

WARBY RANGE
BUSHWALKERS
2016



**WARBY RANGE
BUSHWALKERS Inc.**

FUN . FITNESS . FRIENDSHIP

www.warbybushwalkers.org.au

WALKS PROGRAM JANUARY – MARCH 2016

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

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

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|---|---|--------------|---|
| Sunday 13 th December | McFarlanes Hill, please note change of date from previous program. | E | Chris, 5722 4876 |
| Friday 18 th to Sunday 20 th December | Watchbed Creek to Mountain Creek via Mount Bogong. | H | Bob, 5766 2773 |
| Thursday 31 st December & Friday 1 st January | New Years Eve and New Years Day. Mitta Mitta | E & H | Jeanette, 5721 6514 or 0417 546 974 |
| Tuesday 12 th January | Killawarra Forest Spring Walk. | E | Pat, 5722 9173 |
| Sunday 17 th January | Mount Emu, near the King Valley | M/H | Pat, 5722 9173. |
| Saturday 30 th January | Ovens River, Bright and Porepunkah | E | Andy, 5721 7922 |
| Wednesday 10 th February | Wagirra Trail, Albury | E | Chris, 5722 4876 |
| Saturday 13 th & Sunday 14 th February | Harrietville, The Razorback and Harrietville environs walk. | E to H | Chris, 5722 4876 |
| Sunday 28 th February | Mount Buffalo National Park, Lady Bath Falls and Rollasons Falls, or Eurobin Creek Picnic Area to Rollasons Falls. | E & M/H | Jeanette, 5721 6514 |
| Wednesday 2 nd March | Yackandandah Ramble. | E | Helen, 5721 5327 |
| Monday 8 th February | Walks Planning and General meeting. | | Karen's 7pm |
| Saturday 5 th March to Sunday 6 th March | Falls Creek weekend, walks from Watchbed Creek to as far as Crow's Nest on Saturday. Tawonga Huts and/or Mount Jaithmathang (1852m) on Sunday. | E, E/M & M/H | Bob, 5766 2773 |
| Saturday 12 th March to Thursday 17 th March | Adele's AAWT Mount Speculation to Mount Skene. Any assistance to transport the multi day walkers to, and from, this walk would be greatly appreciated. Book by end January. | | Contact Adele, 5727 9501 for further info. |
| Saturday 12 th March | Option of a day walk from Mount Howitt. Please register your interest with Jeanette as this walk is subject to accessibility. | H | Jeanette, 5721 6514 |
| Saturday 19 th March | Killawarra Forest orienteering and navigation walk | E | John, 5727 9166 |
| Monday 21 st March | AGM, Vine Hotel, meeting at 7pm. Dinner from 6pm. Book in with Bob by Saturday 19 th March | | Bob, 5766 2773 |
| Friday 25 th March to Tuesday 29 th March | Adele's AAWT Mount Skene to Stronachs Camp. Any assistance to transport the multi day walkers to, and from, this walk would be greatly appreciated. Book by end February. | | Contact Adele, 5727 9501 for further info. |
| Sunday 10 th to Saturday 16 th April | Week away, Wilson's Prom. | | |

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| <p>Sunday 13th December. McFarlanes Hill. Chris, 5722 4876. <i>Please note change of date from previous program.</i> An easy walk of about 10km, on undulating hills close to Wodonga. Great views along the way, and from One Tree Hill.</p> |
| <p>Friday 18th to Sunday 20th December. Watchbed Creek to Mountain Creek, via Mount Bogong. Bob, 5766 2773 A three day hard walk with pack on back. Friday night to Ropers Hut, Saturday night to Cleve Cole Hut. Sunday to Mount Bogong, then finish at Mountain Creek.</p> |
| <p>Thursday 31st December to Friday 1st January. New Years Eve & New Years Day. Jeanette, 0417 546 974 or 5721 6514. A combination of easy walks of about 8km, mostly under shade covered undulating terrain, close to Mitta Mitta township, and a short, steep, hard walk of about 8km on Mount Welcome. Great views over Mitta Mitta, and the valley. Dinner and live entertainment at the Mitta Mitta pub, on the banks of the Snowy Creek on New Year's Eve. Accommodation options include self-contained cabins to powered/unpowered camping sites at Magorra Caravan Park, ph 02 6072 3568, on the Mitta River, or stay at the Mitta Pub 02 6072 3541. Book your own accommodation.</p> |
| <p>Tuesday 12th January, Killawarra Forest Spring Walk. Pat Kuhle, 5722 9173 An easy undulating walk of about 8km taking in Spring Track at the Killawarra Forest.</p> |
| <p>Sunday 17th January, Mount Emu. Pat Kuhle, 5722 9173 A medium to hard walk of about 18km at yet another Mount Emu. Some steep terrain, with views to Mount Buffalo.</p> |
| <p>Saturday 30th January Ovens River, Bright and Porepunkah. Andy, 5721 7922 An easy, mostly level walk, about 12km following, and crossing, the Ovens River from Bright to Porepunkah and return.</p> |
| <p>Wednesday 3rd February. Instruction on how to use the club's GPS devices. Bob, 5766 2773. For those interested in learning more about these safety devices, Chris will give instruction on how they can easily be used by club members on future walks. A sausage sizzle in Merriwa Park, followed by instruction in the vicinity.</p> |
| <p>Wednesday 10th February. Wagirra Trail, Albury Chris, 5722 4876 An easy / medium 16km walk on bush tracks shaded by river red gums, downstream from Norieul Park to Wonga Wetlands and Horseshoe Lagoon, with some local loops to add variety.</p> |
| <p>Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th February, Mount Feathertop, Razorback and Harrietville environs. Chris, 5722 4876 A weekend of walks from a base camp at Harrietville Caravan Park from Friday. Saturday's walks being the much loved ridgeline walk along The Razorback to Mount Feathertop. A hard walk of about 22km overall, setting off on the walk (boots on gravel) at 8am. Sunday's walk will be an easy walk within the environs of Harrietville.</p> |
| <p>Saturday 27th February OR Sunday 28th February, Mount Buffalo NP. Jeanette, 5721 6514 Two short easy walks, of about 6km total, to Lady Bath Falls and Rollasons Falls, or a medium to hard walk (about 9km) from the Eurobin Creek Picnic Area to Rollasons Falls.</p> |
| <p>Wednesday 2nd March. Yackandandah Ramble. Helen, 5721 5327 A pleasant 6km walk covering the outskirts of 'Yack' and its 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.</p> |
| <p>Monday 8th February, Walks Planning and General meeting at Karen's 7pm</p> |
| <p>Saturday 5th to Sunday 6th March. Falls Creek weekend. Bob, 5766 2773 Accommodation available Friday 4th March, and Saturday March 5th @ \$36 per person per night. Walks varying from easy, easy/med and medium/hard starting a Watchbed Creek to as far as Crows Nest on Saturday. On Sunday an easy/med return 9km walk to Tawonga Huts and/or a medium walk of 13km to Mount Jaithmathang (1852m), all with views.</p> |
| <p>Saturday 12th March to Thursday 17th March, Labour day weekend. Adele's AAWT Mount Speculation to Mount Mt Skene. Adele 5727 9501 for further info. Book by end January. Any assistance to transport the multi day walkers to and from this walk would be greatly appreciated.</p> |
| <p>Sat 12th March, Labour day weekend. Mount Howitt. Jeanette, 5721 6514. Option of a day walk from Mount Howitt with the multi day walkers, please register your interest with Jeanette as this is subject to accessibility. Many would describe this as one of the must-do hikes in the Alpine NP. Mount Speculation supplies a grandstand view. The eye is drawn to the Razor and Viking in the east. There are sharp climbs up Mount Buggery, and Cross Cut Saw, with excellent views east into the Terrible Hollow, and west to the headwaters of the Howqua and King Rivers.</p> |
| <p>Sat 19th March Killawarra Forest, John Kerby, 5727 9166 An easy walk including an orienteering and navigation challenge at Killawarra Forest.</p> |
| <p>Monday 21st March AGM, Vine Hotel, Meeting at 7pm Vine Hotel. Arrive 6/6.30pm for dinner. Book by Saturday 19th March with Bob, 5766 2773</p> |
| <p>Friday 25th March to Tuesday 29th March. Adele's AAWT Mount Skene to Stronachs Camp. Contact Adele, 5727 9501 for further info. Book by end February. Any assistance to transport the multi day walkers to and from this walk would be greatly appreciated.</p> |
| <p>Sunday 10th to Saturday 16th April, 2016. Week away, Wilson's Prom.</p> |



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NEWSLETTER 1 (January), 2016

A NEW YEAR OF WALKS

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2016 Walking Year. The 2015 walking year was action packed as usual, with venues covering most of the North-east, and a very successful foray to the Central Coast of New South Wales (see photo below).



However, there is still plenty of action in the remaining weeks of this year.

During December we have the riverside Wahgunyah - Corowa Walk (day walk on the 2nd); Mount Buffalo Walk (day or weekend, 5/6th); McFarlanes Hill (day walk, 13th—please note the new date) and the Falls Creek Weekend (19/20th). See the current Walks Program for more details of these walks.

The last walk of the year will be held at Mitta Mitta, on New Years Eve and New Years Day.

The itinerary includes an easy walk close to Mitta Mitta township, and the Mount Welcome hike, a hard walk of about 8km.

On New Year's Eve, there will be dinner at the Mitta Pub, with live entertainment. More details from Jeanette, 0417 546 974 .

Christmas Party, 2015

Please make a note in your diary for Friday, December 11th. This is the date for the Warby Walkers Christmas Party, to be held 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.

To get to the venue, drive through the main street of Glenrowan, past the Ned Kelly statue. Proceed on the road towards Melbourne, with the Glenrowan Football oval, and a large dam, on your left.

Drive over the Hume Freeway overpass, then turn immediately left, 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.

Annual General Meeting, 2016

Our ANNUAL DINNER and AGM will be held at the historic Vine Hotel on Monday, March 21st, and everyone (including family and friends) is welcome to attend. Dinner will commence at 6.30pm, and bookings for dinner should be made (directly with the Hotel, 5721 2605) by Friday, March 18.

Also, please remember that subscriptions fall due at the AGM.

If you are thinking of joining the Committee, then the nomination form can be found under "General Information" on our website, and at the back of this Newsletter.

WEEK AWAY – WILSONS PROM

Sun 10th – Sat 16th April 2016

Planning for our 2016 big adventure is well under way for what promises to be a great five days of walking options at The Prom in 2016.

Deposits have been received for all beds in the 24 bed lodge, with one person on the waiting list.

If you haven't booked, and are now interested, or have any questions, please contact one of the Week Away Committee (Karen 5722 2540, Deb 5766 2340 or Leanne 5727 0397).

As it is still five months away, we may be able to offer you a bed if anyone needs to cancel. Camping options and small private cabins are also available for individuals to book.

All participants should have received notification of their booking in early October. More information will be sent out late January, with final payments details, which will be due mid February.

Tawonga Gap to Freeburgh, September 5

There were 13 participants on this 18km walk, and having completed a car shuttle, we gathered at the starting point, the car park at the scenic Tawonga Gap. The weather was fine, sunny and cool as we set off for the first of the three sections of this walk.

The initial seven kilometres were on a 4WD track, walking on the ridge top, through mountain ash forests of the west side of the Kiewa valley. As we walked in a southerly direction we started at an altitude of 890m. Then we walked mainly up and down hill tops with the maximum height of 1130m being reached. This was the hardest part of the walk along the Tawonga Gap Track.

The second part of four kilometres was from where we turned

east onto the Simmonds Gap Track. This was undulating or mainly downhill, also on 4WD tracks. Lunch was held near Simmonds Gap, on a rocky outcrop before the actual steep descent to Simmonds Gap. We could see glimpses of Mount Bogong, Mount Fainter, Big Hill and Mount. Feathertop, and there had been recent snow on these peaks.



The last seven kilometres was all downhill on a 4WD track from Simmonds Gap, down Dungey Creek Track, to the junction of Dungey Creek Track and Big Flat Track, where we had a car waiting for us in the Snowy Creek Valley, six kilometres from the Freeburgh Bridge across the Ovens River.

The walk was graded as “Medium/Hard” and Hard in parts. The car shuffle, both at the start of the day, and the end of the day took time. We left Apex Park Wangaratta at 8.00am, with two cars travelling to the junction of Dungey Track and Big Hill Track. We left one car at the end of the walk, on the upstream side of Snowy Creek, so that at the end of the walk participants did not have to traverse Snowy Creek, but could be ferried across by 4WD.

The car shuffle meant that walkers had to stand around for 15 – 20 mins at Tawonga Gap. At the end of the walk participants enjoyed a cuppa, whilst the drivers were ferried back to Tawonga Gap to collect the cars, and return to Snowy Creek. This took about 50 minutes, which was no problem considering the fine weather.

[Bob Shaw]

Hume and Hovell Walking Track, September 7-12

On the Monday after Father’s Day, five of us travelled to Berremangra, near Yass, where a rustic cottage awaited us. The day was cold with showers passing through, so the arrival to a roaring fire was much appreciated.

Tuesday dawned not much better with drizzle. It was hard to leave the warm fire, but Peter our guide from the National Heritage Trust awaited us for our tour of Cooma Cottage, where Hamilton Hume lived after he completed his epic journey from near Yass to Corio Bay-Geelong.

Peter had given us some good tips as to where to go. After a lovely warm drink at the cafe we continued on our walk to Black Range Road, getting side tracked along the way to go geocaching. The locals even got in on the act to help us find one. I think the technical term for that is mugging.

Off to Burrinjuck, where our new place of residence wasn’t quite up to our rustic cottage, but the view from the windows of the sun setting over the lake more than made up for it.



The next day we drove around to Wee Jasper, left our fisherman, who still hadn’t caught any fish, and walked to the boat drop off point. It was then back to one vehicle where the second team member decided to leave us for a road tour of the immediate area.

Friday was the last day for the fisherman and his wife. One final fish, and the bit of walk that I hadn’t done, and it was goodbye as we headed for home, while the other four did the bush section and best part of the walk around the lake. This consisted of gurgling streams, views to Wee Jasper, and a final goodbye to the mob of kangaroos.

Thanks to Ian the fisherman and support driver (pity about the fish) Trevor, Janette, Sylvia and Therese for a truly lovely walk.

[Adele Ritchie]

Winton Wetlands, September 9

Winton Wetlands were formerly Lake Mokoan; however, prior to the creation of the Lake (in 1971), this was a wetland system, so things have gone full circle. The wetlands were flooded to create Lake Mokoan, an off-river irrigation storage for the waters of the Broken River, which rises north-east of Mansfield.



In 2006 the Lake was decommissioned as a storage, and following this decision, water was no longer siphoned out of the River, and restoration of the original wetland habitat was commenced.

On this occasion, eight walkers completed the 10kms of the Spit Walk on the southern “shore” of the wetlands. This was our first official walk at Winton, and will certainly not be the last! In lovely sunny but windy conditions, we ambled out along the sandy track to the “island” enjoying superb views of the wetland, the amazing

bird life, and one very sleepy plump red bellied black snake which lay in our path. We had lunch at the superb new Hub facility, a popular venue for walkers and gawkers.

