



WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc.

FUN . FITNESS . FRIENDSHIP

NEWSLETTER : September, 2021 warbybushwalkers.org.au

Welcome to the third newsletter of 2021, and to the new format of the newsletter; the same format that was used in the late 1990s.

We have has been busy digitising all of the paper-based records of the club, and its predecessor "The Warby Range Protection Society", going back forty years, and came across this nice looking newsletter format.

Walks Program

As with 2020, and the earlier part of 2021, our walks program continues to be severely curtailed by the covid-19 restrictions.

Only five of our planned walks in the last period went ahead, a very disappointing outcome for the club.

However, we have a new walks program (see separate document), covering October to December, and hopefully all of these walks will take place.

The highlight of the new program is a two day event, walking the Warby Ranges from North to South, an adventure that we haven't tackled since the winter of 2018.

Myrtleford to Gapsted : June 13

This walk took us from Briggs Lane in Myrtleford, to the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail near Gapsted Wines; it was a 12km walk, meandering along bush tracks through Stanley State Forest.

There were 20 walkers on this adventure, which was the maximum number of people who could gather within covid-19 regulations at this stage.

The day could be described as a miserable winter's day, as it was misty and cloudy; however, our experience was quite the opposite. The effect of the mist, and the stillness of the air in the bush around us, made it a very peaceful place to be in.

We had four new people joining us on our walk, and we hope to see them again soon.

There was lots of talking along the way, and even more chat when we stopped for morning tea and lunch, which added to the enjoyment of the day.

The walk was completed by 1pm, four hours after we started walking at 9am.

I think I can say that we're all looking forward to our next walk. [Marita]

Alpine Views : June 27

There were 15 enthusiastic (and optimistic) walkers on this adventure, all of whom braved the very grey conditions left by the overnight/early morning rain. The objective for the day was to walk the much loved Alpine Views Track of the Warby Ranges, and we opted to access this route from the Salisbury



Falls car-park, rather than the usual access via Wenhams Camp.

Setting off with all of our wet weather gear, we walked up the ridge system from the start, then swung around to Mount Warby, with a brief morning tea on the way.

From Mount Warby, we headed north, so as to pick up the start of the Alpine Views Track.

Lunch was enjoyed on a rocky outcrop, and we then returned to our cars via the ridge system.

On the way back we had a quick look at Salisbury Falls; they were not running as well as expected, but still very scenic.



Overall, a very enjoyable walk, but no views until the last 20 minutes of the descent back to the start.

The distance walked was about 12 kilometres, and we completed this in about five hours.

[Chris M]

The Lavender Federation Trail, South Australia

The Lavender Federation Trail extends from Murray Bridge through to the Clare Valley. The trail covers about 325km of very varied terrain, and was named after Terry Lavender OAM; it was built to celebrate 100 years since Federation. Terry was the architect of the trail, and was also the first chairperson of South Australian Recreational Trails Inc.

A set of six full-colour maps are available, covering the complete trail in nice detail; see “lavenderfederationtrail.org.au” for more information.

Warby Falls Heritage Trail : July 02

The Warby Falls Heritage Trail was created several years ago, and aims to display the farming life of Ben Warby’s family, early settlers of the Wangaratta area. The Heritage Trail loops in and out of the range country behind Booths Winery, and provides an enjoyable 7.5km walk.

We had 14 participants on today’s outing, and after meeting at Rotary Park, we drove up to the Warby Ranges. We started at Spot Mill Track, and then continued to Cellar Track, where we had morning tea, in a cleared area, sitting on fallen logs.

Whilst at morning tea, a curious wombat hurried by, not so far away, to our enjoyment, but scarppered when it caught sight of us. We also caught sight of a number of wallabies and/or kangaroos during the walk.

We stopped to read all the storyboards along the route, including the one at the Spot Mill site located behind Booths, Taminick Cellars Winery.

We then continued to the sheep dip storyboard, before following the trail up the gully, stopping at the weirs built on the very scenic creek along the way. Lunch was enjoyed at the top of a scenic waterfall, where a small stream was flowing through.



The forecast rain didn’t arrive, and we had a cold, part cloudy, part sunny, day with a high of about 12C in the early afternoon. Pat’s ever popular afternoon tea was enjoyed at the end of the walk, making a nice finish to an enjoyable day in the bush. [Jeanette]

IUCN Listing for our National Park

The Warby-Ovens National Park has obtained the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Green List accreditation.

The Park is one of only four in Australia to achieve this status, and this listing is due to the hard work of many local volunteers (including long-time club member Andy Kimber) and Parks Victoria.

The citation lists the diverse geomorphology of the Park (riverine terrain, and range country), and its diversity of vegetation (including grass-trees, and ironbark woodlands).

