

WALKLINES

December 2025

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



Next Meeting: End of Year Event. 6.00 p.m. 8th December
"Springwoods" Reception Centre, The Burvale Hotel
Waverley Bushwalking Club wishes to acknowledge receipt
of an in-kind grant from the City of Monash
Cover Photo: Jan Copland, Burke's Lookout, Mt Dandenong

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to another Walklines, the last for 2025. Another year is coming to an end, and another summer is ahead of us. We continue to run many wonderful walks to beautiful places which we enjoy in the company of a great bunch of fellow walkers. So, there are lots of reasons to be happy! Our End of Year Event last year was a big success, and this year's promises to be just as good. If you'd like to go but haven't taken steps to sign up, then there may still be time – begin by sending an email or calling our vice president Paul Rake.

The number of events we run is down somewhat on past years, and we have recognised the key reason for this being a shortage of walk leaders. We have taken steps to address this, most recently through the Prospective Leaders Information Forum, and more focus on mentoring new leaders. We are already seeing some results from this. But more is needed. Please consider whether you can lead a walk, to somewhere that you are familiar with, perhaps as a joint activity with an experienced leader. It's not as hard as you think!

Although we have had a good number of new members join the club this year, we have had slightly more hang up their boots permanently, so there has been a small decline in membership when our aim continues to be to grow the club. We have streamlined the process for visitors to sign up and join our walks, and then to become members, so hopefully things will start to improve. Our membership fees remain steady at \$45 per year for most members.

Summer is taking its time to arrive, but as the days get warmer, we need to be mindful of the dangers that come with being in the bush at this time of year, including dehydration and heat exhaustion, bushfires, and snakes. Enjoy the outdoors but stay safe!

Finally, let me wish you all the best for the festive season and for wonderful times in 2026! I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the club in the last year, including our indispensable walk leaders and drivers, my fellow committee members, our Walklines editors and contributors, those helping at club meetings, and the many others who make this a great club!

Rolf Exner

BWV, Bushwalking Victoria-Day Walk Leader Training

Next BWV Course: February 8th, 2026, 8.45 a.m.–4.30p.m.

To be held at Westerfolds Park, Fitzsimmons Lane, Templestowe.

The course will cover:

- Leadership skills / Walk planning / Risk management
- Conducting the walk / Navigation / Incident management
- Practical navigation exercises, discussion about scenarios and what to do as a leader.

BWV will provide a handbook, access to a compass, maps, and presentation material for the day. A small pre-reading document will be sent to registered participants prior to the course date. Open to members of WBC.

Bookings open, 3rd January 2026

See link on Bushwalking Victoria (BWV): www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au



HEALTH & SAFETY NOTES

Jane May

WBC Health & Safety

Summer is just around the corner and our club hiking events will become less frequent over December and February. Here are a few things to consider.

Monitor the weather forecasts in the lead up to your events and plan accordingly. All events are cancelled by the leader on a **total fire ban day**. Ontrax will automatically send a cancellation confirmation email to all participants when the leader cancels an event. This is usually done no later than 8pm the night before.

Walks may start earlier to take advantage of the cooler mornings. They may also be shorter, shadier and easier to suit summer temperatures.

Carrying **at least** 2 litres of water is essential on a summer walk. Electrolytes in sachet/tablet form or in a small bottle to drink as needed are recommended. Frequent water breaks will be offered on summer walks. Some walkers like to bring a small insulated bottle with iced water.

Check your sunblock expiry date. This can be found on the crimp. Be sun wise and cover up where possible.

Perfect your 'Aussie Wave' and carry insect repellent.

Carry sunglasses and a broad brimmed hat.

Take care as your hat brim makes it more difficult to see low branches.

Look up and call out any high obstacles.

Some walkers carry a sun umbrella-portable shade.

These are more suitable for wider and more open trails.

Carry a snake bandage, just in case, and know how to use it.

Check your personal first aid kit and replace any missing items.

I hope to see you out on the trail over summer.



A WARM WELCOME
TO OUR NEW
MEMBER THIS MONTH

Susan Lovett

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

LEADERSHIP

PROSPECTIVE LEADERS INFORMATION FORUM

Venue: Ashwood Community Centre

Date: Sunday 9th November

Leader: Paul Rake

Despite it being a Sunday morning, and rainy and cold, 30 members gathered at the leadership development meeting, ably led by Paul Rake. We had quite an agenda listed for discussion, starting with Murray Winstanley showing us the plain statistics, indicating fall off in numbers of events and leaders since the year 22/23. The need is clear. The club needs more walk leaders, and hence more events would follow.

