



OLD SCOTCH
BUSHWALKING CLUB

Old Scotch Bushwalking Club

Tracknotes

March 2021

Number 95

Visit the bushwalking club's page on the OSCAnet website: www.oscanet.com.au. Click on 'Clubs' at the top of the home page, and then on 'Bushwalking Club'.

Thirty walkers tackled our Hastings walk



Our first Sunday walk for 2021, at Hastings, began with a little drizzle, but conditions improved to ideal as the morning unfolded. Thirty walkers turned up, and set off enthusiastically for a really enjoyable walk to Jacks Beach and back. Much of it was along boardwalks, with mangroves very much in evidence. The day concluded with coffee and delicious cakes in the very swank Hastings Sports Club.

Roslyn Morris' report begins on page 10.

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Ten questions – Celia Cornick

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

I joined the bushwalking club in October last year, but because of COVID there were no walks permitted. I really enjoyed the Hastings Boardwalk experience and met many lovely members.

How did you find out about the club?

I found out about the club through the Old Scotch Film Society. Presently I am on their committee. Eve Ryder, a new member, also encouraged me to join.

What are your links with Scotch College?

I came to Australia 21 years ago from the UK with my 85-year-old mother, two teenagers, two horses, a dog and two cats. I bought a house with 12 acres, catering for us all. As the girls grew and moved on, time passed. I needed to move to somewhere smaller, and I bought a house in Kew near the rest of my family and grandchildren. I have four children and I'm privileged that now they all live in Melbourne.

I found an advertisement in the paper for Glenferrie Probus, seeking members. This Probus was originally started through Glenferrie Rotary with Scotch College retirees. I joined and was surprised to discover the School, which reminded me comfortingly of such institutions in England.

My link now to Scotch College is through the Film Society and enjoying socialising through Glenferrie Probus (www.glenferrieprobus.org).



What is your dream walk within Australia?

I cannot decide on one walk. Most areas are very different for me, in that the Australian countryside depicts the uniqueness, austerity, variety, vastness and beauty of this land.

What is your dream walk overseas?

The Scottish Highlands.

What is your dream holiday in Australia or overseas?

It has to be with the sea. The shores here are enormous, different and stunning, in that having travelled to every continent, Australia's beautiful coastline is extraordinary and outstanding.

What are your hobbies and interests, other than bushwalking?

I like the arts – concerts, opera, ballet, theatre, art galleries, etc. I miss the historical reminders in UK and Europe, especially the architecture, but we have the Aboriginal gifts of thousands of years to embrace.

What is/was your occupation?

From university I started work as a teacher, then began a catering company. I became a homeopath and this led me, in Australia, to lecture in Biodynamics.

What football team do you barrack for?

Sorry, I have not cheered or supported a team as most Australians do.

What is your favourite Melbourne restaurant?

It's too eclectic to have one special restaurant. I love trying new ones from other cultures and countries.





President's Tree-Stump



With only a couple of glitches, our program of walks has resumed. Thank you, Roslyn and Tom for the fantastic organisation of the well-attended Christmas break-up at the Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron. It was a very pleasant night, and an opportunity to see just how far one and a half metres is when we are socially distancing.

After another shutdown and the need to change a few dates, we are off for 2021. Mildura is the venue for the next weekend of walks, and I think it will be a record with 45 attendees. The weather is the major unknown, and the variety of walks for different abilities will be a challenge.

Many members are choosing to use Mildura as a waypoint as they travel around western Victoria to see some of the sights and towns they have overlooked. Our evening cruise on the paddle steamer will be an opportunity to get dressed up and celebrate our bushwalking club.

The AGM will be well attended on the last night in Mildura. Although we have sufficient nominations for the committee, I am disappointed that although 60 to 80 per cent of our walkers are women, like Parliament, women make up only 22 per cent of the committee.

The balance of the sexes in the club as a whole is changing, as some of the older members choose not to

walk and the new members are female. Thanks go to all the ladies who organise and lead our walks, mostly midweek ones, but we also need help with a couple of weekend walks. I know they are harder to organise, with pre-walking a challenge. If you could help but need some guidance or company, please ask.

Walks to Anakie Gorge and the You Yangs for Sunday walks, and Sandringham and Portarlington for midweek walks, are coming up. I hope to see you all soon.

I am not seeking re-election as President for 2021, but will still be there as the Vice President and assisting with planning and leading walks. Neil Hart-Smith is coming out of retirement to take on the role of President again.

Laurine Symington

President

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Scholarship honours our club's former honorary member

A Scotch College Indigenous scholarship has been created in honour of our club's former honorary member, Gilbert Watson Albury, who died last year.

