

**WARBY RANGE**  
**BUSHWALKERS**  
**2019**



**WARBY RANGE  
BUSHWALKERS Inc.**

**FUN . FITNESS . FRIENDSHIP**

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

## **WALKS PROGRAM, JANUARY – MARCH 2019**

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)

<b>Day/Date</b>	<b>Walk</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Leader</b>
Sunday, 6th January	Mt Buffalo: Long Plain, Mt Dunn.	M	Jan Heywood, 0427 22 44 84
Friday, 11th January	Lake Benalla, Wetlands and Art Gallery	E	Karen, 0409 215 286
Saturday, 19th January	Beechworth Historic area to Woolshed Falls.	E/M	Cecily, 0490 024 471
Friday, 1st February, Saturday, 2nd Sunday 3rd February	Falls Creek 'Weekend of Huts' walks	E M H	Kerri, 0488 362 812 or 5725 1480
Sunday, 17th February	Rollasons Falls or The Gorge, Mt Buffalo	E/M M/H	Jeanette, 0417 546 974
Thursday, 21st February	Moonlight walk, Everton	E	Glenda, 0499 535 202
Saturday, 2nd March	Strathbogies Surprise No 2. Short walks in the Strathbogie State Forest	M	Michael, 0447 617 880
Saturday, 16th March	Mt Hotham to Pretty Valley Dam via Derricks Hut, Dibbins Hut, Basalt Temple & Pole 333; and in reverse.	H	Bob, 5766 2773
Thursday, 21st March	Ovens River, Killawarra	E	Andy, 5721 7922
Sunday, 31st March to Saturday, 6th April	Thredbo – week away		See website for details.
Monday, 18th March	Annual General Meeting Venue to be confirmed		Judy, 5766 2773
General Meeting	Monday, 11th February		Michael, 0447 617 880

**Sunday, 6th January. Mt Buffalo, Long Plain and Mt Dunn. Jan, 0427 224 484**

An easy to medium walk of approx 10k following the Long Plain Track from The Horn Road towards The Cathedral and a possible side trip to Mt Dunn. More wildflowers and bog plants in summer than on the Big Walk. This walk is mostly on bush tracks, and some management vehicle track. AWTGS 3

**Friday, 11th January. Lake Benalla, Wetlands and Art Exhibition at the Gallery. Karen, 0409 215 286**

An easy walk of approx 8k around Lake Benalla, and its feeder streams. Features include the Botanical and Rose Gardens, as well as the natural environment of Jaycee and Little Casey Islands. A chance to see platypus along with other animal and birdlife. The walk will be followed by a visit to the 'Future Perfect' exhibition displaying treasures from 50 years of collecting by Benalla Art Gallery include the Sidney Nolan 'Glenrowan' tapestry. Free entry to the gallery. This walk is suitable for grandchildren. AWTGS 2

**Saturday, 19th January. Beechworth Historic Area to Woolshed Falls. Cecily, 0490 024 471,**

An easy to medium return walk of approx 11k on bush tracks from the Beechworth Historic Park to Woolshed Falls, via the Cascades. A narrow and steep descent near the start down to a track following the creek to the Falls and return. AWTGS 3

**Friday, 1st February to Sunday, 3rd February. Falls Creek weekend of Huts. Kerri, 0488 362 812 or 5725 1480  
Accommodation is booked at Falls Creek. Cost pp per night dependent on numbers, but anticipated to be up to \$45.**

A weekend in the high country staying at the Myrtleford Ski Lodge. Bob has put together this weekend of walks to huts in the High Country. A mix of easy, easy/medium, medium and medium/hard walks, including from Watchbed Creek to Johnston Hut, Edmondson Hut and Mt Nelse West, and the ruins of Battys Hut. AWTGS 3

Further walks to Cope Hut, Wilkinson Hut ruins, Wallaces Hut and Langfords Gap, Fitzgerald and Kellys' Huts. AWTGS 3  
BYO Friday night dinner, breakfasts, lunches, snacks, wine etc. **A shared dinner on Saturday night, usually about \$10pp.**

**Sunday, 17th February. Mt Buffalo, Rollasons Falls Track and The Gorge. Jeanette, 0417 546 974.**

Two walk options of either an easy to medium short walk of approx 4k return, to and from the Rollasons Falls picnic area to the Falls. The walk includes a short steep section near the Falls. Escape the heat in the cool water of Buffalo Creek. AWTGS 3

The second option is a medium/hard walk of approx 16k from the Rollasons Falls Picnic Area to The Gorge via Mackeys and Marriotts Lookouts, and return. Both walks are on bush tracks. AWTGS 4

**Thursday, 21st February. Everton, Moonlight walk. Glenda, 0499 535 202**

Enjoy a Summers' evening stroll of approx 8k along the rail trail at Everton, followed by a counter meal at the Everton Pub before continuing the loop walk. AWTGS 2

**Saturday, 2nd March. Strathbogies Surprise No 2. Michael, 0447 617 880**

A series of walks on bush tracks in the Strathbogie State Forest. The first follows Rocky Ned Track, past some falls to Rocky Ned through open woodland with fantastic views from the rocky ledge at the top. There are some hills involved in this 8km loop. Then another short return walk of 3km to a historical air crash memorial. Afternoon tea at James Creek Reserve. AWTGS 3

**Saturday, 16th March. Mt Hotham to Pretty Valley Pondage, Falls Creek. Bob, 5766 2773**

This iconic walk leads from the Mount Loch carpark at Mt Hotham to Pretty Valley Pondage near Falls Creek. A hard walk of approx 20k, mostly on bush tracks from the Mount Loch carpark to Derricks Hut, before a steep descent to and from Dibbins Hut, climbing out of the valley to the Basalt Temple, and pole 333, in the Bogong High Plains. Then continue onto the Fainter Fire Track to reach the Pretty Valley Pondage. AWTGS 4

**Thursday, 21st March. Ovens River, Killawarra. Andy, 5721 7922**

An easy walk of approx 6k on bush tracks among the river red gums along the banks of the Ovens River, and its billabongs, in the Warby Ovens National Park. AWTGS 2

**Thredbo Week Away. March 31st to April 6th. See website for details.**



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## NEWSLETTER 2 (April), 2019

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

Welcome to the Autumn 2019 Newsletter!

It's that time of year again, and our ANNUAL DINNER and AGM will be held at the Wangaratta Club on Monday, March 18th; everyone (including family and friends) is welcome to attend. The Club is located at 4 Victoria Parade, in the heart of Wangaratta.

Please book your table with Judy Shaw (not the Wangaratta Club) at 5766 2773, or SMS 0408 475 235, or send an email to [bshaw@westnet.com.au](mailto:bshaw@westnet.com.au); whichever method you use, please leave your name as part of the message.

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 (Mike Grant – secretary of Bushwalking Victoria) will take the microphone.

Mike will talk about the role of BWV, and how it interacts with walking clubs, such as ours, as well as state government agencies. Questions from the floor will be most welcome.

Another part of the proceedings will be to have a preliminary vote on the venue for next year's Week Away. Since we usually alternate between high country and the coast, next year's event will be on the coast. The nominal choices for next year are,

- Mornington Peninsula
- Great Surf Coast Walk
- Great Ocean Walk.

As usual, membership fees become due at the AGM, and the fees for the forthcoming year are the same as last year's, that is, Single \$35; Family \$65; Associates \$10; Life members receiving newsletter \$10

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 take part in, as well as great walks to plan.

### Revised route for Strathbogie Surprise #2

The route originally shown in the current Walks Program for the Strathbogie Surprise #2 has now been revised as follows.

This event will now consist of a series of short walks on 4WD bush tracks in the Strathbogie State Forest. The first short walk of 2km visits the site of an historical air crash memorial.

A 9km loop comprises the second walk along Rocky Ned Track, with fantastic views from the rocky ledge at the top.

The final walk is a 4km return walk to Mount Separation. For those who are prepared to brave the steep incline at the start, they will be rewarded with 360 degree views of the surrounding area on top of one huge granite rock.

### Christmas Party – Friday Dec 7th 2018

The Warby Walkers are well renowned for being a very social group, and true to form, they turned out in their numbers for the club's annual Christmas gathering which was held on Friday Dec 7th at Bowman's-Murungee Hall.

It was a great occasion for members to catch up, and judging by the noise level, there was plenty of that happening!

The BYO BBQ was accompanied by a large variety of delicious fresh salads and sweets, provided by members.

The highlight of the evening was the 90th birthday celebration of a much loved, and admired stalwart of the club, and Life member – Alan Raison.

Alan has only recently hung up his boots from the 'big walks', however he did celebrate his 86th birthday on top of Mt Bogong complete with cupcake and candle!

Many thanks to Cecily and Ken Fletcher for organising the use of this excellent venue.

### Mount Buffalo : December 1 & 2

In perfect weather, three separate club groups explored the Mount Buffalo Plateau on the first weekend of December, the walk having been postponed so as to not clash with the Victorian State Election in November.

It was also perfect timing, as after recent rain, the wildflowers were abundant, with swathes of pink bells (Tetradlea), pea and daisy bushes providing colourful displays.

The largest party (all 17 of them) walked the 10kms from the Reservoir to the Og, Gog and Magog features, and then to Eagle Point. Another crew completed a longer trip in the same area.

At the same time, a small, but intrepid, group of walkers embarked on an overnight expedition to Rocky Creek Campground, and Mollison's Gallery.





Leaving packs behind at the campground for the steep climb up to Mollison's Gallery, the views south over Lake Buffalo, and across to distant plains beyond Glenrowan, were rewarding for a tiring 14km day. There's nothing like the peace and quiet of bush camping - except for the roar of the wild wind in the tree tops as we tucked into our tents for the night.



However, in the small hours of the morning this became the quiet patter of rain drops, which appeared to be passing, until a thunderstorm struck at breakfast time, setting the campers up for a downpour, a wet pack-up and a wet walk back to their cars.

[Lesley and Cecily]

### Review : Best Walks of Victoria's High Country

Local bushwalker, Craig Sheather, has produced this handy book under the Woodslane Imprint, and this full colour guide describes 40 walks in our favourite patch.



The area covered in these descriptions ranges from Jamieson to Corryong, and from Dinner Plain to Corowa, all of them accompanied by sketch maps and plenty of photos.

As well as a good selection of the club's favourites there are some lesser known walks, such as Rutherglen to Corowa (on the bike trail) and a local loop around Corryong.

Overall, a great mix of walks to choose from, and good value at \$29.95, as are all of the other walking guides produced by this publisher. See [woodslane.com.au](http://woodslane.com.au) for more details.

The book was printed in October 2018, and seems quite well distributed around the North-east; we picked up our copy at the Omeo Newsagent/PO. [Chris M]

### Chinese Prayer Stones : December 9

The mystery of the rock cairns in the far reaches of Middle Creek, high up in the hills between Greta and Tolmie, were the cause of the Warby Range Bushwalkers adventure on 9th December.

The previous attempt to take a group there became unstuck when, several months earlier, Geoff Dinning and Adrian Twitt were reconnoitring the proposed walk and became disoriented in fog, leading to an unplanned two day adventure in bitter weather.

That expedition solicited rescuers arriving by plane, foot and road. We hoped the same would not be the case on this occasion.

This time, heat seemed to be the threat. However the 38 deg temperatures in Wangaratta in the lead-up to the expedition, did not stop twelve walkers registering.

As it transpired, the day was significantly cooler, with rain encountered on the trip into the hills, and only 15 deg when we reached the destination.

The rain cleared for our mission, the sun came out, and we basked in 22 degrees by midday, only to encounter more rain on the return trip back to Wangaratta.

Having parked our cars, we strolled through tall trees along a forest track before reaching the point of ascent to our destination.

The sharp roadside incline required an abseiling exercise, with rope thick enough to tie up an ocean going liner, provided by leader Geoff Dinning for the purpose.

Soon we were clambering up the steep, thickly vegetated and rocky slope beyond. Ignoring the scratches from the shrubbery, we admired the beauty of the many wild flowers, with the rock isotomes blooming in profusion.

Eventually we emerged into an open area near the hilltop, where seven rock cairns stand, encrusted with moss and lichens.

Archaeologists suggest that they are Chinese Buddhist prayer stones, erected perhaps mid nineteenth century when Chinese gold diggers scoured this remote hill country.



Following a cautious retreat, and return to the cars, we travelled to the Myrree Reserve for lunch in comfort (toilets, soap and paper towels!) on large picnic tables under shelter.

Then we drove on to the Dinning's bush retreat at Greta South, where we had a relaxing afternoon tea in superb surroundings.

It was a great way to finish a very satisfying, but quite strenuous day.

We are in debt to Geoff Dinning for his preparation and leadership. [Adrian]

### **Floodwaters : December 14**

Water, water everywhere - after a long dry spell, the North-east had more than its share of rainfall in the lead up to this walk.

There was so much water (well over 100mm in most of the North-east) that the Hume Freeway was cut in several places to the north of Wangaratta, and the planned walk for December 14 (the White-Box Walk in Chiltern-Mount Pilot NP) had to be cancelled.

Alternative venues (such as those in the Warby Ranges and near Beechworth) were considered, but access seemed to be a problem wherever we thought of going.

Hopefully, we can reschedule this popular walk to another date in 2019. [Chris M]

### **Harrietville : Tracks and Trails**

The hard working community at Harrietville has just finished production of a very professional fold-out map entitled *Harrietville : Tracks and Trails*.

This is a full-colour, double-sided booklet that follows the format of the popular maps of other nearby venues (for example, Mount Hotham and Dinner Plain), and was designed by well known graphic artist, Andrew Swift.

All of the walks in the Harrietville area are covered, for example the Tronoh Dredge Trails, The Riverside Track and Charley Miley Track.

Longer, more arduous routes, such as the Bon Accord Track, the Bungalow Spur and the North-west Spur Track, are also well documented.

The map is available from Visitor Information Centres in the North-east, and like the others in this format, is free of charge.

### **Mt Buffalo, Long Plain & Macs Point : January 6**

The weather could be truly described as "simply perfect!" for this adventure, and the wildflowers were in abundance; snow daisies were in full flower and pink buds, the brilliant mauve trigger plants, fading, but still vibrant, old - gold bush peas, and stands of Derwent speedwell in their prime.

The walk began at the Horn Road, and proceeded along the Long Plain Track to the rustic sign post labelled To the Cath..... (Cathedral).

We turned left there, and then climbed a gentle 1.5 km route to Macs Point Track; this wound its way down through snow plain, and white mint bush shrubbery to the Rocky Point Track.

Then it was on to Long Plain Track, and back to the Horn Road, following Eurobin Creek, with Mt Dunn being climbed on the way.

