



SAC Newsletter

August - September 2022

17th September Bike Ride.

There was a late change for this Ride because of weather conditions. Instead of the Benalla to Lake Makoan Ride we rode the Mt Major Circuit of 27k as the weather did not look promising.

We started our Ride to the end of the Rail Trail then taking a few country roads leading us past the main entrance to Mt Major then via the main road past Tallis Winery for a short distance going left past the town side walk up Mt Major we continued back to the Bike Trail Entrance then back to Dookie.

Just short of ending the Ride we did come across a very light shower of rain. Happy about that getting the Ride in before it got really wet we put our bikes away then across the road to the Hotel for a coffee and a snack. Great Ride Great Day.

Ray





Sunday 20th August Bike Ride

Was a Local Bike Ride along the Shared Pathway which took us out to Jordan's Bend then we returned along the Bike Path Via the Botanical Garden then out to Emerald Bank

At Emerald Bank it was decided to have a Coffee Break as it was one of those Bitterly Cold Mornings to put a bit of warmth into the Body after Coffee we headed back to Moroopna where we started our Ride

Congrats to those who were brave enough to take the Ride on such a Cold Winters Day Cheers to all Ray

Wednesday 24th August Midweek Walk Warby Falls Heritage Trail



13 Walkers met at the Winton Wetlands Cafe for coffee, always a good start. Then we drove around Lake Mokoan, via Tamanick and Booth Rd to the start of the walk. Alfred and Richard made a big detour to the second carpark from where they walked a short distance to our lunch meeting spot.

It was a cold day of 10 degrees so some of us rugged up with scarves, hats and gloves. We climbed up the uneven track to the old historic sawmill full of rusted machinery. Great views of the vineyards and the yellow canola. Came across a cluster of wombat holes that all seem to be connected (maybe an extended family?).

Across the bridge over the fast flowing stream we passed an exploratory sign about the Sheepwash Creek and its former sheep dip. Overcast but with sunny spells there was a steep climb through lush green undergrowth with wildflowers. The track through the gully was narrow and rocky with views of the creek below, 2 dams, little waterfalls and interesting rock formations and only a gentle gradient.

On the last creek crossing one of our walkers did a misstep but luckily ended up OK and we met up with Richard and Alf for lunch on a big log close to the top of the waterfall. All in all 7.4km through beautiful bush land.

Maartje Heuperman

Dookie Rail Trail

There were six of us for the morning walk and after a cuppa we headed off on the Dookie Rail Trail towards Cosgrove. It was a quite chilly start, but we soon warmed up. The countryside was a picture with all the crops coming up and everything was very green. We returned to Dookie and had lunch in the CWA Gardens.

In the afternoon we walked the other way from Dookie towards Yabba. The weather was kind although rain threatened at times. We saw many birds including a white-shouldered kite, Eastern rosellas and robins. Luckily Marg Clarke was with us and could identify the birds and she took some great photos which I hope she will share in the next newsletter.

We concluded the walk with coffee and ice-creams at the Dookie Post Office/Store which we well earned as the total walk was 18kms. Despite being organised at the last minute the walk was very enjoyable with great company.



Sunday 21-08-2022 Bike ride Goulburn Weir to Nagambie

From the double loop on the website we did about 30kms. After a very cold start of 0 degree overnight, 14 bike riders met at the car park of the Goulburn Weir. Interesting to notice that of the 14 participants only 4 had "normal" bikes, the rest had an easy pedal on their e-bikes. Such are the times!

The Goulburn Weir Rd turned into the Heathcote-Nagambie Rd where some of us were hailed down from a property where the owner(Mother) had set her kids up with a table alongside the road with free apples and carrots to feed their donkey and mini horse. The kids reacted very enthusiastic as we were the first passers-by to stop and feed their pet animals.

Followed by a short in and out on Loddings Lane to the Caravan Park. Then via Eloura Housing Estate to Nagambie township. We were lucky to get a table in the Nagambie Rowing Club. Full house with a good menu and drinks.

Back on the bikes, crossing the Kirwans Bridge. We walked as the gaps between the old planks were even big enough to swallow our fat tyres.

With the meagre sun warming us up a bit, we arrived back at the Weir where most of us crossed the structure to the other side and took in the history of the Weir (build1891) displayed on the big panel in the park.



BALMATTUM HILL, EUROA (GRADED EASY/MEDIUM)

On Wednesday May 25th, nine midweek walkers met at the rest stop in the park along side the Sevens Creek in Euroa.

As we were travelling to Euroa the weather didn't look very favourable, however, we set off expecting to enjoy the day whatever eventuated.

We set off and meandered past the caravan park, chatting, and catching up with those we hadn't seen recently while enjoying the natural environment. At one point we came across construction work in progress on the creek and were told that a new steel swing bridge was being built over the creek. This is such a picturesque point along the creek and we paused to take in the peacefulness (despite the construction noise!) and beauty of reeds fringing the creek edge as the clear water flows around smooth granite boulders.

