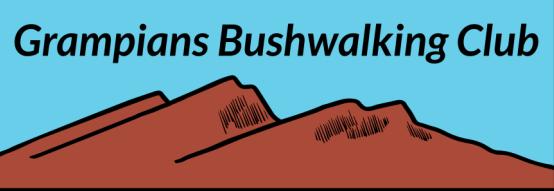


4/2025
Summer
2025/26



A member of:

Bushwalking Victoria
towards better bushwalking

NEWSLETTER

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Email: grampiansbwc@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/1076721436945813

Website: www.grampiansbushwalkingclub.org.au



Photos from recent club hikes in the Grampians and the Ironbarks at Stawell

Walk Reports

SATURDAY 30 AUGUST PINNACLE LOOP CLOCKWISE

Walk leader & report writer: Julie
Walkers: Erellyn R, Mike O, Hugh J.
Distance: 9km Rating: Medium

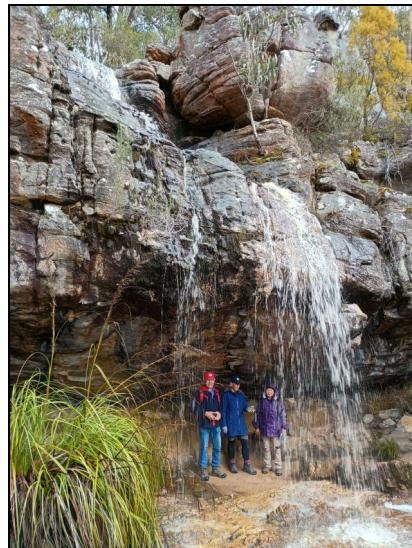
After dire predictions about high winds, rain and cold conditions, the 4 intrepid walkers gathered in Halls Gap rugged up for the cold. There was no rain and it was calm in the valley.

On the drive out from Stawell the Major Mitchell Plateau was sporting a snowy coat after last night's Antarctic blast. We started walking in down jackets but they soon came off as we climbed up the front face of the Wonderland range below Cherub (Mackeys) Peak.

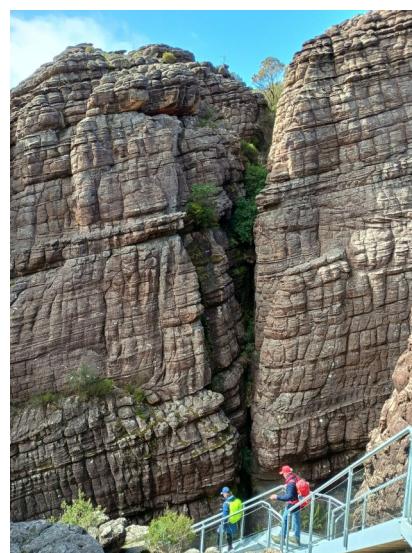
Taking our time admiring the views and the cascading runoff coming down the path and steps, we gained the main ridge and were refreshed by the cold southerly wind. Up on the rocky outcrops leading to the Pinnacle it was certainly bracing. The view from the Pinnacle does not quite extend round to the Major Mitchell Plateau – blocked by Sundial Peak - so we didn't get to see the snow again.

Looking for a more sheltered place to eat lunch out of the wind and the occasional drizzle, we dropped down past Bridal Veil Falls (a real wet veil happening) to the Echo Wall under the big overhang. We didn't linger as it was pretty chilly, so then via the Grand Canyon we walked to Splitters Falls and Venus Baths track. Stony Creek was carrying a lot of runoff and the Splitters Falls were looking quite impressive.

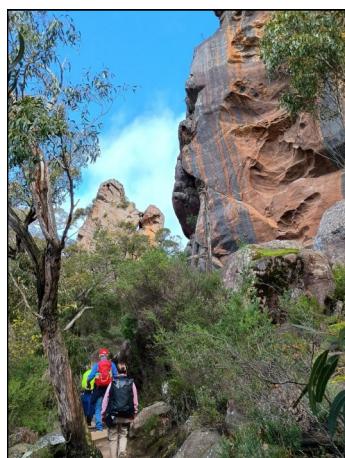
We were glad of a hot coffee back at Halls Gap before heading home after a surprisingly kind winter day bushwalk.



