

WALKLINES

***Newsletter of the Waverley Bushwalking Club Inc
September 2025***

Our Mission: To build a supportive and inclusive walking community that encourages people to discover and enjoy our natural environment through responsible bushwalking.



Next Meeting: September 8th at the Mount Waverley Community Centre

Speaker: - Davita Coronel "The challenges of flying foxes in Melbourne"

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,

Welcome to another edition of Walkines, heralding the end of winter and the beginning of some of Melbourne's best hiking weather. Our leaders know it too, for we have a good walks program for September (even if some gaps remain at weekends). If you've been waiting for warmer weather, get in quickly before the walks fill up!

Last month I mentioned that the committee has approved a new Statement of Direction, which sets out the main directions that the committee believes we should head in over the next three years. We have now added a **Mission Statement**, which summarises what we are about: *To build a supportive and inclusive walking community that encourages people to discover and enjoy our natural environment through responsible bushwalking.*

Last month's club meeting featured an enjoyable talk by **Simon Johnson**, who in November 2023, together with Linda, hiked the very challenging **Kumono Kodo trail** – a 4-day pilgrimage trail across the Kii peninsula south of Okasa, Japan. The talk was the next best thing to going ourselves, and a lot easier!

At our September meeting we will hear from **Davita Coronel**, president of Friends of Bats and Bushcare, and a passionate animal advocate. Davita recently completed her PhD at Deakin University, examining the challenge posted by **flying foxes** in Melbourne, where these fascinating creatures are simultaneously shunned as pests and appreciated as critical pollinators. Come along and learn all about them!

One important service that experienced bushwalkers can perform for the community is to assist the police in search and rescue (SAR) operations. Here the activity is managed by Bush Search and Rescue Victoria (**BSAR**), and most volunteers are affiliated with bushwalking clubs. Last year **Michael Strickland** nominated and became a club representative, and last weekend Michael was officially involved in an extended search in the Marysville area for a lost walker. Although the search was unsuccessful, it is a major milestone for our club, being the first multi-day search involving WBC members. Well done Michael! (To join BSAR, contact our BSAR coordinator **Mani Andreetta** 0448 020 478)

Our club meetings have always included a segment led by the walks coordinator that goes through **upcoming walks**. Back in the days when the only way to book a walk was to come to club meetings and physically sign the sign-up sheets laid out at the side of this hall, the segment was a great way of letting the entire active membership know about walks and walk changes. Just about every leader would be there, to spruik their walk or answer questions about it. But we are now in the OnTrax era: there are several emails a week about upcoming walks and far fewer walkers and leaders come to club meetings. So at the last club meeting I asked whether we still needed the segment, or should we use the slot for something else, e.g. a second presentation, more detail about unusual upcoming walks, or allow more time socialising over coffee. Opinions at the meeting were varied, and we may well try different things to see what works best. If you have some clear preferences, please make them known to a committee member.

Rolf Exner

DANDENONG RANGES - UPPER FERN TREE GULLY TO BELGRAVE STATION

Wednesday, July 30th

Leader: Chris Mc Lennan

Report and Photos: Tricia Heidmann

Fifteen last minute hikers including a guest hiker, Stephanie, joined Chris on a short notice hike in the Dandenong Ranges.

Rugged up in our warmest winter woollies we set out from The Quarry in Fern Tree Gully. Low cloud and mist obscured our view from the first lookout point.

Onward and upward. Nothing like a climb uphill to get warmed up. Before long we were stripping off those winter woollies. Morning tea was enjoyed at One Tree Hill.

The day was changing into a beautiful, sunny, wind-free winter day - perfect for hiking. No matter how many times I walk in the Dandenongs, I am constantly introduced to new paths and link tracks.



Warning! If the leader heads up Kero Tin track do your utmost to distract and divert the leader: it's a killer hill!

Lunch was enjoyed at O'Donohues Picnic Ground before the final descent into Belgrave. Chris had timed the walk so perfectly we had only a one minute wait for our train back to Fern Tree Gully and coffees at Hahndorf.

Thanks, Chris for an interesting, challenging and most enjoyable hike.



Cover Photo: Tricia Heidmann

DAY WALKS

DOONGALLA AND KALORAMA

Wednesday, July 23rd

Leaders: Paul Eisenegger and Vara Turner

Report: Jane May

The Brief: lead a good solid medium difficulty walk at a comfortable pace, allowing all walkers to feel challenged and happy with their achievements

The Result: a resounding success!

