



**WARBY RANGE
BUSHWALKERS Inc.**

FUN . FITNESS . FRIENDSHIP

NEWSLETTER : December, 2021 **warbybushwalkers.org.au**

Welcome to the last newsletter of the 2021 Walking Year; a much better year than 2020, but (hopefully) 2022 will be even better.

Please note that the new date for this year's Christmas Party, and get-together, is Friday, December 10, starting at 6pm. The venue is the Bowmans-Murungee Hall, accessible by turning off the Great Alpine Road (or Buckland Gap Road) onto the Murungee-Bowmans Road.

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

For covid-19 safety, attendees are asked to bring all their own food and drinks. Barbecue facilities, and all crockery and cutlery are provided at the Hall. Covid-19 check in, and double vaccination will be required.

No need to RSVP.

Volunteers to help decorate the Hall are most welcome on Thursday 9th December at 5:30pm (Cecily, 0490 024 471 for any queries).

Discount at Outdoor Retailers

The club is setting up a system whereby a very basic listing of club membership is available to the outdoor gear retailers in Wangaratta. The listing will detail each member's last name, and their postcode - nothing else.

This means that members can ask for a "club discount" when purchasing goodies from the stores; the store can then do a basic check to ensure that the customer is a current club member.

This system is used by other clubs in the North-east (such as Border Bushwalkers) and is a "green" alternative to plastic coated membership cards.

If you are not happy to have your last name/postcode on this listing, please advise the club (via email) of this.

Yindyamarra Sculpture Walk

The Yindyamarra Sculpture Walk forms part of the riverside Wagirra Trail in Albury, which leads from Norieul Park to the Wonga Wetlands.

Warby Bushwalkers have completed the Wagirra Trail several times, and there are now some new sculpture items to admire along this very enjoyable walk.

In particular (on a recent trip) we enjoyed the "Goanna" (by Kianna Edwards) and the metre high "Kookaburras" (The Guguburras, by Peter Ingram; see photo).

This is a there-and-back walk, so there is no need to go all the way to the Wonga Wetlands.

The trail has several loops that enable many different combinations, all of them rated easy, and it's a great day out whichever route is chosen. [Chris and Yve]

Lake Eildon : September 10-12

A keen group of walkers were able to participate in this weekend; the easing of some Covid-19 restrictions were not quite enough to enable more to partake, but those in attendance were enthusiastic about the prospect of walking in a new location for the club.



The weekend began on Friday evening, with a meeting of all participants, and an outline of the walk options for Saturday. There were numerous distances available, all return walks, ranging from 5km or 14km, or almost 20 km, and finally the 16.6km walk, to which I gave my best sales pitch.

On Saturday morning we all assembled at the outdoor camp kitchen. My previous evening spiel about the walks had encouraged all to choose, of their own free will, and I repeat, of their own free will, the 16.6km hike. This summer I intend to sell sand to Saudi Arabia, and snow to the Eskimos.

Our hike would begin 20kms away at Wallaby Bay carpark, near Fraser Block, a major part of the northwest section of Lake Eildon National Park. It was named after Alexander John Fraser, a State Development Minister of the early 1960s. After the first of many group photos, we began our hike towards Cook Point, some 2.5km away. Much of this section was shady and undulating, and numerous bird life, and a kangaroo were spotted early into the walk.

Upon reaching Cook Point we walked right out to the tip of the point where the water's edge gently lapped the shore, and delightful views of the lake were observed in several directions. Cook Point was named after an early settler in this area, and was a perfect setting for morning tea in glorious sunshine.

Our next destination, about an hour away, was School Point, the site of a former school, which is now the site for schools of fish. From here, Stones Outstation, was only two kilometres away. The track would gradually venture away from lake views, and take in more of the beautiful bushland.

The creek crossings were via bridges, some of solid wooden construction, another a sturdy steel structure, and then there was one that was merely a few logs loosely placed side by side. This one tested our sense of balance, or what looked like, in some cases, bad dance moves.

We then arrived at Stones Outstation, named after the family who were early settlers to the area. The location of the hut is picture perfect, with the creek, surrounding trees and bushland and hills at the rear. Having walked about 10.5km this was now our welcomed lunch spot; a bright crimson coloured parrot joined us, and it appeared to be well accustomed to people.

