



WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc.

FUN . FITNESS . FRIENDSHIP

warbybushwalkers.org.au

NEWSLETTER : June, 2022

Welcome to the Autumn-Winter Newsletter; highlights in this edition include the report on the 2022 Week Away, and our AGM.

The winter walking season is upon us, with many perfect sunny days to enjoy some of our favourite walks in the north-east; check the walks program, and pencil in a few dates for a great day in the bush.

Annual General Meeting, 2022

Our 44th ANNUAL DINNER, and AGM, was held at the Plough Inn, Tarrawingee on Monday, March 26th, and was a well attended event, with 60 members present.

During the formal part of the evening our popular outgoing President (Cecily Fletcher) gave a great speech (reproduced on our website blog) and the following office bearers were elected,

Vice-President: Cecily Fletcher

Secretary: Peter Brain

Treasurer: John Walker

Walks Co-ordinator: Jeanette Farquhar

Assistant Walks Coordinator, Michael Braendler

Committee Members: (in alpha order) Kath Gosden, Cheryl Hoystead, Andy Kimber, Chris McLaughlin, Marita Samuelsson, Anne Turnbull and Trevor Turnbull.

There were no nominations for the position of President, and this office remains unfilled.

The guest speaker at the AGM was Rob Humphrey, who gave an excellent talk on "Huts in the High Country and Their Maintenance".

Please remember that subscriptions became due at the AGM, and that they should be renewed as soon as possible.

The subscription renewal form can be found under "General Information" on our website.

Discount at Outdoor Retailers

As mentioned in the December Newsletter, the club is setting up a system whereby a very basic listing of club membership is available to the Adventure Camping store in Wangaratta. The listing will detail each member's last name, and their postcode - nothing else.

The means that members can ask for a "club discount" when purchasing goodies from the store; 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.

THE BIG WALK : MOUNT BUFFALO, MARCH 6

For this high country adventure we set off on Sunday morning from Wangaratta, at about 7.30 am, stopped in Myrtleford to pick up a few more walkers, and then drove up to Mount Buffalo National Park.

The itinerary for the day had three different walks; all included sections of the "Big Walk", and to organise the walkers to get to and from the starting/finishing spots involved some car shuffling.



The longest and hardest walk started at the entry point, and ended up at the Gorge near the Chalet, completing all of The Big Walk, 11km in total.

Those on the medium walk started at Rollasons Falls carpark, and walked up to The Gorge and back, also a distance of 11km, but a bit less strenuous.

The shortest and easiest walk started from The Gorge, and went downhill along the Big Walk, as far as Marriotts Lookout, then returned back to the top, covering about 8km.

As well, some of our walkers walked from the beginning of The Big Walk to the Gorge and returned to Mackeys Lookout, a walk of about 17km. The weather was perfect, with sunshine from a clear blue sky, views over many mountain peaks.

The walk ended with almost everyone having afternoon tea together at the picnic table at Rollasons Falls carpark. Another perfect Sunday. [Marita]



EILDON TORBRECK WEEKEND : MARCH 19 AND 20

On the Saturday morning, ten keen walkers joined up to walk from the lakeside campground at Devil Cove, and set off via the Candlebark Nature Loop, and the Auriferous Spur – Jimmy Spur Circuit.

Candlebark Nature Loop was pretty, with luscious ferns and mining history, but before the real hard work began two members left to do their own thing, (I think the Pondage Walk, and the word market were mentioned).

Meanwhile the team worked their way up Auriferous Spur in the heat of the day, and were rewarded by wonderful views.

Then it was down Jimmy Spur, and along to Devil Cove, and just because we could, we walked a little further to Merlo Lookout, and back to Devil Cove; total distance, 17.5 km. The day was finished off with a meal at the local pub.



Sunday saw seven of us set out to find the track that leads to Mount Torbreck. On the way we visited Snobs Creek Waterfall, and cascades, but then the fun began; don't rely on digital maps. After two false leads, we resorted to the art of actual map reading, and found where we were meant to be.

