



NEWSLETTER 4 (October), 2018

warbybushwalkers.org.au

The October – December walks program is again jam packed to take advantage of the prime spring walking conditions. Jeanette and Michael have compiled yet another excellent program, and we need to show our appreciation by getting out there.

As well, the organising committee for next year's week away (at Thredbo) has been busy, and there are several attachments to this newsletter relating to that great event.

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

Happy Walking Girls and Boys, and see you on the Track.

Walks Reports

Lake William Hovell Circumference Walk : June 2, 2018

For this long walk, 13 walkers left Wangaratta at 8.00am as we knew that the walk would use up most of the daylight hours. We parked at the exit from the Long Spur Track, which is 2km north of the dam wall at Lake William Hovell. We left a car here, and then ferried everyone 3km along the track to where it starts to become 4WD-ish.



Walkers had previously been given advice to bring poles to assist with the steep decent once we crossed the King River, old runners to help them walk across the knee-deep King River, as well as a small towel.

We had decided to approach the walk in an anti-clockwise direction, and there was a reason for this. If we had walked the 15km in a clockwise direction, and then found the King River in flood, then it is a long way back to our cars. Whereas, going in an anti-clockwise direction, we only had 8km to get back to our cars.

Setting off, the first 8km traversed the western and southern sides of the Lake, and where the vehicular track crosses the King River at Sandy Flats, we traversed the River, having spent two hours in undulating bush lands.

The next 2.5km was straight up, climbing 400 metres vertically for one hour. This track is quite tough, and walkers were very glad of the advice to use poles, as the track was also slippery at times.

We stopped for lunch, and then walked north and north-west on Long Spur 4WD track. This was undulating, and quite easy, for the first 2.5km. On the way, we saw kangaroos, an azure kingfisher and heard a few lyrebirds on the plateau.



We then descended quite sharply for another 2.5km on the same track, until we came to a flatter and very pristine mountain ash forest area. The whole walking time on this Long Spur Track was about two hours.

We again had to traverse the cold waters of the King River, before climbing steeply uphill for 10 mins till we reached the car. We used this car to ferry the drivers 3km along the track on the west side of Lake William Hovell back to where we had left the vehicles. We then ascended through the tunnel, below the dam wall, and looked at the water gushing out of the portal on the dam wall.

We then walked back to the cars at the Lake picnic area, and all had a cuppa before driving back to Wangaratta, arriving back at about 5.00pm, which was nearly darkness.

This is a walk only for those who are reasonably fit, and with the slight changes can now be classified in the future as "Medium/Hard" The walk took exactly 6 hours, for the 17.5km distance, including stops for morning tea and lunch. [Bob Shaw]

Buckland Gap to Beechworth : June 13

This nice little adventure started out from the corner of Buckland Gap Road and Lady Newton Drive, with 10 participants on this overcast, and cool day.

The walk was all on gravel roads and tracks, and shortly after commencement, we skirted Bates Dam, a relic from the gold mining days.

From there it is a relatively steep incline to a Lookout to regroup, and take in views of the Murmungee Basin.



The walk then continued through a variety of eucalypts, with views of orchards now in winter garb, pastoral land, and along muddy (in patches) tracks. The walk also included two quite steep declines/inclines, and despite recent rain, we had no problems crossing a small creek.

A herd of contentedly grazing cows looked inquiringly at us as we past them by, before reaching the bitumenised Dingle Road, and into the Mayday Hills complex to enjoy lunch near the George Kerferd Hotel.

This was an Easy/Medium Walk (AWTGS3) of about 7.5kms, taking three hours, including morning tea stops.

Overall a lovely winter day's morning walk. [Glenda]

Route: Starting on Lady Newton Drive, turn left onto Jensen Track, past Bates Dam, then after approx 20 minutes from the walk commencement, turn right into Six Mile Road, then 200m on the left onto West Dingle Track, and after 50m turn left onto Orchard Track, later veering left at the junction with West Dingle Track.



