



WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc.

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NEWSLETTER : June, 2023 warbybushwalkers.org.au

Annual General Meeting, 2023

Our AGM and "Social Catch up Gathering" was held at Remel 185, in Whorouly on the 20th of March, and was a well attended event, with 60 members present.

Guest Speaker, Richard Loyn (a local ecologist) presented a talk entitled " Birds of the Warby Ranges", and during the formal part of the evening the following office bearers were elected,

President: Sandi Smith

Secretary: Peter Brain

Treasurer: John Walker

Walks Co-ordinator: Jeanette Farquhar

Assistant Walks Coordinator, Michael Braendler

Committee Members: (in alpha order) Sonia Bihun, Cheryl Hoystead, Andy Kimber, Chris McLaughlin, Marita Sammuellsson and Trevor Turnbull.

Please remember that subscriptions became due at the AGM, and that they should be renewed as soon as possible (singles, \$45 : family membership, \$90).

The subscription renewal form can be found under "General Information" on our website.

TAGGERTY WEEKEND – Friday March 31 – Sunday April 2nd

On the weekend of March 31 to April 2, a group of 24 walkers gathered at the Taggerty Holiday Park for a weekend of walks in the Cathedral Range State Park. The Park had been closed for some months, and we were most fortunate for it to be open in time for our weekend, with a variety of walks available.

Saturday April 1st began with a cloudy sky, but gave way to patches of sunshine periodically in the afternoon. Each of the three grades of walks started from the northern end of the Park, at Neds Gully. The easy and medium walks involved joining several walks together to make an enjoyable day of walking.

The easy walk began with the Little River Track, which follows the river between Neds Gully and Cooks Mill.

The completion of this almost three kilometre trail allowed the group time to undertake Saint Bernards Track to Jawbone Car Park.

This walk winds through open eucalypt forest, and is a three kilometre return walk. The two kilometre Friends Nature Trail is an easy loop walk through Manna Gum Forest, which is nearby to the 1940's and 1950's saw milling heritage site.

My group of medium walkers undertook the Neds Gully Track, Neds Peak and Little Cathedral Track to make an estimated 8.5km day walk. We took the obligatory photo opportunity of the group at the start of the walk. The intention was to return with the same number of walkers. I wasn't really concerned if they were different walkers, as long as I had the same number at the end.



Neds Gully Track begins by crossing the Little River footbridge. The track begins gently enough, but as you get closer to Neds Saddle it become steeper. We met up with the walkers undertaking the hard northern loop for morning tea. They had stopped in an area with suitable places to sit whilst watching the most nonchalant Lyrebird we have ever seen. This bird didn't realise it was meant to be elusive and shy, and contently scratched about in the undergrowth. After our morning tea break, we continued our hike.

Neds Peak is a very short, but steep walk, with some obstacles to navigate. The summit provided good views of the Park in all directions. I obliged the group with a lolly snake as reward for coming this far. In the distance we could see other walkers hiking the challenging Ridge Track. We had arrived at this point after ascending about 450m, over almost 3.5km, to reach an altitude of almost 780m. After admiring our surroundings, we descended back to the saddle.

From Neds Saddle we began to walk towards our lunch destination, along Little Cathedral Track. We followed the side of the range, which descended a little before gradually rising. We came to a junction where one trail goes to Cathedral Peak along the more difficult Ridge Track, while the other trail led to our destination, Little Cathedral Peak.

This 825m peak made for the perfect lunch spot, as clouds gave way to sunshine, and we admired the views of the Park, it's unique rock formations and surrounding open land.

After an enjoyable lunch it was time to retrace our steps back to the start. Our return allowed us to pass numerous other walkers who all adopted unique walking protocols. These included no packs, little or no water, inappropriate clothing, and in one case no shirt (calm down ladies). Our medium grade walk concluded at the cars, where my GPS recorded a walk of almost 10km for the day.

Meanwhile, there were nine walkers who completed the Grade 5, hard walk of the Northern Circuit. Starting at Neds Gully, we crossed the suspension bridge, and passed through the Neds Gully camping area, then followed the Little River Trail for a short distance before turning onto the Neds Gully Track. Not too far along the track we came across a Lyrebird scratching about, and with its tail feathers on display providing us with a wonderful photo opportunity.

