



WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc.

FUN . FITNESS . FRIENDSHIP

NEWSLETTER : March, 2024 warbybushwalkers.org.au

Those glorious autumn days are nearly upon us, and there is no excuse for not joining us on a walk. As usual, there is a wide variety to choose from; see the soon to be finalised Walks Program for details.

It's also the time of year for our AGM, so please save the date: Monday, 25th March, when our 'AGM and Social Catch up Gathering' will be held at the Wangaratta Club; dinner is from 6pm, followed by the AGM at 7.30pm.

The AGM will cover the Committee nomination process, Office bearers election process and reports due (president, walks, treasurer)

If you are thinking of joining the Committee, then the nomination form can be found under "General Information" on our website.

Please book in with Marita: 0427 521 122 (warby.ranges@gmail.com)

The Guest Speaker will be Tim Goodson; Tim is a passionate energy professional, explorer and nature lover. He has worked in Paris as an energy analyst at the International Energy Agency. Tim is the son of Deb Goodson, the much loved former member of our club who sadly passed away last year.

Also, please remember that subscriptions fall due at the AGM; see our website for details.

Annual Week Away

Our next week away dates are from 6-13 April 2024, and will be held at Manna Park Lodge, which is located on the south coast of NSW, between Merimbula and Tathra. The cost of the accommodation will be \$230.00. Camping on site is also an option. Details, and the Registration Form, can be found on our website.

GAPSTED TO STANLEY VIA FLAGSTAFF ROAD : DECEMBER 17

Fourteen participants attended this event, and formed a short walk group of five, and a long walk group of nine. Both groups started together near Taylors Gap (Gapsted) on the Flagstaff Road, and stopped for morning tea at about the three kilometre mark; Flagstaff Road provides good views on each side of the road, while steadily climbing in elevation.

Following morning tea, the short walk group returned to the start, whilst those completing the long walk continued north along Flagstaff Road.

After completing the six kilometre short walk, the short walk group drove to Murrumungee Lookout, and walked to Clarks Corner for a leisurely lunch in the cool shade of the Stanley Forest.



Wandiligong, Autumn Colours



17/DEC/2023

Some of the group chose to have a siesta on the grass in the shade, while waiting for the long walk group to arrive.

The short walk group decided to meet the long walk group as they approached Clarks Corner, so headed on down Burgoogie Road.

They were about a kilometre down the road when they received a call, from those completing the long walk, advising they had missed the Burgoogie Road turnoff, and were now on Six Mile Road heading for Clarks Corner. Unfortunately the map didn't have Burgoogie Road named on it. The short walk group then headed back to Clarks Corner and met up there.



After a welcome break in the cool shade of the forest at Clarks Corner, both groups headed off to Murrungee Lookout for the excellent views, and Pat's welcome afternoon tea.

Overall the short walkers completed approximately 12km, and the long walkers completed approximately 19km.

We had two casual walkers join us on the day, and two new members joined us on their first walk with the club.

It was a sunny day, and hot along Flagstaff Road, which generally runs north/south, so the track was mostly sunny and not shaded by the forest. [Jeanette and Michael]

NATURE WALK CHALLENGE 2024

For the month of March, join thousands of Australians across the country, as they walk to protect Australian wildlife, and the places they call home.

The Nature Walk Challenge is designed with everyone in mind. Whether you're an advanced hiker or a leisurely stroller, you set the distance and the pace. You can choose from a 50km, 70km or 100km challenge. Or you can choose your own distance, whether that's 5km or 500km! It's up to you. Whatever you decide, the most important goal is to get outside and enjoy connecting with nature



The event is sponsored by like-minded, environmentally friendly organisations including Patagonia and Zorali. They have provided generous prizes to be won throughout the Challenge, including vouchers and gift packs. There are also rewards up for grabs, including limited edition Nature Walk Challenge t-shirts, bags, drink bottles and hoodies.

Register for free, and select your walking distance. Set your fundraising target, and ask your friends, family and work colleagues to support you. With every step you'll be helping protect endangered species and their homes, all while enjoying the benefits of getting active and spending time outdoors!

So grab your hiking boots, step up and step out, while protecting Australia's precious wildlife—now, and for generations to come. See the following links for more details.

Wilderness Society <https://www.wilderness.org.au/>

Nature Walk Challenge <https://www.naturewalkchallenge.org.au/>

OVENS RIVER WALK : FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

Six club members, including one "newby", had a delightful saunter of about six kilometres following the superb Mosaic Trail around Myrtleford, before enjoying lunch in the middle of town. The Mosaic Trail is a brilliant walkable street art project with over 100 mosaic locations along the Ovens River, the rail trail, and then in Myrtleford township.

