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Sunraysia Bushwalkers May 2018



Affiliated with:

Bushwalking Victoria
 towards better bushwalking

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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/calendarofactivities.html>

MOURNPALL MEANDER
Sunday 15 April

9-10km - 3 hours walking



A very strong contingent showed up for this pleasant day walk in Hattah National Park. The list of walkers comprised Neil & Alison, Verna & visiting sister Eileen, Maureen, Wayne & Chitra, Roger, Matt, Greg & visitors Timo & Netti, Dick & Russell and Elaine, with Karl & Meryl leading the throng.

Leaving the vehicles at Lake Mournpall campground, the well-defined and marked track led us east along the northern bulge of Mournpall, then across a dry, open section towards the south & western ends of Lake Yelwell, and then across to the west along the northern side of Lake Konardin. This heavy clay soil of the floodplain had been wet this summer from the environmental watering program, with churned pits evidence of feral pigs also benefitting from the inundation.

Progressing through the box and lignum country is easy going in mild weather, which makes for a good opportunity to walk & talk and generally enjoy the countryside and company.

After crossing the Mournpall Track, the route wanders to the south to cross Konardin Track. The last third of this walk covers beautiful Mallee & gentle sand dunes, generally west of Mournpall itself. The wild winds of the preceding 2 days left their mark in several examples of ripped limbs from Mallee eucalypts, the crowns already heavy with new flower buds.





At the junction which would lead to the lookout, we decided instead to head back to the campground for lunch, rather than add 2 hours to the walk. Instead, via the Old Calder Highway, we stopped in at the lookout on the way home. Lunch was graced with the presence of magpies, young butcherbirds, galahs and eastern rosellas (yellow form) - & flies, of course!

At the Ranger station on the way out, we were hailed down by a very relieved couple. Relieved to see any vehicle, but more relieved to see Greg's 4WD with winch set-up. They'd bogged their vehicle in that heavy clay on the shore of Lake Yerang, (or maybe it was Lockie). 2 vehicles went back to attend to the rescue & 2 wandered on for a stopover at Lake Hattah. All delivered safely back to Centro around 3pm, with plenty of time and energy left to enjoy the rest of Sunday.



Report by Meryl

TASMANIAN ADVENTURE

April 2018

Three Capes Walk

The 3 Capes walk delivered through the Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania is a 4 day adventure, mainly walking one way along 48 kms of beautiful coast line on the top of 300 metre cliffs and staying, at quite a cost, (\$400 for seniors) in their 3 newly built, well appointed huts/chalets. Each hut has 48 beds in (usually) 4 bunk bed rooms. Each hut has a resident Ranger who allocates your room and gives a talk each night, including the all important weather report. You have to keep moving each day, despite the weather, because another 48 walkers will be travelling behind you to take your relinquished bunk. The Walk /huts are booked to capacity most nights.

Above all though, the walk is nicely varied and the scenery was magnificent!



Day 1

After meeting at Constitution Dock Hobart our intrepid 7 (Michael, Tony, Barb Mc, Patsie, Jenny, Barbs sister Pam and Russell (former Mildura resident) took the bus to the Port Arthur tourist site to commence our 4 day experience.

Soon after arrival we boarded a powerful Pennicott Tour Boat for an approximately 2 hour tour of the coast line and transport to the start of the trail. The weather was overcast but not cold, the boat tour enjoyable and we thanked

them for supplying neck to knees spray protection!

On arrival at the start of the trail we travelled the short 4 km walk to the first hut. Along the way there were spectacular elevated views across to Port Arthur and of the coastline generally. Along the way we ran into what was to be a signature aspect of the whole track, artistic embellishments, ranging from large and small sculptures to “story” seats. Some loved them, some disliked them ...it certainly made you aware that you were on a very manufactured tourist experience...This ain't no wilderness trek!...the miles of duckboard on the second and third day further reinforced this impression.

We descended into a lovely cove before a steady climb up to the hut at 120 metres. As with all three huts the view was fabulous.





All hut complexes have lovely thick mattresses on the bunks, a comfy separate lounge/dining area with tables and gas cooking facilities, included with the supply of gas, was water and cooking equipment. Each “hut” of course has a good toilet block but there were no regular showers (hot or cold) There was one exception where a system using a bucket of hot water as the shower head was available . I did not use it! The hut facilities meant that you could walk with a reduced pack and

most of us had between 10 and 14 kgs.

On arrival we were allocated our rooms, .unisex of course! Patsie had been allocated to our room with the blokes and I had been allocated to the room with 3 gals. After sorting that one out with the Ranger ...we 3 boys ended up sharing with a complete female stranger from WA who just happened to be celebrating her 60th birthday that night. Her initial horror at the thought of sharing with 3 potentially snoring and farting men soon dissipated and she effectively joined our group on the walk for the next 3 days. Her boast to her friends that she was sleeping with 3 men brought the appropriate response about what a lucky birthday present that was at her age!

