



WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc.

FUN . FITNESS . FRIENDSHIP

warbybushwalkers.org.au

NEWSLETTER : December, 2022

Welcome to the December 2022 Newsletter, and what a great year we have to look back on, and forward to in 2023.

As well as a nicely varied Walks Program there are two 'not to be missed events' - the rescheduled Volcano Week (south-west Victoria) and our annual week away, taking in the rugged scenery of The Grampians.

However, before those events, this years Christmas BBQ will be held on December 16, starting at 6.30pm, at the Murrungee-Bowmans Hall, accessible by turning off the Great Alpine Road (or Buckland Gap Road) onto the Murrungee-Bowmans Road.



Specifically, from Wangaratta, take the Great Alpine Road, and drive 31 km to the Bowman-Whorouly intersection, then turn left onto Bowman's Road (signposted Bowman-Murrungee Hall).

BYO drinks and meat for a BBQ. Crockery, cutlery and chairs are provided. Contact Marita on 0427 521 122 to book, and to bring either a sweet or a salad to share.

Warby Ranges FedWalks : A Great Team Effort!

The following text is from the Bushwalking Victoria website:

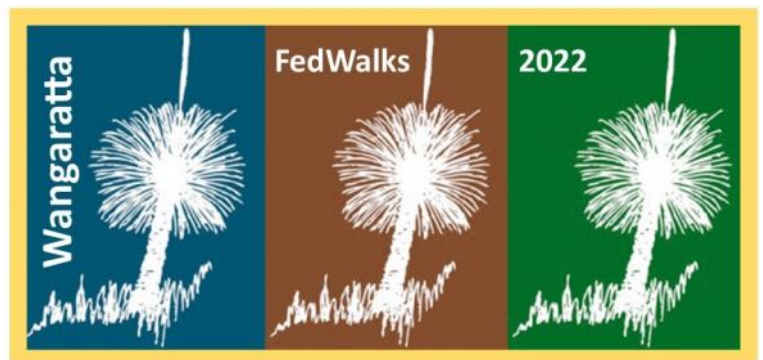
The 2022 FedWalks event, held in North-East Victoria on 1-2 October, was a great success. Whilst the event was based in Wangaratta, about 200 participants enjoyed walks in three contrasting locations; that is, the Warby Ranges, Mount Buffalo and Beechworth and surrounds.

Flooding rivers proved a challenge, with two walks needing to be cancelled; some rerouting of other walks was also required. Luckily, the weekend's weather was wonderful, and a sense of community was palpable.

As Cecily Fletcher, the 2022 FedWalks Coordinator, said: "Beyond the statistics, the real measures of success were evident in the enthusiasm of participants gathering in the morning to head out on their walks; the warmth and friendliness evident as people returned with stories to tell; the relaxed banter around the tables at dinner; and the energy reserves found by those moved to dance to the entertainment on Saturday night!"

The dedication, persistence and hard work of the organising clubs, walk leaders and myriad volunteers must be applauded. Their efforts, along with support from key members of the 2021 FedWalks organising committee and Bushwalking Victoria, continue the wonderful Federation Walks legacy.

The name "Federation Walk" dates from 1934 when Bushwalking Victoria was known as the Federation of Victorian Bushwalking Clubs. One or more affiliated member clubs in a specific region volunteer to host the event, with support from Bushwalking Victoria as needed.



Mount Glenrowan : September 10

This was an interesting variation on a tried-and-true venue, involving a loop down to Moonlight Track via Casuarina Track on the way to Mount Glenrowan, but it was to prove more interesting than we first thought.

On a very cool (and wet) morning, we met at Rotary Park at 8.30am, organised car pooling, headed off to Taminick Gap, and started walking at about 8.50am, despite the drizzly conditions.

There were 16 of us on this adventure, and we split into two groups, one tackling the standard route to Mount Glenrowan (via Chick Hill), the other tackling Casuarina Track; the distance planned for this latter option being about 14 kilometres.

Setting off, we walked along Ridge Track, to the Casuarina Track turn-off, where the two groups temporarily parted company.

