



OLD SCOTCH  
BUSHWALKING CLUB

Old Scotch Bushwalking Club

# Tracknotes

March 2020

Number 91

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

## Our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary well celebrated



## Tracknotes

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*Thanks to our contributors.*

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*Cutting the anniversary cake: left to right –  
David Ashton, Current club President  
and Inaugural President from 1994-2000  
David Tolstrup, President from 2000-2003,  
Graham Stanley, President from 2008-2012, and  
Norrie McLeod, President from 2012-2016.  
Absent: Neil Hart-Smith, President from 2003-2008.*

The club celebrated its 25th birthday with a superb dinner in the Boykett Room at Scotch College on the evening of Sunday 15 December, preceded by a very interesting tour of the school led by Old Scotch Collegians' Association Executive Director, Scott Montgomery.

The full story of the dinner appears on pages 4 and 5.

### Inside:

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## Ten questions – Esther Kay

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

I joined the club in 2018.

**How did you find out about the club?**

I travelled to Morocco in 2018 where I met Bee Moignard and Helen Hunwick. We enjoyed the walks on the tour and they encouraged me to join the club.

**What are your links with Scotch College?**

Through my friends. I grew up in the United States and I don't have other Scotch College connections.

**What is your dream walk within Australia?**

Somewhere in Central Australia. I have loved my time there on previous trips. The landscape and colours are fantastic

**What is your dream walk overseas?**

In one of the national parks in the United States.

**What is your dream holiday in Australia or overseas?**

Somewhere that offers history and culture in a beautiful setting, hopefully in a location that also allows me to escape into nature.

**What are your hobbies and interests, other than bushwalking?**

I like to socialise with friends, go to the theatre, and travel. I also own a small cottage in Woodend that I rent as a B&B. I am also involved with community projects in my town.



**What is your occupation?**

I'm an urban planner who specialises in environmental issues. I usually work for local government, helping the organisation plan for population increase and a more environmentally sustainable way of doing things.

**What football team do you barrack for?**

St Kilda.

**What is your favourite Melbourne restaurant?**

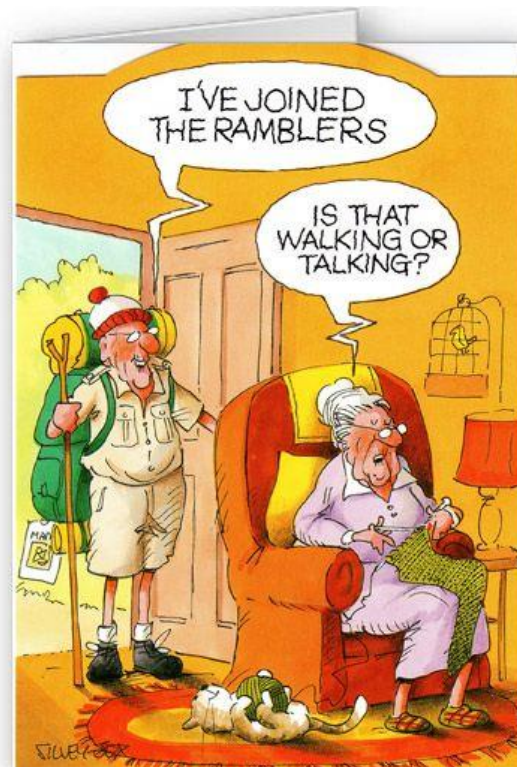
I don't go out to eat much in Melbourne. My favourite restaurant at the moment is Kuzu Izakaya in Woodend (Japanese).



Two bushwalkers bumped into each other in a shopping centre, and as they hadn't walked together for several years they decided to have a coffee. They ordered their coffees and sat down.

One said to the other: 'Now don't get angry; we've known each other a long time, and often bushwalked together, but I just can't think of your name. I've thought and thought, but I just can't remember it. Please tell me – what is it?'

The other bushwalker glared, and for three full minutes he just stared at his companion. Finally he said: 'How soon do you need to know?'





# President's Tree-Stump



We are all still basking a little in the glow of our highly successful 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in the Boykett Room at Scotch last December. It really was a most successful event, and a very fitting way to mark the club's quarter-century.

