



# GRAMPIANS BUSHWALKING CLUB

A member of:



*Summer 2018/19*

## NEWSLETTER



Grampians  
Bushwalking  
Club Inc.

No. A0031111E

**Postal Address:  
2 Smale Street  
STAWELL 3380**

**4/2018**

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*The Grampians still put on a spectacular spring wildflower display despite the dry conditions.*

Grampians Bushwalking Club website: [www.grampiansbushwalkingclub.org.au](http://www.grampiansbushwalkingclub.org.au)

## Walk Reports

### **SATURDAY 22 SEPTEMBER BOOLITE TRUST FOR NATURE**

*Leaders: Julie Andrew & DJ Barber*

*Participants: Marg, Alex, Brett and Greg from Grampians BWC and John, Bonny, Peter, Barb, Axel and Betty from Stawell Urban Landcare Group.*

*Distance: 7km                      Rating: Easy*

A combination of Stawell Urban Landcare Group members and Grampians Bushwalking Club members assembled at SES Stawell at 9am for the convoy to Minyip.

After a quick stop at Minyip to meet Brett, we headed to Boolite to meet DJ on his Trust for Nature covenanted bush block. Here we were welcomed with a cuppa from the billy on the campfire and introductions all round.

There are few remnant bush blocks in the Minyip area that have had stock excluded for over 30 years as this one has. We took a walk around the mostly black box-dominated block and saw the reestablishment of understory plants such as gold dust wattle, bursaria, saltbush, native grasses, mat rushes and in one area, native pine.

DJ explained how he had come hunting rabbits as a youngster in this patch of bush and developed a fascination for the birds and other native animals to be found here. When he was older he excluded sheep from this bush. Later he had a Trust for Nature covenant placed on the block to protect it into the future.

As we walked around, a few keen bird watchers (with their phone apps) were trying to identify the birds we could hear and occasionally see. We looked for legless lizards under the tiles placed in one area but alas no lizards. Back at the camp we cooked up a storm on the fire and accompanied with great salads, had a feast for lunch. No siesta after that - we set off across the paddock to Butlers timber; another bush block that DJ had purchased from a neighbor and which is also covenanted. Unfortunately, due to the drier year, limited flowering plants (some daisies, Vittadenia, matrush, pittosporum), but lovely nonetheless and with lively bird activity.

A short 150m from Butlers is Dunmunkle Creek, which we walked along in an upstream direction, although no water flowing in this section. Only in flood years is there flow down the creek. We inspected, from pre-European times, a number of aboriginal scar trees along the creek side. There is also a scar tree from Major Mitchell's trip through the area in the 1800's.

By this stage the afternoon was warming up as we walked across the intervening paddock back to camp for a final cuppa and then farewell to people returning home.

*Exploring  
the remnant  
bushland*

*Walkers around  
the campfire*

*Aboriginal canoe tree  
along Dunmunkle Creek*

### **SATURDAY 6 OCTOBER WANNON FALLS, NIGRETТА FALLS & HAMILTON LAKE**

*Walkers - 14: Graeme (leader and report contributor), Yvonne, Greg, Dina, Brett, Rob, Lothar, Gwenda, Mary, Shirley, Ken, Maxine, Rosalie, and Alex.*

*Distance: 7km                      Rating: Easy*

Early start from Stawell, then Ararat and onto Hamilton, arriving at Wannon Falls five minutes after the crew from Warrnambool Bushwalking Club who joined with Grampians Bushwalking Club for the day. After an introduction all around and a brief outline of the agenda for the day, we wandered to the lookout over the flowing Wannon Falls. After photos, Brett introduced everyone to another track that he said was only 500m (turned out to be 1000m) which led to Thomas Clark viewing area which showed the falls from a different angle. Of course, the biggest attraction along this track were the number of wildflowers – orchids especially.

*Continued Page 3*

Walk Reports**WANNON FALLS, NIGRETTA FALLS & HAMILTON LAKE (cont)**

Regrouping at the cars before a country drive to Nigretta Falls. Once again, the falls were flowing quite well. But the best views were really from the bottom of the 147 steps! Of course, after photos there was the walk up again. One from Warrnambool decided to take the old stones step to the top – quite an achievement, as the steps were very steep and not very wide on the tread. At the top there was a path that took us around to the top of the falls for a different view. Back at the cars it was gather everyone together for the drive to Hamilton Lake for lunch.

