

WARBY RANGE
BUSHWALKERS
2018



**WARBY RANGE
BUSHWALKERS Inc.**

FUN . FITNESS . FRIENDSHIP

www.warbybushwalkers.org.au

NEWSLETTER 2 (April), 2018

warbybushwalkers.org.au

Our ANNUAL DINNER and AGM will be held at the Wangaratta Club on Monday, March 26th, and everyone (including family and friends) is welcome to attend.

Dinner will commence from 6pm (full a-la-carte menu) and this will be followed by the formal part of the meeting (that is, the election of office bearers), and then our guest speaker will take to the microphone.

The Club is located at 4 Victoria Parade, in the heart of Wangaratta, and was the venue for our mid-winter dinner of 2017.

Some committee positions will become vacant at the AGM, and if you are thinking of joining the Committee, 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.

Also on the social scene, our annual Christmas Party was held on December 8, and attracted a large proportion of our membership. Happy faces were the order of the day, as we reminisced on another great year of bushwalking.

Taminick Gap to Mt Glenrowan : December 3

With the closure of the Mt Buffalo Road due to the heat wave weather, another walk was organised, that is, from Taminick Gap to Mount Glenrowan.



The route took us along the Ridge Track, from Taminick Gap to Mt Glenrowan, visiting Chick Hill along the way, and 13 participants, including three casual attendees, took part in this walk of about 11km.

Walking began around 10.30am, with morning tea at Chick Hill, and then lunch at the summit of Mt Glenrowan. The views, despite the cloudy conditions, were still impressive, including those over Winton Wetlands.

The day was overcast, but at least the rains, that gave Wangaratta over 90mm in the rain gauge, had stopped. [Jeanette Farquhar]

Warby Ranges : December 8

High flows in the Ovens River prevented the scheduled walk along the Ovens at Peechelba, so Karen organised an alternative trip into our special Warby Ranges.



Heading for the hills, eleven walkers strode up along Loggers Track from near Ryan's Gap, and then down Taylor Track, and Gerrett Track, back to the cars. We covered about six kilometres on bush tracks, mainly through avenues of those magnificent Grass Trees.

Mt Emu Discovery Walk : December 16

This walk was to take us from Trappers Gap to Mt Emu, and then to Coral Bank in the Kiewa Valley. Seven walkers participated in this adventure, and it was called a discovery walk, as the leader had only evaluated and walked this area several years ago.

The group met at the corner of the Kiewa Valley Highway, and the Redbank-Mongans Bridge Road. We then drove along this road, and dropped off a car at the end of Reeds Lane. We then continued to Tawonga, and then along the Mountain Creek Road, to the Mountain Creek Car park.

Finally, we drove the last 6km of the car shuttle to Trappers Gap, and left the cars here. This was where we commenced the walk (at an altitude of 1000m) and we followed the Mt Emu 4WD Track (also known as the Eskdale Spur Track) to the west.

Morning tea was enjoyed at the Snowy Hydro Power poles, with excellent views of the Mt Bogong monolith, and soon after this the track began to climb more steeply until Mt Emu was reached at an altitude of 1380m.



From this vantage point the trees have been cleared, and there are 270 degree views of the Kiewa Valley and Mt Beauty, and Tawonga in particular. As well, we had views of the Mt Buffalo plateau, Mt Buller, Mt Fainter, Lake Mokoan and Mt Feathertop.

This vantage point has some of the most panoramic views in Victoria.

We then continued on the Eskdale Track, with some steep climbs, and descents. After about five kilometres we reached the junction of Eskdale Track and Redbank Track (an extension of Reeds Lane). This junction is boldly marked with a 2m high sign, with vertical writing, and an arrow off to the North-west showing Redbank Track.

From here we descended steeply from 1000m to 500m, along a defined 4WD track, and at 3pm we reached the cars.

The whole 17km walk was done quite slowly as the weather was very hot, and was completed in 6 hours 25 mins. [Bob Shaw]

Mt Buffalo Plateau : January 21

After the cancellation of the early January walk at Myrtleford (due to the extreme heat) Karen's Buffalo Plateau walk was most timely, and 11 enthusiastic club members ambled around in mid 20's temperatures while Wangaratta sizzled!!

We completed a series of short easy walks totalling about 7kms, which were combined into a loop in the vicinity of Lake Catani and the Gorge.

After lunch, in the shade beside the old cricket pitch near the Chalet, and a final effort ascending the Monolith, most of us cooled off in the gorgeous clean lake. The water was perfect – about 22C, and was being enjoyed by lots of smiling families.

Mayday Hills Tree Walk : February 3

On Saturday, February 3rd, 28 souls (including three guests and Ted, the club canine mascot), assembled at Mayday Hills, Beechworth, for the Tree Walk.

We formed three groups, with sub-leaders Cecily, Jeanette and June, each to follow the course of the three loops separately.



Everyone carried the sheet prepared by the Beechworth Treescape Group, which identified by number the 144 significant trees, exotic and indigenous.

As the numbers on the trees were sometimes obscured or missing, and the route was not as clear in the parkland as on the sheet, and there were many unlisted trees as well, a friendly challenge developed to find the way through the acres of parklands and between the old buildings.

Many trees are listed on the National Trust's Register of Significant Trees, for their majesty, rarity, beauty, species example.

The gardens were started in the 1860's, and were gradually extended to become reputedly the best tree settings in the state, outside of the Botanical Gardens.

The silent, empty, deteriorating old buildings of the institution provided added interest as we considered the social history of this place.

The story of the Beechworth Lunatic Asylum, which closed in 1998 as the Mayday Hills Mental Hospital, (including the development of the Ornamental garden) is well told by Douglas Craig in *The Lion of Beechworth* (2000) in the Reference Section, Indigo Shire Library, Beechworth.

Once again, we appreciated the refreshments provided by Pat, as we sat in the shade of Tree No.1 - *Quercus acutissima* (Bristle-tipped Oak).

The only wildlife observed were flocks of parrots, including the somewhat elusive Gang Gang Cockatoo.

[June Brown]

[Details, and maps, of the walks completed here can be viewed at "explorebeechworth.com.au"]

Mt Buller weekend : February 16-18

This weekend trip was a great success with perfect weather (about 18C), superb walks organisation and outstanding accommodation. The Benalla Ski Lodge would have to be almost luxurious, and with 38 walkers, we all comfortably fitted. The walks were all quite challenging, but the Little Buller Sunday walk challenged us in more ways than one!!



On Saturday, 29 people completed the 16kms to Mt Stirling, and return. From the Ski Lodge we walked down the Corn Hill Four Wheel Drive Track to Howqua Gap (4km), where morning tea was held.

Continuing past the Howqua Gap Hut, we went up the Howqua Gap Trail, climbing 300 metres to Mount Stirling, another 8km away. Lunch was taken at the summit, and we then returned via the same route.

This route was on a hard track, which was often very rocky and slippery, but with magnificent views of course. The descents on this walk were quite hazardous, due to rocky surfaces in places (especially the first section), and the slippery slopes required great care.

Another group covered about 11km on the same route.



On Sunday – after a memorable Saturday party night celebrating Bob, Deb and Adrian's 217 years on planet earth - 32 members headed off towards Little Buller. However, poor signage meant that the nearby pleasant medium level Nature Trail and summit of Mt Buller became the substitute walk. Only a few adventurers managed to complete the much harder Little Buller ascent.

[Adrian Twitt]

[See the 1:50 000 scale map *Buller-Howitt Alpine Area* (published by Spatial Vision) for more details of the excellent walks at, and around, Mount Buller.]

Great South West Walk; Week Away 2018

Under the excellent guidance of Leanne Wood, the committee for this year's week away has met several times to organise this great event, and we look forward to an amazing adventure.

The walks program will cover all aspects of the GSSW, as well as many of the natural features of south-west Victoria.

It is planned to have a long walk (14-18km) offered each day, as well as shorter options (4-8km).

Wednesday has been designated as the official rest day, with a range of short walks near Portland on offer.

Wednesday will also be the day when we step out to enjoy an excellent meal at the historic Macs Hotel in Portland.



The walks program is as follows;

Monday : Whites Beach to Shelley Beach (Cape Bridgewater coastline, 16km); or Blowholes Road to Cape Bridgewater township (about seven kilometres).

Tuesday : Lake Monibeong Loop, 15km; or Swan Lake to the beach, along the beach and back, via the dune buggy track, 8km.

Wednesday : This is notionally our rest day, but for those who want to complete some more sections of the GSSW, we could tackle a fern gully walk (one of the most westerly in Australia).

Thursday : Glenelg River Gorge (Weeping Rock to Lasletts Canoe Camp, 16km); or Wild Dog Bend loop, about 10km.

Friday : Mount Richmond Loop, 12km; or Noels Walk and the West Walk (both of which are within Mount Richmond NP, 5km).

Saturday : Shelley Beach to the Lighthouse at Cape Nelson, 14km; or local loop from Cape Nelson Lighthouse, 5-8km.

If you have signed up for this great event, please see our website for more information, and for some important updates.

In particular, see the Walks Program for the week; there is a PDF per day of the week, and these provide specific detail of the places we will be visiting on our walks.

Sun Gloves

Sun Gloves are available from outdoor gear shops, as well as fishing gear shops. The purpose of these handy accessories is to protect your hands from sunburn, without the need to apply/reapply sunscreen lotion.

They are of a quick dry, non-slip material, and are therefore easy to wear without any loss of dexterity (ideal to wear when using trekking poles, for example).

Some items repeated from the last Newsletter

1. For many years the club has met at Apex Park, or Rotary Park, on our walk days, but change is in the air.

Due to increasing usage, and associated congestion at Apex Park, it was decided at the November Committee Meeting that the meeting place will now always be at Rotary Park.

This small triangular park is bounded by Swan Street, the Yarra-wonga Road (Edwards Street) and Evans Street.

We will be using the Evans Street frontage, as this is the quietest (that is, safest) of the three street frontages. There is plenty of shade at the park, as well as picnic tables and toilets.

2. Attached to this Newsletter there is a blank copy of an emergency information form, which is being advocated by Bushwalking Victoria.

The purpose of this form is to contain basic, but crucial and potentially, lifesaving information. It is to be used by medical personnel in the hopefully unlikely, but always possible, situation where you may require urgent treatment, but be unable to convey this information yourself.

You may be unconscious, or unable to speak, and having this information could save your life, or at least make it easier to treat you quickly and effectively.

What To Do With The Card: Put the completed form in a small waterproof plastic bag (for example, a small zip lock bag) and place it in an outside pocket of your backpack; this will make it easily accessible to any helper.

3. As mentioned in previous newsletters, we have introduced the Australian Track Grading System to our Walks Program documentation.

The April-June Newsletter of 2017 gave examples of each grade, and we will be using this system alongside our usual easy/medium/hard ratings. See the link (under 'Walks Program') on our website for more details.

Shoes and Boots

Anecdotal evidence suggests that Scarpa shoes and boots are the preferred transport option for the Warby Range Bushwalkers, and this article (some of it sourced from the SCARPA website) provides some background to these popular accessories.

Founded in Asolo, in the Montebelluna region of Italy, an area known for its handcrafted footwear, SCARPA's initial mission was to bring together all the best shoemakers in the Asolo area toward the goal of producing the best footwear anywhere. SCARPA stands for Società Calzaturiera Asolana Riunita Pedemontana Anonima,

which means Associated Shoe Manufacturing Company of the Asolo Mountain Area.

Luigi Parisotto went to work for SCARPA in 1942, and from the beginning, loved the process of building handcrafted footwear, and in the early 1950s formed his own shoe-manufacturing business with his brothers, turning out between four and 15 pairs of handmade shoes a day. These were sold to local farmers who sought out shoes that were both comfortable and indestructible.

