



WARBY RANGE
BUSHWALKERS Inc.

FUN . FITNESS . FRIENDSHIP

warbybushwalkers.org.au

NEWSLETTER : September, 2023

Welcome to the third Newsletter of 2023!

Spring is here, the wattles are in bloom, the wildflowers are popping up, 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.

For the socially inclined, our popular Cup Day Event is on again, and of course our Christmas BBQ will round off the year. This year's event will once more be held at the Bowmans-Murmungee Memorial Hall, 6 Nearys Lane, Murmungee from 6pm onwards. BYO BBQ, contact Marita at 0427 521 122 to book in; bring either a salad or sweet to share.

See the latest Walks Program for more details of these, and other activities.

Happy Walking, see you on the Track.

Also, please note our new email address - warby.walker@gmail.com

Fed Walks 2023 - Bookings Open!

Following on from the highly successful FedWalks event at Wangaratta, bookings for the 2023 Federation Walks weekend, based at Trentham on 21-22 October, are now open.

This year provides an opportunity to visit sections of the Wombat State Forest that have reopened after the devastation of the 2021 storms. The program will include visits to Lyonville Springs, Garden of St Erth, Blackwood township and Mineral Springs, Lerderderg River, Nolan's Creek Picnic Ground, Balt Camp and Yankee Mine.

The forest has an extensive network of trails varying in difficulty levels and length - from steep ascents to rocky descents; a diverse range of terrain, and a variety of flora and fauna.

The base for the event is the Recreation Reserve at Trentham. Participants are required to organise their own accommodation. More information, and the booking link, can be found on the FedWalks website.

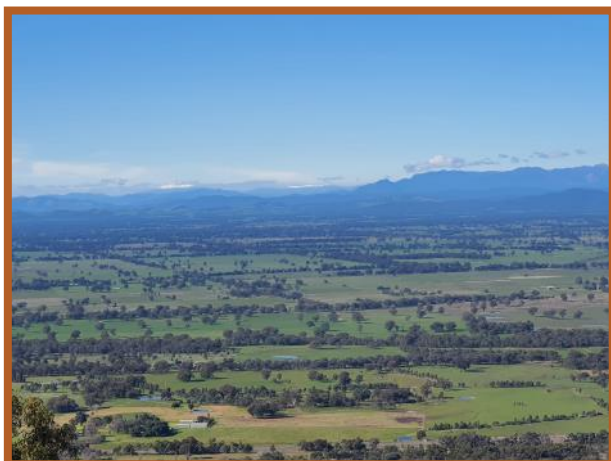
Mount Glenrowan : Thursday, June 1

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.

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. [Chris]

Killawarra Loop : Sunday, June 11

AI (Artificial Intelligence) has been making headlines in recent weeks. So, I thought I would give it a chance to prove itself by writing this walks report.

To celebrate our first ever King's Long Weekend, eleven walkers participated in a Sunday walk on June 11th in the Warby Ovens National Park. The original walk planned was to begin at Frosts Crossing Track, incorporating the Ovens River and billabongs. However, this was changed at the last minute due to a shortage of snorkels and flippers amongst club members. Mount Killawarra, encompassing a loop, would now be the new destination.

It was an overcast day, with no forecast of rain, so good bushwalking weather. We are blessed with the Warby Ovens National Park on our doorstep, and it has often provided a wonderful alternative to walks that have been cancelled in other regions because of flood, fire, snow, track, and road closures.

Today we welcomed first time walker Helen. I should point out that she has been walking for a long time, but this was her first walk with the club. Her most recent story was an overseas trip including the UK, and walking in the Cotswolds, known for its fifty shades of green.

Our walk was to begin at Tower Road just off the main Boweya Road. From here it is important to turn right as there is a shooting range if you turn left. When leading a walk, it's often difficult to find someone who is willing to be tail-end Charlie. Even just to morning tea. Fortunately, we have Pat. We began walking through bush following the Perimeter Track. So named probably because it follows the perimeter of the park. After a short distance an un-named detour track was taken which would eventually meet up again with the Perimeter track.

