



OLD SCOTCH
BUSHWALKING CLUB

OLD SCOTCH BUSHWALKING CLUB

Tracknotes

September 2024

Number 109

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

Thirty years of great bushwalking celebrated in style



Galaxy S20 FE 5G
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Three of the club's four 'founding fathers' – Richard Piesse, Graham Stanley and Neil Hart-Smith – are shown cutting the club's 30th birthday cake during the celebratory lunch at the Box Hill Golf Club on Sunday 14 July.

Forty-two club members enjoyed a delicious two-course meal followed by a slice or two of the scrumptious orange/almond birthday cake. Graham Stanley stole the show with a colourful trip down memory lane, describing the club's early days.

Thanks go to lunch organiser Jenny Stewardson, who was supported by Rhonda McMurtrie and Laurine Symington. Jenny's article about the lunch begins on page 7.



*Find about
these
walkers on
page 12*

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Ten questions – Sue Stanley

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

I went on the very first 'unofficial' walk at Anakie near Geelong in 1994, which was before the club had actually started. Graham and I became inaugural members.

How did you find out about the club?

From an article in *Great Scot* in 1994.

What are your links with Scotch College?

Graham is an Old Boy as was his father, Lindsay, and our two sons Michael and David.

What is your dream walk within Australia?

The one we have just organised from Lyonville to Trentham. (I'd been dreaming of it for about a month, hoping it would be a fine sunny day (and it was) and that all would go well.)

What is your dream walk overseas?

The Cinque Terre – which is no longer a dream as we walked it in 2003 with friends John and Joyce Isaac (also members of the club) and Kath and Ian Maskiell. I would like to do some walks in New Zealand's South Island when we visit our son Michael and his family at Christmas.

What is your dream holiday in Australia or overseas?

I would like to go on the Ghan from Darwin to Adelaide, so we can stop at Coober Pedy.

What are your hobbies and interests, other than bushwalking?



Graham and I enjoy Scottish Country Dancing, which we have done for about 20 years. I also belong to a book club, Brighton Soroptimists, the Australiana Society and the Brighton Antique Club. I am interested in antiques and collect caster sugar shakers – I now have 45 (in my last member profile in 2003 I had 18). I also enjoy cooking and travelling and spending time with our grandchildren.

What was your occupation?

I was Executive Secretary of the Country Women's Association of Victoria until I retired in 2011.

What football team do you barrack for?

I'm not really interested in football, but chose Hawthorn, as my father barracked for them as he grew up in Hawthorn.

What is your favourite Melbourne restaurant?

One of my favourites is Hanoi Hannah, a Vietnamese restaurant in Elsternwick.

A photograph of the incredibly rare Scottish Hummingbird





President's Tree-Stump

One of the interesting things about living in Melbourne is that we have four distinct seasons – sometimes just in the one day! With global warming, it seems that our winters are becoming warmer than in the past, but it's still wonderful when we experience the first signs of spring and the days start to lengthen.

During our early spring walk on 8 September along the Coliban Main Channel, our nine walkers were certainly well aware that spring had sprung. The walk was organised by Richard Piesse and led on the day by Laurine Symington. Laurine reported to Richard that the walkers saw three different wattles, but Richard replied in his knowledgeable way that there were actually five different species of wattle in that area.

With those wattles and the other flora the group came across during that walk, there was no doubt that spring was making its presence felt.

You can read more about that walk in this issue, and there's also plenty of other good reading in this larger than normal edition, including an interesting article by Sonia Gilderdale about a visit she, Celia Dynon and Jan Ward paid to Norfolk Island in April.

The club has enjoyed other interesting walks since I last wrote to you, and included in that period was our wonderful thirtieth anniversary lunch at Box Hill Golf Club on 14 July. We enjoyed great food, spectacular

views of the golf club fairways, and the opportunity to celebrate a significant anniversary for our club. Many thanks to Jenny Stewardson, who worked hard to ensure the success of the lunch, and also to Rhonda McMurtrie and Laurine Symington for their support to Jenny.



There's still lots to come in 2024 – some really interesting walks, and of course our weekend away, to Maryborough, in November. Our weekends away are always popular and well attended, and I'm sure the Maryborough visit will be no exception.

