



OLD SCOTCH BUSHWALKING CLUB

Tracknotes

September 2025

Number 113

OLD SCOTCH
BUSHWALKING CLUB

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

A WINTER WALK AT JELLS PARK



A passer-by kindly took this shot of the six participants in a most enjoyable late winter walk along the Dandenong Creek Trail on 28 August.

Left to right: Julie Walpole, Sonia Gilderdale, David Ashton, Peter Williams, Laurine Symington, and the walk leader, Ian Mc Michael.

The future of our midyear lunch

The club's midyear lunch at Box Hill Golf Club on Sunday 6 July was a most enjoyable event, well organised by Julie Walpole with help from Laurine Symington and Ian Hansen ... but only 27 members booked for it. Granted many of our members were on overseas holidays, and it did take place in the middle of a cold Melbourne winter, but that small attendance was puzzling.

It's quite a lot fewer than last year's event, which attracted 42 bookings, although that was for a special celebration – the club's 30th anniversary.

The committee is keen to know if our members wish us to continue scheduling a midyear lunch. Please let them know your thoughts by email or during our remaining 2025 walks.

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Ten questions – Harvey Liebmann

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

Since February 2001.

How did you find out about the club?

David Tolstrup mentioned the club to me, and asked me to join him on a walk at Phillip Island.

What are your links with Scotch College?

I attended Scotch from 1956 to 1965, and my son, Clive, was at Scotch in the '90s.

What inspired you to take up bushwalking?

My first occupation was as a farm manager, and I have always had an affinity with the land. I have also always enjoyed the tranquility of the bush.

Is there a walk within Australia you have always wanted to tackle?

I have completed the Overland Track in Tasmania, Mount Feathertop in Victoria, and I completed 10 marathon walks, as a guest of the Essendon Bushwalking Club. I would like to tackle the Heysen Trail in South Australia.

What is your dream holiday in Australia?

Last year I completed a road trip from Kilmore in Victoria to Wyndham in the Northern Territory, across to Broome, down to Port Hedland, across to Mount Newman, down through the goldfields, across the Nullarbor, then back up into the Flinders Ranges. Next year I'm planning a trip to Margaret River in Western Australia.

What are your hobbies and interests, other than bushwalking?

I love art, but I don't have enough wall for artworks.



Harvey is pictured on the dam wall at Lake Argyle, WA, last year.

What is your occupation?

I have had a wonderful and varied working life! I attended Marcus Oldham College in Geelong, doing a course for a Diploma of Farm Management. With my wife, Jude, I purchased a large retail and manufacturing saddlery in Victoria, and I also worked at the Kilmore Racecourse as the gardener. Since 2006 I have worked as a Security Officer in a gatehouse situation at Allen's Confectionery factory in Broadford, where they make glucose products such as snakes, etc.

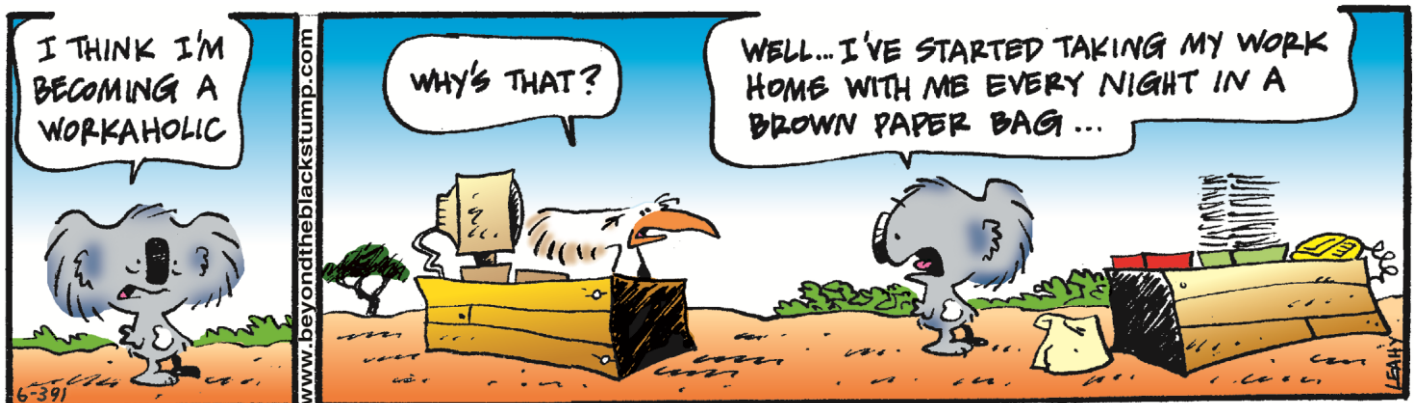
At this point in time, I'm not thinking about retirement!