Bridal Veil Falls



Descending into the Grand Canyon



Passing below Mackeys (Cherub) Peak



Morning tea break with Lake Bellfield in the background

SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER GAR & BEEHIVE FALLS (Come & Try Walk)

Walkers: 14, Julie A (leader & report writer), Brett A, Di O, Clare M, Tracey H, Cheryl Y, Cheryl D, Lou H, Sue & Mick D, Erellyn R, Mike O, Jon R, Kerrie B.
Distance: 7.5km Elevation: 300m Rating: Easy / Med.

A large group of 12 met at the SES to a sunny morning and we picked up 2 more walkers at Roses Gap. As this was a Come and Try Bushwalking event, it was great to see 6 guests who had not walked with us before. In addition, Sue and Mick, who have joined us as guests on a number of previous walks have become members, which is fantastic.

After setting up the car shuffle, as it was a one-way walk, we headed off on the GPT (Grampians Peaks Trail) up Dead Bullock Creek; first treating our boots for Phytophthora fungus at the bleach station. This fungus causes root rot in many native plants and can devastate large areas of bush, knocking out critical species. In the area around the trailhead car park there has been a lot of swallow wattle control work. Although this is a native plant, it is not native to the Grampians and has become a real feral, swamping out the local vegetation. It is clear our bush, even in National Parks, is under a lot of pressures.

Walk Reports

GAR & BEEHIVE FALLS (Come & Try Walk) (cont)

Once passing through the control area, we saw local shrubs flowering, including Thryptomene and Correas. As there are a number of rocky bars that the creek crosses, we saw lots of lovely little falls as we walked up to the lower Gar Falls and then up to the main Gar Falls. Here we had a break and some chocolate brownies that Julie provided to keep our energy up (ie very sweet).

We then climbed rocky steps up through the cliff line to come out on top of the lower rock shelf. There are spectacular views of Gar (Mt Difficult) and the Northern Grampians here. We saw Greenhood and Wax-lipped orchids flowering, but also Grevilleas and Hakeas with their honey scent.

We traversed the flat rock shelf to where our track to Beehive Falls diverts from the main GPT trail. Our track stays pretty level while the GPT climbs up toward Briggs Bluff. The cloud that had been hanging around the mountain tops when we started walking had now lifted and we were getting warm from the sun, which was a great opportunity to sit on the edge of a rock outcrop with a view and have lunch.

While contemplating the bushes as we ate, Brett spied an orchid under another bush. It was a Red-banded Greenhood, which are not common. After finishing off the brownie and a group selfie by Erellyn, we continued along the cliff edge. There were quite a few other walkers out too, some hiking the GPT and others just for a day walk and eventually we arrived at the steep drop off to the Beehive Falls. The rock work done by Parks Victoria on this staircase is a work of art (especially if you had seen it previously), but it is still a scramble in some sections, testing our balance and agility.

Beehive Falls only had a small flow coming down them, which speaks of the dry conditions we have had throughout 2025. We had a short break to regroup but were then inundated with a large group of young people from the Roses Gap recreation camp, so we followed the final stretch of flat track back to the Beehive Falls car park. We retrieved cars, Kerrie headed west, Sue and Mike headed south, and then most of us went back to Stawell to the Corner Café for coffee before heading home.

Generally we had an enjoyable day out in the beautiful Northern Grampians and guests gained an insight into a typical walk with our club. We hope some decide to join our active group.



Morning tea break at Gar Falls #4



Heading along the Grampians Peaks Trail towards The Wall



Along the range to Mt Difficult



Heading down to Beehive Falls



Gar Falls #2



Beehive Falls rockpool

Walk Reports

SATURDAY 27 SEPTEMBER MT ABRUPT

Walkers: Mike (leader & report writer), Susan, Kirti, Elissa, Julie, Connor, Sue, Jeff, Hugh, Jodie, Greg, Ross, Ben

A good-sized group of 13 walkers met at the Mt Abrupt trailhead. We performed a car shuffle leaving three cars at the finish location on Victoria Valley Rd.

