

WARBY RANGE
BUSHWALKERS
2013

WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS

fun, fitness & friendship



NEWSLETTER 1, 2013

www.warbybushwalkers.org.au

As the New Year of 2013 approaches, we can look back on another successful year for the Club - well attended walks, covering a wide variety of venues and interests.

2013 should be just as interesting, with plenty of activities to choose from, including our 'week away' on the south coast of New South Wales in October. See the Walks Program later in this newsletter for more details.

In keeping with the practices of the digital age, it has been proposed that the next newsletter (Newsletter 2, 2013) be emailed to most of those members who have advised us of an email address. If you want to continue receiving the newsletter in hard copy (printed) format, please let us know.

If you haven't lodged an email address with us, and want to join the email group, please let us know your email address.

Christmas Party 2012 - Saturday, Dec 15

The Warby Bushwalkers Christmas Party will be held around (or under) the eco-friendly verandahs of the Davenport's home at Petticoat Lane - a summer shower won't worry us!

Everyone needs to bring their own meat for BBQ, drinks, plates, glasses, cutlery, chairs and a salad or sweet to share.

RSVP. Please phone Kerri or Paul on 5725 1480 as soon as possible so that they can coordinate the salads and sweets.

The venue address is 401 Petticoat Lane, Londrigan, and the starting time is 6.30pm onwards.

Also, please bring along any unwanted backpacks to donate to MIND (Trinity House) walking program.



Turquoise Mines, September 9

An enthusiastic group of 15 walkers assembled at Moyhu Lions Park on a dazzling fine Sunday morning. This number included two new members, three potential new members and two young adults.

After introductions the group reassembled at the start of Black Range Track. The party were a bit weary of the leader's prediction of an easy walk when an up-hill section was encountered straight out of the car.



Having regrouped at the intersection of Thistlehead Track and Black Range Track, the walkers then made their way up the lovely green Stoney Creek Valley, stopping for morning tea beside the creek.

Wetlands were passed, and commented upon, and the track up the spur was successfully found by everyone.

A short climb took the group past a long abandoned gold mine, and the contrast of Wattles in full bloom against the purple Hardenbergia was noted.

Some of the group even spotted different kinds of Dellwynia in bloom. Once the top of the spur was gained, the group set off again along Black Range Track until Smalls Track was reached.

A short descent then took us to the taped route to the turquoise mine, which was missed until someone voiced the opinion that the tape had run out.

After a recall of the onward travellers, lunch and flossing was on the agenda. Most braved the mosquitoes, and water, to walk the 20m into the mine.

Once everyone had had their fill of turquoise and lunch, we retraced our footsteps, but by taking Black Range Track all the way to the cars.

Thank you to all who participated, and a special thank you to Brydie and Chelsea for their enthusiasm.

Celebrating the Warby-Ovens National Park

A varied program of walks were completed in glorious Spring sunshine between 21st - 24th September to celebrate the magnificence of our Warby Ranges, now with National Park status.

After two wet years, flowering plants and orchids abound, streams are running, birds active, and so were a strong contingent of Warby Walkers, and visitors from many parts of the State.

In all 65 walkers took part in the event – 23 Club members welcomed 42 local and State wide visitors, 10 of whom were enthusiastic children.

Some of our visitors were able to join Club members for our dinner, and informative talk, on our new National Park by Ranger Chris Mercier on Friday evening, and at our BBQ on Saturday evening.

The iconic Warby Range North to South walk, conducted as three separate day walks, attracted a total of 28 walkers, with an average of 15 walkers taking part each day.



Seven walkers (pictured) completed the entire length, and congratulations on this achievement go to Graeme Robinson, Sylvia McLean and Loris Cassar (Essendon Club), Cindy Marsh and Marijke Korting (Border Club) and Pat Kuhle and Adele Ritchie (Warby Walkers).

The walk commenced on Boweya Road on Saturday morning, and finished at Mount Glenrowan Monday lunchtime.

Existing tracks and trails were used, with some cross country sections along rocky ridges, up stream gullies, and through lush, but open forest.

Wildflower and orchid charts were in constant use, and this meant that a leisurely pace was maintained, as people marvelled at the flowers. Viewpoints to the surrounding plains and high country were also a notable feature of the walk.

Another popular walk with families was the Pine Gully Nature Walk on the Saturday with 22 participants - many of them young walkers enjoying some water play, and tree scaling along the way.

The Pangerang Lookout, Salisbury Falls and Friends Track walks attracted smaller, but enthusiastic, groups of walkers, and every turn in the track seemed to provide a floral display to delight participants.



The newer additions to the Park – the Ovens River flats and Killawarra Forest were also covered in the program. The Ovens River walk was a picture, with all the lagoons being full, and reflecting the stately river red gums. The mosquitos however kept us on the move.

The wildflower walk in the Killawarra ironbark forest was also a popular walk with our own 'Man from Ironbark' acting as our leader, guide and muse.

Thanks to Club members who helped organise this event, and acted as walk leaders. What a pleasure it was to share our beautiful Warby-Ovens National Park with members of other Clubs, and interested locals. Our visitors praised the whole weekend and want to return.

Chesney Vale Hills, October 6

In light drizzle 14 walkers left John and Freida Lloyd's home at Chesney Vale, stopping to appreciate good views over the Winton Wetlands.

They made their way to a high point overlooking Warby - Ovens National Park, exploring an old road reserve en route.

They then took a loop track back to the house where Freida had tea and coffee ready. Lunch was had sheltering under the verandahs, as heavy rain had now set in.

All agreed that the walk should be re-run next spring, hopefully in fine weather so as to appreciate the wildflowers.

Eldorado - Beechworth, October 20

In glorious spring sunshine Ian Slater led an enthusiastic band of walkers for this trek from Eldorado to Flat Rock Road near Beechworth.

The group entered Chiltern-Mount Pilot National Park and climbed to a vantage point to view the Eldorado and Woolshed valleys. Masons Track was then followed to the edge of the forest where the shade made an enjoyable lunch stop. A walk down Sheep Station Creek Road (including a visit to the Finedons) completed the walk.



Spring Surprise, October 26.

Spring surprise, as the name suggests, was a mystery walk of about 10km led by Kerri along little used tracks on the western side of the Warby Ranges.

Wildflowers and nesting birds were in good heart on this superb Spring Friday morning. From Moonlight Track, where the walk commenced, the dozen walkers enjoyed superb views of the Chesney Vale Hills, Bailey's vineyard and the watery expanse of the Winton Wetlands.



The track climbs up a gentle hill through a most picturesque understorey and eventually meets up with Ridge Track. Three new faces were on the walk, and the whole company had a pleasant and highly so-

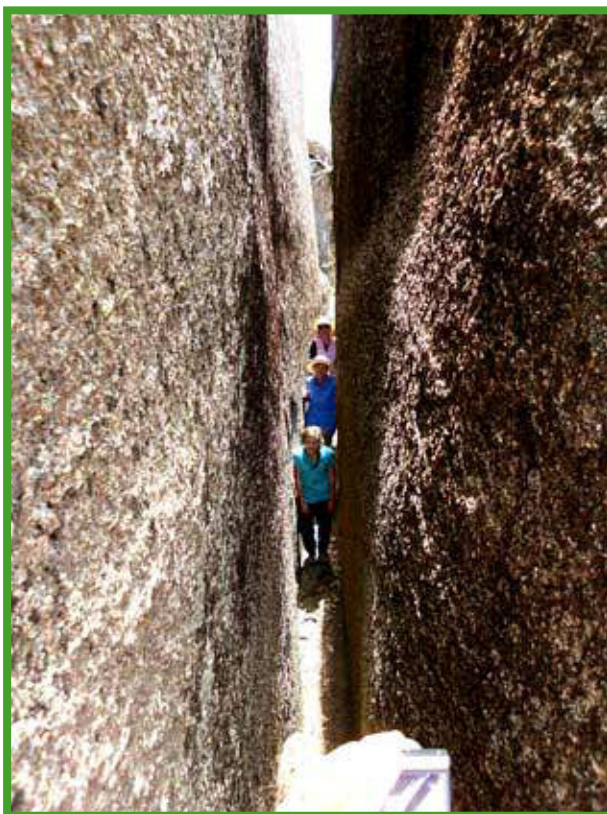
cial ramble. A lively morning tea was enjoyed by all among wildflowers and bird song.

At Ridge Track, the walkers turned left and made their way downhill to the conclusion of the walk at Taminick Gap.

Mount Buffalo, November 3-4

After some late cancellations, 10 of us set off at a very reasonable hour for the first part of our venture, a visit to Og Gog and Magog, where some of us tried some rock climbing, while others had lessons on packing packs.

Others socialised with a German hiker (Michael) who seemed to be saying all the right words to the ladies.



We then set off for Eagles Point, our lunch spot, and what a magnificent one it was. However negotiating the ladder with a shopping bag was tricky for some.

At this stage we met up with our German friend Michael again, who decided if you can't beat them, join them, and became the 11th member of our party.

After re-negotiating the ladder with the shopping bag, we set off for Mollisons Galleries. Once there we thought it was just another rock formation until we actually poked into the first dark space, then it became a game of hide and seek in the various galleries, and we decided they were well worth the visit. Michael meanwhile combined rock climbing with tree climbing, to get a fantastic view of the Nug Nug area.

It was then off to our camp site for the night. As the camp site was very small, two members decided to sleep on a small access road that was flat, with

the comforting thought that someone would have to clear fallen trees before they actually could use the road, the rest of us squashed into the only non sloping terrain that was the camp ground.

The next morning saw us up bright and early to complete the circuit back to our cars via Wild Dog Plain, with a visit to Macs Point on the way. After lunch, back at our cars, some motherly advice to Michael, and a furthering on his education, on the use of Australian and New Zealand slang, we bided farewell and went our separate ways.

Thank-you to everyone who took part in this walk. It exceeded my expectations in scenery, interest and company. Please note that the only available camping area does not accommodate big groups, and that there is just enough room for six tents - after that, finding level ground gets interesting.

Melbourne Cup Day

Warby Walkers celebrated Cup Day with a circular walk led by Adrian, starting and finishing at the junction of Booth's Road and Spotmill Track.

A stroll down Spotmill Track brought the walkers to Booth's Winery where they enjoyed a leisurely lunch of shared finger food and wine in the atmospheric cool of Booth's cellar.



Lunch over, the party followed a delightful creek through greenery and wild flowers, encountering snakes and wallabies; the creek's meanderings brought them to the Old Taminick sheep dip. Here were the remains of the stonewall dam that in times past, Benjamin Warby had used to wash his sheep prior to shearing.

Afternoon tea at Wenhams was celebrated with – what else - cup cakes made by Karen, each inscribed with the name of a Cup entry. The person with the winning horse was to collect a massage from Rod, Karen's husband.

Karen held the winning cake, and there were some who suggested that the Cup was fixed!

Mount Murramarangbong, November 11

On Sunday, November 11, stalwart Warby Range Bushwalkers led by Andy, conquered the mighty Mount Murramarangbong, place of thunder. They



were accompanied by the landholders through whose farm they passed – and one heeler pup.

The approach to Mount Murra was from a private property in Allans Flat. An unmade road was followed up a steep ridge through stringybarks into the state forest, and on to the lunch spot, just to the north of the peak.

Below this vantage point, the Kiewa Valley lay resplendent in green, and in the distance, Lake Hume.

Descent was made through another private property. Negotiating electric fences and the enthusiastic pup were part of the hazards. At one stage on the walk the party came across an ancient coach road which crossed the saddle of the Mount Murra ridge; in the mining days this linked the Kiewa Valley with Allans Flat.

The Big Walk : Mount Buffalo

On Saturday November 24th, a large gathering of Warby Walkers met at the entrance gate to the Mt Buffalo National Park to commence the Big Walk. Eight elected to walk down while eight, despite the predicted heat, chose to go up. Along the walk two more walkers joined in with those going up. The track climbed 1000 metres over 9km

Karen led the downhill brigade, while Bob took off at a cracking pace from the swing bridge at Eurobin Creek, for the first and steepest section of the climb up. The aim was to reach a higher altitude before the heat really began to bite.



Soon the track levelled out somewhat and there was pleasant going along a grassy section through peppermints and candlebarks. Morning tea was had at the 3.9km point where the track meets the road. There, near a sward of purple and white violets, we enjoyed respite in the shade.

Soon the walkers were among granite boulders and a beautiful display of mauve kunzea. The two parties met for lunch. Among the downhill group were Rick and Roberta, visitors from Florida. They were later to proclaim that they had never had the pleasure of walking with a nicer group of people. Our leader, Bob, was given special mention!

On the final section of the walk through snow gum country, magnificent views were had from Mansfield's Lookout, Pulpit Rock and the Crystal Brook Falls. The end point was the Chalet, whose garden was ablaze with rhododendrons of all possible colours.



Eden and Edrom : Week Away - 2013

If you think we are off to a special garden in the Middle East, think again. Eden, NSW, is our destination, and Edrom Lodge is the accommodation for our next Week Away in October 2013.

Why Eden? Our committee was interested in being able to walk a coast/beach and some members still wanted the challenge of a mountain or two. Eden, abutting the Ben Boyd National Park, close to two other National Parks and lying on the eastern coast beside a beautiful deep-water bay, offers both.

Why October? That is when we could get a booking at Edrom Lodge. It is an old homestead most of which has been extensively renovated to accommodate 68 in 34 bunk beds. As we will be the only occupants most will have a lower bed each. The manager was keen to have an all adult group.

Besides, the organisers of the Blue Mountains Week felt the stress of preparing for a March-April sojourn was too close. October then is somewhat of an experiment. It does co-incide with the right and humpback whale migration and a month when dolphins

play in Twofold Bay. Eden also has its fascination for history seafaring buffs.

So, in that new 2013 calendar, or diary, pencil in 13 - 20 October 2013. If you are budgeting, accommodation has been quoted at \$30 per person per night. For those who might plan to spend more time on the Sapphire Coast, there is a camp and parking area at Edrom Lodge for camper trailers, caravans or trailers.

Looking even further ahead, a stay in the Grampian Mountains in 2014 will be investigated. As well as these weeks away, we have planned for two week-ends away, not the usual one, for this summer. See the Walks Calendar for more details.

Peter Murray

BITS AND PIECES . . .

Bush Pea makes a comeback

Visitors to Myrtleford's Reform Hill have been given a treat with the recent flowering of a rare plant. The Stony Bush Pea population has expanded significantly since reaching a critically low level in 2007. Wetter, and milder, conditions seem to have favoured the Pea's reinvigoration.

Outcrops of high ground (such as Reform Hill) seem to be the environs of choice for some members of the pea family. For example, Wodonga's Swainsonia Reserve (next to McFarlanes Hill) is home to the endangered Smooth Darling Pea.

Both the Stony Bush Pea, and the Smooth Darling Pea, are two of the many hundreds of members of the pea family found throughout Australia (including the ubiquitous wattle and mulga).

[Wangaratta Chronicle 30/11/2012, with some extra text.]

Eaten Alive

It looks like the drought has returned to parts of central Victoria, but looks can be deceiving. To passers-by, it looks like trees are slowly dying from lack of water, but a closer inspection shows they are actually being eaten alive by a little critter called the cup moth.

Strathdale (Bendigo) resident Scott Ramsay says that the forests are stressed, and consequently have been swamped by a caterpillar that is causing die-back on a scale never seen before in the region.

