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

Sunraysia Bushwalkers

July 2012

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Affiliated



FROM THE PRESIDENT

The last monthly Club Meeting was a very small gathering principally because a great many of our members were in far away places. The glowing warm fire put the end to formality and business. Yet the few of us there were the recipients of a treat we had often sought. Robert put the 16mm projector on its stand and dusted off reels of Dawn Fraser swimming at the Mildura Olympic Pool, the 1956 floods and the popular slapstick comedy "Hurry Hurry." We also made final plans for the Pooncarie excursion.

Winter can sometimes offer good conditions for local bushwalking and in addition to the scheduled bike ride on 22nd July with Michael, at the next meeting I will test the level of interest in a day walk at the Raak Plain in the same month.

Our overnight visit to Pine Plains Lodge on 18-19th August will be a special chance to enjoy one of the Mallee's "exceptional hidden treasures." There is ample room there so if any members wish to bring friends or visitors, accommodation will be OK. We will make the detailed arrangements at the August Meeting.

Although it has been very dry here in recent months, the residual soil moisture will guarantee good flowering of the perennial plants in the Sunset Country in the coming spring. Perhaps we could each think of the September walk into Mount Henschke as an opportunity to invite a visitor to share with us the pleasures of the wilderness.

The establishment of our new web site has given the world the opportunity to see inside our club in a way as never before. The construction task has been onerous and we are indebted to Roger for the many and sometimes frustrating hours he has contributed to get the site working so effectively. The Club's decision to delegate the set up task was prudent and practical as anyone who has experienced the alternative of many people simultaneously drafting a project can attest – it is cumbersome and chaotic! The reward for Roger's dedication is a site of which we are justly proud.

But because we are now in the open public domain it is timely to convene a small working group for the purpose of considering possible refinements to both the operation and construction of the site. The essential base work is done but we may be able to fine tune the content in a way that further lifts our image. In today's electronic universe, our web site is a vital way of promoting our Club.

May you feet walk with us soon.

Dick Johnstone
President.

POONCARIE VISIT

Saturday 23rd June 2012.

by Dick Johnstone



The Pooncarie Hotel

Many of us who live here in Sunraysia travel periodically to other parts of Victoria and South Australia yet it is true that few visit the small bush town of Pooncarie that is a mere one and a half hour drive north along a sealed road. On the previous day, a cutting icy wind tested one's enthusiasm for the outdoors and the promise of the weather forecasters was for a repeat, so we were pleasantly surprised that the morning yielded calm and blue sky. Rather than take an extended trek at our destination, we agreed that the day's form would be both social and exploratory.



Starting out with a roadside morning tea.

Seven of us in two vehicles reached the Pooncarie road from the Fletchers Lake connection. A few kilometers south of the town we stopped to look at the great number and variety of birds thriving in an expanse of water left by the recent high river. The writer was prompted to allow for a morning tea time stop and this was taken at the next water site that happened to pond each side of the main road.

The start of the connecting road to the Silver City Highway is also just south of the town. It is only a short distance to the bridge across the Darling River. We parked the cars beyond the bridge approaches and then walked on to the steel structure spanning the thick muddy grey flowing water of the river. The trees lining the banks demonstrate their resilience by now flourishing after such a short interval from the recent harsh drought. Likewise, the numbers of waterbirds show that nature has an amazing capacity to take advantage of the opportunity of ample water. A phone call from here to the Hotel revealed that its catering staff were in overdrive, feeding sixty members of a visiting car club but that we could dine there after 1.30pm.



Next we visited the old wharf site in the town where in an almost forgotten era the vital freight carrying paddle boats could tie up to just the steep firm riverbank. A short time ago the river had a minor flood so consequently much of the ground was somewhat sticky to tread.

The Pooncarie bridge crossing the Darling River

The old cemetery is sited on a sandy rise on the Menindie side of the township. Many of the headstones bear names of families of the surrounding pastoral properties. A number date back to days before settlement in Mildura. And others reveal how in early times life ended tragically for many still in their youth.



The Pooncarie cemetery



Slogging it out hard in Pooncarie!!

Even though there were many people outside the Telegraph Hotel, we were able to find stools in the bar while lunch was being prepared. The walls displayed stories of shearing, steel traps, a whopper preserved cod and various other memorabilia.

We are members of a bushwalking club because of our love of the vast outdoors. Very occasionally the soft way of expanding our horizons does not go amiss. Today was one such time.



SUNRAYSIA 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
JULY					
Wed 5th	MEETING				
Sun 22 nd	Bike Ride Red Cliffs	SE	Michael Jobe	5023 8257	Explore south of Red Cliffs Boat Ramp.
AUGUST					
Wed 1 st	MEETING				
Sat/Sun 18th/19th	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 th	Ride or walk, Abbotsford Bridge	SE	Michael Jobe	5023 8257	Explore west of Abbotsford Bridge
SEPTEMBER					
Wed 5 th	MEETING				
Sat 22 nd	Mt Henschke day walk	SM	Noel Hayward	5025 7455	Optional vehicle camp O/N or pack camp beyond Mt Henschke
OCTOBER					
Wed 3 rd	MEETING				
Sat/Sun 20 th /21 st	Grampians Overnight walk	MH	Roger Cornell	5025 7325	Alternate day walks from Halls Gap
NOVEMBER					
Wed 3 rd	MEETING				
17 th /18 th	Murrumbidgee Canoeing	ME	Barb Cornell	5025 7325	Yanga Woolshed to Murray

ADVANCE WARNING 2013 -14 WALKS.			
April 2013	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
April 2014	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.