It was along this section that a small gradual ascent was made. Although we had been walking for only about 45 minutes it was a good place to take morning tea. Below us were the orchards of local producers, and a pleasant view into the distance. It was a good opportunity for walkers to catch up with each other, like Glenda, who had recently been overseas. I know she mentioned Italy, and possibly some sort of investment in Prosecco. Just not sure if it was financial investment of more of a consumption investment.

The next part of our hike we met an un-named link track to take us towards Ridge Road, and then onto the direction of Mount Killawarra. On this track we encountered a few enormous grass trees. They looked even more gargantuan when Erin stood beside them.

Wildlife was not in abundance today, but I did spot two kangaroos ahead past the grass trees. The surrounding bush only occasionally sounded the calls of native birds.

We reached Ridge Road, and continued north meeting the Tower Road junction, and our turnoff towards Mount Killawarra soon after. You know you have reached the turnoff because the sign says

Emergency Water, or something to that effect, and the Mount Killawarra track sign is about 500m further along out of view. Convenient.

Mount Killawarra is a great lookout point in the northern part of the park. Its granite slabs made a perfect lunch spot with views over Killawarra Forest, Wallaby Hill, Peechelba and beyond. It's a shame it isn't mentioned in the Warby Ovens National Park visitor guide information.



Perhaps mentioning its obvious Irish roots along with towns like Killarney, Killybegs, Killorglin, Killmordaly and Killinaspick would enable it to become more of an attraction. After lunch and a leisurely time soaking in our surroundings, we returned via the Mount Killawarra track, past the emergency water tank to Tower Road. From here it was an easy walk returning towards the cars.

Walking along with Andy and Carmel the three of us were solving world problems with ease. Important issues too. Such as Italy wanting sole use of the name Prosecco. Easy solution is to call it "I Can't Believe It's Not Prosecco". To which apparently the same may be happening with the cheese feta. Simple answer is "better than feta", but perhaps with a spelling of pheta. I know what you're thinking, a seat at the United Nations awaits.

Our walk completed was about 12km in under four hours, and all that awaited was Pat's legendary cuppa and cookies. I should also mention that the afternoon tea for some time has also now included dips and crackers. There is no truth in the rumour that upcoming walks will end with canapes of Oscietra caviar and Jellied Eels. There you have it. An AI produced walks report. Or was it? It may have been more IA - as my intelligence has often been called artificial. [Michael]

Sock Shop in York, WA

The Sock Factory, based in York, is a wholly owned and operated Western Australian company that produces an extensive range of high quality socks at very competitive prices.

All of the socks are manufactured in Western Australia, and are available from their shop front, and on-line.

More details at <https://thesockfactory.com.au>

[York is a very interesting, and historic town, with lots of beautiful architecture to admire.

On foot there are some nice walks around the township, the Bushland Garden provides a short walk close to the town centre, whilst the Mount Brown Lookout (see photo) is about 5km each way, and there are endless walks combinations alongside the Avon River.

See <https://visit.york.wa.gov.au/york-trails.aspx> for more details.]



Lake Moodemere : Saturday, June 24

Yesterdays loop walk around Lake Moodemere was attended by seven. The weather forecast wasn't promising, as a cold and overcast day along with some rain was expected. However, the day started off overcast, but the clouds disappeared for a time, and we saw quite a bit of blue sky.

The 11k walk started at Pfeiffers Winery from where we headed south on a bush track which in parts was a stream of water to be navigated.

We all got through with dry feet, and continued on to the sporting section of Lake Moodemere for morning tea.

The birds were out in abundance, and Pete was able to identify quite a number for us: Little Pied Cormorant, Australasian Darter, Musk Duck, Pacific Black Duck, Great Egret, Noisy Minor, Superb Fairy Wren, White Plumed Honeyeater, Magpie, Magpie-Lark, Raven, White Ibis, Galah, Kookaburra, Eurasian Coot, Australasian Grebe, Sulphur Crested Cockatoo. Just to name a few!

