

# The Mitchell ID Walker

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Issue 83

March 2021

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

## **Sunday 7th March 2021. Tahbilk Winery Wetlands Walk.**

John Rapley was our leader. We had the track mostly to ourselves, while the winery itself was busy, both the restaurant and wine sampling.

John and Judy were there by the time we arrived. John B, Paul, Jill, Kerry & Mary arrived by car from Broadford; the roads were reasonably busy, but it was an enjoyable trip. It was lovely to see everyone again in person. We

were waiting only a short time for the remaining four walkers to arrive. Tony, Sue, Wayne McG, and Valerie arrived by boat. They had launched their boat at Nagambie and travelled up river, ready to join our walk. They saw pelicans and plenty of cockatoos as they enjoyed the river trip on this beautiful autumn day.



Once the party was all together we headed off, crossing the old bridge that was built in 1890. It is now a foot bridge, but that's all part of the amazing history. Tahbilk winery was founded in 1860's, and many of the giant trees were felled to make the buildings that we see today (the cellars, the stables and other buildings) and to fire up the steam machinery used around the property.

The water lilies were a delight. But it would still be another couple of weeks before the flowers would be on full show. A few were out to give us a taste of what was soon to come. The Goulburn River is the main place you will find native water lilies, and they are smaller than the introduced variety. It was enjoyable to walk along the water's edge by the billabongs. We visited the four bird-hides, built for discreet bird viewing. Tony remarked that one of the birds was a pelican. Well, he certainly got some reaction from a few of our bird experts, when it turned out to be a spoonbill. Tony had that cheeky grin and the reaction was noted. Talk about setting a cat amongst the pigeons. Well done, Tony.

Kerry was busy taking photos of the little wrens and pardalotes. A duck by the boat didn't move as we approached, causing some discussions. Good use of a decoy. We enjoyed some watermelon at morning tea as the day was starting to warm up. We had lunch back on the grounds near the café, which was fully booked.



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Then some of the walkers started on the wine tasting. Wayne bought a few bottles. What a great atmosphere! Meanwhile the rest of us went exploring through the cellars and among the huge casks. After this the group went our different ways; some drove back home, while others returned to their boat and headed down the river. Still others checked out the Indigenous art at Mitchelton winery, and had a lovely afternoon tea on the river before heading for home.



It was a great day, and so lovely to be out and walking again, with friends and enjoying each other's company-



John, Judy, Paul, John B, Kerry, Jill, Tony, Sue, Wayne McG, Valerie, and Mary. *(Report by Mary)*

### **Sunday 14th March. 2021. Knowsley to Axedale on the O'Keefe Rail Trail.**

Knowsley is a little village on the Bendigo road about 20 mins north of Heathcote - quite a long way away if you are dashing to cram in a bushwalk before a Axedale pub's kitchen closes for the afternoon. Six of us took part despite the unpromising weather forecast of rain, and getting wetter. They were John B (leader), Margaret, Gail, Wilma, Paul and John C. Arriving at Knowsley, our first task was how to shuffle two cars for the return trip from Axedale, 9.5km away, when one of us had not yet found Knowsley and was known to be keeping an eye out for the red car parked by the roadside. While some drove to Axedale and back, the remainder admired the sights in Knowsley, the weatherboard Catholic church, the railway-style workers' cottages left from when the railway was operational, and their productive gardens with fruit trees and roses.



The real walk, with everybody present, started nearer 11 than 10 o'clock, first along a Knowsley street, then through a stile onto the finely gravelled O'Keefe Rail Trail heading north westwards. Later, along the trail, we encountered a picture of Mr O'Keefe with his top-hatted business associates. He was a handsome Irish entrepreneur who had 'learned how to build railways' in Ireland and thought that rail transport past his properties south of Bendigo would be a sure winner, no doubt for moving his meat and sheep skins to the cities at either end. We proceeded past the suburbs of Knowsley into country that gradually became more wooded. The long straight trail through the woods was re-assuring because, without the clear guidance it provided, one could easily lose all sense of direction amongst the trees and understorey. Evidence of the railway consisted of freshly painted mile posts to Melbourne (86) and old insulators hanging on trees. We were the only walkers that day, but two parties of cyclists passed us, also on the way to the Axedale pub for lunch. Bird song was a little subdued at first, then livened up as we approached the end of the woodland, near Axedale, with the occasional unidentified warble plus the chirps of many lorikeets busily feeding on the tree-top flowers in, what had become, steady rain.



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The rail trail emerged from the woods between pastures and the highway, then crossed over the road with 2 or 3 kms still to go. One of us stopped to take a photo of the group, later regretted because, while standing still, she was attacked and personally invaded by highly inquisitive ants, necessitating some internal inspection of boots and clothing in the, now, pouring rain. Fortunately, a shelter was found nearby and Aussie pluck made light of the lingering discomfort. We arrived at the Axedale pub at about 1pm, with plenty of time to ponder the menu and relish the excellent food provided. We merely had to brave the rain again to get from the pub back to the car park to drive home. It was an excellent day, despite the rain and the ants.