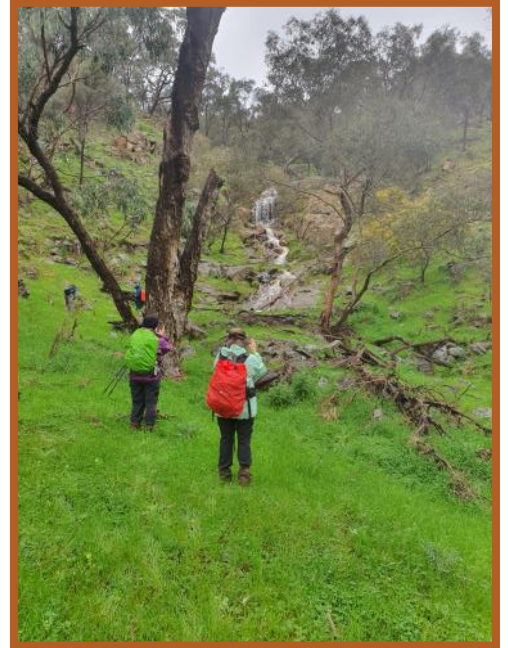
Heading down Casuarina Track there was evidence of track maintenance everywhere, so instead of taking the usual off-track descent down to Moonlight Track, we stayed on Casuarina until it met up with Moonlight Track (a much easier option than the off-track route).

A few kilometres on this scenic pathway took us to a collection of rocks, where we had a quick morning tea (too cold for loitering, but it had stopped raining by now).

We now followed Moonlight Track to where it swings to the east, and starts a steep climb up to Ridge Track.

Having made it to Ridge Track, we followed this through to the environs of Morgans Lookout (Mount Glenrowan) where we enjoyed a scenic lunch in a sheltered location. The views were restricted by the low cloud over the high country, but it was very interesting to see the hundreds of water patches on the floodplain.

The two groups met up near here, and we then ambled back to the cars via Ridge Track, passing the entrance to Casuarina Track on the way. After a leisurely afternoon tea at the car park, we headed back to town, and were home at 2.30pm. [Chris]



Grampians Map

Vicmap has released a new Grampians map. One side is the 1:100,000 Grampians Special, which covers the entire Grampians, and on the reverse side there is the 1:25,000 Halls Gap Special.

This also has a 1:10,000 map of the Wonderland Range, and 1:25,000 maps of Mount Zero-Mount Staphylton and Zumsteins-MacKenzie Falls.

This is an ideal map for touring, and day walks, in the most popular areas of The Grampians.

The map is available at specialist map suppliers, such as Cartographics (www.cartographics.com.au) as well as outdoor shops in the Grampians area.



Friends Track-Alpine Views Track : September 18

There were 13 participants on this walk, and having met up at Rotary Park, we headed off to Wenhams Camp.

The distance planned for walk was about 12 kilometres, and we had a very grey (and showery) day with a top temperature of about 12C.

Setting off, we found \$80 lying on the track and assumed it belonged to a bushwalker (yet to be encountered) in front of us. This was the case, and we were able to return the \$80 to a member of Boroondara Bushwalking Club. Their club were in Wangaratta for five days, enjoying the wildflowers (and wetness) of the Warby Ranges.

Continuing on, we made the detour to Kwat Kwat Lookout, where we had a very scenic morning tea, sharing the views with several members of Boroondara. The views normally include high country vistas, but this was not the case today. Instead we could comment on all of the very visible pools of water all over the flood-plain.

We then retreated slightly so as to rejoin Friends Track, and then took Alpine Views Track down to Boilerwood Track.

Taking the turn-off to Mount Warby, we had lunch on this local peak, once more putting on raincoats to protect us from that cold showery weather.

Heading downslope from the Mount to Wenhams, we had a very enjoyable afternoon tea to conclude our 'wetland adventure'.

Total travel time was about five hours, and we all passed comment on the amount of water in the Warbys; the catchment is totally soaked, with water lying everywhere, including many sections of our route today.

However, many plants were in flower and it was a delight to see so much colour; of particular note was the contrast between the yellow bloom of the wattles, and the blue lily heads of the stypantra. [Chris]

**Exploration walk from Killawarra to Peechelba :
September 25**

Fifteen risk taking hikers walked carefully along the often difficult eight kilometres from the edge of the Killawarra Forest to Peechelba, mainly along the rarely visited and narrow Irishtown Creek "corridor".

