

WALKLINES

Newsletter of the Waverley Bushwalking Club Inc
February 2024



Next Meeting: February 12th at the Mount Waverley Community Centre

Speaker: Lachlan Brewster (Lockie): Hiking Gear and Accessories, Tips and Traps

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

Hi all.

As this is the first Walklines for 2024, I would like to welcome everyone to a new year's walking program. There were lots of base camps at the end of last year with Anglesea, Howmans Gap and Hotham together with a pack carry in the High Country. In 2024 we can look forward to Porepunkah/Bright, Perisher, Wilsons Prom and Phillip Island as well as the Bogong pack carry.

The summer day walk program is well underway with quite a few well attended walks. There are more coming up but we could do with a few more weekend walks in February.

Hopefully our leaders have had a good break over Christmas and are ready to put on lots more walks this year. We of course need new leaders and if any of you were thinking about putting on a walk last year now is the time. To assist new leaders, we have people who can help by co-leading or mentoring. You can find the list in the On-Trax document library under WBC club. Look for the mentors and co-leaders list. Contact details are available and everyone on the list has indicated a willingness to help. There is also a list of possible walks for new leaders. All have details for the walk and a gpx file.

The Christmas break up at Glen Waverley Bowls Club was very successful with the weather being kind to us and allowing members to try their hand at bowling. Simon entertained us with a few songs and a good time was had by all.

Our first meeting for the year is on Monday February 12th at 7.30 pm. Hopefully a number of you can come along. Our guest speaker is Lachlan Brewster, Floor Manager at Equipment Bogong. Lockie has walked the Bibbulmun Track, Alpine Walking Track, Heysen Trail, Larapinta Track, Great Ocean Walk, Great South West Walk and many more. As well as his walks he will also talk about hiking gear and accessories, tips and traps.

Membership fees - fees remain the same for the 2024/2025 financial year. The club is in a sound financial position and the aim is to keep fees as low as possible while at the same time covering all club expenditure. Fees are due by March 31st and you can pay anytime from now. Just click on renew your WBC membership under *Me* in OnTrax. This will take you to a Try Booking site where you can make your payment. There is a paper-based form on the OnTrax site under *Membership*. This is still the 2023 form but the fees are the same.

That's enough from me. Enjoy reading about all the base camps and walks that have taken place recently.

David Lumb

Anglesea Base Camp

December 3rd to 7th

Leaders: Simon Johnson and Linda Stewart



Monday, December 4th

We all drove to Point Impossible and looked around while the car shuffle cars were dropped off at Bells Beach, 15 kilometres away.

We started walking on the nudists beach - only two nudists were spotted and they were discreet about being seen.



We had morning tea at Torquay near the children's playground where some of us had fun on the flying fox.

Photo: Simon Johnson

We set off along the Torquay history trail until lunch, and after lunch we passed a mosaic sundial made with pictures of Australian animals.



Photos: Simon Johnson

Later we saw the wood carving of the Inverlochy figurehead. The Inverlochy was built in Glasgow in 1895 and met the fate of hundreds of ships along this coast. It was wrecked at Anglesea on December 8th 1902, and this figurehead was saved and mounted.

The temperature was heating up to 28 degrees, so we were glad that we finished early at 1.45pm



Photo: Sharon Higgins

Thanks Simon and Linda for a great day of walking.
Sharon Higgins



Tuesday, December 5th



This was another warm and sunny day where it's not just all about beautiful beaches and daunting red cliffs.

From Bells Beach we headed inland on a short climb to the Great Otway NP.

We dutifully walked through a boot washer before entering the sheltered forest of Ironbark Basin and tracks surrounded by heaps of cooling grasstrees.

From Pt Addis, the many lookouts off track gave us spectacular ocean views. Signs at a paragliding and hang-gliding site overlooking Red Rocks Beach gave a warning "to avoid flying over and landing in the exclusion zone where threatened hooded plovers nested."

On our extended beach walk, two of these birds were spotted scurrying away over the sand where a Parks employee was surveying the coastline's erosion with a drone.

Photos: Beth Alcorn



A terrific and interesting walk with only one steep up and one down towards the end, where Anglesea outskirts could be seen before we headed back to the caravan park.