I have already thanked Christine and Layton Moss and Helen Hunwick for all the work they put in to ensure the event was a success, but I want to do so publicly again – thank you very much, Chris, Layton and Helen. Thanks, too, go to Norrie McLeod for his slide presentation, and to Scott Montgomery and Annika Dusek of the Old Scotch Collegians' Association office. Scott did a marvellous job ushering about 50 guests on a school tour before our celebratory dinner – quite a daunting number of people to take on any tour.

And so we turn our attention to the present and the future of our club. As always, we are focused on increasing our membership. Over the years we have maintained a membership of more than 100, taking into account that when someone joins the club, that person's partner and other family members automatically become club members as well (for just one membership fee). Only one family member can vote at club general meetings or at the annual general meeting, but that's another issue.

We have taken two initiatives this year to boost membership, both of which are works in progress. The OSCA office provided us with contact details of Old Boys who have expressed interest in bushwalking, and Norrie McLeod has emailed these Old Boys with club information, and has followed up walk notices. None of them have yet joined the club, but the seed has been sown.

Meanwhile, Ian Marchment has been endeavouring to set up a young Old Boys' offshoot of our club, and the

School kindly provided him with contact details of Old Boys who took part in Scotch's Outdoor Leadership Program in recent years, an activity which involved quite extensive bushwalking. Ian was hoping to set up a small committee of young Old Boys to run this group, and a tentative walks program and a questionnaire were compiled and emailed. At the time of writing, the outcome was uncertain, but I do thank Ian for his energetic efforts to launch this group.

As I sign off this editorial, I am also signing off my standing for President at the AGM in March. I wish my successor well, and (as I plan to run for election again to the committee), I will provide that person with my full support. Many thanks to the members of my committee for their wonderful, loyal support – Laurine Symington, Sonia Gilderdale, Norrie McLeod, Andrew Gibson, Ian Hansen, John Moore and Tom Morris.

May I finish with two perennial requests:

- please consider standing for the committee;
- if you haven't led a walk lately, please consider doing so.

See you on a walk soon.

**David Ashton**  
President  
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Portarlington, seen from the town's pier

## Advance notice

# By ferry to Portarlington – Thursday 30 April

Our April midweek walk will be a walk with a difference: we will travel by ferry from Victoria Harbour to Portarlington, where we'll enjoy a two-course lunch at the Portarlington Golf Course. Transfers are included; after lunch we will ask to be dropped off before arriving at the jetty so we can enjoy a stroll around the township before the return ferry trip.

Cost: \$55 per person (if fewer than 20 people book) or \$49 if 20 or more book, which includes the cost of the ferry, lunch and transfers from the ferry to the golf club and return. A walk notice will be sent to you in March. More information: Joyce and John Isaac: 0403 567 391.



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# Our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner

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## A wonderful celebration at Scotch of the club's quarter-century

### CHRISTINE MOSS

Sunday 15 December was warm and sunny – a perfect day to celebrate our club's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to look back on a quarter century of excellent bushwalks, enduring friendships and lots of fun and laughter.

To mark the occasion, we staged a gala dinner to take the place of our usual year-end walk and dine event, and the venue was the Boykett Room in the Cardinal Pavilion at Scotch College: a wonderful facility near the banks of the Yarra. Sixty-nine club members and past members booked to attend the dinner, although unfortunately there were three late cancellations.

We began the evening with a stroll around the school ably led by Old Scotch Collegians' Association Executive Director, Scott Montgomery, who regaled us with a lot of history about school buildings old and new. The Main Oval looked magnificent in the setting sun, and Scott related that at a recent cricket match there, former Australian Test and one-day international player, Simon O'Donnell, whose son was playing for Xavier, remarked that the ground was as good as the MCG!

After the tour we met upstairs in the Boykett Room to enjoy drinks and canapes before sitting down to a delicious three-course dinner. The evening was opened by Scott Montgomery, who said a few words of introduction, and later David Ashton, our esteemed President, welcomed us.

After the main course, David spoke about the history of our club, spicing his speech with anecdotes about some of the people and places we have encountered during the past quarter-century.



*Scott Montgomery leading the pre-dinner school tour*

A cake-cutting ceremony after dessert was shared by four of our five Presidents. Unfortunately, President number five, Neil Hart Smith, was off trekking somewhere in the wilds of Africa!



