sambell, ready for an eight kilometre walk to Lake Kerferd, and the historic Wallaby Mine.



Mine shafts (many of them with safety grilles) were apparent at many places, and we then passed alongside Patterson Dam; one of several storages built to provide water for mining. In the modern era it is filling with sediment, but remains a habitat for wildlife.

From here we continued to follow a well marked trail leading to a former gold mining area, known as Heaven and Hell Tunnels. This used to provide an opportunity for the 'dirty knees' crew to explore the full length of an abandoned tunnel system, but it is now cordoned off.



Swinging around to the east, the group made its way towards Lake Kerferd, a water storage built in 1862 that still supplies most of Beechworth's water supply. The Lake was named after local business man George Kerferd who first advocated this site. Kerferd was a member of the Victorian Parliament for many years, and subsequently Premier of Victoria in 1874.

The route then looped around Lake Kerferd, and we were on-track for the Wallaby Gold Mine, which was reached after a steep scramble down a narrow access track.

Significant features of the site include the remains of a 12-head gold stamping battery, a steam engine (which powered the battery) as well as part of a water-powered battery – mainly a large waterwheel. After exploring, and photographing this interesting collection of relics, we moved back upslope to check out an artificial scree slope (the rejects from gold mining excavation), as well as an enormous open pit area, at least 30m deep, and about 50m across.

Back at the top of the ridge, the group headed off for the return walk to Beechworth, following the outgoing pathways. [Jeanette Farquhar]

### **Moonlight Track, Warby Ovens National Park, August 11**

For this mid-week walk, 10 hikers headed off from the start of the Moonlight Track, next to Bailey's Winery, in delightful sunny conditions after a night of heavy showers.

The views from the path looking west over Winton Wetlands were superb for the first four kilometre section, before we climbed steeply up into the Warby Range.

We noted that the trees on the hills are still suffering from the Cup Moth attack, but hopefully will recover their foliage in the next few months.

We then walked part of the Ridge Track, and then descended Chick Hill into Hamilton Park, enjoying the delightful views over the Alps. We had covered about eight kilometres by the time we stopped to have the now compulsory tea and fresh biscuits served on Pat's red tablecloth.

If you wish to view the famous tablecloth, and other Warby Bushwalker's features, we now have a Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/warbybushwalkers>. [Bob Shaw]

### **Mount Porepunkah, August 15**

This mix of hard/medium walks had 16 starters on a cold, sunny, and windless day, with the temperature being between 2 and 12C.

The hard section started out 3.1 km from Quin's Gap along the Mount Porepunkah Road, east of Bright and Porepunkah, whilst the medium walk started out 8.0km from Quin's Gap.

The distance planned for the hard walk was 24.4km, 14.6km for the medium walk, with eight walkers tackling the hard walk, and eight for the medium walk.

The hard walk started at 10.30am, leading into three hours of a steady climb along a 4WD track to the top, and a 2.5 hour descent, which began after a half hour pause for lunch at the summit.

The medium walk started at 10.45am, with a 2.5 hours steady climb along a 4WD track to the top, and a 2.0 hour descent, which began after a half hour pause for lunch at the summit.



At the summit there were magnificent 360 degrees panoramic views of the snow covered peaks of Mount Buffalo, Mount Buller, Mount Hotham, Mount Feathertop, Spion Kopje and Mount Bogong; and we could see the NSW snow fields in the distance.

The weary (hard walk) walkers arrived back Wang at 5.00pm, whilst those on the medium walk arrived back at 5.45pm, just on dark. [Bob Shaw]

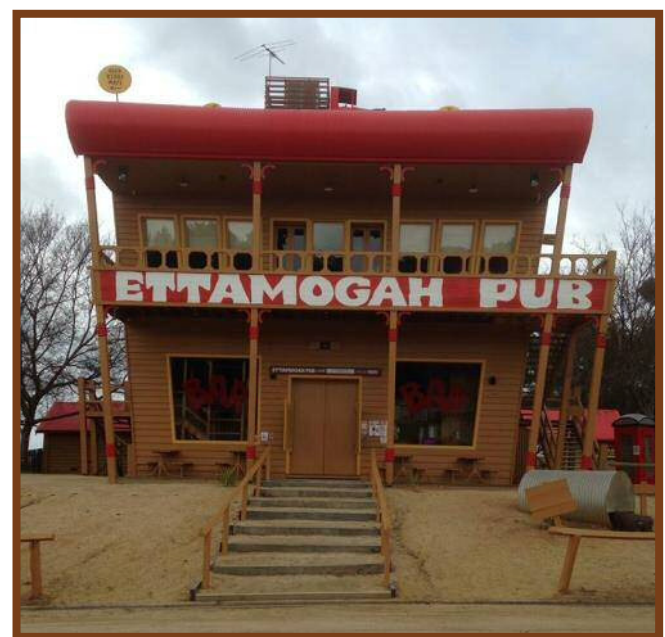
### **Hume and Hovell Walking Track, August 14-17**

This section of the Hume and Hovell Walking Track took us from Murphys Road to Burma Road.