Beth Alcorn

Wednesday, December 6th



There are three significant Marine Parks and Sanctuaries along our walk including Point Danger Marine Sanctuary, Point Addis Marine National Park and Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary.

I got the best day to do the write up. A car shuffle was needed so three cars headed off early for the final destination and on their return 22 of us quickly set off.

The setting was right. It was cool in the morning and was to warm up a little as the day progressed. The tide was out which meant the opportunity for more beach walking.

We started off with a river boundary walk to our first convenience stop and morning tea. We moved on through the native grasses with flowering shrubs and the overhanging Sheoaks.

Photo: Robyn Timmers

Listening to the bird calls, we looked for the vulnerable Spotted Hooded Plover and threatened Rufous Bristlebird. At Point Roadknight, three members left the group to return to camp.

Onto my very favourite part – a relaxing 6 km walk along the firm wet sands of the beach. We passed windswept heathlands, fringed rugged coast line with rock platforms, splatterings of small stones, and the black tide line while the waves tried to catch our feet along the way. The odd surfers could be seen testing their skills.

As the coffee shop neared, seven happy walkers did the extra walk down to Split Point to walk around the lighthouse base then back for refreshments.



Photo: Simon Johnson

A great day! Thanks to Simon and Linda for all their work.

Robyn Timmers

Thursday, December 7th

On our last day we were up early for our last walk to Ironbark Gorge in the Great Otway National Park.

Simon walked this track when he was a boy, a popular area for its abundant birdlife. He said we wouldn't see many birds because we were too noisy!



The track was lined by large ironbark trees and numerous wildflowers as it meandered up the gorge among the granite rock shelves. The return journey was along the dry creek bed through a tree fern forest.

In keeping with the rest of the base camp there was a musical theme when the group led by Simon and Eddy burst into song when we crossed bridges with “*Bridge over Troubled Water*” by Simon and Garfunkel, and “*Under the Board Walk*” with The Drifters.

Of course, the most popular was when we visited Eagle Rock, the day before. Most people knew the chorus to these popular 60 and 70's songs especially Eagle Rock and we all knew to turn around once.



Rose Coloured Gorge Hopper

We did spot a very rare bird however, “The Rose Coloured Gorge Hopper”. We even captured a photo!

Thanks Simon and Linda for a very enjoyable base camp. I had lots of laughs and enjoyed the perfect weather and beautiful walks that you organised. **Chris McLennan**

Photos: Chris McLennan

DAY WALKS

CORINELLA

Wednesday, November 29th

Leaders: David and Wendy Lumb

The weather forecast threatened rain not of torrential or biblical proportions, but of Powelltown proportions. Our very democratic walk leaders asked whether we all wanted to continue – “too right” was the unanimous response.

The walk commenced along the beach from Coronet Bay in dry weather, with the tide being very low. However, the clouds came over and light drizzle followed.

At morning tea our walk leader mentioned that Elizabeth Island, just visible in Westernport Bay, had been for sale at \$10m then \$4m with no takers. Showers threatened from the San Remo direction but as our walk leader pointed towards this island the cloud almost appeared to be waved away from us.

The walk continued past Settlement Point, the Corinella Jetty and the mangroves to the original official European settlement in Victoria at Tenby Point. This was abandoned due to lack of water.

After lunch, and in light drizzle, the Fig & Bay only offered tables outside so we drove to the obliging Grantville Store for coffee and cake.

Thank you, Wendy and David for another delightful walk along this coast. **John Bradshaw**



Photos: Bee-Ha Soo

LYSTERFIELD LAKE TO GRANITE ROCKS.

Sunday, January 21st

Leaders: Simon Johnson and Linda Stewart.

We started our walk at the northern end car park which was extremely busy with so many trail bike riders and groups of runners, as well as sixteen WBC walkers.

The weather was overcast but not hot. We walked through Iron Bark and Spotted Gums. The tracks were all good, considering the rain that we have had.

We stopped at the old site of the 1930's Boys' Farm, where lads aged 14 to 15 years old learnt the skills to work on farms.

There was a shortage of skilled farm workers because a lot of them had left the countryside for the city. The farm was very productive producing milk and cream which was sold.

We crossed Wellington Road at the lights and headed up, up, up to Granite Rocks for morning tea.





Then it was beyond Granite Rocks for a circuit heading back, once again crossing Wellington Road but without the security of the traffic lights. All safely across!

