

# WALKLINES

*Newsletter of the Waverley Bushwalking Club Inc.*



**JULY 2025**



Next Meeting: 14th July, 2025, 7.30 p.m. at the Mount Waverley Community Centre

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

*Cover Photo submitted by Rolf Exner via What's App: Toasting Marshmallows over a roaring fire on Beeripmo Pack Carry Walk*

# Waverley Bushwalking Club Inc.

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to Winter! May was really just an extension of our long summer, but we are now well and truly into winter walking. If you aren't a regular walker in the winter months, give it a go – an extra layer of clothing and an umbrella will get you through most of it!

Our June meeting featured a most interesting talk by **Pranav Adithya**, a PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne working on de-extinction of the Thylacine (Tasmanian tiger). The talk focussed on the steps involved in re-creating a Thylacine from preserved DNA (perhaps only 8 years away!), and how emerging technologies, such as DNA splicing, can be used to help conserve presently endangered species.

Last month we held our AGM. It was well attended - thank you to everyone who came. As promised, we got through the formal bits quickly, one of which was to select a new committee. There were two changes – **Murray Winstanley** taking over from Simon Johnson as Walks Coordinator, and **Valsa Koshy** taking over from Tracey Gao as Membership Secretary. However, Valsa can't take on the role for the next couple of months; until then **Heather Lucas** will act as Membership Secretary.

Although all positions are filled, we are trying now to fill three non-committee vacancies as well, and we have sent out a circular seeking applications for those **vacancies** – a secretary-in-training, a welfare coordinator, and a roster coordinator. Please look at the circular and see if you can become the person that fills one of those vacancies.

From my report last month, you will recall that the number of walks we put on per year, and the number of active walk leaders we have, have both declined severely year-on-year. I've been urging more members to become walk leaders, and existing leaders who have been inactive to put on more walks. By the time you read this, we will have held a **Leaders Forum** to bring leaders together and by listening to them to discover any impediments to leading walks that we can handle better, or improvements we can make.

But many of our walks have capacity to take more people. Maybe we have enough walks, but they go to the wrong places, or are held on the wrong days, or go too far or not far enough. It's clear we need to hear from more than just our leaders – we need our membership to give us feedback on how to make our walks program better. So, we'll shortly be sending out a **survey** to collect your thoughts on exactly that – what should we be doing to make our walks program more to your liking. Please give the survey your full attention and tell us how we can make this wonderful bushwalking club even better.

Our **July** meeting will feature long-time club member and past president **Gary McDonald** talking about a hike in Italy undertaken by a group of WBC hikers several years ago, the **Trail to Freedom** from Italy to Switzerland. The walk has a most interesting history and significant terrain challenges, and should be fascinating, so come along.

Finally, I would like to remind you to be sure to carry a **Personal Health Details card** on every club walk. The card allows you to record your important medical and contact information and should be carried in an outermost pocket of your daypack so that it can be easily located in the event of an emergency. If you aren't currently carrying a Personal Health Details card, you can download the form from OnTrax, under *Documents* and then *Health and Safety*. The importance of this has increased as a result of changes made recently (for privacy reasons) whereby leaders can now no longer access that information via OnTrax ahead of a walk.

**Rolf Exner**



## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Paul Rake (Vice President, Leadership) is asking for volunteers in the following roles.  
If you are interested please contact Paul (0409 937 080).

### Role One: Assistant Secretary/Secretary in Training

Our esteemed Club Secretary David Reid is in his last year as Club Secretary. Our rules of association only allow a person to fulfil a role for five years.

We are seeking a person who would be interested in joining the Committee as Secretary from next year and who could take up the position of Assistant Secretary as a learning role during the current year.

The key activities for the secretary are:

1. With the President, set the dates for monthly Committee meetings.
2. Prepare and distribute the agenda for each monthly Committee meeting.
3. Take the minutes at each Committee meeting and special meetings of the Club.
4. Receive and distribute in-coming communications such as newsletters from Bush Walking Victoria.
5. File club policy documents on Ontrax and maintain the documents and records.

David Reid (mobile 0427369426) is available to explain the role more fully for anyone that might be interested.

### Role Two: Welfare Co-ordinator

We are seeking a Club Member to become the interface with members who might have personal issues that the Club could assist with or provide support in some way.