Lunch was enjoyed in the gardens of Pfeiffers, along with some sparkling Pfizz for the ladies, and Tempranillo for the gents, followed by Pat's afternoon tea. [Jeanette]



Lake Benalla and Benalla Art Gallery : July 13

This popular walk is an easy level loop of about 6km around Lake Benalla, and it was a partly cloudy day for the six walkers who tackled this venue on the 13th.

The Lake is formed by a low level weir on the Broken River, just downstream of the town centre, and is renowned for its waterside sculptures, and its birdlife amongst the remnant riverine woodlands

After the walk, it was off to the Benalla Art Gallery to check out the artworks, and the café. [Andy]



Mount Glenrowan, via Chick Hill : July 23

July 23 started off with early morning fog down in the valley, but we were to enjoy a stunning blue sky up on the ridge; the max temp being about 12C.

Twelve of us met at Rotary Park at 9am, organised the car pooling and headed off to the start to meet up with three members who had driven directly to Taminick Gap.

The sixteenth member walked up to Chick Hill from Hamilton Park – very impressive Anne!

Setting off, we walked along Ridge Track to the Chick Hill turn-off, and took this popular detour to a lovely morning tea, having met up with Anne on the way.

Returning to Ridge Track, we followed this through to the environs of Morgans Lookout (Mount Glenrowan) where we enjoyed a very scenic lunch, with great snow-capped views of Mounts Buller, Stirling, Feathertop and Hotham.

As always, this is a popular venue at all times of the year, and we met up with several groups of walkers on the ridge.



Overall distance for the walk was about 12km, and we were back home at 2pm. [Chris]

Vale June Brown

Cecily Fletcher writes,

Dear Friends,

I have been greatly supported and comforted by thoughts, flowers and cards from many friends in the Warby Range Bushwalking Club during my mother's short illness and her recent passing.

She loved being out on the trail with you all, and appreciated your encouragement when the going got tough on those hills! We have so many happy memories, and it was special for me that we could share our love of bushwalking and friendships formed. From both of us, thank you so very much. May we walk in her footprints, and feel her joy in mountain vistas, and support those who are pushing their limits to do what they love.

See also the separate Obituary Pages later in this Newsletter.

Mount Pilot : August 5

Saturday August 5 was reminiscent of the good old days in Northeast Victoria. Remember those regular winter days which began with a morning chill, but then the sun would warm you through the day, and there was no breeze. Well, it was one of those days.

Sixteen walkers were to experience a fine day of walking to Mount Pilot beginning at the Yeddonba Aboriginal Cultural Site near Beechworth. A car shuffle was organised at the start, introductions were made and after receiving maps and a walk description we were off.



From the car park at the aboriginal site, we walked along the dirt road to the 4WD Green Break Track. We followed this in a southerly direction, with the main Beechworth-Chiltern Road never far from this track. Morning tea was taken at a suitable sunny spot.

After some morning refreshments, we continued on, and our gradual ascent of 150m over a couple of kilometres of this track soon had us at Old Coach Road. This road is the direct route for vehicles to the Mount Pilot summit. Green Break Track crosses this road, and we ventured on. Further along, a small stream was easily navigated by all, and it wasn't long before we reached McGuinness Road. A short distance on we reached Pilot track.

I should point out that today wasn't my best walk leading day. It began with me thinking I had left my maps at home. So, I rushed home to find them, and once there, realised that they were back at the meeting place all the time. Had I looked about the house a little more diligently I would have noticed my walking poles which weren't with me for the day either. That's because I wore a different hat.

The two go together when I am organised. I then didn't allow sufficient time for the car shuffle, so we only got walking by 10am. My fellow walkers then needed to be convinced that lunch would be at about 1pm, or a little later at the summit of Mount Pilot. Tummies were rumbling, and a few may have been grumbling by this stage, but everyone marched on like the troupers they are.