What football team do you barrack for?

I am a paid-up and passionate Hawthorn supporter!

What is your favourite restaurant?

I have only eaten in the country. I like Fowles Restaurant at Avenel.





President's Tree-Stump



Many thanks to Julie Walpole for organising our midwinter lunch at the Box Hill Golf Club, where I was honoured to be able to present Graham Stanley with Honorary Life Membership of the Old Scotch Bushwalking Club. Graham is a founding member of our club.

It was also good to catch up with a number of our members who are no longer able to join us for walks. The Christmas 'walk and dine' presents another opportunity for this to happen, and I look forward to all our members being able to join us then.

My thanks also to all our walk leaders who explore, organise and take us to beautiful parts of Melbourne and Victoria that we would otherwise never see.

At the fast approaching Marysville weekend we will offer an easy walk as well as a longer one. After booking out our allocation, we have been provided with a couple of extra rooms, so come and join us.

The weekends next year will be at Bright in autumn and Anglesea in spring. Both are fabulous locations providing many and varied opportunities for walking.

See you on the track.

Murray Hooper
President
0418 742 325

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COME FROM AWAY

OSMaD preview night for *Come From Away*

The Old Scotch Music and Drama Club's 2025 production is *Come From Away*, which runs from 5-14 December in the Geoffrey McComas Theatre at Scotch College. Our members are invited to attend a preview night of the show on Thursday 4 December at a special discount ticket price.

Come From Away tells the true story of how the small town of Gander, Newfoundland, welcomed the world when it became the unexpected host to thousands of stranded passengers after the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks in America. The show has been a huge hit in London and on Broadway.

Here is the link to book for the preview night on Thursday 4 December: <https://events.humanitix.com/>. When booking, indicate that you are a bushwalking club member, and our club will receive a \$10 rebate for each member attending that night. OSCA will offer each club member a drink on arrival.

Our midweek walks

Warringal Parklands on a sunny July day

RICHARD PUGSLEY

Following the prolonged suspension of rail services on the Hurstbridge line, which required a second change to the walk plan, seven walkers assembled at the Yarra Flats car park on Wednesday 16 July to commence the Warringal Parklands River Gum walk.

Taking the Main Yarra Trail, we passed under the Banksia Street bridge, soon passing by the impressive Streton Park Retirement Living Complex and stopping a little further on to admire the St John's Riverside Community Garden.

Situated at Salt Creek's meeting with the Yarra River, this sustainable food garden is a joint venture between the Banyule Anglican Church and the local community, with monthly gardening get-togethers for sharing seedlings and new planting experiences.



Six of the seven walkers – Richard took the photo



The St John's Riverside Community Garden.

Continuing on through the Banyule Flats Reserve in glorious sunshine, we spotted a couple of rabbits and some kangaroos basking in the sunshine, before we left the trail at Banyule Road and walked along McCrae Road to pick up a trail alongside Banyule Creek. Here we encountered a luminous blue discolouration in the stream, which was reported the following day by the Melbourne press. It was apparently caused by a dust suppressant used for the North-East Link road project being swept into the waterway.



Kangaroos basking in the sun at Banyule Flats Reserve

Crossing over Banyule Road we entered a linear 3.42 hectare reserve running from Viewbank to Heidelberg, following the River Gum Walk, a shared bike and walking trail running through the centre. At a high point along the walk, we were able to admire in the distance the impressive Banyule Homestead, which we had passed closely by previously, but had been unable to see as it is set back high above on a steep sided tree-laden embankment.

The house was built in 1846 in the Elizabethan gothic revival style for Port Phillip pioneer Joseph Hawdon, and designed by the architect John Gill – a rare example of a pre-gold rush house that has survived into current times.

At the end of the River Gum Walk we re-entered the Warringal Parklands, passing by the Old Shire Offices before stopping for lunch in the Possum Hollow Park Playground, where we were able to enjoy a welcome coffee from its on-site café. From there we walked the remaining kilometre or so back to the Yarra Flatlands car park.

Our midweek walks

Lyrebirds as ‘farmers’



The luminously blue waters of Banyule Creek



The lyrebirds of the wet forests of south-eastern Australia engage in extraordinary behaviour – tilling the soil to create habitats for their prey to flourish. This is the subject of a report in a recent edition of *Australian Geographic* magazine.