We passed The Rifle Range which was very quiet.

Lunch was at a lovely flat area.

The leaders had forgotten about the last couple of inclines. As one of my past leaders would say "it's undulating".

It was a short walk back to the cars.

Coffee was just down the road at Cafe Coffee next to The Squatting Frog Nursery.

Everyone enjoyed the walk thanks to our fabulous leaders, Simon and Linda. **Pauline Arthur.**

Photos: Simon Johnson



POLICE PADDOCKS

Wednesday, January 17th

Leaders: David and Wendy Lumb

Not sure if it goes with the territory but the presidents of WBC, current and past, seem to choose a wet weather day on which to lead a walk. I was amazed as to how many crazy fellow walkers turned up on Wednesday considering what the Weather Bureau was forecasting.

Well, the rain started even before we started walking, making it hard to tell whom you were talking to as we were all engulfed in our wet weather gear.

David decided part way through to cut the walk short and in my 22 years with WBC this is the first time that we have not stopped for morning tea, lunch or coffee. But on the last turn we were all very grateful to see the cars parked at the end of the road to head home for a hot shower and a cuppa.

Thank you, David and Wendy. It was not all bad as it brought back great memories of our childhoods when we put on galoshes to slosh around in a few puddles. Yes, and as per your pre walk advice, it was a good test for our wet weather gear. Melbourne weather is so unreliable and as one of my daughters once told me "Mum, as a bushwalker you should be prepared for all weathers".

Looking forward to many more walks, rain hail or shine. **Pauline McGuire**

Welcome New Members

The Waverley Bushwalking Club warmly welcomes

Daniel Yu, Barbara Wu, and Mustafa Kemal Sahan .

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

DONNA BUANG RD. TO MT. BEN CAIRN AND RETURN

Wednesday, January 10th

Leaders: Rod Jones and Heather Lucas

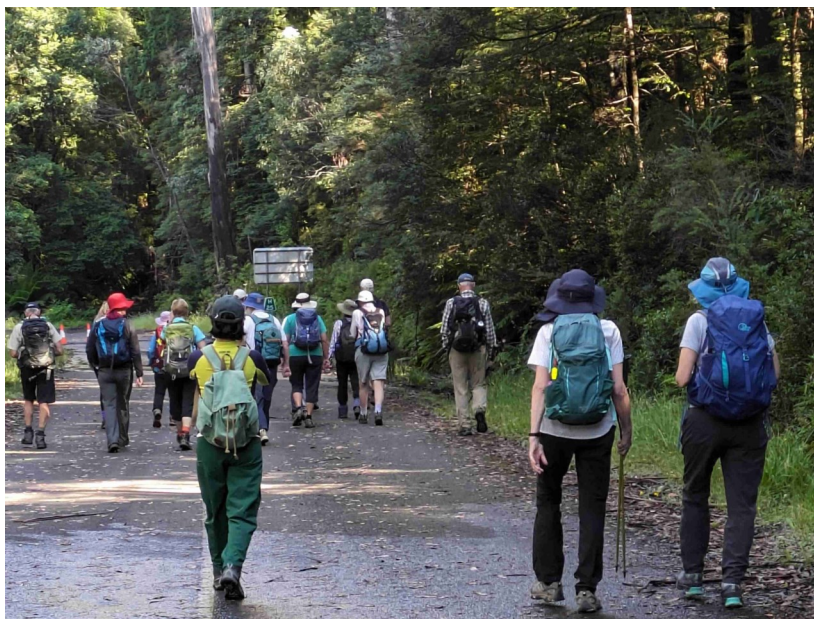
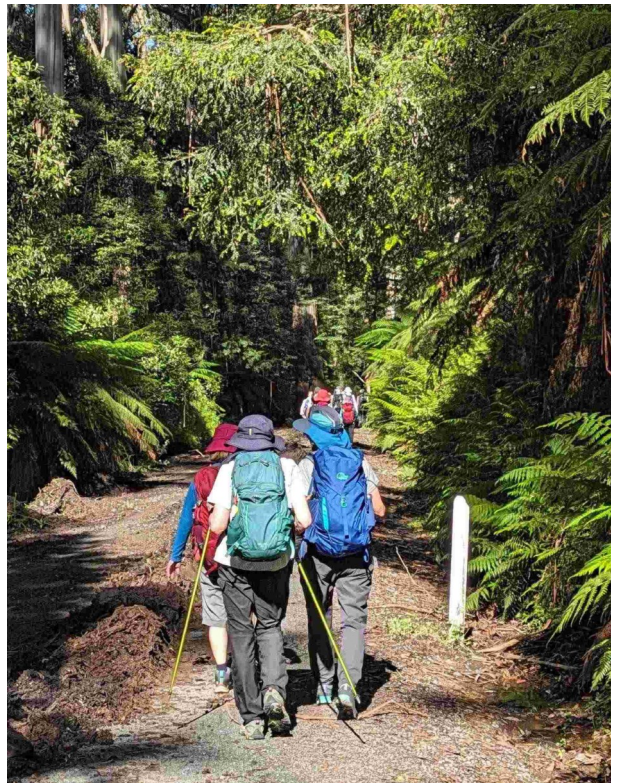
Twenty walkers met in Warburton for the drive, in convoy, to the junction of Donna Buang Road & Mt. Donna Buang Summit Road, where we parked our cars. This was a lovely walk along Donna Buang Road with both sides of the road filled with the beauty of the ferns and thick forest, with the occasional spectacular view of Warburton and the Upper Yarra Valley below.

