

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. There were no walks held in September, due to Covid lockdowns, but we managed to get in three walks in October. (Ed.)

Sunday 17th October Tallarook State Forest walk: This walk was called at short notice as Mitchell Shire had just come out of lockdown. It was fantastic to be able to get out and enjoy the beautiful weather walking in the forest and catching up with the group members. On this occasion we had Lisa, Mary, Fred, Kerry, Gail, Henry, Gedda and Rene, with her 3 new generation bushwalkers, Charlotte, Miller and Grace, the youngest being 10 years old.

The starting point for our walk was near the intersection of Falls Creek Road and Falls Link Road in the Tallarook State Forest. After leaving the cars here, the group of eleven headed north along Falls Creek road, for around 3 km, to the bridge. Here we broke into 2 groups for the "Easy Walk" or the "Medium Walk". The plan was for both groups to meet up at the Trawool Reservoir for lunch.

Easy walk. –The easier flattish version was going to be 6 kms, but Mary hadn't realised that Parks Victoria had put in a Covid border, and closed the road to the bridge. That was where she had planned take off from. Having this road closed added an extra 3 kilometres, so now it was a not-so-easy 9 km walk. Oops!

We were in amongst the tall trees with the smell of that beautiful forest air. We really are so lucky to have a State Park so close to us.

The second party were walking on the steeper section, and meeting us down at the Trawool reservoir. Lisa will tell that part of the story.

We didn't have to wait long for the second group to arrive and we enjoyed sharing lunch together. It was a bit chilly down there by the reservoir, but lovely to check out the waterfall which was running well.

When one goes predominately down to the reservoir, then one would expect to go predominately up, back to the cars. However, it seemed a long way off at times.

Medium walk: Rene led this group, which included Fred, Lisa, Charlotte, Miller, Grace, and Snoop the Jack Russell. Mary did warn us that

this route did have steep sections. After the leaving the other group, we walked along Brockwells Track and were immediately confronted by the first steep uphill section – perhaps a 40° slope – maybe I am exaggerating! The girls (Charlotte, Miller, Grace) and Snoop all ran up that one. By the time we hit the second steep uphill section the girls were walking too but Snoop was still running. There were 2 more steep uphill sections after that and then we hit the track that eventually joined up with the East Falls Road and then all downhill to the Trawool reservoir. The forest opened up along this section and there were some great views of the hills and farmland to the east. We arrived at the reservoir from below the wall and met



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up with the other group at the reservoir picnic area for lunch. The reservoir was full and provided a beautiful backdrop for the lunch stop. After lunch, the whole group walked back along the "Easy walk" route and back to the cars. Fred estimated both routes were around 12 km in total. It was a most enjoyable walk. Thank-you Mary for organising it. Thank you Lisa and Mary for reporting on your respective walks and Lisa and Kerry for the photographs.



Sunday October 20th Hazeldene. The walk this Sunday was to the scenic King Parrot Creek at Hazeldene. We started out at the General store. There was slight drizzle but it disappeared within a few minutes. Ben, Kerry, Paul, Yvonne, John and new member, Chris, set off towards the first bridge to the sound of a bubbling creek as the water churned at the rapids. Soon this sound was replaced with native bird calls and off we wandered along the asphalt path. Everyone decided to do the 10 km return trip and soon we reached the picture-perfect BBQ area behind the Flowerdale Hotel, complete with benches, cover and toilets. Ben and Kerry were kept busy taking photos throughout the hike. The turn-around point was at a cherry farm called 'Three Sisters', named after the 3 hills that it surrounded it. By some miracle 3 young girls appeared and sat on the fence watching us. We stayed there a few minutes before retracing the 2 km back to the BBQ area for lunch. (We thought this would make a great spot for a future Christmas party.) It was so peaceful, and the sun was shining.



The return to the General Store was quick and a coffee was a nice way to finish the day. The walk was led by Paul and he also wrote the report



October 21st to 24th. Working Bee on the AAWT (Australian Alpine Walking Track)

The work was focused around the Taylors Crossing area, it's a section of track that has been closed for a number of years due to weed infection and general disrepair. The area is around the Omeo/ Benambra neck of the woods. When Rene and I walked this section in 2014-2015 respectively, this section was not open. We had 10 km of open road to walk, instead of the bushland with spectacular views of the Mitta Mitta River.



Over the 4 days we retraced the track and found some of the old markers, on fallen down trees and over grown by bush or simply not there at all. Thank heavens for the GPS.

While we made a lot of progress, there is still plenty more to be done

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and another working bee is planned for *18 to 21 November*. *The activity is advertised on "Park Connect" if people are interested.* This is being done through Parks Victoria and The Victorian Bush walking Association. There



are some dedicated workers there.

It was a great experience and a pleasure to put a little back into this wonderful track that so many have enjoyed over the years, and so many will continue to enjoy into the future.

(Report by Mary Adams.)



October 31st. The Waterfalls walks

The walkers were Mary, Kerry, & Jill. And we had an apology from Wayne Mc.G who normally joins any walk in the Kinglake area.

Wombelano Falls. There was an interesting drive into the falls. Thank heavens Parks Victoria had been in and cleared the way. The falls were running well, a beautiful veil of water to enjoy. Kerry found a Common Bird orchid there. I don't think it's very common as this was the first one that I have seen. It was wonderful to be out in the moist air and tall trees; just a few obstacles to climb over along the way.



Then we headed off to wards **Mason Falls** but decided to view the city

from Sugarloaf, first. The table and chairs have gone now, and I have suggested to Parks Victoria that a new one should be placed here, made of recycled plastic rather than wood. The campers would find that difficult to burn. After stunning views of the city and meeting up with a group of young people enjoying the great outdoors, we then continued to Mason Falls.

John, I think you were right. It was busy, but luckily we did find a place to park our car. Then we set off to view the falls. Kerry was certain that more orchids would be around, but we were not so lucky this time. The falls again



were spectacular, and we had a chance to have a front row view of them. It was lovely to see so many Melbourne people able to enjoy being out of lockdown.

From here we went to the *Flying Tarts* for a cuppa, and after enjoying lunch outdoors on this specular day, we then headed for Mt Disappointment and the **Strath Creek Falls**. You guessed it, they were flowing well too.

And people were there but not so many. Kerry was still orchid hunting and she found a spider orchid, clever girl. Jill and I were more fascinated by the rock formations. Jill spoke of her father being in St Johns ambulance, and how they once did a rescue of a woman at these falls. We were grateful for the safety rails. A wonderful relaxing day out, for Mary Kerry & Jill.



Common bird orchid.

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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 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.
- Finally, we are holding our **AGM** with the election of office bearers on Wednesday 8th November, at 7.30 pm. This will be held at Broadford Living and Learning Centre for up to 24 fully-vaccinated people, though others may join on Zoom if they let me know and ask for a link.

Upcoming Walks. These will also be discussed at the AGM on 8th November.

Steavenson Falls, Marysville on Sunday 7th November. See separate email sent out on 4/11/21.

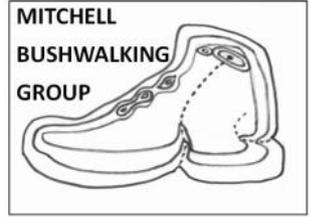
November 12-13-14-15. Federation walks: Licola area high country. A combination of day walks and overnight. Again, up in the air. More later.

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.