

WARBY RANGE
BUSHWALKERS
2017



WALKS PROGRAM, JANUARY – MARCH 2017

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/Phone
Friday, 9th December	Christmas Party, Glenrowan Rifle Range		Judy, 5766 2773
Saturday, 31st December to Monday, 2nd January	Mitta Mitta. New Year's Eve, New Years Day and the New Year's Day Public Holiday	E, M	Jeanette, 0417 546 974 Book your own accommodation. Powered and unpowered sites, vans/cabins. Magorra Caravan Park, (02 6072 3568)
Saturday, 14th January	Byramine Murray River Walk	E	Adrian, 5721 5327
Sunday, 22nd January	Wagirra Trail, Albury	M	Chris, 5722 4876
Saturday, 4th February	Sunrise at sunrise, Warby Ranges	E, M	Judy, 5766 2773
Friday, 10th February	Moonlight Walk, Beechworth	E	Glenda, 5721 5114
Monday, 13th February	Committee Meeting		Michael, 5722 1080
Friday, 17th to Sunday, 19th February	Mount St Bernard weekend	E, M, H	Adrian, 5721 5327
Sunday, 5th March	Yackandandah Escarpment	M	Jeanette, 0417 546 974
Thursday, 16th March	Ovens and King Rivers, Wangaratta	E	Andy, 5721 7922
Saturday, 18th March	Morses Creek and Wandiligong Diggings	E, M	Michael, 5722 1080
Monday, 27th March	Annual General Meeting, Vine Hotel, Detour Road, North Wangaratta Arrive for dinner between 6 and 6.30, meeting at 7.30pm.		Judy, 5766 2773
22nd to 29th April	Talbingo, our week away 2017		Adrian, 5721 5327

Friday, 9th December 2016. Warby Walkers Christmas Party is being held again this year at the Glenrowan Rifle Range, Rifle Range Road, Glenrowan. BYO drinks and meat for a BBQ. Crockery, cutlery and chairs are provided. **Contact Judy, 5766 2773, to book in, and to arrange to bring either a salad or a sweet to share.**

Saturday, 31st December to Monday, 2nd January. New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, New Year's Day Public Holiday. Mitta Mitta, Jeanette, 0417 546 974 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.

Walks include to the Beaufort Bomber crash site, and the Dorchap Range. Beat the heat by cooling off in Snowy Creek.

Accommodation options include: Self contained vans/cabins to powered/unpowered sites at Magorra Caravan Park (02 6072 3568), or the Mitta Pub (02 6072 3541). Book your own accommodation.

Saturday, 14th January. Byramine Murray River walk. Adrian, 5721 5327

Fancy an early start to beat the heat? An eight kilometre easy morning walk among the shady red gums, adjacent to the River Murray, between Yarrowonga and Cobram. Delightful river beaches and billabongs.

Lunch is available at the historic Byramine Homestead, or BYO to enjoy in the shade of the homestead gardens. Entry to the homestead \$5 (self guided tour). Byramine Homestead is the oldest homestead in the area, and very much in original condition. It was built for Hamilton Hume's sister (of Hume and Hovell fame) and is one of the most important and earliest homesteads in Victoria, still standing. A brewery is within the grounds for those who wish to imbibe.

Sunday, 22nd January. Wagirra Trail, Albury. Chris, 5722 4876

A medium walk of about 20km. Easy walking on near level bush tracks, shaded by River Redgums, downstream from Noreuil Park to Wonga Wetlands and Horseshoe Lagoon, with some local loops to add variety.

Saturday, 4th February. Sunrise at Sunrise in the Warby Ranges. Judy or Bob, 5766 2773

Get ready for an early start to see the sunrise on the Sunrise Track in the Warby Ranges. An easy to medium walk along the Sunrise Track followed by brunch at Hamilton Park.

Friday, 10th February. Moonlight Walk, Beechworth. Glenda, 5721 5114

An easy evening walk in the light of the moon, about 10km, along the rail trail to Beechworth for a picnic dinner at Lake Sambell, then good views over the high country on the return walk.

Monday, 13th February, Committee Meeting. Michael, 5722 1080

Friday 17, 18 and 19th February. Mount St Bernard. Adrian, 5721 5327

A weekend staying at Mount St Bernard for walks around Mt Hotham with a walk to the Derrick and Dibbins Huts along with a falls walk on the Sunday. Accommodation at the Mount St Bernard Lodge.

Book in with Adrian to ensure your accommodation.

Sunday, 5th March. Escarpment walk, Yackandandah. Jeanette, 0417 546 974.

A medium walk of about 10km along mostly 4wd roads, and some bush tracks, and some hills, to reach the views on this walk at Yackandandah.

Thursday, 16th March. Ovens and King Rivers, Wangaratta. Andy, 5721 7922

An easy riverside walk of about six kilometres along the Ovens and King River paths, Merriwa and Big Kaluna Parks, Wangaratta. There may be an early start to escape the heat.

Saturday, 18th March. Morses Creek and the Wandiligong Diggings. Michael, 5722 1080.

A walk following Morses Creek to Wandiligong diggings with an option of lunch and frivolities at the Wandii Pub. A mostly level walk about seven kilometres one way, or 14km if you want a return walk.

Monday, 27th March, Annual General Meeting at the Vine Hotel, Detour Road, North Wangaratta.

Book with Judy or Bob, 5766 2773. Arrive for dinner between 6 and 6.30, meeting at 7.30pm.



WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc.

FUN . FITNESS . FRIENDSHIP

www.warbybushwalkers.org.au

NEWSLETTER 1 (January), 2017

warbybushwalkers.org.au

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2017 Walking Year, and now is the time to consider what your ideal summer walking program would be like. Visits to the High Country, adventure in the Alps, camps by water, a moonlight stroll, new and interesting places to visit, a shared meal? IT'S ALL THERE – START THE NEW YEAR BY BOOKING INTO THE MOUNT ST BERNARD WEEKEND NOW! (see the Walks Program for more details).

Closer to hand, our annual Xmas Party is to be held on Friday, December 9th at the Glenrowan Rifle Range, Rifle Range Road, Glenrowan. BYO drinks and meat for a BBQ. Crockery, cutlery and chairs provided. See Social Events (later in this Newsletter) for more details.

As well as this Newsletter, our website also has reports from our walks, the walks program, back issue newsletters, a photo gallery and heaps of other interesting information.

Annual General Meeting, 2017

Our ANNUAL DINNER and AGM will be held at the historic Vine Hotel on Monday, March 27th, and everyone (including family and friends) is welcome to attend.

Some committee positions will become vacant at the AGM, and 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.

Committee meetings are held four times a year, and are always welcoming to new members. Throughout the year there are many interesting projects to complete, as well as great walks to plan.

See Social Events (later in this Newsletter) for more details.

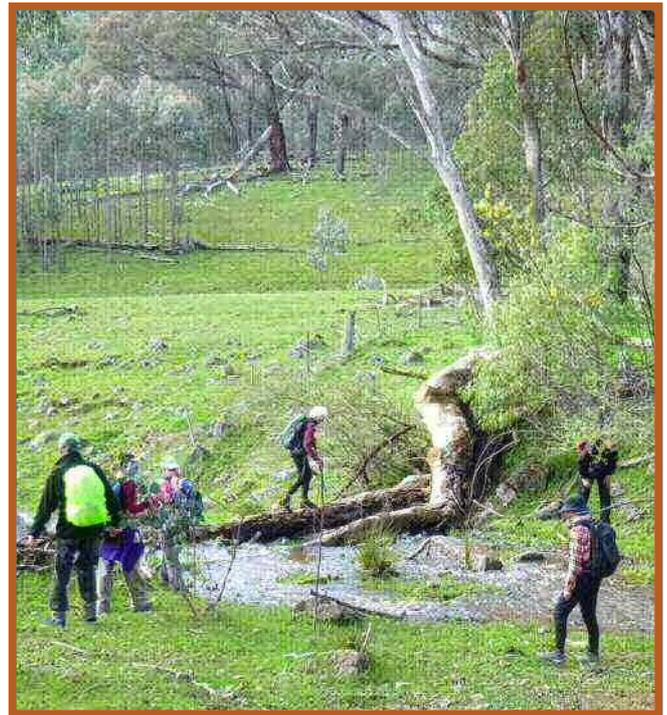
Mount Baranduda, September 3

Mount Baranduda is an isolated area of high country, located just to the south-east of the Wodonga urban area. Most of this granitic outcrop is now incorporated into the Baranduda Regional Park.

After a night of heavy rain, 19 enthusiastic walkers journeyed to Mount Baranduda, ready for the picturesque ridge top walk. The clouds parted enough by the time we reached the transmission towers, allowing wonderful views over the valleys to the West.

Layers of clothing were discarded as the sun shone through, and the undulating track, through lush sub-alpine bush, presented many ups and downs. Recent rain resulted in a few fallen trees, and wet spots, to negotiate. Views were enjoyed to the West and East along the ridge, and later North over Wodonga.

We startled a few wallabies, and a fox, at the bottom of the range, the mountain being descended down a steep-ish Cobbs Track.



A few seasonal creeks needed to be crossed at the bottom, on our way along to our northern access track, where Rod awaited with a welcome cuppa, and a lift back to retrieve our vehicles. What was to be a half hour wait for the non drivers turned into two hours, as a large tree had fallen on the road up the mountain, between the drivers and their vehicles.

Just as we were huddling into all available spare clothing, the generous farmer, who had earlier unlocked the gate for us, came along and invited us home for a hot drink and cake, and to warm up in their cosy farmhouse. This turned out to be a wonderful end to a majestic walk, thanks to our new friends the Kernigans. [Karen Davis]

Gapsted Hills, September 14

Despite dark and cloud-wreathed hills (as viewed from the Gapsted cricket ground, where the walk began) and the thundering Stoney Creek beneath our feet, the sky was soon to break into blue. This meant that the six participants of this walk hardly had a wet foot by the completion of the first 8km.

Then it was up through farm paddocks, and onto the Gapsted Track into the Stanley Forest where a few early pea flowers, and the odd purple spray of sarsaparilla, could be seen. We soon left the track, and followed a motorbike trail on its meandering way through the bush above Long Flat Creek.



This led through pleasantly undulating terrain, with one steep downward pinch to the creek crossing, where morning tea was held. We then encountered many flowers - a total of seven species of orchids, and numerous colourful fungi.

The next stage followed Long Flat Creek downstream. With creek song, and countless rivulets, plus the ooziings from ancient mine shafts, well may we say that the hills were alive with the sound of water!

Back on the Gapsted Track, the party passed by the remains of the Chinese Dam, and then through to what had been the once thriving hamlet of Gapsted. Once at the cricket pavilion we enjoyed lunch, and a fine view of sunlit hills. [Jan Heywood]

Turquoise Mine / Tyrells Mine, September 24

In cool, cloudy weather, a group of walkers ventured to the Black Range State Forest area, near Cheshunt, to explore an area that was mined for turquoise between 1887 and 1920.

It is believed that this area was the site of the first turquoise discovery in Australia. Until 1921 the Edi turquoise was exported to Europe to be used for ornamental inlays and cameo cuttings.

Instead of walking from the Cheshunt Road upwards, we decided to proceed in our four wheel drives about 2.7km up Black Range Road, and park in an area near Deep Gully. From here, the ridge-top walk up the Black Range Track was challenging in places, but the outcomes were very rewarding.



There were views of snow to the south, to Mount Cobbler, Mount Sterling and Mount Buller, as well as northerly views down to the whole King Valley, the Ovens Valley and Lake Mokoan.

The walk is classed as medium, from the start, till you reach Smalls Track leading off to the west. After venturing down this steep track for 200 metres, the main mine shaft can be discovered by bush bashing down to the right through the bush, for about 100 metres, down a steep incline.

The third horizontal wash-away is where you then veer at right angles off the track to proceed to the mine, which is about 100m off the track. It is handy to have torches with you, as well as small picks, if you want to fossick for turquoise.

We enjoyed lunch at the mine site, and several walkers not only entered the mine, but some fossicked on the mullock heap nearby, and found some examples of turquoise

After lunch on Black Range Track, we descended about 400 metres, down the four wheel drive track to our cars, and a well earned cuppa. The trip takes almost two hours uphill, then about one hour on the return journey, with a total distance of about 12km.

[Bob Shaw]

Pangerang and Pine Gully, October 5

With 189mm rain over the previous four weeks, preceded by a very wet winter, the cross-country walk scheduled for this date was out of the question.



But a bright day dawned, and the five who participated, had a delightful morning of two shorts walks in spite of the saturated state of the Warby Range.

The first walk was to Pangerang Lookout, along which trail, plenty of orchids, everlastings and other wildflowers, created great interest.

Towards the end, the unique Spur Wing Wattle, and the stately Cypress Pines, scattered among outcrops of granite, added to the pleasure. Finally, the outstanding Lookout across the western hills and fertile plains, made a delightful morning tea stop.

Following this walk, the group drove to the Pine Gully picnic area, and wandered down to the nearby falls, which were truly a torrent.

The raging creek feeding them provided challenges for crossing, but all was well.

Three of the participants were unfamiliar with the Warby Range, being newcomers to Wangaratta, and they expressed great pleasure in the adventures of the morning. [Adrian Twitt]

Mount Sugarloaf and Kellys Cave, October 10

This superb 12km walk started in Upper Ryan's Creek, to the south of Greta South. Our walk leader, Adrian Younger was brought up in this area, and was a brilliant guide for this trip into a rarely visited area.

The group of 20 walkers, plus three horse people, left Jones Lane, and climbed off track toward Mount Sugarloaf, visiting some fascinating turquoise mines hidden in bushland.



Great views of the surrounding King Valley, and of the Futter/Warby Range greeted us at the top of the 500 metre hill.

Then it was down quite steeply, through rocky woodland to a splendid, and concealed, Kelly's Cave, which Adrian explained as being half-way between two of the Gang's favourite supply points.

We then descended into the valley, and walked beside a swollen creek, before consuming Bob's prize winning chocolate cake, and Pat's special biscuits, with the traditional, and very welcome cuppa. [Jeanette Farquhar]

Hume and Hovell Walking Track - Kinross Hotel to Hovell Tree, October 22

The Hume and Hovell Walking Track extends for about 440km from Yass to Albury, and retraces fairly closely the NSW part of 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).



This final stretch of the Hume and Hovell Track (from the Kinross Hotel to the Hovell Tree) was completed by Adele, and her crew a few weeks ago (albeit, in difficult weather) and because of this, the Club decided to give a few others the chance to walk the last stretch of this popular walking track.

So, five walkers (including one "newey") attended this last stretch of the Hume and Hovell, completing the final section of this epic multi-day 440km walk, which started near Yass, way back in 2014.

The adventure started near the Kinross Woolshed Hotel, and followed a mix of unpaved and paved tracks, paths and roads.

Like the two explorers in 1824, we climbed Eastern Hill, and had lunch, with that delightful view towards Table Top, but found that the published trail was impossible to follow due to road works.

As well, after trudging through heavily grassed paddocks, and then a suburb of Thurgoona, we had to detour significantly off the track due to the flooding of the Murray near Mungabareena.

However, we managed to drop down to the Murray flood plain before we entered industrial areas, and then through back streets to the Murray itself.

We then continued on to the Hovell Tree Park, which adjoins Norieul Park in Albury, where afternoon tea was most welcome.

Our walk was probably around 18 kilometres long, and mostly undulating, apart from the ascent and descent of Eastern Hill.

[Jeanette Farquhar]

Chick Hill to Mount Glenrowan and Morrison's Winery, November 1

This outing was the latest in our Cup Day adventures, and the gates lifted with 23 walkers setting off from the Hamilton Park area, climbing up the Chick Hill Track, and onto the main ridge of the Warby Range.



