



WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc.

FUN . FITNESS . FRIENDSHIP

NEWSLETTER, April—September 2020

warbybushwalkers.org.au

Welcome to the latest newsletter from the Warby Bushwalkers . . .

Due to the pandemic, there was no newsletter in June, so this edition covers six months of activity (such as it was).

As previously advised by email, our walk schedule is suspended under Stage 3 restrictions until mid-September. A formal walks program had been reintroduced for July-September, but that is no more.

Even prior to the current lockdown, the pandemic severely curtailed our ability to function as normal, and one of the outcomes of this was the formation of walking group 'pods'; this enabled us to keep walking, albeit in an informal manner.

Each pod was restricted to ten members (so as to stay within health rules during the pandemic) and there were five pods; in alpha order, Beechworth (led by Leslie Finedon), Jamsparks (led by Jeanette and Michael; the pod name was formed from the initials of the members), McPod (led by Chris McLaughlin), Myrtleford (led by Marita) and Spod (led by Bob Shaw)

Examples of walks undertaken by the various pods include, Mount Glenrowan, White Box (Chiltern), Reform Hill (Myrtleford), Alpine Views, Ingrams Rock, Mount Meg, Sunrise Track, Salisbury Falls and Mount Stanley.

Here's some reports from the Pods . . .

Salisbury Falls : May 24

Setting off from the western end of Shanley Street, we took the narrow goat track that climbs alongside Salisbury Falls, and made our way up to Boilerwood Track, and then Mount Warby.

We had morning tea at the Mount, then followed Friends Track over to Taylors Track, and on to Kwat Kwat Lookout for lunch (excellent views).



Then it was back to Friends Track, then Alpine Views Track to pick up Boilerwood Track once more, ready for the steep descent back to the car park.

Anyone else attempting this walk should be aware that the signage is not the best, and there is a need to keep monitoring your position on the map. [Michael]

Chick Hill : May 28

This energetic walk started out from Hamilton Park, tackling the steep-ish incline of the route up to Chick Hill for morning tea. The walking route up to Chick Hill was built a few years ago; the hill (which has great views) was named after a pioneering family of the area.



We then continued along the ridge system to Mount Glenrowan for lunch, and returned via the same route, with more great views all the way. This was an excellent 12km walk on a fine, but over-cast, day. [Bob]

Sunrise and Taminick Tracks : May 30

Most walks in this area complete the loop around the hill country, but this time we decided to also tackle a loop that included Taminick and Swamp Tracks.

Heading up-slope on the usual route, we had initial problems finding Taminick Track, but our GPS delivered the goods.

We had morning tea at a high point, with good views, then followed Colson Track through the bush for lunch at another high point (more good views).

We then headed off through a swamp area, before we returned to the cars, having completed a 10km adventure. [Andy]

Lake Kerferd : June 5

This 11km walk started off from the swing bridge, near the Lake Sambell Caravan Park, and then headed upstream, alongside Silver Creek. We were soon circling past the caravan park, and then swung left to pick up the newly aligned track to Lake Kerferd.

Massive gum trees formed the back-drop to our walk, and we were entertained with the calls of bell-birds.

The Lake was named after George Kerferd, who was mayor of Beechworth three times, a member of the Victorian Parliament, and subsequently Premier of Victoria in 1874. [Lesley]

Ingrams Rock : July 5

There were seven participants for this Pod walk, and having met up at the Powder Magazine (Beechworth) we stepped out on the start of our eight kilometre trek.

The weather was cool, but mostly sunny, with the max temp being about 12C, not too bad for a July day.

We took the single file track from just near the Powder Magazine, and then the scenic bush tracks up to Ingrams Rock. The return route was via Fiddess Quarry, and The Precipice. We then picked up the first part of the outgoing route for our return to the cars.



Overall we rated this walk as moderate, and really enjoyed the mix of natural and human history. Lunch was taken at the Quarry, where (not surprisingly) there are plenty of flat rocks to sit on.