All along, the tracks were swathes of the delicate pale vanilla lily, and Kathy Dobson, one of the many new walkers on the trip,



spotted several cinnamon bell orchids. Above Mt Dunn a splendid circling green and black McClays swallowtail butterfly entertained the crowded summit.

Finally, on the shore of Lake Catani, Pat faced the considerable challenge of providing afternoon tea for 29 walkers, with her usual grace and equanimity. [Jan]

### **Booking in for a walk etc**

Please book in for a walk at least two clear days beforehand, giving the leader time to photocopy maps, and organise cars etc. Also, a reminder to say that walks participants should get to the meeting point a touch before the meeting time, allowing for a speedier getaway. Also, bringing the correct change/small notes for the mileage would be extremely helpful.

### **Lake Benalla : January 11**

On Friday 11/01, nine enthusiastic walkers headed off early in a heat beating morning walk around Lake Benalla, and its feeder streams (Broken River and Hollands Creek).



The Lake is close to the commercial centre of Benalla, and some of its surrounds, have been gazetted as a wildlife sanctuary.

We made a Figure 8 from the Rose Gardens around the shady paths, and were fanned by a gentle breeze. The natural wetland environment features magnificent river red gums with abundant bird life, and over 30 species were recorded on the walk.

We didn't however notice any platypus or native water rats which also frequent this area.

We enjoyed morning tea perched on the roots of a gigantic Morten Bay Fig on Jaycee Island, and by 11am we were out of the sun viewing the Benalla Art Gallery 50th Year Future Perfect Exhibition.

This featured the Sidney Nolan Glenrowan tapestry, and we were surprised to learn that this gigantic work was created at a workshop in Portugal.

A picnic lunch in the shady botanical gardens completed the morning. [Karen]

### **Woolshed Falls – Spring Creek Falls : January 19**

This was an enjoyable eight kilometre walk in Beechworth Historic Park, passing through degraded riparian scrubland (a legacy of the Reids Creek Goldfields mining activity in the mid-late 1800s).

On our way to the proposed starting point, we found that Gorge Road was closed for roadworks, so we had to reverse the original planned direction, but this worked in our favour.

Setting off, the seven of us followed a well-marked single-file footpad through to Ponds Track, and then tackled the steep ascent, with stone steps, alongside Spring Creek Cascades.



Once below Gorge Road, we crossed a flat granite rock to the Creek, and enjoyed the swimming holes above the Cascades (a nice treat on a 31c day). We also enjoyed the great views to the north, over the plains.

All that was left to do was to retrace our steps back to Woolshed Falls, where there are excellent amenities. [Cecily]

### **GPS Training Course**

Want to learn how to use your smartphone for navigation, anywhere, anytime?

Bushwalking Victoria has invited our club to attend a workshop on how to use your smartphone for Navigation (GPS owners could use this course to practise their skills with their device).

In this workshop, we will look at how GPS satellite navigation works – the theory, practicalities, advantages and limitations.

We will discuss a variety of smartphone mapping/navigation apps, including Avenza, maps.me and Terra Map.

- Date: Saturday, 18th May, 9am – 3pm
- Location: Outdoor Activity Hub Conference Room.
- Address: Westerfolds Park, Fitzsimmons Lane, Templestowe. (Melways 33 G1)
- What to bring: BYO lunch, smartphone (or GPS device), ruler, pencil, pens, wet weather gear.
- Morning tea will be provided.

- Detailed course notes, activity sheets and map will be supplied.

Clubs are asked to nominate a maximum of two participants so that more clubs get a chance to attend. If spaces remain available, then an extra participant is welcome. Maximum number 16.

IMPORTANT: After registration, participants will be sent detailed instructions on phone setup. Preparation and pre-reading must be completed before the workshop. Participants must already be familiar with basic map/compass navigation and be conversant with their own electronic device (that is, be able to update software and install new apps).

Registration (which closes on Friday, 12 April) and enquiries to : [training@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au](mailto:training@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au) (participants are asked to provide the make and model of their smartphone (or GPS) at registration).

### **Falls Creek Weekend, Feb 1, 2 and 3**

Thirty four members participated in this weekend, and most were accommodated at the Myrtleford Ski Lodge in Falls Creek.

The theme of the weekend was The Huts of the Bogong High Plains, and on Saturday (Feb 2) four walks were offered –

- Easy : 7km return, Watchbed Creek to Johnson's Hut
- Easy/Medium : 10km, Heathy Spur Track to Johnson's Hut
- Medium, as above, plus a visit to Edmonson's Hut
- Medium/Hard, Watchbed Creek to Batty's Hut and to Mt Nelse West, and to both Johnson's and Edmonson's on the return journey.

Fifteen walkers completed the Easy/Medium graded walk from the end of the dam wall at Rocky Valley dam along the Heathy Track to Edmonson's Hut and return which was a distance of 10km.



The weather was fine, the stroll in the open alpine grasslands was most enjoyable, there were still many alpine flowers and the hut was in good condition.

Meanwhile, seventeen walkers tackled the harder walk from Watchbed Creek near Rocky Valley Dam to Batty's Hut, a distance of 19 km.

The length of this walk was increased since the track began almost on the Alpine Road, rather than two kilometres along the Watchbed Creek track.

Soon after Mt Nelse was passed the walkers ventured in an easterly direction through alpine grasslands and areas of snowgum eventually to an open area that showed evidence of past cattle usage.

Then the track became overgrown and very difficult to navigate.

The main reason the ruin of Batty's Hut was reached was due to the use of a GPS, rather than any other form of navigation, as the undergrowth and thick bush was often impenetrable, and it meant that long range visibility was impossible.



After returning by the same route to the roadway, the return journey along Big River Track was much more pleasant.

The Saturday night celebrations included a 50th wedding anniversary, and a 70th birthday.

As well, one of our stalwart members, Trevor Turnbull, spoke about his involvement with a group of skilled and unskilled volunteers who work with Parks Victoria to restore and renovate nominated huts on the Bogong High Plains.

Trevor had many tales to tell of these adventures, and the processes involved, in rebuilding these often century old structures to their original appearance.

This is valuable work which is done to ensure that the history of the high country is not lost down the generations.

On Sunday, Feb 3, two walks were offered within the Bogong Huts theme –

- Easy/Medium : 12km, from Watchbed Creek to Kelly's and Fitzgerald's Huts, and
- Easy : 6km, Wallace's and Cope Hut Circuit, plus a visit to the Bogong Rovers Chalet.

Being a Total Fire Ban Day it is club policy not to walk in such conditions, however there were some individual members who continued the Hut theme to visit the iconic Wallace's and Cope Huts, and Trevor was able to explain in details many of the construction procedures that were involved.

This short (6km) walk also included a tour of the Bogong Rovers Chalet located between the two mentioned huts.

The trek also included a walk adjacent to the aqueducts that are part of the Kiewa Hydro Scheme, as well as being on the Alpine Walking Trail.

Thank you to all those who helped organise the accommodation,

who assisted with the catering for such a large group, and for those who mapped out the walks, and acted as walks leaders.

As per usual it was very much a team effort. [Bob Shaw]

## **Bushwalking Victoria : Day Walk Leaders Course**

Bushwalking Victoria will be hosting a day walk leader training for affiliated member clubs in April. The details are as follows:

Course Name: Day Walk Leader Training

Date: 13 and 14 April 2019 (the course runs over two days)

Time: 08:45 - 16:00

Venue: Outdoor Activity Hub Conference Room, Westerfolds Park, Fitzsimons Lane, Templestowe, VIC .

Course topics include: Leadership skills, previewing a walk, paperwork, risk management, leading the walk, navigation, incident management.

Please bring: Lunch and a bushwalking compass (preferably Silva brand). BWV will supply each participant with a course handbook, morning and afternoon tea.

The maximum number of attendees for the course is 20 due to the size of the venue.

We would like to give as many clubs as possible the opportunity to attend, so depending on demand, we ask to limit the number of persons attending from any one club to two participants. You can send through additional names to go on a waiting list and if we have additional spaces, we can offer the waiting list participants a place.



Country attendees will need to organise their own accommodation, please. (Options nearby include: Quest Doncaster, Beau Monde International, Eltham Motor Inn , Airbnb)

If you are interested in attending, please e-mail Judy Hunter at [training@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au](mailto:training@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au) by 20 March 2019.

## **Walking and Cycling Strategy**

The Rural City of Wangaratta has announced the development of a Walking and Cycling Strategy, and would like some community input. Everything about the strategy, and how to get involved can be found on the project page: [atleisure.com.au/current-projects/wangaratta](http://atleisure.com.au/current-projects/wangaratta)

## **Rollasons Falls and The Big Walk : February 17**

On this fine summer's day, 22 walkers travelled to Mt Buffalo; six of them opted for the short walk to Rollasons Falls, and return; whilst 16 opted for a section of The Big Walk.





The Rollasons Falls walkers took a well formed track from the picnic area, through the bush to the upper and lower viewing points of the Rollasons Falls, and the rock pool of Buffalo Creek.

Lunch was enjoyed at this spot, before returning via the bush track to the picnic area, and the group then enjoyed a break at Porepunkah on the way home.

The Big Walk walkers joined 'The Big Walk' about 400 metres south of the Rollasons Falls carpark, where Rosellas were spotted along the track through the Candlebark Gums. We zig-zagged across the granite slabs, enjoying morning tea with fantastic views, before reaching Marriotts Lookout.



The track then continued zig-zagging through the Alpine Ash, Snowgums and Mountain Gums. Reeds Lookout was found prior to reaching The Gorge, where lunch was enjoyed in the shade at a picnic table, and alongside a fallen log.

After lunch, the remaining lookouts were checked out, before heading back to Rollasons Falls carpark. [Jeanette]

## Moonlight Walk, Everton : February 21

This moonlit adventure meandered from Everton Station to the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail, and was attended by 33 walkers who tackled two slightly different routes.



The two walks were 7kms and 10kms, and both groups had an easy walk, with a night of perfect temperatures, and a clear sky.

Setting off, both groups walked for three kilometres along the Rail Trail to Diffey Road, turning left to walk the 500m into Everton.

We had pre-ordered a range of fast food from the Everton Store, and the staff there delivered meals that were thoroughly enjoyed by all. We then relished drinks, ice creams etc at the Store as we watched a magnificent sunset.

It was then time to tackle the return trip, with a group of 18 leaving first to walk back up Diffey Road, and then turning toward Myrtleford on the rail trail, for an additional three kilometre return walk to Pender Lane.

This group shone torches from the bridge into the Horseshoe Creek watercourse that was severely eroded as a result of the major flooding event on 13th December last year.

The second group (many of whom also inspected the Creek damage) retraced their steps back to Everton Station, arriving about 20 minutes before the larger group.

Watching the moon rise was magical, albeit later than expected, and the group reunited for Pat's welcome cuppa and biscuits, with the longer walkers arriving a little after 10pm. [Glenda] [The Everton Store will donate a percentage of the meal sales to Beyond Blue]





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## Committee Nomination Form

I hereby nominate \_\_\_\_\_  
for the position of \_\_\_\_\_  
on the 2019-20 Committee.

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

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

I second the nomination

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

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

I accept the nomination

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

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

Please forward the completed form to:

The Secretary

Warby Range Bushwalkers Inc

PO Box 974

Wangaratta, 3676



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## WALKS PROGRAM, APRIL – JUNE 2019

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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
Monday, 18th March	<b>AGM : Wangaratta Club, Victoria Parade, Wangaratta.</b> 6pm for dinner, meeting to follow. See Newsletter for more details.		Book in with Judy. email : bshaw@westnet.com.au
Sunday, 31st March to Saturday, 6th April	<b>Thredbo – annual week away</b>		See website for details
Saturday, 13th April	<b>McMillan's Track, Wabonga Plateau and Paradise Falls; AWTGS-4</b>	M	Bob, 5766 2773
Easter Monday, 22nd April	<b>Warby Heritage Falls Trail, Booths Winery, Taminick; AWTGS-3</b>	E/M	Jeanette, 0417 546 974
Sunday, 28th April	<b>Lake Sambell, Lake Kerferd, Beechworth; AWTGS-2</b>	M	Lesley, 0439 77 66 87
Saturday, 11th May	<b>Bright to Wandiligong and return; AWTGS-2</b>	E or M	Cecily, 0490 024 471
Friday, 17th May	<b>Eldorado and Woolshed; AWTGS-2</b>	E	Pat, 0409 380 076
Sunday, 26th May	<b>White Box Walk, Chiltern; AWTGS-2</b>	E	Chris, 0418 503 802
Monday, 10th June	<b>Salisbury Walk, Friends Track and Kwat Kwat Lookout; AWTGS-4</b>	M	Jeanette, 0417 546 974
Saturday, 22nd June	<b>Mt Porepunkah; AWTGS-2-3-4</b>	E, M & H	Bob, 5766 2773
Monday, 20th May	<b>General meeting, 7.30pm</b>		Michael, 0447 617 880

**Saturday, 13th April. McMillans Track/Wabonga Plateau/Paradise Falls; AWTGS-4. Bob, 5766 2773**

A medium walk of approx 15k, with views of the Rose and Dandongadale River valleys. Paradise Falls, an easy 30 minute return walk, will also be visited. Paradise Falls is a unique natural wonder, with a 31m cascade.

**Easter Monday, 22nd April. Warby Heritage Falls Trail. Booths Winery Taminick; AWTGS-3. Jeanette, 0417 546 974**

An easy to medium loop walk of approx 7k along the Warby Heritage Falls Trail from Booths Winery to Spot Mill Track, on to Cellar Track, and back to Booths Winery. Bush tracks and 4WD roads.

**Sunday, 28th April. Beechworth to Lake Kerferd; AWTGS-2. Lesley, 0439 77 66 87**

This medium walk of approx 14k from Beechworth, skirting around Lake Sambell, and then along a well formed bush track to Lake Kerferd, and return to Lake Sambell for afternoon tea.

**Saturday, 11th May. Bright to Wandiligong; AWTGS-2. Cecily, 0490 024 471**

An easy walk of approx 8k from Bright to Wandiligong, along bush tracks following Morses Creek upstream to Wandiligong, and return, for those wanting a longer medium walk of approx. 16k. Most of this walk is under the cover of the bush. Enjoy the autumn colours of Bright and Wandiligong, the Chinese Memorial Swing Bridge, and the Diggings at Wandiligong.

**Friday, 17th May. Eldorado and Woolshed; AWTGS-2. Pat, 0409 380 376**

An easy loop walk of approx 10k, taking in historic features in and around Eldorado and Woolshed, including Kangaroo Crossing, and the remains of the Reidford hotel.