The group then ambled along the ridge track, before stopping for a break at the summit of Mount Glenrowan, with those exceptional views over Glenrowan, the Ovens Valley, and the still slightly snow sprinkled Alps.

We then descended down a fairly steep, and heavily grassed, ridge and completed the seven kilometre adventure at Morrison's Winery.

Other members were waiting at the winery, and with the help of

the always amiable Bob Morrison, had set up tables, chairs and umbrellas.

Delicious food, wine, and Pat's tea, were then consumed before we all listened to the Melbourne Cup.

A new member – Thelma – had chosen a numbered cupcake corresponding to the winning horse, and was thus presented with the 'grand' cup by last year's winner, Karen.

Most members (including some blokes) took the challenge of wearing 'stunning' head gear on the walk.

And so after much deliberation, our trackside judge (Helen Twitt) deemed the superbly ornate, and florid, hat of Deb Goodson as being the most resplendent. [Andy Kimber]

Mount Beauty Weekend, November 4, 5, and 6

Big Hill, Saturday, November 5

Thirty three walkers commenced this walk, after having met at the Mount Beauty Information Centre.

We then took the Falls Creek Road, branching off to the west at Cranky Charlie after five kilometres, and drove another 12km on a dirt road to the Big Hill Cutting.



The first part of the walk was classed as Medium, and was an 8km return walk, with an ascent of 385m to the Big Hill fire tower. From here there were close-up views of Mount Bogong, with its considerable cover of snow on its south, protected side. There were also views of Mount Feathertop, Falls Creek, Spion Kopje and the Arthurs.

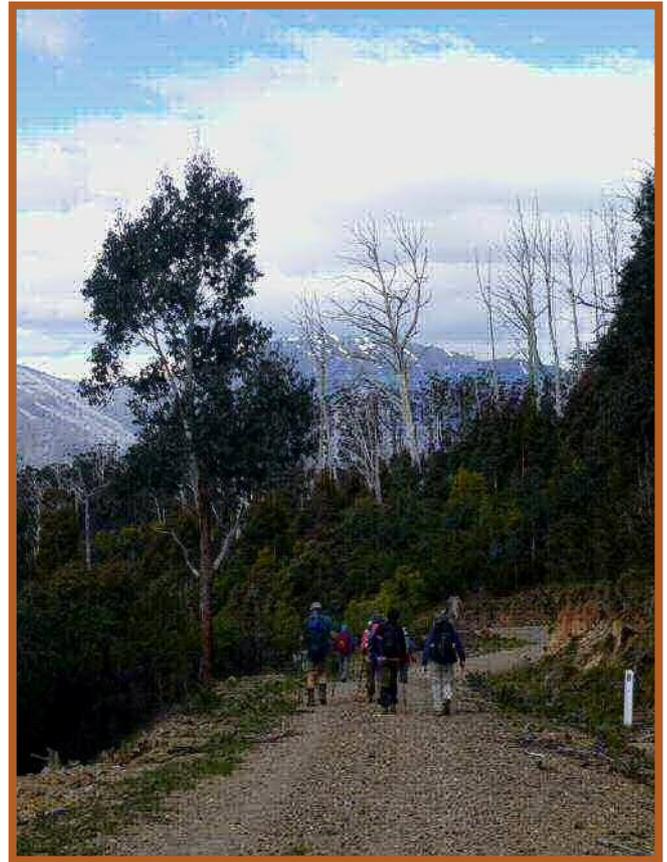
From here, 31 walkers then continued along the Fire Track, past Spring Saddle, to Bald Hill. This was a further ascent of nearly 200m, and added another six kilometres to the walk. This made the venue a Medium/Hard graded walk.

There were clear views of the East Kiewa Valley, Bogong Village and its surrounds, and at this point 17 walkers decided to retrace their steps, and return to Big Hill cutting.

Fourteen walkers continued the further three kilometres to Bogong Jack Hut, tackling a further minor ascent, still on the same 4WD track.

We were all surprised by the enormity of the grassed flat area used as a corral for horses, and probably cattle as well, in the past. The area was as large as a cricket oval, with fallen trees as the effective fencing around the perimeter.

Bogong Jack Hut is very small and basic, but there was a horse



trough made out of timber that was interesting. The 14 walkers then returned to the cars at the Big Hill cutting, and arrived back at their accommodation around 5pm.

Walks around Mount Beauty, Sunday, November 6

These walks were very short, and all were classified as Easy. The aim was to have a social morning, meet for lunch in the Mount Beauty gardens (near the local swimming pool) then disperse.

Walkers chose from the following five walks– Pondage Walk – 3km, 45 mins; Rock Pool walk 1.2km, 20 mins Survey Track – 4.5km, 2 hrs; River Walk 4km, 1hr; Gorge Walk – 2.5km 1.5hrs

Cars were needed to drive short distances to the start of these walks. All walkers could choose from the five walks, and were given assistance as to where to travel for these walks.

At noon we then met in the gardens opposite the CBA, and next to the Mount Beauty swimming pool, for lunch. Again it was self-catering, but some chairs were needed in the gardens.

Most people stayed at the Tawonga Caravan Park, either in cabins, onsite caravans, or in their own vans or tents. The Saturday night BBQ was very successful socially, with everyone in attendance.

The location beside the caravan park BBQ area, and next to the Kiewa River also helped the ambience. [Judy and Bob Shaw]

Australian Alpine Walking Track

Friday, October 29 to Tuesday, November 1

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

The walk on this section of the AAWT started at Stronachs Camp, north of Walhalla, and finished at Walhalla.

Stronachs Camp was formerly a forestry settlement, established in 1939 to process fire damaged timber in the aftermath of the 1939 Black Friday Bushfires.

Adele Ritchie finished the legendary track at the beginning of November (and the slightly shorter Hume and Hovell walk in May). The last 46km of this epic adventure was covered in three days, in very difficult snow covered track conditions, and -5 degree temperatures.

Adele started the mainly wilderness AAWT on December 31, 2012, with members of the Warby Range and Benalla clubs. Three walkers accompanied her on the final section, with Benalla's Trevor Smith the only one to be in the initial group, and at the finish.

Adele said that the high point of the Alpine walk was the amble along the glorious Cross Cut Saw ridge (near Mount Buller) in March this year.



She really appreciated the camaraderie of the many walkers who accompanied her on various sections, with two Essendon ladies (Sylvia and Therese) covering the most kilometres.

What about Adele's future walking prospects? Someone did write a few years ago:

*"Now for those who are willing - Adele has some modest future plans;
The Hume and Hovell and AAWT tracks have been completed in a four-year span
Then it's across to the Appalachians - the trail should only take 20 weeks
Then from the top to the bottom of New Zealand, climbing every Alpine peak
By the Ritchie schedule in 2020 - she plans a full two-week rest
Then it's off to hike the Andes length on an easier part of the quest
Crossing Antarctica in winter should rouse the baby boomers, X and Yers
Before the final challenge - a complete traverse of the Himalayas."*

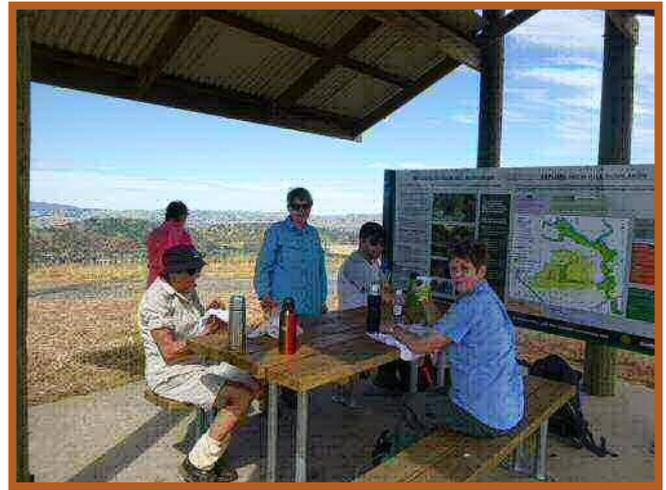
Huon Hill, Wodonga, November 20

Huon Hill is an isolated crop of high ground, located on the eastern edge of the Wodonga urban area, and overlooks the Aldonga urban area, as well as the Kiewa and Murray Rivers.

Eight club members, led by Cindy Marsh, completed this 14km medium walk in hot (high 20's) conditions.

After positioning cars at Killara, the group had a steady climb to the top of Huon Hill, enjoying superb views along the way and for a full 360 degrees at the top.

The group then descended to the valley, taking the track that leads to where the Kiewa meets the Murray



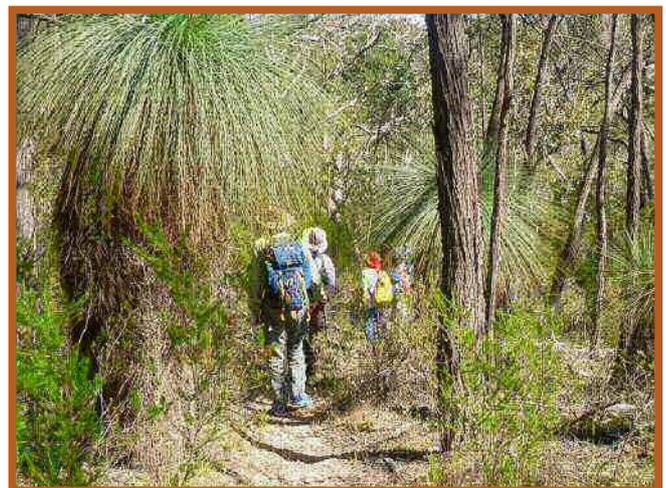
This part of the walk was underwater not too long ago, so there was debris in the trees about two metres above the ground level in places. We had lunch in the shade of trees at the confluence, and looked enviously as a group of kayakers and canoeists went by on the Murray.

We then retraced our steps alongside the Kiewa River, returning to the parkland at the Killara Bridge over the Kiewa River. Notes, and a map, of this walk are available at the Albury-Wodonga Parklands website, www.parklands-alburywodonga.org.au. [Cindy Marsh]

Extended Sunrise Track, November 29

This is one of the more popular walks in the Warby Ranges, and it was a pleasant drive from the meeting point at Rotary Park to the Sunrise Track car-park in Dolloro Road.

From here, the nine of us (including a new member) climbed steadily along the Sunrise Loop, then appreciated the flatter terrain of the MVO track, before tackling the Taminick Loop back towards the main Sunrise Loop.



We then took in the Quarry Loop, and walked back to the car-park via shade and orchards. This gave us a total of about eight kilometres, and we appreciated the early start, as it was a warm clear morning rising to a top temperature of about 25 degrees.

A highlight of the trip was the last remnants of grass tree flowers – complete in places with butterflies – and the bush looked vibrant and healthy after the winter rains.

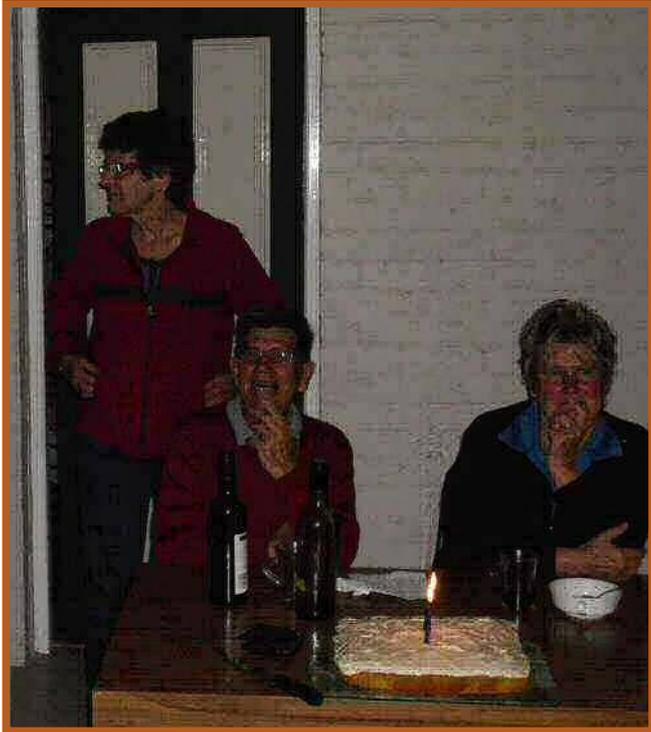
Hurdling was a skill some utilised, as there were several fallen trees to manoeuvre around. Aside from this the walk was rated as Medium, due to the climbs involved.

It was a really good time of year for this walk, but would not want to do it any later in the day, particularly if a hot day was forecast.

Morning tea was enjoyed on a group of rocks offering spectacular views to the Alps, and Thanks as always to Pat for the welcome cuppa after completing the walk. [Glenda Hall]

Alex Watson

A band of Warby Walkers filled one corner of a crowded Wangaratta Uniting Church for the recent funeral of Alex Watson. Alex and Janet Watson have been enthusiastic members of the Club over a number of years, though Alex's declining health in the last couple of years have militated against their active involvement.



Alex was a humble man who never boasted about his life achievements, which were many. Having been raised in an orphanage from the age of five, he left the institution as a thirteen year old youngster to become a grocery delivery boy on a bicycle.

Who would have realized then, that he would rise to become one of Australia's leading wool brokers, handling ten percent of Australia's vast wool clip, travelling Australia and negotiating with our trading partners in Japan, Europe and elsewhere.

Following retirement, Alex and Janet, moved to Wangaratta, and joined many community activities, of which the Warby Range Bushwalkers was one.

We, who got to know Alex, enjoyed his quiet company, and his enthusiasm for exploring the north east and the fellowship of our "weeks away". Sometimes through conversation, we caught glimpses of his past career, and where it had taken him.

All of us share Janet's sorrow in losing Alex, her husband and soul mate for over fifty years.

And next time you take the train to Melbourne, look out for the giant Watswool store near Footscray, where Alex was born, and the home of his beloved Western Bulldogs. [Adrian Twitt]

[The book "Sisters" which is Janet Watson's autobiography is circulating among our members, lent by Adrian Twitt. Adrian is not

sure who has it at the moment, and is not in a hurry to have it back, but if someone out there is reading it, or has it on their shelves, just let Adrian know, so we can keep track of it.]

Reflections on the life of Alex Watson, based on Psalm 121

The Psalm writer gazed at the ancient mountains the form the backbone of Palestine, he gazed at mountains that ranged in height from 1200 metres in the north to 700 metres around Jerusalem, not far different from the mountains in our region.

When I met Alex through the Warby Range Bushwalkers, we became friends, as we talked while we walked. We gazed at the ancient mountains that we know as the Warbys, Black Range and Mount Buffalo .

I believe we too, like the Psalmist, gained inner strength as we appreciated the beauty of the environment through which our bushwalks took us.

We talked about our families, including sharing stories about our grandchildren, about our working lives and what we had enjoyed about it, and sometimes we talked about our inner journey, that journey in which we're trying to make sense of life and find purpose and meaning.

Alex was a quiet man, but his comments always showed wisdom, the wisdom of a man who had experienced life in all its aspects and its ups and downs.

He was also a man who in his later years had to come to terms with mobility issues. My wife remembers how he turned that into a positive by walking with her at the back of the line of walkers, as she wasn't a fast walker, and often stopped to look at plants along the track. Helen benefited from Alex's support while Alex learned a whole lot more about plants.

We will miss this man with the ready generous smile.

May the wisdom of God that led Alex through his life, lead us too as we journey through this life.

[John Van Riet]

Social Events . . .

Mount Buffalo Weekend – 2nd, 3rd and 4th December

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

After our wet winter 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.