*Club President David Ashton, pictured during his speech*

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# Our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner

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Brian Symington pipes us in



In Memorial Hall during the tour

Throughout the evening we were also entertained by a slide show featuring photos taken during our walks over the years. Many thanks to Norrie McLeod for organising this. It was fun to reminisce on how young we once looked. Twenty-five years of bushwalking does take its toll on the body!

The table decorations looked very festive and the large bundles of balloons in the school colours also added to the occasion. Thanks must go to Helen Hunwick for overseeing the table arrangements, helped by Christine

and Layton Moss.

Overall, the evening was voted a great success, and it was especially pleasing to see so many 'old' faces from previous years joining us in celebrating 25 years of Old Scotch bushwalking.

*Editor's note: the club is most grateful to Chris and Layton Moss and Helen Hunwick for the work they put in to ensure the success of our 25 year celebratory dinner.*



Dinner scene in the Boykett Room

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# Our midweek walks

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## History, bushfire smoke and heat

### LAURINE SYMINGTON

Four walkers met outside Hamer Hall on the morning of Wednesday 15 January in the murk of the bushfire smoke and in the heat, to stroll around Fishermans Bend, Sandridge and Beacon Cove. Although five walkers had braved the wind a couple of weeks earlier to pre-walk the track, the conditions on 15 January were not really conducive to a pleasant stroll along the beach.

Undaunted, we walked across Southbank to catch the light rail to Port Melbourne for our stroll along the bay to Sandridge Beach.

Clearly the locals had heeded the warning about avoiding the smoke and heat, and the streets and beaches were deserted. It seemed to be a throwback to the 1950s movie *On the Beach*, shot in Melbourne, in which there were scenes of familiar city streets deserted in the wake of a nuclear holocaust. We did see one balcony with some people enjoying the view and the sea breeze; and at the dog beach at Sandridge dogs and their owners were enjoying the water.

Walking out to the end of the Sandridge Lookout, we could see the city eerily veiled by the smoke haze, but there was no apparent activity in the bay. We returned to the beach, and then strolled on through Fishermans Bend, where



*Sign outside a coffee shop at the start of the walk*

many old Housing Commission Victoria houses still stand. Improvements have been made to most of the houses, but a few seemed original and from the look of the gardens, were maybe still owned by HousingVic.

Single houses and duplexes, red bricks and similar plans was the way of building houses in the late 1940s. Between 1928 and 1948 the State Savings Bank of Victoria built 322 dwellings in Garden City, but these low-cost houses were never released as public housing. Built to one of six double and single storey variations, they were arranged around a series of public open spaces. The area where they were built was nicknamed 'Nobs' Hill'.

And then there was Beacon Cove. Developed between 1996 and 2006 on the former BP site, the first stage consisted essentially of suburban-type housing. The second stage, constructed after Beach Street was built over, created waterfront properties including high-rise apartments. Within stage one we passed the Wintringham Hostel, built for elderly, frail homeless men and women, and providing evidence that appropriate planning can work.

Returning to the light rail we quickly found an air-conditioned 109 tram and headed into the city and home. There was the usual discrepancy on how far we had walked, but we agreed on a distance of about 7km, plus 2km for an optional walk to the Sandridge Lookout.

Thanks to Jan Ward and Wendy Le Get for planning this walk. We can plan for everything except the weather – and the smoke haze.



*The four walkers in Garden City Reserve*

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## Our midweek walks

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*Sandridge Beach – deserted in the heat and smoke haze*

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## Two great new walks

Two great new walks – one in NSW and the other in Victoria – are now open, although only the first 36km of the 160km Victorian walk is accessible. The Great West Walk in NSW is from Parramatta right through to the Blue Mountains, a distance of 65km, and takes in parks, bushland and towns. The Victorian walk is the Grampians Peak Trail, a 13-day, 160km trek across the full length of the Grampians National Park. It's scheduled for completion by autumn, but the first 36km section is now open. For more information: [www.greatwestwalk.com.au](http://www.greatwestwalk.com.au); [www.visitgrampians.com.au](http://www.visitgrampians.com.au).