Gil Albury was a generous supporter of Scotch, and of the Old Scotch Bushwalking Club.

Born on 7 March 1944, Gil attended Scotch in the Junior School from 1951 to 1956, and then transferred to Haileybury College (1957-61).

After leaving Haileybury, Gil trained in horticulture, and subsequently had a varied career, interspersed with Australian and overseas travel. Among many appointments, he worked for Ensign Dry Cleaners, BHP and G J Coles, and at other times he was a gardener, a tow-truck driver and a cowboy. Gil eventually settled in Broken Hill, where he died on 26 February last year.

The Gilbert Albury Indigenous Scholarship was created last year.



Gil Albury as a young man

Our midweek walks

Camberwell to Kew on a warm, humid day

CHRISTINE MOSS

Wednesday 13 January was forecast to be hot and humid, despite the days on either side of this date being perfect walking weather. However, being the intrepid walkers we are, the BOM weather report was not going to dissuade us. Nevertheless we did shorten the walk somewhat in the interests of health and, dare I say it, age!

Thirteen of us met at Camberwell station, and judging by the amount of chatter, we certainly had no trouble renewing friendships since our last meeting in 2020.

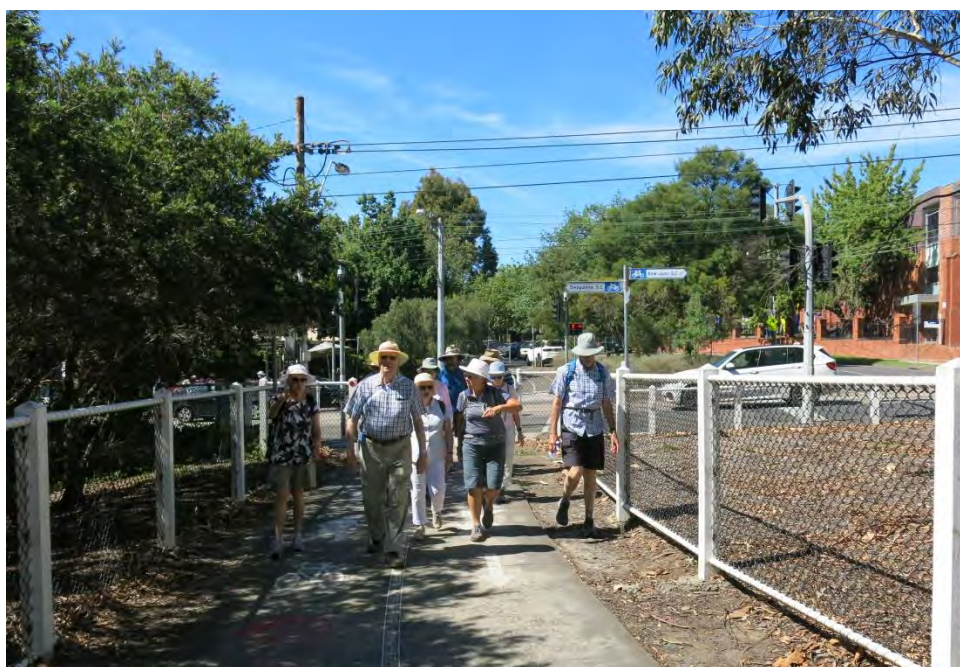
We headed off, walking through Reid Gardens with its lovely, large, shady trees and then along part of beautiful Broadway until we joined the Anniversary Trail. From here it was an easy walk under Canterbury and Mont Albert Roads to Whitehorse Road. Most of us then decided to travel a little further along the path which runs behind Deepdene Primary School.

Retracing our steps, we all enjoyed coffees at Town and Country before heading back to Camberwell station. The weather was kinder to us than anticipated, although the humidity was certainly



In Reid Gardens

noticeable at the end. A short walk deserves a short walk report!



Along the path adjacent to Deepdene Primary School

Our midweek walks



Coffee at Town and Country in Deepdene



Heading back to Camberwell Station along the Outer Circle Trail

Our midweek walks

Along a section of the Maribyrnong River

RICHARD PIESSE

Nine walkers met close to the Highpoint Shopping Centre on the morning of 4 March, and walked through a substantial area of apartment development on previously Defence Department land, to meet the Maribyrnong River at the Canning Street bridge.

Our walk then followed the Maribyrnong River Trail for approximately 1km, when the group split into two. Three of the walkers crossed the river over a huge water pipeline, while the other six walkers followed the river to Solomon's Ford and successfully crossed the river on huge basalt boulders. The water level was very low.

