

WALKLINES

Newsletter of the Waverley Bushwalking Club Inc
February 2026



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: February 9th at the Mount Waverley Community Centre

Speaker: - Chris Bain - Tasmania's Western Arthur Traverse

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,

Happy New Year to you all and welcome to the first Walklines for 2026! I hope you are enjoying the summer season with lots of outdoor activities. We've had some very hot days, but also lots of cooler weather that's very pleasant for hiking.

Sadly, the hot dry weather has brought bushfires, with large areas of the state burnt and over 900 homes and farm buildings destroyed. Much of the damage has been to grasslands, with not as much destruction of forests as in other years. Fortunately there has been very little loss of life. Bushwalkers are at great risk in bushfires, and even with careful planning, there's a chance of being surprised by the nearby outbreak of a fire, or even ending up caught in one. I have put together a separate article in this issue called *If You are Caught in a Bushfire* with important advice on what to do should this happen – read it, it may save your life.

Still on the topic of safety, let me remind you to carry a *personal first aid kit* on bush-walks and a *medical information card* in an accessible pocket of your backpack in case you need medical help during a walk. Ensure your *emergency contact information* is up to date in OnTrax.

In other news, our walks program is ticking along nicely, with several new leaders now actively leading walks. A big thank you to those leaders! There's a growing tendency to advertise walks with short notice, which can make our forward provision of walks look a bit light, but a walk with short notice is much better than no walk at all!

A couple of December events are worth commenting on here. Once again our end of year celebration at the Burvale Hotel was a big success, with good food served with impressive efficiency. By design, there was less entertainment than last year, but the keenly contested trivial pursuit game was a highlight. If you couldn't come last year, then try hard to come along for this year's function - all details to be announced in due course.

Also held in December, in that tight window between Boxing Day and New Years Day, was Howmans Gap, a big base camp at Falls Creek with participation from nine Victorian bush-walking clubs. I know many of you have been to Howmans in the past, often multiple times, but it was my first time there and I loved it. The walking was fabulous, the weather much better than Melbourne's hot spell, and the friendships with other bush-walkers were a treat. The base camp is fully catered for regarding meals, the accommodation was good, and the New Years Eve entertainment was great fun. Whether you've been before or not, consider coming to this year's event, always starting 27 December and finishing on New Year's Day.

Safe walking!

Rolf Exner

Cover Photo: Robbie Morrell at Jumping Creek

February Meeting: Chris Bain will describe an exciting walk in Tasmania's Western Arthur Traverse.

The Western Arthur Traverse in Tasmania's Southwest National Park is a major bushwalking challenge.

In early March 2025 a group of four from the Boroondara and Waverley Bushwalking Clubs completed the 57 kilometres of the traverse over seven days.

Although photos cannot really show what it is like to be immersed in that landscape of rugged peaks and pristine lakes, the presentation will give you a glimpse of the journey with scenery that cannot be equalled anywhere in Australia.

Come along to our opening meeting of the year at 7.30 on Monday, February 9th to find out more.

If you are caught in a bushfire (Rolf Exner)

The following advice is taken from information on the Internet and the NSW Rural Fire Service:

1. BEFORE YOU GO:

- **Check Fire Danger Ratings:** Check the Bureau of Meteorology and local rural fire service alerts. Install and check the *Fires Near Me* app.
- **Avoid High-Risk Days:** Postpone trips on "Extreme" or "Catastrophic" fire danger days. Heed the warning even if a Total Fire Ban has not been declared. See <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/fire-bans-ratings-and-restrictions>
- **Wear Appropriate Clothing:** Wear long-sleeved, loose-fitting clothing made from natural fibres (wool or heavy cotton) and sturdy leather boots.

2. IF A FIRE STARTS WHILE HIKING:

- **Do Not Panic:** Think clearly and act immediately.
- **Do Not Try to outrun the Fire:** Bushfires can travel faster than you, especially uphill.
- **Turn Back Early:** If you see smoke, turn around immediately.
- **Head to Lower Ground:** Avoid going uphill, as fire moves much faster uphill.
- **Find a Safe Spot:** Seek a cleared area with minimal vegetation—such as rocks, hollows, embankments, or a stream/body of water.
- **Avoid High Fuel Areas:** Steer clear of thick scrub, tall grass, and dense forest.
- **Position Behind a Barrier:** Put a solid object, such as a large rock or earth bank, between you and the incoming fire.

