

WARBY RANGE
BUSHWALKERS
1996A

WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS INC.
1996 PROGRAM JAN-JUNE.



- JAN 13/14 Bogong High Plains Base Camp. Grades easy, medium, hard, depending on choice.
Contact Rolf Heetel 21-4130.
- FEB 3/4 Mt. Buffalo Base Camp. Something for everyone. Grades easy, medium, hard.
Contact Joy and Bill Rosser 22-1947.
- FEB 18 Walk along the Murray. Grade easy.
Contact Joy and Bill Rosser 22-1947.
- MARCH 3 Mountain Creek Base Camp. Grades easy, medium, hard.
Contact Rolf Heetel 21-4130.
- MARCH 24-29 Week Away at Daylesford.
Contact Murray Shaw 21-3730.
- APRIL 1 Annual General Meeting Sydney Hotel 6.30 pm. Fellowship Meal and Meeting.
Contact Elaine Jacobsen 22-1096.
- APRIL 21 Blue Rag. (down the Dargo Rd). Grade medium to hard.
Contact Rolf Heetel 21-4130.
- MAY 4/5 Fraser National Park Base Camp but Joy will check out accommodation at Alexandra and Eildon for those who prefer not to camp. Walks can be easy or medium so ring to check on this too.
Contact Joy and Bill Rosser 22-1947.
- MAY 20 Planning meeting for Walks Program June -December to be held at The Sydney Hotel at 6.30 pm. Fellowship meal and meeting.
Contact Elaine Jacobsen. 22-1096
- JUNE 2 To be decided
Contact Alan Raison 21-7886.

JUNE 16

Warby Ranges . Jessie is going to plan an interesting walk to Booths and back.!

Contact Jessie and Merrick Ussher 21-2325.

PLEASE NOTE

All walks leave and return to The Centre, Chisholm St. Wangaratta.
PLEASE CONTACT WALKS LEADER TWO DAYS IN ADVANCE TO CHECK IF ANY CHANGE HAS BEEN MADE AND TO ASCERTAIN DEPARTURE TIME. FOR ALL CAMPS PLEASE GIVE THE LEADER AT LEAST THREE DAYS NOTICE.

GRADINGS

EASY Gently undulating terrain up to 12 km. in distance mostly on formed tracks.

MEDIUM Could be partly off tracks over 11 km. to 16 km. in distance . Sustained climbs or descents of 200m. to 500 km.

HARD Long climbs or descents over 600 m. Partly on tracks or sustained walking through bush. Distance 12 km. to 30 km.

THESE GRADES ARE A GUIDE ONLY AND MAY VARY TO SUIT THE TERRAIN. PLEASE CHECK WITH WALKS LEADER IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS.

SPECIAL WALKS Special walks by the club may be organized from time to time and will require permission from the Walks Co-ordinator before proceeding.

VISITORS ON WALKS Visitors will be required to pay \$2 to cover insurance.

If you have any problems or queries and you are unable to contact the Walks Leader please contact our Walks Co-ordinator - Murray Shaw on 21-3730

-1996-

BOGONG HIGH PLAINS BASE CAMP.

LEADER: ROLF HEETEL.

JANUARY 13/14.

FIRST WALK FOR THE YEAR.

ROLF HEETEL

JOY ROSSER

BILL ROSSER

DAVID BANKS

GRAEME FAIRLEY

WENDY JOHNSON

JOAN BUTLER

ELAINE JACOBSEN

ROLF HEETEL

~~JOY ROSSER~~

ALLAN RAISON

J J Rosser

W.R. Rosser

David

K. Fairley

Wendy Johnson

Joan Butler

Elaine Jacobsen

R. Heetel

A. Raison

On Friday the 12th 9 walkers camped at the popular campsite near the Langford West Aqueduct road crossing. (Approx. 15 km from Falls Creek) The evening was pleasant for a little walk (3 km) along the aqueduct upstream. In the half dark Rolf managed to step into a rabbit hole, he had found last year, no harm done so Bill repeated the act. At the end of the water race David mentioned he knew of a track to Mt Cope from there, so it was decided to explore this way in the morning, so avoiding the road as much as possible.

David lead this section the next day to the summit thru lovely snow gums and open snow grass sections. The views from Mt Cope 1837 m. are well worth the climb. Our group broke up after the decent to the track on the northern side, a drop of 140 metres.

Allan and David walked to Mt Jim, Rolf to the SEC Hut at the Cope West & East aqueduct junction, while most looked for shade & returned via Copeland Hut and the Langford West aqueduct. Distances walked varied from 14 to 22 km.

As several of us were wind & sun burnt the first day, it was decided to abandon the planned walk to the Niggerhead - Tawonga Huts - Mt Fairer and look for walks with some shade.

The first walk Sunday morning took us to Ropers Lookout with good views of Rocky Dam - Falls Creek - Mt Spion Kop etc. The light breeze, blue skies and pleasant company made it most enjoyable.

On the drive back from the car park near the dam wall Allan, David & Bill split from the rest of the group at the Mt Nelse turn-off, to walk Kelly's track and to meet with us at the end of the Langford East Aqueduct. Here we had lunch, the fit walkers returned to camp via the Aqu., the rest drove back from L. Gap. Again distances varied from 13-22 km. Most of us enjoyed another night in the bush to return Monday morning the 15th. A great weekend

Buffalo Camp-out and day walks.

Sat 3rd Sun. 4th Feb 1996.

Leaders Bill and Joy Rosser

Bill Rosser

Joy Rosser

Lielia Bade

Olwyn Turnbull

Elaine Jacobsen

Joan Butler

Aileen Caldwell

Jessie Ussher

Merrick Ussher

Margot Thompson

David Banks

W. Rosser

J. Rosser

Lielia C. Bade

Olwyn Turnbull

Elaine Jacobsen

Joan Butler

Aileen Caldwell

Jessie Ussher

M. Ussher

Margot Thompson

David Banks

All told, eleven walkers participated in the annual Mt. Buffalo weekend.

Six camped at Lake Catani, two stayed in the comparative luxury of Tatra Inn, and three day-walkers arrived bright and early on Sunday.

We were happy to welcome Aileen back, after some absence (overseas trip etc) and were pleased to have comparatively

new walker, Margot.

Friday night was very cold (-3°C) and the area around the lake was white as snow. Lielia and Olwen arrived from Wangaratta, and we set off towards Eagle Point, and Mollisons Gallery. Two people turned back at Eagles Point and had a leisurely stroll back to the reservoir, botanizing on the way. The five who made it to Mollisons found it very rewarding, but estimated the distance at 24k, not the 20 as stated on the information sheet. The hardest part was the long up-hill grade ^{back} ~~to~~ from the Galleries.

Sun. Our three day-walkers arrived at the camp site and we drove to Tatra, picked up Lielia and Olwyn, who regaled us with tales of the wonderful three-course dinner and cooked breakfast they'd eaten! Today's destination, South Buffalo. Very pleasant walk, through varied terrain, and views very rewarding. All agreed that it was a great weekend, with perfect weather, and a wonderful almost-full moon.

Frazer National Park Exploratory Walks - 13/14 Feb '96

Bill Rosser
Joy Rosser

W. Rosser
G. Rosser

We travelled to Frazer N.P. via Alexandra, a distance of 177 k. Camped at Devil Cove.

Tues. 13th. Arrived about 11.30, after visiting park office for information.

Left at 12.30 - Keg Spur (very steep climb of about 1 k.) High Camp, Blowhard Summit, Blowhard spur (some steep climbs on way) Cook Point, down to Wallaby Bay (gradual descent to road) Along road back to camp.

