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Neil receives an OSCA Merit Award

Club President Neil Hart-Smith has received an Old Scotch Collegians' Association Merit Award for his service to OSCA, and in particular his service to our club, to the Koomerang Ski Club and to the Old Scotch Masonic Lodge. Outgoing OSCA President Andrew Wilson presented Neil with his award at the OSCA Presidents' Dinner in the Cardinal Pavilion's Boykett Room on 16 November.

Full details appear on page 3.





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Ten questions – Richard Pugsley

How long have you been a member of the bushwalking club?

I joined last year when I moved back to Melbourne from London where I lived from the late 1980s.

How did you find out about the club?

I came across one of the newsletters, after seeing a reference to the club in one of the OSCA publications.

What are your links to Scotch College?

I am from the Class of 1968, but also have other links, as my father and brother also attended Scotch.

What is your dream walk within Australia?

I hiked through Cradle Mountain/Lake St Clair National Park with Scotch in the Alps, back in 1968. Now more than 50 years later, I would love to walk this iconic route again with my husband, Patrick Persaud.

What is your dream walk overseas?

Living in the UK, and with Europe on our doorstep, Patrick and I were spoilt for choice from shorter city walks to more challenging mountain routes. We have some lovely memories of walking the Amalfi Coast, in particular the stunning scenery walking down from Ravello to Amalfi.

What is your dream holiday in Australia or overseas?

Having enjoyed numerous holidays in Italy with such varied scenery from the lakes in the north through to





Richard Pugsley at Ravello on Italy's Amalfi Coast.

Sicily in the south, whether it be staying in villas, hotels or apartments we look forward to returning, and maybe visiting somewhere new – perhaps Puglia or Basilicata.

What are your hobbies and interests other than bushwalking?

I enjoy the arts, including theatre, cinema, concerts and cabaret, as well as exploring galleries, stately homes and other historic sites.

What was your occupation?

I am a retired architect, having enjoyed a varied career working on educational buildings here as well as commercial, airport and prison projects in the UK. More recently I spent an enjoyable 15 years as a consultant to PwC, working on facilities-related projects.

What football team do you barrack for?

I have followed Hawthorn since childhood, inspired by my father's and grandmother's support of the team. In the UK my interest waned, switching to Chelsea in the Premier League.

What is your favourite Melbourne restaurant?

So many to choose from, but recently have been particularly impressed with Vaporetto on Glenferrie Road.





President's Tree-Stump

Gosh, another year has almost finished. Where has the time gone? This year, with COVID behind us, we have had many good walks both midweek and during the weekends.

Our recent weekend of walks was held at Rawson. Based on previous years' attendances we had booked for 30 walkers for this weekend, but as only 24 attended the club had to pick up the extra expense for the shortfall.

It was, however, an enjoyable weekend in good weather, during which we took part in a variety of interesting walks. For example, those of us who participated in the Mount St Gwinear walk on the Saturday were surprised that when we reached the top there was a liberal coating of snow on the ground.

This year the number of our members walking has been much lower than in prior years, which has been very disappointing for your committee, which has continued to work very hard to plan our walks for members to enjoy. I am not sure if this is due to lingering COVID fears or some other factor. It would be great to hear your thoughts on this matter.

Some of your committee will not be standing for re-election at the AGM, and we are looking for new members to volunteer their time. I encourage you to



nominate for either the general committee or the walks teams at our upcoming AGM, which is planned to be held in March 2023 during our Warrnambool weekend.

Finally, I would like to thank your committee for their continued hard work behind the scenes to keep our club running smoothly, enabling us to enjoy well-planned and varied walks. Thank you, team.

Until next time or when we meet 'out on the track'.

Neil Hart-Smith

President. 0428 857527 / nhartsmi@bigpond.net.au

OSCA Merit Award to Neil

Congratulations to Neil Hart-Smith, who became the sixth bushwalking club member to receive an OSCA Merit Award, when he received his award at the OSCA Presidents' Dinner on 16 November. Several bushwalking club members attended the dinner to support Neil.

