

WALKLINES

Newsletter of the Waverley Bushwalking Club Inc.



AUGUST 2025



Next Meeting: 11th August, 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 Image: Snack time on a WBC walk.

Original Watercolour by Artist & WBC Member, Gillian Paterson.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We are now deeply into winter, yet in the past month there have been 12 club walks. That's above our annual average, so a big thank you to leaders who have responded to the call to put on more walks!

Our July meeting featured an enjoyable presentation by our guest speaker, past president and long-term club member **Gary McDonald**, speaking about a club walk undertaken by him and other WBC hikers several years ago called the **Trail to Freedom** between Italy to Switzerland. The talk covered the challenging terrain and walking conditions as well as touching on the most interesting history of this trail.

We had a productive committee meeting last week that closed off several long-standing open topics. We have approved a new version of the **Leaders Reference Manual**. It's now available as version 4.4 in the OnTrax document library. This is a manual that all leaders and aspiring leaders should download and read from time to time – though they need to know that it's a reference manual and runs for 16 pages, not a check list to refer to for every walk they lead.

We have also produced a new **Statement of Direction**, which sets out the main directions that the committee believes it should head in over the next three years. There's now a clear focus on **building up our base of leaders**, on **building up our walks program** to the levels last seen a couple of years ago, namely an average of three walks a week, and on **building our membership base**, which, has in fact shrunk below our target of 250-300 members. Hopefully you are already seeing an increase in the number of new walks each week.

Space on our walks is sometimes hotly contested, with the walk filling up very quickly after it opens. But some walks also see a lot of subsequent **cancellations**. Before signing up for a walk, be sure to check that you are actually free that day and have the required health and fitness to participate. It is always disappointing for a leader to deal with cancellations, and vacancies sometimes can't be filled off the waitlist.

We are also planning to again participate in Bushwalking Victoria's **Try Bushwalking Month**, which will be a little earlier this year – in September rather than November. The promotions associated with the walks we nominate will hopefully lead more visitors to our club and from there to membership.

We welcome **Adele Austin** to the role of club librarian. A big thank you goes to our retiring librarians **Louise Power** and **Wendy Lumb**. The club library is on display at each club meeting and contains many books on hiking, including most of the trail guides written for walks in Victoria.

Please note that we are still looking for volunteers to fill the three vacancies we listed last month – a **secretary in training**, a **welfare coordinator**, and a **roster coordinator**.

Finally, our August meeting will feature a talk by former club walks coordinator **Simon Johnson**, who in November 2023 hiked the very challenging **Kumono Kodo trail** – a 4-day pilgrimage trail across the Kii peninsula south of Osaka. Come along and see why this is one of the most popular hiking routes in Japan!

Rolf Exner

DAY WALKS

MOUNT EVELYN FOREST WALK

Date: Saturday June 4th, 2025

Leaders: Eddy Maini & Helen Lucas

Report: John Bradshaw

Eighteen WBC members met on a bitterly cold morning at Capital Res for the drive to the equally cold Mt Evelyn Reserve with its new clubrooms. It was Helen's first walk as leader with Eddy as her guide.

The walk commenced through the recreation reserve before encountering the steep climb up the Pipeline Track much of which was fenced off for excavation presumably upgrading the water main. We followed the imaginatively named Track 10 and some very steep climbs as advised in Ontrax. Poles proved to be very handy. Some interesting painting had been applied to the water infrastructure presumably with Melbourne Water's blessing. This track joined the Olinda Creek Track providing that key ingredient to the food chain – leeches. Arriving at the delightful leech free Silvan Reservoir Park and some warming sunshine for lunch. Here, the writer pondered the delight of the Destiny Point Café at Kalorama.



Photo: John Bradshaw

The return walk picked up the Monbulk Rd walking track passing Strawberry Fields without the music and the Australian Fruit Marketing Cooperative at Hunter Rd. The final push was along the tough Track 10 for return to Mount Evelyn. A visit to Kuranga Nursery provided the much deserved & warming coffee. What a great first walk led by Helen.

Thank you to Eddy & Helen for an excellent walk.

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AUGUST MEETING

Speaker: Simon Johnson

Join us on August 11th, as Simon Johnson shares his experiences hiking the stunning Kumano Kodo trail in Japan. Often called the sister walk to the famous Spanish Camino, the Kumano Kodo is renowned for its breathtaking scenery and rich history. Many of our members have enjoyed this incredible walk, and Simon's talk is sure to inspire even more to explore this unique trail.

