



# WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc.

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warbybushwalkers.org.au

NEWSLETTER : June, 2024

Welcome to the June 2024 newsletter of the Warby Range Bushwalkers . . .

Our 47th Annual General Meeting was held at the Wangaratta Club on the 25th March, and after the annual reports were tabled, Life Member Helen Twitt took the chair to manage the appointment of the next committee.

Helen thanked Sandi Smith, and the 2023-2024 committee, for their work over the last 12 months, and then conducted the nomination and election procedure for new office bearers, and committee members.

Our new office bearers are President, Sandra Smith; Vice President Michael Brandler; Secretary Roger Barker and Treasurer Andrew Greene.

The committee members for the coming year are Sonia Bihun, Michael Brandler, Jeanette Farquhar, Cheryl Hoysted, Andy Kimber, Chris McLaughlin and Marita Samuelsson.

Sandi Smith resumed the chair, and thanked specific committee members whose contribution has been particularly challenging, and time consuming, over the last year.

Sandi also thanked the retiring committee members (Peter Brain, Trevor Turnbull and John Walker) for their good work during their terms of office.

Guest Speaker : Sandi introduced, and later thanked, Tim Goodson, a passionate energy professional, explorer and nature lover. Tim has worked in Paris as an energy analyst at the International Energy Agency, and is the son of Deb Goodson, the much loved former member of our club who sadly passed away last year. Tim's excellent presentation was followed by an extensive question and answer session from our well attended meeting.

Please remember that subscriptions became due at the AGM, and that they should be renewed as soon as possible.

The subscription renewal form can be found under "General Information" on our website; subscriptions are asked to be paid electronically.

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## FALLS CREEK WEEKEND : MARCH 1-3

We had 29 participants attend this Falls Creek weekend, staying at our usual haunt, the Myrtleford Ski Club Lodge.

Saturday's walks started at the Watchbed Creek Trackhead, and then along the Big River Fire Track.

From here, the easy walkers turned left onto the Heathy Spur Track after about three kilometres, and continued to the Heathy Spur Trackhead, which is located close to the north-east end of the Rocky Valley Storage Dam wall, completing a walk of about eight kilometres.

The medium walkers were split into two groups, with one group trekking to Johnstons Hut and Edmondson Hut, and the other group trekking to Edmondson Hut only.

Both groups returned along the Big River Fire Trail to the Heathy Spur Track, and finished at the Heathy Spur Trackhead. The walks were

titled One Hut and Two Huts, and the groups walked about 12k and 14k respectively.

The hard walkers followed the Big River Fire Track for about nine kilometres, before turning off to Ropers Hut.



Ropers Hut has been rebuilt by skilled craftsmen, and is located within a very picturesque setting, with snow gums surrounding it. On their return walk, most of the hard walkers also checked out Edmondson and Johnston Huts, thus making their walk about 24k. Well done.

Saturday night's dinner was enjoyed at the lodge accommodation, with dips and cheese platters, followed by lasagne with salad, and then dessert of chocolate brownie with berries and cream. Very yummy!

Both of Sunday's walks started near the Pretty Valley Pondage. One group walked to the Tawonga Huts, located in a picturesque setting with snowgums (see photo), before they headed uphill to Mount Jaithmathang (1852m) for the most excellent views. The second group walked to Cope Saddle Hut, then followed the Cope West Aqueduct, before turning off to reach Ryders Huts.



Everyone was impressed, not only with the huts, but the near new toilet facility. Lunch was enjoyed, photos taken, and then the return trek was underway.

The group walking to Tawonga Huts, and beyond, had a walk of about 13k, an impressive effort as most of these walkers, if not all, had walked 24k on Saturday; the Ryders Huts walk was about 12k.

### **MOUNT SAMARIA WALKS : MARCH 16**

These walks took place in fine weather on a mid 20's day in the Mount Samaria State Park, and were enjoyed by seven members.