We will be having a 'base camp' at the Porpepunkah Bridge Caravan Park (5756 2380) on the Friday and Saturday nights, and driving up to the Grossmans Mill site (at Lake Catani) on Saturday morning (for the Long Plain circuit)

On Sunday, we will drive to Mackeys Lookout on Sunday for the upper section of The Big Walk (that is, the Lookouts that provide view of the Crystal Brook Gorge) followed by an optional return to the valley floor via the lower part of The Big Walk (a car shuttle will be organised for this).

Book in with Chris for the walks, directly with the caravan park for your accommodation/campsite.

Christmas Party – Friday, 9th December

The Warby Walker's Christmas Party is being held again this year at the Glenrowan Rifle Range, Rifle Range Road, Glenrowan.

BYO drinks and meat for a BBQ. Crockery, cutlery and chairs are provided. Contact Judy on 5766 2773 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. There will be the Glenrowan Football Oval and a large dam on your left.

Continue driving over the overpass, with the Hume Freeway underneath your vehicle. Then turn immediately left after seeing the Freeway, onto Rifle Range Road. Proceed for about 800 metres along Rifle Range Road, then turn left into the Rifle Range where the club rooms are located.

Mitta Mitta – 31st December, 1st and 2nd January

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 (the Laurel Hotel) 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 6072 3568) or stay at the Mitta Pub (02 6072 3541).

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. Book in for the walks with Jeanette.

Mount Hotham Weekend – 17th, 18th and 19th February

Mark your calendar now and book in with Adrian and Helen for this very popular weekend of walks in the High Country, with accommodation at the Wangaratta Ski Club on Mount St Bernard.



This weekend is a highlight on the Walks calendar, not only for the walks it provides with remnants of the summer flowers, but it is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the company of fellow walkers in a relaxed, very picturesque and social setting.

Book in with Adrian and Helen.

'Sunrise @ Sunrise Walk' with 'Brunch' – Saturday, February 4th

Have you been thinking that it's too hot to walk in Summer??

Well.....It's not too hot to walk in February if you start early, and what better incentive is there than the temptation of an enjoyable, and social, Brunch at Hamilton Park at the conclusion of this early morning walk.

A great chance to meet new, or reconnect with, fellow walkers after the Christmas break! Book in with Judy and Bob.

Warby Walkers, AGM – Monday, 27th March 2017

Save the date and mark your new 2017 calendars now for the Warby Walkers AGM Dinner at the Vine Hotel. It is always a very social occasion, and there is very little chance of being 'dobbed' on the night, so just come along and enjoy the evening out.

Dinner will commence at 6.30pm, and bookings for dinner should be made directly with the Hotel (5721 2605) by Friday, March 18.

More News Items . . .

Mobile Phone Snippet

Theft, and accidental loss, of mobile phones is on the rise, and whilst the losers of the phone are quick to get a new simm card, and block the old one, there is more . . .

Every mobile phone has an "International Mobile Station Equipment Identifier" built in to the hardware. This number (usually abbreviated to IMEI) is a unique identifier for your phone, and cannot be altered by the thief.

To record your IMEI, go to the telephone keypad and key in *#06# and then ENTER. This will produce a number something like 755362045550258 which you can now record somewhere safe.

If your mobile is subsequently lost or stolen, you can contact your telephone company, and get the phone blocked for evermore.

Walking in Gippsland

As mentioned in the April-June newsletter, East Gippsland Shire has a handy walks guide (Inspiring Gippsland Walks) on offer that can be collected from any of the TICs in the area, and via download from their website.

Following on from this, the shires that make up East, Central and South Gippsland have combined to produce a brochure that details many more excellent walks in this great part of Victoria.

There is some overlap with the previously mentioned brochure, but "Inspiring Gippsland Walks" is definitely worth getting a copy of. Not only does the brochure describe many of the 'old favourites' but some of the lesser known Gippsland venues, such as the 18km Mitchell River Gorge Walk.

See www.destinationgippsland.com.au for more details.

Victoria's Bogong High Plains

Well known author, Glenn Van Der Knijff, has a new book on the shelves — Victoria's Bogong High Plains, published by Open Spaces Publishing. The book is very professionally produced, and describes everything that you need to know about the High Plains.

As well as the 'tried and true' venues, there are some new ideas, as well as listings of the day walks around Mount Hotham, Falls Creek and on the Buffalo Plateau.

More details from www.osp.com.au : see our website for a link to this site.



WALKS PROGRAM, APRIL – JUNE 2017

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	Contact
Monday, 27th March	AGM at The Vine Hotel. Arrive 6/6.30 for dinner, 7.30 meeting.		The Vine Hotel, 5721 2605
Sunday, 2 nd April	Killawarra Forest.	E	Kate, 5726 9337
Saturday, 8th April	Mount Bogong.	H	Trevor, 5721 6215
Monday, 17th April Easter Monday	Lake Benalla and Winton Wetlands.	E	Jeanette, 0417 546 974
Saturday, 22 nd to Saturday, 29 th April	Week away Talbingo.		
Sunday, 7 th May	Warby Heritage Trail.	E	Chris, 5722 4876
Sunday, 14th May	Lockharts Gap to Tallangatta Lookout.	H	Adele, 5727 9501
Tuesday, 16th May	Moonlight Track.	M	Glenda, 5721 5114
Sunday, 21st May	On top of Mount Buffalo. Options of three short walks - to Dicksons Falls, The Horn and the Lakeside Walk. OR a medium walk to Eagle Point via Og, Gog and Magog.	E & M	Jeanette for either option. 0417 546 974
Saturday, 3 rd June	Spring Gully to Ryans Lookout. BYO BBQ lunch.	E	Adrian, 5721 5327
Wednesday, 7th June	Beechworth Gorge and Precipice Rock.	E/M	Lesley, 5728 1740
Sunday, 18 th June	Mount Murrumurranbong.	M/H	Michael, 0447 617 880
Monday, 15th May	General meeting at Michael's.		Michael, 0447 617 880

<p>Monday, 27th March 2017. Dinner and Annual General Meeting. Vine Hotel, North Wangaratta. Book your place direct with the Vine Hotel at 5721 2605. Arrive, and order dinner, between 6 & 6.30pm. Meeting at 7.30pm. Come along and enjoy the company of fellow club members.</p>
<p>Sunday, 2nd April, Killawarra Forest. Kate, 5726 9337 An easy morning walk (2-3 hours) of about 10km on forest roads, 4WD, and small walking tracks in the Box-Ironbark forest at Killawarra, part of the Warby Ovens National Park. Some inclines and uneven surfaces.</p>
<p>Saturday, 8th April. Mount Bogong. Trevor, 5721 6215 A hard walk of approximately 18km to Mount Bogong, then onto Cleve Cole Hut and return. Great views.</p>
<p>Monday, 17th April. Easter Monday. Lake Benalla and Winton Wetlands. Jeanette, 0417 546 974 Two short easy walks on one day. A level walk of about 4.5km around Lake Benalla, with coffee at the Art Gallery to follow. Then it's onto the Winton Wetlands for another short walk.</p>
<p>Talbingo Week Away. Saturday, 22nd April to Saturday, 29th April.</p>
<p>Sunday, 7th May. Warby Heritage Trail. Chris, 5722 4876 This is an easy 9km loop in the Warby Ranges, starting and finishing at Booths Winery. The Loop takes in the sign-posted, and recently established, Warby Heritage Trail, and the walk is a featured event in the 2017 Wangaratta Heritage Festival. The Festival will run from mid-April to mid-May, and the theme of this year's event is 'Transport'.</p>
<p>Sunday, 14th May. Lockhart's Gap - Tallangatta Lookout. Adele, 5727 9501 A hard walk of approximately 18km along the ridgeline on 4WD roads to Tallangatta Lookout. Views of surrounding valleys, and of course Tallangatta (the town that moved), the Hume Weir and Murray River. Adele will be looking to keep a moderate pace on this one.</p>
<p>Tuesday, 16th May. Moonlight Track. Glenda, 5721 5114 A medium walk of approx 11km on the bush tracks and 4WD roads of the Moonlight and Ridge Tracks, with a side trip to Mount Glenrowan offering excellent view to the alps.</p>
<p>Sunday, 21st May. On top of Mount Buffalo. Leaders are Cecily & Jeanette, Contact Jeanette to book in at 0417 546 974. An option of three short walks on top of the Mount Buffalo Plateau to Dicksons Falls, The Horn, and the Lakeside Walk around Lake Catani. Dicksons Falls is an easy walk of about 4km on bush track, whilst the Horn is a short 1.5km walk to the highest point on the Plateau (bush track amongst boulders, some steep track and steps) and the Lakeside Walk is an easy level walk of about 3km, on a circuit track around Lake Catani. OR for those with a longer walk in mind, a medium walk of approximately 10km on bush tracks to Og Gog and Magog, then on to Eagle Point, with views to Winton Wetlands and Mount Cobbler.</p>
<p>Saturday, 3rd June. Spring Gully to Ryans Lookout. Adrian, 5721 5327 The first of the winter walks, this is an easy morning walk commencing at Spring Gully in the Warby Range, and finishing at Ryan's Lookout, for a barbeque lunch. While the distance is only 5km, walkers need to be prepared for traversing Spring Creek's steep banks, and unmarked terrain, which is full of surprises, and an area not usually visited. Participants will need to bring their own requirements for the BBQ at the end of the walk.</p>
<p>Wednesday, 7th June. Beechworth Gorge and Precipice Rock. Lesley, 5728 1740. An easy to medium walk of about 8km from Beechworth town centre to the Gorge, visiting the historic Powder Magazine which dates from 1859 (the powder was used by early miners to blast gold deposits open). Then on marked bush tracks to Precipice Rock, via Fiddes Quarry and Ingrams Rock. Lunch on return to Beechworth, either at the Town Hall Gardens, or a local café.</p>
<p>Sunday 18th, June. Mount Murrumurranbong. Michael, 0447 617 880 A medium to hard walk of approximately 13km on 4WD roads, with some hills, through native forest to Mount Murrumurranbong. Great views to Lake Hume, and the surrounding countryside along the way.</p>
<p>Monday, 15th May. Next meeting: Michael's, 7.30pm 5722 1080</p>



NEWSLETTER 2 (April), 2017

A NEW SEASON OF WALKS and our AGM

Those glorious autumn days are nearly 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 previous Walks Program (January—March, 2017) was very successful, with 20+ participants being quite the norm. So, now is the time to read the current Walks Program (April-June) and plan ahead for some great walks in the North-East.

As well as this Newsletter, our website has reports from our walks, the walks program, back issue newsletters, a photo gallery and heaps of other interesting information.

Annual General Meeting, 2017

Our ANNUAL DINNER and AGM will be held at the historic Vine Hotel on Monday, March 27th, and everyone (including family and friends) is welcome to attend.

Our Guest Speaker will be Parks Victoria's Stuart Hughes, Director Park Planning & Policy to speak about the recently released Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing Draft Master Plan.

Some committee positions will become vacant at the AGM, and 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. See Social Events (later in this Newsletter) for more details.

Mount Buffalo Weekend, December 2-4

Long Plain, Mount Dunn and Stanley Rocks. December 3

A great group of 21 walkers met up at Porepukah for this walk, and then drove to the car parking area adjoining the Grossmans Mill site (Lake Catani). The distance planned on this moderate grade walk was about 11km, and the weather was warm (about 18c) with a nice breeze.

We started off by tackling Long Plain Track to Mount Dunn (4km), and morning tea was enjoyed before ascending the Mount, making use of the newly installed ladders.

Having enjoyed the amazing views, we returned to the main walking track. From here we made our way on a long loop around the environs of Mount Dunn, picking up the wide walking track that leads from the Reservoir to Gog Magog etc.

We had lunch about two kilometres from this junction, and then began the first part of the return route to Lake Catani, passing by the scenic Stanley Rocks on the way.



The narrow descent down to the Long Plain Track was badly affected by fallen trees, but still very scenic. We had to practice our limbo, and other gymnastic skills, on a regular basis along this section.

Overall, a very enjoyable walk of about 11km. The wildflowers were close to their peak, and the cameras were clicking furiously.

The Buffalo Plateau was still carrying plenty of water, and all of the creeks that we encountered were bubbling away, and the bog areas were still quite moist.

Mackeys Lookout to Reeds Lookout. December 4

This walk covered much of the upper part of the Big Walk, and involved a long climb up to Marriotts Lookout, and then Reeds Lookout.

The starting point was at the informal car parking area, just downslope of Mackeys Lookout, and the distance planned for the walk was about nine kilometres.



The weather was warm (about 22c) with a slight breeze, and the walk was rated moderate to hard, given the reasonably high ambient temperature.

Morning tea was enjoyed by the 13 of us at Marriotts, and lunch at Reeds, with several other stops to get our breath back, and to have a drink of water.

As with our previous walk (Long Plain) the hero of the day was the wildflower display – the best I have ever seen.

The views were also excellent, albeit with the skyline dominated by high level cloud.



Overall, a very successful weekend, with people coming and going from our base camp at the Porepunkah Bridge Caravan Park.

We had an informal gathering at the communal kitchen on the Friday night, and a more formal BBQ on the Saturday night, with plenty of food, wine and anecdotes to keep us all happy.

[Chris McLaughlin]

Spring Creek, Lake Kerferd and Red Hill. Sunday, December 18

This was a good summer walk, and 20 club members, plus our regular canine friend Ted, walked the 12kms in lovely conditions.

The route was predominantly on an unsealed vehicle access track, with a section of foot track. This was alongside Silver Creek, passing old mine shafts as we walked through mixed forest, with introduced understory species.

Improvements by Beechworth community members along newly planted wetlands impressed our crew, and on the way, we encountered two koalas, and morning tea was held at Lake Kerferd.



A scramble over the dam wall followed this break, with about 50m to traverse where there was no track, so as to get to the start of the Red Hill Track.

From Red Hill, we then returned to Beechworth for a delightful lakeside picnic beside Lake Sambell. [Cecily Fletcher]

Mitta Mitta, December 31, 2016 and January 1, 2017

This interesting outing was made up of a series of walks around Mitta Mitta township, and these were completed on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, attended by a group of around 30 (including non bushwalking partners/spouses).

Walks included an exploratory walk of about 10km to Tom's Hut on dirt roads and tracks, with lunch at a camp site located near the Hut. Some good views were available along the way.



The next outing was a walk of about 10km in the Dorchap Range, along the Springtime Track and Dorchap Range Road, with great views to the east, including the surrounding mountains and valley.

Finally, a shorter walk than originally planned - we drove around a fallen tree, forded a stream and walked into the bush of Mount Tawonga to the crash site of a WWII Beaufort Bomber. Our walk to the site was led by a local, Russell Kelly, who indulged us with his knowledge of the events, and history of this aircraft. (Russell is author of the excellent book *Going My Way*).

For the big night, we (and several hundred other visitors) enjoyed dinner at the Mitta Mitta Pub, with music from "Liam Blunt's Funky Rhythm Train" - the pub was packed, and the patrons were up dancing the night away, well til about 12.30. [Jeanette Farquhar]

Nevins Bend, Murray River Walk, January 14

A delightfully cool day, following the previous day's rain, meant ideal condition for the 25 participants (including Margaret Blair from Victoria, BC) for this walk along the banks of the Murray.

Our convoy of cars, snaking its way through the forest tracks, to Duffy's Beach for the commencement of the walk, must have been a real surprise for summer campers enjoying the peaceful riverside location.

The walk proceeded to Nevins Beach, following the river bank, and then continued upstream to Redbank Beach, before returning via Wattle Track, to make a circuit through the red gum forest. Just one wallaby stopped inquisitively by the bank, and one kayaker was sighted on the river, which was running a banker.



