



NEWSLETTER 1 (January), 2018

warbybushwalkers.org.au

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2018 Walking Year, and what a great year we have to look forward to. As well as a nicely varied Walks Program there are two 'not to be missed events' - a weekend at Mount Buller, and our annual week away, taking in the Great South West Walk. See later in this Newsletter, and on our website, for more details of these.

Closer to hand, our annual Xmas Party is to be held on Friday, December 8th at the Glenrowan Rifle Range, Rifle Range Road, Glenrowan. BYO drinks and meat for a BBQ. Crockery, cutlery and chairs provided. See later in this Newsletter for more details.

Annual General Meeting, 2018

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

Dinner will commence from 6pm (full a-la-carte menu) and our guest speaker will take to the microphone at 7.30pm.

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

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

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

Seven Creeks, Euroa, and Strathbogie Ranges, September 9

On this Spring day, 18 people ambled along the delightful, and well maintained, seven kilometre track that follows Seven Creeks on both banks.

Morning tea was enjoyed back at the barbeque area starting place, and finished at the same spot, where Pat's famous cuppa and lunch was taken, with a relaxing view over the small weir.

Later, six of the group decided to climb up Balmattum Hill just across the Hume Highway from Euroa (which means joyful in the local Taungurong language)

A short walk took us to a rocky summit, with stunning views of the township and the valleys around.

It was obvious that Hume and Hovell in 1824 would have used the clear view southwards to plan their next few days of exploration.

[Andy Kimber]



Mount Meg, September 20

On a warm, sunny, clear and windless morning, 11 enthusiastic walkers headed out from Amery Road into a more open section of one of the Mt Meg reserves.

We ambled up Dave's Hill through acres of gorgeous blue and white flowers.



On the bare rocky summit, we delighted in a 200 degree plus view across green and glistening yellow (canola) paddocks to the Warby Ranges. We discovered many rock wells created by the local aboriginal people, who would have used this location as a major look-out place.

The group climbed along the lightly wooded granite ridge for two kilometres before dropping off to the west and then followed roo tracks back around the site of Canaan College, to the cars.

Once again, Pat's cuppa and delicious fresh biscuits were enjoyed as we ate lunch in the shade of trees planted many years ago in the garden of a very early homestead (now in ruins).

[Andy Kimber]

Lockharts Gap to Tallangatta Lookout, September 23

Adele Ritchie introduced six intrepid walkers to the lower section of the Eskdale Spur (which connects Mt Bogong with Tallangatta township) on this enjoyable adventure.

In warm, cloudy and windy conditions (with threatening thunder clouds later in the day) the group was to cover 19kms, mainly downhill.



After a brief car shuffle, four-wheel drive tracks were followed, with some considerable navigation needed to keep to the correct track, as the main spur descended and divided.

Forecast rain and low cloud managed to hold off, so that great views of snow-capped mountains, Lake Hume, Tallangatta and the valleys of the Mitta Mitta and Kiewa were appreciated.

After five hours of hard hiking, a cuppa was thoroughly enjoyed by the club members, as well as great views from the Lookout.

Whorouly South Loop, October 7

A fine Spring day was enjoyed by 14 walkers, taking part in Erin's Walk of Surprises at Whorouly South; a pleasing venue in rural surrounds with creeks, billabongs, and bush areas, set amongst dairy farms and vineyards.

The walk was about 13km on mostly gravel roads, with gentle hills, and great views to Mt Buffalo, Mt Stanley and the Murrumbidgee Basin.

Our morning tea by the vineyard included a surprise guest speaker, Rolly Matheson, who detailed the history of the area we were walking in. Later on, lunch was enjoyed under shady trees by the roadside.

Further along the track, some garden enthusiasts enjoyed the labours of Rhonda van Heek, a local artist, who indulged our interest in her beautiful garden and artworks.

Following the walk, afternoon tea was held under shady trees in Erin's garden.

Thanks to Erin for organising such a delightful day.

Pangerang Lookout, October 13

In absolutely delightful weather, eight club members ambled along the easy track through masses of flowering Everlastings, Nodding Blue Lillies, Tall Bluebells and Spur Wing Wattle.

The view from the Lookout, looking west, was outstanding, with those spring green and yellow (Canola) fields stretching to the horizon.



