



WARBY RANGE
BUSHWALKERS Inc.

FUN . FITNESS . FRIENDSHIP

NEWSLETTER : September, 2025 warbybushwalkers.org.au

Welcome to the September 2025 Newsletter, with all the latest news from the Warby Bushwalkers, including blogs of the previous walks program.

The October – December walks program (see our website) is again action packed to take advantage of the spring walking conditions, and it looks as though we are entering an exceptional wildflower season. Social events include our popular Cup Day Walk, and of course our Christmas BBQ.

This year's Christmas BBQ will be held on Saturday, December 20, starting at 6pm, at the Murmungee Memorial Hall. This is at 6 Nearys Lane Murmungee, accessible by turning off the Great Alpine Road (or Buckland Gap Road) onto the Murmungee-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-Murmungee 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.

Salisbury Falls, Mount Warby Walk : June 11

On Wednesday, June 11, a cool weather forecast didn't deter an enthusiastic group of 16 walkers who presented for a midweek walk in the Warby Ovens National Park.

Beginning at the start of the Salisbury Falls Walk, we would walk to the top of the Falls, proceed onto Mount Warby and lunch at Wenham's Camp, before returning via the Alpine Views Track and back to the start. I estimated this to take about five hours to complete 11km.

To begin the day there was the usual walk description, hand out of maps and introductions. Today we welcomed two new casual walkers with the club – Andrew and Diane. They are known to Judy in our group through their shared experiences at dance classes. I was eager to keep my eyes on them to see if at any point they might break into a foxtrot along the track, adopt a Quickstep if required, or simply Waltz into Wenham's Camp.

Perhaps on the next club moonlight walk they could do a little dancing with the stars.

My last walk here with the club was in December 2022, and hundreds of Monarch butterflies darted about as they escorted us towards the Falls. There were no butterflies on this occasion as their wings may have iced over, but approximately eight kangaroos bounded away from the Falls as our group began to climb up the narrow trail towards the top of the waterfalls.

As I mentioned to the group, I have walked the Salisbury Falls Track numerous times but never seen it in all its glory. Adrian assured me that it does flow well, with the right conditions and at the right time of year. We made our way carefully along the narrow track looking over the creek below.



This is the section of the trail that requires sure footing and an attentive mind. After crossing the bridge located at the top of the Falls we continued following the creek, consisting of water holes here and there, before crossing it again and heading towards the Boilerwood Track junction. Once at the junction an early, and leisurely, morning tea was taken.

After a satisfying break, it was just a short walk before we turned right onto a bush track which leads towards Mount Warby. We continued walking to a small open granite slab area which offered some obscured views between the trees, providing you could get on your tippy toes and had twenty-twenty vision.

Mount Warby (490m) was not far away, and it was there we had another short break near the ever-growing cairn, and an opportunity for a group photo. There are no views here, which caused some of the group feel it should be renamed Mount Disappointment, but that distinguished landmark exists elsewhere in the state. From here it was a short walk, or waltz, into Wenham's Camp.

At this stage my GPS had a distance of 5.69km being completed, and although the time was only 11.20am, it was decided that this is the best place for lunch with numerous facilities being available. Yes, this was the club's earliest lunch ever, and only an hour after morning tea had concluded. One can only imagine what time dinner would be today for those who often eat early – conceivably 3.30pm! The tribe, however, were content.

Lunch always provides an opportunity for even more chit chat with people. Many have travel plans on the horizon, with Ingrid to Italy and elsewhere for three months, and Glenda heads to the UK and more. Meanwhile Sandy departs for Komodo Island in Indonesia where the Komodo Dragons reign supreme, and prey upon unsuspecting sarong and sandal sporting sightseers.

After lunch we returned to Mount Warby, and down towards the Alpine Views Track. The dry woodlands are a feature of the National Park, along with the unique Grass Tree. Birdlife was rather scarce today, with few being heard or spotted. From this track we experienced some better views beyond Wangaratta township, but the Alps were not visible with today's weather.

As the Alpine Views Track descends towards the Boilerwood Track the vegetation changes. In winter much of it is dormant, and it is best enjoyed in spring-time when there is an abundance of colourful wildflowers.

After reaching the Boilerwood Track we walked towards Salisbury Falls junction, and returned via the way we came. Along this section of trail I spotted a couple of Rosellas and smaller birds, which for much of the day had been absent from other areas of the Park.

