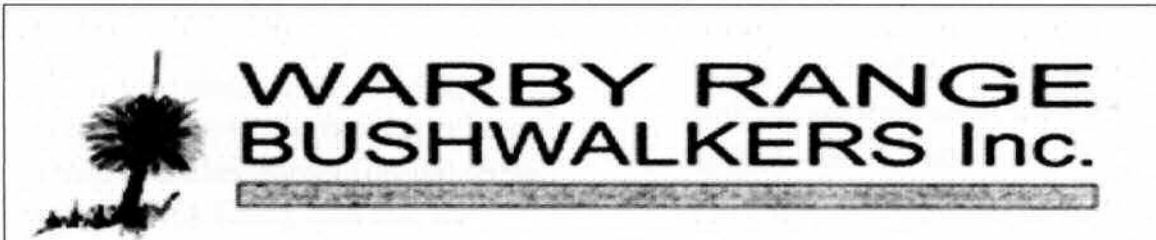


WARBY RANGE
BUSHWALKERS
2010



NEWSLETTER 1, 2010



CHRISTMAS PARTY TIME AGAIN

**Friday, 11th December
6.00 pm**

Join in the fun and attend the annual Walkers (and friends) Christmas party. This time it is at the home of Helen and Adrian Twitt at 13 Walter Street, Wangaratta. If it's anything like last year, there'll be plenty of hilarity.

Phone Helen or Adrian and let them 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 of course a drink. Cutlery and crockery will be supplied.

There is a pool for you to enjoy, so bring bathers too.

The Twitt house is in the far west-end of Wangaratta beside the Three Mile Creek.



DO WE HAVE A MEMBERSHIP RECORD?

Nobody, even those with memories going back over our three decade history, can recall our Club reaching 100 members. But we currently are close to it.

Secretary, Jeanette Farquar tells us that there are now 96 members on our books. That's fantastic.

THE BUSHFIRE SEASON IS WITH US AGAIN

After last year's calamitous bushfires, and the fires of 2003 and 2006, we are starting to get the idea that we live in a volatile summer environment.



You will notice in the program that we are being better prepared this summer, so that we don't necessarily have the spate of walks cancellations we had last summer.

In the current program, you will notice that our summertime leaders now have a "Plan B", should the weather in the area of the intended walk be deemed to be dangerous. An alternative walk will be held in a safer location.

However, please note that walks do not happen on Total Fire Ban Days, and certainly not on Red Alert Days.

PHOTO COPYING

If you need to do any photo copying for the Club, just go to Daros Printing in Baker Street (on the same side as Aroma Deli), and ask for Michelle. She is the delightful young lady who is always helpful to customers, especially us. We get our newsletter done there.

Leaders may want to photo copy maps etc. Just have it put on our Walks account.

NEW IDEAS FOR WALKS

Do you have an idea when it comes to slotting in a new walk? We are always looking for new ideas – some hidden gem that the current walk leaders haven't thought about.

Let our Walks Con-ordinator, Bob Shaw know (5766 2773).

ALPINE WALKING TRACK

This Track extends hundreds of kms across a succession of National Parks from Walhalla to Canberra. Many Club members have done sections of it, especially in the Hotham and Bogong High Plains areas. Wangaratta Ski Lodge at Mount St Bernard, where the Club has stayed a number of times as a base for walks, is located right by the Track.

There is a committee of management for the Track which is looking for input into its development (or lack of development).

Our Club's view is that it is an under-utilized resource with much potential, and could match iconic walks like the Overland Track in Tasmania. However, this will never happen unless the Track is well maintained, which is not the case at present (even before bushfires



ravaged parts of it in recent years); and along much of the route, lacks facilities such as shelters and toilets at appropriate distances.

Give us your view on what YOU think should happen. Contact Adrian Twitt 5721 5327.

SHOALHAVEN

We must have chosen a winner when it comes to our week in the Shoalhaven area of NSW. There are 38 people booked in. Now is the time to pay the remainder of your accommodation charge. The Kangaroo Valley resort expects us to pay in full well before the time. We can only do that if those going pay the Club the outstanding amount by 1st March.

Participants are to pay \$33 each per night. We have booked the resort for six nights. On the basis that you have already paid \$100 per person as a deposit, calculate the outstanding amount you owe, and send this amount to –Treasurer, Murray Shaw, 7 Stuart Street, Wangaratta 3677.

FALLS CREEK WEEKEND

Make sure you book well in advance for the Falls Creek weekend on 8-10 January, as we need to know numbers for the Myrtleford Ski Lodge before Christmas.

Phone Kerri Davenport (5726 9376) or let her know at the Xmas party.

For Wangaratta Ski Lodge (Friday evening, 5 Feb) let Adrian Twitt know a week in advance.

For the diary –

TUESDAY, 23RD MARCH 2010
WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS
ANNUAL DINNER AND AGM AT
THE VINE HOTEL, NORTH WANGARATTA



A CYCLING DUO

There was plenty of interest in Rod and Karen's cycling trip in Europe

judging on the number of members who attended the October social evening to hear something of their preparations and recollections.

Held at Bob and Judy Shaw's Hamilton Park abode – a highly suitable location – there were thirty members in attendance. Rod and Karen gave a visual presentation of what to take on such a trip, and how to prepare, as well as giving highlights of their most recent 4500 km tour. So enthusiastic was the reception we know at least a couple of members who have bought panniers, and had some long distance practice rides with the prospect of a European trip in the next year or two.

If you want to learn more about cycling in Europe, try entering the website www.holidaytoeurope.com.au where Rod and Karen give you a run-down on it all.



OUR WE PAGE

Karen Vincent has worked on the design and detail of our new web page. It will be officially launched at the Christmas party on 11 December. It will be of great benefit to members, and puts us out to the world.

Some of us will remember Karen's mum who joined us from the UK at the Snowy Mountains week in Thredbo.

CLUB NEWS

Narelle Clarke and Alan Thrum have a lovely baby daughter, spotted at the recent Wangaratta Jazz Festival. Not surprisingly, Narelle hasn't been on a walk with us recently.

While we are talking babies, Jillian and Andy Kimber have their first grand child – born to Anna in the UK. The proud grandparents will be off to the UK for an inspection soon.

If you thought Alan Raison would slow down, once he became an octogenarian, you have made a mistake. At the Relay for Life in October, Alan walked 60 kms in 17 hours. Well done Alan!

We have plenty of members on the move as usual. Irene Knox and Bob and Maureen Phillips are currently in Vietnam. Joan Ellis recently did a trip to the Holy Land. Anne Turnbull decided it might be more holy to go on the mid-November Celtic Walk from Bright to Beechworth, doing the 93 kms in hellishly hot weather.

The Davenport's new house must be coming along well. We haven't seen much of them on recent walks, given the amount of weekend handyman activity at their Londrigan property.

We have a few artists in the Club. Noticed at the recent Jazz Art exhibition was an entry by Helen Hill, and at the Artists Society exhibition, a watercolour by Karen Davis.

John Van Riet (our botanical artist) has just had a visit from Dutch relatives. He hadn't seen his cousin in 52 years. (Is that how long you have been here, John?). We wonder if they were impressed with the Van Riet garden which John and Helen had open this spring in the Australian Open Garden program. It was brilliant then.



LUNCH ON PFEIFFER'S BRIDGE

On Sunday, 13 December, there is a walk with a difference. Peter Murray is leading a "Federation Walk" in

the Wahgunyah area, finishing at Pfeiffers Winery. They have a delightful lagoon, and the bridge over it is a favourite place for lunches.

Make sure you book early for this walk so that lunch bookings can be made (for costs etc, phone Peter on 5726 9337).

If you can't make the walk, you might still like to join the group for lunch (or vice versa).

RECENT WALKS

Most of our recent walks have attracted a good number of participants. This newsletter is being printed too early for a report on the Mt Buffalo weekend, where a number of walkers are planning to camp. Lake Catani and surrounds are delightful at this time of the year.



Alan Raison got more than he bargained for when a sizable group headed off to Craig's Hut from Telephone Box Junction near Mt Buller in mid-October. Within a couple of kilometres of the starting point, the walkers were trekking through snow. It seems strange now after all the recent hot weather, but by the summit of Mount Stirling, the snow was 40 centimetres deep. Needless to say, the group never reached Craig's Hut. That is left to the next program.

Looking for a warm lunch spot, Mt Stirling, 17 October 2009



There wasn't a sign of snow when walkers camped at Lake Cobbler overnight prior to the climb up Mount Cobbler only three weeks later.

Trevor Turnbull, Alan Raison and Pat Kuhle at Mount Cobbler, 7 November 2009



WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc. **WALKS PROGRAM**

January to March 2010.

- It is club policy to cancel planned walks on Total Fire Ban days
- If the planned walking route is inadvisable due to forecasted unpleasant weather and/or fire conditions, each designated Walk Leader will have an alternative "Plan B" walk ready to be put into operation.
- If the walks leader(s) below cannot be contacted to book a walk (minimum two days in advance) ring Bob on 57 662 773.

January 9 and 10, Saturday and Sunday	<u>FALLS CREEK WEEKEND</u> At Myrtleford Ski Lodge, Falls Ck. Contact - Kerri	EASY, MEDIUM AND HARD walks 57 269 376
January 17, Sunday	<u>HISTORIC BEECHWORTH AND SURROUNDS</u> Contact - Jeanette	EASY/MEDIUM 57 216 514
January 30 Saturday	<u>CRAIG'S HUT</u> Contact - Alan	MEDIUM/HARD 57 217 886
February 6 Saturday	<u>MT. LOCH/DIBBEN'S & DERRICK HUTS</u> Contact - Adrian	EASY or a HARD (both offered) 57 215 327
February 8 Monday, 7.00pm	Committee meeting at Kerri's, 40 Arnott Rd., Killawarra	All members welcome. 57 269 376
February 14, Sunday	<u>MT. POREPUNKAH</u> Contact - Pat	MEDIUM 57 229 170
February 24, Wednesday	<u>BRIGHT TO WANDILIGONG</u> Contact - Andy	EASY 57 662 207
March 1, Monday	<u>MOONLIGHT WALK, OVENS RIVER</u> Contact - Karen	EASY 57 222 540
March 11, Thursday	<u>LAKE BENALLA LOOP</u> Contact - Karen	EASY 57 222 540
March 14 Sunday	<u>FLAGSTAFF RANGE</u> Contact - Murray	MEDIUM 57 213 730
March 20, 21 Saturday/Sunday	<u>OVERNIGHT WALK for beginners</u> <u>OR Picnic tea for day walkers</u> Oven's River, Peechelba Bob	EASY 57 662 773
March 23, Tuesday	<u>DINNER & AGM</u> Vine Hotel, North Wangaratta Contact - Kerri	 57 269 376
March 27, Saturday	<u>HOTHAM TO FALLS CREEK.</u> Contact - Bob	HARD 57 662 773
2010, April 26 to May 1	<u>SHOALHAVEN WEEK</u> Location - Kangaroo Valley Bush Retreat Contact - Kerri	EASY, MEDIUM AND HARD walks 57 269 376

* These Alpine Walks require clothing suitable for rain, sleet and snow.

