



WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS Inc.

FUN . FITNESS . FRIENDSHIP

NEWSLETTER, September 2019

warbybushwalkers.org.au

Welcome to the 4th Newsletter of 2019!

Since the last newsletter the club timetabled nine excellent walks, two of which were cancelled - one because of very inclement weather (Salisbury Falls and Kwat Kwat Lookout) and the other (Big Kaluna) because of flooding.

However, spring is here, the wattles are in bloom, the rivers are rising, and our October – December walks program is one of the best ever - jam packed to take advantage of the prime spring walking conditions.

So, come and join us, check the walks calendar today, and pencil in a few dates for a perfect day in the bush.

Mt Porepukah : June 22

On a cold, sunny, clear and windless day 22 people, with Bob Shaw out front, climbed up Mt Porepukah, about 10km to the north of Bright. Two walks were offered, with the easier route of about nine kilometres chosen by eight club members, while the harder crew covered over 16km.



The shorter walk started at 10.30am with a two hour steady climb along a 4WD track to the top, and a 1.5 hour descent.

The group of 14 started at 10.15am and climbed for 2.5 hours, and then experienced a 2.0 hour descent.

The two groups met at the summit, where there were magnificent 360 degree panoramic views of the snow covered peaks of Mt Buffalo, Mt Buller, Hotham and Feathertop, Spion Kopje and Mt Bogong.

We could even see the NSW Kosciusko snow fields in the distance! With the air so clear and crisp, we could also recognise Mt Stirling and Mt Buller, way to the south.

Everybody just sat and spent considerable time identifying all of the peaks. In many of the gullies passed during the ascent and descent, we could hear the chorus of lyrebirds who were busy impersonating the calls of many other local bird species.

Another great club walk from Bob's book of adventures!

Loops or Lines

Britain's official map maker (for historical reasons known as Ordnance Survey) has calculated that the nation's walkers have covered 146,000 miles on the return portion of linear (that is, there-and-back) walks.



About 46% of all walks downloaded on the OS App were linear walks; in Scotland the figure was 58%, and in the Lake District 40%. However, change is afoot, and there is a trend towards loop walks, and 'loop' versions of popular linear walks, giving linear walks per se the boot.

Much of this trend is thought to be the impact of digital mapping which provides a map without a specific border, enabling map users to look for alternative routes in well known terrain.

An analysis of our recent walks programs shows a clear preference for linear style walks, and in my extensive collection of walking guides I could only find one that specifically shunned linear walks ('Walking Round in Circles' by Jane Scott and Patricia Negus; this details 29 circular walks in the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park of WA).

More detail of this trend can be found in The Sunday Times of July 14, available via their website (thetimes.co.uk) or search for 'at last ramblers discover the freedom to go round in circles'.

[Chris]

Wileman Track & Mount Samaria : July 7

A group of thirteen optimistic walkers were hopeful that we would beat the forecast rain on Sunday July 7th when the Wileman Track and Mount Samaria track were to be navigated. There were incentives presented to not get wet – walk at a moderate pace, don't break for too long, and navigate correctly. Oh well, as Meatloaf sang, "two out of three ain't bad".

Our final parking destination in the state park was the site of the kiln ruins at Spring Creek Sawmill campsite. After some car shuffling, all walkers began the start of Wileman Track from The Back Creek Falls location.



These falls are not far from the Mount Samaria Road, and although little rain had fallen recently, there was the ever so slightly cascading waterfall to be seen, and wonderful views over the lower end of the park. The drive to eventually begin the walk took about an hour and a half, and so morning tea was taken at this location.

We were fortunate during this first part of the walk to be greeted by sunshine breaking through the clouds, and the canopy of trees, on occasion. Bird calls were heard along the way, and Cecily and Geoff both noted the call of the lyre bird.

The facilities at the Camphora Campsite included a welcomed toilet, and simple bush camping amenities.

