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Sunraysia Bushwalkers

July 2017



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Membership Fees

\$40 per Person

Subs due 1st July

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To view the complete calendar please follow the link:
<http://www.sunbushwalk.net.au/calendarioactivities.html>

MT CROZIER CIRCUIT WALK 9-11 JUNE 2017
Karl & Meryl later joined by Dick & Russell



Walk Outline:

Access to Pink Lakes via Underbool, having refuelled at Ouyen.

Drive along Pioneer Drive to northern end of Lake Crosbie. Turn right, rather than following signage to Lake Becking. After approximately 1km, turn left on to signed Salt Bush Track. Follow this for about 5km. There is an obvious track to the left across the bottom of the salt bush flat. You should then keep an eye out for the water tank. If you feel you're just heading north again, back track & search slowly for a way across - only about 20-30m, but not obvious to us this time. Allow about 3 hours from home, packs on & start walk.

Day 1: 16km - 5 hours Salt Bush Flat tank to Mt Jess camp site, taking the turn right (east) into the Pine Forest after about an hour.

Day 2: 20km - 6 hours 3km to Honeymoon Hut Track, then 17km to Mt Crozier.

Day 3: 14.5km - 4.5 hours. Onto Mt Crozier, along & then follow the fence line south.

Sunny with a light wind for most of the day, but completely still since sunset at Mt Jess campsite. The evening brought a few clouds and a glamorous full moon. Our moon walk revealed water in a clay pan, mirroring the moonlit sky.

Recent rains harbour well for an impressive flower season. Some mallee have just opened, and all are laden with shiny, fresh buds and new growth. Acacia have already sprouted bobbles, and I spied one everlasting daisy in bud. Many trackside *Lomandra* in flower, as is often the case. The Broom ballart on the sandy ridge where fire had passed several years ago gave great contrast in colour & movement. I was thrilled to notice several patches of the small-leaf mint-bush, a plant we spotted for the first time (in flower) on the next section of this walk, 2 years ago.



Being so remote, you sort of expect there will be wildlife grazing around every bend. But no, only 1 kangaroo & 1 emu, flashes of mallee ring-necks and a flock of pink cockatoos on the drive in covers the critters for the day. Terracotta

orange sand volcanoes were again in abundance.

After setting up camp & kitchen, there was a quick attack of "Oh Golly"! I went to fill the water bottles and found the tap didn't work. At that point, we had 2 litres between us. KJ to the rescue! The tank was full, (as the ranger had assured us when we rang to check mid-week), so Karl set up a rocking see-saw motion of the tank & contents and I held the wide-mouth Sigg at the overflow vent - Voila! Thank goodness. Repeat performance needed in the morning, but with more finesse this time.

Four paragraphs and no mention of food - how odd! For dinner, we tested the army rations I'd been given several months ago. Each single ration package came in at about 8kg! Anyway, tomato soup, chicken korma with our rice, hot choccy & our quince paste lined the belly well & quite tasty too.

We were roused by little birds' song around 5.30a.m., then the grunt of an emu's didgeridoo call around 7. Fresh & foggy, but not frosty, so breakfast & pack-up was most leisurely. My feet were a little tender from Day 1, but just in the usual places, so I wasn't overly concerned. Wrong! After crossing Honeymoon Hut Track, Karl noticed that my shoes were not too fancy, & wondered whether they'd last the trip.

I'd selected these old, friendly boots as their lack of tread wasn't going to be a problem in mallee sands - no chance of slipping here. Well, the soles sort of collapsed in on themselves & my feet did their best to accommodate this unusual form. Add old knitted sock ridges burrowing into my feet & you should be starting to see blisters - lots of them!!!



Nevertheless, this remains a wonderful section of track which probably displays every form of mallee soil & consequently vegetation community. Spindly mallee & sparse undergrowth on loose, sandy soils, changing to clay pans of salt bush & twin leaf graced with some grand mallee eucalypts. The sand dunes are quite spectacular in their form & views, but with vegetation progressing from swaying native pines on to the sculpted gardens of Spinifex, Olearia daisy bushes, Acacias, & Tea trees, the word 'lush' came to mind - a word rarely used to describe the mallee.

The other treat is the Casuarina forests - sssshhee-oaks. You can really can hear the sshsh of the breeze amongst these stands. We sun-baked at the edge of such a forest for lunch, while I also changed to Karl's soft bed socks. Helped heaps!



Large roos, a pair of spotted pardalotes, various nests, waterholes, flowering gums, more ring-necks & a scurry of white-browed babbler were some of this day's special moments.

More special moments were to be had when Dick & Russell rocked up with a couple of sturdy mallee roots, a Pale Ale each plus a bottle of red (to accompany our savoury mince & mashed potato) and to cap it off, chairs!!

So, we settled in for a very compatible evening, with another big moon glowing over us, 300m or so from the main campsite, but in a world of it's own.