<p>* FALLS CREEK WEEKEND, January 9 and 10, Saturday and Sunday. This annual tradition on the high plains involves 1 – 2 nights staying at a Ski Lodge, with a number of walks. There will be a series of Easy, Medium and Hard walks each day on the Bogong High Plains/Rocky Valley/Pretty Valley areas to cater for varying levels of fitness. For new members this is an ideal introduction to our club and its activities.</p>
<p>HISTORIC BEECHWORTH AND SURROUNDS January 17, Sunday. This Easy walk will include many of the mining sites as well as the various relics which were established to assist in the gold mining, like powder magazines, old bridges, old cemetery sites, and major historical buildings. Beechworth was one of the earliest and richest gold districts in Victoria.</p>
<p>* CRAIG'S HUT January 30, Saturday. There will be both a Medium and a Hard walk offered. The Medium walk is from King Saddle/Circuit Rd. 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 being "The Man from Snowy River." From Craig's Hut, the cattlemen's hut for the movie, the views of the high country are spectacular.</p>
<p>* MT. LOCH/DIBBEN'S & DERRICK HUTS February 6, Saturday. Two walks on Saturday, February 6 will be offered in the Hotham area, one easy, and the other hard. Both walks will start at the Loch Car park and return to the same place. The easy walk will 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 Dibbin's Hut (at 1380 metres) for lunch; then a climb to Derrick Hut (1740 metres) and finally back to Loch Car park (17 km. circuit). Participants will meet at Wangaratta Ski Lodge, Mount St Bernard, at 8.00 am. Those who wish may stay on Friday night at the lodge (bring own food and bedding) - bookings essential via Adrian Twitt.</p>
<p>Committee meeting February 8, Monday, 7.00pm. All members are encouraged to attend.</p>
<p>MT. POREPUNKAH February 14, Sunday. This is a day trip to one of the prominent features overlooking the Ovens valley and across to the High Plains and Mt. Buffalo plateau. The views from the summit are magnificent. The full walk is 22 km. with a reasonably gentle but consistent walk up the mountain. There can be a very steep short cut down the mountain as well to complete the circuit. Some may choose to return via the same ascent route.</p>
<p>BRIGHT TO WANDILIGONG February 24, Wednesday. This 10 km walk begins at the junction of the Ovens River and Morse's Ck. in Bright. The walk follows old gold miner's walking tracks along the banks of Morse's Ck to Wandiligong. The end point is lunch at the Wandiligong Sports Oval which is a feature of a once thriving sporting community. The walk then threads its way back along the creek to Bright with many options to walk on the opposite sides of the creek.</p>
<p>MOONLIGHT WALK, OVENS RIVER March 1, Monday. On wide clearly defined tracks, this walk along the Ovens commences north of Wangaratta and meanders along the river flats with easy access for a swim or to sit on the sandy banks. This will be a walk when there is a full moon, so this makes the whole evening an experience with a difference.</p>
<p>LAKE BENALLA LOOP March 11, Thursday. A wonderful walking and cycling track encircling Lake Benalla takes you across boardwalks and past majestic red gums through picturesque botanical gardens and the natural splendour of the neighbouring bushland where birds and wildlife abound. The track follows the edge of the Lake to where it empties into the Broken River, along the Lake's wall. It then passes Gardens Oval, the famous Botanical Gardens, the Benalla Art Gallery, and the City's showgrounds before heading into the bush with its towering river red gums. The path keeps going around the creeks and streams which enter into the lake and winds back towards a playground, the Civic Centre and boardwalk. The lake surrounds are a paradise for wildlife!</p>
<p>FLAGSTAFF RANGE March 14, Sunday. This 19 km walk commences with an 8 km climb from Taylor's gap towards Buckland gap. It follows the ridge to where the hang gliders use the cliffs to launch themselves across the Murrumbidgee amphitheatre. This is a forest walk with spectacular views over the Murrumbidgee valley, Mt Buffalo and the Ovens valley.</p>
<p>OVERNIGHT WALK for beginners OR Picnic tea for day walkers. March 20, 21. Saturday/Sunday. The walk will be preceded by an evening to informally chat about backpacks, weight balance and what to take with you. Beginners are encouraged to borrow equipment at this stage from friends. On the Saturday at 3.00pm, we will travel to an area of the Ovens river, walk for a few hours then set up camp for the night. The next day we will retrace our steps of 5-6 km to finish by noon. If they so desire any member can come and have a picnic tea with us besides the Ovens river, to just be involved in the one afternoon/evening</p>
<p>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING March 23, Tuesday. The AGM is always very brief and on all members are encouraged to attend. It is also a social event with dinner to be held at the Vine Hotel, North Wangaratta from 6.30 pm. Please book by contacting Kerri by Tuesday March 16th on 57 269 376.</p>
<p>* HOTHAM TO FALLS CREEK, March 27, Saturday. Stretching approximately 22 km. between the Hotham and the Pretty Valley dam, the trail links the Bogong High plains and the lodge-wrapped summit of Mt. Hotham, providing for a full and varied two days of walking in view of most of the state's impressive and highest peaks. The walk includes passing by (the renamed) Niggerheads, Cobungra Gap, and Derrick and Dibbin's Huts and may involve some car shuffling. Walkers would be encouraged to stay closer to this walk the night before to commence the walk quite early the following day.</p>
<p>SHOALHAVEN WEEK April 26 to May 1. Location – Kangaroo Valley Resort, Contact - Kerri Davenport. We will be staying at the Kangaroo valley Bush Retreat in the northern section of the Shoalhaven area. The club is planning for EASY, MEDIUM AND HARD walks for all-comers, with the opportunity to have a rest day(s) if so desired. The planned walks include canyon walking, coastal cliffs, inland mountains and waterfalls, escarpment walking and coastal, river and estuary strolling. As with previous years, catering will occur on a roster basis, which reduces the costs overall.</p>



WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc.

NEWSLETTER 2, 2010

ANNUAL DINNER

Don't forget this event, one of our social highlights of the year. While it is also an AGM, there is plenty of fun and frivolity. The Vine Hotel has been selected for the event as last year we were bursting at the seams at Café Martini, and the Vine has plenty of space.

TUESDAY, 23RD MARCH 2010 AT 6.30 PM
WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS
ANNUAL DINNER AND AGM AT
THE VINE HOTEL, NORTH WANGARATTA
PHONE GLENDA HALL TO BOOK 5721 5114

CLUB NEWS

Committee member, Di Fraser, and John Leask have announced some exciting news. They are engaged. Both are very experienced walkers, and keen especially to participate in our harder walks. Congratulations Di and John.



Below: John and Di at Craig's Hut on a recent walk trying to be incognito.



Andy and Jillian Kimber are back from a very snowy UK, having spent some time with their new grand daughter. At least they weren't there to travel, as we understand they were happily house bound for some time due to the weather.

Most people will have caught up with the news that your editor (Adrian) had a bicycle accident just before Christmas and broke his hip. He is coming along very well. Thanks for the good wishes. Adrian is very sorry he hasn't been on any of the scheduled walks lately. He's not sure when that can happen. The irony is that the above bicycle was lent by Rod Davis to 'try out' as Rod won't need it for a while. He was to have a hip replacement! Rod is now recovering from his recent operation.

Judy Shaw has had some coming and going from Moe, as her mother has had a stroke. We have been thinking of you Judy. In the meantime, Bob Shaw has had some nasties cut out from his head (due to a reckless youth spent in the sun).

Judy Lardner has headed off to NZ for a bit of walking. We look forward to hearing about her travels when she returns.

Helen Hill's son, David, is currently living and working in Uzbekistan (or thereabouts) half buried in snow. She is delighted to be able to talk to him and see him live on newly installed 'skype'.

OUR WEB PAGE

Our new web site is up and running, though the official launch will be by Karen Vincent at our annual meeting and dinner.

meeting

It's interesting that our website is getting some use. There is a lot of information about immediate past walks, the club, the program etc. We have already had one or two people phoning the Club interested in joining. We also get comments from web browsers with an interest in bushwalking.

SENIOR CITIZEN OF 2009

Liz Walpole is (belatedly) congratulated by us on being Victoria's Senior Citizen for 2009. Her contribution to the Whorouly community alone has been prodigious, but it extends to Myrtleford, Wangaratta and elsewhere too.

Her passion in recent times has been East Timor. She has been there twice in the last two years, assisting the villagers of the Lacluta area, in a remote hilltop region. As a result of her work, a number of treadle sewing machines have been installed in the community, and women trained in their use.

Liz has worked as a volunteer in a whole range of activities - palliative care at North East Health for 15 years; the tourist information centre in Myrtleford;



Women in Agriculture; the Women's Web (where she trained others to become familiar with the internet and its uses); and she founded the Landcare group in her home community of Whorouly.

Liz is a keen cyclist with Out and About and walks with the Warby Walkers. Her first big walk was in Nepal, for which she raised \$1500 for a leprosy mission in Katmandu. Since then, she has walked sections of the Bibulman Track in WA; and has had two walking holidays in Italy. With the Warby Walkers, she participated in the Great Ocean Walk.

Liz still lives on the family farm, and contributes there in no small way since her husband's death.

Understandably, when Liz's daughter received her award for her at Government House (she was in Italy), it was no surprise to have been given the title 'Busy Lizzie'.

Recently Liz has had a cataract operation and has been laying low, but we saw her on the Falls Creek weekend in January.