Once we reached the end of the Pilot track, we were only about 500m from the Mount Pilot car park, and we continued along Old Coach Road to the car park. A short climb to the summit was easily navigated, where welcoming sunshine and 360-degree views were encountered. It was certainly worth it. Hearty lunches were now being consumed by a ravenous tribe. It was here at the summit you would imagine I would take the mandatory group photo shot I always take on my walks. Nope. Not today. It was fortunate for all involved that I was not an aeroplane pilot in charge of a passenger flight today!

It is possible to make this a loop walk if you are adventurous enough to create your own trail and bush bash some very steep sections back down towards the Yeddonba car park. We however used the car shuffle principal to keep everyone safe and sound.

What can one say about Pat's afternoon tea? Except that more of my misjudgements on this day meant it wasn't here at the summit, but in another vehicle back at the start of the walk. So, this meant some walkers departed once they returned to their cars, missing afternoon tea, while the others waited and did partake in the tradition. Thanks to everyone who participated in the 11km, three hours walk. I blame all my errors on this day from the cold I had been battling for weeks. It created foggy brain syndrome. [Michael Braendler]

Alpine Views Track : August 15

There were 15 bushwalkers on this adventure, and we all gathered at Wenhams Camp just after 9am for an early start.

The distance planned for the walk was about 12 kilometres, and we had a beautiful blue sky, with a top temperature of about 15C.

Setting off, we followed Friends Track to the west and made the detour to Kwat Kwat Lookout, where we had a very scenic morning tea, sharing the views with a very elegant wedge-tailed eagle.

We are not sure as to what exactly was the eagle's intended prey; was it us bushwalkers, our morning tea or Pat's bag of confectionery snakes?

Regardless, this eagle gave us an excellent display of determination, style, systems and procedures.

As well, the views of the high country were excellent, as was the vista of the surrounding flood-plain.

We then retreated slightly so as to rejoin Friends Track, and then the left turn onto the Alpine Views Track.

There were some more great views on this descent, and we subsequently took the turn-off to Mount Warby, where we had lunch, once more enjoying the gorgeous blue sky.



Heading downslope from the Mount to Wenhams, we had a very enjoyable early afternoon tea to conclude our adventure. Total travel time was about five hours, and we all passed comment on the wattle blooms. There was also signs of movement from some of the wildflowers – more of that in September. [Chris]

Barrys Falls : September 2

This very enjoyable loop walk to Barry Falls at Eldorado was attended by 26 participants, including one new member, and three casuals. The fine weather forecast brought out the desire to get out enjoy the day.

Starting at the intersection of Woolshed and Masons Road, we headed along Masons Road to the intersection with Currawong Track. The hill is always steeper and longer than the memory recalls, so a rest stop at the top was appreciated.

After turning into Currawong Track, morning tea was enjoyed in an open area with lots of rocks available for seating.

We then continued along Currawong Track to reach a steep, and now challenging, descent area which had been badly damaged by vehicle use that appeared to have removed about two feet of the depth of the road.

This was followed by a second steep descent before reaching Warbler Track; this provided a stream crossing just before the turnoff to the bush track to Barry Falls, and was easily navigated. The stream was a good indication of the water to be expected at the Falls.

Lunch was enjoyed at the base of Barry Falls, which is a beautiful spot for lunch, and the Falls had a steady stream of water flowing.

Following lunch we returned to the Warbler Track, and headed to Nioffs Road, then Woolshed Road and the start of the walk.

For those that need to know the elevation, we climbed from about 200m to about 370m, and back. [Jeanette]

Carnarvon Gorge National Park

This fascinating park is located in Central Queensland, to the south of Emerald/north of Roma, and is accessible via a turn-off from the Dawson/Carnarvon Highways.

