

WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS

fun, fitness & friendship



NEWSLETTER 4 (September), 2014

www.warbybushwalkers.org.au

A WALK FOR ALL TASTES

The October – December walks program is jam packed to take advantage of the prime spring walking conditions pre-Christmas.

Following on what promises to be a fantastic week walking in the Grampians, there is a walking opportunity each week alternating between challenging and easier walks.

Adele continues with two stages of the Great Alpine Walk – one of them suitable for beginner backpackers, and Trevor is leading an overnight walk to Mount Howitt. Additionally, Bob has arranged an 'easier than normal' ascent of Mount Bogong, and Ian will pioneer a walk between Eldorado and Mount Pilot.

There is no shortage of less strenuous option with Mount Barambogie, Mount Meg, Woolshed Falls, the Warby Ranges and Ovens River walks on the menu.

For the socially inclined, our popular Cup Day Walk and Lunch is on again, and of course our Christmas BBQ will round off the year.

Happy Walking – See you on the Track – Karen

Grampians Week Away—October 2014

As previously advised, the Club's [ANNUAL WEEK AWAY](#) will be at Halls Gap from Monday, October 6 to Sunday, October 12 – and aims to explore the non fire-affected areas of the Grampians.

Accommodation will be in shared en-suite rooms, and full details are on our website. Book now for this great event.



Thistle Hill, June 7

Thistle Hill is on the western ridge line of the King Valley, with some of the walk through forest, and the rest through open grasslands. The venue lived up to expectations on the Saturday of the Long Weekend, with masses of low growing thistles covering the ridge top, and the surrounds of the trig point at the summit of Thistle Hill.

However, the thirteen walkers of the group still found enough rocks and grassy patches to enjoy lunch at the top, as well as the 360 degree vista.

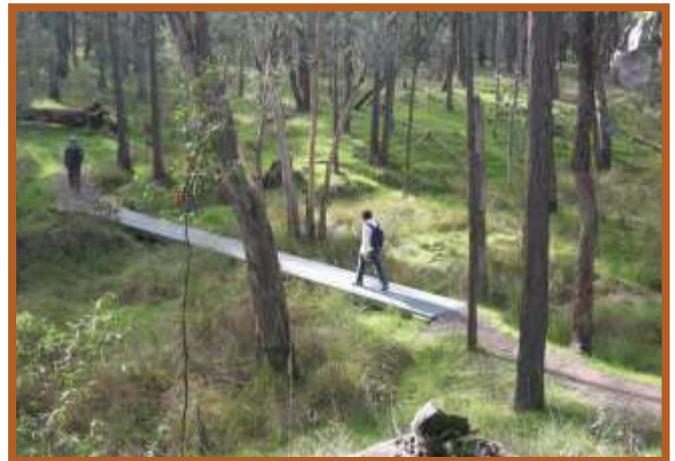
Being a perfectly clear day, the views of Mount Buffalo, Mount Cobbler and many other mountains stood out sharply.

The walkers had climbed through forest, into open country to reach the summit, and then followed a steep descent back into the King Valley to conclude the walk.

Most of the group then visited the popular King Valley art show to finish a rewarding day.

White Box Walking Track, June 11

The venue for this month's mid-week walk was an old favourite - the White Box Track at Chiltern-Mount Pilot National Park.



Thirteen walkers, including guests from two great cities - Calgary and Melbourne - gathered at Apex Park for the short drive to the National Park, and we were putting boots onto gravel before 10am.

It was a cold start to the morning, but soon warmed up, a progression we have seen for much of the Autumn and Winter of this year.

Unlike our last walk in this area (which was in Spring) there was little evidence of the Park's diverse wildlife, but we were more than compensated by the sight of early wattle blooms, and a forest that looked to be in excellent condition.

Morning tea was held on a large fallen tree (just enough room for thirteen of us) and lunch was enjoyed back at the Honeysuckle car park.

McFarlanes Hill, June 22

McFarlanes Hill, on the western edge of the Wodonga urban area was the chosen venue for this 'winter solstice walk'. The day started off bitterly cold, with banks of fog everywhere, and we wondered if the drive up the Freeway was going to be worth the effort.

However, the sunshine burst through at about 10am, and we left Fell Timber Creek Road in high spirits.

The group took the access track from near the car parking area, and climbed up to a t-junction, where we needed to swing left to pick up the ridgeline walking track.



We had morning tea at about the 2km mark, with some nice views to the left of the track, over-looking the valley of Fell Timber Creek. We then followed the walking track through to a stile (one of several on this route) that led immediately onto a roadway.

Turning right here, we followed the roadway for a few hundred metres to a rotary gateway. Passing through this gate, we began a relentless climb to the summit of "One Tree Hill".