The conditions were warm to hot, but many stops to view the mosaics (created by two Myrtleford anonymous artists who call themselves the Crack Pots) along the river, and then on the urban side roads, meant that we didn't notice the heat! [Andy]

RITCHIES TRACK, STANLEY FOREST : JANUARY 20

For this adventure, 10 keen walkers headed off in pleasant conditions from Clark's Corner on the 6-Mile Rd (where the remnants of an old homestead are to be found) aiming to walk about 10 km on bush tracks.

We followed Ritchie's Track, with good views of Mount Stanley and surrounding farmland (see photo), and then climbed up Pub Track to Dingle Road on some shady 4wd tracks, until we were back at Clark's Corner for our usual fantastic cuppa provided by our wonderful Pat (who stayed Kuhle despite the warming conditions). [Lesley]



FOUR PEAKS CHALLENGE – MOUNT LEURA

It is time again for the "Four Peaks Challenge!" at Mount Leura (near Camperdown) the 5th such event.

The Friends of Mount Leura are organising this event, and details are in the PDF link on our website blog. Any club members planning to attend the event should send an email (johnfallon5@bigpond.com) to advise numbers.



SATURDAY and SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30 and 31 CLEVE COLE MEMORIAL HUT, MOUNT BOGONG.

A group of five started from Mountain Creek Campsite at 8am on Saturday, to climb the highest mountain in Victoria, Mount Bogong. It was a steep, long walk up the Staircase Track in cloudy and cool conditions, but once past the tree line, walking was easier, and there were splendid views.

After a short hike to the Mount Bogong summit (1986 metres) and some lunch, we trudged on to Cleve Cole Memorial Hut.

This rock structure was completed in 1938 to commemorate the death in August 1936 of bushwalker Cleve Cole, who was attempting the first winter crossing of the Bogong High Plains, with a group who became lost in blizzard conditions.

A rescue party located Cleve, and took him to Omeo Hospital, where he died a few days later.

Around the hut where we camped, and everywhere on the mountain, the wildflowers were amazing!! In the Australian Aboriginal Waywurru and Dhudhuroa languages, Mount Bogong is named Warkwoolowler, meaning



the mountain where Aboriginal people collected the Bogong Moth. Additionally, in the Dhudhuroa language the word Bugung means the brown moth, referring to *Agrotis infusa* (which seems to be in rapid decline nowadays!!)

The next day we returned to Mountain Creek Campsite (via the less steep Eskdale Spur), having covered about 13kms in total. As the weather warmed up it was so pleasant to be walking alongside clear Mountain Creek, and we arrived back at the campsite in good time. It was a great walk, and a wonderful way to finish the year! [Sara]

Denis Bartell, 1933-2024

Legendary adventurer Denis Bartell has passed away, aged 90. Denis made the first recorded crossing of the Simpson Desert on foot, as well as a crossing the Australian continent from east to west and back (Cape Byron to Steep Point and back). This was in 1970, and over the next 50 years Denis crossed the Simpson Desert 70 times on foot.

His other walks include the Gulf-to-Gulf Walk (1985, the Gulf of Carpentaria to the Glenelg Estuary). See the February-March 2024 edition of the RM Williams magazine Outback for the full details.



MOUNT BUFFALO – THE BACK

WALL and DICKSONS FALLS : FEBRUARY 4

On Sunday February 4, eighteen willing walkers who weren't put off by the forecast of 30 degrees on top of Mount Buffalo, decided to hike to the Back Wall and Dickson's Falls. Groups of walkers met in Wangaratta, Myrtleford and at the park entrance for the hike.

Now, I am not sure whether it was the impressive description of the walk, or their knowledge of who the wonderful walks leader would be, but we welcomed an astonishing six new casual walkers today.

After driving up the mountain and parking at the Cresta Valley car park, we crossed the main road to begin the hike. A couple of hundred metres on, and the track junction for Dickson's Falls and The Back Wall was reached.



The new signs certainly looked impressive. This walk had been closed for a few years, which may also have been a reason for the high numbers of walkers present today. We hiked towards the Back Wall signposted some 5km away.

At about 2km into the walk, morning tea was taken in a slightly sheltered area out of the sun. Summer rain had enabled flowers to bloom, with the usual yellow and purple ones being in abundance. A horticulturist I am not.

According to Parks Victoria, the subalpine plant communities are a feature over summer. Small creeks also benefited with many still containing flowing water in them.

Some landmarks passed, but not noted at the time, included the Giants Playground and Stonehenge. The Giants Playground was no doubt missed because the hot weather kept all giants indoors today.



I assume the same for Stonehenge, because there were no signs of Druids engaging in ceremonial rituals or worship. As we got closer to the edge of the national park, a little more of our hike was over large granite rocks which are a feature of Mount Buffalo. The mountain's amazing rock formations are a result of wind, water and ice eroding them over time. The plant life too changes once again during this final section of the walk, and over 550 native species occur in the park. Great news if you are a vegetarian. The gentle breeze at some of the open areas was most welcoming.

