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Membership Fees

\$40 per Person

Subs due 1st July

Sunraysia Bushwalkers February 2018

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***WISHING YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY
WEAR YOUR BOOTS OUT NEW YEAR***

To view the complete calendar please follow the link:
<http://www.sunbushwalk.net.au/calendarofactivities.html>

Spence's Bend - 7th Jan 2018

Christiane hosted an early morning Sunday walk, near Spence's Bend.

We were contemplating, postponing the walk to the following Sunday as the forecast maximum temperature was 39C! But we decided to go ahead that with an early start there would be an early finish.

Courtesy of Greg, Patricia (Patsy) & myself were picked up and driven to the end of Rudd's Road, Iraak, where we met Christiane & staffy cross, 'Kobold', in a small car park near the Rudd's Road sandbar.



The four of us, began the walk just after 7 am. with the air temperature already a warm 21C. Luckily most of the walk was under shady trees. We basically did a "loop" heading south towards Spence's.

Making our own tracks, we walked through woodland, open floodplains and dry creek beds. The area we walked in was completely covered by water during the November 2016 flood:



Note the water level above Tony's head on the tree trunk.

The relatively short walk rewarded us with changes in scenery, flora, habitats & birdlife. We noticed a variety of birds including the sacred Kingfisher, young Kookaburra's, Peaceful Doves, White breasted Wood swallows, and Regent Parrots. We also saw the high flying Kites and heard the song of the grey shrike-thrush. Bird identifications thanks to Greg & Christiane.

We also saw the odd kangaroo in the distance and came across a golden strand from a golden orb-weaving spider.

Christiane noticed a rare Blue Burr Daisy - *Calotis cuneifolia*.

We returned to the car park by about 10:15 a.m., with the temperature having risen to 27C.



The length of our walk was approximately 10 Kms.

Thanks to host Christiane for a thoroughly enjoyable and pleasant walk.



Report by Tony

Victorian Parliament to Walhalla (Stage 1 to Healesville)

[8 day hike commencing 8th Dec 2017]



The premise of this walk is to make a connection from the Victorian Parliament (which was the seat of the Federal Government when the Australian States

joined to become the Commonwealth of Australia) and join up with the Alpine Walking Track that commences at Walhalla and ends at Parliament House in Canberra.

Bill is the keeper of the track notes made along the way following a proposed route compiled by Geoffrey and I just happened to be a follower – sometimes condemned for not even having brought along a compass.

So the ramblings that follow are just those of a laid back walker following two very capable bushmen in an area that none of us had walked in prior to this sojourn.

Once we commenced the walk it was surprising that most people did not suspect that we were on a walk of some distance, even though we carried packs that contained all our provisions for the 8 days that we were on the track. Comments, such as:

- what charity are you raising money for?
- Are you just practicing?
- Are you in training for an extended walk?
- Everest is the next turn on the right!

kept us amused as we slowly walked out of the city over the first few days of the trek.

I found that the first part of the walk kept me highly entertained as I always like observing the people who live in big cities, especially the surprise on many of their faces when you greet them with a cheery ‘hello’. We were given a great response when people came to know what we were endeavoring to do with many comments that indicated that they would also like to be doing something similar, but then, there were those who obviously had no desire to walk the long slow distance – each to their own.

As we started on a Saturday it was interesting to see the large number of rowers on the Yarra and I was especially surprised at just how many rowing clubs were dotted along our first day’s path. Many were rowers from schools and we obviously were of some curiosity to a coxed four of girls from one of the schools who had trouble knowing where Walhalla was until we related it to the snow fields. This made me think of the stick that The Cudabeens Champions give to Melbourne Football Club members. 😊

Along the Yarra, even quite close to the city, signs warn about snakes and I wondered if it was a reaction to Bill Bryson's book "Down Under" where everything is out to get you and the signs were just for the tourists so that they could report back home that what he said in the book is all true. It was not until our last day that Bill eventually spotted a snake of no small size, but then again neither Geoffrey or I saw it. One of our campsites was on a cricket oval and when we arrived a game of cricket was in progress so we waited until the game was over before setting up our three tents. One of the local residents came and had a chat and said that if anyone came to shift us on we were welcome to relocate to his front lawn at number 26. It was good to know that not only are there nice people in the country but the city has them also.