The IUCN has set up a web page for the Park – see "iucngreenlist.org/sites/warby-ovens-national-park/" for more details.

The original press release from the Victoria Government is at "premier.vic.gov.au/warby-ovens-park-earns-international-recognition". See also the blog on our website for direct links.



Murmungee Escarpment : July 11

On a perfect winter day we ascended the Murmungee Escarpment near the rail trail at Everton.

Our walk was led by Anne Turnbull, and a local landowner, whose property includes grasstrees growing in abundance.

After a brief car shuttle, we set off, and had morning tea overlooking a beautiful landscape, including a very interesting ridge system, and views all the way to the Glenrowan Gap.

We then headed further along the escarpment, where there were many opportunities to view different angles of the Murmungee Basin, Mount Buffalo, and snow on Mount Feathertop.

From here, we continued along a track back down to Diffey Road, then onto Zig Zag Rd, before climbing to Murmungee Scenic Reserve, at the top of the Escarpment.

Here we had our lunch, accompanied by some more great views.

We then commenced the long descent down the historic Zig Zag Trail on the south side of the Escarpment.

This took us to down to Zig Zag Road, and then the floor of the Basin, where we had an easy finish on a roadway.

The final highlight of the day was refreshments, and Pat's wonderful cuppa.

The weather was really good; no rain, and plenty of sunshine. We had 25 participants, and covered about 15km in six hours.

See bowmansforestmurmungeehistory.com.au for more details on this historic area. [Jeanette]



Eldorado Waterfalls and Mount Jack

These walks were deferred to future Walks Programs because of covid-19 restrictions.

The Great Valley Trail

As reported in the Wangaratta Chronicle (13/08), the Alpine Shire is steaming ahead with its "Great Valley Trail" project, designed to link Bright to Harrietville via a 26km shared trail.

An additional bridge, over the East Ovens River, will connect the Bungalow Spur and Bon Accord walking tracks.

New map of the Pyrenees Ranges

Meridian Maps has produced a new map of the popular Pyrenees Ranges, in western Victoria.

For the first time the entire region has been mapped on a double-sided 1:50,000 scale map, covering The Pyrenees from Beaufort to Redbank, and from Navarre to Avoca.

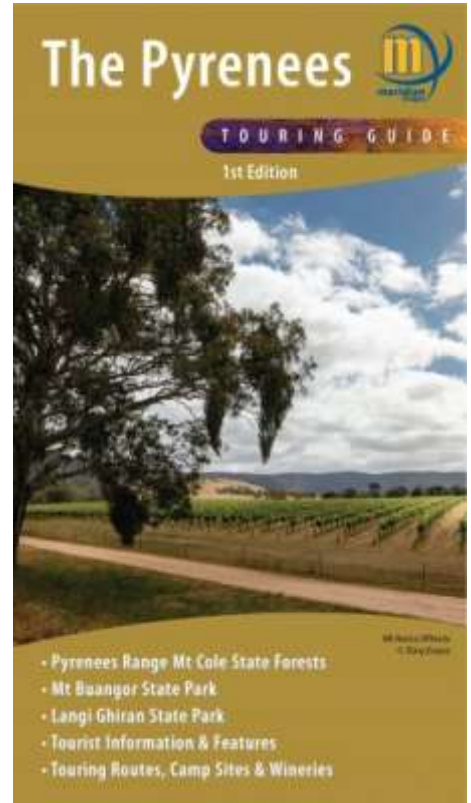
The map is ideal for bushwalking, and highlights all the tourist activities and features of the region such the wineries, historic areas, picnic grounds and more.

It also includes the long distance trail Pyrenees Endurance Track, and an enlargement of Mt Buangor/Mt Cole, and all of the walks in the area.

The map also includes pet-friendly campgrounds, accommodation, local produce, petrol stations, waterfalls and more tourist information.

This great new map is available in Folded/Flat format – \$14.95, and Laminated and Folded/Laminated \$26.95. It is also available in Digital versions, and in Map Packs.

More details at meridianmaps.com.au/product/the-pyrenees-touring-map/



Loggers Lane to Wenhams Loop, Warby Ranges : Aug 19

After meeting at Rotary Park we drove in our own vehicles to the Warby Ranges for this new adventure (no car pooling due to covid-19 restrictions). The actual starting point was at the northern end of Loggers Lane, just around the corner of Gerretts Road and Wangandary Road.

The distance planned for the walk was about 12 kilometres, and the weather was cold at first, but mostly sunny, with the max temp being about 14C.

Setting off, our group of ten walked up Loggers Lane to the Stypantra Track junction for morning tea. We then continued towards Taylor Track, where we turned left, so as to pick up a single-file track to the north.

This footpad makes a long loop (with great views) then picks up the northern part of the Friends Loop; this took us to Wenhams Camp, where we had lunch.