The bridge over Spring Creek is still out of action (four years, and counting), so the walk route was 'P' shaped, rather than 'O' shaped. [Chris]

Barry Falls : June 21

"It was a case of every rose has its thorn on Sunday June 21, as the Jamsparks Pod was left with only one male walker on this occasion to accompany the nine lovely ladies.

A 16km planned loop walk near Eldorado, including Barry Falls, ended up being a little over 15km, with one section missed on the day. I should have known that if you want to walk along a track called the Southern Track, you should take the signpost pointing to Southern Track.

If only Google Maps and all maps on the planet agreed with each other.

Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park is a pleasant park to walk through, and although birds were scarce, there were numerous cautious kangaroos, and inquisitive Alpacas/Llamas about.

Not what you would usually expect, but they were fenced off out of the park. A quartet of mountain bike riders making use of the area also passed us on their own trails.

The weather presented a little of everything during the day; there was low cloud driving into Eldorado, and a few light showers during the walk.

The lunch break at Barry Falls was an opportunity for the heavens

to open just a little more steadily than at any other time of the walk, but then concluded with a patch of welcomed sunshine.



Barry Falls had a little water cascading over the cliff, but certainly less than anticipated. It undoubtedly was a momentous place for one couple prior to our arrival.

The gentleman had just popped the big question, and the lady accepted. She could not wait to tell someone, and that someone ended up being our ladies in the club who then proceeded to "ooh and aah" over the ring. Although I did not actually see the ring, from all reports it was somewhere in the vicinity between the size of a golf ball, and tennis ball.

The walk was completed in about 4.5 hours, and was an agreeable way to spend a Sunday afternoon". [Michael]

Sunrise Walking Track, Warby Ranges : June 23

Meeting at the car park, off Delloro Road, the six of us headed off on this seven kilometre adventure.

The weather was cool, with a grey/blue sky – but no rain!, and we took the sign-posted track from the start up to the Quarry, and then picked up the main walking track. This gave the walk an hour-glass shape, even though it was a 'there-and-back' walk.

The walk took about three hours, with lunch at the rocky high point of this walk. [Chris]

The meeting of the Pods : June 27

It was an early (9am) start for the Jamsparks Pod on the 27th, and the Pod headed out along Ridge Track, towards Mount Glenrowan.

Morning tea was held at Chick Hill (a short detour from Ridge Track), and then the Pod continued to Mount Glenrowan for lunch at Morgan's Lookout.

It was a great day for the scenic views, and to add to the pleasure, there was a surprise gesture for Jeanette's birthday.

Michael had secretly carried two bottles of wine, and some plastic wine glasses in his pack, and this was lot of extra weight that we couldn't allow him to carry back.

On our return walk we came across the McPod (who had made a leisurely 11am start) and this was a nice bonus to catch up with other club members.

After exchanging notes, and gossip (at 1.5m, of course) we took the back track (we think it's called Bluff Track) from Ridge Track, which eventually brought us back to the Ridge Track near the water point for the CFA.

We finally returned to the start about 1pm, whilst the McPod arrived back at 2.30pm.

Mount Meg : July 9

This nice little adventure was originally proposed by Adrian as a Pod walk, but eventually morphed into a full club walk. However, regardless of the pedigree, nine happy walkers enjoyed this scenic six kilometre outing on a glorious winter's day.



We met at Rotary Park at 10am, and set off in convoy for Thoona, and then via Sayers Road, and Amery Road South to the start. From here, we followed the faint foot-pad to the ridge-line, and then followed this through to the environs of Mount Meg.

Morning tea was enjoyed at a nice rocky outcrop, and lunch at the Mount itself. Many granite outcrops were encountered on the way, all of them with a pink hue (caused by the presence of potassium feldspar plagioclase : Geology 101), and we made use of these rocky settings for our seating.

The views were excellent, with the Wabonga Plateau and Mount Cobbler on the skyline, and lush green fields closer to the ridge. Wildlife included many kangaroos, a soaring wedge-tail eagle, and several groups of chough, which didn't seem to like our presence. The documentation for the area mentions two aboriginal art sites, but we were not able to find these.