We started this walk off with dinner at the famous Ettamogah Pub on the Friday night, where we met up with Deb, a new Benalla walker. It was then onto The Great Aussie Resort for some very comfortable accommodation.

Saturday saw us start from where we previously finished the last segment of this long distance trail, in Woomargama National Park.

The lookouts were the the highlight of the day, with snow on the distant mountains, and the valleys shrouded in mist.



Sunday was a 25km walk through bushland, farmland and along the road back to The Great Aussie Resort. The wombat sitting on a rock, before disappearing into its hole was the highlight for the day.



Monday, we were down to three walkers and one bike rider, and the walk took us through a Stock Reserve, with wonderful views of the Hume Dam.

Whilst having morning tea on a log, we watched a fox definitely on a mission walk up the valley, then right past us disturbed only when someone couldn't contain themselves any longer, and just had to make a noise to see what the fox would do.

Onto the road again, but the views were still wonderful with lunch at a quaint little church with Loris our bike rider.

We all met up again at (surprise, surprise) the Ettamogah Pub before the trip home.

Thank you to Loris, Deb, Sylvia and Trevor for your company, and road walking.

[Adele Ritchie]

### Week Away—Central Coast NSW, August 22-29

This was a very successful event, starting off on Saturday, 22nd August 2015, when 28 Club members travelled to Camp Breakaway with an expectation of a wonderful week of walking.



**Sunday, 23rd August.** With rain and the threat of more, the walk was postponed for an hour allowing 26 walkers to complete the Wyrablong Figure 8, 7km circuit, experiencing great views over Tuggerah Lakes, twisted Sydney redgums, cabbage tree palm groves and walking through coastal scrub and cycads.

As the forecast extensive rain did not materialise we drove approx 10 minutes to be delighted by a wonderful spring flower display, and magnificent ocean views, as we walked the 2kms between Crackneck Point and Forresters Beach, part of the Wyrablong National Park Coastal Walk.

**Monday, 24th August.** Led by Michael and Chris Henderson of the local Watagan Wanderers Bushwalking Club, we broke into the "fast" and "slower" groups and walked approx. 12km and 9km respectively in the Munmorah State Recreation Area.

This was a coastal walk on undulating, and at times, sandy tracks with magnificent ocean views, and yet more superb displays of a variety of wildflowers.

We experienced occasional showers, and as Michael's group got back to the cars later, several walkers were caught in an awesome hailstorm.

**Tuesday, 25 August.** This was the dedicated day off, with Club members travelling in all directions, including Newcastle, Sydney

and Catherine Hill, and walking or riding around Budgewoi Lake, just near our accommodation.

**Wednesday, 26 August.** The group of 27 drove in convoy to Wyong Station, travelled by train to Brooklyn, and then divided into either the Easy or Medium/Hard groups. The larger contingent, led by Chris Henderson, travelled by ferry to Dangar Island and enjoyed walks on bushland tracks around the island, visiting an aboriginal cave and rock art site at Kilparra Park, and upon their return to the mainland did a short walk to the headland.



Michael led the remaining 11 walkers on some very steep climbs, and off-track walking, up to Porto Ridge where they were rewarded with lunch overlooking the Hawksbury River. A highlight was seeing a magnificent cascading rock orchid in full bloom.

**Thursday, 27 August.** 26 members travelled to Brisbane Waters National Park, and broke into two groups to undertake the same two walks from different starting points, with Lesley Finendon and Adrian Twitt as leaders.

Although only an average of 5kms, the walks were both breathtaking and challenging as we climbed, scrambled and stepped/rock hopped over creeks (including one crossing on a suspension bridge) through lush rainforest and open woodland on the Girrakool Loop and Piles Creek Loop. Waterfalls, and again glorious varied wildflower displays, made this quite a magical walk.