While one part of the group stopped at the summit of the Falls one last time, Shirley recounted her solitary Mount Samaria escapade from a year earlier. Long story short; it involved the summit, getting lost and tired, daylight hours fading, phoning a friend, calling 000, some hours past midnight, a helicopter and SES ground crew. Really, the lengths some individuals go to for a little extra attention. Fortunately she lived to tell the tale to a select group of friends where it will remain forever. No one else needs to know.



The actual figures for the walk were that it was completed in 5.25 hours, and was 12.5km in length. Thanks to all who participated, and the Warby Ranges will be walked in September, as part of Andy's three-day experience, for those who are interested. [Michael]

Mount Sugarloaf : Saturday, June 21

This is a medium graded walk of about 9.5km, starting at the corner of Woolshed Road and Warners Track, east of Eldorado, north-west of Beechworth.

Setting off, 15 of us walked along Warners Track, with farmland on one side, and bushland on the other. The track soon became steep, and often washed out, but reasonable to navigate.

Arriving at summit of Mount Sugarloaf we were rewarded with brilliant views over the Woolshed Valley farmland, and to Beechworth, with Mount Buffalo in the far distance.

The group of walkers included a family of three, who came along on their first walk with the club.

We had fine weather, most welcome for that day of the year with the shortest amount of daylight. [Lesley]



FedWalks 2025

This year's FedWalks event features the Grampians National Park, with a base camp at Halls Gap. The dates are October 10-12, see fedwalks.org.au for the walks program; bookings opened on the 10th of August.

Mount Porepukah : Saturday, July 5

This walk was rescheduled from Sunday 6th due to expected cloud cover; the forecast for Saturday being quite sunny, and much better for those great views that Mount Porepukah is renowned for.

A small group of walkers met just out of Porepukah Village for a six kilometre drive to the nominated starting point for this walk.

We started out at about 700m, and walked for about seven kilometres to the summit of Mount Porepukah, at about 1260m.

The views were absolutely excellent, and we enjoyed morning tea on the way.

Once at the summit, we enjoyed lunch, and 360 degree views, before descending back to the start.

It was a cold but fine day, with mostly blue skies, the clouds built up, and appeared threatening at times, but the group stayed dry.



After finishing this beautiful walk, the conversations continued at the Porepukah Pantry. [Marita]

Beechworth Gorge : Thursday, July 10

This walk was, unfortunately, cancelled due to rainy conditions, and has been rescheduled in the October -December Walks Program. The riverside walk on July 21 was also cancelled, due to flooding.

White Box Walk : Sunday, July 20

Chiltern - Mount Pilot National Park.

A winter's day greeted the 17 walkers on this walk, including two new casual participants, to undertake the 8.5km circuit known as the Whitebox Walking Track.

Half of the group met at Rotary Park (in Wangaratta), and the other half at the start of the walk.

Though some of the participants had done this walk previously, the sight of the old Golden Bar Open-Cut Mine was a new one for many, with its sheer rocky orange walls.

Gold was discovered here in 1858, and the equivalent of some 36 million dollars in today's currency was extracted over a 40 year period.

Setting off on the walk, the bush track took us through the lovely scenery of Box-Ironbark forest, open woodland, grass trees, and wattle trees. As well, we espied two wallabies, and some early blooms of green hooded orchids.

A well earned cuppa at the Honeyeater Picnic Area concluded the adventure. [Sandi]

AUSSIE CAMINO : THE SA WAY, OCTOBER 2025

The Aussie Camino extends from Portland in Victoria, to Penola in South Australia, and was inspired by the life and journeys of Australia's Saint Mary of the Cross, MacKillop.

On Sunday 26th October to Friday 31st - there will be four days of walking Port MacDonnell to Penola, on the Limestone Coast of South Australia. This inaugural supported walk is a great way to embrace the spirit of a Camino, and enjoy the culture, countryside and history of Saint Mary MacKillop and this region.

More details at, walkthelimestonecoast.com.au/aussie-camino

Mount Glenrowan : August 2

On perhaps the best day of the week, Saturday's walk had 14 participants off to Morgans Lookout at Mount Glenrowan.

The first stop was for a group photo near the communication towers, and to see views to the distant alps. Shortly after this the choice needed to be made to take the shorter or longer route to reach Mount Glenrowan.

Led by Michael, six took the longer route via Casuarina and Moonlight Tracks and eight took the shorter route, taking in Chick Hill.

Those completing the shorter route followed the Ridge Track to the turn off to Chick Hill, and then continued on to Chick Hill for morning tea, and more views over the King and Ovens Valleys.

