

The Mitchell ID Walker

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A membership application form is on page 3.

Issue 90

February 2022

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

Just 2 walk reports in this February edition but so nice that we are able to get out again. Early in the year can be a difficult time to organise walks with hot or stormy weather conditions, and interruptions from public holidays, including Easter. (Ed.)

Tahbilk Wetlands, Lake Nagambie. February 6th, 2022.

The Mitchell Walking Group started the 2022 Sunday program on February 6, with a walk around the Chateau Tahbilk Wetlands, followed by a relaxing afternoon at Lake Nagambie. I arrived at Kilmore to find Mary, John, Marg, Gayle and Yvonne waiting for me. We then travelled up the road to Broadford where we were joined by Jill, Paul, Arthur and Fran. After arriving Chateau Tahbilk, we met Pia, Zoe and Esme who were new to both the Mitchell Walking Group and to Australia.

Somewhere out in the wetlands, Kerry was already there, trying to get some quality photography in before we all came stampeding through, disturbing the wildlife.

The Tahbilk Winery gets its name from the language of the original inhabitants of the area, the Taungurung people. In their language, the phrase 'tabilk-tabilk' means 'place of many waterholes'. We were there to walk around those wetlands using a trail developed by the owners of the winery. The Purbrick family started regenerating the area back in 1995. Over the next two years, they planted understory vegetation to attract birdlife, built walking trails and board walks, and erected two bird hides. The bird hides were quite useful to us. We ate a snack in one and found Kerry in the other.

We started our walk by crossing the historic long timber bridge that was constructed in 1889. The bridge brought us to the bilabong walking track which provides visitors with a great opportunity to thoroughly explore the wetlands. It was a gentle walk, in beautiful surroundings. There was plenty of birdlife and numerous dragonflies darted over the surface of the water. Many of the water lilies were flowering and although I didn't see any fish, according to the owners, there are significant numbers of pygmy perch in the waterholes. This is part of a program to repopulate the Murray-Darling river systems with fish that are native to south-eastern Australia.

The weather was sunny and warm; however, it is worth noting



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that the temperature is generally reported as being about three degrees cooler at the Tahbilk Winery, compared to the surrounding area. This is what makes it so good for the wine production. Grapes were first grown there in 1860 and some of the buildings date back to this time. We didn't get to check out the historic buildings or taste any of the wines, however, a number of us did duck quickly in and out of the Wetlands View Restaurant. The owners generously allow dusty, dishevelled walkers to temporarily spoil the ambience of the dining room so they can use the toilets.



After the wetlands walk, it was quickly into Nagambie to pick up food and drink, then John directed the group to a quiet, shady area on the shores of Lake Nagambie. Although we were generally a mature group, we used Pia's granddaughter Esme as camouflage to regress back to playing with water toys. Mary had brought two large pump-action water pistols and people trying to eat were doused with the distinctly coloured Lake Nagambie water. Mary only took a few bites of her lunch before showing tremendous perseverance to pump up a

large inflatable shark, despite not having the adaptor for the pump. Esme then showed tremendous bravery agreeing to reward Mary by trying to ride the thing. It turned out to be extremely slippery and incredibly unstable. This explained why a large part of the shark's body was covered with printed warnings in several languages.

Although most of the swimmers in that part of the lake were fairly casually dressed, I took one look at all the debris on the surface and quickly put on goggles and a swimming cap. It made me stand out, but at least I could see what I was dealing with as I swam out into the deep water for my first swim since the pandemic started. All the courageous people who went swimming with me, (Pia, Esme, Mary, and John), agreed the water was a lovely temperature. It was a pity that Yvonne didn't bite the bullet but pretended to be asleep when we called for her to join us.

It was great that Mary was able to get us walking, even before the first planning meeting. It was also a special day because it was my cousin Jill's last walk before moving up to Queensland. It was Jill who introduced me to the Mitchell Walking Group back in 2018, which has given me the opportunity to take part in so many enjoyable day walks and overnight camping trips.

(Report by Karen

Chapman)

Melville's lookout, Greytown.. Sunday February 20th, 2022



What an amazing country we live in! I am stunned at the variety of landscapes and vegetation within a short space of time from home. Here we are north west of Nagambie, in amongst the Iron barks, the grey box and these fascinating grass trees. The grass trees remind me of the Ewoks in Star Wars films, just ready to start walking around at any stage; their graceful skirts hanging down and the beautiful green tops. There is

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very little understory vegetation.

The weather was warm on the day, a little on the muggy side, but the trees gave us shade as we walked along. The hill required a bit of huff and puff giving us an opportunity to enjoy the views, and the giant boulders are always fascinating.

We finally arrived at the top, to find a table and chairs, this was a delight, but John was missing. After a while he turned up so we sat a while longer, all good fun.

It was wonderful to be out in the open spaces enjoying the birds, but we didn't see any other wildlife.

Walkers: Paul (leader), Fred, Judy & John, & Mary.

Thanks Paul for organizing the day, and the lovely cuppa in Nagambie afterwards.

(Report by Mary Adams)



Upcoming Walks.

Sunday 20th March. Tanglefoot walk. Toolangi. Leader Fred. More information closer to the date.

Sunday 3rd April. The Boys Camping area. Rubicon. To be confirmed. Possibly an overnighter.

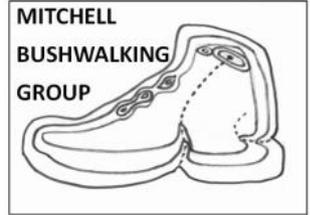
Upcoming Planning meeting. The planning meeting, which should have been held on Monday 7th March will be held over until a later date because so many of our regular attendees will be away on a 4-day camping weekend. Notice about the next meeting will be need to be sent out separately.

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 April 2021 to 30th March 2022. New members January-March 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, c/o PO Box 76 , Broadford 3658** 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.