



NEWSLETTER 4 (October-December) 2016

The October – December walks program is jam packed to take advantage of the prime spring walking conditions pre-Christmas, and has something on offer for all tastes.

Wangaratta has had its wettest winter in 21 years, and, not too far to the south, places like Lima Falls in the Strathbogie Ranges (see photo) have had their wettest winter on record.



Following on from this wet winter, the wildflowers are already starting to bloom, as are all of our local flora — trees, bushes and shrubs. So, come and join us, check the walks calendar today, and pencil in a few dates for a perfect day in the bush.

For the socially inclined, our popular Cup Day Walk and Lunch is on again, and of course our Christmas BBQ will round off another successful walking year. See later in this Newsletter for more details of these, and more of our social activities.

If you haven't already done so, please remember that subscriptions became due at the AGM (March 21), and that they should be renewed now.

Hume and Hovell Track,

Table Top Park to Kinross Pub, May 7

The Hume and Hovell Walking Track extends for about 440km from Yass to Albury, and retraces fairly closely the route taken by those intrepid explorers in 1824.

The Walk is well described in the book *Hume and Hovell Walking Track Guidebook* by Harry Hill (published in 1993 by Crawford House, Bathurst NSW) as well as the set of maps available from the Department of Lands. (www.crownland.nsw.gov.au).

Eleven walkers completed this 19km section of the H&H Trail, the second last section of Adele's epic multi day 440km walk, which started near Yass, way back in 2014.

Five of the adventurers on today's outing had accompanied Adele for most of the long journey over the last two years.



This leg was not difficult compared to earlier sections, but still involved a stiff climb up the rocky Budgidgin Hill, which provided lovely 360 degree views, including the almost dry Lake Hume.

Lunch was taken at one of the many lakeside picnic areas - predictably empty of people at this time of the year.

Most of the walk was along bitumen sealed roads in open country, but part was in a bushland area close to the Kinross Woolshed Hotel, where we finished for the day, with the usual tasty refreshments.

The weather was fine, and the track had markers along the way to guide both the days walkers (who completed the Saturday's section) and the overnights, who were to complete two sections.

Would Adele and company be able to complete this big walk the next day (Sunday) with very wet conditions forecast?

Wait for the next bulletin (see below) to find out.

Hume and Hovell Track,

Kinross Pub to the Hovell Tree in Albury, May 8

In very heavy rain, walk leader Adele was determined to complete the last easy section of the H&H track which she had started near Yass in 2014.

Today's route involved using the Riverina Highway bike path, then cutting across to Mungabareena Reserve, then up to Eastern Hill, and finally through to the parklands that are home to the Hovell Tree (just upstream of Norieul Park).

The last part therefore involved mainly highway and road walking, which was slightly different from various wilderness tracks found along the rest of the 440km.

Adele has now completed the first of the two epic trails started more than two years ago, and involving considerable effort and organisation.

The Alpine Walking Track is planned to be completed in the Spring, and then what challenges will Adele set herself, and the club?

[Jeanette Farquhar]

Mullinmur Billabongs, May 13

Eleven club members, plus Andrew (a very enthusiastic parent of a Galen student), were guided by Galen teacher, and Mullinmur pioneer, Ian Minns, around this new venue, an easy early morning walk of approximately six kilometres.

Ian filled the group in with great detail regarding the history of the area, and the project's development.

Ian has been responsible for most of the walking track development here, including the footpaths, picnic area, fence removal, bird boxes and bird lists.



The excellent tracks along the river continue to grow in length, with the start/finish being at the corner of Phillipson Street and Cambridge Drive.

The route follows the sinuous course of the Ovens River, and then loops around one of the many billabongs of the Ovens Floodplain, following some disused vehicular tracks, as well as some interesting footpaths.

[Karen Davis]

Mirimbah Base Camp

Friday to Sunday May 20-22

For this great weekend, a party of 13 walkers made their base at 'The Wedge', private accommodation at Mirimbah.

This is at the base of Mount Buller, and from here the group were to enjoy the Autumn weather, and have the opportunity to hike both Mount Stirling on Saturday, and Mount Buller on Sunday.

Six went out to Craig's Hut, which was happily not as far as first thought, and only took the best part of seven hours return. They must have given the four-wheel drivers pause for thought, as to why you would take shanks pony instead of engine horse power.

At Mount Buller, perhaps the trail riders thought they had the best of it, but the six walkers who did the Summit Circuit at a leisurely pace (14 km, 5.5 hrs) were in no doubt that a footslog was a great way to see this Alpine country.

Dinner at Merrijig Hotel fuelled us up for the walk on Sunday,



8.5km down the Bridle Track from Mount Buller to Mirimbah at the base of the mountain.