This was a new walk, and a journey which connected two parts of the Warby Ovens National Park (Killawarra, which was part of the Warby-Ovens State Park before 2010, and the Ovens River) for possibly the first time ever!!

We managed to amble mostly beside the creek where no track existed and experienced an "interesting" hazard of exceptionally long, wet grass hiding old fencing wire and small logs/red gum branches!!

After touching the flooded Ovens in Peechelba, we drove back into the Killawarra Camp and gathered around a campfire for lunch, and a celebration to mark the Spring Equinox! [Andy]

Mount Typo weekend : October 7-9

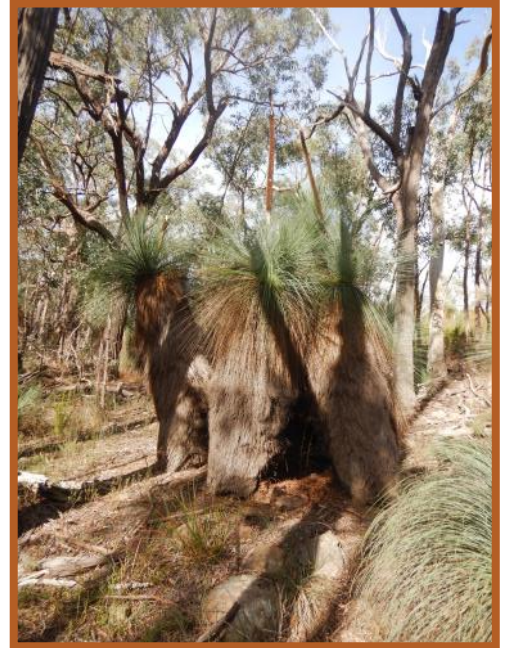
Mount Typo Station was built as a cattle grazing property by James Bennie in 1919; the Bennies were a Whitfield farming family since the 1860s, and James was born at Whitfield in 1895. He subsequently served with the Australian Army in France and Belgium, and in 1919 bought a large block of land adjoining Mount Typo, where he built his home Rivermount. His story is told in Harry Stephenson's book "Cattlemen and Huts of the High Plains".

Bennies wife died in 1962, and he passed away in 1968. During his wife's illness James walked to Wangaratta (two days each way) to visit her at the Wangaratta Base Hospital.

Typo Station is now operated by ACRE (Australian Centre of Rural Entrepreneurship) with a focus on youth development, and was the venue for our weekend away in October.

On Saturday, we started off in brilliant sunshine to complete an 8.5km loop, going in a westerly direction. There was plenty of bird life, and we enjoyed the amazing scenery along the way, arriving back at Typo Station in time for lunch after a three hour walk.

For the longer walk (to Mount Cobbler) 15 adventurers set off for the hour+ drive to Lake Cobbler. En-route, a mandatory stop was to check out the spectacular Dandongadale Falls, loaded with water due to this year's wet winter and spring.



After our arrival at Lake Cobbler our first water crossing presented us with the overflow from the lake over the road; so it was boots off, or rock hopping, with some lucky to stay dry. Group photos at the Cobbler Hut and Lake were taken before setting off on the bush track to Mount Cobbler.

The next water crossing was over a narrow stream, very close to the start of the walk, but was traversed using a well-placed rock and fallen log.

A little further along, on a rise, we enjoyed our morning tea before heading off to our next water crossing over the rapidly flowing Dandongadale River. Boots were off for those wanting to keep them dry, and we were back on the track continuing onto Cobbler.

Lunch was enjoyed with some excellent views near the peak before we ventured up the rock-face, ready to scramble across the ditch to the peak for some of the best alpine views, with patchy snow across the alps. A small brown snake was disturbed from its sunny spot, it didn't have the peak all to itself any longer.

After enjoying the views, and handstands from the young and energetic, it was back across the ditch to the rock-face, and we then returned via the alternative (more level, elevated and longer) route to Lake Cobbler Track, and finally to Lake Cobbler. Overall, it was a loop walk of approx 13km, with the ascent and descent each greater than 500m.

The opportunity to complete this walk is a rare event on our club's program, and it was greatly appreciated by those who attended.