WALK BOOKINGS

Please note that walk bookings are supposed to be in at least two days prior to a walk.

The leaders need to know this information to help with arrangements, including map reproductions etc. It is especially important where overnight accommodation is planned (such as at a lodge) where a week's notice is expected.

DANDONGADALE FALLS

Not a lot of people know much about these spectacular falls. Those who went on the Mt Cobbler walk in November had an opportunity to walk in to the top of the falls which are quite close to Lake Cobbler. The falls are Victoria's highest, and among the highest in Australia.

The Club thinks it is a pity that the bottom of the falls is inaccessible. Years ago, walkers could follow the Dandongadale River upstream from the road to Mt Cobbler, and reach the falls that way. This track is now overgrown and impenetrable.

We have been in contact with Parks Victoria offering help to get the track reopened. It will be interesting to see what eventuates.

SHOALHAVEN

There are approximately 40 people who have paid deposits of \$100 for the Shoalhaven week, Monday April 26 to Saturday, May 1 inclusive.

The remaining amounts are due in by 1st March. The charge to stay is \$33 per person per night. On the basis that you have already paid \$100 per person as a deposit, calculate the outstanding amount you owe, and send this amount to –Treasurer, Murray Shaw, 7 Stuart Street, Wangaratta 3677.

We are suggesting that people do their own car pooling. It's a long way from Wangaratta, and does make sense. The accommodation is at Kangaroo Valley Bush Retreat, 55 Radiata Road, Kangaroo Valley.
www.kangaroovalleybushretreat.com.au

A great range of walks is being offered – many easy, some hard. There will be

something for everyone. And if you don't want to walk, that's okay too. It is a very scenic area, close to sea, mountains, and rivers. There are some very easy walks from the resort where we are being accommodated.

MT HOTHAM TO FALLS CREEK

Our Club is running its first one-day walk from Mt Hotham to Falls Creek. Well not exactly – it's really from Mt Loch to Pretty Valley. Still a long walk, but one of Victoria's greatest walks.

The event is to be on Saturday, 27th March.



To avoid unnecessary car shuffles, we are hiring a bus. The bus will leave Wangaratta from Apex Park at 7.00 pm on Friday, 26th March. The cost of the bus is \$30 per person.

Walkers will stay at Wangaratta Ski Lodge on Friday evening. The cost there is \$20.

This is a one-off opportunity. Bookings are essential, as we must get 15 participants. To book, phone Bob Shaw (5726 9376) **now before you forget.** Bookings close one week prior to the event.

SUBS FOR 2010

Our subs are officially set by members at our AGM, but the Committee is examining the budget so that we have a better idea of how our finances stack up on a long-term basis.

In the meantime, if you pay your subscription now, you will avoid any prospective rise. (see the enclosed slip) Subs can also be paid at the AGM.



BE PART OF THE PLANNING

We are always looking for input from members about walks you would like to do. Why not come to a planning meeting? They are always held on the same evening as committee meetings (see program).

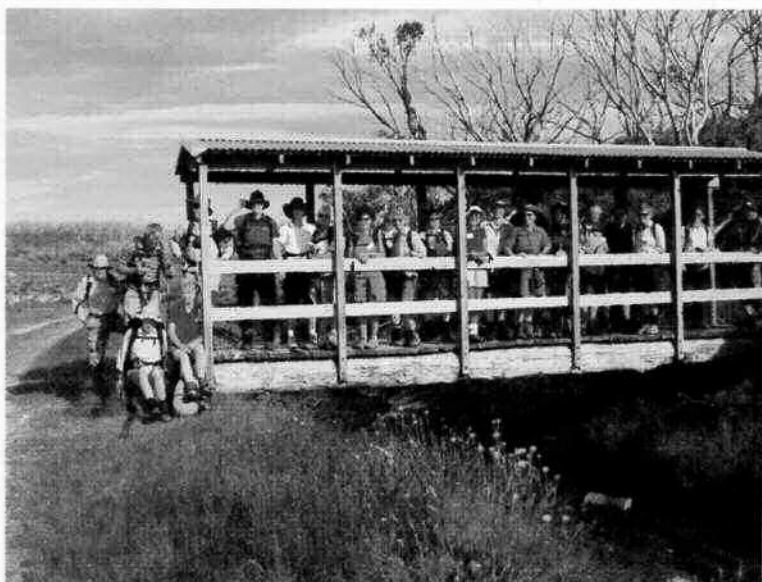
We are also looking for people who would be happy to lead a walk. The more the walks leadership is shared around, the better. Why not give it a go? We all started being leaders by offering to take our first walk.

SUMMER PROGRAM

Although it has been a hot summer, we have been delighted with the outcome for the walks program. There was enough rain about to dampen the fire risk, and few walks had to be cancelled.

Our high altitude walks were all very successful - even the Mt Buffalo weekend (technically in late Spring) when rain came down in torrents, testing tent quality. Word has it that some members have bought new tents since. But participants enjoyed seeing the Buffalo plateau cascading with water.

A novel feature of the summer was to have a pre-Christmas lunch on Sunday Creek at Pfeiffers Winery after a walk led by Peter Murray in the Wahgunyah area. Both the walk and the lunch attracted a good number.



Walkers on covered bridge, Bogong High Plains. What was the weight limit?

The Bogong High Plains weekend, based at Myrtleford Ski Lodge, Falls Creek, attracted a great number of participants escaping the 40+ degree heat in Wangaratta. The High Country was at its best, and the wild flowers spectacular. As usual, the Lodge lent itself to club camaraderie, and was a great start to 2010.



Above: Trekking the High Plains. Guess who is leading?

Left: Some of the diners on Sunday Creek bridge, Pfeiffers.



Left: Some tired and hungry walkers at rest stop on the Bogong High Plains

Below: Craig's Hut – reached at last!

Alan Raison's second attempt in a few months to lead a walk to Craig's Hut from near the base of Mt Stirling, was finally achieved. This time they were not turned back by deep snow.

The Mt Loch to Dibbins Hut walk, a particularly hard one, attracted plenty of interest, with some of the walkers staying the previous night at Wangaratta Ski Lodge. However, the strong winds, swirling mist, and poor visibility made it too dangerous to attempt on the day. An alternative walk (led by Murray Shaw who stood in for crippled Adrian Twitt), to the Cobungra River from JB Plain, was a worthy replacement.



Above: Pat Kuhle, Jan Heywood and Murray Shaw contemplating the weather outside Wangaratta Ski Lodge.

The Mt Porepukah walk, led by Pat Kuhle provided some excellent views of Mt Buffalo and surrounding country. The group were caught in a thunderstorm down the steep and slippery descent. And slippery it was! A good practise for the luge given the Winter Olympics had just started.



DO YOU HAVE A PREFERENCE FOR OUR WEEK AWAY IN 2011?

We are already planning for 2011. This year's 'week away' has proven to be enticing judging on the response for Shoalhaven. You'll remember that it had been our intention to go to Wilson's Promontory.

Unfortunately the Prom is proving difficult as the Club needs to pay for its booking 12 months in advance requiring an outlay of thousands of dollars.

Given that we are going interstate this year, we thought we would return to Victoria next year. Let a Committee member know what you think. We are leaning towards the Walhalla-Baw Baw area.

Some possibilities are –

- Wilson's Promontory
- Walhalla-Baw Baw
- Grampians

PARTY WITH A DIFFERENCE

Christmas 2009 seems a long time ago now, but those who missed the Christmas party, also missed a celebration of President Kerri's 50th birthday.

It was an early one (her actual birthday is between Xmas and New Year), but there was a real cake and plenty of frivolity on the night.

INTERESTED IN DOING THE LARAPINTA TRAIL?

THE TRAIL FOLLOWS THE DRAMATIC AND COLOURFUL WEST MACDONNELL RANGES IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA. JUDY AND BOB SHAW WILL BE WALKING PARTS OF IT FROM 1-16 AUGUST 2011. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THEM, CONTACT THE SHAWS 5766 2773

INTENTIONS BOOK

The Club is to introduce an Intentions Book at our scheduled events for participants wishing to engage in a different activity. We had one valued member on a recent walks weekend who opted to go fishing. His whereabouts was unknown to the Club with possible dire consequences, as he was inadvertently delayed, returning long after the expected time.



We don't want to stop people from engaging in other activities, but it needs to be with the knowledge and approval of the Club. Those doing so will also need to have a mobile phone with them for communication.

Kerri and husband Paul join in Christmas jollity and Kerri's 50th.





WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc. **WALKS PROGRAM**

April - June 2010.

If the leaders cannot be contacted to book a walk ring
Bob Shaw on 5766 2773 or Adrian Twitt 5721 5327

April 8 Thursday	<u>BEECHWORTH GORGE AREA</u> Contact - Karen	EASY 5722 2540
April 18 Sunday	<u>Mt. BOGONG</u> (2 walks offered) Contact - Bob	MEDIUM/HARD and VERY HARD 5766 2773
Monday April 26 to Sunday May 2	<u>SHOALHAVEN WEEK</u> Contact - Kerri	EASY/MEDIUM/HARD 5726 9376
May 11 Tuesday	<u>BYAWATHA/CLEAR CK. FALLS</u> Contact - Pat	EASY 5722 9173
May 15 Saturday	<u>GRETA WEST/LURG/KELLY HOMESTEAD</u> Contact - Ken <i>PLUS</i> SOCIAL Evening at Rod & Karen Davis' House, 154 Rowan St, (Helen Hill, talking on China. RSVP before Sat May 15th to Karen Davis	EASY/MEDIUM 5727 6392 5722 2540
May 25 Monday 7.00pm	<u>Committee meeting at Kerry Davenport's, 40 Arnott Rd., Killawarra</u>	All members are welcome. 5726 9376
May 30 Sunday	<u>GAPSTED HILLS</u> Contact - Jan	MEDIUM/HARD 5727 1347
June 5 Saturday	<u>TABLETOP MOUNTAIN</u> Contact - Adrian	EASY/MEDIUM 5721 5327
June 16 Wednesday	<u>SUNRISE TRACK/TAMINICK LOOKOUT</u> Contact - Andy	EASY/MEDIUM 5766 2207
June 20 Sunday	<u>MT. BUFFALO - BIG WALK TO ROLLASONS FALLS</u> Contact - Di	MEDIUM 0429 672 658
July 3 Saturday	<u>Mt. WARRICK/WABONGA PLATEAU</u> Contact - Allan	MEDIUM 5721 7886
September (3), 4 and 5. Keep this weekend FREE on your 2010 Calendar -	<u>MT HOTHAM - SNOWSHOEING</u> Contact Gary or Helen Batchelor	EASY to HARD 5722 2757 for further details

BEECHWORTH GORGE AREA - an Easy graded walk of about 9 km. This track is close to the Beechworth township and passes through the Gorge area. This circular walk starts at the Powder Magazine, and then proceeds to the Cascades, Reid's Ck. Goldfields and spectacular Woolshed Falls.