The track continued upwards towards Neds Saddle, and we stopped for morning tea between Ten Fathom Ridge and Neds Saddle, where we were entertained by another Lyrebird and joined by the walkers completing the medium walk. After morning tea, we continued to Neds Saddle, and then took the Little Cathedral Track to the junction with Ridge Track. Taking the Ridge Track, we continued onto a lookout with views to the west followed by the North Cathedral Trig, and then to Cathedral Peak for lunch. Ridge Track was rocky which made for slower walking, but also provided us with excellent views pretty much all along the escarpment.

We continued along the ridge before descending to The Farmyard, and then followed the Jawbone Creek Track with its many stone steps, tree fern gully and reached the Jawbone carpark. From the carpark we continued on the St Bernards Walking Track to Cooks Mill Camping Area, then the Little River Track, following the Little River back to the suspension bridge at Neds Gully. The challenging hike took most of the day, and was over 13km in length.

Sunday April 2nd was the most perfect walking day, with clear skies and sunshine all day. Today all walks began at Cooks Mill, taking in the Messmate Track. For the easy walk option this involved turning back along the 4.4km track at any point. This track becomes steeper the closer you get to the Sugarloaf Saddle visitor area. Along the way the messmate forest is particularly tranquil, and another illustration of how the vegetation of this Park is so diverse.



My group of medium walkers took morning tea before reaching the visitor area to enjoy our dense surroundings. Once again, we were wondering whether the bird calls we were hearing were that of the mimicking lyrebird.

After morning tea, it wasn't long before we were at the rather full Sugarloaf Saddle car park. Any idea of doing a short detour to the Canyon Track or Wells Cave Track was quickly dismissed by me after reading the signage, and degree of difficulty in navigating such walks. So, we sensibly continued with Plan A which necessitated walking along Cerberus Road towards the Jawbone carpark.

Walking along a dirt road isn't always marvelous, and on this occasion, it was to engage a loop walk. It did however offer the opportunity to see both rugged South and North Jawbone Peaks from good vantage points along the way. After walking about an hour, we reached our lunch destination of the Jawbone Carpark, which joins the Jawbone Creek Track and Saint Bernards Track.

We chose to eat lunch a little along Saint Bernards Track, to be amongst mother nature rather than a park full of cars. From here it was less than an hour back to Cooks Mill where the group said farewell to each other.

At the same time, eight walkers started the Southern Circuit, Grade 5 hard walk. We began at Cooks Mill Camping Area, taking the Tweed Spur Road before taking the Messmate Track into the bush. The Messmate Track climbed through a beautiful forest to Sugarloaf Saddle where we had morning tea.

From the saddle we decided to check out the Wells Cave Track. The track leads to a near vertical rock face used for freeclimbing. Being bushwalkers, we decided to return to the saddle and take the Canyon Walking Track which included a steep rock section, not as challenging as the Wells Cave Track, but challenging, nonetheless.

After reaching the steep rock section not all of our group wanted to continue with this route, so our group was split into two, and some returned via the Messmate Track to Cooks Mill Camping Area and completed the Friends Nature Trail.

Those who continued on the Canyon Track scrambled up the rock face, enjoyed lunch with the amazing views before scrambling up yet more rockfaces and continuing on to Sugarloaf Peak. Sugarloaf Peak rewards you with fantastic 360-degree views from the highest peak on the Cathedral Range.

After photos at the peak, we continued on the Razorback Ridge Track, an appropriately named jagged rocky track along the top of the range. We arrived at The Farmyard, then taking the Jawbone Creek Track continued to the Jawbone carpark. The Southern Circuit was a far more challenging walk than anticipated, but rewarding, nonetheless. Michael collected us, and returned us to the start of the walk at Cooks Mill Camping Area.

Michael Braendler (medium walks report) and Jeanette Farquhar (hard walks report)

Murramarang South Coast Walk

Murramarang National Park was established in 1973; it was quite small at that time, but now stretches from Batemans Bay to Kioloa in NSW, and is now home to one of Australia's newest long distance walks.