Distance approx. 10 ks. Time - 4 hours

Lovely views from Blowhard summit.

Very satisfying walk. (Marked red on map)

Wed. 14th. Left 8.30 to escape the afternoon heat. Walk No. 4 (Marked blue) Stiff climb up Keg Spur again, and a mainly easy and very picturesque walk down to the lake, and on the track around the lake back to

Cook Point. Back to Wallaby Bay and the road to camp. Distance 13.5k, time 5 hours. We did not hurry, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour for lunch, and several shorter stops to look at the views.

A really delightful walk, through a variety of terrain.

We feel that Frazer N.P. is well worth a visit by the group. Tracks are well signed and maintained. Camping areas clean and well set out. There are also very attractive self contained cabins. All personell we encountered were friendly and helpful.

Murray River Walk Sun. 18th Feb 1996

Bill Rosser } Leaders.
 Joy Rosser }
 Merrick Ussher
 Jessie Ussher
 Sue Blair
 Val Kuhne
 Lielia Bade
 Olwyn Turnbull
 Trudi Kentmann.
 Isobel Moore
 Hilda Sammon.
 Corrie McIntyre
 Aileen Caldwell
 Betty O'Neill
 David Banks
 Pat Dunstone
 Wendy Johnson
 Alex Johnson
 Joan Butler
 Angela Brazatis
 John Brazatis
 Lionel O'Neill

#80

Bill Rosser
 J. J. Rosser
 J. Ussher
~~Bliss~~
 Sue Blair
 Val Kuhne
 Lielia C. Bade
 Olwyn Turnbull
 Trudi Kentmann.
 Isobel Moore
 Hilda Sammon
 Corrie McIntyre
 Aileen Caldwell
 Betty O'Neill \$2.
 David Banks
 Pat Dunstone
 Wendy Johnson \$2
 Alex Johnson \$2
 Joan Butler
 Angela Brazatis \$2.
 John Brazatis \$2
 Lionel O'Neill \$2

Twenty-two walkers set out from Buchanan's Beach on the Murrumbidgee, about 10 ks. down stream from Yarrawonga. We left Wangaratta at 8 am and left on the walk at 9.30. We walked on tracks through the red-gum forest, keeping as close to the river as possible.

The weather was beautiful and the reflections in the water very pretty as we strolled along. We had several stops, as the walkers tended to spread out.

We had lunch at Dufty's Beach, a shady spot. After quite a long break, we turned back. Some people who had found the tracks a bit rough walked back on the roads.

Altogether we walked about 14 ks, and all agreed that it was an excellent walk.

The number of participants shows that there is a need for this type of walk once or twice a year to cater for those who cannot manage harder walks.

J. Rosser

MOUNTAIN CREEK BASE CAMP. ^{at and at 1986} 1, 2, 3 MARCH.

LEADER: ROLF HEETEL.

PRESENT:

ROLF HEETEL

ALAN RAISON

GARTH HODGE. (SATURDAY)

DAVID BANKS

JOAN BUTLER.

R. Heetel

Alan Raison

Garth Hodge

David Banks

Joan Butler

Friday 1.3.94

This weekend really proved to me not to cancel a walk, even if you have a small group only. The fact that we camped and the name Bogong must have frightened most, even though the weather was perfect and easy walks were available.

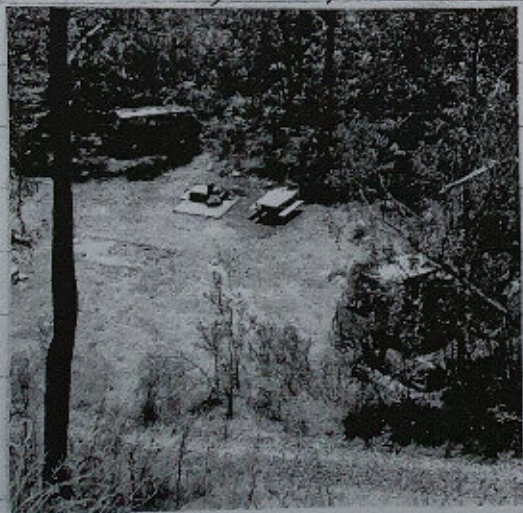
Four of us camped beside beautiful Mountain Creek on a cleared area with an excellent fire place etc. etc.

Garth arrived 8am Saturday ready for the climb with Allan & David to the top of the highest mountain 1983 or 1986 metres (it depends on which map you have) in Victoria. They climbed the staircase to return via Eskdale Spur arriving back without any problems at 5pm.

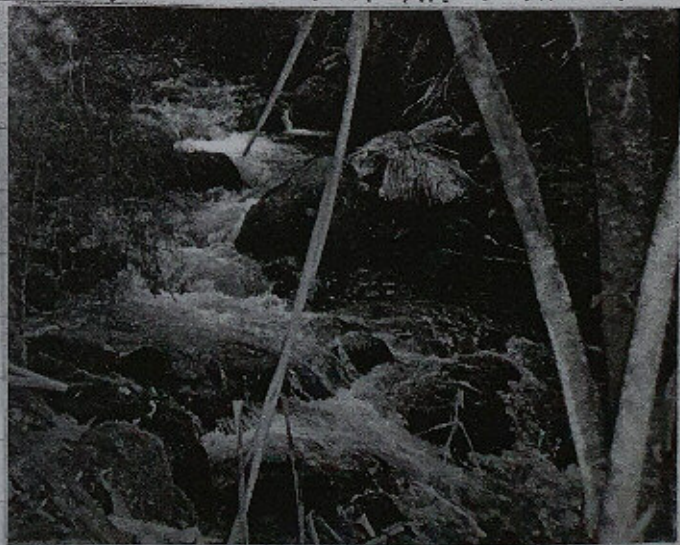
Joan had been up to Camp Creek Gap before so for a change and challenge decided on the Staircase, we reached Bivouac Hut at noon, a good effort for both of us.

The next day easier walks were requested. We ^{wanted} ^{to} ^{heel} drive ~~track~~ the top end of the Black Cockatoo Walk along the ^{to} ^{heel} drive track, then into Australian bush at its best, ~~turn~~ ^{down} stream along Fern Tree Walk then around Shady Gully Walk and back to camp for lunch. After a little rest we explored Peppermint Walk, all these walks are different and well worth the time. At this stage some felt it was enough for one weekend, while Allan went along Moncrieff Track to stretch his legs, I could not keep up, so enjoyed blackberries instead. After enjoying the sounds of the creek & bush a little longer we had tea & headed back to Wang. We took some photos along the way, our botanically minded members intend to name the flowers if they are in focus. I could report on the snakes & leeches, but who wants to know about them.

Our tidy campsite



why do we like the bush ???



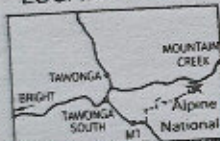
ALPINE NATIONAL PARK Bogong Area

Eastern Grey Kangaroo graze in the open forest.

BIRDS TO WATCH

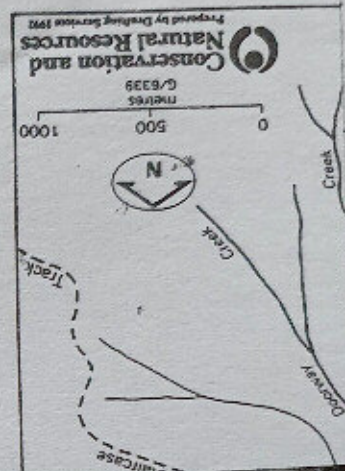
Of all the mountain fauna, the most easily seen is the birdlife. Some are heard first, like the cry of the juvenile Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo. Listen for the mimicking voice of the Superb Lyrebird, the whipcrack of the Eastern Whipbird and the screeches from the King Parrot.