[Andy Kimber]

Mount Emu, September 12

Eskdale Spur is one of the main geographical features of the North-east, and extends from the northern ramparts of Mount Bogong (Victoria's highest peak, 1986m) through to Lake Hume at Tallangatta. This is the longest trafficable ridge system in Australia, and includes Mount Emu (1360m) the venue for this great adventure.

There were 14 participants for this medium graded walk, and the distance covered was about 18km (11.2km ascent and 7km descent), taking about nine hours to complete.

The action began at Trappers Gap, on the dry weather road between Mount Beauty and Mitta Mitta township, and from here we took the Eskdale Spur Track.



This took us in a westerly direction (largely uphill, then horizontal) to an intersection, where we came across a burnt out hut. From here we kept heading west for another 10 minutes, until we came to a clearing with a large green electricity pylon (carrying electricity from the Dartmouth Dam hydro-electric station), and this made a good place for a rest.

We continued walking west for another 40 minutes to Mount Emu, with the peak visible through the trees. The track then became very steep for about 20 - 30 mins, until we reached a large clearing at a corner where, if you look east towards the electricity pylon, about a kilometre away you can see the peaks of Kosciuszko National Park.

From the summit of Mount Emu we could see Mount Bogong, the Fainters, then Mount Feathertop, then Mounts Cobbler/Stirling/Buller, as well as Mount Buffalo. There is carpet at the top of Mount Emu as this is a launching place for hang gliders; more notable was the magnificent views of the Kiewa Valley, in particular, Tawonga, Tawonga South and the East and West Kiewa Rivers.

The return journey took about two hours, with some more great views, this time of Mount Bogong and the Fainters.

[Bob Shaw]

[When the powerlines for Dartmouth were being installed (in the early 1980s) there was concern about the visual impact of power pylons in pristine bushland (particularly from the top of Mount

Bogong), as well as the initial impact of huge swathes of land being cleared to facilitate vehicular access for cable laying.

The visual impact of the power pylons was minimised by careful placement, and by painting them green. Getting the cables installed was far more ingenious.

Instead of clearing land between all of the pylons to lay the cables (normal practice), model aircraft were employed in many locations to fly very fine fibres between some pylons; these were then used to drag progressively larger fibres across the void, followed by ropes and then stronger ropes. Eventually, the ropes were used to pull the power cables into position. Editor]

Gapsted Hills, September 19

Thirteen hardy walkers presented for the challenge of walking Stoney Creek Road, Gapsted up to West End Track, and then traversing the ridge line of the Stanley State Forest (Gapsted Block).

The walk started with a pretty stroll up the Gapsted Valley before we started the climb of 560m over 5.7km to the ridge line, which took 1½ hrs.

Views of the Ovens Valley provided distraction whilst we paused to catch our breath, as did occasional wildflowers, however the steepness of the last section took all our concentration to push to the top.

After a welcome morning tea recovery, we resumed the up and down of the ridge-line, enjoying views on both sides through the Stringybark forest.

A further 4.5 km and 1½ hrs brought us to the junction with Link Track, providing our lunch spot.

After a good rest, we began a very steep descent, dropping 400m in three kilometres, including going off-road for a kangaroo track down a spur through the forest.



This provided a pleasant finish to the walk, and brought us out immediately above the Gapsted Winery.

Given that we had a hard 4.5hr walk, and 13km of hills, we relished the civilised setting overlooking the vineyard, enjoying Prosecco or coffee (or both); toasting Irene's birthday and sharing a Birthday Carrot Cake provided by Glenda.

We think it would be a good plan to challenge ourselves to find as many walks as possible that end at a winery or pub, particularly when there is a birthday to celebrate!

[Cecily Fletcher]

Barrys Falls, October 10

Masons Track, just north of Eldorado, on the Woolshed Valley Road, was the chosen starting point for this walk, with 11 walkers enjoying this easy 10km route on a warm and sunny day.

The walk to Barry Falls via this particular circuit is a relatively easy meander through the south east corner of Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park.

We spotted Grey Kangaroos and Black Wallabies immediately, which was a great thrill, particularly for our American friends who had come along for the outing.

A gentle ascent saw us to an early morning tea, and then down the short, but steep, Currawang Track, at the bottom of which we encountered a large goanna sidling up a tree. He seemed as curious about us as we were of him. 5ft long, or was it 6 or 7? Varanus gouldii we think.

Not long after, we dined at the Falls. Not so much water coming over after our recent hot spell, but a beautiful, unmapped spot regardless.

An easy wander back to the cars saw us complete the walk by early afternoon. A short stop at the Eldorado Pub for refreshments, a chance catch up with the Finedons, and then goodbyes.

Next time we'll do this walk in late winter to maximise potential for more water coming over the Falls. [Ian Slater]

Sunrise Track (and more), October 14

Seven walkers set out in still, fine and warm conditions for this adventure, covering the undulating Quarry, and then part of the Sunrise, Bracken and Taminick Loop tracks, before descending Colson's Track towards Taminick Road.



We made it back to the car park via the east side of the range, disturbing many kangaroos, and observing beekeepers at work. The spring flowers are well over the peak of blossoming, while the gorgeous grass trees have decided not to flower this year.

Only four Xanthorrhoeas were seen with their prominent flowering spikes displayed in the approximately 8kms covered - suggesting a very dry year to come.

[Andy Kimber]

Warby Heritage Loop, October 25

The Warby Heritage Loop passes through bushland on the northern side of the Warby Range, and has recently been sign-posted so as to help explain some of the features found on the walk.



On this occasion, a small group headed off in a pleasant early morning breeze from Booth's Winery through Spring growth. We made our way up the creek valley, stopping to read the informative signs pointing out the old sawmill, sheep wash, wool scour and several dry stone dam walls.

There was some water coming over the falls and cascades, and in pools, following good rain during the week. We enjoyed wonderful views back over the valley and Winton Wetland. Lots of paper daisies other small wildflowers, also trees in flower, so that bird song accompanied us.

A couple of wallabies were startled from their rest in the shade and we came across a red bellied black snake and later a brown snake on the track, both took little notice of us.

We also came across a friendly group from Benalla Walking Club. They were easily convinced to return down to Booth's, who welcomed with us to enjoy lunch, and a few drinks under the trees.

A congenial and noisy hour or so was enjoyed by our now large group in the warm middle of the day.

We were glad to now be able to drive home as we farewelled the Benalla group, who needed to reluctantly trudge up the hill to their cars. All decided this was the way to tackle the walk!!

[Karen Davis]

AAWT - Mount St Bernard - Mount Speculation - October 31 to November 3

Starting on the Saturday we headed up to Mount Hotham, with conditions getting worse with every kilometre. Reaching Mount St Bernard, and our drop off point, our kind drivers felt so sorry for us, they handed over their umbrellas.

We decided to take the alternative 4WD track around The Twins, instead of going up and over. The rain was not heavy, and we reached Selwyn Saddle semi-dry to be greeted by copious 4WD vehicles.

After using various rocks to try and pound our pegs in, we headed off to water, bringing back leeches in various sizes, (I thought The Barry Mountains were supposed to be arid).

Sunday dawned overcast as we started the climb up to Mount Selwyn, stopping to take pictures at all the false tops, down then up to Selwyn South, then down to a 4WD track and a tank.

At the tank we picked up enough water for the next 24 hours, as there wasn't really anywhere to camp at the tank.



Monday was a better day with glimpses of the sun, and we were off to Barry Saddle for lunch and then The Viking.

Again we were misled, thinking we had reached the top, only to find the track went ever upwards. At a lovely meadow, the rocky tor was finally spotted. Just down from the summit, we were advised to take the second gully down, but there was no track, and it was getting late so we chose the chimney.

Packs were dropped off the cliff and various routes were tried to get down the gully. All proved difficult, with the only male being called on from all four ladies for assistance. Poor Trevor was running from one outcrop to the next.

Finally we were all safely down, and Viking Saddle was reached, where we shared the camp site with our two friends from the Selwyn mists.

Tuesday, our last day, more rock scrambling, around The Razor, over Mount Despair, down to Catherine Saddle, around Mount Speculation and there's Trevor number 2 waiting to pick us up.

A pleasant drive back to Moyhu, and Wangaratta, with all the sights being pointed out to our Melbourne friends.

A big big thank you to our drivers who, without their support, we wouldn't have been able to do the trip. [Adele Ritchie]

Mount Feathertop, November 7

This walk was slotted into the Walks Program at short notice, to make up for the cancellation of the Mount Beauty weekend.

Mount Feathertop (1922m) is Victoria's second highest mountain, and has several access points for intrepid bushwalkers.



The most popular route is via The Razorback, a ridge system that runs from near Diamantina Hut (on the Great Alpine Road) all the way through to the summit, with the choice of returning via the ridge, or taking the steep descent to Harrietville.

However, on this occasion, seven club members climbed all the way to the summit by walking up Bungalow Spur from Harrietville, and then back down again.

The weather was perfect, and the walk was very enjoyable in the warm and clear conditions.

After lunch at Federation Hut, the final climb to the summit was completed, with no wind being experienced on top – remarkable!!

We then walked quickly down the track back into the Ovens Valley, enjoying those superb views of the mountains of the divide, plus Mount Buffalo.

[Trevor Turnbull]

Kellys Lookout and Cave, November 22

Twenty four adventurous walkers set off from Nieoffs Road (in the Woolshed Valley) for this quest to visit the Lookout and Cave, as used by the Kelly Gang in the 1870s and 1880s.

We cut across to CFA Track (not marked on all maps) and enjoyed some amazing views of the Warby Ranges, Mount Buffalo, the Stanley Plateau and Mount Big Ben.

The Kelly Lookout was fairly easily located, and we enjoyed a five-star locality for lunch, with more great views, this time of the Woolshed Valley.



We then set off on the tricky part of the day's entertainment, that of finding the Cave. This overlooks the site of the once bustling gold mining township of Sebastapol, and the scenic Woolshed Valley—seriously deep into Kelly Country.

The first part of this cross country foray went well, but we gradually moved over to the west of our objective, and missed finding the landmark 'big slab of granite, that you simply cannot miss' which leads north to the Cave.

After several attempts to re-set our course, it was decided to turn for home, leaving the Cave for another day, and adding to the mystique of the bushranger days of our history.

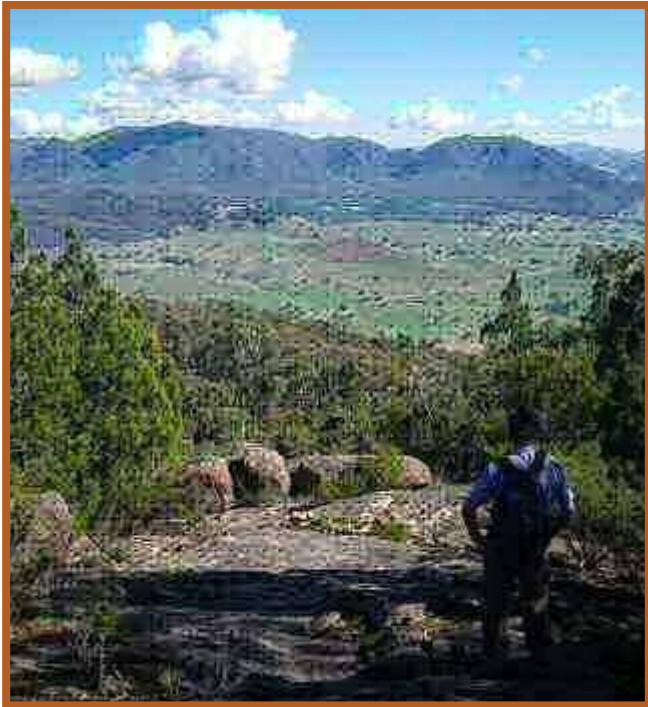
The walk was estimated to be about 14km in length, but was in fact, about 18km, and as the temperature was about 28, this made for an enjoyable, but tiring day.

[Chris McLaughlin]

MISC NEWS —————

Search and Rescue

A bushwalker who was lost for two nights in remote bushland, in Victoria's northeast, said he was fit and well after his ordeal. A Police Air Wing pilot spotted the 73-year-old sitting on a rock in Burrowa - Pine Mountain National Park just before 9am on Tuesday, October 7. He became lost after setting out for a bushwalk on the previous Sunday morning.



He was winched to safety, and taken to Corryong Hospital suffering from dehydration, but later discharged. The man left a note with his neighbour at 7am on Sunday saying he was going walking in the Park near his home in Guys Forest, a small community between Wodonga and Corryong. Police and Parks Victoria began a search for him on Monday morning when his neighbour raised the alarm. [condensed from The Australian, October 7, 2015]

Walking Poles

If you have ever debated whether to take your walking poles on a walk, or leave them at home, this article will be of interest.

A study at Northumbria University showed that trekking-poles help hikers maintain muscle function. In the study, 37 active men and women were split into two groups and asked to hike up and down Snowdon, the highest mountain in England and Wales.

One group used, trekking poles while the other group made the climb unaided. Each group ate the same meal on the night before; the same breakfast, carried similar weight in day packs, and took the same scheduled rests during both the ascent and descent.

The results showed that there was significantly less muscle soreness in the group using trekking poles. This group demonstrated a reduced loss of strength, and a faster recovery after the trek. Soreness peaked at 24-hours in both groups, but was significantly lower in the trekking-pole group. Pole manufacturers have suggested that poles can reduce forces on lower-limb joints by as much as 25%. However, the existing research has been restricted to the laboratory, and this was the first documented study in the real environment.

The results present strong evidence that poles reduce the extent of muscle damage during a day's mountain trekking.



The benefits of poles in reducing load to the lower limbs and increasing stability could also help avoid injury. It is often the reduced reaction time and position sense, associated with damaged muscles that can lead to further injury..

[condensed from Trekking Poles Reduce Exercise-Induced Muscle Injury during Mountain Walking Journal: Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise, 2010]

Drivers and Walkers needed

Adele's AAWT Walks, Mount Speculation to Mount Skene (Saturday 12th -Thursday 17th March) has scope for an easy day walk to Mount Skene. We require people to pick us from the Jamieson—Licola Road on the 17th, and if you would like to help with this, then there are a couple of options.

Either drive to Mount Skene on the Wednesday, then walk into meet us; or drive to Mount Skene Tuesday afternoon, then walk into Rumpff Saddle (about one kilometre), camp, and then walk to meet us on the Wednesday. The driving is on a sealed or metalled bush road, no problems in the dry, and it is all very scenic.

We also need drivers for the following stage of the AAWT, Mount Skene to Stronachs Camp (25th March to 29th of March). More details from Adele, 5727 9501.

Facebook Page

Warby Range Bushwalkers has put its toes in the water of social media, with a Facebook page. You don't have to register with FB, or have your own page, to go on and see photos of where we are, or have been. One of the great things is being able to share photos with others while you are still out on the walk!