**Friday, 28 August.** We farewelled Keith and Helen Hallett, and 24 walkers then completed the 10km Cave Beach to Catherine Hill Walk. Exploring the sea caves was a highlight, with magnificent coastal views, and a 30 minute walk on the crescent beach to Catherine Hill completing a stunning, and enjoyable, week of walking. [Glenda Hall]



## Social Events for the remainder of the year

Here are the special dates to pencil into your social calendar.

**September 9, 6.50pm** A night at the cinema to see *A Walk in the Woods*. This is an informal social evening, so just turn up! There will also be the opportunity for a coffee stop afterwards. This is a very funny bushwalking film, with excellent reviews.

Check the Cinema ([www.wangcinema.com.au](http://www.wangcinema.com.au)) for the evening session time, and below for a movie review

### Movie Review - A Walk in the Woods

*A Walk in the Woods* was a landmark book from the 1960's, and was written by well known travel writer Bill Bryson.

In this new comedy adventure, Bill Bryson is portrayed by Robert Redford, who (as described in the original book) - instead of retiring with his wife (Emma Thompson), challenges himself to hike the Appalachian Trail. This covers 2,200 miles of America's most unspoiled, spectacular and rugged countryside, from Georgia to Maine.

The Trail is the world's first long distance walking trails, and was originally mooted in 1921, with most of the construction being completed by 1937. There were several hiccups along the way, as well as after WWII, but the trail endures as one of the world's great iconic walks.

The peace and tranquility Bryson hopes to find, though, is anything but, once he agrees to being accompanied by the only person he can find willing to join him on the trek - his long lost and former friend Katz (Nick Nolte), a down-on-his-luck serial philanderer who, after a lifetime of relying on his charm and wits to keep one step ahead of the law - sees the trip as a way to sneak out of paying some debts, and sneak into one last adventure before its too late.

The trouble is, the two have a completely different definition of the word, "adventure". Now they're about to find out that when you push yourself to the edge, the real fun begins.

[Review by Chris McLaughlin, who skied many sections of the Appalachian Trail in Maine and New Hampshire in the winter of 1983-84]

**Monday, September 14th** the Walkers Relay for Life Trivia night has already been fully booked out.

**Tuesday November 3<sup>rd</sup>** Cup day Social event. FootGolf at Boorhaman. Contact Helen or Adrian on 5721 5327 if you are interested. This is a new game. Enjoy the company of fellow club members at Australia's first regional footgolf course. The sausage sizzle will cost \$5.00. BYO Soccer ball (although there are some to hire) and BYO water, beverages and afternoon tea to enjoy whilst listening to the Cup. Footwear strictly sneakers and not football boots. The laws of the game will be explained to all us novices!

**November 7 and 8** - come along to a weekend of walks in the Mt Beauty area, with walks graded Easy, Medium and Hard. We plan to book accommodation for ourselves at the Tawonga Caravan Park in tents, campers, self-contained cabins, and on-site caravans. There will be a BBQ on the Saturday evening, in the Caravan Park. See also the Program for this weekend at the end of this Newsletter.

**Friday, December 11th** - Warby Walkers Christmas Party at Glenrowan Rifle Range, Rifle Range Road., Glenrowan. BYO drinks and meat for a BBQ. Crockery, cutlery and chairs provided.

Contact John on 0412 260 732 OR Margot on 5798 3223 to book, and to bring either a sweet or a salad to share.

**Directions:** Drive through the main street of Glenrowan past Ned Kelly statue. Proceed on the road towards Melbourne. There will be the Glenrowan Football oval and a large dam on your left. Continue driving over the overpass, with the Hume Freeway passing underneath your vehicle. Then turn immediately left after seeing the Freeway, onto Rifle Range Road. Proceed for about 800 metres along Rifle Range Road, then turn left into the Rifle Range where the club rooms are located.

### Just one last walk . . .

Many veteran bushwalkers say that when the big guy in the sky calls them up to walk the rainbow bridge, they are going to say something like "I'm sorry Dear Father, but I can't come right now - I have just one last bushwalk to complete". Here's one from many bushwalker's "just one last walk Dear Father" list.

Lake Surprise forms the centrepiece of Mount Eccles National Park in south-western Victoria. This is volcano country, and Lake Surprise is a flooded caldera, one of many caldera in the region. Whilst most visitors to the area walk around the lake, or the rim of the caldera, there is an even better walk - the Lava Canal.

Laval canals are formed where basaltic lava (which has a reasonably high water content) flows across the landscape, much like a river, then retreats back to the caldera. This leaves a burnt, and scoured landscape, usually in a classic u-shape, with boulders galore littering the deeply incised canal.

