

WARBY RANGE
BUSHWALKERS
2011



WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc.

NEWSLETTER 1, 2011



OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY

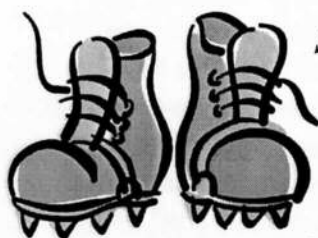
Always a fun event, the 2010 Christmas party is on Friday evening, 10th December at 6.30 pm at Helen and John Van Riets home.

The Van Riets live at the foot of the Warbys at the end of Shanley Street. They have one of the prize native gardens of north-eastern Victoria. John will speak about his return earlier this year to his childhood haunts in Holland.

As usual, we are having a shared meal, with barbeque. You need to bring meat, drinks, your own eating and drinking utensils, and a folding chair.

Phone the Van Riets (5725 7207) to book in and indicate whether you are bringing a salad or a sweet.

Even if you haven't been for many walks this year, do come. It's a great chance to socialize.



SOME WALK WEEKENDS (AND WEEKS) COMING UP

As usual, the Club has programmed a fantastic range of events for the coming quarter. Two of them involve weekends where inexpensive accommodation is available. You need to book for these early, so study the booking deadlines, so that the appropriate arrangements can be made.

Don't forget the **Mt Buffalo Weekend Dec. 4/5** and the **Razorback to Feathertop walk, Dec. 18/19** (see last programme).

In mid-January, we have a **Mittagundi weekend**. For those who haven't heard of Mittagundi, it is an outdoor education centre in an isolated area in the Mitta Valley on the eastern flank of the Bogong High Plains. Each year in January, they have a Pioneer Skills celebration and open day. On Friday evening, there is a bush dance in the Glen Valley Hall preceded by a barbeque. The next day, a range of activities relating to pioneer skills takes place, and on the Saturday evening, a roast meal and poetry readings occur. Therefore we will only need to take breakfasts and lunches.

We have booked the Glen Valley Lodge, a self catering place nestled in a beautiful valley, several kilometres from Mittagundi. The lodge has several bedrooms (\$20 per person), and a grassy area outside for tents (\$10 per person).

Walks are being organized for Saturday morning and Sunday. It is 200 km of slow driving to Glen Valley, so we will be returning to Wangaratta mid-afternoon on Sunday.

For those who wish, there is an amazing largely downhill walk from Watchbed Creek near Falls Creek to Mittagundi. This will be on Friday, and with an early start, walkers will arrive at Mittagundi in time check in at the accommodation and to freshen up for the bush dance.

It is imperative that you phone Adrian Twitt (5721 5327) and book accommodation, as well as indicating your walk intentions by December 18th.

NEW MEMBERS EXTEND OUR NUMBERS ABOVE A HUNDRED

- On February 26-27, we will have an **Alpine Walks Weekend**. It's an ideal way of beating the heat, but keep in mind that any type of weather can occur and alpine gear is necessary (for this and any high country walks we do).

We have booked the Wangaratta Ski Lodge. It is \$20 per person to stay each night - a bargain considering the facilities and the views.

On Saturday we will have walks leaving from the lodge itself, towards The Twins, which are 1703 metres high (noting that the Ski Lodge is at 1400m), and not a difficult climb for those who wish to do it. The panorama at the top rewards anyone who does it.

On Sunday, we will drive 8 km to the Diamantina Hut on the Great Alpine Road. Those who want an easy day, will be able to walk to the Bon Accord hut from there and return. The rest will continue down the Bon Accord Track to Harrietville.

Please book this weekend with Adrian (5721 5327) by January 31st.

- **The Walhalla Week, April 29 – 4 May** is approaching. A committee to plan the walks has met, and the Rawson Village Holiday resort has been booked. We have exclusive use of the resort, and twin share and triple share rooms are available. The price is \$45 per person per night. We are staying five nights.

This locality is one of the most spectacular areas for forest and mountain bushwalking in Victoria, and includes old mining towns and railways

After the 2010 Shoalhaven week, many of us are looking forward to the 2011 event.

To reserve your place, you must pay \$50 per person deposit to Maureen Phillips, The Treasurer, Warby Range Bushwalkers, 8 Park Cres, Wangaratta 3677, by 31st January.

Yvonne and
Chris
McLaughlin
– new
members



Our Club keeps growing. Recently, we passed 100 members, which we think is a record.

Recently we welcomed new members, Yvonne and Chris McLaughlin. Their first walk with us along the Friends Track was an excellent introduction to the Warbys.

Yvonne and Chris lost their holiday house in Marysville in the Black Saturday fires, and although their residence in South Melbourne was far from the scene of the disaster, they have decided to start afresh in the country. Wangaratta has been their choice.

"We really enjoy outdoor activities, and are looking forward to exploring the area," say Yvonne and Chris. "We both work part-time in a publishing business we run from a home-based office, focusing on travel guides (within Australia) with an outdoors theme (camping, 4wd activities, paddling etc). Having moved from a small terrace house with a tiny courtyard to a 'normal' house with garden is providing lots of interest. Our two West Highland Terriers love the garden and we are getting used to activities like lawn mowing and weeding!"

WARBYS CALENDAR There is a fantastic 2011 calendar available on the Warbys, produced by local environmentalists, Glen Schofield and Jan Osmotherly. Each month has a lovely colour picture of an aspect of the Range.

If you want to make orders, just email Jan or Glen on osfield@optusnet.com.au or phone them on 5766 2626. They cost \$25 each.

(Your editor saw a copy on the net and couldn't resist making an immediate multi order)

THE SPRING THAT SPRANG

What a great Spring it has been! That is if you could catch a fine weekend. Fortunately, our walks program was relatively unaffected by the copious rains, except for Peter Murray's walk along the Murray (River, that is), which had to be cancelled because the river was in flood.

Instead the walk was shifted to the Killawarra Forest. Karen Davis organized track clearing along the Killawarra Garden Walk, noted for its flowers but slightly overgrown. The rain even held out for that event too!

Jo Dolling's barbeque lunch after a walk in the Upper Lurg hills was a great idea. It was a bleak day, with snow falling on the mountains, but the day was enjoyed by all.

Another 'new' slant on things was the bird watching walk in the Warbys led by Karen Davis, and joined by a contingent of 8 from the Eltham club.

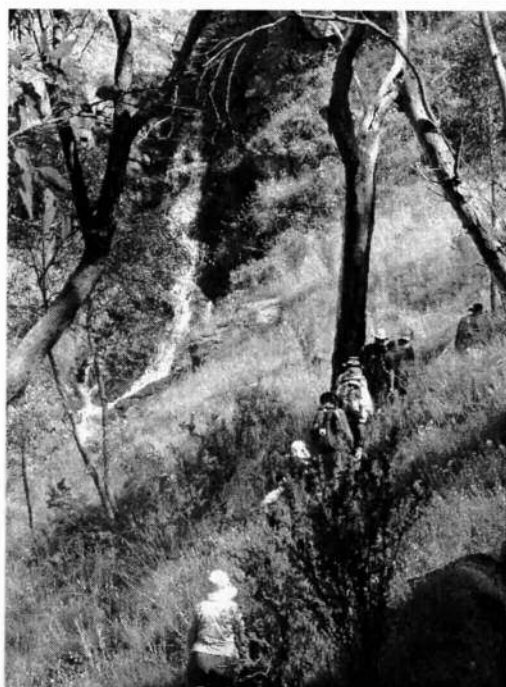
It was the season for the Warbys. The waterfalls and creeks were gushing, the birds singing, and the wildflowers were out in abundance. It is some time since we have seen such a variety of orchids in the Range.

We have had several walks in the Warbys. It was a great opportunity to show them off when we joined the Bushwalking Victoria State Committee and members of three other clubs on November 6th – Benalla, Cobram and Border – on a walk commencing at the delightful Salisbury Falls. With 37 participants, it was slow going. Cameras clicked away enroute from Salisbury Falls to Wenhams and back, as our visitors took in the delights.

A barbeque tea was held at the nearby Kneens residence that evening, and by all accounts it was a very pleasant evening. Doug and Laurice are great hosts. Doug, a member of Benalla Bushwalkers, is on the State Committee, and had arranged for the visit of the guests. Thanks Doug!



Jo Dolling (second from left) with some of the walkers at Upper Lurg



Left: Some of the 37 walkers passing Salisbury Falls on November 6th

Below: Aileen Caldwell points out an orchid on the Friends Track walk.



RELAY FOR LIFE

Congratulations to Glenda Hall for



organizing a Relay for Life event as part of our club program. The activity raised \$1000.

Many of the 40 participants were first time bush walkers – all enjoying the day.

Three walks

were offered – an easy one led by Rosy Lane, along Taffe Rd; a medium one led by Murray Shaw on the Sunrise Track; and a hard one led by Bob Shaw, which included Mt Glenrowan and a scramble down Chick Hill.

All walks culminated at the Hamilton Park community area where a BBQ was held.

HAVE YOU HEARD OF YOHANI KNYALA LAUWO?

Adrian and Helen Twitt hadn't heard of this person either, until their visit to Tanzania recently. Lauwo guided the first European up Mt Kilimanjaro in 1889. His name had all but been forgotten, overshadowed by Hans Meyer, the German climber who had engaged him for the expedition.

Then in 1989, the centenary of the 'conquest' of Kilimanjaro was celebrated. Lauwo came to the celebrations. He was then 119 years old. Lauwo died in 1995.

SANTIAGO OR BUST

Have you heard of the Camino? It's the pilgrimage walk which runs hundreds of kilometres through France to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Our President, Peter, and Kate Murray walked 280 km of the route recently.

Peter writes:

Like most we walk for different reasons. Even Kate and I found our reasons differed on the first day of the Le Camino de la Compostella as we talked and climbed the French Pyrenees Mountains on a sunny Autumn day. The views were picturesque, other walkers friendly as we wished each other Bon Camino, and the climb taxing as our bodies got used to our backpacks.

We had arrived at our starting point after a 23 hour flight via Paris to Bordeaux, then trains to Bayonne and up the foothills to St Jean Pied de Port. There we bought our scallop shell to identify us as pilgrims and collected our Credential de Perigrino which needed to be stamped along the way to prove we deserved our Compostella, certificate.

This Camino is the path taken in the dark ages by pilgrims walking out of Europe and across northern Spain to Christendom's third holiest city, Santiago, (Sant iago) which means St James. Here the legend says the body of St James the Great, cousin of Christ, was buried after being martyred by King Herod Agrippa in Jerusalem. The Way, as it is sometimes called, was the first walk given World Heritage status. Today over 100,000 walk at least part of it annually.

We met people from all over the world including two South Korean women, Pamela from Ireland who walks the Camino for one week a year, a Quebecois father who was introducing his daughter to the walk and David an interesting Buddhist who had taught in Asian and Indian temples; he was 78 years old. At one stage we came across a couple with Kathmandu packs who we realized were Peter and Diane Smith from Beechworth!

In the last half of the trek we crossed people hobbling along with awfully blistered feet

FIRST AID DAY FOR THE WARBY WALKERS

February 19 Saturday - **FIRST AID FOR BUSHWALKERS.** This highly recommended course will be conducted by Nick Youngs from Australian First Aid. It will commence at 9am at The Centre, Chisholm Street and finish at 1pm. There will be a break for morning tea (provided). Topics include fractures, anaphylaxis, snake and insect bites, and wound management. Price: \$25

Contact - Jan Heywood 572712347 by Friday 4th of February.



and bandaged knees. Some villages have medical clinics which specialize in walkers' injuries. These were usually pilgrims walking the full 880kms. We bussed across the high flat plateau of cereal fields between Pamplona and Leon. Because we were due at Peter's sister's cottage in France we had but 15 days to walk and inspect the ancient cities. We managed 260 kms of the Camino with just 3 days of rain, not counting all the detours we took. The most spectacular of these was a visit to the 800 AD monastery at Samos; it certainly deserves its World Heritage ranking.