If you are on FB, and would like to post your own photos, let me know and I will provide you editing status, so they go up on the 'News Feed' section. Others with editing status include: Kerri Davenport, June Brown, Andy Kimber and Margot O'Halloran.

If you don't want photos of you on FB, please let me/those listed above know. Please visit, and 'Like' the page, as this helps build, and promote the page to others. It is linked to the Website, so people can find their way to the Newsletters and Membership details, but mostly it is for the benefit of members, and their families, and as a way to share photos and experiences in a timely way.

Put this address in your browser to find your way there:
www.facebook.com/warbybushwalkers



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Committee Nomination Form

I hereby nominate _____

for the position of _____

on the 2016--17 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



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WALKS PROGRAM, APRIL – JUNE 2016

If the walk leader(s) cannot be contacted to book into a walk,
phone Jeanette 0417 546 974, 5721 6514 or Michael 0447 617 880, 5722 1080.

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

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------|--|
| Monday, 21st March | AGM at the Vine Hotel. Dinner from 6pm, meeting at 7pm. Book by Saturday, 19th March. | | Bob, 5766 2773 |
| Saturday, 2nd April | The Back Wall, Mount Buffalo | M | Lesley, 5728 1740 |
| Sunday, 10th, to Saturday, 16th April | Week away at Wilsons Prom | | See website for details |
| Wednesday, 20th April | Chiltern Village | E | Chris, 5722 4876 |
| Saturday, 30th April | Tawonga Gap to Mongan's Bridge, Kiewa Valley | H | Bob Shaw, 5766 2773 |
| Monday, 2nd May | Walks Planning and General Meeting, 7pm | | 57 Franklin Street |
| Friday 6th, to Sunday 8th May | Hume & Hovell Track | E | Contact Adele for further info. 5727 9501 |
| Saturday, 7th May | Tabletop Park to Kinross Pub | M | Contact Jeanette for day walk. 5721 6514 or 0417 546 974 |
| Sunday, 8th May | Kinross Pub to Hovell Tree, Albury | M | Contact Jeanette for day walk. 5721 6514 or 0417 546 974 |
| Friday, 13th May | Mullinmur Billabongs, Wangaratta | E | Karen, 5722 2540 |
| Friday, 20th, to Sunday, 22nd May | Weekend at Mirimbah, includes Craigs Hut Walk | E, M, H | Cecily, 5727 1340 |
| Saturday, 4th June | Myrrhee Ridge, King Valley | M & M/H | Glenda, 5721 5114 |
| Saturday, 4th June | Dinner at the Sydney Hotel, Wangaratta Book by Thursday 2nd June | | Glenda, 5721 5114 |
| Wednesday, 15th June | Eldorado Hidden Valley | E | Andy, 5721 7922 |
| Sunday, 19th June | Carboor Ridge, west of Myrtleford | M | Jeanette, 0417 546 974 |

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| <p>Monday, 21st March. AGM at the Vine Hotel. Dinner from 6pm, meeting at 7pm. Book in with Bob by Saturday, 19th March, 5766 2773.</p> |
| <p>Saturday, 2nd April. The Back Wall, Mount Buffalo. Lesley, 5728 1740 A medium walk of about 12km along bush tracks and some rocky areas to Mount Buffalo's Back Wall. Views into the Buckland Valley, over the Plateau, to the Horn and of the sheer rock face that is the Back Wall.</p> |
| <p>Sunday, 10th to Saturday 16th April. Week away at Wilsons Prom. See website for details.</p> |
| <p>Wednesday, 20th April. Chiltern Village Wall. Chris, 5722 4876 An easy walk of approximately 10km in, and around, Chiltern Village taking in a mix of natural and man-made features. Autumn colours are expected at this time of year.</p> |
| <p>Saturday, 30th April. Tawonga Gap to Mongans Bridge. Bob, 5766 2773 A new walk from Tawonga Gap to Mongan's Bridge on 4WD tracks along the western ridge of the Kiewa Valley. About 23km, with excellent views of Mt Bogong, Mt Emu and Mt Tawonga. Most of the walk is elevated at 1000m+, which is unusual, and hence the vegetation will be different. A final descent through a dairy farm to the Mount Beauty-Dederang Road.</p> |
| <p>Monday, 2nd May. Walks Planning and General Meeting, 7pm, 57 Franklin Street.</p> |
| <p>Friday 6th to Sunday. 8th May, Hume & Hovell multi day walk. Adele, 5727 9501 Over two days, walking about 36km of the Hume & Hovell Track. Generally level walking, with a side trip to Budgignig Hill for views to 360° and the Aboriginal Heritage Walk. For those participating in the multi day walk, contact Adele for further info.</p> |
| <p>Saturday, 7th May. Hume & Hovell, Table Top Park to Kinross Pub. Jeanette, 0417 546 974. Joining Adele's Hume & Hovell Track multi day walk for a day. About 17km from Table Top Park to the Kinross Pub, with a side trip to Budgignig Hill for a 360° view. To participate in the day walk, contact Jeanette, 0417 546 974.</p> |
| <p>Sunday, 8th May. Kinross Pub to the Hovell Tree in Albury. Jeanette, 0417 546 974 Joining Adele's Hume & Hovell Track multi day walk for a day. Approximately 19km from the Kinross Pub to the Hovell Tree in Albury, including the Aboriginal Heritage Walk. To participate in the day walk, contact Jeanette, 0417 546 974.</p> |
| <p>Friday, 13th May. Mullinmur Billabongs. Karen, 5722 2540 An easy early morning walk of approximately 8km on our newest track along the Ovens River, and picturesque billabongs, on the edge of town. Three loops through open forest on the floodplain, featuring prolific birdlife, and a chance to spot platypus and turtles.</p> |
| <p>Friday, 20th to Sunday, 22nd May. A weekend at The Wedge, Mirimbah. Cecily, 5727 1340. A weekend at Mirimbah for easy, medium and hard walks, including to Craigs Hut. Dormitory style accommodation at The Wedge.</p> |
| <p>Saturday, 4th June. Myrree Ridge. Glenda, 5721 5114 A choice of two walks to reach the Banksdale Winery. The shorter medium walk about 8km, and a medium/hard walk of about 12km offering superb views across the Myrree Valley, and some steady climbs (steep in parts). At times on a basic track, and some cross country sections, traversing fern gullies, pastoral land and pines to reach the winery. This medium hard walk includes a 6km climb on a 4WD track, with an altitude gain of 200 metres.</p> |
| <p>Saturday, 4th June. Dinner at the Sydney Hotel, 6.30pm. Glenda, 5721 5114 Join us for a social night at the Sydney Hotel at 6.30pm. Book with Glenda by Thursday, 2nd June.</p> |
| <p>Wednesday, 15th June. Eldorado Hidden Valley. Andy, 5721 7922 A 10km easy circular walk, starting to the west of the Eldorado township, and climbing gentle slopes into hidden valleys of Chiltern - Mount Pilot National Park, before descending to the Reedy Creek Gorge, and returning to the start.</p> |
| <p>Sunday, 19th June. Carboor Ridge. Jeanette, 0417 546 974 Approx 13km walk along 4WD roads, with some medium climbs, largely following the ridgeline, and with views, including to the Hurdle Creek Valley.</p> |



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NEWSLETTER 2 (April), 2016

A NEW SEASON OF WALKS and our AGM

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.

Our ANNUAL DINNER and AGM will be held at the historic Vine Hotel on Monday, March 21st, at 7pm, and everyone (including family and friends) is welcome to attend.

Dinner will commence at 6pm, and bookings for dinner should be made with Bob Shaw (5766 2773) by Saturday, March 19.

If you are thinking of joining the Committee, then the nomination form can be found under "General Information" on our website, and at the back of this Newsletter.

Also, please remember that subscriptions fall due at the AGM (new categories of membership will be discussed at the meeting).

WEEK AWAY, 2016 – WILSONS PROM Sunday, April 10 – Saturday, April 16

Planning for our 2016 big adventure is well under way for what promises to be a great five days of walking options at Wilsons Promontory National Park.

If you haven't booked, and are interested in this coastal adventure, or have any questions, please contact one of the Week Away Committee (Karen, 5722 2540; Deb, 5766 2340 or Leanne, 5727 0397).

Mount McLeod Day Walk, December 5

This interesting walk started off from the Mount Buffalo Reservoir Car Park, with 11 club members taking part in this 16km medium graded adventure.

Most of the walk was on undulating terrain, with some quite steep downhill stretches on the walk into the camping area.

We had morning tea, about 20 minutes into the walk, and lunch after seven of the group climbed to Mount McLeod – with magnificent views across the Ovens Valley, and surrounding peaks.

On the return journey we took the shortcut track, which saved us quite a steep climb, instead traversing the side of the hill with the bonus of walking through lush ferny gullies and a lovely creek crossing.

Wildflowers were still in abundance, and a copperhead snake was startled from its resting place on the track – fortunately it went straight back into the bush!

The group split after lunch, due to some walkers' pace being a little slower, and in the lead up to Christmas, some needed to return

home for evening engagements. The remainder of the group enjoyed Pat's cuppa, most appreciated as always.

The weather was quite warm on this early summer sunny day, with the temperature estimated to have reached 25C with no breeze. [Glenda Hall]

Mount McLeod Overnight Walk, December 5-6

There were six participants for this 16km high country adventure, and we were blessed with near perfect weather conditions – fine, high 20's (35+ in the Valleys), dry with light breeze in places.

Some miscommunication about meeting time/points led to a delayed departure, and we didn't get underway until nearly mid-day, but there were no worries as we had all afternoon for an 8km walk into the campground at Mount McLeod.



The early summer wildflowers were a real treat, with trigger flowers, everlastings, vanilla lilies, showy parrot pea, pink bells, native violets, cut-leaf goodenia and many more.

Opportunities to put the packs down were welcomed, firstly clambering over a large log across the Link Track (alternative foot track section from the 4WD vehicle access track), lunch, and then taking a break for someone to return to the lunch stop for their glasses.

Packs were getting heavy however, by the time we met up with the day-trippers heading back after their visit to Mount McLeod. Luckily, it was not much further to the open grass plain that provided the campsite, under the peak.

We set up our respective tents, and renewed our energies with a cup of tea and refreshments, entertained by the emergence of camp furniture to make sure Michael and Jeanette didn't lack too many home comforts.

We'd love to see what they didn't bring – perhaps the table might come along next time?

A kilometre climb to the top of Mount McLeod provided rewarding views across the southern Alps, with Mount Bogong standing proud on the skyline. I was pleased to be able to pick out the Murrumbidgee escarpment in the East, and a fresh perspective on the major features of Mount Buffalo from this angle.



A lovely evening at the campsite was marred by the millions of mosquitos, which encouraged us to an early night, the sooner to bring the dawn. Cecily and Jan rose with the birds to watch the sunrise over the valley before breakfast and re-loading the packs.

Some of us had discovered a small waterfall, and a hidden clearing and pond, by exploring off the path by the little waterhole, and we felt we had made a new connection to the mountain by the time we headed back up the path in the freshness of the early morning.

The return walk to the carpark didn't appear as long as the walk in, taking three hours including stops along the way.

After deliberation, we again took the Link Track, which was just a little shorter and less steep than the road, and provided a little more excitement as Trevor (in the lead) stepped past a black (or tiger?) snake sleeping in the leaf litter beside the path.

We were just a little weary and glad to see the cars; it didn't take much to decide we had earned a coffee and cake at the Gorge before we returned back to Wangaratta – it was nearly lunchtime after all.

It was unanimous that this was an excellent overnight hike, providing an opportunity to test the pack and gear without overstretching the distance or climbing capacity of the legs. (Jan Heywood deserves an award for walking with the lightest pack, bringing a favourite old H-frame from the 70's for an outing). A very happy weekend activity for those who participated.

The walk was graded as moderate, and the list of hazards includes mosquitos, flies and ants.

Later in summer there may not be running water which would add to the difficulty –as it was, carrying 2.5-3 litres was plenty as water from the stream could be boiled for hot drinks and dinner.

[Cecily Fletcher]

McFarlanes Hill - Wodonga, December 13

McFarlanes Hill, on the western edge of the Wodonga urban area was the chosen venue for this *Christmas-time Walk*. The day started off warm, but didn't get overly warm, due to large banks of high level cloud.

So, with a gentle breeze to keep us refreshed, the ten of us left Fell Timber Creek Road in high spirits.

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

We had morning tea at about the 2km mark, with some nice views to the left of the track, over-looking the valley of Fell Timber Creek.

We then followed the walking track through to a stile (one of several on this route) that led immediately onto a roadway.

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

Lunch was enjoyed the rotunda at the top of the Hill, with great views of the High Country, and the Albury-Wodonga urban area.

From here we skirted around, and down, to the east, passing through a rotary gate, and then followed a line of timber back to the roadway referred to above.

Turning left at the roadway, we now made a short climb back to the stile, also referred to earlier, recrossed the stile, and made our way back along a portion of our outgoing route, turning right just over a creek, to pick up the return route, which clings to the southern (shaded) side of the ridgeline.



After our customary afternoon tea, we were back in Wangaratta about 3pm, having enjoyed an excellent walk with excellent company. [Chris McLaughlin]

Mitta Mitta – New Year 2015-2016

This interesting outing was made up of a group of walks around Mitta Mitta township, and these were completed on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. The walks were, the Mitta Mitta River Walk, Deep Gully and the Upper Pioneer Trail Walks on the 31st, and the Pioneer Mine and Mount Welcome Walks on New Year's Day.

The information for these walks can be found in the Mitta Mitta walks brochure, available at the General Store, and at mitta.com.au.

The township of Mitta Mitta was founded in the gold rush days of the late 1800s, and is situated at the confluence of the river of the same name, and the scenic Snowy Creek. Both of these streams rise on the Bogong High Plains, and until Dartmouth Dam was constructed in the early 1980's, this was the only unregulated major tributary of the Murray River.

Starting out from the Mitta Mitta Historic Park for the New Year's Eve Walk, we had flat, undulating, terrain along the riverside, then undulating terrain alongside Deep Gully, which leads uphill, away from the River.



Some of the group of ten returned to the township via Deep Gully, whilst some continued east, taking the Upper Pioneer Trail, with its great views over the Mitta Mitta Valley.

It was then down to the serious business of welcoming in the New Year down at the Mitta Mitta Hotel.

Here we enjoyed the company of several hundred other visitors, and the band of club member Michael Braendler – *Liam Blunt's Funky Rhythm Train* playing to a good crowd, dancing til the music finished in the wee hours of 1st January, 2016

For the club's first walk of the New Year, there were two walking groups, those who tackled the local loop, known as the Pioneer Mine Walk, and the more energetic who headed up to Mount Welcome (600m).

The Pioneer Mine Walk covers about a kilometre, and leads through a former mining site, with some interesting artefacts at hand, as well as some interesting micro-climate driven vegetation changes.

The Mount Welcome walk began with covering some of yesterday's walk, and then swinging off to the sign-posted turn-off. From here, a fairly constant climb took us to Mount Disappointment, and then onwards and upwards for lunch at the top of Mount Welcome.

From here, we followed Disappointment Track back down to the Omeo Highway; this provided great views, albeit with a steep descent.

