

**WARBY RANGE**  
**BUSHWALKERS**  
**2009**



# WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc.

NEWSLETTER 1, 2009

## **BOB SHAW – OUR WALKS CO-ORDINATOR**



If you don't already know Bob Shaw, you haven't been in the Warby Walkers for long. Bob, and his wife Judy, have been

enthusiastic members of the Warby Range Bushwalkers since they came to live in the Wangaratta District in December 2006. In fact, they claim to have come to Wangaratta BECAUSE they knew about our Club.

We have already had a number of social occasions at the Shaws in Hamilton Park, the latest being in October after one of the Saturday walks.

Bob actually spent some of his early childhood in Mount Beauty and later in Wangaratta. His bank-manager father had plenty of moves, mainly across country Victoria.

After university, Bob commenced teaching, again living in country towns. It was at Wonthaggi High School that he met Judy. Later, Bob taught in Cobram, Hamilton and Swan Hill. Along the line, Bob switched from government schools to Catholic Colleges. Clearly an organizer, it's not a surprise to know that

he became Principal of McKillop College in Swan Hill.

Bob and Judy have a married son in Darwin, and a married daughter in Brisbane, and another daughter in Victoria. They are the proud grandparents of three grandchildren, with another due about the time of publication of this newsletter.

This year, they had a trip by road to Darwin to see their family there.

Bob has been a keen sportsman, swimming with the fish as a youngster and later playing football and cricket. He can still be seen doing laps at the local pool. Bob took up many other sports, including squash, in which he competed for 32 years.

Bob is an outdoors enthusiast. His passions include canoeing, cycling, and of course, bushwalking. Bob and Judy have embraced long-distance walking and overnight camping too.

Bob has never really retired. He has taken up studies to extend his skills in counselling, and he has worked with principals in the area, more particularly in Myrtleford in a consultancy role.

Bob has been the Club's Walks Co-ordinator since the March AGM, and he has put a significant stamp on the position already. We all look forward to the new walks programs such as the one in this newsletter.

## **NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS**

We have welcomed a number of new members and visitors in recent weeks. It's always great to see new faces to add to our numbers. If you are thinking of joining, or suggesting to a friend to come on a walk, remember that the joining fee is a mere \$12.50 from now until 31<sup>st</sup> March. Members have first priority when it comes to events where numbers may be limited, such as the forthcoming Snowy Mountains trip.



## **CHRISTMAS IS COMING - CELEBRATE WITH THE CLUB**

Christmas is coming up fast. We are celebrating at the home of Karen and Rod Davis on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup> (from 6.30 pm). They have a lovely spot along the One Mile Creek, at 154 Rowan Street. It's easy to find – north side of Rowan Street and next to the bridge (but well back from the street behind shrubbery). You can park on the bridge or along the street.

Phone Karen and let her know whether you are bringing a salad or a sweet. There will be a barbeque, so bring some meat. You also need to bring a chair, and your own plate and eating utensils, and of course a drink.

There is a pool for you to enjoy, and there is a whisper that Rod might even get out his guitar. Adrian promises not to bring his clarinet.

### **OUR OWN WEBSITE**

We have received an \$800 grant to have our own website set up. If you have ideas on what you would like to have in it, contact Bob Shaw 5766 2207

## **CLUB JOTTINGS**

Jeanette Dickson has decided to move into town from her Hamilton Park locality. If you are seeking a lovely spot out in the country to live, it might be worth talking to Jeanette.

President Kerri Davenport and husband, Paul, have headed off to Lord Howe Island for the last week of November.

Rod Davis and Adrian Twitt have been busy with book launches. Rod has completed the story of Merriwa Industries in "A Dream Come True". Adrian has published "Harvest Home Anew" – a family story set in the nineteenth century.

Alan Raison traditionally walks the number of kilometres of his age, over a week, when his birthday comes up in early December. We are told this year's birthday is a VERY big one.

Whilst reporting on big birthdays, did you know that Marg Brickhill and Andy Kimber have just passed such milestones? Andy's big birthday was celebrated in a flight over the north east (in a light plane) – he hasn't grown wings of his own yet!

John Lloyd's long awaited hip operation will probably have happened by the time this newsletter is circulated. He'll be confined for a while as he is unable to drive for six weeks. We're all waiting for him to return to walking next year.

The lead singer of "Bric a Brac" at the Vine recently took the fancy of Helen Hill. She was the only audience member with whom he danced.

Galen College will miss Kate Murray and Joan Ellis in the coming year as they both consider retirement options. Perhaps we'll see them on more walks!

## ***FEDERATION WALKS WEEKEND***

Just seven of our members went to the Federation Walks weekend which was held at Beaufort this year. Maybe, members thought Beaufort was just out on the Western District Plains, but those who went, were pleasantly surprised at the variety of walks offered. There are some excellent State Parks nearby, and mountains almost 1000 metres high. It was a very enjoyable weekend for those who went.

## ***THE EDI WEEKEND***

Those who went on the recent Edi Cutting Campout weekend, had a treat, thanks to Neil Ottaway's fantastic efforts.

Neil catered for all meals for the weekend, complete with cooked breakfasts. The highlight was the Saturday evening meal with an assortment of marinated dishes of beef, pork and lamb cooked with the camp oven. It was accompanied by mouth watering vegetables, and followed by apple strudel.

Of the large numbers who took part in some or all of the weekend, those who camped enjoyed the camp fires and the camaraderie.

And, there were walks! Not long ones, but enjoyable sorties into nearby forest country and an exploration of the Hyem cemetery. Some took the afternoons to visit nearby wineries. The King Valley Dolce Vite weekend co-incided.



Helen Twitt at Mount Buangor State Park near Beaufort, with volunteer walk leader and others – Federation Weekend, October 2008.



Warby Walkers at Edi admiring a large tree which has somehow evaded the axe.



### *A SOCIAL EVENT AT THE SHAWS*

Bob and Judy Shaw showed their usual hospitality by opening up their house to a purely social event in mid-October— the excuse being to hear Maureen and Bob Phillips and Irene Knox talk about their South American trip. The highlight of the trip was a challenging walk in the Peruvian Andes. We saw some excellent pictures of the event.

Preceding the talk was a delicious meal with all attendees contributing.



## RETURNING THE BAG



Leaders of walks! Please return the walks bag to Murray Shaw after each walk. Don't simply hand on to the next leader. Murray attends to battery recharging of camera, walk monies, etc. The next leader collects the bag from Murray.

## A POTTED HISTORY OF THE CLUB

Did you know that the Warby Range Bushwalking Club evolved from a conservation society? It began when in 1975, the Warby Range Protection Society was formed to prevent development, particularly mining, in the Range. It lobbied the State government to have the Range declared a State Park. Before that outcome was achieved, the Society in 1980 formally established a Walks Committee, essentially to promote the Warby Range. People enjoyed the walks program so much, that the program was extended to include other areas of north east Victoria.

Then, in 1994, the Warby Range Protection Society officially relinquished its title, having achieved its objective of a new State Park. A new constitution was adopted with the name being the Warby Range Bushwalking Club. Many of the founding members were very senior by this time, and although the walks program had in its early years attracted large numbers on its fortnightly walks, the membership was declining.

But as a Club, we are now much re-vitalized with a membership of over sixty, with an expanding program of walks and an increasing range of social activities.

The Club's popular fortnightly day-walks, deliberately alternate between Saturdays and Sundays to accommodate members with different

commitments. However, mid-week walks, weekend camps, and the annual 'week away', are also a significant part of the program.

In the last year or two, some members have encouraged two-day walks involving overnight bush camping. In recent years, a few members have travelled internationally to do long distance walks, but the Club deliberately avoids expensive trips of its own, so as to maintain the inclusive nature of its activities. We are proud that we run our Club frugally and keep membership fees low.

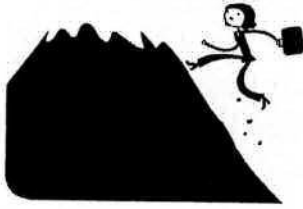
Every summer, it has become a tradition to include a program in Victoria's High Country, using ski lodges as a base. We have, at times, invited members of other Bushwalking Clubs such as Pakenham and Berwick, to join these events, but the popularity of these walks places a strain on the available accommodation.

The Club's annual 'week-away' has been a tradition now for more than twenty years. These are usually held somewhere in Victoria, but have also been to interstate localities such as the Tumut Valley, the Blue Mountains, the Warrumbungles, and the Flinders Ranges. The most recent 'week away' was spent based at Apollo Bay – an opportunity to do the Great Ocean Walk. The coming 'week away' is in the Snowy Mountains in March (see elsewhere).

The Club has purchased a DVD to demonstrate CPR. Members are free to borrow this at any time. Contact Murray Shaw.



**CPR DVD**



**THE SNOWY  
MTS TRIP-**  
*March 9-15*  
*Book now*

If you are planning to go on this trip, you must book your own place at the Schuss Ski Club Lodge in Thredbo Village at the foot of the majestic Crackenback Range. The Warby Walkers will have sole use of the Lodge. The rooms include doubles and twins. There is room for only 25 members.

Singles are being encouraged to share, as we wish to allow accommodation for as many members as possible. If you are not sure who else is going, phone President Kerri Davenport (ph 5726 9376; email [pkem11@bigpond.com](mailto:pkem11@bigpond.com)).

Direct bookings must be made with Rossi Gruhl, Booking Secretary, Schuss Ski Club Ltd, phone 08 8299 9799. Your expression of interest with Kerri IS NOT a booking. You must book your place yourself. You can also find additional information about the Schuss Lodge on the web.

The cost of beds for the whole six nights is \$200. If you can't come for the whole time, you could pay nightly pro rata.

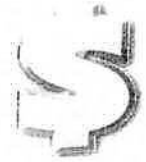
If you prefer to camp, the closest camp ground is Thredbo Diggings 15 kms from the village.

Most participants will travel to Thredbo on Monday, March 9 (Labour Day in Victoria) and car pooling is encouraged especially as there are hefty levies on cars at Thredbo.

There will be a program of walks until the following Sunday, March 15, the day of return to Wangaratta.