All packed up and ready to go, it was time to retrace some of our steps back to the start of the Devass Gully walking track. From here there would be no turning back. It is this junction that enables a loop walk of 16.6km, instead of a return walk of almost 20kms. We finally reached the junction of the Devass Gully and Blowhard Tracks, and the views were brilliant, with expansive views of the lake, and national park, in all directions.

The Blowhard Summit peak is about 573m, so named because it is always blowing hard. Today the breeze was most welcome. From this summit it was time to make our descent along the Merlo Lookout Track. During this section there was a 250m decline of 900m. Sandie was so close to completing it unscathed, but an unintentional snow skiing and water slide manoeuvre, happened in the last few steps. Fortunately, "Nurse on Call" was only a shoulder tap away, and once attended to, we all walked with a sense of achievement back to the cars.



There was no rest for the wicked because Sunday required another early assembly at 8am. Today's forecast was for 13C, bang on the average this weekend. An early morning downpour greened things up a little more.

A short drive led us to the Lower Pondage Walk, a flat walk of under an hour to start the day. Our next destination was a short drive away, Foggs Lookout for morning tea. The sun was still shining, but today there was a wind chill factor that would make a fur seal want to wear a duck down jacket. However, great views of the valleys, and Lake Eildon, were afforded. Once morning tea was consumed, it was time for the main event.

The Pinnacle Walking Track is classed as a grade 4, about 10km, and a four hour return walk. Today that is what we would aim to do. The track begins south of the Jerusalem Creek campsites. I think the first section of the walk has a somewhat magical quality about it, unlike the experiences of the previous day.

There is a dense green carpet-like grass in places, some muddy sections, and shady canopies of trees and bushes in parts, while walking alongside a flowing stream. After crossing a small bridge, the easiest part of the walk was behind us, and a steady climb, with occasional respite, would take us to the summit.

Yesterday moss was evident everywhere, but the track today had more wildflowers, and the opportunity to take close-up photos was taken periodically. After hiking about 4km, we reached Rocky Spur, a junction that made a good lunch spot.

The breeze wasn't getting any warmer, and so everyone agreed to the final trek of about one kilometre to the summit. Packs weren't required, so a number took the opportunity to leave them at this point. Rain jackets however made their first appearance for the day, as clouds and rain on some of the surrounding peaks looked more ominous than they had been all day. Our raincoats would now be used in yo-yo like fashion, in that they were on again off again for much of the rest of the walk.

Towards the Pinnacle Summit the terrain changed again, to a rockier ground in some places. It wasn't long before the 915m summit was reached. From here the views were far more satisfying than I remembered. We could see the Lake back towards the Jerusalem Inlet, and the arm of the Lake that fronts the Jamieson block of the National Park.

In addition to the lake views, other surrounding peaks were visible, thanks to our current elevation. After taking in the views for the final time, and the customary group photo, it was simply a matter of retracing our steps back to the cars, where the final round of Allens snakes were consumed for the last time this weekend. [Michael]

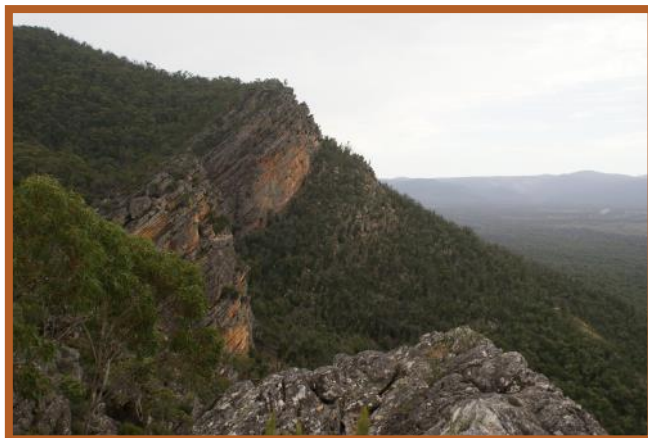
Grampians Peak Trail

The Grampians Peaks Trail is now fully open, and it's time to plan a walk at this amazing venue.

The Peaks Trail extends for about 160km, and can be enjoyed via day walks, or from end-to-end (the Trail includes 12 campsites).

As well, there will be demountable huts at the Gar (Mount Difficult) and Werdug (Lake War-tok) campsites.