**Sunday, 26th May. White Box Walk, Chiltern, Mt Pilot NP; AWTGS-2. Chris, 0418 503 802**

An easy 8k loop walk from the Honeyeater Picnic Area, on bush tracks, in the Box and Ironbark forest at Chiltern Mt Pilot National Park.

**Monday, 10th June. Salisbury Walk, Friends Track and Kwat Kwat lookout; AWTGS-4. Jeanette, 0417 546 974.**

A medium walk of approx 14k on bush tracks that are steep and rocky in places. Salisbury Falls Gorge to the Friends Track and Kwat Kwat lookout, before returning to Salisbury Falls Gorge. Excellent views over the Ovens Valley, and Victorian Alps, from Kwat Kwat lookout.

**Saturday, 22nd June. Mt Porepunkah; AWTGS-2-3-4. Bob, 5766 2773.**

Three options of easy, medium and hard walks along a dirt road ascending Mt Porepunkah.

The easy (Grade 2) option is approx 8k walk, including 1.5 hours of climbing, and 1 hour of descent.

The medium (Grade 3) option is approx 15k walk, including 2.5 hours of steady climb, and about a 2 hour descent.

The Hard (Grade 4) walk is approx 24k, including 3 hours of steady climb, and a 2.5 hour descent.

All walkers should reach the summit, for magnificent 360 degree panoramic views of the snow covered peaks of Mt Buffalo, Mt Buller, Mt Hotham, Mt Feathertop, Spion Kopje and Mt Bogong, with NSW snowfields in the distance.



# WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc.

FUN . FITNESS . FRIENDSHIP

## NEWSLETTER 3 (June), 2019

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

Welcome to the Autumn-Winter Newsletter; highlights in this edition include our detailed report on the 2019 Week Away.

Our 42nd ANNUAL DINNER and AGM was held at the Wangaratta Club on Monday, March 18th, and was a well attended event, with 60 members present.

During the official part of the meeting, Glenda Hall “hand balled” the president’s “crown/bush hat” to Cecily Fletcher, after five very successful years at the helm, and the following office bearers were elected,

Secretary: Kerri Davenport

Treasurer: Bob Shaw

Walks Co-ordinator: Jeanette Farquhar

Assistant Walks Coordinator, Michael Braendler

Committee Members: Peter Brain, Andy Kimber, Chris McLaughlin, Guy Robertson, Anne Turnbull and Trevor Turnbull.

The incredibly hard working Adrian and Helen Twitt (who were both part of the original Bushwalking Club) have now come off the committee.

Our guest speaker was Mike Grant (secretary Bushwalking Victoria); Mike gave a very informative talk on BV, and brought us up to date with such sub groups as the recently very active “Bush Search and Rescue” team, and the volunteers of the “Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation” crew.

Please remember that subscriptions fell due at the AGM, and if you haven’t yet paid your subscription, please do so now.

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

### Strathbogie Surprise #2 : March 2

Despite the heat, twelve spirited walkers took on my Strathbogies Surprise #2. Which leads one to ask themselves – whenever is a movie sequel as good as the original? How many music artists have had an amazing debut album, and then bombed with album number two? Would the same be said with the second of my walks in the Strathbogies State Forest?

We were fortunate that the high temperatures didn’t lead to a total fire ban day for this walk, and it was actually a few degrees cooler than Wangaratta. Most of the walkers were new to this area, and keen to experience what the forest has to offer.

On this walk we also welcomed back another Sandra, who had walked some years previously with the club. With today’s group containing two Sandra’s, a Shirley and a Sonia, I feel inclined to come up with some sort of tongue twister. Tempting.

Our first short return walk of less than 2kms was to an historic marker where a plane crashed in 1942. The two pilots were on their way from Deniliquin to Laverton, and crashed at the site due to fog. Both men were killed. There is no wreckage of the Wirraway A20-265 amongst the forest anymore as it was all salvaged and put to good use.



The second walk was the approximate 9km loop involving Rocky Ned Track and Lookout. This walk along four-wheel drive tracks amongst the forest was most pleasant as it was still late morning. The road had a few ups and downs, which necessitated occasional breaks for the group.

At one junction Jeanette led a few hardy souls along a short cut involving a steep section that ran between the natural forest and pine plantation.

The rest of the group joined me to continue following the road. During this section the heat was beginning to be felt more, and shade was less available. It was a case of “less talk – more walk” to conserve energy.

We rejoined the other group a few minutes later, and a brief walk led us to the start of the Rocky Ned Lookout. Rocky Ned may have been named with some reference to Ned Kelly. My research however, did discover another Rocky Ned – a former rodeo horse who was a famous champion bucking bronco.

Lunch (and some hydrolytes for June who felt rejuvenated enough to be able to ride the Rocky Ned) was taken before a gentle climb of less than 1km to the lookout. The view from the top was great on such a clear day, with the forest and plantations clearly visible.

Once everyone had fulfilled their photo opportunities and sufficiently rested, we returned the way we came and headed for the cars.

At this point one carload of four walkers made the decision to return to Wangaratta. So we farewelled Lesley, June, Shirley and Glenda, who I believe may have made a stop at Swanpool to run amuck before heading home.



The remainder of the group then drove 12kms to the base of a track for a steep ascent to Mt Separation. Ann, who has been on my previous walks, no longer trusts my estimations or descriptions of my walks. However I feel that a chorus of “liar, liar pants on fire” was hardly necessary. The AWTGS (Australian Walking Track Grading System) is a useful classification system. However, on this occasion I preferred my own – VBD (very bloody difficult). And it was.

Mt Separation may only be some 737 metres, but the view from the top of the huge flat granite rock is superb. Visibility was outstanding, and we were rewarded with 360 degrees views. From the forest and pine plantations to the north and east, and the Strathbogie Shire to the south and west

The Alps too could be seen in the distance. Sandra #1, who clearly was not yet exhausted, was photographed trying to hold, or was that dislodge, some enormous boulders before our departure.

On previous walks I have heard whisperings of “I think I can, I think I can”, utterances of “just one step at a time” and mutterings of “come on, you can do this”. This is the first time, courtesy of Sonia, I have heard, “I don’t wanna break a leg, I don’t wanna break a leg”. And break a leg she did not. So her European holiday plans are still intact. After completing this return walk of about 3kms afternoon tea was welcomed by all.



The heat obviously affected the amount of wildlife seen today. Apart from one sole wallaby, spotted while driving along the edge of plantations, the usual kangaroos, shy echidnas and rare wombats were hiding along with most of the birds. Even the flies took the day off.

Thanks to everyone who attended the walk. Congratulations to those who braved the final leg without breaking one. Finally, if I don’t mind saying myself, the sequel to the Strathbogies Forest walk was as equally as rewarding as the first.

[Michael Braendler]

### Hotham to Falls Creek : March 18

Under the leadership of the rugged Bob Shaw, 22 super energetic members headed off from the Mt Loch car park (just north of Mount Hotham) early on a cool mountain morning (6 degrees with some wind), having left Wangaratta at 6.30am on a bus driven by selfless club member John Gullock.



The hard walk of a very undulating 23kms, was completed in eight hours, with quite a few stops taken to admire the views, and refuel!

After a major descent, lunch was enjoyed at 11.30am, deep in the West Kiewa Valley, at the isolated Dibbin’s Hut.

The steep ascent via Basalt Temple was achieved by 2pm, and then it was a matter of following the pole line along the Bogong High Plains to Pretty Valley. Phew!!

Did the adventurers appreciate Pat’s famous cuppa, and her fresh sweet biscuits? They certainly did, as well as meeting up with John, and the transport home.

[Andy Kimber; photos by Mike Gustus]

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### Book Review : Wildflowers of the High Country

Luke Steenhuis, 2018

This 175 page book combines a comprehensive listing of wildflowers to be found in the Australian High Country, with a very professional presentation.

Luke Steenhuis has written about the High Country for many years, most notably on the history of the goldfields, and this book reflects his extensive knowledge of the area.

The excellent layout, and full-colour format, provides easy access to all of your queries and the book makes a great addition to any bushwalkers library.

At \$34.95 the book is great value, and not too heavy to carry in one's daypack.

The book is distributed by Australian Bush and Country Maps (also known as ABC Maps) and can be found right across the High Country (I bought my copy at the Tawonga Newsagency).

[Chris McLaughlin]

### Ovens River, North of Killawarra : March 21

Nine people ambled around this popular walk of about 8 kms, very close to Wangaratta.

After driving into the Warby Ovens National Park, we parked at an intersection just in from Frost's Crossing.



In fine but rapidly warming conditions, we followed the unmade road down to the Ovens and walked beside the river, occasionally visiting our special stream, and various (quite clean) campsites.

We discovered that this section of the park is comparatively weed free, except for the dreaded Noogoora Burr along the side of the river.

The walk back along Boundary Track, through dry billabong country, emphasised the lack of rain over the last year. [Andy Kimber]

### Thredbo – Week Away, 2019

Our 'big-trip' for 2019 was an adventurous five-day walking experience in Kosciuszko National Park.

The week kicked off on a chilly windy Monday morning. when 39 members took the Kosciuszko chairlift to Eagles Nest to commence the 12km return walk to the Mount Kosciuszko summit. However, within 500 metres along the walkway, we encountered snow and icy conditions making us proceed with caution.



Standing on top of Australia, we lapped up the sunny day, and took many photographs, and selfies, of the magnificent snow-covered views of the surrounding peaks and ridges. Upon descending Mount Kosciuszko, some of the group decided to walk to the historic Seamans Hut, via Rawson's Pass, before returning to Thredbo via the chairlift.

Tuesday saw the teams divide into two groups, one group undertaking the 8km return walk following the beautiful Thredbo River upstream to Dead Horse Gap, while the remaining group caught the chairlift, and walked down Rams Head Plateau, soaking up the spectacular views looking westerly towards Victoria, before arriving at the Thredbo River.

Both groups commented on the diversity of vegetation, the huge granite boulders, beautiful snow gums and tall eucalyptus trees while walking the trail. Sitting at the water's edge, enjoying lunch at Dead Horse Gap, looking at the reflections in the river was a peaceful experience.



Wednesday morning saw us undertake the 19km return Cascade Track, from Dead Horse Gap to the historic alpine Cascade Hut. On crossing the fast-flowing Thredbo River, we experienced some steep climbs before ascending to Bob's Ridge, at an elevation of 1750 metres, where morning tea was taken amongst an area of granite boulders.

On the walk to Bob's Ridge there was a sighting of five brumbies grazing in a distant valley. From Bob's Ridge, walkers encountered another steep climb before crossing the beautiful Cascade Creek, to arrive at the historic magnificent Cascade Hut.

Lunch was taken at the hut, in a lovely grassland setting surrounded by tall eucalyptus trees, with 180-degree views looking down the valley towards Cascade Creek. The highlight of the return walk were three brumbies grazing on the river grasslands within 100 metres of the walking track.

Thursday, most walkers tackled the Thredbo Valley track which follows the Thredbo Valley, meandering along the banks of the picturesque Thredbo River, which flows through open grasslands and eucalyptus forests. The beautifully constructed suspension bridges, that enable the crossing of the Thredbo River was a highlight of the walk.

Some walkers choose the 12km return walk to the Rangers Station, whilst others took the 16km one way walk to Thredbo Diggings Campground, while the keen ones headed for Lake Crackenback Resort, a 20km one-way walk.

On Friday, 10 walkers decided to walk the 13km return Rennex Track, which crosses extensive grasslands, with several steep climbs amongst forested sections, testing the stamina of all involved.



The track finished at Giants Castle, a large granite outcrop where a radio communication tower is located. From Giants Castle extensive views of the Snowy River Valley, Island Bend Dam, Blue Cow, Mount Kosciuszko, and other mountain peaks, could be observed, a truly great sight.

Throughout the walk wild pig activity was evident, a deer family were seen, and a mob of grey kangaroos were observed grazing unperturbed by our presence on the grasslands.

On the return walk, a keen-eyed walker sighted a pig trap, and upon inspecting it explained in detail how the trap operated.

[Robert Chard]

### **Paradise Falls and Wabonga Track (McMillan Track) : April 14**

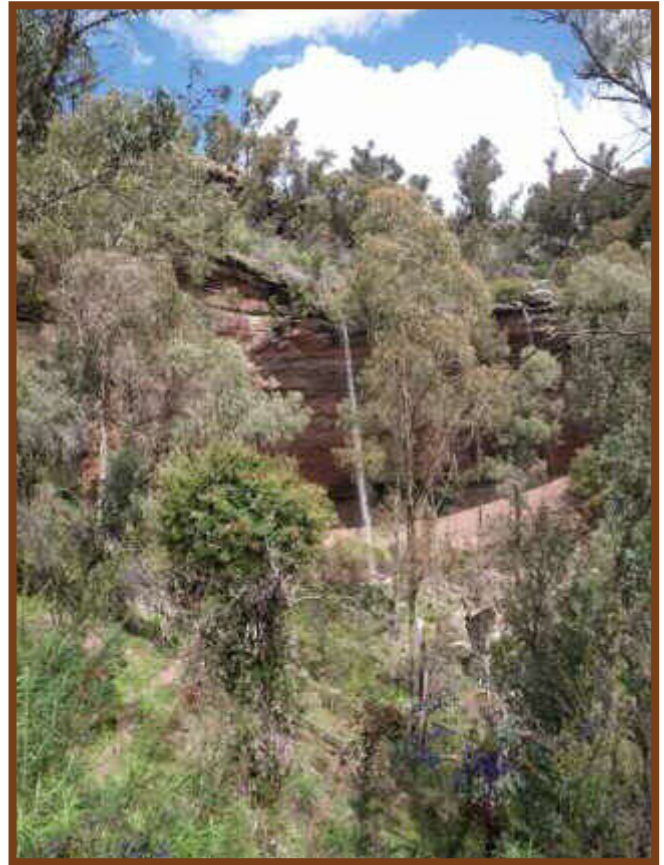
There were 15 participants for this 14.5km medium grade walk, with a starting point at the scenic Paradise Falls, in the King Valley. The weather was fine, mild and slightly cloudy, and no wind

The group set out from west of the car park that is the start of the Paradise Falls access track, heading consistently uphill for 3km, to a t-intersection with Wabonga Track.

We had morning tea at this intersection, and then headed off in a northerly direction along the 4WD Wabonga Track for another 2km, until we reached a car park with splendid views towards the west across the King River Valley. We could see Lake William Hovell, and adjacent peaks, as well as the upper King Valley towards Mt Buller. We sat on the cliff tops, and enjoyed lunch at this viewpoint.