We then took a meandering pathway (mostly single-file) back to the start, arriving at about 2.30pm, having started walking at 9.30am. The grass trees were amazing, and it was good to see the first signs of the Warby Range's annual wildflower display.

[Chris]



Adrian Twitt

The September 6 edition of the Wangaratta Chronicle featured an article on Adrian Twitt, one of the founding members of the Warby Range Protection Society, and its successor, our bushwalking club.

Adrian has been involved in the Wangaratta community since arriving here in 1967, and was Walks Co-ordinator from 2004-8, and newsletter editor from 2008-12.

As well as his hard work with the club, Adrian's other interests produced a well deserved AO in 2009 (for service to the community of Wangaratta).

Wetland Walks

by Yve McLaughlin

In between all of those lockdowns we managed to get away for a few weeks of 'wetland walking' in the North-east, and in southern New South Wales; here's the detail . . .

The first event was to walk from Merriwa Park to the Mullinmur Billabongs, following the Ovens River downstream.

This provided a loop of about 14km, and was a surprisingly busy walk, with lots of people and a wide variety of birdlife.

Heading out of town, and to the west, we stayed at Nathalia for two nights, and enjoyed their superbly tree-lined creek-side walking path, covering about 7km, all of it within the township.



Numurkah was our next base, and here we walked alongside the extensive wetlands of Broken Creek, as well as a very enjoyable loop at Kinnairds Wetlands.

Heading north, we spent several days at the Murray River Hideaway Holiday Retreat (just north of Strathmerton) and made several forays to the maze of tracks at Ulupna Island.

Crossing the border (with permit in hand) Lake Urana has a lovely lakeside walk, as does nearby Finley. Further north, Lake Talbot (at Narrandera) provides an enjoyable 8km loop, and we also explored several track loops alongside the Murrumbidgee River.

North-west of Narrandera, Leeton has the Five Bough Wetlands, and here we enjoyed several walks through the wetlands, including one that highlights local aboriginal artworks.

Heading for home, we walked alongside the Murray River, downstream of Yarrawonga; here we passed through the Yarrawonga Common to a huge billabong that had hundreds of waterbirds in attendance.

Further east, we visited the Corowa Wetlands; the wetlands are located just to the east of the town centre, and it's an easy walk to the wetlands from the town, albeit with the temptations raised by having to walk pass the Corowa Chocolate Factory!



The last venue of our big loop was to continue on the Riverina Highway to Albury, where the Wonga Wetlands, and the Wagirra Trail, kept us occupied for most of a day. Both of these venues are very well sign-posted, and this was a great finale to our wetland expedition; afternoon tea at the Riverdeck Cafe sealed the deal.

Good Gear

Shirley Mills is the throes of packing up house for a move into Wangaratta, and has two overnight back packs, plus a two person tent that hasn't been needed for some time.

Shirley would like to donate them to a good home; all it takes is a phone call; 0418 382 605.

Harrietville Weekend

Saturday 6, and Sunday 7 November are the dates of a weekend at Harrietville with Benalla Bushwalkers.

The contact is Adele (0456 412 192), and you need to contact Adele before Wednesday 3rd November if you intend to take part in this great weekend.

Saturday, 6th: Book your own accommodation at Harrietville Camping Ground. Meet at the campground gates at 2pm for a leisurely 4km circuit around relics of Harrietville's gold boom days, including the Tronoh Dredge Hole, and the Ovens River (including an opportunity to swim). Nibbles and drinks back at the camping ground, followed by a meal at the pub.

Sunday, 7th: Highlights of the Dinner Plain Walks. An early start to drive up the mountain for the Highlights of Dinner Plain walk, a 15km loop. Points of interest; Dinner Plain Info Centre, Room with a View (views of Hotham, Feathertop, Bogong High Plains, Mt Jim) Precipice Plain Lookout, Carmichael Falls, and coffee, at either the info centre, or coffee shop.



Week Away 2022

Our ever popular week-away event for 2022 will be based near Yarram, in South Gippsland.

Walking venues will include sections of the Grand Strzelecki Track (for which there is a six part map pack available), as well as some coastal walks.

See the registration form etc on our website.

Reform Hill, Myrtleford

New tracks are being installed at Myrtleford's Reform Hill, as detailed in the Wangaratta Chronicle of September 10.

This is a well utilised venue by the locals, as well as by passing travellers wanting a leg-stretch, and by our walking club.

The venue combines a nice mix of the natural world, and local historical aspects, and is particularly enjoyable at wattle time.

The first of the new sections will provide a 450m long trail on the west side of the Hill, and this will be a link to the sealed section of Halls Road (the main vehicular access to the summit area).

The second section improves the trail around the former reservoir.

