

WALKLINES

**Newsletter of the
Waverley Bushwalking Club Inc
November 2023**



**NEXT MEETING: 7:30pm November 13, 2023 at the Mount Waverley Community Centre
INSIGHT INTO BHUTAN - LAND OF THE THUNDER DRAGON**

Waverley Bushwalking Club wishes to acknowledge receipt of an in-kind grant from the City of Monash

Waverley Bushwalking Club Inc.



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT – NOVEMBER 2023

We now have 243 fully paid up members. We have one new member Eddy Maini, please make him welcome on walks.

A big thank you to Denese and Ron and Murray and Anne who organised a mammoth base camp at Halls Gap. Judging by the photos on the club Facebook page this was a big success with lots of walks and excellent weather.

At our next club meeting on Monday November 13th our guest speaker is Karen Haranis who will talk about Bhutan. The meeting commences at 7.30 pm.

Then in December we have our end of year function at the Glen Waverley Bowls club from 6pm to 9.30 pm. Bring your own food and there are BBQs available. Drinks are available at the bar but please don't bring your own alcohol. The bowling greens will be open if you want to try your hand. Simon will entertain us with a song or two and there will be an opportunity to meet members you may not have seen for a while. Please put the date in your diary.

We have now purchased three extra PLBs and these will be put in with the club First Aid kits. When leaders pick up a first Aid kit for a walk there will be a PLB with it. Hopefully you will never need to use the PLB but if there is an emergency and there is no mobile phone coverage you will be able to get in contact with emergency assistance. Instructions will be provided with the kits.

As the weather gets warmer we need to give some thought to our Summer program of walks. There are a number of base camps coming up, all of them either on the coast or in the High Country where it is usually cooler. For our day walk program we usually take a break from around the 20th December to early January, although one year we had a Christmas Day walk. In January and February we aim to have walks which are shorter, either morning or late afternoon to avoid the midday heat, which are closer to Melbourne – the Dandenongs are a popular location and are in shadier areas. Leaders, please give some thought to what you might offer in this program. Walks like these are also ideal for new leaders as they are generally in well-travelled areas and not too far from the city.

That's it from me. See you at the meeting or on a walk.

David Lumb

President WBC



Cover photo: Great Gardens of the Dandenongs: Rolf Exner. Photo above: Edwin Maher. Article and more photos p10.

DAY WALKS

MURRINDINDI RIVER WALK AND WILHELMINA FALLS

Saturday, 9th September

Leader: Rolf Exner

The walk started from the camping ground near the suspension bridge over Murrindindi river. We crossed the suspension bridge and walked along the river until we reached the fork to Wilhelmina Falls Track, turning left onto the track to the falls. The path to the base of the falls was a climb of about 500 metres, the climb was gradual and not particularly hard even though it had rocky steps and some scrambling over rocks. The path was well maintained with cable handrail to hold onto at difficult portions.

When we reached the base of the falls, the weather was as perfect as it could be and the view was spectacular. Members who did not sign up for the walk because they thought it was going to be too hard or the weather was going to be terrible were mistaken on both. Clear sky and sunlight welcomed us and we felt sorry for those who missed out on the experience.

After taking in the view and enjoying a well-earned rest, we went up the metal stairs and between the boulders to the lookout at the top of the falls. The viewing platform at the top provided another spectacular view of the surrounding mountain range.

We had morning tea at the top picnic table, then walked on the Boroondara and Mills track until we reached the Murrindindi River Walk and completed the circuit. We stopped for lunch in a clearing on the Boroondara track.

Thank you, Rolf, for a wonderful walk and for looking after us so well. We had a very comfortable ride in Rolf's brand new 4W drive and the weather couldn't have been better.

Smita Sabhlok



The Waverley Bushwalking Club

warmly welcomes

Jenny Byron

Helen Song

Martin Wojak

Eddy Maini

May you experience many happy hours with the Club, both on and off the track.

If you are wondering why an activity in which you participated is not in Walklines, it is because no-one contributed something about it.

For more photographs of WBC activities, those featured in Walklines and others, have a look at WBC Facebook (restricted to members of WBC).

OLINDA LOOP

Sunday September 17

Leaders: Mark Gao and Rolf Exner

On the bright sunny morning of September 17 Mark Gao led a hardy group of seven for a stroll in the Dandenongs starting at Olinda. It was initially quite cool as we made our way steadfastly past the coffee shops and down to the site of the 1938 DC2 plane crash. This tragedy ultimately led to new standards for air traffic control. After this we made our way along the Kyeema track where the kookaburras were laughing at us and we met numerous runners, many from a women's trail running club, heading the other way a lot faster than we were going. We stopped for a quick morning tea before the steep ascent of Mount Dandenong where the allure of the coffee shop was too great, and we drank some good coffee and some not so good cold milk. With our caffeine recovery having its effect, we then made our way to the Olinda Falls and had lunch in a very pretty park. After viewing the falls, really more of a cascade, we made our way up a steep but beautiful track ultimately reaching our goal of the cars back in Olinda. There was robust discussion as we climbed the steep parts of the last ascent whether this constituted a hard medium or a medium hard walk and Rolf suggested an easy-medium-hard walk as a compromise. However, we all agreed it was a wonderful 17 km walk with its 700 m of ascent. We certainly earned our reward at Hanhndorf's Fine Chocolates in Upper Ferntree Gully where the hot chocolates are excellent. Many thanks to Mark and his admirable assistant, Rolf.