LOCALITY MAP



Track
Shady Gully Walk
Tree Fern Walk

100% recycled Australian made paper



MURRAY SHAW.	✓	M. Shaw
DONNA SHAW.		D. Shaw
ALLAN RAISON	✓	Allen Raison
LILIA BADE	✓	Lilia C. Bade
JESSIE USSHER	✓	J. B. Usher
MELVICK J. S. C.	✓	M. J. S. C.
MARGOT THOMPSON	✓	Margot J. Thompson
SUE BLAIR	✓	Sue Blair
JOAN BUTLER	✓	Joan Butler
JOY ROSSER	✓	J. J. Rosser
BILL ROSSER	✓	W. Rosser
DAVID BANKS	✓	Banks

21/4/96

North End of Warby Range
Mt Warby North - Mt Kellara

David BANKS

Isobel Moore

Joy ROSSER

Val Kemp

Bill ROSSER

Julie Worlton

Rolf HEETEL

L. BADE

~~Banks~~

Isobel

J J Rosser

Val KEMP

W. Rosser

J R Worlton

R H HETTEL

Lucia E Bade

PAGE ①

Daylesford. 24.3.1996. - 29.3.96.

Departed from the bus at 7.45 am.
Mild morning, slight fog.

Sun

THE 12 PEOPLE WHO ATTENDED THIS
6 DAYS AWAY TO THE DAYLESFORD
AREA REALLY ENJOYED THEMSELVES.
THE ACCOMMODATION AND SURROUNDINGS
IN WHICH IT WAS LOCATED WAS
COMFORTABLE + PICTURESQUE.

THE FIRST WALK WAS AT THE
DARGILE RESERVE AT HEATHCOTE
AND ALTHOUGH ALL WALKERS DIDN'T
COMPLETE THE WALK IT WAS A
GOOD WARM UP FOR THE WEEK TO
COME. THE PICNIC GROUND AT DARGILE
RESERVE WAS PLEASANT AND AFTER
SMOKO WE HEADED OF TO DAYLESFORD

MON / MONDAYS WALK WAS THE TIPPERARY
WALK, HEADING OF FROM OUR
ACCOMMODATION UP TO JACKSON'S
LOOKOUT AND DOWN TO FOLLOW
THE SAILORS CREEK TO LAKE
DAYLESFORD. A VERY PRETTY.

PAGE (2)

WALK OF APPROX 16KM THROUGH GORGES
PAST OLD MINE SHAFTS AND MINERAL
SPRINGS.

TUE. A MIXTURE OF 5 WALKS TODAY.

AROUND DAYLEFORD LAKE A LOVELY
SPOT FOR BIRDS AND A GREAT PICNIC
SPOT. BUT NOT A GOOD SPOT TO FALL
OVER (A JOAN). ON TO MOUNT
FRANKLIN AN EXTINCT VOLCANO WITH
YET ANOTHER GREAT LUNCH SPOT IN THE
CENTRE. THE NEXT STOP WAS VAUGHAN
SPRINGS. BEAUTIFUL IN AUTUMN
COLORS, A LOVELY WALK ALONG A
PLEASANT CREEK. A SHORT BUT PLEASANT
DRIVE AND WE REACHED TARADALE
FOR LUNCH ~~AT~~ THE LOCAL RESERVE
FOLLOWED BY A SHORT WALK TO
THE OLD RAILWAY BRIDGE AND ROYAL
OAKS, BLACKWOOD, THE ~~THE~~ FINAL
WALK FOR TODAY, BACK CREEK BEING
A VERY INTERESTING WALK THROUGH AN
OLD QUARRY SITE NOW FILLED WITH
FERNS AND NATIVE FOREST. BACK
HOME FOR A WELL EARNED REST.

P.T.O 2 PAGES.

PAGE (3) DAYLES FORD WALK CONT.

WED / ALONG DAY AND A CHALLENGING WALK WAS AHEAD OF US TODAY. WE WERE HEADING FOR WERDERDERG GORGE AND THE WALK WAS A VERY STEEP CLIMB AFTER A FLAT WALK FOLLOWING THE RIVER. A SCENIC LUNCH STOP THEN A DECENT BACK TO THE RIVER. NOT A GOOD PLACE TO FALL OVER (A LIEU) EVERYBODY DID AN EXCELLENT JOB TO TACKLE AND FINISH THIS WALK WITH VERY LITTLE COMPLAINT AND LOT OF FRIENDLY BANTER.

THUR / THIS WAS A FREE DAY LEAVING EVERYBODY TO ENTERTAIN THEMSELVES. SOME WALKED AND SOME VISITED PLACES OF INTEREST SUCH AS THE BOTANICAL GARDENS, ART GALLERIES AND NEARBY TOWNS.

FRI / HOME TODAY BUT NO BEFORE TACKLING ONE MORE WALK. THE HUMP WALK AT MOUNT MACEDON WAS VERY GREEN AND LUSH. WE THOROUGHLY ENJOY THIS WALK WITH ITS LAKE PICNIC GROUND AND A VIEW OF HANGING ROCK AND

PAGE (4)

SURROUNDS. WE ALL RETURNED TO THE CARS FOR FINAL GROUP PHOTOS AND FAREWELLS.

THIS HAD BEEN A VERY JOYFUL AND HAPPY WEEK FOR ALL AND I AM SURE EVERY BODY ENJOYED THEMSELVES AS I DID.

I'M SO GLAD THAT LELIA BADE SUGGESTED DAYLETFORD AS A VENUE FOR OUR WEEK. AWAY AS I DON'T THINK I WOULD HAVE REALISED WHAT AN INTERESTING AND DIVERSE WALKING AREA THIS ~~WAS~~ IS. APART FROM WALKING WE HAD A BAR 'B' Q, A NIGHT OUT AT THE PUB AND SOME MEMBERS ENJOYED HOT SPAS JUST WALKING DISTANCE FROM OUR ACCOMODATION. SOME OF US MANAGED TO FALL OVER, GET LOST, SET OF FIRE ALARMS WHILE COOKING TOAST AND EMPTYING A WHOLE SALT CONTAINER ONTO HIS 2 EGGS.

PAGE (5)

THE LATER TWO BEING MY LITTLE PROBLEMS.

THESE MISHAPS WERE FAR OUTWEIGHED BY THE ENJOYMENT HAD BY ALL MEMBERS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMPANIONSHIP AND ALL THE LAUGHS, YOUR WALKS LEADER.

MURRAY SHAW.

Feb - Mar 1996



Warby Ranges Bushwalkers Inc.



Dear Members and Friends of the Warby Ranges Bushwalkers Inc.,

At our last A.G.M. we decided to let people know more of our activities, immediate, past and future. On this occasion we include the minutes of our, just held, A.G.M., our trip to Daylesford and leaders comments of recent walks. This may give you the inspiration to join our walks and possibly bringing a friend or two. The dates of these are

April 21 Blue Rag Range (off the Dargo Road)

Grade medium to hard, if you walk the whole 14km. We return on the same track so you are welcome to walk as far as you care to. Contact Rolf Heetel 21 4130. Good weather is essential (elevation 1660m) We may change the walk to an easier and closer location depending on the forecast and the conditions.

May 4-5 Fraser National Park Base Camp

Bill and Joy have checked the accommodation nearby. Walks easy or medium. Phone 22 1947.

May 19 Mt Carboor

Medium. Check with David Banks Phone 64 1240

May 20 Walks Program Meeting at the Sydney Hotel 6.30pm start. Fellowship meal and meeting. Contact Elaine Jacobsen 22 1096

June 2 Somewhere in the King Valley

Medium. Contact Alan Raison on 21 7886.

