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Membership Fees
\$40 Per Person
Subs due July each year

Sunraysia Bushwalkers

April 2013

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Affiliated with:



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- ❖ **Bottle Bend Report**
- ❖ **Calendar of upcoming events**



New Members: A warm welcome to Tony & Val

Web Site News:

*We now have a map which is being populated with the location of walks the Club has done.
Anyone who knows of a walk that has not been featured on the map please let Roger know.*



BOTTLE BEND WALK
16TH March 2013
By Barb



After all the heat we had been experiencing it was with quiet relief when the weather turned a lot cooler and that this walk was not to be just another expedition that had to be endured.

It really is with mixed emotions sometimes when I embark on the walks and hikes put before me by my bushwalking fanatic / husband. Over the years and walks, I have come to realize that if one gives into the temptation of staying at home, great times, new experiences, the broadening of one's knowledge of our wonderful country, being able to cope in rather tough situations, learning and seeing new things are just too precious a commodity to miss. As I progress in years the health benefits I have gained truly give way to thankfulness of being a member of such a wonderful bushwalking club.

Goodness where did all that come from?



Kim, Roger & Tony having a lesson on using the SPOT

Back to the walk.....Those who enjoyed the benefits of the day were Tony, Kim, Roger & Barb

Our central meeting spot was at the old Mildura wharf where it was decided to all pile into the Jackaroo. Our departure of 9.00am was delayed a little just in case any other Club members may have been coming.

After going through Monak we turned right off the highway into Bottle Bend – which to my surprise had a notice saying it was under camera surveillance! Another surprise what just how nice it was once we reached the river. For those in the know, travelling with vans (or tents, Roger's preference) would make for a great overnight stop.

It is possible to purchase a book on free camp sites in Tasmania; I presume someone has done one for the mainland as well, and that Bottle Bend is listed? The free campsites in Tassie do leave a bit to be desired, particularly in the toilets stakes. The bush being festooned with luo paper is not a very savoury experience and most of the sites are really for places where fishermen are able to launch their boats.

Sorry, I digress – back to the walk.....Roger took a track to the left once we reached the bend and drove for a further klm before parking the car in what to me seemed the middle of no-where. I have learnt over the years not to be concerned over his decisions when it relates to bush matters and location as he seems to have an uncanny knack of knowing just where he is in the relation the landscape.

We donned our packs, leaving behind our rain coats, as we bowed to the superior knowledge of cloud heights from Tony, our club meteorologist. He was correct in his prediction of no rain even though the dark clouds looked as though it just might rain on our parade across Bottle Bend.



Due to the lack of rain over the last 6 months the ground and surrounding undergrowth were extremely dry. After 10 minutes walking we came across our first creek crossing point, thankfully it was dry. The next creek began with a small channel of water but as we walked along side it became quite a large

body of water with water birds in residence – we all expressed our pleasure and enjoyment at finding of such a lovely spot.



I was pleasantly surprised that we did not have to try and cross this rather large bit of water, I think it must have doubled back towards to river somewhere. We pressed on to finally come out on the main river bank opposite the pumps for Lindermans Winery. A short scroggin break was then the order of the day.

Heading back along the river we walked alternately through patches of lovely red river gum stands and dry scrubby areas. A large fallen tree trunk proved, as usual, an excellent lunch seat with the tune of large pumps ringing in our ears! Just after setting off after lunch we disturbed a small mob of goats— I think they were also having a lunch break.

We arrived back at the main part of Bottle Bend but on the wrong side of a small creek. Someone before had place a couple of old tyres in the water but they were rather unstable, though Roger with his longer stride and goat like ability managed to leap across. He and Tony then kindly dragged back a couple of largish logs so that Kim & I could cross easily..... thanks boys.