We walked in for a kilometre, not trusting the forestry track, or the availability of parking, and once the trailhead was found, we had morning tea. We also watched with interest as another intrepid walker relied on digital maps. When he reappeared in his car, we set him right, and then followed the 4WD track to Barnwell Plains. From here we joined up with two other walking parties to tackle the steep, and rocky, footpad up Mount Torbreck; total distance, about 8km. Meanwhile two of our party had decided to return to their car. Thank you to all who joined me at Eildon, I had a great time, and I hope you did to. [Adele]

New Walking Trail in the Snowy Mountains

As described in Snowy Mountains Magazine (Autumn, 2022), a new 55km walking trail is being constructed in the Snowy Mountains. The first part of this new adventure links the Blue Lake access track (at Charlottes Pass) to Guthega Village, covering about nine kilometres.

Access is by taking the Blue Lake walking track, then swinging to the right about 100m before the stepping stones over the Snowy River. The



finish is at the western side of Guthega, and is an excellent day walk.

As this is a linear trail, a car shuttle is required, and (to state the obvious) it is best to walk from Charlottes Pass to Guthega, not vice versa (The Pass is a 1840m, whereas Guthega is at 1640m). [Photo courtesy Steve Cuff]

WEEK AWAY : THURSDAY, 7TH – WEDNESDAY, 13 APRIL

This year's Week Away covered six nights in South Gippsland, based at the excellent Forest Lodge Farm.

A total of 33 club members journeyed, by various routes, down to the Yarram area for this week of glorious bush-walking, in delightfully varied country, and in great weather conditions!

On the Friday we were trudging through Tarra Bulga NP rainforest, with those amazing steep fern gullies amongst the tallest flowering trees on the planet (Mountain Ash, Eucalyptus regnans).

As well, we encountered magnificent waterfalls, quite a few friendly leeches, some confusing signage, a huge Italian dog at the coffee place, and some narrow, but busy roads; all of them highlights of that superb day!

On Saturday we were off to the scenic Port Albert area, with most of the group walking from the 1840's town of Alberton along the cycle path, and then the Old Port Trail into a very windy Port Albert for a fish an' chip lunch next to the extensive piers. The hard walkers returned via the disused railway track to our cars.



Sunday saw most of us heading back down to salt water, but this time we were able to amble along the magnificent 90 Mile Beach in beautiful conditions, with an alluring Wilson's Prom, always visible to the south-west.

Most of the group walked from McLoughlin's Beach across the long boardwalk to the beach, and then along to the sandy heads of the Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park, while the more adventurous hard walking crew, ventured further along the beach to cover many more sand kilometres.

After three days of steady walks, Monday was offered as a "rest day", but most of us were very busy! The ambitious, mainly Myrtleford, mob drove straight to the Prom to conquer some of the walks near the entrance to the Park.

Others explored the area much closer to our camp, and visited the fascinating Port Welshpool, and other engaging locations such as the amazingly engineered Agnes Falls. The impressive hill located wind turbines, and the reviving now arty town of Tarraville were also popular.

The accommodation was excellent, the food was magnificent, and of course the organisation of the walks and the week overall, was top class!

Tuesday was our last day with hiking boots on, so we returned to the rugged Strzelecki Ranges, and investigated the less pristine area just to the north of the Tarra Bulga National Park, ending up on the summit of Mount Tassie with impressive views to the north – wilderness ranges contrasting with the huge smoking power station chimneys in the Latrobe Valley. Most of us meandered back via the interesting town of Yarram, where later we really enjoyed our one meal "on the town".