This is the scene for the Lave Canal walk in Mount Eccles NP, a seven kilometre walk, that takes about three hours to complete. Highlights include a fascinating geological landscape, great views (from Mount Eccles) and two dry caldera.

As well, there is plenty of human history to consider - the area has had many years of usage by the Gunditjmarra people (co-managers of the Park, with Parks Victoria), and the early European settlers loved all of the those boulders, a great resource for making dry stone walls, a major feature of the landscape in SW Victoria.

Dry stone walls were constructed on either side of the lava canal, as well as within it, and these are still visible today, both within the canal, and in the more open country (see photo).



To cap it all off (as they say in volcano country) the adjoining camping area is set amongst tall timber, with the surrounding basaltic boulder fields providing a very interesting setting.

The walk is reasonably well signposted, and is a local favourite, being quite easily accessible from Warrnambool, Port Fairy and Hamilton.

[Please email a description of your "just one last walk Dear Father" list to - [boots@warbybushwalkers.org.au](mailto:boots@warbybushwalkers.org.au)]



## MISC NEWS —————

### Camping at Whitfield

Repairs at the Gentle Annie Caravan Park (at Whitfield) are now nearly complete, almost five years after the devastating floods of 2010. The 'Whitfield' side of the Park has been complete for a long time now, so this final effort is aimed at the eastern, less formal, side of the camping area. As well as rehabilitating the area, a toilet/shower block has been added, and the eastern area can now accommodate about 60 campers.

### Our Life Members

Did you know that our Club has several life members, some active and some inactive. All have received this accolade for their work for the Warby Range Bushwalkers over an extended time.

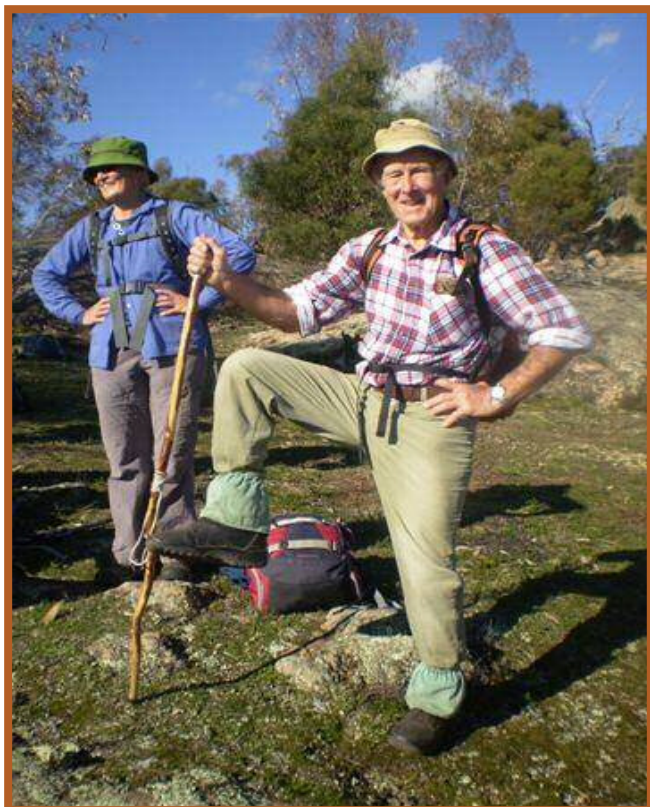
The inaugural meeting of the Walking Group was in September 1980, it then being under the umbrella of the Warby Range Protection Society. Only one of our living life members attended that first meeting, and that was Elizabeth Kelly, who became the first walks co-ordinator.

Interestingly, current life members, Bill Rosser, Rolf Heetel, and Helen and Adrian Twitt, were also foundation members of the Group. In an initial surge of enthusiasm, 78 members joined in that first year.

Sadly, another life member, Helen Curtis, who was an instrumental founding secretary, and leader of the first walk, died earlier this year.

Adrian Twitt led the first weekend walk in November 1981, to Mount Feathertop, accompanied by Helen Twitt and their three children, with the participating members of the group staying at the Wangaratta Ski Lodge.

Rolf Heetel led his first walk on Mount Buffalo in April 1982, while Bill Rosser led his first walk jointly with his wife, Joy (life member, now deceased), to the Rose River Valley later in 1982.



Many of those whom the Group (and later, the Club) awarded life membership, led walks, and usually became key personnel in the organization.