The Walks Book is there for anyone to look at however, as this is not always practical, we herewith relate the leaders comments on the last few walks and we intend to do this again in the future.

February 3-4 1996 Leaders : Bill and Joy Rosser
Eleven walkers participated in the annual Mt Buffalo weekend. Six camped at Lake Catani, two stayed in the comparative luxury of Tatra Inn and three

walkers arrived bright and early on Sunday. We were happy to welcome Aileen back after some absence (overseas trip etc.) and we were pleased to welcome comparatively new walker, Margot.

Friday and Saturday night were very cold (-3°C) The area around the lake was as white as snow. Lielia and Olwen arrived from Wangaratta. We then set off towards Eagles Point and Mollison's Gallery. Two walkers turned back at Eagles Point and had a leisurely stroll botanizing on the way. The five who made it to Mollisons found it very rewarding, but estimated the distance to be 24km, not the 20km stated on the information sheet. The hardest part was the long up-hill grade back from the Galleries.

Sunday saw the arrival of our three day walkers at the camp site, we drove to Tatra and picked up Lielia

and Olwen who regaled us with tales of the wonderful cooked, three course breakfast they had eaten. Today's destination was South Buffalo. A very pleasant walk through varied terrain and views very rewarding. All agreed that it was a great weekend with perfect weather and a spectacular, almost full moon.

February 13-14 1996 Leaders Joy and Bill Rosser - Frazer National Park Exploratory Walks

We travelled to Frazer national Park via Alexandra, a distance of 177km. Camped at Devil Cove. Arrived about 11.30 Tuesday February 13 after visiting the Park Office for information. Left at 12.30 for Keg Spur (very steep climb for 1km) High Camp, Blowhard Summit, Blowhard Spur (some steep climbs along the way) Cook Point, down to Wallaby Bay, gradual descent to the road and back to camp. Distance approximately 10km Time four hours. Lovely view from Blowhard Summit, very satisfying walk. (Marked red on the map)



Wednesday 14 Feb left 8.30 to escape the afternoon heat. Walk No 4 (Marked blue) Stiff climb up Keg Spur again, and a mainly easy and very picturesque walk down to the lake and on the track around the lake back to Cook Pt. Back to Wallaby Bay and the road to camp. Distance 13.5km, time 5 hours. We did not hurry, a half hour for lunch & several shorter stops to look at the views. A very delightful walk through a variety of terrain

We feel that Frazer National Park is well worth a visit by the group. Tracks are well signed and maintained and camping areas are clean and well set out. There are also very attractive, well maintained cabins. All personnel we encountered were friendly and helpful.

February 18 1996 : Leaders were Joy and Bill Rosser Murray River Walk

Twenty two walkers set out from Buchanans Beach on the Murray about 10km down stream from Yarrowonga. We left Wangaratta at 8.00am and started the walk at 9.30am. We walked on tracks through the red gum forrests, keeping as close to the river as possible. The weather was beautiful and the reflections in the water very pretty as we strolled along. We had several stops as the walkers tended to spread out. Lunch was at Dufty's beach, a shady spot. After a long break we turned back. Some, who had found the tracks a bit rough, walked on the roads. Although we walked about 14kms all agreed it had been an excellent walk. The number of participants showed that there is a need for this type of walk once or twice a year to cater for those who can not manage the harder walks.

March 1, 2 & 3 1996 : Leader Rolf Heetel Mountain Creek Bush Camp

Four campers arrived Friday afternoon and settled into a cleared area beside the beautiful Mountain Creek with an excellent fire place. This weekend proved to me not to cancel a walk, even with a small group. The fact that we camped and the name Bogong must have frightened most, even though the weather was perfect and easy walks were available.

Garth Hodge arrived at 8.00am Saturday ready for the big climb with Alan Raison and David Banks to the highest peak in Victoria. (1983m or 1986m depending on which map you read) They climbed the staircase and returned via the Eskdale Spur arriving back without any problems at 5.00pm.

Joan had been along the Mountain Creek track to Camp Creek Gap before, so for a change, and a challenge, we decided on the staircase climb. We reached Bivouac Hut at noon, a fair effort for both. The next morning, Sunday, 3, easier walks were requested so we strolled up Mountain Creek Four Wheel drive track to where the Black Cockatoo Walk starts, followed this down to Fern Tree Walk and then onto the Shady Gully Walk and back to camp for lunch. This area would have to be classed as Australian Bush at its best. After a little rest we wanted to enjoy more of the bush so explored the Peppermint Walk, a much more open terrain



All the walks are different and well worth the time. Back at camp Joan and David decided to call a halt while Allan went along Moncrieff track to really stretch his legs. I could not keep up with him so decided to pick blackberries along the way instead. We listened to the creek and the sounds of the bush a little longer, had tea and set off back to Wangaratta.

We took photographs, some of mine I have glued into our hike report book. The flowers will be named soon by our botanically minded members, who I must say found plenty to look at and admire. I could report on the snakes and the leeches but who wants to know about them.

I hope you enjoyed these few reports. If you would like to read the others please ask Joan Butler for the book.



Warby Range Protection Society Inc.

Bushwalkers

Winter 1996

Volume 2



Fellow Bushwalkers,

Since our last report we have had six interesting walks with members numbers ranging from six to eighteen. Thank you to the leaders for their efforts and reports which I am sure you will enjoy reading.

At our last committee meeting we had a discussion on personal insurance. It was resolved to ask that every walker have their own insurance and ambulance cover. Please check your policies and make sure you are a member of the ambulance service. Although this has not been a requirement in the past, one never knows what can happen. I do know of someone who stepped on a loose log on a steep hillside. His pride and a few other spots hurt for sometime.

Since our last report we have lost a good member, who enjoyed our walks and particularly our camping weekends. Kel Edwards will be missed and our sympathy is again extended to Kate Carr and Kel's family. We hope to see Kate back with the group as soon as she feels up to it.

Keep a program of our walks in an obvious place. We look forward to seeing you and please ring the leaders, even if it states medium or hard, as often easy walks are possible on the same day.

Good walking, Rolf

Fraser National Park - May 4 & 5 1996

Leader - Bill Rosser

Seven walkers left Wangaratta on Friday and travelled on the Maintingoon Road to the Fraser National Park. We set up camp in the excellent camping area of Devil's Cove. After an enjoyable evening around the barbecue and camp-fire watching the full moon rise over the water some of us set off in the moonlight to do an hour long nature walk. "Nature" was fairly quiet but we did hear a Night Jar call, and disturbed some Yellow Tailed Thornbills who were not at all impressed!

Saturday morning we were up early and ready to leave by 9.00am. We were pleased to welcome Brian Matthews, now living in Pakenham, and Helen and Adrian Twitt. Saturday's walk was the harder of the two. Skyline Walk, with a few variations, a distance of about 16km, with lots of steep uphill and downhill grades. The fog on the hills added another dimension and there were lovely views of the lake and mountains from the higher points. A rewarding and somewhat challenging walk through some varied and interesting terrain. The hot showers were well patronised on our return. Another happy social evening around the camp fire.

Sunday, after some light rain during the night, saw a certain person wake up rather damp as his tent leaked, while another person remained dry in her swag due to the bits of plastic rigged up by willing helpers. Shorter, easier walks today, but once again we had to brave the 800m walk up Keg Spur. Some of us left earlier so that we could negotiate it before the "race horses" caught up. No kidding the accent is one in four. All enjoyed the lovely walk, the beautiful trees and wildlife. We had light rain but it was no problem. About 14kms today.