Morning tea in the Dandenongs—Peter May

Peter May

RED HILL CIRCUIT

Saturday September 30

Leaders: Gary Dubsky and Shir Yeoh

Starting at the Red Hill Consolidated School car park, 22 walkers joined the 17km walk through olive groves, cherry-trees and winery plantations although there were 8 main roads to cross. Morning tea was at the Old Bittern railway station which opened in 1921 to carry not only passengers but goods like fruit, vegetables, livestock and also local timber. This 16km rail journey ran from Bittern to Red Hill. Lunch stop was Bald Hill Nature Conservation Reserve overlooking Westernport Bay and Port Phillip Bay.

The weather forecast was predicting 28 deg but the start was chilly and we were shaded by trees and ferns on some parts. We were walking on the land of the traditional owners, the Boon Wurrung people. Due to the cool climate and clay rich soil, this picturesque area is ideal for growing fruit and veggies, also timber. It's now home to some of Victoria's best wine and fine dining and hosts the Regional Agriculture Show and Scarecrow Festival.



Walklines



We finished the walk around 2:15pm, but with coffee shops shutting early at 2pm, maybe due to the footy grand final, we stopped for refreshments at BP McDonalds on the way home. I highly recommend their ice coffee and clean toilets. Many thanks to Shir and Gary.

Sharon Higgins

Photos by Sharon Higgins

November 2023

POINT NEPEAN
Sunday September 24th
Leader – Gary Dubsky

Most of us have been to Point Nepean and know what a great walk this can be when the weather is superb and sure enough, it was. This is what we like about the Dubsky walk trend. He offers lots of scenic views with good stories on a clear day. GREAT TO BE BACK, seeing so many happy and familiar faces after a long hiatus, not from covid or injury recovery or anything like that; my last walks were in March on the iconic Walls of Jerusalem and Cradle Summit. One has to reminisce the wonderful memories before one emerges from the cocoon to begin another wonderful walk.



Disease Aboard??? Photo: Edwin

And so, we began using the 'recently accessible, I assume' Police Barracks route passing by the Commandant and Police quarters which offered spacious pastures for their horses and stupendous views overlooking Sorrento Bay to Point King where the billionaires, the likes of ex-trucking magnate Lindsay Fox, live.

We crossed the demarcation line into the Quarantine Zone and there was a clear maritime Yellow Flag signifying 'Disease Onboard' so, stay away. We have to have a group photo. Rose and Christine unconsciously grinned and positively indicated 'thumbs up' to declare 'WE ARE ALL MEDICALLY CLEARED'. We head up a rise to the Medical Superintendent residence, a beauty, Federation weatherboard with a wrap-round wide verandah which offered an even more stupendous view over Sorrento Bay, as seen in our group photo. A fair reward for an important role during those early years of Melbourne's founding and protecting the people from diseased emigrants wanting a bit of action on the gold allure which made Melbourne one of the richest cities in the world, then.

Proceeding, we are back into familiar territory of the big grand parade ground and the quarantine facilities before passing by a lively Sunday Market and the new glamping tent sites. These are priced at \$125 per couple per night with excellent kitchen, fridge and bathroom facilities. You can even hire an E-bike for a full day at \$90, good for 70km range at 20kmh. From here onwards, we are on the Coles track all the way to Point Nepean to have lunch and see The Rip and the Corsair Rocks, totally exposed at low tide, knowing that many lives have been lost here in the past during thunderstorms. SS Cheviot was one of the ships lost.

We checked out the many tunnels and gun emplacements including the Disappearing Guns which according to the signboard, is basically hydraulically driven to rise and fire before lowering and disappearing from possible enemy aerial bombardment.

By the end of a warm day after 17km, with so many beautiful coastal views and interesting gossips that we shared, it was time to lay hands on the all important refreshing and cold Balter IPAs available at the tap, for yet another hillside view of Sorrento Bay from the lounge of Portsea Hotel. Peter and Jan's generous offer of hot chips mixed well with the IPA.

All 20 of us thanked Gary for another wonderful walk. 'Mate, you could not have picked a better day than this' (stealing your kind words to me and many others, over the years).

Edwin Maher

A picturesque view of the Back Beach—Photos: Edwin



JOHNS HILL AND EMERALD LAKE CIRCUIT
Wednesday September 27
Leaders: Paul Eisinger and Heather Lucas



Photos by Gillian Paterson and Sharon Higgins



Walklines



Don't know where to walk?