The Murramarang South Coast Walk extends for about 34km along the south coast, and provides accommodation options for campers, as well as those who prefer a cabin.

The route taken is actually a medley of existing 'there-and-back' and loop walks of the Park, and these include,

- Pretty Beach to Durras Mountain (9km in total, there-and-back, moderate)



- Pretty Beach to Snake Bay (6.5km in total, there-and-back, moderate)
- Pebbly Beach to Durras Mountain (8km in total, there-and-back, moderate)
- Pebbly Beach to Snake Bay (9km in total, there-and-back, moderate)
- Durras Lake Trail (9km in total, there-and-back, moderate)

There are another nine short walks documented in the Park.

See <https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/experiences/murramarang-south-coast-walk> for more details.



Bronte Sisters Walk

Further afield, a new walking track in Yorkshire (England) has been created in honour of those literary sisters, the Brontes. Some say that this is a novel idea, and that news of it is a real page turner.

The 70km trail meanders its way through Yorkshire's dales country, with many encounters of memorabilia from various novels.

The Bronte Way starts at Oakwell Hall ("Fieldhead" in Charlotte Bronte's novel "Shirley") at Kirkstall, and ends at Gawthorpe Hall in Padiham.

The route taken includes many places of interest, including the Bronte Birthplace at Thornton (Ponden Hall - "Thrushcross Grange" in Emily Bronte's "Wuthering Heights"), and the village of Haworth itself.

Whilst much of the trail is in hill country, there are plenty of pubs and inns to break the journey. More details are available from various websites, including <https://www.briganterenglishwalks.com/bronte-way/>



Wilhelmina Spur, Mount Buffalo : April 15

Yesterday's eight kilometre walk at the base of Mount Buffalo was led by a relatively new club member Paul, with seven members joining him for the walk starting at the Eurobin Creek Picnic Area.

From the Picnic Area we followed the Mount Buffalo Road to the Manfield Track, then the Eurobin Creek Track, parallel to Eurobin Creek with the clearest water running in it.

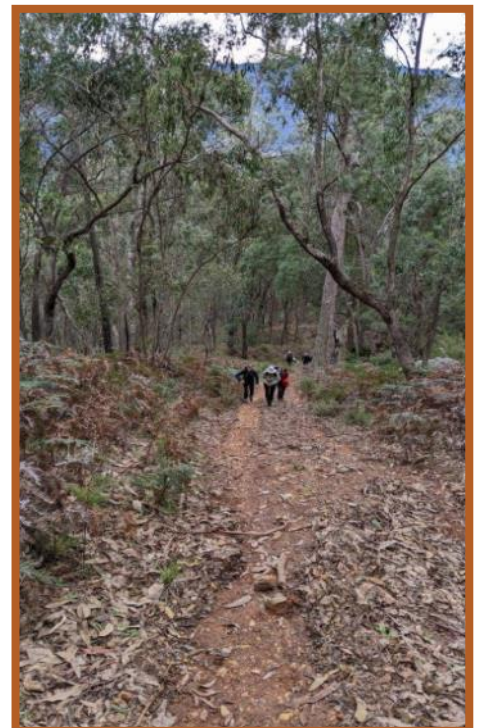
After about two kilometres, we turned left onto a foot/4WD track with a short steep climb before descending to a gully. After the gully we had morning tea, at a sawn up fallen tree, alongside the track.

Continuing on to the Seven Mile Spur Track, we then had a long steep climb of about 260 metres over less than 1.5km, before the track was undulating, and reaching a further climb to greater than 620m elevation.

Lunch was enjoyed on another recently sawn up tree, also alongside the track, before we came across the junction with 'The Big Walk'.

From here, we continued downhill along The Big Walk, returning to the Eurobin Creek Picnic Area, where Pat's welcome afternoon tea was enjoyed by all.

Many thanks to Paul for leading his first walk with our club.



Loggers Lane to Wenhams, and return : April 18

The starting point for today's adventure was Ryans Lookout, near the corner of Wangandery Road and Gerritts Road, and the distance to be covered was about 12 kilometres. The day provided perfect blue sky autumn ambience, with a top temperature of about 22C.

Having met at Rotary Park at 8.30am, we set off walking at about 9am, and had morning tea at the junction of Loggers Lane and Stypantra Track, about 2.5km from the start.