It's timely to mention the Old Scotch Music and Drama club's 2024 production in early December, which this year is rather quirky – a musical, *The Addams Family*. Visions of the rather strange 1960s TV comedy come to mind. It will be interesting to see what OSMaD creates. There will be more information in due course about the OSCA clubs' night for this production.

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

Neil Hart-Smith

President

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*Englishman (to friend). "There goes that awful liar, who says he has climbed everything under the sun."
Friend. "Don't call him a liar. Rather say he has a great talent for exaggerating things that never happened."*

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Our midweek walks

Two creeks and two railway lines

JULIE WALPOLE

Our 27 June midweek walk was planned by Richard Piesse, but unfortunately he was not up to walking the 10km distance on the day, so I took his place as leader, aided by new member, Liz Rand.

Our group of six club members met at the Reservoir railway station on the Mernda Line which leaves the Hurstbridge Line at Clifton Hill and travels north past Northcote, Thornbury and Preston. We all had to catch the train, as our walk took us to another train line at Batman Station, one station past Coburg on the Upfield Line. Travelling on these two lines through places we had never heard of (e.g., Batman, Anstey, Jewel and Macaulay) was an interesting aspect of the walk.

It was also interesting to see some of the Reservoir area. There are some very inviting bakeries and cafes near the station, but we resisted the temptations and set off through suburban streets to Edwardes Lake Park, where we picked up the path along Edgars Creek. After leaving the park, the path took us past the Edgars Creek Wetlands with plenty of birdlife.



Starting at Reservoir station

We continued along the trail until we reached our lunch spot at the northern end of the Coburg Lake Reserve, with an attractive view overlooking the creek as it widens and enters the lake.

After lunch we walked up Gaffney Street, past the former Pentridge Prison (now a shopping centre and apartments) and stopped for a coffee before catching a train at Batman Station which took us back to the city.

We were very lucky with the weather, and although the temperature was quite low, it was sunny and there was no wind so it was a good day for walking, and we all enjoyed exploring areas that we had not visited previously. Thank you, Richard, for planning and organising this very pleasant walk.



Heading into Edwardes Lake Park

At Broadhurst Avenue we left the Edgars Creek Path and walked west to the end of the road where it meets the Merri Creek Trail. We crossed the creek and turned south along a well-maintained paved path. Merri Creek is very attractive, with many rocky areas and small rapids. On the far side there are some small factories, but the trees along the banks of the creek act as a screen in most areas.

We stopped for a break in an open green area where a path leads up to the local road and a park bench has been installed. On the paving around this bench, and also at a similar bench further along the trail, an artist named Father Marker (Tyson Savanah) has been employed to paint Australian birds and animals. They are very colourful and attractive so it was a good place to stop.



Merri Creek near Coburg Lake

Our midweek walks

A winter canal and beach walk

JOYCE ISAAC

On 24 July a group of 15 walkers gathered for a bayside beach walk. It was a cool cloudy day, with a brisk and chilly breeze.

We headed down along the Elwood Canal, a man-made waterway connecting the lower reaches of the Elster Creek with Port Phillip Bay. The upper reaches of the creek were originally a natural watercourse that ended in a wetland near the beach. The canal enters Port Phillip Bay at Point Ormond, the location of Victoria's first quarantine station, established in 1840.

Engineer and illustrious Old Scotch Collegian John Monash built six bridges across the canal between 1905 and 1907, of which two survive.



Joyce Isaac briefs the walkers prior to the start of the walk.

After a morning tea stop along the beach path, we continued on to eventually reach Elsternwick Park, and then on to the old Elsternwick Golf Course which is now known as Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve – named after the first inhabitants of the Bayside area.