Wild Dog Creek Falls was the next location. The walk to these falls required a little surer footing, and sturdy knees, as the descent required effort for the eventual reward. Once again, a small waterfall was flowing with great views from the observation platform of the surrounding bushland. Retracing our steps, we made our way back to the nearby campsite where lunch was taken.

A check of my rain radar confirmed that rain was inevitable. So, after lunch the wet weather gear made its anticipated appearance. It was at this point the group divided into two. One group would continue to walk the steep link track to Mount Samaria, while the others returned to the car via the Mount Samaria Road.

My estimates for each of these walks put the Wileman Track to the cars at nearly 10km, and the Mount Samaria extension about 14km. If navigated correctly.

Mt Samaria summit is 953m above sea level. The link track required the group to climb about 170m over a distance of 500m. This was enough to slow everyone down, and generate heavy breathing.

Reaching the summit though does have its reward on a clear day.



Today was not that day. The obligatory photos were taken, and imaginations used as to what might be seen in the far distant horizon. From the summit, the descent involved a very cautious walk, down the now more slippery track, to follow the Mount Samaria track back to the cars.

It was at this time an unexpected phone call was received. I missed getting to my phone in time as I couldn't navigate my way through my layers of clothing and wet weather gear in time. What are usually easily opened zippered pockets now became as impenetrable as Fort Knox.

Once I eventually located my phone, I saw it was a missed call from Cheryl walking with the others back to the cars. Long story short – the conversation ended with "no, you should have turned right at Mount Samaria Road, not left".

That sorted, it was now like a very meagre Amazing Race episode as both groups raced, well sort of raced, back to the cars.

The Mount Samaria track at times had its challenges. One that comes to mind is where on earth is the track? I used quite a few unprintable adjectives to describe the track to myself.

During the afternoon the group had to climb over several trees, and one of the largest ones had fallen on this section of the track flattening out the surrounding area for quite some metres. At times over rocky sections of the track it was a calculated guess as to where it should be. The sparse orange track markers too often seemed to be posted for walking in the opposite direction.



For today's walkers, this was just like walking in Scotland, where if you don't like the weather, you just need to wait ten minutes.

Today we had clouds and part sunshine, fully clouded sky and then some rain. Oh, and here it comes now – a little bit of fog thrown in for more variety as the afternoon begins to disappear towards dusk.

I am sure, had we waited long enough, snow would have fallen. The final descent from Mount Samaria Track was down the Lightning Track. A final delicate bit of walking was mandatory to stay upright, before crossing a small creek and reaching the cars.

The winners of the meagre Amazing Race – the Mount Samaria walkers who ended up walking 17km. I know it's more than 14km. My inability to calculate accurate walking distances is becoming legendary. And the other group? Well let's just say that in the years to come the distance they will have meandered will become folklore.

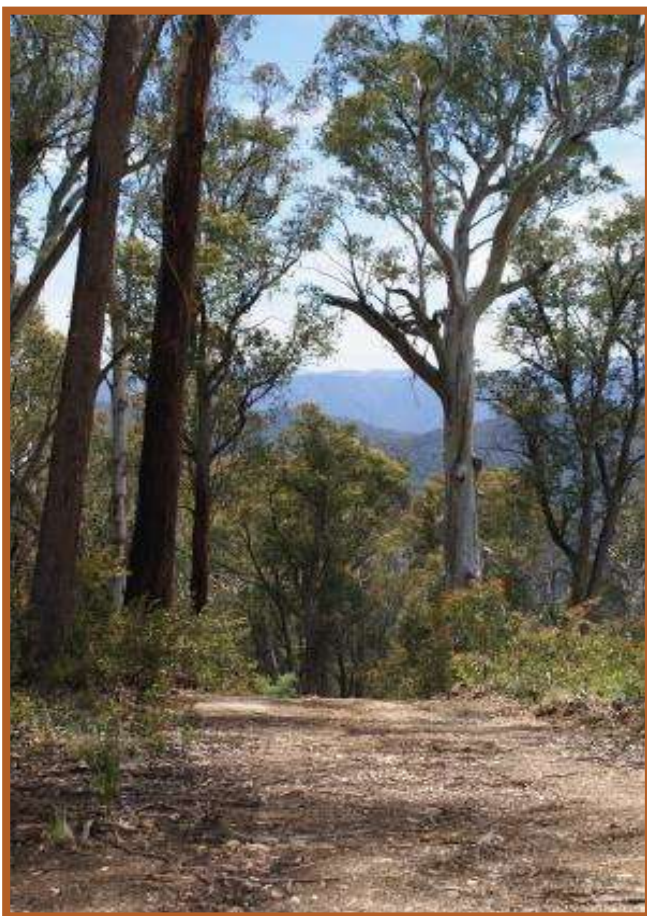
Was it an additional half of the expected distance of 10km? Was it double? Do we just add an extra zero on the end?