The steady climb to the top took 1 hour and 28 minutes. Although it was a bit hazy, the views were still splendid.

On the way down, it was very windy along the exposed areas of the trail. In numerous locations there were trees down across the track, requiring us to either climb over or walk around the trees off track. The stringybark forest was beautiful, including several trees with huge diameter trunks.

After a 40 minute descent we had lunch at the Mud Dadjug hut where it was nice to be out of the cold wind.

Three kilometres from our lunch stop, we had a short rest before the slow ascent to top of Piccaninny. From the top, the view of the Mud Dadjug hut and rusty dunny really stood out. There were quite a few groups with children coming from the Piccaninny parking area. The 1.4 km descent to the cars only took about 20 minutes.

Overall we covered 11.5 km with a total elevation gain of 605m. It took a total of 5hr50min with 3hr44min of walking time.

Then, everyone headed off for refreshments at Izzy's cafe, including ice cream, coffee, cakes, French and Spanish potato chips and a \$28 bar of chocolate.



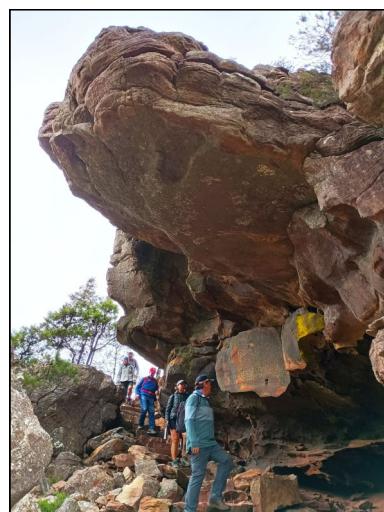
Heading up Mt Abrupt with Signal Peak in the background



Victoria Valley views



At the summit of Mt Abrupt



Alongside the wind cave on the way down to the Piccaninny

SATURDAY 11 & SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER FEDERATION WALKS 2025 - GRAMPIANS

This year's Federation Walks weekend was co-hosted by the Grampians Bushwalking Club and the Boroondara Bushwalkers, with 23 different walks on offer in the Grampians National Park across the weekend.

Over 240 bushwalkers from 34 different clubs affiliated with Bushwalking Victoria converged on Halls Gap, with the registrations, afternoon tea and activities being conducted at the Halls Gap Centenary Hall.

The weather for the weekend was reasonable, with cool and partly cloudy conditions on Saturday and then heavier cloud cover on Sunday morning before passing showers scuttled across some areas on Sunday afternoon as the wind picked up strength. It at least allowed everyone to enjoy the beautiful views on offer as well as the multitude of wildflowers and the social company of other hikers from bushwalking clubs all around the state.

In addition to our club and Boroondara, members of the following clubs kindly helped out as leaders and whips for the various walks: Warrnambool, Camperdown, Wimmera, Ballarat, Gisborne, Friends of the GSSW.

Continued on Page 5

Walk Reports

FEDERATION WALKS 2025 - GRAMPIANS (cont)

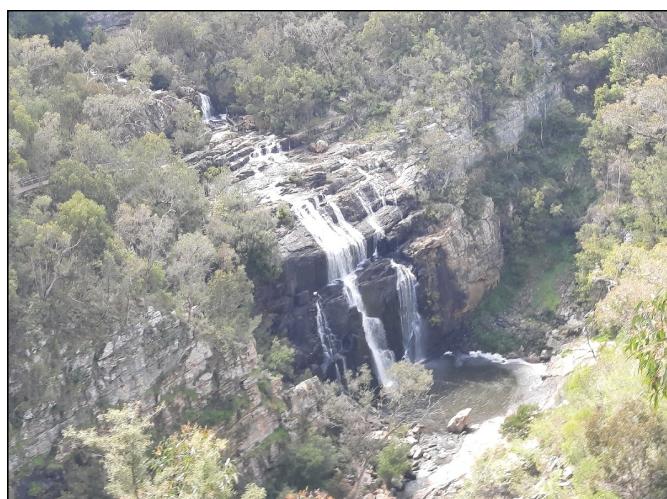
The following table lists the Grampians BWC members who participated in Fed Walks 2025:

Name	Saturday Walk	Role	Sunday Walk	Role
Julie	#3: Ecology Ramble (3km)	Walker	#12: Briggs Bluff (13km)	Leader
John	#6: Halls Gap to Bellfield (12km)	Leader		
Alex	#6: Halls Gap to Bellfield (12km)	Whip		
Brett	#7: Mac. Falls to Z'steins (7km)	Leader	#17: Pohlners Loop (10km)	Whip
Marcelo	#12: Briggs Bluff (13km)	Whip	#9: Z'steins to Mac Falls (8km)	Whip
Mike	#14: Mt Abrupt (11km)	Leader		
Greg	#10: Wartook L'out to HG (10km)	Leader	#7: Mac Falls to Z'steins (7km)	Walker
Jenny	#10: Wartook L'out to HG (10km)	Whip		
Gareth	#9: Z'steins to Mac Falls (8km)	Leader	#9: Z'steins to Mac Falls (8km)	Leader
Anna	#9: Z'steins to Mac Falls (8km)	Whip		
Lou	#6: Halls Gap to Bellfield (12km)	Walker		

In addition, the following Grampians BWC members were members of the Planning Committee for Fed Walks 2025 and/or assisted with the administration of the event over the weekend:

Name	Administration Duties
Julie	Planning Committee: Finances & Walks Program; Logistics Coordinator
Graeme	Planning Committee; Walks Coordinator; Walker Registration
Yvonne	Walker Registration

Our thanks go to the Planning Committee (in particular the Chair, Lyn Atkinson) and all members of the Grampians and Boroondara bushwalking clubs for their efforts in planning, previewing and leading the walks, as well as providing the essential background support to make the weekend's activities all run smoothly. Thanks also to all of the walkers from around Victoria who made the effort to attend – we hope that you enjoyed exploring our own very special "backyard" as much as we did hosting you here.



Walk 7: Mackenzie Falls from the clifftop lookout



Walk 7: At the base of Mackenzie Falls

Walk Reports



Walk 7:
Lunch
break at
Fish
Falls



Walk 17:
Mt
Stapylton
from the
eastern
approach



Walk 17:
Lunch in
the wind
cave
near Mt
Stapylton
summit



Walk 17: Heading down towards
the Amphitheatre with Flat Rock, Mt Zero &
Hollow Mountain in the background

SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER WILDFLOWER WALK - THREE JACKS RESERVE - STA WELL

Walkers: Jenny (leader & report writer), Mike, John, Alex, Brett, Anna, Greg, Graeme, Lou and visitors Neil, Wendy, Catherine & Cathryn

Distance: 5km Rating: Easy

On Saturday 18th October, 9 members met with Neil & Wendy Marriott and two visitors from the Plant Society for a walk at Three Jacks Reserve spotting and identifying wildflowers.

The walk was relaxed, with plenty of time for conversation, photography, and sharing knowledge about local flora. We were disappointed to find rubbish within the reserve but with Mike setting the example the group was soon collecting rubbish as well as looking for wildflowers.

After the Three Jacks circuit, we then completed a short circuit walk through the Ironbarks and whilst still on the hunt for wildflowers (and rubbish), the pace was a little faster for this portion of the walk. Lunch was had back at the cars before making our way home.

The abundance of wildflowers, pleasant weather, and excellent company made for a memorable morning. Many thanks to Neil & Wendy for sharing their expert knowledge and to Mike for arranging them to attend.



Identifying
wildflowers
in the Three
Jacks
Reserve



Puddlers
Dam in the
Ironbarks

Walk Reports



The dam in Three Jacks Reserve



Checking out the wildflowers



Walking party at the Three Jacks Reserve



Wildflowers (clockwise from top left): Greencomb Spider Orchid; Cat's Claw Grevillea; Twining Fringe lily; Rabbit's Ears Orchid

SATURDAY 1 NOVEMBER WILDFLOWER WALK - McDONALD PARK - ARARAT

Walk cancelled due to sudden unavailability of leader

SATURDAY 15 NOVEMBER TUNNEL TRACK, POMONAL

Walkers: John (Leader), Greg, Lou, Mike, Sue, Michael and visitor Kirti.