Neil has served the Old Scotch Collegians' Association and Scotch College in a number of ways, especially through his involvement with our club, the Koomerang Ski Club and the Old Scotch Lodge no. 396.

Among many contributions to our club, Neil was one of the club's four founders and he was our inaugural Treasurer in 1995. He has served as club President from June 2003 to March 2008, and again from March 2021 to the present. In 2005, under Neil's direction the club introduced midweek walks, greatly expanding the number of walks available to members.

Neil has been an enthusiastic member of the Koomerang Ski Club since 1964. His service to the club includes 25 years as club Auditor, and two seasons as club President, in 2004 and 2005. He was elected as a life member of Koomerang in 2002.

Neil joined the Old Scotch Lodge in 2004 and progressed through the regulated offices to become Master in 2009. He was Master of the Lodge again in 2014 and also in 2017. For many years, Neil has been the honorary Auditor for both the Old Scotch Masonic Lodge and the Eastern Metropolitan Lodge on Instruction. Neil was invited to join Grand Lodge, which is a two-year commitment, and he now been asked to continue in a newly-formed role as Finance Adviser.

Other Old Scotch Bushwalking Club members to have received OSCA Merit Awards are David Ashton (2006), Graham Stanley (2008), Brian Symington (2011), Ros Turnley (2012) and Geoff Stephens (2017).



Neil with his OSCA Merit Award, supported by his wife, Anne, and other bushwalking club members.

Our midweek walks

An unusual history lesson along the Rosstown Rail Trail

JULIE WALPOLE

A small but enthusiastic group of seven club members met at Elsternwick Station on 21 September for a walk along the Rosstown Rail Trail to Hughesdale Station.

The trail follows the original course of the private railway line which was the lifelong dream of William Murray Ross, to provide a link between the newlyopened Gippsland railway and the Brighton line, and to service his sugar beet factory in Koornang Road.

From start (in 1883) to finish, the railway line was plagued with problems, including a lack of funds, shoddy workmanship and construction delays. The line was finally 'opened' on 14 November 1888 with the running of its first and only train (hired for the day from the Victorian Railways).



Rosstown sugar beet mill

The line, complete with four stations, then remained idle and quickly fell into disrepair. It was dismantled in 1916, 12 years after Ross' death. Some of the railway land was then sold to the Caulfield Council which developed it as linear parks.

The trail is a generally flat route following local streets

and linear parks, and mainly well signposted. It can be followed by bike, car or walking. Its length is approximately 8km to Hughesdale station, but it is possible to continue for about 500m on the Djerring Trail to Oakleigh station.

An optional 3km detour goes up Koornang Road, past the site of the Rosstown sugar beet mill which was completed in 1875 but never opened, mainly due to opposition from local market gardeners as the mill would have diverted their water source from Lemann's Swamp, now Koornang Park. Ross was unable to sell the mill and it was demolished in 1908.

Richard Pugsley leading



Julie briefs the walkers before they set off

The detour goes along arching Railway Avenue which would have been the site of the rail line from Rosstown Station, now Carnegie Station, to the mill, then follows Rosstown Road back to Koornang Road. Rosstown Road and the Rosstown Hotel in Dandenong Road are the only public references to Ross that remain.

Although there are no remnants of the original railway along the trail, it is possible to see where the rail line and stations were located. There are various housing estates that were developed as parcels of land along the rail line were sold off, and many beautiful houses in a variety of architectural styles.

Our group enjoyed our picnic lunches in a small, recently renovated park and playground in Rosanna Street, then continued on to Hughesdale Station where we dispersed to make our various ways home.

I recommend Googling the Glen Eira Council's selfguided walking tour webpage.



Our midweek walks

Into the wilds along the Main Yarra Trail

WENDY LE GET

On a beautiful Melbourne spring day, Thursday 20 October, we headed off into the wilds along the Main Yarra Trail. We commenced at the Banyule Tennis Club, to promptly find our planned path through one part of the Banyule Park Reserve blocked by a locked gate. A sign informed us of a mud slip further on and hence a slightly shorter walk eventuated. Despite recent heavy rain the tracks were amazingly dry and mud free.