3. IF TRAPPED ON FOOT (LAST RESORT): If you cannot find a cleared area:

- **Call 000 (or emergency number):** Activate your PLB if you have one.
- **Lie Face Down:** Get into a ditch or depression, cover your skin, and lie face down. Avoid radiant heat from the fire.
- **Protect Your Airways:** Cover your mouth and nose with a damp cloth to breathe, keeping low where the air is cooler.
- **Move to Burnt Ground:** As soon as the fire front has passed and it is safe, move onto the burnt ground.
- **Do Not Shelter in Water Tanks:** Avoid shelter in tanks, as the water will heat up and some can burn.

4. IF TRAPPED IN A VEHICLE

- **Park in a Clear Area:** Park off the road in a clearing, far from trees and heavy scrub.
- **Position the Car:** Position the car to face toward the oncoming fire front.
- **Close Everything:** Turn off the engine, close windows, and seal all air vents.
- **Stay Inside:** Stay in the car below window level and cover yourself with a woollen blanket to protect from radiant heat.
- **Wait for the Front to Pass:** Remain in the vehicle until the fire front has passed (usually 7–10 minutes for a forest fire).

5. IF CAMPING

- **Avoid Risky Spots:** Do not camp in areas with high vegetation.
- **Keep Fires Small:** If allowed, keep campfires small, in a cleared area, reusing existing fire sites where possible, and fully extinguished with water before bed.
- **Do Not Cook in Tents:** This poses a high fire risk.

PACK CARRY - LIGHT TO LIGHT
Boyd Tower to Green Cape Lighthouse
November 30th to December 3rd
Leaders: Chris McLennan, Jane May, Jan Copland

Day One: Boyd Tower to Mowarry Beach
Report and Photo: Jan Copland

Day 1 certainly lived up to the saying “good day for ducks!”

We needed our rain gear from the very start, setting off from Ben Boyd Tower and trudging bravely through steady rain.

Thankfully, the weather eased just in time to pitch our tents, which felt like a small victory.

Rob showed admirable foresight by rigging a tarp, under which we gathered, dry at last, to eat and enjoy the red wine he had thoughtfully carried - it was much appreciated.



Day Two: Mowarry Beach to Hegarty's Bay
Report and Photos: Rob Russell

What a variable day it turned out to be for the first day of summer.

We headed off in beautiful sunshine full of anticipation of another day of spectacular scenery and of our expected wade across Saltwater Creek. We arrived at Saltwater Creek to discover the mouth blocked by a sand bridge which we, anti-climactically, ambled across.

Lunch at the Saltwater Creek campground was cut short by the impending weather. So we quickly packed up and set off into the rain.

We hadn't gone far when we came to a second creek (Woodburn Creek) flowing into the same cove. Our excitement was resurrected as this one was flowing well, so it was shoes off for a knee-deep wade across.

The rain was light but fairly persistent. Luckily, our leaders had arranged for the rain to stop just as we arrived at camp, and it stayed dry long enough for us to set up our tents. Then the rain began again.

It was a fun day and not too challenging. Another great day on this fantastic track.(9km Distance 230m Elevation)



Day 3 - Hegarty's Campsite to Green Cape

Report and Photos: Suzanne Lipe

We awoke to the promise of sunshine and no rain, but again started the day in our wet weather gear and continued the, now familiar, on-again off-again routine of the last few days.

The 13 km hike from Hegarty's Campsite to Green Cape Lighthouse is a beautifully varied coastal route that showcases a rugged shoreline, forested tracks, and striking headland views. The third day of the pack carry was by far the best hiking day.

Leaving Hegarty's, the track rose gently through coastal heath and low scrub, home to small birdlife flitting amongst the low scrub, including a yellow crested Robin-like bird. The terrain alternated between firm sandy paths, and rocky sections shaped by wind and waves. The occasional rock step ups or creek crossings made us pause in contemplation, but these proved to be easily navigable with a supporting hand from our sure footed, rock hopping expert, Rob Russell.