The amazing old rock splitting Hill Red Gum on the summit, has been watching that view and sheltering Freddie Dowling's ancestors for many centuries.

After the short walk, a few walkers drove to the Pine Gully Falls car park, and completed the interesting guided walk. The Falls had a small amount of water after the mid-week rains.

[Adrian Twitt]

Friends Track-Alpine Views Track, October 22

Eight happy walkers set out from Wenhams Camp for this nice, moderate rated, adventure of about 12km. The weather was sunny, with increasing cloud cover, the max temp being about 20C.

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.

Continuing our route along Friends Track, we took the detour to Kwat Kwat Lookout (excellent views), and then 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.



Lunch was enjoyed on this very scenic section, and we then staggered back to Wenhams via Mount Warby; overall, a very enjoyable, albeit tiring, walk.

The wildflowers, and flowering shrubs, had put on a great show for us, and apart from a few problems with maps of the area, and the lack of signage on the tracks, this was the perfect walk venue.

[Chris McLaughlin]

Granite Spur/Eskdale Track to Mount Bogong and Cleve Cole Hut, November 4

Despite the obvious attraction of the Wangaratta Jazz and Blues Festival, eight club members lead by (the Dolomite conquering) Bob Shaw, climbed up the slightly shorter route from the Granite Flat Spur car park onto the Eskdale Spur, and then up the steep pitch to the summit of the highest point in Victoria, Mt Bogong (1986 metres) .



From the top, with those fantastic views on such a fine day, the group then walked on a well - formed path, and still on the Bogong Plateau, to Cleve Cole Hut.

The famous memorial hut is set just below the tree line, and is sheltered on a saddle with plenty of protection from the elements. Returning from the Hut, the descent was completed in a few hours with enough time for this hardy bunch to enjoy Saturday night back at the Jazz Festival in Wangaratta. [Bob Shaw]

[The Cleve Cole Hut commemorates the work of a pioneer skier of the high country who died in August 1936. Cleve Cole, and other members of his party, were caught out in bad weather on the southern slopes of Mount Bogong, and eventually had to be rescued by another party, after having endured several days of appalling alpine conditions.

Cleve was taken to the Omeo Hospital but died there, having been treated for all of the effects of frostbite and hypothermia.

The Memorial Hut was erected by volunteer labour during the summer of 1937-1938, and is still maintained by local volunteers.

The Hut was given a Victorian Heritage Listing in 1988, and is recognised as being one of the most substantial of the high country huts (it is constructed of local stone).

See Harry Stephenson's masterpiece *Ski-ing the High Plains* for more details; Janis Lloyd's *Ski-ing into History* also covers this event. Both books have been out of print for a long time, but many libraries still have a copy of both titles.]

Lake Moodemere, Wahgunyah, November 2 (Cup Day)

This year's Cup Day walk, of about 10km around Lake Moodemere at Wahgunyah, was attended by 18 members.

We had a fine and sunny day with a light breeze, and morning tea was held beside the Lake, admiring the water skiing.

We then continued on the track to reach the Murray River, and walked alongside it, until we reached the vineyard of Pfeiffer Wines. Here, we were joined by five other members, spouses and partners for lunch on the lawns at Pfeiffers.

Lunch consisted of shared plates of finger food, including quiches, sandwiches, fruit platters and chicken, with Pfeiffers wines of course.



Fashions on the field was a well attended event, and Roger won the "best race hat". Cup cakes provided the horse for the sweep, which was won by Karen for the 3rd time.

[Jeanette Farquhar]

Mount Pilot and Yeddonba Aboriginal Art Site, November 18

Lesley Finedon led nine people on this medium walk from the Yeddonba Indigenous area car park, which is directly below the impressive granite cliffs of Mt Pilot.

We covered about 16kms on country lanes through thick forest, as we circled around the peak.

On the way, several large kangaroos, and a very noisy grunting koala, were spied close to the tracks.



From the summit, superb views were enjoyed, with the added drama of very dark clouds racing in our direction.

Somehow, we managed to dodge the big showers, and arrived back at Yeddonba with plenty of time to visit the impressive aboriginal site.