The group then continued on the Wabonga Track, and walked north again. This track continued as a 4WD Management Vehicle Only track along the ridge line for another 3-4km, before starting to descend to the floor of the King Valley; after a continuous descent we finished up just south of Chrismont Winery, near the powerlines which were in an east-west direction.

We then ascended along a management track, which had once been used by the former State Electricity Commission to observe the powerlines, and finally descended to Burrows Lane where the shuttle vehicle was waiting at about 3.30pm.



Whilst the majority of the group enjoyed afternoon tea, the five drivers were taken back to Paradise Falls to collect their vehicles.

We left Wangaratta at 8.30am, and drove through Whitfield and Cheshunt. At Cheshunt two cars went along the Upper King Valley Road, and one of these cars was left in Burrows Lane for the end of the walk car shuffle. The other three cars went straight to Paradise Falls, 13km beyond Cheshunt, and all walkers in these cars went down from the Paradise Falls carpark to view the Falls.

We commenced the walk at 10.30am (after the car shuffle), and had finished the walk by 4pm, arriving back in Wangaratta at 5pm.

[Bob Shaw]

### **Warby Heritage Trail : April 22**

We had 13 members participate in today's walk in overcast weather, following a lot of rain the previous night. Not so much that the creeks and water courses were running, but all was damp and clean and fresh, a welcome change from dry and dusty.

Ben Warby, and his family, were amongst the first settlers in this area, and the walk is well sign-posted, with storyboards, and images of that era.

Starting and finishing an eight kilometre loop walk from Booths Taminick Cellars, and Black Dog Brewery, we began with the Warby Heritage Falls Trail which featured an old spot mill, a sheep wash in the paddock over the fence from the track, and stone walls for the weirs, with spillway and pipes still in place (we could see the water race features on the ground).

The major waterfall of the walk didn't quite have a trickle falling over it, but there were some pools of water among the rocks from the previous nights rainfall. I'm sure it looked great last night when the rain was falling.

Morning Tea, complete with easter eggs in lieu of snakes, was at



the waterfall, and other snake, snack and drink breaks were taken further along the walk, which continued on to Spot Mill Track and Cellar Track.



Lunch was held after the walk at Taminick Cellars, where wine was available for tasting, or purchase by the glass, or bottle, along with pizza for lunch, but I think we all brought our own lunch (I became aware of the pizzas being available after we arrived!).

[Jeanette Farquhar]

### Lake Sambell to Lake Kerferd : April 28

This interesting walk covered a variety of tracks from Beechworth's Lake Sambell, through to Lake Kerferd, and return.

Lake Sambell (see photo) is a flooded remnant from the gold mining era, whereas Lake Kerferd forms a major part of Beechworth's water supply. It was named after prominent local George Kerferd who first advocated this site.

The dam was declared operational in 1874, and Kerferd went on to become mayor of Beechworth three times, a member of the Victorian Parliament for many years, and subsequently Premier of Victoria in 1874.



There were eight walkers on this 15.5km outing, and having made it to Lake Kerferd via Pipeline Track, we crossed over the spillway to the opposite side of the Lake. We then looped around this scenic waterway, and returned to Lake Sambell by the better known Kerferd Track, as well as some lesser known side tracks.

Many relics from the gold mining era were checked out on both routes, and we had plenty of interest on this fine, but cool, day.

Morning tea was held beside the Pipeline Track, lunch was at Lake Kerferd, and afternoon tea was back at Lake Sambell.

[Lesley Finedon]

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### Murray River Walk

The widely acclaimed Murray River Walk is based on the riverine landscape of the Murray upstream of Renmark, including its many billabongs and ana-branch systems.

The key aspect of the walk is that it involves walking 12-14km on each of the three main days, followed by a two kilometre stroll on the last day.



The best bit is being met each night by a luxury houseboat, complete with a supply of local bubbly, reds, whites and excellent cuisine.

Having spent many of our younger years paddling down the Murray (Tom Groggin to The Coorong) we found this to be a really interesting walk, with very professional commentary from our guides detailing the flora, fauna, land usage, hydrology and human history of the area.

Activities included a 5.15am start on Day 2, so as to see the sunrise along the Murray from a local lookout point; a walking visit to the Woolenook WW2 riverside internment camp, tree-hugging and short readings (by guests, after dinner) of passages from various books, including Charles Sturt's Journals, and Rebecca Solnit's *Wanderlust*.

The group size is limited to 10 people, and we had an interesting mixed-age group to share our adventure with, as well as glorious sunny weather. More details at [murrayriverwalk.com.au](http://murrayriverwalk.com.au).

[Chris and Yvonne McLaughlin]

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### Bright to Wandiligong : May 11

This autumn walk had 13 participants enjoying a fine day, following the popular Wandil Walk from Bright to Wandiligong.

We started near the bridge over Morses Creek, on Coronation Avenue, and followed the track alongside the creek to Alpine Park where we caught up with Kerri and Paul, their daughter Elise, her hubby Daniel, and their son Mitchell, at the playground, and had morning tea at this spot.

We continued onto the diggings, Chinese Bridge and the Junction Mine before having lunch at the Lardis picnic area. From here we walked past The Adit, before returning via the Bennetts Trail to the start of the walk. All the tracks follow, and cross, Morses Creek and Growlers Creek in the diggings area.



The day was fine, and didn't feel as cold as expected; I think we were sheltered from the cold wind which was noticeable on our return to Wangaratta.

A great day was had by all. [Jeannette Farquhar and June Brown]

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### Week Away : 2020

Our week-away alternates between mountain venues, and coastal venues, and 2020 is a 'coastal year'.

There were three options suggested for this event; these were, The Great Ocean Walk, the Mornington Peninsula and Royal National Park (NSW).

For various reasons, and by popular vote, the Peninsula was chosen over the other venues, but we expect to get to those other venues in the coming years.

The accommodation venue will be the Iluka Retreat and Camp, near the beach at Shoreham, and we have booked two lodges, Warrawong and Aulua, for 6 nights from 19/4/20 - 25/4/20.

More information will follow in August.

[Cheryl Hoysted, Chair of the convening committee]

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### Eldorado and Woolshed : May 17

The historic little enclave of Eldorado, once famous for its gold and tin mining (from the 1850s to the 1950s), was the chosen venue for this 12km loop walk.

In its heyday, the town had a series of suburbs, with Napoleon Flat, Sebastopol Flat and Woolshed Valley giving an overall population of about 7000.

The village grew up around the pastoral property 'Eldorado' founded by retired Captain William Baker of the Royal Navy.

There were eight participants on this adventure, taking in historic sites near Eldorado, and between Eldorado and Woolshed Falls.



Starting at the Wombat Mine, we walked to the Chinese Gardens (once a market gardening area), then Napoleon Flat (previously a major mining township), Kangaroo Crossing (a timber bridge which burnt down in the early 1900s), a Miners slab hut, the Chinese Diggings, Buttrees Rock (named after a bushranger) then the Reidford Hotel (burnt down in 1899) and the public swimming baths.

The walk returned via a very good dirt road.

The signage was excellent for the historic sites, and the map used was from the Woolshed Valley Interpretive Trail.

See the Eldorado community website entry '[eldorado.org.au/wp-content/uploads/woolshed-valley-tour.pdf](http://eldorado.org.au/wp-content/uploads/woolshed-valley-tour.pdf)' for more details of this area. [Pat Kuhle]

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### Wangaratta Walks Booklet

The Rural City of Wangaratta (RCOW) is to produce a walks booklet similar to the highly successful walks booklets produced by Indi Shire, and the Alpine Shire.

The Indi Shire booklet covers walks in Beechworth, Chiltern, Rutherglen and Yackandandah, whereas the Alpine Shire's booklet covers Bright, Harrietville, Mount Beauty, Myrtleford and Wandiligong.

The RCOW booklet will cover the King Valley, Milawa, Oxley, the Warby Ranges, and (of course) the city itself. Some members of Warby Bushwalkers will liaise with the council on the content of the booklet—more details on this project in later newsletters.

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### White Box Walking Track : May 26

The venue for this walk was an old favourite – the White Box Walking Track at Chiltern-Mount Pilot National Park.

This National Park incorporates several historic sites from the mining era, and its box-ironbark forest is a major remnant of this once widespread woodland type. The Park covers a wide area of interesting terrain, from north of Chiltern township it reaches almost to Beechworth, and as well as being a safe haven for flora and fauna, is also home to many aspects of the North-east's human history.

Eight walkers gathered at Rotary Park at 9am for the short drive



to the National Park, and here we met five other walkers (from Beechworth and Myrtleford).

The thirteen of us were putting boots onto gravel at 10.15am, and it was a cold start to the morning, with the threat of 10mm of rain (which thankfully didn't eventuate) but we soon warmed up.

Early on in the walk, we took the time to make a short detour to check out a former gold mining area, and morning tea was held on a collection of fallen trees (just enough room for thirteen of us).

Lunch was enjoyed back at the Honeyeater Picnic Ground, followed by a nice hot cup of tea, and some ANZAC biscuits.

Overall, a very enjoyable 8.5km loop walk; a moderate grade, four hour, ramble through box-ironbark forest with an excellent crew.

[Chris McLaughlin]

### **Australian Walking Track Grading System**

As mentioned in our April-June 2017 Newsletter, we have now adopted the Australian Walking Track Grading System (AWTGS) as a means of grading our walks, and the walks listed in our Walks Program have used this system for the past 12 months.

See the link on our website for more details, or key in the following address — <https://www.walkhighcountry.com.au/australian-walking-track-grading-system/>

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

#### **Grade 1**

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

#### **Grade 2**

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

#### **Grade 3**

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

#### **Grade 4**

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

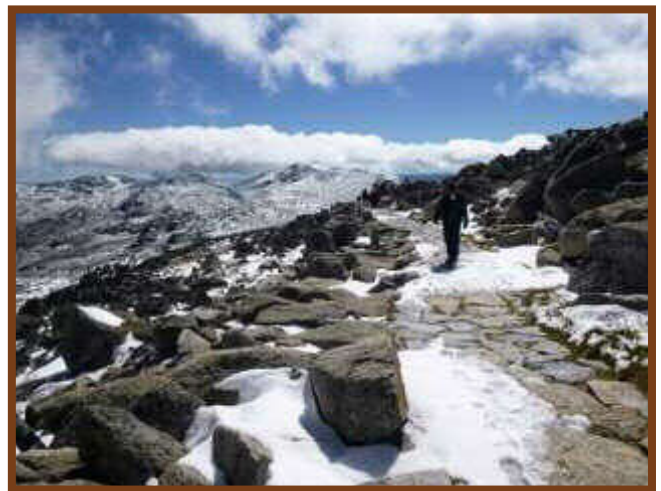
#### **Grade 5**

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

See the previously mentioned Newsletter for photos that typify each grade.

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### **More photos from Thredbo . . .**





## SUBSCRIPTION FOR MEMBERSHIP – 2019/20

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) 1<sup>st</sup> Walk

Subsequent Walk No. .... (maximum of 3 before joining)

### Notes:

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

If joining after 1<sup>st</sup> 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).**



## WALKS PROGRAM, JULY – SEPTEMBER 2019

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
Sunday, 7 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Wileman Track, two waterfalls and Mt Samaria. [AWTGS-3]</b> A 13.5k, or shorter 9.5k walk, (no Mt Samaria Summit). Option to visit Kooyonga Creek Winery on the drive home.	M/H or E/M	Michael, 0447 617 880
Friday, 12 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>The Big Kaluna [AWTGS-1/2]</b>	E	Rod, 0409 215 286
Saturday, 20 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Buckland Valley to Buffalo Valley via Goldie Spur, and the back wall area of Mt Buffalo. [AWTGS-4]</b>	H	Bob, 5766 2773
Sunday, 4 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Barry Falls, Eldorado [AWTGS-2]</b>	E/M	Marita, 0427 521 122
Thursday, 8 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Horseshoe Lagoon [AWTGS-2]</b>	E	Andy, 5721 7922
Saturday, 17 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Greta bush retreat and BBQ [AWTGS-2/3]</b>	E/M	Geoff, 0418 530 242.
Saturday, 31 <sup>st</sup> August	<b>Moonlight Track to Mt Glenrowan [AWTGS-3]</b>	M/H	Jeanette, 0417 546 974
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> through to Sunday, 15 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Daylesford weekend. [AWTGS-2/3]</b> Email Michael for an info sheet. Walks include Lost Children's Walk, Tipperary Track, Lake Daylesford and Hanging Rock. Other activities also available.	E & M	Michael, 0447 617 880 <a href="mailto:mbraendler@bigpond.com">mbraendler@bigpond.com</a>
Tuesday, 24 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Friends Track, Warby Ranges [AWTGS-3]</b>	E/M	Chris, 0418 503 802
Sunday, 29 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Stanley State Forest, Weone Mine [AWTGS-3]</b>	M	Jeanette, 0417 546 974
Monday, 19 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>General meeting 7.30pm</b>		Michael, 0447 617 880

