

President

Dick Johnstone 50220030

Vice President

Russell Shallard

Secretary

Roger Cornell 50222407

Treasurer

Barb Cornell 50257325

Quarter Master

Roger Cornell 50257325

News Letter Editor

Barb Cornell 50257325

Membership Fees

\$40 Per Person

Subs due July each year

Sunraysia Bushwalkers

May 2013

PO Box 1827
MILDURA 3502
Ph: 03 50257325

Website:
www.sunbushwalk.net.au



Affiliated with:



In this issue:

- ❖ **In Search of *Nothofagus gunnii***
- ❖ **Calendar of upcoming events**



NOTE: AGM this meeting

Sunraysia Bushwalkers quest to find *Nothofagus gunnii*

On Thursday 18th April eight Sunraysia Bushwalking Club members assembled at the Launceston Airport in preparation for their mission to find Australia's only native winter-deciduous tree (*Nothofagus gunnii*), locally called Fagus, which turns to a blaze of gold, orange and red at this time of year.

Our intrepid leader Roger organised the group— Barb C, Verna, Jenny, Barb Mc, Tony, Michael and Wayne into the awaiting 12 seat bus before making the hazardous move of safely negotiating the way out of the car park, over speed bumps and on towards Cradle Mountain.

The first stop was for supplies at the lovely little town of Sheffield, which is decorated with 60 amazing murals on any spare building or wall space, and has the beautiful background of Mt Roland. From here we wound our way up towards Cradle Mountain National Park and found our way to the Waldheim Cabins which are within the park itself, and situated at the start of a multitude of walking tracks, including the famous Overland Track.



Barb Mc outside Waldheim Cabins

The advanced party of Russell and Sandra Shallard had already arrived to scout out the location, bring in the essential food supplies in their vehicle and prepare a delicious meal with the curious name of “Stumpy Pot”. The various cottages and toilet blocks of Waldheim Cabins are nestled into the side of a mountain within a forest of trees, bushes and moss. Nearby is a replica of the Waldheim “chalet” which was established and built by Gustav and Kate Weindorfer in 1911 as part of their eventually successful



Waldheim Chalet

campaign to have Cradle Mountain established as a National Park ‘for the people for all time’. The chalet was hand built from the local King Billy Pines, and now contains interesting visual and audio information and displays.

Walk Day 1 – With a fine but cool weather forecast from our own resident meteorologist Tony, the group decided to walk to and attempt the climb to the summit of Cradle Mountain via the Horse Track. The track climbed steadily through the forest towards the plateau and we were excited to find our first small and wind-stunted clump of the deciduous beech *Fagus* which was just starting to turn to the yellow colour. As the track moved higher onto the exposed heath country it became very cold and windy with the wind chill factor lowering the temperature to a freezing -5°C . The track had ice patches, the nearby tarns (mountain pools) were frozen and one little water course even had icicles. Club members were even seen chasing gloves along the track when they blew away. Verna and Barb ventured off to explore Wombat Pool, Lake Lilla and Dove Lake while the others pressed on. After a quick,



but windy, stop at Crater Peak Lookout to view the surrounding country the group moved on to the sheltered Kitchen Hut at the base of Cradle Mountain. From here an assault was launched to reach the summit of Cradle Mountain. The track climbs steadily up, becoming steeper and steeper to the base of the





scree slope near the top. Barb Mc, Jenny and Wayne decided to remain at this point surveying the wonderful scenery and watching the National Parks helicopter which was transporting materials from various sites. Roger, Michael, Russell and Tony tested out their boulder climbing skills by taking on the scramble into the high saddle and eventually the summit where they had a well-earned lunch break taking in the sweeping views around Cradle Mountain. Shortly after the descent to Kitchen Hut the group was reminded that the warning of the rapidly changing weather within a short time

was very true as a snow storm swept in obscuring Cradle Mountain and fascinating the group. Fifteen minutes later, in clear weather again, the group headed back down the Overland Track to Marion's Lookout which is perched above Dove Lake. From here there was a steep descent down to Crater Lake where we enjoyed seeing the quaint boatshed before we wound our way back, via the pretty Crater Falls which is



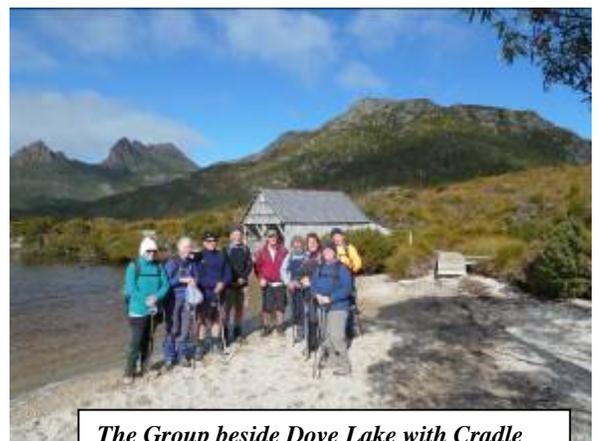
found in a sheltered forested valley, to the cabins (12.2km circuit to Cradle Mountain via Horse Track and Marion's Lookout).

