

# Walklines



**Newsletter of the  
Waverley Bushwalking Club Inc.  
June 2025**



Next meeting: Monday June 9, 2025,  
at the Mount Waverley Community Centre, Miller Cresc, Mt Waverley (Mel 70 E1)  
Speaker: Pranav Adithya—de-extinction of native wildlife

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

Photo: Gillian Paterson—Bushrangers Bay / Fingal Beach

# Waverley Bushwalking Club Inc.



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## President's Report—June 2025

Welcome to another edition of Walklines, and to our winter hiking season!

Our May meeting was our club's **Annual General Meeting**. Thank you to all who came along, we exceeded the quorum comfortably, and with plenty of plates of goodies on offer everyone had a very nice supper afterwards. The meeting featured the appointment of the new committee. Most committee members are continuing in their roles, but two have resigned after several years service. Our walks coordinator **Simon Johnson** has stepped down (after 3 years in the role), and in his place comes **Murray Winstanley**. And our membership secretary **Tracey Gao** has resigned (after one year in the role, but before that 5 years as treasurer). In her place comes **Valsa Koshy**. Many thanks to Simon and Tracey, and a big welcome to Murray and Valsa.

I presented the **President's Annual Report** at the meeting in which I looked back on the club year just ended and at some of the things coming in the current year. You can find the report, and the Treasurer's report, in OnTrax under *Documents > Committee Minutes and AGM Papers*. Some highlights:

- Club membership has stayed about the same. We gained 12 new members but lost a similar number.
- Our walks program featured 117 events which sounds healthy, but is actually a 25% reduction on the previous year (which is why I've been asking for more members to put on walks).
- Our social events have expanded significantly, with a revamped and fully catered end-of-year event (which was widely regarded as a big success) and monthly dinners on a Thursday evening at various hotels near to Mt Waverley.
- Our financial position is very healthy, growing by about \$2000 over the past year. Indeed, we have scope for some larger expenditures, so if you have suggestions then please raise them with a committee member.
- A big thank you to all the volunteers who help run the club, including the committee, those assisting at our monthly meetings, our Walklines editors, our OnTrax team, our webmasters, emergency kit custodian, librarians, and of course our walks leaders.

Among the things we are **hoping to achieve** in the current year are an expanded walks leadership group, beginning with a Leaders Forum in June and a mentoring program; more social activities; a member welfare coordinator; and an improved membership process.

Our **June** meeting will feature a guest speaker once again. This time it is **Pranav Adithya**, a PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne working on de-extinction of long lost species, most notably the Thylacine (Tasmanian tiger). The talk will focus on the steps involved in de-extinction of the Thylacine, and some emerging technologies from the field that have broader application to the conservation of presently endangered marsupial species. It sounds fascinating so come along and learn!

Rolf Exner



## Day Walks

**Walk:** Sherbrooke, The Patch  
**Date:** Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April  
**Leader:** Heather Lucas  
**Reporter:** Chris McLennan  
**Photo:** Chris McLennan

It was a cold morning for the start of the walk from Grants Picnic Ground heading into Sherbrooke Forest, making our way to George Tindale Memorial Gardens. We passed Kallista Village and then up the Old Sherbrooke Road to the gardens. George was an agricultural scientist and horticulturist who developed the garden which was later donated to Parks Victoria and contains many rare plants thriving in the cool acidic soil of the Dandenongs.



After a short stroll around the garden we followed Heather's secret tracks downhill to Sassafras Track and followed the creek along, enjoying the beautiful tree ferns lining the path and the small bridges crossing the creek. We headed towards The Patch then a few more hidden paths which led us up a steep hill to our lunch spot with beautiful views overlooking the valley. Returning via Neumans Track we walked through the forest stopping to watch a Lyrebird scratching by the side of the track, completely unfazed by our presence.

This was a lovely walk enjoying the autumn colours and eventually the sunshine, walking 13.5kms with an elevation gain of 600 metres, so a good workout as well.

Thanks Heather for leading the walk.

**Walk:** Bushrangers Bay/Fingal Beach-  
Gary's Wonderland  
**Date:** Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> May  
**Leader:** Gary Dubsky  
**Reporter:** Robyn Timmers  
**Photos:** Gillian Paterson

It was a list of 14 but with only 13 starters. The car shuffle was sorted with cars being left at Bushrangers Bay and our walk at Fingal Picnic area. We welcomed the 2 newbies and numbered off. It was a perfect day to walk. Temperature moderate, sun out and no rain. Our track provided us with fine views of coastal shorelines, of jagged rocks guarding the entrance to the bay as we passed through many shady Banksia groves.



There were many signs of greenery recovering from the very dry arid summer period as we looked up and down for trip hazards and low hanging head banger branches. The tide was out so it was down to the beach to walk along the sand. As we walked, we could admire the extensive rugged basalt cliff line. We stopped for morning tea and admired the form of the scotty dog rock. Moving on the shoreline, about to make our way up those stairs, we were impressed with the variety of different coloured rocks on the sand here, those being sandstone, granite, basalt, and limestone. UP we went and moved through more lovely canopies of banksia onto the car park and the relief station. Thinking we were all there, we moved on and ventured DOWN those steps to a lunch venue which varied as to how far you wanted to clamber over the rocks. Wonderful overview of the ocean from everywhere. As we gathered for our return we realised, we were one short. DAH. Where was our head count? We made a call and quickly regrouped. Now for our return to the cars bypassing the descent to the Bushrangers Bay shoreline by group decision and off for a coffee. Thanks Gary for the great walk and wonderful day.