In our walk around Banyule Flats we viewed Banyule Homestead, perched on the hill above the flood-prone river flats and the swamp, which is a haven for birds. The house was built in 1846 for Port Phillip pioneer Joseph Hawdon, and designed in the Elizabethan style. Banyule Homestead is a rare pre-gold rush house that has survived into current times.



Walk participants - except Sonia, who took the photo

By the 1890s, Banyule remained a substantial estate of 750 acres. In 1942, the Lyon family established Banyule

as a dairy stud farm. In 1958 Banyule was sold to a company headed by well-known developer Stanley Korman. From 1975 to 1977, the house was altered to provide a gallery space for the National Gallery of Victoria's Heidelberg School collection. The property was subsequently sold and returned to private hands in 1995. A 2017 application to convert the property into a function centre was rejected, and the house is again a private home.

All that remains of the farm is a tumbledown collection of cattle yards and sheds. The rest

An idyllic shot of the Yarra River



Banyule Homestead, viewed from a rise above the river flats and swamp

of the farm has now become the streets and houses of modern day Heidelberg and Rosanna.

After leaving the swamp we continued on past the Rosanna Golf Course, and crossed the Plenty River, following the Main Yarra Trail up to where it crosses the Yarra River and enters Westerfold Park. We then retraced our steps back to the Ruffey Trail Suspension Bridge over the Yarra River and into Wombat Bend Park. Here we had a pleasant lunch.

The suspension bridge crosses a very scenic section of the Yarra River with its rapids. It also provides access to Odyssey House drug rehabilitation centre, which was built in the 1950s as a seminary for the Blessed Sacrament Fathers. Because of the poor and circuitous road access, this suspension footbridge was built across the river.

We then returned, mostly back along the same track. There was little wild life about, except for rabbits, a couple of blue-tongued lizards – and one member sighted a very wriggly stick! The countryside was looking very lush and various wildflowers were out. The walk was finished with most members adjourning for a cup of coffee at Heide.



Our midweek walks

Cranbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens splendour

CELIA DYNON and JAN WARD

The weather forecast for Wednesday 16 November was pretty dismal, but not be deterred, 14 walkers found their way to Cranbourne Gardens, the site of which was used for sandmining to supply the building of Melbourne and its suburbs. The military used it from 1889 until 1953, with private licences also issued for sand mining, grazing and timber gathering.



A comfortable place for lunch

In 1970 the site was named as a division of the Royal Botanic Gardens, with a focus on Australian plant research and conservation. The gardens were opened to the public in 1989.

The Australian Garden was planned and developed over several years, finally opening in 2006. Spread across various gardens are 100,000 plants, the central feature



Walkers needed warm clothing in the cold spring weather

being the Red Sand Garden, designed to show seasonal flushes of wildflowers as seen in deserts of Central Australia.

Other gardens showcase plants from various climate zones, water saving gardens, over 700 varieties of eucalypts, seaside gardens, arid garden and more. The use of rock escarpments and water features is spectacular.

After lunch we made our way to the bushland area, up to the trig point for views of the area, then walked the Possum Gully track, passing an echidna on the way, and signs of wombat diggings, and a fleeing kangaroo

An enjoyable cup of coffee at the cafe ended our day.



Tracknotes: Issue 102, December 2022

Walking and lunching at Boneo Park

DAVID ASHTON

After several days of inclement weather, Sunday 11 September dawned fine, not too chilly, and rather windy. Conditions were good for our walk and lunch at Boneo Park on the Mornington Peninsula, about 65km from central Melbourne.

Billed (on its website) as an excellent example of sustainable development, Boneo Park is large and diverse – covering 340 hectares in all – and includes a large equestrian centre. It's all located on what was previously farmland in part, along with large expanses of wetlands and moonah woodlands, which still occupy most of the property. There is also the Arilla Restaurant, our destination for lunch.



A brief pause during the wetlands walk

Driving along busy Boneo Road, you might easily miss the insignificant entrance to the park, but fortunately our members found the entrance and turned up ready for the wetlands walk, which alas was not to be – ironically because it was too wet. So a substitute walk of about 4km was organised, and 30 walkers drove to a starting point in Truemans Road at Fingal.