WBC has an excellent resource library of books/publications available on loan to members. The walk descriptions usually include a map/diagram and walk notes.

A full list of these publications has now been added to OnTrax.

See:

Ontrax login

> WBC Club tab

> WBC Document Library by Category

> Library Content

Click on the area of interest and open the pdf document to reveal a list of books within that category, for example:

Category: Melbourne & Surrounds

Content: Melbourne's Bush Bay and City Walks, etc (13 other books).

Category: Victoria

Content: 150 Walks in Victoria, etc.

The books can be viewed and borrowed at our monthly club meetings, they just need to be signed out and a return date noted in the records book.

Also, if you see a walk book or publication which may be of interest, please speak with our Librarians (Louise or Wendy) and they will consider purchasing and adding it to the club library.

A Reminder to Update all your Smartphone Apps & Remind Yourself where to obtain Emergency Information

from Bushwalking Victoria October Bulletin www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

As our springtime adventures ramp up, if you haven't already, its time to check your smartphone apps. Are they up to date? Are your maps still available offline? Has your phone put them to sleep? There is nothing worse than needing one of your offline maps, or other emergency app quickly, only to find the app needs updating and you don't have the time, or even the phone reception to do it.

Start with your Vic Emergency App (for warnings and alerts), your BOM Weather App (for weather forecasts) and your Emergency Plus App (for finding your coordinates to advise emergency services if required). Check out the Bushwalking Manual (scroll to the section on Emergencies) for helpful apps, and other websites to obtain emergency information.

DAY WALKS

MERRICKS – RED HILL

Wednesday October 7

Leaders: Pauline McGuire & Louise Power

The walk commenced from Merricks in very cool and overcast conditions along the Bittern to Red Hill rail trail. The railway line was opened on 2 Dec 1921 & closed 1 July 1955. It was disappointing to see bridal creeper (invasive Sth African weed) growing on trail fencing. We have had little luck removing it from Shepherds Bush. At morning tea we had views over an adjacent vineyard to The Nobbies on Phillip Is with the sun shining briefly. The adjacent forest area is noted for providing food and protection for Superb Fairy-wrens and Eastern Yellow Robins.

The trail end was reached at a very well maintained Red Hill Station. The walk had climbed 150 metres from Merricks.



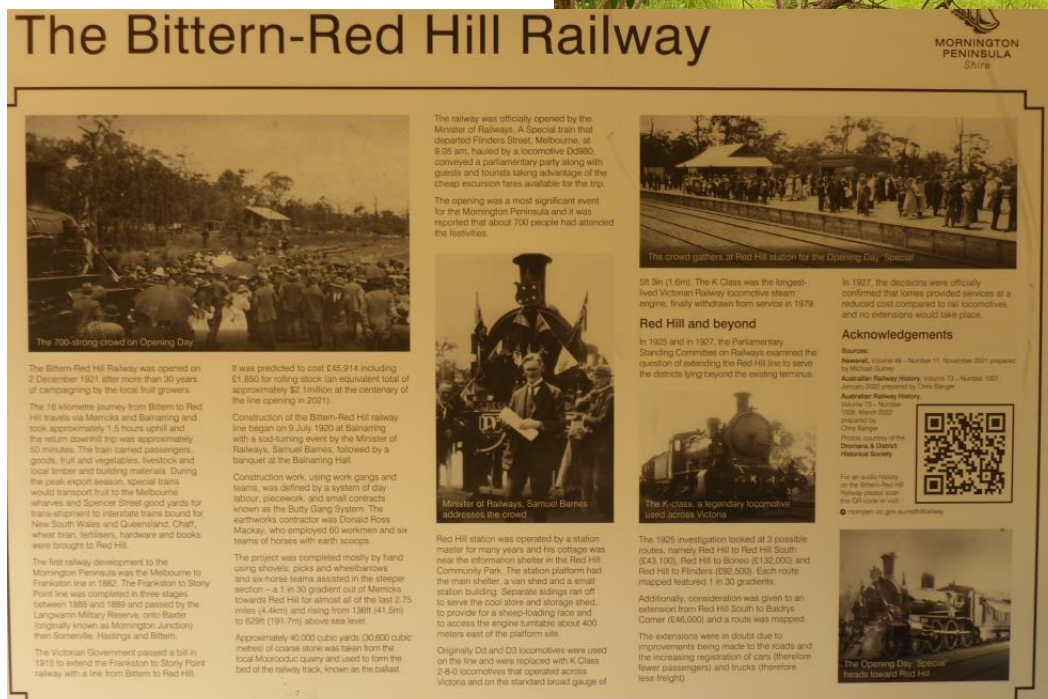
Then we proceeded to the market at Red Hill Reserve for an early and long lunch. Walkers scattered all over the market. The writer rewarded himself with 2 samples of local whisky but any temptation to purchase a bottle wasn't sufficient to carry it back to Merricks or pay out \$165. A tasty bratwurst was purchased instead costing much less and was more enjoyable.