## Day Walks

The Waverley Bushwalking Club  
warmly welcomes

Jenny and Tony Trevitt

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

Photos: Gillian Paterson

Bushrangers Bay / Fingal Beach walk





## Day Walks

**Walk :** Warramate Hills Nature Conservation Area (12 kms)  
**Date:** Wednesday, 7th May  
**Leader:** Rod Jones  
**Report:** Anne Winstanley  
**Photos;** Anne Winstanley

The Warramate Hills are a favourite destination for Rod as he is very familiar with the area and the old mountain bike tracks and walking tracks. Indeed he also told us that in his kayaking days he and others in the kayak club would paddle along to Woori Yallock Creek to join the Yarra. At that time it was possible to camp overnight within the area.

His in depth knowledge came in very useful as on the day Parks decided to do a planned burn in part of the park where he had intended walking. Rod must have used his charm talking to the rangers as we were allowed to continue albeit on a different route, though later on a different ranger preferred him to use another route. Lesser folk might have abandoned the enterprise and gone for coffee - however Rod managed to pull together a walk - and yes it was also 12 km as promised. Possibly more hills than planned, who can say, but a satisfying walk with plenty of views in an area not often frequented by the club. The heaviest of the rain held off till we were back at the cars - so you would have to say a pretty good scorecard! Many thanks Rod.



## Day Walks



**Walk:** Dandenong Forest  
**Date:** Wednesday, 14th May  
**Leaders:** Paul Eisenegger  
**Reporter:** Anne Winstanley

Paul and Heather were on the case quickly to put on a walk that included the newly completed bridge on Wattle Track. The previous bridge has been languishing since it was destroyed in storms a couple of years ago. As you can see the walkers were pleased to have it back in place enabling our circuit of Sherbrooke, taking in Alfred Nicholas Gardens and returning via Ferny Creek Reserve.

Sadly having done the recce we missed out on Heather's company as she was down with a cold - though plenty of well wishes sent your way Heather via Russell.

Thanks for another lovely walk Paul - like many members happy to follow you and the red hat anywhere.

### The Speaker for this month

The presentation at our June meeting will be about de-extinction.

This encompasses modern scientific approaches to conserving and restoring Australia's native wildlife including the thylacine.

Our speaker is Pranav Adithya - a PhD student from the University of Melbourne



## Day Walks

**Walk:** Four Brothers Rocks  
**Date:** Saturday 17 May  
**Leader:** Rolf Exner  
**Report:** Rolf Exner  
**Photos:** Rolf Exner

On a damp and cool May morning, 12 brave walkers headed out to Bunyip State Forest for a 15 km circuit walk taking in Four Brothers Rocks.

It was the end of Melbourne's remarkably warm late summer, and the threat of rain caused several walkers to cancel. But those who came along were treated to a wonderful day of beautiful walking along nice trails and with a worthy objective for the day. The light drizzle was over after the first hour and we could even enjoy the occasional weak sunshine in the afternoon. It was my first time in the area, having agreed to take over Conny's walk after illness forced her out. But with Conny's detailed track notes, I looked like an expert in correctly navigating the various junctions.



Photo above: Lunchtime at the 4 Brothers Rocks

Lunch was at the Four Brothers Rocks, reached only after a long and steep climb, but with a view that made the effort worthwhile. Altogether a lovely area to go walking, just an hour's drive from home.

Right: Passing through rainforest on the way to the rocks





## Day Walks

**Walk:** Dandenong Police Paddocks  
**Date:** Thursday, May 15  
**Leader:** David Lumb  
**Report:** Robyn Timmers  
**Photo:** Gillian Paterson

After a few hiccups to start with it was 5 of us that started the journey.

We parked at the end of Bradys Road and ventured onto the Wetlands Circuit Walk. Not a drop of water to be seen and the whole area shows the signs of lack of rain.

We walked along the old road tracks from when this area was very busy with activities.

Baden Powell has a track named after him as the scouts had their 7th Australian Scout Jamboree here in 1964. We headed on for the historic area and lookout. We were hoping for some wildlife but alas, only their droppings could be observed.



Morning tea was taken at the top where there were buildings, but all have been removed. The view went on forever and we could pick out some iconic structures in the distance.

Whilst we enjoyed the view and relaxed, David enlightened us with the history of the area from when the site was used as a native police headquarters and an Aboriginal Protectorate Station from 1837—1853 onwards. Once refreshed we moved on to the historical plaque and through the vast paddocks of blackberries. It seems that this park now is very low on the maintenance budget for the council. Onto the Brady Track, The Maurice Jarvis Reserve, Frankston Track, crossed under Stud Road and onto the Dandenong Creek Trail to the Tirhatuan Park Wetlands. What a difference there is here. Nicely mown lawns, all very neat and tidy. We then did the last circuit and back to the car.