At the halfway point we took a left turn onto a track, which was our small incline for the day, up to Mt. Ben Cairn. This track had some leeches lurking and waiting for prey and it was a challenge to avoid taking on a passenger. We finished our day with a well-deserved coffee at Three Sugars Café in Warburton.

This was a very enjoyable, relatively flat, walk of about 14kms and we were privileged to walk along Donna Buang Road before it is re-opened to traffic after extended repair work.

Thank you to Rod & Heather for leading this fabulous walk.

Ken Davies



Photos: Ken Davies



YARRA RIVER BOAT HOUSES

Saturday, January 13th

Leaders: Leanne and Stephen Biggins

On an excellent day for walking, 24 WBC members were fortunate enough to share this very informative walk, ably lead by Leanne and Steve.

We commenced the walk from the Fairfield boathouse and headed to Studley Park boathouse along the mighty Yarra River. Both are historic boathouses in Melbourne. It was a loop walk taking in many and numerous highlights including Yarra Bend Park, flying foxes, and a bushland circuit.



At Kanes Bridge-Deep Rock swimming club (just prior to Dights Falls), Alick Wickhams in 1918 performed a record dive of 62.7 metres into the Yarra River from the other side of the river cliff top, and 70,000 spectators came to watch. What a day that would have been!



There was a mass of water at Dights Falls and the river was running very strongly. Very tempting for some white-water rafting?

Then onto the site of the old asylum, prior to its move to Kew, past the Casting pools and then back to the Fairfield Boathouse for the traditional WBC coffee. As we departed coffee, the rain came so we finished just in time. Good planning by Leanne and Steve for sure!

A BIG thank you to Leanne and Steve for leading this very informative and enjoyable walk. Thank You Both Very Much,
Denese and Ron Jowett.

