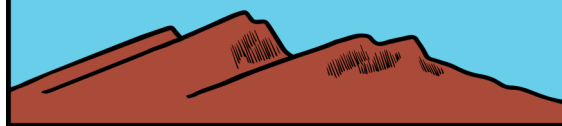


2/2026

**Winter
2026**

Grampians Bushwalking Club



A member of:



NEWSLETTER

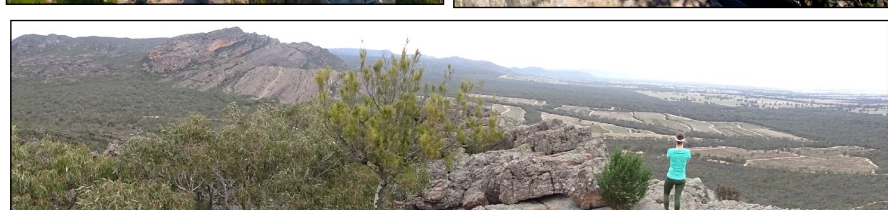
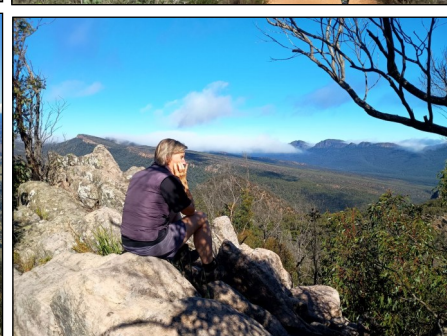
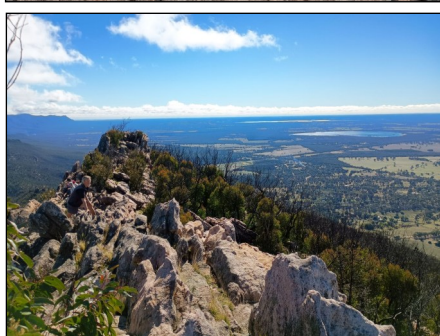
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Email: grampiansbwc@gmail.com

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

Website: www.grampiansbushwalkingclub.org.au



Photos from recent club hikes in the Grampians

Walk Reports

SATURDAY 14 MARCH BRIGGS BLUFF VIA BEEHIVE FALLS

Walkers: Hugh (leader & report writer), Sue, Jeff & visitors Alison & Thomas

Distance: 12.4km Rating: Medium / Hard

We were blessed by beautiful weather for our walk to Beehive Falls and Briggs Bluff, mid-twenties temperature and hardly a breath of wind. John had scoped out the walk the previous Saturday and overindulged by participating in a big walk with the club two days later which aggravated his bursitis. This meant John was unable to lead the walk and I volunteered to do it in his absence. We all hope these problems don't preclude John from pursuing one of his life's passions in the future.

The logistics for this walk were made more complicated by work on the Hamilton Telstra tower which meant some important communications weren't received, one turned up the next Monday! Luckily Jeff was able to bring the paperwork from Stawell, along with a visitor from Ballarat called Thomas. The other participants were my wife Sue and another newcomer, Alison from Natimuk.

The walk started with a gentle walk through the trees to the base of Beehive Falls. The water cascading down the cliff face was about the same as the volume out of a teapot reflecting the dryness of the previous two years. We then helped each other with the steep climb or scramble up the rock face to the relatively flat section heading towards the Grampians Peak Trail. We all admired the dark cliffs with the patterned cracks that were present on our left all the way to the GPT juncture.

Shortly afterwards we turned off towards Briggs Bluff and ascended some steep steps which took our breath away, justifying a morning tea break. From there the track wasn't quite as well defined and occasionally we had to back track ten metres or so to get a sighting on where the track really was. Eventually we came to a solid rock section with a reasonable incline up to the peak of Briggs Bluff. We had lunch at the summit enjoying wonderful views of the flat country to the east enhanced by the clear skies.

We returned by the same route, stopping for another breather at the steep steps, before making our way back to Beehive Falls. The steep descent to the falls challenged some of the participants, but we all helped and encouraged each other. A pleasant stroll through the trees back to the car park completed what we all thought was a wonderful day. All up we had hiked about 12.5km and ascended 400 metres so it was a good work out, particularly for the newcomers.



