

The Mitchell Walker

Planning minutes page 4
Upcoming walks page 5
M'ship Application Page 6

Issue 75

Jan. & Feb. 2020

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

It's been a while since our last newsletter in December. Over January, the Sunday walks were suspended and replaced with shorter walks on Wednesday evenings, to escape the worst of the summer heat.

In early February we had six walkers following the Overland Trail in Tasmania's Cradle Mountain region. Some of them then headed down to Wineglass Bay while one member did the 3 Capes walk near Port Arthur. Again I'd like to thank those who wrote reports and sent photographs for this edition of our newsletter. (Ed.)

Wandong, Say G'day walk. Wednesday 8th January.

A pleasant evening for walking; we had a good number of members enjoying the walk. Fred was the leader and led up along the tracks when we were hesitating about with which way to go. Nothing like getting into a good conversation to disorient one's self on a walk. Thanks Fred for keeping us on the right track. Little did we know that the fires in Northern Victoria would become so devastating for people, plants and all our little creatures after such severe lighting strikes. We were all concerned but little realised this was to continue for many weeks to come. Jan, Wilma, Fred, Yvonne, Tony, Kerry, Val, Sue and Mary attended. An enjoyable evening in the fresh air and chatting with likeminded people. Tony and Sue joined us from the MBUGS group (Bike riders) .



Altona. Wednesday 15th January. This walk was cancelled due to heavy rain on the day. Val had put a lot of work into the planning but unfortunately stormy weather prevented it from going ahead.

Trentham rail trail. Wednesday 22nd January. Again, this walk had to be cancelled due to inclement weather.

Seymour river walk. Wednesday 29th January. Our intrepid walkers took on the sights of the Goulburn River walk in Seymour on the steamy evening of 29th January, one of our summer evening walks.



We met in view of the military helicopter at the Seymour Memorial Park as well as in range of the Leopard tank on the other side of the old Hume Highway. Most of you readers may not even remember the highway going through Seymour. (Well, maybe you would.)



We set off on the walk after collecting everyone. It was a few weeks ago now but I recall the following as being present. Tony and Sue and their son, John M, John and Marg B, Kerrie, Fran, Jill, Arthur, Kristy, Mary, Rene and her dog and myself. My Apologies if I missed anyone. That's the trouble with not writing the walk report straight away.

(Continued on page 2)

The Mitchell Walker

The walk winds past large gums, some art work, the Goulburn River of course, the old Puckapunyal bridge, some vineyards and it ends almost under one of the bridges on the Seymour to Puckapunyal road.

We were surprised to come across a very noisy flock of fruit bats.

This walk would be great in cooler times of the year, but on this very warm evening it was lucky we all carried plenty of water.

Thanks to Kristy for leading this walk for us.

(Report by Fred)



Cradle Mountain Overland Track. 6th -11th February. The Cradle Mountain Overland Track, roughly 65k track north to south, was a wonderful experience for Mary, Rachel (Mary's niece), Fred, Wayne Love, Yvonne and Fran from 6th to 11th February 2020.

Our group stayed at the Cradle Mountain Caravan park in readiness for an early start, preparing our food and getting rid of any excess weight as our packs were quite heavy!!

Day one

From Ronny Creek, near the base of Cradle Mountain, we passed through temperate rainforest and the glacier-carved spectacle of Crater Lake. It was a fairly steep climb up to Marion's lookout with a panoramic view of Cradle Mountain and Dove Lake.

Unfortunately, Waterfall Hut was closed so we were re-routed along an insanely steep 2 km track to stay in Scott-Kilvert Hut.

Sadly for all, Yvonne had a freakish fall catching her arm on her walking pole, dislocating her shoulder, and rendering her unable to complete the walk. Rachel was first-response nurse, applying a sling, whilst Mary harnessed a trio of fit young men to carry her pack and help to escort her back to safety and medical attention.

Day two

It was like board-walking through a never-ending garden of native flowers, fungi, rainforest, wetland and small lakes. Wayne and Fred forged ahead most days whilst Mary, Rachel and Fran took photos of everything and progressed more slowly. Cradle Mountain and Barn Bluff loomed in the distance whilst we explored Waterfall Valley and the Waterfall Hut building site. We ditched our packs for the side-track walks, and made sure to upturn them to prevent the currawongs opening the zips for a snack. We heard and saw yellow-tailed black cockatoos ending the day at Pine Forest Moor Hut.



(Continued on page 3)

The Mitchell Walker

Day three

We headed down through mud pools and rock-climbed to the base of Mt Pelion and Frog Flats, the lowest part of the track along the Forth River. Unwelcome leeches interrupted our lunch break under a shady tree. We climbed through mud and rocks to Mt Oakleigh. Another side trip was to a refreshing swimming hole. The last section was through an enchanting rainforest to our destination at Pelion Hut, where we stayed. By now our group knew other walkers by name; we exchanged stories and played noisy games of Uno till dark.



Day four

We had magnificent views of Mt Oakleigh on our easy-going jaunt up to Pelion Gap past the peak of Mt Ossa. Mary was the only walker from our group to take on the challenge of climbing Mt Ossa. She was greeted with a mighty cheer from everybody at Kia Ora Hut, where a not-so-friendly tiger snake haunted our trek to the toilet.



Day five

The landscape was now a wild grassland with ancient forest heading up the Mersey River. More side trips to D'Alton, Fergusson and Hartnett waterfalls followed, and we explored a most unique toilet (See photo, right) at the old Ducane Hut. We ventured over DuCane Gap through tree-roots and riverbeds down to Windy Ridge Hut for, sadly, our final night. Fred and Wayne ditched their tents and we all stayed in the same room to the murmur of Rachel or Mary's scratchy mattress and Fred's snoring.