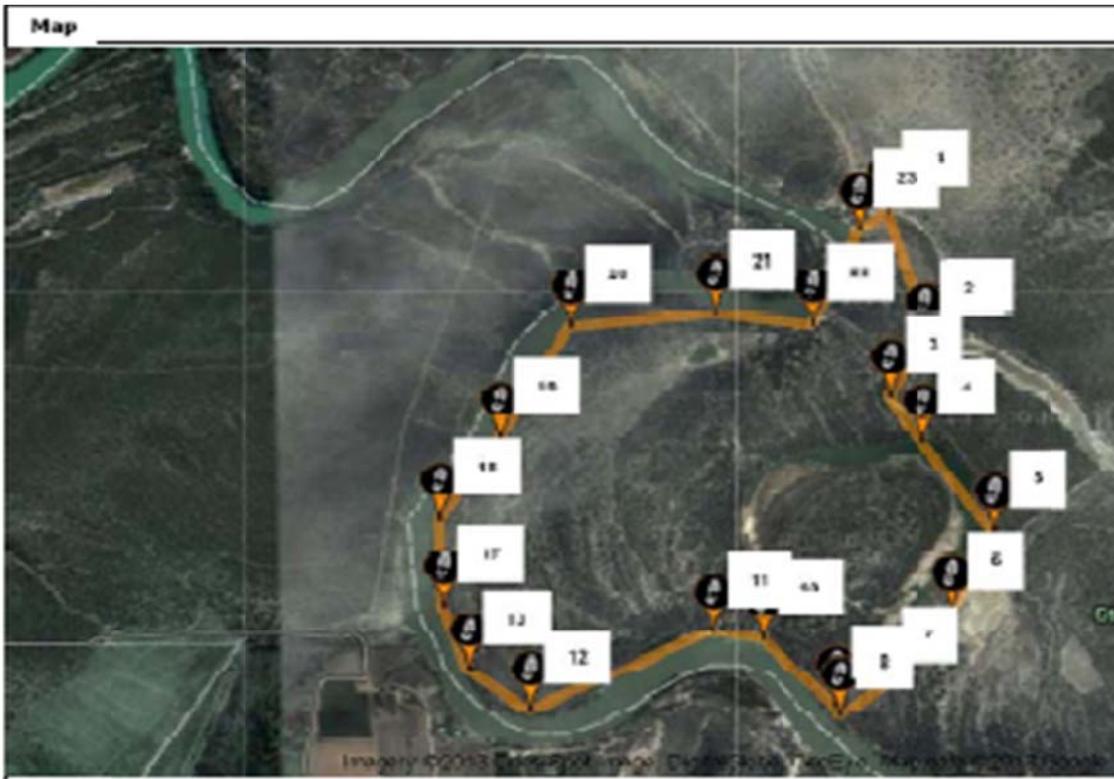


This was one of the dry crossings

The logs were then removed so as not to impede future water flow and to leave the area as we found it.