We retraced our steps, briefly in sunshine, passing an interesting house with leadlight windows and finished with coffee at Verandah Coffee Window adjacent to the booked out Merricks Store. Thank you Pauline & Louise for another delightful walk on the peninsula.

John Bradshaw

Photos: John Bradshaw



Walklines

November 2023

GREAT GARDENS OF THE DANDENONGS
Sunday 8 October 2023
Leader: Gary Dubsky

This year's walk through the magnificent gardens of the Dandenongs was run on a Sunday, as the originally scheduled Wednesday was a washout. So although the regular Wednesday walkers missed out, a whole new group of weekend walkers came along to enjoy the spectacle.

Gary arranged the walk to take place when the rhododendrons, camelias and azaleas on the mountain were at their best, though the cherry blossoms and daffodils were already gone. The walk took us through 4 gardens. The first two were in Sherbrook. The Alfred Nicholas Gardens were originally part of the Burnham Beeches estate and feature picturesque pools and small waterfalls. The George Tindale Memorial Gardens are set under towering mountain ash, and are a cool-climate garden with a scientific and educational focus. Then came two gardens in Olinda. The rarely visited Pirianda Gardens are set on a steep hillside and include a beautiful fern gully and many historic stone walls. Finally came the Dandenong Ranges Botanical Gardens (formerly the National Rhododendron Gardens),



set on a large area of land in the heart of Olinda and considered Victoria's premier cool-climate garden featuring thousands of rhododendrons, camelias and azaleas in full bloom.

At the end of a large circuit through the gardens we explored the newly opened and exquisite Chelsea Australian Garden built on part of the former Olinda Golf Course.

We used our cars to travel between the gardens, but still managed 11 km of walking, with nearly 500 m of ascent, ensuring everyone felt well exercised by the end. Thank you Gary for a wonderful walk with a difference.

Rolf Exner

Photos : Rolf Exner and Bee-Ha Soo



MT. EVELYN WALK
Leader: Margaret Keir
Tuesday October 10

Eight walkers gathered at Capital Avenue and travelled to Lilydale, to a parking area on the Warburton Trail. At our circle we welcomed two visitors, outlined the walk and set off on a very gradual slope, sometimes quite high above the surrounding homes and trees that made a tunnel effect, then actually passing through a real tunnel. We reached the township of Mt Evelyn where we had our morning tea. Setting off again, we read the plaques on the old Mt. Evelyn Railway Station telling us of the history in the area. We did a big loop and returned through the town to our morning tea location to have a relaxed lunch in the sunshine.

We reflected at the circular Memorial Gardens. There is a central monument, a gun and several smaller plaques commemorating those from Mount Evelyn who died in service or were killed in action in the various conflicts in which Australia has been involved. Also two black painted seats, with cut outs 'Lest we forget' and 'Remember them'. An area fitting to our fallen servicemen.

Margaret Keir



MT ST LEONARD VIA TANGLEFOOT LOOP

Wednesday October 11

Leaders: Simon Johnson and Linda Stewart

The Tanglefoot loop walk is in the Toolangi State forest and offered us an immersive environment to experience Victoria's tall forest region. Commencing at the Wirrawirra car park we walked up a steady incline for some kilometres – blue skies above, sunlight shining through the tall Mountain Ash and the sound of trickling streams.

Tanglefoot lived up to its name as very soon we were doing the “Tanglefoot Tango”, stepping through and on long strings of bark, leaves, the loose mounds of lyrebird scratchings and large branches across the track. Although the area had recent rain, we were lucky as there were only a very few patches of mud. Stopping for morning tea under the Mountain Ash, some of us were greeted with leeches, however, this did not detract from the temperate forest setting with lush ferns. A few of the trees were hollowed out and formed a great photo backdrop for some intrepid participants.

From there our walk took us up to Mt St Leonard where we had a choice of walking up a very steep hill to the lookout or taking a more scenic route. The top of the lookout allowed a beautiful vista looking toward Melbourne city, Sugarloaf and Yan Yean reservoirs. Retracing our steps we lunched at the Monda car park then, once again “tanglefoot tangoing”, we took the meandering track back down with a few slight inclines, first following the Monda road and then the return loop of the Tanglefoot track.

The final section of our 14.4 kilometre walk provided a magnificent setting to appreciate fully the richness of the forest – walking along the Wirrawirra boardwalk we saw ancient Myrtle Beech, lush green ferns of all sizes, heard the gushing waters over the rocks of the junction of the Sylvia and the Myrtle Creeks and saw the tallest moss in the world and Victoria's third largest tree.

With a big thank you to our leaders Simon and Linda, the wonderful experience of the Wirrawirra walk completed our full circuit back to the car park.