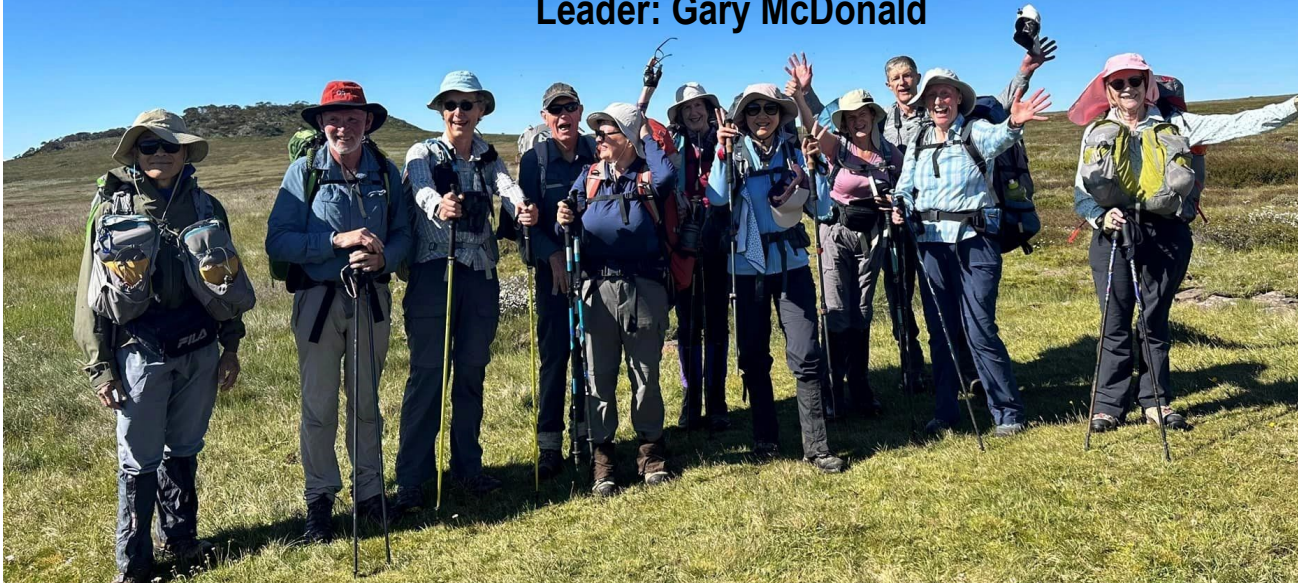
Photos: Denese Jowett



Victorian High Country Pack Carry

December 28th to January 1st

Leader: Gary McDonald



DAY 1: PRETTY VALLEY PONDAGE TO TAWONGA HUTS VIA MT JAITHMATHANG

Ten keen hikers joined Gary McDonald to see in the new year on his stunning five-day pack carry circuit in the Victorian High Country. After meeting in Falls Creek at 1pm, we drove in convoy to Pretty Valley Pondage – the start and end point for the trip.

After introductions and a briefing from Gary, we began the 4 km hike to Tawonga Huts – our destination for the night. With so much rain and storms only a few days before, it was a relief to start walking in sunshine.

We set up camp at Tawonga Huts, and after a rest and cuppa, a few of us climbed Mt Jaithmathang (1852m). The ascent was beautiful with lots of granite boulders, snowgums, and wildflowers such as magenta trigger plants, white, yellow and mauve alpine daisies, yellow billy buttons, golden peas, cream kunzea, white mint bush and more.

At the summit, we were rewarded with sweeping 360° views of the Victorian Alps and beyond. Gary pointed out major peaks such as Mt Bogong, Mt Cope, Mt McKay and The Fainters.

However, the most impressive was Feathertop with its sheer, confronting western face dominating the landscape flanked by Diamantina Spur, the Razorback and the Cobungra ditch.

We descended the way we came and rejoined the others for camp dinner.



Photo: Mani Andreetta
Paper Daisy



Photos: Mei Yang

Above: Hiking to Tawonga Huts Left: Mount Jaithmathang

By day's end, we had walked about 12km and climbed just over 400 metres.

Comparing dehydrated meals and gear and hearing stories of past hiking adventures, we were starting to norm as a group.

I fell asleep to the sound of the babbling creek nearby – bliss. I couldn't wait for Day 2.

Mani Andreetta



DAY 2: TAWONGA HUTS TO PALING SPUR

Today we left Tawonga Huts for our special secluded campsite at the top of Paling Spur.

We headed back up the hill and across following the snow poles to the famous pole333 on the AAWT.

From here we did a right turn walking to pole 267 where there is a track to Young Hut. The track was a bit overgrown and elusive in places but we arrived in time for an early lunch. There was talk of a new toilet but it was yet to be constructed, the building blocks having been dropped in and still lying in the grass waiting to be assembled.

The next section was more of a challenge to our leader trying to find a little used and unmarked track to the top of Paling Spur. With a few false starts and good navigational skills we arrived in a beautiful quiet place with a little creek sprouting from the rocks. This was home for the night. **Chris McLennan**

Photos: Chris McLennan

Top: Lunch at Young Hut

Below: Camping at Paling Spur



DAY 3: PALING SPUR TO COPE WEST AQUEDUCT

With a leisurely start at 8.30am, we left the Paling Spur camping ground, which we had enjoyed all to ourselves. Finding a path out of it was proving quite difficult. So many trails suggest a path.