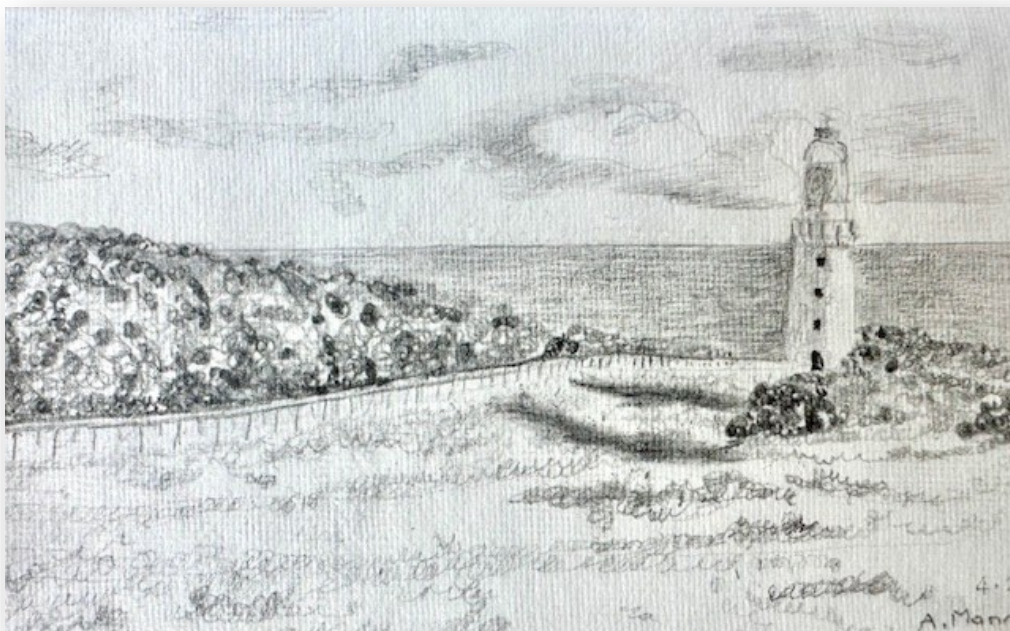
Clearly this role requires someone with a compassionate nature and one who can keep confidential matters private.

Important functions of this role would be to contact members who have been absent for some time or members who have been identified by other members as possibly needing some form of support such as a coffee outing, chat, driving assistance etc. The Welfare Co-Ordinator, where appropriate, would inform the Club Committee of support required and work with the Committee to organise support where possible.

### Role Three: Volunteer Roster Co-ordinator

This role involves managing the roster for volunteer support for our Monthly Meetings such as meet and greet, assistance with coffee/tea and set up before or pack up after the Club's Monthly meeting.

If you are interested in this role, please speak to Club President Rolf Exner.



Left: Pencil sketch of the Cape Otway Lighthouse, from the Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage.

Artist: Adrienne Mann

(Ed's note: I encourage any of our WBC artists to submit sketches relevant to their walks. We don't only want photos!  
Thanks Adrienne )



# PACK CARRY

## BEERIPMO CIRCUIT IN MT COLE STATE FOREST

**Date:** Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May - Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June

**Leader:** Rolf Exner

**Report:** Sharon Higgins

**Photos:** Rolf and others via WhatsApp

### Day 1. 10km

Eleven of us met in Beaufort for lunch, then continued to Richard's Campground where we parked and started our overnight pack carry. It was a perfect Autumn day with a cool 14 deg. We climbed steadily through Mt. Cole State Forest, checked out the Buanger Lookout which provided stunning views of the Grampians and beyond. Walking through fern gullies we arrived at 4pm to set up camp sharing with other campers but this site supplies about 40 sites. Once set up we were invited to sit by some kind camper to share his roaring fire as we had no luck due to damp wood. (See Cover photo). Marshmallows were roasted and accompanied by red wine kindly supplied by Rob and we finished our dinner with home-made chocolate cookies supplied by Li. The warmth of the fireplace kept us very cosy. The overnight temperature fell to a balmy 4 degs, not as cold as we all expected.