Walk Day 2 – With the fine weather forecast still in place it was decided to undertake the pretty walk around Dove Lake via Lake Lilla (approx. 8.7km). The group headed off via Lake Lilla to the boat shed on Dove Lake. From here we walked in an anticlockwise direction around the lake. The path is well formed with a lot of boardwalk and bridging in place to protect the local flora. Wayne had a special birthday on this day, which he won't ever forget, as the group burst into rounds of Happy Birthday any time we passed fellow hikers, or as we spread out along the track wording up passing hikers who joined in by congratulating Wayne as they passed – shaking hands, slapping on the back and even stopping and singing. After walking through the ancient Ballroom Forest where it felt that one was in a time warp amongst ancient trees, mosses and lichens we came to a split in the path. From here the adventurous group of Roger, Russell, Wayne and Tony climbed up a steep ridge to the Face



Board Walk around Dove Lake

Track and the base of Cradle Mountain from where they took the "high road" along the Face Track passed Lake Hanson and Hansen's Peak until they eventually descended again to the Dove Lake Circuit near Glacier Rock. Meanwhile Bab C, Barb



The Group beside Dove Lake with Cradle Mt in the background on the left.

Mc, Jenny, Verna and Michael continued on the "low" road around the very pretty, but busy, Dove Lake Circuit. Much to our amazement we were able to track the progress of the "high road" group as Russell's fluorescent orange walking shirt proved to be highly visible. Imagine the disappointment of the tourists taking the photos across scenic Dove Lake to Cradle Mountain to have a curious luminescent orange dot appearing in their photos!



Verna & Barb C beside Dove Lake



Verna, Roger & Wayne

Walk Day 3 – Today the group decided to walk along the 5.5km Dove Canyon Track to the Cradle Mountain Visitors Centre which has an interesting display about the region, flora, fauna and the Centenary of the Waldheim Chalet. On the way we walked the short but beautiful track around Weindorfer's Forest (1km circuit) which contains King Billy Pine, Celery Top Pine, Myrtle Beech and Pandani as well as various moss and lichens.



The Dove Canyon Track is all boardwalk through forest and button grass, with plenty of signs of animal and birdlife around. Tony discovered one particular species of wildlife which became attached to him on the way – our first leech. Roger, Wayne, Tony, Jenny and BarbMc walked along the short but pretty Pencil Pines Falls boardwalk (400m) and then back again along the track in mist and light drizzle, and were rewarded by seeing wombats, Native Hens and a Bennett's wallaby. Barb C, Verna and Michael took advantage of the free Discovery Bus which is part of the National Parks Pass to travel back to the car-park near the Waldheim Huts.



Walk Day 4 – On this misty drizzling morning Roger, Russell, Tony, Wayne, Jenny and Barb Mc decided to head off on the Hounslow Heath circuit (5.5km) behind the Waldheim cottages. The warning sign that the track hadn't been maintained was very true as we had to make our way through muddy paths, streams, overgrown bushes, heath and cushion paths following old markers. It was on this track that we found two patches of Fagus which were a beautiful gold colour with patches of red, just below the summit of the mountain, one as we climbed up and the other as we



climbed down into Weindorfer's Forest. Walking across the top of Hounslow Heath was an eerie experience as we threaded our way across the cushion plants, heath and buttons grass trying to spot the markers through the thickening mist and rain, and make sure that none of our group strayed. We were very conscious of trying to avoid stepping on the vulnerable plants with the motto "Plants grow by the inch and die by the foot" running through our thoughts. The climb down, first through Fagus forest and then into Weindorfer's Forest was beautiful but tricky as the continuous steps of tree



roots and mud were very slippery, and we also had the occasional climb either under or over fallen trees and branches. By the time we arrived back to the cabin we were all soaked, had wet boots and socks and all except Barb Mc (much to her relief) had leeches either attached to their legs or climbing their gaiters. Barb C, Verna, Michael, and Sandra travelled back to the Visitors Centre and completed the Pencil Pine Falls walk.



2 Tasmania Native Hens - Gallinula mortierii

Enchanted Falls



Walk Day 5 –Another drizzly, misty day so the group decided to travel back up to the Visitors Centre area. Roger, Russell, Michel, Tony and Wayne headed off along the Dove Canyon Track (5.8km circuit) which travels past Knyvet Falls, climbs to another lots of falls through a very pretty valley forest before a steep climb over tree roots and a rocky gully where it meets the Cradle Valley Boardwalk. Verna, Barb C, Barb Mc, Sandra and Jenny had a very educational morning at Devils@Cradle which is a sanctuary devoted to the health and captive breeding program of mainly Tasmanian Devils, but also the Spotted Tail Quoll and the Eastern Quoll. These three animals are Tasmania's three carnivorous marsupials. It was here that our President Dick, and his wife Wendy, managed to track down their wayward Bushwalking Club members before we all gathered at Cradle Mountain Lodge for some “real” coffee and drinks. Verna, Jenny and Barb Mc walked the very pretty Enchanted Walk (1.0km Circuit) before Verna and Roger set off to walk home along the Cradle Valley Boardwalk (following an ambling wombat for a short distance). The rest of the group headed back to camp to start the dreaded packing.