A big thank you to the organising committee of Sandie Church (walks coordinator), Anne Turnbull (meals), Erin Pascoe (catering) and the ever communicating Marita Samuelsson. All worked so hard to prepare us for this enjoyable adventure. [Andy]



KANGAROO HILL : APRIL 18

Today's walk to Kangaroo Hill at Eldorado was a loop walk of about 15k, starting at Reids Walk then crossing the Suspension Bridge over Reedy Creek and heading out along Lonies Gap Road.

Morning tea was along Mulls Track, overlooking a waterfall with a trickle running over it, before heading onto a bush

track leading to the rough and rocky track to Kangaroo Hill.

All six participants climbed the Hill, and enjoyed lunch with views to the Warby Ranges. After lunch we headed back down the rough and rocky track, and made our way to Mulls Track again before taking another bush track, leading to Reedy Creek for a shallow crossing without the boots.

After drying off the feet, and donning the boots, we followed the Creek along a bush track back to Eldorado township. Scattered light rain fell at times during the walk, but mostly it was just overcast.

This walk would be excellent in Springtime with more water flowing over the waterfall, wildflowers and hopefully a clearer day for the views. Two of the walkers were initially reluctant to take on the track up Kangaroo Hill (it does appear daunting at the base of it) but glad they did, as the views were rewarding.

Although the track to Kangaroo Hill was rough and rocky, there were lots of large rocks that made it like lots of large steps to climb up in part, which is way better than lots of loose gravel. [Jeanette]



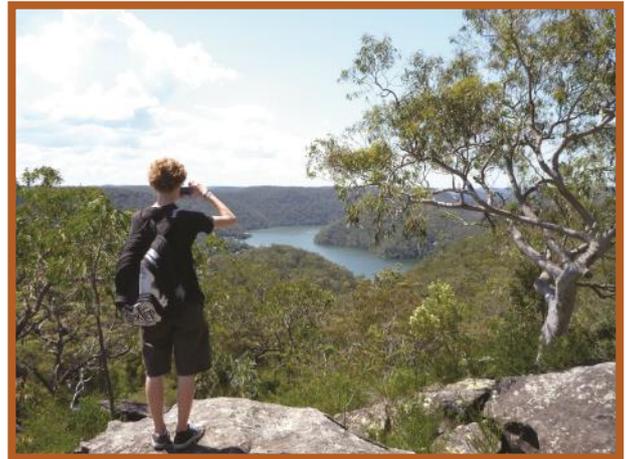
The Great North Walk

This 260km trail extends from Sydney Harbour to Newcastle, and was pioneered by Garry McDougall and Leigh Shearer-Heriot in 1981. The project began with a mutual interest in walking in the Lane Cove River Valley, and this soon linked in with walks further to the north, alongside the Hawkesbury Estuary.

In 1988 the project was adopted as part of the Bi-centennial Year's events, and gradually morphed into the present day achievement.

The excellent guide book **The Great North Walk** was first produced in 2012, and the second edition in 2018 by Matt McClennand and Wildwalks. The publisher is Woodslane Press, in association with Australian Geographic, and the book is widely distributed in outdoor stores, as well as being available for purchase on-line.

Woodslane are widely known for their range of outdoor guide books, and amongst their titles is local author Craig Sheather's book **Best Walks of Victoria's High Country**.



The two titles mentioned above, and many other guidebooks, are currently available to club members at a 15% discount by entering code **MATES15** into the discount code at checkout on the Woodslane website (woodslane.com.au). [Photo courtesy Woodslane Press]

STANLEY RESERVE TO MAGIC FOREST, AND FLETCHERS DAM : APRIL 23

This walk took place on a superb autumn day, and was ideal for the 10 walkers to complete the loop from Stanley to the Magic Forest, and return. The Magic Forest is a hidden group of mature Sequoias, with an enchanted feel, and is located to the north of Stanley.

Setting off, we had a break at the Forest, we then continued on to the beautiful (and reflective) Fletchers Dam, in a former gold mining area. There is a small memorial to a young forestry worker killed in a workplace accident



near the Dam. The final part of our loop was the return to Stanley via various orchards and farmland. The distance covered was about 10km, and was rated as easy-moderate.