Once at the Highway, we had an easy four kilometres to cover, back to the township, having made a 600m ascent/descent.

Although short, this was a hard walk, with many stops for a rest, and to have a drink.

The walk is better suited to a cooler day, probably in the autumn as the historic Snowy Creek Valley is a blaze of colour at this time.

[Jeanette Farquhar]

Killawarra Forest, January 12

This was our first mid-week walk of the New Year, and led for about seven kilometres, through very pleasing bushland.

Killawarra Forest forms the most northerly part of the Warby Ranges, and is renowned for its springtime wildflower display.

Setting off from The Camp, we followed Spring Track which formed a circuit, including Tarrawalla Track. The route was very flat; with pleasant scenery but no flowers of note. Lunch was enjoyed under the gazebo back at the Camp.

[Pat Kuhle]

Pfeiffers Winery, Wahgunyah, around Lake Moodemere, and return, January 17

Lake Moodemere is located a few kilometres downstream of Corowa/Wahgunyah, and is part of a cut-off meander of the Murray River. This is a popular area for bird watching, and for water sports, and was the replacement venue for our Sunday walk in January – the original venue being Mount Emu, near Carboor.

Lots of "7s" were involved on this enjoyable walk – there were 17 walkers on the 17th January, and a certain superb leader called Pat was one day short of 70 years!!

The group, which included one 10 year old, and our two members from Deniliquin, walked clockwise around the ancient lake, and enjoyed morning tea at the boathouse.

Our break included the consumption of gorgeous cup cakes, with candles for the birthday gal, who must be the fittest 70 year old in the North East, and maybe in Australia?



We then followed the track alongside the Murray for a section, with many holiday campers being observed, clearly enjoying river activities.

The walkers arrived back at the winery, via another vineyard, and were then able to enjoy their very welcome Pat styled cuppa, and an art show which included an item by our hard working committee member Karen.

[Andy Kimber]

Ovens River, Bright — Cherry and Canyon Trails, January 30

The Ovens River rises north of Mount Hotham, and from its headwaters flows past the towns of Bright, Myrtleford and Wangaratta before joining the Murray River in the backwaters of Lake Mulwala. The River has carved out a scenic gorge alongside the township of Bright, and this was the venue for our little adventure.

Fourteen members strode out in lovely warm conditions along the beautiful Ovens River (Burwang to the original inhabitants) .

The Cherry Walk heads off to the east of the central park in Bright, and excellent information is provided along the track, informing walkers of the flora and history of the area.



The 5km track runs on both sides of the River, the waters of which looked so enticing, particularly when we stopped for a drink break on a soft green bank.

The crew then trudged west from the other main car park, and completed the other easy 5km to the west, towards Porepunkah.

Lunch was enjoyed at a quite delightful spot in the Gorge, seated on rock slabs, and in the shade, looking over our special local stream.

Details of this, and other walks in, and around, Bright, Harrietteville, Myrtleford and Wandiligong can be found in the walks brochures produced by the Alpine Shire, and available at the TICs in Bright and Myrtleford. [Andy Kimber]

GPS Training Session, February 3

Sixteen walks were present at our first GPS training session, held at Hamilton Park. A BBQ tea was enjoyed by many, then from 6.30pm onwards, Chris McLaughlin used the club GPS devices, and copies of the Magellan manual, to instruct club members on the basics of how to use a GPS.

By the end of the 90 or so minutes most participants had some idea of the basic operations of the GPS devices, and had walked around within the vicinity of the BBQ area using the GPS's.

Participants mostly came to the conclusion that these devices do have a safety component, which does make them useful in bushland. They seem to be useful to backtrack, and also to pinpoint your exact location within a few metres.

All present agreed that this was a helpful introductory session, and much more practice is needed during walks to learn more details



of their usage. Some took the GPS home, with the manual, and will study the manual to improve their familiarity.

Thank you to Chris McLaughlin for his presentation, and untold patience with participants. Where else would we have an author of a book on GPS's giving a talk to club members – we were very privileged. [Bob Shaw]

[Message from Chris – “Many thanks to all of those club members who attended the first GPS Training Session at Hamilton Park last night (3/2) - it was a pleasure to pass on some of my knowledge. Many Thanks also to Bob Shaw for organising a great venue. There will be follow-up exercises, on actual walks, during the year.]

Wagirra Trail, February 10

Albury City Council has been extending Wagirra Trail, which basically runs downstream from Norieul Park to Horseshoe Lagoon, by building a connection path that links Wagirra with the Wonga Wetlands.

So, after an early morning start (to beat the heat) the walkers 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 close by.



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 Yindiamurra Sculpture Trail.

Prior to lunch, we completed a 2.5km loop around some of the wetlands, and then, after lunch, set out for Norieul Park, via a slightly different route. [Chris McLaughlin]

Harrietteville and Mount Feathertop, February 13-14

This great weekend kicked off with twenty two club members gathering at the Harrietteville Caravan Park on the Friday night.

Joy was short-lived, however, as we soon learnt that Saturday was to be a day of Total Fire Ban. Traditionally, the club has not walked on such days, so Saturday was spent on informal exploration of the town, and its environs.

Some walked out along the West Ovens Track, finding many relics, and evidence, of the gold mining era on the way. Others checked out the local ice cream parlour, and others went for a swim at the former Tronoh Gold Dredge site.

Sunday dawned bright and sunny, with a predicted top of about 18c, so there was plenty of hype as we left for the mountain at 6.45am.



As usual, The Razorback provided us with an excellent walk, and everyone was impressed with the scenery, particularly the blue haze 'range-upon-range' views to the west.

It took about four hours for us all to get to The Cross, and from here some headed up to Mount Feathertop, others down to Federation Hut, others to have a look at the Molly Hill Memorial.

The group then split in half, with 11 heading down Bungalow Spur, directly to Harrietville, and the rest of us returning to the vehicles at the Great Alpine Road.

Overall, an excellent weekend, with one of Australia's great iconic walks as the centrepiece.

Unfortunately, the change of plan (because of the fire ban) meant that some members could not join us on The Razorback, so for many reasons this is a walk to be revisited before too long.

[Chris McLaughlin]

Rollasons and Eurobin Falls, Mount Buffalo National Park, February 28

This 9.5km walk began at the Eurobin Creek Picnic Area, and from here the nine of us followed "The Big Walk" up towards Eurobin Point. We then followed the designated walking track to the Upper and Lower Rollasons Falls, where we had lunch.

From Rollasons, we returned to the cars, and then drove up the



main access road, so as to access Lady Bath Falls, and the Upper and Lower Eurobin Falls.

Overall, this was a medium/hard walk, particularly the first 3-4km of The Big Walk, so cooling off in the creeks was very refreshing. The venue would be a great place to return to in springtime, when the various Falls would be at their best.

[Cecily Fletcher]

MISC NEWS

Bullawah Cultural Trail

An Elders Rock has been placed at Apex Park to honour local community leaders every year on the anniversary of National Reconciliation Week.

It's an idea thought of by the late Uncle Wally Cooper, who passed away last December, and it will form part of the Bullawah Cultural Trail, a path that stretches 2.4km along the Owens River in Wangaratta. The \$180,000 trail will tell a story of the area's Aboriginal heritage, and how a local tribe has lived historically, and to the present day.

Uncle Wally was a highly respected Elder whose pride in his Aboriginal heritage and message for hope for the future inspired many.

Large granite rocks, which will form the foundations for the sculptures, have also be placed along the trail. Artists Anderson Hunt and Paul Blizzard of Wangaratta have selected rocks from Mawsons Quarry. The rocks will be home to their much anticipated sculptural art-works they are developing with local Elders.

The Bullawah Cultural Trail is due for completion this August.

[condensed from the Wangaratta Chronicle, February 5]

Helen Curtis, OAM

Helen Curtis, a founder of the Warby Range Bushwalkers, has been recognized posthumously with an Order of Australia medal in the latest Australia Day Honours list. Unfortunately Helen did not survive to receive her honour. Helen passed away after a long illness last April.

Helen was an avid environmentalist and loved the outdoors. Anywhere in nature, she enjoyed. Naturally bushwalking was part of that. In her early bushwalking days, she used to backpack all over the mountains. She loved the Wangaratta District and was a driving force in the establishment of the Warby Range State Park, later to become a National Park. She also was instrumental in establishing many of the walking tracks in the Warbies, which we as a Club now enjoy.

Helen Curtis led the very first walk of the Club, appropriately in the Warbies, in 1980. She was awarded a Life Membership of the Warby Range Bushwalkers many years ago.

What a shame Helen isn't with us to celebrate her much deserved OAM. We send our congratulations to Helen's husband, Peter, and their family. [Adrian Twitt]

Drivers and Walkers needed

Adele's AAWT Walks, Mount Speculation to Mount Skene (Saturday, 12th -Thursday, 17th March) has scope for an easy day walk to Mount Skene. We require people to pick us from the Jamieson—Licola Road on the 17th, and if you would like to help with this, then there are a couple of options.

Either drive to Mount Skene on the Wednesday, then walk into meet us; or drive to Mount Skene Tuesday afternoon, then walk into Rumpff Saddle (about one kilometre), camp, and then walk to meet us on the Wednesday. The driving is on a sealed, or metalled, bush road, no problems in the dry, and it is all very scenic.

We also need drivers for the following stage of the AAWT, Mount Skene to Stronachs Camp (March 25, to March 29). More details from Adele, 5727 9501.

Victoria's Red Gum Parks

Parks Victoria, with the community, is developing a management plan for Victoria's River Red Gum parks and reserves.

The management plan will guide the protection of Victoria's River Red Gum floodplain forests and wetlands, cultural sites and explore opportunities for tourism and recreation.

Parks Victoria is working with all interested Traditional Owner groups in the River Red Gum planning area. The planning process will ensure Traditional Owners can provide input on their aspirations for future use and involvement in management of their traditional lands.



Community meetings will be held in 2016 in the region's major centres. Dates and locations will be advertised in local media and on the Parks Victoria website: www.parks.vic.gov.au/redgumplan

Public submissions will be accepted and carefully considered in preparing the plan.

The draft plan will be available for public consultation in late 2016 on the Parks Victoria website. The management plan will cover the Red Gum forests along the Victorian side of the Murray River between Wodonga and the South Australia border.

Some of the areas to be included in the plan are: Gunbower National Park, Hattah-Kulkyne National Park, Warby-Ovens National Park, Kings Billabong Park, Leaghur State Park, Lower Goulburn National Park, Murray-Kulkyne Park, Nyah-Vinifera Park and sections of the Murray – Sunset National Park.

For further information, contact Glenda Hall (our club delegate on the planning team); Parks Victoria Information Centre: 13 1963; visit www.parks.vic.gov.au/redgumplan, or email the planning team at redgumplan@parks.vic.gov.au

Help Bill Rosser

Bill Rosser, a former very active member of this club, and now a life member, is in need of help to get out for a short walk each

day. Bill is a resident at St Johns, and can be contacted via Marianne Wilkie on 0439 943 903.

Week Away -2017

Planning has already started for our Week Away in 2017. At the Committee Meeting on February 8th, it was agreed that the northern part of Kosciuszko National Park would be an excellent venue for us.

This incorporates some of the best features of the Park, both natural and man-made, covering places such as Kiandra, Yarrangobilly and Talbingo.

Bob Shaw and Adrian Twitt are the first nominees for the organising committee, and they can be contacted if you want to help with the running of this great annual event..

Top Crossing Hut

Members of the Wangaratta 4x4 Club spent the weekend of January 16-17 refurbishing the ageing, and partially vandalised, Top Crossing Hut. The Hut is on the King River, not far upstream of the upstream end of Lake William Hovell.

This is a popular camping area, the Hut having been built in the mid 1950s by dog trappers Frank Burrows, Nifty McDonald and Ken Bustle.



The working group replaced some old weather beaten mini corrugated iron, and a support beam, with replacement (second-hand) mini-corrugated, iron similar to what was originally on the hut, fixed up and re-mortared the fireplace inside and repainted the outside of the hut.

Walking in East Gippsland

Like many other shires in Victoria, East Gippsland Shire has a handy 'walks guide' on offer that can be picked from any of the TICs in the area, and via their website.

For more details of some really excellent walks in this great part of Victoria, see www.discovereastgippsland.com.au/images/uploads/activities/Great_Walks_46508.pdf.

New Cycling Venues

The State Government has announced a \$205,000 grant that will be used to partly support the construction of a bike path from the Winton Wetlands to Glenrowan.

Other bike paths / rail trails to share in the funding include Beechworth to Yackandandah, Yackandandah to Huon, and Wodonga's central business district.



**WARBY RANGE
BUSHWALKERS Inc.**

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www.warbybushwalkers.org.au

Committee Nomination Form

I hereby nominate _____

for the position of _____

on the 2016--17 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



WALKS PROGRAM, JULY – SEPTEMBER 2016

If the walk leader(s) cannot be contacted to book into a walk,
phone Jeanette 0417 546 974, 5721 6514 or Michael 0447 617 880, 5722 1080.

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

| Day/Date | Walk | Grade | Leader ph no. |
|--------------------------------------|---|-------------|---------------------------------|
| Saturday 2 nd July | Nine Mile Historic Area, Stanley | Medium | Jeanette, 0417 546 974 |
| Wednesday 13 th July | Chick Hill, Mt Glenrowan, Morrisons Winery | Easy/medium | Andy, 5721 7922 |
| Sunday 17 th July | Stanley State Forest to pub | E & M | Michael, 5722 1080 |
| Sunday 31 st July | Thistle Hill, King Valley | Easy/Medium | Trevor, 5721 6215 |
| Saturday 6 th August | Eldorado – Two Waterfalls. | Medium | Ian, 5725 1675 |
| Committee meeting | Monday 8 th August 7.15pm | | At Michael 's home 5722 1080 |
| Saturday 20 th August | Huon Hill, Wodonga (walk leader Cindy Marsh) | M | Pat, 5722 9173 |
| Tuesday 23 rd August | Yackandandah | E | Helen, 5721 5327 |
| Saturday 3 rd September | Mt Baranduda | M/H | Karen, 5722 2540 |
| Sunday 11 th September | Warby Ranges <i>BBQ lunch.</i> | E | John, 5727 9166 |
| Wednesday 14 th September | Gapsted | E | Jan, 5727 1347 |
| Saturday 24 th September | Turquoise Mine Tyrell's Mine | M H | Bob, 5766 2773 |

Saturday 2nd July. Nine Mile Historic Area. Contact Jeanette 0417 546 974

A medium walk approx 14km on mainly gravel roads with a couple of steep ascents and descents in the Nine Mile Historic area. Wallaby, Rechabite & Karrs Reef Gold Mines.

Wednesday 13th July. Chick Hill to Mt Glenrowan & Morrisons Winery. Contact Andy 5721 7922

An easy to medium walk approx 7km starts with a climb up Chick Hill to the Ridge Track, continuing to Mt Glenrowan, then a fairly steep descent to Morrisons Winery.