### Day 2. 9km

We set off along the Sugarloaf Track, then descended stone steps through tall forest onto Grevillea Lookout with excellent views. Next, we found a gentle decline following the forest until reaching Raglan Falls which was rather slippery. Finally, we walked toward Richard's Campground back to our cars.

Many thanks To Rolf for organising this early winter pack carry.



Above: View of Mt Langi



Above: Dinner Together

Below: Our cheery group at a rest stop





# DAY WALKS

## COCKATOO TO EMERALD LAKE

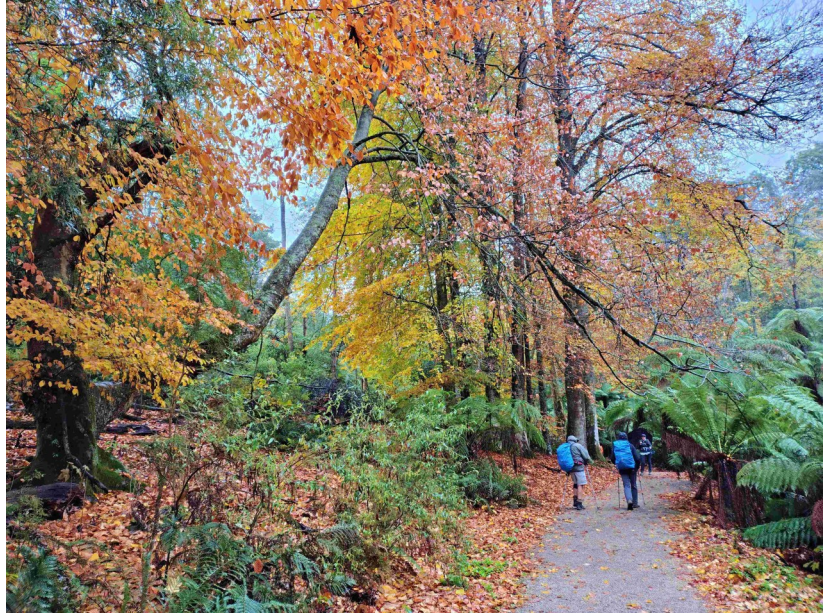
**Date:** 28th May 2025

**Leaders:** Pauline McGuire and Louise Power

**Report and photos:** Ian Mc Lennan

A large contingent of 24 set out from Cockatoo on a drizzly morning on a circuit walk from Cockatoo to Emerald Lake and return along the East Dandenong Ranges Trail.

The trail took us through Wright's Forest and the day was nicer than forecast. We had 2 small showers but generally it was fine and warm enough. Morning tea was held overlooking a Puffing Billy trestle bridge before we made our way to the lake. The autumn leaves of the deciduous trees mixed beautifully with the tree ferns and other natives to present a pretty picture at the lake.



Lunch was taken in parklands by the lake and the rain thankfully held off. The Rosellas and other birds were menacing but behaved themselves. The walk back was through different tracks in Wright's Forest. Puffing Billy was huffing and blowing in the background, but we never did get to see him/it. Thanks Pauline and Louise for a most enjoyable day.





# DAY WALKS

## SORRENTO TO NO 16 BEACH, RYE

**Date:** Saturday May 31st, 2025

**Leader:** Gill Paterson

**Report:** John Bradshaw

Fourteen WBC members met on a crisp morning at Capital Reserve for the drive to the back-beach car-park where we watched someone swim in the rock pool. One member, viz the writer, was immediately rewarded with a view over the amphitheatre of Sorrento's back-beach after a quick climb to Coppins Lookout during the car shuffle.

The walk commenced through the coastal tea tree with morning tea at Spray Point then followed the climb up to St Pauls Lookout – the highest point between Point Nepean and Arthurs Seat affording views over both Port Phillip Bay and Bass Strait. Here was a view of the writer's favourite Sorrento house located in spacious and green gardens. The walk continued past the very rocky Diamond Bay to Bridgewater Bay for lunch where one member was swamped by incoming wave when briefly being distracted from the breaking surf. Three members including the leader chose to have lunch beneath a very precarious overhang.

The return to the carpark was distressing to the writer to see the invasive bridal creeper everywhere. The walk finished at 2:30 pm. and was followed by mandatory WBC visit to the Blairgowrie Café for coffees, milkshakes and cake.