*Checking out
one of the
windcaves*



*Walking past
The Wall
between
Beehive Falls
& Briggs
Bluff*

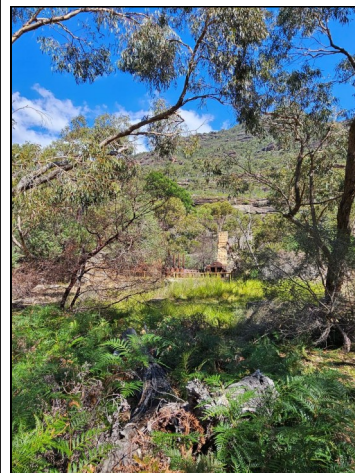


*Lunch
with a
great
view on
Briggs
Bluff*

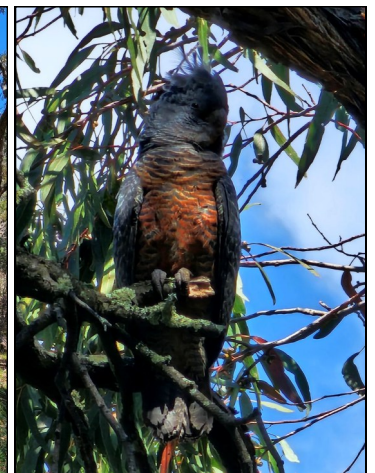
SATURDAY 21 MARCH WORKING BEE - HEATHERLIE QUARRY

We met at the carpark, then drove up to the cottages and after paperwork was done, we got to work. A number of trees were down and had to be cut up. Vegetation was cut back from the paths and we cleaned up the gutters.

We were back at the car park by 1.30 and heading home. I was the only one from the club.
Greg



Heatherlie Quarry



Red-tailed Black Cockatoo

Walk Reports

SATURDAY 28 MARCH WARTOOK LOOKOUT TO HALLS GAP

Walkers: Jenny (leader & report writer), Jeff, Jodie & visitor Alana

Distance: 11km

Rating: Easy / Medium

Driving out to Halls Gap, the mountain tops looked to be in cloud so I wasn't holding out much hope for the views at the start of the walk. We met Jodie and Alana and made our way up to the Wartook Lookout carpark and the start of the walk. On our way up to Wartook Lookout surprisingly we had some misty views over Lake Fyans and Lake Lonsdale however upon reaching the lookout the view of Lake Wartook was clouded in, so you will have to trust me that there is a pretty spectacular view from there.

We started our way along the Grampians Peaks Trail in a fine mist, as a word of caution from the leader about being careful of sand on boots while walking over the rocks was shortly followed up with a demonstration of what not to do as the leader slipped and went down. We continued along the trail admiring the scenery to our first vantage point where the clouds had lifted a little, so we again had some great views, a group photo and we were off again.

At the next view stop we met a group who were walking up from Halls Gap (I am sure we did it much easier than they were). We had morning tea and a chat before continuing on. Lunch was had at yet another view stop - there are certainly plenty of views on this walk! Another group photo before we made our way down to Chataqua Peak and descended back into Halls Gap, then we drove back up the mountain to collect the car before making our way home.

This has to be one of my favourite walks in the Grampians!



*Along the
Grampians
Peaks Trail
heading
towards
Halls Gap*



*Northeast
towards
Lake
Fyans*



*Lunch
with a
view of
Lake
Bellfield*



*Halls Gap &
Lake Bellfield
view from near
Chataqua Peak*

SATURDAY 11 APRIL BRAMBUK TO BORONIA PEAK (COME & TRY BUSHWALKING)

Walkers: (11) Julie A (leader & report writer), Eirelyn R, Mike O, Pru S (guest), Jenny C, Jeff M, Gareth S, Sue and Hugh J, Sue D, Bernie F (guest)

Distance: 8.6km Elevation: 300m Rating: Medium

Well patronised by members, we also had 2 guests attend the Come and Try walk. Both were invited by existing members.

Continued on Page 4

Walk Reports

BRAMBUK TO BORONIA PEAK (continued)

The weather prediction was for showers but thankfully we didn't get much of this until after lunch on our walk. Gathering at the Parks Victoria info centre at Brambuk, after introductions we followed the Fyans Creek loop to where it crosses the creek at Tandara Rd, then followed the Delleys Bridge track north until taking the Boronia Peak turnoff.