Sunday 17th July. Stanley State Forest. Contact Michael 5722 1080

Two walks available, an easy walk approx 7km on undulating terrain and a medium walk approx 11km on hilly terrain with some steep climbs in the Stanley State Forest. Mostly on 4wd roads finishing in historic Stanley at the pub for refreshments. Some good views along the way.

Sunday 31st July. Thistle Hill, King Valley. Contact Trevor 5721 6215

An easy to medium walk of approx 10km along the western ridgeline of the King Valley. The walk is through forest and open grasslands with some steep sections. Views to Mt Cobbler, Mt Buffalo, the King and Ovens Valleys.

Saturday 6th August. Eldorado – Two Waterfalls. Contact Ian 5725 1675

A medium walk of approx 12km through native bushland, taking in two waterfalls, and a couple of creek crossings. Part of the walk is off track.

Monday 8th August. Walks Planning and General Meeting, 7.15pm.

Saturday 20th August. Huon Hill, Wodonga. Contact Pat 5722 9173 (walk led by Cindy Marsh)

A medium circuit walk approx 14km beginning near the Kiewa River with a steep climb to Huon Hill, a Wodonga landmark. Huon Hill rises approx 263 metres above the Murray River. Spectacular views include Lake Hume, the Kiewa Valley, Alpine regions, Murray & Kiewa Rivers, Albury & Wodonga.

Tuesday 23rd August. Yackandandah Ramble. Contact Helen 5721 5327

A pleasant 6km walk covering the outskirts of 'Yack' and its 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.

Saturday 3rd September. Mt Baranduda. Contact Karen 5722 2540

A medium hard walk approx 15km commencing near the summit. A gentle climb of approx 2km to a high point and views, then follow an undulating ridge track with a final descent (steep in parts) to the valley. Great views to Indigo & Kiewa valleys, surrounding towns and ranges.

Sunday 11th September. Warby Ranges. Contact John re walk 5727 9166

An easy walk in the Warby Ranges with a difference. The wild flowers should be putting on a great display at this time of year. A navigation walk followed by a bbq lunch. Or just come along for the BBQ lunch. **Contact Judy at 5766 2773 re lunch.**

Wednesday 14th September. Gapsted wildflowers walk. Contact Jan 5727 1347

An easy walk approx 8km at Gapsted among the wildflowers, a picturesque creek, and rocky gorges.

Saturday 24th September. Turquoise mine, Tyrell mine. Contact Bob 5766 2773

A medium walk approx 14km along the Black Range track to the Turquoise Mine or continue on to the Tyrell Mine for a hard walk approx 20km. Walk along 4wd tracks and is steep in places. Panoramic views of Mt Cobbler, Mt Stirling, the Buller area, Ovens and King valleys and Lake Mokoan.



WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc.

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NEWSLETTER 3 (July), 2016

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.

Please note that this newsletter is being issued about two weeks prior to its scheduled date—this is to allow your roving editor to join some fellow adventurers for an expedition on the Larapinta Trail (West McDonnell Ranges, NT).

For this reason (that is, the newsletter is early) the remainder of the current Walks Program is included at the end of the text.

See also the new Walks Program (July—September) for the continuation of our activities beyond June 30.

Annual General Meeting

Our 39th ANNUAL DINNER and AGM was held at the historic Vine Hotel on Monday, March 21st, and it was a well attended event, with about 50 members present.

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

President: Glenda Hall

Vice-President: Cecily Fletcher

Secretary: Kerri Davenport

Treasurer: Guy Robertson

Walks Co-ordinator: Jeanette Farquhar

Assistant Walks Coordinator, Michael Braendler

Committee Members: Andy Kimber, Chris McLaughlin, Judy Shaw, Trevor Turnbull, Adrian Twitt and Trevor Walder.

Thanks to the retiring committee members, Karen Davis, Margot O'Halloran and Bob Shaw. The club is strong because all these people were willing to give their time and expertise.

The guest speaker was June Brown, who spoke about the extensive Mallee Fowl monitoring program in the Mallee District of Western Victoria. (Further information on this great project is available at malleefowlvictoria.org.au).

If you haven't already done so, 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.

Falls Creek, March 5 & 6

For this great weekend, 27 walkers booked in to stay at the Myrtleford Ski Lodge at Falls Creek. Everyone arrived between 3.00pm and 9.00pm on the Friday (March 4) so as to be ready for the

walks commencing on the Saturday.

The Saturday walks set out from Watchbed Creek, west of Rocky Valley Dam at 8.45 am. The four Easy walkers completed the Heathy Spur Track, and looped back to some great views of Rocky Valley Dam.

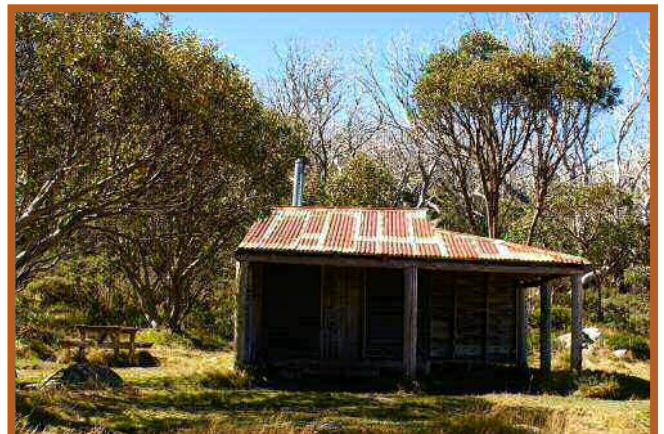


The Easy/Medium walkers ventured along the Fire Track to Warby Corner, and then climbed the un-named third highest peak in Victoria, which is east of Mount Spion Kopje.

They then went back to Edmondson's Hut for lunch, and returned to their cars after completing 17km. The Medium walk of 20km also went to Warby Corner, then proceeded along the 4WD track to Mount Spion Kopje, which looks towards Mount Bogong to the north.

The 25km Hard walk diverted off the same track, and proceeded along 4WD tracks to Little Spion Kopje, which rewarded them with magnificent views of both the Kiewa and Ovens Valleys, as well as the extent of the Bogong High Plains.

Their views included Mount Bogong to the north, Bogong Village and Lake Guy to the north-west, and Mount Feathertop to the west. As well, there were panoramic views down to the Big River Gorge, the Grey Hills and Crow's Nest area and Mount Arthur.



This group of walkers retraced their steps, then met up with the Medium group back to Watchbed Creek.

Back at the Ski Lodge all participants enjoyed "Happy Hour", then a two course meal was enjoyed by all.

The Sunday walks commenced at the Pretty Valley Dam at 9.30am. The Easy/Medium walkers visited Tawonga Huts, which are located amongst ancient snow gums and alpine vegetation.

They then followed the snow poles back to the cars. Another group completed the same as above, but also completed the climb to Mount Jaithmatong. They then returned to Tawonga Huts, and thence to Pretty Valley Dam .

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

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

Summary of Walks completed

- Saturday March 5th. Easy – Watchbed Creek to Heathy Spur, 6km/4 hours.
- Easy/Medium – Watchbed Creek to the real Spion Kopje (1893m), return via Edmundson's Hut, 17 km/6 hours.
- Medium/Hard Watchbed Creek to the real Spion Kopje, Mount Spion Kopje (1841m) return, 22 km/8 hours.
- Hard – Watchbed Creek to the real Spion Kopje, Crow's Nest, Mount Spion Kopje and Little Spion Kopje (1724m) return , 27 km/9 hours.
- Sunday March 6th Easy – Near Pretty Valley Dam to Tawonga Huts return, 9km/4 hours.
- Medium – Near Pretty Valley Dam to Mount Jaithmathang (1852m) return, 16km/5.5 hours.

AAWT Mount Speculation to Mount Skene, March 12-17

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.

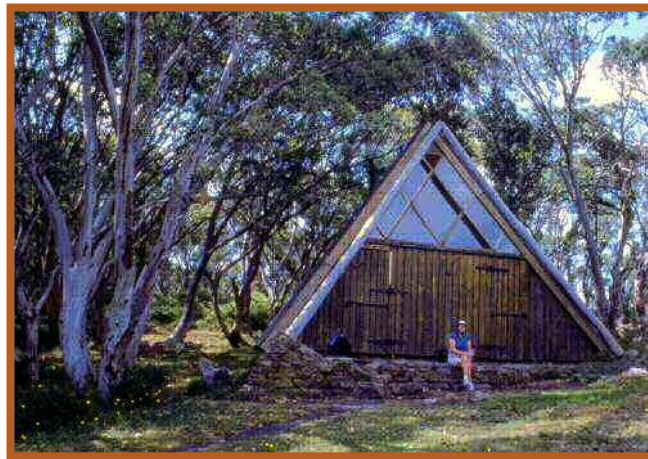
The walk on this section of the AAWT started near Mount Speculation (south of Mount Cobbler) and finished at Mount Skene, on the Jamieson-Licola Road.

Awake bright and early Saturday morning, we headed for Camp Creek, at the base of Mount Speculation with Ian at the wheel.

After a quick cup of coffee, and feeding Ian some chocolates, to help him on the return journey of three hours back to Moyhu, we headed off. The weather was very humid and misty, but became very hot once the mist was dispelled.

Sitting down to lunch on Mount Buggery (a very descriptive name), a family of five appeared, and by mutual agreement we trudged on together.

We were making for Hell Fire Gap, but had heard the creek was dry, so decided to head for Macalister Springs instead. A good thing, as we got to the Springs at 5.30pm, and still had another hour or so to get to the Gap.



Packs were dumped at the Springs, and a discussion took place as to whether we wanted to be closer to the toilet, and Vallejo Gantner hut, or stay put. However, after 20 scouts walked past heading towards the Hut, it was a no brainer to stay put.

Peaks bagged for the day were Speculation, Buggery and Crosscut Saw. The scenery was exceptional, but not for the faint hearted, as the track over the Crosscut was across a very narrow ridge.

The next day we said goodbye to our adopted family, and headed for Chester's Yards, our next guaranteed water supply. I spent a lot of time peak bagging on the way, and was lucky enough to have two companions that allowed me to do that.

Mount Howitt, Big Hill and Magdala were summited before we hit the King Billies. The sign said how high it was, but didn't say how steep. Sylvia managed to put the brakes on at Chester's Yards, not because of the invisible Yards, but because of the only water we had seen all day.

On Monday we headed to our water drop, up and over Mount Clear and Square Top. A discussion took place as to whether Square Top was worth the effort, but a confirmation from two of the members (that the track was non-existent around the side) saw us take the easier option of sticking to the ridge, until the track reappeared. High Cone was looked at, with no interest to bag the summit, as was the second of the Nobs.

Our next driver, Trevor, was spotted at the helipad, and radioed to come get us, and re-radioed as he overshot the rendezvous, and headed off into no-mans land. The next day Trevor decided to tackle Nobs Track again, as he remembered the excitement of going down there last time, while us girls donned day packs (such luxury) and headed for Low Saddle.



Wednesday involved the quite long (about 20km) but delightful amble to the famous wilderness feature of Sealer's Cove, where only one piece of rubbish disturbed our peaceful lunch, as we observed that beautiful beach populated by only Soldier Crabs and Pacific Gulls.



On Thursday the Darby River area was explored, with various options available in the charming area towards Tongue Point, with its great outlook over the many islands in Bass Strait. That night many of the group let their hair down, and enjoyed an evening of song, slightly naughty poems and even dance!!

The majority of the crew walked the Lily Pilly circuit on Friday, with lunch at Tidal Overlook, and then out to glorious Pillar Point, while others visited the nearby beaches, and even dropped in on a bio-dynamic farm and a famous botanical painter!!

This very pleasant and magnificently organised week away (thanks to Leanne Wood, Karen Davis and Deb Goodson) was completed with an amble along the main Tidal River boardwalk, watching the fearless wombats, before observing a special sunset from Norman beach. [Andy Kimber]

[Next year we are visiting the Talbingo-Tumut area (in the northern part of the Snowy Mountains) in Autumn, so get in early, and book!!]

Chiltern—Township and Bushland, April 3-7

This nine kilometre walk was within the environs of the historic township of Chiltern, with a mix of interesting streetscapes, and box-ironbark bushland.

We started from the car parking area adjoining the Visitor Centre in the township, enjoying the warm weather (about 22c), with a slight breeze, and some smoke haze.

Our route took us along the Howlong Road north from the town centre, then veered east, onto the local "Atichinus Walk" (this is loop around the urban area, and is well sign-posted) This was followed, for a short distance, to Frog Hollow, and we then veered to the north, along some former forestry tracks, so as to get to the Magenta Mine site.

After some exploration at the Mine, we took Wallaby Track up to Stringybark Track, and then Alpina Track (named after local vegetation) towards the Howlong Road. Crossing the bitumen, we picked up Bartleys Track, and then Tank Track, which lead us back to the centre of town, a little to the west of where we started.



Returning to the car park via Conness Street, we enjoyed seeing some more gold era architecture, and after lunch, adjourned to a local cafe.

Apart from a few inclines, this was an easy walk, on clearly defined tracks, and could be expanded, so as to include the historic Indigo Cemetery. [Chris McLaughlin]

Tawonga Gap to Back Germantown Road (5km from Bright), April 30

Ten walkers thought they were in for a day of 90% chance of 20-40mm of rain, so everyone was equipped with their most effective wet weather gear. Instead they were pleasantly surprised. There were even sightings of lyrebirds (5), wallabies (3) and a huge flock of gang-gangs.

Having met in Apex Park in Wangaratta, the group of ten then drove to the Bright area. Two cars travelled to Deep Creek Track, on the Back Germantown Road (on the south side of Bright and on the east side of the Ovens River). This group then travelled in one car to the start of the walk at Tawonga Gap.



The rest of the day was spent exploring Jericho and Violet Town, the other mining towns in the valley.

We thought it would be breeze to get to the Thompson River on Tuesday, but we ended up on the old AAWT, instead of the rerouted one, and had to go cross-country on a compass bearing down to the road.

Wednesday (our last day) saw us head to Stronachs Camp through a logging coup. Bless Ian, who radioed the loggers to make them aware that we were around.

Thank you to Therese, Sylvia and Willy who put up with my lack of mojo, and my dear long suffering husband Ian, who I think did actually enjoy himself, and the UHF radios which were very well used. [Adele Ritchie]

Back Wall, Mount Buffalo, April 2

Mount Buffalo was first documented by explorers Hamilton Hume and William Hovell in 1824, and is a prominent landmark from the Ovens, Buckland and Buffalo River valleys. The massif rises abruptly from the surrounding countryside, and is visible from many different angles.



Late in the 19th Century, steps were being taken to establish Mount Buffalo as the first National Park in Victoria, and the present day Park is much bigger than the original 1200 hectares, and covers about 31000 hectares of beautiful alpine scenery.

The Back Wall of the massif was the chosen venue for this autumn walk, and in fine and sunny conditions, 16 walkers accompanied leader Lesley, on a delightful 12km medium level walk.

The route led from the Cresta Valley car parking area, to the spectacular granite cliffs on the east side of the Plateau, with great views all the way, particularly of The Horn.