I have never walked here or known of its history, so thanks David, it was a very enjoyable walk

**Walk:** Mount Macedon  
**Date:** Saturday, 10th May  
**Leader:** Gary Dubsky  
**Reporter:** Tracey Ding

Our recent day hike with the Waverley Bush Walking Club was a memorable adventure, blessed with perfect weather—clear skies, sunshine, and no wind. Led by the ever-reliable Garry, who impressively had the entire route mapped out in his head.

We tackled three stunning peaks in the Macedon Ranges: Mount Macedon Memorial Cross, Camel's Hump, and Mount Towrong. Each summit offered unique views and a rewarding climb, with the highlight being our lunch break at Camel's Hump. As we relaxed and refueled, we were treated to an unexpected show—rock climbers skillfully ascending the cliff face.



## Day Walks

**Walk:** Dual loop at Green Bush  
**Leader:** Gary Dubsky  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 21  
**Report:** Elizabet Leung  
**Photo:** Elizabeth Leung

24 keen walkers joined the Green Bush dual loop walk which is one of Gary's signature walks in Mornington Peninsular. The walk began at Green Bush Reserve Carpark going clockwise first gently up a few hills via Short & Long Circuit tracks. Then continued onto Two Bays Walking Track towards Lightwood Camping Area where we had our morning tea.

Continue on Two Bays Walking Track till the junction with Long Point Circuit where we turned right and finished off the first loop. Back onto Two Bays Walking Track, we climbed the final hill before descending to our carpark.

The whole walk was 18.2 km, overshoot by 2 km from what's published on Ontrax (another signature feature of Gary's walk), with an elevation gain of 400m.

Thank you very much to our Leader, Gary Dubsky, for a beautiful walk on a gorgeous autumn day.

**Walk:** Big circuit in the heart of the Dandenong's  
**Date:** Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> of May  
**Leader:** Mani Andreetta  
**Report:** Jane May  
**Photo:** Jane May

Eight committed walkers led by Mani Andretta assembled at The Basin Theatre car park to test their fitness and enjoy beautiful forest tracks in the Dandenongs. We began with several steep climbs in Doongalla. Our reward at 7 kms was morning tea at the edge of a beautiful lily pond with sweeping views of the valley below.

After a well-earned break and feeling refreshed we continued our tour of too many tracks to name. Towering trees and ferns helped distract us from the ups and downs. At a quick stop at One Tree Hill picnic ground, we had a chance meeting with another club walker doing training with her husband for an upcoming holiday. Then onward for more hills and descents as we hadn't reached 1,000 metres yet.

At 14.5km we passed through Sassafras for lunch at a cute little picnic shelter. We almost lost a few walkers to coffee shops but they returned after lunch to do the last big hill past the Sassafras Primary School. Many keen walkers will know this hill. It had modern bird sculptures dotted along the steep trail. Sadly, they have flown away. With the last steep hill completed we chatted on wide trails and watched our footing very closely on the descents. Doongalla Road and the theatre were a welcome sight. Mission accomplished.

Thanks to Mani and Selwyn who helped to craft this walk. Our whips were Tamsin Davidson on the hills and Jan Copland after lunch.

Walk statistics

21km  
1100m elevation gain  
6.5hrs walking time including breaks.





## Day Walks

**Walk:** Beasley's Nursery to Candlebark Park return  
**Date:** Sunday 25 May  
**Leader:** Richard Watson  
**Report:** Richard Watson  
**Photos:** Richard Watson

Four walkers met at Beasley's Nursery in Templestowe for a 12 km walk along Mullum Mullum Trail and the Main Yarra Trail to Candlebark Park. Many bike riders, joggers and dog walkers were out and about and enjoying the fine late autumn day.

We stopped for a photo at the junction of the Mullum Mullum Creek and Yarra River and crossed the Yarra on a pedestrian bridge for morning tea at a picnic table beside the Old Diamond Creek Trail in Lenister Farm Wetlands. In Candlebark Park we headed south-east on The Dentist Trail for a short distance before returning to the Main Yarra Trail for the return leg.

This trail passes Petty's antique apple orchard and seeing a sign pointing to Petty's Café and Organic Fruit and Veg we decided to stop there for a coffee. Much old farm machinery is on display and the café was well patronised while we were there. After lunch in the café we returned to the trail and finished the walk at Beasley's Nursery at 1:30pm.





# 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, carparking 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.

## Before the walk

Check the grading of the activity and read the grading definition in *Walk Notes*, which are a guide only. If in doubt check with 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; 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.

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 close together:**              **Emergency, regroup with leader immediately**

Ensure you leave details of the activity and the names and phone numbers of the Club Emergency Contacts with your family or friends and make them aware of the emergency procedures (details on page 2).

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.

Carry a personal First Aid Kit

## During the walk

Arrive at the meeting place in time to depart on the activity at the time stated.

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. All participants should complete and carry the Personal Health Details – Emergency Information form.

On the walk obey all reasonable instructions given by the leader.

Advise the leader if you feel unwell or cannot cope with the activity.

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.

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.