

**WARBY RANGE**  
**BUSHWALKERS**  
**1997A**

## **WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS INC. PROGRAM JANUARY 1997 - AUGUST 1997**

**Grades of walks are estimated only. More detail will be available as walks are scoped.  
Please watch the news sheets and always ask the contact person for details.**

**Visitors on walks are welcome but will be required to pay \$2 to cover insurance costs.**

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| January 18/19          | Bogong High Plains. Base camp at Strawberry Saddle (Bring all your water)<br>Grades easy, medium or hard.<br>Contact Joy & Bill Rosser 57221947. |
| February 2             | Chiltern or Mt Pilot or Yackandandah. Grade easy or medium.<br>Contact Joan Butler 57216558.   |
| February 15/16         | Mt Buffalo. Base camp at Lake Catani. Grades easy, medium or hard.<br>Contact Rolf Heetel 57214130.  |
| February 23 to March 2 | Week away at Apollo Bay.   |
| March 16               | "Walk against want". Grade easy. Sausage sizzle at end of walk.<br>Contact Joy & Bill Rosser. 57221947   |
| March 17               | Fellowship dinner and AGM at Sydney Hotel at 6.30 pm.<br>Contact Elaine Jacobsen 57221096.   |
| April 5                | Mt. Blue Rag. Grade medium or hard.<br>Contact Rolf Heetel 57214130  |
| April 20               | Wabonga Plateau from Paradise Falls. Grade easy or medium.<br>Contact Allan Raison 57217886.   |
| May 3                  | Mt. Feathertop via Bungalo Spur. Grade easy, medium or hard.<br>Contact David Banks 57641240.  |
| May 18                 | Killawarra Forest (West side). Grade easy.<br>Contact Joy & Bill Rosser. 57221947.   |
| May 19                 | Fellowship dinner and planning meeting to set program for last half of<br>'97 at Sydney Hotel at 6.30 pm.<br>Contact Elaine Jacobsen 57221096.   |
| June 1                 | Mt Meg near Thoona. Grade easy.<br>Contact Murray Shaw. 57213730.  |
| June 15                | Reef Hills. Grade easy.<br>Contact Lielia Bade 57214896.   |



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|----------|---|
| July 5   | Mt. Typo. Grade easy, medium or hard.<br>Contact Allan Raison. 57217886.              |
| July 20  | Beechworth area. Grade easy or medium.<br>Contact Murray Shaw 57213730.               |
| August 3 | King Valley - Turquoise Mine. Grade easy or medium.<br>Contact Isobel Moore 57214443. |

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 'til AGM 57641240**

#### **GRADING OF WALKS.**

**EASY** Up to about 12 km, mainly on tracks in flat to undulating terrain with climbs less than 200 m.  
These walks are suitable for most people of average fitness and to children more than 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 200 m with few 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 about 600 m.  
A reasonable level of fitness and some bushwalking experience is recommended.

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

Seek the advise of the Walks Co-ordinator if you are unsure whether to tackle a walk or not.

**HAPPY HIKING.**



Fellow Bushwalkers and Friends.

It is hard to believe that it is almost a year since we revived the idea of publishing a newsletter. The 3 issues that were distributed were - judging from the comments - well received. We hope that we can continue this practice.

Thank you to all who helped in this venture and in particular to Rolf Heetel and Joan Butler who did the majority of the typing, copying and mailing.

The past 4½ months have been very busy with 5 day walks, 2 weekend camps and 2 one week trips, all of which were well attended considering the weather conditions for some. Five members had an energetic week at Thredbo and walked about 130km and 16 members went to Apollo Bay and enjoyed the cooler weather by walking up to 100km.

The committee have little to report as meetings have been few with a number of us either away or ill.

We have gained some new and active members through the past year and they have contributed significantly to the lively botanical and birdo discussions that we have enjoyed on many of our walks.

Happy Hiking-David.

#### COMING EVENTS

April 5th.

Mt. Blue Rag. Rolf Heetel (57214130) Easy, Medium or Hard - an out and back walk on the top of the mountains with magnificent views.

April 20th.

Wobonga Plateau from Paradise Falls. Grades easy or medium.

Contact Allan Raison 57217886.

May 3rd.

Mt. Feathertop via Bungalo Spur. Grade easy, medium or hard. Contact David Banks 57641240. An out and back walk with magnificent views of the high country and the Ovens Valley.

May 18th.

Killawarra Forest (West side) Grade easy. Contact Joy & Bill Rosser 57221947. An amble through the Box Ironbark forest that should be great for the birdo's.

May 19th.

Fellowship dinner and planning meeting to set program for the last half of '97 at Sydney Hotel at 6.30 pm. Contact Elaine Jacobsen 57221096.

Visitors, relatives and friends are always welcome on any of the walks. The contact person or the Walks Co-ordinator can supply additional information and advice.



**LAKE SAMBELL - LAKE KERFORD - 20.10.1996**

Leader - Val Kemp

Fourteen walkers met at the Centre including 2 visitors, at 9am. We then went on to Beechworth where we parked the cars at the Lake Sambell swimming pool area. The weather was good. The walk started as you enter the Lake Sambell caravan park. We followed Hurdle Creek, the track was wet in places at the beginning due to a lot of rain we had earlier. We saw some mine shafts along the track. The walk took us through forests of Blue Gum and Brittle Gum. Five kms on we came to Lake Kerford where we had our lunch. We had to walk across water in 2 places on this part of the walk. After lunch we walked along Forest Drive road to have a look at the mansion which was one of the early homes in Beechworth. All that is left is the foundations. We then continued on with some nice views of Beechworth. We arrived back at the cars after a walk of about 12km. We arrived back in Wangaratta at 3pm. I would to thank Isobel who came with me on this walk a week earlier.

Val.

P.S. A feature of the walk was a lot of Yellow Broom.

**FLETCHERS TRACK - 3.11.1996**

Leader - Joan Butler

The sky was overcast and rain threatening when four of our very conscientious walkers left the Centre at 8.30am for another bush walk in the vicinity of Fletchers track, but quite different to any walk previously done in that area.

The walk proceeded from Fletchers track up onto a ridge heading South West. The flowers in this area were prolific including dozens of superb specimens of Tiger Orchids (*Diuris Sulphurea*) and the Common Fringe-lily (*Thysanotos Tuberosus*). A Spotted Quail-thrush was seen by Bill who doesn't miss much in the bush, whatever it may be.

By lunch time the rain had become quite heavy so we decided to shelter under a stand of Pine trees and eat our lunch but had to share this area with some very persistent large black caterpillars that raced back towards us almost as fast as we flipped them away.

By this time we had walked approximately 9km along an undulating ridge in a rather dry eucalypt forest. After lunch we crossed the head of the valley and headed Northerly down a spur into the head of the creek that flows through Fletcher's property. It was rather rough going in places as this walk was practically all off track and the creek crossing rather hazardous. Joan saw, and later identified her first *Gompholobium*!!!! Four very wet walkers arrived back to the car at about 3.30pm and felt they had thoroughly enjoyed the walk of 19km and climb of a little under 600m in total although Rolf may not agree!!.

Thanks guys for coming.

Joan.

Unfortunately this walk clashed with the Jazz festival in Wangaratta and prevented many keen walkers from attending.

This walk could be classified as the hard end of medium.