Mt. BOGONG – there are two distinct walks. The Harder 16 km. walk is from Mountain Creek, ascending the Staircase to the top of Victoria's highest mountain. The lesser walk in terms of difficulty is to drive a 4WD vehicle along the Mountain Ck track for another 4km then walk the Eskdale Spur to the summit. The lesser walk is also a distance of 16 km. Walkers are encouraged to camp at Mountain Ck as this will be an 8.00am start. Also there will be a "Plan B" organized for walking at a lower altitude, in case the weather is at all risky.

SHOALHAVEN WEEK April 26 to May 1. Location – **Kangaroo Valley Bush Retreat, Contact - Kerri Davenport.** The club is planning EASY, MEDIUM AND HARD walks for all-comers, with the opportunity to have a rest day(s) if so desired. The planned walks include canyon walking, coastal cliffs, inland mountains and waterfalls, escarpment walking and coastal, river and estuary strolling. As with previous years, catering will occur on a roster basis, which reduces the costs overall.

BYAWATHA/CLEAR CREEK FALLS – an Easy grade walk of 10 km. Located in bush some 30 mins. from Wangaratta, this walk is on undulating tracks and takes in many of the old historical sites of the area. It starts at an old tin mine; there are views over Eldorado and the Warby Ranges in the distance. Views of the Clear Creek falls are spectacular especially after recent rains.

GRETA WEST/LURG/KELLY HOMESTEAD – Commencing in the hills of Greta West this Easy/Medium walk of 12 km. involves some hills. But it is largely on undulating tracks through grey box and red gum forests. A highlight will be a visit to the ruins of the original Kelly Homestead as this area is normally out of bounds to all visitors.

SOCIAL Evening at Rod & Karen Davis House, 154 Rowan St, Wangaratta. Please RSVP before Sat May 15th to Karen Davis. The evening will be 6.30pm for 7.00pm and will involve buying pizzas to share and bringing a salad or desert. The evening will include a talk on "China" by Helen Hill, who has lived and worked recently in this vast country. Cars can be parked on Rowan St. or on the grass next to the Lutheran Church across the street.

GAPSTED HILLS is a 12 km. Medium to Hard circular walk which will commence at the Gapsted Hall. The walk works its way both cross country and on fire tracks to the top of the Gapsted Range, from where there are excellent views across towards Buffalo and the snowfields. The walk then descends back down into the Gapsted valley which is strewn with the remains of old goldfields and supported a population of up to 10,000 in its heyday.

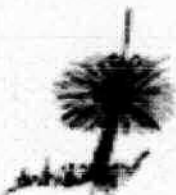
TABLETOP MOUNTAIN located north of Albury, is a dramatic feature high above the surrounding countryside. This pleasant walk crosses farmland at first, and then ascends an area of tilted rock structures with some overhanging cliffs ideal for shelter in the event of poor weather. A fee of \$5 per head is charged by the owners of the property for the privilege of enjoying their precincts.

SUNRISE TRACK/TAMINICK LOOKOUT – after climbing through bush and grass trees both the Sunrise loop and the Taminick loop can be undertaken. This is a walk of about 7 km. There are excellent views at several points across the Ovens valley and the quarry can also be visited on the descent.

MT. BUFFALO – THE BIG WALK TO ROLLASONS FALLS. This 12 km walk starts at Eurobin Ck picnic area near the base of Mt Buffalo National Park. It ascends 370 metres to Eurobin Point during the first 3 km of walking. The walk then continues on until the divergence to Rollasons Falls, an idyllic spot in any season. Walkers then return to the starting point. Depending on the day, and to avoid returning by the same route, an alternative may be suggested with walkers continuing on to Mackeys Lookout a further 1.7 km and completing the walk there (with car shuttle required).

Mt. WARRICK/WABONGA PLATEAU – Cascading waterfalls, clear mountain stream and spectacular views of the Alps are all features of this part of the Alpine National Park. This 14 km. includes an ascent of Mt. Warrick from which wonderful views of the Rose and Dandongadale River valleys can be seen. Paradise Falls, an easy 30 minute return walk can also be visited if so desired.

SNOW WALKING at Mt. HOTHAM, September (3), 4 and 5. Keep this weekend FREE on your 2010 Calendar – 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 3 and/or 4. There will be snow shoeing on both the Sat. and the Sun. with a social event on the Sat. night. Contact Helen or Garry Batchelor on 5722 2757 for further details.



WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc.

NEWSLETTER 3, 2010



NEW CLUB PRESIDENT – PETER MURRAY

Yes, we have a new Club President – Peter Murray. Peter was unable to be at our annual meeting in late March, but he

had accepted nomination in advance. Congratulations Peter.

Peter has served on our Committee since his retirement from Galen College and is always one for 'putting in'.

Maureen Phillips is our new Treasurer. Thanks Maureen for accepting this role. Maureen has also offered to be the keeper of the Walks bag. Walks leaders can collect this from her prior to any event they lead.

The Warby Range Walks Committee, elected at our AGM in March is as follows –

President –	Peter Murray
Vice President –	Kerri Davenport
Walks Co-ordinator –	Bob Shaw
Secretary –	Jeanette Farquhar
Treasurer –	Maureen Phillips
Publicity –	Adrian Twitt

Committee members – Alan Raison, Karen Davis, Jan Heywood, Andy Kimber, Trevor Turnbull.

AGM AND ANNUAL DINNER

Approximately forty members converged on the Vine Hotel for our annual dinner.



Kerri Davenport stepped down as President after five years at the helm. Kerri was a gracious, caring, and highly organized leader of the Club. It was not by co-incidence that

membership grew substantially during her presidency.

Murray Shaw stepped down from Committee, having been a very conscientious treasurer in recent years. Murray was one of the four who were awarded life membership at the AGM.

The life memberships were a surprise part of our annual dinner. Certainly the recipients were caught unawares. The four were Murray Shaw, Alan Raison, and Helen and Adrian Twitt. As well as certificates, badges were presented. Bill and Joy Rosser, the most recent life members were also presented with badges.

Murray Shaw, a long serving committee member, has held most positions in the Club, including being President and Walks Co-ordinator. We all recognize Murray's fitness and ability to complete a walk in a fraction of the time it takes others. But, he is the epitome of the walks leader in that he always cares for those who have difficulties, and holds



New Life Members –
Helen and Adrian Twitt, Murray Shaw and Alan Raison.

paramount the safety of the group. Murray initiated the mid-week walks which have become popular and appeal especially to those who find the weekend crowded with other activities.

Alan Raison, perhaps our oldest regular walker, has served on the Committee or led walks for at least 15 years. He has an amazing memory for the happenings on walks, and the layout of the routes in which he has participated. Alan will walk with the slowest, though he can keep up (almost) with the fastest. He is an inspiration to any aspiring octogenarians!

In 1975 Adrian Twitt was a foundation member of the Warby Range Protection Society out of which the current Club grew. He was also a Life Member of that Society. When the Warby Range Bushwalking Club formed, he and Helen were early members, and Adrian led his first walk with the Club in 1985. He has been Walks Co-ordinator for five years, and bulletin editor since 2004.

Helen Twitt has always stood up for the shorter distance walkers, and those who are more interested in nature and the landscape, than having to press on at a rapid rate of knots. She has been the backbone of the social activities which have required catering – whether it is

the Club's weekends at Ski Lodges, or the annual week away. In doing so the members come together sharing meals, adding to conviviality that this brings. She and Adrian have opened their home to many Club activities, whether Committee meetings, Christmas celebrations or other social functions.

CLUB NEWS (from Editor Adrian)

As usual at this time of the year, many of our members are heading away for the winter. Personally, I rather like the coming season with its opportunities for ski-ing, as does John Lloyd, an enthusiast for the snowy slopes. And winter is often great for walking too, whether on terra firma or less firmly on snow-shoes (early September).

I won't go into the details of where internal Australian travels are taking people, except to say that there are a few who will walk elsewhere.

Irene Knox and Glenda Hall are planning to do as much as they can of the Larapinta Trail. It's a fantastic long distance walk in the West MacDonnell Ranges of The Centre. You can select sections to walk, so we look forward to hearing which parts our intrepid couple have completed when they return.

Not to be outdone, President Peter Murray and Kate will be walking sections of the 800 km Camino pilgrimage across France and Spain to Santiago de Campostela in September-October.

There are others heading (or already have gone) overseas, not necessarily on walks. Andy Kimber and Liz Walpole are going to the Lacluta area of East Timor to further the aid work being done for the villagers of that district. Liz has already been involved directly in assisting the people of Lacluta.

Helen Hill is travelling to South Korea, where she has previously worked, and later in the year will visit her son in Uzbekistan, and daughter in South Africa.

Keith and Helen Hallett are attending the Oberammergau passion play which is performed in that German village every ten years.

John Van Riet is currently enjoying a trip to Holland to retrace his boyhood haunts and to catch up with relatives.

Paul Moore is perhaps being the most adventurous of all of us (see below).



NEW MEMBER, PAUL MOORE.

Perhaps our newest club member is Paul Moore. Paul lives in Bright as a retiree. Born in Adelaide, he spent most of his recent life in Melbourne

where he has been in business. He travels back to Melbourne frequently to assist his daughter extend her house, so among his many skills, he is obviously a bit of a handyman too.

Paul enjoyed his week with the Club in the Shoalhaven recently, but we are unlikely to see much of him this winter as he is heading off to North America.

Paul has twice cycled across America, and he is planning to do this again, commencing July. What an experience! There will be many keen cyclists in our Club who envy him.

Interestingly, Paul found us on our website, so it is good to learn that this is increasingly happening.