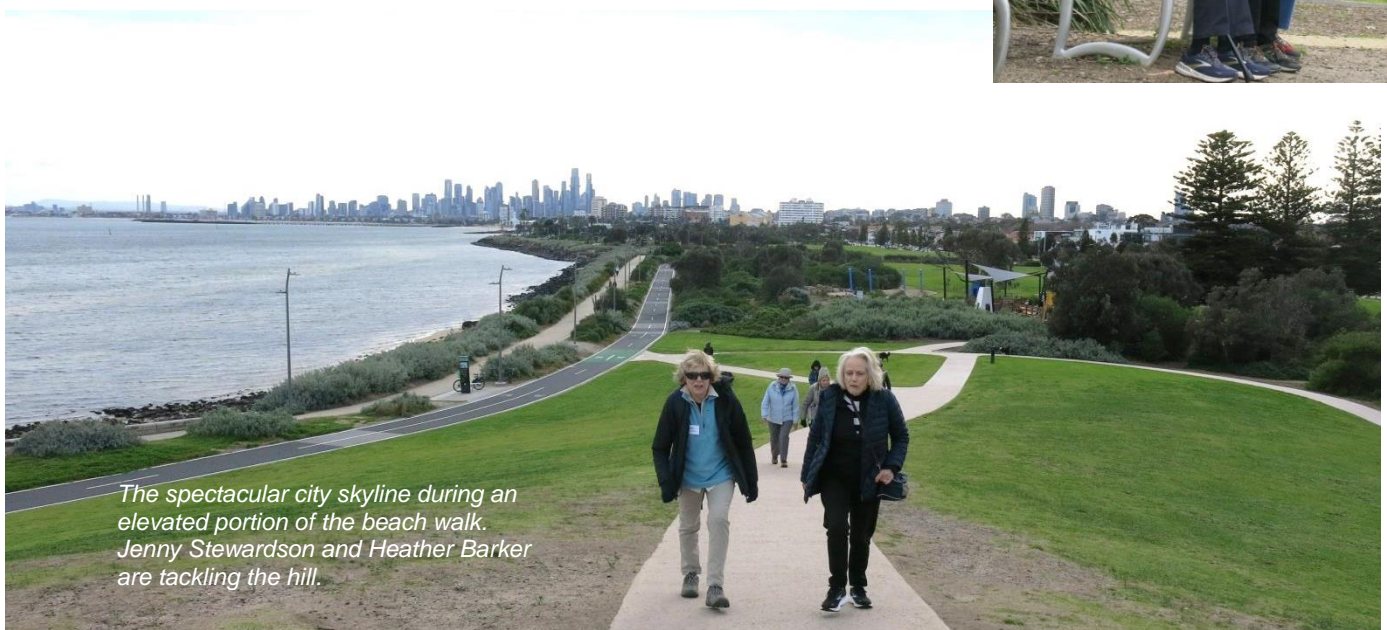
The land was given to the council for passive use in 2018, and is now being transformed into a series of ponds and rock crossings as a haven for local wildlife. It will be a delightful area in which to walk.

Our walk concluded with a cosy, warm lunch at the Wick (Elsternwick Hotel) enjoyed by all.

Some respite for Tom Morris, Pat Brownlee and John Isaac.



*Striding out along the Elwood Canal.
In front: Heather Barker, Joyce Isaac and Pat Brownlee.*



*The spectacular city skyline during an elevated portion of the beach walk.
Jenny Stewardson and Heather Barker are tackling the hill.*

Our midweek walks

An enjoyable walk along a picturesque urban creek

SONIA GILDERDALE

Nine enthusiastic walkers met at Alphington station on 22 August on a fine sunny morning. We headed north up the track, skirting Darebin Parklands to meet the path alongside the western bank of the creek. A variety of wattles were in full bloom, demonstrating that spring might finally be on the way.

After a couple of kilometres, we crossed a recently constructed bridge and continued along the creek's eastern bank. From time to time there were small commercial and industrial businesses visible, but for much



Setting off along the creek track: Liz Rand, Julie Walpole and Sonia Gilderdale

moats on the southern boundary of the university, where several waterbirds were in evidence.



Some of the semi-rural scenery along the creek path

of the route all we could see were trees and parkland, giving the impression we were located further from the city than was actually the case. There was plenty of birdlife, adding to the semi-rural scenery.

The group re-crossed the creek some five kilometres from the previous bridge, near the site of the village built for the 1956 Olympic Games, and continued northwards through areas of sporting ovals. When we reached the turn-off for La Trobe University and crossed the creek for the final time, the consensus was that it was lunchtime, so we perched on some conveniently located rocks beside the path to have our picnic.

From there we walked beside some attractive lakes and



A 'morning tea' pause during the walk

We proceeded to walk through the Agora, the central part of the university, and then through some of the extensive grounds, where there was plenty of open space, picnic tables and a variety of trees and shrubs. Students were enjoying lunch in the sunshine, or simply hanging out in small groups.