We soon left the creek to cross the road under the freeway, reaching Euroa's reservoirs where the ascent of Balmattum Hill begins. This is a 2.4km return walk.

Approximately 600m along the track we passed the large rotunda which offers lovely views, a picnic area or shelter if needed. At 5 or 6 points along the way interpretive signs have been installed in 2019, giving interesting facts about flora and fauna, Taungurung cultural history and endurance training for army troops during the WW11. We learned that the rocks stacked alongside the narrow track were loaded into the soldiers' backpacks and then carried up and down the hill! We didn't try it.

It was also heartening to see vegetation regrowth after bushfires, including eucalypts, small plants in rock crevices and around the edges of boulders and the track. On this walk it wasn't possible to reach the summit as it has recently been fenced off, about 100-150 m from our goal, for sheep grazing. However, we still could appreciate amazing views of green rolling hills dotted with massive boulders in one direction to a bird's eye view of Euroa township in the opposite direction.

At this stage we began to think of lunch and walked to a sheltered spot among some rocky outcrops giving shelter but also allowing outstanding views. After dining "Al Fresco" we continued back to look at the rotunda. This area was surrounded by blossoming eucalypts and many early flowering wattles which attracted bird life aplenty. With Marg Clarke's expertise we saw and/or heard White-plumed Honeyeaters, Grey Shrike-thrush, Scarlet robin, New Holland honeyeater, Superb fairy wren (blue male) and Pardalotes.

We returned to our cars along the alternate leg of the creek walk. This is an area of huge redgums hundreds or years old, with wonderful, patterned bark and making serene reflections in the creek.

The weather was kind, improving as our walk progressed which added to a great day overall. As usual, coffee and cake were on the agenda before the drive home.



Thankyou to everyone for great companionship and conversation, making our club trip enjoyable. The following members attended the walk- Campbell Nightingale, Di & Howard Hanna, Kerry Storer, Jenny Stammers, Josie Lang, Marg Clarke, Dallas James and Judy McIntyre.



Bird life

Black-shouldered Kite



The Black-shouldered Kite is one of the smaller birds of prey and can be seen throughout mainland Australia.

It is most commonly seen hovering in open country or perched in a tree when not hunting or when eating its prey.

The SAC mid-week walkers, who walked on the Dookie Rail Trails a few months back, had good sightings of some of these birds hovering.

The adult birds are grey and white and have a black shoulder patch as well as a black patch around their eyes. Their eyes are red and they have dull yellow legs and claws.

The juvenile birds have a grey crown, brown eyes and brown mottled back and wings.

Black-shouldered Kites mainly feed on rodents, insects and small lizards.

These photos are of adult and juvenile birds.

Article and photo - Marg Clarke

Shepparton Adventure Club Bike rides

2022

Date	Location	Organiser
17 July (Sunday)	Local along Shepparton shared paths	Ray 0438591749
20 August	Moyhu	Maartje 0407849794
17 September	Benalla to Lake Mokoan Hub return	Ray 0438591749
15 October	Wahgunyah to Rutherglen return	Jan and Peter 0438093668
19 November	Moyhu to Upper Idi Return	Ray 0438591749
17 December	Twilight ride Dookie Christmas breakup dinner at Dookie Hotel	Shelley
27th to 31st March 2023	Gunbower Island "Tree Tops" Scout Camp.	Enquiries & to Book in Contact: Richard Graves 0408 547 065

Shepparton Adventure Club Mid week walks

2022

Date	Location	Leader	Rating
28 th Sept 9 am	Terrick Terrick N.P	Dianne Hanna 0437 289 281	Easy
12 th Oct 9. am	Mt Black (offroad)	TBC	Easy/Medium
26 th Oct 8 am	TBC	TBC	
23 rd Nov 8 am	Boathole to Mineral Springs Strathbogies	Howard Hanna 0437 628279 Justus Hagan	Easy/Mod

FOR SALE

Mens "Masi Nouva Strada" 56cm Road / Triathlon Bike

Aluminium frame & Carbon Fibre Forks & Seat Post

Weight 10.2 kgs.

In Very Good to Excellent condition.

Asking price \$450.00 Negotiable.

Contact: Richard Graves on Mobile 0408 547 065



To Give Away to a good home

“Wild Magazines”

Richard has been collecting “Wild” Magazines since the 1st edition in 1981 and has every copy since, all 180 of them.

Regretfully it’s now time to de clutter, so if anyone is interested in all or just a few copies

give Richard Graves a ring on 0408 547 065 to arrange collection.

If there is no interest then they will all go to council recycling.

Share your adventure with the club!

Shelley.wyllie@gmail.com.au

August SAC dinner – GV Hotel



President's report

SAC President's report to 2022 AGM

The club has managed to have a fairly busy year as we came out of pandemic restrictions. Mid-week walks and weekend bike rides have been the mainstay of our activity calendar, with the occasional social gathering too.