Returning to the Ridge Track, they continued on towards Morgans Lookout for lunch, where the alps were now cloud free, and the snow was brilliant in the sunshine.

Following a leisurely lunch, the group returned along the Ridge Track, and took the bush track along the route that brings them out near the water tank, then continued on

to Taminick Gap Road, having completed an 11k walk. The six walkers who chose the Casuarina and Moonlight Tracks to reach Mount Glenrowan enjoyed a particularly scenic route to their destination.



The descent down the Casuarina Track calls for sure and steady footwork, as the steep incline has loose material underfoot.

At the bottom of the track we were welcomed by lush green surroundings, granite rock formations and the remains of a small creek still managing to flow with a little water. It was in this area we spotted a deceased full-grown deer.

We continued along what was now the Moonlight Track, which borders the vineyards of Baileys Winery for some distance. In this section we spotted a young deer amongst the vines. It was difficult to tell whether it was alive or not, until it's ears twitched and we noticed its eyes were open.

As we continued, we had another view of the deer, which then became startled and raced towards the Warby Ovens boundary fences, only to crash into the fence numerous times in its effort to escape. I would honestly like to say that no animals were harmed in the undertaking of today's walk, but that cannot be guaranteed.

Morning tea was taken at another small creek, which had a little water still flowing. The brilliant sunshine was welcomed as we rested and ate. This side of Mount Glenrowan provides expansive views across vineyards, the Strathbogie Ranges in the distance, and the Winton Wetlands.

The end of the track culminates in a steady steep climb which leads back towards the Ridge Track. Birthday girl, and El Presidente, Sandi, was feeling every bit of her years today, as she brought up the rear of the group.

Once at the ridge, the short distance towards the lookout was soon completed. Here we joined the other group members, who had just finished lunch, and were about to make their return. After our lunch we returned along the ridge, taking the little detour through some nice bush which brings walkers out behind the large water tank.

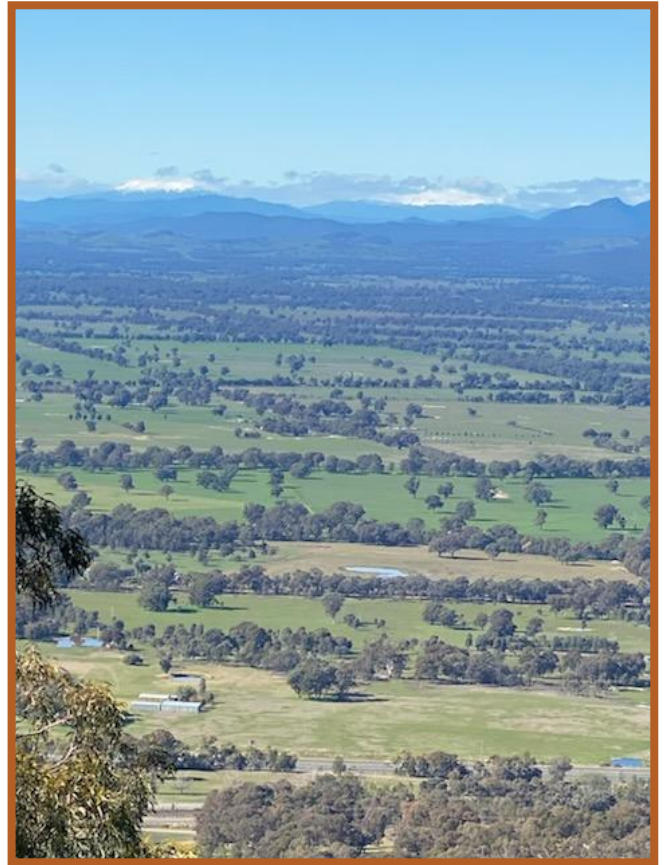
From here it wasn't much further, and we descended the sealed road, and joined the rest of the group for afternoon tea and cupcakes, provided by Jeanette for the birthday girl. [Michael]

Barrys Falls : August 17

Sunday's walk to Barry Falls (near Eldorado) was on a rather cold and overcast day, with a 50% chance of a shower.

After parking in a camping space, close to Kangaroo Crossing, the 14 rugged up participants took a bush track through to Nieoffs Road.