The walk began on a four-wheel drive track through attractive moonah woodlands in gentle spring sunshine, accompanied by the croaking chorus of hundreds of frogs in the nearby wetlands. Well led by guides Maayan and Cameron, the walk went off-track after about 1km to

> Overlooking the wetlands -Arthurs Seat in the distance



Walkers listening to a briefing from Cameron, one of the guides.

a point overlooking the vast wetlands, with views towards distant Arthurs Seat. Then it was simply a case of retracing footsteps about 2km back to our cars.

Back at Boneo Park, the walkers joined seven members who had not taken part in the walk, for a delicious lunch in the Arilla Restaurant. The restaurant uses fresh local and home-grown produce in its dishes, and has a large wine list offering a range of Mornington Peninsula wines. The main course was alternate plating of very tender beef cheek and barramundi with smoked mussels.

There was a great atmosphere and plenty of chat in the restaurant, with its large windows on all sides overlooking the equestrian centre and nearby woodlands. The meal satisfactorily completed, members set off for home.

Thanks go to Micky, who worked hard to set up the walk and the restaurant meal. This included numerous visits to Boneo Park to relocate the walk, after the wetlands walk became too wet to attempt.

Lunch in the Arilla





Tracknotes: Issue 102, December 2022

Kyneton in the sunshine

ESTHER KAY

The sun came out for our walks around Kyneton on 9 October. We met at the Kyneton Botanic Gardens on the Campaspe River, and headed to the Black Hill Reserve north of Kyneton for our first walk of the day. 'Black Hill Reserve is a 105 hectare area featuring granite outcrops rising from the surrounding basalt plain to a summit of 614 metres above sea level.' (Reserve brochure)



The walk was led by Esther Kay

There had been heavy rain the week before, but fortunately most of the paths had dried out enough to walk on. We stayed on the base circuit walk beneath the rocky outcrops, climbing through one stretch to higher ground. We stopped at the northern lookout where we enjoyed expansive views across the countryside before coming down again to ground level.

The granite outcrops and rocks create an interesting landscape nestled among the bush vegetation of the reserve, which is known for its flora and fauna and supports a diversity of wildlife.



Checking maps before the walk

After our walk at the reserve, we returned to the Kyneton Botanic Gardens for lunch. We then set out for our afternoon walk along the Campaspe River, which was swollen with the recent rains. In some places the waters had clearly risen on to the riverbanks before receding



Walking next to the Campaspe River, swollen after recent rains

slightly. The river walk provided dramatic views, interesting stopping points and signs pointing out local heritage features, such as the old town swimming pool and a timber bridge crossing, neither of which have survived.

We finished our walk at Kyneton's Piper Street, where we enjoyed afternoon coffee in the sunshine at Duck Duck Goose and Larder before we said our final goodbyes.

There were great views from the northern lookout



Tracknotes: Issue 102, December 2022

A return to Rawson for our club

SONIA GILDERDALE, LAURINE SYMINGTON and NORRIE MCLEOD

contributed various parts of this article.

Twenty-four members made their way to Rawson, 45km north of Moe, during the afternoon of Friday 4 November for a weekend of walks. We had been there for a weekend in 2015, and were booked for a weekend in 2021 – but that was cancelled because of COVID.

Rawson is a small town built in 1977 to house the workers on the nearby Thomson Dam construction. The dam was ready to retain water by 1983. Interestingly, our visit coincided with the first time that the dam's spillway was flowing since the spring of 1996.

Our accommodation was in the motel part of the Rawson Village complex, which also includes dormitory accommodation for school camps, up to 200 students at a time.

After settling in we enjoyed drinks in the spacious conference room. The weather had been cold and wet for the preceding days, so we were happy not to have to congregate outside! After a hearty dinner, we returned to the conference room to chat and look at some photos of the club's previous visit to Rawson.

We had started with 24, but became one down on Saturday morning when one member went home with suspected COVID.