In 1956, Parisotto and three of his brothers bought out SCARPA, and the business quickly grew, making 50 to 60 pairs a day. In the late 1950s, word about SCARPA's quality began to spread more widely outside the Montebelluna region and attracted clientele from many other parts of northern Italy.

The company was among the first to recognize the needs of northern Italy's rapidly developing mountaineering and climbing culture, and to develop footwear with features for those pursuits.

SCARPA continued to innovate in the 1970s, developing boots for alpine skiing, and pioneering an early high-altitude plastic boot for mountaineering. The company was also the first to make a Gore-Tex boot, and to develop a plastic telemark skiing boot.

The next generation of Parisottos (Sandro, Piero, Davide, Cristina and Andrea) continue to lead the company.



Closer to home, SCARPAs are, as mentioned above, very popular in the North-east, and this leads me to share some handy info regarding these products.

First, bootlace technology; when tying the laces on your boots/shoes, remember that the best knot has the initial basic cross-over, followed by a 'right-over-left' then a 'left-over-right'; any other combination will be prone to coming undone.

The second useful tip is in regard to sizing. Many years ago I started buying my SCARPAs 1 or 1.5 sizes 'too big'; this allows me to wear two pairs of socks for added comfort, a real bonus on long stretches (such as The Razorback, 24km) and on long descents (such as the return from Mount Bogong via the Staircase). Items of choice for this double layer of socks include those gorgeous Australian, or Irish, thick woollens on the outer, and some thinner merinos for the inner sock.

Lastly, I have to mention that SCARPA is also the Italian word for 'shoe'.

[Chris McLaughlin]



Committee Nomination Form

I hereby nominate _____
for the position of _____
on the 2018-19 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

Private & Confidential – Personal Health Details

Emergency Information

The purpose of this form is to contain basic, but crucial and potentially, lifesaving information. It is to be used by medical personnel in the hopefully unlikely, but always possible, situation where you may require urgent treatment, but be unable to convey this information yourself. You may be unconscious, unable to speak or have lost your memory. Having this information could save your life, or at least make it easier to treat you quickly and effectively.

What To Do With The Card: Put the completed card/form in a small waterproof plastic bag (a small size 'Glad' type snaplock bag from any supermarket would be ideal) and carry it in an outside pocket of your backpack; this will make it easily accessible to any helper.

Note1 Please complete, sign and put this form in an envelope, inside a zip seal plastic bag, in an outside pocket of your pack.

Name:

Address:

Home Phone:

Date of Birth: Car Registration No:

Medicare No. Private Health Ins No.

My doctor: Doctor's phone:

Medical conditions:

.....

Medication taken:

.....

Medication carried:

.....

Allergies:

.....

Note 2 Club policy requires persons participating in a club activity, to advise the leader in private before commencing the activity, about any personal health, medication carried and or health care situation that could arise or be necessary to address, during the activity.

Next of kin and/or persons to contact in an emergency:

1. Name Relationship Contact Nos

2. Name Relationship Contact Nos

3. Name Relationship Contact Nos

Note 3 Your personal, medical and "contact" list should be reviewed regularly.

The above information is private and confidential and shall only be used, to assist me, in an emergency.

Signed

Date



WALKS PROGRAM, APRIL – JUNE 2018

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

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

AWTGS = Australian Walking Track Grading System : see under 'Walks Program' on website for details.

| Day/Date | Walk | Grade | Proposed walk |
|------------------------------------|--|----------------|---------------------------|
| Sunday, 18th March | Dickson Falls and the Back Wall, Mt Buffalo. AWTGS 3 | M | Michael, 0447 617 880 |
| Wednesday, 21st March | Buckland Gap to Stanley via Lady Newton Drive (AWTGS 3) | E/M | Lesley, 5728 1740 |
| Saturday, 24th March | The Big Walk, Mt Buffalo This walk has been re-scheduled. | M & H | Jeanette, 0417 546 974 |
| Monday, 26th March | Annual General Meeting, Wangaratta Club, Victoria Parade, Wangaratta. Arrive for dinner between 6 & 6.30pm, meeting at 7.30pm. | | Judy, 5766 2773 |
| Wednesday, 4th April | Benalla Lake and Murals. AWTGS 1 | E | Andy, 5721 7922 |
| Sunday, 8th April | Two short walks at Myrtleford. A loop river walk, followed by a BBQ at the historic kiln, Rotary Park. Reform Hill walk after lunch. AWTGS 2 | E & M | Erin, 0419 200 998 |
| Sunday, 15th to Sunday, 22nd April | Week away – Great South West Walk. | | See website for details |
| Sunday, 29th April | Browsing Beechworth in Autumn. AWTGS 1 | E | June, 0434 338 404 |
| Friday, 4th May | Warby Ovens NP. AWTGS 2 | E | Karen, 5722 2540 |
| Saturday, 12th May | Sunrise Track and Taminick Loop. AWTGS 3 | M | Jeanette, 0417 546 974 |
| Saturday, 26th May | Mystery Stone Columns. AWTGS 4 | Short and hard | Geoff, 0418 530 242 |
| Saturday, 2nd June | Lake William Hovell. AWTGS 4 | H | Bob, 5766 2773 |
| Wednesday, 13th June | Buckland Gap to Beechworth. AWTGS 3 | E/M | Glenda, 5721 5114 |
| Sunday, 17th June | Mt Samaria. AWTGS 3 | M | Michael, 0447 617 880 |
| Saturday, 30th June | Tawonga Gap to Young's Gap. AWTGS 4 | H | Bob, 5766 2773 |
| Monday, 14th May | General meeting | | Michael's |

| |
|--|
| <p>Sunday, 18th March. Dickson Falls and The Back Wall, Mt Buffalo. Michael, 0447 617 880 Rescheduled from December 2017 when the road was closed. A medium walk of approx 15k on bush tracks from near Cresta Valley to Dickson Falls. We pass through the Giants Playground, before reaching the southernmost point on the Plateau, with stunning views from the Back Wall. AWTGS 3</p> |
| <p>Wednesday, 21st March. Buckland Gap to Stanley. Lesley, 5728 1740 An easy/medium walk of approx 7km along gravel roads from Buckland Gap to the Murmungee Lookout along Lady Newton Drive, then onto Bates Dam, where there is evidence of early mining activity, and onto Stanley via Clarkes corner picnic area. After a steady climb to Murmungee Lookout, great views are to be had over the floodplains of the Ovens and King Rivers, and to Mt Buffalo. AWTGS 3</p> |
| <p>Saturday, 24th March. The Big Walk, Mt Buffalo. Jeanette, 0417 546 974 A walk of approx 11.5k from the entrance gate of the National Park to the Chalet Visitor area. A hard walk for those taking the UP option, and a medium walk for those taking the DOWN option. Shorter option, downhill to Rollasons Falls. Spectacular views along the way. Now deferred to a later date. AWTGS 4</p> |
| <p>Monday, 26th March, Annual General Meeting at the Wangaratta Club, Victoria Parade, Wangaratta. Book with Judy or Bob, 5766 2773. Arrive for dinner between 6 and 6.30, meeting at 7.30pm.</p> |
| <p>Wednesday, 4th April. Benalla Lake and Murals. Andy, 5721 7922 An easy, near level, walk around Benalla Lake, and around Benalla to check out the latest in murals around town. AWTGS 1</p> |
| <p>Sunday, 8th April. Two short walks at Myrtleford. Erin, 0419 200 998 BYO BBQ lunch to eat following an easy mostly flat loop walk of approx 8k at Myrtleford. BBQ lunch near the Historic Kiln at Rotary Park. A short hard walk of approx 4k, with a climb up Reform Hill also an option for those inclined. AWTGS 2</p> |
| <p>Sunday, 15th to Sunday, 22nd April Week away at Portland. The Great South West Walk. AWTGS 1-3</p> |
| <p>Sunday, 29th April. Browsing Beechworth in Autumn. June, 0434 338 404 An easy walk of approx 6k along the pathways and streets of old Beechworth, includes Silver Banksia Walk along Spring Creek, lunch in the Chinese Gardens, some of the town section of the Beechworth Tree Walks, and reference to the town's history. Timed for the Autumnal Spectacular - bring your camera. AWTGS 1</p> |
| <p>Friday, 4th May. Warby Ovens NP. Karen, 5722 2540 An easy 9.5k loop track on 4 wheel drive tracks off the Yarrawonga Road. Basically flat walking between the Ovens River, and its anabranch. River vistas, wetlands and riverine red gum forest. Habitat for water birds and kangaroos. AWTGS 2</p> |
| <p>Saturday, 12th May. Sunrise Track and Taminick Loop - AWTGS 3. Jeanette, 0417 546 974 A medium loop walk of approx 7k on bush tracks in the Warby Ranges. Like most walks in the Warby's, it's a steep start, but then undulating terrain. AWTGS 3</p> |
| <p>Saturday, 26th May. Mystery Stone Columns. Geoff, 0418 530 242 Mystery stone columns have stood isolated, and unknown except to locals, in the Upper Fifteen Mile Creek area for more than a century. Now thought to be of Chinese origin, and having religious significance. There is no track to them, and the scramble to them is quite short and steep in parts, and requires some bush bashing, so can be described as hard. Getting there, and the walk itself, will take most of the morning. In the afternoon, a walk along the Fifteen Mile Creek, or tributary, is planned; 6-8k of easy-medium standard. Car pooling will be in 4WD or AWD vehicles. AWTGS 4 and AWTGS 2</p> |
| <p>Saturday, 2nd June. Lake William Hovell. Bob, 5766 2773 A choice of two walks. A hard walk of approx 21k circumnavigating Lake William Hovell. Most of this walk is on 4WD roads, and includes a river crossing, a steep climb, mountain ash forest and views over Lake William Hovell and the Upper King River Valley. Bring along the hiking poles, and old runners to cross the King River. AWTGS 4</p> <p>If you're not into the river crossing and steep climb, then the medium walk may be for you. This walk is along a 4WD road on the west, and south-west, side of the King River, and Lake William Hovell, and returns back to the dam wall. AWTGS 3</p> |
| <p>Mid week walk. Wednesday, 13th June. Glenda, 5721 5114 An easy to medium walk of approx 8k from Buckland Gap to the George Kerferd Hotel, Beechworth. The walk is on gravel roads, and has a steep start at Buckland Gap. AWTGS 3</p> |
| <p>Sunday, 17th June. Mt Samaria - AWTGS grade 3. Michael, 0447 617 880 A medium walk, with some steep sections at Mt Samaria State Park, of approx 15k, mainly on bush tracks, part on dirt roads. The walk includes a climb to Mt Samaria, the ruins from the logging days of the kiln, the braking station, and walking the Wileman Track. Following the walk there is a proposed extra special ending to the day. AWTGS 3</p> |
| <p>Saturday, 30th June. Tawonga Gap to Youngs Gap. Bob, 5766 2773. A hard walk of approx 21.5 k through mountain ash forest from Tawonga Gap to Youngs Gap. Following the ridge line from Tawonga Gap to Simmonds Gap, then 4WD tracks to Youngs Gap. Altitude changes from 890m at the start, reaching a maximum of 1150m. Glimpses of Mt Bogong, Big Hill, Mt Fainter and Mt Feathertop along the way. The last time we completed this walk we walked most of the way in snow. Takeaway pizzas at Tawonga South if it's a late finish. AWTGS 3</p> |

The Australian Walking Track Grading System (AWTGS) has been developed by the Walking Tracks Grading and Improvement Project and funded by "Go for your Life" - A Victorian government initiative. The AWTGS has been endorsed by Parks Forum as a voluntary industry standard.