On Sunday, Geoff Dinning, hat on head, led 13 walkers out and along Corr Creek with azure skies. We passed deer, heard the rufous whistlers sonorous song, and watched as a wedge-tailed eagle soared over the range. Creeks gurgled, currawongs called, and the bush was vibrant with spring colour, alive with sound, with shadows and light playing. What a treat to come to Typo Station.

Special thanks to Trevor for his excellent local knowledge of the area, and to Geoff for organising an excellent weekend at Typo Station. [Jeanette]

Vale Tyrone Thomas

After a long illness, noted bushwalking guide author Tyrone Thomas passed away on 18 September 2022. Tyrone joined the Melbourne Bushwalkers in the late 1960s, and was an extremely active walker for many years. He also served on the committee of the club. Many bushwalkers would be familiar with his guide books; Tyrone started writing his books based on actual club walks, but then expanded his range to include walks in other states.

His publications (produced by Hill of Content Publishing) included,

- * 120 Walks in Victoria
- * 100 Walks in New South Wales
- * 100 Walks in Tasmania
- * 50 Walks in North Queensland
- * 50 Walks in South Australia

Cup Day 2022 : November 1

This year's Cup Day event was to have been held at Wahgunyah, but owing to dramatic riverine flooding in that area it was decided to tackle the Warby Heritage Trail instead. The Heritage Trail loops in and out of the range country behind the Taminick Winery, and provides a very enjoyable outing.

After meeting at Rotary Park, we drove to Taminick Winery where the friendly staff welcomed us for our seven kilometre walk. There were 22 enthusiastic walkers out on the trail, despite the threat of rain, and we set off to check out the waterfalls. Expectedly, these were running beautifully, and we enjoyed morning tea admiring them.



Continuing on, we followed the foot track to the old sheep dip site, passing old dry stone weirs, more cascades and rock pools. A wide creek was a challenge, but we all managed to get to the other side, although some did get a little too close to that cold water

The route went along Spot Mill Track, then descended along Cellar Track before reaching the rear of the Winery, where we could see the actual ancient Spot Mill.

Back at the Winery, we enjoyed some excellent wines with our packed lunch, and then settled down to the formalities of the day.

There was a parade to admire the Cup Day headwear, and this was won by Sandie, with Anne being a close second. We listened to the Melbourne Cup on Michael's "radio app", and following this the Cup Day Draw was won by Anne. Then it was time to take some photos. Tea and biscuits concluded the day's activities, which (thankfully) did not include any serious rain!

Many Thanks to Karen (for judging the Cup Day Head Gear); Taminick Winery (for their hospitality); Cheryl (for those beautiful tasting platters), Michael (for organising the Melbourne Cup broadcast), and Yve for baking 36 Cup Cakes and organising the Cup Day Draw. [Chris]

Mount Glenrowan : November 6

This walk to Mount Glenrowan, via Chick Hill, replaced the scheduled Mount Samaria walk, which was unable to go ahead due to fallen trees blocking access to that area.

Fifteen walkers (including two casuals on their first walk with the club) started the 11k walk at Taminick Gap Road, heading along Ridge Track to the Chick Hill turn-off.

After enjoying morning tea, and some great views at the informal lookout at Chick Hill, we then returned to Ridge Track to continue on to Morgans Lookout at Mount Glenrowan. Here, we enjoyed lunch with views over Glenrowan township, the Ovens and King Valleys, the Alps and to the Winton Wetlands.

The return walk was along Ridge Track, but taking the alternate bush track finishing near the Casuarina Track, before continuing to Taminick Gap.

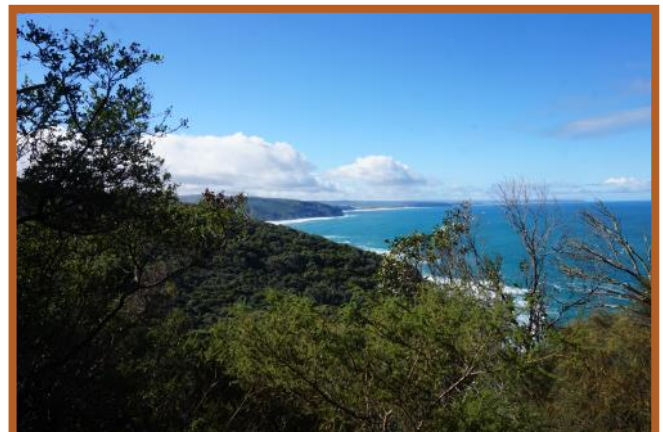
Wildflowers were in abundance, and included Slender Sun Orchids, Spider Orchids, Bluebell, Everlasting and Fringe Lilies. Wildlife encountered included Kangaroos, a Wallaby and a small brown snake.