After about two hours we reached our destination, the Back Wall, which made an ideal lunch spot. This point overlooks the southern edge of the national park, and features a sheer drop which would test anyone with acrophobia.

Most of the walkers clambered up the large rocks at this site for more spectacular views. The Horn and its lookout are clearly visible from this point. Magnificent views were taken in from every direction.

Apparently Aboriginal people used to feast on protein-rich Bogong Moths here at Mount Buffalo. After roasting them in strips of bark they ate the bodies, or ground them into a paste. That's enough to get any appetite going. Once a leisurely lunch was completed, and the customary group photo opportunity taken, it was time to retrace our steps.

The last time I led a walk here was in 2018. My memory is obviously failing me. The walk back began with a constant and steady climb over one kilometre, and rose about 110 metres during this time.

Earlier we had clearly walked this as a descent. The warmer temperature of the day certainly made all of this appear to be much harder than it probably was. The group divided into two because of the conditions, and continued at their own pace.

Towards the end of the plateau section of the walk we passed a stone wall. I suggested it was to keep the rabbits out. I am now able to confidently say it is known as the Chinaman's Wall. Built in the late 1890's it was used to store water for sluicing in the Buckland Valley below. Still, I didn't see any rabbits.

Arriving back at the junction for the Falls, a quick vote was initiated by the first group. It was unanimously decided that we would leave the Falls part of the walk for another day (phew!). While I waited for the second group, the other walkers returned to the cars to commence a rewarding afternoon tea.

My GPS provided the following facts; that the day's hike was 10.1km completed in four hours and fifty minutes with the return of the second group. Thanks to all for attending, and a proposed South Walk with Dickson's Falls will be considered in the near future. [Michael Braendler]

12 Apostles Trail Now Open

Great news, the 19km trail linking the Camperdown to Timboon Rail Trail to Port Campbell is now open to walkers and cyclists.

Amongst the trail's many assets is a picturesque final descent into Port Campbell (see photo).

More details at <https://visit12apostles.com.au/explore/outdoor-activities/biking/twelve-apostles-trail-stage1/>

In and around Yackandandah : February 18

On Sunday morning eight of us set out for a summer morning walk. We started in the township of Yackandandah, and walked along the bike-track towards the roundabout on the Beechworth-Wodonga Road.



The track more or less follows the road with varying proximity to it. We were mostly walking under the cover of various trees, including some large pine-trees where the scent provided us with pleasure.

The scenery of the rolling hills of farmland was also a delight to the senses, as were the many birds we saw and heard.

Being a Sunday morning the traffic was minimal, so we mostly felt like we were walking in the bush. About midmorning we found some logs that were perfect for having our morning coffee break on. After that we

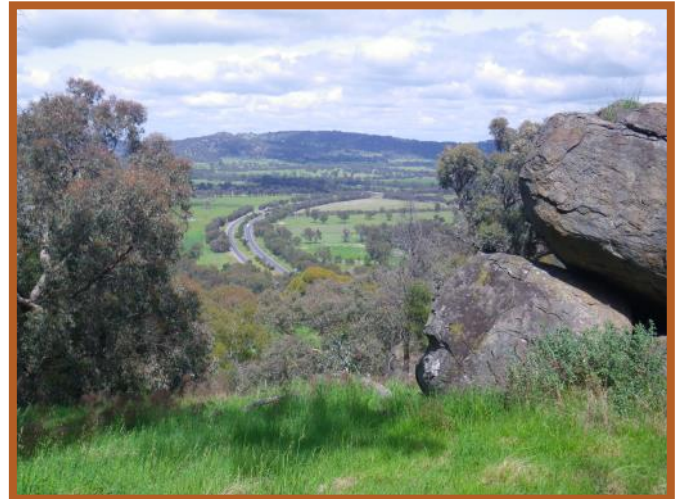
moved on and reached the roundabout, where we turned around and walked back down to Yackandandah. It was an 11km walk in total, a perfect walk on a warm summer day. Then it was time for lunch. [Marita]



Strathbogie Shire Walks

Strathbogie Shire (based in Euroa) has a section of their website dedicated to walking tracks and trails within the Shire; venues include

- Avenel Heritage and Nature Trail
- Balmattum Hill (see photo)
- Gooram Falls
- Seven Creeks Walking Track
- Melville’s Lookout Track
- Strathbogie Village Bridge to Bridge Walk
- Cleo’s Track
- Golden Mountain
- Mount Wombat Flora and Fauna Reserve
- Ruffy Snow Gum
- Violet Town’s Honeysuckle Creek Walking Track
- Upton Hill
- Wallaby Gully
- Wirrate
- Mount Black
- Big Hill Walk



More details at <https://www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/things-to-do/sport-and-recreation/tracks-and-trails/>
