

President

Roger Cornell 50257325

Vice President

Neil Hammerton 50235559

Secretary

Peter Rhodes 50221898

Treasurer

Karl Sommer 50227676

Quarter Master

Roger Cornell 50257325

Newsletter Editor

Barb Cornell 50257325

Membership Fees

\$30 per Person

Subs due 1st July

Sunraysia Bushwalkers November 2015

PO Box 1827

MILDURA 3502

Ph: 03 50257325

Website:

www.sunbushwalk.net.au



Affiliated with:



In this issue:

- ❖ **Kings Billabong Ramble**
- ❖ **Walking in the Allgaeu - Germany**
- ❖ **Federation Walk 2015**
- ❖ **Great South West Walk**
- ❖ **Calendar**



To view the complete calendar please follow the link:

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

Kings Billabong Ramble



Some of us came by car, others by bike and we met up at the 'Walks' car park in the Kings Billabong Reserve. Michael and Paula continued on by bike while the rest of us – headed by Peter walked off to the bird hide.

We enjoyed a panoramic view of the billabong but there was not a lot of bird life present. We did spot a couple of black swans, cormorants and ducks in amongst the tree stumps.



Initially it was planned that we return by the inland track, however as we had plenty of time it was decided to venture a little further along and then make our way back via Duck foot Lagoon.

This still allowed us time to finish off with a welcome "cuppa".



Participants:

Peter and Jenny, Robyn, Verna, Maria, Roger, Karl, Meryl and Lila, Michael and Paula.

Report by Verna

A BIG DAY OUT & ABOUT IN THE ALLGAEU

CAT COUNT 31, STORK COUNT 10 & DONKEY COUNT 1

The weather gods were on our side, so with some background reading by KJ, we headed off for a day in the Adelegg. Our goal was to start the walk in Rohrdorf, not far from Isny. By car, this takes a half hour maximum & is a lovely drive along curvy backroads & rolling hills. By bike, it is a great ride along curvy backroads & rolling hills, but they seemed to get curvier & steeper the longer we went. This is the area we went with Lyn & Mart, and Col & Shirley and the kids back in '98, where we stopped for a beer & bread on the return. Not the same walk (we did that last Wednesday), but the same area. It must be said that flying downhill is worth the effort of grinding up hill, but the proportion was a bit skewed by the time we arrived home in Kisslegg (Kiesel Eck = gravel corner – remnant from the glacial moraine).

And glacial moraine is what we walked amongst today & every day in fact. The Argen River is fed by many small tributaries which scour their way down out of the steep side valleys to the main brook & so on to the Lake of Constance. These pretty, clear streams are quite low now at the end of summer, so you can really appreciate the stony riverbed and smooth rounded 'cow belly' cutaways. Most of the walk was on formed lumber access tracks, but of course, we managed a few more interesting detours, complete with stinging nettles & blackberries – ouch! Fortunately, some berries were ripe & ready to be eaten - sweet revenge.

Along the route, we stopped by a small hydroelectric work which generates enough electricity for 2000 households with 3 small turbines (built in 1924). It was formerly a mill which served a blacksmith's works, and this is still in operation. The anvils are huge & I always find them scary. There's something evil about their form. Up the hill a bit we came across a nun tending the geraniums & all I could think of were these deep-fried pastries known as 'Nonnenfurzle' – I kept this thought to myself until we were well past, as this translates to 'Nun farts'!! KJ nearly fell off his bike when I said so. We'll return here to walk as it's known for its birdlife – up to 120 recorded feathered critters.

So, after tying up the bikes by the natural fountain in Rohrdorf & (removing my super-sexy padded undies – golly I was grateful for these), we set off to climb the 'Stairway to Heaven' (Himmels Leiter – steps of wooden logs) from about 800m – 1050m through beautiful beech & fir forest, lined by a variety of summer flowers, including valerian, clover and horse tail (Equisetum). Lunch was had at a bench beside the Plague Chapel – a very small chapel dedicated to 2 saints who protect believers from the plague & pestilence in general. It seems a bit strange these days, but in times when there was no other explanation, faith & hope were all there was in the face of such desperation.

We then took our first detour, to shortcut our way down to Eisenbach & Kreusthal, expecting to receive a welcoming "Gruss Gott" at a pub when we ambled in for a beer or shandy. This was not to be. Everyone is on holidays! Or, with the change in farming/working life, pubs in many small places only open on weekends. So we traipsed along the road a bit, having passed back into Wuerttemberg from Bavaria, before heading back into the forest looking for another short cut that was described in the book we'd left at home. Following a deer trail brought back memories of following beaver trails in Ushuaia.