Pat's cuppa was missing at the end of the walk, but she phoned and apologised! [Jon H]

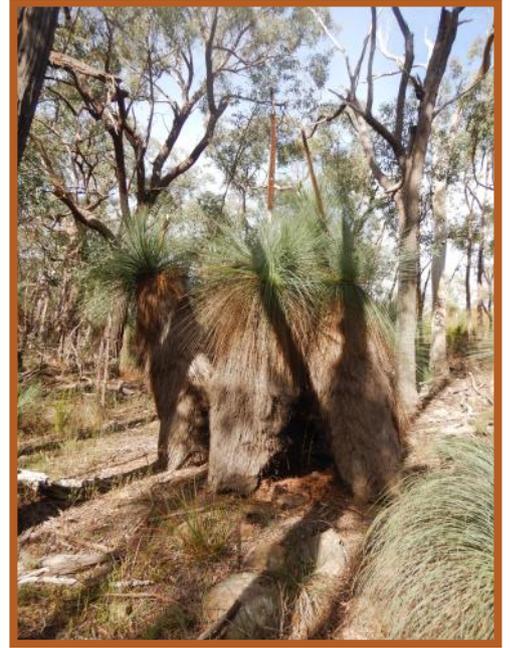
LOGGERS LANE - WENHAMS LOOP : MAY 10

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.

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. Moving on, we turned north at an un-named single-file track that provides a very scenic loop around to Taylors Track.

We then made a gradual descent to Wenhams Camp, where lunch was enjoyed, sat at the picnic tables.

After a leisurely lunch, we started the journey back to the start, taking a myriad number of single-file tracks to the north. These completed a five hour journey, and our great day was completed by the traditional hot drink and biscuits. The walk is graded as moderate, and we also rated it as possibly the best walk in the Warby Ranges. [Chris]



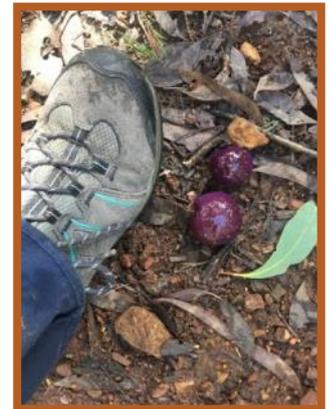
STANLEY FOREST : MAY 15

The original venues for this event were to be in the Flagstaff Hills for a hard walk, and Stanley Forest for a medium walk; however, due to days of rain during this week, and illness striking some walkers, it was decided to only do the Stanley Forest walk.

We met in Beechworth, and travelled via Lady Newton Drive to the Clarks Corner picnic area, west of Stanley. The walk began here, taking Rooney's Track and using forestry roads and several foot tracks for an eight kilometre loop.

Steep in parts, the forest was delightful after a few days of rain, and we were greeted with sun streaming through the foliage. A highlight of this walk was the many different fungi, probably a result of a wet summer.

After Pat's usual lovely cuppa, we stopped at Murrumgee Lookout to enjoy some great valley views. There are picnic tables here, and this was a great place to finish the walk. [Lesley]