AWTGS grade 1

No bushwalking experience required. Flat even surface with no steps or steep sections. Suitable for wheelchair users who have someone to assist them. Walks no greater than 5km.

AWTGS grade 2

No bushwalking experience required. The track is hardened or compacted surface and may have a gentle hill section or sections and occasional steps. Walks no greater than 10km.

AWTGS grade 3

Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Some bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may have short steep hill sections a rough surface and many steps. Walks up to 20km.

AWTGS grade 4

Bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may be long, rough and very steep. Directional signage may be limited.

AWTGS grade 5

Very experienced bushwalkers with specialised skills, including navigation and emergency first aid. Tracks are likely to be very rough, very steep and unmarked. Walks may be more than 20km.



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NEWSLETTER 3 (June), 2018

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Welcome to the Autumn-Winter Newsletter; highlights in this edition include our detailed report on the 2018 Week Away.

Our 40th ANNUAL DINNER and AGM was held at the Wangaratta Club on Monday, March 26th, and was a well attended event, with 60 members present.

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

President: Glenda Hall

Vice-President: Cecily Fletcher

Secretary: Kerri Davenport

Treasurer: Guy Robertson

Walks Co-ordinator: Jeanette Farquhar

Assistant Walks Coordinator, Michael Braendler

Committee Members: (in alpha order) Peter Brain, Andy Kimber, Chris McLaughlin, Judy Shaw, Trevor Turnbull and Adrian Twitt.

The guest speaker at the AGM was Daniel McLaughlin, Parks Victoria's Wangaratta based District Manager, Northern Rivers, who gave a very interesting presentation on the Warby Ovens National Park, as well as the Red Gum Parks of the Murray River, and the Chiltern area - focusing on walking, and other areas of interest.

Please remember that subscriptions fall 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.

Nail Can Hill : March 3

Our March 3rd walk had 23 participants including two from Corowa, and two from Beechworth.

Nail Can Hill is an isolated piece of high ground immediately to the



west of Albury, and includes many popular mountain bike trails, as well as Monument Hill that is clearly visible from Dean Street.

All participants met at Hovell Tree Park, where the car shuffle was worked out, so as to reach the start of the walk.

We then started walking at Centaur Road, and followed the Ridge Track through to Monument Hill, where we enjoyed lunch at the picnic tables.

We had views most of the way along the walk, and of course from Monument Hill, where we looked straight down Dean Street.

After lunch we took the steep path down to the Botanical Gardens, and popped into the Children's Garden there (no playgrounds like this when I was a kid!). Then it was back to Hovell Tree Park for Pats' afternoon tea. [Jeanette]

Mount Buffalo - The Back Wall and Dicksons Falls : March 18

On Sunday March 18, eighteen hardy walkers braved the bleak overcast skies, the threat of rain and a fierce wind which could have powered Porepunkah for a month, to make the journey to Mount Buffalo for the 15km walk to The Back Wall and Dicksons Falls.



From the Cresta Valley car park it was a short walk along the clearly defined track to the junction for Dicksons Falls, and The Back Wall.

We hiked towards the Back Wall, signposted some five kilometres away. Despite little rainfall over summer, the few streams along this hike still had some water present. This part of the walk passes by the Chinaman's Wall (which was pointed out by Justin on our return) and the Giant's Playground, but the inclement weather kept all giants indoors today.

Morning tea was taken in a slightly sheltered area, out of the wind, before crossing through one of the valleys that is a part of this track.

Raincoats were zipped up as a brief shower came through, and some walking through thick bush was encountered.

Also spotted was the longest and fattest worm I have ever seen, manoeuvring down this section of the path. Fortunately for this juicy worm, all walkers had consumed a satisfying morning tea.

As we got closer to the edge of the National Park, a little more of our hike was over large granite rocks, which is a feature of Mount Buffalo. It was here that the wind was most noticeable, with sure footing being paramount.

The mountain's amazing rock formations are a result of wind, water and ice eroding them over time. The plant life too changes once again during this final section of the walk, and over 550 native species occur in the Park, which is great news if you are a vegetarian.

After about two hours we reached our destination - the Back Wall. This point overlooks the southern edge of the national park, and features a sheer drop which would test anyone with acrophobia. A few members clambered up the large rocks at this site for more spectacular views. The Horn, and its lookout, is clearly visible from this point, our lunch place.

Apparently Aboriginal people used to feast on protein-rich Bogong Moths here at Mount Buffalo. After roasting them in strips of bark, they ate the bodies, or ground them into a paste. I was quite content with my ham sandwich and piece of fruit.

After lunch we simply retraced our steps back towards the junction at the start of our walk. That is, except for June. She took a little tumble, but bounced back up right as rain. Personally I think June is made of rubber. Walking back a little lower than the peaks above us was an advantage, as the wind was blowing some light rain across them. It wasn't long before we were back at the Dickson's Falls turnoff.

From this point a handful of members chose to return to the cars, while thirteen of us continued to the Falls. This section of the walk is described as a nature walk, and signage of plant and wildlife made for informative reading. The ever alert Justin spotted a tiny brown snake crossing the path of walkers at the front of the group.



The lookout for the Falls was reached soon after, and a small stream was still flowing over the rocks.

The weather had improved considerably during the afternoon and the Buckland Valley below, like us, was now bathing in patches of welcomed sunshine.

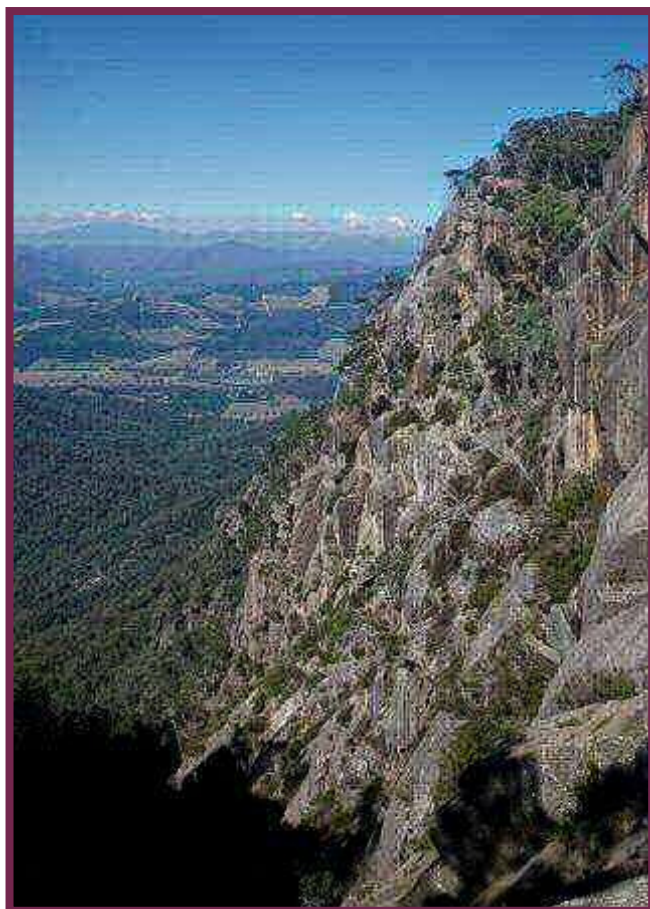
Our return to the cars for Pat's accustomed, and appreciated, afternoon tea was next, before returning to Wangaratta.

An enjoyable days hike, despite the weather, was appreciated by all who attended. [Michael]

The Big Walk at Mount Buffalo : March 24

There were nine participants for The Big Walk at Mt Buffalo including two visitors, being Peter from Baddaginnie and Libby from Blighty in NSW.

The Big Walk links the Park entrance gate and the Chalet, and ascends/descends over 1,000 metres within 9 kilometres of the 11.3 kilometres of trail.



Three of our group took the downhill option, and drove two vehicles to the Gorge Day Visitor area to enable the six climbers the means to return to Eurobin Creek Picnic Area for afternoon tea.

A short heavy shower brought out the rainwear not long into the walk, and morning tea was enjoyed along the trail. Both groups met on the rockface between Mackeys and Marriott's Lookouts, enjoying the magnificent views while having lunch.

After lunch the descenders continued on towards the Eurobin Creek Picnic Area, and the climbers continued on to the Gorge Day Visitor Area.

The climbers arrived at The Gorge, just as the heaviest rain seen for some time began to pour down, cutting short any time to check out the views.

Returning to the picnic area at the base of the National Park in the vehicles was in the same heavy rain.

The descenders arrived at the picnic area bedraggled from walking in the heavy downpour, and Pat's usual delightful spread for afternoon tea was most welcome. [Jeanette]

Lake Benalla and street art : April 4

Eight ramblers, including two "newies" really enjoyed about 6kms of flat walking, firstly around the attractive lake (created back in 1973) and then into the CBD to view about 20 of the town's impressive murals.



In perfect weather conditions, the group completed the hike by having lunch in the popular, and delightful, Art Gallery restaurant.

[Karen—see benallastreetart.com.au/murals for some nice piccys of the murals]

Reform Hill and the riverside at Myrtleford : April 8

On this "urban walk" Erin lead six club walkers including one "newie", along a variety of delightful easy, to medium level, tracks near the town for about 11kms.



They started along several attractive treed avenues, before reaching Apex Park for morning tea, close to the Ovens River, and those high quality murals depicting river views, and local fauna and flora.

The group then ambled back beside the river to Rotary Park, where lunch was eaten.

After the break, the once heavily mined Reform Hill, to the east of the town, was climbed to the summit, where panoramic views of the Ovens Valley, and the surrounding hills were much appreciated.

The 'week away' at Portland : April 15-22

Wow! What a fantastic week it was - with 40 plus members staying in great accommodation, and walking through breathtaking

scenery in the bush, alongside the Glenelg River, and along the exquisite, and so dramatic coastline in the south west of Victoria.

The hardworking committee managed to feed us superbly, plus organise several different hikes on each of the six walking days, in generally fine weather.

Some highlights were exploring the Glenelg Gorge, Cape Bridgewater, Cape Nelson and Mt Richmond, while interacting with seals, koalas, snakes, rosellas, wallabies, kangaroos and even a few affectionate leeches!! Perhaps the highpoint of the week was a talk early in the week by Sarah, one of the main organisers of the now, becoming popular, and almost totally volunteer managed - Great South West Walk. [Andy]

Great South West Walk – Day One : April 16

Our first day on the GSWW went well, despite the breezy, and wet, conditions. Instead of tackling the coastal walk (Cape Bridgewater) that we had planned, we opted for the Glenelg River Gorge Section (actually programmed in for Thursday).



For all three groups (two on the 16km walk, 15 on the 10km walk) walking commenced at 9.30, with raincoats at the ready.

The two groups on the longer walk met about half-way, and exchanged car keys at Pattersons Camp (this avoided an initial car shuffle), having enjoyed lunch at the same place.

The route of the GSWW in these sections follows the Glenelg quite closely, and we all enjoyed excellent views of this great waterway.

Wildlife seen included kangaroos, emus, gang-gang cockatoos and the yellow-breasted robin. We also came across several memorial plaques commemorating Major Mitchell's Expedition of 1836.

Great South West Walk – Day Two : April 17

Having deferred the Shelley Beach – White Beach walk yesterday, we decided to take advantage of reasonably good weather, and tackle this walk on Day Two. This walk covers the perimeter of Cape Bridgewater, and was likely to be the highlight of the week.

