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Membership Fees

\$25 Per Person

Subs due July each year

Sunraysia Bushwalkers

October 2012

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Affiliated with:



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our walk in the Murray Sunset National Park two weeks ago provided the first chance to employ the Club's new spot tracker in a semi-remote situation. It was an amazing demonstration of its capability for those of us not fully familiar with the operational workings and we can now be confident of an additional safety factor when venturing into wilderness areas.

Our Club has an overnight walk scheduled for the Grampians region on 20-21st October. Excursions of this kind are a valuable way of introduction to extended independent walking, as I can attest myself. Roger will provide more detail on Wednesday evening and it would be helpful if members intending to participate could let him know of their interest.

Some time ago, I signaled that Tom, Roger and I would review our Club's Website. We have yet to address the task and in the interim are inviting any members wishing to make suggestions to share their insights with either Tom or me. Key issues may include its broad purpose and effectiveness, the target audience, structural design and presentation. As we are currently a small Club, it is important to be mindful of finding the right balance between comprehensive live communication and the demands on the Club Officers responsible for its management.

Trust For Nature, owners of Ned's Corner Station, is inviting interested members of the public to visit the property on either 12th or 14th October for a full day tour and luncheon. At the last meeting, some members showed interest in attending the first of these days and we need to confirm our position with them by 8th October.

I look forward to more time outdoors with you.

Dick Johnstone.
President.

THE VIKING CIRCUIT

Proposed walk for 28th October for 1 week including getting there and back again.

The summary from John & Monica Chapman's book "Bushwalking in Australia" is:-

Duration:	4 days
Length:	38.2km, circuit & 8.9km side tracks
Standard:	Hard
Total Climbing:	2640m & 160m on side tracks
Maximum Height:	1705m
Best Seasons:	Late Spring, summer and autumn
Closest Town:	Heyfield 139km
Public Transport:	No
Permits Required:	No
Map:	VICMAP 1:50,000 <i>Howitt-Selwyn</i> and Bush Maps Victoria 1:50,000 <i>Watersheds of King, Howqua and Jamieson Rivers</i>

The preamble to the description of the walk goes:

To many walkers the Viking is the heart of the Victorian Alps. The rocky peaks, sweeping views across deep mountain valleys, challenging walking and varied track conditions make this Victoria's finest circuit walk. It is very popular with experienced walkers and is highly recommended for fit groups with good navigational abilities.

The walk is to be lead by Bill and he is suggesting that it be a 5 day walk.



Mt Henschke...Again

Sat. 23rd Sept. was a beautiful Mallee morning - big blue clear sky, just perfect for the bush walk to Mt. Henschke.

Tom, Tessa, Noel, Dick and Russel appeared very relaxed from their night of camping when the non - campers Peter, Geoff, Meryl, Michael and Kim arrived to disturb their peace.

We set off at a cracking pace admiring stands of old growth mallee and white daisy bushes (*Olearia muelleri*) along the way. Those that poked and prodded at the wild flowers fell to the back of the group. Having Russel as the whip ensured we never lost our way.

We stopped briefly at an old stock trough. Michael found a baby stumpy tail lizard under the trough. Some of us couldn't resist a pat.

The last hour of the walk before lunch, had us climbing gradually upwards. The vegetation changed to smaller mallee often with an understory of pink velvet bush.



A top Mt Henschke

The top of Mt. Henschke was covered in rocks of a rich red colour. On some of the rocks was growing a lime green lichen. We lunched at Mt. Henschke sitting on rocks in shade, which was most welcome. During lunch some of the members consulted their GPS units with mixed results. Michael consulted his GPS and a map which only made him more confused.

We took a different route back to the cars – choosing to bush bash with the aid of several GPS units.

On the way there was much excitement for a lucky few who managed to site a mallee fowl keenly spotted by Jeff.

Our first stop of interest was a mallee fowl mound. Judging by surrounding tracks it had been recently visited by a mallee fowl as well as a fox. We speculated that it might be too dry for mallee fowl eggs to incubate in the mound.

Our next two points of interest were pardolote “nests” which were small holes in the ground – no bigger than a mouse hole. The second hole showed signs of activity.