The Park has beautiful shady forests of tall Blue Gums and Mountain Grey Gums, with an under-storey including wattles, dogwood, and bracken; other trees include Stringybarks, Boxes and Peppermints.

Both the short and long walks started together at the Spring Creek Picnic Area, which has the sawmill kiln ruins from bygone logging days. We followed the Mount Samaria Road to Butchers Track, then on Butchers Track to the Tramline Track, which took us to the ruins of the braking station where we enjoyed our morning tea.

Returning along the Tramline Track to Butchers Track, we then took the Lightning Track to Rocky Knoll, which has an elevation of 983m.

The group of seven then divided into two groups, with one group continuing along the Lightning Track, descending to the start of the walk at the Spring Creek Picnic Area to enjoy their lunch and afternoon tea cuppa. The short walk group completed a walk of approximately nine kilometres.



Meanwhile the other group took the Mount Samaria Track to the peak of Mount Samaria (953m), stopping for lunch along the way.

After reaching the peak this group returned downhill via the Summit Link Track to the Wild Dog Creek Camping Area for a snack break, then continued onto the Spring Creek Picnic Area to complete their walk and enjoy afternoon tea. The long walk group completed a walk of approximately 14k. [Jeanette]

.... and now for the entertaining news of the days walk: Mount Samaria walks info from MB, mentioning those in the group who had difficulty staying upright on today's walk! The first to take a tumble was Pat. on one of the more open vehicle management tracks. Remember Pat, it's left foot, right foot, left foot, right foot... As always, she bounced back up again ready to continue before you knew it. Pride was her greatest injury at this time.

On the way to the summit while leading the group, Michael's ability to stay upright was put to the test.

Although no one else witnessed the fall, he apparently came down quickly onto his knees and hands. His trusty walking poles doing little to prevent his close encounter with mother earth.

About five band-aids later he was patched up and ready to go. News of this was received by the other group in a text. They were most concerned, and almost ready to set off the personal locator beacon, and call in the search and rescue helicopter. All of this for a grazed shin which was going to be at its most painful when the band aids were ripped off from his hairy legs later that night.

Finally, our walks leader Jeanette. Admittedly she was trying to assist the group by holding down a troublesome branch to make the path easier for those following. What could possibly

go wrong? Her next move, nothing like an Olympic dive, was a less than gracious backward tumble into bracken. Resembling something like a turtle on its back, it took more than one effort to get her back on her feet. Fortunately, she was unmarked from her misadventure. There were more falls on our walk than the Wild Dog Creek Falls. MB



**A NEW BLUE MOUNTAINS WALK**

The Blue Mountains (see photo) has a new walk on its menu with the opening of the Grand Cliff Top Walk.

The walk covers about 19km (usually taken over two days) along Grand Cliff Top Walk, which links Wentworth Falls, Leura, and Katoomba. On the way, walkers will encounter spectacular lookouts and waterfalls.



**ORCHARD TRACK, STANLEY STATE FOREST : MARCH 27**

Starting out from the corner of Lady Newton Drive and Buckland Gap Road, 13 walkers had an enjoyable medium walk on a fine day in the Stanley Forest.

Beginning at Bates Dam, where mining piles remain from the gold exploration era, we climbed the steep Jensen Track, with good views over the valley. As usual, ups and downs were frequent, up Tully Track, and down the track to West Dingle Road. A very enjoyable day, with Pat’s cuppa at the end. [Lesley]

**DICKSON’S FALLS AND THE SOUTH WALL WALK : APRIL 1**

Monday, April 1st, was a great bush walking day on Mount Buffalo, with 16 walkers prepared for the hike incorporating Dickson’s Falls followed by The South Walk. The sun was shining, and from on top of the plateau no smoke haze, which was about in the preceding week, was evident.

Our starting point was Cresta Valley carpark which allowed for the formalities of handouts of maps and introductions. Today we welcomed two new walkers; to the club, not to walking. They’ve been doing that for years. Jan who had moved to the area a year ago, and Jishnu who came all the way from India just to participate in my walk. No joke. I am pretty sure I have that fact correct.