**MT. SAMARIA** - 16 & 17 Nov. 1996.

Friday evening saw four campers at "Samaria Well" camping area, a lovely site near a small creek at the northern edge of Samaria State Park. Four more members arrived in time for the 8.30am start on a cool clear spring morning.

The walk started from the camp site and after crossing the creek (on stepping stones) proceeded almost Southerly along a gradually increasing grade on an almost straight ridge which climbs steeply up to the plateau and then again to the Trig. Station on Mt. Samaria.

This area of the Park is quite dry forest with little ground cover or understorey, enabling glimpses of extensive views particularly to the west and back to the north.

Numerous Orchids, including Musky Caladenia, a few Pink Fingers and some Spider Orchids as well as the many Tiger Orchids were a feature as were the Bush and Parrot Peas and Guinea Flowers that were still in bloom.

Once the plateau was reached the vegetation changed noticeably with many large gnarled Peppermint and Blue Gums as we walked through dense Bracken Fern and Cassinis scrub between rocky knobs. We took a break for a cuppa at the Trig which provides a magnificent all round view. The 4.5km, 600m climb had taken 2.5 hrs.

We proceeded Easterly along a track that was poorly defined in places down across a saddle near the access road and then up another 200m or so to the highest point on the plateau (20m higher than Mt. Samaria), near which we had lunch, just a few hundred metres short of Butchers Track.

This 4.0km section had taken a bit over 2 hrs. as the track wound through dense understorey of Wattles, Blackwood, Tea-Tree, Correa and Pomaderris with many Bird Orchids among the ground litter which was extensively scratched about by Lyre Birds in many places. Narrow Leaved Peppermint, Blue Gum and Candlebark Gum towered above the profusion.

After lunch, having intercepted Butchers Track (seasonal 4WD) which we were to follow for about 4.5km Northerly, the fast walkers were encouraged to proceed at their own pace to wait for us mere mortals at the Park boundary (start of Pine Plantation) from where the walk turned Westerly down through an old farm now extensively covered in Blackberries. Near the old farmhouse in the valley we inspected the ruins of an ancient sawmill and donned our raincoats under an enormous Oak Tree as the weather had closed in and some were anxious to proceed and not wait for the shower to blow over.

One small Sun Orchid was seen by a few of us (who did not take a short cut) on this last part of the walk through many other flowers such as Milkmaids and Chocolate and Bulbine Lillies were plentiful. The numerous Hop Bushes with their large numbers of seed capsules in various shades of green to purple were a feature.

We arrived back at camp about 4.00pm having walked 18.5km and climbed over 820m. Rolf had to add half a kilometre and 150 metres to his days effort. The toilet block was a long way from the camp up on another ridge and several trips add up!

This walk should be classified as hard.



**MT. SAMARIA CONTINUED - SUNDAY 17th.**

After a few overnight showers and a bit of morning drizzle we four campers decided we would attempt an easy walk on the plateau as planned. We left camp at 9.45am as it was apparent that no others were coming by then. We drove to the ruins of the old mill area.

The first section of the walk was along the old wooden tramway - the remains of the rails and sleepers and structures at gully crossings can still be seen - to the location of a braking shed at the top of the eastern escarpment of the plateau. This was used to lower the loaded trollies down a very steep grade to the railway in the valley floor.

A few enormous stumps are the only evidence today of the huge forest that once grew on this plateau and a couple of concrete foundations and a few rotting timbers are all that is left of the significant engineering feats used to harvest them.

It was a great thrill to sight a number of Lyrebirds in this area.

We returned along "Lightning Track" which we had followed yesterday to a junction near the high point where Joan & Rolf took the direct route back to the vehicle while Murray and I retraced yesterday's path in the hope of finding a needle in a haystack!. Allan had lost his pocket knife, of great historic and sentimental value yesterday and believed it to be somewhere along this section of track. Miracles do happen, we found the knife and then did a brisk walk out to Wild Dog Falls to see if any Crescent Honey eaters were there and returned to the car at about 2.00pm after a very enjoyable and easy 12km.

The rain had held off to just a couple of light showers and as it was quite cool it was ideal bushwalking weather and ending to a tremendous weekend.

David.

**MT. BUFFALO. "THE BIG WALK" - 30.11.1997**

Leader - Allan Raison

On arriving at the Centre about 6.50am we learned that Rolf would not be going on the walk and I had been democratically elected leader for the day. We welcomed Brian Matthews back from Pakenham for the walk and then five men left in Garth's car to drive to Mt. Buffalo to do the "Big Walk" arriving at the park entrance at 8am, we changed into our walking boots and started walking about 8.10am, and only gone a short distance when we met our first problem, the creek was fairly deep and flowing fast. Garth and I both managed to slip off a rock and got a foot wet. We continued on up the track which is quite steep for the first 2km.

The trees in this forest are mainly Peppermint Eucalypt. There was a variety of birds to entertain us with their musical calls as we steadily climbed upward.

When we reached the road we had covered 2km and climbed 320m and had taken about 50 minutes. After a short spell we continued on, crossing the road two more times before reaching Mackey's Lookout. The track in that section was through a lot of Bracken country but was much easier walking. We had a 15 minute break at Mackey's and left again about 9.55am.



# "THE BIG WALK" CONTINUED.

The Wildflowers on this section past Mackey's were beautiful. David brought some samples home for identification. It was a steady climb all the way to the top from Mackey's, the last of us arrived there at 11.50am only to find the fast ones had already eaten and were ready to start down again. Lunch was at the oval below the Chalet. It was pretty cool up there so we were off on our way down again by 12.10pm.

On the way down we ventured off the track several times to visit the various lookouts such as - Pulpit Rock and Marritts Lookout with beautiful views of the Gorge, Wilkinson Lookout, Manfields and Reeds, with magnificent views of the valleys below, and the Alps in the distance although some of these were spoiled a little by cloud cover.

David did a bit of high stepping on the way down. He claimed that Bill and I stirred up a black snake.

It was a much quicker walk coming down, arriving back to the cars at 2.45pm.

"The Big Walk" is 11km each way plus a few diversions, it would have been 23 or 24km for the day (for some of us).

This is an excellent walk for those who like a good hard walk.

Allan R.

P.S. It was good to see Garth on his second walk in a row. A.R.

## HISTORICAL WALK - CITY OF WANGARATTA - 15.12.1996.

Tour Guide Bill O'Callaghan.

At 3.45pm 18 walkers set off in **HOT**, humid conditions. The first part of the walk was of course a brief story of the Centre, unable to remember a lot of the dates the buildings were built. The Centre was previously called the Agricultural High School. The State School No. 643 was built in 1850, called the National School, rebuilt 1876, remodelled 1914. Scout Hall built in 1934. Pioneer cemetery 1834 near the filtration plant. Ovens bridge built four times, 1855, 1885, 1943 and 1968. Major Mitchell marked a gum tree when he crossed the river. It is by the bridge near the plaque along side Mitchell Park. Went over to Apex Park where Mr. Faithfull met up with the Rev. Docker and sold him land to the north of Ovens Crossing as Wangaratta was known as till about 1840. Saw the remains of the Punt and the site of the first Post Office near Painters Island. Crossed the Ovens where the old Stock Bridge stood, passed Sydney Hotel the first one built in 1864, then passed the King George gardens formally the sale yards, onto the Uniting Church. The first Methodist Church was built on the site in 1895. On entering Docker Street with the Cathedral (C.of E), on our left we passed many old homes that at one time belonged mainly to the towns doctors. After walking through T.A.F.E. College grounds, opposite the Bishops residence we saw the Centenary Tree and Weary Dunlop's birth place.