A visitor from Mansfield, and another from Newcastle, relished the amble across the snow-grass plains, overlooked by those dramatic granite boulders.

Lunch was enjoyed at the Back Wall, with the extra reward of stunning views of the Buckland Valley. [Lesley Finendon]

Wilson's Promontory, Week Away, April 10-16

For this year's "week-away" 28 club members thoroughly enjoyed six very social nights in a comfortable lodge at Wilsons Promontory, a gorgeous location, surrounded by quite tame (and even slightly aggressive) wildlife. Over five days of mainly fine weather adventuring, some were able to walk 75kms on the superb tracks.

Monday involved a stunning (watch out for extra superlatives in the rest of this account!) coastal trip for most of the group around to Oberon Bay, with the drama of watching the occasional shower moving in from a gloomy sea. The toughies added a few extra kms, by trudging an inland route to Oberon.



Tuesday, we visited Miller's Landing, in the northern part of the Park, then climbed up to Vereker Outlook which has magnificent views over Corner Inlet, and even Mount Oberon, which was conquered later in the day by most of the gang. Some took the option of shorter coastal walks near to Tidal River in warm comfortable conditions.

We loved Rod's bird walk early one morning, (although the appearance of Karen in the distance presumably handling some sort of electronic device, suggested that he might have had some help), because amazing birds arrived on cue – here is his report.

"Morning sun peeked over the ridges, struck the Banksia cones, and we watched. Lorikeets came screeching, fragments of rainbow in a feeding frenzy. Two Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, funereal fliers, crimped the cones into rosettes, while wattle birds and Spinebills sipped the honey flow.

Down into the tea tree we crept. Yellow Robins peeked at us, flitted to the ground for grubs and watched us pass. Crimson Rosellas landed at our feet. Two tiny species, the silvereyes and grey fantails flicked about above the shrubs, feeding after their flights across Bass Strait onto the Prom.

Onto the river path we strolled. Black ducks, wood ducks, black cormorants, white-faced herons reflected in the golden water. Marshlands had tree martins, welcome swallows and little wrens flicking and flitting about. Quietly skulking across the path was a rail, a secretive bird from reed beds and marshy landscapes.

In an hour we noted 26 different species."



East Mount MacDonald was achieved without excitement, then the fun began of trying to find a track in heavy mist. Once I worked out, after getting into maybe a sticky situation, that there wasn't a track, and to take the safest route on the ridge line, we were fine.

A predominant ridge was then followed down to a waiting Trevor, with a sign saying route only (that is, no formed track). The next day, with day packs, we said goodbye to Trevor, and headed for another day of peak bagging.

Mount Sunday was summited, and then on to Mount McKinty. One of the group didn't realise that a track goes up the mountain, and when it looks like it is descending, it means you have reached the top. But "no cairn or sign" was again the catch-phrase for the day.

We were out on the main road in good time for Ian to pick us up, with a discussion of what 'main road' meant. He liked the Jamieson-Licola Road even less than Speculation Track.

A feed at Jamieson Pub, then Moyhu bound, via Trevor's house, to pick up our overnight packs.

Thank you Willy and Sylvia for accompanying me. I thoroughly enjoyed your friendship and company. A big thank you to Trevor for the water drop, and for staying an extra night, and Ian for his many hours of driving to make the trip happen. [Adele Ritchie]

Warby Ranges, off Warby Tower Road, March 19

For this Saturday walk, John Kerby led a navigation exercise walk in the Warbys, starting from the Spring Creek picnic area. The route was based on an old orienteering course, including 15 controls of varying difficulty. Eight members took on the challenge, walking up-hill and down-dale, to find the markers.

By the time each group had finished, they had a reasonable understanding of using their Silva compasses, taking bearings off their 1:20,000 orienteering maps, and following a compass bearing across country, taking into account the gullies, high points, boulders, rocky outcrops and other features on the way.

Wombats, kangaroos and foxes were among some of the animals observed in the Stringybark dominated bush.

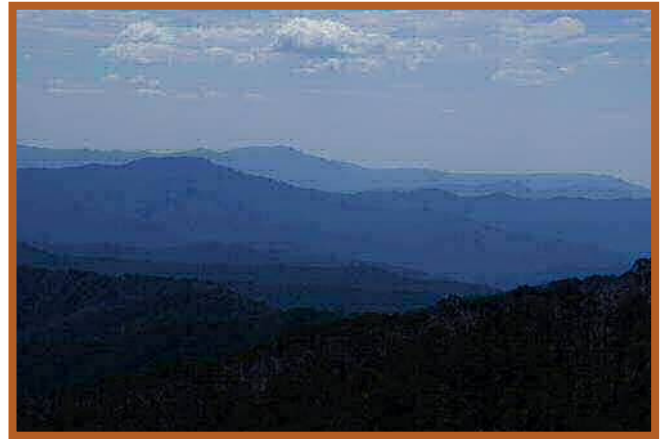
The participants finished the course with a sense of achievement, feeling that the experience had bolstered their navigational skills, probably enabling them to navigate out of difficulty when faced with challenging country, such as dense bush or a white-out when on a bushwalk, or while ski touring.

Whilst enjoying the usual, superbly presented Pat patented, afternoon tea complete with Easter eggs, at least forty Melbourne bird-watchers passed us by, outnumbering (and probably scaring) any local birds trying to survive in this quite damaged looking section of our National Park. [John Kerby]

AAWT, Mount Skene to Stronachs Camp, Easter 2016

As mentioned above, 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 at Mount Skene (just off the Licola – Jamieson Road) through to Stronachs Camp, on the Thomson Valley Road.

We were up bright and early Saturday morning to collect the Melbournites from Mansfield, then on to Mount Skene where we had



finished the previous section of the AAWT. After dropping us off, Ian headed for our camping spot, while we headed down the road and into the bush. I won't remember Mount Shillinglaw for the scenery, but for the wildlife, as I nearly stepped on a black snake.

After calling Ian on the UHF I breathed a sigh of relief to hear he had arrived safely at Black River Camp site. "Bit steep" he said. I said he didn't have to return that way, but failed to mention the other track was even steeper.

The Black River camp site was lovely, and to top the day off, Ian spotted a platypus, very special. Unfortunately we annoyed it too much with our torches, and it was off before the others got to see it.

Sunday a pretty uneventful day over to Fiddlers Green, and no Ian. Soon reunited thanks to the UHF radio, with a bit of a discussion to be more specific about where we intended to stop for the night, and a little mention of the steepness of the track out of Black River.



As we were into camp early we decided to explore the Woods Point No1 Historic Reserve. Lots of mine shafts, including one that went for metres into the hillside.

Because of erosion we couldn't continue, so Ian backed the ute for two kilometres, up a very tortuous hill, with more than one passenger saying their prayers. A sigh of relief when we got to the top, and managed to do a 60 point turn, and praises were sung for the Toyota Hilux's power.

Monday we were at Red Jacket before lunch, an old mining town. As we couldn't camp there, we walked two kilometres down the road to Blue Jacket, another old mining town.

We started walking along the Smart Creek/Tawonga Gap Track at about 9.15am, heading in a northerly direction from an altitude of 880m. Walkers knew that walking along this ridgeline meant that there were fifteen major hills to climb along the length of this 19km track, so the walk certainly justified its hard grading. The 4wd track went uphill to a height of over 1000m, and the track stayed above 1000m for over 10km.

If the mist had cleared there would have been panoramic views of the following mountains – Bogong, Feathertop, the Fainters, Buffalo, Porepunkah and Mount Emu. However, this part of the walk was largely in mist and fog, but there were many sightings of wildlife, even though there had been an extensive burn off on the east and north sides of the track.

We had morning tea at about 1140m, near the junction with the German Creek Track off to the south. We then continued to walk in sub-alpine forest until we reached the turnoff where Tawonga Gap Track veers off to the northwest.

Lunch was taken close to the intersection of Tawonga Gap track and Hill Plantation/Deep Creek Track. Our route then started to descend slightly, but the hill climbs continued to confront us as we proceeded west. Views of Porepunkah and Bright started to emerge as we continued to descend.

By mid-afternoon, we had reached a decision point where a steep fire track veered off to the south, and the track turned to the north towards our destination. The track then started to descend steeply, taking us into a 600m descent, then through some pine forests called Hill Plantation, almost to the floor of the Ovens Valley where our car(s) were waiting.

After a welcome cuppa the drivers were ferried back to Tawonga Gap, these cars then returned to our destination to pick up all the walkers, and we were all back in Wangaratta before 6.00pm.

The walk covered about 19km, and was graded hard, with the added risk of potential problems of someone injuring themselves on the steep descents or ascents. Hence it was essential for the group to carry the epirob and multiple mobile phones.

Walking poles were of great assistance to most walkers, and helped to prevent falls and slips. [Bob Shaw]

MISC NEWS —————

Sign in Sheet

A reminder that when you attend a walk and complete the contact details on the sign in sheet, you are also acknowledging and accepting any risk associated with the activity, and of the Club's insurance cover. This is in line with Bushwalking Victoria's procedures. By signing you are also agreeing to take responsibility for your own actions. Full information is printed on the sign-in sheet, so perhaps you can read this the next time you sign in for a walk.

Ambulance Cover

Bushwalking Australia strongly advises all bushwalkers to have adequate ambulance cover, whether with Ambulance Victoria, on a concession card or covered by a private health insurer. This reminder resulted from an interstate search and rescue operation (at no cost) that did result in the bushwalker being required to pay a rather large ambulance bill, as it was from a remote location.

Lost Property

Looking for an owner—Left at the Prom—a blue and yellow cup juicer; and a square plastic clip lid container. Contact Karen 5722 2540 / 0409 215 286

Declining Funding for Victoria's Parks

This article appeared in Outdoors Insight No. 4.

"Despite the increasing number of visitors to Victorian state and national parks, staff levels at Parks Victoria have dropped 13% since 2011, and funding per visitor by 35%. Funding would need to increase to \$300 million pa to restore park management capacity to 2011 levels."

This article, and previous Outdoors Insights, from the Outdoor Victoria website can be viewed at outdoorsvictoria.org.au/policy/outdoors-insight.

See also the petition being organised by the Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) - links to the VNPA homepage, and the petition page are on our website.

where2walk Upgraded

where2walk (w2w), Bushwalking Victoria's online library of bushwalks, has been improved.

w2w was developed at the request of clubs, and launched in October 2012 with more than 150 walks. Since the launch a further 65 walks have been added. When all existing walks have been updated, new walks will be added. At least 110 walks have been updated already, with more being updated every week.

Since January, 2016 w2w is being progressively updated and improved as follows:

New maps for all existing walks. The new maps are being created and published using Mapbox, an Open Street Maps product. The maps have a consistent design and are compatible for use on mobile devices that allow users to zoom in and out and pan to better view details of the walk route.

Most walks will have downloadable GPX files, for use in GPS devices.

For selected walks, an elevation profile diagram will be provided to give an overview of the terrain for the walk.

Walk descriptions and associated information for each walk are being reviewed and updated.

The start point for each walk is shown on a Google map, in addition to the walk map.

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|---|
| <p>Wednesday 5th October. Spring Creek, Warby Ranges. Adrian 5721 5327</p> <p>Come and see the wildflowers on this easy/medium walk, approx 4km, commencing at Spring Creek picnic area in the Warby Range. Walk on untracked terrain following the creek upstream through picturesque woodland country to Ryan's Lookout. While only 4 km long, walkers need care traversing the creek which has some steep banks.</p> |
| <p>Sunday 9th October. Mt Sugarloaf and Kelly's Cave. Jeanette 0417 546 974.</p> <p>An easy to medium walk of approximately 12 kilometres, mostly on a four wheel drive track to Mt Sugarloaf and Kelly's Cave. The walk is mostly undulating but includes a short steep section, and a short walk through native bush.</p> |
| <p>Saturday 22nd October. Hume & Hovell Track, Albury. Jeanette, 0417 546 974</p> <p>A chance to complete the final stretch of the Hume & Hovell Track from the Kinross Hotel to the Hovell Tree. Medium to hard walk of approx 19 kilometres on mostly level ground.</p> |
| <p>Friday 29th Oct to Tuesday 1st Nov. Australian Alpine Walking Track. Adele 5727 9501.</p> <p>A multi day walk along part of the Australian Alpine Walking Track, Mt Stronachs Camp to Walhalla. For further information, and to book, in contact Adele.</p> |
| <p>Tues 1st Nov, Cup Day. Chick Hill to Mt Glenrowan & Morrisons Winery. Andy 5721 7922</p> <p>It's that first Tuesday in November time again. Andy will lead an easy to medium walk approx 7km starting with a climb up Chick Hill to the Ridge Track, continuing to Mt Glenrowan to check out the terrific view, before a fairly steep descent to Morrisons winery.</p> |
| <p>Friday 4th November to Sunday 6th November. Mt Beauty walks weekend. Bob 5766 2773</p> <p>Enjoy a weekend of walking based at Mt Beauty. A range of easy through to hard walks on offer. 9am start at Tawonga on Saturday. Saturday night BYO BBQ at the Caravan Park.</p> <p>A variety of accommodation options at Tawonga Caravan Park, Mountain Creek Rd, Tawonga.</p> <p>Phone 5754 4428 to book your accommodation.</p> |
| <p>Sunday 20th November. Huon Hill, Wodonga. Cindy 0410 425 335</p> <p>A medium circuit walk, approx 14km beginning near the Kiewa River with a steep climb to Huon Hill, a Wodonga landmark. Huon Hill rises approx 263 metres above the Murray River. Spectacular views include Lake Hume, the Kiewa Valley, Alpine regions, Murray & Kiewa Rivers, Albury & Wodonga.</p> |
| <p>Tuesday 29th November. Extended Sunrise Track Walk. Glenda 5721 5114.</p> <p>An easy/medium walk approx 8km taking in the Sunrise Track, Taminick and Quarry loops of the southern Warby Range. The terrain is undulating with some quite steep sections, and the many grass trees may still be flowering. Start and finish at the Delloro Road car park.</p> |
| <p>Sat 3rd & Sun 4th December. Mt Buffalo weekend or day trippers. Contact Chris 5722 4876 for more info.</p> <p>Easy & medium walks over the weekend at Mt Buffalo. Walks include the Long Plain, Mount Dunn and Giants Causeway loop (approx 12km) on Saturday and the South Buffalo View Point (approx 8km) and the small loop of The Sentinel and Elsie's Peak (approx 2km) on Sunday. Travel on the day or camp at Lake Catani.</p> |
| <p>Friday 9th December, Club Christmas Party. Glenrowan Rifle Range, Rifle Range Rd, Glenrowan.</p> <p>At the Glenrowan Rifle Range. Enjoy this social occasion with fellow members. BYO drinks and meat for a BBQ. Crockery, cutlery and chairs are provided. Contact Judy on 03 57662773 to book, and to bring either a salad or a sweet to share.</p> |
| <p>Sunday 18th December. Spring Creek, Lake Kerferd, Red Hill. Cecily 5727 1340.</p> <p>A medium loop walk at Beechworth of approx 10km starting at the track along Spring Creek to reach Lake Kerferd and then return around Red Hill.</p> |
| <p>Sat 31st Dec to Mon 2nd Jan. New Years Eve, New Years Day, New Years Day Public Holiday</p> <p>A mix of walks over the three days and celebrate the New Year in at the Mitta Mitta pub with dinner and live entertainment from Liam Blunt's Funky Rhythm Train.</p> <p>Accommodation options include: Self contained vans/cabins to powered/unpowered sites at Magorra Caravan Park, ph 02 6072 3568, on the Mitta River, or the Mitta Pub 02 6072 3541. Book your own accommodation.</p> |



**WARBY RANGE
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Subscription for membership of Warby Range Bushwalkers Inc. 2016-2017

Please note that all current memberships expire on the 31st March 2016 (see notes below).