Lunch was enjoyed the rotunda at the top of the Hill, with great views of the High Country, and the Albury-Wodonga urban area. From here we skirted around, and down, to the east, passing through a rotary gate, and then followed a line of timber back to the roadway referred to above.

Turning left at the roadway, we made a short climb back to the stile, also referred to above, recrossed the stile, and made our way back along a portion of our outgoing route, turning right just over a creek, to pick up the return route.

The thirteen of us (including a guest from Iran) were back in Wangaratta about 3pm, having enjoyed an excellent walk at a venue that was a first time event for the Club.

Eldorado, July 5

Fifteen walkers braved a decidedly wintry morning to meet in Eldorado for a walk, which proved challenging, not only because of the weather, but the nature of the walk itself.

In misty rain, the group departed from Gunhouse Park on the easy part of the walk - an amble along Eldorado's creekside paths, and over the swing bridge. Then, the real challenge began.

If the group had been mountain goats, it would have been easy, but this was real bushwalking. With steep slopes. no paths to follow, poor visibility, and wet slippery moss-covered boulders to negotiate, progress was slow.

Our indomitable leader calmly announced, long after the morning tea break, that we were definitely heading in the wrong direction.



Fortunately, Ian Slater, our leader, knows the hillsides around those parts as well, if not better, than any mountain goat, and the intrepid walkers were calmly directed in the correct direction, at least according to the map!

The final eight kilometres of the 14km walk, was taken at a veritable canter after lunch, and coincided with afternoon tea at the historic Eldorado Dredge.

Benalla Lake and Wetlands Walk, July 15

Lake Benalla is an artificial lake on the Broken River (a major tributary of the Goulburn River), and adjoins the commercial centre of Benalla.

Despite the forecast of rain on the day, five club members enjoyed a delightful walk of about six kilometres, in a clockwise direction around the Lake and Wetlands. Drizzle gradually changed into showers as we explored the new river walking trail to the north of the fish ladder/dam wall.



Morning tea was taken in the shelter of the ceramic mural (alongside the Monash Bridge) but the heavy rain held off until we entered the Art Gallery for a superb lunch.

Warby Range—North to South

Section One: Boweya Road to Ryans Lookout, July 19

A perfect winter day dawned for the first section of the three Warby Range north to south walks. Hardly a cloud in the sky, and a temperature of about 14 degrees, made it ideal for walking. Two cars were left at Ryans Lookout prior to the registration point at Rotary Park in Wangaratta, and with 27 participants, we were at the walk commencement point by 9.30am.

At first, we traversed through open forest, then scrambled to the top of a rocky knoll through thickets of spur wing wattle, which made for variety, if some scratched limbs, before the full sweep of the snow covered Victorian Alps were revealed. From then on, the walk was less challenging, and in spite of the many rainy days leading up to the event, the ground underfoot was rarely soggy.

The next challenge, just beyond Spring Creek picnic area, was to cross the creek itself. The steep banks were the challenge, rather than the water, though the creek was flowing well. From then, the walk followed the Spring Creek with the lovely sound of rushing water (sometimes cascading) over the granite rocks.



By early afternoon, Devenish Road appeared, and a short walk took the group to Ryans Lookout for lunch, eaten while the car drivers were driven back to the walk commencement point.

With such a perfect day, compasses became unnecessary, though rarely did the walk follow existing roads or tracks. One of the features of this walk, is that it traverses real bushland, giving a wonderful sense of adventure.

Tawonga Gap to Young Gap, August 2

The first weekend of August was foggy at first in the valleys then the day opened up to bright sunshine with snow covering the ground at a height above about 900 metres. Hence we were walking in a winter 'wonderland' for about the first four hours of this walk.

Starting from the Tawonga Gap car park, 19 enthusiastic walkers set off on a walk of 21km (6.5hours) that can be divided into three sections.

First nine kilometres were on a 4WD track, walking on the ridge top through mountain ash forests on the west side of the Kiewa Valley. We walked in a southerly direction, starting at an altitude of 890m. Then we walked mainly up and down hill tops, with the maximum height of 1130m being reached. This was the hardest part of the walk, and for most of this section the ground was covered with soft powdery snow.

The second part (of three kilometres) was from where we turned east onto Simmonds Gap Track. This was undulating, or mainly downhill, and was also on 4WD tracks. There was still plenty of snow lying on the ground.

Lunch was held near Simmonds Gap, at a place we called Flat Rocks.



The last nine kilometres was all undulating, then finally all downhill for the last four kilometres on 4WD tracks from Simmonds Gap, down Dungey Track, then Pyramid Hill Track to the junction of Pyramid Hill Track and Simmonds Creek Road. The final kilometre was along Simmonds Creek Road to Young Gap, where we had the cars waiting.

