

WALKLINES

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

Newsletter of the Waverley Bushwalking Club Inc. March 2026



Cover Image: Urban walkers check out the new Anzac Station. Photo: Tracey Gao

Next Meeting: Monday 9th March, 2026

**Mount Waverley Community Centre, Miller Crescent, Mount Waverley
Speaker:**

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

March 2026

Welcome to another Walklines! I trust you've had a safe summer's hiking and have enjoyed the warm weather. We can expect cooler weather ahead, and with it an expanded selection of hikes and base camps to choose from. I'm just back from a couple of wonderful weeks' hiking in Tasmania, with temperatures in the mid-20s while Melbourne has sweltered in the mid-30s.

Yes, another Walklines. However, there may not be many more Walklines to enjoy. Our trusted journal of record has been an invaluable source of news and trip reports over the years but is near its end. Our editors, **Graeme Brownfield**, **Jane Taylor**, **Elaine Fasken**, and **Robbie Morrell**, have worked steadily over many years to produce it, but are seeking a well-deserved break; sadly, and despite a long search there have been no new volunteers for these editorial roles. But walks participants have also been increasingly reluctant to do writeups after a walk, and too few members seem to read the reports anyway. (If you are a regular reader, let me know!) The club committee has therefore reluctantly accepted that Walklines can't continue in its current form, but have not yet identified what might replace it, if anything: perhaps a quarterly journal, or more informative emails through OnTrax, or simply reliance on Facebook for publication of trip photos. Your ideas on what to do are invited.

We also face a need for volunteers to help with our club meetings. **Lyn Cone**, who coordinates the club supper before and after each meeting, is seeking to step down, and **Louise Alexander**, who arranges speakers for our meetings, is also looking to hand over to someone else. A big thank you to Lyn and Louise for the excellent job they are doing! These are roles we need to fill, for without guest speakers and the meeting supper, there will be no more meetings! If you are a regular at club meetings, please consider volunteering for one of them. The work entailed is not onerous but helps the meetings run in their current form.

Finally, on a positive note, I'd like to record that long time club member **Geoff Taylor** was awarded an OAM in this year's Australia Day Honours for "service to the community through a range of roles". Congratulations Geoff!

Safe walking!

Rolf Exner

NEXT MEETING Monday 9th March

Our speaker will be Lily Li.

She will be talking about her adventures on the Tour du Mont Blanc last year. This walk was undertaken with some other members of the club.

DAY WALKS

WALK: MELBOURNE METRO EXPLORE
DATE: Sunday 18th January
LEADER: John Powell
REPORT: John Powell

Taking full advantage of the free weekend travel in January, 20 members met at Richmond Station and then walked through the Botanical Gardens and past the Shrine before arriving at the new Anzac Station. We worked out how to enter the station and in brilliant planning only had to wait minutes for the train. Everyone was excited with the new train, and we all managed to get off at Parkville Station.

Morning tea was in front of the Union Building in Melbourne University and we then went to the Cemetery where we saw the Prime Minister's Garden and then visited several other graves. We ate lunch in the shadows of Princes Park, and we then walked through Royal Park before a delightful afternoon tea at a café in North Melbourne.

Thanks, John, for a lovely walk.



*We see these cockatoos around our urban areas.
Maybe this one has his eye on your lunch!*

Thanks to Gillian Paterson for her original watercolour . "Cheeky Cocky"

**A WARM WELCOME
TO OUR NEW MEMBER THIS MONTH
Nancy Feng**

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

DAY WALKS

WALK: STANE BRAE
DATE: Saturday 31st, January
LEADER: Rolf Exner
REPORT: Rolf Exner

Stane Brae is a delightful strip of bushland just south of the Yarra between Warrandyte State Park (Blue Tongue Bend) and Whittons Reserve in Wonga Park. Our walk through there was delayed a week as the original date coincided with a 43°C forecast for Melbourne and a total fire-ban. The 25° maximum we encountered was a lot more comfortable.