At least half our accommodation was in albergues which presented the widest variety. Our second night was in a two man tent up a hill because the dormitories were full. As it was the highest, I regarded it as the penthouse tent! One we avoided was an old monastery's barn with 140 bunks in one room; my assessment of the rumbles and echoes sent us to the more expensive hotel.

We didn't avoid all the rumbles, however. Some were privately owned and many run by municipalities who like pilgrims' money. We reached one private albergue about 9 pm; most walk from about 7 am to 4pm. It too was full, but we met an Irish bike rider, Tony, who offered a spare bed in his room. Then the pension owner said she had another room. So I bedded down with Tony and Kate invited Cecilia, a bubbly Spaniard we had met, in with her. Right for the night? Yeah. Both new companions were monstrous snorers and Tony was on sleeping pills. I reckon he was over six foot and about 17 stone and impossible to roll off his back.

Memorable moments were striding through the dappled light of the beech forests; reaching the highest gap over the Pyrenees, 1450 metres; meeting Basque shepherds and their attentive dogs – one was most engaged by the lunch in Kate's pack; finding Kate's sun cream had leaked all through her toilet bag; discovering my one and only little blister; walking in the dark with head torches for the first hour or two; trying to sleep after midnight while locals fired off what sounded like mortars from an old Celtic citadel; discovering El Cid again – do you remember that impressive film?

A HOUSE WARMING TO SAVOUR.

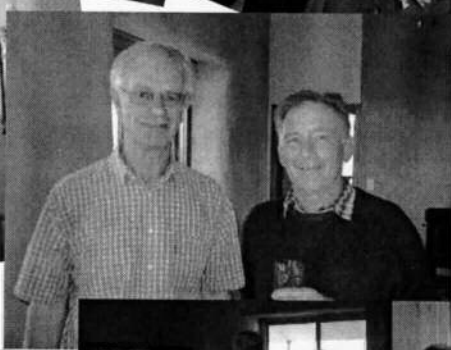
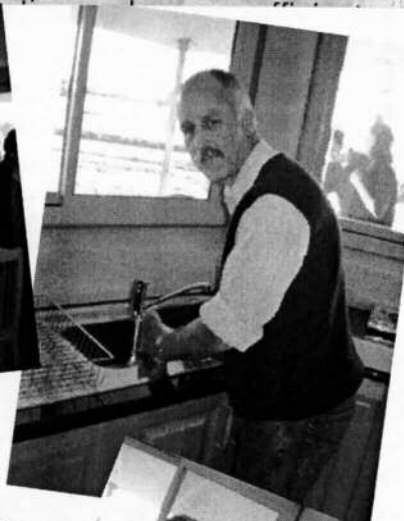
Something like 30 Club members celebrated with Past President Kerrie, and Paul Davenport, the official opening of their new house in Londrigan.

Paul and Kerrie have been working on this project for years, at least according to Kerrie! Straw bale houses don't appear overnight. A big write-up and picture in the Chronicle preceded our night, so we had high expectations.

We were not disappointed. It is a place of which Kerrie and Paul can be proud. And Paul now has plenty of space to land his plane!

As usual with our Club, the food was sumptuous, and the wine flowed.

Andy Kimber gave a talk on East Timor.





WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc. **WALKS PROGRAM**

December 2010 – March 2011

- If the leaders cannot be contacted to book a walk ring Bob Shaw on 5766 2773 or Adrian Twitt 5721 5327. Day walks should be booked at least two days in advance; weekends much longer.
- It is club policy to cancel walks on Total Fire ban days
- If walking is inadvisable due to forecasted unpleasant weather and/or fire conditions from Jan – March, each delegated walk leader will have a different "Plan" walk ready to put into operation.

December (3), 4 and 5 (Fri), Saturday, Sunday	<u>MT. BUFFALO WEEKEND - Camping and walking.</u> 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 5725 1480
January 14, 15, 16 Friday to Sunday	<u>MITTAGUNDI EXPERIENCE</u> Contact Adrian by December 18	EASY/MEDIUM/HARD 5721 5327
January 23, Sunday	<u>FLAT ROCK AREA, BEECHWORTH</u> Contact Peter and Leslie	EASY 5728 1740
February 5, Saturday	<u>LAKE SAMBEL TO LAKE KERFORD</u> Contact Jeanette	EASY 5721 6514
February 19, Saturday	<u>FIRST AID UPDATE FOR BUSHWALKERS</u> Contact Jan by January 31	5727 1347
February 23, Wednesday	<u>OVENS RIVER WALK</u> Contact Andy	EASY 5766 2207
February 26 and 27, Saturday and Sunday	<u>THE TWINS</u> (Saturday 26) <u>BON ACCORD SPUR</u> (Sunday 27) Contact Adrian by January 31	EASY/MEDIUM and MEDIUM/HARD 5721 5327
March 5, Saturday	<u>BAXTER and LUMBY BEND</u> Contact - Peter	EASY 5726 9337
March 7, Monday	<u>WALKS COMMITTEE MEETING</u> at 7.00pm – Bob's house, 16 Kingfisher Lane, Glenrowan	5766 2773
March 19, Saturday	<u>BBQ and FULL MOON WALK</u> Contact Karen	EASY 5722 2540 or 0409 215 286
March 25, Friday	<u>PEECHELBA/WARBY - OVENS NATIONAL PARK</u> Contact Peter	EASY 5726 9337
March 30, Wednesday	<u>ANNUAL DINNER & AGM</u> at the Vine Hotel. Contact Jeanette by Wednesday March 23	5721 6514 (H), 5721 3994(W), or 0417 546 974
April 29 – May 4 Friday to Wednesday	<u>WALHALLA WEEK AWAY</u> Contact Bob	5766 2773

January 14, 15, 16 - Friday to Sunday. Walkers have the choice of commencing on Friday (meeting at 6.30am at the Apex Park Wang) for a Medium/Hard 20 km walk from Watchbed Creek in the Bogong High Plains, descending to Mittagundi on the Mitta River, or travelling directly by road to Mittagundi. Mittagundi is an outdoor education camp conducting its annual Pioneer Skills Weekend, with a bush dance on Friday evening, displays on Saturday, and a roast dinner on Saturday evening. On Saturday morning we will have a walk inspecting some of the former mining activities of the area. On Sunday there is a Medium Grade ascent up Mt Wills. Accommodation on Friday and Saturday nights is at Glen Valley Lodge (limited beds available to early bookers – otherwise tenting in the grounds).

January 23, Sunday. After meeting at Apex Park at 9.00am for car pooling, we travel to Flat Rock at 9.30am. We take in the views from Flat Rock across Woolshed valley then proceed to Peter and Leslie's for morning tea. In turn, we walk 7 km. around Peter and Leslie's property which includes many granite outcrops, wildflowers and native grasses.

February 5, Saturday. From Beechworth, a 5km walk through attractive bushland to picturesque Lake Kerford. We start from the bridge over Spring Creek on Peach Drive, near Lake Sambell, and follow Spring Creek and Hurdle Creek to Lake Kerford. This walk meanders past old mining sites and shafts, set within a prolific array of tall gums; blue, white-barked brittle and peppermint; and continues past Patterson Dam, built to establish a water supply for mining in the nineteenth century.

February 19, Saturday. This highly recommended course will be conducted by Nick Youngs from Australian First Aid. It will commence at 9am at The Centre, Chisholm Street and finish at 1pm. There will be a break for morning tea (provided). Topics include fractures, anaphylaxis, snake and insect bites, and wound management. Price: \$25. Contact - Jan Heywood 5727 1347 by Friday 4th February

February 23, Wednesday. This morning walk wanders along the course of the Ovens River within Wangaratta using set walking tracks, where possible. Some sections do not have tracks, and require some dexterity getting through fences. The locality has numerous billabongs, stately red gums, and numerous water birds.

February 26 and 27. Accommodation is available at \$20 per night at Wangaratta Ski Lodge located at Mt St Bernard on Friday and Saturday nights – ring Adrian for details. Saturday will offer an easy walk following the Alpine Walking Track, and a medium grade walk to the Twins with its panoramic views of the Victorian Alps and surrounding ranges. The Sunday walk of 15km. starts at the Diamantina Hut on the Alpine Highway. This Medium/Hard walk commences in alpine meadows and snow gum areas then descends steeply through alpine ash and passes the old Bon Accord Hut. Eventually the track descends into the southern end of the Harrietville township. For those who wish to have a less challenging walk, there will be an Easy/Medium return walk of 6-8 km commencing at the Diamantina Hut.

March 5, Saturday. 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 riverside stops along the banks of the Murray and its lagoons. We hope to see cockatoos, water birds, kangaroos and other wildlife

March 7, Monday. "You don't have to be one to be one!" Come along and join in the walks planning and see how the club operates as well as making suggestions to the committee. Non-Committee members are most welcome and are usually in attendance as well as the committee.

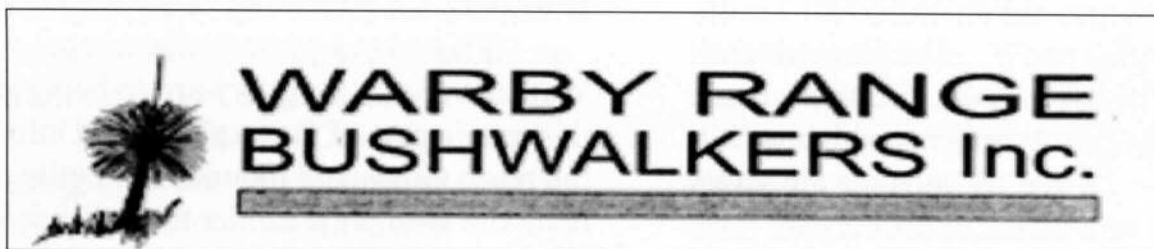
March 19, Saturday evening. This walk will commence as a BYO BBQ at the Davenport's at 410 Petticoat Lane Londrigan from 6.00pm. Please contact Kerri on 5725 1480 for further details. After enjoying eats and fellowship, walkers will wander along the nearby Rail Trail from dusk at approximately 7.30pm to coincide with the full moon. This 6 – 10 km. walk has been classified Easy and will be along an established bitumen rail trail possibly as far as the Tarrawingee Station and back to the Londrigan siding. Bring a torch.

March 25, Friday. On wide, clearly defined tracks, this morning walk along the Ovens in the Peechelba area meanders along the river flats in the newly proclaimed National Park. There are some delightful riverside views of the Ovens.

March 30, Wednesday ANNUAL DINNER AND AGM The AGM is always very brief and one to which all members and friends are invited. (Last year four members were inducted as Life Members). It is also a social event with dinner, held at the Vine Hotel, North Wangaratta from 6.00pm. Please book by contacting our Secretary Jeanette on 5721 6514 (H), 5721 3994(W), or 0417 546 974 by Wednesday March 23.

April 29 – May 4, Friday to Wednesday Have you been to Walhalla? Have you walked this area as well? Five days of walks are planned – on old rail trails, around former gold mining towns, in alpine meadows above the snowline, and through ferny gullies and dense forests. Accommodation is at nearby Rawson Village. Evening meals will be catered by teams of members; lunches and breakfasts your own responsibility. If you have been to one of the Warby Walkers 'Weeks Away', you will know how popular these events are. Make sure you pay your deposit of \$50 (per person) to Maureen Phillips, 8 Park Cres., Wangaratta 3677 by 31st January.

PLEASE NOTE: Descriptions of the December walks are in the previous program.



NEWSLETTER 2, 2011



ANNUAL DINNER AND AGM TIME AGAIN!

Our annual dinner is always a great social occasion. We have again chosen the Vine Hotel (North Wangaratta) for the venue. The date is Wednesday, March 30th at 6.00 pm. Make sure you book in to Secretary, Jeanette Farquhar phone 5721 6514 or 0417 546 974 by Wednesday March 23rd.