Following the eight kilometre easy walk, the whole group retreated to Byramine Homestead, historic residence of the Hume family, where lunch which was eaten in the delightful homestead grounds, and many of the group took advantage of the opportunity to inspect the historic residence. [Adrian Twitt]

Wagirra Trail—Albury, January 22

Once more, this was our first 'interstate' walk of the year, and like last years event we had Albury's heat to contend with. Wagirra Trail follows the Murray River, downstream from Norieul Park to Horseshoe Lagoon, providing an excellent riverside venue, with a connection path that links Wagirra with the Wonga Wetlands.

After an early morning start from Wangaratta (to beat the heat) the five of us started off from Albury's Norieul Park (named after a WWI battle site in France).

We checked out the Hovell Tree Memorial, as well as other story boards in the area, and then headed 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, with morning tea being held alongside the mighty Murray (which was running at a very fast pace).

Continuing downstream, we tackled the new bridges that lead to the Wetlands, as well as taking time out to admire the superb Wiradjuri sculptures, and their excellent explanatory signage, that are a part of the Yindyamurra Sculpture Trail.

Having made good time, we had lunch near the picnic area at the Wetlands, and then completed a 2.5km loop around some of the lagoons.



Birdlife was excellent amongst the Wetlands, and we particularly enjoyed watching a convoy of seven swans follow us around the blandly named Lagoon 7.

Our return to Norieul Park was via a slightly different route; we were feeling the effects of the afternoon sun, and therefore very grateful for all of those wonderful redgums.

Apart from all this exertion, and interest, we also managed to retrieve four shopping bags worth of litter from the sides of the Trail, most of it drink containers.

The traditional afternoon tea routine was suspended, and (with permission from Pat) we all adjourned to the River Deck Cafe for an iced coffee.

[Chris McLaughlin]

Sunrise @ Sunrise, February 4

The network of routes that form the Sunrise Track are perennial favourites of walkers, with great views of the Ovens-King floodplain, as well as varied, and interesting walking.

Sunrise is located on the eastern side of the Warby Ranges (hence the name), and this adventure/social event featured an early start (so as to enjoy the sunrise @ sunrise) as well as breakfast at nearby Hamilton Park.



So, 27 club members (with three "newies") started early, and walked the main Sunrise track on the east side of the Warby Range. However, six of those walkers challenged themselves slightly more, with a hard version of the usual five kilometre journey.

Back at the Hamilton Park community facility, the ever selfless Bob and Paul were preparing a scrumptious breakfast/brunch for the walkers, with the now famous Shaw patented "toad in the hole egg" or "egg in the basket" in pride of place at the table.

[Judy Shaw]

Beechworth Moonlight Walk, February 10

This easy walk (easy that is, apart from the heat) started at Lake Sambell Picnic Area, Beechworth, and the distance planned was 7.5km (1.5km for the Lake Sambell Circuit, and about 6km on the Rail Trail).



The weather was ridiculously hot (40+ degrees) when we left Wangaratta, but dropped quite dramatically by the time we finished the walk.

Participants numbered 19, including two casual members, plus "Ted" the dog.

After driving from the meeting point at Apex Park to Beechworth's Lake Sambell, the 19 strong hearty group defied the hot weather, and decided to walk the Lake circuit taking about 30 minutes. The shade was appreciated, and it was then very pleasant enjoying our picnic tea overlooking the Lake.

Afterwards we walked thru the Chinese Gardens to the commencement of the Rail Trail at about 8.10pm – finishing the walk in about an hour and three quarters in perfect conditions, including the odd cool breeze. The moon's illumination was magnificent as we crossed Stillely Road, Fighting Gully Road, passing Baarmutha Station, and finishing near a beautiful old brick bridge adjacent to Diffey Road.



We were met by Peter Finedon, who had constructed the best rustic standard lamp ever, and we subsequently enjoyed Pat's welcome cuppa.

The car shuttle took about 25 minutes, and the mercury rose as we returned to Wangaratta.

One third of walkers who had registered pulled out during the day due to the extreme heat – however these fears thankfully were unfounded as the weather was ideal, albeit a bit warm for the Lake Sambell circuit. Perhaps scheduling a moonlight walk for later in Summer may be preferable in future – but otherwise an absolutely wonderful evening. [Glenda Hall]

Mount Hotham Weekend, February 17-19

With accommodation at Wangaratta Ski Lodge at Mount St Bernard for the weekend, 27 members of the Warby Range Bushwalkers had two days of walking in the Mount Hotham area.





Saturday's program offered two walks - a 12km walk encompassing Mount Loch and the Derrick Memorial Hut, and a rather challenging 21km circuit walk, with some steep grades, from Hotham to Dibbins Hut in the Cobungra Valley, and return via the Red Robin Mine, Machinery Spur and Mount Loch.

Sunday's walk started from the rustic Dinner Plain Village, and included Carmichael Falls and Precipice Plain Lookout, with great views of the Upper Dargo River Valley, returning in time for lunch at the village.

The weather was almost ideal for walking, though quite cold, with frost overnight on Saturday, causing the diesel fuelled cars to have starting problems in the morning. Fortunately, the predicted Sunday evening snow showers arrived after we had descended the mountains to return home.

The weekend proved quite social, with the Saturday evening dinner being shared among all at the Ski Lodge. [Adrian Twitt]

Social Events

Please mark your calendar for our AGM and Dinner at the Vine Hotel, on March 27. This is always a very social occasion, with dinner commencing at 6/6.30pm (bookings should be made with the Hotel on 5721 2605, by Friday, March 24) and the AGM at 7.30pm.

Greater Alpine National Parks Management Plan

The recently announced Greater Alpine National Parks Management Plan guides the future of the Alpine, Baw Baw, Errinundra, Mount Buffalo and Snowy River National Parks, Avon Wilderness Park, Tara Range Park (east of Buchan) and the Walhalla, Howqua Hills, Grant, Mount Wills and Mount Murphy Historic Areas.

The Plan aims to protect and enhance the natural, cultural and recreational values within the listed parks. See the link on our website for more details.

New Name Tags

New name tags have been printed to reflect the current Club Logo and Banner. Please ask for one on your next walk, or at the AGM on 27th March. Our thanks again to Emma Phillips of Merge Studio for her ongoing support to the Club. Emma provides her graphic design expertise freely, and as most of us are aware, Emma is the daughter of Life Member Murray Shaw and his wife Donna.

New CEO at Parks Victoria

Parks Victoria has appointed a new chief executive officer, Matthew Jackson. Mr Jackson was previously the CEO at Phillip Island Nature Parks, and has extensive experience in environmental research, conservation, education and wildlife management.

North Wangaratta Heritage Trail

A bright, and sunny Australia Day 2017 at the historic Vine Hotel heralded the launch of the North Wangaratta Heritage Trail. The Trail (which follows the pathway of the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail) provides a series of sculptures and storyboards telling of the varied past of the area, in particular the history of the Indigenous people, and early European settlement of the area.



The opening ceremony was set in motion by a 'welcome to country' by local Aboriginal Elder, Uncle Freddy, followed by addresses by key organisers of the Trail, Marg Pullen and Sue Phillips.

The Trail starts just north of the Reedy Creek Bridge, and finishes at the former Bowser Railway Station, with an information card (that includes a map) being available at the Wangaratta Visitor Information Centre.

Farewell to two Karens . . .

Karen Dentry (formerly of Wangaratta) who walked with us quite a lot 12 months ago has relocated to Vietnam, and although she is a keen walker, this is perhaps too far to commute! As well, Karen Riley has transferred from Deniliquin High School to a school at Hornsby, in the northern suburbs of Sydney.

Both Karens take this opportunity to express their gratitude for the walking opportunities, and friendship, offered by the Club and its members. We wish them both well! They will be missed on our walks, and of course will be welcome to join us on any future walks, if they happen to "be in town".

Australian Track Grading System

Whilst there is an Australian Standard for walking trail construction (AS 2156.1), there has been no national system to rank the track in terms of difficulty (that is, easy moderate, hard etc).

However, the newly adopted national track grading is becoming regarded as the primary means of informing people about the features of walking tracks, and therefore allowing walkers to gauge whether a particular track is suitable for their ability/needs etc.

See the link on our website for more details, or key in the following address— depi.vic.gov.au/forestry-and-land-use/visiting-parks-and-forests/visiting-state-forests/activities/australian-walking-track-grading-system.

We will gradually phase in this grading system in our future Walks Programs.

The basic (simplified) framework of the Grades are as follows,

Grade 1

Up to 5km, gentle gradients, well formed track without steps, clearly sign-posted, no experience required.



Grade 2

Up to 10km, gentle hills, formed track with occasional steps, clearly sign-posted, no experience required.



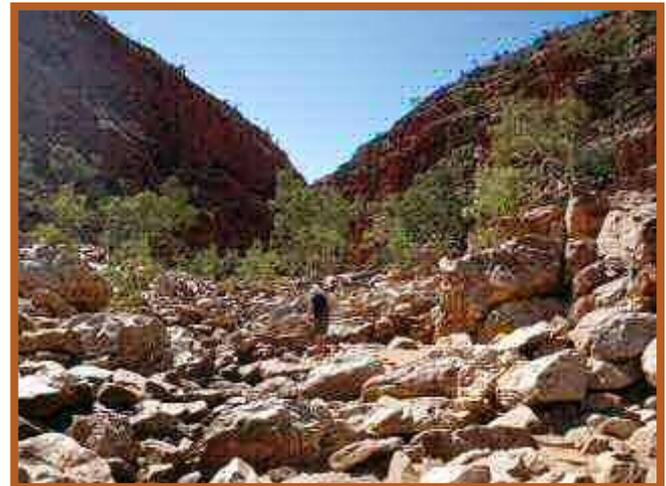
Grade 3

Up to 20km, short steep hills, formed track with many steps, sign-posted, some bushwalking experience required.



Grade 4

May be more than 20km, some long steep sections, rough track, limited sign-posting, intermediate bushwalking experience required.



Grade 5

May be more than 20km, many long steep sections, rough track, no sign-posting, extensive bushwalking experience required.





SUBSCRIPTION FOR MEMBERSHIP – 2017/18

Name(s)

Address

.....Postcode

Telephone Mobile

Email

Type of Membership (Please circle)

Single (\$35) Family (\$65) Associate (\$10)

Life members receiving Newsletter (\$10)

Casual (\$5) 1st Walk

Subsequent Walk No. (maximum of 3 before joining)

Notes:

Fee is \$20 for Single or \$40 for Family if joining after 1st October in any year.

If joining after 1st February in any year full subscription is payable giving 14 months' membership.

Associate membership provides Club Newsletter & social event entry, but does not cover walks.

Please return this form to PO Box 974, Wangaratta 3676 with payment - either:

cheque to Warby Range Bushwalkers Inc

cash - or

our preferred method - Bank Transfer:

BSB 633 000 Account No. 110647799 Reference (Your name).



**WARBY RANGE
BUSHWALKERS Inc.**

FUN . FITNESS . FRIENDSHIP

www.warbybushwalkers.org.au

Committee Nomination Form

I hereby nominate _____

for the position of _____

on the 2017-18 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 2017

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
Wednesday, 14th June	Beechworth Gorge and Precipice Rock	E/M	Lesley, 5728 1740
Sunday, 18th June	Mt Murramurrabong	M/H	Michael, 0447 617 880
Sunday, 2nd July	Mt Barambogie	E/M	Jeanette, 0417 546 974
Saturday, 15th July	The Flagstaff, Gapsted to Buckland Gap	M/H	Bob, 5766 2773
Thursday, 20th July	Salisbury Falls, Warby Ranges	E/M	Karen, 0409 215 286
Sunday, 30th July	Woolshed Falls, Beechworth	E/M	Michael, 0447 617 880
Thursday, 10th August	Save the date - Warby Walkers Social Night at the Wangaratta Club Function Room		Judy, 5766 2773
Saturday, 12th August	Nine Mile Track, Mt Buffalo to Ovens	M	Bob, 5766 2773
Tuesday, 22nd August	Loggers Lane, Friends Loop, Warby Ranges.	E/M	Chris, 5722 4876
Sunday, 27th August	White Box Track and Mt Pilot, Chiltern - Mt Pilot NP	E/M	Cecily, 5727 1340 or 0490 024 471
Saturday, 9th September	Seven Creeks Track, Euroa and Strathbogie Ranges.	E	Andy, 5721 7922
Wednesday, 20th September	Mt Meg Conservation Reserve	E	Andy, 5721 7922
Saturday, 23rd September	Lockhart's Gap - rescheduled from May	H	Adele, 5727 9501
Monday, 28th August	General meeting at Michael's.		Michael, 0447 617 880

Wednesday, 14th June. Beechworth Gorge and Precipice Rock. Lesley, 5728 1740.

An easy to medium walk of about 8km from Beechworth centre to the Gorge visiting the historic Powder Magazine which dates from 1859. Used by early miners to blast gold deposits open. Then on marked bush tracks to Precipice Rock, via Fiddes Quarry and Ingrams Rock. Lunch on return to Beechworth, either at the Town Hall Gardens, or a local café.

Sunday, 18th June. Mt Murramurranbong. Michael, 0447 617 880

A medium to hard walk of approximately 13km on 4WD roads, with some hills, through native forest to Mt Murramurranbong. Great views to Lake Hume, and the surrounding area along the way.

Sunday, 2nd July. Mt Barambogie. Jeanette, 0417 546 974

An easy to medium part loop walk of approximately 12km, mostly on 4WD roads and bush tracks, with a short steep ascent to Mt Barambogie in the Chiltern - Mt Pilot National Park. Excellent views from the trig point.

Saturday, 15th July. The Flagstaff, Gapsted to Buckland Gap, Stanley State Forest. Bob, 5766 2773

A medium to hard walk of approx 18k on well defined 4WD tracks with an ascent of 500m during the day. Views of Mt Buffalo, the Ovens Valley, Mt Stanley and the Murrunggee Basin. The walk is through eucalyptus forests, with some pine plantations and new pine growth. We pass old gold mines, and evidence of thriving 19th century mining business, a 1950's 'Balt' forestry camp, and there are historical noticeboards to follow as well. A car shuffle is required at the start of the walk.

Thursday, 20th July. Salisbury Falls, Warby Ranges NP. Karen, 0409 215 286

An easy to medium walk of about 10km from Salisbury Falls, with a gentle climb to Mt Warby, then cutting across to Kwat Kwat Lookout and return via the Alpine Views track.

Sunday, 30th July. Woolshed Falls, Beechworth. Michael, 0447 617 880

An easy to medium walk of about 10km, on established walking tracks, in the Beechworth Historic Area, from the Powder Magazine to Woolshed Falls. A short steep descent, and return ascent along the way, taking in the Cascades and views.

Thursday, 10th August, dinner at the Wangaratta Club. Judy, 5766 2773.

'Save the date' - Warby Walkers Social Dinner @ Wangaratta Club. Further details to follow closer to the date.

Saturday, 12th August. Nine Mile Track, Mt Buffalo to Ovens. Bob, 5766 2773

A medium walk of about 17km with a descent of 600m. It is mostly downhill, but with some climbs on a well made 4WD track along the ridgeline descending into the Ovens Valley. Walk through temperate forests, with views west to Mt McLeod and the Buffalo plateau, and spectacular views down to both the Buffalo and Ovens valleys, finally crossing the Ovens River to emerge at Ovens. This route was used by the indigenous people, then by the early miners, as one of the main routes up to the Buffalo Plateau. Refreshments at the Ovens Hotel. A car shuffle is required.

Tuesday, 22nd August. Loggers Lane, Friends Loop, Warby Ranges. Chris, 5722 4876

An easy/medium walk on undulating terrain of about 15km on the disused vehicle and bush tracks of Loggers Lane, followed by Friends Loop walk in the Warby Ranges.