Rose Latimer

Photo: Simon Johnson

Photo: Rose Latimer



Walklines

**UP AND DOWN MEMORY LANE
HODDLE MOUNTAIN TRAIL
Wednesday October 25
Leader: Heather Lucas**

When the Hoddle Mountain Trail circuit walk opened in 2019 I downloaded the map and track notes, keen to do it sometime. Having spent the first sixteen years of my life on a dairy farm at Fish Creek, I knew the area and of the wonderful views so was delighted when Heather put it on the program.

Starting off from what remains of the Fish Creek railway station we read of Fish Creek's history before heading east along the Great Southern Rail Trail. Along the short section before turning into Quarry Road I recalled trips to Melbourne by

steam train with lengthy stops at Korumburra for the train's water tanks to be filled and the passengers to consume pies in the station dining room. Sloshing through a very wet grassy area on a disused section of the road we tested the waterproofness of our boots.

Meandering through regenerating bush of the old Fish Creek Gravel Pits we summited Laver's Hill then walked up to the Telecommunication Tower. Miraculously none of the lighter members of our group were blown away by the very strong westerly wind on the way up! At the top we enjoyed uninterrupted views south along Wilsons Prom, east over Corner Inlet and west over Waratah Bay and beyond. As the wind was so unpleasant we dropped down to a sheltered area for lunch before walking a grassy ridge to Loader Track. This track wound through Hoddle's diverse indigenous bush flora, with much of it in flower, to Mt Nicoll Lookout for another 360° panorama. From there it was downhill to the rail trail for the six kilometres back to Fish Creek, for dinner and sleepover at the Pub, before a Sandy Point/Shallow Inlet circuit walk the next day.

Thank you, Heather, for allowing me to finally get to explore the Hoddle hills (as they were called when I was growing up), and for ensuring as the day progressed the twelve happy walkers following had more sunshine than rain and hail. Whilst I tried to not allow birdwatching to sidetrack me, I did have great views of Eurasian Skylarks in song-flight, a pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles and an Eastern Whipbird.

Val Ford



Fish Creek railway Station—Chris McLennan

Mt Nicoll Lookout—Elizabeth Leung



Walklines

View from the grassy ridge—Elizabeth Leung



November

GRAMPIANS BASE CAMP

DAY 2: BRIGGS BLUFF AND GAR WATERFALLS

Tuesday October 17

Leaders: Leanne and Steve Biggins



This 12.5km walk is at the north end of the Grampians and the morning started with a car shuttle, leaving most of the cars at the Troopers Creek Campground, and starting the walk at the Beehive Falls Carpark. Under the leadership of Leanne, we started at 0830 heading south on the Beehive Falls track on a mild and sunny day

that was perfect for walking. After an easy walk to the base of the Beehive Falls the track to the top of the falls was steep and rocky. From the top of the falls we continued south to the junction with the GPT where we turned to the northeast. We followed the GPT for around 2 km until we reached the side track on the left up to Briggs Bluff. The track was mostly rocky and steep in sections.

Lunch was spent at Briggs Bluff. At an altitude of a little over 600 m there were stunning views across the Grampians to the south and the farmland to the north and east. After lunch we backtracked to the GPT and turned towards the Gar Waterfalls and on to the finish at the Troopers Creek Campground around 1500. Following the rain in the week prior there was water flowing over the fall that enhanced the colour of the rocks.

Thanks to Leanne and Steve.

Rodney Potts



GRAMPIANS BASE CAMP

DAY 3: GAR WATERFALLS

Leader: Ron Jowett

Wednesday 18th October

A leisurely 6km easy walk allowed plenty of time to admire the wild flowers which were in abundance. It also gave us time to appreciate the three magnificent waterfalls. The most impressive being the third, called Gar, and the destination of the walk. The water crossings were made easy by judiciously placed rocks so that people could 'hop' across without getting wet. Only one snake was seen, and that showed no interest in us at all as it was well and truly dead. Ron then took us on a bonus walk around Heatherlie, an old disused quarry which produced freestone. Much of this rock was destined to clad the new government buildings in Melbourne. The defunct machinery is still in situ and one can imagine the noise of the pneumatic drills, steam engines, air compressor, locomotives and cranes would have been a stark contrast to the tranquil bush setting in which the quarry sat.

Heatherlie had a town associated with it consisting of streets arranged in a grid pattern where workers and their families lived in tents or rudimentary stone (of course) huts. Some of these huts have been restored. The town even boasted a primary school with 33 pupils, but now the bush has reclaimed it all. It was lovely to walk these 'streets' and look at wild flowers including a variety of orchids.

Peter Boekel

#

DAY 3: JIMMY CREEK ROAD TO YARRAM GAP ROAD

Leaders: Murray and Anne Winstanley

Wednesday October 18

On Day 3 of the Grampians base camp, 15 walkers tackled a challenging section of the Grampians Peak Trail from Jimmy Creek Road to Yarram Gap Road. The weather was perfect for hiking: cool in the morning and sunny and warm in the afternoon.