**HISTORICAL WALK CONTINUED.**

From there to Merriwa Park, passing the Rotary Clock, Scott Foundation, Lone Pine Tree, the Convent, Garden Club Fernery, Sound Shell and tennis courts. Leaving Merriwa Park and entering Chisholm Street, we passed the site of the first school in Wangaratta run by Mr. Vincent, the old brewery, and old homes that once belonged to pioneer families such as Trotman, McDonald, Schilling and Meldrum which was the site of the first tennis courts.

Walk completed at 5.45pm. The conclusion of the day and our 1996 walk programme was a B.B.Q. at Jessie and Merrick's home.

Thank you Jessie and Merrick for providing the venue for a very enjoyable evening.

(ED).

**BOGONG HIGH PLAINS - 17 & 19 Jan. 1997.**

Leaders Joy and Bill Rosser.

Eleven campers arrived at Langfords West camping reserve at various intervals during Friday. We welcomed new members Dick and Jan. The evening was a little cold and we all enjoyed the usual camaraderie around the camp fire.

Saturday dawned bright and clear and we set off on our various walks. The hardier walkers (two) did a circuit leaving from camp, along the Mount Cope fire track to join the Alpine Walking Trail, then along the Mount Niggerhead track to Towonga Huts then via Little Plain to Mount Fainter, back via Towonga Huts, then on to Mount Niggerhead. They returned to Pretty Valley Pondage and walked across country back to camp. Quite a walk!

The medium walkers (five) went the same way as far as Mount Niggerhead then back to Pretty Valley Pondage (approx. 21km). The other four took transport to Pretty Valley Pondage and did a round walk of about 12km to Mount Niggerhead and back. The medium walkers were glad to ride back from Pretty Valley and thanked the drivers for venturing over the extremely rough road.

Sunday morning we broke camp and drove to Rocky Valley Dam and undertook the Heathy Spur walk, along the Mount Nelse track for a short distance and then to Johnstones Hut. At the hut we found a walking group from Maroondah camped and a larger group of V.N.P.A. people. The Johnstones Hut area was just as delightful as usual and the creek pretty with Silky Daisies lining the bank. We returned by the same route. This was voted a very relaxing walk, with the wild flowers at there best. There was a large patch of snow on the side of Mount Nelse.

We left the comfortable climate of the High Plains to return to a very hot Wangaratta.

Bill and I would like to thank everyone who came for their help in organising and conducting the walks.

Joy and Bill Rosser.

.....Everyone is expected to be able to do anything in the bush, the theory being that if you don't know how, right now is the best time to learn.....

From OUTBACK HIGHWAYS by Len Baedell.



## THREDBO 1-8 FEBRUARY 1997

As the catalyst of Thredbo 1997 there were a number of purposes in my mind.

To me Thredbo is unique.

Through the Walking Club, I have climbed many mountains, seen much exciting countryside, but the indelible impression left on my psyche by my first sight of the incredible views from the summit of Carruthers Peak, the ruggedness of Watson's Crags, the seemingly endless ridges of the Geehi Valley, with the faint green fingers of the tangle of valleys, at least to me is a spiritual experience.

You are viewing the immensity of Nature's design, exciting, awesome, vast, rugged, primeval; by contrast and the relative insignificance of the achievements of the human kind induce a catharsis which moves one to think of the eternal and spiritual, and to ponder creation, if even for a few minutes, with a sense of revelation.

My trip to Thredbo was first and foremost a personal pilgrimage; maybe the last opportunity afforded by physical well being.

A couple of the senior members of the group were forcibly reminded that five years can produce a noticeable decline in physical capacity when retirement age comes on the agenda. The indignity of having to pay \$16 for a one day ticket on the ski lift prompted them to walk up Merritt's Track as the first step of a tour including the ascents of mountains Kosciuszko and Townsend, the two highest points of the range. They succeeded in conquering Merritt's in one hour, but the effort took its toll in subsequent ascent of Townsend, completely blowing them out by the end of the day, requiring one of them to claim a 'lay-day' on the Monday.

Sunday 32Kms

Monday's journey along the beautiful riverside walk and up to Dead Horse Gap and along to the Ski Lift and thence down to Merritt's Track was an easy day to allow for recuperation . 15 Kms only.

The third day was commenced with a drive up to Dead Horse Gap; the very steep ascent to the South Ramshead followed, the view from the crest making the effort worthwhile. Two of the more energetic members then hiked across to Lake Cootapatanka and thence down the walkway and, via a free ride on the ski lift, back to Thredbo. Two of the lesser members returned to Dead Horse Gap along the same track as they had ascended and thence back to



Thredbo on the River walk, a similar 15km length (they claimed, but they were including such minor mileage as a trip to the service station to approach that figure). That was the day Alan's complete ignorance of what a geographic saddle consisted was revealed, much to the consternation and surprise of Leader Rolf.

16 kms.

The Lakes Walk, 32kms by reason of Alan Raison, who had been tutored on the short cut, being outsprinted by Brian and Garth and forced to run down the walkway to catch them before the 4:30 closure of the Ski lift was an unforgettable day. The cameras worked overtime. This is one of Australia's great walks.

32 Kms.

The strong wind that was a feature of the Lakes walk to Charlottes Pass and back moderated overnight and on the walk up the Crackenback River valley we were accompanied by swarms of bush flies. The absence of a completely defined track and the substitution of a myriad of disconnected brumby tracks made the walk to Teddy's Hut, the hardest of the week. The original aim was to photograph brumbies, which aim was accomplished very early when we came across a mob of twelve. Very tame, evidently used to the sight of walkers, Alan Raison came to within six inches of patting one on the nose for the benefit of the photographer. The purpose then became the finding of Teddy's Hut, which had eluded groups on three previous occasions. The swampy nature of the terrain, the flies and the initial absence of a satisfactory track, made the necessary bush bashing quite strenuous, relieved however by sight of more brumby mobs and the eventual discovery of Teddy's Hut, so that the return journey was made easier by the consequent lift in spirits, the dispersion of the flies by walking into the breeze and the rediscovery of a remembered track higher up the valley hillside.

On the final day the party were left to their own resources. The more energetic went exploring on top to the north of Merritt's Track, an area not previously traversed, a couple stayed at home to write reports.

13 Kms.

Those who took the opportunity offered to hike Thredbo will have great memories of the usual great fellowship that is part of the weekly holidays and very appreciative of the generosity of Andrew Kentmann who made his apartment available for our use, and of Rolf Heetel's organisation which must have seen the investment of a great deal of time to ensure that everything was thought of. We were the grateful beneficiaries through the great hiking we achieved and a fellowship both on and after the hikes at our BBQ site. We lived like Lords for a week.

*When is the next trip to Thredbo ????*



**YACKANDANDAH - 2.2.1997.**

Leader - Joan Butler

After parking our cars in Windham Street we walked up Wellsford Street to High Street and along the Wodonga - Yackandandah road to the Yackandandah Lavender farm.

We had a word with Mario who runs the Lavender farm with his wife Ruth. He gave us permission to enter his property and we proceeded up a steep incline to reach the ridge which we followed for about 4½ - 5 km. We walked along this ridge through a sclerophyll forest consisting of Long-leaved Box, Blakely's Red Gum and Red Stringybark. Very few birds were seen. It was quite a hot day and perhaps this accounted for their absence.

