



OLD SCOTCH BUSHWALKING CLUB

Tracknotes

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September 2022

Number 101

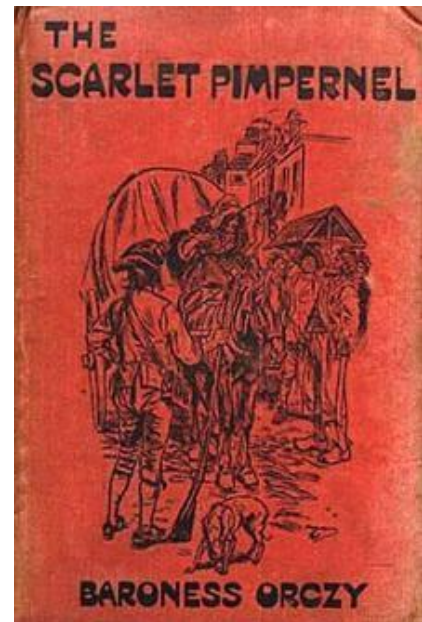
Visit the Bushwalking Club's page on: www.oscanet.com.au. Click on 'Clubs' at the top of the page, then 'Bushwalking Club'.



Vale – Ann Morris

The club was deeply saddened to hear that Ann Morris, a much loved and long serving member of our club, had died on 24 July while on holidays. Many club members were able to attend her memorial service at St Leonard's Uniting Church in Brighton.

Christine Moss, who knew Ann from their schooldays together at Korowa Anglican Girls' School, has written a tribute to Ann, which appears on page 3.



OSMaD presents the musical theatre version of a 1905 classic novel - see page 11

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Ten questions – Patrick Persaud

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

Coming up for 12 months; Richard Pugsley and I joined in October last year following our relocation to Melbourne from London.

How did you find out about the club?

Through Richard Pugsley, my married partner.

What are your links to Scotch College?

Richard attended, from the Class of 1968.

What is your dream walk within Australia?

I'd like to do a walk in the Blue Mountains, a place I've yet to visit, but have heard so much about.

What is your dream walk overseas?

Italy has always been a favourite holiday destination, so I would love to more fully explore the lush green hills and valleys of Umbria.

What is your dream holiday in Australia or overseas?

Never having been to Northern Australia, I'd like to visit Darwin and do a road trip taking in Kakadu and Katherine Gorge.

What are your hobbies and interests other than bushwalking?

Most of my hobbies are work related, including fashion, jewellery, watch collecting and interior design.

What is your occupation?

I am Managing Director of Apogee Image Consultants, which is established in both Melbourne and London, providing services that include styling, personal shopping and wardrobe management.

What football team do you barrack for?

I have taken to following Carlton, as they were playing Richmond at the first AFL match I saw, which was also my first visit to the MCG, back in 2013. Sadly, they were defeated.

What is your favourite Melbourne restaurant?

So many to choose from, but I've been particularly impressed with Di Stasio Citta on Spring Street.



Patrick says: 'The photo was taken in Madeira on the PR6 Levada das 25 Fontes / Levada do Risco walk route – really scenic walking country!'



IF YOU'RE BACK BY DECEMBER POP INTO THE CORNER SHOP AND BRING ME A CHRISTMAS PUDDING.



President's Tree-Stump



Another three months have passed since my last tree-stump, and much has happened in that time.

It was a very sad time when we learned of Ann Morris's passing. Ann and Hugh had been very active members of the club over many years. Ann passed away peacefully, and very unexpectedly, while interstate on holidays.

On a much happier note it is good to report that Andrew Gibson has been seen on recent walks, and we look forward to his continuing participation in club events.

Thankfully lockdowns are well behind us, and although the pandemic is still with us, spring has now sprung and we are able to enjoy the warmer weather and no masks. I was recently walking in a State Forest west of Bendigo, where the wattle trees were in full bloom and the birds were all singing and getting ready to nest. What a warming, lovely sight.