**WILSONS PROMONTORY**  
*2010*

*Deposits required –  
reserve your place now or  
before 28<sup>th</sup> February*



It might seem a long way off, but the Club intends to have its annual 'Week Away' at Wilson's Promontory in 2010 in March. While there are camping sites available, the Club is interested in booking a Lodge so that we can enjoy the camaraderie that such facilities allow.

National Parks has a range of lodges available according to the size of the group. The problem is that we have to pay for the lodge twelve months in advance.

While the average cost is approximately \$25 per person per night, over a six night period, this adds up to \$1000s for 20-30 people.

So that the Club can book, we need deposits more than 12 months in advance. We are asking therefore, that to reserve a place now, you pay a deposit (per person) of \$100, no later than 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2009. Use the tear off slip at the end of this newsletter.

**BUSHWALKING VICTORIA – THE  
75<sup>TH</sup> YEAR**

On Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> April, Bushwalking Victoria is conducting a program of walks at Mt Disappointment, which we understand is in the Wandong area north of Melbourne. There are 17 newly designed walks as well as old favourites.

## TRAVEL COSTS

### – a new arrangement

The Committee has just recommended a change to the travel cost formula, to be implemented for a trial of six months, commencing immediately.



Instead of paying your driver direct (currently 10 cents a km), it is now intended that all drivers should get 30 cents a km. All

passengers would, on the day of a walk, contribute to a pool of money, which would then be split up according to the number of drivers. The money would be collected during or at the end of a walk.

As an example, if the distance (to and from Wangaratta) by car was 100 kms, each driver would get \$30. Supposing there are 12 passengers, pooled into four cars, \$120 would have to be collected. That would cost each passenger \$10.

In future, the amount you would pay as a passenger, would often be less than is currently the case, if the car pooling is well organised.

## CUP DAY WALK

The recent Melbourne Cup Day morning walk attracted a good number of participants who enjoyed exploring Wangaratta's waterways by foot. There might have been a few barbed wire fences to negotiate and some street construction, but the weather was perfect, and the group enjoyed a barbecue lunch at the Twitts residence in Walter Street at the conclusion.

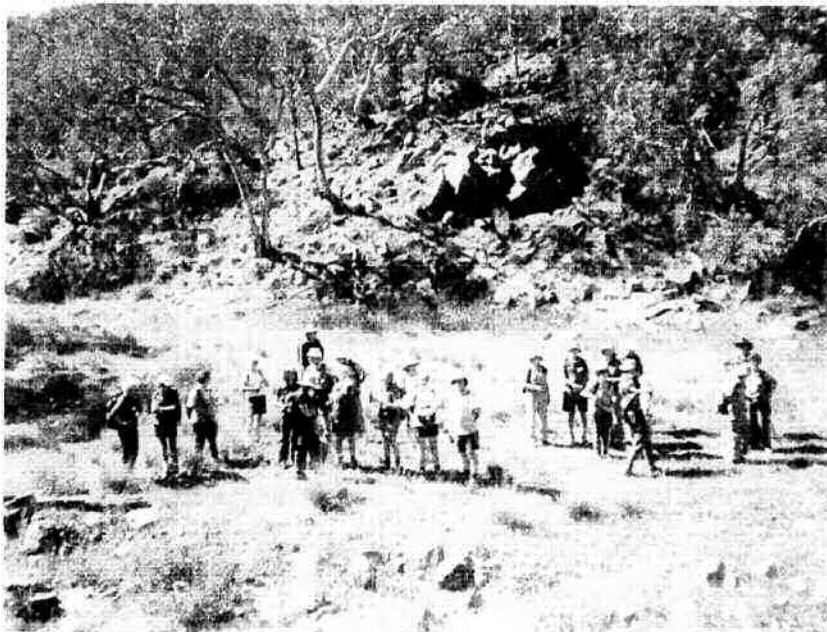
Joy Rosser strides it out beside the Ovens River



## SWAMP TRACK WALK SWAMPED

One of the best attended walks this quarter was the Swamp Track walk in the Warbies, led by the intrepid veteran, Alan Raison. It happened that this was perhaps the very first walk conducted by the Club in its early days.

Can you spot yourself among the throng in the Warbies?







## **RAIN CHECK**

Sometimes our policy of not cancelling due to rain, has to go by the board. Karen Davis made that decision recently, cancelling the programmed Thursday walk in the Beechworth area. It was simply deluging at 7.00 am on the day, with little prospect of a let-up. The wet conditions would have made the granite rocks around Beechworth, quite hazardous. A good call, Karen!

## **COMING SUMMER WALKS**



The walks program this summer (see insert) looks enticing to say the least. Good programming from Bob Shaw our Walks Co-ordinator, with help from those at the recent planning meeting.

We always try to conduct walks which will not be too adversely affected by heat, and there are lots of walks which are normally ideal in hot weather.

Two of the walks are being led by our friends in the Benalla Club – the Howqua River walk and the Mt Cobbler walk. They are both excellent. The Howqua River walk is a refreshing one on a hot day with something like 19 river crossings to make, and icy waters in which to cool off. For those who want to camp in the Cobbler area, there is a delightful spot alongside the high-altitude Lake Cobbler.

Don't forget to phone Kerri Davenport and book your place at the Myrtleford Ski Lodge for January 10/11. Most people will want to arrive on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> January, and that is encouraged. Apart

from anything else, it is a very social weekend. The lodge has self-catering facilities, but bring a sleeping bag and/or your own linen. There will be a variety of walks on offer over the weekend.

Another High Country walk will be in the Hotham area in mid-February. A couple of walks with markedly different grades (one easy and one hard), are being offered. The High Country is not as close as sometimes we like to think, so those who don't want to do lots of driving on the one day, might like to stay at Wangaratta Ski Lodge on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> February. Adrian and Helen Twitt, who are leading the walks will be there early, but you need to contact Bob Shaw about car-pooling, booking and general arrangements.

### **SOME ACTIONS MEMBERS NEED TO TAKE (see other parts of this newsletter)–**

- Contact Karen and Rod Davis about the Christmas party.
- Book now with the Schuss Lodge, Thredbo, for the Snowy Mountains trip in March. Places limited.
- Pay your deposit for the Wilson 's Prom trip, 2010, thus ensuring that it can go ahead.
- Decide whether you want to go on the High Plains weekend, and book your place with Kerri Davenport to stay at the Myrtleford Ski Lodge (but remember Kerri is on Lord Howe Island until November 30<sup>th</sup>).
- For any weekend events, let the contact person know at least a week in advance (for day walks, a minimum of a couple of days is advised). It helps the planning immensely.



# WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc. WALKS PROGRAM

January - March 2009.

January 3 Saturday	<b><u>HOWQUA RIVER WALK</u></b> Combined with Benalla Bushwalking Club  Contact - Nigel Lacey	EASY/MEDIUM Depart Benalla PO 8.30am. 5762 8232
January 10/11 Saturday/ Sunday	<b><u>MYRTLEFORD SKI LODGE, BOGONG HIGH PLAINS/FALLS CK.</u></b> Many walks offered on the High Plains Contact - Kerri Davenport	EASY - MEDIUM - HARD walks catering for all types of walkers 5726 9376
January 17 Saturday	<b><u>SUNRISE TRACK</u></b> (Sunrise over "Sunrise") 7.00am. START. Contact - Murray Shaw	EASY  5721 3730
February 1 Sunday	<b><u>COROWA FOREST</u></b> Contact - Peter Murray	EASY 5726 9337
February 9 Monday	<b><u>KILLAWARRA FOREST MOONLIGHT WALK -</u></b> 7.30 pm START. Contact - Karen Davis	EASY  5722 2540 OR 0409 215 286
February 14 Saturday (Feb 13 overnight edge stay)	<b><u>Mt. LOCH &amp; COBUNGRA GAP</u></b> Contact - Bob Shaw	EASY or HARD 5766 2773
February 21 Saturday (& Sun optional)	<b><u>LAKE and Mt. COBBLER</u></b> Combined with Benalla Bushwalking Club Contact - Doug Kneen	MEDIUM  5721 2892
February 23 <sup>rd</sup> Mon, 7.00 & 8.00 pm	<b><u>Committee Meeting &amp; Walks Planning</u></b> Adrian Twitt's, 13 Walter St. Wangaratta	5721 5327
March 9 - 15 Monday to Sunday	<b><u>KOSCIUSKO NATIONAL PARK</u></b> Accommodation at Schuss Lodge in Thredbo  Contact - Kerri Davenport	EASY - MEDIUM - HARD walks catering for all types of walkers 5726 9376
March 21 Saturday	<b><u>Mt. BUFFALO - Mt. McLEOD</u></b> Contact - Andy Kimber	MEDIUM 5766 2207
March 24 Tuesday, 6.30 pm.	<b><u>Annual General Meeting and Dinner</u></b> Contact - Kerri Davenport	5726 9376
March 26, Thursday	<b><u>BEECHWORTH HISTORICAL WALK</u></b> Contact - Karen Davis	EASY 5722 2540 OR 0409 215 286
April 5 Sunday	<b><u>Mt. EMU</u></b> Contact - Pat Kuhle	MEDIUM/HARD 5722 9173

**Howqua River Walk (January 3)** - A circuit starting at Tunnel Bend following the river upstream, via Gardener's Hut, to Five Mile Creek. Return along the upper bridle path with beautiful views down to the river and up the Howqua valley. Crystal clear waterholes for swimming. Bring bathers and a towel. Wear boots that you are content to get soaked, as we will be fording the river many times. It is inadvisable to walk in the river barefoot. At the end of the walk there will be an opportunity to walk through the gold mining diversion tunnel, so please bring a torch. This walk is with Benalla Bushwalkers who are celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year.

**Myrtleford Ski Lodge/ Falls Creek (January 10/11)** - This traditional weekend on the high plains involves 1 – 2 nights staying at the Myrtleford Ski Lodge with a number of walks on the Bogong High Plains/Rocky Valley and Happy Valley dam areas. There will be a series of Easy/ Medium and Hard walks each day to cater for varying levels of fitness.

