



OLD SCOTCH
BUSHWALKING CLUB

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Tracknotes

July 2024

Number 108

Visit the Bushwalking Club's page on: www.oscanet.com.au.
Click on 'Clubs and Societies', then 'Recreational Clubs'.

One step at a time



Walkers participating in the Darebin and Donaldson's Creek Trails Loop walk on 22 May took things one step at a time as they warily crossed Darebin Creek. Nearby is a fish ladder, which enables native fish to pass around the creek barrier by swimming up low steps into the waters on the other side.

Seventeen walkers enjoyed the walk in glorious sunshine, which was led by Richard Pugsley. See page 6 for the full story.

Sarah's on the cover of the *Boroondara Bulletin*

Sarah Gibson has had one of her artworks included in the final version of the City of Boroondara's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan. Sarah's smiling face featured on the front cover of the April/May issue of the *Boroondara Bulletin*. Sarah is a member of the Endeavour Art Group.

Sarah's work, and that of her fellow art group members, were exhibited in a gallery at Toorak Uniting Church during June. An article about Sarah Gibson and her art will appear in the September edition of *Tracknotes*.



Ten questions – John Turner

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

Longer than I can remember – probably since soon after the club was formed.

How did you find out about the club?

It was a progression from the Old Scotch cross-country running club – when one realises one is not as young as one used to be, and the hills seem to be steeper.

What are your links with Scotch College?

I attended Scotch between 1957 and 1964 (Junior and Senior School).

What is your dream walk within Australia?

I love walking in Tasmania, and have completed the Overland Track between Cradle Mountain and Lake St Clair, with side trips to the Walls of Jerusalem and Mount Ossa.

What is your dream walk overseas?

My dream would be to finish the Coast to Coast walk in England between Reeth and Robin Hood's Bay, which I started in 2002. I completed the Pennine Way Walk, of 265 miles (435km) a couple of years earlier, together with many of the other 'rambles' in England, Scotland and France. I really enjoy my almost yearly English walks with a London-based club, which usually include a pub lunch along the way.

What is your dream holiday in Australia or overseas?

This year I plan to take Simon, my partner, over to France to show him many places of interest in the southern region, on a rail/train holiday. I have explored this area with friends on several previous trips.



John getting set to tuck into a steak at Cerberus Beach House, Black Rock: 'Simon doesn't eat red meat, so occasionally I get to have a steak!'

What are your hobbies and interests, other than bushwalking?

I love train travel, and led a group of 25 Australian railway enthusiasts to Japan for an extensive trip in 2019. I lived in London for almost four years in my early 20s and have explored most of the UK by train. Classical music is my solace, and is enjoyable in times of quiet reflection.

What was your occupation?

I used to work in banking (30+ years with ANZ) and after retrenchment, in a plumbing shop, as I always wanted to be a plumber. My dad (an Old Scotch boy) said 'I haven't put you through a good school to become a plumber!' So I had to join a bank (like him) after leaving school.

What football team do you barrack for?

No comment.

What is your favourite Melbourne restaurant?

My favourite restaurant is Sons of Mary in Gardenvale – really nice ambience and food (or Simon's home cooking).



CartoonStock.com



President's Tree-Stump

As I sit huddled in front of a log fire, unfortunately a gas one, after a very enjoyable walk along the old Outer Circle railway track from Camberwell to Kew, I am reminded that we are now into winter.

It is almost three months ago that we held our AGM during a weekend away at Sale. Twenty-three members attended the AGM, and a very good dinner was enjoyed, topped off with a terrific trivia contest well organised by Pam McLeod after the meal.

During our Sunday walk through the Sale Botanical Gardens our guide explained many of the trees, and that the gardens had been established over 100 years ago. Since Sale we have held walks at Gardiners and Darebin Creeks, Queenscliff and a walk which will be long remembered by those attending, at French Island. The moral of the story is: when you are told, 'it's not necessary to book', you should book anyway, particularly on the Stony Point to French Island ferry. (See my article about the French Island walk in this issue.)

