**President** 50257325 Roger Cornell **Vice President** Neil Hammerton 50235559 Secretary Peter Rhodes 50221898 **Treasurer** 50227676 **Karl Sommer Quarter Master** Roger Cornell 50257325 **Newsletter Editor Barb Cornell** 50257325

Membership Fees \$30 per Person Subs due 1st July

# Sunraysia Bushwalkers March 2016

PO Box 1827 MILDURA 3502 Ph: 03 50257325

Website:

www.sunbushwalk.net.au



Affiliated with:



### In this issue:

- Club Room Farewell (see new location details next page)
- Non Progressive Meal
- Canoeing King's Billabong
- Calendar





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.

#### 22222222222222222222

#### NON-PROGESSIVE 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 Rennaisance 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!





A wonderful start to our calendar of activities.

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

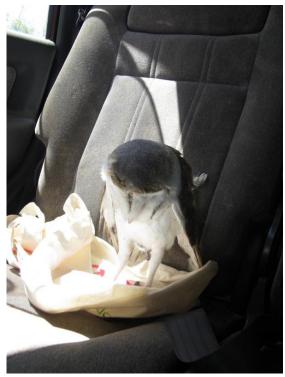


#### Adendum to our trip:

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 eminating 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-inflamitory 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 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