See grampianspeaks.com.au, or the Parks Victoria website, for more details.



Lake Benalla : September 15

This was an easy walk around Lake Benalla, and its environs, including where the Broken River flows out of the Lake.

Our small group had a delightful morning, walking around the Lake, plus briefly following the Broken River downstream of the weir to visit some very special trees.

Other items of interest included the Art Gallery, the Ceramic Wall, and the Analemmatic Sundial; these sundials typically have a ball on a flagpole, with the sundial face (the time of day) painted, or etched, onto the pavement below.

So, after about six kilometres of easy ambling, we enjoyed lunch at the superb gallery! [Andy]



Master Plan for the Buckland Valley

The state government has recently announced a new master plan for recreational activities in the Buckland Valley, as shown at the web address "engage.vic.gov.au/buckland-valley-state-forest-recreation-master-plan".

The Buckland is one of the main tributaries of the Ovens River, and joins the Ovens near Porepunkah.

Amongst the infrastructure proposals are some new walking trails that follow the Buckland River quite closely.

Mount Barambogie: September 19

For this interesting adventure we met at Rotary Park at 8.30am, organised the plan for the day, and headed off to the Hume Freeway, and the Chiltern-Beechworth Road, where we would meet up with some more walkers from Myrtleford.

Mount Barambogie is located about 15km south-west of Chiltern, stands at about 500m, and was our destination on this very enjoyable springtime walk.

Having a parked our vehicles about a kilometre west of Gravel Pit Road, we headed west on Barambogie Road, before swinging to the south on Bear Track, and to some fallen tree trunks for morning tea.

Continuing on led us to PX Track, where we went slightly further to the west, before cutting across country to Mount Barambogie Road. The ascent of Mount Barambogie itself led us to a great lunch spot, and we enjoyed some superb views, as well as very comfortable seating in the rocky surrounds.



The descent from the Mount involved some more cross-country work, and we were soon down at PX Track.

On the way, my GPS had problems finding sufficient satellites to function properly, and therefore its compass stopped working. The last time this happened it was a very sunny day, and I could use the mid-day sun as my guiding light. Not so today, and I had to borrow one of those old-fashioned (but very reliable) magnetic compasses to maintain a north-west heading on this off-track section.

An unmarked track off PX Track then took us across a low saddle to some interesting rock-gardens, and then via a gradual descent back to the start, via some beautiful moss gardens.

This was a moderate graded walk of about 14km, and other than my GPS throwing a wobbly, there were no problems on the walk. The nineteen of us (in two pods) had mostly blue skies, albeit a bit cloudy at times. Barambogie is an interesting venue, one that we haven't visited since July 2017.

On the way home, Jeanette kindly took us to Clear Creek Falls (near Eldorado), and here we enjoyed a nice three kilometre ramble down to, and along, the creek banks. The cascades/waterfalls/water-slides were amazing, and very photogenic. Making our way back to the cars, we all agreed it had been a very full day, with about 18km showing on our hi-tech watches. [Chris]

Bibbulmun Track

This world-class track leads from Perth to Albany, stretching for about 1000km from end-to-end. The track starts at Kalamunda, in the hill country south of Perth, and finishes at the historic city of Albany, on the south coast.

Registrations are now open for the annual 9-day Bibbulmun and Beyond Tour (covering highlights of the track, departing May 2, 2022) as organised by the The Bibbulmun Track Foundation.

This is a not-for-profit community organisation established to provide support for the management, maintenance and marketing of the Bibbulmun Track.

They have been running the Bibbulmun and Beyond tour for many years, and have produced a first-class itinerary which showcases the very best sections of the Track.

All proceeds from this event go towards ensuring that Bibbulmun remains a world-class venue.



Loggers Lane - Wenhams Loop : September 25

This was an event that was originally envisaged as part of the visit to the Warby Ranges by the Boroondara Bushwalkers from Melbourne. As with many other events, this one was cancelled because of restrictions imposed by covid-19. However, it was decided to still offer a weekend of walks in the Ranges.

Today's walk involved walking from the corner of Wangandery Road and Gerritts Road to Wenhams Camp (for lunch) and then return via a different route.

We formed two pods for this walk, with the second (slower) group observing and photographing all of the wildflowers, and grass-trees, that we came across. This second pod caught up at track junctions briefly, and finally at Wenham's camp, where we incidentally met up with the Border Bushwalking Club going in the opposite direction.