Sunday, 27th August. White Box Track and Mt Pilot, Chiltern - Mt Pilot National Park. Cecily, 5727 1340 or 0490 024 471

Starting at Honeyeater Picnic Area an easy 8.5km walk along the White Box walking track. This walk will take approx 2-3 hours and introduce you to some of the natural and historical features of the park, followed by a short walk to the summit of Mt Pilot.

Saturday, 9th September. Seven Creeks Track, Euroa and Strathbogie Ranges. Andy, 5721 7922.

An easy walk of about 7km along Seven Creeks near Euroa township; a possible short (4km) hilly amble in the Strathbogie Ranges could be added after lunch.

Wednesday, 20th September. Mt Meg Conservation Reserve. Andy, 5721 7922

This easy walk of about 6km is in the rarely visited western part of the Warby Ranges, just to the north of Winton Wetlands. Superb Spring wild flowers should be blooming throughout the two small conservation reserves, separated by privately owned bushland (which is protected with a Trust for Nature Covenant). At times, lots of Robins can be observed in the Reserve, including Scarlet Robin, Flame Robin and Hooded Robin. Other bird species commonly seen here include White-winged Chough; Goldfinch (introduced); Chestnut-rumped, Yellow-rumped and Yellow Thornbill; Jacky Winter and Wedge-tailed Eagle.

Saturday, 23rd September. Lockhart's Gap to Tallangatta Lookout. Adele, 5727 9501

A hard walk of approximately 18k along the ridgeline on 4WD roads to Tallangatta Lookout. Views of surrounding valleys, and of course Tallangatta (the town that moved), the Hume Weir and Murray River. Adele will be looking to keep a moderate pace on this one.

Next meeting: Monday, 28th August. Michael's, 7.30pm. 0447 617 880



NEWSLETTER 3 (July), 2017

Our ANNUAL DINNER and AGM was held at the historic Vine Hotel on Monday 27th March, and it was a well attended event, with about 60 members present.

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

President: Glenda Hall

Secretary: Kerri Davenport

Treasurer: Guy Robertson

Committee Members: Michael Braendler, Jeanette Farquhar, Cecily Fletcher, Andy Kimber, Chris McLaughlin, Judy Shaw, Trevor Turnbull, Adrian Twitt and (a warm welcome to) Davina Wilson, from Yarrawonga.

As well as a great dinner, a well run AGM, and the usual companionship, we all enjoyed the presentation by Parks Victoria's Stuart Hughes, Director Parks Planning and Policy, and Adam Nitschke, Manager for Precinct and Maritime Planning.

The Melbourne based duo presented on the Greater Alpine National Parks Management Plan, the current Government's policy on commercial, or private, sector development in national parks, and the recently released Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing draft Master Plan.



In relation to the latter, both Stuart and Adam fully agreed that communication of the Plan was not done particularly well, with most media coverage negatively focusing on the "high yield" walkers at the expense of free walkers.

However we were reassured that this is indeed not the case, and that any development of the trail is not designed to impact on our walking enjoyment.

It is expected that the Master Plan will be released mid 2017, and Stuart and Adam were grateful for the opportunity to discuss all

aspects of Parks Victoria, and its operations with us and to hear the views of our bushwalking community.

We were also joined by Melbourne based Joslin Guest, the Bushwalking Victoria Board Member, who is our link into BWV.

All in all, it was a particularly successful, and socially enjoyable evening, with The Vine Hotel again being a fantastic venue.

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

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

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

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

2018 Week Away – Location Revealed

In Autumn next year the Club will be offering the four unique walking environments of The Great South West Walk, staying at the Portland Bay Lodge at Allestree just east of Portland.

We have booked from Sunday, 15th to Sunday, 22nd April 2018 at a cost of \$35 per person per night, making a total of \$245 for the seven nights.

Capes, bays, clifftop, beach, forest and river gorge walks will all be offered, with full details on booking etc to be available in the next Newsletter.

So for now the suggestion is to key in a search, both for the Great South WestWalk (www.greatsouthwestwalk.com) as well as the Lodge (www.portlandbaylodge.com.au) – and get excited!!



Escarpment Walk, Yackandandah, March 5

In warm conditions, 16 enthusiastic walkers (including one from Griffith) explored the rarely visited area about 10kms south of Yackandandah, just to the west of the Stanley plantation area.

Setting off, we ambled on some fairly steep 4wd roads through blue gum and stringybark forest, to complete a circuit walk of about 10km.

The walk was a gradual climb from the start, for about the first 5km, passing through blue gum and stringybark forest.



After a short steep climb, we were then able to see Mount Stanley, with occasional views down towards the Yackandandah – Myrtleford Road, and the Tunnel Gap area.

Lunch was enjoyed at a shady high point on the track after about 7kms, and we then had a steep descent back to the cars at Schmidt Lane, where we once again delighted in our now traditional cuppa. Pat's delicious biscuits must have been freshly cooked because they were still warm!!

Most of the walk was under the shade of the local forest, and part of the walk was between the forest and pine plantations.

[Jeanette Farquhar]

Howmans Gap – base camp : March 10-13

This was a three day Benalla/Wangaratta event, with a base camp at the Howmans Gap Hostel, just down the slope from Falls Creek Ski Village.

I had decided the first day's walk would be a circuit taking in an old tramway that I knew existed behind Lake Bogong and Clover Dam. It was built to help construct, and service, the aqueduct leading into these hydro-electric storages.

I had done the walk many years ago, but had not been back as it was rumoured slips had covered the tramway, and it was inaccessible. This was partly true, but what a pretty walk, and we discovered that there was another section of tram line behind the power station, but we didn't know how long it would take to walk it, so it was off to the Arboretum above Bogong village.

This was an old town site that used to house the dam workers. One of our walker's fathers used to look after the site, and has a tree planted in his name. We found the tree, and sat for a few moments of reflection. Finding that we still had time before How-

mans Gap Hostel opened, we went for a short walk up to Fainters Falls.

Finally we checked into the hostel, with a number of bike riders doing the 250km Three Peaks challenge the next day.

On Sunday we wanted to walk up to Spion Kopje from Howmans Gap, to the Grey Hills, and Mount Arthur. The return was to be along Black Possum Spur Track, then back to Howmans Gap via Little Arthur Fire Track.

I thought it would be quicker to get onto the Grey Hills from Howmans Gap, but now I know why everyone takes the Big River approach. Our early start saw us watching the bikes go past from the Three Peaks Challenge, then a hearty breakfast.



Down to Rocky Valley Creek, which I wandered across not worrying about wet feet. As I was slower than the rest of the party, I said I would start up the hill (a very big bad hill) while the others sorted out how they were going to get across with dry feet.

I expected to be overtaken at any moment, but apparently there was some issues with cramping at the creek/river, and the others did not join me until I had had morning tea up on top.

Everyone was adamant they weren't going near the hill or river again, and it was getting late in the morning, so it was time for Plan B.

This was to head out along the tops to Falls Creek, then back down the Heritage Trail to Howmans Gap. This was a longer route, but more even under foot, and everyone knew the route.

We got back to Howmans Gap just on dark, as the bike riders were hobbling around wanting sympathy. However, we kindly explained they weren't going to get any from our group, as we had just done 27km, and that 22 of those were done from 1.00pm-6.30pm. They were actually impressed.

The planned walk for Monday was to walk up the Pack Horse Heritage Trail to Falls Creek, and return via Frying Pan Spur.

As we had already done part of this walk inadvertently the day before, we decided to drive to the Spur, get the geocache there, and then do the other part of the tramway down at Bogong Village. This proved an excellent option.

Thank you to my co-walkers, and might I recommend Howmans Gap Hostel for accommodation. Very comfortable and all meals supplied, with no skimping on food.

I have yet to venture onto the Grey Hills, but needless to say it will be via the Big River Fire Trail when I do.

[Adele Ritchie]

Ovens River, March 16

Seven walkers left early from near the Mullinmurr Project area (end of Phillipson Street) for a six kilometre easy, and delightful, walk on the banks of our special Ovens River (Torryong = Pangarang name).

Trip Leader, Andy, was able to point out the rapidly regenerating native plants, as weeds are being removed by Galen College students, and the Wangaratta Urban Landcare/RCOW.

With the day heating up quickly, the group decided to stop at Apex Park, where Pat's cuppa tea, and fresh biscuits, were enjoyed once again!! [Andy Kimber]

Morses Creek and Wandiligong Diggings:

Saturday, March 18

A fine sunny day had 15 walkers, including two new casual walkers (welcome Wendy and Lorraine), out for this walk from Bright to Wandiligong and back.

Beginning in Bright, at Hawthorn Lane where Morses Creek runs through, the walkers casually set off following the Creek towards Doherty's Bridge.

The clear running Creek was a delight to observe, and hear, as most of the group negotiated under Doherty's Bridge, and up to the correct side of Morses Creek.

The members who initially failed to achieve this, were apparently distracted by some young male mountain bike riders, who in their own words, "got away".

Without mentioning names, (Karen, Margot and Pat), they too soon joined the rest of us, where the first sign-post indicating the walk to Wandiligong was located. From here it was a gentle, straightforward walk, following the tranquil flowing Morses Creek.

A morning stop was taken where the Creek bends sharply to the left, and a clearing made a good spot for all to enjoy.

A snake sighting along the way caused a moment's pause, before the group proceeded through two gates which marked private property. This short section of long grass, out in the open, was a change to the shaded, picturesque Morses Creek, and soon we arrived at Alpine Park for another brief stop.

It was at this point that Rod joined us on his bike, to welcome us, and also to make sure that all members behaved in relation to future encounters with mountain bike riders.

From here we crossed the Chinese Swing Bridge, which a few members tested to ensure it was aptly named. Thankfully the his-



torical facts boards located here are in both English and Chinese, which did not necessitate me having to translate.

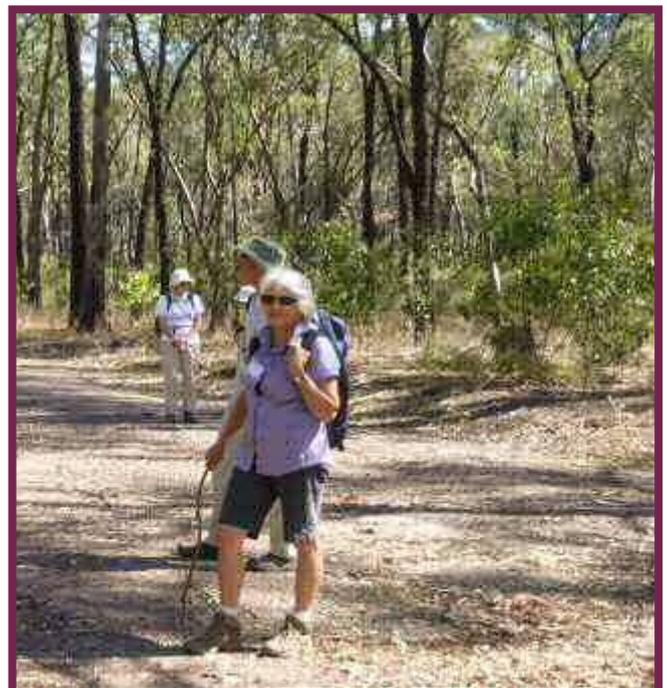
This area in its 1860's gold-mining heyday, may have contained a population of up to 3000. Today Wandiligong is now a quiet township, registered with the National Trust as a classified landscape, with featured historical buildings. Continuing through this part of the walk known as "The Diggings", one mine entrance was passed before reaching the Wandiligong Pub.

At the pub, a well deserved drink, a not so factual quiz, and then a meal was enjoyed by all. But no one enjoyed the afternoon at this point more so than our wonderful bright and breezy president Glenda.

The walk to this point was 7.7km, and from here a number of walkers returned via car, while the others returned to Bright the way they had come, so as to complete a pleasurable walk of 15.4km. [Michael Braendler]

Killawarra Forest. April 2

Ten walkers headed off to explore the Killawarra Forest, in the northern part of the Ovens – Warby National Park (Killawarra is koori for "scrub" in NSW, but does not seem to have a local definition).



The day was perfect for walking, and the group, led by Kate Murray who lives close by, followed 4wd and bush tracks in a broad loop covering 11kms.

Although no wallabies or kangaroos were seen, there was plenty of evidence of their presence.

Some parts of the track had been mired last winter by deer, but their numbers in the Park are difficult to gauge. Despite some recent rain, the forest of mainly box and ironbark looked fairly dry.

We had a morning tea break at the Forest Camp site, well set up for overnight stays, and where 'alien' camps were established in both World Wars to work the local timber. Also – according to Peter Murray's research – Ned Kelly worked here in Kristopher-son's Mill. We had a look at the interpretive board, with its map and photos, and then returned to our start.

Pat's usual box of goodies appeared, and the cuppa, and those freshly baked biscuits, were enjoyed in the sunshine on the Murrays' decking, before we headed back home.

Mount Bogong, April 7

Mount Bogong is Victoria's highest peak (1986m) and the walk described here starts at the local (Mount Beauty) gateway to the Alpine National Park, at the Mountain Creek Picnic/Camping Area.

After a cool start to a warm autumn day, with a little smoke haze from the burning off, ten members started the walk to Mount Bogong summit from the Mountain Creek camping area.

After walking through the fern gully along Mountain Creek, with discarded snake skin along the path, we began the steady climb of The Staircase, with a number of welcome breaks, before reaching Bivouac Hut for morning tea.



Most of the walkers continued onwards and upwards through the forest, reaching the Castor Outcrop, where due to the inclement weather, which by then had arrived, some of the group decided to return to Bivouac Hut for lunch.

The remainder of the group continued on towards the summit for a short time, before the cold, wind and rain became too much, and they too decided to return to Bivouac Hut for lunch.

The descent continued to Mountain Creek, and then the camping area, having covered a total of 16km. Mount Bogong awaits us to climb again another day. [Trevor Turnbull]

Lake Benalla and Winton Wetlands, April 17

Lake Benalla holds water from the Broken River, a major tributary of the Goulburn River, and is the centrepiece of Benalla's parklands.

We had 16 participants on Monday's walk around the Lake, including two from Kyabram and one from Malaysia.

We did a loop walk around the Lake, stopping to check out the fish ladder, which allows fish to move upstream at the rock wall, and the ceramic sculpture near the bridge.

A coffee, tea or milkshake followed at the Art Gallery café, before we headed off to the nearby Winton Wetlands to admire the "Art in the Landscape".

This involved driving to the various artworks, including the Boggy Bridge Fish Trees, and the CFA tank, with murals of three CFA volunteers.

We then continued on to the Hilda Bain mural, and the long neck turtle sculpture on the Spit.



This was followed by the Lunette Walk, right to its end, where we enjoyed the views of, and around, the wetlands.

There was a lot of birdlife, and we came across a brown snake on our return walk.

And finally, a late lunch with Pat's cuppa was held on our return to the cars. All this on a fine, warm autumn day. [Jeanette]

Talbingo Week Away.

Saturday, 22nd April to Saturday, 29th April.

Thirty six club members (might be a record?) travelled to Talbingo for this week — our annual week away.

On the first day for walking, the group had an orientation session, and then just ventured close to our base for the week.

So, in the morning, the Mill Creek Fall Track of about 8kms was covered, and in the afternoon, there were two walks offered.

One was a dramatic 4km descent on the Old Mountain Road – the bullock dray track which pioneers took when coming off the high country, and travelling onto the plains. Others ambled along the Jounami Creek route.

Joining them on the walks were five members of the Tumut Walk-

We admired the change in vegetation, including a belt of flourishing grass trees, before proceeding for about a kilometre to reach the Ridge Track intersection.