Walk for approx. one hour from Six Mile Road, then turn right at the intersection of West and North Dingle Track, before turning left thru a gate, 250 metres on from the intersection.

Pass thru a further two gates, before arriving at the bitumenised Dingle Road, then left into Oak Avenue, and then into the Mayday Hills complex to the public area near the George Kerferd Hotel.

Mount Samaria : June 16

To declare that some walkers of the WRBC are a hardy bunch is a bit of an understatement. Despite a bleak weather forecast of 11 degrees, rain, possible hail and snow above 500m, a handful of walkers joined me on the walk to Mt Samaria.

Jeanette was particularly eager, as she had just had her feet serviced at the foot centre, and needed a long walk with hills to test them out.

For the record, I was thinking it would be nicer to spend the day on the couch, with the Sunday paper and the heater set to a comfortable twenty two degrees, wearing my moccasies.

After confirming that everyone had the appropriate wet weather gear, snorkels and flippers, our departure from Rotary Park at 8am was made in record time with such a small group.

Arriving at Mount Samaria State Park we encountered a wet and slippery road, but promptly arrived at our parking destination - the kiln ruins, information board and most importantly, toilet.



Our first part of the route was along Lightning Track. We easily crossed one small stream at the start, and continued walking uphill. A rocky outcrop, some 100m above our starting point, was a good place to catch our breath.

Lightning Track, which has many sections of vegetation growing over the track, then meets Mt Samaria Track.

Expecting a turnoff, which at first was obscured, we soon found our correct way towards Butchers Track, a vehicle road.

From here it was a short straightforward walk along the road, until we turned right onto the Tramline Track. Our first point of interest was a few hundred metres along, at the braking station. This provided a suitable place for morning tea, although I felt some were mourning their tea break, as the weather was yet to show signs of improvement.

After this break we retraced our steps back to the Mt Samaria Track junction. The turnoff point, which was not clearly visible earlier, was now more evident coming from the other direction.

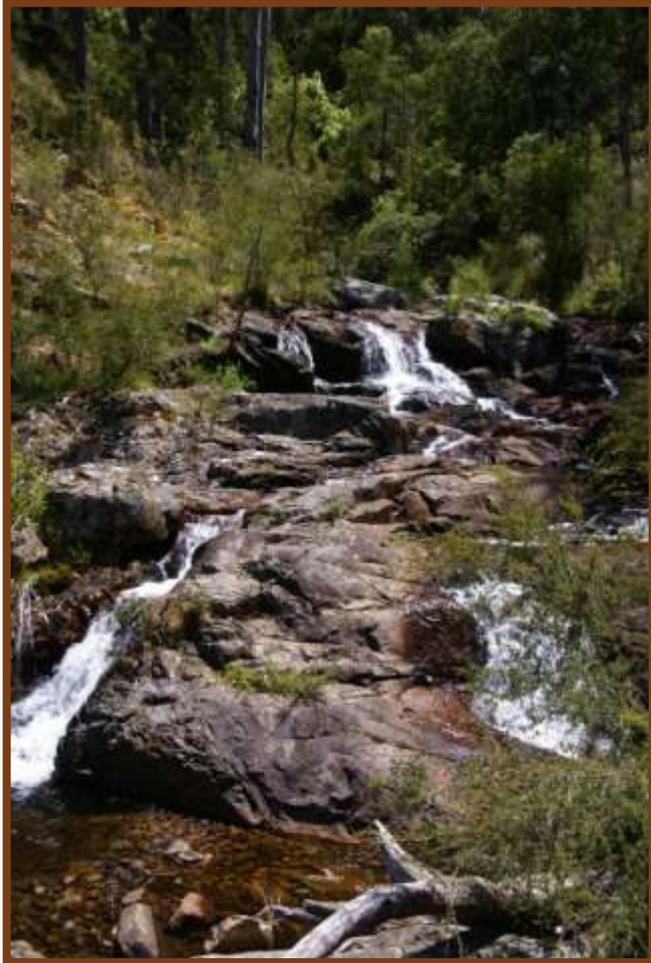
A little landscaping of surrounding branches now made the track more visible for future walkers. We then continued along Mt Samaria track for a couple of kilometres, before making the final steep ascent to the summit.

