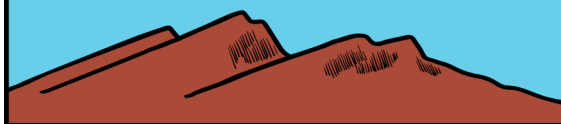


1/2025
Autumn
2025

Grampians Bushwalking Club



A member of:



NEWSLETTER

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Email: grampiansbwc@gmail.com

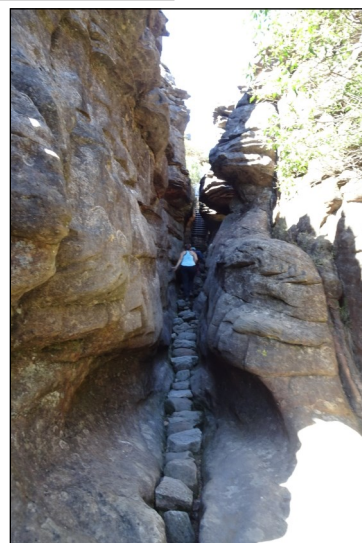
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Website: www.grampiansbushwalkingclub.org.au

Photos from our most recent hike - the Pinnacle Loop



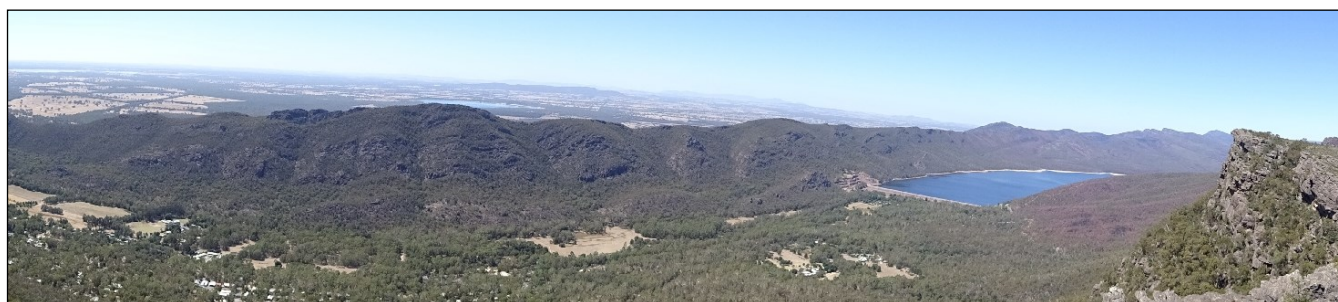
Grampians BWC hikers at the Pinnacle lookout



The last section of Silent Street



Halls Gap & Boronia Peak panorama from the Pinnacle



Mt William Range & Lake Bellfield panorama from the Pinnacle

Walk Reports

SATURDAY 4 JANUARY CHATAUQUA PEAK

Walk cancelled due to the closure of Grampians National Park and the declaration of a Total Fire Ban day.

SATURDAY 18 JANUARY MT LANGI GHIRAN

Walkers: Julie A (leader & report writer), Alex, Connor, Brett, Jeff, Erelyn, Mike and visitors Louise, Julie S, Ron & Jackie

Distance: 5.5km (easy) / 11km (medium / hard)

After missing out on our first walk of the year to Chatauqua Peak with the Grampians National Park still being closed due to bushfires, there was obviously some built-up demand with 12 walkers registering to walk. Graeme's planned coastal walk was deferred due to his health and Julie volunteered to lead a local walk. On the day, 1 pulled out due to illness, so 11 walkers met at the Langhi Ghiran Picnic area, including 4 guest walkers. Clear skies and bright sun indicated that the afternoon would be warm, so we set off, appreciating the shade from overhanging trees.

Connor received impromptu botany lessons as we walked the reservoir track to the old Ararat water supply. A break to appreciate the yellow-tail black cockatoos that like the old radiata pines by the dam wall, then onward beside the old water race to the saddle that overlooks Mt Cole to the east. Another break and views from the lookout, then 2 walk options were presented. Eight walkers continued on up the Easter Creek 4WD track, while three walkers returned by the same track down to the reservoir.