Back in February 1803, Charles Grimes, Deputy Surveyor-General of New South Wales, led the first party of Europeans to explore the Maribyrnong River. For many years Solomon's Ford was the first available 'solid' crossing of the river to Western Victoria, including to Geelong and the goldfields.

As we sat and enjoyed the view and our lunch, we were in awe of the crossing, which is claimed to pre-date white men and was formed without mechanical advantage – unless there is a gap in our history. The apartment complex being built behind where we enjoyed lunch is overpowering one of the remaining beautiful sections of the river.

We continued another 1.25km upstream and then returned to the lunch spot. This section of the river is being planted out by developers, showing the size of the future developments here. From the lunch spot, we climbed up an escarpment, past the Vietnamese Buddhist temple and then strolled further south to Ballarat Road, where we enjoyed a coffee in a café.

Then for most of us the final chapter of the day was a bus ride into the city.

(Thank you, Richard for again sharing with us your love of the Maribyrnong River – Laurine.)



Tom Morris (left), with Richard Piesse, and Neil Hart-Smith's finger, pointing

Our midweek walks



Neil crossing Solomon's Ford



Julie Walpole in the foreground; and in the background, Laurine helping Robyn Hansen cross the ford

A prickly problem – hedgehogs in decline



Hedgehogs are among the most popular species of animals in Britain – but according the Royal Parks website, there has been a worrying nationwide decline in hedgehog numbers over the last 25 years.

Only one of the central London Royal Parks now has a breeding population – Regent's Park – which has perhaps 30-40 animals living and breeding in the park. A team of scientists and 150-plus volunteers returns to Regent's Park in May and September every year to check on the welfare of the hedgehogs, which helps to inform park management plans.

Young animals have been found every September, confirming that the population is breeding, but a worryingly small number of hedgehogs was found in May 2016. Since then there has been a slow rise in numbers.

Incredibly, the hedgehogs travel up to 1.5 km per night. As the website said, it's the equivalent of three stops on the Underground between Regent's Park and The Angel, Islington!

The Royal Parks organisation continues to monitor the hedgehog population year on year to detect trends in the population and to continue to find ways to help safeguard their future.

Our weekend walks

A great way to conclude an interrupted year

DAVID ASHTON

The Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron in Beach Road was the welcoming venue for the 2020 walk and dine on the afternoon and evening of Sunday 13 December. This very popular annual event traditionally winds up our club's annual program.

Some members elected just to take part in the 'dine' part of the walk and dine, so there were 14 starters for the walk, which left from outside the dinner venue at 4.45pm.

The day was warm and the breezes light as we set off along the beach path, chatting and enjoying each other's company as we dodged the occasional jogger. The walk was short and sweet – around 3km – but that was enough to whet the appetite for the meal that was to come.

With the non-walkers having arrived, our total muster was 47. Micky Ashton was there, back in action after a couple of operations during the year. She had come to say hello, and left for home prior to the meal arriving.

We all enjoyed the very tasty canapés – diced tomato with prosciutto – which preceded our delicious sit-down meal of chicken breast with leg ham and roasted root vegetables, followed by sorbet with diced fruits.

Raffle prizes, prepared by Micky Ashton, were won by Valma Angliss, Sonia Gilderdale and Carol Geddes.

It was a very enjoyable night, and a wonderful opportunity to meet up after so many months of COVID-enforced separation during the year. Tom Morris organised it all with his customary efficiency, supported as always by Ros. The 2020 event compared very favourably with other walk and dine events over the years, and it was certainly a great way to conclude a year of severely curtailed club activity.



Valma Angliss and Geoff Stephens striding out

Dinner scene in the Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron dining room



Our weekend walks



Ian Marks and Neil Hart-Smith out on the beach track



Tom Morris and Jan Ward



Sonia Gilderdale collects her raffle prize: she said it was the first raffle she had won since winning a prize of 37 Easter eggs many years ago!

Walking with llamas



Next time you visit the Macedon Ranges, how about taking a llama for a walk?

A llama?? Yes: a family-owned company, Hanging Rock Llama Treks, is offering walks for small groups on walks with llamas in the Hepburn and Macedon Ranges Shires. Each group member is assigned a llama as a walking companion, and the company says the animals are 'naturally curious and very aware of their surroundings, and are often the first to spot wildlife along the trail'. How they react to it is not revealed.

A writer for the *Herald Sun's* 'Outdoors' section, who took a llama tour along the 12km Domino Trail between Lyonville and Trentham, said she thoroughly enjoyed the walk, despite the llamas' predilection to flatulence. 'I guess a diet of grass and leaves will do that to you,' she said, and aside from that they are 'delightful walking buddies'.