After breakfast there were three options for the day. Four people decided not to go walking, but spent time in the historic town of Walhalla and rode the tourist railway.

Continued next page



School camp style dining at Rawson, enjoying simple but wholesome fare



After dinner conviviality on Saturday

The puffer jacket's centenary



George Finch

It's 100 years since the first acknowledged use of a jacket we now know as a down or puffer jacket – and the inventor was an Australian chemist who was also regarded as one of the best mountain climbers in the world. He was a member of the second British Mount Everest expedition in 1922.

According to an article in *Great Walks* magazine, George Finch is seen as the father of the modern feather down clothing industry, and his use of the material was vital in helping one of the first attempts on the summit of the mountain.

Expedition photographer John Noel wrote in 1922: 'Finch, who had a scientific brain, invented a wonderful green quilted eiderdown suit of aeroplane fabric. Not a particle of wind could get through.' Finch called his invention an 'eiderdown coat'. Able to be easily seen on the white slopes, it was bright green in colour and made from billowing balloon silk.

Sir Edmund Hillary worked with Finch to manufacture clothing for his successful attempt on the summit of Everest in 1953. Finch was also the first person to propose using bottled oxygen to help prevent oxygen starvation at extreme altitudes.

Rawson continued

Saturday, walk 1 – Mount St Gwinear

The largest group (11 walkers) drove for 30 minutes to the Mount St Gwinear car park for a walk uphill along ski trails, and the rest of the walkers headed to the Goldfields Rail Trail for a walk through the lush mountain ash forest. After recent rains it was anticipated that the tracks would be very wet and muddy, but contrary to forecasts the weather remained fine, making the day pleasant for walking.

When we reached the Mount St Gwinear car park at 1290m, we noticed the drop in temperature from 20C at Rawson to 15C, consistent with the significantly higher altitude. David noticed a small white patch a few metres from the car park, which, on investigation, turned out to be snow. This was somewhat unexpected, but a foretaste of what the day would bring, as higher up we found ourselves walking through large patches of snow, as well as flowing icy water from the snow melt.



On the peak of Mount St Gwinear

On the ascent from the car park we met some employees of Zoos Victoria who were using a dog which they hoped would sniff out droppings from the broad-toothed rat, which is apparently endangered.

At the start the sky was overcast with the possibility of rain, but by lunchtime it was sunshine and shirt-sleeves.

At Camp Saddle



Plenty of snow was in evidence during the ascent of Mount St Gwinear

The climb to the summit of Mount St Gwinear (1514m) was an ascent of 224 metres. The first 1.5km was a steady ascent up to the main ski trail, and the next 1.5km was on undulating territory to the Mount St Gwinear peak. We enjoyed a well-earned lunch sitting on rocks at the top, looking at the superb view over the alpine area.

Seen throughout the walk were attractive snow gums with mottled branches growing at interesting angles. After lunch we went further to the junction with the Australian Alps Walking Track, which runs from Walhalla to Canberra. Nearby was the 'rock shelter' formation.

This track, however, was covered in rather deeper snow, so we turned round, and on the way back to the car park took an alternative path which skirted the Mount St Gwinear summit. While the walk was not long, it was quite strenuous with the ascent and descent, and we were ready for drinks and a substantial dinner. After dinner some people enjoyed playing games such as Trivial Pursuit and Squatter.



Tracknotes: Issue 102, December 2022

Rawson continued

Saturday, walk 2 - Goldfields Rail Trail

Saturday's walk for the not-quite-so-adventurous was a stroll along the Goldfields Rail Trail from Platina to the Walhalla-Tyers Road, which has been built across the rail trail.

'All uphill' was the description of the trail, as we clambered over two fallen trees and avoided a few puddles. The three and a bit kilometres stroll was through very tall mountain ash, which we decided was regrowth, and tree ferns

As we followed the twists and turns alongside Nelson Creek it was obvious where the valleys had been filled in to enable the train track to be built. Labour must have





Ros Morris and Gaile Kemp enjoying lunch during the Goldfields Rail Trail walk

been plentiful and cheap in the early 1900s. The train's life was short, as the Long Tunnel (gold) Mine was closed in 1914 and the train line eventually closed in 1944, when tourism and the transport of timber declined. The copper mine at Coopers Creek is still in operation.

