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Membership Fees

\$40 per Person

Subs due 1st July

Sunraysia Bushwalkers June 2017

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

Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail/Track

23rd April to 30th April 2017

Kangaroo Island is the 3rd largest Australian Island, after Tasmania & Melville Island. The Wilderness Trail itself has only been opened since October 2016. This new track is limited to only 12 self guided hikers and 12 guided hikers per day. We 5 later met another solo hiker, who was more than happy to join us as it was her first solo unsupported walk.

There are other guided day walks with transfers back to their accommodation, cabins, lodges etc. A maximum total of 48 walkers per day are allowed on the track.

The 66 Kms, 5 day trek, starts from the Flinders Chase National Park Visitor Centre, weaves through

wilderness terrain before reaching the beautiful rugged and spectacular coastline of the Southern Ocean.



The intrepid walkers on this trip were Bill, Tony, Geof, Karl and Roger.

Teresa & I visited Kangaroo Island on the 4th April 2016, on a day excursion trip, as part of a cruise from Adelaide to Fremantle. We did a bus tour, which included visiting the Flinders Chase National Park & the Visitor Centre, where I took home a brochure on the Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail/Track, hoping that one day I would return and give it a go.

So thanks to Bill (organiser of this trip) for making my wish come to fruition, sooner than expected, a little over a year later.

The journey began on Sunday 23rd April, with Bill driving us through the gravel & sandy roads of the Murray Sunset National Park, car ferrying across the Murray River and on to Cape Jervis, arriving at 6:30 pm where we camped overnight.

Monday 24th April, we caught the Ferry from the Sea Link terminal, departing at 9am for the 45 mins crossing of the 'Backstairs Passage' to Penneshaw on Kangaroo Island. Our next stop was Kingscote for the necessary supermarket shopping because of the quarantine issues having crossed into South Australia.

After Kingscote we then drove west towards Cape Borda. Distant dark clouds looked rather ominous, after driving on gravel it began to rain. Lots of puddles, then some mist & fog. We arrived 12:35pm at the Ravine des Casoars Hike car park within the Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area. Luckily the rain had stopped and the fog lifted, replaced with a slight coolish wind so we quickly had some lunch.

As we got ready for the 7Km Ravine Hike, it began to rain again lasting for approx. ½ hour. At 2pm we arrived at the surf beach, having passed the Ravine, caves & sand dunes, where Roger & Bill went for a swim.

The walk back took about 55 mins. Our next stop was a 2 klm return walk to Platypus Waterholes. We didn't sight any platypus.

Later in the afternoon we arrived at the Flinders Chase Visitor Centre, but it was closing. So we found a large secluded camp site for groups at the nearby Rocky River Campground & set up our tents for the night. A friendly possum was sneaking under our dinner table & getting up onto the table trying to get into Karl's food bowl. Karl also had a quick dash to his tent to ensure tight zippers to prevent potential possum entry. I noticed a Cape Barren Goose crossing the road as I was walking towards the amenities block. The night turned out to be a beautiful starry sight.

Day 1: Tues 25th April Rocky River to Snake Lagoon and Cup Gum campground.

We were woken by a variety of bird sounds at about 6am with a small wallaby in our campsite.

At 8:45 am we walked with packs on to the Visitor Centre, where we met Ranger Sally, who gave us a mandatory induction as we registered our KIWT walk, which included a video via tablets, information booklet & map.



The 5 Amigos from the Sunraysia Bushwalking Club, Roger, Karl, Bill, Geoff & myself began the KIWT by leaving the Visitor Centre at 9:55 am. At about 10am, after some brief showers, we came across a flock of Cape Barren Geese in an open area. Just after sighting the geese a branch unexpectedly broke & landed near Roger & Bill.

Threatening dark clouds aborted a 12.00pm lunch stop so we continued on, reaching Cup Gum campground at about 1:15 pm. Just before reaching the camp ground we passed a large kangaroo with joey near the track.

This first section was walked through dense eucalypt woodland regenerating after the devastating fires of 2007. Distance: 12Kms in 3hrs 20 mins.

Mid afternoon we had a short walk of 3.5.klms, following Rocky River to the ocean.

While having dinner under the shelter, it became very windy together with heavy rain falling. At this campsite we met a solo self guided walker, Jenny (from Brisbane). I believe we all chose to put up our tents over the timber platforms rather than the raised sandy sites. We were in our tents by 7:30! The rain eased at about 9p.m., but the strong wind persisted throughout the night, so much so that it made sleeping difficult.



Day 2: Wed 26th April, Snake Lagoon to Cape du Couedic and Hakea campground.



Hakea Campground

We rose at 7a.m and still very windy, departing at 8:30 am, we left Cup Gum campground back towards rocky river mouth along the cliffs. Our next stretch was a 1 km walk along the beach bounded by sand dunes, where we saw 4 'Hoodies' (Hooded Plovers).

