

The Mitchell Walker

Upcoming walks on page 2.

A membership application form is on page 4.

Issue 105

July 2023

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

A shorter newsletter this month because the July 2nd walk was included in the June newsletter. (Ed.)

Merri Creek Walk- Clifton Hill to Coburg Lake.

Sunday 16th July. Participants were Arthur, Pia, John Miller, Paul, Bec., Gail, Marg and John Brissett. This walk was quite different from our normal walks. Arthur led this inner-Melbourne walk from Clifton Hill railway station to Coburg Lake, beside the Merri Creek and including a morning tea stop at CERES Nursery.



Instead of driving to the start of this walk, Arthur had meticulously planned a series of train journeys: First V-Line to Southern Cross, and then a suburban train to Clifton Hill. At the end of the walk, we would leave from Batman station in Coburg north, to Southern Cross, and then home again with V-Line. Unfortunately, after arriving at Southern Cross we were confronted with a dreaded "Buses-Replacing-Trains" notification. The party took this in their stride, however, and after a brief delay we commenced walking from Clifton Hill station at about 10:30 a.m.



What a delightful walk! All the times I've driven over or close to the Merri Creek, I never had any idea that this track even existed. Perhaps it has been constructed or upgraded over the past three or four decades? In my memory it was more of a drain than a creek and used mainly as a dumping place for shopping trolleys and unwanted household items, in among the long grass and thistles. Not so anymore. The weather was fine and sunny, the sky was blue, and the sealed or well-formed tracks meandered along beside the babbling creek, with verdant, neatly maintained lawns all around. It is really a credit to those responsible for its maintenance. We stopped briefly at an historic site where a flying fox had once been set up to move items across a flooded valley.



It was good to catch up with John Miller again, who we hadn't seen since before Covid, and before we knew it we were at CERES for our morning tea stop. For those who do not know it, CERES is a Community Environment Park located in Brunswick East. It has an education centre, a community garden, an urban farm, a nursery, a fresh food market and a cafe. It is open to the public and is well worth the look if you are in the area. This Sunday it was really buzzing with a lot of young families out enjoying the sunshine.



(Continued on page 2)

The Mitchell Walker

Marg and I had arranged to meet up with our daughter and 1-year old granddaughter over coffee here, mid-walk, so we all got to meet up with each other before continuing northwards towards Coburg Lake.

I once lived and worked in Coburg and was unaware that this charming route existed. (But then again, perhaps it didn't?) Arriving at Coburg Lake we managed to find an 8-seat picnic table with views across the gardens towards the old Pentridge gaol, now a trendy mini-suburb, with plenty of cafes, a few shops, and an excellent 15-screen cinema. After lunch we crossed the creek and headed east across Sydney Road to Batman station. In no time we were heading back to Southern Cross and our train trip home.



It had been an excellent day with perfect weather, good friends, and a great insight into a lovely part of Melbourne that I thought I knew well, but clearly didn't. Thanks to Arthur for his excellent planning and leadership and to the other participants who made this walk so enjoyable. (Report by John)



Tallarook State Forest. Mt Hickey walk. 30 July 2023. Tallarook State Forest lies between Broadford and Seymour covering an area of 5100 hectares of mixed species eucalyptus. After European settlement gold mining was prevalent throughout the area and later timber milling. It was also used for military training. Today it is mostly used for recreational activities such as bushwalking, 4WD/ trail bike riding, and deer shooting.



And so, our group- Paul, our leader, Fran, Arthur, Marg, Karen, Ros, Leesa, Chris and Bec set off on a 10-km walk to the top of Mount Hickey. The terrain consisted of tracks with many loose rocks, fallen trees, and motorbike ruts. It was quite steep in places, but we all managed to make it to the top. We bumped into a couple of deer hunters and were quick to let them know we were walking in the area. They assured us they were heading back to their cars, although we did later



hear gunshots in the distance.

The views down to the valley were beautiful, particularly with the sun shining through the trees. We got a great view of the Grindlay estate, much to Fran's delight. Lunch was eaten at the top of Mount Hickey after which we headed down and back to the cars. The track was pretty rough with lots of erosion from motorbikes, and slippery rocks. At one stage the track was blocked off by an electric fence, a locked gate and a sign stating, "Private Property." This surprised us as the area is State Forest. Undaunted, we detoured through bush linking up to the road. We did not see many wildflowers but did note *Hovea* and *Happy Wanderer* in flower.



We arrived back at our cars without mishap and in time to have a coffee at the *Duck Inn* in Broadford. Thank you, Paul for a lovely walk and thank you to my fellow walkers for your pleasant company.

(Report by Marg .)

(Continued on page 3)

The Mitchell Walker

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

Sunday August 27th. Marmsbury. Leader Paul. More later.

Sunday September 10th. To be confirmed. Hopefully Mary will lead this mystery walk.

Federation Walks.

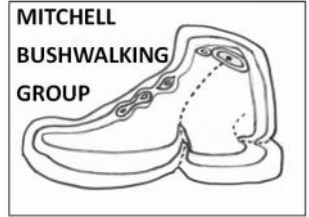
The Federation Walks this year will be on the 20th-21st October weekend around Trentham/ Blackwood/ Lyonville. There will be 20 walks but it is almost certainly too late to book yourself in now. We have several walkers from our group who will be attending, and we hope to repeat some of the planned Federation walks by ourselves in the future. It's a good opportunity for some of our leaders to experience new walks, under the guidance of local walk leaders familiar with the area.

(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 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.