From here the track climbed steadily to a saddle on the range just east of Halls Gap. On the leeward side we had a break out of the wind and some partook of homemade Anzac biscuits. From here the track contoured around the eastern flank until crossing another small saddle below Peverill Peak, then approaching the rocky summit of Boronia Peak from the eastern side rock staircase.

As the day was very gusty and the summit exposed, once photo opportunities were had and hats stowed, we retreated to a less windy position on the eastern flank of Peverill Peak for lunch and views of Lake Fyans and Lake Lonsdale. We actually got a little sunshine but then the dark clouds gathered, initiating our return. Cool temperatures and regular showers with the gusty winds had us coated up for an easy downhill walk retracing our steps to near the Fyans Creek bridge.

Here we continued on the Fyans Creek loop on the eastern side of the creek back to Brambuk with the wet weather getting thicker. Coffee and ice creams/chips were the order of the day back in Halls Gap where the sun came out again! Excellent company, enjoyable walking and marginal weather! Hope to see our guests back on a future walk.



Taking a break at the saddle on the way up to Boronia Peak



On the final part of the climb



Magnificent views of Lake Bellfield & the Grampians peaks



Heading back down to Halls Gap

SUNDAY 26 APRIL MT ZERO COMBO

Walkers: Mike O (leader & report writer), Julie A, Brett A, Hugh J, Erellyn R, Jodie G, Ben G, Catherine P, Pru S, Alison E, Penny E

This was an unconventional walk because it comprised four short walks in one day in the Mt Zero area. We did the walks in order of the longest distance (4.6km) to the shortest (1.5km): Mt Stapylton, Mt Zero, Hollow Mountain, and Gulgurn Manja Shelter.

A good sized group of 11 walkers, including 5 guests, met at the Mt Zero picnic area, although two came late by arrangement. Since not everyone completed all the walks, a summary of the approximate distances completed is attached.

(Continued on Page 5)

Walk Reports

MT ZERO COMBO (cont)

MT STAPYLTON

Walk Description: There were fantastic views along the entire route with many interesting rock formations including a photo op at "Bird Rock". The moderately steep incline was punctuated by flights of rock steps and had generally very good grip. Pru decided to start back down after we reached Bird Rock. Catherine appeared at the top about 10 minutes after we had arrived, with Brett meeting us at Flat Rock near the bottom on our way down. So a total of 9 made it to the top.

Grade: AWTGS Grade 4 - Moderate/Difficult

Distance: 4.6 km out-and-back

Elevation Gain: 250 m

Duration: 2.5 hours

MT ZERO

Walk Description: The first part was along fairly easy gravel and sand tracks before a rougher rocky steep incline. About halfway up, there is a fork in the route with a choice to continue along a similar track (right) or to go via a short slot canyon (left). Most chose the slot canyon. Shortly after that, Pru decided to wait for us to come back down again. From the toposcope at the summit, we enjoyed beautiful 360 degree views over olive plantations around the foothills of Mt Zero and the vast Wimmera plains stretching off into the distance. Back at the picnic area, we ate lunch at the picnic tables. As previously arranged, Pru left us after lunch. So a total of 10 made it to the top.

Grade: AWTGS Grade 3 - Moderate

Distance: 2.6 km out-and-back

Elevation Gain: 150 m

Duration: 1.5 hours

HOLLOW MOUNTAIN

Walk Description: After lunch at the Mt Zero picnic area, we all drove about 1km to the Hollow Mountain car park. Most of the route is only moderately difficult until the final section which involves some short steep rock climbs. Alison turned back at this point because she was developing some sort of pain. At the top we were rewarded with a multilevel cave complex to explore and, of course, more views. Julie and Catherine did not join us inside the cave but chose to continue on to the actual summit. Overall, I think everyone enjoyed this walk the most because of its unique nature. So a total of 9 made it to at least the caves.

Grade: AWTGS Grade 4 - Moderate/Difficult

Distance: 2.6 km out-and-back

Elevation Gain: 130 m

Duration: 1.5 hours

GULGURN MANJA SHELTER

Walk Description: By this time, it was already after 4pm. Four walkers decided to leave at this point since

they still had a long drive home or that they had already been to this shelter several times before. The short leisurely walk to the rock art shelter was very easy. The shelter, comprising several small handprints and other motifs, is relatively small, so the whole thing can be casually viewed in less than ten minutes. So only 5 made it to our final destination.