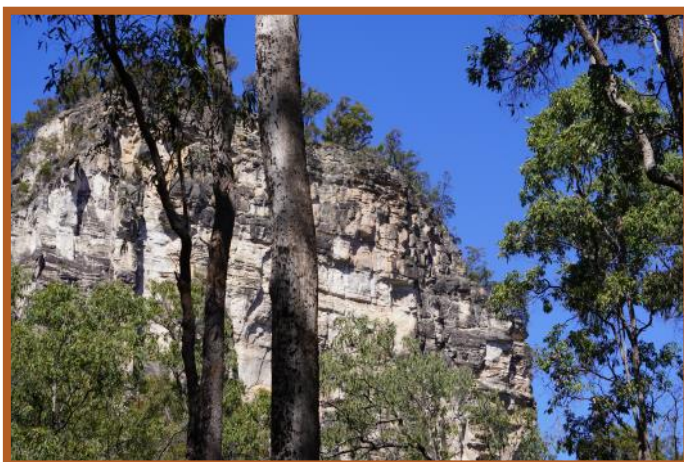
Main features of the park are its excellent scenery, a great network of walking tracks, aboriginal rock art and about 170 different bird species.

Accommodation options include good camping within the park, and a close-by luxury lodge.

Sandstone gorges are the main feature of this area, and these provide a very pleasing, and interesting, back-drop to the walking tracks.

A visit to the park is highly recommended, but try to avoid peak holiday periods as this is a very popular destination.

More details from parks.des.qld.gov.au



Obituary

Maureen (June) Brown

29 June 1933 - 30 June 2023

Maureen (June) Brown left her home of 40 years on the Surf Coast at Point Roadknight to build a new home in Beechworth in 2016 (aged 83). June moved to the North East to be closer to family, and quickly engaged in Beechworth, Wangaratta and Bowman's-Murम्ungee communities, with the Fletcher family, and a range of interests to pursue.

June is remembered by friends as an adventurer, always open to learning new things (such as recent Italian lessons), and loving a big road trip -having most of Australia under her wheels. In 2017, June traveled to the Tip (Cape York), with Ken and Cecily Fletcher, Kathy Dobson and Kevin Hammond, joined en route by other family members, for a grand adventure, completing her bucket list of Australian travels.

June maintained a regular fitness routine to enable her to keep up her love of bushwalking into her 90th year, including a hiking holiday in Japan (2019) with family members, and New Zealand with daughter Cecily, and local friends, Kathy Dobson and Kerri Davenport in 2017. She inspired many of her friends from the Warby Range Bushwalking Club (and her exercise classes) with her love of nature, her active life, energy, and her wide-ranging conversations.

There were many special places for June, including Mt Buffalo, where she brought her three children for camping holidays in early 70's after the death of her husband, Clive Brown in 1971. Other special places included the Wimmera and Little Desert, where June volunteered for many years with the Victorian Malleefowl Recovery Group, camping out for a week in summer to log Malleefowl nesting activity -not for the faint hearted!.

Having a genuine concern and interest in social issues, June welcomed the participatory democracy movement of 'Voices for Indi' and volunteered support to Cathy and then Helen to run as Independents. June was hopeful that the forthcoming referendum would deepen the understanding and partnerships needed to deliver better outcomes for our First Nation peoples.

Family and friends filled June's life with love and shared memories, and it was special to celebrate the wedding of June's son, Ray Brown and Bianca Blemming at the Old Murम्ungee Hall on 24 June, in a celebration of love, family and friendships. June was grateful to be cared for at the Fletcher's home during her short illness, prior to her death on 30 June 2023 from cancer. The Fletcher family are very grateful for the messages of support, flowers and thoughtful gifts during this difficult time.

June Brown will be remembered as a generous, loving friend with a joy for life, learning and nature. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her; she has left a strong legacy of enthusiasm for living and aging well. June was buried at the Creswick Cemetery on 8th July 2023.



June Brown, Cathedral Ranges, 01 April 2023, Warby Range Bushwalking Club