"It is quite obvious that someone is asleep at the State Government wheel. I believe that only burning the forests will preserve them from the devastation that is unfolding."

Mr Ramsay says caterpillars are doing the damage and they are doing it in plague proportions. This has an avalanche effect on mammals, reptiles, insects and bird life of the forest.

Ranger-in-charge for the Southern Goldfields, Karen

Doyle says Parks Victoria investigated a similar outbreak this time last year and found the cup moth larvae to be responsible.

Ms Doyle says cup moths are mostly active in the spring, summer and autumn when the young caterpillars feed on the leaves by skeletonising the leaves, while the older caterpillars eat the whole leaf, often leaving only the midrib," she said.

"They can completely eat the leaves and sometimes the leaves are just cut off and fall on the ground."

Ms Doyle says that while the caterpillars are usually only found in small numbers, there can be outbreaks like the one in the Hepburn Regional Park that cause severe damage with trees completely defoliated over a large area.

"Chemical control is rarely required as the caterpillars are very susceptible to viral diseases which sometimes kill entire populations. Natural predators of the moths include wasps, a biting midge, flies and occasionally, birds".

"It is likely the eucalypts in Hepburn Regional Park will recover from the defoliation, however it may take a few years for the trees to fully recover."

[Midland Express, 6/11/2012]

New Walking Track at Myrtleford

Alpine Shire recently completed works on a new riverside walking track in Myrtleford.

Designated as The Ovens River Loop, this easy walk starts out from the town centre, and follows Lewis Avenue down to Apex Park. It then heads downstream, alongside the Ovens River, emerging at the Barwidgee Creek confluence.



On the way, the new track makes use of two new bridges over the River, linking up with an existing bridge over Happy Valley Creek.

To complete the loop back to the town centre, walkers need to get on to the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail which parallels the Great Alpine Road for about half of the return journey to the CBD.

Overall distance is about 5.6km, taking about 90 minutes to complete. See the Walks Calendar for an opportunity to tackle this new venue.

Cycling in Wangaratta

The City of Wangaratta has been named as one of Australia's local government areas that spends the most on bicycle infrastructure.

A Bicycle Victoria Network report, says that, other than capital cities, Wangaratta Council spent the most per person on cycling infrastructure, having committed about \$590,000 for 2012-2013.



*Merry Christmas and
Happy Walking in 2013*



WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc. WALKS PROGRAM

JANUARY – MARCH 2013

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

Dec 31st – Jan 10th Monday - Thursday	AUST ALPS WALKING TRACK with Benalla Club (Booked out)	Contact Adele Ritchie on 5727 9501
January 4th – 8th Friday – Tuesday	BLUE WATERHOLES BASE CAMP (with Benalla Club)	Range of walks Contact Karen Davis on 5722 2540
January 18th – 20th Friday – Sunday	WEEKEND AT MT ST BERNARD SKI LODGE	Easy/Med/Hard walks Contact Adrian Twitt on 5721 5327 by 14th JAN to book
February 3rd Sunday	MORSES CREEK, WANDILIGONG	Easy Contact John Van Riet on 5725 7207
February 16th Saturday	RAMBLE FROM SAMBELL (Late afternoon walk, and picnic tea)	Easy Contact Lesley Finedon on 5728 1740
February 24th Sunday	FULL MOON WALK, EVERTON AREA	Easy Contact Adrian Twitt on 5721 5327
February 25th Monday	COMMITTEE MEETING AND WALKS PLANNING	At Karen's – 154 Rowan Street 5722 2540
March Fri 1st – Sun 3rd	WEEKEND AT FALLS CREEK SKI LODGE	Easy/Med/Hard options Contact Kerri Davenport on 5725 1480 by 1st Feb to book
March 16th Saturday	HOWELLS FALLS in the BUCKLAND VALLEY	Easy/Med Contact Adele Ritchie on 5727 9501
March 20th Wednesday	ANNUAL DINNER & AGM at Vine Hotel	Book by 15/3 with Jeanette Farquhar on 5721 6514
March 22nd Friday	WANGARATTA WATERWAYS	Easy Contact Andy Kimber on 5721 7922
April 6th	REFORM HILL & RIVER RAMBLE - Myrtleford	Easy/Med Contact Chris McLaughlin on 5722 4876
April 18th – 21st Thursday to Sunday	NEXT SECTION OF HUME AND HOVELL TRACK with Benalla Club	Medium Contact Adele Ritchie on 5727 9501 by 31st Jan for more information and to Book.

DEC 31, 2012 – JAN 10th 2013 – AUST ALPS WALKING TRACK – with Benalla Club. This walk is fully booked and participants will be provided with necessary information.

FRI JAN 4th– TUES 8th BLUE WATER HOLES BASE CAMP. It is suggested that we travel to the camping area on the 4th, this is about 20km along Long Plain Road off the Snowy Mountains Highway near Yarrangobilly Caves. On the 5th walk to Pocket Hut to meet up with extended walkers. Do various walks around Blue Water Holes on 6th with hikers on their rest day, and walk out with them on 7th on the next section of their hike. Leave on 8th, or further explore this interesting area. Karen has info on camping, access, walks and sightseeing in the area.

FRI JAN 18th – SUN 20th . On Offer – COBUNGRA DITCH WALK. We are hoping for better weather on our third attempt to complete this new and historic walk celebrating the rich mining history of the area. There is a bit of a climb down and up to the flat track beside the water race. This a medium graded 12.5km walk. It is also planned to 'get a start' on our 10 PEAKS CHALLENGE by scaling **MT HOTHAM & MT LOCH**, (benefiting from our elevated starting point!). Other walks in the summit area can be arranged if there are enough takers, as well as just sitting back and enjoying the cooler alpine environment from the lodge.

SUN FEB 3rd – MORSES CREEK. This beautiful shaded walk between Bright and Wandiligong features evidence of gold mining as well as rocky gorges, rapids and quiet swimming holes. Easy 5km return from Dougherty Bridge, or 6.5km from Bright. The creek walk can be extended to take in the Diggings Walk in Wandil, an additional 2km, which includes the very interesting Chinese Swing Bridge.

SAT 16thFEB – RAMBLE FROM SAMBELL. Easy 6/7km. Join Lesley for a late afternoon ramble starting at Lake Sambell in Beechworth along mostly flat shaded tracks toward Lake Kerferd, before looping back on some different shady tracks known to our leader. Bring a chair and picnic to enjoy on return. Lesley will provide sweets – and as her catering expertise is legendary this is a walk not to be missed.

SUN 25th FEB – FULL MOON WALK. An easy 7km walk on a moonlight night. Commencing at Everton Station, walk the Link Road to Everton, where we will have our evening meal (either a bring-your-own or pub meal at Everton Hotel). Once it is dark enough we will proceed along the rail trail back to Everton Station.

MON 25th FEB – GENERAL MEETING AND WALKS PLANNING FOR APRIL -
Suggestions for our next program can be submitted pre the meeting . All welcome to attend.

FRI 1st – SUN 3rd MARCH – FALLS CREEK. Saturday the three options are – Pretty Valley Dam to Tawonga Huts (9km easy); Pretty Valley Dam to Westons Hut (14km Medium); Pretty Valley Dam to Mt Jaimathong and Mt Fainters (28km Hard, includes 2 peaks of the 10 peak challenge).

Saturday evening – Pensioners Party – from early to 9pm to allow for the ageing population. Event attracting sponsorship from local firms specialising in supporting our senior citizens. The party involves everyone – existing, becoming and future pensioners (or self funded retirees) Pensioners dress essential.

Sunday the three options are – Roper's Lookout and Rocky Valley Dam area (8km easy); Rocky Valley Dam – Johnston's Hut via Heathy Spur (12.4km medium); Watchbed Creek to Mt Nelse and Spion Kopje (19km hard).

SAT 16th MAR – HOWELLS FALLS IN THE BUCKLAND VALLEY. Rated as easy/medium, a shortish walk of 6km. The track initially goes up a spur, then follows an old aqueduct to the falls built when the Chinese first settled the Buckland Valley. There are some obstacles on the track following recent fires. A short scramble is required for a good lunch view. Opportunities for a refreshing dip.

WED 20th MARCH – ANNUAL DINNER and AGM at THE VINE HOTEL. Family and friends welcome.

FRI 22nd MARCH – WANGARATTA WATERWAYS. This easy 6-8km walk will be along the river/creek system in town in the cool of the morning. Flat walking on shady paths.

SAT 6th APRIL - REFORM HILL with new OVENS RIVER PATH as an addition. Easy/medium walk of between 3 – 8km on offer. Reform Hill involves a short climb to take in the past mining relics, as well as the magnificent view over the Ovens Valley and Vic Alps. The new scenic Ovens River walking/cycling track is 2.5km passing through bushland, and crossing the Ovens River twice. Part of the rail trail (a further 2.5km) completes the loop.

THUR 18th – SUN 21st APRIL – HUME AND HOVELL WALKING TRACK, STAGE 2. Fitzpatrick Trackhead – Bossawa Campsite, staying at Wee Jasper Station Shearers Quarters. Medium difficulty on well formed tracks. A deposit of \$30 needed by the end of Feb. (Total cost if there are 10 or more people, \$42 - \$64 for the 3 nights.) You can check accommodation on Wee Jasper Station web site.

Thur: Travel to Wee Jasper. Options to see caves / short walk to Barbers Bay Burrinjuck / 5km loop with views.
Fri: Walk from Log Bridge camp site to Fitzpatrick Trackhead through pines passing Wee Jasper on the way 12.6km. plus car shuffle.

Sat: Logbridge campsite- Bossawa Campsite. A six metre natural column of rock (Pompey's Pillar) is a feature - 21km plus car shuffle.

Sun: Bossawa campsite to Transmission line Access. Easy 9km walk along pretty Micalong Swamp. Leave lunch time for home

WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS – WALKS REPORT – AGM – MARCH '13

It's been a busy year out on the tracks, with only one walk being cancelled due to weather conditions.

In total 22 day (Saturday or Sunday) walks were completed, with an average of 11 walkers on each walk. The majority of walks were in the medium range, and led by 14 different walk leaders. Thanks go to these people for their willingness to contribute to our walks program.

Novelty walks such as the Cup Day Walk and Lunch attracted 17 participants, and the Full Moon Walk and Dinner had 15 participants. We always like to strap on the nosebag!

An amazing number of 14 new walks were held for the first time by the Club – thanks to the Club members who went to the considerable effort of finding and reconnoitring these new walks to make our program more interesting.

In total, six mid-week walks were held – usually as half day walks in the easy category, with an average of 8.5 walkers.

Not included in the above statistics, there were several extended walks and special events; times away being,

- Our popular week away – in the Blue Mountains in March'12, when 38 members took part in a variety of spectacular (and often challenging walks) as well as enjoying good fellowship and food.
- Celebrating the Warbies in September when 23 Club members and 42 visitors (including 10 children) participated in a four day program. The popular South to North Warbies Walk attracted a total of 28 walkers, an average of 15 per day, with seven completing the entire walk.
- Our Weekend at Mount St Bernard in January (when we at last managed the Cobungra Ditch Walk, just before fires ravaged the area) was attended by 22 Club members.
- Our recent Fall Creek weekend attracted 23 walkers, who walked through blizzard type conditions, and were still able to rave at the "pensioner's party" that night – pensioners certainly have stamina!

Thanks go to the members who have served on organising committees, and have arranged our activities, food and accommodation for these special activities.

Special thanks to Adele Ritchie who has shown exceptional leadership and organisational skills. As well as providing us with some new day walks, she has invited our Club to participate in some special programs commenced this year. It has been a wonderful opportunity for our members to take on some more challenging walks, and enjoy the company of members of the Benalla Club. Walks undertaken were:

- An Overnight practice walk on Mount Buffalo in November, with 5 Club members joining Benalla walkers was organised by Adele.
- Four club members joined Adele and Benalla Club members for the first stage of the Hume and Hovell Walking Track in June.
- Four backpackers from our Club also joined Adele and Benalla Club members for the first stage of the Great Alpine Track in January, with another eight of our members joining them for the middle four days, based at Blue Water Holes.

This summer walking season we have started our "Ten Highest Peaks Challenge" suggested by Bob Shaw. To date 23 walkers have taken part, but only one person (Bob) has completed all 6 peaks offered so far. The good news is that we are extending the 10 weeks allocated to the task to 2 – 3 years if needed - so there will be plenty of opportunity for you to tick off these peaks – watch out for them on the program.

Finally, a big thank you to the many members who contributed to our program this year – also to our members for participating. We look forward to another exciting year of walks in 2013/14.

Karen Davis (Walks Co-ordinator).

WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS

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NEWSLETTER 2, 2013

www.warbybushwalkers.org.au

Those glorious autumn days are upon us once more, and there is no excuse for not joining us on a walk.

As usual, there is a wide variety to choose from, including some tried and true venues, as well as some new adventures.

A reminder that our ANNUAL DINNER and AGM will be held at the historic Vine Hotel on Wednesday, March 20th. Everyone (including family and friends) is welcome to attend.

Proceedings start at 6 pm, and includes a presentation (verbal and visual) of our January walk along sections of the Australian Alpine Walking Track.

Please book with Jeanette Farquhar (by 15/3) on 5721 6514.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, in keeping with the practices of the digital age, it has been proposed that this newsletter (Newsletter 2, 2013) be emailed to most of those members who have advised us of an email address. If you want to continue receiving the newsletter in hard copy (printed) format, please let us know.

If you haven't lodged an email address with us, and want to join the email group, please let us know your email address.

The email includes two attachments, the main body of the newsletter, as well as a separate file detailing the walks calendar.

Billabong Track

On Wednesday 12th of December, Peter Murray led an eight kilometre ramble beside the Ovens River in the Peechelba area. It was a circular walk along Billabong Track, commencing and finishing at the Seven Bridges.

Two diversions were made, the first around Loop Track, and the second to the Sandpits, where morning tea was enjoyed to the constant complaint of white cockatoos.

Of note were huge galls (parasitic insect communities) on some of the river red gums, the largest galls John Van Riet has ever seen. There were clouds of common brown butterflies all along the track, especially in the phalaris (reed grass).

Whilst en route, Peter told of the sad fate of Jeremiah Kelly who in 1886, while doing a neighbour a

kindness by carrying a load of hessian bags on his timber dray, slipped when the dray lurched, and fell under its wheels.



Despite this lachrymose tale, all had a most pleasant morning, enjoying leafy shade and river views.

Australian Alpine Walking Track (Namadgi to Kiandra)

Day 1. Namadgi - Honeysuckle Creek

A steep climb took the team up to the turn off to Mount Tennant; the leaders then said it was flat going to the fire tower. They lied, but after a bit of exertion the team was not only on top of Mount Tennant, but able to climb the tower for spectacular views of the surrounding district.

The afternoon was hot, and the spotting of water as everyone ran out of the stuff, was an answer to everyone's parched mouth, and a lesson to carry more water. The absence of water however hadn't deterred the abundance of wildflowers.

Day 2. Honeysuckle Creek – Orroral Camp

The day began with a climb to Orroral Ridge, then a descent down to the tracking station. Some chose to climb to the Geodetic Observatory under very hot conditions (spectacular views). They then followed the others down the heritage trail to Orroral Camp, stopping to look at Orroral Homestead, and take note of the large groups of kangaroos.