The park abounds with wildlife. We saw a huge wombat in the camping area and the 'roos came and checked for food left outside during the night. Beautiful crimson rosellas, myrahs, kurrawongs

and kookaburras were always around when there was food about. And how about that kookaburra that zoomed in from nowhere and grabbed the beautiful huntsman spider that Joan and David were admiring!! He took a while to swallow it, as the legs kept squirming and that wasn't the end of the kookaburra story. That night a kookaburra swooped in and grabbed a bit of kabana right under our noses and when he had "killed it" repeated the performance. He didn't return and we thought that, perhaps, he didn't like the garlic!!!

A great weekend, overall. Bill

Mount Carboor - May 19 1996

Leader - David Banks

Eleven keen walkers gathered at The Centre at 8.30am to travel the 37km via Moyhu to start the walk at approximately 9.30am after a cuppa. The access track to where we left the cars may not be trafficable at all times which may extend the walk by about 5kms (2.5kms each way)

The weather was calm and cool with about eighty per cent cloud cover. We followed a vehicle track with occasional diversions to particular points of interest. The track follows a gully, dry at this time, for some 2km before climbing steadily to the Carboor Range Trug Station about 330m above the start. From there we followed the track along the rugged saw-toothed ridge to a hill, shown as 509 on the map, for lunch. After lunch we retraced our path with minor diversions back to the cars. Tantalising glimpses of views over the Meadow Creek valley on the west side and the Hurdle Creek valley on the east side were obtained from various vantage points throughout the day.

We returned to the cars at 3.00pm after walking about 14km. This walk was undertaken at a leisurely pace and could be extended considerably for fitter walkers. The track extends at least a further 5kms along the ridge.

The Carboor Range is steep and relatively dry with little topsoil. There is little undergrowth beneath the predominately Red Box, Long Leaf Box and Red Stringy Barks. A few Narrow Leafed Peppermints and the occasional wattle added some variety. The area had been logged in past years and extensive firewood gathering, along with "fuel reduction burns" have considerably degraded it. There is also evidence of irresponsible trail bike riding off the tracks causing erosion.

I was somewhat embarrassed, when, after pontificating at length on the "unsuitability" of sneakers for such a walk, a booted walker took quite a nasty tumble when his foot slipped on some loose stone. The "sneakers" wearers all negotiated the difficult sections without incident.

A disappointing aspect of the day was the lack of birds, perhaps due to the very calm and overcast conditions. There was plenty of evidence that the area supports large populations of kangaroos, wombats and possums. Orchid spotter Lielia drew our attention to two different greenhoods - not a bad effort in such a landscape.

A very pleasant day for all. This walk is medium (climbs) but little more than easy for the distance covered.

David

King Valley Walk - 2 June 1996

Leader - Allan Raison

Fifteen walkers met at the Centre (Wangaratta) for the walk at King Valley. There had been rain overnight and there was still a light of cloud cover remaining but we decided to go on the walk hoping the weather would improve. We left Wangaratta at 8.30am in four cars and travelled along the Whitfield Road to the King valley School site then turned right into Honey Lane and about 2kms further on we parked the cars.

The weather had improved and we started walking at about 9.20am. The first 3/4km was on a formed road (easy walking) then we started to climb up a spur that would take us to the main ridge running north and south. This part of the walk was fairly strenuous rising 250m in almost 2.5km. Along this track we had some nice views of Alan and Elizabeth Hildebrand's farm in the valley below. They had given us permission to walk through their property, which was much appreciated. On reaching the top we continued on for about 3/4km where some of the group decided to have a spell, whilst the rest of us took another track leading to the north which in my words, so I was reminded by some members, who shall remain nameless, we went "*down to the top of a hill*" where we had a good view of the Myrree Valley. We retraced our steps, meeting up with the rest of the group and then back to the ridge which we followed south to Thistle Hill. The cloud had cleared and it was a lovely clear day giving us beautiful views of the King Valley to the east and Myrree Valley to the west. The climb up Thistle Hill was fairly steep and rough but the view from the top was worth it. We could see in the distance the Horn on Mount Buffalo, Mount Carboor, Mount Emu and Mount Cobbler. We intended to have lunch there but there was no where to sit down, too many thistles, so we continued down the hill until we found some logs to sit on.

After lunch there was one more hill to climb and then it was mostly down hill through some nice timbered bush country. We had to stop and check our bearings on the map a few times, as we had not been in this area before, but we got down alright without too many problems. The last couple of kilometres was on formed roads and we arrived back at the cars about 2.30pm after having completed a round trip of 13-14km. We didn't see much wildlife but we saw some beautiful scenery. A very enjoyable day. Allan R.

P.S. Thistle Hill was actually named by one of our members, Bill Rosser, while he was working with a survey team. Not hard to see why it got that name.

This walk is medium (climbs). There were two steep pinches and one longish climb. Inexperienced walkers could cope if they take their time.

Warby Ranges "Booths" Walk 16 June 1996

Leader : David Banks

Jessie had done a great P.R. job and eighteen walkers assembled at "Wenhams" Camping Area off Booth Road in the centre of the Warby Range on a morning that was trying to be fine but with an occasional dark scudding clouds and a few drops of rain with a biting wind. Everyone was anxious to be moving in the hope of getting out of the cold wind and at about 9.45am we set off.

There was certainly less wind in the timber and when we crossed to the other side of the ridge it was quite pleasant walking ; the showers had disappeared for the time being at least.

We followed the first 200m or 300m of the "Friends" walking track and the Booth's Road southerly to its junction with Spot Mill Track. We stopped for a cuppa on Spot Mill Track once we had gone beyond the devastation of a fuel reduction burn that was too hot. It has probably done more harm than good in this area. After a leisurely cuppa we followed the track down the hill to Taminick Cellars (Booth's Winery) in time to sample some of the product prior to lunch. The weather had improved considerably and we were able to enjoy our repast in convivial manner on the terrace in front of the cellar.

After lunch everyone was offered the option of returning along the track we had come or bush bashing a more or less straight way home. I don't know whether the refreshment had clouded judgement or not but everyone elected to go back across country. The route selected followed a gully with evidence of farming activity from last century. There was an old "sheep dip" with a small channel leading to it from a dam some hundred of metres up the gully. The dam had to be considerably silted and the wall has failed so that it no longer functions. The walkers proceeded up the gully passing some small waterfalls (dry at this time) and some interesting rock pools. Above this area the route climbed gradually in a more or less straight line back to the cars where we arrived at about 3.00pm

The weather had stayed fine and we had walked about 11km. Everyone claimed to have had an enjoyable day and judging by the noisy chatter after lunch some certainly did.

This walk is easy provided walkers take their time climbing up the gully after lunch.

Thank you Jessie for organising it. David.

Eldorado Area - 7 July 1996

Leader - David Banks

Five walkers gathered at the Centre, Wangaratta, at 9.00am on a beautiful fine winter day. It was decided that as the weather was likely to stay fine we would walk the short, rugged, picturesque shown green on the attached map. As this walk is relatively short (about 10km) we stopped to walk around the historic Cock's Dredge, a huge excavator that operated in the Reedy Creek Valley near Eldorado until 1954. It is being maintained and a short walk around the lake on which it is located has been established to highlight significant features. Unfortunately we were not able to walk the whole of this track as parts were under water.

From the dredge we travelled to a parking area just west of the ford over the Reedy Creek which was also closed due to flooding. We left the car at about 10.30am and followed a trail bike trail to Nicoof Road crossing of Long Gully. From Nicoof Road, a little east of the Long Gully crossing, we proceeded south-easterly generally along a broad ridge to a point where we grade down the next gully to just below a pretty little waterfall. We were a little disappointed at the small volume of water flowing over the falls - we expected much more after the amount of recent rain.