A slight shower was experienced while walking along the cliff tops from where we had a distant view of the Cape du Couedic lighthouse.

Bill tripped and had a gentle tumble whilst walking. The track alternated between sandy surface (sand dunes) to

sharp broken rocky limestone, but mostly broken rocks than sand. More brief showers were experienced. The track rose gently, with our last stop at a high point with great views. It then veered to the left towards a nearby rise with low level bushes and small trees. We reached Hakea campground at 12:45 pm. Distance: 14.1 Kms, time 4hrs 15 mins.

We put up our tents first, then walked (with Jenny joining us), to Weirs Cove, where we saw the ruins of the lighthouse keeper's stone storage building, the lighthouse and Admiral's Arch - a collapsed coastal limestone cave. We also saw several long nosed fur seals & some sea lions. The North Casuarina Isle was covered with seals along it's ridge.

Returning to camp we hung our food bags suspended in the camp kitchen shelter, because of scavenging mice. Bill kindly bandaged my left foot, which had developed a sore spot under the ball. We were in tents by 7 pm. An hour later in the dead silence of the night, 'whack,' 'whack', 'whack', the 4th "whack " ensured the death of the mouse. Bill's successful use of a metal water container sealed the mouse's fate. Geoff also had a mouse in his tent.



Admiral's Arch



Banksia Campground

Day 3: Thursday 27th , Cape du Couedic to Sanderson Bay and Banksia campground

The day dawned partly cloudy and we left the Hakea camp site at 8:30 am. By mid morning we had reached the junction to the Remarkable Rocks. A geological natural landmark sculptured by the elements over 500 million years.

Briefly we had the rocks to ourselves before several tourists from the car park converged on the rocks. Back on the track we walked along cliff tops, with the clouds breaking up and some sunshine. At the Sanderson beach turnoff we dropped packs &

walked to the beach for some skinny dipping. We arrived at Banksia campground at 1:35 pm. From then on the afternoon clouded over with a few brief showers.

We were treated with a visit from a 'scarlet robin' with its beautiful bright orange chest, perched on a branch next to kitchen shelter. My gas bottle ran empty despite being new, must have had a leak. So thanks to Roger for a steady supply of hot water (to make meals). In tents by 7pm. It was nice to go to sleep with the sound of a nearby surf beach. Rain showers resumed an hour after retiring.

Day 4: Friday 28th April, Sanderson Bay to Grassdale and Tea Tree campground

We rose at 6 am to a cloudy but mild morning. Left camp site at 8:35 a.m. together with our new found friend from Brisbane. The cloud began to break up after an hour and we were treated to some sunshine. A short side trip to view Cape Younghusband was undertaken. From here the trail meanders inland with a dramatic change in vegetation from coastal heath to tall dense mallee and tea tree.

Mid morning we reached the private trail junction that leads into the exclusive private holiday units owned by Dick Smith's daughter. We then had a short break on top of a sandy rise overlooking dense mallee trees. It was becoming overcast again as we began to walk again through the mallee trees. Midday saw us at the river crossing of the South West River. This is accomplished via a small punt boat with a pulley rope system. We had now entered the Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area. We then walked to Hanson beach where we sat on the eastern end of beach sheltering from the wind beside small limestone cliffs. At the western end of beach on top of the cliffs we could see the Hanson Bay cabins. Some of us went swimming after lunch.

We were greeted by several kangaroos grazing on the flat open ground together with several green parrots, as we entered the Teatree campground

In tents by 7 pm, sound of distant waves, but not as loud as last night. During night sounds of mopoke bird & frogs could be heard. During the night there were a few brief showers. Distance for the day 13.5Kms

Day 5: Saturday 29th April, Grassdale to Kelly Hill Caves

Woken up by sounds of birds before sunrise so we were up at 6.30am. During breakfast there were some showers & it was overcast. Left camp at 9 am together with Jenny. By late morning we had arrived at the



end of the trail, Kelly Caves, where we met Don, our bus driver and guide through the caves.

Back in Kingscote we once again met up with Jenny from Brisbane and all enjoyed dinner at the Ozone Hotel.

Sunday 30th April.

We returned home. Thanks Bill for planning the trip and thanks to fellow hikers for great company.

Report by Tony

*I am sad to see the continued use of the word Trail in preference to our Aussie term Track.
Do we buck against the introduction of the word 'Trail' in preference to our Aussie terminology and use the
word 'Track'?* Editor



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 - 13th	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	
TBA	Great South West Walk	Contact: Roger 50257325
23rd - 29th	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
27 - 29th	Federation Walk Weekend - Warburton area www.fedwalks.org.au	Contact: Meryl/Karl 50227676

Next Meeting
Wednesday June 7th at 8.00 pm
at Apex Park,
Life Saver's Club Rooms,