We soon started climbing 300m along a contour stopping every so often to take in the majestic views of the Mt William Range and Major Mitchell Plateau behind us. There were also plenty of wildflowers to admire along the way (fringe myrtles, black eyed Susans, holly leafed Grevillea, kunzeas, milkmaids, Grampians everlastings, bush peas and more).

After morning tea, the track became narrow, steep, rocky and uneven for about 4km. Putting poles away and using our hands when needed, we climbed and scrambled over many, many rocks of different shapes and sizes. Stopping to catch glimpses of the Western Plains, Lake Muirhead and Mount William swamp to the east provided a welcome distraction. Crossing over the ridge and edging beneath high cliffs, we eventually reached the Yarram Camping Ground nestled high in a saddle.



A well-earned lunch was had in the architecturally designed hut enjoying spectacular views to the west of Mt Marum Marum and the jagged Serra Ranges. After lunch, the track evened out and then descended to Yarram Gap Road.

A beautiful walk led by the Winstanleys with spectacular views of the central Grampians and surrounding country over varied and challenging terrain. It took us just over 5 hours to complete 12km with about 650m elevation gain.

Author and photos:
Mani Andreetta

GRAMPIANS BASE CAMP

DAY 4: MT WILLIAM TO REDMAN BLUFF AND BEYOND (HARD)

Thursday October 19

Leader: Gary Dubsky

A hardy group of ten were convinced that Gary would deliver on his promise of a walk with the finest views in Victoria on a bright sunny day and what we saw was absolutely splendid. After a car shuffle, we started the walk at Mt William carpark and declined the extra points

to go to the top in favour of starting a slight downhill and traverse as we saw the looming challenge of Redman Bluff ahead. As we traversed the saddle we looked across the valley and with Lake Bellfield to the north and views of the peaks all the way to Mt Abrupt to the south. To say we enjoyed the sights at our morning tea break is an understatement.



From there it was a steady climb with more magnificent views unfolding as well as the wide assortment of wild flowers that were on display wherever we walked.

We cheered as we reached the cairn at Redman confident in the knowledge it was downhill from there and thrilled by the vista in front

The team at the top of Redmans Bluff

Morning tea of us. Gary was intent on delivering the promised best views. An amazing place to stop for lunch.

From the Bluff we descended back to the valley floor along Redman road and through the forest to the car shuffle meeting point with wild flowers everywhere. From there it was back to Halls Gap for a well earned ice-cream and coffee (or in my case both).

Many thanks to the drivers, whips and especially to Gary for an outstanding walk.

Peter May



GRAMPIANS BASE CAMP

DAY 4: SUNDIAL PEAK/SILVERBAND FALLS WALK

Thursday October 19

Leaders Ron and Denese Jowett

On the last walking day, numbers swelled for the easy/medium walk! 21 walkers turned up on yet another perfect day, influenced by a convincing leader's description at Happy Hour — including the advantages of a late start, a short drive, a coffee and the best apple cake in the Southern Hemisphere, (or was it the world Ron?). I should add that several walkers opted for this easier, more relaxed option after several hard walks earlier in the program had left soreness issues (including yours truly!!).

The walk itself took us up a well graded track with a moderate rock climb in the last 300 metres from the Sundial Carpark to Sundial Peak. We were rewarded with impressive views over Lake Bellfield and towards the Mt William range in the distance (one range really did look like a pregnant lady as one walker pointed out!), and yes, there was a Sundial, installed by students from Stawell Technical School, and yes, the time was accurate after allowing for daylight savings! Other highlights were of course the beautiful ever-present wildflowers, some orchids, spectacular rock formations and a lovely little dragon lizard who posed for the leading group. We also saw some insane males preparing for "bouldering", involving flat boards and sliding down a sheer rock face onto a mattress! What could possibly go wrong?

We then descended and took a short detour to Lakeview Lookout, which was also spectacular. This time the whole Halls Gap valley was on display!