I have noticed that our numbers have been lower than in recent times on some of our walks. As I pointed out in the previous *Tracknotes*, we are led by volunteers who all put a great deal of time into the organisation of the club, and particularly into the walks program. All of the

walks are pre-walked to ensure they are safe, enjoyable and suitable for our members.

It would be very helpful for the planners to have as much feedback, and any new ideas, as to whether our walks are suitable, interesting, too long or too short. Should we continue our Sunday walks or concentrate on midweek walks?

It is only six months until our AGM, and I would urge all members to consider if they could help out on the general committee or as walks leaders, so that our club can continue to go from strength to strength.

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

Neil Hart-Smith

President
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Vale – Ann Morris

19-4-1946 – 24-7-2022

Ann Rosalind Ballantine spent her early life in Dandenong and attended Korowa Anglican Girls' School for several years. On finishing school she worked for Sleigh's, the shipping and oil company.

Ann met her future husband, Hugh Morris, at Brighton Young Liberals, and not long after they became engaged she unfortunately contracted TB, and so spent several months in the Kingston Sanatorium. From her bed she planned their entire wedding as well as being occupied with craft work. John Isaac is still wearing the sheepskin moccasins she made for him while an inpatient there!

Ann and Hugh were married in 1970 and three lovely sons ensued – Simon, Antony and Nicholas – and as the years went by the boys all married and Ann became the very proud grandmother of 10 grandchildren.

It was Ann who first introduced Layton and me to the Old Scotch Bushwalking Club more than 25 years ago. I remember our first walk was to Powelltown. Both Ann and Hugh (who died approximately three years ago) loved the bushwalking club and became very involved, not only attending and leading walks both midweek and on Sundays, but also generously opening their home for afternoon tea at the completion of a nearby walk. Many

of us will remember Ann's famous chocolate cake and florentines on some of those occasions!

Ann was also a member of several other clubs, such as a local book group and the Brighton Antique Club, to name a couple. Travel was her other great love apart from family, and she and Hugh enjoyed some wonderful holidays in many parts of the world, as well as joining us in our little AVans to Cobram each year.

Even after Hugh died Ann bravely travelled on her own, driving quite long distances to reach her destination.

Vale Ann: a good friend to many who will be greatly missed.

CHRISTINE MOSS



Our midweek walks

Docklands in midwinter

IAN HANSEN

Twelve hardy souls braved the perils of a deadly Melbourne winter and met at North Melbourne railway station before striking off on a walk that was intended to finish at Station Pier, Port Melbourne.

Initially, we walked through the streets of West Melbourne – stopping for a few minutes outside Festival Hall, to relive some memorable pop music concerts and sporting contests from the past. We then walked to the Moonee Ponds Creek Trail and followed it towards Docklands and, eventually, the Bolte Bridge.

After viewing the seemingly uninhabited remains of Docklands retail and entertainment precinct, we made our way down Harbour Esplanade to an old railway storage shed which now houses the Fox Classic Car Collection.

This is an amazing personal car collection, which has been assembled by Lindsay Fox. It contains many rare



Under the freeway, with Ian and Richard Piesse leading.

and exotic vehicles – the main marques that were on display being Porsche, Ferrari, Rolls-Royce, Mercedes-Benz and Jaguar. My personal favourite was a 1937 Mercedes Cabriolet that belonged to Hitler's Foreign Minister, Joachim Von Ribbentrop. Apparently the Allies commandeered the vehicle at the end of World War II as they felt that he would have no further use for it following his conviction at the Nuremberg Trials.

We had proposed to cross the river and follow the light rail reserve to Port Melbourne, however the weather was particularly unappealing when we left the auto museum, so we adjourned to Southern Cross station for lunch and then dispersed to the suburbs.



Ian Hansen explains things.