Murray Shaw and Alan Raison (see photo) were both awarded life memberships in 2010.

Murray became a walks co-ordinator, and president of the Club, and typically led hard walks which he almost sprinted.

Alan, our oldest current member, like Murray, joined the Club prior to it being reconstituted as the Warby Range Bushwalkers Inc in 1994. Alan has served on the committee, and still is a regular walker with us. [Adrian Twitt]

### North Wangaratta Wetlands

Visitors to the environs of Reedy Creek will be able to aesthetically enjoy the North Wangaratta treasure thanks to the completion of a two-year project.

Interpretive signs were installed to educate visitors about Reedy Creek's flora and fauna, while seats and tables were implemented,

A series of bollards were put in place in a bid to create better access for vehicles while minimising compaction and damage to stream banks.

The final stage of the project comes on the back of the removal of woody weed in November 2013, and the planting of 400 Riparian woodland understorey species last September.

[condensed from the Wangaratta Chronicle, August 21]

### Mount Bogong Rescue

An Albury skier who sustained leg injuries following an accident on Mount Bogong was the subject of an alpine rescue in mid-August.

The 43-year-old male who was skiing with a group of friends called for help on a Tuesday night at around 6pm, and search and rescue crews from Falls Creek Ski Patrol, Birkebeiners, with SES personnel from Bright and Tallangatta reached the man in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

Senior Constable Chris Morris, from Victoria Police Search and Rescue, said "the man sustained a possible broken leg and fractured hip, and was located about 650 metres down a gully near Cleve Cole Hut".

"Rescue personnel stayed with him and made sure he was stable and, when they were able to, began the process of winching him up the gully. A helicopter made a couple of passes over the area to check access, but cloud cover made it impossible.

[condensed from the Wangaratta Chronicle, August 14]

[Cleve Cole Hut was built in 1937-38 as a memorial to pioneer skier Cleve Cole, who died as a result of injuries received on Mount Bogong in 1936. He was transported to Omeo Hospital, where he later died. Read all about it either *Huts in the Victorian Alps*, (Klaus Hueneke); *Ski-ing into History* (Janis Lloyd) or *Ski-ing the High Plains* (Harry Stephenson)]

### Federation Walks—Bushwalking Victoria

The 2015 Federation Walks are being hosted, and organised, by Bayside Bushwalking Club, and the Great Dividing Trail Association. Walks will be held in the Victorian Goldfields and Spa Country around Daylesford and Hepburn Springs, on the weekend of 24-25 October 2015. More details at [www.fedwalks.org.au](http://www.fedwalks.org.au).



## **Mount Beauty, Weekend of Walks**

Saturday, November 7 and Sunday, November 8, 2015 – all new walks for the club to experience.

### **Saturday, November 7**

(Leaving from the Mount Beauty Information Centre, Kiewa Valley Highway, Mount Beauty)

NAME	GRADING	Km RETURN	Altitude gained - metres	Comments
See Sunday below - walks around Mt Beauty	Easy or Easy Medium	See below	some	Maps will be provided
Big Hill to Big Hill Lookout Tower	Easy/Medium	8	385	12 km drive to start of walk
Big Hill to Spring Saddle	Medium	10	385	12 km drive to start of walk
Big Hill to Bald Hill	Medium/Hard	14	564	12 km drive to start of walk
Big Hill to Bogong Jack Hut (Below Mt Fainter North)	Hard	20	564	12 km drive to start of walk

### **Sunday, November 8** – walkers can choose from any of the following venues

NAME	GRADING	Km RETURN	Hours return	Comments
Survey Track Walk	Easy Medium	4.5	2	Maps will be provided
Mt Beauty River walk	Easy	4	1	Maps will be provided
Mt Beauty Gorge Walk	Easy	2.8	1.5	Maps will be provided
Mt Beauty Pondage walk	Easy	3	1	Maps will be provided
Mt Beauty Rock Pools walk	Easy	1.2	½	Maps will be provided
Mt Beauty to West Kiewa Power station outlet tunnel	Easy/Medium	7	2.5	Maps will be provided

**Accommodation** – Tawonga Caravan Park, 117 Mountain Creek Rd, Tawonga 3697, 03 57 54442

Accommodation in a cottage, cabins, onsite vans, powered sites or unpowered sites. All the rates seem quite reasonable.

Walkers are encouraged to stay here for two nights to make the Saturday start at 9.00am from Mt. Beauty much easier, unless you want to leave Wangaratta at 7.00am on the Saturday morning.