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**New Membership  
Fees**  
**\$30 per Person**  
**Subs due 1<sup>st</sup> July**

# *Sunraysia Bushwalkers*

## *June 2015*

PO Box 1827  
MILDURA 3502  
Ph: 03 50257325

Website:  
[www.sunbushwalk.net.au](http://www.sunbushwalk.net.au)

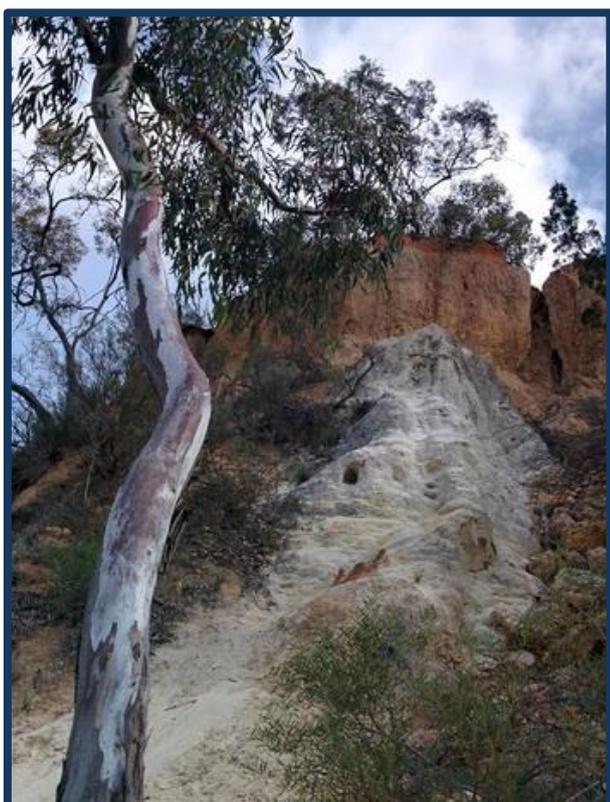


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## *In this issue:*

- ❖ **Yarrara State Forest**
- ❖ **Blandowski Walk**
- ❖ **Calendar**
- ❖ **At th Meeting:**  
**Possible talk on Camino Walk**



To view the complete calendar, please follow the link:

<http://www.sunbushwalk.net.au/calendarofactivities.html>

# Yarrara State Forest Walk

9<sup>th</sup> May 2015



*Neil, Alison, Meryl, Peter, Karl & Roger*

This time it was back to exploring and checking out our local environs. Those who braved the predicted inclement weather were Meryl, Karl, Alison, Neil, Peter, Barb and Roger.

Departure time was set for 8.30am as we had a 1½ hour drive out to the Millewa to reach the start of the walk. Roger's initial idea was to investigate the old earth channel that had been dug in the very early days of the settlement.

We began the walk at the northern western corner and it wasn't long before we came across the channel. So it became our track.

As we continued we came across numerous tracks that were kangaroo crossing points. I did start to count them but after fifty I gave up.

After some time of walking the channel it took a right hand turn, disappearing into the centre of the forest. At this point we continued on towards the south east corner until we finally reached a fence line and farm.



*One of many Kangaroo crossing points*

We then headed in a southerly direction for a while before a scroggin stop was called. The forest consists of low mallee scrub and middle growth in the form of hakeas etc. It was interesting to see the stumps where Murray Pine had once stood. but now there are very few to be seen in the area. The early pioneers used the Murray Pine for fencing and buildings.

After our scroggin stop we then headed westerly towards the south west corner of the forest. I think some of our party may have had enough as we began to sort of edge our way north again. Even though showers were threatening we stopped for lunch. There was very little large tree growth that could be used as shelter or a wind break.



I did say inclement weather had been predicted and that's just what we got. There have been very few times where we have had to don our rain coats whilst out walking in the mallee, and this proved to be one of them.



Just prior to the rain we had been walking in brilliant warm sun shine. Peter spotted this healthy Quondong tree which we all duly admired.



Where's Neil?