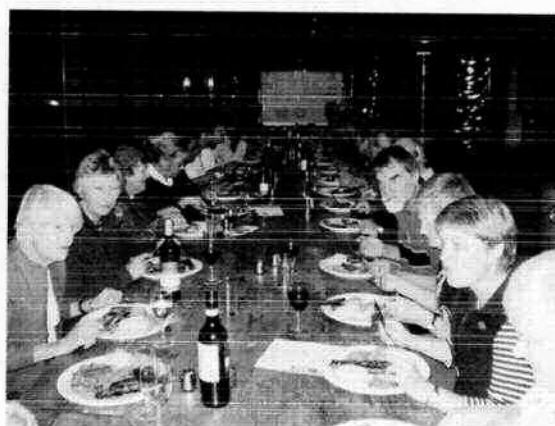
SHOALHAVEN

What a week that was! The day after Anzac day, thirty-nine Club members converged on the Kangaroo Valley Bush Retreat in NSW for the annual 'week away'. The Retreat proved ideal – surrounded by thick forest, with a semi circle of spacious cabins, a two storey lodge, and dining-lounge facilities which could accommodate us all for evening meals and social activities.

The area was perfect for a fabulous range of walks of various grades. Each day there was something for everyone, with two or three walks offered – sometimes along rainforest clad streams; sometimes up mountain sides with splendid views of surrounding valleys; sometimes adjacent to cascading waterfalls. With the Pacific Ocean beckoning nearby, coastal walks were offered too.

Bob Shaw did a fantastic job co-ordinating the event, and in many cases, checked out the prospective walk in detail beforehand.

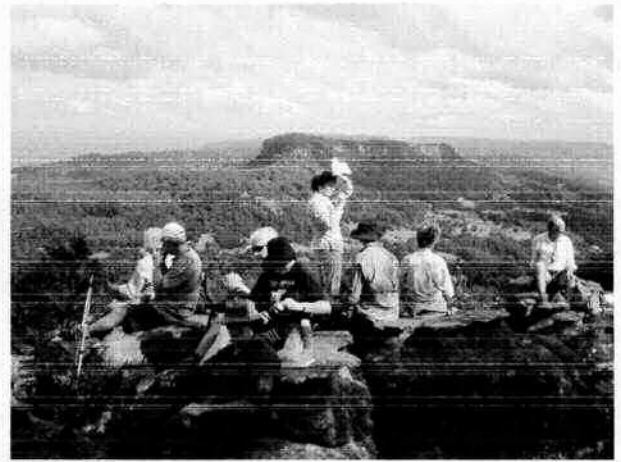
Teams of walkers took turns catering for the rest of the crowd each evening, and splendid menus were offered, though the pre-dinner nibbles (one of which was presented on the camp's deck overlooking the grand sweep of mountain and forest) were usually so generous, that our ravenous appetites were already well satisfied before the real nightly feast began.





'Apres-walks' evenings were full of fun and frivolity. Awards (not always complimentary) were presented to those who had excelled themselves (usually without their knowledge) during the day. Singing and tabletop dancing was prompted by melodious tunes emanating from our ukulele players, Andy Kimber and Rod Davis. Irene Knox could never exit incognito without being serenaded by 'Irene Goodnight'. On the last evening, a wide circle of songsters gathered around a roaring camp fire. Again our ukulele players led the singing. It was a fitting conclusion to the entertainment.

The campers having packed on the final morning, gathered for a reflection in the natural amphitheatre among the rocks. Led by John Van Riet, it was an inspirational finale.



Top left: Kate Murray sings with Andy and Rod.

Bottom left: Beach at Jervis Bay

Right (top to bottom) –
1. At Drawing Room Rocks

2. Paul Davenport and Ursula Cronin in the kitchen

3. Bob Shaw goes over the next day's program.

4. Frieda Andrews being parrot pecked.





JOHN'S REFLECTION

At the conclusion of our week away, John Van Riet reminded us that we were

domiciled in the ancestral home of the Gundungara people. We were asked to imagine family groups meeting for millennia among the rocks where we sat.

We reflected on the friendships made during our time together, on the wonders of the natural environment in which we had wandered, and on the strengthening of the spirit within us.

"The mystery we call God can be discerned in nature if we care to observe and listen", were John's wise counsel.

"The more we can be in tune with nature, the more we can be wholesome people".

What a great thought to take away with us!



Did you leave a rectangular glass plate at the social evening at the Davis's? If so, contact Adrian Twitt 5721 5327.

A JOURNEY TO CHINA

Forty Club members converged at the home of Karen and Rod Davis on May 15th for an evening to hear about Helen Hill's impressions of China. Helen, one of our Club members, spent six months teaching in Suzhou last year. Her superb photography, not unexpectedly, reflects Helen's artistic flair. We not only enjoyed her illustrations of life in China, but her well chosen words, and the sharing of her experiences.

The evening with shared food proved a delightful social event. Thanks to Karen and Rod for their hospitality.

BEAUFORT BOMBER WALK

The current program of walks includes one with a difference. It will track down the site of the wartime crash of a Beaufort bomber in the remote mountains of north-east Victoria.

Jeanette Farquhar has visited the site with Russel Kelly, author of a book on the story of the crash. You might like to read the book beforehand.

"Going My Way – The Story of the Mysterious Crash of a Beaufort Bomber" by Russell J. Kelly is the story of the crash on 4.6.1945 of an RAAF Beaufort bomber in the Mt. Tawonga region of the Mitta Mitta/Kiewa Valley region near Eskdale. With four crew the bomber left Mt. Gambier in South Australia on a training and navigational mission. It flew over Bass Strait and was supposed to land at East Sale RAAF base. The plane ended up more than 100 miles off course. In dense white-out and inclement weather the plane became lost. The plane did identify Albury and radioed back to East Sale that they could see the lights of "Eskdale." According to the legend the RAAF base personnel thought they said "East Sale" and put the plane on a course which meant that they ploughed into the east side of Mt. Tawonga, which is a 1400m plus mountain on the east side of the Kiewa valley. The locals said they heard a loud bang and nothing more.

Subsequently, less than one week after the crash a RAAF inquest was held into the causes of the crash even before there were any rescue efforts to recover the plane and the crew. After two months of inaction where the RAAF had taken aerial photos of the supposed area and no trace was found of what actually occurred some of the crash victim's relatives and locals who had ideas of where the crash actually occurred mounted a search party. They soon found the wreckage and remains of the four airmen in thick forest near the summit of Mt Tawonga. The bodies were recovered and buried with military honours at East Sale. Over the years many locals have salvaged wreckage parts from the site, yet there are still some remains of this Beaufort bomber.

TEN PEAKS CHALLENGE

Interested in tackling Victoria's ten highest peaks? To the right is a listing of them. The Club will be organizing day and weekend walks (in some cases covering more than one peak in the day) over the next 12 to 24 months.

Walhalla Week: 4 – 10 April 2011

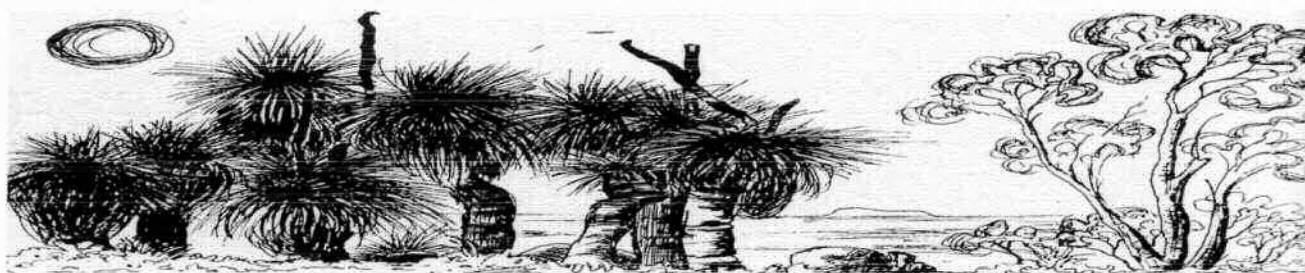
Are you interested in being on the planning committee for this event? Let Bob Shaw know 57662773

FEDERATION WEEKEND

For those not familiar with these weekends, held bi-annually, they are an opportunity to join members from clubs across the State for a program of walks in another locality. Usually our Club enthusiastically supports these weekends (we helped to run the weekend based in Bright four years ago).

This year's program is based in Anglesea. Kerri Davenport is investigating accommodation options, so let Kerri (5726 9376) know soon whether you are interested in going. It would be great to see the usual large contingent from the Warby Walkers.

	Metres
Mt Bogong	1983
Mt Feathertop	1922
Mt Nelse North	1884
Mt Fainter	1876
Mt Loch	1875
Mt Hotham	1860
Mt Niggerhead	1843
Mt McKay	1842
Mt Cope	1837
Mt Spion Kopje	1836



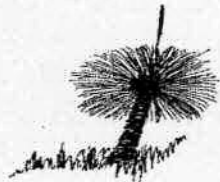
YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR THIRTIETH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS –

Members, Life Members, past members, friends, and families.

Saturday, August 28th

- Morning walk to Pangerang Lookout
- Barbeque lunch Pine Gully
- Afternoon walk, Pine Gully

Contact Adrian Twitt (ph 5721 5327) for details.



WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc. **WALKS PROGRAM**

July - September 2010.

