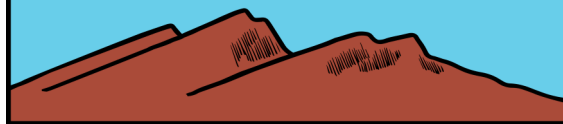


3/2025

Spring
2025

Grampians Bushwalking Club



A member of:


Bushwalking Victoria
towards better bushwalking

NEWSLETTER

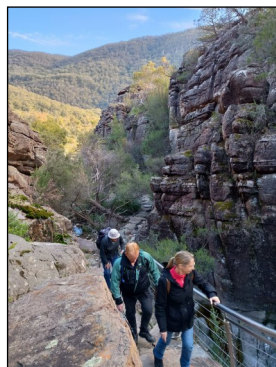
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Email: grampiansbwc@gmail.com

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

Website: www.grampiansbushwalkingclub.org.au



Photos from our recent club hikes at Stawell, the Grampians & Kara Kara NP

Walk Reports

SUNDAY 8 JUNE GRAMPIANS RAIL TRAIL

Walkers (10): Greg (leader & report writer), Graeme, Lou, Jane, Mike, Erellyn, Alex, Anna, Jenny & John

Dogs (3): Jet, Jacko & Millie

Distance: 10.5km Rating: Easy

We left from the Grampians Rail Trail car park on Stawell - Halls Gap Road. The weather was looking like it was going to rain, but it stayed away. The wind was still cold as we were walking, talking and watching the dogs.

We nearly finished before sitting under a tree out of the wind for lunch. We finished the final 300 metres. We drove back to the others cars and headed home as it started to rain.



Crossing a footbridge on the Rail Trail



On the boardwalk section



Lunch break under the trees



Group photo time

SATURDAY 21 JUNE BORONIA PEAK

Walkers: Alex (leader & report writer), Sue and Hugh, Lou, Joel, Mike and Erellyn, Jane, John,

Distance: 7km

Rating: Medium

The morning was cold and clear as the snowflake symbol appeared on the dashboard to warn of slippery conditions.

From Stawell, three cars came to Tandara Road in Halls Gap, where we met up with the rest of the walkers, did the paperwork and off we went.

We soon warmed up and just after turning off to the Boronia track, looking where I was placing my feet, I came next to a kangaroo less than a metre away, I was more surprised than it was, then it just bounded off quietly.

We met a few walkers from the Ballarat Bushwalking Club coming down and said hello as we moved up the track. There were no shortage of stones and roots to dodge and after crossing the first saddle the unusual bush called Hairy Geebung (*Persoonia rigida*) came in view.

A new walker called Joel with his support dog had no trouble keeping up with the group. The usual scramble to get to the top, then a wonderful panorama came into view. We had lunch up there and photos were taken before we headed back down without any incidents.

We paid a visit to Stoney Creek shops, mainly to the ice cream shop, this time not many customers. The nine walkers enjoyed the walk, Time taken was 4hrs, distance 7km



A quick break at the saddle



Heading uphill with Halls Gap below

Walk Reports



*On the final climb
with Lake Bellfield
in the background*



*Lunch at
the summit
of Boronia
Peak with
magnificent
views*

SATURDAY 5 JULY PINNACLE - GARDEN OF THE GRAMPIANS

*Walkers: Greg (leader & report writer) Sue, Hugh, Alex,
Mike, Joel, Michele, John*

Distance: 6.3km Rating: Easy / Medium

We left Halls Gap for the Wonderland Turntable and upon getting there, we got the last lined carparks as it was busy.

We started walking, stopping often to catch our breath and to talk to the other walkers. We reached the turn off and continued on. It soon turned into a wide track. As we neared the Pinnacle we saw more people.

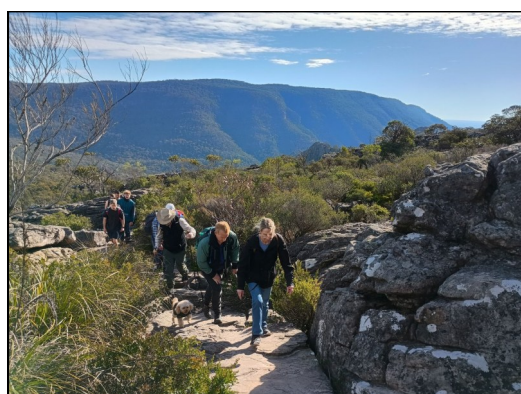
We stopped here for lunch in the sun. Afterwards we headed back down through Silent Street to the cars and back to Hall Gap for eats/drinks before heading home.