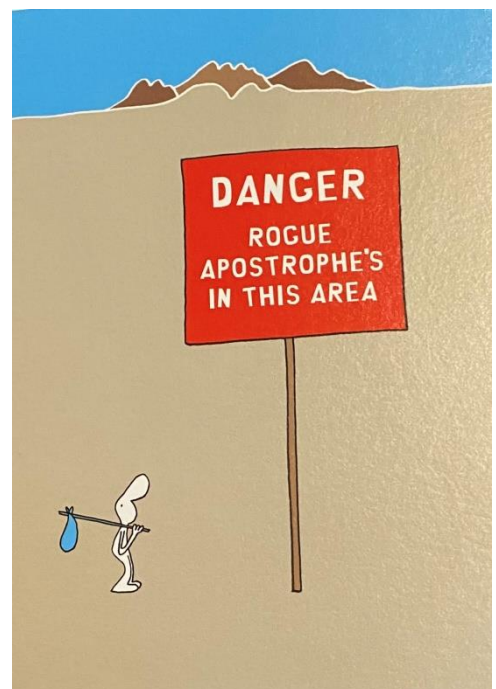
The superb lyrebird scratches through the leaf litter and topsoil while foraging, using its powerful claws to search for invertebrates such as worms, centipedes, spiders, crustaceans and insects.

The report said that this activity loosens the soil, allowing more air and water to infiltrate, and speeding up the decomposition of organic material. This creates an ideal habitat for the invertebrates on which it feeds – ensuring they grow large and ensuring the lyrebirds’ future buffet.

The report concluded that lyrebirds essentially ‘farm’ their food resource by cultivating the forest floor. This behaviour is rarely seen in the non-human world. It extends across millions of hectares, potentially delivering far-reaching benefits to forest ecosystems.



The impressive Banyule Homestead (1846), seen above the rooftops



Our midweek walks

Nortons Park to Jells Park

IAN MCMICHAEL

On Thursday 28 August, a typical Melbourne winter day of penetrating wind and forecast showers, six keen walkers met at Nortons Park to walk to Jells Park via the Dandenong Creek Trail.

Dandenong Creek starts on the western side of the Dandenong Ranges near Olinda, and flows to the Mordialloc Creek and then Patterson River into Port Philip Bay, a total of 53km. The Dandenong Creek Trail follows the Dandenong Creek for most of the 53km. During our walk we covered about 3km of the trail in both directions.



Peter Williams, Laurine Symington, Julie Walpole, Sonia Gilderdale

Leaving the Nortons Lane carpark we proceeded through the dog activity area, dogs off leash but under owner supervision, past a closed off BioLink Project area (a COVID era project) and descended a small hill to join the Dandenong Creek Trail. The descent was past several beautifully flowering wattle trees and numerous eucalyptus trees among others.



Julie Walpole and Sonia Gilderdale

Peter Williams makes a point



The six walkers

In this section the trail runs along the east side of the creek beside bush that was well inhabited by birdlife. On the east side of the trail is private land with views across to the Dandenong Ranges.

Nearing Jells Park, the trail crosses the creek to the west side. As we had made good time until now, we decided to walk clockwise around Jells Lake. This took us close to the lake island which is inhabited by hundreds of Australian white Ibis, also known as 'trash birds'. In this section we also saw yellow crested cockatoos, purple swamp hens, ducks and many other unidentified birds. Leaving the lake area, we proceeded to the park café for lunch and a coffee.

After a leisurely lunch sitting in an area partially protected from the wind, we commenced the return journey back to the cars at Nortons Park. Near the start of the ascent up the small hill, we detoured into Shepherd's Bush to look for owls that had been seen by Laurine and Julie on a previous visit to the area. None were seen and it was concluded that it was probably too early in the year – i.e., not yet the breeding season.

After a relaxing break from city life, covering about 8.5km, we all thought how lucky Melburnians were to have such an accessible and pleasant section of bushland so close to suburbia.



Our midweek walks



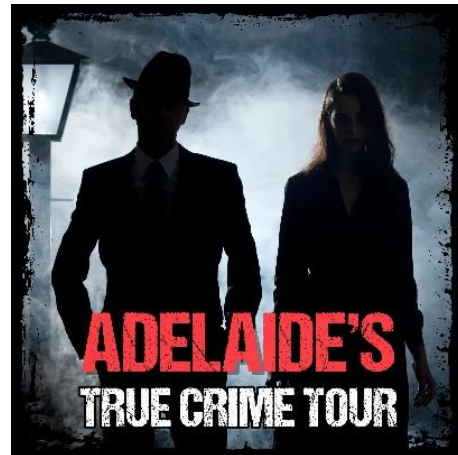
The trouble with the trails ...