Setting off at about 9.30, we had morning tea at the junction of Loggers Lane and Stypandra Track, and then continued towards Taylors Track. On the way we enjoyed nice views of the Ovens River Flood Plain, seeing a wedge-tailed eagle high above us, and many colonies of grass-trees.



At morning tea we were visited by two wombats (one large, one small), both of whom scarpered away when they heard all of our chatter. Moving on, we turned north at an un-named single-file track that provides a very scenic loop around to Taylors Track.

In this section we enjoyed some nice rocky scenery, the beautiful blooms of the spur-winged wattle, and some more views (including Wangaratta, and the distant high country).

We then made a gradual descent to Wenhams Camp, where lunch was enjoyed, sat at the picnic tables. The Camp was quite busy (with campers) and obviously people were taking advantage of the Grand Final long weekend.

After a leisurely lunch, we started the return journey, taking a myriad number of single-file tracks to the north. This took us through some amazing stands of spur-wing wattles, and grass-trees, and eventually back to our vehicles.

This completed a five hour journey for the 17 of us (in two pods) and our great day was completed by the traditional hot drink and biscuits, albeit socially-distanced from each other.

Many Thanks to Yve (for leading the second pod), Michael (for organising the GPS route map), and Pat for an excellent afternoon tea. [Chris]

Alpine Views Track : September 26

There were 20 participants on this walk, and we had two pods, so as to comply with the covid-19 restrictions.

Having met at Rotary Park, we headed off to the starting point of the walk, Wenhams Camp.

The distance planned for walk was about 12 kilometres, and we had a beautiful sunny day, with a temperature of about 17C.

Setting off, we walked past the new sign-post at Wenhams, and walked to Kwat Kwat Look-out, where we had a very scenic morning tea.

We then retreated slightly so as to take Friends Track, and then Alpine Views Track down to Boilerwood Track.

Here we turned left (not the normal right-turn) so as to check out a newly documented cascade/waterfall.

We all agreed that it's very scenic, but it was not running as well as it was a few weeks ago, when Yve and myself walked here for the first time.



Returning to the normal route, we took the turn-off to Mount Warby, had lunch on the way to this local peak (at a scenic rocky outcrop) and then continued to the Mount, and then downhill to Wenhams where we had a very enjoyable afternoon tea.

Total travel time was about five hours, and we voted Alpine Views Track as the best walk in the Warby Ranges.

Wenhams Camp was quite busy with bushwalkers, and mountain bike riders, and we encountered several bushwalkers/cyclists on the track; the Long Weekend was obviously quite popular. [Chris]

Warby Ranges North-South : October 2-3

Several walks on the weekend of October 2-3 were organised to celebrate the IUCN "greenlisting" of WONP, which now has international status (the first National Park in Victoria to achieve this status) plus our Club's 40 plus birthday year! The main aim was to walk our beloved Warby Range over one weekend. Despite an ominous weather forecast, the rain held off until some of us started to descend Mt Glenrowan at 4pm on Sunday, after covering 40 plus kilometres!!

Part 1 : Saturday, 2nd October

This hard walk of 22 kms, started from the Boweya Road/Tower Road intersection, and headed south. However, if it wasn't for new member Tracy, and her partner, we may not have got to the nominated starting point, as there was a large tree over the dirt road.

We set off towards Mount Killawara for morning tea, and once there the sun was shining, and the views were great. Next stop was the Spring Creek picnic area for lunch.

Once we reached Wangandary Road, some walkers left the event, after trekking 14.6 km.

The rest of us continued along Logger's Lane towards Wenham's, with rain jackets used during a very brief shower.



Part 2 : Sunday, 3rd October

A substantial group of walkers in two pods, covered most of the rest of the Warby Range from Wenham's to Taminick Gap. Morning tea was taken at a gorgeous rocky spot off Spot Mill Track, looking over great views to the west.

Lunch was enjoyed at another rarely visited rocky outcrop, just before we entered a small piece of private land. Permission being obtained for the last amble down to Taminick Gap, where many cars were waiting.

Then a small number continued on to Mount Glenrowan, and down to Morrison's Winery as the rains arrived, with two brave souls – Jeanette and Sonia, being the only club members to cover the 40 plus kilometres in two days!