Our group of six started the walk with a pleasant and shaded trip along the banks of the Yarra to Blue Tongue Bend, followed by a gentle roller-coaster on fire trails to the end of the Stane Brae track again at the Yarra, where we enjoyed morning tea and a short rest.

Next came a section of track through enclosed bushland, never more than 30 m from the river. These upper reaches of the Yarra looked so beautiful. We emerged onto another fire trail to Clifford Park, eventually leaving that to begin a narrow and hilly track to Whitton's Reserve, our lunch spot and the end of the walk as we'd earlier set up a car shuffle there.

A nice walk on a much better day than the original plan!



*Above: Happy by the Yarra
Below: The Yarra at its best.*



DAY WALKS

PORT MELBOURNE TO FITZROY GARDENS

DATE: Saturday 7th February

LEADERS: Jane Gu & Tracey Gao

REPORT: Tracey Gao

Our group of 16 hikers started from Port Melbourne, walking along South Melbourne Beach, through Catani Gardens, and all the way to St Kilda Pier.

We were incredibly lucky to spot little penguins nestled among the rocks and even swimming in the water, along with some jellyfish.

We also visited the newly built Anzac Station. A few people were catching the new metro Tunnel back to home. The rest of us passed by various sports grounds, and finished the walk with coffee at Fitzroy Gardens.

Congratulations to Jane Gu on successfully leading the group for the first time!

Thanks to everyone for the wonderful company.



Above: Look carefully to see those shy penguins!

Below: Remnants of a once grand Pier!



Below: Sixteen walkers relish Sunshine and Sea!



DAY WALKS

WARRANDYTE ALONG YARRA RIVER AND POUND BEND

DATE: Wednesday 18th February

LEADERS: Louise Alexander, Lindsay Kleeman, & Heather Lucas

REPORT: Suzanne Lipe

PHOTOS: Suzanne Lipe

We had a wonderful turn out to support new leaders, Louise Alexander and Lindsay Kleeman, on their first walk, leading us along the Yarra River and Pound Bend in the Warrandyte State Park area.

Louise shared some interesting history of the construction of the Pound Bend tunnel, a 19th-century gold-mining diversion cut through rock to alter the river's course through the tunnel. The tunnel took three and a half months to build. It is 196 metres long, 6 metres wide and 4 metres deep. Once the river was diverted, crews began dredging and sluicing the 5 km newly exposed dry riverbed hoping to recover substantial gold. But the river geology was challenging, resulting in financial returns approximating the costs involved. The company never produced a profit and operations soon wound up. The tunnel is now Heritage Listed.

After introductions Lindsay provided an excellent overview of our walk and safety briefing. We set off from Warrandyte on an enjoyable tranquil riverside stroll heading downstream, until we reached the exit of the Pound Bend Tunnel. After a brief exploration of the area, we took the Pound Bend River Walk, a gentle circuit trail that follows the Yarra River upstream. We wandered through a peaceful forest ambience, under towering manna gums and through open woodlands, having a leisurely morning tea in the vicinity of the Indigenous Plant Nursery.

Soon after we reached the entry side of the tunnel and realised how narrow the land spit was from entrance to exit - 200 m from where we were 2 hours earlier - and we didn't even realise it!

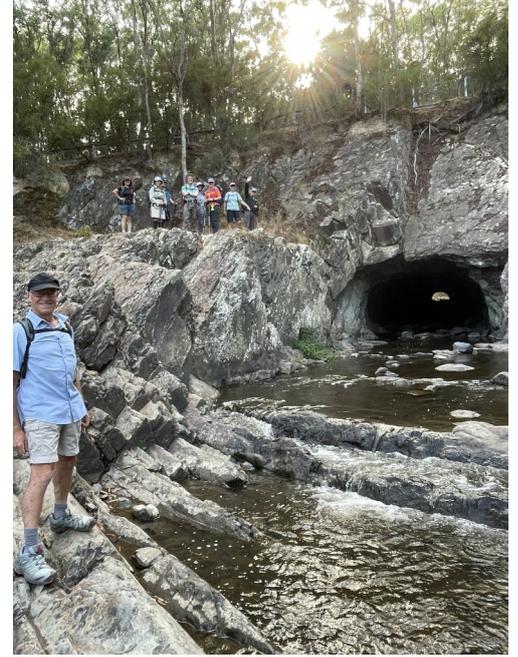
We joined the many families and dogs as we meandered back upstream along the Yarra to our final stop for coffees and lunch at the Warrandyte Bakery.

