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Dick Johnstone 50220030  
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Russell Shallard  
**Secretary**  
Tom McAdam 50222407  
**Treasurer**  
Barb Cornell 50257325  
**Quarter Master**  
Roger Cornell 50257325  
**News Letter Editor**  
Barb Cornell 50257325

**Membership Fees**  
**\$25 Per Person**  
**Subs due July each year**

# *Sunraysia Bushwalkers*

*June 2012*

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**Affiliated with:**



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**The AGM has been done and dusted!**

**Please note that the membership  
fee is now just \$ 25 per person.**

**Previously there had been an  
additional charge for new members.**

*So.....*

**As of July your subscription will be due.**

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

My surprise election to the office of Club President was akin to making a choice as to which track to take whilst in unfamiliar territory! But for an organization such as ours, rotation of the leadership team offers real opportunity to best harness the diverse and valuable talents we are so fortunate to have within the ranks of our member base.

The breaking of the drought and increased flows in some local waterways has lifted the appeal of getting out and about seeing the wonderful array of landscapes the region offers. There is every reason to believe the dry country will again bloom abundantly in late winter and spring.

The numbers of organized walks we can accomplish need to be matched to the expectations of our active members, whilst always having attraction for new participants. The year will again offer one day and longer extended excursions. With sound planning, members will continue to feel well rewarded from participating in our diverse activities.

On Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June we will travel to Pooncarie for a walk to discover more of the area. Whilst a bike ride is scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> July, I will test the level of interest for an additional July walk when we next meet in June.

To our members soon to walk across England, I wish you every success.  
I look forward to heading the Club for the year.

Dick Johnstone



## Mungo Bike Ride 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> May 2012



Participants for the weekend were Dick & Wendy, Russell & Sandra, Bernie, Tom & Tessa, Noel, Louis, Verna, Wendy & Damien and Barb & Roger.

What a wonderful weekend it turned out to be. Weather wise it was absolutely ideal coinciding with an enormous and extremely bright full moon on Saturday night. The moon was at its closest orbital point to earth – perigee in astronomical terms.



Unfortunately Wendy & Damien only had a limited time with us but enjoyed viewing all that the Mungo Centre had to offer plus the walks. Though at one stage riding must have looked rather good as Wendy offered to take over the riding of a section if there was anyone willing to give up their bike! She was very lucky in that there was one very obliging sole who actually offer up their bike!

The road out to Mungo is quite corrugated and these were also present on the graded track around the dunes or lunettes, which made for quite a challenging ride. It was a very quiet time for tourists out there and thus not much traffic on the tracks, which was fortunate, as

they are quite narrow and do not easily allow for riders having to get over for passing traffic.

The ride began from the Shearers shed to the start of the walk to view the dunes. At this point Wendy J and Sandra provided us with a marvelous morning tea. Our Club is really blessed to have these two, who never fail with wonderful cakes and biscuits for morning & afternoon teas. After all the corrugations the tea and coffee was much appreciated. From there we rode to the west end of the dunes and stopped for lunch.

The next section took us around the back and through an absolutely beautiful patch of pristine mallee. The track had by this time given way to a quite firm surface and was pleasurable to ride. By mid afternoon we had reached Belah camp, our spot for the night.



The boys (?) busied themselves in setting up Roger's large old canvas

tent which we used to shelter under for our tea meal. No fires are allowed to be lit in this camp area but we found that together with the tent and two tilley lamps we were all very comfortable, even though the clear night had become very cool. Fortunately there was absolutely no wind.

Bernie did a marvelous job in providing us all with delicious pancakes for dessert.



During the night I woke thinking that Roge had left his torch on but it was just the brightness of the moon shining through the tent walls. The morning was extremely cold but once the sun had risen a little the day soon started to improve.

The next section of the track proved quite a challenge with drifts of soft sand. Most of the riders seemed to manage with a little extra effort, Verna & Barb elected to travel with the support vehicles over this harder section. The next stop was at Round Tank Picnic area where we saw extensive fencing around the water to form a trap for the catching of goats.

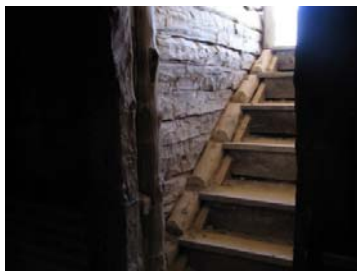


*Tess & sandy track*

Morning tea was had at Vigar's Well which is a permanent water hole and was used by the Cobb & Co. coaches in the early days as they traversed the country. The old wagon and dray tracks are still visible on the lunette surface. Whilst there we climbed the large sand dune close-by, which gave us great views of Lake Mungo and the lunettes.