[Andy]

Grass-Tree Loop, and part of Friends Track-Alpine Views Track : October 2

There were 16 of us on this walk (in two pods), and starting out from Wenhams Camp, the distance planned for this walk was about eight kilometres. This was the soft option for those who wanted to walk today, but didn't want to tackle the two day "Warby Range : North to South" event.

We had a sunny day, with some increasing cloud cover; the max temp being about 20C, and our route took us north from Wenhams picnic area, then the narrow pathway that leads to Booth Road.

After a quick dog-leg, we continued on the single file track (on the other side of Booth Road) eventually looping back to the track between Wenhams and Mount Warby.

Scenery was excellent in this section, with several rocky outcrops, and lots of grass-trees.

Meeting up with Booth Road, once more, we turned right towards Mount Warby, and then north to pick up a section of Friends Track.

Lunch was enjoyed at Kwat Kwat Lookout, and we then walked back to Wenhams for afternoon tea.

Overall, a very enjoyable walk; the wildflowers, and flowering shrubs, had put on a great show for us, and towards the end of the walk we came across a large goanna scrambling up a tree.

Many Thanks to Yve for sorting out the paperwork for four new members, and to Cecily for leading the second pod (we split into two pods, so as to stay within the guidelines of the covid-19 restrictions). [Chris]



Wildlife of the Box-Ironbark Country

Chris Tzaros, a renowned wildlife photographer, has produced a new edition of his excellent book *Wildlife of the Box-Ironbark Country* (CSIRO Publishing, October 2021). The book provides 274 pages of in-depth coverage of all aspects of the wildlife to be found in the subject area, and is a great resource. This very thorough publication sells for \$49.95, and is also available as an ebook (about \$35).

Woolshed Falls and Beechworth Historic Park : October 17

Two groups of walkers met at the Powder Magazine car park in Beechworth for what promised to be a satisfying day's walking. Nothing to do with cosmetics, the Powder Magazine building was built in 1859 and housed the gunpowder which was used during the prosperous mining days in the area.

Dividing the group into two groups of 10 was reminiscent of organising a class of year seven students, but finally achieved. My group of 10 walkers hit the trail a little after 9am, and headed for One Tree Hill.

Today's walk was the first time some had undertaken one for a while. Shirley was wondering about her level of fitness. Surely Shirley shouldn't suffer soreness shuffling some slightly steep sheltered sections. That's what I was thinking.

This first section is a pleasurable walk along a bush track through forest, with a small stream crossing the path as you gradually wind your way up to the top. From this point the group followed the well-defined One Tree Track towards Ingram's Rock.

James Ingram was a well-known local identity. He established a newsagency, and helped found the Beechworth Hospital and Primary School.

The large granite rock that now bears his name was chosen as a morning tea place because of the fine views overlooking the surrounding land. Towards the end of our break the second group, led by Jeanette, had arrived and so it was time for us to depart.



My group re-traced its steps back along the track before taking the sign towards Fiddes Quarry, following a narrow bush track. The quarry was soon reached, the source of the granite used for building during the gold rush era.

Our next point of interest, The Precipice, is a lookout above the one-time goldfields. This vantage point provided some of the best views so far, and we all took in the scene before us. Sandi, who has been known to throw her cosy into her pack, was informed that the inviting ponds or dams we could see before us, were not the swimming kind.

Prior to checking out this walk, the original plan from this point was to continue down a steep track, and towards the creek somewhere below the Cascades. However, a Parks Victoria sign said the track was no longer suitably maintained, and the bridge no longer existed. As I explained to the group, had we

all been in our twenties I am sure we would have ignored all information and continued. Instead, and possibly more wisely, we followed a track which would take us back, all in one piece, to One Tree Track.

It wasn't long before we arrived back at the One Tree Hill car park where more afternoon visitors had now arrived. We proceeded back down the section we had earlier climbed towards Gorge Road. We followed this sealed road down to the bridge where decent seasonal rain meant that all waterfalls would be flowing well.

A sign from the road pointed us in the direction of the track, which would now follow Spring Creek. Shortly after beginning this section, I came face to face with a small goanna. It was climbing a tree just metres in front of me. Other walkers who were closely behind also spotted the goanna as it proceeded to rapidly ascend the tree, and then stretch across to another higher tree which provided better camouflage.

