

**Vice President**

Russell Shallard

**Secretary**

Dick Johnstone 50220030

**Treasurer**

Barb Cornell 50257325

**Quarter Master**

Roger Cornell 50257325

**News Letter Editor**

Barb Cornell 50257325

# Sunraysia Bushwalkers

## August 2012

**Membership Fees****New Members \$30****Existing Members \$25****Subs due July each year**

PO Box 1827

MILDURA 3502

Ph: 03 50257325

Website

[www.sunbushwalk.net.au](http://www.sunbushwalk.net.au)**Affiliated with:**

## Our meeting is on Wednesday evening

### 1<sup>st</sup> August 2012 at 8.00pm

*Jet lagged newsletter editor responsible for the briefness of this newsletter*

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT

A couple of Sundays ago just three of us fronted for the scheduled bike ride to Red Cliffs. We made the decision to change the plan to along King's Billabong and then return along Butler's Creek. The riding tracks are one of our district's little known treasures. They access a range of attractive plant and water locations yet are so close to the developed settlement. Our community is indebted to the Friends of King's Billabong for their vision and sheer hard work in building and maintaining the tracks that are such a pleasure to travel.

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July, a small group of Club members will visit the Raak Plain area.

Last year, five Club members participated in the "Wild Dog Mail Trail Return Walk" over two days from Cowangie to Pine Plains. The end point was O'Sullivan's Pine Plains Lodge where all the participants and organizers shared a welcome and convivial evening finale in comfort beside the massive internal fire places.

Pine Plains Lodge is another of the region's lesser known treasures. It is sited on two hundred acres of freehold land within the Wyperfeld National Park. The O'Sullivan Family had had the lease for Pine Plains Station since 1915. It was the most successful pastoral lease in this end of the state largely because of its extensive grassy plains. The family's responsible stewardship of the land has enabled a thriving and diversified landscape to be enjoyed by visitors today.

The O'Sullivan's have had a tough enduring journey. In the 1990's following the Land Conservation Council's Report, their pastoral lease was summarily terminated without any recompense for the decades of investment in the property. All that remained for them was the small parcel of freehold title. With the total loss of their grazing enterprise, Tim and Susan O'Sullivan's vision for the future was the creation of a classy facility where visitors to the northern end of the National Park could stay and use as a base for accessing the area. Tragically, Tim O'Sullivan died in 1995 when construction of the Lodge was underway. Some six months later, Susan and Adrian decided to complete the project with the result being an outstanding place where people can dine and socialize in top class surroundings. The owners can tell much about the surrounding country.

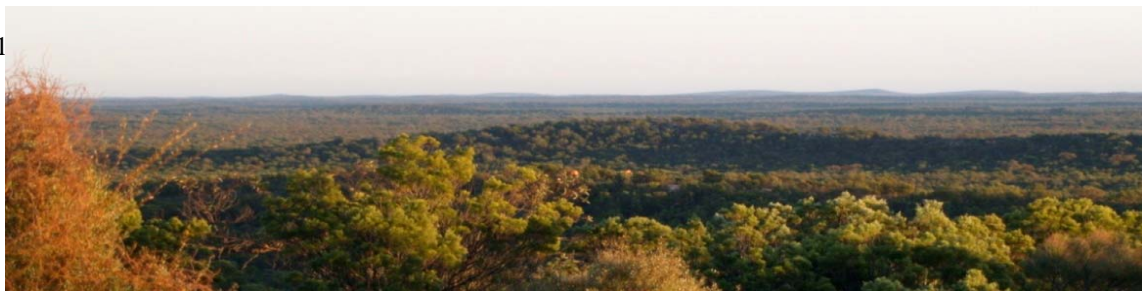
Sleeping arrangements in the Lodge comprise two double rooms plus two six bunk rooms. In addition, the adjoining homestead has five bedrooms that visitors are welcome to use.

Our Club has a scheduled overnight visit to the Lodge on Saturday 18th August and more detailed arrangements will be on our meeting agenda on August 1<sup>st</sup>. In the interim, I suggest you visit [www.pineplainslodge.com](http://www.pineplainslodge.com) and speak with any of the club members who have already visited Pine Plains. Cost for the night is \$77 per person but I promise that anyone who ventures with us will not be disappointed.

Some time ago, Noel sought expressions of interest for a visit to Tasmania in autumn 2013. To date there has been little response to the offer. I now wonder whether a walk in that State in the coming spring has any appeal.

I look forward to the stories from traveling club members when we meet on Wednesday evening.

Dick Johnstone. President



## PROGRAM Winter/Spring 2012

*If you intend going on any of these trips please contact the Trip Leader by 8 pm the Thursdays beforehand so that arrangements may be finalized. Unless a minimum of 4 walkers (including the Trip Leader) have registered by Thursday evening walks may have to be cancelled.*

Day & Date	Activity	Grade **	Trip Leader	Phone No	Comments
<b>AUGUST</b>					
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup>	MEETING				
Sat/Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup>	Belated Winter Solstice at Pine Plains Lodge	SE	Noel Hayward	5025 7455	Join us around a big campfire, for a camp oven banquet.
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	Ride or walk, Abbotsford Bridge	SE	Michael Jobe	5023 8257	Explore west of Abbotsford Bridge
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>					
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	MEETING				
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mt Henschke day walk	SM	Noel Hayward	5025 7455	Optional vehicle camp O/N or pack camp beyond Mt Henschke
<b>OCTOBER</b>					
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	MEETING				
Sat/Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> /21 <sup>st</sup>	Grampians 2 days Overnight walk	MH	Roger Cornell	5025 7325	<b>Alternate day walks from Halls Gap</b> Expressions of interest in this will be sort at the meeting on 1/8/2012
<b>NOVEMBER</b>					
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	MEETING				
17 18 <sup>th</sup>	Murrumbidgee Canoeing	ME			

### ADVANCE WARNING 2013 -14 WALKS.

Feb 2013 Either side of Wooden Boat Show (8-11th)	Attempt at Mount Anne Circuit walk (Repeat attempt)	Roger	5025 7325
April 2013	Waldheim Huts Cradle Mountain. Day or overnight walks around the Cradle to admire the autumn foliage of the <i>Nothofagus Cunnungham</i>	Noel	5025 7455
April 2014	Himalayan Walk. Everest Base Camp and/or Goyko Lakes	Noel	5023 8257

\*\* For our grading system of activities refer to our website at <http://www.sunbushwalk.net.au/activities.html>