Mt Samaria summit is 953m above sea level, and on a clear day it is said you can see Lake Mokoan. Folklore possibly, but we will never know as visibility today was poor, and our views today were

shrouded in fog. The rain began to increase, and it was decided to make a hasty retreat down the link track, and head to the Wild Dog Creek Falls camping area for lunch.

Upon arriving at the camp ground, favourable comments were forthcoming about the area, and the walking trails in this park. It was a pleasure to have Kate and Graham join us today too, as usually they are walking some magnificent trails in other parts of the world.

Once lunch was consumed, and the Allen's snakes handed out as further incentive to keep going, it was time to depart for the Falls.



Wild Dog Creek Falls are a short distance from the camp ground, and with the most recent rain, they were flowing moderately. In the distance the sun almost, but unconvincingly, teased us with the prospect of a little mid-afternoon warmth. The viewing platform provided views of the Falls and sights to the south east of the state park.

After taking in the sights, we retraced our steps back towards the camp ground, but then proceeded a short distance where we met up with the Mt Samaria Road we drove in on.

The cars were soon reached, and the usual and always welcomed cuppa and cookies provided by Pat was heartily consumed.

The walk of 14.5km was completed in five and a half hours, and although it rained on our parade, it didn't dampen our enjoyment of a nice nature trail in a park in our region. Except when you realise that your Gore-Tex jacket has lost its Durable Water Repellency (DWR) and is now absorbing more water than repelling it. Who knew? [Michael]

Whorouly Ridgetop : Saturday, July 14

In quite cold but windless and sunny conditions, Adrian led 23 humans, and one very well - behaved dog (Ted), along farm tracks for about 9kms, in the area just south of the Snow Road and west of Whorouly.



This led us to climb up onto the same ridge which was ascended by Hume and Hovell in November 1824.

Like us, the explorers enjoyed the magnificent view over the mountains, with Bogong and the High Plains standing out on the horizon.

From a high saddle where we had a short rest, we could see Mt Buffalo, as named 194 years ago, despite the local aborigine's name being associated with the Echidna.

Adrian read out part of Hovell's journal, describing the widespread small fires that dominated the valley back then.

After observing the beckoning Warby Ranges to the west, we continued this delightful hike back down towards the Carboor Everton Road, and Pat's delectable cuppa and fresh biscuits. [Adrian]

Everton Upper to Baarmutha : Friday, July 20

Ten walkers braved a chilly day last Friday to walk 12kms along the Everton to Beechworth rail trail, returning along bush fringed dirt roads.

A proposal for a rail line to Beechworth was first mooted at the time of the Gold Rush, with tenders being called for in 1874. The plan was for the line to split off from the main Melbourne - Sydney Line at Bowser (just north of Wangaratta) and then across the Reedy Creek Floodplain, and up the Ovens Valley to Everton.

From Everton, the task became harder, as Beechworth stands on a plateau overlooking the Ovens Valley, and there would be some serious engineering works to be tackled.

There were about 500 men employed on the project, who went on to build 30+ bridges, and excavate 40+ cuttings. The longest cutting was about a kilometre long, and this structure is still intact.

The Wangaratta - Everton - Beechworth Line was finally opened in 1876, with the extension to Wooragee and Yackandandah being opened in 1891.

Our walk commenced near an old molybdenite mine which yielded 21,000 tonnes of ore, essential for the defence industry during both world wars (it's used for armour plating).



Several eastern grey kangaroos, and a black wallaby, were sighted on the walk route, and the group were fascinated by the brick clad culverts, and bridges of the original railway line, the huge embankments (still in excellent order) and the deep cuttings. [Adrian]

Tawonga Gap to Young's Gap : Saturday, July 28

This walk was attended by nine trekkers, including three visitors joining us for the day.

