

The Mitchell ID Walker

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A membership application
form is on page 5.

Issue 86

July and August 2021

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

Another 2-months-in-1-issue, newsletter. Due to Covid lockdowns, 2 of the walks over this July/August period have had to be cancelled.

My wife, Margaret and I also moved house during this period, so I appreciate the reduced workload of a 2-in-1 newsletter. (Ed.)

Sunday 4th July. Whroo. The group consisted of Margret, Fran, Kerrie, Mary, John, Judy and Paul as leader. On the way we took the backroad from Nagambie to Whroo, and with the poor signage, went through Graytown. Once at Whroo we examined the information centre and the old Balaclava mine with its gaping holes and tunnels. Next, we headed onwards to the Battery dam and then to one of the main named Chinese roads. Halfway along we stopped for morning tea and we found an old petrol cap. Out of the blue came a local in an older Holden Ute. He stopped to see if we were ok and to our amazement, when we showed him the cap it turned out to be the same one he had lost many months before, and failed to find. He was very grateful and continued on his way.

We continued on to inspect an old puddling wheel, used many years ago to extract gold from the earth, and then on to the Whroo cemetery where we had lunch at the picnic table there. Inspecting the headstones, we saw how young most of the people interned there were; so many children and babies dating back to the 1860's.

We avoided the bad weather and decided to quickly look at the aboriginal water hole; the only source of water for many kilometres in any direction. It is not much to look at but it must have been much valued by aboriginal people for millennia, before white settlement.

Travelling through iron bark forest with lovely grass trees we became a bit confused, due to our phones going flat. Fortunately, John was able to recognise the way back to the cemetery, from where we could easily retrace our path back to the cars. We had walked an easy 11.5 kms. Coffee was at the Rushworth bakery, and we had a quick look at the main street. The return trip was through Murchison, which we thought would make a good future outing around the town and incorporating a part of the Rushworth to Murchison rail trail.

A very pleasant day was had by all.

(Report by Paul)



Sunday July 18th. Warrenbayne. This walk was cancelled due to Covid lockdown restrictions.

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Sunday August 1st. Pyalong. Thanks to Rene for organizing this walk and special thanks to the owners of this private land, for allowing us to enjoy this amazing countryside.



This land is exposed, and the day dawned sunny with a light breeze. What a relief! Rene and I had gone to check this walk out some days before and it was closed in with fog, so we had our finger crossed.



We had two new walkers with us, Ben from Kilmore, and Bernadette from Seymour. Welcome to you both. Other walkers were Fred, Arthur, Paul, John & Fadia, Rene, Geoff, John & Judy, and Mary. Some of Rene's grandchildren came along to help her, and she had a surprise for us. Up amongst the rocks, and the stunning 360 deg views, Rene produced scones, jam and cream for all of us. What a gem, and thanks to the kids as well. The granite tors with so many shapes, some sitting precariously on top of each other. What a delight to be amongst them, and the sounds of ewes and lambs calling for each other as we passed through their paddocks.



We worked our way up to the waterfall and it was running well. Some climbed around the lower levels of the falls, then onward to the lookout, through the bull paddock, (not too much



dawdling here.) Don't mess with the bull!

Noel and Peter met us at the top where we sat and enjoyed our lunch. Noel had brought homemade sausage rolls. Between Peter and Noel there were enough chairs for all of us, so it was a relaxing end to a beautiful walk.

Ben and Bernadette have been warned that this doesn't happen very often, scones and sausage rolls. We were excited to be out again. Thanks heavens.

(Report by Mary.)

Sunday August 15th. Falls Road East to Trawool Reservoir. Mary (leader), Fred, Ben Marshall, Arthur, Fadia and John Cotter.

The group assembled at Tassie Camp, deep in the Tallarook State Forest, quite glad to get out of their cars and into their walking boots, much more suitable for the bumpy tracks. We headed south briefly along East



Falls Rd before turning NW onto Brockwells Track which took us down to a bridge over Falls Creek. We crossed, after checking for Trolls, to make a loop westwards around Falls Creek Rd and Loop Rds 1 and 2. The tracks reminded us of rough seas, except that they were sloping steeply upwards or downwards most of the time, unlike *actual** water. Walking sticks were definitely in order, except that someone carelessly left theirs behind at one of the pit stops and had to go back while every-



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one else waited. We approached the Trawool reservoir from the west, rounding a bend in a rutted lane to see the tranquil waters stretched out like a picture among the gently stirring gums. Someone claimed to have seen and heard a cuckoo (with the stripy tail feathers) and all sorts of other bird noises (kookaburras, cockies, etc) were around. A restful picnic spot with a shelter and tables beckoned for a welcome break and lunchtime snack.

Next, we rounded the reservoir to the N, one dare-devil risking the narrow walk along the high bluestone dam wall, reputedly built sometime in the 1800s. It must have been hard work then, with no JCB (excavation equipment) or cranes. The stone blocks were uniformly trimmed to fit and each would have strained four strong men to lift, if that was how it was done – an Aussie construction puzzle to match the pyramids of Africa. The rest of us took the less direct track that passed over the



rocky waterfall beneath the dam, admiring the deep canyon downstream. Then a circuitous route was taken back to Tassie Camp with some spectacular views to the NE and E including the Goulburn River



valley near Trawool, and the wind farm on the hill beyond, curiously motionless despite the light breeze on our side of the valley. At some time, one small wallaby was spotted, (black brown fur. A swamp wallaby?) along with plenty of footprints in the muddy tracks, mixed with deer hoof-prints and the special cubist bush ornaments left by wombats on suitable podiums along the way. Mary was thanked for an extremely enjoyable day, topped off with the pleasant winter sunshine.



*This word is put in to confront walkers' views that it should be struck from the English dictionary.

(Report by John C.)

Sunday 29th August. Malmesbury town walk and Ellis Falls, Again not taken, due to the continuing Covid 19 lockdown in Victoria..

Other news:

- Annual fees, which cover insurance through Bushwalking Victoria, are now due. Methods available for paying this fee are detailed on the membership application form, on page 5 of this newsletter. While

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you might initially choose to pay the \$5.00/walk casual fee instead, after 3 walks, we would expect you to pay the annual fee; this is meant to be a trial period for new walkers, not an alternative way of paying.

- We are planning to hold an **AGM** with the election of office bearers on Wednesday 6th October, at 7.30 pm. This will almost certainly be a Zoom meeting at this stage. Keep an eye out for an emailed update around the end of September.

Upcoming Walks. We're not sure what's happening at this stage.

The ***French Island weekend*** was organized for ***October 8th-10th*** but we will have to wait and see if it can proceed.

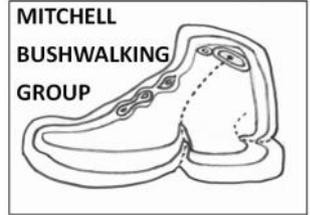
November 12-13-14-15. Federation walks: Licola area high country. A combination of day walks and overnight. Again, up in the air. More later.

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.