Day 3. Orroral Camp – Cotters Hut

As requested by the Rangers, we split up into two groups to go through the wilderness area.

This was a hard climb over Cotters Gap, with over-night packs, on yet another hot day. It was noted that the camp site suggested for group number two was totally inadequate. Luckily the second group caught up with the first as the Cotter River was reached. Most took straight to the river, clothes and all.

Kangaroos were then evicted from a nearby stand of trees, and camp set up. By this time clothes were dry and clean, so night clothes were not donned, giving new meaning to 'wash and wear'. Everyone was in bed well before the sun set. As the night set in, the kangaroos weren't to be deterred and gradually inched back into the area, with several campers reporting sleeping very close to snoring kangaroos.

Day 4. Cotters Hut - Old Snowy Camp

A peaceful walk on river flats, then another hard climb over Murray Gap to the NSW border. Tubby deciding he'd liked the river so much the previous day that he would try a bog hole. Not the same affect though. Definitely not wash and wear.

Several of the walkers were finding the hot conditions tough, and it was a miracle that as the gate was spotted, and the fact that another kilometre had to be walked to reach camp, that Doug one of our drivers appeared over the crest of the hill. His timing was that of the spiritual world.

Day 5. Old Snowy Camp - Blue Waterholes

Back up to the locked gate, via a side track that bypassed the hill, and onto the grasslands that made the man from Snowy River famous. At this stage we started to see groups of Brumbies.



A side trip to Pocket Hut saw our first encounter with people walking the opposite way. We also met up with the base campers staying at Cooleman Mountain camping area.

Down to Blue Waterholes for lunch, and a swim, and then into the vehicles to be driven, via Coolamine Homestead, to our camp. Here we celebrated Adrian and Helens 42nd wedding anniversary with sparklers.

Day 6. Nicole Gorge and Clarke Gorge

While some of the group organised the car shuffle

others walked the two gorge loops. Nicole Gorge was tackled first, with the highlight being Murray Cave, 200m long and full of stalactites. It was then back to Blue Waterholes for a dip and lunch.

The next walk took us through Clarke Gorge down to a waterfall. The waterfall was made up of bubbling rock pools, and some of the group took full advantage of the spa affect.



Day 7. Blue Waterholes - Ghost Gully

It was back down the Blue Waterholes track to meet up with, and continue on, the AAWT, with side trips to Bill Jones Hut and Hainsworth Hut, where we had lunch.

Ghost Gully was reached in good time, and residence was taken up with several horse riding parties. That night the Park Ranger paid a visit, with the warning that the next day was going to be a catastrophic fire day.

Day 8. Home

Due to the weather and fire conditions, and the fact that we were on a plateau with the way out being down a steep windy forested road that wouldn't be passable in the event of a fire, we decided to head home.

The cars were picked up at Yarrangobilly Caves, which were eerily quiet, and breakfast taken in the safety of Tumut. Ironically the danger area turned out to be the Wagga Wagga fire, with the Hume Freeway being closed for part of the day.

Our early departure due to concern over the Snowy Mountain Highway meant that we were well clear of the area when it was closed.

A big thank you to everyone that took part in this great trip. All contributed to make this an excellent adventure that will be talked about for some time.

Particular thanks to our support drivers Mary and Doug; Mary for being treasurer; Andy for being chief photographer; Karen for looking after the Blue Waterholes arrangements; those that took their cars - Pat, Brian and David (who had never met us before, but lent us his vehicle for backup and travelling laundry).

Weekend at Mount St Bernard Ski Lodge

Thanks to Adrian and Helen Twitt's hard work and excellent organisation, 24 Warby Range Bushwalkers were privileged to a fantastic weekend at the Mount St Bernard Ski Lodge, replete with a delicious three course meal on Saturday night, entirely catered for by Helen.

The main objective of the expedition was one of Mount Hotham's newer walks, the Cobungra Ditch walk, which for the main part follows a 10.5km long water race.

The Ditch was completed in 1885, and used to carry water to the Brandy Creek Mine. It took 120 men, 18 months to hew it out of the mountainside. Along the way, several interpretive panels tell its story.



The weather and the views were superb, the track was shaded by snow gums and the wildflowers were many. Rain has twice prevented the club walking the Cobungra Ditch; if the St Bernard weekend had been held any later, fire would have stopped us!

On Sunday, the walkers set out for Mount Loch, and once there took in nearby Feathertop through a pall of smoke from the Aberfeldy fires; two days later Feathertop was to have its own fire, started by lightning on the north-west spur.

At Mount Loch the party split in two, some walkers preferring to visit Derrick's Hut, while the remainder chose to go to the Red Robin Mine and Spargo's Hut.

Just short of their goal, the latter group came on some agitated flame robins, which drew attention to a huge black tiger snake with a bright-yellow belly, suspended from a branch.

The robins were a fitting sighting, since legend has it that when Bill Spargo discovered gold there, a red robin was the only living creature about, and that's how the mine got its name.

Morses Creek

On Sunday, 2nd February, John Van Riet led a party of Warby Range Bushwalkers on a five kilometre circular ramble along Morses Creek, Bright, begin-

ning at Dougherty Bridge, and ending with lunch at Pioneer Park.

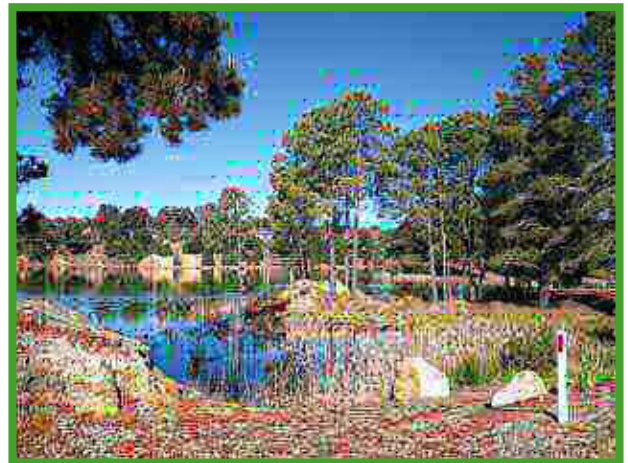
The cool shade, and the constant sound of running water, as the group passed through rocky gorges, and walked beside rapids and quiet waterholes, making a welcome contrast to the heat wave conditions of the previous week.

Evidence of old diggings was a reminder of the frantic activity that had once occurred in this peaceful place during the gold rush days of the 1800s.

A shaded rocky pool made the perfect venue for morning tea, and the walkers then took the bike trail back into Bright, where a sociable lunch was enjoyed in Pioneer Park.

Lake Sambell Ramble

On Saturday, February 16, nine walkers met at the historic township of Beechworth, and set out on a pleasant, easy graded, late afternoon walk. A short walk was completed along the track which eventually leads to Lake Kerford (the water supply for the township) arriving back at the Lake Sambell beach and picnic area around 6.30pm. Here, we enjoyed a delicious tea and trifle supplied by the walk leader.



Everton - full moon walk

Fifteen walkers converged at the Old Everton Station on February 24th for a moonlight walk. The late summer heat of the day had somewhat abated as we set off along shady White Post Road at 6pm for Everton Hotel, avoiding the odd car travelling at that time. The hotel, by prior arrangement, served a pub meal, turning the occasion into a social engagement enjoyed by all.

Dusk had fallen as we emerged, but cloud-cover had arrived too. However, the group had enough light to follow Diffey Road to the rail trail, which was followed northward back to Everton Station.

Michelle and Claire Turnbull, leading the group, disturbed a mob of kangaroos which hopped across in front of them, giving them somewhat of a fright. Luckily the clouds parted and by the time we had reached the finish, a full moon shone down upon us.

Falls Creek Weekend

This was one of our regular 'two days away' events, with the accommodation being at the Myrtleford Ski Club. The first day started off with extensive cloud cover, and bitterly cold conditions, exacerbated by a high wind chill factor; however the next day offered perfect high plains weather.

Saturday, March 2

Mount Fainter South and Mount Jaithmathang

This hard walk of about 24km return was tackled by 11 walkers, but first we car pooled, and drove from Falls Creek to Pretty Valley Pondage. We then set off at about 8am, passing the Memorial Cairn and Tawonga Huts, before passing the Jaithmathangs (formerly known as The Niggerheads). From here we continued on to lunch at Mount Fainter (Victoria's 4th highest peak).



We then followed the Fainter Track back to Pretty Valley, and climbed Mount Jaithmathang as time permitted (the climb took two hours in full). We then retraced our steps to the Pretty Valley Car Park.

Notes.

- A 7.30am start from Falls Creek was essential as the day finished at 6pm for those walkers that completed both peaks successfully. We were an experienced group of walkers, yet the whole trip took 10 hours to complete.

- There was considerable high winds and fog in the morning. However all walkers were well prepared for an alpine walk, with good quality parkas, gloves, thermals and woollen beanies, hence we had few problems with the adverse weather

- The majority of walkers did not climb Mount Jaithmathang, as they had to pace themselves, given that there was another day of walking to follow.

Sunday, March 3

Watchbed Creek to Spion Kopje

This is a 15km return walk of a moderate standard, and as on the previous day we first car pooled, and drove from Falls Creek, via Rocky Valley Lake, to Watchbed Creek.

We then commenced the walk via the Big River Fire Track, with several climbs and descents, before arriving at Pole 858 (Warby Corner).

We then climbed west, to the tallest and nearest part of Spion Kopje which is not marked as the 3rd highest peak in Victoria but should be!!



The walk then descended down Spion Kopje to pole 858 then ascended to lunch at Mount Nelse (Victoria's official 3rd highest peak) at noon. On the way, we passed pristine bog areas, and enjoyed great views over Falls Creek and Mount Bogong, returning by the same route for a 2.30pm finish.

Accommodation and social activities

The accommodation and facilities at the Myrtleford Ski Club are excellent. Most rooms housed 2 – 4 people, the kitchen facilities were spotless and the kitchen equipment for preparing meals was very comprehensive. Thanks to all those who contributed to the Saturday evening sumptuous meal of nibbles, main course and sweets.



The meal was preceded by a 'Pensioners Party', where all those who remembered wore their pensioners' clothes with aplomb. Many of those who forgot are pensioners already, and that is why they forgot.

There were hair nets, stockings, spectacles, moccasins, designer hats, the sixties look and plenty of pensioner apparel that gravity pulled ever lower towards the ground!! We listened to 60's music, some danced, whilst others took plenty of photos.

During dinner a cake with the label – “Raging before Ageing” - was produced with plenty of sparklers and candles as both Adrian Twitt and Bob Shaw were having recent birthdays.

A very very comprehensive kit of all sorts of aids and condiments was produced for Bob Shaw's 65th birthday as the belief was that many of these medical items would be required very soon by the birthday boy!!

Eden and Edrom : Week Away - 2013

Eden, on the far south coast of NSW, is the destination for our week away in 2013, and Edrom Lodge is the chosen accommodation.

Eden is located beside a beautiful deep-water bay, abuts Ben Boyd National Park, and is close to two other National Parks.

The Lodge is an old homestead, most of which has been extensively renovated to accommodate 68 in 34 bunk beds.

October coincides with the right and humpback whale migration, and is also a month when dolphins play in Twofold Bay. Eden also has its fascination for seafaring history buffs.

Accommodation has been quoted at \$30 per person per night, with catering being on a communal basis.

For those who might plan to spend more time on the Sapphire Coast, there is a camping and parking area at Edrom Lodge for camper trailers, caravans or trailers.

The dates are 13 - 20 October 2013. More details in the next newsletter.

Burma Unveiled

Six members of the Warby Range Bushwalkers were among sixteen participants (mainly NE Victorian residents) on a February trip to Myanmar, commonly referred to as Burma.

Five of our members - John Lloyd, Frieda Andrews, Karen Davis, Adrian and Helen Twitt, were looking forward to a variation from the crowded itinerary. Having been overwhelmed by the myriad of golden pagodas glistening over cities, capping seemingly every hill or dotting the rural countryside (there are 4000 of them around Bagan alone), a walk in the hills of Shan State seemed a worthy diversion.

We travelled by motorised canoe to our destination, a trip in itself of great interest, first crossing Inle Lake from our bamboo and thatch hotel on stilts over the water. We were whisked up an inlet, past wallowing water buffaloes, and men scooping sand from the river bottom to sell for cement and brick making in this gravel deprived area.

Eventually our canoes reached a landing by a riverside village and having scrambled up the steps, were guided to a nearby market bustling with peo-

ple. It was a colourful scene, enriched by the cloth headgear of the marketeers. Produce of all kinds from the surrounding area was on sale, providing a fascinating insight into its productivity.



Our day's walk followed a pathway bordering the river through a bamboo forest and passing the first of the villages along the route. The pathway subsequently deviated into a rather hot and barren volcanic landscape, going uphill. Freida Andrews set a cracking pace, apparently on the pretext of getting through the rigours more quickly.

Like Freida, we were glad to reach the next village, which offered some shade, and rest in a school building – a little two room rural school – where the two-hour lunchtime meant encountering just two or three children peering at us as though we were aliens from another planet.

The school rooms were almost bare of furniture or resources, and we regretted not bringing something useful with us.

The village houses, of this part of Shan State, typically stand on stilts, constructed from wood and bamboo, with thatched walls and roofs (though corrugated iron is becoming used for roofing).

Pigs lounged in the shade; children appeared from balconies; seeds, fruit and nuts dried on sheets on the ground, and in the dusty lanes are oxen-drawn carts.



A New Zealand aid project had recently enabled the residents to construct septic toilets which would be a vast improvement on those that still exist in the lakeside villages (use your imagination!).

Most of the adults (and oxen) were absent, working in distant fields. Inside a village house, almost bare of furniture, we saw Aung Sun Sui Kyi's photo proudly attached to the wall – photos of the national heroine are all over the country. She appears to be revered by all.

Having enjoyed our shady respite, we lunged out into the hot landscape and returned downhill to the shady riverside area. There we lunched in a delightful restaurant, built in Burmese style overlooking the river, and met up with the remainder of our group who had taken a shorter walk in the morning.

Having rested and cooled ourselves, we were rejuvenated enough to undertake our hike through the area previously traversed by the others.

The afternoon walk was a much shadier affair through bamboo forest. Perhaps the highlight was to reach a village where a three-day holiday festivity was in progress to celebrate the entry into a monastery of three young village boys.

We were invited to pay our respects to the trio, dressed like little emperors in an upstairs room, prior to their transformation into head shaved saffron robed little noviciates.

We were offered tea, which we gracefully accepted. But we did not want to overstay our welcome, so soon descended to street level, where the main procession with float, was about to take place.



The village 'band' with traditional gongs and drums gave a celebratory accompaniment. It was a great conclusion to the day. Perhaps we need to examine ways of enlivening Warby Walks!

Our trek was guided by two men – one a Shan, and the other, a young Pao – two of the ethnic groups in this part of Myanmar.

The younger twenty-one year old guide could speak five languages, and is currently studying tourism at university. In an impoverished nation, he symbolised the promising future of Myanmar.

Adrian Twitt

Falls Creek - Mount Hotham Walking Track

Fly-out toilets, and raised platforms for setting up tents, are part of an iconic walk being established on the Bogong High Plains.