From Cresta Valley, my plan was to walk to Dickson’s Falls and then return for morning tea. However, there was one member of the group, who shall remain nameless, but she is Swedish, who had another idea. Morning tea would be best taken at the Falls. Now I am not one to argue with a Swede. Not since they have recently joined NATO.



The path to Dickson's Falls is clearly defined and passes the turn off towards The Back Wall. Small streams were still flowing, which was promising for water at the Falls, and the occasional colourful and lone wildflower could be seen, the last of a long summer.

Our maps had a point of interest marked, THE VALLEY OF THE GODS. It was capitalized for dramatic effect on the map too.

However, it went unnoticed by all of us. I can only assume that being a Monday public holiday, all gods were watching the footy.

Once we reached the lookout for Dickson's Falls, a view over the south face of the park was before us. An information board noted various Australian peaks in the distance. The Falls, and I use the term loosely, admittedly, were flowing.

After morning tea in this pleasant spot, measured by the time it took Adrian to consume his apple, and with one noticeably happy Swede, we retraced our steps back to Cresta Valley. My GPS measured this as being 3.5km, so a little shorter than the expected 4km return.

A quick break, and the group were soon ready for the South Walk. The early stages of this walk had a little navigation through some more densely crammed bush. It wasn't long before the area opened with numerous conglomerations of granite boulders and Snow Gums. With names like The Tombstones, The South Bluff and Wilfred's Hill, you wonder how they come up with such names for landmarks.

Shannon noticed one boulder outcrop with an interesting formation on one end. She decided it looked like something Fred Flintstone would live in. It's now been christened FRED'S PLACE. Capitalized for dramatic effect, obviously.

The remainder of the trail towards our destination, the South Buffalo Viewpoint, is best described as undulating. From when we began at the car park, our elevation was around 1480m. After walking for about 3.7km we reached the viewpoint at an elevation of about 1620m.

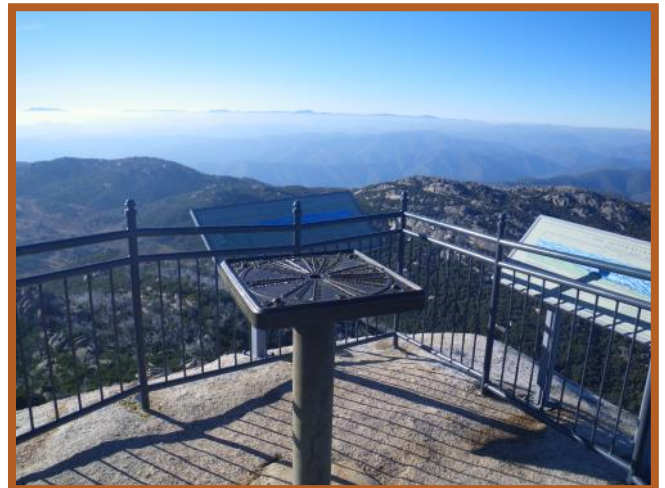
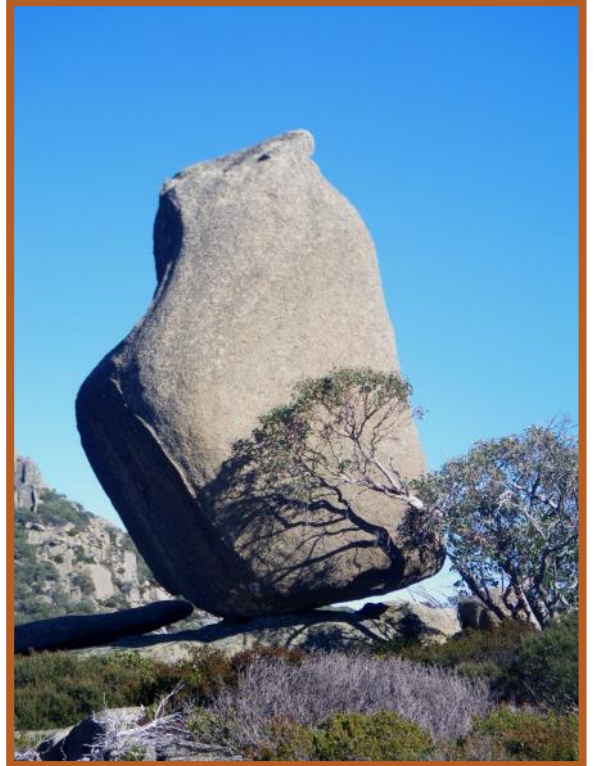
This section of the park has spectacular views in all directions. A rather dwindling Lake Buffalo in one direction, the well visited Horn and the Back Wall in the opposite direction, and interesting granite boulder formations everywhere else.