Those continuing upward had some steep sections of track and as promised, got hot and sweaty before reaching a rock lookout just above Langi Ghiran winery. The wind towers at Stockyard Creek and beyond could be seen on the horizon. While there, we were observed by a wedge-tailed eagle, often seen when near the summit on other occasions. Glad to now head downhill, it was slow and careful as the track is rough, steep and gravelly. A few slips and near misses provided some entertainment until the track became less steep and we could step out to get back to the others at the reservoir.

Camped under the big pines with a cool breeze off the reservoir and deep shade, everyone was ready for a leisurely lunch and some birdwatching (possible honeyeater spotted). Before we could settle in to a siesta on the soft pine needle thatch, Julie encouraged us to set off back to the picnic ground. By this stage of the afternoon it was getting hot enough to be thankful when we reached the cars. Ice cream at the Ararat Cinema for most of the group was a fitting way to end the outing.



Small reservoir that provides water to the picnic ground



Langi Ghiran Reservoir



At the old lookout platform



Lunch at Langi Ghiran Reservoir

SATURDAY 1 FEBRUARY MIKE'S PLACE, BLACK RANGES

Walkers: Mike (leader & report writer), Julie, Erelyn, Alex, Connor, John S, John K

Distance 8km Rating: Easy / Medium

Starting from the house, we made a slow ascent, accompanied by John K's labrador retriever Nellie, through a yellow box forest and past Little Stonehenge to the first of three small caves. This cave is situated underneath a huge granite boulder and extends as a crawl space along the entire length of the rock. One day I will explore this crawl space but only while the snakes are brumating. I was glad to see John S. on the walk after a long hiatus, which he used very productively to migrate our club website to a new platform as well as acquiring a new club logo.

As we continued to ascend along the eastern slope, with Erelyn whipping us along, we took a water break in the shade of the second cave, which is more of a large overhanging rock.

(Continued on next page)

Walk Reports

SATURDAY 1 FEBRUARY

MIKE'S PLACE, BLACK RANGES (*Continued*)

The third cave was too narrow to allow more than one explorer at a time, although we tried anyway. We took another short break to look at the old corrugated-iron mountain shack built by my neighbour's teenage son about 30 years ago, and currently existing in a state of arrested decay.

The view became progressively more impressive as we climbed past many large granite boulders and interesting rock formations. At the top, we had our snack break and enjoyed views of both Lake Fyans and Lake Lonsdale. Connor kindly shared his homemade caramel slices with everyone. Although these caves are not as palatial as the ones that we saw on a previous walk at my neighbour Peter's property, I think the views here made up for it.

A moderately steep descent on the west side took us through a bracken covered valley and along an old fire road. We stopped to look at the ruins of an old stone cottage from perhaps the late 1800s. Further on, there was a collection of large standing boulders which resembled a mini-Easter Island. Continuing our now shallow descent, we arrived at an outcropping of large granite rocks, all with a series of drill holes in them indicating the quarrying that had been done here in the 1800s. My neighbour Pat thinks that the granite slabs extracted from here were probably used in building St Patrick's Church in Stawell between 1871 – 1873. Julie and Alex were so interested in this site that they spent the next 15 minutes climbing all over it.

After the Stringy Bark Grove, the walk was already running about 15 minutes longer than planned and even with the temperature heating up, the group decided to continue for another 20 minutes around the lower dam and then back to the house. At this point, John K's dog Nellie was really starting to feel the heat, but she didn't seem to understand that black is the wrong colour for this kind of weather.

After having cold refreshments, my neighbour Pat stopped by for a chat, and he and John K. worked out that they are actually first cousins by marriage. According to the old timers from this area (I think Brett is one of them), the name of this range is actually not Black Range but Black Ranges, despite what the maps say. Black Range refers to the area of that name in the western Grampians.