Last year there were something like 50 of us at it so it is very social and being an AGM need not put you off – we make that part brief.

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

Our financial year is 1st April to 31st March. Membership subscriptions are now due.



The committee has reluctantly had to recommend the raising of subs – the first rises for some time. Our very low rates have not covered our costs. Approximately \$19 out of the former \$25 subscription goes to insurance and affiliation fees, leaving little to run the Club. All membership fees rise by \$10, and associate fees by \$5.

The new fees are –

- Single \$30
- Family \$55
- Junior & Assoc. \$15

Please note that this newsletter contains a renewal form.

Life members, who wish to continue to receive newsletters will also need to pay \$15.

Either post your cheque direct, or pay at the Annual Dinner.

FIRST AID.....

After our recent First Aid day, held



especially for the benefit of members, our kit has been revamped. The eleven members who gave up a Saturday to be

better informed thought the \$25 cost was great value for money. The group spent time on poisons, bites and stings, resuscitation techniques, trauma management; slings and bandages, as well as how to react correctly to emergencies in the bush.

Those carrying the first aid kit please note that emergency telephone numbers will be on the lid.

Thanks to Jan Heywood for organizing the valuable program.

Some were eager to put techniques into practice on a recent High Country trip in which two snakes were sighted. But apart from a squeal or two (very frightening for the snake), and some anxious looks, no first aid was required.

From now on, leaders will be asking the whip (back walker in the group) to carry the first aid kit. When you think of it, that makes sense!



AND SAFETY

The Committee has decided to purchase two items which will greatly enhance the safety of walkers, especially in remote areas.

A pair of UHF radios will be purchased. These are carried by the first and last walkers in a group and are especially useful in communicating to the front and back. The pair of radios will cost \$229.

In the past, we have used Paul Davenport's instruments. They were especially useful in the hike from Hotham to Fall Creek last year. They would have been essential in the foggy conditions on the abandoned Bon Accord Track event recently (see later).

The other purchase, a major one, will be an emergency beacon linked to a global positioning system. This will trigger a rescue response.

It will only be used in extreme emergencies, usually in very isolated country. The emergencies could include serious accident to a walker, snake bite, or a walker (or walkers) becoming lost.

Once the emergency beacon is triggered, it cannot be reused. There are fines for using the beacon without cause. Hopefully we would never have to use it. The cost is \$649, but the cost of lives cannot be counted.

To help the Club, all participants in walks should alert leaders if they have a health issue (eg heart problems, epilepsy etc) when booking for a trip. Leaders have the right to advise you against a walk beyond your capacity.

WALHALLA TRIP - April 29-May 4

Those booked in for the trip to Walhalla are looking forward to being in this magic part of the world tucked into the north Gippsland mountains. Let's hope the weather is kinder to us than it has been for many of our trips over recent months. However, be prepared for rain. It's a damp area at the best of times.

There are 27 members booked in to Rawson Village (our accommodation) to date. Those who are will get separate details, which will facilitate car pooling and food arrangements.

Apart from the walks program, we look forward to the social activities and shared meals. They have become part of the culture of the Club.

CLUB NEWS



Condolences to Ken Ellis who tore a ligament in his foot playing tennis up in Queensland at Christmas. He has been

trying to manage his farm in an incapacitated position. No wonder we have not seen Ken or Joan (who is doing some of the extras at present) on a walk recently. And they are expecting their first grand child in Sydney any moment.

Congratulations to Andy Kimber who received an Australia Day Award as the most upright citizen of



Glenrowan for 2010. Now he and Jillian are moving into Wangaratta to take on a larger swag of citizens. They have recently bought a house in Grey Street with

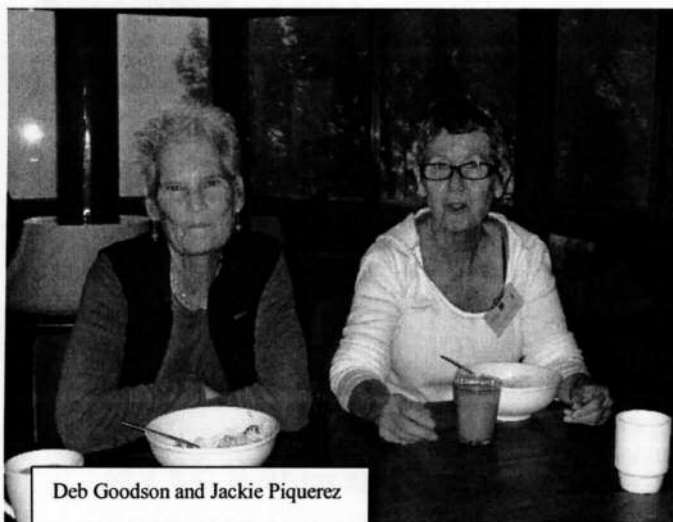
less grass for Andy to mow.

On the topic of house moves – Bob and Maureen Phillips have sold and swapped houses with people further up the street at 35 Park Crescent.

Kerri and Paul Davenport are taking their first trip to Europe shortly, and will miss the Walhalla trip. Daughter Michelle, is studying at Nottingham University and seems to be having a great time. Naturally, Kerri and Paul want to pay a visit and see what she's up to. I understand that Kerri has lined up a complex trip across the UK and Europe that will look like a zig zag puzzle on a map before their travels are over.

Those of you who are wondering where the Batchelors are, we have a pretty good idea. Adrian and Helen Twitt, on a recent visit to King Island to see family, spotted Helen Batchelor cooking pancakes at a local market. Adrian had lined up in the pancake queue before he could see who was cooking the delicious food at the other end. It was cheery, and surprised Helen B. Then, a couple of days later, at a restaurant on King Island's east coast, who was the waitress? None other than Helen B again. Gary was at work in Victoria.

FROM THE SNOWS OF KILAMANJARO AND SWITZERLAND



Deb Goodson and Jackie Piquerez

Whenever new members join, other Club members are eager to make their acquaintance. When they speak in a non-Aussie accent, we are all keen to discover their origins. Two such members have joined recently – Kenyan born Deb Goodson, and Swiss born Jackie Piquerez.

Deb lives at Hamilton Park, enjoying the quietness of country life. She is no stranger to bush walking. At the age of 19 she and her youthful friends climbed Mt Kilimanjaro, not far from the family farm in Kenya. With the writing on the wall that white farmers were likely to become an endangered species, the family moved first to Tanzania, and then, when her father died, to London. Finally Deb settled in Australia in 1985 and has since become an Australian citizen. Deb loves gardening, and creating silver jewellery. Her house has many reminders of Africa. You never get the 'African' out a native of Africa. Deb's son Tim attends Monash University.

Jackie Piquerez came to Australia from Switzerland with her Swiss boyfriend many years ago and fell in love with the place. They bought a farm near Bendigo. Jackie's Swiss blood soon sought out the Bendigo Alpine Club which she joined. She loves the mountains, especially Mt Buffalo, and it was no surprise that she was up at Wangaratta Ski Lodge with Club members enjoying the mountains on a recent trip. Nor is it a surprise that Jackie has also taken out Australian citizenship.

Jackie has three children – one of whom is back in Switzerland, but the others are in Victoria. Jackie has recently moved to the Wangaratta area to be closer to family, and the mountains, and has just bought a house in Eldorado.

CLUB TEE-SHIRTS

Some newcomers (and long time members) have been asking where the delightful tee-shirts with our Club logo can be obtained.



It's easy. Just go along to Steers clothing shop in Norton Street, Wangaratta, opposite the Railway Station, and you can get fitted out there.

You can take along your favourite

tee or polo shirt, and get the logo stitched onto it for less than \$10. Or you can choose a garment from their excellent selection, quite inexpensively and ask for the logo to be stitched onto your purchase. It takes a day or two, but it's no effort.



HANDY WALK HINT

When you are on the track with others, and nature calls, don't just head off the track and into

nearby (or distant) bushes. You can sometimes have difficulty finding your way back and nobody knows where you have got to. Place your back pack on the track and tell someone before you disappear.

Putting your back pack on the track indicates the spot where you have left the track.

THE SUMMER THAT WASN'T

For those of us who are accustomed to hot dry summers in NE Victoria, we were in for a surprise this year. We all know it was wet and uncharacteristically cool (only six days over 35 deg for the whole summer). Wangaratta had 380 mm rain for the summer, about three times the average.

Naturally, our program was affected by both rain and floods. Andy's Ovens River walk, and Peter's Murray River walk were both flood affected. Peter managed to make a late transfer to the drier slopes of the Warby Range.

The Razorback to Feathertop walk offered by Paul was cancelled at short notice – a good thing as sleet and snow fell in the locality that day.

Jeanette decided to shift the day of the Beechworth - Lake Kerford walk to the next day, but suffered a lot of cancellations as a result.

Jan decided that the Carboor Range was out of the question due to the wet weather.

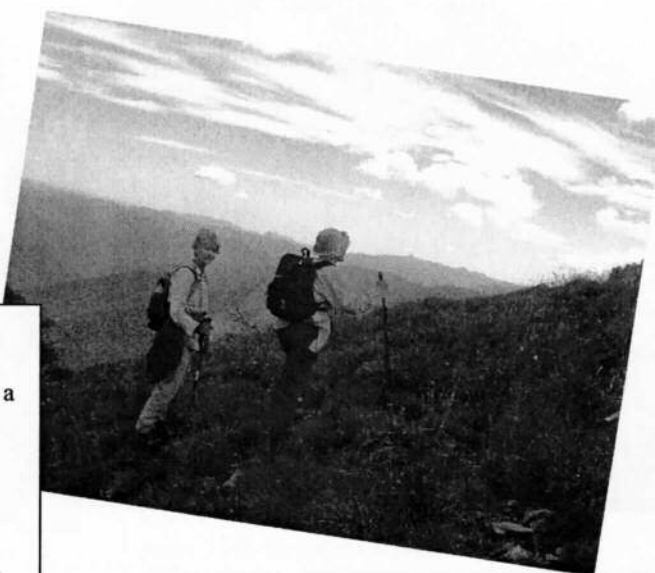
The Mittagundi weekend started with steady rain on the Friday, with nine intrepid walkers tackling the walk down to the Mitta Valley from Watchbed Creek, but luckily the weather fined up for the rest of the weekend.

The St Bernard weekend had one glorious day for climbing The Twins, then steady rain and fog prevented the Sunday walk down the Bon Accord Track.

In spite of all, there have been some excellent walks. The Mt Buffalo weekend which commenced with a drenching downpour on campers at Lake Catani on Friday night, eventually had good walking weather over the weekend. Unfortunately, a lot of day trip bookings evaporated over night. Those who ventured forth, had an excellent time.

Participants who went on the Flat Rock walk, one of the few with perfect weather, had a lovely stroll through the bushland property of Peter and Lesley Finedon. Thanks Finedons!

The Club events over weekends, were the usual great social occasions, as was our Christmas party at the Van Riets.



Summertime activities, (photos commencing top and viewed clockwise) -

1. Four of the nine walkers who were rigged up, not for a moon walk, but to descend to the Mitta Valley.
2. Karen Davis and Kate Grover at Mt Buffalo.
3. Walkers at the summit of Mt Wills South.
4. Deb Goodson and Irene Knox pause on the ascent of The Twins.
5. Judy and Bob Shaw enjoying Mittagundi food. Look at Judy's smile - she didn't have to prepare the meal!
6. Diners at Wangaratta Ski Lodge after a hard day's activity. Judy and Glenda organized this delectable meal

TRACK RESTORATION

Bushwalking Victoria encourages track restoration. As a Club, some members have responded to BWV's pleas with restoration works in various parts of the State – mainly the North East.

