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Sunraysia Bushwalkers August 2013



Membership Fees

\$40 Per Person
Subs due July each year

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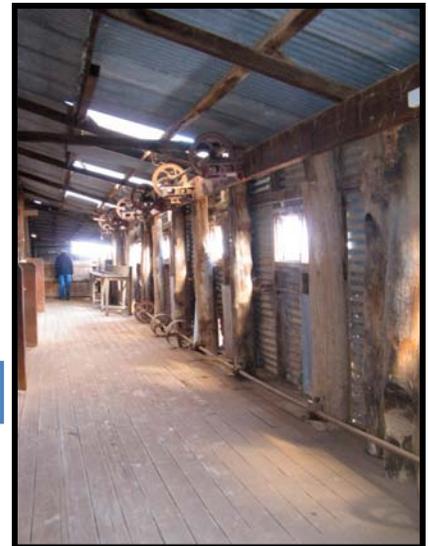


RETURN TO NED'S CORNER

7TH July 2013

The forecast for the weekend was rather dire, with separate cold fronts for both days with wind, rain, and snow on the alps.....a weekend of true wintery weather and the Bushwalkers were once again heading, regardless of the forecast, to spend the weekend at Ned's Corner shearer's quarters. The location of our destination was to be found 87 klms west of Mildura via the Sturt Highway on the Trust for Nature property called Ned' Corner Station.

Ned's is a 30,000ha former grazing property bought by Trust for Nature in 2002 and is being preserved for the conservation of the landscape. The large saltbush plain that dominates the property is unique to Victoria. The shearing shed is the largest remaining shed in the State. They are currently undergoing a re-seeding program of 315 hectares for this current year, planting Eremophila, Sugar Red gums and local shrubs.



Shearing stands inside the shed

There was a wonderful roll-up of participants as we had been promised another of Roger's wonderful camp oven meals. The bravers of the cold were Dick, Wendy, (plus 2 Grandchildren), Russell, Sandra, Peter, Diana, Verna, Rita, Michael, Paula, Tom, Noel, Roge & Barb. Several members went down on the Friday just to extend their weekend enjoyment, with the rest of the group arriving mid to late Saturday morning.



Prior to lunch on Saturday we took a languid walk up-stream along the river bank, admiring and being very overawed with the size of some of the river red gums we encountered. Comment was also made about the large clumps of mistletoe hanging in some of the trees. We had much pleasure in showing off and explaining our 'bush' to a new arrival to Australia.



Russell drooling over just what he could make out of all this lovely timber!



Roger & Tom testing their skills, with Verna waiting for the fall!



After lunch those members who had brought their bicycles with them took off for a ride on the down-stream track, unfortunately not being able to get very far along that track they returned and headed off in the other direction, riding 28 Klms return trip to Lock 7. Some of the track was rather rough with largish gravel having been recently been put down, but overall they reported that it was a great ride.

Those not on bikes walked the down-stream track thoroughly enjoying the bush and all that was to be seen. We came across a large set of River Red Gum seedlings that had obviously germinated after the last flood. It will be interesting to watch how they eventually establish themselves over time.

Rita & Verna admiring the stand of seedling gums



Of course the real highlight of the weekend away was the camp-oven meal. This started with the bushwalker's favourite Moroccan Carrot soup, followed by roast pork & lamb with roast vegetables & gravy topped off with Apple Crumble and custard. What more could a person want?



Camp ovens at the ready



The hoardes waiting patiently for their meal



Moroccan Carrot soup for all

On the road out of Ned's corner Verna encountered these wonderful mythical creatures. If you stop and wait patiently emus, being very curious, will approach and come in for a closer look.

Amazingly, contrary to the weather forecast, the weekend turned out to be fine, calm and even warmish!!

A big thank you to everyone for making it such an enjoyable weekend and particularly to the cooks.



Outing to Ned's Corner Weekend July 6/7 2013

A few notes...from Rita (*Well done Rita, Editor*)

As a newcomer to Mildura, it was with some trepidation that I decided to join the Mildura Bushwalkers on their outing to Ned's Corner. It was planned to be a gentle weekend in the bush with a few easy walks along the river to be followed by a scrumptious evening meal. Despite my initial hesitation, I soon found myself surrounded by a very friendly and welcoming bunch of keen bush walkers (and bikers).

On Saturday mid-morning when we arrived at Ned's Corner, some of the group were already there relaxing in the wintry sunshine, having arrived the previous evening. After a good mug of hot tea, we walked down to the Murray River side and explored the riverbank area.

After lunch, some of the group went on a bike ride while others walked down to the river. We walked down to the river and explored the bushy area at the riverside, and I was keeping a very good lookout (with the experienced help of the others) for a kangaroo or an emu but was disappointed to miss them, although I was re-assured that they were indeed there somewhere....

It was very curious to see the weird and wonderful twisted and gnarled shapes of the gum trees and some even decorated with a peculiar "mistletoe".

The birdlife and in particular, the pelicans on the river, seemed so placid as they gracefully made their way along the water.



We came across a few skeletal remains (Kangaroo skull and limb bones perhaps?) on our path as we wound our way through the trees and bushes. I appreciated the little nature notes given to me along the pathway through the bush.

On return to site, we found that Roger, Russell and co. had lit the campfire and started to cook our evening meal in the camp ovens. They kept the campfire going with some good pieces of aromatic red gum wood.



There was a cosy fire in the kitchen as well. The table had been laid and beautifully decorated. While we had a mug of tea and played a card game, others were preparing food for our evening meal. As the night fell, it became colder but the kitchen fire was so welcoming and kept us warm and cosy while we enjoyed our superb dinner prepared by the excellent cooks And after dinner some members entertained us with anecdotes and stories.

Although it was a cold and frosty night I guess most folk slept well enough as there was a buzz of activity early next morning as preparations were made for another bike ride. As we didn't have our bikes with us, we decided to pack up and leave at mid- morning.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable and fun introduction to bushwalking, à la Mildura, and I realised that I had worried needlessly about such dangers as spiders, snakes, emus and kangaroos.

PS.

Fortunately, yes, I did eventually get to see the kangaroos and emus! We came across many as we were driving back from Ned's Corner to the main road.



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
7 th August	General Meeting		
17 th August	Hattah Day Walk – Red Ochre Lake	E	Roger 50257325 0488121648r
4 th Sept	General Meeting		
14th-15th Sept	Sunset Country Walk	SE	Dick 50220300
13 th October	Federation Weekend - Myrinong, near Bachus Marsh 20 – 25 Walks on offer Possible Ballarat walk 12th		SBW Web site
October	Great South West Walk 250 klms or sections thereof	MM	Roger 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>
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Next Meeting
Wednesday 7th August at 8.00 pm
at Drysdale's
2164 Fifteenth Street,
Irymple