Heading gradually uphill



Checking out the rock caves



Great views from the top of the range



Old stone cottage ruins

SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY
BEACH WALK

Walkers: Graeme (leader & report writer), Yvonne, Lou, Jenny, John, Alex, Anna, Tracey, Mike, Eirelyn, Gareth (11)
Distance: 6km Rating: Easy

The weather forecast was offering a challenge for all of us – what do you wear when the weather has now changed from 35 degrees to 17 or 18 degrees? 2.5 hour drive through the beautiful Western District to the coast was a change and we even managed to see green grass along the way. Then on to the 12 Apostles area, to meet up with Mike, Eirelyn and Gareth – and rain.

After sheltering undercover until the rain eased, we ventured to Gibsons Steps and a little further for the views of the 12 Apostles rock stacks on the coast. Back to the top of the steps where the cautious stopped and the adventurous descended the 89 steps to the beach and walked eastward to the rocks, then westward as far as the leader decided, before returning to the steps. The weather was kind to us on the beach – no wind or rain, just sunshine. Returning to the top was slightly different – windy and showers again.

Continued next page

Walk Reports

SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY BEACH WALK (Continued)

All returned to the carpark kiosk and sheltered from the rain. Then off in a southerly direction for views from the viewing platform. Most just saw the rain clouds coming again. Quick photos and return to kiosk and cars. Coming out of the carpark seemed a challenge too, but we all managed to arrive at Port Campbell for lunch behind the caravan park on a seat big enough for 11. With rain clouds approaching again and time running out, it was time to head for the vehicles and drive in convoy to Timboon for a well-deserved ice cream from the famous Timboon Ice Creamery. An enjoyable day out.

Walks at Port Campbell and Peterborough will have to wait for another day.



*Beach
cliffs at
Gibson
Steps*



*Beach view
of the
Twelve
Apostles*



*Lookout
view of
the
Twelve
Apostles*



*At the
Timboon
Ice
Creamery*

SATURDAY 1 MARCH PINNACLE LOOP

Walkers: Brett (leader & report writer), Mike, Julie, Eirelyn, Alex, Jane, Kim, David, Denise, Gill & visitors Nelfia, Richo, Sue, Hugh, Anna L & Jodie
Distance: 10km Rating: Medium

This was our first club walk in the Grampians for 2025 after earlier planned walks had to be relocated to other areas due to the closure of the national park from the bushfires that burnt relentlessly over the Christmas – New Year period and then flared up again in the early part of February. It seemed like the urge to return to hiking in the Grampians again coupled with the forecast of a beautiful warm sunny day proved to be an irresistible combination as I just about needed to hire myself a secretary to deal with the deluge of emails and phone calls from keen walkers in the leadup to the weekend.

By the time that we set off from the Halls Gap tennis courts along the track to Venus Baths on Saturday morning, we had a bumper walking party of 16, including 6 first-time walkers and 3 returning members who were doing their first club walk in nearly a year as well. It was great to welcome so many new faces, plus the returning ones, and of course it's always good to see the old familiar faces on deck as well!

There was only a small trickle of water flowing along Stoney Creek as we headed uphill from Venus Baths and along past the Elephant's Hide to the near-dry Splitters Falls.

Continued next page

Walk Reports

SATURDAY 1 MARCH PINNACLE LOOP (*Continued*)

We did the little rocky scramble up and down the steps in the gully before taking a well-earned morning tea break in the shade at Wonderland carpark. With the metal staircase at the far end of the Grand Canyon now operational again, we enjoyed walking between the towering cliff faces of the canyon before steadily making our way up the mountain past notable landmarks like the Cool Chamber, Echo Wall (where it sounded like a rogue pack of dingoes had invaded from up north somewhere as folks keenly tested out its reverberation quality), the bone-dry Bridal Veil Falls and the rugged rocky beauty of Silent Street.

At the top of Silent Street there were 3 large patches of shade under the rock formations, so even though we were only around 200 metres from the Pinnacle lookout, we decided that it was the perfect spot for our lunch break. The local Black Rock Skink population certainly thought that it was an ideal possie for them too, as we had several lunch buddies mooching around us eagerly looking to Hoover up any food scraps that happened to hit the deck.

