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Sunraysia Bushwalkers

April 2018

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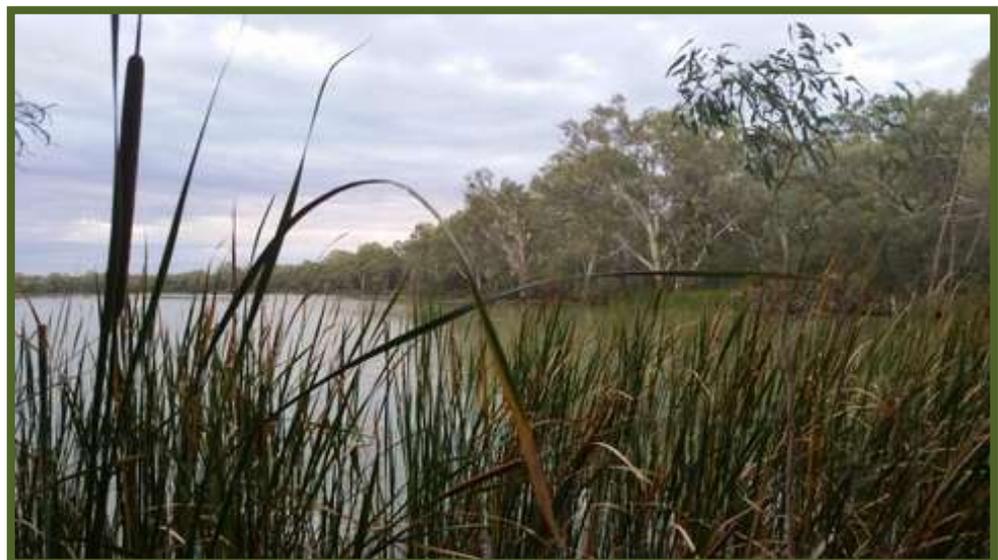
Affiliated with:

Bushwalking Victoria
towards better bushwalking

Membership Fees
\$40 per Person
Subs due 1st July

In this issue:

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

Rail Trails of Western Victoria March 4th - 9th, 2018



The first task of the bike trekkers - Dick, Russell, Roger, Michael, Tony, Peter and bus driver Bernie Livingston was to settle on a group name. Should it be MIM (Men in Lycra) or SCIL (Senior Citizens in Lycra)? In the end GIL (Geriatrics in Lycra) had popular appeal.

The trip was a success with good weather, no major mishaps and only

some minor scratches. Every day had its highlights, (e.g. Michael's singing) and lots of memorable moments.

The first ride on Sunday 4th was from Maldon to Castlemaine. This trail follows the current railway which is used by a Puffing Billy. We saw the train departing from Maldon Railway Station and again during its return. The trail wanders through forest country with some minor hills and dales.

Distance: 18 km, Rating: 4/5.

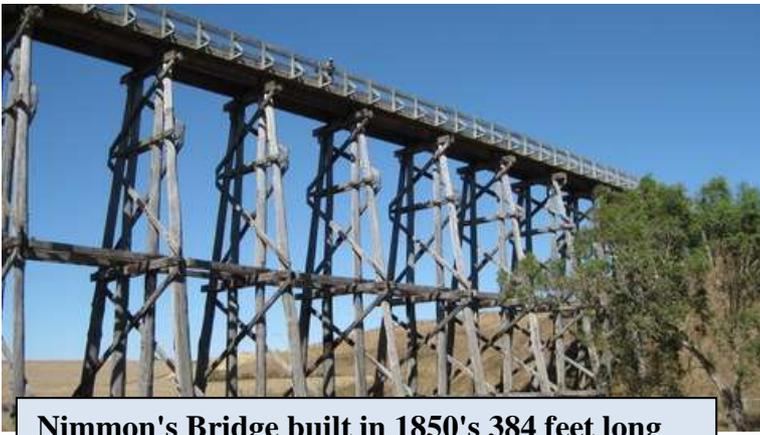


Monday morning's ride was from Bendigo to Heathcote. This ride had a mix of open country and forest but unfortunately we experienced strong headwinds for most of the journey. Closer to Heathcote the trail skirts Lake Eppalock, which showed signs of our recent dry weather. Coffee at Axedale was welcome but not as much as lunch at Heathcote. The trail was well signposted with a fine gravel surface.

Distance: 50 km, Rating: 4/5.

On route to Ballarat we completed the short trail from Trentham to Lyonville. Here the trail runs through dense, picturesque forest - typical powerful owl habitat. The trail would be a great walk as well.

Distance: 7 km, Rating: 5/5.



Nimmon's Bridge built in 1850's 384 feet long and the longest trestle bridge in Victoria

Overnight was spent in Ballarat and the next day the ride was from Ballarat to Skipton. This trail had everything - good signage, a great surface, fantastic bridges. and impressive scenery. The section from Smythesdale to Linton was excellent. Distance: 56 km, Rating: 5/5.