After a leisurely lunch break, and customary group photo shot, we again retraced our steps. By this stage the group had spread out significantly, with everyone walking at their own comfortable pace. Although wildlife found here is varied and abundant, today I only spotted small lizards darting about my feet.

Once back at the cars we made use of one of the tables for Pat's afternoon tea; a spread which is welcomed at the end of each walk and is renowned the world over.

Jan was suitably impressed with the hike, the company she kept, and afternoon tea, that she joined as a full member upon completion of the walk.

Thanks to everyone for participating. The day's hike of 11.73km was completed in five hours, and was a great day of walking in this remarkable National Park. Apparently, there are over 90km of walking tracks on Mount Buffalo; I think we should make a weekend of it in the future and see how we go. [Michael Braendler]



## 2024 FedWalks Event

This year Bushwalking Victoria celebrates its 90th year, and for those interested in the 90th Anniversary Fedwalks event, being held Friday October 11th to Sunday October 13th, 2024 at Wilsons Promontory, the Fedwalks program, with walk options and maps, is now available by visiting [fedwalks.org.au](http://fedwalks.org.au).

Bookings are usually hotly contested, and opened earlier than usual this year, that is on Monday June 3rd at 6am! The weekend of walks promises to be a big event this year. Accommodation options are varied: unpowered sites, powered sites, huts, cabins, etc. The Tidal River Campground has been booked entirely for this event.

Even though we could arrange travelling together, each individual needs to make their own booking arrangements. Before going onto Trybooking, you need to know exactly what you intend to book, and perhaps have a second or third walk option just in case your first option is taken.

There's also the option of extending your stay, and completing some more walks after the weekend is over.

### WEEK AWAY : MERIMBULA, 6TH – 13TH APRIL 2024

Thirty walkers travelled to Merimbula through mist and rain on Saturday, 6th April, for a communal week at Manna Park Lodge. Fortunately the weather improved to provide ideal walking conditions over the next six days.

The walks explored the coastline from Mimosa Rocks National Park (north of Tathra) down to Saltwater Creek in Beowa National Park (south of Eden).

#### Day 1 : Sunday 7/4 : 10.5km Medium and Easy

Most of the group set out for a walk around the Bega River in Mimosa Rocks National Park in sunny mild weather. Moon Bay was visited before a climb through rainforest to Wajurda Point Lookout, with panoramic views along Nelson Beach and Nelson Lagoon. A sea eagle watched our progress.



A short walk on Park Roads brought us to an ideal lunch stop on the lagoon/ beach loop, and a paddle for some. On Return to Moon Bay Road a high loop through shady forest took us back to our vehicles.

A small group chose an easy walk; they drove into the Park and completed the Nelson Lagoon Loop, and the Wajurda Point Track before retiring for lunch in Tathra.

#### Day 2 : Monday 8/4 : 17km Medium and Easy

Most walkers undertook the southern half of the Wharf to Wharf walk including some side trails. Starting at Merimbula Wharf the walk to Short Point was on coastal reserves in the residential area. We were alarmed to see the local Council starting to dredge an opening to the sea for Back Lake. Fortunately we were allowed to cross and waded through in still calf deep water.

