

The Mitchell Walker

Upcoming walks on page 3.

A membership application form is on page 4.

Issue 106

August 2023

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

There are 2 walk reports this month. Also a list of proposed walks, and important updates about membership payments and a new emergency form to be carried by everyone in their packs. (Ed.)



Warrandyte Kinglake area walk. 13th August 2023. Hello fellow walkers, I had a wonderful time walking with our group on the Roberts Rd around Christmas Hill on the 13th August. It was a real treat to walk with friends, and to share thoughts and ideas with likeminded people.

The track was similar to many tracks I have been on, an old road cut away into the hillside and then into our beautiful open forests. We saw wattle, some grevillea, and the prickly hakea flowering.

Similar flowers were out in South Australia at about the same latitude. It's interesting with so many miles in-between. We did a short span of road walking, and then back into the forest again, working our way back to the cars.



We enjoyed our picnic lunch, and the weather held, although it was a bit cool. The beanies and gloves are a real asset. Thanks Fred for organizing, and Paul for your co-leadership and love of All Trails.

Walkers were: Pia, Rene, Fred, Paul, Bec, Hailey and Mary.
(Report by Mary)

Malmsbury Walk. 27th August 2023

On Sunday, August 27, Paul, Arthur, Rebecca, Hayley, John B, Marg, Fred, Fran and Karen headed to historic Malmsbury to explore the town and surrounding area. We started the walk in the Malmsbury Botanic Gardens which was one of the earliest botanic gardens to be established in regional Victoria. The land was set aside for the gardens in the late 1850's, however most of the planting occurred in the early 1860's. There was a good collection of very well established trees, an ornamental lake and an old fish hatchery dating back to the 1890's. To the south of the gardens, towering over us at a height of 25 metres, was the Malmsbury Viaduct. Like many of the buildings in Malmsbury, it was constructed from bluestone. At the time of



its completion in 1861, it was one of the longest stone bridges in Australia. From our position in the botanic gardens we were easily able to see just what an impressive structure it is.

We then crossed the Calder Highway and started following the Coliban Channel heading towards Ellis Falls. This was an



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easy walk through flat, open land. The only complication was that we were on one side of the Coliban Channel, while the Coliban River and Ellis Falls were on the other. Avid readers of the newsletter will remember the account of the Taradale walk on June 18, where Paul had us searching for a swing bridge that hadn't been there for twenty years. We ended up wading through icy water on a day where the maximum was about 11°C. It seemed there was a risk of history repeating itself.

We could hear the sound of Ellis Falls but there appeared to be no crossing over the Coliban Channel. It looked like we might have a choice between plunging into another waterway, or missing out on morning tea at the falls. I offered to go ahead to see if I could find a crossing. As I hurried along, a mob of black cattle came rushing towards me. "Look how popular I am", I called brightly to the people behind me before suddenly remembering the story I heard recently about a very young Mary Adams. As a child, she had to rescue a few of her siblings and two family dogs from some menacing Herefords. Mary saved the day by smashing a billycan into the face of the leading animal. Although I had a fence between me and the mob, my confidence quickly evaporated. These cattle seemed to be growing in numbers and picking up speed, but when I turned and nervously looked directly at them, they quickly veered away. I didn't quite know whether to feel relief that they had gone, or shame that my appearance had such an effect on them. However, I continued on with my search and eventually found a crossing.

When Fred caught up he didn't seem to understand that I had singlehandedly saved the walk. He thought that I'd merely rushed ahead in an urgent search for a secluded toilet spot. So instead of thanks, all I got was some bewildering gestures towards a small corrugated-iron pumping shed.

After successfully crossing the Coliban Channel we were able to make our way to Ellis Falls for morning tea. We sat down looking over the cascading water while Paul told us some of the history of the area. We returned to the Calder Highway, crossing back over to the south side where we walked past miners' cottages and the Malmsbury Railway Station, towards the Malmsbury Reservoir. The culture of our walking group is one where we feel every bit of exercise entitles us to some more food. We must have walked at least two kilometres since Ellis Falls, so Malmsbury Reservoir was designated as our lunch spot. It was a very picturesque location. At this time of year the gardens were lush and green, and because of the good weather, the water reflected the blue sky.

After lunch our plan was to cross the Coliban River to look at the Malmsbury Cemetery but we were thwarted by another problematic water crossing. A bridge that had previously been open a few months ago was now closed, just in time for another walk lead by Paul. This meant that we had to take a different path back into town. As we made our way back towards the viaduct, Paul had obviously had enough of references to non-existent water crossings, so he entertained himself by pointing out places where he claimed he was going to make us cross the Coliban River. We quickly fell into line and submissively completed the rest of the journey, making it back to the cars in dry clothes. As we had completed another period of exercise, we felt we were

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again entitled to more food and headed up to the Malmsbury Bakery. This bakery has a very good reputation and consequently it was really crowded. Needing to satisfy our appetites quickly, we got back into the cars and sped over to the Lancefield Bakery. There it was noted that we had walked for somewhere between 10 and 11 kilometres, depending on whose device you looked at.

Thanks to Paul for leading the walk, particularly on a day when he had to rush off and follow it up with another contribution to the community back at the Broadford Soccer Club. *(Report by Karen)*

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

Sunday 10th September. Mary will lead a walk of approximately 10 km which will include Camels Hump at Macedon.

Sunday 24th September. Rene will lead a walk in the Black Range.

October 2nd 3rd and 4th (Monday Tuesday & Wednesday) Rene will lead a walk in the High Country at Bungalow Spur near Harrierville. People interested in attending should contact Rene on 0493 089 430.

Sunday 8th October. John will lead a walk entitled ***Tooboora Hill and Forest Loop*** which will be approximately 10.3 km.

Sunday 22nd October. This is the weekend of the Federation Walks.

Sunday 29th October. Fred will lead a walk at the Christmas Hills Reservoir, of approximately 10 kilometres.

Other news. Following our monthly planning meeting, on September 4th, several matters must now be publicised.

1. An Eperb emergency device will be purchased by the group and taken on walks where it's considered advisable.
2. Our Sign-in sheet on walks will include a column where ambulance cover is indicated by walkers. *(Ambulance cover is strongly recommended by the group.)*
3. A medical form needs to be completed by all our walkers and carried in an outer pocket of their back-pack, in a plastic zip-bag, on all walks. *A copy of this form is included in the email to which this newsletter is attached. Please let us know if you are unable to print this yourself.*
4. MBG membership is now due, as our 12-month membership commences on August 1st. You can see membership information explained on the back page of this and every newsletter. The cost of renewal remains \$35.00, which practically all goes on the insurance we all must pay to Bushwalking Victoria. Details of how you can renew your membership are also on the back page of all our newsletters.

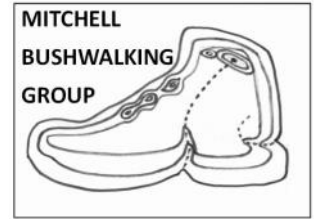
Please note that the \$5.00 per walk for non-members **is not an alternative to joining up.** It is an opportunity for prospective members to "see how they go" before paying for their membership and can only be done **twice** before a decision needs to be made. The \$5.00 does cover them for insurance on those 2 walks and if they subsequently join, the payments can be deducted from the \$35.00, meaning that they only have \$25.00 balance to pay.

(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.