*(Report by John C.)*



**Sunday 18th April. Tallarook** Once upon a time the Mitchell bush walkers went for a walk in the Tallarook ranges, where the trees grow tall and straight, and the air smells of the forest floor. There was hardly a breeze as we walked along chatting and enjoying moving through the tall trees. At times, our solitude would be interrupted by the sound of encroaching motor bikes, but they would give a nod or a wave, then on their way, leaving us with the receding sounds of the bikes and then the peace and quiet again, if chatting counts as peace and quiet.



It was lovely to catch up again on each other's news and all that's happening in our lives, the laughs and the challenges. It's so good to walk and talk, with the sounds of the track beneath our feet. Not many birds around, although the cockatoos certainly made a ruckus when we went past their territory. We checked out the sawmiller's cottage off Wheelers Track. What a life they would have had? Heavy work, minimal amenities, and plenty of isolation. (We all know what's that's like.)



We then headed to Henry's Track and along West Falls Road, to walk down to the bridge for a late morning tea or an early lunch. Take your choice. Well, neither eventuated as we happily negotiated the ruts and deep puddles along the way. Then came those humps in the road which prevent erosion, so the water doesn't run along the road but is diverted off it. That's where the fine sand and gravel are; the one that most of us skid on a little, and are relieved when we recover. Sometimes that doesn't happen though and it ends in a fall. That's the one that got John. He gracefully went down, oops, but not bouncing back up..



*"It's moments like these you need Minties."*

After a while and with some help, John was back on his feet, but things still not so good. "My ankle!" Oh, we thought. Most likely a sprain. Let's check first aid kits. Marg had a couple of crepe bandages. Well done. With some elevation and bandage, came the next attempt at walking. I think back to where we left West Falls Creek road, about 500 meters, with plenty of up. Paul was a great support, and was able to help John take some of his weight off the painful ankle. In the meantime Yvonne and Paul B. went back for vehicles. If we could make the 500 meters back to the road, they could pick us up. They must have high-tailed back to their vehicles as they didn't seem to take long. John did a mighty

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effort to get about 200m towards the road. For the final 300m Karen was able to flag down one of those trail bike riders, to give him a lift back on the bike to the road. Thanks Karen and another Paul, our Good Samaritan on the trail bike..

So ends my part of the story of our walk in Tallarook, I think John and Marg can add what happens next.

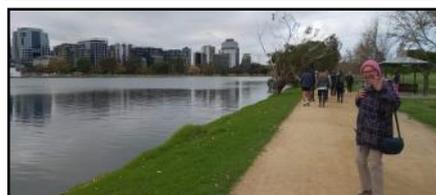
Walkers: Yvonne (Leader, and thanks for organizing.) Other walkers were Paul X 2, Arthur, Karen, Marg & John, & Mary. *(Report by Mary)*



(ED. Not a lot to add other than to say my lower leg is broken, and as of today, April 25th, I am still waiting to have it seen by an orthopedic surgeon to find out if it will require pinning. I should know by 27th. It's going to be a quiet few weeks and a while before I will be able to drive again. Thanks to all those who have been asking after me. I am very grateful for the excellent care I'm receiving from Marg, my live-in personal nurse.)

**Sunday 18th April. Angela Taylor Memorial Run/Walk.** Up early to catch the train and then the light rail, and a short trek between playing fields to Albert Park Lake. Maureen and I were participating in the Angela Taylor Memorial Walk/Run. Perfect weather, friendly swans, walkers, dogs and runners. We had to check out a pleasant little cafe with a view of the lake before returning and time for a bit of shopping at Southern Cross.

*(Report by Kerry)*



### Upcoming Walks

**Saturday 1st May. Macedon.** Mary will be leading this walk, and note that it's on **Saturday** this time.as we did not have a leader available on the Sunday. More details closer to the event.

**May perhaps?** Car camp in conjunction with Echuca Bushwalking Club. In the Echuca area. For discussion. More later.

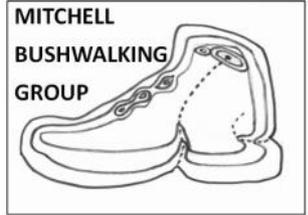
**A planning meeting at the Broadford Living and Learning Centre will determine future walks and leaders.** Come along and have your say. It's the first Monday of the month, May

3rd at 7.30 pm. If you are able to bring something towards supper, that would be appreciated.

**\*\* See Membership application form on the next page.**

*John Brissett (Editor)*

# 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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<b>OFFICE USE ONLY</b>	Receipt No:	Database updated Date:
<b>Membership No:</b>	Receipt issued Date:	Email notification sent Date:

The club membership year is 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.