The 37-kilometre trek from Falls Creek to Mount Hotham is one of four planned for Victoria. The three-day journey, broken with campsites near Cope Hut and Dibbins Hut, is seen as being on a par with the Overland Track.



The toilets are in response to environmental concerns in the Alpine National Park - a helicopter needs to take away the waste at least once during the summer from the remote sites. It is currently a two day operation to replace the waste tanks from the toilet system, and the use of a helicopter will allow better management of human waste at these locations.

Ranger in charge of the Bogong unit in the Alpine National Park, Ross Grant, said the project was a partnership with Tourism North East, and that the camping platforms and new toilets were part of upgrades along the existing track between Falls Creek and Mount Hotham.

"The platforms are designed to be able to cope with the snow load during winter high-winds and alpine weather. In time we expect this to be a major walk, with a lot of summer traffic, part of a guided and supported walk trail where people book to use the platforms, and tour operators, and accommodation providers can service the walk.

These platforms protect the alpine environment from over use, and provide campers with a solid base to pitch their tents in spectacular alpine settings."

Other iconic walks in line for the same treatment include The Great Ocean Walk, the Wilderness Coast Walk, and a new long distance walk in the Grampians. [Chronicle 15/12/2012]

Eldorado Walking Track

Eldorado has struck gold with a \$423,000 project that will boost facilities at its major attractions. The project will create a path and interpretive signage that links key attractions, and provides an environment that showcases the town's rich mining history.

The multipurpose track will start from Gun House Park, leading down the main street, through the recreation reserve, and onto Cox's Dredge.



Works will also include refurbishment and extension of the amenities block, improved access to Gun House Park, increased seating and shelter and improved lighting. Using funds from the City of Wangaratta, and the State Government, the project is expected to be completed by August 2013.

[abbreviated from the Wangaratta Chronicle, 28/12/2012]

Trekking Poles

Trekking poles (also known as hiking poles, hiking sticks or walking poles) are used to help with rhythm and stability on rough, or steep, terrain.

These handy devices resemble ski poles, having many features in common, such as baskets at the bottom, rubber-padded handles and wrist straps.



Unlike ski poles, however, they are usually manufactured in a telescopic manner, and when fully retracted, they can be stored in one of the many side pockets found in modern day backpacks.

Trekking poles can also be used as an aid in rocky terrain, and to check the depth of mud or water prior to a wet crossing.

Both of the camping stores in Wangaratta (Camping World and Adventure Camping) stock retractable trekking poles.

Underprepared in the Blue Mountains

A man, who went on a three-day trek in the Blue Mountains with only potatoes and naan bread in his pack, has been fined \$500 for being poorly prepared. The 29-year-old was winched to safety by a police helicopter following a search.

He set out from Newnes, 200km northwest of Sydney, and told friends he planned a 150km, three-night hike to Colo Heights. When the hiker did not reach his intended destination on Saturday, his friends called police.

Two police helicopters and SES volunteers were involved in the search, which ended in the man being winched to safety on Saturday.

NSW Police Force Rescue and Bomb Disposal Unit Commander Brenton Charlton said the man was fined \$500 under the 2009 National Parks and Wildlife Regulations for "engaging in activity that risks the safety of self/others".

"We believe that the 29-year-old placed himself, and the search teams, at risk through his lack of planning and preparation, and through carrying inadequate provisions."

Police said the man's intended route through remote terrain would have been extremely difficult to complete safely, and would have taken much longer than he estimated.

[Herald Sun, December 30, 2012]

Congratulations to Rod Davis

As part of the 2013 Australia Day celebrations, many locals were presented with 'Local Achiever Awards' for their contribution to the community.

Among the recipients of this year's award was club member Rod Davis - Rod having been a keen participant (and team leader) in a project that provides residents of St Johns Aged Care Facility with the opportunity to document, and print, their life story.

Walking Boots for sale

Sue Dorrington has a great pair of ladies hiking boots for sale. They have barely had any wear (less than six occasions) and were purchased from Paddy Pallin. They are Hi Tech, waterproof and provide great ankle support. Blue and grey in colour, size 42 and available for a mere \$50. Please call Sue on 57213086 A/H, or 0429568175, for viewing or fitting.



WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc. **WALKS PROGRAM**

APRIL – JUNE 2013

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

April 6th Saturday	REFORM HILL AND RIVER RAMBLE-Myrtleford	Easy/Med Contact Chris McLaughlin 5722 4876
April 10th Wednesday	SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING (post AGM)	At Karen's 7.30pm 154 Rowan Street
April 9th Tuesday	LAKE AND RIVER WALK - Benalla School holiday special	Easy Contact Karen Davis 57222540 / 0409215286
April 13th. Saturday	EXPLORATORY WALK WATCHBED CREEK TO BOGONG VILLAGE	Hard Contact Bob Shaw 5766 2773
April 18th - 21st Thursday - Sunday	2nd SECTION OF HUME & HOVELL TRACK	Medium Fully Booked
April 28th. Sunday	BRIGHT IN AUTUMN	Easy/Medium Kerrie Davenport 5725 1480
May 4th. Saturday	HOMEWARD BOUND TRACK	Hard Trevor Turnbull 5721 6215
May 18th. Saturday	FLAGSTAFF RANGE	Medium/Hard Bob Shaw 5766 2773
May 20th Monday	COMMITTEE MEETING AND WALKS PLANNING	At Twitt's 13 Walter Street at 7pm 5721 5327
29th. May Wednesday	ALBURY WODONGA PARKLANDS	Easy Contact Helen Twitt on 5721 5327
June 1st. Saturday	LAKE MOODEMERE	Easy Contact Adrian Twitt on 5721 5327
June 12th Wednesday	WARBIES WINTER RAMBLE	Easy Contact Andy Kimber on 5721 7922
June 22nd. Saturday	KANGAROO HILL ELDORADO	Medium Contact Ian Slater on 5725 1675
July 7th Sunday	EXPLORATORY WALK GOULBOURN RIVER with Benalla Club	Medium Contact Adele Ritchie on 5727 9501
FORWARD PLANNING See next Newsletters for more details. Contact person is Adele Ritchie 5725 9501	HUME AND HOVELL Transmission Line to Blowering Campsite ALPINE TRACK Ghost Gully –Round Mt Trailhead ALPINE TRACK Round Mt. - Dead Horse Gap via the Rolling Grounds HUME AND HOVELL Blowering Campsite – Buddong Falls	Thur Sept 12 – Sept 15th Fri Nov 14th – Nov 22nd '' March 1st - 8th 2014 April 5th - 8th 2014

<p>Saturday 6th. April – REFORM HILL WITH NEW OVENS RIVER PATH as an addition. An easy/medium walk of 3-8km on offer. Reform Hill involves a short climb to take in the past mining relics as well as the magnificent view over the Ovens Valley and Vic Alps. The new scenic Ovens River walking / cycling track passes through bushland crossing the river twice and the bike trail completes the loop.</p>
<p>Tuesday 9th April – LAKE AND RIVER WALK – BENALLA. <i>An easy walk of 6-8km on flat waterside paths around Benalla's waterways. Featuring the Art Gallery and Botanical Gardens, Fish Ladder, Jaycee and Little Casey Islands with possible sighting of platypus, native water rats and various forest and water birds.</i> <i>BEING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS CHILDREN WITH ADULT SUPERVISION ARE WELCOME ON THIS WALK – it would make an ideal outing for grandparents with active grandchildren to entertain.</i></p>
<p>Wednesday 10th April – SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING – The committee has decided to hold a post AGM meeting to promptly allocate the tasks necessary to run our Club amongst the new Committee.</p>
<p>Saturday 13th. April – WATCHBED CREEK to BOGONG VILLAGE – A Hard 20+km walk starting from Watchbed Creek. We'll follow the Big River fire track towards Spion Kopje – then head across country towards Crowsnest and continue on along the top of the Grey Hills. Then walk down Possum Spur to Lake Guy. No long steep climbs but the Black Possum Spur is long and steep going down. A car shuffle will be required between Bogong Village and the Watchbed Creek gate so an early start(8am) is suggested. Participants will need to leave Wang. very early or stay overnight in the area.</p>
<p>Thursday 18th April – Sunday 21st. April – HUME AND HOVELL WALKING TRACK – stage 2 – Fitzpatrick trackhead – Bossawa Campsite. This walk with members of Benalla Club was featured on the last walks program and is booked out. Participants should have the necessary details.</p>
<p>Sunday 28th. April – BRIGHT IN AUTUMN- An easy/medium walk of approx. 12km. Starting with a climb on well formed tracks to enjoy a view over Bright clothed in autumn tones. We will then follow the ridge with views all the way before looping back down to the Ovens River Canyon which we will follow back to Bright.</p>
<p>Saturday 4th. May – HOMEWARD BOUND TRACK – a hard walk of 16 – 18km to the east of Mt Hotham towards Dargo. Walking mainly on 4wd tracks but some bush navigating is required. This a regrowth area descending to the Dargo River and can be steep in places. After a picturesque lunch stop on the River we will retrace our steps. NOTE at time of publishing this Newsletter Trevor hasn't had a chance to check the safety of the route after the 2013 fires – if he has any concerns re unsafe timber etc a substitute walk will be offered.</p>
<p>Saturday 18th. May – FLAGSTAFF RANGE - A medium Hard walk of 18km. which was postponed due to hot and windy weather last December. An enjoyable walk in cooler weather along the scenic Flagstaff Road which climbs from Taylor's Gap on the Great Alpine Road to the Buckland Gap area. The walk is undulating and quite steep at times. Superb views over the Murrumbidgee Basin and Mount Buffalo. Good chance of seeing spotted quail thrush.</p>
<p>Monday 20th. May – COMMITTEE MEETING AND WALKS PLANNING – All Club members are welcome to attend these meetings and contribute to the walks program and general running of our Club.</p>
<p>Wednesday 29th. May – ALBURY WODONGA PARKLANDS - Discover a part of Albury's natural spaces that remains a mystery to those of us who see Albury as a place to shop! The Nail Can Hill Crown Reserve features a network of trails with many spectacular views and is also a haven for some rare fauna and flora. So – let's learn more with a 8 – 10km ramble through a section of the reserve, on tracks but with some steep sections.</p>
<p>Saturday 1st. June – LAKE MOODEMERE – An easy flat 10km circuit – a perfect start to winter. The walk starts at Pfeiffers Winery – then passes through pleasant red gum forest, along a road reserve and around the Lake through to the Murray River. We will then turn northwards and return to Pfeiffers across the creek where there will be the opportunity to taste their wines.</p>
<p>Wednesday June 12th. WARBIES WINTER RAMBLE – Warm up with an easy 8km walk in the rejuvenated Warbies coming to life again after the hot summer . The walk will be on bush tracks with views over the High Country – perhaps wearing a winter dusting of snow.</p>
<p>Saturday 22nd June – KANGAROO HILL ELDORADO - A medium grade walk of 12kms with a few climbs partly on bush tracks with some off road walking. After a flat walk to the edge of the National Park we will climb for views over Eldorado. Another km of bush will see us onto a track which will have us below Kangaroo Hill. Here we'll climb for more views(and a geocache for those willing to search) before heading down the other side, back onto the road to complete the circuit with a leisurely walk back to Eldorado.</p>
<p>Sunday 7th. July – GOULBOURN RIVER WALK – A new and untried walk – one of Tyrone Thomas and Andrew Close's walks so well worth a try. It is a medium graded walk of 11.6km over river flats along well formed tracks that follow the Goulbourn River just west of Mooroopna</p>

WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS

fun, fitness & friendship



NEWSLETTER 3, 2013

www.warbybushwalkers.org.au

Autumn of 2013 has been another busy period for the Club, with a variety of walks on the calendar, offering at least one of everything to suit all tastes.

The forthcoming calendar of events continues this good news, with some excellent walking terrain to be explored, both in Victoria, and on our 'week-away' at Eden, in southern New South Wales.

Our Annual Dinner and AGM was held at the historic Vine Hotel on March 20th, and included a presentation (verbal and visual) of our January walk along sections of the Australian Alpine Walking Track. The event was well attended, with the AGM seeing the election of Bob Shaw as President, taking over from the hard working Peter Murray.

Avid readers of our website (www.warbybushwalkers.org.au) will have noted that there are two new items on the menus — the President's Column, and the Special Events tab.

The current President's Column is reproduced here, straight after the Walks Reports.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, this newsletter (Newsletter 3, 2013) will be emailed to most of those members who have advised us of an email address. If you want to continue receiving the newsletter in hard copy (printed) format, please let us know.

If you haven't lodged an email address with us, and want to join the email group, please let us know your email address.

Howells Falls

A varied crew of 24 walkers set out for Howells Falls on the 16th of March, and were rewarded with a very interesting short walk that took most of the day.

Howells Falls are a spectacular cascade on Little Buffalo Creek, on the northern side of the Mount Buffalo massif, and can be seen from the Buckland Valley Road.

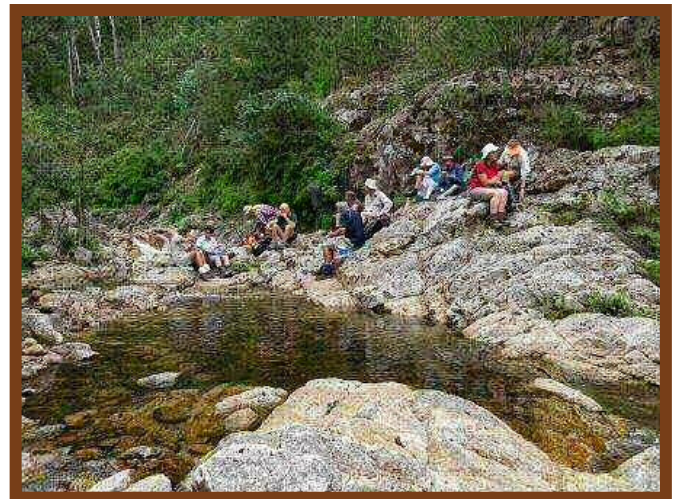
The task for today was to hike up to the Chinese labourer built aqueduct, that runs north from the Falls for several kilometres, and then to follow the aqueduct to the Falls themselves. Getting to the aqueduct involved a crossing of the Buckland River, followed by a 125m ascent through open woodland.

A second set of walking boots were a handy accessory for the river crossing, so that we could continue the walk with dry socks and boots - the wet gear being left at the river for collection on the way back.

Following the aqueduct was not as easy as it sounds, with great

care being required at fallen trees, and other forest dross, that has accumulated since the gold rush days. However, three hours after leaving our vehicles at the Buckland Road, we made it to the Falls, more than ready for some food.

Those with excess energy explored the upper environs of the Falls (our lunch spot being near the base of the Falls) whilst the majority enjoyed a leisurely lunch beside crystal clear running water.



As usual, the return leg seemed shorter than the outgoing walk, and having made it back to the cars, there was widespread disbelief in the GPS data that indicated that we had only covered 6.6km all up.

Many thanks to Adele and Trevor for reconnoitring such an interesting walk.

Riverside Walk, Wangaratta

Andy Kimber led an enthusiastic group of walkers alongside Wangaratta's Ovens River on March 22, with the walk being split into two sections.

The first walk started at the northern end of Park Street, meandering past H P Barr Reserve, and the Showgrounds, before emerging at the new pedestrian bridges over the River.