We then turned left, and continued along Ridge Track, past the communication towers, crossing Taminick Gap Road, and finishing the walk to enjoy Pat's cuppa at the car park.

The views across the brightly Autumnal coloured vines to Winton Wetlands, during the first part of the walk, were wonderful.

A 10 minute car shuffle before, and after the walk meant that only two cars were required.

The group met at 9.15am at Rotary Park, and the travel, leisurely morning tea and lunch, plus time for Pat's cuppa returned us to Wangaratta by 2pm. [Glenda Hall]

Mount Buffalo, May 21

Twenty six walkers headed up to Mount Buffalo for this day of adventure, taking in the views from Og, Gog, and Magog for morning tea, with the rock giants of fable lore, and continuing forth to Eagle Point, for more fabulous views North out to the distant valleys, for lunch.



The weather was a delight, fresh mountain air with sunshine to brighten the forest views. Everyone managed to channel their 'inner goat' and clamber up and over rocks without mishap.

Solid ladders helped the climb up Eagle Point – where we could sit atop the biggest tors, and look across to familiar landmarks from a new perspective.

A lovely day's outing, with old friends and new, finished with the traditional cup of tea and biscuits at the Gorge.

Thanks to Jeannette for her organising skills, looking forward to the next one already. [Cecily Fletcher]

[The three short walks to Dicksons Falls, The Horn and Lake Catani didn't go ahead, as all walkers opted for Og Gog & Magog.]

News Items . . .

Mount St Bernard Ski Lodge

Members from the 1960s recently celebrated a half century of ski memories and friendship at the club lodge at Mt St Bernard.

Forty members gathered to remember their ski experiences and competitions, including participating in club, regional, state, national and international events in which many club members excelled.

Members came from interstate and overseas, including Bob Madison, formerly of Porepunkah, now a resident of Sweden.

The celebration was co-ordinated by John and June Brown, drawing on a list of 340 club members from the sixties decade.

"We felt after 50 years it was time to get together and remember the wonderful times we enjoyed as part of WSC and the friendships made," John said.

"We also thought it would be good to remember the loss of a very popular club member and champion skier Charlie Derrick who perished while making a record breaking run from Bogong to Hotham."

Charles Derrick, a Boweya farmer, died just short of Mt Hotham Village making a solo run in September 1965.

After leaving Soda Water Creek near Tawonga, he climbed Mt Bogong, and met club members staying at Cleve Cole Hut.

He then descended down to the Big River (the upper reaches of the Mitta Mitta), climbed to Mt Nelse, and traversed the Bogong High Plains, descending to Dibbins Hut, at the headwaters of the Cobungra River, before climbing to Mt Loch.

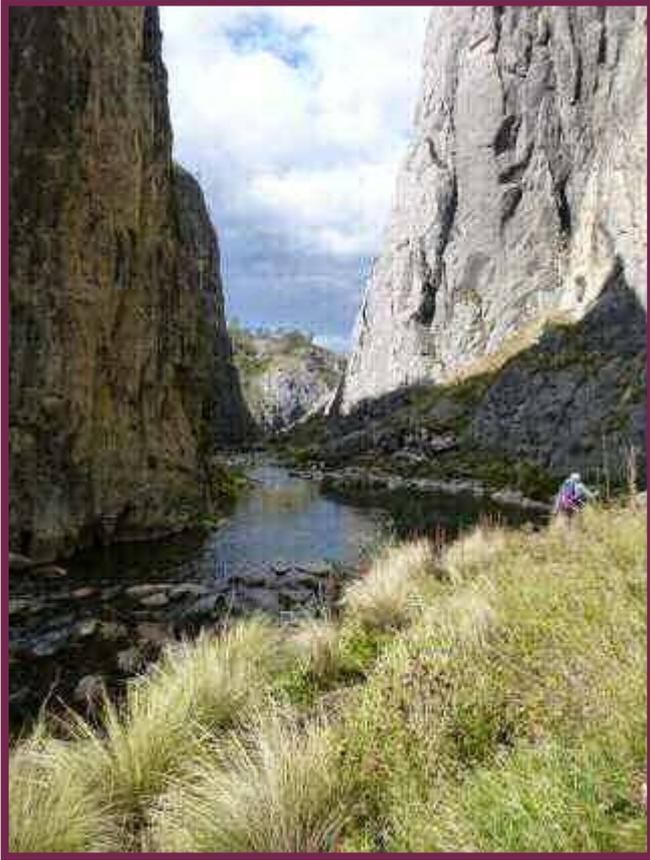
Mr Derrick was affected by heavy rain and poor visibility, and succumbed to the elements at The Orchard below Mount Loch, not far from the Rolba Hut.



Robin Gibb, who was in the search party at Mt Hotham, spoke about Mr Derrick's last ski trip.

"This was a challenge that Charlie wanted to do, but bad weather and probably light clothing used in those days worked against him."

ing Club, who were a superb support regarding navigation and points of interest.



Monday morning was still fine, so the crew visited Nichol Gorge with its two caves. Later that day other gorgeous gorges near the Blue Water Hole, and the nearby very old classic homestead, were inspected.

Wednesday was a wet weather day, but this enabled the trippers to have a good look at the spectacular Yarrangobilly Cave system.

On Thursday, we visited the old huts and homesteads on the Kosciusko High Plains, starting with Old Currango Homestead, which is the oldest standing building on the high plains anywhere in Australia. We walked on the High Plains to Mosquito Creek, and came across several mobs of brumbies.



Friday was taken up with an amble to Landers Falls, and views of Talbingo Reservoir. Some ventured further than the Falls, taking in Old Talbingo Mountain, where the world gliding championships were once held.

The mountain provides extensive views of the Snowy Mountain

Scheme, with 900 metre high sheer cliffs on one side, looking down on Talbingo Village.

Congratulations, and thanks, to the organisers of another fantastic week away!!

Warby Heritage Trail, May 7

This walk was hosted by Warby Walkers as part of the Wangaratta Heritage Committee's "Heritage Month" for 2017. So, as well as 21 walkers from the club, we also had eight "visitors" that had read about the event in the Heritage Month flyer.

Starting out from Booths Taminick Winery, for this seven kilometre adventure, we took the poorly defined track that leads up to the first of the weirs built by Ben Warby in the 1880s.

There was some signage along the route, but the lack of it meant that we missed checking out two of the other weir structures (there are four in total).

Morning tea was held at the top of Warby Falls, and we then continued, via some more vague tracks, to the top weir.



Continuing on, we made it to the top of the ridge system, and from here followed fire trails, and then Spot Mill Track and Cellar Track back to the Winery.

Lunch (with a glass of wine) was held on the lawn at the Winery, whilst we enjoyed the company of our new found friends.

The weather was sunny, with a strong breeze, and the mid-day temp was about 17c. Overall, a great half-day walk, with an excellent crew.

Many Thanks to Booths Winery for their help in staging this event, and for their hospitality. [Chris McLaughlin]

Moonlight Track, May 16

There were nine participants on this little used route on the western side of the Warby Ranges, and we started at the dirt track adjacent to Taminick Gap Road, on the boundary of Baileys Vineyard.

The distance planned for this medium rated walk was about eight kilometres, and we had a glorious clear and sunny Autumn day, with a top of 16 degrees

Following the fence line around Baileys Vineyard boundary, we reached the commencement of Moonlight Track, and then proceeded along the gently undulating dirt track, before commencing the steep 20 minute climb to the ridge.

BWV Track Clearing Events - 2017-2018

Bushwalking Victoria has planned the following track clearing events over the next few months.

10 - 13 June Croajingolong

10 -18 June Croajingolong

21 - 22 October - East Tyers

18 - 19 November - Errinundra National Park

2 - 3 December - Upper Howqua Track Area

2018

25 - 28 January - (Australia Day) - Willow Hunt

17 -18 February - Mt Stradbroke

11 - 13 March (Labour Day) - AAWT

5 - 6 May - Grampians

See the latest edition of the Bushwalking Victoria newsletter for more details (there is a link to this site on the club website).

Bass Coast Walks

Bass Shire (centred on the Wonthaggi, Inverloch and Phillip Island areas) has produced an informative brochure on their area, entitled "Walks and Trails". This covers 32 walks, in and around the Bass Coast, and includes the George Bass Memorial Coastal Walk, as well as many short walks.

The printed brochure is available from Visitor Information Centres in the Bass Coast area, but can also be downloaded as a PDF from "visitbasscoast.com.au".

Shoe String Theory

A new study by mechanical engineers at the University of California at Berkeley finally shows why bushwalkers' boot laces may keep coming un-done.

Using a slow-motion camera and a series of experiments, the study shows that shoelace knot failure happens in a matter of seconds, triggered by a complex interaction of forces.

There are two ways to tie the common shoelace bow tie knot, and one is stronger than the other, but no one knows why. The strong version of the knot is based on a square knot: two lace crossings of opposite handedness on top of each other. The weak version is based on a false knot; the two lace crossings have the same handedness, causing the knot to twist instead of lying flat when tightened.



Oliver O'Reilly, a Berkeley professor of mechanical engineering, whose lab conducted the research said "we were able to show that the weak knot will always fail, and that the strong knot will fail at a certain time scale, but we still do not understand why there's a fundamental mechanical difference between those two knots."

However, as always, the proof is in the pudding walking, and to test this theory I chose an old pair of walking shoes that were notorious for coming un-done. The test venue was a walk near Dinner Plain, known as 'Room with a View' (see photo), and with my new found knowledge I tied one shoe in the old method, and the other with the new.

The results are conclusive, UC has it right, and that method of knotting my shoelaces that I was shown at school, all those years ago, is fundamentally wrong. Never being happy with loose ends in my life, I have rightly decided to take steps to erase those age-old dogmas from my sole., and leave nothing left un-done.

[Chris McLaughlin]

[More details on the original research document can be found on the University of California, Berkeley website.]

After the death of Charles Derrick, the club erected a memorial hut, on the Mt Loch Circuit.

Accompanied by Andrew Swift, cultural heritage officer at Mt Hotham Resort Management Board (RMB), members including 92 year old Stan Church walked to the Hut, and signed the log book as part of the commemoration.

Mr Swift visited WSC Lodge, and said the club had a proud history with its connection to Mt St Bernard of over 75 years, and earlier with its ski lodge at Little Feathertop.

"The RMB is keen to further develop the history of Hotham and surrounds, and this WSC 60s years commemoration celebrations has highlighted the role clubs have played in developing the sport, the resort and surrounds," he said.

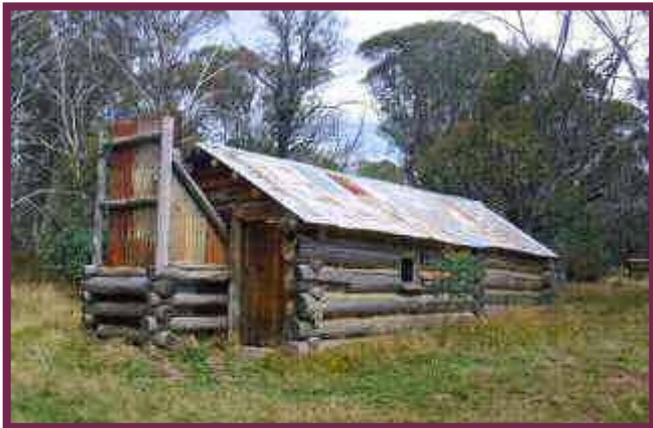
Snowsports trophies and memorabilia were on display in the Lodge, reflecting the variety of club members' snowsports results, many of who were present, including Australian Cross Country Winter Olympian, Chris Allan.

[condensed from the Wangaratta Chronicle, March 17, 2017]

High Country Huts

Bindaree, Howitt and McNamara's Huts have all been the subject of recent repair works, after Parks Victoria banded together with members of the community to help return them to their former glory.

Bindaree Hut is located on the Howqua River, upstream of Sheeppark Flat; Howitt Hut is in the upper reaches of the Macalister River, and McNamara's is on the Bogong High Plains (south-east of Falls Creek, at Bucketty Plain—see photo).



Parks Victoria senior ranger - Mansfield, Fleur Smith, said it never ceased to amaze her how generous volunteers could be when it came to help restore historic huts in the area.

"At the recent Bindaree Hut working bee, we had a team of three volunteers from the VHCHA as well as 12 volunteers from the Mansfield Four Wheel Drive Club," she said.

"There were also members of the Mansfield community, who led the chimney rebuilding team, as well as Ang Golin who was there bricklaying, and who did a beautiful job in laying the bricks for the rebuilt fireplace."

Wayne Peterken, from the VHCHA, oversaw the recent Howitt Hut project on the Howitt Plains in the High Country, and said the Hut was in a precarious state before they got there.

"Our volunteers had their work cut out for them at Howitt Hut to

undertake a series of repairs in such a short time frame, including renovation of the fireplace, chimney and mantle, along with replacement of key posts that support the rear of the structure."

Parks Victoria ranger team leader Mt Beauty, Kevin Cosgriff, said the work on restoring McNamara's Hut was now complete after teams had spent days working on the hut.

"In early 2016, the volunteers worked together to undertake an archaeological recovery, rebuilt the chimney, hut reconstruction and complete the drainage works," he explained of the mammoth task.

"Then in December, the team reconvened to finalise the remaining works including the reframing of the Chaff House, completing the floor and a general tidy up of the area.

"We were excited to finally complete the restoration of McNamara's Hut, and we look forward to the Centenary Celebration with the volunteers and community members in Spring 2017."

For more information on the Victorian High Country Huts association, see www.hutsvictoria.org.au (there is a link to this on our website—see useful Links).

[condensed from North-east Tourist News : Autumn 2017]

Travel Accessories

Well, you thought that you had all of the latest travel gear, but wait! - there's more . . .

The Travel Bra features several hidden pockets for your travel documents, money, valuables, smart-phone etc, and for the blokes there's the Travel Trunks.

See www.travelbra.com for more interesting details.

Federation Walk, 2017

The Federation Walks Weekend is an annual Bushwalking Victoria event, this year hosted by Melbourne Bushwalkers in the Warburton area in the Yarra Valley. This year's event will be staged on Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th October 2017. Registrations open on 1st July for the 20 walks offered, being a mix of Easy/Medium/Hard walks.

Full details are available at www.fedwalks.org.au Accommodation options are also detailed.

The Warburton area encompasses some of the wilder and more rugged bushland close to Melbourne, with tall mountain ash and deep river valleys.

Gold was initially discovered in the region in the 1850's but by the 1890's the prospectors had moved on. The mountains and forests have now long been associated with timber harvesting.

In 1901 a railway line was extended from Lilydale to Warburton, strengthening the growing timber industry. This railway line closed in 1965, but is now known as the Warburton Rail Trail.

Old trestle bridges, narrow gauge timber railways and sawmills were situated in the forested area. Many of the original trestle bridges have collapsed, but walking tracks utilize old logging tramways to visit historic sawmill sites.

The southern and eastern slopes of Mt Donna Buang are steep and heavily forested, with magnificent tree and ground ferns, while the rail trail and O'Shannassy aqueduct provide some spectacular forest walks beside creeks and through fern gullies.



SUBSCRIPTION FOR MEMBERSHIP – 2017/18

Name(s)
Address
.....Postcode
Telephone Mobile
Email

Type of Membership (Please circle)

- Single (\$35) Family (\$65) Associate (\$10)
- Life members receiving Newsletter (\$10)
- Casual (\$5) 1st Walk
- Subsequent Walk No. (maximum of 3 before joining)

Notes:

- Fee is \$20 for Single or \$40 for Family if joining after 1st October in any year.
- If joining after 1st February in any year full subscription is payable giving 14 months’ membership.
- Associate membership provides Club Newsletter & social event entry, but does not cover walks.
- Please return this form to PO Box 974, Wangaratta 3676 with payment - either:
 - cheque to Warby Range Bushwalkers Inc
 - cash - or
 - our preferred method - Bank Transfer:

BSB 633 000 Account No. 110647799 Reference (Your name).