On the recent walk to The Twins, we were concerned about the state of the Alpine Walking Track and wondered whether we should be offering some support there, at least to restore the markers which have disappeared, mainly through fire, over the years.

On one of the walks held in the Killawarra Forest, Karen Davis organized that the walkers bring along appropriate tools to prune back vegetation and rake the Killawarra Wildflowers Walk. Some excellent work was done.

However, it was not completed. The group were eventually driven away by swarms of mosquitoes and an impending storm. Well done folks!

Of course, this was all done with the approval of Parks Victoria.



Some more scenes from the Mittagundi Weekend –
1. Gordi, our guide showing us a Glen Valley mine.
2. Andy and Rod on ukulele, with Kate singing along to Andy's composition.
3. Some of our folk enjoy stepping it out at the Mittagundi bush dance held in the Glen Valley hall.

NEXT YEAR'S WEEK AWAY

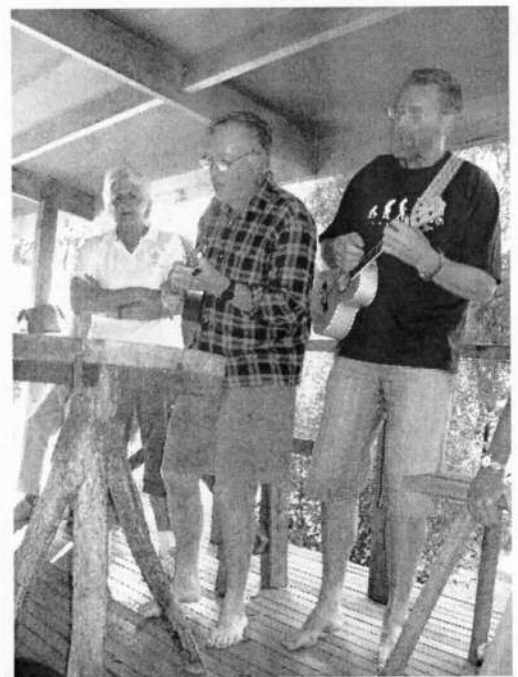
How would you like a week of walking in the Blue Mountains? The Committee has discussed next year's Week Away (yes, we use capitals for it as it is quite an institution for us), and we think the Blue Mountains would take some beating as a destination.

It is less than a day's drive away, and there are dozens of walks available.

Already Kerri Davenport and Helen Twitt have been busy locating possible camp spots.

We want to make it cheap enough to be accessible to everyone. The Blue Mts are close enough to Sydney to be responsive to Sydney's hideous prices, but we think we can do it cheaply.

What do you think of our plans?





WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc. **WALKS PROGRAM**

April - June 2011

If leader(s) cannot be contacted to book a walk ring Bob Shaw(5766 2773) OR Adrian Twitt(5721 5327)

April 2 Saturday	BON ACCORD HILL AND/OR BON ACCORD TRACK Contact – Adrian Twitt	EASY/MEDIUM 5721 5327
April 14 Thursday	WHITE BOX CHILTERN FOREST Contact – Jan Heywood	EASY/MEDIUM 5727 1347
April 16, Saturday	MOUNTAIN CREEK, MT. BOGONG and CLEVE COLE HUT Contact – Trevor Turnbull	HARD to VERY HARD 5721 6215 or 0409 208 218
April 29 to May 4 Friday to Wednesday	WALHALLA WEEK AWAY Contact – Bob Shaw	EASY TO HARD WALKS 5766 2773
May 15 Sunday	YACKANDANDAH GOLDFIELDS Contact – Bob Shaw	MEDIUM 5766 2773
May 23, Monday	COMMITTEE MEETING 7.00pm at John Van Riet's home, 475 Shanley Street, Wangaratta	 5725 7207
May 23, Monday	LOGGER'S TRACK/WENHAM'S CIRCUIT Contact – Karen Davis	EASY/MEDIUM 5722 2540 OR 0409 215 286
May 28 Saturday	THISTLE HILL Contact – Allan Raison	MEDIUM 5721 7886
June 5, Sunday	BEECHWORTH AREA – LAKE SAMBELL TO LAKE KERFORD Contact – Jeanette Farquhar	EASY/MEDIUM 5721 6514
June 15, Wednesday	CHICK HILL Contact – Bob Shaw	EASY/MEDIUM 5766 2773
June 18, Saturday	MT. MAJOR, DOOKIE HILLS Contact – Adrian Twitt	EASY/MEDIUM 5721 5 327
June 18, Saturday AT 6.30 PM	<u>SOCIAL Evening at Adrian and Helen Twitt's house</u> House, 13 Walter St, Wangaratta	RSVP before Wednesday June 15th to Adrian/Helen- 5721 5327
July 3, Sunday	BARAMBOGIE CIRCUIT Contact – Jan Heywood	MEDIUM 5721 5327

April 2 Saturday - This 12km. Medium walk starts at the Diamantina Hut on the Great Alpine Highway and ends in Harrierville. We walk through alpine meadows and snow gum areas then descend steeply through Mountain Ash passing the old Bon Accord Hut. Eventually the track follows the Ovens River into the southern end of the Harrierville township. A shorter walk is also offered with a walk out to the vicinity of the Bon Accord Hut then to retrace your steps back to the Diamantina Hut. As the meeting time will be in Harrierville at 8.30 am, participants may camp there on Friday night.

April 14 Thursday - This walk is graded Easy/Medium. The Chiltern – Mt. Pilot National Park is located in a box-iron bark forest 30 minutes north of Wangaratta. The walk commences at Cyanide Dam and follows a well designated track past old gold mine areas, mullock heaps and abundant evidence of old prospecting areas. It is a well maintained track with significant areas of interest well signposted.

April 16, Saturday - 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. A shorter but still Hard 16 km walk can be made 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

April 29 to May 4 Friday to Wednesday - There are five days of walks planned – on old rail trails, around old gold mining towns, in alpine meadows and above the snow line as well as through ferny gullies/mountain ashes/and green tree lined forests. Accommodation will be close by at Rawson Village, which was the campsite when the Thompson Dam was being built. Evening meals will be catered by teams of members; lunches and breakfasts involve self catering. One night will be a meal out.

May 15 Sunday - The Yackandandah goldfield track at "The Back of Yack" is 10-12 km Medium Grade which passes many old gold mines, old settlements and evidence of sluicing from the 1850's onwards in the headwaters of the Yack. Creek. There are also examples of old gold mining stampers and a boiler to be viewed on this historical walk which does include a few steep pinches to be negotiated. This walk will be led by local, Don Ingram, with an extensive interest in historic mining in the area.

May 23, Monday – COMMITTEE MEETING - "You don't have to be one to be one!" Come along and join in the walks planning and see how the club operates. Non-Committee members are most welcome and are usually in attendance as well as all the committee members.

May 23, Monday - This is an 8 -10 km Easy graded walk off the beaten track into relatively unknown parts of the Warby's. With experienced bird watchers and botanists to assist, discover the unique wild flowers and birds in our own backyard.

May 28 Saturday - A 10km walk along the western ridge line of the King Valley. Some of the walk is through forest whilst the rest is through open grasslands with excellent views to the south towards Mt. Cobbler, to the east towards Mt Buffalo and to the north towards the rest of the King and the Ovens Valley. The altitude is around 500 metres with some steep pinches.

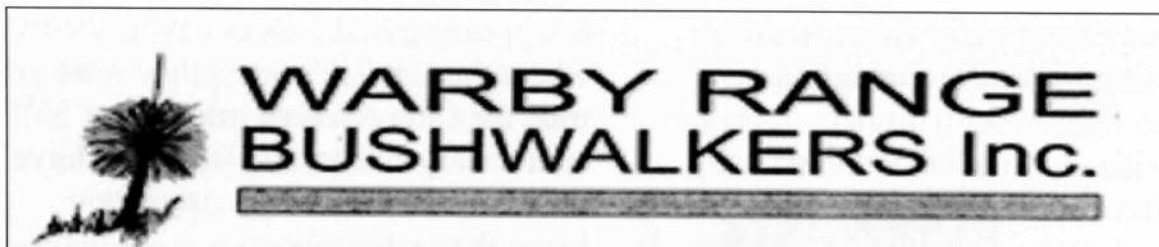
June 5 Sunday - This walk begins near the Lake Sambell Caravan Park. The 12 kilometre walk follows Hurdle Creek/ Spring Creek. The area around Hurdle Flat has numerous deep mine shafts which were developed after the alluvial gold was removed. Several shafts can be viewed along the track, but take care here. You are entering a world where the forest was turned upside down in the 1850's by the many thousands of gold miners. Follow the trail to Heaven and Hell Tunnels, and on to Lake Kerford.

June 15, Wednesday - 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 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 back to Taminick Gap

June 18, Saturday - Within the Northern Plains there are a number of hills, low hills and rises like Mt. Major at Dookie that occur at various distances away from the main body of the Australian Alps. Mt Major (379 m) is the major feature with slopes of about 20-45 % with gentler gradients on lower areas. From the summit the Warby Ranges and the Alps are within view and the great expanse of the western/central plains tapers off to the west. This is a new walk which can be finished with perhaps a coffee at nearby Dookie.

SOCIAL EVENT ON SAT JUNE 18 at Adrian and Helen Twitt's house House, 13 Walter St, Wangaratta. RSVP before Wednesday June 15th to Adrian/Helen- Bring food to share and listen to the Murrays Camino experience. (*"The Camino Walk", also known in English as "The Way of St James." The Camino consists of a series of old pilgrimage routes throughout Europe which have Santiago de Compostela in north west Spain as their final destination. For more than 1000 years pilgrims have been walking along the Camino de Santiago. Peter and Kate walked a popular section covering 240 km of the Camino in 2010.*)

July 3 Sunday - This is an Easy/Medium 12 km walk. Elevations encountered range from 250 m at the reservoir to 496 m (Mount Barambogie) in the south. The vegetation consists of a box/peppermint dry eucalypt forest associated with Black Cypress pine and grassy understorey. The Barambogie/ Mt Pilot Ranges to the south of Chiltern are the northern edge of the extensive Beechworth granite country.



NEWSLETTER 3, 2011

COME AND HEAR ABOUT THE CAMINO – A SOCIAL EVENING FOR ALL MEMBERS AND PARTNERS



*Saturday, June
18th 6.30 pm
at the home of
Helen and Adrian
Twitt, 13 Walter
St., Wangaratta*

Enjoy: Spanish paella cooked on site
by the Sebastian sisters. What a treat!

Cost: \$15 per person

Spanish wine available by the glass.

The Camino de Santiago is
nothing to do with bull fights – it's a
religions pilgrimage walk of several
hundred kms, of which President Peter,
and Kate Murray did large sections last
year. Hear about it.

Essential to book by Tues. June 14th.
Phone the Twitts 5721 5327.

REMINDER REGARDING SUBS.

If you have forgotten to pay your
membership subscription (due 1 April)
please get this done. We have a great
program coming up, and even if you
don't manage to go on many walks,
there are always great Club social
occasions.

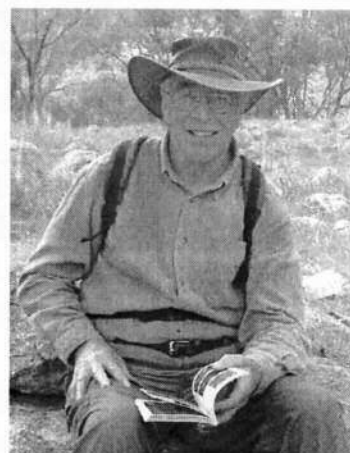
To check on details, visit our website
www.warbybushwalkers.org.au or
telephone treasurer Maureen Phillips
5721 2007.

CLUB NEWS

Alan Raison has stepped down
from the committee after many years of
service to the Club. Alan has often put
his hand up to lead walks, and has been
a fund of information on prior walks.
We will miss him. Thanks Alan.