If the leaders cannot be contacted to book a walk ring

Bob Shaw on 5766 2773 or Adrian Twitt 5721 5327

July 3 Saturday	<u>Mt. WARRICK/WABONGA PLATEAU</u> Contact - Allan	MEDIUM 5721 7886
July 18 Sunday	<u>RAAF Beaufort Bomber Crash site</u> <u>Eskdale/Little Snowy Creek</u> Contact - Jeanette	EASY or MEDIUM 5721 6514
July 20 Tuesday	<u>WARBY TOWER CIRCUIT</u> Contact - Adrian	EASY 5721 5327
July 25 Sunday	<u>TOP FALLS, ELDORADO</u> Contact - Murray	EASY or MEDIUM 5721 3730
August 8 Sunday	<u>WHITE BOX, CHILTERN</u> Contact - Murray	EASY 5721 3730
August 22 Sunday	<u>TAWONGA GAP</u> <u>TO FREEBURGH</u> Contact - Bob	EASY/MEDIUM or MEDIUM/HARD 57 662 773
August 23 Monday, 7.00 pm.	Walks Committee Meeting at Peter & Kate Murray's, 8 Parish Lane, Killawarra. All members welcome.	5726 9337
August 25 Wednesday	<u>SALISBURY FALLS</u> <u>TO KWAT KWAT LOOKOUT</u> Contact - Andy	EASY 5766 2207
August 28 Saturday	<u>Warby Walkers 30th Anniversary Walks</u> <u>and Luncheon, Pine Gully Picnic Area</u> Contact - Adrian	EASY 5721 5327
September (3), 4, 5. (Friday), Saturday, Sunday	<u>MT HOTHAM - SNOWSHOEING</u> <u>WEEKEND</u> Contact Gary or Helen Batchelor	EASY or MEDIUM or HARD 5722 2757 for details
September 11 Saturday	<u>Mt. STANLEY</u> Contact - Trevor	HARD 5721 6215
September 16 Thursday	<u>GAPSTED HILLS HISTORICAL WALK</u> Contact - Jan	EASY 5727 1347
September 26 th Sunday	<u>THE PINNACLES, HAPPY VALLEY</u> Contact - Bob	MEDIUM 5766 2773
October (8), 9, 10. (Friday), Saturday, Sunday	<u>FEDERATION WALKS WEEKEND,</u> <u>ANGLESEA</u> Contact - Kerri	5726 9376 for details

Mt. WARRICK/WABONGA PLATEAU – Cascading waterfalls, clear mountain streams, and spectacular views of the Alps are all features of this part of the Alpine National Park. This 14 km. walk includes an ascent of Mt. Warrick from which wonderful views of the Rose and Dandongadale River valleys can be seen. Paradise Falls, an easy 30 minute return walk can also be visited if so desired.

RAAF Beaufort Bomber Crash site Eskdale/Little Snowy Creek – There is a 123 km. drive (1.5 hours) to arrive first at the small town of Eskdale on the Omeo Highway in the Mitta Valley. The walk to the crash site is uphill on a 4WD track for 6km, then a 0.5km bush bash to the actual wreckage where four RAAF personnel died one week before VE Day in 1945. This is a walk with a difference to a truly historical and tragic site on the east side of Mt Tawonga, which is between the Kiewa and Mitta Valleys. Those who want to walk an easier distance can start further up the 4WD Fleurty's Track. An 8.00am start from Wangaratta is essential.

WARBY TOWER CIRCUIT – a largely easy 8 km. walk with some short, steep pinches all within the vicinity of the Warby Tower Picnic area, with some excellent views across the Ovens Valley. The walk will not always follow tracks.

TOP FALLS, ELDORADO – an Easy or Medium Walk in the Eldorado area, depending on how much of the 12 km. you want to cover. There are some attractive waterfall sites to be visited as well as some large outcrops of flat rocky areas and evidence of gold mining from past eras.

WHITE BOX, CHILTERN – a pleasant 9 km walk in the Chiltern – Mt. Pilot National Park on well designated tracks, where significant areas of interest are well signposted and explained. There is an abundance of bird life, old gold mining areas, mullock heaps and extensive evidence of prospecting.

TAWONGA GAP TO FREEBURGH – this 19 km Medium/Hard walk starts with views across the Kiewa Valley to Mt Bogong. It follows 4WD tracks along the west Kiewa Valley spur then drops down gradually via Lawlor Falls to Snowy Creek and Freeburgh village on the Upper Ovens Valley. A shorter 8 km. walk offered would be along the Kiewa Valley spur and then return to Tawonga Gap. An 8.00am start from Wangaratta is essential.

SALISBURY FALLS TO KWAT KWAT – one of the best walks in the Warby Range, this graded easy 12 km walk over a variety of terrain provides commanding views of the Ovens and King Valleys including Wangaratta. The falls are at their best in late winter.

Warby Walkers 30th ANNIVERSARY WALKS AND LUNCHEON, Pine Gully Picnic Area To celebrate our 30th birthday, we are having a morning walk to Pangerang Lookout, and an afternoon walk on the Pine Gully circuit with its attractive falls and wildflowers. Both are easy walks. A barbeque lunch will be held at the picnic site at Pine Gully between walks. Members, former members, and families are welcome to come to any or all of the three activities. For details contact Adrian Twitt 5721 5327.

SNOW WALKING at Mt. HOTHAM. Keep this weekend FREE on your 2010 Calendar – Snowshoeing can be undertaken if you are 8 or 80!! We will be accommodated in a lodge at Hotham for around \$50 a night on Sept 3 and/or 4. There will be snow shoeing on both days with a social event on the Sat. night. Contact Helen or Garry Batchelor on 5722 2757 for further details.

Mt. STANLEY – Mt Stanley commands terrific views of the surrounding valleys and the Victorian Alps. This hard walk is 15 km and takes 6 hours. It commences on the Myrtleford Yackandandah Rd. and rises 900 metres to the summit.

GAPSTED HILLS HISTORICAL WALK – Jan Heywood has a wealth of knowledge about the Gapsted gold mining area and can explain the history, pointing out locations, houses and stories from a past era, on this 8 km ramble.

THE PINNACLES, HAPPY VALLEY. From the Happy Valley Rd., “The Pinnacles” stand out as ‘real’ mountains that beckon to be scaled. Led by Don Ingram of the Border Bushwalking Club, there will be some bush bashing and steep climbing, though the distance is quite short. The views across the beautiful Happy Valley and towards Mt. Buffalo, will be spectacular.

FEDERATION WALKS WEEKEND - a biannual event in which all members of walking clubs in Victoria are invited. This year, Anglesea it to be the base. A variety of walks will suit all participants. There will be more details in the next newsletter, but accommodation arrangements will need to be made well in advance.

NEWSLETTER 4, 2010

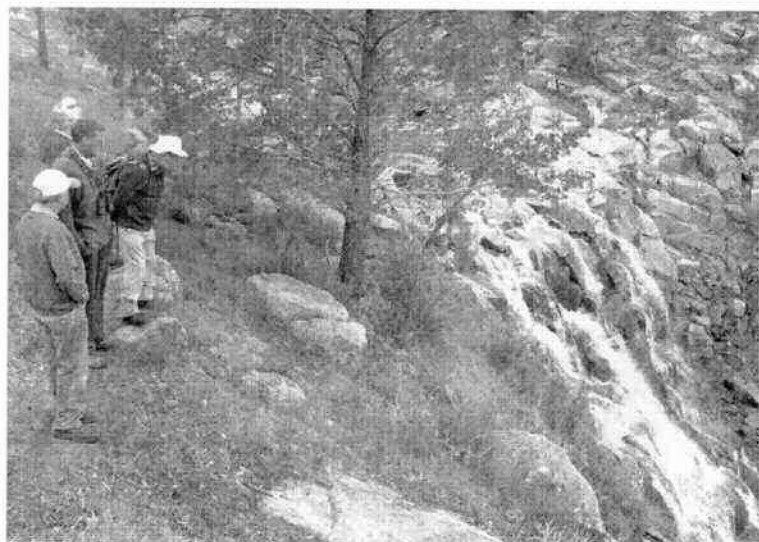
OUR THIRTIETH CELEBRATED

Forty-seven members, former members and guests converged on Pine Gully on 28th August for the Warby Range Bushwalkers 30th birthday celebration. What an occasion! The weather was as close to perfect as you can get at the end of winter, and the copious rains of the previous weeks meant that the waterfalls were at their best. We all had a spring in our feet as we observed the Warbys coming to life after years of drought.

It was great to see former members including past presidents, walks co-ordinator, and especially Helen and Peter Curtis who led the first walk in September 1980, which appropriately went via Pine Gully.

The snug barbeque site with shared salads and slices became an excellent meeting point for lunch in what turned out to be a friendly social occasion. Judy Shaw produced a superb birthday cake decorated with a grass tree – the Club's emblem.

Most partook of the walks to Pangerang Lookout and the Pine Gully Circuit before and after lunch. Thirty years ago, the tracks for those walks didn't exist. Now the Warbys are part of a newly declared National Park, the successor of the State Park which was formed not long before the walking club was founded. (see later)



Top: Peter and Helen Curtis cutting the 30th birthday cake with some of the club members of the 1980s looking on.

Middle: Alan Raison peers over the cliff towards the Pine Gully falls. President Peter Murray, Rod Davis and Helen Twitt look on.

Bottom: Youngest walker, Edwin Phillips enjoying the walk back from Pangerang Lookout

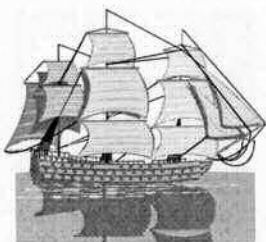
CLUB NEWS

Vale Isobel Moore

(9 Aug 1929-
26 July 2010)

Those of us who knew Isobel Moore, long time member of the Warby Walkers, are saddened by her death. Isobel was an enthusiastic Club member, participating in many of our walks and extended trips. Isobel was a conscientious Committee member, walks leader, and Club treasurer for some time. She had been suffering ill health in the last year or two, but still involved herself in community activities until early this year.

Graeme Fairley, one of the earliest members of the Walking Club, also died recently. Graeme, who like Isabel, lived at St John's Village, was a walk's leader, and arranged the first visit to the Grampians for the Club in 1982.



A First Fleeter in Our Midst

Pat Kuhle's modesty is something we've all grown to respect. It was with great surprise to the editor to discover that Pat is a descendant of a First Fleeter.

A casual borrowing of a book in Pat's possession about her family background led to my 'discovery'. What a surprise to read about Nathaniel Lucas! Nathaniel received a free passage on a transport ship in the First Fleet. He actually arrived in NSW on 19th January 1788, seven days before the raising of the Union Jack at Sydney Cove. Olivier, Nathaniel's wife-to-be, sailed into Botany bay a day later. Pat is directly descended from the couple.



Oddly, and unintentionally, Pat's grandson is called Lucas Nathaniel!

Hats off to Pat and her predecessors who made a new and productive life for themselves in Australia. Now we know the source of Pat's enthusiastic determination.

Walkers on the Move

Immediate Past President, Kerry Davenport and Paul have at long last moved to their long awaited new residence in Londrigan. They are closer to the mountains, but on an area of flat land for Paul to take off and fly his aeroplane. We are all looking forward to an inspection at the house warming coming up (see program).