The rest of the group headed back to camp to start the dreaded packing.



This was truly a most successful Bushwalking Club activity.

The camaraderie between the group was wonderful with new friends made, and as one member mentioned 'we're like brother and sisters'. The Waldheim Cabins were a wonderful starting point for our walk, economical and comfortable. The food was AMAZING. By the end of the week no team was chosen to be voted off the Waldheim Kitchen Rules as the standard was so good – Sandra and Russell "Stumpy Pot" and Apple Crumble; Michael and Wayne a beautiful Chicken Curry with rice followed by fresh strawberries and cream; Jenny and Barb Mc Spaghetti Bolognese followed by a birthday fruitcake supplied by Wayne's wife Dot; Verna and Tony produced Ratatouille with Chicken Curry leftover, plum pudding and custard; Roger and Barb



Chef Michael in his domain

C delicious beef stew, fruit and custard. Wayne was our resident porridge maker each morning, while Tony became famous for his boiled eggs. Quite a few members of the group had been under the illusion that they would go away for a week's walking and lose some weight, unfortunately the opposite was true as there was an extra kilo or two added (not only to the luggage)!

Many thanks to Roger and Barb for organising this fantastic trip.

Written by Jenny Wall

Overheard & Odd Snippets

Michael considered himself lucky having a cold; it took his mind off his other ailments!

'It doesn't take much red to settle the hammies down!'

'What torture has Roger got for us tomorrow?'

'If I died tonight I will remember this day for the rest of my life.'





WAYNE'S BIRTHDAY SATURDAY 20th APRIL



The day dawned with great hope. Tony looked out the window and confirmed the Forecast, which varied the day from icy chills to bloody frozen which subsequently turned out to be the case.

The Team had been forewarned that there was a birthday on that day, and Verna suggested that the birthday boy declare. And declare he did: the little aussie battler, weighed down by his geriatric years, graciously accepted several hearty renditions of "Happy Birthday" and lustfully accepted the hugs. His cheeks were raw and hand pumped to pain, and that was only from the blokes! The hugs from the girls lifted his spirits for the rest of his life.

However, we had a job to do so off we went for a gentle stroll round Lake Dove, to walk off the pain from the preceding day. About 1/3rd of the way round the western side of the Lake, the hairy-chested of the group turned right onto a steep track (known henceforth as "the track"), and strolled round the high sides of the Lakes Lilla, Crater, Twisted Lakes and others, via Hanson Peak.

At this stage I'll mention that the birthday festivities continued throughout the day. The poor bugger was pushed out in front when anyone came from the opposite direction, and Happy Birthday was sung several times throughout the morning. The pressure was off when the Team's tonsils were sung raw. However that wasn't the end of it. The girls furtively shot ahead and the birthday boy was congratulated, hugged, kissed, and seemed to be the best mate of all on the mountains who passed by.

After a magnificent day in which we sat up against a warm rock wall for lunch and noticed our girls happily sunning on a small Isthmuth on the Dove Lake foreshore, we headed back courtesy of C L B.

We found our way back to the hut late afternoon and found that the girls had decorated the cabin to party mode with cake, candles, sparklers and walls papered with H B stickers. After a quick pint at the Tavern, about 6 klms away, we settled into a magnificent "spag bog" cooked by Barb Mac and Jenny, followed by cake and cream and washed down with sufficient grape juice. This was followed by another couple of "Happy Birthdays" and present openings.

As the night drew to a close about 8pm, the poor demented soul, who apparently has had a very sheltered life, stated that it was the best birthday he has ever had.

In closing I thank Barb C, Verna, Sandra, Barb Mac, Jenny, Roger, Russell, Michael and Tony for a day (and a trip) never to be forgotten.

Written by Wayne



SUNRAYSIA 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
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 Country Walk	SE	Dick 50220300
13 th October	Federation Weekend - Myrinong, near Bachus Marsh 20 – 25 Walks on offer		SBW Web site
October	Great South West Walk 250 klms or sections thereof	MM	Roge 50257325 0488121648r
November	Bike Tour & Ramble – Tasmania 6 Days Devonport to Penguin & Ride in Deloraine area		Michael 04005749988

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>
---	--

Next Meeting
Wednesday 1st May at 8.00 pm
at Drysdale's
2164 Fifteenth Street,
Irymple