Grade: AWTGS Grade 2 - Easy

Distance: 1.5 km out-and-back

Elevation Gain: 70 m

Duration: 0.5 hours

Walkers		Stapylton	Zero	Hollow	Manja	Total	
1	Hugh		4.6	2.6	2.6	1.5	11.3
2	Julie		4.6	2.6	2.6	1.5	11.3
3	Erelyn		4.6	2.6	2.6	1.5	11.3
4	Mike		4.6	2.6	2.6	1.5	11.3
5	Penny Griffin	Guest	4.6	2.6	2.6	1.5	11.3
6	Ben Greene	Guest	4.6	2.6	2.6		9.8
7	Jodie Greene		4.6	2.6	2.6		9.8
8	Catherine Pye	Guest	4.6	2.6	2.6		9.8
9	Alison Eggleton	Guest	4.6	2.6	1.0		8.2
10	Brett		1.5	2.6	2.6		6.7
11	Pru Sheppard	Guest	3.0	2.0			5.0



*Approaching
Mt Stapylton
summit*



*Flat Rock
& Mt
Stapylton
from
Mt Zero
summit*



*Entrance to
Hollow
Mountain
caves*

Walk Reports



*Gulgurn
Manja
rock art*

SATURDAY 9 MAY MT CASSELL

Walkers: Greg (leader & report writer), Julie, Sue, Hugh, Erelyn, Mike and visitors Alisa & Marina
Distance: 9.3 km Rating: Medium / Hard

We started at the intersection of Tunnel Road and the Mt Cassell Fireline; the weather was cool and the track damp. As we went up the steep sections we slowed down and noticed that the bush was coming back well after the fires.

We got to the clearing where we had a break before leaving the track and heading uphill, following rock cairns until we reached the top, before we had lunch near the ridge on the way back. We then continued back the way we came to the cars, then to Pomonal for refreshments, then home.



*View of Mt
Cassell from
the base of the
fire track*



*Through the
light scrub
to reach the
summit*



*Lunch break
with a
spectacular
view from
the ridge*



*Equally
glorious
view of Lake
Bellfield on
the other
side of the
ridge*

SATURDAY 23 MAY MAJOR MITCHELL PLATEAU

Walkers: Gareth (leader and report writer), Julie, Mike, Jeff, Hugh, Erelyn, Greg, Susan D., and Elisa.
Distance: 14km Grading: AWT 5 Hard

One vehicle was left at the end of the Stockyard Track, prior to the nine walkers assembling at Kalymna Falls Campground from where we started this walk. At quarter to nine, we set off along the Boundary Gap Track and soon began to appreciate the steepness of this management track. This whole area had been impacted by the December 2024 fire and Boundary Gap Track was only re-opened a couple of months ago.

Starting at an elevation of 400 metres above sea level at the campground, at around 800m the management track turns into a steep slightly overgrown walking track. It was around here where the leeches attacked three walkers.

Upon reaching The Grampians Peaks Trail intersection, a brief drink and snack break before tackling the steep section with stone stairs and a couple of rock scrambles taking us up to the start of the plateau. Track maintenance crew had the First Wannon campground occupied as they worked to repair fire damaged track infrastructure. Much of their equipment and supplies had already been helicopter lifted in bulka bags. Sections of the walk along the plateau are on steel platforms. The fire has impacted the vegetation on the plateau and some of the Banksia looks to have died off.

(Continued on Page 7)

Walk Reports

MAJOR MITCHELL PLATEAU (cont)

Fortunately, we were able to take in some of the spectacular views as we passed the easterly escarpments before cloud came in. The weather had been kind but now on the elevated section of the plateau the clouds were threatening and we were feeling the exposure, so didn't stop for long at the Durd Durd cairn.

It was a bit more sheltered as we got up and over Banksia Hill, and after the steep climb down from Banksia Hill we were out of the cloud. The track levelled out and we were back amongst forest on the way to the Stockyard Track junction. A rest break at the junction gave time for a couple of walkers to check out the nearby Durd Durd hike-in campsite, before the last 2.6km down the management track to the Mafeking Road where the vehicle was left. A warm thermos was left with the four walkers for the half hour wait for the car shuffle to be completed.