By a slightly more circuitous route, clambering over & crawling under barbed wire, we re-joined the main track to fulfil the uphill quota for the day.

Downward brought more blackberry grazing on the forest edge, then the track widened to take us past fields & the stream again, back into Rohrdorf. Finally, luck was with us & the pub was open. Despite darkening clouds, we felt we'd earned a beer, so their large, hairy, black tomcat was displaced to make room for our wheat beers & bread.



The ride home was a bit of a scarper due to the threat of rain, but golly, that beer really hit my legs on the first serious uphill. KJ made it, but I ran out of oomph & had to walk a bit, both of us huffing & puffing all the while. But like I said at the start, those uphills make for some great downhills!

We rolled back into Kisslegg ahead of the rain & the paving work was just about finished for that day, so we cleaned up, prepared a light dinner (vesper) & sat around yarning for the evening. Perfect.

Report by Meryl

Meryl has forwarded the information below with the suggestion that it could be included together with an early morning breakfast and walk to the Arts Centre before the exhibition closes on 13th December.

Roger will discuss time and date at our meeting on Wednesday.

Voyages Botanical

Christine Johnson

Exhibition: Thursday 29 October - Sunday 13 December

Where: Mildura Arts Centre

Voyages Botanical is artist Christine Johnson's tribute to the untamed treasures of Australia's vast native flower garden. It is indeed a voyage: through rare and wonderful landscapes, but also through our botanical heritage and history.

Voyages Botanical was inspired by Johnson's time as a Creative Fellow at the State Library of Victoria. Her research, which drew on the library's collection of rare books of botanical illustration, took her back to the pioneering work of early botanical artists including Sydney

Parkinson, Pierre-Joseph Redouté and Ferdinand Bauer. This was the beginning of Johnson's own creative journey that at once honours our past, present and future.