Starting at Tawonga Gap, the group were delighted by the outstanding panorama over the Kiewa Valley, and our special mountains.



This road linking the Kiewa and Ovens Valleys was built in 1895-6 by contractors using pick and shovel labour, and their wheelbarrows; it was a struggle, but the project was completed on time.

Setting off, the views only improved along the walk as we gained elevation. Snow was in abundance at Mt Bogong, and the surrounding high country, while patches of snow could be clearly seen on Mt Buffalo.

We enjoyed lunch at Flat Rock, and the enjoyable 19km walk was then completed in good time. [Jeanette]

Middle Creek Valley : Sunday, August 12

For the Middle Creek Valley and Ridge Top Walk, near Greta South, last Sunday, we had 20 participants for a great walk that included the "Kelly Cave".

This was a short walk of approximately 10 kilometres, mostly in the bush and off track through private land. It was a fine day but cold, with temperature averaging about 11 degrees.

After making our way to an overhanging cave, which was possibly used by the Kelly Gang back in the late 1870's, we had a long climb to the top of the ridge, where we had morning tea with great views to the Middle Creek and Ryan's Creek valleys.

From here, we continued further to a gently sloping area for lunch, and then followed another track before a steep descent back into the valley.

As an added bonus, our guest leader, and local expert, Adrian educated us with some good basic bush and navigation skills during the walk. [Jeanette]

Ovens River Walk : Wednesday, August 22

This enjoyable local walk took us through some of the wetlands on the Ovens River, just downstream of Wangaratta, an area that has seen much rejuvenation, and renewed interest, over the past few years.



Setting off, the mist lifted very soon after eight club members headed off from behind Mullinmur Billabongs, near the end of Phillipson Street.

We hiked in warm sunshine along the banks of the Ovens River, and around the main billabong, before following the river paths to North Beaches, the Bullawah Trail, Apex Park, and across the main bridge to the Wilson Road area.

Due to semi flood water covering the King River, we could not gain access to Big Kaluna, but the almost 7km walk was at that stage a very satisfying achievement.

Pat's so welcome cuppa was again enjoyed, but this time back at Rotary Park surrounded by friendly, but hungry, magpies.

[Andy]

Warby Ranges, North-South (Stage 1): Saturday, August 25

This was the first leg of walking the complete length of the Warby Ranges from north to south, a medium grade walk that is completed by our club every few years.

This three-stage walk is always a popular event, and this year, by including Mount Killawarra in our route, we would have a mountain in each section.

Today's route took us from Boweya Road (Killawarra) through to Ryans Lookout on the Wangandary Road.

After parking at the start, the adventure kicked off with a climb along Tower Road, with wallabies being sighted along the way.

Some members of the group stopped for morning tea at a picnic spot, with great views to the north east, while the remainder of the group followed the track to Mount Killawarra.

This latter group came across an echidna along the way, before enjoying their morning tea with fantastic views to the north and west.



Regrouping after morning tea, we continued along Tower Road to the Spring Creek Picnic Area for lunch, to be greeted by Rod Davis and a friend, who had ridden up from Wangaratta to join us there.

After lunch, Adrian was entrusted with leading the group along the banks of Spring Creek to Blakelys Track, and then to the last part of the walk alongside Wangandary Road to Ryans Lookout.

We had 22 walkers participating in this outing, including four casual walkers, and a previous casual walker who joined the Club on the day.

Kerri's phone indicated that we had completed a 10km walk, and we enjoyed the best weather seen for some time, a fine and sunny 18 degrees; we even had the sunscreen out. [Jeanette]

Warby Ranges N-S [Stage 2] : Sunday, September 9

On this second stage of our local adventure, an impressive number of people (27) took the opportunity to walk the 17kms from Ryan's Lookout to Taminick Gap, this being the middle section of our 'Warby Ranges : North to South'.