The long climb up Boundary Gap Track



Heading up to the plateau from Boundary Gap



Across to the Major Mitchell Plateau



Admiring the views from Major Mitchell Plateau

WALK LEADER TRAINING WORKSHOP *Registrations soon opening!!*

Bushwalking Victoria is conducting another walk leader training workshop on Saturday 8th August for all aspiring leaders and for those who may wish to refresh their skills.

Topics covered include mapping and navigation, risk management, preparing and conducting the walk, incident management and leadership skills.

This is a FREE workshop, open to any member of a bushwalking club affiliated with BWV.

If you have thought you'd like to lead a walk but lacked confidence to do so, doing this course is for you.

Registrations open on Wednesday 1st July – save the date to book your place early as the workshop soon books out (with only a total of 20 participants).

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 6 June	MT GORRIN (Off track with navigation training) (Buangor)	Medium	Julie	0407 561135
Sunday 21 June	COPPERMINE TRACK to GAR TRAILHEAD (Grampians)	Medium	Mike	0406 756855
Tuesday 30 June	GENERAL MEETING - SES Hall, Sloane St, Stawell, 7:30pm	ALL WELCOME	Greg - Secretary	0407 582776
Saturday 4 July	MID-YEAR PRESIDENT'S LUNCH - Barney's Bistro, Pomonal	All current & past members welcome	Julie	0407 561135
Sunday 5 July	TRAINING WALK 1 MT ZERO & MT STAPYLTON (Grampians)	Medium	Julie	0407 561135
Sunday 19 July	ROGAINING EVENT 10am - 4pm (NE of Ballarat)		Contact John for more details, including entry fees	0407 674123
Tuesday 28 July	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - SES Hall, Sloane St, Stawell, 7:30pm	ALL WELCOME	Greg - Secretary	0407 582776
Sunday 2 August	TRAINING WALK 2 BRIGGS BLUFF via BEEHIVE FALLS (Grampians)	Medium / Hard	Hugh	0428 621798
Sunday 16 August	DELLEY'S BRIDGE to LAKE BELLFIELD (return) (Halls Gap)	Easy / Medium	Jenny	0408 345387
Tuesday 25 August	GENERAL MEETING - SES Hall, Sloane St, Stawell, 7:30pm	ALL WELCOME	Greg - Secretary	0407 582776
Sunday 30 August	TRAINING WALK 3 PINNACLE - BELLFIELD CIRCUIT (Grampians)	Medium	Julie	0407 561135
Sunday 13 September	GPT 1 - MT ZERO CARPARK to ROSES GAP (Grampians)	Hard	Julie	0407 561135
Saturday 26 September	MT COLE AREA (Buangor)	TBC	Mike	0406 756855
Tuesday 29 September	GENERAL MEETING - SES Hall, Sloane St, Stawell, 7:30pm	ALL WELCOME	Greg - Secretary	0407 582776
Saturday 3 October	GPT 2 - ROSES GAP to LONG-POINT WEST (Grampians)	Hard	Julie	0407 561135
Sat 10 & Sun 11 October	FEDERATION WALKS WEEKEND (Portland)	Various	Information at fedwalks.org.au	

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 17 October	GPT 3 - LONGPOINT WEST to WERDUG (Grampians)	Hard	Julie	0407 561135
Saturday 24 October	WILD MAN'S CAVE (Black Range St. Park)	Medium	Gareth	0427 565860
Tuesday 27 October	GENERAL MEETING - SES Hall, Sloane St, Stawell, 7:30pm	ALL WELCOME	Greg - Secretary	0407 582776
Saturday 31 October	GPT 4 - WERDUG to HALL'S GAP (Grampians)	Medium	Julie	0407 561135
Sunday 8 November	BARNEY'S CASTLE (Grampians)	Medium (off-track)	Greg	0407 582776
Saturday 14 November	GPT 5 - HALL'S GAP to ROSEA CARPARK (Grampians)	Medium	Julie	0407 561135
Sunday 22 November	BUN-NAH TRAIL to ZUMSTEIN'S (Grampians)	Easy / Medium	Mike	0406 756855
Tuesday 24 November	GENERAL MEETING - SES Hall, Sloane St, Stawell, 7:30pm	ALL WELCOME	Greg - Secretary	0407 582776
Saturday 5 December	CHRISTMAS LUNCH (Venue TBC)		Julie	0407 561135

Grampians Bushwalking Club - Membership Fees for 2026/27

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 2026/27 membership fees will be due from July 1st 2026.

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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