*The super-large dredging complex, at the mouth of Melbourne Port/Yarra River, sighted on our way to Williamstown.  
– See next page.*

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# Our weekend walks

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## Williamstown by ferry

### GREG AND VAL HEMPENSTALL

The 27 walkers who ventured to Williamstown by ferry from Southbank on Sunday 9 February enjoyed a different excursion from that which had originally been planned. The walk plan was made to avoid potential bushfire areas and/or hot coastal areas in February.

We were fortunate to have the company of a young Tibetan guest, Llamo, whose father works directly with the Dalai Lama and has been the Tibetan representative in Canberra. Her father is now in India with the exiled leader of Tibet.

We met at Southbank across the bridge from Flinders Street railway station. The 10.30am boat took us down the Yarra River past the historical port of Melbourne. There was an excellent narrative from our captain, who appeared well informed on the beginnings of the settlement in Melbourne in 1835.

We learned that our early engineers embarked on a massive public works program, whereby they removed a bend in the Yarra, deepened the river bed for shipping and built the original wharfs to serve the growing colony.

The dredging continues today, with the largest dredges in the world working to maintain the 18m depth for modern shipping. We were able to see the dredge operating, filling barges that then deposit the mud into a neutral part of Port Phillip.



*Setting off from Southbank*

Before passing under the high Bolte and Westgate Bridges we were informed that the very low, flat Queen Street, King Street and Spencer Street bridges were designed to allow horse-drawn drays to cross more easily.

Arriving at Gem Pier in Williamstown, we ventured along Nelson Place to admire the Timeball Tower and other well described historical sites along the way to Williamstown beach.

Walking along Osborne Street with its classic period houses, we stopped to visit the verdant Botanical Gardens.

We arrived at the Williamstown Railway Station, reputed to be the oldest railway station in Victoria. We completed the walk and boarded the train for the city.

It was a satisfying walk, even though the traditional 'bush' aspect was changed.

We all missed Micky Ashton, but heard from David that she is recuperating steadily from a successful operation!

*The Timeball Tower*





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# Our weekend walks

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*The start of the walk, with Greg Hепенstall, Pera Wells and Val Hепенstall in front*



*Michele McMichael takes a well-earned rest at lunchtime*



*A panoramic view along an avenue of palms in Williamstown Botanical Gardens*

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# A Scottish walk

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## St Cuthbert's Way – a heartbeat of the feet

Last year, bushwalking club member Johanna Aalberts-Henderson, together with her daughter Ruth, travelled to Scotland to tackle St Cuthbert's Way, a 100km trail between the Scottish Borders town of Melrose and Lindisfarne, off the coast of Northumberland in England. Longstanding club members might remember Ruth as a little girl who accompanied her parents on some of our walks in the club's early days.

The walk celebrates the life of St Cuthbert, who is believed to have introduced Christianity into Northern England. In his lifetime, Cuthbert (635-687) was Prior of Melrose and then of Lindisfarne. The route links Melrose Abbey, where Cuthbert began his religious life, with his initial burial place on Holy Island. Johanna takes up the story of the walk:

I planned this walk following my mother's death in 2018, following a disastrous stay in a nursing home. I was also involved in the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, and that proved liberating, however it was emotionally draining and mentally challenging.

The year of her death I had planned to walk the Camino de Santiago, however life had other plans. I chose St Cuthbert's Way as it was a shorter walk, yet would allow me to embrace the meditative and physical aspects of a pilgrimage.

I was accompanied by my youngest daughter Ruth, and we arrived in Melrose, the start of the walk, brimming with confidence and a can do attitude. Not a person who likes hills, I embraced this walk because I could, when so many can't!



*Crossing the border after an arduous climb, but with a real sense of achievement.*

The one aspect that I was shocked to discover is that Scotland and Northern England could be so very, very hot. We walked either side of the English Bank Holiday weekend, during which the temperature in Scotland reached 29C. Our thermals were not used until the penultimate day of the walk.

We chose a nine-night, eight-day walk with Mac Adventures and were happy with the daily movement of heavy bags, requiring us simply to carry day packs.

Our journey involved many ups and downs – if a Scot tells you it's 'just a wee hill', remember it's a relevant term! We walked on roads for some of the walk, however our favourite parts were meandering over the 'wee' hills, crossing the border from Scotland into England and



*Our destination reached, on the Holy Island, the ruined Abbey of Lindisfarne and the statue of St. Cuthbert*

crossing – as the pilgrims did – the final two miles of the way with rolled up pants across the tidal flat of the North Sea from Fenwick to the Holy Island. This provided us with much laughter as we negotiated the seabed, tide times and muddy sea floor.