From here it was a short hop to Apex Park via Painters Island. Cars were then used to get everyone to nearby Horseshoe Bend and the Billabong, the venue of the second section of the walk.

Overall, this combined walk covered an easy five kilometres. Given the riverine environment, we had expected to come across a fair contingent of snakes, but none were to be seen.



Reform Hill

Reform Hill, and the newly opened riverside walking track in Myrtleford were the chosen venues for this April 6 walk, and sixteen walkers met at Apex Park for car pooling, and the scenic drive to Myrtleford.

Unfortunately, DSE were conducting a burn-off at the Hill and so, apart from a quick look at the Hume and Hovell Memorial (on the north-west corner of the Hill) we had to contend ourselves with the riverside walk, and a return to the town centre via the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail. However, it was such a glorious autumn day, that the truncated walk didn't seem to bother anyone.

The riverside walk leads from near the caravan park, to the parklands at the Barwidgee Creek - Ovens River confluence, and has been open for about a year.

Construction of the walking path involved two new bridges over the Ovens River, and follows an excellent route under ancient river redgums. It is a great asset to the town, and is popular with the locals and visitors like us.



From Barwidgee Creek, we meandered back to our cars via The Phoenix Tree, a wood carving of a bird enclosed in a red-gum tree root. The sculptor was Hans Knorr (1915-1988), a local artisan who was an internee at the Whorouly POW camp. The carving was unveiled in 1986.

Further along, is The Big Tree, an ancient red-gum that was once the meeting place for the Jaithamathang People. After picking up our cars, we had an enjoyable lunch back at Barwidgee Creek, vowing to return to Reform Hill at a later date.

Benalla Walk, April 9

This enjoyable seven kilometre walk saw the group tackle Lake Benalla, Jaycee Island, Little Casey Island, the Botanic Gardens and a try out of the local Analemmatic sundial (see photo).

We set out from the Rose Gardens, and made an anti-clockwise loop around the various waterways of Benalla's Broken River, before returning to the Botanic Gardens for lunch.



Analemmatic sundials typically have a ball on a flagpole, with the sundial face etched onto the pavement below.

In the middle latitudes of planet earth, you can dispense with the ball on the flagpole, and let the observer's head form the shadow on the ground. This is the modus operandi of the Benalla Sundial, with a figure-of-eight etched into the pavement allowing for different places to stand during different times of the year. Such fun!

Mount Bogong Summit Walk - April 13

This was graded as a hard walk, and it lived up to this category (it never gets easier climbing Bogong). We left Wangaratta, at 6.30am and arrived at Mountain Creek camping ground at 8.15am

Trevor drove his 4WD another 2-3 km east up the Mountain Creek Track to the actual base where the Staircase leaves the track and starts to climb in a southerly direction. This was a good decision as adding another hour to the trip may have meant that we finished the walk in the dark.

Times taken –

- 8.40am started the long climb up the staircase. Stopped for a rest after one hour. The track was in good condition, and there were about 10 – 15 other walkers on the track.
- 10.30 am, arrived at Bivouac Hut for morning tea.
- 11.30am, arrived at Gorge Gap, where there is a cairn for three walkers who lost their lives in the snow.
- 12.30pm, arrived at the Summit of Mount Bogong after four hours of hard graded walking

- We decided to not walk the next 2.5km to the West Peak. We could see the Peak in a westerly direction, at almost the same altitude, but decided against this destination as it would have meant finishing in the dark.
- We started to descend at 1.30pm and arrived back at Bivouac Hut, our first stop at 3.00pm.
- We reached our Mountain Creek intersection at 4.30pm, and arrived back at Wangaratta at 6.30pm.



Notes and Suggestions for the Future –

- There are no problems undertaking this walk outside of daylight savings time, so long as you commence the ascent before 8.00/8.30am
- To reach West Peak we could have driven to the Camp Creek Gap/Eskdale Spur picnic area, and walked from here up the Eskdale Spur. This would have meant that the Bogong West Peak could have been a possibility.
- The Staircase route is 8km from the Mountain Creek camp ground, or 5km from the start of the Staircase, with a descent of 1300 metres. The Eskdale Spur route is 4.5km from Camp Creek Gap, with an ascent of close to 1000m.

Hume and Hovell Walking Track

Thursday/Sunday, 18/21 April. After a not so clear lead up to the walk, 12 out of the original 16 participants, from four different walking clubs, turned up on the Thursday morning for the second section of the great Hume and Hovell expedition.

Arriving at Wee Jasper, most of the group headed off to do some walking towards Lake Burrinjuck, but diverted to do some caving instead.

Friday dawned sunny and promising for the trip over Little Wee Jasper back to the township. The lesson for the day being that you can't take pictures with a purse. The log book on top of the mountain was read out, and a comment about a very friendly red wallaby in the area was noted. Turning around, there it was eating someone's banana skin and being very cute.

After reaching Fitzpatrick Trackhead some of the group (not having walked enough) took the longer more scenic route over the ridge back to the shearer's quarters. Geoff kindly rounding up the strays. Saturday was yet another sunny day, with the route from Log-bridge Campground to Bossawa Campground being tackled. After

a false start, which cost us time and kilometres, we were away with beautiful gorges and swamp plants being encountered. The lesson for that day was to check for track markers.

Sunday, supposedly an easy day, was not to be so. The three hour walk turned into much more, with the misplacement of the driver, who I might add went to considerable effort to get to us. His dedication finally prevailing, and adding to the adventure.

Thank you to all participants for your company and support, and a special thank you to Geoff our driver and chook feeder. I suspect Troy, the Wee Jasper manager, came back from his holidays to some very fat smiling chooks.

Bright, APEX Lookout

A total of 15 Warby Range Bushwalkers covered a very scenic 11km of the area to the north of the township of Bright on Sunday, April 28.



The group first ascended to the Apex Lookout from the valley floor, near the township, experiencing great views of the gorgeous display of autumn leaves in the town, and then more great views to the east, towards Mount Bogong and the newly fire scarred Mount Feathertop.

The slow descent was through sections of the just harvested Porepunkah pine plantation, and then finally along the south banks of the Ovens River, joining lots of visitors enjoying the Bright Autumn Festival.

Flagstaff Track, May 18

Flagstaff Track/Murmungee Basin Walk – walk number 1

Distance – 18 km; Time taken – 6 hours, with stops for morning tea and lunch; There was a car shuffle of about 10 km between Taylor's Gap and Buckland Gap; Grading – Medium/Hard.

From near the intersection of the Myrtleford/Beechworth Road and the Great Alpine Road at Taylor's Gap, 15 walkers started to climb up a well made, and well used, 4WD track. There were no views due to the fog/low lying cloud, however there was evidence of mullock heaps from the goldmining era.

At the end of a 500m climb over two hours, we arrived at Flagstaff Hill (altitude 880 m). We then continued walking along the ridge

for another hour, with some good views across the Murmungee Basin. This section was very up and down, with muddy sections in the gullies. The landscape changed abruptly from eucalypt forest to pine plantations/blackberries/new trees.



We turned north onto Burgoigee Track, and stopped at Clarke's Corner which is an historic site relating to the goldmining, and post war immigration times, as well as the forestry era.

We then proceeded along Lady Newton Drive for almost three kilometres, back to where the cars were parked at Buckland Gap. Along the way there is the magnificent Murmungee Lookout, which has views of the Murmungee Basin, and both the King and Ovens Valleys.

Flagstaff Track/Murmungee Basin Walk – walk number 2

Distance – 6km; Time taken – 3 hours; Grading – Easy/Medium.

The walk started at Buckland Gap, and the five walkers walked in a clockwise direction along the Beechworth/Myrtleford Road for one kilometre, then turned east onto Six Mile Track.

They then climbed up this roadway to the Clarkes Corner site. After stopping there they then proceeded along Lady Newton Drive for three kilometres, back to where they had left their cars, stopping at the Murmungee Lookout along the way.

Nail Can Hill

On Wednesday, 29th May, a group of nine walkers, including a medical visitor from Egypt, began the Nail Can Hill Walk from near Albury TAFE College. Nail Can Hill is an isolated piece of high ground immediately to the west of Albury, and includes many popular mountain bike trails, as well Monument Hill that is clearly visible from Dean Street.



The route started off with a substantial climb, up the well named Hernia Hill, and this soon warmed the group up on a cool cloudy morning. We then followed the undulating Ridge Track for approximately eight kilometres to Centaur Road, where cars had been left after a car shuttle.

Overall, the surprisingly hilly route provided excellent views over residential Albury and Wodonga, with the autumn foliage of the ornamental trees providing a kaleidoscope of colour, particularly when the clouds cleared. The previously mentioned Monument Hill was also clearly visible, but seemed quite miniscule from the ridge tops.

President's Column

The organisation for our annual Week Away to Eden from October 13 to 20 is well underway. After viewing Edrom Lodge near Eden on the website it certainly does look an idyllic setting. If you add in some wonderful coastal bushwalks with some historical lighthouse walks it means that this week away will be one to remember. Then there are possibilities for whale sighting and unique walks into sites where whaling occurred in this area over 100 years ago.

If you add together the accommodation costs of \$30 a night for 7 nights, the possible meal costs based upon past annual trips of say \$10 a day then add the cost of travelling to the south coast of NSW then the question needs to be asked – Where else in the world would you acquire a week away with such congenial company for around \$400.00???

The Organising Committee has planned walks and many other aspects of this trip but cannot organise matters in any more detail until members register. Hence, could those wishing to attend please register by paying a \$50.00 deposit to "Warby Range Bushwalkers Inc." This can be sent to Glenda Hall, 15 Parks Street, Wangaratta Vic 3676.

If you have any queries about this annual Week Away the contact any one of the following members of the Eden Week Away Committee – Glenda Hall (5721 5144), Andy Kimber (5721 7922), Irene Knox (5721 4881), Bob Shaw (5766 2773), John Van Reit (5725 7207).

Also, our Annual Subscriptions were decided at our March Annual General meeting – Family membership – \$65, Single membership – \$35, Associates, Juniors and Life Members wishing to walk – \$20, Temporary membership – \$5 as well as \$20 minimum fee for half year up to Oct 1st. Contact Maureen Phillips for any further details if you have not yet paid for your membership.

May and June are often ideal times for bushwalking. It is encouraging to see that we have planned over the next two months walks ranging as Hard for those who like a challenge, right through to some very Easy yet very interesting walks, both on the weekends as well as mid week.

Our Walks Co-ordinator Karen Davis has maintained her high quality of walks planning in trying to cater for all types of walkers – well done Karen, as per usual. Also Forward Planning for later this year, and early 2014, for Adele Ritchie's Alpine and Hume and Hovell walks are listed on the program. Please note these dates in your diaries.

Bob Shaw

Alpine National Park boundary

The Victorian Government has redrawn the boundaries of the Alpine National Park to allow Falls Creek Resort to expand by excising almost 10 hectares of land from the National Park, and adding it to the adjoining Falls Creek Alpine Resort area. The boundary change follows numerous requests from the Falls Creek Resort to expand its operations; the Resort wants to develop non-winter tourism activities, and a high-altitude training camp for athletes.



The changes mean the Resort can now expand down to the shore of the Rock Valley Lake. In exchange, the government will add almost 12 hectares of land on the slopes of Mount McKay to the National Park.

Falls Creek chief executive David Herman said the redrawn boundaries were a win for the environment and the resort. He said the almost ten hectares of national park given to the resort was of poor conservation value and contained a man-made lake, and debris left over from the construction of the Hydro Electricity Scheme, but the land being added to the national park was of considerable environmental value.

He said the resort's newly acquired land would "enhance the tourism potential of what is a unique piece of the alpine landscape".

Condensed from The Melbourne Age, 22/2/13

Lake Eyre becomes Kati Thanda

For generations of Aborigines living near the shores of Lake Eyre, the inland sea has been known as Kati Thanda. But that changed in 1840, when explorer Edward John Eyre became the first European to sight the usually dry salt pans that make up what we now know as Lake Eyre North and Lake Eyre South.



The South Australian Geographical Names Unit has agreed to recognise Kati Thanda - meaning meeting place of bosses, as well as thunder and lightning - and add it to maps and official documents. Kati Thanda and its cultural relevance is featured in traditional songs and dances, and is told in stories.

Arabana Aboriginal Corporation spokesperson Aaron Stuart said "I'd like all Australians to look at the land we love and say, who are we as a nation? Our land is our identity".

"Governments spend money on reconciliation, but something like this, it can do something for our people's mental health, and well-being, to be recognised."

Mr Stuart said different traditional owners around the lake, such as the Adnyamathanha, had used different names but they accepted Kati Thanda.

Condensed from The Australian, 20/12/12

Chemical Spill

Following on from the EPA's prosecution of Wangaratta based Nuplex Industries, Nuplex will pay \$160,000.00 to the Rural City of Wangaratta on behalf of the North East Catchment Management Authority, Wangaratta Urban Landcare Group, Wangaratta Sustainability Network, Restore Our Waterways, Ovens Landcare Network and Park Lane Nursery. The funds will be used for the following projects,

1. The Sisely Avenue Tree Planting Project which will provide a visual buffer between residential and industrial zones in Wangaratta, provide habitat for birdlife and increase shading. which will help counteract urban heat island effect.



2. The Wareena Park and Wetland and One Mile Creek Project, which will allow for environmental activities which provide for community participation and education.

3. The Significant Local Trees Project, which will provide for the identification, photographing, mapping and registering of significant trees in urban Wangaratta. Exhibitions will be held to showcase the photographs.

4. The One Mile Creek Survey Project, which will involve creek health assessments and fauna surveys along One Mile Creek, north of Tone Road in urban Wangaratta. Information will be utilised for community education.

Condensed from the Wangaratta Chronicle, 26/04/13

Not A Dell, But A Mountain Of Ritchies

(Andy Kimber, March 2013 – as recited at the AGM)

Now the ancient Benalla Warby Clubs were trudging slowly up oblivion pass
As the average age hit 70, their future was grazing out on Alpine grass
The worried committee gendered one last desperate attempt to survive
So “hard” was reduced to no more than a gentle downhill 5
“Medium” became a perfectly flat track of kilometres below 2
And “easy” was defined as the distance with walking frames to a bush hut’s outside loo

The committee were neutralising – bogged down by bureaucratic entanglements
When in marched a strapping young gal with a strange South Pacific accent
Now Adele means noble and kind, but also a ruddy good singer
But this Kiwi lass was actually an old time bushwalking gunslinger
Ritchie also implies abounding in substantial natural resources
So her opening statement was not lacking in power or tectonic forces

“I’ll get you antique bods walking in the real country way back of beyond
More challenging than wimpy local trips around the village pond
I’ll push you out in the wilderness and make you baby boomers grovel
We’ll start with a re enactment of the trip of Hume and Hovell
Then next January we’ll begin a slog along the Alpine Walking Track
We’ll have completed maybe half the trek before we Wang on back”

Now the committee was astounded - the president gaped aghast
The secretary shuffled minutes, the treasurer held the cheque book fast
It took the timeworn trips coordinator to put our minds at rest
“You see young lady you may wish to put this mature group to the test
But tramping in the Alps in summer - from experience - it simply can’t be done
Don’t you realise that in January you actually stride in the high altitude sun!”