We then made the short trek up to the Pinnacle to take in the glorious views over Halls Gap, Lake Bellfield and past Boronia Peak towards Lake Fyans, the Black Ranges and Stawell. From our lofty vantage point, it was very evident how close the fires had come, with Mt Rosea and the bushland around Lake Bellfield looking particularly blackened. After gaining more than 500 metres in elevation on our gradual climb from Halls Gap up to the Pinnacle, we now only had the “easy” part to go – the 3.5km descent back to Halls Gap via the track that passes just below Mackeys Peak.

Our resident mathematician Alex dutifully tallied up the 450 metal steps on our way, but I wasn’t able to help him with the number of stone and wooden steps that we safely navigated as well (I was flat out keeping tabs on our 16 walkers – that was already too many for the fingers to keep up with!). The lure of raiding the two ice cream shops waiting at the bottom was sufficiently attractive to keep everyone tracking downhill at a decent clip and the shops would have done a roaring trade by the time that our ravenous horde of hikers had finished descending on them.

A big thank-you to everyone who came along for helping to make it a really enjoyable day out in the bush; especially our new walkers who we hope to see again on future club walks. A perfect sunny Autumn day, one of the classic Grampians walks, great company and plenty of chatter and laughter (and ice cream) – you can’t get much better entertainment than that!



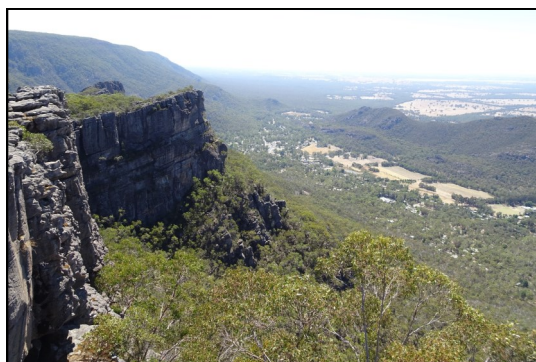
The Elephant's Hide with Chatauqua Peak beyond



Walking through the Grand Canyon



Silent Street



Classic Halls Gap view from the Pinnacle



Halls Gap view from near Mackeys Peak

Grampians Bushwalking Club walks for 2025

Please contact the walk leader at least two days prior to the walk to confirm your interest in participating and to find out details about starting times, meeting places and any other relevant information.

Saturday 15 March	SIGNAL PEAK & MT ABRUPT (Grampians)	Medium / Hard	Julie	0407 561135
Tuesday 25 March	GENERAL MEETING - SES Hall, Sloane St, Stawell, 7:30pm	ALL WELCOME	Greg - Secretary	0407 582776
Saturday 29 March	POHLNERS LOOP, MT STAPYLTON (Grampians)	Medium	Brett	0438 852773 or bretta5@bigpond.com
Saturday 12 April	GAR FALLS & BRIGGS BLUFF (Grampians)	Medium	Julie	0407 561135
Saturday 26 April	MT STURGEON TO DUNKELD (Grampians)	Medium	Mike	0406 756855
Tuesday 29 April	GENERAL MEETING - SES Hall, Sloane St, Stawell, 7:30pm	ALL WELCOME	Greg - Secretary	0407 582776
Saturday 10 May	GRAMPIANS PEAKS TRAIL (Section to be finalised)	TBC	Gareth	0427 565860
Saturday 24 May	MOUNT OF OLIVES (Grampians)	Medium	Brett	0438 852773 or bretta5@bigpond.com
Tuesday 27 May	GENERAL MEETING - SES Hall, Sloane St, Stawell, 7:30pm	ALL WELCOME	Greg - Secretary	0407 582776

Email: grampiansbwc@gmail.com

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/
groups/1076721436945813](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1076721436945813)

Website: www.grampiansbushwalkingclub.org.au

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 to participate with a fee of \$5 per walk to cover insurance. 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 details 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) at SES Headquarters, Sloane Street, Stawell, commencing at 7.30pm.** Feel free to have your say on Club matters or suggest some walks. Read up on other bushwalking clubs and their plans for walks.

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.

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