With bare feet we beach walked up to Tura Head. Lunch was taken after a walk out on the Headland side trail. The surfing dolphins were a highlight of this section. The trail headed inland through coastal bush to Bournda Lagoon. Low tide allowed another easy paddle through. After a short beach walk, the shady forest walk to Hobart Beach campground, and waiting transport ,was most welcome.



The short walk group chose not to paddle across Back Lake, but walked out to Long Point from the wharf, and along the Merimbula River boardwalk.

#### Day 3 : 9/4 : 14km Medium and Easy

The main group undertook the northern section of the Wharf to Wharf Walk. Starting at Tathra Wharf (which was closed for repairs) we headed south to Hobart Beach Camp. This section was mainly through coastal bush with several steep descents to bays. We crossed lovely Kianinny Bay, and Boulder Bay, which was aptly named.

Lunch was enjoyed at the picturesque Games Bay.

The shoreline was rocky and broken until the final stretch along the beach blocking the beautiful Wallagoot Lake to the sea. The short walkers explored the Hobart Beach area, Wallagoot Lake and Bournda Lagoon before retiring for refreshments.

#### **Day 4 : 10/4 : 6-10km Easy**

After three strenuous days walking for most of the group it was decided to visit the Haycock Point area at the north of Berowa National Park (formerly Ben Boyd NP). Several short walks to the Pinnacles, Quondolo Point and Heycock Point were visited. We were surprised to see kangaroos out on the rocky Heycock Point, oblivious to several fishermen and walkers.



#### **Day 5 : 11/4 : 13.5km Medium and Easy**

Twenty walkers undertook the north half of the Light to Light in the Beowa National Park. We had an 80km drive, and so to save travel time two car loads crossed over with a key swap, and the remaining 15 walkers starting from Boyds Tower in the north were collected at Saltwater Creek by the easy walkers.

This was a beautiful walk, mostly hugging the coast with lots of viewpoints along the way. No whales at this time of year, but we did see dolphin and seals.

The easy walkers visited Boyds Tower, and walked the first section of the track, before driving down the explore Green Cape lighthouse, where they lunched. They then drove into Saltwater Creek to collect the tired and grateful longer walkers.

#### **Day 6 : 12/4 : Various walks around Merimbula and Pambula**

On Day 6 we were unable to complete the southern section of the Light to Light due to National Park Track upgrades, so this will be something to return for.

After five solid days of walking for most of us, and facing a long trip home, our last day was a chance to explore the rivers and wetland trails close to the Lodge. Some walkers also visited walks they had missed during the week; we also visited the local shops and enjoyed a coffee; some took a dip in the ocean! [Karen]

### **SALISBURY WALK, FRIENDS TRACK, KWAT – KWAT LOOKOUT : APRIL 28**

Fifteen enthusiastic club members (with two “neweys”) headed off from Wenham’s Camp to complete this now classic 11km circuit in the Warby Ranges.

This delightful amble encompassed most of the Friends Track, a stop at Kwat – Kwat Lookout (cuppa), the Alpine Views Track, and then a small section of the Salisbury Walk, before reaching Mount Warby where lunch was enjoyed.

We then descended back to our cars, and the newly refurbished “bush garden” at Wenham’s!



Pat’s super welcoming cuppa box appeared from the boot of her car, and the group gathered around discussing the great walk we had experienced.

Fine weather meant that the views were impressive, despite some fuel reduction smoke appearing in the Ovens and King Valleys. [Jeanette]

### **NEW BRIDGE AT HARRIETVILLE**

The Riverside Walk at Harrietville starts at Pioneer Park, and follows the East Branch of the Ovens River upstream for about a kilometre to the start of the Bon Accord Track access.

This is the usual turn-around point for many Harrietville walkers, but a new bridge (built in 2023; see photo) at the

end of the trail (that is, just before the Bon Accord Spur Track goes off to the right) enables walkers to cross the river, and to join up with the Tronoh Dredge walks etc - very handy.