After a strenuous scramble up the side of the gully, we had a very enjoyable lunch sitting at the top of the falls with a magnificent view down the gully. After lunch we climbed up the ridge to the east and followed Nicoffs Road a short distance to a turn-off to a dam on the right (only part filled which explains the lack of water over the falls) and to an old mine site on the left to which we proceeded.

Most of the debris at the old mine site has been cleaned up though the whole area has been considerably disturbed and can never be returned to its original condition. After leaving the area of the mine workings we climbed to the highest point of the ridge beyond from which we obtained magnificent views nearly all round. We followed this ridge northerly until we neared Reedy Creek and then downstream along Reedy Creek and back to the car. A feature of the latter parts of this walk was the very rugged terrain and the old trees. Black Cypress Pine and Blakely's Rag Gums of extraordinary size and shape were a particular feature. The going was made even rougher by the amount of dense regrowth of the pines; we literally had to force our way between them. A Frame backpacks are not really suitable for this!

Down along the creek, virtually the whole area has been dug up or washed or sieved or sluiced in past times with some prospecting obviously still taking place. We returned to the car at about 3.30pm after a very enjoyable walk. *David.*

P.S. The number of different trees and shrubs was a feature and some Green Hood orchids were seen.

Whroo - 21 July 1996

Leader - Lielia Bade

Our group of six walkers left the Centre in two vehicles at eight o'clock for the Rushworth and Whroo State Forest.

In Rushworth we drove up to the look-out on top Gorvelers Hill, full 360 degree view. Wind was cool otherwise day was fine. On then to "Jones" Eucalyptus distillery, very old place, still working but not today. The steam boiler had called it a day until they got some new tubes for it. Next stop Whroo picnic ground where we had a cuppa, before starting our first walk into the bush. Whroo in its day was a very busy gold mining town. The real centre was the Balaclava Hill, open cut. There is a well made staircase down to the centre, and a long tunnel out to the bottom of the hill. First walk past a few spots where old buildings had been, few fruit trees still remain. Found a few orchids and one type of Green Hood, and did not know it. Quite a few grass trees. Trees were mostly Ironbark, many out in full bloom, some with brooms, others mostly creamy white. Back to cars, past big dams which was the town water supply. Lots of frogs singing. After lunch, off on second and longer walk, through the mine and tunnel. Down to the Pudding machine which was used to puddle the dirt to get the fine gold dust out. Down road past where many of the houses and hotels used to be, past old sports ground. Back through bush to old cemetery, very interesting, many of the graves are only marked with a cross or number. Up slight hill to an aboriginal water-hole in small kind of flat rock.

Down to the Pudding machine which was used to pudde the dirt to get the fine gold dust out. Down road past where many of the houses and hotels used to be, past old sports ground. Back through bush to old cemetery, very interesting, many of the graves are only marked with a cross or number. Up slight hill to an aboriginal water-hole in small kind of flat rock. Replaced steps back to cemetery, off again around Water Hole Hill. Large patch of beautiful Grass trees, great long flower stems on some of them. Still going around back through old town sight to cars. Saw one brick covered wall and a few big Pepper trees which is about all that is left of this one big gold town.

Saw one wallaby, several Bronzed Winged pigeons, grey currong and a few other birds.

Left for home arriving around 4.30 pm. after a very pleasant and interesting day.

Thanks to everyone.

Liella.



Sept - Oct 1996

Warby Ranges Bushwalkers Inc.

Since our last newsletter-report two of our walks had to be cancelled due to the weather. On our last weekend away, one could say the weather had such an influence on the walk, it turned it into an adventure we will remember for some time. Read all about it in the last report.

At our last committee meeting, we decided to make a donation of \$100- to the Federation of Vic Walk to assist in their search for premises in a central Melbourne location. A central base is urgently required for this expanding organization of which we are a part.

On the 2nd. of December we have another important planning meeting, please attend. An extra week away in early February is planned, this is possible due to Andrew Kantmann, Trudie's son, making his unit at Obergurgel Thredbo, Kosciusko available to our members. This week is ideal for those looking for long, hard walks. Already this unit is fully booked, however there is other accommodation available, so contact me if you are interested.

David Banks has drawn up plans for our annual week away, this time at the Otways, it promises to be one of the best. We are fortunate in having David to organise this trip. He is thorough in his planning and he knows the area. This is one week not to be missed.

Good walking. Rolf.

CLOVER DAM - 7-9-1996
Leader - Rolf Heetel

A 7.30am start from the Centre was rewarded with another pleasant day in the bush. We parked the vehicles near Clover Dam bridge (approx. 12 kms. from Mt. Beauty). From previous problems with magpies viewing themselves and making a mess on the car side rear mirrors I covered mine with plastic bags. After changing boots etc. and a cup of coffee for some, we set off at 9.15 on this most interesting walk introduced to the club by Brian & Elizabeth Kelly. It has been repeated and enjoyed several times over the years.

After turning left at the power station, we followed the road for 3 kms to the Bogong Creek aquaduct and tramway. The most outstanding feature on this part of the walk are the tree ferns. Our group stayed together, walking along the tram track mindful not to fall into the fast flowing water of the aquaduct. till we reached the inlet at the creek. This is a beautiful spot, ideal for camping, with flat grassed areas and the sound of the tumbling waters of the creek. From here the water flows silently along the aquaduct to the intake above the power station, a great project.

Here the group split allowing the fit walkers to test themselves. Somehow Joan was left behind with Olwen and myself. We turned back at the first creek crossing at approx. 8 kms. Joan however took off boots and socks, crossed the creek and followed the track till she met up first with David and then Bill, however by now Allan was well ahead. He passed the Helipad and walked up part of the Quartz Ridge track, with snow around him. This was 12 kms. from the start, a very good effort.

After lunch the clouds cleared from time to time, giving us great views of the snow covered peaks and ridges above us. We were also rewarded with the sounds of most of the birds of the forest by a Lyrebird only a few metres away from us, although we did not see this one we did see another on the road.

All walkers had stories to tell of what they had seen and heard in the bush, only one story seemed to be incomplete. Two members were a little muddy, how this happened remains unclear. Did they have a fight or ----?

As planned everyone arrived back at the carpark by 4 pm., the first few drops of rain for the day were felt. On the way home we had very heavy rain, so we can say, we were lucky with weather, had a very pleasant walk and good company.

Looking forward to the next walk. Rolf.

WARBY WALK - 22-9-1996.
Leader - Bill Rosser.

Thirteen walkers set out for this easy 10 kms. walk. We welcomed four visitors. The weather was fine and mainly sunny and many orchids were at their best, and we observed many fine specimens.

The walk started with Ringtail track circuit, then along Boilerwood track for a short distance before we headed for the top of Salisbury Falls where we had a break and lunch, and enjoyed the view of the snow covered alps. We then cut across country back to the Boilerwood track which led us back to the cars.

It was an easy, leisurely walk, and was great for those who are not keen to tackle harder walks,

An easy enjoyable walk. Bill.

BURROWA PINE MOUNTAIN - 5 & 6-10-1996.
Leader - David Banks.

As Friday afternoon (4th) progressed seven members set up camp at the very picturesque camping area near Hince Creek. Some arrived a little later than expected due to an unscheduled detour - it is strange how directions can be variously interpreted isn't it. Two car loads managed to turn off 3km before the distance given and I am told enjoyed a lovely drive up to Bluff Falls !.

Everybody was early to bed on a clear crisp starlight night as the leader had called for an 8.00 am start for next morning on the far side of the creek !.