Many interesting walks are planned for Merricks, Merri Creek, Elsternwick, Trentham and the Warby Trail later in September, followed by a weekend at Maryborough in November.

I note that Jenny Stewardson, a new and most welcome member of your committee, and Rhonda Hoelter, are

very busy organising the club's 30th anniversary dinner. Thank you, Jenny and Rhonda.

Finally, I would like to again sincerely thank your committee for their tireless work behind the scenes in organising the walks, taking into account that Father Time stops for no one, that the hills are steeper now than a few years ago, and that there are 1.6 kilometres to a mile.

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

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Vale – Lee Thorn



A former active member of our club, Lee Thorn, died in March. Her funeral was held at St John's Anglican Church in Flinders on 25 March.

Long-time members of the club will remember Lee and her husband, the Rev. Tim Thorn, as active and enthusiastic participants in our activities. The club has extended its condolences to Tim.

Our midweek walks

Exploring the Gardiners Creek Trail

JULIE WALPOLE

The Gardiners Creek Trail, of approximately 20km, is a shared pathway which follows Gardiners Creek through Melbourne's eastern suburbs, linking the Main Yarra Trail in Burnley to the Blackburn Lakes.

The Gardiners Creek catchment, the traditional land of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, is named for John Gardiner, who settled near the junction of Kooyongkoot Creek (later renamed Gardiners Creek) and the Yarra River in 1836.

Our group of eight club members met at Glen Iris Station on the morning of Wednesday 27 March. We travelled to Holmesglen Station and then walked a short distance along Warrigal Road to meet the trail where it crosses Warrigal Road via an underpass.



The group met at Glen Iris station

in 1983. There is now a large metal frame of an FJ Holden for children to climb and a number of cypress tree stump carvings.



Geosculpture, near Highbury Road

The path continues north-east through Ashwood Reserve to High Street Road, and then north near Gardiners Reserve to Highbury Road. The 700m section between Highbury Road and Burwood Highway is home to the 'Local History Park'.

The section closest to Highbury Road has a fossil footpath which has informative markers, which unfortunately have not been properly maintained. This leads to a big sculpture, *Geosculpture*, which explains the different kinds of rocks it is made from. After this is a koori footpath with embedded wooden snake symbols. Further along is a bridge that links the two sides of the creek, with an imitation settler's hut on the opposite side.

The last historical area is the quirky Drive-in Theatre Playground in a natural amphitheatre setting next to the creek. The Burwood Skyline, opened in 1954, was Australia's first drive-in theatre, and had a car capacity of approximately 700. The drive-in closed

Over Burwood Highway the trail continues north-east alongside Deakin University through Gardiners Creek Reserve to Station Street, near the Box Hill Golf Club. We stopped for lunch among the students on tables outside a university café.

After lunch we walked the loop around the creek, past the Gardiners Creek Biodiversity Project and the wetlands and birdlife, crossing the creek near Station Street, and returning to the corner of Burwood Highway and Elgar Road to catch a tram back to Summerhill Road, Hartwell.

We then followed parks and bushland, and met the Gardiners Creek Trail again at Nettleton Park, following it back to Glen Iris Station and a welcome coffee spot nearby.

It was a pleasant day, with many of us reminded of places we had lived near or visited in our younger years.



Under a bridge near Nettleton Park

Our midweek walks

Care for a chilli-flavoured cordial?

(It's all to do with the origin of OT Dam.)

DAVID ASHTON

Six club members and one guest met in a parking area next to a large water tank at Red Hill on the cool, cloudy morning of Thursday 18 April. The guest was Jana Purcell, a friend of David and Micky's, who fitted in very well with the group.

Despite cloudy conditions rain never eventuated, and we enjoyed excellent bushwalking conditions. I had classified the 6.4km walk as 'medium', and I stand by that, but it did involve a few hill climbs, a couple of one-step creek crossings and one short, scrubby section.