We dropped down off the ridge and entered private property with the road reserve on our right but far too rough for us to use. We came down over Twist Creek road along Bell Flat road to the old gold diggings at Whiskey Flat where we had lunch. After lunch we walked around the old gold diggings and across Yackandandah creek, past the recreation reserve to Wellsford Street and back to our cars.

Joan.

This was a pleasant walk even on a very warm day. We covered a distance of about 14km and to my knowledge the club has'nt walked this area before.

The walk could easily be extended or altered to include the historic area along the creek to the Eastern side of the town where defined paths are believed to exist.

J.B.



*Southern Emu Wren*

J.B.



## A WEEK IN THE OTWAYS - 23.2/2.3.1997.

Leader - David Banks

Sixteen members left Wangaratta at 8.am on what would later be another very hot day. There were some surprised looks and hurried scrambling for wind cheaters at the whistle stop at Lancefield. After refuelling at Geelong we halted at Distillery Creek for a belated lunch break. Most of us were inappropriately dressed as there was a cool wind and light rain falling. After a short nature walk of about 3km we were glad to get back to the comfort of our vehicles and complete the trip to Apollo Bay.

8.30am Monday morning saw us on our way to Maits Rest, Melba Gully and the Beauty Spot which are superlative short walks representative of the temperate rain forests that are found in most gullies. Huge Blue Gums, Messmate and Beech trees, often covered in ferns are a feature as are the great variety of Tree Ferns and Ground Ferns. After a lunch break in the shelter of rocks at Johanna Beach we walked easterly along the beach to Rotten Point. Fascinating rock formations and the crossing of Johanna River were a feature. It was in this area that Olwen practiced her water ballet, and Joan found that she couldn't part the waters!. At Rotten Point, Murray, Bill and I unsuccessfully searched for the track to take us to Dinosaur Cove while the rest of the party relaxed on the huge rock slabs. The walk back to the car park in loose sand was heavy going and everyone was pleasantly tired after walking about 12km.

By 8.00am Tuesday morning we were away on the longest drive of the week up through Lavers Hill and on along the Great Ocean Road to Moonlight Head where we parked our cars opposite the historic cemetery (which is still in use). The walk followed the old coach track along the top of the sand dune that separates the beach from the Gellibrand River. Some of the group decided to return after walking about two thirds of the way as walking was becoming harder in loose sand on the track. This was a wise decision as the sand was to become much deeper beyond "Rivernook". We enjoyed a lunch break in the lee of Point Ronald at the river mouth though we did not get much of a rest as the incoming tide, which was to prevent us walking part of the way back along the beach, threatened to strand us on the wrong side of the river mouth and caused a hurried scramble to avoid it. The remainder of our break was spent observing falcons hunting from the cliff opposite. It was then back to the cars for the long drive home having walked about 22km. The weather, though cool at first, had warmed up later and was very pleasant for walking. An added feature was a short walk to The Gables lookout that provided stunning views of the rugged coast line.

On our restday on Wednesday everyone accepted my offer to conduct a short drive along Binns Road which passes through the Aire Valley plantations. Morning tea was taken under the shelter of huge Californian Redwoods at the Aire River crossing. We then followed the justifiably renowned Turtons Track to the Skenes Creek Road and returned via the Wild Dog Creek Road which traverses precipitous slopes as it winds down to the valley floor. The day was overcast and cool with showers threatening. (Wangaratta still had 35°C).

8.30am Thursday saw us away to the Blanket Bay area for two short walks. The weather was again cloudy and cool for the morning loop up through the coastal heathland into the start of the forest and back for lunch at Blanket Bay. Little is left of this historic area that was the landing place for supplies to the Cape Otway Lighthouse and also the



mainland terminal of a submarine telephone cable linking Tasmania to the Mainland via King Island. Another short walk after lunch followed the route of the telegraph line from the beach for about 3km and then looped westerly over a large gully and back down a heathy ridge to the start. A sleepy snake provided an interesting diversion for Murray who had stepped behind a tree to admire the scenery!. We had walked about 13km and rounded off the day with a fascinating conducted tour of the lighthouse (no longer in operation) and its original buildings.

At 8.00am we were on our way to Hordern Vale after sadly farewelling Jessie & Merrick, Sue & Margot, who had to return to Wangaratta. After leaving our cars in the camping area near the mouth of Aire River we climbed to the top of a huge sand dune high above the beach where we gained wonderful views of the Aire River Valley, the estuary and the coast line. The walk then followed a tortuous, partly overgrown track along the cliff top to a junction where we took the track down to the beach. After a lovely walk along the beach we spent some time exploring rock bars, admiring and photographing Rainbow Falls and clambering up Point Flinders before climbing back to the cliff top track, where we had lunch while enjoying the magnificent view back along the beach. After lunch most of the group decided to return to the start via the cliff top while three of us continued on to the very old lighthouse cemetery and back to the lunch area, via a loop up through Camp Hill in cleared grazing country and through a large stand of gnarled Messmates. The walk back was enlivened by Murray's exhibition of walking on air after almost treading on a huge black snake. Julie who turned back early was fortunate enough to see a Southern Emu Wren which are very elusive. Most of the group had walked about 17km while the "longer" walkers had covered 23km in walking conditions that were never easy. The weather had again been perfect for walking - cloudy with a cool breeze and warming to mild in the afternoon.

By 8.30am Saturday we were hiking along Tuxion Road on our way to climb an old road reserve to an area known as Crows Nest Lookout. The climb was fairly steep and wet underfoot as a swirling mountain mist enveloped us necessitating the use of coats for a short time, it was cool enough to use them anyway. Breaks in the cloud afforded us breathtaking views back over the township and along the coast in each direction. The mist lifted as we made our way along the ridge and commenced the descent to Wild Dog Creek, offering tantalizing glimpses of the ranges inland of us. The descent to Wild Dog Creek was along an old road and uneventful except that Joan discovered that being last in a daisy chain when somebody touches an electric fence can be a shocking experience!!.

After admiring Eels and Trout in the stream we proceeded home along the road to the beach and along the beach to our accommodation, in time for lunch, after walking 10km. It does seem that bush leaches go for red wine as Rolf was again the only person afflicted.

7.30am Sunday saw most of us on our way home after a hugely enjoyable and satisfying week having walked through a huge variety of terrain and flora. The sleepy and picturesque little town with its magnificent beaches and fishing port provided the perfect base for exploring this fascinating region.

Happy Hiking - David.



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 17 th. of March was the club's twenty-second Annual General Meeting. It was once again held at the Stockbridge Bistro. Many of our members attended and enjoyed a pleasant evening. A suggestion which came up for discussion was that we should have a new logo which could be worn on T shirts and windsheaters. It was decided that the new committee would look into this.

A new committee was formed with Murray Shaw as the new president. The office bearers are as follows :

PRESIDENT :	Murray Shaw
VICE - PRESIDENT:	<del>Elaine Jacobsen</del> Val Kemp
SECRETARY:	Elaine Jacobsen
TREASURER:	Isobel Moore
WALKS' CO-ORDINATOR:	Alan Raison
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	Sue Blair, Jessie Ussher, Margot Thompson.

It was decided at the Annual General Meeting that the Annual Subscription would remain the same as the previous year.

Single \$15  
Family \$ 20  
Life members \$ 10  
Visitors \$2

The Annual Subscription for 1997/98 is now due and can be sent to the Secretary .Please fill out the form below and forward it to

The Secretary,  
Elaine Jacobsen  
32 Docker St  
Wangaratta 3677.