*We sang 'baa baa, black-faced sheep' many times on this walk.*

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## A Scottish walk

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*Ruth, about halfway across the pilgrims' path to Lindisfarne Island. (It was very cold!)*

Tidal times dictate the time one can cross, and for us, it was very early in the morning. The boxes shown in the photograph are for the foolish or unknowing who get stuck when the North Sea roars across the path. When I asked an island resident how often people got stuck on the road/causeway, she said, 'Oh, at least one car per week!'



*Boxes for walkers who become stranded as the North Sea tide roars in.*

I now feel an enormous sense of achievement that I completed this walk. Walking has a rhythm, a heartbeat of the feet, which for me was both liberating and healing. The notion of pilgrimage is walking a path in the footsteps of that first person who made a difference. It invites one into the meditative experience.



*Walking along the River Tweed – one of the beautiful paths that meander across and alongside the river.*

Of course it doesn't have to be of religious significance; just the sheer wonder of the distance, the land and the sky is of itself enough. We met many people, all with their story; their reason for walking this particular way, and it gave us joy and a sense of wonderment at the essential sameness and difference of the walkers.

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## New pass system for Tasmania's parks

Tasmania's Parks and Wildlife Service is introducing a new pass system for the state's national parks from May 2020, which is expected to raise an additional \$3 million per year, according to a report in *Great Walks* magazine. The magazine said the changes include the creation of an Icon Pass, under which Cradle Mountain day passes will increase from \$16.50 to \$25 for an adult, and a family pass will increase from \$41.25 to \$60.



*Cradle Mountain Hotel*

# The club's 2020 program

The dates for our 2020 walks are final, but the location of nominated walks may need to be changed.

Public Hol.	2020	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Feature	Walk (Proposed)	Leader
New Year				1	2	3	4	5	New Year		
	Jan	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
	Jan	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		Beacon Cove	Le Get & Ward
	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		Williamstown	G&V Hempenstall
	Feb	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Valentine's Day		
	Feb	17	18	19	20	21	22	23			
	Feb	24	25	26	27	28	29	1		Newport	I Hansen
	Mar	2	3	4	5	6	7	8			
	Mar	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		Fish Creek	D&M Hooper
Labour Day	Mar	16	17	18	19	20	21	22			
	Mar	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		Mud Island	N Foote
	Mar	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	Day Save Ends		
	Apr	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Easter		
Easter	Apr	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		Anakie Gorge	P&N McLeod
Anzac Day	Apr	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	Anzac Day		
	Apr	27	28	29	30	1	2	3		Portarlington	J&J Isaac
	May	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Mother's Day		
	May	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		***	***
	May	18	19	20	21	22	23	24			
	May	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		Lillydale Lake	A Gibson
	Jun	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
Queen's B'day	Jun	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		***	***
	Jun	15	16	17	18	19	20	21			
	Jun	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		***	***
	Jun	29	30	1	2	3	4	5			
	Jul	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		***	***
	Jul	13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
	Jul	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		Malmsbury	S&G Stanley
	Jul	27	28	29	30	31	1	2			
	Aug	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		You Yangs	L Symington
	Aug	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
	Aug	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		***	***
	Aug	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
	Sep	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	Father's Day		
	Sep	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		***	***
	Sep	14	15	16	17	18	19	20			
	Sep	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		Riddells Creek	R Piesse
	Sep	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	Day Save Start		
	Oct	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
	Oct	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		Mildura	***
	Oct	19	20	21	22	23	24	25			
	Oct	26	27	28	29	30	31	1		Jells Park	J Stewardson
Cup Day	Nov	2	3	4	5	6	7	8			
	Nov	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Rememb Day	***	***
	Nov	16	17	18	19	20	21	22			
	Nov	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		***	***
	Dec	30	1	2	3	4	5	6			
	Dec	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		***	***
	Dec	14	15	16	17	18	19	20			
Christmas	Dec	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	Christmas		
	Dec	28	29	30	31						

31 = School Holidays      = Bushwalks

19-Feb-20