

**President**

Neil Hammerton 50235559

**Vice President**

Meryl Hale 50227676

**Secretary**

Peter Rhodes 50221898

**Treasurer**

Karl Sommer 50227676

**Quarter Master**

Roger Cornell 50257325

**Newsletter Editor**

Barb Cornell 50257325

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

# *Sunraysia Bushwalkers*

## *May 2017*

PO Box 1827

MILDURA 3502

Ph: 03 50257325

Website:

[www.sunbushwalk.net.au](http://www.sunbushwalk.net.au)

Affiliated with:



---

## *In this issue:*

- ❖ **Abbotsford Bridge to Cowra Station**
- ❖ **New Zealand Alps to Ocean Bike Ride - Episode Two**
- ❖ **Invitation to attend a Talk**
- ❖ **Trip & Trek News**
- ❖ **Calendar**



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

# Abbotsford Bridge to Cowra Station Day Walk

## 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017

The meeting point for this walk was at Centro. Those that rocked-up were Roger, Judy & Wally. We travelled in Roger's car to Abbotsford Bridge where we started our day walk at 8.45 am. The day was perfect in regards to the weather; bright and sunny with a slight breeze with the temperature in the mid to high twenties.

We followed the river downstream passing numerous campsites and holiday makers. The river track led us past Little Manley to Cowra Station. On the way we found numerous animal tracks in the soft sand.

Along the track a comfortable bench seat in the form of a log was located on which we all sat to have morning tea. We exchanged experiences of travels and funny times and had a good laugh at the quirky adventures we had.



After walking for about an hour and a half downstream we turned inland towards the Cowra Lagoon. Both Roger and Wally used their Navigation Devices on their mobile phones to find the way. Believe it or not – we did not get lost even though this part of the walk was through very scrubby and dry vegetation. In the far distance Roger spotted water. We were excited for we were partly expecting a dry Lagoon. Finally, on reaching the Lagoon we saw numerous Pelicans, Black Swans and Ducks.

We rested and took in the view before following the edge of the Lagoon back for our return walk. This time a more inland route was taken, which was much drier and hotter as there was minimal shade. Again, some more outdoor furniture was found under a shady tree in the form of a tree root where we sat and enjoyed another tea break and had some more laughs.

We got back to our starting point at 1.30 pm - 4¾ hours – a great walk with lots of laughs. It is estimated that we walked between 15 and 20 kilometers.

Roger told us that he was going to meet Barb later that day at the Airport with Bells & Whistles. He demonstrated to us how he was going to greet Barb as she returned from her trip to Japan. A picture of Roger with his Bells and Whistles was sent to Barb. When she saw this her response was: "Oh goodness, I think I will stay where I am".

Thanks Roger for a Great day.



## NEW ZEALAND ALPS TO OCEAN BIKE RIDE 2017.....Cont'd

*Michael Jobe, Russell Shallard, Dick Johnstone, Peter Rhodes and Tony Grasso*



### Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March

Today gives the luxury of a sleep in before we walk into town for a morning coffee. The bus for Dunedin departs just before lunchtime. Thereafter, we change buses for Clyde where we arrive just after 5pm. The Bike-It enterprise has a good feel about it with a vast stock of bikes, accessories and our bikes readied for tomorrow. Clyde has some distinctive and well preserved old stone buildings, overshadowed by the dam on the Clutha River. A lady from the bike shop drives us the short distance to “The Workshops,” where we are to stay the night. Welcomed by Barry, Leah and their dogs, we find another splendidly appointed four bedroomed facility. Dinner tonight is served at the old Post Office. Two of us each begin the repast with half a dozen oysters before the main course washed down with a nice red.

### Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March

The air is crisp as we walk the short distance to Bike-It where we are all equipped with similar bikes, helmets, water bottles and good sized panniers. Then a short stroll to a coffee shop where Lois, the company rep briefs us on what lies ahead. The greater part of the Clutha Gold Trail closely follows the river. From Clyde, the site of the large dam, we cross the main bridge and descend to the cycle path at the river's edge. The blue water's strong currents power downstream at rapid rate. The track to Alexandra undulates through riverside willows, sometimes passing long ago scooped dredge stones, occasionally over small bridges whilst the steep towering ridge rises from the opposite side. On reaching Alexandra, we cross the grand old bridge and find time for coffee and the purchase of lunch provisions. Returning back across the bridge, the well formed fine gravel track descends the side of the hillside. The Clutha river has cut a deep gorge through this land and much of the riverbank vegetation has gone. Now, we view over the water the stark greyish brown hills coming steeply down to the edge of the rushing water. They have a slightly purplish hue which we later learn is imparted from a kind of thyme plant introduced by the early Chinese gold seekers.