**Sunrise Track (January 17)** - Enjoy the sunrise from the Warby Range escarpment looking across the Ovens valley and beyond. An early morning walk in the Warby Ranges departing at 7.00am sharp. The total distance is 10 km. but there are shorter alternatives available. While the first part of the walk is considered steep, the majority of the walk is on gentle slopes and is considered easy.

**Corowa Forest (February 1)** - This riverside walk (8 – 10 km.) is most ideal for a summer's morning walk. It follows partly the northern bank of the Murray River and is therefore shaded most of the way. There will be riverside stops so bring your togs as you may be tempted to have a dip. There will be prolific cockatoos, water birds, kangaroos and other wildlife and the human inhabitants will have finished their holidays, so there should not be too many people to interrupt the views.

**Moonlight Walk - Killawarra Forest (February 9)** - There is a full moon (and hopefully minimal cloud cover) this night so the walk commences at 7.30 pm sharp. The walk will be in the Boweya State Forest area around Wallaby Track, Irishtown and Wallaby Hill. (8 km.) This night time walk will be an experience not to forget as we will be encountering the sounds and perhaps the sights of the nocturnal wildlife in this area of the northern Warby Ranges. This will be a walk with a difference!

**Mt. Loch and Cobungra Gap (February 14)** - Two walks will be offered in the Hotham area, one easy, and the other hard. Both walks will start at the Loch Carpark and return to the same place. The easy walk will be led by Helen Twitt and proceed to Mount Loch and along Machinery Spur to Red Robin Gap and return (9 km.). The harder walk will follow the same route but continue on to the Red Robin Mine and then to Dibbins Hut (at 1380 metres) for lunch; then a climb to Derrick Hut (1740 metres) and finally back to Loch Carpark (17 km. circuit). Participants will meet at Wangaratta Ski Lodge, Mount St Bernard, at 8.00 am. Participants are welcome to stay the previous night, February 13, at the lodge (bring own food and bedding) - lodge bookings one week in advance with Adrian Twitt (5721 5327). Proper alpine clothing must be carried on the walks in case of rain, sleet or snow.

**Lake and Mt. Cobbler (February 21 and/or 22)** - A climb from the shores of Lake Cobbler in the Alpine region up to Mt Cobbler to take in the views then back down via a circuit to the start. If time and fitness permit an extra walk to the top of Dandongadale Falls will be part of a great day. This is another walk combined with Benalla Bushwalkers. There may be an opportunity to camp at Cobbler Lake Saturday night if people are interested.

**Committee Meeting and Walks Planning (Feb 23)** - Committee meets 7.00 pm; Walks Planning (all welcome) at 8.00 pm

**Kosciusko National Park (March 9 – 16)** - A week of walks in the Snowy Mts. /Kosciusko National Park from Monday March 9<sup>th</sup> (Labour Day Public Holiday) till Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup> 2009. There will be daily graded walks to suit all comers – easy, medium and hard!! The walks include a climb to Australia's highest peak, Lake Albina, Crackenback, Dead Horse Gap, South Ramshead, Trim Track and the Perisher area. Accommodation has been organised at Schuss Lodge in Thredbo and there is accommodation in local camping parks as well. Each person needs to book their own accommodation directly with the lodge (08 8299 9799)

**Mt. Buffalo to Mt. McLeod (March 21)** - on the Buffalo plateau from the Reservoir, the 16 km walk proceeds north past Anderson's Peak and Three Rock Peak to Mt. McLeod (1541m.) There are 360 degrees views from the top of McLeod overlooking the Ovens and Buffalo Valleys, Myrtleford and north towards Wangaratta.

#### **Dinner and ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (March 24)**

**Beechworth Historical Walk (March 26)** - this Easy walk includes the Powder magazine, Newton Bridge and Falls, the Ovens and district Hospital façade, the Beechworth Historical and Cultural Precinct, the Robert O'Hara Bourke Museum, the former HM Prison, Chinese Gardens, the Golden Horseshoe Monument, the Beechworth Cemetery and Chinese Burning towers and other major historical buildings in and around the central business areas.

**Mt. Emu (April 5)** - from Carboor Upper the track starts on the Carboor Upper/Mt. Buffalo Road. A steady climb of about 700 metres along a ridge to the top affords views of many adjacent peaks as well as the King and Ovens valleys. There are possibilities of seeing lyrebirds, bush wallabies and plenty of other wildlife. The return trip may include a stopover at the Milawa Cheese Factory.



# WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc.

NEWSLETTER 2, 2009

When Adrian Twitt received the Order of Australia Medal in the New Year's Honours' List, all members of the Warby Walkers were delighted. Adrian's chatting, chuckling company is a regular feature on our Walks. But do you realize that this active retiree lives life in the busy lane?



Adrian participates 'boots and all' as the saying goes. Here are just a few of his involvements. He has been a Church Elder, Chairperson and Secretary of the

Uniting Church, Wangaratta. In the Appin Park Rotary Club, Adrian has served the community since 1972. Add Oxfam responsibilities, Wangaratta Arts Council membership, and the Presidency of Wangaratta Urban Landcare Group, and you understand he and Helen are living retirement to the full. In the midst of this activity, he released a book about his family history ("Harvest Home Anew") as well as billeting all manner of visitors, volunteering for many community organizations, travelling to Canada and America, and being on the Warby Walkers' Committee, and writing our Newsletter. Adrian is a builder of community and community networks.

He grew up in Numurkah, on a farm, and was the first student from

Numurkah High School to go to University, where he trained as a teacher.

Wycheproof was his first appointment. Then down to Maffra, until he came to Wangaratta in 1967 to teach at Wangaratta High School and was Executive Officer at The Centre (1971 to 1974). In 1971, he and Helen married and raised three children. One son lives in Warrnambool, another in Melbourne, and their daughter on King Island.

Apart from a teacher exchange to Canada, and two years teaching in Zimbabwe (in 1982 and 1983), Adrian and Helen have made Wangaratta their home.

His love of the natural environment is obvious. He was the Public Relations Officer for the Warby Range Protection Society from 1975 to 1980. Membership of the Warby Walkers followed in 1980, and continues today. Adrian was Walks Coordinator from 2004 to 2008. Every Thursday morning he is at Kaluna Park, sleeves rolled up, pulling weeds, cleaning and restoring this beautiful place.

Retirement has been 'full steam ahead' for both Adrian and Helen. Not for them the rocking chair, verandah, and numerous cups of tea. For them, retirement is a full time job out meeting new people, making our community a happier place, and supporting others. As Adrian said, "That's what keeps me going, being involved and busy."

Rod Davis



## **ANNUAL DINNER**

Don't forget the annual dinner on Tuesday, 24th March. It's one of the best social functions of the year. If you are a 'new' member it's also a great time to meet others.

The dinner will be held on the upstairs veranda of Café Martini in Murphy Street, Wangaratta. The Annual Meeting is part of the dinner, but that is always short and sweet.

Let President Kerri Davenport (5726 9376) know if you are coming, to give us an idea of numbers. Also let Kerri know if you are interested in nominating for the Walks Committee which has a mere four meetings a year.

## **FIRE, FIRE, GO AWAY!**



None of us has liked the fires of the summer, and the devastation has been huge. Those of us who went on the popular weekend we had at Marysville only a few summers ago, remember how beautiful it was, and the lovely walks in the area.

The Cathedral Range and the Healesville area, are also badly impacted, and walks in these areas were on our 2007 program.

This autumn, the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bushwalking Victoria was to be held in the Mount Disappointment area, between Wandong and Kinglake. This has been perhaps the worst area to suffer from devastation by the fires. The walks have been cancelled and Bushwalking Victoria has given \$500 to the Red Cross appeal.

We had to cancel the scheduled walks in the Hotham area, and the Mt Cobbler walk was changed to Edi due to the fire risk. The Corowa Forest walk was also cancelled due to fire danger.

The Club has decided to formally address the issue of Fire Danger Days, so that if a walk happens to co-incide with such a day, WE DO NOT WALK. All are to assume it is cancelled.

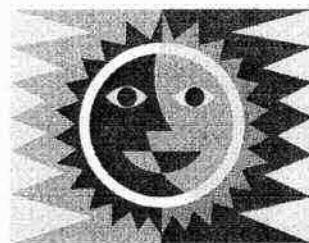
When there are other fire risk situations, the leader, consulting with the Walks Co-ordinator, will make a decision.

## **EARLY MORNING AND LATE AT NIGHT**

What great planning to have had a sunrise walk and a moonlight walk in what turned out to be a very hot, though late, summer. Both walks were very well attended, demonstrating their popularity.

The early morning walk on the Sunrise Track in the Warby Range was led by Murray Shaw. It proved to be a very pleasant temperature. Morning tea was held on rocks with a great view over dale and hill, and the group was back home well before lunch and the heat of the day.

The Killawarra Forest was the venue for the moonlight walk led by Karen



Davis. Though the full moon suffered a little from smoke haze, there was plenty of light. Because it was held in the neighbourhood of Peter and Kate Murray's farm, there was plenty of local knowledge, and little risk of getting lost. We all enjoyed a cuppa at the Murray's place at the end.

The success of these walks suggests possibilities for summer repeats.

## **ROPERS HUT REVISITED**

One of the Bogong High Plains walks in January was to visit the rebuilt Ropers Hut. We had one of the construction gang, Trevor Turnbull, with us, and we were there ahead of the official opening by a week.

The Ropers Hut visit was part of a very successful weekend, thanks to President Kerri. As usual when in the Falls Creek area, we were accommodated at the Myrtleford Ski Lodge, which provides a great base, comfortable facilities, and a magic spot for socializing. The weekend and venue attracted a full complement of members.

Our Saturday walk, from Watched Creek to Ropers and back was in ideal conditions. The grades are gradual, and the track well marked. The surrounds of Ropers Hut survived the fires of recent years, with grand old snow gums and a grassy swathe in which to have lunch. The hut, unfortunately succumbed to the fires, but has been rebuilt to the same appearance, though clearly more comfortable inside, and with the addition of a veranda. A modern feature is the insulation within the corrugated iron walls and roof.

Some of the group leaving Ropers Hut



On return, we visited Edmonsons Hut, a fire survivor, and some had the energy also to visit Johnsons Hut.