We had a morning tea stop at Bittangabee Bay picnic area then continued on the route which soon opened onto sweeping cliff tops, with broad views of the many layered red rock platforms and hidden coves. There has obviously been a lot done by Parks workers in building stone steps and some metal steps and ladders to redirect the trail from inland low scrub to this now undulating traverse, contouring around dramatic coastal rock formations. We stopped for lunch at the Pulpit Rock picnic area, but that was cut short by the last of the unexpected showers.



Quite a bit of track time was spent today traversing down to and along the rock pool/platforms, then up the other side, adding a bit more elevation, variety and never ending photo opportunities. Just ask Trevor!

Approaching Green Cape, the iconic lighthouse gradually came into view, perched high on its peninsula. We took our end of walk celebratory photos at the signboard, then hoofed it around to the lighthouse and Ly-Ee-Moon memorial at the end of the point. We tried not to be blown off our feet in the strong prevailing winds, while contemplating this memorable combination of a diverse terrain, spectacular scenery, and a rewarding destination.

Our transport provider, Navigate Expeditions arrived on schedule at 2.30 pm to drive us 45 mins back to the start at Boyd's Tower. One brave car load was soon locked and loaded, to drive the 6.5 hours straight back to Melbourne.

Some of us had other ideas. Instead, we opted for a long hot shower at the Cann River Hotel, a drink on the hotel balcony (and getting locked out there), a hearty meal and comfortable sleep, before a relaxing drive home the next morning.

On behalf of everyone on the pack carry, thank you Chris, Jane, and Jan for organizing such a great trip. And thanks all for the fun adventures and great company.



DAY WALKS

Britannia Range

Saturday, November 29th

Leaders: Tasmin Davidson, Mani Andreetta

Report: Rolf Exner

Photos: Mani Andreetta and Rolf Exner

Britannia Ridge is a lovely but little-known part of the Yarra Ranges, just a few kilometres south east of Yarra Junction. I had never been there and was looking forward to the varied walk that was promised.



Unfortunately, it had rained heavily overnight and was still raining as we started. Tamsin's first walk as leader was not off to a good start.

We began by visiting Britannia Falls which were flowing nicely in all that rain, and not far from there were led to a large hole in the ground and the entrance to a rather tight cave carved by water from the creek. A couple of us went in, but it was tight and muddy, so most of us saved our exploring for a future drier day.

Next came a steep climb up the Britannia Range track. The track was an old vehicular track devoid of vegetation and now a steep and slippery slope of muddy red-brown clay. The steeper the track became the more we struggled with our grip, soon being unable to go forward or backward without slipping on the mud.



The only escape was to head to the sides of the track into the bushes and scramble from there, but getting to those bushes without falling flat on our faces was nearly impossible. The track was an easy climb when recce'd by the leaders in dry conditions. Our advice to the leaders was to always do the recce the day before a walk!

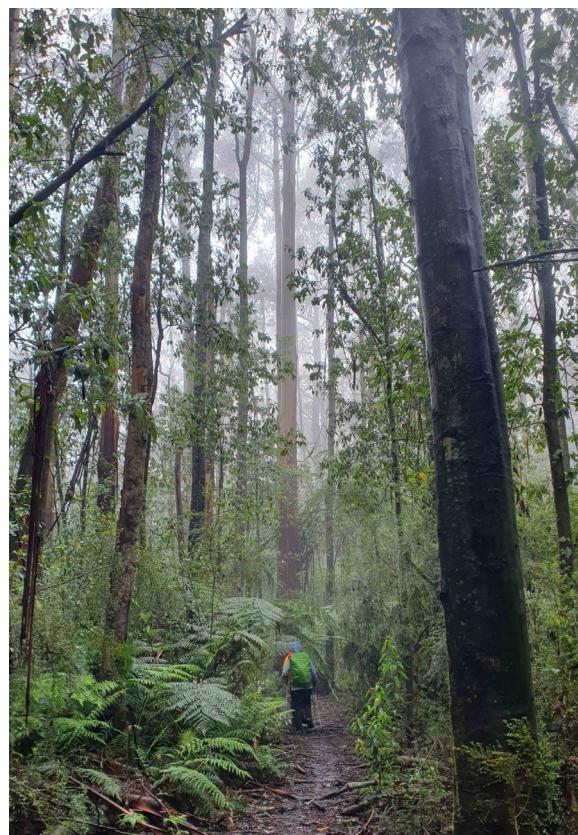


Then came a lovely part of the walk as we descended from the ridge on a bush track through beautiful rainforest. It too had its challenges, with several fallen trees to skirt around but, after the clay, it seemed easy.