Despite warnings, the epic trip was oversubscribed by a canter
So on New Year’s Day, Adele leads off from the Namadgi Visitor’s Centre
Just behind her jogged the ever neat gymnast, our amazing Pat Kuhle
Then Kate Murray who plunged straight into even the iciest pool
The artistic Ian Barry navigated to within inches of every mile
Young Tubby climbed every boulder and always maintained a smile

Dave Findlay is an introverted lad and kept much to himself
While Willie Skinner displayed the latest gear from off the high tech shelf
Lyn Corneal was so fit we had to stop her from marathon running
While Trevor Smith our most senior lad just kept up his positive humming
Brian Watson the Moyhu bridger was the real bushie tanned supreme
While Andy never seemed to cook but enjoyed a top cuisine

On very hot day 4 - our leader threw on a gigantic pack
A kitchen sink was just visible as she strode up the cliff like track
We had discovered the previous night that Ed Hilary was her friend
And since his passing she had taken up his Everest trend
By the end of that hardest day our heroine was almost out of puff
Then miraculously around a corner stood a Kneen beside a miraged Whippy truck

Doug, Lois and Mary formed our main super cool back up crew
Shifting cars and supplying smiles, wine and great nibbles to chew
So despite the hard climbing and the heat and threatening fires
We almost completed the mileage to which our honourable leader aspired
The planning was incredible, the scenery amazing and first rate
Now there’s only 570 more k’s to cover on maybe 5 approaching dates

Now for those who are willing - Adele has some modest future plans
The H and H and “AAWT” tracks will be completed in a 2 year span
Then it’s across to the Appalachians – the trail should only take 20 weeks
Then from the top to the bottom of New Zealand climbing every Alpine peak
By the Ritchie schedule in 2020 - she plans a 2 week rest
Then it’s off to hike the length of the Andes on an easier part of the quest
Crossing Antarctica in winter should wake up a few pre gen x and yers
Before the final challenge – a full traverse of the Himalayas.

Federation Walk 13, October 2013

Bushwalking Victoria's Federation Day Walk this year will be held on Sunday, 13 October, in the western gorges area north-west of Melbourne.

The event is being organised and hosted by Boroondara Bushwalkers, and club members are invited to join this walk, one of 25 such walks that will be organised this year. More information about the event can be found at www.boroondarabushwalkers.org.au/federation-day-walk-2013.html

This will include details of the registration system, and a list of the day's walks on the calendar, from which participants will be able to select a walk that suits their interests and abilities.

Jeanette Farquhar (5721 6514) is the contact person for our club, and anyone planning to attend should contact Jeanette with their walks preferences, and registration fees. Registrations open on 1st August, and close on 13th September 2013.

Heathy Spur Track, Falls Creek

The realignment of this popular route is now complete, and the track now leads from immediately on the Omeo side of Rocky Valley Dam straight through to the Australian Alpine Walking Track, south of Mount Nelse.



All of the link tracks from the Bogong High Plains Road through to Heathy Spur are now closed off; obviously they are still marked on bushwalking maps, but are signposted on the ground as no longer being in use.

Cycle Tracks

Several new cycle tracks have been proposed for the North-east, and these include,

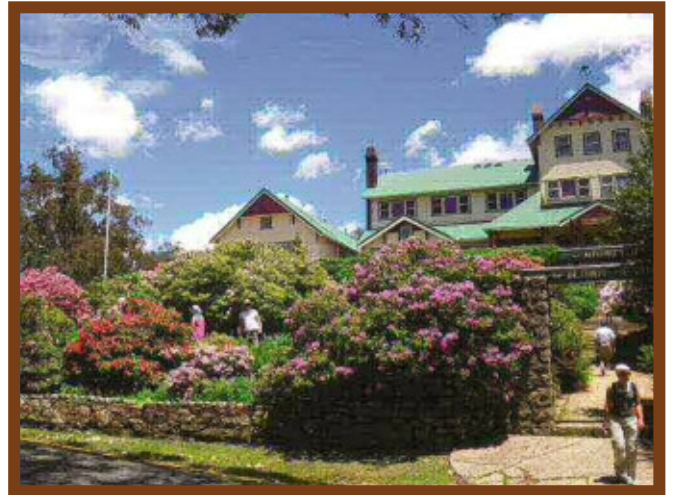
- 1) Extending the Wangaratta - Oxley bike path to Whitfield. This would basically follow the former Wangaratta - Whitfield narrow gauge railway.
- 2) Extending the Beechworth rail trail to Yackandandah.
- 3) Creating a new route from Bright to Harrietteville.
- 4) Completing the 'missing link' of the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail by building a bike path from Bowser to Rutherglen.

- 5) A loop around the Winton Wetlands (the former Lake Mo-koan).

The three shires involved in these proposals (Alpine, Indigo and Wangaratta) are vying for their share of the available funds, but hopefully all will be successful.

Mount Buffalo

Mount Buffalo Chalet has been closed since 2007, and after an extensive public consultation process, the Victorian Government has announced plans to develop a day visitor facility at the Chalet, comprising an information centre, activity centre and a cafe.



The redevelopment involves removing some more recent additions at the rear of the chalet building, and refurbishing the remaining buildings.

The state government is providing \$7 million to this redevelopment, with the aim being to make the site operational, open to visitors and ready for future investment when the opportunity arises.

Future investment opportunities will include any viable solution that is supported by the market, and local community, as well as meeting the requirements of the government's *Guidelines for Tourism Investment Opportunities of Significance in National Parks*. This could include eco-tourism activities, a restaurant or accommodation. Any future use of the chalet will also have to complement its setting within a national park.



Registration for Warby Walkers Week Away

Eden NSW

October 13 – 20, 2013

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____
Mobile _____

Contact person and phone number in case of an
Emergency - _____

Any special dietary requirements or relevant
health issues

Notes –

Contact any one of the following members of the Eden
Week Away Committee – Glenda Hall (5721 5144), Andy
Kimber (5721 7922), Irene Knox(5721 4881), Bob Shaw
(5766 2773), John Van Reit (5725 7207)

For more details on this week away look up our club
website.

www.warbybushwalkers.org.au/)

Contact the following for more details

Edrom Lodge,Edrom Road

Eden NSW 2551 (02) 6496 1510

Eden Tourist Information Centre Princes Highway

Eden NSW 2551 (02) 6496 1953

Details on what to take with you on walks can be ob-
tained from the Warby Walkers website.

Like our week away in Kangaroo Valley, walkers just need
to know that ticks can be prevalent. For details look on
this website insects.about.com

Enclosed is a deposit of \$50.00 to Register for this Week
Away

(Please register by paying a \$50.00 deposit to “Warby
Range Bushwalkers Inc.” This can be sent to Glenda Hall,
15 Parks Street, Wangaratta Vic 3676).

(Signature)



WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc. **WALKS PROGRAM**

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2013

If leader(s) cannot be contacted to book a walk, ring Karen Davis 5722 2540, or Bob Shaw on 5766 2773

July 7 th Sunday	Exploratory Walk Goulburn River with Benalla Club	Medium Adele Ritchie, 5727 9501
July 11 th Thursday	Family Walk in Killawarra Forest	Easy Bob Phillips, 5721 2007
July 21 st Sunday	Lake William Hovell Circuit	Hard Bob Shaw, 5766 2773
August 3 rd Saturday and Saturday evening	Lake Sambell to Lake Kerford and Wallaby Mine and SOCIAL NIGHT – PUB MEAL	Easy/Medium Jeanette Farquhar 5721 6514
August 9 th Friday	Alpine Views – Warby Ranges	Easy/Medium Adrian Twitt, 5721 5327
August 16 th - 18 th Friday – Sunday	Surf Coast walks With Benalla Club	Medium Adele Ritchie, 5727 9501
August 15 th Thursday	Committee Meeting and Walks Planning	At Karen's 154 Rowan St at 7pm. 5722 2540
August 25 th Sunday	Mount Baranduda	Medium/Hard Karen Davis, 5722 2540
September 7 th Saturday	Perimeter Track, Killawarra	Medium Peter Murray, 5726 9337
September 11 Wednesday	Warby Wildflower Spectacular	Easy Andy Kimber, 5721 7922
September 12 th - 15 th Thursday - Sunday	Hume & Hovell Walking Track, Part 3 with Benalla Club	Medium Adele Ritchie, 5727 9501
September 21 st Saturday	Balmuttum Hill, Euroa	Easy/Medium Chris McLaughlin 5722 4876
Forward Planning 15 th - 22 nd Nov 2013	Alpine Walking Track – Ghost Gully to Round Mt	More information Adele Ritchie, 5727 9501
Forward Planning 1 st - 8 th March 2014	Alpine Walking Track – Round Mt to Dead Horse Gap	More information Adele Ritchie, 5727 9501
Forward Planning 4 th - 8 th April 2014	Hume and Hovell – Boundary Road to Budong Falls	More information Adele Ritchie, 5727 9501

See next page for more details of these walks . . .

<p>Sunday 7th July – GOULBURN RIVER Exploratory Walk – This is a medium graded walk of 11.6km over river flats, along well formed tracks that follow the Goulburn River just west of Mooroopna.</p>
<p>Thursday 11th July – KILLAWARRA FOREST An easy walk of about 10km, mainly on 4wd tracks through beautiful ironbark forest. BEING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS CHILDREN WITH ADULT SUPERVISION ARE WELCOME ON THIS WALK – an ideal outing for grandparents with active grandchildren to entertain.</p>
<p>Sunday 21st July – LAKE WILLIAM HOVELL CIRCUIT – This is a 19.5km circuit of the lake in an anticlockwise direction graded hard. It is on 4wd tracks beside the lake and involves a traverse of the King River (spare shoes needed), a climb to the ridge behind the river, and a walk along the ridge. We will return to our cars across the dam wall.</p>
<p>Saturday 3rd August – LAKE SAMBELL TO LAKE KERFORD AND WALLABY MINE – A familiar walk with a new twist with the addition of a visit to the Wallaby Mine and old battery. This mine is located within the beautiful Beechworth Historical Area, and involves a gentle descent and climb out. The rest of the walk is flattish following the valley of the Silver, Deep and Hurdle Creeks. The total 10 – 12km walk is graded easy/medium.</p> <p>Saturday Evening – SOCIAL NIGHT – PUB MEAL – at the Sydney Hotel at 6.30pm. Enjoy this mid -winter social activity with fellow walkers. It doesn't matter if you didn't walk on the day, you can still enjoy a meal out after a hard day in the garden, at the footy etc. Please book with Jeanette by the Thursday night so that she can finalise the reservation.</p>
<p>Friday 9th August – ALPINE VIEWS TRACK – An easy 6km walk starting at Wenhams taking in part of the Friends Track, before looping around on the Alpine Views and Boilerwood Tracks to Mount Warby. There should be good views over the plains, and of the snow covered ranges in the distance, and lushness all around us.</p>
<p>Friday 16th – Sunday 18th August (with a Monday morning short walk option before our return) – SURF COAST WALK – BASED AT ANGLESEA. Saturday, Jan Juc to Anglesea 16km; Sunday, Anglesea to Moggs Creek - 19km.</p> <p>Medium graded walks with a few steep hills, many panoramic cliff-top views, golden beaches and eucalypt woodlands. Attractions include Bells Beach, Ironbark Basin Reserve, Anglesea Heathland, Aireys Inlet Cliff Walk and the historic Split Point Lighthouse.</p> <p>It is suggested participants travel to Anglesea Friday on the Friday, and camp at Anglesea Caravan Park. Adele will liaise with those who want to stay in a cabin. This is a combined weekend with Benalla Club, and places will be limited, so get in quick if you are interested.</p>
<p>Monday 19th August – GENERAL MEETING AND WALKS PLANNING – These meetings are open to all interested members. Suggestions for new walks are always welcome – come along on the night, or contact a Committee member beforehand.</p>
<p>Sunday 25th August – MT BARANDUDA – A new walk for our club. This 15km Medium/Hard walk commences at the end of Ewerts Road, near the summit, with a gentle climb of two kilometres through farmland (permission granted), then picturesque native grass and eucalypts to the towers.</p> <p>The track follows an undulating ridge South to North with great views along the Indigo Valley, Kiewa Valley and surrounding towns and ranges. There are a couple of 10 minute dips and rises along the way to keep us warm. The final 4km of the walk is steep in places as we return to the valley. A short car shuffle is needed to retrieve vehicles from our elevated starting point.</p>
<p>Saturday 7th September – PERIMETER TRACK Killawarra – A medium graded walk of about 18km in the Western section of the Warbies. This is a walk with lots of diversity – half on forest tracks, and half through open bush, featuring rocky outcrops, native pines and of course a variety of wildflowers. From the high point, Mount Killawarra, we will enjoy great views northward towards the Murray River.</p>
<p>Wednesday 11th September -WARBY WILDFLOWER SPECTACULAR – An easy/medium walk of 8km mainly on formed tracks. We will start with a climb up Chick Hill and proceed in the direction of Mount Glenrowan. A feature will be the wildflower display giving the whole walk a 'garden setting'. Wonderful views over the Ovens Valley, and distant high peaks which should still be topped with snow, will make this a memorable walk.</p>
<p>Thursday 12th – Sunday 15th September – HUME & HOVELL Stage 2 – Boundary Road to Blowering Campsite. Camping Thomas Boyd Trackhead (with a car shuffle to allow us to hike with day packs). Friday: Boundary Rd to Thomas Boyd Trackhead. 15.5km medium 6-7 hrs. Saturday: Thomas Boyd Trackhead to Snowy Mountainss Highway. 19km medium 8hrs. Sunday: Snowy Mountains Highway – Blowering Campsite and home. 7.4km easy 3.5hrs.</p> <p>Attractions: Buccleuch State Forest – one of the largest pine plantations in Australia, Norman Harris and Jack Cribb swing bridges, remnants of the Waronga Timber Mill which operated in the early 1940's.</p>
<p>Saturday 21st September – BALMUTTUM HILL (Euroa) – An easy walk of 6-7km with a moderate climb involved. From the Hume and Hovell Memorial we will walk along a red gum lined creek, and proceed up the hill through open woodland on a footpad.</p> <p>We will take the other bank of the creek on our return. We also have the option of a visit to the beautiful Euroa Botanical Gardens.</p>

WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS

fun, fitness & friendship



NEWSLETTER 4 (September), 2013

www.warbybushwalkers.org.au

Welcome to Newsletter 4 of 2013. The first Newsletter of the year is issued in December of the previous year, and covers the walks calendar for the months of January-March, as well as walks reports from the previous quarter. Similarly, Newsletter 2 is issued in March and Newsletter 3 in June.

As well as the Newsletter, our website has a full range of reports from our walks, the full walks calendar, back issue newsletters, a photo gallery and heaps of other interesting information. The website gets 25,000—40,000 hits per month, and is a great way to stay in touch.

Raging rivers and inclement weather forced the cancellation of two of our winter walks, but we have still managed to get out to our beautiful bushland on a reasonably regular basis – see the following paragraphs for more details.