Wendy Bladon, Laurine Symington, Wendy Le Get, David Ashton, Jana Purcell, Robyn Hansen

Cordial, is now home to yabbies and redfin fish.

Strolling on the boardwalks round the eastern side of the dam, we then embarked on the true 'bushwalk' section of the walk, descending to the first of two creek crossings. We continued onwards and upwards through lightly-timbered messmate woods, before dropping to the second creek crossing. The creek's flow was small and it was easily crossed.

Reaching the end of the true bushwalking section, we next climbed fairly gently on a well-formed gravel road, then descended for about 300 metres on a rutted four-wheel drive track, which took us to a much better formed gravel road, and after 300 metres we reached a gate, where Micky was waiting for us. This was the lunch spot, where a 'horse catcher' consisting of parallel logs of wood made very good seats on which we sat to enjoy lunch.

There was then a 350 metre climb on a well-formed gravel road back to Arthurs Seat Road, and then a 2km stroll back to the cars. We adjourned to the café at the Arthurs Seat Eagle for welcome coffee and cakes, after a most enjoyable walk.



A 1930s advertisement for OT Cordial

The first section was a gentle descent of 1.1km, to the scenic and serene OT Dam. Why OT? It was built by the Cottees/Kia Ora cordial company in the 1930s using horse-drawn scoops, to supply water for a nearby passionfruit vineyard. As passionfruit take time to establish, the company meanwhile grew chillies and produced a popular (at the time) cordial – yes, it was made from chillies – which they called OT Cordial. This strange concoction, when taken with hot lemon, was said to 'break up' colds. (See the advertisement.) The dam, christened OT Dam in 'honour' of OT



The placid waters of O T Dam



Lunch, using the 'horse-catcher' as seating

Our midweek walks

A tale of two creek trails

RICHARD PUGSLEY

Some 17 walkers, including four guests, two of whom had 'hiked' all the way from Western Australia, met in glorious autumnal sunshine at Darebin Station on the morning of Wednesday 22 May.

Setting out, we stopped to admire the majestic Ivalda Masonic Temple, whose name 'IVALDA' comes from the first two letters of the names of the Ivanhoe, Alphington and Darebin Lodges.



Crossing Darebin Creek



On the Darebin Creek Trail

Proceeding downhill to the edge of the parklands, we passed by a memorial to two firemen, Eric Jamieson and Bruce Adams, who were trapped in a barbed wire fence covered in gorse, escaping from a fire which had jumped the creek on 1 March 1968, metres from their truck on Rockbeare Grove. Both men were burnt badly and died in hospital from their injuries several days later.

From there we made our way downhill to Darebin Creek, which is thought to be named from the Woi wurrung word for swallows, 'Dirrabeen'. For tens of thousands of years it was used as a food and tool source by the Wurundjeri people. Formerly an intermittent stream, increased stormwater runoff with urbanisation of its catchment has resulted in permanent water flow.



*On the Donaldson's Creek Trail,
with Jasper the poodle leading the way*

We crossed the creek on stepping stones by the fish ladder, a structure placed to enable native fish to pass around the creek barrier by swimming up low steps into the waters on the other side. It was completed in December 2022, improving fish habitat in the lower reaches of the creek, and allowing them to follow natural migration patterns.

Continuing on through the parklands, and across the creek at the Abercorn Avenue footbridge, we made our way by street footpaths to the Donaldson's Creek Trail, named after James Donaldson, a farmer from Scotland who purchased land in Ivanhoe in 1850.

Leaving the trail at Banksia Street we proceeded westward back to the Darebin Creek Trail where we turned south to our lunch break spot at Fez's Wetland, a flood retardant basin which reduces stormwater pollution and provides habitat for frogs and other wildlife. After lunch we made our way back along the trail to Darebin Station.