The US Forest Service has posted some of the online complaints made by trail users:

- *'The coyotes made too much noise last night and kept me awake. Please eradicate these annoying animals.'*
- *'Trails need to be reconstructed. Please avoid building trails that go uphill.'*
- *'Need more signs to keep area pristine.'*
- *'Chairlifts need to be in some places so that we can get to wonderful views without having to hike to them.'*
- *'Reflectors need to be placed on trees every 50 feet so people can hike at night without flashlights.'*
- *'A McDonald's would be nice at the trailhead.'*
- *'Too many rocks in the mountains.'*
- *'The places where trails do not exist are not well marked.'*

(Item credit: *Great Walks* magazine)

A sinister new twist on the 'city of churches'



Next time you're in Adelaide, you might want to take a tour that hardly seems to fit with the calm, ecclesiastical reputation of the city of churches. In a city known for its serene streets as well its plethora of churches, this tour opens the door to a much darker and more sinister legacy.

The website says the tour 'explores infamous crime scenes, unravels chilling tales of murder, mystery and mayhem, and provides a unique insight into the city's past'.

A writer from the *Herald Sun* recently took this tour – 'Adelaide's True Crime Tour' – and was slightly taken aback that in the city of churches the first stop was actually a church – St Peter's Cathedral, no less; the

explanation was that the cathedral used to be attended by a family which is now the subject of an insulin-poisoning case.

The tour paused at the corner of North Terrace and King William Street, where the guide detailed two of South Australia's most notorious serial killer cases – the Snowtown murders (12 murders) of the 1990s, and the 'Family Murders' of the 1970s and '80s.

A century ago Hindley Street was a strip housing plenty of brothels and pubs, and as the tour guide commented, back then the city's slogan might well have been 'the most pubs and prostitutes' rather than 'city of churches'. More information: www.adelaidetruecrimetours.com

Our weekend walks

A good time had by all at Box Hill Golf Club

JULIE WALPOLE

The club's Midyear Luncheon was held at the Box Hill Golf Club on Sunday 6 July. Although the attendance was lower than at such events in the past, the 27 members who attended found it a very enjoyable occasion.

The staff at the Box Hill Golf Club always look after us very well. A complimentary welcome drink on arrival was very well received. The meal itself consisted of main course and dessert which was delicious and served quickly and competently by happy, friendly staff.

Our newly-elected President, Murray Hooper, addressed the group between courses. He then presented Graham Stanley with his Honorary Life Membership certificate in recognition of his exceptional work for the club over many years. Graham gave a very entertaining acceptance speech in his usual humorous style.

Murray also informed the group that a certificate for Honorary Life Membership for Richard Piesse, which was awarded prior to Richard's passing last year, had been presented to Richard's two daughters earlier in the



Diners mingle before the lunch.

year. At the lunch, David Ashton read out the citation for Richard's Honorary Life Membership.

As the luncheon wound down, guests lingered over tea and coffee, chatting and laughing in a relaxed atmosphere. Many commented on how the smaller gathering made it easier to catch up and connect with familiar faces.

(Editor's note: many thanks to Julie Walpole for organising this most enjoyable lunch, and to Ian Hansen and Laurine Symington who helped Julie.)



Christine Moss, John Moore, Layton Moss and Margaret Moore



Carolyn Koger and Micky Ashton



Ians Hansen and Marchment



Brian and Laurine Symington and Julie Walpole

Our weekend walks



Murray Hooper presents Graham Stanley with his Honorary Life Membership certificate



Jan Ward, Celia Dynon and Robyn and Ian Hansen



Graham Stanley and Lawry Koger

insert brain here



BIRDS OF THE AFRICAN SAVANNA

by woodsy

insert brain here



by woodsy

Our weekend walks

A short walk, but a merry one

NEIL HART-SMITH

On the very cool but sunny morning of Sunday 10 August, 12 walkers gathered at the picnic ground at the end of Meyers Road, Bacchus Marsh, to walk along the old water course next to the Werribee River, a walk of about 5.5km. I am advised that this is one of our shortest, but no less interesting, walks.

The aqueduct was constructed in the mid 1920s to supply water to the residents of Bacchus Marsh for their houses and vegetable market gardens. All of the concrete and steel reinforcing rods had to be carted in by horse and hand – quite an engineering feat.



Neil speaks at the start of the walk.