Distance: 12.8kms

Rating: Grade 3 (Medium)

Elevation: 500 metres

Between 1875 and 1881 there was a tunnel built through the Mt William range to take fresh water to Stawell. It was to view this tunnel that the 7 of us set off from the Robins Road carpark in Pomonal at 9:45am. The carpark is opposite the Pomonal cafe. Weather conditions were perfect and there were no incidents to report. The first 2.7 kms of the walk were on a well maintained track and along the way we came across a comfortable-looking couch which some made use of on the way back. There was plenty evidence of the bushfires which had gone through the area.

The next 1.2 kms was a steady climb up Tunnel Road. This was a dirt road and it was as we were walking up it that Greg, one of the club's more experienced members and an expert in local flora spied a very large mushroom. You can see this mushroom in one of the photos we took. We had a break at the Pomonal end of the tunnel and it was here that Mike took an extraordinary photograph of the tunnel. There is a display board which provides information on the tunnel and it was truly a great engineering feat to build a tunnel under the Mt William range.

The next 1.3 kms led up a rocky track towards the high point of the walk which was the lowest point of the Mt William range. There is a small cairn and it was a good spot to have a short break. Trees partly obstructed the views but as we descended down the other side of the range we could see nice views of Lake Bellfield. The 1.2 kms down to the Lake Bellfield end of the tunnel was along a track just as rocky as the track on the other side. Our turnaround point was the little grass carpark at the tunnel end so we don't descend completely to Lake Bellfield. This end of the tunnel did not provide us with any views inside the tunnel but it was a great place to have lunch and relax before we began the return leg. Mike can be seen relaxing in one of the photographs.

The return leg was uneventful and, after a short break at the cairn, we headed for the Pomonal cafe where we all indulged in the many treats available. It was a good day for a walk and I would like to thank everyone for coming along and being such good company.

Walk Reports



Greg & Lou with a giant Salmon Gum Mushroom

SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER MT ROSEA TO BOROUGH HUTS

Walkers: Julie (leader & report writer), Susan, Mick, Lou, Jeff & John

Distance: 12.6km Rating: Medium / Hard

With reports that rain should have passed, we arrived in Halls Gap to drizzle and cloud on the peaks. However once we set up the car shuffle, we arrived at Rosea carpark with no rain and cloud lifting, so perfect cool weather for walking.

Following the Grampians Peaks Trail (GPT) through area burnt by last summer's fires, the forest is recovering. The understorey is slower to return, so it is still very open.

After the rain the night before, creeks were running and the track was wet in places. Great views west to the Bundaleers and Victoria Range. Climbing up onto the Ridge was invigorating with a cool southwesterly breeze keeping the temp down. A short break at the ridge to take in great views all round.

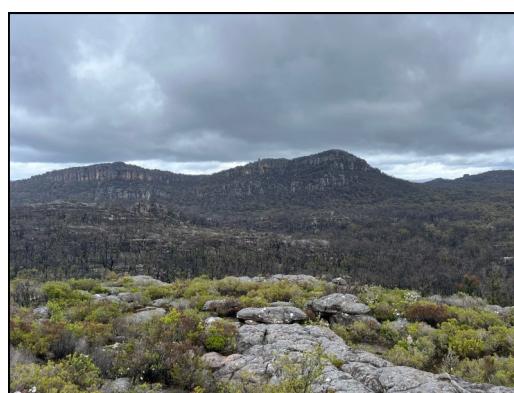
We had lunch just down from the summit sheltered from the wind and even had a little sunshine. From there we continued south on the GPT and the temperature dropped on the exposed rocky faces before we got to the saddle. From there the forest protected us and we warmed up as the track contoured down to the campsite. Lovely section of the GPT.



Inspecting the tunnel entrance



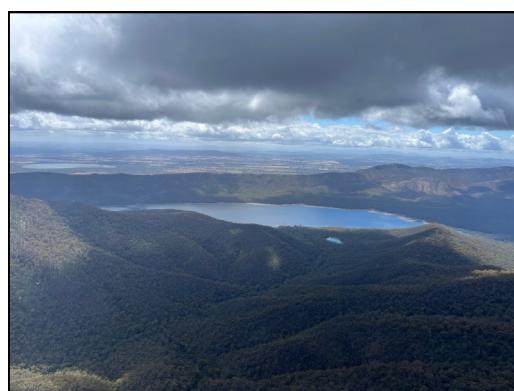
Are you comfy there Mike?!