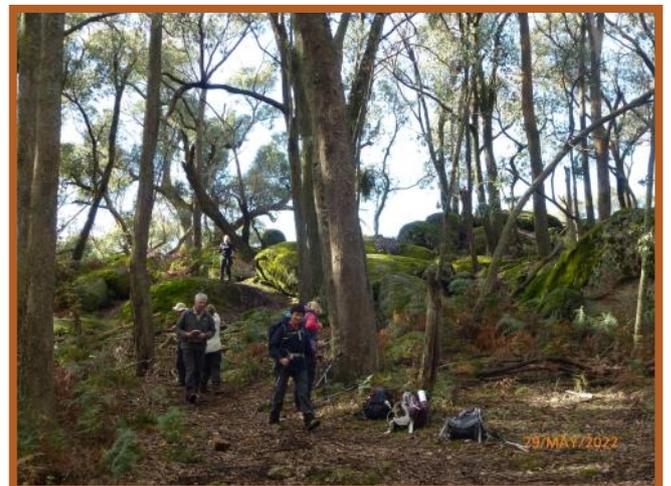
STRATHBOGIE SURPRISE #3 : MAY 29

On Sunday May 29th, ten of the finest Warby Range Bushwalking Club members participated in my Strathbogies State Forest Surprise #3. Would this walk live up to the previous two? Hopefully the planned walk would be no Mission Impossible and allow for an adventure somewhere between The Naked Gun Trilogy and Indiana Jones 1 -3.

Departing Wangaratta, much of the drive was in fog, which didn't necessarily raise spirits. Approaching Swanpool, we met up with three of the walkers, Rob, Sandie and Anne.

We were lucky to have them join us today because they are often known to be galivanting all over the country when given an opportunity. Weather wise, things were looking considerably better as the fog began to lift.

Our leisurely drive along the Lima East Road was bursting with wildlife. Green Parrots and Rosellas were in abundance, as were kangaroos. To begin our walk, we parked at a gate which is often closed for the winter season.



What I forgot to remember was that we could have driven another 800m to the very beginning of the loop walk planned. I thought to myself, “what they don’t know, won’t hurt them”.

Today was chilly. There was no other way to describe it. We would have been warmer climbing into a refrigerator. Gloves and beanies were worn by some, and there was always the slight chance of a little rain in the early afternoon. Once suitably prepared for whatever mother nature might throw at us, we set off.

The first part of the walk involved ignoring a road closed sign, obviously for vehicles, we told ourselves. This part was a gentle short walk in the forest not far from a stream.

A junction was soon reached where we turned left to head towards Lightning Ridge Track. It was this section of the walk that determined it to be labelled a hard walk. Not a mission impossible, but certainly somewhat challenging.

We crossed the small stream and began our ascent. Over the course of about 1.4km we climbed from 400m to 650m. This track was once a 4WD track, but now only motorcycles and hardy walkers were able to navigate the climb.

Upon reaching the top and the Lightning Ridge Track, walkers were rewarded with the customary Allens snakes. Some fallen tree logs and rays of glorious sunshine made this the best opportunity to take morning tea.

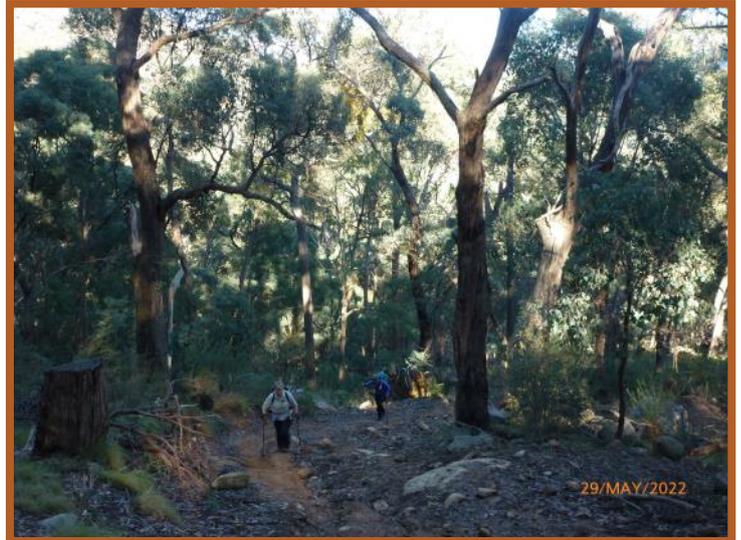
We continued our walk along Lightning Ridge Track passing several huge granite boulders close to the track. These are the result of geological processes some 300 to 400 million years ago. The more senior members in our group could not confirm that period. A little further on we reached a scenic point called Carter’s Lookout. A short scramble over granite boulders to the top provided good views. In the distance the peaks of Mount Samaria State Park were visible. Lake Nillahcootie was shrouded in fog which resembled a nice warm doona. You know the ones, filled with expensive Hungarian goose feathers. Satisfied with what we had seen, we returned to the ridge track.