Our walk came to an abrupt end when we reached a point on the track where to have continued would have necessitated hanging onto a steel cable to cross a near vertical part of the path. A vote was taken – do we proceed or not? The 'nos' won and we retraced our steps back to the cars and to a 'discovery park' where a variety of Australian native trees had been planted.



A rocky stretch of path

Apart from the other walkers we were lucky to see a pair of wedge-tailed eagles soaring high in the sky, a koala resting in a gumtree way above the river, and a kangaroo which was warily watching the walkers encroaching onto his territory. During our lunch break an alpaca also kept his eyes on us.

During the last ice age the gorge had been filled with a glacier and the rock formations caused by the upheaval of the earth's crust were truly amazing to see.

After lunch the group all thanked their leader for a very good walk – even if it was a little short – and we all headed off to Bacchus Marsh for a well-earned coffee.



Walking on the north side of the gorge was cool in the shade.

As we started, I was amazed by the large numbers of other walkers out for a stroll in the bush. Car parks were hard to find. As we walked along the track, I noted that we were on the south side of the gorge and so in the shadow of the sun, which encouraged the team to walk faster to warm up. The aqueduct has fallen into disrepair through non-use and has been filled with falling rocks and landslides. This made an excellent walking path.

As we proceeded it was interesting to see how the engineers had allowed for water running off the hill above the aqueduct to be diverted over the channel, and so not to pollute the water in the aqueduct.



An alpaca kept an eye on our walkers as they enjoyed lunch.

Our weekend walks



Werribee George – south side

A sunny spot for lunch



New Whitsundays walking track

Great views of the Whitsundays' turquoise waters are in prospect for hikers tackling a new multi-day hiking experience on Queensland's Whitsunday Island.

Developed in consultation with the local Ngaro people, the 32km track offers self-guided and luxury guided options, with accommodation at architecturally- designed low-impact walkers' camps.

The route links Whitehaven Beach and Hills Inlet, following the coastline as well as entering the island's interior. The track was scheduled to be open at midyear. More information: www.parks.desi.qld.gov.au



The club's 2025 program

	2025	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun		Walk (Proposed)	Leader
Public Hol.									Feature		
New Year	Jan			1	2	3	4	5	New Year		
	Jan	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
	Jan	13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
	Jan	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	Australia Day		
Australia Day	Jan	27	28	29	30	31	1	2			
	Feb	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Altona	Neil Hart-Smith	
	Feb	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Valentine's Day		
	Feb	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	St kilda	Jenny Stewardson	
	Feb	24	25	26	27	28	1	2			
	Mar	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Labour Day	Mar	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Blackburn	Julie Walpole	
	Mar	17	18	19	20	21	22	23			
	Mar	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Horsham	Murray Hooper	
	Apr	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	Day Sav Ends		
	Apr	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
Easter	Apr	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Easter		
Anzac Day	Apr	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	Anzac Day	Yarra/Shrine	L Symington
	Apr	28	29	30	1	2	3	4			
	May	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Mother's Day		
	May	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Bridgewater Bay	N Hinshelwood	
	May	19	20	21	22	23	24	25			
	May	26	27	28	29	30	31	1			
	Jun	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Bayside	J&J Isaac	
King's B'day	Jun	9	10	11	12	13	14	15			
	Jun	16	17	18	19	20	21	22			
	Jun	23	24	25	26	27	28	29			
	Jul	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	Box Hill Golf Club	I Hansen	
	Jul	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
	Jul	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Rosanna	R Pugsley	
	Jul	21	22	23	24	25	26	27			
	Jul	28	29	30	31	1	2	3			
	Aug	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Werribee Gorge	Neil Hart-Smith	
	Aug	11	12	13	14	15	16	17			
	Aug	18	19	20	21	22	23	24			
	Aug	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Jells Park	M&I McMichael	
	Sep	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Father's Day		
	Sep	8	9	10	11	12	13	14			
	Sep	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Kyneton	S&G Stanley	
	Sep	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	AFL Grand Final		
	Sep	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	Day Save		
	Oct	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Eltham	Julie Walpole	
	Oct	13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
	Oct	20	21	22	23	24	25	26			
	Oct	27	28	29	30	31	1	2			
Cup Day	Nov	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Marysville	P&N McLeod	
	Nov	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Rememb Day		
	Nov	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	* * *	Liz Rand	
	Nov	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
	Dec	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Walk & Dine	H Hunwick	
	Dec	8	9	10	11	12	13	14			
	Dec	15	16	17	18	19	20	21			
Christmas	Dec	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	Christmas		
	Dec	29	30	31							
		31 =	School Holidays							15-Sep-25	