Riders have cycled around Glenrowan and the Warby Ranges, along various stages of the Murray to Mountains rail trail (from Myrtleford to Bright and Wangaratta to Everton), the Great Vic rail trail (from Yea to Cathkin), Rushworth forest, Costerfield to Heathcote, Murchison, Shepparton and the Winton Wetlands. Along the way there were muddy puddles, foggy starts, a joe blake or two, swamps, sewage farms, coffee stops and fish & chips for tea.

Walkers have wandered about Heathcote-Graytown NP, Shepparton botanic gardens, Broken Creek at Katamatite, Toolamba bushland, Whroo goldfields and Balmattum Hill at Euroa.

There was also the successful mid-week camp at Gunbower Island organised by Richard Graves, which was in a beautiful setting amongst the red gums and wildlife. Participants undertook a mix of walking, bike riding, kayaking, bird watching, car touring and socialising around the campfire.

Thank you to all our trip leaders for putting in the time and effort to share your favourite places and local knowledge with us. It's great to spread this load around and it also means we get to visit a wide variety of places, many being little known gems in our local area. It certainly inspires me whenever I go on a trip.

Thanks to the club committee for running the 'back-end' admin that ensures we can continue to operate effectively. I'd particularly like to thank our wonderful secretary Karen, who is stepping down from that role after 4 years, but planning to take on another role on the committee.

I would also like to thank Marg Clarke for her bird & nature information that has been in the newsletter with lovely photos.

I know members are keen to take up canoeing and we have discussed this amongst the committee, in particular the risks associated with water activities. That's why we would like people to undertake some canoe & kayak skills training before tackling moving water and hopefully Neville is able to run this again later in the year. Victoria Lake is a good place to starting learning before moving on to the river and both are close to our storage shed.

Speaking of our shed, which is technically rented from council, it contains a variety of bushwalking gear from tents and packs to stoves and maps as well as a range of canoes and the canoe/bike trailer. Talk to our equipment officer Richard if you need to borrow anything, at no charge to members on club trips.

Finally, welcome to new members, I hope you have many great adventures with the club and enjoy the company too.... Greg

Leader tips & responsibilities:

- Ensure participants have the right clothing, equipment and adequate food and water
- Assign a 'whip' person who stays last and calls the group to halt if necessary.
- Reconnoitre the route beforehand if possible.
- Tell someone where you're going, preferably by appointing an emergency contact back home that can contact emergency services (police) if you fail to return and can't be contacted.
- Know how to use a map and compass

Participant responsibilities:

- Discuss your abilities with trip leader
- Stay with the group, don't wander off.
- Bring a hat & raincoat plus food & water
- Tell the leader if you feel unwell during the trip or unable to continue for any reason.

The SAC Annual General meeting was held on Tuesday, August 30 at Shepparton Access.

Around 20 members gathered at the Vic Hotel for dinner and conversation prior to the meeting. We then moved to the venue for the meeting where 27 members were in attendance. This was a great turn up for the first face to face meeting since 2019. President Greg presented the annual report, outlining club events over the last 12 months, Treasurer Scott presented the financial statement and the new Committee for 2022/23 was elected. While many people will continue in their current roles, we are very pleased to welcome new committee members Jan Gregory (Secretary), and Wendy Kennedy and Martin Harper (calendar co-ordinators.)

Thanks to outgoing member Neville Paynter, whose most recent role was calendar coordinator, and to Karen Speedy, outgoing secretary.

Congratulations to all the incoming committee members and thanks for the continuing work each person does to ensure the smooth operation of the club.

Following the meeting, Jan Gregory presented photos and stories of her travels over recent years. Destinations included the Inca Trail, Tasmania (Three Capes and Bay of Fires), Portuguese Camino and the Coast to Coast walk. Jan is about to return to the UK to complete the Coast to Coast walk which was interrupted on her first attempt. We look forward to hearing more of Jan's adventures on her return.

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MID-WEEK COORDINATOR: DIANNE HANNA 0437 289 281 DHANNA3@BIGPOND.COM

Trip Leaders: *Please remember to ask visitors to sign an Acknowledgement of Risk form for Temporary Members and pass it on to our Secretary, Karen. This form is available on our website once you login (member, bushwalk) under Members>Leader Information. It is a requirement of our club insurance policy.*

Editors note

Committee is calling all members to contribute to our newsletter. We are able to insert "for sale" items that are relevant to Adventures, Birthday celebrations, personal adventure stories, recipes and much more. Simply email Shelley.

Dinners

October SAC get together RSVP Shelley 0422 268 102

Thursday 13th 6pm at Mooroopna Golf Club

Christmas dinner RSVP Shelley 0422 268 102

Following the Dookie twilight ride Saturday 19th November

Club T Shirts

Thank you to Marty and Wendy for organising our club tops, I can't wait to get a group photo of us all wearing them.

For those who are yet to order please contact Marty or Wendy ASAP for November delivery.

Men's sizes are pretty accurate, while the ladies XS is equivalent to a size 10, S-12, Med- 14 ETC

All enquires to Marty on 0421 050 880