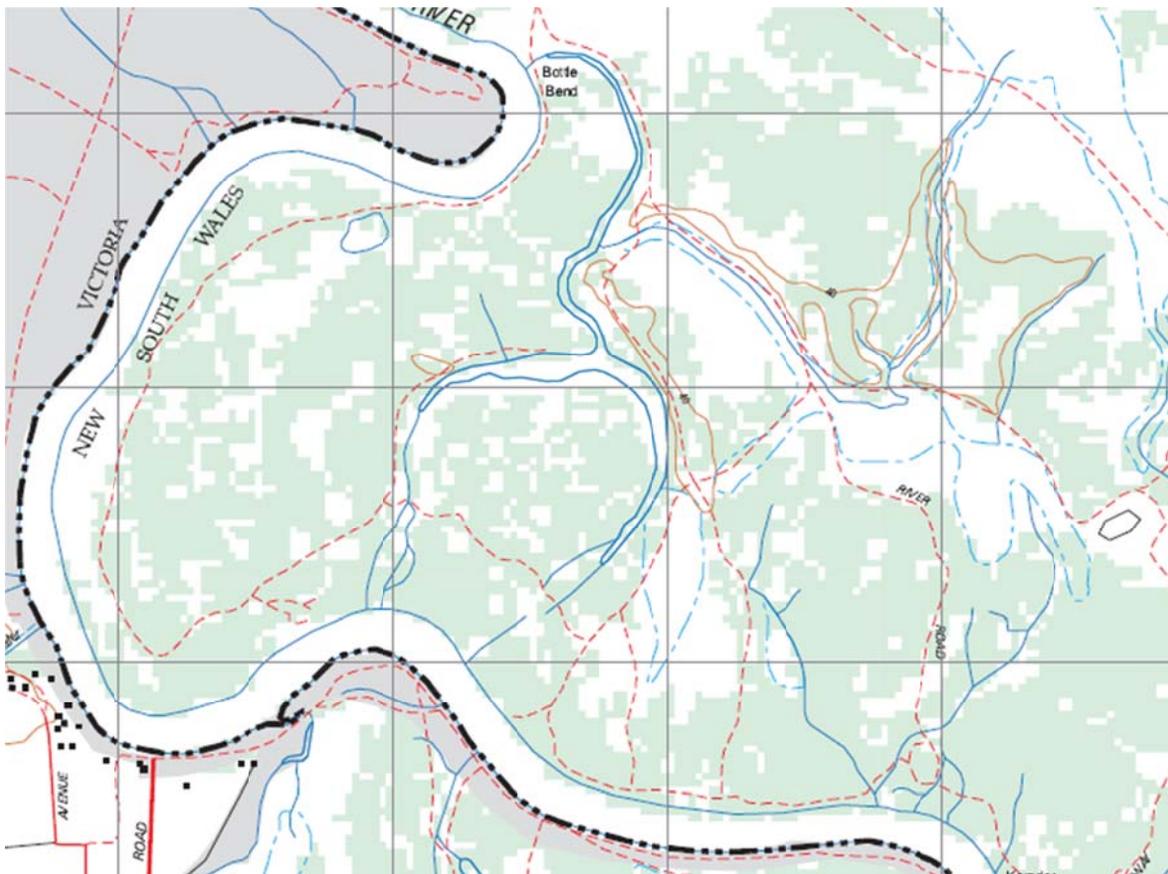
During the walk we found a large number of nests in trees as we went, which was great to see. From a distance I saw the area, which had been shown on the news last year as totally toxic because of the drought, but no evidence of anything actually being done there as we had been told. After crossing the creek it was then just a klm back to the car by 2 pm, where we thoroughly enjoyed a cup of tea/coffee thoughtfully supplied by Kim.





Bottle Bend SPOT report of our walk

Bottle Bend





SUNRAYSA BUSHWALKERS

PLANNED WALKS FOR 2013

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.

2013	Activity	Grade	Contact
3 rd April	Meeting		Dick 50220300
18 th April	Waldheim Huts Cradle Mountain. Day or overnight walks around the Cradle to admire the autumn foliage of the <i>Nothofagus Cunnungham</i> 6 days	SE to MH	Roge 50257325 0488121648r
1 st May	Meeting & AGM		
7-10 June	Major Mitchell Grampians walk in the absence of a repeat of the Wild Dog Walk on the Queen's Birthday weekend.	MM	Dick 50220300
June/July	Ned's Corner Shearer's Quarters for the Winter Dinner	SE	Dick 50220300
September	Sunset Walk	SE	Dick 50220300
13 th October	Federation Weekend - Myrinong, near Bachus Marsh 20 – 25 Walks on offer		SBW Wed site
October	Great South West Walk 250 klms or sections thereof	MM	Roge 50257325 0488121648r

All walks are given a **two letter grading code**

<p>The first letter refers to the distance S - short (8-12 klms a day) M - medium (12-20 klms a day) L - long (20 plus klms a day)</p>	<p>The second letter refers to the terrain E - easy (mainly following form of marked track typically on flat ground) M - medium (mainly on formed tracks but may include some off-track walking with moderate climbs on or off track) H - hard (day or overnight walks which may require long or multiple steep climbs, cross country travel, creek crossings &/or some rock scrambling) R - rough (day or overnight walks in difficult terrain which may include long &/or steep climbs and considerable off track walking. May include special requirements such as requirement to carry extra water, experience in rock scrambling &/or snow, knowledge of survival)</p>
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Next Meeting
Wednesday 3rd April at 8.00 pm
at Drysdale's
2164 Fifteenth Street,
Irymple