<p><b>Sunday, 7th July. Wileman Track, 2 waterfalls, Mt Samaria [AWTGS-3]; Michael, 0447 617 880</b></p> <p>A choice of a medium/hard loop walk of approx 13.5k or 9.5k easy medium option (no Mt Samaria Summit) on bush tracks and dirt roads in the Mt Samaria State Park. Following the Wileman Track taking in two waterfalls, and then onto Mt Samaria. On a clear day there are 360-degree views of the Alps and lowlands and possibly Lake Mokoan. Option to visit Kooyonga Creek Winery on the drive home.</p>
<p><b>Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> July. The Big Kaluna, Wangaratta [AWTGS-1/2]; Rod, 0409 215 286</b></p> <p>An easy morning walk, or nature ramble, at Kaluna Park, a 5.2 ha remnant of River Red Gum riverine bushland, a haven for birdlife, flora and fauna close to the King River, at the edge of Wangaratta's CBD.</p>
<p><b>Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> July. Goldie Spur and the back wall area of Mt Buffalo [AWTGS-4]; Bob, 5766 2773</b></p> <p>A hard walk of approx 20k on 4WD track to Buffalo Gap with steep ascent and/or descent. The track extends from the Buckland Valley to Buffalo Valley skirting the southern fringe of Mt Buffalo.</p>
<p><b>Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> August. Barry Falls, Eldorado [AWTGS-2]; Marita, 0427 521 122</b></p> <p>An easy medium loop walk of approx 9k, on gravel roads and bush tracks, to Barry Falls in Chiltern Mt Pilot National Park. Mostly undulating, with a short steep section.</p>
<p><b>Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2019. Horseshoe Lagoon [AWTGS-2]; Andy, 5721 7922</b></p> <p>Are you feeling lucky? An easy walk of approx 8k to Horseshoe Lagoon from the stock bridge in Wangaratta, visiting billabongs along the way. Most of this walk is off track, following the Ovens River, and brings a chance to see an abundance of local native plant life.</p>
<p><b>Saturday, 17th August. Greta bush retreat and BBQ [AWTGS-2/3]; Geoff, 0418 530 242.</b></p> <p>An easy to medium discovery walk on a bush block, followed by a bbq lunch at 'The Shack'. BYO food to barbecue, cutlery, plate, etc. Gas fired barbecue provided.</p>
<p><b>Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> August. Moonlight Track to Mt Glenrowan [AWTGS-3]; Jeanette, 0417 546 974</b></p> <p>A medium to hard walk of approx 13k, mostly on dirt road/management vehicle tracks. This walk involves a steep climb before reaching Ridge Track, then continues to Mt Glenrowan for terrific views towards the Alps, Winton Wetlands and Benalla. We return along Ridge Track, with a side trip to Chick Hill, before reaching the gap.</p>
<p><b>Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September. Daylesford weekend [AWTGS-2/3]; Michael, 0447 617 880</b></p> <p>A weekend of walks in the Daylesford area, with easy and medium options of all walks including The Lost Childrens Walk, Tipperary Track and Lake Daylesford, followed by a Picnic at Hanging Rock (Macedon) on the Sunday before returning to Wangaratta. Other activities also available; galleries, market, wineries . . . . .</p> <p>Email Michael at <a href="mailto:mbraendler@bigpond.com">mbraendler@bigpond.com</a> for an information sheet about this weekend, which includes booking your own accommodation at the Daylesford Holiday Park (van/camp sites; cabins; glamping).</p>
<p><b>Tuesday, 24th September. Friends Track, Warby Ovens NP, [AWTGS-3]; Chris, 0418 503 802</b></p> <p>An easy to easy/medium loop walk of approx. 12k on bush tracks, starting at Wenhams Camp, taking in Kwat Kwat Lookout and Mt Warby.</p>
<p><b>Sunday, 29th September. Stanley State Forest, Weone Mine [AWTGS-3]; Jeanette, 0417 546 974</b></p> <p>A medium walk of approx. 11k from the outskirts of Beechworth, in the Stanley State Forest, to Cunningham Gully, Murrungee, finishing at the Weone mining ruins. The walk is on gravel roads, steep in parts.</p>



**WARBY RANGE  
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## NEWSLETTER, September 2019

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

Welcome to the 4th Newsletter of 2019!

Since the last newsletter the club timetabled nine excellent walks, two of which were cancelled - one because of very inclement weather (Salisbury Falls and Kwat Kwat Lookout) and the other (Big Kaluna) because of flooding.

However, spring is here, the wattles are in bloom, the rivers are rising, and our October – December walks program is one of the best ever- jam packed to take advantage of the prime spring walking conditions.

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

### **Mt Porepukah : June 22**

On a cold, sunny, clear and windless day 22 people, with Bob Shaw out front, climbed up Mt Porepukah, about 10km to the north of Bright. Two walks were offered, with the easier route of about nine kilometres chosen by eight club members, while the harder crew covered over 16km.



The shorter walk started at 10.30am with a two hour steady climb along a 4WD track to the top, and a 1.5 hour descent.

The group of 14 started at 10.15am and climbed for 2.5 hours, and then experienced a 2.0 hour descent.

The two groups met at the summit, where there were magnificent 360 degree panoramic views of the snow covered peaks of Mt Buffalo, Mt Buller, Hotham and Feathertop, Spion Kopje and Mt Bogong.

We could even see the NSW Kosciusko snow fields in the distance! With the air so clear and crisp, we could also recognise Mt Stirling and Mt Buller, way to the south.

Everybody just sat and spent considerable time identifying all of the peaks. In many of the gullies passed during the ascent and descent, we could hear the chorus of lyrebirds who were busy impersonating the calls of many other local bird species.

Another great club walk from Bob's book of adventures!

### **Loops or Lines**

Britain's official map maker (for historical reasons known as Ordnance Survey) has calculated that the nation's walkers have covered 146,000 miles on the return portion of linear (that is, there-and-back) walks.



About 46% of all walks downloaded on the OS App were linear walks; in Scotland the figure was 58%, and in the Lake District 40%. However, change is afoot, and there is a trend towards loop walks, and 'loop' versions of popular linear walks, giving linear walks per se the boot.

Much of this trend is thought to be the impact of digital mapping which provides a map without a specific border, enabling map users to look for alternative routes in well known terrain.

An analysis of our recent walks programs shows a clear preference for linear style walks, and in my extensive collection of walking guides I could only find one that specifically shunned linear walks ('Walking Round in Circles' by Jane Scott and Patricia Negus; this details 29 circular walks in the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park of WA).

More detail of this trend can be found in The Sunday Times of July 14, available via their website ([thetimes.co.uk](http://thetimes.co.uk)) or search for 'at last ramblers discover the freedom to go round in circles'.

[Chris]

Today we had clouds and part sunshine, fully clouded sky and then some rain. Oh, and here it comes now – a little bit of fog thrown in for more variety as the afternoon begins to disappear towards dusk.

I am sure, had we waited long enough, snow would have fallen. The final descent from Mount Samaria Track was down the Lightning Track. A final delicate bit of walking was mandatory to stay upright, before crossing a small creek and reaching the cars.

The winners of the meagre Amazing Race – the Mount Samaria walkers who ended up walking 17km. I know it's more than 14km. My inability to calculate accurate walking distances is becoming legendary. And the other group? Well let's just say that in the years to come the distance they will have meandered will become folklore.

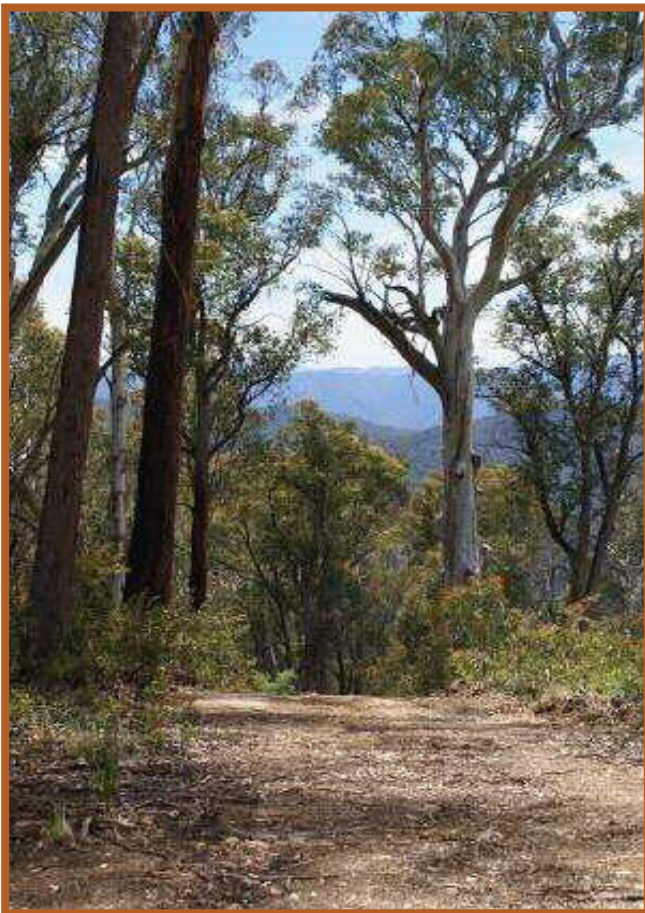
Was it an additional half of the expected distance of 10km? Was it double? Do we just add an extra zero on the end?

Should they become the first inductees into the WRBC hall of fame? Anyway, the whole experience was nothing that Pat's afternoon tea couldn't soothe away. [Michael Braendler]

### Goldie Spur and Back Wall of Mt Buffalo : July 20

There were 15 participants for this 14.5km medium grade walk, taking in Goldie Spur and the back (that is, southern) wall of Mt Buffalo.

The granite mountain stands tall above the northern plains, dominating the landscape, and the 15 walkers were stunned by its rugged beauty.



"We saw magnificent waterfalls, enjoyed views of The Horn covered with snow, and listened to lyrebirds calling," reported leader Bob Shaw.

In fine weather, the group was split into two, with one coming up from the Lake Buffalo side, the other coming up from the Buckland Valley side, along Goldie Spur track.

Despite the 20 kilometre hard walk, there was still energy enough for laughter when the groups met for coffee at the walk's end.

### First Aid app

The Australian Red Cross First Aid App is a free, comprehensive pocket guide to first aid and CPR, giving access to the most up to date first aid information. As well as this, you can use the interactive quizzes on the App to refresh your first aid knowledge.

Details of the Android and IOS download are available via the '[redcross.org.au/get-involved/learn/first-aid/first-aid-app](http://redcross.org.au/get-involved/learn/first-aid/first-aid-app)' page.

On a more local basis 'The Centre' (Chisholm Street, Wangaratta) offers one, and two day First Aid courses on a regular basis at several locations in the North-east. See '[thecentre.vic.edu.au](http://thecentre.vic.edu.au)' for details.

### Barry Falls, Eldorado : August 4

There were 27 of us completing this walk to Barry Falls, including a visitor (Leslie's daughter Amy) and three newcomers; Lou, Kim and Lyn. So it was lovely that you joined us, and we hope that we'll see you again.

The walk was about 9km long, and started and ended on well-maintained bush roads. In between we walked on a 4WD track, which had some steeper sections that were affected by erosion; our walking poles were helpful in these sections.

We stopped among the rocks beside the track for morning tea, and at the Falls for our lunch break.

The Falls were flowing gently, as a result of the rain we've had over the winter, and it was nice to having the sound of the water while we enjoyed our lunch.



The weather provided very pleasant walking conditions; it was foggy and 3° when we started, and 12° when we finished.

So a bit cool to start with, but we needed to remove layers as we walked, and warmed up. The sun was coming out between the semi cloudy sky, and it stayed dry.

I can only presume that the almost perfect weather conditions were due to the rain dancing and praying (while being on my knees in the garden), which had been part of the preparation for this walk.

The social aspect of the walk was very enjoyable, and some of the group lingered a while longer at the Tavern in Eldorado. [Marita]



## Wileman Track & Mount Samaria : July 7

A group of thirteen optimistic walkers were hopeful that we would beat the forecast rain on Sunday July 7th when the Wileman Track and Mount Samaria track were to be navigated. There were incentives presented to not get wet – walk at a moderate pace, don't break for too long, and navigate correctly. Oh well, as Meatloaf sang, "two out of three ain't bad".

Our final parking destination in the state park was the site of the kiln ruins at Spring Creek Sawmill campsite. After some car shuffling, all walkers began the start of Wileman Track from The Back Creek Falls location.



These falls are not far from the Mount Samaria Road, and although little rain had fallen recently, there was the ever so slightly cascading waterfall to be seen, and wonderful views over the lower end of the park. The drive to eventually begin the walk took about an hour and a half, and so morning tea was taken at this location.

We were fortunate during this first part of the walk to be greeted by sunshine breaking through the clouds, and the canopy of trees, on occasion. Bird calls were heard along the way, and Cecily and Geoff both noted the call of the lyre bird.

The facilities at the Camphora Campsite included a welcomed toilet, and simple bush camping amenities.

Wild Dog Creek Falls was the next location. The walk to these falls required a little surer footing, and sturdy knees, as the descent required effort for the eventual reward. Once again, a small waterfall was flowing with great views from the observation platform of the surrounding bushland. Retracing our steps, we made our way back to the nearby campsite where lunch was taken.

A check of my rain radar confirmed that rain was inevitable. So, after lunch the wet weather gear made its anticipated appearance. It was at this point the group divided into two. One group would continue to walk the steep link track to Mount Samaria, while the others returned to the car via the Mount Samaria Road.

My estimates for each of these walks put the Wileman Track to the cars at nearly 10km, and the Mount Samaria extension about 14km. If navigated correctly.

Mt Samaria summit is 953m above sea level. The link track required the group to climb about 170m over a distance of 500m. This was enough to slow everyone down, and generate heavy breathing.

Reaching the summit though does have its reward on a clear day.



Today was not that day. The obligatory photos were taken, and imaginations used as to what might be seen in the far distant horizon. From the summit, the descent involved a very cautious walk, down the now more slippery track, to follow the Mount Samaria track back to the cars.

It was at this time an unexpected phone call was received. I missed getting to my phone in time as I couldn't navigate my way through my layers of clothing and wet weather gear in time. What are usually easily opened zippered pockets now became as impenetrable as Fort Knox.

Once I eventually located my phone, I saw it was a missed call from Cheryl walking with the others back to the cars. Long story short – the conversation ended with "no, you should have turned right at Mount Samaria Road, not left".

That sorted, it was now like a very meagre Amazing Race episode as both groups raced, well sort of raced, back to the cars.

The Mount Samaria track at times had its challenges. One that comes to mind is where on earth is the track? I used quite a few unprintable adjectives to describe the track to myself.

During the afternoon the group had to climb over several trees, and one of the largest ones had fallen on this section of the track flattening out the surrounding area for quite some metres. At times over rocky sections of the track it was a calculated guess as to where it should be. The sparse orange track markers too often seemed to be posted for walking in the opposite direction.



For today's walkers, this was just like walking in Scotland, where if you don't like the weather, you just need to wait ten minutes.

## Into the Wild

A newlywed woman from Belarus who was recently swept away by a river in Alaska recently was trying to reach an abandoned bus made famous by the book and film "Into the Wild."

Veramika Maikamava, and her husband, Piotr were heading for the bus where hiker Christopher McCandless met his death in 1992.

The bus has been the source of multiple rescues since it was made famous, first by Jon Krakauer's book published in 1996, and then by Sean Penn's 2007 film.

Both chronicled the life and death of McCandless, who hiked into the Alaska wilderness with little food and equipment to spend the summer living in the bus. McCandless was found dead in the bus, almost four months later.

Markielau called troopers in Fairbanks to report his wife's death; the couple were trying to cross the Teklanika River along the Stampede Trail, near Healy, when Veramika was swept under water - the river was flowing fast because of recent rains.

## Horseshoe Lagoon : August 8

Despite the forecast of very nasty weather, six walkers headed out in fine but cold conditions from Apex Park, towards a rarely visited wilderness part of Wangaratta, which is very close to the showgrounds, but on the other side of the Ovens River!