Sunday's walk was shortened due to early morning rain. What a great sight! Some have forgotten what it looked like. The walk followed the Langford Aqueduct, and several huts

Some of the party outside Cope Hut



were included – Rovers, Wallaces, Willkinsons (now destroyed), and Cope. Runners on the Bogong-Hotham marathon dodged us enroute.

It proved a pleasant walk, in lovely cool conditions. At the conclusion, most of us crowded in front of Cope Hut for a group photo.



Irene Knox and Glenda Hall wait for a ride home outside the Myrtleford Ski Lodge, anxious that they are in a no standing area..

## MEMBERSHIP

At last count we had over 80 members of our Club. This is not a record, but it is substantially up on membership of just a few years ago. We seem to have new members joining monthly.

But don't be complacent. Your current membership finishes on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Membership subs are from April to March each year.

If you don't get to the annual meeting to renew or join, there is a membership form with this newsletter. You should pay before April 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Committee has recommended that fees remain as they were last year.

For those who are not sure, you can be an Associate Member which will entitle you to receive newsletters and to attend our social functions, but unless you pay a walk fee on the day, or belong to another walks club, you are not entitled to go on walks. Most of our full Club fees go to paying insurance for you.

## CLUB JOTTINGS

Jeanette Dickson has sold her country house, much to her delight, and is now looking for a place to live in Wangaratta.

Glenda Hall and Irene Knox have been hiking in Tasmania. Their experiences will be something we will be delighted to hear about, we are sure.

Pat Kuhle had a nasty accident along the Thoona Road on her bike on Black Saturday. She had to have a dozen or more stitches in the gash on her arm. Pat, as usual, has been stoic about it.



Former member, John Froelich died recently in Melbourne. John, a telecom

technician by trade, was a very enthusiastic walker and active member in the Club's early days.

It's great to see John Leask (ex Galen College) back in Wangaratta and joining his partner Di Fraser, who has been here only a few months. They are both enthusiastic walkers and are new Club members.

## WILSONS PROMONTORY 2010



### *Deposits required.*

You may remember that we intend to have the annual 'Week Away' at Wilson's Promontory next year and that the Club is interested in booking a Lodge so that we can enjoy the camaraderie that such facilities allow. There has been a good response. So far twelve deposits have been paid. We have to pay National Parks twelve months in advance, hence the reason for deposits now.

People have been asking whether they will get their deposits back if, for any reason, they cannot go. THE ANSWER IS, "YES YOU CAN".

Because March is turning out to be quite a fire risk month in Victoria (Is it global warming?), we have decided to have the 'week away' a little later in 2010. We have now fixed the dates of April 26 to May 2, which should avoid the risk and also school holidays.

In case you have forgotten, we are asking you to pay a refundable deposit of \$100 per person. This can now be paid by 1<sup>st</sup> April. Use the slip included with this newsletter.

Please note that, if you do not want to stay in the lodge, which will be roughly \$25 per night, you could still camp.

## THE SNOWY MTS TRIP

March 9-15

By the time you get this newsletter, some of us will be heading off to Thredbo for the Snowy Mountains week away. We have had a great response to it, and 25 members have booked out the Schuss Lodge which is our base. No doubt you will learn all about it when we get home.

Most of the walks are in the Kosciusko area.



Pictures opposite are on the Bogong Hish Plains in January –

Above: Kate and Peter Murray, and Karen Davis at Edmonsons Hut

Below: Murray Shaw (foreground) at Wallaces Hut

Tear off slip for membership –

Subscription for membership of Warby Range Bushwalking Club (payment by April 30<sup>th</sup>).

Single \$25 Family \$45 Junior \$10 Associate \$10 (circle appropriate)

Name(s) .....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Telephone.....

Email .....

(Return to Murray Shaw, Treasurer, 7 Stuart Street, Wangaratta 3677)





### **A CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE?**

The Committee has set up a sub-group to look at the preamble of our constitution. Currently it alludes strongly to the origins of the Club which grew out of the Warby Range Protection Society.

Do we need to change this? The subgroup, composed of Glenda Hall, Adrian Twitt, and Murray Shaw, will report back. There will be no change this year, as we need to take it to the Club at its annual meeting and we are already too late for that.

### **CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA**

As part of our contribution to the environment, Club members helped in the "Clean Up Australia" campaign on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. It was all done with short notice. A section of the Ovens River banks were done. Thanks to new member, Di Fraser, for initiating the response.

Tear off slip (see back for membership)

### **SNOW SHOE SHUFFLE**

Helen Batchelor has proposed that we have a snow walk in the coming winter. It sounds a great idea, and has been met with an enthusiastic response from members.

The snow walk will be held in the Hotham area in on the weekend of September 5-6. We will book a relatively inexpensive lodge at Mt Hotham for the event. Details in the next newsletter.



### **RIVER PATHS**

Last year, on our river walk within Wangaratta, we were concerned that there had not been enough planning for walk tracks between the Ovens River and new housing developments.

The Rural City has replied to our concerns, and is keen for us to be involved in future planning. We are excited about the prospect.

We also notice that there are moves to have a continuous walking track along the Warby Range. We are asking if some advice from us would be solicited.

I/We plan at this stage to go to Wilsons Promontory with the Warby Range Bushwalkers, April 26 – May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010, and would like to reserve a place in the lodge to be booked for the occasion.  
I enclose a \$100 deposit (per person).

Name(s).....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Telephone.....

Total enclosed for the prom Lodge .....

Return to Murray Shaw, Treasurer, 7 Stuart St, Wangaratta, 3677



# WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc. WALKS PROGRAM

April - June 2009.

April 4 Saturday	<u>Mt. STIRLING and CRAIG'S HUT</u>  Contact - Alan Raison	An EASY walk and a MEDIUM Walk  5721 7886
April 14 Tuesday	<u>Mt. GLENROWAN</u>  Contact - Bob Shaw	EASY/MEDIUM  5766 2773
April 18 Saturday	<u>LONG CORNER CREEK</u>  Contact - Adrian Twitt	MEDIUM  5721 5327
May 3 Sunday	<u>Mt. EMU</u>  Contact - Pat Kuhle	MEDIUM/HARD  5722 9173
May 7 Thursday	<u>SUNRISE TRACK to TAMINICK GAP</u>  Contact - Andy Kimber	EASY  5766 2207
May 16 Saturday	<u>NED KELLY'S CAVE, BEECHWORTH PLATEAU</u>  Leader - Don Ingram /Contact - Murray Shaw EVENING MEAL AT THE PINSENT HOTEL, WANGARATTA	MEDIUM  5721 3730
May 25, Monday,	<u>Committee meeting (7.00 pm) and walks planning (8.00 pm) at Kerri Davenport's, 40 Arnott Rd., Killawarra</u>	All members are welcome. 5726 9376
May 31 Sunday	<u>COROWA FOREST</u>  Contact - Peter Murray	EASY  5726 9337
June 14 Sunday	<u>REEF HILLS</u>  Contact - Jeannette Dickson	EASY  5766 2784
June 16 Tuesday	<u>MOONLIGHT/ CASUARINA / BLUFF TRACKS</u>  Contact - Judy Shaw	EASY/MEDIUM  5766 2773
June 21 Sunday	<u>LAKE WILLIAM HOVELL</u>  Contact - Bob Shaw	MEDIUM/HARD  5766 2773
July 4 Saturday	<u>GOLDIE SPUR/BUCKLAND VALLEY</u>  Contact - Murray Shaw	MEDIUM  57213730
<i>September (4), 5 and 6. SNOW WALKING at Mt. HOTHAM- Keep this weekend FREE on your 2009 Calendar !!</i>	<i>Snowshoeing can be undertaken if you are 8 or 80!! We aim to stay in a lodge at Hotham for around \$50 a night on Sept 4 and/or 5. There will be snow shoeing on both the Sat. and the Sun. with a Social event on the Sat. night.</i>	<i>EASY to HARD  Contact Helen and Garry Batchelor on 5722 2757 for further details</i>