This is a very picturesque walk, with glimpses of Mount Bogong, Mount Fainter, Big Hill and Mount Feathertop, and there had been very recent snow. Everyone seemed to enjoy this walk, and all walkers were very experienced, with only two having any sort of difficulties, primarily new boots and blisters..

Degree of Difficulty: Medium/Hard (hard in parts).

Murmungee Hills, August 17

This enjoyable walk started with an enthusiastic band of 21 walkers making their way along the rail trail in mild, but overcast, conditions towards Beechworth, before turning into Zigzag Road and onto the Murmungee Basin Ridge.

All marvelled at the views unfolding right across the valley, and mountains behind, as we made our way west along the ridge.

A lunch stop was enjoyed from the decking of Reid's Tent House, along with a million dollar view.

The terrain was undulating, with picturesque open forest, native grasses, grass trees and rock formations.

Wattles and shrubs were coming into flower as we made our way through our guide Rosie's natural reserve, and back to our starting point.



Some light drizzle didn't dampen the enjoyment of the walkers, some who had attempted this walk in summer, and were turned back by a fierce thunderstorm.

All agreed it was a wonderful walk through an previously unknown area for us.

Thanks to Anne for her organisation, and to Rosie Bennett and her neighbours for allowing us access.

Eldorado Ramble, August 25

In brilliant weather, 7 club members completed a very pleasant 10km ramble, starting near the recreation reserve, and Jacki's delightful residence. We walked to the huge old dredge via a brand new track which boasts fresh signposting.



The path then continued up the old Coach Road to a rocky spot where we paused to enjoy great views over the whole Reedy Creek Valley. Then we briefly skirted the southern edge of the Chiltern Pilot National Park before heading back down across the Historic Reserve, and through Eldorado township to Jacki's chalet for lunch.

Warby Range—North to South

Section Two: Ryans Lookout to Taminick Gap, August 31

In this second section of the North-South Trek, 32 happy walkers thoroughly enjoyed 12kms of bush tracks along the Warby Ridge in perfect weather. The large group realised that they were so lucky to have such superb country at their doorstep (Warby equals "We Are Right Behind You" by the way!!) with gorgeous views to country on both sides, and the constant display of many early spring blooming flowers.



We stopped briefly at Wenham's for a cuppa, where we admired the new signposting, and the well maintained campsite. Lunch was taken just after Bailey's Track, and an hour later we emerged at Taminick Gap, ready for Pat's high class refreshments.

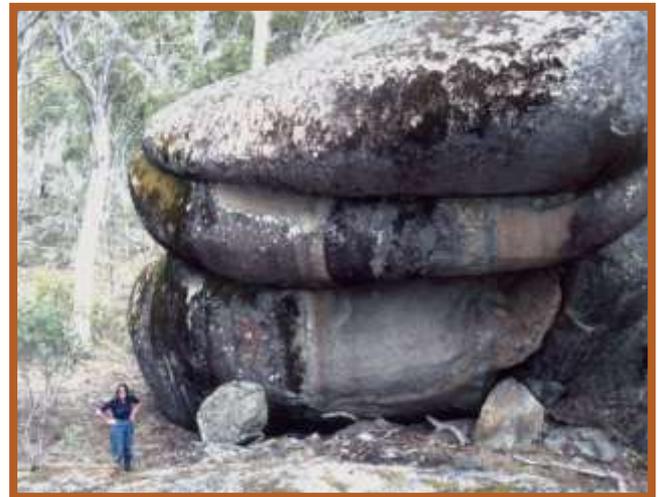
Our thanks to the various landowners along our route, all of whom kindly allowed us access through their properties.

Bushwalking Victoria—Federation Walk

The Federation Walks Weekend is a Bushwalking Victoria (BWV) annual event. BWV has over 70 affiliated clubs, and the event is open to all club members, and individual members of BWV.

Each year a different walking club or groups of walking clubs affiliated with BWV host the event.

In recent years the Federation Walks event has been a single day event, however, it is the aim of BWV to encourage host clubs to run the event over a weekend, making it more accessible to clubs from across Victoria.



The weekend event offers the opportunity for walkers to participate in walks led by local walk leaders with an intimate knowledge of their local area.

The event is usually held in October or November of each year, and the 2014 event is being jointly hosted by a number of Gippsland based clubs; these include,

Ben Cruachan Walking Club

South Gippsland Walking and Adventure Club

Strzelecki Bushwalking Club

West Gippsland Bushwalking Club

The 2014 Walk will be a weekend event, based in the small Gippsland village of Rawson, with a range of walks being offered in Baw Baw National Park, around Walhalla and in the surrounding area (such as Mushroom Rocks—see above).

See www.fedwalks.org.au for more details.