This short trip of only about five kilometres, was a combined Warby Range Bushwalking Club and Wangaratta Urban Landcare venture, to survey a very special piece of pristine red gum forest surrounding a large billabong, which has been a protected reserve since first settlement in this area.



We walked towards the reserve on unmade roads, and then entered the Park to explore the ancient red gums, the large untouched billabong and the Ovens riverside.

A fox ran past us near the start, and then later we disturbed a small gathering of kangaroos who jumped straight into the Horseshoe Lagoon to escape.

The walk continued along the trackless bank of the Ovens back to the Bullawah Trail and Apex Park, where Pat's cuppa was enjoyed just before the big rains came!! [Andy]

## Federation Walks

Bushwalking Victoria was originally established as the Federation of Victorian Bushwalking Clubs at a meeting on 15 May 1934.

At that meeting, the first of the six aims of the new organisation

was to 'Unite all Victorian walking clubs for the protection and advancement of mutual interests to promote the pastime of tour walking [as bushwalking was known at the time] and encourage good fellowship among affiliated bodies'.

To foster good fellowship among the eight inaugural member clubs, the first Federation Walk was organised by the Melbourne Amateur Walking and Touring Club, and held on 6 October 1935.

The tradition continues, and this year's listing of Federation Walks can be found at "[bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/federation-walks](http://bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/federation-walks)", and via the link on our website.

## Greta Bush Retreat, and BBQ : August 17

This excellent event took place in the Greta South Bushland, with the walk commencing from what is known as 'Dinnings Bush' at Merles Hut.

There were 27 walkers on this adventure, and we enjoyed an easy to medium walk along mainly bush tracks. We walked along a ridge, which had some steep grades, and we saw many kangaroos and wallabies in the distance.



After walking the bush tracks we came into an open area with magnificent views of the mountains, and surrounding country.

The day was beautiful, with warm sunshine, which enabled an enjoyable BBQ lunch to take place at the end of the walk – a time for fellowship.

At the end of the walk we were joined by fellow members for the barbecue, with a total of 30 enjoying the day out. The walk was approx 9.7km. [Geoff]

## Email problems . . .

If you know of anyone who has not been receiving the emailed Newsletter, or the Walks Program, please call me on 0418 503 802, but check the spam/trash/junk folder first. [Editor]

## Boots for sale

Gillian has a pair of Merrill Mens leather walking boots for sale. They are of US size 9, and have only been worn once (too small); \$100 ono; 0411 111 830.

## Week Away : 2020

Our week-away alternates between mountain and coastal venues, and the three options for 2020 (a coastal year) were, The Great Ocean Walk, the Mornington Peninsula and Royal National Park.

However, the Peninsula was a popular choice, and our accommodation will be the Iluka Retreat and Camp, near the beach at Shoreham, where we have booked two lodges, Warrawong and Aulua, for 6 nights from 19/4/20 - 25/4/20.

Bookings close on September 29, and photos of the terrain that we will be walking through can be viewed on our website; see Walks Program, then Annual Week Away.

More information on this great trip can also be found on the same page. [Cheryl Hoysted, Chair of the convening committee]

### You might consider - The Lurujarri Trail ?

The Lurujarri Trail is a long distance walk that commences in Broome, and is one of the most popular guided walks in Western Australia. The text given here is from the goolarabooloo.org.au website, which has further details of the walk.

Paddy Roe initiated the Lurujarri Heritage Trail in 1987 to encourage the members of the Goolarabooloo community to connect with their heritage, and traditional skills.

The Trail follows the land of the traditional Song Cycle. The same camping places are used as have been used for millennia.



Walking is on the beach, reef and dunes, through bush, mangroves, and salt plains.

Timber can be sought out and cut for carving workshops. Opportunities to participate in the making of Karli (boomerang), coolamon (water bowls) or cumbuk (clapping sticks) may also exist along the trail.

The time of year we walk is likely to fall within the season of Barrgana - the dry time, SE wind time. Nights are characteristically cool with sea mist coming inland, while days, on average, reach around 30c.

Lirigen and Iragalu (acacias) flower, also Jigal (bauhinia), Gardgu (inland bloodwood) and Gungara (conkerberry) fruit. Flocks of cockatoos and brolgas will be feeding on the bush onions. The osprey, honey-eaters and raucous red-winged parrots are likely to be breeding.

### Moonlight Track Walk : August 31

There were 22 walkers on this last day of winter walk, with 18 tackling the full route from Taminick Gap, to Morgans Lookout, and four taking Ridge Track direct to the Lookout.

Having parked our cars on the dirt track adjacent to Taminick Gap Road, on the boundary of Baileys Vineyard, we followed the fence

line around the Vineyard, with great views to the south and west. It was a beautifully sunny day, albeit cool to start with, and we were soon discarding outer garments.



Once at Moonlight Track, we began a steep 20 minute climb to the ridgeline, turned right at Ridge Track, and subsequently joined up with the group of four at the Lookout.

A leisurely lunch, with great views (including the snow-capped peaks of Mounts Bogong, Howitt, Buller and Stirling) was enjoyed by all, and then we commenced the return to Taminick Gap.

On the way, we made a short detour to admire the views from Chick Hill (800m each way - total 1.6km) and then had a slow stroll back to the Gap.



There were various GPS devices in use on the day, and the general consensus was that the full walk covered 13.8km.

However, regardless of the distance it was a great day out; many thanks to Jeanette and Michael for organising this event.

The group met at 9.00am at Rotary Park, mileage was \$2.50 per person, and the travel, the glorious walk, morning tea and lunch, plus Pat's cuppa returned us to Wangaratta by 3pm. [Chris]

### Christmas Party : December 13

Don't forget our Christmas Party on Friday the 13th of December, to be held at Bowmans Murrumgee Memorial Hall, Bowmans Road, just off the Great Alpine Road, near the Murrumgee turn-off.

Please contact Anne, 0427 576 664, to book in; bring either a salad or sweet to share. BYO BBQ



# WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc.

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## Registration Form : 2020 Week Away - Sunday 19th April - Saturday 25th April Mornington Peninsula

Name: .....

Address: .....

Phone: ..... Mobile: .....

Email: .....@.....

Emergency contact: ..... Relationship: .....

Phone number: .....

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

- Vegetarian  Gluten Free
- No red meat  No chicken
- No fish  Other .....
- Allergies .....

Indicate your **room preference**:

Room type Room Buddy/s

Singles Couple

All attempts will be made for your preference, as much as possible.

**To register:** Send completed and signed this Registration Form by 29 September 2019.

o To: c/o Cheryl Hoysted, 1 Scott Street, Wangaratta 3677 0419 005 062; or E-mail to: [choysted@gmail.com](mailto:choysted@gmail.com)

• Pay deposit of \$150 per person

o Payment to be made by Direct Credit:

o BSB 633 000 Account No: 110647799 Ref: W-A + Your name

• The balance of \$250 will be required by 28 Feb 2020.

### Acknowledgement of Risks and Obligations of Members

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

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

In addition:

1. 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
2. I will make every effort to remain with the rest of the party during the walk/ activity
3. I will advise the leader of any concerns I am having, and
4. I will comply with all reasonable instructions of club officers and/or the walk/activity leader.

Signature ..... Date...../...../ 2019

**Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> October. Stringybark Creek, Toombullup State Forest. [AWTGS-2] Jeanette, 0417 546 974.**

An easy walk of approx. 9k mostly on gravel roads and bush tracks, with a short distance off track in the bush. A mostly flat to undulating walk. An opportunity to meet and hear our guest leader, with a wealth of knowledge to impart the area's rich history, that includes mining and the Kelly Gang.

**Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> October. Reform Hill and the Mosaic Trail, Myrtleford. [AWTGS-2/3] Erin 0419 200 998**

Two short walks at Myrtleford. The first is an easy to medium loop walk of approx. 3k, with a hill climb and descent of Reform Hill where you will come across old mine shafts, a former mine tunnel and quarry. Also, along this walk, there is a Hume & Hovell monument, and of course the lookout at the top of the hill. Followed by an easy level walk of approx. 5k alongside the Ovens River on the new Mosaic Trail. How many will you find??

**Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> October. Upper Murray at Flaggy Creek [AWTGS-4] and Mt Granya [AWTGS-3] Chris, 0418 503 802**

Arrive Friday for a weekend camp alongside the Upper Murray at Flaggy Creek. An interesting, albeit, hard walk of approx. 14k alongside Flaggy Creek to/from the lookout on Saturday, and on Sunday an approx 10.5k walk to Mount Granya through open forest linking Cotton Tree Creek with Mt Granya summit via Granya Falls.

**Cup Day: Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> November. The Big Kaluna, Wangaratta. [AWTGS-2] Rod, 0409 215 286**

An easy walk or nature ramble at Kaluna Park, a 5.2 ha remnant of River Red Gum riverine bushland, a haven for birdlife, flora & fauna close to the King River, at the edge of Wangaratta's CBD, and visiting some local historic sites. Followed by a BYO BBQ lunch at Merriwa Park. And of course, being Cup Day, we will have cup cakes for the race.

**Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> November. Tawonga Gap to Freeburgh. [AWTGS-4] Bob, 5766 2773**

A hard walk of approx. 18k on 4WD track following the ridge from Tawonga Gap through mountain ash forests to Simmonds Gap, and onto Freeburgh. Climbing from 890m to 1,130m, and descending to about 500m. Views to Mts Bogong, Fainter, Feathertop and Big Hill.

**Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> November. Gapsted Track. [AWTGS-2/3/4] Michael 0447 617 880.**

A choice of walks : easy as (100m – car to the winery cellar door 😊), easy (4km loop), medium/hard (10km & 12km loop options) all start on the rail trail, then 4WD and bush tracks. Medium/hard options include steep sections, ascending over 400m, with views of Mt Feathertop, Mt Buller, and towards the Ovens Valley.

**Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> December. Corowa to St Leonards, Wahgunyah. [AWTGS-2] Chris, 0418 503 802**

An easy walk on The River Track, following the Murray River from Corowa to St Leonards Winery at Wahgunyah, and return. Lagoons, native flora and fauna along the Murray, and wines for the tasting at St Leonards. Lunch in the gardens at St Leonards.

**Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> December. Mt Porepunkah from One Mile Creek Road. [AWTGS-3/4] Marita 0427 521 122**

Options of easy, medium and hard return walks from One Mile Creek Road, Porepunkah, with a steady ascent to Mt Porepunkah along a single lane bush road lightly shaded by trees. Views of Mt Buffalo along the way, 360 degree views from the summit of the surrounding valleys and mountains. Easy: approx. 9k ascending 350m. Medium: approx. 12 k ascending 485m. Hard approx. 17k ascending approx. 700m.

**Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> December for a day walk OR Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> & Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December for an overnight camp. The Razorback and Mt Feathertop. [AWTGS-4] Jeanette, 0417 546 974**

A hard walk of approx. 22k from near the Diamantina Hut on a bush track, along the ridge of The Razorback, to Mt Feathertop, with a stop at Federation Hut, then return. Option of a day walk on Saturday, or bring the backpack for an overnight camp, from Saturday to Sunday, at Federation Hut.



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## WALKS PROGRAM, OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2019

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

If a walk needs to be cancelled, an alternative walk will be offered where possible.

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

Day/Date	Walk	Grade	Leader
Saturday, 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Stringybark Creek, Toombullup State Forest [AWTGS-2]	E	Jeanette, 0417 546 974
Thursday, 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Reform Hill & Mosaic Trail, Myrtleford [AWTGS-2/3]	E/M & E	Erin, 0419 200 998
Saturday, 19 <sup>th</sup> October Sunday, 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Bushwalking Victoria Federation Walk 2019 in the Lorne area.		Bushwalking Victoria
Friday, 25 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday, 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Upper Murray at Flaggy Creek [AWTGS-4] and Mount Granya [AWTGS-3]	H	Chris, 0418 503 802
Tuesday, 5 <sup>th</sup> November	The Big Kaluna, Cup Day walk [AWTGS-2]	E	Rod, 0409 215 286
Saturday, 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Tawonga Gap to Freeburgh [AWTGS-4]	H	Bob, 5766 2773
Sunday, 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Gapsted block of the Stanley State Forest. [AWTGS-2/3/4] Gapsted Winery visit.	Easy as, E & M/H	Michael, 0447 617 880
Thursday, 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Corowa to St Leonards, Wahgunyah [AWTGS-2]	E	Chris, 0418 503 802
Sunday, 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Mt Porepunkah from One Mile Creek Rd [AWTGS-3/4]	M/H	Marita, 0427 521 122
Friday, 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas party at the Bowmans Murrumgee Memorial Hall, Bowmans Road.		Anne, 0427 576 664 BYO BBQ, contact Anne to book in; bring either a salad or sweet to share.
Saturday, 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Day walk on the Razorback to Mt Feathertop [AWTGS-4]	H	Jeanette, 0417 546 974
Saturday, 21 <sup>st</sup> December & Sunday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	The Razorback & Mt Feathertop camp [AWTGS-4]	H	Jeanette, 0417 546 974
Monday, 11 <sup>th</sup> November	General meeting 7.30pm		Michael, 0447 617 880



**WARBY RANGE  
BUSHWALKERS Inc.**

**FUN . FITNESS . FRIENDSHIP**

## NEWSLETTER 1, January 2020

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

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2020 Walking Year, and what a great year we have to look forward to. As well as a nicely varied Walks Program (already emailed) there are two 'not to be missed events' - a weekend at Falls Creek, and our annual week away, taking in the great coastal scenery of the Mornington Peninsula (more information on this great trip can be found on our website; the registration form is on Page 10 of this Newsletter).

Walks co-ordinator for the week away, Robert Chard, posted this info,

"I am thrilled to be preparing the Club's Mornington Peninsula walks for our week away. Walkers of all abilities will enjoy the spectacular walking trails, views of peaceful bays, wild ocean coastlines, tranquil bush and local history. Being a coastal region, the elevation of most walks is easy to moderate, usually distance of the trail determines track grading.



The fourteen-kilometre Sorrento Ocean Beach to Bridgewater Bay walk, as well as the Bushrangers Bay to Fingal Beach track, are on the walk's program. Both walks offer spectacular cliff top views of the coastline, rock platforms, small bays and birdlife.

Walkers will also enjoy the hilly terrain around Red Hill and Arthur's Seat National Park with views of rural properties, majestic old pine trees, wetlands, wildflowers and wildlife. All walkers will have the opportunity to undertake a section, or the entire challenging twenty-six kilometres, Two Bays Walking Track, the longest continuous walking track on the Mornington Peninsula from Dromana on the Port Phillip Bay to Cape Schanck.