What a wonderful morning walk for 24 keen members who turned out to support Louise and Lindsay for their first lead walk.

Thank you, Heather Lucas, for mentoring our new leaders and a huge thank you to Louise and Lindsay for a brilliantly executed walk.

And of course we look forward to many more.

Right: Keen group by the Yarra



Above: The Tunnel entrance

Below: 'Wash Out' Story of the Opening



DAY WALKS

DANDENONG RANGES SHERBROOKE FOREST /SASSAFRASS TRACK AS A 2 LOOP WALK

DATE: Wednesday 25th February

LEADER: Heather Lucas

REPORT: Robyn Timmers

There were 14 starters who parked opposite the Alfred Nicholas Gardens and ventured across to wander through the previous estate of Aspro inventor and now managed by Parks Victoria. The gardens were established in 1920 where now you can see the rewards with the towering mountain ash and those lovely blue hydrangeas. We moved through, admiring the gardens, onto the Sassafras Track. The area was refreshed by the rain yesterday but there were many signs of the force of the winds and rains, where foliage was strewn along the track. Tree ferns were a plenty and bird life, even a lyre bird was seen by a few.

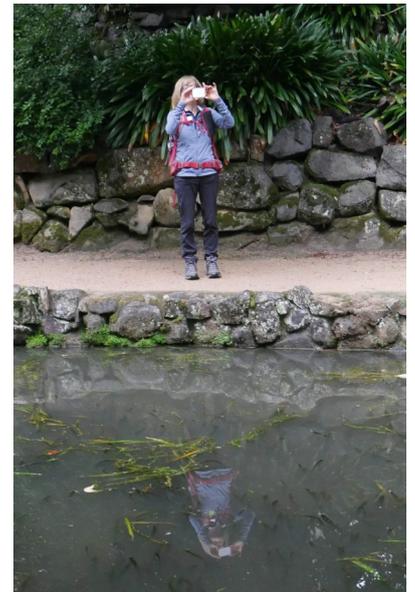
Morning tea was at Tindale Gardens where the need for volunteers was advertised. We walked along beside Sherbrooke Rd and back to the parked cars to complete our first loop. Now taking the narrow Lloyds Track we headed towards Ferny Creek. This was more open forest area, supporting many native grasses but still plenty of trees. This led us down to Hackett Track and Sherbrooke Falls where we were not the only ones enjoying a morning walk. We headed across the bridge and then back up to the parking area

Thank you, Heather for a really nice easy walk at a good pace.



Above: Group on bridge Photo: Heather Lucas

Below Sherbrooke Forest . Photos : Robbie Morell



SOCIAL NOTES



MONTHLY SOCIAL DINNER

Venue: Mulgrave Country Club
Date: Thursday, 26th February
Leader: Paul Rake / With Robyn Timmers standing in
Report:& Photo: Jane Taylor

The monthly social dinners, instigated by Paul Rake in 2025 developed popularity last year. This year the first dinner for 2026 was held at Mulgrave Country Club. In Paul's absence, Robyn Timmers welcomed attendees.

The evening was marked by happy chatter and informal mixing. It looks as though these popular dinners are off to a strong start in 2026. Look out for the venue of the next one listed as an *Event* for you to register in OnTrax . Thanks Robyn for hosting Thursday's Dinner.



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.