Single \$35; Family \$65; Associate \$10 (see notes below).

Life members, walking \$10; Life members, non-walking free; Temporary/Casual \$5

Notes.

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

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

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

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

Account no: 110647799; Reference: (your name)

Name(s)

Address

.....

Post code

Telephone

Email

Please return this form with subscription payment to:

Warby Range Bushwalkers Inc, PO Box 974, Wangaratta, Victoria 3676

WALKS PROGRAM, OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2016

If the walk leader(s) cannot be contacted to book into a walk, phone Jeanette 5721 6514, or Michael 5722 1080.
If a walk needs to be cancelled, an alternative walk will be offered where possible.

| Day/Date | Walk | Grade | Proposed walk |
|--|---|----------|--|
| Wednesday, 5 th October | Spring Creek, Warby Ranges. | E | Adrian, 5721 5327 |
| Sunday 9 th October | Kelly Cave, Mt Sugarloaf. | E/M | Jeanette, 0417 546 974 |
| Saturday 22 nd October | Hume & Hovell Track, Kinross Hotel to the Hovell Tree. | M/H | Jeanette, 0417 546 974 |
| Friday 29 th October to Tuesday 1 st November | Australian Alpine Walking Track. Mt Stronachs Camp to Walhalla. | | For further information and to book in contact Adele, 5727 9501 |
| Tuesday 1 st November | Chick Hill to Mt Glenrowan & Morrisons Winery. | E/M | Andy, 5721 7922 |
| Friday 4 th to Sunday 6 th November | Mt Beauty weekend of walks. | E, M & H | Bob, 5766 2773 Book your own accommodation. Tawonga Caravan Park, Mountain Creek Rd, Tawonga. Ph 5754 4428 |
| Monday 14 th November | Committee meeting 7.30pm | | Michael's 5722 1080 |
| Sunday 20 th November | Huon Hill, Wodonga. | M | Cindy, 0410 425 335 |
| Tuesday 29 th November | Extended Sunrise Track, Warby Ranges. | E/M | Glenda, 5721 5114 |
| Saturday 3 rd & Sunday 4 th December | Mt Buffalo weekend of walks. | E & M | Chris, 5722 4876 for further info. |
| Christmas Party Friday 9 th December | Glenrowan Rifle Range | | Judy, 5766 2773 |
| Sunday 18 th December | Spring Creek, Lake Kerferd and Red Hill, Beechworth. | M | Cecily, 5727 1340 |
| Saturday 31 st December to Monday 2 nd January | Mitta Mitta. New Years Eve, New Years Day and the New Years Day Public Holiday | E, M & H | Jeanette, 0417 546 974 Book your own accommodation. Powered & unpowered sites, vans/cabins. Magorra Caravan Park, Mitta Mitta. Ph 02 6072 3568 |

Walks Program

Since this newsletter is being issued early, the remainder of the current Walks Program is included below.

See also the new Walks Program (July—September) for the continuation of our activities beyond June 30.

If the walk leader(s) cannot be contacted to book into a walk, phone Jeanette 0417 546 974, 5721 6514 or

Michael 0447 617 880, 5722 1080.

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

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|------------|------------------------|
| Friday, 13th May | Mullinmur Billabongs, Wangaratta | E | Karen, 5722 2540 |
| Friday, 20th , to Sunday, 22nd May | Weekend at Mirimbah, includes Craigs Hut Walk | E, M, H | Cecily, 5727 1340 |
| Saturday, 4th June | Myrrhee Ridge, King Valley | M & M/H | Glenda, 5721 5114 |
| Saturday, 4th June | Dinner at the Sydney Hotel, Wangaratta Book by Thursday 2nd June | | Glenda, 5721 5114 |
| Wednesday, 15th June | Eldorado Hidden Valley | E | Andy, 5721 7922 |
| Sunday, 19th June | Carboor Ridge, west of Myrtleford | M | Jeanette, 0417 546 974 |

Friday, 13th May. Mullinmur Billabongs. Karen, 5722 2540

An easy early morning walk of approximately 8km on our newest track along the Ovens River, and picturesque billabongs, on the edge of town. Three loops through open forest on the floodplain, featuring prolific birdlife, and a chance to spot platypus and turtles.

Friday, 20th to Sunday, 22nd May. A weekend at The Wedge, Mirimbah. Cecily, 5727 1340.

A weekend at Mirimbah for easy, medium and hard walks, including to Craigs Hut.

Dormitory style accommodation at The Wedge.

Saturday, 4th June. Myrrhee Ridge. Glenda, 5721 5114

A choice of two walks to reach the Banksdale Winery. The shorter medium walk about 8km, and a medium/hard walk of about 12km offering superb views across the Myrrhee Valley, and some steady climbs (steep in parts). At times on a basic track, and some cross country sections, traversing fern gullies, pastoral land and pines to reach the winery. This medium hard walk includes a 6km climb on a 4WD track, with an altitude gain of 200 metres.

Saturday, 4th June. Dinner at the Sydney Hotel, 6.30pm. Glenda, 5721 5114

Join us for a social night at the Sydney Hotel at 6.30pm. Book with Glenda by Thursday, 2nd June.

Wednesday, 15th June. Eldorado Hidden Valley. Andy, 5721 7922

A 10km easy circular walk, starting to the west of the Eldorado township, and climbing gentle slopes into hidden valleys of Chiltern - Mount Pilot National Park, before descending to the Reedy Creek Gorge, and returning to the start.

Sunday, 19th June. Carboor Ridge. Jeanette, 0417 546 974

Approx 13km walk along 4WD roads, with some medium climbs, largely following the ridgeline, and with views, including to the Hurdle Creek Valley.



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NEWSLETTER 4 (October-December) 2016

The October – December walks program is jam packed to take advantage of the prime spring walking conditions pre-Christmas, and has something on offer for all tastes.

Wangaratta has had its wettest winter in 21 years, and, not too far to the south, places like Lima Falls in the Strathbogie Ranges (see photo) have had their wettest winter on record.



Following on from this wet winter, the wildflowers are already starting to bloom, as are all of our local flora — trees, bushes and shrubs. So, come and join us, check the walks calendar today, and pencil in a few dates for a perfect day in the bush.

For the socially inclined, our popular Cup Day Walk and Lunch is on again, and of course our Christmas BBQ will round off another successful walking year. See later in this Newsletter for more details of these, and more of our social activities.

If you haven't already done so, please remember that subscriptions became due at the AGM (March 21), and that they should be renewed now.

Hume and Hovell Track,

Table Top Park to Kinross Pub, May 7

The Hume and Hovell Walking Track extends for about 440km from Yass to Albury, and retraces fairly closely the route taken by those intrepid explorers in 1824.

The Walk is well described in the book *Hume and Hovell Walking Track Guidebook* by Harry Hill (published in 1993 by Crawford House, Bathurst NSW) as well as the set of maps available from the Department of Lands. (www.crownland.nsw.gov.au).

Eleven walkers completed this 19km section of the H&H Trail, the second last section of Adele's epic multi day 440km walk, which started near Yass, way back in 2014.

Five of the adventurers on today's outing had accompanied Adele for most of the long journey over the last two years.



This leg was not difficult compared to earlier sections, but still involved a stiff climb up the rocky Budgidgin Hill, which provided lovely 360 degree views, including the almost dry Lake Hume.

Lunch was taken at one of the many lakeside picnic areas - predictably empty of people at this time of the year.

Most of the walk was along bitumen sealed roads in open country, but part was in a bushland area close to the Kinross Woolshed Hotel, where we finished for the day, with the usual tasty refreshments.

The weather was fine, and the track had markers along the way to guide both the days walkers (who completed the Saturday's section) and the overnights, who were to complete two sections.

Would Adele and company be able to complete this big walk the next day (Sunday) with very wet conditions forecast?

Wait for the next bulletin (see below) to find out.

Hume and Hovell Track,

Kinross Pub to the Hovell Tree in Albury, May 8

In very heavy rain, walk leader Adele was determined to complete the last easy section of the H&H track which she had started near Yass in 2014.

Today's route involved using the Riverina Highway bike path, then cutting across to Mungabareena Reserve, then up to Eastern Hill, and finally through to the parklands that are home to the Hovell Tree (just upstream of Norieul Park).

The last part therefore involved mainly highway and road walking, which was slightly different from various wilderness tracks found along the rest of the 440km.

Adele has now completed the first of the two epic trails started more than two years ago, and involving considerable effort and organisation.

The Alpine Walking Track is planned to be completed in the Spring, and then what challenges will Adele set herself, and the club?

[Jeanette Farquhar]

Mullinmur Billabongs, May 13

Eleven club members, plus Andrew (a very enthusiastic parent of a Galen student), were guided by Galen teacher, and Mullinmur pioneer, Ian Minns, around this new venue, an easy early morning walk of approximately six kilometres.

Ian filled the group in with great detail regarding the history of the area, and the project's development.

Ian has been responsible for most of the walking track development here, including the footpaths, picnic area, fence removal, bird boxes and bird lists.



The excellent tracks along the river continue to grow in length, with the start/finish being at the corner of Phillipson Street and Cambridge Drive.

The route follows the sinuous course of the Ovens River, and then loops around one of the many billabongs of the Ovens Floodplain, following some disused vehicular tracks, as well as some interesting footpaths.

[Karen Davis]

Mirimbah Base Camp

Friday to Sunday May 20-22

For this great weekend, a party of 13 walkers made their base at 'The Wedge', private accommodation at Mirimbah.

This is at the base of Mount Buller, and from here the group were to enjoy the Autumn weather, and have the opportunity to hike both Mount Stirling on Saturday, and Mount Buller on Sunday.

Six went out to Craig's Hut, which was happily not as far as first thought, and only took the best part of seven hours return. They must have given the four-wheel drivers pause for thought, as to why you would take shanks pony instead of engine horse power.

At Mount Buller, perhaps the trail riders thought they had the best of it, but the six walkers who did the Summit Circuit at a leisurely pace (14 km, 5.5 hrs) were in no doubt that a footslog was a great way to see this Alpine country.

Dinner at Merrijig Hotel fuelled us up for the walk on Sunday,



8.5km down the Bridle Track from Mount Buller to Mirimbah at the base of the mountain.

Taking 3.5 hours, the descent through the layers of forest was, for some of us, a strain on knees and calves, providing a reminder of our happy adventures to take home into the week ahead.

[Cecily Fletcher]

Myrree Ridge, June 4

There were 14 participants on this new adventure in the Upper Fifteen Mile Creek Valley, including three casual members, and local property owner Adrian Younger.

The adventure began just to the north of Myrree (Pangerang word for wind) as 10 participants drove thru Boggy Creek (near where Hume and Hovell had passed in 1824).

Two separate walks were planned for the day, Walk 1 started off from the Wagon Track, itself off Boggy Creek Road, whereas the Walk 2 group appreciated an easier, flatter walk directly from Adrian Younger's property to meet up with the main group.



Adrian explained the history and land ownership of the area, as we initially walked through the vineyard, beside a pine plantation, carefully picked our way through a major patch of Bathurst burrs, and then onto his property on basic tracks, and on undulating terrain.

After stepping across a minor creek, and later enjoying seeing magnificent tree ferns, the last two kilometres were uphill, and quite steep in places.

The almost nine kilometre walk involved an altitude gain of 200m, magnificent views of the Myrree Valley, and many sightings of large mobs of kangaroos.

Back at Cheltenham Banks by 12.20pm, the group returned via car, or on foot to a shed for lunch, where we were joined by Ken Ellis and two of his friends, all of them on horseback. [Glenda Hall]

Carboor Ridge, June 19

Ten bushwalkers attend this walk at Carboor (about 30km south east of Wangaratta) and covered around 14.6km (according to the GPS).

The walk was on 4wd roads, taking in great views of the surrounding valleys, and Mount Buffalo of course (the aboriginal name for Buffalo, first named by Hume and Hovell in 1824, was probably Dordorgonga).



We started the walk at an elevation of around 220 metres, and climbed to around 500 metres during the walk, with some steep sections. The entire walk was in State Forest, and finished with a gentle descent.

We experienced an overcast day, but luckily no showers came our way. [Jeanette Farquhar]

Nine Mile Historic Area, July 2

On Saturday 2nd July, (election day) eight bushwalkers, including Clare from Maingable, participated in a loop walk of approximately 14.6 kilometres in the Nine Mile Historic Area at Stanley.

It was a foggy start at Stanley for the walk, but the clouds lifted, and while the day was mostly overcast we enjoyed some welcome breaks of sunshine, but also had some short light showers.

Our walk started at the car park at the corner of Wallaby Track and Lower Nine Mile Road. We followed the Wallaby Track down a steep hill to a grassed path on the left hand side. This led to the Wallaby Mine, and the rebuilt battery stamp located by the Nine Mile Creek.

We then followed another path to the Rechabite Mines, which are located on the other side of the Nine Mile Creek from the Wallaby Track. Unfortunately due to the volume of water in the creek, we were unable to cross it to explore them. A recently fallen tree provided seating for morning tea.

After morning tea opposite the Rechabite Mines we then headed on to the Karrs Reef Mine, which is not accessible, but there were some relics from the gold mining days here. We had lunch at this spot, and then headed to the Rocky Point Track to return to the start of our walk.

The walk was in hilly country with lots of beautiful native bush and a full Nine Mile Creek flowing through it. Walking poles were needed for a particularly steep section during the walk.

[Jeanette Farquhar]



Stanley State Forest to the pub, July 17

The sunshine brought 24 WRBC members out of the recent confines of their warm homes on a pleasant Sunday afternoon in the Mount Stanley Scenic Reserve.

Beginning at Circular Road, walkers meandered southwards, joining Granite Creek Road before stopping at the Stanley Jeep Track for a spot of morning tea.

Thankfully no members were lost at this point, despite the large group having spread out considerably over this stretch of road.

It was then a matter of some huffing and puffing as the group negotiated a very muddy and steep Jeep Track. Recent four wheel drive activity had churned the road up somewhat, but with people moving at their own pace, and within their abilities, all made it to a halfway point where some great views of the snow capped alps were visible through the trees.



Another steep ascent towards the summit of Mt Stanley followed, where all walkers were then treated to some particularly fine views of the alps in the distance. Snow had fallen in the week prior to the walk, and this was still evident on this side of the forest and ascent to the top. A number of walkers made use of the snow to refresh each other, and get hearts pumping.