Eastern yellow robin



The Fox Classic Car Collection at Collins Street, Docklands

Our midweek walks

Enjoyable walk, spiced with a bit of history

RICHARD PUGSLEY

With drizzly rain easing, our group of seven walkers set off from Emerald on 20 July for the 7km walk to Cockatoo along the Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail.

Initially we passed by Pepi's Land, a large dogs off-leash park with wetlands and recreational facilities, with the usually expansive view unfortunately obscured by the heavy mist.

Crossing over the Beaconsfield Emerald Road we entered Nobelius Heritage Park. Rich in history, it is the only nationally significant nursery collection in Australia that is housed in the same grounds in which it was developed. Some 63 acres (25.5 ha), it was purchased in 1886 by Carl Axel Nobelius, who developed it into a thriving business, shipping plants around the world in the early



Richard Pugsley checks the route map.

the line was officially closed on 30 April 1954 the site fell into disrepair, but was officially reopened on 18 October 1998, although Puffing Billy does not normally stop there.

Moving on through the forest we caught a fleeting glimpse of some eastern yellow robins, one of some 17 bird species inhabiting the area. We took a short detour down Blue Track, where we enjoyed a good view of Wright Trestle Bridge, with its 10 spans carrying the line over a deep gully.

From there we proceeded the last few kilometres into Cockatoo, passing by the Ash Wednesday Bushfire Education Centre, located in an old kindergarten, itself a part of the Ash Wednesday history. On Ash Wednesday, 16 February 1983, fire exploded into Cockatoo at about 7.30pm. As the sirens sounded, many townsfolk, mainly women, children and the elderly, fled to the kinder for sanctuary. When the flames swept across them and the building filled with smoke, they lay on the floor with wet towels over their heads, while brave firefighters climbed onto the roof to ensure their safety.

Our pace suddenly quickened as the finishing line approached, briskly walking uphill to catch a departing bus for our return journey, with rain starting to fall as we pulled into Emerald. All in all it was a very enjoyable day, passing through some rich and varied forest.



Crossing the Puffing Billy railway line.

20th century, but unfortunately collapsing with the advent of war in 1914. Today the park houses Emerald Museum together with a significant nursery plant collection.

With the Puffing Billy railway skirting the park, we paused at the Nobelius Siding and Packing Shed, formerly serving as a stop on the railway from which trees were dispatched. Perfectly timed, we were able to wave to passengers as Puffing Billy passed by on its journey to Emerald Lake.

Approaching Emerald Lake Park with its rich ecosystem – fungi, tree ferns, leafy foliage, parrots, swamp wallabies etc. – our path was surrounded on each side by two species of impressive towering tree ferns, the soft tree fern and the rough tree fern.

We arrived at Emerald Lake, where we stopped for lunch, and we were pleased to see that the mist had cleared and patches of blue sky were visible. We were surrounded by a constant stream of tame rosellas and purple swamp hens, on the lookout for any crumbs falling at our feet.

After lunch we moved on to Wright Forest Bushland Reserve, some 400 acres (162 ha) and home to more than 70 species of plants, with eucalyptus trees native to the area taking up a large part. We passed by Wright Station on the Puffing Billy line, which opened on 24 October 1904 as part of the Gembrook railway line. When



Patrick Persaud and Richard Pugsley leading.

Our midweek walks

Walking along the Darebin Creek Trail

RICHARD PIESSE

Our last midweek walk for the months of winter, on 25 August – along the northern section of the Darebin Creek Trail – commenced at the Thomastown railway station, in real ‘mizzly’ wintry weather.

The first approximately 2.5km traversed suburban streets, settled in the 1960s by migrants mainly from Mediterranean countries, before we reached the Darebin Creek Valley, at a point more than 20km north from where Sonia Gilderdale’s walk in April started.

A wonderful expanse of open land has been retained in this valley – probably sheep grazed and dairy farms existed before the suburban expansion this far north of Melbourne.