A twelve-kilometre circuit track around Port Nepean will be explored. On this circuit, walkers can read about Australia's military history, a historic quarantine station, and Harold Holt Memorial while enjoying the stunning views of coastal vegetation, and bay views, of Port Phillip Bay and Bass Strait."

### Christmas BBQ

This year's Christmas BBQ will be held on December 13, starting at 6.30pm, at the Murrumgee-Bowmans Hall, accessible by turning off the Great Alpine Road (or Buckland Gap Road) onto the Murrumgee-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-Murrumgee Hall).

BYO drinks and meat for a BBQ. Crockery, cutlery and chairs are provided. Please contact Jeanette, 0417 546 974, to book in; bring either a salad or sweet to share. BYO BBQ.

### Daylesford Weekend : September 13-15

The club's motto might be fun, fitness and friendship, but it's more like fantabulous frivolities and foolishness. To the suggestion of what happens on a weekend walk stays on a weekend walk, I say read on.

Most of the group arrived during Friday afternoon. Passengers in our car took advantage of this, and visited some tourist attractions – the Chocolate Factory, Overwrought Garden Art Gallery and the Stony Creek Art Gallery. This art gallery offers a complimentary glass of bubbles as you peruse the arts works. Jeanette doesn't need to be asked twice. In fact, Jeanette will do almost anything for a glass of bubbles that I am going to change my name to Michael Bubbles. Not to be confused with the crooner Michael Bubl .

Accommodation for the majority of walkers was at the Daylesford Holiday Park. Jenny's alternative choice however, had a number of group members intrigued. From my understanding it may have been somewhere between an animal barn, and how your great, great, great grandparents lived in the 1800's.

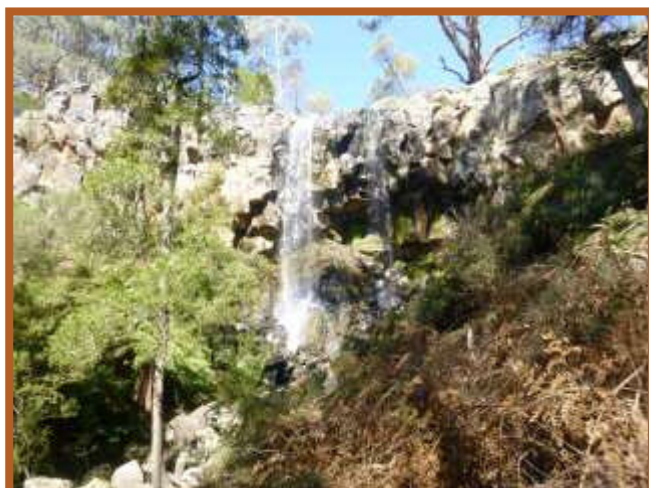


There was one major incident during the weekend. Apparently, Adrian was having some trouble operating the holiday park's automated gate entrance. An unknown vehicle approached from behind and drove up uncomfortably close to Adrian's car, and then blasted their car horn. Well Adrian got out of his car, more flustered than ever and a deep shade of burnt purple. Helen too got out of their car, rather red faced – fire engine red.

Both were determined to give this inconsiderate driver a piece of their minds only to find that it was fellow Warby Walker and general all round sh\*t stirrer, Bob. This event is now known as the "Daylesford Boom-Gate incident of 2019".

The main walk of the weekend, Saturday's Lost Children's Walk retraces what is believed to be the fateful steps of three young children in 1867. Aged only 4, 5 & 6 they perished in the surrounding bush. The walk begins at a commemorative reserve for the children near the Mill Market.

The first few hundred metres is along a town road, but then quickly descends to the start of the bush track. This first section, also part of the Great Dividing Trail, is in the Hepburn Regional Park. This area was once home to active goldfields, and remnants of gold mines, water races and tramways can still be seen today.

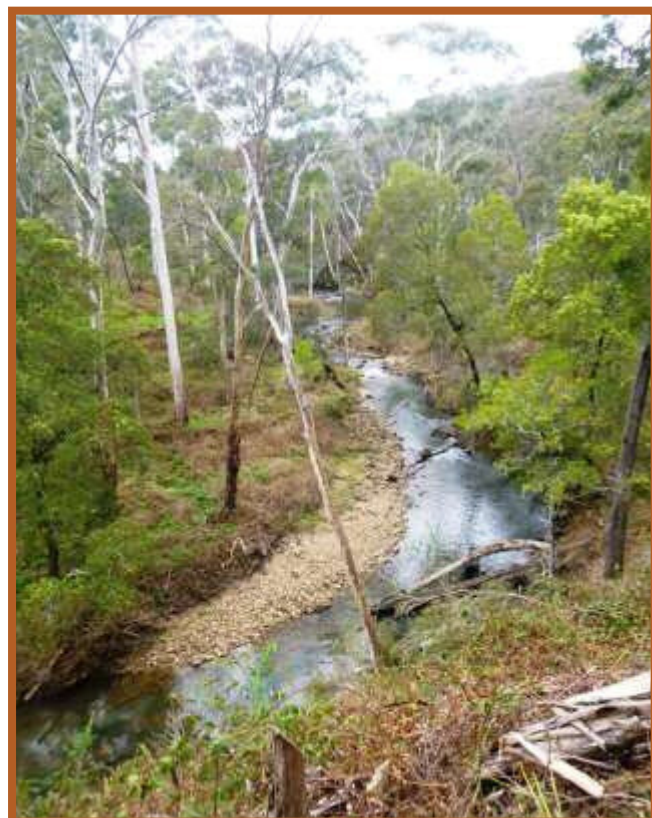


Most of the park supports a fairly open box, peppermint and stringybark eucalypt forest. The damper southern areas carry a taller forest of Messmate, Candlebarks and Manna gums (thankyou Parknotes). The main creek we were following was the Sailors Creek. The surrounding bush has wattle, and there was the early arrival of a couple of native spring wildflowers for those who were looking closely enough. Several Crimson Rosellas were amongst the variety of birds observed.

Today's weather could not be more perfect for walking, and the group proceeded on towards Sailors Falls, which was a last-minute inclusion from the briefing the night before. A fact-check from Ann B – apparently at this briefing I mentioned there were bridges (plural) for the creek crossings. This ended up being incorrect. So, our walk had several minor, I repeat, minor, water crossings to be navigated. One of which Irene involuntarily tested the aquatic features of with?? her socks and shoes.

Picturesque Sailors Falls was a deserving spot for lunch, with picnic tables, shelters and toilets. Previous rainfall had been enough to permit a suitable amount of water cascading over the edge to a drop of about 20m. This was the exit point for Jenny, who had completed a pleasant 8km section of the walk.

After safely crossing the road, we proceeded along a lane, which led us to the 70,000-hectare Wombat State Forest for the second half of this walk. The forest was heavily logged during the mid 1800's gold rush period, and in 1871 it was established as a state forest.



There were a number of steep sections, that were most unexpected. Everything looks nice and easy on a map with no contours! Fortunately, a family size pack of juicy snakes were more than enough encouragement for the two steepest sections.

Up till this point our trail in the Wombat State Forest was on vehicle tracks, many which had been turned into deep ruts from tyres during obvious muddy conditions. The final section, a slight descent towards the cars, was along a serene bush trail, which was a most fitting conclusion to today's walk. A final offering of another snake for everyone not getting lost was appreciated before returning by our cars. The distance for the day was approximately 16.5kms.

Sunday's morning walks began from Lake Daylesford, with walkers choosing the Tipperary Walk. Adrian was quick with his grandpa joke of 'it's a long way to Tipperary'. In fact, it would be about 7km return. Rainfall during the night made the track muddy and slippery in places, and sure footing was the order of the morning. The trail following alongside Wombat Creek was a delightful experience, and some great views were presented.

Our return to Lake Daylesford was on the other side of the creek over a sturdy bridge, which suitably impressed Ann B.

We approached the lake near lunchtime, and group members made individual plans. Some chose a walk around the lake, and we could see Glenda, Cheryl and Irene on the far side of the lake taking their lunch break. One would assume with bubbles in hand. My group chose lunch near the boathouse, where we could watch who would prevail over lunch crumbs between the ducks, coots and moorhens.



During the weekend, sampling the water from numerous mineral springs was given several descriptions, from pleasant to palatable to putrid. Personally, I prefer mine with a dash of lemon & lime juice.

The final walking destination was some 40 minutes away at Hanging Rock – a walk that is less than 2kms, but for some mysterious reason it takes well over an hour. Even arriving at Hanging Rock from Daylesford proved baffling for some as Trevor and Anne took the more scenic route as directed by their GPS. Love technology.

There were now eight of us who began our adventure in the café while waiting for a passing shower. A leisurely stroll along a sealed walking track enabled good views of the former volcano. It is located 718m above sea level, but a little over 100m above the surrounding plain. The estimated age is 6.25 million years, and its mountain type are known as Mamelon (thanks Wikipedia).



Whilst at the summit of Hanging Rock assembling everyone for a group photo was impossible. When I thought I had everyone assembled someone would disappear. First it was “Where’s Brigitte?” I would locate her and then Greg was gone? Anne T was just here a moment ago. Trevor? Jeanette? Damn. Marita, where are you? Marita? MARITAAAAA?

Trevor was the most adventurous of the group, scaling a large and slightly dangerous rock, and standing high and mighty upon it after his conquest. I couldn’t hear well enough to tell if he was shouting, “I’m king of the world” or “I must have rocks in my head”. Our descent was via “the stairs” which enables you to pass under the “hanging rock”. We were fortunate to get down, and on our way home before the more heavily forecast rain.

Someone in the group pointed out that the weekend walks had a general uniting theme – The Lost Children’s Walk, followed by Hanging Rock and the mayhem of the Mill Market. Yes, this was not a weekend for the “geographically challenged” or as the Welsh say “wedi’i herio’n ddaeryddol”. And we know that being geographically challenged in Wales is the least of their worries. Have you seen their language? When they play the game of letters and numbers it goes something like this. “I’ll have eight consonants please, and give us a vowel for a bit of fun, although I won’t be using it”.

Thanks to everyone who participated on the first of my weekend walks.

Michael Braendler (arweinydd teithiau cerdded)

## Federation Walk 2019 and 2020

As mentioned in the October-December Newsletter, Bushwalking Victoria was originally established as the Federation of Victorian Bushwalking Clubs at a meeting on 15 May 1934.

To foster good fellowship among the eight inaugural member clubs, the first Federation Walk was organised by the Melbourne Amateur Walking and Touring Club, and held on 6 October 1935.

The tradition continues, and this year’s Federation Walk was held at Lorne on the Great Ocean Road, from where Marita posted this report.

“The Federation walks were held on Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 Oct this year. They were hosted by Geelong Bushwalking Club, with the walks manly being around the area of Lorne.

There were three of us from Warby Walkers who went to this, Ann Brain, Lesley Finedon and myself.

There were 24 different walks to chose from, ranging from easy – hard. Some were along the coasts, while others were going inland.

There were about 340 walkers on the weekend, with between 15-20 people on each walk. The starting time for the walks were staggered, which made it flow very well.

On Saturday evening there was a dinner organized at the Cumberland Resort, 240 people attended this, a bit of a noisy gathering of course. The three of us shared a cabin at the Caravan park on Lorne Foreshore. This worked well, close to all the places we needed to be at.

The walks were very much run the way we do it in our club. I enjoyed meeting the other people on the walk, finding out where they came from, and what their clubs were doing. I found the people to be friendly and happy to socialize, which I think is an important part.

We learned that The Federation Walks for 2020 will be held in Licola, Gippsland, to be on November 13-16.”

## Friends Loop etc : September 24

Twenty happy walkers (including four staff members from the Wangaratta Visitor Information Centre) set out from Wenhams Camp for this nice, moderate rated, adventure of about 12km.

The weather was sunny, with some increasing cloud cover, the max temp being about 15C.

We walked north from Wenhams picnic area, where we took a mountain bike track off to the west, to meet up with Friends Track



3.6km later. Here, we found a very scenic creek-side location for morning tea, and then continued our route along Friends Track (and alongside the rocky, wattle studded, creek).

We then took the detour to Kwat Kwat Lookout (excellent views), and then moved on to the intersection of Friends Track and Alpine Views Track.

This (Alpine Views Track) provided us with a long loop to the south, with great views of the not too distant high country.

A very scenic lunch was enjoyed on this section, and we then staggered back to Wenhams via Mount Warby having enjoyed a very interesting, albeit tiring, walk.

The wildflowers, and flowering shrubs, had put on a great show for us, and this was the perfect walk venue.



Many Thanks to Glenda for helping to sort out an unusual sign-in procedure; to Adrian for giving an update on the effects of climate change on the Warby Ranges, and a brief history of the National Park; to Pat, Michael and Kelvin for being tail-end-charlie, and to Pat, for those delicious macadamia biscuits. [Chris]

### Annual General Meeting, 2017

Our ANNUAL DINNER and AGM will be held at the historic Vine Hotel on Monday, March 23rd, and everyone (including family and friends) is welcome to attend.

Some committee positions will become vacant at the AGM, and if you are thinking of joining the Committee, then the nomination form can be found under "General Information" on our website, and at the back of this Newsletter.

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

### Weone mine site, Stanley Forest : September 29

On a fantastic day of sunshine, with a chilly breeze at times, 17 walkers, including two casuals from Wodonga, joined this walk of about 11k.

We started at the intersection of Buckland Gap Road and Lady Newton Drive, and after a few hill climbs, we were rewarded with fantastic views from the lookout, where we had morning tea.

Continuing onto Burgoigee Road, and then Flagstaff Road, we had lunch under the shady trees at the intersection with Murmungee Track. We could see the descent ahead, the challenging part of the walk.

Taking care with footing, and equipped with walking poles, the challenging two kilometre descent, which was quite steep in parts, was completed.



We were rewarded at the base of the descent, where Lyn spotted the remaining ruins of the Weone Mine, there has been plenty of dirt dug over here in years gone by.

A mishap negotiating the fallen logs beside the track had one walker suffer a bump to their shin, which resulted in a large lump thereon, followed by attendance by our nursing walkers.

A short trek down the beautiful Ellen Lane, with its large grand old trees, brought us to afternoon tea beside the Buckland Gap Road.

[Jeanette]

### Stringybark Creek, Toombullup State Forest : October 12

We had a wet start to a fine day with 17 participants on this walk, led by local identity Adrian who has a passion for history and, thankfully for our group, likes to share it with us.

After meeting Adrian outside the Greta Cemetery, we had a quick look at the Kelly graves before heading off to Stringybark Creek to begin our walk.