**WARBY RANGE
BUSHWALKERS Inc.**

FUN . FITNESS . FRIENDSHIP

www.warbybushwalkers.org.au

WALKS PROGRAM, OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2017

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, s5722 1080.

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

Day/Date	Walk	Grade	Contact
Saturday 7th October	Whorouly South loop	E/M	Erin 0419 200 998
Friday 13th October	Pangerang Lookout, Warby Ranges	E	Adrian 5721 5327
Sunday 22nd October	Friends Loop & Alpine Views, Warby Ranges	M	Chris 5722 4876
Jazz festival weekend Saturday 4th November	Granite Spur to Mt Bogong	H	Bob 5766 2773
Cup Day Walk & Lunch Tuesday 7th November	Lake Moodemere, Wahgunyah	E	Jeanette 0417 546 974
Saturday 18th November	Mt Pilot to Yeddonba Aboriginal site.	M	Lesley 5728 1740
Friday 24th to Sunday 26th November	Mt Beauty weekend Book your own accommodation. Tawonga Caravan Park, 117 Mountain Creek Road, Tawonga. Ph 03 5754 4428	E & M	Bob 5766 2773
Sunday 3rd December	The Back Wall & Dickson Falls, Mt Buffalo	M	Jeanette 0417 546 974
Friday 8th December	Ovens River, Warby Ovens NP	E	Karen 5722 2540
Social event Friday 8th December	Club Christmas party Glenrowan Rifle Range		Judy 5766 2773
Saturday 16th December	Mt Emu discovery walk.	H	Bob 5766 2773
Monday 27th November	General meeting at Michael's.		Michael 0447 617 880

Saturday 7th October. Whorouly South loop. Erin 0419 200 998

An easy to medium loop walk of approx 13k mostly along gravel roads. This loop walk continues on from Erin's vineyard walk between some forest and farmland with some gentle rises and descents. A lengthy easy walk.

Friday 13th October. Pangerang Lookout, Warby Ovens NP. Adrian 5721 5327

An easy walk of approx 6k on bush tracks to Pangerang Lookout in the Warby Ranges. Excellent views. Eyes open for ladders and black cats.

Sunday 22nd October. Friends Loop and Alpine Views, Warby Ovens NP. Chris 5722 4876

A medium loop walk approx 15k through the Warby Ranges, starting at Wenhams Camp, and making use of two 'old favourites' - mostly single-file tracks, with great views.

Saturday 4th November. Granite Spur to Mt Bogong. Bob 5766 2773.

A hard walk of approx 12k along the Granite Spur to Mt Bogong with an altitude gain of approx 700m. Leaving Mountain Creek Camping area at 8.00am. Alpine clothing must be carried with all walkers as the weather is very unpredictable.

Cup Day Walk & Lunch, Tuesday 7th November. Lake Moodemere, Wahgunyah. Jeanette 0417 546 974

For all the Cup Day enthusiasts we have an easy walk of around 10k around Lake Moodemere at Wahgunyah. Bring along some finger food to share for lunch, wear your race day hat and enjoy our cup cake sweep. Enjoy a wine tasting at Pfeiffer Wines or share a celebratory bottle. Don't forget the \$'s. Glasses supplied.

Saturday 18th November. Mt Pilot to Yeddonba, Chiltern Mt Pilot NP. Lesley 5728 1740

A medium loop walk of approx 16k on 4WD roads with a steady climb of approx 2.5k to the summit at Chiltern Mt Pilot National Park. Also an option of a shorter 10k walk with a car shuffle.

Friday 24th, Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th November. Mt Beauty weekend. Bob 5766 2773 to book into the walk.

A weekend at Mt Beauty with easy and medium walks. Bob hasn't exhausted his supply of walks here yet. Saturday's Bogong Creek Tramway and aqueduct walks include easy and medium options with views to Mt Bogong, Mt Arthur, Big Hill and the Fainters. BYO BBQ beside the Kiewa River on Saturday night.

Sunday options are short easy to easy/medium walks of between 2 and 6k followed by coffee and/or a light lunch in the Mt Beauty village and gardens.

This weekends walk include one with a river crossing, so don't forget to bring along old shoes and some walk poles.

Book your own accommodation: Tawonga Caravan Park, 117 Mountain Creek Road, Tawonga. Ph 03 5754 4428

Sunday 3rd December. The Back Wall and Dickson Falls, Mt Buffalo. Jeanette 0417 546 974

A medium walk of approx 15k on bush tracks to Dickson's Falls and the Back Wall. After the falls we pass the Giants Playground to reach the southern-most point on the plateau with stunning views from the Back Wall.

Friday 8th December. Ovens River, Warby Ovens NP. Karen 5722 2540

It is an easy 9.5km loop track on 4 wheel drive tracks off the Yarrawonga Road. Basically flat walking between the Ovens River and its Anabranche. River vistas, wetlands & riverine red gum forest. Habitat for water birds and kangaroos.

Friday 8th December. Club Christmas Party, Glenrowan Rifle Range, Rifle Range Road, Glenrowan. Judy, 5766 2773.

Enjoy this social occasion with fellow members. BYO BBQ and a salad or sweet to share. Crockery, cutlery, chairs provided. Contact Judy to book in and to bring either a salad or sweet to share.

Saturday 16th December. Mt Emu Discovery walk. Bob 5766 2773

A hard walk of approx 21k on 4WD tracks. From Mountain Creek carpark we climb approx 700m in altitude to Mt Emu 1360m, the launching pad for hang gliders. Views to Mt Bogong, the Fainters, Mt Buffalo and Mt Feathertop. Distant views of Lake Mokoan and Mt Buller. Then along the Eskdale Spur to overlook Tawonga, Dederang and the Kiewa Valley. A steep descent on 4WD tracks to the Redbank area in the Kiewa Valley. This walk will involve some early morning car shuffling. A medium/hard option of a return walk to Mt Emu, approx 15k, is available if sufficient interest.

Next General Meeting: Monday 28th November, Michael's, 7.34pm, 0447 617 880

got everyone huffing and puffing, and I am sure I heard whispers of, "I think I can, I think I can". My heart was pumping so hard, I believe I may have bruised my ribs from the inside. A brief respite at the top, and a snake as promised, allowed everyone an opportunity to catch their breaths before some easier walking.

This however, after a section of longish downhill walking, soon turned into another steep section. "Where did this come from?" "Why wasn't I told about this?"

Apparently this was a little more than some walkers had expected, and been told about in my brief, which was fast deteriorating into an alternative fact. Oops, my mistake.

Nevertheless an apprehensive Ann, and reluctant Robyn, marched on like troopers. Fortunately for me I had bought the larger than family pack of snakes – the wilful, wayward Warby Walkers bulk pack, so I was well prepared.

The Mt Murra track was partly shaded during the walk, and the frequent sections in sunshine were well received. The forest area contained some notable looking trees, but I was unable to answer what they were when questioned.

I wanted to say big white ones without bark, but instead admitted that flora and fauna were not my forte. They were the type of trees that would take on a ghostly appearance should walkers be left straggling in forests around dusk or later.



Where the actual summit of Mt Murrumbidgee is located seems questionable. My GPS gave an elevation of about 870m at one point earlier in the walk, after that one steep section (the first one). We proceeded along to the edge of the ridge of the Mt Murra Track, stopping before it descended to the valley floor below.

Through the trees we could see Lake Hume glistening with the sun's reflection, farm dams looking plentiful, the surrounding land covered with glorious green grass and additional snow peaked alps in the distance.

Lunch was taken nearby, and people relaxed in the brilliant sunshine, and conspicuous lack of wind. Trevor was given some minor first aid treatment, after struggling to open the world's smallest can of tuna.

To this point we had walked a little over seven kilometres, in just under three hours, with breaks. On a clear day like this, Victoria's northeast is a wonderful place to be.

After lunch everyone was keen for the return walk, except where previous long downhill walks were now more steep inclines to undertake. The walk back was surprisingly faster with a spring in everyone's step and snakes still available to all. Obviously the thought of Pat's afternoon cuppa and cookies were on the minds of all walkers.

Upon approaching Lumby's Track for the second time, Jeanette led half of the group for a more adventurous trek along a lesser marked walking track, while the rest of us continued along the dirt track as before. It wasn't long before both groups rejoined and walked back to the cars for well earned refreshments.

The total walk of 14.35kms, that's almost 18,000 steps, unless you're Erin, then it's about 40,000, was completed in five and a half hours. Thank you, and congratulations, to all who participated in the walk.

Next time you are passing the Mt Murra forest, don't forget to look up and remind yourself that you've now walked that undulating range with one steep section. [Michael Braendler]

Mount Barambogie, July 2

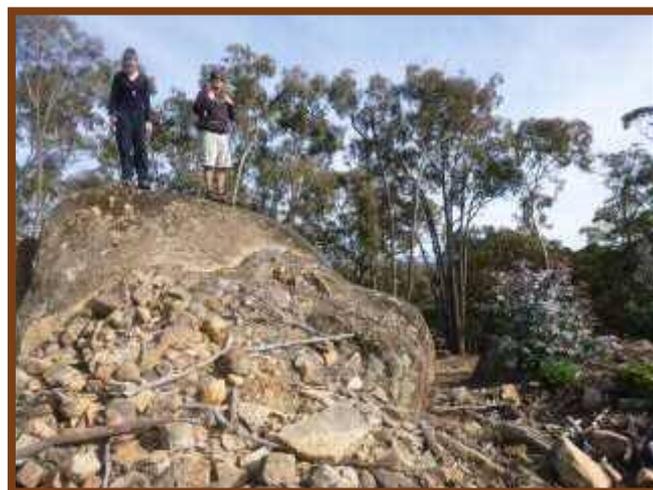
We had a very frosty start to Sunday before our walk to Mount Barambogie, but 22 participants braved the cold, and came out for a walk with gloves, scarves, beanies and thermals (one has to stay warm).

Barambogie is to the east of Chiltern, and we completed a loop walk of about 11km, starting out from the Water Trust Road/Bear Track intersection.

From here, we walked to a bush track south of Mount Barambogie Road, where we enjoyed morning tea.

We then followed the bush track around to Mount Barambogie Road, which was close to the newly remade, and extended, road to the new fire tower at the top of Barambogie.

After a short steep climb up the Mount, we had lunch at the top, and climbed the rocks for a better view.





WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc.

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NEWSLETTER 4 (October-December) 2017

The wattles are in bloom, and the rivers are rising—spring is in the air, and our October – December walks program is jam packed to take advantage of the prime spring walking conditions.

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

On the social scene, Judy Shaw organised a dinner at the Wangaratta Club on August, 10. This was a very entertaining night that attracted 40 club members.

As well as enjoying a nice meal, we socialised, watched scenes of recent walks, and then viewed a short video of 2018's "week away" location – the magnificent South West coast of Victoria.

[The organising committee for next year's week away has been busy, and there are several attachments to this newsletter relating to that great event.]

The evening concluded with a short, but difficult, trivia competition set by a devious life member.

Spring Gully to Ryan's Lookout : June, 3

A perfect winter day after a hard frost made this morning walk a delight.



The group of eighteen walkers set off from the Spring Creek picnic area in the Warby Range, and the initial part of the walk was the only challenge, in what would otherwise be an easy walk.

The steep banks of the Spring Creek were slippery in parts, and required caution. One walker was grazed in a tumble, and required first aid, but otherwise the walk went without incident.

Much of the walk is untracked, adding to the interest of the route. It is open woodland, with some outstanding grass tree specimens. Some kangaroos, and a wallaby, were sighted.

We followed Spring Creek upstream, but only some pools of water were present on the day. However, the rocky path of the stream is quite picturesque.

Eventually, by following a southerly direction, the group sighted the Devenish Road, and followed it in parallel until Ryan's Lookout was reached.

The picnic area near the lookout proved ideal for an end-of-walk barbeque, which was enjoyed by all.

[Adrian Twitt]

Mount Murrumbong : June, 18

Undulating. Now there's a word for you. One steep section. There's another three, but more about that later.

Sunday June 18 was an adventure to Mt Murrumbong or Mt Murrumbarrong, (spell it however you like), a small range in the Kiewa Valley. On this beautiful day, fourteen wonderful and willing walkers made the effort to get out into mother nature. It was nice to meet Rod from the Benalla walking group, who joined us on this occasion.

The day started off with a prompt departure from Apex Park for over an hour's drive to Simpson's Lane, near Kergunyah, in the Kiewa Valley. Cars were parked at the Gap Flat Road junction, where a moderate uphill climb of three kilometres, towards Lumby's Track, began.

Views through the trees over a fog laden Kiewa Valley were observed and the distant snow capped peaks of the Alpine Mountains were visible on this day. A pleasant stop for morning tea was welcomed by all, as a noticeable climb was imminent.

On a reconnaissance drive to this area some months back, Jeanette and I parked at this spot. We then proceeded to walk up this one steep hill. Upon reaching the top, the rest of the walk in the distance appeared undulating. There was no apparent need for us to investigate further. Oops, my mistake.

So after morning tea we set off up this one steep hill. Walkers were encouraged to reach the top for a lolly snake, and each in their own time managed this ascent. Incentive is a powerful thing. To say that it was a heart starter would be an understatement.

A climb of about 100 metres in elevation over a shortish distance

The tower (unfortunately) is off limits to climb for views, and I'm sure they would be fantastic.

After lunch, it was into the bush to find PX Track, and then onto Bear Track to continue back to the cars.

Afternoon tea included a home made cake from our new member Greta (competition for Pat's cookies).

Greta was also our eagle-eyed wildlife spotter for the day, having pointed out a koala, and a wedge tailed eagle, along our walk.

Enroute to the walk we had also come across a mob of kangaroos, and a fox. [Jeanette Farquhar]

Flagstaff Track/Murmungee Basin : July 15

This medium/hard adventure (of about 19km, taking six hours) started off from near the intersection of the Myrtleford/Beechworth Road, and the Ovens Highway, at Taylor's Gap, with a prior car shuffle of about 10km to the finish at Buckland Gap.

Setting off, the nine walkers started to climb up a well made, and well used, 4WD track, and at the end of a 500m climb, over two hours, we arrived at Flagstaff Hill (880m).



There were no views on the initial stages, due to the fog/low lying cloud; however there was evidence of mullock heaps from the goldmining eras, and panoramic views across the Murmungee Basin, almost to Wangaratta, at the peak.

We then continued walking along the ridge for another hour, with some more extensive views across the Murmungee Basin. This section was very up and down, with muddy sections in the gullies.

Turning north onto Burgoigee Track, the landscape changed abruptly from eucalypt forest to pine plantations/blackberries/new trees.

We stopped at Clarke's Corner, which is an historic site, related to the goldmining and post war immigration times, as well as forestry, in this area.