Taking 3.5 hours, the descent through the layers of forest was, for some of us, a strain on knees and calves, providing a reminder of our happy adventures to take home into the week ahead.

[Cecily Fletcher]

Myrree Ridge, June 4

There were 14 participants on this new adventure in the Upper Fifteen Mile Creek Valley, including three casual members, and local property owner Adrian Younger.

The adventure began just to the north of Myrree (Pangerang word for wind) as 10 participants drove thru Boggy Creek (near where Hume and Hovell had passed in 1824).

Two separate walks were planned for the day, Walk 1 started off from the Wagon Track, itself off Boggy Creek Road, whereas the Walk 2 group appreciated an easier, flatter walk directly from Adrian Younger's property to meet up with the main group.



Adrian explained the history and land ownership of the area, as we initially walked through the vineyard, beside a pine plantation, carefully picked our way through a major patch of Bathurst burrs, and then onto his property on basic tracks, and on undulating terrain.

After stepping across a minor creek, and later enjoying seeing magnificent tree ferns, the last two kilometres were uphill, and quite steep in places.

The almost nine kilometre walk involved an altitude gain of 200m, magnificent views of the Myrree Valley, and many sightings of large mobs of kangaroos.

Back at Cheltenham Banks by 12.20pm, the group returned via car, or on foot to a shed for lunch, where we were joined by Ken Ellis and two of his friends, all of them on horseback. [Glenda Hall]

Carboor Ridge, June 19

Ten bushwalkers attend this walk at Carboor (about 30km south east of Wangaratta) and covered around 14.6km (according to the GPS).

The walk was on 4wd roads, taking in great views of the surrounding valleys, and Mount Buffalo of course (the aboriginal name for Buffalo, first named by Hume and Hovell in 1824, was probably Dordorgonga).



We started the walk at an elevation of around 220 metres, and climbed to around 500 metres during the walk, with some steep sections. The entire walk was in State Forest, and finished with a gentle descent.

We experienced an overcast day, but luckily no showers came our way. [Jeanette Farquhar]

Nine Mile Historic Area, July 2

On Saturday 2nd July, (election day) eight bushwalkers, including Clare from Maingdample, participated in a loop walk of approximately 14.6 kilometres in the Nine Mile Historic Area at Stanley.

It was a foggy start at Stanley for the walk, but the clouds lifted, and while the day was mostly overcast we enjoyed some welcome breaks of sunshine, but also had some short light showers.

Our walk started at the car park at the corner of Wallaby Track and Lower Nine Mile Road. We followed the Wallaby Track down a steep hill to a grassed path on the left hand side. This led to the Wallaby Mine, and the rebuilt battery stamp located by the Nine Mile Creek.

We then followed another path to the Rechabite Mines, which are located on the other side of the Nine Mile Creek from the Wallaby Track. Unfortunately due to the volume of water in the creek, we were unable to cross it to explore them. A recently fallen tree provided seating for morning tea.

After morning tea opposite the Rechabite Mines we then headed on to the Karrs Reef Mine, which is not accessible, but there were some relics from the gold mining days here. We had lunch at this spot, and then headed to the Rocky Point Track to return to the start of our walk.

The walk was in hilly country with lots of beautiful native bush and a full Nine Mile Creek flowing through it. Walking poles were needed for a particularly steep section during the walk.

[Jeanette Farquhar]



Stanley State Forest to the pub, July 17

The sunshine brought 24 WRBC members out of the recent confines of their warm homes on a pleasant Sunday afternoon in the Mount Stanley Scenic Reserve.

Beginning at Circular Road, walkers meandered southwards, joining Granite Creek Road before stopping at the Stanley Jeep Track for a spot of morning tea.

Thankfully no members were lost at this point, despite the large group having spread out considerably over this stretch of road.

It was then a matter of some huffing and puffing as the group negotiated a very muddy and steep Jeep Track. Recent four wheel drive activity had churned the road up somewhat, but with people moving at their own pace, and within their abilities, all made it to a halfway point where some great views of the snow capped alps were visible through the trees.



Another steep ascent towards the summit of Mt Stanley followed, where all walkers were then treated to some particularly fine views of the alps in the distance. Snow had fallen in the week prior to the walk, and this was still evident on this side of the forest and ascent to the top. A number of walkers made use of the snow to refresh each other, and get hearts pumping.

The final leg of the journey was a pleasant downward stroll to the cars parked at the Mt Stanley and Circular Road junction. The walk totalled 11.7km, taking four and a quarter hours, with stops, to complete.