We come to a descent with a sign instructing riders to walk their bikes for the next section. The reason is obvious because the track becomes a narrow ledge just above the hazardous stream. Some 22km from the start we arrive almost an hour before our scheduled rendezvous with the jet boat that takes us and our bikes downstream for perhaps 10km. It appears the incumbent land holder does not allow passage of the track through his holding and hence the need for boat travel. With our bikes lodged in the rack at the rear of the boat, our driver makes many stops along the river to point out the remnants of the gold era.

For now, the current has gone because we are within Lake Roxburgh, but a chill head wind blows piercingly up the gorge. Some tiny stone huts remain, recessed into the cliff walls. Higher above we can clearly see the three long sloping water races formerly used by the miners for sluicing gold. On arrival at a steel landing we lunch in the shelter of an old shed – replete with soft lounge chairs. Again, there is little vegetation as we ride along and up the gorge. The track now has a few switchbacks complete with acute corners. We find ourselves very high at the top of the ridge thus getting a panoramic vista of the magnificent river. At one stage, a small hillock seems to move with the running of vast numbers of rabbits. In time the track descends steeply on to a corrugated vehicle track, flattening out at the dam wall. We again cross the river and note a widening of the river valley. A side track with yellow flags guides us to Clutha Gold Cottages where we are to spend the evening. Being some 2km from the town centre, we convince Christine, our hostess to drive us there for our pub drink and Thai meal.



### Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March



From Clutha Gold Cottages we free wheel down to the bridge and cross into town for a quick peep. Returning back across the river we travel the valley that at times opens out into farming areas. Michael has an eye for opportunity as we initially thought there was no refreshment in Millers Flat but he cleverly discovered an open pub across the multi arched old blue bridge. Here is the ideal place for morning coffee. The introduced gorse covers some hillsides – some areas appear to have been killed with herbicide whilst elsewhere it thrives in dense colonies. The cycle track passes through plant communities of willow, tall poplar, cotoneaster and wild rose. Now and again the river spreads in a wide pebbly

expanse, giving pretty scenic views time and time again. Having come from Alexandra that has around 34cm annual rainfall, the country has changed, with the high hills now showing green and sometimes supporting vast pine forests. We find a sign to Horseshoe Bend bridge and being lunchtime, walk the track to a 1913 historic swing bridge that is receiving some maintenance activity. This old bridge was built for people and horses. We arrive at Beaumont, a place with only an hotel across yet another bridge. The girl minding the place seemed a bit confused as to how best to get us sleeping singly. All got sorted out giving time for pre dinner drinks accompanied by whitebait sammies. The chef must have thought we were malnourished as the pizzas and meals were huge.

### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March

The foggy air is positively wintery. With only 18km to ride this morning there is no need to leave earlier than 9am. We have had two incredible days beside NZ's biggest river and now we leave it as it continues to flow eagerly to the sea. Now, riding through undulating farmland, we pass sheep and some fodder crops. For the whole of the time, the farming areas appear to be sparsely settled and this is reflected in the minimal services available in the towns. Having had many downhill runs, the course now ascends until we get to the Big Hill Tunnel, a 400 metre former railway passage. Thereafter, we go downhill to Lawrence, a neat historic town dating back to gold rush times. With ample time to spare until bike return at 3pm, we take the opportunity to ride into Gabriel's Gully where gold was once found. For much of our time, the difference between the visual appraisal of slope and its reality has been confusing.





The ride into the gully looked gentle, yet it demanded some effort – conversely we had an easy return ride. At 5.20 pm the Atomic bus duly arrived to transport us to the Dunedin Railway Station where only a short walk brings us to the Leviathan Hotel – and the last evening in NZ. Weather can have significant influences for most vacations. Good fortune has been with us the whole time. We have got close to so much wonderful scenery in this South Island in NZ and lived well at the same time. The humble bikes we had as children have evolved into marvellous vehicles for pleasurable travelling. We want to keep riding.

*This wonderful report by Dick*



## **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.***





**It is Annual General Meeting time again. How quickly this comes around! You can all breathe a sigh of relief as I believe the current position holders have agreed to stand again, but this of course does not preclude anyone from nominating.**

## **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](http://www.1hundredpercentkokoda.com)) specialises in trekking packages involving the Kokoda Trail. Check his website for details of packages and testimonials.





## CALENDAR

2017		
May 3rd	Meeting <b>AGM</b>	Contact: Neil 0429865232
21st	Hattah Lake Mournpall Loop Day Walk	Contact: Karl 50227676
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	<b>Mid Winter Dinner</b> 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 <b>8.00pm</b>	Contact Peter 0458935239
15th	Mt Henscke, Sunset NP Day Walk	Contact Peter 0458935239
27 - 29th	Federation Walk Weekend - Warburton area <a href="http://www.fedwalks.org.au">www.fedwalks.org.au</a>	Contact: Meryl/Karl 50227676

**Next Meeting**  
**Wednesday April 5th at 8.00 pm**  
**at Apex Park,**  
**Life Saver's Club Rooms,**