John Van
Riet is our new
Committee
person. John is a
keen walker and
has a wide range
of interests.

We are
looking forward
to John's
contribution.



Committee member, Andy
Kimber and Jillian have moved into
Wangaratta and were farewelled at a
party in Hamilton Park recently. They
are off to England to see family again
soon.

Karen Davis is our new Walks
Co-ordinator. Thanks for taking on
that role. Karen is an enthusiastic
member, and although she and Rod
will be away (inland Australia and
South America) for slabs of time over
the coming months, she happily
accepted nomination at our last
Committee meeting. Trevor Turnbull,
another great walker, is our Assistant
Walks Co-ordinator.

Did anyone see Karen Davis's
art works at an exhibition at the
Wangaratta Gallery recently? Karen is

a very competent water colourist and her paintings looked stunning. She keeps her light under a bushel.

Frith and Renae Foottit and baby Chance are newish members of our club and are moving to Mt Beauty in early July. Frith will continue his medical studies there and then return to Wangaratta after twelve months in Mt Beauty. We hope to see the Foottits on more walks as they plan to continue their membership.

One of our younger members, Steven Turnbull, celebrated his 18th birthday last month. Congratulations Steven. We understand you organized the whole party.

Liz Walpole is off to East Timor again. Is this the third time? Liz has almost become Wangaratta's itinerant ambassador to Lacluta, and has done some important work liking our communities and helping with development projects.

Last time I heard of Irene Knox, she was in Outer Mongolia. Sounds like Irene. Actually she was on the Trans-Siberian train to St Petersburg in Russia. What an adventure!

Kerri and Paul Davenport have just returned from Europe (after being in London for the Royal wedding!). In the meantime, their new house is getting very positive coverage in the media for its environmental credentials. They have given a lot of thought to its energy efficiency, and deserve the accolades.

Our big white covered walks folders for 1997-2005 have done the



disappearing trick. Does anyone know where they are? I suspect they were used for Club research prior to our 30th anniversary celebration last year. Give the editor (5721 5327) a ring if you know their whereabouts.

In the meantime, our club camera has given up the ghost. A new Sanyo has been purchased. It takes pretty good photos, and wow, hasn't the price of cameras come down since we bought the last one! Leaders, make sure that it is well used on walks, even if it means nominating someone else to take the pictures for you. We need them for our records.

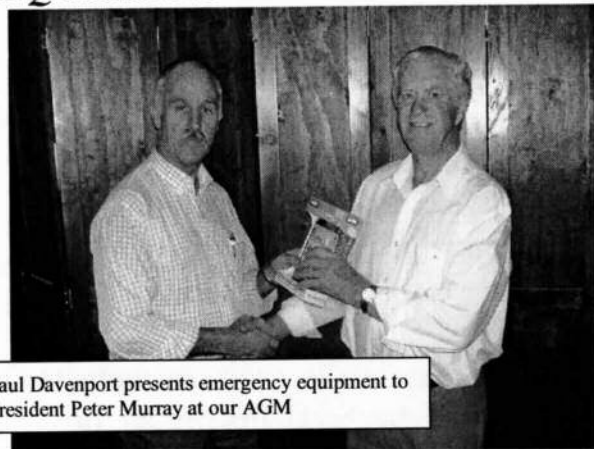


A WALK PROTOCOL

Our committee has decided that the first aid kit, carried on all walks, is best with the 'tail end charlie'. It makes sense. If there is an injury, it's no good the kit being up at the front. It needs to be at the back.

If you volunteer to be 'tail end charlie', please take the first aid kit, and remind the leader that you need not be in that role all day. Leaders, switch the roles around so walkers take turns.

TECHNICAL SAFETY EQUIPMENT



Paul Davenport was able to present emergency equipment supplied by the

RACV at our Annual Meeting in March. We are very thankful to the RACV for this contribution which was worth something like \$800.

Paul has agreed to be our technical equipment manager. He will look after the UHF radios which are ideal for communicating between the front and back of a walk, and the emergency beacon. Leaders, if you are going on a walk which might require radio communication, pick them up from Paul at One Mile Motors before the day of the event.

Paul will also look after the emergency beacon which will be essential on any remote location walks. Did you know that an EPERB was set off by a walker doing the Walhalla to Canberra Alpine Walking Track recently. Why he was attempting to do it at this time of the year, is beyond belief. He got lost near Jamieson in fog and rain (not surprising when you consider how ill defined the track is in places) and set off his beacon. A rescue team promptly found him next morning. It probably saved his life.

WALHALLA DAYS

If you missed out on our 'week away' to the Walhalla area recently, you missed a treat. The 28 members who went, all enjoyed themselves, with the variety of walks offered, and the conviviality of the evenings.

Bob and Judy Shaw had the usual hilarious 'awards' for members. And when they had to make an early departure, Bob Phillips took over and wiped the floor with his amusing anecdotes of the day's activities.

While the accommodation was far from a one star place, it was adequate. We were spoiled at Kangaroo Valley last year, weren't we! But we still had teams producing

delicious meals in the evenings and a great night out at Erica Pub on the last night.

In view of the less than encouraging weather forecast, the decision to do the high altitude and longest walk over Mt Erica and Mt St Gwinnear on the first day proved the right one. The weather did deteriorate over time, though only one walk was held in steady (though not too heavy) rain. The tree fern and eucalypt forests of the area, were a delight to walk through, rain or no rain, even if infested by leeches. And in the high country, the vast unburnt stands of interlocking snow gums were magnificent.

We explored paths following old tram tracks, ambled through myrtle beech forest, passed waterfalls, crossed bridges, and looked (without success) for old mining towns such as Happy-Go-Lucky.

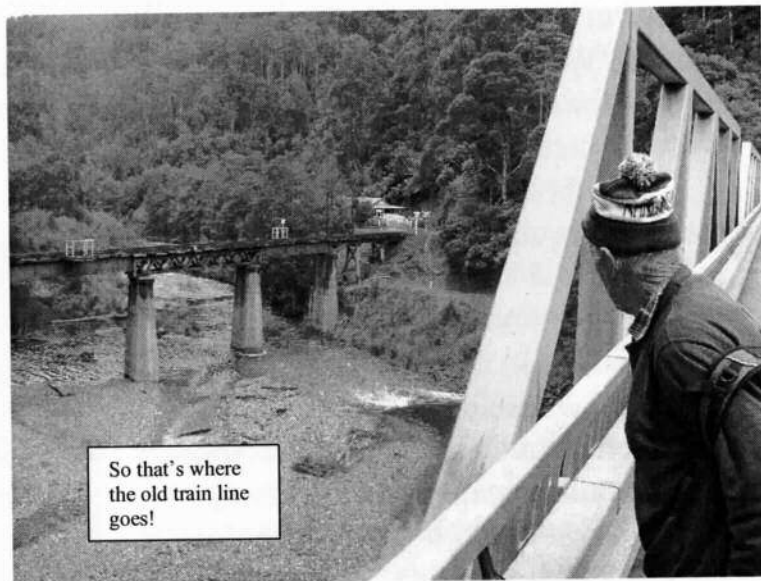
Walhalla's attractions made the walk through the township a challenge for the leader. Some just wanted to amble through the narrow valley checking the place out; some were tempted to try the narrow gauge train trip; some were intrigued by the mine museum; others the old post office, the coffee shops etc. For those who took the scheduled walk, there were plenty of steep slopes, not the least to the cricket ground located at the top of a mountain where an impromptu game of cricket with sticks and stones provided an amusing interlude.

The train provided our first ever opportunity to go to the start of a walk by rail – and return afterwards! The walk, along the stupendous gorge of the Thomson River, was a treat too.

Thanks to all the team who helped and especially Bob Shaw for his leadership.



What a long way down!



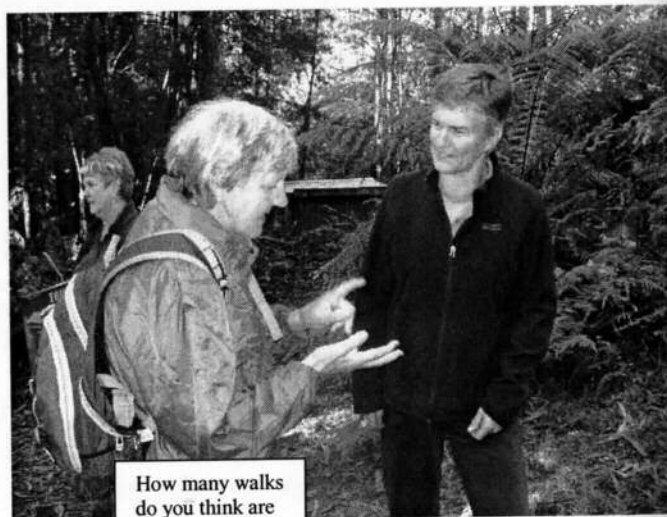
So that's where
the old train line
goes!

WALHALLA DAYS

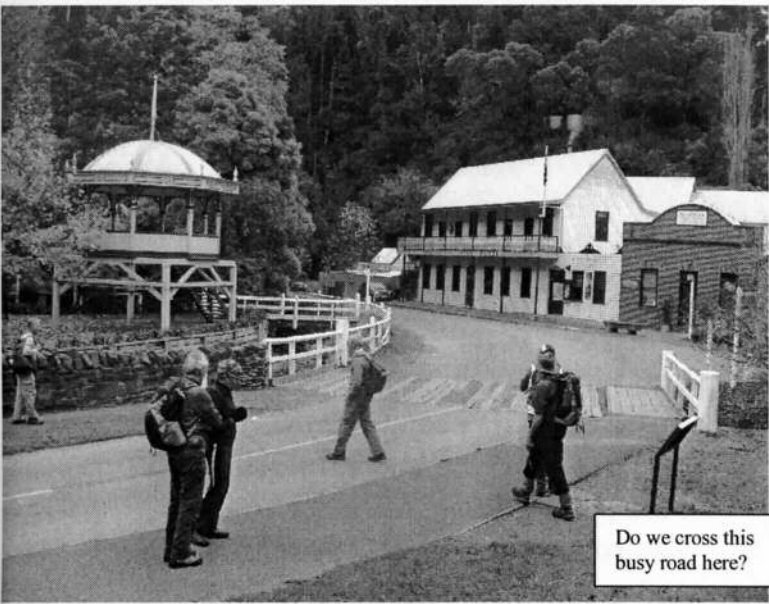
Are you sure we
have enough
sausages?



