



## NEWSLETTER 2 (April), 2017

### A NEW SEASON OF WALKS and our AGM

Those glorious autumn days are nearly upon us once more, and there is no excuse for not joining us on a walk. As usual, there is a wide variety to choose from, including some tried and true venues, as well as some new adventures.

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

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

### Annual General Meeting, 2017

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

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

Some committee positions will become vacant at the AGM, and if you are thinking of joining the Committee, then the nomination form can be found under "General Information" on our website, and at the back of this Newsletter. Also, please remember that subscriptions fall due at the AGM. See Social Events (later in this Newsletter) for more details.

### Mount Buffalo Weekend, December 2-4

#### Long Plain, Mount Dunn and Stanley Rocks. December 3

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

#### Mackeys Lookout to Reeds Lookout. December 4

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

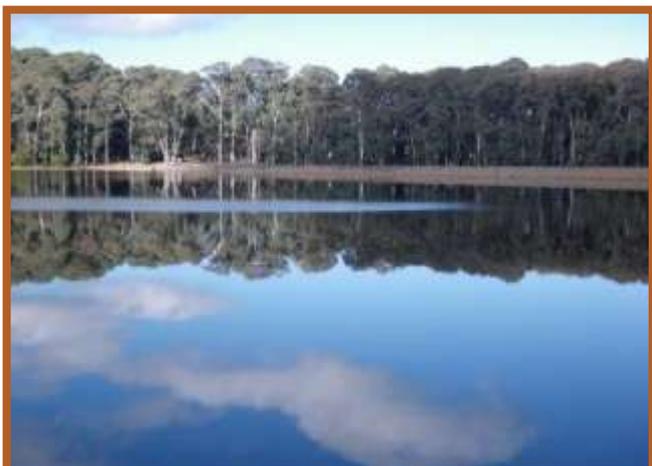
[Chris McLaughlin]

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

### **Nevins Bend, Murray River Walk, January 14**

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

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

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



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

### Wagirra Trail—Albury, January 22

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

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

We checked out the Hovell Tree Memorial, as well as other story boards in the area, and then headed downstream, with many members of the local populace to accompany us.



The walking was easy, with only a couple of small rises to tackle, and we made good time, with morning tea being held alongside the mighty Murray (which was running at a very fast pace).

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

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



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

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

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

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

[Chris McLaughlin]

## Sunrise @ Sunrise, February 4

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

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



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

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

[Judy Shaw]

## Beechworth Moonlight Walk, February 10

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

## Mount Hotham Weekend, February 17-19

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





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

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

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

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

### Social Events

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

### Greater Alpine National Parks Management Plan

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

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

### New Name Tags

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

### New CEO at Parks Victoria

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

## North Wangaratta Heritage Trail

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



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

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

### Farewell to two Karens . . .

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

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

## Australian Track Grading System

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

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

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

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

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

### Grade 1

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



### Grade 2

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



### Grade 3

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



### Grade 4

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



### Grade 5

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





## SUBSCRIPTION FOR MEMBERSHIP – 2017/18

Name(s) .....

Address .....

.....Postcode .....

Telephone ..... Mobile .....

Email .....

### Type of Membership (Please circle)

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

Life members receiving Newsletter (\$10)

Casual (\$5) 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).**



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BUSHWALKERS Inc.**

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

## Committee Nomination Form

I hereby nominate \_\_\_\_\_

for the position of \_\_\_\_\_

on the 2017-18 Committee.

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

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

I second the nomination

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

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

I accept the nomination

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

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

Please forward the completed form to:  
The Secretary  
Warby Range Bushwalkers Inc  
PO Box 974  
Wangaratta, 3676