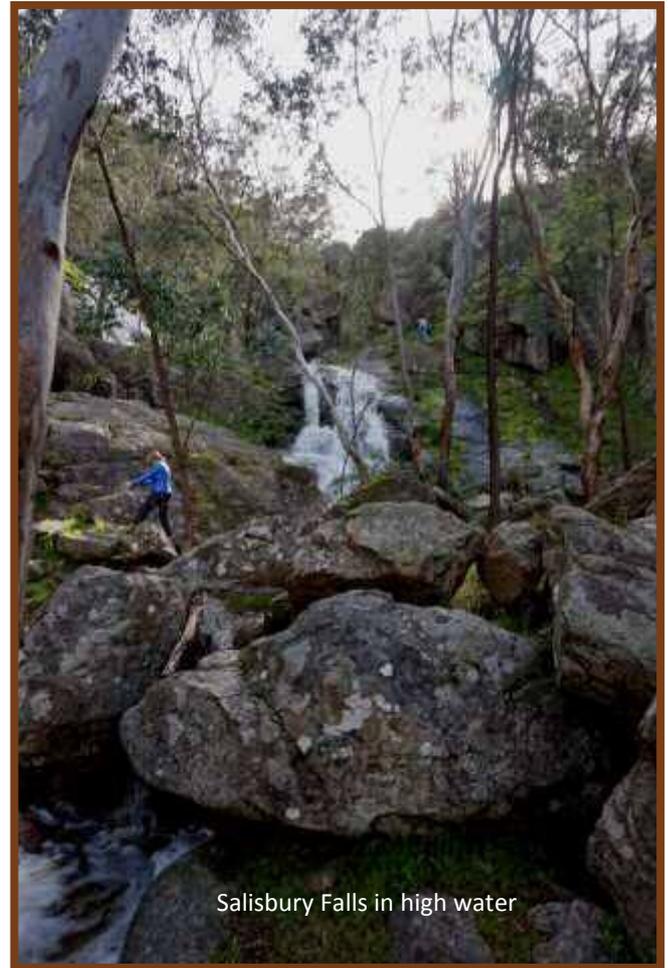
We then proceeded along Lady Newton Drive for almost three kilometres, back to the 'official' Murmungee Lookout, with magnificent views across the Ovens and King Valleys.

You could see the distant snow on Mt Buller and Mt Stirling, as well as Glenrowan Gap and Lake Mokoan.

From here we continued to walk downhill to where the cars were parked at Buckland Gap. [Bob Shaw]

Salisbury Falls, Warby Ranges NP : July 20

In fine conditions with some cloud over the Alps, six club members enjoyed the classic 11km walk from the Salisbury Falls area at the end of Shanley Street into our special Warby Range.



Salisbury Falls in high water

The first section climbs quite rapidly towards the top of Mt Warby with the vegetation obviously rejuvenated by recent rains, and with buds just appearing ahead of the usual wildflower "explosion" which will occur in a few weeks' time.

Some of the creeks were just running, and the waterfalls were close to making an appearance.

Kangaroos and many bird species were evident as the group enjoyed the always superb Alpine Views Track, which winds back on the edge of the Range. [Andy Kimber]

Woolshed Falls : July 10

Eighteen walkers decided to make the most of their day with a walk to the Woolshed Falls in Beechworth. The later meeting time of 9.30am in Wangaratta gave some a chance to sleep in, while others had an opportunity to lock up their stray dogs who made an early morning escape. Jeanette has now learnt to securely lock her backyard gate.

The Wangaratta contingent, including first time walker with the club, Kerryn, met other walkers in Beechworth at the Powder Magazine car park. The Powder Magazine building was built in 1859, and housed the gunpowder which was used during the prosperous mining days in the area.

Walkers hit the trail at about 10.30am, and rather than follow the

sealed road to the turnoff for the Falls walk, we opted for a short detour through the bush on a walking trail.

Despite not having an abundance of rain recently, Spring Creek was flowing well, and an opportunity to look at the Cascades provided some photographic moments. We continued along Spring Creek through to Reid's Creek Goldfield site. It was along this section that some mines were observed, which required more close attention.

It is difficult to believe that thousands of miners worked in this area, hoping to strike it rich. Today we try our luck with Lotto and poker machines, and get to keep our hands clean in the process. The walk was at a leisurely pace, except for Ted (the dog) who was his usual bundle of energy, and he couldn't help himself by plunging into the shallows of the creek.

Upon arriving at the Falls, lunch was taken at a number of the tables. There has been noticeable improvements in the picnic area at the Woolshed Falls, and it is now quite the lunch spot.



After lunch, a short walk to the cliffs over the Falls was undertaken. Walkers then proceeded down to the Falls for some more photo opportunities, and a group photo shot.

The return walk was back the way we had come. It was here that walkers were reminded of what leads you down, must then be tackled as an ascent. Strenuous for some, it was capably managed by all. Fortunately we passed two SES men in full gear as part of their training, who could have provided any necessary resuscitation, and rescue lifts to anyone who needed it.

Once back at the car park, the usual welcomed refreshments provided by Pat were eagerly consumed. The unhurried walk of 11km was completed in four and a half hours, and it was pleasing to have good numbers on this local walk.

[Michael Braendler]

Mount Buffalo - Nine Mile Track (from near Rolleston's Falls to Ovens Township) : August, 12

Despite the grey sky (and some drizzle), this 17km undulating walk attracted 21 participants, including three enthusiastic people from Kyabram.

Having organised the car shuttle (by leaving two cars at Selzers Lane, and driving to the start), we set off down the ridgeline system that was once the main access route to the Mount Buffalo Plateau.

Following the Bob Shaw copyright mud map, the varied route of the descent can be summarised as follows,

- Kilometres 1 to 4 – up and down on the ridge line, with the starting point being a 4WD track on the east side of the car park, with a locked gate at the very start.



- Kilometres 5 to 8 – descent to 600m with Constitution Hill on the right; a very walkable 4WD track. Some up and down sections

- Kilometres 9 – 10 – still up and down, but descended to 500m, with slight views of the Buffalo Creek Valley to the left, and the Ovens Valley to the right. In this section it was necessary to make sure that walkers did not take the track down to the right (always stick to the ridgeline, even if you think you are going too far away from the final descent).

- Kilometres 10 – 14 – Steady descent from 500m to 200m, arriving at Selzer's hydroponic sheds. There were a number of gates to pass through, and we ensured that all gates were closed correctly. It seemed like private property as we passed within 10m of a house, but this is a public access road. The shuttle cars were reached, near farm sheds on the valley floor, and the drivers then set off to retrieve vehicles from the start.

- Kilometres 15 – 17 – The non-drivers continued walking on the river flats, and crossed the Ovens River to reach the Ovens Highway. Turning left here, they walked the last kilometre (on the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail) to the Ovens Hotel, and some welcome refreshments.



With stops every hour, a 10 minute morning tea, and 20 mins for lunch at the 10km mark, the whole walk took five hours.

The degree of difficulty was rated as Medium, as it is mostly downhill, but on a well made 4WD track.

The only negative side of the day was the realisation that we would miss out on the now traditional Pat -ented tea, and fresh biscuits served on the ancient Pat - chworked table cloth.

[Bob Shaw]

Loggers Lane / Friends Loop : August 22

It wasn't springtime, but the wattles were in bloom, and the creeks were running nicely for this 12km walk in the Warby Ranges.

On this glorious sunny day, ten walkers set out from the Loggers Lane 'Car Park' at Wangandery Gap, and made their way to Taylors Lane, and then Wenhams Camp for lunch.

On the way we enjoyed great views of the snow covered alpine area, several sightings of kangaroos, and a pod of gang-gang cockatoos.

After lunch, we took some of the unmarked trails that lead back towards Loggers Lane, enjoying yet more great views of the alpine ranges, and more sightings of red and grey kangaroos.

The grass-trees were looking very prosperous in their rock studded gardens, and various types of orchids were just starting to come into bloom. Overall, a very enjoyable walk, with a good group.

[Chris McLaughlin]

White Box Track, Chiltern-Mount Pilot National Park : August 27

Starting out from the Honeysuckle Picnic ground, this was an 8.5km loop walk, and was an easy three hour ramble through the box-ironbark forests along a foot track.

Excellent signage helped us find our way where vehicular tracks were encountered, and there were some small hills and dips to negotiate, but nothing too strenuous.

We saw lots of birds in the forest canopy, and we noted strong regrowth in the western section of the forest, the section most heavily impacted by the Indigo Valley Fire of 2016.

Altogether, a very pleasant morning walk, followed by a picnic back at the cars, and then a short drive to Mount Pilot, and a short walk to the summit, for 360° views.



It was a bit too early for the wildflowers, and maybe a future walk in this area could include the Yeddonbah Rock Art site.

[Cecily Fletcher]

News Items from Bushwalking Victoria

1) Thanks to many people who have contacted their local Member for Parliament to raise concerns with the likely impacts of Australian Adventure Activity Standards on volunteer community-based bushwalkers.

Many MPs, and Minister Eren, have responded stating that they don't believe that the AAAS will impact our bushwalking. However, our most recent advice is that this is not the case.

Our ongoing concerns are:

The "standards" specify over 20 "national competencies" that are designed for professional operators. It is unrealistic and inappropriate to expect volunteer bushwalkers to attempt to prove they meet these competencies.

The standards are NOT voluntary if land managers, courts and insurance companies all consider that they apply to volunteer bushwalkers. The AAAS currently explicitly apply to volunteer bushwalking leaders and clubs.

Increased compliance burdens and liabilities resulting from these standards are likely to result in community-based clubs reducing their trips program or even folding.

Our simple solution is to include the following words in the standard(s):

"Compliance with this standard may be deemed mandatory for commercial adventure activity operators. This standard does not apply to volunteers."

We have launched this online petition so clubs, members and the general public can raise concerns about the AAAS directly with Premier Andrews and Minister Eren.

Peter Campbell, President, 0409 417 504

[See the link on our website]

2) We are getting more and more involved in our promoting bushwalking as a fun and healthy activity project. We need you to participate with photos - please keep them coming. We are after views, funny photos, challenging experiences etc. We are in the process of connecting with clubs on Social Media, if you are on Social Media and we have not connected, please send us an invite. When posting on Social Media please use the hashtags #bushwalk #bushwalkingvictoria #bushwalkvictoria

3) The Federation Weekend in Warburton is booking up very well with over 320 participants from multiple clubs now happily signed up. Following requests we have decided to extend sign-up time by ONE WEEK ONLY - so final registrations will now be accepted online until 5pm Thursday September 7th, but no later, at www.fedwalks.org.au by clicking the BOOK button at the end of the Bookings section.

Remember that you can take advantage of convenient accommodation at Arrabri Lodge, and also include the optional delicious Friday and Saturday night dinners, a great way to enjoy FedWalks with other bushwalking fans. Saturday night guest speakers will be historian and author Mike McCarthy, and government forests (DEWLP) manager Monica Mains. Don't miss out, register now and be part of a memorable walking weekend in beautiful Warburton.

Red-gum Forests

Parks Victoria has released the River Red Gum Parks Draft Management Plan for public comment. The intent of the Plan is to protect and enhance the 100+ parks and reserves covering over 215,000 ha in Northern Victoria- including our Warby-Ovens National Park.



For more information, download a copy of the Plan, or an on-line form that allows you to comment on aspects of the plan. See www.parks.vic.gov.au/redgumplan for more information.

Emergency Information Card

Bushwalking Victoria suggests that bushwalkers make use of a "Private & Confidential – Personal Health Details Emergency Information Card," with the information card being completed and carried by bushwalkers.

This is to be used by first responders in the unlikely event of a medical emergency during a walk.

The form is available on the Club's webpage (under Guide to Safe Bushwalking). Please read it carefully; its use is encouraged.

Week Away—April 2018

The Club has booked accommodation at Portland Bay Lodge, east of Portland. It is about a 588km, six hour drive from Wangaratta, via Melbourne and Geelong. Accommodation style is similar to the Talbingo Week Away in 2017, with single beds and bunks.



The Lodge can accommodate up to 100 guests, but we must have a minimum of 20. We should be able to have two people per room. Cost is \$35 pp per night.

There is plenty of room and good access for caravans, tents etc,

but the cost is still \$35 pp/night. We have the lodge to ourselves. There are plenty of bathrooms and showers. The kitchen is quite small, but adequate.

A variety of easy/medium/hard walks will be offered from the four radically different sections, the Forest Walk, the Glenelg River Gorge, the Discovery Bay Beach and the Capes and Bays Walk.

The team system will again be utilised to prepare, cook, serve and clean up a three course dinner on one night only. More information will be provided closer to departure.

Simple and wholesome meals will be the go, and will equate to a cost per person of \$10 per day. We will also have one night dining out, venue yet to be finalised.



Members can also explore the immediate region, and information on a variety of activities including canoeing, and a Geotrail, will be provided on the dedicated mid-week rest day.

See the attached information, and booking sheets, for more.



Great South West Walk : Week Away
Sunday, 15 April – Sunday, 22 April 2018
REGISTRATION

Name:

Address:

Phone: Mobile:

email:

If you are not planning to stay the full week, please advise days NOT staying

Contact person, relationship and phone number in case of emergency:

Please circle any special dietary requirements, or relevant health issues:

Vegetarian Gluten Free

No red meat No chicken

No fish Other

To register, please complete and sign this Registration Form, and send to Guy Robertson, 3 Murdoch Road, Wangaratta 3677 (or to PO Box – see below) with a deposit of \$50 per person BY 30 NOVEMBER 2017:

(preferred) bank transfer BSB 633 000 Account No. 110647799 Ref: GSWW – Your name or cash / cheque(Warby Range Bushwalkers Inc) attached (PO Box 974, Wangaratta 3676.

Please note, the balance of \$195 pp is required by 15 MARCH 2018.

Acknowledgement of Risks and Obligations of Members

During the week away to minimise risks I will endeavour to ensure that:

Each activity is within my capabilities
 I am carrying food, water and equipment appropriate for the walks/activities.

In addition:

I will advise the activity leader if I am taking any medication or have any physical or other limitation that might affect my participation in the walk/activity

I will make every effort to remain with the rest of the party during the walk/ activity

I will advise the leader of any concerns I am having, and

I will comply with all reasonable instructions of club officers and the walk/activity leader.

Signature(s)

Date...../...../ 2017

How to Book:

Please provide a completed Registration Form and deposit of \$50 per person **By 30 NOVEMBER** as per the attached form.

\$10 per person per meal for five evening meals will be collected by the Catering Coordinator on the first night.

Any queries can be directed to members of the Planning Committee:

Chair:

Leanne Wood, 57270397

Walks Coordinators:

Chris McLaughlin, 57224876

Liz White, 58814048

Meals and Accommodation Coordinator:

Beverley Wolfel, 57219878

Communication Coordinator:

Chris McLaughlin, 57224876

Committee Members:

Lesley Finedon, 57281740

Rob Chard, 0408174027



Great South West Walk, Week Away : Sunday 15th April-Sunday 22nd April 2018

FACT SHEET

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The team system will again be utilised to prepare, cook, serve and clean up a three course dinner on one night only. More information will be provided closer to departure. Simple and wholesome meals will be the go, and will equate to a cost per person of \$10 per day. We will also have one night dining out, venue yet to be finalised.

What to you need to provide:

- Your own dinner for Sunday 15th April - please plan to be there by 6pm
- Your own breakfast, lunch and snacks for the week
- Appropriate walking clothing, including wet weather gear
- Your own alcohol, if required.

Please note:

- We can access Portland Bay Lodge from 3pm Sunday 15th April, and must leave by 10am on Sunday 22nd April
- A bottom sheet, and pillow with pillowslip, are provided.
- BYO towel and sleeping bag/doona and top sheet, if required
- A choice of supermarkets and shops are within 15-20 minutes our accommodation, in nearby Portland, which we will be passing through most days.
- Tea, coffee, milk, butter and margarine, and mayonnaise, will be provided by the Club.
- Happy hour will be held at 5.30pm each evening in the Dining Room. This will be followed by a meeting at 6pm each evening, to plan walks for the following day – commencing on Sunday 15th April.
- Car pooling to travel to Portland Bay Lodge is encouraged, and will be finalised closer to departure date. The expectation is that passengers will contribute to petrol costs.
- The highly successful “Meter Maid” system will again be used to cover daily walks’ petrol costs.