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Membership Fees

\$40 per Person

Subs due July each year

Sunraysia Bushwalkers

May 2015

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Affiliated with:



In this issue:

- ❖ Weeding in Hattah NP
- ❖ Federation Weekend
- ❖ Mournpall Walk



To view the complete calendar, please follow the link:

<http://www.sunbushwalk.net.au/calendarofactivities.html>

Weekend at Hattah 24 - 26th April



Although the weekend plan was to visit Elphicks Island, plans had to be changed, due to restricted access to our planned destination, Thus it was a visit to Hattah Kulkine instead. Departure was early evening and we accessed Mournpall via the Mournpall track and with only one other camper present we soon selected a camping spot and erected one tent and a trap shelter in the rain – so unlike North West Victoria to turn on rain on a camping weekend!

We had brought our own wood for a fire, but considering the weather and lateness, it was decided to save the wood for the morrow. Neil & Alison retreated to their tent whilst Roger managed to make sufficient room in the back of the Jackaroo to set up a comfortable bed.

Saturday morning was cool but promised much for a day of walking. After a leisurely breakfast and some mopping up in the tent we proceeded to walk the Lake Walk in the clockwise direction and headed off into the sand-dunes.

It was a considerable number of years ago that members of Sunraysia Bushwalkers and the Friends of Hattah had assisted Parks in laying out the track. Since then additions of interpretive signs and replacement of timber direction markers with re-constituted plastic posts had taken place. Some of the track had also been re-aligned – or is my memory failing me?



The circuit took a little over 2 hours to complete and it was evident that parts of it had been inundated up to two meters with the environmental flooding that had occurred late last year. When we finally came to the section along the shore of Lake Mournpall it was pleasing to see that the Noogoora Burr had not established itself there.



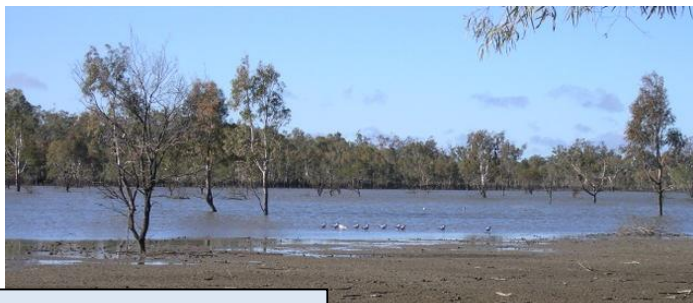
After lunch we walked anti-clockwise around the lake to the area that had been re-vegetated by the Friends of Hattah in the early 1980's. The aim at the time was to stabilise an extensive sand-dune which was moving along the southern shore of Mournpall, by planting a number of tree species. The evidence was that the faster growing plants had done the job and the area now has a substantial Mallee Pine coverage although there did not appear to be much ground cover under the trees.

On Sunday we drove around to the junction where the inlet creek enters Mournpall and walked over the sand-dunes looking for the grave that is in that area. We failed to see the sign that indicates its presence and also failed to find it. Our walk took us all the way to Lake Lockie and it was not surprising to see many aquatic birds using the lake. A large flock of Pelicans rose into the early thermals and headed off in a westerly direction. It never ceases to enthrall me that such a large bird can take flight and then thermal on the up-currents with few flaps of their wings. Our return followed the series of shallow pools of the creek and it was here that we discovered some of the Noogoora Burr that the Bushwalkers had been collecting along Chalka Creek earlier in the week so with a few “Chook” bags still in the car we collected all that we found.



Garland Lily

A visit to the mudbrick centre at the Ranger's headquarters ended our visit.



Migratory Terns on Lake Lockie

Roger 2/5/2015

A WEEDING WE WILL GO



Roger, Penny, Dick, Russell, Meryl, Karl & Findlay

Since the last meeting Karl, Meryl, Barb, Penny, Findlay, Russell, Dick & Roger have visited Hattah (some on several occasions) to firstly survey the extent of Noogoora Burr along Chalka Creek after our efforts of last year to collect as much as possible of the weed and, secondly, extract as much of the weed as we could again. The survey showed that the weed was in abundance after the simulation of a high level flood of the regulated part of the park.

Our efforts consisted of initial collection in “Chook Pellet Bags” supplied by Russell. After our first collection we reverted to the method adopted last year and employed the wool bales which we had found so much easier to use with their larger openings. There have been four trips in total and with the last one going over the weighbridge and measuring about 250kgs it is my estimation that we have collected about 1 tonne of weed.

On one collection day Parks helped by moving the wool bales from our collection area to the car & trailer. This was very much appreciated as they became quite heavy after compaction.



Our latest collection saw us making 5 piles of weed in Chalka Creek with the understanding that Parks Victoria personnel will fire them once they have dried out.

We observed that :-

- Something is eating the seeds - possibly cockatoos - which leave seeds on the ground. Broken seed pods evidencing their consumption of the kernel.
- There is evidence of new sprouting of Noogoora Burr with them at the two leaf stage and a few at slightly more advanced stage with seed setting on plants only 10cm high.
- The largest plant was over a metre tall and I estimate would have had 50 plus seed pods.
- A lot of pig activity along the receding water line which seem to make good seed beds for the burr.
- Our harvesting of last year does not seem to have made much difference to the weed infestation that is present this year.
- The main weed growth is along the waterway and not so much in the outflow areas.



The reward for the work was a BBQ lunch (read Sausage Sizzle) on two of the trips.



Federation Walks Weekend 2015

will be held in the Victorian Goldfields and Spa Country around

Daylesford and Hepburn Springs

on the weekend of **24th and 25th October 2015**

The event will be hosted by the **Bayside Bushwalking Club**

and the **Great Dividing Trail Association**

The venue for registration, afternoon tea and Saturday evening meal will be

Hepburn Primary School

156 Main Road, Hepburn (corner of Fourteenth Street)

Due to the diversity of accommodation in the area and the proximity to Melbourne which permits

day trips, the hosting clubs will not be organising accommodation. Instead we will provide

information about suitable group and budget accommodation.

The Daylesford area is very popular and accommodation can book out quickly, sometimes a year in advance, so if you would like to participate in some of the great walks we are planning and stay overnight, book soon.

<http://fedwalks.org.au/>



CALENDAR

2015		
May 6	Meeting 8.00pm Club Room AGM	
May 10	Day Walk - Millewa Area Ramble in the bush somewhere near the SA border.	Contact Roger 0488121648
May 20	Mid-Week Day Walk Location to be confirmed at Meeting	Contact Roger 0488121648
May 23 - 24	Scotia Sanctuary – non pack	Contact Roger 0488121648
	Heysen Trail	Contact Roger 0488121648
June 3	Meeting 8.00pm Club Room	
June 6-8	Grampians Day Walks & Overnight	Contact Roger 0488121648
Oct 24 -25	Federation Walks Weekend Daylesford & Hepburn Springs	Contact Roger 0488121648
Nov 16th	Overseas Walk – Patagonia South America	23 day walk, early indication of interest required. Contact the Club at: enquiries@sunbushwalk.net.au

Next Meeting
Wednesday 6th May at 8.00 pm
at Drysdale's
2164 Fifteenth Street,
Irymple