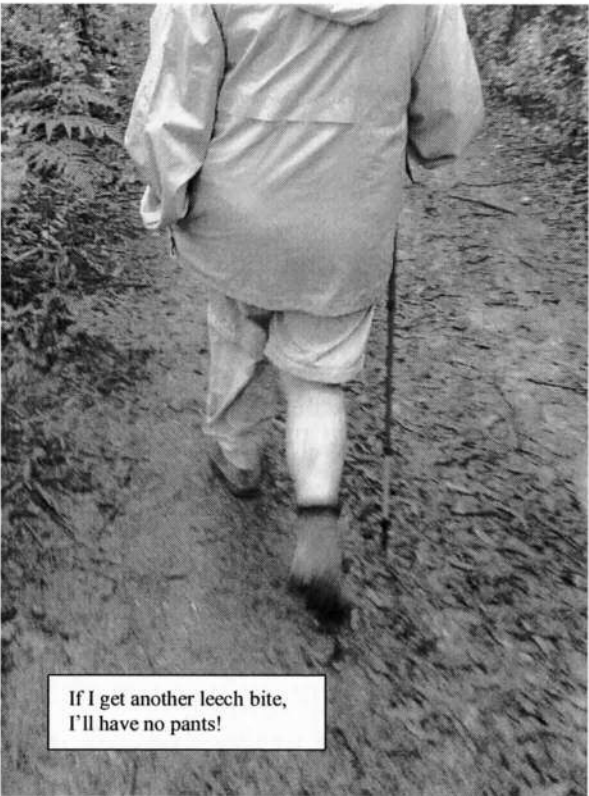
This royal
wedding looks
better than the



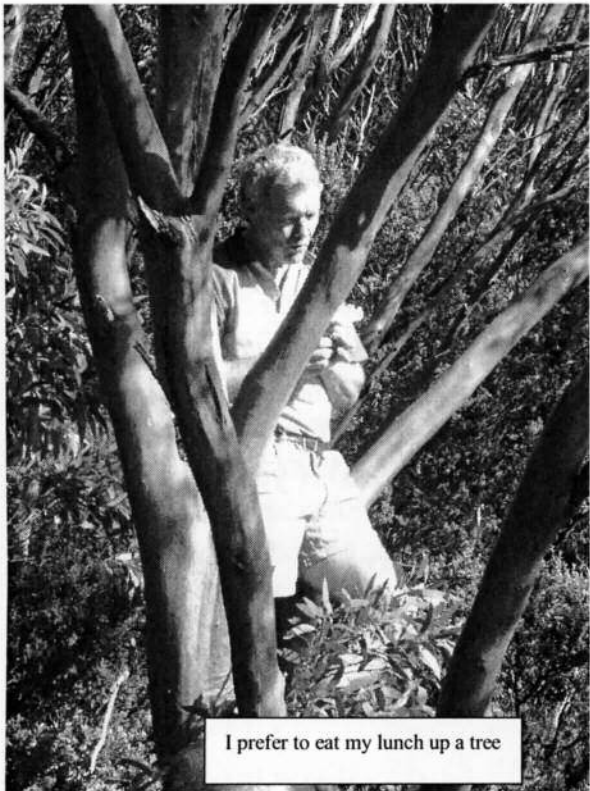
How many walks
do you think are
still to go?



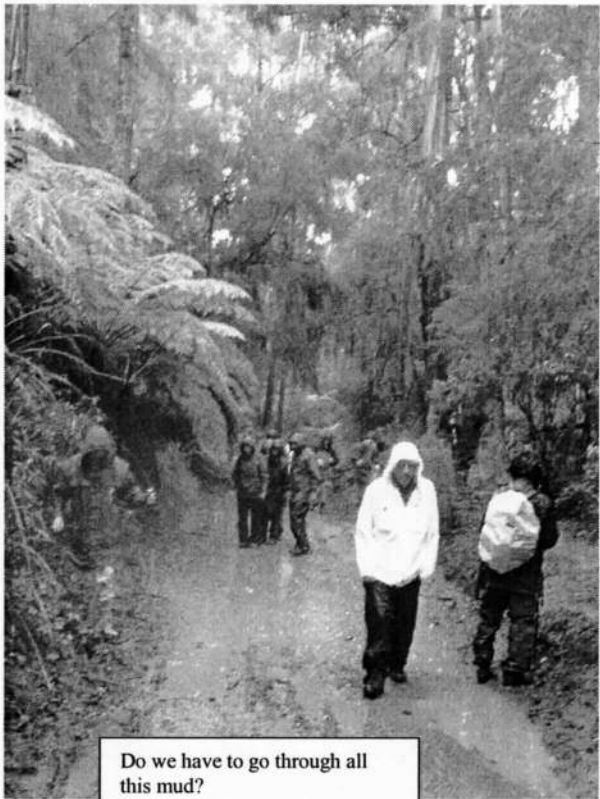
Do we cross this busy road here?



If I get another leech bite, I'll have no pants!



I prefer to eat my lunch up a tree



Do we have to go through all this mud?



I wonder if this is fit to serve up?

BLUE MOUNTAINS 2012

The Club has already decided that next year's week away will be in the Blue Mountains. We have booked the 'groups wing' at the Katoomba Youth Hostel, which we will have to ourselves from March 24th to April 1st.

The cost of the accommodation will depend on the numbers. If we have 30 people, it will cost \$48 per night; with 40 people, it will be \$36 per night.

We require \$100 deposits per person to be paid by June 30th. If you change your mind before January 31st, you will get a full refund.

If you would like to go on the planning committee, please contact Peter Murray (5726 9337).

Blue Mountains week away
March 24th – April 1st 2012
Deposits of \$100 due by June 30th
Pay : Maureen Phillips
The Treasurer
Warby Range Bushwalking Club
35 Park Cres.,
Wangaratta 3677

Relay for Life Fund-Raising Walk and BBQ

Thanks to the generous support of our Club, I will again be coordinating a fundraising event for "Relay for Life" on Sunday, 18 September. Three walks will be offered covering all fitness levels, and will all finish for a fully catered BBQ at Hamilton Park (again thanks to the generous folk there). The cost will be \$20 per person - all going to Relay for Life - and full details will be provided in the next Newsletter.

Glenda Hall

CHICK HILL TRACK CONSTRUCTION - CAN YOU HELP?

A new walking track is to be constructed in the Warbies. Wouldn't it be good for our Club to be involved in its construction?

A working bee, arranged by Parks Victoria, is being held on Saturday June 25th at 9.00 am. Signage and a map will be erected to direct workers. The walking track starts near the intersection of Wirrinya Ave and Taffe Lane in Hamilton Park.

Andy Kimber, one of our Club members has given advice on the projected route. Thanks Andy for your enthusiasm.

Now, all we need to do it turn up. If you have a spade, pick, shovel or crowbar to help erect marker posts, bring them along, but there will still be something to do, even if you don't have them.

See you there.

URSULA CRONIN, CLUB MEMBER EXTRAORDINAIRE



If you go on our extended trips, you will have met our most distant member, Ursula Cronin who lives in Sydney. This limits her contact with us, but she has an

affection for the Warby Walkers which all who have met her will appreciate. Her recent involvement in the Walhalla trip was her tenth 'week away' with us.

Ursula has been described as 'fit and wiry' by observant club members. Little do some know that Ursula had a



major car accident whilst returning to Sydney from Wangaratta a few years ago and woke up in a Wagga hospital. It took months of recovery, but now you would never know. In a recent 'big' birthday, her family asked her what she wanted. Her reply was to have a day's walking in the Blue Mountains. That's just what you would expect from Ursula. And though it rained all day on the occasion, she and her family still enjoyed it.

Ursula was born in Estonia. Her family were caught up in the Second World War, eventually becoming displaced persons in Germany. From there they emigrated to Australia to start a new life in 1949.

First it was Bonegilla migrant camp. Shortly afterwards, Ursula was sent to boarding school at Walla Walla, but once the family became settled in Wangaratta, Ursula completed her schooling at Wangaratta High School.

From school, Ursula had a variety of retailing and clerical jobs, both in Wangaratta and Sydney. But her long term ambition was to be a Qantas air hostess. While working in Sydney, she persisted contacting Qantas until they accepted her once she reached the minimum age.

Ursula met her husband, Terry in Sydney. His career advanced to becoming Australian Trade Commissioner in a variety of countries. So Ursula, the excellent hostess, played the role of a diplomat's wife in many countries, including Indonesia, Trinidad and Tobago, Germany, and elsewhere. We are sure she did this with aplomb.

Ursula and Terry have a son, Patrick, an events organizer in the music industry, and Anna, a journalist, who are both married with families in

Sydney, and a daughter, Katey, in the UK. Many of us saw Katey on TV as an ABC reporter in war zones such as Bosnia. She is now married and is a media director of a Conflict Resolution Foundation which attempts to improve human rights around the world.

It's not surprising that Ursula has maintained an interest in bushwalking. Her mother, Trudi Kentmann, was a foundation member of the Warby Range Bushwalkers. Ursula has inherited an enthusiasm for the outdoors, and a fitness regime from her mother. At times, Ursula can out perform many of us on the tracks.

We hope to see Ursula for many more 'weeks away' and other occasions.



Ursula striding it out on our Snowy Mountains trip in 2009.



SEEN AT THE ANNUAL MEETING
Clockwise from above –

Trevor (Ass. Wa;lks Co-ordinator) and Anne Turnbull
Helen Twitt and Maureen Phillips (Treasurer)
Kate and Peter Muttay (President)
Kerri Davenport (V. President) and Jeanette Farquhar
(Secretary)
Andy Kimber, Paul Davenport, Karen Davis (Walks Co-ordinator)

2011 COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ROLES –

President -	Peter Murray
Vice President -	Kerri Davenport
Secretary -	Jeanette Farquhar
Treasurer -	Maureen Phillips
Walks Co-ordinator -	Karen Davis
Ass. Walks Co-ordinator –	Trevor Turnbull
Publicity -	Adrian Twitt
Assistant Publicity –	Jan Heywood
Social Co-ordinator -	Bob Shaw
Technical Equipment -	Paul Davenport
Other members -	Andy Kimber and John Van Riet



WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc. WALKS PROGRAM

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2011

If leader(s) cannot be contacted to book a walk phone
Karen Davis (57222540) or Trevor Turnbull (57216215)

July 3rd Sunday	BARAMBOGIE CIRCUIT Contact – Jan Heywood	MEDIUM 5727 1347
July 16th Saturday	Salisbury Falls – Kwat Kwat Contact Adrian Twitt	EASY-MEDIUM 5721 5327
July 21st Thursday	KILLAWARRA FOREST Contact John Van Riet	EASY 5725 7207
July 30th Saturday	MT SAMARIA Contact Jeanette Farquhar	MEDIUM 5721 6514
August 8th Monday	COMMITTEE MEETING 7pm at Karen Davis' home 154 Rowan Street	5722 2540 or 0409215286
August 14th Sunday	MT MEG Contact Peter Murray	MEDIUM 5726 9337
August 17th Wednesday	GAPSTED HILLS Contact Jan Heywood	MEDIUM 5727 1347
August 27th Saturday	BLACK RANGE Contact Trevor Turnbull	MEDIUM / HARD 5721 6215
September 7th Wednesday	TUAN TRACK CHILTERN Contact Jan Heywood	MEDIUM / HARD 5721 6215
September 10th Saturday	KANGAROO HILL Contact Kerri Davenport	MEDIUM / HARD 5721 6215
September 18th Sunday	RELAY FOR LIFE FUNDRAISER Contact Glenda Hall	MEDIUM / HARD 5721 6215
September 25th Sunday	TURQUOISE MINE Contact Bob Shaw	MEDIUM / HARD 5721 6215
October 2nd Sunday	PINE GULLY FALLS AREA Contact Andy Kimber	MEDIUM / HARD 5721 6215

July 3 Sunday - This is an Easy/Medium 12 km walk. Elevations encountered range from 250 m at the reservoir to 496 m (Mount Barambogie) in the south. The vegetation consists of a box/peppermint dry eucalypt forest associated with Black Cypress pine and grassy understorey. The Barambogie/ Mt Pilot Ranges to the south of Chiltern are the northern edge of the extensive Beechworth granite country.

Saturday July 16th -The Salisbury Falls which spill down the eastern escarpment of the Warby Range are often spectacular in winter. This walk commences at the falls, makes its way up the escarpment and eventually reaches Wenhams camp returning via Kwat Kwat lookout and the Friends Track. An Easy Medium walk totalling 12km. on well formed tracks.

Thursday July 21st - The Killawarra Forest is looking resplendent following our recent wet seasons. Join John for this easy 8km wander amongst the flora and fauna of an ironbark forest with a healthy understory of native shrubs, grasses and wildflowers.

Saturday 30th July - A medium graded 12km walk in the granite hills of Mt Samaria State Park on old logging roads and walking tracks. This is a pleasant undulating walk through a lush and diverse forest area. Features include Wild Dog Creek Falls, the actual peak of Mt Samaria, and the interesting remains of the Spring Creek Saw Mill.