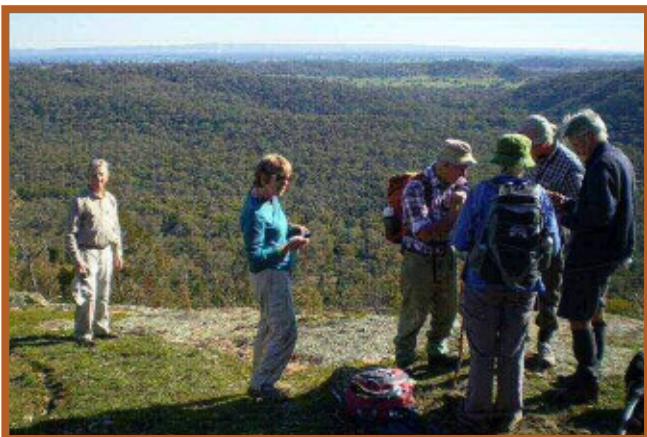
Our weekend away, 13-20th October, is fast approaching, and the number of participants is increasing! However, we do have a few spare places left.

For those who have paid the \$50 deposit, the balance (\$30 per person, per night) needs to be paid to Glenda Hall (15 Park Crescent) by 30th September.

For others wishing to join us, please pay in full (\$210) by the above date. Any queries, please call Glenda on 5721 5114.

Kangaroo Hill

A group of 19 happy walkers gathered at Eldorado on Saturday, 22nd June for an inaugural outing to Kangaroo Hill. On a bright sunny morning trip leader Ian Slater led the way along Reids Walk to the suspension bridge over Reedy Creek, and then on a steep-ish, cross-country, ascent to the ridgeline at Ramsays Track.



After morning tea, the group then continued, mostly downhill, to the signposted access track to Kangaroo Hill, and a much needed lunch.

Eschewing the gravel road that leads to the summit of this local landmark, most of the group tackled the ascent in a full-frontal manner, taking about two hours to cover about 1.2km in the horizontal, but well rewarded with some amazing views.

After an easy water crossing (over the causeway at Kangaroo Crossing) the group then meandered back into Eldorado via the Woolshed Valley Road.

This was a great trip of about 20km, nicely researched by our guide (Ian), and well worthy of a repeat visit in the future.

Goulburn River

A group of 17 intrepid walkers from Benalla and Warby Walking Clubs met on the morning of the 7th July at Mooropna, where the leader immediately handed over the navigation to the track head to Gary, a local. It really wasn't that hard finding the start of the walk once one headed in the right direction.



With that problem solved it was onto problem number two, how to get across the channel. This had many solutions as seen in the photo. From then on it was a magical misty whimsical journey along the side of the channel until the Goulburn River was met.

A trip along the side of the Goulburn, waving to campers, a false rest stop where others thought they were going on for another kilometre, which turned out to be 10m, and back to that crossing, which again was negotiated in many different ways.

Thanks to everyone that participated for a wonderful day, and to Gary for his navigation, without which we would have done an entirely different walk.

Lake Sambell—Lake Kerferd—Wallaby Mine

A grey winter's day did not deter 18 tough walkers from gathering at Beechworth's Lake Sambell, ready for an eight kilometre walk to Lake Kerferd, and the historic Wallaby Mine. After a quick car shuttle (to drop off a vehicle at the finish for those who wanted a one-way walk) the walkers set off amidst the wattle blooms, and were soon deep in a forested area that was dramatically affected by the gold rush days of the 1860s.

Mine shafts (many of them with safety grilles) were apparent at many places, and we then passed alongside Patterson Dam; one of several storages built to provide water for mining. In the modern era it is filling with sediment, but remains a habitat for wildlife, including a very photogenic wallaby that posed nicely for us.

From here we continued to follow a well marked trail leading to a former gold mining area, known as Heaven and Hell Tunnels. This provided the opportunity for morning tea in a sheltered environment, as well as an opportunity for the 'dirty knees' crew to explore the full length of an abandoned tunnel system.



Swinging around to the east, the group made its way towards Lake Kerferd, a water storage built in 1862 that still supplies most of Beechworth's water supply. The Lake was named after local business man George Kerferd who first advocated this site. Kerferd was a member of the Victorian Parliament for many years, and subsequently Premier of Victoria in 1874.

Lunch at the lakeside was a brief affair, as the open expanse of the Lake's waters provided unimpeded access for a chilly and damp breeze to cool us down.



The route then looped around Lake Kerferd, and we were on-track for the Wallaby Gold Mine, which was reached after a steep scramble down a narrow access track.

Significant features of the site include the remains of a 12-head

gold stamping battery, a steam engine (which powered the battery) as well as part of a water-powered battery – mainly a large waterwheel. After exploring this interesting collection of relics, we moved back upslope to check out an artificial scree slope (the rejects from gold mining excavation), as well as an enormous open pit area, at least 30m deep, and about 50m across.

Back at the top of the ridge, the group split into two, with about half taking the car shuttle back to Beechworth, and the other (tougher) half walking back to town.

Come night-time, about 30 club members gathered in the dining room at Wangaratta's Sydney Hotel for a meal, and a re-hash of the day's walk, other adventures and tall stories.

Overall, a great day for the Club – well organised by our walk leader, Jeanette.

Alpine Views – Warby Ranges

This iconic walk is one of the best in the Warby Range, and especially so in late winter and early spring. The track commences at the foot of the escarpment near the Salisbury Falls, cars being parked at the end of Shanley Street.

Due to inclement weather, the walk was deliberately shortened, not commencing until 11am, a civilized time in winter in any case!

Luckily the early morning rain of August 9 paused before the commencement of the walk, and did not recommence until after we were safely back in Wangaratta. The cold, still conditions made for ideal walking weather.



The Alpine Views Track follows one of the many creeks emerging from the Warby Range, before it circles around to Mount Warby, and back again. Due to the shortened nature, this walk went only as far as Boilerwood Track before returning.

The recent rains meant that the series of waterfalls and cascades were tumbling down the side of the range, a truly magnificent spectacle, with pelargonium, and other plants edging out through fissures in the rocky cliffs. We are truly blessed having such beauty close to Wangaratta.

With the early signs of Spring, green-hood orchids were already pushing through. Hardenbergia and buttercups were already in flower, and other varieties were about to make their showy appearance. The Spring awakening promises a spectacle to behold this year.

Surf Coast Walk, August 16-18

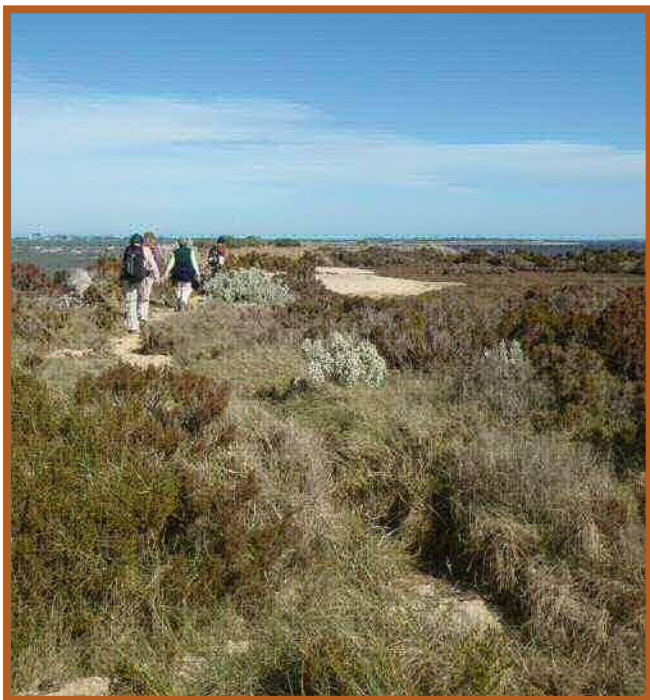
Our weekend exploring the surf coast with Adele Ritchie as leader was a great success, with accommodation at the Anglesea Beach-front Caravan Park.

On Friday, August 16, walkers from Benalla and Warby Range Bushwalkers started at Lower Bluff Road, and walked along the beach to Edward's Point State Fauna Reserve. We returned inland through coastal tea tree and over a lagoon via a boardwalk, 10km in all. This area is the habitat of the Orange Bellied Parrot, and only 500 pairs are left in the wild.

On Saturday we were joined by 11 bushwalkers from other clubs, and left Point Impossible at 8.30am, following a well made path with good beach views. After Bird Rock we went slightly inland through coastal scrub, passed South Side Nude Beach (no views), and after a short beach walk, we entered Kitjarra National Park (a noted iron box forest).

We then passed through Point Addis National Park, with some high cliffs and steep climbs. We walked 30km in all, reaching the caravan park at 5pm; a counter tea at the Anglesea Pub being very welcome.

On Sunday, five walkers started off from Moggs Creek at 8.30am, climbing through a fence onto the beach. This was a bad move, as we couldn't cross Painkalac Creek's Barrier Estuary, and had to retrace our steps, adding two kilometres to our walk. The Wind was very strong, blowing sand everywhere, and we climbed to Spit Point Lighthouse, high on a cliff top, and then followed the beach for a short way.



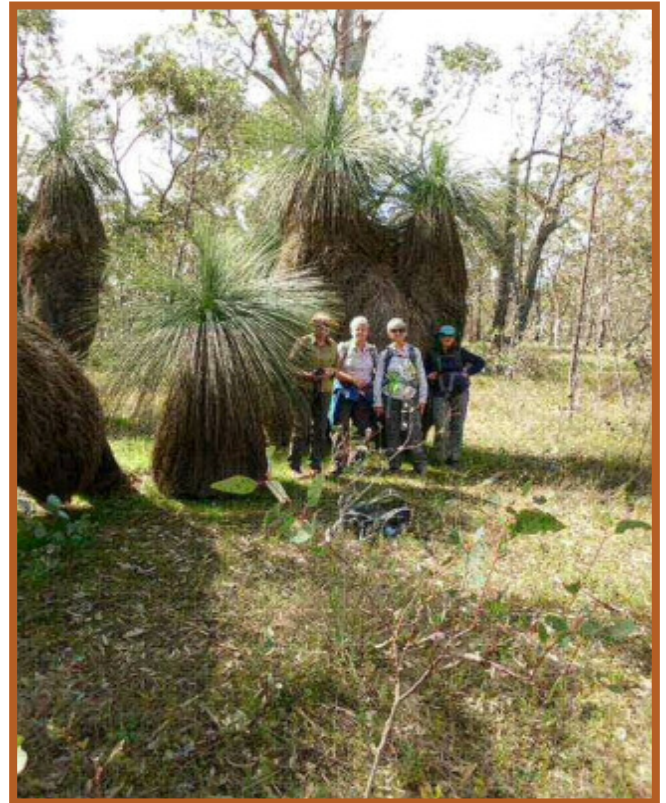
The path then became single file through coastal woodland, mainly Melaleuca, subsequently leading us back to the beach, which we followed for about five kilometres. This walk of 20kms ended at 3.45pm.

Unfortunately, our planned walk for Monday was cancelled due to rain, but overall a wonderful time was had by all.

Mount Baranduda, August 25

The rugged Baranduda Range is an isolated outcrop of granitic high country located between Yackandandah and Wodonga, and the summit of Mount Baranduda was our walk destination for August 25.

The weather was quite fine and warm, for this, our first visit to the area as a club. Superb views were enjoyed in all directions, especially to the north, towards the Albury—Wodonga urban area and the vast expanses of Lake Hume. In the opposite direction we had great views of the Kiewa and Indigo Valleys.



The walk took about five hours to complete, with many steep sections to contend with. At the highest point of the walk, the group passed the massive communications towers on the top of Mount Baranduda itself, some of the tallest towers in North-east Victoria.

Also noteworthy was a persistent visit from an Eastern Grey Kangaroo; whilst looking super healthy, we thought that this fine animal was in fact blind.

Overall, a great walk, the hardest that we have attempted in many months, and nicely researched by Karen Davis.

Relay for Life

There is an opportunity to join in this event for 2103, and make a difference to our community. Club member Rod Davis invites any interested Club members to join an existing team (Keith Lipshuts Mob) for the Fundraising Walk for Cancer to be held in Wangaratta on 5th and 6th October.

Several of Club Members are already members of this team, and we could arrange to walk together during the event. The joining fee is \$20, which includes insurance and T/Shirt.

The event will be held at Rovers Ground from Sat 5th at 2.45pm through to Sunday 6th at 10am. A team tent will be available for

shelter. Special activities and entertainment provided and food available throughout the event.

No raffle tickets – participation is the aim. Individuals can make a donation if they wish, however Rod and Glenda (our social organiser) will arrange a social trivia night early in 2014 to raise a few dollars for the cause from us.

To join, or for more information on this event, contact Rod on 5722 2540, or go to the Cancer Council Relay for Life website at www.relayforlife.org.au

From the Archives . . .

As everyone will be aware, our committee has recently been spending many hours of voluntary labour bringing the club's constitution in line with new legal requirements. This coincided with an idea to feature an item from the club archives in each newsletter.

So you think adopting our new model rules in our constitution is a one-off? Not so. On 12 March 1988, the Warby Range Protection Society (our predecessor) determined "That in the event of the Society agreeing to becoming an incorporated body, the present constitution be repealed and replaced by the draft statement of Purposes and Rules as required by the Act". We became incorporated at that time.

Then on 29th August 1994 the main agenda item was to change the name of the "Warby Range Protection Society" to "Warby Range Bushwalkers". More constitutional change!

It makes our present amendments look trivial.

Antarctic Treaty

An effort to create the world's largest marine reserve off the coast of Antarctica came up at a recent Antarctic Treaty conservation organisation meeting in Bremerhaven (Germany). The meeting saw two proposals to ban fishing, and set to aside marine research zones in large swathes of the frigid Southern Ocean.

At the meeting, members of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) will vote on two proposals for marine reserves, each one bigger than Alaska.



A US—New Zealand Reserve would set aside roughly 876,000 square miles in and around the frozen Ross Sea, a home for penguin nurseries, and a source of nutrients throughout the Pacific Ocean.

A second European—Australian Reserve would set aside a more than 700,000 square mile string of protected marine reserves around Eastern Antarctica.

Either Reserve would be larger than a 210,000-square-mile no-fishing marine reserve in the Indian Ocean declared by Britain in 2010, and together they would exceed Australia's 1.1- million square mile network of marine reserves.

Governed by a 1959 treaty that designates the frozen continent as a military-free centre of scientific research, Antarctica has long been a laboratory for international agreement.

[USA Today, July 16, 2013]

The Bus

A second set of hikers this summer have had to be rescued after trying to reach a famed abandoned Fairbanks city bus in the Alaskan wilderness, a destination made famous by the book and movie *Into the Wild*.



A group of three hikers had to be lifted out of the wilderness Tuesday, the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner reported. A helicopter delivered the three to their vehicle, and they then drove to a medical clinic in Denali Park.

In May, three German hikers trying to reach the bus on the Stampede Trail, near Healy, about 16 kilometres north of the entrance to Denali National Park, also had to be rescued.

The river they crossed getting to the bus had become impassable for the return journey due to high water. The hikers had proper gear, but only enough food for three days.

The green and white bus, used for years as a shelter by hunters, has become a destination for those-seeking to retrace the steps of Chris McCandless.

"The Bus," as it has become known, has been the source of multiple rescues since it was made famous, first by Jon Krakauer's 1996 book, and then by Sean Penn's 2007 film.

Both book and film chronicled the life and death of McCandless, a 24-year-old who hiked into the Alaska wilderness in April 1992 with little food and equipment and spent the summer living in the bus. McCandless was found dead in the bus, almost four months later after starving to death.

Since the book and movie came out, state troopers have rescued numerous hikers who reached the bus, but could not return due to high water in the Teklanika River.