We started with two ferny favourites - Lawrence and Davies walks. The walk was bookended with Simpsons walk which also highlights the tree ferns with years of layered fern leaves and bark mounded next to a narrow single track.

We warmed up with a gently descending and ascending track and then the only way was up - to Kalorama and views of Silvan Reservoir and the mountains beyond. We stopped briefly for morning tea opting to stay warm and make our way to Bourke's Lookout.

A stiff breeze ahead of a rain front in the distance moved us towards the shelter of the tall trees for a quick lunch. We viewed a new installation - *The ways of seeing* node. We marvelled at the beautiful mosaics of a bird, butterfly and fern tendril on large slabs of bluestone.



We had nearly completed our walk before the first light rain drops started and we aborted our final bonus loop and scampered to our cars.

Coffee and carbs were obtained at several of The Basin's cafes. A fitting end to a good day's walking.

Thank you from me.

Welcome New Members

The Waverley Bushwalking Club warmly welcomes

Kevin O'Connor, Jessica Zhang, Stephanie Chen, Chetana Dharmareddy, and Michelle Bui

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

RINGWOOD LAKE TO CROYDON AND RETURN

Tuesday, August 5th.

Leader: Margaret Keir

Report and Photo: Margaret Keir

After a slight hiccup with parking, our walk got under way. We stopped to take in an interesting historical display of mining machinery and photos of the history of the area, all set in a nicely landscaped rock garden.

We left the park to cross to the Mullum Mullum Creek Trail and enjoyed the bushland like path. We saw a fenced off area where recently goats had been used to get rid of a very overgrown bracken and a weed infested part of the creek side.

We enjoyed morning tea on a bench made for 8, near Peter Vergers Reserve, before making our way back, to have our lunch at Ringwood Lake.

Thank you to my walking companions for a good day.



Health and Safety (from Jane May, Health and Safety Officer)

Walk Safely

While out on club walks, I have been heartened to see members looking out for each other by pointing out trip risks, calling low branches, and looking back to check if a fellow hiker has cleared a tricky obstacle. Many of us use hiking poles, myself included. When holding hiking poles but not in use, please hold them with the points slightly in front of you, for the safety of those walking behind you.

I look forward to seeing you out on the track.

Level 11 First Aid Course (register on OnTrax)

We will be holding our annual First Aid course on Sunday, October 5th, from 8 am until 4 pm. We encourage leaders and prospective leaders to update or attend this course every three years.

The course will cover CPR, use of a defibrillator (AED), as well as general and outdoor first aid knowledge. There is a course workbook to be completed prior to the day.

The course is funded by Waverley Bushwalking Club and Bushwalking Victoria.

Murrindindi River Reserve and Wilhelmina Falls

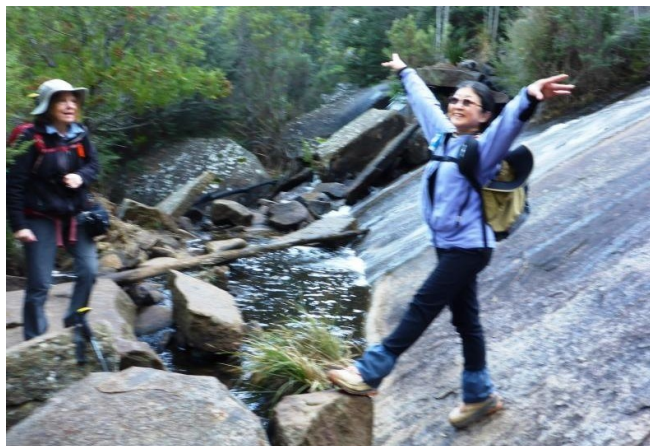
Wednesday, August 20th

Leaders: Vara Turner and Heather Lucas

Report and Photos: John Bradshaw

Seventeen WBC members met on a bitterly cold morning in the carpark at the start of the Boroondara Track Circuit. A macropod had the right idea sunning itself. It was not moving even for seventeen walkers, including those photographing it.

We crossed the suspension bridge near the water gauge over the Murrindindi River, along which we had an easy and pleasant walk. However, a ripper climb followed with the writer struggling to keep up with the group.