Our route took us past a couple of the residential colleges, and after a small unplanned detour (due to the leader's confusion with the map) on to a path heading east past the Victoria Police Forensic Science headquarters. At the end of this track, we made a steep descent along residential streets to Macleod station.

Fortuitously we only had to wait a couple of minutes for the train back to Alphington, and a much-appreciated coffee in the courtyard of the nearby café.



The group pauses during the stroll through the La Trobe University campus.

On Norfolk Island

Dodging the cows and chickens on Norfolk Island

SONIA GILDERDALE

Jan Ward, Celia Dynon and I spent six days on Norfolk Island during April. The island is an Australian External Territory about 1500km east of Brisbane. Because of its semi-independent status, it is necessary to fly from the international terminal of Sydney or Brisbane and be cleared by Border Force on arrival. Nonetheless, many aspects of life (including currency and use of Medicare) are similar to those on the Australian mainland. However, because of its duty-free status, alcohol is cheap but food (as most is imported) is expensive.

We stayed in a very well-equipped cottage and had the use of a not-so-new car which exhibited some odd quirks. Because the terrain is very hilly, a car is essential unless

one is on an organised tour. An additional hazard when driving is the presence of numerous cows and chickens wandering all over the road. We couldn't figure out how the local farmers knew which animals belonged to them.

There appears to be little if any crime; nobody locks their houses or their cars, and we didn't see any graffiti at all. There are apparently seven policemen stationed there, but they would appear to have a very low stress job!

It is thought that Polynesians occupied the island until the mid-15th century, and the first European to arrive was Captain Cook in 1774. The British created a brutal penal settlement at Kingston (now a World

Heritage listed site) which was used until 1855, when civilian residents were moved to Tasmania and prisoners were relocated to Port Arthur.

Visitors can wander freely through the settlement site, and comprehensive information boards are everywhere



Jan and Celia on Norfolk Island

describing the use of all the buildings. Several museums provide further historical details.

After the British left Norfolk Island, Queen Victoria gave it to the residents of Pitcairn Island, who had outgrown their island home. These residents were descendants of some of the mutineers on the Royal Navy ship HMS *Bounty*.

This ship, captained by William Bligh, had left England in 1787 on an expedition to Tahiti. After leaving Tahiti, relations between Bligh and some of his crew deteriorated, and a group led by Fletcher Christian commandeered the ship. Some of the mutineers settled on Pitcairn Island, while others were captured and court martialled on return to England. The descendants of the Pitcairn mutineers



Cows (and chickens) have the freedom of the roads on the island.

This shot shows the extent of the convict ruins on Norfolk Island.



moved to Norfolk Island, and many of their and their families' graves can be found in the fascinating island cemetery.

As well as the colourful history, the island boasts rugged coastal scenery, a beach where coral can be viewed and a forested national park containing a variety of huge trees, including the ubiquitous Norfolk Island pine. There are lots of opportunities for walks, and in our time there we managed to explore the whole island, including places where the people on organised tours would not have been able to visit.

We all agreed that we'd had a great time, and thoroughly recommend the island as a fascinating place to visit.

Some of the island's rugged coastline



Our Anniversary

Thirty years appropriately celebrated



JENNY STEWARDSON

Sunday 14 July was the date chosen to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of our club, with a lunch at the Box Hill Golf Club. Thirty years ago the bushwalking club was formed, joining a number of other Old Scotch clubs (sporting and interest groups), most of which are still active today. Although the number of Old Scotch Collegians in our club has dwindled and the number of women and outside friends has increased, all members are considered part of the Scotch Family.

The day, which began as a rather cold and rainy one, soon turned bright and sunny, thus enabling the beautiful views of the Box Hill Golf Club to be seen from the extensive plate glass windows. Forty-two people attended. Many people had sent apologies and were disappointed they were not able to come – mainly due to holidays away.

There were a few members present who no longer feel able to go on the walks, but had pleasure catching up with friends. We were delighted to see that Marg Inglis and Jill Williams were able to come. Richard Piesse's wonderful contribution to the club was acknowledged. The day went with a buzz till the 4pm conclusion, with plenty of chatting and laughter.

