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# *Sunraysia Bushwalkers*

## *July 2014*

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*On Track*



*Hooded Robin*



*Parks creative track design?*

To view the complete calendar, please follow the link:

<http://www.sunbushwalk.net.au/calendarofactivities.html>

**OUR WEEKEND**  
**MT CROZIER to PINK LAKES**  
**14- 15 June 2014**



We were on the road down the Calder Highway by 4pm Friday evening, 8 of us in 3 vehicles. The weather was nice and sunny with a bit of cloud even though rain had been forecast. Those on the trip were Karl & Meryl, Tony, Robert, Barb & Roger and myself, Lis.



We turned off at Trinita into the Murray-Sunset National Park. At the start the unmade road was pretty good but after a while it started to deteriorate becoming rather rutty and in places very sandy. Dick was leading and we had to drive pretty fast to keep up!! It was about 60km on the unmade road to where we were staying for the first night at Mt. Crozier. We arrived at dusk so our first task was to set up camp as the forecast rain started to threaten. It did start to sprinkle a little but not enough to worry about. Also a fire was started which was very welcome as it was becoming a little chilly. After lots of talk and having something to eat it was time to hit the sack.

We woke next morning to thick fog. At least we seemed to have lost the rain which was good. The plan was for the drivers to take the vehicles to our next camp spot then return so we would then walk to it. While we were waited we kept warm by climbing Mt Crozier (which is really a

large sand dune, all of 111.meters high).

Eventually our drivers came back and we were ready to start. Roger stayed as he would finish packing up camp then drive to our next camp spot. So it was back up Mt Crozier as that was the start of the track. We were told that we had about 11km to walk, but no one told us about all the sand dunes we had to go up and over. And there were LOTS!! Barb and I were not too impressed with all the ups and downs, as well as walking in loose sand. All around us was great scenery and we could see more and more as the fog started to lift.



*Roger setting us off on the right track*



*Climbing Mt Crozier*



*Just a wee bit further!*

As our resident weather observer predicted the fog began to lift at noon. We stopped for lunch on top of a rather large dune and had a welcome rest. Couldn't believe it when Dick said we still had over 8km to go as it seemed as if we had been walking for hours. So off again, wondering if the dunes would ever end. The sun was trying to come out and the sky was starting to clear. The track went in a straight line and when topping a dune you could see the track going on and on. Barb had counted 16 dunes after lunch so there were at least as many or more before lunch! It was so good when I saw a vehicle then Roger came into view. We had arrived!

*Climbi*





*L to R: Karl, Meryl, Dick, Tony, Robert & Lis*

Our next destination was Pink Lakes. Roger and Barb stayed back to clear up camp then drive the vehicles to Lake Becking which was the end of our walk. The rest of us walked the last 3-4km to the lake. It is only one of a series of salt lakes. It didn't take us too long to get there and it was interesting to see the deep salmon pink colour caused by the algae around the edge of the lake. Roger and Barb had also arrived so after a bit of a look around, it was time to have lunch then start on our way back.

So straight into setting up camp and finally sitting down to relax in front of a beaut fire. We were very spoiled with Roger cooking us a yummy curry with heaps of veges and rice. It was followed by cake and custard. The rising moon was a beautiful sight in the dark clear night sky. I think we were all rather tired so it was not long before we were off to bed. Next morning we woke to fog again but it was not as thick as the previous day.



*Lake Becking and its pink algae*



*Salt lugs on top of the mound*

We had a couple of stops at some of the other lakes and also a large mound of salt. It was fascinating to see all the little lumps and bumps on top of the salt mound. The most interesting part of the trip out was going down the Mopoke Track which was meant going over a series of dunes of quite deep sand. The track obviously had quite a bit of traffic judging by the deep sandy tyre ruts we had to negotiate. We stopped briefly at an area where there was some petrified wood on a dune. Rather interesting to pick up and touch. It was almost like touching coral. At Hattah we stopped and Tony and I swapped into Meryl and Karl's vehicle. I was home by around 5.30pm after a really great weekend. Many thanks to Roger and Barb for making it happen.

*Report by Lis*



*Pink Fungus*



*Pink Saltbush*



*Pink Potulaca*



*Now what are they up to?*



*They just can't help themselves can they?*



Congratulations to Callum  
for successfully completing  
yet another of his  
mallee walks.

### CMA Flooding & Bird Life information from Christiana

The Mallee CMA is pumping water into Bullock Swamp, north of Rudds Road, 263 ha. The first stage, completed, was filling a drainage basin. The second stage, started, is filling the rest of the swamp to a low level that will not flood Barko Road. I spent 3-4 hours walking around the edge of the water and the drainage basin watching the bird life. The good thing is that the drainage basin is deep and full of ducks, including the not so common Hardhead ducks, black swans (I counted 20) and the shallow surrounding swamp that is just filling is more for the waders, e.g. white necked heron, banded stilts. There are also raptors around: Swamp Harrier, little eagle, I believe; white winged blue wrens, Rufous whistler, southern whiteface in the vegetation.

So, for anyone interested in birdlife, it is a little bit closer than the Hattah Lakes and its own habitat due to the lignum, saltbush and tree stumps sticking out of the water.





*Paddling Chaulka Creek*

## CALENDAR

July 2nd	Meeting at 8.00	Equipment review – Gaiters and gloves	If you have either, bring yours and give a brief reason why you chose them and why you wear them.
July 56th	Hattah Lakes (Subject to availability)	Mid-winter dinner and optional walk. May be restricted due to watering of lakes	Usually a camp oven affair so put your thinking hats on and come up with suggestions for a menu.
July 613th	Norfolk Island	One week of relaxation and history of an island	Flying to the island with accommodation, vehicle and tours included.
Aug 9-10th	Lindsay Island/ Ned's Corner	Possible canoeing	
Sept 6 <sup>th</sup>	Hattah	Day Walk	
Sept 7 <sup>th</sup>	Chaulka Creek	Canoeing	

**Next Meeting  
Wednesday 2nd July at 8.00 pm  
at Drysdale's  
2164 Fifteenth Street,  
Irymple**