We dined and wined in Camperdown overnight and the next day, rode from Camperdown to Timboon via Cobden. This ride also had a variety of landscapes - some open country but mainly thick forests with lots of old railway bridges. The trail was a little overgrown in some spots but this added to the feeling of being close to nature. Distance: 40 km, Rating: 4.5/5.

Our drive to Beech Forest from Timboon passed the 12 Apostles. We had no time to stop because we had two great spots to visit. The first was the tree top walk near Weeaprounah.

We had perfect weather to stroll the 40metres above ground level! Next stop was the redwood plantation, (Sequoia sempervirons), located not far from the tree top walk. Walking amongst these 40 - 50 metre giants had a magical quality. The trees were planted in 1930 and appear not to have been affected by fire. Overnight we stayed in the Beech Forest Hotel and did our best to get through the huge meals provided by the friendly hostess.



Redwood trees - Sequoia sempervirons



Our next trail, the "Old Beechy", from Beech Forest to Colac. The section from Beech Forest to Gellibrand, (a lovely small town tucked into the Otway Ranges), was perhaps the best of them all and mostly downhill! Huge forest giants, massive tree ferns, shaded valleys and impressive vistas were our constant companions. The section from Gellibrand to Colac was good but closer to Colac the trail was on corrugated,

gravel roads. We had a delicious lunch in the Colac Botanical Gardens Cafe and then headed off to Dunkeld for our last night. Distance: 50 km, Rating: 5/5.

Dinner in Dunkeld met all expectations and gave us the opportunity to reminisce. Next day, Friday 9/3 we were on the road by 8.00 am for our drive to Stawell and the last trail - a short ride from Stawell to Mt Dryden. This trail is maintained by the local High School students. It was nice to stretch the legs before our trip home.

Distance 10km, Rating: 3.5/5.



On route to Mildura we followed the silo art trail that starts in Rupanyup and finishes in Patchewollock.

The trip was a pleasure. We enjoyed each other's company and the bus/trailer combination was ideal. Bernie excelled as our bus driver and we all thank him very much for volunteering to undertake this task. It was great to go and good to get home safe and sound. We are all looking forward to the next bike riding adventure.

Report by Peter

Loop the Lake Walk



As advertised in the previous newsletter this walk was a fund raiser for breast cancer and attended by two of our trusty members, Verna and Tony. The walk was approx. 11 klms and looped around the 'pink' Lake Crosbie and was completed in under 2 hrs. There were 111 participants, mostly from the small Mallee towns of Underbool, Walpeup & Ouyen.

Verna & Tony after the walk.
Peter Crisp, MLA, also took part in the walk.

Report by Tony



King's Billabong Evening Walk 16th March 2018



A wonderful roll-up of 25 members took part in the bird hide loop walk. This particular walk was taking the place of our 'Progressive Meal', usually held in February to kick off another Bushwalking year. I presume the organizing committee decided out of kindness to those members progressing in age, not to hold the event during one of our hotter months - if so it was much appreciated.

The 4.5klms walk, took approx 1 hr of pleasant walking and chatter amongst members. with the number o participants we even managed to kick up quite a bit of dust on the dry track. The walk took us through a Black Box stand, Red gum and river Cooba trees. Unfortunately there was not a lot of bird life to be seen on this occasion.



Why is there always one who bucks the trend!

18-03-2018



One young couple had a bit of smart catching up to do, arriving after we had all set off

The walk was capped off with a wonderful meal at the Riverside Golf Course, at which some members nearly had a dousing from the sprinklers that came on during the meal! Several of our members once again were fortunate in winning some of the raffles.



Report by Tony & Barb



CALENDAR

2018		
April 4th 11th - 15th 15th	Meeting 3 Capes Trail, Tasmania - Hut camping 5 Days Airfares \$500 approx. Starts and ends at Port Arthur May also include trip to Maria Island Walpolla Island & Murray River Walk	Contact: Michael 0400549988 Contact Susan or Meryl 0427195988
May 2nd 13th TBA	Meeting Hattah Lakes Bike Trip and/or Lake Mournpall	Contact Peter 0438321898 Contact Meryl 0427195988
June 6th 17th TBA	Meeting Sunset Country Day Walk and/or Wentworth to Snake Island	Contact Peter 0438321898 Contact Meryl 0427195988
July 4th 7th - 8th 13th - 15th	Meeting Mid Year Dinner - TBA Mt Stapleton/Grampians Camp & Day Walks	Contact Peter 0438321898 Contact Meryl 0427195988
August 1st 11th - 12th	Meeting Pink Lakes/Lake Becking /Pack Walk or Day Walk	Contact Meryl 0427195988
Sept 5th 22nd -23rd 24th	Meeting Gluepot Bird Observatory Camp & Day Walks followed by camp & Day Walks at Gluepot Bird Observatory	Contact Neil 0429865232

October 3rd 7th TBA	Meeting Millewa or Merbein Common or Koorlong State Forest	Contact Kym 0409940552 or Noel 0428214966
November 7th 11th TBA	Meeting Hattah Lakes/Chalka Creek Canoe Paddle and/or Millewa 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

***Note:* All activities and dates are subject to change. Always contact the Leader to register your attendance.**