Should they become the first inductees into the WRBC hall of fame? Anyway, the whole experience was nothing that Pat's afternoon tea couldn't soothe away. [Michael Braendler]

Goldie Spur and Back Wall of Mt Buffalo : July 20

There were 15 participants for this 14.5km medium grade walk, taking in Goldie Spur and the back (that is, southern) wall of Mt Buffalo.

The granite mountain stands tall above the northern plains, dominating the landscape, and the 15 walkers were stunned by its rugged beauty.



"We saw magnificent waterfalls, enjoyed views of The Horn covered with snow, and listened to lyrebirds calling," reported leader Bob Shaw.

In fine weather, the group was split into two, with one coming up from the Lake Buffalo side, the other coming up from the Buckland Valley side, along Goldie Spur track.

Despite the 20 kilometre hard walk, there was still energy enough for laughter when the groups met for coffee at the walk's end.

First Aid app

The Australian Red Cross First Aid App is a free, comprehensive pocket guide to first aid and CPR, giving access to the most up to date first aid information. As well as this, you can use the interactive quizzes on the App to refresh your first aid knowledge.

Details of the Android and IOS download are available via the 'redcross.org.au/get-involved/learn/first-aid/first-aid-app' page.

On a more local basis 'The Centre' (Chisholm Street, Wangaratta) offers one, and two day First Aid courses on a regular basis at several locations in the North-east. See 'thecentre.vic.edu.au' for details.

Barry Falls, Eldorado : August 4

There were 27 of us completing this walk to Barry Falls, including a visitor (Leslie's daughter Amy) and three newcomers; Lou, Kim and Lyn. So it was lovely that you joined us, and we hope that we'll see you again.

The walk was about 9km long, and started and ended on well-maintained bush roads. In between we walked on a 4WD track, which had some steeper sections that were affected by erosion; our walking poles were helpful in these sections.

We stopped among the rocks beside the track for morning tea, and at the Falls for our lunch break.

The Falls were flowing gently, as a result of the rain we've had over the winter, and it was nice to having the sound of the water while we enjoyed our lunch.



The weather provided very pleasant walking conditions; it was foggy and 3° when we started, and 12° when we finished.

So a bit cool to start with, but we needed to remove layers as we walked, and warmed up. The sun was coming out between the semi cloudy sky, and it stayed dry.

I can only presume that the almost perfect weather conditions were due to the rain dancing and praying (while being on my knees in the garden), which had been part of the preparation for this walk.

The social aspect of the walk was very enjoyable, and some of the group lingered a while longer at the Tavern in Eldorado. [Marita]

Into the Wild

A newlywed woman from Belarus who was recently swept away by a river in Alaska recently was trying to reach an abandoned bus made famous by the book and film "Into the Wild."

Veramika Maikamava, and her husband, Piotr were heading for the bus where hiker Christopher McCandless met his death in 1992.

The bus has been the source of multiple rescues since it was made famous, first by Jon Krakauer's book published in 1996, and then by Sean Penn's 2007 film.

Both chronicled the life and death of McCandless, who hiked into the Alaska wilderness with little food and equipment to spend the summer living in the bus. McCandless was found dead in the bus, almost four months later.