*On the Grand Canyon
walkway*



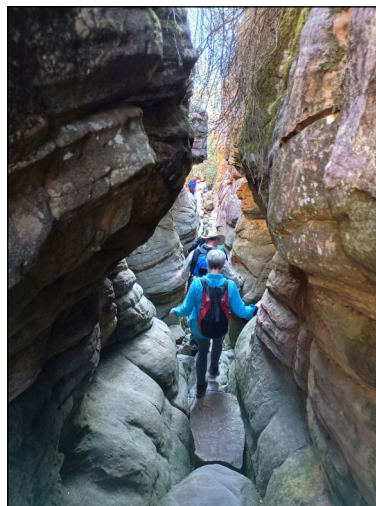
*Heading to the Garden of
the Grampians*



*Approaching
the Pinnacle
Lookout*



*Lake Bellfield
from the
Pinnacle
Lookout*



*Heading
down Silent
Street*



*Entering the
Grand
Canyon*

Walk Reports

SATURDAY 19 JULY BOROUGH HUTS TO MT ROSEA (Return)

Walkers: Gareth (leader and report writer), Alex, Mike, Jane, Erelyn and prospective members Susan and Mick.
Distance: 17.6km Rating: AWT 4 (Medium)

The seven walkers who assembled at Borough Huts campground were greeted with a brisk morning with some glimpses of sunshine. The forecast for Halls Gap was for a maximum of 8 degrees with a high chance of showers in the late afternoon. We were able to get on the track very close to the 9am nominated time.

This walk was re-opened just a fortnight prior, after being burnt out in the fire (the first of two major Grampians fires in the 24/25 summer) which started in the Yarram Gap area from a lightning strike on 17th December. It burnt over 76,000 hectares including more than 13,500 ha of farmland. Striding out of the campground crossing the Fyans Creek footbridge it was evident that the bush had fared quite well in this area, the upper canopy mostly spared unlike many areas further south.

The first couple of kilometres with a gradual incline and morning sunshine made for very pleasant walking conditions. After about two hours the sunshine disappeared, the wind speed picked up and with the rise in altitude the air began to feel much cooler. Three hours in and the well-defined walking track becomes less evident, more boulder hopping and a bit more searching for the next yellow track marker. By this stage we were in cloud, the wind was getting stronger, and we were searching for our beanies.

The walk description advice was to "come prepared for any conditions" and on this day Mount Rosea gave us a little reminder to never take the conditions on the mount for granted. The benign weather on the flat at the beginning of the walk had turned into as one walker described as "Siberia". I later checked the weather observations of nearby Mt William Automatic Weather Station 1pm reading, Temp 1.9 degrees, Apparent Temp -8 degrees, Wind 43 km/hr gusting 65 km/hr. So our time on Mt Rosea summit was very brief. Without holding onto the guard railing, the wind could have just about blown us off the edge. We hastily turned around to find a rock shelter to eat our lunch.

After a lunch break under the partial shelter of a rock ledge. It didn't seem to take long to negotiate our way down out of the boulders and return to the proper walking track and with it, benign weather again.

After 17.6km we were glad to see the Fyans Creek footbridge, and back at the cars at Borough Huts by 3.50pm. We got in the cars and on cue the late afternoon showers arrived.



Taking a break on the long climb uphill



Lake Bellfield from Mt Rosea



Harsh rocky ground at the top of Mt Rosea



Crossing Fyans Creek on the return to Borough Huts

Walk Reports

SATURDAY 2 AUGUST BARKLY LOOP, KARA KARA NP

Walkers: Brett (leader & report writer), Mike, Erelyn, Greg D, Julie, Alex & visitors Anna L, Greg C, Mick & Susan

Distance: 6.2km Rating: Medium

Our initial meeting place was at the Barkly turnoff on the Stawell-Avoca Road and with five cars converging from different directions, everyone did well to arrive on time and within a few minutes of each other. We then travelled in a convoy that headed through the small hamlet of Barkly and then along the road to Redbank that soon turned to a gravel surface and gradually wound its way uphill past an assortment of hobby farms, bush blocks, sheds and caravans until we reached the Kara Kara National Park sign.

From there, the road narrowed even further (though it had just been freshly graded) and zig-zagged its way up the side of the mountain range Mt Victory Road-style with not a guard rail in sight, so by the time that we reached our starting point at the top of the range, we'd already had more of an adventure by car than we were likely to have on foot during the actual walk.

While everyone was signing the attendance book or filling out their visitor's paperwork (or lowering their heart rate back into normal range again!), a car shuffle was carried out to leave a vehicle in a clearing 3km further down Barkly-Redbank Road to save us a long uphill slog back up the road to our starting point at the end of the walk.

After some wet and wild weekends in recent weeks, we were lucky enough to score a perfect winter's day for our hike – clear, calm and sunny after some early morning frost and fog – so it was a great day to spend outside checking out some new walking territory for most of those present.

Starting off along Centre Road in a southeasterly direction towards Moonambel, the first 3km of the hike was rather undulating as we headed along the top of the mountain range, with numerous uphill sections followed by a dip down to the next saddle. Views of the surrounding countryside and south to the Pyrenees were on offer, but they were generally just glimpses through gaps in the solid tree cover, though there were a few spots where there were more open views to the north.