-----  
NAME.....

ADDRESS.....



winter 1997

volume 5



MT BLUE RAG 5TH APRIL 1997

LEADER ROLF HEETEL

The 10 happy hikers left the Centre a little after 7am full of hope to see the promised spectacular views from the Blue Rag ridge. After a short stop at Harrietville we arrived 2 hours later at the start of the walk, where the Twitt family were waiting to join us. Although the weather forecast had promised fine conditions, the little moisture that was over Victoria, hung over the alps as low cloud, at times heavy, damp fog. Our views were of the 4 wheel drive track, to drive on this, one would need to be very experienced or foolhardy. We were also able to see the steep drops on both sides giving us the feeling of being on very high ridge indeed. The highest point reached is 1718m. Some of us have done this walk previously and could tell the others what to expect on a clear day.

The Blue Rag Walk is listed in the 4th edition of the 120 Walks in Victoria by Tyrone Thomas page 181 walk 78. Here is some of the information given. From the Alpine road at St Bernard travel 11.7 km down the Dargo Rd, a jeep track leads west up a hill in the direction of Blue Rag Range, a small fire dam exists at the turn off. There is a sign also. Initially the climb is over the northern shoulder of Mt Blue Rag itself. Pass a summit jeep track off to the left, then go down a deep saddle and up steeply to a jeep track junction. The climb is hard (in the book it is noted as 130m however I think it is more like 180) but soon gives way to easy walking. The views to the south and north are superb. Mt. Murray, The Twins, Mt Hotham, the Blue Rag reek valley etc.

Alpine flowers are at their best in December but there were lots of daisies on the southern slopes still for us to enjoy. The walk is 14km long (Alan covered an extra 7km) with a total of 660 m climb, medium towards hard. Most of us want to try it again, but on a clear day.

Rolf.

WABONGA PLATEAU 20TH APRIL 1997

LEADER ALLAN RAISON

Five walkers left Wangaratta shortly after 8 o'clock in Rolf's vehicle to travel to Paradise Falls in the Wabonga Plateau. Our first stop was Little Paradise Falls where we did a short walk to the bottom of the falls, a nice camping or picnic area. There was a little water coming over the falls. Along the track we stopped to inspect the rock which had narrowly missed Rolf when it dislodged and fell on to the track while he was walking there some years ago, a bit scary to think about, if he had been a few seconds later? We then drove on to Big Paradise Falls where we had a cuppa and then walked down to the base of the falls but due to the long dry summer these falls were completely dry which was a little disappointing. We returned to the top of the falls where we began our main walk about 10.40 am. We followed an old 4 wheel drive track through fairly thick bush and timber.



country for about 3KM till we reached McMillans track where we turned right (West) for about 1½ KM then after a little bush bashing we found a nice place for lunch overlooking Lake Willam Hovell, it had been a gradual climb most of the way but on good tracks. After lunch we retraced our steps along McMillans track and continued on past the Paradise Falls Track in a south easterly direction for about 2½ KM to the junction with Wabonga

track where we turned left and walked for about 4KM on a fairly well maintained vehicle road to the main Paradise Falls road. It was decided that I would walk the 2½ Km back up the Paradise Falls and bring back the car which Rolf had trusted me to drive while the rest of the party waited on the corner. It had been down hill most of the way since lunch. A very enjoyable and fairly easy walk of about 13KM total. (for the main group) Arrived back in Wangaratta about 4.30.

Allan.

KILLAWARRA FOREST WEST SIDE MAY 18TH 1997

LEADER JOY ROSSER

On an ideal day for walking, , twelve walkers started off from the Old Camp Site in the middle of the Killawarra forest and headed for the western edge of the forest. The first part of the walk was along the marked nature trail which was a most enjoyable walk. We visited a well then headed due west to the boundary then north and finally east back to the camp site. There were a few little hiccups due to my poor navigation, wrongly marked maps but chiefly because of the absence of my chief navigator, Bill. However no harm was done, except that we walked a bit further than intended. This is a delightful walk. Some wattles were in bloom, and we saw some interesting birds including Grey Crowned and white browed babblers, Musklorikeets, and Bronze winged Pigeon. Much to the delight of Chieko, our Japanese visitor, we saw lots of kangaroos and at the end of the walk, Val spotted a Koala.

Joy.



REEF HILLS JUNE 15TH 1997

LEADER LIELIA BADE

Today June 15th seven of us left the Centre for the Reef Hills at 9AM. A cold but beautiful day for walking. Left picnic ground around 10AM, to do the southward walk which was the longer of the two walks.

A very diverse lot of timber along the way, changing with the lay of the land, little rises, flat, and swampy. Certain places covered in tusky grasses, others nearly bare and many wattle trees. Many kangaroos and many koala marks right down in southern end of park, but did not see any. Quite a number of birds were seen.

Returned to cars for lunch, then did the northern walk which is shorter and slighter different to the southern one and seemed more drier. Quite a number of birds overall in the park. One Koala was seen right near the furthest point of the walk from the cars. Arrived home towards 4 o'clock after a beautiful day's walking and good company.

Thank you all Lielia.

MT GLENROWAN JULY 5TH 1997

LEADER ROLF HEETEL

We left the Centre at 9AM and parked the cars at the Taminick Gap. Although we have been to Mt Glenrowan several times over the years it is always enjoyable because of the views and it is so close to Wangaratta. The first section to the Telecom Towers required a little climb, here we took in the view across Wang, to the Alps, this also gave everyone a chance to catch their breath. From here we followed the ridge track to Chick track and then to Chick Hill. Time for some to have morning tea while taking in the view again. On returning to Chick track, we turned left down to a small dam, then through the bush in a southerly direction. The aim was to reach the track running from ridge track down to orchard drive, however since my last walk in that area many years ago, there have been a few changes. We reached a dam and fence, so rather than walk through private property we turned south west to join the ridge track near moonlight track, from here we soon reached Mt Glenrowan for an early lunch. With the air so clear, we were able to pinpoint land marks far away, unfortunately for many others, there was only a little snow to be seen on Mt Bogong. On the return walk the group split, seven of us took the moonlight track down to the base of the western side, following the base track to almost the Taminick Rd, then back up the hill to the cars at the gap. The other five had continued along the ridge track and were back in town before us, mid afternoon. Although we saw plenty of signs of animal life only birds and one wallaby were seen. The distance of the 2 walks was 10 to 11 KM. For the walk across the top, and 14 KM approx for the base walk.



The classification was agreed on as medium. A great day and good company made it most enjoyable. I thank everyone for coming and trust Lielia was not too tired the next day to celebrate her 81st Birthday.

Rolf.

MT MEG        JUNE 1ST 1997

LEADER MURRAY SHAW

There was a great turnout of enthusiastic walkers to tackle MT MEG. The weather was kind to us and we set off up the south eastern slope onto a ridge which led us up and down to Mt Meg taking in lovely views and some interesting Aboriginal sites. These sites included water wells where the Aborigines had chipped away the rock to collect moisture and run it into natural holes in the rock.. Also a cairn like pile of rocks which was believed to have been used as an oven. Lunch was had looking over the Thoona township at the Northern end of the reserve. After lunch we headed off, back along the Western edge of the reserve, nearly stepping on a very large black snake as we went back to the cars. Other wildlife observed included Kangaroos, wallabies, some birds and echidna sites, Rabbits too. We finished up at the Thoona store for a scrumptious devonshire tea and then home. Thank you to Alan for helping me map the walk and thank you to all the walkers for a very pleasant day. This would make an excellent Springtime walk

M. Shaw        President.



KING VALLEY TURQUOISE MINE BLACK RANGE 3RDAUGUST 1997  
LEADER MURRAY SHAW

Twelve walkers left the Centre on a very cold morning, -5c but the day turned out to be beautiful and sunny later on.