<p><b><u>Mt. STIRLING and CRAIG'S HUT (April 4)</u></b> – There will be both a Medium walk of 19 km. as well as a 9km. Easy walk offered. The Medium walk is from King Saddle/Circuit road to Mt. Stirling and Craig's Hut return. The shorter walk will follow some of the same route from King Saddle to Mt. Stirling, to Bluff Hut then return. Mt. Stirling is the site for a number of movies the most notable of which being "The Man From Snowy River". From Craig's Hut, the cattleman's hut from the movie, the views of the high country and the Alpine National Park are spectacular.</p>
<p><b><u>Mt. GLENROWAN (April 14)</u></b> – This 8km. walk commences at Taminick Gap and proceeds along the 4WD track located on the Warby Ranges ridge top, to the highest point in the Warby Ranges – Mt Glenrowan. There are excellent views of Mt Buffalo N.P., up the King valley and of what is left of Lake Mokoan. The return journey could include a snack at Bailey's winery nearby.</p>
<p><b><u>LONG CORNER CREEK (April 18)</u></b> – This 16 km walk is largely through forested country in the hills adjacent to the Buffalo Dam. There are excellent views of nearby Mount Buffalo and the valley below. The latter stages of the walk follow the Long Corner Creek.</p>
<p><b><u>Mt. EMU (May 3)</u></b> - from Carbor Upper the track starts on the Carbor Upper/Mt. Buffalo Road. A steady climb of about 700 metres along a ridge to the top affords views of many adjacent peaks as well as the King and Ovens valleys. There are possibilities of seeing lyrebirds, bush wallabies and plenty of other wildlife on this 16 km. walk, which can be fairly steep at times. Walking poles may be an advantage for some walkers. The return trip may include a stopover at the Milawa Butter factory.</p>
<p><b><u>SUNRISE TRACK to TAMINICK GAP (May 7)</u></b> - The Sunrise walk is a complex of tracks which start with a climb up to the Warby Plateau. There are excellent examples of large groups of grass trees. The walk then proceeds to the Salisbury Falls gorge area. The 10 km. walk could include a diversion to a series of possible caves between Sunrise Tk. and the Taminick Gap on the east side of the Warby Ra.</p>
<p><b><u>NED KELLY'S CAVE, BEECHWORTH PLATEAU (May 16)</u></b> – Don Ingram has an intimate knowledge of the region between Beechworth and Wodonga, having spent most of his life in the area. The cave on this walk is considered to be one in which the Kelly gang hid from the police. The walk is 12 kms, and has a 200 metre climb. There are rocky areas which can be slippery in rain.</p>
<p><b><u>COROWA FOREST (May 31)</u></b> - This riverside walk (8 – 10 km.) includes the Lake Moodemere Reserve. It follows partly the northern bank of the Murray River and is therefore shaded most of the way. There will be riverside stops along the banks of the Murray. We hope to see cockatoos, water birds, kangaroos and other wildlife. The human inhabitants will have finished their holidays and so there should not be many people to interrupt the views and sounds.</p>
<p><b><u>REEF HILLS (June 14)</u></b> – Reef Hills State Park is located at the intersection of the Hume Freeway and the Midlands Highway. It is an area of mixed eucalypt forest near Benalla. The forest is an important remnant of the original vegetation of the northern plains of Victoria and is valued by naturalists for its wide range of plant and animal life. The Grey Box and River Red Gum trees in the forest provide nectar for honey production in the area which is valued by apiarists. This 12 km easy walk uses well defined tracks which are mostly flat or undulating. There is a BBQ/picnic area in the middle of the reserve. A stopover at the Benalla Arts Gallery Café on the way home is recommended.</p>
<p><b><u>MOONLIGHT/CASUARINA / BLUFF TRACKS (June 16)</u></b> – starting at Taminick Gap this 12 km. walk proceeds along the 4WD track towards the summit of Mt. Glenrowan. But it then diverts west to skirt round the western or Bailey's side of the Warby Ranges. There are excellent views towards the Strathbogie's and the remnants of Lake Mokoan on both the Moonlight and Casuarina Tracks. After the walk there will be a BBQ lunch at the Shaw's at Hamilton Park just down from Taminick Gap for those who so desire.</p>
<p><b><u>LAKE WILLIAM HOVELL (June 21)</u></b> – a 16km. walk in the Wabonga State Forest that circumnavigates Lack. William Hovell via Long Spur Tk. and Sandy Flat Tk. There are excellent views of the lake, Mt Buffalo N.P. and the King Valley. The walk is on 4WD tracks with some steep pinches and a river crossing. There will be a stopover in the King valley somewhere on the way home.</p>
<p><b><u>GOLDIE SPUR/BUCKLAND VALLEY (July 4)</u></b> – this 19.5 km. walk in the Buckland Valley should be on every dedicated walkers calendar as the views going in both directions are spectacular. There is a 7km. climb to the saddle and then a flatter 3 km. walk after lunch. This route was the original means of ascending Mt. Buffalo in 1853 by the botanists Baron Von Mueller, Thomas Buckland and Goldie his stockman. There will be a stopover at Porepunkah on the way home.</p>



# WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc.

NEWSLETTER 3, 2009

## **WELCOME TO OUR NEW COMMITTEE**

We are all delighted that Kerri Davenport has been re-elected as president at our AGM at the end of March. Under Kerri's reign, the Club has almost tripled in size. Our competent



treasurer, Murray Shaw, and highly organized walks co-ordinator, Bob Shaw (no relation), stay on.



We have a new secretary, Jeanette Farquhar (formerly Dickson). Jeanette has already served on the committee, and led walks, so she knows the workings of the Club.

### *Jeanette Farquhar*

Irene Knox has stepped down as a committee member.

The new vice-president is Peter Murray. Peter has become quite active as a member recently. Perhaps retirement has something to do with it. We have all enjoyed the walks he has led.

A welcome new member to the committee is Di Fraser. Di is new to



*Murray Shaw (Treasurer), Glenda Hall (Past Secretary), and Kerri Davenport (President) at the AGM.*

Wangaratta, arriving last year, but has already enthusiastically joined in to Club activities.

## **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

We don't often get letters to the Editor, but he was delighted to get the following from a UK fan –

*Dear Bush Walkers,*

*I would like to thank you all for making me feel so welcomed to your club, especially as I am a visitor to Australia.*

*I was very impressed at how well the club is organized. I was so lucky on our recent trip to Thredbo, to experience the wonderful hospitality of Victorians. Your friendly and sociable co-operation made it such fun.*

*I have met some lovely people and very interesting characters. I am definitely going to renew my membership when I next visit my daughter and family in a couple of years.*

*Thank you,*

*Elaine Burden*

## CLUB JOTTINGS

Older Club members may remember Tom Morgan. Tom sadly died recently in Ararat. He was instrumental in arranging trips especially to the Grampians and other areas.



Ken and Joan Ellis's oldest, Cathy, was married in Moyhu in April, with a reception at Brown's Epicurean Centre.

*Ken and Joan Ellis on the Mt Glenrowan walk*

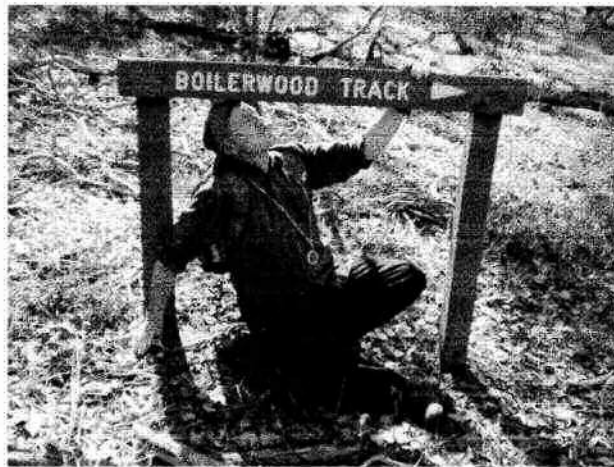
Jeanette Farquhar has shifted to Grace Court in Wangaratta following the sale of her South Wangaratta house.

Former Club President, Val Kemp, was an apology at our AGM and dinner. Val is as chirpy as ever, and lives at St John's Village.

Life member, Rolf Heetel recently went with friends to King Island, and was able to bring back Ondrea Richards (Helen and Adrian Twitt's daughter) bread maker for repairs on the mainland. We accept things like electrical repairs as a matter of course in Wangaratta.

Narelle Clark hasn't been on walks with us lately. There's a good reason – she is pregnant, and expecting a baby in September. Narelle, and partner Alan Thrum, are ecstatic.

Anna Kimber married in her parent's Hamilton park garden at Easter. Anna and husband, who is British, plan to live in the UK. Another Warby Walks member, John Van Riet, officiated at the wedding. Jillian Kimber used the occasion, when there were relatives and friends about, to celebrate an early 60<sup>th</sup>



*Andy Kimber contemplating the family wedding*

Towards the end of the Snowy Mountains trip Ursula Cronin, as some will know, had to hurry back to Sydney (where she lives) to catch a plane. Ursula and hubby Terry had a great trip to the UK where they were able to spend time with daughter Katey and her husband. Terry attended an annual board meeting. Ursula sends her regards - "Love to my walking mates. I look forward to hearing where we will walk next year."

There are a great number of members on extended holidays. Bob and Judy Shaw have just spent a fortnight with family on Lord Howe Island. By co-incidence, Jan Heywood was also on the island at the same time. Helen and Adrian Twitt are on a camping trip in Central Australia. And Aileen Caldwell and Sue Dorrington are also going to central Australia soon. Neil and Robyn Ottaway have gone on a trip to the Flinders Ranges. Not to be deterred by the global financial crash, several members have headed overseas - Irene Knox is on an extended trip to Europe; Helen Batchelor has spent May in China; Elaine Jacobsen has left for Beijing before travelling the Trans Siberian railway, and will visit her daughter in Hamburg at the other end; Karen and Rod Davis are on their customary three month cycling holiday in Europe; Len Ashley, one of our Narre Warren members has just travelled to Britain

with one of Trevor Wickham's tours (Trevor is a Wangaratta local), and Alex and Janet Watson have joined a Scandinavian tour with Trevor too.

It's interesting to see how some of our new members find out about us. Monica Neulist, recently arrived in Wangaratta from Tasmania, and a long-time local, Margot Joy, both found info on us in the Tourist Information Centre and in the Chronicle. The Chronicle recently hasn't been as kind to us as it has in the past – we are relegated to the back pages, if we get in at all, and usually they don't reproduce the pictures we send. Beggars can't be choosers!

### **THE SNOWY MTS TRIP**



*Some of the Warby Walkers at the top of Australia's highest peak.*

What a trip this proved to be! Twenty-five members booked in to the Schuss Lodge, Thredbo, for the mid-March week in the Snowy Mountains.

The weather co-operated. While it did rain on three afternoons, we were always back safely and snugly into the lodge before rain started.

The mountains looked magnificent – from the heights of Kosciusko, or the shores of Blue Lake, or along the babbling waters of the Thredbo River, it was all great fun.

Meals ran like clockwork with everyone in a team to present their culinary delights on one night of the week. As a

result we had a continuous run of delectable and varied meals. The Tappas Restaurant also did well out of us on one of the evenings.



*Judy and Bob Shaw enjoying morning tea at the Ramshead*

One of the highlights was the accidental meeting with Michael Mitchell – Cape York to Wilsons Prom bushwalker, raising money for cancer research. We knew about Michael, but didn't expect to meet up with him. At our invitation, having reached the nearby Dead Horse Gap, he stayed with us overnight, and relished the showers, and the copious food on offer. He responded by giving us a run-down of his adventure.

We suggested to Michael that we might walk with him in the Hotham area. (See below).





*Murray Shaw, Di Fraser, Michael Mitchell, Trevor Turnbull, and (seated) Pat Kuhle, outside Wangaratta Ski Lodge*

### **RECONNOITERING WITH MICHAEL MITCHELL**

On the first weekend of April, Club members converged on Wangaratta Ski Club with the sole purpose of walking with Michael Mitchell on his walk from the Torres Strait to Bass Strait.

The weather proved kind, though an icy wind in the Hotham area proved bracing. Michael had reached Derrick Hut on the Friday night, so some members went out on Saturday to greet him there, and then walk with him to Wang Ski Lodge for the night. Others took the opportunity to explore Mt Loch and surrounding country.