To top things off, the all encompassing weather did its thing and gave us a dust storm on the way home to contend with!

Report by Barb

# Merbein Blandowski Walk

## *An Unquiet Walk*

30<sup>th</sup> May 2015



An email had gone out and Roger was champing at the bit as the planned trip to the Scotia Sanctuary had not eventuated for the weekend of the 23-24 May. So it was decided to do the newly created Blandowski walk together with the riverfront trail running along-side the Merbein Common.

*The Blandowski walk consists of a new boardwalk and staircase which ends in a barbeque area at the bottom of the stairs. The newly proposed trail will consist of 5 kms of walking and bike tracks which will follow the river from Merbein back through to the Riverside Golf Course.*

### **Who was Blandowski?**

*William Blandowski was a Victorian Government Zoologist who established a camp at the 'Chaffey Landing' at the bottom of the Merbein cliffs in 1857.*

*With help of the local Nyeri Nyeri people Blandowski studied wildlife and collected over 17,000 specimens for the Museum of Natural History in Melbourne.*

*Courtesy of the Mildura City Council Official Opening Email*

Roger ended up having Karl, Callum & Barb join him on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>. The car was parked at the bottom of Pump Hill and we made our way along the river bank below the cliffs that line that side of the river.

Merbein was supposed to be named Merebin, which in the local language meant 'White Cliffs'. But somewhere along the line the second 'e' was written after the 'b' and so it has remained. As a 10 – 11 year old I used to play among the cliffs with my school friend. Today there is much evidence of erosion and they are now covered with unsightly weedy undergrowth; whereas back in my early school days there was very little vegetation and one could easily see the whiteness of the cliffs. But now a lot of it seems to have been eroded away exposing the red soil underneath.





*Callum, Roger & Barb*

It only took us about 5-10 mins to reach the 'Chaffey Landing' below the newly constructed stairs, from there we walked for about an hour along the river trail that has been set up by the local Merbein Historical Society. The paths are of crusher dust and camping areas have been located at various places along the track.

This area is not one for quiet contemplation. We had the pleasure of helicopters overhead doing sight-seeing flights for most of our walk. Then roaring speed boats. I think the first one was just seeing how much engine noise he could produce at great speed. My husband explained it 'as a boy thing'. The second was of much more serious stuff as the driver, observer and

skier all wore bright red helmets as they charged up and down this particular stretch of water.

We also had to share the trail with quite a few vehicles - with accompanying dust. And if anyone wants to know all there is to know about Superannuation just come on a walk with Roger & Karl.

We came across a very interesting tent set-up at one of the camp sites together with spinning wheel inside.



*Photos courtesy of Karl  
Report by Barb*



## CALENDAR

2015		
June 3	Meeting 8.00pm Club Room	
June 5-8 Friday - Monday	Grampians – Fortress Walk 3 Nights	Contact Roger 0488121648
July 5-11	Edoewie Gorge, Flinders Ranges Walk through to Wilpena Pound	Contact Roger 0488121648
August 5	Meeting	
August 8 - 9	Pink Lakes, Day Walks Overnight Camp	Contact Roger 0488121648
August 19	Mid Week Walk	Contact Roger 0488121648
August/Sept	Scotia Sanctuary	Contact Meryl 50227676
September 2	Meeting	
September 6	Nowingi, Day Walk	Contact Roger 0488121648
September 16	Mid Week Walk	Contact Roger 0488121648
October 7	Meeting	
October 24 -25	Federation Walks Weekend Daylesford & Hepburn Springs	Contact Roger 0488121648 (details in April newsletter)
October 31 – 3 Nov	Heysen Trail - Day Walks	Contact Roger 0488121648
November 16th	Overseas Walk – Patagonia South America	23 day walk, early indication of interest required. Contact the Club at: enquiries@sunbushwalk.net.au

**Next Meeting**  
**Wednesday 6th May at 8.00 pm**  
**at Drysdale's**  
**2164 Fifteenth Street,**  
**Irymple**