Mount Beauty Weekend, November 24-26

Thirty two members signed up for this superbly organised Mt Beauty weekend.

On Saturday, about 9kms were covered by everyone, on a section of the Kiewa Hydro Scheme. We were impressed by the engineering work involved with the 1960's aqueduct and tramway near Clover Dam, with water being diverted from Bogong Creek into Clover Power Station.



On Saturday night, a BYO BBQ was enjoyed, with the high point being the celebrations involved with Erin's 50th birthday, and the consumption of a (possibly) one metre high kiwi fruit (with lots of added chocolate and strawberries) dominated pavlova!!

On Sunday, four walks were offered; easy walks around Mountain Creek car park, with a small group; another journey from the car

park to the base of Eskdale spur; the climb up to Mt Emu and return, and finally the popular Bogong summit walk from Granite Spur.

A huge approaching storm prevented the group of 12 exploring other features of the Bogong Plateau, and they quickly descended without being rained upon.

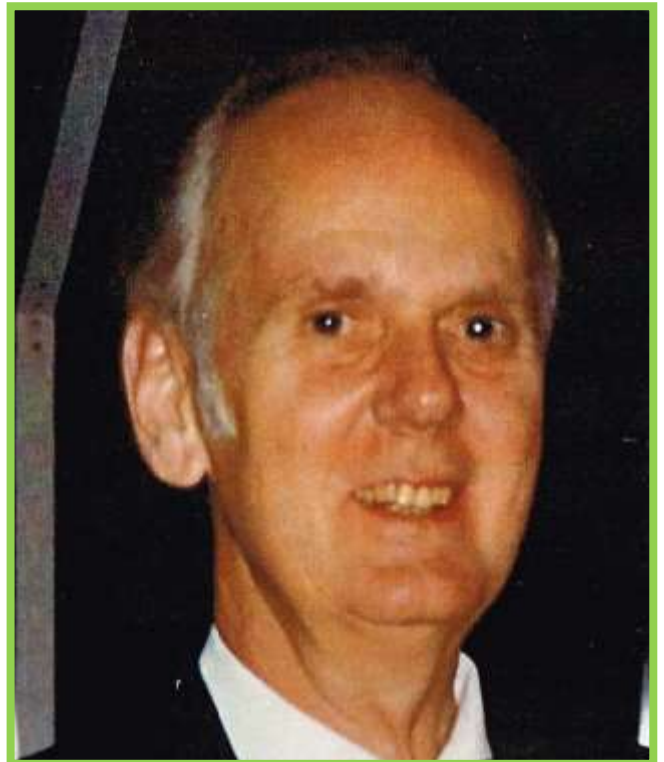
Many Thanks to Bob and Judy Shaw for another great weekend of walking.

More news items . . .

VALE ROLF HEETEL, LIFE MEMBER

Those of us who knew Rolf Heetel, Life member of the Warby Range Bushwalkers, were saddened by his recent death.

Rolf was a foundation member of the Club, and relished its activities. Being an outdoor enthusiast, he organized many of the weekend camping trips in the High Country - Mt Buffalo and the Bogong High Plains being favourites. He led walks to many of his favourite places, including Mt Cobbler, the Black Range, Blue Rag Range and others.



Rolf also organized the Club's weeks away to the Warrumbungles (1989), Kosciusko National Park (1992), and the Otways (1996), and participated in many others.

When the Club became incorporated, he was the formation President, a position he held during subsequent years. Many of the committee meetings in those years were held at the Heetel's home, enjoying the hospitality of Rolf's wife, Alexia. Rolf was a true gentleman.

The only child of German parents, he was born in Wangaratta in 1932. Rolf's father operated a very successful furniture manufacturing business in Wangaratta, and their former shop, and upstairs residence, still stands in Murphy Street.

The family made an untimely trip to Germany in 1939 to visit relatives, intending to be absent from Wangaratta for three months. War broke out while they were there.

They had their passports confiscated and had to report daily to the Nazi authorities, in the next town. Rolf, a seven year old, literally had to hide from the Hitler Youth to escape their activities, which he felt were pure brainwashing.

Trapped in Europe, the family were unable to return to Australia until 1948, but their furniture business had been left in good hands during their absence. Unfortunately, manufacturing became increasingly difficult over the years, but the shop continued.