The final leg of the journey was a pleasant downward stroll to the cars parked at the Mt Stanley and Circular Road junction. The walk totalled 11.7km, taking four and a quarter hours, with stops, to complete.

Afternoon tea followed, and then for those who were interested, a further refreshment at the Stanley Pub with some trivia questions entitled, "Much Ado About Stanley". [Michael Braendler]

Thistle Hill, July 31

Thistle Hill is on the western ridge line of the King Valley, with some of the walk through forest, and the rest through open grasslands.

This 11km walk started out in misty conditions, with low cloud making visibility quite poor for most of the walk.

However, the cloud cleared as we made our descent from the summit area, and we had a beautiful view of the King Valley below.



Despite the poor weather, there were 19 walkers on this trip, and an enjoyable time was had by all. [Trevor Turnbull]

Eldorado - Two Waterfalls, August 6

For this walk, twenty-six of us headed off from Eldorado in fine conditions. With four 'newies' in the group, Ian led a delightful medium walk of 17km along firm bush tracks, visiting two waterfalls which were running impressively south towards Reedy Creek.



At the first waterfall (now called the Slater Falls) we stopped for a cuppa, and then had lunch at the more permanent Clear Creek Falls, after a short scrub bash down from the Old Coach Road.

A small car shuffle then brought us back to Eldorado, but not before the crew enjoyed the now traditional cuppa with fresh biscuits, supplied by a very Kuhle person. [Ian Slater]

Mount Jack, August 20

You know when you step out of the car, and it begins to snow, that the day's walk may not be your typical one. That was the scenario that greeted 11 hardy WRBC members for the Mt Jack summit

walk. Upon exiting the vehicles we were greeted with a very light dusting of snow, and some rain, forcing everyone to put on their wet weather gear.

The walk then began with a five kilometre drive along the Rosewhite Track (Happy Valley Track) to the junction of the Mt Jack Track.

From the vehicles we headed in the opposite direction of the Mt Jack summit to Bill Hicks Track. Little did we know that this track was going to descend some 400m, after having driven that amount up into the forest to park the cars.

This descent was hard, and for one walker the knees couldn't manage, and forced their return to the cars with a companion. The rest of us continued down the track, until meeting the House Creek junction. This was a pretty spot, obviously popular with campers, with a nice flowing creek and ferns. A short creek crossing was a chance to test out the water-proofness of boots, except for Jeanette who tested her balance walking across a log.

House Creek Track proved to be a challenging uphill walk. Margot became acquainted with a wallaby, which almost knocked her over when bounding out of the bushes and over the track. Some of the members also became familiar with a young wombat during this stretch of track.



We gained some 750m over about six kilometres, to be around the 1200m mark on the way to the Mt Jack summit. The summit isn't marked clearly, but it was time for our late lunch.

Sago snow fell during much of this time, and most members ate standing up - trying to keep warm I think, and too scared to sit down in case they froze to logs. For some only part of their lunch was consumed, as fingers wouldn't work sufficiently to take off wrappers and cling wrap!

From the Mt Jack summit, it was an easier walk to the cars, although the cold made some muscles cramp and numerous hands and fingers very cold.

It was a good, but hard, circular walk of about 17km on vehicle tracks all of the way, taking six and a half hours. Although there was a short period of early sunshine, views of the surrounding alps were not visible on this occasion.

One group continued their late afternoon by taking in a tasting of wine (possibly four), at Eagle Range Estate in Happy Valley.

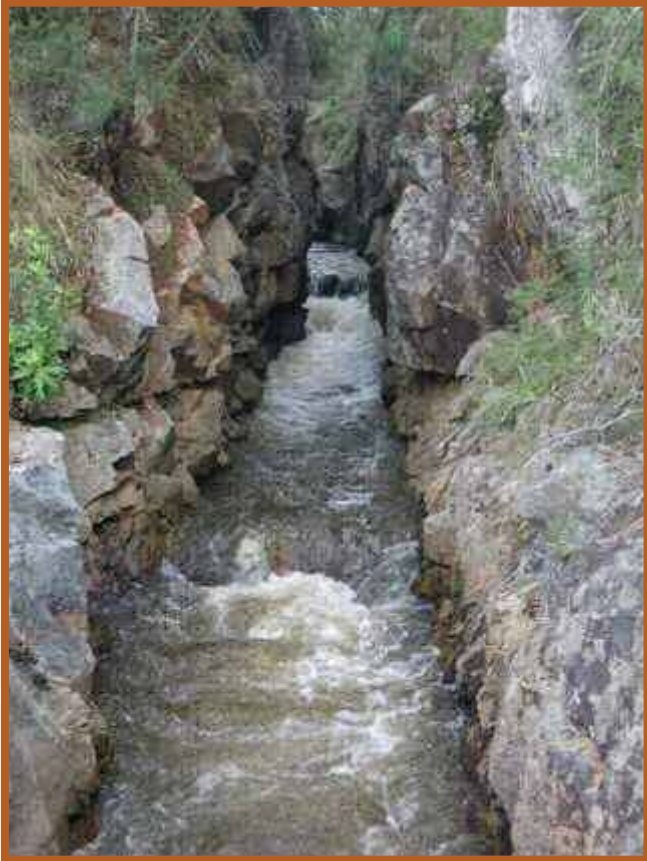
Mt Jack is a great walk that would be rewarding in the autumn, or spring, to view the surrounding alps in sunnier conditions.

[Michael Braendler]

Yackandandah - Town—Gorge Walk, August 23

Ten adults, one child and one dog enjoyed a six kilometre walk from the Yackandandah Pool, and impressive community garden, around the outskirts of the town.

Evan Willis, in his book "Twenty Walks around Beechworth" gives directions which led the group of walkers to "new" parts of the town - with modern, well kept homes on undulating countryside, to the magnificent track following a deep gorge along the creek.



With the creek flowing strongly through the channel, engineered with explosives and pick and shovel in the nineteenth century, it was an impressive sight.

Lovely views and varied scenery created a lot of interest whilst walking in beautiful winter sun. Tasty fare in a cafe on the verandahed main street finished a wonderful outing for all.

[Helen Twitt]

What's happening on the Warby Walker's Social Scene . . .

Warby Ranges BBQ Lunch – Sunday Sept 11th

What better way to 'spring into spring' than with a walk in the Warby's!! The wildflowers should be putting on a great display at this time of year, and John's navigation walk is a very novel and fun way of exploring this picturesque area . . .

Or, just come along for the BBQ Lunch.

See the Walks Program, and book in with John for further details.

BYO: Food for your BBQ lunch, crockery, cutlery, chair.

PROVIDED: Gas BBQ, Tea, Coffee, AND Bob's 'Show entry' Chocolate cake!

Cup Day – Tuesday Nov 1st

Join in the Cup Day fun. Andy is leading a Walk to Mt Glenrowan, then descending to Morrison's Winery in time for the Cup and the traditional Warby Walker's Cup Cake . . .

Or, just come along and join in the fun with the walkers at Morrison's Winery at the conclusion of the walk.

See the Walks Program, and book in with Andy.

Mt Beauty Weekend – Nov 4th, 5th and 6th

Come along to a great weekend of walks in the Mt Beauty area.

Accommodation can be booked at Tawonga Caravan Park on Mountain Creek Rd, (03-5754 4428).

This delightful setting will be our base. They have self-contained cabins, on site caravans, powered and unpowered sites.

There will be a BYO BBQ on the Saturday evening in the Caravan Park.

See also the Walks Program for this weekend, and book in with Bob for the Walks.



Mt Buffalo Weekend – Dec 2nd, 3rd and 4th

Another great chance to take time out before the Christmas rush, air the tent or hook on the van and enjoy a weekend at Mt Buffalo.

This should be a good time for the Alpine flowers, and Chris has walks planned for both Saturday and Sunday.

Or, you may just wish to come and chill, take in the mountain air and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow walkers at the end of the day.

See the Walks program, and book in with Chris.

Christmas Party – Friday Dec 9th

Make a note in your diary now for the Warby Walker's Christmas party. It is being held again this year at the Glenrowan Rifle Range, Rifle Range Rd; Glenrowan.

BYO drinks and meat for a BBQ. Crockery, cutlery and chairs are provided. Contact Judy on 03 57662773 to book, and to bring either a salad or a sweet to share.

Directions to the venue: Drive through the main street of Glenrowan, past the Ned Kelly statue.

Proceed on the road towards Melbourne, with the Football Oval, and a large dam on your left. Drive over the Hume Freeway overpass, then turn immediately left, onto Rifle Range Rd.

Proceed about 800 metres along Rifle Range Rd, then turn left into the Rifle Range where the club rooms are located.

Bullawah Cultural Trail

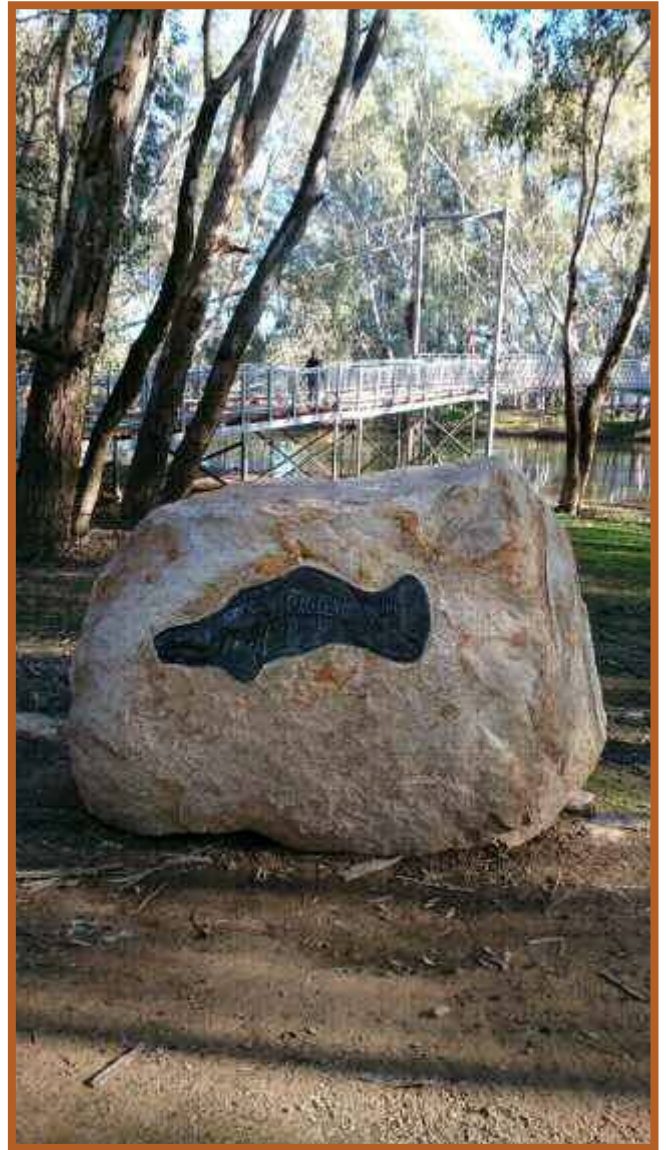
As mentioned in the April-June Newsletter, an Elders Rock has been placed at Apex Park to honour local community leaders every year on the anniversary of National Reconciliation Week.

It's an idea thought of by the late Uncle Wally Cooper, who passed away in December 2015, and now forms part of the recently opened Bullawah Cultural Trail, a path that stretches 2.4km along the Ovens River in Wangaratta. The \$180,000 trail tells the story of the area's Aboriginal heritage, and how a local tribe has lived historically, and to the present day.

Uncle Wally was a highly respected Elder whose pride in his Aboriginal heritage, and message for hope for the future, inspired many.

Large granite rocks, which form the foundations for the sculptures, have also been placed along the trail. Artists Anderson Hunt and Paul Blizzard of Wangaratta selected the rocks from Mawsons Quarry, and these are now home to their sculptural art-works, as developed with local Elders.

The Bullawah Cultural Trail was officially opened on Friday, 26th August, with the opening ceremony being conducted at the pedestrian bridge opposite Painters Island.



Stay up-to-date with the wider bushwalking community
via the Bushwalking Victoria website —
www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

Mitta Mitta – Dec 31st, Jan 1st and Jan 2nd

A return visit to Mitta Mitta for New Year's Eve this year is a must after such a great time was had by all last year.

Jeanette has walks planned for each of the three days depending on the weather.



On New Year's Eve, there will be Dinner at the Mitta Pub with live entertainment, provided by Michael's band "Liam Blunt's Funky Rhythm Train" – great music to dance to!

Accommodation options include self-contained cabins and camping sites, with or without power at Magorra Caravan Park, on the banks of the Mitta Mitta River (02 60723568), or stay at the Mitta Pub (02 60723541)

As this is a popular area, it is advisable to book with the Park or Pub early, as bookings for accommodation start filling up around September.

See the Walks Program, and book in for the walks with Jeanette.

Alan Raison

Alan is a life member of the Club, and he and Tim recently celebrated 60 years of wedded life together. Alan still comes on occasional walks, and in the past was an active leader. We congratulate Alan and Tim on their milestone celebration.



Smart Phone - Emergency Call App

As a result of problems experienced by emergency call-takers and emergency services, the Triple Zero Awareness Work Group

(TZAAG) has launched a free smartphone app: Emergency+.

TZAAG identified that more than 66% of 000 emergency calls were made from mobile phones; however, mobile callers often do not know exactly where they are, meaning that call-processing times are longer, and call-takers are then unavailable to take the next incoming emergency call.

Determining caller location is the most critical piece of information emergency call-takers need when a call comes in. If callers don't know where they are, emergency services can't send help.

Emergency+ uses the existing GPS functionality of smartphones to enable callers to provide emergency call-takers with their location information as determined by their phone.

When activated, the built in accessibility features will describe aloud what appears on-screen, so a caller can use the app without seeing it.



The Emergency+ app is available for free download in Apple iOS, Android and Windows phone versions, and has already saved lives by ensuring emergency services arrive on-scene as quickly as possible to assist someone in need.

One group for which Emergency+ has obvious benefits is bushwalkers, and TZAAG has numerous examples where lost or injured bushwalkers have used the app to pinpoint their location for emergency services.

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, as mentioned above, if you ever need to use it to call 000, the App will forward your GPS location to the emergency service operator.

Bill Rosser

Bill Rosser is one of our life members and a former committee member. Bill has not been an active walker with the Club for several years now. He is currently in the Aged Care facility at St Johns Retirement Village, Wangaratta.

He is still very interested in the affairs of the Warby Range Bushwalkers, and feels he is being looked after well at St Johns. Bill moved from The Terrace at St Johns shortly after his wife, Joy, died. Joy was also one of our life members.



**WARBY RANGE
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www.warbybushwalkers.org.au

Subscription for membership of Warby Range Bushwalkers Inc. 2016-2017

Please note that all current memberships expire on the 31st March 2016 (see notes below).

Single \$35; Family \$65; Associate \$10 (see notes below).

Life members, walking \$10; Life members, non-walking free; Temporary/Casual \$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)

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