A big climb ahead up Mt Rosea



Lake Bellfield view from the ridgeline

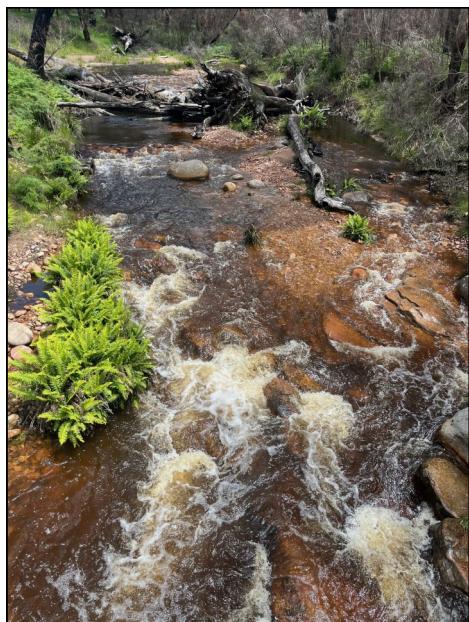


Lake Bellfield from Mt Rosea summit

Walk Reports



Group photo at the summit lookout



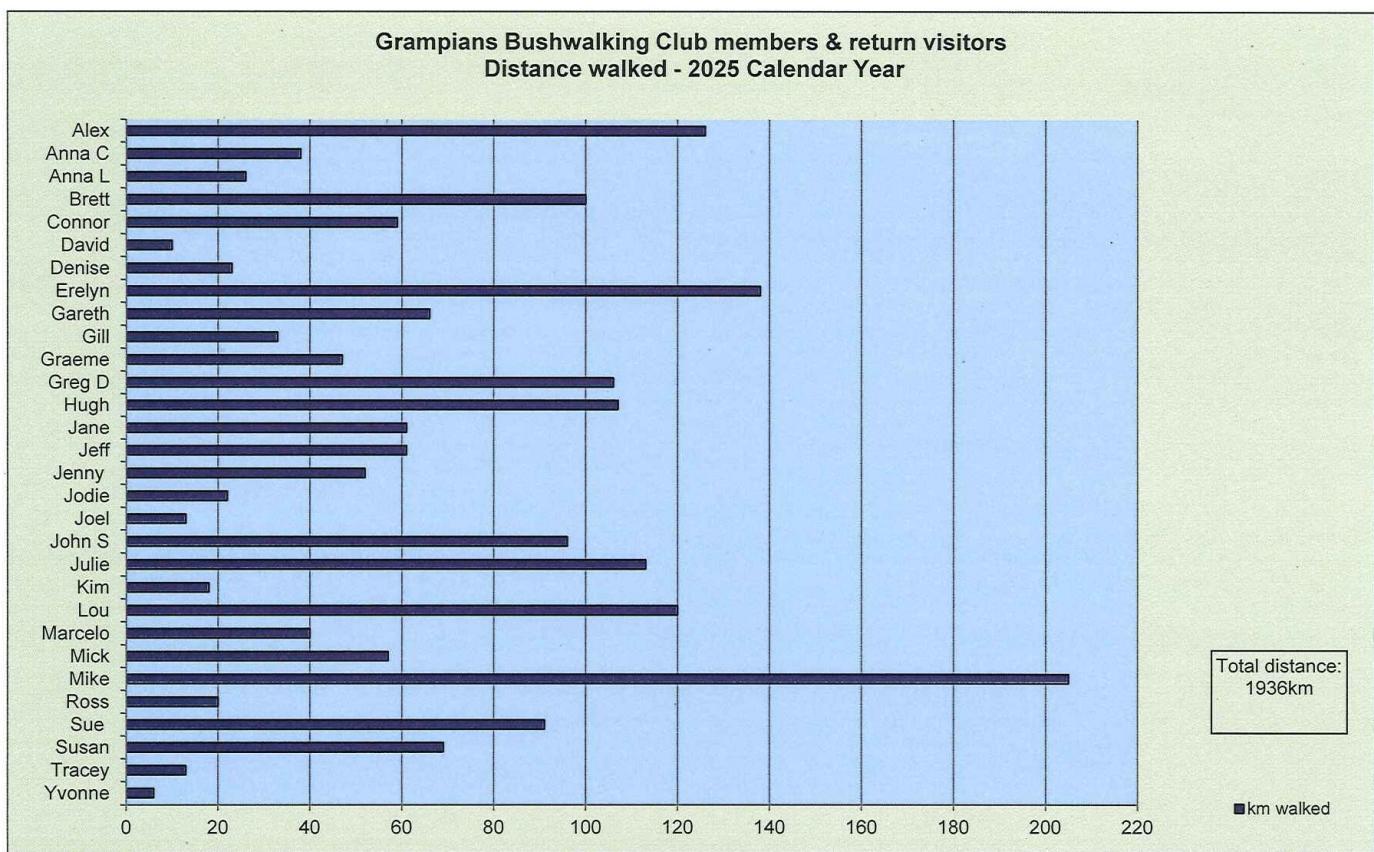
Fyans Creek crossing at Borough Huts

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS LUNCH at SICILIANS BAR & RESTAURANT, ARARAT

Present: Gareth, Erellyn, Greg, Kerry, Yvonne, Graeme, Joy, Alex, Helen, Simon, Tracey, Phil, Harry, Anna, Jenny, Lou, Brett, John



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all members and guests of the Grampians Bushwalking Club and your families. We look forward to seeing you out on the track again in 2026.



Grampians Bushwalking Club walks for 2026

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 3 January	CHATAUQUA PEAK EVENING WALK (Grampians)	Easy / Medium	Jenny	0408 345387
Saturday 17 January	ANGLESEA to AIREYS INLET (Surf Coast)	Easy / Medium	Julie	0407 561135
Tuesday 27 January	GENERAL MEETING - SES Hall, Sloane St, Stawell, 7:30pm	ALL WELCOME	Greg - Secretary	0407 582776
Saturday 31 January	ZUMSTEINS to MACKENZIE FALLS (Grampians)	TBC	Lou	0403 340282