We stopped for morning tea at the viewing platform with views of the delightful Wilhelmina Falls, stunning views across the upper Yea River valley, and a dance from Bee Ha. Heather couldn't find Russell who was observing Covid protocols, maintaining a safe distance away from the rest of the group.



Another climb followed past the top of the waterfall onto the Boroondara Walking Track through the Murrindindi River Scenic Reserve before the leaders found a sunny place for lunch. This time Russell was maintaining a safe distance from any leeches, standing up for lunch (as was the writer).

Upon the finish of the walk, coffee was at the Yarra Valley Chocolaterie in Yarra Glen. I have driven past this venue maybe fifty times but it is no match for lovely Hahndorf.

Thank you to Vara and Heather for an excellent walk.

The Falls

September Meeting - How to live with flying foxes

Our September speaker is **Davita Coronel** who is president of *Bats and Bushcare Inc.* **Davita** is a passionate animal advocate.

Davita recently completed her PhD at Deakin University, examining the challenge posted by flying foxes in Melbourne. These fascinating creatures are simultaneously shunned as pests and appreciated as critical pollinators.

Come along and learn all about them!

BRIGHTON TO ST KILDA PIER AND RETURN

Sunday, August 24th

Leader: Margaret Reeve

Report: Robyn Timmers Photo: Gillian Patterson

Twelve starters with two newbies today and what a perfect day it was: sun out and no breeze. We parked amongst some amazing houses and walked through the narrow opening to golden sands and the sea of blue.

There was a sealed path for all of us - walkers, cyclists, joggers, dog walkers and plenty of them. It was good to see so many people out and about exercising. We moved off the main paths where possible to avoid the people traffic. We passed the marina and yacht club and admired the two-headed rhino and other works of art. Everything is colourful here, even the toilet blocks.

We mounted the new St Kilda Pier, which was officially reopened to the public in December 2024 after two years of construction in a major \$53 million redevelopment project. We ventured to the end for the pier for a possible penguin sighting. Instead, we had a view of sail boats bobbing lazily in the water with the city building profile in the background. A real picture. Turnaround time to walk past and reminisce on the Palace Theatre and the smiling face of Luna Park. The St Kilda market was in full swing with so many varieties of goods to buy. Temptation of a different sort was strongly needed passing the culinary delights of Acland Street.

We ate lunch in the beautiful botanical gardens with the birds and poppies of all shades and colours. It was hard for some of us to pass the flying fox on offer in the kid's playground. Why should only the kids have fun? Good on you Gilli and Amy.

We had coffee in take away style, then it was a short walk past lovely gardens and houses blessed with wonderful views of the ocean.

Thanks, Margaret, for a very enjoyable lovely walk.



WBC Statement of Direction 2025 - 2028 (from David Reid, WBC Secretary)

The Committee has recently approved a new “**Statement of Direction**”, which includes a “Mission Statement” and 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
- our walks program to the levels last seen a couple of years ago, namely an average of three walks a week, and
- 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.

The full “Statement of Direction” with the detail of the actions to be undertaken can be accessed in Ontrax. Go to the documents tab and then the rules and policies category.

Or can click on this link. <https://ontrax.club/pubs-direct/?p=41>

NOTE: For your convenience, the Statement of Direction document has been replicated on the next three pages (ed)

WBC Statement of Direction 2025 – 2028 (page 1)

Statement Purpose

The purpose of this document is to outline the club's aspirations and priority areas for the future planning horizon (being a rolling three year cycle).

This document should be reviewed by the incoming committee annually and adjusted based on the new committee's aspirations and then approved accordingly.

Club Purpose

To paraphrase the purpose of the club (refer to club's Rules of Association, Section 2):

- To arrange, promote and conduct (primarily walking) activities for members of the (club).
- To foster and promote the development of relevant skills and techniques to enhance the enjoyment of activities described above and quality of leadership within the (club).
- To provide venues and facilities for the exchange of ideas and information between individuals and groups within and without the (club) which are relevant to the activities described above.

Our Mission

To build a supportive and inclusive walking community that encourages people to discover and enjoy our natural environment through responsible bushwalking.

General Aspirations

In general, the club aspires to:

- Maximise the opportunity for its members to walk, as often as they desire
- Grow the leadership bandwidth and capability
- Simplify the club's operations to reduce the administrative burden on those members who volunteer to help run the club
- Make it easy for visitors to participate in club activities, and join the club, while protecting our existing membership.
- Maintain the club membership at a size that is conducive to social engagement and allows access to the club's events for all members who want to be involved, most of the time.