After turning right into Nieoffs Road we then walked the short distance to Warbler Track. Along Warbler Track we passed the intersection for Currawong Track then, after a couple of narrow stream crossings, we reached the one that lets you know if there



is, or is not, water over the upcoming falls. The stream did not disappoint, and we continued on the picturesque bush track to Barry Falls for morning tea. Following this, we returned along the gully to Warbler Track and continued onto the other intersection with Nieoffs Road.

From here four walkers went left to return to the foot track to Kangaroo Crossing, completing a walk of about six kilometres.

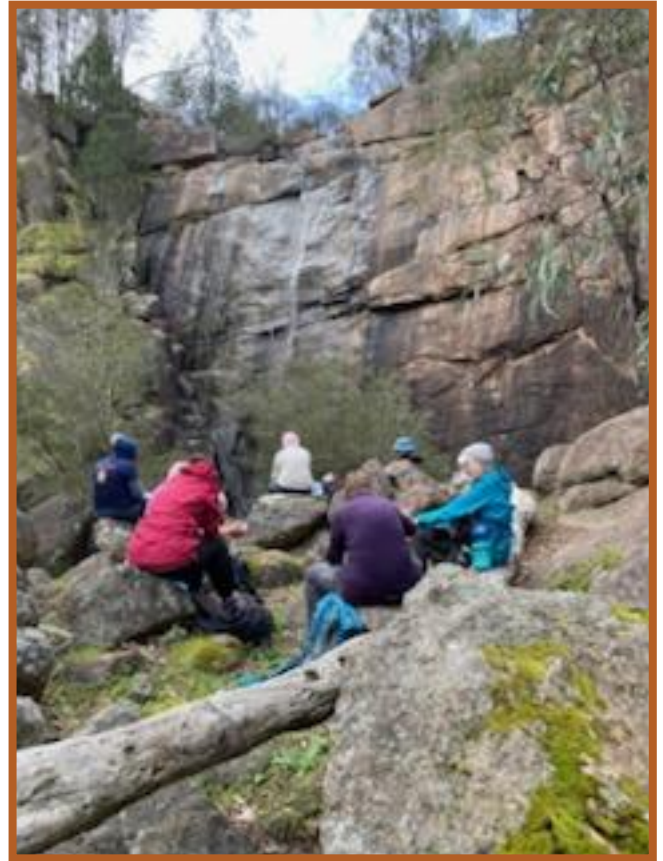
The remaining walkers continued to the right, and a steady uphill to reach some mine ruins, and a dam.

The 'Hidden Friend Tin Mine' was reached for lunch, with views overlooking the Owens Valley, and towards the Warby Ranges, and we then explored the ruins.

Following the exploring, we returned to Nieoffs Road to take the track opposite, and downhill, to a picturesque dam surrounded by forest. The dam slows the water flow to Barry Falls. We then returned

to Nieoffs Road, and had a quick descent back to the foot track to Kangaroo Crossing.

Those who completed the longer route walked about 10k, and it did not rain! [Lesley]



Gidjoom Gulganyi Walk

This new walk can be found inland from Byron Bay, and is based in the Mount Jerusalem National Park, in the hinterland of the Tweed River, an area noted for its rainforest. See trailhiking.com.au, and nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/experiences/gidjoom-gulganyi-walk for more details.

Ritchies Track : August 31

This walk was rescheduled from Saturday to Sunday, due to the stormy weather.

The route was a medium walk of about 12km, with several steep sections, and circled around the western outskirts of the historic Stanley township

So, on a fine Sunday, 31st August, six walkers took the ups and downs of Dingle Road - there were concerns about the track due to wild winds the day before, but luckily the track was not impacted. We curved around from 6 Mile Road to Ritchies Track with great views back over Stanley township. It was a big climb up to where Peter's detour trail intersects., and this was a most enjoyable walk, in good company. [Lesley]

Walks Leaders

Our current walks leaders continue to offer great walks for our walks programs; however, it would be wonderful if there could be some new walks leaders come on board to assist. Is there somewhere you would like to explore for a proposed walk, or a walk you have in mind, and would like to see it on the program? If you are interested in exploring a location with a view to leading a walk, or you have a walk you would like to see on the program, please contact Jeanette on 0417 546 974.

Week Away : 2026

Next year's Week Away will be based in the Yarra Valley, with accommodation at the Park Lane Holiday Park, Healesville, the dates being April 28 to May 05.

Full information PDFs, and booking forms etc, for this great event are on our website. For a preview of some of the great walks available see the 280 page guide book "Melbourne's Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Walking Trails" (published by Yarra Ranges Tourism).