On the Wednesday we knew the forecast was for 37° so had an early start as we wanted to finish early and also had some concern about water at our next camp. We eventually reached a suitable location to setup camp for the night and a



short 1.5klm walk brought us into Kinglake, and as it was early, we visited the pub for a much appreciated drink.

At a campsite mid afternoon we three were laying around at the top of a small knoll and much to her surprise a lady from a local winery walked up to the knoll and received quite a surprise when she finally spotted us. We failed to make the correct enquiry as to whether the winery was on our planned route, did it offer tastings and what time did they open? All these questions came to mind after she had left. The next morning we were off early and on approaching a 'T' intersection who should be

approaching but none other than the same person on her early morning constitutional and we were all so surprise that yet again we failed to ask those vital questions. Opportunity lost. ☹️

For those who like facts and figures we walked approximately 139klms reached a height of 1027 metres visited Mt Everard, Mt Beggery, Mt Slide and Mt St Leonard and did this all in 8 days of walking.

Reflection: The necessity to avoid walking in the water catchments for Melbourne which are usually fenced off in any event has meant that a lot of road walking has been involved in the progress towards Walhalla and this is only going to be more of a problem for the rest of our proposed walk.

Thanks to Bill for pursuing the idea of the walk and to Geoffrey for the excellent planning of the route and various alternatives.





Last, but not least, my apology to Bill for dousing him with my coffee grounds – one of the pitfalls of walking with an addict.





Tid Bits

The following are items of interest from Bushwalking Victoria
November 2017 Minutes

-  It looks as though no Club has nominated to host this year's Federation bushwalking weekend. So a sub-committee of the Board has been appointed to organize a one-day event by June 2018.
-  Action is being taken from a report by Bushwalking Tracks & Conservation on how to deal with aged bushwalkers and to be aware of various impairments. Findings from the research will be added into the Leadership Training Manual.
-  A Child Safe Policy is to be developed so that people can be advised on what they need to do.
-  Ambulance Victoria members have reciprocal cover in Queensland.



CALENDAR

2018		
Feb 4th	Belsar Island - Bus trip	Contact Peter 0438321898
7th	First meeting for the year	
March 4th - 9th	Bike ride along the Western Vic Rail Trail Start from Maldon - ending Port Fairy	Contact: Peter 0438321898
7th	Meeting	
16th	In lieu of our Progressive Meal - King's Billabong Walk concluding with meal at Riverside Golf Club	Contact Meryl or Karl 50227676 0427195988
April 4th	Meeting	
11th - 15th	3 Capes Trail, Tasmania - Hut camping 5 Days Airfares \$500 approx. Starts and ends at Port Arthur May also include trip to Maria Island	Contact: Michael 0400549988
15th	Walpolla Island & Murray River Walk	Contact Susan or Meryl 0427195988
May 2nd	Meeting	
13th	Sunset Country	Contact Peter 0438321898
TBA	Lake Mournpall	Contact Meryl 0427195988
June 6th	Meeting	
17th	Hattah Lakes Bike Trip	Contact Peter 0438321898
TBA	Wentworth to Snake Island	Contact Meryl 0427195988
July 4th	Meeting	
7th - 8th	Mid Year Dinner - TBA	Contact Peter 0438321898
13th - 15th	Mt Stapleton/Grampians Camp & Day Walks	Contact Meryl 0427195988
August 1st	Meeting	
11th - 12th	Banrock Station Camp/Walk or Day Walk	Contact Neil 0429865232

Sept 5th 8th - 9th	Meeting Pink Lakes/Lake Becking	Contact Meryl 0427195988
October 3rd 5th - 7th TBA	Meeting Gluepot Bird Observatory & Day Walks and / or Merbein Common or Koorlong State Forest	Contact Peter 0438321898 Contact Kym 0409940552 or Noel 0428214966
November 7th 11th TBA	Meeting Hattah Lakes/Chalka Creek Canoe Paddle and/or Merbein Common or Koorlong State Forest	Contact Peter 0438321898 Contact Kym 0409940552 or Noel 0428214966
December 5th TBA	Meeting End of Year Break-up	TBA

Please note:

The above calendar is just an **initial draft** and all activities and dates are subject to change after our meeting.

Always contact the Leader to register your attendance on a walk.