We had a well-earned morning tea break on some fallen logs in a clearing beside the track and then tackled a couple more hills before eventually reaching the Camp House Track junction and turning left. Camp House Track then took a right hand turn towards Redbank after 300 metres, but we continued straight ahead along the ominously-named Dead Mans Track, which started to take us downhill towards the Barkly-Redbank Road.

A short detour off the track took us to a lookout point with good views across towards Redbank and further beyond to the Bealiba Ranges, so it made a relaxing spot for our lunch break where we could enjoy the views, soak up the sunshine and watch a lone wedge-tailed eagle circle high above us. After lunch, we completed the steep downhill section of Dead Mans Track (thankfully all still being well and truly alive at the end of it) and then had a nice easy stroll along the Barkly-Redbank Road for a further kilometre until we reached Alex's car in the clearing.

The only downside along this section was that the signpost for the famous Yak Yak Track had been vandalised and not replaced again, so we couldn't do another "yackety yack" photo like we did on a previous visit more than 10 years ago. Now that would have made a good group selfie for Erelyn to take of us!

After taking the drivers back up the hill again to collect their cars, we drove out through Redbank and around to Moonambel for a very tasty afternoon tea at the Summerfield Winery. Timboon ice cream, vanilla slice, lamingtons, pizza – you name it, we indulged in it ... we almost needed to go for another lap of the Centre Road hills to burn all those calories off again! Thanks everyone for a very enjoyable day in some different walking country to our usual Grampians scenery.



Up the first big hill along Centre Road



Across Barkly to the Pyrenees Ranges



Morning tea break beside the track

Walk Reports



View past Redbank to the Bealiba Ranges from our lunch stop

SATURDAY 16 AUGUST HALLS GAP - WATCHTOWER LOOP

Walkers: Greg (leader & report writer), Lou, Mike, Erelyn, Sue, Hugh, Brett & Connor
Distance: 7km Rating: Easy

We started our walk behind the Halls Gap oval, wondering what the weather was going to do. The report was for wet weather and hail, but it turned into a beautiful day.

The track was wet underfoot, but not as muddy as expected. The track was up and down before we reached the Watchtower car park. We headed up the steps to the rock face where we came across a group of rock climbers. We continued on to the top where we had lunch with a view. We followed the trail back down into Halls Gap for drinks or ice cream before the drive home.



Up the new wooden steps and then the much rougher stone steps on the short steep climb up to the top of the Watchtower



The Sentinel & Halls Gap from the Watchtower



Checking out one of the rockclimbing areas



Heading along the Fireline Track

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 30 August	PINNACLE LOOP (Grampians)	Medium	Julie	0407 561135
Saturday 13 September	COME & TRY BUSHWALKING DAY - Gar Waterfalls & Beehive Falls (Grampians)	Easy / Medium	Julie	0407 561135
Saturday 27 September	MT ABRUPT (Grampians)	Medium / Hard	Mike	0406 756855
Tuesday 30 September	GENERAL MEETING - SES Hall, Sloane St, Stawell, 7:30pm	ALL WELCOME	Greg - Secretary	0407 582776
Sat 11 & Sun 12 October	FEDERATION WALKS 2025 (Grampians)	Various	www.fedwalks.org.au Registrations open mid-August	
Saturday 18 October	WILDFLOWER WALK—THREE JACKS RESERVE (Stawell)	Easy	Jenny, Greg & Neil M.	0408 345387
Tuesday 28 October	GENERAL MEETING - SES Hall, Sloane St, Stawell, 7:30pm	ALL WELCOME	Greg - Secretary	0407 582776
Saturday 1 November	WILDFLOWER WALK—McDONALD PARK (Ararat)	Easy	Alex	0447 914333
Saturday 15 November	DIMBOOLA	Easy	Graeme	0427 885397
Tuesday 25 November	GENERAL MEETING - SES Hall, Sloane St, Stawell, 7:30pm	ALL WELCOME	Greg - Secretary	0407 582776
Saturday 29 November	TARNAGULLA	Easy	Brett	0438 852773 or bretta5@bigpond.com
Tue 2 to Tue 9 December	BASE CAMP - WILSONS PROMONTORY (Day walks - book own accommodation)	Various	Julie	0407 561135
Saturday 6 December	CHRISTMAS LUNCH (Venue yet to be finalised)		Greg - Secretary	0407 582776
Saturday 3 January 2026	CHATAUQUA PEAK EVENING WALK (Grampians)	Easy / Medium	Jenny	0408 345387

Grampians Bushwalking Club - Membership Fees for 2025/26

Family (inc children U/18 or full-time student) \$70
Single Adults (18 Years +) \$45

*Children under 16 Years must be accompanied by parent/s or guardian on walks.
To have your input in the Grampians BWC meetings or AGM, you must be a current financial member of the club.*

A reminder that 2025/26 membership fees were due on July 1st 2025.

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.

Official Newsletter of Grampians Bushwalking Club Inc.
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