Dry conditions seem to have prevented a massed blooming of the normally abundant wildflowers, but there were large groups of superb wattles, and abundant nodding green hoods over the first part of the walk. We also discovered abundant donkey orchids.



Morning tea was taken at Wenham's Camp, just before we "climbed" Mt Warby, with its great views, and lunch was enjoyed not far from the big towers near the end of Bailey's Road.

At Taminick Gap we enjoyed a welcome cuppa, and then a brief car shuffle was completed before we headed back to Wangaratta. [Karen]

Warby Ranges N-S [Stage 3] : Sunday, September 23

We began Stage Three of our Warby Journey at Taminick Gap Road with a climb towards the telecommunications towers. Stepping off the bitumen, and onto the dirt, we then followed the Ridge Track to the turnoff for Chick Hill, and enjoyed morning tea at this point (that is, Chick Hill). There were plenty of rocks and fallen trees to sit down for morning tea, but the views were a bit obscured by the surrounding forest.

After morning tea, we retraced our steps to the Ridge Track, and continued to Morgans Lookout at Mt Glenrowan.

From here, we had clear views of snowcapped alps, to enjoy with lunch, before heading into the bush along the ridge, and then up and down some gullies before reaching Morrisons Winery.



Our President (Glenda) had organised cheese and fruit platters for members enjoyment, following the walk, which went down really well with the reds, whites, rose and, why not try a muscat on ice, at Morrisons Winery. Great hospitality at this winery.

Our group this day consisted of seven casual walkers, and two new members.

Overall I think the walk was between 8 and 9 kilometres. We saw lots of kangaroos and a wallaby or two, and it was a great day out. [Jeanette]

Social Events

'Say Goodbye to Winter' Dinner : August 28

This was a well attended event, being held at the ever popular Wangaratta Club.

Chairperson for the 'Thredbo Week Away 2019 Committee', Cecily Fletcher, presented details of this event, with a video presentation that provided members with an insight into the accommodation available, and the variety of alpine walks on offer in the beautiful Kosciusko National Park.

As well as a nice meal, and good company, we heard from Adrian Twitt and Geoff Dining about their dramatic story of survival in the Upper Middle Creek Valley.

What a great finale to the evening.....another of Michael's Quiz's!! Judging by the laughter and chuckles around the room as we collaboratively endeavoured to complete the series of multiple choice questions set, Michael's dry sense of humour and sense of fun had captured us all...once again!!!

Thanks to all those who presented, who attended, and made the night another very enjoyable social gathering for our Club.

Christmas Party/BBQ : December 7

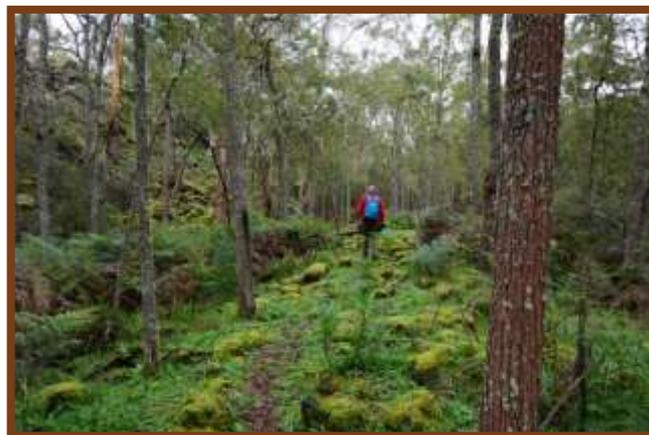
This years Christmas BBQ will be held at the Murrumbidgee-Bowmans Hall, accessible by turning off the Great Alpine Road (or Buckland Gap Road) onto the Murrumbidgee-Bowmans Road.

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.

Misc News . . .