The writer summed up her llama experience: 'Sure, you could do this walk without llamas, but if given a choice between walking alone or with a sweet-natured llama by my side, I know which I'd prefer.'



Our weekend walks

Hastings Park to Jacks Beach and return

ROSLYN MORRIS

Our first Sunday walk for 2021 (7 February) was very well attended, with 30 walkers keen to walk and talk.

We met at 10am for a 10.30am start at the Hastings Sports Club. A light drizzle greeted us but it quickly disappeared, and the weather became ideal for walking. After crossing to Pelican Park we followed the walking track around the foreshore to the marina, and then continued to the commencement of the boardwalk track. The boardwalk covers a distance of 4km across mangrove swamps and scrubby bushland to Jack's Beach, and our walk gave us a good appreciation of the extent of the mangroves in this part of Western Port Bay.

The Jack Family settled near the site (now Jacks Beach) on the Bittern/Crib Point foreshore in 1908. They had 14 children. The family originally derived income from farming and timber-getting. The family members became some of the first employed to clear land for the Flinders Naval Base. The Jack brothers were well known for swimming

across the narrow channel to Sandstone Island to trap rabbits. The family also built a pit where they boiled up wattle bark to tan their nets and lines, which were made of cotton.

After lunch we retraced our steps back to our start point for a much appreciated coffee at the very well-appointed Hastings Sports Club.

Western Port Bay was an interesting place to visit. It is a rich habitat for juvenile fish, crustaceans and molluscs. It has underwater seagrass beds, intertidal rock platforms, sandy beaches, intertidal mudflats, tidal channels, saltmarshes and mangroves. There are three marine national parks – French Island, Churchill Island and Yaringa.

Thanks to all participants for their enthusiasm to complete a lovely 13km walk – well done!



Setting off in light drizzle, which soon cleared.



Christine Moss, Celia Cornick and Eve Ryder

Our weekend walks



On the boardwalk



Lunch at approximately the halfway point of the walk.



Arrival at Jacks Beach



Enjoying coffee in the very smart lounge of the Hastings Sports Club



The club's 2021 program

The dates for our 2021 walks are final, but the location of nominated walks may need to be changed.

Public Hol.	2021	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Feature	Walk (Proposed)	Leader
New Year						1	2	3	New Year		
	Jan	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
	Jan	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		Camberwell	C Moss
	Jan	18	19	20	21	22	23	24			
Australia Day	Jan	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
	Feb	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		Hastings	T Morris
	Feb	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Valentine's Day		
	Feb	15	16	17	18	19	20	21			
	Feb	22	23	24	25	26	27	28			
	Mar	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		Solomon's Ford	R Piesse
Labour Day	Mar	8	9	10	11	12	13	14			
	Mar	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		Mildura	J Moore
	Mar	22	23	24	25	26	27	28			
Easter	Mar	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	Easter, Day save	Mud Island	N Foote
	Apr	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		You Yangs	L Symington
	Apr	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
	Apr	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		Sandringham	R Kemp
Anzac Day	Apr	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	Anzac Day		
	May	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Mother's Day		
	May	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		Anakie Gorge	N&P McLeod
	May	17	18	19	20	21	22	23			
	May	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		Portarlington	J Isaac
	Jun	31	1	2	3	4	5	6			
	Jun	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		***	***
Queen's B'day	Jun	14	15	16	17	18	19	20			
	Jun	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		***	***
	Jun	28	29	30	1	2	3	4			
	Jul	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		Kinglake	I McMichael
	Jul	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
	Jul	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		***	***
	Jul	26	27	28	29	30	31	1			
	Aug	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		***	***
	Aug	9	10	11	12	13	14	15			
	Aug	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		***	***
	Aug	23	24	25	26	27	28	29			
	Aug	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	Father's Day		
	Sep	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		***	***
	Sep	13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
	Sep	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	AFL	***	***
	Sep	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	Day save start		
	Oct	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		Boneo Park	M Ashton
	Oct	11	12	13	14	15	16	17			
	Oct	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		***	***
	Oct	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
Cup Day	Nov	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		Rawson	I McMichael
	Nov	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Rememb Day		
	Nov	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		***	***
	Nov	22	23	24	25	26	27	28			
	Nov	29	30	1	2	3	4	5			
	Dec	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		***	***
	Dec	13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
	Dec	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	Christmas		
Christmas	Dec	27	28	29	30	31					

31 = School Holidays = Bushwalks

08-Mar-21