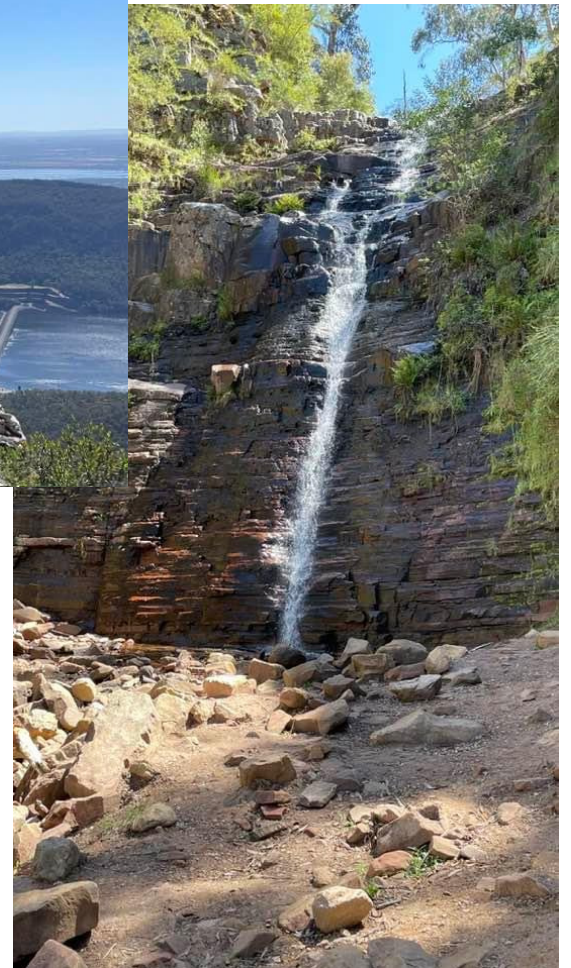


After lunch at the Sundial Carpark, we drove a short distance and walked into Silverband Falls. A very pretty waterfall (and many club members know that I am an expert!), falling 25 metres into Dairy Creek.

We then of course adjourned to the Leader's favourite coffee shop, The Adventure Café, where we enjoyed well earned refreshments on a hot afternoon in the lovely outdoor garden. (Yes, Leanne and I joined the leader in sampling the famed apple pie—it was very, very good!)

Thanks Ron and Denese for a lovely end to a really fantastic Base Camp!

Reporter — Steve Biggins





Participants' Responsibilities

Before the Walk

- Check the grading of the activity and read the grading definition in *Walk Notes*, which is a guide only. If in doubt check with the leader before you decide to participate.
- Inform the leader, with as much notice as possible, if unavoidable circumstances prevent you from attending the event.
- Bring all the correct clothing, equipment, food, and water with you, see *Clothing and Equipment for Day Bushwalks*. Don't rely on others to lend you items or carry them for you. If in doubt about what to bring ask the leader at booking time or before departure. Some equipment may be hired from bushwalking shops or WBC.
- Complete the *Personal Health Details – Emergency Information form* or "Vial of Life" and place it in an outside pocket of your backpack.
- If you suffer any medical condition that may require special action, please ensure that you carry the appropriate instructions in a sealed envelope, or they are with a friend at the activity. If necessary, carry the required medication.
- Carry a personal First Aid Kit comprising:
A minimum of: Variety of bandaids including extra large, Alcohol swabs for wound cleaning, 1 conforming bandage 7.5cm, 1 heavy weight crepe bandage 7.5cm, 1 triangular bandage, Safety pins, Gauze swabs (ie. 3 swabs 7.5cm x 7.5cm pack), Moleskin or adhesive tape or similar for covering hotspots on the feet, Thermal accident blanket, Personal medication ie. own pain killer tablets, antihistamine tablets - these will fit in a plastic ziplock bag.
Plus: Alcohol hand wash, Sunscreen, Roll on RID (or similar) for insects and leeches, Small plastic bag for rubbish.
Optional extras: Betadine, Gastrolyte tablets and glucose for hot weather, Instant cold pack, Duct tape, Pointy tweezers for ticks and splinters, Scissors, Snake bite bandage.
- Carry with you the mobile phone number of the Event Leader so that if your car breaks down en route to or from the activity or you become separated from the group you can advise details as soon as possible. This may also help the Leader to render assistance.
- Ensure you leave details of the activity, the Event Leader's name and phone number and Emergency Contact numbers (see Walklines P2) with your family or friends and make them aware of the emergency procedures in *Walk Notes*.
- It is wise to insure yourself for ambulance and medical treatment – WBC does not cover you for these expenses.

During the Walk

- Arrive at the meeting place in time to depart on the activity at the time stated
- Obey all reasonable instructions given by the leader.
- Advise the leader if you feel unwell or cannot cope with the activity
- If you are at the front of the group and the leader is not with you stop at all track/road junctions, signs, or whenever there is doubt about the correct route and wait for instructions from the Leader.
- Irrespective of where you are in the group, ensure that you can see the person behind you [and vice versa]. If not slow down and wait.
- The Whip is there to assist slower group members and to ensure that nobody is left behind. If you need to leave the track, for any reason, please inform the leader or Whip and leave your pack on the track.
- Carry a whistle at all times and remember the code:

Three short blasts regularly spaced	Emergency signal from person/s in distress
One long blast	Acknowledge a distress signal
Four short blasts regularly spaced	Emergency, regroup with leader immediately.

- Provide assistance and support to others on the activity. Club events are generally not competitive and success of the activity is dependent on members providing mutual support and encouragement.

Remember, you have a responsibility for your own safety.

By following these few simple procedures, you will contribute to the safety and enjoyment of the whole group.