A forced detour off the Darebin Creek Trail around bridgeworks at Childs Road took us into a section of Mill Park with streets named after many high profile sporting stars. The houses here looked more like 1990s and 2000s vintage.



Walkers gather at the Thomastown railway station

By the time our party of 11 walkers stopped for lunch, the grey skies had mostly disappeared, and the sun even appeared. There were many wattles in flower at the lunch spot.

After lunch we walked beside the Henderson Creek Drain, up to the Mernda railway line, which we followed towards the Epping railway station and the end of the walk.



Richard leads the walk through the mizzle



Weak sunlight took the place of the mizzle late in the walk

From Page 5

Puffing Billy approaching Nobelius Siding.



Our weekend walks

A varied and interesting walk in gold rush country

PAM MCLEOD

On 19 June, 13 keen walkers drove to the historic gold rush era town of Creswick in Central Victoria. It was a cold day, but luckily there was no rain, as we all set off for the Creswick Heritage Walk – an 8.5km circuit walk from the town centre.

This walk displays, in one package, a number of the best natural and cultural heritage features of the town, many of which formerly could only be visited separately, and by car.

We began by visiting the University of Melbourne's Creswick campus, the School of Forestry (established in 1910) and admiring the grand Tudor architecture of the old Creswick Hospital (built in 1863) and the gracious Tremearne House, built in 1881.

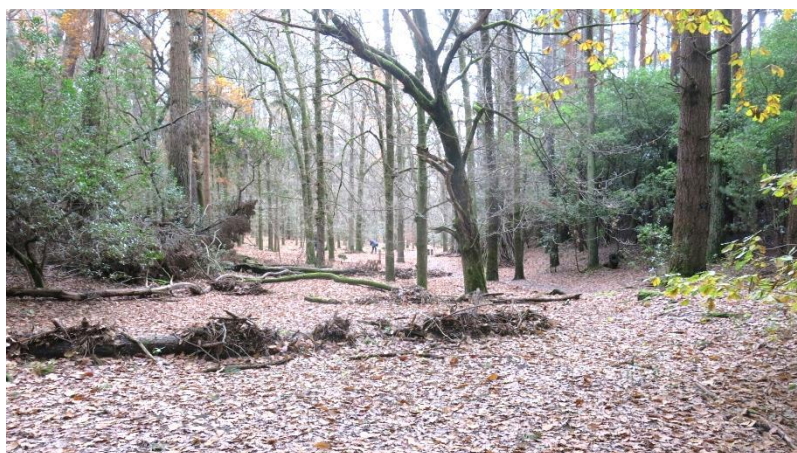
From the campus we linked with the Landcare trail on Parks Victoria land. The trail featured coloured tiles with environmental messages made by school students.

A large wooden sculpture of the pioneer forester John La Gerche signals the start of the 2 km long La Gerche trail. When La Gerche came to Creswick as a forest bailiff in 1882, he found a barren lunar landscape. Three decades of gold mining had stripped the foothill forests bare.

In 1883 he embarked on the immense task of restocking the forest. Over the years he experimented with a range of eucalypts, pines and introduced species – he planted each tree by hand. He would often sleep in the forest at night to prevent the theft of young trees, and stop illegal wood cutters and wattle bark strippers (selling to local tanneries). It was a daunting task at a time when trees were regarded as a resource to be



La Gerche



Through Oak Gully

exploited and forestry, as a science, scarcely existed. One section of the track has all sorts of conifers, and here we saw many noisy flocks of yellow tailed black cockatoos – pine cones are a favourite food.

In 1887 La Gerche selected sheltered Sawpit Gully as the site for a nursery and plantation growing exotic, ornamental, and commercial tree species. The gully's south-facing slopes were suitable for pines, and the gully floor was suitable for oaks. The 120-year-old Oak Gully is a highlight of this walk.



The conifers attract yellow-tailed black cockatoos.

