



NEWSLETTER 2 (April), 2019

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; 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 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.

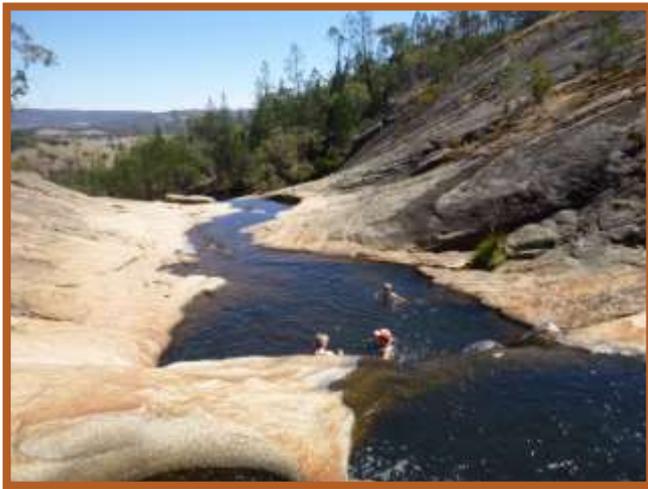
A picnic lunch in the shady botanical gardens completed the morning. [Karen]

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 (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)

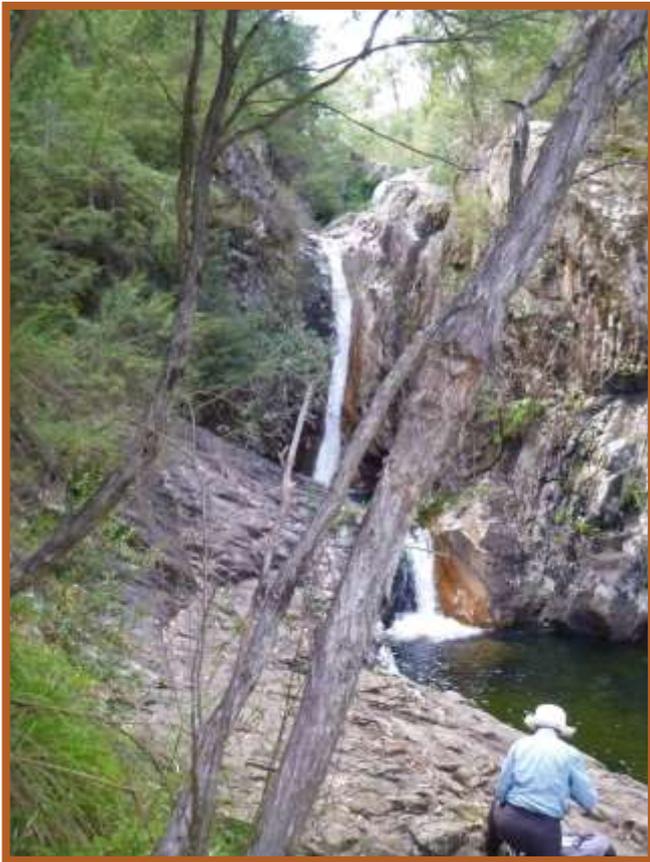
If you are interested in attending, please e-mail Judy Hunter at training@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au by 20 March 2019.

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

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]





**WARBY RANGE
BUSHWALKERS Inc.**

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www.warbybushwalkers.org.au

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