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

# *Sunraysia Bushwalkers*

## *March 2016*

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*Affiliated with:*



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- ❖ **Club Room Farewell**  
(see new location details next page)
- ❖ **Non Progressive Meal**
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To view the complete calendar please follow the link:  
<http://www.sunbushwalk.net.au/calendarofactivities.html>



## ***FAREWELL TO 2164 FIFTEENTH ST, IRYMPLE***

It is with sadness but also gratitude to the Drysdale family for having accommodated our meetings over the past **37** years. Club members have enjoyed being seated on such an assortment of old style lounge chairs, the wonderful fire in winter so lovingly tendered by Robert and the access to coffee & tea makings, let alone the odd glass of Port at the conclusion of a meeting.

But the time has come for us to find new premises for our meeting. After a little searching Neil & Alison have discovered that the Life Saver's Club are more than willing to share their Club room with us.

So we are now meeting down at **Apex Park** upstairs in the **Life Saver's Club room**. I must say that it is a very picturesque site on the banks of the Murray River together with its accompanying sand bar. I can envisage the odd BBQ or two may be?



So this Wednesday, 2nd March 2016 will be our first meeting there. For anyone needing directions; continue past the Mildura Art Centre on Cureton Avenue, travelling approximately 2 klms to Apex Caravan Park. Once there the Club room is situated on the right hand side of the road opposite the Caravan Park kiosk, clearly designated by a large sign on their building.

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### ***NON-PROGRESSIVE MEAL***

Due to the change in our climate and the increasing age of our members, our 'Progressive Meal', that heralds the beginning of our walking year, has become a 'Non-Progressive Meal' because of the excessively hot weather we are now experiencing. None the less it remains as an occasion to get together and enjoy good company together with good food. For the second year running we have met and supped at the Pizza Cafe on Deakin Avenue.

I have seen the title of Renaissance Meal being used for this occasion. At least it is the revival of another year of Club activities.





# CANOEING KING'S BILLABONG

21st February, 2016



At long last, a canoeing trip. I do enjoy the steady, slow glide through the water, hearing the music of the water as it streams down either side of the bow of the canoe as we go along and also the chance to have a relax in nature's scenery. Way to go!

After many days of above 40° C heat we were very blessed to have a beautiful, cool, calm, fresh morning to enjoy paddling King's Billabong. It was fortunate that we had 4 canoes and 8 paddlers.

Verna, Kym, Noel, Russell, Roger, Simon (Neil's visitor), Neil & Barb  
(*Photographer*)



Quite a little paddling distance down from our landing point one comes to a small weir opposite the Billabong Pumps. Some paddlers elected to abandon their canoes in preference to remaining in said canoes and squeezing under the very low structure/weir.

Some of the crew decided to then squeeze themselves under the locked gate instead so that they could slowly lower themselves back into their canoe from the walk-way once it had come through to the other side!







After the excitement of the weir effort it was a short paddle and we were out on the billabong. It is quite a large body of water and thus required a bit of effort to paddle across to the bird hide on the other side. We then paddled down to the south end of the 'bong' upsetting quite a number of swans.

Obviously one poor bird didn't

want to take to the air. It was amusing to see quite a wake behind it as it madly paddled away from us.

As we neared the southern end the water shallowed considerably and we watched a small troupe of pelicans obviously shoaling the fish underneath them with their feet and then all diving in unison for the feed.

Russell & Kym had a small degree of entanglement with the bull rushes!



Of course on our return we once again had to navigate *'the weir'*. This time Kym elected to remain aboard and slide under.

A wonderful start to our calendar of activities.

*Report by Barb*



## Adendum to our trip:

Just after leaving home Roge & I came across an Eastern Barn Owl that had been hit by a vehicle. It was standing on the side of the bitumen and obviously was in shock as it did not move as we did a 'u'turn to investigate. To prevent it being hit yet again we picked it up and laid it gently on the back seat in Roger's hat.



After a hasty consultation with the Club vet by phone we left the owl in the car whilst we had our canoe trip. On returning we found that it had



come to enough to be able to stand and was either still in shock or asleep. There was a small amount of blood emanating from it's beak. Not a good sign. So I sat in the back seat and held it upright as we travelled home. Later in the afternoon we took the owl to Bill, the vet, where he pronounced that there were no broken wings and he gave it an anti-inflamitatory and pain relief injection.

Bill then had the Wild Life Rescue people collect the owl. It was sad to learn 2 days later the owl had not survived.





## CALENDAR

| 2016             |                                                       |                                          |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| March 2nd        | Meeting                                               |                                          |
| March 5th        | River Walk - Mildura                                  | Contact Roger 0488121648                 |
| April 6th        | Meeting                                               |                                          |
| April 10th       | Merbein Common                                        | Contact Verna 50223480                   |
| April 21st       | Aust. Inland Botanic Gardens Riverine Section         | Contact Noel 50257455                    |
| May 4th          | Meeting                                               |                                          |
| May 6th - 8th    | Pink Lakes - Mt Crozier Circuit                       | Contact Karl 50227676                    |
| May 7th          | Mopoke Hut- Day Walk                                  | Contact Noel 257455                      |
| June 1st         | Meeting                                               |                                          |
| June 5th         | Lake Cullulleraine                                    | Contact Peter 50221898                   |
| June 18th - 26th | Jatbula Trail - Nitmiluk Nat. Park Northern Territory | Contact Bill 0408231984                  |
| July 6th         | Meeting                                               |                                          |
| July 8th - 9th   | Mid-winter Dinner at Walpeup Research Station         | Contact Verna 50223480<br>Peter 50221898 |

**PLEASE NOTE  
NEW LOCATION FOR  
OUR MEETINGS**

**Next Meeting  
Wednesday 2nd March at 8.00 pm  
at Apex Park,  
Life Saver's Club Rooms,  
Mildura**