### OVENS RIVER FLATS, KILLAWARRA : MAY 11

On a cloudy Saturday, nine walkers undertook a Killawarra walk, incorporating the Ovens River in the Warby Ovens National Park. The destination was a short drive from Wangaratta towards Peechelba accessed by Frosts Crossing Track. As advertised, this walk is one of the flattest that the club undertakes. The loop involved walking around nearby billabongs, small creeks, and following the Ovens River for one section.

This area of the Park has some mighty old trees. Cheryl was particularly taken with some of the grandiose ones. How old they are is anyone's guess, and their twisted trunks and branches, abnormal knots and hollows made them look particularly interesting. Not unlike some of our club members, none of whom were in attendance today.

Each body of water we passed was showing signs of little rain, and looking less than healthy for this time of year. Barbara Kingsolver once said, "It seems very safe to me to be surrounded by green growing things and water". Well I don't think she would want to be surrounded by the combination of green things growing in the water that I witnessed.

I noted on this walk that we didn't have one Sandy, Sandi or Sandie walking with us; this is very rare indeed. Today however, we had two Peter's joining us. And there's plenty more Peter's in our club too. And just plain old Peter. No fancy Peta, Petr or Pieter.

Our first turns after Frosts Crossing Track involved Yellow Creek Track, and then Nicklaus Track, and after about an hour of walking, we reached the Ovens River, and the appropriately named Ovens Track.

Morning tea was taken about one kilometre further along, on a pleasant bend on the river. Wildlife is abundant along this walk. A small Kingfisher darted about a huge tree, whose roots were overhanging the river's edge on the opposite bank. Closer to us we were entertained by a White Throated Tree Creeper. The cockatoos, which were notoriously loud and obtrusive last time, were a little less so on this occasion, perhaps due to the smaller number of them being nearby.

After our break, we continued along the Ovens Track, which hugged the river for the next four kilometres of our walk. It was along this section that Sara noticed some animal droppings. Looking up, the first (yes, I repeat, the first) of today's koalas was observed. This one was rather close to the ground, sitting comfortably on an exposed main branch, and within great photographing distance. In my years of bushwalking, I have seen more echidnas than koalas, which shows how rare a sight they have been. This one had us mesmerised for a good five minutes. Another three were to be seen later during the afternoon.

One of the less desirable aspects of the walk was the rubbish left behind by inconsiderate users of the Park. Anne took out a garbage bag from her pack and dutifully began collecting rubbish thoughtlessly left behind by



others. The most ridiculous thing about this problem is that the litter was no doubt left by people who arrived in cars, and had an easy means of taking their rubbish home with them. By the end of the walk her garbage bag was almost bursting at the seams.

I remember noting last time how the river is quite impressive in its width, and with its large river gum trees. Unlike last time though, today's cloud cover prevented any picturesque reflections off the water, which was also distinctively lower this time. However, it didn't prevent two optimistic fishermen in their little dingy from trying their luck. I do believe fish ended up on the menu for dinner that night. From the local takeaway shop.

After a most leisurely 4.5 hours, and about 13km, we reached the starting point, and location of our cars, at Frosts Crossing Track where walkers were rewarded with snakes of the yummy kind, and Pat's fabulous afternoon tea, complete with urns full of hot water. Your secret is safe with us Pat.

Once again, for some of the walkers this was their first time in this part of the Warby Ovens NP, and it was great to have everyone involved today. [Michael Braendler]

### PAT KUHLE

Some newer members might think Pat Kuhle was the Club's 'Tea Lady'. In some respects they could be right, as Pat unfailingly would produce the tea and coffee and biscuits at the end of a walk. First would come the fold-out table, then the table-cloth, and then the Club's rather large thermos flasks which Pat had filled with boiling water in the early hours of the morning at her kitchen sink. Finally would come the cups, biscuits and accoutrements. No-one ever asked Pat to do this time after time; her good nature and willingness to help were motivation enough for Pat to do the task. As a very regular walker it seemed no trouble at all to her. Walks leaders did not need to think about it. Pat always had everything ready. This Pat did it for so many years, nobody can remember who did it beforehand. The service was always greatly appreciated at the end of a long or short walk.