Priorities

The priority areas for the Committee are as follows (with more details under the respective pillars):

- The club will continue to build and maintain a membership of between 250 and 300 through to December 2028 (see 1.4)
- The club will build a sustainable and active team of at least 70 leaders by December 2028 (see 2.2)
Waverley Bushwalking Club Inc. (Reg. No. A0013370Z)
- The club will build a sustainable events program of at least 180 events per year by December 2028 (see 3.2)

The Committee may vary these priorities by a majority vote only at a face to face meeting

WBC Statement of Direction 2025 – 2028 continued (page 2)

Pillars

1. Membership

1.1 The club's primary market is active, middle-aged and older people who enjoy social engagement and maintaining their fitness while walking in the natural environment.

1.2 The Club recognises that all members fulfilling roles within the Club of any description are volunteers and therefore will not impose undue burden on the time they contribute to fulfill their roles.

1.3 The club embraces diversity and inclusion.

1.4 The club will build and maintain a membership of between 250 and 300 individuals based on a mix of new members and member retention. **Priority area.**

2. Leadership

2.1 Club events are led by volunteers from our membership.

2.2 The club will build a sustainable and active team of at least 70 leaders, capable of supporting the club's events program, by December 2028. **Priority area.**

2.3 The club will deliver regular training and mentoring programs for new leaders.

2.4 The club will maintain a current leaders manual and supporting materials.

2.5 The club will engender a sense of support for leaders and provide an opportunity for feedback to the club through regular leader forums.

2.6 The club will recognise leader contribution and ensure leaders are appreciated.

3. Events

3.1 The Club's principal focus is walking events ("events"). Whilst the Club rules allow for cycling, canoeing/kayaking and similar outdoor activities they are not a prime focus area.

3.2 The club will build a sustainable events program of at least 180 events per year by December 2028.

The program will reflect the diversified needs of our members. **Priority area.** This means that our program will be an appropriate mix of:

- Event types,
- Grades and
- Geo-locations.

3.3 The club will encourage leaders to increase the geo-diversity of our events (greater distances from Melbourne, interstate, overseas)

(Continued next page)

WBC Statement of Direction 2025 – 2028 continued (page 3)

4. Safety

4.1 The club will stress that personal safety is the responsibility of each individual participant.

4.2 The club will provide limited safety support with a specific set of initiatives, tools and courses, as below:

- First-aid Courses
- Club First-aid Kit on each walk
- Club Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) on walks as prescribed by our policies
- Club Emergency Contacts
- Incident reporting and review

5. Communication

5.1 The club shall hold regular member's meetings. Visitors are welcome.

5.2 The club shall publish a regular club newsletter.

5.3 The club shall maintain a set of communication tools as follows:

- Email for intra club communication
- OnTrax for publishing current events and allowing event registrations
- A private Facebook group to enable sharing of photos and experiences between members.
- A public website and a public Facebook page to provide information to the public about the club and to attract new members.

6. Partnership and Community.

6.1 The club will maintain an affiliation with Bushwalking Victoria

6.2 The club will develop mutually beneficial relationships with Monash City Council and other selected bodies.

7. Finances.

7.1 The club shall always maintain reserve funds of between \$15K and \$25K after all obligations have been met.

7.2 The club shall only invest funds in Bank Accounts and Bank Term Deposits.

8. Governance

8.1 The club will continue to be run by a Management Committee that will lead the club to comply with all applicable laws, its Rules of Association and approved Policies. The Committee's focus will be on the priorities outlined herein.

Grading of Walks

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

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

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

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

Group Sizes

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

Temporary and Associate Member Fees: \$5 per person per event. The fee will be collected by the Leader before the Event.

Bookings

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

Cancellations

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

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

Transport

When registering for a walk in Ontrax you must nominate whether you will be a driver or a passenger to get to the walk's start. The amount that passengers are to contribute to the driver's petrol and car running expenses is determined by a formula in Ontrax based on the distance to be travelled. This formula is modified from time to time according to fluctuating petrol prices. The walk Leader will let drivers know what the passenger cost for that particular walk will be. A share of E-tag and/or car park/entry fee costs may need to be added. Leaders will ensure that passenger numbers are evenly allocated.

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

Meeting place

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

Club Emergency Contacts

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

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

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, anti-histamine 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.