Appalachian Trail

Our amazing Adele Ritchie (from Moyhu), is on another epic adventure having conquered the Alpine Walking Track ("only" 655km) and the Hume and Hovell track (426km) over the last few years, accompanied by local club bushwalkers.



Turner Street Footbridge

The Turner Street footbridge is under construction, and when complete will provide a new crossing over One Mile Creek, and make it easier for pedestrians to get to/from Phillipson Street and Swan Street.

This is one of several new bridges built over the creek in the past few years, and enhances the amenity of the One Mile Creek pathway.

Red-gum Forests

Parks Victoria has released the final River Red Gum Parks Management Plan, and this sets out the long-term goals for the 100+ parks and reserves covering over 215,000 ha in Northern Victoria including our Warby-Ovens National Park.



Many aspects of recreation are covered in the document, including camping, bushwalking, fishing and canoeing.

More information can be found by downloading a copy of the Plan from parks.vic.gov.au/redgumplan.

Thredbo : 2019 Week Away

See the next three pages for all the information (including the registration form) for our Week Away for 2019—the alpine resort of Thredbo.



Photo from appalachiantrail.org

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail extends from Springer Mountain in Georgia, to Mount Katahdin in Maine.

The Trail was first mooted in 1921, and completed in 1937, although maintenance, and improvements are always ongoing.

About two million people access the Trail each year, mostly walkers, but also skiers in winter. Only about 2700 walkers complete the full length of the Trail each year.

Adele has been mapping her journey on the blog site WordPress, where she describes every few day's adventures, weather and moods. She started in the deep south state of Georgia on April 1st, and if you wish to follow Adele's journey she has a detailed blog at <https://adelesappalachiantrailexperience.com>

See also <https://appalachiantrail.org>

Bushwalking Victoria website : where2walk

Bushwalking Victoria has advised that the cumbersome process of accessing where2walk on their website has become a one step process, instead of the previous 5-step process.

Simply click on the link (accessible via our website, on the "Useful Links" page) and go to the walk you want information on.



Thredbo Week Away: Sunday, 31st March – 6th April 2019 (6 nights)

PRELIMINARY FACT SHEET

The Club has booked the entire YHA facility at Thredbo in the Mt Kosciusko National Park, a 295km drive via the Alpine Way from Wangaratta. The purpose built two story YHA . www.yha.com.au/hostels/nsw/snowy-mountains/thredbo has a number of room options – please see Page 2/. and attached Room Map. Bunks are utilised in all rooms, however it is anticipated that all members will have a bottom bunk, dependent on numbers. The final cost per person also depends on numbers but it is anticipated the nightly rate will be between \$45 and \$75 per person, according to the room type chosen/allocated. If you wish, please indicate your room type & room buddy/s preference on the Registration form, and these will try to be accommodated.

A variety of easy/medium/hard walks will be offered daily encompassing Australia's Rooftop walks, ranges, moraine lakes, rivers and old huts - and no dedicated rest day has been earmarked due to this being a six night stay.

The meals team system will again be used to prepare, cook, serve and clean up a three course dinner with each participant being "on duty" on one night only (more information will be provided closer to departure). Simple and wholesome meals will be served, and will equate to a cost per person of \$10 per day. To keep costs down, no dining out option will be offered.

What you need to provide:

- Your own dinner for Sunday, 31st March – please plan to be there by 6pm
- Your own breakfast, lunch and snacks for the week
- A towel (all bedding is provided)
- Appropriate walking clothing – a full Alpine Clothing List will be provided later
- Your own alcohol if required.

