

The Mitchell ^{ID} Walker

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A membership application form is on page 4.

Issue 97

November & December 2022

Mitchell Walking Group is a program of Broadford Living & Learning Centre inc. 158-160 High St, Broadford 3658

This is a combined newsletter for November and December. The next edition will come out in January 2023. Happy Christmas everyone. (Ed.)

Kinglake and Masons Falls. Sunday 6th Nov.

Mary led our Sugarloaf lookout and Masons Falls walk in the Kinglake National Park. We had two cars meeting at Wandong, one from Kilmore with Mary and Fred, and one from Broadford with Bec, Pia and Arthur. From there, we headed for the Blackwood carpark where we met Wayne. Mary also managed to invite a fellow walker to join us. This was Jake from Edithvale, who was parking his car as we arrived, and he accepted the offer.

We started the walk by heading along the Mt Sugarloaf Ridge track to the lookout, from where views of the city, Yan Yean Reservoir, Mt Dandenong and even the You Yangs, across towards Geelong, could be seen through the trees if you stood in the right spot. Jake impressed us all with this old-school, wind-on film camera, which was possibly older than him, to capture the gorgeously sunny view.

Backtracking a little, we walked down, down, down (200m alt.) the Running Creek track, where we noticed a small species of grevillea in flower dotting the slope with its orange/pink flowers. The flowers' small leaves were a lovely velvety texture. As we arrived at the bottom of the valley next to the creek for a quick snack stop, we were surrounded by rainforest, and the sound of running water as we enjoyed the reprieve of the cooler air.

As what goes down, must come up, so we marched back up and up and up the hill and turned left to Masons Falls at the intersection of the Wallaby track, except, Arthur and Jake who had gone ahead on Mary's advice that it was the right-hand track, and ended up in the car park! Those who made it to the Falls lunch stop were impressed by the almost 100m high waterfalls after such significant rain we'd had!

Fred and Bec returned to the carpark the long way round, via Goodenia and Boundary tracks, and the rest of the group via Wallaby track to the Blackwood carpark. In total at the end of the day, by Fred's reckoning, we had actually walked a grand total of 15.6 km, making it back to the car park just as the heavens opened up for the afternoon thunderstorms! The Broadford car ended the day with a lovely drive back through the rolling greens hills via Flowerdale.

(Report by Bec.)

Heathcote Walk. 19th November 2022.

Paul, Bec, Mary and Karen met in Kilmore, blissfully ignorant of what was to come later in the day. With our



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heads held high, we drove off optimistically towards Heathcote, ignoring all the warnings of approaching thunderstorms.

After parking on the outskirts of the town, we set off towards the Heathcote Powder Magazine. This sandstone building was constructed in 1864 and was used to store explosives during the gold mining area where they were safely away from residential areas. We then followed the track up to Devil's Cave. It is believed that this cave originally provided shelter to aborigines, and then subsequently gold miners. On this particular day, Bec was the only one to enter the cave, possibly because she was the only one confident that she would fit through the very small exit hole on the other side. The rest of us plonked our more elderly bodies at the entrance and stared dubiously at the opening before climbing around the outside to meet Bec as she athletically slithered out through a narrow gap between the rocks.

The next section of the track was bordered by an abundance of wildflowers, all accurately identified by Bec. They included yellow paper daisies, hibbertia, chocolate lilies, blue pin cushions, yam daisies and orchids. At this stage, there was just the soft pitter patter of rain drops, and with misplaced confidence, we simply shrugged our shoulders and ignored them. The track then became steeper and as we climbed, we

witnessed a strange scientific phenomenon.

As the incline steadily increased, the intensity of the rainfall increased in a directly proportional amount. It eventually reached a stage where even the most optimistic walkers couldn't ignore it. We stopped to discuss the benefits of wearing a waterproof coat in warm conditions, carefully weighing up the difference between being soaked by precipitation, versus being soaked by perspiration. Eventually we decided to put our coats on and continued walking, each of us inside their own personal sauna. Although we still paid some attention to the landscape, comments about where our coats were leaking and how far the

water had penetrated, began to escalate. However, that didn't stop us from persevering up to Viewing Rock Lookout. There we enjoyed the stunning views for at least ninety seconds, before the advancing rain band replaced it with a grey fog. We probably ate our lunch in the space of ninety seconds too while some sort tropical storm hovered overhead. During our hurried descent, we didn't take much notice of the landscape. Instead we concentrated on things such as whether our sodden pants would continue to sag until they made a sudden, embarrassing drop to our ankles. Paul decided that blurry vision was probably better than foggy lenses and ditched his glasses. Luckily his exceptional skill at operating the All Trails App meant that we still made it safely back to Heathcote.