Having enjoyed the comforts of the lodge, the evening repast, and brekky, the group accompanied Michael on the next morning towards the Twins and beyond. They then waved Michael off, and wished him well.

The Club has given Michael a donation. Thanks to John Lloyd and Frieda Andrews for opening up the lodge and making it available to the group. Thanks also to Glenda Hall for liaising with Michael.

### **FORGOTTEN TO PAY YOUR SUB FOR 2009?**

Not all is lost if you missed the April 30<sup>th</sup> deadline for paying your current membership subscription. Post it off now to Treasurer Murray Shaw (7 Stuart Street, Wangaratta).

The fee is \$25 individual, or \$45 family membership. Associate membership and juniors are \$10.

Visitors on walks can pay \$5 on the day, refundable if you become a member in the same financial year.

For those who are not sure, you can be an Associate Member which entitles you to receive newsletters and to attend our social functions, but unless you pay a walk fee on the day, or belong to another walks club, you are not entitled to go on walks. Most of our full Club fees go to paying insurance for you.

### **POLO SHIRT LOGOS**

If you have envied Club members who wear our logo on their T-shirt or polo shirt, it's easy to get one or two of your own. Just take your favourite walks shirt to Steer Clothing Co. (opposite the Railway Station in Wangaratta) and ask to have our logo sewn onto it. If you like, you could purchase a new polo shirt there and do likewise. Their charges are very modest with logos only costing about \$8.



## ***WILSONS PROMONTORY CALLED OFF FOR 2010!!***

We have just received word from the National Parks personnel that the camp bookings we hoped to secure for April/May 2010 cannot occur. The accommodation at the Prom. will be closed at these times for extensive renovations. So it looks like "The Prom" will have to be placed on the backburner until 2011? It was decided at the last meeting that our hardworking Treasurer Murray will reimburse all those who paid the deposit money for the Prom. But wait ... Yes there is more!

## ***SHOALHAVEN, N.S.W. FOR APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup> TO SUNDAY MAY 2<sup>ND</sup>. 2010***

A sub-committee comprising Pat Kuhl, Alan Raison, Kerry Davenport and Bob Shaw has been formed to organise a week away in 2010 for club members. The club decided on Shoalhaven as it is not much further away than Wilson's Prom or the Grampians (that we considered) and it is an area that few of us have been to, especially for bushwalking.

If you know the Shoalhaven area then any input to the above four members would be greatly appreciated. This annual week away follows on from our two previous years of highly successful weeks of bushwalking in new areas. In 2008, we had a very successful week in the Otway's National Park and our 2009 week excursion to Thredbo/Kosciusko was a real hit.

### **DESCRIPTION OF SHOLAHAVEN AREA –**

- 2.5 hours east of Canberra and two hours south of Sydney by car.
- 600km from Wangaratta. Cost per passenger @8 cents per km. is \$96.00 plus there would be some travelling once we get there.
- Jervis Bay National Park, Murrumbidgee National Park, Morton National Park.

- Wildflower reserves, Headland reserves
- Walks of between one hour to all day walks.
- We will be looking for accommodation with a joint kitchen/meeting area, just like Apollo Bay in 2008, so that we can all stay together as a community.
- Cities of Nowra, Ulladulla and Berry on the coast and Batemans Bay to the south.
- Please write the above dates in your 2010 Calendar.
- Save your Wilson's Prom deposits for our adventure deep into N.S.W!!



### ***TRAVEL COSTS now 8 cents/km.***

At the May Committee meeting it was decided to change our travel costs per passenger back to \$0.08 per kilometre per each passenger in the car. The Committee had trialled for six months the formula that had been used by some other clubs but members found this very unwieldy and too complicated.

So from now on, each passenger pays the driver the sum of 8 cents per every kilometre that car travels to reach a particular walk.





**ACT NOW!!!**

**BOOK before July 17<sup>th</sup>**

**The club is holding a SOCIAL EVENING on Friday July 24<sup>th</sup>.**

**Location – REMEL 185, 399 Whorouly Road, Whorouly.**

**Time – 6.30pm for 7.00pm.**

**Cost - \$26.00 per head for Antipasto, Traditional Roast (with a choice of 3 meats) and choice of Desserts. Special dietary needs catered for**

**Guest Speaker – Ian (Harry) Hildebrand, Assistant Principal, Markham College in Peru.**

**Topic – Life in Peru Today- with emphasis on the environment, the Amazon basin nearby and the recent earthquake recovery.**

**How to Book – Contact Bob Shaw on 57 662 773 by July 17<sup>th</sup> (for Catering Purposes)**

**Retiring COMMITTEE MEMBER**

Glenda Hall has resigned after three years as our Secretary. A Motion of “Thanks” to Glenda was unanimously passed at the last Committee Meeting. Glenda completed her role with a minimum of fuss. She was most generous with the commitment of her time /resources to ensure that our club thrived and no-one could even find one error she had made in all this time!! Glenda joined the club three years ago and loved it so much that she did not see it as a problem to put her hand up immediately to be Secretary. (Thanks Irene!) Glenda had a “delightful time” as Secretary but in her usual very efficient manner said that it is “good to keep people rotating” in various roles – for the health of the club. Well Glenda, we are certainly a very healthy club

(membership-wise) thanks to members like you!

**REVISED STATEMENT OF PURPOSE in the Constitution FOR WARBY WALKERS -**

The May 2009 Committee Meeting accepted recommendations from the Constitution Sub Committee to amend a few clauses in the Constitution and to bring it in line with current Corporate Affairs Victoria requirements. The last update was in 2006, and the changes are:

Including a revised Statement of Purpose - now being:

The primary purpose of the Warby Range Bushwalkers is to -

Conduct bushwalks in North East Victoria and elsewhere, as decided by the members

Encourage a wider appreciation and better understanding of the natural environment, and to assist in its conservation

Foster safe and responsible bushwalking practices

Promote social activity amongst the Club's members.

The Committee of Management will comprise a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer as officers of the Association and a minimum of three and a maximum of six ordinary members (including Walks Coordinator, Deputy Walks Coordinator, Publicity Officer), or more as determined from time to time at the annual general meeting.

The revised Constitution topic will be discussed in General Business at the next Committee meeting on August 31, and once ratified will be sent for registering with Corporate Affairs Victoria. Glenda Hall or any current Committee member is happy to hear from anyone who wants further info or has a comment before the next meeting.

**SNOW SHOE SHUFFLE on September 5 and 6, 2009**



**ACT NOW!!!!**

**SNOW WALKING at Mt. HOTHAM - September (4), 5 and 6 - snowshoeing can be undertaken if you are 8 or 80! Walkers can stay in a Mt. Hotham Lodge on the Saturday night, Sept 5 (as well as the Friday night of Sept. 4). To secure accommodation names need to be with Pat Kuhl by Monday June 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**Contact Pat on 57 229 173**



## MID WINTER DINNER



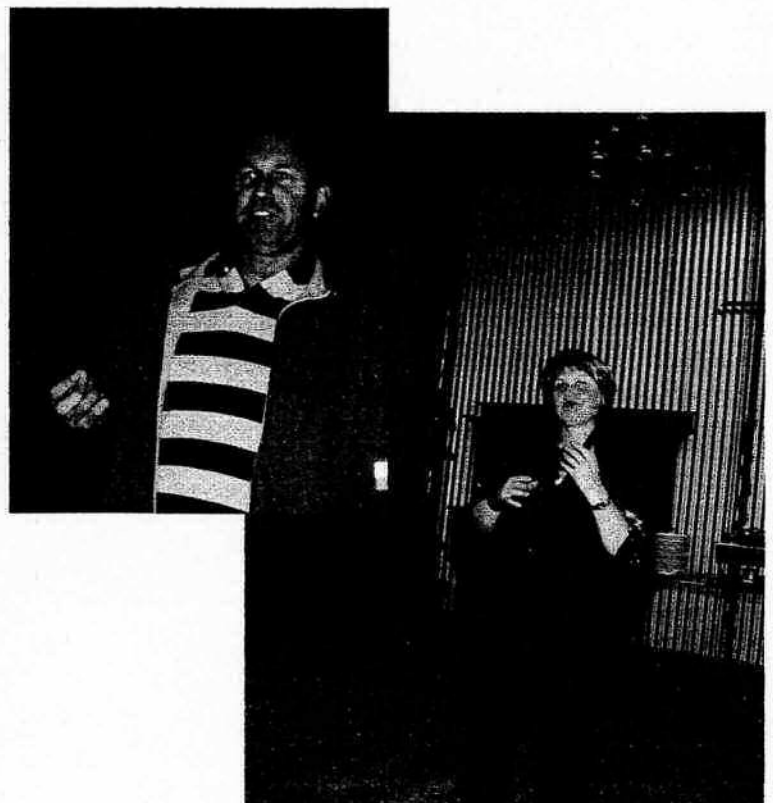
It was cold, but very enjoyable. Our July dinner was at REMEL 185 restaurant - converted tobacco kilns at Whorouly run by Ruth and Joe Costenaro.

There were upwards of forty of us regaled with a roast dinner and delicious deserts.

Guest speaker was Ruth's brother, Harry Hildebrand, who is second-in-charge of an elite school in Lima, Peru. Harry has mustered his very privileged students to empathize with their less fortunate countrymen. He involved them in a project to assist Peruvians who were made homeless by a recent earthquake. They built temporary accommodation for the victims of the calamity. Harry impressed us by his 'get up and go'.



Above - Ken Ellis and Ann Turnbull  
Next - Dinner group enjoying the occasion  
Left - Mary Ann Wilkie and Joy Rosser  
Below left - Glenda Hall and Judy Shaw  
Below right - President Kerri welcomes the crowd  
Below middle - guest speaker Harry (Ian) Hildebrand





# WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc.

NEWSLETTER 4, 2009

## *THE WINTER THAT WAS*

No walks cancelled due to rain this winter! Amazing. Your editor had 21 days with rain in August (but a rather pathetic well-below-average total) and with more bountiful rain in June and July than we have had in recent years.