Saturday dawned sunny and clear as all assembled for the first obstacle of the day - crossing Hince Creek which was quite swollen from recent rains and had become a considerable torrent. It was 7.30 am, Murray produced a knotted rope that was held at each bank and was of some considerable assistance. He also spectacularly rescued one of Allan's boots that was flowing past him totally out of control and at considerable speed. 7.45 am saw us across the creek, booted up and anxious to proceed (my feet and legs were freezing). We set off along Dogman Track at a sharp pace approximately southerly at the foot of the range whose lowering ramparts caused some apprehension about things to come. The hounds were turned loose and were to wait for the main bunch at the bottom of Bluff Falls which was reached at about 9.30 am after a brisk walk of 6 kms.

After a snack we climbed the steep narrow trail up around the waterfall, clambering over boulders and climbing ladders and negotiating narrow ledges above a raging torrent that drops majestically to the valley floor hundreds of metres below. We continued amid a profusion of ground ferns, Pomaderus and Myrtle which forms a very damp temperate rain forest.

At 10.30 am we reached Campbells lookout which provided a magnificent view of the Cudgewa Creek Valley with the Kosciusko Range forming a spectacular backdrop on the horizon. As we climbed higher we were to view this spectacular scene many times.

From Campbells lookout we faced the long hard climb to Ross lookout, some 4 kms on and 400 metres higher, which we reached in time for lunch at about 12 noon. The climb had taken us through significant changes of geology and vegetation - the rainforest of the gully giving way to Stringy Barks and Bluegums with Grevillia, Banksia and Grass Trees and on the exposed rocky ridges there were stands of Cypress Pines with all the way a profusion of Orchids of the Pterostylis and Caladenia Families.

As we climbed higher and the ridge flattened out we encountered tall Candlebarks and Narrow leafed Peppermints with occasional huge Bluegums with a dense understory of Bracken and Cassinias and many other species.

After lunch we followed a four wheel drive track to the top of Black Mountain which amid much scepticism and hope, the leader assured was the last significant climb of the day - we had now walked a further 5 kms. and climbed 200 metres.

We were now following a trail along the ridge amid Snow Gums where the undergrowth had been flattened by winter snows. The trail led over some very rough going with markers on trees (quite adequate) being the only indication that a trail existed. It was very rough underfoot for some 2 or 3 kms. - at times walking on scree slopes and broken rocks often hidden under the flattened vegetation. There were some murmurs about climbing on the 4WD track not being too bad after all - BUT we were going DOWN HILL!!!.

At 3.20 pm we left the saddle at the junction of the Hince Creek trail for an anticipated easy 7 km back to camp and down hill all the way. Light rain was falling but that did not dampen our enthusiasm as we strode off down the easy track. EASY!! Don't let it be said that any significant part of this walk was easy. The lovely burbling brook that gurgled innocently alongside the trail when the walk was scoped had now turned into a rampaging malevolent monster flowing directly down the walking trail and waiting to reward any tired or careless trumper with bootsfull of near freezing snowmelt. The going in this section was very rough as we were now low enough in elevation to be back into dense temperate rainforest which made scrambling alongside the torrent quite tiring. Joy had the right idea - to hell with wet feet, once they freeze you can't feel them anyway - and just marched majestically down the middle of the trail.

Most of us were able to arrive back at the Hince Creek crossing with dry feet. Once we were clear of the stream this was a very beautiful walk which the continuous drizzle could not detract from. We were a bit disappointed that we heard very few Lyrebirds but we picked up many feathers and saw numerous dancing mounds and the ground plants under the forest canopy were magnificent with large areas of delicate lace and maidenhair ferns and huge numbers of Maroon Greenhood Orchids.

The continues light rain throughout the afternoon had not allowed the water level in Hince Creek to drop (I swear it was running three times as hard) but with only our saviour of the mornings crossing taking a slight dunking, the weary but elated group were back in camp by 6.00pm.

This walk was over 25 kms. long and climbed more than 800 metres with a considerable distance being off made tracks. In the prevailing conditions it was very hard but all agreed - It is one of the best walks any of the group have done and all had a very real sense of achievement.

Unfortunately the short walk planned for Sunday had to be cancelled as the rain had persisted all night and everything was very wet.

Many thanks to Murray for his assistance and also being contact person for this weekend and to all the group for making this a very memorable walk.

Thank you all. David.

The leach bites have stopped itching and the tight muscles have relaxed a bit as I write this but the memory of this walk will remain clear for a very long time.

D.

WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc.

ANNUAL WEEK AWAY

PROPOSED DATES

I have made tentative enquiries for the week Sunday 24th February to Sunday 3rd March '97. This week has been suggested as providing the best chance reasonable weather.

DRAFT ITINERARY

Sunday 24th

Leave Wangaratta at 8.00am. Whistle stop at Lancefield at 10.00am. Lunch near Aireys Inlet at Distillery Creek Picnic Area in Angahook State Park at about 1.00pm (cut lunch required). After a short walk we drive to Apollo Bay along the Great Ocean Road and arrive at our accommodation at about 5.30pm. Total car travel for day 430km.

Monday 25th

Four short walks. Total car travel for day about 110km. Start Time 8.30am.

1. Melba Gully - 1.0km. 0.5hr. Easy. Often referred to as the "Jewel of the Otways" this short walk takes us through a magnificent fern gully, past huge trees and a waterfall.

2. Beauty Spot - 4.0km. 1.5hr. Easy. This walk is along the original Ocean Road and takes us through dark rain forested gullies.

3. Johanna Beach to Dinosaur Cove - 8.0km. 3.5hrs. Easy. The walking trail follows the beach to Rotten Point and a scramble can be made over the point to where Dinosaur fossils have been found. (Towels may be needed at the Johanna River crossing).

4. Maits Rest - 1.0km. 0.5hr. Easy. A boardwalk leads through giant Tree Ferns and ancient Myrtle and Beech trees.

Tuesday 26th

Moonlight Head to Princetown "Rivernook Track". Total car travel for day 135km. Start time 8.00am. The track is along the Old Coach Road which follows the ridge of a large sand dune between the Ocean and the Gellibrand River Valley. This walk is suitable for every one as it is very easy going and out and back on the same track. Walk 22km. 7.5hrs Medium (Distance)

Wednesday 27th

Scenic Drives and Hopetoun Falls Walk. Total car travel for day 70km. Start time 10.00am. Walk 1.5km. 1.5hr. Easy. The drive will follow Binns Road into the head of the Aire River where there are small stands of varieties of conifers including huge Californian Redwoods. A short walk to one of the better known waterfalls nearby possibly for lunch will be followed by a leisurely drive from Beech Forest towards Mt Sabine on the renowned Turtons Track and then back to base via Wild Dog Creek Road.

Thursday 28th

Aire River to Cape Otway "Coast Walk". Total car travel for day 50km. Start time 8.00am. Walk from a camping area near the mouth of the Aire River and explore the coastal dune system on some of many tracks in this area and visit the historic lighthouse - it should be open! Walk 15 - 22km. 7.5hrs Medium (Distance).

Friday 1st

Two short walks. Total car travel for day about 66km. Start time 8.30am.

1. Blanket Bay "Telegraph Walk". Walk 6km. 3hrs. Easy. Walk to and around Blanket Bay where lighthouse supplies were landed before the roads were built. The original Tasmanian telegraph cable came ashore at this location.

2. Parker River "Red Hill Track". Walk 7km. 3hrs. Easy. Walk through extensive heath lands and into Blue Gum forest. Some trees in the Otways are reputed to be in excess of 100m tall.