Along Lightning Ridge Track we occasionally needed to step aside to allow 4WD vehicles and motorcycles to pass. The highest point of the walk was also reached which was almost 800m. Our pace was quite lively along the track, and it wasn’t long before we reached the junction with Moonee Creek Track. This was a wide area which made a suitable lunch stop, and was the halfway point of our walk.

After lunch we continued along the undulating Moonee Creek Track. The forest was particularly pleasant in this section. Species of trees known in the area include Blue Gum, Mountain Gum, Manna Gum and fortunately, no chewing gum. Along parts of the creek, ferns were growing, and the sound of flowing water made for a

most peaceful section of today’s walk.

We reached the cars after some 15km, and in a time of five hours. Our end to the day was a short drive to the James Reserve Camping area, which is situated on the Moonee Moonee Creek. Why why places need need to be named twice twice I’ll never know know. Here we consumed a welcomed cuppa and biscuits, thanks to an absent Pat, who still looked after us all with wonderful refreshments. Thanks to the walking group for joining us on this day, and helping me complete my trilogy of walks in the Strathbogie State Forest. [Michael]



Digital Archives on our website

These archives provide historical details of the development of the Warby Range Protection Society, and subsequently the Warby Range Bushwalkers. The digitisation of this paper based archive started during the covid-19 pandemic, and is an ongoing project by our webmaster, Chris.

The archives are derived from a variety of paper based sources; some of the originals are quite fragile, others are blurred, but hopefully all of these historical records are of interest.

More archives will be added during 2022, and additions made to existing PDFs.

See **About Us** and then **Our Archives** on the main menu of the website for more on this interesting project.

Federation Walks 2022

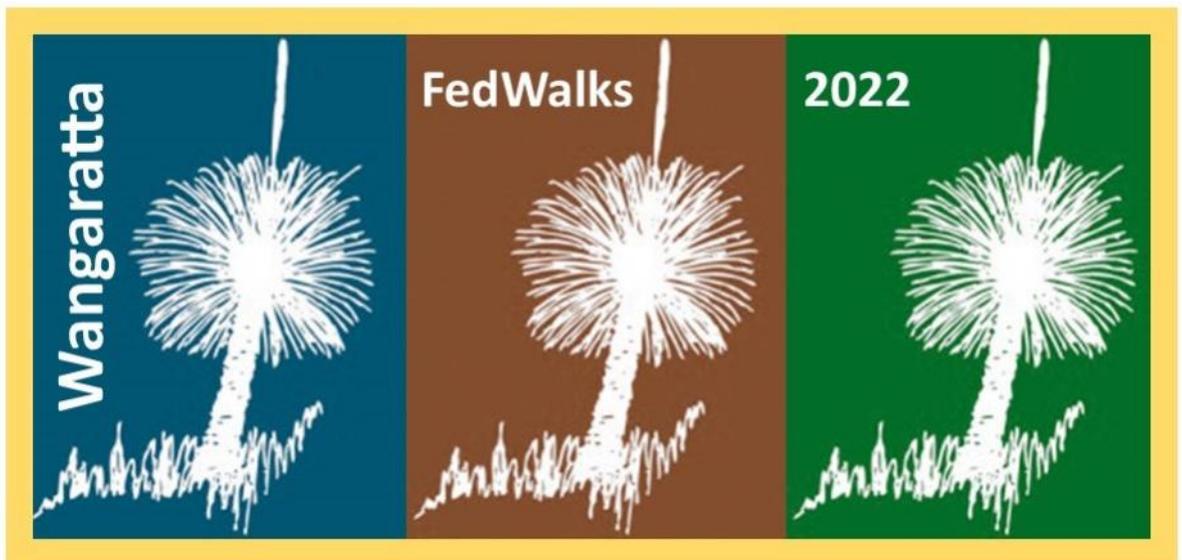
The Federation Walks event, also known as FedWalks, is a member-only event held annually in a different part of Victoria each year. The name dates from 1934 when Bushwalking Victoria was known as the Federation of Victorian Bushwalking Clubs. One or more affiliated member clubs in a specific region, volunteer to host the event, with support from Bushwalking Victoria as needed.