DAY WALKS

YOU YANGS WALK

Date: Sunday 6th July
Leaders: Gillian Paterson & Helen Lucas
Report & Photos: Peter May



The hardy group of 17 keen walkers, including visitors, headed to the You Yangs bright and early on the 6th of July for a walk excellently led by Helen Lucas supported by Gillian. Some of us were welcomed by a pair of big kangaroos as we turned right to head up the hill to the car park. The sign promised “Good views of Corio Bay and You Yangs; track can be steep and slippery. Boots and poles recommended”. From there we headed straight up the said steep slope to Flinders Peak and some wonderful views and a welcome early morning tea. After that we went down and around through a lovely variety of landscapes with views of the coast and colorful rocky hills. We were alerted by the passing cries of runners preparing for an endurance relay

next week. The advertised undulations were plentiful. After a well-earned lunch we started up the steep return track and with great relief reached the pass, for more coastal views and the short distance to the car park. There we celebrated with delicious cake brought by Faye. She was one of our visitors and we agreed that she should automatically qualify to join us. We unanimously agreed it was an excellent walk and that Helen has now qualified to be a great leader!



Above left: Faye with her cake

Middle: Group on a slope

Below right: Group with cloud

DAY WALKS

WHIPSTICK GULLY, WARRANDYTE

Date: Wednesday 2nd July

Leaders: Heather Lucas &
Paul Eisenegger

Report & Photo:
Louise Alexander

Belying the atmosphere of the cold, wet July day, twenty-one cheerful, enthusiastic members of WBC met next to the Yarra River in Warrandyte for a walk through Whipstick Gully. It was raining steadily throughout the morning as we explored this site of former gold mining. We all warmed up well with several inclines on the undulating track. We headed to morning tea at the entrance to Jumping Creek Reserve.

Unfortunately, the weather radar predicted significantly worsening conditions, so after an extremely enjoyable 8 km ramble, we adjourned to Warrandyte Bakery for coffee.

Thank you to Heather and Paul for a refreshing, fun walk despite the weather.



Whipstick Gully. Photo: Louise Alexander

**A WARM WELCOME
TO OUR NEWEST
MEMBER**

Steve Fabiny

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



DAY WALKS

DANDENONG RANGES, SUMMIT LOOP

Level: Medium Hard, 14km 746m elevation gain

Date: 9th July 2025

Leader: Elizabeth Leung

Report and Photos: Elizabeth Leung

We were lucky on the day. It was about 7 degrees at the start and got sunshine from 10 am onwards till we finished at about 1:55 p.m. It was dry and breezy all the way. The start of the route was at Burkes Lookout where there are about 18 marked parking spots, thanks to Parks Victoria for upgrading the parking site. However there is still a toilet missing. Hopefully there will be one in the near future.

12 of us headed West on Kyeema track for about 600m then hiked up a small hill via an unmarked dirt path to Sky High. Then we took a bit of a shortcut to get back onto Kyeema and then took the Trig Track towards Kalorama Memorial where we passed our Café of the day. We continued on Old Mountain Road/Track and bore right onto Singleton Track, which is a wide gravel track with scenic spots along the way where we had our morning tea on a couple of rocks.

We trod on after morning tea till we reached the junction of Scar Track, formerly known as Glasgow Track. It was on the West face of Mount Dandenong exposed to constant wind & rain erosion such as that it is steep with scarce vegetation. We took a deep breath and took one step at a time to hike up first to the junction on Fireline Track, then onto Dacite Track. This section was about 700m in distance with an elevation gain of 137m. It was definitely a good cardio workout! Following Dacite we joined up with the Camillia Track, passing the Seeing Nooks where there are stories & rock arts about the life on Mt Dandenong. Taking the awesome Davis Walk & Lawrence Walk we eventually reached our beautiful lunch spot at Doongalla Homestead.

There was a film set there at the lower Stable Picnic Ground. While we didn't bump into any crew or cast, we saw the catering vendor's marquee & service people. After lunch, we meandered uphill through Doongalla Forest fern trees canopy to the junction of Channel 10 Track then continued climbing Zig Zag and Tower Track onto Mount Corhanwarrabul, which was our summit point of the day, 628m above sea level. Then we came down onto Kyeema Track taking in the breathtaking views again of Melbourne and mountain ranges before jumping into our cars and off to our coffee & chat at Destiny Point Café at Kalorama.



DAY WALKS

PLENTY GORGE WALK— LOWER PLENTY TO MIDDLE GORGE.

Date: Saturday 12th July 2025

Leaders: Selwyn Chan & Mani Andreetta

Report and Photos: Mani Andreetta

A group of 12 keen walkers gathered in a quiet suburban street in Bundoora at 8AM to tackle Selwyn's latest 'challenging and rugged walk'. I say 'keen' because the walk description warned: 'Strenuous walking over several hours over rugged terrain that can be slippery... Mainly rough, narrow and steep tracks... Wet feet possible'.