Saturday 2nd

Crows Nest Lookout to Wild Dog Creek. Total car travel for day 0km. Start time 8.30am. Walk from the town along Tuxion Road to Crows Nest Lookout which offers spectacular views of the Bay and the Town with Marengo and Hayley Reef in the background and then back to town along the beach from Wild Dog Creek. Walk 4hrs. Easy/Medium (320m climb).

Sunday 3rd

Return to Wangaratta via inland route. Start time 9.00am. Total travel for day 450km.

Extra Scenic Drive and Walks. (for the extra energetic)

1. Scenic drive to Paradise Picnic Area on the upper Barham River. About 16km return.
2. Elliott River Walk. 4km 2hrs. Hard. Steep climb down to a shelley beach and return through tall forest.
3. Walk to Cape Marengo via Bunbry Point. Walk around the beach to Marengo and back. Walk 11km. 3hrs. Easy.

GENERAL COMMENTS

I have selected these 12 walks from a huge number of options as best representing all the various facets of this fascinating area. The selections are based on information obtained from Colac Otway Tourism, Great Ocean Road Visitor Information Centre, Department of Natural Resources and Environment and about 20 years experience of the area for both work and recreation.

All the selected walks follow roads, beaches or tracks - no "cross country" due to the extreme density of the undergrowth.

Some important points to keep in mind are:-

1. The wettest area of Victoria is between Lavers Hill and Beech Forest (about 1500mm per annum) more or less uniformly distributed throughout the year.
2. The average maximum temperature for this time of year is about 20°C within a range from 14°C to 28°C.

3. The area west of Cape Otway (where most of the walks are) is exposed to cold SW winds.

Warm as well as waterproof clothing **MUST** be carried on all walks and the use of robust water resistant footwear is strongly recommended. It is also suggested that a light towel be carried as stream levels are unpredictable and we will be making numerous crossings.

From memory a full range of shops are accessible in Apollo Bay i.e. Supermarkets, Bakery, Butcher, Fruiterer, Hardware, Sporting Goods, Garages etc. as well as two Hotels and a range of Restaurants, Bistro's and Cafes.

The beach opposite The Esplanade offers ideal swimming and the water might nearly be warm enough! Good fishing is often possible in the Barham River or off the beaches or the breakwater or wharf.

ACCOMMODATION

A wide choice of accommodation is available at a price. Preliminary enquiries indicate that reasonably acceptable self catering style accommodation will cost less than \$100 per person for seven (7) nights. This is based on 4 people sharing a unit or park cabin. The general configuration of the park cabin option is one double bed in one room, 4 bunks in another and a kitchen/day room with ensuite. The unit option offers a much wider but limited choice ranging from one double bed only to 2 double beds plus 4 bunks plus 2 cots in the living area. I understand that these facilities are far from new but are well maintained (probably of similar standard to the cabins we had at Port Fairy).

I am hoping to personally inspect the choices before we have to make a commitment (early December).

TRAVEL COSTS

Total car travel is expected to be about 1400km. which works out to a maximum \$70 per passenger.

BOOKINGS

Any member who may wish to participate in this adventure please advise me by 22nd. Nov. 96 so a preliminary booking can be made. This will not be taken as a commitment but it is important to have some indication of possible numbers. A deposit will be required either just prior to or shortly after Christmas (good timing hey!).

I hope to have a comprehensive report available for distribution at the walks planning meeting on 2nd Dec.

Fill in the form below and post directly to me at:-

P.O. BOX 194
BENALLA,
VIC 3672

David Banks
Walks Co-ordinator.
26/9/96

Cut here

Name/s.....

Address.....
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.....

Phone (Work).....

Phone (Home).....

COMMENTS.....
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WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS INC. PROGRAM JULY 1996 - FEB 1997

**Grades of walks indicated are estimated only. More detail will be available as walks are scoped. Watch the news sheets and always ask the contact persons for details.
Visitors on walks are welcome but will be required to pay \$2 to cover insurance costs.**

- July 7 Eldorado area. Grade easy.
Contact Pat Dunstan 21 2200
- July 21 Whroo (near Rushworth) Grade easy.
Contact Lielia Bade 21 4896
- August 3 Wobongo Plateau from Paradise Falls. Grade medium.
Contact Rolf Heetel 21 4130
- August 18 Mt. Meg near Thoona. Grade easy.
Contact Murray Shaw 21 3730
- September 7 Clover Dam near Mt Beauty. Grades easy or medium or hard
Contact Rolf Heetel 21 4130
- September 22 Warby Range wildflower walk. Grade easy.
Contact Joy & Bill Rosser 22 1947
- October 5/6 Burrowa- Pine Mountain base camp. Accommodation nearby at Corryong or Walwa for those who need the comforts of home. Grades are expected to be medium or hard.
Contact Murray Shaw 21 3730
- October 2 Beechworth to Lake Kerford and beyond. Grade easy.
Contact Val Kemp 21 9409
- November 3 Myrree area. Grade easy to medium.
Contact Joan Butler 21 6558
- November 16/17 Mt. Samaria base camp at Samaria Wells. This is less than a one hour drive for non campers. Grades for these walks are expected to be easy or medium.
Contact David Banks 64 1240
- November 30 Mackeys Lookout to Mt Buffalo. Grade Hard. The 'Big Walk' (from the ticket box) can be tackled by those who wish to.
Contact Rolf Heetel 21 4130
- December 2 Planning meeting to set the program for the first half of '97 and discuss the state of organisation for the week away.
Fellowship meal and meeting at the Sydney Hotel at 6.30 pm.
Contact Elaine Jacobsen 22 1096

December 15 Ovens River Walk. Grade easy.
Contact Jessie & Merrick Usher 21 2325

December 15 Christmas breakup.
A barbeque tea (B. Y. O.) at a venue to be decided will be arranged; perhaps at a site along the river.

1997

January 18/19 Bogong High Plains base camp at Strawberry Saddle. Grades easy or medium or hard. Accommodation can be arranged at Mt Beauty or perhaps at Falls Creek for non campers.
Contact Joy & Bill Rosser 22 1947

February 2 Rose River - Mt Typo. Grade medium.
Contact Alan Raison 21 7886

February 15/16 Mt Buffalo base camp at Lake Catani. Grades easy or medium or hard.
Accommodation available at Porepunkah or Bright or Myrtleford or about 1 ½ hours drive.
Contact Rolf Heetel 21 4130

February 22 to March 1 Tentative dates for 'week away' at Apollo Bay.

All walks leave from and return to 'The Centre', Chisholm St. Wangaratta.

PLEASE CONTACT THE CONTACT PERSON IN ADVANCE (PREFERABLY TWO DAYS) FOR DETAILS OF THE WALK AND TO CHECK FOR CHANGES IF YOU INTEND TO PARTICIPATE.
IF YOU CAN'T REACH THE CONTACT PERSON THEN ALL QUERIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE WALKS COORDINATOR. David Banks 64 1240.

GRADING OF WALKS.

EASY Up to about 12 km, mainly on tracks in flat to undulating terrain with climbs less than 200m.
These walks are suitable to most people of average fitness and to children more than about ten years old.

MEDIUM - (LONG) As for easy but with distances up to 18 km, possibly with some cross country sections and/or climbs over 200m without steep pinches.
A reasonable level of fitness and some bushwalking experience is recommended

MEDIUM - (CLIMBS) 12 to 18 km. May include some rough terrain, scrub bashing, steep pinches and possibly sustained climbs up to 600m.
A reasonable level of fitness and some bushwalking experience is recommended

HARD Distances greater than 18 km and /or climbs over 600m in any combination.
These walks generally should only be undertaken by fit and experienced walkers.