Pat's afternoon tea was splendid as usual, and a great finish to the walk. The predicted rains came following the walk, whilst enroute back to Wangaratta. [Jeanette]

The Great Ocean Trail

When finished, this 90-kilometre walking trail will provide a seven day adventure bushwalk, as well as day walks, half-day walks and shorter loop trails; the Trail leads from Aireys Inlet to Torquay, and Anglesea, and then Apollo Bay. Construction of the Trail is well underway, and should be completed in 2023.

But wait, there's more; from Apollo Bay those with plenty of spare energy can continue westwards on the Great Ocean Walk, finishing at Port Campbell.



Postponements

Due to widespread flooding in Victoria the planned informal week of walking in Volcano Country (south-west Victoria) was postponed, and will be rescheduled during 2023.

As well, the Mount Buffalo Walk scheduled for November 20 was cancelled due to thunderstorm activity in the area on that date.

52 Ways to Walk–

The Surprising Science of Walking for Wellness and Joy, One Week at a Time

This is a new book by noted (and aptly named) author Annabel Streets, covering all perspectives of walking.

The 52 chapters (320 pages) cover issues to consider when undertaking urban walks, remote area walks, solo walks and group walks.

The author also talks about the vegetation, mental aspects of the walk, whether to use trekking poles or not, when to breath through nose/mouth, and much more. It's a very good read, and very informative.

52 Ways to Walk was published by Bloomsbury Publishing in late 2022, and costs about \$24.95

[Chris M]



Boot/Shoe Cleaning

Many land management agencies around Australia advocate cleaning of footwear in areas that are vulnerable to the phytophthora cinnamomi fungus, for example the Three Capes Walk in Tasmania (see the boardwalks in the photo), and the lower reaches of the Heysen Trail in South Australia.

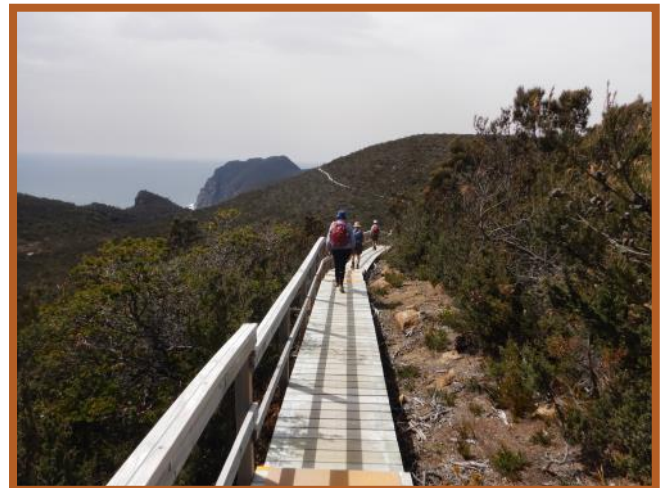
In many instances there are formal cleaning amenities provided, but in the absence of these facilities there are some “home brew” cleaners that work well, for example . . .

Phytoclean, diluted 1:10 (available from most agricultural suppliers) and household bleach diluted 1:4

These can be applied to the soles of footwear, after brushing off any collected soil/debris.

Not straying too far off formal pathways will also reduce the likelihood of spreading the fungus.

See the “walkingsa.org.au” website for an excellent coverage of cleaning guidelines.



IUCN Green Listing

As mentioned in a previous Newsletter, the Warby-Ovens National Park has received a “Green Listing” by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The formal ceremony to confirm this listing took place in mid-October, with representation from the IUCN, Parks Victoria, traditional owners of the land, Friends of the Warby-Ovens National Park, and of course some bushwalkers.

The event took place at Wenham’s Camp, and included some bushwalks. More details from warbyovens.com.au