Lunch was just after turning back. It was then three and a half kilometres downhill to the cars. Needing a real toilet break we ventured to Coopers Creek, a free camping ground on the Thompson River. The whole village is currently for sale, including the pub and one house.

'Reasonably long but not strenuous' was the common description of the walk.

Jenny Stewardson, John Moore and Tom Morris at Rawson station during the Walhalla excursion

Sunday walks

On Sunday we packed up after breakfast and drove down the hill to Horseshoe Bend car park. The weather was fine and sunny, and some walkers descended to the Thomson River (a steep zigzag path); but because of the high water levels they were unable to look at the inlet and outlet of

the diversion tunnel that had been constructed there. Other walkers had a more sedate stroll along the rail trail, which had the advantage of great views of the river below. On completion of the walks everyone headed home after a very enjoyable weekend.

Sunday morning on the zigzag path to the Thomson River

Thank you to the people who had helped with the organisation of accommodation and walk planning, including Tom Morris, Ian McMichael, Laurine Symington, Sonia Gilderdale, Ian Hansen and Norrie McLeod.



The club's 2023 program

The dates for our 2023 walks are final, but the location of nominated walks may need to be changed.

	2023	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun		Walk	Leader
Public Hol.									Feature	(Proposed)	
New Year	Jan							1	New Year		
New Year	Jan	2	3	4	5	6	7	8			
	Jan	9	10	11	12	13	14	15			
	Jan	16	17	18	19	20	21	22			
Australia Day	Jan	23	24	25	26	27	28	29			
	Feb	30	31	1	2	3	4	5			
	Feb	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
	Feb	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	Valentine's Day		
	Feb	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		Rosebud	D&M Ashton
	Mar	27	28	1	2	3	4	5			
	Mar	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		W	TMamia
Labour Day	Mar Mar	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		Warrnambool	T Morris Pugsley Persaud
	Mar Mar	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	Day Sava End		Pugsley Persaud
Easter	Apr	27	28 4	29 5	30 6	31 7	1 8	2 9	Day Save End Easter		
Easter	Apr	3 10	4	5 12	0 13	14	8 15	16	Laster		
Easter	Apr	10 17	11	12 19	13 20	21	22	23			
Anzac Day	Apr	24	25	26	27	28	22	30	Anzac Day		P&N McLeod
Tillizae Day	May	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Tillue Duy		
	May	8	- 9	10	11	12	13		Mother's Day		
	May	15	16	17	18	19	20	21			
	May	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		Moonee Ponds	R Piesse
	May	29	30	31	1	2	3	4			
	Jun	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
Queen's B'day	Jun	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
	Jun	19	20	21	22	23	24	25			L Symington
	Jun	26	27	28	29	30	1	2			
	Jul	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
	Jul	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
	Jul	17	18	19	20	21	22	23			C Dynon
	Jul	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
	Aug	31	1	2	3	4	5	6			
	Aug	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
	Aug	14	15	16	17	18	19	20			
	Aug	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	Eathards Dave		S&G Stanley
	Aug Sep	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	Father's Day		
	Sep	4 11	5 12	6 13	7 14	8 15	9 16	10 17			
	Sep	18	12	20	21	13 22	23	24			I Hansen
	Sep	25	26	20	21	22 29	30	1	Day Save Start		Thuisen
	Oct	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	, ~		
	Oct	9	10	11	12	13	14	15			
	Oct	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		Alwyn Gardens	M McMichael
	Oct	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		-	
	Oct	30	31	1	2	3	4	5			
Cup Day	Nov	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
	Nov	13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
	Nov	20	21	22	23	24	25	26			Jan Ward
	Nov	27	28	29	30	1	2	3			
	Dec	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
	Dec	11	12	13	14	15	16	17			
~ .	Dec	18	19	20	21	22	23	24			
Christmas	Dec	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Christmas		
	31 =	School	Holida	ys		= Bu	shwalk	8		01-Dec-22	