The host clubs organise the event, develop the walks program, social program, arrange the logistics and manage registrations. All the members of Bushwalking Victoria are invited to participate in the event, an opportunity for members of different clubs to walk together, and for our individual members to join the community for a walk.

This year's event will be based in Wangaratta, and the program includes walks in the following locations,

- Warby Ranges
- Chiltern-Mount Pilot NP
- Wahgunyah
- Beechworth
- Strathbogie Ranges
- Mount Buffalo

More details will be lodged on the FedWalks website (fedwalks.org.au) in July.



Volcano Tour : Bushwalking in Victoria's south west, and South Australia

As mentioned at the Christmas Party last year, and at the AGM this year, it is proposed to run a *Volcano Tour* from October 16-23 this year. The week will be based initially at Port Fairy, and then at Mount Gambier, and will be a less formal version of our annual Week Away. The proposed calendar is as follows,

Travel to Port Fairy (16/9)

Tower Hill (17/9)

14km of walks, Easy grade, on five different walks, all starting from the Tower Hill Information Centre.

Mt Eccles National Park (Budj Bin NP) (18/9) Lake Surprise crater rim walk, Lava flows walk, Natural bridge walk. Up to 11km of Easy and Medium grades.

Penshurst Volcanic Discovery Centre, Mt Rouse and Mt Napier Volcano walks, Byaduk Lava Caves (19/9) Climbing two volcanic peaks, and enter the Byaduk caves. Easy and Medium, 7km.

Travel to Mt Gambier in South Australia (20/9) Accommodation at the Blue Lake Caravan Park, near the Blue Lake itself.

Mt Gambier's four volcanic peaks (21/9) Blue Lake Circuit, Mountain Trail, Leg of Mutton Track and Valley Lake Track. 11km, Easy and Medium walks.

Mt Schanck and sink holes in Mt. Gambier (22/9) Mt Schanck is Australia's youngest volcano. Crater rim walk. 3km, medium. Engelbrecht Caves and Umpherson Sinkholes.

Travel home (23/9)

More details will be sent out via email, and lodged on our website, during the year.



From our archives . . .

WARBY RANGE PROTECTION SOCIETY

18 Chisholm Street,
WANGARATTA. 3677

23rd September, 1976.

The Town Clerk,
City of Wangaratta,
City Offices,
Ford Street,
WANGARATTA. 3677

Dear Sir,

I am enclosing for your information a copy of the resolution passed at the Symposium on the Warby Range held at the Centre for Continuing Education at Wangaratta on September 18th and 19th.

The resolution reads -

"That the responsible planning authorities take immediate action to prevent further subdivision, clearing, or change of land use in the Warby Range pending preparation of a uniform planning scheme which adequately protects the landscape and conservation values of the area, and further

that the Warby Range Protection Society be requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the Ministry of Planning, Town and Country Planning Board, Ministry for Conservation and other relevant authorities".

As the citizens of this City have evidenced apprehension concerning the use of the Warby Range, it is thought appropriate that the City should be fully aware of moves emanating from the Symposium for the creation of a single planning authority for the Warby Range.

Yours faithfully,

G.C. Hodge
HON. SECRETARY