Please note:

- We can access Thredbo YHA after 2pm on Sunday, 31st March and must leave by 10am on Saturday, 6th April.
- A supermarket and service station are available in Thredbo.
- Tea, coffee, milk, butter and margarine will be provided by the Club.
- We will be meeting in the dining room at 6pm each evening to plan walks for the following day – commencing on Sunday, 31st March.
- Due to the potential for inclement weather, the walks program will be flexible.
- Dependent upon numbers we may appoint a transport coordinator as it will be beneficial to minimise vehicle numbers.
- There is no on-site parking at the YHA and a \$17 per day per vehicle fee for use of the Alpine Way applies. Eligible pensioners can apply for a complementary NPWS concession pass .
- Car pooling is always encouraged and the expectation is that passengers will contribute to transport costs.
- The highly successful "Meter Maid" system will again be used to cover daily walks' petrol costs.
- We will be using the chairlift which attracts a \$22 or concession \$19 per person fee.

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How to Book

Please provide a completed Registration Form and deposit of \$100 per person by **31st October 2018** to Glenda Hall, 15 Park Crescent, Wangaratta. The balance (to be determined by numbers attending and type of accommodation chosen/allocated) is due by **1st March 2019**. Please note that every effort will be made to refund where possible, however a portion may be withheld to pay the Club's commitment to YHA's Cancellation Policy that we must adhere to.

Any queries can be directed to members of the Sub-Committee:

Chair: Cecily Fletcher 0490 024 471
Walks Coordinator: Bob Shaw 5766 2773
Assistant Walks Coordinator Robert Chard 0408 174 027
Assistant Walks Coordinator Liz White 0428 810 071
Accommodation & Meals Coordinator: Cheryl Hoysted 0419 005 062
Communication Coordinator: Glenda Hall 0499 535 202
Transport Coordinator To Be Confirmed, if required

ROOM OPTIONS

Downstairs

Room Type	Beds	No of Rooms	Sleeps	Ensuite
Private 4 share	2 x bunk sets	1	4	Yes
Twin/Double	Double with cantilever single (tri-bunk)	1	3	No
Dorm room	2 x bunk sets	1	4	No
Family room	Double with cantilever single (tri-bunk) + 2 x bunk set	1	5	No

Upstairs

Room Type	Beds	No of Rooms	Sleeps	Ensuite
Dorm room	3 x bunk sets	1	6	No
Dorm rooms	2 x bunk sets	4	4	No
Family room	Double with cantilever single (tri-bunk) + 2 x bunk set	2	5	No
Twin/Double	Double with cantilever single (tri-bunk)	2	3	Yes

Bathroom Facilities

Please note there are three communal bathrooms in the building, each with one toilet. There is a mixed sex bathroom on the reception level and there is a female and male bathroom upstairs. The mixed bathroom has one shower, and the single sex bathrooms have two showers each.



**Thredbo Week Away (6 nights)
 Sunday, 31st March to Saturday, 6th April 2019
 Registration**

Name:

Address:

Phone: Mobile:

email:

Contact person, relationship and phone number in case of emergency:

Please tick any special dietary requirements, or relevant health issues:

- Vegetarian Gluten Free
- No red meat No chicken
- No fish Other

If you wish, please select your accommodation & room sharing preference, however whilst every effort will be made to accommodate any choice you make, depending on numbers, it may not be possible.

Room type	Level, Upstairs/Downstairs	No. in Room	Room Buddy/s

To register, please complete and sign this Registration Form and send to Glenda Hall, 15 Park Crescent, Wangaratta 3677 with a deposit of \$100 per person by 31st October 2018:

bank transfer BSB 633 000 Account No. 110647799 Ref: Thredbo – Your name; or
 cash / cheque (Warby Range Bushwalkers Inc) attached.

Please note, the balance for accommodation will be required by 1st March 2019.

Acknowledgement of Risks and Obligations of Members

During the week away to minimise risks I will endeavour to ensure that:

Each activity is within my capabilities

I am carrying food, water and equipment appropriate for the walks/activities.

In addition:

I will advise the activity leader if I am taking any medication or have any physical or other limitation that might affect my participation in the walk/activity

I will make every effort to remain with the rest of the party during the walk/ activity

I will advise the leader of any concerns I am having, and

I will comply with all reasonable instructions of club officers and/or the walk/activity leader.

Signature(s)

Date...../...../ 2018