Monday 8th August – COMMITTEE & WALKS PLANNING MEETING. All members welcome. We are always on the lookout for new walks for our calendar - do you have a favourite walk you would like to share? Come along this night or contact a committee member with your suggestion prior to the meeting

Sunday August 14th – Mt Meg offers an element of surprise with the possibility of encountering pythons and evidence of early aboriginal occupation. Be prepared to walk approximately 11 km over stones with no defined paths. An initial steepish climb will be rewarded with views North over the plains and South over the revived Winton wetlands and distant Alps.

Wednesday 17th August – This is an easy/medium 6km walk following a miners' track from the Gapsted reservoir, almost to the top of the ridge, to an old gold mining tunnel. The steep climb and descent will be taken at a leisurely pace to give ample time to savour the excellent views across the forested Gapsted Basin. Lunch at Stoney Creek.

Saturday 27th August – An undulating walk of approx. 15km along the old forestry tracks of the Black Range. The 4 to 5 km ascent is rewarded with views down the King Valley and the likelihood of surprising lyre birds. This is a heavily timbered former logging area, steeped in mining history. The 'Range' is bouncing back from years of drought and fire.

Wednesday 7th September - The Tuan Track in the Chiltern Mt Pilot National Park, is an easy 7km flat walk. The track passes through a very beautiful, unspoilt section of the park. There should be a spectacular display of wildflowers and birds at this time of the year. Enjoy lunch by the dam in sunny Barkley's Block

Saturday 10th September – Don Ingram will lead us on another of his interesting historical walks in his 'back yard'. This 14km walk in the Woolshed Valley is in boulder country both on tracks and through the bush. We climb about 200m for a wonderful view down the valley from Kangaroo Hill, before making our way along the ridge line and down to explore the former Dry Creek mining area and cascades.

Sunday 18th September - This is a "Relay for Life" fundraiser in which club members have been invited to participate. Three walks will be offered – Taffe Road (Easy), Sunrise Track (Medium), Mt Glenrowan/Chick Hill (Hard). All walks finish at Hamilton Park's BBQ area for lunch/drinks. Contact Glenda for details and cost.

Sunday 25th September - In the Cheshunt area this Black Range State Forest walk aims to explore an area that was mined for turquoise between 1887 and 1920. This is a 17km medium / hard graded ridgetop walk on a 4WD track. Bring a torch to explore the main mine and a 'pick' to fossick for minerals - who knows! Expect views of Mt Cobbler, Mt Stirling and Mt Buller as well as along the King Valley.

Sunday 2nd October - An easy 7 km spring ramble to the Pine Gully Falls and beyond. This wildflower extravaganza has something to please everybody and will correspond with the Warby Range – Glenrowan festivities of the weekend.

NEWSLETTER 4, 2011

THE SPANISH NIGHT

38 turned up for the Spanish night held at 13 Walter Street on 18th June. It seems a long time ago now, but what a successful night it was!

Thanks Peter and Kate for the work you put into your presentation. We now know what it means to walk the Camino.

Catering by the Sebastian sisters – Julie and Kerry – was a real bonus. The paella they produced was simply delectable. The fish and mussels were



delivered fresh from Portarlington that day! And the quantities were plentiful. A great night of camaraderie.



THANKS Some of us take for granted the arrival of tea, coffee and bikkies at the end of a walk. You can thank Pat Kuhle for the very conscientious manner in which she produces it all.

An heirloom tablecloth laid over a card table, packets of biscuits and steaming hot water in the Club's urns all appear in an instant, allowing time to reflect on the walk.

Members who read the Chronicle will have noticed an improved literary style in the walks report which appears, oddly enough, in the sports section near the back on Fridays. It's Jan Heywood who has been doing these reports in recent times. Thanks Jan.



---- AND NO THANKS

A computer hacker has been at work. Many who have tried to access our website in recent times have been puzzled as to its disappearance.

Well, on the Queen's Birthday weekend, a hacker, with apparently little else to do on a holiday weekend, destroyed hundreds of websites in Victoria. Unfortunately, ours was one of them.

We are examining ways to rebuild the Club's website, but it may take some time and effort. Sorry folks! Just when its use was exponentially increasing.



Above: Some of the workforce.

Below: Bob Shaw enjoying a bbq lunch, with Eva and Chris Mercier in the background. Right, Helen Twitt and Alan Raison positioning a marker post.

CHICK HILL TRACK READY TO BE TROD

Those who came to the working bees to establish the Chick Hill

Track, were well rewarded for their efforts.

The first of the working bees attracted a wide range of people from children to mature age adults. Along with Parks Victoria personnel, the track was marked out and ribbons tied on trees to identify the route.

Chris Mercier, the new Park ranger for the area, is very enthusiastic, and it was great to see him there along with others, in this joint activity between Parks Victoria, the Hamilton Park Co-operative, and the Warby Range Bushwalkers.

Chris's wife, Eva had a roaring

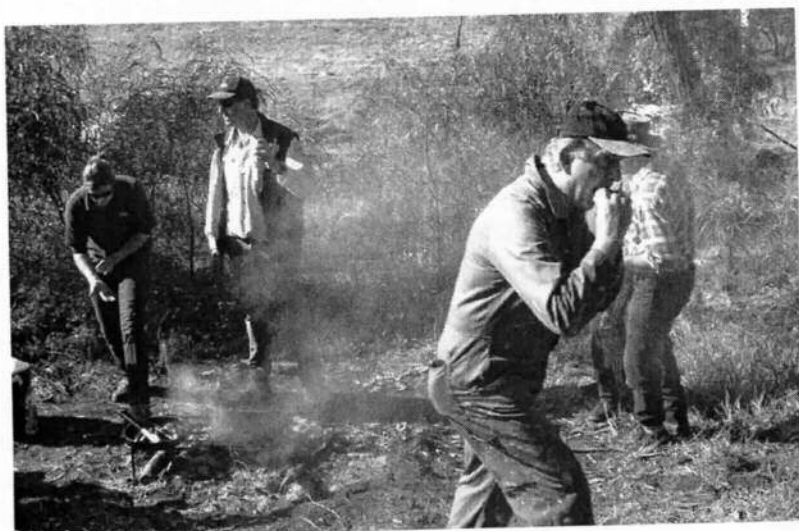
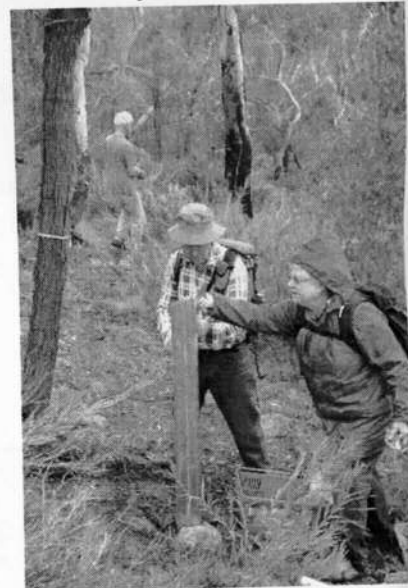
fire going at the end of the day, and soon had sausages cooked for all. Pat Kuhle, as usual, had brought out tea and coffee in the Club's kit.

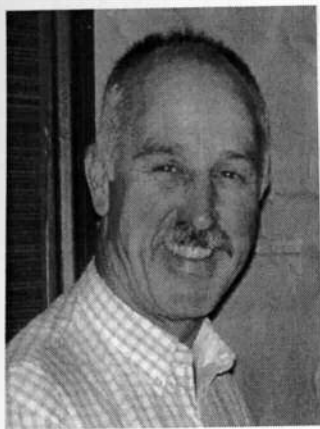
Crowbars and shovels were needed for the next working bee, held a fortnight later. Maybe that put people off; maybe it was the school holidays – but the number of helpers was still adequate for the job. Parks personnel had dropped steel posts, to be used as markers, roughly in the positions needed along the track. Soon, plenty of energy was being expended and in spite of the chilly, foggy weather, it wasn't too hard to work up a sweat.

By morning's end, the posts were in, and the reflective marker triangles stuck on. With the excellent signage which Parks Victoria had erected between working bees, the Chick Hill Track was ready to be trod.

The track commences at the foot of the Warbies at the junction of Warrinya and Taaffe Lanes. It climbs steeply up the escarpment and connects with the Taminick Gap – Mt Glenrowan Track. In the years to come, it should be a popular addition to the existing walking tracks in the range.

Thanks Ranger Chris for your wonderful support. We are likely to see more action from Chris Mercier in the future.





**PAUL
DAVENPORT,
OUR NEWEST
COMMITTEE
MEMBER**

Most Club members have known Paul Davenport for many years. He doesn't

need to walk in the shadow of his wife Kerri, our Past President, for Paul is quite an achiever too.

Paul's weekdays are busy with his family business, One Mile Motors, in the heart of Wangaratta – a business which the Davenport family has run for over sixty years. Their best selling car currently is the Mazda 3. Paul is obviously proud of the business which has had a major showroom make-over in recent times.

Paul went to school in Wangaratta and did apprenticeships in carpentry and motor mechanics. His practical skills are a boon to the Warby Walkers, and it was Paul's suggestion that we improve safety for the Club with the recent purchase of UHF radios, and an emergency beacon. His participation on our committee will be quite an asset to the Club.

Paul's interest in anything that moves or beeps has extended to the air too. Since he was seventeen years old, he has been flying aircraft. He flies whenever he can, and his latest plane is a two seater, 100 hp Avis, which he houses in his own hangar alongside their new home at Londrigan. With 100 acres, there's plenty of space to land a plane!

The older of Paul and Kerri's two daughters, Elise, a paramedic in Shepparton, is to be married in Wangaratta in November

(coincidentally on the day of our next social event). Michelle, the younger, has just returned from a semester of studies at Nottingham University, and recently returned to her history pursuits in Canberra. Kerri and Paul are justifiably proud of their daughters.

If you happen to be walking with Paul, you will find him more than engaging. Paul has wide ranging interests, including the environment (as the new Davenport house attests), and native plants (which now sprout around their house). And he is a great philosophizer on any topic you can name. If you haven't met Paul, do so on a walk, and you will enjoy his company.



CAR CONVOYS

Some of us are forgetting car convoy rules when heading off into unfamiliar territory.

In such circumstances, clearly the lead car should not proceed until all the cars are lined up behind it, and all cars, (excepting the last car), should be able to see the car behind them.

When turning into another road, indicator lights should be activated well in advance, and the lead car should, following the turn, wait for the remainder of the convoy.

It all makes sense, but none of it will work if advance cars go at break neck speed.



BLUE MOUNTAINS



Thanks to all those who have paid deposits for the Blue Mountains 'week away', March 24th to April 1st, 2012. Thirty people have shown an interest by part paying upfront. That was the minimum required so the trip looks assured.

We have already paid the hefty multi thousand dollar fee to reserve a wing of the YHA in Katoomba for our sole use.

If you forgot to pay the deposit of \$100, please get it in to Treasurer Maureen Phillips, 35 Park Cres, Wangaratta 3677. The more that pay and come, the lower the cost for everyone.

Remember that you get your money back if you change your mind before January 31st.

MYSTERY SOLVED

Remember our recent concern about missing walks books of years past? Well, the mystery has been solved –the books have turned up.

It appears that during a hasty working bee last September to relocate the Twitt's possessions during an impending flood, the books were rescued by Irene Knox who took them home for safekeeping.

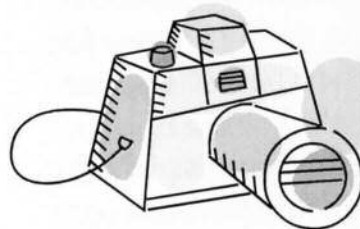
Thanks Irene. You obviously recognized their value.

(The Twitts were very thankful for everybody's help. As a matter of interest, the nearby floodwalls amply protected their house from the successive floods. However, they have now taken out better insurance just in case!)

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

So far, 82 members have paid subscriptions since our annual meeting. In addition we also have non-active life members. The Club is very healthy. Thanks to those who subscribed since our reminder in the last newsletter.