The golf club looked after us extremely well, with attentive staff, attractive table settings, and a delicious meal. President Neil Hart-Smith, in his inimitable way, welcomed us all to this special occasion.

As people arrived they were greeted with pre-lunch drinks courtesy of our club. We then sat down to a two-course meal followed by a celebratory cake. The dining choices were a prawn salad and a caramelised onion tart for entree, and lamb shoulder and chicken breast for main course, served with plenty of extra vegetables.

Graham Stanley, as one of the founding members and leaders (with David Ashton, Richard Piesse and Neil Hart-Smith), gave us a colourful and witty trip down memory lane, describing the club's early days – when walks were longer and arguably more challenging than we undertake today.

At the end, I felt a momentary feeling of regret as, due to a slight misunderstanding, it had to be revealed that I was not in fact the baker of the really delicious orange/almond anniversary cake! The large cake, with orange glaze and surrounded by toasted almonds, had actually been produced by a well-known cake supplier in Kooyong.

Our thanks go to Rhonda McMurtrie and Laurine Symington, and to our club committee who provided support in so many ways. *(The club is also most grateful to Jenny for her work as the organiser of the lunch – Editor)*



The magnificent anniversary cake



Our Anniversary



The scene in the Box Hill Golf Club dining room



Three of the club's 'founding fathers' – Richard Piesse, Graham Stanley and Neil Hart-Smith – cut the cake. The fourth founder, David Ashton, was cruising along the Kimberley coast.



Flashback to December 2014: 'founding fathers' Graham Stanley, Neil Hart-Smith and David Ashton, together with the then club President Norrie McLeod, cut the club's 20th anniversary cake at the Sandringham Club dinner.

Our Sarah

Sarah's art work on display

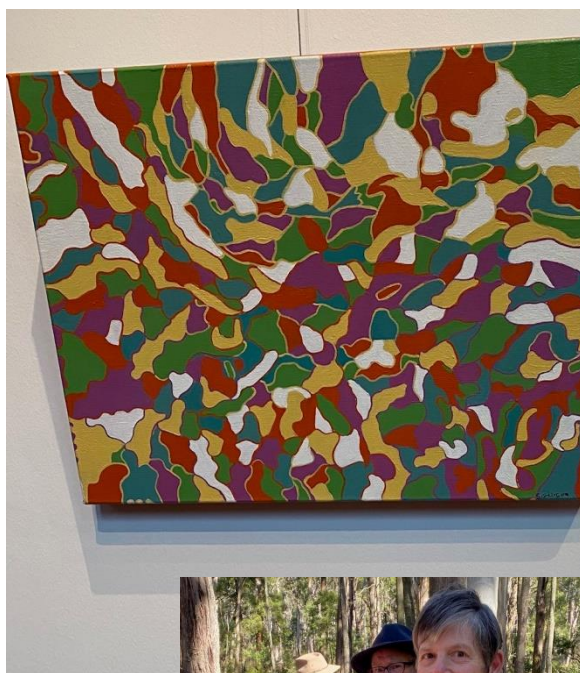
Beautiful artwork by members of the Endeavour Art Group – which includes our club member, Sarah Gibson – went on display in June during an exhibition by the QArt Gallery at Toorak Uniting Church. Three examples of Sarah's work were displayed during the exhibition.

Some of our club members attended the opening of the exhibition on 14 June, or visited the gallery during the duration of the exhibition.

Earlier this year, one of Sarah's artworks was included in the final version of the City of Boroondara's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan. And as reported in our July edition, Sarah's smiling face featured on the front cover of the April/May issue of the *Boroondara Bulletin*.

Sarah, who has been a keen bushwalking club walker for many years along with her parents, Jane and Andrew, is one of the artists at the QArt Gallery and Studio in High Street, Kew. The gallery and studio are part of the Endeavour Foundation, which supports artists with disability to create, showcase and sell their work.

A skilled artist, who works in a variety of media, including painting, ceramics and beeswax covers, Sarah has been at QArt for eight years, working in the studio from Tuesday to Friday, and in the packaging factory on Mondays.