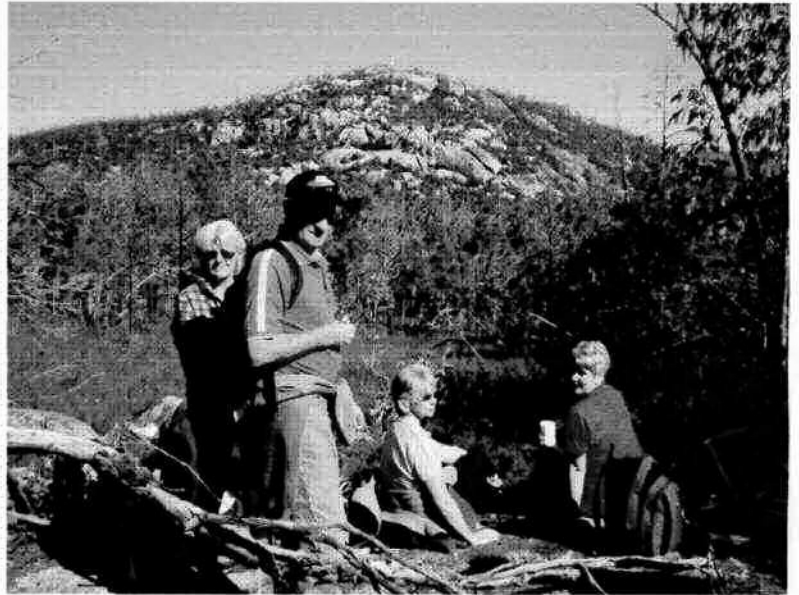
Lots of members headed north or overseas over the winter period. From all accounts, there were some wonderful experiences.

Committee member, Karen Davis and husband, Rod, had the best part of three months cycling through Europe. They returned home many kilos lighter. Not surprising.

Welcome back to Helen Hill who has been teaching in China for the last six months. She doesn't claim to be fluent in Mandarin, but had a marvellous experience.

With so many of our regulars absent, it was not surprising that numbers of participants on walks was down. A few of the walks had the customary ten to twelve enthusiastic walkers, and the odd one 15 or more. The stand out was the snow shoe weekend (see later)

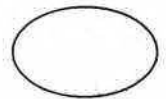
Top right: A sunny winter day at Mount Pilot. Warby Walkers, Kate Murray, Bob Phillips, Irene Knox and Glenda Hall relax for morning tea on a brilliant walk organized by Peter Murray.



## *MISSED YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER?*

Some of our members may not have received the last newsletter. Perhaps it was because you were tardy in not renewing your membership subscription. Perhaps it was overlooked by our mailers. Apologies if it was the latter. We know a few missed out. The editor has had a few phone calls reminding him that their favourite read did not arrive!

Check the circle here.



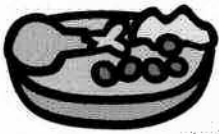
If it has a coloured sticker on it you have not, according to our records, paid your membership sub. The good part is that from 1<sup>st</sup> October, our subs are half price. The fee from that date is \$12.50 single, or \$22.50 family.

Post it off now to –

Treasurer Murray Shaw  
7 Stuart Street, Wangaratta 3677



## MID WINTER DINNER



It was cold, but very enjoyable. Our July dinner was at REMEL 185 restaurant - converted tobacco kilns at Whorouly run by Ruth and Joe Costenaro.

There were upwards of forty of us regaled with a roast dinner and delicious deserts.

Guest speaker was Ruth's brother, Harry Hildebrand, who is second-in-charge of an elite school in Lima, Peru. Harry has mustered his very privileged students to empathize with their less fortunate countrymen. He involved them in a project to assist Peruvians who were made homeless by a recent earthquake. They built temporary accommodation for the victims of the calamity. Harry impressed us by his 'get up and go'.



Above - Ken Ellis and Ann Turnbull  
Next - Dinner group enjoying the occasion  
Left - Mary Ann Wilkie and Joy Rosser  
Below left - Glenda Hall and Judy Shaw  
Below right - President Kerri welcomes the crowd  
Below middle - guest speaker Harry (Ian) Hildebrand

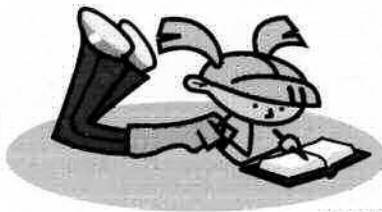


## **SPRING PROGRAM**

An exciting spring program is being offered. It's perhaps the best time of the year for the outdoors. Winter is over; the fire season hasn't started. So now is the time to get the walking gear on.

There are plenty of day walks of various grades. There is also the chance to camp, if that's what you enjoy – Mt Cobbler; Mt Buffalo. And if you want to do an overnight walk or two, we are combining with Benalla bushwalkers for some real bush wilderness experience.

And on a couple of the walks, there is a social activity to conclude. Come along to hear about Rod and Karen's cycling trip through Europe (see details elsewhere). Join walkers at Pfeiffer's Sunday Creek bridge for a delightful pre-Christmas hamper lunch.



### **SOCIAL EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY**

- Saturday evening, 10<sup>th</sup> October. Social evening at the Shaws, Hamilton Park. Hear about cycling in Europe from Rod and Karen Davis. Phone Judy and Bob Shaw 5766 2773.
- Friday evening, 11 December. Christmas party at Adrian and Helen Twitt's. More details in next newsletter.
- Sunday lunch, 13 December. At Pfeiffer's winery on their Sunday Creek bridge. Details next newsletter.

## **THE WARBY RANGE – AN ICON**

Thanks to Andy Kimber, the Warby Range which is iconic to the Warby Walkers, has also been declared one of the 50 icons of the Rural City of Wangaratta.

Here is an abbreviation of the citation –



The Warby Range has been present for at least 400 years and will continue to be an integral part of this landscape for millions of years to come. The Warby Range is a prominent landscape feature of the region. It appears as a dramatic contrast to the high Alps to the east and the mainly flat landform of the inland plains.

To the Bangerang people, these craggy hills must have been of huge significance. From the summits they could survey their lands both to the east and west and of course have perfect views of their sacred mountains including the form of the frozen echidna named Minjambuttu (Mt Buffalo).

The Range creates Wangaratta's and the lower King and Ovens valley's special climate. It protects the area from strong winds, making this the least windy in Australia according to

Below – Warby Range walk last month on the Sunrise Track.



## SNOW SHOE SHUFFLE



What a fantastic weekend!  
Thanks to Helen and Garry Batchelor, we were treated to a new experience for the Club – snow walking.

With 18 members accommodated at the Apea lodge at Hotham, it proved a great social experience. The lodge was quite luxurious, the meals fantastic (Swindlers Restaurant on the Friday night; a Club banquet at the lodge on Saturday night).

We had very acceptable weather. A fall of snow on Friday evening on top of the season's remnants, made conditions close to ideal. Saturday morning saw us all trying on our snow shoes before the adventure began. We caught the shuttle bus to Wire Plain, and headed off for the aptly named Christmas Hills. Snow showers added to the atmosphere. By midday we were snug inside the Wire Plain shelter to tuck into our lunches. Then it was off again – this time to view the dramatic Dargo Valley.

Next day's walk was in and around the village, and then off to the Christmas Hills for a picnic morning tea.

By lunchtime, we were all back at the lodge, well satisfied with the weekend's activity.



Top – Apea Lodge  
Middle – Helen and Garry Batchelor  
Bottom left – Jeanette Farquhar, Maureen Phillips, Bob Shaw, Leanne Turnbull  
Bottom right – scrambling uphill

## SHOALHAVEN FOR 2010

We are very excited about the choice of the Shoalhaven area of NSW for our week away next year. It's a fabulous area for scenery and walking, with coastlines and mountains, waterfalls and mighty rivers.

Being just a one day drive from Wangaratta, is a bonus.

For those who missed the mail out for Shoalhaven, the following information is important –

- Dates are - the week commencing Anzac Day, April 25<sup>th</sup> 2010
- Booking – payment of \$100 deposit to the Club now (refundable if you change your mind closer to the time).

Accommodation will be at a tourist park with a variety of choices including cabins and rooms with shared kitchens. You can't take your own tent or camper trailer etc. But, with 30 members already booked in with deposits, the cost is down to \$33 per head per night. With 10 more bookings it will be \$25.



keeps busy in other ways. If she is not walking with the Warby Walkers, she is playing tennis, or doing delightful watercolours with the Wangaratta Artists Society.

Karen left Swan Hill at nineteen for Melbourne, and was working for the Commonwealth Bank when she met and later married Rod. Bushwalking took hold as an escape from the city, with both of them trekking the Prom, other Victorian destinations, and Tassie.

They lived for several years in Hamilton, where Karen tired of banking, and became an assistant in a local primary school. Not surprisingly, their hiking and camping continued in places like the Grampians. Having 'done' the western district, they extended their hiking to NZ and Nepal. Amidst all this, they took six months off work and spent time exploring the beauties of the east coast of Australia.

Rod and Karen moved to Wangaratta in 1984 when Rod took up a teaching position at Wang High. Karen moved into admin at TAFE's off-campus studies. She completed an Arts degree herself during this time, and later moved into home-based child care management.

In 1988 they took 12 months off and did the grand tour of Australia. This was good practice for their six year stint as Aussie gypsies from 1999 when they took itinerant jobs assisting in national parks, managing camping grounds etc while they travelled the country.

Back in their lovely creek-side house in Rowan St, Karen joined the Warby Walkers. She is an enthusiastic contributor to the Club when she and Rod are not on extended cycling trips in Europe – three times since 2005! We look forward to their cycling tales at a social evening on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Be there.



### **NEW COMMITTEE PERSON – KAREN DAVIS**

The Swan Hill girl who loves the bush, the mountains and the running streams, it's no wonder Karen Davis has taken a liking to Wangaratta.

Karen, apart from frequent trips back to Swan Hill to watch over ailing parents,

the Victorian Wind Atlas. The lack of air movement also creates the frosty conditions which often gives this area the lowest temperature in the State.