At the lake most members spread out on the lawns for lunch, four sat at the picnic table. The views from the picnic table, I think, were better. Our walk around the lake was interlaced with exercise equipment which only a few people indulged in. It was interesting to note that most walkers from Warrnambool had never walked around this lake before, but I'm sure this will not be the first time for long. Birds were the most photographed on this section of the day.

Approximately 7km total for the day's walks. Thanks were expressed to Warrnambool for attending and sharing the walks and experiences with Grampians, and wishing them safe travel home. Dunkeld was our stop for ice creams before heading for home.

*Wannon Falls  
from lookout  
platform*

*Wallflower  
Orchid at  
Wannon Falls*

*Nigretta Falls  
and rockpool*

*White-faced  
Heron at  
Hamilton  
Lake*

**SATURDAY 20 OCTOBER  
FEDERATION WALKS—Mornington Peninsula**

*GBC Participant: Denise Dillon*

I woke to hear the lovely sound of rain on the roof and was thankful I'd packed wet weather clothing. I had registered with Federation Walks to join Walk 11 "Punty Lane – Red Hill South". The meeting place was at an impressive horse stud farm, winery and sculpture park called Elgee Park located 4km down a gravel road off the Nepean Highway in Dromana. The road took me past some very impressive properties, including wineries and farms. The Bushwalking Victoria organisers were doing a great job directing the parking so that no-one would get bogged in the wet weather.

Our group of 15 walkers met and car pooled to the start of the walk which was a car park behind the Red Hill South General Store, the rain was still falling steadily but everyone was keen to get started. We followed Shoreham Road before turning right into Beaulieu Road. We followed this road and enjoyed the views of the surrounding hills and lovely homes and gardens. The rain cleared and the wet weather clothing was packed away.

The walk continued west along Stony Creek Road which was bordered by huge gum and pine trees. We stopped on Tucks Road for a morning tea break and enjoyed the great views over the surrounding wineries and small farms. Our group of walkers were made up of walkers from various clubs around Melbourne, everyone was very friendly and many were keen to explore the Grampians in the future.

We left the road and headed up through overgrown bracken and grasses among the bush to cross Stony Creek by a

*Continued Page 4*

## Walk Reports

### FEDERATION WALKS (cont)

fallen tree trunk and up a steep bank to continue up the ridge to the northern part of Punty Lane. We stopped for lunch alongside some grazing cattle in a nearby paddock with views over Western Port Bay and Phillip Island could be seen in the distance.

We walked along Punty Lane and reached Shoreham Road opposite Montalto Winery, we walked into the winery and walked around the many sculptures on display in the grounds, a very impressive winery which has its own kitchen garden, lake and secluded picnic areas.

After leaving the winery we walked along Shoreham Road towards Red Hill South. We arrived back to the car park and made our way back to Elgee Park for afternoon tea.

The walk distance was 14.5 km, it took approximately 5 hours including breaks and was a very enjoyable walk. I met some lovely people and look forward to walking some of the other walks in the Mornington Peninsula area when I visit there again.

*Mornington Peninsula  
views*

*Heading bush!*

*Denise with one of  
the sculptures at the  
winery*

### SUNDAY 21 OCTOBER FERNY CREEK

*Walkers – 3: Alex (leader & report contributor), Marg & Ken  
Distance: 11km Rating: Medium*

Just three of us - Marg, Ken and myself—did the walk. It was wonderful weather for walking amongst the ferns and the massive trees.

We started at Bailes campground and headed up the road to the Ferntree waterfalls, took the turn to Sugarloaf walk and followed the track around to Bukkertillible sign (it was called Cave Hill Track before)

Lots of orchids along the way and some logs to get over. We kept heading upwards and came across a chain anchored to the steep rock slope to make the crossing safer. A fair bit of scrambling and slow going resulted in arriving at the Bukkertillible caves. While admiring the rocks, two Peregrine falcons protested at our intrusion with loud calls, so there might be a nest nearby.

We had a nice lunch and Marg discovered blood on the leg of her pants. A leech had found her and we could not stop the bleeding, so we had to apply a bandage to do the job.

A pardalote flew out of a hole just in front of us on the way down and we met two other young walkers coming up the hill. On the flat ground we found a rider on a horse doing an endurance event. He was doing about 50km today, well, the horse was doing most of the work!

Ice creams at Ararat finished off a great day.

