



Walklines

**Newsletter of the
Waverley Bushwalking
Club Inc.
April 2026**

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



LAST EDITION

Next meeting: Monday, April 13, 2026

at the Mount Waverley Community Centre, Miller Cresc, Mt Waverley (Mel 70 E1)

Speaker: TBA

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—April 2026

Welcome to the **last Walklines**, at least in its present form. As flagged last month, our longstanding journal of record is suffering from declining readership, reluctance of walkers to contribute articles, and burn-out by our existing team of editors with no new volunteers to take over. So it is no longer sustainable. The club committee hasn't yet worked out what might replace it, but we do need a publication that can showcase our club's activities to potential new members. If you have suggestions as to how we might best do this, the committee would love to hear from you.

I'm back from another trip to Tassie, this time to walk the **Three Capes track** over 4 days in the south east of the state. I know that many club members have walked this track, and I have finally joined them and seen it for myself. It is a fabulous walk with great scenery, with the track built to a very high standard and absolutely superb huts for accommodation each night. It is an ideal introduction to pack carry walking and I highly recommend it!

Our **March** club meeting featured a talk by **Lily Li** on a multi-day hike that she together with several WBC members completed along the famous but tough Tour de Mont Blanc circuit, an 11-day epic trek through France, Italy and Switzerland that winds around Western Europe's highest mountain.

For our **April** meeting, our guest speaker has not been confirmed at time of writing, but we are hoping it can be a talk about the planned 39 km RidgeWalk through the Dandenong Ranges, constructed by linking up, improving, or constructing new tracks through our favourite mountain. Look for my announcement before the club meeting.

Our club year is coming to an end, and that means **membership fees** are once again payable. They are due by the end of March. If you haven't yet paid but wish to remain a club member (and I hope you do), please make payment as soon as possible. Details of how to pay, including this year's TryBooking link (<https://www.trybooking.com/DILHU>), were sent by email on 17 March as a club bulletin. You can also see that bulletin by logging onto OnTrax and selecting on the **WBC Club** menu and selecting

WBC Bulletins.

The changing of the guard continues. Last month I mentioned the pending retirement of and thanked our Walklines editors, our supper coordinator, and our club meeting speaker coordinator, who are all retiring. This month I need to mention that former club president **Gary McDonald**, who has served for several years as a club emergency contact, is retiring from that role; **Anne Winstanley** has stepped in to fill the vacancy. Thanks Gary and Anne!

Safe walking!

Rolf Exner

Thank you to the Editors of Walklines

Report: Jane Taylor.
Date: 6th February. 2025
Photo: Shielana Macaulay

The current editors from left to right:
Robbie Morrell, Elaine Fasken, Graeme Brownfield, Jane Taylor

“Walklines” magazine, charting the activities of WBC, is ending in its current format. The four editors are ‘hanging up’ their digital marking pens, for a quieter life. The current editors are Robbie Morrell, Graeme Brownfield, Elaine Fasken and Jane Taylor. They were here, pictured together, on a Police Paddocks Walk, on 6th of February 2025. They are the “behind the scenes” volunteers who published our WBC monthly editions. When I joined with this group, I was awed to discover a remarkable story of long serving commitment by just a few keen minds, who have kept this magazine rolling along!

I asked about its history and found that the magazine used to first go to the printers and then the 200 copies were bulk posted from a post office. Graeme recalls that each month the membership officer printed off a set of mailing labels and these were attached to the back cover. Elaine noted that it morphed gradually into a digital version with, at first members having a hybrid of digital and printed options, with the last issue posted in September 2021.

Previous editors, now retired from the task, included Val Ford, who was solo editor for several years, Anne Whittenbury and Rick and Rennie Vanderbom. In 2008 Elaine Fasken started, as assistant to Val. I note that Elaine has notched up 17 continuous years. That’s commitment! Anne started just after Elaine and persisted till 2016 with Robbie Morrell and Graeme Brownfield stepping in from 2015 onwards. Rick and Rennie joined the team for a short time when Anne finished. Graeme and Robbie have each contributed a fine decade of service. With Elaine, the three have in total contributed 27 years of detailed painstaking editing, to keep Walklines published and reliable to such a high standard.

Times change and technology has changed rapidly from paper based, printed and posted, to digitised issue emailed out each month. Now members post immediately on our WBC Facebook page which gives instant feedback and photos of activities.