Afternoon tea followed, and then for those who were interested, a further refreshment at the Stanley Pub with some trivia questions entitled, "Much Ado About Stanley". [Michael Braendler]

Thistle Hill, July 31

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.

This 11km walk started out in misty conditions, with low cloud making visibility quite poor for most of the walk.

However, the cloud cleared as we made our descent from the summit area, and we had a beautiful view of the King Valley below.



Despite the poor weather, there were 19 walkers on this trip, and an enjoyable time was had by all. [Trevor Turnbull]

Eldorado - Two Waterfalls, August 6

For this walk, twenty-six of us headed off from Eldorado in fine conditions. With four 'newies' in the group, Ian led a delightful medium walk of 17km along firm bush tracks, visiting two waterfalls which were running impressively south towards Reedy Creek.



At the first waterfall (now called the Slater Falls) we stopped for a cuppa, and then had lunch at the more permanent Clear Creek Falls, after a short scrub bash down from the Old Coach Road.

A small car shuffle then brought us back to Eldorado, but not before the crew enjoyed the now traditional cuppa with fresh biscuits, supplied by a very Kuhle person. [Ian Slater]

Mount Jack, August 20

You know when you step out of the car, and it begins to snow, that the day's walk may not be your typical one. That was the scenario that greeted 11 hardy WRBC members for the Mt Jack summit

walk. Upon exiting the vehicles we were greeted with a very light dusting of snow, and some rain, forcing everyone to put on their wet weather gear.

The walk then began with a five kilometre drive along the Rosewhite Track (Happy Valley Track) to the junction of the Mt Jack Track.

From the vehicles we headed in the opposite direction of the Mt Jack summit to Bill Hicks Track. Little did we know that this track was going to descend some 400m, after having driven that amount up into the forest to park the cars.

This descent was hard, and for one walker the knees couldn't manage, and forced their return to the cars with a companion. The rest of us continued down the track, until meeting the House Creek junction. This was a pretty spot, obviously popular with campers, with a nice flowing creek and ferns. A short creek crossing was a chance to test out the water-proofness of boots, except for Jeanette who tested her balance walking across a log.

House Creek Track proved to be a challenging uphill walk. Margot became acquainted with a wallaby, which almost knocked her over when bounding out of the bushes and over the track. Some of the members also became familiar with a young wombat during this stretch of track.



We gained some 750m over about six kilometres, to be around the 1200m mark on the way to the Mt Jack summit. The summit isn't marked clearly, but it was time for our late lunch.

Sago snow fell during much of this time, and most members ate standing up - trying to keep warm I think, and too scared to sit down in case they froze to logs. For some only part of their lunch was consumed, as fingers wouldn't work sufficiently to take off wrappers and cling wrap!

From the Mt Jack summit, it was an easier walk to the cars, although the cold made some muscles cramp and numerous hands and fingers very cold.

It was a good, but hard, circular walk of about 17km on vehicle tracks all of the way, taking six and a half hours. Although there was a short period of early sunshine, views of the surrounding alps were not visible on this occasion.

One group continued their late afternoon by taking in a tasting of wine (possibly four), at Eagle Range Estate in Happy Valley.

Mt Jack is a great walk that would be rewarding in the autumn, or spring, to view the surrounding alps in sunnier conditions.

[Michael Braendler]

Yackandandah - Town—Gorge Walk, August 23

Ten adults, one child and one dog enjoyed a six kilometre walk from the Yackandandah Pool, and impressive community garden, around the outskirts of the town.

Evan Willis, in his book "Twenty Walks around Beechworth" gives directions which led the group of walkers to "new" parts of the town - with modern, well kept homes on undulating countryside, to the magnificent track following a deep gorge along the creek.



With the creek flowing strongly through the channel, engineered with explosives and pick and shovel in the nineteenth century, it was an impressive sight.

Lovely views and varied scenery created a lot of interest whilst walking in beautiful winter sun. Tasty fare in a cafe on the verandahed main street finished a wonderful outing for all.

[Helen Twitt]

What's happening on the Warby Walker's Social Scene . . .

Warby Ranges BBQ Lunch – Sunday Sept 11th

What better way to 'spring into spring' than with a walk in the Warby's!! The wildflowers should be putting on a great display at this time of year, and John's navigation walk is a very novel and fun way of exploring this picturesque area . . .

Or, just come along for the BBQ Lunch.

See the Walks Program, and book in with John for further details.

BYO: Food for your BBQ lunch, crockery, cutlery, chair.

PROVIDED: Gas BBQ, Tea, Coffee, AND Bob's 'Show entry' Chocolate cake!