But, like Moses leading his disciples to the promised lands, Gary led us with his trusted technology to walk one time here, the other time there. We followed in hushed tones - until Gary just stopped in his tracks, turned around and said: 'No more Congo line. From here to that mound up there you find your own path'.

Naturally we were stopped in our tracks. Literally! That was unexpected - but it made sense. The reason is to not make another track in the wilderness, which we would have created with eleven people trampling on one path. So we found ourselves rambling in various messy lines to a particular spot, over heath, boggy paths, and snow grass. This was at times quite hard work.

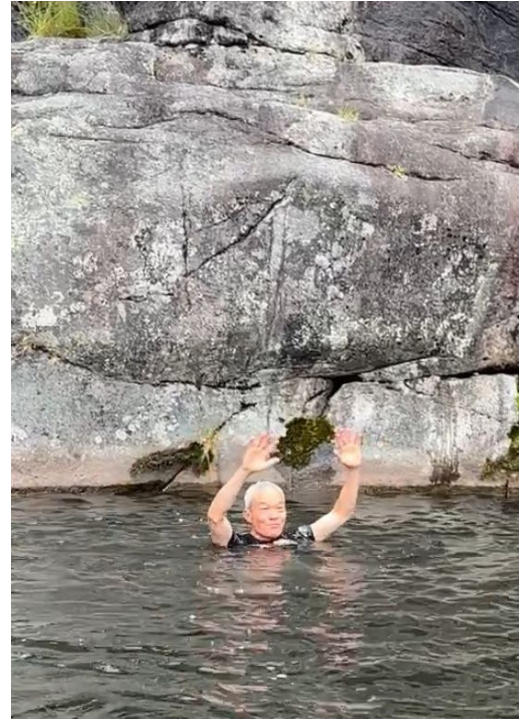
From there we could see the aqueduct and navigated towards it. We decided that the aqueduct would be our overnight camping ground.



Photos: Mei Yang

After setting up and enjoying the free time, four of us then decided to find the waterfall. It was in an exciting setting and James found it so enticing that he took a full-on swim. Brave man - it was rather cool that afternoon. But he won the medal of being the cleanest of us all.

The aqueduct's cement platform made for a good communal meal place. Super day indeed. **Conny Buchwald**



*Photos: Mei Yang
Above: Conny and Mani
Right: James' dip*

DAY 4: COPE WEST AQUEDUCT TO COPE HUT

It was balmy six degrees overnight at our campsite on the Western Aqueduct. Our cooking circle continued at breakfast on a spacious concrete driveway designed for heavy vehicles. Very handy for canny campers! We left camp at 8.30am and walked to the SEC red hut for a rest with our packs off. We saw the first of many runners, most completing a 24 km loop from Falls Creek. We walked single file along Cope hut track to the chorus of "runners back". Arriving at Cope Hut camping area we had the pick of the best tent sites. Views, trees and flat grassy spaces.



After a leisurely lunch we walked to Wallace Hut, the oldest surviving cattlemen's hut, built in 1889 by the Stewart brothers. It was a warm afternoon and on our return we lazed in the shade of the snow gums and soaked up the chilled vibes. After dinner Connie entertained us with questions from the Good Weekend Quiz. The chocolate coated treats for a correct answer were a fun way to end the day. I don't think any of us stayed awake to bring in the New Year. It was a perfect day. **Jane May**

*Photos: Mei Yang
Above: Sunset at Cope Hut
Left: New Year's Eve camp*

DAY 5: COPE HUT TO PRETTY VALLEY PONDAGE

We welcomed 2024 with the most beautiful sunrise at Cope Hut. We walked back to our car park via AAWT, passed Cope Saddle Hut and marched through Pretty Valley Track. The team reached the destination fifty minutes earlier than the proposed time. What a great effort on the first day of the new year.

We truly enjoyed breathtaking scenery and an incredible diversity of wildlife. A big shout out to our wonderful leader, Gary McDonald. **Mei Yang**



Photos: Mei Yang

Left: Walkers at Cope Hut

Right: Gary leading

Below: Sunrise at Cope Hut



Thanks Mani for a wonderfully curated collection of reports and photos for this pack-carry! (Ed.)

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 and the Event Leader's name and phone number 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.