

The Mitchell Walker

Upcoming walks on page 4.

A membership application form is on page 5.

Issue 102

April 2023

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

Three reports this month and a list of future walks on page 4. Thanks to Pia, Arthur and Bec for the reports. Also Bec, Marg and Mary for the photos. (Ed.)

Toolangi/Myrtle Creek walk. Sunday 2nd April

There were eight of us- Mary, Paul, Fred, John, Marg, Rebecca, Roslyn, and me (Pia) all meeting up at the Wirra Willa car park about 10:30 a.m. It was Mary leading the walk with a bit of help from Paul and Fred. We were doing the Myrtle Gully walk which I believe is the longest of the walks from that car park. Dogs are welcome there, and I think I will bring mine next time, because she would love it.

I noticed when leaving Broadford in the car, that the temperature was just 15 degrees. By the time we got to Toolangi it had dropped to 10 degrees. Fortunately, everybody was well wrapped up and we were all wearing gaiters. People seemed very aware of leeches in this area, and nobody was up for donating blood that day!

It was an easy and a spectacular walk with a small incline, winding through the rainforest in the Toolangi State Forest. The ancient Myrtle Beech trees and Southern Sassafras provide a dense canopy that shades the understory all year round. Hence the temperature drop as we got closer. Lots of ferns and mosses love these dark, dank conditions.

The sound of the birds high up in the trees was so beautiful.

Paul knew other great place for us to stop and eat our lunch, and to everyone's surprise none of us had ever been there before. There were picnic tables and a toilet block in a lovely little clearing in the forest. From there we had to backtrack a short distance, to connect with another path that would take us back to the cars. The path was quite muddy, and our boots started to get heavier as we walked.

Near the start of the walk there was a boardwalk off to one side. It is a short and easy 20-minute walk beside the Sylvia Creek, with rest



stops and wheelchair access. Most people in our group also did that walk when we returned from the longer walk.

Mary really wanted to show us the amazing fungi that was growing there at this time of year. Back

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at the car park we tried our best to get as much of the mud off our boots as we could, with sticks- some even had a bit of help.

It was a beautiful day with brilliant company as always. Unfortunately, there was no time for a coffee afterwards. Maybe next time? I think we decided the walk was 12 km. in total, so well done all of us!

(Report by Pia)

Anderson Garden's Walk. Sunday April 16th.

Rain overnight did not dampen our spirits, as Fran, Pia, Bec, Roslyn, Kiera, Paul & I headed off to Anderson Gardens. On arrival Bec & Paul had their phones out checking their All Trails app. Then we were on our way. As we started our walk there was a light shower.

The start of the walk was up, a steady climb as we reached one level and then it was up again. We stopped at times to rest and take in the views, and yes, the odd photo or two. As we continued we encountered a heavy shower, but this

did not stop us. It was great to see the pink heath, (Victoria's floral emblem) and Fran also came across an old horseshoe.

We stopped for lunch outside the dam that provides water to Kilmore, and from there we started to make our way down, which included the "Elephant Track" I believe that's what Paul advised). That was the easy section. Words cannot describe the next section of the track-

an unused trail bike track, slippery rocks, muddy underfoot, and large pools of water, which caused us to detour around through the bush. On our way down we came across Allan on his trail bike, who was preparing himself to climb the almost vertical hill in front of us. Pia asked if we had a first aid kit in the group, but it seems we only had a snake bite kit. Fortunately, Alan made the climb. From there we made our way back to the cars, then headed home.

Thanks to Bec and Paul for an enjoyable, if not challenging, walk.

(Report by Arthur.)



Fryerstown to Castlemaine. Sunday April 30th.

A beautiful sunny day was forecast and a larger than usual number of people decided to accompany Mary on this delightful walk. At 13.2 km it was also a bit longer than usual.

I always enjoy visiting the goldfields area with its direct link back to our mining history, and evidence



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everywhere of our hard-working predecessors toiling away in horrendous conditions. All in the hope of striking it rich, and turning their lives around.