Madame Tenderfoot here had already decided to walk light on Sunday. We both happily left most of our gear, bar essentials for a day walk, in the ute. I left the map behind, but fortunately, Karl reminded me to bring our car key. So, after the sandy ridge of Mt Crozier, we meandered our way along more varied country, clambering up & schlumping down several more impressive dunes. After crossing Mt Crozier Track again, the

country was quite open & grassy, populated by large mallees as we followed the fence line back to the Pine Forest junction for lunch & then down to the car. Car shuttle, shake & rattle, but no roll, then home.

Yep, we did inform the ranger about the dud tank tap. Also told him about the extensive gouging caused by moto-cross bikes for the whole length of the walk. Other than that, & my sore feet, it was a beaut weekend in a very precious environment.





Apex Park Walk

9am Sunday 18th June, members gathered near the Arts Centre. Cool but sunny, perfect walking weather. We headed off down past the Lock gates continuing along the Apex River track until the intersection with the Native Nursery Road. We then walked down the road through the old Forest Commission property, through a back gate and into the

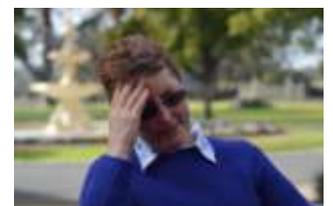
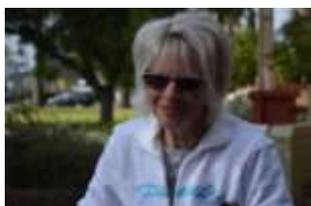
back of Chaffey Bend.

Some bird life and good conversation was the order of the day. Down to the river track through Apex Park and back to the Arts Centre for a Cuppa. We were lucky enough to enjoy the best part of the day, as the weather turned cool and cloudy for the afternoon.



Those attending were Karl, Meryl, Judy, Greg, Elaine, Peter & Jenny, Alison & Neil, Bill & Tilly (much loved dog). Sorry if I missed anyone.

Report by Neil.





48 Years of Bushwalking in Australia.

The Bushwalkers have been invited to once again attend a meeting held by the Australian Native Plants Association to hear **Geof Lay** give a talk on his '**48 Years of Bushwalking in Australia**' on **12th October 2017 at 8.00 pm**

Last year some members attended a very interesting talk given by Geof, on Australian Fungi. He is known as the 'Fungi Man'. The talk will be held in **the Lutheran Church hall on the corner of Ninth Street and Olive Avenue.**

DO please let Peter know a few weeks in advance if you will be attending this talk - Phone: 50221898



Trip & Trek News - latest news on trips and treks

More information on these items can be obtained from the SBW Secretary

PGL Adventure Camps provide venues and accommodation at Campaspe Downs (Kyneton/Macedon Ranges area) and Camp Rumbug (Wilsons Prom area)

Take a Walk Adventures are now promoting and providing information on their Andalusian Coast to Coast Walk.

Southcoast First National have information on their Inverloch holiday homes.

OYAT (NZ) are now promoting and providing information on their many trips and treks including Milford, Routeburn and Stewart Island.

Murray River Walk - Riverland South Australia now has information on a designated walk that is now included in the Great Walks of Australia.

Willis's Walkabouts has information on their next Kakadu Highlights Trek (Oct 24 - Nov 6)

Kokoda Trekking

Cameron James (www.1hundredpercentkokoda.com) specialises in trekking packages involving the Kokoda Trail. Check his website for details of packages and testimonials.





CALENDAR

2017		
June 7th	Meeting	Contact: Neil 0429865232
10 - 12th	Sunset NP - Mt Crozier Loop 3 day Trek	Contact: Meryl/Karl 50227676
18th	Lock Island to Apex Park	Contact: Neil 0429865232
July 5th	Meeting	Contact: Neil 0429865232
15th	Thegoa Lagoon Day Walk	Contact: Meryl/Karl 50227676
22 - 23rd	Mid Winter Dinner Shearer's Quarters Ned's Corner	Contact: Peter: 0458935239
August 2nd	Meeting	Contact: Neil 0429865232
13th	'Sextons' Kulkyne to Chalka Creek Day Walk	Contact: Peter 0458935239
Sept 6th	Meeting	
12th	Mundibbi Trail Bike Ride, WA	Contact: Michael 0400549988
TBA	Great South West Walk	Contact: Roger 50257325
23rd - 28th	Burra / Hallet - Heysen Trail Day Walks	Contact: Peter 0458935239
Oct 4th	Meeting	
12th	'48 Yrs of Bushwalking Across Aust' Geof Lay - Cnr 9th St & Olive Ave. at 8.00pm	Contact: Peter 0458935239
15th	Mt Henscke, Sunset NP Day Walk	Contact: Peter 0458935239
28th - 29th	Federation Walk Weekend - Warburton area www.fedwalks.org.au	Contact: Meryl/Karl 50227676
Nov 1st	Meeting	
19th	Kings Billabong or Merbein Common Billabong	Contact: Peter 0458935239

Note: All activities and dates are subject to change. Always contact the Leader to register your attendance.