Kerri and Paul
relaxing after a
hard time
shifting house?

And More News

Irene Knox and Glenda Hall had some adventures on their recent trip to The Centre and elsewhere. The rough Mereenie Loop managed to damage the undercarriage of Irene's 4x4, rendering it undrivable. Having spent many hours on the roadside, and days in Alice Springs (with an idiot pranging their hire care – hired courtesy of RACV Total Care), their travel schedule had to be somewhat rearranged. Irene and Glenda still managed to laugh about it.

Ken and Joan Ellis's experiences were relatively benign in comparison. Their mechanical problems did not delay them on their trip to the Territory.

Ken and Joan had a delightful time exploring the top end.

Andy Kimber and Liz Walpole have returned from their trip to East Timor where they are involved in development goals. For Liz, it was her third trip to the Lacluta area which has a sister relationship with Wangaratta. Andy is a seasoned traveller to Indonesia, but this was a first to Timor. They have returned with some positive ideas on what can be done to help a poor community in one of the world's poorest country. Andy will be speaking at our October social event (see later).

John Van Riet is back from Holland having enjoyed retracing his childhood steps and re-connecting with relatives.

Helen Hill has enjoyed a month in South Korea teaching English and exploring the country. She is about to leave for Azerbaijan to see her son, and Cape Town to see her daughter. Her family is certainly scattered!

Adrian and Helen Twitt also have family in Africa and will have left for Tanzania to see their younger son, Craig, as this newsletter goes to print.

President Peter Murray and Kate are 'doing the Camino' or at least part thereof. It's the medieval pilgrimage route from France to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. They plan to do 270 km of the pilgrimage. The hardest part will be the crossing of the Pyrenees. What an adventure!



Walhalla Week:

29 April - 4 May 2011

Reserve this date in your diary for next year's 'week away'. More details in next newsletter.

CLUB SUPPORT FOR RELAY FOR LIFE

Most of us have been touched by someone who has been afflicted by cancer, not the least Glenda Hall who lost her husband to cancer a number of years ago.



Glenda is organizing a fund-raising event for 'Relay for Life'. This will be a walk in the Warbys followed by a gourmet bbq lunch on **Sunday, 19 September**. Participants pay (donate) \$20 and that includes your lunch.

and/or

You can join the team to enter the 'Relay for Life' on **Sat-Sun 2nd - 3rd October**. The team member charge is \$15.

We would love to make these events successful. Please phone Glenda 5721 5114 or 0417 593 676 for details and bookings.

FEDERATION WALKS WEEKEND 8-10 October Anglesea

This biannual weekend organized by Bushwalking Victoria for the enjoyment of members of bushwalking clubs across the state, is located close to some of the most scenic coastal areas in Victoria.

Renata Lewis has offered her holiday house at Anglesea for the Warby Walkers, so accommodation is readily available, but you do need to register immediately.

To book for walks, contact Bob Shaw 5766 2773, and to arrange accommodation, phone Kerri Davenport 5725 1480.



NAVIGATIONAL AIDS

Apart from encouraging all our walkers to carry a simple compass, most of our walkers depend on the expertise of our leaders. Our Committee wonders whether this is enough.

Paul Davenport gave a great run-down on the pros and cons of GPS systems, alert devices, and two-way communication systems at our recent meeting. He will do some costings and recommendations for us to consider which are most suitable to our needs.

SOME DATES FOR NEXT YEAR

Apart from the dates for the 'week-away' in the Walhalla area (see elsewhere), there are some events early next year you should enter into your 2011 diary. There will be more details in the next newsletter.

- **Mittagundi weekend**, Thurs 13 to Sun 16 January. Mittagundi is an outdoor education camp in the Mitta Valley. The plan is to do an overnight walk Thurs-Fri from the Bogong High Plains to Mittagundi (optional) and to have walks in the Glen Valley area, staying at Glen Valley Lodge on Friday and Saturday nights.
- **Wangaratta Ski Club weekend**, 25-27 February. Walks will be held to The Twins, and down the Bon Accord Track. Accommodation at WSC Lodge.



A PEEP INTO THE PAST- a bushwalker in the Warbies in 1885

"A friend invited me to join him on a pedestrian excursion ... about 8 miles from the lively little town of Wangaratta. . . we set out

and after nearly a mile of rising ground, reached the base of 'The Gorge'. To the right of us a perpendicular wall of solid rock towers up fully 60 ft. over our heads, and on either side, rugged sides of the hill approach it and form a V. These sides are dotted with stupendous rocks, split and jagged by some great convulsion of nature and strewn about in wild profusion. From fissures, ferns protrude, myriads of beautiful flowers and herbs give forth a fragrant scent and the curious grass tree is in abundance. Overhead birds of gay and brilliant plumage poured forth their melodies.

We commenced an ascent (impossible for a lady) and reached the top of the rock and the series of pools of clear water, about a score in number – the first just on the brink of the cliff, then a flight of steps of solid stone waterworn and smooth, a few feet higher, then another pool, more steps, then another pool and so on. Pools range from 3 to 8 or 10 ft in depth and in winter unite to form a small cataract which rushes over the cliff like a diminutive Niagara . . . Continuing our ascent we disturbed several large goannas moving lazily through shallow parts of the pools. We smoked and drank . . . and surveyed the scene below us. In the centre, Wangaratta, hot and smokey Below lay the valley in its peaceful gradients, a peace only broken by the carol of birds and hum of busy bees. Nature in its entirety, unimproved, unaltered by the ravages of man. What a change from the city, and still there are many people in and around Wangaratta who tell you there is not any nice place in the vicinity where they can go for a picnic, and that the scenery is too flat. Is it?"

"Desdichads" 14 November 1885 (from the Wangaratta Chronicle)

Editor: Some things never change, but maybe plenty of our lady members can climb heights with ease.

SOME HISTORICAL STEPS TOWARDS SAFEGUARDING THE WARBY RANGE.

- May 1964, the Upper Goulburn Regional Committee proposed a Warby Range sanctuary and national park which "would have great recreational and educational value and serve the people increasingly as the years pass."
- Victorian National Parks Association supports the above proposal.
- January 1972, Secretary of the Conservation Council of Victoria supports the permanent preservation of the range.
- August 1974, National Trust of Australia (Victoria) noted the floral and faunal attributes of the Warby Range, including the only known individual surviving Northern Sandalwood species, and two acacia species not found elsewhere in Victoria. It saw threats from subdivision, extension of orcharding and unmanaged tourist access.
- April 1975, concerned citizens of the Wangaratta area held the inaugural meeting of the Warby Range Protection Society, an event triggered by a mining lease taken out in the Range by ICI.
- September 1975, first land purchase by the Victorian Government to extend the Salisbury Falls Reserve.
- October 1975, appointment recommended for National Parks Service to manage crown lands in the Warby Range.
- September 1976, Warby Range Symposium held at The Centre.
- October 1977, first annual Warby Walkabout held.

- July 1978, Victorian Government purchased additional land to supplement the Jubilee (Brien's Gorge) Falls Reserve.
- March 1978, Benalla Shire joins Wangaratta Shire regulating minimum subdivision to 40 hectares.
- 1979, the Warby Range State Park declared.
- 2 September 1980, inaugural meeting of the Walking Group.

NOTES FROM THE WALKING CLUB'S EARLY REPORTS.

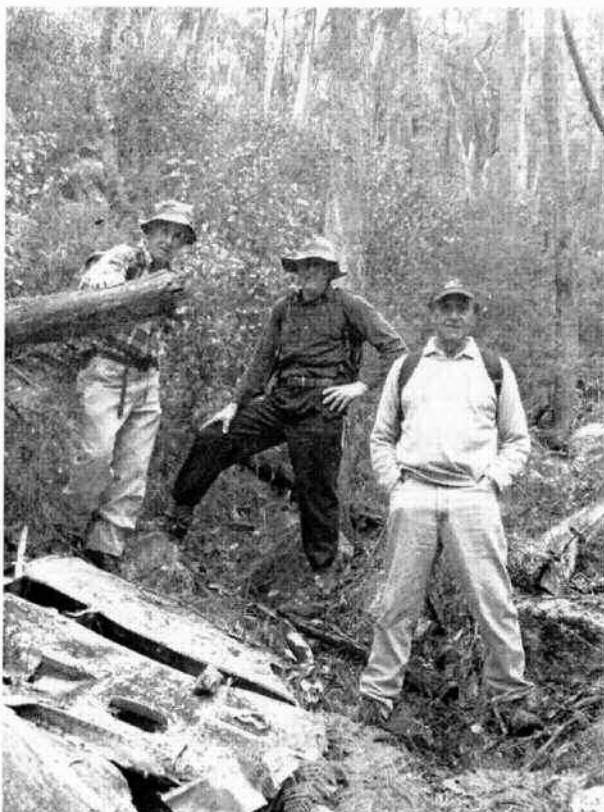
1981 "The Walking Club of the Warby Range Protection Society was formed in September 1980. The group has enjoyed day walks in the North East. Walks have been held in the Warby Ranges, Mount Buffalo, Mount St Bernard – The Twins, Moyhu, Chiltern, and Eldorado and have been well attended. The group would like to thank Helen Curtis for arranging the programme and to the leaders of each walk."

1984 "That lusty off-spring of the Society, the WALKING CLUB has again gone its pleasurable energetic way, with day and over-night walks conducted on a regular basis. The day walks have been most enjoyable, but probably the over-night walks and camps have been the high-light of the year. The trips to the Wabonga Plateau and Bogong High Plains were particularly memorable and educational for those who participated, and even for the 'drop-out' President (Paul Larkings). Many thanks to Arnold Piesse for his efficient organization and to both Arnold and the willing group of leaders for their assistance in that direction."

A FORMER DROUGHT

At long last the Warbies are recovering from the droughts of the last decade. Drought has affected the Warbys before. It's interesting to read some thoughts about the 1982 drought penned by Paul Larkins. Paul was a Wangaratta Shire Councillor, and avid conservationist, orchardist, bushwalker and president for many years of the Warby Range Protection Society. Larkins Corner near Ryans Lookout is named after him.

"Our beloved Warbys", writes Paul, "seem to be going through a trying time, - life continues as it were, dependant on a dew-drop. A recent walk did not reveal the wet gullies and the soft springy feel underfoot, only an ominous crunching sound. The little winter plants seem reluctant to show themselves, and save for the occasional wattle, all is austerity." (August 1982)



Winter Walks 2010.