As mentioned, we were following a faint foot-pad all the way, and the terrain under our feet was far from smooth, making progress quite slow. We covered the six kilometres in four hours, and found trekking poles to be a great asset. Many Thanks to Adrian and Geoff for guiding us on this very enjoyable walk.

Mountain Pygmy Possums

The North-east Catchment Management has received federal funding to research the decline of the Mountain Pygmy Possum in the alpine areas.

It is estimated that there are only about 2000 of these marsupials left in the high country, with reasons given for this including the decline in numbers of the bogong moth. The presence of feral animals (dogs, cats and foxes) is also listed as a major problem.

Monitoring of the possums has included cameras (20 of them) and tagging of individual possums via electronic chips.

More details at necma.vic.gov.au

Stypandra Track

This track (which is named after a local species of lily) is shown on the VicMap 1:50 000 scale map Wangaratta, but is in fact seriously overgrown. At the instigation of Karen Davis, several curious club members have walked this route during the pandemic.



The track leads off from the Loggers Lane walk, about two kilometres from the start, and curves around the hillslope to the left, and then the right, before starting a steep descent towards cleared country, and the Jubilee Golf Course.

From the floor of the valley, a left turn leads to a very pretty, albeit un-named, waterfall (great place for lunch), whereas a right turn basically follows the northern boundary of the golf course.

Continuing past the golf course, the access track to Jubilee Falls is then encountered, concluding a very scenic, and enjoyable, route.

ParksVictoria are planning to upgrade the lower access route, and we can therefore look forward to a new walk in the Warby Ranges.

Annual General Meeting.

Our long awaited Annual General Meeting was held on 27 July, the venue being the Town and Country Tavern, Wangaratta. Sixteen members attended in person, and four other members used Zoom to participate in the meeting.

After a nice meal at the Tavern, our President, Cecily Fletcher, opened the meeting and welcomed attendees, and it was noted that this meeting is later in the year from normal practice due restrictions imposed by the pandemic.

The President's Report, Treasurer's Report and Walks Report were presented, and as a part of her report, Cecily made particular mention of the outstanding work of retiring secretary Kerri Davenport over many previous years.



Cecily also made particular mention of how well the club had managed the requirements of the Corona Virus Pandemic, including communication, and the adapted walks program through the structure of pods of walkers. Particular thanks goes to the Pod leaders during this period.

Annual subscriptions for 2020/2021 were voted on, and remain at the current rate of \$35.00 single, \$65 per family. However, in particular circumstances the club will offer fees of \$25.00 single, and \$45 per family.

For the election of Office Bearers, Adrian Twitt took the chair.

Adrian thanked Cecily Fletcher for her work as president over the last 12 months. He also thanked the retiring committee members, and conducted the nomination, and election procedure, for office bearers, as follows, President, Cecily Fletcher; Secretary, Peter Brain; Treasurer, Bob Shaw.



Cecily then resumed the chair, thanked all retiring committee members for their work during their terms of office, and conducted the nomination and election procedure for the new committee as follows (in alpha order), Michael Braendler, Sandie Church, Jeanette Farquhar, Anne Ford, Andy Kimber, Kelvin Longhurst, Chris McLaughlin, Anne Turnbull and Trevor Turnbull

After these formalities, this very successful AGM was then closed. The planned presentation regarding the formation of our club (nearly 40 years ago) was delayed to an appropriate social meeting later in the year.

The new Committee met on-line on August 10, and it was your typical on-line meeting debacle - with people struggling to get video or mic to work, or to get in in the first place! However, we got through all of the agenda items, including an update on the Warby Ovens National Park working group from Andy Kimber. We also sorted out committee roles for the coming year, hopefully a year of normal bushwalking.

In the meantime, here is a selection of reports from those walks that did manage to go ahead in the non-lockdown periods.

Mount Buller : March 14

Five committed walkers made an early start to drive the 150km to Mt Buller village, where our objective was the Klingsporn Bridle track descent.