*Ken all raring  
to go!*

**Walk Reports**

*Bird Orchid*

*View across  
to Mt Langi  
Ghiran*

*Checking  
out the  
chain  
across the  
steep rock*

gully and rises to a long rock platform that headed south-west, then doubled back and climbed upward to the main Bluff massif. We had a short break in a rock overhang and met a Dutch couple holidaying in Australia.

The climb upward kept us warm until we reached the summit of Briggs Bluff where a stiff, cold wind prompted us to head for a sheltered area lower down for lunch. Providentially the sun warmed us as we ate, then disappeared and the coats came out. Long distance photos were not so good with overcast conditions, but Alex is still keen with flower and wildlife photos. We saw hooded orchids amidst many milkmaids (Burchardia), white and common everlasting daisies, grey everlasting, Grampians Bauera, tiny leaved heath myrtle (looking a little like thryptomene), purple flowered swamp honey myrtle, shiny teatree with giant flowers, hairy and round leaf mintbush, hakeas, brown fruited hopbush, nodding blue lily, sundews, beard heaths, chocolate lily, twining fringe lily, blue grass lily, common fringe myrtle and Boronia. A lot more flowers than I was expecting!! This was a wonderful open garden owned by us all and the gardener, Mother Nature.

Returning by the same route, we were surprised at the steepness of some of the sections we had come up. Back at the car park heaps of cars - a possible indication of the cup day long weekend for Melbournians? We drove to Dadswells Big Koala café for ice cream and coffee then home.

**SATURDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2018  
BRIGGS BLUFF**

*Walkers – 5: Julie (leader & report contributor), Marg, Alex, Rhonda and Gareth  
Distance: 10.6km Rating: Medium / hard*

Four walkers assembled at SES Stawell at 8.30am and car pooled to Beehive Falls carpark on the Roses Gap Rd. Here we met up with Gareth. A few other cars already at the carpark showed we were not the first to walk.

Overcast skies and a cool south-westerly breeze made for great walking conditions. A short flat walk into Beehive Falls and although burnt by bushfires two years previous, there were plenty of plants flowering such as Wahlenbergia, Hibbertia, pea, grevilleas and scented paperbark right at the falls. Very little water coming down the falls was indicative of the dry year.

The next section was the steep climb out of the falls and up through the cliff face, where considerable work has been done on upgrading the track. Great stonework has transformed the previously eroded, loose rock track to a series of rock steps which should now handle the increased foot traffic expected with the Grampians Peak Trail.

At the top of this pitch, further track work continued and we were diverted to the old track route which crosses a

*Beehive  
Falls*

*Alex's  
amazing  
ant!*

*Walkers at  
the top of  
Briggs Bluff*

## Walk Reports

### **SUNDAY 11 NOVEMBER ONE TREE HILL, ARARAT**

*Walkers: 3 – Marg (leader & report contributor), Alex & Ken*

*Distance: 10km                      Rating: Medium / Hard*

The walk was rescheduled due to the road being closed for the Hill Climb on the original date of November 18<sup>th</sup>.

We met at 10am and took the Ridge Track up One Tree Hill that overlooks the Grampians to the south and Pyrenees to the north. At 11am we paused to acknowledge Remembrance Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>.

The track continued on past the memorial to the district pioneers to the drop-off trail bike dirt stony track. This we followed and quite soon encountered the stone ruins of Father Leyden's hut. The chimney is intact and the stone foundations and front doorstep remain. It was built for the priest's ill brother about 1918.

For us, a good spot for our picnic lunch.

The track continued descending to meet the Main Divide Road that bisects McDonald Park. We took Nildesperandum Track to meet Peters Track. Alex was keen to show us the rare Duck Orchid in flower. Trigger plants were also out, as were large patches of chocolate lilies and many yellow everlasting daisies.

Our next goal was Chalambar café to enjoy coffee on the deck in the sunshine.

*Towards the  
southern  
Grampians  
from One  
Tree Hill*

*At the ruins  
of Father  
Leyden's hut*

*The rare  
Flying Duck  
Orchids*

### **SUNDAY 9 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS LUNCH CHALAMBAR GOLF CLUB, ARARAT**

*Attendees: Yvonne, Anna, Lynne, Phil, Ken, Marg, Harry, Graeme, Brett, Alex, Helen, Joy, Maureen, Kerry, Greg, Jenny.*

## Grampians Bushwalking Club walks for 2019

Please contact the walk leader no later than two days before the walk date for starting times, meeting points and more information on the walk if you are interested in participating.