The dear old Warbys are always there on the western horizon. The Warbys have offered rock used in the Cathedral and St Pat's and is still crushed for local roads and pathways. Many people still live in or on the side off the Range creating special gardens, growing very special fruit and just revelling in



Above – A 2008 walk in the Warby Range

Left – Recent picnic rest stop on a walk to the Blacks Springs.



that view! Many local artists use the Warbys as their source of inspiration. The views from the Range are unbeatable – on a clear day you can see the uplands near Chiltern more than 180 degrees around to Mt Buller. In winter and spring the whole glorious snow clad Alps can be admired.

The Warby Range Bushwalkers have a particular regard for our local escarpment. Unlike most other walking clubs in Victoria, we have a superb, varied and flexible facility within 15 km of home. A highlight three years ago, was when we walked the length of our special Range in three separate superb spring walks to celebrate our love for this unique piece of granite. Several members of the Club have been involved in the conservation of the ranges since the 1970s when moves to establish a State Park began. So naturally our club icon/emblem is the Warby Range Grass Tree. This plant is certainly found in many other places in Australia but surely these plants seem most at home in our ancient ranges. It is as if we can really feel the wisdom in the aged rocks and in these amazing trees some of which have been there long before Europeans arrived.

The Warby Range never dominates but it has a profound influence on the lives of the people of the Rural City of Wangaratta.

### ***KNOWING YOUR COMMITTEE***

In case you are not familiar with our committee, the following members form the core of the Club.

President: Kerri Davenport

Vice President: Peter Murray

Secretary: Jeanette Farquhar

Treasurer: Murray Shaw

Walks Co-ordinator: Bob Shaw

Assistant Walks Co-ordinator and

Publicity Officer: Adrian Twitt

Other committee members - Glenda Canning, Karen Davis, Dianne Fraser, Andy Kimber, Pat Kuhle, Alan Raison



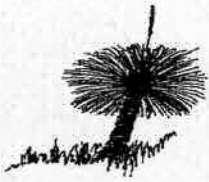
### ***HIGH COUNTRY IN JANUARY***

Another date for your diary is the annual summer weekend in the cool of the High Country. We have

enjoyed some excellent weekends using Myrtleford Ski Lodge as our base.

Note the dates of January 9 - 10, and the preliminary information in the walks program. More details in the next newsletter.





# WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc. **WALKS PROGRAM**

October to December 2009.

October 3 and 4	<u>Relay for Life</u>	Join a Team
October 10 Saturday	<u>LAKE MOODEMERE</u> Contact - Pat Kuhl Social evening at Shaws, with Karen and Rod Davis (cycling in Europe)	EASY 5722 9173  5766 2773
October 15, Thursday	<u>PEECHELBA AND SURROUNDS</u> Contact - Karen Davis	EASY 5722 2540
October 17 Saturday	<u>Mt. STIRLING and CRAIG'S HUT</u>  Contact - Alan Raison	An EASY walk or a MEDIUM Walk. 5721 7886
October 24 and 25 Saturday and Sunday	<u>HOTHAM TO FALLS CREEK.</u> With the Benalla Bushwalking Club Contact - Bob Shaw	HARD  5766 2773
November 7 Saturday (& Fri. Nov. 6)	<u>MT. COBBLER</u> (Can also camp Friday night at Lake Cobbler) Contact - Adrian Twitt	MEDIUM/HARD  5721 5327
November 9 Monday, 7.00pm	Walks planning followed by Committee meeting at the Davenport	All members welcome. 5726 9376
November 11, Wednesday	<u>FRIEND'S AND ALPINE TRACKS</u> Contact - Adrian Twitt	EASY 5721 5327
November 20 - 22 Fri, and/or Sat and/or Sunday	<u>MT. BUFFALO WEEKEND OF WALKS</u> Contact - Murray Shaw - 5721 3730	EASY, MEDIUM AND HARD walks for all-comers
December 5 and 6 Saturday and Sunday	<u>THE FAINTERS</u> With the Benalla Bushwalking Club Contact Bob Shaw	MEDIUM/HARD  5766 2773
December 6 Sunday	<u>ELDORADO/CLEAR CREEK</u> Contact - Andy Kimber	EASY/MEDIUM 5766 2207
December 11, Friday	<u>CHRISTMAS PARTY</u> at Adrian & Helen Twitt's 13 Walter St., Wangaratta	5721 5327
December 13 Sunday	<u>FEDERATION TO PFEIFFERS</u> Lunch at Pfeiffer's bridge Contact - Peter Murray	EASY/MEDIUM  5726 9337
December 17, Thursday	<u>TAMINICK GAP/ CHICK HILL/HAMILTON PARK</u> Contact - Bob Shaw	EASY/MEDIUM  5766 2773
2010, January 9 and 10, Sat and Sun	<u>FALLS CREEK WEEKEND</u> At Myrtleford Ski Lodge, Contact - Kerri Davenport	EASY, MEDIUM AND HARD walks for all-comers 5726 9376

**VISITORS ARE WELCOME TO BOOK FOR ANY EVENT WITHIN THEIR  
CAPABILITIES, BY CONTACTING THE LEADER.**

A \$5 visitor's fee applies, refundable if you join at a later date within the walks year. (April-March). Children accompanied by an adult family member are free.

Club information available by contacting Adrian 5721 5327

**LAKE MOODEMERE.** A 10 km Easy walk through red gum forests to Lake Moodemere where a picnic ground is used for morning tea/lunch. The walk begins and ends at Pfeiffer's winery, which is an ideal place for a coffee or glass of wine. The walk has picturesque sections along the Murray River.

**PEECHELBA AND SURROUNDS.** An Easy walk on wide clearly defined tracks, this 10 km. walk beside the Ovens R. and its river flats commences 20 km north of Wangaratta. It involves largely flat walking on tracks which meander amongst red river gums with easy access to the river on occasions.

**Mt. STIRLING and CRAIG'S HUT.** A Medium walk of 19 km. as well as a 9 km. Easy walk offered. The Medium walk is from King Saddle/Circuit road to Mt. Stirling and Craig's Hut return. The shorter walk will follow some of the same route from King Saddle to Mt. Stirling, to Bluff Hut then return. Mt. Stirling is the site for a number of movies the most notable of being "The Man From Snowy River". From Craig's Hut, the cattleman's hut from the movie, the views of the high country and the Alpine National Park are spectacular.

**HOTHAM TO FALLS CREEK. With the Benalla Bushwalking Club.** Stretching approximately 25 km. between the Hotham and Falls Creek resorts the trail links the Bogong High plains and the lodge-wrapped summit of Mt. Hotham, providing a full and varied two days of walking among the State's most impressive and highest peaks. The walk passes Derrick and Dibbin's Huts, Cobungra Gap, and the renamed Niggerheads. It involves overnight camping. For experienced hikers with appropriate gear only.

**MT. COBBLER.** While this is essentially offered as a day trip, those who wish to leave on Friday afternoon and camp at Lake Cobbler overnight, will enjoy an additional walk to Dandongdale Falls. Campers will be joined by the Saturday day trippers at 9.30am for the walk from the shores of Lake Cobbler, through forest, and then the ascent to the peak of Mt Cobbler with its 360 deg. views of spectacular mountain wilderness.

**FRIEND'S AND ALPINE VIEWS TRACKS.** This is an Easy walk with signs along the way giving descriptions of the flora, fauna and history of this diverse and picturesque area. This well defined track has some excellent views of various gullies, the Ovens valley, and distant mountains. The walk commences and finishes at Wenhams Camp. At the conclusion, participants are invited to have a sausage sizzle lunch using the bbq sites at the Camp.

**MT. BUFFALO WEEKEND OF WALKS.** Participants can camp at Lake Catani on the Buffalo Plateau from the Friday onwards, or simply come for day trips if they so desire. Easy, Medium and Harder walks will be offered each day according to demand. Walks could include some of the following – Easy walks - The Monolith, The Chalet area, Tatra/ South Buffalo, Mac's Point, Dickson's Falls: Medium Walks - Mt. McLeod, Rocky Creek Track, Tatra/Back Wall, Mount Dunn, Devil's Couch: Medium/Hard walks - Mollison's Galleries, Eurobin Ck./Rollason's Falls, Big Walk

**THE FAINTERS. With the Benalla Bushwalking Club.** This is an overnight walk on the Bogong High Plains and takes in Happy Valley, the Niggerheads, Tawonga Hut, the West Kiewa River and the two Mt. Fainters. For experienced overnight trekkers, it provides a full and varied two days of walking on part of 'the roof of Victoria' in view of most of the state's impressive and highest peaks.

**ELDORADO/CLEAR CREEK.** This Easy/Medium walk starts at Excelsior Track and Clear Creek. It involves walking along a creek bed with views of waterfalls if it has rained recently. There is ample wildlife – wallabies, wombats and kangaroos with views of pools and rock formations along the creek.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY – Adrian/Helen Twitt's, 13 Walter St., Wangaratta**

**FEDERATION TO PFEIFFERS** – A mostly shaded 13 km walk from Federation Bridge along the Murray River and Sunday Creek via Wahgunyah, Willows reserve, John Ford Cemetery, and the quarantine nursery, finishing with a wine at Pfeiffers. Walkers may like to conclude with a shared hamper on Pfeiffers well known Sunday Creek bridge. Early bookings essential for hampers.

**TAMINICK GAP/ CHICK HILL/HAMILTON PARK** From Taminick Gap this walk passes the communications towers then veers off from the main track to Mt. Glenrowan. The track then continues to Chick Hill with its excellent views of the Ovens Valley and the Alps. A new track has then been created by this club which journeys downhill to Wirrinya Avenue in Hamilton Park. This track is quite steep in parts and care must be taken to watch your footing. After morning tea at Hamilton Park the walk then proceeds along Taffe Lane back to Taminick Gap

**FALLS CREEK WEEKEND.** At Myrtleford Ski Lodge, Contact – Kerri Davenport. This weekend on the High Plains involves 1 – 2 nights staying at the Myrtleford Ski Lodge with a number of walks on the Bogong High Plains/Rocky Valley and Happy Valley areas. There will be a series of Easy/ Medium and Hard walks each day to cater for varying levels of fitness. For newcomers this is a great introductory weekend to our Club. Bookings must be in to Kerri prior to Christmas.