The walk attracted 13 walkers– 6 from Kilmore, 4 from Broadford and 1 each from Melbourne and Puckapunyal. Meeting in Kilmore, the car convoy took a slightly circuitous route to Fryerstown. (The scenic route, I'm assured) Despite this, the main group began walking by the intended start time of 10.00 a.m.

Fryerstown is an attractive settlement of tiny miners' cottages, with mining history all around. It appears that the town's present population is very low indeed and those who do live there probably purchase supplies in Castlemaine, 11 km away by road.

Under clear skies and with warm sunshine overhead, we headed off on wide, well-defined tracks. There were a few hills during the morning but nothing too difficult, even for me. We passed old miners' water-races,

and evidence of early settlement. At one stage we happened upon a huge stone wall used for loading ore, which was later to be crushed in a stamping machine. All but the photographer, Marg, climbed up for a group photo. (above right)

For lunch we took a side track up to a high point, known as "The Monk," with 360 degree views through the trees. A distant howling of dingoes caught our attention and prompted Paul to respond with a howl of his own. Apparently, there is a dingo sanctuary nearby. By now the jumpers and jackets were off and we were walking comfortably downhill and back to the main route.

A lot of the afternoon was spent walking in single file on narrow tracks beside an old aqueduct, presumably used to wash the earth in search of gold. I found myself wondering how much water would have been available in this area which is also known as the Dry Diggings.

Passing a small dam with a sign "Poverty Gully Basin" posted beside it, I pictured men of all ages, toiling with picks and shovels, digging aqueducts, dams, and mine shafts in the rocky ground; and being away from families and loved ones, through rain and shine, hot summers and chilly winters. I suppose some purchased supplies from hawkers while others took the slow trip into Castlemaine and back. What a life!

Beside Poverty Dam we spotted a sign indicating that Castlemaine was just 10 km away, by the track we were about to take. This came as the shock as we had already walked 6.4 km according to somebody's GPS. I suspect the sign may have been incorrect as it seemed much less, and we continue to walk gently downhill beside the aqueduct. As we approached Castlemaine, I suddenly developed a nasty leg-cramp, which fortuitously secured me a seat in an awaiting car. This car had been left there beforehand, to relay our other drivers back to collect their cars from Fryerstown.

Finally, we all met up for a coffee in Castlemaine before the drive home. It was an excellent walk- not too hard, in delightful weather conditions and with delightful company. Thank you, Mary (leader) and to all the others who made the day such a success. (Roslyn, Rene, Yvonne, Paul, Arthur, Fran, Rebecca, Pia, Karen, and my wife Marg.)

(Report by John)



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Upcoming Walks. (Note that these are planned walks, and may change. Always wait for the last-minute notice that comes out a few days before every walk.)

Sunday 7th May. Cobaw. Approx. 10 km. Mary to lead this walk.

Sunday 28th May. Baringo Bushland to Mt Robertson, near Gisborne. 8 km. Leader Paul.

Sunday 4th June. Mt Hickey. Stoney Creek Road. More later.

Sunday 18th June. Surprise walk. Leader Fred. We will be informed, closer to the date.

Sunday 25th June. Snow visit. More later. Mary to lead?

Sunday 2nd July. To be decided. Mary to lead the walk.

Sunday 16th July. Merri Creek. Leader will be Arthur.

Saturday 22nd July. Heathcote. This walk may be with Echuca/Moama walking group. Bec will investigate how this will work.

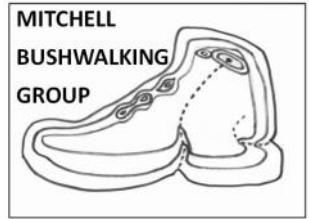
NOTE: The Federation Walks this year will be on the 20th-21st October weekend around Trentham/ Blackwood/Lyonville. There will be 20 walks and they are looking for leaders. If you are interested, contact **Paul** on **0476 932 117**.

(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.