Saturday 14 February	LAKE FYANS CIRCUIT (Pomonal)	Easy	Greg	0407 582776
Tuesday 24 February	GENERAL MEETING - SES Hall, Sloane St, Stawell, 7:30pm	ALL WELCOME	Greg - Secretary	0407 582776
Sat 28 February or Sun 1 March (TBC)	BOUNDARY GAP TO STOCKYARD TRACK (Grampians)	Medium / Hard	Gareth	0427 565860
Saturday 14 March	BRIGGS BLUFF via BEEHIVE FALLS (Grampians)	Medium / Hard	John	0407 674123
Saturday 28 March	WARTOOK LOOKOUT to HALLS GAP (Grampians)	Easy / Medium	Jenny	0408 345387
Tuesday 31 March	GENERAL MEETING - SES Hall, Sloane St, Stawell, 7:30pm	ALL WELCOME	Greg - Secretary	0407 582776
Saturday 11 April	COME & TRY BUSHWALKING DAY - BORONIA PEAK (Grampians)	Medium	Julie	0407 561135
Sunday 26 April	MT ZERO COMBO (Grampians)	Easy / Medium	Mike	0406 756855
Tuesday 28 April	GENERAL MEETING - SES Hall, Sloane St, Stawell, 7:30pm	ALL WELCOME	Greg - Secretary	0407 582776
Saturday 9 May	BARNEYS CASTLE (Off Track) (Grampians)	Medium	Greg	0407 582776
Sat 23 or Sun 24 May (TBC)	THE FORTRESS (Grampians)	TBC	Gareth	0427 565860
Tuesday 26 May	GENERAL MEETING - SES Hall, Sloane St, Stawell, 7:30pm	ALL WELCOME	Greg - Secretary	0407 582776

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.
ACN A0031111E