*Above: Sorrento Back-beach.  
Photo, John Bradshaw*

*Right: Lunch under the crag. Photo, John Bradshaw*



*Below: Happy group. Photo Gillian Patterson*





# DAY WALKS



## LOOP AROUND MT DANDENONG FROM OLINDA

**Date:** Wednesday 11th June 2025

**Leader:** Heather Lucas

**Report:** Heather Lucas

**Photos:** Chris McLennan

It was unfortunate that Anne and Murray Winstanley were not able to lead this med/hard walk as they'd planned, because we had a great group of walkers and it was the perfect weather for it. They had mapped out a really great route through tree fern lined forest, up and down muddy tracks in areas where we didn't see anyone else. After the recent rain the forest was pristine, and the lyrebirds were singing to us. It was a bit foggy at first and extremely cold, but we warmed up quickly and pushed onto Mt Dandenong Observatory for morning tea. A few in the group enjoyed an unexpected coffee from the café. The afternoon gave us more sunshine and less fog, and with more hills to climb we were very happy to see Olinda shops, where we stopped on our way back to the cars for coffee (and some had scones).

Thanks to Anne and Murray for all the work that went into making a successful and enjoyable day. Thanks also to Graeme Kittle for offering to carry the 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Kit.





# DAY WALKS

**WALK:** FERNTREE GULLY – ONE TREE HILL  
**Date:** Saturday 14th June 2025  
**Leader:** Rolf Exner  
**Report:** Rolf Exner

The oval at Capital Reserve was covered in a thick layer of frost when we met there ahead of the walk, and it didn't get much warmer all day, even though the sun shone for us. The eight of us headed uphill from the quarry, climbing relentlessly past some wonderful views until we reached the top of Chandlers Hill for morning tea. After a short break (it being too cold for a longer one), we continued down the other side of the hill before beginning our second climb of the day, along Hansen Track and Dobsons Track to the summit of One Tree Hill for lunch. From there it was all downhill back to the car. With only short breaks and a strong group of walkers, we finished the 15 km walk before 1pm. The best (or at least warmest) part of the day then followed, with coffee and a chocolate inside the cozy Hahndorf's café. Altogether a nice walk-through scenic bushland and enjoyed by all.



## REMINDER

### Next meeting

**Monday July 14<sup>th</sup> 7.30 p.m.**  
**Speaker:** Gary Mc Donald,  
**Topic:** Trail to Freedom

Come out and brave the cold to hear WBC club member Gary McDonald speak about historic and geographic features of the WALK TO FREEDOM, a fascinating story about a walk Gary did in Italy some years ago.

## A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

**Peter Cook**  
**Denise Young**

We hope you have great enjoyment as you join our club, both on and off the tracks.



# DAY WALKS

## LYSTERFIELD LAKE WALK

**Date:** Wednesday 18th June

**Leaders:** Paul Eisenegger &  
Anne Winstanley

**Report:** Magdalen Laruccia

**Photos:** Vito Laruccia

Starting at Lysterfield Lake car park Paul and Anne led nineteen happy walkers on a mostly flat loop walk. The breeze off the lake was icy as we walked across the dam wall, but it wasn't long before we were sheltered by tall eucalypts, acacia bushes and other native bushland. The recent rain resulted in green grass, and we saw kangaroos and wallabies unperturbed by our presence. After climbing the only steep hill on the walk we stopped for morning tea while enjoying the view, and the sun, which decided to come out.

The well-maintained tracks made for easy walking with lovely scenery throughout, except perhaps for the working quarry. Lunch was had with a view of the lake, and after lunch we only had about three kilometers to go to get back to our cars. We enjoyed our cuppa at Stella's Kitchen which was very accessible by a short walk from our cars. A big thank you to Anne and Paul for organising.

Right: The track in sheltered bushland

Below Left: Lysterfield Lake Picnic Ground





# DAY WALKS

## WINTER SOLSTICE WALK IN THE DANDENONG RANGES, #1, 36 km.

**Date:** Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2025

**Leader:** Rolf Exner

**Report:** Bhawana Bhatta

On the winter solstice of 2025, a group of 13 courageous walkers gathered at the iconic 1000 Steps carpark for an early 7:20 am start, embarking on a challenging hike through the picturesque Dandenong Ranges. Led by the experienced Rolf Exner, the group tackled a circular route from the 1000 Steps carpark to the summit of Mt Dandenong and back. The journey took them through the lush forests, where towering mountain ash trees created a majestic canopy overhead and green ferns carpeted the forest floor. Although initially planned as a 32 km journey, the enthusiastic hikers ultimately covered an impressive 36 km with a substantial 1,200 m of ascent.