The walk started at the base of the Black Range Track with a 2.3 KM climb before reaching an easily walked ridge. 2 hours later we arrived at the Turquoise mine where we all fossicked and found traces of the gem.

A short distance from the mine we sat down to enjoy lunch in the sun. Some of the fitter walkers headed off to try to find another mine close by but were unsuccessful. A challenge for another time. We all walked back along the track to the cars and had a pleasant afternoon tea before returning to Wangaratta. Unfortunately we had to use the First Aid Kit twice, once for a blister and once, after a fall, for a cut hand. No serious damage. Thank you to all who participated for a very pleasant day.

M. SHAW PRESIDENT.

BEECHWORTH MINES 16TH AUGUST 1997

LEADER ROLF HEETEL

Eight walkers left the Centre at 9.30 all returned about 4pm much to my relief. The walk was listed as easy with some climbing so to add a little walking to our exploration of the mines, we parked the cars at the Fletcher Dam Picnic Area. A 3KM walk along Raws Rd and Lower Nine Mile Track took us to the Kerry Eagle Mine. This is a shaft dug into the side of the hill from

a small gully. To my surprise all came to the end of the approx 60M long tunnel. There were no signs of gold and this mine does not get a mention on the pages opposite. From here were mine shafts all up the hillside, some very deep. We carefully made our way back to the road at the top and back along to the Wallaby Mine Track. This area has received some attention, a good safety fence and path around the open cut has been constructed. This mine must now be visited by locals and tour groups. After imagining the hard work done by the miners a century ago, we moved on down to the 12 head battery which operated from 1910-12. Some work has been done to preserve the structure, unfortunately the timber beams have rotted badly and more needs to be done. What an effort it must have been to install it all on this steep hillside, we had time to debate this over lunch, in sunshine with the wattle in flower and we could hear the creek below us. There are lots of mine shafts in this area, we explored another three and looked at many more, Some are a little dangerous. One of the tunnels we went into opened into a large chamber with other shafts and tunnels branching into different directions. Allan knocked his head in the last tunnel we went into. I felt sorry for him, as I had done the same the week before, however my knock did not echo the same, (before you read anything into this, I like to add that I did not hit the rock so hard) To get to the Rechabite Mine we had to cross the Nine Mile Creek, this mine is partly open cut and is dangerous to go into, so we went just to the opening. I did take some photos, if they are ok I will add them later. Allan and Bill took the shorter but harder way through the bush back to the cars to my amazement we all arrived back at the same time. The group voted to go to the only still operating gold mine in Beechworth, here we enjoyed coffee cake and conversation. After a little detour through Beechworth

we arrived home

Rolf



## PRESIDENTS NOTE

Fellow members,

No doubt due to the exceptionally fine weather over the Winter months few walks were cancelled and many were enjoyed. At the last committee meeting the charge for passenger transport and the very complicated subject of insurance were discussed. It was considered by the committee that 5c per km is still a fair charge per passenger. Considering the price of fuel and wear and tear on the vehicle, regardless of distance, this is good value.

Leaders are advised that all visitors are to be charged a walk administration fee of two dollars which will cover insurance, maps and other incidentals.

Please note that there is information in this newsletter re the proposed trip to the Warrumbungle National Park. Those wishing to attend should give this their earliest attention as Rolf would like numbers and deposits as soon as possible.

Socializing after walks as at Thoona store and Beechworth Bakery have proved very popular, I hope this will become a regular feature of our walks calendar.

Happy Walking  
Murray

## THE WARRUMBUNGLES

One cottage at Timor Country Cottages, 12 km from Coonabarabran close to the entrance of the National Park has been booked and the best of weather has been ordered.

Half of our group will be camping in the N.P. at Camp Blackman close to the Visitor Centre and close to the start of our walks. The facilities are very good (powered site etc) just ask the Rossers who have used them on our last trip there.

At this stage we have Bill and Joy Rosser in their caravan, Alan Raison in his tent and Dick Tivendale and Jan Pyers camping there. Others have indicated interest in camping. Bookings are not accepted by N.P. Rangers, they do not expect any problems. For the Timor Cottage we have at this stage, Lielia Bade, Donna and Murray Shaw, Brian Matthews and Rolf Heetel. This cottage has all the facilities we require including linen and can accommodate up to 7.

The cost for 5 is \$132, for 6 it is \$120, for 7 it would be \$111.50. At this stage there is another cottage available, so please let me know, if you would like to join us, accommodation is short in that area.

Should you like more information or like to add your name to the above, please ring (03)57214130. A deposit for the campers is not required, for the others, it will be \$50 dollars four weeks before we leave, more news in the next newsletter

Rolf



The Warrumbungle National Park Week 9-11 to 16-11-97  
Program as arranged by Rolf, based on the previous successful trip  
planned by Greame Fairley in October '89

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Sunday  
Nov 9 Depart Wangaratta at 6.30 am from the Centre.  
To Timor Cottages approx. 800 km, 10 hours incl. stops

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Monday  
Nov 10 Meet at Camp Wambelong (440m) at 10 am.  
Walk around & climb Split Rock (770m) Marked as Walk 8  
Time before or after to look at the Information Centre  
The strong walkers may like an extra climb from  
Camp Pincham (500m) to Fan Horizon (714m).

---

Tuesday  
Nov 11 Meet at Camp Pincham at 8 am.  
Walk to the Grand High Tops (980m) via Coulet's Circuit.  
On the return walk we have the extra options of  
Hurley Camp - Spirey View & Bress Peak. approx 6 hours

---

Wednesday  
Nov 12 Meet as above, walk to Bluff Mountain (1200m) via West  
Spring Creek to Ogma Camp then Dow's High Tops to Nuada  
Gap then another steep climb to the top. On the way back  
we may detour to Churchill Rock. approx 6 hours

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Thursday  
Nov 14 Rest day or car trip

---

Friday  
Nov 15 Mt Exmouth (1206m) Marked Walk 10, although it says 12 km,  
I believe it is a little more. We will meet at Barbie Canyon  
at 8 am. On the return walk some may like to have  
a look at the Cathedral Arch.

---

Saturday  
Nov 15 Easy walk may be around Timor Dam Area and on the  
side of Timor Rock, meet at our Timor Cottage, 12 km from  
Coonabarabran at 10 am

---

We may have our evening meal (\$25.00) with Helen & Hugh  
Meldrum, we will discuss this beforehand.

---

At some stage I hope to fit in a tour of the Siding Spring  
Observatory, also we may have a pub meal in Coonabarabran  
one evening, after we have done some shopping.

---

Sunday  
Nov 16 Leave Tam | Any of the above plans may be changed  
if necessary. Good walking Rolf



# WARRUMBUNGLE National Park Walking Tracks



## WALK THE WARRUMBUNGLES

The walks in Warrumbungle National Park lead you to breathtaking views. But if you can, drag your eyes from distant scenes and take a closer look at the surroundings as you walk. You will see the great variety of habitats found in the park, and the different soils and plants that give each its character.