We then walked south, uphill, through a recently harvested radiata pine plantation to the windswept lookout on Brackenbury Hill.

Wending our way downhill, we took a lunch break before reaching tranquil St George's Lake. This was originally a mining dam for the Creswick State Battery, which crushed quartz for gold well into this century.

We headed around the lake's southern fringe to the concrete spillway and then followed the Goldfields Eureka Track back into the town.

A varied and interesting walk was completed by coffee and cake in one of the town's excellent cafes.



Next to St George's Lake

Our weekend walks

Walking at Chewton in Central Victoria

RICHARD PIESSE

Sunday 10 July was a perfect day for walking – cool, but sunny – as 10 walkers met at the 'pop-up' coffee shop beside the Chewton post office.

We drove approximately 3km to the Eureka Reef and mine site. A huge quartz reef was found here in the 1850s and mined out in a couple of decades. The separate mine dates from 1871 and was worked for about seven years.

The Eureka Reef circuit went past several old dams adjacent to batteries, miners' huts, cyanide tanks, tailings dumps and a hillside flue (which was a chimney constructed on the surface of a hillside).



Richard speaks to the group at the start of the walk.



Ruins of a miner's hut



Pausing during the Eureka Reef circuit

There was evidence of mining operations which existed during the depressions of the 1890s and the 1930s, which provided work for many unemployed members of the community. There is also a 1950s mine shaft and adits (nearly-horizontal passages or tunnels that provide access to and from underground workings in a tunnel).

The water race through the area is a side channel off the Coliban Main Channel from Malmsbury to Bendigo.

We walked further south into the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park, passing more mine shafts, dams and batteries, down to Cobblers Gully, where high-pressure sluicing occurred – again during the depression times.

The forest we walked through has been 'harvested' (cut down) many times, beginning in the 1850s – very few sizeable trees have survived to 2022.

It was a great group on the walk, and the sunny day topped it off.



Sunny but cool conditions prevailed during the walk

Our weekend walks

Anglesea weekend walk: wetlands, heathlands and coast

MURRAY HOOPER

On Sunday 14 August a small group of six members met at Coogarah Park in Anglesea. It was great weather for walking as we headed out through the wetlands, slowly climbing into the heathlands that surround Anglesea.

A wonderful selection of heath, wattles, hakeas and grass trees were in bloom. The rehabilitation work around the old coal mine came into view. It will take many years of average rainfall to fill the huge old open cut.

Lunch was taken on the patio of Murray and Di's new abode with its bushland outlook. Thanks go to Di for the tea, coffee and delicious Boston bun.



Murray leads the walkers through the wetlands

After lunch we headed down to the coast at Point Roadknight, where a surfer on a motorised surfboard demonstrated his skills. Picking up the surf coast walk with its glorious sea views we returned to the cars, completing the 13km with relative ease.



Wattles were blooming in abundance along the tracks



Murray and Di's new home at Anglesea



A motorised surfboard rider at Point Roadknight



The Grampians

Tackling the Grampians Peaks Trail

With a group of five friends, club member **RON FREDERICK** recently completed the new 160 kilometre Grampians Peaks Trail. The trail opened last November, and covers 160km of the interior of the Grampians National Park.

This was a pack-carrying walk taking 13 days – many of them a long half-day. Most of the party were not capable of carrying food for the whole trip, so we used the Grampians Peaks Walking Co to put in drums, usually containing two days' food, and gas for our stoves. These drums were placed at locations where the walking track crosses public roads.

There are 12 new campsites, with wooden tent platforms. Most campsites have a modern cooking shelter, usually with a magnificent view.

This is not a walk for beginners, or the unfit. There is much ridge-line walking, often on bare rock. As a consequence there is a danger of dehydration in hot weather: there is usually only one or two spots per day where reliable water is available. Likewise in cold weather, when snow is a

possibility, there is a risk of hypothermia. For those who are not strong walkers, I recommend they do the walk in one or two-day stages.