[The Australian, June 29, 2013]. (photo by Richard Wagner via Flickr).

Honey-eater conservation program

A program to host more regent honeyeaters in the Chiltern area has proved a success. Wildlife officers are thrilled that 75 per cent of the rare birds released in April have survived.

Department of Environment and Primary Industries biodiversity officer Glen Johnson said 28 out of 37 regent honeyeaters let out of captivity into Chiltern-Mount Pilot National Park this year were found alive last week.

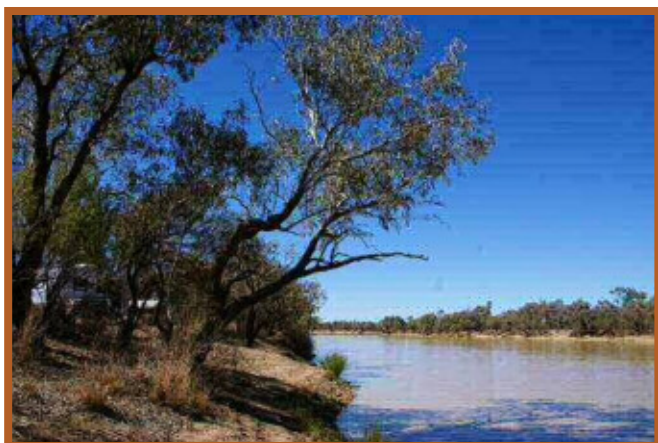
Last week's survey also identified three surviving birds from the 2010 release," he said. That brings to nine the number of birds known to have survived for more than 12 months after 2010. That's really significant given that we've only found one wild bird in the area this year.

Mr Johnson said the previously captive birds are identified by different coloured leg bands and he urged sightings to be reported to the Department of Primary Industries.

[Border Mail, July 27, 2013]

Coopers Creek—Channel Country

Mining, farm, indigenous and environmental groups are on a collision course in western Queensland following the Newman government's decision to scrap the Wild Rivers Act, and allow oil, coal-seam gas and shale gas exploration in the Channel Country.



The Queensland Resources Council said the decision had opened the door to a potentially "world-class" resource, but the farmers' lobby group AgForce said it wanted a moratorium on gas developments until there was a better understanding of the science and the industry's effect on water. Indigenous leaders called for more consultation, and environmental groups said the state government had "torn up a sensible compromise".

The Channel Country is the world's largest unspoilt ephemeral waterway. Irregular floodwaters from northwest Queensland spread over kilometre-wide systems of channels to make their way slowly to Lake Eyre in central Australia.

[condensed from The Australian, August 1, 2013]

Tree planting

Organisers of a tree planting session at Paul Larkins Reserve (28/07/2013) were jumping for joy at the success of the event, with just over 1500 saplings being planted.

Club members Pat Kuhle, Adele Ritchie, Helen Twitt and Adrian

Twitt were a part of the group, and the latter three were pictured on the front cover of The Chronicle the following morning. Given that the event was sponsored by Wangaratta Toyota, the 'jumping for joy' was in the traditional 'oh, what a feeling' style.

[condensed from The Wangaratta Chronicle, July 29, 2013]

President's Column

On Thursday August 15th the Special General Meeting was held to evaluate the new Club Constitution. Those present accepted the advice of the Committee, and accepted the new Final Draft of the Constitution, and it will now be sent to Consumer Affairs Victoria for ratification. Hopefully this will be the finalisation of this huge effort to comply with government regulations.

We also held our quarterly Walks Committee and general Committee meetings. At the General Committee meeting we heard -

1.A report from John van Reit that the organisation for the Eden Week away is going well, and that the club would like the 30 plus participants to pay the rest of the monies due as soon as possible. The walks around Eden both along the coast and in the hinterland do sound very interesting, and very different to what we normally experience.

2.The 2014 Week Away to the Grampians in October 2014 has also been preliminary booked well ahead of time, as springtime is the wild flower season in western Victoria.

3.Role Descriptions and Portfolios for all Committee personnel were agreed on. By each member knowing their role, and who is accountable for what, should assist with team work and common understanding in the future.

4.The Club has applied for a Rural City Council Community Grant, and we will know the outcome of this application by the end of the year.

Bob Shaw, President

Eldorado pathways

The Rural City of Wangaratta has been working with a group of community representatives in Eldorado to finalise works for the development of a shared pathway from the Memorial Hall to the Dredge via the Recreation Reserve. These works will also include some revamping of the amenities at Gunhouse Park in the centre of the township, a favourite meeting and finishing up venue for the Warby Bushwalkers.

The works are expected to commence in November, and are anticipated to be finished by March 2014.

[condensed from the Eldorado and District Star, August 2013]

The Batchelors of King Island

Many of us will fondly remember former members Garry and Helen Batchelor. We especially enjoyed the snow shoeing events which they organized for us in the Hotham area. Garry and Helen are now resident on King Island in the wilderness of Bass Strait, where Helen and Adrian Twitt have family.

On a recent trip to the island, Helen and Adrian called on the Batchelors who live in the east coast village of Naracoopa where

whales were wallowing off the pier. Luckily Garry was home, and able to show the visitors over the new double storey kit-house they are building. It is located facing the sea alongside the cottage which they erected for temporary accommodation a couple of years ago.

Garry had just returned from working at a hospital in a remote part of Kenya, helping to extract hundreds of teeth! He still works as a paramedic at Hotham over the winter, and commutes back to their island abode in his weeks off work. Both Garry and Helen are deeply involved with the island community.

Whilst on the island, Helen and Adrian attended the annual meeting of the King Island Field Naturalists - a lovely social, shared dinner meeting in the Currie Harbour Boat House, with a guest doing a presentation on "Birds of Prey of King Island".

The island doesn't have a walking club, but the Field Naturalists run walks, and Adrian and daughter Ondrea, who lives on the island, participated in one of these walks, which went deep into a forest with magnificent stands of tree ferns and other species. It was a family occasion - maybe a third of the walkers being delightful children, interested in everything. King Island is satisfyingly rather like country Australia 50 years ago!"

Adrian

Grampians update

Parks Victoria advises that the Wonderland Loop Walk, linking locations such as Venus Baths, Splitters Falls, the Wonderland car park, the Grand Canyon and the Pinnacle, has re-opened following the completion of flood recovery works



Flood waters caused destruction along the entire length of the walk which has led to the lengthy recovery program.

Two footbridges have been replaced, another footbridge has required extensive repairs, two large landslides have required the construction of new walking track alignments, and almost the entire length of the walking track has required repairs, ranging from complete realignments, to the reconstruction of stone staircases and retaining walls.

The Delleys Dell walking track, which was also affected (that is, destroyed) by the same flood, remains closed. However, the Silverband Falls Walk (the lower portion of Delleys Dell – Dairy Creek) has now reopened.

PV has also replaced the footbridges at Zumsteins, and completed numerous upgrades to the entire walking track. Two new river crossings have also been constructed near the base of MacKenzie Falls.

While the restoration of Zumsteins picnic area continues, visitors are advised to park at the western end of the picnic area, and follow the direction signage.

Stapylton campground in the northern section of the Park remains closed because of in-ground asbestos contamination. However, the Stapylton Loop Walk and Ngamadidj Shelter remain open, the Loop Walk being accessible from Millers or Pohlner's Road.

For Sale

Womens Macpac 65 litre Esprit

Overnite pack size W2

used once

Worth \$600, selling for \$250

Phone Adele on 5727 9501

Editor's Column

Since the last Newsletter, your roving Editor, and wife Yvonne, have been over to British Columbia and Alaska, on a three week touring/ walking holiday.

As well as plenty of great walks, we did some canoeing, rafting and wildlife spotting. The best walks were in the Rocky Mountains, particularly around Lake Louise and Banff. The attached photo was taken on a 20km hike from Lake Louise up to a saddle where six glaciers converge – definitely different to what we encounter in our high country.



Alaska was also excellent, with part of the Chilkoot Trail being a great experience. This 52km trail follows the route taken by gold prospectors during the Gold Rush days; more details from www.nps.gov/klgo.



WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc. **WALKS PROGRAM**

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2013

If leader(s) cannot be contacted to book a walk ring Karen Davis 57222540, or Bob Shaw on 57662773

Reminder Sun 25th Aug Mt Baranduda. New walk	Reminder Perimeter Track now Sun 8 th Sept (not the 7th)	Reminder Warby Walk Wed 11 th Sept
Reminder Sept 21 st Balmuttum Hill. New walk		
October 5 th Saturday am / early pm	Whorouly Ridge Top Walk NEW WALK FOR US	Medium Adrian Twitt, 5721 5327
Sat. evening – Sun 10am	Relay for Life (if joined)	Rod Davis 5722 2540
October 13 th - 20 th	ANNUAL WEEK AWAY Places still available Final payment by 30/9	Contact Glenda Hall on 5721 5114 Easy/Medium/Hard walks
October 27 th . Sunday	Salsbury Falls & Beyond Warbies	Medium (with easy option) Andy Kimber, 5721 7922
November 5 th Tuesday	Cup Day Walk & Lunch Wenhams - Booths	Medium Karen Davis, 5722 2540
November 9th Saturday	Mt Glenrowan by Ridge and Moonlight Tracks	Medium (with easy option) Jeanette Farquhar, 5721 6514
November 18 th Monday	Committee Meeting and Walks Planning	At Karen's 154 Rowan Street 5722 2540
15 th - 22 nd November	Alpine Walking Track Stage 2	More Information Adele Ritchie, 57279501
November 24 th Sunday	Tuan Track and Magenta Mine – Chiltern	Medium (with easy option) Karen Davis, 5722 2540
December 7 th Saturday	Black Range Walk King Valley	Medium/Hard Trevor Turnbull, 5721 6215
December 13 th Friday	XMAS PARTY WITH A TWIST	At Karen's 154 Rowan Street Book on 5722 2540
December 17 th Tuesday	Swamp Track, Warby Ranges	Easy / Medium Glenda Hall, 5721 5114
Fri 3rd Jan to Sun 5 th January 2014	Weekend at Mount St Bernard Ski Lodge	Book with Adrian Twitt on 5721 5327 by 13 th December

Saturday 5th October – WHOROUPLY RIDGE TOP WALK. A medium walk of 10km.

In 1824 Hume and Hovell crossed the Ovens River, faced the task of climbing a steep ridge with their wagon and entourage. The ridge offered great views of a mountain they named Mt Buffalo (snow covered even in November), but the dramatic sighting of the expanse of the other side of the ridge, which they named the Oxley Plains, greatly inspired them. This walk takes you in their footsteps, and along the ridge they climbed.

RELAY FOR LIFE participants may like to contact Rod or Karen Davis to organise a time to walk with other Club members that evening, or the next morning. See Newsletter for invitation to join this Cancer Council event.

October 13th – October 20th – ANNUAL WEEK AWAY. *There is still time to book for this week of walks with accommodation at Edrom Lodge just south of Eden in beautiful Southern NSW.*

Sunday 27th October – Salsbury Falls and beyond – Warbies – A medium graded walk of approx 12km with an easier 'short cut' possible. Some climbing on walking tracks with excellent views across the Ovens Valley.

For those who want more spring colour than the walk can provide, we will start and end at Shanley Street so that participants can visit the Van Riet's beautiful native garden which will be 'Open' that weekend in aid of Oxfam. Afternoon tea can also be purchased – so bring a few dollars along if you wish to take up this option.

Tuesday 5th November - A rerun of our much enjoyed Cup Day Lunch and Walk in 2012. We will enjoy a 10km walk on dirt tracks along a scenic creek and through open bushland. The walk is through changing vegetation, and features the old Taminick sheep dip and stone dam wall.

Lunch and wine tasting at Booths Winery. Tables and chairs provided. BRING some yummy picnic finger food to share for lunch (and a few dollars if you wish to share a bottle of wine or beer with lunch). A car will be available to transport any delicate lunch food to Booths. Cuppa and cup cakes back at Wenhams with cup horses for all.

Saturday 9th November – Mt Glenrowan via Ridge Track / Moonlight Track. A new angle to an old favourite is this medium walk of approx 12km return on bush tracks. A shorter option is a possibility for the less energetic. A feature of this walk is the panoramic views from the ridge top and the interesting grass tree specimens along the way. There should also be some 'late bloomers' to enjoy – and we don't just mean our fellow walkers!

Monday 18th November – COMMITTEE MEETING AND WALKS PLANNING -All Club members are welcome to attend these meetings and contribute to the running of the Club – Any suggestions for walks are also welcomed and should be submitted to the Walks Co-ordinator (Karen 5722 2540) a few days pre meeting. Committee members are happy to assist any new walk leaders.

Friday 15th November – Friday 22nd November – ALPINE WALKING TRACK - Ghost Gully to Round Mountain. The first 2 days are with day packs only, with the opportunity for day walkers to be part of day 3. If any of you have partners that love fishing, mountain bike riding, or just the mountain environment bring them as we can gladly use their services in the car shuffle team.

Friday; Drive to Ghost Gully. Saturday; 3hr walk to the Murrumbidgee River and visit to Yarrangobilly Caves. Sunday; Murrumbidgee River to Kiandra – a full day. Monday – to Kiandra 4 mile hut and return for day hikers. Back packers start of four night packing over snow plains, visiting many historical huts and (if energy permits) visiting old mining sites. BOOKINGS NEEDED BY 1st NOV as this is a complex walk to organise.

Sunday November 24th - Tuan Track and Magenta Mine Chiltern. The Tuan Track is a medium 7km circuit which has been developed by the friends of Chiltern. It is in a beautifully vegetated section of the National Park West of Chiltern. It passes through Bartley's Block which because it was originally cleared and has permanent water is a great birding spot.

The walk will be extended a further 5kms to visit the historic and once very productive Magenta Mine. Locals claim November is prime time in their forest, and have their own Novemberfest Walk on Friday 22nd, which we could have joined. However it is just 3km long and stays mainly within the town boundaries. It is possible for the less energetic to 'cut off' the mine visit.

Saturday 7th December – Black Range King Valley. An undulating medium (hard-ish at times) walk of 15km along the old forestry tracks of the Black Range. The 4 – 5km ascent is rewarded with views down the King Valley and there is 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.

Friday 13th December – A XMAS PARTY WITH A TWIST (let's break the hoodoo). To be held at the Davis creek side home at 154 Rowan Street, Wangaratta. FROM 6.30pm. Bring your own meat for a barbie / drinks and glasses/ dinner and sweets plates, cutlery and chair. Also a salad or sweet to share. Red/Green/Black theme. Contact Karen or Rod to book in, and to organise your salad/sweet.

Tuesday 17th December - Swamp Track – Warby Ranges. An easy medium graded walk of about 12km in the Pine Gully area of the Warby Range. Along formed tracks and through open bushland. A good workout pre Xmas to enjoy the water courses and new growth after winter and spring rains.

Friday 3rd – Sunday 5th January 2014 – Always a great start to the year – a weekend at the very comfortable Mt St Bernard Ski Lodge where the evenings are always cool. Saturday a medium graded 12km walk is planned on the nearby Blue Rag Range. A stand alone range from which spectacular views across to Mt Hotham and into the dramatic Wongungarra Valley, a vast wilderness reserve of the Alpine National Park, can be had.

On Sunday an easy/medium walk of 10km return, out on Mount Tabletop, leaving from JB Plain is planned.