Johnson's aim is simple: to tell the story of these early years of the exploration of Australia – but embellishing it by blending art with science, cartography and facsimiles of writings from the explorers' journals, including the flowers they picked along the way.



~~~~~

A photograph of a group of people walking on a grassy path in a forest. The path is lined with trees and foliage. The text is overlaid on the image in a white serif font. The text reads: 'Federation Walks Weekend 2016', 'will be hosted by the', 'Wimmera Bushwalking Club', '8th – 9th October 2016', and 'Western Grampians'. The background image shows several people walking away from the camera on a dirt path through a wooded area. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day. The overall tone is natural and outdoor-oriented.

Federation Walks Weekend 2016  
will be hosted by the  
Wimmera Bushwalking Club  
8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2016  
Western Grampians



## FEDERATION WEEKEND OCTOBER 2015

### Hepburn/Daylesford Region

Our quartet had become a trio even before take-off last Friday with Barb having succumbed to a lurgy. Prior to that, the 3 day walk near Nelson for the following weekend had been postponed due to Peter also being indisposed. 2 cars were still needed for our trip because Karl & Roger were heading to even greener walking pastures after the Fed. Weekend, although not meeting up with the others at Nelson as had been planned.

We chanced upon the Hepburn Headquarters of the Fed. Walk at the local primary school. Despite being a little early, we were permitted to register. Given the number of folks in high-viz vests, they certainly looked ready. After having been chastised for not always carrying a medical form with us by the officious person in charge of those forms, we sussed out some local pub/restaurant info and sidled in to Daylesford and on to the Jubilee Lake camp ground.



Mrs. Camp Manager was a bit under pressure, probably due to all those extra campers in town, but we did eventually find a flat enough spot on our triangle of Camp 7 to set up for the weekend. And we met up with a few other Fed Walk participants there as well.

Federation Walks weekends/days have been held since 1935, with a club (or several) teaming up to organise and host the event. This year, Bayside BWC & Great Dividing Trail Assoc (GDTA) jointly hosted the event.

Our Saturday walk was pleasantly & capably led by Sylvia & Ian from the GDTA. After a small glitch when some drivers took off too soon & we then couldn't find them at the agreed start point, the rest of the day was quite lovely. We walked from the railway station at Bullarto, through the Wombat State Forest to Bullarto Reservoir & then looped up through tall timbers, wonderful bird calls & CFA controlled burn areas to Leitches Creek Springs to take the mildly effervescent waters and have lunch. Most of the walk was on unsealed road, but nevertheless, several



orchids were spotted, including the bird & brown bird orchids (ie: my chocolate banana orchid!).



Fittingly, we moseyed down to the pub on our return, & had a great view of the hills as we chatted with 2 young walkers from Castlemaine & our Welsh mate, Alvin. Taking the Castlemaine pair's tip, we checked out 'The Blowhole'. The miners had picked & hammered their way through the rock to divert the stream flow so they could access the alluvial gold in the former stream bend.

We dined well at "Moor Please" in Hepburn, there being no room for us at the official dinner. But, we did go back to listen to the speaker. Unfortunately, we got the politician first – not illuminating. Then the speaker – also not illuminating so we went home.

For Sunday, we'd chosen a short walk (2.5hrs), Central Springs on Lake Daylesford to Tipperary Springs so that the returnees could leave around lunch time. This was also the logic of most of our fellow walkers, but the walk leader, David, had other ideas. He'd added on morning tea plus lunch, with the walk finishing about 2pm (4.5hrs). Anyway, there was a bit of a mutiny, with less than 1/3 doing the full walk. We met up with Chris & Sue from the Wimmera Club on this walk too.

This was a pleasant easy amble, however the presence of blackberries & gorse in full beautiful yellow flower was a strong reminder of how persistent introduced plants can become. The black wattle would have been strong in September.

Overall, I prefer the communal, onsite style we had at Rawson in Gippsland last year & the previous Fed Weekends at Bright & Halls gap. There's simply more chance to have a chat & a meal with the other walkers. The 2016 Fed Weekend is almost in our backyard, with Wimmera Club hosting the event in The Grampians. Yippee.





# Search for walk opportunities! GSWW.

## Personal Trainee Perspective.

After the Federation weekend in Hepburn Karl and I proceeded, via Ballarat (visit to John Morrish), to Portland and the start of the Great South West Walk (GSWW) armed with a rather old (2003) booklet of walks associated with the GSWW track.



The first location was chained and padlocked but this did not stop us from having a walk around three different tracks in the area. The location was near the alumina smelter and was land that had been earmarked for waste disposal of 5000 cubic meters per month which was reduced, through new processes, to a small percentage of that total. The result was an area converted into a wetland and park, including children's play equipment, but now abandoned. We encountered a stumpy, koala and dead tortoise and our first up close look at a wind turbine. Yes, they do make a noise, but it does not seem to phase animals ranging from cattle – standing in the shade of a tower – to koalas, wallabies and kangaroos – feeding close by.



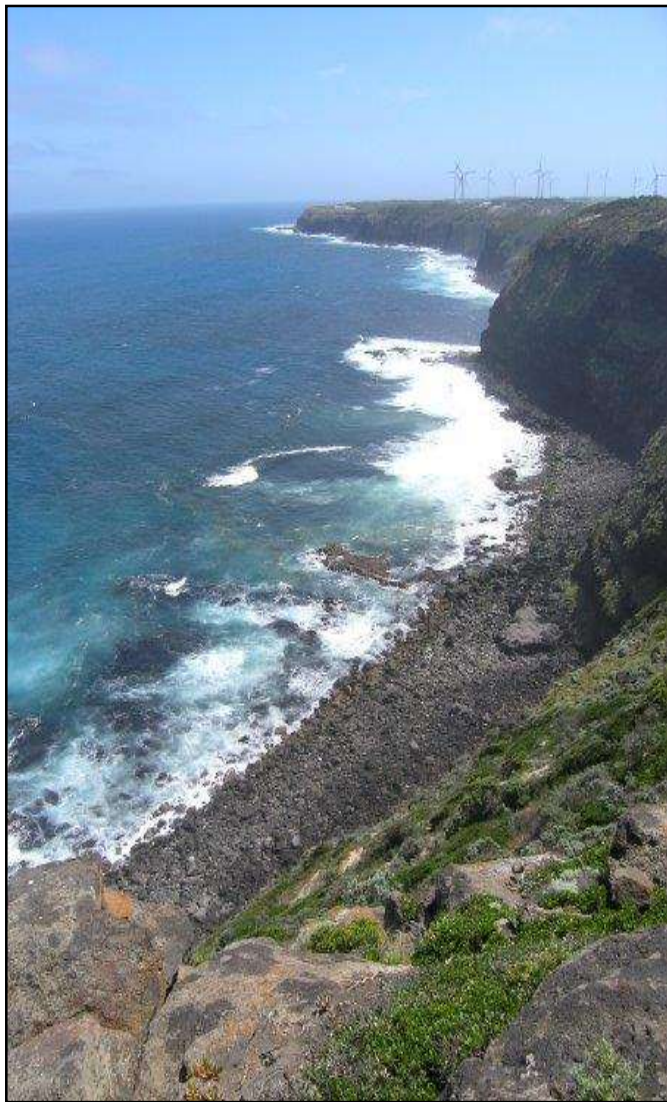