Walk Notes

Grading of Walks

The gradings shown in the Club Events List are advisory only. If in doubt, please check with the walk Leader. The gradings below apply to day walks and base camps only. For pack carries and other types of events consult the Leader prior to booking.

SHORT: Level terrain, on formed tracks. Distance up to 5km.
EASY: Gently undulating terrain on formed tracks. Distance up to approx. 12km.
MEDIUM: Sustained climbs and descents. Some of the Walk may be off formed tracks. Distance approx. 15-18km.
HARD: Consistent walking with moderate to hard climbing in scrub and forest, on and off tracks. Distance depends on terrain.
EXPERIENCED: Walking in difficult terrain that may require special knowledge such as unscheduled camping, rock scrambling, survival techniques, first aid or navigation.

Some walks will indicate a grade of walk between these main types, e.g. Medium-Hard, this signifies that the walk will be more challenging than the first grade nominated but not as challenging as the second grade nominated.

Leaders have final say on participant acceptability, fitness etc. Members and temporary members may be asked to prove experience.

Group Sizes

At the discretion of the Leader and dependent on the logistics of the walk (difficulty of the terrain, car parking limitations etc). Typical maxima: Day – 24; Overnight – 12.

Temporary and Associate Member Fees

\$5 per person per event. The fee will be collected by the Leader before the Event.

Bookings

Day Walks are open for registration in the online booking system known as Ontrax up to two months prior to the event. A longer period applies to Base Camps and Pack Carries. Bookings for walks are typically made in Ontrax by members of the Club. Visitors would normally ask the WBC Membership Secretary to put their name on a walk. Alternatively, the Walk Leader can be contacted.

Cancellations

Cancellation from a walk is done via Ontrax and is normally done by the club member. You will be prompted to provide a reason for the cancellation. Visitors should contact the walk Leader who can then cancel them off the walk.

Please process cancellations as soon as practicable. There are usually people on the waiting list who can then be transferred on to the walk.

Transport

When registering for a walk in Ontrax you must nominate whether you will be a driver or a passenger to get to the walk's start.

The amount that passengers are to contribute to the driver's petrol and car running expenses is determined by a formula in Ontrax based on the distance to be travelled. This formula is modified from time to time according to fluctuating petrol prices. The walk Leader will let drivers know what the passenger cost for that particular walk will be.

A share of E-tag and/or car park/entry fee costs may need to be added. Leaders will ensure that passenger numbers are evenly allocated.

Members attending a walk should not turn up at the meeting place and automatically assume that they will be passengers. They should arrive in time and be prepared to drive their car if so requested by the Event Leader. Their car should be 'fuelled' and ready in case of such a request. A Member, who for any particular reason cannot, or would not be prepared to act as a driver if requested, should have notified the Event leader of this in advance.

Meeting place

The meeting place for the walk is nominated in Ontrax and the Leader (or deputy) will be at the meeting place before the departure time given in Ontrax. You should aim to be at the meeting place ten minutes before the departure time to allow the Leader time to organise the car sharing arrangements. Leaders will not wait for you if you are not there by the departure time.

Club Emergency Contacts

All inquiries about late return of members must first be directed to the Leader's telephone number, then to the Club Emergency Contacts. Do not contact the police as they will not know of the club activity. The police will be advised if the Club Emergency Contact believes that the party is in danger. Premature contact with police could waste their time and may cause later difficulties for the club.

The Emergency Contacts details are in Ontrax under the WBC Club tab, on the Contacts page of the WBC website, and in our Walklines newsletter.



Clothing and Equipment for Day Bushwalks

Footwear:	Comfortable boots or walking shoes with good tread.
Socks:	Wool or wool blend.
Trousers:	Quick drying trousers or shorts. Avoid jeans.
Shirt:	Quick drying short/long sleeve shirt or top.
Day pack:	Comfortable and able to store all listed items inside. Line with large plastic bag or carry pack cover to keep contents dry.
Hat:	Broad brim sunhat or beanie for cold weather.
Gloves:	Synthetic or woollen gloves for cold weather.
Jacket/jumper:	Polar fleece or woollen jumper.
Rainproof jacket:	Good quality water and windproof jacket with hood.
Water bottle:	One litre minimum in winter. Two litres in summer.
Lunch/snacks:	Allow extra for emergency food.
Sun protection:	Sunscreen and sunglasses.
First aid kit:	As per <i>Participants' Responsibilities</i> .
Toilet kit:	Trowel, toilet paper & hand sanitiser.
Whistle:	See <i>Participants' Responsibilities</i> for signal code.
Phone:	Mobile phone.
Optional extras:	Gaiters give protection from grass seeds, leeches, etc. Walking poles may assist over rough/slippery terrain. Waterproof over pants. Thermal underwear. Insect repellent. Umbrella. Mat/plastic sheet for rest stops. Small torch in case of delay.