*Vigar's Well and dunes*



*Steps down to the old cellar*

Further on we stopped at the old Zanci homestead site for lunch and a look around. The old dugout pantry/cool room still remains and has been restored, allowing visitors to experience the difference it would have made for the storage of food. Not far away was the Zanci Woolshed which has also been restored and houses interesting history boards of information of the early days of the homestead and those who lived there.

The last point of interest on the return trip Noel showed us the site of an aboriginal quarry area where it is still possible to find the flints and shards of cutting stones they left behind.

Our thanks go to Wendy J, Sandra and Bernie for trailing slowly behind the riding group for the 2 days ready to pick up and give assistance to anyone in need.

**Bernie's Quote "A good weekend is not judged by the hardships"**



## **SUNRAYSA BUSHWALKERS**

### **PROGRAM SUMMER/AUTUMN 2012**

*If you intend going on any of these trips please contact the Trip Leader by 8 pm the Thursdays beforehand so that arrangements may be finalized. Unless a minimum of 4 walkers (including the Trip Leader) have registered by Thursday evening walks may have to be cancelled.*

Day & Date	Activity	Grade	Trip Leader	Phone No	Comments
<b>JUNE</b>					
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>MEETING</b>				
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Explore Pooncarie	SE	Dick Johnstone	5022 0030	Explore the river, cemetery & historic Pooncarie Pub
<b>JULY</b>					
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>MEETING</b>				
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Bike Ride Red Cliffs	SE	Michael Jobe	5023 8257	Explore south of Red Cliffs Boat Ramp.
<b>AUGUST</b>					
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>MEETING</b>				
Sat/Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup>	Belated Winter Solstice at Pine Plains Lodge	SE	Noel Hayward	5025 7455	Join us around a big campfire, for a camp oven banquet.
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	Ride or walk, Abbotsford Bridge	SE	Michael Jobe	5023 8257	Explore west of Abbotsford Bridge
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>					
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>MEETING</b>				
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mt Henschke day walk	SM	Noel Hayward	5025 7455	Optional vehicle camp O/N or pack camp beyond Mt Henschke
<b>OCTOBER</b>					
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>MEETING</b>				
Sat/Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> /21 <sup>st</sup>	Grampians Overnight walk	MH	Roger Cornell	5025 7325	Alternate day walks from Halls Gap
<b>NOVEMBER</b>					
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>MEETING</b>				
17 <sup>th</sup> /18 <sup>th</sup>	Murrumbidgee Canoeing	ME	Barb Cornell	5025 7325	Yanga Woolshed to Murray

#### **ADVANCE WARNING 2013 -14 WALKS.**

<b>April 2013</b>	Waldheim Huts Cradle Mountain. Day or overnight walks around the Cradle to admire the autumn foliage of the <i>Nothofagus Cunnungham</i>	Noel	5025 7455
<b>April 2014</b>	Himalayan Walk. Everest Base Camp and/or Goyko Lakes	Noel	5023 8257

## **WALK GRADINGS**

All walks are graded according to 'equivalent distance' and terrain. Equivalent distance is the horizontal distance, plus 1 km for every 100 m climbed. On weekend and extended walks this equivalent distance is likely to be walked each day.

All walks are given a two letter grading code. The first letter refers to the equivalent distance;

**S** = short (8-12 km per day)

**M** = medium (12 – 20 km per day)

**L** = long (over 20 km per day)

The second letter refers to the terrain:

**E** = easy (mainly following some form of marked track typically on flat ground.)

**M** = medium (mainly on formed tracks, but may include some off-track walking with moderate climbs on or off track.)

**H** = hard (day or overnight walks which may require long or multiple steep climbs, cross country travel, creek crossings or some rock scrambling.

**R** = rough (day or overnight walks in difficult terrain which may include long or steep climbs and considerable off track walking. May include special requirements such as: requirement to carry water, experience in rock scrambling and snow, knowledge of survival techniques, first-aid and navigation skills

## **ABOUT SUNRAYSIA BUSHWALKERS**

The Sunraysia Bushwalkers Club is a member of the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs. The Club was founded in 1977 and is based in Mildura in the Mallee region of north west Victoria. The Club has approximately 20 members.

Our members come from all walks of life with interests ranging from easy local day walks to longer overnight walks in locations such as Tasmania and the Grampians. Activities include day walks, overnight and extended bushwalks, car based camping with day walks, canoeing, mountain-bike rides and other outdoor pursuits usually focused around campfires and camp oven meals.

**Membership:** There is no qualifying period or requirements to join the club, just a willingness and enthusiasm to join in and enjoy outdoor pursuits. A fee is charged for membership, currently \$25.00 per annum. Visitors are welcome on Club walks.