Help preserve the bush you have come to enjoy by keeping to the tracks.

For all walks starting from Camp Pincham, visitors are requested to park in the signposted area only.

**Remember:** As most huts have now been removed, water must be carried on all walks.

## NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE CODE

The preservation and protection of our natural areas depends on the co-operation of all who visit and enjoy our national parks and nature reserves. Here are a few simple rules that everyone is asked to observe.

- Wildfire can destroy lives and property, so be careful, especially during the bush fire danger periods. Use only authorised fireplaces and do not light fires during total fire ban periods.
- Keep the areas you use tidy — place rubbish in the bins where provided or take it away with you.
- Leave your pets at home — they can disturb and kill native animals and are often a nuisance to the other visitors.
- Leave firearms at home.
- Do not disturb plants, animals and rocks. Rocks are important shelter for some animals and plants.
- Drive carefully and keep to roads and car parks provided.
- Please observe all signs. They are provided for your guidance and to assist you to enjoy the areas you visit.

1. **NATURE TRACK** 1 km, ½-1 hr return. A self-guiding leaflet is available at the Visitors Centre. An easy walk through a small gorge and over a lava flow. A side track also leads to Camp Blackman.

2. **FAN'S HORIZON** 3.6 km, 2 hrs return. The shortest walk to views of the Breadknife and Grand High Tops area.

3. **ALEX GOULD'S CIRCUIT** 4 km, 3 hrs return. Views of the Grand High Tops area. Don't miss the turn off to the top of Macha Tor.

4. **BRESS PEAK** 7.5km, 3-4 hrs return. A very steep ungraded track with no steps — suitable for fit walkers only but very rewarding.

5. **BREADKNIFE, GRAND HIGH TOPS** return via Dagda short cut. 12.5km, 4-5 hrs return. One of the most popular walks, with splendid views.

6. **BREADKNIFE, GRAND HIGH TOPS** return via West Spirey Creek Track. 14.5km, 5-6 hrs return. Similar to the previous walk, but a complete circuit and with good views of Bluff Mountain.

7. **BLUFF MOUNTAIN** 2.4 km, 2 hrs return. Best done with walk No. 6. Wedge-tailed eagles can often be seen riding the air currents.

8. **SPLIT ROCKS CIRCUIT** 4.6 km, 3 hrs return. Best introduction to the variety of habitats in the park. A separate track ascends to the top of the southern peak via a chain and ladder. Return via the same route to the base of the ladder.

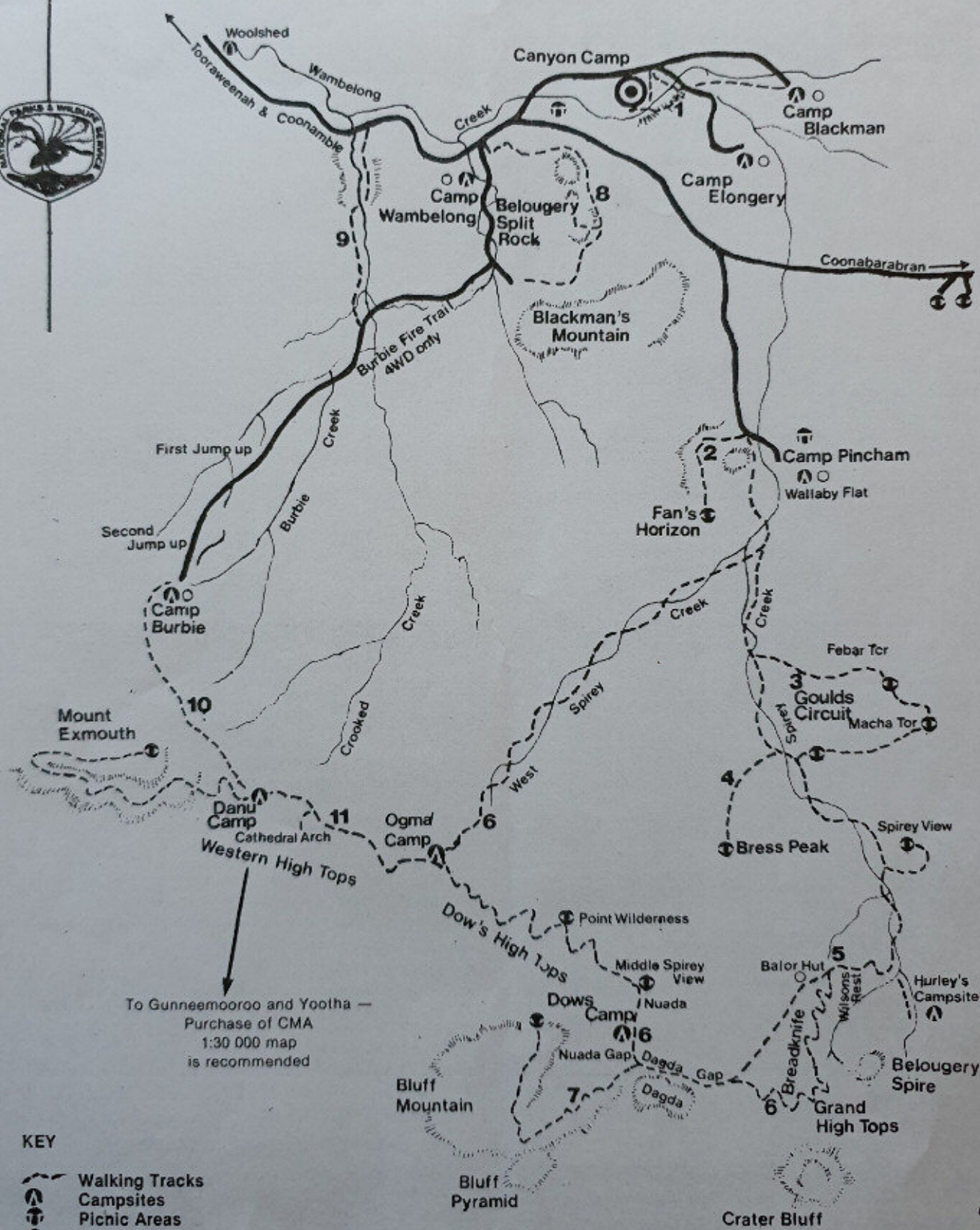
9. **BURBIE CANYON** 2 km, 1 hr return. You may see many birds on this walk.

10. **MT. EXMOUTH, CATHEDRAL AND ARCH** via Camp Burbie 12 km, 4-6 hrs. Mt. Exmouth is the highest peak in the park. Burbie Road is impassable to conventional vehicles therefore access to Camp Burbie is by four wheel drive only.

11. **MT. EXMOUTH, CATHEDRAL AND ARCH** via West Spirey Creek. 16 km, 4-6 hrs. An alternative to the above walk.







# KEY

- Walking Tracks
- Campsites
- Picnic Areas
- Visitor Centre
- Lookouts
- Tank Water
- Roads or Firetrails

D. West, Government Printer  
J.M.F. 11/83 Warrum 2



# WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS INC.

SUMMER 1997

VOLUME 6

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Over the past year members have enjoyed many varied walks and social fellowship. The weather has been kind to us and the weeks away very enjoyable.

I'd like to thank our committee for all their hard work during the year. Thank you to Elaine, our Secretary, Val for her work on the newsletter, Isobel, our Treasurer, Alan the Walks Co-ordinator and all those who led walks.