We then continued towards Taylors Track, and on the way we enjoyed nice views of the Ovens River Flood Plain, and admired the many colonies of grass-trees.

Moving on, we turned north at an un-named single-file track that provides a very scenic loop around to Taylors Track.

In this section we enjoyed some nice rocky scenery, and some more views (including Wangaratta, and the distant high country).

We then made a gradual descent to Wenhams Camp, where an early (11.30am) lunch was enjoyed sat at the picnic tables.

After our leisurely lunch, we started the journey back to the start, taking a myriad number of single-file tracks to the north.

These tracks took us through some amazing stands of spur-wing wattles, and grass-trees, and eventually back to our vehicles. This completed a five hour journey. Our great day was completed by the traditional hot drink and biscuits organised by Pat.

The walk is graded as moderate, and many bushwalkers rate it as the best in the Warby Ranges.

Wildlife included some prosperous looking kangaroos, and plenty of noisy kookaburras and choughs. [Chris]

Ovens Loop Walk : April 30

Today's Ovens Loop walk had 19 participants, and our start/finish point was at the base of Reform Hill, just to the east of Myrtleford's town centre.

Reform Hill was the site of significant gold mining in the old days, but in present times is renowned as an enjoyable place for a day walk.

April 30 was a pleasant day, and with pleasant company, we enjoyed a varied walk through alternatively native bush, and the pine plantation, with views over the Ovens Valley.

The Autumn colours were magnificent, and very much appreciated.

As is often the case, our walk was followed by Pat's welcome afternoon tea. [Jeanette]

Lower Ovens Walk : May 10

Eleven walkers, including Benny, an international visitor from Timor Leste, walked about seven kilometres along the banks of the Ovens River in superb weather conditions.



After driving in on the Frost's Crossing Track from the Yarrawonga Road, we parked near Cleaf's Bend, and then followed the river track south until Hill's track heads off to the west, and into billabong country. The group then ambled along Boundary Track back to our cars.

Highlights were talking briefly to some campers enjoying those delightful Ovens campsites, espying a sleeping koala in a big red gum, and meeting friendly Parks Victoria staff, and weed removal contractors. [Andy]

Woolshed Valley : May 13

Lesley's walk on Saturday, on a perfect sunny Autumn day, was to Native Dog Peak, with its rocky outcrops and views overlooking the Woolshed Valley. This is an area closely associated with Ned Kelly and his bushrangers, and is renowned for its excellent rocky scenery.

Twelve participants walked around 12 kilometres on a mostly undulating track of gravel roads, some parts of which were quite badly washed out, and then a short off track section to reach Native Dog Peak, where we had lunch overlooking the Woolshed Valley.

Along the walk we had views to Mount Buffalo, Mount Baranduda, The Warby Ranges and the autumn colours at Beechworth. [Jeanette]

Ingrams Rock : May 28

The lead up to the Ingrams Rock walk had various levels of enthusiasm (due to impending cold, and wet weather), and the final outcome was that we all decided to stay at home, and to defer the walk to a later date.

This was a good decision, as it rained most of the day, and the temperature never really made it out of single digits.

Here's hoping for a nice sunny day to revisit Ingrams Rock, one of my favourite walks. [Chris]

Mount Glenrowan : June 1

Today's walk was to have been at Killawarra, but a quick check on the ground at that venue showed a very slippery road access, and a slippery walking track.

For this reason the venue for the bushwalk was moved to Morgans Lookout at Mount Glenrowan.

On a very cool morning, we met at Rotary Park at 8.30am, organised car pooling, headed off to Taminick Gap, and started walking at about 9am.

Setting off, we walked along Ridge Track to the turn-off to Chick Hill, turning left here to enjoy the views, and to indulge in morning tea.

Returning to Ridge Track, we followed this through to the environs of Morgans Lookout where the nine of us enjoyed another break in a scenic location.

The views were restricted by the low cloud over the high country, but it was still interesting to see hundreds of water patches on the flood plain, and the exceptional green hue everywhere.

Returning to the start, we had a leisurely afternoon tea at the car park and headed back to town (we were home at 2pm). [Chris]

