

The Mitchell ID Walker

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A membership application form is on page 4.

Issue 92
Mitchell Walking Group is a program of Broadford Living & Learning Centre inc. 158-160 High St, Broadford 3658
May and June 2022

Another 2-month edition and I'm a bit behind as well. There have been a few interruptions, like Mother's Day and the birth of my first grandchild. I think that's a pretty good excuse. The newsletters will be all back on schedule by the end of July. (Ed.)

Alexandra Town walk and Rail Trail. Sunday 8th May, 2022.

The weather bureau had predicted 18 degrees in Alexandra on Sunday, with an 80% chance of rain.

I'm not sure about the temperature that we had, it was a bit of a jacket-on; jacket-off sort of day, but there was no rain.

John B and I represented Kilmore, Hayley and Paul from Broadford and Pia, John and Judy from Puckapunyal/Seymour. We all met as planned and on time. Special thanks to Paul for organising car shuffles and for leading the walk.

Mary, not being around, we decided to do the downhill section first by starting at the cutting 5km out of Alexandra and then visiting the Rail Museum and Men's Shed area before enjoying lunch at a park just down from the main street of Alex. Here Paul read us a little history of the town and of the Mackenzie Flora reserve. This impromptu reading has become a regular part of Paul's walks.

After lunch we hopped back into the cars for a short drive to the [Mackenzie Flora Reserve](#). This was about 4 km and included bushland, and a bit of a climb to a lookout where we enjoyed 360-degree views of the area. This included being able to see where the walk started, way off in the distance. We could also see The Cathedrals which I pointed out to those new to the club.

And finally, we headed into town for a coffee and cake as well as enjoying a little chat before returning to our cars and heading home.

This walk would have to be designated as easy, but most enjoyable as well. Hayley kept us entertained with stories of ghosts and we discussed everything from other walks to some lighthearted chat about politics.

I remember passing through Alex as a teenager on trips home and/or back to Balcombe, Army Apprenticeship School on the Mornington Peninsula. I was only 16 or 17 in 1973 and 1974. We travelled that way to avoid going through Melbourne CBD. Silly really since the traffic was nowhere near as bad as it is now.

(Report by Fred)



Bald Hill and Black Hill Reserve near Kyneton. Sunday May 29th.

Six walkers, Hayley, Kerrie, Pia, Yvonne, Arthur and our leader Paul headed out to Kyneton in cool but pleasant conditions.

The first stop was the **Bald Hill reserve** located just outside Kyneton. The reserve is about 96 hectares in area, consisting of

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old and new growth forest and grassland. Originally part of an old rifle range for the Department of Defence from 1906 to 1986, the reserve is now open to the public. There are two small peaks covered in granite boulders, overall a nice, gentle walk through the bush. We found what we assumed to be part of the old rifle range, and an old shed, before skirting the boundary of the new rifle range back to the cars.

Within the park some threatened species have been sighted; these include the Brown Toadlet frog, Powerful Owl, and Phascogale. We only sighted kangaroos.

Following morning tea, we drove through some beautiful countryside to the Black Hill Reserve. After climbing about 200 stairs we were able to scramble about the rocky outcrops and enjoy views of the surrounding area. Since the 2015 fires, the tracks have been upgraded and the track is well signposted. We met Mary, Noel, and their friends Isabelle and Anthony on our way down the ridge track. Some of us

continued around the base walk to complete a circuit whilst the others strolled back to the cars and went in search of the all-important coffee shop in Kyneton.

In Kyneton we found ourselves in a pub where we could all sit around and enjoy a cuppa. It's great to be able to conclude our walks with a chat over a cuppa once again.

Thanks again to Paul for leading this walk.

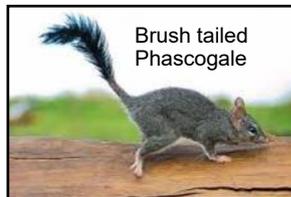
(Report by Yvonne)

Hughes Creek Reserve. Tahbilk. June 19th, 2022.

Sunday morning, 5 degrees. Another cold start to the day. We had two choices, stay home in our warm cosy house, or set off on a day walk with members of the Mitchell Bushwalking Group.

John, Marg, Fran, Hayley, Judy and Arthur set off, led by Paul. The plan was to explore the Hughes Creek Reserve at Tahbilk. Despite the sunshine in Kilmore and Broadford, we encountered heavy fog on the drive to the outskirts of Nagambie. Fortunately, the fog lifted and we had clear weather as we headed off down Strays Lane to the Reserve. We followed the lane and then walked up to the old quarry site from which rock was cut for the construction of the Goulburn Weir near Nagambie.

We climbed to the top of the ridge and walked along the rocky ridge-line. From there we were treated to lovely views of the surrounding countryside. You could see the tower of Mitchelton winery in the distance. Fran was the only member to trip over several times, I wonder if she had stopped off at the winery before starting the walk? The terrain was very rocky with seams of quartz noted, but alas no gold. Once again there were fabulous outcrops of grass trees along the way and a radio telecommunications tower at the top of Hughes Hill. (Elevation 230m.) There were the remains of an old picnic area but now very run-down; a couple of fireplaces and two old picnic tables with bench seats. Fortunately, one of the tables and seats managed to support our



Brush tailed Phascogale



Brown Toadlet frog



Powerful Owl



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combined weight while we ate our lunch.

We concluded the day with a coffee stop at the bakery in Nagambie. Thank you again Paul for leading the walk. Your meticulous planning, background research and commentary always make your walks most enjoyable.
(Report by Marg.)

Upcoming walks (which have already happened due to the late newsletter publication this time)

Sunday 3rd July. Split Staff Gully Road, Goldie. Leader Yvonne.

Sunday 17th July. Spring Plains Gully, Tooborac. Leader Fred.

Upcoming Planning meeting. The next planning meeting, should be held on Monday 1st August. but will need to be confirmed.

And here is my excuse for the late newsletter.

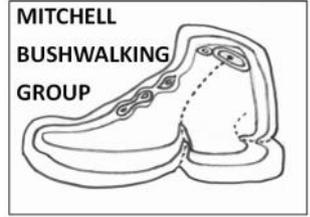


John Brissett (Editor)

***** 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, 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.