Three groups set out, two on the full perimeter (in opposite directions) and a shorter walk group (led by Adrian) who journeyed from the Blowholes Road to Cape Bridgewater township.

Expectedly, there was plenty of interest on this walk, geology being the main topic of conversation as it is certainly a very ancient, and rugged, coastline.

Of particular interest were the Blowholes, the Petrified Forest and the convoluted rock strata that were visible for most of the walk.



Distance covered was about 18km, a few kilometres more than the guide books indicated, but we all coped with the extra effort.

We swapped car keys at the mid-point of the walk, and regrouped at the Cape Bridgewater Café for mochas etc, and a sticky cake.

Overall, an excellent walk that is a showcase for the volunteer workers who established the GSWW, and who are still actively involved in its maintenance.

Great South West Walk - Day Three : April 18

This was the notional rest day of our Week Away, and at night we adjourned to the popular Macs Hotel, down near the waterfront, and enjoyed jovial company, as well as nice food and wine.

Great South West Walk - Day Four : April 19

Day Four of our week away dawned to a foggy start, due to a clear sky and no wind – perfect walking conditions. Our destination today was a loop walk around the environs of Lake Monibeong, six kilometres along the beach, followed by an eight kilometre return via the heathlands behind the sand dune system.

A short walk was also on offer, and the walkers in this group (ably led by John) checked out Cape Monetesqieu, and the environs of Lake Monibeong.

Because of the number of walkers involved in the longer walk, we split into two groups, those in the first group were designated as 'the greyhounds' and the second group were 'the labradors'.

For both groups, the walk started with an energetic climb over an enormous sand dune, and then we were down on the beach. Items of interest here included a turbulent seascape with tannin stained waves, and many interesting outcrops of sedimentary rock.



After six kilometres, we crossed back over the sand dune system, and in to the realm of tea-trees, casuarinas, reed grass and sedges.

The walking track was very interesting, as it weaved in and out of dunes and heathland, and there were many shady glades to take a rest.

Lunch was enjoyed in the shade of some very old tea-trees, where we were placed under surveillance by a curious owl.

The Lake was very scenic, and we had several different viewpoints of this large waterway, before arriving back at our cars.

Tomorrow (Friday) we will be walking at Cape Nelson, having decided to swap the Mount Richmond and Cape Nelson days because of the possibility of showers on Saturday.

Great South West Walk - Day Five : April 20

Day Five of our week away was predicted to produce a shower in the afternoon, but this did not eventuate and we were left with yet another day of perfect walking conditions – about 22C and a light breeze.

The chosen route for the day was to walk from Murrells Beach to Yellow Rock, a pleasing section of about 14km, a walk which incorporated the best of Cape Nelson's viewpoints.



Another group of walkers (led by Helen) tackled some shorter sections, including the Lighthouse, and then the Enchanted Forest.

The 14km crew set off from Murrells Beach Road at about 10am, and headed for the café at the Cape Nelson Lighthouse, a little over four kilometres away, for morning coffee. Here we mixed with the glitterati of the local community, and indulged in muffins, sticky cakes and potato wedges.

Continuing on from the Lighthouse, we stepped it out on the eastern side of the Cape, determined to check out the 'enchanted forest', the must-see that the tourist brochures talk about.

This fascinating place was encountered after about five kilometres from the Lighthouse, and proved to be a place of great ambience, with many glades of tea-tree woodland sheltered in a micro-climate on the east side of the Cape.

This was the hardest section of the day, with 'tail-end charlie' reporting that this involved a total of 328 systematically counted steps to get down to the Forest, and back (pew!!).

Overall, a very enjoyable day with expansive coastal views, the amazing enchanted forest, and a great bunch of walking companions.

Great South West Walk - Day Six : April 21

The last day of our very successful week dawned grey and cold, but soon blossomed into a beautiful sunny day, with a light breeze. The venue for today was a 12km loop in the environs of Mount Richmond, an isolated volcanic peak to the north-west of Portland, and part of an inland section of the GSWW.

The Mount is a small volcanic dome, of about 230m, and consists of a base of 'tuff' (volcanic ash) with an overlay of wind-blown sand. Although small, the area hosts an interesting array of vegetation, including an excellent display of wildflowers in springtime.

Our 12km adventure set off from near the National Park boundary, and from here the 18 of us headed via a twisty track to the main picnic area for morning tea.

From here we tackled the Ocean View Loop, and then swung around to the east to pick up a section of Noels Track.

Lunch was enjoyed amongst ferns and grasstrees, and we then joined the West Walk before returning to the Park boundary and our cars.

Here we found that our GPS devices were recording a trip of just over 13km, not the 12km we planned, but not too far from our expectations.

A separate group of nine walkers completed the Ocean View Track, the West Loop and Noels Track, having initially driven to the main picnic area.



Another very enjoyable day, with wildlife sightings including a yellow-bellied black snake, a tiger snake, a koala bear, rosellas, lorikeets, kangaroos, wallabies and a few close encounters with leeches.

Tomorrow, we head for home, and a well-earned rest.

[There are two DVDs on the GSWW, available for loan from Adrian; these are "Discovery. A Choral Symphony in four movements, celebrating the GSWW" and "The GSWW" a 15 minute travelogue of the GSWW and its environs.]

Browsing Beechworth : April 29

A party of 10 set out from the Railway Station to Browse Beechworth on this glorious autumn day.

Initially on the Silver Banksia Walk (Spring Creek), we deviated to admire the 300 year old, multi-burled Apple Box (Eucalyptus bridgesiana), the But But tree, message tree for the early gold fossickers. - then wound our way back to Lake Sambell, and to the commencement of the Lake Kerferd Walk.



Turning back towards the township, following routes provided by the Beechworth Treescape Group, we enjoyed identifying the significant trees of the town, and admiring the diversity of residential styles over the century, and the autumnal gardens.

Dropping from the Old Hospital Facade (Lower Finch Street) we accessed a little used track along the top of the eastern side of the Gorge, to the old stone bridge, and the site of the first gold discovery in 1852.

Eventually we made our way back (via Silver Banksia Walk) to the Chinese Gardens, beneath the Lake Sambell dam wall, to enjoy our lunch in the Chinese Pavilion.

Altogether an interesting, and easy, three hour walk on a still, mild day, with the sunshine showcasing the autumnal colours, and evergreens, for which Beechworth is noted.

[June Brown]

Warby Ovens National Park : May 4

After overnight rain, and the threat of further showers, five walkers decided to remain indoors, but a hardy group of seven set off on what was a dry and beautiful walk in the mildest conditions we have enjoyed for some time.

Our newest member Sonia, and visitor Sandra were welcomed into the Club, and after driving through a shower, the group 'sat tight' for five minutes before donning raincoats and setting off over the new ford on Frosts Crossing Track.

It wasn't long before coats were stowed away, and the walk proceeded through the river flood plain with its many billabongs – some still held water which was a pleasant surprise.

The River Track was followed, offering some wonderful river vistas, with the sun breaking through, and the birds becoming active.



Morning tea, and the Great Ovens River quiz, was enjoyed at the new picnic facilities at Cleals Bend, and the group then completed a circuit via Hills and Boundary Tracks, admiring many forest giants along the way.

Finally, a welcome cuppa was enjoyed in fine, but windy, conditions before the trip home. [Karen]

Sunrise Track / Taminick Loop : May 12

We had 10 participants on this walk, with two casuals from Corowa on their second walk, and a new casual from Wangaratta on her first walk.

It was a fine day, but cool wind at times, and gloves/beanies made several appearances.

This was an enjoyable walk of nearly eight kilometres (GPS said 7.68k) starting at Delloro Road, and heading to the Quarry, where we enjoyed the views, and checked out the ruins from the quarrying days.

Then it was onto the Sunrise Loop, where we took the northernmost track towards the vehicle track to have morning tea.

Afterwards, it was onto the Taminick Loop, a little difficult to locate at the start (not walked on often enough), along which we followed a beautiful gully with many grass trees and rocky outcrops; many a photo was taken here.

We then continued along the Taminick Loop, enjoying the views along the way, and took in the steep descent, and then ascent, before having lunch.

Then we were back on the Sunrise Loop, returning to the cars at Delloro Road and enjoying more views along the way.

The valley was greening up with the rainfall from the past 10 days, and we enjoyed the clear skies and distant views, including to the snow on Mts Bogong, Hotham and Feathertop.

[Michael & Jeanette]



Lake Kerferd and Wallaby Mine, Beechworth : May 26

The walk on this date was to have been to the Stone Columns in the Middle Creek Valley, but that walk was deferred to the Spring due to access issues with the dirt/gravel road.

However, Jeanette quickly produced this alternative venue, an 18km walk through forested areas to the east of Beechworth, heading for the historic Wallaby Mine.

And what a day it was, glorious sunshine, lots of tall timber, with some autumn colours from the non-native trees, and a crew of 21 that included new members and visitors.

We set off from Lake Sambell at about 10am, and took it slowly through to the Wallaby Mine, taking time to check out the left-overs from the gold mining era, and arriving at 1pm for lunch at the Gold Mining Battery.



This is an abandoned 12-head stamping battery, and there are more relics nearby, including the remains of a horizontal steam engine and other machinery.

The actual mine (which we also visited) is upslope from the Battery, and dates from the peak of the gold mining era (1860s) whereas the Battery we saw today dates from 1912 (the original installation was destroyed by bushfire).

The return to Beechworth was via the outgoing route, and we had another opportunity to enjoy all the features of this interesting venue.

Some walkers returned to Beechworth by car (we had previously dropped off two cars at the car park about a kilometre from the Mine) and so had a 10km outing, but for the rest of us it was a full 18km walk (18.48km according to our GPS).

Afternoon tea was enjoyed back at Lake Sambell, a busy place, with many day visitors to the area.

Many Thanks to Jeanette and Michael for their slick organisation (including a map, and track notes) at short notice. [Chris]

Misc News . . .

Landmark Trees

The following photos are of an iconic tree beloved of our bushwalkers at the end of the Pangerang Track in the Warbies.

Many of us have had morning tea or lunch under it's once graceful branches.

What a tragedy? The destruction was due to fire, whether an uncontrolled burn or natural fire I do not know. [Adrian Twitt]



VALE BILL ROSSER

Beloved Life Member of the WarbyBushwalkers's, Bill Rosser, died recently at the age of 92 at St John's Retirement Village.

Bill was one of the founding members of the Club. He was an active walks leader, served on the committee, and regularly participated in our walks program including weeks away. He held the Club record of completing every scheduled walk in a calendar year. Has anyone else managed that?



A quiet unassuming man, born in the district, Bill's knowledge of the bush was admired by all who knew him. As a surveyor, he was also able to pass on his considerable navigational skills to walkers.

Bill was happily married to Joy, another Life Member, for over fifty years. Joy sadly passed away five years ago; her former husband had died unexpectedly in his twenties, leaving her with two young children, MaryAnne and Robert. On marriage, Bill became their new father. They adored him, as did all who knew Bill.

Bill spent his last years in low level nursing care. MaryAnne frequently made the trip from Melbourne to attend to his needs, and occasionally take him out. Some of his long standing Walks friends visited from time to time. We will miss Bill. [Adrian Twitt]

Falls Creek—Hotham Alpine Crossing

The Falls - Hotham Alpine Crossing (FHAC), is a 38.5km (one way) walk, and takes about three days to complete.

The walk is being promoted as one of Victoria's iconic walks, alongside (amongst others) the Australian Alpine Walking Track and the Great Ocean Walk, and is now to be extended in length by about 20km (as reported in the Herald-Sun, April 15.)

Currently, there are two campsites, Cope Hut (14km from the trailhead, and usually the first night's campsite) and Dibbins Hut (about 30km from Falls Creek).