We stopped for lunch soon after emerging on Britannia Ridge Road, only to discover that leeches were out in force and we were each covered by dozens of them, fortunately mostly on our clothing.

The sun came out over lunch and we had a beautiful walk back. The walk certainly lived up to its billing as varied, and we all agreed it had been a wonderful day's outing.

Many thanks Tamsin and Mani for introducing us to this lovely area!



Lysterfield Park
Sunday, December 7th
Leader: Mark Gao
Report: Jan Copland
Photo: Jan Copland

A small group of walkers set out on an 18-kilometre adventure in perfect weather starting at Lysterfield Lake at a cracking pace and were treated at every turn to spectacular views and perfect weather.

We enjoyed morning tea and later lunch overlooking impressive landscapes that seemed to stretch forever with a clear view of the city.

The day brought a couple of special surprises too—a striking blue tongue lizard sunning itself right in the middle of the track, and a pair of impossibly cute baby kangaroos watching us as we passed. A simple but memorable walk.

Many thanks to Mark Gao .



Coronet Bay to Corinella

Wednesday, December 10th

Leaders: David and Wendy Lumb
Report and photo: Lee Taylor

Starting at Coronet Bay, we enjoyed a relaxed pace along the beach where the tide was a long way out. Then it was up to the clifftop for morning tea at Settlement Point with views out to Phillip Island and French Island.

From there, we continued to Corinella and walked out on the jetty, seeing a few fish among the sea grasses.

Corinella is the place from which the barge takes supplies and vehicles out to French Island.

After lunch in a bushy spot overlooking the mangroves and French Island, we visited the memorial to the 1826 settlement of about forty buildings and the first Government House in Victoria. The settlement only lasted for two years as there was not a reliable source of water to sustain it.

After a coffee stop at the lovely *Fig and the Bay* café, it was back along the clifftop path through beautiful coastal banksia and wetlands.

Thanks David and Wendy for a great day's outing.



Lysterfield Lake
Wednesday, January 21st

Leader: Malcolm Jennings

Report and photo: Robyn Timmers

This walk had a companion walking group, led by Trish Heideman, which met at the same venue half an hour later and completed a shorter circuit.

The 3.30 meeting place had some of our walkers a little confused as to which car park to meet in, but all was soon resolved and our group of fourteen were soon on our way.

We headed off across the lake's retaining wall on a perfect, not too sunny, afternoon. It was a slight uphill walk after we left the concrete wall to a well-defined natural path. We followed the route of the old granite quarry tram-line where we came across some old equipment that had been left behind. It's a nice easy walk, through heathy woodlands, spotted gums and eucalyptus plantations.

We took the turn off onto the Casuarina Track and down to connect with our companion walkers. Both groups headed back to the grassy slopes of the beach area. Those who had decided to dine out collected their picnic teas and settled down to enjoy the lake view.

Thanks for letting me come along Malcolm. I enjoyed the walk and company very much.



Lerderberg (Sardine and Clearwater Creeks)

Saturday, December 6th

Leaders: Mani Andreetta, Selwyn Chan

Photos: Selwyn Chan, Lyndsay Kleeman

Report: Rolf Exner

The area around Lerderberg Gorge near Baccus Marsh is known for its ruggedness, but some of the walks there are definitely harder than others. Selwyn and Mani put this one together by combining a few easier tracks with substantial offtrack walking along an overgrown water race and improvised routes alongside a couple of major creeks. The walk was designated “experienced” (a step above hard) and certainly had challenging parts not often seen on WBC walks.