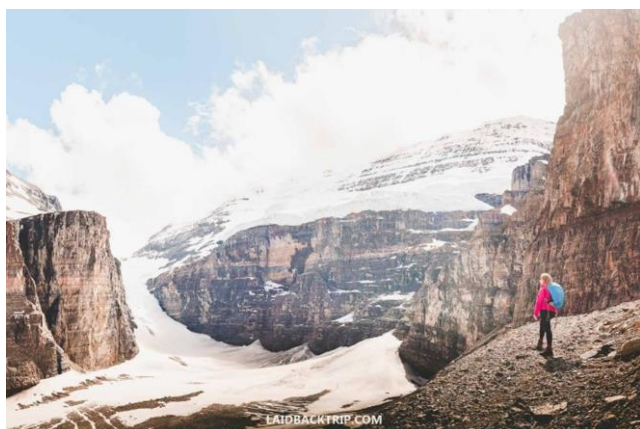


One of Sarah Gibson's artworks which was displayed at Toorak Uniting Church in June.



Sarah is shown taking a photo during a recent bushwalk.

The scenic beauty of Banff



The Plain of Six Glaciers Walk near Banff offers spectacular glacier views.

Many of our members have visited Banff in Canada, and perhaps stayed at the beautiful Banff Springs Hotel, all the while enjoying the fabulous views in this very scenic part of Canada. (Like any tourist destination, costs can be high: one local tour guide said 'Banff' stands for 'Be Aware – Nothing For Free').

The town of Banff was the first municipality in Canada to be incorporated inside a national park – the Banff National Park of 6641 square kilometres. The only other national park community in Canada is the municipality of Jasper, in Jasper National Park. (The same rather cynical tourist guide said 'Jasper' stands for 'Just Another Scenic Place Extracting Revenue'.)

Banff National Park has many hiking trails and pathways. One of the best known and most scenic is the 13.8km Plain of Six Glaciers Walk. It starts along the Lake Louise shoreline, and gets more challenging as it elevates in the second half of the route above the treeline. Walkers can relax and refuel at the rustic teahouse, then hike only 1.5km further for some stunning glacier views.

Our weekend walks

Merricks Store to Red Hill and return

CELIA DYNON

On Sunday 16 June, a cold but dry day, 13 members set out on from Merricks Store along the Red Hill Rail Trail, a well-made 6.5km path.

The railway line to Red Hill was built after a long campaign by local people, beginning in the 1880s. Opened in 1921 as a branch from Bittern on the Stony Point line, it mainly carried fruit such as apples, pears and strawberries to market in Melbourne. The line had a short life, opening on 2 December 1921 and closing on 1 July 1953.



Murray Hooper, Wendy Bladon and Ian McMichael

We climbed gradually and steadily toward Red Hill, passing through farmland and vineyards on both sides of the track. There was evidence that the track is used by horse riders and is well known to locals, and we passed several walkers. As we got closer to Red Hill there were occasional glimpses of Western Port Bay in the distance.

Our lunch stop was a small shelter just behind the Red Hill village. This has been designed as a heritage railway station 'waiting room', and is adorned with



Opening day of the Red Hill railway, 2 December 1921



Enjoying the Merricks walk – Celia Dynon, Helen Hunwick and Di Hooper

panels containing historical information about the former railway. Here Wendy Bladon left us and Chris and Layton Moss met us, with Chris joining us for the return walk along the same track.

Before returning to Melbourne most of the group enjoyed coffee at the very busy and popular Merricks Store.



The reproduced 'station waiting room' at Red Hill

Lunch in the 'station waiting room' behind Red Hill village



Our weekend walks

Luck played its part in this great winter walk

GRAHAM STANLEY

It would appear that nothing gets a bushwalk off to a good start like a good morning tea before we start walking. And that's how our bushwalk from the Lyonville Mechanics Hall to the Trentham railway station started on Sunday 11 August.

There has to be a certain amount of luck in planning a bushwalk, and in fact there were two separate bits of luck working for us this time. The first was the morning tea; and the second was the weather.

In planning this walk, Sue and I, along with Ian and Patsy Marks, originally planned to walk from Trentham to Lyonville and have lunch at the Radio Springs Hotel at Lyonville; but that idea did not work out, so we had to find a plan B.

For Sue and me, that entailed a further drive to Lyonville where we discovered the Lyonville Mechanics Hall, and by pure chance, one of the hall's committee of management members, David Bruce. David told us that as a fundraiser, they open the hall every Sunday morning for morning tea for the locals.