Paul pointed out that, without strong-arming anyone to lead, what better way to showcase the joys of leading walks, than to hear from some of our experienced walk leaders. From a panel of leaders, we learnt for instance from Gillian Paterson, how much more safe and more fun it was to walk with a group than to walk alone. Her mantra was "Just have a go." Mani Andreetta talked about overcoming initial anxieties about navigating the hard walks that she loves to lead. Russell Lucas pulled out a PowerPoint (Why were we not surprised) to make the case that you learn your leadership skills on the job and lean in on the skill and experience of others in the club. Everyone is willing to help a new walk leader. Marg Reeve then brought a pre-digital treasure bag. Yes, she pulled out bush-walking map books. It might be the old-fashioned way to look up a walk, but it grabbed our attention. Russell & Heather Lucas set up a mock interview with Heather about some of the issues a walk leader must manage, and she was able to make it clear and straightforward. David Reid explained the nuances of insurance.

After a coffee/tea break, and a Q&A session, Russell once more went to the computer and demonstrated where walks are on "OnTrax", to the surprise of many of us who did not know this function was available.

By listening to our enthusiastic panel, many people's fears were allayed. What if I get lost? What if there is an incident? What is a PLB? How many people do I have to lead? What about insurance? Of course, all is explained in the WBC Leaders' Manual, which can be used as a reference. More to the point, these and other worries were allayed as the panel explained how you can tailor your own walks to your own level of ability, safety, and comfort.



Leadership Panel from left: Mani Andreetta, Margaret Reeves, Gillian Paterson, Heather Lucas, Russell Lucas, David Reid

SOCIAL NOTES

MONTHLY SOCIAL DINNER

Venue: Mulgrave Country Club
Date: Thursday, 30th October
Leader: Paul Rake
Report: Jane Taylor

This year a monthly, evening, social dinner was an experimental non-walking event for members. It was first raised by Paul Rake to accommodate members who for some reason might not be able to do their usual walks. By being held each time at differing venues at different distances, there has been a variety of choice.

On Thursday October 30th, 14 members met at Mulgrave Country Club. This was the final dinner event this year. By measure of healthy numbers attending each time and the lively conversation and laughter generated at each dinner, the social dinner experiment can be seen as a success.

Look out for next year's dinners, from February on OnTrax.

UPCOMING END OF YEAR CELEBRATION EVENT

Venue: "Springwoods", Burvale Hotel
Date: Monday 8th December, 6 p.m.
Leader: Paul Rake



This event is being organised by our **Social Team of Paul Rake, Mani Andreetta, Helen Lucas & Mal Walker**. Our wonderful end of year dinner will replace the normal monthly meeting. It follows from last year's highly successful gathering at The Burvale and promises an evening to celebrate all the year's activities. Entertainment on the night will be less than last year based on feedback that there was not enough time for mixing with a range of people and alas Simon has hung up the guitar for this year.

Applications to attend were through On Trax and members were asked to select their meal from the menu supplied by Paul with payment to WBC Club Account by 23rd November (prior to publication of this December Issue). Any last-minute applicants need to contact Paul, on 0409937080 but will be unable to order from the menu.

DAY WALKS

AN HISTORICAL WALK AROUND SANDRINGHAM

Date: Wednesday 29th October
Leaders: Graeme Brownfield & Kerry Powell
Report: Robyn Timmers
Photos: Gillian Paterson

Walking through Sandringham feels like moving through layers of time. The morning air carried the cool scent of the bay, and every street whispers stories of craftsmanship of quiet pride.

Along Station Street the old homesteads stand shoulder to shoulder. Their facades are a study in contrast – weatherboard cottages beside elegant brick villas each one preserving the rhythm of another era.

It was the Bunurong people who roamed this coastline in the beginning. The earliest white settlers were fishermen who built huts on the fore-shore. By 1862 there were about a dozen homes in the Gypsy Village and by 1882 there were 34 homes and 183 people lived there. >>>>



The railway arrived in 1877, and the district name was changed to Sandringham after the Royal Estate in Norfolk England. The well-known author of “I Can Jump Puddles,” Alan Marshall’s memorial is located here. It stands in contrast to the neo-modern police station built in 2010 just around the corner.

The 16 walkers were lucky to enjoy a perfect sunny walking day with lots of great interesting research done by Graeme and Kerry.