The weather was ideal for hiking, a bit overcast and cool, and our group of six managed the first half well, taking the steep Shortcut and Trout tracks to the overgrown water race, which we followed successfully under Selwyn’s careful guidance.

Lunch came late after much hard work, and was held beside a diversion tunnel built by miners during the Victorian gold rush (around 1860) to cut off a loop of the Lerderberg River. After lunch came even more challenging but very enjoyable offtrack walking, as we traversed a steep slope close to the river.

Our average speed was barely above 2 km/h, the whole 12 km taking us 7 hours to complete.

This was a wonderful walk enjoyed by all, my first “experienced” walk, and one I look forward to doing again. Many thanks to Selwyn and Mani for devising the route, receiving it all, and then leading it so well.



Woolrich Lookout Loop Walk

Saturday, January 17th

Leaders: Manni Andreetta and Adem Buyukcinar

Report: Sharon Higgins

Seven walkers set out early at 8:00 am on a cool, bright summer morning. The track was fairly flat to begin with, leading us comfortably to morning tea at Eagle’s Nest.

After this point, the climbing began as we entered beautiful fern forest, accompanied by the distinctive calls of lyrebirds echoing from the treetops. Along the way we were treated to spectacular views across the Yarra Ranges.

Before lunch, we walked down to Lower Olinda Falls, which has been closed for quite some time. Lunch was enjoyed at Upper Olinda Falls, a lovely spot to rest and refuel.

The return journey included a few more steady climbs before we made our way back to the cars. Overall, it was a rewarding 16 km loop with approximately 740 m of elevation gain, including some sections along dirt roads.

The walk concluded with well-earned coffee at Hahndorf Café.

Many thanks to Adem and Manni. A special mention to Adem, as this was his first walk as a leader—an excellent job and very well done.

Jumping Creek Circuit

Saturday, December 13th

Leaders: Gillian Paterson, Claire Xia

Photos: Gillian Paterson

OnTrax: "This walk starts at Jumping Creek Sandy Bay Carpark and follows river tracks along the mighty Yarra and around Blue Tongue Bend.

Then up to Stan Brae and back to the car park for lunch.

After lunch we do a loop walk to Black Flat and back to car park. This is a figure 8 walk with the option to do just the first half (approximately 6.5km).

There are a few steps and a couple of easy hills. The walk along the river is rough at times. There is a lovely 'nature walk' section and a bush chapel. "



Werribee Gorge

Saturday, December 20th

Leaders: Mark Gao

Report and Photos: Jan Copland

Ten walkers started at Werribee Gorge on an overcast day, with the temperature reaching a warm 24 degrees—ideal conditions for the walk.

Morning tea was enjoyed on top of The Island, followed by brief stops at Picnic Point and the Western Lookout. We then descended the spur to the Werribee River and stopped for lunch at Lion Head Beach, arguably the jewel of the walk.

The afternoon section followed the old aqueduct, passing Pyramid Rock and the Daintree Cliffs, before the long, steady climb back to the car park. Scottish-looking thistles were admired along the way (even if they are an unfortunate weed).



With a total elevation gain of around 570 metres, we finished hot and sweaty—but well earned, especially for one walker who was already looking forward to guilt-free tiramisu for dessert that evening.

Thanks to Mark for leading a great walk and choosing such a varied and rewarding route.

Quarry Reserve Loop Walk

Wednesday, December 3rd

Leader: Malcolm Jennings

Report: John Bradshaw

This report begins with a special mention of Jan who was ready and waiting to go after not only finishing her pack carry the previous day, but also returning late at night from the south coast of NSW.

The walk started with a climb past the quarry up the Boulevard and Feather Tracks followed by the appropriately named Stony Rise Track. More climbing followed along Ramu Avenue then Tyson and Outlook Tracks. We stopped for morning tea in warming sunshine along Alpine Track, except for Lois who thought being sun smart was better than being warm.

After morning tea, a long descent followed Alpine to Stewart Track meaning Malcolm had saved more climbing, leaving out the dreaded Kero Tin Hut Track. We reached Helen Track. Omitting a visit to Brett's place, we followed Daniela Track past the top of Kero Tin Hut Track.