Pat has been a member of the Warby Range Bushwalkers for twenty-two years. She has become a friend to many of us. Pat served on the committee and, in the days when our news bulletin was a hard copy, Pat hand delivered the bulletin to member household letter-boxes, saving the Club's finances and assuring rapid delivery.

Pat was efficient, reliable, prompt, and affable in all she has done for the Club.

Unfortunately, Pat has decided to retire from her duties and sadly, from the Club. She says she has become slower on her feet and not so sure of her balance. She might not be the only Club member of latter years who thinks that of themselves, but we are sure there is still a place for members like Pat. Thanks Pat. [Adrian]

### CHERRY WALK and THE CANYON WALK : MAY 26

On Sunday 26th May, on a beautiful autumn day, 11 walkers set off on the first of two loop walks both starting from the Bright township. The Cherry walk is a five kilometre loop walk following the Ovens River upstream, crossing two bridges and turning back at the second. The walk is named after the Cherry family who farmed in the area in the late 1800s.

After this walk, we had lunch in the park, and then set off on the Canyon Walk, also a five kilometre loop walk, this time following the Ovens River downstream to a bridge, and then turning back.

There is plenty of goldmining evidence on this walk, such as the numerous tail races that can be seen dug through the rock.





Back to the Park for afternoon tea and an announcement; long time club member and afternoon tea coordinator, Pat, has sadly decided to hang up her boots and poles. She will be greatly missed. All the best Pat, and thank you for introducing me to the Warby Walkers.

Pat has been a member of our club for 22 years having joined in 2002. During her membership she has been a member of our committee, led walks, and more recently she has been our 'Keeper of the Urns' organising the Afternoon Tea that has been enjoyed following our walks for more than a decade. [Erin]

**A MEMOIR**

Club member, Adrian Twitt, has had his memoirs published in book form, launched by another Club member and editor, Rod Davis, earlier in the year. Some Club members have purchased the book; others have asked about its availability.

There are copies of the book, entitled "Letters From a Country Boy" in the Wangaratta Library.

If any members would like to purchase their own copy, they can do so by phoning Adrian direct (ph 0470 403 875). They are available to Club members for \$35.