Thanks, Graeme and Kerry for the lovely day.



Photos: Gillian Paterson

DAY WALKS

OLINDA VALLEY & VALLEY FALLS

Date: Wednesday 5th November

Leader: Malcolm Jennings

Report: Jan Copland

Photos: Jan Copland & Jane May

This week's walk, led by our new leader Tricia (with Malcolm's support), began at Woolridge Outlook in the Dandenongs with a cheerful group of 13 walkers. Tricia was delighted to report that she started with 13 and finished with the same number — always a good sign for a new leader! The route offered a solid challenge, with an elevation of around 650 metres and plenty of the promised hills. After yesterday's rain, the tracks were muddy underfoot, but that only added to the sense of adventure. Along the way, we were rewarded with stunning scenery and an abundance of beautiful flowers, making it a truly memorable and picturesque outing.



Photos: Jan Copland,

Above left and above right, 'On the Track'

Photo: Jane May

Right: 'Woolrich Lookout'



DAY WALKS

DANDENONG RANGES NATIONAL PARK

Date: Wednesday, 12th November

Leaders: Paul Eisenegger & Vara Turner

Report: Anne Winstanley

Photos: Anne Winstanley

Vara & Paul put together a great loop starting at One Tree Hill, Wicks Reserve for morning tea, & Ferny Creek Reserve for lunch. Lots of up & down but at the perfect tempo to wrangle a large group of 24. A lovely walk with interest for the mushroom enthusiasts thrown in!



Photos above & left, Anne Winstanley.

VALE JIM RAY

Sadly, Jim passed away recently after a long battle with dementia.

Jim and his wife Val joined WBC in 1996. They both held positions on the Committee – Jim as Walks Convenor, Equipment Officer & Publicity Officer with Val in the role of Treasurer.

Jim was passionate and dedicated to growing the membership base and the number of leaders.

We remember him for:

- Leading lots of walks, if there was a gap in the program Jim would fill it.
- Tapping you on the shoulder during a walk to see if you could become a leader too.
- Providing walk notes for various events at club meetings.
- Coordinating successful events, including the Federation Weekend hosted by WBC at Anglesea, the WBC Anniversary at Rawson and Base Camps at The Grampians and Aireys Inlet.
- Setting up WBC displays in local shopping centres & public libraries.

Always forthright, never dull

Rest in peace.

(Thanks to Margaret Reeve for this tribute)

DAY WALKS

PARADISE HOTEL TO EMERALD LAKE

Date: Wednesday 12th November

Leaders: Wendy & David Lumb

Report: Wendy Lumb

Photos: Wendy Lumb

On a cool cloudy morning 14 walkers set out from the carpark at the Paradise Valley hotel along the Eastern Dandenong Ranges trail to Emerald Lake. We walked through the park at Emerald Station. The toilets were closed but Fred came to the rescue by finding other ones close by.

From there we enjoyed the scenery on the way to the former Nobelius nursery which once exported 3 million fruit trees around the world. It is now a park which we passed through on the way to Emerald Lake. Here we had morning tea accompanied by beautiful crimson rosellas who made themselves at home on our picnic tables.

Returning to Emerald station we came across Puffing Billy with many excited people on board. Everyone waved (compulsory when you see Puffing Billy). We continued to the Paradise Valley hotel where we all had lunch before returning home.