Malcolm led us along a mystery track which joined Alpine Track with an extra loop along Dobson Track. We watched a blue tongue lizard that saw no need to be sun smart. The final push was along Janesdell Track for lunch at One Tree Hill where Sharon demonstrated her amazing flexibility.

After lunch, we followed Ramu Track back to Belview Track then to Boulevard Track where we admired the excellent view from the Ferntree Gully Quarry Lookout.

Some in the group were concerned about the 857 metres of climbing compared to 500 metres for the registered walk. Malcolm's response was "it is what it is and did you have a good walk?" An incident report shall follow for those who complain.

In the past Malcolm used to provide homemade cake for members on his walk. We finished with the next best option - a visit to the lovely Hahndorf for tea and the last one of Julie's homemade date scones.

Thank you to Malcolm for yet another excellent walk.

Grants Picnic Ground Loops

Wednesday, January 14th

Leaders: Russell and Heather Lucas

Photos: Robbie Morrell



Russell gives instructions



Walking from Grants



Cooking Dinner

HOWMANS GAP BASE CAMP

December 27th to January 1st

Leaders: Gary Dubsky and Rolf Exner

Report: Mani Andreetta

Photos: Mani Andreetta and Rolf Exner

Each year, between December 27th and January 1st, several BWV clubs gather for a 5-night/4-day multi-club base camp at the Howmans Gap YMCA Lodge near Falls Creek. This year 86 walkers from nine clubs attended: Koonung, Diamond Valley, Waverley, Essendon, Bayside, Werribee, Eltham & Environs, Melton and BBI. This year, 17 members from WBC attended.

Much like Federation Walks, the Howmans Gap Base Camp offers club members an opportunity to walk, talk, dine, socialise and share accommodation with like-minded bushwalkers from their own and other clubs. It's a popular and unique event that provides comfortable accommodation for five nights in shared dorm rooms for two or three people with shared facilities. Everyone had a lower bunk. The modest tariff also included all breakfasts, lunches and dinners. These were delicious, filling and with variations available for those with special dietary requirements. A great way to relax and enjoy the Victorian High Country.

There were at least five walks per day on offer from volunteer member leaders ranging from easy to hard grades in the beautiful Victorian High Country - something to suit everyone. The High Country is spectacular at this time of year, full of alpine flowers, snow gums, mild weather and snow-melt streams. There were walks to Mt Cope, Mt Nelse, Mt Jaithmathang, Mt Spion Kopje, Heathy Spur, Ropers Hut, Kelly Hut, Fitzgerald Hut, Dibbens Hut, Ruined Castle, and nicely flowing waterfalls, just to name a few.



Above: Wallaces Hut—the oldest hut on the High Plains



Above: Along the Langford West aqueduct

Below: Tawonga Huts



Below: The High Plains Creek waterfall, where a few of us went for a quick dip.



Left: Gary by the summit of Mt. Jaithmathang.



Right: Christmas beetle on a pea flower at Mt Cope.

After the walks, members could enjoy happy hour or just relax in the extensive grounds and common areas. Activities such as table tennis, billiards, movies, and jigsaw puzzles were available. After a hearty three-course dinner, leaders would present the walks on offer for the following day, after which the hard-working host club, Koonung, presented a slide show featuring photos and videos of the day's walks.



Dressed for a day at the races

And there was great fun on the last night - New Year's Eve. Koonung Bushwalking Club hosted a fantastic evening. The theme this year was "A day at the races" which included fancy dress, fashion on the fields competitions, mock horse races and hilarious commentary from the racing panel. Our very own Claire Xia beat off strong competition to win the prize for the Female Fashion on the Field with an elegant, long black velvet China Cheongsam Qipao dress with matching Year of the Snake glitter earrings and fascinator. Just missing out on a prize for best costume was our Selwyn Chan, dressed convincingly as a jockey, complete with goggles and whip.

The gala entertainment was followed by disco dancing to see in the new year for those with energy to spare! An awesome celebration to cap off an amazing base camp.

Many thanks to Koonung Bushwalking Club for its hard work in hosting and running such a wonderful event.



WBC women at the NTE Race Day party

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.

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, antihistamine 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.