The new "extended" walk will incorporate two new huts, as well as an optional detour to Mount Feathertop. More details are available via the Bushwalking Victoria website (see Useful Links on our website).

Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail

This is one of several long distance walking trails in South Australia, and this interesting new-ish venue is in the south-western corner of Kangaroo Island, our third largest island. The complete walk is 73km in length, and takes five days to complete.

The first day leads from the Flinders Chase NP information centre to the coast, and the following three days follow the coastline quite closely, with Day 5 leading back inland to Kelly Hills Cave.

Road access is good, with the start/finish of all sections being easily accessible by vehicle. The KIW (Kangaroo Island West) Caravan Park (westernki.com.au) offers a shuttle service for walkers staying at their Park.



See walkingsa.org.au/walk/find-a-place-to-walk/kangaroo-island-wilderness-trail and/or kangarooislandwildernesstrail.sa.gov.au/home for more details of the Trail.

Other iconic SA long distance walks include the Heysen Trail (heysentrail.asn.au) and the Cape Yorke Trail (see visityorkepeninsula.com.au/walk-the-yorke)

Stone Columns !!!

SOME LESSONS TO BE LEARNT

As most of the members know, Geoff Dinning and I set out to reconnoitre the mystery stone pillars, believed to be of Chinese origin, in the upper catchment of the Fifteen Mile Creek. They are in fact within the watershed area of a tributary creek called Middle Creek, and of Ryan's Creek. Geoff and I had been there last year, but wondered whether we could find a way to avoid the very dense thickets of scrub to make it easier for our walkers.

Knowing the relative ease with which we had carried out last year's venture, we decided we would do the 40 minute walk to our destination with just sensible walking clothes on. It was not raining at the time, so parkas (and almost everything else) were left in the vehicle.

We reached the locality to find it in fog, and to our surprise found seven more stone pillars. Satisfied we began our descent.

That's when things went astray; unknowingly we had set off down the wrong side of the mountain. Too late, we were in the depths of a deep forested valley full of thick three metre scrub, and tall trees.

The going was so tough, we decided to wade upstream at a waterway, hoping it was the Middle Creek, but log jams, blackberries and waterfalls made headway slow.

Geoff, who knows the area well, hoped we would reach the Madhouse Road Bridge before nightfall, however - after nine hours of following the Creek, we were into darkness.

It was a near freezing night, and had been raining lightly all afternoon. With extremities numb from cold, I later realised I had lost a boot in blackberries, and was suffering early stages of hypothermia. We were wet through.

At nine pm, with the mobile phone torch having gone flat, there was nothing for it but to somehow bed down against a log, keeping each other warm. Geoff did his best to ward off my hypothermia by vigorously massaging my chest and back. My woollen beanie, though soaked, crucially kept my head warm.

Luckily the next day was cloudless. Unluckily my fitness level had dropped dramatically.

It was a struggle for me to keep walking, but I knew I had to otherwise survival was at stake. We could no longer follow the Creek due to the roughness of the country, and steep gorge like terrain. Five more hours of slugging through thick scrub - we couldn't see each other three metres apart - and we finally reached Madhouse Road, just as expected.

The overhead plane from Police Airwing had had no hope of spotting us, not just because of the scrub, but also because of the 30 metre high tree canopy.

Luckily deer hunters in a 4WD came along Madhouse Road, and soon we were whisked the 18km back to the starting point to be greeted by police, SES, concerned locals, family, and of course TV.

Lessons to be learnt?

We survived, but after making a host of errors, having left all necessities in the vehicle., Here's some learnings -

- Don't go bushwalking, even short ones, in wintry conditions without a parka.
- Take your maps and compass with you, even on a short walk, in rough country.
- If you have a satellite phone (we did, but left it in the car), take it.
- Don't go without taking food (we had no food for 30 hours, dramatically sapping our strength).
- Drink plenty of water - we drank from the Creek frequently but hospital authorities said I was badly dehydrated.

Some things were in our favour -

- Geoff's knowledge of the area.
- Our determination to keep together.
- Our determination to avoid injury (which necessitated slow progress).
- Our reasonable level of fitness.

Both Geoff and I had overnight stays in hospital. We've learnt from our mistakes. Only experience and local knowledge got us through. Thanks to everyone for their concern. [Adrian Twitt]



SUBSCRIPTION FOR MEMBERSHIP – 2018/19

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).



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WALKS PROGRAM, JULY – SEPTEMBER 2018

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

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

AWTGS = Australian Walking Track Grading System : see under 'Walks Program' on website for details.

| Day/Date | Walk | Grade | Leader |
|---------------------------------|--|--------------|--|
| Saturday, 14th July | Whorouly Ridgetop. AWTGS 3 | E/M | Adrian, 5721 5327 |
| Friday, 20th July | Everton Upper to Baarmutha. AWTGS 2 | E | Adrian and Helen, 5721 5327 |
| Saturday, 28th July | Tawonga Gap to Running Creek Discovery Walk. AWTGS 4 | M/H | Bob, 5766 2773 |
| Sunday, 12th August | Middle Creek Valley and Ridge Top Walk. AWTGS 3 | M | Jeanette, 0417 546 974 |
| Wednesday, 22nd August | Ovens River Walk, Wangaratta. AWTGS 2 | E | Andy, 5721 7922 |
| Saturday, 25th August | Warby Ranges: Killawarra to Ryans Lookout. AWTGS 3 | M | Jeanette, 0417 546 974 |
| Sunday, 9th September | Warby Ranges: Wangandary Rd to Taminick Gap Rd. AWTGS 3 | M | Karen, 5722 2540 |
| Sunday, 23rd September | Warby Ranges: Ridge Track to Morgans Lookout, Mt Glenrowan. AWTGS 3 | M | Andy, 5721 7922 |
| Thursday, 27th September | McFarlanes Hill Wodonga. AWTGS 3 | M | Chris, 0418 503 802 |
| Monday, 20th August | General Meeting | | Michaels' 0447 617 880 |
| Thursday, 23rd August | "Farewell to Winter" Come and enjoy a night out with fellow club members. | | Judy, 5766 2773 |

Saturday, 14th July. Whorouly Ridgetop. Adrian, 5721 5327

A scenic easy/medium walk of approx 8k. The walk is mainly through private property taking in a highlight of the Hume and Hovell 1824 expedition where a saddle was crossed before the expedition entered the "Oxley Plains". This is mostly an easy walk, but the hills require some effort. **AWTGS 3**

Friday, 20th July. Everton Upper to Baarmutha. Adrian and Helen, 5721 5327

An easy walk of approx 10k along a scenic part of the rail trail from Everton Upper to Baarmutha. Excellent views over the Ovens Valley. **AWTGS 2**

Saturday, 28th July. Tawonga Gap to Running Creek. Bob, 5766 2773

A medium to hard discovery walk of approx 18k, commencing at Tawonga Gap overlooking the Kiewa Valley. This walk is on 4WD tracks at altitudes of 800m to 1100m. As you move up to the slopes where precipitation is higher, the forest generally becomes taller, wetter, darker and denser and it is these alpine ash forests that form the most extensive zone in the Australian Alps. The dominant trees, a mixture of eucalypts, are taller and grow close together, the understorey is made up of ferns and small trees. Tracks include the Tawonga Gap, Smart Creek and Running Creek Divide Tracks. Extensive views towards Running Creek, Mt Porepunkah and Mt Jack. The track descends to a pine plantation in the Running Creek Valley. **AWTGS 4**

Sunday, 12th August. Middle Creek Valley and Ridge Top Walk. Contact Jeanette, 0417 546 974

We have a guest leader for this medium walk of approx 9k mostly on bush tracks. This walk includes a climb through native bush of about 1k, and a possible creek crossing. Taking in Kelly Cave, and a walk along the ridge, with limited viewing points, but with views to the Middle Creek and Ryans Creek valleys. BYO compass for a chance to learn some navigation, and good bush skills with our guest walks leader. A similar but different walk to the last one we did in this area. **AWTGS 3**

Wednesday, 22nd August. Ovens River Walk, Wangaratta. Andy, 5721 7922

An easy walk of approx 7k along the Ovens River to check out the new path developments, and vegetation improvements. **AWTGS 2**

Saturday, 25th August. Killawarra, Warby's North to South. Jeanette, 0417 546 974

This is the first leg of walking the Warby's from north to south. A medium walk approx 13k, starting at the northern end of the Warby's at Killawarra, following forest roads and bush tracks to reach Ryans Lookout. **AWTGS 3**

Sunday, 9th September. The middle of the Warby's North to South. Karen, 5722 2540.

This is the second leg of walking the Warby's from north to south. A medium walk of approx 13k, mostly on walking tracks and forest roads. An undulating walk, with views from Mt Warby and several areas along the ridge. **AWTGS 3**

Sunday, 23rd September. Warbys North to South. Mt Glenrowan Ridge Track. Andy, 5721 7922

A steep start at the Taminick Gap Road end to the towers; this short easy to medium walk has approx 6k along the Ridge Track to Morgan's Lookout at Mt Glenrowan, then descends through the bush to Morrisons winery. Bring along the walking poles for the descent to the winery. **AWTGS 3**

Thursday, 27th September. McFarlanes Hill, Wodonga. Chris, 0418 503 802

A medium walk of approx 10k at McFarlanes Hill, Wodonga. McFarlanes Hill forms part of an isolated block of high country to the west of Wodonga, and along with other nearby hill country provides about 10km of walking tracks. Great views of the urban area, the Murray River and the Alpine Ranges. The walking will be mostly on ridgetops, with a side trip to the adjoining Swainsonia Reserve. **AWTGS 3**



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NEWSLETTER 4 (October), 2018

warbybushwalkers.org.au

The October – December walks program is again jam packed to take advantage of the prime spring walking conditions. Jeanette and Michael have compiled yet another excellent program, and we need to show our appreciation by getting out there.

As well, the organising committee for next year's week away (at Thredbo) has been busy, and there are several attachments to this newsletter relating to that great event.

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

Happy Walking Girls and Boys, and see you on the Track.

Walks Reports

Lake William Hovell Circumference Walk : June 2, 2018

For this long walk, 13 walkers left Wangaratta at 8.00am as we knew that the walk would use up most of the daylight hours. We parked at the exit from the Long Spur Track, which is 2km north of the dam wall at Lake William Hovell. We left a car here, and then ferried everyone 3km along the track to where it starts to become 4WD-ish.



Walkers had previously been given advice to bring poles to assist with the steep decent once we crossed the King River, old runners to help them walk across the knee-deep King River, as well as a small towel.

We had decided to approach the walk in an anti-clockwise direction, and there was a reason for this. If we had walked the 15km in a clockwise direction, and then found the King River in flood, then it is a long way back to our cars. Whereas, going in an anti-clockwise direction, we only had 8km to get back to our cars.

Setting off, the first 8km traversed the western and southern sides of the Lake, and where the vehicular track crosses the King River at Sandy Flats, we traversed the River, having spent two hours in undulating bush lands.

The next 2.5km was straight up, climbing 400 metres vertically for one hour. This track is quite tough, and walkers were very glad of the advice to use poles, as the track was also slippery at times.

We stopped for lunch, and then walked north and north-west on Long Spur 4WD track. This was undulating, and quite easy, for the first 2.5km. On the way, we saw kangaroos, an azure kingfisher and heard a few lyrebirds on the plateau.



We then descended quite sharply for another 2.5km on the same track, until we came to a flatter and very pristine mountain ash forest area. The whole walking time on this Long Spur Track was about two hours.