Cup Day – Tuesday Nov 1st

Join in the Cup Day fun. Andy is leading a Walk to Mt Glenrowan, then descending to Morrison's Winery in time for the Cup and the traditional Warby Walker's Cup Cake . . .

Or, just come along and join in the fun with the walkers at Morrison's Winery at the conclusion of the walk.

See the Walks Program, and book in with Andy.

Mt Beauty Weekend – Nov 4th, 5th and 6th

Come along to a great weekend of walks in the Mt Beauty area.

Accommodation can be booked at Tawonga Caravan Park on Mountain Creek Rd, (03-5754 4428).

This delightful setting will be our base. They have self-contained cabins, on site caravans, powered and unpowered sites.

There will be a BYO BBQ on the Saturday evening in the Caravan Park.

See also the Walks Program for this weekend, and book in with Bob for the Walks.



Mt Buffalo Weekend – Dec 2nd, 3rd and 4th

Another great chance to take time out before the Christmas rush, air the tent or hook on the van and enjoy a weekend at Mt Buffalo.

This should be a good time for the Alpine flowers, and Chris has walks planned for both Saturday and Sunday.

Or, you may just wish to come and chill, take in the mountain air and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow walkers at the end of the day.

See the Walks program, and book in with Chris.

Christmas Party – Friday Dec 9th

Make a note in your diary now for the Warby Walker's Christmas party. It is being held again this year at the Glenrowan Rifle Range, Rifle Range Rd; Glenrowan.

BYO drinks and meat for a BBQ. Crockery, cutlery and chairs are provided. Contact Judy on 03 57662773 to book, and to bring either a salad or a sweet to share.

Directions to the venue: Drive through the main street of Glenrowan, past the Ned Kelly statue.

Proceed on the road towards Melbourne, with the Football Oval, and a large dam on your left. Drive over the Hume Freeway overpass, then turn immediately left, onto Rifle Range Rd.

Proceed about 800 metres along Rifle Range Rd, then turn left into the Rifle Range where the club rooms are located.

Mitta Mitta – Dec 31st, Jan 1st and Jan 2nd

A return visit to Mitta Mitta for New Year's Eve this year is a must after such a great time was had by all last year.

Jeanette has walks planned for each of the three days depending on the weather.



On New Year's Eve, there will be Dinner at the Mitta Pub with live entertainment, provided by Michael's band "Liam Blunt's Funky Rhythm Train" – great music to dance to!

Accommodation options include self-contained cabins and camping sites, with or without power at Magorra Caravan Park, on the banks of the Mitta Mitta River (02 60723568), or stay at the Mitta Pub (02 60723541)

As this is a popular area, it is advisable to book with the Park or Pub early, as bookings for accommodation start filling up around September.

See the Walks Program, and book in for the walks with Jeanette.

Alan Raison

Alan is a life member of the Club, and he and Tim recently celebrated 60 years of wedded life together. Alan still comes on occasional walks, and in the past was an active leader. We congratulate Alan and Tim on their milestone celebration.



Smart Phone - Emergency Call App

As a result of problems experienced by emergency call-takers and emergency services, the Triple Zero Awareness Work Group

(TZAWG) has launched a free smartphone app: Emergency+.

TZAWG identified that more than 66% of 000 emergency calls were made from mobile phones; however, mobile callers often do not know exactly where they are, meaning that call-processing times are longer, and call-takers are then unavailable to take the next incoming emergency call.

Determining caller location is the most critical piece of information emergency call-takers need when a call comes in. If callers don't know where they are, emergency services can't send help.

Emergency+ uses the existing GPS functionality of smartphones to enable callers to provide emergency call-takers with their location information as determined by their phone.

When activated, the built in accessibility features will describe aloud what appears on-screen, so a caller can use the app without seeing it.



The Emergency+ app is available for free download in Apple iOS, Android and Windows phone versions, and has already saved lives by ensuring emergency services arrive on-scene as quickly as possible to assist someone in need.

One group for which Emergency+ has obvious benefits is bushwalkers, and TZAWG has numerous examples where lost or injured bushwalkers have used the app to pinpoint their location for emergency services.

Emergency+ is available via a free download from the major app portals (search for emergency+). Follow the next few prompts for a quick installation, and don't forget to enable your phone to forward your location without reference to you.

The App's logo is a nice bright red, and, as mentioned above, if you ever need to use it to call 000, the App will forward your GPS location to the emergency service operator.

Bill Rosser

Bill Rosser is one of our life members and a former committee member. Bill has not been an active walker with the Club for several years now. He is currently in the Aged Care facility at St Johns Retirement Village, Wangaratta.