The route followed the Plenty River upstream from the pretty Janefield Wetlands as far as the South Morang Wetlands before turning southward back to the start along the eastern side of Plenty Gorge. Not one for taking the wide, established tracks, Selwyn did an amazing job navigating a myriad of unnamed, faint tracks that criss-crossed either side of the steep gorge to ensure we hugged the gorge and river whilst avoiding houses and roads. And yes, the tracks were indeed challenging with many steep ascents and tricky descents. However, along the way we were rewarded with fine views of the ruggedly beautiful Middle Gorge, Tunundra Wetlands, Blue Lake and many eastern grey kangaroos. We marvelled at how volcanic activity had carved out two distinct geological types on either side of the Plenty River - the basalt on the west and sedimentary rock on the eastern side.



DAY WALKS

WATTLE PARK & GARDINERS CREEK

Date: Sunday 20th July

Leader: Gillian Paterson

Report: Judy Young

It was a bright, cool start to the morning walk at Wattle Park in Burwood, but very soon the sun warmed us up and we could start peeling off layers. The walk was popular, with 21 members and 6 visitors attending! Gill Patterson started by leading us up, down and around the park. It is such an impressive urban area with so much to offer - beautiful trees, winding paths and wonderful birdlife.

We then crossed over to the Deakin University trail along Gardiners Creek, and the bushy park track with the water and gum trees was lovely. We stopped for a relaxing morning tea and watched many dog walkers and cyclists making the most of their Sunday. After a wander back towards our starting point, we split the large group and finished the walk in two coffee shops.

It was a great morning, and I think everyone appreciated having an easy 8-10km walk on the weekend. Thank you Gill!



*Above & Below: Gardiners Creek
Photo: Gillian Paterson*



*Left: Golf Club Wattle Park
Photo: John Bradshaw*

DAY WALKS

JELLS PARK WALK

Date: Thursday 17th July
Leaders: David & Wendy Lumb
Report & Photos: Paul Rake

David and Wendy Lumb led us through some exciting parts of Jells Park, off the standard beaten track.

We had a group of 15 walkers with some of us in the recuperating team. We started on a new track that had been funded with tremendous support from the local member.

We also had Fred Bullock on the walk and Fred is a retired engineer, but he was fascinated by the mechanics and structure of the water ponds that have been constructed by Melbourne Water throughout the Park in an endeavour to return clean water back into the Dandenong Creek.



We finished the walk under the outdoor shelter of the café where we enjoyed our lunch and freshly brewed coffee. Some people lost the wager that John could not consume the large pizza.

A big thank you to David and Wendy for their caring spirit in looking after the recuperators!!!



SOCIAL NOTES

MONTHLY SOCIAL DINNER

Venue: Waverley RSL
Date: Thursday 24th July
Leaders: Paul Rake & Jane Taylor
Report: Jane Taylor
Photos: Margaret Reeve

Despite the cold evening, 25 of us met for the monthly Thursday night dinner instigated by Paul Rake. In his absence and at his request I stood in as "Host/Leader" for the night. This time we gathered at the Waverley RSL, which received an all-round thumbs up. We filled three long tables in a quieter corner of the dining area, where we could hear each other speak. What's more we had white table covers and were waited on at table. A bit fancy! I received good feedback about everyone's meals too!

As a bonus on the night, we welcomed 4 visitors who were previously long-standing WBC members: Lindsay Klee-man, Anna Syben, and Toby and Tony Walther. We also welcomed 1 new member-to-be, Stephanie Chen. The WBC Monthly Social Dinner has increased in popularity, and the very positive feed back suggests this venue needs to be repeated.

Photos: Marg Reeve's Camera, taken by our friendly service staff



Notes from Bushwalking Victoria

Many WBC members take part in Fed Walks, run by Bushwalking Victoria. Here are the details to plan for October.



FedWalks Walks Program Now Available

Bushwalking Victoria's flagship annual event, **Fedwalks**, is back this October, and the 2025 program is set to showcase the spectacular peaks, trails and rugged beauty of **the Grampians (Gariwerd)**. This event is hosted by the Grampians and Boroondara Bushwalking Clubs.

The Grampians is a magical place that is enjoyed by many bushwalkers. Although large parts of the Grampians have been devastated by bushfires, there is sufficient undamaged bush remaining to conduct a weekend of walking. The people of Halls Gap will most certainly welcome our patronage.

Location: Halls Gap, Grampians (Gariwerd)

Event Dates: Saturday 11 & Sunday 12 October 2025 (check-in from 3pm on Friday 10 October)

Event Hub: Halls Gap Centenary Hall, 115 Grampians Rd, next to the Information Centre

This year's Fedwalks is open to all members of Bushwalking Victoria-affiliated clubs and Individual Members of Bushwalking Victoria. With **23 walks** to choose from – ranging from gentle rambles to challenging climbs – there's something to suit every kind of walker. But places will be limited, so we encourage you to start planning your weekend now.

<https://bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/>



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 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.