The lunch break at Fez's Wetland

Our weekend walks

Setting sail for Sale

Beautiful early autumn sunshine greeted 23 Old Scotch Bushwalking Club members arriving in the charming Gippsland town of Sale on 15 March for a weekend of bushwalks and sightseeing. Ahead was an activities-filled weekend in this go-ahead town of 15,305 people, known for its rich history, rural charm and modern amenities.

All but two participants had arrived by Friday evening, and on Saturday the choices consisted of a walk of about 10km, beginning at the Port of Sale, or a more leisurely walk of 5.5km, starting at the Gippsland Art Gallery in Foster Street. Later in the day, several walkers chose a Port of Sale Heritage Cruise, involving a journey along the Thomson River, under the Swing Bridge and return, while being entertained and informed by a colourful on-board commentary.

The leisurely Saturday walk -

LAURINE SYMINGTON

We met at the Gippsland Art Gallery in Sale at 10am as planned. The weather was fantastic – warm and sunny – and even our Collingwood-supporting members were there on time, having been at the unfurling of the 2023 premiership flag at the MCG the evening before.

The planned walk was 5.5km along the Flooding Creek and then through the Sale Common to the lakes. So we started our morning at the Dock Cafe overlooking the Port of Sale – no rush!

Deciding it was time to move, we headed down to the wharf, past Annemieke Mein's bronze statues of historically important Gippslanders – the Wall of Fame. It includes author Mary Grant Bruce (1878-1958), who was born in Sale; the first Mayor of Sale, Nehemiah Guthridge (1808-1878); and controversial explorer and pastoralist Angus McMillan (1810-1865), both bronze and sketches.



One of a few rests during the shorter Saturday walk. Ros Morris, Gaile Kemp and Ian and Robyn Hansen

So we set off on our walk, past a German Shepherd dog training session and a few bikes. There were



Gaile and Russell Kemp and Ian and Robyn Hansen at the confluence of the Thomson River and Flooding Creek

discussions about the width of the canal, which had been constructed between 1886 and 1890 without machines to enable a navigable connection from Sale to the Gippsland Lakes. Strolling from seat to seat we eventually arrived at McArdell's Gap, the confluence of the Thomson River and Flooding Creek. It was here that early steamboats were built.

Leaving the river we headed inland to the Sale Common. Used by early residents of Sale as a place to graze their animals, it is now the Sale Common Nature Conservation Reserve. Impressed with the signage, which ensured we knew where we were on the map, we walked to Lake Guyatt for lunch. The lake was a local wetland before a development project of the Sale Central Rotary Club, and it was completed in 1994. After a short detour to the Powder Magazine and stops to read the shields on the Aboriginal Art Interpretive Trail, we then found Lake Guthridge.

Continuing our chair to chair walk, I eventually found my way back to the Dock Cafe and most of my friends left me for a Heritage Cruise to the Swing Bridge.



Tom Morris and Russell Kemp

Our weekend walks

Sale cont.

The longer Saturday walk

PAM MCLEOD

Thirteen members met at the Port of Sale at 10am on Saturday. Sale was formerly a major inland port, with a shipping terminal for cargo and passengers arriving and leaving Gippsland by rail for Melbourne. The Sale Canal was dug by horse and scoop, and was an essential link to the rivers, lakes and open sea.

Leaving the port we walked under shady trees alongside the canal and reached McARDell's Gap, a cut in the bank opposite where the canal joins the Thomson River. We soon arrived at the famous Swing Bridge, located at the junction of the Thomson and Latrobe rivers. It was completed in 1883. We stopped here for our lunch break. The bridge still swings open to allow vessels to enter the Port of Sale – but unfortunately when we returned at 3pm to view the opening, there was some malfunction and it was unable to open.

A short walk further and we entered the Sale Common, a large area of wetlands combining fresh water marshes and red gum woodlands with an enormous variety of bird life. The extensive elevated boardwalks wind their way through many habitats, from the edge of a swamp covered with green algae, through deeper water, past islands and lagoons and through reed beds.