And there was the lightbulb moment! For us all to meet at the hall for morning tea before we started the walk. And a benefit for the locals was that we would be putting some money into the hall to help maintain it. In all we contributed over \$200 to their funds.



The magnificent morning tea on offer in the Lyonville Mechanics Hall

The hall committee runs a roster to staff the morning teas, and the barista on for the day was local resident and Old Scotch Collegian, Simon Eggleston (Scotch 1964). It certainly is a small world!



Old Scotch walkers waiting for the train to take them back to Lyonville. Sorry folks, you missed the train ... by 46 years – the last rain left Trentham on 3 July 1978!

The hall started life as the Lyonville Mechanics' Institute. It is one of around 1000 mechanics' institutes built in towns and suburbs around Victoria. There were more mechanics' institutes created in Victoria than any other English-speaking territory.

The role of the mechanics' institutes was generally to spread useful knowledge to the local community, both literary and scientific. Their founding ethos was that education should be available to all.

These buildings offered libraries, reading rooms, lectures and theatre groups, extending the opportunity to learn to those most in need, but who could not afford it. They also provided the early civic infrastructure, as well as a necessary venue for social and community events. In short, mechanics' institutes were the nucleus of the local community. Regrettably many have disappeared.

The Lyonville Mechanics' Institute was built in 1886. The land was donated by a local sawmiller who also donated the timber, and local working bees provided the labour to build the hall.

When the Lyonville Mechanics' Institute and Free Library was opened in 1886, it had 360 books and its opening hours were 6pm to 8pm. In 1894 the library had 534 books and opening hours were 7pm to 9pm. In the 1970s the hall was stabilised after developing a lean, and in 1982 a toilet block was added.

The hall is currently used for private functions and four annual events – a 'bake-off', a firemen's ball, a 'wood chop' and Christmas carols. In 2013, a \$90,000 grant was received to renovate the hall.

Our weekend walks

On the day, 21 members registered for the walk and 18 took part. We could have had to walk in rain, sleet and high winds – and this was our second bit of good luck. The weather was perfect, with the sun shining on a warm winter's day and no wind. Absolutely perfect.

The 6km Domino rail trail we walked along was the old Trentham to Lyonville rail line, which was opened on 16 February 1880, as part of the Karlsruhe to Daylesford line. It runs through picturesque country nestled among the tall timbers of the Wombat State Forest.

The only obstacle was a detour around the old trestle bridge which crosses the Coliban River about 600 metres from the start. The bridge is now unsafe and is closed to walkers. We did manage to miss the new sign to the new bridge some 50 metres from the track, and a few of us got wet feet fording the river at the wrong spot.



Old Scotch Bushwalkers outside the Lyonville Mechanics Hall before the start of the walk.



Graham Stanley briefs the walkers

This error in navigation was because a new bridge had been constructed between when the walk was trialled and the day of the walk.

The line initially carried significant goods (including timber and potatoes) and passenger traffic, with 50,000 passengers travelling the line in 1884 alone (which is more than the proposed Suburban Underground Rail Link would carry once completed!).

However, over the next 90 years, both traffic and the quality of the line gradually deteriorated, until it was closed on 3 July 1978.

The Trentham station did provide an excellent venue for us to have our lunch, even if there was no train to take us back to Lyonville.



Graham Stanley and Jan Ward

*Di Hooper, Helen Hunwick,
Stephen Bywater, Neil Hart-Smith*



Our weekend walks

A pleasant day's channel walking

LAURINE SYMINGTON

Richard Piesse had nominated himself to lead this walk through the Fryers Ridge Nature Conservation Reserve along the Coliban Channel, on Sunday 8 September. Unfortunately his health was not great, so I led the walk for him.

Nine walkers met at Taradale to drive along the short dirt road to the channel. A comment from one of the walkers was good: 'We seem to walk along quite a few aqueducts and rail trails: I wonder why?'



Five species of wattle are native to Fryers Ridge, including this black wattle.

The wattle trees were delightful as we walked along the channel. I told Richard we saw at least three different wattles – different

yellow and different styles of bushes – he said we missed the fact that there were actually at least five different species of wattle in that area.