Some wild flowers observed on the walk were Azure Daisy Bush, Wiry Podolepis, Green Tea-tree, Broom Milkwort and Desert Phebalium.

We arrived back happy and pleasantly tired from a great walk in the Murray Sunset country - making it home in time to watch Hawthorn win by a whisker against the Adelaide Crows in the Preliminary final. According to the map we walked about 12 kilometres but zig-zagging through the bush probably added a few more kilometres. What a day!



Twiggy Daisy-bush – Oleria ramulosa

We felt in safe hands due to the tracking device worn by Dick and monitored by Roger. Many thanks to all involved.



Wild Boronia- Cassia nemophila

The Mt. Hensche walk was a success due to Dick and Russell's thorough preparation which included completing the walk the week before and guiding us into the sign posted camp site.



Fringe Daisy- Oleria ciliata

Report by Kim

Photos by Tom & Meryl

SPOT WATCHER

A few observations from the viewpoint of the one monitoring the activities transmitted by the SPOT System on the 22/9/2012.



The set-up allowing the Check-In function to also go to a mobile phone was received first by the mobile phone

It took 5 minutes before the same information was recorded on the Findmespot website

Tracking started at 9.33am

Details received from each log transmitted at 10 minute intervals took the following form:-

1. Your Local Time: Sat 22/9/12 10.01.26am
2. Co-ordinates: WGS84 -34.56184, 141.69586
3. Message Details: {Gives pre-arranged info and in this case}
"Sunraysia Bushwalkers CHECK-IN/OK message. No action required."

In viewing the Findmespot site there are four styles of viewing:

4. Map – this gives a flat drawing view
5. Satellite – Gives a typical aerial picture view
6. Hybrid – a combination of 1. & 2. So that the picture has any roads and their names displayed
7. Terrain – This is like 1. But shows contour lines.

I received CHECK-IN/OK message when Mt Henschke was topped and a further CHECK-IN/OK message when back at the start of the walk. (At the same time text messages were received on the mobile phones – note: we had set up two phones to receive these messages)

I was able to track all 10 minute interval Track Progress messages on the webpage and zoom in & out for clarification. Apparently there were no failed transmissions.

I did not receive confirmation of safe arrival back at Mildura. This did not concern me as I was aware that there were several vehicles in the party but I would have been concerned if there had only been one vehicle.

Recommendations as a result of being the monitor of the walk:

- A sheet with vital details should be left with the monitor.
- Leader to sign off with monitor upon return.
- Monitor to record credit on mobile phone at end of monitoring.



SUNRAYSIA BUSHWALKERS

PLANNED WALKS FOR 2012 & 2013

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.

2012	Activity	Grade	Contact
October 3rd	Meeting	MH	
October 20 - 2	Grampians 2 days - Overnight walk <i>Alternate day Walks from Halls Gap – Expressions of interest in this will be sort at the meeting.</i>	H	Roger Cornell 50257325
October 27 – 3 Nov	Viking Circuit - High Country Walk See details in body of newsletter Oct 2012	R	Bill Sutherland 50257325
November 2nd	A pleasant evening stroll in the Cardross Bush Reserve, followed by tea at the Cardy Store	E	Barb Cornell 50257325
November 7th	Meeting		
November 17 - 18	Canoeing the Murrumbidgee	ME	Barb Cornell 50257325
November 23-26	Yea Tullerook to Mansfield High Country Rail/Trail bike ride 123 Kms Over 2 – 2.5 days.		Michael Jobe 50238257 04005749988
December 5th	Meeting		
2013/2014			
Feb. 2013 Either side of the Wooden Boat Show (8 – 11 th)	Western Arthurs – Tasmania 10 days	LH	Roger Cornell 50257325
April 18 - 24	Cradle Mountain - Walheim Huts Day Walks 6 nights		Roger Cornell 50257325
April 2014	Himalayan Walk. Everest Base Camp and/or Goyko Lakes	R	Noel Hayward 50257455

** For our grading system of activities refer to our website at <http://www.sunbushwalk.net.au/activities.html>

Next Meeting
Wednesday 3rd October at 8.00 pm
at Drysdale's
2164 Fifteenth Street,
Irymple