Rolf, who found the disruptions to his schooling made it impossible to continue education when he returned, served as a furniture apprentice, and took up the reins of the business. Heetel Furniture had an excellent reputation for quality and service, but sadly it closed on Rolf's retirement.

Rolf's activities in the Bushwalking Club were curtailed in the last ten years by failing health. He and Lexie were avid travellers, and enjoyed many trips within Australia, and overseas.

We will miss Rolf.

[Adrian Twitt]

Christmas Party – Friday, December 8

The Warby Walker's Christmas Party is being held again this year at the Glenrowan Rifle Range, Rifle Range Road, Glenrowan.

BYO drinks and meat for a BBQ. Crockery, cutlery and chairs are provided. Contact Judy on 5766 2773 to book, and to bring either a sweet or a salad to share.

To get to the venue, drive through the main street of Glenrowan past the Ned Kelly statue. Proceed on the road towards Melbourne. There will be the Glenrowan Football Oval and a large dam on your left.

Continue driving over the overpass, with the Hume Freeway underneath your vehicle. Then turn immediately left after seeing the Freeway, onto Rifle Range Road. Proceed for about 800 metres along Rifle Range Road, then turn left into the Rifle Range where the club rooms are located.

Where to meet for the start of our bushwalks

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

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

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

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

See the map later in the newsletter for more details.

Private & Confidential – Personal Health Details Emergency Information

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

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

may require urgent treatment, but be unable to convey this information yourself.

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

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

Great South West Walk—Annual Week Away 2018

The organising committee for next year's week away has met several times to discuss the agenda for the week, and things are looking really good.



There will be 43 walkers taking part in the GSWW, and the walks program will cover all aspects of the GSSW, as well as many of the natural features of south-west Victoria.

It is planned to have a long walk (14-18km) offered each day, as well as shorter options (4-8km). Wednesday has been designated as the official rest day, with a range of short walks on offer. Wednesday will also be the day when we step out to enjoy the excellent meal at the historic Macs Hotel in Portland.

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

Bushwalking Victoria—bulletin

Amongst the items of interest covered in the latest BWV bulletin is this one about the Alpine National Park.

Volunteer recruitment is now open for the 2017/2018 season of Falls Creek Hawkweed Eradication Program Volunteer Surveys.

As you may know, Hawkweeds are a highly invasive pest plant species which could cause major environmental damage in alpine & sub-alpine areas of Australia if not eradicated early.

Participating in the Falls Creek Volunteer surveys is a great way to help protect the Victorian Alps from this dangerous weed, as well as a fantastic opportunity to enjoy the magnificent alpine environment during the green summer months.

Other items in the same bulletin cover the recent Federation Walks event at Warburton, and a progress report on the new long distance walking track in the Grampians.

See the link to BWV under 'Useful Links' on our website for more on this.

Walks Leader—training

Would you like to lead a day walk for your club?

Would you like to know how to lead a walk safely and effectively?

Bushwalking Victoria is offering a weekend course in leadership for members of clubs who would like to lead walks.

The course will cover the topics of leadership, planning, conducting a walk, risk management, walk administration and emergency management.

The course is given by BWV Board members in a very helpful and informative way where you can meet and work cooperatively with trainee leaders from other clubs.

Please contact Jeanette (0417 546 974), to co-ordinate our registration.

- Date: Saturday & Sunday, April 7-8 2018
- Times: 8.45am - 4pm (earlier finish on Sunday)
- Location: Outdoor Recreation House - Conference Room
Westerfolds Park (Melways 33 G3)
Fitzsimmons Lane, Templestowe
- What do bring: BYO lunch, compass (preferably Silva brand)
pen, grey lead pencils, ruler
- What's provided: Morning & afternoon tea, maps and BMLC book

New Bridge over One Mile Creek

As a precursor to a new bridge over Wangaratta's One Mile Creek, various footpath works will be completed at the end of Turner Street, and the opposite side of the Creek.

The new bridge will provide a creek crossing between Swan Street and Phillipson Street, another link in the city's bike, and walking, pathways; it is expected to be open to bikes/walkers mid 2018.

