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**New Membership  
Fees**

**\$30 per Person**  
**Subs due 1<sup>st</sup> July**

# *Sunraysia Bushwalkers*

## *October 2015*

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

## Nowingi Wander 6<sup>th</sup> September 2015

It was quite some roll-up for this local ramble. The 6 members and 2 new comers who braved the rather early start to the day were Noel, Kim, Jim, Therese, Neil, Barbara, Jenny, Robyn, Barb & Roge. Our initial mustering point was as usual out the front of the Club rooms to organise vehicles and passengers.

The early morning weather was rather fresh but the Weather bureau had forecast 21°C so all was set for a great day.

Nowingi is 50 klms south of Mildura and it took about an hour of driving before we reached the start of the walk. Once again Roge was busy chatting and missed 2 turn offs even before we arrived! The drivers of the following vehicles were most patient with the second takes that the leader was having to perform.



*Jim, Kim, Roger, Noel, Jenny,  
Barbara, Teressa & Robyn*

Our start was the old hopper that still remains as a testament to our early pioneers, their ingenuity and stamina in the collection and transportation of the gypsum that was being mined from the area. Over time this remaining large structure will gradually disappear due to the ravages of time and weather. So I suggest that you pay it a visit before it no longer exists.

The 'hopper' or collector was built in the 1930's. Mining ceased in 1984 and the rail-line was closed 1988.

In May 2004, the Victorian Government decided in its wisdom, roughly five kilometres south of Nowingi, would be a site for the state's hazardous industrial waste. After a lot of opposition the proposal was abandoned in January 2007.



*Photographs courtesy of Mildura Railway  
History CD by Bruce McLean sent to me by  
Noel. The above photo was taken in 1974, the  
photo to the left taken in 1940.*



Back to the walk.....well, meander really. Mostly we were all just enjoying being out in the wonderful fresh air and great surroundings.

It had rained not long before the walk, so in crossing some of the clay salt pans one really had to tread lightly so as not to go for a slippery-slide in the clay or gather copious layers of mud on boots.

The Nowingi landscape consists of sand-hills that have been colonised with mallee vegetation and scattered salt pans. On the drive in we passed this salt pan (*see photo right*) still with some surface water and the remnants of a failed attempt to cross it.



Some of the group had difficulty in seeing screens and setting GPS co-ordinates before they were able to head off!

Others decided that it was a good chance to gain extra knowledge of the flora. Much pleasure was gained seeing the variety of native flowers in bloom.





During the walk we came across an abandoned mallee fowl nest plus a couple of bearded dragons out for the warm sun and more than likely a little tucker.



I am not sure whether this bushwalker (*left*) had her own route but it does seem in variance to the direction of all the others!

I wonder just where the walker in blue (*coming out from the bush on the left of the photo*) was off to. Did the walker in red know something the others didn't direction wise?



Then again we all had a challenge right at the end of the walk. Some of us do not bend quite as freely as we once did.

The six klms walked was a good start after the ravages of winter.

Roger had one more attempt at sorting out the weak from the strong in that he managed to get bogged at the top of a sand dune – the women to the rescue pushing him back down the dune! (*Apologies, the editor lost the photo*)



The leader then took us along the edge of the Raak Plain, firstly for a welcome afternoon tea break, then on to view a nesting site of a Major Mitchell cockatoo which was again being used this year. Next stop was on to view the red ochre pits used by the local aboriginal tribes.



*Report by Barb*

**MALLEE CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY  
PLUS  
SUNRAYZIA BUSHWALKERS & FOURWHEEL DRIVE CLUB  
20<sup>TH</sup> September 2015**



The MCMA, SBWC and the Fourwheel Drive Club joined forces to inspect and be shown the work that the MCMA are doing to assist the management of environmental water on the Mullaroo/Lindsay Creeks that flow out of the Murray into the hinterland beside the river.

Wow, what luxury to driven out in comfort in a large 54 seater bus. A couple of the smaller creek gullies proved a little challenging for the driver. Fortunately he was up to the mark and was able to continue with some judicious grading of the road with the front end of the bus!



It was all high viz gear for the MCMA members, nothing was being left to chance. Occupational Health and Safety were seeing to that!



The first piece of interest was the telemetry tower placed there to count the fish! The next was the good old tried and true filtering system of reeds.



The old dry creek beds we saw as we walked the track were a rather dismal site. I can now say, that as an almost old timer, the close environs of the Murray have sadly deteriorated over the last 40 years.

As it was quite a warm day the shade of the gums as we neared the river was most welcome. We reached an enormous sandbar before our leader decided that she had taken us up the wrong track! We all dutifully turned tail and walked back the way we had come. In doing so we missed seeing Lock 7 and the weir across the Murray river.



Three new regulators have been built. They are located at the mouth of the Mullaroo Creek, and the northern and southern inlets of the Lindsay River. The new regulators allow water managers to control water flow through the Lindsay River. Their design provides a passage way that fish are more likely to move through.



The Fourwheel Drive Club had set up a lunch area and they were a most welcome sight after our extended walk.

After our wonderful lunch and information display we boarded the bus for a look at the regulator delivering water into the Mullaroo Creek and then home.



Thank you MCMA for looking after us so well.



Environmental water is being delivered to Lake Wallawalla to provide opportunity for water bird breeding & to maintain lakebed vegetation. Water flow commenced August 2015 & is expected to end in Nov. 2015. Approximately 8 gigalitres will be delivered to Lake Wallawalla. The Mallee CMA is co-ordinating the watering of the lake in partnership with Parks Victoria, the Dept. of Environment, Land, Water & Planning, the Murray Darling Basin Authority & the Victorian Environmental Water Holder.



*Regulator on the Mullaroo Creek*

*Report by Barb*



## CALENDAR

<b>2015</b>		
October 7	Meeting	
Oct 11th	Kings Billabong Meet 9.00 am at Dam Wall car park	Contact Peter 50221898
October 24 -25th	Federation Walks Weekend Daylesford & Hepburn Springs	Contact Roger 0488121648 (details in April newsletter)
October 31 – 3rd Nov	Great South West Walk – 3 days with packs.	Contact Peter 50221898
November 4th	Meeting	
November 16th	Overseas Walk – Patagonia South America	23 day walk
December 2nd	Meeting	
December 5th	Christmas Break-u Current suggestion Lock 7	Contact Peter 50221898

**Next Meeting**  
**Wednesday 7th October at 8.00 pm**  
**at Drysdale's**  
**2164 Fifteenth Street,**  
**Irymple**