A little further on we reached the Cascades where a brief look was on offer before continuing. Once down the hill we were now in Woolshed Valley which was home to thousands of miners during the height of the Gold Rush in the 1850's. The area still has many deep mine shafts on either side of the track (a hazard for absent-minded walkers).

The earlier rapid flowing water of Spring Creek now transformed into a pleasant quieter movement. This section of track was boggy, and sodden in places. New member Carolyn tested one area by demonstrating it was up to ankle depth. Diversions around the usual track were now appropriate.

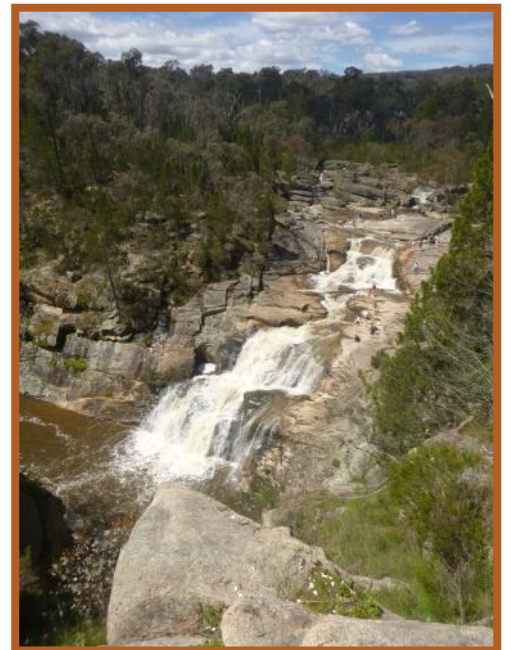
A couple of turnstiles on farming property later, and we were soon nearing Woolshed Falls. Just as you approach the Falls, the gorge that the river runs through has some good views. Upon arriving at the Falls, lunch was taken at a nearby table, and surrounding grass areas.

On today's walk we welcomed Heather, who is originally from Scotland. Over lunch Carmel and I discovered Heather can do pretty good English accents, including singer Adele's cockney-like speaking voice. I think her next impersonation should be Adele's singing voice.

The warmer weather had many visitors to the area today. Jeanette's group was not far behind us, and they made their way to the Falls for lunch. After lunch, my group of walkers proceeded down to the Falls for some photo opportunities, before heading to the viewing platform for paramount views of the Falls.

The return walk was back the way we had come. Sometimes walking in the opposite direction seems different. I don't remember climbing over that tree. For others it was "where did that steel bridge come from?" It was also interesting to note how people observe things, and pass that on to others. I would usually point out to others at a safe observation distance a newly swarming hive of bees. But that's just me.

Our final ascent needed some incentive, and so the Allens snakes made their usual appearance. Approaching the Cascades for a second time, I encouraged everyone to a point where we admired the Cascades for a few minutes. From here we made it back to the bridge, at which point the second group once again began to arrive. Walking along the sealed road again to the cars we completed the 17km walk, with a final Allens snake offering, and afternoon tea courtesy of Pat. [Michael]



Clear Creek Falls : October 23-24

This weekend was originally programmed for Typo Station, in the Rose River Valley, but because of covid-19 restrictions, that event had to be deferred to next year. The walks to the Clear Creek Waterfalls were quickly organised, and were each attended by 15 members, divided into two groups for the Saturday, and Sunday.

On Saturday, one group headed off along Old Coach Road (near Eldorado) to a vehicle track which would lead the way towards the Falls on Clear Creek.

They had morning tea by the Falls, and then continued along the Creek, enjoying the cascades, before completing a loop to the vehicle track, and back to Old Coach Road, and the starting point.

Meanwhile the other group headed off along Ramsays Track, to Lonies Gap Road, where they met up with another bushwalking group who informed them of an additional waterfall to see, located a little further along Mulls Track

This was excellent information to come across, and the group continued on, to the second waterfall, and then returned to the starting point.

When the two groups of walkers crossed paths, near the starting point, the information was passed on about the additional waterfall, and the two groups then proceeded on, to the other part of their walk.

Many thanks to Sara, and her navigation skills, having led one of the groups on Saturday without having completed the walk herself previously, particularly when part of this walk was off track.

On Sunday, Michael and myself led the walkers along the same routes, with morning tea held in the perfect spot for viewing the extra waterfall along Mulls Track.