It was a beautiful blue sky autumn day after some overnight showers, and we dropped one car off at Mirimbah picnic area, on the way.

On arrival at Mt Buller village we enjoyed the magnificent panorama over the ranges from the mountain top, but a crisp chilly wind ripped through us as we headed off wearing jackets, hats and gloves.

Although we had clear maps and instructions about finding the start of the top end of the track, we were bamboozled by the many mountain bike tracks, and a misleading sign which resulted in us wasting some time and energy, before we eventually consulted our electronic devices to navigate, and put us on the right track.

We found a lovely sheltered spot for morning tea in the sunshine, amongst tall gums and wombat holes. The track was now well marked, descending gently for most of the way, and we enjoyed a scattering of wildflowers and ferns which looked healthy after the recent rains.

Lunch stop (for those that remembered to bring it) was in a pretty clearing, where an information sign revealed that the Klingsporn Bridle track had indeed been used in the 1920s, and 30s, as an access on horseback to the mountaintop, and to ski-fields in winter. Life would have been much tougher in those days!

The track steepened as we descended down towards Mirimbah, where it finished next to the road, and the gushing Delatite River.

The walk was approximately 7.5km in total, and took us a leisurely five hours.



We all agreed to drive back up to Mt Buller to collect the shuttle car, and enjoyed an afternoon coffee in the café.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable medium grade walk, in great company, despite the messy start. [Anne Ford]

Carboor to Whorouly South : July 19

The gravel road from Carboor to Whorouly South, along Waters Lane, and the Carboor – Whorouly South Road meanders through lovely bushland. It then opens up into farmland, with fantastic views towards the Murrumbidgee Basin, and the hills surrounding it.

Though the number of walkers (17) forced us to divide into groups, one walking about 15km, the other one about 8km, it was very much appreciated to be able to walk, and talk, with people we haven't been able to see for some time.



It was a rather cold morning, but we soon warmed up, and enjoyed a sunny day. [Marita]

Mount Glenrowan : August 1

Because of the restrictions imposed as a result of the pandemic, this walk was split in to two groups; Group A (led by Jeanette and Michael) met at 9.45am, and Group B (led by Chris) met at 10.15am.



There were 15 participants in total, and having met at Taminick Gap, the walkers stepped it out to Chick Hill for morning tea, and then returned to the main track so as to get to Mount Glenrowan (Morgans Lookout) for lunch.

The distance planned for this moderate grade walk was about 11km, including the detour to Chick Hill and return (which added about 1.8km to the usual direct route to Mount Glenrowan).

The views of the floodplain from Chick Hill, and Mount Glenrowan, were excellent; however, lingering haze obscured any high country vistas. The grass trees looked very prosperous, and there were several shrubs (such as the Fringe Myrtle) in flower.

Weather for the day was cool at first, but mostly sunny; we were on the track for about four hours, and this was a great walk with a great group of people; very enjoyable. [Chris]

Update on feral horses in national parks

Feral horses in national parks have been in the news lately. Two court applications were dismissed, clearing the way for Parks Victoria to begin culling horses to prevent further environmental damage to the Bogong High Plains.

Meanwhile, on 22 July, the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service started removing approximately 4000 feral horses from some higher conservation-value parts of northern Kosciuszko NP. The horses will be re-homed where possible, and the remainder trucked to an abattoir.



The NSW government is preparing to issue the long-awaited call for comments on its draft wild horse management plan, probably

in September. The Reclaim Kosci campaign, a coalition of environmental groups, NPAs and many bushwalking clubs, will be preparing a submission guide. The guide will be available through our website. [Linda Groom, Volunteer, Reclaim Kosci]

Track signage in the Warby Ranges

The long awaited installation of fresh signage in the Warby Range has now started, and the new signs are a big improvement on the old ones.