Day six

With lighter packs now, we headed along an undulating forest track, over the suspension bridge, and lunching at Narcissus Hut. Wayne took the early ferry across the beautiful Lake St Clair and the rest of us chose the later, afternoon option.

We had our last get-together for photos, a beer, a gin and a chocolate muffin at Cynthia Bay. From there we dispersed to begin our varied ways back to civilization; back for a long hot shower, a comfortable bed and a more "normal" life after our 6-day adventure on the Overland Trail.

(Report by Fran)

Melbourne Botanic Gardens. Sunday 9th February.

As many of our walkers were in Tasmania, walking the Overland Trail, a few of those remaining behind decided to take a stroll through Melbourne's beautiful botanic gardens. Jill and Karen led the group, comprising Wilma, Gail, Maureen, Marg and John. Five of us caught the train to Melbourne where we met up with Karen and Wilma in Federation Square.

It was a warm sunny day and it was so refreshing to be walking around under large leafy green trees and to be surrounded by lush green lawns. It's a



(Continued on page 4)

The Mitchell Walker

popular spot and we saw many families enjoying picnics under the trees. The lotus flowers and water lilies were in full bloom, the ducks were in fine form begging for titbits, and we walkers were just happy to be enjoying the sunshine and each other's company.

It might have been a bit of a stretch to call it a 'bush walk' but we were out in the natural environment, enjoying the social experience and getting some exercise, all important components of the bushwalking experience.

(Report by Marg)



Toolangi/ Tanglefoot walk. Sunday 23rd February. A 9.5kms walk with some steep sections.

I was meeting Fred and Co. at Wirrawilla Rainforest walk, after travelling up from Melbourne. Fred was meeting Karen also from the Melbourne area, Fred and Kerry arrived, BUT some members of the group had not arrived due to a misunderstanding. Because of the time already wasted, they cut their losses and walked the Broadford town circuit instead. ('They' were John, Marg and Jill.) We missed you guys.

We started walking at around 10.00 am. The day was delightful for walking. We had magnificent shady trees and huge tree ferns, as we gradually climbed further up hill, checking the views, and missing Jill because "How were we going to see a koala?". The trees were the Mountain Ash, Monda and Kalatha giants; we look so incidental amongst these beauties. We had lunch under some shady trees, and used a fallen limb for a seat. By the time we had finished a lovely leisurely lunch, we had decided that that was most likely a fairly unsafe place to sit.

Kerry was keen to see a snake, but we didn't share her enthusiasm. We arrived back at the cars without seeing any such creatures; just the odd 'roo or two.

It was a lovely walk with good company. After, on our way home, Fred, Kerry and Mary met up with Wayne McG at the Flying Tarts at Kinglake West. It was lovely to see Wayne again and looking so well.

(Report by Mary Adams)

Minutes of our Planning Meeting, held at Broadford Living and Learning Centre on Monday 2nd March 2020, at 7.30 pm..

Present. Mary, Yvonne, Kerry, Wayne L., Arthur, Wendy, Fran, Marg, Maureen, Sandra, Fred, Paul and John.

Apologies. Gail, Jill.

Welcome by Fred.

- There was discussion about a Bushwalking Victoria questionnaire that has to be filled out before we can know what insurance (and therefore, our membership fees) will need to be. It needs to be returned by April 9th but we are covered by last year's policy until June 30th 2020. John will do this.
- It was reported that we currently have 20 members.
- There was discussion about applying for a grant from BV to buy a club banner. It should include both our email address and our Facebook page. Mary will investigate. The grant application needs to be in by April 30th 2020.
- More discussion about our group purchasing an EPRB emergency device. Mary was tasked with the job of obtaining 2 quotes for this and bringing them to the next meeting.

Decision about Upcoming Walks. These walks were suggested for the coming weeks. They may

(Continued on page 5)

The Mitchell Walker

change, so always look for an email a few days before the planned walk, to find out about updates and meeting times.

- **March 8th. (Long weekend)** There is a Kilmore Cemetery Tour planned for 2.00 pm on this day. Wendy will lead a short town walk prior to the Cemetery tour . Details of both walks will be out shortly.
- **22nd March.** Marysville/ Stevenson's Falls. Mary will lead this walk. More information to follow.
- **5th April.** (& end of Daylight Saving) A local walk. Trawool or Mt Disappointment. Not known which, at the time of newsletter distribution. More later.
- **19th April.** Chateau Tahbilk AND the Prisoner of War Camp at Greytown. Leader– Fred.

We then retired for supper and watched some wonderful photos taken by Mary and Noel on their Hawaiian cruise. The meeting finished around 9.00 pm.

Coming up later in 2020.

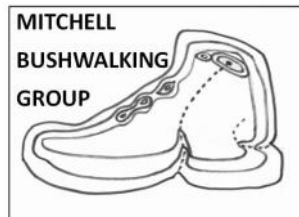
- A camping and walking weekend at Forest, in April. This was not discussed at the March meeting so may be rescheduled for later in the year.
- A camping and walking weekend at Echuca, in August/September..
- The Lost Children's Walk, at Daylesford.
- Federation Walks will be in November, at Licola.

John Brissett (Editor)

***** Membership application 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:	M / F 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 2017 to 30th March 2018. New members January-March pay half the annual subscription. Annual membership, which covers insurance through Bushwalking Victoria, is **currently under review**. 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.