The Clear Creek Falls are well worth a look, particularly after the recent rains, and the wildflowers were out in abundance. [Jeanette]



Killawarra Forest Camp : October 26

This walk was deferred from October 21, because of wet conditions in the Killawarra Forest, but we finally made it, on a glorious sunny day.

As has become our usual practice during the pandemic, we met at Rotary Park, and then travelled in convoy (without car sharing) to the start, at the Forest Camp, Killawarra.

The distance planned for the two walks was about eight kilometres (2 x 4 kilometres), and we set off for the first loop, admiring the wildflowers (including the chocolate lily) on the way.

Returning to the start, the 10 of us had morning tea in the gazebo at the Camp, having passed comment on the very poor maintenance of the track we had just completed.

Heading for the second loop, we followed forestry tracks, passing through some beautiful stands of ironbark, and crossing Irishtown Creek, before returning to the start.

A lazy lunch was enjoyed at the gazebo, and then we headed for home. Not only was the bushwalk very enjoyable, but so too was the drive into, and out of the forest.



Both loops are rated as easy (apart from a dilapidated bridge, and some fallen trees) and the day went well. [Chris]

Bondi to Manly Guidebook

The walks trail from Bondi to Manly covers about 80km of Sydney Harbour waterfrontage, and meanders around the Harbour's amazing coastline in a very interesting way.

The guidebook "The Bondi to Manly Walk" (produced by New-South publishing) describes all of the action in 190 detailed pages, and is a great read. Not only does it motivate people like myself to go and do it, but it also has excellent coverage of the geography and history of the Harbour.

The walk takes about nine days from end-to-end, but is easily broken down into full-day, half-day, or multi-day adventures, with all of the public transport logistics being fully described by the author, Tara Wells.

Like many "bushwalks" this one has a few water crossings to tackle, the most notable being the Sydney Harbour Bridge; this is a mere 1.1km, taking about 30 minutes from the base of the south pylon, to the base of the north pylon.

Tara's track notes includes details of many conveniently located eateries, accommodation options, and maps of each section. What more could we ask for? Let's go and do it!! [photograph, copyright Destination NSW]

Other resources on the Bondi Manly Walk include,

www.bonditomanly.com

sydney.com/things-to-do/nature-and-parks/walks/bondi-to-manly-walk

hellobondi.com.au/walks/bondi-to-manly-walk



Cup Day Walk, Thistle Hill, King Valley : November 2

What a beautiful day it was, for the now traditional Cup Day walk, this time in the delightful King Valley.

A group of energetic people had booked in to walk the ridge that divides the King Valley from the Myrrhee Valley; some travelled out from Wangaratta, others went directly to Honey's Lane, the finishing point of the walk.

From Honey's Lane, we drove off to nearby Peiper's Lane to start the walk, and after parking alongside a vineyard, we walked up a steady incline, increasing in gradient as we came closer to the top of the hill.

Here, it was great to find some shade, and great views, for a well earned morning tea stop.

We then headed north along the ridge, which gave us more amazing views, of both the Myrrhee and King Valleys.

The sky was blue, with a smattering of white clouds, which made for spectacular pictures of the landscape (see the second photo - the caption for this reads "please stay in a straight line for this section of the walk").

With permission from some local landholders we were fortunate to have great tracks to tramp on for most of the walk.

Continuing on, some walkers chose to amble up to a nearby trig point, while others met them by



walking on the low road, to enjoy lunch on a grassy slope, with more great views.

There were beautiful wildflowers to see in the bush, and some very interested cattle in the lunch paddock.

After lunch, the horses were drawn for the Cup Sweep, so we were all prepared for the big event. We then walked a little further along the ridge, before tackling a steep descent down to farmland, and the waiting cars.

We all enjoyed the 10km walk, and it was followed up with a lovely time spent together at the Red Feet Winery, just north of Whitfield. Platters of food, and some glasses of wine, were enjoyed by those in attendance, as we watched the 161st Melbourne Cup Race, outdoors on TV.

In the sweep, the main winner was Lef, who now is the proud holder of the magnificent club trophy for the next 12 months. Yve, Kath and Glenda were also victors with their horses, as drawn in the sweep. [Anne]

South Walk, Mt Buffalo : November 6

This interesting walk was attended by 17 participants, and the first challenge was driving the winding road to the top of the Mount Buffalo Plateau, during which we were slowed down by thick fog, limiting our vision.

