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**\$40 per Person**

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# *Sunraysia Bushwalkers October 2014*

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**Affiliated with:**

**Bushwalking  
Victoria**

## *In this issue:*

- ❖ **Hattah Day Walk No 2 Report**
- ❖ **Decisions to be made**
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*Showy Daisy Bush - Oleria pimeleodes*

To view the complete calendar, please follow the link:

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

## Hattah Walk

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2014



*Christiane, Roger, Tony & Russell*

Russell, Tony, Roger & Barb departed in Roger's vehicle just after 8 a.m., from the Clubroom's. The minimum temperature was about 6°C & maximum temperature was forecast to be about 22°C, so ideal weather for bushwalking.

Diving along Kulkyne Way we picked up Christiane in Iraak at the 'T' intersection with Rudds RD. We then drove through Colignan and onto Boonanaar Rd for a short distance before entering the 'dirt' Reed Rd which then became the Mournpall Track.

We arrived at our destination, the junction of Mounpall & Red Ochre Tracks just before 9 a.m. The vehicle was parked near a cattle grid beside a fairly new stock fence, with a nearby sign, indicating that Colignan was 21 klms away. Ducking under the barrier preventing vehicle access we crossed over the cattle grid and basically headed eastward. Most of the walk was across country (ie about 80% off track). We did come across some very sandy vehicle tracks.

At the start of the walk we followed a track between a levee bank & the fence and soon came across the remains of a dead 'red' kangaroo, which was sighted on a previous walk on the 14<sup>th</sup> August. When seen the first time it was a whole dead animal lying between the fence & the track, but now what was left of the remains had been shifted from its previous position to between the track & the levee bank.



*On the Levy bank*

Our initial sight of the nearby water level was that it was slightly higher than on the 14<sup>th</sup> Aug. This was confirmed as where we had walked on our previous visit was now a wide area of shallow water. Besides the pumping of the water into the area the Mildura airport had recorded 2 rain events since 14<sup>th</sup> Aug. - 15.8 mm and 5.2 mm)



We reached Lake Bitterang at about 10 a.m. and stopped for a scroggin break. There were many large gum trees to be seen standing in water. It will be interesting to watch their growth or otherwise once the water subsides.

Russell commented, that the water level was the highest he's seen on Lake Bitterang.

*Scroggin time*





We were quite excited when a pair of Regent Parrots (*Polytelis anthopeplus*) were sighted on a gum tree near the lake. Their pale green color made good camouflage amongst the gum leaves. The Regent Parrot is endemic (only found in) to Australia. There are two separate populations: in the east they are found in south-western New South Wales, north-western Victoria and the Murray Mallee region of South Australia; while in Western Australia they are found in the south west where they are more numerous.



*Regent Parrot*

The blue sky, initially cloudless, looked like it was going to be a repeat of the 14<sup>th</sup> Aug walk with a cloudless sky, but about 11 a.m. small puffs of clouds were seen to the distant North (over the Murray) and as the day progressed these clouds came closer, but nevertheless remained perfect-skies.



About 11:30 a.m we sighted a large Echidna next to a tree trunk, a good photo opportunity, as it remained above ground motionless while we took our shots.

We also were lucky to sight Bluebonnet parrots (*Northiella haematogaster*). It was great to have Christiane on our walk, as her knowledge of birds was helpful & enjoyed.

Our lunch break was on lovely sandy ground shaded by some malaleuca trees and in view of a large area inundated by water, habited by many ducks. We also sighted several sulphur

crested Cockatoos.

After lunch we walked along the top edge of a large sand dune adjacent to Chalka Creek, which gave us a great view of the large gums, as we were about 20 feet higher than the water level.



Walking along the sandy Moonah track & sand dunes we noticed numerous bush cockroaches. Counting commenced but we soon lost count as they became more numerous. The estimation was about 60 cockroaches seen during the day.

About 2 p.m we reached the junction of Moonah & Wattle tracks. Barb remained and waited whilst the rest of us walked for approx. 10-15 mins to look at the Oatley Regulator. The water level seemed to be just slightly higher than on the 14<sup>th</sup> Aug. The Oatley Regulator is believed to have the largest penstock gates in Australia, measuring 7m in height. We returned back to Barb by about 3.00pm, had a quick break before starting the return walk in a West/South Westerly direction, returning to the vehicle by about 4.30pm where we enjoyed a cuppa and biscuits. We were rewarded by watching 2 soaring eagles, approximately 5,000 to 6,000 Ft.(judging by the base cloud height) who were utilizing the thermals.

According to GPS navigation we had walked 19.3Kms.....

*No wonder Barb's energies had flagged during the walk!  
Also 22° is getting a little too warm for comfortable walking.*

*Report by Tony*



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## **Norfolk Island remnant:**

### ***Silly questions asked by tourists***

**Q** 'How did the Norfolk Pines get to Manly?'

**A** 'They swam'

**Q** 'How many sharks are out there?'

**Q** 'Do the feral chooks lay eggs?'

**Q** 'Do they celebrate Christmas here?'

*Taken from 'Ask a Silly Question' by Max Hobbins*

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### ***DECISIONS TO BE MADE***

#### **Forth coming Grampians Weekend**

Day walks ranging between 1 to 18 klms, 1 to 10 hrs

Choice of 31 walks to be determined at the next meeting





*Paddling Chalka Creek*

## CALENDAR

|                                                           |                                                                                                                            |                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Oct 1st                                                   | Meeting 8.00pm Club Room                                                                                                   |                           |
| Oct 4 – 5th                                               | Grampians Overnight Walk                                                                                                   | Contact Roger<br>50257325 |
| Nov 1 <sup>st</sup> – 2nd                                 | Canoeing in Hattah National Park                                                                                           | Contact Roger<br>50257325 |
| Nov 5th                                                   | Meeting 8.00pm Club Room                                                                                                   |                           |
| Nov 7th - 16 <sup>th</sup><br>Federation Walks<br>Weekend | Day Walks Rawson &<br>Extended Coastal Walk follow on of<br>Croajingalong walk (Stage 2 Mallacoota to<br>Womboyn – 50klms) | Contact Roger<br>50257325 |
| Dec 3rd                                                   | Meeting 8.00pm Club Room                                                                                                   |                           |
| Dec 6th                                                   | Christmas Break-up                                                                                                         | Contact Roger<br>50257325 |

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