He is still very interested in the affairs of the Warby Range Bushwalkers, and feels he is being looked after well at St Johns. Bill moved from The Terrace at St Johns shortly after his wife, Joy, died. Joy was also one of our life members.

Bullawah Cultural Trail

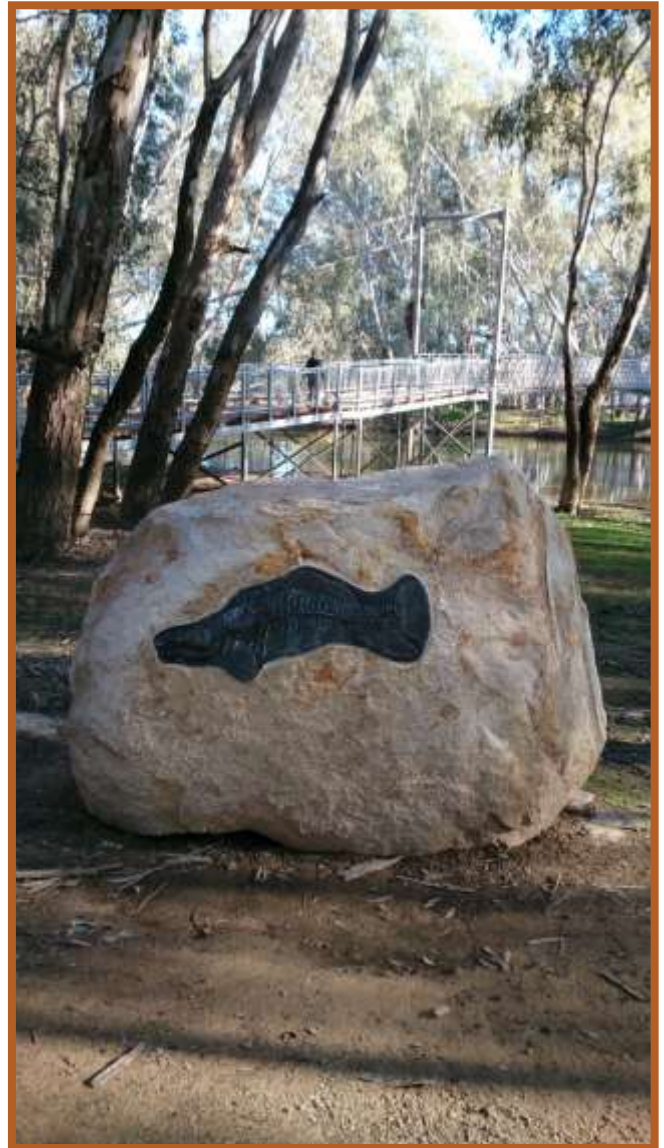
As mentioned in the April-June Newsletter, an Elders Rock has been placed at Apex Park to honour local community leaders every year on the anniversary of National Reconciliation Week.

It's an idea thought of by the late Uncle Wally Cooper, who passed away in December 2015, and now forms part of the recently opened Bullawah Cultural Trail, a path that stretches 2.4km along the Ovens River in Wangaratta. The \$180,000 trail tells the story of the area's Aboriginal heritage, and how a local tribe has lived historically, and to the present day.

Uncle Wally was a highly respected Elder whose pride in his Aboriginal heritage, and message for hope for the future, inspired many.

Large granite rocks, which form the foundations for the sculptures, have also been placed along the trail. Artists Anderson Hunt and Paul Blizzard of Wangaratta selected the rocks from Mawsons Quarry, and these are now home to their sculptural art-works, as developed with local Elders.

The Bullawah Cultural Trail was officially opened on Friday, 26th August, with the opening ceremony being conducted at the pedestrian bridge opposite Painters Island.



Stay up-to-date with the wider bushwalking community
via the Bushwalking Victoria website —
www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au



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Subscription for membership of Warby Range Bushwalkers Inc. 2016-2017

Please note that all current memberships expire on the 31st March 2016 (see notes below).

Single \$35; Family \$65; Associate \$10 (see notes below).

Life members, walking \$10; Life members, non-walking free; Temporary/Casual \$5

Notes.

If you join after the 1st of October in any year, then the membership fee is \$20 for a single, \$40 for a family.

If you join after the 1st of February in any year, then the full subscription is payable, however this will be regarded as a subscription lasting until the following year (that is, approximately 14 months, as compared to a normal 12 month subscription).

Associate membership will not give you access to walks unless you are a member of a Club affiliated with Bushwalking Victoria, but it will give you our newsletters and entitlement to attend social evenings.

Pay cash, cheque or bank transfer. BSB: 633 000;

Account no: 110647799; Reference: (your name)

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