We started with morning tea, before beginning the 9k loop walk from Stringybark Creek Camping Area. This took us to the historic

grave of Emma Heller (1889) before we trekked along an old, and now overgrown, road to the site of the Kelly Camp, located beside the former Bullock, now Kelly Creek. The Kelly's had a hut at this location and a still; years later a timber mill was located on this site.

This was followed by a trek off-track through the bush before reaching a gravel road. However, before we found the road a number of leaches had found us, as we made our way through the bush. Some of us were feasted upon, and others found the leaches before they could be. Several birds were also out and about through our walk.



After reaching the road we found a number of fallen logs suitable for a lunch break before continuing on our way.

Upon reaching the Historic Reserve, Adrian pointed out the various features identified from the historic photographic records to show us the police camp site, and the tree where one of the police lay slain, together with information and description of the location, and events from records of that time.

We also wandered about, checking out the new storyboards and features of this historic precinct, before returning to the camping area for Pat's afternoon tea. [Jeanette]

### Upper Murray weekend : October 25-27

This very enjoyable weekend started off with base camp being set up at the Tallangatta caravan park on Friday afternoon. After some enjoyable yarning on a balmy evening, we headed to the tents, ready for a leisurely start on the High Country Rail Trail the next morning.

There was a quick foray to the town centre for newspapers, coffee and donuts, and the eight of us then headed off for Shelley Railway Station at about 9.30am, dropping off a shuttle car near the Koetong Hotel.

The weather forecast wasn't the best, and all of the predictions came true, but we headed off from the Station in high spirits, and we were soon amongst the fern glades and trestle bridges for our 14km walk.

Once at the Murray Valley Highway, we recovered the cars from the start, then completed a five kilometre walk (2.5km each way) to the historic Darbyshire bridge.

This was where all those weather predictions came true; we had already seen some drizzle, and some gusty winds, but now the sky went from blue to grey to black, and we were battered by horizontal hail, and intimidated by distant thunder and lightning.



There was talk of making a u-turn back to the cars, but after seeking shelter under the remains of a trestle bridge (where else!) we finally made it to the Darbyshire bridge, and then back to the cars.

Saturday night was spent reminiscing about trestle bridges (all six of them) and enjoying a great meal at the Tallangatta Hotel.

On Sunday morning (which was brilliantly sunny) we were joined by Lynn from Beechworth, and set off for the former gold mining township of Granya.

Once at the nearby Cottontree Creek picnic/camping area (250m), we set off on the 5.2km walk to Mount Granya (840m). The early parts of the walk lead past the historic scout hut (1937) and then past the rocky Granya Falls.

Expectedly, the Falls were almost dry, and from here it was a relentless climb to a 'plateau', and then on to the final climb (the last 1.8km) to the summit of Mount Granya.

Great views, and lunch, were enjoyed at the summit and, after a relentless descent, we were all back at Cottontree Creek at 3.30pm.



Many bird calls were heard throughout the walk, and two lyre-birds were spotted on the descent.

Highlights of the weekend were great friendship; a sky that went blue – grey – black; Sandi's new tent; horizontal hail; six trestle bridges, a great meal at the Tallangatta Hotel; great views from Mount Granya, and the donuts from Teddy's Café in Tallangatta.

[Chris]

PS. For the cyclists among us, the High Country Rail Trail now runs

all the way from Shelley Railway Station to Tallangatta, and then through to Ebden. The 'missing link' was officially opened on October 13 – see [highcountryrailtrail.org.au](http://highcountryrailtrail.org.au) and/or [tallangatta-sc.vic.edu.au/tallangatta-herald](http://tallangatta-sc.vic.edu.au/tallangatta-herald) for more details.

### Bush Huts Calendar

Aussie Calendars has produced a very pleasing calendar for 2020 entitled "Huts of Australia 2020", and the huts featured include Ritchies, Cooleman, Mount Delusion and Mount Field, providing coverage of New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.

The calendar sells for \$8.95 and I bought my copy from Edgars News in Murphy Street, Wangaratta. [Chris]

### MELBOURNE CUP DAY CAPER, KALUNA ISLAND

Twenty starters formed at the Merriwa Park starting gates for this year's event. Track dry and fast. Weather warm. There were two late scratchings, both bolters so there would be no pace on early. Onto Kaluna Island and the field was already strung out. All gathered to admire the huge red gums that dominated this part of the course. Cockies screeched their support as passed. Two year old Mitchell, in the care of grandparents Kerry and Paul, gave the field its youngest average age for years!



The field swung by Major Mitchell's tree and paused near Yogi for sustenance. Still there was no pace and the race belonged to anybody. But the clatter of natter and happy chatter could be heard constantly. On the home straight into Merriwa, Geoff showed us a clean pair of heels.

Time for the judging of Fashions On The Hats. Pat, as usual, was a stunning performer. Judy was dashing in black trim; Jeanette added a certain outdoorsy theme and Rod's hat lacked the sophistication of the others. Colin was the steward, with a win to Judy. She accepted the prize. Special note should be made of Andy's hat – while it lacked some preparation, the presentation was creative.

Food eaten, horses drawn and cup cakes baked by Karen and Jeanette allocated, we were ready and waiting, we turned the radio on. There was a buzz, then a hush. They were off. Horses in the call were cheered, jeered and cajoled. Our winner was Peter Brain, who undertook to take the winner's cup home for the second year (Anne won it last year). More importantly, he promised champagne, at his expense for next year's event.

Another cheerful, happy event for the Warby Walkers. Our smiles were good enough to stop a nation. [Rod]



### Tawonga Gap to Freeburgh : November 9th

On an overcast, cold and windy day, eight of the toughest club members headed off for this medium to hard 18km trek in the Upper Kiewa/Ovens Valley.

The first seven kilometres involved walking on a ridge top 4WD track through mountain ash forests on the west side of the Kiewa Valley.

Setting off, we walked in a southerly direction from an altitude of 890m, then we trudged up and down hill tops, with the maximum height of 1130m being reached.

The second section (of four kilometres) was from where we turned east onto the Simmond's Gap Track. This was undulating, or mainly downhill, also on 4WD tracks, and we passed a mountain ash tree that is reputed to be the largest tree by height in North East Victoria.

Lunch was held above Simmond's Gap, before the actual steep descent to the Gap. We could see glimpses of Mt Bogong, Mt Fainter, Big Hill and Mt Feathertop, and the recent snow on these peaks, but a heavy cloud cover prevented clear views of the summits.



The last seven kilometres was all downhill on the 4WD Dungey Creek Track to the junction with Big Flat Track, where we had a car waiting for us in the Snowy Creek Valley, six kilometres from the Freeburgh Bridge over the Ovens River. [Bob]

### Gapsted Winery : November 24

On a sunny and warm Sunday on November 24th twenty-seven Warby Range Bushwalkers joined for the walk commencing and finishing at Gapsted Winery. It was not surprising to have such a

decent turnout, as the walkers have established themselves as connoisseurs of all things white and red, particularly when in liquid form.

Today's walk had several possibilities. The major walk would be almost 12km with an ascent of 400m gained. There was the newly established "easy as" category, which merely entailed opening the car door and bolting immediately for the cellar door. The group, however, choose to participate in something a little more challenging and savour the cellar door delights on completion.



Rarer than a Dusky Woodswallow or Black-faced Cuckooshrike was the welcome return of club walkers Guy & Robyn.

This walk also welcomed new walkers in Sara, Leonie and Toni. Most of whom would still be speaking to me by the end of the walk.

The walk begins from the car park back towards the road where we commence along the rail trail. After several hundred metres we reach the turnoff for the Gapsted Track.

At this point there is the option to follow the track back towards the winery for about a 4km walk. Although no-one chose this option at this point, there were some that later wished they had.

Continuing towards Myrtleford along the track and you begin to climb up into the forest. If we were walking in the European Alps somewhere, we would be gazing down upon some crystal-clear lakes. The view of Myrtleford's effluent ponds does not quite have the same appeal.

Gapsted Track meets West End Track at a junction where morning tea was proposed. However a tumble from one of the walkers necessitated an earlier stop while some repairs were carried out.

Fortunately for our club we have our fair share of Florence Nightingales who shifted into action. This minor mishap led the person involved to decide not to continue, and they returned with another walker.

Before long the West End Track was reached. The major ascent of the walk now began. My short-term memory has obviously gone. Having only done this walk in the past two months, I seemed not to recall the number of short steep sections of this track. We passed the aptly named Christmas Gift Track on our right, which would be well worth another visit on Dec 25th.

This section of the West End track which meets the Link track was particularly challenging with the warm weather. Frequent stops



were necessary to catch one's breath and consume the obligatory Allens snakes.

Another group of three walkers along this part of the track decided to turn back. The distance they would cover by turning back would be about the same length of the walk had they been able to continue. When challenged on a walk it is sometimes remiss not to stop, take a breath and admire your surroundings. Through the trees there were some wonderful views of the Ovens Valley, Mount Buffalo and alps in the distance.

Upon arriving at the Link track junction a lengthy lunch stop was enjoyed by all. The descent from this point had a significant purpose as there was an animal track to the left which would reduce the walk by some two kilometres. I have never seen so many would be detectives look and search for this track to save some walking. In the end it was rather easy to spot and apart from five walkers, most chose this option.

The remaining few walkers continued along the Link track which soon met up with the Gapsted Track again. This small group made good time and caught the last of the animal track walkers converging back onto the Gapsted track.

Back at the winery for a well-earned rest and I doubt very much that Gapsted Winery has catered before for so much royalty. Today we had in attendance Glenda (Countess of Chardonnay), Jeanette (Princess of Prosecco) and June (Marchioness of Moscato) along with Andy (the court jester). The group forewent Pat's afternoon tea.



I am not sure that this has ever happened in club history, so there may be consequences. In its place was the sipping of wine, iced coffees, iced chocolates and tales galore. [Michael ]

### Email problems . . .

If you know of anyone who has not been receiving the emailed Newsletter, or the Walks Program, please call me on 0418 503 802, but check the spam/trash/junk folder first. [Editor]

### Germantown Streamside Reserve

Next time you take the Great Alpine Road to the high country, you might want to take a short walk at the former mining settlement of Germantown, not far out of Bright.



To access this nice riverside ramble, you need to swing off the GAR at Germantown (that is, take the signposted road towards Mount Beauty).

Immediately after crossing the bridge (over the Ovens River) carefully swing right onto a small cleared area with a sign board.

This provides a sketch map of the Germantown Streamside Walk, a meandering five kilometre loop that takes about 90 minutes to complete.

The walk is marked out with red triangles, and these need to be carefully followed all the way to the Stony Creek picnic area.

The walking track (which is quite narrow in places) crosses several river access tracks, and at some of these crossings the walking track makes a dog-leg, so you need to crane your neck to spot the next sequence of red triangles.

Once at the picnic area, you need to carefully cross over the bridge (over the Ovens River) and pick up the continuation of the walk on the other bank. This now leads back downstream to the starting point.

Whilst on this walk, you will have encountered several relics from the gold mining era, including water races, and mullock heaps, the legacy of the sluicing for gold days.

See [friendsofgermantown.wixsite.com/friendsof-gsreserve](http://friendsofgermantown.wixsite.com/friendsof-gsreserve) for more details. [Chris]

### Cowombat Flat : January 2020

Mick Webster, from Murray Valley Bushwalkers, is looking for interest from bushwalkers in the North-east who would like to take part in a 4-5 day high country adventure on January 8-12th 2020. The chosen venue is Cowombat Flat (the source of the Murray River) and involves carrying a full pack on Day 1 (to set up

a base camp) and on the last day to walk out again. The walk has an overall rating of AWTGS 4. Contact Mick on 0429 017 229, or via [websterm@netc.net.au](mailto:websterm@netc.net.au)

### Walking Wangaratta

Walking Wangaratta is an initiative of Sport North-east and The Centre; their mantra and details are -

*Make a move this summer by joining our social walking group. Get active while meeting like minded people. Prams, pets and people of all ages are welcome to join.*

Mondays at 7am – Leaving from Apex Park—see the poster later on in this newsletter.

Walks are being lead by members of our club (that is, the Warby Range Bushwalkers) and are proving to be a popular event.

### Map My Walk

Map My Walk is one of several fitness/training apps that can be downloaded onto a smartphone, and provides an ongoing trace of the route you are walking, as well as an estimate of the distance walked. Several club members use this app, and have found it to be useful in terms of the mapping, and the GPS data.

En route, the app provides data such as energy burnt, steps taken, your pace (km/hr etc) as well as an optional verbal summary at key points in your walk. The download is about 45mb, quite modest in the modern era.

### Tasmanian Root Rot

Some Tasmanian plant species are believed to be declining as a result of Phytophthora (also known as root rot), a disease that bushwalkers can carry to new areas via soil on vehicles, footwear or trekking poles.

In many areas of Tasmania (for example, The Three Capes Walk) boot cleaning stations have been set up, as well as the enforcement of one-way walking networks to reduce the risk of the spread of this disease.

So, if you are walking any where with this problem (for example, in parts of our Warby Ranges) it is essential to obey the signage, and, where appropriate, clean your boots and poles.





**THIS  
GIRL  
CAN**

## Walking Wangaratta

**Mondays at 7am - Leaving from Apex Park**

Make a move this summer by joining our social walking group. Get active while meeting like minded people. Prams, pets and people of all ages are welcome to join.





# WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc.

FUN . FITNESS . FRIENDSHIP

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

## Registration Form : 2020 Week Away - Sunday 19th April - Saturday 25th April

### Mornington Peninsula

Name: .....

Address: .....

Phone: ..... Mobile: .....

Email: .....@.....

Emergency contact: ..... Relationship: .....

Phone number: .....

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

- Vegetarian  Gluten Free
- No red meat  No chicken
- No fish  Other .....
- Allergies .....

Indicate your **room preference**:

Room type Room Buddy/s

Singles Couple

All attempts will be made for your preference, as much as possible.

**To register:** Send completed and signed this Registration Form by 29 September 2019.

o To: c/o Cheryl Hoysted, 1 Scott Street, Wangaratta 3677 0419 005 062; or E-mail to: [choysted@gmail.com](mailto:choysted@gmail.com)

• Pay deposit of \$150 per person

o Payment to be made by Direct Credit:

o BSB 633 000 Account No: 110647799 Ref: W-A + Your name

• The balance of \$250 will be required by 28 Feb 2020.

### Acknowledgement of Risks and Obligations of Members

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

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

In addition:

1. 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
2. I will make every effort to remain with the rest of the party during the walk/ activity
3. I will advise the leader of any concerns I am having, and
4. I will comply with all reasonable instructions of club officers and/or the walk/activity leader.

Signature ..... Date...../...../ 2019