<b>Saturday 5 January</b>	<b>CHATAUQUA PEAK</b> (Grampians)	Easy / Medium	Graeme Edwards	5358 4719
<b>Sunday 20 January</b>	<b>ZUMSTEINS to MCKENZIE FALLS (return)</b> (Grampians)	Easy	Greg Dryburgh	5358 2777
<b>Tuesday 29 January</b>	<b>GENERAL MEETING</b> - SES Hall, Sloane St, Stawell, 7:30pm	ALL WELCOME	Greg Dryburgh Secretary	5358 2777
<b>Saturday 2 February</b>	<b>TOWER HILL or BEACH WALK</b> (Warrnambool)	Check with leader	Marg Farrar	5352 2127
<b>Sunday 17 February</b>	<b>BORONIA PEAK</b> (Grampians)	Medium	Alex Orszaczki	5352 2953
<b>Tuesday 26 February</b>	<b>GENERAL MEETING</b> - SES Hall, Sloane St, Stawell, 7:30pm	ALL WELCOME	Greg Dryburgh Secretary	5358 2777
<b>Saturday 2 March</b>	<b>MT ARAPILES CIRCUIT</b> (Natimuk)	Easy / Medium	Julie Andrew	0407 561 135
<b>Sunday 17 March</b>	<b>SHEEP HILLS to MT WILLIAM SUMMIT (return)</b> (Grampians)	Medium	Greg Dryburgh	5358 2777
<b>Tuesday 26 March</b>	<b>GENERAL MEETING</b> - SES Hall, Sloane St, Stawell, 7:30pm	ALL WELCOME	Greg Dryburgh Secretary	5358 2777
<b>Saturday 30 March</b>	<b>LONG ROCK &amp; SUMMIT CIRCUIT</b> (Melville Caves, nr Inglewood)	Easy / Medium	Brett Allender	0438 852 773 or bretta5@bigpond.com
<b>Saturday 6 or 13 April (TBA)</b>	<b>WORKING BEE - HEATHERLIE QUARRY</b> (Grampians)		Jenny Cray	5358 5417

## NOTES . . .

### WALK RATINGS . . .

**FAMILY** - generally suitable for your children and older persons.

**EASY** - generally suitable for family groups, walking on tracks.

**MEDIUM** - longer walks, some climbing involved, walking may not always be on tracks.

**HARD** - as for MEDIUM but longer distances, more climbing, creek crossings, etc.

**OVERNIGHT** - as for MEDIUM and HARD but with overnight packs to be carried unless otherwise stated. (2 day walks are overnight walks.)

*All walks are free to members of the Grampians Bushwalking Club, unless otherwise stated. Visitors are welcome. Visitors are encouraged to join the club if they intend to walk more than three times.*

**NOTE: If you wish to know more or participate in an activity, please phone the leader to ask and notify him/her no later than two days prior to the activity as detail; may change from what is initially published in the newsletter.**

If less than 4 members attend an activity, then the activity will not be an official club activity. In this case no public liability insurance cover applies.

It is the responsibility of all walkers to ensure that they advise the walk leader of any medical conditions/ allergies and carry any medications that they may require.

If the day is a **DAY OF TOTAL FIRE BAN** (in the designated walking area) - there will not be a walk, but check with the leader, as he/she may change the walk location or day.

If you want to know more about the Grampians Bushwalking Club or want to hear what's happening with other clubs, come along to the **General Meeting on the last Tuesday of each month (unless otherwise stated)**

### **INTERESTED IN BUSHWALKING?**

If you know of someone who is interested in bushwalking, maybe you can talk them into joining us on a walk and consider becoming a member of the **Grampians Bushwalking Club**. Our walks are mostly easy going and a great form of exercise and social interaction with a friendly group of fellow walkers. The scenery is always interesting and there is plenty of knowledge among the group on the various wildflowers, birds, geological and historical features that are spotted along the way.

Sunday walks are held close to home in the Grampians or Stawell / Ararat area, but the Saturday walks often take us further afield to places like Mt Arapiles, the Golden Triangle, Bendigo, Ballarat and the Western District. Weekend base camps have been held in recent years at Hattah, Wyperfeld, Lower Glenelg NP and Heathcote, while biennial club trips have been made to the Flinders Ranges, Tasmania, Wilsons Promontory, the Sunshine Coast, Sydney, Fleurieu Peninsula and Bright.

Do you have any suggestions or items that you would like included in this newsletter? Contact Brett on 0438 852773 or email your suggestions to [bretta5@bigpond.com](mailto:bretta5@bigpond.com)



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