Although winter reverted to type, with fogs, frost and more rain than we've seen in recent years, few if any walks had to be cancelled due to the weather. The variety of walks meant that everyone's capabilities were served. Three different walks are pictured here.

Top left: An August walk in the Warbys which Andy Kimber called the 'Womboyn Walk' started at Sunrise Track. Pictured is Jan Heywood doing a fence crawl, assisted by Jo Dolling and Helen Twitt. Andy is the concerned leader.

Above: Pat Kuhle is silhouetted in the fog during the June walk to the stunning Mt Tabletop in N.S.W.

Left: Alan Raison, Murray Shaw and Russell Kelly at the Beaufort Bomber site, high in the hills above Eskdale during July. Russell Kelly, aviator and guide, has written a book on the crash. His book, purchased by the Club, is available from Walks Co-ordinator Bob Shaw.



WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc. **WALKS PROGRAM**

October - December 2010.

If the leaders cannot be contacted to book a walk ring Bob on 5766 2773 or Adrian 5721 5327

September 19 Sunday	<u>RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM</u> Fundraising Walks in the Warbys Contact - Glenda	EASY/MEDIUM 5721 5114
September 26 Sunday	<u>THE PINNACLES</u> Contact Bob	MEDIUM 5766 2773
October 3	<u>DISCOVER THE WARBY RANGE</u> Contact Bob Morrison	EASY 5766 2734
October 10 Sunday	<u>BIRD WATCHER'S SPRING DELIGHT IN THE WARBYS</u> Contact - Karen	EASY 5722 2540 or 0409 215 286
October 8 -10 Friday, Saturday, Sunday	<u>FEDERATION WALKS</u> at Anglesea Contact Kerri for accommodation Contact Bob for booking walks	EASY or MEDIUM or HARD 5726 9 376 5766 2773
October 16 Saturday	<u>EMBLING RD. GLENROWAN WEST.</u> WALK and BBQ Contact - Jo	EASY /MEDIUM 5762 2002
October 21 Thursday	<u>MT GLENROWAN, CHICK HILL AND HAMILTON PARK</u> Contact - Bob	EASY/MEDIUM 5766 2773
October 23 Saturday	<u>BEECHWORTH HERITAGE WALK</u> Contact - Andy <u>HOUSEWARMING</u> at the Davenport's, Londrigan. Andy's talk on East Timor. 6.30pm onwards Contact - Kerri	EASY/MEDIUM 5766 2207 5626 9376
November 6 Saturday	<u>SALISBURY FALLS to MT WARBY</u> with Bushwalking Victoria committee members, other walkers and our members. Contact - Peter	EASY 5726 9337
November 7, Sunday	<u>ESKDALE SPUR, MT. EMU AND KIEWA VALLEY</u> Contact - Bob	EASY/MEDIUM to HARD 5766 2773
November 8 Monday, 7.00 pm.	<u>WALKS COMMITTEE MEETING</u> at Karen's, 154 Rowan Wangaratta	EASY for ALL MEMBERS 5722 2540 or 0409 215 286
November 9 Tuesday	<u>FRIEND'S TRACK</u> Contact - Adrian	EASY 5721 5327
November 13 Saturday	<u>BAXTER and LUMBY BEND</u> Contact - Peter	EASY 5726 9337
November 28 Sunday	<u>MOUNTAIN CREEK to MT. BOGONG</u> Contact - Trevor	HARD to VERY HARD 5721 6215 or 0409 208 218
December (3), 4 and 5 (Fri), Saturday, Sunday	<u>MT. BUFFALO WEEKEND</u> - Camping and walking. Contact - Murray	EASY or MEDIUM or HARD 5721 3730
December 9 Thursday	<u>CARBOOR RANGE</u> Contact - Jan	EASY/MEDIUM 5727 1347
December 10 th Friday, 6.30pm onwards	<u>CHRISTMAS PARTY</u> at Helen and John Van Riet's 475 Shanley Street, Wangaratta	EASY for ALL MEMBERS 5725 7207
December 18 and 19, Saturday, Sunday	<u>RAZORBACK TO FEATHERTOP</u> , Federation Hut overnight then down the NW Spur. Or day walk - Razorback, Bungalow Spur to Harrierville. Contact - Paul	MEDIUM/HARD to HARD 5726 9376

September 19 Sunday – RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM FUNDRAISER 3 walks – Taffe lane, Sunrise Track and Taminick to Mt Glenrowan to Chick Hill. All walks finish at Hamilton Park's BBQ area for lunch/drinks. The cost is \$20.00 per person.

October 3 Sunday – DISCOVER THE WARBY RANGE Meet Park Ranger Chris Mercier on a guided tour to Mt Glenrowan. Chris will point out the natural features of the area on the hour every hour from 11 am – 3 pm for 45 mins.

October 10 Sunday - SPRING DELIGHT IN THE WARBYS – This is an 8 -10 km Easy graded walk off the beaten track into relatively unknown parts of the Warbys. With experienced bird watchers and botanists to assist discover the unique wild flowers (will be fantastic this year) and birds in our own backyard. Bring binoculars if you have them.

October 8 -10 FEDERATION WALKS WEEKEND, with Anglesea as its base. Contact Kerri on 5726 9376 for accommodation for this 2-3 days on the Victorian south- west coast. Contact Bob for details on all the walks offered - NOW.

October 16 Saturday – EMBLING RD. WALK This 12 km walk commences at Jo Dolling's property "Ourill" on Wattle Creek Rd. with an 8.00am start. The 12 km Easy Medium walk occurs on undulating surfaces with many parts covered by the canopy of trees. The 4 hour walk includes Granite Rd., Embling Rd., Great West Rd., and finally back to Jo's for a BBQ Lunch of snags/veggie burgers, coleslaw and tea/coffee.

October 21 Thursday – MT GLENROWAN, CHICK HILL AND HAMILTON PARK. This 12 km walk commences at Taminick Gap and proceeds south on 4WD tracks to Mt. Glenrowan. The return trip is via Chick Hill to Hamilton Park for morning tea then a short walk or car shuttle back to Taminick Gap.

October 23 Saturday - BEECHWORTH HERITAGE WALK. Beechworth is one of only two towns in Victoria classified as "notable" by the National Trust, with over 30 local buildings on the Trust's register. This 8 km. walk focuses on history. From 6.30 pm House warming at Kerri and Paul's BYO Drinks, chairs, salad or dessert to share as discussed with Kerri.

November 6 Saturday - Doug Kneen of the Benalla Bushwalking Club is on the executive of Bushwalking Victoria and has invited walkers from other district walking clubs as well as our club members to join the executive on this Easy walk of 6 km on the Warby plateau. The wild flowers this spring promise to be splendid and the falls should still be flowing. While the first part of the walk is steep the rest is considered easy with gentle slopes.

November 7 Sunday - ESKDALE SPUR, MT. EMU AND KIEWA VALLEY. The Easy/Medium walks of 6 – 10 km are in the Mountain Ck area; the Medium walk of 10 km. is from Trappers Gap (1000m.) to Mount Emu (1360m.) with its magnificent views across the valley to Mt. Bogong. The Hard walk of 16 km. is from Trappers Gap to Mt. Emu with its helipad and panoramic views of the Bogong High Plains, then along 4WD tracks of the Eskdale Spur to eventually descend via Rockbank Track to the floor of the Kiewa Valley. A "Plan B" at a lower altitude, will be organized in case the weather is at all risky.

November 9 Tuesday - FRIEND'S TRACK. A moderate 4.6km loop taking about 2 – 3 hours to complete. It starts at Wenham's camp with Information stations along the way to describe the vegetation communities. There is a diversion to Kwat Kwat Lookout for magnificent views across the Ovens Valley and Victorian Alps

November 13 Saturday - BAXTER and LUMBY BEND. This riverside walk (8 – 10 km.) partly follows the banks of the Murray River and is therefore shaded most of the way. There will be stops along the riverside and lagoons. We hope to see cockatoos, water birds, kangaroos and other wildlife

November 28 Sunday - MOUNTAIN CREEK, MT. BOGONG and CLEVE COLE HUT. The Very Hard 20 km. walk is from Mountain Creek, ascending the Staircase to the top of Victoria's highest mountain and proceeding to Cleve Cole hut, then retracing your steps back to Mountain Creek. The Hard 16 km walk is from Mountain Creek, ascending the Staircase to the top of Victoria's highest mountain and return. Walkers are encouraged to camp at Mountain Ck as this will be an 8.00am start. Also there will be a "Plan B" organized for walking at a lower altitude, in case the weather is at all risky.

December (3), 4 and 5, (Friday), Saturday, Sunday - MT. BUFFALO WEEKEND of walks and camping if so desired. Participants can camp at Lake Catani on the Buffalo Plateau from the Friday onwards, or overnight if they so desire. Participants can be involved all weekend or for any of the days mentioned. The aim is to use experienced walkers to conduct Easy, Medium and Harder walks on each of the days. Walks could include some of the following – Easy walks - The Monolith, The Chalet area, Tatra, Mac's Point, Dickson's Falls: Medium Walks - Mt. McLeod, Rocky Creek Tk, Tatra/Back Wall, Mount Dunn, Devil's Couch: Medium/Hard walks - Mollison's Galleries, Eurobin Ck./Rollison's Falls, Big Walk

December 9 Thursday CARBOOR RANGE This short to medium length walk follows a ridge with spectacular views of Mt Buffalo and surrounding valleys. Much of it is through attractive bushland.

December 10th Friday, CHRISTMAS PARTY at Helen and John Van Riet's. Details in our next newsletter.

December 18 and 19, Saturday, Sunday - A 15 km Hard overnight walk for backpackers on the Saturday from Diamantina Hut, across the RAZORBACK TO FEATHERTOP, then to Federation Hut overnight. The Sunday walk is 15 km. down the N.W. Spur back to the Ovens valley. The Hard one day walk of 24 km starts at the Diamantina Hut continues along the Razorback, to Mt Feather top then down the Bungalow Spur to Harrietville. Walkers are encouraged to camp at Harrietville on Friday 17th Dec. as this will be an 8.00am start on the Saturday. There will be "Plan B" organized if the weather is risky.