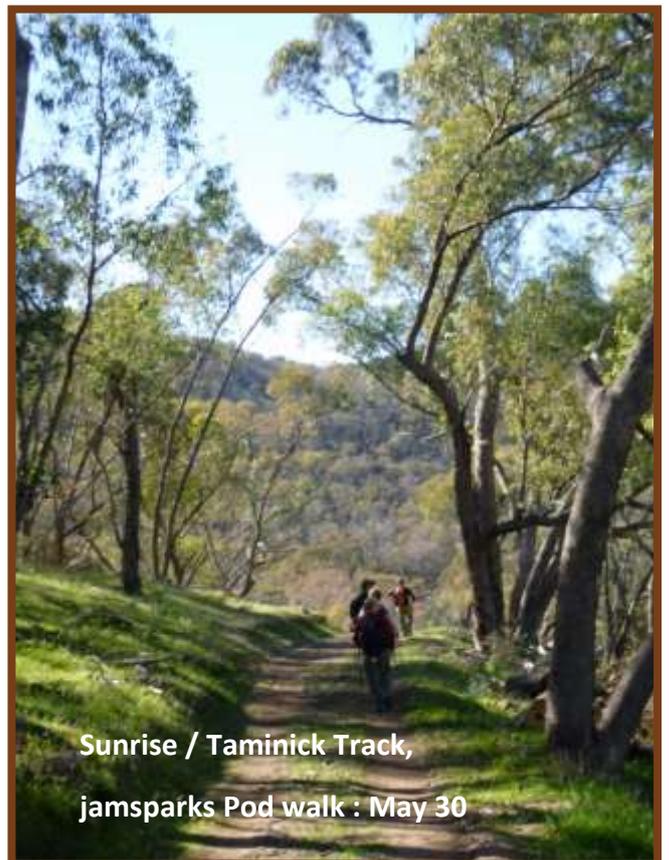


Well, that's it – the last paragraph of possibly the strangest newsletter the club has ever produced, all due to a global pandemic.

Hopefully our next newsletter will be more about walking, rather than how to cope with Pods, masks, and tape measures to mark out 1.5m.

On a more interesting note, please see the next pages for a reproduction of the May 1989 Newsletter of the Walks Group of the Warby Range Protection Society (which became the WarbyBushwalkers).

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Sunrise / Taminick Track,
jamparks Pod walk : May 30

WARBY RANGE PROTECTION SOCIETY INCORPORATED

MAY NEWSLETTER

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The Annual Meeting of the Society fixed the membership subscriptions at:

Individual:	\$ 5-00
Family:	\$ 5-00
Life:	\$50-00

The renewal form is provided below and should be completed so our filing system can be kept up to date. Please indicate your participation in the walking group.

ALPINE NATIONAL PARK.

As you may already know, the Government has again introduced a bill into parliament to create a continuous Alpine National Park. Much of this area is already of National Park status and it will be linked together by establishing a new National Park under the bill which declares those areas which have been logged. Your support for the bill is requested by writing to the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Kennett or the local Liberal member, Lou Lieberman asking them to endorse the bill.

WABONGA PLATEAU STATE PARK

This area warrants more attention for walking as it covers a wide variety of terrain at a lower altitude than the high country. Access can be difficult and therefore, day walks to the best areas are restricted. We set out to cover an area that took in Mt. View, climbing from the east. The weather was indifferent and although we almost succeeded, we were forced to retrace our steps for a variety of good reasons which lengthened the walk. We welcome Bob and Donna Skoog who joined us on the first part of this walk. We hope the indifferent conditions do not deter them from joining us on another walk.

BUSHWALKING NOTES

Beechworth Tunnel - Bring a raincoat, gumboots and torch.

Program Changes - A new program is enclosed.

Warrumbungle Ranges - Book with Rolf Heetel (W) 21 2266
(H) 21 4130. Book NOW!!!

There is a red bushwalking walk book in a member's possession. If you have it, please return it to Rolf Heetel (W) 21 2266.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Name:	Walking Group	Yes/No
Address:		
Phone Number:		
Current Membership is now:	Due/Paid.	
Membership Type:	Individual \$5	
	Family \$5	Life \$50

FORWARD TO:
Secretary, W.R.P.S.I.
Brendan Wilkinson,
1/33 Younger St,
WANGARATTA 3677.