Photo Wendy Lumb: Happy lunch gathering



Photo Wendy Lumb: Waving at the legendary Puffing Billy

DAY WALKS

A CIRCUIT WALK AROUND Mt DANDENONG VISITING PIRIANDA AND DANDENONG BOTANIC GARDENS

Date: Saturday 15th November

Leaders: Claire Xia & Selwyn Chan

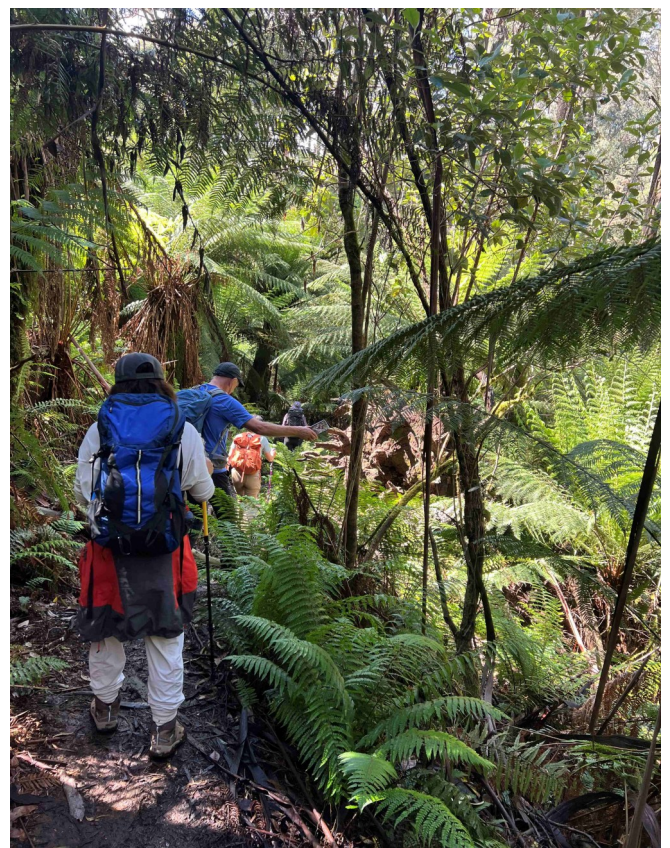
Photos: Jan Copland

Report: From the Ontrax description

This is a beautiful walk commencing from The Basin Theatre to Sassafras, then to the lesser visited Pirianda Gardens via Sassafras Creek on the return leg. We visited Dandenong Botanic Gardens where we had lunch.



Photos: Jan Copland



DAY WALKS

DOONGALLA PICNIC GROUND TO KALORAMA LOOP WALK

Date: Wednesday 19th November

Leaders: Jan Copland & Jane May

Report: Jan Copland



Twelve walkers set off from Doongalla Picnic Grounds for an 18 km wander with 650 m of elevation, winding our way up and down to Kalorama for morning tea. The highlight came mid-joke when two kookaburras swooped in and cackled right on the punchline—perfect comedic timing! We followed the May Moon Track to the Karratha Botanical Nursery for a browse, then enjoyed lunch on a log overlooking the sparkling Silvan Dam. The afternoon continued via Trig Track and Channel 10 Track, finishing with a lovely look at the colourful mosaics.

Photos: Jan Copland

Above: Who is the big kid on the climbing frame?

Right: Ants nests galore



DAY WALKS

CAPE WOOLAMAI, PHILLIP ISLAND

Date: Sunday 23rd November
Leader: Gillian Paterson
Report: Louise Alexander
Photos: Gillian Paterson & Lindsay Alexander

A group of enthusiastic optimists gathered under umbrellas at Capital Reserve despite pouring rain and were soon rewarded with a captivating walk featuring only brief misty showers. The walk began on Cape Woolamai Beach, where stunning views of the Phillip Island Bridge set a scenic backdrop.

We enjoyed morning tea in the warm sunshine atop Quarry Rocks before starting the main ascent to the headland. From there, the cliff views were truly spectacular, with the changing light and weather creating unique hues that caught the eye of our resident artists. >>>



>>> Wildlife sightings included a wallaby and a shy echidna, adding to the natural charm of the day. We lunched at the clubhouse near Cape Woolamai Surf Beach. Despite the wild surf, the flags were up but no one was tempted into the water for a swim. Our cheerful group of 21 Woolamai bushwalkers completed the circuit, rounding off the outing with coffee at the Wooli Tavern.

Another delightful walk lead by Gillian - Thank you

*Photos above & right: Gillian Paterson.
Photo below left: Lindsay Alexander, Kangaroo*



DAY WALK

PT LEO & SCULPTURE PARK

Date: Wednesday 26th November

Leaders: Murray & Anne Winstanley

Report: Jane May

Photos: Jane May

We started the walk at the Point Leo Surf Life Saving Club car park, stepping out in the rain that soon cleared to sunshine. The improving weather made for a pleasant coastal stroll, and we enjoyed morning tea with lovely views overlooking Shoreham Beach.

Our return route followed quiet inland tracks past the Shoreham Foreshore Caravan Park before dropping back onto the beach. With the wind at our backs, the beach walking was easy and scenic as we made our way to Point Leo Reserve for lunch.

Afterwards, we visited Point Leo Estate for coffee and spent time exploring the Sculpture Park. The winding paths, landscaped grounds, and impressive large-scale sculptures made for a great finish to the day.

Thank you, Murray and Anne Winstanley.



Above: "Fat Convertible" by Erwin Wurm



Views over Shoreham Beach

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: 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.