We missed his orchids but found some other flowers. Manna gum and candlebarks were the common trees in the park. Apparently the channel is quite a good place to fossick for gold, after using a detector to see if any non-ferrous metals are in the region. We encountered a gold fossicker who said he had found some small beads of lead but no gold.

The stroll along the channel was very pleasant, easy walking. The plan was to return to the cars along the tracks. When we arrived at the Dearden Creek gate, it was decided we would follow the Kemps Track to where



Laurine Symington briefs the walkers before they set off.

the channel crosses Kangaroo Creek. Moving from a flat stroll to an undulating walk had many of us almost puffing.



This fossicker was hoping for some flecks of gold in his pan

Lunch was enjoyed sitting on the old trees next to the creek. The

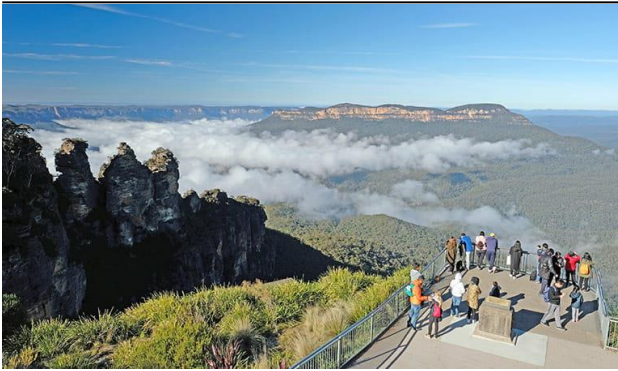
return trip was along the channel then along the Dearden and Saltwater Track, which seemed a long way. One walker said the distance was 11.6km.

After passing a house where the owner was a dead car collector, we came closer to civilisation, eventually locating our cars.

It was a delightful day for a stroll, if a little windy; but because we were in the forest we didn't notice the wind. The heavens opened when I was almost home.



Jan Ward, Laurine Symington and Celia Dynon



The Grand Cliff Top Walk is innovative and spectacular

An innovative and exciting walk in the Blue Mountains of NSW introduces walkers to a classic European style of multi-day hiking in a very Australian setting.

The Grand Cliff Top Walk is an incredible 19km, two-day walk that takes visitors on a spectacular journey along the escarpment in the World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains National Park and through other scenic Blue Mountains locations, linking Wentworth Falls, Leura and Katoomba.

It was officially opened by NSW Environment Minister Penny Sharpe, Local Member Trish Doyle and Blue Mountains City Council Mayor Cr Mark Greenhill at the Wentworth Falls picnic area on Sunday 24 March.

The concept of the walk is simple: hike during the day carrying the bare essentials, then eat, drink, sleep and relax in the villages along the way. No tent or heavy pack is required for this walk, which is set in an area containing some of the oldest and most popular bushwalks in Australia.

The new walk will span the entire escarpment, providing a world-class experience with stunning views for domestic and international travellers.

Walkers will be able to stop and enjoy a night in a mountain village, choosing from a variety of accommodation options, and complete the track the following day. The Grand Cliff Top Walk is accessible from different locations, allowing walkers to tailor the length of their walk.

Words of wisdom

- If a bottle of poison reaches its expiration date, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?
- Which letter is silent in the word 'scent' – the S or the C?
- More than 100 years ago, everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.
- It's not my age that bothers me – it's the side effects.
- I'm not saying I'm old and worn out, but I make sure I'm nowhere near the kerb on hard rubbish collection day.
- As I watch this generation try and rewrite our history, I'm sure of one thing: it will be misspelt and have no punctuation.
- It turns out that being a 'senior' is mostly just Googling how to do stuff.
- I want to be 18 again and ruin my life differently. I have new ideas.
- I put my scales in the bathroom corner and that's where the little liar will stay until it apologises.
- My mind is like an internet browser. At least 18 open tabs, three of them are frozen, and I have no clue where the music is coming from.
- Hard to believe I once had a phone attached to a wall, and when it rang, I picked it up without knowing who was calling.
- There is no such thing as a grouchy old person. The truth is that once you get old, you stop being polite and start being honest.



Following the Coliban Channel

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			
King's B'day	Jun	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
	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		* * *	N Hart-Smith
	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		Macleod	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								

31 = School Holidays

= Bushwalks

10-Sep-24