Producing and editing ‘Walklines’ has been a labour of love. Thank you to all editors past and present.



Val Ford: previous editor of Walklines



DAY WALKS

WALK: MT TORBRECK AND MT BULLFIGHT,
Date: Saturday, 22 Nov 2025
Leader: Rolf Exner
Report: Tamsin Davidson
Photos: Tamsin Davidson

Fourteen of us met at Snob's Creek Road near Eildon for Rolf's 'double mountain' adventure. After a bumpy drive along a rough dirt road, we began our climb of Mt Torbreck in the Rubicon State Forest. A short warm-up along a 4WD track took us to the Barnewall Plains Picnic Area, where the real ascent began, a steep, rocky trail leading up the 1516m peak.

The weather was mild, but the gradient meant it was a warm and energetic 2.1km climb. We enjoyed glimpses of beautiful views along the way, though by the time we reached the summit the cloud had closed in. Mt Torbreck was once proposed as a potential alpine ski resort but, to our benefit, that never happened. We had morning tea beside the huge cairn built of rocks at the summit, before descending back to the cars for lunch.

Our journey continued along Snob's Creek Road and then onto the turnoff to Mt Bullfight. This stretch became a driving obstacle course, with plenty of fallen trees to dodge. Further on, the landscape changed dramatically with the area heavily impacted by logging.

After parking, we set off on foot once more. As there's no formal track to Mt Bullfight, we simply took a sharp left off the dirt road and headed straight into the scrub. The initial bush bashing was slow going through thick vegetation, but it was good fun, and the bush opened up just a bit as we climbed. Still, time wasn't on our side. With roughly an hour still to climb, we made the call to turn back to ensure everyone could return to Melbourne in time for their evening commitments.

Mt Bullfight will have to wait for another day—but keep an eye on future programs, it is sure to reappear.

(Although as Rolf cheerfully pointed out, whether or not we *actually* made the summit of Mt Bullfight on this attempt was entirely up to the author of this trip report!)

Many thanks to Rolf for a really enjoyable day out exploring a part of the region that was new to many of us.

Editor: Apologies, Tamsin, for the long delay in printing this report.



BASE CAMPS

WILSONS PROM BASE CAMP

22 - 27 Feb 2026

Leaders: Elizabet Leung, Eddy Maini , Helen Lucas

Photos: Elizabeth Leung

As one wise saying said a picture tells a thousand words. Here are the photographs of our happy moments on the beaches, hills, & deserts of the beautiful Prom.





Wilson's Prom Base Camp

Photos: Elizabeth Leung



DAY WALKS

WALK: ONE TREE HILL TO SASSAFRAS

DATE: 4th March, 2026

LEADER: Lois Cain

REPORT: Peter Boekel



We set off from the One Tree Hill picnic ground, and our leader began by declaring three things: this was her favourite walk, there would be hills, and we'd be finished by 12:30. She was absolutely right on all counts.

We spent the morning walking through soft mist, which kept the temperature perfect and did nothing to dampen anyone's spirits. We reached Sassafras for our morning break before looping back toward the cars.

Back at the finish, the leader "encouraged" me to write the report in a way that made refusal impossible. Unfortunately, I hadn't taken notes or photos—and, truth be told, I wasn't entirely sure where we were for most of the walk. Doesn't matter it was a great walk, thank you Lois for taking us.



DAY WALKS



PLENTY GORGE WALK

Date: 28th February 2026

Leader: Selwyn Chan, Rebecca Chen

Photos: Tracey Gao

This trail goes constantly up and down, with many creek crossings along the way. We were surrounded by birdsong, the gentle sound of flowing water, a beautiful blue lake, and even spotted kangaroos. It's a very interesting and enjoyable route full of surprises.

Thanks to Rebecca for the homemade muffin, Selwyn for the coffee, and Sharon Higgins for bringing ice cream!— they made the hike even sweeter and warmer.

Thank you, Rebecca Chen and Selwyn Chan, for leading this wonderful walk. Congratulations to Rebecca on completing her first time as a leader!



Easy walks

David Lumb

Our club for nearly 40 years has run an excellent program of day walks, base camps and pack carries. As a bushwalking club the activities can be quite strenuous and an excellent way of keeping fit while enjoying nature. However, as members get older, they slow down and although they wish to continue walking many of the regular walks prove a little too difficult for them.