Thank you to Rolf and David for organizing our week's away to the Otways, Thredbo, and Warrumbungles. Thank you to Rolf and Lexie for the use of your lovely garden and pool area for our Christmas Break-up.

I'm hoping for a good attendance at all our walks on the 1998 program and may all your walking be as enjoyable as I have found those I attended over 1997.

I'd like to wish all members a Verry Merry Christmas and a Safe a Happy New Year.

"

Murray





### MOUNT STANLEY - Sun Sept. 21st

Someone suggested it was time for a hard walk. Rolf recalled a hard one up to the Stanley Fire Tower from the Myrtleford - Yackandandah Road, near the junction of the Myrtle & Barwidgee Creek.

My recollection of this walk was that it had some very steep and some bush bashing sections. For walkers like Murray, Allan, Brian and Bill, not a problem, but for me, well!!!

I had hoped to take a group say half way and return, in other words have a medium walk. However there were no others, so I was the weak link.

We had intended to leave at 8am, but my notes from approximately 10 years ago, were showing a 6 hour round trip from Wangaratta, so we left an hour later.

Well 10 years have made a difference, not to the hills, but to me, the time taken from Wangaratta and back was 7 1/2 hours this time. We have reclassified this walk as b. hard (basically hard). I will not go into many details of this walk, as I cannot see it being repeated for at least another 10 years' of if ever.

The farmer at the start of the walk wanted to know, which day of the next week we intended to return -----.

The pleasant features of this walk were the company, the views particularly from under the powerlines and from the top of Mt. Stanley, the flowering kangaroo tails and the wattle and the sarsaparilla.



This 15km walk has a rise of almost 900m. To give Murray and Allan a little handicap they climbed an extra peak, now named the Allan Murray Knob (an extra 120m) close to the Goat Knob. Allan finished the walk with his usual sprint (he is too fit).

In the perfect weather we had, it was a challenge, on a hot day a definite NO NO!!

Now I am looking forward to an easy walk.

Rolf.

\*\*\*\*\*

### CHILTERN REGIONAL PARK October 5th.

Eight walkers left the Centre at 9 o'clock. We drove to Chiltern where we parked the cars at Frogs Hollow Picnic Area. This was listed as an easy walk of 12 kms which took us through the Gold Mining area of Chiltern. We saw the State Battery Site then the Magenta Mine. We spent some time exploring the area then walked on to the Indigo goldfields Cemetery where we had lunch. Most of this walk was along a gravel road. Allan led the return walk which took us along some tracks and bushland. The highlight of the walk were the many orchids we found including; Donkey orchid and wax lip orchids and the lovely sun orchid found by Joy. Rolf and I think we saw a pair of Regent Honeyeaters.

The weather was good - as was the company which made for an enjoyable day.

Val.



## THE WARRUMBUNGLES Nov. 9-16th

Six members left from The Centre on what was to be a long but interesting drive along the Newell Highway to the Warrumbungle National Park and the Blackman Camping Ground to meet our other walking mates and drop off a camper.

After a chat and drink it was on to our very picturesque accommodation with Timor Rock in the background where we were joined next day by a member from Sydney. What a pleasure it was to sit on the verandah and watch the birds fly by and Timor Rock grow older before our eyes. One afternoon we sat with baited breath watching some, ill equipped climbers risk life and limb to get to the top of Timor and down again.

The walks were rugged with spectacular views, the weather was kind and did not affect our walking. Fortunately we had finished our last walk just as the rain and wind came with a vengeance. Luckily the campers were not affected.

The fellowship on our weeks away is always great and this week was no exception. So, on behalf of all who attended, I would like to extend our thanks to Rolf for his efforts in setting up a week to remember.

## Mt. Buffalo Weekend of 6-7th of Dec.

Seven campers left Wangaratta on the Friday and set up camp at the very picturesque camping ground at Lake Catani. There was much 'ooing and aahing' as we inspected David's beautiful new motor home. The fishermen tried their luck at the lake, but, no fish for entree! The evening was perfect and as usual we enjoyed a social meal around the camp fire.

On Saturday two day walkers joined us at the reservoir and we set off on the Mt. MacLeod track. The three ladies (the three Jays) decided not to the whole distance due to different infirmities (crook ankle, painful knee etc.). We walked out for about 6 kms. then had a leisurely walk back enjoying the views, flowers, rock formations and the beautiful colours of the snow gum's trunks. The six men manage the 20 km. return walk with the odd off shoot (Anderson's Peak) Another lovely evening. Thunderstorms were predicted but didn't eventuate.

By Sunday there were only four walkers left as the others had to return home due to various commitments. We decided to do the 8 km. walk to South Buffalo, always a delight and no exception this time. Flowers were abundant and several birds were identified including a crescent honeyeater.

What a delight Mt. Buffalo is! And we are so lucky to have it practically on our doorstep! Thanks to you all for sharing it with us.

Joy and Bill





# WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS INC.

PROGRAM JULY 1997 - JANUARY 1998



Visitors on walks are welcome but will be required to pay \$2.00 to cover insurance costs.

July 5th	Mt. Glenrowan. Easy or medium. Contact Rolf Heetel 5721 4130.
July 20th	Beechworth Area. Easy - Medium. Contact Murray Shaw 5721 3730.
Aug 3rd	King Valley - Turquoise Mine. Easy - Medium. Contact Isobel Moore 5721 4443.
Aug 16th	Beechworth mines. Easy - some climbs. Contact Rolf Heetel. 5721 4130.
Sep 7th	Warby Ranges. Easy - Medium. Contact Joy and Bill Rosser. 5722 1947.
Sep 21st.	Mt. Stanley. Med to Hard. Contact Alan Raison. 5721 7886.
Oct 5th.	Chiltern Forest. Easy - Medium. Contact Val Kemp. 5721 9409.
Oct 18th.	Myrrhee. Easy. Contact Jessie Ussher. 5721 2325
Nov. 2nd.	Jazz Festival Walk and Breakfast. Easy. Contact Adrian Twitt. 5721 5327.
Nov. 9 - 16th.	Weekaway at the Warren Bungalows. Contact Rolf Heetel. 7521 4130. Contact Rolf by the Aug. 16 th Walk.to Beechworth mines. Deposits to be paid by Oct 5th.
Nov. 24th.	Planning Meeting at Sydney Hotel at 6.30 pm. Enquiries to Elaine Jacobsen 5722 1096.
Dec. 6 -7th	Camp at Mt. Buffalo. Contact Bill and Joy Rosser. 5722 1947.
Dec. 14th	Christmas Breakup. Swim and B.Y.O. Barbeque meal. A barbeque will be provided. 4.30 - 5.00 pm. Start. Contact Rolf and Alexi Heetel. 5721 4130.



Jan. 16 - 19th.      Camp or accommodation at Mittagundi. There will be a variety of walks.  
Contact Adrian Twitt. 5621 5327.

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 INQUIRIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE WALKS COORDINATOR. Alan Raison 5721 7886.**

#### **GRADING OF WALKS.**

**EASY**                      About 12 km. generally on tracks in flat to undulating terrain with climbs to 200 m. These walks are suitable for most people of average fitness.

**MEDIUM - (LONG)** As for easy but with distances to 18 km., possibly with some cross country sections and/or climbs over 200 m. A reasonable level of fitness and some bushwalking experience is recommended.

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

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

Seek the advice of the Walks Co-ordinator and/or Walks Leader if you are unsure whether to tackle a walk or not.