At night after dinner you could read from their nice library or play the inevitable game of cards - we played a lot of cards !!



Day 2 was again overcast with strong winds forecast, we started off at 8.00 am, through undulating territory for our 11km journey to Munro Hut. The walk was in and out of forested areas with the wind building up. Then a few klms over an exposed plateau where the wind really blew and made it hard to keep on your feet. It was a great relief to get back into protected forested areas again

before getting to the second hut early in the afternoon. The viewing platform measured some 300 metres with a view of the ocean being whipped up into a frenzy. Rain threatened, weather was wild but we were comfy in our lovely warm hut.

Day 3

Prior weather reports had indicated that this would be a pleasant day for our first day without a pack for the journey to Cape Pillar (and return) It was easily the best day with perfect weather, low winds, and magnificent views on a constant basis. The last 200 metres was up a precipitous bluff with spectacular views. On return to our hut we picked up the packs and set off for the next hut (Retakunna) 1 hour away. This day was also notable for the absolute kilometers of duckboard traversed. It was 19 km but the majority was without a pack.



Day 4

This was the day we had been dreading as the forecast was for rotten weather and rain for our 14 km walk to the end of the track via Cape Hauy. Luckily it didn't eventuate and instead we were treated to another lovely morning with blue skies all the way to the Cape . First however we had to immediately get over Mt Fortesque, a grueling one hour climb followed by downhill for kilometers through old rainforest with an abundance of tree ferns and tall eucalypts and much mossy scrub.

At the track junction to the Cape we downed packs and did the hundreds of rocky steps down, then up to get to the tip of the cape - hard work but again spectacular views the whole way ! Back at the junction we retrieved our packs. Finally the weather seemed to close in with heavy rain clouds threatening. We donned wet gear in preparation and walked the one hour out to the end of the trail and the pick-up point for the shuttle bus back to Pt Arthur...Would you believe the rain blew over, and we arrived at the beautiful Fortesque Bay beach and kiosk nice and dry. It was ice creams all round until we got back to Port Arthur where something a little stronger was available and consumed!

A truly great walk! ..maybe a bit manufacture, a bit arty with all the sculptures and art work and seats Definitely not a "genuine" wilderness experience but spectacular scenery , good well constructed tracks and a lot more challenging than I had imaginedBourke St Bushwalking ??? Yeah probably ...but bloody good!

Maria Island

After going back to Hobart, the next day, Tony and I journeyed to Maria Island, which had been on my wish list for ages.

At Triabuna, the base for the ferry to the island, we discovered the first joy of the trip, the Fish Van, great seafood and chips at a reasonable price.

After a short ferry journey of 35 minutes we were on the island and soon in the penitentiary (accommodation) Very basic on the island .no cars, no shops, no electricity in your accommodation, ...showers quite a distance from the accommodation, but a large mess hall with water, gas cookers and electricity. This time, knowing that we didn't have to port our

packs while exploring the island, we were able to take in extra emergency rations. Tony did it tough and took a 4 kg penalty!

To cut a long story short we had a great time walking on the first day and we hired bikes on the second. The island abounds in wildlife (wombats in particular) and is a centre for (healthy) Tassie Devil repopulation. Day walks are the name of the game and the two most challenging we didn't do ...leaving them for another day. I plan to come back for 5 or 6 days in the future and recommend this island to you for opportunities for relatively easy walking and riding experiences.

Report By Michael



CALENDAR

2018		
May 2nd 13th	Meeting Hattah Lakes Bike Trip	Contact Peter 0438321898
June 6th 17th TBA	Meeting Sunset Country Day Walk and/or Wentworth to Snake Island	Contact Peter 0438321898 Contact Meryl 0427195988
July 4th 7th - 8th 13th - 15th	Meeting Mid Year Dinner - TBA Mt Stapleton/Grampians Camp & Day Walks	Contact Peter 0438321898 Contact Meryl 0427195988
August 1st 11th - 12th	Meeting Pink Lakes/Lake Becking /Pack Walk or Day Walk	Contact Meryl 0427195988
Sept 5th 22nd -23rd 24th	Meeting Gluepot Bird Observatory Camp & Day Walks followed by camp & Day Walks at Gluepot Bird Observatory	Contact Neil 0429865232
October 3rd 7th TBA	Meeting Millewa or Merbein Common or Koorlong State Forest	Contact Kym 0409940552 or Noel 0428214966
November 7th 11th TBA	Meeting Hattah Lakes/Chalka Creek Canoe Paddle and/or Millewa or Merbein Common or Koorlong State Forest	Contact Peter 0438321898 Contact Kym 0409940552 or Noel 0428214966
December 5th TBA	Meeting End of Year Break-up	TBA

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