Markielau called troopers in Fairbanks to report his wife's death; the couple were trying to cross the Teklanika River along the Stampede Trail, near Healy, when Veramika was swept under water - the river was flowing fast because of recent rains.

Horseshoe Lagoon : August 8

Despite the forecast of very nasty weather, six walkers headed out in fine but cold conditions from Apex Park, towards a rarely visited wilderness part of Wangaratta, which is very close to the showgrounds, but on the other side of the Ovens River!

This short trip of only about five kilometres, was a combined Warby Range Bushwalking Club and Wangaratta Urban Landcare venture, to survey a very special piece of pristine red gum forest surrounding a large billabong, which has been a protected reserve since first settlement in this area.



We walked towards the reserve on unmade roads, and then entered the Park to explore the ancient red gums, the large untouched billabong and the Ovens riverside.

A fox ran past us near the start, and then later we disturbed a small gathering of kangaroos who jumped straight into the Horseshoe Lagoon to escape.

The walk continued along the trackless bank of the Ovens back to the Bullawah Trail and Apex Park, where Pat's cuppa was enjoyed just before the big rains came!! [Andy]

Federation Walks

Bushwalking Victoria was originally established as the Federation of Victorian Bushwalking Clubs at a meeting on 15 May 1934.

At that meeting, the first of the six aims of the new organisation

was to 'Unite all Victorian walking clubs for the protection and advancement of mutual interests to promote the pastime of tour walking [as bushwalking was known at the time] and encourage good fellowship among affiliated bodies'.

To foster good fellowship among the eight inaugural member clubs, the first Federation Walk was organised by the Melbourne Amateur Walking and Touring Club, and held on 6 October 1935.

The tradition continues, and this year's listing of Federation Walks can be found at "bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/federation-walks", and via the link on our website.

Greta Bush Retreat, and BBQ : August 17

This excellent event took place in the Greta South Bushland, with the walk commencing from what is known as 'Dinnings Bush' at Merles Hut.

There were 27 walkers on this adventure, and we enjoyed an easy to medium walk along mainly bush tracks. We walked along a ridge, which had some steep grades, and we saw many kangaroos and wallabies in the distance.



After walking the bush tracks we came into an open area with magnificent views of the mountains, and surrounding country.

The day was beautiful, with warm sunshine, which enabled an enjoyable BBQ lunch to take place at the end of the walk – a time for fellowship.

At the end of the walk we were joined by fellow members for the barbecue, with a total of 30 enjoying the day out. The walk was approx 9.7km. [Geoff]

Email problems . . .

If you know of anyone who has not been receiving the emailed Newsletter, or the Walks Program, please call me on 0418 503 802, but check the spam/trash/junk folder first. [Editor]

Boots for sale

Gillian has a pair of Merrill Mens leather walking boots for sale. They are of US size 9, and have only been worn once (too small); \$100 ono; 0411 111 830.

Week Away : 2020

Our week-away alternates between mountain and coastal venues, and the three options for 2020 (a coastal year) were, The Great Ocean Walk, the Mornington Peninsula and Royal National Park.

However, the Peninsula was a popular choice, and our accommodation will be the Iluka Retreat and Camp, near the beach at Shoreham, where we have booked two lodges, Warrawong and Aulua, for 6 nights from 19/4/20 - 25/4/20.

Bookings close on September 29, and photos of the terrain that we will be walking through can be viewed on our website; see Walks Program, then Annual Week Away.

More information on this great trip can also be found on the same page. [Cheryl Hoysted, Chair of the convening committee]

You might consider - The Lurujarri Trail ?

The Lurujarri Trail is a long distance walk that commences in Broome, and is one of the most popular guided walks in Western Australia. The text given here is from the goolarabooloo.org.au website, which has further details of the walk.

Paddy Roe initiated the Lurujarri Heritage Trail in 1987 to encourage the members of the Goolarabooloo community to connect with their heritage, and traditional skills.

The Trail follows the land of the traditional Song Cycle. The same camping places are used as have been used for millennia.