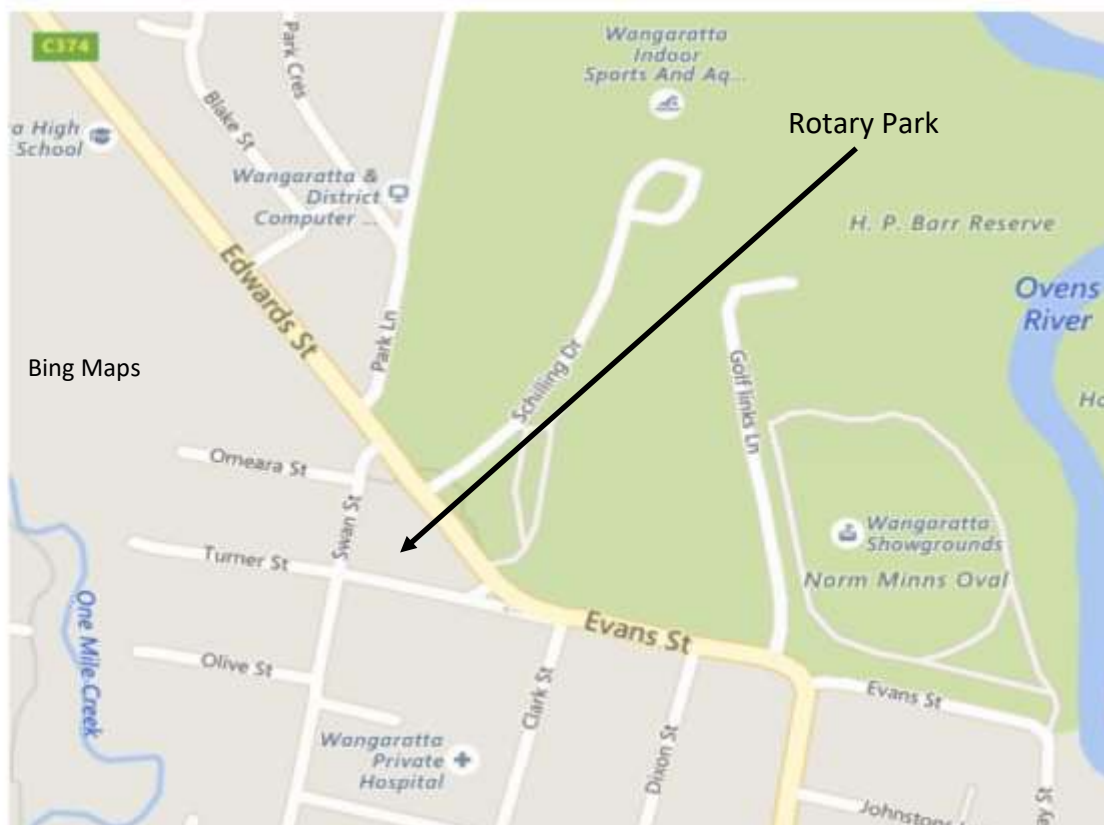
Australian Track Grading System

As mentioned in the April—June Newsletter of 2017, we will be introducing the Australian Track Grading System to our Walks Program documentation.

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



Mount Pilot





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BUSHWALKERS Inc.**

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www.warbybushwalkers.org.au

Committee Nomination Form

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

(Name) _____

(Signature) _____

I second the nomination

(Name) _____

(Signature) _____

I accept the nomination

(Name) _____

(Signature) _____

Please forward the completed form to:

The Secretary

Warby Range Bushwalkers Inc

PO Box 974

Wangaratta, 3676

Private & Confidential – Personal Health Details

Emergency Information

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

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

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

Name:

Address:

Home Phone:

Date of Birth: Car Registration No:

Medicare No. Private Health Ins No.

My doctor: Doctor's phone:

Medical conditions:
.....

Medication taken:
.....

Medication carried:
.....

Allergies:
.....

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

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

- | | | | | | |
|---------|-------|--------------|-------|-------------|-------|
| 1. Name | | Relationship | | Contact Nos | |
| 2. Name | | Relationship | | Contact Nos | |
| 3. Name | | Relationship | | Contact Nos | |

Note 3 **Your personal, medical and “contact” list should be reviewed regularly.**

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

Signed

Date