

The Mitchell Walker

Upcoming walks on page 4.

A membership application form is on page 5.

Issue 104

June 2023

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

Taradale Conservation Reserve. Sunday 18th June. Despite a forecast of strong winds and rain, we decided to brave the elements and head off to walk the Taradale Conservation Reserve trail, a circular 13 km track. Taradale is a small rural hamlet in the Goldfields area. It began with the discovery of gold in 1851 and was possibly a stopover for the Cobb and Co. route between Melbourne and Bendigo. Today Taradale is a shadow of its former past; a quiet little town with a scattering of old buildings and mining equipment to remind us of its early years. The group consisted of Paul our leader, John, Marg, Karen, Rebecca, Pia, and our two returned overseas travellers, Mary and Hayley. Mary was just back from Canada, and Hayley from the UK and Europe. Once again Paul had done his homework and was able to give us the history of the area. The walk commenced in the centre of town at the Mineral Springs Reserve. After walking under 150-year old oak trees we crossed a small bridge over Back Creek. Our first stop was a very

quirky site with a display of garden gnomes and ornaments amongst the trees and shrubs lining the creek. Mary was particularly interested in a gnome which was baring it's bottom. We continued following this track and then came off it, onto a sealed road where we were greeted with a magnificent view of the Taradale Railway Viaduct, built in 1858 and 1862. Imagine building that in

those days?

Leaving the sealed road, we turned off into the Conservation Area. The area was mostly open forest surrounded by private farms. It was a bit early for wildflowers but we did note several wattles starting to bloom.

The track was quite muddy and wet underfoot, a legacy to recent rain events. As we walked further the puddles became larger, eventually blocking off our route with what I presume was the Coliban River. No worries according to the map, we could cross on the swing bridge. One problem. No swing bridge! So the only thing to do was to take off our boots, roll up our pants, and wade across. Lead by our courageous leader, we plunged into the freezing water and made it safely across. When we had dried out tootsies, we sat on the bank and ate our lunch.

Walking back through undulating farmland, across the Melbourne-Bendigo rail track, we stopped to look at the historic, now closed, Taradale railway station. Closed in 1976, the old bluestone station-master's residence is now privately-owned.

We arrived back in the main street of Taradale after walking 13.1 kilometres. Fortunately for us, despite the cold temperature, there was no rain or wind,

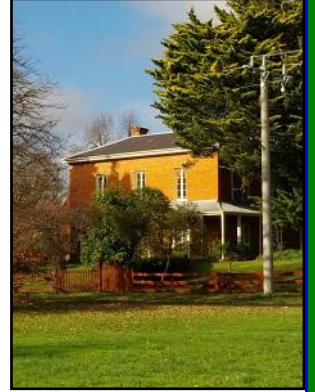
(Continued on page 2)



The Mitchell Walker

and there were even patches of sunshine. Naturally the walk ended with a coffee, at the Oakart pottery in the main street. It was lovely to hear about Mary and Hayley's respective travels and to share the day with our bushwalking friends. Thank you, Paul, for stepping in at the last minute. I wonder if Fred secretly knew about the lack of a bridge over the river?

(Report by Marg.)



Snow visit. Sunday 25th June. When Mary put the call out for a snowshoeing day trip to Mt Stirling, I turned out to be the only one willing to brave the conditions with her. I'd skied before, but not snowshoed. I'd been to Mt Sterling, but not in snow. So, I pulled out the bigger backpack to fit in the extra equipment needed for such a trip and set the alarm for extra early.

Arriving at Telephone box junction and there was snow right down to the (almost empty) carpark! We donned snowshoes, took a happy snap and commenced our stomp up the hill. I had not been in such a heavily snowed forest before and was amazed at how much snow and ice clung to the leaves and twigs. You could see the pattern of how the icicles collected across the leaves in the wind. The dead branches and twigs were covered so thick with ice they looked like coral. When the wind blew, the ice tinkled in the leaves. The snow was so thick over ground and shrubs I could have dived in!!

We lunched at Bluff hut meeting a number of others along the way, most of whom were camping. We attempted to summit Mt Sterling, but shrouded in cloud and the wind blustery, we turned for home. Nearing the café, it was properly snowing and the lure of hot chocolate and a biscuit to warm us for the trip home was irresistible. I loved snowshoeing. It's like skiing but without the bruises from all the falling over!

(Report by Bec.)



Cathedral Range. Sunday 2nd July. What a beautiful sunny Sunday for our walk across the jagged ridges of the Cathedral Ranges which are the remains of a volcano that erupted some 373 million years ago. Led by Mary we left from Cooks Mill Campground with a gradual walk up Jawbone Track onto Ridge Track. A little detour for morning tea with a challenge up out onto the North Jawbone. Here we were rewarded with spectacular views and Mary's delicious gluten free cup cakes.



(Continued on page 3)

The Mitchell Walker

Continuing down back onto Ridge Track we walked across the Rocky Peak again rewarding us with magnificent views of the Acheron Valley. Lunch was had high up with these views and the sun continued to shine for us. A few of us made a quick trip up Little Cathedral Track and then we all made our way down Neds Gully Track. This was a little steep and slippery at times and a bit testy on the knees.

Overall, a great day listening to the lyrebirds and walking in one of Victoria's top bushwalking destinations with great company.

(Report by Leila)



Upcoming Walks. Note. These are planned walks and may change. Please look for final details which are emailed out a few day before each walk.

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

Sunday 30th July. Mt Hickey Contour track. Leader Paul. More to follow.

Sunday 13th August. Warrandyte Kinglake Conservation Park. Fred will lead this walk. More later.

Federation Walks.

A reminder from Mary about the Federation Walks. Apparently there is very little time left to book your place— I think she said “by the end of July”. Here is the notice which was advertised in the May edition of our newsletter.:

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)

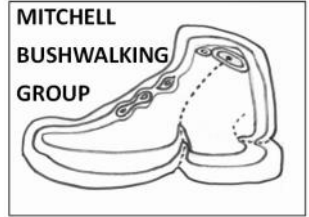
***** See Membership application form on the next page.**

The Mitchell Walker



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:
-------	------------	-------

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

The club membership year is 1st August 2023 to 31st July 2024. 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: **160 294 047** Please write your surname in the "Details" section.