Walking is on the beach, reef and dunes, through bush, mangroves, and salt plains.

Timber can be sought out and cut for carving workshops. Opportunities to participate in the making of Karli (boomerang), coolamon (water bowls) or cumbuk (clapping sticks) may also exist along the trail.

The time of year we walk is likely to fall within the season of Barrgana - the dry time, SE wind time. Nights are characteristically cool with sea mist coming inland, while days, on average, reach around 30c.

Lirigen and Iragalu (acacias) flower, also Jigal (bauhinia), Gardgu (inland bloodwood) and Gungara (conkerberry) fruit. Flocks of cockatoos and brolgas will be feeding on the bush onions. The osprey, honey-eaters and raucous red-winged parrots are likely to be breeding.

Moonlight Track Walk : August 31

There were 22 walkers on this last day of winter walk, with 18 tackling the full route from Taminick Gap, to Morgans Lookout, and four taking Ridge Track direct to the Lookout.

Having parked our cars on the dirt track adjacent to Taminick Gap Road, on the boundary of Baileys Vineyard, we followed the fence

line around the Vineyard, with great views to the south and west. It was a beautifully sunny day, albeit cool to start with, and we were soon discarding outer garments.



Once at Moonlight Track, we began a steep 20 minute climb to the ridgeline, turned right at Ridge Track, and subsequently joined up with the group of four at the Lookout.

A leisurely lunch, with great views (including the snow-capped peaks of Mounts Bogong, Howitt, Buller and Stirling) was enjoyed by all, and then we commenced the return to Taminick Gap.

On the way, we made a short detour to admire the views from Chick Hill (800m each way - total 1.6km) and then had a slow stroll back to the Gap.



There were various GPS devices in use on the day, and the general consensus was that the full walk covered 13.8km.

However, regardless of the distance it was a great day out; many thanks to Jeanette and Michael for organising this event.

The group met at 9.00am at Rotary Park, mileage was \$2.50 per person, and the travel, the glorious walk, morning tea and lunch, plus Pat's cuppa returned us to Wangaratta by 3pm. [Chris]

Christmas Party : December 13

Don't forget our Christmas Party on Friday the 13th of December, to be held at Bowmans Murrumbidgee Memorial Hall, Bowmans Road, just off the Great Alpine Road, near the Murrumbidgee turn-off.

Please contact Anne, 0427 576 664, to book in; bring either a salad or sweet to share. BYO BBQ



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www.warbybushwalkers.org.au

Registration Form : 2020 Week Away - Sunday 19th April - Saturday 25th April Mornington Peninsula

Name:

Address:

Phone: Mobile:

Email:@.....

Emergency contact: Relationship:

Phone number:

Please tick any special **dietary requirements**, or relevant health issues:

- Vegetarian Gluten Free
- No red meat No chicken
- No fish Other
- Allergies

Indicate your **room preference**:

Room type Room Buddy/s

Singles Couple

All attempts will be made for your preference, as much as possible.

To register: Send completed and signed this Registration Form by 29 September 2019.

o To: c/o Cheryl Hoysted, 1 Scott Street, Wangaratta 3677 0419 005 062; or E-mail to: choysted@gmail.com

• Pay deposit of \$150 per person

o Payment to be made by Direct Credit:

o BSB 633 000 Account No: 110647799 Ref: W-A + Your name

• The balance of \$250 will be required by 28 Feb 2020.

Acknowledgement of Risks and Obligations of Members

During the week away to minimise risks I will endeavour to ensure that:

1. Each activity is within my capabilities
2. I am carrying food, water and equipment appropriate for the walks/activities.

In addition:

1. I will advise the activity leader if I am taking any medication or have any physical or other limitation that might affect my participation in the walk/activity
2. I will make every effort to remain with the rest of the party during the walk/ activity
3. I will advise the leader of any concerns I am having, and
4. I will comply with all reasonable instructions of club officers and/or the walk/activity leader.

Signature Date...../...../ 2019