On 1st October, subscription rates are reduced to \$20 (singles) and \$35 (families) for the remainder of our walks year which ends on March 31st. Invite a friend to join. Any \$5 visitors fees paid beforehand are deducted from the subscription.



NEW CAMERA

The Club's old camera has been

replaced with a new Sanyo. It's there to be used. Walks leaders, please note that it is there to be used and is our record of events. If you are too busy, give it to another member to take photos on the day.



EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

Our two way radios and emergency beacon are housed at

One Mile Motors. Paul Davenport is our 'technical person'. Please note that if you are leading a walk which may require these devices, you need to obtain them a day or two in advance.

The use of the EPERB is for extreme emergencies only, and requires the authority of three walk participants to activate. Notes on its use are with the equipment.

GLENDAS 'RELAY FOR LIFE'

You don't have to wait until Oct 1st to participate in Wangaratta's 'Relay for Life'. Why not also try the pre relay fundraiser?



Glenda Hall is organizing three fund raising walks on Saturday 18th September, all ending in a supplied gourmet barbeque lunch at Hamilton Park. You pay a mere \$20, with proceeds going to cancer research.

The walks are:

- Easy – Hamilton Park to Taafe Lane through lovely bushland and country lanes.
- Medium – Extends up the Warby Range escarpment to Chick Hill, with spectacular views of the Ovens Valley and mountains.
- Hard – Taminick Gap to Mt Glenrowan with its spectacular views of the alps, then down Chick Hill to Hamilton Park.

Book for this event as soon as you get the newsletter by contacting Glenda, phone 5721 5114. The more the merrier.

LATEST WALKS PROGRAM

Apologies if you are a Sunday walker and find that most of our next quarter's walks are on Saturdays. We are dependant on the availability of leaders to run our walks program - it's just the way things have fallen this time around.

Walks co-ordinator Karen Davis reassures us that there is plenty of diversity in what is being offered. The Club is conscious that we should provide for all members, with a mixture of easy walks and more difficult ones.

The popular Mt Buffalo camp weekend is being offered again later this year. Let's hope that the campers don't face the deluges of the last two years. If you want to avoid camping, just come up for the day.

Bob Shaw is offering to lead a two day hike in the high country a week before Christmas. Those of us who have the right gear for overnight camping will be very tempted to go.

The first high country trip of 2012 is the weekend of January 7/8, staying at Wangaratta Ski Lodge overnight. Put it in your diary now.

We will probably also have another weekend in the high country in February, so watch for it in the next newsletter which will give more details.

FEDERATION DAY WALK 2011— Mornington Peninsula - Sun 23 October

Hosted by Peninsula Bushwalking Club and the Catholic Walking Club of Victoria

FEDERATION WALKS ARE ALWAYS GREAT FUN

Key Dates

1 August Registration opens via your club

23 September Close of registration

7 October Feedback to club co-ordinators re allocation of walks.

23 October Registration from 8:00 am onwards at the Rosebud Memorial Hall, 994 Point Nepean Road, Rosebud – Melway reference 158 D12

These events enable you to mix with bushwalkers from all over Victoria. If interested, please register with our secretary, Jeanette Farquhar 5721 6514



FROM CHICK HILL TO EVEREST BASE CAMP WITH PIZZAS IN BETWEEN

Our November social event has something for everyone. Yes, it does finish at Everest Base Camp, but with Max Fletcher giving a presentation of his expedition there earlier in the year. Max is an enthusiastic adventure walker whom we haven't yet coaxed into membership (though Loris, his wife, has come along as a visitor). You will enjoy Max's presentation.

Beforehand, we are having our first official walk up Chick Hill, the track having recently been created up the Warby Range escarpment. It will be a late afternoon walk.

Chick Hill is near Hamilton Park, where we will gather afterwards for a pizza and bbq night using the facilities there, which contain a pizza oven and a bbq cooker. Bring your pizza or meat ready to cook, some drinks, plates, and whatever else you think you will need.



Loris Kneen sizes up a giant grass tree with Adrian Twitt on the Salisbury Falls walk

OUR RECENT WALKS

In spite of the wet weather of recent weeks our walks program has been undisturbed.

We have had some delightful times as the photos below will attest.

John Van Riet points out birds on the Killawarra Forest walk



Kate and Peter Murray at Mt Barambogie (left)

Karen Davis, Kerri Davenport and Irene Knox at Mt Samaria (below)





WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc. **WALKS PROGRAM**

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2011

If leaders cannot be contacted to book a walk, ring Karen Davis (5722 2540) or Trevor Turnbull (5721 6215)

DON'T FORGET THE REMAINDER OF OUR WINTER PROGRAM (see last Newsletter)

- * Wed Aug 17. Gapstead Hills with Jan
- * Wed Sept 7. Tuan Track Chiltern with Jan
- * Sun Sept 18. Relay for Life walks with Glenda
- * Sun Oct 2. Pine Gully Falls and Area with Andy
- * Sat Aug 27. Black Range with Trevor.
- * Sat Sept 10. Kangaroo Hills with Don and Kerrie.
- * Sun Sept 25. Turquoise Mine with Bob

October 8 th Saturday	GOLDIE SPUR BUCKLAND VALLEY Contact Bob	MEDIUM HARD 5766 2773
October 12 th Wednesday	BLACK SPRINGS CIRCUIT WARBIES Contact Alan	EASY 5721 7886
October 22 nd Saturday	EMBLING RD/GLENROWAN WEST Contact Jo	EASY/MEDIUM 5762 2002
November 5 th Saturday	CHICK HILL & SOCIAL EVENING Contact Bob	 5766 2773
November 12 th Saturday	MT STANLEY Contact Trevor	MEDIUM/HARD 5721 6215
November 18 th Friday	OVENS RIVER WALK Contact Pat	EASY 5722 9173
November 21 st Monday	WALKS PLANNING & COMMITTEE MEETING (at Karen's home, 154 Rowan Street, Wangaratta)	 5722 2540 or 0409 215 286
November 26 th & 27 th Saturday and Sunday (Friday pm)	MT BUFFALO WEEKEND Camp at Lake Catani. Walks both days, and also Friday afternoon for early arrivers. Contact Karen.	EASY, MEDIUM, OR HARD 5722 2540 or 0409 215 286
December 3 rd Saturday	MURRAY RIVER WALK Contact Peter	EASY/MEDIUM 5726 9337
December 10 th Saturday	XMAS PARTY At Peter and Kate Murray's, Killawarra	 Book on 5726 9337
December 17 th & 18 th Saturday and Sunday	OVERNIGHT WALK OR DAY WALK, BOGONG HIGH PLAINS Contact Bob	HARD/MEDIUM/EASY 5766 2773
January 7 th & 8 th Saturday and Sunday	BON ACCORD TRACK & COBUNGRA DITCH (O'Night at WSC Lodge) Contact Adrian	EASY, MEDIUM OR HARD 5721 5327

SAT, OCTOBER 8TH – GOLDIE SPUR – BUCKLAND VALLEY – A 19.5 KM Medium/Hard walk in the Buckland Valley should be on every dedicated walkers calendar as the views going in both directions are spectacular. There is a 7 km 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 botanist Baron Von Mueller, Thomas Buckland, and Goldie, his stockman.

WED, OCTOBER 12TH – BLACK SPRINGS CIRCUIT – This is an easy half day walk to take advantage of the spring flora of a revitalized Warby Range. The walk will be mainly on management tracks with some cross country sections, starting and ending at Wenhams picnic area. Some binoculars and wild flower identification books could be useful on this walk.

SAT. OCTOBER 22ND – EMBLING RD GLENROWAN WEST – This 12 km walk commences at Jo Dolling's property "Ourill" on Wattle Creek Road where we will return for lunch. Check details with Jo. We wander along quiet country lanes on undulating but even surfaces. Beautiful views await around every corner especially from the top of 'Jo's hill'.

SAT. NOVEMBER 5TH – CHICK HILL AND SOCIAL – Come along on a choice of a short easy or medium walk commencing mid afternoon to help celebrate and open the new Chick Hill Track which has recently been developed with the help of many of our Club members. Walkers will then meet at the Hamilton Park Group Facility for a social evening. Bring your own pre made pizzas to cook in the pizza oven (or something to BBQ if you prefer). The meal will be followed by a short talk by Max Fletcher on his trek to Mt Everest Base Camp.

SAT. NOVEMBER 12TH – MT STANLEY – Two walks are possible depending on conditions with one destination for both walks. Mt Stanley commands terrific views of the Ovens Valley. The medium walk starts on Mt Stanley Rd and is a 9 km 4 hour walk. The second walk is 15 km and takes 6 hours, commencing on Myrtleford-Yackandandah Rd and rising 900 metres to the summit. It passes by "Alan/Murray" Knob (named after two notorious club members) on the way to the summit.

FRI. NOVEMBER 18TH – OVENS RIVER FLATS – This 8 to 10 km half day walk will be mainly on flat tracks through the open forest of the Ovens River floodplain, hence the actual route will depend on conditions at the time. This is a pleasant 'warm day' walk with lots of attractive river vistas.

MON. NOVEMBER 21ST – WALKS PLANNING (7 pm) & COMMITTEE MEETING (8pm) All club members are welcome to attend or to give your ideas /requests to Karen for walks during or before our quarterly planning sessions.

SAT/ SUN. NOVEMBER 26TH & 27TH (and Friday afternoon if you wish) – MT BUFFALO WEEKEND. This weekend of camping and walking has become a club ritual. We're sure to enjoy better weather this year! We will camp at the National Park's Lake Catani Campsite – no power but hot showers, fireplaces, tables, shelter etc. And of course there are some magnificent walks and good company. Members who can't make the whole weekend, are welcome to join us on day walks on either the Saturday or Sunday. Actual walks offered will cater for all levels and be finalized in mid-Nov. in consultation with Park Rangers and assessment of track conditions.

SAT. DECEMBER 3RD – MURRAY RIVER WALK – This riverside walk of 8 to 10 km partly follows the banks of the Murray River and is therefore shaded most of the way. There will be riverside stops along the banks of the Murray and its lagoons. Third time lucky; this walk previously cancelled due to floods.

SAT DECEMBER 10TH – CHRISTMAS PARTY. This year Peter (our President) and Kate Murray will host our Christmas party at their country home in Killawarra.. All welcome. More details in the next newsletter.

SAT/SUN. DECEMBER 17TH and 18TH – PRETTY VALLEY DAM TO BOGONG VILLAGE. Do you want to escape all the pre Christmas hype and lose a few kilos? This weekend walk is just for you. It is a 22 km hard walk with overnight camp commencing Pretty valley Dam, past Tawonga Huts, and ending at Bogong Village via Jaithmathang (previously the Niggerheads) and Mt Fainter. The summit of Jaithmathang and both North and South Fainter may be climbed. The descent is via Bogong Jack Saddle and Bald Hill to near Bogong Village on the Mt Beauty-Falls Creek Road. A day walk option will be offered on the Saturday – an easy walk to Tawonga Huts and return or a medium walk to the huts and on to Mt Jaithmathang and return.

SAT/SUN JANUARY 7/8 2012 – BON ACCORD TRACK AND COBUNGRA DITCH. Accommodation is available at Wangaratta Ski Lodge at Mt St Bernard overnight on Saturday night. On Saturday, two walks will be offered, one from Harrierville to Washington Creek, an easy walk of approximately 10 km through forest and ferns to an attractive picnic spot where this spectacular creek enters the east Ovens River. Easy walkers return to Harrierville, while the more adventurous climb the Bon Accord Track to the Diamantina, where they will be collected by car. The next day, we will walk the newly opened 13 km Cobungra Ditch Track from Mt Hotham towards Dinner Plain – an easy/medium walk. Those who wish, might like to do either Saturday or Sunday's walk as a day walk instead of staying overnight. Booking must be made before Christmas for overnight accommodation.