WARBY RANGE PROTECTION SOCIETY INCORPORATED

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

BUSHWALKING NOTES.

We finally re-visited Mt Big Ben, just off the Dederang Rd. As usual for weekends this year, the weather was not the best. All those who participated had been warned of the prospect of inclement weather and the possibility of snow. One group set off from Basin Creek on a shorter route, while the rest started cross country. The cross country group immediately crossed a creek before ascending a reasonably steep hill until a track was reached to make an assault on the summit. On reach about 75% of the climb, small pellets (like sago) of snow appeared. This gradually increased until small snow flakes appeared. On reaching the summit, it was completely white with snow, but no sign of the other group. We stopped for a while to marvel at the snow. The second group was found after their tracks were discovered as the descent from the summit was being made. There was a very brief stop for lunch before returning to the cars.

There has finally been an encounter with the Benalla Bushwalkers with a trip into the Strathbogies. Terry Sydes lead the group in a circuit beginning from the Ivanhoe Grammar School Camp.

WARBY RANGES FRIENDS GROUP

Following the interest shown at the Annual General Meeting of the W.R.P.S.I. regarding the formation of a Friends of the Warbys group, the Society in conjunction with the V.N.P.A. is holding a meeting to form such a group.

The Friends Group would consist of people with a special interest in the Warbys. Our objectives would be:

1. To provide support for the officers of the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands and to foster public awareness of the park.
2. To assist in special projects, e.g. flora and fauna surveys, weeding and track maintenance.
3. To bring into contact people with a mutual interest in the park. Something for us all!

It is hoped that you and your interested friends will be able to the meeting to be held:

Date: Saturday, 3 September 1989.
Time: 10:30 am.
Venue: The Centre for Continuing Education,
Chisholm St, Wangaratta.

This will be followed by a B.Y.O. picnic lunch in the Warbys (BBQ facilities will be available).

WARBY RANGE PROTECTION SOCIETY INCORPORATED

REVISED WALKING PROGRAM 1989

- 4 June River Walk. Grade - easy. Contact Nola Meyland
(W) 21 6677 (H) 21 3924.
- 18 June Beechworth Tunnel. Grade - easy. Contact Rolf
Heetel (W) 21 2266 (H) 21 4130.
- 2 July To be decided. Contact Roly Miles 21 4259.
- 16 July Mt Big Ben. Grade - medium. Contact - Paul
Larkings 25 3242.
- 6 August Eldorado. Grade - easy. Contact John Froelich
21 4200.
- 20 August Chinaman's Creek, Warby Range. Contact Helen
Curtis.
- 3 September Warby Range. Grade - medium. Contact Catriona
Ferguson 21 2025.
- 17 September Mt. Buffalo. Grades - medium, hard. Contact
Catriona Ferguson 21 2025.
- 1 October Dangongadale. Grade - medium. Contact Brien
Kelly 21 6992.
- 9-15 October Warrumbungles Ranges. Early bookings
essential. Contact Rolf Heetel (W) 21 2266
(H) 21 4130.
- 29 October To be decided. Contact John Evans (W) 21 1121
(H) 29 7528.
- 4-5 November Base Camp. Contact Rolf Heetel (W) 21 2266
(H) 21 4130.
- 24-26 November Major Mitchell Walk, Grampians. Grade - Hard.
Contact Brendan Wilkinson (W) 21 6366
(H) 21 8167.
- 2-3 December Backpack - Mt Feathertop. Contact Catriona
Ferguson. (H) 21 2025.
- 9-10 December Mt. Buffalo. Annual Christmas Party. Stay at
Chalet or camp. Contact Rolf Heetel
(W) 21 2266 (H) 21 4130.

NOTES: Please phone early, at least 3 days in advance to check
starting times. All walks leave from the Centre, Chisholm
Street, Wangaratta.