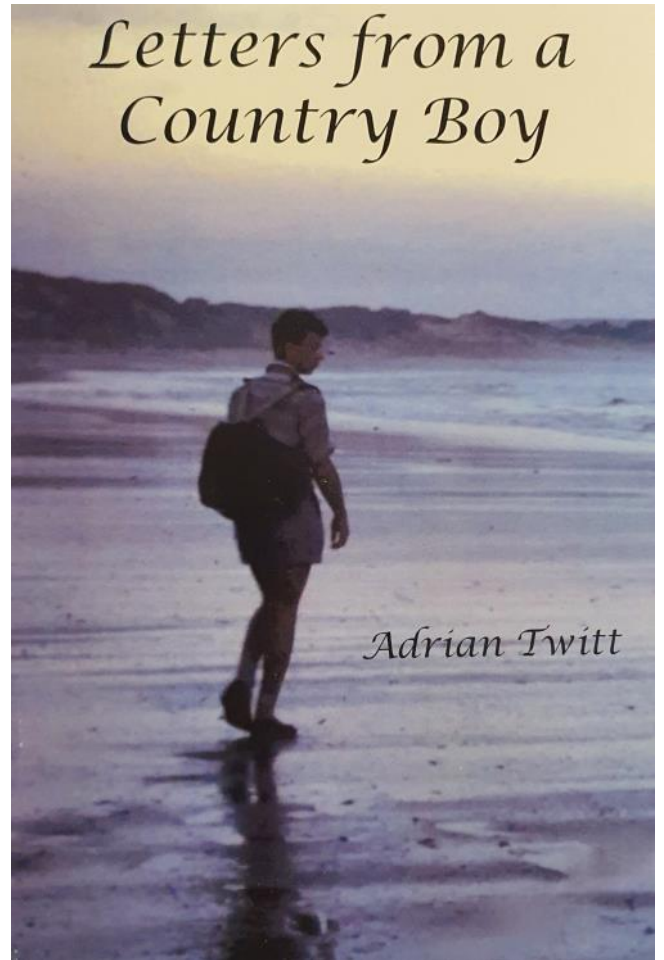
**WEEK AWAY 2025**

Our next week away will be from Saturday 29/3/25 - Saturday 5/4/25, and will be based at the Anglesea Family Caravan Park, 35 Cameron Road. Anglesea.

We have booked four, self-contained, three bedroom cabins, which sleep six adults in each. There are many other configurations for accommodation and camping on site, and it is suggested that interested folk should consider retaining a site now, to suit their needs/preferences.

The sub committee invites two or three of our club members to offer themselves to participate on the sub-committee, largely to learn the process, while supporting Sandy Church with the walks planning, and Melanie Dymond with catering.

Like every other club, we need progression through these roles to remain viable and successful. Putting a toe in the water is interesting and very worthwhile...just to see people sharing a good time.



**FIGHTING THE INSIDIOUS PATHOGEN CALLED PHYTOPHTHORA!**

WRBC’s emblem is the Grass tree (Xanthorea glauca – the Grey Grass tree). In 2021 the Warby Ovens NP was given international status (only the 4th such park in Australia) of “Greenlisting” by the United Nation group International Union for Conservation of Nature.

On the IUCN website, this is part of the introduction - “Home to a range of threatened species and communities, such as the Grey Grass Tree, Temperate Woodland Bird Community, and Carpet Python, the park is an important landscape for both conservation of species and the education of visitors.”

The Warby Ovens NP Visitor Guide has this Parks Victoria statement under "Looking after the Park"; Cinnamon fungus (Phytophthora cinnamomic/PC), is a serious plant disease. It invades the fine roots of plants causing them to rot, and ultimately die.



Phytophthora is present in the Warby Range section of the Park, and you can limit the spread of this disease by preventing the movement of infected soil. Clean camping gear and boots before entering and leaving the site, keep to formed tracks, and obey all signs relating to Phytophthora”

Parks Victoria plus the local groups WONP Advisory Group and the action-oriented Friends of WONP are attempting to control bike riders and walkers from moving along unregistered new tracks and potentially spreading the PC pathogen/disease/fungus.

At the last meeting of the WRBC committee (on the 27th May) the following motion was passed. “That WRBC only have planned walks on formal tracks in the WONP, and do not walk off formed tracks to visit grasstree groves.”

This motion was put up by Andy Kimber, who is a member of the official Parks Victoria WONPAG (representing Warby Range Bushwalkers) and a founding member in late 2023 of the Friends of WONP, which is now involved in monitoring the health of our very special Grass Trees.

Research suggests that the Warby Range grass trees may be unique in Australia, regarding their size, and the often fully skirted feature, suggesting a lack of fire damage over possibly 400 years plus!!

**WALLABY MINE, LAKE KERFERD, LAKE SAMBELL : MAY 29**

This adventure started out with a car shuffle from Lake Sambell to the Nine Mile Creek Historic Area, and was an easy to medium walk of about 9k, starting with a short but steep descent to the Wallaby Mine

gloryhole and battery stamp left over from the gold rush era.

The walk passed through forest areas on gravel roads and bush tracks, and the nine of us enjoyed the climb down to see the remains of mining with the stamper and remains of the steam engine.

We then followed the road down the side of Lake Kerferd, then up Kerferd Track and onwards to Red Hill Road.



The plan to walk onto the mansion site didn't happen due to the leader's mistake! But on the bright side we did detour to Lake Sambell, which was very picturesque.

We all enjoyed the company - the bush attractions - saw numerous robins, wrens, and yellow-tailed cockatoos. [Lesley]

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