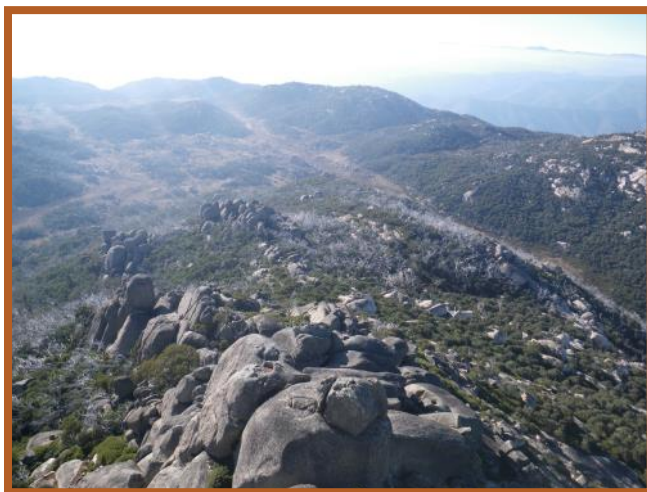
Starting from Cresta Valley, the South Walk is approximately 8.5k, with elevation varying from around 1475m to around 1600m, through snowgum meadows, small plains and many rocky outcrops.

Parts of the area we walked through had been burnt in previous bushfires, and it was good to see the snowgums, and other plants, making their comeback. Along the route, and from our lunch spot at the South Buffalo View Point, we had views to The Horn, and to Lake Buffalo.

However, the fog was still blocking our views to the Buckland Valley and the Alps; to compensate for this, the return walk had views to The Hump and The Cathedral.

Afternoon tea was enjoyed back at Cresta Valley, before departing for home.

The forecast for the day, afternoon showers, and the chance of a thunderstorm, was fortunately delayed until after we arrived back at Wangaratta. [Jeanette]



Mount Jack : November 21

Mount Jack is located on the northern side of the scenic Rosewhite Gap, and this is where 12 members of Warby Walkers headed to, on a beautiful spring day.

As the walk involved some car-shuffling, it took some time before we all got to the starting point, so it was time for morning tea before we even started, but it meant socializing and discussing our options for the day, so this was fine.

The walk started with a fairly steep section on "Mount Jack Track", which soon evened out to an undulating track towards the summit.

The elevation of Mount Jack is just a bit above 1200M, so the coolness was refreshing, and the weather overall was perfect; mainly sunny with a pleasant temperature that made it feel like early summer.

The forecast, only a couple of days earlier, had been for lots of rain, so we were all very grateful for how it turned out.

The landscape that we were surrounded by was tall mature natural forest. There were also plenty of wildflowers for us to enjoy, and lots of bird life.



The group walked a total of between 7 and 11km, depending on the route chosen, and at the end of the walk we all enjoyed an afternoon "cuppa", before we said "see you next time". [Marita]

Bushwalking Etiquette and Safety

Each person should make every effort to stay with the group.

If you are having trouble keeping up, you must inform the leader.

Fast walkers should restrain themselves, and stay with the group.

Each person must at all times be able to see the next person in front of them,
and the next person behind them.

If you become separated for whatever reason, you must immediately call out (or blow your whistle).

No person is to leave the group without informing another person, not even for a nature call.

Every person is responsible for being appropriately attired and equipped.

The leader must be informed of any health issues prior to starting out.

Grading of Walks

Easy: To about 12km, generally on tracks in flat terrain with climbs to 200m.

These walks are suitable for most people of average fitness.

Medium (Long): As for Easy but with distances up to 18km,

possible with some cross country sections and/or climbs over 200m.

A reasonable level of fitness, and some bushwalking experience is recommended.

Medium (Climbs): 12 to 18kms. Walks may include some rough terrain, "scrub bashing",
and possibly sustained climbs of up to 600m.

A reasonable level of fitness, and some bushwalking experience is recommended.

Hard: Distances greater than 18km, and/or climbs over 600m, in any combination.

These walks should only be undertaken by fit and experienced walkers.

We also use the Australian Walking Track Grading System -

see the Walks Program page on our website for more details.



Eildon, September 2021