I have no recollection of ever visiting Portland although I have canoed the Glenelg on two occasions and walked from Nelson along the beach for two days on my first overnight camp with SBW club many years ago. Looking at maps of the area I had gained a wrong impression of the eastern part of the walk and what I found was in great contrast to what I had expected. Little of the first two days involved beach walking but rather clifftops and very interesting vegetative lands.

The geology of the area is the result of volcanic activity overlaid with sandstone and, apparently, contains the third largest area of volcanic plains in the world. (Victoria's Volcanic Plains [active] until as recently as 7,200 years ago, forming one of the *World's largest basalt plains* with more than 400 volcanos mapped.)

We visited four of the walker's camps being Mallee Camp, The Springs Camp, Cut-Out Camp and Fitzroy Camp. They all had the same design of shelter and toilet but with Mallee having platforms constructed of earth filled timber squares. The toilet facilities were of the one throne variety with sufficient room for wheelchair access and manoeuvrability and looked well maintained although Mallee lacked toilet paper but did have the backup of a resident possum behind the toilet roll holders (no instructions of how to use).







The reason for doing this walk was as a convenient way of getting some leg fitness prior to South America and as a result Karl had answered my un-uttered request for a personal trainer and issued many wonderful suggestions, such as, *I'll admire the scenery whilst you do several sets of the stairs from the beach at Bridgewater*. It was difficult to persuade him that I had greater expectations on a day when it took a 6 km road walk from the car drop off point to the start of the walk before attempting repetitive sets of exercises. Also, I had had the adrenalin rush when taking a short cut at the end of the road walk through long grass without gaiters (although I was carrying them) of an encounter with the last 50cm of very dark, fat snake rapidly sliding off the top of the grass to disappear under it. Karl seemed very relaxed about the whole affair, but then he had not seen the brightest yellow stripes on the Tiger snake I saw the day before.

Logbooks in the shelters recorded only very light traffic on the GSWW with 24<sup>th</sup> Oct being the most recent at Mallee Camp and 12<sup>th</sup> October at Fitzroy Camp. Perhaps the logbooks had been cleared out as there was only the top sheet with any writing and as we were there from 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> Oct it may have been that the walking season is just starting. The tracks were very well maintained and a sign celebrating 25 years of Landcare indicated that not only the volunteer group Friends of GSWW were involved but also Wesley College and Glenelg Hopkins CMA – although I

suspect that the Friends group carry the majority of the load.

Coming from the Mallee it was good to be back in forest country with tall timber. Some of the park areas have been logged in the past as evidenced by stumps slowly decaying. A surprise was the stand of tree ferns which are apparently the furtherest west of any tree ferns in Victoria. I also picked up a little surprise myself although it was not until filling up with petrol at Hamilton that it came to my attention as it gyrated across the floor mat that I knew anything about it and it was immediately deposited on the ground. As leaches go it was one of the largest that I have seen and it became evident that it was the benefactor of a feeding frenzy upon yours truly. (Sorry no photo available).

Our return journey had us seeking out a camping spot on the shores(???) of Rockland Dam without much success although a fair amount of 4wd driving along tracks that had us enter, in Karl's words, "feral country". Our first sign of rain made me search out higher ground for a campsite and we had a clear area amongst open forest. Although we had traversed tracks that had no evidence of recent use it did not avoid three vehicles passing our camp site that night -at least they had their headlights on,





which was not the case when Karl & Meryl had adventured into this area for a night's camp last year.

Great preparation and much thanks to my “personal trainer” Karl.

Roger 1/11/2015







## CALENDAR

| 2015                                                                                                        |                                              |                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| November 4th                                                                                                | Meeting                                      |                        |
| November 16th                                                                                               | Overseas Walk – Patagonia<br>South America   | 23 day walk            |
| December 2nd                                                                                                | Meeting                                      |                        |
| December 5th                                                                                                | Christmas Break-up<br>Bondi Beach, Coomealla | Contact Peter 50221898 |
| 2016                                                                                                        |                                              |                        |
| A program has been organized for 2016 and will be discussed at the November meeting before being published. |                                              |                        |

**Next Meeting**  
**Wednesday 4th November, 8.00 pm**  
**at Drysdale's**  
**2164 Fifteenth Street,**  
**Irymple**