We again had to traverse the cold waters of the King River, before climbing steeply uphill for 10 mins till we reached the car. We used this car to ferry the drivers 3km along the track on the west side of Lake William Hovell back to where we had left the vehicles. We then ascended through the tunnel, below the dam wall, and looked at the water gushing out of the portal on the dam wall.

We then walked back to the cars at the Lake picnic area, and all had a cuppa before driving back to Wangaratta, arriving back at about 5.00pm, which was nearly darkness.

This is a walk only for those who are reasonably fit, and with the slight changes can now be classified in the future as "Medium/Hard" The walk took exactly 6 hours, for the 17.5km distance, including stops for morning tea and lunch. [Bob Shaw]

Buckland Gap to Beechworth : June 13

This nice little adventure started out from the corner of Buckland Gap Road and Lady Newton Drive, with 10 participants on this overcast, and cool day.

The walk was all on gravel roads and tracks, and shortly after commencement, we skirted Bates Dam, a relic from the gold mining days.

From there it is a relatively steep incline to a Lookout to regroup, and take in views of the Murmungee Basin.



The walk then continued through a variety of eucalypts, with views of orchards now in winter garb, pastoral land, and along muddy (in patches) tracks. The walk also included two quite steep declines/inclines, and despite recent rain, we had no problems crossing a small creek.

A herd of contentedly grazing cows looked inquiringly at us as we past them by, before reaching the bitumenised Dingle Road, and into the Mayday Hills complex to enjoy lunch near the George Kerferd Hotel.

This was an Easy/Medium Walk (AWTGS3) of about 7.5kms, taking three hours, including morning tea stops.

Overall a lovely winter day's morning walk. [Glenda]

Route: Starting on Lady Newton Drive, turn left onto Jensen Track, past Bates Dam, then after approx 20 minutes from the walk commencement, turn right into Six Mile Road, then 200m on the left onto West Dingle Track, and after 50m turn left onto Orchard Track, later veering left at the junction with West Dingle Track.



Walk for approx. one hour from Six Mile Road, then turn right at the intersection of West and North Dingle Track, before turning left thru a gate, 250 metres on from the intersection.

Pass thru a further two gates, before arriving at the bitumenised Dingle Road, then left into Oak Avenue, and then into the Mayday Hills complex to the public area near the George Kerferd Hotel.

Mount Samaria : June 16

To declare that some walkers of the WRBC are a hardy bunch is a bit of an understatement. Despite a bleak weather forecast of 11 degrees, rain, possible hail and snow above 500m, a handful of walkers joined me on the walk to Mt Samaria.

Jeanette was particularly eager, as she had just had her feet serviced at the foot centre, and needed a long walk with hills to test them out.

For the record, I was thinking it would be nicer to spend the day on the couch, with the Sunday paper and the heater set to a comfortable twenty two degrees, wearing my moccasies.

After confirming that everyone had the appropriate wet weather gear, snorkels and flippers, our departure from Rotary Park at 8am was made in record time with such a small group.

Arriving at Mount Samaria State Park we encountered a wet and slippery road, but promptly arrived at our parking destination - the kiln ruins, information board and most importantly, toilet.



Our first part of the route was along Lightning Track. We easily crossed one small stream at the start, and continued walking up-hill. A rocky outcrop, some 100m above our starting point, was a good place to catch our breath.

Lightning Track, which has many sections of vegetation growing over the track, then meets Mt Samaria Track.

Expecting a turnoff, which at first was obscured, we soon found our correct way towards Butchers Track, a vehicle road.

From here it was a short straightforward walk along the road, until we turned right onto the Tramline Track. Our first point of interest was a few hundred metres along, at the braking station. This provided a suitable place for morning tea, although I felt some were mourning their tea break, as the weather was yet to show signs of improvement.

After this break we retraced our steps back to the Mt Samaria Track junction. The turnoff point, which was not clearly visible earlier, was now more evident coming from the other direction.

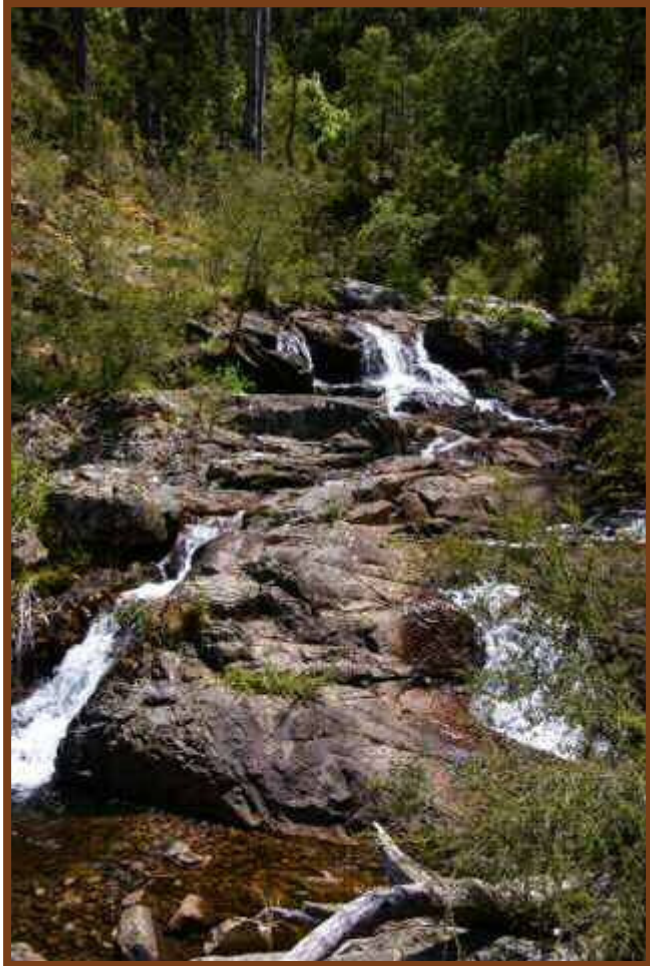
A little landscaping of surrounding branches now made the track more visible for future walkers. We then continued along Mt Samaria track for a couple of kilometres, before making the final steep ascent to the summit.

Mt Samaria summit is 953m above sea level, and on a clear day it is said you can see Lake Mokoan. Folklore possibly, but we will never know as visibility today was poor, and our views today were

shrouded in fog. The rain began to increase, and it was decided to make a hasty retreat down the link track, and head to the Wild Dog Creek Falls camping area for lunch.

Upon arriving at the camp ground, favourable comments were forthcoming about the area, and the walking trails in this park. It was a pleasure to have Kate and Graham join us today too, as usually they are walking some magnificent trails in other parts of the world.

Once lunch was consumed, and the Allen's snakes handed out as further incentive to keep going, it was time to depart for the Falls.



Wild Dog Creek Falls are a short distance from the camp ground, and with the most recent rain, they were flowing moderately. In the distance the sun almost, but unconvincingly, teased us with the prospect of a little mid-afternoon warmth. The viewing platform provided views of the Falls and sights to the south east of the state park.

After taking in the sights, we retraced our steps back towards the camp ground, but then proceeded a short distance where we met up with the Mt Samaria Road we drove in on.

The cars were soon reached, and the usual and always welcomed cuppa and cookies provided by Pat was heartily consumed.

The walk of 14.5km was completed in five and a half hours, and although it rained on our parade, it didn't dampen our enjoyment of a nice nature trail in a park in our region. Except when you realise that your Gore-Tex jacket has lost its Durable Water Repellency (DWR) and is now absorbing more water than repelling it. Who knew? [Michael]

Whorouly Ridgetop : Saturday, July 14

In quite cold but windless and sunny conditions, Adrian led 23 humans, and one very well - behaved dog (Ted), along farm tracks for about 9kms, in the area just south of the Snow Road and west of Whorouly.



This led us to climb up onto the same ridge which was ascended by Hume and Hovell in November 1824.

Like us, the explorers enjoyed the magnificent view over the mountains, with Bogong and the High Plains standing out on the horizon.

From a high saddle where we had a short rest, we could see Mt Buffalo, as named 194 years ago, despite the local aborigine's name being associated with the Echidna.

Adrian read out part of Hovell's journal, describing the widespread small fires that dominated the valley back then.

After observing the beckoning Warby Ranges to the west, we continued this delightful hike back down towards the Carboor Everton Road, and Pat's delectable cuppa and fresh biscuits. [Adrian]

Everton Upper to Baarmutha : Friday, July 20

Ten walkers braved a chilly day last Friday to walk 12kms along the Everton to Beechworth rail trail, returning along bush fringed dirt roads.

A proposal for a rail line to Beechworth was first mooted at the time of the Gold Rush, with tenders being called for in 1874. The plan was for the line to split off from the main Melbourne - Sydney Line at Bowser (just north of Wangaratta) and then across the Reedy Creek Floodplain, and up the Ovens Valley to Everton.

From Everton, the task became harder, as Beechworth stands on a plateau overlooking the Ovens Valley, and there would be some serious engineering works to be tackled.

There were about 500 men employed on the project, who went on to build 30+ bridges, and excavate 40+ cuttings. The longest cutting was about a kilometre long, and this structure is still intact.

The Wangaratta - Everton - Beechworth Line was finally opened in 1876, with the extension to Wooragee and Yackandandah being opened in 1891.

Our walk commenced near an old molybdenite mine which yielded 21,000 tonnes of ore, essential for the defence industry during both world wars (it's used for armour plating).

Some members of the group stopped for morning tea at a picnic spot, with great views to the north east, while the remainder of the group followed the track to Mount Killawarra.

This latter group came across an echidna along the way, before enjoying their morning tea with fantastic views to the north and west.



Regrouping after morning tea, we continued along Tower Road to the Spring Creek Picnic Area for lunch, to be greeted by Rod Davis and a friend, who had ridden up from Wangaratta to join us there.

After lunch, Adrian was entrusted with leading the group along the banks of Spring Creek to Blakelys Track, and then to the last part of the walk alongside Wangandary Road to Ryans Lookout.

We had 22 walkers participating in this outing, including four casual walkers, and a previous casual walker who joined the Club on the day.

Kerri's phone indicated that we had completed a 10km walk, and we enjoyed the best weather seen for some time, a fine and sunny 18 degrees; we even had the sunscreen out. [Jeanette]

Warby Ranges N-S [Stage 2] : Sunday, September 9

On this second stage of our local adventure, an impressive number of people (27) took the opportunity to walk the 17kms from Ryan's Lookout to Taminick Gap, this being the middle section of our 'Warby Ranges : North to South'.

Dry conditions seem to have prevented a massed blooming of the normally abundant wildflowers, but there were large groups of superb wattles, and abundant nodding green hoods over the first part of the walk. We also discovered abundant donkey orchids.



Morning tea was taken at Wenham's Camp, just before we "climbed" Mt Warby, with its great views, and lunch was enjoyed not far from the big towers near the end of Bailey's Road.

At Taminick Gap we enjoyed a welcome cuppa, and then a brief car shuffle was completed before we headed back to Wangaratta. [Karen]

Warby Ranges N-S [Stage 3] : Sunday, September 23

We began Stage Three of our Warby Journey at Taminick Gap Road with a climb towards the telecommunications towers. Stepping off the bitumen, and onto the dirt, we then followed the Ridge Track to the turnoff for Chick Hill, and enjoyed morning tea at this point (that is, Chick Hill). There were plenty of rocks and fallen trees to sit down for morning tea, but the views were a bit obscured by the surrounding forest.

After morning tea, we retraced our steps to the Ridge Track, and continued to Morgans Lookout at Mt Glenrowan.