Wendy and I intend to provide one walk a month which will be a shorter distance than normal, 8 -12 km. We will have an easier pace and sometimes combine this with a lunch at a hotel or café. The walks will be on a Wednesday or Thursday depending on what is needed in the walks program.

These walks are also suitable for anyone recovering from an injury and is working their way back in to regular walking or just for those who want an easier walk with time to look around and enjoy the bush. The first of these of these walks is on April 2nd.



DAY WALKS

WALK: TOOLANGI STATE FOREST.

DATE: 4th March, 2026

LEADER: Adem Buyukoinar

REPORT: Russell Lucas

PHOTOS: Russell Lucas



Fabulous walk today around the Toolangi area - Myrtle Gully & Tanglefoot circuits. Congrats to [Adem Buyukcinar](#) for leading his second walk (great job Adem!) and many thanks to [Mani Andretta](#) for co-leading and keeping us all in line as Whip. The weather certainly 'flipped the switch' from summer to autumn with plenty of moody mist. The recent rain ensured there were plenty of unwelcome little black squirmy things looking to latch on that kept the team busy... but it didn't stop the team from enjoying a great 18km walk in tall timber & myrtle forests. Enjoy the photos.

Russell Lucas



DAY WALKS

WALK: O'SHANNASSY AQUEDUCT TRAIL.

DATE: 11th March, 2026

LEADER: Rod Jones

REPORT: Lois Cain

PHOTOS: Elaine Fasken, Russell Lucas



An enthusiastic group of 16 travelled to East Warburton to an area that is marked as "no public access" to walk to the O'Shannassy Weir & a section of the O'Shannassy Aqueduct Trail. Rod had spent several weeks seeking permission from Yarra Water to enable us to do this walk.

A gentle uphill through a forest of Mountain Ash, Mountain Grey Gums, Rough Barked Messmate & Peppermint species led to the weir where we had morning tea. Then a gentle downhill alongside the aqueduct where magnificent Tree Ferns dominated. The aqueduct became redundant in 2005 due to improved water supply through pipelines.

After lunch we met our challenge for the walk - crossing the O'Shannassy River. Knee deep in flowing water, we cautiously navigated our way across without any mishaps.

A couple of snake sightings were made, one of a very tangled snake. No! Make that plural. (The next group of walkers may comment on a clutch of snakelets!!)

Thank you Rod for the rare opportunity to do this walk



Photo: Russell Lucas



Photo: Elaine Fasken

DAY WALKS

WALK:
BASIN/KALORAMA
Date:
Wednesday 18th March
Loop Walk:
Basin Theatre to Kalorama
Leader:
Malcolm Jennings
Report:
Patricia Heidmann
Photos:
Patricia Heidmann



How lucky are we to live so close to the beautiful Dandenong Ranges National Park? No matter how many times I walk in this area I always find the walks rewarding.

This challenging 17km loop walk was lead from the middle of the pack by Malcolm. The walk included my favourite track in the Dandenongs, the Dandenong Creek track and my least favourite, Ridge Track- “what doesn’t kill you makes you stronger” and that sums up Ridge Track!

Morning tea was enjoyed sitting respectfully on the artworks of the yarning circle. This is part of the Reveal Trail. Does artwork belong in the bush? Opinion was divided. I am a “yes” voter but others did not agree. There is a 39km arts and culture trail (Ngurrak Barring) in the Dandenongs so there’s a challenge for our cultured club members.

Our walk took the high road to Kalorama and then we were homeward bound on the easier lower trails of Doongalla. Thanks Malcolm, a great walk.

In closing I would like to acknowledge and thank our hard working editors Elaine, Jane, Robbie and Graeme and all past editors for



the wonderful work they have done producing Walklines. Congratulations and thanks to you all for producing such a professional and interesting magazine.

Tricia Heidmann



Walk Notes

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.

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.

Before the walk

Check the grading of the activity and read the grading definition in *Walk Notes*, which are a guide only. If in doubt check with 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; 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.

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 close together: **Emergency, regroup with leader immediately**

Ensure you leave details of the activity and the names and phone numbers of the Club Emergency Contacts with your family or friends and make them aware of the emergency procedures (details on page 2).

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.

Carry a personal First Aid Kit

During the walk

Arrive at the meeting place in time to depart on the activity at the time stated.

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. All participants should complete and carry the Personal Health Details – Emergency Information form.

On the walk obey all reasonable instructions given by the leader.

Advise the leader if you feel unwell or cannot cope with the activity.

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.

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.