The scenery is unforgettable. Walkers will also be impressed by efforts of the track builders to construct steps using local rock. There are some sections where more track construction is required. At present on those sections you have to spot the next yellow triangle track marker.

I am happy to pass on further tips to anyone contemplating this walk. There is also information on the Parks Victoria website, including the process for booking campsites. I can be contacted on 0418 994 841, or email: ronfrederick29@icloud.com.



One of the 12 new campsites, with its wooden tent platform



Ron Frederick (left) takes a break during the Grampians Peaks Trail walk.



The spectacular view from one of the cooking shelters

The Old Scotch Music and Drama Club's 2022 production

The Scarlet Pimpernel Geoffrey McComas Theatre, Scotch College

After a COVID-induced three year break, OSMaD is about to hit the boards with its 2022 production, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. It's an action adventure musical based on Baroness Orczy's 20th century novel.

Set at the height of the Reign of Terror during the French Revolution, it tells the story of Sir Percy Blakeney, an English aristocrat, who, having been betrayed by his French wife, becomes the heroic and selfless Scarlet Pimpernel. Together with his six closest friends, Sir Percy performs daring exploits as he rescues others from the guillotine.

The season will run from 8-17 December, with a clubs night scheduled for Thursday 8 December. The club will email booking and other details to our members once they are known.

OSMaD
presents

OLD SCOTCH COLLEGIANS ASSOCIATION

The Scarlet Pimpernel

a musical by
Frank Wildhorn
& Nan Knighton

Geoffrey McComas Theatre
Dec. 08th - 17th

The club's 2022 program

The dates for our 2022 walks are final, but the location of nominated walks may need to be changed.

2022	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Feature	Walk (Proposed)	Leader
Public Hol.										
New Year						1	2	New Year		
Jan	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Jan	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
Jan	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		Fitzroy Gardens	L Symington
Australia Day	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
Feb	31	1	2	3	4	5	6			
Feb	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		Warburton	J Ward
Feb	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Valentine's Day		
Feb	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		Annivers Rail Trail	J Walpole
Mar	28	1	2	3	4	5	6			
Mar	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
Labour Day	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		Phillip Is	N Hart-Smith
Mar	21	22	23	24	25	26	27			
Mar	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	Day save ends	Brunswick Mt Macedon	C Moss R&T Morris
Apr	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
Easter	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Easter		
Easter	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	Easter	Fairfield	S Gilderdale
Anzac Day	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	Anzac Day		
May	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Mother's Day		
May	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		Warburton	J Ward
May	16	17	18	19	20	21	22			
May	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		Kew	C Dynon
May	30	31	1	2	3	4	5			
Queen's B'day	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
Jun	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		Docklands Creswick	I Hansen P&N McLeod
Jun	20	21	22	23	24	25	26			
Jun	27	28	29	30	1	2	3			
Jul	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		Chewton	R Piesse
Jul	11	12	13	14	15	16	17			
Jul	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		Emerald	R Pugsley
Jul	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
Aug	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
Aug	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		Anglsea	M&D Hooper
Aug	15	16	17	18	19	20	21			
Aug	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		Thomastown	R Piesse
Aug	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	Father's Day		
Sep	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		Boneo Park	M Ashton
Sep	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
Sep	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		Rosstown Rail	J Stewardson
Sep	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	Day save start		
Oct	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		Kyneton	E Kaye
Oct	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
Oct	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		***	W LeGet
Oct	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
Cup Day	31	1	2	3	4	5	6		Rawson	T Morris
Nov	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Rememb Day		
Nov	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		Cranbourne	J Ward
Nov	21	22	23	24	25	26	27			
Nov	28	29	30	1	2	3	4			
Dec	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		Beaumaris	C Moss
Dec	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
Dec	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Christmas		
Christmas	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	New Year		

31 = School Holidays = Bushwalks

30-Apr-22