From here, we had clear views of snowcapped alps, to enjoy with lunch, before heading into the bush along the ridge, and then up and down some gullies before reaching Morrisons Winery.



Our President (Glenda) had organised cheese and fruit platters for members enjoyment, following the walk, which went down really well with the reds, whites, rose and, why not try a muscat on ice, at Morrisons Winery. Great hospitality at this winery.

Our group this day consisted of seven casual walkers, and two new members.

Overall I think the walk was between 8 and 9 kilometres. We saw lots of kangaroos and a wallaby or two, and it was a great day out. [Jeanette]

Social Events

'Say Goodbye to Winter' Dinner : August 28

This was a well attended event, being held at the ever popular Wangaratta Club.

Chairperson for the 'Thredbo Week Away 2019 Committee', Cecily Fletcher, presented details of this event, with a video presentation that provided members with an insight into the accommodation available, and the variety of alpine walks on offer in the beautiful Kosciusko National Park.

As well as a nice meal, and good company, we heard from Adrian Twitt and Geoff Dining about their dramatic story of survival in the Upper Middle Creek Valley.



Several eastern grey kangaroos, and a black wallaby, were sighted on the walk route, and the group were fascinated by the brick clad culverts, and bridges of the original railway line, the huge embankments (still in excellent order) and the deep cuttings. [Adrian]

Tawonga Gap to Young's Gap : Saturday, July 28

This walk was attended by nine trekkers, including three visitors joining us for the day.

Starting at Tawonga Gap, the group were delighted by the outstanding panorama over the Kiewa Valley, and our special mountains.



This road linking the Kiewa and Ovens Valleys was built in 1895-6 by contractors using pick and shovel labour, and their wheelbarrows; it was a struggle, but the project was completed on time.

Setting off, the views only improved along the walk as we gained elevation. Snow was in abundance at Mt Bogong, and the surrounding high country, while patches of snow could be clearly seen on Mt Buffalo.

We enjoyed lunch at Flat Rock, and the enjoyable 19km walk was then completed in good time. [Jeanette]

Middle Creek Valley : Sunday, August 12

For the Middle Creek Valley and Ridge Top Walk, near Greta South, last Sunday, we had 20 participants for a great walk that included the "Kelly Cave".

This was a short walk of approximately 10 kilometres, mostly in the bush and off track through private land. It was a fine day but cold, with temperature averaging about 11 degrees.

After making our way to an overhanging cave, which was possibly used by the Kelly Gang back in the late 1870's, we had a long climb to the top of the ridge, where we had morning tea with great views to the Middle Creek and Ryan's Creek valleys.

From here, we continued further to a gently sloping area for lunch, and then followed another track before a steep descent back into the valley.

As an added bonus, our guest leader, and local expert, Adrian educated us with some good basic bush and navigation skills during the walk. [Jeanette]

Ovens River Walk : Wednesday, August 22

This enjoyable local walk took us through some of the wetlands on the Ovens River, just downstream of Wangaratta, an area that has seen much rejuvenation, and renewed interest, over the past few years.



Setting off, the mist lifted very soon after eight club members headed off from behind Mullinmur Billabongs, near the end of Phillipson Street.

We hiked in warm sunshine along the banks of the Ovens River, and around the main billabong, before following the river paths to North Beaches, the Bullawah Trail, Apex Park, and across the main bridge to the Wilson Road area.

Due to semi flood water covering the King River, we could not gain access to Big Kaluna, but the almost 7km walk was at that stage a very satisfying achievement.

Pat's so welcome cuppa was again enjoyed, but this time back at Rotary Park surrounded by friendly, but hungry, magpies.

[Andy]

Warby Ranges, North-South (Stage 1): Saturday, August 25

This was the first leg of walking the complete length of the Warby Ranges from north to south, a medium grade walk that is completed by our club every few years.

This three-stage walk is always a popular event, and this year, by including Mount Killawarra in our route, we would have a mountain in each section.

Today's route took us from Boweya Road (Killawarra) through to Ryans Lookout on the Wangandary Road.

After parking at the start, the adventure kicked off with a climb along Tower Road, with wallabies being sighted along the way.

What a great finale to the evening.....another of Michael's Quiz's!! Judging by the laughter and chuckles around the room as we collaboratively endeavoured to complete the series of multiple choice questions set, Michael's dry sense of humour and sense of fun had captured us all...once again!!!

Thanks to all those who presented, who attended, and made the night another very enjoyable social gathering for our Club.

Christmas Party/BBQ : December 7

This years Christmas BBQ will be held at the Murmungee-Bowmans Hall, accessible by turning off the Great Alpine Road (or Buckland Gap Road) onto the Murmungee-Bowmans Road.

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.

Misc News . . .

Appalachian Trail

Our amazing Adele Ritchie (from Moyhu), is on another epic adventure having conquered the Alpine Walking Track ("only" 655km) and the Hume and Hovell track (426km) over the last few years, accompanied by local club bushwalkers.



Photo from appalachiantrail.org

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail extends from Springer Mountain in Georgia, to Mount Katahdin in Maine.

The Trail was first mooted in 1921, and completed in 1937, although maintenance, and improvements are always ongoing.

About two million people access the Trail each year, mostly walkers, but also skiers in winter. Only about 2700 walkers complete the full length of the Trail each year.

Adele has been mapping her journey on the blog site WordPress, where she describes every few day's adventures, weather and moods. She started in the deep south state of Georgia on April 1st, and if you wish to follow Adele's journey she has a detailed blog at <https://adelesappalachiantrailexperience.com>

See also <https://appalachiantrail.org>

Bushwalking Victoria website : where2walk

Bushwalking Victoria has advised that the cumbersome process of accessing where2walk on their website has become a one step process, instead of the previous 5-step process.

Simply click on the link (accessible via our website, on the "Useful Links" page) and go to the walk you want information on.



Turner Street Footbridge

The Turner Street footbridge is under construction, and when complete will provide a new crossing over One Mile Creek, and make it easier for pedestrians to get to/from Phillpson Street and Swan Street.

This is one of several new bridges built over the creek in the past few years, and enhances the amenity of the One Mile Creek pathway.

Red-gum Forests

Parks Victoria has released the final River Red Gum Parks Management Plan, and this sets out the long-term goals for the 100+ parks and reserves covering over 215,000 ha in Northern Victoria including our Warby-Ovens National Park.



Many aspects of recreation are covered in the document, including camping, bushwalking, fishing and canoeing.

More information can be found by downloading a copy of the Plan from parks.vic.gov.au/redgumplan.

Thredbo : 2019 Week Away

See the next three pages for all the information (including the registration form) for our Week Away for 2019—the alpine resort of Thredbo.

Thredbo Week Away: Sunday, 31st March – 6th April 2019 (6 nights)

PRELIMINARY FACT SHEET

The Club has booked the entire YHA facility at Thredbo in the Mt Kosciuszko National Park, a 295km drive via the Alpine Way from Wangaratta. The purpose built two story YHA . www.yha.com.au/hostels/nsw/snowy-mountains/thredbo has a number of room options – please see Page 2/. and attached Room Map. Bunks are utilised in all rooms, however it is anticipated that all members will have a bottom bunk, dependent on numbers. The final cost per person also depends on numbers but it is anticipated the nightly rate will be between \$45 and \$75 per person, according to the room type chosen/allocated. If you wish, please indicate your room type & room buddy/s preference on the Registration form, and these will try to be accommodated.

A variety of easy/medium/hard walks will be offered daily encompassing Australia's Rooftop walks, ranges, moraine lakes, rivers and old huts - and no dedicated rest day has been earmarked due to this being a six night stay.

The meals team system will again be used to prepare, cook, serve and clean up a three course dinner with each participant being "on duty" on one night only (more information will be provided closer to departure). Simple and wholesome meals will be served, and will equate to a cost per person of \$10 per day. To keep costs down, no dining out option will be offered.

What you need to provide:

- Your own dinner for Sunday, 31st March – please plan to be there by 6pm
- Your own breakfast, lunch and snacks for the week
- A towel (all bedding is provided)
- Appropriate walking clothing – a full Alpine Clothing List will be provided later
- Your own alcohol if required.

Please note:

- We can access Thredbo YHA after 2pm on Sunday, 31st March and must leave by 10am on Saturday, 6th April.
- A supermarket and service station are available in Thredbo.
- Tea, coffee, milk, butter and margarine will be provided by the Club.
- We will be meeting in the dining room at 6pm each evening to plan walks for the following day – commencing on Sunday, 31st March.
- Due to the potential for inclement weather, the walks program will be flexible.
- Dependent upon numbers we may appoint a transport coordinator as it will be beneficial to minimise vehicle numbers.
- There is no on-site parking at the YHA and a \$17 per day per vehicle fee for use of the Alpine Way applies. Eligible pensioners can apply for a complementary NPWS concession pass .
- Car pooling is always encouraged and the expectation is that passengers will contribute to transport costs.
- The highly successful "Meter Maid" system will again be used to cover daily walks' petrol costs.
- We will be using the chairlift which attracts a \$22 or concession \$19 per person fee.

Page 2/.

How to Book

Please provide a completed Registration Form and deposit of \$100 per person by **31st October 2018** to Glenda Hall, 15 Park Crescent, Wangaratta. The balance (to be determined by numbers attending and type of accommodation chosen/allocated) is due by **1st March 2019**. Please note that every effort will be made to refund where possible, however a portion may be withheld to pay the Club's commitment to YHA's Cancellation Policy that we must adhere to.

Any queries can be directed to members of the Sub-Committee:

Chair: Cecily Fletcher 0490 024 471
Walks Coordinator: Bob Shaw 5766 2773
Assistant Walks Coordinator Robert Chard 0408 174 027
Assistant Walks Coordinator Liz White 0428 810 071
Accommodation & Meals Coordinator: Cheryl Hoysted 0419 005 062
Communication Coordinator: Glenda Hall 0499 535 202
Transport Coordinator To Be Confirmed, if required

ROOM OPTIONS

Downstairs

| Room Type | Beds | No of Rooms | Sleeps | Ensuite |
|-----------------|---|-------------|--------|---------|
| Private 4 share | 2 x bunk sets | 1 | 4 | Yes |
| Twin/Double | Double with cantilever single (tri-bunk) | 1 | 3 | No |
| Dorm room | 2 x bunk sets | 1 | 4 | No |
| Family room | Double with cantilever single (tri-bunk) + 2 x bunk set | 1 | 5 | No |

Upstairs

| Room Type | Beds | No of Rooms | Sleeps | Ensuite |
|-------------|---|-------------|--------|---------|
| Dorm room | 3 x bunk sets | 1 | 6 | No |
| Dorm rooms | 2 x bunk sets | 4 | 4 | No |
| Family room | Double with cantilever single (tri-bunk) + 2 x bunk set | 2 | 5 | No |
| Twin/Double | Double with cantilever single (tri-bunk) | 2 | 3 | Yes |

Bathroom Facilities

Please note there are three communal bathrooms in the building, each with one toilet. There is a mixed sex bathroom on the reception level and there is a female and male bathroom upstairs. The mixed bathroom has one shower, and the single sex bathrooms have two showers each.



Thredbo Week Away (6 nights) Sunday, 31st March to Saturday, 6th April 2019 Registration

Name:

Address:

Phone: Mobile:

email:

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

.....

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

- ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Gluten Free
☐ No red meat ☐ No chicken
☐ No fish ☐ Other

If you wish, please select your accommodation & room sharing preference, however whilst every effort will be made to accommodate any choice you make, depending on numbers, it may not be possible.

| Room type | Level, Upstairs/Downstairs | No. in Room | Room Buddy/s |
|-----------|----------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| | | | |

To register, please complete and sign this Registration Form and send to Glenda Hall, 15 Park Crescent, Wangaratta 3677 with a deposit of \$100 per person by 31st October 2018:

bank transfer BSB 633 000 Account No. 110647799 Ref: Thredbo – Your name; or
cash / cheque (Warby Range Bushwalkers Inc) attached.