Once back in the town, we were desperate to go to a coffee shop, but we were worried that no well-run business would let such a bedraggled group harm their brand. Fortunately, the highly recommended and historic Heathcote House, kindly welcomed us inside. They provided us with hot drinks and scones while we conscientiously made a start on the walk report. It was just a pity that they had to mop the floor after we left.

We then made a lightning trip to the Pink Cliffs, staying just long enough to efficiently cake our boots with clay, which we subsequently smeared all over the floor of Paul's car. We had an enjoyable drive back to

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Kilmore boasting about how courageous we had been to complete 12 km under such adverse conditions. We are grateful to Mary for organising the trip so we can continue to boast relentlessly when we see you all next.
(Report by Karen)



UPCOMING WALKS. * * * Please note that these are proposed walks, and may change. A final announcement with meeting arrangements will always be emailed out a few days before each walk.

Note that there are no walks currently planned for December. We have found it difficult finding walk leaders and there are fewer people able to get out in the weeks leading up to Christmas. The summer evening walks take place in January. See below:

March 2023. The Rubicon weekend camp and walks has been postponed until March 2023, and will be held in conjunction with Echuca Bushwalkers. More later.

SUMMER EVENING TWILIGHT WALKS PROGRAM: During January we conduct shorter evening walks in the local district, on Wednesday evenings. These are expected to be:

- **Wednesday 4th January. Say G'day walk in Wandong.** Leader Paul. More details closer to the walk.
- **Wednesday 11th January. Broadford Town Walk. Leader Arthur.** More details closer to the walk.
- **Wednesday 18th January. Monument Hill. Kilmore. Leader Rebecca.** More details closer to the walk.
- **Wednesday 25th January. Lighthouse Memorial Park. Seymour. Leader to be announced.** More details closer to the walk.

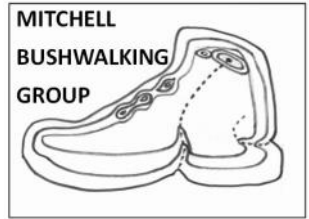
*** Mary has asked me to send out an early notice about a 5-day hike she is organizing, including Dibbing hut, Young's hut and beyond. She plans to drive up to the High Country on **Sunday 8th January** and camp at Harrietville, before starting the walk on Monday 9th January. The walk is still being worked out but if it sounds like something you'd like to do, please text her on 0428 479 469. She will get back to you.

(John Brissett. Editor)

***** See Membership application form on the next page.**

Mitchell Bushwalking Group

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



<i>Contact details may be made available to leaders for the purpose of organising trips.</i>			
Name:	Year born:		
Email:			
Postal Address:			
Phone:	Home:	Mobile:	Work:
Emergency Contact:	Name:	Mobile:	
Do you hold a Level 2 First Aid Certificate? Y / N		Date of qualification:	
Brief description of bushwalking/outdoor experience:			

Acknowledgement of Risk – Please read and sign (all members over 18 years must sign)

I am aware that my voluntary participation in any activity of this club may expose me to risks that could lead to injury, illness or death, or to loss of, or damage to, my property. These risks include, but are not limited to, slippery and/or uneven rocks, dislodged rocks, cliffs, exposure to weather and whiteout conditions, falling and hypothermia.

To minimize these risks I will endeavour to:

- Ensure that any activity I participate in is within my capabilities;
- Carry appropriate food, water and equipment for the activity;
- Advise the leader if I am taking any medication, or have any physical or other limitation which might affect my participation; and
- Make every effort to remain with the group during the activity and accept the instructions of the leader.

I have read and understood these requirements and have considered the risks before choosing to sign this Acknowledgement of Risk. I accept that in signing this form I will take responsibility for my own actions.

Name:	Signature:	Date:
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OFFICE USE ONLY	Receipt No:	Database updated Date:
Membership No:	Receipt issued Date:	Email notification sent Date:

The club membership year is 1st August 2022 to 31st July 2023. New members May–August pay half the annual subscription. Annual membership, which covers insurance through Bushwalking Victoria, is **currently \$35.00** . For further information please email: mitchellwalksgroup@gmail.com

* This form could be posted with a cheque to **Secretary, Mitchell Bushwalking Group, 3 Hibiscus Court, Kilmore, 3764** OR Scanned and sent electronically to mitchellwalksgroup@gmail.com The membership fee could be paid via bank transfer to **Mitchell Bushwalking Group** at Bendigo Bank. The BSB number is **633-000** Account number: **160294047** Please write your surname in the "Details" section.