With sunshine and blue skies overhead, we were walking in an amazing wonderland. Some of the birds we saw



A path through Sale Common



On the boardwalk in Sale Common Wetlands

were black swans, white-faced herons, ducks, kites, pelicans, darters, spoonbills, purple swamp hens and sea eagles.

Leaving the common we retraced our steps to the port. The weather was perfect, the walk was a relaxed and easy 10km, and enjoyed by everyone.



The Port of Sale



Heritage cruise boat Rubeena about to pass under the swing bridge

Our weekend walks

Sale cont.

Saturday night and Sunday morning-

DAVID ASHTON

The club conducted its annual general meeting on Saturday evening at the Sale Greyhound Club, a popular meeting place for Sale residents and visitors alike. Neil Hart-Smith was duly returned for another year as President, and a new committee was elected. This was followed by a delicious dinner at the club.

Dinner finished, Pam McLeod, ably assisted by Norrie, prepared and hosted a trivia quiz, which has become a traditional after-dinner activity in our weekends away – it was keenly contested, and great fun.

On Sunday morning club members enjoyed a real highlight of the weekend: a guided tour of the superb Sale Botanic Gardens, led by Fred and Rob, two members of the Friends of the Gardens. The jovial Fred and Rob pointed out significant trees and gave lucid historical and botanical information about the park, and the adjoining Seed Lakeside Community Garden. A delightful morning



Pam McLeod conducts the trivia quiz

tea followed in the nearby Nakunbalook Environmental Centre.

After a really enjoyable and memorable weekend of activities in shining weather, members headed back to the big smoke or journeyed onwards to more adventures elsewhere.



Friends of the Sale Botanic Gardens members Fred and Rob addressing the group in the gardens



Our weekend walks

Queenscliff sublime in great autumn weather

MURRAY HOOPER

Beautiful autumn weather greeted the 10 walkers assembled at the Marine Discovery Centre, Queenscliff on Sunday 14 April where, ably assisted by Micky Ashton, a car shuttle transferred all to the Point Lonsdale Rip View car park.

Geoff Stewart ('59) was warmly welcomed to his first walk with the club.

The walk traversed the Point Lonsdale foreshore and continued down the boardwalk where some shivering ladies emerged from an ocean swim, assuring us that the water wasn't as cold as they made it appear.



Pelicans quite at home near Queenscliff



Colin Hinshelwood gazes wistfully out to sea at the start of the walk

Onward and up onto a track in the sand dunes, we passed numerous relics of the fortifications from earlier wars.

After catching up again with Micky to have our lunches at the Queenscliff lookout, we circumnavigated the Queenscliff fort and the beautifully constructed black (high) lighthouse constructed in 1862. It is one of only three in the world where the bluestone has been left in the black.

The fort and lighthouses and coastal fortifications were all erected to protect the colony's gold from Russian attack in the Crimean War and German attack in World War I. In the 1880s Melbourne was arguably the richest city in the world.

On leaving the fort, we walked down through the beautiful parkland, where families were still enjoying lunch and fun in the park, to arrive at Wharf Street with its restaurants, cafés and marina.

We returned to our cars via the Queenscliff rail trail, passing two steam trains, one of which was crowded with passengers enjoying an extended lunch. After returning to Point Lonsdale to pick up the other cars, we enjoyed coffee in the village, ending a most enjoyable day.



The group poses at the Queenscliff lookout



Lunch at the Queenscliff lookout

Our weekend walks

Ferry troubles aside, a memorable day on French Island

NEIL HART-SMITH

Our French Island walk on Sunday 5 May will be long remembered. Seventeen hardy walkers, including two new members and one guest, gathered at the Stony Point ferry terminal at a little after 10am in order to catch the 10.15am ferry to Tankerton on French Island.