Please note, the balance for accommodation will be required by 1st March 2019.

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/or the walk/activity leader.

Signature(s)

Date...../...../ 2018



**WARBY RANGE
BUSHWALKERS Inc.**

FUN . FITNESS . FRIENDSHIP

www.warbybushwalkers.org.au

NEWSLETTER 1 (January), 2019

warbybushwalkers.org.au

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2019 Walking Year, and what a great year we have to look forward to. As well as a nicely varied Walks Program there are two 'not to be missed events' - a weekend at Falls Creek, and our annual week away, taking in the great alpine scenery at Thredbo.

This years Christmas BBQ will be held on December 7, starting at 6.30pm, at the Murmungee-Bowmans Hall, accessible by turning off the Great Alpine Road (or Buckland Gap Road) onto the Murmungee-Bowmans Road.

Specifically, from Wangaratta, take the Great Alpine Road, and drive 31 km to the Bowman-Whorouly intersection, then turn left onto Bowman's Rd (signposted Bowman-Murmungee Hall).

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.

McFarlanes Hill, Wodonga : September 27

We had perfect weather (25c, and a nice easterly breeze) for this 12km adventure, and having left Wangaratta at about 8.35am, we were on the trail by 9.45am.

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



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

Turning right here, we followed the roadway for a few hundred metres to a rotary gateway. Passing through this gate, we began a relentless climb to the summit of "One Tree Hill" (also shown as Klinge Hill on some maps) where we had lunch amidst great views.

From here we skirted around, and down, to the north, passing through a rotary gate, and then followed a line of timber back the roadway referred to above. Turning left at the roadway, we then crossed over a small creek, and then turned right for a few hundred metres, before cutting across country to pick up the return route.

We were back in Wangaratta at about 3pm, having enjoyed an excellent day in the bush. [Chris]

Strathbogies Surprise : October 7

On Sunday Oct 7, nine walkers participated in my Strathbogies Surprise. The first surprise was that everyone who was due to meet at Rotary Park by 8am was on time, despite daylight saving beginning. Would the loss of an hour's sleep play havoc with this group? Only time would tell, with the estimated 14km hike on good dirt roads and four wheel drive tracks.



Two cars left Wangaratta, and Cecily who was driving all of the ladies, went via Warby Range Road to collect Anne. This is all part of the new pickup from your door courtesy service being offered by the club. I continued to drive the blokes to Benalla, where we were meeting Rob, and new casual member Deb, a friend of Anne's.

This was Rob's first walk with the club since the Mount Buller weekend early in the year. On that occasion Rob tried to get his ankle to perform feats that require double joints, youthful agility and the flexibility that only a circus performer possesses.

We reached the start of the walk, which commenced at the junction of Golden Mountain Track and Ferrari Link Track. Any keen eye would observe that the Strathbogies is not the place for your Ferrari. We were underway a little after 10am and heading towards Mount Strathbogies.

This was part of the surprise as Jeanette and I had not yet checked this component of the walk. Like me, do you ever wonder how the names of roads and tracks originate? I thought more about this after leading the group along Harpers Number 4 Track, when we should have been on Harpers Number 3 Track. Surprise! This slight detour added a kilometre to our hike.



Fortunately Harpers Number Two and One tracks were not on our list of things to do. Now I am not sure who Harper was, but someone here is a little too greedy for my liking, or lacking in imagination.

The correct track to Mount Strathbogie was welcomed in more ways than one, as this was the chosen place for morning tea. Although we were at an elevation of about 1045m the views were obscured by the surrounding trees. After consuming something scrumptious, and failing to keep Andy in a strong hold box, we all headed towards Golden Mountain for lunch.

The Strathbogies have some interesting history. Some of which follows. Gold was found in the early 1850's at Hells Hole Creek, and there was a gold rush in 1860 which lasted about two years. The largest hand cut crystal in the world was mined here – the "Crystal King" at 1.7kg. There are still two mines in operation.

The amount of birds was most noticeable in the forest, and they could be heard all along our hike. The absence of huge numbers of rev heads; I mean four wheel drivers and dirt bikers, was also most noticeable. Thank you Bathurst.

This next section of walking was some of the most demanding to face the group. From Clear Creek Track we could see the ridge to where we needed to be, and it looked rather daunting as we continued to descend rather than climb.

From the top of Mount Strathbogie we descended down to about 850m, and then climbed up to about 1020m at Golden Mountain.



The last few metres along Golden Mountain Track were especially steep, and I do believe I witnessed Pat on all fours as she approached the summit.

Here the views on such a clear day were marvellous. It was apparent that all of the daylight saved during winter was used to fine effect at this moment, with clear views well into the horizon. Lake Eildon, and a number of inlets, could be clearly seen.

After absorbing the views, devouring lunch, and partaking in a customary group photo opportunity, it was time to continue. Andy chose the short cut, straight down the other side of the mountain, to the cars less than a kilometre away.

The rest of the group persisted down the other side of Golden Mountain Track towards Hells Hole. Small creeks were still flowing, despite little rainfall over winter. The roads we were walking on had all become considerably dry, and hard, over the past weeks.

During our walk we were fortunate to have the ever informative Trevor, who was able to decipher animal marks on trees and unusual markings on the dirt roads (deer, kangaroo, snake, goanna or yowie – at times it was difficult to tell even for him).

This section of the walk took us to our lowest point at about 750 metres. At Hells Hole we caught our collective breaths, and read the information boards about this area, and Dry Creek.

The cars were just twenty minutes away, with a slight incline ahead of us. Faster than you could say Strathbogie (not a spelling error for those who were issued a map) and we were soon welcoming Pat's afternoon tea as accustomed, but presented proficiently by Andy.

The total walk, according to my GPS, ended up being 16.4km, completed in 5 hours and 20 minutes. SURPRISE!

[Michael Braendler]

Beechworth Bush Circuit : October 10

This six kilometre walk made a loop around the Beechworth Historic Park area, just to the north and north-west of the township.

The eleven walkers in the group set off from Gorge Road, then took Robinsons Track to pick up Makakoff Road.

From here we tackled the hillside that leads to the old Tannery, a landmark building, but no longer in use (operations ceased in 1961).

We then strolled along a fire track, down to Ponds Track, and then to the cascades on Spring Creek, and back to the starting point.



Details of the route taken on this walk (as well as many other great options) can be found on the Parks Victoria PDF of the area; see the link on our website. [Lesley]

Magenta Block, Chiltern : October 14

A warm and overcast day saw 13 walkers set off on a 10km figure-of-eight walk in a rarely visited area of the Chiltern National Park.

Luckily, a refreshing breeze tempered what was to become our hottest day since last summer.

The walk commenced at Bartley's Block, site of the old homestead and brewery, and after little rain this winter/spring, the 'block' area was green, but spring fed stream and dams were almost dry.

We were not treated to all the bird calls, or spring wildflowers, anticipated; however a few hardy wildflowers and birds appeared, as we walked along the ridge track with views of the valley beyond.



After completing the Tuan Circuit, suggested by the Friends of Chiltern NP, the Howlong Road was crossed, and a loop along Stringybark Track saw the group enjoying lunch, and some exploring at Magenta Mine.

The second loop was then completed, and an early afternoon tea was enjoyed back at the 'block' in the shade of the Ironbarks.

Buckland-Gap Road to Stanley Pub : October 27

Whilst the option of a shorter 6km walk to Stanley via Lady Newton Drive and Murrumbidgee Lookout was offered, in the end the 17 participants all chose the longer walk of 9.5km navigating various access roads through the Stanley Forest.

It was pretty nice to be sharing the day with three new walkers joining us, Julie from Tatong, and Donna and Stuart from Wangaratta. The anticipated length of this adventure was 9.5km of Easy-Medium walking, and we had a 23c day with a fresh breeze in the afternoon.

Starting from top of Buckland Gap, at the corner of Lady Newton Drive and Buckland Gap Road, our route passed Bates Dam, and the first climb delivered clear views westwards across the Beechworth Hills, and beyond to the Warby Ranges.



Walking at a steady pace, gathering breath at the top of the frequent climbs, we reached the intersection of Ridge Track and Rooney's Track, and dropped down to Six Mile Road for a welcome morning tea at Clarke's Corner, after about 90 minutes walking.

Taking Dingle Track northward and climbing a few more "hill-ish" rises, we came to the track heading East down to Stanley.

Enjoying the bird song and forest, the 'Pub' track then led us into the back of Stanley, coming out near the Recreation Reserve where we had left two cars.

It was good to sit down after walking for three hours, to enjoy our picnic lunch with the gentle activity of a cricket match playing out in the background. Even Ted was glad of a quiet sit and a treat.

The party then divided with eight people heading back home, and nine people stepping out for the return walk along Lady Newton Drive.

We enjoyed the views from the Murrumbidgee Lookout, and prepared ourselves for the steep descent back to the cars. With tired legs and tender feet, the waiting cup of tea and biscuits drew us on to the end of a satisfying 18km walk.

Suggestions: An alternative route would be to take Jensen Track; Orchard Track; Tully's Track; Dingle and Pub Track to Stanley. There will always be some climbs, but this circuit would take you deeper into the forest on minor tracks—although you would miss Clarke's Corner which is a nice picnic area for morning tea.

The option of either one way, or return walk worked well, whilst the additional option of a shorter 6km walk was not necessary. [Cecily Fletcher]

Foot Golf at Boorhaman : Cup Day

A rare event this Spring was waking to rain! Just when we didn't want it. Our Cup Day plans for a Footgolf tournament at Boorhaman were in trouble. All was in readiness, with a bundle of soccer balls borrowed from Galen College, and plenty of bookings. Nevertheless, it had to be cancelled.

However, the lunch at the Boorhaman Pub went ahead as planned, with a large crowd of members, some suitably attired for the Cup Day occasion. A fashion parade displaying hat gear brought amusement. But all eyes shifted to the bar for the great race, each of us clutching our horse names and number, gathered from the cup cakes prepared by Jeanette and Karen.



Winner was Ann Brain, a deserving awardee. At least the perennial cup went to a new recipient this year! A day of frivolity and enjoyment. [Adrian]

South Buffalo Track : November 11

On this special Remembrance Day 20 participants including a brand new member, and a new casual walker, rolled up for Sunday's 8km walk to the South Buffalo View Point along the track from Cresta Valley.

We observed Armistice Day along the track with Kerri reading "In Flanders Fields" by John McCrae, followed by a minute's silence. Then the "Ode of Remembrance" from "For the Fallen" by Laurence Binyon was read by Glenda.



Our walk was through snow gums, meadows, and past many streams, rocky outcrops and boulders to the lookouts along the way, and then to the final view point where we had lunch.

Views to the Alps, Lake Buffalo, the Warby Ranges, Winton Wetlands were fantastic on this clear fine day. The return walk was along the same track back to Cresta Valley. [Jeanette]

[See "poetryfoundation.org" for the complete text of Binyon's poem; Verse 4 of "For the Fallen" is referred to as "The Ode of Remembrance".]

Mount Buffalo Walks : November 24/25

Both of the Mount Buffalo events programmed for November 24/25 were deferred to December 1/2 so as to avoid a clash with the Victorian State Election. See the website for reports on these walks, as well as the next newsletter.

In the meantime, here are some photos from that very enjoyable event.



[Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, March 18; details to follow.]