The day was blessed with beautiful weather, providing perfect conditions for the ambitious walk. A highlight of the journey was the lunch stop at Woolrich picnic ground, where the group basked in sunshine and enjoyed breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape. Despite the extended distance and significant elevation gain, the well-prepared walkers maintained a strong pace throughout the day. Their efforts were rewarded with a slightly early finish at 4:40 pm, a testament to both the group's endurance and Rolf's skillful leadership.



Above: Group photo at the end of the hike. (Still strong & smiling)). Photo, Bhawana Batta



Above right and below: Fungi. Photos, Mani Andreetta

Below right: Beautiful lake. Near the rock track. Photo, Bhawana Batta





# DAY WALKS

## WINTER SOLSTICE WALK IN THE DANDENONG RANGES, #2 Short, 17 km. (Upper Ferntree Gully to Belgrave Station.)

**Date:** Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2025  
**Leader:** Chris McLennan  
**Report:** Jan Copland  
**Photos:** Jan Copland

We started on a cold but clear morning and ascended 600 meters to have morning tea at One Tree Hill. We saw a cute wallaby and a wedding party plus a horse that looked like it was in pyjamas with a very colorful coat. Our descent was quite muddy but fortunately no one fell, and we got back safely to Belgrave station for our quick hop back by train to the cars and coffee and the customary chocolate at Hahndorf. A very enjoyable walk and thanks to Chris McLennan.



Above: The horse in winter pyjamas

Below left: On the trail for Winter Solstice



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## STROLL THE GREEN SPACES OF WAVERLEY

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> of June  
**Leaders:** Jane May and Jan Copland  
**Report:** Jane May

15 walkers started on the coldest day of the year. It was forecast to be 8-11 degrees with minimum of 6 mm rain and strong winds.

The reality was far better than we expected. Yes, it rained intermittently with periods of brief sunshine and the wind was light.

The figure of eight loop walk suited the conditions and provided walkers with the option to complete their walk at the 8.2km point.

Loop 2 was shorter and followed by a welcome hot drink. We welcomed 3 brave visitors and hope to see them again on a club walk with better weather.



# SOCIAL NOTES

## WBC DINNER

**Date:** Thursday 26th June

**Place:** Notting Hill Hotel

**Leader:** Paul Rake

**Report:** Jane Taylor



Thanks go to Vice President Paul Rake for instigating a monthly social dinner this year. Held on the fourth Thursday of each month, these meetings are going strong now. It seems the prospect of some warm food and good company has quite a few of us coming out at night despite the winter chills.

Our June outing was on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>, at the Notting Hill Hotel, Ferntree Gully Road Notting Hill. We filled two long tables in the "Tap Room" area close to a central open fire with a big copper cover and flue. (See above) The big space was busy, and the food was declared good pub fare but it was a little noisier than our preference.

The appeal of these events is that we can catch up with walk club friends and their partners even if we are not hitting the bush trails much at present for whatever reason. It's an easy night out with everyone responsible for ordering their own food and drinks!

Paul puts up a different place each month, and he's happy to take suggestions. Look out for the notice of venue for our next July Pub Night in "OnTrax", and book in the usual way you book a walk.

*Photo: Notting Hill Hotel Website*

## LEADERS' FORUM

**Date:** Sunday 22nd June

**Place:** Ashwood Community Centre

**Leader:** Paul Rake

**Report:** Heather Lucas

There was a good attendance of past and present leaders at the forum organised by Paul Rake and Murray Winstanley. The purpose of the meeting was to promote discussion and seek input about growing the leadership group and the diversity of walks within the club. Many great ideas were discussed during an engaging couple of hours by an enthusiastic group, and these are now being considered by the committee.

Many thanks to everyone who came along and contributed so passionately and thanks again to Paul and Murray for a great morning. We are very lucky to belong to a club like ours.



## 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 Band-Aids 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 zip lock 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.**



## 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.