As we headed for the ferry some walkers commented how small it was and how many passengers were waiting for it. When I called to reserve our seats during the preceding week I had been told that it was a 'large' ferry and so there was no need to book our seats. What the office lady did not know was that the 'large' ferry went in for servicing that weekend, and was replaced by one that was only one-third the size of the large boat, so we missed our scheduled trip and had to catch the 12 noon ferry.

Once we landed on French Island we headed off along the Pier Road and turned north on the Coast Road.



Chatting on the ferry

Soon we detoured off the Coast Road and walked along the beach, where we observed many different water birds, from small migratory plovers to large black swans. Another detour brought us back onto the Coast Road and our lunch break at the Fairhaven Camp Ground.

Our planned walk after lunch was to the Pinnacles and back to the general store via Clump Road, where it had been planned to use the store bus to return to the ferry. But by this time it was after 2pm, and I felt that we could not finish our walk in time to catch our planned return ferry. After a quick phone call to the store we were advised that the store was going to close early due to low patronage.

We decided to miss the afternoon section and retrace our steps back along the Coast Road where the bus would pick us up and take us to the ferry. Thanks to the store we connected with our ferry and landed safely back at Stony Point, where everybody agreed that it had been a good short walk which would be long remembered.



The French Island walking group



Norrie and David



Along the beach, where many water birds were observed

The club's 2024 program

The dates for our 2024 walks are final, but the location of nominated walks may need to be changed.

	2024	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Feature	Walk (Proposed)	Leader
Public Hol.											
New Year	Jan	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	New Year		
	Jan	8	9	10	11	12	13	14			
	Jan	15	16	17	18	19	20	21			
Australia Day	Jan	22	23	24	25	26	27	28			
	Jan	29	30	31	1	2	3	4			
	Feb	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		Warburton	L Symington
	Feb	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Valentine's Day		
	Feb	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		Ashburton/Deepd	J Stewardson
	Feb	26	27	28	29	1	2	3			
	Mar	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
Labour Day	Mar	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		Sale	D Ashton
	Mar	18	19	20	21	22	23	24			
	Mar	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Easter	Gardiners Creek	J Walpole
Easter	Apr	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Day Sav Ends		
	Apr	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		Queenscliff	M&D Hooper
	Apr	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		Boneo	M&D Ashton
Anzac Day	Apr	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	Anzac Day		
	May	29	30	1	2	3	4	5		French Island	N Hart-Smith
	May	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Mother's Day		
	May	13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
	May	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		Darebin Creek	R Pugsley
	May	27	28	29	30	31	1	2			
	Jun	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
King's B'day	Jun	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		Merricks	C Dynon
	Jun	17	18	19	20	21	22	23			
	Jun	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		Merri Creek	R Piesse
	Jul	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
	Jul	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		30th Anniversary	J Stewardson
	Jul	15	16	17	18	19	20	21			
	Jul	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		Elsternwick	J&J Isaac
	Jul	29	30	31	1	2	3	4			
	Aug	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		Trentham	S&G Stanley
	Aug	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
	Aug	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		Latrobe	S Gilderdale
	Aug	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	Father's Day		
	Sep	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		Coliban	R Piesse
	Sep	9	10	11	12	13	14	15			
	Sep	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		Warby Trail	L Symington
	Sep	23	24	25	26	27	28	29			
	Oct	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	Day Save		
	Oct	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		* * *	E Kay
	Oct	14	15	16	17	18	19	20			
	Oct	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		Studley Park	J Ward
	Oct	28	29	30	31	1	2	3			
Cup Day	Nov	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
	Nov	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Rememb Day	Weekend	
	Nov	18	19	20	21	22	23	24			
	Nov	25	26	27	28	29	30	1		* * *	R Pugsley
	Dec	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		Christmas	
	Dec	9	10	11	12	13	14	15			
	Dec	16	17	18	19	20	21	22			
Christmas	Dec	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	Christmas		
	Dec	30	31								

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School Holidays

= Bushwalks

04-Jul-24